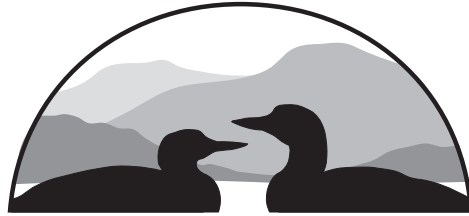


New Hampshire Bird Records



Summer 2003

Vol. 22, No. 2



New Hampshire Bird Records **Volume 22, Number 2** **Summer 2003**

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New Hampshire Bird Records (NHBR) is published quarterly by the Audubon Society of New Hampshire (ASNH). Bird sightings are submitted to ASNH and are edited for publication. A computerized printout of all sightings in a season is available for a fee. To order a printout, purchase back issues, or volunteer your observations for *NHBR*, please contact the Managing Editor at 224-9909.

Published by the Audubon Society of New Hampshire

March, 2004

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Printed on Recycled Paper

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Black-billed cuckoo by Cheryl Johnson

Cover Photos: *Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in Hampton by JoAnn O'Shaughnessy, July 2003.*

From the Editor

by Rebecca Suomala

Welcome Diane Parsons

We would like to welcome a new member to the *New Hampshire Bird Records* team—Diane Parsons has taken on the volunteer position of Production Assistant. She will be helping to put together all the materials for each issue and we are thrilled to have her in this new position. If you are interested in volunteering for the publication, please contact me (see the inside front cover for contact information).

New Hampshire Bird Records Data Contributes to Conservation Efforts

The bird sighting data gathered by numerous observers over the years is used not only in the *New Hampshire Bird Records* publication, but also by many researchers who need information on bird distribution in the state. Sightings are computerized as far back as 1986, and prior to that, the reporting slips are archived by species. Most recently the Important Bird Areas project has relied on this data for supporting site nominations, as Pam Hunt writes about in her article on page 39. *New Hampshire Bird Records* data has also made a significant contribution to the Statewide Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan, a three-year plan initiated by the Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program at New Hampshire Fish & Game Department. New Hampshire Audubon biologists are compiling and entering data for the majority of bird species considered under the plan, and for some species *New Hampshire Bird Records* has been the primary source of that data. Researchers who are working with certain species have also found *New Hampshire Bird Records* data valuable, as you can see in Glen Mittelhauser's article about Purple Sandpipers on page 57. As a subscriber to *New Hampshire Bird Records*, you help conservation efforts by supporting the publication, as do the volunteers who assist with all aspects of the process, and the reporters who send in their sighting. Thank you all and please help us continue to provide data to these valuable conservation efforts.

Reporting Sightings

Our reporting processes and materials are in a state of change but stay tuned for further updates. In the near future we plan to have on-line reporting, traditional forms available on the web, and a new reporter packet. In the meantime, if you would like to report your sightings please contact me and I will send you our old packet.

Summer Season

June 1 through July 31, 2003

by *Bill Taffe, Summer Editor*

Weather

The temperatures for June 2003 were about normal for the season; July was slightly warmer than usual. The end of June and beginning of July brought two short “heat waves.” The summer was generally dry. Precipitation was about one inch below normal from Errol down to Manchester during June and although the region north of Plymouth returned to normal during July, from Plymouth south there was about one inch less than usual for that month. There were no extreme weather events seriously affecting bird populations during the summer of 2003.



Bill Taffe

Breeding Bird Highlights

The Tern Restoration Project at the Isles of Shoals continued its successes of previous summers. Counted on the islands were over **8,000 Common Terns**, **132 Roseate Terns**, and **12 Arctic Terns**. The **Piping Plover** restoration work at Hampton and Seabrook beaches fledged more chicks than the previous summer. Two chicks hatched from a new **Bald Eagle** breeding site nest at Squam Lake.

Rare and Unusual Sightings

Unusual numbers of Wilson’s Storm-Petrels were seen at the coast this summer including one report of 457 individuals. **Little** and **Black-headed Gulls**, a **Tricolored Heron**, and a **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** visited the coast. A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was observed in Nottingham and a Louisiana Waterthrush appeared in Nashua.

Isles of Shoals

The Tern Restoration Project at White and Seavey Islands brought skilled bird observers to the islands for the entire summer, yielding sightings that are not common to the rest of the New Hampshire birding community. In addition to the breeding Common, Roseate, and Arctic Terns, also reported this summer were an **American Oystercatcher**, **Atlantic Puffins**, Black Guillemots, Northern Gannets, a **Razorbill**, **Common Murre**, Ruddy Turnstone, Purple Sandpipers, **Black Terns**, and Laughing Gulls.

Waterfowl, Grouse & Allies

Waterfowl were typical for the summer season with no unusual sightings or absences. The four Brant reported from Rye on June 4 (listed below) were noted to be "flying north." George Gavutis reported Wood Ducks in Kensington throughout the summer including adults, newly hatched young, and even an "abandoned duckling." A representative sample of the waterfowl reports is included below.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Canada Goose				
06-02	6	Rumney	Quincy Bog	B. Taffe
06-03	3	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-03	40	Concord	airport	P. Hunt
06-11	28	Pittsburg	Magalloway Road	E. Nielsen
06-14	4	Nashua	formerly IMPCO property near Salmon Brook	J. & B. Ayer
07-31	9	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner, et al.
Brant				
06-01	7	Rye	from Rye Ledge	S. Mirick, D. Donsker
06-04	4	Rye	near Rye Ledge	T. Vazzano, R. Crowley
06-07	3	Rye	NH coast	R. Woodward
Wood Duck				
06-01	20	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-12	10	Wentworths Location	Lake Umbagog NWR	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-14	5	Plymouth		J. Williams
07-06	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-20	10	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
Blue-winged Teal				
07-06	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	R. & M. Suomala
Green-winged Teal				
06-03	1	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
Ring-necked Duck				
07-21	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	J. Williams
07-21	1	Pittsburg	Bog Brook Road	E. Nielsen
Common Eider				
06-01	194	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
07-11	19	Rye	Seal Rocks	S. Mirick
Surf Scoter				
06-01	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
07-03	2	Rye	near Concord Pt.	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
White-winged Scoter				
07-06	9	Rye	Jeness Beach	R. & M. Suomala
07-31	8	Rye	NH coast	S. Mirick
Black Scoter				
06-01	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
06-04	1	Rye	near Concord Pt.	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Common Goldeneye				
06-04	1	Newington	Great Bay from Woodman Pt.	S. Mirick
Hooded Merganser				
06-13	9	Pittsburg	Coon Brook Road	E. Nielsen
06-14	8	Whitefield	Hazens Pond	S. Sturup
06-24	8	Campton	Campton Pond, WMNF	J. Williams
06-28	4	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
Common Merganser				
07-09	7	Lisbon	Ammonoosuc R.	S. Sturup
07-13	4	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-21	4	Franconia	Echo Lake	T. & B. Richards
July	12	Pittsburg	Rt. 3 & First Connecticut Lake	E. Nielsen
Spruce Grouse				
06-10	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen
07-17	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	D. Govatski
07-25	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen
Wild Turkey				
06-03	1	Jefferson	edge of Cherry Pond	R. Quinn, R. Arrington
07-24	12	Columbia	s. of Meriden Hill Rd.	C. Martin

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

For the second successive summer, Wilson's Storm-Petrels were unusually abundant, but the summer of 2003 surpassed the summer of 2002. *New Hampshire Bird Records* (NHBR) received many reports, some noting unusually large numbers of individuals. The report of 457 along the coast on July 24 represents nine separate locations, but 179 were seen at Odiorne Point alone. The estimated 2,200 seen on Jeffreys Ledge were reported as "very concentrated on the ledge."

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Red-throated Loon				
06-14	1	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	M. Harvey
06-15	1	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	S. Mirick
Common Loon				
06-07	7		NH coast	S. Mirick
06-14	4	Rye	Ragged Neck	M. Harvey
07-08	5	Jefferson	Cherry Pond	D. Govatski, D. Mallion
07-19	3	Benton	Long Pond	D. Govatski
07-20	3	Gilmanton	Whispering Pines Rd.	K. Palfy
07-22	7	Pittsburg	First Connecticut Lake	E. Nielsen
07-25	4	Washington	May Pond, Pillsbury St. Pk.	P. & Z. Curtiss
Pied-billed Grebe				
07-02	5	New Boston	Great Meadow on Buxton Brook	G. Russell
07-09	1	Jefferson	Cherry Pond	D. Govatski

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Pied-billed Grebe—continued				
07-15	1	Lisbon	Ammonoosuc R.	M. Turner
07-29	1	Wentworth	Lower Baker Pond	W. Scott
07-30	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
Greater Shearwater				
07-30	250		Jeffreys Ledge	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
Sooty Shearwater				
07-30	5		Jeffreys Ledge	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
Manx Shearwater				
06-08	3		Jeffreys Ledge	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
06-11	2	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
06-14	1	Rye	Ragged Neck	M. Harvey
06-15	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
07-06	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	B. Griffith
07-30	3		Jeffreys Ledge	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				
06-08	168		Jeffreys Ledge	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
06-14	120	Rye	Ragged Neck	M. Harvey
06-26	39	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	R. Suomala, G. McElroy
07-06	134		NH coast	R. & M. Suomala
07-11	242		NH coast	S. Mirick
07-24	457		NH coast	S. Mirick
07-25	202	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick, D. Hayward
07-30	2200		Jeffreys Ledge	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
Northern Gannet				
06-01	19	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
06-01	28	Rye	Ragged Neck	M. Harvey
06-08	25		Jeffreys Ledge	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
06-14	23	Rye	Ragged Neck	M. Harvey
07-11	4		NH coast	S. Mirick
Double-crested Cormorant				
06-03	1	Jefferson	Cherry Pond	R. Quinn, R. Arrington
06-07	2	Pittsburg	First Connecticut Lake	E. Nielsen
06-15	4	Exeter	Exeter R. downtown	G. Prazar
Great Cormorant				
06-01	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. Mirick, D. Donsker
06-01	1	Rye	Concord Pt.	M. Harvey
06-03	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
07-03	2	Rye	s. of Concord Pt.	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
07-27	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward

Bitterns, Herons & Egrets, New World Vultures

The **Tricolored Heron** photographed in Rye is an unusual sighting for any season, but even more unusual in mid-June; spring and fall migrations represent most New Hampshire sightings. A **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** also spent early July in the coast and was reported by multiple observers.



*Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
in Hampton
by JoAnn O'Shaughnessy, July 2003.*

Although Turkey Vultures are on the increase throughout the State, it is rare that birders see chicks. However, the sighting in Newmarket on July 8 was of a "white nestling with (a) black face..."

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
American Bittern				
06-14	2	Plymouth	Glove Hollow Tree Farm	J. Williams
06-19	1	Dunbarton	North Bow Rd.	R. Woodward
06-19	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	M. Harvey, B.Griffith
06-21	1	Sandwich	Thompson WS	P. Hunt, G. Tudor
07-04	1	Alexandria	Washburn Rd.	P. Newbern
Great Blue Heron				
06-15	4	Exeter	Exeter R. downtown, below spillway	G. Prazar
07-19	5	Benton	Long Pond	D. Govatski
07-21	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
Great Egret				
06-01	4	Seabrook	off Rt. 286	S. Mirick
06-09	20	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick
06-14	4	Hampton Falls	Depot Rd.	M. Harvey
Snowy Egret				
07-31	24	Rye	off Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
Tricolored Heron				
06-15	1	Rye	Rt. 1A marsh opposite Foss Beach	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
06-15	1	Rye	Rt. 1A near wooden bridge	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
Green Heron				
06-01	1	Lyme	Grant Brook	S. Sturup
06-14	2	Rye	marsh w. of Rye Harbor	M. Harvey
06-30	1	Warner	Rt. 89, exit 8	C. Martin
07-06	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
07-14	1	Hollis	North Pepperell Rd. pond	C. Martin
07-24	2	Hampton	Henry's Pool, Rt. 101E by pumphouse	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
07-31	4	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey	M. Suomala

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
06-22	9	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick, R. Suomala
07-18	1	Dunbarton	Kimball Pond	P. Hunt, Fishways FT
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				
07-01	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond, n. end near High St.	R. Falk
07-08	1	Hampton	n. end of Meadow Pond	B. Griffith, D. Donsker
Glossy Ibis				
06-02	6	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
07-31	4	Hampton	off Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
Turkey Vulture				
06-08	1	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Road	E. Nielsen
06-17	3	Windham	Castle Hill Rd.	M. Harvey
07-08	1	Newmarket	off Bay Road	S. Mirick, D. Kern, G. Bottitta

Raptors

Chris Martin of the Audubon Society of New Hampshire reported that “the 2003 Peregrine Falcon Breeding Season in New Hampshire [was] marked by a high number of successful nests, but unexpectedly low productivity.” Fourteen breeding pairs tied a previous high record but only 21 chicks finally fledged, which was the lowest number in five years. Bald Eagles had a good year. Seven territories were occupied, with five pairs incubating and three pairs producing a total of five fledged chicks, representing the “second highest number since the late 1980s,” according to Chris. A new significant nesting site was discovered on Little Loon Island in Squam Lake.

The Cooper’s Hawk reported in Kensington on June 16 was seen regularly through the first third of July. Similarly, the American Kestrel pair reported on June 7 was seen again in the same area on July 11. Observers of nesting Cooper’s Hawks in Concord and Hanover each reported four juvenile birds. This was the second successive year that Cooper’s Hawks successfully nested at the ASNH Silk Farm Wildlife Sanctuary in Concord.

All of the Osprey reports of more than one bird represent nests with young.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Osprey				
06-27	1	Merrimack	Anheuser-Busch Brewery fields	P. Hunt, D. Fortin
07-05	1	Canterbury	Merrimack R., near sod farm	R. Quinn, J. Hills
07-13	5	Hill	Foster Swamp	I. MacLeod
07-13	5	Salisbury	Punch Brook	I. MacLeod
07-14	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner, A. Kimball
07-14	5	Hollis	N. Pepperell Rd. pond	C. Martin
07-17	21	Dummer	around Pontook Reservoir	C. Martin
07-19	1	Benton	Long Pond	D. Govatski

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Bald Eagle				
06-07	5	Dummer	McGill Bay	I. MacLeod
06-12	1	Wentworths Location	Lake Umbagog NWR	G. Gavutis Jr.
07-05	1	Canterbury	along Merrimack R.	R. Quinn, J. Hills
07-14	1	Hollis	North Pepperell Rd. pond	C. Martin
07-21	2	Pittsburg	Second Connecticut Lake	E. Nielsen
07-26	1	Bath	Ammonoosuc R.	S. & M. Turner, et al.
Northern Harrier				
07-21	1	Pittsburg	Magalloway Road	E. Nielsen
07-25	2	Errol	Leonard Marsh, Lake Umbagog	C. Martin
Sharp-shinned Hawk				
06-23	1	Livermore	Kancamagus Pass	P. Hunt, T. Robinson
Cooper's Hawk				
06-14	1	Amherst	Ponemah Bog	P. Hunt
06-16	2	Kensington	Rt 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
07-21	5	Concord	Silk Farm WS	C. Martin
07-23	4	Hanover	Kingsford Rd.	S. Sturup
Red-shouldered Hawk				
06-20	1	Windham	Londonderry Rd.	J. Romano
07-22	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
Broad-winged Hawk				
06-04	4	T&M Purchase	Mt. Washington Auto Rd. above 4000'	R. Quinn, et al.
06-08	1	Exeter	residence	G. Prazar
06-26	1	Gilsium	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
07-22	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
American Kestrel				
06-07	2	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
07-03	2	Pittsburg	Rt. 3 near Round Pond Rd.	R. Quinn
Merlin				
06-10	1	Pittsburg	Metallak Road	E. Nielsen
07-11	1	Warren	Hildreth Pond	J. Williams

Rails, Coots, Crane, Shorebirds

The Sandhill Crane in Monroe continued to be seen throughout the summer, where it has been annual since it first appeared in 1999.

Summer season records often show the end of spring migration and beginning of fall migration for various shorebird species. This summer was no exception as seen below in the pattern of reports for several shorebird species notably the Black-bellied Plover and the Semipalmated Sandpiper. Unlike other shorebirds, Least Sandpipers have a slight tendency to be found in mid-summer in New Hampshire, but the Ruddy Turnstone does not. Records at White and Seavey Islands in late June are too late for the spring migration and those in early July are too early for the fall migration. Again the Isles of Shoals seem to represent a different "world" for New Hampshire bird life.

In 2003 Piping Plovers were more successful than the previous summer. Again seven pairs nested on Seabrook Town Beach and Hampton Beach State Park, but this year successfully fledged seven chicks, up from two the previous summer.

The Red-necked Phalarope from Jeffrey's Ledge was the first summer season report since 1996.

On July 24 several observers covered the entire New Hampshire shoreline and reported large numbers of many shorebirds. A sample of those results is listed below.



Piping Plover on nest, Seabrook by JoAnn O'Shaughnessy, 2003.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Virginia Rail				
06-14	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	S. Sturup
06-20	1	Windham	pond across from Transfer Station	M. Harvey
Sora				
06-04	1	Deerfield	marsh e. of Rt. 43 and S. Deerfield Rd.	M. Harvey
Sandhill Crane				
07-14	1	Monroe	Plains Rd.	S. & M. Turner, A. Kimball
Black-bellied Plover				
06-07	7	Rye	Rt. 1A at wooden bridge	S. Mirick
07-31	6	Rye	off Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
Semipalmated Plover				
06-04	4	Rye	Jeness Beach	S. Mirick
07-20	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	J. Derrick, R. Suomala, D. DeLuca
07-22	6	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	J. Williams
07-23	2	Pittsburg	Bog Brook Road	E. Nielsen
07-24	30	Hampton	Henry's pool, Rt. 101E by pumphouse	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
07-24	20	Seabrook	Seabrook Harbor	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
07-27	10	Rye	marsh s. of Odiorne Pt.	M. Harvey
Killdeer				
07-25	13	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	J. Williams
American Oystercatcher				
06-28	1	Rye	White Is., Isles of Shoals	R. Suomala, D. DeLuca, G. McElroy
Greater Yellowlegs				
06-11	2	Rye	Rt. 1A at wooden bridge	S. Mirick
07-21	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	J. Williams
07-27	5	Hampton	Meadow Pond	M. Harvey
Lesser Yellowlegs				
07-03	20	Hampton	Hampton marshes	S. Mirick
07-24	20	Hampton	Henry's Pool, Rt. 101E by pumphouse	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
07-25	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	J. Williams

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Yellowlegs sp.				
07-06	26	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools at pumping station	R. & M. Suomala
Solitary Sandpiper				
07-20	2	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	J. Williams
07-23	2	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	J. Williams
07-31	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
Willet				
06-07	2	Rye	wooden bridge on Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
06-09	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick
06-14	8	Hampton Falls	Depot Rd.	M. Harvey
06-15	1	Rye	Rye Harbor	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
07-03	14	Hampton	Hampton marshes	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
07-06	2	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools at pumping station	R. & M. Suomala
07-24	7	Seabrook	Seabrook Harbor	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
Spotted Sandpiper				
06-02	12	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
06-18	15	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick
07-05	15		along Merrimack R.	R. Quinn, J. Hills
07-21	9	Pittsburg	Bog Brook Road	E. Nielsen
07-24	5	Rye	Foss Beach	M. Harvey
Upland Sandpiper				
06-03	1	Newington	Great Bay NWR	S. Mirick
Whimbrel				
07-13	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	J. Derrick, M. Barney, J. Kanter
07-24	2	Seabrook	Seabrook Harbor	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
07-25	6	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick, D. Hayward
07-27	4	Seabrook	Seabrook Harbor	M. Harvey
07-28	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. Mirick
Ruddy Turnstone				
06-03	7	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
06-06	10	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. Mirick
06-27	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	R. Suomala, G. McElroy, D. DeLuca
07-04	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	J. Derrick, M. Barney
07-18	6	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	R. Suomala, J. Derrick
07-24	14	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick
07-24	3	Rye	Foss Beach	M. Harvey

*Ruddy Turnstone by Stephen R. Mirick,
6/6/2003, Rye*



<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Red Knot				
06-01	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. Mirick, D. Donsker
06-15	1	Rye	Jenness Beach	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
Sanderling				
07-24	21	Rye	Jenness Beach	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
Semipalmated Sandpiper				
06-04	4	Rye	Jenness Beach	S. Mirick
07-11	8	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	J. Derrick, M. Barney
07-22	3	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	J. Williams
07-22	9	Pittsburg	Bog Brook Road	E. Nielsen
07-24	250	Hampton	Henry's pool, Rt. 101E by pumphouse	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
07-24	50	Seabrook	Seabrook Harbor	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
07-24	60	Hampton	Landing Road	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
07-27	140	Hampton	Meadow Pond	M. Harvey
07-28	275	Hampton	Henry's pool, Rt. 101E by pumphouse	S. Mirick
Least Sandpiper				
07-03	20	Hampton	Hampton marshes	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
07-06	21	Rye	Rt. 1A pools s. of Odiorne Pt.	R. & M. Suomala
07-10	6	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	J. Derrick, M. Barney
07-23	19	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	J. Williams
07-23	11	Pittsburg	Bog Brook Road	E. Nielsen
07-24	50	Hampton	Henry's pool, Rt. 101E by pumphouse	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
07-25	9	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	J. Williams
07-25	7	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick, D. Hayward
07-27	45	Hampton	Meadow Pond	M. Harvey
White-rumped Sandpiper				
07-28	1	Hampton	Henry's pool, Rt. 101E by pumphouse	S. Mirick
Pectoral Sandpiper				
07-27	1	Hampton	Landing Road	M. Harvey
07-27	1	Rye	pools s. of Rye Harbor	M. Harvey
Purple Sandpiper				
06-03	8	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
06-06	5	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. Mirick
06-27	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	R. Suomala, G. McElroy, D. DeLuca
07-27	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
Stilt Sandpiper				
07-24	2	Hampton	Meadow Pond	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
Short-billed Dowitcher				
07-03	3	Hampton	Hampton marshes	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
07-06	1	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools at pumping station	R. & M. Suomala
07-08	5	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	J. Derrick, M. Barney
07-24	80	Hampton	Henry's pool, Rt. 101E by pumphouse	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
07-24	11	Rye	marsh s. of Odiorne Point	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
07-26	28	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
Wilson's Snipe				
06-08	3	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
06-08	1	Plymouth	Chaison Rd.	J. Williams
06-14	1	Whitefield	Hazens Pond	S. Sturup
Red-necked Phalarope				
07-30	4		Jeffreys Ledge	M. Harvey, B. Griffith

Gulls & Terns, Alcids



Left: Black-headed Gull
 Right: Banded leg of Black-headed Gull
 Photos by Stephen Mirick, 7/03/03 in Rye

We had several unusual gulls this summer. **Little Gulls** and **Black-headed Gulls** appeared, and an unusually large number of Bonaparte's Gulls persisted throughout the summer. The Black-headed Gull observed on July 3, by Steve Mirick and Jane Lawrence, had a leg band. Fortunately they were able to read the complete band numbers and it turned out to be a year-old gull that had been banded as a nestling, near Reykjavik, Iceland, 2384 miles away, on June 27, 2002.

The success of the Tern Restoration Project at the Isles of Shoals seems to be having an impact on New Hampshire coastal birding. When Kimball Elkins did the data analysis that led to "A Checklist of the Birds of New Hampshire" in 1982, he found that Roseate Terns were "very rare to casual." However, Roseate Terns are breeding at the Tern Restoration Project site on Seavey Island and are appearing along our coastline. Roseate Terns were observed in small but significant numbers throughout the summer of 2003 and probably should no longer be considered "very rare to casual." The truly staggering numbers of nesting Common Terns and the beginning of successful breeding of Arctic Terns are also wonderful results of the restoration project's work.

Some uncommonly sighted terns—Forster's, Least, Black, and Caspian—were all represented last summer, also. The Black Terns reported from the Isles of Shoals represent at least two different individuals, as one report described an adult bird and another an immature. A single Black Tern was also reported on the islands on two occasions shortly following the July report below.

Alcids are rarely seen during the summer months, except for the occasional Black Guillemot at the Isles of Shoals, where they are known to nest in very low numbers on some of the islands. Sporadic reports of other large alcids throughout the summer at White and Seavey Islands were quite remarkable. At least one Common Murre, a possible Thick-billed Murre, a Razorbill, and three Atlantic Puffins were all observed during the summer months. It is also interesting to note that an unusually high number of Common Murres was reported at Matinicus Rock in Maine, where an attraction program is in progress. There were also more coastal Black Guillemot sightings than have been typical in previous summers.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Laughing Gull				
06-01	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
06-07	5		NH coast	S. Mirick
07-10	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	J. Derrick, M. Barney
07-24	4		NH coast	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
Little Gull				
06-01	1	N. Hampton	s. of Rye Ledge	S. Mirick
07-18	1	Rye	Jenness Beach & Rye Ledge	S. Mirick
07-19	1	Rye	n. of Foss Beach	B. Griffith
Black-headed Gull				
07-03	1	Rye	Foss Beach, n. end	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence, et al.
07-06	2	Rye	n. of Foss Beach	B. Griffith, M. & R. Suomala
07-07	3	Rye	Foss Beach, n. end	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence, et al.
07-08	1	N. Hampton	N. Hampton St. Beach	D. Donsker
07-11	2	Rye	Foss Beach & Jenness Beach	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence, et al.
Bonaparte's Gull				
06-08	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
06-13	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick
07-03	35		NH coast	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
07-11	76	Rye	NH coast	S. Mirick
07-19	20	Rye	n. of Foss Beach	B. Griffith
07-24	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
07-31	60	Rye	various	S. Mirick
Ring-billed Gull				
07-20	20	Pittsburg	Route 3	E. Nielsen
Black-legged Kittiwake				
06-01	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
Caspian Tern				
06-10	1	Pittsburg	Second Connecticut Lake	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
Roseate Tern				
06-01	7		NH coast	S. Mirick
06-07	3	Rye	just s. of Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	R. Woodward
06-09	3	Seabrook	Seabrook Harbor	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
06-15	75	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick, R. Suomala, D. Hayward, D. DeLuca
06-27	100	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	R. Suomala, G. McElroy
07-11	5		NH coast	S. Mirick
07-17	124	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	J. Derrick, M. Barney
07-24	8	Seabrook	Seabrook Harbor	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
07-25	132	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick, D. Hayward
Common Tern				
06-07	165	Portsmouth	Piscataqua R.	R. Suomala
06-08	100	Rye	White Island	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
06-08	40	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
06-16	4638	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
07-09	7000	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	J. Derrick, M. Barney
07-25	8000	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick, D. Hayward
Arctic Tern				
06-08	2	Rye	White Island	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
06-27	10	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	R. Suomala, G. McElroy, D. DeLuca
07-30	1		Jeffreys Ledge	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
Forster's Tern				
07-24	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Harbor	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
Least Tern				
07-19	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Harbor	B. Griffith
07-24	1	Rye	marsh w. of Wallis Sands	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
07-24	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
Black Tern				
06-02	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
06-14	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick, R. Suomala, D. Hayward, D. DeLuca
07-13	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	J. Derrick, M. Barney, J. Kanter
Common Murre				
06-22	1	Rye	White Is., Isles of Shoals	R. Suomala, M. Barney, J. Derrick
06-27	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	R. Suomala, G. McElroy
Murre sp.				
06-15	1	Rye	White Is., Isles of Shoals	R. Suomala, D. DeLuca, M. Barney, J. Derrick
Razorbill				
06-08	1	N. Hampton	1 mi. e.s.e. of Isles of Shoals	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
Black Guillemot				
06-01	5	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
06-01	1	Rye	Ragged Neck	M. Harvey
06-04	1	Rye	Concord Point	S. Mirick
06-08	2		offshore waters	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
06-14	2	Rye	Ragged Neck	M. Harvey
06-15	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
06-20	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
07-09	3	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	J. Derrick, M. Barney
Atlantic Puffin				
06-15	1	Rye	White Is., Isles of Shoals	R. Suomala, D. DeLuca, D. Hayward, M. Barney, J. Derrick
06-24	3	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	R. Suomala, J. Derrick
Alcid sp.				
06-14	1	Rye	White Is., Isles of Shoals	J. Derrick

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

Black-billed Cuckoos were reported in typical numbers in 2003 but we received more than twice the usual number of **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** reports. The observers of the bird seen on June 3 in Chester also observed the bird in the same location one month later (July 4). Likewise, the report from Northwood on July 20 was preceded by a report of a single Yellow-billed Cuckoo in the same vicinity on June 15.

George Gavutis's two reports of Great Horned Owls certainly span the state from "stem to stern!"

Mary Wright sent many reports of Common Nighthawks, a Threatened species on the New Hampshire state list of *Endangered and Threatened Species*; several reports are listed below. Although the sightings for a given date are reported together, generally the birds were seen singly and not in a group. Keene is one of New Hampshire's remaining sites for the Common Nighthawk (see *New Hampshire Bird Records*, Summer 2002 issue, Vol. 21, No. 2, page 37).

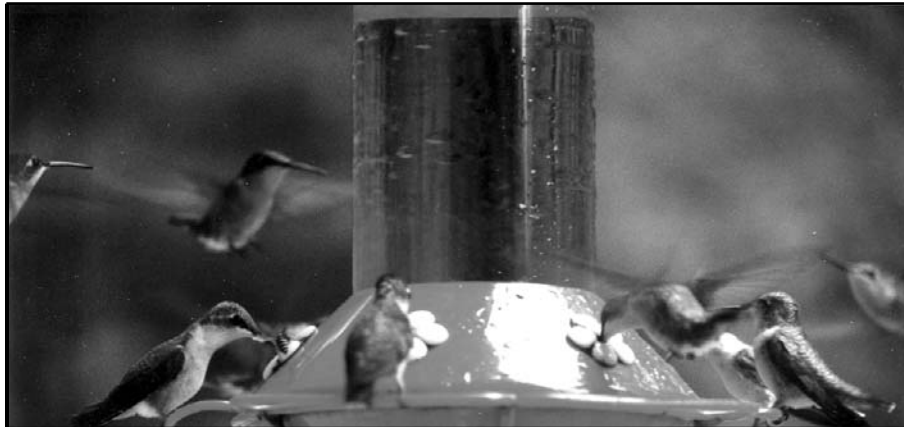
In his report on the Chimney Swifts seen along the Guinea Pond Trail (June 8), Tony Vazzano noted, "Several miles from nearest chimney. Nesting in trees? Some [are] seen (on this field trip) each year." The *Atlas of Breeding Birds in New Hampshire* would support this conjecture. "Most Chimney Swifts long ago abandoned natural breeding sites in hollow trees and now nest largely in chimneys. A few pairs still nest in hollow trees in remote areas of northern New Hampshire."

The three Red-bellied Woodpeckers reported on July 19 included one male and two immature birds. The reporter also sent an earlier June 3 sighting of a male and female adult from this location. And it was nice to have a **Red-headed Woodpecker** on the summer list again for the second summer in a row.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Mourning Dove				
06-12	1	Wentworths Location	Lake Umbagog NWR	G. Gavutis Jr.
Black-billed Cuckoo				
06-07	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano, G. Dennis
06-16	1	Kensington	Rt 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-21	1	Sandwich	Thompson WS	P. Hunt, G. Tudor
06-25	1	Gilmanton	Old Jones Farm	J. Stockwell
06-29	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
06-30	1	Sandwich	Chicks Corner Swamp	T. Vazzano, D.& R. Fox
07-01	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
07-10	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond	M. Turner
07-20	2	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-25	3	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey	M. Suomala
07-26	1	Deerfield	Mountain Rd. Ext.	C.& J. Carr
07-27	1	Hampton	Landing Road	M. Harvey
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				
06-03	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
06-15	1	N. Hampton	Atlantic Ave. near Nine St.	D.& T. Donsker
06-30	1	Sandwich	Red Hill Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, D.& R. Fox
07-01	1	Canterbury	Baptist Hill Rd.	R. Quinn

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
07-02	1	Newington	Great Bay NWR	S. Mirick
07-05	1	Andover	Blockhouse Lane, Blackwater R.	M. Milligan
07-18	1	Dunbarton	Kimball Pond	P. Hunt, Amoskeag Fishways FT
07-20	2	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-25	1	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey	M. Suomala
07-27	1	Peterborough	Fremont Conservation Land	D. Rowell, R. Frechette
Eastern Screech-Owl				
07-15	1	Somersworth	near Maplewood School	C. Ladisheff
Great Horned Owl				
06-26	1	Errol	Umbagog St. Pk.	G. Gavutis Jr.
07-21	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
Barred Owl				
06-17	4	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
06-22	2	Albany	Blackberry Crossing Campground	P. Hunt, T. Robinson
06-22	1	Effingham	Watts WS	P. Hunt, G. Tudor, R. Ridgely
06-24	1	Carroll	Zealand Rd.	M. Harvey, B. Griffith, C. Wright, A. Bissette
06-29	1	Deerfield	Griffin Rd.	P. Newbern
07-04	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Road	M. Wright
07-20	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
07-30	1	Deerfield	Mountain Rd. Ext.	C. & J. Carr
08-05	1	New London	Pingree Rd.	R. Vernon
Northern Saw-whet Owl				
06-04	2	T&M Purchase	Jefferson Notch, Caps Ridge Trailhead	R. Quinn, et al.
07-09	1	Peterborough	Nichols Rd.	R. Frechette
Common Nighthawk				
06-03	5	Dover	Rt. 108	S. Mirick
06-04	1	Newington	Stubb's Pond, Great Bay NWR	S. Mirick
06-04	1	Alton	Alton Bay, Black Point	G. Gavutis
06-05	2	Windham	Rt. 111 & N. Lowell Rd. jct.	M. Harvey
06-06	10	Kensington	Rt 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-08	3	Keene	downtown area	M. Wright
06-15	3	Keene	downtown area	M. Wright
06-25	3	Keene	downtown area	M. Wright
07-04	1	Wilmot	New Canada Rd.	P. Newbern
07-07	2	Keene	downtown area	M. Wright
07-19	1	Keene	Colony Mill, West St.	M. Wright
07-30	2	Concord	North Main St.	J. Williams, R. Collins
Whip-poor-will				
June	1	Canterbury	Shaker Rd.	D. Emerson
06-03	1	Windham	Heritage Hill Rd.	M. Harvey
06-23	2	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	B. Griffith, M. Harvey, A. Brissette, C. Wright
06-29	1	Newbury	Stoney Brook WS	C. Martin
07-11	1	Concord	residence	R. Woodward
Chimney Swift				
06-08	6	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, BBC FT
06-15	17	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-17	6	Gilsum	village center	M. Wright

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				
06-10	45	Pittsburg	Metallak Road	E. Nielsen
06-23	6	Brookline	residence	M. Anne
07-30	36	Thornton	Millbrook Rd. residence	J. McGovern



A portion of the 36 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds coming to John McGovern's feeder.

“The Hummingbirds start arriving in mid-May and start building in numbers right through June. They seem to nest off to the left of the yard. By July and August there are as many as three dozen hummingbirds flying around the yard every day, and are consuming approximately 32 oz. of food or more daily. The yard reminds me of a busy airport, with birds landing and taking off constantly. At times there are three birds hovering over

each feeding hole on the feeder. The feeder is set outside the sliding doors of the dining room so I am able to observe the birds at close range, only about 10 inches away. They are magnificent little creatures, always in motion. In September they start their migration and one or two will stay behind to see that all is clear. By mid-September they are all gone.”

John McGovern

Belted Kingfisher

07-23	6	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen
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Red-headed Woodpecker

06-22	1	Nottingham	Deerfield Rd. residence	S.& B. Parker
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Red-bellied Woodpecker

06-03	2	Newmarket	Bay Road	H. Chary
06-09	1	Durham	Longmarsh Road	S. Mirick
06-20	1	Windham	pond across from Transfer Station	M. Harvey
06-24	1	Campton	Rt. 175, s. of Beebe River Rd.	J. Williams
06-29	1	Windham	Second Street.	M. Harcvey
06-30	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano, D.& R. Fox
07-03	1	Hampton	near Meadow Pond	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
07-19	3	Newmarket	Bay Road	H. Chary
07-25	1	Exeter	residence	M.& G. Prazar

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				
06-08	2	Sandwich	Cook Farm	T. Vazzano, BBC FT
06-22	4	Effingham	Watts WS	P. Hunt, G. Tudor, R. Ridgely
06-24	8	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	M. Harvey, B. Griffith, C. Wright, A. Bissette
06-29	2	Deerfield	Birch Rd.	P. Newbern
07-18	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Road	M. Wright
07-20	4	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen
Black-backed Woodpecker				
06-14	1	Cambridge	Rt. 16	S. Sturup
06-19	1	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
06-23	1	Errol	Bear Brook Pond	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
06-29	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	D. Govatski, C. Bretton
06-29	1	T&M Purchase	Jefferson Notch Rd.	D. Govatski
07-12	2	Dixville	Rice Mtn. summit	J. Stockwell
07-20	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen
07-31	2	Beans Grant	Webster Cliff Trail	M. Harvey

Flycatchers

Data from the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) indicate that most species of flycatcher in New Hampshire are in decline. The exceptions are the Willow/Alder Flycatcher complex, Great Crested Flycatcher, and Eastern Phoebe. The Willow/Alder Flycatcher pair, formerly considered one species ("Traill's Flycatcher") has shown consistent though irregular growth since the 1970s. The *Atlas of Breeding Birds in New Hampshire* shows the Alder more concentrated to the north and the Willow found more in south-central to south-eastern regions. Our 2003 summer reports reflect the Atlas distribution quite well.

A report of an Acadian Flycatcher in South Hampton represents a new location for this species. Acadian's have been consistently reported from Pawtuckaway State Park for over a decade, but except for the two birds banded at the Star Island Banding Station in the summer of 2000, the only other "non-Pawtuckaway" observation since 1990 was a report from Lyndeborough in 1995.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Olive-sided Flycatcher				
06-08	1	Sandwich	near Thompson WS	T. Vazzano, BBC FT
06-09	4	Pittsburg	Comstock Hill & Scott Bog Rds.	E. Nielsen
06-09	1	Benton	Titus Brook Beaver Pond, WMNF	J. Williams, J. Hagen
06-10	1	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR	G. Gavutis
06-13	4	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen
06-14	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	S. Sturup
06-21	1	Sandwich	Thompson WS	P. Hunt, G. Tudor
06-22	1	Effingham	Watts WS	P. Hunt, G. Tudor, R. Ridgely
06-26	2	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR	G. Gavutis
07-25	5	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen
07-29	5	Lyman		S. & M. Turner

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Eastern Wood-Pewee				
06-04	2	Auburn	Massabesic Audubon Center	J. Romano
06-09	3	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				
06-08	4	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick
06-12	8	Pittsburg	Magalloway Mtn. & Bog Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-19	22	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
06-23	1	Livermore	Kancamagus Pass	P. Hunt, T. Robinson
06-24	8	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	B. Griffith, C. Wright, M. Harvey, A. Brissette
06-26	3	Errol	Umbagog St. Pk.	G. Gavutis
07-20	12	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen
07-31	4	Beans Grant	Webster Cliff Trail	M. Harvey
Acadian Flycatcher				
06-07	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk. near black gum swamp	R. Woodward, Capital Area Chapter FT
06-08	1	Deerfield	Reservation Rd., Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
06-28	1	S. Hampton	adjacent to Brookside WS	J. Berry
Alder Flycatcher				
06-06	8	Whitefield	Cherry Pond	I. MacLeod, H. Galbraith
06-08	4	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, BBC FT
06-08	3	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
06-08	16	Pittsburg	East Inlet & Perry Stream Rds.	E. Nielsen
06-08	5	Plymouth	Chaison Rd.	J. Williams
06-09	13	Pittsburg	Comstock Hill Road	E. Nielsen
06-11	6	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey	M. Suomala
06-13	17	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen
06-15	2	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-15	5	Lyman	Dodge & Round Ponds	S. & M. Turner
Willow Flycatcher				
06-03	20	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey	M. Suomala
06-04	1	Nashua	"Little Florida" along Nashua R.	D. Deifik
06-06	1	Kensington	Kimball Rd.	J. Romano
06-08	1	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
06-08	3	Plymouth	Chaison Rd.	J. Williams
06-14	1	Plymouth	Glove Hollow Tree Farm	J. Williams
06-14	1	Merrimack	Anheuser-Busch Brewery fields	P. Hunt
06-14	1	Hampton Falls	Depot Rd.	M. Harvey
06-14	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	M. Harvey
06-15	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-26	1	N. Hampton	Winnicut & Lovering Rd.	M. Tarr
Trail's Flycatcher sp. (Willow/Alder)				
06-10	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick
Least Flycatcher				
06-08	4	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
06-08	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	J. Derrick, M. Barney
06-13	8	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen
06-23	8	Albany	Blackberry Crossing Campground	P. Hunt, T. Robinson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Eastern Phoebe				
07-13	6	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-15	3	Lyman	Dodge & Round Ponds	S. & M. Turner
07-25	1	Plymouth	Pine Gate Rd.	J. Williams
Great Crested Flycatcher				
06-08	2	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
06-17	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
06-23	3	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR	G. Gavutis
07-19	2	Concord	Heritage Heights, East Side Drive	M. Gray
07-31	5	Concord	Heritage Heights, East Side Dr.	M. & M. Gray
Eastern Kingbird				
07-05	15		along Merrimack R.	R. Quinn, J. Hills
07-20	7	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt

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


Sightings of **Yellow-throated Vireos** represent the largest number of different locations—nine—in over a decade. BBS data suggest that although the number of sightings is few, the growth trend for this species is positive.

Thanks go to Pam Hunt for her continued Purple Martin reports this summer, following-up on last year's survey. The three sightings in Moultonborough and two in Freedom (listed below) all represent different locations within those towns.

According to Tudor Richards, a Barn Swallow at the top of Mount Washington (an elevation of 6,288 feet) is only the second record of this species for the summit. It was reportedly a nice day with a "huge insect hatch," which perhaps attracted the swallow.

Ravens in southern locations, such as those reported in Exeter and Epping, are not common during the summer months.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Yellow-throated Vireo				
06-08	1	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
06-09	1	Durham	Longmarsh Road	S. Mirick
06-14	1	Amherst	Pulpit Brook at Horace Greeley Rd.	P. Hunt
06-17	1	Windham	Castle Hill Rd. residence	M. Harvey
06-29	1	Deerfield	Coleman Rd.	P. Newbern
07-04	1	Alexandria	Mt. Cardigan Rd.	P. Newbern
07-09	1	Canterbury	Pevery Meadow	R. Quinn
07-10	1	Manchester	Hackett Hill Preserve	P. Hunt
07-18	1	Dunbarton	Kimball Pond	P. Hunt, Fishways FT
Blue-headed Vireo				
06-08	13	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen
06-18	4	Center Harbor	Chamberlain-Reynolds Memorial Forest	T. Vazzano, et al.
07-03	4	Benton	Titus Brook, WMNF	J. Williams
07-23	11	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Warbling Vireo				
06-15	5	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-05	18		along Merrimack R.	R. Quinn, J. Hills
Philadelphia Vireo				
06-09	1	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Road	E. Nielsen
06-24	2	Harts Location	Frankenstein Cliff parking area	B. Griffith, C. Wright, M. Harvey
07-24	3	Pittsburg	Bog Brook Road	E. Nielsen
07-25	1	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen
Red-eyed Vireo				
06-08	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick
06-08	27	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen
06-15	8	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-23	28	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen
Gray Jay				
06-08	10	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen
06-15	2	Bethlehem	Mt. Willey summit	J. & K. Stockwell
06-19	1	Livermore	Mt. Carrigan	E. Holm
06-24	10	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	B. Griffith, C. Wright, M. Harvey, A. Brissette
07-03	4	Pittsburg	Rt. 3, two locations	R. Quinn
07-21	3	Pittsburg	Moose Falls flowage & Smith Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-23	4	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen
07-31	2	Beans Grant	Webster Cliff Trail	M. Harvey
				
<p><i>Gray Jay</i> by J. R. Stockwell, 6/16/03 at Mt. Willey Summit</p>				
Fish Crow				
06-14	1	Windham	Rts. 111 & 111A jct.	M. Harvey
06-18	1	Concord	Rt. 93, exit 13	R. Woodward
Common Raven				
06-15	1	Exeter	Rt. 85 n. of Rt. 101	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
06-18	6	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
07-24	1	Epping	Rt. 101, exit 7	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
Horned Lark				
summer	4	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
06-21	2	Concord	Concord Airport	R. Woodward, Capital Area Chapter FT
Purple Martin				
summer	4	Moultonborough	Hemlock Pt.	P. Hunt
summer	36	Laconia	Fun Spot	P. Hunt

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
summer	2	Greenland	Portsmouth CC	P. Hunt
summer	10	Moultonborough	Lees Mill Rd.	P. Hunt
summer	2	Freedom	Rt. 153, n. of Effingham Falls	P. Hunt
summer	6	Ossipee	Indian Mound Golf Course	P. Hunt
summer	2	Rye	Wentworth-by-the-Sea Golf Course	P. Hunt
summer	18	Moultonborough	Windward Harbor	P. Hunt
summer	6	Freedom	Totem Pole Park	P. Hunt
summer	40	Conway	Rt. 302, Center Conway	P. Hunt

Tree Swallow

06-09	240	Pittsburg	Second Connecticut Lake	E. Nielsen
07-21	30	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	J. Williams

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

06-03	2	Windham	Lancaster Rd.	M. Harvey
07-05	5	Boscawen	along Merrimack R.	R. Quinn, J. Hills

Bank Swallow

07-05	11	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Road, s. end	M. Wright
07-05	100	Canterbury	Merrimack R.	R. Quinn, J. Hills
07-21	140	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	J. Williams
07-25	7	Pittsburg	Second Connecticut Lake	E. Nielsen

Cliff Swallow

06-08	3	Pittsburg	Metallak Road	E. Nielsen
06-25	2	New Castle	mouth of Piscataqua R.	G. Gavutis
07-19	15	Exeter	Powder House Pond	B. Griffith
07-21	6	Pittsburg	Second Connecticut Lake	E. Nielsen

Barn Swallow

06-04	1	Sargents Purchase	Mt. Washington summit	R. Quinn, et al.
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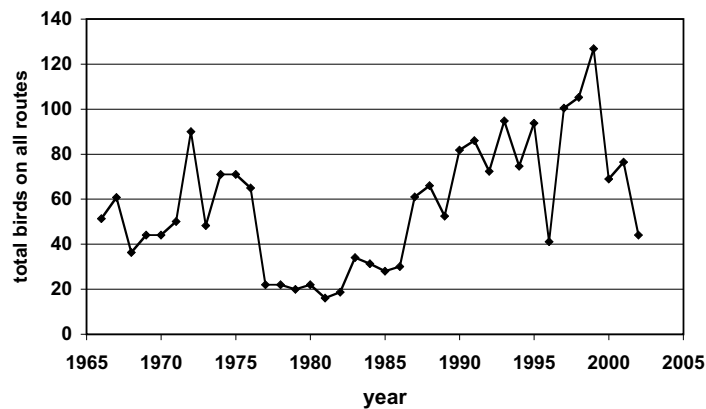
Chickadees, Wrens, Kinglets, Gnatcatchers

During the summer of 2003, several observers on the NH.Birds internet list reported a "lack of Winter Wrens," especially in central and southern New Hampshire. The data reported to NHBR are consistent with those general impressions. But, the BBS data (see diagram next page) may offer additional insight into the anecdotal observations. Winter Wrens seem to exhibit some long-term "cyclic" behavior and short-term year-to-year fluctuations. The decade of the 90s was a time of increased abundance in the Winter Wren population. But, a strong decline began in 1999 and was sensed by New Hampshire birders in the field in the summer of 2003. It remains to be seen if the cyclic behavior will continue and rebound a decade from now.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Boreal Chickadee				
06-11	2	Pittsburg	Magalloway Road	E. Nielsen
06-19	12	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
06-23	8	Errol	Rt. 16	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
07-05	12	Lincoln	Mt. Osceola	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Boreal Chickadee—continued				
07-25	19	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen
07-31	9	Beans Grant	Webster Cliff Trail	M. Harvey
Carolina Wren				
06-04	1	Nashua	“Little Florida” along Nashua R.	D. Deifik
06-15	1	Durham	off Madbury Road	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
06-21	1	Windham	Johnson’s Farm	M. Harvey
06-22	1	Manchester	off Tanglewood Cir.	P. Newbern
Winter Wren				
06-18	2	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
06-18	2	Center Harbor	Chamberlain-Reynolds Memorial Forest	T. Vazzano, et al.
06-19	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
06-24	15	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	B. Griffith, C. Wright, M. Harvey, A. Brissette
07-20	19	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen
Marsh Wren				
06-08	3	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	P. Hunt, M. Krenitsky
06-26	2	N. Hampton	marsh between Winnicut & Lovering Rds.	M. Tarr
07-07	3	Hancock	Wolcott Conservation Land wetland	R. Frechette
07-24	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
07-24	1	Greenland	Portsmouth CC	P. Hunt

New Hampshire Winter Wren BBS Data



Golden-crowned Kinglet

07-20 30 Pittsburg East Inlet Road E. Nielsen

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

06-08 10 Pittsburg East Inlet Road E. Nielsen

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

06-08 1 Holderness wetlands s. of Rt. 175A J. Williams

Thrushes, Thrashers, Pipits, Waxwings

The reports in this group show no unusual sightings for the species, location, or season.

In addition to the 37 Swainson's Thrushes reported on July 20, Eric Nielsen also reported 38 more from three different locations in Pittsburg on the following four days. The report on June 4 of two American Robins was unusual in that they were at an elevation of 4,800 feet.

The report of two American Pipits on June 4 on Mt. Washington is significant. It is a bit late (though possible) for migration. American Pipits normally nest on Alpine and Arctic Tundra across the breadth of the Northern Hemisphere, but extend southward to breed on Mt. Katahdin in Maine and Mt. Washington in New Hampshire. Although there were a few potential breeding sightings in the Presidential Range in 1937 and 1965, and several in the 1980s, the first nest with eggs was only found in 1991, at the 5,400-foot level on Mt. Washington. The high regions of the Presidential Range are the only likely places in New Hampshire to find American Pipits outside of migration, making the sighting presented very interesting, probably representing breeding birds. The American Pipit is on the New Hampshire state list of *Species of Conservation Concern*.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Veery				
06-08	3	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
06-09	13	Pittsburg	Comstock Hill Road	E. Nielsen
06-29	18	Epsom	BBS Route	P. Newbern
07-20	4	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
Bicknell's Thrush				
06-10	1	Carroll	Mt. Martha summit	B. Taffe
06-19	1	T&M Purchase	Jefferson Notch Rd.	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
06-19	5	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
07-05	3	Lincoln	Mt. Osceola	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
07-29	1	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	D. Govatski
07-31	1	Beans Grant	n. of Mizpah Hut	M. Harvey
Swainson's Thrush				
06-05	2	Holderness	Smarts Brook Trail, WMNF	J. Williams
06-08	3	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, BBC FT
06-19	12	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
06-23	3	Livermore	Kancamagus Pass	P. Hunt, T. Robinson
07-03	31	Pittsburg	along Rt. 3	R. Quinn
07-05	12	Lincoln	Mt. Osceola	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
07-20	37	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen
Hermit Thrush				
06-08	14	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen
Wood Thrush				
06-09	1	Benton	Titus Brook	J. Williams, J. Hagen
06-12	1	Wentworths Location	Lake Umbagog NWR	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-15	4	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Wood Thrush—continued				
06-27	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
07-11	3	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
American Robin				
06-04	2	T&M Purchase	4800' elevation	R. Quinn, et al.
06-13	25	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen
07-20	29	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-25	45	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen
Gray Catbird				
06-14	7	Plymouth	Glove Hollow Tree Farm	J. Williams
06-14	8	Kensington	Rt 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-28	10	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
Brown Thrasher				
06-02	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
06-07	2	Milan	BBS Route	I. MacLeod
06-08	3	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit	T. Vazzano, BBC FT
06-14	1	Plymouth	Glove Hollow Tree Farm	J. Williams
06-16	2	Concord	Second St. & Sewalls Falls Rd.	P. Niswander
06-21	5	Concord	Concord airport	R. Woodward, Capital Area Chapter FT
06-24	1	Plymouth	Pine Gate Rd.	J. Williams
07-05	1	Canterbury	along Merrimack R.	R. Quinn, J. Hills
07-17	2	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey	M. Suomala
07-27	1	Peterborough	Fremont Conservation Land	R. Frechette, D. Rowell
American Pipit				
06-04	4	T&M Purchase	Mt. Washington Auto Rd.	R. Quinn, et al.
Cedar Waxwing				
06-03	45	Windham	Lancaster Rd.	M. Harvey
06-08	80	Alexandria	Bog Rd.	N. Oulette
07-19	26	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Road	E. Nielsen

Wood Warblers

The warbler reports we received for the summer of 2003 were typical for the season, with no rarities. There is not space to publish every report received and entered in the NHBR database, and the editor must select from those received to present a picture of the season emphasizing observations unusual for the number of birds observed or their location. Such a listing obviously does not represent the species abundances for the state. A better approximation of abundances might come from the BBS data, which is a more systematic survey of bird populations. The BBS data provide Relative Abundances (birds per BBS route) and the following table lists the statewide average for the past decade (1993–2002). The species name is in the first column, followed by the Relative Abundance (R.A.).

Species	R.A.	Species	R.A.
Ovenbird	21.3	Canada Warbler	0.6
Common Yellowthroat	16.1	Northern Waterthrush	0.5
Chestnut-sided Warbler	7.8	Blue-winged Warbler	0.2
American Redstart	7.2	Prairie Warbler	0.2
Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler	5.4	Mourning Warbler	0.1
Yellow Warbler	5.3	Blackpoll Warbler	0.1
Black-and-white Warbler	5.1	Louisiana Waterthrush	0.1
Black-throated Green Warbler	4.2	Bay-breasted Warbler	0.1
Magnolia Warbler	2.5	Cape May Warbler	< 0.1
Blackburnian Warbler	2.2	Tennessee Warbler	< 0.1
Nashville Warbler	2.2	Wilson's Warbler	< 0.1
Black-throated Blue Warbler	2.1	Cerulean Warbler	< 0.1
Pine Warbler	2.1	Golden-winged Warbler	< 0.1
Northern Parula	1.4		

A team of ornithologists led by Len Reitsma, Dan Lambert, Jameson Chace, and Amy Ueland initiated a study "Habitat Selection of Breeding Canada Warblers" on the 100-acre Canaan Town Forest in Canaan, NH. Extensive survey work during June and July on the Canaan Town Forest located 18 male "territory holders," of whom 15 had mates. All but one paired male produced fledglings. On the 973-acre Bear Pond Natural area just north of the study site, about 20 additional singing male Canada Warblers were located, but no information was gathered about females.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Blue-winged Warbler				
06-20	4	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey	M. Suomala
Tennessee Warbler				
06-18	1	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	B. Griffith
Nashville Warbler				
06-03	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
06-08	25	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen
06-12	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
06-14	2	Amherst	Ponemah Bog	P. Hunt
06-19	2	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
06-22	1	Effingham	Watts WS	P. Hunt, G. Tudor, R. Ridgely
07-27	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
Northern Parula				
06-05	1	Sandwich	Smarts Brook Rd., WMNF	J. Williams
06-05	1	Holderness	US Forest Service office lot	J. Williams
06-06	16	Pittsburg	Comstock Hill Road	E. Nielsen
06-18	3	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
06-20	2	Nottingham	Mountain Rd.	B. Delorey
06-21	1	Sandwich	Thompson WS	P. Hunt, G. Tudor
06-22	4	Effingham	Watts WS	P. Hunt, G. Tudor, R. Ridgely
07-03	30	Pittsburg	along Rt. 3	R. Quinn

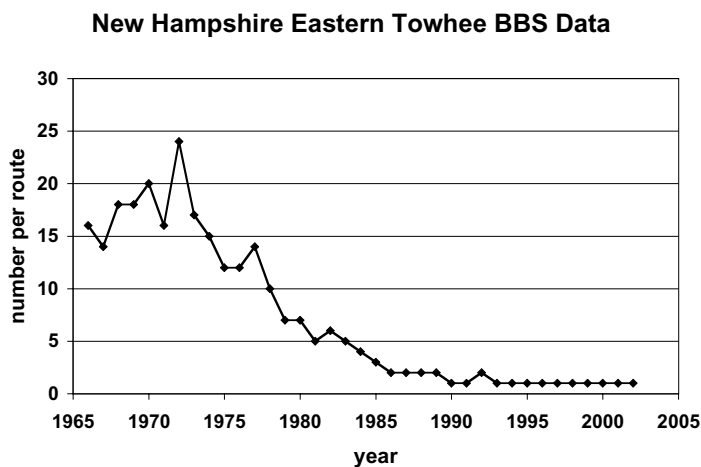
<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Yellow Warbler				
06-08	4	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
06-11	22	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey	M. Suomala
06-14	7	Plymouth	Glove Hollow Tree Farm	J. Williams
06-15	2	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
Chestnut-sided Warbler				
06-03	5	Thornton	Hix Mtn. clearcut, WMNF	J. Williams
06-03	10	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey	M. Suomala
06-08	3	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, BBC FT
06-08	5	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
06-09	14	Pittsburg	Comstock Hill Road	E. Nielsen
06-11	5	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR	G. Gavutis
06-12	8	Wentworths Location	Lake Umbagog NWR	G. Gavutis, Jr.
06-24	5		Pondicherry WS	B. Griffith, M. Harvey, A. Brissette, C. Wright
Magnolia Warbler				
06-08	70	Pittsburg	Perry Stream & East Inlet Rds.	E. Nielsen
06-08	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick
06-13	22	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen
06-19	10	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
Cape May Warbler				
06-09	2	Pittsburg	Metallak Road	E. Nielsen
06-11	1	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR	G. Gavutis
Black-throated Blue Warbler				
06-08	8	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, BBC FT
06-08	11	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen
07-04	11	Washington	Pillsbury St. Pk., off Balance Rock Trail	P. Newbern
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
06-08	36	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen
06-12	22	Pittsburg	Magalloway Road	E. Nielsen
06-13	20	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen
06-15	6	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
Black-throated Green Warbler				
06-08	32	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen
07-04	12	Washington	Pillsbury St. Pk. off Balance Rock Trail	P. Newbern
Blackburnian Warbler				
06-08	5	Sandwich	Sandwich Notch Rd.	T. Vazzano, BBC FT
06-12	16	Pittsburg	Bog Brook & Magalloway Rds.	E. Nielsen
06-18	2	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
06-19	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
07-16	1	Thornton	Old Gore Rd., WMNF	J. Williams
Pine Warbler				
06-12	1	Derry	Lorri Rd.	J. Burtis
06-15	3	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-17	1	Concord	Hospice House	J. Williams
Prairie Warbler				
06-12	6	Concord	airport	P. Hunt
06-14	1	Merrimack	Anheuser-Busch Brewery fields	P. Hunt

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
07-04	2	Alexandria	Mt. Cardigan Rd.	P. Newbern
07-10	1	Manchester	Hackett Hill Preserve	P. Hunt
Bay-breasted Warbler				
06-08	1	Sandwich	Sandwich Notch Rd.	T. Vazzano, BBC FT
06-08	30	Pittsburg	Perry Stream & East Inlet Rds.	E. Nielsen
06-12	1	Wentworths Location	Lake Umbagog NWR	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-18	1	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
06-24	3	T&M Purchase	Jefferson Notch Rd.	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
06-25	1	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR	G. Gavutis
06-26	1	Cambridge	Umbagog St. Pk.	G. Gavutis
Blackpoll Warbler				
06-03	1	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey	M. Suomala
06-04	1	Newington	Great Bay NWR	S. Mirick
06-08	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick
06-08	36	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen
06-10	9	Pittsburg	area near border	E. Nielsen
06-12	9	Pittsburg	Magalloway Mtn.	E. Nielsen
06-14	20	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	S. Sturup
06-23	3	Livermore	Kancamagus Pass	P. Hunt, T. Robinson
06-24	2	T&M Purchase	Jefferson Notch Rd.	B. Griffith, C. Wright, M. Harvey, A. Brissette
07-12	2	Dixville	Blue Ridge	J. Stockwell
Cerulean Warbler				
06-08	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
Black-and-white Warbler				
06-28	7	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-10	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Road	M. Wright
American Redstart				
06-13	23	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen
06-14	5	Plymouth	Glove Hollow Tree Farm	J. Williams
06-15	4	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-23	1	Livermore	Kancamagus Pass	P. Hunt, T. Robinson
Northern Waterthrush				
06-08	7	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Road	E. Nielsen
06-12	2	Center Harbor	Chamberlain-Reynolds Memorial Forest	T. Vazzano, et al.
06-15	1	Durham	Packers Falls Road	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
07-04	1	Danbury	Ragged Mountain Rd.	P. Newbern
Louisiana Waterthrush				
07-27	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	W. Harris
Mourning Warbler				
06-02	1	Kensington	Rt 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-03	1	Thornton	Hix Mtn. clearcut, WMNF	J. Williams
06-03	1	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey	M. Suomala
06-08	3	Pittsburg	Perry Stream & East Inlet Rds.	E. Nielsen
06-09	2	Benton	Titus Brook Rd., WMNF	J. Williams, J. Hagen
06-11	7	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR	G. Gavutis
06-13	2	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen
06-16	1	Benton	Titus Brook Rd., WMNF	J. Williams, F. Hagan, T. Miller

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Mourning Warbler—continued				
06-19	3	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	M. Harvey, B.Griffith
06-30	1	Salisbury	Blackwater R. Flood Control Area, Mill St.	M. Milligan, L. Deming
Common Yellowthroat				
06-08	5	Holderness	wetlands s. of Rt. 175A	J. Williams
06-14	5	Plymouth	Glove Hollow Tree Farm	J. Williams
07-20	6	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-23	22	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen
07-24	36	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey	M. Suomala
Wilson's Warbler				
06-08	5	Pittsburg	Perry Stream & East Inlet Rds.	E. Nielsen
07-03	1	Pittsburg	Moose Falls flowage	R. Quinn
Canada Warbler				
06-04	1	Northwood	Northwood Meadows St. Pk.	M. Tarr, M. Ross
06-07	3	Newbury	off Rt. 103A	P. Newbern
06-08	1	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, BBC FT
06-08	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	S. Mirick
06-08	8	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen
06-14	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	S. Sturup
06-22	4	Effingham	Watts WS	P. Hunt, G. Tudor, R. Ridgely
06-23	4	Amherst	Joe English CA	B. Griffith, M. Harvey, A. Brissette, C. Wright
06-23	5	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR	G. Gavutis
07-04	1	Kingston	Cedar Swamp Pond	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence

Tanagers, Sparrows & Towhees, Cardinals, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Buntings

On reporting a single Eastern Towhee at her residence in Brookline on June 26, the observer commented “first in a long time.” Towhee reports are becoming much less common; the Towhee population has been one of the most drastically declining in the state (exceeded, sadly, by the Philadelphia Vireo and Brown Thrasher). The BBS data shown to the right vividly display this plunge.



Whereas in the early 70s the Towhee was a common bird on a BBS route, now an observer is lucky to report even one.

The Vesper, Seaside, and Nelson's and Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows are all on the New Hampshire state list of *Species of Conservation Concern*, so it's good to have them well reported this summer.

A Grasshopper Sparrow was found in Derry at one of the historical sites for this species.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Scarlet Tanager				
06-18	5	Center Harbor	Chamberlain-Reynolds Memorial Forest	T. Vazzano, et al.
06-20	7	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey	M. Suomala
06-28	2	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-29	10	Epsom	BBS Route	P. Newbern
07-14	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Road	M. Wright
07-30	7	Lyman	near Dodge Pond Rd.	S. & M. Turner
Eastern Towhee				
06-14	4	Amherst	Ponemah Bog	P. Hunt
06-26	1	Brookline	residence	M. Anne
07-11	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
07-20	2	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
Chipping Sparrow				
06-14	11	Plymouth	Glove Hollow Tree Farm	J. Williams
06-28	13	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
Field Sparrow				
06-12	3	Concord	airport	P. Hunt
07-09	5	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Road	M. Wright
Vesper Sparrow				
summer	14	Concord	airport	P. Hunt
06-07	1	New London	Low Plain off Mountain Rd.	P. Newbern
07-09	1	Peterborough	Nichols Rd.	R. Frechette
Savannah Sparrow				
summer	38	Concord	airport	P. Hunt
06-14	11	Plymouth	Glove Hollow Tree Farm	J. Williams
06-18	20	Jefferson	Jefferson Meadows	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
07-22	10	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	J. Williams
Grasshopper Sparrow				
summer	2	Amherst	Cemetery Fields	P. Hunt
summer	2	Merrimack	Anheuser-Busch Brewery fields	P. Hunt
06-03	1	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport from Newington Road	P. Hunt, H. Bottitta
06-04	1	Newington	off McIntyre Road	S. Mirick
06-06	9	Concord	airport	P. Hunt
06-20	1	Derry	Derry landfill, western side	M. Tarr
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow				
06-14	4	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	M. Harvey
07-03	2	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
07-19	2	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	B. Griffith

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow				
07-03	3	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
07-03	20	Hampton	Hampton marshes	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
07-19	3	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	B. Griffith



Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Chapmans Landing, by Stephen R. Mirick

Sharp-tailed Sparrow sp.

06-07	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	J. Derrick
07-03	6	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence

Seaside Sparrow

07-03	1	Hampton	Hampton marshes	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
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Song Sparrow

06-14	29	Plymouth	Glove Hollow Tree Farm	J. Williams
07-23	17	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen

Lincoln's Sparrow

06-08	4	Pittsburg	Perry Stream & Indian Stream Rds.	E. Nielsen
07-21	11	Pittsburg	Bog Brook & Smith Brook Rds.	E. Nielsen

White-throated Sparrow

06-03	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
06-08	32	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen
07-24	26	Pittsburg	Bog Brook Road	E. Nielsen

Dark-eyed Junco

06-08	13	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen
06-09	6	Benton	Titus Brook Rd., WMNF	J. Williams, F.Hagan, S. Wingate
07-21	11	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen

Northern Cardinal

06-29	14	Epsom	BBS Route	P. Newbern
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Indigo Bunting

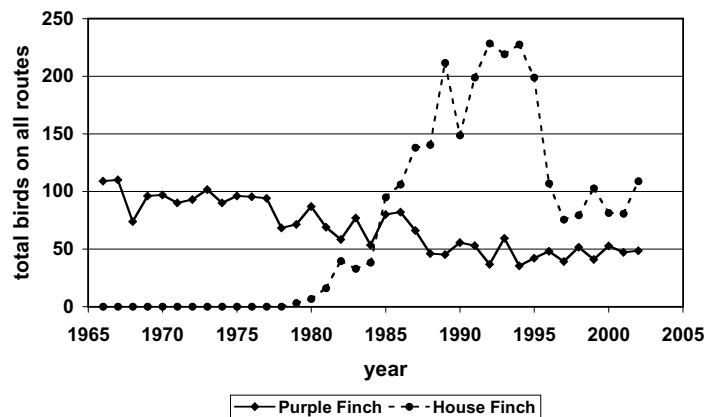
06-08	1	Sandwich	Cook Farm	T. Vazzano, BBC FT
06-11	2	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR	G. Gavutis

Blackbirds, Orioles & Allies, Finches & Allies

The observations NHBR received this summer showed a typical pattern of species, numbers, and locations for species in Icterid family.

On a statewide basis the populations of New Hampshire's two *Carpodacus* Finches—Purple and House—seems to be somewhat steady. Although, the Purple Finch has experienced a decline of 50% since the mid-60s and the House Finch had an explosive introduction in the late 80s, over the past several years, the two species (based on BBS data) appear reasonably stable. There is a spatial distribution across the state, however, with the Purple Finch tending to reside a bit more in the northern part of the region and the House Finch in the southern portion.

NH Purple and House Finch BBS Data



<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Bobolink				
06-04	8	Deerfield	e. of Rt. 43 & S. Deerfield Rd.	M. Harvey
06-13	2	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen
06-14	26	Plymouth	Glove Hollow Tree Farm	J. Williams
06-14	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
06-21	5	Windham	Johnson's Farm	M. Harvey
06-21	6	Windham	Taylor's Field, N. Lowell Rd.	M. Harvey
07-17	39	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey	M. Suomala
Red-winged Blackbird				
07-24	285	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey	M. Suomala
Eastern Meadowlark				
summer	4	Amherst	Cemetery Fields	P. Hunt
summer	4	Concord	airport	P. Hunt
summer	6	Merrimack	Anheuser-Busch Brewery fields	P. Hunt
06-11	2	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey	M. Suomala
06-14	1	Stratham	fields s. of traffic circle	M. Harvey
06-21	1	Pelham	Tallant Rd.	M. Harvey

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Rusty Blackbird				
06-08	2	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, BBC FT
06-12	4	Pittsburg	Magalloway & Bog Brook Rds.	E. Nielsen
06-14	4	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	S. Sturup
07-23	3	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen
07-24	1	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Road	E. Nielsen
Orchard Oriole				
06-03	2	Kensington	Rt 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-04	2	Newington	Great Bay NWR	S. Mirick
06-15	1	Newmarket	New Road	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
07-10	5	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey	M. Suomala
Baltimore Oriole				
06-03	15	Kensington	Rt 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-15	9	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-26	13	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey	M. Suomala
07-13	4	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
Purple Finch				
06-03	12	Pittsburg	along Rt. 3, BBS route	R. Quinn
06-14	3	Plymouth	Glove Hollow Tree Farm	J. Williams
06-15	3	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-24	5	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	M. Harvey, B. Griffith, C. Wright, A. Bissette
07-21	13	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Road	E. Nielsen
Red Crossbill				
07-23	2	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen
White-winged Crossbill				
06-08	3	Pittsburg	Second Connecticut Lake	E. Nielsen
06-08	7	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen
06-13	1	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR	G. Gavutis
07-21	3	Pittsburg	Bog Brook Road	E. Nielsen
Pine Siskin				
06-10	2	Pittsburg	Metallak Road	E. Nielsen
06-13	1	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen
06-19	1	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
Evening Grosbeak				
06-09	3	Gilmanton	Currier Hill Rd.	J. Stockwell
06-11	4	Pittsburg	town	E. Nielsen
06-20	5	Windham	pond across from Transfer Station	M. Harvey
06-26	6	Brookline	residence	M. Anne
07-02	2	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S.& M. Turner
07-07	3	Canterbury	Baptist Hill Rd.	R. Quinn
07-11	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
07-13	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Road	M. Wright
07-16	1	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. Suomala
07-20	2	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-21	2	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Road	E. Nielsen
07-25	13	Plymouth	Pine Gate Rd.	J. Williams
07-26	4	Gilmanton	Crystal Lake, Gilmanton Iron Works	W. Arms

Reporters for Summer 2003

Marie Anne	Ben Griffith	Wayne Scott
Widge Arms	William Harris	Brenda Sens
Jenny Ashley	Michael Harvey	Stefan Sturup
Jeannine Ayer	Lindsay Herlihy	Mark Suomala
Melissa Barney	Pam Hunt	Rebecca Suomala
Jim Berry	Iain MacLeod	Bill Taffe
Chris Carr	Chris Martin	Matt Tarr
Hank Chary	Mike Milligan	Sandra Turner
Roberta Collins	Stephen Mirick	Tony Vazzano
Phyllis Curtiss	Peter Newbern	Bob Vernon
David Deifik	Erik Nielsen	John Williams
Alan Delorey	Pat Niswander	Rob Woodward
Joe Derrick	Kathie Palfy	Mary Wright
David Donsker	Sandra Parker	
Ralph Falk	Greg Prazar	
Rich Frechette	Robert Quinn	
Susan Galt	J. R. Stockwell	Some sightings were
George Gavutis Jr.	Tudor Richards	taken directly from the
David Govatski	Judy Romano	NH.Birds list serve

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

American Black Duck	Northern Flicker	Ovenbird
Mallard	Pileated Woodpecker	Swamp Sparrow
Ruffed Grouse	Blue Jay	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Northern Goshawk	Black-capped Chickadee	Brown-headed Cowbird
Peregrine Falcon	Red-breasted Nuthatch	House Finch
American Woodcock	Brown Creeper	American Goldfinch
Herring Gull	House Wren	House Sparrow
Hairy Woodpecker	Eastern Bluebird	

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

Whip-poor-will Surveys in the Piscataquog River Watershed

by Pam Hunt

The Whip-poor-will (*Caprimulgus vociferous*) was once widespread over much of New Hampshire, but in recent years has shown a gradual but persistent decline. Many people report that they don't hear the species as often as they used to, and this pattern has been broadly observed over much of the Northeast. Because Whip-poor-wills are nocturnal, there are very few data on actual abundance and population trends that could be used to demonstrate a clear decline, and without such data it is hard to tell how healthy a local or regional population actually is.

With this in mind, a Whip-poor-will survey project was initiated in the spring of 2003 in the Piscataquog River Watershed (see map). The surveys were a joint project of the Piscataquog Watershed Association, Audubon Society of New Hampshire, UNH Cooperative Extension, and the Living Legacy Project, with funding provided by the US Forest Service. The data collected are going toward the development of a conservation plan for the watershed. It is hoped that the methodology can be expanded to other parts of the state in years to come, thus creating a broader data set for this species of conservation concern.

During May and June 2003, 17 volunteers surveyed 14 routes in the Piscataquog River Watershed. Each route was 4.5 miles long, and consisted of 10 stops spaced 0.5 miles apart. Volunteer observers surveyed each route three times between May 20 and early July, starting a half hour after sunset. At each stop, the observer recorded all Whip-poor-wills detected in a five minute period, noted noise levels, and recorded any other nocturnal birds heard. Habitats along each route were evaluated both by the observers and through remote sensing (photo interpretation). Some of the routes were initially established in areas where aerial photographs showed potential Whip-poor-will habitat (oak and/or pine forests on dry soils, open or disturbed areas, and gravel pits).

Of the 14 routes surveyed, five never recorded any Whip-poor-wills, and of the remaining nine, two only recorded a single bird over the course of the summer. Numbers of birds on the remaining routes ranged from two to eight, and the average number of Whip-poor-wills at occupied routes was 3.8.

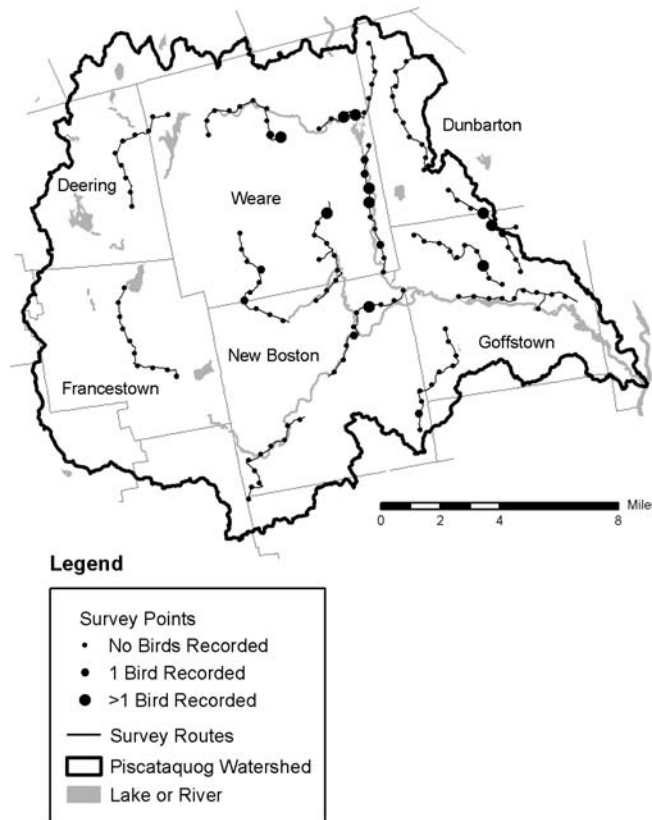
For analysis, each point was placed into one of two categories, "yes" or "no," based on whether it was near potential Whip-poor-will habitat. The mean number of Whip-poor-wills at points with potential habitat was 0.41, while at unsuitable points there were only 0.18 birds. When these means are compared using a t-test, they are marginally significant. For the statisticians in the audience, the probability that the observed difference was not real was 10%. This is higher than one would like, but not bad considering the small sample sizes involved. In a slightly different approach we looked at the number of times Whip-poor-wills were detected at each point. This measure of "regularity" suggested that points with potential habitat were more likely to have Whip-poor-wills more than once during the survey period. Another analysis of the

regularity of Whip-poor-wills at points “near” compared to those “away from” potential Whip-poor-will habitat, also shows a disproportionately high number of Whip-poor-wills near potential habitat (nearly significant with a chi-square test probability of 9%).

Both analyses suggest that within the Piscataquog River Watershed, Whip-poor-wills are more likely to occur in areas where we think the habitat is better for them. This may seem obvious, but remember that the habitat definition was based entirely on aerial photographs, without actually visiting the sites in question. Mind you, there are still more sites, even in good habitat, without Whip-poor-wills than with them, so the next step may involve some fine-tuning of habitat classification.

Another potentially important habitat feature was noticed when Whip-poor-will sightings were plotted on a map of the watershed (see map). You will notice that the vast majority of such points are in the northwestern portion, and a little closer investigation revealed that many of these points were below the 400 foot contour line. Is elevation also a factor in determining Whip-poor-will distribution? There is some evidence that this might indeed be the case. During Atlas projects in New Hampshire,

Figure 1. Map of survey routes and Whip-poor-will occurrences in the Piscataquog River Watershed during the summer of 2003.



Vermont, and New York, observers rarely found Whip-poor-wills above 1000-1200 feet. While 400 feet is significantly lower than this, keep in mind that the current study was conducted on a much finer scale than an atlas. In addition, if populations have declined, they may also have disappeared first from higher elevations.

When analyses were performed with elevation, the results were more dramatic than with habitat. The average elevation of points where Whip-poor-wills occurred was 455 feet, while elevation at unoccupied points was 560 feet. The probability

of this difference being wrong was only 2%. In the same vein, points with potential habitat were at significantly lower elevation (467 feet) than those without (609 feet). The latter pattern likely results from the fact that the dry sandy soils that Whip-poor-wills may prefer are more likely to occur in river valleys than on the surrounding hillsides.

Taken together, the first year of data from this project shows some promising results in terms of how we identify suitable habitat for this declining species. We also hope to continue the surveys well into the future so that we can once and for all determine the true magnitude of Whip-poor-will population declines. To this end, surveys are going to be implemented in a few other parts of the state in 2004, with the eventual hope of establishing a long-term statewide system that will track populations of all nocturnal birds well into the future. At the same time, detailed habitat work such as described for the Piscataquog River Watershed may allow biologists to determine what factors are causing the decline.



Whip-poor-will by Andrea Robbins

In the meantime, observers are strongly encouraged to submit Whip-poor-will sightings to *New Hampshire Bird Records*. Such records can help us choose potential survey routes, and even help fine tune habitat relationships. Records from late May to early July are most valuable, since this is the peak of the breeding season, but birds calling into late August are still likely in or near their nesting areas.

Ducks and Chickens to the Front: The Latest Taxonomic Changes from the American Ornithologists' Union

by Pam Hunt

It's been a while since the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) made any major changes that affect the way things appear in *New Hampshire Bird Records*. Most recent changes have been at the level of common or scientific names: for example, Common Snipe became Wilson's Snipe and Oldsquaw became Long-tailed Duck. There haven't been any "radical" shifts in the order of species since vultures became storks in 1997.

Well, buckle your seat belts; the changes are on their way! The first change to take effect will be the movement of waterfowl and "chicken-like birds" from their traditional positions in the taxonomic order (before and after the hawks, respectively) to the front—before loons and (on a global scale) after ostriches and their relatives. This

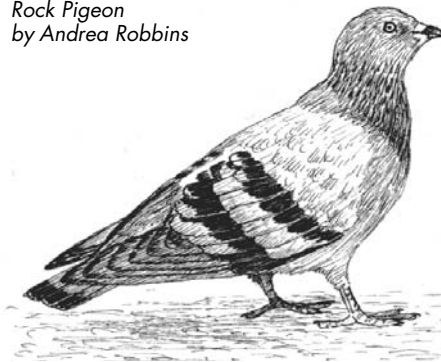
is actually a fairly big deal, and not simply some idle tinkering. It turns out that ducks and chickens are more closely related to each other than either is to *any* other group of “modern” birds (the “superorder” Neognathae). Think of it this way: a duck is more closely related to a turkey than either is to any other group of birds. Among the evidence marshaled to support this rearrangement are gene sequences, DNA-DNA hybridization, immunological studies, and morphological similarities. A similarity not generally mentioned in serious scientific circles is that both groups are bred for consumption by human beings!

This is but the tip of the iceberg when it comes to changes in the order of families and genera of North American birds. For instance, in a move that doesn’t affect us here in New Hampshire, a group of South American tanagers called “euphonias” are now in the same family as our crossbills and goldfinches. The taxonomy of many tanagers, finches, and sparrows is currently in a state of flux, and over the next few years species such as Yellow-breasted Chat, Scarlet Tanager, Dickcissel, and Snow Bunting may find themselves in very different places than they are today.

Of course, there were a couple of simple name changes as well. Three-toed Woodpecker is now American Three-toed Woodpecker, a species distinct from similar populations in Eurasia. The familiar Rock Dove is now Rock Pigeon, to conform to common names in the rest of the genus (all other doves in the genus *Columba* are called “pigeons”).

Any questions? There will *not* be a quiz.

Rock Pigeon
by Andrea Robbins



Birding with a Purpose: How New Hampshire’s Birders have Helped (and Will Help!) Bird Conservation through the Important Bird Area Program.

by Pam Hunt, IBA Coordinator

This is not the first time that the Important Bird Area (IBA) Program has been mentioned in *New Hampshire Bird Records*. The New Hampshire IBA program was started in 2002, and is part of a national and international bird conservation initiative now in place in 47 states and over 100 countries. The goals of the IBA program are to enhance bird conservation through identification of critical habitats, and then implement monitoring and conservation planning at the same sites when needed. It is a sci-



Drawing by John Quinn

ence-based program that uses strict criteria to evaluate potential IBAs, and its value is in the data that are submitted in support of a nomination.

And that's where in *New Hampshire Bird Records* (NHBR) comes into play. The records birders submit to NHBR go much further than the seasonal summaries you see in this publication. All the data, including records not published,

are stored in an ever-growing database at the Audubon Society of New Hampshire, where they can be accessed for use in any number of projects, including IBA nomination. With the exception of heavily monitored sites such as the tern colony at the Isles of Shoals, there are relatively few places in the state with a standardized collection of data for a specific location. Everything else is whatever the birding public has seen fit to contribute to NHBR.

A couple of classic examples are the state's two largest estuaries: Great Bay and the Hampton-Seabrook Harbor area. Birders throughout the state, and even in neighboring states, know the value of these two areas, both of which have been recognized as New Hampshire IBAs. However, with few exceptions, neither location would have been acceptable were it not for data collected by birders over the years and submitted to NHBR. The Hampton Harbor mudflats are the preeminent shorebird stopover site in the state, but without data on sandpiper abundance, there would be no hard evidence to back up the area's recognition as an IBA. You might think this is somewhat obvious—that common sense would dictate that such a site be conserved for its value to migrating shorebirds. But experience has shown that we need data to support conservation. Those who would use an area for other purposes—be it development, recreation, agriculture, or something else—need to be “confronted” with hard data if they are to even acknowledge claims related to ecological value. “Prove it” is a not uncommon mantra among those seeking alternative uses for valuable wildlife habitat.

The reports that birders submit to NHBR are the primary proof that areas do support the birds we say they do. These data are carefully checked before they become part of the database, by a combination of Audubon staff, volunteers (including the seasonal editors), and the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee. This series of checks assures that the data can stand up to potential challenge, and it is a testament to the New Hampshire birding community that there are very few cases of data being discarded for one reason or another. So, for those of you who have contributed your sightings from Great Bay, Pondicherry Wildlife Sanctuary, Pawtuckaway State Park, and many other popular birding sites, thanks for your data and a job well done!

But there are many other birding sites for which there is little if any data in the NHBR database. Huge swaths of southwestern New Hampshire, the western highlands, the Ossipee region, and others are without the data needed to support IBA nominations and thus whatever conservation actions could be generated through the IBA program. It seems unfair that these sites lose out simply because data have not been contributed by the birders that visit them. Granted, it's not always an issue of data not being submitted, there are even more cases where the data are not collected in the first place.

The call to action is thus two-fold. Birders who do not contribute data are strongly encouraged to do so. Let's use what we find to further the cause of bird conservation both in New Hampshire and beyond! As more and more of our natural areas are paved or surrounded by development, we can no longer sit idly by and assume that someone else will help take care of what is being lost. We need to participate more fully in bird conservation activity, even if this participation is as simple a thing as submitting your sightings to NHBR. If you already submit regularly—keep up the good work!

The second alternative is to target your birding in areas that have been pre-identified as potential IBAs, or perhaps that you think could become IBAs. For example, there are numerous marshes across the southern part of the state that have historically supported Sedge Wrens or Pied-billed Grebes. Over the years, the birders who visited these areas have disappeared (for any number of reasons) and the data are starting to get old. Perhaps it's time to "direct" some of our birding toward those species or habitats that are most in need of current information, rather than everyone going to the same handful of places all the time.

There is even a third opportunity to get more conservation bang for your birding buck. Soon enough we hope to begin inventory and monitoring programs on identified IBAs around the state. These would be set up to use birders to collect long-term data on these important sites, in part so we can determine how populations and habitats are changing. Without such data, a site could cease to be occupied by a focal species and no one might ever know!

Back in the 1990s, someone called this more targeted approach "birding with a purpose," a buzz-phrase that has been readily adopted by Partners in Flight and other bird conservation initiatives. It makes a lot of sense. We go birding or set up bird feeders because we like birds—and like to watch them. Presumably this also means we'd rather not see some species continue to decline, since we'd then have fewer opportunities to enjoy them. To ensure a future with birds to watch, all of us need to participate more actively in some form of bird conservation.

Hundreds of feeder-watchers participate in programs like Project Feeder Watch and NH Audubon's Backyard Winter Bird Survey. Hundreds of field birders survey BBS routes or help with Christmas Bird Counts. But the latter are done only once a year, and take place over too large an area to usually be useful for site-based conservation work. We need to do more. This is not to say that birders should forego their regular trips to this rarity spot or that local wetland, just that all of us need to look ahead to how our avocation can ultimately best serve the birds we like to watch. Maybe this coming summer, consider participating in a standard shorebird survey in Hampton Harbor, or rent a canoe and look for Pied-billed Grebes in Merrymeeting Marsh.

Whatever you do and wherever you do it, the other critical thing is that you record what you find and share that information with NHBR. We can't do conservation without data, and without conservation there'll be fewer and fewer places to enjoy birds. Think about it. Bird with a purpose. Both you and the birds will be the beneficiaries.

For more information on the New Hampshire IBA program, visit the NHIBA Web pages at

<http://www.ceinfo.unh.edu/forestry/documents/NHIBA.htm> (go to Forestry and Wildlife Resources, then Important Bird Areas). You can also contact Pam Hunt at 224-9909 extension 328 or phunt@nhaudubon.org.

For more information on submitting records to NHBR, contact Rebecca Suomala at 224-9909 extension 309 or bsuomala@nhaudubon.org.

Declines at Lake Umbagog

Both Common Loons and Ospreys have experienced a steady increase in their population totals for the entire state of New Hampshire over the past 20 years. One of the strongholds for both species has traditionally been the Lake Umbagog area but in recent years the numbers of loons and Osprey have declined dramatically at this lake and biologists are trying to determine why. In the following two articles, the biologists who monitor these species explore their declines in the region. The situation at Lake Umbagog illustrates why we continue to monitor species, how important detailed information can be at spotting problems, and how difficult it can be to determine what affects bird populations and how. *Ed.*

Unprecedented Loss of Common Loon Pairs on Lake Umbagog

by *Kate Taylor and Harry Vogel*

Lake Umbagog, the source of the Androscoggin River, is located in Magalloway and Upton in Maine and Errol and Cambridge in New Hampshire, with affected backwaters reaching into Wentworths Location, New Hampshire.

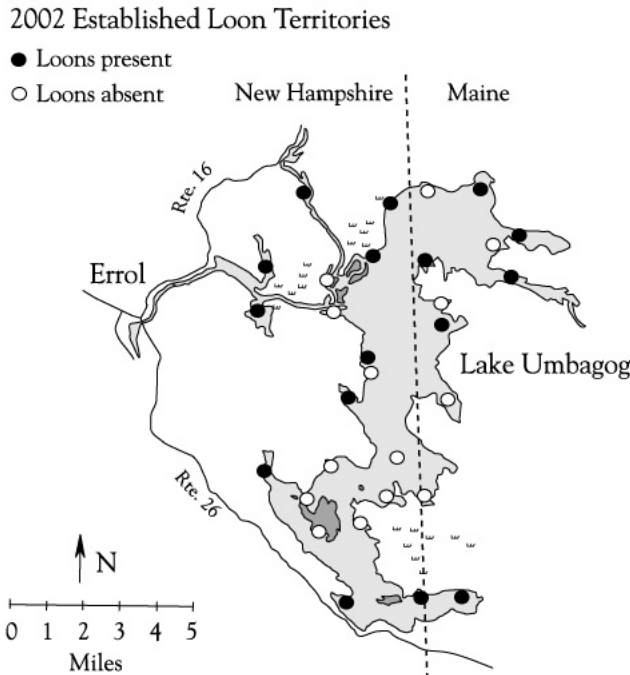
In 2000, Lake Umbagog held the highest concentration of breeding loons in New Hampshire. In that year, 31 territorial pairs were recorded on the lake. In 2001, a decline of 22% of the adult population resulted in the vacancy of eight loon territories. In 2002, eight additional territories were unoccupied by loons, leaving only 15 pairs of loons on the lake—a decline of more than half of the territorial pairs of loons over only two years (Figure 1). A loss or gain of three territories between years can be expected, and is consistent with other large lakes holding multiple loon pairs. The magnitude of territory loss experienced on Lake Umbagog in 2001 and 2002, how-



Common Loon by Daniel Keefe, July 2003

ever, is unprecedented. Such drastic territory loss was not experienced on any other lake in New Hampshire or on nearby lakes in Maine during the same time period.

Figure 1. Common Loon pairs, past and present, at Lake Umbagog.



Four adult loons recovered from Lake Umbagog in this time span were found to have died after ingesting lead fishing tackle, and one of these individuals tested positive for West Nile Virus, but many more adult loons are simply unaccounted for. Many of these loons were uniquely color banded and would have been sighted during routine surveys of surrounding water bodies by Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) or Biodiversity Research Institute biologists if they had dispersed. Therefore, the missing loons are presumed to be deceased. Speculations

about the reasons for this dramatic die-off range from changing fish populations (smallmouth bass were introduced into Lake Umbagog in the 1980s and have become abundant), to parasites either associated with or unassociated with these changing fish populations, leaches, toxins, or other pathogens. However, at this time none of these possibilities seems to adequately describe the severity or localized nature of the decline. Some good news is that loon pairs reoccupied two vacant territories in 2003, but the total number of territorial pairs of loons on Lake Umbagog remains at pre-1985 levels.

The extremely high loss of adult loons and accompanying declines in reproductive output on Lake Umbagog in 2001 and 2002 is of serious concern. It also emphasizes the importance of long-term monitoring for flagging such occurrences.

One step in our effort to address the adult loon loss on Lake Umbagog is the use of satellite technology. Satellite telemetry is a well-established tool for tracking long-distance movements of wildlife. In a cooperative effort including the Loon Preservation Committee, United States Geological Survey, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, FPL Energy Maine Hydro, and BioDiversity Research Institute, biologists successfully implanted satellite transmitters into two Lake Umbagog loons, one from the northern end of the lake and one from the southern end. The satellite transmitter

weighs approximately 18 grams and is implanted subcutaneously in the upper back of the bird. The implant transmits a signal that is then received by satellites once a week in summer and winter, and every other day during the expected migratory period. Approximately 140 transmissions can be made from this unit to satellites. These signals are georeferenced and tracked by United States Geological Survey personnel. Mortality can also be discerned through the monitoring of body temperature.

Our understanding of the migratory pathways and wintering habits of loons is still quite limited. Determining migratory routes and winter locations of Lake Umbagog's loon population might provide insight into the causes of this unprecedented decline. Stressors on the wintering grounds may include incidents such as red tides, oil spills, contaminants and localized commercial fishing pressure. Once the causes of the decline are understood, measures can be put in place to offset further destabilization of this important population. LPC is currently working with its cooperators to provide a mechanism for interested parties to observe the movements of these loons via the Internet. Visit www.briloon.org/satellite for further information.

Kate Taylor is the Senior Biologist for the Loon Preservation Committee, and Harry Vogel is the Executive Director. The Loon Preservation Committee is a self-funded project of the Audubon Society of New Hampshire and has a center in Moultonborough, New Hampshire. For more information see their web site at www.loon.org.

Lake Umbagog's Osprey Decline Similar to Loon Losses

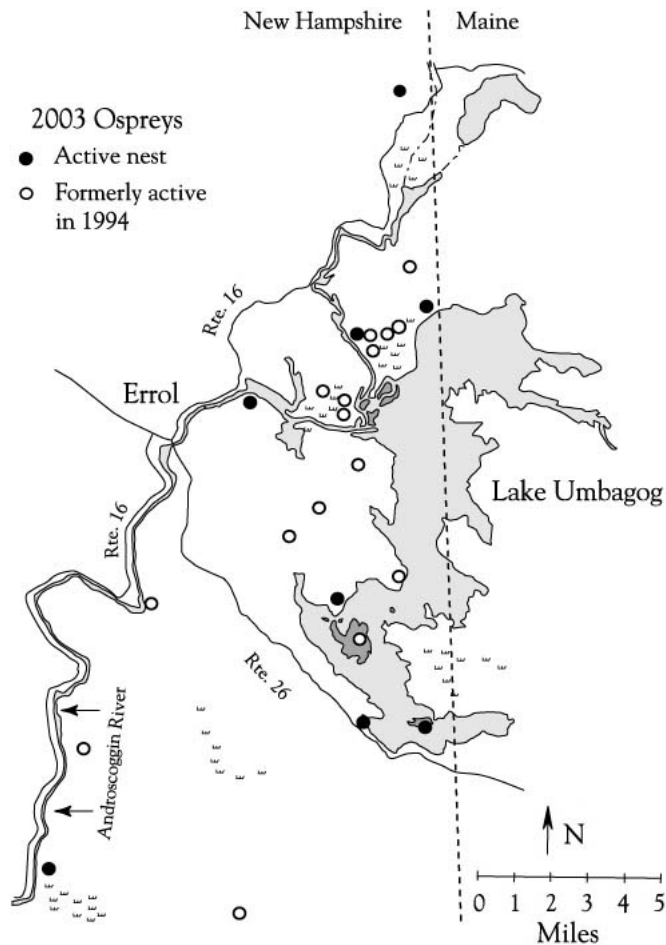
by Chris Martin

Field data collected during the past decade (1994-2003) by New Hampshire Audubon wildlife biologists, volunteers, and other cooperators reveal a substantial decline in the local Osprey population around Lake Umbagog, a traditional breeding stronghold for Ospreys for more than a century (Figure 2). This finding has shocked many of us who monitor and manage New Hampshire's threatened and endangered wildlife.

For several years, the severity of Lake Umbagog's local Osprey decline remained unrecognized because it was hidden by substantial population increases occurring elsewhere in the state. But when the Loon Preservation Committee raised concerns about loon decline on Lake Umbagog, we revisited our Osprey data set and discovered a remarkably similar pattern. This situation, as described in detail below, clearly illustrates why it is so important to maintain monitoring programs for keystone wildlife species, even when those populations appear to be generally stable or even increasing.

The Audubon Society of New Hampshire started monitoring breeding Ospreys around Lake Umbagog in 1980. When we began, New Hampshire Fish and Game staff and other natural resource experts knew of just three active Osprey nests anywhere in the state, all located near Lake Umbagog. Each one of these active nests failed to fledge any young in 1981. The state's Osprey population had hit "rock bottom" due to the lingering effects of DDT and to high local levels of nest predation.

Figure 2. Active and inactive Osprey nests in the Lake Umbagog and surrounding area.



Errol, Second College Grant, and Wentworths Location) around Lake Umbagog, 17 of which were successful and produced a total of 35 fledglings. In the rest of the state in 1994, there were seven other active nests, four of which were successful and produced a total of nine fledglings.

Beginning in the mid-1990s, the numbers of active nests and young fledged at Lake Umbagog began to decline sharply, while Osprey populations continued to strongly increase just downriver near Pontook Reservoir, and elsewhere across the state (Connecticut River, Great Bay, and Merrimack River watersheds). Lake Umbagog averaged 19 active nests and 24 young fledged per year during a three-year interval from 1994–96. But by 2001–03, Lake Umbagog averaged just nine active nests (down more than 50%) and nine young fledged per year (down more than 60%). In contrast, Pontook averaged three active nests and five young fledged in 1994–96, but by 2001–03 Pontook’s averages doubled to six active nests and 10 young fledged, essentially equaling Lake Umbagog’s numbers. Excluding Lake Umbagog, Ospreys from

Prospects for long-term survival of this state-listed threatened species were not encouraging.

Yet things began to turn around beginning in the mid-1980s. Contaminant levels in fish generally diminished and New Hampshire Audubon and Fish and Game, working with several industrial forest landowners, started a hands-on nest site management initiative. New breeding pairs settled in at Lake Umbagog, elsewhere within the Androscoegin River valley, and even in other major watersheds across the state. In 1994, we knew of 22 active Osprey nests in the four New Hampshire towns (Cambridge,

throughout New Hampshire averaged eight active nests and 12 young fledged in 1994–96, but by 2001–03 those numbers had increased to 20 active nests (up 150%) and 37 young fledged (up 200%).

In summary, a relatively small area around Lake Umbagog supported roughly 80% of the entire state's Osprey productivity in 1994–96, but by 2001–03 the same area supported only 30% of the active nests and just 20% of the fledglings. Today there are 70% fewer active Osprey nests around Lake Umbagog (8 nests in 2003) compared with a decade ago (22 nests in 1994). This decline runs completely counter to the overall pattern of continued Osprey population expansion that we are documenting elsewhere in New Hampshire. At the present time, the cause(s) of this local Osprey decline remain undetermined, but it is hard to imagine that it is unrelated to losses occurring simultaneously in loons.

Chris Martin is a Senior Biologist with the Audubon Society of New Hampshire. Since 1990 he has coordinated monitoring and management of the state's endangered and threatened birds of prey.

Spotlight on Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*)

by Eric Masterson

Background

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron is a member of the family *Nyctanassa*, comprising six species represented on all continents except Antarctica. Yellow-crowned Night Heron occurs in North and South America, the West Indies, and the Galapagos.

Breeding Status

In North America, breeding is confined primarily to coastal areas of the eastern US and the Gulf of Mexico, north to Connecticut, and along the Mississippi as far as Illinois to the north and Oklahoma and East Texas to the east. There are no documented records of breeding in New Hampshire, although it has bred as close as Ipswich and breeding is suspected at Plum Island, both in nearby Massachusetts.

Occurrence in New Hampshire

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron has been documented 42 times in New Hampshire since 1920, involving 47 birds (Figure 1). Most occurrences are of single birds but three birds occurred in Seabrook in August of 1959 and two birds occurred in the same town in August of 1964 and August of 1965. The Bellamy River in Dover also hosted two birds on May 23, 1986. It has been recorded in 29 of the last 84 years, or roughly one in every three years. Occurrences fall from April through October with a peak in August (Figure 2). Where age has been recorded (26 of 42 records), 15 have been adults.

Most records of Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in New Hampshire come from the coast, with 37 out of 42 records (Figure 3). Hampton, Seabrook, and Durham provide

Figure 1. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron records in New Hampshire, 1920–1999. Grouped in ten-year blocks.

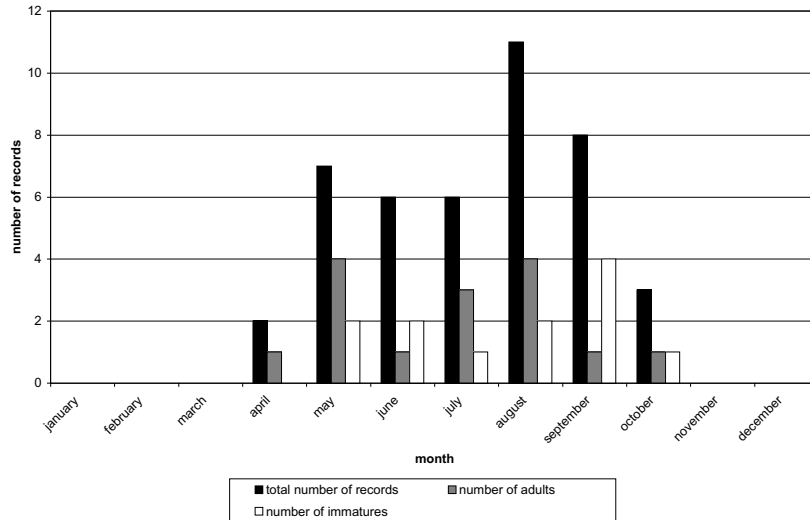
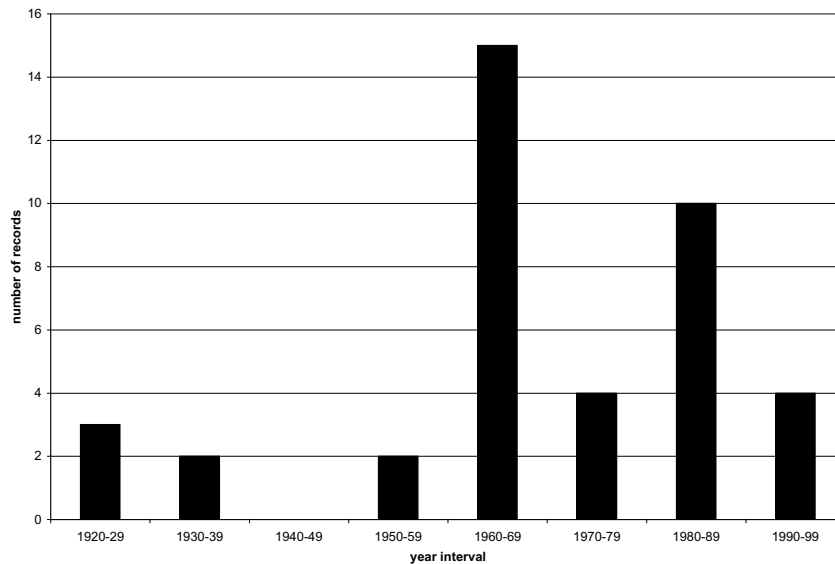


Figure 2. Yellow-crowned Night-Heron records in New Hampshire by Month, 1920–2003. Age was recorded for 26 of the 42 records.

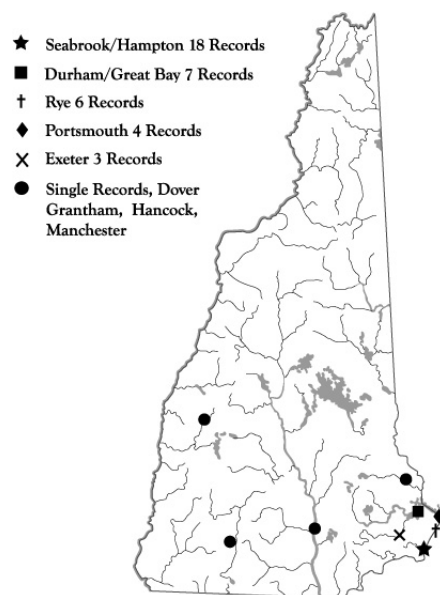


the locations for 25 records, more than 50% of the total. These areas have significant saltmarsh, which provides foraging habitat where the birds can find crustaceans and crabs, their favorite prey. Three records from Exeter and one each from Hancock, Manchester, and Grantham are the only locations away from the coast to have recorded the species. An interesting record from 1926 concerns the individual seen in Grantham by W. S. Brooks. Mr. Brooks surmised that “it had been carried perhaps high in air by the great Florida hurricane of a few days before.”

Comments

A significant northward expansion of the breeding range occurred approximately between 1925 and 1960, particularly between 1945 and 1955. Populations continued to expand throughout the 1960s, to the 1980s. This expansion is somewhat evident in the pattern of occurrences in New Hampshire, which show a marked increase in the latter half of the last century (see Figure 1). Studies of Yellow-crowned Night Heron show that post-breeding dispersal of adults and immatures is widespread both northwards and westwards, and this possibly accounts for the peak occurrence of the species in New Hampshire during the month of August. The spring occurrences

Figure 3. Location of Yellow-crowned Night-Heron records in New Hampshire, 1920–2003



include two records of immatures, which are likely wandering individuals from farther south. Immatures do not return to the breeding grounds with the adults and are extremely rare breeders.

During the late 1970s juvenile Yellow-crowned Night-Herons (up to three per day) began to be reported in the marshes around Plum Island. There was a sizeable colony of Black-crowned Night-Herons breeding on the island at the time. No proof of breeding was ever obtained but it was widely speculated at the time that they were possibly breeding on the island (*pers. comm.* Rick Heil). These records very broadly coincide with the increased occurrence of the species in New Hampshire from the 1960s through the 1980s and depict a pattern of increased occurrence in the region, possibly due to another expansion northwards as happened in the earlier part of the 20th century.

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Birding the Brookside Wildlife Sanctuary in South Hampton

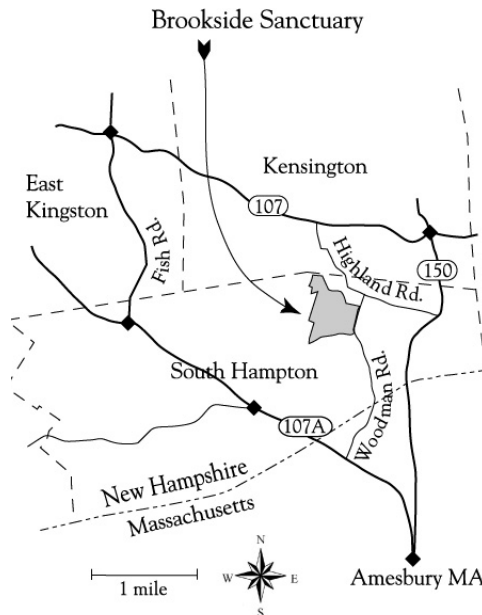
by Jim Berry

The George Burrows Brookside Sanctuary comprises 31+ acres in South Hampton, only a mile north of the Massachusetts border. The first 20 acres were purchased by the Audubon Society of New Hampshire (ASNH) in 1965 with the help of a Nature Conservancy loan. An additional 11+ acres were donated to ASNH by Shirley Charait in 1991.

The Brookside Sanctuary lies on the west side of Woodman Road, which runs north and south between Highland Road in South Hampton and South Hampton Road (Rt. 107A), which leads to Amesbury, Massachusetts (see Map #1). Abutting the sanctuary on the west is a larger parcel of about 115 acres, the Crosby Conservation Land, which is under the protection of the Town of South Hampton. Together, the two parcels constitute a sizeable protected area in which to walk and study wildlife. (I am treating the ASNH parcel and the Crosby tract as one entity and will use the term “sanctuary” from here on to refer to the two properties combined.)

This sanctuary is at the east end of a much bigger undeveloped area centered on a long ridge called Indian Ground Hill, which in turn links to Hog Hill in Kensington and East Kingston. Much of this huge area is

Map #1. Brookside Sanctuary Map



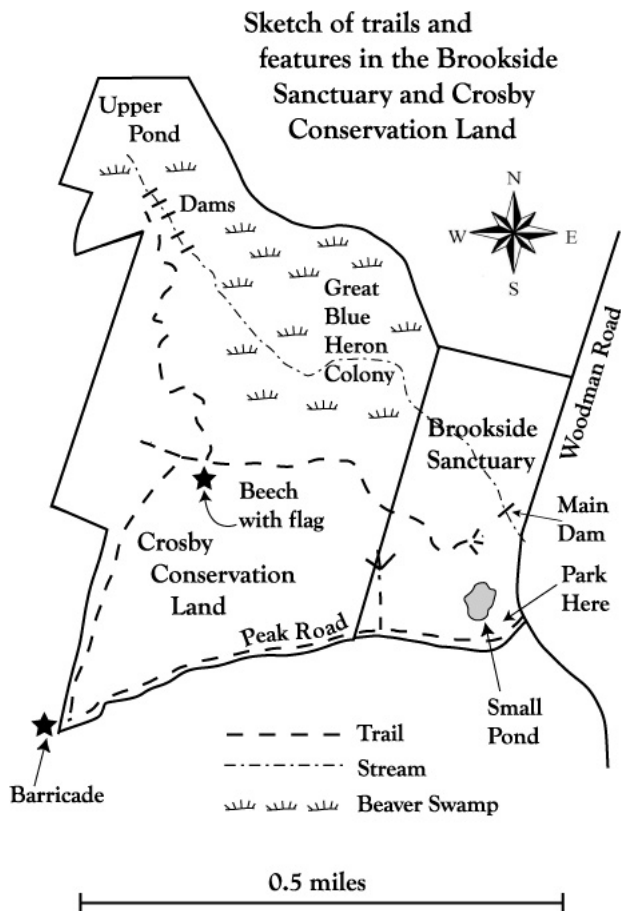
bordered by swampland. The whole complex is a nature-lover's paradise, though access to the private land surrounding the sanctuary would have to be by permission of the various landowners.

There are several routes one can take to bird the sanctuary. Some trails appear to be former logging roads, but they are mainly on the Crosby tract; most of the ASNH land is beaver swamp along a dammed-up stream generously called the Back River. Some of the trails that do exist are not well used, and some simply peter out and disappear. Some become faint in spots and then reappear as real trails. Nevertheless, I will describe a loop route that exposes the birder to both the beaver swamps (there are two) and the upland habitats. Between them, you can find the usual assortment of transition-zone breeding birds.

Keep in mind that there is no official trail map, and that the trails indicated on the Trail Map provided here are drawn from memory and are **very** approximate. In no way do they accurately reflect the curves of the various trails, nor was it possible to draw in all the quasi-trails that come to dead ends. This is a place you will need to explore more than once to learn, but it is not that large and by following the directions below you will not get lost.

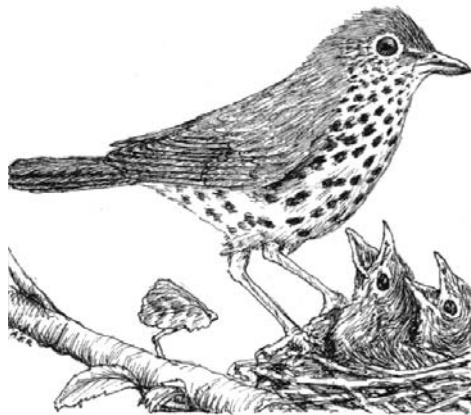
The entrance to the sanctuary is at a sharp curve on Woodman Road and is marked by two signs. After parking in the dirt pull-off you have two choices: follow the dirt road (Peak Road on the old topographic map) west along the south edge of the sanctuary, or bushwhack directly over to the beaver swamp, depending on where you want to start birding. The route I describe can be done in either direction, but that is easier said than done until one is familiar with the place. See the Trail Map (Map #2) for an approximate sketch of the road, trails, and paths I describe.

Map #2. Trail Map



In spring and summer I usually walk along the dirt road first to take advantage of the earliest hours for the forest singers. (Later in the morning, they will be harder to see than the birds out in the open beaver swamp.) You immediately cross a small flowage, which is one of the outlets from the swamp (but not the main outlet, which exits under Woodman Road a bit to the north just after it flows over the main beaver dam). On the right this flowage takes the form of a small pond, good for various amphibians and dragonflies. Hairy Woodpeckers nested right beside the trail here a few years ago, and in 2003 I found a Veery nest hidden in some bittersweet that had engulfed a shrub, also right beside the road.

Peak Road continues 3/4 mile to the west before it is blockaded by the adjacent landowner, who has posted and signed his land to clearly indicate “no trespassing.” All the land to the left (south) of the road is also posted against trespassing, but the birding along the road is excellent. Wood Thrushes and Veeries are regular, as are



Wood Thrush by Andrea Robbins

Red-eyed Vireos, Scarlet Tanagers, Eastern Wood-Pewees, Ovenbirds, and Black-throated Green, Pine, and Black-and-White Warblers, among others. In 1986 George Gavutis and I found a Black-throated Blue Warbler nest on a cut-over hillside on the right (sanctuary) side of the road, the only nesting confirmation of the species in Rockingham County in the *New Hampshire Breeding Bird Atlas*. I sometimes hear Pileated Woodpeckers here, and on June 28, 2003, I heard an Acadian Flycatcher singing along a hemlock-bordered stream in the private land on the left side.

There are two paths to the right from the road, both of which will take you to the lower and larger of the two beaver swamps. (For the most part I am calling these beaver wetlands “swamps” rather than “ponds” because there is still so much standing dead timber in them.) The first path, about a third of the way along Peak Road, goes uphill and crosses the eastern shoulder of Indian Ground Hill. This is the shorter route to the swamp, but the network of trails is tenuous and confusing. Once you get up onto the hill, if you head downhill in roughly a northeasterly direction, you will soon come out at the swamp, which contains a relatively new Great Blue Heron nesting colony. When you have finished exploring the upland species, head downhill to the swamp.

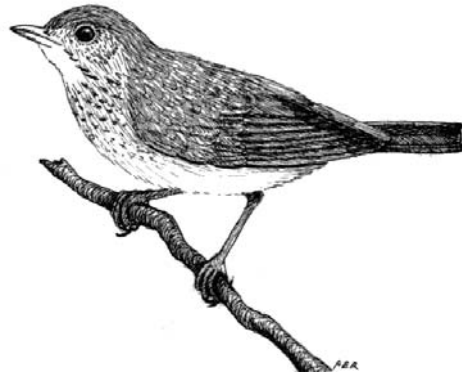
A better route, I think, is to follow the road all the way to the barricade and turn right (north) on the trail that goes uphill from there. This trail also crosses Indian Ground Hill, to the west of the first trail. It is a bit higher here, but never steep. It was on this hillside in June 1985 that George and I found a singing male Worm-eating Warbler that stayed around for a time and reappeared in 1986, though without evidence of nesting. I have not yet found any nesting raptors in the sanctuary, but the habitat is suitable for Cooper’s, Broad-winged, and Red-shouldered Hawks as well as for Great Horned and Barred Owls. Follow this trail over and down the other side of

the hill to a T-intersection with another trail. Turn right. You are now facing roughly east. (You might be realizing about now that a compass can be handy on a cloudy day.) Within 50 yards or so, a trail will head off downhill to your left. The first few yards of it are weed-grown and easy to miss, but if you look down it, the trail is obvious. It starts where a beech tree overhangs the trail you are on. I put a flag on one of the beech branches to mark the spot in July 2003, but of course it may have since been taken down.

This trail goes downhill for several hundred yards and brings you to the back (northwest) end of the main swamp, where beavers have dammed the inlet stream. These swamps are my favorite part of the sanctuary. There is a series of at least five dams here, all well maintained as of July 2003. The trail arrives at the second dam, counting from the upper one at the left, with the middle one just to your right. Bushwhacking to the right along the edge where beaver cuttings have cleared the ground quite a bit will take you to the two lower dams in short order. This is where you start finding the marsh songbirds, such as Swamp Sparrows, Common Yellowthroats, and Yellow Warblers.

But the best part is to the left, where you will see, only about 50 yards away, the highest of the dams and the secondary beaver swamp it has created (labeled Upper Pond on the Trail Map). It is the prettiest part of the sanctuary, and also the wildest. Where you are standing, between the two swamps, is a beautiful hemlock grove, with the requisite Black-throated Green Warblers singing away. This is also a good spot for Red-breasted Nuthatches. The first time I discovered the Upper Pond, I was stunned by how lonely and peaceful it is. This is a much smaller pond, only two or three acres. It is an ideal place to sit and watch and listen. No matter how hot the day, you can sit comfortably in the shade of the hemlocks and watch the action—and if you turn around, you might find some American chestnut sprouts under the hemlocks. And it is blissfully quiet. You cannot possibly hear any traffic here, except perhaps a distant train whistle. Before long you should have an idea of the nesting territories of almost all the birds that live here just by listening to their songs and calls. I watched Eastern Phoebes nesting in the roots of an upturned tree in 2002, and Eastern Kingbirds nesting in the crotch of a tall snag in 2003. I find it hard to leave this place in less than an hour.

To view the heron colony and the main swamp, retrace your steps back uphill to the flag—or at least to the beech tree—and turn left to head east. Very soon the main beaver swamp will appear on your left. From here to the east end of the swamp at Woodman Road, no more than half a mile, you will see several places that invite bushwhacking the few yards to the edge of the water. From these viewpoints you can count



Veery by Andrea Robbins

the heron nests (17 in 2003), watch (and hear!) the young herons begging food from their parents. Take time to look for Wood Ducks, Green Herons, and other marsh-nesting birds, study dragonflies and aquatic plants, and generally enjoy the scenery. The number of snags means this is woodpecker and bluebird heaven, and Great Crested Flycatchers nest in the occasional cavity. In some years, a pair of Great Horned Owls has appropriated one of the heron nests for its own use. (I should add that with a scope you can view all the heron nests from Woodman Road, but park at the sanctuary entrance and walk back if you do this, because there is no safe parking along this narrow road.)

As you approach the east end of the swamp, the trail peters out and disappears. This is not a problem, as you are close to the entrance and your car. If water levels are high and you do not want to get wet, simply bushwhack to your right, away from the swamp, keeping the minor outlet flowage on your left, but staying close to it. Peak Road is only a couple of hundred yards away at most; just avoid the cat briar. You will get to the dirt road just inside the entrance at the small pond. If water is not a problem, continue across the wet area and along the edge of the swamp until you arrive at Woodman Road, only a hundred yards or so north of your car. Or you can swing a bit to the right over the knoll to take a shortcut to the corner where you parked. The ground cover here is mostly sarsaparilla and fern, so the going is easy. But here, as in all parts of the sanctuary, avoid the abundant poison ivy.

Jim Berry lives in Ipswich, Massachusetts and birds extensively in Essex and Rockingham Counties. He is currently president of the Essex County Ornithological Club and a member of the Seacoast Chapter of ASNH. He is writing a book on the birds of Essex County.



Yellow Warbler by Andrea Robbins

Photo Quiz

Can You Identify This Bird?

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

Photo by Dennis J. Abbott



Answer to the Spring 2003 Photo Quiz

by David B. Donsker

If the world were not filled with small, streaky birds, half of the challenge of birding would disappear. Indeed, our mystery bird is clearly a streak-breasted perching bird with a relatively short conical bill. With that brief description, it would be easy to conclude that it is a sparrow of some type. In fact, many of our small, streaked birds with finch-like bills are members of the sparrow family *Emberizidae*, a family that also includes the true buntings of the Old World. But, not all birds with these characteristics are sparrows, which is one of the points of this article.

Let's look more carefully at our mystery bird. Its most obvious feature is the extensive and heavy streaking of its underparts. This streaking is heaviest on the breast and flanks, but there is finer streaking on the throat and upper belly. Only the lower belly is relatively clear. Although the upperparts are mostly hidden, some streaking on the back can just be glimpsed. The head is rather large, a feature which is accentuated by the stout, heavy, conical bill. The face is fairly strongly patterned. There is a large dark

patch around and behind the eye. The lower cheeks are streaked and some of these are superimposed upon a dark malar or lower jaw region. Although the bird's head is somewhat tilted, one can discern a white supercilium or eyebrow that extends well behind the eye where it broadens and becomes streaky as well.

Because of the conical bill, it is rather easy to eliminate other streak-breasted birds that can be confused with sparrows such as pipits, waterthrushes, some other warblers in fall plumage, female Red-winged Blackbird, and Pine Siskin. All of these species have proportionally longer, pointed or thinner bills.

So what about those sparrows? Many of our sparrows are very heavily streaked on the underparts, especially on the breast, just like our featured bird. However, some members of this streak-breasted group of sparrows, Lincoln's Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, and immature birds of a number of other species, have finer, less extensive streaking than the bird in the photograph. Two other species in this group, Song and Savannah Sparrow, are quite heavily streaked below, but not to this degree, and both have a better-defined, sharper malar stripe, which is especially distinct in Song Sparrow. Within this group only Fox Sparrow is as heavily streaked, but it has a different facial pattern. Although it has a dark malar region, it lacks the white eyebrow. Furthermore, unlike the illustrated bird, the breast streaking in these latter three sparrows typically converges towards the center of the breast resulting in a characteristic breast spot that is found in many individuals of these species and which is best defined in Song Sparrow. Another subtle difference between the featured bird and our streak-breasted sparrows is the leg color. The sparrows all have paler legs in shades of pink or yellowish-brown, unlike the dark legs of this bird. In the end, however, it is the bill structure that eliminates all of our sparrows. Although sparrows have conical bills, they do not have the heavy, stout bill that is carried by this bird. The sparrows' bills are smaller, finer, and proportionally longer.

Only one "Old World" bunting with heavily streaked underparts ever reaches New England: Lark Bunting. Like the featured bird, this is a large-billed, dark-legged, large-headed bird. Further, the female and non-breeding male are heavily streaked below with dark malar regions. However, the streaking is "messier" and the malar regions bolder in Lark Bunting and both sexes have prominent, broad white feather edges on the greater coverts giving most individuals a whitish patch on the upper forewing.

The remaining birds that carry large, stout conical bills in our state either belong to the Cardinal-Grosbeak family, *Cardinalidae*, or to the family of true finches, *Fringillidae*. Female Rose-breasted Grosbeak is the only member of the first family that is coarsely streaked below. But, unlike the bird featured, the grosbeak's bill is very pale and its head is boldly and more sharply striped.

The true finches in New Hampshire include a somewhat diverse group of birds including the small-billed *Carduelis* Finches (goldfinches, siskins, and redpolls), and large-billed forms: Evening and Pine Grosbeaks, crossbills, and the *Carpodacus* finches represented in our region by Purple and House Finches. The small-billed species are not considerations here. Of the large-billed members of this family, only the crossbills in juvenile plumage and the *Carpodacus* finches in immature and female plumage are heavily streaked below.

The featured bird lacks the characteristic bill structure of either of our two crossbills. However, even at a distance, where bill structure is often difficult to discern, juvenile crossbills have less boldly patterned faces.

It is a classic problem of bird identification to separate Purple Finch from House Finch. These two closely-related species are frequently confused, both in male and female plumage. In both species there can be some individual variation, so final identification should be based on analysis of several features. In general, House Finch is smaller headed, smaller billed, and slimmer than the large-headed, stout-billed, chunky Purple Finch. The culmen or ridge of the upper bill of House Finch is more strongly curved than that of Purple Finch, whose culmen tends to be straighter. The breast streaking of the females of both species is quite heavy. In Purple Finch the streaks are broad but short and fairly sharply defined, blurring only slightly at their edges. In contrast, the breast streaks of House Finch are broad but long. They are also blurry and not as contrastingly dark as those of Purple Finch. Although it cannot be seen in this photograph, the undertail coverts of House Finch are broadly streaked while those of Purple Finch are nearly clear. This is suggested by the clear belly of the bird illustrated. Perhaps the best feature to use in separating females of these two similar species is face pattern. Purple Finch has a strong facial pattern. There is a large dark patch on the ear coverts which is set off by white lines above and below. In addition Purple Finch females and immatures have fairly conspicuous dark malar stripes. In sharp contrast, the face of House Finch is practically featureless.

Taking all these characteristics into consideration, our featured bird is a female Purple Finch.

Purple Finch, our State Bird, is a fairly common summer resident in open mixed and coniferous woodland throughout New Hampshire. They prefer to build their nests in conifers, especially spruces. Its breeding range extends across the western Canadian provinces to Newfoundland and into the northeastern United States from Minnesota to New England south to Pennsylvania. The species extends further south along the Appalachians in the east and along the Cascades and Sierra Nevada Mountains in the West. Many of our breeding birds migrate south to the mid-Atlantic region during the winter. Migration begins in early September and peaks in mid-October. Its natural foods are seeds, fruits, and buds. Birdfeeders are used readily and it is not uncommon



to see adult birds bringing their offspring to feeders. This handsome species is one of the three members of the genus *Carpodacus* that are native to North America. In addition to Purple and House Finch, the other American member of the genus is Cassin's Finch of dry, coniferous forest of our western mountains. The genus, however, is primarily an Asian one where its members are known as rosefinches. Eighteen species of rosefinch breed on that continent, where they reach their fullest diversity in the Himalayas.

This photograph of a female Purple Finch was taken by Homer E. Lawrence. It is part of the ASNH slide collection.

Research: Wintering Purple Sandpipers in Maine and New Hampshire

by Glen Mittelhauser
and Lindsay Tudor

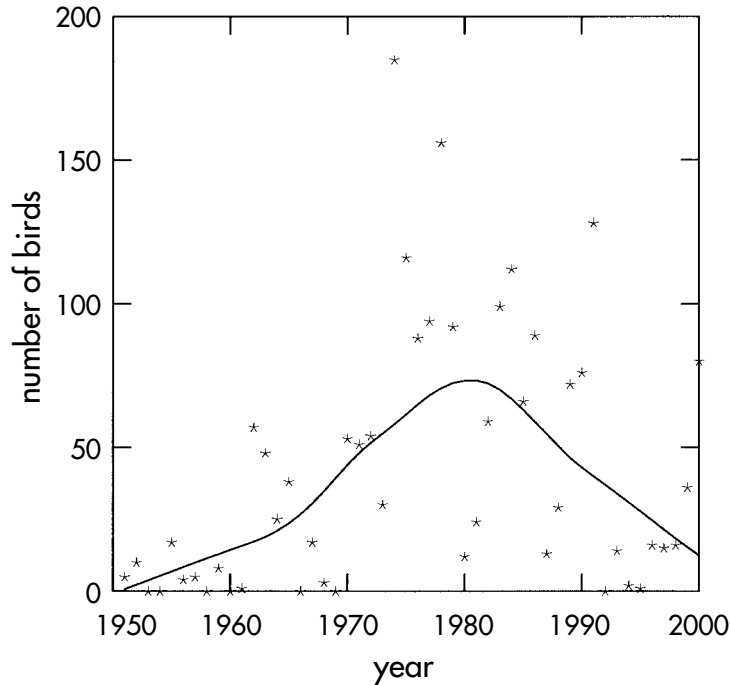
There is little doubt that Purple Sandpipers are one of the more challenging bird species to study in New England. This hardy little shorebird breeds in the high northern latitudes from Hudson Bay and Baffin Island north, and winters on the North Atlantic coast, farther north than any other shorebird. Purple Sandpipers typically inhabit wave-exposed rocky shores and ledges located offshore where they feed on amphipods, mollusks, and other intertidal invertebrates. Of the three sub-populations that are currently recognized, the population that winters in eastern North America, which is estimated to contain as few as 15,000 individuals, may be at the greatest risk. The U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan (Brown et al. 2000) has identified this wintering population as a species of high concern because of the small population size, limited distribution, and potential threats and declines. The offshore habitats along the northeastern Atlantic coast are recognized as extremely important to the survival of wintering Purple Sandpipers in the western Hemisphere. With threats from catastrophic oil spills and consequent damage to shorebird habitats, the North Atlantic Regional Shorebird Plan (Clark and Niles 2000) has named as a high priority the identification and protection of Purple Sandpiper winter habitats along the east coast.



Purple Sandpiper by Stephen Mirick

During the fall of 2001, we began a study of the wintering Purple Sandpipers along the coast of Maine. Because there has been no previous study of this species in eastern North America, we relied on published counts of the species and dug deep into unpublished databases for historic records. The process of digging up numbers is getting easier with the advent of Internet archives. For example, we compiled a list of Christ-

Figure 1. Number of Purple Sandpipers counted during Christmas Bird Counts along Coastal New Hampshire.



mas Bird Count numbers of this species in New England. These data are easily available to everyone at the Web site <http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/hr>. By clicking on the button to get count data "by species" you can download all CBC data in a few minutes. Figure 1. shows an example of this information downloaded for Coastal New Hampshire. State rare bird alerts can be another source for local counts of species and these are also available on the Web (<http://listserv.arizona.edu/archives/birdeast/html>) with some very nice archiving search fields. We were able to quickly pull out records for the species in New Hampshire from this Web site. In addition, the *New Hampshire Bird Records* database of bird records in New Hampshire can provide a report of species occurrences for New Hampshire. If you don't mind digging through publications, *National Audubon Society Field Notes* (formerly *American Birds* and *Audubon Field Notes*) can be a rich source of local bird numbers.

Although building large databases of historic bird numbers can be rewarding, these numbers do have their limitations. Purple Sandpipers are cryptic and can be difficult to see. Last winter we were within 25 feet of a small flock of Purple Sandpipers on a ledge before we were able to spot them. In addition, Purple Sandpipers have a habit of hanging out on offshore ledges; often, the more offshore and isolated the ledge, the better they like it. We know of few birders that regularly head offshore in winter to check for birds on some of these offshore sites. Even if birders do manage to get offshore to some of these sites, observations are often hampered by adverse weather and

sea conditions. As a result, for a species like the Purple Sandpiper, average peak counts in a region are only a first “guesstimate” of wintering birds in an area. Obviously there is a need for follow up surveys designed to put these peak local counts into perspective with more offshore or isolated locations.

There is certainly not a wealth of information on wintering Purple Sandpipers in New Hampshire, but even with a limited database, we can tease out some answers and also open up some specific questions. We divided the coast of New Hampshire into two sections (Coastal NH and the Isles of Shoals area) and tallied monthly peak counts for each region since 1985 (Table 1). Clearly, Isles of Shoals is an important wintering location for Purple Sandpipers in New Hampshire, but Purple Sandpipers are also regularly reported along the mainland coast as well, especially in the Rye area. Although sample sizes are too small to be conclusive, the number of Purple Sandpipers along the coast of New Hampshire appears to peak in early spring, and may represent Purple Sandpipers from areas farther south beginning their spring migration. Additional surveys are needed to fully understand Purple Sandpiper numbers, distribution, and movements along the New Hampshire coastline and throughout their eastern North American wintering areas.

Table 1. Maximum number of Purple Sandpipers reported in New Hampshire, 1985–2003; results summarized by month.

Numbers presented are mean number of birds ± S.E. [number of counts]. S.E. is “standard error,” which is a measure of how variable the numbers are—the smaller the standard error, the less variable the data are among years. For example, during October through November there were 14 Purple Sandpiper records from Coastal New Hampshire with an average of 18 birds seen, and a standard error of 5.

Month	Coastal NH		Isles of Shoals	
October–November	18 ± 5	[14]	n/a	
December–January	50 ± 19	[18]	447 ± 303	[5]
February–March	32 ± 5	[10]	115 ± 85	[2]
April–May	85 ± 17	[14]	88 ± 24	[7]

We are in our second year of research on the number and distribution of wintering Purple Sandpipers in Maine. We have focused our research along a portion of the mid-coast and have been conducting monthly counts along specific routes around the offshore islands and ledges. Weather conditions always complicate our winter offshore efforts, and we have waited over 30 days for a single good survey day in mid-winter. We are hoping to tease out some of the same questions that are apparent in the New Hampshire wintering data. For example, our survey numbers in Maine are also the lowest during February and March and tend to peak during December and January and again in April and May, even at the most offshore and remote sites. Through banding and radio tracking efforts in the future, we hope to discover where these wintering birds are located during mid-winter. It does not appear that the missing birds are hiding out along the New Hampshire coast. Our guess is that these birds are not wander-

ing far, but we have yet to find the missing birds on our surveys in Maine. In the meantime, keep an eye out for these wintering shorebirds when you are at the coast next winter, some may be sporting very colorful leg bands. Occasional observations of birds published in local journals offer historic perspective on a species and also provide baseline data that can be used for identifying and directing future research.

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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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