

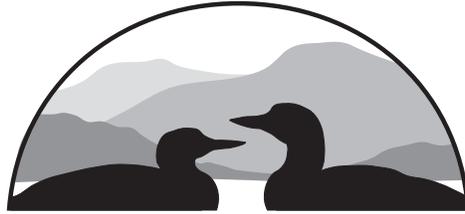
# New Hampshire Bird Records



**Summer 2004**

**Vol. 23, No. 2**

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## **New Hampshire Bird Records** **Volume 23, Number 2** **Summer 2004**

*Managing Editor:* Rebecca Suomala  
603-224-9909 X309  
[bsuomala@nhaudubon.org](mailto:bsuomala@nhaudubon.org)

*Text Editor:* Dorothy Fitch

*Season Editors:* Pamela Hunt, Spring; William Taffe, Summer; Stephen Mirick, Fall; David Deifik, Winter

*Layout:* Kathy McBride

*Production Assistants:* Kathie Palfy, Diane Parsons

*Assistants:* Marie Anne, Jeannine Ayer, Julie Chapin, Margot Johnson, Janet Lathrop, Susan MacLeod, Dot Soule, Jean Tasker, Tony Vazzano, Robert Vernon

*Volunteer Opportunities and Birding Research:* Susan Story Galt

*Photo Quiz:* David Donsker

*Where to Bird Feature*

*Coordinator:* William Taffe

*Maps:* William Taffe

**Cover Photo:** Juvenile Northern Saw-whet Owl, by Paul Knight, June, 2004, Frankestown, NH. Paul watched as it flew up with a mole in its talons.

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*Caspian Tern by Stephen R. Mirick,  
 6-21-04, Jenness Beach, Rye, NH.*

## Announcements

### Volunteer Request

*New Hampshire Bird Records* is looking for volunteers to fill several positions. Please consider joining the team and helping us to create a quality publication that everyone can enjoy. If you are interested in any of the following, please contact the Managing Editor, Becky Suomala, at 603-224-9909 X309 or [bsuomala@nhaudubon.org](mailto:bsuomala@nhaudubon.org).

**Photo editor:** Gather photos for each issue from a variety of sources including the NH.Birds list serve and photographer web sites, evaluate for publication, contact photographers and collect images with photo information. Work with Art Editor on final selection. Proficiency with computers and e-mail is essential. Experience with digital photography or photo publication preferred. Knowledge of New Hampshire birds and birding is extremely helpful. This work may be done from a home computer with high speed internet access.

**Art editor:** Select and compile photos and artwork for each issue, create a list of all materials, provide placement guidelines and captions, maintain files and database of art and photos, return materials after publication. Proficiency with computers and e-mail is essential. Good attention to detail required. Knowledge of New Hampshire birds and birding is extremely helpful, but not necessary. Hours can be flexible but most work needs to be done in the Concord office.

### NOW AVAILABLE!!! A Checklist of the Birds of New Hampshire

It's finally here! The long awaited and much anticipated NEW edition of *A Checklist of the Birds of New Hampshire* has been published.

This revised edition of the 1982 classic written by Kimball C. Elkins contains fully updated and easy to understand bar graphs for each species that depict the abundance and months of occurrence in the state. It also features a brief synopsis on bird migration in New Hampshire written by Tudor Richards, and expanded, detailed descriptions of the seven major birding regions in the state that will point you in the right direction to birding "hot spots". Other features include an index, map, and notes on casual, accidental and introduced species. It is an invaluable tool for both beginning and experienced birders.

Published by New Hampshire Audubon Society, and edited by Pamela Hunt, Stephen R. Mirick, Robert A. Quinn, Tudor Richards and Rebecca Suomala, this latest edition is 48-pages with a full-color cover.

To purchase a copy of *A Checklist of The Birds of New Hampshire*, send \$8.50 per copy (includes shipping) to: Checklist, Audubon Society of New Hampshire, 3 Silk Farm Rd., Concord, NH 03301. For credit card purchases, call 603-224-9909, ext. 305. Copies are also available for sale on the New Hampshire Audubon web site ([www.nhaudubon.org](http://www.nhaudubon.org)) and at the Silk Farm and Massabesic Audubon Nature Stores in Concord and Auburn.

## New Photo Quiz



### Can You Identify This Bird?

Answer on page 58

Photo by Terri E. Donsker

## Summer Season

### June 1 through July 31, 2004

by Bill Taffe, Summer Editor

#### Weather

Climatologically, both June and July were colder than normal. The state averaged 2.4° F below normal during June and about 1.3° F below normal during July. The northern part of New Hampshire took the brunt of the cold in June, registering temperatures 4.5° F below normal, while the southern half was only 1.5° F cooler than typical. June also brought strong temperature contrasts with greater than normal swings from high to low. A warm spell around June 10 brought the highest temperatures of the month (high 80s to low 90s) was immediately followed on June 11 and 12 by the lowest (low 40s and 30s especially in the north country). July had less fewer dramatic temperature changes, except near the end of the month when there was a strong warm-cold-warm fluctuation.

Rainfall differed between June and July, with June bringing 1.25 inches less rain than normal and July just over .5 inch above normal. These departures from the normal don't represent unusual rainfall patterns for those months, although there were locations in the state that registered local extremes in precipitation.

#### Summer Highlights

**Isles of Shoals and Offshore**—The islands yielded **Common Murre** and **Atlantic Puffins** which have been seen more regularly here in the summer in recent years. The Tern Restoration Project continued its successes with **7,500 Common**, **300 Roseate**, and **15 Arctic Terns** at peak counts on White and Seavey Islands. An **Iceland Gull** was also present.

**Coastal**—A **Pacific Loon** was present for several days in early July. Other unusual birds along the coast included an **American Oystercatcher**; **Black-headed**, **Little**, and **Glaucous Gulls**; a **Lesser Black-backed Gull**; and **Arctic Terns**. **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows** were seen in North Hampton and a **Seaside Sparrow** was noted in Hampton marsh. In early summer Steve Mirick commented on the NH.Birds e-mail list that it was a "good summer for winter birds." As seen in the reports below, many species reported along the coast this summer are normally associated with the colder seasons.



*Pacific Loon by Stephen R. Mirick, 7-10-04, Pulpit Rocks, Rye, NH.*



*Bill Taffe*

**Inland**—The word of the year was “cuckoo”; both **Black-billed** and **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** abounded in all corners of the state. **Sandhill Cranes** appeared in Rochester and Monroe, a **Red-headed Woodpecker** was sighted in North Sandwich, and **Acadian Flycatchers** were found in two atypical locations, Windham and Mont Vernon. This species is most frequently reported from Pawtuckaway State Park in Nottingham. A **Red-necked Grebe**, rare in the summer, briefly appeared on Swain’s Lake in Barrington.

## Waterfowl and Grouse and Allies

**M**ost of the following Wood Duck reports included ducklings. The reporters in Kensington and Weare saw the ducks throughout the summer. The Mallards at the Exeter wastewater treatment plant were 11 broods of females with 50–100 young. The Red-breasted Mergansers reported on June 8 were an unusual number for the summer; they weren’t reported later in the season, which suggests that they were late migrants. Two male **King Eiders**, one adult and one immature, were seen at the Isles of Shoals. The immature persisted from mid-June through mid-July. This species is very rare in summer but as we’ve seen in recent years, the Isles of Shoals presents a very different set of species than our coastal environment. Common Goldeneyes breed only in the most northerly parts of New Hampshire and the sightings in Errol probably represent that population. The **White-winged Scoter** at the coast were “good finds” as they are rare in summer.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Canada Goose</b>				
06-23	9	Pittsburg	First Lake	E. Nielsen
07-12	16	Pittsburg	East Inlet	T. & B. Richards
07-31	17	Nashua	Burke St.	B. Ayer
<b>Wood Duck</b>				
06-08	9	Rye	Eel Pond	M. Harvey
06-12	25	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-13	10	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-13	22	Rochester	Pickering Ponds trails	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
06-17	9	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	J. Berry
07-10	10	S. Hampton	Brookside WS	J. Berry
07-20	16	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	M. Harvey
<b>Mallard</b>				
06-10	37	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
06-13	11 broods	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
06-23	27	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
<b>Mallard-American Black Duck hybrid</b>				
07-01	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
<b>Blue-winged Teal</b>				
07-20	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	M. Harvey
07-26	7	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
07-27	7	Hampton	Meadow Pond	M. Harvey

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Green-winged Teal</b>				
07-09	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
07-12	15	Pittsburg	East Inlet	T. & B. Richards
07-29	3	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
<b>Ring-necked Duck</b>				
06-22	3	Pittsburg	Big Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-25	2	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
<b>King Eider</b>				
06-17	2	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Ring
06-27	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, M. Barney, M. Bean
07-13	1	Rye	Seavey Island	E. Masterson, D. Hayward
<b>Common Eider</b>				
06-02	46		NH coast	S. Mirick
06-10	250	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
06-19	27		NH coast	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
<b>Surf Scoter</b>				
06-02	9		NH coast	S. Mirick
06-19	10	Hampton	NH coast	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
07-01	1	Hampton	North Beach	S. Mirick
07-24	1	Rye	Jeness Beach	R. & M. Suomala
<b>White-winged Scoter</b>				
06-02	11	N. Hampton	North Hampton State Beach	S. Mirick
06-23	5	Rye	NH coast	J. Smith
07-01	5	Rye	Jeness Beach	S. Mirick
07-05	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward
07-18	2		NH coast	J. Smith, S. Lerman
<b>Black Scoter</b>				
06-02	15		NH coast	S. Mirick
06-19	5	Hampton	NH coast	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
07-13	2	Rye	Seavey Island	E. Masterson
<b>Long-tailed Duck</b>				
06-02	3		NH coast	S. Mirick
06-19	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	S. Mirick
<b>Common Goldeneye</b>				
06-05	6	Errol	Androscoggin R., near Cambridge line	L. Jones
06-11	1	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
<b>Hooded Merganser</b>				
06-14	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-23	5	Laconia	Elm St, Laconia CC	H. Anderson
06-30	9	Merrimack	Baboosic Lake Road	T. Young
07-12	10	Pittsburg	East Inlet	T. & B. Richards
07-20	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
<b>Common Merganser</b>				
06-19	6	Pittsburg	Rt. 3	E. Nielsen
07-26	1	New Durham	Merrymeeting Lake, North Shore Rd.	G. Prazar
07-31	7	Franklin	mouth of Pemigewasset River	P. Hunt

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Red-breasted Merganser</b>				
06-08	35		NH coast	M. Harvey
06-10	7	Rye	Rye Ledges	J. Smith
06-16	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward
06-23	14	Rye	Rye Ledge	J. Smith
07-24	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	R. & M. Suomala
<b>Spruce Grouse</b>				
06-10	2	Beans Grant	Webster Cliff, Webster Jackson Trail & Crawford Path	M. Harvey
06-11	1	Albany	Church Pond Trail	M. & J. Halloran
07-26	1	Pittsburg	Deer Mountain Rd.	E. Nielsen
<b>Wild Turkey</b>				
06-09	1	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	J. & L. Duprey
06-14	1	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-16	7	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
06-24	14	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Road	M. Wright
07-07	3	Concord	Birch St. gardens off Clinton St.	R. Suomala
07-14	1	Hampton	North Shore Rd.	D. Crowley

## Loons, Grebes, Shearwaters, Storm-Petrels, Gannets, and Cormorants

The **Pacific Loon** that appeared off Pulpit Rocks in Rye on July 9 and 10 is a very rare occurrence in New Hampshire. Thanks to timely notices on the NH.Birds e-mail list, many observers got a chance to see this rarity. A Red-throated Loon, which was on the beaver pond on Durham Point Road (in Durham) in May, was present on June 15 still with fishing line wrapped in its feathers, impeding its ability to fly. **Red-necked Grebes** are very unusual in mid-summer, yet were observed four times this summer, including briefly on Swain's Lake in Barrington. The Pied-billed Grebes in Durham on June 13 were a mother with three young. **Leach's Storm-Petrels** are usually observed in offshore waters and this summer a single individual was seen with several of the more common Wilson's Storm-Petrels about ten miles from land. Biologists traveling to the Isles of Shoals reported counting 186 Wilson's Storm Petrels between the mouth of the river and the islands. They also reported 24 at the Isles on June 9. The Northern Gannets seen in both June and July are common birds of spring and fall, but less common in summer.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Red-throated Loon</b>				
06-15	1	Durham	Durham Point Rd.	S. Mirick
<b>Pacific Loon</b>				
07-09	1	Rye	n. of Foss Beach & Pulpit Rocks off Rt. 1A	S. Mirick, B. Griffith, M. Harvey, D. Abbott, D. Donsker, J. Lawrence, et al.
07-11	1	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	D. Crowley

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Common Loon</b>				
06-04	3	Gilmanton	Loon Pond	J. Stockwell
06-26	4	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	D. Govatski
07-01	16		NH coast	S. Mirick
07-06	4	Northfield	Knowles Pond	I. MacLeod
07-11	2	New Durham	Merrymeeting Lake	G. Prazar
07-27	10	Pittsburg	First Lake	E. Nielsen
<b>Pied-billed Grebe</b>				
06-13	4	Durham	marsh off Packers Falls Rd.	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
06-13	1	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-25	1	Pittsburg	Scott Bog	E. Nielsen
07-12	2	Pittsburg	East Inlet	T. & B. Richards
07-13	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd. & vicinity	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
07-13	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	D. Govatski
07-14	1	Keene	Ashuelot River Park	J. Smith
07-19	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	M. Harvey
<b>Red-necked Grebe</b>				
06-20	1	Barrington	Swains Lake	A. Smith, S. Shepard, S. Hale
06-23	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. Mirick, J. Smith
06-28	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
07-12	1	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	E. Masterson
<b>Manx Shearwater</b>				
06-02	2	Hampton	Great Boars Head	S. Mirick
07-05	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward
07-11	1		s.s.e. of White Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Harvey
07-24	4	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	R. & M. Suomala
<b>Wilson's Storm-Petrel</b>				
06-08	21		NH coast	M. Harvey
06-09	24	Rye	within Isles of Shoals from boat	L. Herlihy, M. Wright, G. Shipley
06-10	3	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
06-14	8	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward
07-04	14	Rye	between Rye Harbor & Isles of Shoals	R. Suomala, S. Reynolds
07-09	226	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
07-09	24	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward
07-11	300		offshore waters, whale watch	M. Harvey
07-14	171		NH coast	S. Mirick
07-15	1585		NH coast	M. Harvey
07-16	400		NH coast	S. Mirick
07-18	97	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward, J. Kanter
07-20	410		NH coast	S. Mirick
07-30	32	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward
<b>Leach's Storm-Petrel</b>				
07-03	1	Rye	about 5 mi.e.s.e. of White Island	B. Griffith

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Northern Gannet</b>				
06-02	2		NH coast	S. Mirick
06-18	5	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward, et. al.
06-19	9	Hampton	Great Boars Head	J. O'Shaughnessy
06-23	3	Rye	NH coast	J. Smith
07-14	64	Rye	NH coast	J. Smith
07-17	4	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean. D. Hayward, J. Kanter
<b>Double-crested Cormorant</b>				
06-03	3	Exeter	Powder House Pond	G. Prazar
06-03	6	Exeter	Exeter R.	G. Prazar
06-06	1	Northfield	Winnepesaukee River	P. Hunt
06-27	112	Rye	Lunging Is., Isles of Shoals	R. Suomala, et al.
07-26	12	Charlestown	Connecticut River	M. Harvey
<b>Great Cormorant</b>				
06-25	2	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. Mirick

## Bitterns, Herons and Egrets, New World Vultures

**J**im Berry reported Great Blue Herons nesting at the Brookside Wildlife Sanctuary, noting that it is at least the third year for this colony. There were eight nests in 2002 and 17 in 2003. Observers to the site on July 5 counted 22 active nests with four adults with 35 young. Fledging was completed in mid-July. Great Egrets are sometimes seen inland during April and early May, but generally disappear from interior locations until late July, reappearing during August and September. This year **Great Egrets** appeared at inland sites in the last week of July. The Green Heron that George Gavutis reported from Kensington was first observed on June 11 and was seen regularly through the end of July (see the article on page 45).

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>American Bittern</b>				
06-02	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS, "Moorhen Marsh"	D. Govatski
06-24	1	Canterbury	Peverly Meadow	R. Quinn
06-27	1	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
07-16	1	Swanzy	Keene Airport	P. Hunt, K. Doyle
<b>Great Blue Heron</b>				
06-01	42	S. Hampton	Brookside WS	J. Berry
06-05	60	Danville	town CA	K. Folsom
06-13	6	Exeter	Exeter R. just below dam	G. Prazar
07-05	39	S. Hampton	Brookside WS	R. & M. Suomala
07-26	14	Charlestown	Connecticut River	M. Harvey
07-29	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd. beaver pond	M. Wright, S. Webb, W. Ward, K. Wright
07-31	5	Franklin	mouth of Pemigewasset River	P. Hunt

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Great Egret</b>				
06-30	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward
07-09	19	Hampton	Hampton/Seabrook marsh	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
07-09	19	Hampton	Hampton Harbor & Depot Rd.	B. Griffith & M. Harvey
07-24	1	Boscawen	Merrimack River	R. Quinn, SPNHF FT
07-25	1	Hancock	Powder Mill Pond	E. Masterson
07-29	1	Concord	pond at Steeplegate Mall	R. Quinn
07-29	1	Manchester	exit 6, Rt. 293	B. Griffith
07-31	3	Bennington	Powder Mill Pond	I. MacLeod
<b>Snowy Egret</b>				
06-10	7	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, DF. Hayward
07-09	15	Hampton	Hampton/Seabrook Marsh	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
07-09	15	Hampton	Hampton Harbor & Depot Rd.	B. Griffith & M. Harvey
07-16	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
07-21	26	Hampton	Rt. 101 & Landing Road	J. O'Shaughnessy
07-24	10	Rye	Duddy Stream restoration	R. & M. Suomala
07-25	3	Hampton	North Shore Rd.	D. Crowley
<b>Little Blue Heron</b>				
07-11	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	M. Harvey
07-24	1	Rye	Duddy Stream restoration	R. & M. Suomala
<b>Green Heron</b>				
06-08	2	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-13	4	Rochester	Pickering Ponds trails	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
06-13	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	I. MacLeod, R. Woodward
06-18	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-27	1	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-27	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	G. Prazar
07-24	1	Concord	Merrimack River	S. Blackmer
07-26	4	Charlestown	on Connecticut River	M. Harvey
07-29	3	Concord	pond at Steeplegate Mall	R. Quinn
<b>Black-crowned Night-Heron</b>				
06-24	1	Hancock	Powder Mill Pond	D. & L. Stokes
06-27	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	G. Prazar
07-09	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
07-29	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	M. Harvey
<b>Glossy Ibis</b>				
06-08	1	Hampton	Little Jack's restaurant	M. Harvey
06-11	10	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward
06-12	1	Rye	Rt. 1A marsh, w. of Foss Beach	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
06-27	5	Rye	Odiorne Pt.	E. Masterson, D. Houghton
<b>Turkey Vulture</b>				
06-15	6	Keene		M. Wright
06-22	32	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
06-30	8	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Road	M. Wright
07-04	57	Laconia	Elm St., Laconia CC	H. Anderson
07-13	29	Nashua	Tumble Brook, Jenness Park	B. Harris
07-29	3	Pittsburg	Moose Pond Rd.	E. Nielsen



*Bald Eagle by Anthony Brown, Nubansit Lake.*

## Raptors

Summer 2004 was a very good summer for two of the four raptors on the New Hampshire Endangered and Threatened Species list, the Bald Eagle and the Osprey, but yielded mixed results for another, the Peregrine Falcon. The table below gives a brief overview of the summer.

Species	Territorial Pairs or Occupied Nests	Nests with Incubation	Successful Nests	Young Fledged
Bald Eagle	8	7	6	11
Osprey	42	34	26	53
Peregrine Falcon	15	11	8	15

**Bald Eagles** tied the New Hampshire record for territorial pairs in the post-DDT era and set new records in the other three categories. According to Chris Martin, senior biologist at NH Audubon, "...just this single breeding season has produced more than 25% of all the young Bald Eagles fledged from New Hampshire nests in the past 55+ years..." **Osprey** had a similarly successful season. New records were set in the "Nests with Incubation" and "Successful Nests" categories, and the number of occupied nests was just two shy of the New Hampshire record set in 2003; however, the 2004 nests produced one fledged chick fewer than last year's record. With the exception of the Saco River watershed, Osprey are now distributed across four of the five major New Hampshire watersheds. For suggestions on where to look for Osprey see the "Where to Bird" article by Chris Martin on page 43.

Peregrine Falcons had a record high of 15 occupied breeding territories, but in all other measures were below expectations, especially in "Young Fledged." This year's nests produced the lowest number of young in a decade, far below the record of 27 set in 2002, and is the second successive year of low productivity. Raptor biologist, Chris Martin, speculated that the "small brood sizes and few unhatched eggs suggests that this season's poor production might have been the result of food shortage and thermal stress, both caused by the cold, wet weather that occurred during an extended period in late May." A couple of seasons of late wet and cold weather can't be controlled, but the increased number of occupied territories suggests that Peregrine Falcons are "alive and well" in New Hampshire. The Peregrine Falcon at the Isles of Shoals was a juvenile that was seen robbing one of the newly-hatched tern chicks from the Tern Restoration Project.

Merlins again bred successfully in Hanover and were also seen in southern New Hampshire on several occasions. The Merlins in Concord, Keene, and Hampton are somewhat unusual southerly sightings for this species in summer. Several single sightings of both Broad-winged Hawks and Red-tailed Hawks were reported, though not included in the listings below, as both are reasonably common in summer months.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Osprey</b>				
06-01	3	S. Hampton	Brookside WS	J. Berry
06-14	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-14	1	Lisbon	over baseball field by Ammonoosuc R.	D. Blais
06-16	6	Salisbury	Punch Brook	I. MacLeod
07-06	4	Belmont	Ephraim's Cove, Lake Winnisquam	I. MacLeod
07-06	3	Franklin	Franklin Power Line	I. MacLeod
07-18	1	Thornton	Pemigewasset River above Cross Rd.	P. Hunt
07-21	3	Sanbornton	Hermit Lake	I. MacLeod
07-24	1	Fitzwilliam	Laurel Lake	I. MacLeod
07-24	1	Boscawen	Merrimack River	R. Quinn, Concord Area Chapter FT
07-27	2	Pittsburg	Moose Pond Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-31	1	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Quinn, Concord Area Chapter FT
<b>Bald Eagle</b>				
06-01	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	D. Govatski
06-13	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
06-25	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-10	1	Concord	Merrimack River at Sewalls Falls	P. Hunt, M. Marchand, et al.
07-11	1	Stewartstown	Little Diamond Pond	T. & B. Richards
07-20	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	M. Harvey
07-21	1	Bennington	Rt. 202 s. of Powder Mill Pond	I. MacLeod
07-24	1	Boscawen	Merrimack River	R. Quinn, SPNHF FT
07-25	1	Errol	Androscoggin River, Rt. 16	J. & K. Stockwell
07-26	1	Charlestown	Connecticut River	M. & J. Harvey
<b>Northern Harrier</b>				
06-02	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS, "Moorhen Marsh"	D. Govatski
06-13	1	Concord	Concord Airport	I. MacLeod, R. Woodward
07-17	2	Whitefield	Whitefield Airport	I. MacLeod
<b>Cooper's Hawk</b>				
06-15	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-16	1	Salem	Michele Memorial Park	K. Folsom
06-28	1	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
07-08	1	Sanbornton	Rt. 127 & Meadows Dr.	D. Stavros, L. Bardusk
07-15	1	Hooksett	toll plaza	I. MacLeod
<b>Northern Goshawk</b>				
06-24	2	Warren	woodland off Rt. 118	D. Blais
07-28	3	Newbury	Hay Forest Reservation	D. Anderson
07-30	1	Gilmanton	Loon Pond, old Jones farm	J. Stockwell
<b>Red-shouldered Hawk</b>				
06-09	1	Salem	Michele Memorial Park	K. Folsom
06-10	1	Lincoln	The Flume	P. Newbern
06-13	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-21	1	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-27	2	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
07-22	1	Bow	Page Road	R. Woodward
<b>American Kestrel</b>				
06-17	1	Manchester	old Manchester landfill	P. Hunt

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
06-26	1	Concord	Concord Airport	R. Woodward, Capitol Area Chapter FT
07-15	1	Hooksett	toll plaza	I. MacLeod
07-16	1	Swanzy	Keene Airport	P. Hunt, K. Doyle
<b>Merlin</b>				
06-13	2	Lincoln	Reel Brook Trail & Kinsman Ridge Trail jct.	J. Stockwell
07-09	1	Concord	Concord Airport	Pam Hunt
07-09	4	Hanover	Hanover Golf Course	M. Kemp
07-16	1	Keene	Keene Airfield	J. Smith, S. Lerman
07-25	1	Pittsburg	First Lake	E. Nielsen
<b>Peregrine Falcon</b>				
07-28	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick

## Waders and Shorebirds

Summer 2004 brought two **Sandhill Cranes** to New Hampshire. It is the sixth year for a Sandhill Crane at the Monroe site, but the crane seen in Rochester was a new visitor. The number of Virginia Rail reports has returned to the level of the late 90s; their sightings had been low for the past few years.

The Piping Plover restoration project continues. In Summer 2004, 15 eggs were laid, of which 11 hatched. Four of these chicks eventually fledged. Unfortunately, one additional nest with four eggs and three chicks was lost during a high tide at Seabrook.

Shorebird and warblers both have spring and fall migrations, although their timings are not exactly the same, especially during fall migration. Shorebirds generally finish their northward migration in late May or early June and start the southward movement in mid-July. Summer records (June and July) often show both the end of one migration and the beginning of the other, with a gap of only five to six weeks between them. Several species showed this gap in Summer 2004 data: Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knots, and Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers. There were a few observations of apparently late migrants, including the Black-bellied Plover on June 11, Dunlin on June 3, Short-billed Dowitchers on June 10, and Red Knots on June 10 and June 12. But there were a few observations that didn't fit the expected pattern. The Black-bellied Plover on June 22, Greater Yellowlegs on June 20–21, White-rumped Sandpiper on June 25, and Pectoral Sandpiper on July 24 all seem to be between the two migration periods. The Lesser Yellowlegs at the Whitefield Airport were a nice find, as there are few inland reports of this species in the summer season. Mike Harvey had impressive numbers of Semipalmated Sandpipers at two locations on July 27.



*Least Sandpiper by Lee Hansche, August 2004, Horseshoe Pond, Concord, NH.*

For several summers we've had Purple Sandpipers for extended periods at the Isles of Shoals, and they were present again this summer in mid-June. Perhaps some of the other

shorebirds that seem to be between migration movements are birds that are “summering” south of their typical breeding grounds. The **American Oystercatcher** was a very rare occurrence.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Virginia Rail</b>				
06-02	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS, “Moorhen Marsh”	D. Govatski
06-05	3	Stratham	off Squamscott Road	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
06-05	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
06-08	1	Rye	Eel Pond	M. Harvey
06-13	5	Portsmouth	near Portsmouth Harbor	S. Mirick
06-19	2	Kingston	Powwow River	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
06-25	1	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-30	3	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir marsh	M. Suomala
07-15	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	M. Harvey
07-20	2	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	M. Harvey
07-26	1	Charlestown	Connecticut River	M. Harvey
<b>Sora</b>				
06-02	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS, “Moorhen Marsh”	D. Govatski
06-13	1	Durham	off Packers Falls Road	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence



#### **Sandhill Crane**

06-08	1	Rochester	off Pickering Rd.	S. Mirick
07-13	1	Monroe	Plains Rd.	B. Griffith, M. Harvey

*Sandhill Crane by Stephen R. Mirick,  
6-8-04, Rochester, NH.*

<b>Black-bellied Plover</b>				
06-02	34	Rye	off Rt. 1A by wooden bridge	S. Mirick
06-11	2	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
06-22	5	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	M. Harvey, B. Griffith, M. Kemp
07-14	2	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	J. Smith
<b>Semipalmated Plover</b>				
07-18	2	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Sturup
07-29	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
<b>American Oystercatcher</b>				
06-08	1	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	M. Harvey
<b>Greater Yellowlegs</b>				
06-08	12	Hampton	Meadow Pond	M. Harvey
06-20	2	Hampton	Meadow Pond	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
06-21	3	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
<b>Lesser Yellowlegs</b>				
06-21	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	R. Suomala
07-02	3	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, et. al.
07-14	4	Rye	Odiorne State Park	J. Smith
07-17	2	Whitefield	airport marsh	I. MacLeod

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
07-17	4	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward, J. Kanter
07-18	14	Hampton	Henry's pool, Rt. 101E by pumphouse	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
<b>Solitary Sandpiper</b>				
06-04	1	Concord	W. Portsmouth St.	R. Quinn, S. Mirick
07-17	2	Whitefield	airport marsh	I. MacLeod
07-23	1	Concord	Turtle Pond	R. Quinn, T. Richards
<b>Willet</b>				
06-17	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward
07-18	5	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Sturup
07-21	9	Hampton	Rt. 101 & Landing Road	J. O'Shaughnessy
<b>Spotted Sandpiper</b>				
06-05	10	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward, S. Fuller
06-16	5	Conway	Saco River	G. McElroy
06-22	4	Pittsburg	Big Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-01	15	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward
07-07	12	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
07-15	4	Nashua	Mines Falls Dam	B. Harris, et al.
07-24	11	Canterbury	Merrimack River	R. Quinn, SPNHF FT
07-26	12	Charlestown	Connecticut River	M. Harvey
<b>Whimbrel</b>				
07-14	2	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	J. Smith
07-15	3	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	M. Harvey
07-16	6	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward, J. Kanter
07-24	5	Rye	Duddy Stream restoration	R. & M. Suomala
07-24	11	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
07-27	7	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	M. Harvey
<b>Hudsonian Godwit</b>				
07-27	2	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	M. Harvey
<b>Ruddy Turnstone</b>				
06-10	3	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
07-24	15	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
07-27	7	Rye	Foss Beach	M. Harvey
07-31	34	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward
<b>Red Knot</b>				
06-10	2	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor Flats	J. Smith
06-12	1	Seabrook	beach	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
07-25	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward, J. Derrick
<b>Sanderling</b>				
06-11	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
07-30	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Semipalmated Sandpiper</b>				
06-11	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
07-12	3	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, M. Bean
07-18	41	Hampton	Henry's pool, Rt. 101E by pumphouse	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
07-24	60	Rye	Duddy Stream restoration	R. & M. Suomala
07-26	17	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick, D. DeLuca
07-27	268	Hampton	Landing Rd.	M. Harvey
07-27	280	Hampton	Meadow Pond	M. Harvey
07-29	20	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
<b>Least Sandpiper</b>				
06-10	1	Seabrook	off Rt. 286	S. Mirick
07-14	18		NH coast	J. Smith
07-17	3	Whitefield	airport marsh	I. MacLeod
07-18	5	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward, J. Kanter
07-29	70	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
<b>White-rumped Sandpiper</b>				
06-25	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward
07-29	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	M. Harvey
<b>Pectoral Sandpiper</b>				
07-24	1	Rye	pools s. of Odiorne Pt.	S. Mirick, NHA FT
<b>Purple Sandpiper</b>				
06-08	1	Rye	Ragged Neck	M. Harbey
06-13	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward
06-18	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
<b>Dunlin</b>				
06-02	3		NH coast	S. Mirick
06-03	1	Keene	Krif Road fields	J. Smith
<b>Short-billed Dowitcher</b>				
06-02	4	Rye	Rt. 1A by wooden bridge	S. Mirick
06-08	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward, S. Fuller
06-10	16	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
07-09	10	Seabrook	harbor	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
07-09	11	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
07-09	10	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	B. Griffith & M. Harvey
07-10	100	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, M. Bean
07-18	334		NH coast	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
07-28	76	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick
<b>Wilson's Snipe</b>				
06-02	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS, Moorhen Marsh	D. Govatski
06-20	2	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-23	1	Pittsburg	First Lake	E. Nielsen
06-25	2	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-14	550		NH coast	J. Smith
07-18	740		NH coast	J. Smith, S. Lerman

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>American Woodcock</b>				
06-16	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	C. Fisher, P. Hendrickx
07-07	4	Hopkinton	Upper Straw Rd.	N. Harris
07-07	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
07-16	2	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey

## Gulls and Terns, Alcids

The jaeger reported from Hampton was seen at dawn, chasing terns near the horizon. Jaegers frequently steal fish from other birds, but are not commonly seen close to the shore. Parasitic Jaeger would be the most likely species to see near shore, but identification is very difficult and distant birds are best left as undetermined species.



*Glaucous Gull by Stephen R. Mirick, 6-13-04, Seabrook, NH.*

Laughing Gulls were seen both at the coast and at the Isles of Shoals, and five gull species not often seen in the summer made appearances in Summer 2004. A **Glaucous Gull** was initially found at Seabrook in late May and persisted until July 19. A **Black-headed Gull** was confirmed by several observers. Three **Little Gulls** appeared at different times in June and July, and tern biologists at the Isles of Shoals photographed an **Iceland Gull**. A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** made a brief

appearance at the very beginning of June. In addition to these five species Black-legged Kittiwakes, probable late migrants, were seen flying north on June 5.

The reestablishment of the tern breeding colony with Common, Roseate, and Arctic Terns at White and Seavey Islands in the Isles of Shoals continued showing impressive numbers of those species. Common Terns frequently appeared at the coast, but the other two species were also observed there this summer. The rare Least Tern was also reported.

Alcids were represented with several Black Guillemots sighted along the coast. **Common Murre**, **Razorbill**, and **Atlantic Puffin** were seen at the Isles of Shoals, as they have been in recent summers.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Jaeger sp.</b>				
07-15	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	M. Harvey
<b>Laughing Gull</b>				
06-10	4	Rye	Rye Ledge	J. Smith
06-12	4	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward
06-21	3	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Laughing Gull—continued</b>				
07-14	7		NH coast	J. Smith
07-24	3		NH coast	R. & M. Suomala
<b>Little Gull</b>				
06-02	1	Rye	just n. of Rye Ledge	S. Mirick
06-12	1	Rye	Jeness Beach	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
07-20	1	Rye	Rye Ledge & Jenness Beach	S. Mirick



*Top Left: First summer plumage Little Gull by Stephen R. Mirick, 6-2-04, Rye, NH.*

*Top Right: Second summer plumage Little Gull by Stephen R. Mirick, 7-20-04, Rye Ledge and Jenness Beach, Rye, NH.*

*Left: First summer plumage Little Gull by Ben Griffith, 6-12-04, Jenness Beach, Rye, NH.*

**Black-headed Gull**

07-14	1	Rye	Jeness Beach	S. Mirick
07-27	1	Rye	Concord Point	S. Mirick

**Bonaparte's Gull**

06-05	125	Rye	Jeness Beach & Rye Ledge	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
06-21	200	Rye	Jeness Beach	S. Mirick, D. Donsker
06-21	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward
07-14	145		NH coast	S. Mirick
07-27	150		NH coast	S. Mirick

**Iceland Gull**

06-27	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward
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**Lesser Black-backed Gull**

06-02	1	Rye	just n. of Rye Ledge	S. Mirick
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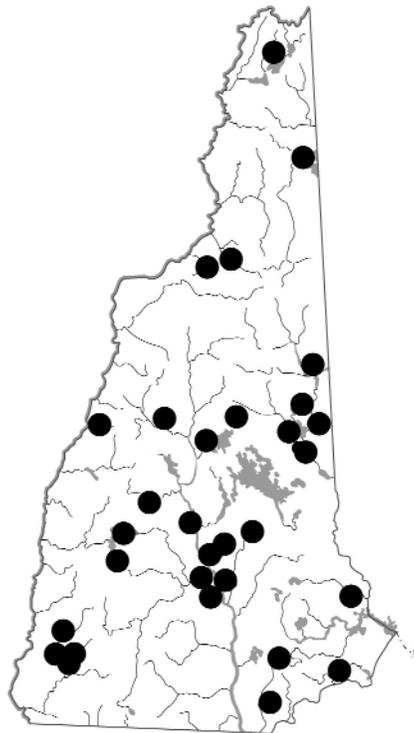
**Glaucous Gull**

06-11	1	Seabrook	off Rt. 286	S. Mirick, et al.
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<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Great Black-backed Gull</b>				
06-10	200	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
<b>Black-legged Kittiwake</b>				
06-05	2	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
<b>Caspian Tern</b>				
06-21	1	Rye	Jeness Beach	S. Mirick
<b>Roseate Tern</b>				
06-10	80	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
06-10	9	Rye	Ragged Neck	J. Smith
06-21	220	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward
06-23	12	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	J. Smith
07-14	46	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	J. Smith
07-18	7	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Sturup
07-28	328	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick
<b>Common Tern</b>				
06-05	180	Portsmouth	Piscatagua R.	R. Suomala
06-05	2500	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward, S. Fuller
06-10	4000	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
06-22	5300	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward
07-28	7500	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick
<b>Arctic Tern</b>				
06-11	12	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
06-23	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt.	J. Smith
07-14	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
07-28	15	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, J. Derrick
<b>Least Tern</b>				
06-11	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
07-11	1	Seabrook	Blackwater River	M. Harvey
07-14	2	Hampton	Hampton Beach	J. Smith
07-18	5		NH coast	J. Smith, S. Lerman
<b>Common Murre</b>				
06-19	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	R. Suomala
<b>Razorbill</b>				
06-09	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, M. Barney
<b>Black Guillemot</b>				
06-14	3	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, et. al.
06-27	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
07-01	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
07-10	1	Rye	NH coast	M. Resch
07-11	5	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, M. Bean
<b>Atlantic Puffin</b>				
06-17	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	R. Suomala, D. Hayward, D. DeLuca, M. Barney, S. Fuller, M. Bean

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

**C**uckoos were everywhere in Summer 2004. Cuckoo abundance is related to the cycle of hairy caterpillars, one of the favorite foods of both cuckoo species. We received more **Black-billed Cuckoo** reports than in any of the previous 15 years, and only in 1996 and 2003, when 10 reports were received each year, were more **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** reported than in Summer 2004. Instead of listing the many (almost 30) reports of individual Black-billed Cuckoos, the map shows a dot for the approximate location of each town from which a Black-billed Cuckoo was reported.



**Figure 1.**  
Towns with reports of  
Black-billed Cuckoos in  
June and July of 2004.

Mary Wright sent in 21 sightings of Common Nighthawks in Keene from early June through late July, although they undoubtedly represent reappearances of some of the same birds. Several are published below.

During the summers of 2003 and 2004 Pam Hunt coordinated Whip-poor-will surveys in New Hampshire. In 2004 the two primary areas surveyed were the Piscataquog River watershed and the Ossipee region. At sunset observers listened (and watched) for Whip-poor-wills at 10 points along a four and one-half mile route. The table below summarizes the 2004 data. The “Maximum total of Whip-poor-wills reported” is the sum of the highest number of Whip-poor-wills reported at each of the 10 observing points on each route.

Region	Number of routes	Routes reporting Whip-poor-wills	Maximum total of Whip-poor-wills
Piscataquog River watershed	14	8	35
Ossipee Region	11	5	37
Misc. (Merrimack and Baker Valleys)	5	5	26

Whip-poor-wills were also reported from other parts of New Hampshire, as noted in the listing below.

The breeding pair of Black-backed Woodpeckers across from the US Forest Service office on Trudeau Road in Bethlehem was initially reported in the spring and continued to interest birders into the summer. Many birders saw, photographed, and commented upon their activity. In spite of having little to no privacy, the birds apparently fledged their brood around the weekend of June 19–20. Reporters in Weare and Gilsum noted the presence of young in their Yellow-bellied Sapsucker sightings. In addition to the woodpecker reports published here, we received reports of Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers and Northern Flickers, which were normal for the season and location and are valuable for the *New Hampshire Bird Records* (NHBR) database, but are not published below. The **Red-headed Woodpecker** sighted in North Sandwich represents a species listed as rare to very rare in New Hampshire in any season.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Yellow-billed Cuckoo</b>				
06-04	1	Concord	Locke Rd.	R. Woodward
06-05	1	Canterbury	Baptist Hill Road	R. Quinn
06-08	1	Dover	Bellmay River WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-10	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-12	1	New London	Low Plain Natural Area	R. Woodward, Capitol Area Chapter FT
06-13	1	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-13	1	Durham	Packers Falls Road	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
06-18	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Road	I. MacLeod
06-18	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
06-18	1	Keene	Greenlawn Cemetery	J. Smith
<b>Great Horned Owl</b>				
06-21	1	Canterbury	Intervale Road	P. Hunt
07-01	1	Deerfield	Griffin Rd.	P. Newbern
07-15	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
<b>Barred Owl</b>				
06-05	1	Danville	town CA	K. Folsom
06-12	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Road	M. Wright
06-16	2	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
06-22	1	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-24	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-27	1	Greenfield	Greenfield St. Pk.	P. Newbern
07-24	3	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
07-28	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Northern Saw-whet Owl</b>				
June	1	Francestown	off Candlewood Hill Rd.	P. Knight
<b>Common Nighthawk</b>				
06-03	25	Hampton	North Shore Rd.	D. Crowley
06-04	4	Concord	residence	R. Woodward
06-17	3	Keene	West St. area	M. Wright
06-24	2	Berlin	Berlin downtown	I. MacLeod
07-05	3	Keene	downtown, various locations	M. Wright
07-25	1	Keene	n. side of West St.	M. Wright
<b>Whip-poor-will</b>				
06-05	1	Kingston	old gravel pit area s. of Rt. 107	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-14	1	Bedford	Liberty Hill Rd.	J. Foster
06-21	2	Canterbury	Intervale Road	P. Hunt
06-24	1	Bath	Hidden Meadows Tree Farm	D. Blais
06-24	1	Milan	West Milan, BBS route	I. MacLeod
06-30	2	Northfield	Northfield Station	P. Hunt
<b>Chimney Swift</b>				
06-14	6	Lisbon	over baseball field in village	D. Blais
06-14	6	Nashua	near Arlington & Haines Sts.	J. & B. Ayer
06-15	3	Bath	Hidden Meadows Tree Farm	D. Blais
06-20	2	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, S. Wiley
06-24	2		Mt. Washington alpine zone	C. Martin, D. Govatski
06-27	2	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
07-11	12	New London	Colby Sawyer College	P. Newbern
07-11	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, M. Bean
07-12	7	Gilsum	Gilsum village	M. Wright
<b>Belted Kingfisher</b>				
07-10	3	S. Hampton	Brookside WS	J. Berry
07-27	5	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
<b>Red-headed Woodpecker</b>				
06-05	1	Sandwich	Chase Rd., No. Sandwich	J. Howe
<b>Red-bellied Woodpecker</b>				
06-06	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk., Middle Mtn. Trail	R. & M. Suomala
06-13	1	Exeter	residence	G. Prazar
06-21	2	Newmarket	Bay Rd.	H. Chary
06-24	1	Franklin	Pleasant St.	P. Hunt
06-29	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. Harris
07-02	1	Milford	Federal Hill Rd.	R. & B. Becker
07-11	1	Keene	Krif Road Industrial Park	J. Smith, S. Lerman
<b>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker</b>				
06-07	9	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-12	6	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-23	9	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-30	3	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
<b>Black-backed Woodpecker</b>				
06-12	1	Beans Grant	Mizpah Hut, Mt. Clinton	A. Maley
07-13	4	Pittsburg	East Inlet	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
07-13	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	D. Govatski

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
07-25	3	Bean's Grant	Webster Cliff Trail	D. Govatski
07-28	1	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
<b>Pileated Woodpecker</b>				
06-01	2	S. Hampton	Brookside WS	J. Berry
06-17	2	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	J. Berry
06-27	3	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
07-05	2	S. Hampton	Brookside WS	R. & M. Suomala

## Flycatchers, Vireos, Jays, and Crows

**Acadian Flycatchers** were observed in two locations outside the often-cited Pawtuckaway State Park location. The Olive-sided Flycatcher observation in Weare is rare for southern New Hampshire. Several observers sent single observations of various flycatchers, phoebes, and kingbirds, adding useful information to the NHBR database, but as noted for the woodpeckers above, they aren't included below. Fish Crows at the Concord Airport seem to be rather regular now, having been reported from that city in six of the last 10 years.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Olive-sided Flycatcher</b>				
06-21	2	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-24	1	Errol	Greenough Pond Road	I. MacLeod
06-25	6	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-13	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd. & vicinity	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
07-17	1	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road	I. MacLeod
07-21	1	Cambridge	Bog Brook at Androscoggin R.	C. Martin
07-26	2	Pittsburg	Deer Mountain Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-27	5	Pittsburg	Big Brook & Indian Stream Rds.	E. Nielsen
07-30	1	Weare	Rt. 77	B. Griffith
<b>Eastern Wood-Pewee</b>				
06-05	7	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
06-07	19	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-16	1	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Ring
06-17	9	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	J. Berry
07-21	2	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
<b>Yellow-bellied Flycatcher</b>				
06-07	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward, S. Fuller
06-09	6	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-10	15	Beans Grant	Webster Cliff, Webster Jackson Trail & Crawford Path	M. Harvey
06-14	7	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge trail	T. Vazzano, et al.
06-18	5	Ellsworth	White Mtn.	M. Harvey
06-21	10	Pittsburg	Perry Stream & East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-25	9	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-26	6	Pittsburg	Deer Mountain Rd.	E. Nielsen

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Acadian Flycatcher</b>				
06-05	1	Windham	Foster's Pond NA	M. Harvey
06-20	1	Mont Vernon	Brook Rd.	F. Von Mertens
<b>Alder Flycatcher</b>				
06-05	5	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
06-07	2	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-13	2	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-14	5	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-21	4	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-03	2	Danbury	North Rd.	P. Newbern
07-16	2	Swanzy	Keene Airport	P. Hunt, K. Doyle
07-16	4	Swanzy	Airport Road	J. Smith, S. Lerman
07-27	11	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-27	10	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
<b>Willow Flycatcher</b>				
06-13	7	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-14	10	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
07-16	4	Swanzy	Keene Airport	P. Hunt, K. Doyle
07-20	18	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	M. Harvey
<b>Trail's Flycatcher sp. (Willow/Alder)</b>				
06-18	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward, et al.
<b>Least Flycatcher</b>				
06-11	8	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-17	7	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	J. Berry
06-23	8	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-03	6	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
<b>Great Crested Flycatcher</b>				
06-07	2	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-09	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
06-27	2	S. Hampton	Brookside WS	J. Berry
07-05	2	S. Hampton	Brookside WS	R. & M. Suomala
<b>Eastern Kingbird</b>				
06-27	2	Stratham	Shaw's parking lot	G. Prazar
07-11	8	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
07-24	15	Canterbury	Merrimack River	R. Quinn, SPNHF FT
07-25	8	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-25	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
<b>Yellow-throated Vireo</b>				
06-01	1	Canterbury	Peeverly Meadow	R. Quinn
06-08	1	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-17	2	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	J. Berry
06-27	2	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
<b>Blue-headed Vireo</b>				
06-23	22	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-18	6	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Warbling Vireo</b>				
06-05	5	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
06-10	4	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
<b>Philadelphia Vireo</b>				
07-26	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet	B. Griffith, et al.
07-30	4	Pittsburg	Deer Mountain Rd.	E. Nielsen
<b>Red-eyed Vireo</b>				
06-05	21	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
06-12	21	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-13	22	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-13	8	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-17	48	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	J. Berry
06-24	32	Pittsburg	Deer Mountain Rd.	E. Nielsen
<b>Gray Jay</b>				
06-10	3	Beans Grant	Webster Cliff, Webster Jackson Trail & Crawford Path	M. Harvey
06-18	1	Ellsworth	White Mountain	M. Harvey
06-22	4	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-25	8	Pittsburg	Scott Bog & East Inlet Rds.	E. Nielsen
07-13	5	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd. & vicinity	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
07-21	1	Cambridge	Bog Brook at Androscoggin R.	C. Martin
07-25	1	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-25	2	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-26	1	Pittsburg	Deer Mountain Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-27	2	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-29	2	Pittsburg	Magalloway Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-31	2	Dixville	Kelsey Notch	J. Stockwell
<b>Blue Jay</b>				
06-13	15	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
<b>American Crow</b>				
06-12	8	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-24	36	Pittsburg	BBS route	E. Nielsen
07-21	50	Concord	Concord Airport	Pam Hunt
<b>Fish Crow</b>				
06-13	1	Madbury	near Bellamy Reservoir	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
06-26	3	Concord	Concord Airport	R. Woodward, Capitol Area Chapter FT
07-21	2	Concord	Concord Airport	Pam Hunt
07-29	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
<b>Common Raven</b>				
06-12	6	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-23	3	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-11	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright

## Horned Lark, Purple Martin and Swallows, Chickadees

The Horned Larks at Concord Airport were a nice find for the summer. They are rare breeders in the state and more commonly seen in migration and winter. Pittsburg was "hopping" with Boreal Chickadees this year from a variety of locations. Since 1990, NHBR has received a summer average of eight reports totaling 32 birds, far fewer than reported in the list below, which contains four times that number of birds.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Horned Lark</b>				
06-23	5	Concord	Concord Airport	Pam Hunt
06-28	1	Jefferson	Whipple Road	M. Suomala
07-21	12	Concord	Concord Airport	Pam Hunt
<b>Purple Martin</b>				
07-16	35	Laconia	Fun Spot	D. Austin
<b>Tree Swallow</b>				
06-08	6	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-23	25	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-27	28	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-27	9	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-11	7	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
<b>Cliff Swallow</b>				
06-05	4	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
06-21	2	Pittsburg	Metallak Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-23	11	New Castle	Fort Stark	C. Fisher, P. Hendrickx
06-23	2	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-25	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward
07-15	10	New Castle	Great Island Common	M. Harvey
07-26	12	Pittsburg	Partridge Cabins	E. Nielsen
<b>Barn Swallow</b>				
07-25	29	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
<b>Black-capped Chickadee</b>				
06-21	21	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-24	40	Pittsburg	BBS route	E. Nielsen
07-25	18	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
<b>Boreal Chickadee</b>				
06-10	1	Wentworths Location	Lake Umbagog NWR survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-10	6	Beans Grant	Webster Cliff, Webster Jackson Trail & Crawford Path	M. Harvey
06-18	1	Ellsworth	White Mtn.	M. Harvey
06-21	18	Pittsburg	BBS route	E. Nielsen
07-10	4	Beans Grant	Mizpah Hut	R. Woodward
07-13	32	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd. & vicinity	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
07-13	1	Pittsburg	Deer Mtn. campground	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
07-16	5	Errol	Bear Pond	K. Dube
07-21	1	Cambridge	Bog Brook at Androscoggin R.	C. Martin

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
07-25	7	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-25	21	Bean's Grant	Webster Cliff Trail & Crawford Path	D. Govatski
07-28	21	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-29	13	Pittsburg	Magalloway Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-29	7	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-30	14	Pittsburg	Deer Mountain Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-30	10	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen

**Red-breasted Nuthatch**

06-12	9	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
07-10	4	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-18	6	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
07-20	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean
07-21	3	Cambridge	Bog Brook at Androscoggin R.	C. Martin
07-28	17	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen

**Brown Creeper**

07-10	2	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-18	1	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.

## Wrens, Kinglets, Gnatcatchers, Thrushes, Thrashers, Pipits, and Waxwings

**M**ike Harvey's report of 40 Marsh Wrens at Lake Wantastiquet includes many fledglings but still merits a "Wow!" The Northern Mockingbird in Bath was a good sighting, as that species is more commonly seen in southern New Hampshire. The reporter noted that it was the "first one seen here" (by the observer). Brown Thrashers are severely declining in the entire northeast; since 1990 the 21 New Hampshire BBS routes have reported a combined yearly average total of only five birds. So the number of sightings sent in by NHBR reporters below is most heartening.

An informal survey of American Pipits near Nelson crag in the alpine zone of Mt. Washington found "a minimum of four males repeatedly doing their territorial display flights" (C. Martin). One of the pipits wore a leg band, and might have been banded in a study coordinated by one of the observers on Mt. Washington in 1998; if so, this bird would be at least six years old.



*Marsh Wren by Andrea E. Robbins*

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Carolina Wren</b>				
07-05	1	Sandwich	Teacup Lake	M. & M. Wilson
07-13	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, M. Bean
07-27	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. Harris
07-28	1	Campton	Upper Mad River Road	M. Kemp
<b>Winter Wren</b>				
06-07	3	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-10	14	Beans Grant	Webster Cliff, Webster Jackson Trail & Crawford Path	M. Harvey
06-12	7	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-13	1	Gilsum	Surry Mtn., e. side near town line	S. Webb, M. Wright
06-13	1	Lincoln	Harrington Pond	J. Stockwell
06-21	23	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-23	16	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-10	10	Beans Grant	Crawford Path	R. Woodward
07-18	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
07-18	1	Stratford	South Percy Peak	J. & K. Stockwell
07-31	1	Dixville	s. side of Cave Mt., 2300 ft.	J. Stockwell
<b>Marsh Wren</b>				
06-08	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	M. Harvey
06-11	4	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	G. Seymour, E. Masterson
06-12	5	Rye	Eel Pond	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
06-13	2	Durham	marsh off Packers Falls Rd.	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
07-16	3	Swanzy	Keene Airport	P. Hunt, K. Doyle
07-16	8	Swanzy	near Keene Airfield	J. Smith, S. Lerman
07-20	40	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	M. Harvey
<b>Golden-crowned Kinglet</b>				
06-10	15	Beans Grant	Webster Cliff, Webster Jackson Trail & Crawford Path	M. Harvey
06-21	24	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-27	22	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-28	17	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
<b>Blue-gray Gnatcatcher</b>				
06-04	1	Auburn	Massabesic Audubon Center	I. MacLeod
06-05	2	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
07-26	4	Charlestown	Connecticut River	M. Harvey
<b>Eastern Bluebird</b>				
07-04	6	Salem	Sherwood Circle	D. Cotter
07-21	4	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
<b>Veery</b>				
06-13	5	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-17	14	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	J. Berry
06-23	24	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-27	35	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
07-01	15		Epsom BBS route	P. Newbern
<b>Bicknell's Thrush</b>				
06-11	1	Carroll	Mt. Martha (Cherry Mtn.)	W. Taffe
06-11	8	Beans Grant	Mts. Clinton to Webster	A. Maley
06-12	4	Benton	Beaver Brook Trail, Mt. Moosilauke	C. Perron

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
06-14	3	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	T. Vazzano, et al.
06-23	8	Low & Burbanks Grant		M. Harvey
06-28	2	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	B. Crowley
<b>Swainson's Thrush</b>				
06-10	22	Beans Grant	Webster Cliff, Webster Jackson Trail & Crawford Path	M. Harvey
06-11	4	Carroll	Mt. Martha (Cherry Mtn.)	W. Taffe
06-12	3	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-12	3	Benton	Beaver Brook Trail, Mt. Moosilauke	C. Perron
06-20	3	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, S. Wiley
06-22	16	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-25	26	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-10	7	Beans Grant	Crawford Path	R. Woodward
<b>Wood Thrush</b>				
06-13	2	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-16	3	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
06-20	2	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, S. Wiley
06-27	3	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
07-04	1	Exeter	residence	G. Prazar
07-25	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
<b>American Robin</b>				
06-12	9	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-27	24	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-11	10	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
<b>Gray Catbird</b>				
06-01	2	Hampton	North Shore Rd.	D. Crowley
06-11	2	Nashua	Burke St.	J. Ayer
07-10	5	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
07-24	10	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
07-25	15	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
<b>Northern Mockingbird</b>				
06-05	1	Bath	Hidden Meadows Tree Farm	D. Blais
06-06	1	Nashua	Burke St.	B. Ayer
<b>Brown Thrasher</b>				
06-01	1	Freedom	old airstrip off Ossipee Lake Rd.	P. Hunt, et al.
06-02	4	Whitefield	Airport Marsh & Cinder Road	D. Govatski
06-05	3	Rindge	Converse Meadows Pond	S. Lerman & J. Smith
06-13	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-17	1	Swanzy	Airport Road	J. Smith
06-21	1	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-21	1	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-26	4	Concord	Concord Airport	R. Woodward, Capitol Area Chapter FT
07-01	1	Deerfield	Coleman Rd.	P. Newbern
07-11	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	G. Prazar
07-20	1	Conway	off West Side Rd.	P. Newbern
<b>European Starling</b>				
07-21	250	Concord	Concord Airport	Pam Hunt

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>American Pipit</b>				
06-24	6		Mt. Washington alpine zone	C. Martin, D. Govatski
<b>Cedar Waxwing</b>				
06-02	50	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
06-14	26	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-24	45	Pittsburg	Comstock Hill Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-27	42	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen

## Wood Warblers

Warbler observations were mostly typical for the summer season, although a Northern Parula in Newfields is unusual, as the coastal plain is not a typical location for this species outside of migration. A pair of **Cerulean Warblers** in Pawtuckaway State Park was seen feeding its two young. Birding hikers in the high country of the Presidential Range recorded impressive numbers of warblers. And, as he does every summer, Erik Nielsen thoroughly documented the Pittsburg region.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Blue-winged Warbler</b>				
06-14	2	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
<b>Brewster's Warbler - hybrid</b>				
06-03	1	Salem	Pelham Rd.	M. Harvey
<b>Nashville Warbler</b>				
06-17	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	J. Berry
06-19	3	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Road	M. Wright
06-21	24	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-26	3	New Durham	Merrymeeting Lake, North Shore Rd.	G. Prazar
07-28	12	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
<b>Northern Parula</b>				
06-12	5	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-13	1	Newfields	off Rt. 87	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
06-23	23	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
<b>Yellow Warbler</b>				
06-05	23	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
06-08	36	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-13	7	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-30	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, D. Hayward, et al.
<b>Chestnut-sided Warbler</b>				
06-05	7	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
06-08	16	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-14	10	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-16	3	Gilmanton	Loon Pond, old Jones farm	J. Stockwell
06-23	22	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Magnolia Warbler</b>				
06-10	15	Beans Grant	Webster Cliff, Webster Jackson Trail & Crawford Path	M. Harvey
06-12	7	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-20	4	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, S. Wiley
06-21	32	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-23	21	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-28	28	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
<b>Cape May Warbler</b>				
07-25	1	Beans Grant	Cloudland Bog near Mt. Jackson	D. Govatski
<b>Black-throated Blue Warbler</b>				
06-10	5	Beans Grant	Webster Cliff, Webster Jackson Trail & Crawford Path	M. Harvey
06-12	9	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-20	6	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, S. Wiley
07-28	8	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
<b>Black-throated Green Warbler</b>				
06-10	10	Beans Grant	Webster Cliff, Webster Jackson Trail & Crawford Path	M. Harvey
06-12	8	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-16	1	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Ring, H. Saunders
06-21	31	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-23	20	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-01	16	Keene	Horatio Colony Preserve	J. Smith
<b>Blackburnian Warbler</b>				
06-07	1	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-10	3	Beans Grant	Webster Cliff, Webster Jackson Trail & Crawford Path	M. Harvey
06-13	3	Keene	Robin Hood Forest	J. Smith
06-20	2	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, S. Wiley
06-24	9	Pittsburg	BBS route	E. Nielsen
07-01	5	Keene	Horatio Colony Preserve	J. Smith
07-18	1	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
07-21	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
<b>Pine Warbler</b>				
06-07	1	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-09	1	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-17	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-17	6	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	J. Berry
06-27	6	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-27	15	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
<b>Prairie Warbler</b>				
06-01	2	Freedom	old airstrip off Ossipee Lake Rd.	P. Hunt, et al.
06-07	6	Keene	Goose Pond Preserve	J. Smith
06-13	2	Keene	power line se. of Gun Rd.	J. Smith
06-24	1	Canterbury	Intervale Road	P. Hunt
06-24	1	Canterbury	Boyce Road & power line	P. Hunt
06-26	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Road	M. Wright
07-18	1	Canterbury	Canterbury Woods Golf Course	H. Anderson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Bay-breasted Warbler</b>				
06-21	7	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-21	12	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-25	6	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-11	2	Sargents Purchase	Rocky Branch Trail	S. Stoddard
<b>Blackpoll Warbler</b>				
06-10	10	Franconia	Cannon Mtn.	P. Newbern
06-10	35	Beans Grant	Webster Cliff, Webster Jackson Trail & Crawford Path	M. Harvey
06-25	7	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-10	20	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	D. Govatski
07-13	15	Pittsburg	East Inlet	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
07-13	3	Pittsburg	Deer Mtn. campground	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
07-25	20	Beans Grant	Webster Cliff Trail & Crawford Path	D. Govatski
<b>Cerulean Warbler</b>				
06-17	4	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	J. Berry
<b>Black-and-white Warbler</b>				
06-05	10	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
06-08	11	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-10	8	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-10	5	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
<b>American Redstart</b>				
06-05	6	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
06-11	5	Concord	Turkey River	R. Quinn, T. Richards
06-17	23	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	J. Berry
06-21	15	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-24	15	Pittsburg	Comstock Hill Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-25	5	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
<b>Ovenbird</b>				
06-07	17	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-12	11	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-13	6	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-17	20	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	J. Berry
06-27	22	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
<b>Northern Waterthrush</b>				
06-19	2	Kingston	Powwow River	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
06-23	14	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-03	3	Danbury	Danbury Bog	P. Newbern
<b>Louisiana Waterthrush</b>				
06-13	1	Durham	Packers Falls Road	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
06-27	3	S. Hampton	Brookside WS	J. Berry
07-04	1	Chatham	Upper Kimball Pond dam	R. Crowley
07-04	3	South Chatham	Upper Kimball Pond	B. Crowley
07-05	1	S. Hampton	Brookside WS	R. & M. Suomala
<b>Mourning Warbler</b>				
06-10	5	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-22	2	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-23	1	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-24	1	Errol	Greenough Pond Road	I. MacLeod

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
06-24	1	Milan	West Milan, BBS route	I. MacLeod
07-11	24	Randolph	Four Soldiers Trail	D. Govatski
<b>Common Yellowthroat</b>				
06-08	41	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-23	28	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-03	45	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
07-25	10	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-27	26	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-29	23	Pittsburg	Magalloway Rd.	E. Nielsen
<b>Wilson's Warbler</b>				
06-21	3	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-21	2	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-22	1	Pittsburg	Coon Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-23	3	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-25	5	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-26	1	Pittsburg	Deer Mountain Rd.	E. Nielsen
<b>Canada Warbler</b>				
06-12	3	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-20	1	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, S. Wiley
06-21	3	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-21	5	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-22	2	Pittsburg	Big Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-23	3	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-24	3	Pittsburg	Comstock Hill Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-25	3	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-25	2	Pittsburg	area near border	E. Nielsen
07-27	2	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen

## Tanagers, Sparrows and Towhees, Cardinals, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Buntings

**Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows** were seen in North Hampton and a Seaside Sparrow was noted in Hampton marsh. Vesper Sparrows are apparently breeding at Concord Airport; one week after making the observation reported below, the same observer saw an adult carrying food.

As with Brown Thrashers, it is good to have so many reports of the **Eastern Towhee**, because this species is another of the most rapidly declining in the state. In the 1960s the BBS would typically report 300–400 on 21 routes. Currently only about 10 are reported on the BBS routes each year.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Scarlet Tanager</b>				
06-05	10	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
06-07	13	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-13	5	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-17	7	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	J. Berry
07-21	4	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Eastern Towhee</b>				
06-01	4	Freedom	old airstrip off Ossipee Lake Rd.	P. Hunt, et al.
06-07	12	Keene	Goose Pond Preserve	J. Smith
06-17	1	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
06-27	1	Greenfield	Greenfield St. Pk.	P. Newbern
06-27	1	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-01	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
07-21	6	Concord	Concord Airport	Pam Hunt
07-23	1	Concord	Turtle Pond power lines	R. Quinn, T. Richards
<b>Chipping Sparrow</b>				
06-10	12	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-27	25	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen
<b>Field Sparrow</b>				
06-01	2	Freedom	old airstrip off Ossipee Lake Rd.	P. Hunt, et al.
06-23	2	Bath	Hidden Meadows Tree Farm	D. Blais
07-21	5	Concord	Concord Airport	Pam Hunt
<b>Vesper Sparrow</b>				
06-01	1	Freedom	old airstrip off Ossipee Lake Rd.	P. Hunt, et al.
06-23	5	Concord	Concord Airport	Pam Hunt
06-30	4	Concord	Concord Airport	Pam Hunt
07-16	4	Swanzy	Keene Airport	P. Hunt, K. Doyle
<b>Savannah Sparrow</b>				
06-07	12	Concord	Concord Airport	Pam Hunt
06-13	1	Durham	Packers Falls Road	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
06-21	2	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-24	5	Pittsburg	BBS route	E. Nielsen
06-24	3	Pittsburg	Tabor Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-15	3	Concord	Birch St. gardens off Clinton St.	R. Suomala
<b>Grasshopper Sparrow</b>				
06-08	2	Merrimack	fields behind Anheuser-Busch brewery	P. Hunt, K. Doyle
06-08	1	Amherst	cemetery fields	P. Hunt, K. Doyle
06-17	2	Manchester	old Manchester landfill	P. Hunt
06-30	12	Concord	Concord Airport	Pam Hunt
07-11	1	Swanzy	Keene Airfield	J. Smith
07-14	1	Swanzy	Keene Airfield	J. Smith
07-16	11	Swanzy	Keene Airport	P. Hunt, K. Doyle



*Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow by Stephen R. Mirick, 7-27-04, N. Hampton, NH.*

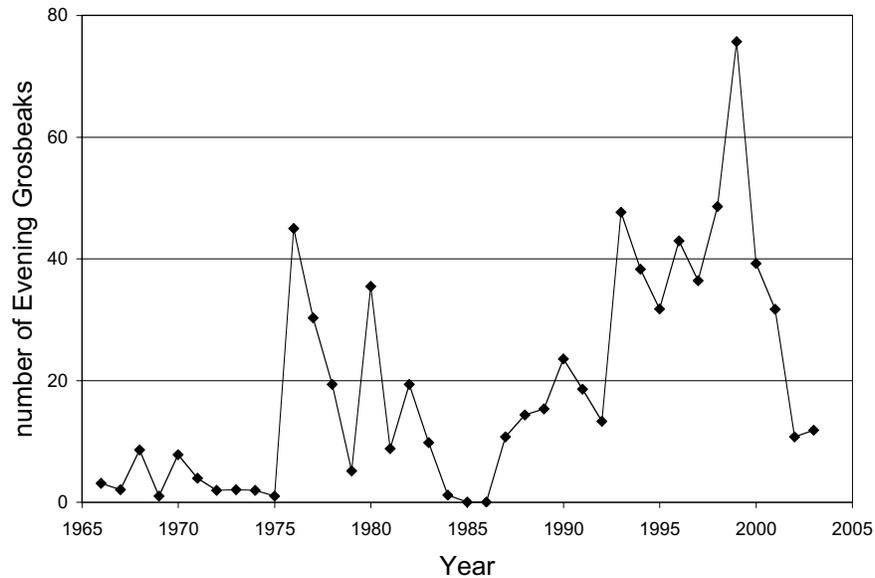
#### **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow**

06-19	3	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
07-27	1	N. Hampton	marshes off Rt. 1A	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow</b>				
06-05	6	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
<b>Seaside Sparrow</b>				
07-23	1	Hampton	Hampton Marsh	M. McElroy
<b>Song Sparrow</b>				
06-14	76	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
07-25	21	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
07-27	29	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen
<b>Lincoln's Sparrow</b>				
06-08	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, M. Bean, J. Kanter
06-24	3	Jefferson	Little Cherry Pond	A. & B. Delorey
06-24	1	Errol	Greenough Pond Road	I. MacLeod
06-24	5	Pittsburg	Comstock Hill Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-27	9	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-28	7	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-29	5	Pittsburg	Magalloway Rd.	E. Nielsen
<b>Swamp Sparrow</b>				
06-19	10	Kingston	Powwow River	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
07-28	16	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
<b>White-throated Sparrow</b>				
06-24	40	Pittsburg	BBS route	E. Nielsen
07-26	30	Pittsburg	East Inlet	B. Griffith, et al.
07-27	43	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-28	41	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
<b>Dark-eyed Junco</b>				
06-10	45	Beans Grant	Webster Cliff, Webster Jackson Trail & Crawford Path	M. Harvey
07-15	5	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
07-27	31	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen
<b>Northern Cardinal</b>				
06-08	20	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
July	4	Hampton	North Shore Rd.	D. Crowley
07-09	4	Nashua	Burke St.	J. Ayer
07-25	7	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
<b>Rose-breasted Grosbeak</b>				
06-08	17	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-13	7	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-26	2	Newmarket	Bay Rd.	H. Chary
07-06	3	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
<b>Indigo Bunting</b>				
06-04	2	Walpole	Scovill Rd.	R. Ritz
06-05	4	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
06-07	17	Keene	Goose Pond Preserve	J. Smith
06-08	17	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-10	3	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-20	2	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, S. Wiley
06-27	3	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano

## Blackbirds, Orioles and Allies, Finches and Allies

Evening Grosbeaks are irregular in summer (Figure 2) and are more common in the northern regions of New Hampshire. However, this summer we received a reasonable number of reports from central and southern New Hampshire, well south of the “North Country.”



**Figure 2.** Evening Grosbeaks reported on New Hampshire BBS routes from 1966 to 2003. There were 19 to 23 routes during these years and data were normalized to 21 routes for comparison purposes.

The Pine Siskin reported from Hillsborough in early June continued to return to the feeder through the first week of July. Pine Siskins are rare and irregular in the south of the state in the summer.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Bobolink</b>				
06-11	20	Sandwich	Cook Farm	T. Vazzano
06-13	8	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-14	41	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-17	4	Manchester	old Manchester landfill	P. Hunt
06-23	3	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-24	4	Pittsburg	Tabor Road	E. Nielsen
07-04	20	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
07-15	30	Concord	Birch St. gardens off Clinton St.	R. Suomala
07-16	5	Swanzy	Keene Airport	P. Hunt, K. Doyle
<b>Eastern Meadowlark</b>				
06-14	2	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
07-01	10	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
07-09	7	Concord	Concord Airport	Pam Hunt
07-16	6	Swanzy	Keene Airport	P. Hunt, K. Doyle
07-20	6	Newington	Great Bay NWR	C. Martin, D. Hughes
<b>Rusty Blackbird</b>				
06-20	2	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, S. Wiley
06-24	2	Errol	Greenough Pond Road	I. MacLeod
07-27	2	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-28	4	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
<b>Orchard Oriole</b>				
06-13	1	Portsmouth	near Portsmouth Hospital	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
06-13	1	Exeter	Swasey Park	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
06-16	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr., Piscassic R.	C. Fisher, P. Hendrickx
06-19	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-21	6	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
<b>Baltimore Oriole</b>				
06-01	3	Hampton	North Shore Rd.	D. Crowley
06-10	7	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-13	10	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-14	22	Dover	Bellamy River WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-20	12	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
<b>Purple Finch</b>				
06-07	1	Weare	Perkins Pond WMA survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-10	2	Newmarket	Bay Rd.	H. Chary
06-10	2	Northfield	census route	P. Hunt
06-10	7	Beans Grant	Webster Cliff, Webster Jackson Trail & Crawford Path	M. Harvey
06-12	2	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR survey route	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-20	2	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
06-23	8	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-26	3	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-29	4	Nelson	Nelson Village Square	J. Smith
07-19	3	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
07-21	3	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
07-28	16	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
<b>House Finch</b>				
06-20	10	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
07-15	45	Concord	Birch St. gardens off Clinton St.	R. Suomala
07-28	15	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
<b>Red Crossbill</b>				
06-18	1	Ellsworth	White Mtn.	M. Harvey
06-26	1	Pittsburg	Metallak Rd.	E. Nielsen
<b>White-winged Crossbill</b>				
06-25	4	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-13	2	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd. & vicinity	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
07-17	1	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road	I. MacLeod
07-25	4	Beans Grant	Webster Cliff Trail & Crawford Path	D. Govatski
07-27	1	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Pine Siskin</b>				
06-05	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Road	I. MacLeod
06-10	5	Bean's Grant	Webster Cliff, Webster Jackson Trail & Crawford Path	M. Harvey
06-26		Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
07-25	4	Pittsburg	Metallak Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-27	6	Pittsburg	Route 3	E. Nielsen
07-28	9	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen
<b>Evening Grosbeak</b>				
06-01	2	Canterbury	Baptist Hill Road	R. Quinn
06-02	2	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
06-07	2	Walpole	Crehore Rd.	R. Ritz
06-19	2	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
06-21	3	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
06-23	2	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen
06-28	5	Hillsboro	residence	I. MacLeod
07-07	4	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
07-11	6	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
07-12	3	Gilmanton	Currier Hill Rd.	J. Stockwell
07-21	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
07-29	2	Pittsburg	Metallak Rd.	E. Nielsen
07-30	2	Pittsburg	Deer Mountain Rd.	E. Nielsen

### Thrill of a Lifetime!

**A**s Anthony Brown reached out to grab his feeders that needed filling, a Ruby-throated Hummingbird, who moments before had been flying around the feeder, suddenly landed in his hand and sat there. He also just happened to have his camera hanging around his neck and without aiming, just started clicking away. Five of the ten shots came out fine. His thrill of a lifetime lasted about thirty seconds!



*Ruby-throated Hummingbird by Anthony Brown,  
5/23/04, Hancock, NH*

## Reporters for Summer 2004

Jeannine Ayer	Ben Griffith	J. R. Stockwell
Melissa Barney	Michele Halsted	Tudor Richards
Martin Bean	Bill Harris	Robert Ritz
Bert Becker	Michael Harvey	Brenda Sens
Jim Berry	Phil Hendrickx	Dawn Stavros
Dana Blais	Lindsay Herlihy	Mark Suomala
Hank Chary	Judith Howe	Rebecca Suomala
H. Cook Anderson	Pam Hunt	William Taffe
Deborah Crowley	Iain MacLeod	Tony Vazzano
Robert Crowley	Chris Martin	Bob Vernon
Alan Delorey	Eric Masterson	Francie Von Mertens
Barbara Delorey	Stephen Mirick	Rob Woodward
Jane Doherty	Peter Newbern	Mary Wright
H. Elizabeth Ring	Erik Nielsen	
Kenneth Folsom	Kathie Palfy	Some sightings were
Susan Galt	Greg Prazar	taken directly from the
George Gavutis Jr.	Robert Quinn	NH.Birds list serve

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

Ring-necked Pheasant	Downy Woodpecker	Veery
Ruffed Grouse	Hairy Woodpecker	Hermit Thrush
Broad-winged Hawk	Northern Flicker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Red-tailed Hawk	Eastern Phoebe	Red-winged Blackbird
Killdeer	Bank Swallow	Common Grackle
Ring-billed Gull	Tufted Titmouse	Brown-headed Cowbird
Herring Gull	White-breasted Nuthatch	American Goldfinch
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	House Wren	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	

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

## Spotlight on Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorus*)

by Eric Masterson

### Background

**W**orm-eating Warbler is the only member of its genus, *Helmitheros*. It eats mostly caterpillars, colloquially known as worms; hence, its genus and species names derive from *helmin* and *vermis*, Greek and Latin, respectively, for worm. The classic breeding habitat for this species is mixed forest with dense understory on a steep-sided rocky ravine or slope. A noteworthy behavioral characteristic of the Worm-eating Warbler is its primary foraging technique of probing suspended dead leaves in the understory for food. It will also forage on the ground.

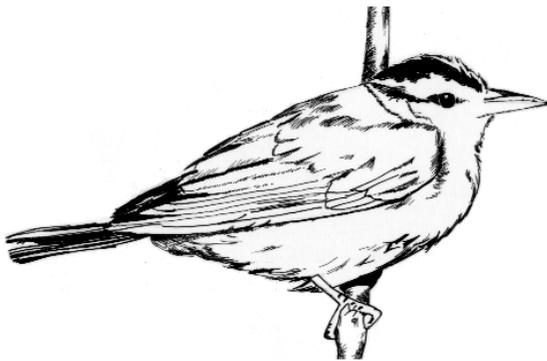
### Breeding Status

The core breeding range extends throughout most of the Appalachian Mountains and, but for the Mississippi River Valley where it is absent, continues westward to Louisiana, Arkansas, and Missouri, and north to southern New England. Although there are no documented breeding records for New Hampshire, it has been observed several times in appropriate habitat during the breeding season. A singing individual was seen and heard on five separate occasions in Brookside Sanctuary in South Hampton in the summer of 1985 during New Hampshire Breeding Bird Atlas surveys. This record met the established criteria to be accepted as an occurrence of probable breeding. It is a rare and local breeder in Massachusetts, with five confirmed records during the last Massachusetts Breeding Bird Survey in the late 1970s.

### Occurrence in New Hampshire

Surprisingly few records of Worm-eating Warbler are documented in New Hampshire, with only 16 records during the last 35 years (Figure 1). It occurs most frequently in spring, and 10 of the 16 records (62%) fell during the month of May (Figure 2).

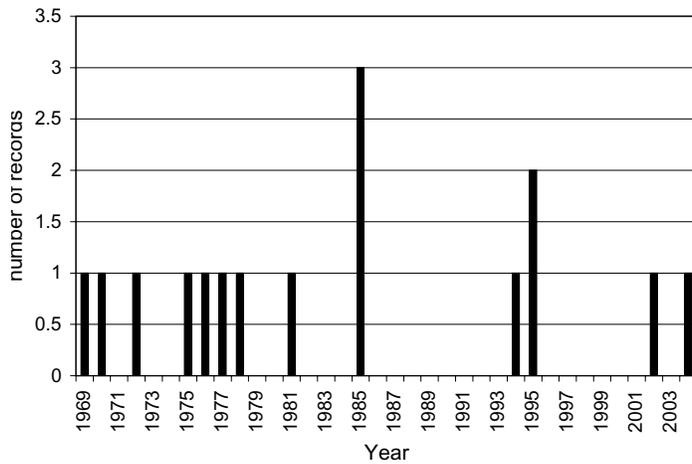
Records are concentrated in the south, with 12 of the 16 records falling south and east of Concord (Figure 3). No records were found north of the Lakes Region. In addition to the multiple observations from South Hampton mentioned above, the species has been documented twice in Durham and twice at Pawtuckaway State Park in Nottingham where an individual was present into June in 1994.



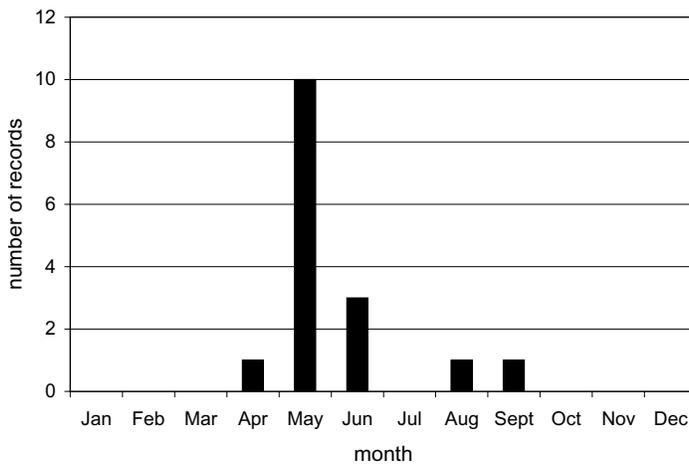
*Worm-eating Warbler by unknown artist.  
Do you recognize the artist who drew this? If you do let us know.*

**Comments**

A surprising paucity of records of Worm-eating Warbler exists for New Hampshire, considering the status of the bird in Massachusetts, where it is a rare but regular breeder and migrant. In common with records from Maine, Massachusetts, and Vermont, this species is most frequently recorded in May. It is often detected by its song, which is similar to that of the Chipping Sparrow, but more buzzy and insect-like in quality. Habitat is a useful tool to help distinguish Worm-eating Warbler from Chipping Sparrow. The latter is more likely to be heard singing from forest edge, whereas Worm-eating Warbler often penetrates deeper into the forest. It is otherwise a furtive and difficult to detect bird, and this may in part account for the lack of records in fall, when it is quiet and unobtrusive.



**Figure 1:** Occurrence of Worm-eating Warbler, in New Hampshire by year, 1969–2003 (there were no records from circa 1963 through 1968.)

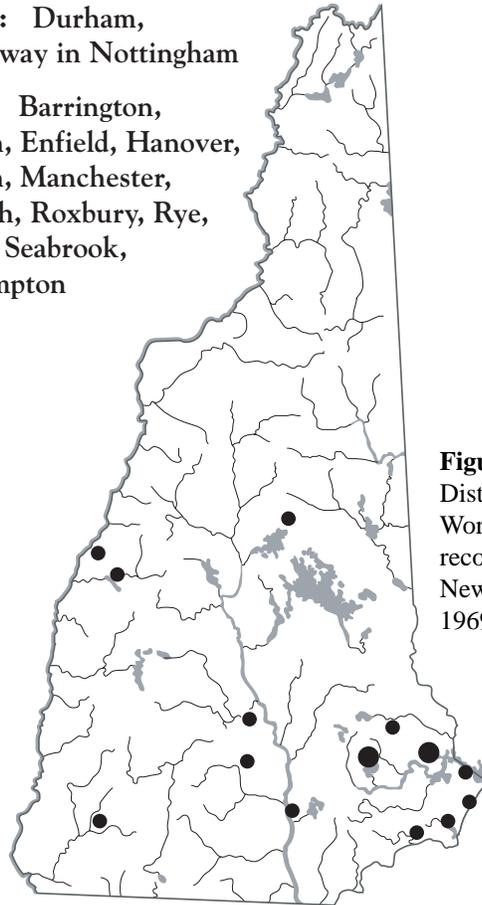


**Figure 2:** Occurrence of Worm-eating Warbler, in New Hampshire by month, 1969–2003 (there were no records from circa 1963 through 1968.)

Breeding records in Massachusetts are concentrated along the southern portion of the Connecticut River Valley in suitable habitat. There is appropriate habitat in New Hampshire for Worm-eating Warbler to breed: along the Connecticut River Valley, especially on the slopes of Wantastiquet Mountain in Madame Sherri Forest (P. Hunt

pers. comm.), and at Pawtuckaway State Park. However, our state's location just outside the extreme northern limit of the bird's range may mean that breeding records will be few and far between.

- Two Records: Durham, Pawtuckaway in Nottingham
- One Record: Barrington, Dunbarton, Enfield, Hanover, Hopkinton, Manchester, Portsmouth, Roxbury, Rye, Sandwich, Seabrook, South Hampton



**Figure 3:**  
Distribution of  
Worm-eating Warbler  
records in  
New Hampshire,  
1969–2003.

#### References and Data Sources

- Murin, T., and B. Pfeiffer. 2002. *Birdwatching in Vermont*. University Press of New England, Lebanon, NH.
- New Hampshire Bird Records* and archives, circa 1963 through 2003. Audubon Society of New Hampshire, Concord, NH.
- Temple, S.A. 2002. Dickcissel (*spiza Americana*). In *The Birds of North America*, No. 703 (A. Poole and F. Gill eds.). The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA.
- Veit, R. R., and W. R. Petersen. 1993. *Birds of Massachusetts*. Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, MA.

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

## Where to Watch Ospreys in New Hampshire



*Osprey by Dirk van der Merwe,  
5/15/04, Pontook Reservoir, NH*

by *Chris Martin*

**S**ome *New Hampshire Bird Records* readers may recall a time, not too long ago, when there were precious few places in the Granite State where you could go to watch Ospreys nest and raise young. New Hampshire's breeding Osprey population was nearly wiped out by the 1970s because of food chain contamination. In 1981, there were only three active nests known in the state, all located near Umbagog Lake in Coos County, and no young were produced that year.

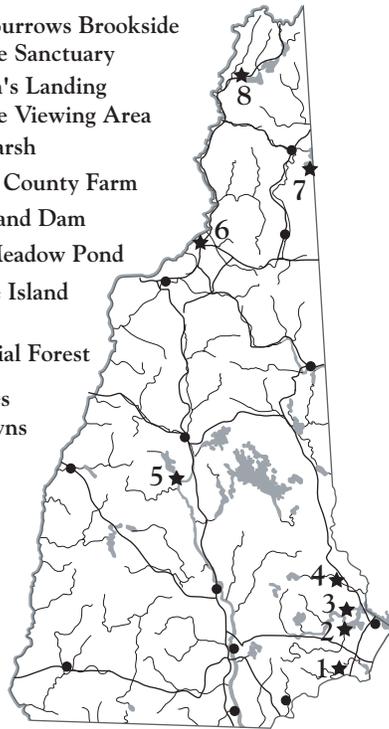
Over the past two decades, Ospreys have been clawing their way back with help from their human friends. New Hampshire Fish & Game (NHFG) and New Hampshire Audubon (NH Audubon) have been fostering the recovery of state-listed "threatened" ospreys since 1980. In 2004, there was a post-DDT era record high total of 34 active Osprey nests in New Hampshire, in towns spread as far apart as Pittsburg, Hollis, and Littleton. Twenty-six successful nests produced 53 fledglings in 2004.

In 2000, Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH), NHFG, and NH Audubon created *Project Osprey*, a five-year effort designed to give a final boost to prospects for full recovery for Ospreys in the state. Concluding at the end of 2004, this successful wildlife partnership not only built more than a dozen new nesting platforms in the state, but also trained many new volunteer observers, developed two new public viewing sites, and created a great new middle school science curriculum about Ospreys and their environment.

Not all Osprey nest sites are easily viewed, nor is it wise to attract human visitors to them all, but some are set up in a way that makes Osprey-watching fun for people and low-impact for the birds. Here are eight great places to observe nesting Ospreys in New Hampshire, listed from south to north. When you visit any of these sites, please remember to park safely and courteously, use good birding etiquette, and bring a spotting scope and a tripod so that you don't feel the need to approach the nests too closely. Enjoy watching the Ospreys!

**1. George Burrows Brookside Wildlife Sanctuary (South Hampton)** – This 31-acre NH Audubon property, and the abutting 115-acre Crosby conservation land that is managed by the town of South Hampton, includes a large flooded wetland. This site is located just a mile north of the Massachusetts border on the west side of Woodman Road, which is situated between Route 150 and Route 107A. Viewing at this site, although a bit difficult because of shrubby vegetation and moist ground, is especially

- 1 George Burrows Brookside Wildlife Sanctuary
- 2 Chapman's Landing Wildlife Viewing Area
- 3 Colby Marsh
- 4 Strafford County Farm
- 5 Ayers Island Dam
- 6 Martin Meadow Pond
- 7 Townline Island
- 8 Johnson Memorial Forest
- NH Cities and Towns



interesting because you might see Great Blue Herons and Great Horned Owls nesting simultaneously with the Ospreys in the same colony, as was the case in 2004, when Ospreys first settled here.

**2. Chapman's Landing Wildlife Viewing Area (Stratham)**

– This state-owned viewing area, acquired at the encouragement of *Project Osprey*, is located on Route 108 just southeast of the state's Chapman's Landing boat ramp in Stratham. Near the tidal Squamscott River, this new viewing platform is wheelchair-accessible and has comfortable benches, interpretive signs, and an on-site telescope. You get a sweeping view of a wildlife-rich salt marsh and an Osprey nest that has been present on an electric transmission pole since 1992.

**3. Colby Marsh (Durham)**

– Ospreys have nested since 2002 in this lovely wetland, on land now managed by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, but they also tried to nest here once in the early 1990s. Take Longmarsh Road east from Route 108 in Durham until it dead-ends at an iron gate and a small parking lot. Walk past the gate for several hundred yards until the flooded wetland appears on your right. It's an easy walk, but you'll want to bring a spotting scope and tripod for viewing.

**4. Strafford County Farm (Dover)** – Take County Farm Road northwest going out of Dover to the Strafford County Farm complex on the Cochecho River. An elevated parking lot situated immediately behind the new county jail facility offers an unobstructed view of the nest platform from your vehicle. This nesting platform, on county conservation land, was installed by *Project Osprey* cooperators in Fall 2003 and was immediately occupied by nesting Ospreys in Spring 2004.

**5. Ayers Island Dam (New Hampton)** – Ospreys built on the superstructure of the Ayers Island Dam on the Pemigewasset River during Summer 2004, but *Project Osprey* cooperators moved the nest to an adjacent pole in Fall 2004. What will the ospreys think of this change when they return in 2005? A small vehicle-accessible public viewing area overlooking the dam is maintained by PSNH. Located just off of Route 104 between Bristol village and Newfound Regional High School, it is accessed via a paved road that passes a baseball field and the PSNH Hydro office.

**6. Martin Meadow Pond (Lancaster)** – Go south on Route 3 from Lancaster village and take Martin Meadow Pond Road about one mile west to the gravel boat ramp for the

pond. First occupied in 2001, the nest is located within a stand of dead pine trees set back slightly from the eastern end of the pond, on private land managed under a conservation easement. It can be observed from within your vehicle using binoculars; however, Ospreys here are relatively familiar with pedestrian activity at the ramp.

**7. Townline Island (Cambridge)** – This site can be found on a large state-owned island at the southern end of Umbagog Lake, diagonally across from the Umbagog Lake State Park campground, which is located approximately 6.5 miles south of Errol village on Route 26. Using canoe, kayak, or motorboat, launch from the developed state boat ramp near the campground, bear right, and travel about one mile east. The moderate open-water paddle can be challenging in windy conditions. The current nest is placed in the dead crown of a massive shoreline pine tree. Ospreys have been nesting on this island since 1990.

**8. Johnson Memorial Forest (Pittsburg)** – The forest is located on Route 3 near the Murphy Dam and across the road from the new fire station building in Pittsburg village. Open to the public for non-motorized recreational use, a trail system winds through over 400 acres protected by a conservation easement purchased through the US Forest Service's Forest Legacy Program. Ospreys have been active in this area since 1995, and now nest on a dead tree in a secluded beaver pond on the easternmost trail loop. It's a moderate one-mile round-trip hike, and observers must stay hidden to minimize disturbance.

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

## The Backyard Birder

### The Survival Struggles of a Young Green Heron

by George W. Gavutis, Jr.

**A** very young Green Heron appeared in my backyard in Kensington in late August. It could already fly, but still had baby down on the top of its head, indicating that it hadn't been out of the nest and on its own for very long. This is the "moment of truth" for young wildlife, when they must quickly learn to fend for themselves. Unlike many other species, heron parents don't spend much time teaching their young how and where to find food and how to escape predators. Apparently, most of what they need to know is already "programmed" into their brain, and they quickly learn to fine-tune their instincts and skills.

This young bird, however, had one additional obstacle to overcome. It had a badly crippled left foot, which prevented it from assuming the low, stealthy, creeping posture that this species normally uses to capture its prey. Instead it was forced to hop and hobble along through the grass and reeds at the pond and wetland edges. This bum-



*Green Heron by Glen Tepke, [www.pbase.com/gtepk](http://www.pbase.com/gtepk)*

bling approach was enough to send most of its normal prey, consisting primarily of small frogs, fish, and aquatic insects, diving under the water and into dense vegetation, long before the bird could get within striking range. As a result it turned to more terrestrial prey, such as crickets and grasshoppers on the adjacent dikes and trails. It also learned that if it stuck its bill straight up in the air, courting and mating dragonflies flitting about would sometimes try to land on what they assumed was just a convenient stick. In the blink of an eye, they found otherwise.

While these behavior modifications worked well to keep the tummy full, they also unfortunately put the creature at much increased risk from aerial and terrestrial predators. It was even frequenting some of the mown trails in the woods, far from the water. Herons are such slow flushers and fliers that it seemed impossible that it could escape the ground predators (including fisher, mink, raccoon, and coyote), let alone the aerial predators I had seen in the areas it frequented.

Then one by one the large raptors appeared. First a large adult Red-tailed Hawk began perching nearby and diving down at the little heron and the local Mallards, who served as his lookouts. There was considerable quacking from the ducks as they dove under at the last second when the hawk approached. The heron would flush out over the water with a great deal of squawking. That maneuver seemed to be enough to discourage the hawk, who gave up after a few days.

Next a family of Barred Owls whooped it up around the ponds for several nights. Then a Great Horned Owl moved in and began roosting during the day, right above one of the heron's favorite hunting spots. I knew that if the owl were hungry enough it would take such an easy meal, even in broad daylight, if the opportunity presented itself. I chased the owl off each time the crows and jays told me it was there. This owl was so bold or tame that it would just look down and watch the rocks and sticks I threw as they whizzed harmlessly by. Finally I would hit the limb it was perched on and it realized that maybe I meant business, and take wing. Once the crow and jay calls moved far enough away, I let it be.

A few days after the owl moved on I occasionally stopped to watch the heron out on the dikes to see what it was eating. It was definitely becoming more adept; either it was learning to overcome its handicap or the injury was beginning to heal. Suddenly I heard a chickadee's alarm call and the doves flushed wildly. A large (probably female) Cooper's Hawk streaked low out of the woods, on a collision course with the feeding heron. In a split second it was flaring its brilliant blue wings and tail with its talons outstretched in anticipation of the strike. The heron spotted the hawk, and just as quickly as a roadrunner, darted to one side, squawking at the top of its lungs. The hawk put on its brakes attempting to follow, now half-running, half-flying. I think the loud and incessant squawking confused the hawk sufficiently to allow the heron to fly quickly around it and low out over the water where it briefly landed, still squawking, on some lily pads. The hawk retreated into the cover of the woods, and the heron then flew up on top of a Wood Duck box and continued its vigil for quite some time. A while later I heard songbird alarm calls again and looked up to find that the heron had gone. I feared that the hawk might have returned and been successful.

I saw no more of the heron for several days and then, early one morning, there it was again, perched on the end of a rowboat. I thought its location had become entirely too predictable and it needed to move around the neighborhood a bit more to keep the predators guessing. It apparently came to the same conclusion and learned some valuable lessons that should help it survive.

*George Gavutis, Jr. "semi-retired" from the US Fish & Wildlife Service ten years ago after 33 years as a Refuge Manager and Wildlife Biologist. He has lived on his own 20-acre mini-wildlife refuge in Kensington for 31 years. He was a major contributor to the Breeding Bird Atlas project and now does wildlife and habitat assessments, and breeding bird surveys for the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department, Lake Umbagog & Rachel Carson NWRs, and the Lamprey River Watershed Association. He also serves on the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee.*

## Volunteers and Research

### Mountain Birdwatch

*by Stephen R. Hale*

In 1995, the Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*), one of the North American woodland thrushes, was split into two distinct species. The northernmost population (*C. m. minimus*), which breeds throughout the boreal forest of Canada, retained the original name. The more southern population (*C. m. bicknelli*), which inhabits mountain spruce-fir habitats throughout southeastern Canada and New England, including the White Mountains of New Hampshire, was dubbed Bicknell's Thrush. Bicknell's Thrush is regarded as a habitat specialist, because it has very specific habitat requirements. During the breeding season in New England (early June to mid-



*Bicknell's Thrush photo  
courtesy of Chris Rimmer*

July), Bicknell's Thrush is exclusively found in the high-elevation spruce-fir forest communities that blanket the mountain peaks and ridges. Not just any mountain will do. These birds only occur above altitudes of 3,000 feet.

Imagine looking down on New England from space after a great flood (of biblical proportions) that caused the sea to rise 3,000 feet. Of the total area of New England, almost all would be submerged except for the few mountains rising more than 3,000 feet. From space, New England would appear as a collection of small islands, with relatively little land area. The small islands we envision are the strongholds for Bicknell's Thrush, as it regards the lower elevation broadleaf forests as inhospitable. Therefore, the total amount of potential habitat for New England's Bicknell's Thrush is severely limited, and by itself constrains the population size for this bird. It is known that small populations face far greater risk to extinction than large populations, and Bicknell's Thrush is an example of a species with a naturally small population. Further impacts from human activities (e.g., habitat loss, air pollution, climate change, etc.) may permanently threaten Bicknell's Thrush.

While the discussion above focuses on Bicknell's Thrush, one should note that there are other spruce-fir community specialists residing on the mountain "islands" of New England. Some examples include Spruce Grouse, Black-backed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, and Boreal Chickadee. While these other species also occur in other geographic regions (e.g., boreal forest and the Rocky Mountains), they all serve to enhance the spruce-fir forest bird community of the White Mountains.

The Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) in Woodstock, Vermont, is a leader in the study of Bicknell's Thrush and other high-elevation birds of New England. VINS maintains a banding station on Mt. Mansfield in Vermont, and since 1994 has researched Bicknell's Thrush on its wintering grounds in the mountains of Hispaniola (Haiti and the Dominican Republic). Recently, VINS reported results describing the simulated effects of possible climate change scenarios on the spruce-fir breeding habitat throughout the northeastern United States. Their findings suggest that a 3° C increase in average summer temperatures could effectively eliminate breeding habitat from 144 mountain peaks in New Hampshire alone, and a total loss of 88%–98% in the United States. Current climate models predict a 3° C increase in average summer temperatures could occur within the next 100 years.

In 2000, VINS implemented a program of study to monitor the populations of Bicknell's Thrush and other spruce-fir community birds throughout all New England and the Catskills of New York. VINS relies on a network of committed volunteers to conduct ten-minute point-count surveys during two mornings in June. Tape broadcasts of Bicknell's Thrush song and calls are also played to invoke responses from birds that may be present, but are difficult to detect because they are silent.

There are two main types of surveys performed, targeted to birders of different skill levels. The first survey type, the Five Species Survey (FSS), is designed for novice and intermediate birders. After registering for the FSS program, volunteers receive a cassette tape recording of bird songs and calls for identifying five target species: Bicknell's Thrush, Blackpoll Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, Winter Wren, and Swainson's Thrush. In the second survey type, which is for advanced birders, the protocols call for a survey for all bird species.

Monitoring increases and decreases in bird populations requires many years of survey data. Mountain Birdwatch needs large numbers of volunteers to cover all of New England, and it needs a steady influx of new volunteers to replace those who may drop out. In its first three years, from 2000–2003, the Mountain Birdwatch program has covered over 100 survey routes per year. Each survey route consists of five survey points. In 2003, 175 people participated in Mountain Birdwatch surveys. With time and plenty of volunteers, the program will provide us with valuable information on how the bird populations are doing in the high-elevation forests of New England.

It should be noted that Mountain Birdwatch survey volunteers are a committed bunch. To reach the survey points often requires hiking several miles up into the mountains. Moreover, the survey times are centered on sunrise, which, during June in New England, comes around 5:00 a.m.! Many volunteers backpack up to their survey sites, and then camp overnight to conduct their surveys on two consecutive days. It sounds like a lot of fun, and it provides valuable data for monitoring the bird populations of New England's mountain forests. So, if you 1) are enthusiastic about birding, 2) want to experience some of New England's high-elevation specialist birds, 3) are comfortable with hiking in remote mountainous regions, and 4) like to get up early in the morning, then this opportunity is just right for you.

Currently available routes in New Hampshire for survey are:

Route	Town
Mount Cabot	Kilkenney (from Lancaster)
Mount Carrigain	Livermore/Lincoln
Mount Crescent	Randolph
Mount Tremont	Bartlett
West Royce Mountain	Beans Purchase (from Evans Notch)
Wildcat Mountain	Beans Purchase (from Pinkham Notch)

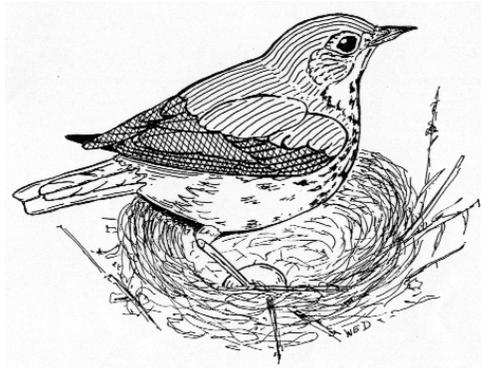
*For more information about Mountain Birdwatch visit the web site at [www.vinsweb.org/cbd/mtn\\_birdwatch.html](http://www.vinsweb.org/cbd/mtn_birdwatch.html) or contact Dan Lambert by e-mail at [dlambert@vinsweb.org](mailto:dlambert@vinsweb.org), or by telephone at 802-457-2779, ext. 132.*

### References:

- Lambert, D. 2003. *Mountain Birdwatch 2003*. Final Report to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Woodstock, VT: Vermont Institute of Natural Science. (Available online as of 1/1/05 at [www.vinsweb.org/assets/pdf/2003\\_report.pdf](http://www.vinsweb.org/assets/pdf/2003_report.pdf).)
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## The Making of a Breeding Thrush Survey

by Harriet Hofheinz



Hermit Thrush  
by William E. Davis

**B**ack in the late 1980s, John Terborgh's book *Where Have All the Birds Gone?* caught my attention. In my small neck of the woods, Chocorua, New Hampshire, I had been lamenting the same thing! It seemed to me I was not hearing the quantity and rush of spring songs I had heard in the recent past or in my youth. What was happening?

Over the years, I had always been more attuned to wildlife, birds in particular, than other interests, but I had put aside such study for other pursuits. Terborgh's book intrigued me. Now seemed a good time and opportunity to determine if migrant birds were truly declining in a breeding location that I knew would be serene and out of reach of intense development.

With a vague idea about breeding bird surveys, I talked to Wayne Petersen, then of Massachusetts Audubon, and Carol Foss, with New Hampshire Audubon. My idea was to mimic the North American Breeding Bird Survey, which at that time I knew little about, and also to carry out the annual survey for a ten-year period. Given the fact that I would undoubtedly have to train volunteers to learn the songs, Wayne suggested I keep the survey focused to a few species and we agreed upon the most glorious songsters of

all—the Wood Thrush, Hermit Thrush, and Veery. They all bred in the Chocorua Basin and it would be relatively easy to train inexperienced volunteers on their songs. With more specifics on how to set up a survey from Carol, I commenced our endeavor in 1992. The first year turned out to be an experimental one with miscalculations prompting me to change many of the routes. Our first official year then was 1993.

Over the years, though, I have never gotten used to being jerked awake by the nasty alarm, still wondering why I needed to get up when it was so very dark and silent. Then I would remember, it's another year, it's thrush survey time, and I needed to get up pronto. In anticipation, I have put out all my clothes and paraphernalia the night before...no thinking required. My prepared mental checklist of essentials to do before departing is now automatic: turn on the coffee pot, throw cold water on my face, make sure all participants are roused out, and make sure that all mosquito gear is snugly tucked into place. All this before the first Hermit Thrush is heard. I've gotten this routine down to 7 minutes. With a good deal of grumbling, our entire group does the same. They are urged on by the thought that our quest this early morning is to document the beautiful songs and calls of the Hermit, Veery, and Wood Thrush. With more enthusiasm, we grab our clipboards, find our partners, climb into cars, and are off. By this time the first Hermit Thrush is sounding off to cheer us on our way. It is 4:20 a.m.

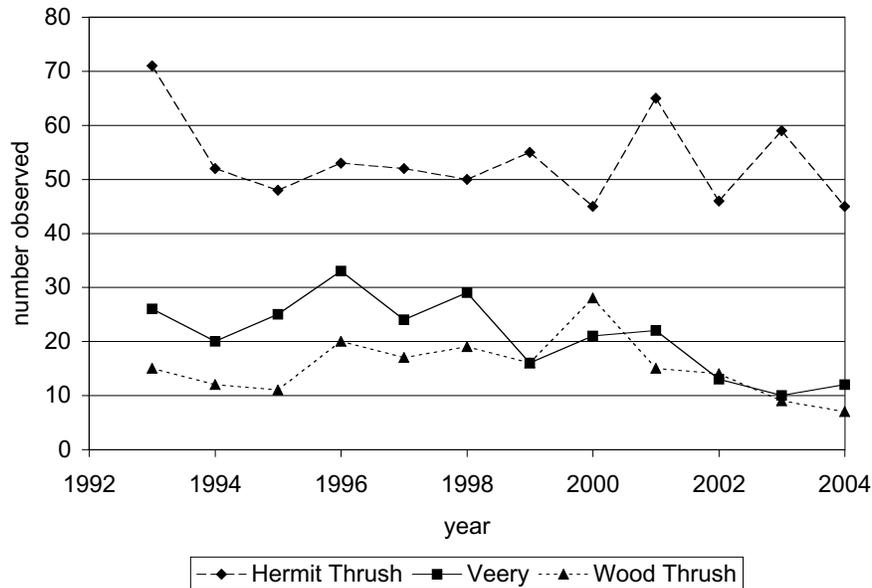
Our volunteers work in pairs. Each pair follows a designated walking route, stopping at marked intervals every 250 meters to listen and record the thrushes heard. There are five routes in all, located across a roughly 4,000-acre wooded area. Each route has 12 to 15 stopping points. The routes cover a total of approximately five miles and include 63 points. This activity all takes place on a mid-June weekend to catch as many singing and calling breeding thrushes as possible.

It is imperative that our field recorders start out at dawn's earliest light because often the thrushes quiet down after the first hour and then are only heard intermittently. The Hermit Thrush usually starts the chorus, followed closely by the vibrant songs of the Veery and Wood Thrush. Excitement mounts as we stop to listen and record our favorite songsters. As the dawn makes way for an early morning sun, the mist fades to reveal a fresh forest, and the air's tranquility is magnificent. Occasionally a moose steps into the path and the sight of a small black bear is very possible. It doesn't take long to appreciate why one came and what this is all about, despite the persistent buzzing of mosquitoes. By 7:30 a.m. the routes are finished and we all head back to the house for a hearty breakfast. This whole procedure is repeated between 7:20 and 8:45 in the evening, with the reward then being a communal dinner and some good wine.

Chocorua is in mid-New Hampshire, just south of the White Mountain National Forest. This area is known for its majestic mountain and lake view, enshrined on many a New Hampshire postcard. Since the mid-1960s, its landowners have voluntarily protected this area to ensure its preserved beauty over time. At the beginning of the 1900s, the area was almost entirely deforested. Over the past hundred years, this region has grown back, producing a mixed deciduous and pine wood forest-cover consisting almost entirely of maple, ash, beech, birch, and oak hardwoods with a mixture of hemlock, spruce, and white pines thrown in. The elevation of the area where the survey takes place ranges from 573 feet at the lake to approximately 1,000 feet in the foothills of the mountain. The terrain is typically glacial consisting of sandy and rocky soil, with lots of eskers, potholes, and erratics throughout.

Originally, this was intended to be a ten-year study. I have now extended our effort into our eleventh year and plan to continue. Over this time some patterns have emerged. Depending upon the specific route, one species may be more often heard than the others. For instance, where a route runs along the dirt road or near a field, we are apt to hear more Wood Thrushes than in the densely wooded areas, and more Veerys in the wetlands and from the lake inlet areas. But the Hermit Thrushes have the overall highest numbers along all routes. This is their country, but all three species come back to breed year after year in this undisturbed landscape, often seemingly near the same place that they may have been the year before. Although there are new patterns every year, over the long term one knows where to anticipate the calls. We have also found in general that our early morning sweeps have yielded more activity than our evening outings. The exception is when the weather is warm and very still in the evening; then we have recorded higher counts of all species, particularly the Wood Thrush.

Between our first year, 1993, and 1997, we were able to gather enough volunteers to survey two weekends in mid-June. I surmised that this would give us an interesting comparison of yields during the breeding season. From 1993 to 1995 we recorded more of all three species during the second weekend (around June 19–22). Thinking this result might be significant, I worried I had picked the wrong weekend to maxi-



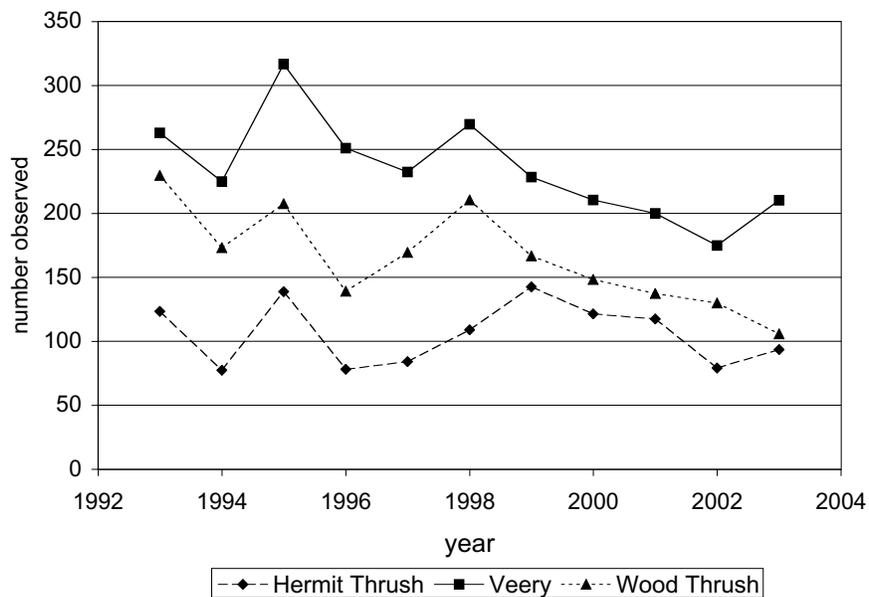
**Figure 1.** Results of the Chocorua Basin Breeding Thrush survey, 1993–2004.

mize the count of singing thrushes, with the weather likely to be a little warmer later in the month. Alas, the next two years, 1996 and 1997, showed us just the opposite; more or equal numbers of all three species were heard on the first weekend (June 13–16). After 1997 we settled on the earlier weekend. It might seem that weather

would have something to do with these slight variations, but in 1996 the spring was particularly cold and wet. On that first weekend we recorded the coldest temperatures (54° F) of our 11 years. We also had our best annual count of Veerys and second best of Wood Thrushes and Hermit Thrushes. Does this mean that singing thrushes disregard cold, wet weather?

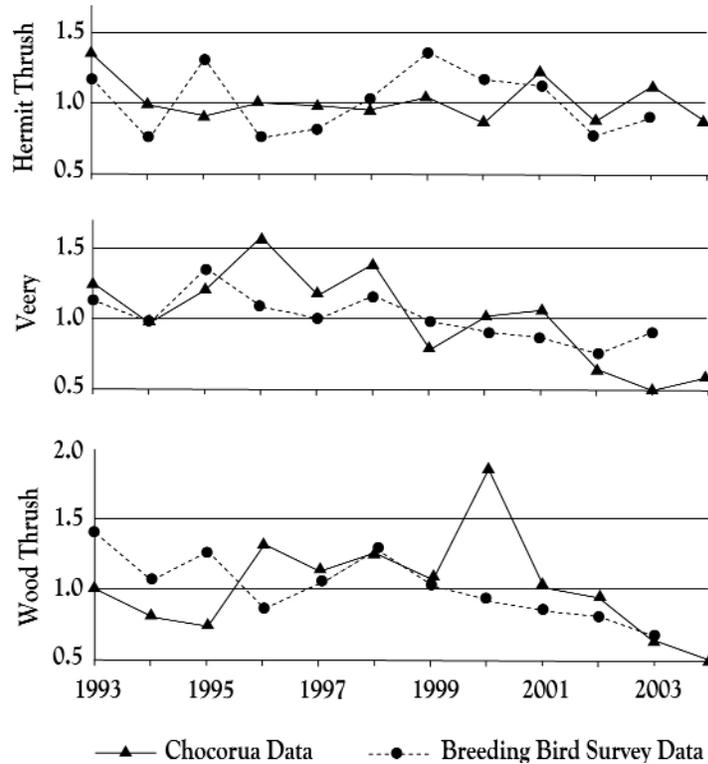
The eleven years so far have yielded some intriguing results (Figure 1). I originally surmised that over this period we might see consistent declines in all three species. That has not always been the case. Between the first year, 1993, and the second, 1994, there were alarming declines of all three species, particularly the Hermit Thrush, which declined 17% (Figure 1). Not until 2002 have there again been consistent declines. In the years from 1994 through 2001, the number for each species has fluctuated and in the case of the Wood Thrush, even held steady. Since 2001 the numbers for both the Veery and Wood Thrush have declined.

If we review the New Hampshire Breeding Bird Survey statistics of the same species over a broader period of time, we see similar patterns (Figure 2). The North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) has been conducted on at least 20 routes in New Hampshire since 1966. The BBS is “a cooperative effort between the U.S. Geological Survey’s Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and the Canadian Wildlife Ser-



**Figure 2.** Hermit Thrush, Veery, and Wood Thrush trends from the Breeding Bird Survey in New Hampshire, 1965–2003.

vice’s National Wildlife Research Centre to monitor the status and trends of North American bird populations” ([www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs](http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs)). Volunteers conduct surveys on designated driving routes during the breeding season, recording all birds seen or heard at each of the 20 to 25 stops. The New Hampshire statistics of the three thrush species over a period of 38 years (Figure 2) show that the declines of the Wood Thrush



**Figure 3.** Comparison of thrush data from the Chocorua Basin and Breeding Bird Survey in New Hampshire, 1993–2003, showing the relative trends. Treating each species separately, its average for each survey was calculated and the individual year was divided by its average. Therefore a value of 1.0 would indicate the year’s data was equal to the average; a value of 0.9 indicates it is 10% less than the average and 1.1 would indicate 10% greater than the average.

and Veery are persistent and seem to be intensifying in recent years; the Hermit Thrush, on the other hand, has shown a slight increase over time.

Figure 3 compares the Chocorua Basin survey to the BBS count in New Hampshire over the same period of time, from 1993 through 2004. These two surveys don’t exactly align with each other, but the trends, with slight variations, tell the same story: Wood Thrushes and Veerys are declining and the Hermit Thrush seems to be holding steady. The BBS data covers all the designated routes across New Hampshire, while the Chocorua Basin survey, which is not part of the BBS, covers just one location.

We could speculate that the declines of the Wood Thrush and Veery have to do with the loss of breeding habitat, particularly in the southern part of the state (New Hampshire is the fastest growing state in New England). If this were the case, we might

expect the BBS results, which include routes in southern New Hampshire, to show more dramatic declines than the Chocorua Basin area, which has changed little over the course of our survey. The similarity of the declines in the two surveys raises the question of whether other factors, such as changes in their wintering locations, may be affecting their populations. The Hermit Thrush winters in the southern part of North America, whereas both the Wood Thrush and the Veery travel to Central and South America for their winter months. Alteration of habitat may be very different on their wintering grounds and the additional travel twice a year adds increased stress. David Sibley, in *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life & Behavior*, describes the many challenges faced by the Wood Thrush and Veery:

“Because these species winter in Central America and nest in areas subject to much recent forest fragmentation, they may be subject to population stress on both their wintering and breeding grounds. They may suffer from collisions with buildings and towers, as well as loss of stopover habitats, during migration.” (Sibley, 2001).

One learns a lot from conducting such a study, but as with many endeavors, the questions often outweigh the answers. For instance, I wish I had more sophisticated ways of analyzing whether overall wetness and late snow cover affects breeding delay, how much increased acidity in the soil affects different food sources, and whether breeding site fidelity is truly a factor. What we do know is that the Chocorua Basin will remain relatively undisturbed for breeding surveys in the future, barring an unforeseen disaster. This may not hold true for other parts of New Hampshire.

I am eternally grateful for the many volunteers who have helped throughout the years. Without them the survey would have been impossible. Their rewards, besides good food and company, have I hope, been to come away with a renewed and inspired awareness of the early morning environment, to recall the wonderful songs of our three main actors, and to understand the logistics of running a bird survey. And additionally, to experience other delights along the way such as hearing a Winter Wren soloist in full swing, listening to the Barred Owl family talk to one another in the evening, and encountering other forest wildlife such as an occasional bear, moose, fox, otter, or fisher.

Harriet has been interested in conservation and the environment for most of her life, and birding is a part of that interest. Now retired, she has been a therapist, career counselor, educator and potter. She grew up spending part of her summers in Chocorua, New Hampshire and owns land there.

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## Photo Gallery

### American Redstart Nest

by Fred Tyrrell

*All photos by Fred Tyrrell, taken between May 10 and June 22, 2004 at his home in Meredith, NH.*

I observed the first male American Redstart of the year on my property in the northern part of Meredith on May 10, 2004. I spotted a female a few days later. Nest building began on approximately May 25. On May 27 the female was seen gathering pine needles and dog hair by my deck. Since she continued to return for materials I was able to track her and locate the nest from the direction she went to and returned from.

At this point the nest was nearly completed; the dog hair and pine needles were used to line the nest, as seen in the photos of the eggs and nestlings. The nest was built in a maple sapling, which was one of many in the area and provided plenty of shade and protection. The nest was about six feet above the ground near a rock wall and

**Waiting  
patiently!**



**Redstarts to be!**



about 10 feet from a field. It was about 2 3/4" wide by 2 1/4" high; depth and inside diameter were both about 1 5/8". Materials consisted of fine grass, pine needles, plant fiber, birch bark, two white feathers, and dog hair from my husky.

Egg laying began about May 30 and incubation about three days later. During incubation I observed the nest from a distance, except to take the photo of the eggs. Incubation lasted about 11 to 12 days with both parents seen bringing food to the nest on June 15. Three of the four eggs hatched. Both parents were very tolerant of my presence during photo taking, becoming a little agitated only when I held the camera over the nest. The young fledged on June 22 and were observed in the area of the nest for one day. The male and female were seen in the area gathering insects, but I was unable to locate the young again.



*Fred Tyrrell is a retired telephone company cable splicer, who has been interested in birds for about 50 years. In warm weather months, you will often find Fred with a camera, binoculars, or a fly rod, and sometimes all three. In cold weather months, you will find him bird watching on snowshoes. Fred's rarest sighting was a Varied Thrush that visited his feeders in the spring of 2004 for about two weeks.*

## Photo Quiz Answer

by David Donsker

The subject of this issue's Photo Quiz is clearly swimming on the surface of the water in a duck-like manner. Its body is rather uniform gray with the exception of a contrasting white breast. The head and neck are dark and sharply demarcated from the breast. Contrasting equally sharply with the rest of the head is a prominent white chin. There is a short crest on the back of the head. The bill is long and thin. The tail is of medium length and squared off.

Swimming behavior is shared by a diverse range of unrelated water birds in our state including grebes, loons, shearwaters, cormorants, gannets, waterfowl (ducks, swans, and geese), gulls, jaegers, alcids, and phalaropes. Most of these forms can be immediately eliminated because their body shapes, bill structures, or plumage patterns do not match the species featured.

This bird lacks the sharply tapered, heavy, sword-like bill of Common Loon and the even more massive bill of the gannet. Our two smaller loons, Red-throated and the rarely seen Pacific, have thinner bills than Common Loon and may superficially resemble the featured bird, at least in regard to shape. The smaller loons could only be confused with the featured species in winter plumage. In that plumage, both loons have very clear white forenecks and much more extensive white on their faces. Neither loon is crested, of course.

Our thinner-billed grebes can look crested, but all are virtually tailless, among other conflicting features. The bills of our shearwaters are strongly hooked and have tubular nostrils at the base of the bill. This bird is neither dumpy like an alcid, nor delicate and small-headed like a phalarope. None of our gulls or jaegers are crested, similarly patterned, or have such proportionally long and thin bills. Most of our waterfowl have broad and flattened, or short triangular bills.

Cormorants have long, fairly thin bills and similarly proportioned tails. Although their bills are also strongly hooked at the tip, this feature may be hard to see in the field. Both of our cormorant species can look crested, especially during breeding season. However, adult cormorants are largely black, not gray with white breasts. Immature Double-crested Cormorants are paler than adults and have whitish throats and upper breasts, but they completely lack the crested look and would never show such a sharp contrast between the dark head and white breast.

So, we seem to have run through the list of possibilities—almost, but not quite. In swimming water birds, bills that are long and thin are almost invariably associated with piscivorous, or fish-eating, species. Although we dismissed most of the waterfowl based on bill shape, there is one group of waterfowl that primarily catches fish for a living: the mergansers. These unique ducks have long, thin, serrated bills that are ideally suited for that task.

The breeding-plumaged males of our three species of merganser—Common, Red-breasted and Hooded—are among the most striking of all ducks with their darkly colored heads and brilliant white or flashy, strongly patterned bodies. Only Common

Merganser males in this plumage lack a crest. On the other hand, the females and males in non-breeding plumage are relatively somber and all, including Common, are crested.

Hooded Merganser is unique among the three species. It is a smaller and more delicate bird than its sister species in all respects. This includes the bill, which, though still quite thin, is relatively short. The bill of this species is dark, quite unlike the red bills of the other two species. The female and non-breeding male have strongly peaked crests. They are brownish overall, including the head, and do not have a white breast or chin.

Male Red-breasted and Common Mergansers in breeding plumage are quite distinctive and cannot be confused easily with each other. Female and non-breeding male Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, on the other hand, are fairly similar in size, shape, and plumage. Both have brownish, crested heads and generally gray bodies with whitish breasts. However, there are subtle differences that can be distinguished between them. The head of Common Merganser is a richer reddish-brown and the crest is shorter and less ragged or wispy than that of Red-breasted. However, this can often be hard to appreciate if the two species are not seen side by side. A better way to distinguish the species is to look at the contrast between the brown head and neck in comparison to the white chin and breast. In Red-breasted Merganser, the dull white of the chin is continuous with a whitish foreneck and breast. These whitish areas merge gradually with the brown head and hindneck. In Common Merganser, the foreneck is the same rich brown as the rest of the head. This is sharply demarcated from the white breast, and the white chin patch is clearly defined.

This female Common Merganser was photographed by Terri E. Donsker on Lake Winnepesaukee in early October, 2004.



Although Common Merganser is a fairly abundant duck with a widespread distribution across the entire northern hemisphere, it is a relatively uncommon and local breeding bird in New Hampshire, favoring forested lakes in North Country and the Lakes Region. A few overwinter on ice-free bodies of fresh or, at most, brackish water such as Great Bay. Unlike Red-breasted Merganser, it is almost never seen on open salt water. It is much more abundant during migration when, as an early sign of spring, birds from farther south join our wintering birds in late March. It is often more impressive in late autumn when large flocks may form in rivers or on some of our larger lakes. Excellent places to observe this species include Sandy Point Discovery Center on Great Bay in late March and early April and the stretch of the Winnepesaukee River above the Silver Lake dam in late fall and winter.

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### Abbreviations Used

ASNH	Audubon Society of NH	R.	River
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		

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