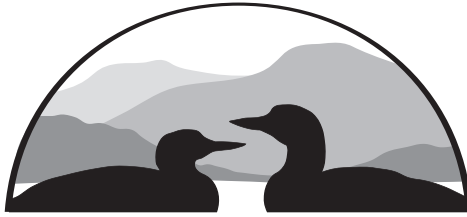


New Hampshire Bird Records



Winter 2005-06

Vol. 24, No. 4



New Hampshire Bird Records
Volume 24, Number 4
Winter 2005-06

Managing Editor: Rebecca Suomala
603-224-9909 X309, bsuomala@nhaudubon.org

Text Editor: Dorothy Fitch

Season Editors: Pamela Hunt, Spring; Tony Vazzano, 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, Susan MacLeod, Carol Plato, Dot Soule,
Jean Tasker, Tony Vazzano, Robert Vernon

*Volunteer Opportunities
and Birding Research:* Stephen Hale

Photo Quiz: David Donsker

*Where to Bird Feature
Coordinator and Maps:* William Taffe

Cover Photo: *Eastern Bluebird* by Stephen R. Mirick, 1/2/06, Greenland, NH.

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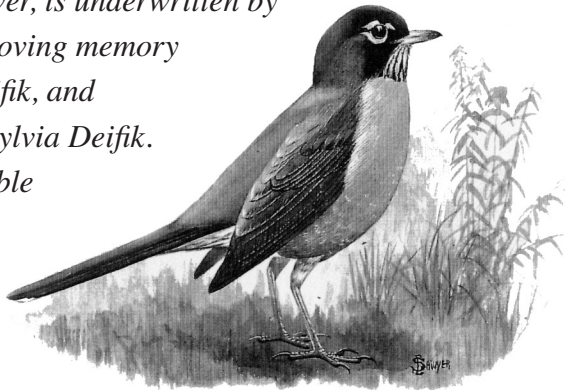
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Printed on Recycled Paper

This issue of New Hampshire Bird Records,
 with its color cover, is underwritten by
 David Deifik in loving memory
 of his father, Max H. Deifik, and
 in honor of his mother, Sylvia Deifik.
 They were both responsible
 for inspiring his lifelong
 love of birds and
 the natural world.



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From the Editor

by Rebecca Suomala, Managing Editor

Renewal Time

It is time to renew your subscription to *New Hampshire Bird Records* as all renewals take place in October. This year you may notice an increase in the cost of a subscription. Growing production costs have made it necessary to raise subscription rates to ensure continued publication of *New Hampshire Bird Records*. Subscription rates have remained unchanged for five years and this is only the second increase since 1994. We hope that our readers appreciate the improved quality of the publication during this time and understand the factors involved.

Every one of your subscription dollars goes toward the publication of *New Hampshire Bird Records*. As subscriptions do not cover all the costs, New Hampshire Audubon underwrites the remaining amount and contributes the necessary staff time. You may wonder if the costs of a color cover are responsible for this increase, but they are not. The additional costs of printing the recent color covers are covered entirely by generous sponsors, to whom we are very grateful.

Members of New Hampshire Audubon still receive a significant reduction in subscription price. The new subscription rates are \$17 for members and \$24 for non-members. Additional contributions to *New Hampshire Bird Records* are always appreciated. Please show your support with a renewal of your subscription. You can also renew online at www.nhbirdrecords.org.

We value your continued interest and support for *New Hampshire Bird Records*. Thanks from all of us who work on *New Hampshire Bird Records*.

The "Missing Seasons"

There are six issues of *New Hampshire Bird Records* that, for a variety of reasons, were never published: Spring 1986 through Summer 1987 (Vol. 5, No. 1–4; Vol 6, No 1–2). Thanks to Bob Quinn and several other volunteers, those seasons are now published and available! We are excited to finally be able to fill in one of the few gaps in the state's history of published bird reports. Limited quantities are available, so order your copy right away using the order form enclosed with this issue.

2006 Goodhue-Elkins Award

As presented at the New Hampshire Audubon Annual Meeting, June 3, 2006

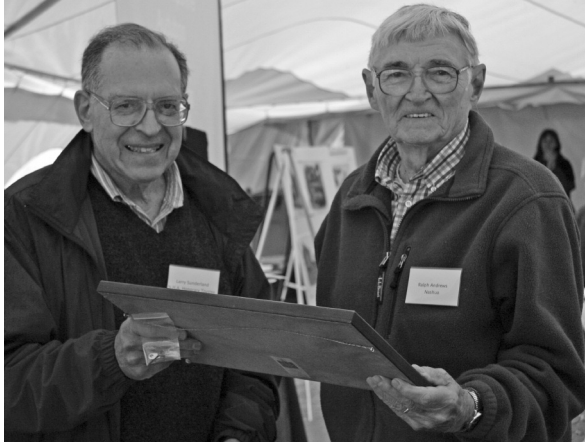
The Goodhue-Elkins Award is given annually by New Hampshire Audubon to recognize an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the study of New Hampshire birds. This award is named for Charles Goodhue, one of New Hampshire's first great birders, and Kimball Elkins, who remains the model for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

Ralph Andrews, the recipient of this year's award, has devoted an entire lifetime to the study of birds and their conservation.

He is one of those fortunate individuals who has managed to do this through his professional career and, just as seriously, through his private interests and endeavors.

Ralph was born and raised in Ithaca, New York. As a Boy Scout he developed a youthful interest in nature, particularly bird watching. He created his first bird list when he was eleven years old. As a young scout, Ralph was awarded the annual Louis Agassiz Fuertes award for "Best Nature Student". Living in Ithaca afforded Ralph the opportunity to become acquainted with some of Cornell's esteemed ornithologists including Arthur Allen, George Sutton, and Paul Kellogg. Ralph's first public appearance was on Dr. Kellogg's bird-related radio broadcast where the young Ralph was asked to describe his recent sighting of a Northern Mockingbird, then an unusual bird for New York state. Initially discouraged by some of the graduate students at Cornell who impressed upon Ralph that you couldn't make a living actually doing ornithology, he began his undergraduate career at Cornell in biochemistry. But, according to Ralph, after a few physics and calculus classes, he kept the "bio" and dropped the "chemistry". Influenced by the work of Aldo Leopold, he gravitated to game management, a practical way for a young man to apply those early ecological principles to a career. He graduated from Cornell University with a bachelor's degree in zoology and went on to graduate school at Ohio State University. There he studied waterfowl production on the Lake Erie marshes and obtained his master's degree in Wildlife Management.

As a newly graduated field biologist, Ralph worked briefly for the New York State Conservation Department in wildfowl and wetland management, but soon joined the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). That began a forty year career that included assignments in south Florida, Montana, Louisiana, and at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland, where he headed the wetland ecology section. One of the initiatives he



Ralph Andrews (r) receives Goodhue-Elkins award from Larry Sunderland (l), 6/3/06.

NHA photo by Julie Kleff

pursued while at Patuxent was research into finding alternatives to lead shot. In 1975 he arrived in New England, having been assigned to the Northeast Regional Office of the USFWS in Boston. There his major role was coordinating a wide variety of coastal ecosystem and waterfowl initiatives. As a birder he encouraged the refuge system to promote bird watching and he validated many of the refuges' bird checklists. As one of his final professional assignments he managed the Roseate Tern Recovery Project.

Although Ralph retired in 1992 from his professional career in "applied ornithology," as he calls it, he hardly stepped back from his devotion to birds and the environment. In parallel with his professional career, Ralph has devoted much of his private time to the study and protection of birds, especially in our state and particularly in his home community of Nashua and its neighboring towns.

Ralph has been an active contributor to many volunteer organizations that support the study and conservation of birds. He was elected to the Nuttall Ornithological Club in 1977 and served as one of its councilors from 1981 through 1984. He has been active in the Beaver Brook Association in Hollis, where he formerly served as a trustee and as its president. A long-time member of New Hampshire Audubon, he was joined the Board of Trustees in 1989 and remained on it for nine years. Ralph has been the backbone of the Nashaway Chapter of New Hampshire Audubon and, over the years, has served the chapter in many roles, including that of Conservation coordinator, Field Trips coordinator, vice president, and chapter president. He is currently the chapter's Program coordinator, a position he has held for many years.

As an avid birder, Ralph has contributed his skills to a number of important projects that have furthered our understanding of the birds in our state. He was intensively involved in the *New Hampshire Breeding Bird Atlas* and participated in many of the organizational meetings. He was the regional coordinator for the Nashua area and did much of the necessary field work. He also authored several of the species accounts, reflecting his broad knowledge of birds, with chapters as diverse as those covering Canada Goose and Mallard to Bay-breasted Warbler and Grasshopper Sparrow. He was also one of the text reviewers for the book.

Over the years Ralph has participated in innumerable Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) within and outside the state. Chan Robbins got him involved in this activity while he was stationed at Patuxent. Once he arrived in New England, his CBC participation ranged from Cape Cod to New Hampshire's north country. It wasn't uncommon for Ralph to participate in a half dozen or so CBCs each season. In the early 1980s he became one of the organizers and promoters of the Nashua-Hollis CBC and served for many years as its compiler.

Ralph has used his personal knowledge of birds to broaden others' understanding of them. He has served as a volunteer for the Breeding Bird Survey. He has led countless field trips for the Nashaway Chapter, enabling him to share his birding knowledge with novice and experienced birders alike. Over the years he has contributed many of his field observations to *New Hampshire Bird Records*. Most recently, Ralph was elected a member of the state's Rare Birds Committee, where he applies his considerable field expertise and knowledge to further our understanding of the distribution of birds in our state.

Ralph Andrews has devoted a lifetime to the study and conservation of birds, both as a professional and as an avid birder volunteer. For over thirty years he has generously contributed his time and considerable knowledge to advancing our understanding of the birds of New Hampshire. As such, he is a fitting and deserved recipient of the Goodhue-Elkins Award.

New Photo Quiz



Can You Identify This Bird?

Answer on page 50
Photo by Mike Harvey

Winter Season

December 1, 2005 through February 28, 2006

by David Deifik

One of the great pleasures of reporting on the winter season is to be able to complain how miserable the weather was while we were out in the field trying to scare up a good bird. Taking pride in braving the elements virtually defines the New England birder. The winter season began with a colder, wetter December than normal. January was unexpectedly warm, though fairly wet. Temperatures averaged over 10 degrees warmer than last January making it the sixth warmest January on record. It would be assumed that the relatively large number and variety of unusual records is a direct result of this unseasonable warmth. Unfortunately for skiers, snow cover was exceptionally light. The season ended with a slightly warmer than average February with continued very light snow cover in the north. Thanks again to Tony Vazzano of North Winds Weather for providing us with the winter weather data.



A **Gyr Falcon** observed in Auburn during the Manchester CBC was the outstanding raptor of the season and the first record for the species in five years. See the CBC highlights and the Species Spotlight article elsewhere in this issue. Possibly the bird of the season was a carefully studied gull believed to be a **Thayer's Gull**, seen for a few days in Rochester. If accepted by the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee, it would constitute the only new state record for the season. There were two well described sightings of that rare owl from the north, the **Great Gray Owl**. An **Ash-throated Flycatcher** seen on December 1 in Kingston was a holdover from the fall season. Replacing last year's Yellow-throated Warbler for a long-term winter stay was an **Orange-crowned Warbler**, which spent virtually the whole season attending a Merrimack feeder. Other outstanding warblers included a Black-and-white, two Ovenbirds, and a Pine Warbler (see the back cover). Rare in the state at any time, a **Painted Bunting** showing up in late January could be considered the rarest passerine of the season. The mild weather produced several records of Gray Catbird, Eastern Towhee, and Baltimore Oriole, which in an average winter may produce single records, if we are lucky. The rarest Icterid was the **Yellow-headed Blackbird**, with no less than two reported this year: one in Hillsboro and the other in Stratham. The latter was seen for a few weeks by many and stayed to be seen on the Seacoast CBC for a first count record for the state. The fine redpoll flight of this year produced several reports of **Hoary Redpoll**.



*Orange-crowned Warbler
by Ronald Carr, 12/14/05, Merrimack, NH.*

The summaries and listings on the following pages do not include Christmas Bird Count (CBC) reports, except for those from the New Hampshire portion of the Saxton's River CBC in Vermont. A summary with highlights of the CBC and a table of all CBC sightings can be found beginning on page 29.

Waterfowl

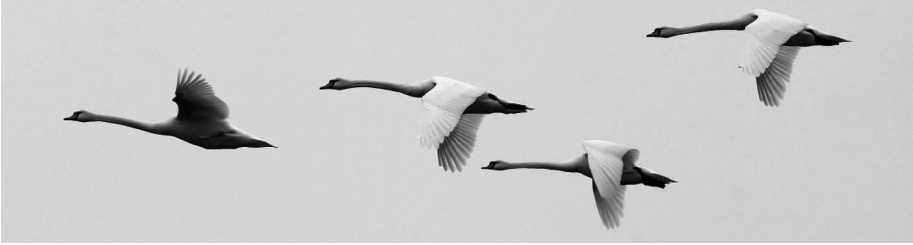
Seasonal inland waterfowl reports outside of the CBC were again rather sparse. One notable exception was a large flock of Hooded Mergansers found in Hinsdale in early January. A large flock of Snow Geese seen in Portsmouth early in December was notable as they have not been reported in the winter season since 1998. A **Tundra Swan** seen in Haverhill was one of the top waterfowl records for the season.



Northern Pintail by Stephen R. Mirick, 2/20/06, Hampton, NH.

The last time this species was reported in winter was also 1998, and they are rare at any time of year. **Gadwall** is quite unusual at this season with the last report being four years ago. There were at least five records this year, including one from the very unusual inland location of Nashua. Northern Pintails were well represented with two inland records from Concord and Hinsdale. With only two winter records in the last 15 years the appearance of a flock of up to four **Redhead** was quite remarkable. These birds were seen from early December through January on Great Bay. Two Lesser Scaup records in early December were quite unusual. Ruddy Duck is usually very uncommon by early December, so three reports of sizable flocks are quite notable. Thereafter, one brave individual ended up spending almost the entire season at the Exeter wastewater plant.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Snow Goose				
12-03	1	Concord	Turtle Pond	R. Quinn
12-10	110	Portsmouth	Piscataqua R. at Kearsarge Way	J. Klett, D. Lemieux
12-11	2	Rye	Rye marshes	S. & J. Mirick
12-11	4	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	R. & M. Suomala
Canada Goose				
12-17	325		Saxtons River CBC-NH sightings	
01-06	1,000	Stratham	Sandy Pt. Discovery Ctr.	T. Bronson
Brant				
01-07	3	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	R. & M. Suomala
01-25	2	Hampton	Hampton Beach jetty	S. & J. Mirick
02-05	5	Hampton	Hampton Harbor inlet	S. & J. Mirick, D. Abbott



Mute Swan by Debbie Stahre, 2/25/06, Adams Point, Durham, NH.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Mute Swan				
01-02	3	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	D. Donsker, D. Abbott, D. Finch
01-30	14	Durham	Adams Pt. WMA boat ramp	T. Bronson
Tundra Swan				
12-03	5	Haverhill	Bedell Bridge St. Pk.	L. Bunten
Wood Duck				
12-01	1	Concord	Contoocook R. along River Rd.	P. Hunt
01-21	1	Concord	Turkey R.	R. Woodward
02-13	1	New Ipswich	River Rd., Souhegan R. w. branch	E. Danisienka
Gadwall				
12-11	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
01-02	1	Portsmouth	Portsmouth Harbor	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod
01-02	2	Stratham	Sandy Pt. Discovery Ctr.	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod
01-02	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Donsker, D. Abbott, D. Finch
01-21	2	Nashua	cove at Mine Falls Pk.	R. Andrews
01-28	3	Newington	Fabyans Point	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod, P. Brown, R. Perkins
American Wigeon				
01-02	6	Greenland	Sunset Farm	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
01-28	2	Greenland	Great Bay	S. & J. Mirick, P. Lacourse, D. Abbott
Northern Pintail				
12-11	1	Hampton	from Island Path Rd.	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
12-23	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
01-04	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
01-07	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
01-25	1	Seabrook	Lakeshore Drive	S. & J. Mirick
01-28	1	Portsmouth	South Mill Pond	S. & J. Mirick, P. Lacourse, D. Abbott
02-16	1	Monroe		R. Bradley
02-20	1	Concord	Merrimack R. at Morrill Farms	P. Hunt
02-20	1	Hampton	Wheelevator duck pond	S. & J. Mirick
Green-winged Teal				
12-11	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
12-15	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	P. Brown

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
12-22	2	N. Hampton	Little River marsh	T. Bronson
01-07	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
01-22	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	D. Donsker, M. Suomala, G. Tillman, D. Austin
02-20	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S.& J. Mirick
Redhead				
12-04	4	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S.& J. Mirick
01-28	3	Greenland	Great Bay off Meloon Road	S.& J. Mirick, D. Abbott, P. Lacourse
Ring-necked Duck				
12-03	4	Derry	Beaver Lake	A.& B. Delorey
12-03	75	Concord	Penacook Lake	P. Hunt
02-01	1	Auburn	Lake Massabesic at Clairs Landing	T. Bronson
Greater Scaup				
12-28	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod
01-06	575	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
Lesser Scaup				
12-04	2	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S.& J. Mirick
12-11	1	Hampton	Little Boars Head	S.& J. Mirick
King Eider				
02-04	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor inlet	S.& J. Mirick
Harlequin Duck				
01-04	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	B. Griffith
01-31	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	M. Inglis
Surf Scoter				
12-22	5	Rye	point n. of Wallis Sands	T. Bronson
01-03	4	N. Hampton	Bass Beach	T. Bronson
White-winged Scoter				
12-05	6	New Castle	Fort Stark	T. Bronson
12-05	7	Rye	cove across from Fairhill Marsh	T. Bronson
01-03	4	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	T. Bronson
Black Scoter				
01-07	2	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	R.& M. Suomala
Long-tailed Duck				
12-05	4	Rye	Ragged Neck	T. Bronson
02-15	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	T. Bronson
Bufflehead				
12-05	14	Portsmouth	back channel	T. Bronson
02-05	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	M.& G. Prazar
02-15	12	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	T. Bronson
Common Goldeneye				
12-04	1	Gilmanton	Crystal Lake, Gilmanton Iron Works	W. Arms
12-22	19	Rye	1st cove s. of Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	T. Bronson
12-22	20	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	T. Bronson
01-30	11	Durham	Adams Point WMA	T. Bronson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Barrow's Goldeneye				
12-11	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Pk.	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
01-02	1	Rye	Foss Beach	S. & J. Mirick
01-07	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
01-27	2	Stratham	Great Bay	S. Mirick, P. Lacourse, D. Abbott
02-16	1	Rye	town line cove	S. Mirick
Hooded Merganser				
12-03	30	Concord	Turtle Pond	R. Quinn
12-06	3	Concord	Penacook Lake	P. Hunt
12-15	1	Hampton	behind Hampton R. Yacht Club	R. Aaronian
12-17	6		Saxtons River CBC-NH sightings	
01-07	50	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
01-15	1	Stratham	end of River Road	S. & J. Mirick
01-21	2	Nashua	Nashua R. at millyard	R. Andrews
01-31	2	Newport	Sugar R.	P. Newbern
02-01	7	Auburn	Lake Massabesic at Clairs Landing	T. Bronson
02-20	6	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
Common Merganser				
12-04	4	Epping	Lamprey R. at Rt. 27	T. Bronson
01-07	25	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
02-01	4	Hooksett	Merrimack R. at Lamberts Pk.	T. Bronson
02-24	2	Exeter	Squamscott R.	R. Aaronian
Ruddy Duck				
12-02	30	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
12-03	24	Derry	Beaver Lake	A. & B. Delorey
12-04	4	Rye	Eel Pond	S. & J. Mirick
12-04	13	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. & J. Mirick
01-02	1	Stratham	Sandy Pt. Discovery Ctr.	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod
02-05	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	M. & G. Prazar

Grouse through Raptors

An **American Bittern** reported from Seabrook in mid-January was a very rare find for the season. An obvious beneficiary of the mild season was the Great Blue Heron. There were twice the number of reports compared to the best of recent years. Turkey Vulture has been increasing in the state over the last several years, but remains scarce during the winter season. Compared to only three records for last winter, there was a veritable explosion of reports this year. The January records are particularly notable for their mid-winter dates. The number of birds in Newmarket was remarkable for the winter season, but represents sightings from a roost site. According to Kurk Dorsey, who was been observing the site, a single vulture remained until



American Bittern by Stephen R. Mirick, 1/13/06, Seabrook, NH.

December 11, considerably later than his last record from 2004 of November 23, and they returned nine days earlier than their return date of the previous two winters. This year's mid-winter Bald Eagle survey was held January 4–18, 2006. The results were again excellent with 55 birds, matching last year's record number. This is practically twice as many as 10 years ago. The greatest numbers were counted in the Lakes Region and the Merrimack River. Other notable concentrations occurred along the Connecticut and Androscoggin Rivers, as well as Great Bay. Sightings listed below are from locations outside these areas of known concentrations. There was a single Rough-legged Hawk report from North Hampton. There was some slightly encouraging news with three records for American Kestrel. It went unreported last winter. For more on the **Gyrfalcon**, see the CBC Summary on page 29.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Wild Turkey				
12-06	40	Newbury	Newbury traffic circle	P. Newbern
12-11	15	Deerfield	Mountain Rd. Ext.	C.& J. Carr
12-15	18	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Rd.	J. Merrill
01-26	16	Deerfield	Mountain Rd. Exit	C. Carr
02-23	6	Milford	Federal Hill Rd.	R.& B. Becker
Red-throated Loon				
12-05	2	Rye	coast	T. Bronson
12-05	1	Rye	cove across from Fairhill Marsh	T. Bronson
12-11	1	Canaan	Mascoma High School fields	police officer
12-22	1	N. Hampton	N. Hampton St. Pk.	T. Bronson
Common Loon				
12-06	1	Concord	Penacook Lake	P. Hunt
01-12	1	Laconia	Lake Winnisquam off Fenton Ave.	H. Anderson
02-04	1	Wolfeboro	Lake Winnepesaukee at town docks	T. Bronson, N. Nelson
Pied-billed Grebe				
12-04	1	Rye	Eel Pond	S.& J. Mirick
12-06	1	Newmarket	Lamprey River	K. Dorsey
Horned Grebe				
02-15	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	T. Bronson
Northern Gannet				
01-02	1	Rye	offshore near Shoals	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
01-14	1	Hampton	Great Boars Head	D. Donsker, D.& B. Williams
01-14	15	Hampton	NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
01-28	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	S.& J. Mirick, D. Abbott, P. Lacourse
Double-crested Cormorant				
12-02	1	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
12-05	4	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	T. Bronson
12-05	1	Portsmouth	Pierce Island	T. Bronson
12-15	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	P. Brown
Great Cormorant				
12-22	4	Rye	Rye Ledge	T. Bronson
02-15	6	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	T. Bronson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
American Bittern				
01-13	1	Seabrook	Rt. 286	S. Mirick
Great Blue Heron				
12-05	1	Portsmouth	Rt. 95 & Rt. 33	T. Bronson
12-05	2	Newington	Great Bay NWR	T. Bronson
12-11	1	Lyme	Wilder WMA	P. Ackerson
12-14	1	Durham	Longmarsh Rd.	P. Brown
12-22	1	Rye	marsh across from Foss Beach	T. Bronson
12-24	1	Goshen	Brook Rd.	P. Newbern
12-28	1	Stratham	Stuart Farm	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
01-02	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod
01-02	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
01-02	1	N. Hampton	Rt. 1A	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod
01-02	1	Hampton	Hampton/Rye town line	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
01-12	1	Newington	Rt. 16	P. Brown
01-21	1	Newington	Great Bay marina	P. Brown
01-21	1	Portsmouth	Portsmouth Harbor	P. Brown
01-25	1	Keene	Monadnock Marketplace marsh	M. Durland
01-28	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod, P. Brown, R. Perkins
01-28	1	Portsmouth	along river	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson, P. Brown
02-08	1	Winchester	Forrest Lake outlet	K. Warren
Turkey Vulture				
12-05	2	Stratham	Rt. 33 & Depot Rd.	T. Bronson
12-06	9	Newmarket		K. Dorsey
12-11	1	Newmarket		K. Dorsey
01-02	1	Nashua	Groton Rd.	R. Andrews
01-12	1	Exeter		D. Finch
01-14	1	Concord	Post Office fields	R. Woodward
01-19	1	Stratham		H. Chary
01-26	1	Newington	Spaulding Turnpike	S. Mirick
02-05	12	Newmarket		K. Dorsey
02-09	1	Salem	residence	K. Folsom
02-13	1	Manchester	north end	R. Woodward
02-15	1	Salem	Lawrence Rd. at water tower	K. Folsom
02-17	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr., Piscassic R.	P. Hendrickx
02-17	1	Laconia	Lakeport Dam, Elm St.	H. Anderson
02-20	1	Kensington	Moulton Ridge near Rt. 150	G. Gavutis Jr.
02-22	1	Concord	Silk Farm WS	I. MacLeod
02-23	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
02-24	19	Newmarket	over Packers Falls Rd.	M. Mongeon
Bald Eagle				
12-07	1	Hillsborough	Franklin Pierce Lake, n. end	K. Peucker
12-10	1	Andover	Rt. 11	J. Stockwell
12-12	1	Epsom	Rt. 4 & Rt. 107 jct.	L. Cane
12-28	1	Northwood	School & Main Sts.	P. Caron
01-02	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Donsker, D. Abbott, D. Finch
01-02	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	D. Donsker, D. Abbott, D. Finch

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
01-06	1	Rollinsford	Front St. near Salmon Falls R.	J. Sellers
01-09	1	Hopkinton	Sugar Hill Rd. North	M. Beardsley
01-10	1	Hillsborough	Angus Lea Golf Course	M. Aborn
01-16	3	Henniker	River Rd.	M. McCarthy-Tiella
01-21	2	Middleton	1 mi. from Middleton Hill Rd.	A. Colburn
01-29	1	Sunapee	Wendell Marsh, by Rt. 11	D. Webb
01-30	1	Peterborough	town center, over Contoocook R.	B. Elliot
02-01	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
02-06	2	Madbury	Bellamy Reservoir, Rt. 9	L. Katz, S. Smith
02-13	1	Hopkinton	Sugar Hill Rd. North	D. Rosen
02-15	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
02-17	1	Mont Vernon	Amherst Rd.	J. Wilson
02-21	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
02-22	1	Sunapee	Wendell Marsh	R. Caputo
Northern Harrier				
12-05	1	Stratham	Swampscott Rd.	T. Bronson
12-11	1	Rye	Jeness Beach	S. & J. Mirick
12-11	1	Hampton	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
12-28	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
01-16	1	Stratham	Squamscott Rd.	T. Bronson
02-15	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	T. Bronson
02-20	1	Seabrook	Seabrook marshes	S. & J. Mirick
Northern Goshawk				
12-13	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
01-01	1	Fremont	Ingalls Lane	T. Bronson
01-13	1	Jefferson	Rt. 116 residence	D. Govatski
01-21	1	Nashua	cove at Mine Falls Pk.	R. Andrews
01-21	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Road	I. MacLeod
01-22	1	Nottingham	Flutter St.	S. Mooney
02-10	1	Brentwood	Middle Rd.	L. Cowie
Red-shouldered Hawk				
12-08	1	S. Hampton	near Brookside WS	P. Brown
Rough-legged Hawk				
01-07	1	N. Hampton	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick, MA Audubon FT
American Kestrel				
12-11	1	Dover	end of Bayview Rd.	R. & M. Suomala
01-28	1	Portsmouth	Rt. 4/16	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod, P. Brown, R. Perkins
Merlin				
12-11	1	Hampton	Yankees Fisherman's Coop.	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
01-14	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach State Park	S. & J. Mirick
01-21	1	Portsmouth	Rt. 16	P. Brown
01-29	1	Seabrook		L. Medlock



Merlin by Len Medlock, 1/29/06,
Seabrook, NH.



Peregrine Falcon by Len Medlock,
12/28/05, Exeter, NH.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Gyrfalcon				
12-17	1	Auburn	Battery Point, Lake Massabesic	I. MacLeod
Peregrine Falcon				
12-11	1	Hampton	Hampton salt marsh	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
12-11	1	Rye	Concord Pt.	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
12-28	1	Exeter	residence	L. Medlock
01-02	2	Portsmouth	Memorial Bridge	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
01-09	2	Manchester	North Elm St.	R. Vallieres
01-11	1	S. Hampton	Old Amesbury Rd. powerline	T. Bronson
01-11	1	Newington	Rt. 16	P. Brown
01-12	1	Concord	Hazen Drive	P. Brown, D. Govatski
01-14	1	Hampton	Hampton water tower	S. & J. Mirick

Coot through Alcids

The large flock of American Coot seen in early December was uncommon, though this occurred last year at the same locale in Kingston. More remarkable were late January and mid-February sightings. There are but two January and two February records in the last 17 years! The famous Monroe **Sandhill Crane** stayed long enough to be reported early in the season. The normally abundant Killdeer becomes rare during this season, so as many as three individuals spending most of December and January south of Odiorne Point in Rye is quite remarkable. There were two other records from both early and late in the season as well.

Possibly THE bird of the season was the closely observed and documented gull believed to be a first year **Thayer's Gull**. This was found at the Rochester wastewater treatment plant from December 28–30 (see page 45). Pending review by the New Hampshire Rare Bird Committee, this would constitute a first state record. The identification and taxonomy of this and the closely related Herring and Iceland Gull are quite complex. Originally described as a separate species in 1915, it was considered a subspecies of the Herring Gull until 1972 when it was again elevated to full species status. It has been found to hybridize with the Kumlien's race of the Iceland Gull on

Baffin and Southampton Islands, leading some to question its specific status. Changes in conditions in the arctic may be producing more intergrades that further complicate the picture. The species nests in the high arctic and winters principally on the Pacific Coast of North America. It is considered to be only casual in occurrence on the Atlantic Coast south to Florida.

Lesser Black-backed Gull was again present in similar numbers to last year. Now considered routine, this species was essentially unreported until five years ago. A **Forster's Tern** seen in early December was very late for this species and quite unexpected. There have been no tern records of any species for the winter season for at least 15 years! There are only three other winter season records for the Forster's Tern, most recently in December of 1972.



*Forster's Tern by Stephen R. Mirick,
12/11/05,
Bicentennial Park, Hampton, NH.*

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
American Coot				
12-02	65	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick
12-04	5	Rye	Eel Pond	S. & J. Mirick
12-11	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
01-30	14	Durham	Adams Point WMA	T. Bronson
02-16	1	Rye	Rye Harbor	S. Mirick
Sandhill Crane				
12-03	1	Monroe	Plains Rd.	E. Emery
Killdeer				
12-05	2	Rye	Fairhill Marsh	T. Bronson
12-11	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
12-11	1	Rye	just s. of Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
12-28	2	Rye	near Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
01-21	3	Rye	1st cove s. of Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	D. Blezard, Seacoast Chapter FT
01-21	2	Portsmouth	near Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	P. Brown
02-17	1	Fremont	Martin Rd.	T. Bronson
Sanderling				
12-22	23	Rye	Jeness Beach St. Pk.	T. Bronson
01-07	35	Rye	Rye Ledge	R. & M. Suomala
02-22	36	Rye	Jeness Beach St. Pk.	T. Bronson
Purple Sandpiper				
12-05	6	Rye	cove across from Fairhill Marsh	T. Bronson
12-11	4	Hampton	Bicentennial Pk.	R. & M. Suomala
01-07	13	Rye	Rye Ledge	R. & M. Suomala
01-07	2	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	R. & M. Suomala
01-07	9	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	R. & M. Suomala
Dunlin				
12-15	12	Hampton	Island Path	R. Aaronian
01-07	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	R. & M. Suomala

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Bonaparte's Gull				
12-05	2	Portsmouth	Pierce Island	T. Bronson
12-11	10	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	R. & M. Suomala
01-14	1	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	D. Donsker, D. & B. Williams
01-21	1	Portsmouth	near Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	P. Brown
Ring-billed Gull				
01-07	77	Newmarket	town landing	R. & M. Suomala
02-19	235	Exeter	Squamscott R. at Swasey Pkwy.	T. Bronson
Thayer's Gull				
12-28	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
12-28	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
12-30	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	M. Harvey, B. Griffith, D. Abbott, A. Kimball



*A first-year "Kumlien's" Iceland Gull
by Mike Harvey, 12/22/05,
Rochester wastewater treatment plant,
Rochester, NH.*

Iceland Gull				
12-02	1	Stratham	Squamscott Road fields	S. Mirick
12-11	1	Hampton	Yankees Fisherman's Coop.	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
12-11	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
12-22	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	M. Harvey
12-28	1	Rye	Jeness Beach	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod
01-02	5	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Donsker, D. Abbott, D. Finch
01-21	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Harbor	D. Blezard, Seacoast Chapter FT
01-28	2	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod, P. Brown, R. Perkins
01-28	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson, P. Brown
02-05	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	M. & G. Prazar
Lesser Black-backed Gull				
12-02	1	Durham	town landing	S. Mirick
12-23	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
12-23	1	Dover	Coheco River downtown	S. Mirick
01-06	1	Newmarket	town landing	T. Bronson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Glaucous Gull				
12-23	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
12-28	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Pk.	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod
01-02	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod
01-02	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod
01-15	1	Brentwood	off Rt. 125	S. & J. Mirick
02-04	1	Seabrook	Cross Beach Road	S. & J. Mirick
Black-legged Kittiwake				
01-14	1		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
Forster's Tern				
12-11	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	S. & J. Mirick, E. Masterson, I. MacLeod
Thick-billed Murre				
01-02	2	Portsmouth	Portsmouth Harbor	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod
Razorbill				
12-11	11		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
12-28	5	Rye	NH coast	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
Black Guillemot				
12-11	5		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
01-02	10		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
01-21	1	N. Hampton	N. Hampton St. Beach	P. Brown

Owls through Swallows

Eastern Screech-Owl was somewhat more commonly reported than usual. Particularly notable were the three records away from the immediate coast, a much less frequently reported location for the species. There were no less than two reasonably well described reports of **Great Gray Owl** from Acworth and Lyman. It has been 10 winters since there have been any records (Winter 1995-96 recorded three birds). There was one report of Short-eared Owl from the Hampton marsh. This is not quite an annual occurrence. A **Red-headed Woodpecker** spent at least a few weeks visiting a feeder in Goffstown. There are eight previous winter records in the last 15 years and it is quite scarce at any season. An **Ash-throated Flycatcher** first reported in the late fall season made it to the first of December, producing the second winter season record. For the third year Fish Crow was found in Salem, but not until the very end of the period.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Eastern Screech-Owl				
12-03	1	Litchfield	Rt. 3A	J. McKibben
01-02	1	Newmarket	residence	K. Dorsey
01-07	1	Nashua	residence	D. Deifik
01-27	1	Greenland	Bay Road	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson, P. Brown
02-17	1	Goffstown		I. MacLeod

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Great Horned Owl				
12-07	1	Lebanon	downtown	D. Hopkins
12-20	1	Deerfield	Mountain Rd. Ext.	C. & J. Carr
01-21	1	N. Hampton	residence	D. Donsker
01-22	1	Portsmouth	Wentworth Mansion	P. Brown
Snowy Owl				
12-11	1	Hampton	Hampton marshes	S. & J. Mirick, I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
12-15	2	Hancock	Windy Row	T. Brown
Great Gray Owl				
12-04	1	Acworth	field at rural residence	J. & J. Martin
01-22	1	Lyman	Hurd Hill Rd.	M. Proctor, L. Kraft, et al.
Short-eared Owl				
01-02	1	Hampton	Hampton marsh	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod
Northern Saw-whet Owl				
12-06	1	Rye	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
02-19	1	Somersworth	residence	B. Colbach
02-21	2	Effingham	Huntress Rd.	G. McElroy
Red-headed Woodpecker				
01-12	1	Goffstown	Tirrell Rd.	D. Currier
Red-bellied Woodpecker				
winter	1	Salisbury	West Salisbury Rd.	L. Irving
12-04	1	Newport	Cheney St.	K. & J. McCrillis, et al.
12-04	1	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
12-10	1	Gilmanton	Currier Hill Rd.	J. Stockwell
12-16	1	Chichester	Connemara Dr.	K. Palfy
12-17	1	Dublin	Cobb Meadow Rd.	E. Masterson, F. Von Mertens, B. Preston
12-17	3		Saxtons River CBC-NH sightings	
12-18	1	Concord	River Rd., Contoocook R.	P. Hunt
12-23	1	Chichester	Leavitt Rd.	M. Reinhardt
01-03	1	Strafford	Roller Coaster Rd.	R. Bartlett
01-06	1	Stratham	Sandy Pt. Discovery Ctr.	T. Bronson
01-08	1	Exeter	Washington St.	R. Aaronian
01-08	1	Chester	residence	B. Folsom
01-12	1	Lee	Velvet Pastures Elk Farm	P. Brown
01-20	2	Newmarket	Bay Rd.	H. Chary
01-25	1	Seabrook	Worthley Ave.	S. & J. Mirick
01-27	1	Candia	Chester Tpk.	M. & S. Morgan
01-31	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
02-05	1	Concord	Turkey R.	R. Woodward
02-06	1	Walpole	County Rd.	R. Ritz
02-13	1	Raymond	Ham Rd. residence	C. Killlem
02-13	1	Milford	Federal Hill Rd.	R. & B. Becker
02-14	1	Concord	Merrimack R. CA	T. Bronson
02-23	2	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
02-25	1	Durham	near Adams Pt.	P. Brown
Black-backed Woodpecker				
12-20	1	Pittsburg	Norton Pool trails	P. Brown, S. Wollney

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Ash-throated Flycatcher				
12-01	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
Northern Shrike				
12-01	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
12-11	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	R. & M. Suomala
12-17	1		Saxtons River CBC-NH sightings	
12-17	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
01-03	1	N. Hampton	Little River WS	T. Bronson
01-05	1	Ossipee	near town hall	P. Brown
01-07	1	New Ipswich	Tinkertops Rd.	V. Willis
01-07	1	Monroe	McIndoe impoundment, Connecticut R.	C. Martin
01-12	1	Jefferson	Rt. 116 residence	D. & K. Govatski
01-25	1	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Rd.	J. Merrill
01-28	1	Greenland	off Ocean Road	S. & J. Mirick, D. Abbott, P. Lacourse
01-28	1	Concord	Thirty Pines, Penacook	P. Hunt
02-01	1	Goshen	Brook Rd.	P. Newbern
02-11	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Road	I. MacLeod
02-16	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
Gray Jay				
12-20	2	Pittsburg	Norton Pool trails	P. Brown, S. Wollney
12-31	3	Jefferson	Mt. Starr King summit	J. & K. Stockwell
01-07	2	Beans Grant	Mizpah Hut	J. & K. Stockwell
02-05	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	D. Govatski
Fish Crow				
02-28	6	Salem	Salem Plaza Shopping Ctr.	T. Bronson
Horned Lark				
12-17	454		Saxtons River CBC-NH sightings	
12-18	25	Concord	Morrill Farms, Penacook	P. Hunt
01-03	50	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	T. Bronson
Barn Swallow				
12-01	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	J. O'Shaughnessy

Chickadees through Waxwings



Boreal Chickadee by Amanda Turner, 2/06, New Durham, NH.

A Boreal Chickadee photographed coming into a feeder in New Durham was a rare find for this southern New Hampshire locale. The hardy New England birder award should go to the couple who found another Boreal Chickadee up at 4,000 feet on the Carter Moriah trail in late January! As part of a continuing trend of an increasing population, Carolina Wren wasn't exactly a rare find last year. However,

this season produced a veritable population explosion with more than double the number of last year's records. Winter Wren is rare in the winter in the southern part of the state, but this season there were several more records than usual. Even rarer was a late January Marsh Wren from Portsmouth. The mild conditions were associated with some interesting phenomena. Among them was the large number of reports of Gray Catbird. One would have to go back almost 10 years to find half the number as this season. The persistence of "half-hardies"—birds that winter farther north when conditions are mild—extended to several mid-winter Hermit Thrush reports and an interesting record of an over-wintering Brown Thrasher in North Hampton. This was a good year for Bohemian Waxwing, with much more widespread reports than the two locales from last year. The highest totals reported were 250 in Gorham and the same number at the traditional Plymouth State College campus location.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Boreal Chickadee				
Jan.-Feb.	1	New Durham	old Rt. 11 residence	A. Turner
01-22	1	Shelburne	Carter Moriah Trail, 4000'	J. & K. Stockwell
Carolina Wren				
12-02	1	Nashua	Berkeley St. residence	D. Deifik
12-04	1	Concord	Hoyt Brook at Burough Rd.	P. Hunt
12-06	2	Rye	Old Beach Road	S. Mirick
12-15	2	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. Harris
12-17	1		Saxtons River CBC-NH sightings	
12-17	1	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
12-18	1	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
12-19	1	Nashua	residence	J. & B. Ayer
12-21	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
12-25	1	Exeter	Washington St.	R. Aaronian
12-31	2	Lee	e. of Little Hook Rd., s. of Wiswall Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
01-02	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod
01-08	2	Salem	residence	K. Folsom
01-11	1	Walpole	Scoville Rd.	R. Ritz
01-12	1	Lee	Velvet Pastures Elk Farm	P. Brown
01-24	2	Concord	Noyes St. residence	D. Andersch
01-25	1	Seabrook	off Walton Road	S. & J. Mirick
01-28	1	N. Hampton	Boulters Road	S. & J. Mirick, P. Lacourse, D. Abbott
01-31	2	Dover	Pond View Dr.	H. Angell
02-04	1	N. Hampton	Woodland Road	S. & J. Mirick
02-04	2	Hampton	off Winnicunnet Road	S. Mirick
02-05	1	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
02-19	2	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
02-19	1	Boscawen	near Main & Eel St. jct.	P. Hunt
02-25	1	Bennington	Pine Meadows Circle	M. McKee
02-25	1	Durham	near Adams Pt.	P. Brown
Winter Wren				
12-08	2	S. Hampton	Brookside WS	P. Brown
12-14	1	Durham	Longmarsh Rd.	P. Brown
01-27	1	Greenland	off Great Bay Road	S. Mirick, P. Lacourse, D. Abbott

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
01-28	1	S. Hampton	Brookside WS	P. Brown, I. MacLeod, E. Masterson, R. Perkins
02-20	1	New Castle	marsh off Rt. 1B	S. & J. Mirick
Marsh Wren				
01-25	1	Portsmouth	Great Bog	S. & J. Mirick
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
12-11	1	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
02-13	1	Alton	Cascade Terrace, Alton Bay	M. & R. Foster
Eastern Bluebird				
12-10	4	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
12-31	7	Lee	e. of Little Hook Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
01-06	8	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
01-14	6	Fremont	Martin Rd.	N. Nelson
01-16	6	Stratham	Lovell Road	S. & J. Mirick
02-10	11	Nashua	Regional Cancer Ctr., Southwood Dr.	N. Buttrick
02-27	30	Portsmouth	Wallis Rd	F. Hartman
02-28	1	Westmoreland	downtown	R. Ritz
Hermit Thrush				
01-25	1	Hampton Falls	off Rt. 1A	S. & J. Mirick
01-28	2	Portsmouth	Walker Bungalow Rd.	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod, P. Brown, R. Perkins
01-28	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	S. & J. Mirick, P. Lacourse, D. Abbott
02-12	1	Bow	Ridgewood Dr.	D. & K. Burns
02-23	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence	G. Daley
02-27	1	Hopkinton	Woodland Dr.	A. Walker
02-28	1	Laconia	Church St.	K. James
American Robin				
01-04	250	Stratham	Squamscott Rd. & Rt. 108 jct.	G. Gavutis Jr.
01-05	50	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
01-09	25	Exeter	Saltenstall Medical Bldg.	G. Prazar
01-21	8	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Rd.	J. Merrill
02-01	40	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
02-04	75	Chichester	Connemara Dr.	K. Palfy
02-11	140	Laconia	Amadeus Dr., Bois Circle	H. Anderson
02-25	20	Tilton	Winnepesaukee R.	J. & K. Stockwell
02-25	50	Northwood	Deer Run Lane	C. Bagley
02-25	75	Gilmanton	Ridgewood Dr.	J. Hickey
02-28	30	Nashua	Deerhaven Dr.	R. Andrews
Gray Catbird				
12-11	1	Hampton	near Beckman's Landing	S. & J. Mirick
01-07	1	Henniker	Warner Rd. residence	J. Flanders
01-22	1	New Castle	Riverview Rd.	P. Brown
01-25	1	Seabrook	off Walton Road	S. & J. Mirick
01-28	1	N. Hampton	Boulters Road	S. & J. Mirick, D. Abbott, P. Lacourse
01-28	1	Stratham	Willowbrook Ave.	S. & J. Mirick, D. Abbott, P. Lacourse
02-04	1	Hampton	off Winnicunnet Road	S. Mirick
02-15	1	Hillsborough	Veterinary Clinic, W. Main St.	J. Flanders, R. Snyder

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Brown Thrasher				
01-14	1	N. Hampton	Woodland Rd.	S. & J. Mirick
02-16	1	N. Hampton	Woodland Rd.	S. Mirick
American Pipit				
12-04	1	Lee	Velvet Pastures Elk Farm	P. Brown
12-11	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
Bohemian Waxwing				
12-03	250	Gorham	Irving parking lot	G. McElroy
12-10	50	Effingham	Watts Sanctuary	G. McElroy
12-15	5	New London	Colby-Sawyer College	P. Hunt, B. Steele
12-21	1	Errol	Umbagog Lake St. Pk.	P. Brown, S. Wollney
12-27	2	Henniker	Rt. 9/202	E. Masterson
01-06	115	Plymouth	Plymouth State College	R. Aaronian, P. Greer
01-15	6	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
01-27	25	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
01-30	22	Moultonborough	Rt. 109 north	T. Vazzano
02-06	250	Plymouth	Plymouth State University	D. Deifik
02-13	58	Lebanon	Stevens Rd.	D. Crook
02-18	55	Sunapee	Winn Hill	K. & M. Doolan
02-23	130	Lebanon	Centerra Park	M. Krenitsky
Cedar Waxwing				
12-08	30	Exeter	Buzzell Ave. near hospital	G. Prazar
12-10	25	Salem	residence	K. Folsom
12-22	20	Gilmanton	Old Jones Farm	J. Stockwell
01-06	175	Laconia	New Salem St.	H. Anderson
01-06	135	Plymouth	Plymouth State College	R. Aaronian, P. Greer
01-10	225	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt

Warblers through Sparrows

Orange-crowned Warbler is one of our rare fall migrants. An individual spent virtually the entire season coming to a feeder in Merrimack. Sharing the “hardy warbler of the winter award” was a rarely recorded “Audubon’s” race of the Yellow-rumped Warbler. It also spent nearly the whole season in Rye at Odiorne Point, as did a Palm Warbler in the same locale. This yellow throated western form of our “Myrtle Warbler” used to enjoy full species status. There are only five previous winter records over the last 15 winter seasons for **Ovenbird**, involving only single birds. Our two records for this season in early to mid-December from Hanover and Peterborough are therefore quite notable. They both had the good grace to stay for the CBC to provide a new state species. A **Black-and-white Warbler** from Deerfield is even more rare, last seen in winter in January of 1993. Another visitor in Exeter for essentially the whole season was an Eastern Towhee, always quite scarce in the winter. A **Vesper Sparrow** found in Stratham in mid-December was our rarest sparrow for the season with only three winter records in over 15 years. Certainly the outstanding passerine of the season was a carefully described and photographed **Painted Bunting**, seen on January 22 in Newmarket. This is an extremely rare bird at any time of the year and this record is unique for the winter season.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Orange-crowned Warbler				
12-14	1	Merrimack	Mountainview Dr.	R. Carr
02-28	1	Merrimack	Mountainview Dr.	R. Carr
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
01-02	1	Portsmouth	North Mill Pond	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod
02-04	1	Seabrook	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
Yellow-rumped Warbler - Audubon's subspecies				
12-11	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	S. & J. Mirick
02-16	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	S. Mirick
Pine Warbler				
12-11	1	Seabrook	wastewater treatment plant	S. & J. Mirick
12-17	1	Thornton	residence	C. Perron, W. & S. Fogleman
01-02	1	Portsmouth	Little Harbor Road	S. & J. Mirick
Palm Warbler				
01-21	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. & J. Mirick
02-20	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. & J. Mirick
Black-and-white Warbler				
02-04	1	Deerfield	Mountain View Rd.	J. Perry
Ovenbird				
12-07	1	Peterborough	Sand Hill Rd. residence	D. Vernier, M. Belva
12-07	1	Hanover	residence	M. Choukas
12-17	1	Peterborough	Sand Hill Rd. residence	R. Frechette, M. Johnson, D. Vernier, M. Belva, L. Johnston
12-30	1	Hanover	residence	M. Choukas
Eastern Towhee				
12-11	1	Exeter	Washington St.	R. Aaronian
12-17	1	Nelson	Granite Lake Rd., Munsonville	K. & R. Gordon
02-11	1	Exeter	Court St.	A. & D. Lennox
02-12	1	Nelson	Granite Lake Rd., Munsonville	K. & R. Gordon
02-23	1	Exeter	Washington St.	R. Aaronian
American Tree Sparrow				
12-11	120	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	R. & M. Suomala
12-17	99		Saxtons River CBC-NH sightings	
12-17	15	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
02-08	12	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
Vesper Sparrow				
12-13	1	Stratham	Turnberry Lane fields	S. Mirick
Savannah Sparrow				
12-11	3	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	R. & M. Suomala
01-28	2	Rye	Odiorne Point	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod, P. Brown, R. Perkins
01-28	1	Stratham	Stuart Farm	S. & J. Mirick, D. Abbott, P. Lacourse
Fox Sparrow				
12-01	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Song Sparrow				
12-11	10	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	R. & M. Suomala
12-17	16		Saxtons River CBC-NH sightings	
01-16	2	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
01-22	1	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Rd.	J. Merrill
01-25	1	Hampton Falls	marsh at end of Depot Rd.	T. Bronson
01-25	2	Seabrook	Railroad Ave. marsh	T. Bronson
01-31	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
02-08	2	Rye	Rye Harbor	T. Bronson
Swamp Sparrow				
12-08	1	S. Hampton	Brookside WS	P. Brown
01-14	3	New Castle	off Rt. 1B	S. & J. Mirick
01-25	1	Rye	Eel Pond	S. Mirick
01-25	1	Seabrook	Worthley Ave.	S. & J. Mirick
01-28	2	S. Hampton	Brookside WS	P. Brown
01-31	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Mirick
02-04	1	N. Hampton	Woodland Road	S. & J. Mirick
02-20	1	New Castle	marsh off Rt. 1B	S. & J. Mirick
White-throated Sparrow				
12-08	1	Milford	Federal Hill Rd.	B. Becker
12-09	1	Exeter	residence	G. Prazar
12-15	11	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
01-16	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. Harris
01-28	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
02-15	2	Stratham	Sandy Pt. Discovery Ctr.	T. Bronson
White-crowned Sparrow				
12-11	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	R. & M. Suomala
Dark-eyed Junco				
12-12	22	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. & M. Suomala
12-17	72		Saxtons River CBC-NH sightings	
01-03	29	Fremont	Ingalls Lane	T. Bronson
01-22	8	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Rd.	J. Merrill
01-26	4	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
02-06	10	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
02-13	3	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
02-25	8	Exeter	residence	G. Prazar
Lapland Longspur				
12-17	1		Saxtons River CBC-NH sightings	
Snow Bunting				
12-04	1	Concord	Thirty Pines, Penacook	P. Hunt
12-11	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	R. & M. Suomala
12-12	1	Franklin	Lawndale Ave.	A. Andrews
12-17	3		Saxtons River CBC-NH sightings	
12-29	1	Gilmanton	Old Jones Farm	J. Stockwell
12-30	3	Jefferson	Rt. 116 residence	D. & K. Govatski
01-05	1	Exeter	Phillips Exeter Academy fields	R. Aaronian
01-22	2	N. Hampton	Little River WS	P. Brown
01-28	50	Stratham	Stuart Farm	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod, P. Brown, R. Perkins
02-08	3	Concord	Lake St.	I. McCormick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Painted Bunting				
01-22	1	Newmarket	Mastin Dr.	S. & J. Mirick, D. Donsker
Dickcissel				
12-27	1	Dover	Cedarbrook Dr.	T. Bronson
02-11	1	Dover	Cedarbrook Dr.	M. Mayhew

Blackbirds through Finches

This was quite a good winter for Icterids, with Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, and Brown-headed Cowbird all being found in larger numbers than average. Incredibly, there were two **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** recorded. The first, seen in Hillsboro on December 1, was a one-day wonder. However, the second bird, reported from Stratham, was present for nearly all of December into early January and seen by many. Another beneficiary of the mild conditions seemed to be Baltimore Oriole. Generally we see just single season records during this season; the six records this winter, therefore, are quite notable. The Bethlehem bird was first reported on the Littleton CBC and fed regularly at a window feeder until it was found dead from unknown causes on the weekend of the Backyard Winter Bird Survey in February. This was a very good flight year for Common Redpoll. There were four documented records of single **Hoary Redpolls** picked out of the many Common Redpoll flocks.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Red-winged Blackbird				
12-10	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
12-11	2	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	R. & M. Suomala
12-15	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	P. Brown
12-19	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
01-21	2	Hampton	Meadow Pond	P. Brown
02-07	12	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
02-08	2	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
02-12	4	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
02-16	1	Littleton	residence	R. Bradley
02-17	3	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
02-17	3	E. Kingston	South Road	S. Mirick
02-18	7	Concord	Iron Works Rd.	R. Woodward
02-18	3	Windham	residence	J. Romano
02-20	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. & J. Mirick
02-21	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
02-25	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
Yellow-headed Blackbird				
12-01	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
12-04	1	Stratham	Squamscott Rd.	S. & J. Mirick
12-05	1	Stratham	Stuart Farm	D. Donsker, D. Abbott
12-28	1	Stratham	Stuart Farm	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod
01-04	1	Stratham	Stuart Farm	B. Griffith

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Rusty Blackbird				
01-28	3	E. Kingston	South Road	S.& J. Mirick, D. Abbott, P. Lacourse
02-20	1	Kingston	South Road	S.& J. Mirick
Common Grackle				
12-01	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
01-14	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Road	I. MacLeod
01-21	7	Newington	farm field	P. Brown
01-28	3	Portsmouth	Great Bog roost	S.& J. Mirick, D. Abbott, P. Lacourse
01-28	3	Newington	Sunset Farm	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod, P. Brown, R. Perkins
02-08	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
02-28	1	Nashua	Deerhaven Dr.	R. Andrews
Brown-headed Cowbird				
12-28	100	Stratham	Sawyers Farm	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod
01-07	100	Stratham	Stuart Farm, Rt. 108	R.& M. Suomala
01-21	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Road	I. MacLeod
01-30	55	E. Kingston	South Road	D. Finch
02-20	4	E. Kingston	South Road	S.& J. Mirick
Baltimore Oriole				
12-24	1	Portsmouth	Taft St.	J. Bell
01-05	1	Hopkinton	Old Putney Hill Rd.	L. Clancy
01-14	1	New Castle	off Rt. 1B	S.& J. Mirick
01-15	1	Portsmouth	Taft St.	J. Bell
01-29	1	Dover	Prospect St. residence	S.& A. Galt
02-12	1	Hopkinton	Park Ave., Contoocook	B. Corson
02-12	1	Bethlehem	Blaney Rd.	B. Dodge
Pine Grosbeak				
12-03	8	Colebrook	Rt. 26	G. McElroy
12-06	2	Colebrook	River of Life Church	D. Killam
12-10	2	Effingham	Watts WS	G. McElroy
01-06	20	Plymouth	Hotel Plaza	R. Aaronian, P. Greer
01-07	10	Moultonborough	Shaker Jerry Rd.	P. Brown
01-30	1	Chichester	Horse Corner Rd.	M. Reinhardt
02-15	4	Bethlehem	Beaver Brook Wayside	R. Woodward
Purple Finch				
12-09	4	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
01-01	1	Exeter	residence	G. Prazar
01-08	3	Fremont	Ingalls Lane	T. Bronson, N. Nelson
01-22	2	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
Common Redpoll				
12-14	40	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
12-15	12	Deerfield	Mountain Rd. Ext.	C.& J. Carr
12-15	12	Nelson	Granite Lake Rd.	K. Gordon
12-17	10		Saxtons River CBC-NH sightings	
12-25	36	Chester	Harantis Lake Rd.	B. Tufts
12-27	40	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
12-29	60	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R.& M. Suomala

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
12-31	68	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
12-31	30	Claremont	Ironwood Hill Rd.	C. Delabar
01-01	42	Concord	Penacook Census	P. Hunt
01-03	90	Jefferson	Rt. 116 residence	D.& K. Govatski
01-04	170	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
01-10	25	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
01-14	50	Newbury	Ramblewood Circle residence	P. Newbern
01-26	75	Newbury	Mountain Rd.	J. Ashley
01-31	40	Tamworth	Tall Pines Rd. residence	J. Tewkesbury
02-11	40	Hillsborough	Windsor Road	I. MacLeod
Hoary Redpoll				
01-08	2	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
01-11	2	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
02-02	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
02-09	1	Hancock	Windy Row	A. Brown
Pine Siskin				
12-18	1	Concord	Fowler Rd., Penacook	P. Hunt
01-03	1	Jefferson	Rt. 116 residence	D.& K. Govatski
01-24	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
01-29	2	Nottingham	Flutter St.	S. Mooney
02-11	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Road	I. MacLeod
02-28	1	Nashua	Deerhaven Dr.	R. Andrews
Evening Grosbeak				
12-04	5	Nottingham	Flutter St.	S. Mooney
12-17	23		Saxtons River CBC-NH sightings	
01-23	65	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
02-25	18	Haverhill	Dartmouth College. Hwy., Haverhill Corner	P. Marvin
02-27	24	Haverhill	Ammonoosuc St., Woodsville	K. Griswold

Reporters for Winter 2005-2006

Rich Aaronian	Kathy Doolan	Steve Mirick
H. Cook Anderson	Mary Durland	Susan Mooney
Ralph Andrews	Davis Finch	Myrle Morgan
Widge Arms	Judy Flanders	Peter Newbern
Jenny Ashley	Susan Fogleman	Kathie Palfy
Jeannine Ayer	Kenneth Folsom	Jennifer Perry
Bertram Becker	Richard Frechette	Greg Prazar
Jean Bell	Susan Galt	Robert Quinn
Robert Bradley	George Gavutis, Jr.	Robert Ritz
Terry Bronson	Keith Gordon	Judy Romano
Anthony Brown	David Govatski	Brenda Sens
Phil Brown	Bill Harris	Dot Soule
Lloyd Bunten	Michael Harvey	J.R. Stockwell
Don Burns	Phil Hendrickx	Rebecca Suomala
Chris Carr	Lindsay Herlihy	Tanya Tellman
Ronald Carr	Dan Hubbard	Jean Tewksbury
Hank Chary	Pam Hunt	Amanda Turner
Michael Choukas	Lauren Katz	Sandra Turner
Donald Clark	David Killam	Robert Vallieres
Kerry Collis	Julie Klett	Tony Vazzano
Barbara Corson	Angela Lennox	David Vernier
Linda Cowie	Iain MacLeod	Robert Vernon
Elaine Danisienka	Chris Martin	Ken Warren
David Deifik	Joseph Martin	Rob Woodward
Alan Delorey	Eric Masterson	Mary Wright
Barbara Delorey	Miriam Mayhew	
Jane Doherty	Kay McCrillis	Some sightings were taken
David Donsker	John Merrill	directly from the NH.Birds

Reports for the following species were received in Winter 2005-2006 but not listed.

American Black Duck	Rock Pigeon	Blue Jay
Mallard	Mourning Dove	American Crow
Common Eider	Barred Owl	Common Raven
Red-breasted Merganser	Belted Kingfisher	Black-capped Chickadee
Ruffed Grouse	Downy Woodpecker	Tufted Titmouse
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Hairy Woodpecker	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Cooper's Hawk	Northern Flicker	White-breasted Nuthatch
Red-tailed Hawk	Pileated Woodpecker	Brown Creeper

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

Christmas Bird Count Summary 2005-2006

by David Deifik

Statewide Highlights

This year's Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) were held between December 14, 2005, and January 5, 2006. A new CBC was inaugurated with the AMC Crawford Notch CBC. There are now 21 counts in the state, though two of these are principally centered in Vermont. Sightings from the New Hampshire portion of the Saxton's River count are found in the seasonal summaries. Data from the Barnet, Vermont, count were unavailable. The weather was for the most part quite benign with only one count (Durham) reporting light rain all day, and the Pittsburg count reporting heavy snow in the morning.

The total number of species across all counts was a record 143. This exceeds the previous high by six species. There were six species that tied or set new record high counts for the state. There were 95 individual count high records this year, topping the last two years. There were 17 species new to their respective counts. There were three species making their first appearance on any New Hampshire CBC. The first was a Gyrfalcon seen on the Manchester count. This outstanding raptor was last seen in the state five years ago (see article on page 41). The next species was Ovenbird, tallied on both the Peterborough-Hancock and Hanover-Norwich CBCs. And lastly was the Yellow-headed Blackbird on the Seacoast CBC.



Caption: Ovenbird by David Vernier, 12/23/05, Peterborough, NH.

Waterfowl numbers overall were roughly comparable to last year. Notable concentrations of Common Goldeneye and Hooded Merganser were found on the Laconia count, though not in record number. Also notable was a Canvasback on Coastal CBC and an even rarer Ring-necked Duck on the Laconia CBC. Concord set a new state high for Wood Duck and the Seacoast CBC set a new state high for Redhead. This was only the third record for Redhead on the CBC, all records being from the Seacoast count. The Seacoast count also smashed the previous American Coot record with 23.

Wild Turkey has finally completed its conquest of the state with a first record for Pittsburg. (Note that the Errol CBC's first record of Wild Turkey was last year's CBC, but it was inadvertently omitted from the results presented in the *New Hampshire Bird Records* Winter 2004-05 issue.) Lee-Durham continues to hold the sole Lesser Black-backed Gull record and tied its own previous high of three individuals this count. As for shorebirds, a Killdeer and Black-bellied Plover seen on the Coastal count were notable finds. An interesting curiosity was a hybrid of the western "Red-shafted" and eastern "Yellow-shafted" Northern Flicker seen on the Keene count. An Eastern Phoebe on the Nashua count was a scarce find. This has been noted once previously on the Nashua count in 2001. It was also on the Keene CBC. Nashua set a new state high with Carolina Wren, beating its own previous record by one. Numbers of this species continue to follow an upward trend with a record total count of 35 individuals. As late as 10 years ago there were only three individuals seen! To emphasize the Gray Catbird story for this winter, the Seacoast CBC also set a new state high of four individuals. The Orange-crowned Warbler that spent most of the season at a Merrimack feeder was observed on the Nashua-Hollis count. This is the first inland CBC record as well.

Though overall numbers are down from last year, the generally increasing Red-bellied Woodpecker was new to one count and set four other count highs. Black-capped Chickadee set a new total record of 15,600. In only two other years in the last 10 has their total exceeded 15,000 and most years were substantially below that number. Four counts set new highs for the species.

Individual Count Highlights

Nashua-Hollis

- New state count high: Carolina Wren.
- First count record: Orange-crowned Warbler.
- Count high: Hooded Merganser, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rock Pigeon, Pileated Woodpecker, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Chipping Sparrow.

Turkey Vulture was recorded for the third time. Eastern Screech-Owl was recorded for the second time in count week. Eastern Phoebe and Chipping Sparrow were both recorded for the second time.

Peterborough-Hancock

- First state record: Ovenbird (shared with Hanover-Norwich).
- Count high: Red-bellied Woodpecker, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk.

Keene

- Count high: Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse.

The second record for a hybrid "Red-shafted" and "Yellow-shafted" form of the Northern Flicker was of interest. Ring-billed Gull was seen for the second time.

Seacoast

- First state record: Yellow-headed Blackbird.
- New state count high: Redhead, American Coot, Gray Catbird.
- Count high: Bald Eagle, Red-bellied Woodpecker.

Ruddy Duck was tallied for the fourth time. Peregrine Falcon tied its previous high of two. Vesper Sparrow was seen during count week (there is only one previous Seacoast count record).

Isles-of-Shoals

- First count record: Gray Catbird.
- Count high: Northern Harrier, Ring-billed Gull.

Harlequin Duck was found in near record numbers. Common Merganser was seen for the second time. A Jaeger species is only the second for the count and the third Jaeger for any count. Mourning Dove, Downy Woodpecker, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Hermit Thrush were all seen for the second time. Black-capped Chickadee put in its third appearance for the count.

Lee-Durham

- Count high: Snow Goose, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Chipping Sparrow, Northern Cardinal.

Gadwall was seen for only the second time. Lesser Black-backed Gull tied its previous state high. Dickcissel was seen for the third time.

Concord

- New state count high: Wood Duck.
- First count record: Double-crested Cormorant.
- Count high: Cooper's Hawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Northern Mockingbird, Swamp Sparrow, Northern Cardinal.

Rusty Blackbird was notable, being seen on only one other count.

Laconia

- First count record: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.
- Count high: Great Blue Heron, Cedar Waxwing.

Rusty Blackbird was seen for only the second time on the Laconia CBC, and on only one other count this year.

Hanover-Norwich

- First state record: Ovenbird (shared with Peterborough-Hancock).
- First count record: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (previous record was a questionable sighting).
- Count high: Wild Turkey, Bald Eagle, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, House Sparrow.

Baker Valley

- First count record: Canada Goose.
- Count high: American Black Duck, Barred Owl, Bohemian Waxwing, Northern Cardinal.

Littleton

- First count record: Baltimore Oriole.
 - Count high: Iceland Gull, Glaucous Gull, Bohemian Waxwing, Snow Bunting.
- Rough-legged Hawk was seen for the third time. Carolina Wren was recorded for the first time, but during count week only.

Grafton-Bristol

- First count record: Barred Owl, Snow Bunting.
- Count high: Mallard, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, Horned Grebe, Mourning Dove, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Shrike, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, Brown Creeper, European Starling, Bohemian Waxwing, Northern Cardinal, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, House Sparrow.

Hooded Merganser and Belted Kingfisher were seen for the second time. American Robin was seen for the third time.

Errol-Umbagog

- First count record: Canada Goose.
- Count high: Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Black-capped Chickadee. Pileated Woodpecker tied its previous high of eight set in 1998.



*Wild Turkey by Debbie Stahre,
12/14/05*

Pittsburg

- First count record: Wild Turkey.
 - Count high: Hooded Merganser, Rock Pigeon, Common Raven.
- Red-tailed Hawk was seen for the second time.

North Conway

- Count high: Common Raven, Tufted Titmouse, American Robin.
- Bald Eagle was seen for the second time.

Lake Sunapee

- First count record: Rough-legged Hawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker.
- Count high: Canada Goose, Blue Jay.

Great Blue Heron was seen during count week for the second time. Bohemian Waxwing and Brown-headed Cowbird were seen for the second time. Bald Eagle and Red-winged Blackbird were seen for the third time.

Manchester

- First state record: Gyrfalcon.
- First count record: Hermit Thrush, Savannah Sparrow.
- Count high: Wood Duck, Wild Turkey, Carolina Wren, White-throated Sparrow.

Ruffed Grouse tied the previous count record of two. Double-crested Cormorant and Carolina Wren were seen for the second time. Barred Owl was seen for the third time.

Sandwich

- First count record: Snow Bunting.
- Count high: Mallard, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Common Raven, Tufted Titmouse, House Sparrow.

AMC Crawford Notch

Among the notable sightings for this inaugural count were Gray Jay, Boreal Chickadee, Pine Grosbeak, and White-winged Crossbill.

106th Christmas Bird Count: Dec. 14, 2005 – Jan. 5, 2006

species	Nsh	Pet	Kee	Cst	Isl	Lee	Con	Lac	Han	Bak
Snow Goose	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	486	9	93	3641	15	801	10	64	-	*31
Mute Swan	-	-	-	52	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wood Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	**8	-	-	-
Gadwall	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-
American Wigeon	-	-	-	21	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Black Duck	25	-	3	954	9	200	23	93	15	18
Mallard	666	-	52	1232	-	720	296	938	191	18
Northern Pintail	-	-	-	2	-	CW	-	1	-	-
Green-winged Teal	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canvasback	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Redhead	-	-	-	**5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	150	-	1	-	1	-	-
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Common Eider	-	-	-	63	375	-	-	-	-	-
Harlequin Duck	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	161	25	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	145	6	-	-	-	-	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	34	3	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	148	75	-	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	-	-	-	91	2	75	-	-	-	-
Common Goldeneye	11	-	-	324	1	125	61	263	18	-
Barrow's Goldeneye	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Hooded Merganser	4	-	-	3	-	-	4	121	22	-
Common Merganser	46	-	2	36	3	-	28	72	60	-
Red-br. Merganser	-	-	-	156	17	8	-	1	-	-
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Ruffed Grouse	5	4	-	1	-	8	8	5	2	-
Wild Turkey	63	186	73	41	-	131	20	14	110	19
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	21	2	-	-	-	-	-
Common Loon	-	-	-	132	27	4	-	7	-	-
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	19	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	46	-	-	-	2	-	-
Double-cr. Cormorant	-	-	-	2	-	1	*1	-	-	-
Great Cormorant	-	-	-	9	45	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	3	-	1	4	-	-	2	2	-	-
Turkey Vulture	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bald Eagle	1	1	1	7	-	3	1	5	4	-
Northern Harrier	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8	1	3	6	-	7	2	5	2	-
Cooper's Hawk	8	-	2	12	-	4	5	-	5	-
Northern Goshawk	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	-
Accipiter sp.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-tailed Hawk	49	1	3	60	-	23	11	1	17	-
Rough-legged Hawk	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Kestrel	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-

Lit	Grf	Erl	Pit	Cnw	Sun	Man	San	Amc	Total
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
-	-	*2	-	-	13	167	-	-	5332
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	52
-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	10
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
6	10	1	1	5	15	-	7	-	1385
-	65	1	2	57	136	633	22	12	5041
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	152
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	438
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	186
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	151
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	223
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	168
-	4	-	-	-	-	33	-	-	840
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
3	1	-	6	-	4	1	-	-	169
3	CW	5	7	-	-	41	-	-	303
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	182
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	1	-	5
8	5	1	-	7	CW	2	4	-	60
101	73	*16	*1	75	87	13	82	CW	1105
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	170
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	5
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54
-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	12
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1	CW	-	-	2	1	5	1	-	33
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
-	1	-	-	2	CW	1	6	-	44
CW	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	39
-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
4	-	-	1	3	1	12	1	-	187
1	-	-	-	-	*1	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3

106th Christmas Bird Count (continued)

species	Nsh	Pet	Kee	Cst	Isl	Lee	Con	Lac	Han	Bak
Gyrfalcon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	-	-	-	**23	-	-	-	-	-	-
Black-bellied Plover	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Killdeer	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sanderling	-	-	-	50	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Sandpiper	-	-	-	36	210	-	-	-	-	-
Dunlin	-	-	-	16	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Jaeger sp.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	26	8	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	84	1	CW	920	3	224	11	81	-	-
Herring Gull	107	-	-	2420	750	6975	7	66	1	-
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	2	-	3	-	-	-	-
Lesser Bla.-bac. Gull	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	CW	-	3	-	-	-	-
Great Bla.-bac. Gull	80	-	-	312	50	941	1	38	6	-
Thayer's Gull	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-
Gull sp.	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	54	-	-
Bla.-leg. Kittiwake	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Razorbill	-	-	-	1	37	-	-	-	-	-
Black Guillemot	-	-	-	6	36	-	-	-	-	-
Alcid sp.	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rock Pigeon	1527	139	121	1022	-	493	704	139	552	79
Mourning Dove	566	206	251	457	1	582	258	233	551	166
Eastern Screech-Owl CW	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Horned Owl	-	1	-	4	-	-	1	-	-	-
Snowy Owl	-	-	-	CW	2	-	-	-	-	-
Barred Owl	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	5	2	4
N. Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	6	1	1	-	-	3	1	1	-	-
Red-bel. Woodpecker	22	7	4	14	-	3	3	-	-	-
Ylw.-bel. Sapsucker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*1	*1	-
Downy Woodpecker	178	59	68	95	1	98	83	90	119	35
Hairy Woodpecker	74	40	36	29	-	33	35	62	82	26
Bla.-bac. Woodpecker-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Flicker	6	-	-	14	2	5	1	-	-	-
Redxyellow Flicker s	-	-	**2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pileated Woodpecker	13	8	-	2	-	2	6	11	10	3
Eastern Phoebe	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Shrike	1	-	-	3	-	4	1	1	2	-
Gray Jay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	657	736	299	498	-	504	569	818	581	275
American Crow	494	237	266	1172	-	365	399	230	2800	45
Common Raven	3	19	14	-	-	7	10	2	28	14
Horned Lark	-	-	25	76	-	-	25	-	-	-
Black-cap. Chickadee	980	927	1003	943	1	1847	698	1106	1956	640
Boreal Chickadee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tufted Titmouse	287	90	131	180	-	254	169	85	117	27
Red-br. Nuthatch	51	25	40	57	-	110	29	41	53	10

+= New species for the state *=New species to count

Lit	Grf	Erl	Pit	Cnw	Sun	Man	San	Amc	Total
-	-	-	-	-	-	+1	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	246
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34
7	-	-	-	-	-	53	-	-	1384
37	-	-	-	1	-	200	-	-	10564
2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
22	-	-	-	-	-	33	-	-	1483
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	55
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
80	9	-	13	64	41	894	4	-	5881
169	151	8	-	199	51	155	175	1	4180
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
2	*1	1	-	2	1	1	6	-	28
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
1	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	17
-	-	-	-	-	-	*1	-	-	54
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
24	35	32	6	43	24	24	64	4	1083
37	32	37	10	34	21	14	71	9	682
1	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	6
-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	31
-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	2
5	4	8	4	4	3	3	5	-	91
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
2	2	-	-	-	1	1	4	-	22
-	-	4	3	-	-	-	-	7	14
217	553	26	10	284	464	199	522	8	7220
94	83	10	20	234	73	453	58	2	7035
79	19	78	103	101	8	2	55	11	553
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	126
620	742	629	343	843	545	497	1171	109	15600
2	-	3	5	-	-	-	9	1	20
2	32	-	-	55	12	76	107	4	1628
27	18	22	4	27	15	16	33	1	579

=New count high for the state **New individual count high

106th Christmas Bird Count (continued)

species	Nsh	Pet	Kee	Cst	Isl	Lee	Con	Lac	Han	Bak
White-br. Nuthatch	230	138	111	122	-	177	137	116	140	60
Brown Creeper	10	7	7	13	-	14	12	9	7	1
Carolina Wren	**9	1	2	2	-	2	7	1	5	-
Winter Wren	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-
Golden-cr. Kinglet	21	16	17	14	-	33	8	4	3	2
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	5	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Bluebird	47	-	6	35	-	51	-	-	-	-
Hermit Thrush	1	-	1	2	1	-	1	-	-	-
American Robin	890	14	19	724	-	1118	23	34	3	-
Gray Catbird	-	-	-	**4	*1	-	-	-	-	-
N. Mockingbird	61	-	9	57	-	30	23	4	2	-
European Starling	900	168	402	7340	8	2122	1054	537	774	56
Bohemian Waxwing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	144	22
Cedar Waxwing	828	177	157	486	-	619	155	685	287	-
Orange-cr. Warbler *1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ylw.-rumped Warbler	-	-	-	2	4	-	-	-	-	-
Ovenbird	-	+1	-	-	-	-	-	-	+1	-
Am. Tree Sparrow	295	75	108	266	-	276	118	114	162	26
Chipping Sparrow	2	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
Field Sparrow	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vesper Sparrow	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-
Savannah Sparrow	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fox Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-
Song Sparrow	48	1	13	154	5	53	39	8	7	1
Swamp Sparrow	-	-	-	5	-	2	2	-	-	-
White-thr. Sparrow	23	2	2	89	-	36	14	2	6	-
Dark-eyed Junco	390	64	147	323	-	205	165	107	94	3
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	-	-	6	8	-	7	-	14	4	-
Northern Cardinal	208	41	40	137	3	166	85	76	102	23
Dickcissel	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Red-winged Blackbird	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Yellow-head. Blackbird	-	-	-	+1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	-
Common Grackle	-	-	-	CW	-	1	-	-	-	-
Br.-headed Cowbird	-	1	-	204	-	6	1	1	-	-
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	7
Purple Finch	1	5	8	6	-	2	11	7	CW	-
House Finch	195	4	67	304	-	176	68	133	111	-
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whi.-wing. Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Common Redpoll	-	14	51	10	-	3	13	119	239	53
Pine Siskin	CW	6	-	-	-	-	1	6	8	-
American Goldfinch	652	150	211	623	-	595	289	122	419	49
Evening Grosbeak	2	6	22	-	-	-	-	-	69	25
House Sparrow	945	179	259	1188	-	849	454	360	727	39
Number of Species	60	43	48	99	36	69	61	62	52	30
Number of Participants	63	35	29	40	21	29	18	18	19	10

Total Number of Species Across all CBCs: 143

CW = Count Week

Nsh = Nashua-Hollis (1/02/2006)

Pet = Peterborough-Hancock (12/17/2005)

Kee = Keene (12/17/2005)

Cst = Seacoast (12/17/2005)

Isl = Isles-of-Shoals (12/18/2005)

Lee = Lee-Durham (12/26/2005)

Con = Concord (12/18/2005)

Lac = Laconia-New-Hampton

(12/31/2005)

Bak = Baker-Valley (12/18/2005)

Han = Hanover-Norwich (1/1/2006)

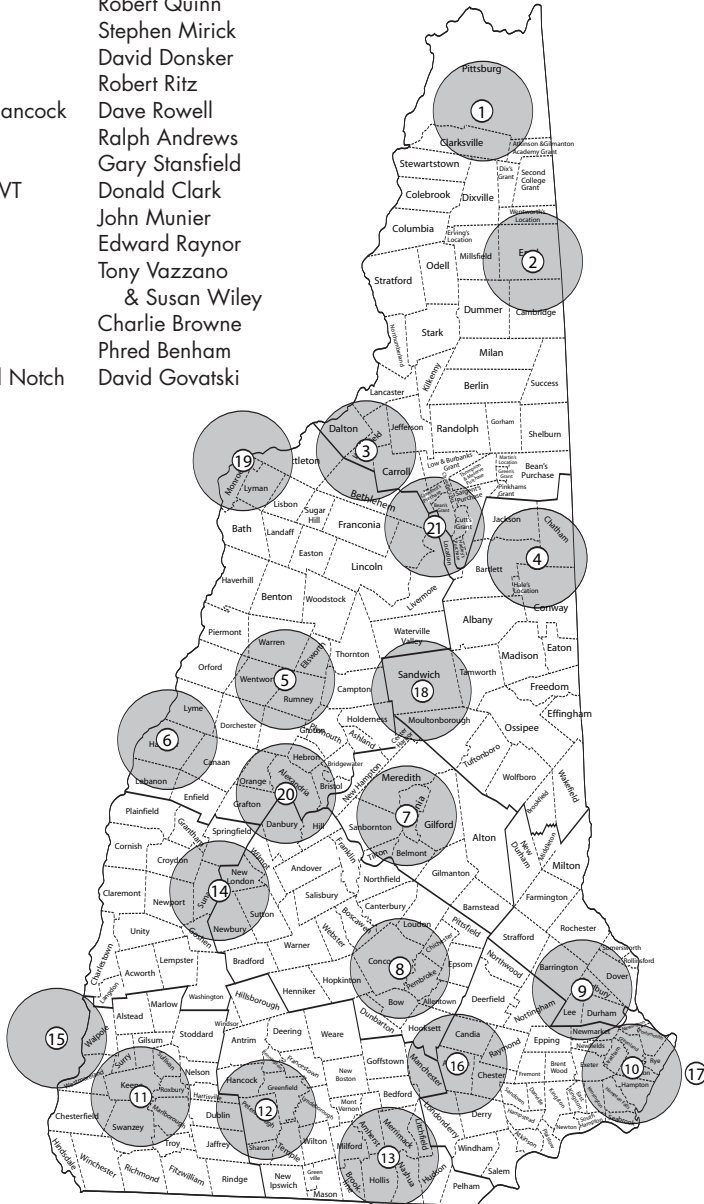
Lit	Grf	Erl	Pit	Cnw	Sun	Man	San	Amc	Total
35	51	4	-	63	46	71	145	8	1654
5	14	1	3	7	1	3	12	-	126
CW	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	31
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
7	7	26	20	9	5	7	2	-	201
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	139
-	-	-	-	-	-	*1	-	-	7
1	2	-	-	8	1	5	1	-	2843
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	195
348	92	-	97	19	59	761	44	-	14781
38	353	4	-	13	2	-	31	-	612
16	32	-	-	7	28	54	15	-	3546
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
31	14	3	1	44	15	39	21	-	1608
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
-	-	-	-	-	-	*4	-	-	8
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
-	-	-	-	2	-	11	2	-	344
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
1	-	-	-	-	6	12	1	-	194
14	24	5	-	8	16	116	31	-	1712
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
32	*30	-	1	5	-	-	*18	-	125
11	19	-	-	6	13	58	14	2	1004
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	214
*1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
42	12	29	85	12	5	-	CW	2	195
-	-	-	3	8	-	-	-	-	51
12	-	-	-	4	4	24	-	-	1102
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	0
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	7
61	90	95	228	15	1	1	164	-	1157
CW	30	3	-	-	-	-	1	3	58
90	34	-	2	48	81	101	55	-	3521
82	13	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	233
27	182	-	-	15	55	391	143	-	5813
48	40	30	27	38	43	51	40	17	
8	17	12	15	19	11	11	23	13	

Lit = Littleton (12/18/2005)
 Grf = Grafton (12/31/2005)
 Erl = Errol-Umbagog (12/21/2005)
 Pit = Pittsburg (12/20/2005)
 Cnw = North-Conway (12/30/2005)

Sun = Lake-Sunapee (12/17/2005)
 Man = Manchester (12/17/2005)
 San = Sandwich (12/31/2005)
 Amc = AMC-Crawford (12/17/2005)

Christmas Bird Count Compilers

- | | | |
|----|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Pittsburg | David Govatski |
| 2 | Errol-Umbagog | Chris Martin |
| 3 | Littleton | David Govatski |
| 4 | North Conway | Tin Mtn. Conservation Ctr. |
| 5 | Baker Valley | John Williams |
| 6 | Hanover-Norwich | Walter Ellison & Nancy Martin |
| 7 | Laconia-New Hampton | Pam Hunt |
| 8 | Concord | Robert Quinn |
| 9 | Lee-Durham | Stephen Mirick |
| 10 | Coastal | David Donsker |
| 11 | Keene | Robert Ritz |
| 12 | Peterborough-Hancock | Dave Rowell |
| 13 | Nashua-Hollis | Ralph Andrews |
| 14 | Lake Sunapee | Gary Stansfield |
| 15 | Saxton's River, VT | Donald Clark |
| 16 | Manchester | John Munier |
| 17 | Isles of Shoals | Edward Raynor |
| 18 | Sandwich | Tony Vazzano
& Susan Wiley |
| 19 | Barnet, VT | Charlie Browne |
| 20 | Grafton-Bristol | Phred Benham |
| 21 | AMC Crawford Notch | David Govatski |



Spotlight on Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*)

by Kathie Palfy and Rebecca Suomala

Background

The Gyrfalcon, the largest of all falcons, is a member of the *Falconidae* family, which also includes Caracaras. Gyrfalcon's range includes the arctic regions of North America, Greenland, Europe, and Asia. There are two color forms, white and dark, but an intermediate, gray plumage is described in most field guides.

Breeding and Winter Range

The Gyrfalcon breeds in the Canadian Arctic Islands and coastal plain and in Alaska as well as the northern Canadian provinces. It prefers expansive open places on the edges of tundra marshes and boreal forests with rocky cliffs for nests. This species does not breed in New Hampshire. Little is known about the winter status of this falcon on its breeding range and it does not winter regularly south of the Canadian border. A significant number of sightings gives some evidence of fixed winter ranges.

Occurrence in New Hampshire

One of the earliest reports of a Gyrfalcon in New Hampshire came from C. J. Maynard from Errol, New Hampshire (Maynard 1871, Allen 1903). He reported a sighting of a white Gyrfalcon on November 5, 1868, flying high above the snow-covered mountains heading north. However, both Allen (1903) and Forbush (1927)* indicated that the identification was not sufficiently positive and suggested the possibility of an albino hawk. Charles F. Goodhue (1922) reported a single record of a "black" Gyrfalcon in January 1891 that was mistakenly shot near Milford on Lyndeboro Mountain. He knew of no other Gyrfalcon specimens that had been taken in New Hampshire prior to this date. He considered its appearance here to be entirely accidental.

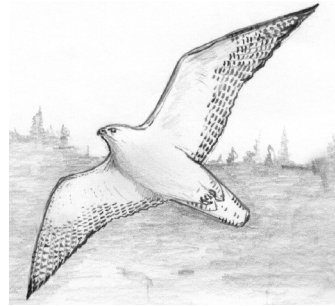
Table 1 shows the New Hampshire Gyrfalcon records since the early 1960s. (We did not search the New Hampshire Audubon publications that contain records prior to the 1960s, but see Data Sources at the end of this article for other publications searched.) Several reports of possible Gyrfalcons, submitted without an accompanying description, are not included in the table. In each instance only one bird was reported. Five reports were in spring and three in winter.

Table 1. Gyrfalcon reports in New Hampshire, circa 1963 through May, 2006.

Date	Town	Location	Phase	Notes
3/28/1966	Greenland		white	description
3/26/1969	Rye	Eel Pond	white	photo reportedly taken
2/17/1970	Amherst		white	documented
4/20/1975	Bristol	Peaked Hill	dark	description
3/1/1993	Franconia		white	documented
1/1/2001	Lancaster	Grange Rd.	gray	documented
12/17/2005	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	dark	documented
3/12/2006	Gilford	Intervale Rd.	dark	photographed

Comments

Early records considered the different color phases of Gyrfalcons as distinct species, subspecies, or races. We no longer recognize these subspecies based on plumage variation. Early identification of the Gyrfalcon was from dead specimens that had been shot or killed and now reside in museum collections. There are records of specimens going back to the late 1800s from Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire. Early reports from these states describe Gyrfalcons as very rare or accidental winter visitors. In Massachusetts, Gyrfalcons have been regular since 1955 and *Birds of Massachusetts* considers the species as a rare but regular winter visitor.



Gyrfalcon by Iain C. MacLeod

The majority of New Hampshire records have been in March. Breeding begins at the end of April and these birds may be passing through as they return to their arctic breeding grounds. This would be consistent with the one-day nature of their occurrences, as described below. Movement out of the breeding areas begins in late August and September.

In Massachusetts all but a few sightings have been from coastal areas. Of the eight reports in New Hampshire, only one could be considered coastal. Only the bird seen in 2006 remained for more than one day. This bird was in the Lakes Region at the time when waterfowl were gathering during migration, providing a good potential food source. Wintering Gyrfalcons in the Northeast are frequently found near areas with congregations of waterfowl such as Plum Island and Lake Champlain. Massachusetts has recorded only four inland reports, with one being at Quabbin Reservoir in 1982. This also was the year (1981–82) that larger than normal influxes of Gyrfalcons were seen in southern Canada and the northern United States. Gyrfalcons wintering outside their normal range have usually been immatures and subadults.

* Forbush (1927) states the year for this sighting as 1898; however, all other references list it as 1868. Forbush and Goodhue (1922) both list the date as November 4, citing a publication by Maynard that we were unable to obtain.

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- Forbush, E., 1927. *Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States*, Part II. Land Birds from Bob-whites to Grackles. Massachusetts Dept. of Agriculture, Boston, MA.
- Goodhue, C., 1922. *Fifty Years Among the Birds of New Hampshire*. Unpublished manuscript, reprinted in 1994 by New Hampshire Audubon, Concord, NH.
- Maynard, C., 1871. A Catalogue of the Birds of Coos County, NH, and Oxford County, ME. *Proceeding of the Boston Society of Natural History*, Volume XIV, Oct. 18, 1871.

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

Data Sources

The following data sources were searched for records of this species. 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, Massachusetts.

New Hampshire Bird Records and archives, circa 1963 through May, 2006. New Hampshire Audubon, 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.

Backyard Birder

Daytime Encounters with Barred Owls

by Kiah Walker



Barred Owl by Kiah Walker

New Hampshire Audubon received an e-mail at the end of January relating an interesting encounter with a Barred Owl. Gayle Noel had, for the past week, been seeing a Barred Owl perching in the trees right next to her house. Oftentimes, this would be in broad daylight. The owl did not seem to have any interest in the red squirrels, chickadees, or other small birds, although it once swooped down to get a mole. It seemed unusual that this bird was not only out in the open during the day, but also ignoring what might normally have been its prey. Another report of a Barred Owl from Dave Killam in Columbia said the owl stayed in the trees near the house for a number of days, apparently watching for rodents around the bird feeder all day, although it did not take any birds. He said there had been several other owls (at least four, if not five) in the area as well.

However, these occurrences are not as uncommon as it may seem. Over the years, many owls have visited my own house during the day, particularly in winter. Once, a Barred Owl even sat on the roof rack of our car. Another hung around for more than a week. Meanwhile, all the chickadees, nuthatches, redpolls, titmice, and other birds at our almost constantly busy feeder went about their business as usual.

The Barred Owl is a fairly large owl, although smaller than the Great Horned Owl and without ear tufts. Its color is predominately gray, with dark barring across its breast and vertical streaking below. Its eyes are brown—the only owl in the northeast not to have yellow eyes. It has excellent eyesight, even in broad daylight. (The belief that owls can see only at night is a myth.) Its diet consists mainly of small rodents and birds, some-

times up to the size of a Ruffed Grouse. It may also eat reptiles, amphibians, and fish, though in smaller quantities. Some references state that Barred Owls feed mainly on a variety of mice.

Barred Owls reside mainly in dense coniferous or mixed forests, preferably forests with a clear understory so as to more easily spot their prey. They are not migratory, so during the winter they will stay in their home woods and in their pairs. (These are lifelong pairs, and they will nest on the same site every year, unless it is unusable.) However, prey may be scarce and one of the owls is sometimes forced to leave in order to find enough food. It is sometimes believed that the females, being larger and generally dominant, may force the males out, but this has never actually been proven. A single owl (probably the male) will sometimes show up in neighborhoods or suburban areas, often in late winter. The owl may rest near feeders, which attract birds, squirrels, and other small rodents, often in daylight. Even in summer and in their home woods, there is much evidence that Barred Owls hunt in daylight.



Barred Owl by Fred Tyrrell, 2/23/06, Center Harbor, NH.

This would explain part of the behavior, but why will the owl often leave the birds and the squirrels alone? First, it may depend on the owl. For instance, if rodents are readily available, an owl's diet in that area might consist mainly of rodents, and it may not prey on birds. In addition, if the theory that Barred Owls eat mainly mice is true, they may simply be waiting for mice, and not even be interested in the birds or squirrels. Therefore, Barred Owls may be out in the day around neighborhoods and human residences in order to find food when it is scarce, and they don't necessarily take birds or even squirrels simply because they are not part of this particular owl's diet.

As you can see, the appearance of a Barred Owl in your backyard during the daytime does not mean there is anything wrong with it. The owl may just be searching for food and you can enjoy the chance to see these normally nocturnal and secretive birds.

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- Foss, C., ed. 1994. *Atlas of Breeding Birds in New Hampshire*. Audubon Society of New Hampshire, Concord, NH.
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- Terres, J., 1980. *Audubon Encyclopedia of North American Birds*. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, NY.

Kiah Walker is 13 years old and attends eighth grade at the Hillsborough-Deering Middle School. She lives in Deering and is interested in birds and wildlife.

Photo Gallery

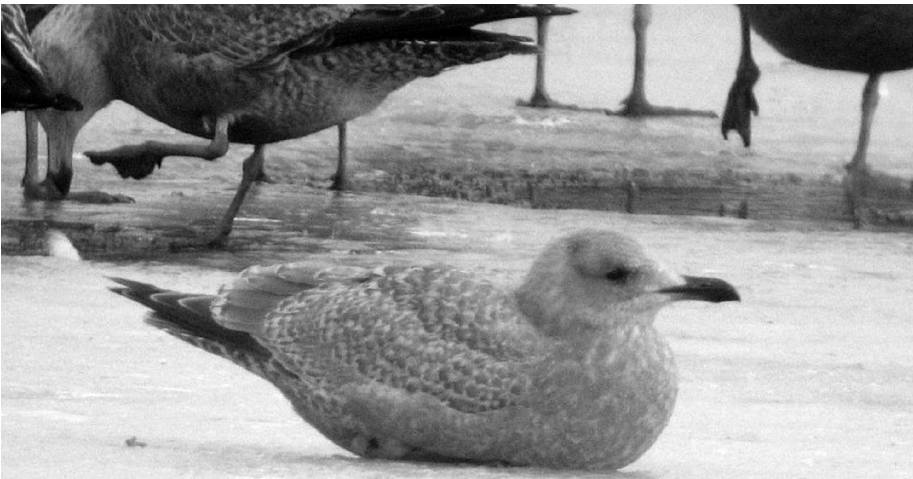
Thayer's Gull in Rochester

by Kathie Palfy

This photo gallery provides a good example of how to photograph a bird for documentation as a rare bird. While visiting the Rochester wastewater treatment plant, Steve Mirick happened upon a group of gulls, and one seemed more interesting than all of the others. Having seen a large variation in Iceland (Kumlien's) Gulls, strange-looking Herring Gulls, and apparent hybrid gulls, he thought that this bird seemed to



Good comparison of size and shape with the nearby Herring Gull.



A comparison of darkness of breast to darkness of primary tips.

be the closest that he had found to fit Thayer's Gull. This would be a new species for New Hampshire and he would need good documentation to prove that what he saw could also be confirmed by others as a Thayer's Gull.

Below are several of the many photos Steve took to show the different aspects of the bird's plumage, size, shape, age, bill, legs, and other characteristics. These are the kinds of photos needed to document a bird like this which is not only difficult to identify, but is also a first state record. (The Rare Birds Committee has not yet reviewed this sighting.)

All photos by Stephen R. Mirick, 12-28-05, Rochester wastewater treatment plant, Rochester, NH.



A good profile showing the shape of the bill.



Good comparison to Herring Gulls of shape, length, and color of legs.

New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee Report

The following report from the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee (NHRBC) contains decisions for older, historical bird reports. The NHRBC is an independent technical advisory committee to *New Hampshire Bird Records*. It reviews unusual sightings in an effort to maintain accuracy and scientific integrity for the historical database of bird sightings maintained by New Hampshire Audubon. Sightings are evaluated based on the details submitted. In order to be accepted by the Committee, a record can have only one dissenting vote. For information on the Committee and its decision making process, please see the article in the Summer 1996 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*. Since that article was written, some changes have been made to the NHRBC's structure and procedural methods. For example, the membership of the committee has been expanded to eight and the season editors of *New Hampshire Bird Records* are no longer automatically assigned to the Committee.

A rejection of a submitted sighting is not necessarily an indication that the identification was incorrect but that the information received was not sufficient to allow its inclusion in the state record. Adequate documentation is the key to whether a report is accepted or not. The Fall 1996 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* has an article on how to document rare bird sightings. Contact the *New Hampshire Bird Records* Managing Editor for a copy of either *New Hampshire Bird Records* articles.

Please note that the following reports were reviewed by the NHRBC a number of years ago, prior to the terms of most current Committee members. While we have tried to provide information on why a record was not accepted, that information was not always available.

Winter 1989-90

Accepted

Varied Thrush, 2-25 & 2-26-90, Highland Avenue, Antrim.
Orange-crowned Warbler, 12-16-89, off Great Bay Road, Greenland.
Dark-eyed Junco - Oregon subspecies, 1-11-90, Hammond Hollow, Gilsum.

Not Accepted

Broad-winged Hawk, 2-5-90, downtown Henniker. Description did not exclude Cooper's Hawk.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 2 on 2-11-90, Route 26, Millsfield.

Winter 1990-91

Accepted

Greater White-fronted Goose, 12-16-90, Seacoast Christmas Bird Count, Pease Air Force Base, Newington. Photograph.
Tundra Swan, 6 on 12-14-90, Connecticut River, Hanover.
Great Gray Owl, 12-21-90, Welch Road residence, Canterbury.

Not Accepted

Turkey Vulture, 2-9-91, North River Road, Milford. Insufficient details to eliminate other larger soaring birds.
Gyr Falcon, 2-23-91, Ossipee Aggregates, Ossipee.
Dovekie, 12-4-90, Route 25, Warren.
Great Gray Owl, 2-5-91, Hazen Drive, Concord.
Great Gray Owl, 2-19-91, Cleveland Hill Road, Tamworth.

Spring 1991

Accepted

Tundra Swan, 3/27/91, Turkey Pond, Concord.
 Wilson's Phalarope, 5-27-91, Lake Umbagog, Errol.
 Band-tailed Pigeon, 3-6-91, Ledgeview Drive, North Conway.
 Cerulean Warbler, 5-16-91, Mt. Wantastiquet, Hinsdale.
 Kentucky Warbler, 5-18-91, Odiome Point State Park, Rye.
 Blue Grosbeak, 5/11/91, Winchester Street, Swanzey.

Not Accepted

Buff-breasted Sandpiper, 5-19-91, Hampton River, Hampton. Unusual habitat. Insufficient details.
 Lesser Black-backed Gull, 5-30-91, Rye Harbor State Park, Rye. Details submitted do not exclude Herring Gull.
 Eastern Wood-Pewee, 3-5-91, Steammill Hill Road, Brookline. Very early date. Insufficient details.

Summer 1991

Accepted

Franklin's Gull, 6-1-91, Jenness Beach, Rye. Photo.
 Acadian Flycatcher, 7-7 and 7-13-91, Pawtuckaway State Park, Nottingham.
 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 6-19-91, Star Island, Isles of Shoals, Rye. Photo.
 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 6-27-91, Buffalo Road, Rumney.
 American Pipit, 6 and a nest on 6-29-91, Mount Washington, Thompson & Meserves Purchase. Photo of nest. First state breeding record.
 American Pipit, 7 with evidence of breeding on 7-12-91, Mount Washington, Thompson & Meserves Purchase.

Fall 1991

Accepted

Leach's Storm-Petrel, 9-20-91, ocean off New Castle.
 Franklin's Gull, 9-12-91 and 9-17-91, Jenness Beach, Rye.
 Royal Tern, 8-20-91, Hampton Beach State Park, Hampton
 Royal Tern, 8-20-91, Rye Harbor, Rye.
 Sandwich Tern, 8-20-91, Seabrook Harbor, Seabrook. Photograph.
 Black Skimmer, 8-21-91, s. side of Hampton Harbor bridge, Seabrook. A second report of two birds at the same location on 8-22-91 had no additional details and only one bird could be accepted for that date.
 Northern Hawk Owl, 11-9-91, Creampoke Road, Stewartstown.
 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, 10-3-91, McDowell Dam, Peterborough.

Not Accepted

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, 10-23-91, Pine River Pond, N. Wakefield.
 Tundra Swan, 12 on 10-3-91, Dyke Road, Sugar Hill.
 Rough-legged Hawk, 8-30-91, Chase Wildlife Sanctuary, Hopkinton.
 Fork-tailed Flycatcher, 8-21-91, New Hampton Conservation Area, New Hampton.
 Prothonotary Warbler, 10-16-91, New Hampton Conservation Area, New Hampton.
 Western Tanager, 8-13-91, West Salisbury Road, Salisbury. Insufficient details to eliminate Scarlet Tanager in molt.
 Black-headed Grosbeak, 8-1-91, Derby Road, Derry.

Winter 91-92

Accepted

Laughing Gull, 12-14-91, Hampton Beach State Park, Hampton.
 Lesser Black-backed Gull, 1-31-92, Jenness Beach, Rye.

Not Accepted

Gyr Falcon, 1-26-92, Odiome Point, Rye.
 Mew Gull, 12-18-91, found injured on Milford Street in Manchester.

Barn Owl, 12-5-91, Manchester dump.
 Varied Thrush, 12-6-91, Route 13 residence, Dunbarton.

Spring 1992

Accepted

Black Vulture, 4-4-92, Route 4 at Cold Brook, Boscawen.
 Sandhill Crane, 3-24-92, Route 13, Dunbarton.
 American Oystercatcher, 5-10-92, Seabrook Harbor, Seabrook.
 Yellow-throated Warbler, 5-16-92, Route 12 rest area, Walpole.

Not Accepted

Tundra Swan, 2 on 4-27-92, seen from River Road, Hanover. Vague description did not exclude Mute Swan or other white waterfowl.
 Great Gray Owl, 4-18-92, Kancamagus Highway, Albany. Eye color not noted. Description does not exclude Barred Owl.
 Loggerhead Shrike, 3-4-92, Moody Point, Newmarket. Description does not exclude Northern Shrike.
 Gray Jay, 5-10-92, Old Antrim Road feeder, Hancock. Insufficient details.
 Black-headed Grosbeak, May 1992, Old County Lane, Deering. Description does not exclude female Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Summer 1992

Accepted

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, 6-10-92, Constable Road, Durham.
 Red-necked Phalarope (male), 6-6-92, Exeter wastewater treatment plant.
 Royal Tern (adult in alternate plumage), 6-7-92, headland north of Foss Beach, Rye.
 Yellow-throated Warbler (female), 7-18-92, Payne Road near Mascoma Lake dam, Lebanon.
 Blue Grosbeak, 7-4 & 7-7-92, Hollis residence.

Fall 1992

Accepted

Little Egret, 8-2-92, Depot Road, Hampton Falls.
 Tundra Swan, 5 on 10-16-92, from Route 10 over the Connecticut River in Hanover.
 Baird's Sandpiper, 10-17-92, Rye Harbor State Park, Rye.
 Red Phalarope, 11-8-92, Dorchester Road, Lyme.
 Caspian Tern, 3 on 9-6-92, New Hampshire coast.
 Caspian Tern, 2 on 8-23-92, Hampton Harbor, Seabrook.
 Long-eared Owl, 9-20-92, Star Island, Isles of Shoals, Rye.
 Connecticut Warbler, 9-19-92, railroad tracks near Lebanon town line, Enfield.
 Chestnut-collared Longspur, 11-29-92, East Deering Road, Deering. Photographed. First state record.

Not Accepted

Pacific Golden-Plover, 10-2-92, Kidder Brook Estuary, Little Lake Sunapee, New London.
 Little Gull, 10-11-92, near Rye Harbor State Park, Rye. Bonaparte's Gull was not eliminated.
 Barn Owl, 9-24-92, Straw Road, Hopkinton. Insufficient description and size inconsistent with Barn Owl.

Winter 1992-93

Accepted

Long-eared Owl, 2-25-93, Burdett Street, Keene. Photographed.
 Brown Thrasher, throughout winter 1992-93, West Stearns Avenue, Hooksett.
 Green-tailed Towhee, 12-10 & 12-12-92, Bradford Road, Keene. First state record

Not Accepted

Great Gray Owl, 12-7 & 12-19-92 and 1-3-93, Old Canaan Road, Strafford.

Answer to the Photo Quiz

by David B. Donsker

Considering the size of this bird relative to the contents of the tube feeder on which it is feeding, our subject is obviously a small perching bird. Its small size coupled with its short, sharp conical bill places it in only one of two likely families: *Emberizidae* (Sparrows and their kin) or *Fringillidae* (Finches).

Looking at the plumage details we can see that our bird has a clear breast and underparts that are devoid of any streaks or barring. The markings on its head, on the other hand, are more complex. It has a distinct crown, which is faintly darkly streaked. There is an ill defined, thin white median crown stripe that is limited to the forehead, just above the base of the bill. There is a prominent white supercilium, or eyebrow, that extends from just above the base of the bill (the supraloral) to the nape or the back of the head. The lores (the space between the base of the bill and the eye) are dark. The eye itself demonstrates a thin broken eye ring. There is a fairly strongly outlined triangular cheek patch, or auricular. The upper margin of this outline is formed by a distinct dark eye-line that extends well behind the eye. The throat is contrastingly white and is bordered by a prominent dark lateral throat stripe. Between this lateral throat stripe and the front margin of the auriculars is an indistinct, gray malar stripe. The wings and back of this bird cannot be seen in the photograph, so any field marks associated with them are not helpful to us.

None of our smaller finches with short, sharp bills has the general plumage characteristics of this bird. Pine Siskin and Common Redpoll have streaking on their breasts or flanks. Male Hoary Redpoll has relatively clear underparts and the underparts of American Goldfinch are completely clear, but neither of these species shows the complex facial pattern of this bird.

None of the “non-sparrow” members of the *Emberizidae* that are delicate enough to even be considered here show the combination of clear underparts and the complex facial pattern of this individual. Juncos and Snow Buntings have clear or relatively unmarked underparts, but simple facial patterns. Longspurs, which do have complex facial patterns, have streaked underparts and other structural differences.

So, that leaves the sparrows themselves. There are many approaches to looking at sparrows but one easy “first cut” is to separate those with streaked breasts from those in which the breast lacks streaking. With this bird’s perfectly clear underparts, we can eliminate all of our streak-breasted sparrows—Song, Fox, Lincoln’s, Savannah, Vesper, and Harris’s Sparrows. Because of this bird’s feeding behavior, we can also eliminate species unlikely to be seen at a bird feeder—Seaside, LeConte’s, Henslow’s, and the two Sharp-tailed Sparrows.

Lark Sparrow lacks breast streaks, but typically shows a distinctive central breast spot. Besides, its facial pattern is bolder than that shown in this bird and is even more complex with, for example, a white crescent below the eye, a much whiter malar, and a stronger lateral throat stripe. In addition, its proportions are completely different. Lark Sparrow is large with a long, broadly tipped tail. Similar in proportions to this bird, but also sharing a central breast spot and thus eliminated from the running, is American Tree Sparrow.

The sparrows that have been recorded in New Hampshire that have unmarked, unstreaked breasts include Grasshopper Sparrow, White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows, adult Swamp Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, and Clay-colored Sparrow.

It would be unlikely to see a Grasshopper Sparrow at a bird feeder. Besides, this grass-land specialist has different proportions from our photographed bird. Like other members of its genus, *Ammodramus*, it is relatively large-headed with a more sloping forehead and a proportionally large bill. Unlike this bird, it doesn't have a strong triangular auricular patch, but rather a pale face with a distinctive spot behind the auriculars. Finally, it has a white median crown stripe running down the center of the top of its head.

White-crowned Sparrow has an even stronger median crown stripe, which in adult birds is broad and white and in young birds is buffy. Besides, it is proportionally larger and longer tailed than the bird shown here and has a much plainer lower facial pattern.

The rather distinctive white throat of our featured bird might suggest White-throated Sparrow. But that species is proportioned similarly to the closely-related White-crowned Sparrow and, like that species, also has a broad median crown stripe.

Adult Swamp Sparrow has many of the field marks seen on this bird including the rather solid crown, clear breast, and white throat. However, unlike this bird, it lacks a contrasting white supercilium. Rather, its eyebrow is grayish and similar in tone to the nape and the upper breast. It is also a larger, more robust species.

The final three species of sparrow, all in the genus *Spizella*, are similarly proportioned. All are small, even delicate sparrows with rounded heads and tails of medium length. Field Sparrow is the most distinctive in all plumages. Unlike its congeners (other members of its genus), Field Sparrow has a shorter, stouter, all pink bill, and a relatively plain face that lacks distinctive facial striping. This, coupled with its complete narrow eye-ring, gives it, in the words of Roger T. Peterson, a "blank expression."

That leaves us the closely related Chipping and Clay-colored Sparrows. Adults in the spring are really quite distinctive: Chipping Sparrow has a solid rufous crown, a white supercilium, and a strong black line completely through the eye to the base of the bill. Clay-colored Sparrow, in contrast, has a heavily streaked crown with a pale median crown stripe and a sharply outlined brown ear patch. However, in the autumn their non-breeding plumage "converge on a generalized head pattern" (Kaufman 1990) that is rather similar to a faded version of Clay-colored's breeding plumage: a rather sharply outlined triangular auricular and a finely streaked crown with a faint median crown stripe.

Because of these plumage similarities, it is not at all uncommon for an autumn Chipping Sparrow to be mistaken for the much rarer, and thus quite desirable, Clay-colored Sparrow. However similar these two species may be, there are plumage differences that help to separate them in the fall.

One highly touted difference, which is not at all helpful to us when examining the photograph, is rump color. Adult Clay-colored Sparrows have pale brown rumps. Adult Chipping Sparrows have gray rumps. However, juvenile Chipping Sparrows have brown rumps and although an individual bird should have a gray rump by the time it has lost its juvenile breast streaking, a brown rump should not be used as a sole criterion for identification in difficult individuals. Besides, it is very hard to see the rump in a bird that is feeding on the ground where it is obscured by the folded wings. If perched or in flight, the rump may be better observed.

A much easier difference to discern between these two species is the color of their lores, the spot between the eye and the base of the bill. In Chipping Sparrow, the lores are dark. In Clay-colored Sparrow the lores are pale, similar in tone to the color of the supercilium. This is a very good field mark, although in some Chipping Sparrows the lores may be only faintly darker, giving some individuals an indeterminate appearance.

Most adult Chipping Sparrows retain some rufous in their crowns in autumn. In some individuals, the crown remains substantially rufous but has black streaks. These birds are easily identified as Chipping Sparrows. But other adult Chipping Sparrows may lose the rufous completely. Clay-colored Sparrow never has rufous in the crown. Unfortunately, the color of the crown cannot be discerned in our featured bird. Importantly, the median crown stripe is usually much stronger in Clay-colored Sparrow than it is in fall Chipping Sparrow.

Finally, although both species have rather sharply outlined auriculars in the fall, the intensity of this outline differs between the two species. In Clay-colored Sparrow, the strength of the outline is relatively uniform around the entire perimeter. In particular the moustachial stripe that forms the front lower border of the outline is similar in intensity to the eye stripe that forms the upper border. In Chipping Sparrow the moustachial stripe is always fainter than the dark eye stripe.

With its faint medial crown stripe limited to the forehead, a moustachial stripe that is weaker than the prominent dark eye line and, especially, its dark lores, our featured bird is an adult Chipping Sparrow.

This excellent photograph of an adult Chipping Sparrow in non-breeding plumage was obtained by Mike Harvey at his feeders in Windham, New Hampshire, on December 20, 2005. This is a late date for this species in New Hampshire. This common breeding bird arrives from its wintering grounds in the southern United States and Mexico in mid-April. Most leave the state by the end of October, but a few stragglers stay around into December. By the time winter finally sets in, they are usually all gone.



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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	NHA 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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Orange-crowned Warbler by Ronald Carr, 12/14/05, Merrimack, NH.

While most migrants flew south, the mild weather in the winter of 2005-06 caused many to linger well into the colder months of January and February. An Orange-crowned Warbler visited a feeder for several days in Merrimack. Other notable warblers seen included Pine Warblers in Thornton, Seabrook, and Portsmouth; a Black-and-white Warbler in Deerfield; an “Audubon’s” Yellow-rumped Warbler in Rye; and a Palm Warbler in Hampton. Ovenbirds were photographed in Peterborough and Hanover. Baltimore Orioles were seen feeding at feeders in Dover, Contoocook, Hopkinton, and Portsmouth. From all over the state came reports of late lingerers such as Gray Catbirds, Hermit Thrushes, Eastern Towhees, and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. This unusual winter weather brought us more than snow!

At a Glance

Late Lingerers

by Kathie Palfy



Baltimore Oriole by Barbara Corson, 2/12/06, Contoocook, NH.



Ovenbird by Michael Choukas, Jr., 12/6/05, Hanover, NH.



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