

# New Hampshire Bird Records



Winter 2001-2002

Vol. 20, No. 4

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# About the Cover

by *Rebecca Suomala*

The beautiful cover illustration of an adult Gray Jay is by Carl Bretton of Lancaster. Carl used pen and ink to illustrate the ever-popular and friendly Gray Jay. Carl is an avid birder and botanist who often hikes in the White Mountains.

## In This Issue

- Christmas Bird Count Results
- All About Gray Jays
- Birding in the Sandwich area
- Yellow-breasted Chat species account
- Winter Shorebirds
- Rare Birds Committee Report

## Coming in the Next Issue

- Saw-whet Owls
- Redhead species account
- Strange Bird Names
- New Photo Quiz
- ...And More

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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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## Don't Forget to Send in Your Renewal!

All renewal notices are sent with the Winter issue. Please return your renewal right away and save us from having to send you a reminder. Thanks!

### Welcome David Deifik

This is David's first issue as the new Winter Editor for *New Hampshire Bird Records*. We welcome his addition to the publication. As you will see from his following biography, he brings a wide variety of experience to the position. David Deifik is a life long birder who grew up in the wilds of Queens, New York. He really caught the birding bug while attending Oberlin College in Northern Ohio. After his first birding trip to Texas, he decided to attend Medical School in Houston at Baylor College of Medicine. It was there that he first became involved with organized birding, becoming an active member of Houston Audubon and the Outdoor Nature Club of Houston. After four years of residency training in Providence, Rhode Island he moved to Tucson, Arizona in 1980 to begin his first practice. He became deeply involved in the Tucson Audubon Society becoming its field trip chairman as well as compiling the Tucson Christmas Bird Count for one season. In 1983 he returned to New England settling in Nashua, New Hampshire. He has birded extensively in the lower 48 states as well as internationally, particularly in the Americas. He has a special interest in bird sound recording. He is a member of the Audubon Society of New Hampshire, the Nuttall Ornithologic Club, and the Brookline Bird Club. He is in the practice of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Dartmouth-Hitchcock, Nashua. He and his wife of 24 years have three children.

### New Feature

We are introducing a new feature in this issue, a species account for an unusual species seen during the season. Eric Masterson has volunteered to take on the job of compiling data and writing these accounts, which will present information on the distribution and abundance of these species in New Hampshire. They are not meant to be all-encompassing articles that include behavior and life history information, such as the Gray Jay feature by David Govatski in this issue. Instead, Eric is working to gather historic data on a species' occurrence and present it in an organized and standard format. The first of these accounts is on the Yellow-breasted Chat on page 32. Please let us know if you have any suggestions about this new feature. If you have any relevant information on the upcoming summer species account, the King Rail, please contact Eric at [emasterson@nhaudubon.org](mailto:emasterson@nhaudubon.org).

Rebecca Suomala  
*Managing Editor*, August, 2002  
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### Winter Season (December through February)

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

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

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

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

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

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#### Reports from the following species were received but not listed.

Canada Goose	Great Black-backed Gull	Tufted Titmouse
Mallard	Mourning Dove	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Common Eider	Barred Owl	White-breasted Nuthatch
Bald Eagle	Belted Kingfisher	Brown Creeper
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Hairy Woodpecker	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Cooper's Hawk	Northern Flicker	Northern Mockingbird
Red-tailed Hawk	Pileated Woodpecker	European Starling
Ruffed Grouse	Blue Jay	Northern Cardinal
Ring-billed Gull	Common Raven	House Finch
Herring Gull	Black-capped Chickadee	American Goldfinch

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

## December 1, 2001 through February 28, 2002

by David Deifik, Winter Editor

The winter of 2001–2002 will be remembered as one of the warmest — if not the warmest — winter on record. In Laconia, average temperatures were over eight degrees above normal in December and January. February was still over five degrees warmer than normal. This produced open water far later into the winter than is typical, and our waterfowl records reflect this. Overall precipitation was near normal throughout the period, but snowfall was 15 inches below normal overall.

At the start of the season, a research pelagic trip to Jeffreys Ledge produced two remarkable records of a **Greater Shearwater** and a **jaeger species**. In mid-February, on the coast in Rye, a very rare Western Grebe was reported, apparently the first in 11 years. An American Bittern and a Virginia Rail found in Hampton in late January were seen by many at close range. With the abundance of open water well into the season, waterfowl numbers were well up from last year. In particular, large numbers of Ring-necked Ducks and both Common and Hooded Mergansers were reported. This was especially true in the Lakes Region. A Northern Shoveler, rarely seen after migration, was reported from Rochester.

An **Eastern Phoebe** that spent the winter in Rochester is likely without precedent for New Hampshire. Far from its haunts in the North Country, a **Gray Jay** was seen intermittently through the period at a bird feeder in Lee. The last record for southern New Hampshire was in 1990! A **Wood Thrush** reported from Plainfield on December 5 is only the third winter record in 25 years. **Yellow-breasted Chat** is a quite rare find for the winter with fewer than five reports in the last 15 years. An individual that was initially reported January 23 and stayed throughout the winter period in Rye proved to be quite reliable and was seen by many observers. With it at the same feeder were a Gray Catbird and an Eastern Towhee, both very uncommon for the season. Finally, a **Bullock's Oriole** seen in Dover on January 13 tops the rarities of the season.



*Bullock's Oriole  
Dover, NH  
by Dennis Abbott*

# Loons through Vultures

Inland records of Common Loon were greater than last year's. Pied-billed Grebes had their best winter in three years. **Northern Fulmar** was reported on two winter off-shore boat trips. About 100 Northern Gannets were also seen on one of the trips. Two reports of American Bittern on the seacoast were quite unusual. Usually found farther south in the winter, the last report during the winter season was December, 1998. Great Blue Heron reports were way up over last year. Turkey Vulture was widely reported from the southern part of the state, particularly in February, and were likely early returning migrants.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer</i>
<b>Red-throated Loon</b>				
12-20	13	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	A.& B. Delorey
01-04	14	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	A.& B. Delorey
<b>Common Loon</b>				
12-01	3	Holderness	Squam Lake	J. Williams
12-02	1	Gilmanton	Crystal Lake, Gilmanton Iron Works	W. Arms
12-14	3	Bristol	Newfound Lake	J. Williams
12-15	4	Laconia	Lake Winnisquam	H. Anderson
01-09	38		NH coast, Hampton to Rye Harbor	J. Berry
01-10	1	Laconia	Weirs Beach, Lake Winnepesaukee	C. Martin
01-21	2	Sanbornton	Lake Winnisquam	P. Hunt
02-07	1	Hebron	Newfound Lake	P. Johnston
<b>Pied-billed Grebe</b>				
12-05	2	Rye	Eel Pond	S. Mirick
12-14	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	D. Abbott, D. Finch
12-16	1	Concord	Long Pond	R. Quinn
12-22	1	Enfield	Shaker Bridge	D. Lacey
01-02	1	Ashland	Little Squam Lake	J. Williams
02-19	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	S. Mirick
<b>Horned Grebe</b>				
12-12	1	Sandwich	Squam Lake	C. Martin
12-23	14		Newfound Lake	J. Williams
01-12	13	Bristol	Newfound Lake	J. Williams
01-19	16	Rye	Concord Pt.	A.& B. Delorey
02-09	11	Hampton	Plaice Cove	A.& B. Delorey
02-09	1	Hebron	Newfound Lake	P. Johnston
<b>Red-necked Grebe</b>				
12-20	10	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	A.& B. Delorey
01-09	16		NH coast, Hampton to Rye Harbor	J. Berry
01-19	20	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	A.& B. Delorey
<b>Western Grebe</b>				
02-16	1	Rye	Pulpit Rock	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence, M. Medeiros, A.& B. Delorey, B.& J. Goodwin, et al.
<b>Northern Fulmar</b>				
12-03	12		off NH coast	J. Berry, D. Green
01-17	25		Jeffreys Ledge	D. Abbott

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer</i>
<b>Greater Shearwater</b>				
12-03	2		enroute to Jeffreys Ledge	J. Berry, D. Green
<b>Northern Gannet</b>				
12-02	6	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	D. Donsker
12-03	100		off NH coast	J. Berry, D. Green
01-01	50	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	A.& B. Delorey, B.& J. Goodwin
<b>Double-crested Cormorant</b>				
12-01	1	Durham	Adams Pt.	R. Woodward
12-14	1	Exeter	Squamscott R.	D. Abbott, D. Finch
<b>Great Cormorant</b>				
12-03	66		NH coast near Portsmouth Harbor	J. Berry, D. Green
01-01	51	Rye	Concord Pt.	A.& B. Delorey, B.& J. Goodwin
<b>American Bittern</b>				
01-22	1	Hampton	Rt. 27, Meadow Pond	S. Mirick, T. Donsker
01-27	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	D. Donsker, M. Resch
02-09	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt.	A.& B. Delorey
<b>Great Blue Heron</b>				
01-02	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
12-01	4		NH coast	J. McIlwaine, F. Krauss
12-01	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Quinn
12-02	1	Northfield	Deadwood Pond	P. Hunt
12-14	1	Canterbury	Clough Pond	R. Quinn
12-21	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
12-28	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch, M. Caulk, R. Morales
02-02	1	Hampton	Rt. 27, Meadow Pond	S. Mirick, et al.
02-07	1	Exeter	Exeter R., Swazey Parkway	G. Prazar
02-17	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	R. Aaronian

*American Bittern  
Hampton, NH  
by Alan Delorey*



<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer</i>
<b>Turkey Vulture</b>				
12-25	1	Windham	Rt. 28	K. Folsom
12-30	1	New London	New London Hospital	P. Newbern
02-09	1	Raymond	Rt. 101	H. Chary
02-10	1	Plaistow	Rt. 125 near Kingston line	G. & A. Robbins
02-11	1	Brentwood	Rt. 101 & Rt. 27 jct.	M. Tarr, P. Auger
02-14	3	Westmoreland	Rt. 9 near Keene line	H. Nevers
02-15	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
02-19	1	Exeter	Rt. 101	S. Mirick
02-20	2	Keene	upper Court St. & Ashuelot R.	R. Ritz
02-22	1	Newmarket	Rt. 108	S. Mirick
02-24	2	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
02-28	6	Derry	Kilrea Rd.	J. Romano
02-28	3	Keene	Harper Acres	D. Ball, et al.

## Waterfowl

The mild winter weather and prolonged ice-free conditions in the Lakes Region produced some impressive waterfowl reports. Ring-necked Ducks, Hooded Mergansers, and Common Mergansers seemed to be the prime beneficiaries. A raft of 1000 Common Mergansers on Squam Lake in December exceeds any other recent records by a factor of five! Barrow's Goldeneye were reported in somewhat greater than average numbers, with all reports coming from inland locales. A single Ruddy Duck seen in early January in Rye was notable as the only New Hampshire report this winter. Remarkable was a Northern Shoveler that overwintered at the Rochester wastewater treatment plant. This is a scarce species in New Hampshire, even in migration. It is not expected to winter north of Long Island Sound.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer</i>
<b>Snow Goose</b>				
01-09	1	Rye	Eel Pond	J. Berry
01-28	3	Greenland	Great Bay off Sandy Pt.	D. Abbott
02-23	1	N. Hampton	marsh s. of Rye Ledge	A. & B. Delorey
<b>Snow Goose — Blue morph</b>				
01-28	6	Greenland	Great Bay off Sandy Pt.	D. Abbott
<b>Brant</b>				
12-07	1	Greenland	Sunset Landing	A. & B. Delorey
12-20	1	Rye	Ragged Neck	A. & B. Delorey
02-23	7	Rye	Star Island	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence, D. Abbott
<b>Mute Swan</b>				
02-02	37	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
<b>Wood Duck</b>				
12-16	1	Concord	marsh near post office	G. Robbins
12-24	2	Laconia	Lake Winnisquam, Wildwood Beach	H. Anderson
01-05	1	Ashland	Little Squam Lake	J. Williams
01-21	1	Laconia	Bartlett Beach	P. Hunt



<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer</i>
<b>Gadwall</b>				
12-06	4	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
<b>Eurasian Wigeon</b>				
12-07	2	Greenland	Sunset Landing	A.& B. Delorey
<b>American Wigeon</b>				
12-07	147	Greenland	Sunset Landing	A.& B. Delorey
<b>American Black Duck</b>				
01-10	40	Belmont	Silver Lake	C. Martin
02-09	1		Jeffreys Ledge	D. Abbott, D. Green, D. Finch, M. Patten, B. Smith
<b>Northern Shoveler</b>				
12-18	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
01-14	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, R. Quinn
02-20	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
<b>Northern Pintail</b>				
12-03	1	Concord	Turkey Pond	E. Masterson
01-14	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, B. Quinn
01-23	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	D. Donsker
02-16	4	Stratham	Sandy Pt.	A.& B. Delorey, B.& J. Goodwin
<b>Green-winged Teal</b>				
12-01	3	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	R. Woodward
01-25	1	Tilton	Winnepesaukee R., downtown	P. Hunt
02-23	2	Kingston	Powwow Pond	A.& B. Delorey
<b>Canvasback</b>				
01-21	1	Sanbornton	Black Brook Rd	P. Hunt
02-02	1	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
02-09	1	Sanbornton	Lake Winnisquam, Lower Bay Rd.	J. Williams
<b>Ring-necked Duck</b>				
12-06	42	Gilford	Lily Pond, Lily Pond Rd.	W. Arms & B. Sens
12-07	1	Madbury	Bellamy Reservoir	S. Mirick
12-09	1	Rye	Eel Pond	D.& T. Donsker
12-10	45	Concord	Penacook Lake	P. Niswander
12-13	10	Concord	Turkey Pond	E. Masterson
12-16	42	Concord	Long Pond	R. Quinn, I. Malo
12-17	2	Gilmanton	Crystal Lake, Gilmanton Iron Works	W. Arms
12-26	2	Derry	Beaver Lake	A. Delorey
01-20	2	Laconia	Lake Winnisquam, off prison beach	H. Anderson
01-31	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
02-09	2	Sanbornton	Lake Winnisquam, Lower Bay Rd.	J. Williams
02-23	1	Derry	Beaver Lake	A.& B. Delorey
02-25	3	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick
<b>King Eider</b>				
12-02	1	Hampton	mouth of Hampton R.	D. Abbott
<b>Surf Scoter</b>				
01-09	99		NH coast, Hampton to Rye Harbor	J. Berry

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer</i>
<b>White-winged Scoter</b>				
01-09	85		NH coast, Hampton to Rye Harbor	J. Berry
<b>Black Scoter</b>				
12-01	140	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	A.& B. Delorey
12-02	179	Hampton	North Beach	D. Abbott
12-20	200	Hampton	Hampton Beach	A.& B. Delorey
02-09	100	Hampton	Great Boars Head	A.& B. Delorey
<b>Long-tailed Duck</b>				
01-19	42	Rye	Ragged Neck	A.& B. Delorey
<b>Bufflehead</b>				
12-08	5	Ashland	Squam R.	J. Williams
12-14	10	Salem		K. Folsom
12-27	6	Windham	Canobie Lake	K. Folsom
<b>Common Goldeneye</b>				
12-13	10	Concord	Turkey Pond	E. Masterson
12-16	49	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	I. MacLeod
12-19	5	Gilmanton	Crystal Lake, Gilmanton Iron Works	K. Palfy
12-22	62	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	A.& B. Delorey
01-03	9	Moultonborough	Squam Lake	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgley
01-12	21	Bristol	Newfound Lake	J. Williams
01-21	151		Lake Winnisquam	P. Hunt
02-19	178	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
<b>Barrow's Goldeneye</b>				
12-14	1	Bristol	Newfound Lake, Wellington St. Pk.	J. Williams
12-16	1	Laconia	Lake Winnisquam, Bartlett Beach	H. Anderson
12-22	1	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	A.& B. Delorey
02-03	2	Sanbornton	Lake Winnisquam, Lower Bay Rd.	J. Williams
02-10	1	Tilton	upstream of Lochmere Dam	J. Williams
02-12	2	Franklin	confluence of Pemigewasset, Merrimack, & Winnepesaukee Rivers	D. Stavros, L. Bardusk
<b>Hooded Merganser</b>				
12-01	18	Ashland	Squam R.	J. Williams
12-07	3	Hanover	Laramie Rd. beaver pond	K. Kluge, T. Rosenmeier
12-09	19	Rye	Eel Pond	D.& T. Donsker
12-10	11	Strafford	Bow Lake near dam	S. Young
12-25	15	Holderness	Squam Lake	J. Williams
12-28	17	Barrington	Mendums Pond	T.& L. Chase
01-10	30	Laconia	Weirs Beach, Lake Winnepesaukee	C. Martin
01-21	100		Lake Winnisquam	P. Hunt
01-24	11	Newmarket	Newmarket Landing	S. Mirick
02-24	4	Hebron	Cockermouth R.	J. Williams
<b>Common Merganser</b>				
12-12	1000	Holderness	Squam Lake	R. Van de Poll
12-28	200	Sandwich	Squam Lake	T. Vazzano
12-31	375	Laconia	Opechee Bay	J. Williams
12-31	110	Belmont	Lake Winnisquam	J. Williams
01-10	120	Meredith	Lake Winnepesaukee near Stonedam Is.	C. Martin
02-24	16	Nashua	Nashua R. at millyard	R. Andrews

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer</i>
<b>Red-breasted Merganser</b>				
12-01	94	Seabrook	Blackwater R., Rt. 286 behind Brown's Restaurant	D. Abbott
<b>Ruddy Duck</b>				
01-06	1	Rye	Eel Pond	D. Abbott

## Hawks

**N**orthern Harrier records for the coast were about average for the season, as were accipiter records throughout the state. There were only a few records of Rough-Legged Hawk compared to the outstanding numbers for last year. American Kestrel, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon were seen at equivalent levels to recent years. The mid-winter Bald Eagle survey produced an impressive total of 50 eagles (34 adults, 16 immatures). It is believed that 68 individual Bald Eagles spent part or all of their wintering season in New Hampshire. Twenty years ago there were all of two Eagles found in mid-winter!

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer</i>
<b>Northern Harrier</b>				
12-01	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Marsh	A.& B. Delorey
12-22	1	Rye	near Rye Harbor	A.& B. Delorey
01-01	1		n. of Ragged Neck	R. Woodward
01-04	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Marsh	A.& B. Delorey
01-05	2		NH coast	S. Mirick, et al.
01-07	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
01-27	1	Rye	marsh behind Concord Pt.	D.& T. Donsker
<b>Northern Goshawk</b>				
12-09	1	Peterborough	Windy Row	E. Masterson
12-10	1	Jefferson	Cherry Pond	D. Govatski
12-19	1	Sugar Hill	Pearl Lake Rd. residence	J. McIlwaine
12-22	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
01-01	1	Jefferson	Jefferson Meadows	D. Govatski
01-14	1	Plymouth	over Rt. 25	J. Williams
01-24	1	Lancaster	Wesson Rd.	D. Skeels
02-03	1	Concord	Little Pond Rd. residence	S. Miskoe
02-04	1	E. Kingston	Rt. 108 near Giles Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
02-26	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
<b>Rough-legged Hawk</b>				
12-30	1	Stratham	Rt. 33	P. Newbern
01-02	1	Whitefield	Whitefield Airport	D. Govatski, C. Bretton
01-05	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt.	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence, B.& D. Fox
<b>American Kestrel</b>				
12-16	1	Manchester	downtown	I. MacLeod
12-31	1	Stratham	Rt. 101 & Rt. 108	D. Abbott
01-05	1	Hampton	marsh	A.& B. Delorey

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer</i>
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### **American Kestrel — continued**

01-06	1	Greenland	Rt. 33	D. Abbott
01-10	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	E. Masterson
01-21	1	Portsmouth	traffic circle	D.& T. Donsker
02-06	1	Brentwood	county complex	M. Tarr, P. Auger

### **Merlin**

12-03	1	Concord	Rt. 93, exit 14	P. Hunt
12-16	1	Manchester	Derryfield Country Club	I. MacLeod
12-26		E. Kingston	Monahan Center, Rt. 107 & 108 jct.	D. Finch
12-28	1	Hampton	North Beach	A.& B. Delorey
02-20	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
02-25	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	R. Suomala

### **Peregrine Falcon**

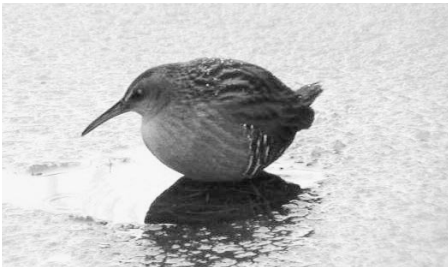
12-05	1	Concord	St. Paul's Church, Park St.	D. Habib
12-06	2	Lyme	Holts Ledge	C. Martin
01-01	1	Hampton	Rt. 101 water tower, Hampton Beach	R. Woodward
01-21	1	Dover	downtown	S. Mirick
01-26	2	Manchester	New Hampshire Tower	C. Martin
02-03	1	Franconia	Kelley's Market	J. Yates
02-16	1	Rumney	Rattlesnake Mt., WMNF	J. Williams

## **Pheasant through Alcids**

**A**s it is a generally declining species and not usually found in this area, a single Ring-necked Pheasant was a bit of a surprise at Odiorne Point State Park. This is an introduced species not usually found in this area. It is released in the fall for hunting and seldom survives the winter. An intrepid hiker in the White Mountains in early December found two Spruce Grouse on successive days. Surry was the locale for the largest Wild Turkey flocks reported during the period. Christmas Bird Count data suggest they continue to increase in the state. A Northern Bobwhite reported in Boscawen is unusual. The closest Bobwhite normally gets to New Hampshire is southeastern Massachusetts. There is always the possibility that this could represent a released bird.

A Virginia Rail put on quite a show for numerous observers in Meadow Pond, Hampton, in late January. It was even photographed successfully fishing through a hole in the ice! (See photos opposite.) There have been very few winter American Coot records that even come close to the 85 reported from Powwow Pond in Kingston on December 10. Again, one must assume that the mild conditions contributed to this and to the remarkable record of two Coots spending the winter at Beaver Lake in Derry.

The famous Monroe **Sandhill Crane** put in an appearance once during the winter period on December 6. Three records for **Greater Yellowlegs** were outstanding, as they are rare in New Hampshire beyond mid-November. Lesser Yellowlegs was reported on the Seacoast CBC as well.



*Virginia Rail catching a minnow, Hampton, NH  
by Dennis Abbott*

A dark-eyed Iceland Gull reported from both Seabrook and Hampton was most likely the same individual. Normally this species has light eyes but a dark-eyed individual has been reported regularly in this area in recent years. A Nelson's Gull (Herring X Glaucus Hybrid) was reported on two occasions from Rochester. This rarely observed form appeared to be a second-year bird that looked like a Glaucous Gull but had darker primaries. There were two individual Lesser Black-backed Gulls seen this winter, continuing the trend of recent years of small numbers being present in the state.

The four offshore trips to Jeffreys Ledge produced 110 Black-legged Kittiwakes and an even more impressive 312 Razorbills as well as the only reports of Dovekie and Thick-billed Murre for the season. Only modest numbers of Razorbill and Black Guillemot were reported from the coast otherwise.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer</i>
<b>Ring-necked Pheasant</b>				
12-07	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	D. Abbott
<b>Spruce Grouse</b>				
12-04	1	Beans Grant	near Mt. Jackson summit	D. Govatski
12-05	1	Bethlehem	Lend-A-Hand Trail, Mt. Hale	D. Govatski
<b>Wild Turkey</b>				
12-24	3	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
01-03	16	Bradford	Rt. 103 & Rt. 114 jct.	K. Folsom
01-07	27	Dover	Sixth St.	S. Mirick
01-15	57	Surry		M. Wright
02-01	28	Concord	South St., Bow Mills bank	C. Cameron
02-21	20	Stratford	Rt. 3, N. Stratford	D. Killam
02-24	23	Alton	Halls Hill Rd.	B. & K. Palfy

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer</i>
<b>Northern Bobwhite</b>				
02-10	1	Boscawen	N. Main St.	R.& B. Hardy
<b>Virginia Rail</b>				
01-21	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond brook	D. Abbott
<b>American Coot</b>				
12-02	48	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
12-10	85	Kingston	Powwow pond	K. Folsom
12-26	2	Derry	Beaver Lake	A. Delorey
02-23	2	Derry	Beaver Lake	A.& B. Delorey
<b>Sandhill Crane</b>				
12-06	1	Monroe	Plains Rd. field	J. Cate, E. Emery
<b>Black-bellied Plover</b>				
12-02	10	Seabrook	Seabrook Harbor	D. Abbott
12-02	2	Rye	Rt. 1A bridge w. of Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	R.& M. Suomala
<b>Killdeer</b>				
01-01	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	M. Suomala
01-02	1	Stratham	near Rt. 108 & Swampscott Rd. jct.	G. Gavutis
<b>Greater Yellowlegs</b>				
12-01	2	Seabrook	Seabrook Harbor	R. Woodward
12-02	3		NH coast, Hampton-Seabrook area	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
12-25	2	Rye	Rye Harbor	R. Woodward
<b>Sanderling</b>				
12-01	40	Rye	beach	J. McIlwaine, F. Krauss
12-02	65	Hampton	North Beach	D. Abbott
<b>Purple Sandpiper</b>				
12-31	40	Rye	Concord Pt.	A.& B. Delorey
01-01	42	Rye	Seal Rocks	R.& M. Suomala
02-18	22	Rye	Rye Harbor jetty	H. Chary, J. Hills
<b>Dunlin</b>				
12-01	70	Seabrook	Rt. 286 behind Brown's Restaurant	D. Abbott
01-01	120	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	R.& M. Suomala
01-07	140	Hampton	Hampton Beach	D. Abbott
<b>Jaeger sp.</b>				
12-03	1		enroute to Jeffreys Ledge	J. Berry, D. Green
<b>Black-headed Gull</b>				
12-02	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
<b>Bonaparte's Gull</b>				
12-02	73	Seabrook	Seabrook Harbor	D. Abbott
01-01	75	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	M.& R. Suomala
<b>Nelson's Gull — Herring X Glaucous hybrid</b>				
01-31	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, R. Quinn
02-07	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
<b>Iceland Gull</b>				
12-02	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
12-16	1	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	I. MacLeod

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer</i>
12-22	1	Seabrook	marina	A.& B. Delorey
12-27	1	Nashua	downtown	D.& G. Deifik
01-03	4	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
01-05	1	New Castle	Fort Stark	S. Mirick, et al.
01-18	1	Merrimack	landfill	T. Young
02-16	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	A.& B. Delorey, B.& J. Goodwin

### **Lesser Black-backed Gull**

12-02	1	Durham	Oyster R. town landing, Old Landing Rd.	R.& M. Suomala
12-18	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
02-12	1	Newmarket	Newmarket landing	S. Mirick
02-27	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds trails	S. Mirick

### **Glaucous Gull**

12-20	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	A.& B. Delorey
01-18	1	Merrimack	landfill	T. Young
02-15	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick

### **Black-legged Kittiwake**

12-03	20		off NH coast	J. Berry, D. Green
12-31	3	Rye	Rye Harbor	A.& B. Delorey
01-06	11	Hampton	mouth of Hampton R.	D. Abbott
01-17	110		Jeffreys Ledge	D. Abbott, D. Finch
02-23	6	Rye	Old Scantum Ledge	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence, D. Abbott

### **Gull sp.**

02-04	5000	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
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### **Dovekie**

01-17	5		Jeffreys Ledge	D. Abbott, D. Finch
02-09	14		Jeffreys Ledge	D. Abbott, M. Patten, B. Smith, D. Green, D. Finch

### **Thick-billed Murre**

01-17	1		Jeffreys Ledge	D. Abbott
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### **Razorbill**

12-03	17		NH coast	J. Berry, D. Green
12-08	9	Rye	Pulpit Rock	A.& B. Delorey
12-24	3	Rye	Ragged Neck	A.& B. Delorey
12-26	9	Rye	Pulpit Rock	D. Abbott
01-01	16	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	R.& M. Suomala
01-17	312		Jeffreys Ledge	D. Abbott, D. Finch
02-09	4	Rye	Pulpit Rock	A.& B. Delorey
02-23	8	Rye	Old Scantum Ledge	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence, D. Abbott

### **Black Guillemot**

12-03	4		NH coast	J. Berry, D. Green
12-07	8	Rye	Pulpit Rock	A.& B. Delorey
02-23	20	Rye	offshore to Isles of Shoals	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence, D. Abbott

## Owls through Waxwings

**A**fter last year's almost total lack of Snowy Owls, there were 15 records involving probably four individuals. In addition to these, six individuals were seen on the Isles of Shoals CBC as well. Red-bellied Woodpecker was reported in about equal numbers to last year. As they are not expected to return until at least early April, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker seen in Nashua in late February was a surprising find.

An **Eastern Phoebe** spending the winter in Rochester is the first documented time the species has wintered in the state. It was seen at the Pickering Ponds initially in late November. Further sightings at the same place were made December 6, January 29, and February 16.

The prodigious winter hiking efforts of one observer produced a number of Gray Jay records for the White Mountains and north. Truly remarkable, however, was the report of a single **Gray Jay** appearing intermittently at a feeder in Lee from late October through mid-February. One has to go back all the way to 1990 to find a report for southern New Hampshire. A Boreal Chickadee that spent most of December at a feeder in Springfield is a little bit south of its usual haunts in the northern spruce-fir forests.

A **Wood Thrush** from Plainfield in early December is only the third winter record in 25 years. As it rarely lingers in the state beyond early October, a Gray Catbird that shared the feeder with the Yellow-breasted Chat and Eastern Towhee in Rye was an unusual find. With a similar occurrence pattern as the catbird, a Brown Thrasher was an unusual mid-February find in Pembroke. Late April would be more usual if it was an early returning migrant. Again, for the third year, American Pipits were found this winter, with one record for Rye and, amazingly, an individual overwintered at an inland locale in Rochester. Bohemian Waxwing were a bit more common and widely distributed than last year.



*Snowy Owl  
by Alan Delorey*



<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer</i>
<b>Eastern Screech-Owl</b>				
12-05	1	Chichester	Horse Corner Rd.	M. Reinhardt
12-29	1	Newfields	town landing	A.& B. Delorey, B.& J. Goodwin
02-20	1	Bedford	Rt. 114, 1 mi. n of Rt. 101	S. Saviteer, R. Keileg
02-24	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
<b>Great Horned Owl</b>				
01-01	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
01-27	1	Chichester	Horse Corner Rd.	M. Reinhardt
02-26	1	Cornish	Rt. 12A	J. Wright
<b>Snowy Owl</b>				
12-07	1	Concord	Main St.	M. Wyzga
12-13	1	Newmarket	Rockingham Country Club	S. Mirick, A. Aldrich, et al.
12-20	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	A.& B. Delorey
01-02	1	Meredith	Rt. 25	L. Nash, P. Roth
02-09	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	A.& B. Delorey
<b>Northern Saw-whet Owl</b>				
01-26	1	Loudon	Pleasant St.	G. Robbins
02-05	2	Springfield	Town Farm Rd.	D. Hayward
<b>Red-bellied Woodpecker</b>				
12-23	1	Nashua	Nashua R.	D.& G. Deifik
12-24	1	Stratham	Pines Rd.	D. Abbott
01-03	1	Charlestown	Twin Valley Estates, Partridgeberry St.	W. Holden
01-05	1	Londonderry	Wedgewood Dr.	L. Avery
01-31	1	Windham	Woodvue Rd.	K. Carpenter
02-22	4	Hinsdale	Stebbins Is., Connecticut R.	C. Martin, A. Greenwood
02-28	1	Madbury	Bunker Lane	J. Brimicombe
<b>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker</b>				
02-24	1	Nashua	Mine Falls Park	R. Andrews
<b>Black-backed Woodpecker</b>				
12-11	1	Beans Grant	Cloudland Bog	D. Govatski
12-14	1	Errol	Rt. 16 n. above Long Pond	K. Dube
12-18	1	Errol	Rt. 16 & Millsville Pond Rd. jct.	D. Govatski, P. Keefe
02-18	1	Bethlehem	Mt. Field summit	D. Govatski, C. Bretton
<b>Eastern Phoebe</b>				
12-04	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds trails	S. Mirick
12-06	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Abbott
01-29	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Abbott
02-16	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Abbott
<b>Northern Shrike</b>				
12-04	1	Concord	Silk Farm WS	E. Masterson
12-10	1	Brookfield	Wentworth Rd.	J. LaBelle
01-14	1	Seabrook	Rt. 107 near Zealand Rd.	G. Gavutis
01-21	1	Tamworth	Tall Pines Rd. residence	J.& C. Tewksbury
01-22	1	Bethlehem	Ranger Station, Trudeau Rd.	P. Bellavance

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer</i>
<b>Gray Jay</b>				
12-03	2	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge trailhead	D. Govatski
12-04	5	Beans Grant	Mt. Jackson summit	D. Govatski, C. Bretton
12-16	1	Lee	Lee Hill Rd.	B. Wolfe
12-19	2	Pittsburg	Norton Pool	D. Govatski
02-14	1	Lee	Lee Hill Rd.	B. Wolfe
02-16	4	Beans Grant	Mt. Jackson summit	D. Govatski
02-18	2	Bethlehem	Mt. Field summit	D. Govatski, C. Bretton
<b>American Crow</b>				
02-14	500	Portsmouth	Portsmouth traffic circle	S. Mirick
<b>Horned Lark</b>				
12-02	20	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	D. Donsker, M. Resch
01-08	250	Westmoreland	Chickering Rd. fields	K. Tuttle, NHF&G
<b>Boreal Chickadee</b>				
12-02	1	Springfield	Town Farm Rd.	D. Hayward
12-10	12	Beans Grant	Webster Cliff Trail	D. Govatski
01-02	3	Jefferson	Little Cherry Pond	D. Govatski
01-26	8	Beans Grant	Crawford Path, Mt. Pierce	D. Govatski
02-10	1	Jackson	East Branch Rd. residence	J. Neely, C. Costello
02-18	15	Bethlehem	along Willey Range Trail	D. Govatski, C. Bretton
02-27	1	Springfield	Town Farm Rd.	D. Hayward
<b>Carolina Wren</b>				
12-06	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr. pool	B. Harris
12-16	1	Concord	Garvins Falls Rd.	M. Suomala
12-20	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
12-27	1	Nashua	Nashua Swim & Tennis Club	D.& G. Deifik
01-02	2	Concord	Holly St. residence	M. Laurie
01-24	1	Hanover	Smith Rd.	S. Sturup
02-25	1	Windham	residence	J. Romano
<b>Winter Wren</b>				
12-22	1	Hanover	Smith Rd.	S. Sturup
<b>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</b>				
12-02	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
<b>Eastern Bluebird</b>				
12-01	5	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch, M. Berridge
12-07	3	Greenland	Sunset Landing	A.& B. Delorey
12-25	8	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
12-26	2	Chester	Hillside Haven	B. Delorey
01-01	2	Hampstead		D. Abbott, et al.
01-05	2	Raymond	Rt. 102	A.& B. Delorey
01-05	2	Hillsboro	Bear Hill Rd.	P. Simm
01-23	9	Chichester	Towle-Mason Rd. field	M. Reinhardt
01-31	3	Rochester	Pickering Ponds trails	S. Mirick
02-01	5	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
02-13	5	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
02-20	1	Walpole	Old Stage Road	R. Ritz
02-24	1	Epsom	Baybutt Rd.	H. Harkness

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer</i>
<b>Hermit Thrush</b>				
02-01	1	Chatham	residence	R. Crowley
02-24	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch, M. Berridge
<b>Wood Thrush</b>				
12-05	1	Plainfield	Croydon Tpk. residence	P.& S. Stettenheim
<b>American Robin</b>				
01-21	700	Dover	downtown	S. Mirick
01-24	900	Stratham	River Rd.	D. Abbott, D. Finch
02-04	815	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
02-08	100	Nashua	Deerhaven Dr.	R. Andrews
<b>Gray Catbird</b>				
01-23	10	Rye	Sagamore Rd.	P. Wilson
01-24	1	Rye	Sagamore Rd.	D. Abbott, D. Finch, S. Mirick
02-02	1	Rye	Sagamore Rd.	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence, et al.
<b>Brown Thrasher</b>				
02-12	1	Pembroke	Friendship Ave.	L. McClintock
<b>American Pipit</b>				
01-01	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	R.& M. Suomala
01-14	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
01-14	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	R. Quinn
01-22	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
02-02	2	Rye	Ragged Neck	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence, R.& M. Suomala
02-15	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
<b>Bohemian Waxwing</b>				
12-17	25	Holderness	Plymouth State College field house	J. Williams
12-27	7	Gilford	opposite McDonald's Restaurant	W. Arms
01-13	9	Plymouth	Pine Gate Rd.	J. Williams
01-21	50	Sandwich	Stevenson Hill Rd.	P.& G. Hoag
02-21	15	Springfield	post office	D. Hayward
02-21	14	Hanover	Smith Rd.	S. Sturup
<b>Cedar Waxwing</b>				
12-14	240	Plymouth	College Quad	J. Williams
12-31	214	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
01-11	45	Laconia	Shore Dr.	H. Anderson
01-12	40	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano, G. Dennis
01-21	700	Dover	downtown Dover	S. Mirick
01-21	250	Belmont	Belknap Mall	J. Williams
02-07	120	Northwood	Rt. 4	S. Mirick
02-08	50	Nashua	Deerhaven Dr.	R. Andrews
02-11	50	Ashland	Mill St.	M. Smith
02-16	90	Hampton	Meadow Pond	A.& B. Delorey, B.& J. Goodwin

# Warblers through Snow Bunting

A flock of seven Yellow-rumped Warblers at Odiorne Point State Park in Rye contained one of the western “Audubon’s” subspecies, a rare find at any season. An **Ovenbird**, also at Odiorne in late January, would be at least as rare for the winter. There are few records of **Yellow-breasted Chat** remaining for a prolonged period in winter. One appeared at a feeder in Rye January 23 and remained through the season. An Eastern Towhee joined it to add some spice to this event, which was enjoyed by many observers. A Chipping Sparrow was observed in Northfield in late December and early January for the second year. Otherwise, sparrows were reported in somewhat lower numbers compared to last year. Only a single Lapland Longspur was reported in early December at Hampton. A comparatively large flock of 75 Snow Buntings was reported from Charlestown in late December.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer</i>
<b>Yellow-rumped Warbler</b>				
12-16	1	Canaan	residence	L. Lloyd
01-01	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	R.& M. Suomala
01-02	1	Franklin	wastewater treatment plant, River St.	D. Stavros, L. Bardusk
01-06	2	Plainfield	River Rd.	D. Cook
01-24	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
01-27	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	D. Donsker
02-24	1	Plainfield	River Rd.	D. Crook
<b>Yellow-rumped Warbler — Audubon’s subspecies</b>				
12-06	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	S. Mirick
12-07	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	D. Abbott
<b>Ovenbird</b>				
01-26	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk., s. end	R. Suomala
<b>Yellow-breasted Chat</b>				
01-23	1	Rye	Sagamore Rd.	P. Wilson
01-24	1	Rye	Sagamore Rd.	D. Abbott, D. Finch
02-02	1	Rye	Sagamore Rd.	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence, R.& M. Suomala
<b>Eastern Towhee</b>				
01-26	1	Rye	Sagamore Rd.	R.& M. Suomala, et al.
02-02	1	Rye	Sagamore Rd.	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence, R.& M. Suomala, et al.
02-10	1	Stratham	River Rd.	N. Smith
<b>American Tree Sparrow</b>				
12-15	1	Plymouth	Pine Gate Rd.	J. Williams
12-31	3	Sanbornton	Bay Rd.	J. Williams
01-06	30	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
01-28	7	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
02-03	8	Tilton	Lochmere Dam	J. Williams
<b>Chipping Sparrow</b>				
12-31	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer</i>
<b>Fox Sparrow</b>				
12-06	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. Harris
12-09	1	Laconia	Wildwood Rd.	H. Anderson
12-17	1	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Rd.	J. Merrill
01-04	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
01-07	1	Laconia	Wildwood Rd.	H. Anderson
02-25	1	Windham	residence	J. Romano
<b>Song Sparrow</b>				
01-01	2	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	R. & M. Suomala
01-03	1	Laconia	Wildwood Rd.	H. Anderson
01-05	3	E. Kingston	Dingman property	D. Finch, M. Berridge
01-27	1	Laconia	Lexington Dr. behind factories	H. Anderson
01-30	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
<b>White-throated Sparrow</b>				
12-18	1	Plymouth	Pine Gate Rd.	J. & R. Williams
01-01	3	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch, M. Berridge
01-23	5	Laconia	Wildwood Rd.	H. Anderson
01-26	5	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	R. & M. Suomala
<b>White-crowned Sparrow</b>				
12-31	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
<b>Dark-eyed Junco</b>				
01-05	4	Gilsun	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
01-05	18	Plymouth	Pine Gate Rd. residence	J. & R. Williams
01-25	23	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
<b>Lapland Longspur</b>				
12-02	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	D. Abbott
<b>Snow Bunting</b>				
01-01	1	New Castle	Great Island Common	R. & M. Suomala
01-04	40	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
01-12	11	Milan	Rt. 16	R. Quinn, D. Govatski
02-23	14	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	R. Woodward, Capital Area Chapter FT
02-24	75	Charlestown		E. Masterson, A. Greenwood

## Blackbirds through Evening Grosbeak

One the most outstanding finds of the season was an adult **Bullock's Oriole** that was found in mid-January in Dover. This Western counterpart of the Baltimore Oriole normally spends its winters no farther north than Mexico. Even the Baltimore Oriole rarely ventures north of North Carolina in the winter. Pine Grosbeak, a classic irruptive species from the boreal region to our north, had a remarkable flight year this winter. No fewer than 33 separate records were submitted this winter, 50% more than the next-highest recent flight year of 1993–1994. The reports were widely distributed, from the North Country down to the Massachusetts border in Salem. Common Redpolls were also reported in large numbers this winter compared to a total of only five

individuals seen on Christmas Counts last year. There were two well-documented reports of **Hoary Redpolls** at feeders in Hanover and Sugar Hill, as might be hoped for during a Redpoll flight year. There was but one Purple Finch report outside of the CBC's.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer</i>
<b>Red-winged Blackbird</b>				
02-14	2	Rindge	Pearly Pond Way	G. Rice
02-15	4	Dover	Rt. 108	S. Mirick
02-16	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch, M. Berridge
02-17	3	Kingston	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
02-25	2	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
02-25	16	Plymouth	Pine Gate Rd.	J.& R. Williams
<b>Rusty Blackbird</b>				
12-16	14	Concord	Merrimack R., just s. of Sewalls Falls	G. Robbins
<b>Common Grackle</b>				
02-22	200	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
<b>Brown-headed Cowbird</b>				
12-28	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
02-24	5	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
<b>Bullock's Oriole</b>				
01-13	1	Dover	Grove St.	S. Mirick, S. Bradley
01-14	1	Dover	Grove St.	D. Abbott
<b>Pine Grosbeak</b>				
12-03	1	Bradford	top of Rowe Mtn. Rd.	J. Eldridge
12-03	27	Lempster	Goshen-Lempster School	P. Newbern
12-04	1	Gilmanton	Whispering Pines Rd. residence, Gilmanton Iron Works	K. Palfy
12-11	4	Meredith	Edgerly School Rd.	J. Seufert
12-12	18	Franconia	behind catholic church	J. McIlwaine
12-18	9	Lancaster	Wesson Rd.	D. Skeels
12-23	15	Plymouth	Beech Hill Rd.	J. Williams
12-24	21	Holderness	Elks Club lot	J. Williams
01-02	6	Jefferson	Rt. 115B	D. Govatski
01-03	14	Peterborough	Windy Row	E. Masterson
01-04	9	Andover	Proctor Academy	A. McIntyre
01-04	5	Wentworth	Cape Moonshine Rd.	J. Williams
01-10	6	Chichester	Horse Corner Rd.	M. Reinhardt
01-12	18	Errol	Rt. 16	R. Quinn, D. Govatski
01-20	40	Plymouth	Highland St.	J. Williams
01-25	1	Goffstown	Knollcrest Ave.	C. Tantas
01-26	12	Epsom	Epsom Post Office, Rt. 28	R.& M. Suomala
01-27	4	Plymouth	Pine Gate Rd.	J.& R. Williams
02-03	16	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
02-05	12	Boscawen	Daniel Webster Hwy., Rt. 3	J. Pelillo
02-06	9	Woodstock	North Woodstock, Rt. 112	J. Williams, C. Haartz
02-09	20	Hanover	Occum Pond	S. Sturup
02-12	10	Hopkinton	Upper Straw Rd.	B. Sores
02-15	13	Laconia	Shore Dr.	H. Anderson
02-16	10	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer</i>
02-18	17	Concord	Loudon Rd.	R. Woodward
02-20	2	Salem	Lawrence Rd. residence	K. Folsom
<b>Purple Finch</b>				
02-04	5	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
<b>White-winged Crossbill</b>				
12-04	1	Columbia	residence	D.& B. Killam
12-08	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. Harris
12-09	5	Rye	Fern Ave.	J. Cullen
12-12	6	Woodstock	Mt. Cilley, WMNF	J. Williams, K. Roenke
12-19	1	Deering	Baldwin Rd.	L.& P. Sunderland
12-22	2	Rumney	Quincy Rd.	B. Taffe
12-25	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
12-28	3	Dover	Watson Rd.	J. Geistenblatt
01-06	1	Hanover	Blueberry Hill residence	K. Kluge, T. Rosenmeier
01-16	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
<b>Common Redpoll</b>				
12-04	3	Concord	Silk Farm WS	E. Masterson
12-07	2	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
12-10	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
12-13	32	Holderness	US Forest Service lot	J. Williams
12-14	7	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
12-16	30	Laconia	D' Angelo Sandwich Shop, Weirs Blvd.	H. Anderson
12-17	37	Holderness	US Forest Service lot	J. Williams, R. Butterfield
12-19	65	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
12-22	3	Rumney	Quincy Rd.	B. Taffe
12-22	9	Strafford	Bow Lake near dam	S. Young
12-23	30	Plymouth	Pine Gate Rd.	J.& R. Williams
12-25	11	Barrington	Alwood Dr. bordering Mendums Pond	T.& L. Chase
12-27	20	Plymouth	Smith Bridge Rd.	J. Williams
12-28	6	Rye	Ragged Neck	A.& B. Delorey
12-28	20	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
12-28	32	Stoddard	Shedd Hill Rd.	C. Perks & S. Spurrier
12-30	6	Tamworth	Tall Pines Rd. residence	J. Tewksbury
12-30	35	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
01-02	22	Plymouth	Smith Bridge Rd.	J. Williams
01-05	11	E. Kingston	Dingman property	D. Finch, M. Berridge
01-11	55	Concord	Silk Farm WS	E. Masterson
01-12	100	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano, G. Dennis
01-15	45	Chichester	Horse Corner Rd.	M. Reinhardt
01-21	70	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R.& M. Suomala
01-27	15	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
02-10	65	Hanover	Blueberry Hill residence	K. Kluge, T. Rosenmeier
02-24	20	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
<b>Hoary Redpoll</b>				
01-21	1	Sugar Hill	Pearl Lake Rd.	J. McIlwaine
02-10	1	Hanover	Blueberry Hill residence	K. Bluge, T. Rosenmeier
02-17	2	Hanover	Blueberry Hill residence	K. Bluge, T. Rosenmeier

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer</i>
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**Pine Siskin**

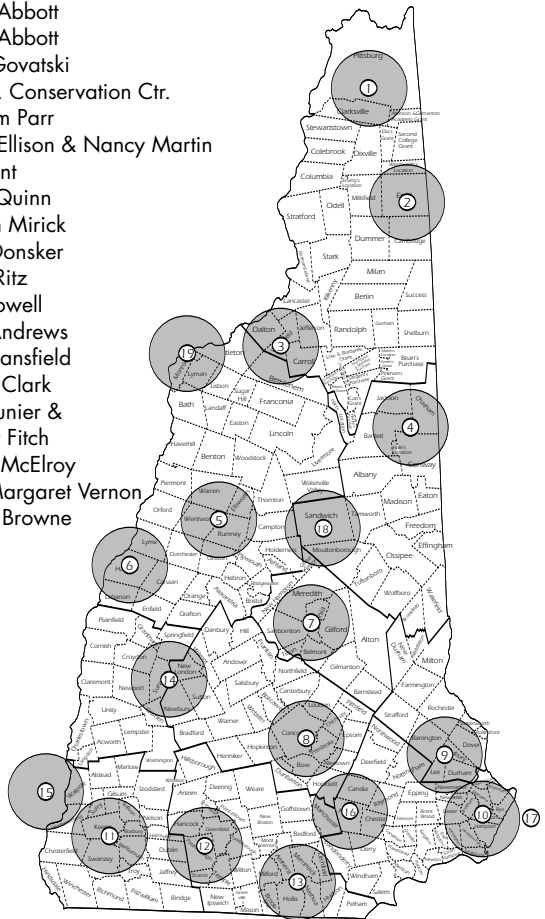
12-01	3	Plymouth	Pine Gate Rd.	J. & R. Williams
12-15	3	Tamworth	Tall Pines Rd. residence	J. Tewksbury
12-25	2	Milford	Federal Hill Rd.	R. & B. Becker
12-27	3	Holderness	US Forest Service office	J. Williams
02-03	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
02-20	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright

**Evening Grosbeak**

12-08	43	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow & in village	M. Wright
12-12	6	Woodstock	Mt. Cilley, WMNF	J. Williams, K. Roenke
12-14	22	Bridgewater	Rt. 3A	J. Williams
01-02	32	Jefferson	Little Cherry Pond	D. Govatski
02-10	14	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright

**Christmas Bird Count Compilers**

- |    |                      |                               |
|----|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1  | Pittsburg            | Dennis Abbott                 |
| 2  | Errol-Umbagog        | Dennis Abbott                 |
| 3  | Littleton            | David Govatski                |
| 4  | North Conway         | Tin Mtn. Conservation Ctr.    |
| 5  | Baker Valley         | Northam Parr                  |
| 6  | Hanover-Norwich      | Walter Ellison & Nancy Martin |
| 7  | Laconia-New Hampton  | Pam Hunt                      |
| 8  | Concord              | Robert Quinn                  |
| 9  | Lee-Durham           | Stephen Mirick                |
| 10 | Coastal              | David Donsker                 |
| 11 | Keene                | Robert Ritz                   |
| 12 | Peterborough-Hancock | Dave Rowell                   |
| 13 | Nashua-Hollis        | Ralph Andrews                 |
| 14 | Lake Sunapee         | Gary Stansfield               |
| 15 | Saxton's River, VT   | Donald Clark                  |
| 16 | Manchester           | John Munier & Dorothy Fitch   |
| 17 | Isles of Shoals      | Megan McElroy                 |
| 18 | Sandwich             | Jim & Margaret Vernon         |
| 19 | Barnet, VT           | Charlie Browne                |





# Christmas Bird Count Summary

by David Deifik, Winter Editor

## Statewide Highlights

This year's Christmas Bird Count was held from December 14, 2001, to January 5, 2002. The Nashua Count recorded three Turkey Vultures, the first CBC to do so in five years. The Lee-Durham count holds the distinction of recording the only species new



*Northern Shoveler*  
by H.E. Lawrence

to any New Hampshire count with the report of a **Northern Shoveler**. With widespread open water this year, Ring-necked Duck, Common Merganser, and Hooded Merganser had a particularly strong showing. Wild Turkey numbers continue to increase, with a 50% rise over last year. The Isles of Shoals Count tripled its previous state record for Purple Sandpiper. The Seacoast Count recorded both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs for only the third time on any count. Isles of Shoals recorded a jaeger species for only the second time on any count. A hybrid of the Yellow- and Red-shafted subspecies of the Northern Flicker was an interesting find on the Keene count. Both the Nashua and Manchester Counts hosted large American Crow roosts, smashing previous record counts. Bohemian Waxwings were way up, with the bulk coming from the Hanover Count. Orange-crowned Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat were both found on the Isle of Shoals, both remarkable rarities. Pine Grosbeaks also had a banner year, with their best or second-best showings on eight counts.

## Individual Count Highlights

### • Nashua-Hollis

Turkey Vulture set a new state high. Nashua-Hollis had its second sighting of Northern Harrier and count highs of Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Wild Turkey, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Rock Dove, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Fox Sparrow. The finding of a huge American Crow roost smashed the previous state record by over a factor of three. Red and White-winged Crossbills were recorded for only the second time.

### • Peterborough-Hancock

Great Blue Heron was recorded for the first time. Hooded Merganser and Carolina Wren were seen only for the second time. Count highs were set for Wood Duck, Mallard, Common Merganser, Cooper's Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Red-Bellied Woodpecker, and Common Raven. Pine Grosbeak equaled the previous count high.

### • Keene

Keene recorded its first-ever Ring-necked Duck and Winter Wren. A hybrid of the Red and Yellow-shafted subspecies of the Northern Flicker was also new for the count.

*continued on page 30*

# 102nd Christmas Bird Count: Dec. 14, 2001–Jan. 5, 2002

species	Nshua	Petrb	Keene	Coast	Isles	LeeDu	Cncrd
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	25	-	-	-
Common Loon	-	-	-	71	25	1	-
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	-	2	-	-	1
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	17	-	-	-
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	38	-	-	-
Northern Gannet	-	-	-	139	31	-	-
Double-cr. Cormorant	-	-	-	5	-	-	-
Great Cormorant	-	-	-	<b>85</b>	120	1	-
Great Blue Heron	3	3*	-	16	-	5	2
Turkey Vulture	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	1719	101	285	2350	-	1092	324
Brant	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Mute Swan	-	-	-	43	-	14	-
Wood Duck	3	<b>4</b>	CW	1	-	1	1
Gadwall	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Eurasian Wigeon	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
American Wigeon	-	-	-	95	-	-	-
American Black Duck	120	-	32	1498	40	97	53
Mallard	1576	<b>30</b>	334	688	-	483	278
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Northern Pintail	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Green-winged Teal	-	-	-	8	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	5*	<b>21</b>	-	<b>7</b>	42
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	725	-	-	-
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Common Eider	-	-	-	105	620	-	-
Harlequin Duck	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	283	16	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	236	25	-	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	144	2	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	118	59	-	-
Bufflehead	-	-	-	68	-	50	-
Common Goldeneye	-	-	6	213	2	11	31
Barrow's Goldeneye	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Hooded Merganser	CW	1	<b>17</b>	<b>26</b>	-	<b>20</b>	<b>71</b>
Common Merganser	31	<b>32</b>	<b>54</b>	1	4*	10	21
Red-br. Merganser	-	-	-	179	45	1	-
Bald Eagle	2	1	2	4	-	-	-
Northern Harrier	1	-	-	4	-	-	-
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	1	-	13	-	5	-
Cooper's Hawk	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	CW	7	-	2	1
Northern Goshawk	1	-	-	1	-	1	1
Accipiter sp.	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	CW	-	-	1	-	-	-
Red-tailed Hawk	<b>30</b>	2	<b>9</b>	47	-	40	7
Buteo sp.	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-
American Kestrel	2	-	-	4	-	2	-
Merlin	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

\* = New species to a count      **Individual count high**

Lcnia	Hnovr	BkrVI	Ltftn	Errol	Pttsb	NCnw	LSunp	Manch	Sandw	Total
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25
<b>15</b>	1	-	<b>3</b>	-	1*	-	5	-	1*	123
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	170
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	206
CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
<b>200</b>	<b>75</b>	-	-	-	-	-	<b>11</b>	578	22*	6757
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	57
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	95
47	22	-	35	5	-	-	16	10	<b>11</b>	1986
1247	340	-	26	<b>13</b>	7	<b>125</b>	199	352	<b>21</b>	5719
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
<b>17</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>3</b>	2	-	97
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	725
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	725
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	299
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	261
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	146
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	177
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6*	-	124
<b>566</b>	2	-	9	-	-	-	<b>29</b>	49	4*	922
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
217	<b>18</b>	-	<b>25</b>	11	1	2	<b>69</b>	12	15*	505
869	26	-	6	22	2	-	<b>40</b>	-	28*	1146
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	225
5	1	-	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	-	-	-	3	3*	28
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
5	1	CW	-	-	-	-	-	<b>3</b>	-	31
-	1	1*	-	-	-	-	2*	-	-	20
-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
10	6	-	1	1	-	1	3	6	-	163
-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	9
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	-	3
-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3

# 102nd Christmas Bird Count (continued)

species	Nshua	Petrb	Keene	Coast	Isles	LeeDu	Cncrd
Falcon sp.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Pheasant	2	2	CW	4	-	-	-
Ruffed Grouse	3	14	8	2	-	12	4
Wild Turkey	<b>23</b>	75	111	23	-	-	<b>55</b>
Black-bellied Plover	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Greater Yellowlegs	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Lesser Yellowlegs	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Ruddy Turnstone	-	-	-	-	8	-	-
Sanderling	-	-	-	415	125*	-	-
Purple Sandpiper	-	-	-	5	1650	-	-
Dunlin	-	-	-	80	1*	-	-
American Woodcock	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Jaeger sp.	-	-	-	-	1*	-	-
Black-headed Gull	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	253	7	59	-
Ring-billed Gull	<b>476</b>	-	1	953	1	511	111
Herring Gull	6268	5	13	1400	1625	5228	11
Iceland Gull	1	-	-	3	-	1	-
Lesser Bla.-bac. Gull	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Great Bla.-bac. Gull	737	4	8	340	350	166	12
Gull sp.	-	-	49	-	-	-	-
Bla.-leg. Kittiwake	-	-	-	2	50	-	-
Dovekie	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
murre sp.	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Razorbill	-	-	-	<b>8</b>	4	-	-
Black Guillemot	-	-	-	7	40	-	-
Alcid sp.	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Rock Dove	<b>1457</b>	156	247	1395	-	556	330
Mourning Dove	600	207	154	1056	-	343	259
Eastern Screech-owl	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Great Horned Owl	2	-	-	2	-	3	-
Snowy Owl	-	-	-	CW	6	-	-
Barred Owl	2	1	-	1	-	1	1
N. Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Strigiformes/owl sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Belted Kingfisher	7	<b>3</b>	3	10	-	5	3
Red-bel. Woodpecker	6	<b>2</b>	-	<b>7</b>	-	2	-
Ylw.-bel. Sapsucker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Downy Woodpecker	111	65	38	114	-	62	35
Hairy Woodpecker	68	34	18	36	-	34	15
Bla.-bac. Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Flicker	5	-	-	25	-	2	-
Redxyellow Flicker s	-	-	1*	-	-	-	-
Pileated Woodpecker	4	1	4	2	-	4	3
Northern Shrike	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
Gray Jay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	473	315	265	555	-	280	181
American Crow	5677	271	238	1331	-	566	537
Common Raven	3	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	1	-	-	8
Horned Lark	-	-	-	76	-	2	5

\* = New species to a count

**Individual count high**

Lcnia	Hnovr	BkrVI	Ltftn	Errol	Pttsb	NCnw	LSunp	Manch	Sandw	Total
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
1	7	1	2	3	5	9	3	1	5	80
17	69	74	96	-	-	-	<b>52</b>	CW	79	674
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	540
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1655
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	81
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	319
<b>298</b>	CW	-	2	-	-	-	3	406	CW	2762
76	45	-	46	<b>6</b>	-	22	2	<b>2236</b>	CW	16983
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	7
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
37	61	-	17	1	-	-	1	260	3	1997
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	49
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	52
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	47
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
408	1170	81	119	-	-	148	125	804	17	7013
248	314	143	71	5	11	101	140	186	149	3987
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	7
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
3	6	-	-	-	-	1	CW	-	1	17
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	36
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	18
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
55	78	11	11	5	8	12	19	33	22	679
27	48	16	19	6	3	23	13	11	44	415
-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	33
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
3	6	-	2	3	1	<b>7</b>	3	-	3	46
-	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	<b>3</b>	10
-	-	-	-	4	2	2*	-	-	-	8
311	526	205	51	2	4	165	182	181	214	3910
259	<b>2930</b>	40	60	18	16	140	118	<b>4901</b>	39	17141
15	16	9	16	45	17	<b>65</b>	<b>9</b>	-	11	240
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	83

# 102nd Christmas Bird Count (continued)

species	Nshua	Petrb	Keene	Coast	Isles	LeeDu	Cncrd
Black-cap. Chickadee	859	787	518	1104	-	1169	444
Boreal Chickadee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tufted Titmouse	272	104	<b>68</b>	219	-	224	106
Red-br. Nuthatch	28	38	24	16	-	21	17
White-br. Nuthatch	<b>229</b>	97	71	150	-	160	89
Brown Creeper	13	7	1	8	-	13	6
Carolina Wren	5	1	3	4	-	-	1
Winter Wren	2	1	1*	-	-	3	-
Golden-cr. Kinglet	11	27	61	17	-	5	3
Eastern Bluebird	39	-	<b>9</b>	68	-	28	4
Hermit Thrush	1	-	-	2	-	2	2
American Robin	44	22	-	264	-	38	4
N. Mockingbird	73	-	7	134	-	49	13
European Starling	3727	274	755	10956	30	2960	478
Bohemian Waxwing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cedar Waxwing	188	41	139	467	-	247	20
waxwing sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Orange-cr. Warbler	-	-	-	-	1*	-	-
Ylw.-rumped Warbler	-	-	-	7	3	-	-
Yellow-breasted Chat	-	-	-	-	1*	-	-
Am. Tree Sparrow	207	34	59	323	-	147	81
Chipping Sparrow	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Field Sparrow	1	-	-	-	-	2	-
Fox Sparrow	<b>2</b>	2	1	2	-	-	-
Song Sparrow	78	2	2	90	4	24	22
Swamp Sparrow	1	-	-	2	-	3	-
White-thr. Sparrow	39	1	1	60	1	17	11
Dark-eyed Junco	454	31	53	456	-	199	66
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	-	-	9	9	30	-	-
Northern Cardinal	130	11	24	203	2	78	43
Red-winged Blackbird	-	2	-	2	-	1	-
Eastern Meadowlark	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	-	CW	-	-	-	3	14
Common Grackle	6	-	-	1	-	-	-
Br.-headed Cowbird	2	-	-	15	-	-	-
Pine Grosbeak	-	63	22	-	-	9	-
Purple Finch	-	2	1	5	-	-	-
House Finch	311	67	88	456	-	108	164
Red Crossbill	<b>7</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whi.-wing. Crossbill	<b>4</b>	-	CW	-	-	2	-
Common Redpoll	258	22	21	62	2	45	42
Pine Siskin	20	168	6	1	-	-	1
American Goldfinch	406	151	139	836	<b>3</b>	310	134
Evening Grosbeak	-	123	88	-	-	1	-
House Sparrow	1429	38	154	1435	-	747	210

**Number of Species** 66 52 51 114 34 71 53  
**Number of Participants** 38 26 24 49 30 30 15  
**Total Number of Species Across all CBCs:** 137

? = Questionable Sighting  
 Nshua = Nashua-Hollis (12/29/2001)  
 Keene = Keene (12/15/2001)  
 Isles = Isles-of-Shoals (12/16/2001)  
 Cncrd = Concord (12/17/2001)

CW = Count Week  
 Petrbr = Peterborough-Hancock (12/15/2001)  
 Coast = Seacoast (12/15/2001)  
 LeeDu = Lee-Durham (12/22/2001)

Lcnia	Hnovr	BkrVI	Ltln	Errol	Pttsb	NCnw	LSunp	Manch	Sandw	Total
985	1840	462	214	201	224	623	<b>1010</b>	414	822	11676
-	-	-	-	8	7	2	-	-	3	20
118	<b>129</b>	24	4	-	-	22	<b>31</b>	78	62	1461
40	49	16	16	12	13	53	37	4	55	439
131	141	44	11	1	1	38	51	78	92	1384
7	8	CW	1	1	-	2	6	5	8	86
-	<b>5</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	-	20
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>2</b>	-	-	9
7	23	5	4	43	4	4	<b>66</b>	5	2	287
3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	155
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	8
13	<b>34</b>	-	<b>15</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	434
2	3	-	1	-	-	2	1	17	-	302
<b>935</b>	<b>1051</b>	47	364	-	67	102	126	1274	133	23279
51	106	-	18	-	1	50	-	-	25	251
444	431	-	1	-	-	<b>51</b>	13	-	-	2042
20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
83	78	4	25	4	-	13	35	28	9	1130
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1	-	1*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
2	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	2	9
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	240
19	7	1	-	-	-	-	3	1	CW	7
57	83	10	-	-	-	9	12	62	14	161
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1506
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
64	87	7	4	1	2	4	22	22	-	48
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	704
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	19
71	312	23	105	35	117	35	<b>44</b>	2*	18	856
9	-	2	-	-	-	1	3	-	2	25
195	199	8	-	-	-	20	50	53	2	1721
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
-	CW	2	-	1	2	2	-	-	-	13
52	187	120	70	43	12	47	48	75	72	1178
6	5	-	-	-	1	6	-	-	12	226
194	122	41	12	1	-	39	45	101	99	2633
-	63	52	18	15	32	-	38	-	9	439
441	627	86	39	-	24	76	22	354	9	5691
54	54	30	42	32	28	39	46	46	42	
26	27	10	6	6	6	37	13	12	18	

Lcnia = Laconia-New-Hampton (12/29/2001)

BkrVI = Baker-Valley (12/29/2001)

Errol = Errol-Umbagog (12/18/2001)

NCnw = North-Conway (12/28/2001)

Manch = Manchester (12/15/2001)

Hnovr = Hanover-Norwich (01/01/2001)

Ltln = Littleton (12/15/2001)

Pttsb = Pittsburg (12/19/2001)

LSunp = Lake-Sunapee (12/15/2001)

Sandw = Sandwich (12/30/2001)

\* = New species to a count

**Individual count high**

Count highs were set for Common Merganser, Red-tailed Hawk, Wild Turkey, Common Raven, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, and Eastern Bluebird. Pine Grosbeak had its second-best number for the count.

- **Seacoast**

The Seacoast had a truly outstanding count this year, setting no fewer than 11 new all-time-high records for any New Hampshire count. These were for Northern Gannett, Double-crested Cormorant, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Surf Scoter, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks, Merlin, Sanderling, Bonaparte's Gull, and Ring-billed Gulls. Other count highs were set by Great Cormorant, Ring-necked Duck, Hooded Merganser, Razorbill, and Red-bellied Woodpecker. Carolina Wren and Eastern Screech-Owl tied their previous highs. Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs were recorded for only the third time ever. The previous two records were also from the Seacoast count.

- **Isles of Shoals**

The Isles of Shoals count had more than its fair share of unique and rare finds. New for the count was the second-ever-in-the-state jaeger species, third-ever Yellow-breasted Chat, and fourth-ever Orange-crowned Warbler, all new for the count circle. Other species new to the count were Common Merganser, Sanderling, and Dunlin. All time state highs were recorded for Ruddy Turnstone, Purple Sandpiper, and American Goldfinch.

- **Lee-Durham**

Lee-Durham takes honors as finding the only new species for any count, a Northern Shoveler. Count highs were set for Ring-necked Duck and Hooded Merganser. Hermit Thrush tied the previous count record. Pine Grosbeak had its second-best showing for the count.

- **Concord**

Concord set an all-time state high for Ring-necked Duck. It had count highs for Hooded Merganser and Wild Turkey. It tied previous count highs for Great Blue Heron and Hermit Thrush. Rusty Blackbird had its second-best number for the count.

- **Laconia-New Hampton**

The relative abundance of open water contributed to some very impressive results in the waterfowl department. Both Hooded and Common Merganser had all-time state high counts for the species. Count highs were also set for Common Loon, Snow Goose, Ring-necked Duck, and Ring-billed Gull. Pied-billed Grebe was seen only for the fourth time. Other count highs were observed for Red-tailed Hawk and European Starling.

- **Hanover-Norwich**

Hanover had count highs for Canada Goose, Hooded Merganser, American Crow, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, American Robin, and European Starling. Common Loon and Snow Goose were recorded only for the second time. Pine Grosbeak were seen in its second-highest number for the count.



- **Baker Valley**

Baker Valley recorded its first Cooper's Hawk and Fox Sparrow. Belted Kingfisher was seen for only the second time.

- **Littleton**

Littleton set count highs for Common Loon, Hooded Merganser, Bald Eagle, and American Robin. American Goldeneye was seen at its second highest level for the count.

For many years this count was not registered with National Audubon Society as are other CBCs. This year, the situation was rectified and the count was officially registered, reopened, and reported in the American Birds 102nd Christmas Bird Count issue. There was a slight change in the location of the count when the circle was registered to avoid overlap with Barnet, Vermont. The circle center is now at the White Mountain School in Bethlehem and includes 95% of the original circle.

- **Errol-Umbagog**

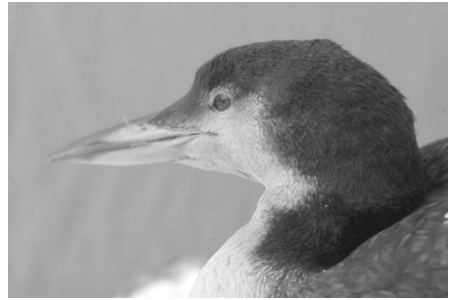
Errol had count highs of Mallard, Bald Eagle, and Herring Gull. Hooded Merganser was one bird short of last year's count record.

- **Pittsburg**

Pittsburg recorded its first-ever Common Loon.

- **North Conway**

North Conway recorded its first Gray Jays and its second Hooded Mergansers. New count highs were established for Mallard, Pileated Woodpecker, Common Raven, and Cedar Waxwing. Pine Grosbeak tied the previous count high.



*Common Loon*  
*ASNH Collection*

- **Lake Sunapee**

Lake Sunapee recorded its first Cooper's Hawks. A number of species established count highs. These were Canada Goose, Ring-necked Duck, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Wild Turkey, Pileated Woodpecker, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Pine Grosbeak. A single Red-winged Blackbird was seen for only the second time on the count.

- **Manchester**

Manchester had four new species for the count. These were Bufflehead, Merlin, Carolina Wren, and Pine Grosbeak. The finding of two Peregrine Falcons equals the all-time state high. Ring-necked Duck was recorded for the second time. Count highs were established for Sharp-shinned Hawk, White-breasted Nuthatch, Song Sparrow, and Common Redpoll. The finding of a very large American Crow roost allowed Manchester to slip in right behind Nashua for the second all-time-state-high crow count.

## • Sandwich

Sandwich had several new species for its count, almost all waterfowl or water-dependent species. These were Common Loon, Canada Goose, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, and Brown-headed Cowbird. Count highs were set for American Black Duck, Mallard, and Northern Shrike. Pine Grosbeak were seen in their second-highest number for the count.

*Note:* This year we were unable to include the results from the two Vermont counts that extend into New Hampshire — Barnet and Saxton's River. In past years we have included just their New Hampshire sightings in the regular listings for the season. We did not receive that data for this year but hope to obtain it for next year's counts.

## Spotlight on Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*)

by Eric Masterson

### Background

**F**amily Parulidae, Genus *Icteria*. The Yellow-breasted Chat is one of the more unusual members of the warbler family and is considered by some authorities to be taxonomically closer to the tanager subfamily, Thraupidae. In appearance, it gives the impression of being a cross between a mockingbird and a warbler. It is large for a warbler and possesses an unusually thick, black bill. Unlike any other warbler, it often holds food with its foot and has unscaled tarsi (the part of the bird's leg between the ankle and the toes).



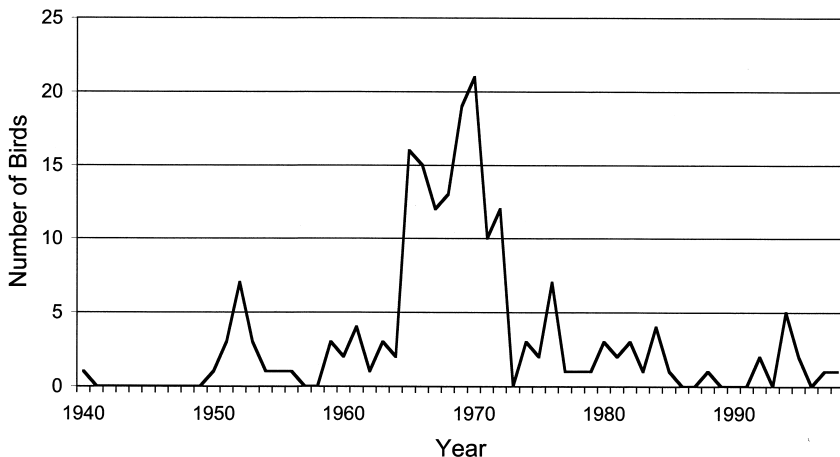
*Yellow-breasted Chat*  
by Dennis Abbott

The scientific name derives from both Latin and Greek. *Icteria* is taken from the Greek *ikteros*, which means jaundice, here alluding to the yellow breast. *Virens* is Latin for green and is indicative of the olive back.

### Breeding Status

There is no documented record of breeding for New Hampshire. Yellow-breasted Chat breeds as close to us as southern Massachusetts, and there is a 1912 breeding record from southern Vermont.

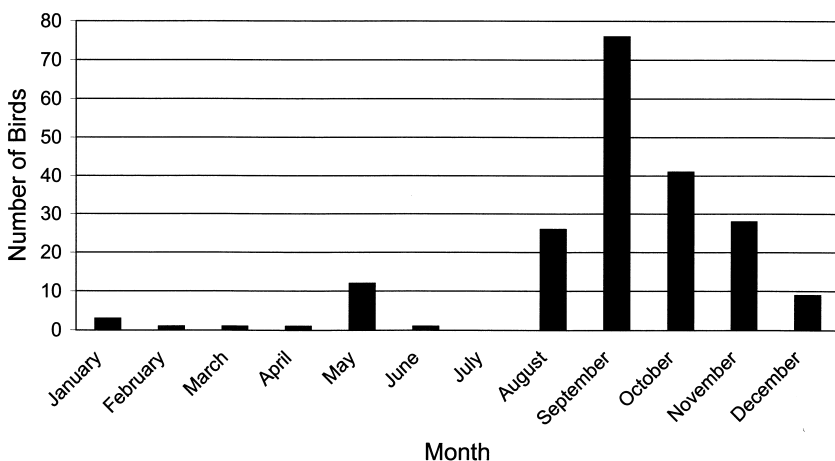
### Annual Yellow-breasted Chat occurrence in New Hampshire, 1940 - 2000



**Figure 1.**

Annual Yellow-breasted Chat occurrences in New Hampshire, exclusive of the Star Island banding data (see Figure 3). Despite a peak in the late sixties and early seventies, annual numbers are usually in the low single digits.

### Yellow-breasted Chat records by month 1940 - 2000



**Figure 2.**

Occurrences of Yellow-breasted Chat by month, exclusive of the Star Island banding data (see Figure 3). September is the peak month for the occurrence of this species.

## Occurrence in New Hampshire\*

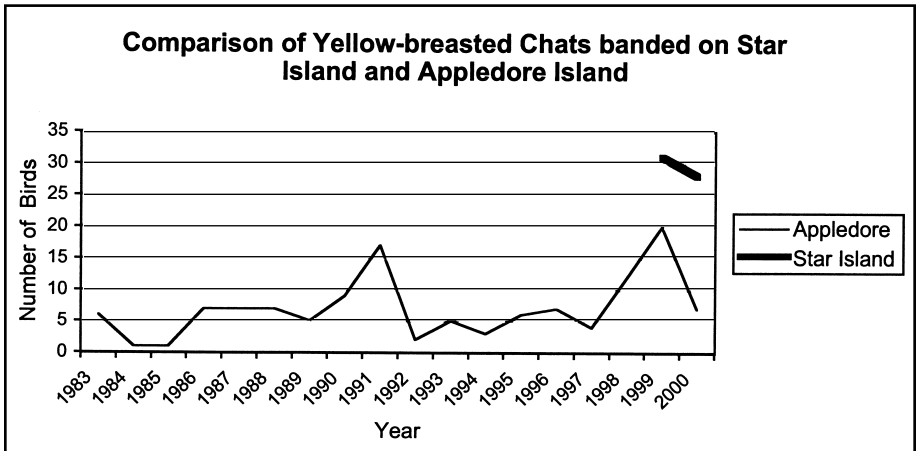
It is a scarce visitor to the state, but has been recorded in 42 of the last 62 years, involving 253 different individual sightings. In the majority of years, fewer than five birds are recorded on mainland New Hampshire; however, in the late 1960s and early 1970s an unusually large number of birds occurred (Figure 1 on previous page).

Eighty-nine percent of the records have occurred in fall (226 birds, August–November), with the remaining 11% split between spring (14 birds in 12 years, March–May) and winter (13 birds in 12 years, December–February) as shown in Figure 2 (previous page). Of the fall records, 75% come from the coastal zone.

During the fall of 1999 and 2000, Becky Suomala banded 31 and 28 chats, respectively, on Star Island (from approximately August 15 through September 30). These high totals correspond with the only years there was a documented banding operation on Star Island and are higher than the number of chats banded during the same time period at the long-running station on nearby Appledore Island, which is just over the state line in Maine (Figure 3, below). It may be reasonable to conclude that they are a frequent annual visitor to Star Island. Few chats were actually seen on the island outside the nets, but they are a secretive species, and it is likely that they are generally under-recorded.

The most northerly occurrence of the species in the state occurred in 1999, when Kathy Dube and Dave Killam found a chat that had been killed by a cat in Berlin on October 1. Tudor Richards' and Bob Quinn's sighting of a chat on October 30, 1981, at the State House in Concord is also noteworthy.

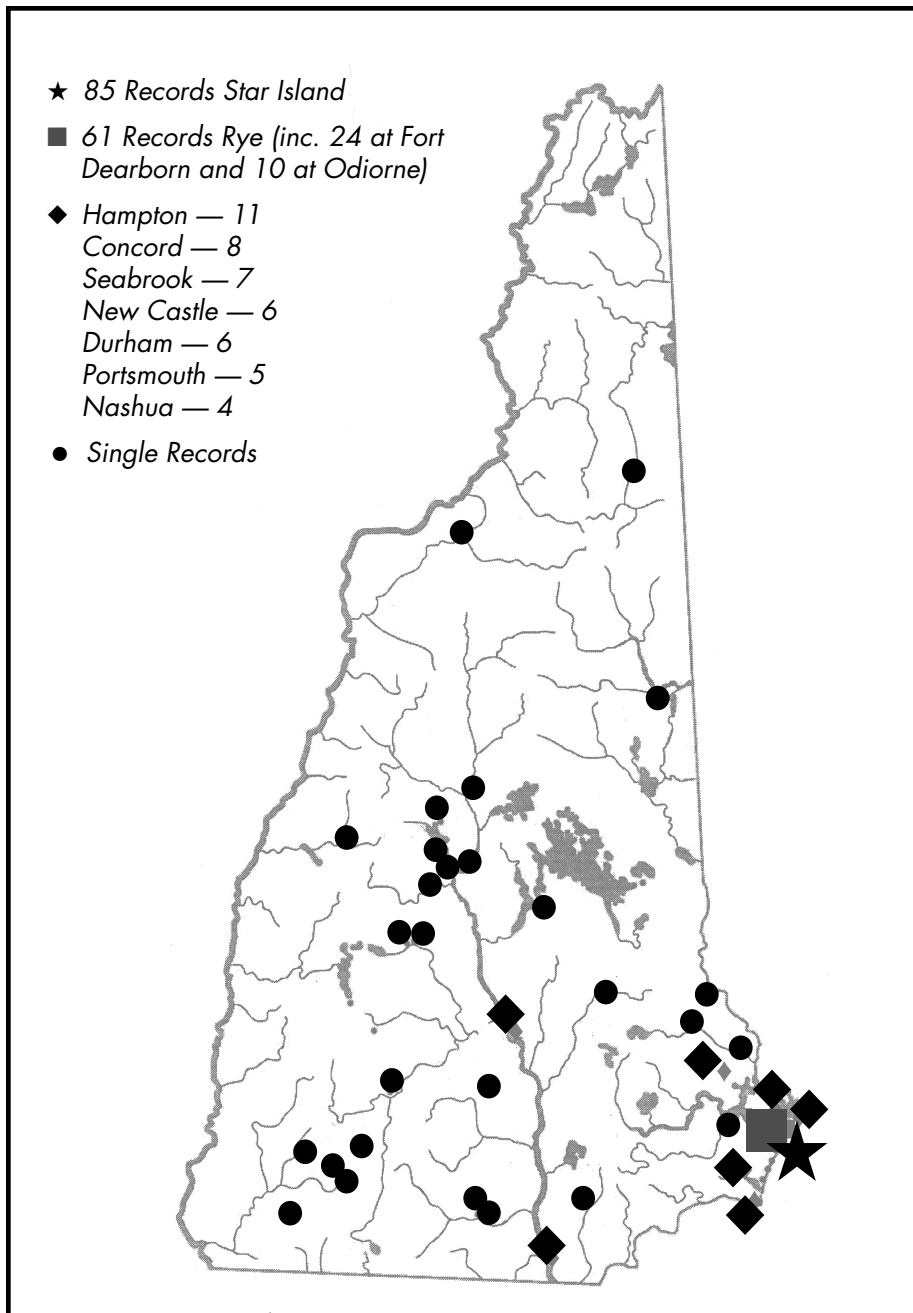
*\*Records prior to 1994 have not been reviewed by the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee.*



**Figure 3.**

*Comparison of Yellow-breasted Chat banded in the fall (approximately August 15–September 30) at the Isles of Shoals on Star Island, New Hampshire, and Appledore Island, Maine. Despite there being only two years (1999 and 2000) of records from Star Island, it appears that more chats are found on this island, perhaps due to a slight difference in habitat.*

**Figure 4.**  
*Occurrences of Yellow-breasted Chat from 1940 to 2000 in New Hampshire.*  
*Major water features are shown.*



## Comments

The pattern of occurrences of the chat puts this bird firmly in the scarce but annual category. They breed to the south as close as Massachusetts, and these individuals engaging in post-breeding dispersal could conceivably make it to New Hampshire on a regular basis. The prevalence of coastal records (Figure 4) may reflect observer bias (there are more birders on the coast), but as chats are known to feed largely on fruit during the availability of fruit. The more clement coastal climate would also be expected to provide a greater supply of food during the harsher winter months and would most likely explain why 10 of the 13 winter records are from the coast.

It is noteworthy that the pattern of occurrences in the interior of the state broadly correlates with the major waterways. Birders and birds are both known to follow waterways, so perhaps this is partly due to the migratory pattern of chats and partly due to birding patterns in the state.

For those birders who want to add Yellow-breasted Chat to their New Hampshire life lists, September on Star Island or the seacoast would seem to be the best bet.

## References and Data Sources

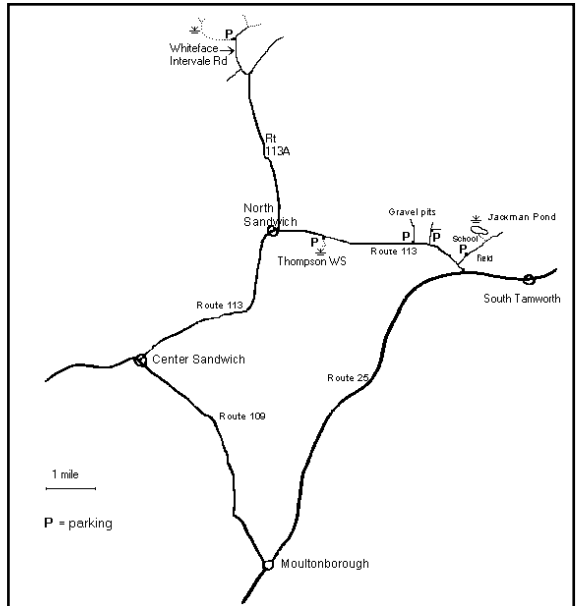
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# Birding Thompson Wildlife Sanctuary and Vicinity — Part I

by Tony Vazzano

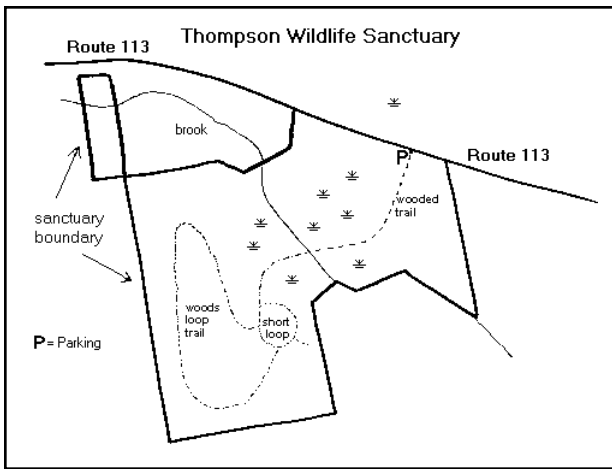
*This article appears in two parts. Part 1 focuses on the Thompson Wildlife Sanctuary in Sandwich. Part 2 describes three nearby sites — Whiteface Intervale, Ambrose Gravel Pits, and Jackman Pond and the Community School (see map). Part 2 will be in the next issue of New Hampshire Bird Records, Spring 2002. Ed.*

**T**hompson Wildlife Sanctuary is an Audubon Society of New Hampshire property and offers a variety of habitats that make it attractive to birds year-round, especially from late April to early October. It is located on Route 113 in North Sandwich, 2.8 miles west of the junction of Routes 25 and 113. There is a small sign on the left side of the road, and there is room for two cars to park. The best birding section is a fairly short walk on level terrain. There can be a few wet spots on the trail, but usually just in spring. The best areas for migrants are along the sections of wooded and brushy trail both before and after the open marsh. Along the latter stretch, at the far end of the short loop, there is a short “spur trail” to the edge of the marsh. While this can be wet and is used mostly by moose, birders can walk out a few yards when warblers are nearby. Then you can look back to the wooded edge and, with a little luck, the vireos, thrushes, warblers, and sparrows will parade close by you, offering unobstructed views, especially in fall. The longer loop section of deep woods is not as productive as the woods that are close to the marsh, but you will find some birds there, especially during the breeding season. Unfortunately, the dense canopy will make them difficult to see. Birds can also be found in the woods and along the edge of the field directly across the street from the sanctuary parking area. This is private property, but birders are welcome.



In spring, the Sanctuary comes alive with birds. Common Snipe might be heard winnowing early in the day. A Northern Harrier will sometimes cruise the marsh, and other raptors, such as Sharp-shinned Hawks, move through. The typical vireos are Red-eyed and Blue-headed, but occasionally there will be a Philadelphia. A variety of

In spring, the Sanctuary comes alive with birds. Common Snipe might be heard winnowing early in the day. A Northern Harrier will sometimes cruise the marsh, and other raptors, such as Sharp-shinned Hawks, move through. The typical vireos are Red-eyed and Blue-headed, but occasionally there will be a Philadelphia. A variety of



flycatchers migrate through as well as an occasional Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Warblers are often heard as you begin your walk, and sometimes there is a good assortment. The species seen may be different each day. Some, such as Black-throated Green and Nashville Warbler, are common, while Cape May Warbler is occasional, and Blue-winged Warbler

has been seen at least once.

During the summer breeding season at Thompson, especially in June, the early morning air is filled with the songs of nesting birds. The pumping sound of the American Bittern can often be heard at dawn, and sometimes they can be seen in flight across the marsh. Virginia Rails have been heard recently in spring and are probably breeding along with Common Snipe. Both Broad-winged and Red-shouldered Hawks usually nest in the Sanctuary or nearby. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers and Pileated Woodpeckers are found in the wooded areas along with Wood, Hermit, and some Swainson's Thrushes. Alder Flycatchers are numerous in the brushy marsh, and in some years there are Willow Flycatchers. Winter Wrens and Scarlet Tanagers can be found in the forested section. Common Yellowthroat is the most conspicuous wood warbler, but about 15 species of warblers nest in the Sanctuary. Swamp Sparrows are common in the marsh. Olive-sided Flycatchers are sometimes seen, and they nest by a bog north of Route 113. The bog is also of botanical significance, and birders are welcome to venture there but should obtain permission and directions from the sanctuary steward (Robert Ridgely: 284-7439) or, if he's unavailable, this writer (Tony Vazzano: 284-7718).

The fall migration may be the best time to bird Thompson. Some days may be slow, but other days are bustling with birds, and the biting insects are usually gone. Raptors such as American Kestrels, Sharp-shinned Hawks, and Northern Harriers are typical, and sometimes a Merlin can be seen hunting. Thrushes are mostly represented by Hermit, but Swainson's also move through here regularly in late September and early October. This is also the time in fall that both species of kinglets are usually seen flitting amidst the tamaracks. On a good day from late August through the middle of September, it is not unusual to see dozens of vireos and warblers with a dozen or more species present. It is a good spot to see Tennessee, Bay-breasted, and Blackpoll Warblers. By late September, you could encounter large numbers of Palm Warblers, and this is when sparrows usually arrive in numbers. Swamp, White-throated, and White-crowned Sparrows can be numerous, and Lincoln's Sparrow is often present then.



Some of the more unusual fall birds seen here in the past several years are Rough-legged Hawk and Connecticut Warbler.

In winter the trail is open for snowshoeing or cross-country skiing. This is often a quiet time at Thompson, and sometimes it can appear almost birdless. However, Ruffed Grouse, Barred Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, and Brown Creeper are permanent residents. Northern Saw-whet Owls are often here in winter and may stay to

breed. During irruption years, Common Redpolls can be found and sometimes Pine Grosbeaks or a Northern Shrike. When there is a cone crop and crossbills are on the move, both White-winged and Red Crossbills frequent the pine trees near Route 113.



*Common Redpoll*  
by H.E. Lawrence

*Tony Vazzano is an avid birder who lives in Sandwich. He is a director of the Lakes Region Audubon Chapter, the new Sandwich Christmas Bird Count co-compiler, and a volunteer for New Hampshire Bird Records, providing monthly weather summaries for the season editors.*

## On the Trail of the Whiskeyjack in New Hampshire



*Gray Jay*  
by David Govatski

by David Govatski

**T**he Whiskeyjack, or Gray Jay, is a fascinating bird of the north woods, and one that has several aliases. The name “whiskeyjack” has nothing to do with alcohol, but instead is an English corruption of a Cree name “Whisk-e-jonish” that was anglicized to Whiskey John and Whiskey Jack. The Gray Jay has long been the bane of trappers, who lost their trap bait to this clever bird. Logging camp cooks soon realized that putting a blueberry pie on the windowsill to cool was an open invitation to this camp robber. It was also called the Canada Jay until 1957, when the common name was changed to Gray Jay.

The Gray Jay is a bird of the spruce-fir forests of New Hampshire and is known to many hikers in the White Mountain region.

Often described as an overgrown chickadee by non-birders, it has unique features that allow it to adapt and thrive in the severe winters of northern New Hampshire. This article describes some of those unique features and places to see the Gray Jay in New Hampshire.

**Geographic Range:** The Gray Jay, *Perisoreus canadensis*, has never been recorded outside of North America. Its close cousin, the Siberian Jay, *Perisoreus infaustus*, has not been recorded outside of Eurasia. The Gray Jay is found from tree line in Alaska and Canada south through boreal and sub-alpine forests to California, Arizona, and New Mexico and from Minnesota east to New Hampshire and Maine.

The breeding range of the Gray Jay in New Hampshire is primarily from the White Mountain region north to Pittsburg in Coos County. The non-breeding range is essentially the same, although birds occasionally are seen at feeders in southern New Hampshire and even Massachusetts. A Gray Jay was photographed in Windsor, Massachusetts, during the winter of 2001–2002.

**Physical Characteristics:** The Gray Jay is a fluffy, long-tailed, short-billed, crestless jay that is pale gray in color. Adult males and females look the same, and juveniles are dark sooty gray in color with gray bills and white cheek stripes. There are currently three distinguishable populations: the Pacific, Rocky Mountain, and Taiga. The Taiga subspecies (*Perisoreus canadensis canadensis*) is what we see in New Hampshire. The Gray Jay is 11.5 inches long and has a wingspan of 18 inches. The normal adult weight is 2.5 ounces. The oldest known Gray Jay was a banded bird recaptured 15 years and 5 months after banding.

The Gray Jay is fairly quiet compared to its city cousin, the Blue Jay, but it is capable of making a variety of calls. The Gray Jay often silently glides to the tops of trees like a gray ghost. I was enjoying lunch with a pair of Gray Jays on the summit of Mount Field one February afternoon, when I was startled to hear them make a loud chattering call. I looked up and saw a Pine Marten staring at me and realized that the Gray Jays keep a wary eye out for this predator of the spruce forests. A few minutes later, both jays adopted a defensive stance again as a Black-backed Woodpecker flew to a nearby tree. The calls that I am most familiar with are a soft “whee ooh” and a “chuck wurr.”

**Food Habits:** The Gray Jay is classified as an omnivorous scatter hoarder. It will eat berries, carrion, eggs, and fledgling birds. The Gray Jay caches extra food in a variety of locations. Watch carefully and follow a Gray Jay as it carries off a piece of food and caches it in the bark or foliage of a spruce tree or even in *Usnea* lichen. Caching food is just one way for this bird to survive cold winters when little food is available.

The large salivary glands of the Gray Jay is another interesting adaptation to living in a cold environment. These glands produce copious amounts of sticky saliva that encase food particles and allow the food to be stuck to bark crevices. The genus name *Perisoreus* means hoarder.

**Reproduction:** The breeding season in New Hampshire begins in late March and ends in May. This is a time when the morning temperatures can be well below zero.

The male initiates nest building and builds a thick and well-insulated nest in a spruce or fir tree. The female incubates the three to four speckled gray-green eggs. The incubation lasts for 18 days, and young fledge at 22–24 days.

Juvenile Gray Jays are divided into “stayers” and “leavers.” The dominant brood member expels siblings from the natal territory usually between 55–65 days after birth. The single bird that stays behind with the parents has the advantage of knowing where the food caches are and also will continue to be trained by the parents through example. I have found that family units of three are common in late summer, fall, and winter.

**Behavior:** The Gray Jay is well known for its bold behavior around humans. This, I have discovered, is a learned behavior and is not found with Gray Jays in remote areas with little human visitation. I have had Gray Jays follow me for a quarter mile until I stopped, watching me carefully as I opened my pack for food. I once had a Gray Jay steal bacon out a frying pan in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area of Minnesota. Gray Jays are a member of the *Corvidae* family, which includes ravens, crows, magpies, and other jays, all well known for their intelligence.

**Other Names for the Gray Jay:**

Canada Jay	Grease Bird
Camp Robber	Whisk-e-jonish (Cree Indian)
Cinerosus Crow	Whiskey John
Meat Hawk	Whiskey Jack
Meat Bird	Lumberjack
Moose Bird	GRJA (Alpha designation from Bird Banding Lab)
Venison Bird	GRAJ (Alpha designation from Breeding Bird Survey)
Carrion Bird	

**Where to Find the Gray Jay in New Hampshire:** While the Gray Jay is not common over its range, there are specific places in New Hampshire where birders have a good chance of seeing them. Late summer, autumn, and winter are the best seasons.

*Pittsburg:* East Inlet Road, Scott’s Bog Road and Dam, Norton Pool, Moose Pasture, Mount Magalloway, and Fourth Connecticut Lake.

*Errol:* Route 16 north of Errol, including feeders, Long Pond, and Mountain Pond.

*Lake Umbagog:* These lakeside locations require a canoe or kayak: Leonard Marsh, Thurston Cove, and Moll’s Rock Campsite.



*Gray Jays*  
by David Govatski

*Dixville:* Mud Pond at the Balsam's Resort in winter on cross country skis.

*White Mountain Region:* Gray Jays are usually found in spruce-fir stands at elevations from 3,000 to 4,500 feet and especially at summits or trail junctions where hikers congregate. You can improve your chances by waiting for 15 minutes if the jays are not present.

*Cap's Ridge Trailhead on the Jefferson Notch Road* is a good location that does not require hiking. A 0.9-mile hike up the Cap's Ridge Trail to a spectacular overlook is a place where Gray Jays often are found. Boreal Chickadees are also often seen along this section of trail.

*The Carter Range and Wildcat Mountain:* The higher portions of these mountains often have Gray Jays. Boreal Chickadees, Blackpoll Warblers, Black-backed Woodpeckers, and Spruce Grouse have also been seen here. During the summer, it is possible to ride a ski lift to the summit of Wildcat.

*Mizpah Hut and Mount Pierce:* This is one of the best places to find boreal birds in New Hampshire. One of my favorite hikes is up the Crawford Path to the Mizpah-Cut Off Trail to Mizpah Hut and over Mount Pierce and back down the Crawford Path. I have seen Gray Jays on 40 of 42 trips over a two-year period on this seven-mile loop. I have also seen Boreal Chickadees, Black-backed Woodpeckers, Spruce Grouse, and even Boreal Owls once on Mount Pierce. Park your vehicle at the Forest Service trailhead near the junction of the Mount Clinton Road and US 302.

*Mount Webster and Jackson:* This is another great place for boreal birds. I have seen juvenile Gray Jays on Mount Webster and once had five adult Gray Jays joining me for lunch on Mount Jackson. Cloudland Bog, located a half-mile north of Mount Jackson on the Appalachian Trail, is another place where Gray Jays reside.

*Willey Range:* The summits of Mount Willey, Field, Tom, and Avalon have resident Gray Jays present. A tough hike, but the views are great.

*Mount Zealand and Hale:* These summits, along with Zeacliff and Zeacliff Pond overlooks, are great places for Gray Jays. Spruce Grouse are regulars along the Twinway and Lend-A-Hand Trails.

*Galehead Hut and Garfield Ridge Campsite:* Gray Jays are often waiting for hikers at the Garfield Ridge Campsite and nearby Galehead Hut.

*Nancy Pond:* The old growth spruce around Nancy and Norcross Ponds are home to Gray Jays. This is also one of the few places in New Hampshire where Three-toed Woodpeckers have been found.

*Waterville Valley:* The best places to find Gray Jays in the Waterville Valley area is on the summits of Mount Tecumseh, the Tripyramids, and Sandwich Dome.

*Other Locations:* Gray Jays have been found at low-elevation black spruce sites, including Little Cherry Pond in Jefferson, Church Pond in Albany, and the Trudeau Road wetlands in Bethlehem. These sites seem to be less reliable than the higher elevation sites but are worth checking out.

*Victory Bog, Northeast Kingdom of Vermont:* Not currently a part of New Hampshire but worth visiting to see accessible Gray Jays along the Victory-Granby Road. A roadside pull-off along the Moose River has suet feeders that have very reliable jays in autumn and winter. These jays have been part of a decade-long study by William Barnard of Norwich University.

We are fortunate to have the Gray Jay with us in the mountains and spruce-fir forests of northern New Hampshire. Their presence at a lunch stop brings joy to young and old alike as they look for food to steal. Carrying a small bag of diced suet will make you a friend in no time. While some people may object to feeding birds, it does not appear to cause them any harm.

The Gray Jay is not on any list of threatened or endangered species anywhere in its range. There has been no noticeable change in population trends in our region, and perhaps the only major threat is the potential effects of global warming.

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*David Govatski is an avid birder and hiker from Jefferson, New Hampshire. He is employed as a Fire and Aviation Management Officer with the White Mountain National Forest. He has hiked all the trails from the Lakes Region to Pittsburg, and the Gray Jay is one of his favorite birds.*

# Winter Shorebirds in New Hampshire

by Barbara Delorey

I like winter birding at the seacoast in spite of the dearth of restrooms and the emergence of chilblains. One thing I like is that I usually know what I should see. I should see three species of Scoters, two species of Grebes, one species of Eider (unless I'm lucky) and three species of shorebirds.

The three shorebirds to expect in winter while birding the New Hampshire seacoast are Sanderling, Dunlin, and Purple Sandpiper. Sanderlings, as can be inferred from their name, prefer the sandy beaches along the coast. The most reliable locations seem to be Rye Town Beach, Jenness Beach, North Hampton State Beach, and Seabrook Beach. Sanderlings are easily identified by their pale appearance in winter. The game of tag they play with the surf can also give away their identity.

Dunlin are often found mixed in with the Sanderlings, and vice versa. Dunlin are dark shorebirds, just slightly larger than Sanderlings with longer, decurved bills. Their bills and legs are black. In New Hampshire in winter, they are more often found at the southern end of the coast. They seem to have an affection for Seabrook Beach and the jetties at the mouth of the Hampton River. They are also found at Seabrook Harbor.

Purple Sandpipers, commonly referred to as "Purple Pipers," are a little more standoffish. They do not tend to flock with other species of shorebirds. I have never seen them mixed in with Dunlin or Sanderlings. They are dark shorebirds, similar in size to Dunlin, with orange-based medium-length bills and bright orange legs and feet. They are usually found along the rocky sections of the coast. We often see them at Rye Ledge and Concord Point. Sometimes we've seen them at Ragged Neck and Pulpit Rock as well. We seldom see them down at the Hampton Beach State Park jetty where the Dunlin like to be.

As you can see, habitat and location can give you a good clue as to which of these three shorebirds you have found. Birds, of course, can break the rules and be found almost anywhere, associating with almost any species, but these general guidelines might assist you in winter as you try to determine which shorebird is in your scope.

*Barbara Delorey is an active birder, field trip leader, and the Secretary for the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee.*

*Purple Sandpiper  
by Stephen R. Mirick*



The following report from the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee (NHRBC) contains decisions for records voted on by the Committee since the last report in the Winter 2000–01 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*. The NHRBC is an independent technical advisory committee to *New Hampshire Bird Records*. It reviews unusual sightings in an effort to maintain accuracy and scientific integrity for both *New Hampshire Bird Records* and the historical database of bird sightings maintained by the Audubon Society of New Hampshire (ASNH). Sightings are evaluated based on the details submitted. A record must have a vote of 6-0 or 5-1 to be accepted by the Committee.

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

The current committee members are Dennis Abbott, Alan Delorey, David Donsker, Davis Finch, Pamela Hunt, and Steve Mirick. Please contact any one of them if you have questions. Addresses are available from the chair, Pam Hunt at [biodiva@cyberportal.net](mailto:biodiva@cyberportal.net) or work phone at 224-9909 X328.

## 2001 Decisions

### Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter 2001–2002

(sightings from March 1, 2001 through February 28, 2002)

#### Reports accepted by the Committee:

Western Grebe in Rye on February 16.

Greater Shearwater offshore on December 3.

Leach's Storm-Petrel on Great Bay on October 1 (videotaped).

Least Bittern in Newington on June 19.

Black Vulture in Peterborough on September 15.

Northern Shoveler in Rochester from December 15 to February 20.

Hybrid Eurasian/American Green-Winged Teal in Sandwich on May 19.

Golden Eagle, four reports: Peterborough on September 15, Sandwich on September 27, Gilsum on October 17, and Exeter on October 20.

Sandhill Crane in Monroe on July 31.

American Oystercatcher in Rye on June 15.

American Oystercatcher at the Isles of Shoals on June 29.

Purple Sandpipers at the Isles of Shoals on July 2, 6, and 14.

Long-billed Dowitcher in Errol on October 15 (photo).

Wilson's Phalarope in North Hampton on May 8.

Phalarope species on Great Bay on August 22. Bird was originally reported as Red-necked

Phalarope, but details and videotape were insufficient to eliminate Red Phalarope.

Red-necked Phalarope in Rollinsford on August 23 (photo).

Red Phalarope in Rye on September 30.

Jaeger species, two reports: Rye on September 12 and offshore on December 3.  
 Little Gull, two reports: New Castle on May 18 and Rye on August 25.  
 Lesser Black-backed Gull, six reports: Exeter on April 1, Durham on April 4, Rochester on April 20 and 26 and November 1, and Seabrook on May 13.  
 "Nelson's" Gull (Herring x Glaucous Gull hybrid) in Rochester on January 31 and February 7.  
 Forster's Tern at the Isles of Shoals on July 22.  
 Common Murre in Rye on March 9.  
 Atlantic Puffin at the Isles of Shoals on July 31.  
 Boreal Owl on Mount Pierce on July 29, August 5, and October 26.  
 Eastern Phoebe in Rochester over most of the winter (photo).  
 Ash-throated Flycatcher in Concord on October 26 (photo - second state record).  
 White-eyed Vireo, three reports: Isles of Shoals on May 1, East Kingston on October 2, and Durham on October 8.  
 Gray Jay in Lee in Fall 2001 and Winter 2001-02 (photo).  
 Purple Martin in Laconia on June 8.  
 Sedge Wren in Durham on July 25 (photo).  
 Northern Wheatear in Jefferson on June 3 (photo).  
 Wood Thrush in Plainfield on December 5.  
 Varied Thrush in Alton on March 22.  
 Brown Thrasher in Pembroke on February 12.  
 American Pipit in Rochester on January 14.  
 "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler in Rye on November 26 (and through the winter).  
 Ovenbird in Rye on January 26.  
 Connecticut Warbler, two reports: Nashua on September 15 and Hollis on September 22.  
 Wilson's Warbler in Rye on November 12.  
 Yellow-breasted Chat in Rye through most of the winter (photos).  
 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow at the Isles of Shoals on June 4.  
 Painted Bunting in New Castle on June 13 (photos).  
 Yellow-headed Blackbird in East Kingston on June 4 (photos).  
 Bullock's Oriole in Dover on January 13 (photos).  
 Hoary Redpoll in Sugar Hill on January 21.  
 Hoary Redpoll in Hanover on several dates in February (photos).



*Common Murre  
 Rye, 3/9/2001  
 by Stephen R. Mirick*



### **Reports accepted as hypothetical:**

Anhinga in Stratham on May 14. Species identification adequately documented, but additional observers or photograph needed for first state record.

### **Species identification accepted, but origin uncertain:**

European Goldfinch in Barrington on July 1. Species identification accepted, but it could be an escaped cage bird.

### **Reports not accepted by the committee:**

Rough-legged Hawk in Sandwich on June 22. Evidence inconclusive for a sighting of this species at such a late date.

Golden Eagle in Kingston on October 1. No description of the bird.

King Rail in Errol on June 25. Details did not eliminate Virginia Rail.

Sandhill Crane, 2 in Monroe on August 11. The committee accepts a single bird at this location in 2001, but details were insufficient to confirm the presence of a second individual.

Long-billed Dowitcher at the Isles of Shoals on July 11. Details did not eliminate "hendersoni" subspecies of Short-billed Dowitcher.

Dovekie in Dover on January 5. More details were desired for an inland record of six Dovekies, and other small water birds were not conclusively eliminated.

Eastern Screech-Owl in New London on October 25. The bird was heard only once and not seen. Insufficient details to eliminate the end of a Barred Owl call.

Eastern Wood-Pewee in Goffstown on April 30. Due to the extreme early date, more details were necessary.

Shrike species in Laconia on June 2. Did not eliminate Northern Mockingbird.

Orange-crowned Warbler in Concord on October 24. White undertail coverts inconsistent with this species.

Black-headed Grosbeak in Amherst, 2 on May 19. No description of the birds, and a pair is very unlikely.

### **Decisions on Late Submissions**

Records that the Committee was unable to evaluate in time for publication with the other votes from that season.

### **Reports accepted by the Committee:**

Least Bittern, 7-15-99, Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge in Newington.

Golden Eagle, 7-6-98, Route 28 rest area in Alton.

Golden Eagle, 9-10-2000, Peter Wood Hill in Deering.

Caspian Tern, 5-21-2000, near Eel Pond in Rye.

Yellow-headed Blackbird, late September 2000, Surowiec Farm off Pearley Hill Road in Sanbornton.

### **Reports not accepted by the Committee:**

Lesser Black-backed Gull, 8-13-2000 at New Hampshire coast. Did not eliminate Herring Gull.

Long-eared Owl, 4-24-93, found injured in the Lake Massabesic area in Manchester. Originally listed and discussed in the Spring 93 (Vol. 12, No. 1) issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* on page 15. No details were ever submitted for this sighting.

Common Redpoll, 7-26-93 in Effingham. This would be an unprecedented summer record and as such it required more complete documentation.

## Can You Identify This Bird?

*photo by Alan Delorey*



Answer in the next issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*.  
For the answer to the Fall 2001 photo quiz see facing page.

# Answer to the Fall 2001 Photo Quiz

by David Donsker

**T**here are some groups of birds that are so well known that they are immediately recognized by nearly everyone, whether they are birdwatchers or not. Ducks, gulls, owls, and hawks are examples. So we will spot you the group on our mystery bird: It is a hawk. That wasn't hard. But here is where the challenge begins.

Normally, we encounter hawks in flight overhead. As such, our initial approach to hawk identification is based on flight profiles. The three main groups of hawks-buteos, accipiters and falcons—each has its own characteristic combination of body form, wing shape, and tail length, all reflections of that group's particular hunting style, that help us to make the first “cut” in sorting out these species.



- **Buteos** are master soarers of open woodland and fields. They are medium to large raptors, with robust bodies; long, broad wings; and relatively short, wide tails.
- **Accipiters** hunt smaller birds in forested habitats. As such, they have short, rounded wings and long tails that help them rapidly maneuver between trees. They are small to large birds.
- **Falcons** are swift hunters of open habitats. They are small to large raptors with long, pointed wings, long tails, and relatively large heads.

(There is a fourth group: **Harriers** are slow, buoyant, low-flying hunters of marshes and fields. They have long, narrow wings and long tails with lean, lanky bodies. The wings are typically held in a dihedral or “V” shape as they fly. Our only harrier, the Northern Harrier, is well known and rarely causes confusion with other hawk species).

Fine, so how does this apply to our mystery bird? The bird isn't soaring. It obviously has just taken flight from its perch on the top of a pole. We can't see the tail at all. But there are many clues we can use.

This is certainly not a “robust” raptor. Look at the small, hooked beak and fairly scrawny feet and talons. These features alone eliminate the buteos and our largest accipiters and falcons: Goshawk, Gyrfalcon, and Peregrine Falcon.

Now look at the underparts. They're heavily streaked. A smallish raptor with streaked underparts could be any of four species. Two accipiters: immature Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks or two falcons: Merlin and female American Kestrel.

The Sharp-shinned Hawk is small-headed with a pale yellow eye, unlike the large, square-headed, dark-eyed bird in the photo. The Cooper's Hawk has a large square head, but, like its smaller cousin, it is pale-eyed.

More importantly, look at those wings. Could anything be more pointed? Granted, the bird has just risen from its perch, and the wings are caught in the dynamic process of providing some lift, but these are very attenuated wing tips on longish, sickle-shaped wings. This is the classic falcon wing shape. In fact, our word “falcon” is derived from the Latin “falx” or sickle. These are quite unlike the short, broad wings characteristic of our small accipiters.

So this is a small falcon. Two features help us distinguish American Kestrel from Merlin. The underwing of the kestrel is notably pale. In contrast, the Merlin has very dark underwings. When seen well, those dark underwings have a distinctly checkered pattern, just as the bird in the photo. In addition, although all of our falcons have moustache stripes, the Merlin’s moustache stripes are rather indistinct. American Kestrel has two bold “whiskers:” a dark moustache stripe and a second stripe behind the eye. (Peregrine Falcon has, of course, a prominent moustache. Gyrfalcon is our only other falcon that has a faint moustache and is often streaked below, but its feet are huge!).

This small, dark falcon with very pointed wings and faint facial markings is a Merlin. The bird in the photograph is an individual of the most widespread race, the Taiga Merlin, that breeds in the boreal forests from Newfoundland to Alaska and south into the northern Rocky Mountains, northern Great Lakes states, and Maine. Although several pairs breed in New Hampshire (see the article on Merlins in the Fall 2001 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*), it is generally seen in our state as a spring and fall migrant. It winters along our country’s southern coasts, the Caribbean, Central America, and South America as far south as Peru. On its breeding grounds it shuns deep woodlands, preferring woodland openings and the borders of lakes, ponds, and marshes. It frequently spends its time on exposed lookout perches, from which it will make short forays after prey, typically small birds, dragonflies, and other large insects. It passes through our state from late April into early May and then again from mid-September to early October. Rarely, it will overwinter. They are pugnacious and aggressive birds that will frequently harass larger birds, including large birds of prey, even during migration. Nothing can be more dramatic than seeing one of these fleet, sleek, dark rockets zoom past your hawk-watching post on a clear day in late September.

This Merlin was photographed by Stephen R. Mirick on November 25, 2000, in Hampton, New Hampshire.

# Important Bird Areas Program, BirdLife International: The New Hampshire Link

by Francie Von Mertens

**P**articipation of New Hampshire's birding community is being sought for the Important Bird Area Program (IBA). The program, launched by BirdLife International, works to establish partnerships around the world to identify locations critical to birds either in their breeding, wintering, or migration life cycles.

The program, in its fledgling stage in New Hampshire, is being adopted by the New Hampshire Living Legacy Project at UNH Cooperative Extension and the Audubon Society of New Hampshire. The Living Legacy Project, coordinated by Ellen Snyder, seeks to identify important ecological areas in the state, and Important Bird Areas are a logical subset of that effort. Ellen is working with the state's Partners In Flight working group to draft a nomination form for Important Bird Areas in New Hampshire. She writes:

*"A Scientific Advisory Group has developed a set of ecological criteria that will guide the identification and mapping of Important Ecological Areas, which includes Important Bird Areas, Important Mammal Areas, Important Herp Areas, etc. Natural Communities and rare plant populations inventoried by the New Hampshire Natural Heritage Inventory Program are incorporated into all biodiversity criteria. Scientists, birders, land managers, citizen scientists, and others will aid in locating Important Areas throughout the state. These areas will then be mapped using GIS and will later guide land conservation by the state's large land trust community and public agencies."*

Pam Hunt at the Audubon Society of New Hampshire (and also the *New Hampshire Bird Records* Spring Editor) is the IBA Program Coordinator for New Hampshire. For more information, contact her at 603-224-9909, ext. 328, or [phunt@nhaudubon.org](mailto:phunt@nhaudubon.org).

For more information on the Living Legacy Project, contact Ellen Snyder, UNH Cooperative Extension Biodiversity Specialist, at (603) 862-4277 or [ellen.snyder@unh.edu](mailto:ellen.snyder@unh.edu).

Nationwide, Audubon chapters and societies and bird clubs are the prime movers establishing state-based Important Bird Area programs. The identification of Important Bird Areas has led to a number of promising initiatives, including conservation of critical habitat; more focused land stewardship of IBA areas as well as increased monitoring of bird species; educational programs and field trips based at the IBA; increased media attention on critical habitat; successful battles waged against drilling, developing, mining, etc., in or near an IBA; and increased grant money to support all of the above.

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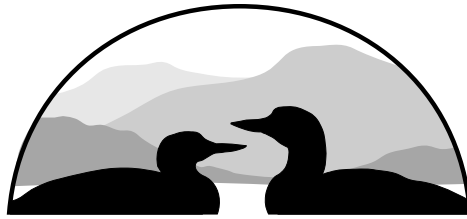
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# **New Hampshire Bird Records**

## **Volume 20, Number 4**

### **Winter 2001–2002**

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*Photo Quiz:* David Donsker

## **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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