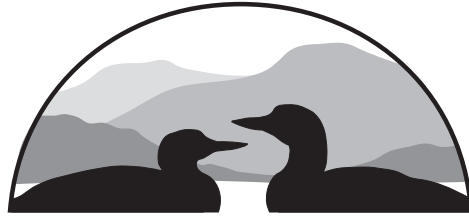


New Hampshire Bird Records



Summer 2002

Vol. 21, No. 2



New Hampshire Bird Records **Volume 21, Number 2** **Summer 2002**

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About The Cover

The photos on the front cover are of Piping Plover adult, chicks, and eggs. Seven pairs of Piping Plovers nested on the New Hampshire coast in 2002 but only one chick was produced. See the article on page 33 for a full summary. Photos courtesy of New Hampshire's Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program.

Announcement

New Hampshire Important Bird Areas Program Up and Running!

In the winter 2001-2002 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*, Francie Von Mertens wrote about the new New Hampshire Important Bird Areas program (NH IBA), coordinated by Pam Hunt at the Audubon Society of New Hampshire. A lot of behind-the-scenes work on this project was completed last fall, and we are pleased to announce the NH IBA program is up and running—**and looking for birder input.**

The New Hampshire effort is part of an international effort to identify areas important to birds. These can be places where rare species are known to occur, major stop-over habitats for shorebirds or waterfowl, examples of rare or threatened habitats, or even areas that simply support a high diversity of breeding species. Nationwide, the IBA program has helped birds in many ways, from drawing attention to broader conservation issues to increased monitoring to land protection and wildlife legislation. It is hoped that similar accomplishments can result right here in New Hampshire.

You can help by nominating one or more areas for consideration or by volunteering to help with data collection once the first IBAs have been identified. View this as the perfect opportunity to get more bang for your birding buck. Population and development pressures are not going away in New Hampshire, and unless we start spreading the word about potential impacts on birds and other wildlife, the birds we currently take for granted may be less common for future generations of birders. All the information you need to nominate an IBA is available on the UNH Cooperative Extension web site: <http://www.ceinfo.unh.edu/forestry/documents/NHIBA.htm>. If you lack web access or have any questions, contact Pam at 224-9909, ext. 328, or at phunt@nhaudubon.org. The birds of New Hampshire will be glad for your interest and involvement!

Summer Season

June 1 through July 31, 2002

by Bill Taffe, Summer Editor

Weather

The first half of June was slightly cooler than normal with above average precipitation. By the end of June and throughout July temperatures were normal, but dry conditions prevailed, which left the summer with below-average precipitation. The most important, but unfortunate, weather events for the 2002 breeding season happened before the summer began, in April and May. Cold, wet snow and rain accompanied by winds during critical times in the nesting season caused the loss of many nests, especially for large raptors. Likewise, along the coast, Piping Plover nesting was severely impacted by storms in May and June, which resulted in a minor setback for the plover restoration program.



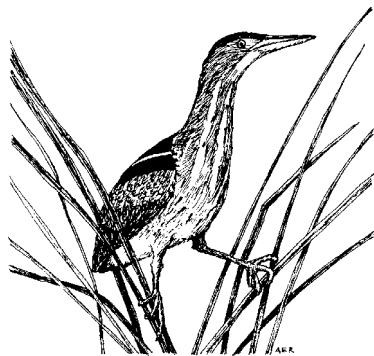
Bill Taffe

Breeding Bird Highlights

Red-bellied Woodpeckers were finally documented as breeders in New Hampshire. Although previous observations suggested this species bred in the state, documentation was either lacking or not conclusive. Summer 2002 observations and subsequent documentation confirmed this species as a New Hampshire breeder. The tern restoration effort at the Isles of Shoals continued to enjoy success. **Common Terns** bred in record numbers, **Roseate Tern** breeding grew significantly, and, for the first time in many years, an **Arctic Tern** pair hatched chicks.

Rarities

As in the past few summers, observers at the Isles of Shoals reported many species not usually seen from the New Hampshire shoreline; they are described in the species listings. **Least Bittern** and **King Rail** were reported from the Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge, and two different observers noted **Black Vultures**. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was observed on two successive days in Dover. An adult and four juvenile **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were seen at Squam Lake and, in the North Country, an **American Wigeon** was seen in early summer flying over Lake Umbagog.

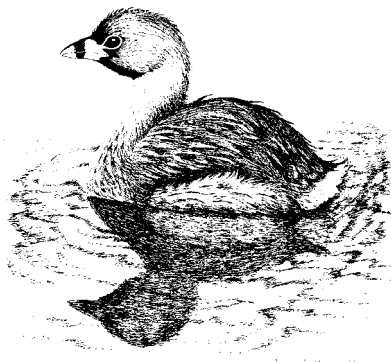


Least Bittern by Andrea Robbins

Endangered and Threatened Species

There are twelve species on New Hampshire's Endangered Species list, and seven more are considered Threatened. Of these twelve endangered species, ten were reported during Summer 2002: Pied-billed Grebe, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Peregrine Falcon, Upland Sandpiper, Piping Plover, Roseate Tern, Common Tern, Least Tern, and Purple Martin. No reports were received of Golden Eagle or Sedge Wren. Of the seven Threatened species, only the Three-toed Woodpecker was not reported. Please be sure to report any sightings of Endangered or Threatened Species.

Loons, Grebes, Shearwaters, Storm-Petrels, Gannets & Cormorants



*Pied-billed Grebe
by Andrea Robbins*

Observations of the endangered **Pied-billed Grebe** were most welcome this summer, especially after its absence in the reports from Summer 2001. Large numbers of Wilson's Storm-Petrels were seen throughout the summer, both from the Isles of Shoals and along the coast. A typical summer might have only three to five reports with peak numbers of 25-50, so in both number of occurrences and number of birds, this summer's numbers were very unusual. Likewise, Northern Gannets occurred in unusual numbers and frequency.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Red-throated Loon				
06-02	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
06-04	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
06-16	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
Common Loon				
06-11	4	Pittsburg	Second Connecticut L.	E. Nielsen
06-13	3	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway L.	G. Gavutis
06-14	2	Barnstead	Lower Suncook L., Center Barnstead	D. Fletcher
06-16	1	Rye	Wallis Sands State Beach	S. Sturup
07-08	3	Pittsburg	Metallak Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-28	3	Washington	Millen Pond, Millen Pond Rd.	G. Prazar
07-30	3	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir	K. Gaskill
07-31	3	Newbury	Lake Todd	G. & M. Prazar
Pied-billed Grebe				
06-08	1	Newington	Stubb's Pond, Great Bay NWR	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
06-18	1	Newington	Stubb's Pond, Great Bay NWR	S. Mirick
07-05	1	Danbury	Danbury Bog, Wilmot BBS	P. Newbern
07-24	1	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir	C. Martin

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Sooty Shearwater				
06-15	61	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
Manx Shearwater				
06-16	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward
06-24	1	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	A. Delorey
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				
06-12	30	Rye	just s. of Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	M. Suomala
06-15	20		NH coast	S. Mirick
06-16	55		northern NH coast	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
06-16	51	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
06-16	248	Rye	Wallis Sands State Beach	S. Sturup
06-24	27		NH coast	A.& B. Delorey
06-26	35	Rye	boat trip between Isles of Shoals and mainland	D. Hayward
06-28	68		NH coast	A.& B. Delorey
07-04	62	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
07-24	12	Rye	NH coast	R.& M. Suomala
07-26	105	Rye	Pulpit Rock	A.& B. Delorey
07-26	20	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	A.& B. Delorey
07-26	68	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
07-30	87	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
Northern Gannet				
06-02	20		NH coast	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
06-12	24	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
06-15	35		NH coast	S. Mirick
06-15	129	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
06-16	13	Rye	Wallis Sands State Beach	S. Sturup
06-17	21	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
07-10	1	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	S. Mirick
Double-crested Cormorant				
06-11	5	Concord	Little Turkey Pond	R. Quinn
06-23	2	Exeter	waterfront	G. Prazar
06-25	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	M. Suomala
07-19	75	Seabrook	mussel beds	A.& B. Delorey
07-24	2	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Quinn, T. Richards
Great Cormorant				
06-02	3	Rye	Concord Pt. and Rye Ledges	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
06-04	3	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
07-05	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot

Bitterns, Herons & Egrets, New World Vultures

The **Least Bittern** at Stubbs Pond in the Great Bay NWR represents the second successive year that Steve Mirick has observed this species at that location.

In last summer's issue we noted that there were very few reports of Great and Snowy Egrets and Glossy Ibis and engaged in a bit of speculation about the possible reasons. In Summer 2002, however, the reports of the former two species returned to typical (or slightly higher) numbers. Unfortunately, no Glossy Ibis were reported from the coast for the second consecutive summer, and this year there were no reports from the Isles of Shoals either.

The juvenile Black-crowned Night-Herons on Hoag Island in Squam Lake were reported by the observer to be "flying erratically, as if on (their) first trip away from the nest!" It was the observer's first record at Squam Lake in over 70 years! During the six years of fieldwork for the *Atlas of Breeding Birds in New Hampshire*, there were only two "probable" breeding blocks and two "possible blocks," all in the seacoast area, so this was an intriguing sighting.

Two reports of **Black Vultures** were received. This is only their second summer occurrence in the past decade. Most other reports have been of spring birds.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
American Bittern				
06-09	1	Canterbury	Shaker Meadow	R. Quinn
06-21	1	Pittsburg	near Indian Stream	W. Harris, et al.
Least Bittern				
06-18	1	Newington	Stubbs Pond at Great Bay NWR	S. Mirick
06-25	2	Newington	Stubbs Pond at Great Bay NWR	S. Mirick
07-08	1	Newington	Stubbs Pond at Great Bay NWR	S. Mirick
Great Blue Heron				
06-16	5	Deerfield	Doles Marsh	S. Sturup
06-23	13	Exeter	waterfront	G. Prazar
06-30	55	Danville	town conservation area	K. Folsom
Great Egret				
06-15	3	Seabrook	Rt. 286	S. Mirick
06-28	3	Seabrook	mussel beds	A. & B. Delorey
07-16	4	Hampton Falls	Depot Rd.	P. Hunt
07-21	1	Bradford	Fairgrounds Rd. pond	N. Whittier
07-24	14	Hampton Falls	marshes off Depot Rd.	R. & M. Suomala
07-24	1	Rye	pool at s. end of Odiome Pt. St. Pk.	R. & M. Suomala
Snowy Egret				
06-16	5	Rye	marsh opposite Odiome Pt. St. Pk.	S. Sturup
06-21	11	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, R. Suomala
07-24	6	Rye	Rt. 1A pools just s. of Rye Harbor	R. & M. Suomala
07-24	26	Hampton Falls	marshes off Depot Rd.	R. & M. Suomala
07-24	3	Hampton	Rt. 101 jct.	R. & M. Suomala
07-24	14	Rye	pool at s. end of Odiome Pt. St. Pk.	R. & M. Suomala
07-31	30	Rye	Rt. 1A pools just s. of Rye Harbor	M. Suomala

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Green Heron				
06-02	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
06-07	1	Lyme	Post Pond	S. Sturup
06-11	1	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Quinn
06-19	1	Dover	Bellamy R. WMA	M. Suomala
06-25	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	M. Suomala
07-10	1	Hanover	Occom Pond, Dartmouth College	K. Fluge
07-31	1	Rye	Rt. 1A pools just s. of Rye Harbor	M. Suomala
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
06-22	6	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, R. Suomala
07-15	5	Sandwich	Hoag Is., Squam L.	H. Coolidge
Black Vulture				
06-11	1	Durham	Rt. 4 near UNH farm	P. Hunt
06-18	1	Lebanon	Poverty Lane Orchard, W. Lebanon	A. Eaton
Turkey Vulture				
06-10	1	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-27	6	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
07-06	1	Gorham		M.& R. Suomala

Waterfowl

The Mallards reported below were observed throughout the season, right through their fledging at the end of July. Scoter, usually uncommon to rare in the summer, were seen more frequently in Summer 2002. Coastal birders observed and reported all three scoter species. The three reports of Ruddy Duck are very unusual; this is only the second summer since 1995 that Ruddy Ducks were observed.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Canada Goose				
06-11	55	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, S. Elliot
06-19	17	Concord	Little Turkey Pond	R. Quinn, T. Richards
07-11	10	Keene	Beaver Brook dam, near Rts. 9 & 10 jct.	M. Wright
Wood Duck				
06-07	10	Lyme	Post Pond	S. Sturup
06-19	5	Concord	Little Turkey Pond	R. Quinn, T. Richards
06-25	5	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	M. Suomala
07-19	4	Hanover	Connecticut R.	S. Sturup
American Wigeon				
06-07	2	Errol	L. Umbagog, Leonard Marsh	R. Quinn, H. Nevers, et al.
Blue-winged Teal				
07-10	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
Ring-necked Duck				
06-07	19	Errol	L. Umbagog region	R. Quinn, H. Nevers, et al.
06-10	2	Pittsburg	Moose Pond Rd.	E. Nielsen

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Ring-necked Duck—continued				
06-12	2	Pittsburg	Coon Brook Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-13	3	Pittsburg	Scott Bog	E. Nielsen
Greater Scaup				
06-08	1	Newington	Great Bay from Woodman Pt.	S. Mirick
06-25	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
Lesser Scaup				
07-12	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
07-21	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
Common Eider				
06-01	168	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
06-02	69	Rye	mostly off Seal Rocks	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
06-05	233	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, S. Elliot
06-16	40	Rye	Wallis Sands State Beach	S. Sturup
07-09	205	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
07-31	25	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
Surf Scoter				
06-28	1	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	A. & B. Delorey
White-winged Scoter				
06-02	12		NH coast	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
06-16	1	Rye	Wallis Sands State Beach	S. Sturup
06-17	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
06-24	14	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	A. & B. Delorey
07-10	1	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	S. Mirick
Black Scoter				
06-02	3		NH coast	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
06-16	2	Hampton	Bicentennial Pk.	S. Mirick
06-28	2	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	A. & B. Delorey
Long-tailed Duck				
06-02	2	Rye	Concord Pt.	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
Common Goldeneye				
06-07	23	Errol	L. Umbagog region	R. Quinn, H. Nevers, et al.
06-13	7	Pittsburg	Partridge Cabins	E. Nielsen
Hooded Merganser				
06-12	13	Laconia	Laconia CC, Elm St.	H. Anderson
06-18	4	Campton	Campton Pond, WMNF	J. Williams
06-25	6	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	M. Suomala
07-24	1	Concord	Little Turkey Pond	R. Quinn, T. Richards
Common Merganser				
06-10	4	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-22	7	Newbury	Newbury Harbor	P. Newbern

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Red-breasted Merganser				
06-28	3	Rye	Pulpit Rock	A.& B. Delorey
Ruddy Duck				
06-02	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Pk.	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
06-04	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick

Raptors

Peregrine Falcons had a banner year. Occupying 14 territories, including a new one on Russell Crag in Woodstock, the falcons raised 27 chicks, a new high for New Hampshire in the post-DDT era.

Bald Eagles fared less well. Although seven pairs showed territorial behavior and six pairs constructed or occupied nests throughout the state, only one chick successfully fledged, making it another disappointing year for Bald Eagles in New Hampshire. Weather was directly related to two of the failures. A nest with eggs at Pontook Reservoir was abandoned in early May, apparently because of unseasonably cold temperatures and snow accumulating on the nest around the time of hatching, and an early May windstorm snapped the support branch from under a nest in Hinsdale, killing the chick in it. Predation was the suspected cause of the loss of a chick hatched in a nest near Nubanusit Lake in Antrim. In two other cases, nests were built, but the eagle pairs apparently did not lay eggs. Neither the nest near the junction of the Androscoggin and Magalloway Rivers on Lake Umbagog, which has had successful nesting for the past 13 years, nor the much-publicized nest in Bedford, which has been the center of controversy because of the plans to build a highway nearby, had eggs this year. In the latter case, the eagles built a nest but in early March inexplicably disappeared from the area. The one successful nest of 2002 was by an eagle pair using a former Osprey nest on the south side of Lake Umbagog just on the New Hampshire side of the New Hampshire/Maine state line. The nest produced one chick.

Osprey nests also appeared to be affected by weather. Although the Osprey population had a successful breeding year overall, it varied across the state rather dramatically. The critical part of the hatching season was accompanied by heavy rains in northern New Hampshire, and half the nests failed. The southern regions had better weather during this critical period and had excellent reproductive success. Of the 26 nests statewide, 16 were active and produced 38 chicks. In addition to the sightings listed below, we received 13 reports of single birds scattered throughout the state.

Merlins bred in the Hanover area again this year, and they constructed a nest in Plymouth but did not produce young (for unknown reasons).



Peregrine Falcon
by Stephen R. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Osprey				
06-09	2	Salisbury	Punch Brook	I. MacLeod
07-12	3	Franklin	n. of Webster Lake	I. MacLeod
07-24	11	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir area	C. Martin
Bald Eagle				
06-05	1	Dover	Bellamy R. WMA	M. Suomala
06-09	1	Orford	Connecticut R.	S. Sturup
06-11	1	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
06-26	1	Stewartstown	Little Diamond Pond Coleman St. Pk.	M. Milligan
06-29	1		Little Haystack, Mt. Lincoln, Franconia Notch	D. Howe, C. Howe
07-10	1	Lisbon	Ammonoosuc R.	S. Turner
07-24	1	Durham	Great Bay NWR	L. Deming, E. Snyder M. Kern, et al.
Northern Harrier				
06-03	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
06-13	1	Stark	Rt. 110 field opposite "Camp Stark"	C. Martin
07-28	1	Plymouth	Baker R.	J. Williams
Sharp-shinned Hawk				
06-07	1	Lyme	Post Pond	S. Sturup
07-05	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
Cooper's Hawk				
06-08	1	Dover	Rabbit Rd.	S. Sturup
06-13	1	Dover	Bellamy R. WMA	M. Suomala
06-17	1	Stratham	s. of Swampscott Rd. & e. of Rt. 108	G. Gavutis, Jr.
07-01	2	Concord	Silk Farm WS	I. MacLeod
07-05	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
Northern Goshawk				
07-07	1		along Winnepesaukee R.	P. Hunt
07-24	1	Dover	Bellamy R. WMA	M. Suomala
Red-shouldered Hawk				
06-02	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
06-13	1	Nottingham	w. of n. boat ramp, Pawtuckaway L.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
06-17	2	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
07-06	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
07-28	1	Marlow	along Rt. 10	P. Newbern
Merlin				
06-30	1	Hanover	Smith Rd.	S. Sturup
07-13	1	Piermont	at Rt. 25 bridge over Connecticut	R. B. Schults
07-17	2	Piermont	Rt. 25 & River Rd. jct.	W. Scott
07-21	4	Hanover	Hanover CC	D. Crook
Peregrine Falcon				
06-14	1	Berlin	paper mill smoke stacks	C. Martin
06-29	1	Hanover	Smith Rd.	S. Sturup
07-02	2	Woodstock	Russel Crag	J. Williams, C. Martin, R. Valleries
07-05	3	Rumney	Rattlesnake Mtn.	M. & R. Suomala
07-31	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot

Grouse, Waders and Shorebirds

Reports of grouse and their allies were pretty typical during Summer 2002. It was nice to see a few reports of the Northern Bobwhite, although they are undoubtedly released birds. According to the *Atlas of Breeding Birds in New Hampshire*, a variety of causes "...brought about the complete extirpation of [this] native quail from New Hampshire during the early decades of this [the twentieth] century." The *Atlas* concludes, "The Northern Bobwhite will continue to occur only as an uncommon and introduced species."

The Piping Plover restoration project, in its sixth year along the New Hampshire seacoast, had mixed success in Summer 2002. Seven pairs nested on the Seabrook town beach and Hampton Beach State Park and produced 44 eggs. Unfortunately, mostly due to inclement weather in late spring, only 11 hatched and of those only one fledged. A few pairs re-nested, but a June coastal storm wiped out most of the chicks that hatched from this second attempt. Predators, primarily cats, were also responsible for the loss of the remaining chicks and probably one of the adults too. For a complete summary, see the article on page 33.

The **King Rail** observed at Great Bay NWR continues the promise that this wildlife refuge, which protects both freshwater wetland and estuarine habitat, will expand our opportunities to find some of the rarer species which inhabit such territories.

A Sandhill Crane summered in Monroe for the fourth consecutive year.

The shorebird data reported this summer is almost a textbook example of migration. Several species, such as Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, and Semipalmated Sandpiper, show both the tail end of the northward, spring migration, the breeding season gap, and the beginning of the return, fall migration. Others quite dramatically show the mid- to late-July onset of fall migration: for example, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, and the "peeps" (undifferentiated sandpiper species of the *Calidris* genus). Of course some are a bit harder to explain. The mid-June Red Knots seem too late to be spring migrants and too early for the fall. Likewise the July 2 Whimbrel seems a bit premature for a fall migrant. These latter observations are from the Isles of Shoals, where Purple Sandpipers have again been found throughout the summer. Short-billed Dowitchers began to appear on the Isles of Shoals in early July, culminating with the 13 reported below.

In addition to the eight Common Snipe reported below, Eric Nielsen had four more at two other locations in Pittsburg during that same birding trip.



*King Rail by Stephen R. Mirick, 6/8/02,
Great Bay NWR*

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Spruce Grouse				
06-14	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-29	1	T&M	Jefferson Notch, Caps Ridge Trail	K. Gaskill
Northern Bobwhite				
06-30	1		Epsom BBS	P. Newbern
07-12	1	Concord	field near Silk Farm WS	C. Martin
07-30	1	Dover	Bellamy R. WMA	M. Suomala
King Rail				
06-08	1	Newington	Herods Cove, Great Bay NWR	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
Virginia Rail				
06-17	1	Stratham	cattail marsh, Jewell Brook, s. of Swampscott Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
06-19	3	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Mirick, S. Jones
Sora				
06-08	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
Common Moorhen				
06-25	1	Newington	Stubbs Pond, Great Bay NWR	S. Mirick
Sandhill Crane				
06-08	1	Monroe	Connecticut R. island	W. Scott
Black-bellied Plover				
06-04	24	Seabrook	mussel beds	A. Delorey
06-12	7	Rye	Rt. 1A pools s. of Odiome Pt. St. Pk.	M. Suomala
07-28	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	R. & M. Suomala
07-31	2	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	M. Suomala
Semipalmated Plover				
06-02	7	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
07-24	10	Hampton	Rt. 101 jct.	R. & M. Suomala
07-24	3	Hampton Falls	Depot Rd. pools	R. & M. Suomala
07-29	7	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
07-31	24	Rye	Rt. 1A pools just s. of Rye Harbor	M. Suomala
Greater Yellowlegs				
07-24	10	Hampton	Rt. 101 jct.	R. & M. Suomala
07-24	16	Rye	Rt. 1A pools just s. of Rye Harbor	R. & M. Suomala
07-31	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward
07-31	16	Rye	Rt. 1A pools just s. of Rye Harbor	M. Suomala
Lesser Yellowlegs				
07-15	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
07-24	6	Hampton	Rt. 101 jct.	R. & M. Suomala
07-31	10	Rye	Rt. 1A pools just s. of Rye Harbor	M. Suomala
Willet				
07-19	12	Seabrook	mussel beds	A. & B. Delorey
07-24	1	Hampton	saltmarsh behind Little Jack's Restaurant	R. & M. Suomala

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
07-28	5	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	R. & M. Suomala
07-31	8	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	M. Suomala
Spotted Sandpiper				
06-01	8	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	A. & B. Delorey
06-05	14	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	K. Bixler, S. Elliot
06-18	2	Campton	Campton Pond, WMNF	J. Williams
06-25	4	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	M. Suomala
07-04	25	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
07-14	3	Tamworth	Ambrose gravel pit	T. Vazzano
07-15	35	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
Upland Sandpiper				
06-08	2	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	S. Sturup
Whimbrel				
07-02	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
07-19	4	Seabrook	mussel beds	A. & B. Delorey
07-27	28	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
07-28	4	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	R. & M. Suomala
07-31	14	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	M. Suomala
Hudsonian Godwit				
07-26	1	Hampton	Henry's pool, Rt. 101E	A. & B. Delorey
Ruddy Turnstone				
06-01	11	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
06-04	2	Seabrook	mussel beds	A. Delorey
06-11	15	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
07-26	39	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
07-31	67	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
Red Knot				
06-16	4	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
Sanderling				
06-02	2	Rye	Wallis Sands State Beach	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
06-10	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
07-14	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
07-24	2	Rye	Rye Ledge	R. & M. Suomala
07-25	5	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
07-28	2	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	R. & M. Suomala
07-31	77	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Semipalmated Sandpiper				
06-02	40	Rye	Wallis Sands State Beach	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
06-02	127	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
06-12	9	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
07-17	5	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
07-24	90	Hampton Falls	Depot Rd. pools	R.& M. Suomala
07-24	180	Hampton	Rt. 1 salt pannes by powerline	R.& M. Suomala
07-24	25	Rye	Rt. 1A pools just s. of Rye Harbor	R.& M. Suomala
07-31	60	Rye	Rt. 1A pools just s. of Rye Harbor	M. Suomala
Least Sandpiper				
06-08	1	Rye	Wallis Sands State Beach	S. Sturup
07-11	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
07-14	4	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
07-17	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
07-24	10	Hampton	Rt. 101 jct.	R.& M. Suomala
07-24	10	Hampton	saltmarsh behind Little Jack's Restaurant	R.& M. Suomala
07-24	3	Hampton Falls	Depot Rd. pools	R.& M. Suomala
07-31	50	Rye	Rt. 1A pools just s. of Rye Harbor	M. Suomala
White-rumped Sandpiper				
06-17	4	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
Calidris sp. (peeps)				
07-15	10	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
07-31	45	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
Purple Sandpiper				
06-01	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
06-15	5	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
06-20	1	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	R. Suomala, D. Hayward
07-03	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
07-25	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
07-30	4	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
Dunlin				
06-02	1	Rye	Wallis Sands State Beach	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
Stilt Sandpiper				
07-28	3	Rye	Rt. 1A pools just s. of Rye Harbor	R.& M. Suomala
Short-billed Dowitcher				
06-04	21	Seabrook	mussel beds	A. Delorey
07-12	8	Hampton	Henry's pool, Rt. 101E	A.& B. Delorey
07-19	19	Seabrook	mussel beds	A.& B. Delorey
07-24	30	Hampton	saltmarsh behind Little Jack's Restaurant	R.& M. Suomala
07-25	13	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
07-31	16	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	M. Suomala
07-31	110	Rye	Rt. 1A pools just s. of Rye Harbor	M. Suomala
Common Snipe				
06-09	5	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-12	3	Pittsburg	Hall Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-18	4	Hebron	Hebron Marsh	J. Williams, Pemigewasset Chapter FT
06-26	1	Northumberland	Herman Savage Rd.	B. Taffe
07-05	1	Haverhill	Rt. 25, East Haverhill	M. & R. Suomala

Gulls & Terns, Alcids

Terns were abundant in both numbers and diversity. Reports were received for seven of the species that can be seen in New Hampshire, a couple of which are not common in the summer season (Caspian and Black). The 5500 Common Terns reported from the Isles of Shoals included 3400 adults and 2100 chicks. What incredible growth from the small handful of adults and chicks (fewer than 25 combined) in 1997! The **Roseate Terns** on the islands fledged about 16 young, and an **Arctic Tern** pair hatched two chicks although the young were apparently predated by gulls (see the article on page 40).

In addition to the Alcids reported below, reports of Atlantic Puffins from the Isles of Shoals are pending documentation.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Laughing Gull				
06-01	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
06-02	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Pk.	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
06-15	1		NH coast	S. Mirick
06-15	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
07-06	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
07-08	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	D. Tucker
07-25	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
07-28	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	R. & M. Suomala
Bonaparte's Gull				
06-02	14	Hampton	Bicentennial Pk.	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
06-04	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
06-15	18	Seabrook	NH coast	S. Mirick
07-28	15	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	R. & M. Suomala
Caspian Tern				
07-16	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, D. DeLuca
07-31	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
Roseate Tern				
06-01	12	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Roseate Tern—continued				
06-14	20	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
06-24	46	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, R. Suomala
07-10	60	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
07-31	76	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
Common Tern				
06-01	1600	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
06-16	36	Rye	Wallis Sands State Beach	S. Sturup
06-20	2600	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot, D. DeLuca, R. Suomala
07-08	5000	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
07-15	5500	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
07-31	4000	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
Arctic Tern				
06-11	6	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
07-09	8	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
Forster's Tern				
07-31	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler
Least Tern				
06-16	4	Seabrook	off Rt. 286	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
06-19	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
Black Tern				
06-01	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
06-06	2	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
06-09	1	Pittsburg	Second Connecticut L.	E. Nielsen
06-10	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
Razorbill				
06-01	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward
06-16	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
06-22	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	R. Suomala
07-13	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
Black Guillemot				
06-16	5	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot

Cuckoos, Owls, Nightjars, Swifts, Hummingbirds, Kingfishers, Woodpeckers

The Northern Saw-whet Owls observed in Bow were recently fledged juveniles. In addition, there was a report on the NH.Birds internet list about a nest box in Jefferson Notch (intended to entice Boreal Owls) in which three Saw-whets hatched (and fledged). Photos of both groups of owlets appeared on the internet in late summer where many birders saw them “virtually”, and the Bow owlets were published in the Spring 2002 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*.

In addition to the Common Nighthawk sightings below, Mary Wright documented this species in the Keene area throughout the summer with just a summary of peak numbers at each location appearing in the listings.

For several years it has been suspected that **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** have been breeding in New Hampshire, and finally, Summer 2002 brought conclusive documentation. Michael and Robert Harvey were able to obtain photos of an adult and a fledgling at a nest hole to yield a First State Breeding Record. And when it rains, it pours: two other observers, George Gavutis and Jeff Normandin, also observed Red-bellied Woodpeckers with nestlings. The Red-headed Woodpeckers are the first reported in the summer season since Summer 1998.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Black-billed Cuckoo				
06-05	2	Dover	Bellamy R. WMA	M. Suomala
06-19	1	Concord	Little Turkey Pond	R. Quinn, T. Richards
06-23	1	Concord	residence	R. Woodward
06-25	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	M. Suomala
06-29	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
07-01	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
07-02	1	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Quinn, T. Richards
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				
06-13	1	Nottingham	n. end of Pawtuckaway L.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
06-24	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, R. Suomala
Great Horned Owl				
06-11	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-30	1		Three Ponds Trail, WMNF	J. Williams
Barred Owl				
06-11	3	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
06-22	2	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
07-11	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
Northern Saw-whet Owl				
06-13	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-14	2	Bow	Albin Road	L. Devoncourt
06-19	1	Wentworths	L. Umbagog NWR headquarters	S.& M. Turner
Common Nighthawk				
06-09	3	Keene	Central Square	M. Wright
06-30	2	Keene	West St. Plaza	M. Wright
07-01	2	Keene	soccer fields, Keene State College	R. Ritz

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Common Nighthawk—continued				
07-03	2	Sandwich	near Thompson WS	R. Ridgely, T. Vazzano
07-14	1	Tamworth	Ambrose gravel pit	T. Vazzano
07-18	3	Keene	Keene State College fields	R. Ritz
07-21	1	Concord	over downtown	R. Suomala
Whip-poor-will				
summer	2	Raymond	Shattigee Rd.	K. Acerno
06-23	1	Andover	near Blackwater R. just w. of Proctor ski area	M. Milligan
Chimney Swift				
06-09	3	Woodstock	Lost River breeding bird transect, WMNF	J. Williams
06-13	3	Keene	Emerald & Wilson Sts.	M. Wright
06-16	4	Franconia	wetlands w. of old Maple Leaf Farm	D. Howe
07-18	40	Concord	Pleasant St., over Pleasantview Manor	R. Suomala
07-28	22	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-28	2	Campton	Campton Pond	J. Williams
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				
07-17	3	Lyman	Dodge Pond residence	S. Turner
Red-headed Woodpecker				
06-05	1	Rye	White Is., Isles of Shoals	K. Bixler, S. Elliott
06-25	1	Merrimack	Dahl Rd., between Peaslee & Kyle	J. Normandin
07-26	1	Merrimack	Haines Terrace	J. Normandin
Red-bellied Woodpecker				
06-05	1	Dover	Bellamy R. WMA	M. Suomala
06-15	2	Stratham	s. of Swampscott Rd, e. of Rt. 108	G. Gavutis, Jr.
06-25	3	Windham	between First & Second Sts. on Corbett's Pond	M. & R. Harvey
07-11	1	Merrimack	Haines Terrace	J. Normandin
07-21	2	Stratham	College Rd., Rt. 108	S. & G. Gavutis, Jr., G. Gavutis, III
07-22	3	Stratham	College Rd., Rt. 108	G. Gavutis, Jr., G. Gavutis, III
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				
06-25	1	Woodstock	WMNF, Rt. 118 clearcut	J. Williams
06-25	5	Woodstock	Lost River breeding bird transect, WMNF	J. Williams
06-26	3	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
07-06	2 nests	Berlin	York Pond Rd.	M. & R. Suomala
07-14	3	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-20	4	Gilmanton	Middle Rt. residence	M. & R. Suomala, P. Hunt, B. Sens
Black-backed Woodpecker				
06-14	1	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-29	1	Beans Grant	Mt. Jackson	M. & R. Suomala
07-01	3	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	D. Govatski
07-04	1	Livermore	Nancy Pond	R. Woodward
07-08	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-10	1	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-28	4	Jefferson	summit of Starr King	D. Govatski
07-29	1	T&M Purchase	Jefferson Notch, Caps Ridge Trail	K. Gaskill
07-30	1	Errol	near boat launch ne. of Errol	K. Gaskill

Flycatchers

Surveys at Turkey Pond in Concord yielded very nice numbers of Eastern Woodpeewees. At West Foss Farm in Durham, Alder and Willow Flycatchers were singing in the same area, giving the observer the chance to contrast their songs. Willow Flycatchers are more common in southern New Hampshire, so the report from Woodstock represents a more northerly sighting of this under-reported species. Pawtuckaway State Park is still home to **Acadian Flycatcher**, which has been reported there every year but one since 1998.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Olive-sided Flycatcher				
06-10	3	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-13	1	Waterville Valley	WMNF	J. Williams
06-14	3	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd. & Comstock Hill Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-17	1	Effingham	Watts WS	P. Hunt
07-03	2	Sandwich	across from Thompson WS	R. Ridgely, T. Vazzano
07-08	2	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-29	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	K. Gaskill
Eastern Wood-Pewee				
06-11	11	Concord	around Turkey Pond	R. Quinn
06-18	1	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
07-14	10	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				
06-01	1	Franconia	Garfield Ridge Trail, Garfield Mtn.	J. Stockwell
06-01	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
06-13	20	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-17	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
06-29	1	Beans Grant	Mt. Webster	M. & R. Suomala
07-29	2	T&M Purchase	Jefferson Notch, Caps Ridge Trail	K. Gaskill
Acadian Flycatcher				
07-04	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
07-13	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
07-20	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
Alder Flycatcher				
06-02	4	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-02	3	Plymouth	Chaison Rd.	J. Williams
06-03	1	Derry	Ballard Marsh	A. Delorey
06-04&05	5	Dover	Bellamy R. WMA	M. Suomala
06-09	1	Woodstock	WMNF, Rt. 118 clearcut	J. Williams
06-09	1	Walpole	Scovill Rd.	R. Ritz
06-12	9	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-13	1	Durham	West Foss Farm	S. Mirick
06-27	4		Turee Brook	R. Quinn, T. Richards
07-28	5	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
07-28	2	Campton	Campton Pond	J. Williams

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Willow Flycatcher				
06-01	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	A.& B. Delorey
06-02	2	Plymouth	Chaison Rd.	J. Williams
06-04&05	23	Dover	Bellamy R. WMA survey	M. Suomala
06-11	1	Concord	marsh edge of Clinton St , Turkey Pond	R. Quinn
06-13	1	Durham	West Foss Farm	S. Mirick
06-25	1	Woodstock	Elbo Pond, WMNF	J. Williams
06-27	3		Turee Brook, Bow/Concord	R. Quinn, T. Richards
Trail's Flycatcher sp. (Willow/Alder)				
06-06	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	K. Bixler, S. Elliot
06-17	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
Least Flycatcher				
06-10	11	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-19	9	Concord	Little Turkey Pond	R. Quinn, T. Richards

Vireos, Jays & Crows Horned Lark, Purple Martin and Swallows

The big “news” in this group of bird families was the **Purple Martins** located in a survey headed by Pam Hunt, who searched for Martins at their historical locations (see report on page 36). The Purple Martin is one of New Hampshire’s Endangered Species and has been in decline for the past couple of decades; in most summers we receive only two or three reports. The reports below, from several observers, document that there are more Purple Martins than had been estimated but still fewer than when the *Atlas of Breeding Birds in New Hampshire* was compiled.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Yellow-throated Vireo				
06-02	1	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
06-11	1	Concord	ASNH, Silk Farm WS	R. Quinn
06-18	1	Thornton	Hix Mountain	J. Williams
06-22	1	Concord	St. Paul’s School	R. Quinn
06-26	1	Concord	Clinton St., Turkey Pond	R. Quinn
06-27	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
07-05	1	Haverhill	Bedell Bridge St. Pk.	M.& R. Suomala
Blue-headed Vireo				
06-09	2	Woodstock	Lost River breeding bird transect, WMNF	J. Williams
06-13	16	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-22	2	Concord	St. Paul’s School, Turkey Pond	R. Quinn
Warbling Vireo				
06-04&05	5	Dover	Bellamy R. WMA survey	M. Suomala
06-19	7	Concord	Little Turkey Pond	R. Quinn, T. Richards
07-07	5	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
Philadelphia Vireo				
06-09	2	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
07-06	1	Berlin	York Pond Fish Hatchery near camp cabins	M. & R. Suomala
07-10	1	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-29	1	T&M Purchase	Jefferson Notch, Caps Ridge Trail	K. Gaskill
Red-eyed Vireo				
06-09	28	Woodstock	Lost River breeding bird transect, WMNF	J. Williams
06-10	17	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-13	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
06-25	25	Woodstock	Lost River breeding bird transect, WMNF	J. Williams
07-07	11	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-09	20	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-14	16	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
Gray Jay				
06-12	1	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-14	3	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-29	3	Beans Grant	Mt. Jackson summit	M. & R. Suomala
06-29	1	Beans Grant	Mt. Webster summit	M. & R. Suomala
07-21	2	Beans Grant	Mt. Jackson summit	D. Govatski
07-28	2	Jefferson	Starr King summit	D. Govatski
Fish Crow				
06-13	1	Tilton	Shaw's Plaza	P. Hunt
06-13	1	Nottingham	s. end of Pawtuckaway L.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
Common Raven				
06-10	6	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-11	4	Dover	Rt. 108	S. Mirick
06-30	5		Epsom BBS	P. Newbern
Horned Lark				
06-08	2	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	S. Sturup
06-19	2	Concord	airport	P. Hunt
Purple Martin				
06-01	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
06-11	2	Greenland	Portsmouth CC	H. Anderson
06-17	46	Laconia	Fun Spot, Weirs Beach	P. Hunt
06-21	6	Freedom	Rt. 153	T. Vazzano
06-23	18	Freedom	Totem Pole Park, L. Ossipee	J. & D. Romano
07-09	24	Moultonborough	Lees Mill Road	P. Hunt
07-09	64	Laconia	Fun Spot, Weirs Beach	P. Hunt
07-16	6	Greenland	Portsmouth CC	P. Hunt
07-23	18	Moultonborough	off Kona Farm Rd.	P. Hunt
07-30	36	Conway	Rt. 302 at Maine line	R. Crowley
Tree Swallow				
06-11	260	Pittsburg	Second Connecticut L.	E. Nielsen
07-20	60	Gilmanton	pond off Middle Rt. by Grant Hill Rd.	M. & R. Suomala, P. Hunt, B. Sens, J. & B. Ayer
Bank Swallow				
06-01	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	A. & B. Delorey
06-09	3	Pittsburg	Second Connecticut L.	E. Nielsen

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Bank Swallow—continued				
07-05	50	Freedom	Ossipee Lake Rd. TNC Trail	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
07-24	2	Dover	Bellamy R. WMA	M. Suomala
Cliff Swallow				
06-10	6	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-12	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
06-12	2	Pittsburg	Hall Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-05	10	Sandwich	Whiteface Intervale	R. Ridgely, T. Vazzano
07-07	2	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-09	3	Pittsburg	Metallak Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-28	5	Campton	Pulsifer's Farm, Bog Rd.	J. Williams
Barn Swallow				
06-15	12	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
07-17	20	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
07-20	30	Gilmanton	Middle Rt. & Grant Hill Rd.	M.& R. Suomala, P. Hunt, B. Sens, J.& B. Ayer
07-28	45	Campton	Pulsifer's Farm, Bog Rd.	J. Williams

Chickadees, Wrens, Kinglets, Gnatcatchers

Two species, Boreal Chickadee and Marsh Wren, were seen in higher-than-typical numbers this summer. Typically, the past few years, *New Hampshire Bird Records* receives three to six reports of Marsh Wrens. This summer's eleven reports from nine different locations is the largest number in over a decade. A sample is listed below.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Boreal Chickadee				
06-08	3	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	R. Woodward, Capital Area Chapter FT
06-10	2	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd. & Smith Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-12	4	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-14	2	Errol	Tidswell Pt. bog	C. Martin
06-23	1	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	S. Sturup, M. Krenitsky
06-29	1	Beans Grant	Mt. Webster	M.& R. Suomala
07-04	2	T&M Purchase	Cap's Ridge Trail	D. Govatski
07-08	3	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-09	1	Pittsburg	Metallak Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-10	7	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-20	2	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	R. Crowley
07-29	6	T&M Purchase	Jefferson Notch, Caps Ridge Trail	K. Gaskill
07-30	1		Androscoggin R.	K. Gaskill
Carolina Wren				
06-03	2	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	W. Harris, et al.
06-09	1	Concord	Wildemere Terrace	D. Howe
06-11	1	Newmarket	Bay View Drive	S. Mirick
06-12	1	Dover	Bellamy R. WMA	M. Suomala
06-18	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
06-21	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-09	1	Chester	Derry Road, Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
07-29	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.

Marsh Wren

06-01	10	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	A. & B. Delorey
06-11	1	Lyme	River Rd.	S. Sturup
06-14	3	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Mirick, D. Abbott
06-18	5	Antrim	ne. of Willard Pond, n. of Goodhue Hill	M. Milligan
07-14	1	Moultonborough	Markus WS	P. Hunt
07-22	1	Stratham	College Rd., Rt. 108	G. Gavutis, Jr., G. Gavutis, III
07-24	1	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir	C. Martin
07-30	1	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir	K. Gaskill

Golden-crowned Kinglet

06-12	26	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-11	31	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

06-12	10	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
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Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

06-26	2	Derry	Ballard Marsh	A. Delorey
07-19	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano

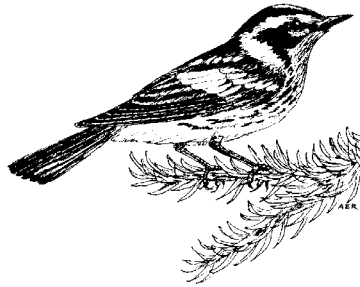
**Thrushes, Mockingbirds
& Thrashers, Waxwings**

For the past two summers, the Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences has been conducting a survey of high-mountain birds in the Northeast, from the Catskills and Adirondacks in New York State to the mountains of central Maine. Although several species are being surveyed, the primary focus is on Bicknell's Thrush. "Mountain Birdwatchers" have observed Bicknell's New Hampshire on:

Dixville Peak	Kinsman Mountain	Middle Carter Mountain
Mount Blue (Benton)	Mount Cabot	Mount Carrigain
Mount Clay	Mount Eisenhower	Mount Hale
Mount Jackson	Mount Jefferson	Mount Madison
Mount Martha	Mount Moosilauke	Mount Osceola
Mount Resolution	Mount Starr King	Mount Tecumseh
Mount Tremont	Mount Washington	Mount Webster
Mount Wolf	Nancy Pond	North Baldface (Chatham)
Sandwich Dome	Smarts Mountain (Lyme)	South Twin Mountain
Sugarloaf (Stratford)	Wildcat Mountain	

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Eastern Bluebird				
06-11	6	Antrim	Clinton Rd.	M. Kallanian
06-28	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
07-20	2	Stratham	College Rd. Rt. 108	G. Gavutis, Jr., G. Gavutis, III
07-27	5	Plymouth	Crescent St.	J. Williams

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Veery				
06-09	6	Woodstock	Lost River breeding bird transect, WMNF	J. Williams
06-11	27	Concord	around Turkey Pond	R. Quinn
07-04	18	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
07-06	31	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
07-07	7	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-14	27	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
Bicknell's Thrush				
06-08	2	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	R. Woodward, Capital Area Chapter FT
06-26	1	Carroll	Mt. Martha	B. Taffe
06-29	4	Beans Grant	Mt. Webster & Mt. Jackson	M. & R. Suomala
07-01	3	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	D. Govatski
07-20	1	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	R. Crowley
07-29	1	T&M Purchase	Jefferson Notch, Caps Ridge Trail	K. Gaskill
Swainson's Thrush				
06-13	39	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-30	4		Three Ponds Trail, WMNF	J. Williams
07-09	18	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen
Wood Thrush				
06-11	3	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
06-25	2	Thornton	woods n. of Tripoli Rd.	J. Williams
07-04	11	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
07-07	60	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-14	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
07-14	2	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
Gray Catbird				
07-07	16	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-14	7	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
07-26	4	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
Brown Thrasher				
06-02	2	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-11	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
06-19	1	Dover	Bellamy R. WMA	M. Suomala
06-25	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	M. Suomala
06-26	1	Northumberland	Herman Savage Rd.	B. Taffe
06-29	2	Plymouth	Pine Gate Rd.	J. Williams
Cedar Waxwing				
06-27	14		Turee Brook	R. Quinn, T. Richards
07-09	42	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen



Blackburnian Warbler
by Andrea Robbins

Wood Warblers

Erik Nielsen's annual summer surveys in Pittsburg yield significant diversity and numbers of "northern" warblers. A sampling of his 2002 observations are included below. Summertime Blackburnian Warblers are uncommon in the southern part of the state in the summer, so reports from Concord, Durham, and Epsom are "good finds." Blackpoll Warblers are also less common in the south, but in this case the birds

seen on June 4 in Durham were probably late migrants. Unfortunately BBS data for the Canada Warblers suggests this species is in rapid decline in New Hampshire with current numbers only one-sixth of their 1960s values. The Canada Warbler seen on July 6 in Berlin was reported to be "carrying food." The pair reported from Durham on June 8 seemed to the observer to be "territorial." A Yellow-breasted Chat made its first summer appearance in *New Hampshire Bird Records*.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Blue-winged Warbler				
06-04&05	6	Dover	Bellamy R. WMA	M. Suomala
06-25	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	M. Suomala
07-07	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
Brewster's Warbler - hybrid				
06-20	1	Dover	Bellamy R. WMA	M. Suomala
Nashville Warbler				
06-07	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	K. Bixler, S. Elliot
06-12	13	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-13	30	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-21	5	Carroll	Mt. Martha	B. Taffe
Northern Parula				
06-10	7	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-17	3	Effingham	Watts WS	P. Hunt
07-13	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
Yellow Warbler				
06-04&05	27	Dover	Bellamy R. WMA survey	M. Suomala
06-02	4	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-17	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
06-19	13	Concord	Little Turkey Pond	R. Quinn, T. Richards
Chestnut-sided Warbler				
06-04&05	6	Dover	Bellamy R. WMA survey	M. Suomala
06-09	4	Woodstock	WMNF, Rt. 118 clearcut	J. Williams
06-10	15	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-21	5	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Magnolia Warbler				
06-10	37	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd. & Smith Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-12	22	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-13	37	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-29	2	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-30	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
Black-throated Blue Warbler				
06-09	7	Woodstock	Lost River breeding bird transect, WMNF	J. Williams
06-13	9	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-08	6	Hanover	Velvet Rock Trail	S. Sturup
07-20	6	Lyme	Holts Ledge	S. Sturup
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
06-13	35	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
Black-throated Green Warbler				
06-09	11	Woodstock	Lost River breeding bird transect, WMNF	J. Williams
06-13	38	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
Blackburnian Warbler				
06-08	2	Durham	Foss Farm	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
06-14	12	Pittsburg	Harris Pond Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-19	1	Concord	St. Paul's School white pines	R. Quinn, T. Richards
06-23	3		Nancy Pond Trail, Crawford Notch	S. Sturup, L. & M. Krenitsky
06-30	1		Epsom BBS	P. Newbern
06-30	3		Three Ponds Trail, WMNF	J. Williams
Pine Warbler				
07-06	17	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
Prairie Warbler				
06-11	1	Concord	sw. of Turkey Pond	R. Quinn
06-19	5	Concord	airport	P. Hunt
07-05	2	Alexandria	Wilmot BBS	P. Newbern
07-07	3	Gilmanton	Kardinal Farms, Hall's Hill Rd. & Canney Hill Rd.	G. McElroy
Bay-breasted Warbler				
06-09	12	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-12	7	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-08	17	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
Blackpoll Warbler				
06-01	1	Washington	Pillsbury St. Pk.	P. Hunt, et al.
06-04	2	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Rd.	S. Mirick
06-09	12	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-12	6	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-13	48	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-23	3	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	S. Sturup, M. Krenitsky
07-04	10	Livermore	Nancy Pond Trail	R. Woodward
Cerulean Warbler				
summer	3	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk. surveys	ASNH volunteers
Black-and-white Warbler				
06-16	9	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-14	5	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
American Redstart				
06-13	18	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-16	7	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-22	8	Concord	St. Paul's School	R. Quinn
Ovenbird				
06-25	16	Woodstock	Lost River breeding bird transect, WMNF	J. Williams
06-29	8	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-30	11		Three Ponds Trail, WMNF	J. Williams
Northern Waterthrush				
06-13	5	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
Mourning Warbler				
06-10	2	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-14	2	Pittsburg	Harris Pond Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-21	3	Randolph	Bog Dam Rd., WMNF	J. Williams
07-06	2	Berlin	York Pond Rd.	M.& R. Suomala
07-09	6	Pittsburg	Coon Brook Bog Rd. & Smith Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen
Common Yellowthroat				
06-04&05	37	Dover	Bellamy R. WMA survey	M. Suomala
07-09	26	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-21	13	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
Wilson's Warbler				
06-09	1	Pittsburg	Coon Brook Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-10	1	Pittsburg	area near border	E. Nielsen
06-12	1	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-13	4	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-14	3	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-30	1	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	K. Gaskill
Canada Warbler				
06-02	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-13	9	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-23	1		Nancy Pond Trail, Crawford Notch	S. Sturup, L.& M. Krenitsky
06-26	2	Concord	bog at sw. edge of Turkey Pond	R. Quinn
07-02	1	Thornton	Tripoli Road	J. Williams, C. Martin
07-06	2	Berlin	York Pond Rd.	M.& R. Suomala
Yellow-breasted Chat				
06-04	1	Dover	Bellamy R. WMA	M. Suomala
06-05	1	Dover	Bellamy R. WMA	M. Suomala

Tanagers, Sparrows, Towhees and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks

Scarlet Tanagers and Eastern Towhees were reported in greater numbers than usual in Summer 2002. Tanager sightings with the largest counts are listed below.

Pam Hunt systematically looked for Grasshopper Sparrows and found them at several locations in both June and July indicating that these were resident birds. Pam reported that "although ... the species has turned out to be more common than once

thought, it is still limited to a very few locations in the state, many of which are still at risk." See page 38 for a full report.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Scarlet Tanager				
06-04&05	6	Dover	Bellamy R. WMA survey	M. Suomala
06-09	4	Woodstock	Lost River breeding bird transect, WMNF	J. Williams
06-19	6	Center Harbor	Chamberlain-Reynolds Memorial Forest	T. Vazzano
06-30	8		Epsom BBS	P. Newbern
07-14	10	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
07-21	6	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
Eastern Towhee				
06-02	2	Plymouth	Ledgeside Dr.	J. Williams
06-11	2	Concord	w. of Turkey Pond	R. Quinn
06-16	2	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-03	1	Concord	St. Paul's School	R. Quinn, T. Richards
07-05	10	Freedom	Ossipee Lake Rd. TNC Trail	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
07-07	5	Gilmanon	Kardinal Farms, Hall's Hill Rd. & Canney Hill Rd.	G. McElroy
Field Sparrow				
06-28	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	B. Delorey
06-29	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow hayfield	M. Wright
07-07	6	Gilmanon	Kardinal Farms, Hall's Hill Rd. & Canney Hill Rd.	G. McElroy
07-10	1	Pittsburg	Day Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-31	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
Vesper Sparrow				
06-20	1	Merrimack	Anheuser-Busch Brewery fields	P. Hunt
06-26	6	Concord	airport	P. Hunt
07-05	2	Freedom	Ossipee Lake Rd., TNC Trail	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
07-05	3	Tamworth	Ambrose gravel pit	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
07-07	2	Gilmanon	Kardinal Farms, Hall's Hill Rd. & Canney Hill Rd.	G. McElroy
Savannah Sparrow				
06-02	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-08	1	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	S. Sturup
06-11	3	Pittsburg	Day Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-11	2	Pittsburg	Tabor Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-12	3	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-12	8	Pittsburg	Hall Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-19	13	Concord	airport	P. Hunt
07-21	1	Concord	Birch St.	R. Suomala
Grasshopper Sparrow				
06-09	2	Newington	Pease Int'l Tradeport, n. end	M. & R. Suomala
06-13	1	Lee	Old Mill Road gravel pits	S. Mirick
06-19	12	Concord	airport	P. Hunt
06-20	4	Amherst	cemetery fields	P. Hunt
06-20	7	Merrimack	Anheuser-Busch Brewery fields	P. Hunt
06-28	1	Amherst	fields along Souhegan R.	P. Hunt
07-05	1	Tamworth	Ambrose gravel pit	R. Ridgely, T. Vazzano
07-10	12	Concord	airport	P. Hunt

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
07-13	5	Amherst	cemetery fields	P. Hunt
07-25	7	Merrimack	Anheuser-Busch Brewery fields	P. Hunt
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow				
06-14	5	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Mirick
06-16	3	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Sturup
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow				
06-14	5	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Mirick, D. Abbott
07-12	8	Hampton	Henry's pool, Rt. 101E	A. & B. Delorey
07-24	10	Hampton	saltmarsh behind Little Jack's Restaurant	R. & M. Suomala
Seaside Sparrow				
07-24	1	Hampton	saltmarsh behind Little Jack's Restaurant	R. & M. Suomala
Song Sparrow				
07-21	27	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
Lincoln's Sparrow				
06-14	1	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-25	1	Pittsburg	French WS beaver meadow	M. Milligan
07-08	11	Pittsburg	Comstock Hill Rd. & Magalloway Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-09	13	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-10	5	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
Swamp Sparrow				
06-27	41		Turee Brook, Bow/Concord	R. Quinn, T. Richards
07-06	19	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
07-08	9	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
White-throated Sparrow				
06-09	22	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-10	28	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-12	24	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-14	22	Pittsburg	Comstock Hill Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-27	4	Bow	Turee Pond Bog	R. Quinn, T. Richards
07-08	36	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-09	26	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
06-04&05	8	Dover	Bellamy R. WMA survey	M. Suomala
06-25	5	Woodstock	Lost River breeding bird transect, WMNF	J. Williams
07-17	3	Columbia	residence	D. & B. Killam
07-20	5	Gilmanton	Middle Rt. residence	M. & R. Suomala, P. Hunt, B. Sens, J. & B. Ayer
07-28	6	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt

Blackbirds, Orioles & Allies, Finches & Allies

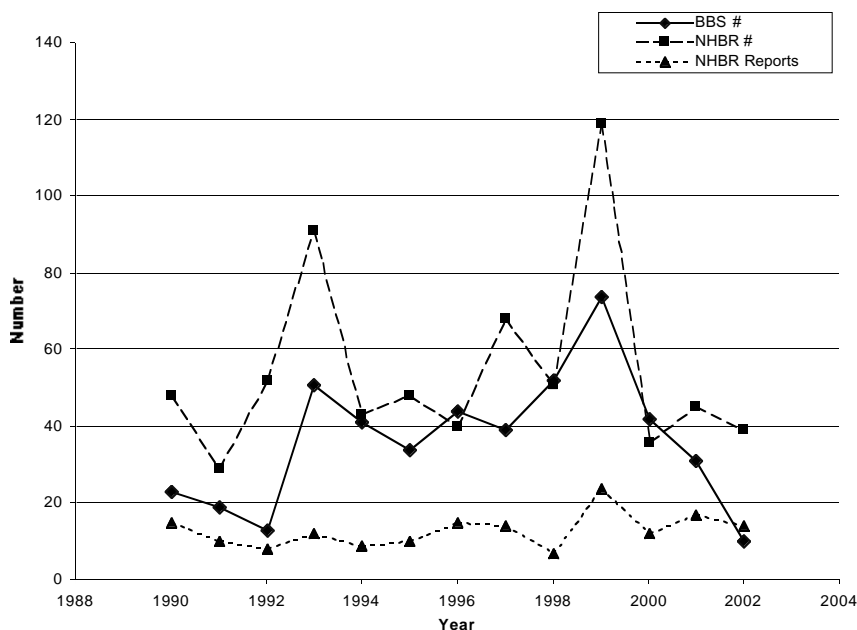
The Rusty Blackbirds from the Isles of Shoals in early June are unexpected at this location and date. They are usually on their breeding territories in northern wetlands by this time.

Reports of Orchard Orioles were unusually heavy. Through the 1990s Orchard Orioles would typically be reported from only two or three locations. The seven different locations reported in 2002 is significantly above the norm. George Gavutis' sighting on July 20 included adults feeding two fledged young.

The Purple Finch reports are not unusual but are all included because it is the New Hampshire State Bird.

It sometimes seems strange to treat the grosbeaks in two very different groupings of birds, but appearances and common names can be deceiving, and the Rose-breasted Grosbeak is more closely related to the cardinals (listed in the previous grouping of species), while the Evening Grosbeak is closer to the finches. Evening Grosbeaks bear watching. Pam Hunt's recent analysis of BBS Evening Grosbeak data (*New Hampshire Bird Records*, Vol. 18 No. 4) showed a consistent increase in numbers from the mid-80s to 1999. Since then, however, BBS numbers have plummeted. The 2002 BBS Evening Grosbeak numbers were the lowest recorded since 1987. *New Hampshire Bird Records* reports have likewise declined since 1999 though our data is less systematic and exhibits more scatter. The Evening Grosbeaks reported in Pawtuckaway State Park on June 6 were building a nest. Later observations indicated that the nesting was not successful.

Evening Grosbeaks Comparison of Breeding Bird Survey and New Hampshire Bird Records Data



<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Bobolink				
06-04	1	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Rd.	S. Mirick
06-09	1	Carroll	Mt. Washington Hotel golf course	J. Yates
06-09	4	Orford	Quintown Rd., Marsh Rd.	S. Sturup
06-11	2	Greenland	Portsmouth Country Club	H. Anderson
06-11	4	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-12	4	Pittsburg	Hall Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-16	2	Concord	Community Gardens, Clinton St.	D. Howe
06-26	2	Northumberland	Lost Nation Rd.	B. Taffe
06-29	8	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-07		Gilmanton	Kardinal Farms, Hall's Hill Rd. & Canney Hill Rd.	G. McElroy
07-23	70	Dover	Bellamy R. WMA	M. Suomala
07-27	4	Concord	Birch St.	R. Suomala
Eastern Meadowlark				
06-08	4	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	S. Sturup
06-12	2	Pittsburg	Hall Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-19	3	Concord	airport	P. Hunt
07-21	1	Concord	Birch St.	R. Suomala
Rusty Blackbird				
06-04	3	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, K. Bixler, S. Elliot
06-10	4	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-11	2	Pittsburg	Magalloway Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-13	5	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-14	4	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-24	5	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	R. Quinn, T. Vazzano, B. Ridgely, G. Tudor
06-25	1	Pittsburg	French WS beaver meadow	M. Milligan
07-06	2	Berlin	Unknown Pond trailhead, York Pond Rd.	M. & R. Suomala
07-09	1	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-10	1	Pittsburg	Moose Falls flowage	E. Nielsen
Orchard Oriole				
06-08	1	Newington	end of Pease Int'l Tradeport runway	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
06-08	1	Newington	Great Bay NWR	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
06-13	1	Lee	Old Mill Road Gravel Pits	S. Mirick
06-13	1	Nottingham	boat ramp, n. end of Pawtuckaway L.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
06-29	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
07-01	6	Dover	Bellamy R. WMA	M. Suomala
07-20	6	Stratham	College Rd., Rt. 108	G. Gavutis, Jr., G. Gavutis, III
Baltimore Oriole				
06-04&05	11	Dover	Bellamy R. WMA	M. Suomala
06-15	20	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
06-16	10	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-19	10	Concord	Little Turkey Pond	R. Quinn, T. Richards
07-31	6	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
Purple Finch				
06-10	4	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-12	1	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Purple Finch—continued				
06-12	4	Pittsburg	Hall Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-23	3	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	S. Sturup, M. Krenitsky
06-28	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
07-08&09	7	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd. & Smith Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-30	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
White-winged Crossbill				
07-11	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
Pine Siskin				
06-10	6	Pittsburg	Moose Pond Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-06	1	Pinkhams Grant	Pinkham Notch	M.& R. Suomala
07-10	1	Pittsburg	Day Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-11	2	Pittsburg	Metallak Rd.	E. Nielsen
American Goldfinch				
06-15	30	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
Evening Grosbeak				
06-01	5	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	J. Berry
06-01	2	Canterbury	Baptist Hill Rd.	R. Quinn
06-09&10	3	Pittsburg	town & East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-10	2	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-12&14	2	Pittsburg	Harris Pond Rd. & Timberland	E. Nielsen
06-29	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Gavutis, Jr.
07-06	3	Jackson	Carter Notch Rd.	M.& R. Suomala
07-06	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
07-09&10	6	Pittsburg	Metallak Rd. & Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-15	7	Plymouth	Pine Gate Rd.	J. Williams
07-20	5	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	R. Crowley
07-20	1	Canterbury	Baptist Hill Rd.	R. Quinn
07-20	2	Gilmanton	Middle Rt. by Grant Hill Rd.	M.& R. Suomala, P. Hunt, B. Sens
07-24	1	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Quinn, T. Richards

Reporters for Summer 2002

Karen Acerno	Kurt Gaskill	Steve Mirick	Larry Sunderland
Jeannine Ayer	George Gavutis, Jr.	Marie Neveu	Mark Suomala
Jim Berry	David Govatski	Peter Newbern	Rebecca Suomala
Kirsten Bixler	Bill Harris	Erik Nielsen	Bill Taffe
H. Cook Anderson	Michael Harvey	Jeff Normandin	Sandra Turner
Ham Coolidge	Dan Hayward	Greg Prazar	Tony Vazzano
Robert Crowley	David Howe	Robert Quinn	John Williams
Alan Delorey	C. E. Hoyt	Robert Ritz	Rob Woodward
Barbara Delorey	Pam Hunt	Judy Romano	Mary Wright
Laura Deming	Sandra Jessop	William Schults	John Yates
Larry Devoncourt	Barbara Killam	Wayne Scott	
Jane Doherty	David Killam	Brenda Sens	Some sightings
Alan Eaton	Karen Kluge	Dawn Stavros	were reported to
Su Elliot	Chris Martin	J. R. Stockwell	the NH.Birds list
Kenneth Folsom	Mike Milligan	Stefan Sturup	serve.

2002 Piping Plover Breeding Season Summary

by Allison Briggaman

Piping Plovers (*Charadrius melodus*) returned again this spring to the seacoast, where they nest along the sandy beaches and raise their young. In an effort to protect this federally threatened, state-endangered species, the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, together with other agencies and many volunteers, erected temporary fencing along the beaches around areas of suitable habitat and set up exclosures around nests, once they had been established, to provide the birds some protection during the breeding season. Monitoring occurred on a daily basis to determine territories, locate nests, track when eggs were laid and when they hatched, and keep watch over the young chicks until they fledged.

The protection effort has been ongoing in the state for six consecutive years and has been very successful, with several chicks being fledged each year. This year started out with great promise when five pair returned to Seabrook Beach and two pair returned to Hampton Beach State Park, where they established their territories and their nests. Unfortunately, the weather does not always cooperate and was particularly hard on the Piping Plovers this year, which resulted in a significant loss of eggs, some nests, and some young chicks. Suspected predation also resulted in the loss of some chicks.

There were a total of 13 nests. Two pair nested once, four pair nested twice, and one pair nested a third time after they lost young chicks from their second nest. This is very rare and previously had been undocumented as occurring in New Hampshire. These nests yielded 44 eggs, most of which were lost due to weather and 11 of which hatched. Out of all that effort, one pair at Hampton Beach State Park successfully fledged one chick.

The weather had a big impact on plover productivity this year. Winter seemed to linger longer than usual, and on May 18 a storm brought strong winds, rain, and even snow to the seacoast. This resulted in several of the pairs losing their first nests. Every pair renested, and things were looking good until a nor'easter swept the coast on June 15. The storm brought high tides, rain, and strong winds. Two nests, one in Hampton and one in Seabrook, were abandoned, and the eggs were lost in the blowing sand. A third pair at Seabrook lost their two chicks, which had just hatched the day before. The weather resulted in eight nests and three chicks being lost this year.

Out of the eleven chicks that hatched, predation was their biggest threat. Several predators were present on the beaches, including gulls, house cats, and dogs. Seven of the eleven chicks were lost to suspected predation. People can also be a threat to Pip-



Piping Plover
by Allison Briggaman

ing Plovers. Kite flying, digging holes in the sand, campfires on the beach, and simply walking through dunes and breeding areas are all activities that may seem innocent to beach goers but could be fatal to breeding plovers and especially young chicks.

Although this was the lowest productivity observed since the protection effort began in 1997, it is anticipated that the seven pairs will return again next year and be more successful in raising young in 2003. Small populations, such as that occurring in New Hampshire, are very important in helping the species recover because they typically are very productive and slowly, over time, help the overall population grow.

Volunteers play a very important role in the protection effort. Several people spent hours on the beach maintaining symbolic fencing, setting up exclosures, monitoring breeding pairs and their chicks, and helping spread public awareness. One couple from Seabrook Beach kept close watch over a nesting pair near their home and helped out by monitoring the birds and educating their neighbors about them.

In cooperation with the town of Seabrook, a new Piping Plover display was erected near the Haverhill street entrance in an attempt to help educate the public about the birds and why it is important to protect them. A similar display is in the works for Hampton Beach State Park for next year.

Allison Briggaman was employed by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department in Summer 2002 as the Piping Plover Monitor. She recently completed her degree in Wildlife Management at the University of New Hampshire and continues to work for the Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird Nest

By Sandy Turner

Fights over flowers and feeders. Males arcing over females half-hidden in daylilies. Females gathering spiderwebs from the eaves of the cottage. For fifty years Ruby-throated Hummingbird behavior has entertained us at our Dodge Pond residence in Lyman, New Hampshire. Try as we might, though, we could never find a nest. On July 12, 2002, I finally spotted one.

The tiny nest was set on a sloping maple branch about 20 feet above the water's edge. A female sat low in it, incubating eggs in the 80-degree weather. I set my telescope by a bedroom window and watched as often as possible.

July 12-16 the adult was on the nest five to seven minutes at a time. When she left the nest to feed, she was back within two minutes. While on the nest, her head was constantly moving, watching her surroundings. July 17 brought a change in behavior: she perched on the edge of the lichen-covered nest, peering intently into it. Between light rain showers she would dart away, returning within a minute. That afternoon was the first I noted her appear to feed: she pumped her bill up and down at two different places. Although the nest is only one-and-a-half inches in diameter,

the young hummingbird, which hatches from a pea-sized egg, was not visible above the rim.

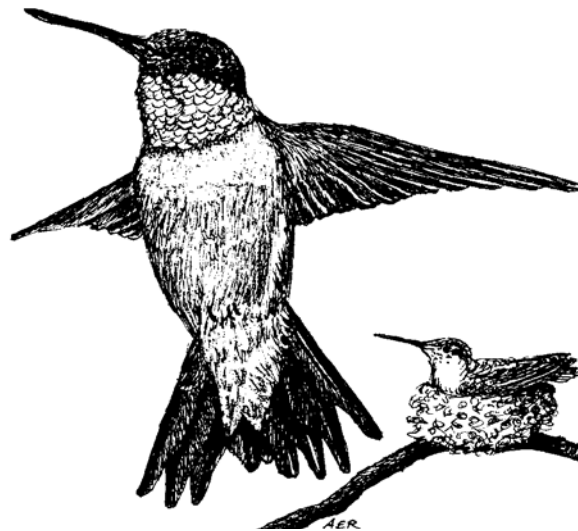
Two unfeathered young could be seen five days later. At 86 degrees, the weather was good enough for the adult female to leave the nest for ten minutes. At times she would gnat-catch in nearby trees just before heading to the nest to feed the young. By July 25 the nestlings were visible at any time. Their beaks, which were short when first seen, were now lengthening and turning dark.

July 26 produced the first "bad hair" day, as feathers began to sprout on top of their heads, and the next day they both "squirted" over the side of the nest. By July 29 they were exercising their wings, although feathers were not fully developed.

Every day now brought something new. The adult watched from a branch about five feet away, going to the nest only to feed. The young must have been hot; it was 88 degrees and the nest was filling up. And they were itchy as their feathers grew. They preened often, and the dominant young initiated "sword fights" with its three-quarters-length beak. By August 7 the nest was stretched and the lichens no longer camouflaged it.

On August 8, the twenty-second day from hatch, both nestlings were still filling the nest at 6:00 a.m. When I checked at 7:30 a.m., one had fledged. At 8:34 a.m. I watched the second fledge, a thrill that fully equaled seeing the young Bald Eagles fledge at Lake Umbagog!

Sandy Turner is the author of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird account in the Atlas of Breeding Bird in New Hampshire. She has traveled to southern Arizona, where she helped band hummingbirds. She and her husband, Mark, have also traveled to Costa Rica, Peru, and Trinidad to enjoy them.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird
by Andrea Robbins

2002 Purple Martin and Common Nighthawk Summary

by Pam Hunt

In 2002 the Audubon Society of New Hampshire conducted surveys on the distribution of Purple Martins and Common Nighthawks in New Hampshire with funding from the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department's Nongame & Endangered Wildlife Program. Both species have declined, as you will see in the following summaries.

Purple Martin Survey

From the late 1950s through the mid-1980s, there were between 20 and 30 active Purple Martin colonies in New Hampshire. They were concentrated in a wide band that extended from northwest Hillsborough County to most of Carroll County, with a few outliers in the southeast. By the early 1990s, however, the species' status in the state had changed dramatically. During the 1990s, there were consistent reports from only seven locations, with scattered breeding-season reports from three or four more—a decline of over 50% in only ten years. In light of this precipitous decline, the Purple Martin was upgraded from Threatened to Endangered when New Hampshire revised its Endangered Species List in 2000. That upgrade led to an extensive survey of martins in New Hampshire during 2002.

After conducting this survey, it is clear that the situation hasn't changed, and for some colonies, at least, it might be getting worse. What follows is an overview of the current distribution of Purple Martin in the state in 2002.

Of the seven active colonies, five are in Carroll County, with the other two in Laconia and Greenland. The Laconia colony is probably the most famous because it is located right along Route 3 at the Fun Spot in Weirs Beach. This site was first used by martins in 1968 and contained roughly ten pairs through the 1980s. In 2002 it contained 25 pairs, most of which appeared to have successfully fledged young. The next-largest colony is along Route 302 in Center Conway, only a stone's throw from Maine. It's been active since the early 1970s and hosts around 15 pairs. Moultonborough has the honor of hosting two colonies, both with roughly ten pairs. One is along Lees Mill Road just east of Audubon's Loon Center, and the other is on private property on Moultonborough Neck.

These four colonies make up the majority of New Hampshire's martin population. Two more colonies are located in Freedom, and in 2002 I'm not sure that either was



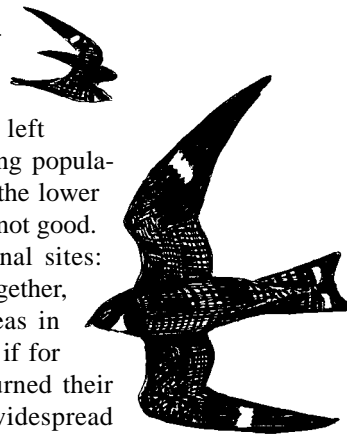
Purple Martin by Andrea Robbins

successful. One, on the shore of Ossipee Lake, contained only three pairs, and I never saw positive evidence of young. The other is just north of Effingham Falls and was even less active: martins were present on some visits and not others, and I don't even have a good estimate of the number of birds. The final colony is on the shore of Great Bay in Greenland, and it too only contained three pairs. These birds, at least, were successful in raising young. Of these three, the Effingham Falls colony has the longest history and contained upwards of 40 pairs in the early 1980s. If current trends continue, I would not be surprised if all three colonies were gone within five years.

The New Hampshire decline is part of a broader population decrease over much of eastern North America that started in the mid-1980s. There is some speculation that events on the winter grounds have played a role, because there has been no recent cold summer of the type known to cause martin mortality during the breeding season. For now, the best we can do is continue to monitor our known colonies and keep an eye out for new ones. With that in mind, I encourage birders to report any Purple Martins they see, especially during the summer season, and most especially if they're breeding at a location other than those mentioned in this article!

Common Nighthawk Survey

After 2001's limited nighthawk survey, we expanded the project statewide in 2002. Once again volunteers visited downtown areas during July to look for this increasingly rare goat-sucker. Last year the only Merrimack Valley sites to contain nighthawks were Concord and Franklin. This situation hasn't changed. We're left wondering what has happened to the once-thriving populations in Manchester and the other urban areas in the lower valley. Meanwhile, the species' status statewide is not good. Nighthawks were only recorded at two additional sites: Woodsville and Keene. If all four sites are added together, there were only 10-15 nighthawks in urban areas in 2002! I strongly suspect this is an underestimate, if for no other reason than that not all volunteers returned their forms, but the point remains that this once-widespread species has declined considerably in the last decade. It is also worth pointing out that nighthawks occur in natural habitats in the Ossipee Pine Barrens and were reported from this area in 2002, although not part of the survey. As with the Purple Martin, the best way to help us learn about this species is to submit records to the Audubon Society of New Hampshire via *New Hampshire Bird Records* or other means. So keep your eyes and ears open on those warm summer nights—you just might detect one of New Hampshire's most threatened birds!



*Common Nighthawks
by Iain MacLeod*

Pam Hunt is the Spring Editor of New Hampshire Bird Records and coordinates the Important Bird Area Program and Biodiversity Conservation Project for the Audubon Society of New Hampshire.

2002 Grasshopper Sparrow Survey

by Pam Hunt



Grasshopper Sparrow
by Andrea Robbins

The Grasshopper Sparrow is listed as Threatened in New Hampshire, where it is found primarily in the lower Merrimack Valley. In 2002, with funding from the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department's Nongame & Endangered Wildlife Program, I conducted extensive surveys of the three main sites in the valley in an attempt to get a better idea of population size and breeding status. The only regular location outside the valley, Pease International Tradeport, was covered by Diane DeLuca in the course of Upland Sandpiper surveys.

During grassland bird surveys in 1999, a total of nine territorial males were found in New Hampshire. The good news is that there are many more than we thought. In the Concord Airport alone, there were roughly twelve singing males in 2002, and most of these appeared to have mates. The other two sites are Cemetery Fields in Amherst and Anheuser-Busch in Merrimack, each of which hosted three or four males and probably two breeding pairs. Birds at all three sites were seen carrying food at various times, an indication of successful breeding. A single bird of unknown gender was seen at a second site in Amherst, but its field was mowed before any additional data could be collected.

Meanwhile, in other parts of the state, there was no consistent evidence that Grasshopper Sparrows were at the Pease International Tradeport in 2002. Two were heard singing in early June but not afterward, despite extensive searching, so it's possible that they were late migrants. A possible Grasshopper Sparrow was heard in mid-July, but again there was no clear pattern of occurrence. At this time we're still not clear what the true status of the species is at Pease. Two other males were heard singing at gravel pits in Lee and Sandwich, but their behavior suggests they were unmated birds: neither stayed in the area very long.

Right now the places where Grasshopper Sparrows nest in New Hampshire are fairly secure, so future work is likely to clarify their population size and breeding success in the Merrimack Valley as well as to determine their true status at Pease. Additional work will be directed toward developing management plans for existing sites and an overall conservation plan for the species statewide. Through a combination of management and outreach, perhaps we'll find ways to encourage these secretive sparrows to increase in New Hampshire's scattered grasslands.

Pam Hunt is the Spring Editor of New Hampshire Bird Records and coordinates the Important Bird Area Program and Biodiversity Conservation Project for the Audubon Society of New Hampshire.

2002 Upland Sandpiper Survey

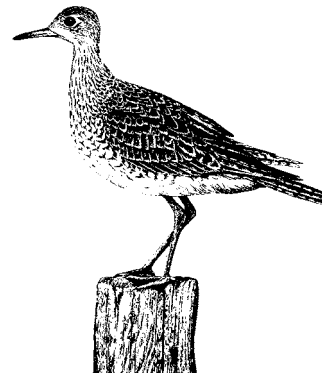
by *Diane De Luca*

Once found in the thousands feeding on insect pests on farms throughout New England, the Upland Sandpiper population has diminished as the number of farms has shrunk. This species is now found at only one known location in the state, and Upland Sandpipers are now considered endangered in New Hampshire. At present, the Pease International Tradeport, in Newington, supports the only known nesting population of Upland Sandpipers in New Hampshire; the 2002 population is estimated at eight to twelve pairs.

Upland Sandpiper habitat at Pease exists on the airfield and includes three grassy "islands" surrounded by the runway and connecting taxiways. Each "island" is at least 60 acres; there are also additional grassy areas that provide over 250 acres of potential nesting habitat. Pease "island" vegetation is characterized by grasses widely interspersed with a variety of herbaceous plants and the occasional woody species. Migration data from 1990-1997 points out the importance of the Pease airfield not only as breeding habitat for New Hampshire's only remaining population but as a migration stopover for the regional population north and east.

From 1990 through 1997, the Pease airfield upland population was monitored on a regular basis. In spite of all the activity associated with commercial and military air traffic and the various construction projects initiated by the change from military air base to commercial airport, Upland Sandpipers continued to breed on the airfield. Through the 1990s the following agencies worked together to allow airfield operations to proceed with consideration for Upland Sandpiper breeding needs: Audubon Society of New Hampshire, New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, Air Force Base Conversion Agency, Department of Environmental Services, and Pease Airfield Management. Coordination among these agencies, prior to and during the breeding season, provided protection for the Upland Sandpiper. Of critical importance is the timing of mowing on the airfield. A mowing regime has been developed that meets airport safety requirements and protects the sandpipers during the vulnerable incubation and young (pre-flight) chick stages.

However, since 1997 no regular monitoring has taken place until this past breeding season. The New Hampshire Fish and Game Nongame and Endangered Species Program funded the monitoring of Upland Sandpipers at Pease this year as part of a larger project to look at grassland birds. Preliminary indications are that the population may be in some decline. Estimates of breeding pairs fell from a high of 12-16 pairs in 1997 back to 8-12 pairs in 2002. In addition, the number of migrating sandpipers using the Pease airfield as a stopover has been falling steadily since 1993, perhaps indicating a



Upland Sandpiper
by *Andrea Robbins*

more regional decline. With little data in the past few years, it is hard to draw conclusions on what might be impacting the Upland Sandpiper population. Future monitoring of the Pease population will be very important.

It is also of interest to note that Upland Sandpiper breeding was confirmed at other seacoast locations back in 1996 and 1997, the same years that the Pease population peaked. Since then, there has been no breeding confirmation, although they have been noted in other locations on a sporadic basis. You can assist by watching for these elusive grassland birds. Please report any observations of Upland Sandpipers to the Audubon Society of New Hampshire.

Diane De Luca is a Senior Biologist for the Audubon Society of New Hampshire. She has monitored Upland Sandpipers at the Pease Airfield since 1990.

Another Year of Tremendous Growth: Tern Restoration at the Isles of Shoals

by *Diane De Luca*

A well-placed roving blind looks out over the rock jumble along the western side of Seavey Island. The blind placement allows for some spectacular views of a group of more than ten Roseate Tern nests. This is only one of a number of rocky locations that are hosting a group of roseates this 2002 field season. Last year we rejoiced in the success of our first Roseate Tern nest. This year our numbers climbed to 25 confirmed breeding roseate pairs.

Along with the very significant growth in the Seavey Island roseate population, the summer of 2002 also saw a phenomenal increase in Common Tern numbers to 1687 pairs and the first breeding of an Arctic Tern pair in more than 50 years. This rocky island that was absent of terns for so many years is now home to one of the largest tern colonies in the Gulf of Maine. Even those of us who have been an intimate part of the project are overwhelmed by the rapid growth and success at this site.



*Diane De Luca
photo by Becky Suomala*

Figure 1. Numbers of Common Tern nests on Seavey Island from the beginning of the Tern Restoration Project in 1997 through 2002.

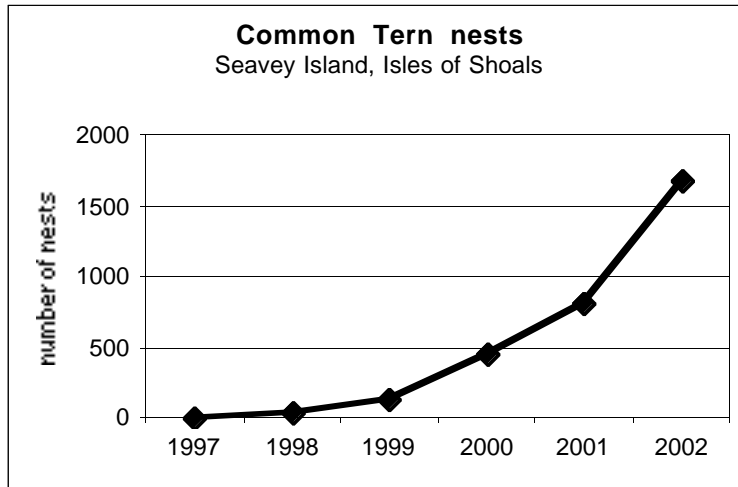


Figure 2. Numbers of Roseate Tern nests on Seavey Island from the beginning of the Tern Restoration Project in 1997 through 2002.

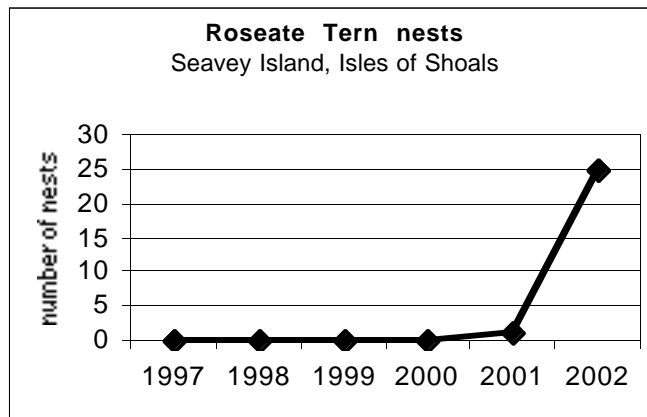


Table 1. Population Information (Totals)

<i>Species</i>	<i>2002 (pairs)</i>
Common Tern	1687
Roseate Tern	25
Arctic Tern	1

2002 Tern Numbers

The numbers for the 2002 field season speak volumes for this colony, especially when viewed over the past six years from the beginning of the Tern Restoration Project in 1997 when the first Common Terns nested, see Figures 1 and 2.

Productivity is a measure of the number of young terns that are raised to fledging at the colony. It is determined by monitoring a subset of nests and recording the number of eggs, chicks hatched, and chicks that reach fledging age. Table 2 shows the productivity data from the first wave of nesting Common Terns (the A wave) from 1998-2002. Terns that arrive and begin nesting after the June colony census is complete are monitored as B Wave nesters. The average productivity from each wave is used to determine the total number of chicks fledged in the entire colony.

Table 2. Common Tern Productivity (A Wave)

<i>Year</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>1999</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2001</i>	<i>2002</i>
# of Nests Monitored	45	25	43	73	184
Average Clutch Size (# eggs)	2.56	2.84	2.60	2.44	2.52
Average # Chicks Hatched	1.88	2.48	2.33	2.18	2.09
Fledglings/Nest	1.6	2.24	1.58	1.68	1.63
Total Fledglings for Colony	72	314	502	773	2075

A rough storm on June 15-16 created 16-foot seas but did not appear to impact the colony as it occurred just before hatch. There were no other significant weather-related problems. Predation was not observed until July 8. However, a practicing chick was taken by a gull on July 8, and during the period from July 20 through July 27 approximately 35 chicks were taken, including one confirmed Arctic chick. Gull predation, in spite of vigorous efforts by the tern biologists, had the most significant impact on the tern colony productivity.

Even with the observed gull predation, this was another excellent year for the Seavey Island tern colony. This New Hampshire colony had one of the highest productivity rates of any Common Tern colony in the entire Gulf of Maine (Nova Scotia to Massachusetts). This is an amazing and constantly hopeful statistic for terns in our state. The continued struggles of the 2002 New Hampshire mainland colonies (where only a handful of chicks fledged) also puts the strength of the Seavey Island colony into perspective.

The Future

The nesting success and growth of the tern colony on Seavey Island is a good sign for continued population growth in the coming years. It remains important that intensive management continues at this site in the near future. Other tern recolonization projects have shown that productivity at these colonies is directly correlated to the level of management aimed at eliminating or ameliorating factors that currently limit successful tern nesting.

Thanks

My deepest appreciation goes to the 2002 tern biologists, Dan Hayward, Kristen Bixler, and Susan Elliott, for their hard work and tenacity. Special thanks also go to all the other individuals who helped staff the island through the field season. Additional thanks go to the many who have supported the project logistically, including the Shoals Marine Lab, Jon Savage of Cap'N Sav's Charters, and Sue Reynolds of Island Cruises. Thanks also go to the many other volunteers and supporters without whom the project would not be possible.

This project was made possible through the partnership and support of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and the support of the New Hampshire Coastal Program. Other supporters in 2002 include the Fuller Foundation and numerous private individuals. This project is made possible through the cooperation of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Shoals Marine Laboratory, Gulf of Maine Tern Working Group, Dr. Stephen Kress and the National Audubon's Seabird Recolonization Project, USDA Wildlife Services, Don Stevens of Atlantic Aqua Sports and the Department of Resources and Economic Development (caretakers of the island).

Diane De Luca is a Senior Biologist for the Audubon Society of New Hampshire. She has been the project supervisor for the Tern Restoration Project since it began in 1997.

Spotlight on King Rail (*Rallus elegans*)

by Eric Masterson

Background

King Rail is the largest of the rails in North America and frequents freshwater marshes in the eastern United States. In New England it is an uncommon summer visitor to freshwater marshes, becoming increasingly rare to the north of its stronghold in the southeastern United States.

Breeding Status

There is no confirmed breeding record in New Hampshire for this species, although there are several reports of pairs occupying suitable habitat during the breeding season. It has been confirmed as a breeder in Massachusetts.

Occurrence in New Hampshire

King Rail has been reported in New Hampshire 39 times since 1934, involving a total of 43 birds in 21 different years. That is not to say that they occur once every three years, as the pattern of occurrence is very uneven. There was an exceedingly long spell, from 1977 to 1993, when no reports were received (Figure 1). This contrasts with 28 reports from 1961 to 1971.

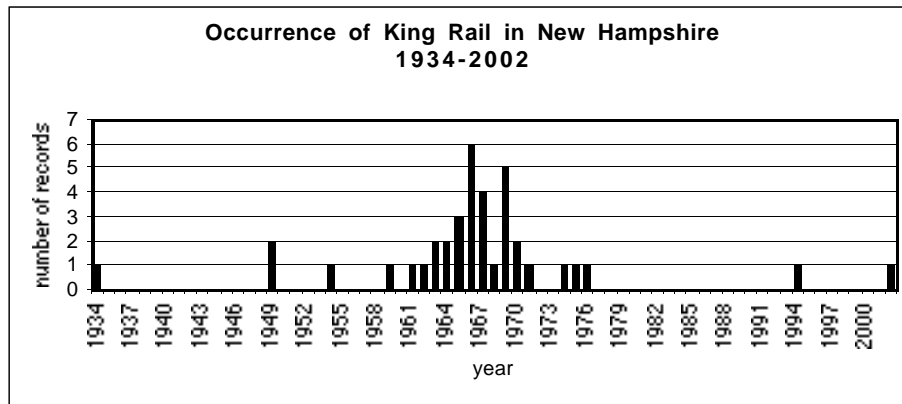


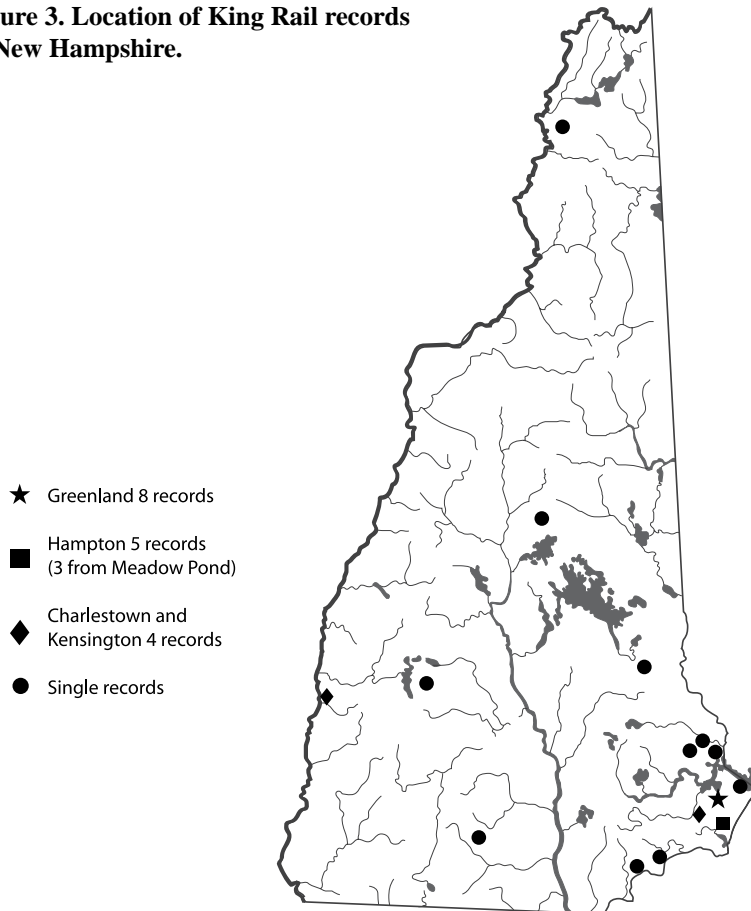
Figure 1. Annual King Rail occurrences in New Hampshire.

In New Hampshire King Rail is primarily found in spring and fall (Figure 2), with most reports in May. There are no records before April 12 or after September 28, and there are only three records for the months of June and July. As seems to be the case with many water birds in New Hampshire, the seacoast region again proves to be the best place to find this species, even though it favors freshwater. Of 39 reports, 23 come from the seacoast region (Figure 3). Charlestown on the Connecticut River has had four reports of King Rail.

Figure 2. Occurrence of King Rail by month in New Hampshire.



Figure 3. Location of King Rail records in New Hampshire.



Comments

Comments submitted by reporters indicate that King Rails have most often been detected by voice, as the species has a diagnostic rhythm to its call. In New Hampshire nearly all reports have come from cattail marshes.

The absence of King Rails from the late 1970s to the early 1990s is startling. Gallinaceous birds are known to suffer heavy losses during severe weather. However, this time period does not correlate with any severe weather events, and a breeding failure or die-off would not be expected to last for this length of time. King Rail has declined nationwide as a result of habitat alteration and destruction and from pollution as a result of agricultural run-off. That this is at least partly responsible for the declining occurrences of this species in New Hampshire is not in question. *Birds of Massachusetts* notes that breeding has not been confirmed in Massachusetts since 1979 and that reports of calling birds in suitable habitat has declined from 1983 to the publication of the book in 1993. This correlates with the lack of reports in New Hampshire from 1977 to 1993.

The following is a description of an encounter with King Rails related by Bob Vernon, a long-time birder in New Hampshire. "In June 1976 my son Jim and I found two King Rails at Cascade Marsh, Sutton. We were canoeing and found one at either side of the marsh. They exhibited to me what was unusual behavior, swimming right out from the vegetation into the open, uttering a "chee-chee-chee" call at a rapid rate. A day or two later I went back with Kimball Elkins and the same thing happened. Some time later Kimball went back alone and found no rails, but he did see a Great Horned Owl. He thought maybe the owls finished off the rails."

The fact that Bob saw the rails in Sutton coupled with the secretive nature of rails in general gives me reason to think that the King Rail is significantly under recorded in New Hampshire, as one would expect of all secretive species. The Connecticut River Valley might prove to be a fertile hunting ground for new records of this species in light of the past Charlestown records.

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Birding the Bellamy River Wildlife Management Area

by Mark Suomala

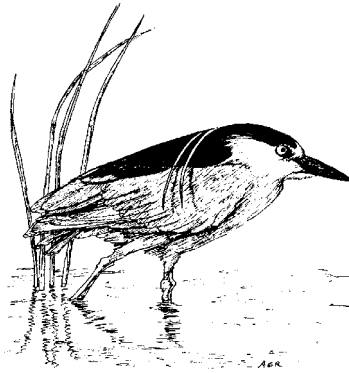
“What is that song?! I don’t recognize it! I have got to see that bird!” I anxiously scanned the edge of the field until my binoculars finally rested on a tanager-sized bird with a bright yellow breast and white spectacles perched in a red cedar. All right! A chat! That was my reaction when I discovered a Yellow-breasted Chat singing in early June 2002 while conducting a breeding bird survey in Dover. I have seen chats in New Hampshire in the fall and winter, but not in the spring, hence my confusion and excitement.

This was the start of my “field season” at the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department’s Bellamy River Wildlife Management Area, located in Dover. Purchased through the Land Conservation Investment Program in 1990 and 1992, the property consists of 400 acres of old farmland adjacent to the Bellamy River. I was hired by the Audubon Society of New Hampshire to conduct weekly breeding bird surveys here in June and July 2002. In preparation, during the last week in May, New Hampshire Fish and Game biologist John Lanier took me to see the 24 survey points that I would be visiting every week. We walked through habitat that consisted mostly of fields with narrow strips of forest between them. As it was early in the season, the field vegetation had not yet grown very high, which made for easy walking and lulled me into a false sense of security about the ease of conducting the survey. Later in the season, many of these fields were packed with chest-high grasses, and they were almost always soaking wet with dew in the early morning. After John showed me the first few points, we walked through one of the narrow forested areas in order to get to the next field, and it was a nightmare! In an effort to accurately lay out distances between the survey points, John had taken straight-line paths between them, which took us through a variety of thorny shrubs, muddy streambeds, cattail swamps, and old barbwire fences. It was then that I began to see why nobody from N.H. Fish and Game had been asked to conduct the survey—they didn’t want their full-time employees to quit! It took us several hours to walk to all of the point locations, and afterward, we drove back to Concord, picking dog ticks off ourselves and each other. I resolved to return later on my own to find easier routes between the points.

As the season progressed, I learned which birds were living on the property and where to find them. After the excitement of the Yellow-breasted Chat (which I didn’t see again after the first week of surveys), I wondered what other surprises I would encounter in the coming weeks. Almost as exciting to me was when I discovered, during the second week of June, the first of what would turn out to be a small population of about five to ten Orchard Orioles, an uncommon breeder in the state. I found these birds in field edges in a number of locations on the property. There were also good numbers of Baltimore Orioles present, and one or two in particular had songs very much like that of an Orchard Oriole, which would confuse me at times. What seems to me to be an unusually high number of Willow Flycatchers (a high count of 23) sang

persistently, even into late July. Many Yellow Warblers, Common Yellowthroats, Gray Catbirds, Northern Cardinals, Red-winged Blackbirds, American Goldfinches, and Song Sparrows were conspicuous in the field edges, where there is an abundance of low shrubs, such as staghorn sumac and multiflora rose. I also found a few Blue-winged Warblers, including a hybrid Brewster's Warbler (singing a Blue-winged song), and several Chestnut-sided Warblers and Indigo Buntings. Since most of the fields were not mowed during the summer, Bobolinks nested successfully and in good numbers, and I was pleased to see a flock of nearly one hundred adults and young in late July. All of the aforementioned species favor early successional habitat or fields,

both of which have declined in the state as our forests have re-grown.



Black-crowned night heron
by Andrea Robbins

Three small ponds on the property attracted a number of birds that utilize wetlands, including Green Herons, which probably raised a family here, as well as Great Blue Herons, an American Bittern, a Snowy Egret, and even a Black-crowned Night-Heron. I saw Mallards regularly and a Wood Duck once. Several Belted Kingfishers spent much of their time looking for small fish in the shallow waters of these ponds. The Bellamy River experiences tidal changes here, and there are a few small brackish marshes. I rarely saw any birds in these marshes, although I did discover a Black-capped Chickadee nest with several unfledged

chicks in an old farm fence post in the middle of one marsh area. Double-crested Cormorants flew over the property on their way to various locations on the river, and early one dark and cloudy morning in June, a Bald Eagle put in an appearance, probably on its way to nearby Great Bay. Every day, a constant parade of gulls would fly over, probably on their way to Rochester to visit either the Turnkey Landfill or the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

The few small forest areas contain good numbers of red oak trees, whose acorns attract Blue Jays and Wild Turkeys (as well as many white-tailed deer), especially in the fall. Other forest birds that I found in small numbers included Eastern Wood-Pewee, Great-crested Flycatcher, Ovenbird, and Scarlet Tanager. There were a number of Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers and Northern Flickers, and I heard a Red-bellied Woodpecker twice early in the season. I often would see one or both of a pair of Red-tailed Hawks near one section of the forest, and late in the season, I heard what sounded like an unpracticed "keer-r-r" call coming from a stand of red oaks. I gave a Barred Owl hoot, and an immature Red-tailed Hawk flew up and perched near me for a closer look. At another survey point, located in a densely wooded section, I was looking and listening for birds when suddenly an animal walked up to within five feet of me. It looked like an opossum, but something seemed wrong with the fur on its back. I finally realized that it was carrying eight babies!

Flowers were an added bonus, and many different species came into bloom and faded during the weeks that I walked the property. Species that I saw included ghost pipe, star-of-bethlehem, white beardtongue, chicory, black-eyed susan, goldenrod, daisy fleabane, and Queen Anne's lace, to name but a few.

At the end of the field season, it seemed that I had gotten to know what species of birds were breeding here, but since I always seemed to encounter something new every week, whether it be animal or vegetable, I never got bored. I even added two new species in the last week: a Northern Goshawk and a Northern Bobwhite. Who knows what fall migration may bring?

To go birding at the property, from Route 4 in Dover take Back River Road 1.2 miles to Rabbit Road. Take Rabbit Road for 0.1 mile and turn right onto Old Garrison Road. Drive another 0.1 mile, passing a house on your left, and turn left onto a rough paved road and drive to the main parking area, which is dirt. From here you can walk the farm road out to the largest pond (estimated 0.3 mile), located in the middle of the property. There's a sign that reads "Bellamy River Waterfowl Impoundment." The road continues from here, enters another field section, and finally comes to a forest section (estimated 0.3 mile). In the forest section there is a main path that makes a loop back into the field where you started (estimated 0.5 mile), but there are also a few other trails that wander through. The main trail loop will take you past a view of a marshy area and beyond to the Bellamy River. For a map see Figure 1.

Figure 1. Bellamy River Wildlife Management Area

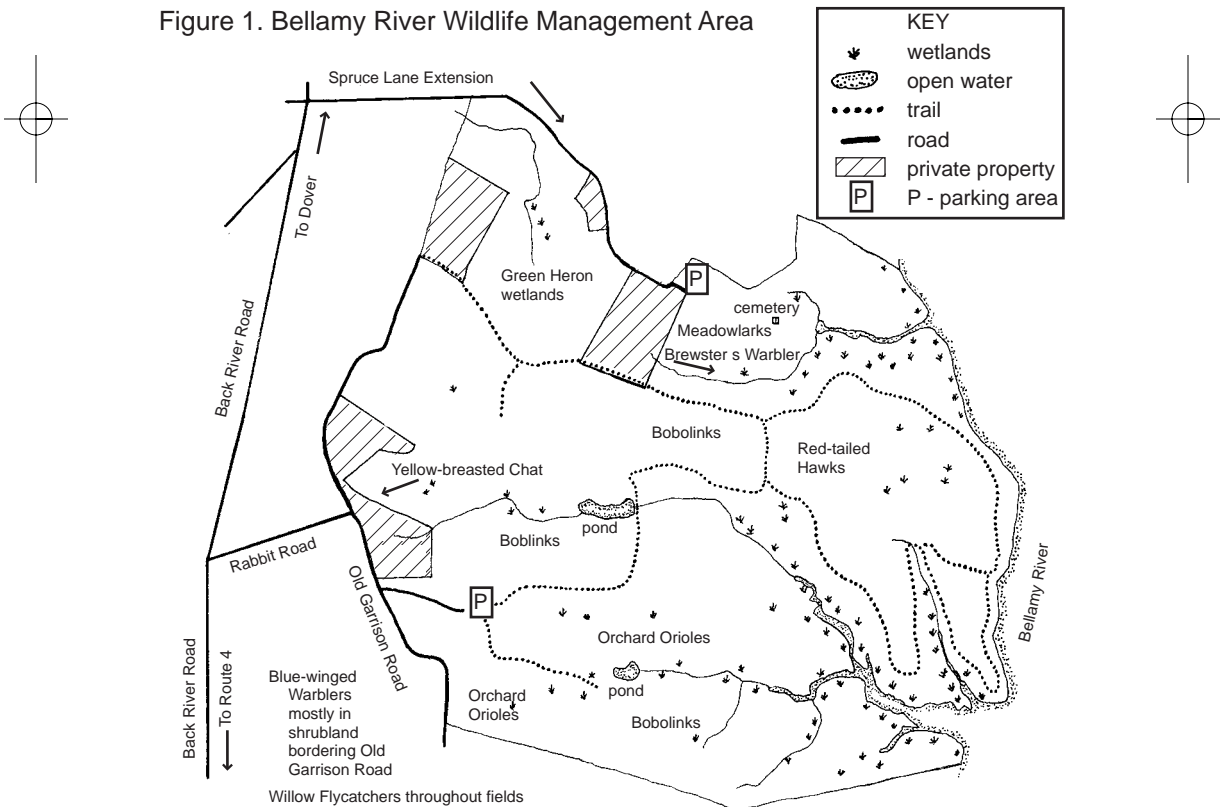


Table 1. Species detected on the Bellamy River Wildlife Management Area during the Breeding Bird Survey in 2002.

Survey Dates: 2 days (24 points) per week for June & July (9 weeks)
 Highest number is the most detected during any single two-day survey

SPECIES	No. of Weeks Detected	Highest Number	SPECIES	No. of Weeks Detected	Highest Number
Double-crested Cormorant	2	1	White-breasted Nuthatch (p)	9	7
American Bittern	1	1	Carolina Wren	2	1
Great Blue Heron	7	5	Eastern Bluebird	1	1
Snowy Egret*	1	1	Veery	1	1
Green Heron (p)	9	1	Hermit Thrush (p)	5	1
Canada Goose	1	1	Wood Thrush (p)	4	1
Turkey Vulture*	1	1	American Robin (p)	9	41
Wood Duck (p)	1	1	Gray Catbird (p)	9	21
Mallard (p)	8	7	Northern Mockingbird (p)	9	4
Bald Eagle	1	1	Brown Thrasher	1	1
Cooper's Hawk (p)	1	1	European Starling	7	60
Northern Goshawk*	1	1	Cedar Waxwing (p)	9	26
Red-shouldered Hawk (p)	1	1	Blue-winged Warbler (p)	4	4
Red-tailed Hawk (p)	6	2	"Brewster's" Warbler	1	1
American Kestrel	2	1	Yellow Warbler (p)	9	28
Wild Turkey (p)	2	4	Chestnut-sided Warbler (p)	8	6
Northern Bobwhite	1	1	Pine Warbler (p)	4	2
American Woodcock*	1	2	Black-and-white Warbler (p)	9	4
Ring-billed Gull	9	+	American Redstart (p)	7	3
Herring Gull	9	+	Ovenbird (p)	7	4
Great Black-backed Gull	9	+	Common Yellowthroat (p)	9	40
Rock Dove	2	3	Yellow-breasted Chat	1	1
Mourning Dove (p)	9	39	Scarlet Tanager (p)	9	8
Black-billed Cuckoo (p)	1	1	Chipping Sparrow	1	1
Chimney Swift	7	7	Song Sparrow (p)	9	49
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird (p)	3	1	Northern Cardinal (p)	9	16
Belted Kingfisher	4	3	Rose-breasted Grosbeak (p)	9	14
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1	1	Indigo Bunting (p)	7	5
Downy Woodpecker (p)	8	7	Bobolink (B)	9	74
Hairy Woodpecker (p)	7	4	Red-winged Blackbird (p)	9	45
Northern Flicker (p)	8	10	Eastern Meadowlark (p)	5	1
Eastern Wood-Pewee (p)	9	6	Common Grackle (p)	8	22
Alder Flycatcher (p)	4	5	Brown-headed Cowbird (p)	7	10
Willow Flycatcher (p)	9	23	Orchard Oriole (p)	6	4
Eastern Phoebe (p)	5	2	Baltimore Oriole (p)	9	15
Great-crested Flycatcher (p)	8	5	Purple Finch	1	1
Eastern Kingbird (p)	9	7	House Finch (p)	6	6
Yellow-throated Vireo	1	1	American Goldfinch (p)	9	50
Warbling Vireo (p)	9	6	Evening Grosbeak	1	2
Red-eyed Vireo (p)	9	14	House Sparrow	1	2
Blue Jay (p)	9	17			
American Crow (p)	9	17	+ many seen		
Tree Swallow (p)	7	36	* detected on the property, but not during the		
No. Rough-winged Swallow	1	6	ten-minute count periods		
Bank Swallow	1	2	(p) potential breeder		
Cliff Swallow*	1	2	(B) confirmed breeding		
Barn Swallow (p)	9	28	Additional species seen 8/31/02 -		
Black-capped Chickadee (B)	9	23	Northern Waterthrush (migrant) & Black-		
Tufted Titmouse (p)	9	10	crowned Night-Heron.		

Alternatively, you can just put on tall boots and wander off into the fields at random. Another possible access point, but where there are no trails, is at the end of Spruce Lane Extension. To get there from Rabbit Road, take Back River Road north for 1.1 miles and turn right on Spruce Lane Extension. Drive 0.9 mile to the end and park next to the NH F&G sign located adjacent to a field. In the field, shaded by a few apple trees, is an old cemetery with gravestones dating from the late 1800s. Unfortunately, driving here can be confusing, because the road narrows and turns to dirt, and you may think that you are driving up somebody's driveway—but if you take care, you should be able to find your way. Whenever I drove this route, I would leave my car windows open in order to hear singing of the local Carolina Wren.

See the map for locations of some specific species found during the 2002 field season. See Table 1 for a list of the 89 species detected during the summer. Have fun, and good luck!

Mark Suomala organizes and leads bird watching and natural history tours to the United States and overseas. He has worked as a field biologist, conducting bird surveys for the US Fish & Wildlife Service, the US Forest Service and the Audubon Society of New Hampshire. Visit his web site at www.marksbirdtours.com.

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.

Fall 2000

- p. 4 In the Loons through Vultures summary the last sentence of the second paragraph, the three shearwater species were Greater, Sooty and Manx.
- p. 11 The Hooded Mergansers on 11-19 at White Oak Pond were actually Common Mergansers.
- p. 26 In the Pipit through Warblers summary at the end of the second sentence stating that Palm Warblers have “only recently been added to the list of breeding birds in the state” should read “which is a rare breeding bird in the state.” Although there have been regular reports of breeding in recent years, the *Atlas of Breeding Birds in New Hampshire* lists only three years with confirmed breeding: 1957, 1980, 1988.”

Winter 2000-01

- p. 2 The American Pipit should not have appeared in the list of deleted species. This list reflects reports for species that were received but not listed.
- p. 13 The American Tree Sparrow on 01-05 was seen in Plymouth not Holderness.
- p. 14 The Song Sparrow on 01-05 was seen in Plymouth not Holderness.

Answer to the Spring 2002 Photo Quiz

by David Donsker

The identification of shorebirds presents one of the greatest challenges to birders. For many of us, the confusing number of similar forms, varying only subtly in plumage characteristics, is enough to cause us to consider trading in our binoculars for a hammock out of sheer frustration. With patience and experience, however, shorebirds can be tackled and, if not easily mastered, at least approached without fear and trembling.

Getting a handle on the **shape** of the bird is the single most helpful component of shorebird identification. When considering shape, the major things to notice are bill length, leg length, neck length, the relative size of the bird, and the general form of the head and body. More subtle clues to examine include the exact configuration of the bill—the presence and direction of any curvature; the shape of the bill tip, etc.—the relative length of the wings, the size of the head relative to the body, and the posture of the bird.

Plumage characteristics are the next thing to examine. Most shorebirds have three plumages: basic, alternate, and juvenile. The most subtle plumage is the basic or non-breeding plumage that the adults retain for most of the year. These plumages are frequently uninspiring combinations of brown or gray above and white below. The alternate or breeding plumage, by contrast, can produce some of the most strikingly handsome patterns to be found in our birds. Rich reddish tones, blacks, and whites often predominate. Since this plumage is retained only for a short period in the summer, it can often be confusing when we see a familiar species in breeding plumage. In the fall, young birds in juvenile plumage follow the adults in migration. Juvenile plumage is fresh and crisp with sharply defined contrasting edges to the feathers of the upper parts and wings. This results in the appearance of bright lines, scales, or scallops on the backs and upper wing feathers (scapulars and wing coverts) of most juvenile birds. In the fall, the recognition of juvenile plumage is important to avoid attributing a juvenile to an unusual species.

Other plumage characteristics to consider when looking at a particular shorebird are the patterns of markings on the breast and flanks as well as the markings on the head. In flight, notice the color of the rump, tail markings, and wing pattern. Leg color can be helpful in identifying shorebirds, but beware! Leg color is frequently variable and is often obscured by mud.

How does any of this apply to our mystery bird? If we look at the shape, we see a stocky, relatively large-headed, short-legged, short-necked shorebird with a fairly long, sturdy bill that droops slightly towards the tip. The dull-toned, uniform back, scapulars, and breast contrasting with the white lower breast and belly indicate that



by Larry Denoncourt

this bird is in basic plumage. The pale edges and dark centers of the lowest row of upper wing feathers, the greater coverts, suggest that this may be a first-season bird, just molting from juvenile plumage. Since the bird is alone, size cannot be judged accurately, but we get the impression that this is a small to medium-sized species. Subtle plumage markings include a pale supercilium or "eyebrow" and faint streaking on the lower cheeks and upper breast. The legs and bill are black. The bird holds a generally horizontal posture and is clearly probing for food on a mudflat.

Shape alone immediately eliminates most shorebirds from the range of possibilities. The bird is obviously a sandpiper, not a plover, which would have a shorter bill. However, many sandpipers are so completely different in shape from this bird that they are immediately excluded as possibilities. Among these are long-legged, long-necked forms such as yellowlegs and Willet; long-legged, short-billed species such as Buff-breasted Sandpiper or Ruff; short-legged, short-billed birds such as Red Knot; and aberrant sandpipers such as godwits and curlews.

One short-legged, long-billed sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, deserves fleeting consideration. But it is heavily streaked on the head and back. Besides, it is a secretive species that would probably not be seen on exposed mudflats. More serious possibilities are our two dowitchers, Short-billed and Long-billed. These are stocky, long-billed and short-legged sandpipers that commonly feed on mudflats and have a distinct supercilium. However, unlike our bird, dowitchers have barred flanks in basic plumage. Further, their bills are straight, not drooped.

Most deserving of our consideration are the typical sandpipers of the genus *Calidris*. These are all small to medium-sized species, and the ones that generally cause the greatest confusion in shorebird identification. Some, such as the previously mentioned Red Knot, are unlike our bird based on shape alone. Pectoral Sandpiper has a medium-length bill, quite unlike our bird, and also has yellowish legs. Purple Sandpiper is another yellow-legged member of the group and is also much darker than our bird with a shorter bill that is typically pale at the base. The familiar Sanderling is also short-billed and very pale in basic plumage. The smallest members of the genus, the "peeps" (Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, and the old-world stints) have much shorter bills than the bird in the photo. Even the longest and most droopy-billed of the group, Western Sandpiper, does not have a bill length approaching that of this bird. Western Sandpiper also has a whiter, less dusky breast in basic plumage.

The members of *Calidris* with long, drooping or decurved bills are Stilt Sandpiper, Dunlin, and Curlew Sandpiper, an accidental species from the Old World. All are grayish in basic plumage with white underparts. All have pale "eyebrows." Of the three, Stilt Sandpiper has the longest legs, which are also yellow-green. This is quite unlike the short black legs of this bird. Dunlin and Curlew Sandpiper both have black legs and droopy bills. Although quite distinctive in alternate plumage, they can be confusingly similar in somber basic plumage. Overall, Curlew Sandpiper is a more slender species than Dunlin. Its legs are longer, its neck is longer, and its bill is less sturdy and more strongly curved. In comparison to Dunlin, its bill gently curves evenly over the entire length of the bill, while Dunlin's bill tends to droop closer to the tip. Curlew Sandpiper's supercilium is bolder than that of Dunlin, and its breast is

paler. However, these differences can be very subtle and work best in direct comparison. Dunlin's bill, in particular, can be quite variable. Some longer-billed birds have decurved bills approaching that of Curlew Sandpiper. The best feature distinguishing these species is the rump. Curlew Sandpiper has a pure white rump, while the rump of Dunlin is divided by a black stripe. However, this can be seen only in flight. By virtue of its leg, bill, and body proportions; relatively faint supercilium; and dusky, faintly streaked breast, our mystery bird is a Dunlin. The white spot near the rear of the bird is not a white rump but an aberrant wing feather.

Dunlin is a common sandpiper that breeds throughout the world's arctic regions. Less migratory than most members of its genus, it winters at higher latitudes. In the western hemisphere it winters from southern Alaska and New Hampshire/Massachusetts south along both coasts to Mexico. It is most abundant in New Hampshire in the late fall along the coast. Hundreds can occasionally be found in Seabrook in November, often in association with Sanderlings.

This Dunlin was photographed by Larry Denoncourt, a New Hampshire birder, in February, 2002 on the mud flats at Bunch Beach, which is between Fort Myers Beach and Sanibel Island in southwest Florida.

Photo Quiz

Can You Identify This Bird?

photo by Garth McElroy



Answer in the next issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*.
For the answer to the Spring 2002 photo quiz see page 52.

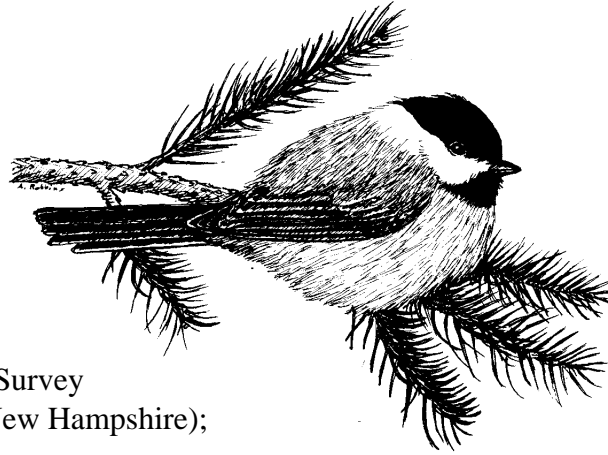
Research and Volunteer Opportunities

Research:

Bird Conservation
Network census of
Black-capped
Chickadees

Volunteer Opportunities:

Backyard Winter Bird Survey
(Audubon Society of New Hampshire);
Project FeederWatch
(Cornell Lab of Ornithology)



Black-capped Chickadee
by Andrea Robbins

by Francie Von Mertens

The rapid spread of West Nile Virus in the United States underscores the importance of long-term monitoring programs to help assess the effects of the virus on local bird populations.

A recent study by the Bird Conservation Network of Black-capped Chickadees in six counties in the Chicago region—the nation's hardest-hit area for West Nile Virus (WNV) cases in humans—found a significant decline in chickadee populations. In three areas (parts of eastern Lake County, some southern suburbs, and a large area of northern Chicago and nearby suburbs) the decline was to the point of apparent extirpation. These three areas coincide with the highest incidence of reported human WNV cases.

Monitoring of chickadee populations in prior years in the same locations during the same time period (October) had accumulated comparative data that confirmed the decline.

Earlier, in August, observers reported seeing dead or ill chickadees at a time when thousands of dead crows were being collected. A prior study by the Bird Conservation Network, a consortium of local Audubon societies and birding clubs, documented the disappearance of crows from these same areas and significant decline in others.

As for the spread of WNV nationwide, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 3,829 laboratory-positive human cases and 225 deaths in 2002 as compared with 66 cases and 10 deaths in 2001. The highest incidence of reported human cases in 2002 is as follows: Illinois (778 cases), Michigan (546), Ohio (431), and Louisiana (323). Reports of WNV in humans came from 39 states and the District of Columbia—an increase of 11 states from the year before, and a rapid spread from its first reporting in the New York area in 1999. New Hampshire is among the twelve states with no reports of human infection.

The Bird Conservation Network's census is the first to study the effects of WNV on songbirds. Other, longer-term studies will become increasingly important in tracking the virus in birds. Two easily accessed "citizen science" volunteer opportunities are the Audubon Society of New Hampshire's Backyard Winter Bird Survey and Cornell's Project FeederWatch.

Backyard Winter Bird Survey volunteers observe feeder populations during the second weekend each February. Information and sign-up forms are available on-line at www.nhaidubon.org/bwbs.htm, including results and narrative summaries of past years. Sign-up information is available by phone at 224-9909.

Project FeederWatch follows a similar protocol but continues throughout the winter, November through early April. Information and sign-up can be accessed on-line at www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/, or by phone at 800/843-2473.

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In the Next Issue

- Birding Elm Brook Park, Hopkinton
- Pomarine Jaeger Species Account
- Red-bellied Woodpecker population expansion
- Declines in Osprey and Common Loons in the Lake Umbagog area

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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