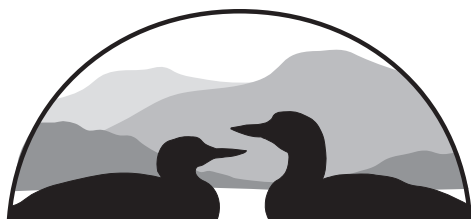


New Hampshire Bird Records



Spring 2002

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New Hampshire Bird Records

Volume 21, Number 1

Spring 2002

- Managing Editor:* Rebecca Suomala
603-224-9909 X309
bsuomala@nhaudubon.org
- Text Editor:* Miranda Levin
- Season Editors:* Pamela Hunt, Spring; William Taffe, Summer; Stephen Mirick, Fall; David Deifik, Winter
- Art Editor:* Peg Lopata
- Layout:* Debbie K Graphics
- Promotion Manager:* Sue Covino
- Subscription Manager:* Kathie Palfy
- Assistants:* Jeannine Ayer, Julie Chapin, Margot Johnson, Susan MacLeod, Marie Neveu, Dot Soule, Jean Tasker, Tony Vazzano, Robert Vernon
- Volunteer Opportunities
and Birding Research:* Francie Von Mertens, Susan Story Galt
- Photo Quiz:* David Donsker

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About The Cover

The front cover photograph of a Black-and-white Warbler is by Garth McElroy. Garth is a freelance bird photographer and an avid birder from Gilmanton, New Hampshire. His interest in birds and his love for photography led him to the creation of his personal business, *Feathered Fotos* which is on the web at www.featheredfotos.com.

NOTE:

We're in the process of changing the page format of *New Hampshire Bird Records* due to changes in postal regulations. Please bear with us. — Ed.

Thank you to all who have sent in subscription renewals and a special welcome to new subscribers. Please help us spread the word about *New Hampshire Bird Records*.

New Field Trip Reporting Form

We have designed a form to make it easier to report your sightings from a field trip. It is similar to the Single Location Reporting Form but is designed for sightings from a single day. If you are a field trip leader and want to send your sightings to *New Hampshire Bird Records* this form is much more user-friendly than the individual slips. It also works well for individuals that are spending a day traveling and birding. If you would like to try the new form, please let me know your mailing address (see contact information p. ii) and I will send you one. The form is also available as an Excel spreadsheet for those who prefer to complete the form on a computer and then print it out. Send me an e-mail if you would like to try this option.

T-shirts Still Available

If you missed the opportunity to purchase a T-shirt with Iain MacLeod's beautiful drawing of a Northern Hawk Owl, there are still a few left. We have medium, large, and extra-large sizes at \$20 each (this includes shipping). Make checks payable to the Audubon Society of New Hampshire and send them to my attention. Be sure to include your mailing address and the size you want. All proceeds benefit *New Hampshire Bird Records*.

Rebecca Suomala
Managing Editor
November, 2002

Reports for the following species were received in Spring 2002 but not listed.

Great Blue Heron	White-rumped	Black-capped	European Starling
American Black Duck	Sandpiper	Chickadee	Cedar Waxwing
Mallard	Ring-billed Gull	Tufted Titmouse	Dark-eyed Junco
Hooded Merganser	Mourning Dove	Red-breasted	Snow Bunting
Common Merganser	Great Horned Owl	Nuthatch	Northern Cardinal
Sharp-Shinned Hawk	Barred Owl	White-breasted	Eastern Meadowlark
Northern Goshawk	Belted Kingfisher	Nuthatch	Brown-headed Cowbird
Red-Tailed Hawk	Hairy Woodpecker	Brown Creeper	Purple Finch
American Kestrel	Pileated Woodpecker	Golden-crowned	House Finch
Wild Turkey	Blue Jay	Kinglet	American Goldfinch
Killdeer	American Crow	Eastern Bluebird	Evening Grosbeak
	Common Raven	Northern Mockingbird	House Sparrow

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

March 1 through May 31, 2002

by Pam Hunt

In many ways, the spring of 2002 was unremarkable from a weather perspective. March and April averaged one or two degrees warmer and slightly wetter than usual, but neither trend was that dramatic in the long run. However, there was a brief but record-breaking heat wave in mid-April, during which temperatures reached the mid-90s in southern New Hampshire. This unusual weather might have been responsible for several record or near-record early arrivals, including Eastern Kingbird, Veery, Swainson's Thrush, Scarlet Tanager, and Baltimore Oriole, as well as early-ish arrival patterns for species such as Blue-headed Vireo and Black-and-white Warbler. This warm period, in addition to a smaller warm front on April 9, might also have been responsible for a large inland influx of coastal egrets, as well as a few scoters, in the middle third of the month.

Within five days of the heat wave, however, New Hampshire experienced a shift to more wintry weather, including wet snow and a temperature difference of some 60 degrees. How birds fared during this period is unclear, but there were certainly big gaps in the arrival schedules of many of the previously mentioned species. Species that normally arrive in late April were probably less affected than those that normally wait until early May.

The unseasonable weather of late April continued into May, which averaged almost two degrees cooler than usual. In mid-month, this pattern reached its ultimate expression when up to four inches of snow fell across higher elevations on May 18. The snow didn't remain on the ground for long, but while it fell, many birds, most notably thrushes were seen foraging along roads where the ground remained uncovered. In past springs, such late season storms have induced mortality in sensitive species like Scarlet Tanager, but there was no indication of such in 2002. Nonetheless, the snow probably surprised a pair of orioles in Kensington that had started nest-building only a few days earlier. Despite the cool and damp conditions, most of May's traditional migrants were well-reported, and it was certainly a much better warbler migration than that of 2001.

In amongst the wandering egrets, snow-shocked thrushes, and early orioles was the usual collection of "rare birds." This season the list included visitors from the west such as **Western Grebe**, **White-faced Ibis**, **Western Tanager**, **Clay-colored Sparrow**, and "**Oregon**" **Junco**. Southern vagrants were fewer but included **American Oystercatcher**, **Acadian Flycatcher**, **Worm-eating Warbler**, and **Summer Tanager**. And in the category of vagrant northern birds, there were reports of a **Boreal Owl** in the White Mountains and a **Gray Jay** on Mount Monadnock, among others.



*White-faced Ibis by Stephen R. Mirick,
4-17-02, Chapman's Landing,
Stratham*

Loons through Vultures

This spring was a marked contrast to last year, when no Horned or Red-necked Grebes were reported from inland locations. Most of 2002's birds were in two huge flocks on Moore Reservoir on April 23. Also of note was a much smaller flock of four Horned Grebes on Lake Winnisquam on March 16, almost a month earlier than this species' usual inland arrival. Even more exciting were the season's two sightings of **Western Grebes**. The fact that the two reports were only 11 days apart leads one to wonder if they pertain to the same bird. If so, where was it in the intervening period?



*Northern Fulmar by Stephen R. Mirick,
3-19-02, Offshore boat to Jeffreys Ledge*

Offshore, tubenoses were well represented. Eighteen Northern Fulmars were seen on a hagfish trip and included two dark individuals, a color morph that is relatively rare in the North Atlantic. Manx Shearwaters are occasionally seen from shore, but their larger sooty relatives are not. Thus, the individual feeding *within* the Hampton River breakwaters was a rare treat. Rounding out the list of shearwater relatives were the two Wilson's Storm-Petrels seen by tern biologists at the

Isles of Shoals. The numbers of Northern Gannets seen from the same location are also quite impressive. Double-crested Cormorant migration peaked at roughly the same time as gannet numbers peaked.

The American Bittern in Hampton was the same individual that entertained numerous birders back in January. Otherwise, this species did not return to the state until the more typical date of mid-April. Also in mid-April, birders over much of the state were treated to an unusual number of Great Egrets. While a couple of these egrets typically wander away from the coast each spring, a total of ten is definitely more than average. Even more unexpected was a Snowy Egret in Lebanon that seems to have been part of the broader inland egret invasion. And last but not least, a wayward Glossy Ibis made it all the way to Jefferson, where it stayed for about three weeks.

Among the rarer sightings overall was a single Cattle Egret in Portsmouth. This species is still roughly annual in New Hampshire, although breeding populations in southern New England appear to be decreasing. Much more noteworthy was a **White-faced Ibis** in Stratham on April 17. This is the second state record for this western version of the Glossy Ibis, and amazingly enough, the previous record was also from Chapman's Landing, on the very similar date of April 15, 1995.

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Red-throated Loon				
05-15	1	Enfield	Shaker Bridge	B. Johnstone
Common Loon				
04-07	1	Gilmanton	Whispering Pines Rd., Gilmanton Ironworks	K. Palfy
04-09		Strafford	Lakeview Dr.	S. Young

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
04-09	1	Concord	Turtleton Pond, E. Concord	K. Dymont, Concord Bird & Wildflower Club
05-14	167	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
Pied-billed Grebe				
03-17	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	G. Prazar
04-08	3	Hanover	Ledyard Bridge	S. Sturup
04-13	1	Jefferson	Cherry Pond	D. Govatski
04-27	1	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
05-18	1	Sandwich	Chicks Corner swamp	T. Vazzano
Horned Grebe				
03-16	4	Sanbornton	Town Beach, Dr. True Rd.	P. Hunt
04-17	2	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
04-23	130	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley
04-23	80	Monroe	Comerford Dam	B. Bradley
Red-necked Grebe				
04-23	196	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley
05-01	20	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley
Western Grebe				
05-18	1	Rye	Wallis Sands State Beach	R. Woodward
05-19	1	Rye	Wallis Sands State Beach	R. Woodward, G. Robbins, I. MacLeod
05-29	1	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
Northern Fulmar				
03-09	18	Seabrook	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
Sooty Shearwater				
05-28	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor by breakwater	S. Mirick, M. Suomala
Manx Shearwater				
05-27	1	Rye	n. of Rye Harbor St. Pk.	R. Woodward, I. MacLeod, G. Robbins
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				
05-31	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
Northern Gannet				
03-02	6	Rye	Ragged Neck	S. Mirick
04-07	8	Seabrook	off Seabrook Beach	M. Suomala
04-22	29	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
04-28	189	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
05-14	75	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
Double-crested Cormorant				
04-15	1	Holderness	US Forest Service office	J. Williams
04-16	30	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley
04-18	275	Rye	Concord Pt.	M. Suomala
04-30	350	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
05-08	200	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	R. Suomala
Great Cormorant				
03-13	27	Rye	Rye Ledge	B. Crowley
05-31	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
American Bittern				
03-19	1	Hampton	High St.	S. Mirick
04-14	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendricky
04-24	1	Francestown	Rt. 136	P. Lopata
05-10	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
05-25	1	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Pk.	R. Woodward, Capital Area Chapter FT
Great Egret				
03-30	2	Rye	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
04-08	1	Manchester	Rt. 93 & 293 junction	P. Hunt
04-14	1	Keene	Beaver Brook, Rt. 10 n. of dam	M. Wright
04-15	3	Greenfield	Crotched Mtn. Rehabilitation Center	K. Collins
04-19	2	Laconia	Elm St., Laconia CC	H. Anderson
04-20	2	Dunbarton	Gorham Pond Rd.	G. Williamson
Snowy Egret				
04-07	7	Hampton	Hampton Marsh	M. Suomala
04-18	1	Lebanon	East Wilder Landing	A. Mudge
04-25	13	Rye	NH coast	M. Suomala
Cattle Egret				
05-11	1	Portsmouth	Great Bog	S. Mirick, et al.
Green Heron				
04-27	1	Laconia	Elm St., Laconia CC	H. Anderson
05-27	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, et al.
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
05-11	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Woodward, Capital Area Chapter FT
05-28	6	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
Glossy Ibis				
04-03	30	Stratham	Chapmans Landing salt pans	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04-15	1	Jefferson	Jefferson Meadows	B. Grossman
04-20	6	Windham		M. Harvey
04-25	2	Rye	NH coast	M. Suomala
05-08	1	Jefferson	Little Cherry Pond	C. Bretton, D. Emerson
White-faced Ibis				
04-17	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Mirick, D. Hughes, D. Abbott, et al.
Turkey Vulture				
03-04	3	Keene	Ashuelot R. at jct. NH Rts. 9,10,12	R. Ritz
03-25	30	Keene		N. Ritz
05-03	17	Plymouth	Rt. 93, exit 26 at Rt. 3 jct.	J. Williams

Waterfowl

Snow Goose migration peaked in the central Connecticut Valley in late March, with the high numbers arriving in the Lancaster area about a week later. Egrets weren't the only coastal species making noteworthy inland showings this season. Brant, in num-

bers ranging from one to dozens, graced locations along the Connecticut Valley between late March and mid-May. To the south and east, Mute Swans have started to appear in the Merrimack Valley. Time will tell whether an inland population becomes established in New Hampshire, and what the potential impacts might be on local waterfowl populations.

Among the less common dabbling ducks, Gadwall were well represented and Northern Shovelers appeared in typical numbers. The stars of the waterfowl season were the pair of **Redheads** that drew birders to Gilford in early April. Redhead is not an annual species in New Hampshire, and these were the first spring reports since 1997. The Gilford pair, or one like it, appeared later in the spring in Littleton. Accompanying the latter report was a comment that the species had also been seen at that location in 2001, although the sighting was never reported to *New Hampshire Bird Records*.

Sea ducks inland included flocks of Black and Surf Scoters in mid-April, at roughly the same time as the influx of coastal egrets. Less tied to any broader avian phenomenon was an early pair of Red-breasted Mergansers on Lake Winnisquam in late March. Note, however, that this was also the time and location for the Horned Grebes mentioned earlier, so perhaps there actually *was* some sort of “broader avian phenomenon” after all. For the second time in the last few years, Ruddy Ducks lingered at the Exeter wastewater treatment plant into late May. This time, there were four males in breeding plumage, and one cannot help but wonder why they hadn’t left for their nesting grounds to the northwest.

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Snow Goose				
03-16	100	Canaan	Webster Meadows	B. Johnstone
03-23	108	Hanover	Ledyard Bridge	S. Sturup
03-24	400	Haverhill	Connecticut R.	J. Williams
03-24	200	Orford	Connecticut R.	S. Sturup
03-28	600	Haverhill	Connecticut R., N. Haverhill	T. Richards
04-04	800	Lancaster	Connecticut R., Rt. 135	C. Bretton, D. Govatski
04-16	500	Northumberland	Connecticut R. back waters	D. Killam
05-15	1	Livermore	Lower Greeley Pond	G. Duffy, L. Myers, B. Blasi
05-16	1	Newmarket	off Bay Rd.	S. Mirick
Snow Goose — Blue morph				
04-16	2	Northumberland	Connecticut R. back waters	D. Killam
Canada Goose				
03-02	3656	Newmarket	Great Bay survey	S. Mirick
03-22	800	Charlestown	near Lower Landing Rd.	M. & R. Suomala, D. Hayward
03-23	230	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. & M. Suomala
Brant				
03-30	1	Charlestown	Charlestown Center	M. Resch
04-25	6	Rye	NH coast	M. Suomala
05-12	3	Jefferson	Cherry Pond	D. Govatski, C. Bretton, R. Brown, D. Mallion
05-13	40	Enfield	Mascoma Lake	B. Johnstone

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Brant — cont.				
05-18	33	Monroe	Connecticut R.	E. Emery, P. Powers, B. Bradley
05-20	60	Rye	between Isles of Shoals & shore	R. Suomala, M. Tarr
Mute Swan				
03-07	4	Concord	Merrimack R.	C. Martin
04-03	2	Milford	Emerson Rd., Chappell pond	R.& B. Becker
05-30	3	Exeter	Swasey Pkwy., Squamscott R.	R. Aaronian
Wood Duck				
03-15	2	Kensington	Cottage Hill	G. Gavutis
03-15	2	Seabrook	Rt. 286	S. Mirick
03-17	6	Concord	Merrimack R., Fort Eddy Rd.	R. Suomala
04-04	35	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04-14	28	Lancaster	Rt. 135, Connecticut R.	R.& M. Suomala
Gadwall				
03-16	5		Great Bay	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
03-16	2	Lebanon	Wilder Dam	S. Sturup
04-12	1	Gilford	Lily Pond	T. Vazzano, S. Wiley
04-16	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment ponds	T. Vazzano, R. Crowley
04-27	1	Hanover	River Rd.	S. Sturup
American Wigeon				
03-02	78	Newington	Fabyan Pt., Great Bay	S. Mirick
03-15	4	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	M.& R. Suomala
03-26	2	Haverhill	Connecticut R., N. Haverhill	B. Bradley, E. Emery
04-14	1	Lancaster	Rt. 135, Connecticut R.	R.& M. Suomala
04-16	2	Holderness	Outback Driving Range	J. Williams, S. Wingate
Blue-winged Teal				
04-07	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, J. Mittermeier
04-14	2	Sunapee	Wendell Marsh	P. Newbern
05-11	2	Portsmouth	Great Bog	S. Mirick, et al.
Northern Shoveler				
04-14	2	Sunapee	Wendell Marsh	P. Newbern
04-19	1	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
Northern Pintail				
03-02	4		Great Bay	S. Mirick
03-26	7	Haverhill	Connecticut R.	B. Bradley
03-31	1	Hebron	Hebron Marsh WS	R.& M. Suomala
05-12	2	Whitefield	airport marsh	D. Govatski, C. Bretton, R. Brown
Green-winged Teal				
03-10	2	Laconia	Fair St., Eagar Is.	H. Anderson
03-16	11		Great Bay	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
03-19	7	Hinsdale	Connecticut R.	C. Martin
03-30	17	Haverhill	Connecticut R., N. Haverhill	B. Bradley, E. Emery
04-13	21	Hebron	Hebron Marsh	J. Williams, P. Johnston
04-14	53	Lancaster	Rt. 135, Connecticut R.	R.& M. Suomala
04-21	26	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	M. Suomala

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Redhead				
03-30	2	Gilford	Lily Pond	P. Hunt
04-11	2	Gilford	Lily Pond	D.& T. Donsker
05-16	2	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley
Ring-necked Duck				
03-11	2	Nashua	Pennichuck Stream	J. Thompson
03-14	25	Salem	World End Pond	K. Folsom
03-17	75	Danville	Long Pond, west end	E. Moses
03-22	60	Charlestown	Connecticut R., S. Charlestown	M.& R. Suomala, D. Hayward
03-23	75	Concord	Turtle Pond	R.& M. Suomala
03-25	100	Northwood	Northwood Lake	R. Suomala
03-30	75	Charlestown	Connecticut R.	M. Resch
03-31	60	Gilford	Lily Pond	R.& M. Suomala
04-09	22	Moultonborough	Unsworth Preserve	T. Vazzano
04-14	55	Gilford	Lily Pond	R.& M. Suomala
05-10	15	Errol	Lake Umbagog	R. Quinn
Greater Scaup				
03-02	1350		Great Bay	S. Mirick
03-14	1163	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
04-15	12	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley
04-16	1	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
04-21	2	Jefferson	Cherry Pond	D. Govatski
Lesser Scaup				
03-03	1	Rye	Eel Pond	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
03-24	6	Sanbornton	Lake Winnisquam	M.& R. Suomala
03-30	9	Hinsdale	Connecticut R.	M. Resch
04-14	1	Gilford	Lily Pond	R.& M. Suomala
04-16	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	R. Crowley, T. Vazzano
05-11	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	D. Donsker, P. Miliotis
05-19	1	N. Hampton	N. Hampton Beach	M. Suomala, D. Donsker
Common Eider				
04-22	195	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
05-18	130	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
05-31	164	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
Harlequin Duck				
05-06	2	Hampton	Bicentennial Pk.	S. Mirick
Surf Scoter				
04-18	10	Jefferson	Cherry Pond	D. Govatski
White-winged Scoter				
05-20	85	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
05-21	17	Monroe	Comerford Dam	E. Emery, P. Powers, B. Bradley
05-22	180	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley
Black Scoter				
04-19	9	Sanbornton	Lake Winnisquam	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-08	27	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	R. Suomala

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Long-tailed Duck				
05-18	6	Hampton	Bicentennial Pk.	D. Donsker
05-22	8	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley
Bufflehead				
03-22	1	Lebanon	Wilder Dam	M. & R. Suomala, D. Hayward
03-23	1	Concord	Turtle Pond	R. & M. Suomala
04-04	30	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
Common Goldeneye				
03-11	300	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
03-24	78	Sanbornton	Lake Winnisquam	M. & R. Suomala
04-04	40	Errol	Androscoggin R. below Errol dam	C. Martin
04-04	140	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
Barrow's Goldeneye				
03-24	1	Sanbornton	Lake Winnisquam	M. & R. Suomala
03-29	1	Boscawen	Merrimack R. at the big bend	R. Quinn
04-04	1	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
Red-breasted Merganser				
03-24	2	Sanbornton	Lake Winnisquam	M. & R. Suomala
05-19	1	Gilmanton	Loon Pond	J. Stockwell
Ruddy Duck				
03-16	1	Hanover	Ledyard Bridge	S. Sturup
03-25	1	Northwood	Northwood Lake	R. Suomala
05-25	4	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, P. Lacourse, D. Donsker, J. Lawrence

Osprey through Crane

Osprey were back in breeding areas south of the White Mountains at the very beginning of April, but the first report north of the notches was not until almost three weeks later. Is this an actual migration delay or just a reflection of fewer observers in the North Country? Although Bald Eagles have made great strides in the last few years, they, have also had setbacks. Last year, it was inclement weather in the form of snow, and this year, the elements again took their toll. In early May, very strong winds blew down the Hinsdale nest. The young did not survive, but it is likely that the adults will build a new nest nearby in time for the 2003 breeding season.

The Northern Harrier reports selected for publication are meant to represent this rare species' breeding distribution, which to date is limited to Coos County. For the second year in a row, Cooper's Hawks bred at Audubon's Silk Farm Wildlife Sanctuary in Concord. There were few Broad-winged Hawk reports, but a definite migration peak was evident April 19–25. Also making breeding news were two Merlin nests south of the White Mountains. A pair returned to the Hanover Country Club and another nested in Plymouth, where breeding was suspected in 2001. A new Peregrine Falcon nest site was discovered by John Williams at an historic eyrie at Russell Crag in Woodstock.

Virginia Rails were fairly well-reported, including a high count of five from Pondicherry. Monroe's Sandhill Crane returned for the fourth year in a row, while another individual appeared in Newmarket in late April. With respect to the latter location, there were two birds reported at one point, but no details were ever received for the second bird.

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Osprey				
04-02	2	Newmarket	off Bay Rd.	S. Mirick
04-02	1	Hollis	Flints Pond	R. Andrews
04-04	1	Belmont	Lake Winnisquam	S. Pearson
04-21	1	Jefferson	Little Cherry Pond	D. Govatski, C. Bretton
Bald Eagle				
03-19	2	Hinsdale	Stebbins Is.	C. Martin
05-21	2	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
05-22	3	Errol	Tidswell Pt.	C. Martin
Northern Harrier				
04-05	1	Milan	s. of Milan village	C. Martin
04-14	1	Lancaster	Rt. 135, Connecticut R.	R. & M. Suomala
04-28	2	Whitefield	airport	D. Govatski
05-01	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
05-10	3	Errol	Sweat Meadow	R. Quinn
Cooper's Hawk				
03-11	2	Concord	Silk Farm WS	C. Martin
Red-shouldered Hawk				
03-17	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
03-28	1	Hampstead	Emerson Ave.	D. Crowe
03-30	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
04-30	2	Londonderry	Southwood Dr.	P. Hunt, J. Normandin
Broad-winged Hawk				
04-19	4	Nashua	Deerhaven Dr.	R. Andrews
04-20	60	Northwood	various spots	S. Mirick, et al.
04-25	6	New Boston	Bedford Rd.	C. & J. Carr
04-25	5	Amherst	Ridgewood Dr.	P. Hunt
Merlin				
03-31	2	Hanover	Hanover Country Club	M. Krenitsky
04-03	1	Bradford	Main St.	C. Martin
04-09	2	Plymouth	Riverside Cemetery	J. Williams
05-22	2	Errol	Errol Main St.	C. Martin
05-22	2	Cambridge	Townline Is., Lake Umbagog	C. Martin
Peregrine Falcon				
03-08	2	Lyme	Holts Ledge	C. Martin
03-08	1	Benton	Owls Head cliff	C. Martin, R. Vallieres
03-08	2	Rumney	Rattlesnake Mtn.	C. Martin, R. Vallieres
03-09	1	Portsmouth	Memorial Bridge	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
05-01	1	Portsmouth	Pierce Island	S. Mirick
05-01	1	Woodstock	Russell Crag	J. Williams

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Virginia Rail				
04-17	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Mirick, et al.
04-20	1	Lyme	Post Pond	S. Sturup
04-21	5	Jefferson	“Moorhen Marsh”	D. Govatski, C. Bretton
05-05	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-19	1	Windham	residence	M. Harvey
Sora				
04-20	1	Newmarket	Longmarsh Rd.	S. Mirick
04-25	1	Durham	marsh s. of Bennet Rd. & w. of Rt. 108	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-14	1	Chesterfield	Rt. 63 beaver pond n. of Spofford Lake	J. Howard
American Coot				
05-19	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
Sandhill Crane				
04-21	1	Monroe	Connecticut R.	E. Emery
04-26	1	Newington	Fox Point Rd. cornfield	R. Suomala

Plovers through Alcids



*Piping Plover by Denny Abbott,
5-18-02, Exeter*

For the sixth year, the beaches of Hampton and Seabrook hosted endangered Piping Plovers, and this year many were already at these nesting sites by the very end of March. Another Piping Plover was found inland at the Exeter wastewater treatment plant, a very unusual location for a species normally restricted to sandy beaches. Offshore, an American Oystercatcher visited the Isles of Shoals, where this southern species is becoming reliable in spring or summer. Two Willets on the islands were also unusual, since this species is normally found on mudflats or in saltmarshes. There

were fewer inland shorebirds than last year, with the notable exception of a flock of 70 Short-billed Dowitchers in Whitefield. The most unusual shorebird was a **Wilson's Phalarope** at the Exeter wastewater treatment plant, marking the second spring in a row that this western species has appeared in New Hampshire.

Also unexpected at the Exeter wastewater treatment plant was a Black-headed Gull in mid-April. This species is a regular non-breeding visitor to the coast, but records away from the ocean are very rare. Seabrook's Little Gull was in a much more typical location. Among the numerous interesting sightings submitted by the White and Seavey Island tern biologists were relatively late records of both Iceland and Glaucous Gulls. There were only two Lesser Black-backed Gulls reported in the state this spring. The one in the Durham area was a third-year bird, leading me to suspect it was the same individual as the two-year-old that frequented the same area in 2001. Back on the islands, the tern colony continues to grow and attract both Arctic and Roseate

Terns, but you'll have to wait for the summer season to find out how all these birds did in the breeding department! The islands were also a good place to observe Black Terns in their northward migration.

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Black-bellied Plover				
05-08	4	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	R. Suomala
05-19	4	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
05-21	56	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	M. Suomala
05-30	5	Seabrook	Seabrook Harbor	R. Aaronian
Semipalmated Plover				
05-19	105	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor channel jetty	M. Suomala, D. Donsker
Piping Plover				
03-30	6	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
05-05	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
05-08	6	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	R. Suomala, A. Briggaman
05-08	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	R. Suomala
05-17	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	M. Suomala, D. Donsker
05-18	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	D. Abbott, D. Finch, M. Bott
American Oystercatcher				
05-02	1	Rye	White and Seavey Is.	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
Greater Yellowlegs				
04-20	1	Lyme	Post Pond	S. Sturup
04-21	2	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit, Rt. 113	T. Vazzano, P. Hoag
04-21	1	Rye	Rye Harbor	R. Suomala, D. DeLuca
04-26	56	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Mirick
05-10	6	Errol	Lake Umbagog	R. Quinn
05-14	12	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
Lesser Yellowlegs				
05-05	3	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit	T. Vazzano, J. Cooley
05-06	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
Solitary Sandpiper				
04-16	1	Nashua	Mine Falls Pk.	R. Andrews
05-05	1	Orford	Reeds Marsh	S. Sturup
05-06	7	Tamworth	Pine Hill Rd. gravel pit	T. Vazzano
05-06	6	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit	T. Vazzano
05-11	5	Concord	SPNHF floodplain	R. Woodward, Capital Area Chapter FT
05-11	3	Campton	Rt. 3 pond	J. Williams
05-11	4	Campton	Campton Pond, WMNF	J. Williams
05-16	4	Manchester	McIntyre Ski Area	J. Hills
Willet				
05-21	2	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	M. Suomala
05-28	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
Spotted Sandpiper				
04-27	1	Orford	Reeds Marsh	S. Sturup
04-30	2	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley, E. Emery
04-30	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Spotted Sandpiper — cont.				
04-30	1	Concord	Silk Farm WS	R. Suomala, E. Masterson
05-05	8	Hinsdale	Stebbins Is.	C. Martin
05-27	16	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, et al.
Upland Sandpiper				
05-05	5	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport runways	D. Donsker
Ruddy Turnstone				
04-22	12	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
05-31	5	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
Red Knot				
05-21	4	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	M. Suomala
05-25	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick, et al.
Sanderling				
04-21	10	Rye	mouth of Rye Harbor	R. Suomala, D. DeLuca, E. Masterson
Semipalmated Sandpiper				
05-25	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, et al.
Least Sandpiper				
05-05	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
05-10	2	Errol	Magalloway R.	R. Quinn
05-11	16	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	D. Donsker, P. Miliotis
05-14	35	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
05-18	86	Monroe	Connecticut R.	B. Bradley, E. Emery, P. Powers
05-19	1	Springfield	McDaniels Marsh	S. Sturup
Purple Sandpiper				
04-29	120	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
05-18	64	Hampton	Hampton Harbor, s. jetty	D. Donsker
05-31	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
Dunlin				
04-23	4	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
05-14	2	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
05-18	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor, s. jetty	D. Donsker
05-21	10	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	M. Suomala
05-25	7	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, et al.
Short-billed Dowitcher				
05-03	3	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
05-17	70	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	B. Bradley
05-17	5	Monroe	Connecticut R.	P. Powers, E. Emery
05-21	53	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	M. Suomala
05-21	11	Campton	Campton Pond	B. & T. Richards
05-23	31	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, E. Masterson
Common Snipe				
04-07	3	Laconia	Laconia Industrial Pk.	H. Anderson
04-07	2	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	M. Suomala

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
American Woodcock				
03-09	1	Kensington	near Rts. 107 & 150 jct.	G. Gavutis
03-21	1	Bethlehem	Rt. 3 & Beaver Brook	D. Govatski
Wilson's Phalarope				
05-27	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	R. Woodward, G. Robbins, I. MacLeod
Laughing Gull				
04-25	2	Rye	NH coast	M. Suomala
05-28	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
Little Gull				
05-25	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick, P. Lacourse, D. Donsker
Black-headed Gull				
04-16	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	T. Vazzano, B. Crowley
04-19	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
Bonaparte's Gull				
04-18	1	Jefferson	Cherry Pond	D. Govatski
05-01	2	Littleton	Samuel Moore Dam	B. Bradley
Iceland Gull				
03-02	1	Rye	Ragged Neck	S. Mirick
03-18	1	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	M. & R. Suomala
05-17	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
Lesser Black-backed Gull				
03-15	1	Seabrook	off Rt. 286	S. Mirick
03-15	1	Durham	Durham Town Landing	S. Mirick
04-13	1	Newmarket	Newmarket Landing	S. Mirick
Glaucous Gull				
04-26	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
Great Black-backed Gull				
05-09	135	Berlin	Androscoggin R., opposite VFW	R. Quinn
Black-legged Kittiwake				
03-09	2	Seabrook	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
Roseate Tern				
05-08	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
05-25	10	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, et al.
Common Tern				
05-02	12	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
05-11	400	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
05-17	600	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
05-23	1500	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, E. Masterson
Arctic Tern				
05-10	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
05-31	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Black Tern				
05-12	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
05-25	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, E. Masterson, J. Kanter, S. Fuller
05-31	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
Black Guillemot				
05-14	22	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler

Cuckoos through Woodpeckers

Given that cuckoos often don't arrive in the state until early summer, two reports of the rarer Yellow-billed Cuckoo might be indicative of a good summer for this group. Tune in to the summer season to find out! For the second year in a row, a Northern Saw-Whet Owl was discovered using a nest box — this time in Bow (see the article on page 33). On the heels of last summer's nesting on Mount Pierce, a **Boreal Owl** was photographed on Mt. Parker at the southeastern edge of the White Mountains. Given that the date was very late for a migrating bird, this record only serves to increase the intrigue surrounding this secretive northern species' true status in New Hampshire.

There were only three Whip-poor-wills reported for the entire spring. Given that this species is declining and of conservation concern in New Hampshire, I encourage observers to report them. In the absence of intensive nocturnal surveys, *New Hampshire Bird Records* is the only data we have, and it would be a shame to have this data source lose value through attrition. The Chimney Swift on April 9 beat the record early arrival date by one day.

Red-bellied Woodpeckers were again well reported across southern New Hampshire. Much more unusual were the three or four Red-headed Woodpeckers (depending on whether the Greenland and Stratham birds are same individual). While this distinctive woodpecker is annual in New Hampshire, there are usually no more than one or two in a given spring. And just to show you that even common species can make the news, I present a Downy Woodpecker on White and Seavey Islands. Downies are non-migratory and not known for vagrancy, so one on a tiny offshore island without any trees is quite a find indeed.

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Black-billed Cuckoo				
05-16	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
05-21	1	Gilmanton	Loon Pond	J. Stockwell
05-21	1	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				
05-18	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	R. Woodward
05-25	1	Windham	Castle Hill Rd.	M. Harvey
Boreal Owl				
05-29	1	Bartlett	Mt. Parker Trail, .5 miles s. of summit	R. Horak, J. Coughlin

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>		<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Northern Saw-whet Owl					
03-07	1	Salisbury	Mountain Rd.		L. Deming
03-10	1	Cornish	St. Gaudens National Historic Site		M. Krenitsky
03-16	1	Rumney	Stinson Brook		J. Serfass
03-17	1	Bow	Albin Rd.		L. Denoncourt
Common Nighthawk					
05-16	1	Keene	Colony Mill		M. Wright
05-19	1	Windham	residence		M. Harvey
05-21	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence		G.Gavutis, Jr.
05-24	1	Nashua	Deerhaven Dr.		R. Andrews
05-30	2	Andover	Blockhouse Lane		M. Milligan
Whip-poor-will					
05-19	1	Plaistow	Newton Rd.		A. Difiore
05-22	1	Bath	Rt. 135		E. Emery
05-24	4	Weare	Clough St. Pk.		R. Woodward, Capital Area Chapter FT
Chimney Swift					
04-09	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.		P. Hendrickx
04-21	1	Northfield	census route		P. Hunt
04-27	3	Nashua	Deerhaven Dr.		R. Andrews
04-30	25	Concord	Silk Farm WS		R. Suomala, E. Masterson
05-01	3	Peterborough	Union St.		M. Johnson
05-24	50	Exeter	over Water St.		M.& G. Prazar
Ruby-throated Hummingbird					
05-04	1	Strafford	Lakeview Dr.		S. Young
05-05	1	Hinsdale	Stebbins Is.		C. Martin
05-09	1	Columbia	residence		B. Killam
05-18	3	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow		M. Wright

*“Heavy snow falling, 1” on ground.
Hummers took it in stride: drank from
two feeders and chased each other up
and down the porch all day”
— Mary Wright, Gilsum, 5-18-02*

Ruby-throated Hummingbird by Garth McElroy



<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Red-headed Woodpecker				
05-15	2	Pembroke	residence	D., S.& D. Johnston
05-16	1	Greenland	off Meloon Rd.	S. Mirick, N. dePorter
05-27	1	Stratham	Iris Dr.	K.& S. Abbott
05-31	1	Gilford	Belknap Mountain Rd.	R.& N. Campbell
Red-bellied Woodpecker				
03-17	1	Exeter	residence	G. Prazar
03-19	3	Hinsdale	Hinsdale Bluffs, Connecticut R.	C. Martin
04-04	2	Bedford	Buttonwood Rd.	G. Knoettner
04-24	2	Londonderry	Red Deer Rd.	P. Hunt
04-26	1	Newington	Fox Point Rd.	S. Mirick
05-10	3	Merrimack	Majestic Lane	P. Hunt
05-16	1	Greenland	off Meloon Rd.	S. Mirick, N. dePorter
05-19	2	Windham	residence	M. Harvey
05-30	2	Stratham	Rt 108 & Swampscott Rd. jct.	G. Gavutis, III
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				
04-01	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
04-02	1	Albany	Bear Notch Rd., WMNF	J. Williams
04-04	1	New London	Pingree Rd.	A.& R. Vernon
04-05	1	Hanover	Dartmouth College	S. Sturup
Downy Woodpecker				
05-08	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
Black-backed Woodpecker				
04-14	2	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd. bogs	R.& M. Suomala
Northern Flicker				
03-08	1	Gilford	Sawyer's Meadow	H. Anderson
03-15	1	Concord	NH Technical Institute, by Merrimack R.	M.& R. Suomala
03-30	1	Lincoln	Lincoln Woods WMNF Visitor Center	R. Butterfield
04-24	16	Holderness	Outback Driving Range	J. Williams

Flycatchers through Titmice

Several species of flycatchers arrived on the early side, including Eastern Wood-Pewee, Yellow-bellied and Willow Flycatchers, and Eastern Kingbird. Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were well-represented as migrants in the southern part of the state, and the bird in Auburn set a new early date by one day. Willow Flycatchers were also record early, but in this case the date was moved forward by a more significant six days. An **Acadian Flycatcher** in Weare was a nice find, especially considering that the most recent sightings of this species have been in Pawtuckaway State Park.

There were far fewer shrikes this year than last, as befits a species that only occurs in numbers every other year or so. There was a good push of Blue-headed Vireos into the state in mid-April: the first four reports below are all in the earliest one-quarter of historic arrival dates. Gray Jays are usually found far to the north or at high elevations in the White Mountains, so one photographed on Mount Monadnock was quite a find. Even more intriguing is the possibility that it spent the winter there: photographer

George Carmichael heard that the jay had been seen multiple times prior to his encounter. For a second year, at least one Fish Crow made it as far north as Tilton.

Once again, swallows showed a mix of arrival dates relative to the long-term averages. Tree and Northern Rough-winged were on the early side, while Bank and Barn had early first-arrivals followed by late second-arrivals. Cliff Swallows, by contrast, were decidedly late. There was something of a southward movement of Boreal Chickadees in New England during the fall of 2001, as evidenced by several birds visiting feeders in Massachusetts last winter. In New Hampshire, this broader pattern was borne out by low-elevation chickadees in Springfield and Lincoln. One is left wondering if these chickadees and Monadnock's Gray Jay were all responding to the same environmental conditions.

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Olive-sided Flycatcher				
05-19	1	Windham	residence	M. Harvey
Eastern Wood-Pewee				
05-04	6	Windham	Mitchell Pond	K. Folsom
05-12	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-17	1	E. Kingston	near Moulton Ridge & Rt. 108	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-19	1	Windham	residence	M. Harvey
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				
05-11	1	Auburn	Massabesic Audubon Center	J. Doherty
05-19	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-21	1	Merrimack	Country Club Rd.	P. Hunt
05-29	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
05-30	1	Whitefield	Pondicherry WS	P. Hunt, D. Turcotte
Acadian Flycatcher				
05-17	1	Weare	off Sugar Hill Rd.	A.& B. Delorey
Alder Flycatcher				
05-22	2	Nashua	Nashua R. opposite Mine Falls Pk.	D. Deifik
05-24	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-27	3	Plymouth	Chaison Rd. wetlands	J. Williams
Willow Flycatcher				
05-05	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-14	2	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	M. Suomala
05-27	2	Plymouth	Chaison Rd. wetlands	J. Williams
Least Flycatcher				
05-03	1	Walpole	Crehore Rd.	R. Ritz
05-04	7	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	M. Suomala
05-05	8	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-12	7	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
05-16	12	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	M. Suomala
05-16	8	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
Eastern Phoebe				
03-19	2	Hinsdale	Hinsdale Bluffs, Connecticut R.	C. Martin
03-28	2	Nashua	Pennichuck ponds	R. Andrews
03-29	1	Keensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
03-30	1	Exeter	residence	G. Prazar

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Great Crested Flycatcher				
05-05	1	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. & M. Suomala
05-08	1	Exeter	Lary Lane	R. Aaronian, J. Mittermeier
05-08	1	Nashua	Deerhaven Dr.	R. Andrews
Eastern Kingbird				
04-20	1	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Pk.	J. Hills
05-01	1	Nashua	airport	R. Andrews
05-04	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-16	8	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
Northern Shrike				
03-21	1	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd. ranger station	F. Hagan
03-27	1	Plymouth	Smith Bridge Rd.	J. Williams
03-29	1	Enfield	Lower Shaker Village	M. Krenitsky
04-04	1	Millsfield	Rt. 26 at Errol townline	C. Martin
Yellow-throated Vireo				
05-04	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	M. Suomala
05-12	1	Concord	Audubon House, Silk Farm WS	R. Quinn, Capital Area Chapter FT
05-12	1	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
05-16	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
Blue-headed Vireo				
04-17	1	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. & M. Suomala
04-19	1	Holderness	US Forest Service office	J. Williams
04-19	3	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
04-20	3	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-04	10	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	M. Suomala
Warbling Vireo				
04-30	1	Nashua	Mine Falls Pk. at millyard	R. Andrews
05-05	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-05	5	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
05-05	2	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
Red-eyed Vireo				
05-04	1	Walpole	Warner Forest, "High Blue"	R. Ritz
05-04	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-12	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-14	2	Nashua	Deerhaven Dr.	R. Andrews
05-22	3	Alexandria	Holt Trail	D. & J. Romano
05-28	22	Woodstock	Lost River breeding bird transect	J. Williams
Gray Jay				
03-17	2	Beans Grant	Mizpah Hut	D. Govatski
04-02	1	Jaffrey	Mt. Monadnock	G. Carmichael
05-27	2	Lincoln	Mt. Hancock nw. summit	J. Stockwell
Fish Crow				
03-23	2	Concord	Locke Rd. sod farm, Merrimack R.	R. & M. Suomala
03-29	1	Tilton	Rt. 93, exit 20	D. Stavros
04-03	1	Durham	UNH Campus	R. Suomala
04-23	1	Nashua	Pioneer Rd.	P. Hunt

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Horned Lark				
03-19	5	Hinsdale	near Vernon Dam	C. Martin
03-22	28	Westmoreland	Rt. 63 farm field	M.& R. Suomala, D. Hayward
03-22	1	Hanover	Reservoir Rd.	S. Sturup
03-30	100	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	R. Suomala
Purple Martin				
05-08	14	Moultonborough	Lees Mill Rd.	T. Vazzano
05-09	12	Strafford	Lakeview Dr.	S. Young
05-23	8	Conway	Rt. 302, Center Conway	P. Hunt
05-23	24	Laconia	Funspot, Weirs Beach	P. Hunt
05-28	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
Tree Swallow				
03-16	3	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Woodward
03-19	10	Hinsdale	Connecticut R.	C. Martin
03-23	25	Concord	Locke Rd. sod farm, Merrimack R.	R.& M. Suomala
03-30	75	Hinsdale	Connecticut R.	M. Resch
04-05	100	Salem	World End Pond	K. Folsom
04-07	150	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, J. Mittermeier
04-21	200	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	M. Suomala
05-03	700	Littleton	Partridge Lake	E. Emery, P. Powers
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				
04-09	3	Nashua	millyard	R. Andrews
04-14	3	Lyme	Grant Brook	S. Sturup
04-27	4	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
05-05	13	Concord	Sewalls Falls, Merrimack R.	R. Suomala
Bank Swallow				
04-20	2	Concord	Locke Rd. sod farm	R.& M. Suomala
05-05	20	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
05-20	25	Merrimack	Thorntons Ferry	R. Andrews
Cliff Swallow				
05-01	2	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park	I. MacLeod
05-05	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
05-06	6	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
05-11	12	Campton	Pulsifer's farm	J. Williams
05-26	18	Plymouth	Hunkin's barn	J. Williams
Barn Swallow				
04-10	1	Lebanon	Wilder Dam	S. Sturup
04-20	2	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
04-21	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	M. Suomala
04-27	2	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	M.& R. Suomala, et al.
04-27	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
Boreal Chickadee				
03-12	2	Lincoln	Lincoln Woods WMNF Visitor Center	P. Bellavance
03-22	1	Springfield	residence	M.& R. Suomala, D. Hayward

Wrens through Waxwings

The four locations listed for Carolina Wren are but a small sample of the number of sightings reported over the NH.Birds listserve this spring, suggesting that this southern species has largely recovered from the harsh winter a few years back. Winter Wrens typically arrive in the state in mid-to-late March, often while there is still snow on the ground. It was thus a major surprise to see that they didn't arrive until mid-April, especially considering the relatively mild winter.

Winter Wrens were definitely the exception in the ongoing tally of early vs. late arrivals. Both Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were on the early side, Swainson's Thrush tied its record early date, and Veery was one day short of a tie. Hermit Thrushes are becoming increasingly common wintering birds in New Hampshire, even in the north. Of the records below, both the Chatham and Kingston birds had been present all winter, and one wonders about the Hopkinton bird as well. The "record early" arrival date for this species is March 25, and there is a definite possibility that this metric will gradually lose its usefulness as Hermit Thrushes shift their winter range to the north over the years. As in past springs, lingering Bohemian Waxwings were concentrated in the Lakes Region, with a few others in the Upper Valley for good measure.

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Carolina Wren				
03-15	1	Concord	NH Technical Institute, by Merrimack R.	M.& R. Suomala
04-18	1	Hopkinton	Chase WS	L. Deming
05-05	1	Hinsdale	Stebbins Is.	C. Martin
05-06	1	Nashua	Musket Drive	P. Hunt
05-30	1	Hopkinton	Chase WS	M. Milligan, L. Deming
05-31	2	Goffstown	Evergreen Garden	M. Allen & husband
House Wren				
04-20	1	Concord	Locke Rd. sod farm	R.& M. Suomala
04-21	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
04-24	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G.Gavutis, Jr.
Winter Wren				
04-14	1	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R.& M. Suomala
04-14	1	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd. bogs	R.& M. Suomala
04-15	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
04-16	2	Kilkenny	Bunnell Notch & Unknown Pond trails	J. Stockwell
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
04-05	4	Hanover	Dartmouth College	S. Sturup
04-08	3	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G.Gavutis, Jr.
04-12	4	Portsmouth	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	J. Romano
04-15	4	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	M. Suomala
04-19	19	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				
04-20	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-05	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale Bluffs area	C. Martin
05-05	2	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
Veery				
04-22	1	Campton	Campton Pond, WMNF	J. Williams
05-25	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-08	2	Exeter	Lary Lane	R. Aaronian, J. Mittermeier
05-21	2	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
Swainson's Thrush				
04-21	1	Jefferson	Little Cherry Pond Trail	D. Govatski, C. Bretton
05-14	1	Nashua	Mine Falls Pk.	R. Andrews
05-16	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	M. Suomala
05-19	4	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
Hermit Thrush				
03-01	1	Chatham	residence	R. Crowley
03-10	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch, M. Berridge
03-17	1	Hopkinton	South Rd. residence	R. Smith
04-12	1	Portsmouth	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	J. Romano
04-13	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	M. Suomala
04-15	1	Holderness	US Forest Service office	J. Williams
Wood Thrush				
05-03	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
05-04	1	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
05-04	1	Nashua	Deerhaven Dr.	R. Andrews
American Robin				
03-15	60	Concord	NH Technical Institute, by Merrimack R.	M. & R. Suomala
03-17	40	Laconia	Lexington Dr.	H. Anderson
03-19	367	Hinsdale	Hinsdale Bluffs, Connecticut R.	C. Martin
03-23	100	Concord	West Portsmouth St.	R. & M. Suomala
04-01	150	Laconia	Outerbridge Rd.	H. Anderson
04-08	430	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
Gray Catbird				
05-05	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale Bluffs area	C. Martin
05-05	2	Nashua	airport	R. Andrews
05-05	7	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-05	4	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
Brown Thrasher				
04-19	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
04-20	2	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	D. Govatski
04-20	2	Concord	Locke Rd. sod farm	R. & M. Suomala
American Pipit				
04-09	1	Concord	Silk Farm WS	R. Suomala
05-01	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
05-06	7	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	R. Suomala
05-20	6	Monroe	wet field	E. Emery, P. Powers
05-23	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, E. Masterson

Date	#	town	location	observer(s)
Bohemian Waxwing				
03-20	100	Sandwich	Stevenson Hill Rd.	G. & P. Hoag
03-21	14	Hanover	Ledyard Bridge	S. Sturup
03-22	1	Lebanon	Rt. 12A	M. & R. Suomala, D. Hayward
03-24	6	Laconia	Laconia Savings Bank, Veterans Square	H. Anderson
04-04	100	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
04-06	140	Laconia	Wildwood Rd.	H. Anderson
04-08	40	Laconia	Wildwood Rd.	H. Anderson

Warblers



Lawrence's Warbler
by Stephen R. Mirick
5/24/02, Lee

In contrast to 2001, this spring provided a reasonable warbler migration. Most species were present in good numbers and arrived right on schedule. Missing once again was Golden-winged Warbler, although its genes were present in both Brewster's and **Lawrence's Warblers**, the common and rare (respectively) hybrid offspring of the Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers. Far to the north, a perfect Golden-winged song was heard at Pondicherry on May 30. Unfortunately, the bird was not seen, and since both Blue-winged and hybrids are known to sing Golden-winged song, the singer's actual identity cannot be determined. However, Golden-winged are shifting their range

north, and there have been a couple of other sightings in the North Country in recent years. Observers in the White Mountains and north are strongly encouraged to track down any "winged warbler" song they hear, even if they think it's "just a blue-wing." Both species are unusual north of Concord, and visual confirmation can help us understand their shifting distribution patterns.

Prairie and Palm Warblers were more common than usual, with the latter species hitting a remarkable single-site total of 70 on April 21. Among the rare warblers were a migrant Cerulean Warbler in Windham (the species continues at its usual location at Pawtuckaway) and a **Worm-eating Warbler** in Hanover. The famous Sagamore Road **Yellow-breasted Chat** was last reported on April 10; many thanks to David and Priscilla Wilson for sharing this bird with visiting birders since it was first discovered in late January.

Since it has become something of an annual tradition, I once again present Peter Newburn's early May warbler totals from Clough State Park. This year, he went out two days in a row, and the differences are pretty dramatic, a testament to the high variability of spring migration. This growing data set also points out that certain common species (Northern Parula and Magnolia, for example) are less regular here than at other locations at this time of year. It is also worth noting, however, that the more recent counts are earlier in the season, perhaps just a tad early for these same species.

SPECIES	5/9/99	5/6/00	5/5/01	5/4/02	5/5/02
Blue-winged	1	8	8		12
“Brewster’s”					1
Nashville	20	10	5		3
N. Parula	5				
Yellow	17	23	14	5	14
Chestnut-sided	15	24	16	1	9
Magnolia	6	1			
Black-thr. Blue	3	1			
Yellow-rumped	26	27	8	29	28
Black-thr. Green	12	11	2	1	5
Blackburnian	2	2			1
Pine	1		4	6	8
Prairie	1				1
Palm	1			5	3
Cerulean					
Black-and-white	33	31	24	25	36
Am. Redstart	6	8	8		
Ovenbird	19	35	24	8	26
N. Waterthrush	2			2	1
La. Waterthrush	1	4	1	1	1
C. Yellowthroat	3	12	10		4
Wilson’s	1				
Canada	1				
Total Species	21	14	12	10	15
Total Individuals	176	197	124	83	153

Date	#	town	location	observer(s)
Blue-winged Warbler				
05-06	1	Kensington	Colby Farm fields	R. Aaronian
05-08	1	Newmarket	Bay Rd.	H. Chary
05-16	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
Brewster’s Warbler — hybrid				
05-05	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
Lawrence’s Warbler — hybrid				
05-19	1	Lee	Bales, Wolff & Durgin lots	A. Eaton, et al.
05-24	1	Lee	off Old Bennett Rd.	S. Mirick
Blue-winged or Golden-winged Warbler or hybrid				
05-30	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	P. Hunt, D. Turcotte
Tennessee Warbler				
05-13	1	Lebanon	downtown	A. Chakravarty
05-14	1	Nashua	Deerhaven Dr.	R. Andrews
05-16	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
05-19	1	Strafford	Lakeview Dr.	S. Young

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Tennessee Warbler — cont.				
05-27	4	Jefferson	Cherry Pond	R. Woodward, I. MacLeod, G. Robbins
05-28	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
Nashville Warbler				
04-25	1	Lee	between Tuttle Rd. & Rt. 155	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-04	1	Nashua	Tinker Rd.	R. Andrews
05-05	2	Concord	Heritage Trail s. of Sewalls Falls	R. Suomala
05-05	3	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-10	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
Northern Parula				
05-05	1	Concord	Locke Rd. sod farm	R. Suomala
05-05	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-12	5	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-21	6	Merrimack	Country Club Rd.	P. Hunt
Yellow Warbler				
05-03	1	Exeter	Squamscott R.	R. Aaronian
05-04	5	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-04	2	Windham	Mitchell Pond	K. Folsom
05-05	7	Concord	W. Portsmouth St.	R. Suomala
Chestnut-sided Warbler				
05-04	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-05	1	Concord	Locke Rd. sod farm	R. Suomala
05-05	1	Sandwich	Thompson WS	T. Vazzano, J. Cooley
05-12	7	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-16	8	Holderness	behind US Forest Service office	J. Williams
Magnolia Warbler				
05-05	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-10	1	Exeter	Phillips Exeter Academy	R. Aaronian
05-12	1	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
05-16	15	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-29	16	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
Cape May Warbler				
05-11	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. State Pk.	P. Hunt, et. al.
05-12	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-20	1	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
05-30	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry St. Pk.	P. Hunt, D. Turcotte
Black-throated Blue Warbler				
05-06	2	Livermore	East Pond Trail, WMNF	J. Williams
05-08	1	Walpole	Scovill Rd.	R. Ritz
05-08	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
05-16	7	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-22	8	Alexandria	Holt, Clark & Manning Trails	D. & J. Romano
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
04-14	2	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
04-15	1	Holderness	US Forest Service office	J. Williams, S. Wingate
04-17	1	Danville	Long Pond, w. end	E. Moses
04-19	30	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
04-21	40	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	M. Suomala
05-14	120	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit	T. Vazzano
05-14	35	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
Black-throated Green Warbler				
04-30	1	N. Hampton	residence	T. Donsker
05-01	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
05-03	2	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	R.& M. Suomala
Blackburnian Warbler				
05-03	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	R.& M. Suomala
05-04	6	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	M. Suomala
05-14	2	Nashua	Deerhaven Dr.	R. Andrews
05-21	1	Columbia	residence	B.& D. Killam
Pine Warbler				
04-04	1	Concord	Silk Farm WS	P. Hunt
04-07	1	Kensington	Moulton Ridge	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04-07	1	Nashua	Watersedge St.	R. Andrews
04-09	1	New Boston	Bedford Rd.	C.& J. Carr
Prairie Warbler				
05-01	2	Belmont	Belmont Track	J. Stockwell
05-05	1	Nashua	airport	R. Andrews
05-05	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
05-07	1	Freedom	TNC Trail, Ossipee Lake Rd.	T. Vazzano
05-12	1	Hanover	Balch Hill	S. Sturup
05-16	2	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	M. Suomala
Palm Warbler				
04-14	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendricky
04-15	1	Londonderry	Mill Rd.	P. Hunt, et. al.
04-17	1	Danville	w. end of Long Pond	E. Moses
04-19	11	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
04-21	70	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	M. Suomala
04-28	15	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-14	1	Bow	Turee Pond	R. Quinn
05-19	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-22	1	Errol	Tidswell Pt. Bog, Lake Umbagog	C. Martin
Bay-breasted Warbler				
05-19	1	Wilmot	Campground Rd.	P. Newbern
05-19	1	Windham	residence	M. Harvey
05-19	2	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-28	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
Blackpoll Warbler				
05-17	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
05-17	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-19	1	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
05-19	1	Strafford	Lakeview Dr.	S. Young
05-19	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
Cerulean Warbler				
05-25	1	Windham	trail across from transfer station	M. Harvey

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Black-and-white Warbler				
04-17	1	Walpole	Warner Forest, Scovill Rd.	R. Ritz
04-21	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
04-25	1	Concord	Silk Farm WS	R. Suomala
05-02	1	Hanover	East Wheelock Rd.	S. Sturup
American Redstart				
05-08	1	Nashua	Deerhaven Dr.	R. Andrews
05-10	1	Exeter	Phillips Exeter Academy	R. Aaronian
05-11	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
05-16	20	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	M. Suomala
05-19	10	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
Worm-eating Warbler				
05-12	1	Hanover	Balch Hill	S. Sturup
Ovenbird				
05-04	2	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	M. Suomala
05-04	1	Walpole	Scovill Rd.	R. Ritz
05-04	8	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
Northern Waterthrush				
04-24	1	Londonderry	Red Deer Rd.	P. Hunt
05-02	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Suomala
Louisiana Waterthrush				
04-12	1	Windham	residence	M. Harvey
04-16	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	M. Suomala
04-16	1	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. & M. Suomala
04-17	1	Campton	pond on Town Pound Rd.	J. Carreaux
04-18	1	Hopkinton	Chase WS	L. Deming
Mourning Warbler				
05-30	4	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	P. Hunt, D. Turcotte
Common Yellowthroat				
05-05	1	Concord	Locke Rd. sod farm	R. Suomala
05-05	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-10	6	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
05-17	43	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
Wilson's Warbler				
05-12	2	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-12	2	Hanover	Balch Hill	S. Sturup
05-14	1	Bow	Turee Pond	R. Quinn
05-16	1	Hollis	near Pennichuck Pond	C. Foss
Canada Warbler				
05-16	1	Holderness	behind US Forest Service office	J. Williams
05-24	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-25	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	P. Hunt, K. & T. Acerno
05-29	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
Yellow-breasted Chat				
04-10	1	Rye	Sagamore Rd.	P. Wilson

Tanagers through Finches

It was a good spring for tanagers. For starters, our expected species, the Scarlet Tanager, was first seen on April 19, setting a new early arrival record by eight days. A month later, a **Summer Tanager** made an appearance at the Isles of Shoals. Finally, on May 20, two Portsmouth neighbors independently reported a **Western Tanager** to the Audubon Society of New Hampshire. The bird was apparently availing itself of oranges at feeders on both sides of the fence!

The final entry in the list of vagrants found by the White Island tern biologists was a **Clay-colored Sparrow** on the same day as the Summer Tanager. This western sparrow is more likely in fall, although with its continued eastward range expansion, it seems reasonable to expect a few more in spring. Grasshopper Sparrows arrived at two traditional breeding areas in the southern Merrimack Valley in the last third of May. Given that White-crowned Sparrows don't typically arrive until the very end of April, I suspect that a bird far to the north in Columbia on April 12 might have been a previously overlooked wintering bird. Also possibly overlooked earlier in the year was a well-described "**Oregon**" Junco that joined a junco flock in Bedford at the beginning of April.

In stark contrast to last year, Red-winged Blackbirds were already well north in the state by the very beginning of March. Later in the month, exceptional counts of Rusty Blackbirds and Common Grackles were obtained from the Great Bog in Portsmouth. Orchard Orioles were reported in good numbers from their usual haunts south of Great Bay, with a slightly more distant bird in Derry. The Baltimore Oriole in Laconia set a new record early date by an impressive nine days!

Pine Grosbeaks and Common Redpolls were the main invading finches of the previous winter. The grosbeaks barely lingered into March in central New Hampshire and left the North Country about a month later. Redpolls remained in high numbers slightly longer and were still fairly far south in early April. In Sandwich, the redpoll flock included two **Hoary Redpolls** in March. White-winged Crossbills were only reported from the north, and no Red Crossbills were reported at all. Numbers of Purple Finches, Pine Siskins, and Evening Grosbeaks were unremarkable, if not somewhat low. It is noteworthy, however, that one of the siskins made it out to the Isles of Shoals.

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Summer Tanager				
05-17	1	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
Scarlet Tanager				
04-19	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
05-04	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
05-05	1	Hinsdale	Stebbins Is.	C. Martin
05-09	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
Western Tanager				
05-20	1	Portsmouth	residence	D. Casey, G. DeCarteret, C. Kent, et al.
Eastern Towhee				
04-19	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
04-19	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
04-22	3	New Boston	near Joe English Hill	J. Doherty

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
American Tree Sparrow				
04-15	5	Littleton	residence	B. Bradley
04-21	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
Chipping Sparrow				
03-18	1	Concord	Locke Rd.	M. & R. Suomala
04-10	1	Strafford	Lakeview Dr.	S. Young
04-10	2	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
Clay-colored Sparrow				
05-17	1	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward
Field Sparrow				
04-15	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	M. Suomala
04-17	1	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
04-18	2	Merrimack	field behind Anheuser-Busch	R. Andrews
05-07	12	Freedom	TNC Trail, Ossipee Lake Rd.	T. Vazzano
Vesper Sparrow				
04-14	1	Sunapee	off Burkhaven Hill Rd.	P. Newbern
04-15	2	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit, Rt. 113	T. Vazzano, G. Dennis
05-05	1	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport, Newington Rd.	D. Donsker
05-08	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	R. Suomala
05-10	1	Amherst	behind Wal-Mart	R. Andrews
05-25	4	Concord	Concord Airport	R. Woodward
Savannah Sparrow				
04-12	1	Gilmanton	Crystal Lake, Gilmanton Iron Works	W. Arms
04-14	1	Lancaster	Stockwell Rd.	R. & M. Suomala
04-15	2	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	R. Suomala
04-18	26	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	M. Suomala
04-20	28	Concord	Locke Rd. sod farm	R. & M. Suomala
04-26	40	Newington	Fox Point Rd.	S. Mirick
05-06	45	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
Grasshopper Sparrow				
05-20	1	Merrimack	fields behind Anheuser-Busch	R. Andrews
05-21	1	Amherst	cemetery fields	P. Hunt, J. Normandin
Fox Sparrow				
03-13	1	Exeter	residence	G. Prazar
03-18	2	Concord	Audubon House, Silk Farm WS	J. Doherty, et al.
03-18	1	Plymouth	Pine Gate Rd.	R. & J. Williams
03-18	1	Gilsom	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
04-05	1	Columbia	residence	B. & D. Killam
04-10	3	Durham	Foss Farm	S. Mirick, R. Suomala
04-11	2	Thornton	WMNF n. of Tripoli Rd.	J. Williams
04-24	1	Gilsom	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
Song Sparrow				
04-07	25	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
04-07	40	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
04-20	30	Concord	Locke Rd. sod farm	R. & M. Suomala
Lincoln's Sparrow				
05-05	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-08	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
05-19	2	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
05-29	4	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
Swamp Sparrow				
04-14	2	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
04-16	2	Concord	Turkey Pond	S. Chase, Concord Bird & Wildflower Club
04-19	30	Sandwich	Thompson W S	T. Vazzano, G. Dennis
White-throated Sparrow				
03-23	2	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. & M. Suomala
04-16	2	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
04-16	2	Plymouth	Pine Gate Rd.	R. Williams
04-16	3	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
04-20	25	Concord	Locke Rd. sod farm	R. & M. Suomala
04-28	38	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-05	150	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	D. Donsker
05-05	82	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-08	25	Rye		D. Hayward, K. Bixler
05-12	40	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
White-crowned Sparrow				
04-12	1	Columbia	residence	B. & D. Killam
05-05	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	D. Donsker
05-05	1	Sandwich	Thompson WS	T. Vazzano, J. Cooley
05-07	1	Gilmanton	Loon Pond	J. Stockwell
Dark-eyed Junco — Oregon subsp.				
03-30	1	Bradford	West Rd.	D. & M. Halsted
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
04-28	1	Milford	Federal Hill Rd.	R. & B. Becker
05-01	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
05-04	1	Rumney	Groton Hollow	S. & S. Wingate
05-12	15	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-17	14	Columbia	residence	B. & D. Killam
Indigo Bunting				
05-07	1	Gilmanton	Currier Hill Rd.	J. Stockwell
05-13	1	Newbury	Mountain Rd.	J. Ashley
05-13	1	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
Bobolink				
05-07	2	Hopkinton	Sandbank Farm, Penacook Rd.	C. Carr
05-08	3	Walpole	Scovill Rd. & County Rd.	R. Ritz
05-08	1	Gilmanton	Jones farm, Loon Pond Rd.	J. Stockwell
Red-winged Blackbird				
03-01	16	Plymouth	Pine Gate Rd.	J. Williams
03-01	1	Laconia	Wildwood Rd.	H. Anderson
03-01	1	Walpole	County Rd.	R. Ritz
03-03	2	Chatham	residence	B. Crowley
Rusty Blackbird				
03-21	40	Portsmouth	Great Bog roost	S. Mirick
04-07	7	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
04-13	3	Hebron	Hebron Marsh	J. Williams, P. Johnston

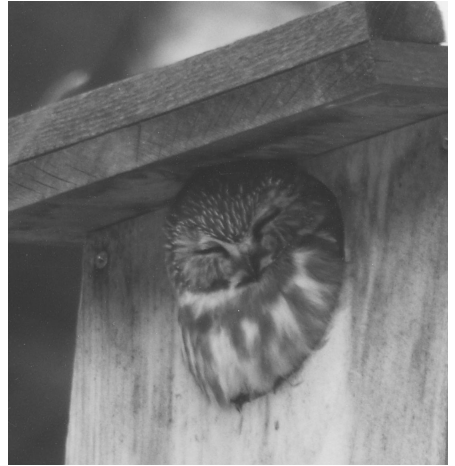
<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Rusty Blackbird — cont.				
04-14	2	Lancaster	Rt. 135, Connecticut R.	R. & M. Suomala
04-24	5	Londonderry	Red Deer Rd.	P. Hunt
04-29	1	Jefferson	outlet of Cherry Pond	D. Govatski, M. Lombardi
05-17	1	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
Common Grackle				
03-21	5000	Portsmouth	Great Bog roost	S. Mirick
Orchard Oriole				
05-05	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
05-08	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	C. Fisher, J. & P. Hendrickx
05-16	1	Derry	Ballard Marsh	A. Delorey
05-20	4	Stratham	near Rt. 108 & Swampscott Rd. jct.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
Baltimore Oriole				
04-18	1	Laconia	Wildwood Rd.	H. Anderson
05-01	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
05-02	1	Newmarket	Hamor Farm Dr.	P. Handrick
05-04	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
05-05	1	Hinsdale	Stebbins Is.	C. Martin
05-17	30	Windham	Mitchell Pond	K. Folsom
05-18	16	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis
Pine Grosbeak				
03-01	2	Laconia	Shore Dr.	H. Anderson
03-01	20	Andover	Rt. 11	P. Newbern
03-02	2	Plymouth	Hatch Plaza	J. Williams
04-03	2	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
White-winged Crossbill				
03-26	7	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
04-16	3	Chatham	residence	R. Crowley
Common Redpoll				
03-03	75	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. & M. Suomala
03-09	68	Strafford	Lakeview Dr.	S. Young
04-03	60	Columbia	residence	B. & D. Killam
04-07	7	Strafford	Lakeview Dr.	S. Young
04-07	8	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
04-09	18	Holderness	US Forest Service office	J. Williams
Hoary Redpoll				
03-14	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
03-29	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
Pine Siskin				
03-13	2	Deering	Baldwin Rd.	L. & P. Sunderland
04-28	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
05-01	4	Thornton	Adams Farm Rd. wetlands, WMNF	J. Williams
05-16	1	Greenland	off Meloon Rd.	S. Mirick

From High In the Pines

by Megan McElroy

From high in the pines of New Hampshire, the Northern Saw-whet Owl calls. It is just after sunset in early spring, and the wind is calm. Ice on Lake Winnepesaukee is beginning its thaw, and crusty snow in Errol is deep from late winter storms. Residents are tucked away in their warm houses all over the state from Littleton to Durham, yet New Hampshire's smallest owl species can be heard loud and clear from the forests. Its incessant tooting is recognizable and distinguishable from any other forest noise. In fact, some may assume it is their neighbor sharpening a saw, but it is indeed the male saw-whet owl advertising his territory and attempting to attract a mate during the breeding season.

Compared to most other North American owl species, the Northern Saw-whet Owl is a small, short-bodied bird. It measures only 7-8 inches tall and weighs, on average, 80-100 grams. The sexes are monomorphic, which means that they look alike, but females tend to be slightly larger than males. These small owls have cryptic plumage that helps them blend into their habitat when they roost during the day. Saw-whets use many different vocalizations to communicate beyond the "toot-toot-toot" courtship call that is most commonly heard. They have a variety of hisses, barks, screams, and wails, and saw-whets are also experts at throwing their voices so that listeners cannot always be sure of exactly where a bird is located.



N. Saw-whet Owl at nest box in Bow, spring 2002, by Larry Denoncourt

Most of the saw-whet owl's diet is comprised of mice, shrews, and voles. In addition to small mammals, they will also take frogs, insects, and other birds, such as sparrows and chickadees. Saw-whets have excellent sight but they primarily rely on their extraordinary hearing to find and hunt down prey. Here in the northeast, when temperatures are cold and a lot of snow covers the ground, prey is sometimes scarce, and these tiny owls can be found at bird feeders hunting mice below.

Saw-whet owls inhabit coniferous, deciduous, and mixed forests of New Hampshire. Wetter areas, such as riparian habitats, are preferred during the breeding season. Even though they roost mainly in coniferous trees, such as pines and hemlocks, they nest in deciduous trees in cavities that are most often made by woodpeckers. Nests of these owls are usually 14-60 feet above the ground, and saw-whets also use man-made nest boxes regularly.

Once a nesting territory has been established and a breeding pair has been formed, egg laying takes place typically between April and June. Breast feathers are the only

material added to a nest, although sometimes nothing is added. Saw-whets will lay one egg usually every other day until all-typically five or six-eggs have been laid. The female does most or all of the incubation, while the male hunts and brings food to her at the nest. Both sexes tend to the young when they hatch 27 days after eggs are laid. The young fledge approximately one month later and are immediately able to fly very well. The male continues to care for the fledglings for about one month after they leave the nest.

The Northern Saw-whet Owl is a nomadic species, and most of the owl's movements are determined by food availability and fluctuations in prey populations. Therefore, pair bonds are not always permanent, and birds do not often return to the same nest site year after year. Even though saw-whets can be found year-round in New Hampshire and surrounding areas, they are known to migrate down the central Appalachians and along the mid-Atlantic coast. A large number of saw-whets from New England move south in October and then north in February back to the breeding grounds.

My personal experiences with saw-whet owls in New Hampshire have all been in my hometown of Gilmanton. Owls were my first love in birding, and saw-whets turned into an obsession. I have spent many nights and early mornings trying to find saw-whets around the Lakes Region using a lure tape of their call and my husband, Garth, who happens to be an expert saw-whet whistler. My first experience was in March of last year. It was around seven o'clock in the evening, and Garth took the dogs outside for a walk. Minutes later, he rushed back in and screamed at me to get outside. He had a Northern Saw-whet Owl tooting in the woods behind our house. Of course, because of my past bad luck, I did not believe him, but rushed out anyway. Much to my disbelief, there it was...that persistent tooting! We ran back inside and fumbled around to find our lure tape and some flashlights. We took off for the edge of the woods through three feet of snow and stood between two spruce trees and played our tape. Next thing we knew, something from deep inside one of the spruces screamed at us. Then the tiny owl flew at us so fast and so low that we both felt the need to duck to the ground. The bird landed in the second spruce tree where we could see it. We shined the flashlight and had a beautiful, unobscured view of a Northern Saw-whet Owl staring back at us. The bird continued to call from the woods for a few more nights. It was amazing.



Two young saw-whets at Bow nest box, by homeowner Larry Denoncourt.

The Northern Saw-whet Owl can be found in every corner of New Hampshire. Although these owls are very secretive and rarely seen, many have been heard calling on early spring evenings, including in some unexpected locations, such as Manchester and Exeter. This spring, reports of saw-whets came from Rumney to Salisbury, and there was even a report from Bow of a regular March visitor to a nest box, where it eventually nested and fledged two young (see photos). If you have never experienced a saw-whet in New Hampshire and would like to, I would suggest finding a

large stand of conifer or mixed woods, preferably a wet or swampy area. Because there have been sightings reported from all over the state, there is a good chance that you can find a saw-whet where you live. Go out after dusk on a quiet, calm night in early spring. Stand still, be patient, and listen or try your own saw-whet whistle. You may get a chance to hear a saw-whet calling in the distance or even have one buzz your head when you least expect it!

New Hampshire's saw-whet owl proves that great birding does not only happen in June, when it is warm and flowers are in bloom. Even here in the northeast, extraordinary birds can be found when there is three feet of snow on the ground, the trees are bare, and people are eagerly awaiting spring-like weather to break. The next time you are out on your porch at dusk in early spring and you think you hear your neighbor sharpening a saw, listen closely and consider yourself lucky, because it just may be a Northern Saw-whet Owl calling from high in the pines.

Megan McElroy is from Gilmanton, New Hampshire and has been birding for several years. Her interest in birds grew from an Ornithology class that she took at the University of New Hampshire while studying wildlife management.

Spotlight on Redhead (*Aythya americana*)

by Eric Masterson

Background

A*ythya* is taken from the Greek *aithuia*, a water-bird mentioned in the *Odyssey* and also noted by Aristotle. The Redhead is a brood parasite, laying its eggs in the nests of other ducks. Redheads have even been known to lay eggs in the nest of Northern Harrier. This behavior, well studied in cowbirds and cuckoos, is an evolutionary mechanism designed to enhance reproductive success. As the Redhead is a social breeder, often nesting in close proximity with its own species, the opportunities for this behavior are great.



Redhead, ASNH Collection

Breeding Status

There is no breeding record in New Hampshire for this species. Redhead breeds in the Canadian prairie and northern United States from Montana to Michigan. There are scattered breeding populations east through New York and New Brunswick. Some of the latter may be a result of stocking.

Occurrence in New Hampshire

Redhead is a rare spring and fall migrant in New Hampshire, with a total of 55 records involving 163 birds in 24 different years since 1952. (Repeat observations of the same bird or birds were excluded.) Of these records, over 40% are from Great Bay

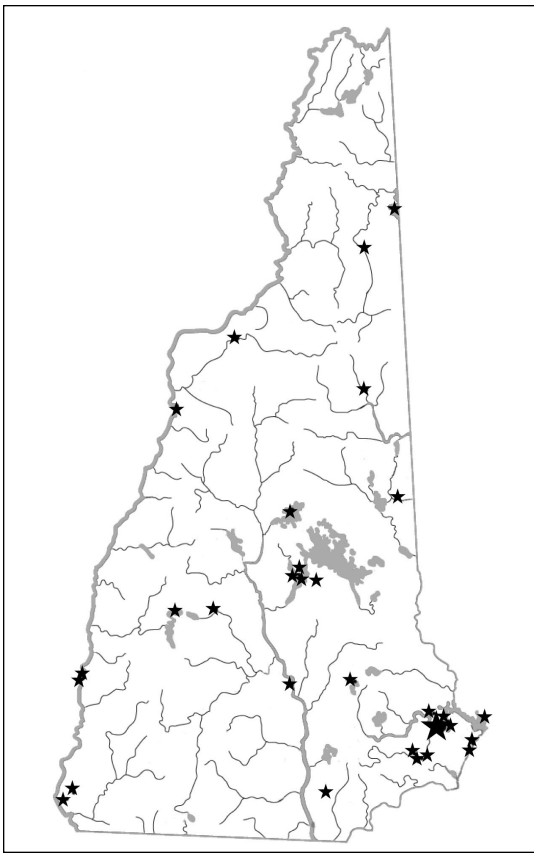


Figure 1. Location of Redhead records in New Hampshire. All stars represent single records, except the large star on Great Bay, which represents 23 records.

(Figure 1), where they sometimes occur with flocks of scaup. Of these 55 records, 67% stayed for only one day.

Of the 163 recorded individuals, sex was recorded for 63, and of these, 40 were males. Redhead has been recorded in all months except July and September but occurs most frequently by far in November and March (Figure 2), with 19 and 20 records, respectively. The average number of birds per report is three; however, a large flock of fifteen occurred near the outlet on Lake Umbagog in Errol on November 7, 1952. Two of these birds were killed. Over 75% of the reports involved one to three birds.

Noteworthy sightings, because of their unseasonal nature, include a single bird seen on the Wildcat River in Jackson on June 13, 1964, and three young of the year seen in Charlestown on August 16, 1968.

Comments

In eastern North America, Redhead winters from the Gulf States north to southern Massachusetts, favoring freshwater ponds and coastal bays. It is generally not found on the open ocean. The occurrence of Redhead in Massachusetts is local and erratic, but sometimes it is a common migrant and winter resident, with up to 800 on Nantucket in recent years (1976) and elsewhere on the southern Massachusetts coast.

The *Birds of Massachusetts* notes a pronounced increase in Redheads in Massachusetts from the early 1960s through 1976. This is interesting in light of the annual occurrence of Redhead in New Hampshire from 1964 through 1978. It has become much rarer in recent years, however, as we go to press, a sizable flock of up to 10 Redhead was seen at Great Bay on November 27, 2002, further underlining Great Bay as the top location and November as one of the top two months to see this duck in New Hampshire.

Redhead records by month, 1952 - 2002

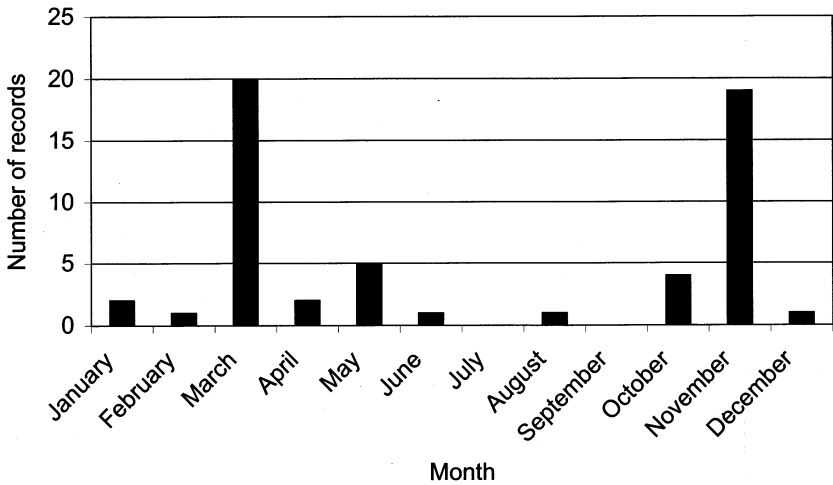


Figure 2. Records of Redhead by month in New Hampshire. March and November are the outstanding months in which one might hope to encounter this species.

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Coming Up

Spotlight on Pomarine Jaeger. If you have any relevant information, please contact Eric at emasterson@nhaudubon.org.

Birding Thompson Wildlife Sanctuary and Vicinity — Part 2

By Tony Vazzano

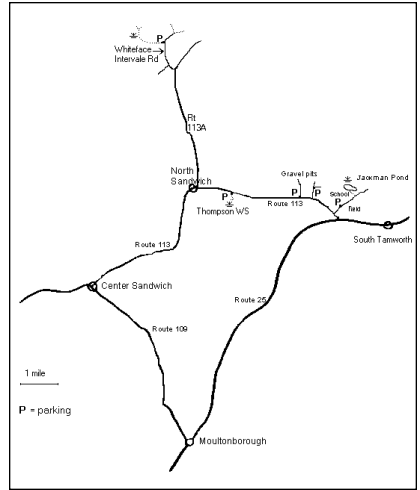
This article began in the Winter 2001–02 issue of New Hampshire Bird Records with a focus on the Thompson Wildlife Sanctuary in Sandwich. Part 2 covers several nearby birding areas. — Ed.

Whiteface Intervale

From the Thompson Wildlife Sanctuary, head west towards North Sandwich and after one mile turn right onto Route 113A. Stay on this road for about three miles and then turn left onto Whiteface Intervale Road. Follow it for 0.5 mile and park in the trailhead parking lot on the left, just before the bridge, and then continue on in the same direction as you walk along the road. There will soon be an open area on the right with a snowmobile trail, and just past it is a cultivated area, then a small horse field, some hayfields, and brushy areas. This area is known as Whiteface Intervale. Your best bet is to bird along the road for the next several hundred yards towards a large barn on the right, and this can be done from

your car, although walking is usually more productive. Just after the barn, the road enters private property, and you should turn around in the pullout that is provided. You should also walk along the snowmobile trail until it comes out near the river way behind the large barn and then retrace your steps back to the road. Parts of this trail may be wet in some years, even in fall.

Spring is an under-birded season here, probably because Thompson offers more birds and better viewing conditions in this season. Nevertheless, a nice variety of passerines migrate through, and sometimes there is a small flock of Snow Geese in early April. During early summer, Bobolinks are conspicuous, and in some years, there is a pair of Eastern Meadowlarks. Other breeding birds include the expected swallows, flycatchers, warblers, and sparrows. The fall season is undoubtedly the main attraction here, and not just for the foliage and the views of Whiteface Mountain. A Northern Harrier may be seen working the fields, and other hawks migrate through the intervale. Wilson's Warblers are sometimes in the brushy area along the first part of the snowmobile trail, about a hundred yards in, and this is a good spot for other warblers, kinglets, and sparrows. Orange-crowned Warbler has been seen near the road in the young birches. Sparrow numbers build in late September, and Lincoln's is seen each year. October has brought flocks of up to one hundred American Pipits in the plowed field. If the crops have been harvested, you can walk between the rows to



find birds. This is also the best spot to check for Lapland Longspur, which has been seen in late fall a few times in the past several years. In November, look for a Northern Shrike and lingering southbound migrants. Horned Larks are occasional, while Snow Buntings are seen more frequently. Common Redpolls frequent the area in November during irruption years and up to 150 have been seen in one flock.

While birding is often a hit-or-miss affair, never is this more true than in winter. Some years bring remarkably few birds, although Northern Shrike is fairly regular and is seen each year in late fall or winter. During irruption years, the interval is also known for Bohemian Waxwings, Pine Grosbeaks, and Common Redpolls. Among the more interesting winter birds have been Rough-legged Hawk, Snowy Owl, Boreal Chickadee, Hoary Redpoll, and an Eastern Meadowlark that lingered into early January.

From the trailhead parking lot, you can connect to a series of trails in the White Mountain National Forest. Unless you are prepared for an all-day hike to nearly four thousand feet into the spruce zone for Spruce Grouse, Boreal Chickadee, and Bicknell's Thrush, the first half mile of the trail is a pleasant, short alternative. The walking is on level ground, and the trail, an old logging road, takes a sharp turn to the right as it passes a wetland by the Whiteface River. If you walk as far as the wetland, you will encounter some thrushes, vireos, and warblers as you walk here. The typical raptors are Red-shouldered and Broad-winged Hawks; Barred Owls also breed in this area.



*Boreal Chickadee
ASNH Collection*

The Ambrose Gravel Pits

About 1.7 miles east of the Thompson Wildlife Sanctuary on the north side of Route 113 is the Ambrose Gravel Pit. If you come in from Route 25, you may want to check this area first. It is on the Tamworth town line. You can park on the shoulder of the entrance, by the road, but make sure to leave plenty of room for the large trucks that are constantly coming and going. This is an active gravel pit and is obviously private property, but the owner has graciously allowed birders to use the old reclaimed area, nearest to the highway, providing they stay well away from the back area, where active mining is in progress. This is a relatively new birding area, and its potential was only discovered during the past couple of years. Spring offers the greatest variety of birds; if time is of the essence, it may be the only time of year worth checking here.

As you walk in, check the entrance area for migrating warblers and other passerines. These trees are part of a corridor that sometimes funnels migrants through in good numbers. Then direct your attention to the cranberry bog on the left. The bird activity here changes with the water level. After a snowy winter, there can be enough water in late April for diving ducks such as Bufflehead. Green-winged Teal sometimes use the bog, and one of the most unusual birds seen here was a hybrid of the American and European races of this species. Some years may be dry enough so that the habitat in the bog is not attractive to shorebirds when they arrive in May, but during wetter years, there is enough water to attract several species. During a recent mid-May afternoon in the cranberry bog and the nearby ponds, there were nine species, including Black-bellied Plover, Short-billed Dowitcher, Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs, Least

Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, and Common Snipe. Locally breeding Spotted Sandpiper and Killdeer were also present. Up to fourteen Solitary Sandpipers have been seen at one time. There are two very small ponds and then two larger ponds after you walk past the cranberry bog and the access road bends to the left; some of the shorebirds use the edge of the larger ponds. The second larger pond is as far as you should walk into the pit area.

Check the swallows that often fly over the bog and the ponds for Cliff and Bank, which probably breed near here. On the right side of the access road that you have been walking on, just past the shed, are some small pines and beyond them is a rather barren area. This is where the Vesper Sparrows are usually found; sometimes they are amidst the small pines. They nest here and are often present from late April into early October. Savannah Sparrows breed in the grassy area; Alder Flycatchers and several species of warblers, including Chestnut-sided, are further back in the brushy, wet area. In late July into September, when shorebirds migrate, the numbers vary with the water level, and because of the longer, often drier migration season, it is probably not as productive as May. The cranberry bog is usually dry at that time, except after heavy rains, but Least Sandpipers show up along the back edges of the two ponds, and Semipalmated Plover has been seen. Several species of vireos, warblers, and sparrows migrate through. Lapland Longspur and American Pipit have been seen in the open area here in October, and up to a hundred Common Redpolls have been found in the stands of young birches in November.

A smaller gravel pit is very nearby, just over the Tamworth town line, and is worth checking in spring and fall. From the entrance to the large gravel pit access road, drive east and in less than a quarter mile, turn left onto Pine Hill Road. Drive about 0.3 mile until you see a turn-out on the right and a gated access road. There is room to park here, and birders are allowed in this area. Check the road and entrance area for warblers and vireos and then walk out toward the cell phone tower. Just before it, on the right, is a wet area in spring that may have Solitary, Spotted, and Least Sandpipers and both yellowlegs, with Greater being more common. Other shorebirds are likely to use this area, also. Sometimes there are one or two Vesper Sparrows near this spot. Migrating and breeding songbirds are often around the perimeter of the open area.

Jackman Pond and The Community School

This location is worth mentioning, because you might find yourself driving past it at the right time of year on the way to Thompson Wildlife Sanctuary. After you first turn from Route 25 onto Route 113, Bunker Hill Road is less than a quarter mile up on the right. Turn here and park just past The Community School on the left. This is in South Tamworth. Across the street are fields, and the cultivated area attracts Bobolinks in early September and up to seven species of sparrows at one time by later September. Farther back, migrating warblers use the brushy and wooded edges near the river, and Mourning Warbler has been seen here more than once. There are Ring-necked Pheasants that are stocked across the street. On a good fall day, it could turn into more than just a quick stop. Just beyond where you parked is a short trail at the far end of the field that leads to Jackman Pond. In season, you may find warblers as you walk in, and the pond can have Wood Ducks, Hooded Mergansers, and migrating Ring-necked Ducks. Virginia Rails breed here and are most easily found at the pond's outlet on

Route 113, just east of Pine Hill Road. The most remarkable record from this pond is a Black Tern seen a few years ago in May.

Any time is a good time for a walk in these North Sandwich birding locations, but it is most enjoyable on a clear day when views of the Sandwich Range are nothing less than spectacular. Moose might be seen anywhere in the area, and Thompson Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the most reliable locations. They are seen most often in spring and fall.

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.

Birds Have The Strangest Names

by Alan Delorey

Goshawk	Oh my gosh, it's an auk
Gull-billed Tern	Must have been a collision
Royal Tern	Why not "king" tern?
Sandwich Tern	Must have been in a "jam"
Least Tern	What a put-down!
Turkey Vulture	It's usually an insult to be called a turkey or a vulture — but both at once!
Short/Long-billed Dowitcher	Quick! Get out the tape measure!
Any screech-owl	They don't screech, they whinny and trill. Whinny-owl? Trill-owl? Now I see why they call it a screech-owl.
Chimney Swift	We do chimneys — fast
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Wait a minute! Hold still! Got to check those sides!
Northern Beardless Tyrannulet	The name is longer than the bird
Fish Crow	I've heard of eating crow — but fish crow?
Palm Warbler	Seen any palm trees in northern New Hampshire lately?
Worm-eating Warbler	Yuck!
Kentucky Warbler	No wonder I can't find one in New Hampshire
Connecticut Warbler	Ditto
Mourning Warbler	Best heard singing in the early morning
Summer Tanager	Is there a winter tanager?
Field Sparrow	Really prefers pastures and brushy edges
Savannah Sparrow	We're a long way from Georgia
Grasshopper Sparrow	Genetic engineering

Alan Delorey is an avid birder and author of a Birder's Guide to New Hampshire. He is also the former Winter Editor for New Hampshire Bird Records.

Can You Identify This Bird?

photo by Larry Denoncourt



Answer in the next issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*.
For the answer to the Winter 2001–2002 photo quiz see facing page.

Answer to the Winter 2001–02 Photo Quiz

by David Donsker and Barbara Delorey

Oh no! Not another gull! Yes, gulls frequently are diagnostic challenges. The plumage and structural differences between species are often subtle. On top of that, there can be quite striking individual differences within species that are related to age, sex, feather wear, color of the soft-parts (bill, legs, eyes, orbital ring), stage of moult, and even light conditions. Because of these difficulties, gull identification requires patience, careful study, and experience.



Our larger gulls, for example, take up to four years to achieve full adult plumage. Since gulls moult twice a year, individuals of these species can go through as many as eight different plumages, in addition to juvenile plumage, before settling into their full adult appearance.

But don't despair. Start by learning the more common species and concentrate on adult birds. Once these skills are more-or-less mastered, work can begin on learning the variations present in each species in sub-adult plumages.

Our mystery bird is clearly an adult bird. Its head, breast and underparts are nearly pure white, and its mantle and wing coverts are a uniform light gray, lacking the scaly markings of sub-adult birds. The tips of the primary flight feathers are dark gray with several large white spots or "mirrors." The wings are long and tapered and extend well beyond the end of the tail (long primary projection). The body is generally oval with a full, rounded breast. Although we cannot see soft-part coloration in this black-and-white photograph, we can see that the bird has light-colored legs. Its bill is pale with a single small spot near the tip of the lower bill, the gonydeal spot. (The bill markings are another indication that this is an adult bird). It has a smallish, rounded head, and the bill is rather small and relatively short. Its eye is dark.

In general, the gulls in our region fall into two divisions: small to medium sized "black-hooded" gulls and medium-sized to large "white-headed gulls." The "black-hooded" gulls, which include Bonaparte's Gull, Black-headed Gull, Little Gull, Laughing Gull, Franklin's Gull and the pelagic Sabine's Gull, have, in their adult summer plumage, dark black to brownish-black heads or hoods. In the winter, these species either retain the rear portion of the hood or have a dark spot behind the ear. This individual, with its nearly pure white head, can be none of these species.

Several high Arctic breeding species of gull that may visit us in winter are neither "black-hooded" or "white-headed" in the strict sense. Each of these birds has some characteristics that are shared by both groups. They include Black-legged Kittiwake, Ivory Gull, and, although it's never been documented in New Hampshire, Ross' Gull. In summer, Ross' Gull has a distinct black collar. In the winter, it has a dark spot behind the ear, similar to Little and Bonaparte's Gulls. Ivory Gull in adult plumage is nearly pure white. In all plumages it has black, not pale legs. Of this group, Black-

legged Kittiwake looks most like a “black-hooded” gull in winter plumage, with a dark ear smudge, and most like a “white-headed” gull in summer plumage, with a gray mantle, white head, and dark wing tips. However, like Ivory Gull, it has black legs in all plumages, unlike the pale legs of our bird.

The expected “white-headed” gulls in New Hampshire include Great and Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Glaucous Gull, and Iceland Gull, while the much rarer Thayer’s Gull, California Gull, and Mew (or Common) Gull have been recorded in nearby states. Since these species have much in common, all features of structure, plumage, and soft-part coloration should be carefully examined. In particular, it’s important to look at size and body proportions, mantle color, wing-tip pattern, eye color, bill pattern, and leg color.

Adult Great and Lesser Black-backed Gulls have dark slate-gray to black mantles. This feature alone eliminates these species.

Herring Gull, perhaps our most variable species, has a light gray mantle like the bird in the photograph. But Herring Gull is a rather long-billed, long-headed gull with dark black wing tips and a pale yellow eye. Its “menacing” face is unlike the round-headed, “gentle” face of our bird. California Gull has a rounder head than Herring Gull and is a bit smaller, with longish wings and a dark eye. But unlike our bird, it has a longish bill with a black mark near the tip in addition to the spot on the lower bill. It also has extensive black on the wing tips with small “mirrors,” and the shade of gray of the mantle is relatively dark.

The Ring-billed Gull and Mew Gull are both small, “white-headed” gulls with rather rounded heads and smallish bills. Both have much blacker wing tips with smaller wing spots than our bird. Ring-billed Gull has a pale eye and a prominent black ring on the bill. Mew Gull, like this bird, has a dark eye, but its bill is either completely unmarked in the summer or has a small ring in winter plumage.

Glaucous Gull is a pale-mantled gull. Unlike our photographed bird, it is rather robust and large-billed with a large, flat head. Smaller Glaucous Gulls can have rounder heads and smaller bills, but this species always has a pale eye and in all plumages the wing tips lack any trace of dark. Glaucous Gull has relatively short, broad wings and, when roosting, does not show the long, tapered primary projection seen in the photographed bird. Glaucous and Herring Gull occasionally hybridize (“Nelson’s Gull”). Like the bird in the photo, this hybrid has a paler mantle than Herring Gull and gray to dark gray, rather than black, wing tips. But Nelson’s Gull is a more robust bird and, like its parents, has a pale eye and heavier head and bill.

That leaves Iceland Gull and Thayer’s Gull as the remaining possible candidates for our mystery bird. Both generally have rounder heads than Herring Gull, with more “gentle” expressions and shorter bills. These are very closely related species if, indeed, they are separate species at all. The Iceland Gull/Thayer’s Gull complex shows a clinal variation in characteristics from somewhat larger, dark-eyed, darker-mantled birds with black on the tips of the primaries (Thayer’s Gull) that breed in central Arctic Canada to the smaller, pale-eyed, pale-gray-mantled birds with completely white outer primaries that breed further to the east in Greenland (the nominate Iceland Gull, the form from which the species was initially scientifically described). In between these two breeding populations is Kumlien’s Gull, a race of Iceland Gull that has intermediate characteristics: intermediate size, gray wing tips, and, occasionally,

dark eyes. It breeds in Arctic eastern Canada on southern Baffin Island and the northern Ungava Peninsula of Quebec.

Our featured bird is clearly of the Iceland Gull/Thayer's Gull complex. It has all of the classic body proportions of Iceland Gull: Rounded head; oval body; long, tapered wings; smallish bill and "gentle" expression. Although it has a dark eye, the wing tips are dark gray, not black, and the shade of gray of the mantle is too pale to be a classic Thayer's Gull, whose mantle is generally a darker gray than that of Herring Gull. Most Iceland Gulls have yellow eyes, but many individuals of the Kumlien's race have dark speckling in the iris, and some have uniformly dark irises. Kumlien's Gulls with the darkest tips to their primaries also have the darkest eyes. Typical Thayer's Gulls have proportionally longer bills and somewhat more sloping foreheads than our mystery bird. Furthermore, the subtle streaking on the crown, nape, and face of our featured bird indicates that it is in winter plumage. Winter-plumaged Thayer's Gulls have much more pronounced streaking on their heads and necks. This is an Iceland Gull of the Kumlien's race.

Kumlien's Gull is the subspecies of Iceland Gull that can be expected to be wintering in our state and elsewhere on the East Coast. Although the amount of gray in the wing tips varies, nearly all of our wintering Iceland Gulls show at least some trace of gray in the outer primaries. The largely sedentary nominate race of Iceland Gull, with pure white primaries, winters in coastal Greenland and Iceland, with smaller numbers in northwestern Europe. A few undoubtedly reach our East Coast from the breeding population in western Greenland. Thayer's Gull winters on our west coast, but a few are reported virtually every year in the East.

This Iceland Gull, Kumlien's race, was photographed at Hampton Beach State Park by Alan Delorey on February 16, 2002. A dark-eyed Iceland Gull, possibly the same bird, has wintered on the southern New Hampshire coast for several years now.

Barbara Delorey, the co-author of this article, is an active birder, field trip leader, and the Secretary for the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee. A special thank you to New Hampshire Bird Records Spring Editor Pam Hunt for her review of the manuscript and her contributions to this discussion.

Bird Research: Study of Harlequin Ducks Yields Results

by Susan Story Galt

Glen Mittelhauser knows Harlequin Ducks. He has been studying the winter ecology of "lords and ladies," as they are known by many, for the past fifteen years. Although Harlequins are fairly well-known and abundant in the northern Pacific Ocean, they are much less so in the Atlantic. "There are still a lot of people who are surprised to know they are on this coast," Glen says. This is because there are fewer than 1800 Harlequins here, down from a population high of about 10,000 in the late eighteenth century. Aggressive hunting was halted first in Canada in 1990, when the bird was put on

its Endangered Species List; hunting them in the eastern United States was banned at about the same time. Slowly, the species' population is beginning to rebound.

New Hampshire birders are most likely familiar with the small population of Harlequins that winters in Maine off the Cliff House and Marginal Way, in Ogunquit, and along Cape Neddick, in York. These ducks spend the breeding season along inland rivers in northwestern Newfoundland, Gaspé Peninsula, and likely other areas in southern Quebec, and arrive at their wintering grounds between the first week of October and mid-December. (Only twelve summer records for the entire Maine coast exist since 1950.)

Harlequins seem to seek out the wild surf along rocky coasts and islands for their winter bases. Watching them rolling around, disappearing, then reappearing in the huge winter waves, it is not hard to understand that studies have shown that many adult Harlequins have had broken bones at some time in their lives.

Glen's work at first centered on summarizing the knowledge of Harlequin Duck number and distribution in Maine since the 1950s and assessing winter population trends. He and his team divided the coast of Maine into three sections of roughly equal size, then conducted surveys by boat and air along portions of the outer coast during winter months for fourteen years. Detailed information of populations by sex and age, as well as arrival and departure dates, were recorded. They discovered that nearly 75% of the Harlequins in Maine winter in the Isle au Haut area. The ducks return to the same ledges each winter, with the same individuals returning to "their" ledges.

Glen's work on the Harlequin Duck is focusing now on population dynamics and the linking of breeding, molting, and winter ranges. A system has been developed of 1) banding ducks, and 2) fitting them with little radios that transmit signals to satellites, which then relays information to biologists. The data received from these two methods has yielded information on the existence of two distinct populations of Harlequin Ducks in eastern North America. Work continues to determine the exact distribution of the two populations.

Harlequins occupy specific molting areas in late summer and early fall. During the late summer of 2002, Glen spent three weeks on the Gannet Islands, off Cartwright, Labrador, looking for Harlequins that molt there. Of the sixty-five duck bands read, twelve were from Maine, which is a significant step forward in linking the breeding, molting, and wintering areas of Maine ducks.

The bands which the Harlequins wear carry a two-digit band number that can be read with a spotting scope at a distance of sixty yards. This is a good thing, because the ducks are "getting harder and harder to trap," according to Glen. "They learn to avoid our traps; they only get caught once." Moreover, once a duck has been trapped, it passes the experience on to others: "One or two will lead a flock away" from the traps, so the readability of the bands from a distance has become crucial.

Birders along the coasts of southern Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island can help in the coming year by watching for banded Harlequin Ducks, reading their bands, and reporting the findings to Glen Mittelhauser. He can be reached by telephone at 207-963-2012 or by e-mail at glenm@acadia.net.

Glen also reports that a study of Purple Sandpipers began in fall of 2002 with the banding of birds off Isle au Haut. Birders can look for these birds off New Hampshire

and Massachusetts in the spring of 2003. These birds have two color bands on each leg (the metal numbered band is above the “knee” joint and is not visible). For all shore-bird banding, one color band is designated for a standard country color, (United States is a green flag-type, and another color band for the state-Maine is red, for example. The other two color bands on the Purple Sandpipers are color coded for location. An example of a reading would be “left leg—red over green; right leg—blue over yellow.” Reports of these birds would also be very helpful.

Birders in New Hampshire have a number of opportunities to contribute to research simply by watching for banded birds of any type and reporting their sightings to the USGS Bird Banding Lab in Laurel, Maryland, at 1-800-327-BAND.

Corrections

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

Spring 00 (Vol. 19 No.1)

- p. 17 The Least Flycatchers on 05-17 were seen on Round Pond Rd. not Round Pound Rd.
- p. 23 The Lawrence’s Warbler hybrid on 05-11 was seen on Miltimore Rd. not Mit-timore Rd.
- p. 29 The Fox Sparrow on 03-10 was seen on Smith Sanborn Rd. not South Sanborn Rd.
- p. 29 The White-crowned Sparrows on 05-10 were seen on Pine Gate Rd. in Ply-mouth not Holderness.

Summer 00 (Vol. 19 No.2)

- p. 4 Endangered and Threatened Species section. The last sentence stating that Least Terns were not reported during summer 2000 was incorrect. There were two reports on page 12.
- p. 20 Warbler summary. The first two sentences regarding excellent warbler reports are a misprint and should not have appeared.
- p. 23 The Common Yellowthroats on 07-13 were seen on Bog Rd. not at George Pond.
- p. 24 The Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrow and the Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow reports on 07-02 were seen at Chapmans Landing in Stratham not Newfields.

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- Birding New Hampshire Fish & Game's Bellamy River Property
- King Rail Species Account
- Summer Nesting Season Summaries
- Ten Years at MAPS Station in New Hampton
- Watching a Nest of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds

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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