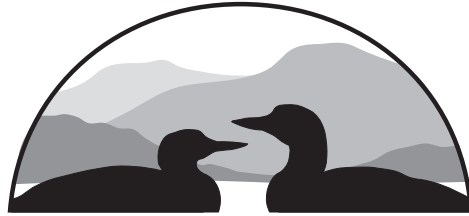


New Hampshire Bird Records



Spring 2005

Vol. 24, No. 1



New Hampshire Bird Records

Volume 24, Number 1

Spring 2005

- Managing Editor:* Rebecca Suomala
603-224-9909 X309, 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, Terry Bronson, Julie Chapin,
Margot Johnson, Janet Lathrop, Susan MacLeod, Dot
Soule, Jean Tasker, Tony Vazzano, Robert Vernon
- Volunteer Opportunities
and Birding Research:* Susan Story Galt, Stephen Hale
- Photo Quiz:* David Donsker
- Where to Bird Feature
Coordinator and Maps:* William Taffe

Cover Photo: Red-necked Phalarope by Garth McElroy, May 25, 2005, at a puddle in the Rye Harbor State Park parking lot. An unprecedented number of phalaropes were seen at the coast during a May nor'easter. See the spring season for more details.

New Hampshire Bird Records (NHBR) is published quarterly by New Hampshire Audubon. Bird sightings are submitted by volunteer observers and edited for publication. All rarity records are subject to review by the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee and publication of reports here does not imply future acceptance by the committee. A computerized printout of all sightings in a season is available for a fee. To order a printout, purchase back issues, or submit your sightings, contact the Managing Editor, or visit our web site at www.nhbirdrecords.org.

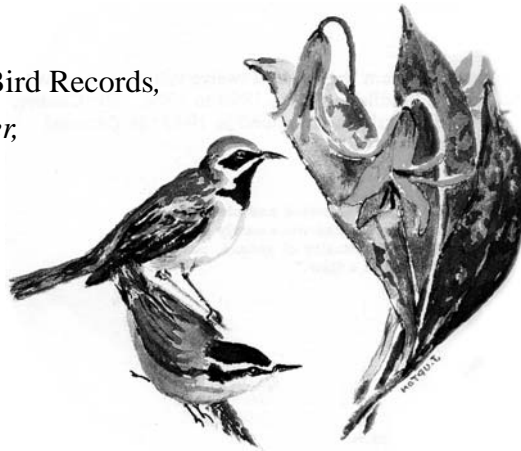
Published by New Hampshire Audubon
New Hampshire Bird Records © NHA January, 2006



Printed on Recycled Paper

This issue of
New Hampshire Bird Records,
with its color cover,

is sponsored by
Pat Niswander
in honor of the
Concord Bird and
Wildflower Club
on its 110th Anniversary.



In This Issue

From the Editor – Web Site Announcement	2
Goodhue-Elkins Award	3
New Photo Quiz.....	5
Spring Season: March 1 through May 31, 2005	6
<i>by Pamela Hunt</i>	
Spotlight on Ruff	40
<i>by Eric Masterson</i>	
Backyard Birder – A Birdsong Quiz	42
<i>by Kathie Palfy</i>	
Bird Watching on ACOE Lands in Weare	43
<i>by Mark Suomala</i>	
Volunteer and Research – Birders’ Exchange	46
<i>by Susan Story Galt</i>	
Photo Gallery – Can You Find the Bird?.....	48
Answer to the Photo Quiz	50
<i>by David E. Donsker</i>	
A Chance Encounter	Back Cover

From the Editor

by Rebecca Suomala

Thank You

We are very grateful to Pat Niswander for sponsoring this issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*. Thanks to her generosity we are able to present the first ever color cover with the wonderful photo by Garth McElroy. This is very exciting and we appreciate Pat's support in making this happen. If you are interested in sponsoring an issue, please contact me.

Welcome to all our new subscribers and thank you to all those who have **renewed** their subscriptions. If you haven't yet renewed, you should find a final renewal notice enclosed with this issue, which we hope you will fill out and return right away.

New Web Site

We are excited to announce that *New Hampshire Bird Records* has a Web site, at last! Thanks to Webmaster Bill Taffe for his time and expertise, as well as donations from Bill Taffe, Bob Quinn, and Ted Waldron, you can find us at www.nhbirdrecords.org. The site has information about the journal, the table of contents from recent issues, forms for reporting sightings, online subscription, sample articles, and more to come. We're still working on it, but please check it out and let us know what you think. Special thanks also to John Munier for his initial work on the site several years ago (it has been a long time coming).

Rare Birds Committee Change

In past years the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee (RBC) has reviewed sightings before they were published in *New Hampshire Bird Records*. Beginning with the Spring 2005 season this is no longer possible because of changes made by the RBC in the way it operates. Documentation will still be collected by *New Hampshire Bird Records* following guidelines from the RBC and the details submitted will assist the editors in analyzing and discussing the season's rarities. The RBC will determine when it reviews the records and provides notification or publication of its decisions. The RBC is an independent technical advisory committee to *New Hampshire Bird Records* and has its own procedures and by-laws. The RBC plays a valuable role in maintaining the quality of the state's avian records and *New Hampshire Bird Records* will continue to provide sighting documentation to the committee. From this issue forward, readers will find a statement that all rarity records are subject to review by the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee and publication of reports in an issue does not imply future acceptance by the committee.

2005 Goodhue-Elkins Award Recipient

Jeff Normandin



As presented at the New Hampshire Audubon Annual Meeting, June 4, 2005

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

Dick Hughes, a retired computer engineer, has spent much of his spare time tracking, watching, and monitoring birds and wildlife in the Great Bay region and beyond for many years. Fortunately for NHA, he retired early and devoted much of his time to keeping track of birds around the seacoast.

When former NHA staff member Diane Evans first met Dick Hughes, she recalls that he was somewhat of an "Accidental Volunteer." It was back in the early days of wintering Bald Eagle monitoring at Great Bay, and she had gathered a few folks to count eagles and try to catch sight of them as they flew to a night roost. As she was giving assignments, she saw a man at the fringe that she didn't recognize. Not wanting to be rude or exclusive, she teamed him up, after he gave an agreeable shrug and said, "Sure, I'll help."

Since that fateful day more than 20 years ago, Dick has been monitoring winter eagles in the Great Bay area from Thanksgiving to early April. Once a week, like clockwork, he spends a frigid evening on the windy side of Great Bay watching Wilcox Point to document how many birds are coming in to roost. In a recent segment of the television program *New Hampshire Wildlife Journal*, he describes watching eagles in winter as "an awe inspiring sight." It takes a special person to brave the biting winter temperatures of Great Bay to witness this sight and to accumulate the data that would later lead to the site's eventual protection as a winter eagle roost. Eagles led to Peregrine Falcons, terns, and Ospreys.

Dick has been documenting Ospreys in the Great Bay area from the mid-1980s, before they were even confirmed nesting in 1989, until today, when he still visits six or seven nest sites on his own. It is Dick's careful observations of coastal Ospreys that have allowed us to follow and manage this population. Without fail, he documents his time, observations, and details each year, also creating a summary of the season, unasked for, which he sends in with all his data sheets. He has been a mentor to other Osprey nest watchers, answering questions and providing guidance for the Great Bay Osprey Stewards, coordinated by New Hampshire Fish & Game Department. Other volunteers that he has mentored as Osprey stewards have gone on to make valuable contributions to conservation efforts in a variety of arenas. Dick has gone on to further Osprey awareness and education by single-handedly creating an Osprey Web site, initially for Great Bay, that has the history of every nest site, dates of incubation, nest visits, and all kinds of interesting information on the bird. The site has been growing

every year and now includes statewide information. And of course Dick has been a regular participant in Osprey Weekend.

Before the Ospreys, there were terns to monitor. For more than a decade, Dick followed the nesting terns that persisted in the Hampton salt marsh, on small islands along the Piscataqua River, and in Great Bay. He spent many hours canoeing through narrow tidal channels with strong tidal currents, across open bay waters, and searching through the salt marsh grass to monitor the status of nesting terns. Dick's contributions to the documentation of New Hampshire's tern breeding status through the 1990s helped to focus efforts towards tern restoration at the Isles of Shoals.

Dick has also contributed to the Peregrine Falcon Watch and Northern Harrier surveys during the mid to late 1990s, and Common Nighthawk surveys from an earlier time. He has participated in NHA wetland surveys of properties in Great Bay that were later to become protected. All this time in the field has helped Dick accumulate a wealth of sightings and he has made significant contributions to *New Hampshire Bird Records*. When the call came in about a possible Piping Plover nest in 1997, Dick was on the beach within an hour to determine that it was, indeed, a Piping Plover. The data gathered on seacoast bird monitoring projects have, in no small way, been due to Dick's efforts.

Despite various medical obstacles over the years, he has continued his work with his characteristic sense of humor. He kept Diane Evans laughing and sane on many a freezing afternoon of winter eagle watching and, according to Chris Martin, "It's always a pleasure to be out with him."

Dick Hughes's careful observations and record keeping as well as his tremendous enthusiasm and willingness to recruit and train dozens of volunteers exemplify the qualifications of a Goodhue-Elkins Award recipient. Because of those efforts he has made an outstanding and lasting contribution to birds in New Hampshire. Although he has described his passion as "a selfish interest," we have all benefited from his work, most especially the birds, which inspire his commitment. New Hampshire Audubon is honored to present him with the 2005 Goodhue-Elkins Award.

Julie Klett



*Goodhue-Elkins Award recipient
Dick Hughes, 6/4/05.*

New Photo Quiz



Can You Identify This Bird?

Answer on page 50

Photo by Stephen R. Mirick

Spring Season

March 1, 2005 through May 31, 2005

by Pam Hunt, Spring Editor

The spring of 2005 was one of alternating extremes. On the heels of a fairly typical winter, March turned out to be colder and snowier than normal. It was followed by an April with temperatures nearly four degrees higher than normal. Precipitation was also above normal that month, and because of the warmth very little of it fell as snow. Over 2 inches of rain fell in some locations on April 2–3, leading to flooded fields that were extensively used by migrating waterfowl. Southerly flows late in the month may have pushed tanagers and other migrants into the state earlier than usual.

May, in stark contrast, was unusually cool, averaging almost 8 degrees below normal in Concord. These low temperatures, especially early in the month, appear to have delayed leaf-out noticeably, which in turn may have resulted in the late arrival of most foliage-foraging warblers. At month's end, an unusual spring nor'easter hung offshore May 22–26, bringing cooler temperatures and persistent drizzle to the state. This system also grounded dozens, if not hundreds, of **phalaropes** along the coast, and brought many other pelagic species closer to shore than usual in spring. These included **Parasitic** and **Long-tailed Jaegers**, Northern Gannets, and perhaps Wilson's Storm-Petrels.



Pam Hunt



Wilson's Plover by Stephen R. Mirick,
5/8/05, Seabrook Beach,
Seabrook, NH.

Both Bohemian Waxwings and Common Redpolls (as well as a **Hoary Redpoll**) lingered into March after an unusual off-winter invasion. Among the rarities not yet mentioned were two noteworthy shorebirds: **Wilson's Plover** and **Ruff**, as many as three **Black Vultures**, two **Summer Tanagers**, and a **Dickcissel**. The Sandhill Crane returned to Monroe for a seventh year, while two more briefly visited a field in Kensington. For the second year in a row, there was a single-observer report of an **Anhinga** in Rockingham County.

All rarity records are subject to review by the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee and publication of reports here does not imply future acceptance by the committee.

Waterfowl through Grouse

The waterfowl event of the season may very well have been the large movement of Brant through the central part of the state in late May. The first were reported in Hillsborough on May 18 and May 19, with additional birds reported over Plymouth in the same time period. At the end of the month, two large flocks were also reported in the White Mountains region, while equally high numbers were seen in this species' usual haunts along the coast. A **Greater White-fronted Goose** in Laconia is somewhat problematic. The date range of May 17–19 is late for a migrant, leaving the possibility that the bird was an escape. A pair of Mute Swans spent roughly a month and a half in Laconia, leading to speculation about whether this non-native species is poised to expand into the Lakes Region. Another pair of swans in Meredith may have been the same birds, but as they were not banded, it is impossible to tell. The heavy rains in early April flooded fields at just the right time to provide habitat for migrating dabbling ducks. Good numbers of several species were reported from such fields in both Gilford and East Kingston. There were also several reports of dabbling ducks from various locations in Concord during April. Most diving ducks appeared in usual numbers at usual locations, as indicated in the listings. The 13 Hooded Mergansers in Kensington on May 13 included ten-day-old ducklings, indicating that the female had laid her eggs no later than April 11.

The presence of Chukars in Gilmanton and Pittsfield this season makes one wonder if there was a release of this species in the area at some point in the spring. Chukars are not native to New Hampshire, but are occasionally intentionally released by hunting clubs. The Spruce Grouse in Franconia followed the observer for 100 yards until he reached the summit.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Greater White-fronted Goose				
05-17	1	Laconia	Laconia CC, Elm St.	H. Anderson, et al.
Snow Goose				
03-26	42	Charlestown	Rt. 12 roadside	M. Suomala, C. Ciccone, R. Woodward
Canada Goose				
03-06	44	Tilton	Rt. 140 bridge	H. Anderson
03-10	83	Durham	Adams Pt. WMA	T. Bronson
03-26	360	Concord	Merrimack R., Sewalls Falls to Bow	R. Quinn
03-26	300	Charlestown	Rt. 12 roadside	M. Suomala, C. Ciccone, R. Woodward
03-26	102	Hinsdale	near Connecticut R. dam	M. Suomala, C. Ciccone, R. Woodward
04-03	395	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	R. Suomala
04-03	94	Fremont	Martin Rd.	T. Bronson
04-03	600	E. Kingston	fields off Rt. 108	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
04-03	1200	Greenland	fields off Newington Rd.	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Brant				
05-15	25	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
05-17	68	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Rd.	S. Mirick
05-19	10	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
05-28	300	Hampton	migrating along coast	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson, R. Woodward
05-28	150	Portsmouth	over Piscataqua R.	R. Suomala
05-28	50	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	B. Griffith, M.& T. Kemp
05-28	200	Lincoln	Rt. 93 s. of Franconia Notch	B. Griffith, M.& T. Kemp
05-29	5	Hampton	Great Boars Head	S. Mirick
Mute Swan				
03-05	2	Laconia	below Lakeport Dam	H. Anderson
04-09	2	Meredith	Meredith Bay	T. Vazzano
04-17	2	Laconia	Winnepesaukee R.	H. Anderson
Wood Duck				
03-18	2	Concord	Merrimack R., Hall St.	R. Quinn
03-25	4	Auburn	Lake Massabesic at Clairs Landing	T. Bronson
03-26	93	Concord	Merrimack R., Sewalls Falls to Bow	R. Quinn
03-27	10	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
04-03	15	Gilford	Sawyer Meadows	H. Anderson
04-09	15	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04-16	38	Concord	Goodwin Pt.	R. Quinn
05-21	30	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
Gadwall				
04-01	1	E. Kingston	fields off Rt. 108	S. Mirick
04-03	1	E. Kingston	Rt. 108	I. MacLeod
American Wigeon				
03-27	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
04-03	4	Gilford	Sawyer Meadows	H. Anderson
04-03	2	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence, I. MacLeod
04-03	7	Newmarket	off Bay Road	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
04-03	1	Newmarket	Lubberland Creek	I. MacLeod
04-05	4	Laconia	Lake Winnisquam	P. Hunt
04-05	4	Laconia	Opechee Bay	P. Hunt
05-21	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
American Black Duck				
03-26	74	Concord	Merrimack R., Sewalls Falls to Bow	R. Quinn
03-26	100	Hinsdale	near Connecticut R. dam	M. Suomala, C. Ciccone, R. Woodward
04-01	47	Newmarket	Lubberland Creek	R.& M. Suomala
04-03	31	Gilford	Sawyer Meadows	H. Anderson
04-05	25	E. Kingston	e. of Rt. 108, s. of Kensington line	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04-07	47	Laconia	Lake Opechee	H. Anderson
Blue-winged Teal				
04-01	2	Newmarket	Lubberland Creek	R.& M. Suomala
04-22	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
04-26	1	Northumberland	Connecticut R. back waters	D. Killam
04-28	2	E. Kingston	fields off Rt. 108	S. Mirick
05-08	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Northern Shoveler				
03-31	1	Durham	Oyster R. at Old Landing Rd.	C. Martin, P. Hunt, M. Suomala, et al.
04-04	2	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	P. Brown
Northern Pintail				
03-25	2	Kingston	Rt. 108 fields	S. Mirick
03-25	3	Kingston	Powwow Pond	T. Bronson
Green-winged Teal				
03-25	1	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick
03-26	2	Concord	Merrimack R., Sewalls Falls to Bow	R. Quinn
04-01	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	R.& M. Suomala
04-03	46	Newmarket	off Bay Road	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
04-03	56	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
04-05	15	E. Kingston	e. of Rt. 108, s. of Kensington line	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04-12	30	Northumberland	Connecticut R. back waters	D. Killam
05-28	1	Whitefield	Mt. Washington Airport	B. Griffith, M.& T. Kemp
Ring-necked Duck				
03-25	136	Kingston	Powwow Pond	T. Bronson
03-26	12	Hinsdale	near Connecticut R. dam	M. Suomala, C. Ciccone, R. Woodward
03-30	118	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	T. Vazzano, R. Van de Poll
04-02	25	Laconia	Lake Opechee	P. Hunt, T. Bronson
04-05	22	Tilton	Silver Lake	P. Hunt
Greater Scaup				
04-01	220	Stratham	Great Bay from Sandy Pt.	R.& M. Suomala
04-02	1	Tilton	Lake Winnisquam	P. Hunt, T. Bronson
04-15	7	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	P. Brown
04-24	22	Greenland	Sunset Farm on Great Bay	S. Mirick
05-25	1	Concord	Turtle Pond	R. Quinn
Lesser Scaup				
03-19	1	Rye	Rye Harbor	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence, et al
04-16	5	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	I. MacLeod
Scaup sp.				
05-20	1	Brentwood	Brentwood Reclamation Area	T. Bronson
Harlequin Duck				
05-30	1	Rye	Square Rock, Isles of Shoals	Shoals Marine Lab Ornithology Class
White-winged Scoter				
05-24	4	Concord	Turtle Pond	R. Quinn
05-26	690	Rye	NH coast	J. Smith
05-28	13	Whitefield	Cherry Pond	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson, R. Woodward
05-29	519	Rye	NH coast	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
Black Scoter				
04-26	9	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
05-29	16	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Long-tailed Duck				
04-01	25	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	T. Bronson
05-01	150	N. Hampton	Hampton Beach	I. MacLeod
05-18	10	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward, M. Waniga
Common Goldeneye				
03-26	29	Concord	Merrimack R., Sewalls Falls to Bow	R. Quinn
03-26	24	Hinsdale	near Connecticut R. dam	M. Suomala, C. Ciccone, R. Woodward
04-01	90	Stratham	Great Bay from Sandy Pt.	R. & M. Suomala
04-05	31	Tilton	Lake Winnisquam	P. Hunt
Barrow's Goldeneye				
03-26	1	Concord	Sewalls Falls	R. Quinn
Hooded Merganser				
03-20	14	Tilton	Silver Lake	P. Hunt
03-26	53	Concord	Merrimack R., Sewalls Falls to Bow	R. Quinn
05-13	13	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
Red-breasted Merganser				
04-02	2	Laconia	Opechee Bay	P. Hunt, T. Bronson
04-22	1	Merrimack	Horse Hill Nature Preserve	T. Bronson
Chukar				
04-23	1	Pittsfield	Range Rd.	L. Federhen
05-20	1	Gilmanton	Route 107	B. Boudette
Spruce Grouse				
05-11	1	Franconia	Falling Waters, Mts. Lincoln/Lafayette	K. Rooney

Loons through Rails

Common Loons wasted no time in reaching the small amounts of open water in central New Hampshire in early April. At the same time, there was only a single large concentration of the species inland, suggesting they were able to move through fairly quickly. It was an excellent spring for Pied-billed Grebes, with records from late April onward in five known or potential breeding locations. Wilson's Storm-Petrels appeared in higher than usual numbers in late May, and were perhaps deflected to our coast by the spring nor'easter.

Northern Gannets were somewhat unpredictable during the May nor'easter. Although several observers saw small numbers of birds heading north off the coast on May 21, many commented on their absence during the storm. The exception was a remarkable tally of 400 offshore on May 26. The same observer noted 450 Common and 26 Red-throated Loons over the same period. On May 27 Terry Bronson went looking for phalaropes, and while he was unsuccessful in this endeavor he did manage to tally a respectable flight of 674 Double-crested Cormorants heading north in several flocks. For the second year in a row, there was a single-observer report of an **Anhinga** in New Hampshire, this time in Portsmouth on May 17. This species has yet

to be officially added to the state list because so far all records have been by single observers.



Great Blue Heron, by Fred Tyrrell, 5/5/05, Belknap Woods, Center Harbor, NH.

There seemed to be more reports of American Bitterns than usual. The Great Blue Herons listed below are only those records that apply to breeding sites. Noteworthy among the inland Great Egrets were the three in Tamworth. These were somewhat late for this species' traditional spring wanderings, as well as in an unusual location; most records are from the major river valleys. Also inland were 16 Glossy Ibises in Rochester and East Kingston, while the species continues to be rarely reported along the coast.

There were three reports of **Black Vulture** this spring. While details were received for one in Nashua, additional records from Plymouth and Northfield remain undocumented. Given that Black Vulture is still in the process of expanding into the state, careful documentation of sightings is important to allow accurate tracking of this increase.

Ospreys tended to arrive on the early side. All the records below are earlier than three-quarters of previous first arrival dates. In contrast, both Red-shouldered and Broad-winged Hawks were on the late side. It's always hard to summarize Bald Eagle sightings in spring, given that these represent a mix of birds at breeding sites, migrants, and wandering non-breeders. Birds were back at their nests by March and April, and a possible pair in Laconia created some interest during March but ultimately departed for points unknown. Another noteworthy eagle observation was of a young **Golden Eagle** being dive-bombed by a Peregrine Falcon in Crawford Notch on May 12. Given the late date and cliffside location, there was speculation about the bird prospecting for nest sites, but it was not observed at any other date.

A Sora in Northumberland is an increasingly rare record for northern New Hampshire, while two **Common Moorhens** in a season is higher than average. The Sandhill Crane returned to Monroe for the seventh year, and two additional cranes were reported in Kensington.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Red-throated Loon				
05-26	26	Rye	NH coast	J. Smith
05-29	8		NH coast	S. Mirick
Common Loon				
04-05	1	Laconia	Opechee Bay	P. Hunt
04-08	2	Gilmanton	Crystal Lake, Gilmanton Ironworks	V.& D. Jenkins
04-11	5	Laconia	Lake Opechee from Lakeport Dam	H. Anderson
04-16	2	Bradford	Lake Todd	P. Newbern
05-24	10	Gilmanton	Crystal Lake	K. Palfy
05-26	450	Rye	NH coast	J. Smith
05-27	28	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward, M. Waniga

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Pied-billed Grebe				
04-06	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	S. Mirick
04-08	1	Lyme	Connecticut R.	S. & M. Turner
04-16	1	Concord	Goodwin Pt.	R. Quinn
04-20	1	Barrington	n. of Rt. 4, w. of Wood Rd.	P. Thompson
04-24	1	Boscawen	Hirst WMA	P. Hunt
04-25	1	Sutton	Cascade Marsh	P. Hunt
05-20	2	Brentwood	Brentwood Reclamation Area	T. Bronson
05-28	2	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod, R. Woodward
Horned Grebe				
05-26	1	Rye	Jeness Beach, n. end	S. Mirick
05-28	1	Hampton	NH coast	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson, R. Woodward
Red-necked Grebe				
04-26	8	Holderness	by shoreline s. of Bennett Cove	G. Gavutis, Jr.
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				
05-24	10	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward, M. Waniga
05-26	1	Rye	Ragged Neck	J. Smith
05-29	25		NH coast	S. Mirick
Storm-Petrel sp.				
05-26	3	Rye	Ragged Neck, Concord Pt.	J. Smith
Northern Gannet				
05-21	15	Seabrook	NH coast	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
05-22	20	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	P. Hunt, et al.
05-26	400	Rye	NH coast	J. Smith
05-26	40		NH coast	S. Mirick
Double-crested Cormorant				
04-03	1	Durham	Mill Pond	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
04-07	1	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park	I. MacLeod
04-28	342	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
05-27	1006	Rye	NH coast	T. Bronson
Great Cormorant				
03-25	1	Hooksett	Merrimack R. & Merrimack St. boat ramp	T. Bronson
04-13	7	N. Hampton	Rts. 1A & 111	T. Bronson, C. Nelson
05-21	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
American Bittern				
04-19	1	Richmond	Cass Pond	T. McEachern
04-25	1	Sutton	Cascade Marsh	P. Hunt
04-26	1	New Boston	off Bedford Rd.	S. Najjar, S. Drake
04-29	1	Hillsborough	Black Pond Brook, Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
04-30	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-01	1	Rumney	Quincy Bog	B. Taffe
05-11	2	Sandwich	Chicks Corner	T. Vazzano
05-17	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
05-21	2	Peterborough	Old Dublin Rd.	S. Mansfield, M. Johnson
05-21	1	Durham	Surrey Lane marsh	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
05-21	1	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
05-27	1	Canterbury	Pevery Meadow	R. Quinn
05-29	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
Great Blue Heron				
03-25	1	Fremont	spruce swamp off Copp Dr.	T. Bronson
04-01	20	Danville	Danville town property	P. Brown
04-22	4	Merrimack	Horse Hill Nature Preserve	T. Bronson
05-28	3	Concord	beaver pond s. of District 5 Rd.	R. Quinn
Great Egret				
03-27	1	Seabrook	off Rt. 286	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
05-03	3	Hampton	Hampton saltmarsh	E. Masterson
05-11	1	Nashua	Mines Falls, upriver	B. Harris, et al.
05-29	12	Seabrook	coastal marshes	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
05-29	3	Tamworth	Rt. 113, Jackman Pond outlet	R. Ridgely, et al.
Little Blue Heron				
05-04	1	N. Hampton	town line marsh	P. Brown
05-28	1	Rye	Rt. 1A s. of Odiorne Pt.	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson, R. Woodward
05-28	1	Hampton Falls	Depot Rd.	B. Griffith, M. & T. Kemp
Tricolored Heron				
05-04	1	N. Hampton	town line marsh	P. Brown
05-21	1	N. Hampton	town line marsh	P. Brown
Green Heron				
04-30	4	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson, R. Woodward
05-01	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	G. Prazar
05-04	1	Durham	Durham Landing	P. Brown
05-05	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-21	1	Haverhill	Bedell Bridge St. Pk.	J. & J. Williams
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
05-04	2	Hampton	Little Jack's Restaurant	P. Brown
05-10	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
Glossy Ibis				
04-22	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward, et al.
04-27	6	Rochester	fields off 6th Street	S. Mirick
04-28	10	E. Kingston	fields off Rt. 108	S. Mirick
Black Vulture				
03-07	1	Nashua	Four Hills Landfill	M. Medeiros
Osprey				
Mar. last wk.	1	Concord	Sewalls Falls bridge	R. Vallieres
04-01	2	Hollis	N. Pepperell Rd.	I. MacLeod
04-03	1	Concord	South End Marsh	C. Martin
04-03	1	Northwood	Northwood Lake	I. MacLeod
04-04	1	New Durham	Powder Mill Fish Hatchery	D. Stavros, L. Bardusk, C. Martin
04-04	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Northern Harrier				
04-03	1	Gilford	Sawyer Meadows	H. Anderson
04-03	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore/Tecee)	R. Suomala
04-03	1	E. Kingston	fields off Rt. 108	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
04-03	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	I. MacLeod
04-04	1	New Durham	Merrymeeting Lake	C. Martin, H. Gusch, E. McLaughlin
04-05	1	Concord	Turkey Pond	I. MacLeod
04-07	2	Conway	Dahl WS	P. Brown
05-05	1	Stratford	Ft. Hill WMA	C. Martin
05-09	1	Colebrook	Forbes Hill	C. Martin, K. Kerivan
05-10	2	Stewartstown	Creampoke Rd., e. end	C. Martin, K. Kerivan
05-10	1	Colebrook	Forbes Hill	C. Martin, K. Kerivan
05-24	1	Concord	W. Portsmouth St.	R. Suomala
05-25	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
Red-shouldered Hawk				
03-20	3	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
03-22	1	Kensington	Rt.107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
03-26	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
03-27	1	Canterbury	Baptist Hill Rd.	R. Quinn
03-27	3	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
Broad-winged Hawk				
04-19	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
04-20	1	Gilmanton	Old Jones Farm	J. Stockwell
04-21	1	Washington	Smith Rd.	I. MacLeod
04-22	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. Delorey
04-26	1	Holderness	w. of Bennett Cove	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04-26	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
Golden Eagle				
05-12	1	Harts Location	Mt. Willard, Crawford Notch	R. Vallieres
American Kestrel				
03-27	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
04-05	2	Gilmanton	Old Jones Rd.	J. Stockwell
04-08	2	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
04-08	1	Lyman	Parker Hill	S. & M. Turner
04-08	2	Dover	Bellamy River WS	P. Brown, M. Majko
04-29	8	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	P. Brown, M. Majko
Merlin				
03-18	1	Concord	state hospital grounds	R. Quinn
04-07	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
04-10	1	Pittsburg	Back Lake, w. end	L. Jones
04-25	1	Rye	boat trip to & from White Island	P. Brown, D. DeLuca, et al.
05-01	1	Hampton	Little Jack's Restaurant	I. MacLeod
Virginia Rail				
04-26	3	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	I. MacLeod
05-03	1	Hillsborough	Black Pond Brook, Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
05-27	3	Dummer	Pontook Marsh	M. Suomala
05-27	1	Canterbury	beaver pond on Shaker Rd.	R. Quinn

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Sora				
05-10	1	Durham	Surrey Lane marsh	P. Brown
05-21	2	Durham	Surrey Lane marsh	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
05-24	1	Northumberland	Wausau Sewage Plant fields	C. Martin
Common Moorhen				
05-21	1	Durham	Surrey Lane marsh	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
05-28	1	Swanzy	Airport Rd. on way to Keene wastewater treatment plant	G. Seymour
American Coot				
04-03	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm on Great Bay	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
Sandhill Crane				
04-05	1	Monroe	Plains Rd.	E. Emery, P. Powers
05-03	1	Kensington	Drinkwater Rd.	R. Aaronian, S. Goddard, J. Geary

Shorebirds through Alcids

With the exception of phalaropes, shorebird numbers were low, as is the case in most springs, and many species were only reported a handful of times. There were some mega-rarities however, including the state's second record of **Wilson's Plover** (the first was in 1993). The bird in question was found and photographed May 1 by Brendan Clifford (Piping Plover monitor), and remained on Seabrook Beach through May 8. If accepted by the Rare Birds Committee, a female **Ruff** from Stratham on April 26 would be just as remarkable. This species was last documented from the state in 1971, although there is a less clear record from 1973. For the record, depending on the validity of the 1973 record and a couple of others like it, there was something of a cluster of Ruffs in New Hampshire between 1967 and 1973, with three to five records during the period. Other shorebird highlights include an **American Oystercatcher** on White Island, an Upland Sandpiper in Durham, three Red Knots in Seabrook, and an inland White-rumped Sandpiper.



Red Phalarope by Stephen R. Mirick, 5/25/05, Meadow Pond in Hampton, NH.

The shorebird show this spring was, without doubt, put on by phalaropes. The May nor'easter brought unprecedented numbers of normally pelagic **Red-necked** and **Red Phalaropes** to the New Hampshire coast on May 24–26. Numbers started small on May 24, with maxima of eight Red-necked and seven Red, and peaked on May 26, with maxima of 155 Red-necked and 24 Red Phalaropes. They had departed from the mainland by May 27 although some were still being seen from the Isles of Shoals. Note that many observers reported varying numbers of phalaropes on the same date due to varying observation times and

locations. Phalaropes were generally observed either close to shore or on ponds just inland from the ocean. A few also frequented flooded parking lots.

The same nor'easter also brought jaegers close to shore, a rare spring occurrence in the state. Two **Parasitic Jaegers** were in Rye on May 25, while a probable **Long-tailed Jaeger** was seen in Rye the next day. The latter has not been recorded in any season in New Hampshire since 1975. Out on the Isles of Shoals, a total of 12 Laughing Gulls might also be related to the nor'easter, and the same could be said of the three Little Gulls back on the mainland. The tern entries below illustrate the rapid growth of the Seavey Island colony during May. Common Murres and Atlantic Puffins have been regular visitors to the Isles of Shoals in recent years, and this year one of each was there at the end of May.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Black-bellied Plover				
05-14	5	Rye	wooden bridge at Odiome Pt.	I. MacLeod
05-20	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward, M. Waniga
05-26	110	Rye	NH coast	J. Smith
05-29	60	Rye	wooden bridge on Rt. 1A	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
Wilson's Plover				
05-01	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	B. Clifford
05-08	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick, D. Abbott, D. Donsker, R. & M. Suomala, et al.
Semipalmated Plover				
05-21	1	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park	R. Quinn, et al.
05-23	6	Rye	ocean at Fairhill Marsh	T. Bronson
05-24	5	Concord	West Portsmouth St.	R. Quinn
05-26	46		NH coast	R. & M. Suomala
Piping Plover				
05-14	5	Hampton	Hampton Beach	I. MacLeod
Killdeer				
03-19	1	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
03-24	1	Bow	Grappone Ford	C. Martin
03-24	2	Concord	S. Concord Meadow Apts., Clinton St.	I. MacLeod
03-27	3	Gilford	Sawyer Meadows	H. Anderson
03-27	6	Concord	Locke Rd. sod farm & Merrimack R.	R. & M. Suomala
03-31	9	Stratham	College Rd., Rt. 108	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04-01	18	E. Kingston	fields off Rt. 108	S. Mirick
04-03	18	Fremont	Martin Rd.	T. Bronson
American Oystercatcher				
05-28	1	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	R. Suomala, M. Waniga
Greater Yellowlegs				
04-01	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	R. & M. Suomala
04-26	14	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	I. MacLeod
04-28	25	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Mirick
05-03	1	Fremont	Martin Rd. at Piscassic R.	T. Bronson
05-04	12	N. Hampton	Little River WS	P. Brown

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
05-05	17	Hampton Falls	marsh at Depot Rd.	T. Bronson
05-17	3	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	R. Suomala
05-17	1	Campton	Campton Pond, WMNF	J. Williams
05-18	3	Gilmanton	Loon Pond	J. Stockwell
05-18	2	Amherst	Ponemah Bog WS	T. Bronson
05-24	14	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
05-25	1	Sutton	Cascade Marsh	R. Quinn
Lesser Yellowlegs				
05-15	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
05-15	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
05-17	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	T. Bronson
05-28	2	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	B. Griffith, M.& T. Kemp
Solitary Sandpiper				
05-11	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-17	7	Washington	roadside pond	I. MacLeod
05-18	1	Raymond	Langford Rd. power line	T. Bronson
05-19	1	Manchester	Cedar Swamp Preserve	T. Bronson
05-24	8	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
05-25	5	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
Spotted Sandpiper				
04-27	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
04-28	1	Whitefield	Hazen Pond	I. MacLeod
04-30	1	Durham	Durham Landing	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson, R. Woodward
05-02	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. Turner
05-06	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
05-27	14	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward, M. Waniga
Upland Sandpiper				
04-24	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
04-29	3	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	P. Brown, M. Majko
05-28	2	Portsmouth	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	B. Griffith, M.& T. Kemp
Ruddy Turnstone				
05-26	12	Rye	NH coast	J. Smith
05-26	2	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	R.& M. Suomala
05-26	4	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward, M. Waniga
Red Knot				
05-28	3	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	B. Griffith, M.& T. Kemp
Sanderling				
04-13	9	Rye	Jeness Beach St. Pk.	T. Bronson, C. Nelson
05-07	4	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
Semipalmated Sandpiper				
05-04	2	N. Hampton	Little River WS	P. Brown
05-27	7	Rye	Ragged Neck	T. Bronson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Least Sandpiper				
05-15	1	Fremont	Martin Rd.	T. Bronson
05-21	10	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park	R. Quinn, et al.
05-24	5	Concord	West Portsmouth St.	R. Quinn
05-25	4	Sutton	Cascade Marsh	R. Quinn
05-26	19		NH coast	R. & M. Suomala
05-28	6	Sutton	Cascade Marsh	P. Newbern
White-rumped Sandpiper				
05-24	1	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgeley
05-26	1	Rye	Ragged Neck	J. Smith
05-28	1	Rye	wooden bridge near Odiorne Pt.	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson, R. Woodward
Pectoral Sandpiper				
04-26	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	I. MacLeod
05-03	4	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	E. Masterson
05-21	1	Rye	wooden bridge by Odiorne Pt.	P. Brown
Purple Sandpiper				
05-01	22	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	I. MacLeod
05-02	60	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
05-07	75	Hampton	south jetty, Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
05-23	80	Rye	ocean at Fairhill Marsh	T. Bronson
05-23	37	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	T. Bronson
05-26	170	Rye	NH coast	J. Smith
05-26	76	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward, M. Waniga
05-29	14	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Waniga, R. Suomala
Dunlin				
05-06	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach	I. MacLeod
05-21	2	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	I. MacLeod, R. Woodward
05-28	5	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	B. Griffith, M. & T. Kemp
Ruff				
04-26	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	I. & S. MacLeod
Short-billed Dowitcher				
05-18	10	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward, M. Waniga
05-28	50	Rye	wooden bridge near Odiorne Pt.	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson, R. Woodward
05-28	43	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Waniga, R. Suomala, M. Barney, D. Hayward
Wilson's Snipe				
04-01	2	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	T. Bronson
04-03	2	Gilford	Sawyer Meadows	H. Anderson
04-05	7	E. Kingston	e. of Rt. 108, S. of Kensington line	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04-26	12	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	I. MacLeod
05-04	4	Concord	W. Portsmouth St.	R. Quinn
05-21	3	Hillsborough	Beards Brook Meadow	I. MacLeod, R. Woodward

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
American Woodcock				
03-21	3	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
03-21	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Road	M. Wright
03-24	3	Kensington	Rt.107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
03-24	5	Lee	residences	P. Brown, M. Majko
03-26	6	Dover	Bellamy Rd. WMA	R. Suomala

Red-necked Phalarope
by Stephen R. Mirick,
5/24/05, Rye, NH.



Red-necked Phalarope

05-24	8	Rye	NH coast	S. Mirick
05-25	14	Hampton	NH coast	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
05-25	11		NH coast	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence, et al.
05-26	155	Rye	NH coast	J. Smith
05-26	12	Rye	NH coast	R.& M. Suomala
05-26	54		NH coast	S. Mirick
05-26	16	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward, M. Waniga
05-27	5	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward, M. Waniga

Red Phalarope

05-24	1	Rye	puddle in Jenness Beach parking lot	M.& K. Prazar
05-24	7	Rye	NH coast	S. Mirick
05-25	8	Hampton	NH coast	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
05-25	2	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
05-25	9		NH coast	S. Mirick, et al.
05-26	24	Rye	NH coast	J. Smith
05-26	7	Rye	NH coast	R.& M. Suomala
05-26	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward, M. Waniga
05-26	16		NH coast	S. Mirick
05-27	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward, M. Waniga



Parasitic Jaeger by James Smith, 5/26/05, Rye, NH.

Parasitic Jaeger

05-26	2	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	E. Masterson, S. Mirick, J. Smith
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<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Long-tailed Jaeger				
05-25	1	Rye	Ragged Neck	B. Griffith, D. Green
Laughing Gull				
05-01	1	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	I. MacLeod
05-19	3	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward, M. Waniga
05-22	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	P. Hunt, et al.
05-27	3	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward, M. Waniga
05-31	12	Rye	Foss Beach	S. Mirick
Little Gull				
05-25	3	Hampton	Little Jack's Restaurant	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod
05-31	2	Rye	Foss Beach	S. Mirick
Black-headed Gull				
05-29	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
05-31	1	Rye	Eel Pond	S. Mirick
Iceland Gull				
03-19	1	E. Kingston	South Road	D. Finch
03-27	1	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
03-30	2	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop	T. Vazzano, R. Van de Poll
04-03	1	Concord	Clinton St.	I. MacLeod
05-27	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
Lesser Black-backed Gull				
04-06	1	Durham	Durham Landing	S. Mirick
04-08	3	Rochester	Pickering Ponds Trails	S. Mirick
05-25	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt.	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod
05-31	2	Rye	Foss Beach	S. Mirick
Glaucous Gull				
04-16	3	Rochester	Pickering Ponds trails	S. Mirick, NHA FT
04-24	2	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
05-02	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
Roseate Tern				
05-11	6	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward, K. Covino
05-14	30	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, K. Covino
05-21	12	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
05-26	2	Rye	Rt. 1A by Odiorne Pt.	R. & M. Suomala
05-31	80	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Waniga, R. Suomala
Common Tern				
05-02	18	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
05-06	1000	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
05-16	4500	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
Arctic Tern				
05-17	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
05-30	16	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Waniga, R. Suomala

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Least Tern				
05-21	2	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
05-28	2	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	B. Griffith, M.& T. Kemp
Black Tern				
05-25	1	Hampton	behind Little Jack's Restaurant	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
Tern sp.				
05-25	3	Moultonborough	Squam Lake	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
Common Murre				
05-26	1	Rye	White Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward, M. Barney, M. Waniga
Atlantic Puffin				
05-27	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward
05-29	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Waniga, R. Suomala

Cuckoos through Flycatchers

Both Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoos were fairly common for the second year in a row, although numbers were not as high as in the spring of 2004. An Eastern Screech-Owl entertained birders in Durham for several days in March, while a second was in Hollis in early April. Both birds were of the red morph. A third screech-owl was heard in Nashua. On average, Chimney Swifts arrived a little late, while Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were right on time. Large flocks of swifts in Concord and Exeter were noteworthy, and the 300 in Exeter on May 8 were all funneling into, appropriately enough, a chimney.

After a large incursion of Red-bellied Woodpeckers in the fall of 2004, and a winter with reports from the northern half of the state, it came as no surprise to have at least five reported in the Lakes Region this spring. Time will tell if this represents another northward shift in the New Hampshire range of this species. The Red-bellied Woodpecker in Columbia is one of only a handful of records north of the White Mountains. Another 16 records of this species south and east of Concord are not listed here. Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported from Goffstown and North Hampton. While it's becoming expected to have Red-bellied Woodpeckers moving north, Black-backed Woodpeckers moving south is a much rarer phenomenon. But this year a female wandered to Effingham, where Garth McElroy photographed her on March 13. The habitat at New Hampshire Audubon's Watts Wildlife Sanctuary is a large spruce wetland, so one wonders if Black-backed might even try to breed there occasionally.

For the last several years, Eastern Wood-Pewees have tended to arrive on the late side, and 2005 was no exception. Could this be related to the gradual decline of this species in the Northeast? The same could be said for Least Flycatchers and Eastern Phoebes, both of which are also declining and which arrived this year on the extremely late dates of May 11 and April 1, respectively.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Black-billed Cuckoo				
05-16	2	Swanzy	Airport Rd.	G. Seymour
05-17	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
05-18	2	Gilmanton	old Jones Farm	J. Stockwell
05-18	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-19	1	Canterbury	Peveryly Meadow	R. Quinn
05-20	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds trails	P. Brown
05-21	1	Concord	Mast Yard State Forest	R. Quinn, et al.
05-21	1	Benton	Oliverian Pond ramp, WMNF	J. & J. Williams
05-22	1	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park	R. Woodward
05-29	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				
05-18	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
05-21	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds trails	P. Brown
05-30	2	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
Eastern Screech-Owl				
03-20	1	Durham	Old Landing Rd.	D. Chorlian
03-27	1	Durham	Old Landing Rd.	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence, et al.
04-01	1	Hollis	N. Pepperell Rd.	I. MacLeod
04-19	1	Nashua	residence	D. Deifik
Northern Saw-whet Owl				
05-20	1	Hillsborough	Beards Brook Rd.	I. MacLeod
Common Nighthawk				
05-12	1	Keene	Colony Mill	M. Wright
05-15	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
05-20	1	Westmoreland	Hatt Rd.	G. Seymour
05-22	3	Keene	Colony Mill	M. Wright
05-27	1	Newington	Great Bay NWR, Ferry Way Trail	T. Bronson
05-28	3	Durham	Foss Farm	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson, R. Woodward
05-28	30	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson, R. Woodward
Whip-poor-will				
04-25	1	Ossipee	Center Ossipee residence	G. McElroy
05-12	2	Brookline	residence	M. Anne
05-18	1	Canterbury	Intervale Rd.	P. Hunt
05-19	1	Fremont	Spruce Swamp, n. end	T. Bronson, N. Nelson
05-20	1	Jefferson	Rt. 116 residence	D. Govatski, K. Holmgren
05-21	8	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	P. Brown
05-21	1	Concord	Mast Yard State Forest	P. Hunt
Chimney Swift				
04-21	1	Epsom	Epsom Circle	P. Brown
05-03	2	Hanover	Dartmouth Hall, Dartmouth College campus	T. Rosenmeier, K. Kluge
05-05	1	S. Hampton	Brookside WS	P. Brown, NHA FT
05-06	8	Exeter	downtown	G. Prazar
05-08	47	Concord	Second St. & Beaver Meadow	P. Niswander
05-08	300	Exeter	downtown	S. Mirick
05-21	200	Concord	various locations	R. Quinn, et al.
05-22	500	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	P. Hunt, et al.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				
05-06	1	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
05-06	1	Exeter	residence	G. Prazar
05-07	1	Gilmanton	Whispering Pines Rd.	K. Palfy
Red-headed Woodpecker				
03-16	1	Goffstown	Libbey St.	M. Provencher
05-23	1	N. Hampton	Chapel Rd., s. side	M. Forrest, T.& J. Sousa
Red-bellied Woodpecker				
03-13	1	Bristol	Main St.	D. Wagner
03-13	1	Tamworth	Chocorua Rd., Chocorua	B. Drake
04-06	1	Laconia	Holman St.	H. Anderson
05-04	1	Freedom	Trout Pond	G. McElroy
05-05	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
05-24	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
05-30	1	Madison	Silver Lake Village	B. Knowles
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				
04-03	1	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
04-07	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
04-07	6	Center Harbor	various locations	P. Manville, J. Merrill
04-07	2	Tamworth	Mountain Road	S. Mirick
04-07	1	Hanover	Blueberry Hill residence	K. Kluge
Black-backed Woodpecker				
03-13	1	Effingham	Watts WS, Huntress Bridge Rd.	G. McElroy
Northern Flicker				
03-12	1	Newmarket	Bay Road	H. Chary
03-26	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. Harris
03-26	2	Concord	Merrimack R., Sewalls Falls to Bow	R. Quinn
03-31	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Road	M. Wright
04-13	13	Laconia	Eastman Shore Rd.	H. Anderson
Olive-sided Flycatcher				
05-10	2	Lyman	Dodge Pond Rd.	M.& S. Turner
05-17	2	Effingham	Watts WS	P. Brown
05-18	1	Newbury	John Hay NWR	P. Newbern
05-21	2	Antrim	Willard Pond WS	F. Von Mertens, S. Webb
05-31	1	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
Eastern Wood-Pewee				
05-15	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
05-19	1	Auburn	Massabesic WS	I. MacLeod
05-20	1	Concord	Silk Farm WS	I. MacLeod
05-20	1	Brentwood	NH Fish & Game lands, North Rd. at Rt. 101	T. Bronson
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				
05-17	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
05-17	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
05-21	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	P. Brown
05-28	1	Concord	Long Pond Rd.	R. Quinn
05-30	4	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
05-30	3	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	M.& S. Turner

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Alder Flycatcher				
05-18	1	Hillsborough	Beards Brook meadow	I. MacLeod
05-20	2	Hillsborough	around Beards Brook & Rt. 31	I. MacLeod
05-20	1	Lyman	Under-the-Mountain Rd.	M.& S. Turner
05-20	1	Concord	Mast Yard State Forest	R. Quinn
05-21	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	P. Brown
Willow Flycatcher				
05-20	1	Dover	Bellamy River WS	P. Brown
05-21	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	P. Hunt
05-30	1	Rumney	Buffalo Road	J.& J. Williams
Least Flycatcher				
05-11	2	Sandwich	Chicks Corner	T. Vazzano
05-11	2	Lee	yard	P. Brown
05-12	3	Holderness	US Forest Service Office	J. Williams
05-15	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
05-15	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond	M.& S. Turner
05-15	2	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
Eastern Phoebe				
04-01	1	Concord	Silk Farm WS	C. Martin
04-01	1	Durham	Langley Rd.	R.& M. Suomala
04-01	1	Hollis	N. Pepperell Rd.	I. MacLeod
04-03	1	Newbury	Stoney Brook WS	C. Martin
04-03	1	Fremont	Karlin Rd. near Ingalls lane	T. Bronson
04-03	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
Great Crested Flycatcher				
05-06	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-11	1	Gilford	Lake Winnepesaukee shoreline	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-13	1	Rumney	Buffalo Road	J.& J. Williams
05-15	2	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
05-16	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond Rd.	M.& S. Turner
Eastern Kingbird				
04-30	1	Concord	Silk Farm WS	P. Hunt, et al.
05-04	1	Dover	Bellamy River WS	P. Brown
05-05	1	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
05-15	9	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
05-16	6	Fremont	Rail Trail near North Rd.	T. Bronson
05-18	5	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward, M. Waniga

Shrikes through Waxwings

After a small winter incursion, a few Northern Shrikes were reported in central New Hampshire in March and early April. The Gray Jay in Colebrook is noteworthy because most reports of this species come from the White Mountains, Errol, or Pittsburg. This year the state's northernmost Fish Crow was in Freedom, one of a half dozen in the Ossipee area. Given that there were also three Red-bellied Woodpeckers and a Carolina Wren in this part of Carroll County, one is left wondering if all three southern species

have recently expanded north into the area from Rochester and points south. There is a relative lack of observers between Rochester and Ossipee, and these species may very well have already been present along the Route 16 corridor for a few years.

The cold, wet May was not good for Purple Martins. Several were found dead at colonies in Moultonborough and Laconia, and a second Moultonborough colony, the long-standing one on Lee's Mill Road, appears to have been abandoned. Observers at the Exeter wastewater treatment plant in late May were treated to an impressive showing of swallows. An estimated 3,000 were there on May 22, including a few Northern Rough-winged Swallows not included in the listings below.

J. R. Stockwell had a near monopoly on Boreal Chickadees this spring, most of which were tallied as he hiked above 3,000 feet in the White Mountains. Most Winter Wrens were on the late side, with the exception of a vigorously singing individual in Rumney on March 23. The tern biologists at the Isles of Shoals had a remarkable four species of *Catharus* thrushes on April 28–29. Of these the Bicknell's/Gray-cheeked is the most unusual, since both these species tend to be rather late migrants: the earliest record of either species I'm aware of is May 10.



Varied Thrush by John Downing,
3/22/05, Campton, NH.

A **Varied Thrush** was photographed on March 22 in Campton, where it had been present for about two weeks. Bohemian Waxwings lingered through the end of March at several locations in central New Hampshire. Given that Bohemian Waxwings tend to appear in numbers every other year, and that there was a large invasion in 2003-04, having several birds in the state in 2004-05 was relatively unusual.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Northern Shrike				
03-01	1	Sanbornton	s. of Hermit Lake & n. of Cawley Pond	S. Fox
03-17	1	Lyme	N. Thetford Rd.	K. Kluge, et al.
03-31	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
04-01	1	Plymouth	Tenney Mountain Highway	J. Williams
04-05	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
04-05	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	I. MacLeod, P. Brown
04-10	1	Boscawen	Wildlife Management Area	I. MacLeod
Yellow-throated Vireo				
05-17	1	Newmarket	Lubberland Creek Preserve	T. Bronson
05-18	1	Lempster	Goshen-Lempster School	P. Newbern
05-19	1	Canterbury	Peverly Meadow	R. Quinn
05-20	2	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
05-21	1	Concord	Sewalls Falls	P. Hunt
Blue-headed Vireo				
04-16	1	Canterbury	Baptist Hill Rd.	R. Quinn
04-17	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
04-17	1	New Boston	SPNHF land	P. Brown
04-20	1	Lyman	Under-the-Mountain Rd.	S. Turner
04-20	1	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Warbling Vireo				
05-04	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
05-05	1	Exeter	Squamscott R.	T. Bronson
05-06	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond residence	S. Turner
05-14	8	Holderness	the Intervale	B. Taffe
05-20	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
05-30	1	Pittsburg	w. end of Back Lake	L. Jones
Red-eyed Vireo				
05-11	1	Lee	residence	P. Brown
05-11	1	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
05-13	1	Newbury	John Hay NWR	T. Bronson
05-15	1	Windham	residence	J. Romano
05-15	3	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
Gray Jay				
05-10	2	Colebrook	South Hill Rd. at Beaver Brook	C. Martin, K. Kerivan
Fish Crow				
03-20	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
04-01	4	Stratham	College Rd., Rt. 108	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04-12	8	Rochester	6th Street	S. Mirick
04-13	2	Concord	Fort Eddy Plaza	E. Masterson
04-30	1	Auburn	Massabesic WS	K. Reid, J. Woolf
05-06	1	Ossipee	small farm	G. McElroy
05-06	4	Effingham		G. McElroy
05-11	1	Freedom	Ossipee R., w.branch near Madison line	P. Hunt
05-14	2	Hampton	Hampton Beach	I. MacLeod
05-28	2	Raymond	Rt. 101, exit 5	B. Griffith, M.& T. Kemp
Horned Lark				
04-03	75	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
04-10	1	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
05-14	2	Milford	North River Rd.	M. Anne
05-28	3	Portsmouth	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	B. Griffith, M.& T. Kemp
05-31	2	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
Purple Martin				
04-30	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds Trails	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson, R. Woodward
05-11	15	Laconia	Fun Spot, Weirs Beach	P. Hunt
05-17	3	Effingham	Rt. 153	P. Brown
Tree Swallow				
03-26	12	Concord	Merrimack R., Sewalls Falls to Bow	R. Quinn
03-27	4	Tilton	Rt. 140 bridge, exit 20, Rt. 93	H. Anderson
03-31	12	Auburn	Lake Massabesic at Auburn Town Hall	T. Bronson
03-31	2	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Rd.	J. Merrill
04-11	300	Laconia	Lakeport Dam	H. Anderson
04-12	100	Newmarket	Lamprey River	S. Mirick
04-12	300	Madbury	Bellamy Reservoir	S. Mirick
05-14	1000	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	P. Hunt, et al.
05-22	1500	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	P. Hunt, et al.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				
04-12	4	Newmarket	Lamprey River	S. Mirick
04-16	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	I. MacLeod
04-18	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	B.& D. Fox
04-30	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds trails	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson, R. Woodward
05-01	6	Rumney	Quincy Bog	B. Taffe
Bank Swallow				
04-28	2	Epsom	Rt. 4 rest area	T. Bronson
05-03	6	Gilsum	s. end Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
05-03	12	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	P. Brown
05-13	1	Bradford	Rts. 103 & 114	T. Bronson
05-22	500	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	P. Hunt, et al.
Cliff Swallow				
04-30	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson, R. Woodward
05-01	4	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
05-03	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	P. Brown
05-22	500	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	P. Hunt, et al.
05-27	14	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk. by breakwater	T. Bronson
Barn Swallow				
04-10	2	Fremont	Martin Rd.	T. Bronson, N. Nelson
04-12	1	Newmarket	Lamprey River	S. Mirick
04-13	1	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	I. MacLeod
04-15	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	P. Brown
05-22	500	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	P. Hunt, et al.
Swallow sp.				
05-15	2000	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
Boreal Chickadee				
03-05	2	Chandlers Purchase	Mt. Eisenhower nw. ridge, 3600'	J. Stockwell
03-06	2	Lincoln	S. Kinsman e. side, 4100'	J. Stockwell
04-04	3	Lincoln	West Huntington, 3,200'	J. Stockwell
04-09	2	Livermore	East Huntington 3,100'	J. Stockwell
04-17	2	Bethlehem	Ethan Pond	J. Stockwell
04-17	1	Lincoln	Shoal Pond Mtn. summit, 3,051'	J. Stockwell
05-28	1	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson, R. Woodward
Tufted Titmouse				
05-02	2	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
Carolina Wren				
03-08	1	Kensington	Rt.107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
03-16	1	Stratham	Stratham Heights Rd.	T. Bronson
03-17	1	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
03-23	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. Harris
03-25	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. Delorey
04-12	1	Westmoreland	Hatt Rd.	G. Seymour
04-20	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
05-10	1	Concord	Bow Brook Ravine	J. Dillon
05-14	1	Sandwich	Great Rock Rd.	T. Vazzano

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Carolina Wren—continued				
05-20	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward, M. Waniga
05-27	2	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
05-30	1	Hancock	Antrim Rd.	E. Masterson
House Wren				
04-29	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
04-30	1	Durham	Durham Landing	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson, R. Woodward
05-01	1	Newmarket	Packers Falls Rd.	P. Hendrickx
05-01	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
Winter Wren				
03-23	1	Rumney	Rumney Rocks climbing area	C. Martin, B. Taffe
04-07	1	Lyman	Hurd Hill Rd.	S. & M. Turner
04-07	1	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
04-09	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
Marsh Wren				
05-10	1	Durham	Surrey Lane marsh	P. Brown
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
04-07	1	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. & M. Suomala
04-07	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
04-07	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
04-07	3	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
04-10	2	Franconia	Big Bickford Mtn., 3,100'	J. Stockwell
04-17	13	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				
04-21	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
04-28	1	Hopkinton	Smith Pond Bog	P. Brown
05-11	1	Madison	Ossipee R. w. branch near Freedom Line	P. Hunt
05-14	3	Holderness	the Intervale	B. Taffe
05-30	2	Windham	Rail Trail s. of Depot Rd.	T. Bronson
Veery				
04-28	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
05-01	1	Nelson	Monadnock Sunapee Greenway Trail	J. Stockwell
05-14	2	Rumney	Buffalo Road	J. & J. Williams
05-14	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
05-14	2	Lyman	Dodge Pond Rd.	M. & S. Turner
Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush sp.				
04-28	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
04-29	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
05-31	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Waniga, R. Suomala
Swainson's Thrush				
04-28	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
05-15	1	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
05-16	4	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
05-20	2	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	A. & B. Delorey
05-21	1	Antrim	Willard Pond WS	F. Von Mertens, S. Webb
05-27	1	Bethlehem	Scarface Brook Rd. WMNF	J. Williams

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
05-28	1	Concord	near pond s. of District 5 Rd.	R. Quinn
05-30	2	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
Hermit Thrush				
03-04	1	Sandown	Cross Rd.	C. Fermoye
03-14	1	New Durham	Old Main Rd.	D. Stavros, L. Bardusk
03-19	1	Durham	Foss Farm	S. Mirick, NHA FT
04-08	1	Dover	Bellamy River WS	P. Brown, M. Majko
04-29	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
Wood Thrush				
04-28	1	Lee	residence	P. Brown, M. Majko
05-05	2	S. Hampton	Brookside WS	P. Brown, NHA FT
05-06	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-09	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-11	1	Westmoreland	River Rd.	R. Ritz
05-11	1	Rumney	Buffalo Road	J.& J. Williams
Varied Thrush				
03-22	1	Campton	Ellsworth Hill Rd.	J.& A. Downing, V. Kelly
Gray Catbird				
04-28	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
05-05	1	S. Hampton	Brookside WS	P. Brown, NHA FT
05-07	1	Deerfield	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	R.& M. Suomala, et al.
05-11	1	Fremont	rail trail, Martin Rd., Rt. 125	T. Bronson
05-11	1	Kensington	Rt.107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
Brown Thrasher				
04-20	1	Concord	Penacook wastewater treatment plant	R. Quinn
04-30	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson, R. Woodward
05-03	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	I. MacLeod
05-06	1	Concord	Second St. by golf course	P. Niswander
05-06	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
American Pipit				
04-05	1	Concord	Clinton St.	I. MacLeod, P. Brown
04-13	1	Hebron	Hebron Marsh WS	P. Brown
05-08	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
05-18	1	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
05-21	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	E. Masterson, M. Tarr, D. Fallon
05-25	6	Concord	West Portsmouth St.	R. Quinn
Bohemian Waxwing				
03-17	20	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
03-20	25	New London	Colby Sawyer College	P. Newbern
03-23	2	Haverhill	Dartmouth College Hgwy. residence	P. Marvin
03-23	60	Laconia	Water St., Lake Winnisquam	H. Anderson
03-25	6	Concord	Clinton St.	R. Woodward
03-30	20	Laconia	Opechee Bay at Lakeport	P. Hunt

Warblers

For the most part, the common species of warblers were five to seven days late in arriving, and many observers commented on the overall slowness of the season for this popular group of migrants. Cold weather in early May delayed leaf-out not only in New Hampshire but also along much of the east coast, and it would appear that birds may have waited farther south until foraging conditions improved to the north. On the other hand, species that tend to arrive in early April (Yellow-rumped, Pine, and Palm Warblers) were on time, if not slightly on the early side.

In the absence of standardized data, it is difficult to tell whether Tennessee, Cape May, and Bay-breasted Warblers were more common than usual this spring, but perusal of official reports, second-hand reports, and sightings posted on the Internet suggest this was the case. One source commented that a spruce budworm outbreak began last summer in Canada, which could be responsible for the possible increase.

There were few unusual warblers reported this season. The star of the show was "Jeffrey," the **Yellow-throated Warbler** that spent the winter at a Dover feeder, and who was last seen April 2. Elsewhere in the state, a **Lawrence's Warbler** (Blue-winged x Golden-winged hybrid) returned for a second year to Seabrook, and a Cerulean Warbler made a stopover in Lee. Far to the north, a Louisiana Waterthrush in Chatham represents one of the northernmost records for the state.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Blue-winged Warbler				
04-29	1	Lee	residence	P. Brown, M. Majko
05-06	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-10	1	Concord	Silk Farm WS	P. Hunt, P. Brown, L. Deming
05-11	3	Seabrook	Rt. 107	R. Aaronian
05-14	5	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	R. Woodward
05-21	1	Kensington	Rt.107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
Lawrence's Warbler - hybrid				
05-11	1	Seabrook	Rt. 107	R. Aaronian
Tennessee Warbler				
05-20	1	Hinsdale	base of Vernon Dam	G. Seymour
05-21	1	Deerfield	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	I. MacLeod, R. Woodward
05-21	2	Concord	Bog Rd.	P. Hunt
Nashville Warbler				
04-26	2	Sandwich		G. Gavutis, Jr.
04-26	1	Holderness		G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-01	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
05-03	2	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	I. MacLeod
05-11	6	Tamworth	TNC "Triangles" w. of Rt. 41	P. Hunt
Northern Parula				
05-06	2	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-10	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
05-10	1	Auburn	Massabesic WS	P. Brown
05-11	2	Lee	residence	P. Brown

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
05-17	12	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
05-20	1	Pittsburg	w. end of Back Lake	L. Jones
05-23	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
05-27	1	Bethlehem	Scarface Brook Rd. WMNF	J. Williams
Yellow Warbler				
05-03	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	P. Brown
05-05	1	Rumney	Buffalo Road	J.& J. Williams
05-06	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
05-06	2	Westmoreland	Partridge Brook & River Rds.	R. Ritz
05-06	4	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-06	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
05-11	30	Rochester	Pickering Ponds trails	P. Brown
05-20	17	Brentwood	Brentwood Reclamation Area	T. Bronson
05-30	17	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
Chestnut-sided Warbler				
05-11	5	Holderness	US Forest Service office	J. Williams
05-11	1	Lee	residence	P. Brown
05-12	2	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
05-15	12	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
05-17	2	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
Magnolia Warbler				
05-11	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
05-12	1	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
05-15	1	Windham	residence	J. Romano
05-15	4	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
05-17	9	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
05-19	1	Pittsburg	w. end of Back Lake	L. Jones
Cape May Warbler				
05-16	1	Holderness	US Forest Service office	J. Williams, D. Serotnak
Black-throated Blue Warbler				
05-01	1	Stoddard	Monadnock Sunapee Greenway Trail	J. Stockwell
05-06	2	Newbury	John Hay NWR	P. Newbern
05-07	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	R.& M. Suomala, et al.
05-08	2	Lyman	Under-the-Mountain Rd.	S. Turner
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
04-09	2	Center Harbor	Butterfield Rd.	J. Merrill
04-11	1	Laconia	Lakeport Dam	H. Anderson
04-14	1	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
04-20	3	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr., Piscassic River	C. Fisher, P. Hendrickx
04-28	4	Whitefield	Hazen Pond	I. MacLeod
04-30	15	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-04	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
05-05	12	S. Hampton	Brookside WS	P. Brown, NHA FT
05-08	13	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
05-11	35	Rochester	Pickering Ponds trails	P. Brown
05-14	12	Holderness	the Intervale	B. Taffe
05-17	15	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Black-throated Green Warbler				
04-28	2	Hopkinton	Smith Pond Bog	P. Brown
05-02	1	Walpole	Scovill Rd. tower	R. Ritz
05-03	2	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
05-05	2	S. Hampton	Brookside WS	P. Brown, NHA FT
Blackburnian Warbler				
05-01	1	Windham	residence	J. Romano
05-11	1	Northwood	Northwood Meadows St. Pk.	D. Trested
05-12	4	Livermore	Eastman Brook drainage, WMNF	J. Williams
05-12	1	Holderness	US Forest Service office	J. Williams
Yellow-throated Warbler				
03-10	1	Dover	Pinecrest Lane	T. Bronson
04-02	1	Dover	Pinecrest Lane	D. Carr
Pine Warbler				
04-07	3	Center Harbor	Butterfield Rd.	J. Merrill
04-07	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04-07	1	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
04-10	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
04-10	12	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
Prairie Warbler				
05-07	1	Deerfield	Reservation Rd. powerline	R. & M. Suomala, et al.
05-09	4	Deerfield	Reservation Rd. powerline	T. Bronson
05-11	1	Lee	residence	P. Brown
05-11	2	Tamworth	TNC "Triangles" w. of Rt. 41	P. Hunt
05-20	7	Brentwood	Brentwood Reclamation Area	T. Bronson
Palm Warbler				
04-07	1	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Rd.	J. Merrill
04-07	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04-07	3	Conway	Dahl WS	P. Brown
04-08	1	Dover	Bellamy River WS	P. Brown, M. Majko
04-10	1	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
05-05	30	S. Hampton	Brookside WS	P. Brown, NHA FT
Bay-breasted Warbler				
05-11	1	Northwood	Northwood Meadows St. Pk.	D. Trested
05-11	1	Pittsburg	w. end of Back Lake	L. Jones
05-14	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
05-14	2	Tamworth	Fowlers Mill Rd.	T. Vazzano, et al.
05-15	1	Fremont	Karlin Rd. & Ingalls Lane	T. Bronson
05-16	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
05-17	1	Holderness	Pemigewasset Ranger District Office	J. Williams
05-20	1	Claremont	Monadnock Park	P. Newbern
Blackpoll Warbler				
05-16	2	Holderness	US Forest Service office	J. Williams, J. Maronowski
05-17	3	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
05-17	1	Holderness	Pemigewasset Ranger District Office	J. Williams
05-18	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-20	1	Hinsdale	base of Vernon Dam	G. Seymour

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Cerulean Warbler				
05-29	1	Lee	residence	P. Brown, M. Majko
Black-and-white Warbler				
04-17	1	Concord	Mast Yard State Forest	P. Hunt
04-29	1	Rumney	Buffalo Rd.	B. Taffe
04-30	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04-30	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds trails	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson, R. Woodward
04-30	7	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
American Redstart				
05-10	2	Concord	St. Paul's School	R. Suomala
05-10	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
05-11	2	Epping	Rail Trail, Martin Rd., Rt. 125	T. Bronson
05-11	1	Gilmanton	Crystal Lake Rd. & Mountain Rd.	K. Palfy
05-11	8	Rochester	Pickering Ponds trails	P. Brown
Ovenbird				
05-03	1	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
05-05	1	S. Hampton	Brookside WS	P. Brown, NHA FT
05-06	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-07	1	Deerfield	Reservation Rd. powerline	R. & M. Suomala, et al.
05-09	2	Kensington	Rt.107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-09	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
05-15	1	Sargents Purchase	Mt. Washington Observatory	T. Markle
Northern Waterthrush				
04-20	1	Lyman	Under-the-Mountain Rd.	S. Turner
04-29	2	Wilmot	Campground Rd.	P. Newbern
04-29	2	Sutton	Cascade Marsh	P. Newbern
04-30	3	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
Louisiana Waterthrush				
04-16	1	Canterbury	Baptist Hill Rd.	R. Quinn
04-28	1	Hillsborough	Beards Brook	I. MacLeod
04-30	2	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-13	3	Sandwich	Cook Farm, Bearcamp R.	T. Vazzano, G. McElroy
05-21	1	Chatham	Charles Brook near Cold R. confluence	M. Greenwald
05-21	1	Westmoreland	Partridge Brook	G. Seymour
Mourning Warbler				
05-30	2	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	M. & S. Turner
05-31	1	Canterbury	Baptist Hill Rd.	R. Quinn
Common Yellowthroat				
05-10	2	Kensington	Rt.107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-11	1	Walpole	Scovill Rd. extension	R. Ritz
05-13	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr., Piscassic R.	P. Hendrickx
05-14	18	Holderness	the Intervale	B. Taffe
Wilson's Warbler				
05-12	1	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
05-14	3	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	P. Hunt, et al.
05-17	2	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
05-18	2	Hillsborough	Beards Brook Meadow	I. MacLeod
05-18	1	Kensington	Rt.107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Canada Warbler				
05-17	3	Holderness	the Intervale	B. Taffe
05-18	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
05-18	1	Newbury	off Rt. 103A	P. Newbern
05-20	1	Brentwood	Brentwood Reclamation Area	T. Bronson
05-21	1	Concord	Bog Rd.	P. Hunt

Tanager through Finches

Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Indigo Buntings, and Baltimore Orioles all occasionally show up in late April ahead of their usual arrival dates. This season was one of those springs where this phenomenon was much in evidence, although not necessarily reflected in the listings that follow. The NH.birds listserve was full of tanager reports from feeders and backyards in late April and early May, but few if any of these were officially reported to *New Hampshire Bird Records*. An Indigo Bunting on April 27 was relatively early, while a Baltimore Oriole the same day ties the record early date for the state. Reports of all four species were also somewhat high as a result of the late leaf-out, which allowed these colorful birds to be seen by many people right in their back yards.

More noteworthy were the two male **Summer Tanagers** photographed, one at a feeder in Bethlehem on May 3 and the other on Seavey Island on May 15. These birds may have been part of a small influx of earlier-than-usual migrants that began at the very end of April. Orchard Orioles made news away from their usual haunts near Great Bay and Dover. One was well to the north in Conway, while in the extreme southwest a pair was building a nest in Hinsdale. In contrast to other southern species that have expanded their range within the state, Orchard Orioles seem happy to remain in the extreme southeastern part of the state. One wonders if the fact that they are highly migratory, unlike the more sedentary Red-bellied Woodpeckers and Carolina Wrens, has anything to do with their more stable state distribution.

In the sparrow department, noteworthy sightings include a Lincoln's Sparrow that spent the winter in East Kingston. The **Clay-colored Sparrow** in Rochester is an unusual sighting for spring, although the species appears to be increasing as a breeder in the Northeast. Otherwise sparrow migration was not marked by any noteworthy numbers or events.

Dickcissel is more common in the fall, so one photographed at a feeder in Somersworth was somewhat unexpected.

There was something of a movement of Purple Finches during the first half of the season, after a winter when the species was more common than usual in some areas. Common Redpolls, like Bohemian Waxwings, staged an unusual "off-year" invasion in the winter of 2004–2005. Small groups lingered into late March in the northern two-thirds of the state.



Dickcissel by Stephen R. Mirick, 5/27/05, Somersworth, NH.

Among them was a single **Hoary Redpoll** in Sandwich. After several years of scarcity, there were numerous Evening Grosbeaks reported from all corners of the state. Most of these were flocks of fewer than ten birds.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Summer Tanager				
05-03	1	Bethlehem	off Gould Rd.	D. & T. Tellman
05-15	1	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, K. Covino
Scarlet Tanager				
05-11	1	Walpole	Scovill Rd.	R. Ritz
05-11	1	Sandwich	Dinsmore Pond Rd.	T. Vazzano
05-12	1	Rumney	Rattlesnake Mtn.	B. Taffe
05-12	1	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
05-14	1	Lyman	Under-the-Mountain Rd.	M. & S. Turner
Eastern Towhee				
04-23	1	Lee	residence	P. Brown
04-24	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. Harris
04-24	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
04-29	1	Dover	Prospect St. residence	S. Galt
04-30	1	Dunbarton	Rt. 13 powerline	P. Newbern
05-11	8	Tamworth	TNC "Triangles" w. of Rt. 41	P. Hunt
American Tree Sparrow				
04-07	2	Conway	Dahl WS	P. Brown
04-10	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
04-11	1	Laconia	Linden Circle	H. Anderson
Chipping Sparrow				
03-31	1	Auburn	Lake Massabesic at Auburn Town Hall	T. Bronson
04-06	1	Newmarket	Bay Road	H. Chary
04-07	1	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
04-09	1	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Rd.	J. Merrill
Clay-colored Sparrow				
05-21	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds trails	P. Brown
Field Sparrow				
04-09	1	Hancock	Antrim Rd.	E. Masterson
04-10	1	Concord	Loudon Rd. powerline by Home Depot	R. & M. Suomala
04-16	1	Bradford	Old Warner Rd.	P. Newbern
04-17	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	B. Delorey
Vesper Sparrow				
04-15	4	Freedom	International Paper log yard	G. McElroy
04-17	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
05-11	1	Freedom	old air strip off Ossipee Lake Rd.	P. Hunt
05-17	1	Merrimack	Anheuser-Busch fields	P. Hunt
05-18	3	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
05-31	5	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
Savannah Sparrow				
04-10	1	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
04-15	1	Westmoreland	Cheshire County Farm field	P. Newbern
04-16	4	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	I. MacLeod
04-17	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Savannah Sparrow—continued				
04-28	12	Stratham	Stewart Farm	S. Mirick, D. Abbott
05-02	15	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
05-18	12	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
Grasshopper Sparrow				
05-03	2	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Brown
05-18	4	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
05-30	1	Rochester	Skyhaven Airport	P. Hunt
05-31	6	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow				
05-04	1	N. Hampton	Little River WS	P. Brown
05-28	3	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	B. Griffith, M.& T. Kemp
Fox Sparrow				
03-29	2	Newmarket	Bay Road	H. Chary
03-30	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
03-31	5	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Road	M. Wright
04-01	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04-03	5	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R.& M. Suomala
Lincoln's Sparrow				
03-31	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
05-11	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
05-11	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds trails	P. Brown
05-13	1	Concord	Silk Farm WS	I. MacLeod
05-15	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward
05-17	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
Swamp Sparrow				
04-07	2	Conway	Dahl WS	P. Brown
04-10	1	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
04-12	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04-13	2	Hebron	Hebron Marsh WS	P. Brown
04-16	3	Concord	Turtle Pond	R. Quinn
White-crowned Sparrow				
05-10	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
05-12	1	Fremont	Martin Rd.	T. Bronson
05-13	2	Pittsburg	w. end of Back Lake	L. Jones
05-15	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
Snow Bunting				
03-05	21	Sargents Purchase	Red Pond	J. Stockwell
03-23	22	Acworth	Luther Hill Rd.	A. Briere
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
05-02	1	Kensington	Rt.107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-04	6	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr., Piscassic R.	P. Hendrickx, C. Fisher
05-05	1	Concord	East Side Dr.	D.& B. Soule
05-06	1	Walpole	Merriam Rd. residence	R. Ritz
05-06	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
05-15	1	Sargents Purchase	Mt. Washington Observatory	T. Markle

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Indigo Bunting				
04-27	1	Hillsborough	Beards Brook Rd.	I. MacLeod
05-11	2	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P.& J. Hendrickx
05-11	2	Bow	Bow Bog Rd.	G.& J. Tasker
05-11	1	Holderness	US Forest Service office	J. Williams
Dickcissel				
05-21	1	Somersworth	Clement Rd.	D. Murphy
05-27	1	Somersworth	Clement Rd.	S. Mirick
Bobolink				
05-03	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
05-04	1	Gilmanton	old Jones Farm	J. Stockwell
05-05	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
05-06	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-15	20	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
05-29	30	Fremont	Martin Rd.	T. Bronson
Eastern Meadowlark				
03-24	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	S. Mirick
03-25	1	Concord	Birch St. off Clinton St.	R. Suomala
04-01	2	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
04-03	1	E. Kingston	Rt. 108	I. MacLeod
Rusty Blackbird				
03-26	1	Concord	Merrimack R., Sewalls Falls to Bow	R. Quinn
04-11	4	Lyman	Round Pond	S.& M. Turner
04-29	2	Sutton	Cascade Marsh	P. Newbern
04-30	2	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-28	2	Berlin	Bog Dam Rd. & York Pond area	M. Suomala
Common Grackle				
03-16	2	N. Hampton	Little River WS	P. Brown
03-19	2	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
03-20	1	Laconia	Linden Circle	H. Anderson
03-31	35	Auburn	Lake Massabesic at Auburn Town Hall	T. Bronson
04-01	109	Westmoreland	River Rd., Connecticut R.	R. Ritz
04-03	25	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
04-04	600	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	P. Brown
05-14	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
Brown-headed Cowbird				
03-01	1	Kensington	Rt.107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
03-08	50	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
03-19	1	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
03-20	2	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
Orchard Oriole				
05-14	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
05-17	1	Conway	West Side Road farms	P. Brown
05-18	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	M. Barney, D. Hayward, M. Waniga
05-20	1	Dover	Bellamy River WS	P. Brown

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Orchard Oriole—continued				
05-20	1	Hinsdale	base of Vernon Dam	G. Seymour
05-21	2	Exeter	Powder House Pond	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
05-21	2	Exeter	off Rt. 85	S. Mirick, J. Lawrence
05-28	2	Hinsdale	base of Vernon Dam	G. Seymour
Baltimore Oriole				
04-27	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
05-03	1	Concord	Beaver Meadow Village	P. Niswander
05-05	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
05-09	1	Brookline	residence	M. Anne
05-09	2	Lyman	Dodge Pond residence	M. & S. Turner
Purple Finch				
03-01	13	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Road	M. Wright
03-11	150	Littleton	Owen Dr.	M. & D. Boulanger
03-22	20	Chichester	South Sanborn Rd.	R. & M. Suomala
04-16	10	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
Red Crossbill				
04-07	2	Tamworth	Mountain Road	S. Mirick
05-17	3	Conway	Cathedral Ledge	P. Brown
05-19	4	Thornton	Hubbard Brook	J. Williams
White-winged Crossbill				
03-10	8	Wilmot	Twisthill Rd.	P. Parmenter
04-07	4	Tamworth	Mountain Road	S. Mirick
05-04	2	Effingham	Watts WS, Huntress Bridge Rd.	G. McElroy
Common Redpoll				
03-10	4	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
03-12	20	Pittsburg	w. end of Back Lake	L. Jones
03-17	44	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
03-24	5	Hanover	Blueberry Hill residence	K. Kluge
Hoary Redpoll				
03-20	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
Pine Siskin				
03-06	90	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
03-12	100	Sanbornton	Hermit Lake Rd.	L. & S. Bardusk
04-18	8	Tuftonboro	Brown Rd.	B. & D. Fox
04-30	11	Gilmanton	Currier Hill Rd.	J. Stockwell
05-01	24	Gilmanton	Crystal Lake, Gilmanton Ironworks	W. Arms
05-03	5	Ossipee	Duncan Lake shoreline	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05-17	12	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
05-21	24	Rumney	Buffalo Road	J. & J. Williams
05-31	20	Lyman	Dodge Pond residence	M. & S. Turner
05-31	2	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt

Reporters for Spring 2005

Rich Aaronian
 H. Cook Anderson
 Marie Anne
 Widge Arms
 Jenny Ashley
 Jeannine Ayer
 Melissa Barney
 Mary Boulanger
 Terry Bronson
 Phil Brown
 Chris Carr
 Hank Chary
 Alan Delorey
 Barbara Delorey
 Laura Deming
 Jane Dillon
 Jane Doherty
 Sandi Dougherty
 Anita Downing
 Dana Duxbury-Fox
 Linnea Ficek
 Davis Finch
 Marcia Forrest
 Carol Foss
 Bob Fox
 Susan Galt
 George Gavutis, Jr.

Mark Goodearl
 David Govatski
 Michael Greenwald
 Benjamin Griffith
 Bill Harris
 Dan Hayward
 Phil Hendrickx
 Lindsay Herlihy
 Pamela Hunt
 Margot Johnson
 Leith Jones
 David Killam
 Jack Kirk
 Karen Kluge
 Iain MacLeod
 Chris Martin
 Eric Masterson
 Mike Medeiros
 John Merrill
 Stephen Mirick
 Stephen Najjar
 Peter Newbern
 Pat Niswander
 Kathie Palfy
 Greg Prazar
 Margery Prazar
 Mike Provencher

Robert Quinn
 Robert Ritz
 Judy Romano
 Brenda Sens
 Dot Soule
 Dawn Stavros
 J.R. Stockwell
 Larry Sunderland
 Mark Suomala
 Rebecca Suomala
 Bill Taffe
 Jean Tasker
 Dave & Tanya Tellman
 Sandra Turner
 Robert Vallieres
 Tony Vazzano
 Bob Vernon
 Francie Von Mertens
 Miles Waniga
 John Williams
 Rob Woodward
 Mary Wright

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

Reports for the following species were received in Spring 2005 but not listed.

Mallard
 Surf Scoter
 Bufflehead
 Common Merganser
 Ring-necked Pheasant
 Ruffed Grouse
 Wild Turkey
 Snowy Egret
 Turkey Vulture
 Bald Eagle
 Sharp-shinned Hawk
 Cooper's Hawk
 Northern Goshawk
 Red-tailed Hawk
 Peregrine Falcon
 Willet
 Bonaparte's Gull
 Ring-billed Gull

Herring Gull
 Great Black-backed Gull
 Rock Pigeon
 Mourning Dove
 Great Horned Owl
 Barred Owl
 Belted Kingfisher
 Downy Woodpecker
 Hairy Woodpecker
 Pileated Woodpecker
 Blue Jay
 American Crow
 Common Raven
 Black-capped Chickadee
 Red-breasted Nuthatch
 White-breasted Nuthatch
 Brown Creeper
 Golden-crowned Kinglet

Eastern Bluebird
 American Robin
 Northern Mockingbird
 European Starling
 Cedar Waxwing
 Song Sparrow
 White-throated Sparrow
 Dark-eyed Junco
 Northern Cardinal
 Red-winged Blackbird
 House Finch
 American Goldfinch
 Evening Grosbeak
 House Sparrow

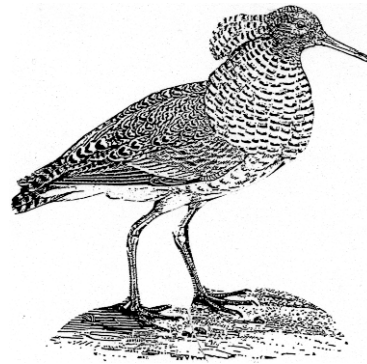
Sightings of the species listed above occurred in average numbers at expected locations, were discussed in the summaries, or are escaped exotics.

Spotlight on Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*)

by Eric Masterson

Background

Ruff is a large shorebird familiar in Eurasia but rare in North America. They show strong sexual dimorphism and the nomenclature reflects this, honoring the female with her own name, Reeve. The female is about the same size as a Lesser Yellowlegs, while the male is larger. The males exhibit a complex lek display during the breeding season when they aggressively defend territories. The scientific name, *Philomachus pugnax*, Greek and Latin respectively for pugnacious, refers to this aggression. The species has declined by 30% in the period 1990–2000, with an estimated world population of two million pairs.



Ruff

Breeding Status

Ruff nests in extensive lowland freshwater marshes from Northern Europe almost to the Bering Strait. The majority of the range is north of 65 degrees latitude. Ruff has nested in the United States, with at least one breeding record from Alaska in 1967, and it is described as a possible breeder in Canada (Hayman et al., 1986).

Occurrence in New Hampshire

Ruff is a very rare migrant in New Hampshire. It has been reported seven times in New Hampshire since 1960, with six of the records occurring during a seven year span from 1967 to 1973. It has been reported only once since then, in April 2005. Records are evenly split between spring and fall, with two reports each from May and August and one each from April, July and September. Most records are of birds seen at coastal locations in suitable habitat, muddy pools, and estuaries with emergent grasses. The exceptions are of a bird seen on the golf course at Wentworth Golf Club in Jackson on July 5, 1973, and a record from 1874 of a bird taken by William Brewster near the marshes of the Cambridge River, which at the time flowed into Lake Umbagog in New Hampshire. Subsequently the dam was raised, forcing the Cambridge to enter the lake in Maine (pers. comm. R.A. Quinn).

All reports were of single birds except for a report of two on August 24, 1971, in a pool at Odiorne Point in Rye. In addition to the aforementioned record from 1874, there is one other pre-1960 record of Ruff being taken in New Hampshire, in Seabrook on September 23, 1907.

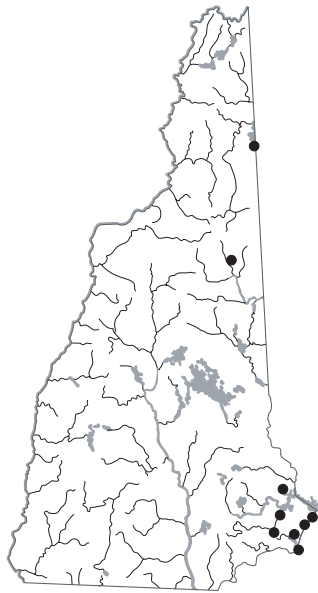


Figure 3. Distribution of Ruff records in New Hampshire, 1936–2005, and two additional historical records from 1874 and 1907.

Comments

In Massachusetts, Ruff has occurred 150 times between 1955 and 1981 and is currently a rare but annual visitor to coastal Massachusetts, especially in the Newburyport area. It is not as rare along the east coast of the U.S. as its occurrence in New Hampshire might lead one to suggest, the scarcity in part due to New Hampshire's restricted coastline. Like its relative the Curlew Sandpiper, Ruff is a rare but regular vagrant in suitable habitat on the east coast of North America (it is also regular on the west coast, where Curlew Sandpiper is rare). The occurrence of Ruff, as well as other old world species that appear regularly in North America but are not known to breed here, is something of an enigma. The bulk of the world population winters in South Africa and breeds in Eurasia. They appear to be much more common in the U.S. than the migration pattern from the breeding to wintering range would suggest. In spring Ruff takes an easterly route to the main breeding grounds in eastern Europe and Russia. This route cannot account for the frequency of its occurrence in the eastern U.S. One possible explanation is that there may be a small population breeding somewhere to the north in Canada.

References

- Hayman, P., J. Marchant, and T. Prater, 1986. *Shorebirds, An Identification Guide*. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, MA.
- Veit, R. and W. Petersen, 1993. *Birds of Massachusetts*. Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, MA.
- Goodhue, C., 1922. *Fifty Years among the Birds of New Hampshire*. Unpublished manuscript, reprinted by the Audubon Society of New Hampshire in 1994, Concord, NH.

Data Sources

The following data sources were searched for records of this species. The data for all figures represent the number of records; duplicates are not included. Not all records presented here have been reviewed by the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee.

Bulletin of New England Bird-life, 1936–1944. New England Museum of Natural History, Boston, MA.

New Hampshire Bird News, 1951–1960. Audubon Society of New Hampshire, Concord, NH.

New Hampshire Bird Records and archives, circa 1963 through 2005. Audubon Society of New Hampshire, Concord, NH.

Records of New England Birds, in *Massachusetts Audubon Society Bulletin*, 1945–1955. Massachusetts Audubon Society, Concord, MA.

Records of New England Birds, 1956–1960 and 1964–1968. Massachusetts Audubon Society, Concord, MA.

I also reviewed a card catalogue of bird record citations at New Hampshire Audubon (informally called "The Hanover Project"). Specific sources obtained from these citations are listed individually in References. Historical sightings should be viewed in context of the number of active birders and the accessibility of the data.

Backyard Birder

A Bird Song Quiz

by Kathie Palfy

As spring approaches and the air is filled with the sounds of birds, we know that it's time to brush up on our bird song skills. A variety of useful tools is available to help us learn these many bird vocalizations. One clever aid in learning bird songs is called "mnemonics." These short familiar phrases that sound like what the bird is singing help us memorize its song.

I have turned this fun way of learning into a matching quiz to get you started. Below in Column A are ten birds that need to be correctly matched to the ten vocalizations in Column B. Answers are below.

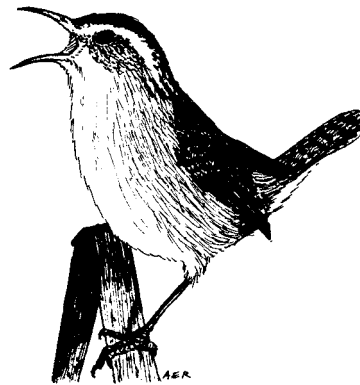
COLUMN A

1. Carolina Wren
2. Barred Owl
3. Wood Thrush
4. Mourning Dove
5. American Goldfinch
6. Common Yellowthroat
7. White-throated Sparrow
8. Canada Warbler
9. Least Flycatcher
10. Tufted Titmouse

COLUMN B

- a. ee-o-lay
- b. potato chip potato chip
- c. oh sweet Canada Canada Canada
- d. witchity-witchity-witchity-witchity
- e. teakettle, teakettle, teakettle
- f. che-BEK
- g. peter-peter-peter
- h. I cooks for me, who cooks for you-all
- i. who-OO, who, who, who
- j. chip, chupety sweet-ditchety

This is only a small sampling from New Hampshire Audubon's *Tweeter Cheater*, a quick reference guide to over 70 bird vocalizations. It's small enough to fit in a pocket or guide book and will be there when you need to name that bird you just heard! Pick up a copy of the *Tweeter Cheater* at the Concord Audubon Nature Store or call 603-224-9909 x318 to order by mail.



Answers: 1-e, 2-h, 3-a, 4-i, 5-b, 6-d, 7-c, 8-j, 9-f, 10-g.

Bird Watching on Army Corps of Engineer Lands in Weare, New Hampshire

by Mark Suomala

In 1962, the flood control project known as Hopkinton Everett Lake was completed at a cost of \$21.4 million by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE). Encompassing a network of five dams in the Merrimack River Basin, it includes the Hopkinton Dam in Hopkinton and the Everett Dam in Weare. Hopkinton Dam is located on the Contoocook River, and Everett Dam is located on the Piscataquog River. During major flood events, a specially constructed canal connects the two reservoir areas.

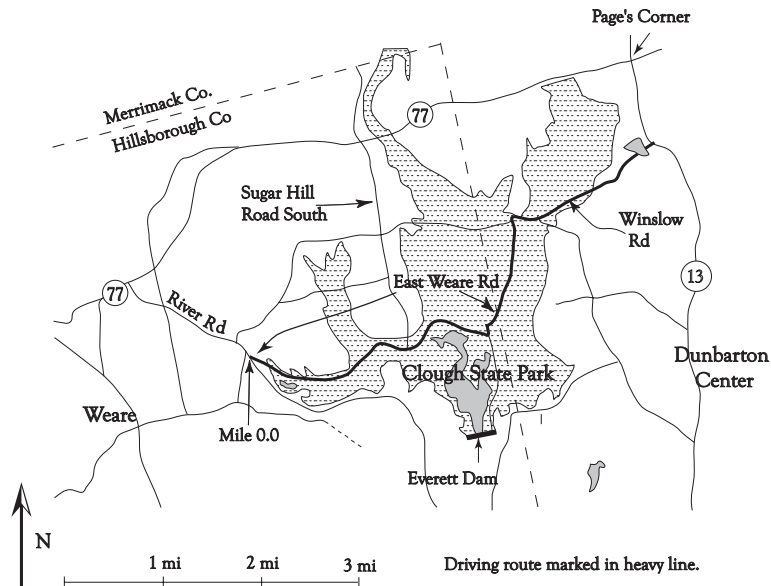
Bird watching opportunities abound in this area, as most of the land is undeveloped, and there is a good variety of habitats, including many types of wetlands and uplands. Due to regular spring flooding, a fair amount of scrub-shrub habitat is maintained. Scrub-shrub habitat and the birds associated with it have decreased in the state as farmlands and other early succession lands have reverted to forests, so this area offers a habitat that is becoming ever scarcer in our Granite State.

The area covered by this article is mainly along an old east-west road in Weare and Dunbarton that runs between River Road in Weare and Route 13 in Dunbarton. This road is not signed, but is labeled on some maps as Weare Road or East Weare Road. The road is often very rough in spots, with some big potholes as well as boulders that stick up enough to strike the undercarriage of low clearance vehicles. The road is shown on the accompanying map.

Birders often refer to this whole area as Clough (pronounced "cluff") State Park because there is a small recreational State Park located near the Everett Dam within the ACOE lands. However, most of the area covered in this article is actually outside the Clough State Park boundary.

The roads within the flood area are gated in the early spring, and usually do not open until sometime in May, after the main floodwaters recede. This is also a popular recreational site for all terrain vehicles (ATVs) and motocross bikes (motorcycles specially designed to run on dirt trails). In the spring, the trails are closed to off-road vehicles until the third weekend in May in order to reduce erosion, so the best time to go birding here is usually from about May 1 to May 23.

Starting from River Road in Weare (mile 0.0) and traveling east, you will come to the first birding spot in about a half mile (mile 0.5); it consists of a small stream crossing leading into a wetland. Occasionally there has been Louisiana Waterthrush along the stream. The wetland looks promising for Virginia Rail, but I have never found any there. There are usually several Song and Swamp Sparrows and a few snags in the marsh are used as perches by Tree Swallows. Sometimes Hooded Mergansers and Wood Ducks are visible. Wood warblers use the surrounding uplands, and you should watch for Black-throated Green and Blackburnian Warblers. Farther along the edge of the marsh is a bridge crossing a stream; there is often an Eastern Phoebe foraging over the stream and probably nesting under the bridge.



Continuing on about one mile (mile 1.0–1.1), you will see some concrete barriers on the right (south) side of the road. If you park your car and walk behind the barriers, you can follow an old two-lane track down into an open field. Blue-winged Warblers are usually found within the first 100 yards on either side. The field on the right often has Field Sparrow, and Great Crested Flycatcher is sometimes calling from the edges of the field. If you keep walking down into the field and follow the track to the right, you may hear an Eastern Towhee, and sometimes a Louisiana Waterthrush in the adjacent stream. I once saw a Golden-winged Warbler here, and I am aware of at least one other report of one from this area.

Back on the East Weare Road, and slightly farther along, but on the left (north) side of the road, is an open sandy area. Turtles lay eggs in the sand here and I have often seen turtle-shell remnants from nests that have been predated by raccoons or skunks. The adjacent wetland has Song and Swamp Sparrows. The stream here is sometimes dammed by beavers, and Chestnut-sided and Yellow Warblers can be heard calling. Downstream is another possible area for Louisiana Waterthrush. There is often a Blue-winged Warbler territory on the opposite side of the road just slightly farther east. Once I accidentally flushed a female Ruffed Grouse off her eggs here.

At about 1.8 miles from River Road, you will see Sugar Hill Road South entering on your left (from the north). Beyond this point, the road has a number of Quaking Aspen trees along either side of the road that attract Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, and in about another 0.2 miles you will begin to see scattered areas of scrub-shrub vegetation that has grown into several former fields. Blue-winged and Chestnut-sided Warblers as well as Common Yellowthroats frequent these areas. The road traverses a gentle slope here with the uphill side on your left (north) and the downhill side on your right (south). The downhill side is frequently submerged beneath floodwaters in the early spring, and as such, many species of woody plants and trees are unable to become established here. Still, there are many willow trees, some shrubs and grasses, and blackberry patches. Spotted Sand-

pipers often forage along the streamside, and Killdeer have nested on the open ground. This is a good place to look for Field Sparrow and Willow Flycatcher. Yellow Warblers are common nesters here, and in years with gypsy moth and other “fuzzy” caterpillar outbreaks, Black-billed Cuckoo and occasionally Yellow-billed Cuckoo can occur. On the uphill side of the road Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Baltimore Oriole, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak are often found. There are usually a few Warbling Vireo territories in the biggest willows.

Farther east on East Weare Road, and shortly after it starts to go uphill, on the right side of the road is small bluff that overlooks the biggest area of scrub-shrub and willows. Belted Kingfishers sometimes nest in the steep dirt banks, and Northern Flickers favor the snags along the edge of the overlook. Common Mergansers swim in the open water backed up by the Everett Dam, and Ospreys stop to hunt for fish on their way to nesting sites farther north. There is a granite post here with the number 53 on it that marks an old house site, and at 2.4 miles you will see a large spruce on your left where I have seen a Cape May Warbler during migration. Blue-headed and Red-eyed Vireos often sing from the surrounding forest. At 2.5 miles there is a stand of tall white pines on a sandy bluff, and it is here that a rare (for New Hampshire) Yellow-throated Warbler was found one spring, sharing the area with the Pine Warblers.

The road descends shortly after the pines and at 2.6 miles there is a bridge that is sometimes entirely under water in early spring. The waterway on the left attracts Hooded Mergansers and Wood Ducks in early spring, and Eastern Towhees and sometimes Brown Thrashers frequent the low shrubbery near the shore. After the bridge is an old gated dirt road that forks off to the left. This area can be good for Whip-poor-wills in the dawn and dusk hours, and Barred Owls hoot from the nearby forest at night. If you continue on this dirt road beyond the gate, you will find some old fields on the right where Eastern Bluebirds have nested. Wilson’s Warblers sometimes forage in the shrubby stream area on the left (west) side of this road during migration.

Back on East Weare Road, at mile 2.8, you will come to a major fork. The right hand fork is gated and leads to Clough State Park and Everett Dam. You can walk along this road and look for Nashville Warblers and Chipping Sparrows in the first few hundred feet. Soon you will see some large areas of open water on your right, with Swamp Sparrows in the shrubby vegetation. The open vistas here give you an opportunity to scan for Red-shouldered Hawks and Turkey Vultures as well as any waterfowl on the reservoir such as Common Merganser or American Black Duck. Head back the way you came, and take the left-hand fork on East Weare Road, continuing on past an old field on your right where Blue-winged Warblers and House Wrens are sometimes found. Farther along you leave the area that floods and enter an upland area of mixed hardwood and softwood forest, including a few older sugar maples. This stretch (from about mile 3.0 to mile 3.3) attracts Scarlet Tanager, Wood and Hermit Thrushes, Red-eyed Vireo, Black-throated Green and Blackburnian Warblers, Northern Parula, and Ovenbird. There is an extensive shrubby wetland to the right (east) where several American Woodcock perform their courtship displays in April and May.



Wood Duck by Fred Tyrrell

At about the 3.6 mile mark an area of mixed trees and scrubby vegetation on either side of the road has been a reliable spot for finding Nashville Warbler; they probably nest here. Just beyond this spot on the left, is an old field, and at 4.1 miles you reach some eastern hemlocks along the road where Black-throated Green Warblers like to forage. At the 4.2 mile mark you will reach a large dirt parking area with a kiosk and map of the park. Drive through the parking area and over a bridge with stone guardrails. Yellow-rumped and Pine Warblers frequent the trees downstream from the crossing (on the right). Louisiana Waterthrush has been found here. Take the left fork after the bridge and listen for Northern Waterthrush, Black-throated Blue Warbler, and Winter Wren along this next stretch of potholed road.

After about 5.0 miles, the road takes a sharp right, you pass through an open gate and reach a paved road. This is Winslow Road. Bear left on Winslow Road and continue for 0.6 miles until you reach a wetland that is bisected by the road. Common birds found here include Wood Duck, Yellow Warbler, Eastern Kingbird, Red-winged Blackbird, and Tree Swallow. Less common are Broad-winged Hawk, American Redstart, American Bittern, and Virginia Rail. River Otters frequent the area. At 5.8 miles you will reach Route 13 in Dunbarton. Going north will take you back toward Concord; heading south leads toward Goffstown.

Have a great time exploring this area, and don't forget to send your sightings to *New Hampshire Bird Records!*

Mark Suomala is an experienced birder and naturalist who has organized and led many nature tours throughout the U.S. and abroad. He has worked as a field biologist for New Hampshire Audubon, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, and has volunteered extensively as a bird banding assistant on the Isles of Shoals. He has a graduate degree in Environmental Studies from Antioch University. Visit his website at www.marksbirdtours.com

Volunteers and Research

Birders' Exchange

Grassroots Work to Protect Neotropical Birds

by Susan Story Galt

Since 1990, Birders' Exchange has been collecting new and used birding equipment and distributing it to bird conservationists and environmental educators working in Latin America and the Caribbean to conserve Neotropical migrant and resident birds. Founded by the Manomet Center for Conservation Science in Massachusetts, the program has been run since 1996 by the American Birding Association (ABA).

Operating as a cooperative network of birders across North America, birding and conservation groups, and private corporations, the Birders' Exchange (BEX) matches equipment and educational materials with local scientists and educators, who in turn use them

in a wide variety of ways, from community outreach and educational programs for school children to conducting scientific research. Since 1990, more than 1,800 binoculars, 1,025 field guides, 275 backpacks, 150 cameras, 200 scopes, and 150 tripods have been sent to more than [350 programs] in every country south of the U.S. border.

There are several ways to help Birders' Exchange:

- Donate items—Among the items needed are binoculars, digital cameras, tripods, field guides to North American or Neotropical birds, ornithology texts, laptop computers, and backpacks. Items may be new or used; equipment should be in good working order.
- Financial donation—This can help cover shipping costs or help purchase specialized equipment or books.
- Sponsor an equipment drive in your area or recruit an organization to become an official sponsor of Birders' Exchange Promotion.
- Act as a courier for equipment if you are traveling to Latin America or the Caribbean. BEX will mail the equipment to you, provide you with full customs documentation, and usually will arrange an airport meeting at your destination country, although sometimes a courier is asked to go to the project location.

The program's success is evident in the dramatic increase in requests for equipment each year since its inception. According to Elissa LaVoie, BEX Education Coordinator, "With the amount of requests we are receiving and the amount of equipment we are sending, we are in desperate need of more donations of waterproof optics in good working condition, tripods, and digital cameras."

According to LaVoie, in addition to coordinating equipment exchange, BEX is working on several other educational projects. Among them are:

- A project to translate and publish a Spanish-language version of *A Neotropical Companion: An Introduction to the Animals, Plants, and Ecosystems of the New World Tropics*, by John Kricher, scheduled for publication at the end of 2005. BEX will donate copies of the book, previously published only in English and Japanese, to those working in education and bird conservation in neotropical areas.
- Production of a BEX video in Spanish, "Pájaros: Un Tesoro Que Compartimos" ("Birds: A Shared Treasure"), to be used as another of BEX's Spanish language educational tools.

BEX also facilitated a partnership between ABA/BEX and Massachusetts Audubon for collaborative efforts in an international intern program. Through this program, two interns from Panama and Brazil spent a month in the U.S. in 2005.

Birders' Exchange activities have included donations of binoculars for educating children in local schools in Peru and conducting bird education workshops for Nicaraguan teachers, providing equipment for a field ornithologist working to stop illegal bird trafficking in Mexico, and providing basic equipment for collecting biological data in many countries. These and many other activities support the conservation of birds and bird habitat in basic ways.

It is sometimes hard to imagine how one person can make a difference, but Birders' Exchange is showing birders in North America how that is possible. For more information on how you can help Birders' Exchange, contact Elissa LaVoie, Education Coordinator/BEX, at the American Birding Association, (800) 850-2473, or visit the BEX Web site, www.americanbirding.org/bex.

Photo Gallery

Find the Bird



Can you find the bird in this photo?



This red morph Eastern Screech-Owl was first reported in Durham by Dot Chorlian on March 20, 2005. It was calling from a tree hollow about 30 feet up in the front yard of a house on Old Landing Road. For several days it continued to roost in the same tree cavity and many birders had a chance to see and photograph it. It was even heard giving its tremolo call on several occasions. Incredibly, Judi Matthews reported a red morph screech-owl from this same location just the week before, on March 17. Tragically, this bird had been hit by a car and was lying in the road! Unfortunately, the bird died during transport to the York Center for Wildlife. This was my first Eastern Screech-Owl for Durham in nearly 24 years of birding in the town! Although screech-owls are considered one of the most common bird birds of prey in Massachusetts, they are still relatively rare in New Hampshire with scattered and infrequent reports from the southern part of the state.

—Stephen R. Mirick

Here's a closer look!



Who's there?

Photos #1-3 by Christopher N. Ciccone, 3/23/05, Durham, NH.



Sleeping in the sun.

Photo #4 by Stephen R. Mirick, 3/22/05, Durham, NH.

Photo Quiz Answer

by David B. Donsker

The herons (family *Ardeidae*) are one of the more characteristic bird families to recognize, so identifying this long-necked, long-beaked, white wading bird as a member of this rather uniform appearing family is the easy part. Although there is no scientific distinction between the birds we refer to as “herons” and those we call “egrets,” in general, the more delicately proportioned and/or white plumaged birds are considered egrets and the larger and/or darker species, herons.

So this should be easy. Our featured species is clearly a pure white bird and must, therefore, be one of the four species of egret that have been recorded in New Hampshire: Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Little Egret, and Cattle Egret. Or is it?

Other than the white plumage, examination of the bird in our photograph gives us few other field marks. The legs are entirely submerged in water with only the feathered white “thighs” visible, so we cannot determine leg color. There are no obvious head plumes, only the suggestion of a stray feather on the back of the head. The only other soft parts visible to us are the tapered, sword-like bill and the lores, or the area between the eye and the base of the bill. In this black and white photograph we cannot determine the color of the lores; we can only see that they are dusker than the base of the bill. The bill itself is pale in its basal portion, but its distal third (the part closest to the tip) is dark.

Great Egret, in addition to its tall stature and very long neck, is characterized by a long, pure yellow bill. That feature alone would eliminate it as a candidate for this bird with its distinctly dark-tipped bill. Great Egret also has distinctive blackish legs and feet, a feature that hardly helps us here.

Similarly, the adult Cattle Egret also has a pure yellow bill. In juvenile plumage, its bill is black. Again, it never demonstrates a two-toned bill. Besides, the proportions of Cattle Egret are different from this bird. Cattle Egret is stockier, with a proportionally shorter bill and neck. Adults in breeding plumage have red-orange legs. Non-breeding adults and juveniles have blackish legs and feet.

Little Egret is a rare vagrant to New Hampshire from the Old World and has been reported only a handful of times in the last two decades. The adult in breeding plumage has a pair of longish head plumes, grayish or yellow lores, and a thin black bill. The non-breeding adult lacks the plumes and always has grayish lores. Juveniles are similar to the non-breeding adults, but show a pinkish base on the lower mandible. The upper mandible is totally black, however. Their blackish (or greenish-brown in the juvenile) legs have yellow feet. Even though we cannot see the legs and feet of this individual, its tapered, thicker, distinctly bicolored bill eliminates this rare species.

Snowy Egret, the Western Hemisphere counterpart to the Little Egret, as an adult has a prominent set of shaggy plumes on the back of the neck and lacy plumes on the back. Like Little Egret, this slim and elegant species' bill is thin and entirely black, quite unlike the thicker, dark-tipped bill of this bird. It has contrasting yellow lores.

Also, its legs are black with bright yellow feet, again not helpful with our identification in this particular photograph.

Juvenile Snowy Egrets, however, are a bit different in appearance. Unlike the adults, their legs are greenish-yellow on the backside with the black restricted to the forelegs. But the feet always remain yellowish. The juvenile's bill, too, is different from that of the adult. Like the adult bill it is thin with a black upper mandible, but it has a pale gray base on the lower mandible. This may give the impression that the bill is pale at the base with a darker tip in some individuals. The lores are always yellow or yellowish-green.

So, it might be reasonable, on first glance, to dismiss this bird as a juvenile Snowy Egret. However, there are several features that tell us that it is not that species. First, the bill is just a bit too thick at the base and much more tapered than that of a Snowy Egret and it is very noticeably pale on both upper and lower mandibles and contrastingly darkly tipped. The lores are darkish in the photograph, not what you'd expect for a bird with yellowish lores. Finally the outstretched neck is just a bit too short and thick for a Snowy Egret.

Although we call them "herons," two other species in the same genus as Snowy Egret, *Egretta*, can be seen in New Hampshire. Both are delicately proportioned birds similar in shape to other members of the genus. But in both species, the adults are dark bluish-gray with tinges of reddish purple on their heads and necks. Because they are dark birds, the vernacular name of "heron" rather than "egret" has been applied to both species. They are Tricolored Heron and Little Blue Heron. Juvenile Tricolored Herons have a plumage pattern somewhat similar to the adult, but are much more reddish in tone. Little Blue Heron, however, is unique in that for the better part of its first year, its juvenile plumage is pure white, just like other white egrets. As such, it can be very difficult at times to distinguish from Snowy Egret.

Little Blue Heron is stockier, shorter necked, and thicker legged than Snowy Egret. However, the best way to distinguish juvenile Little Blue Heron from juvenile Snowy Egret is to concentrate on bill shape, bill color, leg color, and foraging stance and behavior. The bill of Little Blue Heron is thicker at the base than that of Snowy Egret, giving the bill a more tapered appearance. The two-toned color of the bill of Little Blue Heron is much more prominent than that seen in any Snowy Egret. The base of the entire bill is pale bluish-gray, which contrasts strongly with the dark tip. The lores are grayish, not yellowish. Young Little Blue Herons have uniformly dull greenish legs. However, when seen from the back, as when the bird is walking away, the legs of juvenile Snowy Egrets can look greenish-yellow, so be careful. The color of the feet of Little Blue Heron is the same as the leg color, not contrasting yellow as in Snowy Egret.

Finally, although it cannot be told from this particular still photograph, the foraging behaviors and postures of the two species are different. Snowy Egret typically feeds actively with a shuffling gait as it stirs up material from the bottom. It frequently crouches when feeding. Little Blue Heron has a slow, deliberate feeding behavior. It has a distinctive stiff-necked posture with the neck angled forward and the bill pointed downward.

Although we have relatively little to go on, the characteristic pale, darkly-tipped, strongly-tapered bill along with more subtle features of body proportions clearly indicate that it is a juvenile Little Blue Heron.

Little Blue Heron is an uncommon late summer visitor and migrant to New Hampshire. Its breeding range is generally the southern part of North America through much of northern South America. Although they breed relatively commonly on the Atlantic coast as far north as New Jersey, they are only a rare and local breeding bird off the Massachusetts and Maine coasts. In the recent past they nested as close to New Hampshire as the heron rookery on Appledore Island in the Isles of Shoals, but that colony has disappeared. The late summer appearance of this species is due to post-breeding dispersal of both juveniles and adults. Although this dispersal is random, northward dispersal is relatively common on the Atlantic coast and birds can be found as far north as Atlantic Canada. Careful examination of the coastal marshes in our state from mid-July into September may reward the observer with a sighting of this species. Just beware of juvenile Snowy Egrets!



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This photograph of a juvenile Little Blue Heron was taken by Steve Mirick, on August 6, 2005 at Brackett Road pond in Rye, NH.

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Abbreviations Used

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

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A Chance Encounter



Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Ovenbird by Tim Markle, 5/15/2005, Mt. Washington summit.

These birds were perched outside the window of the weather room of the Mount Washington Observatory, home of the “world’s worst weather”. The photo was taken by Tim Markle, one of the staff meteorologists, who works on the summit of Mount Washington one week on, one week off. This remarkable photo, from the Observatory’s web site, was first brought to our attention via several birders and was provided for publication courtesy of the Mount Washington Observatory.

The Mount Washington Observatory is a public, non-profit organization which since 1932 has operated the year-round weather station atop Mount Washington. The Observatory maintains an active program of scientific research and educational activities, including the Mount Washington Center museum in North Conway and winter and summer trips to Mount Washington. For more information about the Observatory or about the opening for the permanent position as Executive Director contact the Observatory by mail at PO Box 2310, North Conway NH 03860; by phone at 800-706-0432; or visit the Observatory on-line at www.mountwashington.org.



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