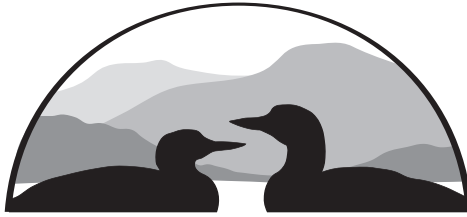


New Hampshire Bird Records



Spring 2006

Vol. 25, No. 1



New Hampshire Bird Records

Volume 25, Number 1

Spring 2006

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Cover Photo: Cattle Egret by Iain MacLeod, 4/23/06, Hopkinton, NH.

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This issue of New Hampshire Bird Records, with its color cover, is sponsored by Pat Niswander in honor of her family, all of whom enjoy nature as much as she does.



by Debbie Stahre

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From the Editor

by Rebecca Suomala, Managing Editor

It's *New Hampshire Bird Records* 25th year!

Thanks for your support.

We were surprised when we realized that this issue, the first in Volume 25, marks the beginning of *New Hampshire Bird Records* 25th year. With the publication of the “missing seasons” from Spring 86 through Summer 87, the record is complete from 1982 through 2005. The publication has grown and changed over the years and we’ll have more on that in a future issue. In the meantime, join me in celebrating *New Hampshire Bird Records*’ special anniversary.

Thank you to all of you who have renewed your subscriptions and welcome to new subscribers. If you haven’t yet sent in your renewal, it’s not too late. Keep in mind that you can subscribe or renew online at the *New Hampshire Bird Records* web site, www.nhbirdrecords.org.

Our color covers have been very popular and we would like to extend a warm thank you to those sponsors who have made them possible. If you are interested in sponsoring a color cover, please contact me.

Volunteer News

Volunteers are the heart of *New Hampshire Bird Records* and have been key to its past, present and future. They help the publication grow, and enable the data to be a resource for conservation.

We would like to thank Jan Lathrop for all of her help as Office Assistant for *New Hampshire Bird Records*. Although she will no longer be volunteering in this capacity, we hope that she will continue to be involved with the publication as her time allows. Please welcome Carol Plato as the new Office Assistant. Carol has been busy learning the many things involved with tracking subscriptions and following up on the numerous details involved with the publication. We are delighted to have her as part of the team.

We are looking for volunteers interested in writing for *New Hampshire Bird Records*. Three regular features currently need writers: Backyard Birder, Volunteers and Research, and Species Spotlight

As a feature writer, you do not necessarily need to have a broad depth of knowledge about birds or a particular species, depending on the kind of article being written. What you do need is a willingness to research the information for your articles. We can point you to the resources that will be useful to you and help you polish the piece before it is published. Ideally we are looking for writers who can complete four articles a year for a given feature, but we can also use volunteers to write occasional articles to fill in the gaps. In addition, we welcome unsolicited submissions of articles about birds. If you are interested in writing for *New Hampshire Bird Records*, please contact me at bsuomala@nhaudubon.org.

New Photo Quiz



Can You Identify This Bird?

Answer on page 57
Photo by Iain MacLeod

Spring Season

March 1 through May 31, 2006

by Pam Hunt

The weather in March rarely seems to have an effect on bird migration in New Hampshire, and 2006 was no exception. The month was characterized by average temperatures and below average snowfall—so far below average that there was almost no snow anywhere in the state by the end of the month. April continued the snow-free trend, with essentially a single snowstorm for the entire month. It was significantly warmer than usual, however, and ended with a southwesterly flow followed by a cold front that appeared to bring a few May migrants to the state a little earlier than usual.

The trend towards low or average precipitation was broken in May—and in a record setting way. Most of the state received measurable rainfall for 10–15 days out of 31, and when it rained it poured. The month was the third wettest ever in over a century of record keeping, with most of the rain in the four southeastern counties. As an example, consider the city of Concord, where the average May rainfall is 3.3 inches. On May 13–14; however, 5.6 inches fell on the capital city, leading to a record-breaking total of over 10 inches for the month. Things got even worse toward the coast, where 14–18 inches were recorded in portions of Rockingham and Strafford Counties. Throughout the affected areas, the unrelenting and often heavy rains caused extensive flooding and property damage.

They also resulted in some noteworthy avian phenomena. For the second spring in a row, May rainfall led to another exceptional fallout of phalaropes, this time in inland New Hampshire. Other shorebirds and even sea ducks were similarly affected, with the former capitalizing on flooded fields in Concord, Keene, and other areas. An Arctic Tern in Jefferson and a flock of eight Common Eiders in Pittsburg may also have been grounded by the weather.

Birders themselves could very well have been affected by the wet May in the sense that we didn't get out birding as often. Although this might not have reduced the number of unusual birds seen (more on this below), it could very well have resulted in generally lower counts of regular species such as warblers, sparrows, and blackbirds.



Pam Hunt

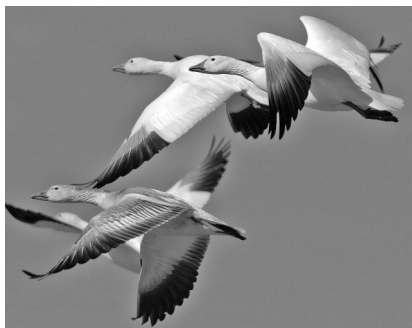


Gyrfalcon by Dave Austin, 3/12/06,
Sawyers Meadow, Gilford, NH.

Exceptions may have been in the Concord area, where a growing cadre of local birders has begun collecting data on a fairly systematic basis. Are any other regions of the state willing to take up the gauntlet?

If one were to pick the top three rarities of the season, top honors would have to go to **Gyr Falcon**, **Long-eared Owl**, and **Townsend's Solitaire**, all of which are seen less than every five years. Other species like **Greater White-fronted Goose**, **Least Bittern**, **Black Vulture**, and **Acadian Flycatcher** are almost annual, while Sandhill Crane – with five birds this spring – can barely be considered a rarity any longer.

Waterfowl



Snow Geese by Debbie Stahre, 3/18/06, Moore fields, Durham, NH.

There was a good selection of Snow Goose observations in the state this spring, with the bulk of the birds moving through in mid-March. At roughly the same time, a **Greater White-fronted Goose** was observed along the Connecticut River in the company of a large flock of Canada Geese. The only inland Brant record this year was of a flock of 60 over the southern White Mountains on May 18. While non-native Mute Swans have been breeding for decades in southeastern New Hampshire, primarily around Great Bay, they

appear to be increasing in other portions of the state. This year they made inroads north along the Connecticut, Merrimack, and Salmon Falls Rivers, and only time will tell if the species eventually becomes established in the state's interior.

Most waterfowl had moved through by the time the May rains flooded fields in the southeast, so there were no notable dabbling concentrations this year. That said, totals of at least 11 Gadwall and three Northern Shovelers are similar to or better than average. Great Bay hosted Eurasian Wigeon for the first spring since 2000. Redheads are a rare spring visitor, so having two records—males in Laconia and Charlestown—is noteworthy. Ring-necked Ducks were abundant at their usual spring staging areas in Kingston, Salem, and the Lakes Region. As the month came to a close, observers in Pittsburg (and to a lesser extent the Littleton area) recorded significant numbers of sea ducks. Most were White-winged Scoters, but on May 21 there were also Surf Scoters, Long-tailed Ducks, and eight **Common Eiders** on lakes in the state's northernmost town.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Greater White-fronted Goose				
03-18	1	Charlestown	Connecticut R. above Herrick's Cove	D. Clark, T. Schottland
Snow Goose				
03-11	54	Concord	Contoocook Is.	P. Hunt
03-12	67	Concord	Penacook census	P. Hunt
03-15	16	Conway	East Conway	R. Crowley

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Snow Goose—continued				
03-15	8	Gilford	Sawyers Farm	E. Masterson
03-16	8	Warner	Burnt Hill	A. Chamberlin
03-18	19	Conway	Center Conway	R. Crowley
03-19	60	Charlestown	Connecticut R above Herrick's Cove	D. Hardy
05-01	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
Canada Goose				
03-14	325	Boscawen	Merrimack R., the "Big Bend"	R. Quinn
03-17	97	Fremont	Martin Rd.	T. Bronson
03-19	800	Charlestown	Connecticut R above Herrick's Cove	D. Hardy
03-25	500	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Woodward
03-28	70	Keene	flying west	R. Suomala, C. Martin
03-30	450	Concord	Goodwin Pt.	P. Hunt
Brant				
04-01	5	Hampton	NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
04-08	13	Hampton	Great Boars Head, s. side	T. Bronson
04-28	36	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward
05-18	60	Woodstock	Mirror Lake	B. Griffith, et al.
05-20	6	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	E. Masterson, D. Fallon, H. Galbraith
05-24	19	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, J. Cotton
05-28	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick



Mute Swan by Debra LaValley, 5/3/06, Turtle Pond, Concord, NH.

Mute Swan

03-21	1	Nashua	Salmon Brook	J. Beaudry
03-29	5	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
04-23	1	Concord	Turtle Pond	R. Quinn
05-06	1	Boscawen	Hannah Dustin parking area	R. Quinn, Capital Chapter FT
05-15	2	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	M. Resch

Wood Duck

03-08	1	Auburn	Lake Massabesic at Clair's Landing	T. Bronson
03-11	2	Laconia	Winnepesaukee R. Wildlife Sanctuary	J. Williams, T. Bronson, NHA FT
03-11	3	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr., Piscassic R.	P. & J. Hendrickx
03-12	12	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. & J. Mirick
03-12	3	Hillsborough	Black Pond Brook, Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
03-17	12	Danville	Rail Trail at Fremont town line	T. Bronson
03-19	15	Charlestown	Connecticut R above Herrick's Cove	D. Hardy
03-30	50	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Gadwall				
03-12	6	Laconia	Lake Winnisquam off Fenton Ave.	H. Anderson
03-14	2	Nashua	Mine Falls Park cove	R. Andrews
03-30	1	Rye	Eel Pond	S. Mirick
04-06	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. & J. Mirick
04-08	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	S. & J. Mirick
05-01	1	Lee	Turtle Pond off Rt. 155	S. Mirick
Eurasian Wigeon				
03-30	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm on Great Bay	S. Mirick
04-14	2	Greenland	Sunset Farm on Great Bay	S. Mirick
04-16	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm on Great Bay	S. & J. Mirick, R. Suomala
American Wigeon				
03-12	2	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. & J. Mirick
03-14	4	Nashua	Mine Falls Park cove	R. Andrews
03-15	2	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Quinn
03-25	7	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. & J. Mirick
03-28	2	Hinsdale		R. Suomala, C. Martin
03-30	46	Greenland	Sunset Farm on Great Bay	S. Mirick
04-16	5	Greenland	Sunset Farm on Great Bay	S. & J. Mirick, R. Suomala
Blue-winged Teal				
04-01	1	Concord	Fort Eddy Rd. boat launch	P. Newbern
04-14	2	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick
04-14	2	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Mirick
04-14	2	Greenland	Sunset Farm on Great Bay	S. Mirick
04-22	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod, R. Woodward
04-25	2	Jefferson	Cherry Pond outlet	R. Quinn, D. Noble
04-26	5	Hampton	Meadow Pond	E. Masterson
Northern Shoveler				
03-14	2	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	I. MacLeod
04-11	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
Northern Pintail				
03-12	2	Laconia	Lake Winnisquam off Fenton Ave.	H. Anderson
03-12	4	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. & J. Mirick
03-14	4	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	I. MacLeod
03-16	14	Conway	East Conway	R. Crowley
Green-winged Teal				
03-12	6	Laconia	Lake Winnisquam off Fenton Ave.	H. Anderson
03-12	33	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. & J. Mirick
03-12	20	Stratham	Sandy Point on Great Bay	S. & J. Mirick, D. Abbott
03-12	20	Newmarket	off Bay Road	S. & J. Mirick, D. Abbott
03-14	19	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	I. MacLeod
03-17	25	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick
03-19	7	Fremont	Martin Rd.	T. Bronson
03-19	6	Charlestown	Connecticut R above Herrick's Cove	D. Hardy
04-08	7	Northumberland	Connecticut R.	D. Killam
04-10	12	Stratham	Jewell Brook beaver marsh	G. Gavutis Jr.
04-21	6	Hopkinton	Stumpfield Marsh	I. MacLeod
04-22	14	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. & J. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Green-winged Teal—continued				
04-30	8	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	I. MacLeod, R. Woodward
05-14	3	Hinsdale	Horseshoe Pond	E. Masterson, P. Brown
Redhead				
03-11	1	Laconia	Winnepesaukee R. Wildlife Sanctuary	J. Williams, T. Bronson, NHA FT
03-19	1	Charlestown	Connecticut R above Herrick's Cove	D. Hardy
Ring-necked Duck				
03-08	3	Auburn	Lake Massabesic at Rt. 121	T. Bronson
03-11	12	Laconia	Opechee Bay	J. Williams, T. Bronson, NHA FT
03-12	115	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. & J. Mirick
03-12	40	Laconia	Lake Winnisquam off Fenton Ave.	H. Anderson
03-17	45	Salem	World End Pond	K. Folsom
03-19	20	Charlestown	Connecticut R above Herrick's Cove	D. Hardy
03-21	175	Salem	World End Pond	K. Folsom
03-21	250	Kingston	Powwow Pond	K. Folsom
04-01	111	Gilford	Lily Pond	H. Anderson
04-07	36	Moultonborough	Unsworth Preserve	T. Vazzano
04-16	41	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	S. & J. Mirick, R. Suomala
Greater Scaup				
03-12	1	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. & J. Mirick
03-12	500	Greenland	Sunset Farm on Great Bay	S. & J. Mirick, D. Abbott
03-12	400	Stratham	Sandy Point on Great Bay	S. & J. Mirick, D. Abbott
03-14	3	Boscawen	Merrimack R., the "Big Bend"	R. Quinn
03-30	250	Greenland	Sunset Farm on Great Bay	S. Mirick
Lesser Scaup				
03-25	1	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. & J. Mirick
04-02	1	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Quinn, Capital Chapter FT
04-08	2	Rye	off Jenness Beach	S. & J. Mirick
Common Eider				
03-22	78	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	T. Bronson
05-04	42	Rye	NH coast	T. Bronson
05-06	42	Portsmouth	off Pierce Is.	R. Suomala, S. Walsh
05-21	8	Pittsburg	First Connecticut Lake from Varney Rd.	M. Harvey
05-30	113	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, J. Cotton, S. Burbidge
Surf Scoter				
05-21	3	Pittsburg	Lake Francis	M. Harvey
White-winged Scoter				
05-18	12	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	E. Masterson
05-20	25	Monroe	Comerford Dam	S. & M. Turner
05-21	250	Littleton	Moore Reservoir	S. & M. Turner
05-21	50	Pittsburg	Lake Francis	M. Harvey
05-21	220	Pittsburg	Second Connecticut Lake	M. Harvey
05-21	315	Pittsburg	First Connecticut Lake	M. Harvey
05-24	200	Pittsburg	East Inlet	B. Griffith, M. Harvey

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Scoter sp.				
05-24	500	Pittsburg	East Inlet	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
Long-tailed Duck				
05-21	12	Pittsburg	Second Connecticut Lake	M. Harvey
Bufflehead				
03-07	2	Salem	Spicket R. behind Town Museum	K. Folsom
03-07	2	Salem	Bodwell Pond	K. Folsom
03-07	4	Salem	World End Pond	K. Folsom
04-22	3	Newington	Great Bay	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod, R. Woodward
Common Goldeneye				
03-02	26	N. Hampton	Fox Point	T. Bronson
03-11	27	Franklin	Pemigewasset R. at River St.	J. Williams, T. Bronson, NHA FT
03-19	29	Concord	Sewalls Falls	P. Hunt
04-13	39	Errol	Androscoggin R. below dam	D. Killam
04-29	2	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. & J. Mirick
Barrow's Goldeneye				
03-05	1	N. Hampton	off Rt. 1A	S. & J. Mirick
03-17	1	Rye	at N. Hampton town line	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
Hooded Merganser				
03-08	11	Auburn	Lake Massabesic at Clair's Landing	T. Bronson
03-17	24	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick
03-23	12	Hollis	N. Pepperell Rd.	R. Andrews
03-31	12	Jefferson	Cherry Pond	D. Govatski
05-23	10	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
Common Merganser				
03-28	60	Hopkinton	Hopkinton-Everett Dam	E. Masterson
03-30	37	Laconia	Lake Winnisquam off Dixon Pt.	H. Anderson
04-09	41	Belmont	Ephraim's Cove	P. Hunt, L. Reitsma, et al.
04-20	55	Littleton	Partridge Lake	S. Turner
Ruddy Duck				
04-15	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick

Grouse through Crane

The only Red-throated Loon reported was in an unusual location, resting on the exposed mudflats in Rye Harbor. For the second year in a row there was a good showing of Pied-billed Grebes, and sightings after May 20 are likely breeding individuals. Stay tuned for the summer season to find out more on the breeding season for this state-threatened species. Numbers of Horned and Red-necked Grebes represent high counts along the coast, and there were no inland records of either species. A Northern Fulmar off the Isles of Shoals on May 15 is a rare sighting of this normally highly pelagic species.

A **Least Bittern** was well-documented in Rye, and two others were reported without documentation in Jefferson and Newmarket. It is important to provide details on rarities such as this, especially given increasing interest in marshbird conservation in the Northeast. While Great Egrets are not unexpected inland in April, the one in Canterbury was somewhat earlier than usual. Two inland Black-crowned Night-Herons is a higher than usual total. A Cattle Egret in breeding plumage was enjoyed by birders for two weeks as it foraged in a field in Hopkinton. Two sightings of **Black Vultures** are indicative of the continued increase in this species in the Northeast.



Cattle Egret by Debbie Stahre, 4/25/06, Hopkinton, NH.

Osprey were at nest sites throughout southern New Hampshire by the middle of April. All the Merlin sightings below are of potential breeders, based on location, date, or behaviors noted by the observers. This species continues to expand its breeding range southward in the state, and should be looked for almost anywhere—and carefully documented if breeding is indicated. The raptor of the season; however, and one of the best birds overall, was the immature Gyrfalcon found in Gilford on March 12. The bird was seen off and on for the next week, and is only the third record for the state in the last 12 years (see the Spotlight on **Gyrfalcon** in the Winter 2005-06 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*).

It was an excellent season for rails, with multiple reports of both Virginia Rail and Sora in the southeastern portion of the state. Three Common Moorhens in this same general area is a very good showing for this relatively rare species. Sandhill Crane returned to Monroe for an eighth year, and additional cranes were reported in Hopkinton, Concord, and Columbia. Given that Sandhill Cranes have been documented breeding in both Maine and New York in recent years, these birds are likely indicators of an increasing regional population. Perhaps one of these days a female may join the presumed male in Monroe and the species will be found nesting in New Hampshire as well!

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Spruce Grouse				
05-24	2	Pittsburg	East Inlet	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
05-30	1	Beans Grant	Webster Cliff Trail	C. Federer
Red-throated Loon				
03-25	1	Rye	creek inside harbor	S.& J. Mirick



Red-throated Loon by Stephen R. Mirick, 3/25/06, Rye, NH.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Common Loon				
03-07	2	Laconia	Lake Opechee below Lakeport Dam	H. Anderson
04-02	1	Bow	Turee Pond	R. Quinn, Capital Area Chapter FT
04-06	1	Meredith	Lake Winnepesaukee	C. Martin
04-09	1	Nelson	Granite Lake, Munsonville	K. Gordon
04-09	2	Gilford	Saunders Bay	P. Hunt, L. Reitsma, et al.
04-09	1	Gilmanton	Crystal Lake	W. Arms
05-06	24	Rye	between Whaleback Light & Isles of Shoals	R. Suomala, S. Walsh
05-14	5	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
Pied-billed Grebe				
03-06	1	Newmarket	town landing	D. Stahre, H. Walsh
03-17	4	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick
04-01	9	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. & J. Mirick, R. & M. Suomala
04-21	6	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	H. Chary
04-22	1	Rye	Eel Pond	I. MacLeod, R. Woodward, E. Masterson
05-18	1	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind P.O.	R. & M. Suomala
05-21	2	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	G. Prazar
05-25	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
05-25	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
05-26	1	Tuftonboro	Copps Pond	B. & D. Fox, T. Vazzano
Horned Grebe				
04-08	36		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
04-28	15	N. Hampton	N. Hampton St. Pk.	B. & R. Becker
Red-necked Grebe				
04-08	158		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
04-16	38	Rye	s. of Rye Ledge	S. & J. Mirick, R. Suomala
05-28	2	Hampton	Great Boars Head	S. & J. Mirick
Northern Fulmar				
05-15	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward
Northern Gannet				
04-08	13		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
04-22	30		NH coast	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod, R. Woodward
05-01	6	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward
Double-crested Cormorant				
04-14	75	Rye	Wallis Sands State Beach	T. Bronson
04-14	25	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	T. Bronson
05-04	205		NH coast	T. Bronson
05-14	49	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
Great Cormorant				
03-02	18	Rye	Bass Beach	T. Bronson
03-25	1	Newmarket	town landing	T. Bronson
04-01	1	Concord	NH Technical Institute boat launch	P. Newbern
04-01	2	Concord	Penacook Lake (Long Pond)	R. Quinn
04-24	21		NH coast	S. Mirick
05-28	2		Rye Ledge & Hampton Beach	S. & J. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
American Bittern				
04-22	2	Washington	upper Washington	I. MacLeod, R. Woodward, E. Masterson
04-22	1	Bradford	Bradford Bog	I. MacLeod, R. Woodward, E. Masterson
04-28	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
04-29	1	Hancock	Antrim Road	E. Masterson
04-29	1	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir marsh	C. Martin
Least Bittern				
05-29	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk., freshwater marsh near Frost Pt.	S. & J. Mirick
Great Egret				
04-01	2	Rye	NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
04-01	1	Canterbury	Peverly Meadow	R. Quinn
04-04	1	Londonderry	Rt. 28 marsh	A. & B. Delorey
04-16	6		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick, R. Suomala
Snowy Egret				
04-08	3		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
04-22	2	Hampton	Hampton Marsh	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod, R. Woodward
04-27	6	N. Hampton	Little River WS	T. Bronson
Little Blue Heron				
05-29	1	Rye	Rt 1A marshes near wooden bridge	S. & J. Mirick
Cattle Egret				
04-13	1	Hopkinton	Rt. 127 near Elm Brook Park	S. Skye
04-27	1	Hopkinton	Rt. 127 near Elm Brook Park	I. MacLeod
<i>Cattle Egret by Iain MacLeod, 4/23/06, Hopkinton, NH.</i>				
Green Heron				
04-29	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. & J. Mirick
05-08	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
05-14	1	Keene	Monadnock Market Pond	I. MacLeod
05-18	1	Newmarket	Lubberland Creek Preserve	T. Bronson, M. Pachomski
05-19	1	Concord	South End Marsh	P. Hunt
05-19	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
04-17	3	Exeter		R. Aaronian
04-24	1	Rye	freshwater pond, Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	S. Mirick
04-26	2	N. Hampton	Little River saltmarsh	E. Masterson
04-30	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod, R. Woodward
05-18	1	Woodstock	Mirror Lake	S. Sillett
05-28	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. & J. Mirick
Glossy Ibis				
04-08	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	J. O'Shaughnessy
04-14	3	N. Hampton	Rt. 1A marsh at Rye town line	T. Bronson



<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
05-29	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D.& M. Hayward, J. Cotton, S. Burbidge
Black Vulture				
03-28	1	Hinsdale	high school fields	R. Suomala, C. Martin
05-24	1	Portsmouth	Rt. 95 between Sagamore GC and Exit 3 (Rt. 33)	D. Hubbard
Osprey				
03-26	2	Hampton	Landing Road nest site	J. O'Shaughnessy
04-09	2	Newmarket	TNC Lubberland Creek Preserve	T. Bronson, N. Nelson
04-10	2	Gilmanton	Middle Rt.	I. MacLeod
04-10	3	Franklin	Franklin powerline	I. MacLeod
04-19	2	S. Hampton	Brookside WS	T. Bronson
04-21	3	Durham	Colby Marsh	T. Bronson
Northern Harrier				
03-22	1	Seabrook	town shooting range	T. Bronson
03-30	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
04-01	1	Durham	Rt. 155 A fields	S.& J. Mirick, R.& M. Suomala
04-05	1	Swanzy	Keene Airport	L. Tanino
04-11	1	Dover	Strafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
05-19	1	Concord	Concord Airport	R.& M. Suomala
05-28	1	Whitefield	Whitefield Airport	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson, R. Woodward, P. Brown
Red-shouldered Hawk				
03-07	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis
03-11	1	Fremont	Martin Rd.	T. Bronson
03-14	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
03-14	1	Boscawen	Merrimack R., the "Big Bend"	R. Quinn
Broad-winged Hawk				
04-11	1	Gilmanton	Currier Hill Rd.	J. Stockwell
04-14	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
04-14	2	Northwood	Durgin Pond	I. MacLeod
04-14	1	Goshen	Brook Rd.	P. Newbern
American Kestrel				
03-25	2	East Kingston	off Rt. 108	S.& J. Mirick
04-03	1	Dover	Strafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
04-16	2	Fremont	Martin Rd.	T. Bronson
04-16	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
04-25	2	Hopkinton	Rt. 127 w. of Elm Brook Pk.	T. Bronson, M. Pachomski
04-29	2	Dummer	Bayview cabin	C. Martin
05-06	2	Concord	White Farm	R. Woodward
05-20	1	Concord	West Portsmouth St.	P. Hunt, J. Kanter
05-31	1	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
Merlin				
04-25	1	Jefferson	Cherry Pond	R. Quinn, D. Noble
May	2	Keene	Church St.	D. Sewell-McCann
05-24	1	Concord	Storrs St. parking garage	R. Quinn
05-25	1	Stratford	Route 3	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
05-31	2	Alton	L. Winnepesaukee w. of Minge Brook cove	G. Gavutis Jr.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Gyr Falcon				
03-12	1	Gilford	Sawyer Meadows, Intervale Rd.	H. Anderson
03-19	1	Gilford	Sawyer Meadows, Intervale Rd.	J. O'Shaughnessy, J. McKibben
Virginia Rail				
04-15	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Mirick, NHA FT
04-15	1	Durham	Longmarsh Road	S. Mirick, A. Borrer, NHA FT
04-29	2	Portsmouth	Portsmouth Hospital marsh	S. & J. Mirick
05-15	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
05-15	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	M. Resch
05-19	1	Concord	South End Marsh	P. Hunt
05-20	1	Concord	Locke Rd. marsh	P. Hunt, J. Kanter
05-25	1	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind P.O.	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
05-28	2	Newmarket	Newmarket marsh	S. & J. Mirick
Sora				
05-12	1	Nottingham	Rollins Brook	S. Young
05-19	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	R. & M. Suomala
05-28	2	Newmarket	Newmarket marsh	S. & J. Mirick
Common Moorhen				
05-14	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	I. MacLeod
05-16	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
05-19	1	Durham	Surrey Lane marsh	M. Harvey
American Coot				
03-18	1	Durham	Adams Point	Nashaway Chapter FT
04-01	1	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. & J. Mirick, R. & M. Suomala
05-19	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	R. & M. Suomala
Sandhill Crane				
03-30	1	Hopkinton	Rt. 127 field, s. side, Contoocook	B. & K. Nichols
03-31	1	Monroe		phone message
05-09	1	Columbia	1/3 mile s. of Columbia Bridge	J. Lanier
05-09	2	Concord	West Portsmouth St.	F. Nevers

Shorebirds through Alcids

The rains of May produced two noteworthy shorebird shows for birders in inland New Hampshire. Throughout the month, flooded fields in locations as diverse as Keene, Concord, and Gilford hosted species normally rare inland in spring, often in relatively high numbers. Perhaps the best locations—or at least the most visited—were in Concord, where nine species were observed during the month. Keene came in second with six species. Included in the observations were often exceptional numbers of Greater Yellowlegs and a rare Concord record of Short-billed Dowitcher. It is also worth noting that with the exception of a single sighting on the Isles of Shoals, there were no Least Sandpipers reported from along the coast! As has become almost expected, an **American Oystercatcher** frequented the Isles of Shoals in May.

And then there were the phalaropes. The first inland sighting of these normally pelagic shorebirds—three Red-necked Phalaropes—came from Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge on May 12. A couple more Red-neckeds were reported on May 13, but it was on May 14 that the proverbial floodgates opened. On that day, a mind-boggling 17 **Red-necked Phalaropes** were found at Pondicherry, and four **Red Phalaropes** were documented from the Concord area. That same day, one individual of each species was even farther inland in Dorchester. Most of the birds then disappeared, with only a couple of additional sightings on May 15 and 16. The high count from the Seacoast was 24 at the Isles of Shoals, in contrast to the hundreds along the coast in 2005.



Lesser Black-backed Gulls by Robert Quinn, 5/22/06, Post Office fields, Concord, NH.

The group of Laughing Gulls in North Hampton was in a flooded field, and thus might be attributed to the spring rains. Between this and the Rye group, there were significantly more individuals of this species in the state than in most springs. Not to be outdone in the “noteworthy Laughing Gull” competition, the individual at Exeter was both remarkably early and unusually far away from the coast. Yet another gull species that made news in response to the flooding was Lesser Black-backed Gull. While this species is now regular in coastal areas and Rochester, there are only a handful of inland records. It was thus nothing short of unprecedented to have three individuals of different ages in Concord at various times in late May.

The number of terns at the Isles of Shoals was down slightly this spring; the summer season issue will include the results of the 2006 breeding season. A single **Arctic Tern** was part of the phalarope fallout at Pondicherry on May 14. There are only a handful of inland records for the state, although it is more likely than Common Tern to be away from the coast. Razorbill and Atlantic Puffin were represented by single individuals at the Isles of Shoals.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Black-bellied Plover				
05-13	16	Rye	Rye Harbor	T. Bronson
05-16	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Woodward
05-19	14	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D.& M. Hayward
05-22	23	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D.& M. Hayward

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Semipalmated Plover				
05-13	6	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop	T. Bronson
05-15	2	Gilford	Sawyer Meadows, Intervale Rd.	D. Austin
05-25	10	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind P.O.	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
05-28	3	Keene	Krif Rd.	L. Tanino, M. Burgess
Piping Plover				
05-04	2	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	T. Bronson
Killdeer				
03-09	1	Kensington	Moulton Ridge	G. Gavutis
03-10	5	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	E. Masterson
03-10	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
03-11	9	Fremont	Martin Rd.	T. Bronson
03-25	55	N. Hampton	Runnymede Farm	S.& J. Mirick
05-24	10	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind P.O.	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod
American Oystercatcher				
05-05	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D.& M. Hayward
05-19	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D.& M. Hayward
05-25	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D.& M. Hayward
Greater Yellowlegs				
03-21	1	Hampton	Rt. 1 below Rt. 101	J. O'Shaughnessy
04-01	1	Canterbury	Peverly Meadow	B. Baird
04-29	10	Rye	Rt. 1A marsh	T. Vazzano, S. Wiley
05-04	17	Hampton Falls	marsh off Depot Rd.	T. Bronson
05-13	2	Keene	Krif Rd.	I. MacLeod
05-13	3	Bennington	Powdermill Pond	I. MacLeod
05-13	2	Hillsborough	Rt. 202	I. MacLeod
05-14	5	Keene	Krif Rd.	E. Masterson
05-14	2	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	I. MacLeod
05-15	44	N. Hampton	Runnymede Horse Farm	S. Mirick
05-15	16	Walpole	along Connecticut River	M. Resch
05-15	24	Gilford	Sawyer Meadows, Intervale Rd.	D. Austin
05-17	12	Concord	West Portsmouth St.	R.& M. Suomala
Lesser Yellowlegs				
04-08	1	Greenland	off Newington Road	S.& J. Mirick
04-30	2	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop	I. MacLeod, R. Woodward
05-15	4	Concord	Clinton St.	I. MacLeod
05-17	3	Concord	West Portsmouth St.	R.& M. Suomala
05-20	2	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind P.O.	I. MacLeod, G. Robbins
05-27	1	Keene	Krif Road fields	L. Tanino
Solitary Sandpiper				
05-06	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-07	3	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	R. Bradley
05-07	1	Errol	1/2 mile n. of town	R. Bradley
05-15	4	Walpole	along Connecticut River	M. Resch
05-18	12	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind P.O.	R.& M. Suomala
05-20	2	Bartlett	Intervale fields	C. Federer
05-28	1	Keene	Krif Rd.	L. Tanino, M. Burgess
Willet				
04-30	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	I. MacLeod, R. Woodward

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
05-04	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward
05-15	2	Seabrook	dunes s. of Fantini's Restaurant	T. Bronson
Spotted Sandpiper				
04-29	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. & J. Mirick
04-29	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. & J. Mirick
05-04	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
05-22	17	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind P.O.	R. Quinn
Upland Sandpiper				
04-22	3	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	S. & J. Mirick



Ruddy Turnstone by Jon Woolf, 5/28/06, Ragged Neck, Rye, NH.

Ruddy Turnstone

05-28 5 Rye Ragged Neck, Rye Harbor St. Pk. S. & J. Mirick

Red Knot

05-20 4 Rye Pulpit Rocks I. MacLeod, G. Robbins
05-22 7 Rye White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals D. & M. Hayward

Sanderling

03-05 22 Rye Jenness Beach St. Pk. T. Bronson
05-20 1 Hampton Hampton Harbor E. Masterson, D. Fallon,
H. Galbraith

Semipalmated Sandpiper

05-19 3 Rye Rye Harbor St. Pk. R. & M. Suomala
05-25 2 Concord Loudon Rd. fields behind P.O. I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
05-28 1 Keene Krif Rd. L. Tanino, M. Burgess

Least Sandpiper

05-13 1 Swanzey Wilson Pond I. MacLeod
05-13 5 Keene Krif Rd. I. MacLeod
05-14 5 Hinsdale Lake Wantastiquet E. Masterson
05-15 12 Walpole along Connecticut River M. Resch
05-18 7 Concord Loudon Rd. fields behind P.O. R. & M. Suomala
05-24 13 Concord Loudon Rd. fields behind P.O. E. Masterson, I. MacLeod
05-28 15 Keene Krif Rd. L. Tanino, M. Burgess

White-rumped Sandpiper

05-20 1 N. Hampton Little River saltmarsh E. Masterson, D. Fallon,
H. Galbraith
05-28 1 Rye wooden bridge on Rt. 1A I. MacLeod, E. Masterson,
R. Woodward, P. Brown

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Pectoral Sandpiper				
04-08	1	Greenland	off Newington Road	S. & J. Mirick
04-14	1	Greenland	Great Bay Farm	T. Bronson
04-15	3	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Mirick, NHA FT
Purple Sandpiper				
04-29	100	Hampton	Hampton Harbor breakwater	S. & J. Mirick
05-06	27	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward
05-19	28	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	R. & M. Suomala
05-25	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, J. Cotton
Dunlin				
04-16	250	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick, R. Suomala
05-20	5	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	E. Masterson, D. Fallon, H. Galbraith
Short-billed Dowitcher				
04-29	1	Hampton	Hampton Marsh	T. Vazzano, S. Wiley
05-14	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. & J. Mirick
05-20	6	Rye	Awcomin Marsh	E. Masterson, D. Fallon, H. Galbraith
05-24	10	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind P.O.	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod
Wilson's Snipe				
03-14	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	I. MacLeod
04-08	28	Greenland	off Newington Road	S. & J. Mirick
04-22	4	Hillsborough	Beards Brook meadow	I. MacLeod, R. Woodward, E. Masterson
05-31	8	Errol	Leonard Marsh, Lake Umbagog NWR	C. Martin
American Woodcock				
03-10	2	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
03-10	2	Peterborough	Fremont Field conservation land	F. von Mertens
03-11	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis
03-13	2	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod

Red-necked Phalarope
by Marjorie Goodson,
5/13/06,
Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge,
Jefferson, NH.



Red-necked Phalarope				
05-12	3	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS, "Moorhen Marsh"	D. Govatski, M. Goodson, M. & S. Turner
05-13	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS, "Moorhen Marsh"	S. Turner, D. Govatski, M. Goodson, et al.
05-13	1	Laconia	Lake Winnisquam	S. Brallier

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
05-14	7	Rye	NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
05-14	17	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	C.& L. Vendt, D. Govatski
05-14	24	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D.& M. Hayward
05-14	1	Dorchester	Rt. 118 meadow near River Rd.	J. Granton, H.,P.& E. Benham
05-15	10		NH coast	S. Mirick
05-15	2	Gilford	Varney Pt., Lake Winnepesaukee	A. Lavin
05-15	2	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	E. Masterson, P. Brown, S. Young
05-16	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	T. Bronson
Red Phalarope				
05-14	3	Concord	Turkey and Turtle Ponds	R. Woodward
05-14	1	Bow	Turee Pond	I. MacLeod
05-14	1	Dorchester	Rt. 118 meadow near River Rd.	J. Granton, P.,H.& E. Benham
05-15	2	Gilford	Varney Pt., Lake Winnepesaukee	A. LaVin
05-15	1	Gilford	Sawyer Meadows, Intervale Rd.	D. Austin
Laughing Gull				
04-01	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S.& J. Mirick, R.& M. Suomala
04-15	27	Rye	Abenaqui GC	S. Mirick
05-15	12	N. Hampton	Runnymede Horse Farm	S. Mirick
05-30	3	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D.& M. Hayward, J. Cotton, S. Burbidge
Black-headed Gull				
03-27	1	Portsmouth	Back Channel	T. Bronson
05-28	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach	S.& J. Mirick
Ring-billed Gull				
03-15	75	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Quinn
03-26	34	Laconia	Lake Winnisquam off Dixon Pt.	H. Anderson
04-08	150	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	S.& J. Mirick
Herring Gull				
03-19	175	Epping	Prescott Rd. at White Gate Farm	T. Bronson
05-14	71	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind P.O.	E. Masterson
Iceland Gull				
03-12	2	Seabrook	off Rt. 1A	S.& J. Mirick, D. Abbott
04-11	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
05-19	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	E. Masterson
Lesser Black-backed Gull				
03-05	1	Rye	Odiorne Point State Park	S.& J. Mirick
03-17	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
04-22	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds trails	S.& J. Mirick
05-14	2	Durham	Rt. 155A fields	S.& J. Mirick
05-16	1	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind P.O.	E. Masterson
05-20	2	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind P.O.	E. Masterson, D. Fallon, H. Galbraith
05-22	2	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind P.O.	R. Quinn, E. Masterson
05-25	2	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind P.O.	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson



Glaucous Gull
by Stephen R. Mirick,
4/11/06,
Rochester wastewater treatment plant,
Rochester, NH.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Glaucous Gull				
03-17	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
04-11	3	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
04-27	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
Roseate Tern				
05-17	4	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward
05-24	10	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, J. Cotton
05-31	60	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, J. Cotton, S. Burbidge
Common Tern				
05-05	150	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward
05-17	1000	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward
05-23	3000	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, J. Cotton
05-31	4500	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, J. Cotton, S. Burbidge
Arctic Tern				
05-14	1	Jefferson	Cherry Pond	D. Govatski, S. Stoddard
05-16	1	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	D. Govatski, B. Crowley
05-17	1	Jefferson	Cherry Pond	D. Govatski
05-17	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward
05-20	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	I. MacLeod, G. Robbins
05-27	6	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, J. Cotton
Least Tern				
05-29	2	Rye	Eel Pond	S. & J. Mirick
Black Tern				
05-13	1	Swanzy	Wilson Pond	I. MacLeod
05-20	1	Littleton	Moore Reservoir	S. & M. Turner
Razorbill				
05-29	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, J. Cotton, S. Burbidge
Black Guillemot				
05-01	4	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward
05-25	8	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, J. Cotton
05-27	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. Mirick
Atlantic Puffin				
05-30	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge

Cuckoos through Swallows

Cuckoos were less common than in the past two springs, and only a single Yellow-billed was reported. At least one Snowy Owl frequented coastal locales in late March and early April, while a second made a one-day appearance in Littleton. The Snowy Owl on Star Island in March was one of 32 birds color-marked by Norm Smith at Boston's Logan Airport during the winter. Nearby at Pondicherry, birders heard a **Long-eared Owl** at midnight on May 24, providing the state with only the second spring record in the last 20 years. In contrast to recent years, there were almost no reports of Red-bellied Woodpeckers away from southeastern New Hampshire. Time will tell if the species is taking a break from the rapid range expansion it has shown in the last decade.

One wonders if the May rains dampened the spirits of birders in the southern portion of the state. I ask this because the first (and, in some cases, only) records of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher came from northern locations. Otherwise there were no notable patterns in the arrival dates of flycatchers. The only rarity was an **Acadian Flycatcher** heard in Durham on May 19. Fish Crows are becoming downright common in the Concord area, with perhaps five to six likely breeding localities. Whether this reflects a population increase or increased observer effort is hard to determine, but in any event it is clear that the species is well-established in the upper Merrimack River valley.

Although we don't normally receive many reports of Purple Martins from even the active colonies, it is worth noting that the two locations listed below may be the last relatively large colonies in the state. I learned this summer that another large colony in Moultonborough dropped to a single pair after the spring and summer rains, and the fate of a fourth colony in Freedom remains unknown. Observers are encouraged to check known martin colonies next year and report what they find to *New Hampshire Bird Records*. Similarly, there was only **one** report of Cliff Swallow for the entire season! Although this species seems to be doing well in most of its range, populations in parts of New England appear to be declining. Without data on colony locations we have a very poor picture of this species' distribution and abundance in the state. Go check out those barns and bridges!

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Black-billed Cuckoo				
05-17	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
05-17	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
05-20	1	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt, J. Kanter
05-27	1	Newbury	off Rt. 103A	P. Newbern
05-28	1	Stratham	Sandy Point Discovery Center	S. & J. Mirick
05-28	1	Sutton	Baker Rd.	P. Newbern
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				
05-28	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway State Park	S. & J. Mirick
Eastern Screech-Owl				
05-19	2	Stratham	Sandy Point Discovery Center	R. & M. Suomala

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Great Horned Owl				
03-20	1	Durham	Colby Marsh heron rookery	T. Bronson, M. Pachomski
03-20	1	Rochester	Quail Rd. heron rookery	T. Bronson, M. Pachomski
03-22	1	S. Hampton	Brookside WS	T. Bronson
04-13	1	Hopkinton	Stumpfield Marsh	T. Bronson
05-24	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
Snowy Owl				
03-04	1	Littleton	Rt. 93 near Moore Reservoir	C. Johnson
03-30	1	Rye	Star Island	A. De Steiguer
04-09	1	Hampton	over marsh	J. O'Shaughnessy
April	1	Rye	Star Island	E. Perkins
Long-eared Owl				
05-24	1	Whitefield	Pondicherry WS, w. of rail trail before Waumbek Junction	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
Northern Saw-whet Owl				
03-06	1	Concord	Contoocook Is.	P. Hunt, S. Gallo
03-23	1	Chatham	residence	R. Crowley
03-29	1	Concord	Kennedy St.	E. Masterson, et al.
03-29	1	Conway	Birch Hill Development	C. Federer
03-30	1	Loudon	roadside	M. Davies
03-30	2	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
04-30	1	Hillsborough	Farley Rd.	I. MacLeod, R. Woodward
05-28	1	Jefferson	Whipple Rd.	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson, R. Woodward, P. Brown
Common Nighthawk				
05-17	1	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind P.O.	E. Masterson
05-20	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	I. MacLeod, G. Robbins
05-20	1	Newington	Great Bay NWR	I. MacLeod, G. Robbins
05-25	1	Wakefield	over Rt. 16	B. & D. Fox
05-26	4	Keene	Church & Main Sts, West St.	M. Wright
Whip-poor-will				
05-04	2	Bath	Rt. 135	P. Powers, E. Emery
05-04	1	Lebanon	Butternut Hollow, W. Lebanon	L. Thompson
05-05	1	Danville	residence	C. Schotts
05-05	1	Jefferson	Rt. 116 residence	D. & K. Govatski
05-20	1	Hopkinton	Mast Yard State Forest	P. Hunt, J. Kanter
Chimney Swift				
04-25	2	Lempster	Goshen-Lempster School	P. Newbern
04-29	1	Concord	Penacook Village	P. Hunt
05-01	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds trails	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
05-03	5	Concord	Audubon House, Silk Farm WS	R. Suomala, K. Palfy
05-03	25	Manchester	over mills along Merrimack R.	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-10	100	Exeter	downtown, Squamscott River	T. Bronson
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				
05-03	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis
05-05	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
05-05	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
05-06	1	Gilmanton	Currier Hill Rd.	J. Stockwell
05-06	1	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
05-06	1	Chichester	Connemara Dr.	K. Palfy
05-06	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. Harris
05-07	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
Red-headed Woodpecker				
05-21	1	Hudson	Breakneck Rd.	W. Egan
Red-bellied Woodpecker				
03-28	2	Hinsdale	Connecticut R. area	R. Suomala, C. Martin
04-18	1	Westmoreland	River Rd.	R. Ritz
05-04	1	Gilford	residence	D. Austin
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				
03-31	2	Bartlett	Hurricane Mtn. Rd.	C. Federer
03-31	2	Jefferson	Cherry Pond	D. Govatski
04-03	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
04-05	2	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
04-07	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
04-07	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
Black-backed Woodpecker				
03-02	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	D. Govatski
05-24	6	Pittsburg	East Inlet	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
05-28	1	Jefferson	railroad tracks n. of Cherry Pond	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson, R. Woodward, P. Brown
Northern Flicker				
03-02	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis
03-26	1	Newbury	Ramblewood Rd. residence	P. Newbern
04-01	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
04-01	4	Concord	NH Technical Institute	R. Quinn
Olive-sided Flycatcher				
05-15	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
05-24	1	Pittsburg	River Road Bridge	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
05-25	1	Thornton	Route 3	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
05-28	1	Albany	Church Pond Bog	M. Harvey
05-28	1	Seabrook	Seabrook firing range	S. & J. Mirick
05-28	1	Kensington	Bartlett Road	S. & J. Mirick
05-28	1	Whitefield	Little Cherry Pond	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson, R. Woodward, P. Brown
Eastern Wood-Pewee				
05-05	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward
05-18	1	Enfield	Potato Rd. near Canaan	L. Jones
05-20	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
05-25	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
05-26	1	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
05-27	3	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
05-27	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				
05-25	8	Pittsburg	East Inlet	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
05-28	1	Whitefield	Little Cherry Pond	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson, R. Woodward, P. Brown

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Acadian Flycatcher				
05-19	1	Durham	East Foss Farm	M. Harvey
Alder Flycatcher				
05-20	1	Hopkinton	Dolf Brook	P. Hunt, J. Kanter
05-27	5	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
05-27	2	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
05-29	3	Kensington	Kimball Road	S. & J. Mirick
05-31	3	Errol	Leonard Marsh, Lake Umbagog NWR	C. Martin
Willow Flycatcher				
05-17	3	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. & M. Suomala
05-20	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	I. MacLeod, G. Robbins
05-20	1	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	E. Masterson, D. Fallon, H. Galbraith
05-25	2	Littleton	Rte. 302 at Shaw's Supermarket	S. Turner
Least Flycatcher				
04-30	1	Washington	East Washington	I. MacLeod, R. Woodward
05-05	5	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson, J. Hills, D. Abbott, R. Aaronian, H. Chary
05-07	2	Concord	Bog Rd.	P. Hunt
05-08	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
05-11	1	Lancaster	Weeks St. Pk.	D. Killam
Eastern Phoebe				
03-18	1	Durham	Adams Point	Nashaway Chapter FT
03-27	1	Barrington	Alwood Dr., Mendums Pond	T. Chase
03-28	2	Hinsdale	Connecticut R. area	R. Suomala, C. Martin
03-28	1	Nashua	Mine Falls Park	R. Andrews
03-29	1	Concord	Contoocook Is.	P. Hunt
03-31	1	Bartlett	Hurricane Mtn. Rd.	C. Federer
Great Crested Flycatcher				
05-07	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis
05-09	1	Derry	Sybiak Farm	T. Bronson
05-13	1	Gilsum	Hammond Follow Rd.	M. Wright
05-17	2	Meredith	Old Center Harbor Rd.	F. Tyrrell
Eastern Kingbird				
04-30	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	I. MacLeod, R. Woodward
05-05	2	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson, J. Hills, D. Abbott, R. Aaronian, H. Chary
05-05	1	Kensington	between Moulton Ridge & Shaws Hill	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-06	2	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
05-06	2	Durham	West Foss Farm	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard, A. Kimball, M. Hatfield, D. Wendelken
05-06	4	Concord	Contoocook Is.	P. Hunt
05-06	2	Nashua	Mine Falls Park cove	R. Andrews
Northern Shrike				
03-13	1	Conway	Intervale fields	C. Federer
03-19	1	Keene	Otter Brook Lake Project	T. McEachern

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Yellow-throated Vireo				
05-05	3	Kensington	between Moulton Ridge & Shaws Hill	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-06	1	Durham	West Foss Farm	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard, A. Kimball, M. Hatfield, D. Wendelken
05-09	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
05-20	3	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard, M. Pachomski, S. Pinkham
05-23	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
05-28	1	Salisbury	Bay Rd.	P. Newbern
Blue-headed Vireo				
04-18	1	Hancock	Antrim Road	E. Masterson
04-21	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
04-25	2	Fremont	Ingalls Lane	T. Bronson
04-25	1	Concord	Silk Farm WS	I. MacLeod
04-25	1	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
Warbling Vireo				
04-30	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-05	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
05-05	3	Haverhill	Badell Bridge St. Pk.	R. Bradley
05-05	3	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson, J. Hills, D. Abbott, R. Aaronian, H. Chary
Philadelphia Vireo				
05-25	2	Pittsburg	Scott Bog	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
Red-eyed Vireo				
05-12	1	Concord	Contoocook Is.	P. Hunt
05-18	5	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	T. Bronson, M. Pachomski
05-19	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Rd. residence	D. Hubbard
05-25	1	Gilsum	Hammon Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
05-27	20	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
Gray Jay				
03-11	2	Beans Grant	Mizpah Springs Hut	D. Govatski
03-11	1	Lincoln	Zealand Mtn. summit	J. & K. Stockwell
05-24	8	Pittsburg	East Inlet	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
Blue Jay				
05-05	11	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson, J. Hills, D. Abbott, R. Aaronian, H. Chary
05-29	18	Rye	Odiorne Point State Park	S. & J. Mirick
Fish Crow				
03-07	2	Durham	Main St.	D. Blezard
03-12	7	Concord	RR tracks s. of Sewalls Falls	R. Woodward
03-12	2	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. & J. Mirick
03-30	6	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
04-22	4	Concord	Ft. Eddy Plaza	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod, R. Woodward
04-25	1	Nashua	downtown	D. Deifik

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Fish Crow—continued				
04-30	1	Tilton	McDonald's	D. Austin
05-20	2	Concord	Beaver Meadow GC, Penacook	P. Hunt, J. Kanter
Horned Lark				
03-08	115	Hampton	Home Depot parking lot	J. O'Shaughnessy
03-17	13	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson
03-20	12	Columbia	Rt. 3 south	D. Killam
04-22	1	Concord	Concord Airport	I. MacLeod, R. Woodward, E. Masterson
04-30	2	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
05-01	2	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport at Short St.	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
05-01	12	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind P.O.	E. Masterson
05-19	4	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
Purple Martin				
04-28	6	Conway	East Conway colony	C. Federer
05-05	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward
05-08	6	Laconia	Fun Spot, Weirs Beach	D. Austin
Tree Swallow				
03-29	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis
03-29	2	Nottingham	Burnham's Marsh, Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	P. Hendrickx, C. Fisher
03-29	3	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
03-29	2	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
04-01	100	Concord	Little Turkey Pond	R. Quinn
04-03	250	Concord	Merrimack River below Sewalls Falls	R. Quinn
04-06	100	Rochester	Pickering Ponds trails	S. Mirick
04-16	200	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	S. & J. Mirick, R. Suomala
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				
04-11	1	Nashua	Mine Falls Park cove	R. Andrews
04-16	2	Boscawen	Eel St.	P. Hunt
04-16	2	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	S. & J. Mirick, R. Suomala
04-22	4	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod, R. Woodward
Bank Swallow				
05-12	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
05-20	2	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard, M. Pachomski, S. Pinkham
05-28	2	Dover	Stafford County farm	D. Hubbard
Cliff Swallow				
05-06	16	New Castle	lighthouse	R. Suomala, S. Walsh
Barn Swallow				
04-16	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. & J. Mirick, R. Suomala
04-18	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	T. Bronson, M. Pachomski
04-18	1	Fremont	Martin Rd.	T. Bronson
04-22	40	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod, R. Woodward

Chickadee through Waxwings

Carolina Wrens are becoming common in the Concord area, especially around Penacook. In my regular wanderings around that northern outpost of the Capital City, I estimate six to seven pairs, the northernmost population of any size in the state. One on White Island at the Isles of Shoals probably wandered over from the small breeding population on Appledore Island. This spring's Golden-crowned Kinglet migration seemed small; the numbers published below are the highest totals received this spring.



Townsend's Solitaire by Phil Brown, 4/9/06, Pawtuckaway State Park, Nottingham, NH.

While many birders visit Pawtuckaway State Park each spring, very few opt to climb up trail-less peaks in early April. But that's just what Phil Brown did this year, and he was rewarded with excellent views of a **Townsend's Solitaire**. These western thrushes sometimes wander east to New England in late fall, at which point they survive the winter by feeding on juniper berries. The Pawtuckaway bird was no exception, and Phil's photos even show it in a juniper! We can only surmise that it may have been there all winter, but simply not detected because of its remote location. Who knows how many such vagrants go undetected each year because most birders tend to stick to "the usual spots."

A Northern Mockingbird in Lancaster was relatively far north for this species, which has only recently managed to pass through the notches. Reports of both Gray Catbirds and Brown Thrashers in early March represent overwintering birds, of which there were an unusual number in 2005–2006. We don't normally think of American Pipits as shorebirds, but in many ways these arctic passerines are functioning as tiny sandpipers. Not only do they nest on the northern tundra, but during migration they sometimes forage in flooded fields, as the reports from this May indicate. Bohemian Waxwings were relatively scarce this winter, and the vast majority of spring records were from the species' traditional stronghold in the Lakes Region.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Boreal Chickadee				
03-19	2	Kilkenny	Mt. Cabot e. ridge at 3,650'	J. Stockwell
03-30	4	Beans Grant	Mt. Jackson	D. Govatski
05-24	15	Pittsburg	East Inlet	B. Griffith, M. Harvey

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Carolina Wren				
March	1	Bennington	residence	G. & M. McKee
03-02	1	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
03-22	2	Goffstown	Libbey St.	M. Provencher
04-16	2	Boscawen	Eel St.	P. Hunt
04-28	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward
04-30	1	Greenland	Newington Rd.	I. MacLeod, R. Woodward
House Wren				
04-29	3	Durham	Faculty Road area	S. & J. Mirick
04-29	3	Concord	Penacook census	P. Hunt
04-30	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
04-30	1	Washington	East Washington	I. MacLeod, R. Woodward
Winter Wren				
03-12	1	Concord	Bog Rd.	P. Hunt
03-20	1	Durham	Colby Marsh	T. Bronson, M. Pachmonski
03-31	2	Jefferson	Cherry Pond	D. Govatski
Marsh Wren				
05-19	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	R. & M. Suomala
05-20	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	I. MacLeod, G. Robbins
05-31	1	Whitefield	Little Cherry Pond	S. & M. Turner
Golden-crowned Kinglet				
04-01	8	Concord	Penacook census	P. Hunt
04-09	8	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
04-13	9	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
03-30	1	Westmoreland	River Road	R. Ritz
04-11	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
04-12	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
04-15	1	Hancock	Antrim Road	E. Masterson
04-16	4	Concord	Penacook census	P. Hunt
04-20	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
04-29	28	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
04-29	16	Concord	Penacook census	P. Hunt
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				
04-16	1	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	S. & J. Mirick, R. Suomala
04-30	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
04-30	2	Dover	Bellamy River	I. MacLeod, R. Woodward
05-17	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. & M. Suomala
05-18	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
05-20	1	Hillsborough	Beards Brook (flood meadow)	I. MacLeod, G. Robbins
Townsend's Solitaire				
04-09	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	P. Brown
Veery				
05-08	1	Rochester	Pickering ponds	D. Hubbard
05-12	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	I. MacLeod
05-15	1	Westmoreland	River Rd.	R. Ritz
05-17	1	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind P.O.	E. Masterson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Swainson's Thrush				
05-28	1	Harts Location	Crawford Notch	I. MacLeod, E. Masterson, R. Woodward, P. Brown
Hermit Thrush				
03-05	1	Rye	Odiorne Point State Park	S.& J. Mirick
04-01	1	Barrington	Wood Rd.	T. Chase
04-08	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	S. Mirick
04-09	1	Newbury	Cheney Rd.	C. Martin
04-09	1	Laconia	Prescott Farm	P. Hunt, L. Reitsma, et al.
Wood Thrush				
05-04	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-06	6	Concord	District 5 Rd. & Long Pond Rd.	R. Woodward
05-06	1	Bradford	Bradford Bog	I. MacLeod
05-06	2	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
American Robin				
03-12	207	Concord	Bog Rd.	P. Hunt
03-13	100	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
04-01	150	Newmarket	Packers Falls Rd.	R.& M. Suomala, S.& J. Mirick
04-06	150	Fremont	Martin Rd.	T. Bronson
Gray Catbird				
03-05	2	N. Hampton	North Hampton thickets	S.& J. Mirick
03-25	1	N. Hampton	North Hampton thickets	S.& J. Mirick
05-05	4	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson, J. Hills, D. Abbott, R. Aaronian, H. Chary
05-05	2	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
05-06	2	Durham	West Foss Farm	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard, A. Kimball, M. Hatfield, D. Wendelken
05-06	4	Concord	Contoocook Is.	P. Hunt
05-06	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis
05-06	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D.& M. Hayward
Northern Mockingbird				
05-09	1	Lancaster	Corrigan Hill Rd., Rt. 3	D. Killam
Brown Thrasher				
03-05	1	N. Hampton	North Hampton thickets	S.& J. Mirick
04-05	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
04-21	1	Concord	Karner Blue Easement	I. MacLeod
04-22	1	Hillsborough	Washington Road	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod, R. Woodward
04-22	5	Freedom	Trout Pond CA	G. McElroy
American Pipit				
03-25	17	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind P.O.	R. Woodward
05-14	1	Keene	Krif Rd.	E. Masterson
05-18	3	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind P.O.	R. Suomala

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Bohemian Waxwing				
03-11	12	Plymouth	Plymouth State University fieldhouse	J. Williams, T. Bronson, NHA FT
03-17	50	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
03-20	1	Gilford	Intervale Rd.	I. MacLeod, H. Galbraith
03-23	60	Laconia	Greystone	H. Anderson
03-28	22	Laconia	Bois Circle	H. Anderson
04-10	1	Concord	South Concord Meadows	L. Hansche

Warblers

The only out-of-place warbler this season was a Cerulean Warbler in North Hampton. Out-of-season were Orange-crowned and Palm Warblers in early March, both of which had spent much of the winter in their respective locations. The "Audubon's" Yellow-rumped Warbler at Odiorne Point State Park was another holdover from the winter, albeit a much rarer one. Overall, warbler numbers were low, likely at least partially a result of the poor birding conditions in much of May. Particularly unsettling was a total of only five Blackburnian Warblers, two of which were from the Isles of Shoals. While the majority of warbler species (14 of 26) arrived on time between April 29 and May 9, three species (Yellow-rumped, Pine, and Palm) were relatively early, between April 1 and 8. A Blue-winged Warbler in Concord was near the northern edge of the species' range in New Hampshire.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Blue-winged Warbler				
05-05	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
05-05	1	Kensington	between Moulton Ridge & Shaws Hill	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-06	2	Durham	East Foss Farm	A. Ablowich, NHA FT
05-08	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis
05-09	1	Derry	Sybiak Farm	T. Bronson
05-12	2	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	I. MacLeod
05-17	1	Charlestown	off Oxbow Brook Rd.	P. Newbern
05-22	1	Hudson	former Benson's Animal Farm site	D. Deifik
05-30	1	Concord	Silk Farm WS	E. Masterson
Tennessee Warbler				
05-20	1	Nashua	Groton Rd.	R. Andrews
05-21	1	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
05-21	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
05-25	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
Orange-crowned Warbler				
03-10	1	Merrimack	residence	R. Carr
Nashville Warbler				
04-30	2	Bradford	Bradford Bog	I. MacLeod, R. Woodward
05-04	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
05-04	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-04	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Road	M. Wright

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Northern Parula				
05-01	1	Lancaster	Weeks St. Pk.	D. Killam
05-04	1	Kensington	Shaw's Hill	R. Aaronian
05-05	1	Lyman	Under the Mountain Rd.	S. & M. Turner
05-06	1	Durham	West Foss Farm	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard, A. Kimball, M. Hatfield, D. Wendelken
Yellow Warbler				
05-04	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
05-05	1	Lyman	Under the Mountain Rd.	S. & M. Turner
05-05	13	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson, J. Hills, D. Abbott, R. Aaronian, H. Chary
05-05	1	Westmoreland	River Rd.	R. Ritz
05-05	1	Walpole	Vilas Bridge below Connecticut R. Electric Dam	R. Ritz
05-05	2	Haverhill	Badell Bridge Park	R. Bradley
Chestnut-sided Warbler				
04-30	1	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-06	1	Durham	East Foss Farm	A. Ablowich, NHA FT
05-07	1	Concord	Penacook census	P. Hunt
05-18	6	Concord	Penacook census	P. Hunt
Magnolia Warbler				
05-06	1	Bradford	Bradford Bog	I. MacLeod
05-07	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis
05-07	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Road	M. Wright
05-11	2	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
05-11	2	Concord	West Portsmouth St.	T. Bronson
05-11	1	Windham	residence	J. Romano
Cape May Warbler				
05-18	3	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	T. Bronson, M. Pachomski
05-19	1	Woodstock	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest	B. Griffith
05-24	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
05-25	1	Pittsburg	River Road Bridge	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
Black-throated Blue Warbler				
05-05	1	Kensington	between Moulton Ridge & Shaws Hill	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-05	3	Concord	Silk Farm WS	I. MacLeod
05-07	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Road	M. Wright
05-11	1	Lancaster	Weeks St. Pk.	D. Killam
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
04-01	1	Concord	River Rd.	P. Hunt
04-09	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
04-16	1	Walpole	Merriam Road	R. Ritz
04-30	15	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-04	14	Epping	Rail Trail e. of Fremont Rd.	T. Bronson
05-07	11	Concord	Penacook census	P. Hunt
Yellow-rumped Warbler - Audubon's subspecies				
03-05	1	Rye	Odiome Point State Park	S. & J. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Black-throated Green Warbler				
04-27	1	Concord	Contoocook Is.	P. Hunt
04-28	1	Hancock	Antrim Road	E. Masterson
04-29	1	Exeter	Phillips Exeter Academy woods	R. Aaronian
04-29	1	Walpole	WEKW-TV tower, Scovill Road	R. Ritz
Blackburnian Warbler				
05-09	1	Hillsborough	Rt. 31	I. MacLeod
05-11	1	Lancaster	Weeks St. Pk.	D. Killam
05-11	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
05-19	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward
05-27	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, J. Cotton
Pine Warbler				
04-01	1	Madison	residence	J. Hadam
04-06	1	Concord	Silk Farm WS	I. MacLeod
04-08	1	Concord	Thirty Pines	P. Hunt
04-11	2	Fremont	Ingalls Lane	T. Bronson
04-15	20	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
04-22	12	Concord	Penacook census	P. Hunt
04-30	14	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
Prairie Warbler				
05-05	3	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson, J. Hills, D. Abbott, R. Aaronian, H. Chary
05-18	1	Concord	Contoocook Is.	P. Hunt
05-18	3	Deerfield	Reservation Rd. power line	T. Bronson, M. Pachomski
05-20	2	Hopkinton	Mast Yard State Forest	P. Hunt, J. Kanter
05-25	2	Windham	power line off Castle Hill Rd.	J. Romano
05-31	7	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
Palm Warbler				
03-05	1	Rye	Odiome Point State Park	S. & J. Mirick
04-08	1	Hampton	Batchelder Pond	T. Bronson
04-08	1	Windham	residence	J. Romano
04-11	3	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
04-12	2	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
04-16	31	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	S. & J. Mirick, R. Suomala
04-27	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	J. Tewksbury
04-29	10	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
Bay-breasted Warbler				
05-24	12	Pittsburg	East Inlet	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
05-28	1	Sutton	Baker Rd.	P. Newbern
Blackpoll Warbler				
05-15	1	Dalton	Connecticut R. bank	S. Turner
05-17	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
05-18	1	Concord	River Rd.	P. Hunt
05-22	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward
05-25	6	Pittsburg	East Inlet	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
Cerulean Warbler				
05-28	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway State Park	S. & J. Mirick
05-31	1	N. Hampton	Shiprock Rd.	S. Young, T. Donsker

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Black-and-white Warbler				
04-25	1	Hancock	Antrim Road	E. Masterson
04-29	1	Concord	Bog Rd.	P. Hunt
04-29	3	Sutton	various	P. Newbern
04-30	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
04-30	10	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-02	1	Westmoreland	River Road	R. Ritz
05-21	18	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
American Redstart				
05-06	1	Boscawen	Hannah Dustin Memorial	P. Newbern
05-09	2	Derry	Sybiak Farm	T. Bronson
05-11	1	Lancaster	Weeks St. Pk.	D. Killam
Ovenbird				
04-30	1	Concord	Contoocook Is.	P. Hunt
05-05	3	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
05-05	2	Concord	Silk Farm WS	I. MacLeod
05-05	1	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson, J. Hills, D. Abbott, R. Aaronian, H. Chary
05-06	1	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
05-09	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
05-18	15	Concord	Penacook census	P. Hunt
05-21	24	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
Northern Waterthrush				
04-29	1	Sutton	Cascade Marsh	P. Newbern
04-29	1	Wilmot	Campground Rd.	P. Newbern
04-29	1	Sutton	Baker Rd.	P. Newbern
04-30	1	Lyman	Under the Mountain Rd.	S. & M. Turner
04-30	5	Bradford	Bradford Bog	I. MacLeod, R. Woodward
04-30	3	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	P. Newbern
05-14	14	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	D. Govatski
Louisiana Waterthrush				
04-15	1	Concord	Contoocook Is.	P. Hunt
04-19	1	Madison	Eidelweiss Dr.	J. Hadam
04-22	1	Hillsborough	Beard Road	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod, R. Woodward
04-22	1	Kingston	near Cedar Swamp Pond	S. & J. Mirick
04-28	3	Westmoreland	Partridge Brook Road	R. Ritz
05-20	1	Conway	Pine Tree School	C. Federer
Mourning Warbler				
05-24	1	Woodstock	Mirror Lake Rd.	B. Griffith, M. Harvey, A. Hadley
05-31	1	Woodstock	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest	B. Griffith, M. Harvey, A. Hadley, M. Betts
05-31	1	Whitefield	trail to Pondicherry WS	S. & M. Turner
05-31	1	Benton	Long Pond	S. & M. Turner, et al

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Common Yellowthroat				
04-14	1	Pittsburg	west end of Back Lake	L. Jones
05-05	1	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson, J. Hills, D. Abbott, R. Aaronian, H. Chary
05-05	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D.& M. Hayward
05-06	1	Durham	West Foss Farm	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard, A. Kimball, M. Hatfield, D. Wendelken
05-06	1	Walpole	Scovill Road	R. Ritz
05-06	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
05-21	53	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
Wilson's Warbler				
05-07	1	Nashua	Berkeley St. residence	D. Deifik, R. Ridgeley
05-08	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
05-18	1	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind P.O.	R. Suomala
05-25	3	Pittsburg	East Inlet	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
05-25	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D.& M. Hayward, J. Cotton
05-28	1	Salisbury	Bay Rd.	P. Newbern
Canada Warbler				
05-18	1	Concord	Bog Rd.	P. Hunt
05-19	1	Concord	Locke Rd. sod farms	R.& M. Suomala
05-19	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D.& M. Hayward
05-20	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds trails	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard, M. Pachomski, S. Pinkham
05-21	2	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward

Tanager through Finches

As with warblers, the sparrow migration of 2006 was relatively uneventful, with no large concentrations noted. The only hint of a movement was that of White-throated Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos at the very end of March and beginning of April. Notable in their absence from their usual coastal haunts were sharp-tailed sparrows. The only Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow was from the Isles of Shoals and the only Saltmarsh an intriguing sighting from a feeder in Concord on May 13. While the inland race of Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow is occasionally recorded away from the coast during migration, such records of the more specialized Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow are very rare indeed. This exceptional record awaits review by the NH Rare Birds Committee.

Reports of two **Dickcissels** are more than is usual in the spring, and both were nicely documented with photographs. Like so many other groups before them, even blackbirds occurred in relatively low numbers, with only a couple of large mixed flocks reported. Baltimore Orioles showed up all over the state over a fairly narrow range of dates between May 5 and 8. An immature male Orchard Oriole in Concord was away from extreme southeastern New Hampshire where the species is more common.

On the winter finch front, there were only single reports of Pine Grosbeak and Red Crossbill, and none whatsoever of White-winged Crossbill. Even Purple Finches seemed uncommon. After the winter's invasion, a few Common Redpolls were still

scattered around the state through March, along with a couple of the rarer **Hoary Redpolls**. Only one redpoll appeared in the Seacoast area in spring, and only one managed to linger into April. Reports of from one to nine Evening Grosbeaks came from all areas of the state, and spanned the entire season.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Scarlet Tanager				
05-05	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Rd. woodland	D. Hubbard
05-06	1	Fremont	Ingalls Lane	T. Bronson
05-08	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis
05-08	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
05-19	4	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
Eastern Towhee				
04-15	2	Fremont	powerline at Rt. 111A & South Rd.	T. Bronson
04-15	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
04-16	1	Concord	Borough Rd.	P. Hunt
04-27	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	R. Suomala, D. DeLuca, S. Burbidge, L. Herlihy, T. Bronson
04-28	5	Amherst	Ponemah Bog WS	T. Bronson, J. Hills
American Tree Sparrow				
04-01	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
04-04	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
04-10	1	Concord	Contoocook Is.	P. Hunt
Chipping Sparrow				
04-01	1	Concord	Contoocook Is.	P. Hunt
04-03	1	Gilmanton	Currier Hill Rd.	J. Stockwell
04-11	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
04-13	2	Exeter	Washington St.	R. Aaronian
04-14	2	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
Field Sparrow				
03-09	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
04-12		Brentwood	Pine Rd. Reclamation Area	R. Aaronian
04-15	2	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
04-15	6	Fremont	power line at Rt. 111A & South Rd.	T. Bronson
Vesper Sparrow				
04-21	1	Concord	Concord Airport	I. MacLeod
04-22	2	Freedom	Trout Pond CA	G. McElroy
04-30	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
05-20	7	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt, J. Kanter
05-28	1	Newington	McIntyre Road	S. & J. Mirick
Savannah Sparrow				
03-31	7	Dover	field near County Courthouse	T. Chase
04-14	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	T. Bronson
04-14	4	Rye	Wallis Sands St. Beach	T. Bronson
04-15	10	Greenland	Great Bay Farm	S. Mirick, NHA FT
04-27	33	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	R. Suomala, D. DeLuca, S. Burbidge, L. Herlihy, T. Bronson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Savannah Sparrow—continued				
05-01	10	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport at Short St.	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
05-31	13	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
Grasshopper Sparrow				
05-19	9	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
05-27	1	Manchester	Manchester landfill	S. Brown
05-27	1	Laconia	Laconia Airport	D. Austin
05-28	1	Newington	McIntyre Road	S. & J. Mirick
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow				
05-25	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, J. Cotton
Fox Sparrow				
03-14	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis
03-15	1	Peterborough	residence	M. Johnson
03-16	1	Weare	Abijah Bridge Rd.	L. Palmer
03-16	1	Milford	Federal Hill Rd.	B. & R. Becker
03-31	5	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis
03-31	1	Columbia		D. Killam
04-04	1	Jefferson	Rt. 116 residence	D. & K. Govatski
04-04	9	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
04-07	6	New London	Pingree Rd.	R. Vernon
04-08	6	Newbury	Stoney Brook WS	C. Martin
04-12	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
04-14	1	Pittsburg	Back Lake, w. end	L. Jones
Lincoln's Sparrow				
05-06	2	Jefferson	Cherry Pond	D. Govatski
05-07	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
05-24	1	Pittsburg	Deer Mtn. Campground	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
05-25	9	Pittsburg	East Inlet	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
05-27	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, J. Cotton
Swamp Sparrow				
03-25	1	Newmarket	Wiggins Farm-Tuttle Swamp CA	T. Bronson
04-16	2	Concord	Bog Rd.	P. Hunt
04-23	1	Newington	Great Bay NWR	T. Bronson
04-27	4	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	R. Suomala, D. DeLuca, S. Burbidge, L. Herlihy, T. Bronson
White-throated Sparrow				
04-27	16	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	R. Suomala, D. DeLuca, S. Burbidge, L. Herlihy, T. Bronson
04-29	53	Concord	Penacook census	P. Hunt
05-01	10	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
Dark-eyed Junco				
04-01	33	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
04-01	79	Concord	Penacook census	P. Hunt
04-07	50	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
04-11	17	Fremont	Ingalls Lane	T. Bronson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Snow Bunting				
03-07	50	Lebanon	Storrs Hill	D. Jorgensen
04-11	1	Peterborough	residence	M. Johnson
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
04-18	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. Harris
04-29	1	Hanover	Hanover Center residence	M. Young
04-30	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
05-01	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-04	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
Indigo Bunting				
05-07	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
05-08	1	Gilmanton	Currier Hill Rd.	J. Stockwell
05-17	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis
05-17	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
Dickcissel				
04-02	1	Derry	Ledgewood Dr.	M.& W. Mensinger
04-10	1	Derry	Ledgewood Dr.	M.& W. Mensinger
05-25	1	Swanzy	Swanzy St. residence, W. Swanzy	D., B.& B. Adams
05-27	1	Swanzy	West Swanzy	L. Tanino
Bobolink				
05-05	3	Kensington	between Moulton Ridge & Shaws Hill	G. Gavutis Jr.
05-05	2	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
05-12	3	Weare	Sugarhill Rd.	I. MacLeod
05-12	3	Dover	Strafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
Red-winged Blackbird				
03-02	3	Rochester	Ten Rod Rd. residence	D. Hubbard
03-09	52	Exeter	Washington St.	R. Aaronian
03-10	50	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis
03-12	21	Concord	Penacook census	P. Hunt
03-12	30	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
03-13	50	Conway	Intervale	C. Federer
03-15	26	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
03-24	100	Lee	Rt. 152 w. of Rt. 125	T. Bronson
Eastern Meadowlark				
03-12	1	Fremont	Martin Rd.	T. Bronson
03-26	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
03-30	1	Lebanon	Storrs Hill	D. Jorgensen
04-03	1	Dover	Strafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
04-05	2	Swanzy	Keene Airport	L. Tanino
05-19	3	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
Rusty Blackbird				
03-30	5	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
04-01	4	Kingston	off New Boston Road	S.& J. Mirick, R.& M. Suomala
04-05	25	Swanzy	Keene Airport	L. Tanino
04-06	2	Moultonborough	Unsworth Preserve	T. Vazzano
04-14	1	Hollis	Flint Pond	R. Andrews
04-16	2	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
05-07	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS, "Moorhen Marsh"	D. Govatski
05-24	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet	B. Griffith, M. Harvey

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Common Grackle				
03-08	10	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis
03-09	9	Gilmanton	Currier Hill Rd.	J. Stockwell
03-09	6	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
03-12	125	Kensington	Rt. 150 at Shaws Hill Rd.	T. Bronson
03-12	250	Kensington	Kimball Rd. marsh	T. Bronson
03-13	500	Salem	Salem High School	K. Folsom
03-14	300	Salem	Salem High School	K. Folsom
03-20	90	Rochester	Quail Rd.	T. Bronson, M. Pachomski
04-01	74	Concord	Penacook census	P. Hunt
04-28	110	Pittsburg	Lake Francis	C. Martin
Orchard Oriole				
04-27	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
05-11	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis
05-20	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	P. Hunt, J. Kanter
05-20	2	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard, M. Pachomski, S. Pinkham
05-28	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. & J. Mirick
05-29	1	Kensington	Kimball Road	S. & J. Mirick
Baltimore Oriole				
04-29	2	Concord	Penacook census	P. Hunt
05-02	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. Harris
05-05	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Rd. residence	D. Hubbard
05-05	1	Gilmanton	Crystal Lake Rd.	J. Stockwell
05-06	10	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis
05-06	2	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
05-06	1	Peterborough	Old Dublin Road	M. Johnson, M. Kolbjorusen, et al.
05-08	1	Westmoreland	River Rd.	R. Ritz
Blackbird sp.				
03-12	400	Greenland	Newington Road	S. & J. Mirick, D. Abbott
03-30	400	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
Pine Grosbeak				
03-03		Hanover	Dartmouth Day Care	M. & M. Walsh
Red Crossbill				
04-22	4	Freedom	Trout Pond CA	G. McElroy
Common Redpoll				
03-09	170	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
03-10	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Rd. residence	D. Hubbard
03-11	18	Newbury	Ramblewood Circle residence	P. Newbern
03-12	45	Bradford	West Rd. residence	D. & M. Halsted
03-26	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
03-28	16	Chatham	residence	R. Crowley
04-17	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
Hoary Redpoll				
03-19	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
03-19	1	Chatham	Green Hill Rd.	R. Crowley

Reporters for Spring 2006

Rich Aaronian
 Darrick Adams
 Diane Aluxek
 H. Cook Anderson
 Ralph Andrews
 Widge Arms
 Jenny Ashley
 David Austin
 Karen Austin
 Bert Becker
 Kenneth Bergman
 Bob Bradley
 Terry Bronson
 Phil Brown
 Susie Burbidge
 Chris Carr
 Hank Chary
 Tom Chase
 Don Clark
 David Crowe
 Robert Crowley
 David Deifik
 Alan Delorey
 Barbara Delorey
 Jane Doherty
 Wendy Egan
 C. Anthony Federer
 Kenneth Folsom
 Bob Fox
 Susan Galt

George Gavutis, Jr.
 Keith Gordon
 David Govatski
 John Granton
 Benjamin Griffith
 David Halsted
 Joel Harrington
 Bill Harris
 Michael Harvey
 Dan Hayward
 Melissa Hayward
 Phil Hendrickx
 Lindsay Herlihy
 Dan Hubbard
 Pam Hunt
 Margot Johnson
 Leith Jones
 David Killam
 Jack Kirk
 Debra LaValley
 Brenda Lewis
 Virgil Lunardini
 Iain MacLeod
 Chris Martin
 Eric Masterson
 Michelle Mensinger
 Steve Mirick
 Sue Mooney
 Peter Newbern
 Bill Nichols

Joanne Norton
 Kathie Palfy
 Sheila Perry
 Sheli Petersen
 Greg Prazar
 Mike Provencher
 Robert Quinn
 Robert Ritz
 Carol Rocheleau
 Judy Romano
 Taj Schottland
 Brenda Sens
 Dot Soule
 J. R. Stockwell
 Rebecca Suomala
 Lance Tanino
 Jean Tewksbury
 Sandra Turner
 Fred Tyrrell
 Tony Vazzano
 Robert Vernon
 Rob Woodward
 Mary Wright
 Scott Young

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

Reports for the following species were received in Spring 2006 but not listed.

American Black Duck
 Mallard
 Black Scoter
 Red-breasted Merganser
 Chukar
 Ring-necked Pheasant
 Ruffed Grouse
 Wild Turkey
 Northern Bobwhite
 Great Blue Heron
 Turkey Vulture
 Bald Eagle
 Sharp-shinned Hawk
 Cooper's Hawk
 Northern Goshawk
 Red-tailed Hawk
 Peregrine Falcon

Bonaparte's Gull
 Great Black-backed Gull
 Rock Pigeon
 Mourning Dove
 Barred Owl
 Belted Kingfisher
 Hairy Woodpecker
 Pileated Woodpecker
 American Crow
 Common Raven
 Tufted Titmouse
 Red-breasted Nuthatch
 White-breasted Nuthatch
 Brown Creeper
 Eastern Bluebird
 European Starling
 Cedar Waxwing

Song Sparrow
 White-crowned Sparrow
 Northern Cardinal
 Brown-headed Cowbird
 Purple Finch
 Pine Siskin
 American Goldfinch
 Evening Grosbeak
 House Sparrow

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

Photo Gallery

Northern Saw-whet Owl in Downtown Concord

by Kathie Palfy

Many birders have identified the Northern Saw-whet Owl in the wild from its call. All too often they fail to get a glimpse of the creature producing the distinctive “toots”. But one Saw-whet made itself quite at home in the streets of downtown Concord for a day in March. With no trees to hide its presence, many birders and passers-by had the pleasure of seeing it up close. It was first noticed at 6:15 am, roosting on a



Close-up of Saw-whet Owl.

small metal strip attached to a brick building on Kennedy Street which is only one block away from Main Street. Mark Ciborowski, who works in the area, reported it to New Hampshire Audubon. Soon a bevy of birders descended on the area to get a glimpse and/or a photo of this often heard, but seldom seen, bird. Finally at 7:01 pm, as dusk settled, it flew off, probably to continue its migration.

All photos by Iain MacLeod, 3/29/06, Concord, NH.



Easy to miss this robin-sized owl.



Any old perch will do!

Spotlight on Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)

by Robert Fox



Northern Wheatear by Mark Suomala, 9/14/06, Salem, NH.

Note: As this article was being written, sightings from the upcoming Fall 2006 season warranted inclusion and appear in a separate section below. Ed.

Background

According to most authorities, the Northern Wheatear is a member of the Thrush Family. Clements (2000) still refers to them as Old World Flycatchers. This bird is thrush-like in size with warm brown plumage, a white rump, and a white tail with an inverted black T-pattern. Usually the bird is found on fields or beaches, and it sometimes bobs when perched.

Breeding

Two races of the Northern Wheatear breed in North America. *Oenanthe o. oenanthe* breeds in Alaska (and Siberia) and migrates westerly to Africa. The race of Northern Wheatear we see, *O. o. leucorhoa*, breeds in Iceland, Greenland and northeastern Canada, coastal Labrador to western Hudson Bay and on Ellesmere, White and Baffin Islands. This wheatear favors barren spaces, tundra and gravel, or sandy areas with a few bushes for perching. It breeds from mid-May to early August and migrates from mid-August to early October. In the fall, most of this race flies southeasterly for 30 hours over the Atlantic to Western Europe then south across the Sahara to Western Africa. Some birds may fly along the St. Lawrence River to southeastern Newfound-

land to the Azores hence to Africa. It is a vagrant to eastern North America, usually near the coast and in the fall.

Occurrence in New Hampshire

There have been only seven published reports in the state, with all but one in September. The September reports include Pembroke (1962), Rye (1972, photographed), Dixville Notch (1981), Seabrook (1982, photographed), Peterborough (1988) and Bristol (1990). The seventh record was a bird seen on June 3 at Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge (2001). Based on the reports, the 1972 and 1982 birds appeared to be adults and the 1981 bird was an immature. This information is based on a review of the data sources listed below. Six of the seven reports were present for only one day, the seventh for two days. In Massachusetts several birds have stayed for two to five days and one for an entire month.

Comments

A review of this wheatear in New England expands our understanding of its visits in our state. There are two 19th century specimens from either coastal Maine or “on the wrong side of the international border” in New Brunswick depending on which author one believes (Forbush, 1929; Palmer, 1949). In the 20th century, there are two records from coastal Maine prior to 1942. The first report from Massachusetts was in September 1910; all other records there occurred since 1954 with a range of fall dates from August 23 to November 13. All but one Massachusetts sighting have been near the coast (Veit & Petersen, 1993).

The first New Hampshire record of a spring migrant heading to its breeding grounds was on June 3, 2001 in Jefferson, and was viewed by birders on two New Hampshire Audubon Chapter field trips. This individual was part of an unprecedented deviation of birds migrating from Europe to northern Canada. In this flight bird reports included those from Newfoundland (42); Quebec and Nova Scotia (3 each); New Brunswick and Massachusetts (2 each); and Connecticut, Vermont and New Hampshire (1 each). A pair found breeding in Newfoundland in July might have come in this flight. There were reportedly strong northerly winds from May 15–25, 2001. There have been seven reports from Massachusetts in May to early June, including the two in 2001.

In New England most birds were found very near the coast in both spring and fall. Therefore, it is interesting to note that in spring 2001 the New Hampshire record and one from Vermont plus one from Massachusetts all were inland. In fall, two of six New Hampshire reports were inland and one of over 50 Massachusetts birds also was inland.

Fall 2006 flight

As of late September, 2006 there were at least 27 reports of Northern Wheatear from eastern North America including two from New Hampshire. Our state's birds were in Salem and Rye and were adults in non-breeding plumage, not immature birds. Of three birds found in Connecticut, two were in adult plumage. Elsewhere, reports came from coastal Newfoundland to New Jersey and southern Florida, and inland to Ontario, Quebec and northern Vermont. There were storms reported in the northwest Atlantic late this summer.

What caused this vagrancy?

In the past half-century, the wheatear has been expanding its range westward to western Hudson Bay and it has appeared more frequently in southeastern Canada, New England, along the East Coast, and in the Caribbean (Barbados, Puerto Rico, Cuba, and even Bermuda, plus other islands). It is interesting to note that a number of the individuals appeared to be adults, judged by their plumage.

Two possible reasons have been suggested as to why Northern Wheatears have been appearing: they were blown off course or their genetic navigational abilities were defective. There is some evidence to support each theory. It has also been suggested that the number of vagrants may be affected by the number of young raised in a year – the more young migrating, the more birds that could potentially be off course. And finally, the more birders are out there looking, the more rarities may be found. In any case, this Northern Wheatear flight will remain a highlight of New Hampshire birding in 2006.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks for material and assistance are extended to David B. Donsker, Pam Hunt, Robert H. Stymeist, Richard R. Veit, the New Hampshire Audubon staff, and to my wife, Dana Duxbury-Fox.

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.

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Bob Fox, a life long birder, has spent 1-3 months nearly every year in New Hampshire since he was 10. Bob birded extensively with Bob Smart from the late 1940s through the 1970s and they planned to write a book on New Hampshire birds. Today Bob is assisting Allan Keith complete this idea. Bob and Dana Duxbury-Fox summer in Tuftonboro and live in North Andover, Massachusetts.

Backyard Birder

A Suet Feeder Attracts an Unusual Bird

by Brenda Sens

In early June 2006, a fascinating e-mail arrived at New Hampshire Audubon from Adele Garvin of Union, New Hampshire. She reported that a Turkey Vulture came to the suet feeder in her backyard and remained there for fifteen minutes. Although Turkey Vultures are common in New Hampshire during the summer, the behavior of this one was highly unusual. Her subsequent description of the feeder helped to explain how such a large bird managed to get to it:

“Our suet is in a cage attached to a cedar pole, so it is not loose and swinging. I set a smaller cage inside the larger one to try to keep crows from pulling out the suet and taking it away almost as soon as I put it out! The vulture couldn’t figure out how to lift the small cage out, and then the suet, so it just pecked as best it could, very awkwardly. It stuck with it for about 15 minutes. I wished I could go out and put the suet on the ground for it, but knew it would take off. Some of the time, it walked around on the ground, looking for pieces in the grass.”

Photographs soon followed to document this Turkey Vulture’s unusual activity.

Turkey Vultures are one of only three New World Vultures found in North America, along with California Condor and Black Vulture. Unlike other birds of prey, such as hawks and owls, vultures have weak feet and are incapable of grasping prey. It is impossible to say what came first, weak feet or a preference for eating carrion, garbage, and offal. Although carrion is their primary food, they have been known to kill and consume young or weakened animals and on rare occasions



*Turkey Vulture by Adele Garvin,
6/8/06, Union, NH.*

something small and healthy, such as a tadpole. Unlike most birds, Turkey Vultures are known to have a keen sense of smell and it is thought that this ability, along with good eyesight, enables them to find their food. Their beaks are strong, making it possible for them to tear at the corpses of animals, and their naked heads most likely evolved from the need to probe into decaying carcasses. However repellant we humans may find these food habits, vultures do us a great service by helping to clean up the natural world.

Turkey Vultures engage in courtship flights as do many species of birds, but distinguish themselves by not building nests at all, instead using caves, crevices, cliffs and ledges, laying one to two eggs directly on the ground. Adults take turns incubating the eggs and both feed the young by means of regurgitation. Once the young are able to fly (usually when they are 75 days old), they gather at communal perching areas and adults and young feed together into the fall. Most leave New Hampshire by mid-October.

There is one other behavior that Turkey Vultures engage in that seems most unusual. Like anhingas and cormorants, these birds will assume and maintain a standing posture with their wings spread out. Their body temperature lowers at night, and in the morning they assume this posture to hasten the absorption of solar energy and raise their body temperature to a daytime level.

Taking all of this into consideration, Turkey Vultures are certainly a fascinating species of bird and a far cry from the ones usually seen at a suet feeder.

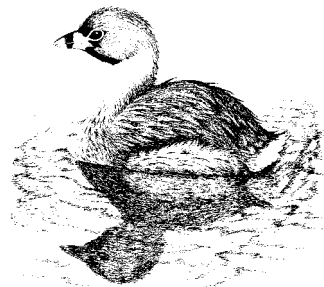
Brenda Sens is a Volunteer Naturalist at New Hampshire Audubon. She enjoys watching birds, insects, and other wildlife at her home in Gilmanton.

Birding the Brentwood Mitigation Area

by Terry Bronson

The Brentwood Mitigation (or Reclamation) Area (also called the Deer Hill Wildlife Management Area, although that name is not publicized) is currently the Pied-billed Grebe capital of New Hampshire. In 2006, five pairs produced 18 young, almost the entire state total. This Brentwood area also hosts a sizable Great Blue Heron rookery, about 30 species of breeding birds, and about 90 other species. See the Web page <http://nhbirds.wikispaces.com/Brentwood+Mitigation+Area+Bird+List> for a species list.

Birding is best here from mid-April through mid-May, when spring migration is in full swing and the shrubs and trees have not yet fully leafed out. Good birding opportunities are also present in summer and fall. New Hampshire Fish and Game releases Ring-



*Pied-billed Grebe
by Andrea E. Robbins*

necked Pheasants at Brentwood just prior to October 1, so birding there during October is not recommended as hunters (up to dozens on weekends) may be present.

Brentwood Basics

The mitigation area, administered by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation, consists of 100 acres of constructed ponds, marshes, and fields from which gravel was removed during the building of the Route 101 freeway from 1994 to 1997. It also has a large swamp and surrounding wooded areas.

Located in the northeast corner of the town of Brentwood, this area is easily accessible from Route 101 (Figure 1). If you approach from the west, take Exit 8 from Route 101, go north 0.3 miles to Route 27, then turn right and go 1.1 miles to Pine Road. From the east, take Exit 9 and go west 1.8 miles on Route 27 to Pine Road. On Pine Road go south 0.4 miles, passing under Route 101 and just beyond Seacoast Mills Building Supply lumber yard turn into the gated entrance and small unsigned parking area on the right.

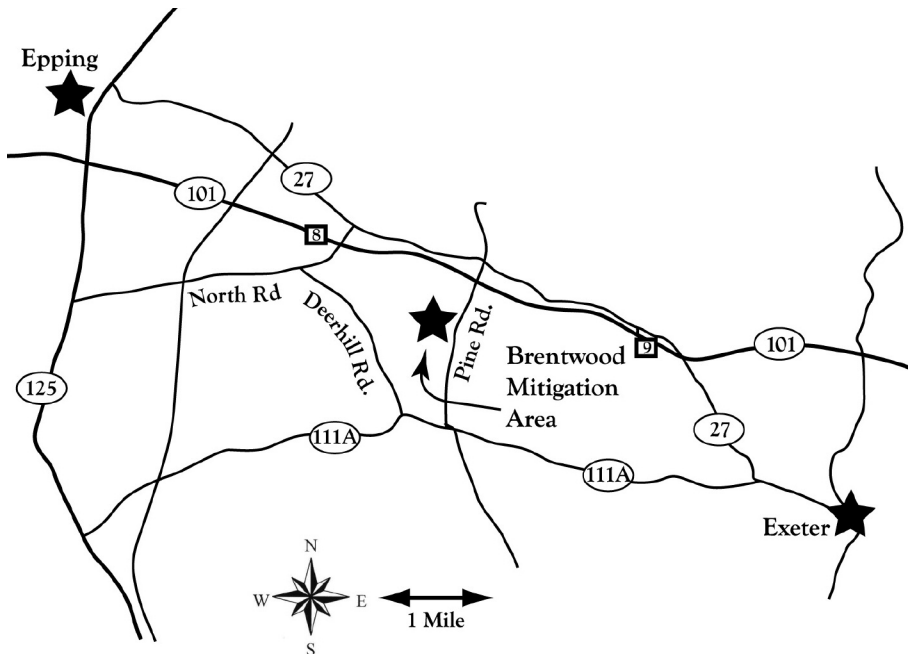


Figure 1 – Location of Brentwood Mitigation Area, NH.

The terrain is basically flat with three to four miles of old roads replanted with grass and now serving as trails. The grass is not mowed and can get over seven feet high in spots late in the summer (and get quite wet after heavy dew and rains). There is no official trail map but Figure 2 will help guide you through the area. It takes over four hours to traverse all the trails but if you're short of time, you can do it in less than two hours by skipping some of the ponds. Binoculars will suffice for most of the ponds, but the swamp and the larger ponds can best be appreciated with a scope.

The area lacks “creature comforts.” There are no restrooms. Ticks, mosquitoes, and flies are common, and there is virtually no shade, so insect repellent and sunscreen are necessities. Long trousers, a long-sleeved shirt or jacket, and a hat are highly recommended. Wear old socks and sneakers that can get wet or knee-high waterproof boots as about 100 feet of a low spot in the trail is regularly flooded up to eight inches deep. Other areas, especially the field near Route 101, can also flood periodically after very heavy rains.

Brentwood also has noise distractions. Route 101 traffic, an industrial operation south of the power line, an occasional jet flying over, the shooting range of a firearms manufacturer across Route 101, the roar from the New England Dragway at Exit 8 on Friday afternoons and weekends during warm weather, and practice sessions of the marching band of nearby Exeter High School all contribute to the ambiance!

Birding Highlights

Regardless of where you are, check the sky from time to time. Raptor, heron, and gull flyovers occur occasionally with Red-tailed, Broad-winged, and Sharp-shinned Hawk; Turkey Vulture; Great Blue Heron; and Herring and Ring-billed Gull being the most common.

During the warmer months Tree Swallow, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Song Sparrow, American Goldfinch, Eastern Kingbird, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, and Gray Catbird can be found in most areas of Brentwood.

If you have four hours, the following route will guide you through the entire area. If you have less time, skip Ponds 4, 5 and 6, and only go partway around Ponds 2 and 8 (Figure 2). On mornings when the grass is wet from rain or heavy dew, you can keep drier by skipping Pond 2 and the power line loop, leaving this area until the end of your tour.

Pond 1: Pied-billed Grebes breed in this pond and can sometimes be seen from just inside the entrance, but a better view is from the last thin spot in the vegetation about 100 feet before the first trail junction. Green Herons also breed here. The trail from the entrance is bordered mostly by small pine trees and can flood briefly after heavy rains. This area can be hopping with small birds such as American Robin, sparrows, Dark-eyed Junco, Gray Catbird, kinglets, and warblers. Where the pine trees are replaced by low shrubs on the left and medium-sized trees on the right, be alert for American Goldfinch, Purple Finch, Blue-winged and Palm Warbler, Warbling Vireo, and other passerines.

Pond 2 and power line: At the first trail junction, go left between Ponds 1 and 2. The trail completely loops around Pond 2 and rejoins the main trail less than 100 feet beyond where you first turned off. Check the shrubs along this trail and under the power line between Pond 2 and Pine Road, where Prairie Warbler, Field Sparrow, and Common Yellowthroat are often found. Look down the power line for perching American Kestrel, Belted Kingfisher, Mourning Dove, and others. You cannot walk under the power line beyond the point where the trail veers right around the backside of the pond because it gets very wet. Pond 2 is the easiest place to see Pied-billed Grebes because of the good views from under the power line. Hooded Merganser during migration and Mallard have also been seen in this pond, and the dead trees in the small

island in the middle are good places to check for Northern Flicker. As you make your way around the pond, check the tall trees on the left as well as the shrubs on the right for Brown Thrasher, Eastern Towhee, and other forest-edge birds.

Pond 3: Return to the main trail, turn left and follow it past a small pond on the left (which appears to be two small ponds separated by shrubs) and trees on the right. Look especially for Yellow and Prairie Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Song and White-throated Sparrow, House Wren, Baltimore Oriole, and Red-eyed Vireo. The trail is almost permanently flooded several inches deep at this pond because beaver activity and debris have created an artificial dam that prevents rapid draining after heavy rains. You can often skirt through the small shrubs and trees on the right side, but you may just have to wade through.

Pond 4: You will soon come to a split in the trail. The trail to the left goes to Ponds 7, 8, and 9, which is the way to go if you are short on time. The trail to the right leads past a small pond with a lot of marshy area, but relatively few birds. Most of the birds—generally sparrows, Gray Catbird, and warblers—will be in the shrubs and small trees bordering the trail.

Pond 5: After you pass Pond 4, the next pond you will see on the left, Pond 5, is quite large. Pied-billed Grebe, Mallard, and Ring-necked Duck may be seen there. In 2005 a female Scaup (species undetermined) summered over, and Spotted Sandpiper might also be there. As you walk along, a small field will open up on the right between the pond and Route 101. (This is another area that can flood almost a foot deep after heavy rains and take weeks to dry up.) The trees on the far side of this field may

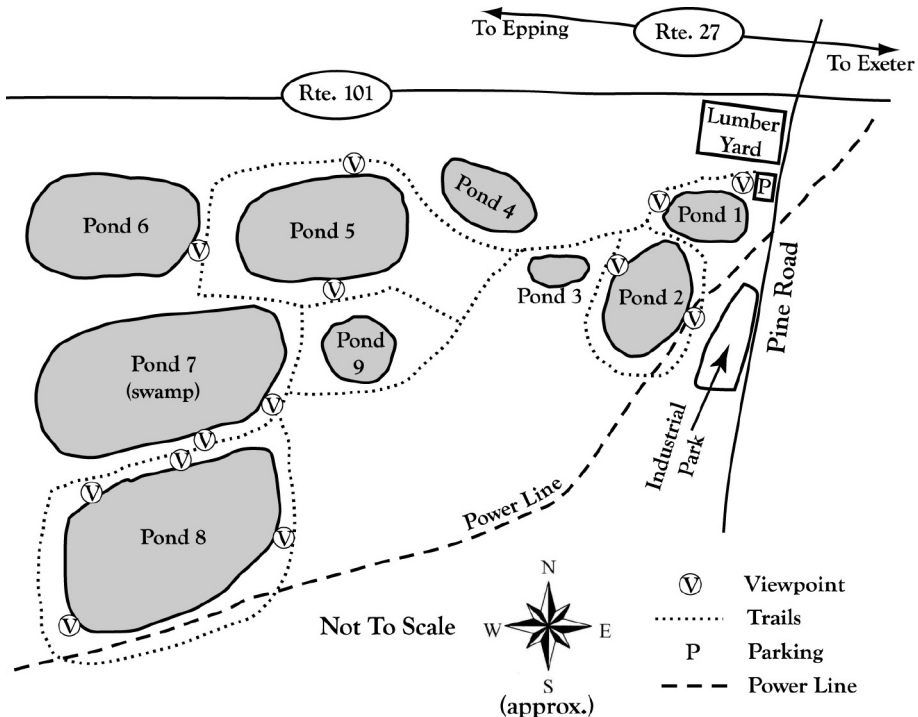


Figure 2. Locations of ponds, trails and viewpoints in Brentwood Mitigation Area, NH.

reward you with Least Flycatcher and Baltimore Oriole. Yellow Warbler, Song Sparrow, and Eastern Kingbird will probably be in the shrubs along the pond. American Woodcock have been flushed from those shrubs, and Orchard Oriole has also been seen. Look on the snags and overhead for American Kestrel, Red-tailed Hawk, and Turkey Vulture.

Pond 6: The trail will curve left and pass between Ponds 5 (shrubby at that end) and 6. Pied-billed Grebe and Canada Geese have bred there. Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, and Mallard are also possible. Orchard Oriole and Willow Flycatcher have been seen on the Pond 5 side of the trail, and Spotted Sandpiper and Herring Gull on the rocks in the pond.

As you leave Pond 6 behind, the shrubs on the left can yield warblers (Canada and Nashville), Eastern Phoebe, Indigo Bunting, and other small birds. Check the trees on the right for birds such as Black-and-white Warbler and Baltimore Oriole. When you come to a trail junction, bear left and continue for about 100 yards to get a view from the backside of Pond 5; then retrace your steps and turn left at the junction.

Pond 7 (the swamp): As you follow the trail, check the shrubs and trees on both sides for passerines. You will come to an open gate and see a large swamp on the right with many tall dead trees.

This swamp contains a Great Blue Heron rookery (16 nests in 2006); by summer up to five young herons can be seen per nest. Ospreys and a Great Horned Owl have been seen in this swamp, but no nesting has been noted. Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Ring-necked Duck, and Hooded and Common Merganser have been present. You might hear and see a Belted Kingfisher, Green Heron, or Double-crested Cormorant as well.

Shortly after you pass the gate take the trail to the right, which follows the edge of the swamp. This path offers several more places where you can get good views of parts of the rookery.

Pond 8: To the left of this trail behind the small pine trees and shrubs is Pond 8, the largest pond in Brentwood, where you can find more nesting Pied-billed Grebes and Mallards and sometimes Canada Goose and Ring-necked Duck. The trees and shrubs on both sides of the trail can be a good place for passerines—Warbling Vireo; Nashville, Palm, and Yellow-rumped Warbler; White-throated Sparrow; Baltimore and Orchard Oriole; Cedar Waxwing; and Willow Flycatcher. This is also a good place to find Barn and occasionally Bank and Northern Rough-winged Swallow, and also Chimney Swift.

Just before the trail bears left, there is a tiny pond on the right (not shown on map) that is connected to the swamp. It is worthwhile to check for Green Heron, American Kestrel, and Veery in the trees bordering this pond.

Continue along the trail, looking for woodpeckers (Pileated and Hairy) and Blue Jays in the trees and small passerines in the understory. Eventually, the trail will go under the power line and turn left, following the pond, and returning to the gate where the heron nests were first visible. A short distance after you leave the power line, there is a good open spot to view Pied-billed Grebe and Mallard. Veery, Willow Flycatcher, Cedar Waxwing, and other passerines may be in the trees on the right or the shrubs alongside the pond. This stretch is an especially good place to find warblers – a Connecticut Warbler has even been seen here.

Pond 9: To reach this pond, take the trail that goes off to the right just past the gate. You'll pass a small pond on the left that is more of a marsh than a pond. Look for Red-winged Blackbird and Common Yellowthroat and check the trees for Great Crested Flycatcher. Just past that pond is a small dirt and grass area where you might see Mourning Dove and sparrows. The trail to the left, just past the dirt area and through the shrubs, would bring you to the spot on the south edge of Pond 5 that you visited earlier. Instead, bear right, which brings you back to the split before Pond 4; bear right again to go through the flood area at Pond 3, then bear left to return to the parking area. Pond 1 will be on your right, and you can check it again as you exit.

Brentwood is a place you can go back to again and again during the year to enjoy the ever-changing cast of avian species. All serious birders should put it on their lists of places to visit.

Terry Bronson is an avid birder living in Fremont, NH, about four miles from Brentwood. He is a volunteer for New Hampshire Bird Records, conducts bird surveys and leads field trips for New Hampshire Audubon and its chapters, is an officer of the Seacoast Chapter, and serves as Secretary to the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee.

Volunteers and Research

Keeping Track of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds

by Sharon Stichter

Those little dynamos, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, are among our most popular and beloved “yard birds.” Since 2003, New England Hummers has been collecting data about them, in a citizen science project based at the Web site www.nehummers.com. If you enjoy keeping careful track of the hummingbirds in your yard, your observations could be important to the study. Currently, we are collecting data on arrival or “first observed” dates for males and females, departure or “last observed” dates, first observation of juvenile birds, and yard counts done during the last week of May and the last week of July. Visit the Web site to sign up as a site monitor.

Recently, New England Hummers analyzed arrival data for 2003–2005 to identify a modal (or most frequently reported) arrival date for each year. Bar charts, such as those in Figures 1 and 2, show the date on which the largest number of “first birds” were reported; this date is important for comparison with such phenomena as floral phenology, insect emergence, and weather variables. The charts also give a picture of



*Ruby-throated Hummingbird
by Debbie Stahre, 8/3/05, Northwood, NH.*

the daily ebb and flow in the number of arriving birds each season. The data include “first bird” reports to all New England region birding listserves, to all New England regional birding journals, to the nation-wide www.hummingbirds.net Web site, as well as reports directly to New England Hummers. In this case, New England includes the six states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

In 2003, the peak arrival day for New England was May 2, and this was the peak date for New Hampshire as well. In 2004, the peak arrival day for New England was similar, May 1, with a New Hampshire double peak coming on May 2 and May 12. The spring of 2003 was colder than normal over our area, with temperatures below average for both April and May, whereas the spring of 2004 was a bit warmer, averaging one to two degrees above normal in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. The temperature differences between these two years did not seem to have affected the average timing of hummingbird arrivals, but may have limited the number of early arrivals in 2003.

In 2005, April was relatively mild with good southwest winds for bird migrants, including some early hummingbirds. May, however, was the coldest it had been since 1976, averaging eight degrees below normal in Concord, New Hampshire, and delaying leaf-out and flower and insect emergence. In Rhode Island, May was the fourth coldest in 100 years of records; east winds predominated, and a strong northeaster occurred on May 6–8. Ruby-throated Hummingbird migration was affected. This low-pressure system stalled over southern New England and delayed the migration of hummingbirds, especially the earlier-arriving males. The peak day of hummingbird arrivals in 2005 was May 11, and the peak days for New Hampshire were, similarly, May 11 and 12. Many observers in New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont commented that arrivals at their feeders were about a week late that year. Females typically arrive later than males and the modal arrival date for females in 2005 was May 12, eleven days later than those for all birds in 2003 and 2004. However, because migration was delayed in 2005, the peak of female arrivals nearly coincided with the peak for all birds.

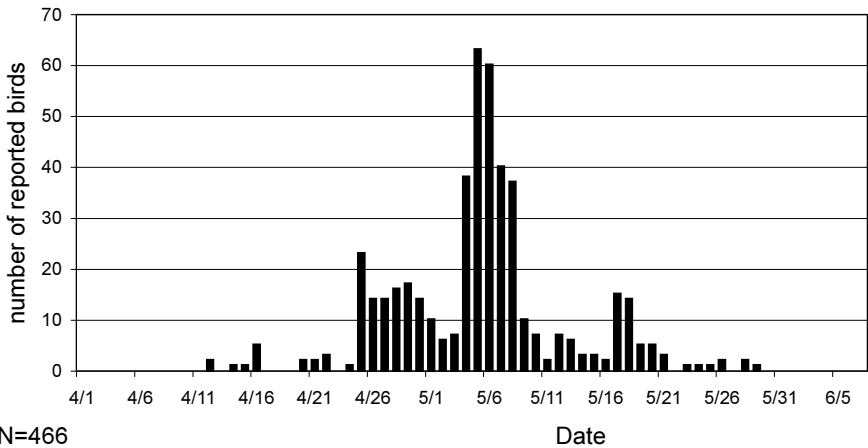


Figure 1. First Sightings of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (males and females) in 2006 for all New England States.

In 2006, the first three weeks of April were relatively warm and dry. Two hummingbirds were reported on April 12 in Connecticut; nine reports prior to April 20 represented a larger number than in the previous three years (Figure 1). Colder temperatures and persistent northeast winds followed, but surprisingly did not seem to deter the hummingbirds. A spike in arrivals in southern New England began on April 25, and the great bulk of hummingbirds arrived in New England in a relatively condensed five-day time period, from May 4–8. Peak arrival day was May 6 (Figure 1). The picture is the same for New Hampshire (Figure 2). In New England and New Hampshire, female Rubythroateds arrived in two main waves: one on May 5–8 along with many males, and another wave on May 17–18. Nearly all the birds in the May 17–18 arrival surge in Figure 1 were females, whereas in the May 5–8 surge, only about a quarter were females.

Just after the large-scale arrival in early May, cool weather and heavy rains set in over most of New England. There was nearly continuous rain May 9–16 in the Boston area and in southeastern New Hampshire. May 17 was the first sunny day after a week of heavy rain, making possible the second wave of arrivals of females in the region. Rains continued to affect the birds in some areas; in early June in Vermont, there were reports of unusually high numbers of females at yard feeders, apparently due to a shortage of natural nectar and insects during the rains.

Sometimes exceptionally early sightings in our region occur in northern New England rather than to the south. This was the case in 2004, when the earliest sightings in the region were on April 8 in Bar Harbor, Maine; April 10 in Concord, New Hampshire; and April 11 in Unity, New Hampshire. In 2005 and 2006, there were similarly early sightings, but all in southern New England. In 2005 the earliest northern New England sightings in our database were on April 18 in Hampstead and in Milton, New Hampshire. In 2006, the earliest northern New England report was relatively late, on April 26, in Manchester, New Hampshire (Figure 2). In 2003, there were fewer early sightings overall, but there was an upsurge of arrivals on April 20, one of which made it to Rye, on the coast of southern New Hampshire.

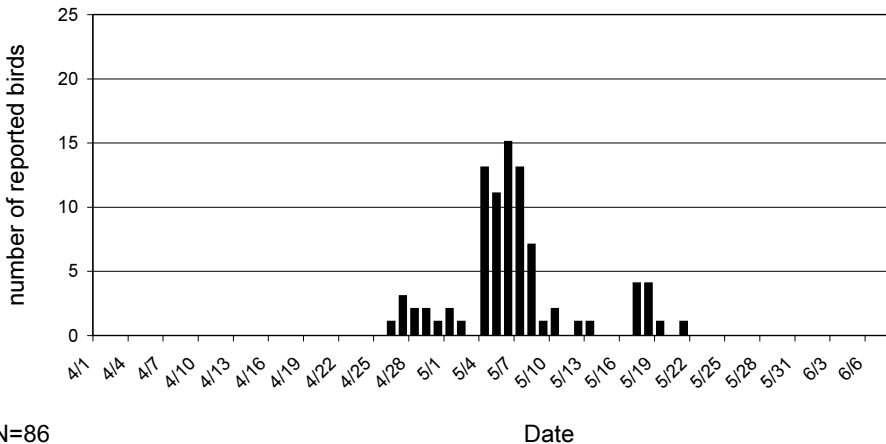


Figure 2. First Sightings of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds (male and female) in 2006 for New Hampshire.

In New Hampshire, hummingbirds typically arrive first in the southeast areas, and then later appear northward and at higher elevations. In 2006, all sightings reported prior to May 4 were in the southern part of the state, defined as south of 43.5 degrees latitude, or south of Lake Winnepesaukee. Three reports on May 4, from Gilford, Hanover, and Rumney, marked the movement into northern New Hampshire. These were followed by reports from North Conway and Sugar Hill on May 5; Colebrook, Lebanon, and Madison on May 6; and Campton, Chatham, Gorham, and Rumney on May 7. Some northerly sites with high elevation, such as Errol, did not see a hummingbird until May 17.

In addition to compiling current arrival data, New England Hummers has recently analyzed historical "first sighting" reports for eastern and central Massachusetts over the 73 years from 1933–2005. The reports are from established birding journals, supplemented by recent listserves and web sites. The results demonstrate a statistically significant trend toward earlier arrivals. A table of the data, and charts of the trend can be found in the 2006 report (Stichter 2006b). Both climate change and increased human activity over the years in attracting and observing hummingbirds probably figure into the explanation. The widespread adoption of hummingbird feeders since the 1970s, the growth of recreational backyard birding, advances in optics, and the advent of reporting via the Internet are all important factors, yet the trend toward earlier arrival reports seems too strong to be simply an artifact of these social and technological trends. There is growing scientific evidence of the reality of global warming, and good reason to expect that hummingbirds will be affected through changes in plant blooming and insect emergence times. Continued monitoring of hummingbird arrival and departure dates can help establish what is actually happening with our little feathered friends.

Sharon Stichter is Project Director of New England Hummers. She has been observing birds and butterflies for many years, and is editor of the journal Massachusetts Butterflies. She is also Professor Emerita of Sociology at the University of Massachusetts at Boston. She maintains a large hummingbird and butterfly garden in Newbury, Massachusetts, providing bed and breakfast to many hummers. She wishes to thank Lynette Leka, who produced the charts in this article.

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New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee Report

— Part One

This report from the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee (NHRBC) contains the decisions for records voted on by the Committee since the report published in the Winter 2004-2005 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*. Note that the NHRBC report published in the Winter 2005-06 issue contains records that were reviewed a number of years ago but never published. The decisions in the summary below reflect the recent, ongoing work of the Committee (December 2005 through October 2006).

The NHRBC is an independent technical advisory committee to *New Hampshire Bird Records* (NHBR). It reviews unusual sightings in an effort to maintain accuracy and scientific integrity of the database of bird records maintained by New Hampshire Audubon. All sightings are evaluated based on details submitted. The committee requires a vote with not more than one dissention for acceptance of a record. Any new state record requires a unanimous vote.

A rejection 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 key to whether a report is accepted or not. For information on the Committee and its decision-making process see the articles in the Summer 1996 and Winter 2005-06 issues of *New Hampshire Bird Records*. The Fall 1996 issue has an article on how to document rare sightings. Contact the Managing Editor for a copy of any of these articles.

The voting members of the Committee during the period in which all these records were evaluated were David Deifik, David Donsker (chairman), Davis Finch, George Gavutis and Rob Woodward. Alan Delorey participated in the deliberation of most of the older records from 1988-1990. Dennis Abbott, Ralph Andrews and Tony Vazzano did not participate in most of the 1988-1990 record discussions but were committee members during all of the other deliberations. Terry Bronson served as the secretary of the Committee during 2006.

Spring 2005

Records accepted by the Committee

- Greater White-fronted Goose in Laconia on May 17-19.
- Black Vulture in Nashua on March 7.
- Golden Eagle in Hart's Location on May 12.
- Wilson's Plover in Seabrook on May 1 and May 8. (Photo)
- American Oystercatcher in Rye on May 28.
- Ruff in Stratham on April 26
- Parasitic Jaeger in Rye on May 26. (Photo)
- Common Murre in Rye on May 26.
- Varied Thrush in Campton on March 22.
- Summer Tanager in Bethlehem on May 3. (Photo)
- Summer Tanager in Rye on May 15 (Photo)
- Dickcissel in Somersworth on May 21.
- Dickcissel in Somersworth on May 27.
- Clay-colored Sparrow in Rochester on May 21.
- Hoary Redpoll in Sandwich on March 20.

Records accepted as Hypothetical by the Committee

An Anhinga in Portsmouth on May 17 was well described by an observer quite familiar with the species. However, since at least three observers or a photograph is required for a first state record it was accepted in the "hypothetical" category.

A Mew Gull in the Rochester Wastewater Treatment Plant on April 18. Seen by an experienced observer. However, since at least three observers or a photograph is required for a first state record it was accepted in the "hypothetical" category.

Records not accepted by the Committee

Long-tailed Jaeger in Rye on May 25. It was felt the observer himself rightfully excluded Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers. Features reported were inconsistent for Long-tailed Jaeger of sub-adult stage, the only stage reasonably possible given the field marks submitted. Specifically the lack of a distinct cap and elongated central tail feathers were a difficulty. Sighting was relatively fleeting and under difficult viewing conditions. Other larid species could not be fully excluded. Brewer's Blackbird in Londonderry on April 14. Observer did not exclude Rusty Blackbird.

Summer 2005**Records accepted by the Committee**

Clapper Rail in Hampton on June 25.

Clapper Rail in Hampton on June 25-26, July 4. (Photo)

King Rail in Hampton on June 12.

King Rail in Hampton on June 18. (Many subsequent sightings)

American Oystercatcher in Rye on the Isles of Shoals on June 15.

American Oystercatcher in Rye on the Isles of Shoals on June 23.

Common Murre in Rye from the Isles of Shoals on June 29.

White-crowned Sparrow in New Ipswich on June 18.

Scaup species in Brentwood on July 21. (Species determination was not conclusive).

Records not accepted by the Committee

American Oystercatcher in Rye on the Isles of Shoals. Insufficient data submitted.

Fall 2005**Records accepted by the Committee**

Pacific Loon in North Hampton on October 31. (Two reports)

Leach's Storm Petrel in North Hampton on October 13.

Greater White-fronted Goose in Rye on November 25.

Jaeger species in Rye from Star Island on September 6. (Bird seen at considerable distance.

Although Parasitic Jaeger is favored by dates, distance from bird could not conclusively establish species).

Parasitic Jaeger in Rye on September 7.

Parasitic Jaeger in Rye on August 16.

Franklin's Gull in Rochester on November 8. (Photo, seen by many subsequent observers).

Selasphorus hummingbird species in Epsom on October 13 (Photo of a female plumage bird. Photo could not distinguish between Rufous and Allen's Hummingbirds).

Traill's (Willow/Alder) Flycatcher in East Kingston on October 15. (Bird was not calling so specific assignment between Alder and Willow could not be established).

Ash-throated Flycatcher in Kensington on November 20.

Ash-throated Flycatcher in East Kingston on November 29. (Photo)

Northern Rough-winged Swallow in Exeter on October 16.

Cave Swallow in Rye on November 12. (Two reports).

Yellow-rumped Warbler, Audubon's subspecies, in Rye on November 30. (Photo)

Townsend's Warbler in Rye on November 20. (Photo)

Painted Bunting in Contoocook on September 25.

Dark-eyed Junco, Oregon subspecies, in Rye on November 12, 13. (Two separate reports. Photos).

Yellow-headed Blackbird in Greenland on October 25.

Records accepted as Hypothetical by the Committee

MacGillivray's Warbler in Gilford on October 1. Good description by two observers very familiar with the species. However, since at least three observers or a photograph is required for a first state record it was accepted in the "hypothetical" category.

Records not accepted by the Committee

Eared Grebe in Rye on September 7. Report did not exclude the over-summering Horned Grebe known from the very location of the report.

Yellow-headed Blackbird in Claremont on August 1. Insufficient details.

Records pending

Rufous Hummingbird in Salem on August 23, 24. Photo submitted clearly shows a male *Selasphorus* hummingbird. Record deferred for additional description and/or photographs to confirm species.

Winter 2005-2006

Records accepted by the Committee

Tundra Swan in Haverhill on December 3.

Gyr Falcon in Auburn on December 17.

Thayer's Gull in Rochester on December 28. (Photos. First state record. Strong support for this species from outside experts).

Thayer's Gull in Rochester on December 30. (Photos. The same individual as on December 28).

Great Gray Owl in Acworth on December 4.

Great Gray Owl in Lyman on January 22. (Photo)

Painted Bunting in Newmarket on January 22. (Two reports. Photo)

Yellow-headed Blackbird in Hillsboro on December 1. (Photo)

Yellow-headed Blackbird in Stratham on December 4. (Photo)

Yellow-headed Blackbird in Stratham on December 5. (Seen and photographed by many subsequent observers. Same individual as December 4 sighting but at a different location).

Hoary Redpoll in Sandwich on January 8.

Hoary Redpoll in Sandwich on January 11.

Hoary Redpoll in Hancock on February 9. (Photo)

Hoary Redpoll in Sandwich on February 2.

Historical and Deferred Records—See Part 2 in the Summer 2006 issue.

Answer to the Photo Quiz

by *David B. Donsker*

This small, streaked bird with a short, conical bill is clearly a sparrow. That's the easy part. Sparrows, especially those with streaked breasts, frequently present identification challenges to both beginning and experienced birders.

Why is this so? Sparrows by their very nature are cryptic. Many skulk in thick tangles, grasses or sedges, allowing only for tantalizing glimpses. But even if seen well, these "little brown jobs" with their confusing array of streaks, crown stripes and facial markings and their frequent lack of a single definitive "field mark" can make them look frustratingly similar to one another. Accurate identification generally requires the

recognition of a set of structural and plumage characteristics combined with knowledge of selected habitat, behavior and voice.

When viewing a photograph, of course, we are limited to features of structure and plumage and only small clues about habitat. Our featured bird is perched on a small branch in a densely branched bush. The buds at the tip of the branch on which it is perched indicate that this photograph was taken in the spring rather than later in the season and, therefore, the bird must be an adult. This is an important feature because in the autumn the large set of streak-breasted sparrows is increased even more by juvenile birds of those species that have unstreaked breasts as adults. Our featured bird has a finely streaked upper breast and flanks. The breast streaking is rather sharply separated from the unmarked, white lower breast and belly. It has a rather pronounced central breast spot. The facial pattern is moderately complex. The sides of the crown are finely streaked. There is a wide gray supercilium or eyebrow that is continuous with the similarly toned gray lores or region between the eye and the base of the bill. The eye itself is surrounded by a narrow but fairly conspicuous eye-ring. The cheeks, or ear coverts, are bordered above and below by a thin, black eye-stripe and moustachial stripe, respectively. Below the moustachial stripe is a submoustachial stripe that is clearly paler than the supercilium. The throat is finely streaked and spotted. The bill, though conical, is rather slender. The tail looks rather short in this photograph, but there is considerable foreshortening due to the camera angle, so some caution should be exercised when considering this feature.

Where do we start? Certainly, all of our sparrows that have unstreaked breasts as adults can be eliminated immediately. That still leaves a lot of sparrows to deal with. However, the *Ammodramus* sparrows—Seaside, LeConte's, Henslow's and the two Sharp-taileds—have a completely different structure. They are chunky, short-tailed birds whose heads, with their flat, sloping foreheads, are quite unlike the nearly crested head of this bird. Besides, their preferred habitats of grasses and sedges are different from the dense shrubbery this bird is occupying.

That leaves Fox, Song, Lincoln's, Savannah, and Vesper Sparrows. Fox Sparrow has a heavily streaked breast, which is quite unlike the fine breast streaking of this bird. Its facial markings are also plainer, the most distinctive feature being a strong dark malar or lateral throat stripe, which is virtually missing in this bird.

The fine breast and flank streaking and fairly distinct eye-ring might suggest Vesper Sparrow. However, Vesper Sparrow lacks a distinctive supercilium, much less one as broad as in our featured bird. It also has a much better defined malar and its ear coverts are broadly darkly outlined on all sides. Finally, a well-defined central breast spot is not a feature seen in this species. Vesper Sparrow is a grassland species that is more likely to be seen on a fence or emergent vegetation than in a thicket.

Savannah Sparrow shares many of the features shown in our bird. It is rather short-tailed and can look crested. It has breast streaking that is relatively narrow and frequently aggregates into a central breast spot. Its facial pattern is similar with a streaked lateral crown, strong eye-stripe, moustachial and submoustachial stripes and prominent supercilium. However, the streaking on the breast and flanks of Savannah Sparrow is less fine than that shown in this bird. Its supercilium is narrower, paler and more contrasting. Savannah Sparrow has a more prominent, better-defined dark malar.

It lacks a distinctive eye-ring and its throat is clear, not finely streaked and spotted. Savannah Sparrow is also an open-country bird.

Song Sparrow has many of the structural and plumage characteristics shown in this bird. Like the bird in the photograph, the streaking on its breast typically aggregates into a distinct central breast spot. It too has a broad supercilium and fairly distinctive eye-stripe, and moustachial and submoustachial stripes. But in contrast to this bird, the breast and flank streaking in Song Sparrow is coarse, not fine. A characteristic of Song Sparrow is its very prominent, broad, lateral throat stripe, which is virtually absent in the featured species. Song Sparrow has a fairly stout bill that is quite unlike the thin conical bill of this bird. Finally, Song Sparrow is a long-tailed species. Even though the tail of our bird is foreshortened in the photograph, it should look proportionally much longer if it were Song Sparrow.

That leaves Lincoln's Sparrow. Don't let the central breast spot fool you. Like Savannah Sparrow, the fine streaking on the breast of Lincoln's Sparrow may aggregate to form a central breast spot. This is a "field mark" that we usually attribute to Song Sparrow, but beware! Unlike the other streak-breasted sparrows discussed above, the breast streaking on Lincoln's Sparrow is very fine and neat. It also usually terminates quite abruptly at the lower edge of the upper breast so the interface between the streaked upper breast and the clear, white lower breast and belly is rather crisp. Another feature of the breast and flanks that can be seen, if you closely look at the photograph, is that the fine streaking is superimposed upon a buffy (light gray in this black-and-white photo) background that also abruptly stops at the lower breast. These features, coupled with the narrow eye-ring, thin conical bill, broad supercilium, and inconspicuous malar confirm that our bird is an adult Lincoln's Sparrow.

One word of caution. This photograph was clearly taken in the spring, a time of year in which young sparrows are not a consideration. However, in the fall Swamp Sparrows in first winter plumage are frequently misidentified as Lincoln's Sparrows. This is not surprising, considering that both species are in the same genus, *Melospiza*, and share structural similarities. Unlike the clear-breasted adults in breeding plumage, first winter Swamp Sparrows have streaked, grayish buffy breasts that are fairly well demarcated from their white lower breasts and bellies. However, unlike adult Lincoln's Sparrow, in these young Swamp Sparrows the breast streaks are



blurry. Also their crowns are darker, their throats are clearer, and their wing coverts are a rich, rusty color.

Lincoln's Sparrow is a secretive, local breeding bird of boreal North America. Its breeding range extends from Alaska to Newfoundland and down the crests of the Cascade and Rocky Mountains. It just barely enters the northeastern states in the Adirondacks of New York, and in northern Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. In New Hampshire, the bird is found primarily in Coos County, where it prefers tamarack and black spruce bogs, wet shrubby pastures, and emergent vegetation in cut-over areas in spruce-fir forest. In this habitat, it can be best located by its musical trill.

It is a very shy and inconspicuous species in spring and autumn migration. As such, it is always deeply satisfying to identify one during its southward or northward journeys. It leaves the boreal forests of New Hampshire during late September to mid-October to winter from the southwestern United States to Central America. Spring migration in the state peaks in mid to late May and by June, courtship in our northernmost is in full swing.

This excellent photograph of an adult Lincoln's Sparrow was taken by Iain MacLeod, 5/7/06, Hillsborough, NH.

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Abbreviations Used

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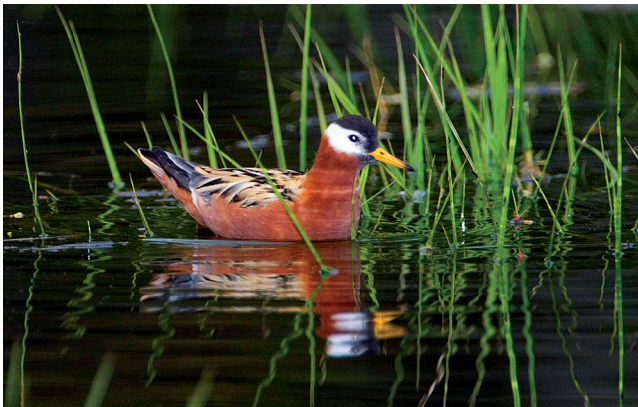
Phalarope Fallout, Take Two!

by Kathie Palfy



Red-necked Phalarope by Jim Block, 5/14/06, Dorchester, NH.

For the second year in a row there was a large fallout of Red and Red-necked Phalaropes in New Hampshire. Sightings of these species are usually off shore or along the coast. This year quite a few were spotted much farther inland than in 2005, such as the one above seen in Dorchester. Other inland sightings of both phalaropes came from Concord and Gilford. The fallout extended into Vermont as well and Jim Block photographed a Red Phalarope at Oxbow Lake on the other side of the Connecticut River. Could we possibly hope for another such event again next year?



Red Phalarope by Jim Block, Oxbow Lake, VT.



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