

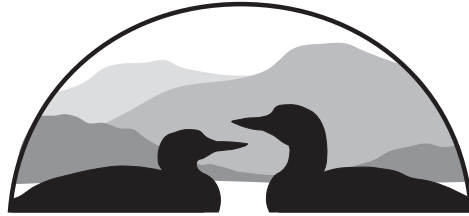
# New Hampshire Bird Records



**Spring 2004**

**Vol. 23, No. 1**

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## **New Hampshire Bird Records** **Volume 23, Number 1** **Spring 2004**

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## 2004 Goodhue-Elkins Award Recipient — Dennis J. Abbott, III

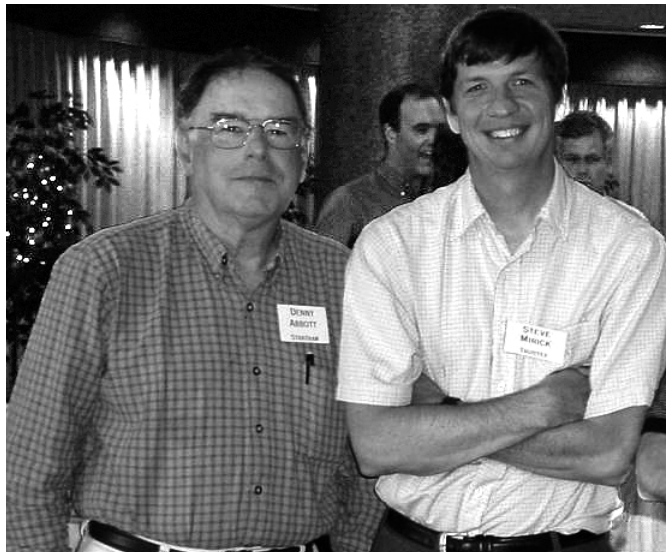
by Stephen R. Mirick

The Goodhue-Elkins Award is given annually by New Hampshire Audubon (NHA) to recognize an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the study of New Hampshire birds. This award is named for Charles Goodhue, one of New Hampshire's first great birders, and Kimball Elkins, still the model of critical observation and insightful record-keeping.

Perhaps no one better embodies the attributes exemplified by the Goodhue-Elkins Award than this year's recipient, Dennis Abbott. Denny has devoted most of his adult life to recording the occurrence of birds in New Hampshire and to furthering our knowledge and understanding of their identification and distribution.

A New Hampshire native, Denny spent his working career in government service as a marine engineering technician chiefly at Portsmouth and other naval shipyards. He devoted long hours and energy to his work, which earned him awards for his dedication and service, but this didn't prevent him from vigorously pursuing his interest in birds and birding, which blossomed in his early thirties. Over the years, no one has seen more birds in our state, and Denny can proudly, but with typical modesty, claim an impressive total of 366 different species; however his birding activity hasn't been limited to merely "listing" birds.

Denny understood the importance of contributing his many field observations from early on and has been a regular contributor to New Hampshire's published bird records. He became a seasonal bird records editor for the *New Hampshire Audubon*



Goodhue-Elkins Award recipient Dennis J. Abbott, III (left) with Stephen R. Mirick (right)

*Quarterly* (later *New Hampshire Bird Records*) in 1973 and its chairman in 1976. Currently he serves as a member of the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee, having replaced Kimball Elkins when he retired from that position many years ago.

Denny has been a devoted leader and participant in the state's Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) for well over thirty years. He has been a backbone of the Coastal count, enthusiastically participating since the early 1970s and serving as the compiler of that count area for several years in the latter half of that decade. He has participated with equal vigor in both of our most northern CBC counts, Errol-Umbagog and Pittsburg, since the 1970s and was the compiler of those counts for a remarkable 21 years, beginning in 1980. Over the decades he has also actively participated in the Lee-Durham, Isles of Shoals, Laconia-New Hampton, North Conway, and Nashua-Hollis counts.

Denny has been a member of NH Audubon since 1967 and was one of the charter members of the Seacoast Chapter. He served as a Trustee of NH Audubon for several years and was a member of the Trustees' Membership Committee for three years, serving as its chairman in 1975. He was elected to membership in the Nuttall Ornithological Club in 1976 and was one of its councilors from 1982-1985. Denny was also one of the earliest members of the American Birding Association (ABA), at a time when a national meeting of that organization could fit around a large dinner table, and served a stretch on the ABA's Board of Directors.

Over the years, Denny has eagerly contributed his knowledge of New Hampshire's birds and birdlife to others both in the field and in the lecture hall. Most recently, Denny served as a New Hampshire range map consultant for North America's most authoritative field guide, *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds*. Denny has also led many field trips and given many lectures on birds for NHA. On a personal level, Denny Abbott was my very first exposure to New Hampshire Audubon, when on August 22, 1981, he led the first field trip I went on, and discovered a Black Skimmer in Hampton Harbor; to this date, the only skimmer I have ever seen in New Hampshire.

On a less formal basis, Denny generously shares his expertise and in-depth knowledge of the state's birds with those who call him or join him in the field. He will more than happily spend his time with in-state and out-of-state birders alike who want him to help them find an unusual bird or who wish to know more about New Hampshire and New England birds and birding.

It's clear from his activities that Denny Abbott follows closely in the footsteps of those two New Hampshire giants: Charles Goodhue, one of our first great birders, and Kimball Elkins.

On June 27, 2004, New Hampshire Audubon, with great pride and pleasure, presented the 2004 Goodhue-Elkins award to Dennis J. Abbott, III, for his many years of contributions to our state's bird records through his careful and numerous field observations; for his generous sharing of his extensive knowledge about our birds with others through personal contact, lectures and field trips; and for inspiring others to do the same through his example and actions.

## New Photo Quiz



### Can You Identify This Bird?

Answer on page 53

## Spring Season

### March 1, 2004 through May 31, 2004

by Pam Hunt

**F**or a change from recent years, the weather during the spring of 2004 was relatively uneventful. Temperatures averaged about two degrees above normal. A couple of very warm periods in April certainly resulted in something of an early spring in many ways, although for the most part there was no push of migrants in response to this. In contrast, wet weather and northerly winds from late March through mid-April may actually have delayed the arrival of certain early migrants. Sparrows in particular seemed to arrive a little late and their normal arrival period generally corresponds to when this unfavorable weather pattern occurred.



Pam Hunt

The highlight of the season was without doubt the inland fallout of shorebirds and White-winged Scoters that occurred in late May. This fallout coincided with several days of overcast and drizzle as birds were heading inland from the coast to breeding locations in the Canadian Arctic. Check your maps: the shortest route from stopover areas in southeastern New England to breeding areas west and north of Hudson Bay goes right over New Hampshire! Normally the birds are all well fed and have clear sailing, but this year the weather wasn't quite right once they got over our airspace. The result was lots of good birds in places we don't usually see them.

Several other seasonal highlights were actually holdovers from the winter. Both Bohemian Waxwings and Common Redpolls remained through April, and the latter were accompanied by several **Hoary Redpolls**. Two western vagrants, a **Varied Thrush** and a **Spotted Towhee**, also made it into spring at their respective feeders. Once migration got under way, the first rarities to show up were waterfowl, namely a **Greater White-fronted Goose** and the **Eurasian subspecies of Green-winged Teal**, followed soon afterward by the Sandhill Crane returning to Monroe for its sixth year.

Unexpected birds during peak migration in May included three Cattle Egrets (one far to the north near Lake Umbagog), **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**, **White-eyed Vireo**, **Worm-eating Warbler**, and **Summer Tanager**. Even more rare was a singing **Clay-colored Sparrow** in Plymouth (a species much more common in fall) and an **Anhinga** over Chester. Unfortunately the Anhinga was only seen and documented by a single observer and thus remains in the "hypothetical" category, according to the NH Rare Birds Committee rules for first state records.

## Waterfowl

Among the highlights of the season was a **Greater White-fronted Goose** that spent several days in Kingston in mid-March. Snow Geese were poorly represented, but a single “Blue” Goose in the group at the Rochester Wastewater Treatment Plant was an extra treat. The flock of 3,000 Canada Geese in Hinsdale was but one highlight of a visit to this under-reported area—be sure to look for other records in the waterfowl listings! Mute Swans have long been established in the seacoast area, particularly on Great Bay. Over the last few years, this invasive species has started showing up more frequently inland, and this season there were no fewer than four individuals in three locations. Speaking of swans, additional details were submitted to *New Hampshire Bird Records*, allowing the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee to sort out the swans reported in the Littleton area in March 2003. The result was that both species were present, with a Mute Swan in Monroe early in the month, and a Tundra Swan in Littleton a few days later. Many thanks to the observers for getting us the details to document these records, as Tundra Swan remains a fairly rare species in the state.

The first Wood Ducks started moving into the state in late February, as indicated by the scattered small numbers in early March. By the end of that month, however, they had arrived in force. And by the end of May they already had young—19 in the case of the Kensington bird on May 23. It appears that Gadwalls are continuing to increase as spring migrants in New Hampshire. The 15 reported this season is the third highest total in the last 15 years. The average number for the last five years is 12.2, compared to 11.2 and 2.4 for the two previous half-decades. On the flip side, there were very few Blue-winged Teal reported. A “**Common**” Teal, the Eurasian race of Green-winged Teal, was seen and photographed in Hampton on March 28. This subspecies is rare on the east coast, although it might be increasing as a vagrant to the region.

**White-winged Scoters** provided birders all over the state with some excitement in late May. The story begins on the evening of May 24, when Steve Mirick estimated over 5000 birds passing north along the coast. That same day, and for the next three days, large numbers of this species were reported on inland water bodies from Keene to Concord to the Lakes Region. The 51 scoters on Great Bay during this period also represent an unusual number for this location and were probably also associated with the fallout. These numbers of inland scoters are unprecedented for spring. Scoter fallouts are much more common in the fall, when the species involved is usually Black Scoter. Like the Wood Duck mentioned earlier, at least one pair of Common Mergansers got an early start to the breeding season. The group in Lyman on May 30 represents a female with seven chicks!



*Greater White-fronted Goose*  
by Stephen R. Mirick, 3-21-04,  
East Kingston, NH



<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Greater White-fronted Goose</b>				
03-14	1	Kingston	Powwow Pond	M. Harvey
03-21	1	E. Kingston	field off Rt. 108	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
<b>Snow Goose</b>				
03-21	1	Windham	Johnson's Farm, Range Rd.	M. Harvey
03-27	19	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
03-27	16	Berlin	over Androscoggin R.	R. Quinn, K. Dube, D. Govatski, ASNH FT
03-28	1	Hanover	Connecticut R.	S. Sturup
03-29	6	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
04-07	12	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
<b>Snow Goose - Blue morph</b>				
03-29	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
<b>Canada Goose</b>				
03-06	526	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	R. Suomala
03-07	3000	Hinsdale	Vernon Dam	E. Masterson
03-07	450	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
03-20	150	Concord	Merrimack R.	R. Quinn
03-24	400	Walpole	Connecticut River Valley, Rt. 12	R. Ritz
05-24	600	Concord	Merrimack R.	R. Quinn
<b>Brant</b>				
03-14	9	Hampton	Great Boars Head	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
04-15	8		NH coast	S. Mirick
04-22	4	Grantham	Stocker Pond, west shore	J. Kirk
05-21	15	Rye	NH coast	S. Mirick
05-25	12	New Castle	Great Island	D. Donsker
05-25	9	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	M. Suomala
05-29	30		NH coast	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
<b>Mute Swan</b>				
03-26	1	Nashua	Mine Falls Park	R. Andrews
04-12	2	Laconia	Lake Winnisquam, end of Water St.	H. Anderson
05-11	2	Laconia	South Down, Otterbridge Rd.	H. Anderson
05-16	1	Nottingham	Garland Road marsh	M. Harvey
<b>Wood Duck</b>				
03-04	2	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr., Piscassic R.	P. & J. Hendrickx
03-06	5	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	R. Suomala
03-06	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch, M. Bott
03-29	22	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
03-31	40	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
04-21	40	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-23	20	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
<b>Gadwall</b>				
03-24	2	Salem	World End Pond	M. Harvey
03-27	2	Laconia	Opechee Bay	P. Hunt
03-27	4	Stratham	Sandy Pt.	A. & B. Delorey
03-28	2	Rye	pond on Rt. 1A	I. MacLeod, R. Woodward, D. Fallon
04-03	5	Exeter	Powder House Pond	R. Aaronian

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>American Wigeon</b>				
03-07	2	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
03-19	10	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
03-27	3	Laconia	Opechee Bay	P. Hunt
03-28	50	Greenland	Sunset Farm on Great Bay	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
04-03	5	Hanover	Ledyard Bridge	S. Sturup
04-07	2	Boscawen	off River Rd.	P. Newbern
04-15	6	Lancaster	South Lancaster Rd.	M. Hinten
04-22	1	Moultonborough	Unsworth Preserve	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
<b>American Black Duck</b>				
03-07	90	Hinsdale	Vernon Dam	E. Masterson
<b>Mallard</b>				
03-06	139	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	R. Suomala
03-07	160	Hinsdale	Vernon Dam	E. Masterson
03-13	150	Gilford	Sawyer Meadows, Intervale Rd.	H. Anderson
<b>Blue-winged Teal</b>				
04-18	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-16	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	M. Harvey
<b>Northern Shoveler</b>				
03-27	1	Gilford	Sawyer Meadows	H. Anderson
03-27	2	Laconia	Opechee Bay	P. Hunt
03-28	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
03-28	2	E. Kingston	fields off Rt. 108	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
04-16	2	Hanover	mouth of Mink Brook	D. Jorgensen
04-21	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
05-09	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
<b>Northern Pintail</b>				
03-07	16	Hinsdale	Vernon Dam	E. Masterson
03-07	5	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
03-14	18	E. Kingston	Rt. 108 field	M. Harvey
03-27	34	Laconia	Opechee Bay	P. Hunt
03-27	6	Gilford	Sawyer Meadows	H. Anderson
03-27	3	Stratham	Sandy Pt.	A. & B. Delorey
04-03	1	Boscawen	Big Bend in the Merrimack R.	R. Quinn, R. Woodward, Capital Area Chapter FT
<b>Green-winged Teal</b>				
03-06	2	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
03-07	6	Hinsdale	Vernon Dam	E. Masterson
03-27	14	Laconia	Opechee Bay	P. Hunt
03-27	40	Stratham	Sandy Pt.	A. & B. Delorey
03-28	54	E. Kingston	fields off Rt. 108	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
03-28	110	Hampton	Meadow Pond	M. Harvey
03-29	20	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
04-18	4	Hillsborough	pond near Beards Brook	I. MacLeod
04-21	41	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
<b>Green-winged Teal-Eurasian subsp. "Common Teal"</b>				
03-28	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	M. Harvey
03-28	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Canvasback</b>				
03-14	1	Northfield	Winnepesaukee R. at Cross Mill Rd.	P. Hunt
03-19	2	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
<b>Ring-necked Duck</b>				
03-07	2	Hinsdale	Vernon Dam	E. Masterson
03-07	65	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
03-20	238	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence, et al.
03-25	122	Salem	World End Pond	M. Harvey
03-28	265	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
03-30	55	Salem	Canobie Lake	M. Harvey
04-03	54	Laconia	Opechee Bay	P. Hunt
04-03	37	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Quinn, R. Woodward, Capital Area Chapter FT
04-18	45	Hampton Falls	Rt. 1 pond, just s. of Rt. 85	J. O'Shaughnessy
05-27	1	Moultonborough	Unsworth Preserve	T. Vazzano
05-27	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS, Cherry Pond	M. Harvey
<b>Greater Scaup</b>				
03-07	3	Hinsdale	Vernon Dam	E. Masterson
03-19	400	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
03-27	8	Laconia	Bartlett Beach	P. Hunt
03-27	4	Laconia	Opechee Bay	P. Hunt
03-28	1	Hanover	Connecticut R.	S. Sturup
03-28	3	E. Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
03-28	2	Windham	Moeckel Pond	M. Harvey
05-05	14	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
<b>Lesser Scaup</b>				
03-27	2	Concord	Merrimack R.	I. MacLeod
03-28	1	Windham	Moeckel Pond	M. Harvey
03-28	4	Salem	World End Pond	M. Harvey
03-29	4	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
04-07	8	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
<b>King Eider</b>				
04-25	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	M. Harvey
<b>White-winged Scoter</b>				
05-24	5170	Rye	NH coast	S. Mirick
05-24	63	Concord	Turtle Pond	R. Quinn
05-24	17	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	J. Smith
05-25	500	Sandwich	Chicks Corner	T. Vazzano
05-25	170	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	I. MacLeod
05-26	19	Keene	Wilson Pond	J. Smith
05-26	51	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
05-26	54	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	J. Smith
05-27	28	Moultonborough	Squam Lake	T. Vazzano
05-27	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS, Cherry Pond	M. Harvey
05-27	69	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	J. Smith
<b>Black Scoter</b>				
05-26	5	Keene	Wilson Pond	J. Smith

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Long-tailed Duck</b>				
03-27	7	Laconia	Opechee Bay	P. Hunt
04-14	18	Hampton	Great Boars Head	R. Aaronian
05-23	2	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	R. & M. Suomala
05-23	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach, north end	R. & M. Suomala
<b>Bufflehead</b>				
03-11	30	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
03-27	2	Hanover	Ledyard Bridge	S. Sturup
04-09	6	Concord	Turkey Pond	I. MacLeod
04-15	1	Laconia	Lake Winnisquam, off Water St.	H. Anderson
04-22	3	Moultonborough	Squam Lake	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
<b>Common Goldeneye</b>				
03-07	90	Hinsdale	Vernon Dam	E. Masterson
03-19	50	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
03-24	16	Concord	Merrimack R.	R. Quinn
03-27	12	Errol	below Errol Dam	R. Quinn, K. Dube, D. Govatski, ASNH FT
03-28	12	Hanover	Ledyard Bridge	S. Sturup
04-17	6	Moultonborough	Unsworth Preserve	T. Vazzano



*Common-Barrow's Goldeneye hybrid  
by Stephen R. Mirick, 3-18-04,  
Blackwater River, Seabrook, NH*

<b>Common-Barrow's Goldeneye hybrid</b>				
03-18	1	Seabrook	Blackwater R. off Rt. 286	S. Mirick
03-25	1	Seabrook	Blackwater R. off Rt. 286	S. Mirick
<b>Barrow's Goldeneye</b>				
03-28	1	Rye	NH coast	I. MacLeod, R. Woodward, D. Fallon
<b>Hooded Merganser</b>				
03-11	49	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
03-14	27	Lebanon	Connecticut R.	S. Sturup
03-19	20	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick
03-23	20	Laconia	Lakeport Dam area, Lake Opechee	H. Anderson
03-24	24	Salem	World End Pond	M. Harvey
03-29	20	Hanover	Ledyard Bridge	S. Sturup
04-09	20	Concord	Turkey Pond	I. MacLeod
<b>Common Merganser</b>				
03-08	84	Exeter	Squamscott River	D. Finch
03-11	60	Exeter	Exeter R. at Swasey Pkwy.	G. Prazar
03-26	125	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
05-30	8	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. Turner, D. Mallett

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Red-breasted Merganser</b>				
03-19	75	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
03-27	2	Laconia	Opechee Bay	P. Hunt
04-18	1	Lyme	Grant Brook	S. Sturup
05-23	16	Rye	Rye Ledge	R. & M. Suomala
<b>Ruddy Duck</b>				
05-24	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick

## Loons through Cranes

Perhaps the changeable April weather (warm/cool, wet/dry, shifting winds) allowed loons to move through inland waters fairly quickly, since there were very few records to indicate this phase of their migration. It is worth pointing out that Common Loons equipped with satellite transmitters have been documented “reconnoitering” at this time of year. They will leave the coast to look for open water inland, but turn around if there is none available. As water opens, this process is repeated, resulting in a migration behavior vaguely resembling hopscotch. The Red-throated Loon in Durham was entangled in fishing line, but unfortunately still mobile and thus not easily rescued. However, it appears to have survived at least into the summer.

Al Delorey had the dubious honor of joining the “NH **Anhinga Club**” when he saw a bird flying over his Chester yard on May 19. The honor is dubious since Anhinga has still not “officially” been seen in the state. To enter the official list a sighting must be documented by a photograph, specimen, or details from three separate observers; otherwise it remains in the database but is listed as hypothetical. There is a pattern of spring Anhingas in New England, so hopefully someone with a camera will eventually shift the species to the official list!

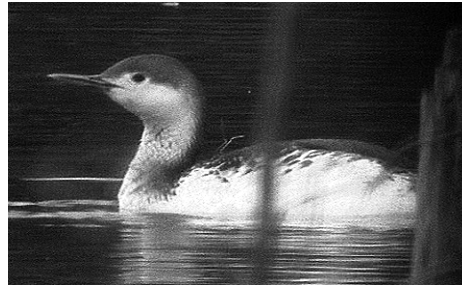
Although reports of our usual egrets (Great and Snowy) were low, such was not the case for Cattle Egret. Three graced the state in May, including one well to the north in the parking lot for the Lake Umbagog NWR headquarters! This year’s **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** conveniently opted to visit Star Island on the same day that Mike Harvey organized a birding trip to this offshore migrant spot.

As is usually the case in spring, there were no noticeable hawk flights. The following records are intended to simply give an overview of early arrival dates, a few peak counts, and a picture of the overall distribution of rare species like Bald Eagle and Northern Harrier. Mike Harvey and Ben Griffith continue to provide the bulk of rail reports in the spring. On the whole, it seems to have been a good spring for both species (or at least for Mike and Ben). The Sandhill Crane returned for a sixth year to its summer home in Monroe along the Connecticut River.



*Yellow-crowned Night-Heron*  
by Ben Griffith, 5-31-04,  
Star Island, Rye, NH

*Red-throated Loon  
entangled in fishing line  
by Stephen R. Mirick,  
5-10-04, Durham, NH*



<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Red-throated Loon</b>				
04-04	10		NH coast	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
05-10	1	Durham	beaver pond off Bay Road	S. Mirick
05-27	2	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
<b>Common Loon</b>				
03-28	1	Auburn	Clairs Landing, Lake Massabesic	I. MacLeod, R. Woodward, D. Fallon
04-04	75		NH coast	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
04-07	1	Laconia	Opechee Bay	P. Hunt
04-10	1	Barrington	Mendums Pond	T. Chase
04-10	1	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
<b>Pied-billed Grebe</b>				
03-10	1	Kingston	Powwow River	S. Mirick
03-29	5	Salem	World End Pond	M. Harvey
04-12	5	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick
05-23	1	Sutton	Cascade Marsh	P. Newbern
<b>Horned Grebe</b>				
04-04	72		NH coast	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
04-18	70	Hampton	offshore from beaches	J. O'Shaughnessy
<b>Red-necked Grebe</b>				
04-04	175		NH coast	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
04-18	35	Hampton	offshore from beaches	J. O'Shaughnessy
04-22	6	Moultonborough	Squam Lake	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
04-30	5	Rumney	Stinson Lake	R. Quinn, T. Richards
<b>Northern Fulmar</b>				
03-14	1	Hampton	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence, D. Abbott
<b>Northern Gannet</b>				
03-14	1	Rye	offshore	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence, D. Abbott
05-08	20	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward, S. Fuller
05-24	30	Rye	NH coast	S. Mirick
<b>Great Cormorant</b>				
04-03	1	Boscawen	Big Bend in Merrimack R.	R. Quinn, Capital Area Chapter FT
04-18	1	Hanover	Connecticut R., Ledyard Bridge	S. Sturup, et al.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>American Bittern</b>				
04-04	1	Sandwich	Thompson WS	S. Wiley
04-22	2	Sandwich	Rt. 113, Chicks Corner	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
04-29	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
05-02	1	Lyman	Under-the-Mountain Rd.	S. & M. Turner
05-02	1	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-05	1	Sutton	Cascade Marsh	P. Newbern
<b>Great Egret</b>				
04-14	1	Lancaster	South Lancaster Rd.	M. Hinten
04-27	1	Littleton	Foster Hill Rd.	B. Thomas, M. Boulanger, T. Alt
05-25	2	Seabrook	near Blackwater R. & Rt. 286	M. Suomala
<b>Snowy Egret</b>				
04-18	7	Rye	marshes	J. O'Shaughnessy
05-21	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean
05-23	1	Durham	Rt. 107 field	A. Prazar



*Cattle Egret  
by Stephen R. Mirick,  
5-24-04, Rochester, NH*

<b>Cattle Egret</b>				
05-03	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
05-13	1	Wentworths Location	Lake Umbagog NWR office, Rt. 16	L. Wunder, B. Champagne, et al.
05-24	1	Rochester	fields off Pickering Rd.	S. Mirick
<b>Green Heron</b>				
05-02	1	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	M. & R. Suomala, et al.
05-07	1	S. Hampton	Grassy Brook	M. Tarr
05-10	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
<b>Yellow-crowned Night-Heron</b>				
05-31	1	Rye	Star Island	M. Harvey, B. Griffith, D. Finch, S. Mirick, W. Petersen, et al.
<b>Glossy Ibis</b>				
04-18	1	Hampton	marshes off Rt. 101	J. O'Shaughnessy
04-25	2	Hampton	Little Jack's Restaurant	M. Harvey
<b>Turkey Vulture</b>				
03-03	9	Nottingham	Burnhams Marsh, Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	P. Hendrickx, C. Fisher
03-09	10	Newmarket	Rt. 152, between Rt. 15 & town line	L. Deming

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Turkey Vulture—continued</b>				
03-26	10	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
04-11	17	Laconia	Elm St., Laconia CC	H. Anderson
05-11	13	Concord	Rt. 393	H. Anderson
<b>Osprey</b>				
03-28	1	Belmont	over Arch St.	P. Hunt
03-28	1	Newmarket	Great Bay	I. MacLeod, R. Woodward, D. Fallon
04-09	1	Concord	Turkey Pond	I. MacLeod
04-10	2	Hill	Foster Swamp	I. MacLeod
04-18	4	Hillsborough	pond near Beard Brook	I. MacLeod
<b>Bald Eagle</b>				
03-05	2	Laconia	Martel's Bait Shop, Dixon Pt.	H. Anderson
03-26	2	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
03-28	2	Durham	Adams Pt.	I. MacLeod, R. Woodward, D. Fallon
04-07	2	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
05-31	2	Hampton	Hampton Beach	I. MacLeod, G. Robbins, R. Woodward
<b>Northern Harrier</b>				
03-28	1	Concord	Turkey Pond	I. MacLeod, R. Woodward, D. Fallon
03-30	1	Brentwood	Rockingham County Complex, North Rd.	M. Tarr, P. Auger
04-03	1	Gilford	Sawyer Meadows, Intervale Rd.	H. Anderson
04-03	1	Lyme	Grant Brook	S. Sturup
05-02	2	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	M.& R. Suomala, et al.
05-07	1	Milan	farm n. of village	C. Martin
05-07	1	Errol	Harpers Meadows, Lake Umbagog	C. Martin
05-27	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	M. Harvey
05-29	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
<b>Red-shouldered Hawk</b>				
03-01	1	Deerfield	Mountain Rd. Extension	C.& J. Carr
03-03	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
03-03	2	Windham	Londonderry Rd.	J. Romano
03-21	2	E. Kingston	off Rt. 108	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
03-23	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
<b>Broad-winged Hawk</b>				
04-14	1	Gilmanton	Old Jones Farm, Loon Pond	J. Stockwell
04-15	1	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
04-17	2	Auburn	Massabesic Audubon Center	I. MacLeod
04-20	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
04-20	4	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
04-24	20	Auburn	Massabesic Audubon Center	I. MacLeod
<b>Red-tailed Hawk</b>				
03-26	35	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
<b>Rough-legged Hawk</b>				
03-22	1	E. Kingston	Sanborn Rd., at Rt. 108	D. Finch



<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Merlin</b>				
03-29	1	Hanover	Smith Rd.	S. Sturup
04-03	1	Hanover	Ledyard Bridge	S. Sturup
04-03	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	A. & B. Delorey
<b>Virginia Rail</b>				
04-25	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	M. Harvey
05-03	2	Salem	Geremonty Drive marsh	M. Harvey
05-03	1	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-04	1	Windham	Castle Hill Rd.	M. Harvey
05-06	2	Windham	Mitchell Pond and vicinity	M. Harvey
05-23	1	Sutton	Cascade Marsh	P. Newbern
05-27	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS, "moorhen marsh"	M. Harvey
05-27	2	Whitefield	airport marsh	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
05-27	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
05-30	2	Newfields	Squamscott River	M. Harvey
<b>Sora</b>				
05-03	1	Salem	Geremonty Drive marsh	M. Harvey
05-23	2	New London	Esther Currier WMA at Low Plain	P. Newbern
05-27	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS, "moorhen marsh"	M. Harvey
05-29	1	Durham	Longmarsh Road	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
<b>American Coot</b>				
05-29	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
<b>Sandhill Crane</b>				
04-01	1	Monroe	Connecticut R. island & Plains Rd.	E. Emery, P. Powers

## Shorebirds through Alcids

As usual, numbers of shorebirds reported from the coast were relatively low. The listings below contain every report of all species from that region, except duplicates and some of the locally breeding species. The shorebird news of the past spring was inland, and it was news indeed. At the same time that scoters were grounded on inland lakes, an **unprecedented flight of shorebirds** occurred in the same areas. The vast majority of these inland sandpipers were Short-billed Dowitchers, and they appeared first in the Concord and Sandwich areas. In a season where **any** dowitchers on the coast will be highlighted in this publication, flocks of 100 or more **inland** verge on mind-boggling. But fasten your seatbelts...it gets better!

On the morning of May 26, James Smith was birding Surrey Mountain Lake north of Keene when he encountered a large flock of shorebirds circling the lake, and then a couple of smaller flocks. The majority of the birds in total were Dunlin—James estimates 600 in the first flock alone—with dowitchers coming in second. Later in the day he found large numbers of shorebirds in a field in Keene, and while the numbers pale in comparison to those at Surrey, this time there was ample opportunity to count and identify. Several of these species are quite rare in spring, especially inland, and included Whimbrel, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, and White-rumped Sandpiper.

In total, over 2,000 individuals representing 12 species of northbound shorebirds were found that day in the Keene area. Both the numbers and diversity are unprecedented for an inland location in spring. In fact, a perusal of data for the seacoast suggests that a total of 2,000 shorebirds surpasses any one-day record for the state in recent memory, with the possible exception of 1996. In that year, a comparable number were seen in Hampton Harbor on, amazingly, May 24–26.

On the gull front, a flock of 30 Bonaparte's Gulls from Lake Umbagog is an unusually high total for an inland location. There were at least four Lesser Black-backed and 11 Iceland Gulls in the state this spring, with one of the latter lingering relatively late, into May. Staying even later was a first-year Glaucous Gull in Seabrook. Roseate, Common, and Arctic Terns continue to do well at the Isles of Shoals, but the tern news involved Black Tern. Seven of these rare migrants were observed along the coast during a single week in late May. Alcids were well reported, with the highlight being three **Atlantic Puffins** seen from a University of New Hampshire research boat on March 14.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Black-bellied Plover</b>				
05-11	3	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean
05-23	30	Rye	Rt. 1A bridge by Odiorne Pt.	R. & M. Suomala
05-23	1	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit	T. Vazzano, et al.
05-24	8	Keene	Krif Road Industrial Park	J. Smith
05-25	15	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	M. Suomala
05-26	32	Keene	Krif Road Industrial Park	J. Smith
05-27	2	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	R. Suomala
<b>Semipalmated Plover</b>				
05-23	10	Rye	Rye Harbor	R. & M. Suomala
05-23	12	Rye	Rt. 1A bridge by Odiorne Pt.	R. & M. Suomala
05-23	23	Sutton	Cascade Marsh	P. Newbern
05-24	34	Keene	Krif Road Industrial Park	J. Smith
05-25	6	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	R. Suomala
05-26	33	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit	R. Ridgely
05-26	92	Keene	Krif Road Industrial Park	J. Smith
<b>Piping Plover</b>				
04-04	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
04-14	1	Seabrook	Haverhill St., Seabrook Beach	R. Aaronian
<b>Killdeer</b>				
03-06	2	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	R. Suomala
03-06	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
03-28	18	E. Kingston	fields off Rt. 108	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
04-01	39	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	R. Suomala
04-03	24	N. Hampton	Woodland Dr.	A. & B. Delorey
<b>Greater Yellowlegs</b>				
04-18	14		NH coast	J. O'Shaughnessy
04-21	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
04-28	1	Brentwood	Rockingham County Farm, South Rd.	M. Tarr, P. Auger
04-30	1	Exeter	flying over Powder House Pond	R. Aaronian
05-02	1	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-08	2	Hampton Falls	Depot Road	P. Hunt

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
05-15	9	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	D. & T. Donsker
05-24	1	Keene	Krif Road Industrial Park	J. Smith
05-25	5	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	R. Suomala
05-26	3	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit	R. Ridgely
05-26	9	Keene	Krif Road Industrial Park	J. Smith
05-30	6	Concord	West Portsmouth St.	R. Quinn
<b>Lesser Yellowlegs</b>				
05-23	1	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit	T. Vazzano, et al.
05-25	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	R. Suomala
<b>Solitary Sandpiper</b>				
05-02	1	Hampton	North Shore Road	D. Crowley
05-03	1	Greenland	off Newington Road	S. Mirick
05-03	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-08	1	Concord	SPNHF floodplain	P. Newbern
05-08	3	Amherst	country club	R. Andrews, R. Carr
05-09	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-26	1	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit	R. Ridgely
05-26	1	Keene	Krif Road Industrial Park	J. Smith
05-27	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	R. Suomala
<b>Willet</b>				
05-08	2	Hampton	Landing Road	P. Hunt, et al.
05-23	1	Rye	Rt. 1A bridge by Odiorne Pt.	R. & M. Suomala
05-25	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean
<b>Spotted Sandpiper</b>				
04-30	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond	M. Turner
05-02	1	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	M. & R. Suomala, et al.
05-08	3	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward, S. Fuller
<b>Upland Sandpiper</b>				
05-23	2	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport, n. end	R. & M. Suomala
<b>Whimbrel</b>				
05-26	1	Keene	Krif Road Industrial Park	J. Smith
<b>Ruddy Turnstone</b>				
05-19	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Harbor inlet	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
05-23	1	Rye	Rt. 1A bridge by Odiorne Pt.	R. & M. Suomala
05-24	6	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean
05-26	1	Keene	Krif Road Industrial Park	J. Smith
<b>Red Knot</b>				
05-26	5	Keene	Krif Road Industrial Park	J. Smith
05-27	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt.	E. Masterson, M. Danforth
<b>Sanderling</b>				
05-29	4	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
<b>Semipalmated Sandpiper</b>				
05-23	2	Rye	Rye Harbor	R. & M. Suomala
05-26	4	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit	R. Ridgely
05-26	3	Keene	Krif Road Industrial Park	J. Smith
05-28	5	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Least Sandpiper</b>				
05-03	7	Greenland	off Newington Road	S. Mirick
05-23	10	Rye	Rt. 1A bridge by Odiorne Pt.	R. & M. Suomala
05-24	24	Salem	World End Pond	M. Harvey
05-24	5	Keene	Krif Road Industrial Park	J. Smith
05-25	30	N. Hampton	Little River	M. Suomala
05-25	8	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	R. Suomala
05-26	23	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit	R. Ridgely
05-26	9	Keene	Krif Road Industrial Park	J. Smith
<b>White-rumped Sandpiper</b>				
05-26	4	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	J. Smith
<b>Purple Sandpiper</b>				
05-08	100	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward, S. Fuller
05-21	60	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. Mirick
05-23	51	Rye	Concord Pt.	R. & M. Suomala
05-28	10	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward
<b>Dunlin</b>				
04-18	86	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	J. O'Shaughnessy
05-08	5	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward, S. Fuller
05-23	4	Rye	Rt. 1A bridge by Odiorne Pt.	R. & M. Suomala
05-26	600	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	J. Smith
<b>Short-billed Dowitcher</b>				
05-19	5	Seabrook	Seabrook Harbor	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
05-23	300	Rye	Rt. 1A bridge by Odiorne Pt.	R. & M. Suomala
05-23	96	Rye	Rye Harbor	R. & M. Suomala
05-23	110	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park	J. Hills
05-24	70	Concord	Turtle Pond	R. Quinn
05-24	1	Salem	World End Pond	M. Harvey
05-25	20	Sandwich	Chicks Corner	T. Vazzano, J. Cooley
05-25	100	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Road	T. Vazzano
05-26	13	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit	R. Ridgely
05-26	34	Keene	Krif Road Industrial Park	J. Smith
05-26	200	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	J. Smith
<b>Wilson's Snipe</b>				
04-07	1	Concord	West Portsmouth St. fields	P. Newbern
04-18	1	Lee	Rt. 155 fields by Bluebell Farm	M. Tarr
04-26	14	Brentwood	Rockingham County Farm, South Rd.	M. Tarr, P. Auger
<b>American Woodcock</b>				
03-03	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
03-06	2	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch, M. Bott
03-06	1	Plymouth	Old Hebron Rd. residence fields	S. & A. Bailey
03-07	2	Deerfield	Mountain Rd. Ext.	C. & J. Carr
04-12	10	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
04-14	5	Enfield	Bog Road	S. Sturup
04-17	3	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
04-27	5	Nashua	Trout Brook Rd.	B. Harris, et al.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Shorebird sp.</b>				
05-26	900	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	J. Smith
<b>Laughing Gull</b>				
05-25	2	Hampton	Bicentennial Pk. & Hampton Harbor	M. Suomala
05-28	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward
<b>Bonaparte's Gull</b>				
04-22	4	Moultonborough	Squam Lake	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
05-07	30	Errol	Lake Umbagog	C. Martin
05-25	4	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	M. Suomala

*Iceland Gull by Mike Harvey,  
4-25-04, Hampton Harbor, Seabrook, NH*



<b>Iceland Gull</b>				
03-02	11	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
03-19	9	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
03-20	2	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
04-13	6	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
05-04	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
<b>Lesser Black-backed Gull</b>				
03-02	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
04-13	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	R. Suomala
05-04	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
05-05	1	Durham	Great Bay Buffalo Farm	S. Mirick
05-24	1	Rye	Jeness Beach	S. Mirick
<b>Glaucous Gull</b>				
03-13	1	Laconia	Lakeport Dam, Opechee Bay	J. Williams
03-29	3	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
04-21	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
05-24	1	Seabrook	off Rt. 286	S. Mirick
<b>Roseate Tern</b>				
05-07	4	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward, S. Fuller
05-21	6	Rye	NH coast	S. Mirick
<b>Common Tern</b>				
05-06	50	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward, S. Fuller
05-12	3000	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean
05-21	250	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Arctic Tern</b>				
05-16	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean
05-28	3	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward
<b>Black Tern</b>				
05-21	2	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	S. Mirick
05-23	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt.	E. Masterson
05-24	3		NH coast	S. Mirick
05-28	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward
<b>Thick-billed Murre</b>				
03-14	1	Rye	offshore	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence, D. Abbott
<b>Razorbill</b>				
03-14	7	Rye	offshore	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence, D. Abbott
03-21	1	Newcastle	Portsmouth Harbor near Wood Is.	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
04-04	3	Rye	s. of Ragged Neck	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
05-15	1	Rye	boat trip to Isles of Shoals	R. & M. Suomala, et al.
<b>Black Guillemot</b>				
03-21	2	Rye	Odiorne Point	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
05-08	15	Rye	by Lunging Island, Isles of Shoals	R. Suomala, M. Stauffer
05-11	5	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean
<b>Atlantic Puffin</b>				
03-14	3		Jeffreys Ledge & vicinity	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence, D. Abbott
<b>Alcid sp.</b>				
03-14	26	Rye	offshore	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence, D. Abbott

## Cuckoos through Flycatchers

In what was perhaps the beginning of one of the more widespread incursions in recent years, both species of cuckoos were reported from all over the state. In the listings below, I have included all the Yellow-billed Cuckoos, but only about half the Black-billed Cuckoos. The Black-billed heard migrating overhead on the evening of April 25 extend the early date for the species by slightly over a week. Similarly, the Yellow-billed of May 6 is three days early. The early arrival and high numbers of cuckoos this spring are almost certainly related to the abundance of tent caterpillars. For whatever reason, these defoliating insects were more prevalent than usual, and the cuckoos appeared en masse to take advantage of one of their favorite foods.

All three Great Horned Owl reports below represent birds showing signs of breeding activity, highlighting both the early nesting season of this species and its length. Another owl of note was a Snowy Owl seen in Wakefield, presumably heading north to the tundra after a relatively quiet winter for this species in New England. We

received encouraging numbers of reports of both Common Nighthawks and Whip-poor-wills, both of which are declining in the Northeast. Readers should also be aware of the ongoing Whip-poor-will surveys being conducted in the Piscataquog and Ossipee River watersheds. Although data from these surveys are generally not included here, suffice it to say that Weare and Freedom may very well hold the highest Whip-poor-will populations in the state. Your job is thus to prove me wrong by submitting data from somewhere else!

Although they certainly weren't responding to caterpillars, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds on April 10 and 11 were also earlier than previously recorded by almost two weeks. A pair of Black-backed Woodpeckers elected to excavate their nest across the street from the USFS Ranger Station along Trudeau Road in Bethlehem, much to the enjoyment of birders from near and far. Flycatcher migration occurred right on time. A possible exception was Eastern Phoebe. Most phoebes showed up on their median date, but one in Sandwich predated the rest by 10 days.



*Black-backed Woodpecker, 4-25-04, Bethlehem, NH by Glen Tepke www.pbase.com/gtepke*

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Black-billed Cuckoo</b>				
04-25	2	Barrington	Berry River Rd.	M. Tarr
05-11	1	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-12	3	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
05-13	1	Concord	Silk Farm WS	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson, D. Houghton
05-21	1	Swanzy	Keene Airport	P. Hunt, K. Doyle
05-22	1	Walpole	Merriam Rd. on property	R. Ritz
05-22	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
05-23	1	Tamworth	behind town hall	T. Vazzano, et al.
05-23	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Road	T. Vazzano
05-23	2	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-31	1	Whitefield	airport marsh	I. MacLeod, G. Robbins, R. Woodward
<b>Yellow-billed Cuckoo</b>				
05-06	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-17	1	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-20	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
05-25	1	Sandwich	near Chicks Corner	T. Vazzano, J. Cooley
05-27	1	Concord	Clinton St.	I. MacLeod
<b>Eastern Screech-Owl</b>				
March	1	Greenland	residence	D. Kern
<b>Great Horned Owl</b>				
03-13	1	Meredith	Chemung Rd. marsh	J. Williams
04-24	1	Hollis	Spaulding Pk.	I. MacLeod
05-02	1	Hooksett	West River Rd.	J. Feldman

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Snowy Owl</b>				
04-03	1	Wakefield	Carroll County line, Union	M. & D. Pratt, D. & D. Howard
<b>Northern Saw-whet Owl</b>				
03-04	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
03-28	1	Hopkinton	Clough St. Pk.	I. MacLeod, R. Woodward, D. Fallon
<b>Common Nighthawk</b>				
05-14	1	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. & M. Suomala
05-16	1	Keene	at Main & Railroad Sts.	M. Wright
05-16	1	Stratham	Sandy Point	M. Harvey
05-21	1	Concord	State Capitol building	S. Parkinson
05-27	8	Dover	Bellamy WMA	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
05-28	1	Franklin	downtown	P. Hunt
05-28	2	Hanover	Smith Rd.	S. Sturup
05-29	1	Freedom	International Paper log yard, Ossipee Lake	D. & B. Fox
05-30	4	Nashua	Mine Falls Park	B. Harris, et al.
05-31	2	Hampton	North Shore Road	D. Crowley
05-31	1	Rye	Star Island	M. Harvey, B. Griffith, S. Mirick, D. Finch, D. Donsker, et al.
<b>Whip-poor-will</b>				
04-22	1	Lebanon	Storrs Hill residence	D. Jorgensen
04-30	1	Rumney	Buffalo Rd.	R. Berti
05-01	1	Brookline	residence, sandpit	M. Anne
05-01	2	Goffstown	residence	R. Conroy
05-05	1	Windham	Castle Hill Rd. power lines	M. Harvey
05-12	2	Freedom	Camp Calumet	P. Hunt, et al.
05-15	2	Londonderry	Akira Rd.	P. Blodgett
05-19	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	M. Harvey
05-29	10	Freedom	Ossipee Lake Road	D. & B. Fox
<b>Chimney Swift</b>				
04-28	3	Exeter	Powder House Pond	R. Aaronian
05-01	4	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-07	2	Hanover	Dartmouth College	K. Kluge
05-07	4	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward, S. Fuller
05-08	3	Bradford	Old Warner Rd.	P. Newbern
05-22	50	Exeter	Water St., downtown	G. Prazar
05-30	10	Nashua	Mine Falls Park	B. Harris, et al.
05-30	2000	Exeter	Squamscott R.	M. & R. Harvey
05-31	32	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
<b>Ruby-throated Hummingbird</b>				
04-10	1	Concord	East Side Dr.	D. & B. Soule
04-11	1	Unity	Hurd Pond Road	A. Forsman
04-29	1	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
05-01	1	Hanover	Blueberry Hill residence	K. Kluge, T. Rosemeier
05-01	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-02	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx



<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Red-headed Woodpecker</b>				
05-02	1	Antrim	Goodell Rd.	A. Allison
<b>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker</b>				
04-03	1	Hanover	Blueberry Hill residence	K. Kluge, T. Rosenmeier
04-11	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
04-11	1	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
04-15	1	New London	Pingree Rd.	A.& R. Vernon
05-03	15	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
<b>Black-backed Woodpecker</b>				
03-07	2	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
03-28	2	Beans Purchase	North Carter Trail	J. Romano
<b>Northern Flicker</b>				
03-02	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
03-05	1	Laconia	Wildwood Rd.	H. Anderson
03-24	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. Harris
03-27	1	Salem	World End Pond	I. MacLeod
<b>Olive-sided Flycatcher</b>				
05-11	2	Effingham	Huntress Bridge Rd.	G. McElroy
05-24	1	Brookfield	Wentworth Rd.	J. LaBelle
05-24	1	Canterbury	Baptist Hill Rd.	R. Quinn
05-26	1	Hanover	Balch St.	S. Sturup
05-27	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Road	T. Vazzano
05-27	1	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
05-30	2	Canaan	Bear Pond	P. Hunt
<b>Eastern Wood-Pewee</b>				
05-13	1	Lee	Randell Rd.	M. Tarr
05-13	1	Charlestown	off Rt. 12	P. Newbern
05-17	1	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-18	1	Walpole	Scovill Rd.	R. Ritz
05-18	5	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-21	7	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A.& B. Delorey
<b>Yellow-bellied Flycatcher</b>				
05-23	4	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
05-25	1	Salem	town forest	M. Harvey
05-26	4	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean
05-29	1	Salisbury	off Bay Rd.	P. Newbern
05-30	1	Canaan	Bear Pond	P. Hunt
<b>Alder Flycatcher</b>				
05-15	1	Bethlehem	Zealand Trail near Zealand Hut	J. Stockwell
05-16	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
05-17	1	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-18	1	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-23	8	Concord	Turkey Pond Survey	R. Woodward
<b>Willow Flycatcher</b>				
05-17	11	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-23	1	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport, n. end	R.& M. Suomala
05-24	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
05-31	20	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Least Flycatcher</b>				
05-01	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	M. & R. Suomala, et al.
05-01	1	Deerfield	Pawtuckaway St. Pk., Reservation Rd.	M. Tarr, P. Auger, S. Callahan
05-01	1	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. Suomala
05-02	2	Lyman	Under-the-Mountain Rd.	S. Turner
05-04	1	Walpole	Watkins Hill Rd.	R. Ritz
05-21	16	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
<b>Eastern Phoebe</b>				
03-15	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
03-25	1	Merrimack	Thornton Rd.	R. Andrews
03-26	1	Plymouth		C. Johnson
03-26	2	Brookline	residence	M. Anne
03-26	1	Deerfield	Mountain Rd. Ext.	C. & J. Carr
03-27	4	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
03-27	1	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
03-27	1	Gilmanton	Whispering Pines Rd., Gilmanton Iron Works	K. Palfy
<b>Great Crested Flycatcher</b>				
05-01	1	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. & M. Suomala
05-01	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern, R. Woodward
05-02	2	Durham	Longmarsh Rd.	R. Aaronian
05-02	2	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-07	1	Hanover	Blueberry Hill	K. Kluge, T. Rosemeier
<b>Eastern Kingbird</b>				
05-01	2	Weare	Clough St Pk.	M. & R. Suomala, et al.
05-02	2	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-03	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. Turner
05-11	2	Lee	traffic circle	M. Tarr

## Shrikes through Waxwings

Northern Shrikes were widespread after a small winter invasion. Vireos were all on the early side, although none set any records. The highlights in this group were the two **White-eyed Vireos**, both in the Concord area. The two Blue Jay counts below serve as a reminder that this species does indeed migrate. With the exception of a bird in Madison, the northernmost Fish Crows continue to be in the Tilton area, while numbers from Auburn and Windham provide a rare glimpse of that species' abundance in southeastern New Hampshire.

The Horned Lark reports illustrate quite nicely the status of this grassland bird in the state: a locally common migrant in early spring and a very local breeder at airports afterwards. Purple Martins returned to their breeding colonies at the end of April and, with the exception of Cliff Swallow (which was a little late), the other swallows were similarly on time. In contrast, both Winter Wrens and Ruby-crowned Kinglets were late by a month and a week, respectively.

It is an unusual spring when Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's type thrushes outnumber the more common Swainson's Thrush, but such was the case this year. Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush are rarely seen away from their breeding grounds, so the five low-elevation records this May are even more noteworthy. The bird on Star Island was tentatively identified as a true Gray-cheeked based on its calls, thus reminding us that both species *do* occur in New Hampshire! The **Varied Thrush** that graced a Bradford feeder all winter was last seen in mid-March. Slightly afterward, one was photographed at a feeder in Meredith, although it's extremely unlikely that it was the same bird.



*Varied Thrush by Fred Tyrrell, 4-1-04, Meredith, NH*

It was quite a challenge to summarize the **Bohemian Waxwing** reports for this spring. After a winter invasion for the record books, these northwestern wanderers lingered through the end of April. "Lingered" is probably not the best choice of word, since the numbers of birds at even this late date were comparable to the size of flocks during the peak of the invasion. If a pattern is to be discerned from the chaos, it might be that there were several flocks of over 100 birds during March, while those in April (with one notable exception) were under 100. The peak count of 475 in Northfield was higher than the majority of counts over the preceding winter. Cedar Waxwings, in contrast, almost always occurred in flocks of fewer than 75 birds.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Northern Shrike</b>				
03-04	1	Hanover	Blueberry Hill residence	K. Kluge, T. Rosenmeier
03-07	1	Concord	Turkey Pond Survey	R. Woodward
03-13	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
03-20	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
03-24	1	Thornton	Rt. 93 median	J. Williams
03-28	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
04-02	1	Laconia	Prescott Farm Audubon Center	I. MacLeod, A. McIntyre
04-03	1	Lyme	Grant Brook	S. Sturup
04-07	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
<b>White-eyed Vireo</b>				
04-30	1	Concord	bike path near Silk Farm Rd.	M. Suomala
05-15	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	R. Woodward, P. Newbern, Capiatal Area Center FT
<b>Yellow-throated Vireo</b>				
05-06	7	Windham	Mitchell Pond and vicinity	M. Harvey
05-12	4	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-13	4	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	M. Suomala
05-14	1	Lempster	Goshen-Lempster School	P. Newbern
05-17	1	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
<b>Blue-headed Vireo</b>				
04-18	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
04-18	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
04-18	1	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R.& M. Suomala

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Blue-headed Vireo—continued</b>				
04-19	1	Barrington	Berry River Rd.	M. Tarr
04-19	1	Nashua	Deerhaven Dr.	R. Andrews
05-03	10	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
<b>Warbling Vireo</b>				
04-29	1	Tilton	downtown at Winnepesaukee R.	P. Hunt
05-01	1	Exeter	Phillips Exeter Academy	R. Aaronian
05-02	3	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	M. & R. Suomala, et al.
05-06	1	Kingston	Webster Natural Area	M. Suomala
05-06	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
<b>Philadelphia Vireo</b>				
05-29	1	Salisbury	Blackwater reservoir	P. Newbern
<b>Red-eyed Vireo</b>				
05-02	1	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-05	1	Hanover	Blueberry Hill	K. Kluge, T. Rosenmeier
05-08	1	Nottingham	Deerfield Road	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence, J. Regan
05-09	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-10	1	Lempster	Goshen-Lempster School	P. Newbern
05-23	15	Concord	Turkey Pond Survey	R. Woodward
05-30	19	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
<b>Gray Jay</b>				
03-14	1	Lincoln	Mt. Bond summit	J. & K. Stockwell
03-20	2	Beans Grant	Mt. Jackson summit	J. Stockwell
03-27	1	Wentworths Location	Lake Umbagog NWR office	R. Quinn, K. Dube, D. Govatski, ASNH FT
<b>Blue Jay</b>				
05-02	60	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-11	60	Keene	Greenlawn Cemetery	J. Smith, S. Lerman
<b>Fish Crow</b>				
03-04	16	Salem	Grand China restaurant	M. Harvey
03-20	1	Concord	RR tracks n. of Horseshoe Pond	R. Woodward
03-27	1	Kingston	Powwow Pond	I. MacLeod
04-16	2	Tilton	Rt. 93. exit 20 at Exxon	D. Stavros, L. Bardusk
04-24	13	Auburn	Massabesic Audubon Center	I. MacLeod
05-10	1	Madison	Kingswood Rd. near Silver Lake	M. Tarr
05-13	1	Belmont	Ephriams Cove, Lake Winnisquam	P. Hunt
<b>Horned Lark</b>				
04-01	30	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	R. Suomala
04-03	75	Gilford	Sawyer Meadows, Intervale Rd.	H. Anderson
05-18	2	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	R. Suomala
05-18	1	Portsmouth	Pease Golf Course	R. Suomala
05-19	1	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
05-21	2	Swanzy	Keene Airport	P. Hunt, K. Doyle
<b>Purple Martin</b>				
04-19	6	Conway	Rt. 302, Center Conway	B. Crowley
04-24	2	Moultonborough	Windward Harbor	C. Kahn

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Tree Swallow</b>				
03-26	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
03-26	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
03-28	2	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
03-28	20	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	I. MacLeod, R. Woodward, D. Fallon
04-10	250	Exeter	Powder House Pond	A.& B. Delorey
<b>Northern Rough-winged Swallow</b>				
04-09	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	S. Mirick
04-10	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
04-10	1	Nashua	Mine Falls Park	R. Andrews
<b>Bank Swallow</b>				
04-25	12	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	R.& M. Suomala
04-28	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	R. Aaronian
05-08	10	Concord	SPNHF floodplain	P. Newbern
05-23	6	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit	T. Vazzano, et al.
05-24	120	Salem	World End Pond	M. Harvey
<b>Cliff Swallow</b>				
05-09	1	Sutton	Cascade Marsh	P. Newbern
05-23	12	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport, n. end	R.& M. Suomala
05-23	10	Colebrook	The Balsams golf course	H. Anderson
<b>Barn Swallow</b>				
03-28	4	Salem	World End Pond	M. Harvey
04-18	2	Lyme	Grant Brook	S. Sturup
04-20	2	Gilmanton	Old Jones Farm, Loon Pond	J. Stockwell
<b>Boreal Chickadee</b>				
03-14	2	Lincoln	Bond Cliff & Mt. Bond	J.& K. Stockwell
04-17	2	Bethlehem	Mt. Hale & Zealand Mtn.	J. Stockwell
05-26	2	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
<b>Carolina Wren</b>				
03-20	2	Concord	RR tracks n. of Horseshoe Pond	R. Woodward
05-05	2	Durham	Edgewood Rd.	R. Rowland
05-10	2	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. Harris
05-20	1	Salem	Pelham Rd.	M. Harvey
05-30	1	Exeter	Meadow Lane	D.& T. Donsker
<b>House Wren</b>				
04-22	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
04-24	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
04-30	1	Concord	Birch St. gardens off Clinton St.	R. Suomala
05-01	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
05-01	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	M.& R. Suomala, et al.
<b>Winter Wren</b>				
03-28	1	Hopkinton	Chase Sanctuary	I. MacLeod, R. Woodward, D. Fallon
04-17	1	Barrington	Berry River Rd.	M. Tarr
04-17	1	Bethlehem	warden's path, Mt. Hale, 3500'	J. Stockwell
04-18	1	Hillsborough	Beard's Brook Rd.	I. MacLeod
04-29	1	Hanover	Storrs Pond	S. Sturup

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Marsh Wren</b>				
04-25	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	M. Harvey
05-23	1	Sutton	Cascade Marsh	P. Newbern
05-30	34	Exeter	Squamscott R.	M.& R. Harvey
<b>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</b>				
04-17	1	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R.& M. Suomala
04-18	4	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
04-18	23	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
04-18	16	Concord	Turkey Pond Survey	R. Woodward
04-22	15	Moultonborough	Harvard Point Rd.	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
04-29	12	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-15	6	Bethlehem	Zealand Trail near Zealand Hut	J. Stockwell
<b>Blue-gray Gnatcatcher</b>				
05-01	2	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern, R. Woodward
05-02	2	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	M.& R. Suomala, et al.
05-06	5	Windham	Mitchell Pond and vicinity	M. Harvey
05-09	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
05-14	3	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A.& B. Delorey
05-23	2	Concord	Turkey Pond Survey	R. Woodward
<b>Veery</b>				
05-02	2	Concord	Turkey Pond Survey	R. Woodward
05-03	1	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-06	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-12	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
05-23	24	Concord	Turkey Pond Survey	R. Woodward
<b>Bicknell's Thrush</b>				
05-19	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	M. Harvey
<b>Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush sp.</b>				
05-14	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean
05-27	1	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
05-27	1	Hanover	Bartlett Tower Woods, Dartmouth College	S. Sturup
05-31	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-31	1	Rye	Star Island	M. Harvey, W. Petersen, et al.
<b>Swainson's Thrush</b>				
05-17	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
05-23	2	Tamworth	James Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, et al.
05-23	1	Manchester	residence	J. Hills
05-27	30	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
<b>Hermit Thrush</b>				
04-09	1	Concord	Silk Farm WS	I. MacLeod
04-12	1	Deerfield	Saddleback Mountain Rd.	M. Tarr
04-12	2	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
04-17	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
04-18	2	Concord	Turkey Pond Survey	R. Woodward
04-18	6	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Wood Thrush</b>				
05-01	1	Deerfield	Mountain Rd. Extension	C. & J. Carr
05-02	1	Durham	Longmarsh Rd.	R. Aaronian
05-02	1	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
05-03	1	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-03	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
<b>Varied Thrush</b>				
03-15	1	Bradford	Richards Rd. residence	M. Mock
04-01	1	Meredith	Old Center Harbor Rd.	F. Tyrrell
<b>Gray Catbird</b>				
04-30	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. Harris
04-30	1	Concord	Silk Farm WS	R. Suomala, et al.
05-01	2	Peterborough	Union St.	M. Johnson
05-01	1	Gilmanton	Old Jones Farm, Loon Pond	J. Stockwell
05-01	3	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern, R. Woodward
<b>Brown Thrasher</b>				
04-23	1	S. Hampton	Blackadar Tree Farm	M. Tarr
04-29	2	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
04-29	1	Pembroke	entrance to Memorial Field	J. Normandin
04-30	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
04-30	1	Concord	Silk Farm WS	R. Suomala, et al.
<b>American Pipit</b>				
05-24	4	Keene	Krif Road Industrial Park	J. Smith
<b>Bohemian Waxwing</b>				
03-01	77	Acworth	residence	A. Briere
03-03	150	Northwood	Noel's Bird Feeders	S. Mirick
03-05	278	Plymouth	Avery St.	J. Williams
03-06	300	Concord	South Main St.	R. Woodward
03-07	36	Peterborough	Hunt Rd.	R. Frechette
03-07	80	Laconia	Lexington Dr., NH Ball Bearing factory	H. Anderson
03-10	150	Northfield	Scribner Rd.	P. Hunt
03-16	275	Dover	Wentworth-Douglass Hospital	S. Mirick
03-17	100	Concord	Rt. 89, Clinton St. exit	I. MacLeod
03-18	75	Hanover	Reservoir Rd.	S. Sturup
03-20	75	Hanover	Greensboro Rd.	K. Kluge, T. Rosenmeier
03-21	475	Northfield	Summer St., town hall	P. Hunt
03-21	35	Litchfield	Pantry Pride, Rt. 3A	M. Harvey
03-21	45	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
03-27	200	Lebanon	Main St.	S. Sturup
03-29	150	Concord	Fisherville Rd.	C. Cushing
04-02	29	Colebrook	Bridge St.	D. Killam
04-02	200	Keene	Greenlawn Cemetery	J. Smith, S. Lerman
04-06	200	Dover	downtown Dover	S. Mirick
04-08	264	Durham	UNH campus by Dairy Bar	R. Suomala
04-08	7	Hollis	Ridge Rd.	R. Andrews
04-11	5	Gorham	Fortune Cookie, Main St.	D. Killam
04-13	90	Dover	downtown Dover	S. Mirick
04-23	22	Hanover	Smith Rd.	S. Sturup
04-29	40	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Cedar Waxwing</b>				
03-09	60	Dover	Dover Point Road	S. Mirick
03-18	50	Concord	Loudon Rd.	I. MacLeod
03-31	175	Durham	Durham town hall	S. Mirick
05-30	50	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Road	T. Vazzano
05-31	67	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.

## Warblers

There were no specific “good warbler days” this spring, and on the whole species in this group arrived on time. In addition to early dates in the listings below, I have included some high counts from the popular spring birding areas in or near Clough and Pawtuckaway State Parks, as well as the Bellamy Wildlife Management Area in Dover. The total for “winged warblers” (Blue-winged, Golden-winged, and hybrids) from the latter location were almost certainly all Blue-winged Warblers, but the observer was appropriately cautious in his identification considering that most were not actually seen and could possibly be hybrids.

There were three exceptions to the “warblers on time” claim, all of which set record early arrival dates: Northern Parula, Pine Warbler (by one day), and Wilson’s Warbler. In contrast, Cape May Warblers arrived slightly late, perhaps reflecting this species’ low population relative to a decade ago. The only unusual warbler of the season was a **Worm-eating Warbler** at Pawtuckaway State Park, where the species occurs every few years.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Blue-winged Warbler</b>				
04-30	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-01	4	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	M.& R. Suomala, et al.
05-01	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
05-01	6	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern, R. Woodward
05-02	4	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	M.& R. Suomala, et al.
05-19	3	Exeter	off Rt. 107	R. Aaronian
05-30	1	Concord	Oak Hill Rd.	R. Quinn
<b>Golden-winged Warbler</b>				
05-11	1	Epping	RR trail n. of Rt. 125	G. Tillman
<b>Brewster’s Warbler – hybrid</b>				
05-06	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-14	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	I. MacLeod
<b>Blue-winged/Golden-winged Warbler or hybrid</b>				
05-27	10	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
<b>Tennessee Warbler</b>				
05-13	1	Walpole	County Rd.	R. Ritz
05-13	1	Newbury	off Rt. 103	P. Newbern
05-24	1	Hanover	Bartlett Tower Woods, Dartmouth College	S. Sturup



<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Nashville Warbler</b>				
04-26	1	Hanover	Observatory Rd	S. Sturup
04-29	2	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
04-30	3	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
05-01	4	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	M. & R. Suomala, et al.
05-01	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond Rd.	S. Turner
<b>Northern Parula</b>				
04-19	1	Concord	Silk Farm WS	P. Hunt
05-01	2	Lyman	Dodge Pond Rd.	S. Turner
05-02	1	Enfield	Cole Pond Trail	S. Sturup
05-05	1	Wilmot	Campground Rd.	P. Newbern
05-07	1	S. Hampton	Grassy Brook	M. Tarr
<b>Yellow Warbler</b>				
04-30	1	Concord	Birch St. gardens off Clinton St.	R. Suomala
04-30	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	R. Aaronian
05-01	1	Dover	Prospect St. residence	S. Galt
05-01	6	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern, R. Woodward
05-02	1	Lyman	Under-the-Mountain Rd.	S. Turner
05-02	12	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-11	43	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
<b>Chestnut-sided Warbler</b>				
04-30	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-01	6	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	M. & R. Suomala, et al.
05-01	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
05-01	10	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern, R. Woodward
05-01	1	Chichester	Lane Rd.	R. Suomala
05-01	1	Walpole	Scoville Rd., Bear Field	R. Ritz
<b>Magnolia Warbler</b>				
05-01	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond Rd.	S. Turner
05-06	3	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
05-07	1	Westmoreland	River Rd.	R. Ritz
05-09	1	Newbury	off Rt. 103A	P. Newbern
05-09	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
<b>Cape May Warbler</b>				
05-12	1	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-12	1	Hanover	Bartlett Tower Woods, Dartmouth College	S. Sturup
05-16	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-16	1	Enfield	Cole Pond Trail	S. Sturup
05-27	1	Merrimack	Anheuser-Busch Brewery fields	P. Hunt
05-27	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	M. Harvey
<b>Black-throated Blue Warbler</b>				
04-30	1	Concord	Silk Farm WS	I. MacLeod
05-02	1	Lyman	Under-the-Mountain Rd.	S. Turner
05-03	1	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-05	1	New London	Baker Rd.	P. Newbern

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Yellow-rumped Warbler</b>				
03-28	1	Salem	World End Pond	I. MacLeod, R. Woodward, D. Fallon
04-09	2	Auburn	Massabesic Audubon Center	I. MacLeod
04-17	1	Kensington	Moulton Ridge	G. Gavutis Jr.
04-17	1	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. & M. Suomala
04-18	2	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
04-18	3	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
04-19	1	Hanover	Observatory Rd.	S. Sturup
04-20	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
04-22	20	Moultonborough	Harvard Point Rd.	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
04-25	19	Concord	Turkey Pond Survey	R. Woodward
04-26	20	Hanover	Observatory Rd.	S. Sturup
05-03	41	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
<b>Black-throated Green Warbler</b>				
04-30	1	Hanover	Observatory Rd.	S. Sturup
04-30	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
04-30	1	Westmoreland	River Rd.	R. Ritz
04-30	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
04-30	1	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. & M. Suomala
<b>Blackburnian Warbler</b>				
05-02	1	Lyman	Under-the-Mountain Rd.	S. Turner
05-07	1	Hanover	Pine Pk.	K. Kluge, T. Rosenmeier
05-07	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	M. Suomala
05-09	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-10	1	Albany	Hammond Trail & Scott Rd.	M. Tarr
<b>Pine Warbler</b>				
03-27	1	Windham	residence	J. Romano
04-05	1	Meredith	Old Center Harbor	F. Tyrrell
04-09	1	Concord	Silk Farm WS	I. MacLeod
04-16	1	Gilmanton	Crystal Lake, Gilmanton Iron Works	W. Arms
04-16	6	Concord	Silk Farm WS	I. MacLeod
04-18	12	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
04-18	24	Concord	Turkey Pond Survey	R. Woodward
<b>Prairie Warbler</b>				
05-06	1	Kingston	Webster Natural Area	M. Suomala
05-12	1	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-13	1	Tilton	Noyes Rd.	P. Hunt
05-13	7	Deerfield	Reservation Rd. power line corridor	M. Suomala
05-19	4	Kingston	Webster Natural Area	M. Suomala
05-23	1	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport, n. end	R. & M. Suomala
05-27	10	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
<b>Palm Warbler</b>				
04-17	1	Auburn	Massabesic Audubon Center	I. MacLeod
04-18	1	Hillsborough	pond near Beards Brook	I. MacLeod
04-22	5	Hanover	Observatory Rd.	S. Sturup
04-22	10	Moultonborough	Harvard Point Rd.	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
04-25	5	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
05-07	1	Hanover	Bartlett Tower Woods, Dartmouth College	S. Sturup

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Bay-breasted Warbler</b>				
05-12	2	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
05-12	1	Hanover	Bartlett Tower Woods, Dartmouth College	S. Sturup
05-13	2	Lee	Randell Rd.	M. Tarr
05-13	1	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R.& M. Suomala
05-15	1	Lincoln	Thoreau Falls Trail, 2300'	J. Stockwell
<b>Blackpoll Warbler</b>				
05-14	2	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A.& B. Delorey
05-14	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
05-15	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-15	1	Lebanon	Mill Rd.	S. Sturup
05-16	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean
05-17	1	Salem	high school	M. Harvey
<b>Cerulean Warbler</b>				
05-08	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence, J. Regan
05-13	2	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	M. Suomala
<b>Black-and-white Warbler</b>				
04-22	1	Ossipee	residence	G. McElroy
04-28	4	Epping	near Twin Pines Driving Range, Rt. 125	M. Tarr
04-28	1	Sutton	Baker Rd.	P. Newbern
04-30	1	Hanover	Observatory Rd.	S. Sturup
04-30	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
04-30	1	Dover	Prospect St. residence	S. Galt
05-01	20	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	M.& R. Suomala, et al.
05-01	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
<b>American Redstart</b>				
05-06	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-08	2	Concord	SPNHF floodplain	P. Newbern
05-11	1	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R.& M. Suomala
05-11	2	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
<b>Worm-eating Warbler</b>				
05-27	1	Raymond	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	E. Masterson, F. Von Mertens
<b>Ovenbird</b>				
04-30	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
04-30	5	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-01	17	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	M.& R. Suomala, et al.
05-01	1	Deerfield	Mountain Rd. Extension	C.& J. Carr
05-02	1	Lyman	Under-the-Mountain Rd.	S. Turner
<b>Northern Waterthrush</b>				
04-28	1	Sutton	Cascade Marsh off Kearsarge Valley Rd.	P. Newbern
04-28	1	New London	Low Plain	P. Newbern
04-30	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-01	6	Lyman	Dodge Pond Rd.	S.& M. Turner
<b>Louisiana Waterthrush</b>				
04-20	1	Sandwich	Cold R., Durgin bridge	R. Ridgely
04-27	1	Hanover	Reservoir Rd	S. Sturup

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Louisiana Waterthrush—continued</b>				
04-30	2	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
04-30	1	Windham	Castle Hill Rd.	M. Harvey
05-14	3	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A.& B. Delorey
05-23	1	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R.& M. Suomala
05-29	1	Northfield	Twin Bridges Rd.	P. Hunt
<b>Mourning Warbler</b>				
05-18	2	Lyman	Under-the-Mountain Rd.	S.& M. Turner
05-25	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Road	T. Vazzano
05-25	1	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-27	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. Delorey
05-29	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
<b>Common Yellowthroat</b>				
05-01	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
05-01	3	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern, R. Woodward
05-01	1	Deerfield	Mountain Rd. Extension	C.& J. Carr
05-02	9	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-03	1	Walpole	Watkins Hill Rd.	R. Ritz
<b>Wilson's Warbler</b>				
04-22	1	Lebanon	Mill Rd.	D. Jorgensen
05-02	1	Enfield	Bog Road	S. Sturup
05-15	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-16	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean
05-23	3	Concord	Turkey Pond Survey	R. Woodward
05-23	1	New London	Esther Currier WMA at Low Plain	P. Newbern
05-27	1	Merrimack	Anheuser-Busch Brewery fields	P. Hunt
<b>Canada Warbler</b>				
05-13	2	Newbury	off Rt. 103A	P. Newbern
05-14	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A.& B. Delorey
05-15	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-16	2	Enfield	Cole Pond Trail	S. Sturup
05-19	2	Kingston	Webster Natural Area	M. Suomala

## Tanager through Evening Grosbeak

This spring's **Summer Tanager** came from the Bellamy WMA, which is also one of the better spots in the state to find Orchard Orioles. The **Spotted Towhee** found in Concord in December 2003 was last reported on March 28, and we hope it enjoyed the Granite State's hospitality during its stay! Among the rare sparrows was a **Clay-colored Sparrow** singing in Plymouth in late May. Although this species is fairly regular in fall, New Hampshire birders should keep an eye and ear out for it in spring and summer as well. The current Vermont Breeding Bird Atlas recorded these western and mid-western sparrows in several areas during the breeding season, so it is only a matter of time before they colonize New Hampshire.

In contrast to warblers, sparrows as a group tended to arrive late, perhaps a result of unfavorable April weather. The exception—and there's always an exception—was

White-crowned Sparrow, which was only two days short of tying the early date. Grasshopper Sparrows appeared at the old Manchester landfill, and surveys were implemented at the Keene airport. Stay tuned to the summer season for the latest breeding news on this, our rarest sparrow! The male Rose-breasted Grosbeak that spent the winter at a Derry feeder was last seen on April 2.

And finally, there were all those redpolls. Common Redpolls continued in good numbers through early April, with one making it all the way to May 20 in Hillsborough. It's not often that you could see Common Redpoll and hear a Yellow-billed Cuckoo on the same day at the same location, but that's exactly what Iain MacLeod accomplished on May 20. Along with the Commons, several **Hoary Redpolls** continued on past winter. Eight of them were seen in scattered locations throughout March (note that this is more than in the vast majority of winters), and one of these managed to stay until mid-April.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Summer Tanager</b>				
05-17	1	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
<b>Scarlet Tanager</b>				
05-02	1	Lyman	Under-the-Mountain Rd.	S. Turner
05-02	1	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-04	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
05-07	1	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R.& M. Suomala
05-08	1	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
05-12	16	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-14	10	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A.& B. Delorey
<b>Spotted Towhee</b>				
03-28	1	Concord	Garvins Falls Rd.	I. MacLeod, R. Woodward, D. Fallon
<b>Eastern Towhee</b>				
04-20	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
04-23	1	S. Hampton	Blackadar Tree Farm	M. Tarr
04-29	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-01	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern, R. Woodward
05-02	2	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	M.& R. Suomala, et al.
05-02	1	Walpole	Scoville Rd.	R. Ritz
<b>American Tree Sparrow</b>				
04-13	1	Newmarket	Bay Road	H. Chary
04-14	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
04-17	1	Hanover	Smith Rd.	S. Sturup
04-19	1	Laconia	Wildwood Rd.	H. Anderson
<b>Chipping Sparrow</b>				
03-30	1	Gilmanton	Old Jones Farm, Loon Pond	J. Stockwell
04-07	1	Concord	East Side Dr.	D.& B. Soule
04-09	1	Auburn	Massabesic Audubon Center	I. MacLeod
04-10	1	Nashua	Thornton Rd., NH Community Technical College	R. Andrews
<b>Clay-colored Sparrow</b>				
05-28	1	Plymouth	old fairgrounds on Fairgrounds Rd.	I. MacLeod

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Field Sparrow</b>				
04-05	1	Walpole	Crehore Rd.	R. Ritz
04-17	1	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
04-18	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
04-23	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
05-02	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
<b>Vesper Sparrow</b>				
04-18	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
04-21	3	Madison	West Branch Pine Barrens Preserve	G. McElroy
05-19	3	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
05-21	1	Swanzy	Keene Airport	P. Hunt, K. Doyle
05-27	1	Andover	field off Rt. 11	P. Newbern
<b>Savannah Sparrow</b>				
04-14	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	R. Suomala
04-24	7	Hanover	Rt. 10	S. Sturup
04-30	1	Concord	Birch St. gardens off Clinton St.	R. Suomala
05-02	3	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	M. & R. Suomala, et al.
05-08	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward, S. Fuller
05-27	14	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
<b>Grasshopper Sparrow</b>				
05-19	9	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
05-21	2	Swanzy	Keene Airport	P. Hunt, K. Doyle
05-27	1	Manchester	old Manchester landfill	P. Hunt
05-27	2	Amherst	Cemetery fields	P. Hunt
05-27	1	Merrimack	Anheuser-Busch Brewery fields	P. Hunt
<b>Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow</b>				
05-19	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
05-28	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward
05-29	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
<b>Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow</b>				
05-19	3	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
05-30	1	Newfields	Squamscott R.	M. Harvey
<b>Fox Sparrow</b>				
03-02	1	Peterborough	Union St.	M. Johnson
03-14	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
03-16	2	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
03-17	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch, M. Bott
03-30	22	E. Kingston	South Rd.	M. Bott
03-31	2	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
04-12	3	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. & M. Suomala
04-18	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
04-18	1	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. & M. Suomala
<b>Lincoln's Sparrow</b>				
05-10	1	Albany	Scott Rd.	M. Tarr
05-10	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. Delorey
05-19	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	M. Harvey

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
05-27	1	Whitefield	Airport Rd.	M. Suomala
05-31	1	Rye	Star Island	M. Harvey
<b>Swamp Sparrow</b>				
04-18	7	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
04-18	2	Hillsborough	pond near Beards Brook	I. MacLeod
04-23	2	S. Hampton	Blackadar Tree Farm	M. Tarr
04-29	2	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
05-01	7	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	M.& R. Suomala, et al.
05-01	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
<b>White-crowned Sparrow</b>				
04-20	1	Laconia	Wildwood Rd.	H. Anderson
04-25	1	Hanover	Smith Rd.	S. Sturup
04-30	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
05-08	1	Gilmanton	Currier Hill Rd.	J. Stockwell
05-08	4	Concord	Silk Farm WS	I. MacLeod
05-11	5	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
05-11	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean
<b>Snow Bunting</b>				
03-21	2	Rye	Odiorne Point	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
03-24	1	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	I. MacLeod
05-07	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward, S. Fuller
<b>Rose-breasted Grosbeak</b>				
04-02	1	Derry	residence	B. Horton
04-23	2	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Rd.	P.& J. Hendrickx
04-28	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. Harris
04-29	1	Northfield	Scribner Rd.	P. Hunt
04-30	1	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
04-30	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
<b>Indigo Bunting</b>				
04-18	1	Laconia	Wildwood Rd.	H. Anderson
05-01	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern, R. Woodward
05-02	1	Lyman	Under-the-Mountain Rd.	S. Turner
05-13	1	Deerfield	Reservation Rd. power line corridor	M. Suomala
05-17	1	Exeter	Raynes Farm, Rt. 85	M. Tarr, M. McElroy
<b>Bobolink</b>				
05-02	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
05-02	1	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-02	1	Walpole	County Rd.	R. Ritz
05-05	4	Brentwood	Rockingham County Farm	M. Tarr, P. Auger
05-17	47	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
<b>Red-winged Blackbird</b>				
03-02	30	Rochester	off Pickering Road	S. Mirick
03-04	10	Whitefield	town library	D. Killam
03-04	49	Plymouth	Pine Gate Rd.	J. Williams
03-06	560	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	R. Suomala
03-06	40	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
03-11	40	Walpole	Wentworth Rd.	R. Ritz
03-16	30	Windham	residence	J. Romano

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Eastern Meadowlark</b>				
03-27	1	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
03-28	7	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	M. Harvey
04-05	2	Brentwood	Rockingham County complex fields, North Rd.	M. Tarr, P. Auger
05-02	4	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-05	15	Brentwood	Rockingham County Farm	M. Tarr, P. Auger
05-19	4	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
<b>Rusty Blackbird</b>				
03-08	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
04-18	7	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
04-22	2	Newbury	off Rt. 103	P. Newbern
05-13	2	Second College Grant		C. Martin
05-31	2	Jefferson	Cherry Pond access	S. & M. Turner, D. Mallett
<b>Orchard Oriole</b>				
05-02	2	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	M. & R. Suomala, et al.
05-07	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward, S. Fuller
05-08	1	Amherst	country club	R. Andrews, R. Carr
05-11	10	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-18	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-23	1	Durham	Adams Pt.	E. Masterson
05-29	1	Seabrook	off Rt. 1	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
<b>Baltimore Oriole</b>				
04-30	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Rd.	P. & J. Hendrickx
05-01	1	Weare	Clough Pk.	M. & R. Suomala, et al.
05-01	2	Exeter	Phillips Exeter Academy	R. Aaronian
05-01	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
05-01	1	Walpole	Merriam Rd., yard	R. Ritz
05-11	32	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
<b>Pine Grosbeak</b>				
03-14	7	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
03-23	7	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
<b>Red Crossbill</b>				
03-20	4	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	M. Harvey
04-19	1	Lebanon	Storrs Hill residence	D. Jorgensen
<b>Common Redpoll</b>				
03-03	200	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
03-03	40	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
03-06	130	Hanover	Blueberry Hill residence	K. Kluge, T. Rosenmeier
03-17	102	Gilmanton	Currier Hill Rd.	J. Stockwell
03-25	40	New London	residence backyard	H. & P. Damon
03-26	100	Gilmanton	Crystal Lake	W. Arms
03-27	80	Nottingham	Flutler St.	S. Mooney
03-28	24	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
03-28	85	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. & M. Suomala
04-02	50	Laconia	Prescott Farm Audubon Center	I. MacLeod, A. McIntyre
04-03	89	Hanover	Blueberry Hill residence	K. Kluge
04-04	50	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd	S. Sturup



<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
04-10	10	Gilmanton	Crystal Lake, Gilmanton Iron Works	W. Arms
04-12	1	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. & M. Suomala
04-18	6	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
05-20	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
<b>Hoary Redpoll</b>				
03-03	2	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
03-06	1	Epping	Plumer Rd.	G. Tillman
03-14	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
03-19	1	Chester	Hillside Haven, Derry Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
03-27	1	Wentworths Location	Lake Umbagog NWR office	R. Quinn, K. Dube, D. Govatski, ASNH FT
03-28	1	Northfield	Park St.	P. Hunt
03-31	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
04-15	2	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
<b>Pine Siskin</b>				
03-11	6	Peterborough	Nichols Dr.	R. Frechette
04-03	23	Sandown	Cranberry Meadow Rd.	M. Tarr
04-08	8	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. & M. Suomala
04-09	5	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
04-28	7	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
04-28	8	Gilmanton	Currier Hill Rd.	J. Stockwell
<b>Evening Grosbeak</b>				
03-26	20	Gilmanton	Loon Pond Rd.	J. Stockwell
04-11	12	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
05-02	6	Lyman	Under-the-Mountain Rd.	S. Turner
05-08	8	Hanover	Blueberry Hill	K. Kluge, T. Rosenmeier



*Barred Owl, by Benegal Pereira, 5-8-04, Amherst, NH.*

## Reporters for Spring 2004

Rich Aaronian	Susan Galt	Robert Ritz
Arthur Allison	George Gavutis Jr.	Judy Romano
Ralph Andrews	Bill Harris	Brenda Sens
Marie Anne	Michael Harvey	James Smith
Widge Arms	Dan Hayward	Dot Soule
Jeannine Ayer	Phil Hendrickx	Dawn Stavros
Melissa Barney	Lindsay Herlihy	J. R. Stockwell
Martin Bean	Pam Hunt	Stefan Sturup
Chris Carr	Margot Johnson	Mark Suomala
Hank Chary	David Killam	Rebecca Suomala
Tom Chase	Jack Kirk	Bill Taffe
Paul Clauson	Karen Kluge	Matt Tarr
H. Cook Anderson	Iain MacLeod	Greg Tillman
Deborah Crowley	Chris Martin	Sandra Turner
Peggy Damon	Eric Masterson	Fred Tyrrell
David Deifik	Michelle Mensinger	Tony Vazzano
Alan Delorey	Steve Mirick	Robert Vernon
Barbara Delorey	Peter Newbern	John Williams
Laura Deming	Pat Niswander	Rob Woodward
Jane Doherty	Jeff Normandin	Mary Wright
David Donsker	Kathie Palfy	
Cathy Duffy	Martha Pratt	
Davis Finch	Greg Prazar	
Richard Frechette	Robert Quinn	

Some sightings were taken directly from the NH.Birds list serve.

## Reports for the following species were received in Spring 2004 but not listed.

Common Eider	Rock Pigeon	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Surf Scoter	Mourning Dove	Eastern Bluebird
Ring-necked Pheasant	Barred Owl	American Robin
Ruffed Grouse	Belted Kingfisher	Northern Mockingbird
Wild Turkey	Red-bellied Woodpecker	Song Sparrow
Northern Bobwhite	Downy Woodpecker	White-throated Sparrow
Double-crested Cormorant	Pileated Woodpecker	Dark-eyed Junco
Great Blue Heron	American Crow	Northern Cardinal
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Common Raven	Common Grackle
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Black-capped Chickadee	Brown-headed Cowbird
Cooper's Hawk	Tufted Titmouse	Purple Finch
Northern Goshawk	Red-breasted Nuthatch	House Finch
American Kestrel	White-breasted Nuthatch	American Goldfinch
Peregrine Falcon	Brown Creeper	

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

## Spotlight on Varied Thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*)

by Eric Masterson

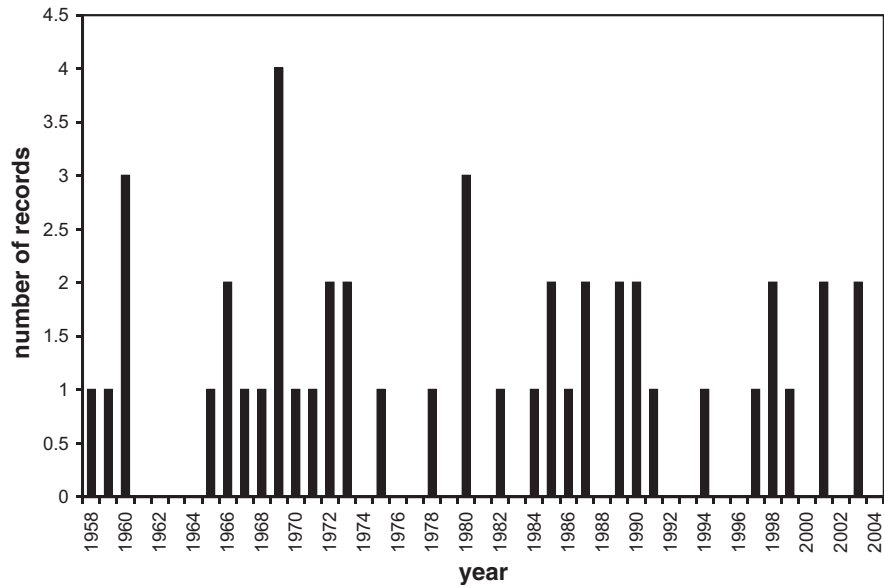
### Background

The Varied Thrush is a characteristic bird of the damp evergreen forests of the Western United States, “where spruce trees and alders and crowding ferns contend for a footing, and where a dank mist drenches the whole with a fructifying moisture” (George 2000). The thrush’s distinctive monotone whistled song is one of the characteristic sounds of the Varied Thrush breeding range.

### Breeding and Wintering Status

Varied Thrush breeds in moist coniferous forests from Alaska through western Canada, reaching as far south as California, where a breeding population was recently discovered (1991) in the Santa Cruz Mountains of San Mateo and Santa Cruz Counties. Most individuals winter along the Pacific Coast from Alaska to southern California, with occasional individuals seen throughout the western United States and, during irruption years, across the United States and Canada. The irruptive nature of the species is apparent based upon analysis of Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Project Feeder Watch (PFW), and Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data, which indicate a cyclical peak in abundance every two to five years.

**Figure 1:** Occurrence of Varied Thrush, *Ixoreus naevius*, in New Hampshire by year, 1958–2003.



### Occurrence in New Hampshire

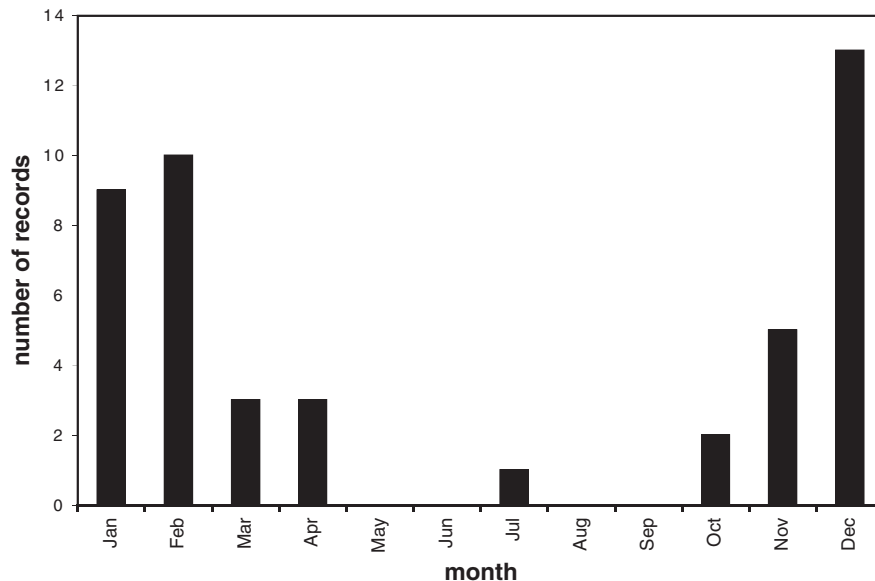
Analysis of records going back nearly 50 years to 1958 shows the Varied Thrush to be a rare visitor to New Hampshire (Figure 1) with an average occurrence over the period of one individual every two to three years. (Varied Thrush has been recorded in 18 of the 50 years under consideration.) There were multiple occurrences in 13 different years, with a total of four birds reported in 1969.

It is very much a winter visitor, with more than 80% of records occurring between November and February (Figure 2), many including long-staying individuals. There is a strong peak in the month of December. Most reports of Varied Thrush come from south of the Lakes Region and there is a slight concentration along the Merrimack River corridor (Figure 3).

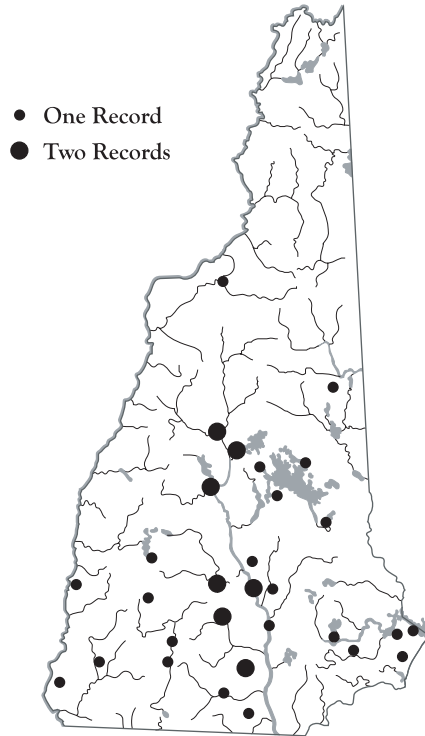
### Comments

The relatively regular occurrence of Varied Thrush in New Hampshire correlates with documented vagrancy of the species in the region. Extra-limital vagrancy (occurrence outside the regular species range) is mainly concentrated in two areas, the Great Lakes/Upper Midwest and the coast of eastern North America, from Maine to New York, including New Hampshire. The “distribution and timing of movements of Varied Thrush in these areas is consistent with movement of this species in an east-south-east direction from breeding areas in northern Alaska and northwest Alberta. In Minnesota approximately 80% of individuals arrive Nov.–Jan.” (George 2000). It is described as a rare vagrant in Vermont from December to March (Murin 2002) and a rare but increasing late fall and winter visitor to Massachusetts (Veit and Peterson 1993).

**Figure 2:** Occurrence of Varied Thrush, *Ixoreus naevius*, in New Hampshire by month, 1958–2003



**Figure 3:** Occurrence of Varied Thrush, *Ixoreus naevius*, in New Hampshire by location, 1958–2003



Abundance of Varied Thrush in the winter may be related to abundance in the previous breeding season, thus the high number of records in the winters of 1969–70 and 1971–72 (a total of eight and ten records respectively in New Hampshire and Massachusetts combined) might indicate high breeding success in preceding breeding seasons.

Eastward vagrancy in the species is thought to be related to the severity of snowfall in the Rocky Mountains (Veit and Peterson 1993), and the cyclical abundance of acorns and mast, which form an important part of the winter diet of the species, may be another factor. Many of the New Hampshire winter records involve birds coming to feeders, four of which noted that the species associated with Blue Jays, another species that responds to acorn abundance.

#### References and Data Sources

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- Murin, T., and B. Pfeiffer. 2002. *Birdwatching in Vermont*. University Press of New England, Hanover, NH.
- New Hampshire Audubon Quarterly*, 1961–1976. Audubon Society of New Hampshire, Concord, New Hampshire.
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- Records of New England Birds in *Massachusetts Audubon Society Bulletin*, 1945–1955. Massachusetts Audubon Society, Concord, Massachusetts.
- Records of New England Birds*, 1956–1960 and 1964–1968. Massachusetts Audubon Society, Concord, Massachusetts.
- Veit, R. R., and W. R. Petersen. 1993. *Birds of Massachusetts*. Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, Massachusetts.

The data for all figures represent the number of individuals reported. Duplicate records are not included. Records prior to 1991 have been not been reviewed by the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee.

## The Case for Indoor Cats

by Susan Story Galt

**T**hey're in my neighborhood; chances are, they're in yours—and maybe one or two even sleep in your house. Domestic cats roam freely in our outdoor world in New Hampshire. And that's not a good thing, either for the cats or for the millions of birds and small animals they kill each year. Many people who care about both wonder about keeping cats indoors and how to achieve it. There are good reasons to do it, and good resources available to help you with your cats and with problem cats in your yard.

A cat that lives indoors may live a very long life—fifteen or more years—but an outdoor cat has a life expectancy of only two to five years. An outdoor cat is in danger from cars (with millions killed each year, according to the Humane Society of the United States), other animals (domestic and wild), disease and infestation, and human cruelty.

But the perils go the other way, too: birds and other wildlife are endangered by free-roaming cats. Estimates of the number of birds killed by cats run as high as hundreds of millions, and possibly three times as many small mammals. One survey of wildlife rehabilitators nationally found that between 14% and 30% of their patients were victims of outdoor cats. A University of Wisconsin study found that the 1.4 to 2 million free-roaming cats in Wisconsin alone kill, at a minimum, 7.8 million birds and 31.4 million small mammals each year. Since there are an estimated 40 million unsupervised outdoor cats in the United States, it's obvious that the national total is staggering.

Among the most often heard arguments to let cats roam free outdoors is that a cat's instinct to hunt outside is diminished because it is well-fed by its owners. However, different parts of the brain control the instinct to hunt and the urge to eat, so it makes no difference if the cat has access to all the kibble it desires; it will go outside and continue to hunt and kill wildlife, even without eating it.

It is also not true that cats are just one more natural predator to wildlife, since wildlife in North America did not evolve along with the domestic cat, which descended from the wild cat of Africa and Asia, but only arrived on these shores in the 1800s with European immigrants. Native species that had been here much longer than that did not develop a natural instinct to avoid the domestic cat. And now cats have become one more difficulty faced by native wildlife as their habitat is changed or destroyed. At the same time, native predators whose habitat also is being degraded, such as hawks, owls, fox, and weasels, need their prey for survival. But they are competing with domestic animals that do not need the food, and usually are hunting only by instinct and for the pleasure of bringing you a gift of fresh-killed cardinal or mouse.

A cat with a bell on its collar is still capable of killing, since a "belled" cat can learn how to stalk silently. At the same time, wildlife does not usually associate the ringing of a bell with imminent danger.

A cat that is kept indoors can be happy, even if it once was an outdoor cat. (Of course, raising a kitten to stay indoors is the best way.) There are a number of tips for methods of changing a cat from one used to free-roaming into a content indoor cat, and you can consult many Web sites for these ideas and for more information about keeping a happy indoor cat, as well as other information on programs to protect cats, birds, and other wildlife by keeping cats indoors.

By far the most comprehensive Web site, with the program most often referred to by all other Web sites, is American Bird Conservancy's (ABC) "Cats Indoors! The Campaign for Safer Birds and Cats" at [www.abcbirds.org/cats](http://www.abcbirds.org/cats). According to the Web site, this program "...encourages cat owners to keep their cats indoors and advocates laws, regulations and policies to protect cat and birds..." A general program brochure, posters, public service announcements (PSAs), and nine fact sheets may be downloaded for free from the Web site. Among the fact sheet titles are "The Great Outdoors is No Place For Cats," "How to Make Your Outdoor Cat a Happy Indoor Cat," and "What to Do About Your Neighbor's Cat in Your Yard."

Another informative site is that of The National Wildlife Federation as part of their Backyard Wildlife Habitat program, at [www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat/catin-doors.cfm](http://www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat/catin-doors.cfm). The Humane Society of the United States has specific information for "Keeping Your Cat Happy Indoors" at [www.hsus.org/ace/13961](http://www.hsus.org/ace/13961). A revised version of the HSUS piece with some additional information can be found at the Dumb Friends League of the Humane Society of Denver site, <http://www.ddfl.org/behavior/catin-side.htm>.

## Spring Birding on the Lower Connecticut and Ashuelot Rivers

by Wendy Ward

### Spring Waterfowl

Late winter and early spring means Duck Patrol time on the Connecticut River. My favorite route is to travel north from Hinsdale to Charlestown. Here are the best stops on this ornithological odyssey.

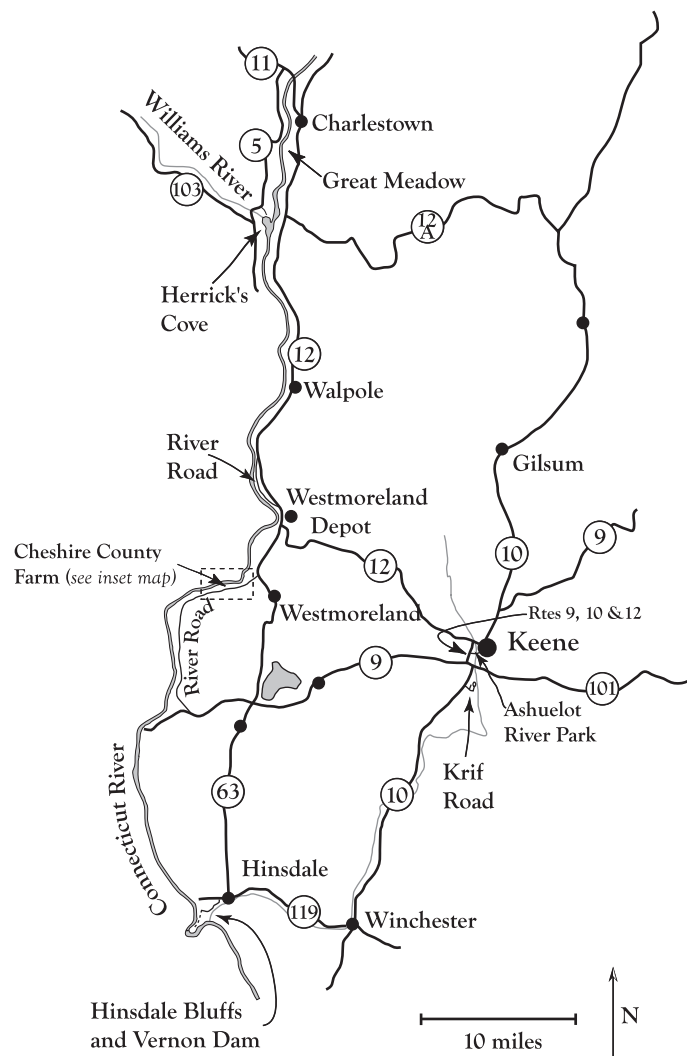
#### Hinsdale Bluffs and Vernon Dam

Directions: From Hinsdale take Route 119 west; turn left on River Road and drive to the end of the road. Park on the right at the gate, but don't block the gate or private drives to the left. Precaution: the local police have a shooting range here. A five-minute walk to the overlook brings you near the confluence of the Ashuelot and Connecticut Rivers, so bring your spotting scope. Bald Eagles have nested in this area and frequent the bluffs. Through most of the winter Eastern Bluebirds and American Robins can be seen on the Staghorn Sumac at the edge of the field and on the riverbank. To reach the Vernon Dam take the path to the right of the shooting range and bear left at the crossroads. This will bring you out above the dam to give you a great

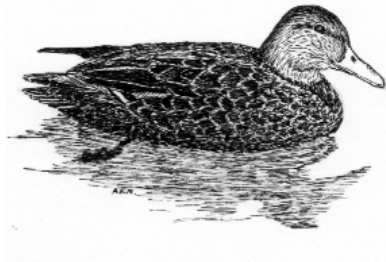
view of open water. Early ducks include Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, and mergansers. As spring progresses you may see Gadwall, Northern Pintails, and Redheads.

**River Road, Westmoreland**

Directions: From the bluffs, return to Hinsdale and take Route 63 north for about 16.5 miles to where it joins Route 12 in Westmoreland Depot. Turn left on Route 12 and head north for about 1/4 mile, then turn left onto River Road. In about a half mile, the terrain opens into corn and hayfields just before a horse farm. Temporary ponds in the field are usually full of ducks when there is still snow on the ground. If the road is not too busy, you can set up a scope on the edge of the road. Another mile up the road there are more corn fields and ponds on the east side of the road. These ponds usually produce Canada Geese, Mallards, and American Black Ducks. Wood Ducks, Green-







*American Black Duck*  
by Andrea Robbins

winged Teal, Northern Pintails, American Widgeons, and occasionally Eurasian Widgeon can also be found here. Rusty Blackbirds and Red-bellied Woodpeckers have been seen on River Road during Duck Patrol!

Precautions: Please view birds from the road and do not drive into farm areas—tires and feet can spread manure and manure-borne diseases. Diseases such as Johne's disease, bovine viral diarrhea, and foot-and-mouth disease can be present in manure. These diseases

are not a risk to people but can be transmitted from cow to cow and from farm to farm through manure. As birdwatchers, we need to be sensitive to the risk of spreading these diseases and act responsibly when birding in farm areas.

### **Westminster Bridge and Route 12**

Continue north along River Road until it rejoins Route 12 and turn left (north). In about one mile, just over the Walpole town line, you can park at the pullover on the west side of the road. There is a lot of room to set up your scope to check out the river near the bridge.

A bit farther north along Route 12 we find two more spots (described below) that afford good viewing of ducks and possible Great Egrets. The parking is tight and the property is private so we try to view from the road edge while being very mindful of the traffic!

- Malnati Farm in Walpole. Park on the edge of Route 12 and stay close to the guard rails. The pools in the wet pastures and meadows provide prime duck watching.
- Great Meadows in Charlestown. Just south of the center of Charlestown look for an old farmhouse on the west side of the road just after you have passed the wooded setbacks of the river. The view opens onto a large pastured meadow (the Great Meadows). Park on the west side of the road, being respectful of private property.

### **Herrick's Cove in Rockingham, Vermont**

Yes, we cross the river! Continue north on Route 12 and just after the town of Charlestown take Route 11 (left) across the river, and turn left again onto Route 5 (south). Follow Route 5 toward the junction with Route 103. After descending the hill, and just before crossing the Williams River, turn left onto Herrick's Cove Road, follow it to its end, staying right at the fork with the boat ramp. Herrick's Cove, located where the Williams River enters the Connecticut River has been designated an Important Bird Area for the state of Vermont. More than 221 bird species have been documented here. This confluence of rivers is a great place to end the day. It is a good spot not only for ducks but also for marsh birds like rails, bitterns, and herons, as well as hawks and warblers in migration. An Osprey platform was erected here a few years ago.

## April and May Birding

Later in the spring season a few additional areas provide great birding in the basin.

### Cheshire County Farm in Westmoreland

Directions: Start from Hinsdale and go north on Route 63 (as described previously). River Road goes off to the left about 1.5 miles before the junction with Route 12 (yes, there is more than one River Road!). Follow River Road south past the county complex. About 100

yards past the dairy barn you'll find a parking lot on the left. This is not plowed so it is not a winter parking site. The county complex is 500 acres that includes agricultural crops and hayfields, pastures, riverine, and upland woodlands and wetlands. The Silver Maple floodplain and rich mesic forest communities provide prime

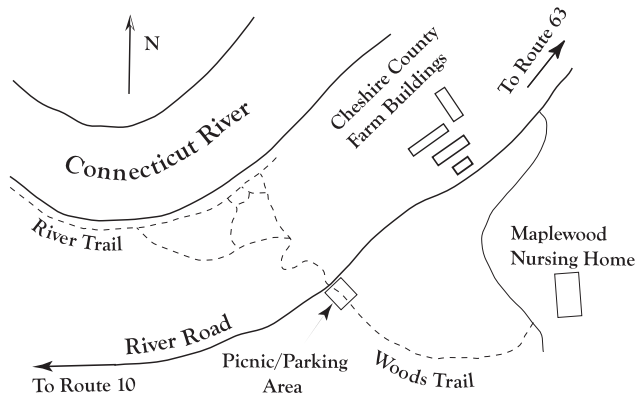
habitat for migrating and nesting birds and a great place for spring wildflowers. Look for activity on the Osprey platform at the edge of the river in the large cornfield across the road. It has attracted curiosity but not yet a nester. To get to the River Trail, cross the road and walk down the hill through the fields. There are a few cattle gates to go through before you get to this forested riverside trail. The dairy cows are out for a few hours each day so be mindful that you may not be alone! They can be very curious and if they venture too close, yell "Shoo!" as you clap and wave your hands. Remember the sanitation procedures and do not visit other farms without first washing your boots.

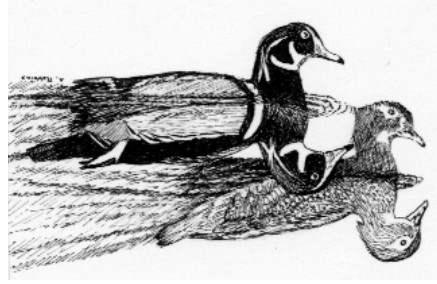
The River Trail is an easy walk, and a good place for both birds and wildflowers in May. I've had 63 bird species at this site and almost 50 wildflowers. It offers a nice combination of riverside birds (such as Bald Eagles, Osprey, Warbling Vireos, Belted Kingfishers, Eastern Phoebes, Great Crested Flycatchers), woodland birds (such as Veery, Wood Thrushes, Winter Wrens, various warblers, Pileated Woodpeckers, and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers) and field and edge birds (such as the Baltimore Oriole, Eastern Towhee, Wild Turkey, and a resident pair of Red-tailed Hawks). Watch out for the occasional patch of poison ivy!

### Krif Road, Keene:

The Ashuelot River basin is great for migrating birds. A lot of development has occurred in the basin but there are a few pockets that make great birding by car or short walk at any time of year.

### Cheshire County Farm





*Wood Duck*  
by Andrea Robbins

Directions: From Route 101 in Keene, take Route 10 south for about 1/4 mile. Krif Road is on the left at the Owl Stadium sign. Despite its use as an industrial park and athletic playing fields, this area has a lot of bird activity during migration. Bird from your car or on foot. The open areas are hay and corn fields where temporary ponds form in early spring and many of the species described under the River Road tour can also be viewed here. Look for early arriving Wilson's Snipe and Eastern Meadowlarks in the corn stubble and, if you are birding in March, you may see a group of Horned Larks or Snow Buntings if they are inclined to stay south this late!

You can park your car at the end of Krif Road. The gate to the playing fields may or may not be open but the public is welcome to walk the athletic grounds anytime. There is a wonderful loop trail that is part of Keene State College's cross country running route that brings you through a small field under the power lines and then next to the Ashuelot River in a beautiful Silver Maple floodplain forest. You will emerge at the back of the baseball field and can turn left to get back to the road. The loop is about a one-mile flat walk. In early spring, however, it may be flooded as it is in the floodplain of the river.

Northern Harriers, Peregrine Falcons, and Merlins have been spotted here during both spring and fall migrations. The harriers will dance low over the fields to give a great show if you are lucky enough to arrive at the right time.

#### **Ashuelot River Park, Keene**

Directions: From Route 101 in Keene, drive north on the combined Routes 9/10/12 to West Street, the first exit on the right. Turn right and drive about a half mile. Just after the Ashuelot River, turn left onto Ashuelot Street. Use the Colony Mill overflow parking lot on the left. The trail is to the right of the parking lot facing the river. Follow the path north along the river edge, it continues for about two miles and comes out at a trailer park and joins a bike path. There are many side paths that lead down to the river providing some areas of backwater to explore. Spring migrants congregate along the Ashuelot River corridor; warblers, thrushes, ducks, vireos and the usual riverside fare can be seen along this trail. Immature Black-crowned Night-Herons were also spotted here so keep your binoculars at the ready.

*Wendy Ward is a lifelong resident of Keene and the mother of two teenage daughters. She works for the United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service in Walpole helping landowners conserve the natural resources on their land. In her spare time she likes to watch birds, butterflies, dragonflies and other wildlife, but her passion is native plants.*

## Photo Gallery

### Manchester's Peregrine Cam

by Kathie Palfy

**B**ird watchers enjoyed logging onto the Peregrine Cam at [www.nhaidubon.org/research/pcam.htm](http://www.nhaidubon.org/research/pcam.htm) this spring! Live streaming video, provided through the generosity of Spectra Access, Inc., brought the nesting activities of Manchester's Peregrine Falcons to the New Hampshire Audubon web site and your computer screen. People worldwide were able to witness day-to-day developments at the nest box, located atop the Brady Sullivan Tower (formerly known as the New Hampshire Tower).



*...and then there were three (adult male inspects 3 eggs)  
3/23/04*



*We're hungry!  
(2 chicks and 3 unhatched eggs)  
5/12/04*

Viewers watched the daily life of nesting peregrines unfold before their eyes. By March 27, 2004, the female falcon had laid a total of five eggs. Two chicks hatched from the clutch by April 30, while three eggs failed to hatch. They grew plump on a diet of mostly pigeons and starlings brought to them by their parents. Chris Martin, senior biologist at NH Audubon, banded both chicks on May 20. On June 10, the first chick, a male, successfully fledged from the nest. The second chick, a female, fledged on June 12.

During the three months when the falcons were nesting, visits to the NH Audubon web site ([www.nhaudubon.org](http://www.nhaudubon.org)) tripled! If you happened to miss this event, we've selected a few photos from the Peregrine Cam to show you the growth of two of New Hampshire's newest Peregrine Falcons!

*Thanks to Chris Martin, and John Munier for their assistance with this piece.*



*Still growing... (adult female guards 25 day old chicks) 5/24/04*



*Almost ready to go! (2 chicks developing flight feathers) 5/31/04*

## Winged Migration: A 1953 Version from Tuckerman Ravine

by John C. Calhoun, Jr.

**H**aving recently viewed the very special movie of the powerful forces that propel shore and water birds up and down the length of the globe (“Winged Migration,” released by Sony Pictures in 2003), I was reminded of an episode involving bird migration that was much closer to us here in New England.

It was Patriots Day in 1953 (April 19), and I had driven through a howling spring snowstorm to join some friends at the Appalachian Mountain Club’s Pinkham Notch “hut” known as “Porky Gulch,” prior to a day of testing ourselves at Tuckerman Ravine on the holiday. That night there had been a 10”-12” snowstorm with very strong winds that affected much of New England, particularly the White Mountains area.

The storm was over and passed on Patriots Day, and I joined friend Peter Strong for an early climb up to “Howard Johnsons,” the hut just below the Little Headwall, then we climbed up onto the floor of the ravine. The sun was starting to break through the clouds. It was calm.

As we skied across the floor of the ravine, we began to notice small circles of ice in the new wind-crusting snow. Pausing to poke a ski pole at the ice, we were astonished to find a small bird fly out of the snow. There were circles of ice all over the floor of the ravine; we must have poked dozens of holes, and were joined by a few other skiers in releasing a wide variety of birds. They varied in species from the Winter Wren, various finches, robins, on up to flickers, and a woodcock. I cannot recall all species 50 years later. Sad to say, some of the birds failed to fly out on release. We were too late for them.



*Tuckerman Ravine by Mike Arsenault*

We imagined that the gale force winds howling through the notch had forced the migrating birds down into the hollow of the ravine, and the driving snow had sealed them in, where they waited their fate. Either a warm sun would melt the ice seal or they would die on the mountain.

After doing what we could to maintain the bird migration, Peter led me up and over the headwall, kicking steps in the wind packed snow. Then, as planned, he led the descent, disappearing immediately over the lip, but leaving an awe-inspiring track down to the steeps below.

We both made it down safely and were surprised that nobody else was in the ravine. Returning to Howard Johnsons, we found a sign had been put up by the US Forest Service: Headwall Closed-Avalanche Danger! It's too bad nobody had warned the migrating birds of the danger they faced. Heavens knows how many other birds had been sealed into Huntington Ravine or other locations during that wild storm.

I often wondered if other skiers had witnessed similarly stressed birds up there on other spring migrations. It would be hard to film such small birds, but their stories must be just as compelling as those of the big birds, if this was any example.

*For 50 years, John Calhoun was a consulting forester, working for St. Regis Paper Company at the head of the Connecticut River, then managing woodlands for, among others, the Saint Paul's School in Concord, New Hampshire, and Shelburne Farms in Vermont. Now retired, he resides in Center Lovell, Maine. He spent many years in Gilsun, New Hampshire, and is a lifetime member of New Hampshire Audubon, where he also served ten years as a board member. An avid skier, he was at Tuckerman Ravine that day in 1953 to ski the Headwall.*

## Photo Quiz Answer

*David Donsker*

**T**his issue's Photo Quiz features a long-tailed, heavy-billed bird perched openly at the edge of a cedar. In addition to the long tail, other notable features include an undertail that is patterned with white and black, a faint darkish mask that extends behind the eye and a bicolored bill of moderate length that is paler at its base. Upon more careful examination we notice that the pale underparts are faintly barred, there is an inconspicuous white eye-ring, and the bill is hooked at the tip.

The hooked bill, of course, is one good key to the answer. Although characteristic of birds of prey, only two families of North American perching birds have hook-tipped bills: vireos and shrikes. Our eastern vireos are never this boldly marked or long-tailed, so the conclusion must be that this is a shrike, and indeed it is. Which of our two shrike species this bird represents will be discussed later, after we've dealt with other similar species.



In the field, it is often hard to distinguish the hooked bill that is so evident in this photograph. Because shrikes are hunters of small vertebrates and large insects, they typically perch openly on treetops, wires, or fences, which allows them unobstructed views of their hunting areas. Other species, of course, also perch conspicuously and it is easy to dismiss shrikes as these species or vice versa. Chief among these are kestrels, mockingbirds, and solitaires.

When seen well, it would be hard to confuse American Kestrel with a shrike. But at a distance this small raptor with bold facial markings could be reminiscent of a shrike. On the other hand, judging the size of a distant, relatively large-headed shrike could also be misleading and kestrel can come to mind. Of course, when seen closely the small hooked bill of the kestrel is shaped quite differently from the longer, hooked bill of our shrikes. Further, shrikes have dark face masks, while kestrels have a different bold face pattern consisting of a dark "moustache" and "sideburn."

Shrikes can much more likely be confused with Northern Mockingbird. Like shrikes, the mockingbird is a long-tailed species that is gray above and white below. Both have prominent white outer tail feathers and flash white in the wings when they fly. The mockingbird lacks a bold mask, but does have a fairly prominent black eye-line. But the mockingbird is slimmer and longer legged and its white wing patch is much larger and bolder. When seen well, its bill is smaller and slimmer and, of course, lacks the hooked tip. The flight patterns of these species are also quite different. Peterson describes the swift, direct flight of the shrike as "flickering." while that of the mockingbird is compared to the "strokes of oars of an old rowboat."

Townsend's Solitaire is a rare visitor to New England that can also be confused with a shrike. Like shrikes, it typically perches openly, often on the apical, or top-most, twig of an evergreen. Like shrikes and mockingbirds, it is generally gray, with a long tail with white outer tail feathers. But the solitaire is small-headed and small-billed, lacks contrast between the upperparts and the underparts and has a buffy wing stripe rather than a white wing patch.

Although generally not a problem in the field because their habits are so different, one other species might be confused with the bird in our photograph. Yellow-billed Cuckoo is a long-tailed bird that has a dark eye patch and a rather stout, bicolored bill that is down-curved, if not actually hooked, at the tip. But the cuckoo has a much bolder undertail pattern that consists of large white spots against a black tail. In Yellow-billed Cuckoo, the entire lower mandible and much of the upper bill is yellow; in this shrike only the base of the bill, especially the lower mandible, is pale. Cuckoos are also long and slim in contrast to the stockier bodies of the shrikes and they have unmarked primary feathers.

So, to which species does our featured shrike belong? Northern Shrike, an uncommon winter visitor to our state, or Loggerhead Shrike, which formerly bred in New Hampshire, but which is now only a rare summer vagrant?

The two shrike species are very similar in appearance but can be fairly easily separated when viewed well. Somewhat complicating matters is that our photographed bird is a first year individual, which can be told by its fairly faint mask and the rather bold barring on its underparts. While fine barring on the breast definitively separates adult Northern Shrike from the plain-breasted Loggerhead, young individuals of both



species are barred underneath. In adult Loggerheads the black mask extends over the base of the bill, while in Northern Shrikes this spot is gray, like the crown; however, this distinction is not true in young birds, which have frontal areas the same color as the crown in both species. Nevertheless, there are consistent differences between these species at all ages. Even in young birds, the face mask of Loggerhead Shrike is uniformly broad and frequently blacker, while in Northern Shrike the mask is rather narrow, occasionally not much more than an eyeline, which may broaden behind the eye. In young birds, the mask of Northern Shrike is usually dusky, rather than blackish. When seen well, the bill of Loggerhead Shrike is small, short, and conical and, generally, uniformly black with an indistinctly hooked tip. The bill of Northern Shrike is longer and heavier with a pale base and a very strongly hooked tip. (However, later in the winter, the bill of Northern Shrike darkens and may then appear entirely black; in late fall and winter and in juvenile birds, the bill of Loggerhead Shrike may occasionally appear lighter at the base, so it is not an absolutely reliable field mark). True to its name, Loggerhead Shrike has a proportionally larger head than its near relative.

With its thin dusky mask, barred breast, and strongly hooked, bicolored bill, our featured bird is a first-winter Northern Shrike.

Northern Shrike breeds in open woods and scrub at the edge of the tundra in Canada, Alaska, and across Siberia into Northern Europe. In the winter, most North American individuals move south into southern Canada and the northern United States. On their wintering grounds they prefer open habitat and can be quite conspicuous along roadsides or fields. It is an uncommon, but generally annual, winter visitor to New Hampshire. In some years, when the vole population, one of its primary food sources, "crashes" up north it can invade New England in larger numbers than usual, much like Snowy Owl. Shrikes typically cache their prey by impaling them on thorns and sharp twigs or wedging them in the fork of a small branch. This behavior helps individuals survive periods of heavy snowfall and other unfavorable weather conditions that may make their prey less available.

This individual was photographed by Denny Abbott in West Rutland, Vermont, on December 29, 2003.

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## The Backyard Birder



*This photo of a Bohemian Waxwing tossing a berry in the air was first posted to the NH.Birds list serve by Steve Mirick. It elicited the following explanation from Steve Hale, which we are pleased to bring to our readers. Ed.*

*Bohemian Waxwing by Stephen R. Mirick, 3-04-04, Northwood, NH*

## Cranial Inertial Feeding by Bohemian Waxwings

*by Stephen R. Hale*

Steve Mirick's photo shows very nicely the Bohemian Waxwing in the act of cranial inertial feeding. Of course, birds lack teeth for chewing and their forelimbs (i.e., limbs attached to the shoulder) are nearly solely devoted to functions relating to flight. So how do they stuff food into their mouths? This is even more of an issue for birds trying to handle food sizes approaching their gape width. When trying to feed on very large food items, the tongue can get in the way and must be depressed to maximize gape size; therefore the tongue may be of little use during prey transport from the mouth into the esophagus.

Steve Mirick's photo shows the bird has slightly "tossed" the fruit into the air. The next step in this sequence would be for the bird to rapidly drive its head forward. The inertia from the head overtaking the fruit causes the fruit to pass through the gape. In instances where the item becomes lodged in the gape, the caudal (rear) portion of the hyoid (bony tongue) can be elevated (by muscles) and expel the item for another try. Once past the gape, the anterior (forward) portion of the tongue can assist in compressing the fruit and driving it into the esophagus. Unlike mammals, most birds are able to bend their upper jaw upward (termed cranial kinesis), which helps to increase their gape size.

For birds trying to handle relatively large prey, such as fish-eating cormorants and herons, a similar situation arises. Here, however, instead of tossing the prey into the air, the bill is tilted skyward, so that gravity can assist in pulling the item through the gape. As the prey slides downward, one can observe the bird still quickly and repeatedly working the prey item through its gape by accelerating its head over the prey item in a gulping motion.

### 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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