

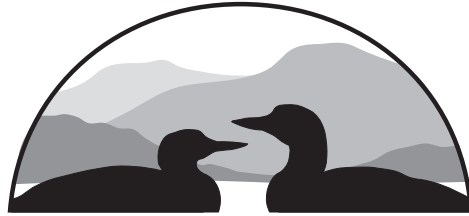
# New Hampshire Bird Records



**Spring 2003**

**Vol. 22, No. 1**

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## **New Hampshire Bird Records**

### **Volume 22, Number 1**

### **Spring 2003**

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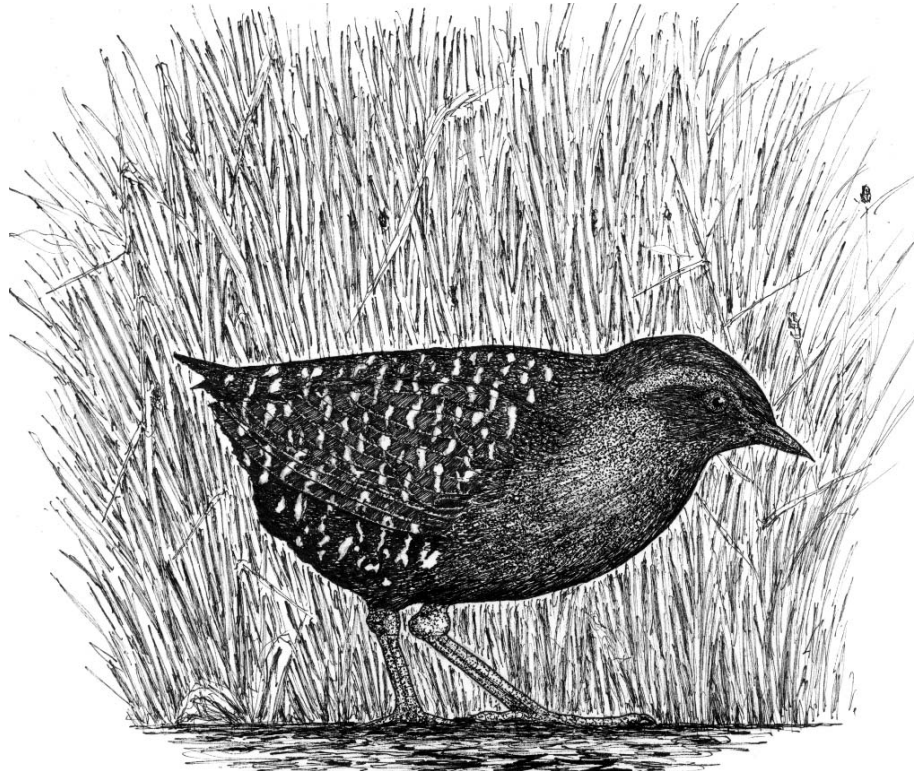


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*Black Rail drawing by Mike Milligan.  
See the season writeup for more on New Hampshire's first Black Rail.*

**Cover Photo:** *Cattle Egret by Stephen R. Mirick, 5/2/03, Newmarket*

## From the Editor

by Rebecca Suomala

I apologize for the delay in this issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*. It was held up by a variety of circumstances, but our time table is nearly back on track, the Summer 2003 issue is in process, and the last of the fall reports are trickling in. We appreciate your patience and understanding.

### Thank you to all Subscribers

This is the first issue of the new subscription year and we welcome our new subscribers. Thank you also to all of the renewing subscribers. If you have not yet sent in your renewal, please send it in right away to maintain your subscription uninterrupted. As a subscriber, you not only receive this publication four times a year with all the wonderful information it contains, but you also support the bird conservation projects that need the bird distribution data available through *New Hampshire Bird Records*.

### Volunteer Update

With this issue we welcome Dorothy Fitch as the Text Editor for *New Hampshire Bird Records*. Readers may recognize her name from articles she and her husband, John Munier, have written about the MAPS bird banding station they operate at the Massabesic Audubon Center. They also compile the Manchester Christmas Bird Count. We are very pleased to have Dorothy on the *New Hampshire Bird Records* team where her wide variety of skills and experience is very much appreciated.

We are sorry to say goodbye to Sue Covino as *New Hampshire Bird Records*' Promotion Manager. Sue has done a wonderful job working to promote the publication, build subscriptions, and increase awareness of the publication. She has moved into a staff position at the Audubon Society of New Hampshire as the Human Resources Coordinator, and can no longer devote the time needed for the job of Promotion Manager. She still hopes to continue assisting with promotion activities as her time allows. We will miss her energy and enthusiasm as Promotion Manager, but look forward to her continuing involvement with *New Hampshire Bird Records*.

### Promotion Manager needed

We are now in need of someone to take over as the Promotion Manager. This position assists with the marketing of the *New Hampshire Bird Records* and the acquisition of new subscribers. The position involves designing and implementing solicitation campaigns, identifying and tracking solicitation opportunities, compiling lists of people to solicit, identifying advertising and promotion opportunities, and assisting with the design of promotion items. Some work can be done at home, but visits to the Concord office will be needed. Good communication and organizational skills are required. Familiarity with the birding community and birding resources in New Hampshire is extremely helpful.

## Spring Season

### March 1 through May 31, 2003

by Pam Hunt

**A**fter several years of warm temperatures, the spring of 2003 was marked by cold. All three months were colder than average, continuing a cold spell that started in October 2002. As a result, water bodies stayed frozen longer than usual, and this may have influenced water bird migration inland. Heavy snowfall in early April, especially in west-central New Hampshire, may also have affected early arriving passerines.

A recurring theme throughout New Hampshire this spring was the relative lack of several short-distance migrants. Most often noted for their absence were Eastern Phoebe, Blue-headed Vireo, Tree Swallow, Winter Wren, and Hermit Thrush. Declines in these species were not uniform across the state, although all were perceived as less common by multiple observers. What could be behind these declines?

Speculation immediately turns to the weather, and in this I think we find a reasonable explanation. However, it might not have been *our* weather that affected these birds, but that in southeastern United States during the winter. You may recall that it was a particularly brutal winter in Florida and nearby states, with temperatures near freezing for several days. This cold snap could easily have depressed the food supplies of returning insectivorous migrants, and also caused some direct mortality. This has happened before. In the summer of 1976, numbers of Winter Wrens, Hermit Thrushes, and others, were very low on the Breeding Bird Survey. This decline was believed due to a similar cold snap in wintering areas of these species. Granted, our cold wet spring certainly couldn't have *helped* these birds when they returned to their breeding grounds, and time will tell how dramatic the decline actually was and how rapidly populations recover.



Hooded Warbler  
by Stephen R. Mirick,  
5/10/03, Exeter

As far as rarities are concerned, it was a relatively slow spring. The exception, of course, was New Hampshire's first record of **Black Rail**, whose "kick-a-doo" call was heard by over 100 lucky birders in late May. There was also the usual collection of southern species overshooting the normal northern edge of their range, which this year included two each of **Yellow-throated Warbler**, **Hooded Warbler**, and **Blue Grosbeak**. Monroe's **Sandhill Crane** returned for a fifth year, while noteworthy coastal sightings included two **King Eiders** and a spring **jaeger** of undetermined species.



Pam Hunt

## Loons through Vultures

**P**ied-billed Grebes have always been something of a fugitive species in New Hampshire, meaning that they can be hard to find, and that they don't breed consistently in any given area. Of the records printed below, the last three could represent birds at potential breeding sites. All observers are encouraged to visit such areas during the summer to look for evidence of nesting. Without up-to-date information on breeding status, it is hard to successfully plan for conservation of this endangered member of New Hampshire's avifauna.



*Cattle Egret by JoAnn O'Shaughnessy, May, Newmarket*

A single Wilson's Storm-Petrel in late May is slightly unusual, since this South Atlantic seabird doesn't normally arrive in New Hampshire waters until mid-June. The two inland Great Cormorants were probably holdovers from the higher-than-usual numbers in the Merrimack Valley this past winter. Other than Great Blue Herons, herons and egrets were infrequently reported. The most noteworthy sightings below are the Little Blue Heron, **Cattle Egret**, two inland Glossy Ibis, and a Black-crowned Night-Heron in Hanover. At least two Turkey Vulture nests were found this spring: one in Newmarket and one in Windham. This is a high number for a species that generally nests in fairly inaccessible areas such as wooded cliffs.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Red-throated Loon</b>				
05-03	20		NH coast	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
<b>Common Loon</b>				
04-07	40	Rye	between Odiome Pt. & Jenness Beach	R. Suomala, M. Levin
04-08	2	Windham	Cobbetts Pond	M. Harvey
04-12	1	Laconia	Lake Opechee	H. Anderson
05-13	12	Gilmanton	Crystal Lake	W. Arms
05-15	48	Rye	between Star Is. & Piscataqua R.	R. Suomala, M. Stauffer
<b>Pied-billed Grebe</b>				
03-28	1	Concord	Terrill Park	N. Aldrich
03-29	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	R. Woodward
04-15	1	Concord	Turkey Pond	P. Niswander, Concord Bird & Wildflower Club
04-17	1	Kensington	wetland s. of Moulton Ridge	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04-23	1	New Boston	Great Meadows on Buxton Brook	C. Martin, G. Russell
05-11	1	Sutton	Cascade Marsh	P. Newbern
05-25	1	Durham	off Packers Falls Rd.	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
<b>Horned Grebe</b>				
04-06	1	Laconia	Lake Opechee, below Lakeport Dam	H. Anderson
04-17	8	Hampton	Great Boars Head	R. Aaronian
05-30	1	Rye	Concord Point	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Red-necked Grebe</b>				
04-08	7	Windham	Cobbetts Pond	M. Harvey
04-09	3	Hinsdale	Connecticut R.	D. Abbott
04-10	1	Lebanon	Wilder Dam	S. Sturup
05-03	20		NH coast	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
05-14	1	Rye	Concord Point	S. Mirick
<b>Wilson's Storm-Petrel</b>				
05-28	1	Rye	boat to Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, M. Barney
<b>Northern Gannet</b>				
04-20	25		NH coast	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
05-25	15	Hampton	NH coast	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
<b>Double-crested Cormorant</b>				
04-15	4	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	J. Williams
05-02	207	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick, D. Hayward
05-05	1	Cambridge	s. end of Lake Umbagog	R. Suomala, C. Martin
05-14	137	Lee	Wheelwright Pond off Rt. 125	M. Tarr
<b>Great Cormorant</b>				
03-09	1	Concord	near Sewalls Falls	R. Woodward
05-06	1	Windham	Cobbetts Pond	M. Harvey
05-10	6	Rye	Square Rock	M. & R. Suomala, et al.
<b>American Bittern</b>				
04-30	1	Enfield	Bog Rd.	P. Newbern
05-04	1	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
05-04	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-06	1	Errol	Harpers Meadow, Androscoggin R.	R. Suomala, C. Martin
05-08	1	Canterbury	Peverly Meadow	R. Quinn
05-11	1	Rumney	Quincy Bog	B. Taffe
05-17	1	Columbia	behind residence	B. Killam
05-26	1	Sandwich	Thompson WS	M. Harvey
<b>Little Blue Heron</b>				
05-08	1	Rye	s. of Odiorne Pt.	S. Mirick
<b>Cattle Egret</b>				
05-02	1	Newmarket	Great Bay Fitness Ctr., Rt. 108	S. Bradley, S. Mirick
<b>Green Heron</b>				
05-08	1	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park	T. & B. Richards
05-10	1	Marlborough	Meetingplace Pond	E. Masterson, F. Von Mertens
<b>Black-crowned Night-Heron</b>				
04-27	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	M. Harvey
05-05	1	Hanover	Mink Brook	S. Sturup
05-29	6	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoal	M. Barney, D. Hayward
<b>Glossy Ibis</b>				
03-29	1	E. Kingston	Rt. 108 flooded field	A. & B. Delorey, B. & J. Goodwin
05-31	1	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams

## Waterfowl

It was a slow spring for Snow Geese, with only one flock of any size reported. Brant, in contrast, were well represented along the coast, with several birds even lingering until the end of May. On the Connecticut River, there was some confusion regarding a swan. Reports came in of a Mute Swan *and* a Tundra Swan in the Littleton area during the first week in March, and one is left wondering if the same bird was identified as both species. At this writing no documentation has been received for either sighting, so the record remains as a "swan species."



*King Eider by Stephen R. Mirick,  
May 2003, Rye*

There seemed to be more good-sized flocks of Wood Ducks than usual this year. Other than an overwintering pair in Laconia, most did not arrive until mid-March, perhaps coincident with the first warm spell. The group of 10 on May 25 included nine chicks, suggesting that the cold didn't delay breeding to any extent. Dabbling ducks occurred in expected numbers, with no notable concentrations in flooded fields as in past springs. Most Canvasback reports are from Great Bay, so a bird photographed in Rye Harbor was certainly a surprise. Tilton and Kingston continue to be hot spots for migrating Ring-necked Ducks, although other large flocks were reported in Exeter, Salem, and Hopkinton.

The New Hampshire coast hosted *two* male **King Eiders** in May. The first bird reported was a spectacular adult male, while the second was a two-year-old. Perhaps most amazing was that both birds were initially located off Concord Point in Rye. Good numbers of Surf and White-winged Scoters were reported from the coast in May, but these were eclipsed by 100 Black Scoters in Gilmanton on May 13. Such large inland fallouts of this species are more typical in the fall. There was one notable exception to the aforementioned "normality" of the spring waterfowl season. On April 9, Denny Abbot was birding the lower Connecticut River and encountered an astonishing concentration of ducks above Vernon Dam in Hinsdale. The counts of Gadwall, Ring-necked Duck, and Hooded Merganser are especially noteworthy, and are probably among the highest ever recorded in New Hampshire.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Snow Goose</b>				
03-29	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
04-08	1	Stratford	over Connecticut R. below Maidstone Bridge	D. Killam
04-13	17	Charlestown	Connecticut R., Cheshire Toll Bridge	S. Sturup
<b>Brant</b>				
03-19	3	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	M. Harvey
03-24	4	Rye	near Jenness Beach	T. Vazzano, R. Crowley



<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
03-29	4	Seabrook	harbor	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
03-29	5	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
04-17	15	Hampton	Hampton R.	R. Aaronian
04-30	13	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, J. Derrick, M. Barney
05-20	7	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	D. Donsker, M. Resch
05-30	16	Rye	NH coast	S. Mirick
<b>Mute Swan</b>				
03-30	1	Milford	Emerson Rd., Chappell Pond	R.& B. Becker
<b>Swan sp.</b>				
03-03	1	Monroe	Connecticut R.	E. Emery
<b>Wood Duck</b>				
03-09	1	Laconia	Appleton St. docks, Paugus Bay, Lakeport	H. Anderson
03-15	1	Laconia	Lakeport	P. Hunt
03-17	4	Salem	Spicket R., Salem Center	K. Folsom
03-30	9	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04-05	20	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04-06	50	Boscawen	Big Bend in Merrimack R.	R. Quinn, Capital Area Chapter FT
04-07	33	Kensington	Rt.107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-06	9	Errol	Harpers Meadow, Androscoggin R.	R. Suomala, C. Martin
05-21	22	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
05-25	10	Laconia	Laconia CC, Elm St.	H. Anderson
<b>Gadwall</b>				
03-16	2	Tilton	Silver Lake dam	H. Anderson
04-09	13	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet, Connecticut R.	D. Abbott
04-25	2	Concord	Turkey Pond	I. MacLeod
<b>American Wigeon</b>				
03-20	10	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
03-28	3	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	N. Aldrich
04-09	17	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet, Connecticut R.	D. Abbott
04-14	2	Hinsdale	Connecticut R.	E. Masterson
04-14	2	Charlestown	Connecticut R.	E. Masterson
04-23	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
05-25	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
<b>Blue-winged Teal</b>				
04-12	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R.& M. Suomala
04-18	3	Kensington	marsh s. of Moulton Ridge	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04-18	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
04-20	2	Hanover	Mink Brook	S. Sturup
05-03	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds trails	S. Mirick
<b>Northern Shoveler</b>				
04-17	2	Exeter	Squamscott R., Powder House Pond outflow	R. Aaronian
04-17	3	Hanover	Connecticut R., Ledyard Bridge	S. Sturup
05-13	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Northern Pintail</b>				
03-27	6	Durham	Rt. 155A, Moore fields	R. Suomala
03-28	2	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Mirick
03-29	1	Laconia	Opechee Bay	P. Hunt
04-06	2	Hanover	Connecticut R., Ledyard Bridge	S. Sturup
04-12	8	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. & M. Suomala
04-23	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
04-30	3	Rumney	Stinson Lake	T. & B. Richards
<b>Green-winged Teal</b>				
03-07	1	Laconia	Appleton St., Paugus Bay, Lakeport	H. Anderson
03-28	5	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Mirick
04-08	12	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Mirick
04-12	15	Concord	West Portsmouth St.	R. & M. Suomala
04-14	27	Charlestown	South Charlestown	E. Masterson
04-29	8	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	M. Harvey
05-04	2	Hanover	Mink Brook	S. Sturup
<b>Canvasback</b>				
03-08	1	Rye	Rye Harbor	M. Harvey, B. Cosh, W. Yandik
<b>Ring-necked Duck</b>				
03-01	1	Tilton	Winnepesaukee R. at Rt. 140	P. Hunt
03-15	3	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
03-25	37	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	D. Donsker
03-29	100	Salem	World End Pond	K. Folsom
03-29	27	Laconia	Bartlett Beach	P. Hunt
03-31	150	Kingston	Powwow Pond	K. Folsom
04-06	16	Concord	South End Marsh	R. Quinn, Capital Area Chapter FT
04-06	68	Tilton	Silver Lake	P. Hunt, B. Sens
04-06	53	Tilton	Winnisquam Lake	P. Hunt, B. Sens
04-09	428	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet, Connecticut R.	D. Abbott
04-12	64	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
04-18	12	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
04-23	44	Hopkinton	Hopkinton Lake	C. Martin
05-06	14	Errol	Harpers Meadow, Androscoggin R.	R. Suomala, C. Martin
<b>Greater Scaup</b>				
04-08	200	Greenland	Sunset Farm on Great Bay	S. Mirick
04-13	2	Lebanon	Wilder Dam	S. Sturup
04-15	20	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
04-22	5	Northwood	Northwood Lake off Narrows Brook	R. Suomala
05-01	50	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
05-07	2	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
<b>Lesser Scaup</b>				
04-09	1	Rye	Eel Pond	M. Harvey
04-09	4	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet, Connecticut R.	D. Abbott
04-10	5	Lebanon	Wilder Dam	S. Sturup
04-13	4	Lebanon	Wilder Dam	S. Sturup
04-16	4	Enfield	Mascoma Lake	S. Sturup
04-18	4	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
05-01	6	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>King Eider</b>				
05-08	1	Rye	Concord Pt.	S. Mirick, et al.
05-11	1	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	D. & T. Donsker
05-14	1	Rye	just s. of Concord Pt.	S. Mirick
05-20	1	Rye	Concord Pt.	D. Donsker, M. Resch
<b>Surf Scoter</b>				
05-03	300		NH coast	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
05-14	250	Rye	s. of Concord Point	S. Mirick
<b>White-winged Scoter</b>				
05-03	100		NH coast	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
05-28	551	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
05-30	100	Rye	NH coast	S. Mirick
<b>Black Scoter</b>				
05-03	15		NH coast	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
05-13	100	Gilmanton	Crystal Lake	W. Arms
<b>Long-tailed Duck</b>				
03-03	1	Hinsdale	Connecticut R. below Vernon Dam	A. Merritt
05-03	75		NH coast	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
<b>Bufflehead</b>				
03-01	1	Tilton	Silver Lake outflow	P. Hunt
03-24	1	Manchester	Bodwell Rd.	L. Ficek
03-31	6	Kingston	Powwow Pond	K. Folsom
04-12	2	Lebanon	Connecticut R., Ledyard Bridge	S. Sturup
04-15	8	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
04-19	6	Windham	railbed to Mitchell Pond	M. Harvey
05-06	6	Errol	Androscoggin R. n. of Errol dam	R. Suomala, C. Martin
05-25	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
<b>Common Goldeneye</b>				
03-16	5	Franklin	Pemigewasset R.	J. Williams
04-19	10	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
05-06	2	Errol	L. Umbagog, mouth of Androscoggin R.	R. Suomala, C. Martin
05-20	1	Hampton	North Beach, offshore	D. Donsker, M. Resch
<b>Barrow's Goldeneye</b>				
03-03	1	Hinsdale	Connecticut R. below Vernon Dam	A. Merritt
03-12	1	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
03-19	1	Rye	marsh w. of Rye Harbor	M. Harvey
<b>Hooded Merganser</b>				
04-09	112	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet, Connecticut R.	D. Abbott
<b>Common Merganser</b>				
04-09	132	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet, Connecticut R.	D. Abbott
04-16	89	Tilton	Lake Winnisquam	P. Hunt
04-17	43	Hanover	Connecticut R., Ledyard Bridge	S. Sturup
<b>Red-breasted Merganser</b>				
04-09	4	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet, Connecticut R.	D. Abbott
04-26	4	Windham	Cobbetts Pond	M. Harvey
<b>Ruddy Duck</b>				
04-07	1	Bennington	Powder Mill Pond	E. Masterson

## Raptors through Crane

Peak Osprey migration appears to have occurred slightly after the middle of April, with Northern Harriers slightly earlier than Osprey. The big news on the Bald Eagle front was the discovery of an active nest on Squam Lake. Stay tuned for the summer issue to find out how this new pair did. The Bald Eagle pair that was at the nest in Bedford during the winter, left in mid-March, as they have in the past. Another pair of immature eagles was seen mating at the nest in April, but they were only present for three days. In March, the continued cold temperatures and lack of open water caused Bald Eagles to concentrate in unusually high numbers along the Merrimack River. Other diurnal raptors were infrequently reported, but the listings below indicate the earliest 4-5 arrivals for each of three migratory species -- Red-shouldered and Broad-winged Hawks, and Merlin.

By far the star of the season was the **Black Rail** discovered by Matt Tarr in a wet brushy field in Greenland on May 19. The bird was present through May 25, and thanks to the landowner's cooperation and Matt's guidance, over 100 birders from throughout the Northeast were able to hear (or rarely, see) the bird. This represents the first state record for this secretive species, and there are only two sightings in heavily birded Massachusetts since 1955. This was truly a special event for New Hampshire. As for other rails, Virginias were infrequently reported and Soras not reported at all. A Common Moorhen appeared briefly in Durham.



Common Moorhen  
by Stephen R. Mirick, 5/15/03,  
Durham

The **Sandhill Crane** returned to Monroe for a fifth year. This or a different bird wandered to Lancaster on May 5, and another was in Lebanon on May 1. We will likely never know how many cranes were actually in New Hampshire this spring, although the species might be increasing. It's worth noting that cranes have been documented as *breeding* in Maine in recent years, and this range expansion is likely to result in increased sightings in the Granite State.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Osprey</b>				
03-21	1	Newmarket	Bay Rd.	H. Chary
04-02	1	Atkinson	Island Pond Rd.	J. Romano
04-03	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	R. Aaronian
04-06	1	Concord	South End Marsh	R. Quinn, Capital Area Chapter FT
04-11	1	Gilmanton	Loon Pond	J. Stockwell
04-19	2	Derry	Ballard Marsh	A. & B. Delorey
04-19	2	Windham	Forsters Pond	J. Romano
04-19	1	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
04-19	4	Windham	railbed to Mitchell Pond	M. Harvey
<b>Bald Eagle</b>				
03-01	12	Bedford	Moore's Crossing	R. Tulloh
03-18	2	Laconia	Martel's Bait Shop, Dixon Pt.	H. Anderson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
03-22	6	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick, ASNH FT
04-28	2	Moultonborough	Squam Lake	T. Vazzano, W. Grinnell
05-06	4	Errol	n. end of Lake Umbagog	R. Suomala, C. Martin
<b>Northern Harrier</b>				
03-02	1	Seabrook	Rt. 1A saltmarsh at Seaside Eatery	P. Theriault, K. Olson
04-02	1	Hopkinton	field near power plant	T. Richards
04-07	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	R. Suomala, M. Levin
04-08	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
04-15	1	Concord	Turkey Pond	P. Niswander, Concord Bird & Wildflower Club
04-16	1	Enfield	Bog Rd.	S. Sturup
04-29	2	Whitefield	Whitefield Airport	M. Harvey
05-05	3	Errol	Tidswell Pt. area, L. Umbagog	R. Suomala, C. Martin
<b>Red-shouldered Hawk</b>				
03-01	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
03-16	1	Salisbury	Mountain Rd.	S.& D. Gage, K. Spotto, L. Deming
03-17	1	Deerfield	Mountain Rd. Ext.	C.& J. Carr
03-17	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
03-18	2	Brentwood	between South Rd. & Lake Rd.	M. Tarr, R. Brown
<b>Broad-winged Hawk</b>				
04-14	1	Gilmanton	Loon Pond Rd., Old Jones Farm	J. Stockwell
04-17	1	Bradford	Rt.103	P. Newbern
04-19	2	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
04-19	1	Windham	railbed to Mitchell Pond	M. Harvey
<b>Merlin</b>				
04-07	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	R. Suomala, M. Levin
04-15	1	Plymouth	Fairgrounds Rd. by Loon Lake Rd.	J. Williams
04-29	3	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, J.Derrick, M. Barney, R. Suomala, D. Deluca
05-05	1	Errol	Tidswell Pt. area, L. Umbagog	R. Suomala, C. Martin
05-06	1	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir dam	R. Suomala, C. Martin
<b>Spruce Grouse</b>				
05-04	1	Waterville Valley	Dickey Mtn., n. side	J. Stockwell
<b>Black Rail</b>				
05-19	1	Greenland	Moulton Ave.	M. Tarr, S. Mirick, D. Finch, D.& T. Donsker, M. Resch, D. Abbott
05-26	1	Greenland	Moulton Ave.	M. Tarr, et al.
<b>Virginia Rail</b>				
05-06	1	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir	R. Suomala, C. Martin
05-11	2	Tamworth	Rt. 113, Jackman Pond outlet	T. Vazzano, et al.
05-25	2	Windham	woodlands s. of Rt. 111	M. Harvey
<b>Common Moorhen</b>				
05-15	1	Durham	Horsehide Creek Pond, Durham Point Rd.	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Sandhill Crane</b>				
04-30	1	Lebanon	Tomapo Farm, Storrs Hill Rd.	D.& J. Jorgensen
05-03	1	Monroe		L. Ryegate
05-05	1	Lancaster	Rt.135 s., 2.5 mi. s. of Rt.3	M. Hinten

## Shorebirds through Alcids

As usual, shorebird numbers along the coast were fairly low, and inland sightings were less prevalent than in recent years. One exception was Hopkinton's group of four Dunlin, a species that is rare inland, especially in spring. Otherwise, the records below are a combination of early dates and high numbers for expected species in their usual locations.

An unidentified **jaeger** (probably Parasitic) offshore on May 24 was unusual for spring. More typical were two different Little Gulls seen along the coast at this time. A Black-headed Gull spent roughly two weeks along the Squamscott River in Stratham and Exeter. The larger "winter" gulls (Iceland, Glaucous, and Lesser Black-backed) lingered into spring to a variable degree, with the latest being a first summer Iceland Gull in Rochester at the end of May.

The tern colony at Seavey Island continues to thrive, with numbers of Roseate Terns especially noteworthy this year. Some of the Roseate Terns may have come from Bird Island in Buzzard's Bay, Massachusetts, which was affected by a large oil spill in late April. As usual, you'll have to wait until the summer report to learn the results of this most recent breeding season.

Alcids, including locally breeding Black Guillemots at the Isles of Shoals, were well reported this spring. Several Razorbills and two Thick-billed Murres were found along the coast of Rye through mid-to-late April. Most intriguing was a Common Murre reported from the Isles of Shoals on May 26. While Common is the more likely murre at this date (it breeds as close as New Brunswick, and the Thick-billed breeds farther north), the Rare Birds Committee felt that the description given did not sufficiently eliminate Thick-billed Murre.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Black-bellied Plover</b>				
05-15	6	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick
<b>Semipalmated Plover</b>				
05-04	2	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	D.& T. Donsker
05-13	1	Concord	airport	R. Quinn, E. Masterson
05-20	6	Rye	Ragged Neck	D. Donsker, L. Ring
05-27	1	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
<b>Piping Plover</b>				
03-29	1	Seabrook	beach off Haverhill Rd.	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
<b>Greater Yellowlegs</b>				
04-15	1	Concord	West Portsmouth St.	P. Niswander, Concord Bird & Wildflower Club
04-17	10	Exeter	Squamscott R.	R. Aaronian
05-03	2	Plymouth	Plymouth Airport	J. Williams

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
05-05	13	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Mirick
05-25	5	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Pk.	R. Woodward
05-25	14	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit, Rt. 113	T. Vazzano
<b>Lesser Yellowlegs</b>				
05-05	3	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Mirick
05-11	1	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit, Rt. 113	T. Vazzano
05-13	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick
<b>Solitary Sandpiper</b>				
05-07	1	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park	T. & B. Richards
05-11	1	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
05-11	4	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit, Rt. 113	T. Vazzano
05-18	1	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
05-25	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
<b>Spotted Sandpiper</b>				
04-27	1	Lyme	Grant Brook	S. Sturup
05-01	1	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
05-02	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick, D. Hayward
05-30	13	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
<b>Upland Sandpiper</b>				
05-03	2	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
05-20	3	Portsmouth	Pease Int'l. Tradeport from golf course	D. Donsker, M. Resch
<b>Ruddy Turnstone</b>				
05-14	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick
05-16	4	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick
<b>Semipalmated Sandpiper</b>				
05-31	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
<b>Least Sandpiper</b>				
05-04	2	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park	R. Quinn, N. Stanhope, J. Hobbs
05-05	2	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Mirick
05-11	7	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit, Rt. 113	T. Vazzano
05-21	3	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park beach	P. & B. Richards
05-24	10	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	M. Harvey
<b>Pectoral Sandpiper</b>				
05-04	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	D. & T. Donsker
05-20	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	D. Donsker, M. Resch
<b>Purple Sandpiper</b>				
03-24	150	Hampton	south jetty, Hampton R.	T. Vazzano, R. Crowley
03-24	130	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	T. Vazzano, R. Crowley
04-29	43	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, J. Derrick, M. Barney, R. Suomala, D. Deluca
05-15	81	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick
05-20	41	Rye	at Ragged Neck	D. Donsker, M. Resch
05-20	52	Rye	Concord Pt.	D. Donsker, M. Resch
05-20	71	Hampton	south jetty, Hampton R.	D. Donsker, M. Resch
05-31	8	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Dunlin</b>				
05-21	4	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park	T. & D. Richards
05-25	20	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
<b>American Woodcock</b>				
03-17	1	Exeter	Elliot St.	R. Aaronian
03-18	1	Exeter	Exeter Hospital grounds	G. Prazar
03-21	3	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
03-22	1	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Pk.	R. Woodward
03-22	4	Dover	Bellamy River WMA and area	S. Mirick, ASNH FT
04-16	5	Enfield	Bog Rd.	S. Sturup
<b>Jaeger sp.</b>				
05-24	1	Rye	Ragged Neck	M. Harvey
<b>Laughing Gull</b>				
05-02	3		NH coast	S. Mirick
05-28	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
<b>Little Gull</b>				
05-25	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor from Fisherman's Coop.	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
05-30	2	Rye	Wallis Sands State Beach toward Concord Pt.	S. Mirick



*Little Gull by Stephen R. Mirick,  
5/30/03, Rye*



*Iceland Gull by Mike Harvey,  
4/27/03, New Castle*

<b>Black-headed Gull</b>				
03-22	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Mirick, ASNH FT
03-29	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
04-07	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	R. Suomala, M. Levin
<b>Bonaparte's Gull</b>				
04-09	4	Hinsdale	Connecticut R.	D. Abbott
<b>Iceland Gull</b>				
03-08	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Harbor	M. Harvey
03-16	1	Tilton	Winnepesaukee R. above Rt. 140 bridge	J. Williams
04-08	3	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
04-27	1	New Castle	Great Island Common	M. Harvey
04-29	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, J. Derrick, M. Barney, R. Suomala, D. DeLuca
05-27	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick



<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Lesser Black-backed Gull</b>				
03-14	1	Newmarket	Newmarket Landing	S. Mirick
04-08	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
04-23	3	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
05-05	1	Durham	Great Bay Buffalo Farm	S. Mirick
<b>Glaucous Gull</b>				
03-16	1	Laconia	Opechee Bay below Lakeport Dam	J. Williams
<b>Black-legged Kittiwake</b>				
03-29	4	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
05-30	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
<b>Roseate Tern</b>				
05-14	3	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick
05-15	11	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick
05-25	40	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	J. Derrick, S. Fuller, et al.
05-31	59	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
<b>Common Tern</b>				
05-01	20	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, J. Derrick, M. Barney
05-07	511	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick
05-15	1500	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick
05-15	16	New Castle	Piscataqua R.	R. Suomala, M. Stauffer
05-25	2200	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	J. Derrick, S. Fuller, et al.
<b>Arctic Tern</b>				
05-28	3	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
05-31	6	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
<b>Black Tern</b>				
05-02	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	J. Derrick, M. Barney
<b>Thick-billed Murre</b>				
03-29	2	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
<b>Murre sp.</b>				
05-26	1	Rye	White Island	J. Derrick, S. Fuller, C. Richesson
<b>Razorbill</b>				
03-29	3	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
04-20	1	Rye	s. of Odiorne Pt.	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
<b>Black Guillemot</b>				
03-29	1	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
04-29	9	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, J. Derrick, M. Barney, R. Suomala, D. DeLuca
05-10	4	Rye	Lunging Is., Isles of Shoals	M. & R. Suomala, et al.
<b>Alcid sp.</b>				
04-06	22	Rye	NH coast	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence

## Cuckoos through Flycatchers

Cuckoos of both species appeared in late May, presaging one of the better summers for these species in recent memory. An Eastern Screech-Owl in Milford was probably the same one reported during the previous winter, suggesting that at least one of these small nocturnal raptors has taken up residence in south-central New Hampshire. Most reports of this owl in the state come from the Great Bay area. The only other owls reported were the widespread Great Horned and Barred.

Numbers of migrating Common Nighthawks seemed low, as well as somewhat late. Whip-poor-wills were also on the late side, and I encourage observers to actively seek and report both of these declining species during the breeding season. Chimney Swifts arrived on time, but an otherwise typical series of reports was punctuated by sightings of increasingly large groups in Exeter.

Two Red-headed Woodpeckers visited the Manchester area in mid-May, and Red-bellied Woodpeckers continue in good numbers in southern New Hampshire. Most surprising was a Red-bellied Woodpecker in Errol on May 16. This well-described individual is only the third record north of the White Mountains, and the first since the spring of 1996. Bob Quinn's total of 17 drumming Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers on May 18 suggests a latish migration peak.

The Olive-sided Flycatcher in Weare on May 4 ties the record early date for the state, somewhat surprising considering the cool spring. Eastern Wood-Pewees, on the other hand, were roughly a week late. Most other flycatchers were on time, although Willow set a record early date by one day. Eastern Phoebes were on the early side, and as already mentioned in the introduction, seemed low this spring, perhaps a result of cold both here and on the wintering grounds. An **Acadian Flycatcher** at Pawtuck-away was the first spring report at this traditional location since 2000.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Black-billed Cuckoo</b>				
05-26	1	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
05-29	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazanno
<b>Yellow-billed Cuckoo</b>				
05-19	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. Delorey
<b>Eastern Screech-Owl</b>				
03-01	1	Milford	Ashley Drive	J. & A. Stevens
<b>Common Nighthawk</b>				
05-20	1	Greenland	over Rt. 33 at MacDonald's	R. & M. Suomala, et al.
05-25	2	Keene	K-Mart, West St. & bypass	M. Wright
05-29	1	Windham	Heritage Hill Rd.	M. Harvey
05-30	1	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
<b>Whip-poor-will</b>				
05-09	1	Brookline	residence	M. Neveu, B. & T. Lee
05-20	1	Gilmanton	Durrell Mtn. Rd.	N. Mitchell
05-20	1	Rumney	Buffalo Rd.	B. Berti
05-25	1	Freedom	Ossipee Lake Rd.	T. Vazzano
05-28	1	Concord	East Side Drive	M. Gray
05-29	2	Windham	Heritage Hill Rd.	M. Harvey

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Chimney Swift</b>				
04-29	3	Deerfield	Mountain Rd. Ext.	C. & J. Carr
05-02	3	Keene	Emerald & Wilson Streets	M. Wright
05-08	4	Epsom	Rt. 4	R. Suomala
05-09	50	Exeter	over downtown	M. & G. Prazar
05-25	200	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
05-31	2000	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	I. MacLeod, R. Woodward
<b>Ruby-throated Hummingbird</b>				
04-20	1	Rye	West Rd., West Rye residence	B. & H. Blanchard
05-03	2	Brookline	residence	M. Neveu
05-03	1	Deerfield	Mountain Rd. Ext.	C. & R. Carr
05-04	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
05-13	1	Columbia	residence	B. & D. Killam
<b>Red-headed Woodpecker</b>				
05-18	1	Manchester	Greeley St. backyard	D. & B. Schultz
05-19	1	Derry	English Range Rd.	K. & A. Reid
<b>Red-bellied Woodpecker</b>				
03-04	2	Newmarket	Bay Road	H. Chary
03-20	2	Brentwood	Jolly Rand Trail, Pickpocket Rd.	M. & T. Tarr
05-08	2	Derry	English Range Rd.	K. Reid
05-16	1	Errol	Rt. 16, 5 miles n. of town	S. Ouellette
05-17	1	Amherst	Ponemah Bog	P. Hunt, T. Young
05-21	4	Hinsdale	Stebbins Is. vicinity	C. Martin
05-25	6	Windham	woodlands s. of Rt. 111	M. Harvey
<b>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker</b>				
04-08	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
04-10	1	Kensington	Moulton Ridge	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04-14	1	Thornton	WMNF n. of Tripoli Rd.	J. Williams, J. Haartz
04-14	1	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. & M. Suomala
04-29	8	Whitefield	Pondicherry WS	M. Harvey
05-18	17	Canterbury	Schoodac CA	R. Quinn
<b>Black-backed Woodpecker</b>				
03-08	1	Lincoln	Zealand Mtn. n. side	J. Stockwell
03-14	1	Lincoln	Mt. Hancock, North Peak area	J. Stockwell
03-20	1	Errol	Rt. 16, Thirteen Mile Woods by Androscoggin R.	K. Babbitt
04-30	2	Beans Grant	Mt. Jackson	M. Harvey
<b>Northern Flicker</b>				
03-15	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
03-17	1	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
03-23	1	Plymouth	post office fields	J. Williams
<b>Olive-sided Flycatcher</b>				
05-04	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-18	1	Andover	North Rd.	P. Newbern
05-22	1	Exeter	Phillips Exeter Academy woods	R. Aaronian
05-31	1	Windham	trail from Rt. 111 to Castle Hill Rd.	M. Harvey
05-31	2	Deerfield	Mountain Rd. Ext.	C. & R. Carr

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Eastern Wood-Pewee</b>				
05-22	1	Windham	residence	M. Harvey
05-22	1	Hanover	Balch Hill	S. Sturup
05-26	3	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
05-29	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
05-31	1	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
05-31	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M.Barney, D. Hayward
<b>Yellow-bellied Flycatcher</b>				
05-17	1	Durham	Foss Farm	D. Donsker, ASNH FT
05-21	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-25	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
<b>Acadian Flycatcher</b>				
05-31	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	B.& A. Delorey
<b>Alder Flycatcher</b>				
05-21	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-24	1	Plymouth	Chaison Rd.	J. Williams
05-28	4	Sandwich	Thompson WS	T. Vazzano
05-31	2	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
<b>Willow Flycatcher</b>				
05-10	1	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
05-24	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	M. Harvey
<b>Least Flycatcher</b>				
04-27	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-04	6	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-07	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick
05-09	1	Walpole	Carpenter Hill Rd.	R. Ritz
05-15	14	Thornton	Tripoli Rd., WMNF	J. Williams
05-17	30	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A.& B. Delorey, BBC FT
<b>Eastern Phoebe</b>				
03-17	1	Belmont	above Lochmere Dam	P. Hunt
03-23	1	Concord	Silk Farm WS	L. Deming
03-25	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
03-25	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
<b>Great Crested Flycatcher</b>				
05-02	1	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R.& M. Suomala
05-05	1	Canterbury	Baptist Hill Rd.	R. Quinn
05-14	1	Durham	Crommet Creek beaver meadow	P. Hendrickx, C. Fisher
05-16	2	Keene	Ashuelot River Park	R. Ritz
<b>Eastern Kingbird</b>				
04-29	1	Concord	St. Paul's School	B. Densmore, Concord Bird & Wildflower Club
05-04	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-08	1	Plymouth	Smith Bridge Rd.	J. Williams
05-11	1	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
05-11	2	Keene	Oak St.	R. Ritz

## Shrikes through Thrasher

Interestingly enough, all the regular vireos were on the early side, with Yellow-throated and Red-eyed tying their record early dates. Two migrant Philadelphia Vireos were more than usual, especially since both were well away from known breeding areas in the North Country. This spring's northernmost Fish Crow was in Tamworth, with other northern outliers in Laconia and Franklin. To the south, this southern corvid was well reported from the Rochester and Windham areas, which are in the species' core range in the Merrimack and Great Bay watersheds.

For the second year, the state's Purple Martin colonies were systematically surveyed by ASNH staff and volunteers. After a slow start, presumably related to the weather, Tree Swallows began to appear in large flocks by mid-April. The tally of Bank Swallows from the southern Connecticut River is simply impressive, and is one of the highest totals in my experience. It was similarly nice to see a Cliff Swallow total from the New Castle colony. This is a species of state and regional conservation concern, so any data received from active colonies are especially valuable.

Despite the cold winter and spring, Carolina Wrens seemed to be more common than usual. Perhaps the species is starting to adapt to the northern New England climate, or at least the relatively balmy sections in southeastern New Hampshire. Winter Wrens, despite their name, were possibly among the species affected by the cold. In addition to the low numbers mentioned previously, this species was also extremely late. Thrushes all arrived roughly on time, including the Hermit Thrush, which was unusually scarce this year. The highlight of this family was a **Varied Thrush** in Gildford. This individual was first noted in February, and was last seen at the end of April.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Northern Shrike</b>				
03-03	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
03-07	1	Concord	Penacook St., Penacook	C. Foss
03-15	1	Franklin	Rt. 11 near Kidder Rd.	P. Hunt
03-23	1	Laconia	state prison fields, North Main St.	H. Anderson
04-03	1	Laconia	state prison fields, North Main St.	H. Anderson
04-09	1	Lebanon	جت. Rt. 120 & Etna Rd.	M. Krenitsky
04-14	1	Charlestown	wastewater treatment plant	E. Masterson
<b>Yellow-throated Vireo</b>				
04-29	1	Concord	St. Paul's School	B. Densmore, Concord Bird & Wildflower Club
05-07	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
05-08	1	Canterbury	Peverly Meadow	R. Quinn
05-10	1	Marlborough	Meetingplace Pond	E. Masterson, F. Von Mertens
05-31	6	Windham	railroad to Mitchell Pond	M. Harvey
<b>Blue-headed Vireo</b>				
04-16	1	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. & M. Suomala
04-29	1	Thornton	Tripoli Rd., WMNF	J. Williams, J. Serfass
05-01	1	Kensington	Moulton Ridge	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-03	10	Canterbury	Shaker Road loop	R. Quinn

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Warbling Vireo</b>				
05-01	1	Rochester	trails at Pickering Ponds	S. Mirick
05-03	3	Nashua	"Little Florida", along Nashua R.	D. Deifik
05-04	4	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park	R. Quinn, N. Stanhope, J. Hobbs
05-04	1	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
05-04	1	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
05-31	11	Windham	railroad to Mitchell Pond	M. Harvey
<b>Philadelphia Vireo</b>				
05-18	1	Lebanon	Boston Lot Lake, W. Lebanon	M. Krenitsky, ASNH FT
05-28	1	Sandwich	Thompson WS	T. Vazzano
<b>Red-eyed Vireo</b>				
05-02	2	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
05-04	1	Thornton	Welch Mtn. Trail	J. Stockwell
05-10	1	Newbury	Ramblewood Circle	P. Newbern
05-18	6	Canterbury	Schoodac CA	R. Quinn
05-25	32	Windham	survey of woodland s. of Rt. 111	M. Harvey
<b>Gray Jay</b>				
03-16	2		Mt. Carrigan summit	J. Stockwell
04-30	2	Beans Grant	Mizpah Hut	M. Harvey
05-05	1	Errol	Tidswell Pt. area, Lake Umbagog	R. Suomala, C. Martin
05-15	1	Waterville Valley	Mt. Tecumseh summit, WMNF	M. Libby, J. Preiss
<b>Fish Crow</b>				
03-24	1	Laconia	Hebert's Foundry near Martel's Bait Shop	L. Bardush, D. Stavros
03-29	3	Durham	UNH campus	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
04-06	4	Franklin	downtown	P. Hunt
04-09	11	Rochester	trails at Pickering Ponds	S. Mirick
05-06	1	Canterbury	Baptist Hill Rd.	R. Quinn
05-06	7	Windham	Cobbetts Pond	M. Harvey
05-17	1	Tamworth	Rt. 113 & Pine Hill Rd.	T. Vazzano, N. Beecher
05-29	2	Concord	airport	P. Hunt
05-29	4	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway L., s. end	G. Gavutis, Jr.
<b>Horned Lark</b>				
03-12	28	Rye	Ragged Neck	R. Crowley
03-22	16	Concord	post office fields	J. Williams
03-25	65	Durham	Rt. 155A, Moore fields	R. Suomala
03-26	125	Durham	Moore Fields	S. Mirick
05-29	1	Concord	airport	P. Hunt
<b>Purple Martin</b>				
05-03	16	Laconia	Fun Spot	P. Hunt
05-19	12	Moultonborough	Windward Harbor	P. Hunt, K. Karr
05-19	24	Laconia	Fun Spot	P. Hunt
05-20	14	Moultonborough	Lees Mill Rd.	P. Hunt
05-20	25	Conway	Rt. 302, Center Conway	P. Hunt, A. Smith
05-29	3	Freedom	Totem Pole Park	P. Hunt, S. Lee
<b>Tree Swallow</b>				
03-27	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
03-29	15	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
03-29	15	Tilton	Silver Lake	P. Hunt
04-06	12	Franklin	downtown	P. Hunt
04-15	120	Tilton	Winnepesaukee R.	J. Williams

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
04-26	200	Windham	Cobbetts Pond	M. Harvey
04-26	250	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Suomala
04-29	80	Whitefield	airport	M. Harvey
05-01	800	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
05-06	120	Lancaster	Martin Meadow Pond	R. Suomala, C. Martin
05-24	600	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	M. Harvey

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow**

04-16	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	R. Quinn, P. Wood
04-20	1	Lyme	Grant Brook	S. Sturup
04-23	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	S. Mirick, ASNH FT
04-26	6	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Suomala

**Bank Swallow**

05-06	6	Windham	Cobbetts Pond	M. Harvey
05-10	6	Concord	SPNHF	A. & B. Delorey, B. & J. Goodwin
05-21	250	Hinsdale	Connecticut R. below Vernon Dam	C. Martin
05-24	40	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	M. Harvey
05-26	10	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit, Rt. 113	T. Vazzano

**Cliff Swallow**

04-27	2	Windham	Cobbetts Pond	M. Harvey
04-29	1	Whitefield	airport	M. Harvey
05-04	1	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park	R. Quinn, N. Stanhope, J. Hobbs
05-06	1	Errol	Sweat Meadow, Androscoggin R.	R. Suomala, C. Martin
05-10	40	New Castle	Fort Constitution lighthouse	M. & R. Suomala, et al.

**Barn Swallow**

04-19	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	S. Mirick, ASNH FT
04-22	1	Windham	Cobbetts Pond	M. Harvey
04-26	2	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Suomala
05-13	25	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick
05-24	150	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	M. Harvey

**Boreal Chickadee**

03-01	5	Low & Burbanks Grant	Valley Way Trail	J. Stockwell
04-12	5	Franconia	between North & South Twin Mts.	J. Stockwell
04-29	2	Livermore	Nancy Pond Trail	M. Harvey
04-30	17	Beans Grant	Mts. Jackson and Pierce	M. Harvey
05-05	1	Errol	Tidswell Pt. area, Lake Umbagog	R. Suomala, C. Martin

**Carolina Wren**

Apr/May	2	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. Harris, et al.
04-09	1	Hanover	Smith Rd.	S. Sturup
04-22	1	Windham	Cobbetts Pond	M. Harvey
05-02	1	Concord	Elm St.	S. Johnson
05-04	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	J. Derrick, M. Barney

**House Wren**

04-29	1	Hanover	East Wheelock St.	S. Sturup
04-29	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, J. Derrick, M. Barney, R. Suomala, D. DeLuca
05-01	1	Kensington	Moulton Ridge	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-02	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Winter Wren</b>				
03-25	1	Plymouth	Fairgrounds Rd.	D. Batchelder
04-13	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04-15	1	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. & M. Suomala
04-16	1	Livermore	Mack Brook Rd., WMNF	J. Williams
04-30	5	Beans Grant	Mt. Jackson	M. Harvey
<b>Marsh Wren</b>				
05-20	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant along river	D. Donsker, M. Resch
<b>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</b>				
04-15	1	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. & M. Suomala
04-16	2	Livermore	Mack Brook Rd., WMNF	J. Williams
04-16	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04-17	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr. near Piscassic R.	P. Hendrickx
04-19	18	Windham	railroad to Mitchell Pond	M. Harvey
<b>Blue-gray Gnatcatcher</b>				
04-27	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
04-28	2	Windham	railroad to Mitchell Pond	M. Harvey
04-29	2	Concord	St. Paul's School	B. Densmore, Concord Bird & Wildflower Club
05-03	1	Nashua	"Little Florida" along Nashua R.	D. Deifik
05-03	1	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams, J. Lloyd
05-10	4	Plymouth	Baker River Oxbow ponds	J. Williams
05-31	10	Windham	railroad to Mitchell Pond	M. Harvey
<b>Veery</b>				
04-29		Concord	St. Paul's School	B. Densmore, Concord Bird & Wildflower Club
05-05	1	Gilmanton	Old Jones Farm	J. Stockwell
05-11	3	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
05-11	1	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
05-11	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
<b>Swainson's Thrush</b>				
05-12	2	Windham	Mitchell Pond	K. Folsom
05-17	8	Tamworth	James Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, N. Beecher
05-17	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey, BBC FT
05-18	1	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
<b>Hermit Thrush</b>				
04-06	1	Concord	South End Marsh	R. Quinn, Capital Area Chapter FT
04-16	1	Thornton	Tripoli Rd., WMNF	J. Williams
04-17	1	Durham	UNH campus	R. Suomala
04-19	2	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
<b>Wood Thrush</b>				
04-30	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-02	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
05-04	1	Newbury	Stoney Brook WS	C. Martin
05-04	1	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
05-04	2	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
<b>Varied Thrush</b>				
04-25	1	Gilford	Highland Dr.	D. Richter



<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Gray Catbird</b>				
05-03	1	Nashua	"Little Florida" along Nashua R.	D. Deifik
05-04	1	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
05-04	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-04	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
<b>Brown Thrasher</b>				
04-23	1	Peterborough	Union St.	M. Johnson
04-27	1	Kensington	Moulton Ridge Rd.	M. Perry
05-01	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-06	1	Concord	West Portsmouth St. end	R. Suomala

## Warblers



*Hooded Warbler*  
by Stephen R. Mirick,  
5/10/03, Exeter

It was a good spring for "-winged warblers." The most likely member of the group, Blue-winged Warbler, was found as far north as Hill, although most records came from the area of Clough State Park, one of the best places to find the species in the state. The token **Golden-winged Warbler** was in Sandwich, following a recent pattern of this species appearing in central or northern New Hampshire in May. Given that Golden-wings have been expanding their range north in the last decade, one wonders if there is a small breeding population hidden somewhere in the northern half of the Granite State. And then there were the hybrids: three each of the more common Brewster's and usually rare Lawrence's. For more

on these species and their hybrids, see the article on page 42.

With a couple of general exceptions, warblers arrived right on time, providing further evidence in support of the theory that most of these species, which winter outside the United States, are not affected by our spring weather to the same degree as species like Winter Wren and Hermit Thrush. However, it's worth noting that Pine Warblers were affected by the 1976 cold snap in the South, but this early warbler seemed undiminished in New Hampshire this spring. Warblers arriving late can be categorized into two groups, based on how late they were. Latest were the waterthrushes, with Louisianas roughly *two weeks* behind schedule, and I admit I can't come up with a good explanation. Any takers? Only a few days late were many of the northerly-nesting warblers: Tennessee, Cape May, Bay-breasted, and Blackpoll.

In the listings below, I've opted to include several high totals from four locations: Clough State Park (no table is provided this year as there has been in other years), Rob Woodward's new survey route around Turkey Pond, Pawtuckaway State Park, and Sandwich. From these admittedly limited data, you can see that migration peaked mid-May in central New Hampshire and slightly later in the Lakes Region.

Warblers out of place this spring included a presumably wintering Pine Warbler in Lee that survived at least until early March, and a Prairie Warbler unusually far north in Campton at the record-tying early date of April 25. Rarities in the statewide context included two reports each of **Hooded** and **Yellow-throated Warblers**.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Blue-winged Warbler</b>				
05-04	6	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-10	7	Weare	off Sugar Hill Rd.	A. & B. Delorey, B. & J. Goodwin
05-11	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-13	5	Durham	Foss Farm	S. Mirick, S. Standley
05-17	2	Hill	Franklin Falls Dam	R. Woodward, Capital Area Chapter FT
05-21	10	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-22	1	Pelham	Tallant Rd. power lines	M. Harvey
05-25	5	Greenland	off Moulton Rd.	P. Hunt, M. Tarr, et al.
<b>Golden-winged Warbler</b>				
05-26	1	Sandwich	Thompson WS	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
<b>Brewster's Warbler - hybrid</b>				
05-09	2	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	I. MacLeod
05-10	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	R. Woodward
05-17	1	Durham	Foss Farm	D. Donsker, A. Ablowich, M. Wittner
<b>Lawrence's Warbler - hybrid</b>				
05-22	1	S. Hampton	powerline off Rt. 108	R. Aaronian
05-25	1	Greenland	off end of Moulton Rd.	P. Hunt, M. Tarr, J. Berry, W. Petersen, et al.
05-25	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Shooting Range off Rt. 107	D. & T. Donsker
<b>Tennessee Warbler</b>				
05-25	1	Concord	Silk Farm Audubon Center	P. Hunt
05-25	1	Windham	survey of woodland s. of Rt. 111	M. Harvey
<b>Nashville Warbler</b>				
04-29	1	Hanover	Dartmouth College Campus	S. Sturup
04-30	1	Enfield	Bog Rd.	P. Newbern
05-02	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
05-04	2	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
05-04	5	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-12	18	Deerfield	Tandy Rd.	M. Harvey
<b>Northern Parula</b>				
04-30	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-03	1	Nashua	"Little Florida" along Nashua R.	D. Deifik
05-04	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
<b>Yellow Warbler</b>				
05-03	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Suomala
05-04	1	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
05-04	5	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-06	1	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
<b>Chestnut-sided Warbler</b>				
05-04	1	Lebanon	Boston Lot Lake	S. Sturup
05-04	2	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-10	8	Weare	off Sugar Hill Rd.	A. & B. Delorey, B. & J. Goodwin
05-18	12	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Magnolia Warbler</b>				
05-04	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-04	1	Lebanon	Boston Lot Lake	S. Sturup
05-11	2	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
05-13	6	Windham	pond on Castle Hill Rd.	M. Harvey
05-13	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick
05-30	20	Sandwich	Sandwich Notch Rd.	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
<b>Cape May Warbler</b>				
05-12	1	Hanover	Observatory Rd., Dartmouth College	S. Sturup
<b>Black-throated Blue Warbler</b>				
05-03	1	Sunapee	Lake Ave.	P. Newbern
05-07	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	J. Derrick, M. Barney
05-11	3	Walpole	Meriam, Scovill & Carpenter Hill Rds.	R. Ritz
05-11	1	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
<b>Yellow-rumped Warbler</b>				
04-06	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale Bluffs	A. Greenwood
04-19	4	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
04-21	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
04-22	3	Hanover	Dartmouth College Campus	S. Sturup
05-03	50	Canterbury	Shaker Road loop	R. Quinn
05-03	25	Nashua	"Little Florida" along Nashua R.	D. Deifik
05-04	29	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
05-04	30	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
05-04	75	Lebanon	Boston Lot Lake	S. Sturup
05-10	115	Windham	railroad to Mitchell Pond	M. Harvey
05-12	60	Deerfield	Tandy Rd.	M. Harvey
<b>Black-throated Green Warbler</b>				
04-28	1	Walpole	Scovill Rd.	R. Ritz
04-29	2	Thornton	Thornton Gore, WMNF	J. Williams, J. Serfass
04-29	1	N. Hampton	residence	T. Donsker
04-29	1	Hanover	Dartmouth College Campus	S. Sturup
04-29	2	Concord	St. Paul's School	B. Densmore, Concord Bird & Wildflower Club
05-04	10	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-17	20	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey, BBC FT
05-18	14	Canterbury	Schoodac CA	R. Quinn
<b>Blackburnian Warbler</b>				
05-05	1	Thornton	Hix Mountain, WMNF	J. Williams, M. Prout, T. Weddle
05-09	8	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
05-10	2	Windham	railroad to Mitchell Pond	M. Harvey
05-11	1	Enfield	Cole Pond trail	S. Sturup
05-30	14	Sandwich	Sandwich Notch Rd.	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
<b>Yellow-throated Warbler</b>				
05-03	1	Hanover	Occum Pond near Dartmouth CC	M. Krenitsky
05-11	1	Deerfield	Tandy Rd., Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	B. Griffith
<b>Pine Warbler</b>				
03-02	1	Lee	Allen's Ave.	C. Fisher
04-13	1	Concord	Silk Farm WS	R. Woodward

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Pine Warbler—continued</b>				
04-15	3	Durham	UNH college woods	R. Suomala
04-16	1	Hanover	Dartmouth College campus	S. Sturup
04-19	1	Windham	residence	J. Romano
04-19	4	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
04-19	8	Windham	railbed to Mitchell Pond	M. Harvey
05-04	8	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-17	10	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A.& B. Delorey, BBC FT
05-18	12	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
<b>Prairie Warbler</b>				
04-25	1	Campton	along Beebe R.	C. Johnson
05-13	7	Concord	airport	R. Quinn, E. Masterson
05-18	4	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	D.& T. Donsker
05-20	2	Windham	Castle Hill Rd. power lines	J. Romano
05-30	1	Manchester	Hackett Hill Preserve	P. Hunt
05-31	11	Windham	Castle Hill Rd. power lines	M. Harvey



*Prairie Warbler*  
by Cheryl Johnson,  
4/25/03, Campton

<b>Palm Warbler</b>				
04-15	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
04-15	12	Stratham	Sandy Point	J. Romano
04-19	1	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
04-19	22	Windham	railbed to Mitchell Pond	M. Harvey
04-20	4	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
04-23	7	Rochester	trails at Pickering Ponds	S. Mirick
05-04	1	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
05-06	1	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
<b>Bay-breasted Warbler</b>				
05-05	1	Windham	trail from Rt. 111 to Castle Hill Rd.	M. Harvey
05-11	1	Peterborough		E. Masterson
05-17	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A.& B. Delorey, BBC FT
05-26	3	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
05-31	2	Windham	railroad to Mitchell Pond	M. Harvey
<b>Blackpoll Warbler</b>				
05-18	2	Canterbury	Schoodac CA	R. Quinn
05-18	4	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
05-18	1	New London	Esther Currier WMA, Low Plain	P. Newbern
05-18	1	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Cerulean Warbler</b>				
05-11	1	Deerfield	Tandy Rd., Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	B. Griffith
05-21	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-25	2	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
<b>Black-and-white Warbler</b>				
04-29	1	Holderness	US Forest Service office lot	J. Williams
04-29	1	Dover	Prospect St. residence	S. Galt
04-29	1	Concord	St. Paul's School	B. Densmore, Concord Bird & Wildflower Club
04-30	2	Enfield	Bog Rd.	P. Newbern
04-30	1	Westmoreland	River Rd.	R. Ritz
05-04	33	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-18	12	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
<b>American Redstart</b>				
05-04	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-09	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	M. & G. Prazar
05-11	2	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
05-12	6	Windham	Mitchell Pond	K. Folsom
05-12	2	Hanover	Observatory Rd., Dartmouth College	S. Sturup
05-17	30	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey, BBC FT
<b>Ovenbird</b>				
05-03	4	Canterbury	Shaker Road loop	R. Quinn
05-03	3	Walpole	Merriam & Scovill Rds.	R. Ritz
05-03	1	Sunapee	Stagecoach Rd.	P. Newbern
05-04	1	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
05-04	12	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-09	23	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
05-18	17	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
<b>Northern Waterthrush</b>				
04-30	4	Enfield	Bog Rd.	P. Newbern
05-03	3	Canterbury	Shaker Road	R. Quinn
05-04	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-04	2	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
<b>Louisiana Waterthrush</b>				
05-04	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-09	2	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
05-13	1	Windham	residence	M. Harvey
05-17	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
<b>Mourning Warbler</b>				
05-27	1	Sandwich	Thompson WS	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
05-29	1	Durham	East Foss Farm	S. Mirick
<b>Common Yellowthroat</b>				
05-05	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. & J. Hendrickx
05-08	1	Walpole	Scovill Rd.	R. Ritz
05-11	2	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
05-11	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-11	3	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
05-18	30	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Hooded Warbler</b>				
05-09	1	Exeter	Lindenshire Trailer Park by Alder St.	P. Lacourse, C. Scott
05-10	1	Exeter	Alder St. & Cedar St.	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence, M. Harvey, P. Lacourse, et al.
05-19	1	Rye	White Is.	M. Barney, J. Derrick
<b>Wilson's Warbler</b>				
05-11	1	Franconia	summit of Owls Head	J. Stockwell
05-14	1	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park	T. Richards
05-16	1	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
05-17	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr, n. bank of Piscassic R.	P. Hendrickx
05-18	2	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Woodward
<b>Canada Warbler</b>				
05-11	1	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
05-18	1	New London	Esther Currier WMA, Low Plain	P. Newbern
05-19	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
05-24	1	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
05-25	2	Windham	survey of woodland s. of Rt. 111	M. Harvey

## Tanager through Finches

Two Blue Grosbeaks reports, both in southwestern New Hampshire, were slightly more than average over the last few years. Mary Wright tallied an exceptional 36 Eastern Towhees in Gilsum on April 19, a noteworthy total for this declining species. Mike Harvey also found good numbers of this species, and the similarly declining Field Sparrow, along power lines in Windham.

Grassland sparrows (Grasshopper, Vesper, and Savannah) made a good showing, due in part to ongoing grassland bird surveys conducted by ASNH for the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department. Of the three species, Grasshopper Sparrow is the most rare, with the bulk of the state's population at the Concord Airport. This site is also good for Vesper Sparrow, which as the listings indicate, is more widespread overall, although still relatively rare. Savannah Sparrows, by contrast, remain quite common, and show no signs of the declines evident in other field species.

The cold and snow in early April were certainly responsible for the exceptional numbers of Fox Sparrows reported from feeders soon afterwards. These numbers continued for less than a week, at which time warming temperatures probably urged this hardy sparrow back into thickets or farther north. White-crowned Sparrows, while not as frequently observed as Fox Sparrows, also seemed more common than usual in mid-May. A final northern sparrow of note this spring was Snow Bunting. The only report was of a flock of 17 on the undoubtedly chilly summit of Mt. Guyot on March 8.

Rusty Blackbirds seemed somewhat late this spring. This may be a result of the cold winter and spring, or it might be further indication of this species' slow and steady decline over much of its range across the northern United States and Canada. Starting in mid-May, Baltimore Orioles were reported in above-average numbers. Not included in the *New Hampshire Bird Records* database are many anecdotal reports of

this obvious and popular songbird. After a winter with almost no invading finches, there were only a few White-winged Crossbills and Evening Grosbeaks outside of northern New Hampshire.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Scarlet Tanager</b>				
05-11	1	Newbury	Ramblewood Circle residence	P. Newbern
05-12	1	Rye	West Rd., West Rye	B. & H. Blanchard
05-12	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
05-25	45	Windham	survey of woodland s. of Rt. 111	M. Harvey
<b>Eastern Towhee</b>				
04-15	1	Stratham	near jct. Rt. 108 & Swampscott Rd.	G. Gavutis III
04-17	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
04-19	36	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
04-19	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-08	14	Windham	Castle Hill Rd. power lines	M. Harvey
05-13	14	Concord	airport	R. Quinn, E. Masterson
<b>American Tree Sparrow</b>				
03-09	21	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
04-06	12	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
04-10	1	Newfields	feeder on Rt. 85	R. Aaronian
04-12	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
04-13	2	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
04-19	1	Lyme	Post Pond	S. Sturup
04-20	1	Laconia	Wildwood Rd.	H. Anderson
<b>Chipping Sparrow</b>				
04-11	1	Gilmanton	Loon Pond Rd.	J. Stockwell
04-14	1	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
04-15	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
04-15	5	Newmarket	Bay Rd.	H. Chary
<b>Field Sparrow</b>				
04-15	1	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
04-20	4	Windham	Castle Hill Rd. power lines	M. Harvey
04-29	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
05-08	16	Windham	Castle Hill Rd. power lines	M. Harvey
05-13	15	Concord	airport	R. Quinn, E. Masterson
<b>Vesper Sparrow</b>				
04-27	1	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport, Newington Rd.	M. Harvey
05-04	1	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
05-11	2	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit, Rt. 113	T. Vazzano
05-29	6	Concord	airport	P. Hunt
<b>Savannah Sparrow</b>				
04-19	2	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
04-19	3	Lyme	Post Pond	S. Sturup
04-19	2	Haverhill	Bedell Bridge	S. Sturup
04-29	3	Whitefield	airport	M. Harvey
04-29	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, J. Derrick, M. Barney, R. Suomala, D. DeLuca
05-29	20	Concord	airport	P. Hunt

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Grasshopper Sparrow</b>				
05-02	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick, D. Hayward
05-04	1	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport, Newington Rd.	M. Harvey, B. Griffin, R. Merrill
05-13	1	Concord	airport	E. Masterson
05-17	1	Amherst	cemetery fields	P. Hunt
05-22	1	Merrimack	Anheuser-Busch Brewery fields	P. Hunt
05-25	1	Newington	off McIntyre Rd. in Pease Int'l. Tradeport	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
05-29	12	Concord	airport	P. Hunt
<b>Fox Sparrow</b>				
03-17	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
03-28	9	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
04-04	2	Milford	Federal Hill Rd.	B. Becker
04-05	4	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. & M. Suomala
04-07	10	Concord	Silk Farm WS	R. Suomala
04-08	8	Goffstown	New Boston Rd.	J. Doherty
04-08	4	Newmarket	Bay Road	H. Chary
04-10	4	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
04-17	1	Columbia	residence	B. & D. Killam
04-29	10	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
<b>Lincoln's Sparrow</b>				
05-06	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. Harris, et al.
05-10	1	Exeter	residence	G. Prazar
05-13	1	Concord	airport	R. Quinn, E. Masterson
05-13	2	Canterbury	Baptist Hill Rd.	R. Quinn
05-13	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
<b>Swamp Sparrow</b>				
04-16	1	Kensington	Great Meadow	R. Quinn, P. Wood
04-19	2	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
04-29	3	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, J. Derrick, M. Barney, R. Suomala, D. DeLuca
04-30	26	Enfield	Bog Rd.	P. Newbern
<b>White-crowned Sparrow</b>				
04-30	6	Amherst	Island Pond Rd.	J. Carmichael
05-02	1	Laconia	Wildwood Rd.	H. Anderson
05-03	1	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park	T. Richards
05-03	3	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
05-06	5	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. Harris, et al.
05-10	14	Lebanon	Dartmouth-Hitchcock Hospital	D. Killam
05-11	5	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	D. & T. Donsker
05-11	7	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
05-12	6	Holderness	Squam Lakes Science Center	J., D. & J. Romano
05-13	10	Concord	airport	R. Quinn, E. Masterson
<b>Snow Bunting</b>				
03-08	17	Lincoln	Mt. Guyot summit	J. Stockwell



<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Rose-breasted Grosbeak</b>				
04-30	2	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
05-01	1	Columbia	residence	B. Killam
05-02	1	Deerfield	Mountain Rd. Ext.	C. & R. Carr
05-02	2	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
05-02	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
<b>Blue Grosbeak</b>				
05-03	1	Francestown	New Boston Rd.	S. Avery
05-18	1	Charlestown	N. Charlestown, 1.5 miles s. of Claremont	E. Berquist
<b>Indigo Bunting</b>				
05-02	1	Concord	Beaver Meadow Village	P. Niswander
05-08	1	Gilmanton	Currier Hill Rd.	J. Stockwell
05-08	1	Nashua	Elgin St., south Nashua	M. Mugica
05-09	1	Milford	Edgewood St.	K. Ackroyd
05-15	1	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
<b>Bobolink</b>				
05-04	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-07	1	Gilmanton	Old Jones Farm	J. Stockwell
05-08	1	Walpole	County Rd.	R. Ritz
05-11	1	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
05-12	9	Brookfield	Wentworth Rd.	Mrs. & J. Labelle
<b>Eastern Meadowlark</b>				
03-26	1	Concord	Birch St. community gardens	R. Suomala
04-10	2	E. Kingston	off Rt. 108	R. Aaronian
04-13	1	Plymouth	field next to Fairgrounds Rd.	J. Williams
04-16	2	Enfield	Lower Shaker Village	S. Sturup
05-03	1	Canterbury	Shaker Road	R. Quinn
05-29	4	Concord	airport	P. Hunt
05-29	4	Merrimack	Anheuser-Busch Brewery fields	P. Hunt
<b>Rusty Blackbird</b>				
03-25	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	D. Donsker
03-30	1	Gilmanton	Currier Hill Rd.	J. Stockwell
04-12	12	Concord	Locke Rd. Marsh	R. Woodward
04-16	2	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx, C. Fisher
04-19	2	Windham	railroad to Mitchell Pond	M. Harvey
04-29	2	Jefferson	Cherry Pond	M. Harvey
05-03	4	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
<b>Common Grackle</b>				
03-20	6000	Portsmouth	Great Bog blackbird roost	S. Mirick
03-29	73	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
<b>Orchard Oriole</b>				
04-25	2	Bedford	Wendover Way	J. McNeil
05-05	2	Stratham	s. of Swampscott Rd. & Rt. 108 jct.	G. Gavutis, III
05-13	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
05-14	1	Chester	Hillside Haven, Derry Rd.	A. Delorey
05-18	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Baltimore Oriole</b>				
05-01	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-03	1	Brookline	residence	M. Neveu
05-03	7	Rye	West Rd., West Rye	B. & H. Blanchard
05-04	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
05-05	2	Salem	residence	K. Folsom
05-05	4	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-11	15	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
05-12	15	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-25	48	Windham	survey of woodland s. of Rt. 111	M. Harvey
<b>Blackbird sp.</b>				
03-20	1000	Porsmouth	Great Bog blackbird roost	S. Mirick
<b>Red Crossbill</b>				
05-17	2	Tamworth	Fowlers Mill Rd.	T. Vazzano, N. Beecher
<b>White-winged Crossbill</b>				
03-12	1	Concord	behind Heritage Heights	B. Soule
03-16	6	Livermore	Signal Ridge	J. Stockwell
03-19	5	Lincoln	Cedar Brook Trail	J. Stockwell
03-24	2	Orford	Archertown Rd., 1 mile from Indian Pond Rd.	M. Krenitsky
04-13	7	Franconia	South Twin Mtn.	J. Stockwell
04-30	5	Beans Grant	Mts. Jackson and Pierce	M. Harvey
<b>Crossbill sp.</b>				
05-05	6	Errol	Tidswell Pt. area, Lake Umbagog	R. Suomala, C. Martin
05-06	1	Dummer	Dummer Ponds Rd.	R. Suomala, C. Martin
<b>Pine Siskin</b>				
03-07	2	Chatham	residence	R. Crowley
<b>Evening Grosbeak</b>				
03-18	2	Walpole	Merriam Rd. yard	R. Ritz
03-20	6	Northfield	Northfield census route	P. Hunt
03-24	6	Orford	Archertown Rd., 1 mile from Indian Pond Rd.	M. Krenitsky
04-04	20	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
05-12	10	Holderness	Squam Lakes Science Center	J.,D.& J. Romano
05-18	2	Canterbury	Abbott Rd.	R. Quinn
05-19	2	Brookline		M. Neveu
05-22	2	Hanover	Grasse Rd.	S. Sturup
05-30	2	Gilmanton	Crystal Lake	W. Arms



*Rose-breasted Grosbeak*  
by Cheryl Johnson,  
5/4/03, Campton

## Reporters for Spring 2003

Rich Aaronian	Susan Galt	Kevin Reid
Marie Anne	George Gavutis Jr.	Tudor Richards
Widge Arms	Ben Griffith	Deb Richter
Jenny Ashley	Bill Harris	Robert Ritz
Susan Avery	Michael Harvey	Judy Romano
Jeannine Ayer	Phil Hendrickx	Daniel Schultz
Melissa Barney	Lindsay Herlihy	Wayne Scott
Bertram Becker	Monty Hinten	Brenda Sens
Eleanor Berquist	Pam Hunt	Dot Soule
Bud & Helen Blanchard	Cheryl Johnson	Robert Soule
Joan Carmichael	Margot Johnson	Dawn Stavros
Chris Carr	David Jorgensen	John Stevens
Hank Chary	Barbara Killam	Stefan Sturup
H. Cook Anderson	David Killam	Rebecca Suomala
Robert Crowley	Mark Krenitsky	Bill Taffe
Peg Damon	Paul Lacourse	Matt Tarr
David Deifik	Iain MacLeod	Pauline Theriault
Alan Delorey	Chris Martin	Tony Vazzano
Barbara Delorey	Karen Massone	Robert Vernon
Laura Deming	Eric Masterson	John Williams
Joe Derrick	Al Merritt	Rob Woodward
Jane Doherty	Stephen Mirick	Mary Wright
David Donsker	Peter Newbern	
Terri Donsker	Pat Niswander	
Catherine Fisher	Greg Prazar	Some sightings were
Kenneth Folsom	Robert Quinn	taken directly from the
Carol Foss	J. R. Stockwell	NH.Birds list serve

## Reports for the following species were received in Spring 2003 but not listed.

Great Blue Heron	Willet	Tufted Titmouse
Great Egret	Wilson's Snipe	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Snowy Egret	Bonaparte's Gull	White-breasted Nuthatch
Canada Goose	Ring-billed Gull	Brown Creeper
American Black Duck	Herring Gull	Eastern Bluebird
Mallard	Great Black-backed Gull	American Robin
Common Eider	Mourning Dove	Northern Mockingbird
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Great Horned Owl	Cedar Waxwing
Cooper's Hawk	Barred Owl	Song Sparrow
Northern Goshawk	Belted Kingfisher	White-throated Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Downy Woodpecker	Dark-eyed Junco
American Kestrel	Hairy Woodpecker	Northern Cardinal
Peregrine Falcon	Pileated Woodpecker	Red-winged Blackbird
Ring-necked Pheasant	Blue Jay	Brown-headed Cowbird
Ruffed Grouse	American Crow	Purple Finch
Wild Turkey	Common Raven	House Finch
Killdeer	Black-capped Chickadee	American Goldfinch

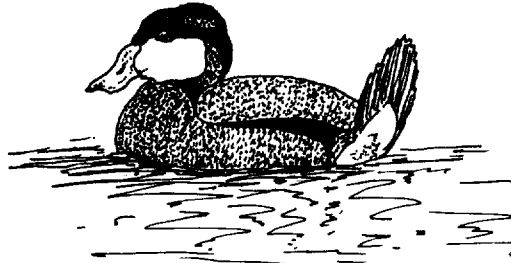
Sightings of the species listed above occurred in average numbers at expected locations, were discussed in the summaries, or are escaped exotics.

## Spotlight on Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*)

by Eric Masterson

### Background

The Ruddy Duck is a member of a group of duck known as stifftails (*Oxyura* is Greek for sharp tail), a genus of eight species of duck represented on all continents except Antarctica. It comprises three races distributed throughout North and South America and it has been introduced to Europe courtesy of the Wild-



by Iain C. MacLeod

fowl and Wetlands Trust at Slimbridge in England. The duck's stiff tail is used as an underwater rudder and is prone to heavy wear. For this reason it is molted twice each year along with the flight feathers, leading to two periods of flightlessness per year. It is one of the most susceptible ducks to habitat disruption—it depends on stable water levels in its prairie marsh breeding habitat, making the nest highly vulnerable to destruction from flooding or drought. Breeding season surveys suggest that the North American nesting population of Ruddy Duck may be about 475,000 birds, but these figures are prone to enormous variation from year to year. Its diet includes seeds and small animals strained from the bottom ooze of muddy ponds.

### Breeding Status

The Ruddy Duck breeds primarily in the prairie region of North America and is a common winter resident of brackish to saline coastal habitats and large inland water bodies. The closest breeding population to New Hampshire is in southern Quebec along the Saint Lawrence River. It does not breed in New Hampshire, although there is a summer record from Newfound Lake where an adult male was shot and is now in the collection of Camp Pasquaney in Hebron. The *Birds of Massachusetts* lists Ruddy Duck as a sporadic breeder in Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts; however I could find no records of breeding in New Hampshire in my search of the literature. It breeds sporadically in Massachusetts on Plum Island and on South Monomoy.

### Occurrence in New Hampshire

There has been a very significant increase in the number of records of Ruddy Duck in New Hampshire since the 1960s, notwithstanding a steep decline from the late 1970s through the early 1990s (Figure 1). There are very few records prior to 1950. However, numbers are highly variable from year to year, and this variability is exacerbated by the tendency of the species to occur occasionally in huge flocks as follows:

- 127 birds, Great Bay, October 1966
- 299 birds, Great Bay, November 1996

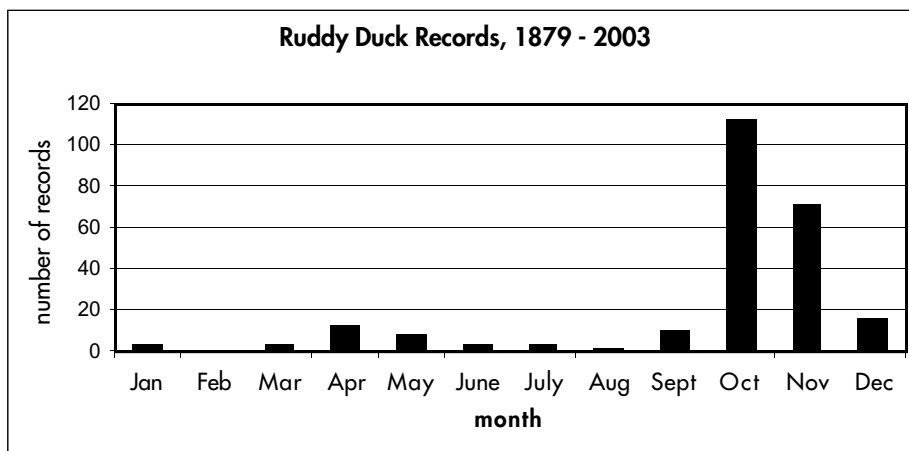
- 635 birds, Lake Massabesic, December 1999
- 105 birds, Beaver Lake (Derry), November 2000

Ruddy Duck has been recorded in all months with the exception of February, when there is little open water in the state. The annual occurrence of Ruddy Duck in New Hampshire describes a bell curve centered on the months of October and November (Figure 1) when measured by peak concentrations of birds\* (Figure 2). In good years, most of the best sites hold Ruddy Duck from October onwards, with the numbers building through November and early December. There is a small spring passage but the species is not recorded on an annual basis in spring.

Ruddy Duck appears primarily in southern New Hampshire (Figure 3), and there are a few locations where it seems to be more frequent, including the Exeter wastewater treatment plant (over 40 records), Great Bay (over 25 records), and Eel Pond in Rye (over 18 records). It seems to be particularly regular in sewage ponds, and both Exeter and Rochester wastewater treatment plants are favorite haunts of this species.

**Figure 1. Occurrence of Ruddy Duck by month in New Hampshire.**

*The data represented is the number of records (duplicate records of a single flock are not included). Each record can be for a varying number of individual birds.*



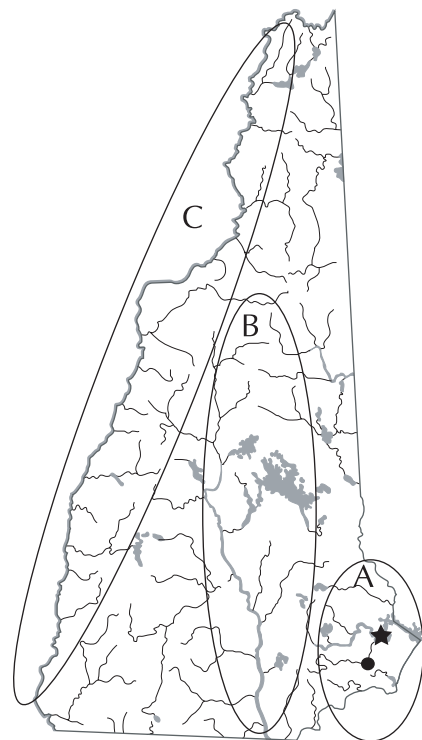
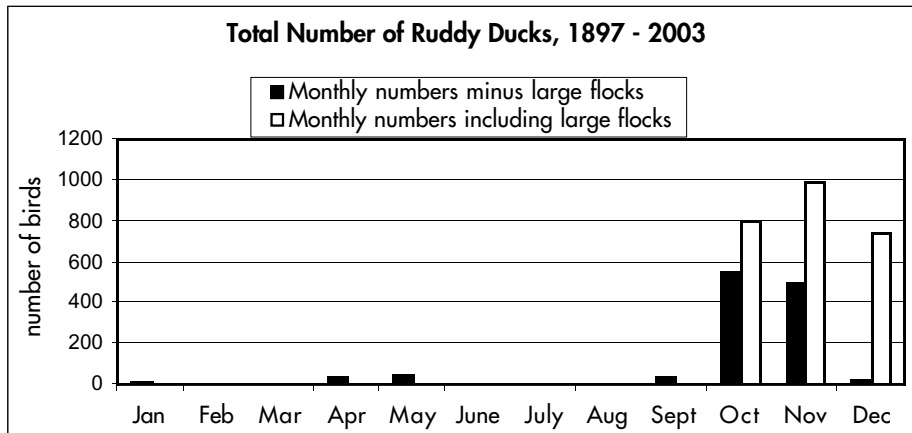
**Comments**

Ruddy Duck has been much more regularly documented as a visitor to the state in the last 50 years, but within that time it occurs in highly variable numbers from year to year and decade to decade. The species is known to suffer from adverse conditions on the breeding grounds and this may partly explain the variability. The species seems to be highly dependable in certain locations, especially sewage ponds. Because Ruddy Duck filters pond and lake bottom mud, it seems likely that the highly-enriched waters of sewage ponds would yield nutritious sediments for bottom feeders.

\*This analysis removes from the calculations the extraordinary occurrence of 635 birds on Lake Massabesic on December 18, 1999, which would otherwise characterize December as one of the best months to see Ruddy Duck, an incorrect conclusion.

**Figure 2. Ruddy Duck numbers by month in New Hampshire.**

This data represents the actual number of individual birds seen when all records are totaled (duplicate records of a single flock are not included). Cursory analysis of numbers would lead to an inaccurate conclusion that Ruddy Ducks are common in December, but this is an artifact of a single occurrence of one large flock. The totals without the large flocks are more indicative of the pattern of occurrence. Large flocks are defined as any flock with 50 or more individuals.



**Figure 3. Distribution of Ruddy Duck records in New Hampshire, 1879-2003**

- ★ Great Bay - 40% of the number of birds
- Exeter - 13% of the number of birds
- A** Southeast region - more than 60% of both records and number of birds
- B** Central region - 20% of the records and 32% of the total numbers of birds (the latter due to a single record of 635 birds from Lake Massabesic on December 18, 1999)
- C** Connecticut River valley - 11% of the records and 4% of the total number of birds

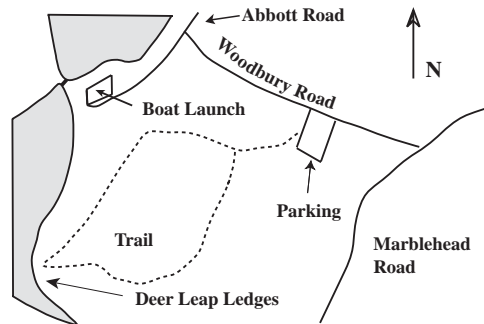
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**Figure 2.**  
**Deer Leap map**



road, then turn right onto a small (and easily missed) dirt road. Parking for Deer Leap is in a small lot to the left of this dirt road.

The Deer Leap Trail leads from behind the sign at the parking lot to the ledge 1/3 of a mile away. You will soon see a fork; the right trail is slightly shorter. While hiking through the woods, listen for typical woodland breeders such as Broad-winged Hawk, Hairy Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Red-eyed Vireo, Wood Thrush, and Ovenbird. Once you reach the ledge, scan the water and shorelines for birds, but *stay away from the edge!* If a deer can't survive the fall, there's little chance a person would. Migrant waterfowl are frequent here in late March and April and again in October. Look for Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, American Black Duck, Green-winged Teal, and Hooded Merganser. During early fall, Moeckel Dam is frequently lowered, creating habitat for Great Blue Herons and, in most years, a few Great Egrets. Osprey are also frequently seen hunting over the pond.

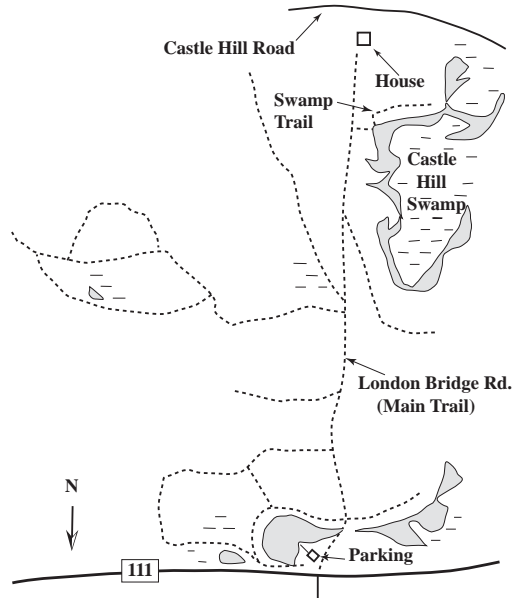
**London Bridge Trail (See #2 on the Windham map and the London Bridge map.)**

London Bridge Road was frequently used by carriages traveling in West Windham during the 18th and 19th centuries. Now this old road is just a trail, with several foundations and an old bridge hidden under the canopy of oaks and other deciduous trees. This is a great place to find woodland breeders.

To reach the London Bridge Road, start from the intersection of Routes 111 and 111A in front of Windham Farms and head west on Route 111. After driving a little over three miles and through three traffic lights you will see the white gate of the Windham Transfer Station to the right. Turn left here onto the small dirt driveway/road right across the street from the transfer station. If you think you can make it back up, descend the short hill and stay to the left. There is a small parking area at the bottom of the hill. The trail from here to the swamp is just under a mile each way.

Start by scanning the pond next to the parking area. The surrounding alders hold numerous breeding Yellow Warblers as well as other passerines during migration. Blue-winged Warbler and Traill's-type Flycatchers (Willow or Alder Flycatchers) have been seen here. Continue walking south along the dirt road/trail. As you start climbing higher, listen for nesters such as Broad-winged Hawk, Barred Owl, Hairy and Pileated Woodpeckers, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Great Crested Flycatcher, vireos (Red-eyed, Warbling, Blue-headed, and Yellow-throated), Wood and Hermit

**Figure 3.**  
**London Bridge map**



Thrushes, Veery, Black-and-white Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler (rare nester in this area), Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Baltimore Oriole.

Continue straight up the trail, staying right at the fork. After about a mile, take a small trail to a clearing on the right. (If you reach a white house, you've gone a little past the small trail.) Here you can scan Castle Hill Swamp. Additional breeders here include Green Heron, Wood Duck, Red-shouldered and (recently) Cooper's Hawks, Song Sparrow, and Swamp Sparrow. Red-bellied Woodpeckers can occasionally be found in this area and may have nested here in recent years. During migration this is a good place for Olive-sided Flycatcher, brush-loving sparrows

such as White-throated and Swamp Sparrows, and Rusty Blackbird.

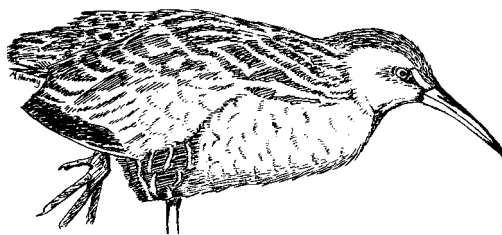
The woods along these trails are surprisingly good for migrants. On a good day, you may see 15 or even 20 species of warblers here. Interesting finds have included Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Philadelphia Vireo, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Cape May Warbler, and Cerulean Warbler.

**Old Boston and Maine railroad bed to Mitchell Pond (See #3 on the Windham map and the Railroad area map.)**

The abandoned Boston and Maine railroad bed provides access to several marshy areas around Mitchell Pond. From the Windham Transfer Station, head back east on Route 111 until you reach the first traffic light (.8 mile). Turn left here onto North Lowell Road. Follow this road for 2.6 miles until you see a large field on the right. This may be worth checking as Bobolinks breed here and geese and a few shorebirds

may be seen in migration. Just past the field, turn right onto Depot Road. After a few hundred feet, you will see the old depot building on the right; park in the lot next to it.

You can cross the road and head north along the trail. In a few hundred yards you will reach North Lowell Road and a large, but usually unproductive, marsh. However, the



*Virginia Rail by Mike Harvey*

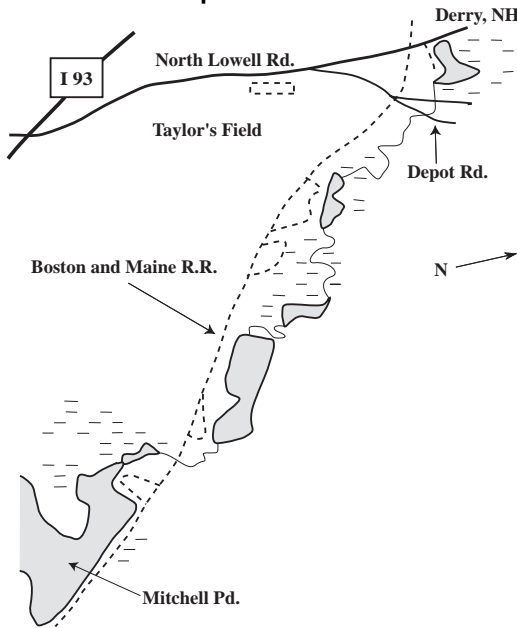
trail heading south, behind the depot, is usually more productive. While you hike, listen for woodland birds. Several birds that reach the northern limit of their ranges near here should be found. These include Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-throated Vireo, and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Take some of the short trails that lead to the marshy areas on either side of the trail. Careful listening and watching may reveal breeders such as Green Heron, Great Blue Heron, Virginia Rail, Wood Duck, Mallard, Cooper's Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Yellow Warbler, and American Redstart.

**Other Locations**

Canobie Lake, home of Canobie Lake Park, is a major landmark on the Salem side of Windham. Fortunately, the birds don't seem to mind the screams emanating from the roller coasters and thrill rides. Except for this attraction, the lake is rather undeveloped and supports the best concentration of water birds in town. The best time to visit is during fall migration, so perhaps I can include it in a future article for the fall season. Between April and September, though, Fish Crows may be found here.

Two other areas that provide good birding, but have not yet been birded extensively (at least by the author), are Foster's Pond Natural area off Nashua Road and the power line right-of-way between Tallant Road in Pelham and Castle Hill Road in Windham. I look forward to exploring them both.

**Figure 4.  
Railroad area map**



*This article was largely derived from a booklet titled "Birds of Windham," which is currently under development. The booklet contains general local birding information, additional site guides (including those listed in the "Other Locations" section), and bar graphs showing the abundance of each of the 180+ species recorded in the town over the last 10 years. Anyone who is interested in a copy or further information can contact Mike Harvey at 71 Castle Hill Road, Windham, NH 03087, 603-882-6107.*

*Michael Harvey is 18 years old and attends Salem High School in Salem, New Hampshire. He began birding when he saw a Great Blue Heron on a pond near his house at the age of 8.*

## "Brewster's" Warbler and "Lawrence's" Warbler: Golden-winged Warbler and Blue-winged Warbler Hybrids

by David Donsker

In the spring of 2003 an unprecedented number of the rare hybrid "Lawrence's" Warbler was reported to *New Hampshire Bird Records* and/or posted on the state list-serve, NH Birds. At least three individuals were observed, two in the seacoast region and one in the south-central part of the state.

Just what is "Lawrence's" Warbler and how does it fit with our understanding of the biology and distribution of warbler species within our state?

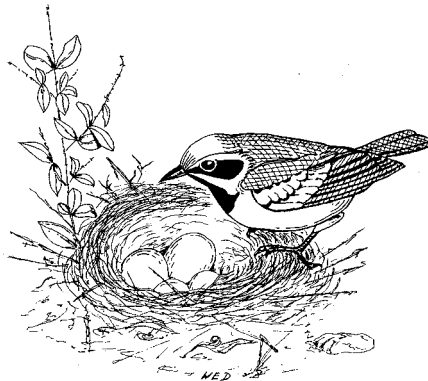
Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*) and Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) are very closely-related, sister species that frequently hybridize where their ranges overlap. Golden-winged Warbler is generally the more northerly or, in the Appalachians, altitudinally higher, breeder of the two. It is likely that they diverged from each other in relatively recent geologic times and that they originally had allopatric (geographically separate) distributions, but have come in secondary contact with each other more recently. Thus, their reproductive isolating mechanisms are incomplete. Golden-winged Warbler has more restrictive habitat

requirements than Blue-winged Warbler and where they come in contact, Blue-winged Warbler gradually replaces its sister species. This has allowed the range of Blue-winged Warbler to creep northward over the last century, replacing Golden-winged Warbler in the southern part of its former range, and shifting the range of Golden-winged Warbler farther to the north and west.

It has long been observed that "Lawrence's" Warbler is the rarer of the two recognizable hybrid forms or phenotypes of these closely related species. The other hybrid, "Brewster's" Warbler is the more common of the two. Though these hybrids vary somewhat in appearance, their plumages are fairly standardized. "Lawrence's" Warbler displays the black throat and face patch of Golden-winged Warbler along with the bright yellow underparts and olive-green upperparts of Blue-winged Warbler. "Brew-



Blue-winged Warbler by William E. Davis



Golden-winged Warbler by William E. Davis

ster's" Warbler, on the other hand, displays the whitish underparts and grayish back of Golden-winged Warbler and shares with Blue-winged Warbler the rather simple face pattern of a black line through the eye and an unmarked throat.

Ever since the existence of these hybrids was recognized, it was always a puzzle as to how a yellow-throated (Blue-winged) parent could mate with a black-throated (Golden-winged) bird to produce a white-throated offspring ("Brewster's").

The genetics of these species is now well understood (Figure 1). It has been shown that Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers are virtually identical at the genetic level, differing only in which combinations of paired genes (alleles) each carries on its chromosomes. As it turns out, the gene that codes for black face and throat is recessive, as is the gene for yellow underparts with green upperparts. The corresponding genes for simple face pattern with plain throat and the gene for white underparts with gray upperparts are dominant genes. Thus, genetically pure Golden-winged Warblers are homozygous for (or doubly carry) the recessive gene for face pattern and are homozygous for the dominant gene for underpart and back coloration. Genetically pure Blue-winged Warblers have the correspondingly opposite homozygous gene pairs, *i.e.*, the dominant gene for face pattern and the recessive gene for underpart/upperpart color.

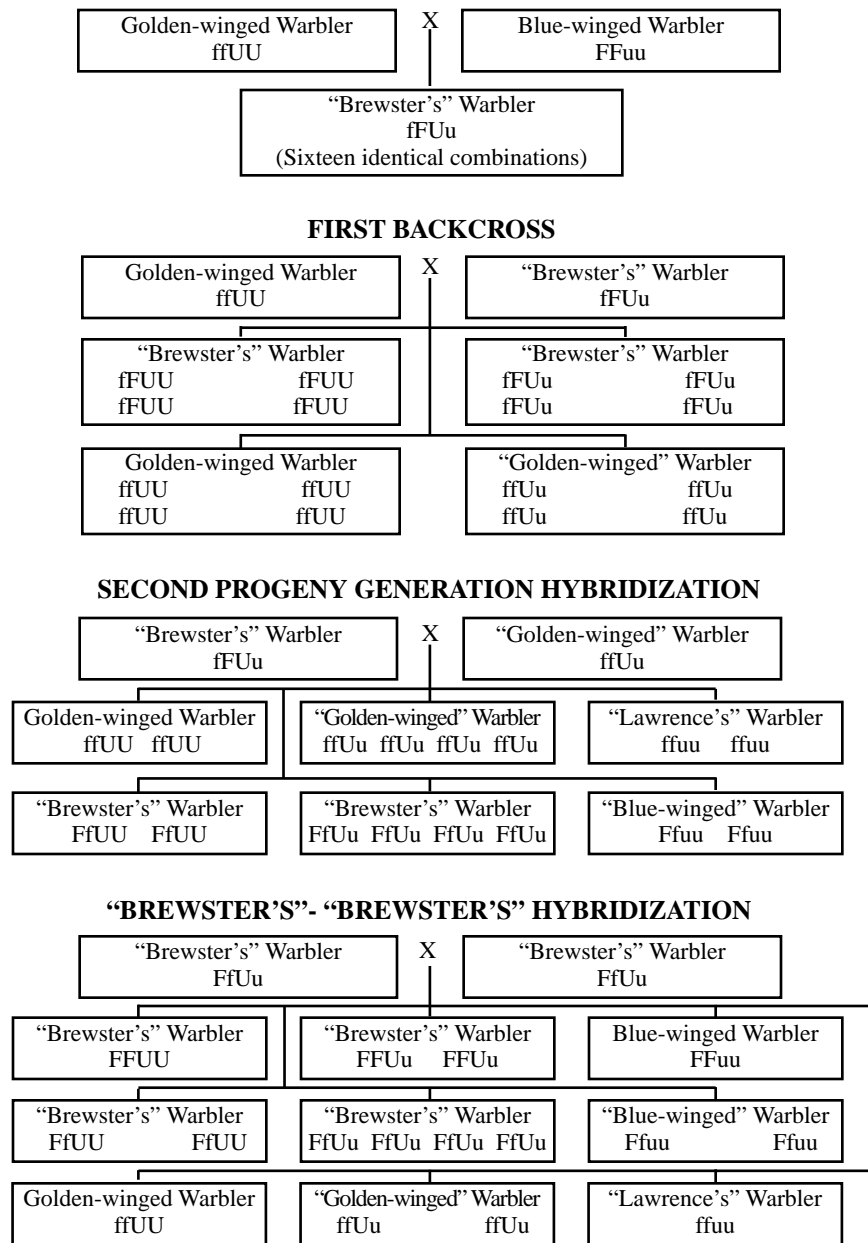
If a mixed pair of Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers mate, by the rules of Mendelian genetics, each of their offspring will be heterozygous for face pattern and underpart/upperpart color; that is, each will carry one each of the dominant and recessive genes for these characteristics. Since dominant genes express themselves over recessive genes, the offspring will all have the plain face and throat pattern and white underparts with grayish upperparts. This resulting phenotype is "Brewster's" Warbler. (One subtle point to be made here is that the gene that is associated with white underparts is incompletely dominant. Thus, most "Brewster's" Warblers have some yellowish coloration on their breasts).

If a "Brewster's" Warbler breeds with either of its parent species (backcrosses), each of their offspring will have one of 16 possible combinations of the two gene pairs. Half of these (eight of the 16 combinations) will be "Brewster's" Warblers. Depending on the species of the parent, the other half will look like either Blue-winged or Golden-winged Warbler. But only half of these "Golden-wingeds" or "Blue-wingeds" will be pure forms (a quarter of the offspring); the other quarter will look like a typical Blue-winged or Golden-winged, but will be heterozygous (carrying one dominant and one recessive gene) for the dominant trait.

If a "Brewster's" Warbler pairs with another "Brewster's" Warbler (a very rare event) or if, more commonly, a "Brewster's" Warbler pairs with an impure "Golden-winged" or "Blue-winged" Warbler that is heterozygous for one of the dominant traits, or if two impure "Golden-wingeds" or "Blue-wingeds" mate, depending on the parental combination, an eighth or a sixteenth of the resulting offspring will be homozygous for both of the recessive traits, *i.e.*, yellow underparts/green upperparts and black face and throat. These doubly-recessive birds are "Lawrence's" Warblers.

"Lawrence's" Warblers are so rare because it takes two generations and backcrosses to result in birds with the appropriate combination of recessive genes to express this phenotype. Hybridization has had to have occurred in a population for some time to allow for enough hybrid and impure individuals to find each other and

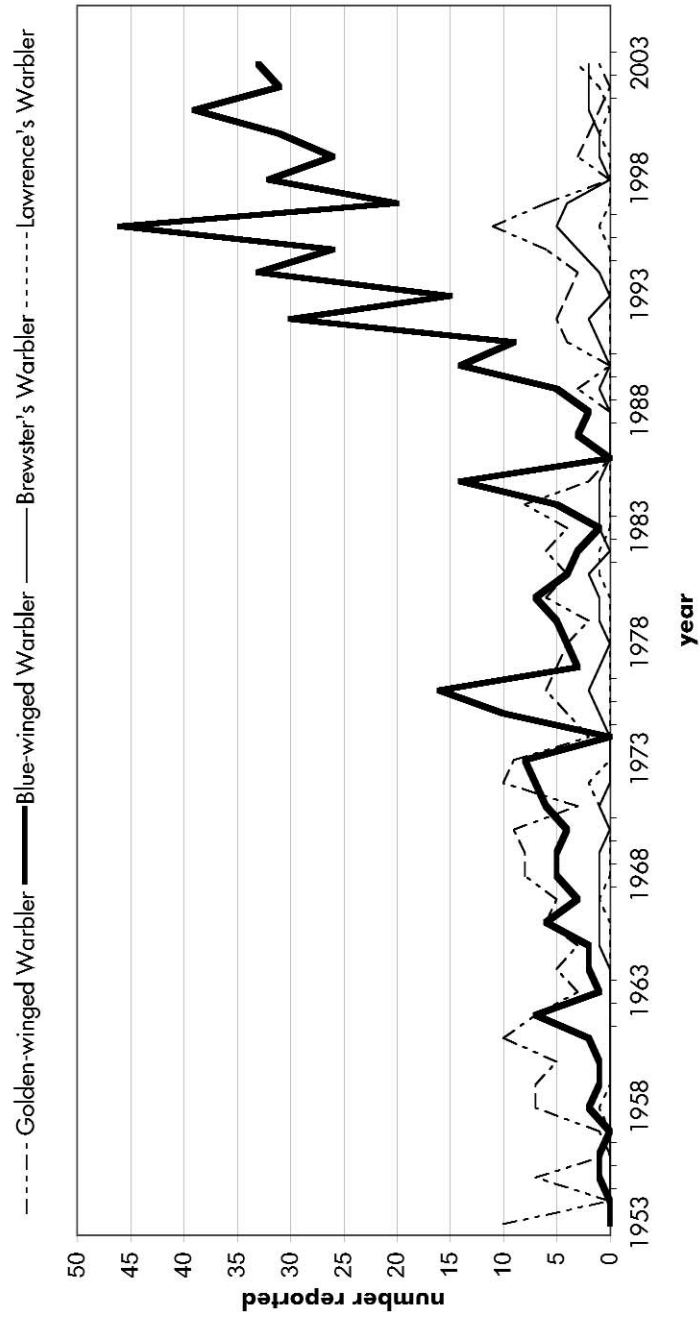
**Figure 1. "Winged" Warbler Hybridization Diagram**



**Key:**

F Gene for plain face pattern (dominant)      U Gene for white underparts (dominant)  
 f Gene for black face and throat (recessive)      u Gene for yellow underparts (recessive)

**Figure 2.**  
**Records of Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers and their hybrids, "Brewster's" and "Lawrence's" Warblers.**  
**New Hampshire, 1953-2003.**



produce such offspring. Furthermore, it would appear that there is some subtle selective disadvantage in mate selection or survival of the hybrids; otherwise hybrid individuals would be less scarce in the population as a whole than what we actually observe. This selective disadvantage is one reason why Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers are still considered separate species, despite their genetic similarity.

In New Hampshire, Blue-winged Warblers have been moving into Golden-winged Warbler territory for the last 50 years or so. Prior to 1955, Blue-winged Warbler was unrecorded in our state. Since the mid-1950s there has been a relatively steady increase in reports (Figure 2) and it is now a firmly established breeder in southeastern New Hampshire. Conversely, Golden-winged Warbler has declined in New Hampshire over the last half century. Always a rare to uncommon breeding bird in the southeastern coastal plain, this species, based on spring and summer reports, has declined from nearly annual sightings of up to 10 individuals in the 1950s through the mid-1970s to observations of typically less than half that number in the last 15 years. In six of those last 15 years, no Golden-winged Warblers were reported at all. (The exception to this trend was the remarkable year of 1996, when record numbers of Golden-winged, Blue-winged and "Brewster's" Warblers were reported along with a single "Lawrence's" Warbler.)

The two hybrid types have always been rare in New Hampshire, but the number of reports of these intriguing birds has increased markedly in the last decade or so. Because both parental forms essentially have been species of the southeastern part of our state, it is not unexpected that the hybrids also have been reported largely from this region. Durham (particularly East Foss Farm), Kensington, and their adjacent communities have been the "hot spots" for these forms over the years. A total of 22 "Brewster's" Warblers and 7 "Lawrence's" Warblers were recorded in the first four decades following the arrival of Blue-winged Warbler in our state (1955–1993). In contrast, a nearly identical number of each of the hybrids was recorded in the last decade (21 "Brewster's" Warblers and 6 "Lawrence's" Warblers). All but one of these recent records of "Lawrence's" Warbler have been in the last four years. Since

#### Glossary of Terms

It is difficult to discuss the fascinating but fairly complex genetics of these hybrid warblers without resorting to some technical terms. Here are brief definitions of the less familiar terms used in this article:

**Allele:** One of two alternative forms of a gene that have the same location on one of the matched paired chromosomes and are responsible for alternative traits.

**Allopatric:** Closely related species that are geographically separated.

**Backcross:** To breed a hybrid form with one of its parental species.

**Dominant:** A gene that can cover up the traits of a recessive gene.

**Heterozygous:** Having two different alleles for a trait.

**Homozygous:** Having identical alleles for a trait.

**Phenotype:** Describes the physical appearance of a trait.

**Recessive:** A gene whose traits are covered up by those of a dominant gene.

**Selective Disadvantage:** A concept in the theory of evolution by natural selection that some organisms have certain traits that make them less likely to survive or reproduce than other members of the population.



2000, the number of reported hybrids has exceeded the number of reported Golden-winged Warblers.

This pattern of replacement is fairly typical. When Blue-winged Warblers extend into territory occupied by Golden-winged Warblers, at first there are only a few Blue-winged Warblers and rare "Brewster's" Warblers in the population. Within a relatively short period of time, however, Blue-winged Warblers come to equal or exceed the numbers of Golden-winged and the number of hybrids, mostly "Brewster's" Warblers increases. Ultimately, Blue-winged Warblers entirely replace Golden-winged and hybrids again diminish in number with only a few "Lawrence's" Warblers occasionally encountered. This whole process occurs over approximately 50 years.

New Hampshire seems to be in the advanced stages of this process as dramatically shown by Figure 2. This is not unexpected given the changing patterns of land use in our state and elsewhere in New England. Golden-winged Warbler requires a particular stage in early successional growth as open areas slowly reconvert to woodland. Before and after the plant community exceeds a certain height, the habitat is unsuitable for this species and the more habitat-tolerant Blue-winged Warbler moves in and supplants them. The ideal habitat for Golden-winged Warbler was fairly common in New England as farms were abandoned and replaced by forest. A little farther south, they took advantage of early successional growth in woodland openings that appeared after the chestnut blight killed off this dominant tree. Power line rights-of-way, because they are continually managed, have become a refuge for this species in our region. Even so, Golden-winged Warblers have been moving out of New England in general and farther to the north and west. In our own state this displacement of Golden-winged Warblers is evidenced by reports of the species in breeding situations in the early 1990s from the central Connecticut Valley region around Hanover and, more recently, late spring or early summer reports from the White Mountains in Bartlett and Jefferson. Both localities are north and west of their traditional breeding area in our southeast coastal plain. In the northern part of their range the preferred habitats often include alder bogs and young willow/aspen growth adjacent to spruce/tamarack bogs.

It seems likely that henceforth the "beee-bzzz" of Blue-winged Warbler will be about the only buzzy *Vermivora* song New Hampshire birders will hear, as Golden-winged Warbler and the hybrid forms, "Brewster's" and "Lawrence's" Warblers, pass from the scene.

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**Acknowledgements:** *Special thanks to Pam Hunt for her initial review of this article, to Denny Abbott for sharing his personal library and observations with me, and to Davis Finch for reviewing the final draft of this article and for his welcomed editorial*

## Answer to the Winter 2002-03 Photo Quiz

by David Donsker

**A** black-and-white, dumpy bird floating buoyantly on still water is our challenge this time. Although there is a fair number of bird families that swim in New Hampshire waters, there are structural features of this bird that immediately eliminate most of them and allow us to conclude that this is one of the alcids, a member of the auk family. The challenge comes in determining which of these rather similarly-patterned and nearly identically-colored species this is.



Photo by Stephen R. Mirick

Alcids are small- to medium-sized seabirds with plump bodies, stout necks, and short tails. Most have legs that are set very far back, giving them a “penguin-like” shape that is particularly evident when they are on land and assume a vertical posture. This penguin-like image is enhanced by their generally black-and-white plumage. On the water, they tend to be very buoyant, floating like corks on top of the surface. They have relatively narrow, pointed wings and plump, torpedo-shaped bodies. They typically fly low over the water with rapid, almost whirring, wingbeats. They feed by swimming low in the water with their necks retracted and their rather short tails often elevated, and by diving with partially-opened wings, which allows them to “fly” underwater.

The bird in our image has all of the features that are characteristic of alcids. It has nearly uniform black upperparts and white underparts. The only white on the upperparts is a thin white crescent on the trailing edge of the secondaries, or inner wing feathers. Its tail is very short and its rear end blunted and slightly elevated. The legs could hardly be set farther back. Note specifically that in this individual the throat color is off-white and there is a thin black collar. The bill is pointed and of medium length, thinner than it is long.

Despite our conviction that this must be an alcid, certain other swimming waterbirds need to be briefly considered. Female and immature Long-tailed Ducks are particularly auk-like both on the water and when flying and diving. They are small, squat, short-tailed and short-necked ducks with dark upperparts and whitish underparts. However, the pattern of dark and light is quite different from auks. Typically, in winter-plumaged females, the sides of the head are whitish, contrasting with a dark cheek patch, crown, and breast. Immature birds and summer females usually have ill-defined white patches around the eyes. The bill is short and triangular, unlike the thinner bill of the bird in the photograph.

Other largely black-and-white ducks need to be considered as well. Both species of goldeneyes and Bufflehead have dark heads and white breasts and underparts. Buffleheads are small and rather dumpy as well. But these ducks have rather short, triangular bills and strikingly different head patterns: goldeneyes have white patches at the base of the bill and Bufflehead have a white patch on the back of the head.

One other remote possibility is that of Horned Grebe in winter plumage with its neck retracted. But Horned Grebe lacks the wing crescent and has a large white cheek patch that extends far back towards the nape of the neck and a white spot in front of the eye.

So, back to the alcids. The five species of the auk family that can be expected in New Hampshire waters are Atlantic Puffin, Black Guillemot, Razorbill and the two species of murre: Common and Thick-billed. All of our alcid species have both breeding and non-breeding plumages as well as immature plumages that need to be considered when evaluating an individual bird. The breeding plumage is usually the most distinctive in each of these species. With the exception of the puffin, all alcids in breeding plumage have completely black heads and throats. The puffin in breeding plumage is well known, with a white face and massive, triangular, brightly-colored bill. The bill is less brightly colored in winter and less massive in juvenile birds, but even in these plumages, the bill looks bulky and the sides of the head, gray in these birds, still contrast with the black crown, neck, and collar.

With its white throat, our mystery bird must be an alcid in winter plumage. Black Guillemot can be easily dismissed because both the winter adult and immature have largely whitish heads and necks and retain a large white wing patch (although the immature is more generally mottled).

With its short neck, dark collar, and plump body, this bird has some features that suggest Dovekie. But the diminutive Dovekie has a very short, stubby bill quite unlike the longer bill of this bird. The white of the neck extends farther up behind the eye. Furthermore, at this close range, the whitish edging of the scapulars, which forms a line of small white "v"s at the interface of the mantle and the wings, would be evident.

Adult Razorbill in winter plumage has a heavy head and massive bill, which is quite unlike this bird. It also differs in having white extending far up the sides of the head behind the eye. However, first winter Razorbills have smaller bills and more dark on the sides of the head than adults and thus closely resemble the pattern seen in this individual. Even so, the bill of a first winter Razorbill is thicker and stubbier than the one carried by this bird and the gonys (or angle of the lower bill) is much more pronounced. Finally, both adult and immature Razorbills have a relatively long, pointed tail that is often held straight up and quite unlike the short, rounded tail of this bird.

That leaves our two species of murre. Common and Thick-billed Murre are closely related species and quite similar. Although each has its own set of structural and plumage characteristics, identification of any individual can at times be difficult. Typical Thick-billed Murres have thicker, stubbier bills with a slightly decurved culmen (or upper edge). The gonydeal angle of the lower mandible in Thick-billed Murre is more towards the midpoint, while in Common Murre it is near the base of the bill. These features give Common Murre the appearance of a thinner, straighter bill. However, immature Common Murres have shorter bills that can confuse the observer if only bill shape is considered. Many Thick-billed Murres will have a distinct white line along the cutting edge of the bill (or gape), but this is absent in many individuals. Further, a Common Murre carrying fish in its bill can give the impression of having a white gape line.

The flanks of Common Murre are generally strongly and darkly streaked, while in Thick-billed Murre, the flanks are pure white. However, the streaked flanks of Common Murre may be concealed by the folded wing and are weak or absent in many immatures and in some adults. The upperparts of Thick-billed Murre are black, while those of most populations of Common Murre are dark brown.

In winter plumage, the two species are somewhat more distinct from each other. In addition to the flank markings and the tone of the upperparts noted above, in Common Murre, not only the foreneck but also the sides of the head are white with a narrow blackish line

running back from the eye. In Thick-billed Murre, the black of the crown extends down well below the eye and there is a dark semi-collar that contrasts with the whitish throat. Beware, however, of molting Common Murres, which will have more extensive dark on their heads. Even these individuals will show some evidence of white mottling on the sides of the head behind the eye, however.

All of the features described above for Thick-billed Murre in winter plumage can be seen in this excellent photograph taken by Steve Mirick in the cove just south of the Rye/North Hampton town line on January 17, 2001. Note especially the extensive black on the head, the whitish throat, dark semi-collar, and white flanks (those faint flank markings are shadows between feather tracts, not streaks). Even the white gape line can be clearly seen in this bird.

Finally, if you conclude that the distinction between Common and Thick-billed Murre is not easy, you are not alone. For those of you who have access to images from Audubon's Double Elephant Folio of Birds of America, check out his illustration of Thick-billed Murre (Large-billed Guillemot or *Uria Brunnichii* [1835]), Plate # 245. What do you think?

## Photo Quiz

### Can You Identify This Bird?

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



## Bird Banding is a Cornerstone of Bird Research

by Susan Story Galt

**F**or more than a century, the banding of birds in the United States and Canada has been an important method of studying the movement and habits of wild birds. Since record-keeping began, nearly fifty-eight million birds have been banded, encompassing hundreds of species.

More importantly, more than a million bands have been recovered, providing valuable data on migration, social structure, life-span, and population growth. All of this information helps to expand our knowledge of birds and helps us with conservation and wildlife management efforts.

The North American Bird Banding Program falls under the direction of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the Canadian Wildlife Service. The central site for banding data is the Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL), which is housed at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center at Laurel, Maryland. The BBL does not perform any of the bird banding; it issues permits to individuals and organizations to band birds, provides the bands, and coordinates the project in the United States. In Canada, the same work is coordinated by the Canadian Wildlife Service.

In the past few years, information on life span has been especially remarkable. Longevity records for some species, both familiar backyard birds and more exotic kinds, are proving to be amazing. The most recent longevity record for a Ruby-throated Hummingbird, for example, was a bird found in Ohio who was ten years and two months old. The record for the longest-surviving species in the Bird Banding Lab database currently is held by a Laysan Albatross, with the age at recovery of forty-two years, five months. All of the birds in the top ten are seabirds, including the Atlantic Puffin, at thirty-one years, eleven months. Among the familiar backyard birds we see in New Hampshire, the longest-lived in the database is the Mourning Dove, at thirty-one years, four months.

Birds banded under the auspices of the BBL wear bands made of aluminum that are made in twenty-three standard sizes and five specialty sizes in order to fit different birds' legs. There are also several other bands specifically suited for hawks, owls, and eagles, and bands made of alternative metals for saltwater birds and birds that may outlive aluminum bands. A BBL band is inscribed with an eight- or nine-digit number unique to that bird and usually the words "CALL 1-800-327 BAND" and/or "WRITE BIRD BAND LABORATORY LAUREL MD 20708 USA," or some variation of this combination. The retrieval of band numbers often happens because the banded bird is found dead. But a birder with a good scope can often read the numbers on the larger-size band of a live bird.

In order to report a band, it is necessary to have the band numbers, along with 1) the town, county, and state where the bird was found; 2) the date found; 3) whether the bird was alive or dead, and if dead, how did it die?; and 4) the finder's name, address, and phone number.

This information should be called in to the phone number on the band (1-800-327-2263) or sent by mail to the Bird Banding Laboratory at 12100 Beech Forest Road, Laurel, MD 20708-4037. You can also report on-line via the BBL web site at [www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl](http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbl). Upon receiving this information, the BBL checks the database and notifies the person who originally banded the bird. The BBL will also send the person who made the report a certificate of appreciation, which includes information about the bird, including when, where, and by whom the bird was banded and its age.

Some birds are also banded with additional markers, such as color bands or neck colors. These sightings are also valuable, and individuals can often be identified by them, even if the standard band number can not be read. It is important to note the color of the marker(s), their position on the bird, and any numbers or letters on the marker. This information can be reported on the BBL web site.

Information on certificates can be intriguing on its own and is one of the most exciting parts of reporting a bird band or color marker. In the fall of 2002, 14 Snow Geese wearing neck collars were observed at Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area in Vermont, and their collar numbers and letters were read using scopes and reported. The BBL certificates revealed they were of mixed sex and age, hatched between 1996 and 2001, and all banded near SW Bylot Island, Northwest Territories, between 1997 and 2002. These were all Greater Snow Geese which is the larger form that breeds around Baffin Bay. A banded Snowy Owl found dead on Appledore Island, Maine, in 2001 was also banded near SW Bylot Island by the same person in July of 2000. It is interesting to contemplate these two different species coming from the same area a continent away to northern New England.

Birders can contribute to research!



*Aluminum band on Blue Jay  
by Sara Morris*

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## Abbreviations Used

ASNH	Audubon Society of NH	Rd.	Road
BBC	Brookline Bird Club	Rt.	Route
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey	SF	State Forest
CA	Conservation Area	St. Pk.	State Park
CC	Country Club	SPNHF	Society for the Protection of NH Forests, Concord
FT	Field Trip	T&M	Thompson & Meserves (Purchase)
L.	Lake	WMA	Wildlife Management Area
LPC	Loon Preservation Committee	WMNF	White Mountain National Forest
NA	Natural Area	WS	ASNH Wildlife Sanctuary
NHBR	New Hampshire Bird Records	~	approximately
NHRBC	NH Rare Birds Committee		
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge		
PO	Post Office		
R.	River		

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