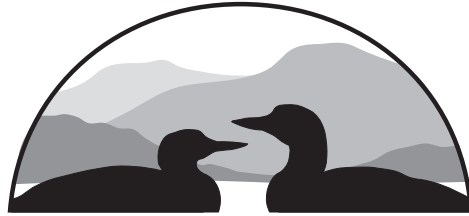


New Hampshire Bird Records



Winter 2004-05

Vol. 23, No. 4



New Hampshire Bird Records **Volume 23, Number 4** **Winter 2004-05**

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*Cover Photo: Yellow-throated Warbler by Tom Murray, Dover, NH.
See the article on page 51.*

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

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Renewal Time!

It's time to renew your subscription to *New Hampshire Bird Records*. The publication continues to grow and improve and we hope you will continue your support. A renewal form is enclosed with this issue. Thank you to everyone who has already renewed and welcome to new subscribers.

From the Editor

Herb Cilley

We are saddened to learn that Herb Cilley, a long-time supporter of *New Hampshire Bird Records*, died in May of this year. Herb was well known for his volunteer work with the loons of Bow Lake. He spent more than 40 years studying and working to protect them.

He was also a friend of *New Hampshire Bird Records* and sponsored the Summer 1995 issue. He will be missed by all who care about New Hampshire's bird life.

Index Available

Volunteer Terry Bronson has created an index of all *New Hampshire Bird Records* issues through the Winter 2004-05 issue (Vol. 23, no. 4). This index is tremendously useful for when you want to find an article, but can't remember in which issue it was published; you want to look at all the places that have been covered in "Where to Bird" features; or you simply want to browse what has been in each issue (the content has certainly changed dramatically over the years). The index is a Microsoft® Excel file, but we are offering it in a variety of additional formats. We also plan to make the file available on the Web site. Please see the order form enclosed with this issue for more information. A special thank you goes to Terry for creating this valuable reference.

NEW HAMPSHIRE BIRD RECORDS INDEX

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Feature Article	Martin	2002 Purple Martin Survey	Hunt, Pam	2002	Summer	21:02	36
Species Spotlight	Rail	King Rail	Masterson, Eric	2002	Summer	21:02	44
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New Photo Quiz



Can You Identify These Birds?

Answer on page 52

Photo by Stephen R. Mirick

Winter Season

December 1, 2004 through February 28, 2005

by David Deifik, Winter Editor

Those of us who braved the rigors of winter birding were rewarded by an interesting variety of birds to observe. This is the season when we learn that birding in New England reflects life in New England—it's not for wimps! The winter season started off a bit milder than average with very little snowfall overall for the month of December. We also managed to avoid the intense cold spell of last January during this January. However, unlike the bone dry January of 2004, this winter we had substantially greater amounts of snow in the south with slightly below average snow up north. The most snowfall occurred in February with almost double the average amount for the month. Fortunately, average temperatures were slightly above normal. Thanks go to Tony Vazano of North Winds Weather for providing us with weather data for the season.



David Deifik

An **American White Pelican**, reported on the Manchester Christmas Bird Count (CBC) and then seen on the Nashua River in Hollis, ranks as the outstanding bird of the season. This may relate to a sighting of five birds seen (three photographed) flying by Provincetown, Massachusetts. Rare but almost regular, a single **Varied Thrush** was seen at a Contoocook feeder for almost two weeks in January. **Yellow-throated Warbler** is unusual in any season, but in winter it is truly rare, with only one previous winter report. This cooperative bird spent virtually the entire season visiting a feeder in Dover. It was kept happy and healthy by a largess of mealworms provided to it by the feeder's owner (see page 51). Three other warbler species rarely seen in the winter season were recorded: Ovenbird, Palm Warbler, and Yellow-breasted Chat. The rarest sparrow report was of a Lincoln's Sparrow seen in late December in Kingston. The summaries and listings on the following pages do not include Christmas Bird Count records. A summary of the CBC and table of sightings can be found on page 22.


Waterfowl

Inland waterfowl were reported in decreased numbers, as they were last year, compared to the large flocks found in the winters of 2000 and 2001. There was only one seasonal report of Wood Duck. Large numbers of Common and Hooded Mergansers reported in recent years from the Lakes Region were for the most part absent, the best being reports of 90 Common Mergansers on December 13. There was one large flock of 70 Hooded Mergansers reported from Hinsdale in early January. Inland reports of Barrow's Goldeneye rebounded slightly from last year with four inland records noted. Other interesting waterfowl reports include four separate Northern Pintails and two Green-winged Teals reported early in the season. Although reported almost annually, a Canvasback seen at the Exeter wastewater treatment plant in mid-January was notable. A Whooper Swan reported at the coast was almost certainly from a flock that escaped from aviculture on the North Shore of Boston, MA.

*Whooper Swan by James P. Smith,
1/29/2005,
New Hampshire coast.*



<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Snow Goose				
12-18	1	Greenland	Great Bay	S. Mirick, J. Silver
Canada Goose				
01-05	850	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	R. Suomala
Wood Duck				
12-12	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
Gadwall				
12-17	1	Rye	Eel Pond	S. Mirick
12-18	13	Greenland	Great Bay	S. Mirick, J. Silver
Eurasian Wigeon				
12-18	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick, J. Silver
Northern Pintail				
12-06	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
12-08	1	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick
02-06	1	Hampton	marsh n. of Rt. 101	I. MacLeod
02-06	1	Exeter	town landing	I. MacLeod
Green-winged Teal				
12-06	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Canvasback				
01-17	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence, et al.
Ring-necked Duck				
12-09	3	Hampton	Eel Pond	P. Brown, M. Najko
12-13	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
12-18	14	Kensington	gravel pit lake at corner of three towns	G. Gavutis Jr.
01-17	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	I. MacLeod
Greater Scaup				
01-29	1	Rye	Rye Harbor	E. Masterson, D. Fallon, P. Brown
02-06	2	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	I. MacLeod
02-19	500	Greenland	Great Bay	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
Surf Scoter				
12-26	6		NH coast, Hampton-Rye	A. & G. Prazar
Long-tailed Duck				
12-26	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	A. & G. Prazar
01-10	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
Common Goldeneye				
12-02	40	Sanbornton	Lake Winnisquam	P. Hunt
12-18	92	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	I. MacLeod
12-26	30		off shore, Hampton-Rye	A. & G. Prazar
12-31	166	Sanbornton	Lake Winnisquam	P. Hunt
01-10	70	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
02-27	55	Concord	Sewalls Falls	R. Woodward
				
<p><i>Barrow's Goldeneye by James P. Smith, 1/1/2005, Hampton coast, NH.</i></p>				
Barrow's Goldeneye				
12-12	1	Laconia	Shore Dr. at Downing St.	P. Hunt
12-13	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, D. Finch, D. Abbott
01-03	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
01-04	1	Laconia	Shore Dr., Lake Winnisquam	H. Anderson
01-08	1	N. Hampton	Little Boar's Head	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
01-10	2	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
01-29	1	Rye	Rye Harbor	E. Masterson, D. Fallon, P. Brown
01-29	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	E. Masterson, D. Fallon, P. Brown
02-05	1	Rye	Odiorne Point State Park	S. Mirick
02-06	1	Hampton	Great Boars Head	I. MacLeod
02-27	1	Tilton	Exit 20, Rt. 140 bridge, n. side	H. Anderson
02-27	1	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	I. MacLeod

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Hooded Merganser				
12-04	11	Derry	Beaver Lake	A.& B. Delorey
12-10	1	Gilmanton	Whispering Pines Rd., Gilmanton Ironworks	K. Palfy
12-12	62	Laconia	river at Water St., downtown	P. Hunt
12-13	26	Concord	Turtle Pond	R. Quinn
12-18	5	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	I. MacLeod
01-10	70	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
01-15	29	Laconia	river at Water St., downtown	P. Hunt, J. Lathrop
01-15	28	Tilton	Silver Lake	P. Hunt, J. Lathrop
Common Merganser				
12-04	30	Newbury	Lake Todd	P. Newbern
12-04	23	Gilmanton	Whispering Pines Rd., Gilmanton Ironworks	K. Palfy
12-11	12	Gilmanton	Crystal Lake, Gilmanton IW	W. Arms
12-12	33	Tilton	lower Lake Winnisquam	P. Hunt
12-12	26	Laconia	Opechee Bay	P. Hunt
12-12	108	Tilton	Silver Lake	P. Hunt
12-13	90	New Hampton	Lake Winona residence	P. Burke
12-18	72	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	I. MacLeod
01-10	50	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
02-20	14	Laconia	Winnisquam Ave., Lake Winnisquam	H. Anderson
Ruddy Duck				
12-12	2	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
Spruce Grouse				
01-15	1	Lincoln	jct. of Liberty Spring & Franconia Ridge Trails	J.& K. Stockwell
Wild Turkey				
12-01	25	Newbury	Newbury traffic circle	P. Newbern
12-08	44	Westmoreland	Rt. 63, Chickering Farm	R. Ritz
12-29	5	Deerfield	Mountain Road Ext.	C. Carr
01-01	18	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
01-04	50	Stoddard	Pitcher Mtn., Rt. 123 farm fields	G. Gavutis
01-16	13	Alton	Halls Hill Rd.	K. Palfy
01-31	4	Newbury	Mt. Sunapee Ski Area	K. Folsom
02-14	24	Plymouth	Quincy Rd.	B. Taffe
Northern Bobwhite				
01-28	1	Wilton	Abbot Hill Acres	S. Millett
Common Loon				
12-02	3	Gilmanton	Whispering Pines Rd., Gilmanton Ironworks	K. Palfy
12-05	1	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
12-10	1	Strafford	Lakeview Dr. residence	S. Young
12-11	4	Laconia	Lake Winnisquam off Gale Ave.	H. Anderson
12-12	3	Sanbornton	Lake Winnisquam	P. Hunt
12-13	2	Concord	Long Pond (Penacook Lake)	R. Quinn
Horned Grebe				
12-26	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	A.& G. Prazar

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Northern Gannet				
01-09	1	Rye	off coast	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson, S. Spangenburg
American White Pelican				
12-18	1	Hollis	Nashua R. 1.5 mi. s. of Mine Falls	C. Beaudry
12-18	1		Manchester CBC	R. Tulloh

Cormorants through Raptors

The bird of the season has to be an extremely rare **American White Pelican**, reported on December 18 on the Merrimack River in Manchester, perfectly timed to be counted on the Manchester CBC. That day presumably the same bird was reported from the Nashua River in Hollis. It stayed for a total of three days in that location. This bird has only been seen three previous times in the state, all during the spring season. The first record was from Great Bay in May of 1996. The subsequent records were from Wolfeboro involving two birds, and Pelham.

Double-crested Cormorants are largely gone from inland locales by November, so two records from early in the season are notable. We continue to see gratifying increases in wintering Bald Eagle numbers. The Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey conducted from January 1–15 counted a record-high 55 eagles, 34% above last year's total. The Connecticut and Merrimack Rivers had the greatest counts, with the Lakes Region closely behind the two rivers. The first ever Late Winter Bald Eagle survey was conducted between February 15 and March 1, with 75 eagles counted. What's more, a single day record for the state was set on "count day," February 26, with 67 eagles spotted. The news was not as favorable for the American Kestrel. We have seen progressive declines in their wintering numbers over recent years, now to the point that we failed to receive any winter reports. The Peregrine Falcon continues its presence, however, with a few more records than last winter.



*Six Bald Eagles by Steve Pitcher,
2/20/2005,
Merrimack, NH.*

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Double-crested Cormorant				
12-02	1	Laconia	Opechee Bay	P. Hunt
12-08	1	Durham	Durham landing	S. Mirick
12-08	1	Dover	Coheco River	S. Mirick
12-18	1	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	I. MacLeod
Great Cormorant				
12-19	1	Kensington	Dingman property, Bartlett Rd.	D. Finch
01-31	2	Concord	Merrimack R.	R. Quinn
02-04	12	Manchester	Intervale Country Club	I. MacLeod
02-15	2	Franklin	confluence of three rivers	D. Stavros, L. Bardusk
02-16	1	Newmarket	sandpit off Rt. 152	S. Mirick
02-20	1	Franklin	Merrimack River	J. & J. Williams
Great Blue Heron				
12-01	1	Exeter	Rt. 101 near Portsmouth Ave.	G. Prazar
12-23	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
01-29	1	Concord	jct. of Rts. 89 & 93	B. Folsom
Turkey Vulture				
02-15	2	Newmarket	Rt. 108	H. Chary
02-20	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
02-27	1	Durham	Rt. 4	I. MacLeod
Osprey				
12-08	1	Lee	Randall Farm on Randall Rd.	P. Brown
Bald Eagle				
12-07	1	Laconia	Dixon Pt., Lake Winnisquam, Winnisquam Ave.	H. Anderson
12-13	1	Strafford	Lakewood Dr. residence	S. Young, P. Ardizonni
12-18	1	Manchester	Amoskeag Bridge	I. MacLeod
12-18	2	Manchester	Lake Massabesic	I. MacLeod
12-19	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
12-26	1	Milton	Rt. 125	J. Williams
12-27	1	Nashua	Exit 7, FE Everett Tpk.	D. Deifik
12-27	1	Northfield	se. of Winnepesaukee R.	J. Stockwell
01-05	1	Laconia	Holman St.	H. Anderson
01-15	1	Hampton	Seabrook Harbor	I. MacLeod
01-18	7	E. Kingston	South Road	D. Finch
01-27	2	Laconia	Dixom Pt., Winnisquam Ave., Lake Winnisquam	H. Anderson
02-04	6	Manchester	Intervale Country Club	I. MacLeod
02-07	1	Canterbury	pond behind Shaker Village	J. Emerson
02-19	1	Clarksville	Rt. 3 by Connecticut R.	P. Newbern
02-23	3	Laconia	Dixom Pt., Winnisquam Ave., Lake Winnisquam	H. Anderson
02-27	2	Hampton	Seabrook Harbor	I. MacLeod
02-27	1	Concord	Sewalls Falls	M. BoisVert
Northern Harrier				
12-18	1	Auburn	Rt. 28 bypass	I. MacLeod
01-05	1	Portsmouth	RR tracks	G. Gavutis
01-09	1	Rye	Eel Pond	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
01-24	1	Stratham	jct. of Rt. 108 & River Rd.	G. Gavutis

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Sharp-shinned Hawk				
12-07	1	Laconia	Linden Circle	H. Anderson
01-28	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
01-29	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. Harris
02-05	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
Cooper's Hawk				
12-18	1	Auburn	Rt. 28 bypass	I. MacLeod
02-07	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. Harris
02-08	1	Salem	residence	K. Folsom
02-11	1	Laconia	Linden Circle	H. Anderson
02-25	1	Laconia	Linden Circle	H. Anderson
02-27	1	Newmarket	town landing	I. MacLeod
Northern Goshawk				
12-19	2	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
12-19	1	Auburn	Rt. 101	G. Gavutis Jr.
01-12	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
02-12	1	Kilkenny	Mt. Waumbek, s. side, 3,359'	J. Stockwell
Red-shouldered Hawk				
12-06	1	E. Kingston	South Road residence	D. Finch
12-19	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
02-06	1	E. Kingston	South Road residence	D. Finch
Rough-legged Hawk				
12-19	1	Rumney	Rt. 25 fields, W. Rumney	J. & J. Williams
Golden Eagle				
12-18	1	Greenland	Great Bay farm	S. Mirick, J. Silver
Merlin				
01-02	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
01-31	1	Concord	Chenell Dr.	J. Broyles
Peregrine Falcon				
12-18	1	Manchester	Amoskeag Bridge	I. MacLeod
12-29	1	Rochester	Pickering Road	S. Mirick
01-10	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
02-19	1	Portsmouth	Portsmouth Fish Pier	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
02-27	1	Hampton	Hampton salt marsh	I. MacLeod
02-28	1	Gilmanton	Joe Jones Rd.	J. Stockwell
American Coot				
12-05	3	Rye	Eel Pond	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
12-12	55	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence

Plovers through Alcids

Semipalmated Plover becomes rare in the state by November, so a flock of 100 recorded in early December is unusual. A single **Killdeer** seen in mid-December is rare as well. Lesser Black-backed Gull continues to be seen each winter in small numbers. Alcid reports were relatively few and far between, all involving the three most commonly reported species: Thick-billed Murre, Black Guillemot, and Razorbill.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Semipalmated Plover				
12-05	1	Hampton	Seabrook Beach near jetty	S. Mirick & J. Lawrence
Killdeer				
12-18	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick, J. Silver
Sanderling				
02-24	8	Rye	Jeness St. Beach	H. Chary
Purple Sandpiper				
12-19	10	New Castle	mouth of Little Harbor	R. Suomala, E. Raynor, et al.
02-06	16	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	R. & M. Suomala, S. Mirick
02-06	10	Rye	Concord Pt.	R. & M. Suomala, S. Mirick
02-24	4	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	H. Chary
American Woodcock				
12-03	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr., Piscassic R.	P. Hendrickx
Black-headed Gull				
12-12	1	Rye	Ragged Neck, Rye Harbor St. Pk.	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
12-12	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
01-08	1	Rye	south of Odiorne Point	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
01-09	1	Rye	Ragged Neck	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence, J. Regan
Ring-billed Gull				
02-27	22	Laconia	Winnepesaukee R., Citizen Pt.	H. Anderson
Iceland Gull				
12-06	7	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
12-08	1	Durham	Durham landing	S. Mirick
12-18	1	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	I. MacLeod
12-26	2	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	I. MacLeod, H. Galbraith
12-26	1	Hampton	Great Boars Head	I. MacLeod, H. Galbraith
12-26	1	Newmarket	Newmarket Landing	I. MacLeod, H. Galbraith
01-02	2	Hampton	Fisherman's Cooperative	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
01-03	10	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
01-22	3	Seabrook	parking lot	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
02-06	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Harbor	I. MacLeod
02-06	1	Hampton	Great Boars Head	I. MacLeod
02-06	1	Rye	Eel Pond	I. MacLeod
02-06	1	Exeter	town landing	I. MacLeod
Lesser Black-backed Gull				
12-05	1	Rye	Concord Point	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
12-06	3	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Lesser Black-backed Gull—continued				
12-17	1	Seabrook	Cross Beach Road	S. Mirick
01-29	1	Exeter	off Rt. 108	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence, D. Abbott, M. Suomala
02-05	1	Exeter	Exeter water reservoir	S. Mirick, R. Aaronian et al



Glaucous Gull by Eric Masterson, 1/10/2005, Walpole, NH.

Glaucous Gull

12-13	4	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
12-24	1	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
01-08	1	Rye	Concord Point	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
01-10	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
01-10	1	Walpole	Connecticut River	E. Masterson

Black-legged Kittiwake

12-05	10		NH coast	S. Mirick
12-12	2		NH coast	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence

Thick-billed Murre

01-29	1	New Castle	Fort Constitution	E. Masterson, D. Fallon, P. Brown
01-29	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence, D. Abbott, M. Suomala
02-06	1	Hampton	Great Boars Head	I. MacLeod
02-06	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Harbor	I. MacLeod
02-06	8		NH coast	S. Mirick, R. & M. Suomala

Razorbill

12-05	24		NH coast	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
12-19	16	New Castle	Piscataqua R.	R. Suomala, E. Raynor, et al.
01-02	4	Hampton	coast	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
01-08	4		NH coast	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence

Black Guillemot

01-09	3	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
02-06	3	Rye	n. of Odiorne Pt.	I. MacLeod
02-19	3	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence

Owls through Horned Lark

The only Eastern Screech-Owl reports came from the town of Greenland with a probable total of three birds identified during the season. Unfortunately, there were no reports of the rare northern owls (Great Gray Owl, Northern Hawk Owl, Boreal Owl) in the state despite their huge influx as close as Montreal, Canada. There was one report of the always rare Red-headed Woodpecker. **Red-bellied Woodpecker** continues its upward trend with no less than 15 winter reports. Northern Shrike was reported in greater than typical abundance. Though common on the coast in the winter, Horned Lark is quite a bit scarcer inland and so two records from non-coastal locales are notable.



*Northern Shrike by Stephen R. Mirick,
12/9/2004, Dover, NH.*

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Eastern Screech-Owl				
01-29	2	Greenland	off Bayside Road	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence, D. Abbott, M. Suomala
02-19	1	Greenland	Dearborn Road	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence, D. Kern
Great Horned Owl				
01-04	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
Northern Saw-whet Owl				
12-30	1	E. Kingston	woods behind South Road	D. Finch
Red-headed Woodpecker				
12-03	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
Red-bellied Woodpecker				
12-01	1	E. Kingston	South Road	D. Finch
12-02	1	Mason	Campbell Mill Rd.	A. Richards
12-08	1	Epsom	Webster Park Ln.	D. Desmarais
12-12	2	Newmarket	Bay Road	H. Chary
12-19	1	Wentworth	Turner Rd. residence	P. Winsor, Baker Valley CBC
12-20	1	Litchfield	Willow Dr.	D. Wakefield
12-31	1	Newmarket	Harmon Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
01-06	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
01-10	1	Manchester	Greeley St.	D. Schultz
01-28	1	Dover	Linda Ave. telephone pole	A. Sailers
01-28	1	Wolfeboro	S. Main St.	S. Davis
02-01	1	Dover	Prospect St. residence	A. & S. Galt
02-16	1	Newton	Newton Town Hall	S. Mirick
02-26	1	Center Harbor	Manville's, Kelsey Ave.	J. Merrill
02-27	1	Greenland	Great Bay Rd.	I. MacLeod
02-28	1	Kensington	Rt. 107, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Black-backed Woodpecker				
01-29	2	Lincoln	0.25 mi. below Mt. Liberty summit	D. Romano
Northern Shrike				
12-09	1	Dover	County Farm Road	S. Mirick
12-18	1	Stratham	Squamscott Road	S. Mirick, K. Dorsey, J. Silver
12-31	1	Chichester	Short Falls Rd.	R.& M. Suomala
01-01	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
01-09	1	Rye	s. of Odiorne Pt.	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson, S. Spangenburg
01-15	1	Walpole	Miriam Rd. residence	R. Ritz
01-16	1	Alexandria	residence	N. Oulette
01-20	1	Deerfield	Mountain Road Ext.	C.& J. Carr
02-03	1	Deering	Baldwin Rd.	L.& P. Sunderland
02-07	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
02-08	1	Goshen	Brook Rd.	P. Newbern
02-10	1	Strafford	Stillpoint Gardens, Lakeview Dr.	S. Young
02-12	1	Alton	Sinethy Rd. residence	B. Bell
02-13	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
02-17	1	New London	Pingree Rd. residence	A.& R. Vernon
02-25	1	Sunapee	Rt. 103	P. Newbern
Gray Jay				
01-15	1	Lincoln	Mt. Liberty summit	J.& K. Stockwell
02-07	2	Bethlehem	Mt. Field summit	J. Stockwell
02-07	2	Bethlehem	Mt. Willey summit	J. Stockwell
02-07	1	Bethlehem	Mt. Tom summit	J. Stockwell
Fish Crow				
01-06	2	Salem	Rt. 28 mall, Home Depot	B.& D. Fox
Horned Lark				
12-04	1	Northfield	Tilton School playing fields	P. Hunt
12-26	13	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	G.& A. Prazar
01-10	7	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
02-03	20	Kensington	clearing, e. end of Moulton Ridge	G. Gavutis Jr.
02-06	11	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	R.& M. Suomala, S. Mirick

Chickadees through Waxwings

A few Boreal Chickadee reports were submitted by hardy souls willing to brave the rigors of winter hiking in the White Mountains. The only roadside record was in the far north in Pittsburg. Numbers of Carolina Wren continue a steady upward trend with twice the number seen compared to the average of the last few winters. Eastern Bluebirds continue to be reported at about half their recent average numbers, similar to last year. A Brown Thrasher was seen daily rooting around in the snow under a West Ossipee feeder from December 23 through at least mid-February, when it was reported on the Backyard Winter Bird Survey. There has been one reported each winter for the past five years. Bohemian Waxwing appeared in minimal numbers compared to last year's major irruption, with only three winter reports.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Boreal Chickadee				
01-22	2	Franconia	Owls Head summit, 4,025'	J. Stockwell
02-06	1	Bethlehem	Mt. Tom, 3,600'	J. Stockwell
02-20	1	Pittsburg	off West Dorman Rd.	P. Newbern
02-26	5	Waterville Valley	Mt. Whiteface, s. side, 3,500'	J. Stockwell
Tufted Titmouse				
02-28	2	Pittsburg	Main St.	B. Fish
Carolina Wren				
12-04	1	Northfield	Park St.	P. Hunt
01-06	1	Hudson	Old Derry Rd.	M. Wright
01-23	1	Jackson	Middle Mountain Trail	R. Pillion
01-28	1	Pembroke	Deacon Hill Rd.	S. McAlister
01-29	1	N. Hampton	off Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
01-30	1	E. Kingston	South Road	D. Finch
02-01	1	Concord	Elm St.	G. Goodrich
02-04	2	Atkinson	Woodlawn Ave	J. Cote
02-09	1	Concord	Island Shores Estates, Penacook	P. Hunt
02-11	1	Franklin	Webster Ave.	D. Liolis
02-12	2	N. Hampton	Walnut Ave.	T. Hinsman
02-25	2	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. Harris
Winter Wren				
12-18	1	Greenland	Great Bay Road	S. Mirick, K. Dorsey, J. Silver
12-31	2	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Woodward
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
12-09	1	S. Hampton	Brookside WS	P. Brown, M. Majko
Eastern Bluebird				
12-09	12	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
12-22	1	Newmarket	Harmon Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
12-25	7	Amherst	Storybrook Lane	A. Krantz
01-02	2	Durham	Adams Pt.	L. & U. Rauter
01-22	1	Nottingham	off Berry Road	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
01-31	3	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
02-03	4	Kensington	Moulton Ridge, top center	G. Gavutis Jr.
02-03	3	E. Kingston	Moulton Ridge, w. end	G. Gavutis Jr.
02-06	3	Walpole	County Rd.	R. Ritz
02-06	1	Chester	Chester & Candia Rd. jct.	B. Folsom
02-09	2	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
02-15	6	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
02-16	2	Newmarket	off Bay Road	S. Mirick
02-16	2	Brentwood	Rt. 133A	S. Mirick
02-18	3	Kensington	Rt. 107, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
02-23	4	Kensington	Cottage Rd. residence	M. Schwotzer
02-24	2	Franklin	Pemigewasset R., by high school	D. Stavros, L. Bardusk
Hermit Thrush				
12-12	1	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
12-18	4	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
12-19	2	Rye	Star Island	R. Suomala, E. Raynor, et al.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Hermit Thrush—continued				
01-03	1	Meredith	Meredith Neck	J. Williams, D.& D. Monahan
01-22	1	Nottingham	off Berry Road	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
02-21	1	E. Kingston	Moulton Ridge, w. end near Great Brook	G. Gavutis Jr., R. Claxton
American Robin				
12-04	35	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
12-25	100	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
01-06	20	Pittsfield	Loudon Rd.	R. Suomala
01-07	60	Concord	Fogg St.	S. Anthony
01-10	30	Laconia	Lynnwood Dr.	H. Anderson
01-11	45	Northfield	Hodgdon Rd.	J. Stockwell
01-14	44	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
01-21	65	Pembroke	Center Rd.	R. Chamberlain
01-30	38	Greenville	Main St. waterfall, Souhegan R.	L. Ochs
02-07	15	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
02-08	45	Salem	Bridge St.	K. Folsom
02-11	40	Nashua	Lund Rd.	B. Harris, et al.
02-18	32	Plymouth	Smith Bridge Rd.	B. Taffe
02-19	15	Exeter	residence	G. Prazar
02-28	30	Walpole	Blackjack Crossing	R. Ritz
Varied Thrush				
01-15	1	Hopkinton	E. Penacook Rd., Contoocook	J. Pembroke, B. Elliott
Gray Catbird				
01-02	1	Hollis	Farley Rd.	J. Baker
Brown Thrasher				
12-23	1	Tamworth	Whittier Rd.	K. Grace
02-13	1	Tamworth	Whittier Rd.	K. Grace
Bohemian Waxwing				
12-07	6	Holderness	Plymouth State Univ. field house, Rt. 175A	J. Williams
02-18	100	Lebanon	Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Ctr.	W. Eaton
Cedar Waxwing				
12-05	100	Chester		A.& B. Delorey
12-07	100	Holderness	Plymouth State Univ. field house, Rt. 175A	J. Williams
12-11	25	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
12-31	50	Exeter	Saltonstall medical bldg.	G. Prazar
12-31	92	Laconia	Bartlett Beach	P. Hunt
01-06	85	Pittsfield	Loudon Rd.	R. Suomala
01-07	16	Concord	Fogg St.	D. Anthony
01-11	26	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
01-14	125	Concord	Concord Heights across from Court House	D. Warren
01-21	15	Pembroke	Center Rd.	R. Chamberlain
01-28	100	Nashua	Lund Rd.	B. Harris, et al.
02-10	69	Strafford	Stillpoint Gardens, Lakeview Dr.	S. Young
02-28	60	Laconia	Ledges Dr.	H. Anderson

Warblers through Sparrows

A truly outstanding crowd pleaser was a **Yellow-throated Warbler** that spent virtually the entire season visiting a feeder in Dover. This represents only the second winter record for this bird (see page 51). Its normal breeding range is no closer than the Delaware Valley of New Jersey and winter quarters no closer than South Carolina, so it was well out of its range. Photographs suggest that this individual is the more westerly distributed subspecies, *Dendroica dominica albilora*, which has a white supraloral stripe, rather than the yellow of the Eastern subspecies, *Dendroica dominica dominica*. Its old name was the Sycamore Warbler, named after its favored nesting tree in the Mississippi and Ohio River drainages. Other warbler species of note were single reports of Palm Warbler, Ovenbird, and Yellow-breasted. The only warbler species with multiple reports was the Yellow-rumped Warbler. The three reports this season were below average for the species. Among the sparrow reports, the **Lincoln's Sparrow** reported at the end of December would rank as the most outstanding; there have been only four records from Christmas Bird Counts since 1967! Fox Sparrow is usually reported in low numbers, but this winter was absent from the seasonal records.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
01-29	1	Rye	Concord Pt.	E. Masterson, D. Fallon, P. Brown
02-27	1	Greenland	Great Bay Rd.	I. MacLeod
Yellow-throated Warbler				
12-05	1	Dover	Pinecrest Ln.	D. Carr
Ovenbird				
12-17	1	Lancaster	Water St.	S. Pratt
Yellow-breasted Chat				
12-18	1	Greenland	off Bayside Rd.	S. Mirick, J. Silver
American Tree Sparrow				
12-07	2	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
12-08	4	Deerfield	Mountain Road Ext.	C. Carr
12-14	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
01-06	4	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. & M. Suomala
01-22	21	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
01-22	3	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
01-25	6	Salem	residence	K. Folsom
02-23	7	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. Harris
Chipping Sparrow				
12-26	1	Durham	off Durham Point Rd.	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence



Chipping Sparrow
by Stephen R. Mirick,
12/28/2004,
Durham, NH.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Field Sparrow				
01-25	2	Salem	residence	K. Folsom
Fox Sparrow				
02-13	1	Hopkinton	Old Henniker Rd.	T. Rocco
Song Sparrow				
12-14	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
12-31	1	Newmarket	Harmon Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
01-21	1	Laconia	Water St., opposite sewer plant	H. Anderson
01-24	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. Harris
01-30	1	Laconia	Linden Circle	H. Anderson
02-17	2	Concord	Concootook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
Lincoln's Sparrow				
12-29	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
02-28	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
White-throated Sparrow				
12-14	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
01-10	2	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. Harris
01-25	4	Salem		K. Folsom
01-26	1	Laconia	Linden Circle	H. Anderson
White-crowned Sparrow				
12-18	2	Greenland	Great Bay farm	S. Mirick, J. Silver
Dark-eyed Junco				
10-03	4	Walpole	Scovill Rd.	R. Ritz
12-02	11	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Road	M. Wright
12-14	10	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
12-26	4	Exeter	residence	G. Prazar
12-29	9	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
12-29	55	Deerfield	Mountain Rd. Ext.	C. Carr
02-10	30	Deerfield	Mountain Rd. Ext.	C. & J. Carr
02-13	10	Salem	residence	K. Folsom
02-19	6	Exeter	residence	G. Prazar
Lapland Longspur				
01-02	4	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
Snow Bunting				
12-26	2	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	I. MacLeod, H. Galbraith
01-02	12	Auburn	Dartmouth Dr. off Rockingham Rd.	C. Chabot
01-17	20	Rye	Little Creek saltmarsh	I. MacLeod
Northern Cardinal				
12-06	1	Wentworths Location	Lake Umbagog NWR office	L. Wunder
12-26	11	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
02-28	2	Pittsburg	Main St.	B. Fish

Blackbirds through Finches

Red-winged Blackbird is usually quite scarce until the end of the season, as evidenced by only two records before the end of February. Common Grackle was decidedly uncommon, as one would expect, with just one winter record. Winter finches and grosbeaks were generally seen in poor numbers. Crossbill numbers seemed to be down this winter. Red Crossbill was represented by only one winter record and White-winged Crossbill was reported only twice. The smattering of Pine Grosbeak reports all came from the North Country. The redpoll situation mirrored that of Bohemian Waxwing. Common Redpoll was seen in very low numbers on the CBCs and was quite scarce, based on the winter reports. The rarer Hoary Redpoll, which created such a stir last year, was apparently absent from the state this winter.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Red-winged Blackbird				
01-16	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
02-06	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	I. MacLeod
02-15	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
02-27	40	Kensington	Rt. 107, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
Common Grackle				
12-19	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
Brown-headed Cowbird				
01-06	30	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
01-06	300	E. Kingston	South Road	D. Finch
01-10	17	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
01-16	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
02-10	70	E. Kingston	South Road	D. Finch
02-19	62	E. Kingston	Rt. 108	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
Savannah Sparrow				
12-18	1	Greenland	Great Bay Farm	S. Mirick, J. Silver
01-29	3	Greenland	Great Bay Farm	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence, D. Abbott, M. Suomala
Pine Grosbeak				
12-29	4	N. Hampton	Shiprock Rd., residence	S. Young
01-24	2	Columbia		D. Killam
02-13	3	Pittsburg	Back Lake, e. end residence	L. & A. Jones
02-20	16	Pittsburg	off West Dorman Rd.	P. Newbern
Purple Finch				
12-07	5	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. & M. Suomala
12-13	12	Chester	Hillside Haven	B. Delorey
12-15	1	Newmarket	Bay Road	H. Chary
12-16	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
12-26	3	Strafford	Lakeview Dr. residence	S. Young
01-07	14	Canterbury	Northwest Rd. residence	S. Dougherty, et al.
01-24	19	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. & M. Suomala
02-10	14	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
02-13	1	Laconia	Holman St.	H. Anderson
02-19	17	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Road	M. Wright
02-20	120	Littleton	Owen Dr.	M. & D. Boulanger

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Purple Finch—continued				
02-20	7	Pittsburg	off West Dorman Rd.	P. Newbern
02-27	1	Laconia	Linden Circle	H. Anderson
Red Crossbill				
02-11	10	Pittsburg	Back Lake Rd. near transfer station	L. Jones
White-winged Crossbill				
12-21	4	Benton	North-South Rd.	J. Williams
02-20	2	Pittsburg	off West Dorman Rd.	P. Newbern
Common Redpoll				
12-15	3	Franklin	River St. confluence of three rivers	W. Arms, E. Regan, B. Sens
01-15	4	Newmarket	Bay Rd.	H. Chary
01-15	2	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
01-15	3	Laconia	end of Water St.	P. Hunt, J. Lathrop
01-29	1	Stratham	Sandy Pt.	E. Masterson, D. Fallon, P. Brown
01-31	1	E. Kingston	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	D. Finch
02-01	1	Concord	Silk Farm WS	E. Masterson
02-11	5	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
02-20	3	Pittsburg	off West Dorman Rd.	P. Newbern
02-26	1	Hanover	Blueberry Hill residence	K. Kluge, T. Rosenmeier
Pine Siskin				
12-10	3	Gilmanton	Crystal Lake, Gilmanton Ironworks	W. Arms
01-14	13	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
02-01	2	New London	Pingree Rd.	A. & R. Vernon
02-11	40	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
02-11	3	Laconia	Linden Circle	H. Anderson
02-11	25	Tamworth	residence	J. & C. Tewksbury
02-11	1	Hanover	Blueberry Hill residence	K. Kluge, T. Rosenmeier
02-14	6	Grafton	Slab City Road residence	R. Blair
02-19	2	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
02-20	4	Pittsburg	off West Dorman Rd.	P. Newbern
Evening Grosbeak				
12-06	5	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Road	M. Wright
12-12	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
12-12	1	Northfield	Park St.	P. Hunt
12-17	15	Litchfield	Willow Dr.	D. Wakefield
02-20	14	Walpole	County Road	R. Ritz
02-20	8	Pittsburg	off West Dorman Rd.	P. Newbern

Reporters for Winter 2004-05

Susan Anthony	Susan Galt	Robert Quinn
Widge Arms	George Gavutis, Jr.	J. R. Stockwell
Jenny Ashley	Kim Grace	Robert Ritz
John Baker	Bill Harris	Judy Romano
Cheryl Beaudry	Phil Hendrickx	Brenda Sens
Mary Boulanger	Lindsay Herlihy	Dot Soule
Terry Bronson	Pam Hunt	Dawn Stavros
Phil Brown	William J. Taffe	Larry Sunderland
Chris Carr	Leith Jones	Rebecca Suomala
Dave Carr	David Killam	Jean Tewksbury
Hank Chary	Karen Kluge	Rita Tulloh
H. Cook Anderson	Iain MacLeod	Tony Vazzano
David Deifik	Chris Martin	Bob Vernon
Alan Delorey	Eric Masterson	John Williams
Barbara Delorey	John Merrill	Rob Woodward
Larry Denoncourt	Stephen Mirick	Mary Wright
Jane Doherty	Peter Newbern	Scott Young
Sandi Dougherty	Kathie Palfy	
Davis Finch	Fran Philipi	
Bernice Fish	Rick Pillion	
Kenneth Folsom	Sally Pratt	
Bob Fox	Greg Prazar	

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

Reports for the following species were received in Winter 2004-05 but not listed.

Whooper Swan	Belted Kingfisher	Brown Creeper
American Black Duck	Downy Woodpecker	Golden-crowned Kinglet
Mallard	Hairy Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Common Eider	Northern Flicker	House Finch
Ring-necked Pheasant	Pileated Woodpecker	American Goldfinch
Ruffed Grouse	Blue Jay	
Red-tailed Hawk	Common Raven	
Mourning Dove	Black-capped Chickadee	
Barred Owl	Red-breasted Nuthatch	

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

Christmas Bird Count Summary 2004–2005

by David Deifik

Statewide Highlights

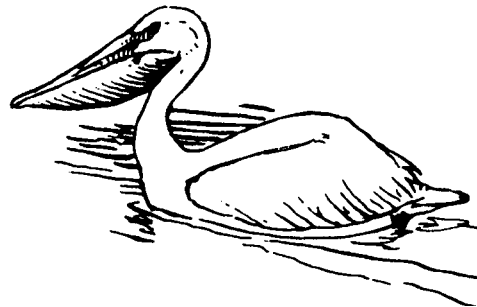
This year's Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) were held between December 14, 2004, and January 5, 2005. (The count period is now fixed between those dates.) Within the state, 20 counts took place, though two of these were principally centered in Vermont. Sightings from the New Hampshire portion of the Saxton's River Count are found in the seasonal summaries. Data from the New Hampshire section of the Barnet Count in Vermont were unavailable. The weather for most of the count days was tolerable, allowing a good counting effort.

Total species count for all counts combined was 137, a slight improvement over last year's 133. There were eight species that tied or set new record high counts for the state. This compares favorably with last year's 10 species. There were 91 individual count high records this year, topping last year's 90 by just one.

For the second year in a row, two species made their first appearance on a New Hampshire CBC, both occurring on December 18. An **American White Pelican** made an appearance on the Manchester count; it was seen flying over the Merrimack River. This is a very rare record for New Hampshire at any time of the year, even more so at the beginning of the winter. Of great interest was the fact that several were photographed flying past the Pilgrim Monument at Provincetown, Massachusetts, the week before this sighting.

Presumably the same bird was seen that day and for two days thereafter on the Nashua River in Hollis, New Hampshire. Although a bit less showy, a **Western Sandpiper** was recorded on the Seacoast CBC for the first time on any state count.

Though not quite as spectacular as the above sightings, several other outstanding highlights were recorded. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** seen on the Lee-Durham count was only the second CBC record. This individual was seen for almost the entire season. The only other record was for the Seacoast CBC in 1981. Though not quite as rare in the state, an outstanding find was a **Yellow-breasted Chat** seen on the Seacoast count for only the third time on any count. The first record was also on the Seacoast count in 1969 and, 32 years later, a chat made an appearance on the 2001 Isles of Shoals CBC. A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** from the Laconia CBC was a surprising find, given its rarity at this season. There are only two other CBC records, the most recent one a questionable sighting 15 years ago on the Peterborough count. Always scarce in the state, a **Dickcissel** made its first appearance on the Lake Sunapee count.



American White Pelican

This was the first CBC record in 16 years. Finally, a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** found on the Nashua-Hollis CBC was only the fifth for the state.

Inland waterfowl counts were generally about as expected, though there were a few count highs in that group scattered across the state. This was a strong year for woodpeckers, with state records for both Red-bellied and Downy Woodpeckers, and a tie for the state record for Pileated Woodpecker. A number of counts set individual count highs for these species. Tufted Titmouse also had a banner year with fully half the CBCs setting new count records. White-breasted Nuthatch was also very much in evidence this season, with a large number of count highs. Red-breasted Nuthatch increased dramatically over last year, with over a 50% increase in the overall statewide count for that species. Winter Wren bounced back nicely from last year's dismal record of one; this season 12 were recorded. Given that this was not an irruptive year, it's a bit surprising that all of the expected winter finches were well represented on their normal counts, though by no means in notable numbers. Common Redpoll took a big dip with less than half the average number being seen, compared with four times the count average last year during the remarkable irruption of that species.

Note that count week runs from three days before to three days after the count day for each individual count. Species that were not sighted on the count day but were seen during this period can be included as count week birds.

Individual Count Highlights

Nashua-Hollis

- New state count high: Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker.
- Count high: Common Goldeneye, Hairy Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, Northern Cardinal.

A Merlin sighting during count week was a first for this count. This count was outstanding for woodpeckers. In addition to the new state highs above, Hairy Woodpecker was only one away from tying the state record. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was only the fifth for the state. Red Crossbill was found for only the third time.

Peterborough-Hancock

- Count high: Rock Pigeon, Common Raven, Tufted Titmouse, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin.

Wild Turkey was seen in near record numbers for this count. Bald Eagle was seen for only the third time and Eastern Bluebird for the second time on this count.

Keene

- Count high: Ring-necked Duck, Hooded Merganser, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin, Song Sparrow.

Ring-necked Duck was seen for only the second time. Barred Owl, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Carolina Wren, and Field Sparrow were recorded for the third time.

Seacoast

- First state record: Western Sandpiper.
- New state count high: Mute Swan, Gadwall.
- Count high: Wild Turkey, Razorbill, Black Guillemot, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker.

The Western Sandpiper was a surprising and outstanding find. It was one of only two new species for the state. An Eastern Phoebe was seen for the second time as was a Yellow-breasted Chat. Northern Cardinal only fell short of last year's record numbers by five individuals. This count's total of four White-crowned Sparrows ties the state count high, set by the Seacoast count in 1976. Red-winged Blackbird was recorded by only one other count.

Isles of Shoals

- First count record: Hermit Thrush, Common Grackle.
- Count high: Greater Scaup, Red-throated Loon, Common Loon

Greater Scaup and Northern Mockingbird were recorded for only the second time and Harlequin Duck for the third time.

Lee-Durham

- First count record: Yellow-throated Warbler.
- Count high: Wild Turkey, Cooper's Hawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Common Raven, Horned Lark, Tufted Titmouse, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Chipping Sparrow, Northern Cardinal.

The Yellow-throated Warbler was only the second found on a CBC and one of the very few winter records for this scarce visitor to New Hampshire. In addition to the large number of count highs, a Merlin and Peregrine Falcon were seen during count week. The Chipping Sparrow put in only its third appearance.

Concord

- First count record: Merlin.
- Count high: Rock Pigeon, Belted Kingfisher, Pileated Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Northern Cardinal.

A Gray Catbird, seen for only the second time on the count, was one of only two seen on any count this year. Two Great Horned Owls tied last year's record. Both Downy Woodpecker and Northern Mockingbird fell just one bird short of the previous count highs.

Laconia-New Hampton

- First count record: Rose-breasted Grosbeak.
- Count high: Canada Goose, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin.

The Rose-breasted Grosbeak was one of the highlights in the state. It represents only the third (possibly second) CBC record. Although recorded last year during the season, winter records are few and far between. Red-bellied Woodpecker was seen for only the second time on the count.

Hanover-Norwich

- First count record: Red-bellied Woodpecker.
- Count high: Hooded Merganser, Wild Turkey, Common Raven, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren.

Downy Woodpecker was only one bird shy of the previous count high. Black-capped Chickadee and Brown Creeper were seen in near record numbers as well. A Winter Wren was seen for only the third time. A Pine Warbler was seen for the first time for the count during count week.

Baker Valley

- First count record: Rough-legged Hawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker.
- Count high: Bald Eagle.

Four Bald Eagles tied the high for any count this year and established a high for this count.

Littleton

- Count high: Ruffed Grouse, Ring-billed Gull, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet.

Wild Turkey tied the count high for this count set in 1999. Iceland Gull and Red Crossbill were recorded for only the second time. Purple Finch, White-winged Crossbill, and American Goldfinch were noted in higher than average numbers as well.

Grafton-Bristol

- First count record: Hooded Merganser, Ring-necked Pheasant, Northern Harrier, Rough-legged Hawk, Ring-billed Gull, Belted Kingfisher, Pine Siskin.
 - Count high: Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, Cooper's Hawk, Mourning Dove, Downy Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, House Finch.
- A Barred Owl was seen during the count week for the first time.

Errol-Umbagog

- Count high: Red-tailed Hawk, Hairy Woodpecker, Rusty Blackbird.
- Ruffed Grouse, Bald Eagle, and White-breasted Nuthatch were seen in near record numbers. Rusty Blackbird was seen for only the fourth time.

Pittsburg

- First count record: Ring-necked Pheasant, Spruce Grouse.
 - Count High: Mallard, Bald Eagle, Tufted Titmouse, Common Redpoll.
- Bald Eagle was recorded for the fourth time. Tufted Titmouse was seen for the second time. Pittsburg was the only count to see Common Redpoll in large numbers, with 406; Errol was next, seeing only 28.

North Conway

- First count record: Common Grackle.
- Count high: Mallard, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Downy Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, European Starling.

Great Horned Owl was seen for the second time. Red-winged Blackbird was seen for the second time and was only seen on one other count. The Common Grackle was nearly as scarce, being seen on only two other counts, with single birds each.

Lake Sunapee

- First count record: Dickcissel.
- Count high: Common Raven, Tufted Titmouse, Northern Cardinal, Purple Finch.

The Dickcissel was the only winter record for the state this year. Carolina Wren was seen for the second time. Northern Flicker and Northern Shrike were tallied for the third time. Both Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches were close to their count highs.

Manchester

- First state record: American White Pelican.
- New state count high: Northern Mockingbird.
- First count record: Double-crested Cormorant, Northern Harrier.
- Count high: Common Merganser, Ruffed Grouse, Rock Pigeon, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Common Raven, Song Sparrow, House Finch.

An American White Pelican seen soaring over the Merrimack River gets the prize for outstanding bird of the Christmas Bird Count season. Winter Wren and Ruby-crowned Kinglet were seen for only the second time. The kinglet was seen on only two other counts.

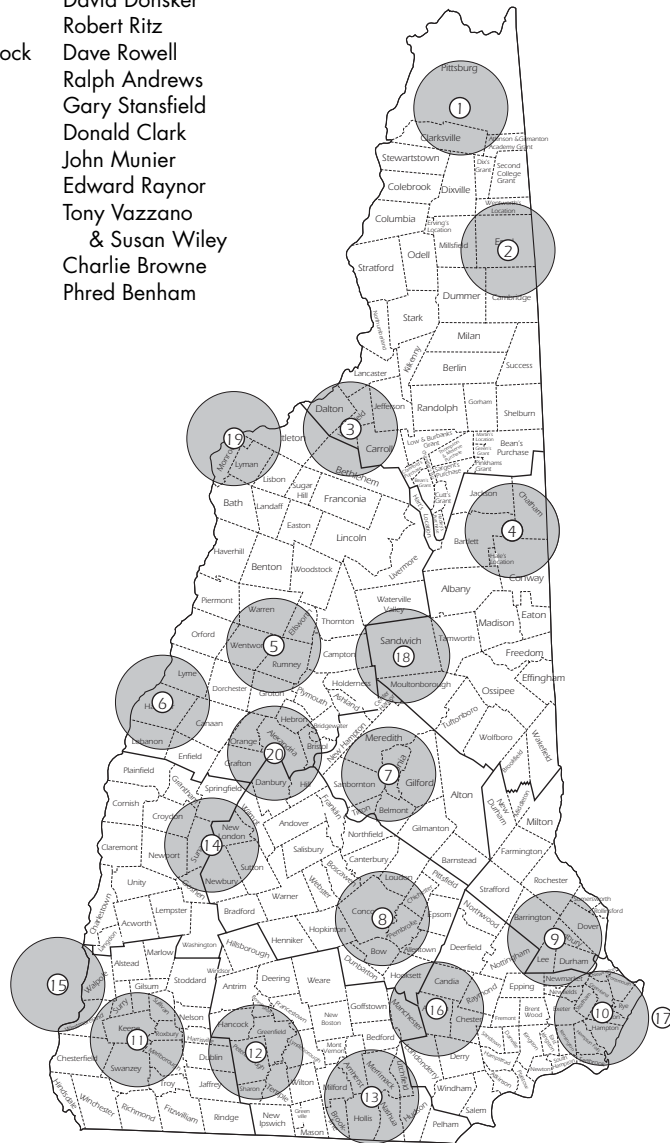
Sandwich

- First count record: Ring-necked Pheasant, Eastern Bluebird.
- Count high: Rough-legged Hawk, Ring-billed Gull, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Northern Shrike, Common Raven, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, American Robin, Northern Cardinal, Purple Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin.

The 14 Pileated Woodpeckers seen this year tie the state record shared by Laconia and Hanover. In addition to the plethora of new count highs, Rough-legged Hawk was seen for only the second time. Great Horned Owl was recorded for the third time.

Christmas Bird Count Compilers

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Pittsburg | David Govatski |
| 2 Errol-Umbagog | Chris Martin |
| 3 Littleton | David Govatski |
| 4 North Conway | Tin Mtn. Conservation Ctr. |
| 5 Baker Valley | John Williams |
| 6 Hanover-Norwich | Walter Ellison & Nancy Martin |
| 7 Laconia-New Hampton | Pam Hunt |
| 8 Concord | Robert Quinn |
| 9 Lee-Durham | Stephen Mirick |
| 10 Coastal | David Donsker |
| 11 Keene | Robert Ritz |
| 12 Peterborough-Hancock | Dave Rowell |
| 13 Nashua-Hollis | Ralph Andrews |
| 14 Lake Sunapee | Gary Stansfield |
| 15 Saxton's River, VT | Donald Clark |
| 16 Manchester | John Munier |
| 17 Isles of Shoals | Edward Raynor |
| 18 Sandwich | Tony Vazzano
& Susan Wiley |
| 19 Barnet, VT | Charlie Browne |
| 20 Grafton-Bristol | Phred Benham |



105th Christmas Bird Count: Dec. 14, 2004 - Jan. 5, 2005

Species	Nshua	Petrb	Keene	Coast	Isles	LeeDu	Cncrd
Snow Goose	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Canada Goose	1142	9	146	3187	-	568	549
Mute Swan	-	-	-	70**	-	2	-
Wood Duck	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Gadwall	-	-	-	13**	-	-	-
Eurasian Wigeon	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
American Wigeon	-	-	-	33	-	-	-
American Black Duck	69	-	12	1556	57	137	60
Mallard	941	-	114	1351	2	487	218
Northern Pintail	-	-	1	2	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	18	15	-	-	-
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	836	4	-	-
Common Eider	-	-	-	33	349	-	-
Harlequin Duck	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	156	13	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	189	41	-	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	31	2	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	165	77	-	-
Bufflehead	-	-	-	83	-	60	-
Common Goldeneye	15	-	-	374	11	16	45
Barrow's Goldeneye	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Hooded Merganser	1	-	24	8	-	-	8
Common Merganser	61	5	50	23	-	14	47
Red-br. Merganser	-	-	-	267	20	39	-
Ring-necked Pheasant	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Ruffed Grouse	2	8	4	1	-	3	9
Spruce Grouse	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wild Turkey	34	229	48	47	-	138	47
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	14	3	-	-
Common Loon	-	-	2	99	33	6	-
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	45	-	-	-
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	63	2	-	-
Northern Gannet	-	-	-	1	5	-	-
American White Pelic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Double-cr. Cormorant	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Great Cormorant	-	-	-	32	120	-	-
Cormorant sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	3	-	-	7	-	-	2
Bald Eagle	4	2	-	1	-	3	1
Northern Harrier	1	-	-	3	-	-	-
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	1	1	9	-	3	1
Cooper's Hawk	4	-	-	9	-	7	1
Northern Goshawk	1	1	-	-	-	1	-
Red-tailed Hawk	30	3	9	51	-	12	9
Rough-legged Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
American Kestrel	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Merlin	CW	-	-	-	-	CW	1*
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-
Killdeer	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Ruddy Turnstone	-	-	-	-	1	-	-

Lc	nia	Hnovr	Bkr	VI	Ltfn	Grftn	Errol	Pttsb	NCnw	LSunp	Manch	Sandw	Total
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
201	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	432	-	6234
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	72
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33
7	6	1	11	8	-	8	-	13	8	-	-	-	1953
403	78	39	1	31	-	89	180	79	752	-	-	-	4765
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	841
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	382
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190	49	CW	-	14	6	2	-	16	65	3	-	-	545
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	326
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6	7	10	27	4	18	20	9	3	2	9	9	142	
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32	104	67	199	12	-	-	181	86	1	84	-	-	1309
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3	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	147
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-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	65
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
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-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2*	-	-	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	152
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
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1	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	CW	-	-	25
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-	CW	1*	-	1*	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	5
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-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

105th Christmas Bird Count (continued)

species	Nshua	Petrb	Keene	Coast	Isles	LeeDu	Cncrd
Sanderling	-	-	-	20	-	-	-
Western Sandpiper	-	-	-	1***	-	-	-
Purple Sandpiper	-	-	-	51	170	-	-
Dunlin	-	-	-	137	-	-	-
Black-headed Gull	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	9	2	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	129	-	-	574	-	204	52
Herring Gull	185	3	2	3108	994	2751	6
Iceland Gull	1	-	-	1	1	2	-
Lesser Bla.-bac. Gul	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Great Bla.-bac. Gull	131	-	2	244	53	274	1
Gull sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bla.-leg. Kittiwake	-	-	-	-	14	-	-
Razorbill	-	-	-	11	23	-	-
Black Guillemot	-	-	-	10	31	-	-
Alcid sp.	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Rock Pigeon	1140	271	446	1183	-	382	906
Mourning Dove	641	114	196	475	-	243	430
Eastern Screech-owl	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Great Horned Owl	-	-	-	2	-	CW	2
Snowy Owl	-	-	-	1	4	-	-
Barred Owl	2	1	1	2	-	1	-
N. Saw-whet Owl	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	2	-	-	3	-	-	8
Red-bel. Woodpecker	34**	1	2	13	-	17	1
Ylw.-bel. Sapsucker	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Downy Woodpecker	193**	77	80	144	-	114	73
Hairy Woodpecker	102	52	43	37	-	45	39
Bla.-bac. Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Flicker	9	-	-	7	-	3	-
Pileated Woodpecker	3	7	2	9	-	4	10
Eastern Phoebe	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Northern Shrike	1	-	1	3	-	-	1
Gray Jay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	515	127	100	403	-	455	285
American Crow	487	190	296	1351	-	389	330
Common Raven	CW	19	6	3	-	10	6
Horned Lark	9	-	-	79	-	90	-
Black-cap. Chickadee	800	1014	913	816	-	866	579
Boreal Chickadee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tufted Titmouse	323	157	127	177	-	262	113
Red-br. Nuthatch	26	70	15	11	-	22	29
White-br. Nuthatch	255	159	128	169	-	166	160
Brown Creeper	12	8	4	13	-	8	6
Carolina Wren	5	1	3	-	-	2	5
Winter Wren	3	-	-	2	-	2	3
Golden-cr. Kinglet	44	36	23	44	-	15	11
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Eastern Bluebird	32	5	7	39	-	35	-
Hermit Thrush	1	-	-	5	2*	-	-

Lc	nia	Hnovr	BkrVI	Ltltn	Grftn	Errol	Pttsb	NCnw	LSunp	Manch	Sandw	Total
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	221
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	137
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
119	-	-	28	1*	-	-	-	-	1	204	2	1314
15	3	-	109	-	-	-	-	-	2	196	-	7374
-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	7
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
22	23	-	52	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	3	819
2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
137	882	115	103	50	-	-	122	99	1389	8	-	7233
121	213	50	53	126	18	15	95	113	212	116	-	3231
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	1	9
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
1	CW	-	-	CW	1	-	4	-	-	-	4	17
-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	CW	-	4
CW	2	-	-	1*	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	19
2	1*	1*	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	CW	-	77
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
94	98	28	30	28	16	10	71	37	41	87	-	1221
30	48	17	40	12	22	11	21	23	21	78	-	641
-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	4
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	20
5	3	3	3	7	6	-	7	3	2	14	-	88
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	2	-	-	CW	2	2	1	1	1	5	-	20
-	-	-	-	-	7	5	-	-	-	-	-	12
128	153	180	122	50	52	37	152	118	169	193	-	3239
145	1985	61	80	23	16	22	80	66	274	37	-	5832
11	60	8	55	2	39	28	21	11	9	23	-	311
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	178
978	2721	415	659	682	480	366	964	997	385	1160	-	14795
-	-	-	2	-	3	38	-	-	-	17	-	60
170	151	36	3	36	-	2	54	49	128	87	-	1875
24	110	29	181	50	87	133	144	70	3	120	-	1124
144	213	61	34	58	10	1	153	63	108	251	-	2133
16	33	1	6	9	2	2	17	7	3	25	-	172
-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	25
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	12
8	22	6	103	6	34	27	53	20	6	13	-	471
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	4
8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	8	-	139
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9

105th Christmas Bird Count (continued)

Species	Nshua	Petrb	Keene	Coast	Isles	LeeDu	Cncrd
American Robin	537	90	69	1072	-	965	26
Gray Catbird	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
N. Mockingbird	61	2	4	78	1	17	19
European Starling	809	163	551	6421	6	2300	1015
Bohemian Waxwing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cedar Waxwing	337	178	74	151	-	612	167
Ylw.-rumped Warbler	-	-	1	17	7	-	-
Yellow-thr. Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	1*	-
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Yellow-breasted Chat	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Am. Tree Sparrow	303	67	184	454	-	325	171
Chipping Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
Field Sparrow	4	-	2	-	-	-	-
Savannah Sparrow	2	-	-	2	-	-	-
Fox Sparrow	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Song Sparrow	55	3	14	127	5	25	30
Swamp Sparrow	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
White-thr. Sparrow	24	2	-	33	-	14	9
White-cr. Sparrow	1	-	-	4	-	-	-
Dark-eyed Junco	559	105	149	410	-	347	123
Sparrow sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	-	-	-	28	-	2	-
Northern Cardinal	210	48	55	219	2	149	72
Rose-breasted Grosbe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dickcissel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-winged Blackbird	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	-	-	-	-	1*	-	-
Br.-headed Cowbird	-	-	-	14	-	3	-
Pine Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Finch	10	42	44	6	-	21	26
House Finch	226	74	133	362	-	220	165
Red Crossbill	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whi.-wing. Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Redpoll	9	-	3	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
American Goldfinch	514	304	207	604	-	602	210
Evening Grosbeak	10	72	31	-	-	-	-
House Sparrow	933	169	383	1505	-	494	568
Number of Species	66	42	49	106	33	62	53
Number of Participants	36	33	27	34	21	24	20

Total Number of Species Across all CBCs: 137

Nshua = Nashua-Hollis (1/2/2005)

Petrb = Peterborough-Hancock (12/18/2004)

Keene = Keene (12/18/2004)

Coast = Seacoast (12/18/2004)

Isles = Isles-of-Shoals (12/19/2004)

LeeDu = Lee-Durham (12/26/2004)

Cncrd = Concord (12/19/2004)

CW = Count Week

* = New Species to count

** = New count high for state

*** = New species to state

bold = New individual count high

	Lcni	Hnovr	BkrVI	Lilt	Grft	Errol	Pttb	NCnw	LSunp	Manch	Sandw	Total
218	5	-	-	6	1	-	5	2	1	56	23	3076
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	157**	-	342
322	561	307	268	48	-	24	241	156	827	50	1	14069
-	25	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27
344	70	-	15	16	-	-	46	178	126	42	-	2356
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
128	121	7	19	12	18	5	36	12	75	37	-	1974
-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	13	-	-	279
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
2	CW	-	-	-	1	-	2	2	-	-	CW	89
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
175	97	11	2	82	3	6	28	69	152	119	-	2437
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
-	44	-	CW	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	77
48	64	7	6	13	-	-	13	30	58	25	-	1019
1*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	4
-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1*	-	-	-	-	3
-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
40	-	-	2	-	12	219	-	-	-	-	-	273
90	80	41	196	-	13	175	38	41	-	-	46	869
141	294	-	-	21	-	-	2	16	78	49	-	1781
-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	10
-	-	-	38	-	12	88	2	-	-	4	-	144
-	-	-	6	-	28	406	-	1	-	34	-	487
-	4	23	22	22*	22	55	77	41	-	282	-	549
359	816	366	337	124	183	78	427	171	125	761	-	6188
-	4	64	22	CW	27	18	11	27	-	1	-	287
296	655	13	-	61	-	3	43	101	597	-	-	5821
52	52	33	45	42	35	36	39	47	50	44	-	-
22	32	11	8	8	9	8	57	9	11	23	-	-

Lcni = Laconia-New-Hampton (1/2/2005)
 Hnovr = Hanover-Norwich (1/1/2005)
 BkrVI = Baker-Valley (12/19/2004)
 Lilt = Littleton (12/19/2004)
 Grft = Grafton-Bristol (12/19/2004)
 Errol = Errol-Umbagog (12/16/2004)

Pttb = Pittsburg (12/15/2004)
 NCnw = North-Conway (12/30/2004)
 LSunp = Lake-Sunapee (12/18/2004)
 Manch = Manchester (12/18/2004)
 Sandw = Sandwich (1/2/2005)

Photo Gallery

Isles of Shoals Christmas Bird Count

by Kathie Palfy and Paul Garrity

*Isles of Shoals Christmas Bird Count photos by Paul Garrity,
12/19/04, Star Island, Isles of Shoals.*

On December 19, 2004 birders on the Isles of Shoals Christmas Bird Count braved the elements to do this traditional boat trip. The Isles of Shoals CBC is unique not only because it takes place offshore on and around some of the islands but because the state line dividing Maine and New Hampshire runs right through them. Participants travel to and around this group of nine islands by boat and go as far as Boone Island light. They scan the islands for land birds, and search the water for ducks and seabirds, and watch the air for unusual gulls following the boat. Disembarking on Star Island, they continue their search for any type of bird, using scopes and binoculars to check the surf and nearby landmasses. At the end of the day, the boat heads back to Portsmouth and the totals are recorded. For full results of the birds seen on the Isles of Shoals CBC see the chart beginning on page 28.



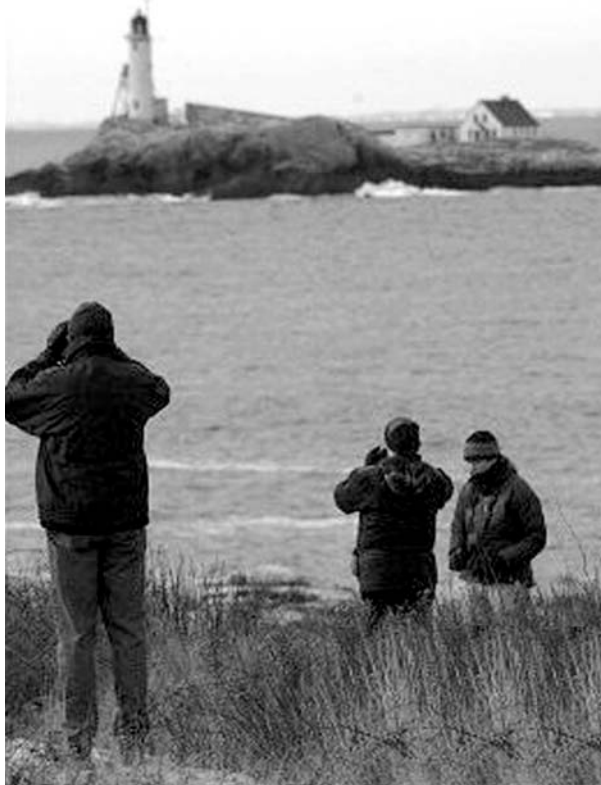
Watching for land birds on Star Island.



Scanning the waters from the shores of Star Island.



Star Island Song Sparrow.



*Looking towards
White Island from
Star Island.*



Boone Island Light.

Spotlight on Yellow-throated Warbler (*Dendroica dominica*)

by Eric Masterson

Background

The Yellow-throated Warbler is a member of the *Dendroica* genus of North American wood warblers, represented in New Hampshire by 14 species, including Yellow-rumped Warbler and Blackburnian Warbler. Yellow-throated Warbler is unusual in that it occupies two distinct habitats: dry upland pine and wooded bottomland swamps. It is extending its range northward after an unexplained period of range retraction during the early part of the twentieth century.

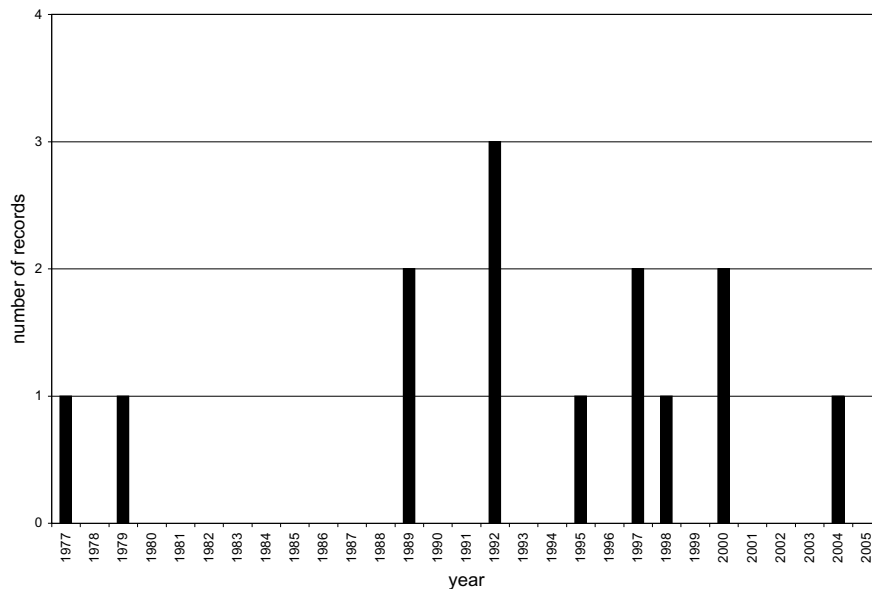


Yellow-throated Warbler by Stephen R. Mirick, 12/30/2004, Dover, NH.

Breeding Status

Yellow-throated Warbler breeds in the southeastern U.S. from eastern Missouri south to the Gulf Coast and Florida, and east to the Atlantic coast, extending as far north as the Delmarva Peninsula in Maryland, Delaware and Virginia. In the interior it breeds north to Illinois and southern Michigan. Breeding has not been recorded in New Hampshire.

Figure 1. Yellow-throated Warbler records in New Hampshire by year, 1977–2005. Data sources searched extend back to circa 1960, but there were no records prior to 1977.



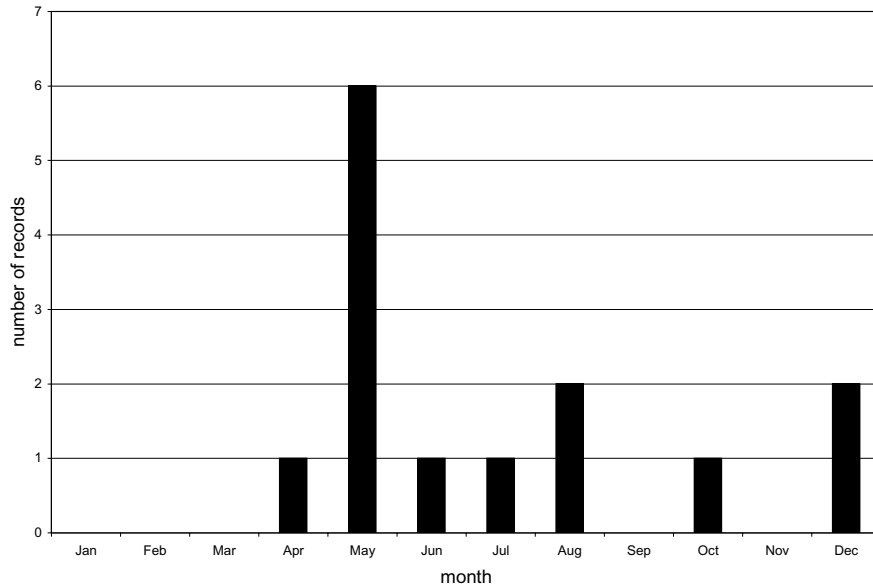
Occurrence in New Hampshire

Since 1960, Yellow-throated Warbler has been recorded 14 times in New Hampshire in nine different years (Figure 1). Almost half of the New Hampshire records (six records) fall during the month of May, with the other eight birds recorded during six different months (Figure 2). This compares with 50 spring records in Massachusetts since 1954. The distribution of records is unremarkable, with records scattered from the Connecticut River Valley in the west to Hampton in the east (Figure 3). The most northerly record is from Monroe.

Comments

There are only two records of Yellow-throated Warbler from the twelve years spanning 1977 to 1988. The following twelve-year period, from 1989 to 2000, has eleven records, with six occurring in May. There has been a northward range expansion of Yellow-throated Warbler during the latter decades of the 20th century, as documented by the U.S. Geological Survey’s Breeding Bird Survey. One theory is that range expansion may be facilitated by a species repeatedly overshooting its breeding range during spring. It is noteworthy that 64% of Yellow-throated Warbler records in New Hampshire during the last 11 years are during spring. It should also be noted that the majority of spring reports have been from interior locations. This contrasts with fall vagrancy patterns exhibited by out-of-range passerines, which often relate to weather events and result in birds occurring in coastal locations. Fall records of Yellow-throated Warbler in Massachusetts are more reflective of fall vagrancy, with nearly all fall reports from the immediate coast. Yellow-throated Warbler has also been banded at the Appledore Island Migration Banding Station at the Isles of Shoals in Maine twice in the period 1981–1999, both times in the fall. The contrast in location between spring and fall Yellow-throated Warbler sightings may be a reflection of spring

Figure 2. Yellow-throated Warbler records in New Hampshire by month, 1977–2005. Data sources searched extend back to circa 1960, but there were no records prior to 1977.



over-shoots, supporting the range expansion theory, or simply of different seasonal weather patterns.

There are two New Hampshire records from December, the most recent one of an individual that over-wintered from December 2004 to April 2005 at a bird feeder in Dover (see page 51). Although New England is well to the north of South Carolina and Georgia, the northerly extremes of its winter range, the Yellow-throated Warbler has a more northerly winter range than other members of its genus. Wintering birds have also been documented in Massachusetts and Vermont.

References

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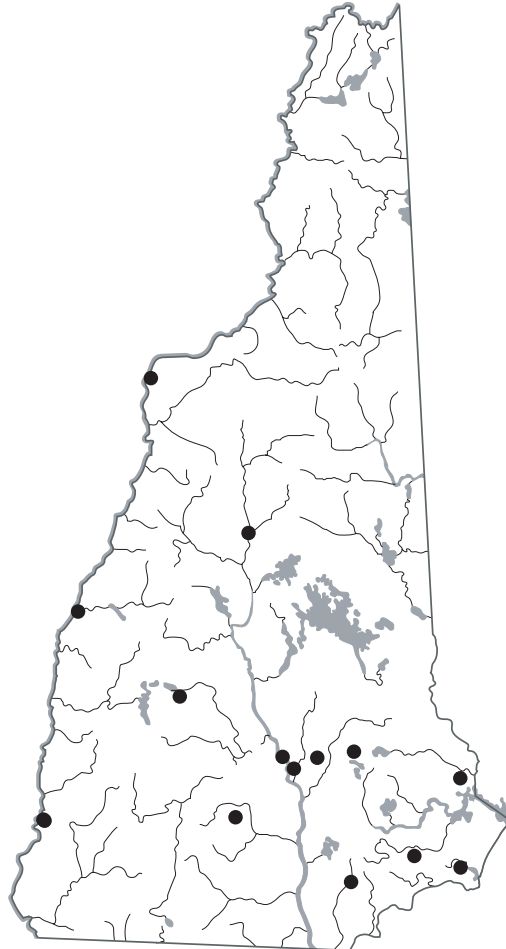
Veit, R., and W. Petersen. 1993. *Birds of Massachusetts*. Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, MA.

Data Sources

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

New Hampshire Bird Records and archives, circa 1960–2005. Audubon Society of New Hampshire, Concord, NH.

Figure 3. Location of Yellow-throated Warbler records in New Hampshire, 1977–2005.



Backpack Birder

Spruce Grouse Encounters

Spruce Grouse were once nicknamed the “Fools Grouse” because they would allow you to approach so closely when being hunted that they could be clubbed on the head. Although they currently have a reputation among birders of being difficult to find, two hikers discovered that these birds can behave in a way that makes their old nickname a little easier to understand. The first Spruce Grouse encounter was in the winter, whereas the second was a spring meeting. Ed.

Spruce Grouse Encounter #1

J. R. Stockwell and his wife, Karen, had a most unusual encounter with a Spruce Grouse while hiking near the junction of Liberty Spring and Franconia Ridge Trails in the White Mountains. The chattering bird came sauntering out of the woods and walked around them, allowing them to come quite close, but not pecking at them. Other hikers also enjoyed seeing this bird. Later, when the hikers were making their descent, the bird was not present at the same junction; however, shortly thereafter it appeared behind them and chased them down the trail almost 300 vertical feet. As J. R. said, “It was a long way for a little bird!”



Spruce Grouse by J.R. Stockwell, 1/15/05.



*Karen Stockwell and Spruce Grouse
by J.R. Stockwell, 1/15/05, jct. of Liberty Spring and Franconia Ridge Trails.*

Spruce Grouse Encounter #2

While Kevin Rooney and his friend Steve Martin were hiking the area near the tree line on the Falling Waters trail (Mts. Lincoln/Lafayette) in the White Mountains, a fearless Spruce Grouse guarding the area pecked at Steve's boots when they didn't move along fast enough. Or perhaps it was because of Brutus, Kevin's dog, who didn't even take much notice of him; but whatever the reason, this Spruce Grouse very much wanted the visitors to leave! He proceeded to escort them from the tree line to the summit, where there was a Labrador retriever that did take notice of him. The grouse didn't fly too far away, just far enough to be ready for the next set of intruders!



Spruce Grouse by Kevin Rooney, 5/11/05, Falling Waters (Mts. Lincoln/Lafayette).

Winter Birding Along the New Hampshire Seacoast

by David B. Donsker

Every year one can experience the allure of the subarctic and arctic climate along the seacoast of New Hampshire. Despite our short 18-mile coastline, the waters and shores of our small section of the Gulf of Maine harbor large numbers of wintering sea ducks, loons, grebes, Great Cormorants, and Purple Sandpipers, as well as smaller numbers of white-winged gulls, Horned Larks, Snow Buntings, longspurs, and the Holy Grails of winter birding: alcids.

Before you set off on your quest for winter specialties, you should be aware of a few precautions. A clear day can be a joy along the coast, but in more severe winter weather proper warm clothing and protection from the wind will increase your enjoyment immeasurably. Access to many of the sites recommended in this article is limited after heavy snows with insufficient plowing. Always be mindful of private property and "No Parking" signs.

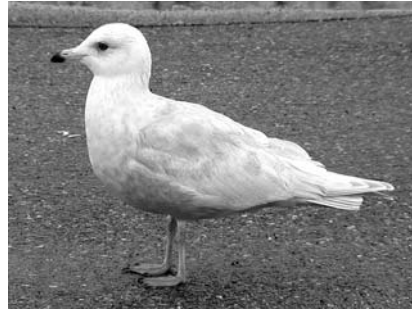
Since our coastline is so short, you can easily cover all of the stops recommended in this article in a good solid morning or afternoon of birding. Here are some choice stops:

Portsmouth Harbor

Since the demise of the New England fishing industry, Portsmouth Harbor is no longer the rare gull hotspot it used to be when Glaucous, Iceland, and Black-headed Gulls were regular and you could always dream of finding Ivory Gull. Still, it is always worth a visit. Gulls are still plentiful and the river attracts Red-breasted Mergansers, Common Goldeneye, other ducks, and Great Cormorant. The best place to scan the river is from Prescott Park and/or from the parking lot near the Portsmouth Fishing Pier. The latter is on Pierce Island, just across the bridge on Mechanic Street. Four Tree Island is a small island with a pavilion and picnic tables just offshore from Pierce Island. Snowy Owl used to be seen frequently here. It's always worth checking. A more recent attraction of the Portsmouth Harbor area is Peregrine Falcon. Look for it roosting on the superstructure of the lift bridge to Kittery.

Great Island Common, New Castle

Great Island Common offers a fine panorama of the mouth of the Piscataqua River. Scope out the cove along the north shore of the park, and the river mouth and open ocean to the north and east. This is an excellent spot for wintering water birds. You can expect Common Loon, Red-necked and Horned Grebes, Great Cormorant, Long-tailed Duck, all three species of scoter, and Common Eider. Watch for King Eider in the eider flotillas at the mouth of the river. This large park is open in the winter without charge.



Iceland Gull
by Stephen R. Mirick, 1/9/2005,
Hampton Harbor, Seabrook, NH.



Odiorne Point State Park

Odiorne Point State Park is a great place to visit during winter. An especially good area to check is the cove just east and north of the Seacoast Science Center. You can expect to see Red-breasted Mergansers, Common Eiders, Red-throated Loons, and Horned and Red-necked Grebes here. Gulls frequent the rocky shore and there is usually a sizable flock of Bonaparte’s Gulls here. Over the last few years, a Lesser Black-backed Gull has been a regular visitor joining the more common Herring, Great Black-backed, and Ring-billed Gulls. The ocean just offshore from the Science Center is a fairly good spot to look for Razorbill. Watch for flocks of Snow Buntings on the rocky beach just outside the Seacoast Science Center and examine it well for Lapland Longspur. Don’t forget to check the sumac thicket just east of the parking lot and the thickets and trees near the playground and the restrooms (alas, closed in winter) for land birds. Rarities have been spotted here in winter, most recently an Audubon’s Warbler, the western subspecies of Yellow-rumped Warbler.

The first cove just south of Odiorne Point State Park is always worth a look. It is a small bay that can attract waterfowl and bring them in for a close view. Great Cormorants

and Common Eiders are always there, but expect the unexpected. This is one place where Dovekie has been reported.

Pulpit Rocks

Pulpit Rocks has the advantage of projecting into the Gulf of Maine just a little farther out than many other areas along the coast, and the distance between the mainland and the Isles of Shoals is shorter here than other areas. As such, it is one of the best spots on the coast to look for offshore birds and is certainly one of the more reliable places to look for alcids. Black Guillemot and Razorbill are especially reliable, particularly in early winter from late November through December, and you can always hope for Dovekie. Northern Gannets can be seen far offshore in small numbers and Black-legged Kittiwakes may be blown in by storms. Both of our common wintering grebes (Red-necked and Horned) are easily seen from Pulpit Rocks and there have been several records of Western Grebe at this spot. During nor'easters, offshore birds are pushed toward shore and can be watched flying past this point. The trick is staying out of the rain and snow. It is best to bird from your car, angling it in such a way that you have a clear view from your leeward window, but beware of the storm surge at high tide!

Seal Rocks

Seal Rocks, just north of Wallis Sands State Beach, is a small group of rocks relatively close to shore. The deep water around the rocks attracts most of the waterfowl, loons, and grebes that typically winter along our coast. Barrow's Goldeneye has been seen in association with Common Goldeneye in this location. It is also another place to look for alcids. Thick-billed Murre and Dovekie have been spotted from here. The rocks themselves are an excellent place to find Purple Sandpiper.

Concord Point

The best access to Concord Point is the small parking area south of the point along the ocean side of the road. It has limited parking but can accommodate a few cars. The point itself is private property. Do not drive or walk on Concord Point Road. Scan the rocks at the end of the point and the waters just offshore from the rocky beach along the main road. There are always large numbers of Great Cormorants and Common Eiders here. In recent years, this has been one of the better places to find King Eider along the New Hampshire coast. Also, don't forget to scan the marsh across the street. It has been known to host Short-eared Owl, Northern Harrier, and Rough-legged Hawk. Also check the stream that enters the ocean just north of the point. You can walk onto the bridge crossing this stream from your parking spot. Look especially towards the ocean and examine the mouth of the stream and the rocks beyond for the birds mentioned above.

Foss Beach

Foss Beach borders the large cove north of Rye Harbor State Park. Its best access is the large pull-off across from a white marble statue of an angel. There is a large exposed rocky beach here at low tide, and high tide brings waterbirds close to shore. This is a reliable spot for Bonaparte's Gulls. If you scan the flock for the rare Black-headed Gull here (and at other locations), you might encounter this species. The cove is an excellent spot for sea ducks. You can expect White-winged and Surf Scoters, Long-tailed Duck, and Common Goldeneye. Barrow's Goldeneye has been reported here several times. The

cove is another spot to look for Dovekie. Seeing them is a long shot, but they can be quite close to shore in this cove, when present. At low tide the beach can have a few wintering Sanderling and Dunlin.

Ragged Neck and Rye Harbor

Ragged Neck is the peninsula that forms Rye Harbor State Park. Entry is free in the winter. It juts out well into the Atlantic and is an excellent place from which to scan the Foss Beach cove to the north, the open ocean to the east, and Rye Harbor to the south. It also has a pavilion with a roof that offers excellent shelter from the elements. These features make it the best area along the coast for storm birding. Just stay under the shelter, set up your scope, and scan. This is another good spot to look for alcids. The jetty can be a place to find Purple Sandpiper. Don't forget to check the small beach at the northwest base of the peninsula. It frequently has shorebirds feeding in the wrack. Sometimes unusual wintering species such as Black-bellied Plover can be seen here. It is also a good spot to see Purple Sandpiper up close. The gravel parking lot attracts flocks of Horned Lark and Snow Bunting and an occasional Lapland Longspur.

Rye Harbor often shelters large numbers of loons, Red-breasted Merganser, Long-tailed Duck, and Common Eider. King Eider has been reported from here more than once. You can view the harbor from the north from Ragged Neck, from the west from the fishing pier, and from the south from the small turnaround on Harbor Road (but be mindful of private property on Harbor Road). While you are here don't forget to check the marsh across the street for Rough-legged Hawk and Northern Harrier.

Jenness Beach

The long sandy stretch of Jenness Beach is usually quite bare in winter, but it is a good spot to look for Sanderling. Gulls congregate at the mouth of a stream that enters the ocean near the south side of the beach. It's always good to scan these birds for unusual species. Eel Pond, across the street, is frequently frozen over in winter. If clear, it attracts ducks such as Common Goldeneye. Gulls roost on the ice and it is always worth scanning the flock for rarities.

Rye Ledge

You can scan Rye Ledge, a large offshore shoal that is especially well exposed at low tide, from the large pull-off here. Stay with your car, however, as this is one of the official "No Parking" areas. Rye Ledge always hosts a large group of Great Cormorants and gulls. Glaucous Gull has been reported here and this was a reliable spot for Black-headed Gull in 2004. Northern Gannets can be seen far offshore. The waters typically have Common Eider, Red-necked Grebe, White-winged and Surf Scoters, and Red-breasted Merganser. The rocks near shore frequently host wintering Sanderling, Purple Sandpiper, and Dunlin.

Fox Hill Point

Fox Hill Point is at the southern end of a large bay that straddles the Rye-North Hampton line. This bay is an excellent spot to observe Surf and White-winged Scoters, other sea ducks, grebes, and loons. It has been one of the more reliable spots to see Thick-billed Murre and, recently, a Common Murre was found here. In January, 2005 it hosted a Whooper Swan of uncertain provenance for several days.

Little Boars Head

This is a high sea cliff that offers a long view over the ocean. It is another good spot to scan for alcids, especially Razorbill and Black Guillemot. Red-throated Loon can be seen close to shore here fairly reliably. Stay with your car while parked at this spot.

North Hampton State Beach

It is always worth a stop to scan the beach and ocean here. King Eider has been seen in the past near the rocky shoal offshore. The beach hosts a good number of gulls in winter and Black-headed Gull has been found here. One year, someone photographed a Common Murre on this beach. The rocks on the north end of the beach are good for gulls. Look for both Iceland and Glaucous Gull.

Bicentennial Park

This small park in Hampton is a reliable spot to find all three scoter species. Scan the water for other sea ducks and the rocks for gulls. Iceland Gull is not uncommon at this spot. One major new feature here is the addition of heated restrooms that are open year-round! These are the only public restrooms along the New Hampshire seacoast in the winter and are a welcome spot for any birding party.

Great Boars Head

Although Great Boars Head is private property and you cannot drive on its roads and shouldn't walk its streets, you can scan the water north and south of this headland from public parking spots. During a northeast wind the cove south of the headland shelters many species. It is productive, however, regardless of weather. You can easily observe loons, grebes, all three scoters, and other sea ducks here. It is another spot to hope for alcids, especially Thick-billed Murre and Dovekie.

Hampton Beach State Park

Entry to this park is free during the winter. The large expanse of gravel and short grass as you enter the park and the camping area are both excellent places to look for large flocks of Horned Larks or Snow Buntings. Occasionally, Lapland Longspurs can be found in the bunting flocks. Merlins are a relatively new phenomenon here, especially in early winter, chasing the larks and buntings. Snowy Owl is relatively regular and has been found perched on the roof of the equipment garage or the pavilion or on the posts around the parking and camping areas. The beach offers a good spot to scan the ocean for waterfowl. All three scoters are reliable from this location. The jetty on both sides of the inlet is an excellent spot to scope for Purple Sandpipers. You can easily examine the inlet to Hampton Harbor from here.

Hampton Harbor

Hampton Harbor, located in Hampton and Seabrook, is an excellent place to look for gulls, especially at low tide. It is a reliable spot for Iceland Gull, which is reported annually from this location. The best location for Iceland Gull is in the cove just west of the parking lot in Seabrook, a half-mile south of the Hampton Harbor bridge. The Fisherman's Cooperative, just a bit north of here, welcomes birders. You can easily scope the exposed flats here for roosting gulls. Uncommon species to hope for include Glaucous, Little, and Lesser Black-backed Gulls.

Blackwater River Marsh

You can best observe the Blackwater River marsh in Seabrook from the back edge of the parking lot of Brown's Seafood Restaurant on Route 286. Gulls congregate in the channel. Scan the marsh for Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Harrier, and Snowy and Short-eared Owls.

Winter is our time to enjoy the coast. The beachgoers have all left, Hampton Beach is largely abandoned, parking is free in the state parks, and the birds await. Have fun!

I wish to give special thanks to Steve Mirick, who reviewed the first draft of this article and kindly offered his welcomed and experienced advice and comments. For more information on birding in the seacoast area, see his publication (listed below), available from New Hampshire Audubon.

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Volunteers and Research

Biodiversity Education Initiative – Bird Reports Needed

by Stephen R. Hale

In 1997, the Office of Sustainability Programs (OSP) was established at the University of New Hampshire (UNH). The OSP mission is to develop an integrated education program that incorporates principles of sustainability in all aspects of the university, including teaching, research, day-to-day operations, campus culture, and public service. A part of the OSP vision, as UNH emerges as the first public sustainable university in the country, is to implement various practices of education, research science and technology, policy, and ethics toward conserving and enhancing biodiversity on UNH-held properties. To this end, OSP has launched its Biodiversity Education Initiative (BEI).

When most of us think of UNH, we think of Durham, New Hampshire. However, UNH has significant property holdings outside Durham, and Strafford County. There are sizeable UNH properties in Carroll, Hillsborough, and Rockingham counties, and additional parcels in Grafton and Cheshire counties. The BEI has begun building a natural resource computer database for all UNH properties. This would allow the properties to be managed according to principles of sustainability and still fulfill the university's overall mission of education, research, and outreach. For example, if a UNH professor wanted to find a piece of UNH land with specific properties that would enhance a lesson on fire-maintained communities, the professor could search the database for plant species that thrive under such conditions. Then, a field trip could be arranged to visit the site. Note

that under the long-term plans for the database, the information (except for sensitive threatened and endangered species information) will also be made available over the Internet to the public.

A natural resource database consists of many different kinds of information that might be helpful in making wise decisions about how land is managed and used. The database is made up of lists, also known as inventories. These might include plants and animals that live on a property, or natural community types such as cedar swamps or blueberry fields. It can also contain unnatural features such as roads, railroads, and cell-phone towers, so that all elements, even unnatural ones, can be used to make wise decisions about natural resources. Additionally, whenever possible, specific geographic coordinates (obtained from GPS or a detailed map) are useful for producing maps that show the locations of elements in a list.

There are two main ways to fill in the natural resource lists for an area. The first is by direct observation, where people visit the property and record what they observe. The second way is by remote sensing methods that may use aerial photographs or satellite images. The first way, direct observation, is often the best way to record accurate instances of particular plant or animal species. However, it requires many people to make repeated visits at various times of day and times of year to build complete inventories.

The properties most distant from the UNH campus in Durham are visited least by UNH personnel, and therefore represent the greatest need for biotic resource information.

To get as much information about the plants and animals living on UNH properties as possible, and to encourage public participation in biodiversity education, the BEI welcomes observation records from all visitors to UNH properties. *New Hampshire Bird Records* is a publication that reaches professional and amateur birders in or near New Hampshire, and therefore this particular request for assistance focuses on birds. However, there are many well-rounded naturalists among this readership and BEI welcomes observational data about all varieties of plants and animals.

The table below (Table 1) shows the UNH property holdings. If you have birded on any of these properties, the BEI would like to include your personal observation records in its database. Alternatively, if you live or bird near any of these properties you may wish to put your future observations to good use by targeting your efforts on some of these properties. The information to include in your records are Property Name, Species, Number Observed, Evidence of Breeding, and any additional Comments (including geographic coordinates if available).

Tyra Byers, the BEI database manager, is available to answer any questions and to help in acquiring observations to include in the database. She has an MS Excel spreadsheet file with column labels, which she can send to those interested in entering, saving, and submitting large amounts of data in a digital file format. You can reach Tyra Byers by e-mail at tyra.byers@unh.edu or by telephone at 603-862-5039.

There are many examples of databases populated by volunteer observers, including the famous Breeding Bird Survey and Christmas Bird Count. These two international efforts have enjoyed success for many decades, and are a testament to birders' willingness to translate their efforts into information for science, conservation, and management. The BEI hopes to tap the same resource of concerned New Hampshire birders to help it manage UNH properties according to the principles of sustainability, thus preserving and enhancing the biodiversity the properties support.

Town	Property Name	Town	Property Name
Albany	Lot 17, Range 3	Holderness	Armstrong Natural Area
Albany	Wellman Forest Lot	Lee	Burley Demeritt Farm
Barrington	Mendums Pond Recreation Area	Lee	Davis Park
Barrington	Milne Lot	Lee	Dudley Lot
Durham	Action Learning Center (Browne Center)	Lee	Raiche Property (Systems Field)
Durham	College Woods	Madbury	Kingman Farm
Durham	Foss Farm East	Madison	Madison Lot
Durham	Foss Farm West	Manchester	Hackett Hill
Durham	Woodman Farm	Milton	Jones Property
Durham	MacDonald Lot	Northwood/ Deerfield	Saddleback Mountain
Durham	Thompson Farm	Ossipee	Bearcamp Property
Durham	Moore Fields	Ossipee	Davis White Lot
Epping	Hoar Property	Ossipee	Lord Farm
Hanover	Moose Mt WENH TV Transmitter Site (West Rattlesnake Mt. Natural Area)	Ossipee	Lovell River
		Sandwich	Five Finger Point Natural Area

New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee Report

The following report from the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee (NHRBC) contains decisions for records voted on by the Committee since the last report in the Winter 2003-04 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*. The NHRBC is an independent technical advisory committee to *New Hampshire Bird Records*. It reviews unusual sightings in an effort to maintain accuracy and scientific integrity for both *New Hampshire Bird Records* and the historical database of bird sightings maintained by New Hampshire Audubon (NHA). Sightings are evaluated based on the details submitted. A record must have a vote of 6-0 or 5-1 to be accepted by the Committee.

A rejection is not an indication that the identification was incorrect but that the information received was not enough to allow its inclusion in the state record. Adequate documentation is the key to whether a report is accepted or not. For information on the Committee and its decision-making process, please see the article in the Summer 1996 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*. The Fall 1996 issue has an article on how to document rare bird sightings. Contact the Managing Editor at NHA for a copy of either of these articles.

The current voting members of the committee are David Deifik, Alan Delorey, David Donsker, Davis Finch, George Gavutis, and Rob Woodward. Please contact any one of them if you have questions.

Spring 2004

Records accepted by the committee:

Greater White-fronted Goose in Kingston on March 14 (photo)
Eurasian subspecies of Green-winged Teal in Hampton on March 28 (photo)
Hybrid Common x Barrow's Goldeneye in Seabrook March 18 (photo)
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron on Star Island on May 31 (photo)
Atlantic Puffin offshore on March 14 (photo)
White-eyed Vireo in Concord on April 30
White-eyed Vireo in Weare on May 15
Varied Thrush in Meredith on April 1 (photo)
Worm-eating Warbler in Nottingham on May 27
Clay-colored Sparrow in Plymouth on May 28
Summer Tanager in Dover on May 17

Following the winter invasion, there were several Hoary Redpoll reports in the Spring of 2004. The following were accepted by the committee:

Sandwich on March 3 and 14 (different birds)
Epping on Mar 6
Chester on March 19
Wentworth's Location on March 27
Northfield on March 28
Columbia on March 31

Records accepted as Hypothetical by the committee:

An Anhinga in Chester on May 19 was well-described, but since it was only seen by a single observer and the species has yet to be fully documented in the state, it is accepted in the "hypothetical" category.

Records not accepted by the committee:

Least Bittern in Sutton on May 29. There was no description of the call of this heard-only bird, and Black-billed Cuckoo was not eliminated.
Mississippi Kite in Newmarket May 30. This species is extremely rare in New Hampshire, and the twig-breaking behavior reported by the observer is inconsistent with a vagrant. In addition, male Northern Goshawk was not conclusively eliminated.
Acadian Flycatcher in Gilmanton on May 7. This bird was apparently seen but not described. The unusually early date and inappropriate habitat also make the record problematic.
Blue Grosbeak in Hampton on May 22. Indigo Bunting was not eliminated: bird described as "slimmer than cowbird," and color of wing-bars not noted.

Summer 2004

Records accepted by the committee:

Pacific Loon in Rye on July 9-10 (photo)
Leach's Storm-Petrel off White Island on July 3
Sandhill Crane in Rochester on June 8
American Oystercatcher in Rye on June 8
Black-headed Gull in Rye on June 14 and 27
Lesser Black-backed Gull in Rye on June 2
Glaucous Gull in Seabrook between June 11 and July 16 (photo)
Arctic Tern in Seabrook on July 14
Common Murre off White and Seavey Islands on June 19
Atlantic Puffin off White and Seavey Islands on June 17
Red-headed Woodpecker in Sandwich on June 5
Acadian Flycatcher in Windham on June 5

Acadian Flycatcher in Mont Vernon on June 20 and 22
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow in North Hampton on July 27 and 29
Records not accepted by the committee:
Black Vulture in Dublin on July 4. The description of this bird did not note either the diagnostic white wing patches or leg/tail proportions that would distinguish this species from an immature Turkey Vulture.

Fall 2004

Records accepted by the committee:

Tundra Swan in Hinsdale on November 2
King Eider in Rye on September 13 (photo)
King Eider in Rye on September 28 (photo)
Storm-petrel species on Squam Lake on September 23 and 24
Baird's Sandpiper in Rye on August 15
Baird's Sandpiper in Rye on October 16
Royal Tern in Rye on August 15
Cave Swallow in Rye on November 26
Worm-eating Warbler on Star Island on September 1
Lark Sparrow in Hampton Falls on October 16 (photo)

Records not accepted by the committee:

Common Eider in Dublin on October 7. Description did not eliminate a variant domestic duck, which would be far more likely at this location.
American Three-toed Woodpecker in Errol on August 7. Observer did not eliminate Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, which also has a ladder back.
Hybrid Bullock's x Baltimore Oriole in Kensington during August. Based on the photographs accompanying the record, this bird was probably a young male Baltimore Oriole with a couple of unusual plumage characteristics.

Records Pending

Lark Sparrow in Keene on September 4 (pending receipt of photo).

Winter 2004-2005

Records accepted by the committee:

American White Pelican in Manchester on December 18
American White Pelican in Hollis on December 18-20 (probably same bird as previous)
Varied Thrush in Hopkinton on January 15
Yellow-throated Warbler in Dover from December 5 onward (photos)

Records not accepted by the committee:

Brown-headed Nuthatch in Manchester on January 4. There was no formal description of this bird, and given the extreme rarity of this species north of its usual range (Maryland), the committee was unable to accept the record.

Decisions of Late Submissions

Records that the Committee was unable to evaluate in time for publication with the other votes from that season.

Records accepted by the committee:

Tundra Swan in Monroe in early March 2003
Sandhill Crane in Wolfeboro on June 19, 2003
Red Phalarope offshore at Jeffrey's Ledge on September 7, 2003

Yellow-throated Warbler in Dover

by David Carr

A *Yellow-throated Warbler spent the winter of 2004–05 at David Carr's feeder in Dover, New Hampshire. The warbler became such a familiar sight at the feeder that David named him "Jeffrey" and tried, successfully, to help him survive the winter. Yellow-throated Warblers are rare in New Hampshire and typically seen in the spring (see the article on page 36). Many birders had a chance to see "Jeffrey" coming to David's feeders over the course of the winter. Here is David's account of this remarkable visitor. Ed.*



Yellow-throated Warbler by Tom Murray, Dover, NH.

"Jeffrey", the Yellow-throated Warbler, arrived on December 3, 2004, or at least that was when I first spotted him at my feeders. It took a few days for me to identify him, as I did not believe a Yellow-throated Warbler could be this far north. For the first few weeks I observed him every morning and every evening feeding on suet and small seeds. After a few weeks I thought I should post his presence on the NH.Birds listserv to let other people know he was here in New Hampshire in the dead of winter. Being new to birding I did not realize how many people would rush here to see him!

After my sighting was confirmed, I received several e-mails from people saying he needed worms to survive the winter. I found a good mealworm supplier and began feeding him a steady diet of them. Jeffrey would be waiting at first light for me to fill his container. At first he would eat ten at a time before retiring to a nearby tree. He would also be waiting for me when I arrived home from work. As soon as the worms were in his container, he would be there.

All winter long Jeffrey maintained this same schedule. On weekends, when the weather was nice, I would fill his container several more times during the day. On one occasion I was very late getting home from work. My wife arrived home before me and noticed Jeffrey waiting in his tree to be fed. She ran inside the house to answer a phone call and left the porch door open. After she finished with the call she went back to close the door and there was Jeffrey, sitting on the door waiting for his worms!

Jeffrey appeared like clockwork until April 4. I last saw him on the evening of April 3 at about 6 o'clock. I know that many things could have happened to him, but I choose to think that it was time for him to head for "home". Jeffrey certainly brightened an otherwise long cold winter.

Photo Quiz Answer

by David B. Donsker

Yes, more gulls! But practice makes perfect and gulls offer great diagnostic challenges, so here are two more. Why are gulls so difficult? First, the plumage and structural differences between species are often subtle. On top of that, there can be quite striking individual differences within species that are related to age, sex, feather wear, color of the non-feathered “soft parts” (bill, legs, eyes, orbital ring), stage of molt, and even light conditions. Because of these difficulties, gull identification requires patience, careful study, and experience.

In general, the gulls in our region fall into two categories: small to medium sized “black-hooded” gulls and medium sized to large “white-headed” gulls. The expected “white-headed” gulls in New Hampshire include Greater and Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Glaucous Gull, and Iceland Gull. The “white-headed” gulls have in common pure white heads in adult summer plumage. In the winter their heads remain largely white, but have variable amounts of dark streaking depending on the species.

The “black-hooded” gulls, which include Bonaparte’s Gull, Black-headed Gull, Little Gull, Laughing Gull, Franklin’s Gull and the pelagic Sabine’s Gull, have black, dark gray, or brownish-black heads or hoods in their adult summer breeding plumage. In the winter or non-breeding condition, these species either retain the rear portion of the hood or have a dark “ear-spot” behind the eye. These gulls achieve adult plumage in two years. Their brief juvenile plumage, held for a few months in summer and early fall, is characterized by streaking or scalloping of the feathers on the mantle or upperparts. In their first winter plumages, they are largely separable from adults by black terminal tail bands. Adults, in contrast, have pure white tails. First summer birds usually have incomplete hoods.

Our mystery birds are clearly adult “black-hooded” gulls in non-breeding plumage. Both birds have distinct dark “ear-spots” and in both individuals the top of the head is darkly speckled. Their mantles are uniform pale gray. Their underparts are pure white. Both birds have dark bills and both have dark edging on the folded wing tips. Despite their similarities, the two birds are subtly different. The rear bird is clearly smaller and more delicate in appearance. Its head is rounder. Its bill is smaller and thinner and has a much less prominent angle towards the tip of the lower mandible. If you examine both birds carefully, you can also see that the mantle is slightly darker on the smaller bird.

Three of our “hooded-gulls”—Sabine’s Gull, Laughing Gull and Franklin’s Gull—can be eliminated by the head pattern. These species lack distinct “ear-spots” in winter plumage. Sabine’s and Franklin’s Gulls have partial or half-hoods in winter. Their foreheads turn white, but the rear parts of their heads remain quite dark. In winter, adult Laughing Gulls are less distinctly half-hooded, but the backs of their heads show variable amounts of dark wash. This is sometimes rather restricted in distribution, but never develops into a distinct dark “ear-spot.” Further, Laughing Gull has a long,

heavier, droopy bill, which is quite unlike the more delicate and straighter bills of these two birds. In addition, Sabine's Gull has a bicolor bill that is pale at the tip. All of these species also have much darker mantles than the birds in the photograph.

While not actually a "hooded gull," one species deserves brief consideration. Although it is "white-headed" in summer plumage, adult Black-legged Kittiwake develops a distinct "ear-spot" in winter. But kittiwakes have proportionally short, pale bills that are quite unlike the more slender dark bills of these two birds.

The three "hooded-gulls" that have distinct "ear-spots" in winter plumage are Little Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, and Black-headed Gull. Of the three, Little Gull is the most distinctive. It differs from the other two species in having a delicate short, straight, black bill. It also has a more extensively dark crown. Finally, adult Little Gulls have short, rather rounded pale wing tips. In flight, the wings of Little Gull show white restricted to the very tips of the wings, while both Bonaparte's and Black-headed Gulls have a prominent white wedge along the leading edge of the upper wing.

Bonaparte's Gull and Black-headed Gull are quite similar in appearance. However, there are subtle differences by which they can be distinguished, if examined carefully. The rarer Black-headed Gull differs from Bonaparte's Gull in being slightly larger and paler mantled with a larger, heavier bill. When seen in the field, the soft parts are also different. The bill and legs of adult Black-headed Gull are deep red. In contrast, adult Bonaparte's Gull has a black bill and its legs are paler orange-red. Other distinguishing differences between these two species cannot be appreciated in resting birds. In flight, the underside of the primary flight feathers are dark in Black-headed Gull, but pure white in Bonaparte's Gull. Further, Black-headed Gull has broader wings and a somewhat slower wing-beat.

If we examine the two gulls in the photograph again we can see that, although superficially similar, they are, in fact, different species. The smaller, more delicate bird in the back is a Bonaparte's Gull. The larger, heavier billed bird in the foreground is a Black-headed Gull.

Bonaparte's and Black-headed Gulls are very closely related species whose breeding ranges, in general, do not overlap geographically. Bonaparte's Gull, *Larus philadelphia*, is strictly a North American breeding bird. It breeds in loose colonies in the boreal forest of Canada and Alaska. Unlike other gull species, it nests in coniferous trees, generally around bogs, ponds, and bays. After a short breeding season, the birds migrate to our coasts where they typically winter in large flocks. In New Hampshire you can expect to find them in bays and coves from Portsmouth to Seabrook. A few non-breeding birds can be found even in the summer months.

Black-headed Gull, *Larus ridibundus*, on the other hand, is primarily an Old World species. It breeds in a variety of habitats from steppe and Mediterranean climates to boreal forest and the fringe of the subarctic from Iceland to eastern Siberia. In the Old World it winters as far south as sub-Saharan Africa, south Asia, and Japan. The species has expanded its range in the 20th century and was first noted to breed in Greenland in 1969 and Newfoundland in 1977. It is now known to be a scarce breeder in Atlantic Canada, in Quebec, and once in Massachusetts. From the latter half of the 20th century it has become an increasingly frequent and now regular visitor to eastern North America, especially in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia and, in lesser numbers, to New

England. Most of these individuals are suspected to be of Icelandic origin and, in fact, one leg-banded individual photographed in New Hampshire in the summer of 2003 was proven to be an Icelandic bird. You can expect to find this species in low numbers in New Hampshire every year, typically in association with flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls. If you want to find this rare species for yourself, just carefully examine those flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls that you encounter along our coast. Eventually, you are likely to be well rewarded.



This excellent photograph, which nicely shows the differences between these two similar species in non-breeding plumage, was taken by Steve Mirick at the south end of Wallis Sands State Beach in July, 2004.

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Corrections

The following corrections were found after the issue was published. Minor typos are not included. Please let us know of any inaccuracies you find in any issue so we can correct the sighting records in the computer data file.

Winter 2002-03

- p. 5 In the Waterfowl summary, second line, the Northern Shoveler was seen at the Exeter wastewater treatment plant not the Rochester plant, but Rochester was the site of last winter's record.
- p. 9 In the Wild Turkey through Alcids summary, the single Dovekie report was from Rye not Dover, and the following sentence regarding the unusual location should not have been included. (Rye would not be an unusual location for a Dovekie, although Dover would have been.)
- p.14 In the Warblers through Snow Bunting summary, the sixth sentence should read "The Ipswich race of Savannah Sparrow is quite scarce in the state in winter."
- p.17 In the Blackbirds through Evening Grosbeak summary, the third line regarding the Western Tanager should be in the Warblers through Snow Bunting summary on page 14.
- p.22 In the Grafton-Bristol Highlights, Phred Benham established the new Grafton-Bristol CBC not Ben Griffith.
- p.27 In the Sandwich CBC, there should be 26 Common Ravens.

Spring 2003

- p. 5 A Green Heron not a Glossy Ibis was seen on 05-31 in Holderness.
- p. 14 The Little Gull photo was taken on 07-18 not 05-30.
- p. 17 The Northern Flicker on 03-23 was seen in Concord not Plymouth.
- p. 24 The Lawrence's Warbler-hybrid was seen at Seabrook Shooting Range off Rt. 107 on both 05-22 and 05-25 and not at the powerline off Rt. 108.
- p. 29 Thirty-six Dark-eyed Juncos, not Eastern Towhees, were seen on 04-19 in Gilsum.
- p. 47 The end of the last line of acknowledgements should read "for his welcomed editorial suggestions".

Summer 2003

- p. 4 Five Canada Geese not four were seen in Nashua on 06-14.
- p. 20 The Acadian Flycatchers seen on 06-07 and on 06-08 are two different birds at separate locations.
- p. 52 A corrected description was sent to *New Hampshire Bird Records* to describe the trail along the main beaver swamp. This is in the paragraph that starts at the bottom of page 52. The second line should be replaced by the following: "In another hundred yards or so, you will see a crude trail that starts downhill on the left. Take this trail about a hundred yards until the forest opens up a bit on the right. There is a suggestion of a trail here that bends right and soon turns into a real trail that runs along the edge of the swamp, which will be on your left."

Abbreviations Used

BBC	Brookline Bird Club	Rd.	Road
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey	Rt.	Route
CA	Conservation Area	SF	State Forest
CC	Country Club	St. Pk.	State Park
FT	Field Trip	SPNHF	Society for the Protection of NH Forests, Concord
L.	Lake	T&M	Thompson & Meserves (Purchase)
LPC	Loon Preservation Committee	WMA	Wildlife Management Area
NA	Natural Area	WMNF	White Mountain National Forest
NHA	New Hampshire Audubon	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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A Chance Encounter



Great Horned Owl by James P. Smith, 2/26/2005, Keene, NH.

While on his way home on February 26, 2005, James Smith had a chance to witness “a day in the life of a Great Horned Owl.” As he approached West Street in Keene, New Hampshire, in fading light and with snow flurries developing, he noticed a Great Horned Owl taking a vole in the fashion of the Great Gray Owl, by plunging into the snow of an open field. Soon after, a Northern Shrike swooped in and hovered over the owl while he mantled (kept it under the cover of its wings) his prey in the snow. The shrike continued to harass him even after he flew into a nearby tree with his catch. To complicate matters further, a male Cooper’s Hawk flew into the same tree, quickly getting rid of the shrike. The hawk then began mobbing the owl with raucous screams. At this point, concerned over whether the owl would have a meal, James decided to leave. He had enjoyed a glimpse of the amazing interaction between the predators and the not-so-easy life of a Great Horned Owl!

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