

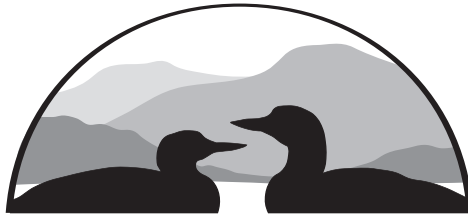
New Hampshire Bird Records



First State Record

Summer 2006

Vol. 25, No. 2



New Hampshire Bird Records

Volume 25, Number 2

Summer 2006

- Managing Editor:* Rebecca Suomala
603-224-9909 X309, bsuomala@nhaudubon.org
- Text Editor:* Dorothy Fitch
- Season Editors:* Pamela Hunt, Spring; Tony Vazzano, Summer;
Stephen Mirick, Fall; David Deifik, Winter
- Layout:* Kathy McBride
- Production Assistants:* Kathie Palfy, Diane Parsons
- Assistants:* Marie Anne, Jeannine Ayer, Terry Bronson, Julie Chapin,
Margot Johnson, Susan MacLeod, Carol Plato, Dot Soule,
Jean Tasker, Tony Vazzano, Robert Vernon
- Photo Quiz:* David Donsker
- Photo Editor:* Bill Baird
- Where to Bird Feature*
Coordinator and Maps: William Taffe

Cover Photo: *White-winged Dove* digi-scope photo by Mark Suomala, 7/2/06, Dover, NH. The bird was sitting on razor wire and represents the first documented record of this species in New Hampshire. For more, see the summer season report.

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

Published by New Hampshire Audubon
New Hampshire Bird Records © NHA February, 2007



Printed on Recycled Paper

This issue of New Hampshire Bird Records, with its color cover, is sponsored by David Donsker. It is dedicated to his father, Stanley Donsker, who amongst many other things, inspired him to observe and enjoy the natural world.



Hudsonian Godwit by Glen Tepke.
www.pbase.com/gtepke.

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From the Editor

by Rebecca Suomala, Managing Editor

Thank You, Bob Vernon

We are very grateful to long-time *New Hampshire Bird Records* volunteer, Bob Vernon, for all of the assistance he has provided over the years. Bob is one of the people behind the scenes entering data and doing a myriad of computer tasks. He set up systems that improved our accuracy and saved great amounts of time on data entry. Over the years he has entered data from many other projects including the Backyard Winter Bird Survey, the Tern Restoration Project, and my Star Island Bird Banding Project. Bob had been a long-time bird reporter before he began volunteering at New Hampshire Audubon's Concord office for *New Hampshire Bird Records* in the early 1990s. Recipient of the Goodhue-Elkins Award, Bob has made significant contributions to our knowledge of birds in New Hampshire. He is a quiet and cheerful presence in the office and someone we are always glad to see. We are grateful for his kindness, good humor, help and support over the years.

As we were going to press, we learned that Bob died at his home after a struggle with cancer. We are saddened by his loss and extend our sympathies to his family.



Photo by Betsy Janeway.

Bob Vernon on safari in Tanzania.

Grant Received for Entry of Historical Records

For the second year, *New Hampshire Bird Records* received a grant from the Charles Blake Fund of the Nuttall Ornithological Society to continue the process of entering historical records from the early 1960s through 1985. Computerization of bird sightings began in 1986. Prior to that, sightings were on 3x5 slips (beginning in the early 1960s) and filed according to species and year.

Computerization of the historical reports began in November of 2005 with a grant from the Blake Fund. New Hampshire Audubon staff prioritized an initial 55 species

of highest conservation concern for data entry. In the first year reports were entered for 17 species, totaling 3,343 records and data entry is ongoing. The number of historical records to be computerized is staggering and will provide a valuable resource to those researchers looking for information on bird populations and distributions between the early 1960s and 1986. We have already been able to fill a request from the US Fish & Wildlife Service for information on King Rail and Henslow's Sparrow in New Hampshire.

As we continue with this project it becomes clear how important complete information and adequate documentation is for bird sightings. Colloquial names of locations are not always remembered, and the hot birding spots of yesterday are not the same as those of today. When you fill out your reports, remember that someone may be looking at them 40 years later and trying to determine where you were and what you were looking at!

New Photo Quiz



Can You Identify This Bird?

Answer on page 54
Photo by Mandy Houston.

Summer Season

June 1, 2006 through July 31, 2006



Tony Vazzano

by Tony Vazzano

The summer season was warm and wet and plagued by very heavy rainstorms across the state in June and the central section suffered more of the same in July. This weather often has an effect on some ground nesting species, depending on the timing of the very heavy rain. The resultant high water levels also affect birds that nest near the edge of the water, such as Common Loon.

The breeding birds occurred in typical numbers at many of the expected locations this summer, but in Brentwood, five pairs of Pied-billed Grebes were found, a number that is probably close to the combined total of all other known nesting pairs in the entire state! Merlins were found breeding in Keene, which is as far south as nesting Merlins have been reported in New England. Other unexpected finds included the probable nesting of one or two pairs of **Least Bitterns**, and a Common Moorhen was heard in the same wetland as one of the bitterns. A **Clay-colored Sparrow**, not known to breed in the state, was advertising for a mate by singing at the Concord Airport.

Some very rare birds graced our state this season. All of the reports of rarities will be reviewed by the state's Rare Bird Committee. A **White-winged Dove**, which strayed from the southern states, was seen and photographed in Dover and represents a first state record. An albatross that was most likely a **Yellow-nosed Albatross** was seen flying northward along the beach in Hampton during the first week of June. This was the first albatross documented in New Hampshire in the past 26 years. The **Mississippi Kite** reported from Kensington in July is extremely rare, especially because it was between spring and fall migration seasons.

Other rarities reported this summer were **South Polar Skua**, **Black-headed** and **Little Gulls**, **Black-legged Kittiwake**, **American Oystercatcher** (on the mainland, as well as several reports from the Isles of Shoals), **Common Murre**, **Rufous Hummingbird**, and **Golden-winged Warbler**.



Black-headed Gull
by Stephen R. Mirick, 7/9/06, Rye, NH.

Waterfowl, Grouse and Allies

American Wigeon is known as a migrant in New Hampshire, so an adult drake was an exceptional sighting in Newington on July 7. There were the typical scattered sightings of scoters, Red-breasted Mergansers, and late migrating Long-tailed Ducks along the coast. While the Long-tailed Duck in Erroll on June 1 was a late spring migrant, the Blue-winged Teals in Rochester on July 31 were likely early fall migrants. The report of “fist-sized” juvenile Common Eiders along the coast may indicate that breeding took place very close to the mainland this summer, although nesting has never been confirmed. Common Eiders can travel a long way with young and they breed on the Isle of Shoals. The Common Goldeneyes reported from Erroll represent the southernmost breeding location for this species in New Hampshire. An over-worked Common Merganser hen was seen with 30 young on Lake Winnepesaukee. While there are often up to a dozen eggs in the nest of a Common Merganser, these high numbers of juveniles with only one mother can sometimes be attributed to young from “dump” nests or young from an orphaned family merging with another family. A dump nest is one that is used by more than one bird to lay her eggs. This can occur if an egg reaches a certain stage of development and the hen cannot hold it; she must lay it even if she does not have her own nest. The eggs in dump nests are not typically incubated, but apparently sometimes are. Eight Fulvous Whistling Ducks reported with a group of domestic waterfowl in Farmington were probably captive-raised birds, as was a Northern Bobwhite in Nashua. Heavy rains seem to have occurred at just the wrong time for ground nesting Ruffed Grouse across northern New Hampshire, taking a toll on nest productivity there, according to reports posted by birders on the Internet.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
American Wigeon				
07-07	1	Newington	Great Bay NWR	G. Gavutis Jr.
Blue-winged Teal				
07-31	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
Ring-necked Duck				
06-01	22	Errol	Sweat Meadow, Lake Umbagog NWR	C. Martin
06-13	10	Errol	Leonard Marsh, Lake Umbagog NWR	C. Martin
06-14	10	Errol	Sweat Meadow, Lake Umbagog NWR	C. Martin
Common Eider				
06-10	5	Rye	NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
07-06	8	Rye	cove n. of Foss Beach	T. Bronson
07-25	160	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
Surf Scoter				
06-10	1	Rye	Ragged Neck	S. & J. Mirick
White-winged Scoter				
06-05	7		NH coast	S. Mirick
06-05	6	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	T. Bronson, J. Hills
07-06	2		NH coast	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Black Scoter				
06-10	1	Hampton	Great Boars Head	S. & J. Mirick
Long-tailed Duck				
06-01	1	Errol	Harpers Meadow, Lake Umbagog NWR	C. Martin
06-10	1	N. Hampton	townline cove	S. & J. Mirick
Common Goldeneye				
06-13	6	Errol	Leonard Marsh, Lake Umbagog NWR	C. Martin
06-23	1	Pittsburg	Metallak Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
Common Merganser				
July	31	Moultonborough	Lake Winnepesaukee	L. Nash
Red-breasted Merganser				
06-06	3	Rye	Rye Ledge	T. Vazzano, B. Crowley
06-17	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. & J. Mirick
07-22	3	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	S. & J. Mirick
Spruce Grouse				
06-18	1	Lincoln	Kinsman Ridge Trail between N. & S. peaks	J. Stockwell
06-22	1	Pittsburg	Magalloway Rd.	S. & M. Turner
Wild Turkey				
06-13	11	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
06-22	1	Pittsburg	Coon Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-27	7	Sutton	Shaker Rd.	T. Bronson, J. Hills, D. Hubbard, M. Pachomski
07-08	9	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
07-23	13	Fremont	Ingalls Lane	T. Bronson, N. Nelson

Loons through Cormorants

The heavy rains and associated high water levels prevented many Common Loons from successful nesting. While a relatively high number of territorial pairs were reported across the state, the number of chicks was down (see the article on page 33). Numbers continue to fluctuate on Lake Umbagog with 13 territorial pairs, as compared to 20 last year. However, loons appeared at a couple of new locations in southern New Hampshire lakes. The discovery of five pairs of Pied-billed Grebes at the Brentwood Mitigation Area was an exciting find. Three more nesting pairs were found in Rochester.



Pied-billed Grebe by Pat Watts, 6/11/06, Pickering Ponds, Rochester, NH.

This species has been a very sparse nester of late across the state. A breeding plumage Horned Grebe was seen along the coast in Rye, near the area where one spent last July, while a few Red-necked Grebes were noted in Rye from June into July. These grebes usually patrol our coastline from late fall through spring.

Any albatross in the North Atlantic Ocean is extremely rare and so the sighting of a probable **Yellow-nosed Albatross** on June 6 along the beach in Hampton was surely one of the biggest highlights of the summer season. The descriptions received make it apparent that it was an albatross and a Yellow-nosed Albatross was seen well just a few hours earlier heading north near Cape Anne in Massachusetts, about thirty miles south of the New Hampshire sightings. This was almost certainly the same bird. It flew northward along the edge of the beach, sometimes less than 20 feet above the ground, thrilling at least a few beachgoers. One has to go back in the records to the fall of 1980 for the previous documented report of a Yellow-nosed Albatross in New Hampshire. On July 19 birders on a Maine Audubon field trip to Stratton Island, off of Scarborough, Maine, found a Yellow-nosed Albatross, perhaps the same bird. It then roosted on the island, was photographed, and spent the night. A biologist on the island saw it fly off early the following morning. Determining whether this is the same albatross that has been seen occasionally along the East Coast for the past several years is speculative and the sightings may involve multiple birds. The Yellow-nosed Albatross is known as a southern hemisphere bird, but occasionally it crosses the equator into the North Atlantic.

In other tubenose activity, a few Manx Shearwaters were seen from the coast in late July, including three seen together from North Hampton. In unusual sightings from the mainland, a Greater Shearwater was seen with gulls following a lobster boat on calm seas and a Sooty Shearwater was seen from Seabrook Beach during a storm. While well over a hundred Wilson's Storm-Petrels were seen along the coast in July, numbers were down considerably from the past two summers.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Red-throated Loon				
06-05	5		NH coast	S. Mirick
06-13	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge, S. Fuller, S. Butts
Common Loon				
06-10	21		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
Pied-billed Grebe				
06-16	11	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson
06-19	4	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
06-21	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
07-02	5	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	R. & M. Suomala
07-26	5	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
07-29	14	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson
Horned Grebe				
07-11	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	R. & M. Suomala
Red-necked Grebe				
06-05	3	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	T. Bronson, J. Hills
06-17	3	Rye	Seal Rocks	S. & J. Mirick
07-09	4	Rye	Seal Rocks	S. & J. Mirick
07-23	4	Rye	Seal Rocks	S. & J. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Albatross sp.				
06-06	1	Hampton	between Plaice Cove & Little Boars Head	E. Aaronian
06-06	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach, s. side of Great Boars Head	J. O'Shaughnessy
Greater Shearwater				
07-06	1	N. Hampton	n. of Little Boars Head	S. Mirick, B. Griffith
07-19	4	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D.& M. Hayward
07-24	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D.& M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
Sooty Shearwater				
06-01	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D.& M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
06-03	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D.& M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
06-04	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S.& J. Mirick
Manx Shearwater				
07-06	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D.& M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
07-13	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D.& M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
07-23	5		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				
06-03	12	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D.& M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
06-08	8		NH coast	E. Masterson
06-25	45		NH coast	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod
07-06	70		NH coast	S. Mirick
07-09	145		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
07-19	200	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D.& M. Hayward
Northern Gannet				
06-03	55	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D.& M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
06-04	10		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
07-07	13	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D.& M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
07-23	30		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
Great Cormorant				
07-03	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D.& M. Hayward, S. Burbidge

Bitterns through Vultures

Least Bittern is rarely detected in New Hampshire so the reports of four individuals, probably representing one or two nesting pairs in Durham and Stratham, are significant. American Bittern was widely reported across central and northern sections of the state. Green Heron continues to be widespread across southern New Hampshire and

the seven adults seen in Rochester is a high number. Black-crowned Night-Heron is not unusual from Rochester southward, but one seen in Gilmanton in late July was unusually far inland. While its range is expanding northward into Massachusetts, **Black Vulture** is still very rare in New Hampshire, and one reported from Ossipee in late June was a very northerly location for this species. Turkey Vulture is very common, but 65 of them rising in a morning kettle over West Lebanon must have been a fun sighting.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
American Bittern				
06-01	1	Errol	Harpers Meadow, Lake Umbagog NWR	C. Martin
06-04	1	Sandwich	Thompson WS	R. Ridgely
06-04	1	Tamworth	Remick farm pond	C.& S. Federer
06-05	1	Sandwich	Chicks Corner wetland	T. Vazzano
06-08	1	Errol	Rt. 26 at roadside	B. Harris, et al.
06-11	1	Gilford	Goodwin Rd.	B. Devivo
06-13	1	Lyman	Lyman Rd.	S.& M. Turner
06-27	1	Sutton	Cascade Marsh at Cotton Rd.	T. Bronson, J. Hills, D. Hubbard, M. Pachomski
06-28	2	Errol	Harpers Meadow, Lake Umbagog NWR	C. Martin
06-30	1	Pittsburg	Eastern Inlet	P. Marvin
Least Bittern				
06-27	2	Durham	Woodman Brook headwaters marsh e. of Packers Falls Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr., K. Rubin
07-08	1	Stratham	Jewell Hill Brook, e. of Rt. 108 & s. of Swampscott Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
07-08	2	Durham	Woodman Brook headwaters marsh	G. Gavutis Jr.
07-17	2	Durham	Woodman Brook headwaters marsh	G. Gavutis Jr., K. Rubin
07-17	1	Stratham	beaver dam on Jewell Hill Brook	G. Gavutis Jr., K. Rubin
Great Egret				
06-17	12		Hampton/Seabrook marshes	S.& J. Mirick
07-29	28		Hampton/Seabrook marshes	S.& J. Mirick
Snowy Egret				
06-25	23	N. Hampton	Little River WS	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod
07-11	13	Rye	marsh opposite Concord Point	R.& M. Suomala
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
06-12	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
07-10	4	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	R. Suomala
07-14	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
07-20	2	Hampton	Meadow Pond	P. Hunt, P. McKinley
07-27	1	Gilmanton	Crystal Lake, channel end	A. Hammond
07-31	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	T. Bronson
Glossy Ibis				
06-10	3	Rye	Frost Point	S.& J. Mirick
06-11	7	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D.& M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
07-29	2	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S.& J. Mirick
07-31	3	Rye	Fairhill Marsh	T. Bronson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Black Vulture				
06-29	1	Ossipee	Dore St. near the Ossipee Transfer Station	J. Rhymer
Turkey Vulture				
06-17	30	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
06-18	1	Berlin	Milan BBS route	I. MacLeod
06-21	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
07-01	65	Lebanon	W. Lebanon near Lebanon Airport	P. Hunt
07-07	13	Laconia	Laconia CC, Elm St.	H. Anderson

Raptors

A breeding season report on those raptors monitored closely by New Hampshire Audubon's Chris Martin can be found elsewhere in this issue. In brief, Peregrine Falcons had low productivity, Ospreys had a successful year overall, and numbers of Bald Eagle nests and fledglings were the highest on record. Chester was an unusual location for a Northern Harrier in mid-June; most sightings are from the north or near the coast. Merlins bred in Keene; this exciting find is the first Merlin nest documented for southwestern New Hampshire and is the southernmost nesting record in New England, representing a continuation of the southern expansion of this falcon. It is great to see southwestern New Hampshire record its first Merlin nest and first Osprey nest in the same year. Another Merlin nest was reported from Alton in a location in that same general area as last year's nest in Alton. In the raptor rarity department, a possible **Mississippi Kite** in Kensington on July 9 wins the prize. It was seen only briefly and will require review by the Rare Birds Committee. This species is sometimes seen in southeastern New England during migration, but this is a most unusual date and location for any kite.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Northern Harrier				
06-15	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
06-30	1	Newington	Arboretum Dr. by Pease Int'l. Tradeport runway	T. Bronson
07-30	1	Stewartstown	Creampoke	D. Killam
Northern Goshawk				
06-21	1	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	S. & M. Turner
06-28	3	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	D. Govatski
07-06	1	Dover	Stafford County complex	D. Hubbard
Red-shouldered Hawk				
06-03	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
American Kestrel				
06-01	2	Concord	White Farm	R. Woodward
06-19	2	Pittsburg	Route 3 at First Lake	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
07-03	2	Fremont	Martin Rd.	T. Bronson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
07-16	2	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson
07-27	4	Manchester	Manchester Landfill	S. Brown

Merlin

06-18	1	Milan	Milan BBS route	I. MacLeod
06-21	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
07-04	1	Concord	Low Ave.	R. Quinn
07-08	1	Hillsborough	Windsor Rd.	I. MacLeod
07-14	3	Keene	Church St.	K. Bergman
07-20	4	Alton	Minge Cove Rd., Alton Bay	A. Innis
07-24	2	Gorham	Randolph Hill, Rt. 2	C. Martin

Waders through Shorebirds

There were only two reports of Sora this summer. While this species has become difficult to find in New Hampshire, Virginia Rail continues to be fairly common in appropriate habitat across the state. A **Common Moorhen** was discovered on a marsh bird survey in Stratham. They are very rare anywhere in the state, especially during the summer. The breeding season is never easy for Piping Plovers in New Hampshire, but several chicks were successfully fledged in Seabrook and Hampton. American Oystercatcher reports are becoming more common and two were seen from the mainland. There were three sightings from the Isles of Shoals, where they have become somewhat regular during the summer. Oystercatchers do not breed in New Hampshire, but they do breed in Maine and Nova Scotia, and many of the New Hampshire sightings may be of first year non-breeding birds. The narrow window of the shorebird breeding season is well illustrated by the reports of Short-billed Dowitchers: about 400 late spring migrants were seen from the Isles of Shoals on June 5; over 70 returning early fall migrants were detected on July 7. Migrating flocks seen from shore in late July totaled over 700 on July 23.




Piping Plovers by Jim Fenton.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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Virginia Rail

06-01	2	Errol	Harpers Meadow, Lake Umbagog NWR	C. Martin
06-10	1	Rye	Odirone Pt. marsh	S.& J. Mirick
06-17	1	Whitefield	Hazen Pond	I. MacLeod
06-19	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
06-27	3	Stratham	Jewell Hill Brook beaver pond	G. Gavutis Jr., K. Rubin
06-28	2	Errol	Sweat Meadow, Lake Umbagog NWR	C. Martin
07-10	2	Second College Grant	marsh near south gate	C. Martin
07-29	1	Hampton	marsh behind Little Jack's Restaurant	S.& J. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Sora				
06-27	1	Errol	Leonard Marsh, Lake Umbagog NWR	C. Martin
07-08	1	Stratham	Jewell Hill Brook beaver pond	G. Gavutis Jr.
Common Moorhen				
07-08	1	Durham	Woodman Brook e. of Packers Falls Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
Black-bellied Plover				
06-04	19	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
06-10	2	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
06-12	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
07-10	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	R. Suomala
07-20	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor mussel beds	P. Hunt, P. McKinley
Semipalmated Plover				
06-01	12	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
06-10	1	Rye	Jeness Beach	S. & J. Mirick
07-10	2	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	R. Suomala
07-12	12	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	T. Bronson
07-23	51	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
07-24	41	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	T. Bronson
07-26	81		NH coast	E. Masterson
07-28	45	Hampton	Landing Rd.	T. Bronson, P. McKinley
Piping Plover				
06-17	2	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
07-28	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop	T. Bronson, P. McKinley
American Oystercatcher				
06-01	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor towards mussel beds	S. Mirick
06-08	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
06-17	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward
07-03	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
07-15	1	Hampton	Hampton River	J. Reagan
Greater Yellowlegs				
06-14	1	Errol	Harpers Meadow, Lake Umbagog NWR	C. Martin
06-29	1	Hampton Falls	Depot Rd.	R. Quinn, R. Arrington
06-30	3	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	T. Bronson
07-20	9	Hampton	Landing Rd.	P. Hunt, P. McKinley
Lesser Yellowlegs				
06-29	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
07-10	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	R. Suomala
07-20	9	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	P. Hunt, P. McKinley
07-26	35	N. Hampton	Little River Saltmarsh	E. Masterson
07-28	13	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	T. Bronson
07-31	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
Solitary Sandpiper				
07-15	2	Concord	Morrill's Farm	P. Hunt
07-23	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Quinn
07-29	1	Concord	Sugar Ball	R. Quinn
07-29	1	Concord	Bog Rd.	P. Hunt

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Willet				
06-04	5	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
06-05	4	Hampton	marsh behind Little Jack's Restaurant	T. Bronson, J. Hills
07-20	10	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor mussel beds	P. Hunt, P. McKinley
07-29	28	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
Upland Sandpiper				
06-18	1	Londonderry	Manchester Airport, s. end near Planeview Dr.	S. Brown
06-29	2	Newington	Pease Airport, Short St.	M. MacLeod
Whimbrel				
07-06	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
07-09	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
07-19	12	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward
07-23	7	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
07-28	3	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	T. Bronson, P. McKinley
Hudsonian Godwit				
07-23	2	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
07-26	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	E. Masterson
07-29	2	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
Ruddy Turnstone				
06-08	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. Mirick
07-12	1	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	T. Bronson
07-22	30	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
				
<p><i>Red Knots by Stephen R. Mirick, 6/3/06, Rye, NH.</i></p>				
Red Knot				
06-02	9	Rye	Jeness Beach	S. Mirick
06-10	2	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
07-23	31	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
Sanderling				
06-02	1	Rye	Jeness Beach	S. Mirick
07-12	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	T. Bronson
Semipalmated Sandpiper				
06-01	100	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
06-10	16		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
07-12	29	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	T. Bronson
07-20	30	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	P. Hunt, P. McKinley
07-20	220	Hampton	Landing Rd.	P. Hunt, P. McKinley

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Semipalmated Sandpiper—continued				
07-20	100	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor mussel beds	P. Hunt, P. McKinley
07-26	810		NH coast	E. Masterson
07-28	106	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	T. Bronson
07-28	285	Hampton	Landing Rd.	T. Bronson, P. McKinley
Least Sandpiper				
07-05	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D.& M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
07-07	11	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Quinn
07-08	18	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D.& M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
07-10	23	Hampton	Hampton Harbor and Hampton R. area	R. Suomala
07-11	18	Rye	pools s. of Odiome Pt.	R.& M. Suomala
07-26	20		NH coast	E. Masterson
White-rumped Sandpiper				
06-10	1	N. Hampton	Little River saltmarsh	S.& J. Mirick
06-13	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D.& M. Hayward, S. Burbidge, S. Fuller, S. Butts
Peeps (<i>Calidris</i> sp.)				
07-10	318	Hampton	Hampton Harbor and Hampton R. area	R. Suomala
07-22	212	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S.& J. Mirick
07-23	585		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
Pectoral Sandpiper				
07-26	1	N. Hampton	Little River saltmarsh	E. Masterson
Purple Sandpiper				
06-11	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D.& M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
06-29	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D.& M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
07-12	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D.& M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
07-21	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D.& M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
Dunlin				
06-04	3	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S.& J. Mirick
Short-billed Dowitcher				
06-01	1	Errol	Leonard Marsh, Lake Umbagog NWR	C. Martin
06-01	3	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
06-02	7	Rye	Jeness Beach	S. Mirick
06-05	400	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D.& M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
06-10	2	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
07-07	71	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D.& M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
07-10	24	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	R. Suomala
07-20	25	Hampton	Landing Rd.	P. Hunt, P. McKinley
07-23	710		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
Wilson's Snipe				
06-01	5	Errol	Harpers Meadow, Lake Umbagog NWR	C. Martin
06-13	6	Errol	Leonard Marsh, Lake Umbagog NWR	C. Martin
06-14	4	Errol	Sweat Meadow, Lake Umbagog NWR	C. Martin
06-18	2	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-22	2	Pittsburg	Big Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
American Woodcock				
06-16	1	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson
06-20	1	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
07-16	3	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson
Sandpiper sp.				
07-10	142	Rye	Ragged Neck	T. Bronson

Jaegers through Alcids

A South Polar Skua was reported offshore from a whalewatch boat out past the Isles of Shoals. Identification of this species is difficult due to the similarity with Great Skua and Pomarine Jaeger. Reports are automatically sent to the Rare Birds Committee for closer scrutiny. Two Parasitic Jaegers were seen from the Rye shoreline on a day in early June with northeast winds. While this is the most likely jaeger to be seen from shore, they are more typically seen from boats in late summer and fall. Both Little Gulls and Black-headed Gulls were seen several times during the summer; four Little Gulls, including three seen at one time in Hampton, were reported on one day. Black-legged Kittiwake is known as a pelagic species and very rare in summer, so seeing one sitting on the rocks along the coast in N. Hampton was most unexpected.

Arctic Terns are rare inland and a late migrant was seen at Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge in Jefferson in early June. Two Arctic Terns seen along the coast in July were first-summer birds. Even though they breed in small numbers at the Isles of Shoals, first-summer birds are rarely seen, especially from the mainland. At the Isle of Shoals tern colony, numbers of Common Terns were down somewhat, while Roseate Tern numbers decreased significantly. A Common Murre was photographed along the Rye coast; they are rare in New Hampshire anytime of year, but they do breed on offshore islands of Downeast Maine. Atlantic Puffin sightings from the Isles of Shoals have increased over the past several years and this summer they were noted on 10 days. These sightings are probably indicative of the success that puffins have had on Maine's offshore islands.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Stercorarius sp.				
07-19	1	Rye	~5-8 mi. ESE of White and Seavey Island	D. & M. Hayward
Parasitic Jaeger				
06-10	2	Rye	Seal Rocks	S. & J. Mirick
Laughing Gull				
06-01	14		NH coast	S. Mirick
06-04	3	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
07-23	11		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
Little Gull				
06-04	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
06-04	3	Hampton	Great Boars Head	S. & J. Mirick
06-07	1	N. Hampton	townline cove	S. Mirick
07-23	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. & J. Mirick
07-29	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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Black-headed Gull

06-05	1	Rye	n. of Rye Ledge	S. Mirick
06-25	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod
07-09	1	Rye	n. end of Foss Beach	S. & J. Mirick
07-23	1	Rye	Seal Rocks	S. & J. Mirick
07-29	1	Rye	n. end of Foss Beach	S. & J. Mirick

Bonaparte's Gull

06-04	25	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
06-05	120		NH coast	S. Mirick
06-05	26	Rye	Jeness Beach St. Pk.	T. Bronson, J. Hills
06-05	44	Rye	Ragged Neck	T. Bronson, J. Hills
06-30	37	Hampton	Plaice Cove	T. Bronson
07-06	35	Rye	Foss Beach	T. Bronson
07-09	25	Rye	n. end of Foss Beach	S. & J. Mirick
07-29	52		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
07-31	1	Sandwich	Squam Lake	T. Vazzano



Black-legged Kittiwake by Stephen R. Mirick, 6/3/06, N. Hampton, NH.

Black-legged Kittiwake

06-02	1	N. Hampton	townline cove	S. Mirick
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Roseate Tern

06-01	60	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
06-06	5	Rye	Rye Ledge	T. Vazzano, B. Crowley
06-06	7	Rye	Jeness Beach	B. & D. Fox
06-08	6	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	E. Masterson
06-13	70	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge, S. Fuller, S. Butts
06-21	80	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	S. Burbidge, J. Derrick, et al.
07-10	5	Hampton	Hampton R., s. side	R. Suomala

Common Tern

06-01	4,500	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
07-11	5,000	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge



1st year Arctic Tern by Stephen R. Mirick, 6/8/06, North Hampton, NH.

Arctic Tern

06-01	6	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
06-04	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. & J. Mirick
06-06	1	Rye	Jeness Beach	B. & D. Fox
06-06	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS, Cherry Pond	M. Suomala, et al.
06-08	1	N. Hampton	townline cove	S. Mirick
06-13	14	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge, S. Fuller, S. Butts

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Forster's Tern				
07-29	1	Hampton	marsh behind Little Jack's Restaurant	S. & J. Mirick
Least Tern				
06-10	2	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. & J. Mirick
Black Tern				
06-02	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
06-04	2	Hampton	NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
07-23	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. & J. Mirick
Common Murre				
07-23	1	Rye	Seal Rocks	S. & J. Mirick
Razorbill				
06-09	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
06-12	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
07-08	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
Black Guillemot				
06-05	19	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
06-10	3		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
07-22	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. & J. Mirick
Atlantic Puffin				
06-03	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
06-04	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
06-05	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
06-08	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
06-13	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge, S. Fuller, S. Butts
07-01	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
07-03	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
07-06	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
07-08	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
07-27	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	S. Burbidge, et al.
Alcid sp.				
07-06	1	Hampton	North Beach	S. Mirick

Doves through Woodpeckers

A White-winged Dove in Dover was the rarity star of the summer season and allowed many birders views during its stay. This is a first state record and is long overdue in light of the sightings in Maine and the Maritime Provinces over the years. Their normal range is the extreme southern tier of the country, where their numbers are increasing, and vagrants have been reported along the East Coast as far north as Newfoundland. Cuckoo numbers were down over last year with reports of eight Black-billed



*White-winged Dove by Denny Abbott,
7/2/06, Dover, NH.*

and two Yellow-billed, as compared to 16 and 13, respectively, last summer. Two slightly downy young Eastern Screech-Owls were found in Nashua and Windham and sent to rehabilitation centers. One of them was a red morph, which is more unusual than the gray morph here at the northern edge of their range. They were likely young ones taking their first flights from the nest. Please remember that well-meaning attempts to “rescue” these birds, can result in orphaned birds instead. Young birds that are feathered and barely able to fly, still have parents nearby ready to feed them and just need a lift to a nearby branch or bush where they can rest undisturbed.



Eastern Screech-Owlet by Julie Klett, brought to NH Audubon 6/06.

The Ossipee Pine Barrens continue to be the hot spot for Whip-poor-will in the state with eight found on just one survey route. Whip-poor-will surveys across the state show a concentration here and in the lower Merrimack watershed. Two hummingbirds in the *selasphorus* genus were reported. While they were reported as Rufous, Allen’s has been documented on the East Coast and field identification between the two species is extremely difficult; the report will be reviewed by the Rare Birds Committee. Red-headed Woodpecker is nearly annual, though still rare, and one was seen in Tamworth, but only for a day. Reports of the northward expanding Red-bellied Woodpecker came from seven different locations and included two pairs.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
White-winged Dove				
07-01	1	Dover	County Farm complex by Cochecho Valley Humane Society	D. Hubbard
07-02	1	Dover	County Farm complex	D. Donsker, D. Green, D. Abbott, M.& R. Suomala, et al.
07-03	1	Dover	County Farm complex	S.& J. Mirick
Black-billed Cuckoo				
06-01	1	Lee	Gile Rd.	J. Romano, MA Audubon FT
06-01	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-20	1	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-23	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
06-25	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D.& M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
07-25	2	Sandwich	Teacup Lake	M. Wilson
07-30	1	Stewartstown	Haynes Rd., Creampoke	D. Killam
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				
06-18	1	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
07-04	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
Eastern Screech-Owl				
06-07	1	Nashua	C St.	R. Sprague
06-09	1	Windham		D. Robinson
07-31	1	Exeter	residence	G. Prazar
Northern Saw-whet Owl				
06-06	1	Freedom	Ossipee Lake Rd.	B.& D. Fox

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Common Nighthawk				
06-02	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
06-06	1	Freedom	Ossipee Lake Rd.	B. & D. Fox
06-07	1	Keene	Hannaford Supermarket, West St.	M. Wright
06-08	1	Keene	Church St.	M. Wright
06-08	1	Keene	Vernon St.	M. Wright
06-21	3	Concord	heights/downtown	R. Woodward
06-23	2	Keene	Colony Mill	M. Wright
07-23	1	Sandwich	Thompson WS	R. Ridgely
Whip-poor-will				
06-06	8	Freedom	Ossipee Lake Rd.	B. & D. Fox
06-12	1	Hopkinton	Mast Yard State Forest	P. Hunt
July	1	Concord	residence	R. Woodward
07-10	1	Fremont	Ingalls Lane	T. Bronson, N. Nelson
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				
06-03	15	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
Selasphorus Hummingbird sp.				
07-22	1	Loudon	Pine Ridge Rd.	W. Baird
07-31	1	Loudon	Pine Ridge Rd.	W. & G. Baird
Red-headed Woodpecker				
06-04	1	Tamworth	Cleveland Hill Rd.	S. Damon
Red-bellied Woodpecker				
June	2	Salisbury	Blackwater River residence	R. Prince
06-05	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-14	1	Milford	Tonella Rd.	S. Petersen
06-17	1	Exeter	residence	G. Prazar
06-19	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
06-20	1	Durham	Colby Marsh	T. Bronson
07-07	2	Wilton	Mackintosh Dr.	T. Radziewicz
Black-backed Woodpecker				
06-16	4	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-17	2	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	I. MacLeod
06-18	1	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-20	2	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-22	1	Pittsburg	Big Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet

Flycatchers through Corvids

The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in Hancock on June 12 was undoubtedly a late migrant. A Willow Flycatcher in Berlin was fairly far north of this species' typical breeding range in New Hampshire. Four Fish Crows were seen in West Ossipee near the Bearcamp River, about as far north as they have been reported in New Hampshire, although they have been seen in this region more than once during the past few years. As seems to be typical of Fish Crows, they were seen at a shopping plaza. Fish Crows were also noted in Hillsboro. A platform in a shelter at the Salisbury transfer station seemed like an improbable location for Common Ravens to nest. It appears that ravens

are slowly continuing their southern expansion—a welcome twist in impending changes in bird life that may be precipitated by global warming.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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Olive-sided Flycatcher

06-01	1	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	R. Ridgely
06-14	2	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR, Tidswell Point	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-17	1	Whitefield	Pondicherry NWR	I. MacLeod
06-18	3	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-19	3	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-27	1	Errol	Leonard Marsh, Lake Umbagog NWR	C. Martin
07-27	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

06-02	2	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
06-12	1	Hancock	Birch Rd.	E. Masterson
06-17	2	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	I. MacLeod
06-20	6	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-21	19	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet

Alder Flycatcher

06-01	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
06-01	1	Nottingham	Deerfield Rd. & Flutter Rd.	J. Romano, MA Audubon FT
06-04	1	Kensington	Highland Rd. power line	T. Bronson
06-04	2	Concord	Bog Rd.	P. Hunt
06-13	4	Errol	Leonard Marsh, Lake Umbagog NWR	C. Martin
06-17	3	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	I. MacLeod
06-18	18	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
07-30	7	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward

Willow Flycatcher

06-05	1	Sandwich	Thompson WS	R. Ridgely
06-16	3	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson
06-18	1	Berlin	Milan BBS route	I. MacLeod
06-23	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	T. Bronson
07-23	3	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Quinn

Least Flycatcher

06-01	3	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	J. Romano, MA Audubon FT
06-01	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
06-22	12	Pittsburg	Big Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-28	3	Sandwich	Chicks Corner	T. Vazzano
07-29	1	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson

Empidonax sp.

06-10	3	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
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Eastern Kingbird

07-15	9	Concord	Penacook census route	P. Hunt
07-16	15	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson

Yellow-throated Vireo

06-01	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	J. Romano, MA Audubon FT
06-05	2	Sandwich	near Chicks Corner wetland	T. Vazzano
06-12	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
06-21	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
07-07	1	Plainfield	Hart Island	P. Hunt

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Blue-headed Vireo				
06-13	2	Fremont	Ingalls Lane	T. Bronson
06-16	3	Sandwich	Sandwich Notch Rd., first 2 mi.	T. Vazzano
06-18	31	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
07-01	5	Concord	Oak Hill	R. Woodward
Warbling Vireo				
06-05	2	Sandwich	near Chicks Corner wetland	T. Vazzano
06-18	10	Concord	Merrimack R. between Contoocook R. & Sewalls Falls	P. Hunt
06-19	2	Pittsburg	BBS route	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
07-08	4	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
Philadelphia Vireo				
06-22	1	Clarksville	Cedar Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
Gray Jay				
06-12	3	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR, Eames Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-14	2	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR, Tidswell Point	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-17	4	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-20	5	Pittsburg	Ramblewood Campground	F. Tyrrell
06-21	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-23	1	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-28	1	Errol	Sweet Meadow, Lake Umbagog NWR	C. Martin
07-03	3	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail, Pothole Rock	D. Govatski, K. Holmgren
Fish Crow				
06-11	2	Concord	Rollins Park	R. Woodward
06-30	2	Concord	Thirty Pines, Penacook	P. Hunt
07-18	4	Ossipee	Rt. 16 at Rt. 25, W. Ossipee	T. Vazzano, B. Crowley
07-20	1	Hillsborough	Shaw's Plaza	E. Masterson
Common Raven				
06-01	4	Salisbury	Warner Rd. transfer station	L. Deming
06-12	4	Milford	Powers St. cellphone tower	S. Petersen
07-10	2	Rochester	Ten Rod Rd. residence	D. Hubbard

Horned Larks through Cedar Waxwings

Horned Larks were found breeding again at the Concord Airport. Reports of Purple Martins were sparse; they have had difficulty during the past couple of breeding seasons because of cool, wet weather. Carolina Wrens were well reported with over half of the reports coming from the Concord area, perhaps because of some northward expansion or maybe linked to the high concentration of ornithologists there to hear these loud, little birds. The handful of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers reports were widely distributed across southern and central sections of the state, about as far north as this species is typically found. Most of the thrushes were reported in average numbers and Cedar Waxwings made a much stronger showing than last year.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Horned Lark				
06-01	1	Swanzey	Keene Airport	P. Hunt
06-14	4	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt, J. Klett
07-27	6	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
Purple Martin				
06-15	8	Freedom	next to Rt. 153 cemetery	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
Tree Swallow				
07-12	200	Seabrook	Seabrook marsh	T. Bronson
07-20	250	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor mussel beds	P. Hunt, P. McKinley
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				
06-23	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	T. Bronson
07-14	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
07-29	2	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
Bank Swallow				
06-15	40	Walpole	Connecticut R., N. Walpole	P. Hunt
07-03	12	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
07-07	30	Plainfield	Connecticut R. below Sumners Falls	P. Hunt
07-07	100	Canterbury	Merrimack River	K.& B. Folsom
Cliff Swallow				
06-23	8	Pittsburg	Metallak Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-28	6	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
06-30	2	Newington	Arboretum Dr., Pease Int'l. Tradeport runway	T. Bronson
Boreal Chickadee				
06-17	4	Pittsburg	Magalloway Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-18	3	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-21	6	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
07-03	3	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	D. Govatski, K. Holmgren
Carolina Wren				
06-05	1	Concord	Meter St.	P. Hunt
06-06	1	Concord	River Rd. near Island Rd.	P. Hunt
06-18	1	Boscawen	Eel St.	P. Hunt
06-18	1	Concord	Borough St.	P. Hunt
06-29	1	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
07-07	1	Walpole	Connecticut R. at N. Walpole	P. Hunt
07-13	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
07-15	1	Concord	near Penacook wastewater treatment plant	P. Hunt
07-18	2	Rochester	Ten Rod Rd. residence	D. Hubbard
07-23	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Quinn
Winter Wren				
06-15	1	New Hampton	Sky Pond	F. Tyrrell
06-18	22	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-21	21	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-25	1	Woodstock	Kinsman Notch	P. Hunt
07-07	1	Plainfield	Connecticut R. below Sumners Falls	P. Hunt
07-22	1	Benton	Slide Brook	J. Stockwell

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Marsh Wren				
06-01	2	Swanzey	Keene Airport	P. Hunt
06-23	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	T. Bronson
07-08	5	Stratham	Jewell Hill Brook	G. Gavutis Jr.
07-08	2	Newington	Stubbs Pond, Great Bay NWR	G. Gavutis Jr.
07-30	4	Exeter	Powder House Pond	T. Bronson
Golden-crowned Kinglet				
06-17	14	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-21	13	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-27	1	Warner	Rollins St. Pk.	T. Bronson, J. Hills, D. Hubbard, M. Pachomski
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
06-02	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
06-14	1	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR, Tidswell Point	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-18	10	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-21	12	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				
06-15	1	Walpole	Connecticut R., N. Walpole	P. Hunt
06-18	2	Concord	Goodwin Point	P. Hunt
07-01	2	Lebanon	Mascoma R. mouth, W. Lebanon	P. Hunt
07-08	1	Lebanon	Johnson Island	P. Hunt, Mascoma Chapter FT
07-12	1	Hampton Falls	Depot Rd.	T. Bronson
07-24	1	Charlestown	Connecticut R. below Charlestown boat launch	P. Hunt
Eastern Bluebird				
06-05	1	Rye	Odiome Pt. St. Pk.	T. Bronson, J. Hills
06-09	2	Enfield	Hazen Rd.	L. & A. Jones
06-23	2	Stratham	Bunker Hill Rd. & Spruce Lane	T. Bronson
07-02	4	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
07-07	2	Fremont	Ingalls Lane	T. Bronson
07-20	3	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
07-23	1	Chichester	Connemara Dr.	K. Palfy
Veery				
06-18	10	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
07-04	35	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
Bicknell's Thrush				
07-03	3	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	D. Govatski
Swainson's Thrush				
06-02	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
06-17	1	Errol	Rt. 16, Androscoggin R.	I. MacLeod
06-19	5	Clarksville	BBS route	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-21	24	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-22	14	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-23	10	Pittsburg	Fourth Connecticut Lake	S. & M. Turner
06-25	1	Woodstock	Kinsman Notch	P. Hunt
07-19	1	Columbia	Fish Pond Rd.	D. Killam

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Wood Thrush				
06-10	2	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	T. Bronson, M. DiMambro
06-16	3	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
06-21	2	Rochester	Ten Rod Rd. woodland	D. Hubbard
07-04	5	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
07-07	1	Exeter	residence	G. Prazar
07-19	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
Brown Thrasher				
06-06	4	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson
06-06	1	Freedom	Ossipee Lake Rd.	B.& D. Fox
06-12	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D.& M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
06-14	1	Errol	Sweat Meadow, Lake Umbagog NWR	C. Martin
06-18	1	Berlin	Milan BBS route	I. MacLeod
06-19	1	Concord	Steeplegate Mall, ne. corner	L. Bardusk, D. Stavros
06-21	1	Concord	Contoocook Is.	P. Hunt
06-24	1	Raymond	Langford Rd. powerline	T. Bronson
06-29	2	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
06-30	6	Whitefield	Whitefield Airport	D. Govatski
07-04	3	Concord	airport	R.& M. Suomala
American Pipit				
07-01	16	Sargents Purchase	Mt. Washington, Alpine Garden Trail & Cow Pasture	D. Govatski
Cedar Waxwing				
06-16	10	Nashua	Reservoir St.	S. Petersen
06-18	42	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-23	22	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
07-04	8	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	T. Bronson, N. Nelson
07-26	10	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
07-29	21	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson

Warblers through Finches

A male **Golden-winged Warbler** in Randolph seemed fairly north and east for this species, which may breed as close as the Eastern Townships of Quebec. A Blackpoll Warbler was heard on Mt. Kearsarge in Warner on June 27. They have bred here in the past, but this may have been a late straggling migrant; they are known to occur at low elevations in central New England until the end of June. A singing male Mourning Warbler was unusual in Sandwich; it stayed through the summer, but it is not known whether or not it had a mate.

A singing **Clay-colored Sparrow** in Concord was an exciting find, although not totally unexpected; they have been increasing in summer across New England with nesting confirmed in Vermont two years ago. A nearby location in Maine reported three singing males early in the summer. Numbers of Grasshopper Sparrows were down, overall, across the state, but there were ten pairs at the Concord Airport.

There were no reports of either crossbill species this summer and only one report of Pine Siskins.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Blue-winged Warbler				
06-01	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
06-04	1	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
06-11	1	Concord	Iron Works Rd.	R. Woodward
06-27	1	Concord	Silk Farm WS, old orchard area	L. Hansche
Golden-winged Warbler				
06-01	1	Randolph	Durand Rd.	N. Peters
Nashville Warbler				
06-15	3	Madison	West Branch Pine Barrens	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
06-16	1	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson
06-18	20	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-21	32	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
Northern Parula				
06-01	2	Errol	Sweat Meadow, Lake Umbagog NWR	C. Martin
06-14	1	Errol	Harpers Meadow, Lake Umbagog NWR	C. Martin
06-17	1	Durham	Mill Road	S. & J. Mirick
06-18	41	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-28	2	Errol	Harpers Meadow, Lake Umbagog NWR	C. Martin
Yellow Warbler				
06-16	25	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson
06-18	15	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
06-25	32	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson
07-31	4	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
Magnolia Warbler				
06-04	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Rd. woodland	D. Hubbard
06-10	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
06-18	58	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-18	1	Concord	Bog Rd.	P. Hunt
06-21	34	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-23	20	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
Cape May Warbler				
06-17	1	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-19	1	Pittsburg	BBS route	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
Black-throated Blue Warbler				
06-16	6	Sandwich	Sandwich Notch Rd., first 2 mi.	T. Vazzano
06-18	4	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
06-21	11	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-27	7	Warner	Rollins St. Pk.	T. Bronson, J. Hills, D. Hubbard, M. Pachomski
07-01	7	Concord	Oak Hill	R. Woodward
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
06-18	5	Concord	Penacook census route	P. Hunt
06-21	17	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-27	9	Warner	Rollins St. Pk.	T. Bronson, J. Hills, D. Hubbard, M. Pachomski
07-03	1	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Black-throated Green Warbler				
06-02	1	Nashua	Hall St.	S. Petersen
06-16	10	Sandwich	Sandwich Notch Rd., first 2 mi.	T. Vazzano
06-17	23	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-18	28	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-21	34	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
07-01	4	Concord	Oak Hill	R. Woodward
Blackburnian Warbler				
06-18	22	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-28	8	Sandwich	Sandwich Notch Rd., first 2 mi.	T. Vazzano
07-01	2	Concord	Oak Hill	R. Woodward
07-17	2	Farmington	Blue Job State Forest	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
Pine Warbler				
06-05	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	T. Bronson, J. Hills
06-15	8	Madison	West Branch Pine Barrens	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
06-27	3	New London	Currier Low Plain WMA	T. Bronson, J. Hills, D. Hubbard, M. Pachomski
06-30	8	Concord	Penacook census route	P. Hunt
Prairie Warbler				
06-06	4	Freedom	Ossipee Lake Rd.	B. & D. Fox
06-16	1	Chester	Rod & Gun Club Rd.	A. & B. Delorey
06-24	4	Raymond	power line at Langford Rd.	T. Bronson
06-25	4	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson
06-27	6	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
07-01	1	Tuftonboro	dump	G. Prazar
Bay-breasted Warbler				
06-19	16	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-20	11	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-21	2	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	S. & M. Turner
Blackpoll Warbler				
06-04	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
06-20	11	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-21	20	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-24	11	Sargents Purchase	Alpine Garden Trail	D. Govatski
06-27	1	Warner	Rollins St. Pk.	T. Bronson, J. Hills, D. Hubbard, M. Pachomski
07-03	21	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	D. Govatski
American Redstart				
06-13	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge, S. Fuller, S. Butts
06-18	26	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-28	3	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
06-30	5	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
07-30	6	Lebanon	Mascoma R. mouth, W. Lebanon	P. Hunt, L. Reitsma
Ovenbird				
06-16	6	Sandwich	Sandwich Notch Rd., first 2 mi.	T. Vazzano
06-18	20	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
06-27	4	New London	Currier Low Plain WMA	T. Bronson, J. Hills, D. Hubbard, M. Pachomski

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
07-01	14	Concord	Oak Hill	R. Woodward
07-09	11	Concord	Penacook census route	P. Hunt
Northern Waterthrush				
06-15	2	Effingham	Watts WS, Huntress Rd.	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
06-16	1	Sandwich	Squam Lake Rd.	T. Vazzano
06-18	4	Concord	Bog Rd.	P. Hunt
06-18	9	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
Louisiana Waterthrush				
06-02	1	Sandwich	Dinsmore Pond Rd.	T. Vazzano
06-05	1	Webster	Blackwater R.	I. MacLeod
07-24	1	Claremont	Connecticut R., Farley Landing boat launch	P. Hunt
Mourning Warbler				
06-01	1	Exeter	Saltonstall Medical Bldg.	G. Prazar
06-04	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D.& M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
06-05	1	Sandwich	Thompson WS	R. Ridgely
06-17	6	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-18	3	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
07-23	1	Sandwich	Thompson WS	R. Ridgely
07-24	1	Columbia	Fish Pond Rd.	D. Killam
Common Yellowthroat				
06-18	10	Enfield	Bog Rd.	T. Bronson
06-18	39	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-18	37	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
06-21	20	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-25	18	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson
Wilson's Warbler				
06-18	5	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-20	1	Pittsburg	Rt. 3 at Second Connecticut L.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-20	1	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-21	17	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
Canada Warbler				
06-18	1	Concord	Bog Rd.	P. Hunt
06-18	4	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-21	9	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-28	2	Sandwich	Sandwich Notch Rd., first 2 mi.	T. Vazzano
Scarlet Tanager				
06-16	3	Sandwich	Sandwich Notch Rd., first 2 mi.	T. Vazzano
06-18	6	Concord	Penacook census route	P. Hunt
06-18	9	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
06-28	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
07-04	3	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	T. Bronson, N. Nelson
Eastern Towhee				
06-05	2	Salisbury	Salisbury heights powerline	I. MacLeod
06-10	3	Deerfield	Reservation Rd. powerline	T. Bronson, M. DiMambro
06-15	6	Madison	West Branch Pine Barrens	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
06-16	4	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson
06-22	1	Enfield	Lochaven Rd. transfer station	L. Jones

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Eastern Towhee—continued				
06-24	4	Raymond	Langford Rd. powerline	T. Bronson
06-27	5	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
06-30	2	Newington	Great Bay NWR & Arboretum Dr.	T. Bronson
07-17	7	Farmington	Blue Job State Forest	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
07-22	2	Wolfeboro	off Allen Rd.	G. Prazar
07-28	10	Freedom	Trout Pond CA	T. Vazzano, S. Wiley
Clay-colored Sparrow				
06-14	1	Concord	Concord Airport, ne. section s. of USPS facility	P. Hunt, J. Klett
06-27	1	Concord	Concord Airport, ne. section	P. Hunt
07-04	1	Concord	Concord Airport, ne. section	R. & M. Suomala
Field Sparrow				
06-16	5	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson
07-04	8	Concord	airport, east side	R. & M. Suomala
07-04	5	Concord	airport, west side	R. & M. Suomala
07-16	5	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson
07-22	2	Wolfeboro	off Allen Rd.	G. Prazar
07-28	4	Freedom	Trout Pond CA	T. Vazzano, S. Wiley
Vesper Sparrow				
06-18	2	Concord	Morrill's Farm	P. Hunt
06-27	6	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
07-27	3	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
Savannah Sparrow				
06-01	13	Swanzy	Keene Airport	P. Hunt
06-02	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
06-23	4	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-27	4	Errol	Leonard Marsh, Lake Umbagog NWR	C. Martin
06-27	12	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
07-10	1	Hampton	dunes by Yankee Fisherman's Coop	R. Suomala
Grasshopper Sparrow				
06-11	3	Manchester	Manchester landfill	S. Brown
06-15	4	Swanzy	Keene Airport	P. Hunt
06-18	1	Londonderry	Manchester Airport, s. end	S. Brown
06-27	13	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
07-19	4	Manchester	Manchester landfill	S. Brown
07-27	10	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow				
07-20	10	Hampton	marsh behind Little Jack's Restaurant	P. Hunt, P. McKinley
Lincoln's Sparrow				
06-17	3	Pittsburg	Magalloway Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-17	4	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-19	3	Clarksville	BBS route	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-20	2	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-23	3	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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Swamp Sparrow

06-18	15	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
07-08	24	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward

Dark-eyed Junco

06-10	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Burbidge
06-18	2	Enfield	Bog Rd. near Bear Rd.	T. Bronson
06-20	2	Pittsburg	Ramblewood Campground	F. Tyrrell
06-27	2	Warner	Rollins St. Pk.	T. Bronson, J. Hills, D. Hubbard, M. Pachomski
07-17	1	Farmington	Blue Job State Forest	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

06-18	5	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
06-23	4	Rochester	Ten Rod Rd. residence	D. Hubbard
07-10	10	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
07-14	3	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard

Indigo Bunting

06-01	3	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-06	3	Freedom	Ossipee Lake Rd.	B. & D. Fox
06-10	2	Deerfield	Reservation Rd. power line	T. Bronson, M. DiMambro
06-29	3	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
07-13	2	Meredith	Old Center Harbor Rd.	F. Tyrrell
07-15	4	Concord	Penacook census route	P. Hunt
07-28	2	Freedom	Trout Pond CA	T. Vazzano, S. Wiley



*Bobolink by Pat Watts, 7/10/06,
Wagon Hill Farm, Durham, NH.*

Bobolink

06-28	12	Sandwich	Cook Farm	T. Vazzano
06-29	31	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
07-03	12	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	T. Bronson, M. Pachomski
07-10	50	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
07-14	22	Brentwood	Prescott Rd.	T. Bronson
07-30	37	Chichester	fields n. of Main St.	M. Reinhardt

Eastern Meadowlark

06-01	4	Swanzey	Keene Airport	P. Hunt
06-01	2	Concord	White Farm & Birch St.	R. Woodward
06-16	1	Rye	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	D. & M. Hayward, S. Fuller
06-27	2	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
07-18	7	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Rusty Blackbird				
06-01	2	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	R. Ridgely
06-20	3	Pittsburg	Buckhorn Rd.	S. & M. Turner
06-21	2	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-22	8	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
Orchard Oriole				
06-02	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
06-12	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
06-14	2	Dover	Stafford County complex	D. Hubbard
06-25	1	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson
07-30	1	Greenland	Newington Rd.	C. Galey
07-31	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
Baltimore Oriole				
06-16	20	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson
06-24	15	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Quinn
07-04	10	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
Purple Finch				
06-17	4	Rochester	Ten Rod Rd. residence	D. Hubbard
06-23	5	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Rd.	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-25	5	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
06-28	6	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
07-01	4	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
07-10	6	Salem	residence	K. Folsom
Pine Siskin				
06-28	2	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
Evening Grosbeak				
06-01	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	J. Romano, MA Audubon FT
06-15	6	Ossipee	Heath Pond Bog	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
06-18	2	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
06-20	2	Pittsburg	Second Lake Boat Landing	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06-24	6	Nottingham	Flutter St.	S. Mooney
07-08	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
07-15	4	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano

Reporters for Summer 2006

Eric Aaronian
 H. Anderson
 Jeannine Ayer
 William Baird
 Kenneth Bergman
 Terry Bronson
 Susie Burbidge
 David Deifik
 Alan Delorey
 Barbara Delorey
 Laura Deming
 Jane Doherty
 David Donsker
 C. Federer
 Kenneth Folsom
 Bob Fox
 Susan Galt
 George Gavutis, Jr.
 David Govatski

Bill Harris
 Dan Hayward
 Melissa Hayward
 Lindsay Herlihy
 Dan Hubbard
 Pam Hunt
 Leith Jones
 David Killam
 Iain MacLeod
 Chris Martin
 Eric Masterson
 Stephen Mirick
 David Moon
 Susan Mooney
 Erik Nielsen
 JoAnn O'Shaughnessy
 Kathie Palfy
 Nathan Peters
 Sheli Petersen

Greg Prazar
 Robert Quinn
 John Reagan
 Joel Rhymer
 Robert Ritz
 Kathleen Robbins
 Judy Romano
 Brenda Sens
 Dawn Stavros
 J.R. Stockwell
 Rebecca Suomala
 Sandra Turner
 Fred Tyrrell
 Tony Vazzano
 Rob Woodward
 Mary Wright

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

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

Canada Goose
 Mute Swan
 Wood Duck
 American Black Duck
 Mallard
 Hooded Merganser
 Ring-necked Pheasant
 Ruffed Grouse
 Northern Bobwhite
 Double-crested Cormorant
 Great Blue Heron
 Green Heron
 Osprey
 Bald Eagle
 Sharp-shinned Hawk
 Cooper's Hawk
 Broad-winged Hawk
 Red-tailed Hawk
 Peregrine Falcon
 Killdeer
 Spotted Sandpiper
 Ring-billed Gull
 Rock Pigeon
 Mourning Dove

Great Horned Owl
 Barred Owl
 Chimney Swift
 Belted Kingfisher
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
 Downy Woodpecker
 Hairy Woodpecker
 Northern Flicker
 Pileated Woodpecker
 Eastern Wood-Pewee
 Eastern Phoebe
 Great Crested Flycatcher
 Red-eyed Vireo
 Blue Jay
 American Crow
 Barn Swallow
 Black-capped Chickadee
 Tufted Titmouse
 Red-breasted Nuthatch
 White-breasted Nuthatch
 Brown Creeper
 House Wren
 Hermit Thrush
 American Robin

Gray Catbird
 Northern Mockingbird
 European Starling
 Chestnut-sided Warbler
 Black-and-white Warbler
 Chipping Sparrow
 Song Sparrow
 White-throated Sparrow
 Northern Cardinal
 Red-winged Blackbird
 Common Grackle
 Brown-headed Cowbird
 House Finch
 American Goldfinch
 House Sparrow

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

Grasshopper Sparrow Breeding Season Monitoring

by Pamela Hunt

This year, 2006, marked the fifth year of New Hampshire Audubon surveys for the state-threatened Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*). Efforts in 2006 were focused on known sites in the central Merrimack Valley and the Keene Airport, with sparrows also monitored in conjunction with Upland Sandpiper work at the Pease Tradeport. All known Grasshopper Sparrows in New Hampshire in 2006 were either at airports or closed landfills, demonstrating the importance of such artificial grasslands for habitat specialists like this sparrow. Total population size was estimated at 19 territories, which is the lowest since comprehensive surveys began in 2004. Low numbers in 2006 appear to be primarily the result of continued declines at the Keene Airport (11 territories in 2004 and six in 2005) and absence at traditional sites in Merrimack and Amherst. Populations at the Concord Airport have remained in the range of 9–12 territories for five years.



Grasshopper Sparrow
by Andrea E. Robbins.

Table 1. Grasshopper Sparrow activity in New Hampshire during 2006. Numbers of pairs, nesting attempts, and successful fledglings should be considered minimums, as not all breeding activity was necessarily detected at every site.

Town	Site	Territories	Pairs	Nesting	Successful
Swanzy	Keene Airport	4	2	?	?
Concord	Concord Airport	10	6	2+	1+
Londonderry	Manchester Landfill	2	1+	1+	1
Manchester	Manchester Airport	1	?	?	?
Merrimack	Anheuser-Busch	0			
Amherst	Cemetery Fields	0			
Portsmouth/ Newington	Pease Airfield	2	?	?	?
	2006 Totals	19	9+	3+	2+
	2005 Totals	28	16+	5+	2+
	2004 Totals	23–24	10+	6+	1+
	2003 Totals	14+	8+	6	4
	2002 Totals	22+	14	7	2+

Funding for Grasshopper Sparrow surveys was provided by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. Special thanks go to Sheridan Brown for contributing many hours of observation at the Manchester Landfill and Manchester Boston Regional Airport and to Ralph Andrews for his observations from historic sites in the lower Merrimack Valley.

2006 Common Loon Field Season Overview

by John Cooley

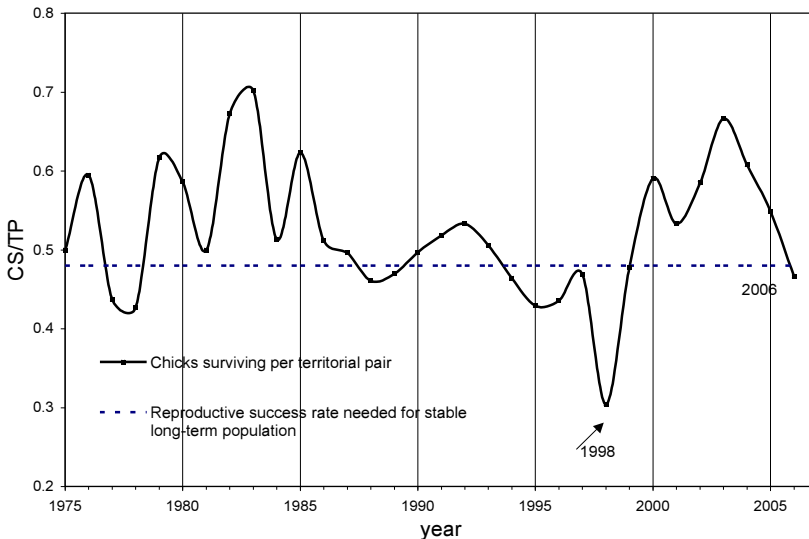
This article was adapted from the original that appeared in the Loon Preservation Committee newsletter.

Wet Weather for Nesting Loons

Common Loons nest close to the waterline and their nests and eggs are vulnerable to even slight fluctuations in the water level. In 2006, for the third year in a row, heavy spring rains and high water flooded traditional nest sites and delayed or prevented nesting on many lakes. Although the number of loons defending breeding across the state increased to a record high of 218 pairs, the number of pairs that actually nested (140) was 4% below the 2001–2005 average, and 12 less than in 2005. High water and rain in June caused many nests to fail, so that the number of chicks hatched (128) was 15% below the five-year average. Forty percent of all nesting pairs experienced at least one nest failure, about six percent more than the long-term average. The nests that did succeed in hatching chicks saw 80% survive to fledge (104 chicks), on par with recent years.

The combined impact of fewer nesting pairs and more nest failures meant that reproductive success (the ratio of chicks surviving per territorial pair) was 19% below the preceding five-year average. Another rainy year dip in reproductive success was evident in 1998 (Figure 1). The graph shows that these peaks and valleys are a common feature over the last 30 years, and not cause for alarm.

Figure 1. Common Loon reproductive success, 1976–2006, New Hampshire.



Recolonization of Vacant Lakes

Countering the bad news from a rainy nesting season, there were a number of newly active loon lakes in New Hampshire this year. Seven new nesting territories and 10 new territorial pairs were observed on lakes where loon activity has been irregular or absent in the past. As the state's loon population continues to expand, there are good reasons for loons to re-establish themselves on these lakes. Many represent 'typical' loon habitat—quiet lakes with clear water, a varied shoreline, and nesting islands or marshes. LPC has collaborated with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and University of New Hampshire graduate student Mark Brennan to incorporate these characteristics into a statistical model that predicts lakes with highly suitable habitat. Most of these lakes are already well documented as consistent loon territories, but the model results can also be used to identify suitable but unoccupied habitat. LPC's 2006 field monitoring focused on these vacant high-quality lakes and found newly established loons on several, including Grassy Pond in Rindge, Leavitt Bay in Freedom, and Round Pond in Barrington.

Lead

In spite of a five-year old ban on lead sinker use in New Hampshire, examination of five of the 11 adult loon carcasses collected this summer confirmed lead poisoning as the cause of death. Three of these adults came from breeding pairs with chicks. Tufts University intern Corinna Beale, conducted necropsies on all carcasses recovered this season. Corinna was surprised to find that at least one loon, collected from Sand Pond, in Marlow, New Hampshire, had ingested lead tackle larger than the banned sinker size. The present ban targets small split-shot sinkers that can be ingested as loons forage on the lake bottom for pebbles to help digest food. Larger sinkers, probably consumed with fish that have the fishing tackle lodged in them, are apparently also a problem.

Adult loon mortality from lead sinkers and other causes has a far-reaching impact on the population. Loons are a classic example of a species adapted to a stable environment: long lived, with a delayed breeding age, and producing only a few young each year. This means that the survival of adult loons from year to year is the key to a sustainable breeding population. In a companion study to the habitat modeling described above, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has used New Hampshire loon monitoring data to show that a change in the state-wide mortality rate of as little as 2-3 adult mortalities per year could shift the population from long term stability into decline.

John Cooley, Jr. is staff biologist at the Loon Preservation Committee and lives in Center Sandwich, NH. The Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) was formed in 1975 as a result of concerns about dramatic declines in the presence and productivity of loons in New Hampshire. LPC works to restore and maintain a healthy population of loons throughout New Hampshire, and to promote a greater understanding of loons and the natural world through monitoring, research, and outreach. For more information visit LPC on-line at www.loon.org or at The Loon Center on Lee's Mills Road in Moultonborough, NH (603-476-5666).



Bald Eaglelets by Bill Hanson, 6/12/06, Lake Umbagog south nest, NH.

New Hampshire's 2006 Raptor Breeding Summary

by Chris Martin

Bald Eagle Results

The 2006 Bald Eagle breeding season in New Hampshire was exceptional, marked by the discovery of new breeding territories in the state's Seacoast, Lakes Region, and North Country, and also by high productivity. Breeding pairs were documented at 12 New Hampshire sites in 2006, a 20% increase over the prior record of 10 pairs confirmed in 2005. A total of 10 eagle nests produced young in New Hampshire in 2006, well above the prior record of six successful pairs in both 2004 and 2005. New territories were discovered in 2006 on the Cochecho River in Dover, Round Island in Gilford, and Reflection Pond in Shelburne.

Statewide, a total of 21 young Bald Eagles reached fledging age, almost doubling the previous record high of 11 chicks fledged both in 2004 and 2005. Since 1988, when eagles began breeding again in New Hampshire, there had been only one case of three young fledging successfully from a nest (Nubanusit Lake in 2004); however, in 2006, trios fledged from two locations (Plainfield and Umbagog North). This year's overall annual productivity rate (1.91 young fledged/active nest) was the highest reported in New Hampshire during the past decade. The only time when New Hampshire eagles had higher annual productivity was when the state hosted just one breeding pair, during the years when they fledged two chicks (1990, 1992, and 1996).

New Hampshire biologists and cooperators banded four of the state's 21 nestling Bald Eagles at two nests in 2006. Efforts to determine the identity of New Hampshire's nesting Bald Eagles by reading their bands continued in 2006. Biologists were able to determine the band status for 13 birds and seven were found to be color-banded. The information obtained from the bands, combined with that of previous years, indicates that four of the color-banded birds were raised at nests in Massachusetts, two in New York, and one in Connecticut.

New Hampshire Audubon continues to monitor and manage the state's endangered Bald Eagle population with funding and support from New Hampshire Fish and Game, the Lake Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge, TransCanada Power, and other donors to New Hampshire Audubon.

Bald Eagle Nest Site Summary

Cocheco River, Dover – 2 y	Squam Lake, Moultonboro – 2 y
Moore's Crossing, Bedford – pair left area in late March, did not incubate	Umbagog North, Errol – 3 y
Nubanusit Lake, Hancock – 2 y	Umbagog South, Errol – 2 y
Ottawaquechee, Plainfield – 3 y	Umbagog West, Errol – nest failed during incubation
Pontook Reservoir, Dummer – 2 y	Vernon Dam, Hinsdale – 2 y
Reflection Pond, Shelburne – 1 y	
Round Island, Gilford – 2 y	y – young fledged

Peregrine Falcon Results

The 2006 Peregrine Falcon breeding season in New Hampshire was marked by heavy rain and poor productivity. While 17 occupied territories set a new post-DDT state record high, and 14 territorial pairs tied a previous high mark set in 2002 and 2003, other reproductive parameters lagged substantially behind recent years. For example, six successful nests and 14 young fledged both represent the lowest reproductive levels documented in the state in the past decade, and this year's average of 1.17 young fledged/active nest was the lowest annual productivity reported for peregrines in New Hampshire since 1992. Of the five New Hampshire sites monitored under the USFWS national post-delisting Peregrine Falcon monitoring plan, four were not productive in 2006.



Peregrine Falcon eggs by NHDOT, 5/2/06, Memorial Bridge, NH.

Particularly interesting was the shift to Portsmouth's Memorial Bridge by a pair that previously nested in the Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine. The female laid her eggs on the massive counterweight in the western tower, and every time the bridge deck was raised and lowered, the incubating bird rode down and back up again. Sadly, the nest failed in mid-May when it received a foot of rain during a storm.

Through observations to determine the banded status of peregrines at breeding sites in New Hampshire we obtained positive identification on three of the six individuals confirmed to be color-banded. These birds were a male hatched in 2000 from a New Hampshire site, a female hatched in 2003 in Connecticut, and another female hatched in 2005 in Massachusetts.

New Hampshire Audubon continues to monitor and manage the state's endangered Peregrine Falcon population with funding and support from New Hampshire Fish and Game, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and donors to New Hampshire Audubon.

Peregrine Falcon 2006 Nesting Territories

Abeniki, Dixville – 1 y
 Alton Roadcut, Alton*
 Bear Mountain, Hebron*
 Brady-Sullivan Tower, Manchester – 2 y
 Cathedral Ledge, Bartlett – f
 Devils Slide, Stark – 1 y
 Diamond Peaks, Second College Grant*
 Eagle Cliff, Franconia – f
 Frankenstein, Harts Location*
 Holts Ledge, Lyme – f
 Portsmouth Harbor, Portsmouth – f

Painted Walls, Albany – 3 y
 Pond Ledge, Haverhill – 4 y
 Rattlesnake Mtn, Rumney – f
 Russell Crag, Woodstock – 3 y
 Square Ledge, Albany – f
 Webster North, Harts Location*

* at least one adult present but did not nest in 2006
 f – nest failed
 y – young fledged

Osprey Results

Despite some wet weather challenges during the months of May and June, the 2006 Osprey breeding season in New Hampshire turned out to be quite successful and nearly a repeat of the record-breaking year we experienced in 2005!

One of the most encouraging statistics was that 2006 was the second consecutive year in which we tallied 50 or more territorial pairs of Ospreys present across the Granite State. For some historical perspective, we first had 10 territorial pairs in 1981, 20+ territorial pairs in 1989, 30+ territorial pairs in 1994, and 40+ territorial pairs in

2003. Twenty years ago, all of our Osprey pairs were located in the Androscoggin River watershed, but now breeding pairs are broadly distributed across four of state's five major watersheds (Androscoggin, Connecticut, Great Bay/Seacoast, and Merrimack; Table 1). If current trends continue, it appears increasingly likely that Ospreys may be among the first (if not the first) species removed from the New Hampshire List of Threatened and Endangered Wildlife by virtue of their population recovery. Now that would be something to celebrate!

In 2006, New Hampshire's state-listed threatened Osprey population established new post-DDT era record highs with 54 territorial pairs and 45 active nests. The total number of young produced (62) matched the 2005 record high with 32 successful nests statewide. We missed equaling 2005's record of 33 successful nests by just one nest.

Failure of incubating pairs to hatch eggs and losses of already hatched chicks later in the breeding season were both factors that held down the average number of young fledged per active nest (1.38 young/active nest) and per successful nest (1.94 young/successful nest). On the upside, the total output of young Ospreys in the Merrimack River watershed increased by nearly 50% in 2006 (22 in 2006, as compared with 15 in 2005). On the downside, the Great Bay/Seacoast area experienced its poorest average reproductive success since 1999 (1.1 young/active nest in 2006). See Table 1 for more information on the 2006 Osprey breeding season, by watershed.

Table 1. Osprey nesting success by watershed in 2006, New Hampshire.

Watershed	Active Nests	Successful Nests	Young Fledged	Young/ Active Nest
Androscoggin River	14	9	17	1.21
Connecticut River	8	6	12	1.50
Great Bay/ Seacoast area	10	6	11	1.10
Merrimack River	13	11	22	1.69

In August of 2006, Barbara Danser of Jaffrey, New Hampshire, showed me an Osprey nest located on Laban Ainsworth Pond in Jaffrey. She reported that the nest was first occupied during 2005, and the nest was quite well maintained during my visit, indicating that it was occupied earlier in 2006. This discovery is significant because it is the first documented Osprey nest in southwestern New Hampshire. New Hampshire Audubon and New Hampshire Fish and Game, along with cooperators such as Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH) and the U.S. Army Corps, have installed platforms within this region, but thus far have not seen them occupied by Ospreys. Documentation of a nest-building pair in Jaffrey opens up a whole new area for population expansion in New Hampshire. Special thanks to Iain MacLeod for passing along this report shortly before leaving New Hampshire Audubon to become Executive Director of the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center.

New Hampshire Audubon continued to work with utility companies to make Osprey nests on power poles safe for the birds and the power supply. At the Ayers Island Dam platform, owned by PSNH, a live Internet video stream became opera-

tional in 2006 (to view, visit <http://www.psnh.com/osprey/live/default.asp>). See the Photo Gallery below for more on these activities.

New Hampshire's breeding Osprey population is currently monitored and managed through a partnership involving the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and New Hampshire Audubon. Other cooperators include Public Service of New Hampshire, the Great Bay Discovery Center, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the New Hampshire Division of Parks, a number of private landowners, and many citizen volunteers.

The Great Bay Osprey Stewards (GBOS) Web site, <http://ourworld.cs.com/projoprstewards/>, actively maintained on a volunteer basis by Dick Hughes, continues to provide extensive photos and detailed information about Ospreys at Great Bay, statewide, and beyond.

Chris Martin is a staff biologist with New Hampshire Audubon. He coordinates monitoring, management, and recovery programs for the state's endangered and threatened raptors under a contract with New Hampshire Fish and Game, and is always looking for new volunteers.

Photo Gallery

Partnerships – Ospreys and Power Poles

by Chris Martin

New Hampshire Audubon works with utility companies to make Osprey nests on power poles safe for the birds and the power supply. In 2005, insulation was added to electric wires at Hampton's Landing Road nest, which is located on a transmission



Photo #1:
Hampton's Landing
Road nest, by James
Goudreault, 6/14/06,
Hampton, NH.

line owned by Unitil, to prevent power interruptions while safeguarding the birds (Photo #1). The Route 110-A platform in Dummer, owned by Brookfield Power, was erected in May 2006 to get the birds off the adjacent electrified pole (Photo #2). The Ayers Island Dam platform (Photo #3), owned by PSNH, was modified in 2004 to get the birds off the superstructure of the dam, and a live Internet video stream of the nest became operational in 2006 (to view, visit <http://www.psnh.com/osprey/live/default.asp>).



*Photo #2:
Route 110-A platform with nest by Dennis Turcotte, 5/9/06,
Dummer, NH.*



*Photo #3:
View from Ayers Island Dam plat-
form from Internet video stream.*



*Photo #4:
Female Osprey by Iain Macleod, 6/5/06 Salisbury, NH.*

Volunteers and Research

Monitoring Nightjars in the Northeast

by Pam Hunt and Liz Burton



Whip-poor-will by Andrea E. Robbins.

Nightjars are a family of largely nocturnal insectivorous birds that occur throughout the temperate and tropical parts of the world. In the Northeast they include Whip-poor-wills, Chuck-will's-widow (not normally occurring in New Hampshire), and Common Nighthawk. Evidence collected in recent years suggests that populations of nightjars are in decline. How-

ever, much of the data gathered about nightjars are anecdotal in nature, largely because their nocturnal habits make gathering information about them challenging. While the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) and other programs have detected some evidence of population declines, their methods were not designed for collecting information about nocturnal species.

For this reason, New Hampshire Audubon's Pam Hunt spearheaded the creation of a Nightjar Working Group within Northeast Partners in Flight, the goal of which has been to develop a scientifically rigorous monitoring program for nightjars in the 13-state Northeastern Region. The Nightjar Working Group currently includes representatives from 12 states, although not all states have implemented the monitoring program. The goals of the monitoring program are to obtain data on population trends for these species and identify potential opportunities for conservation.

When the Nightjar Working Group was created in 2004, its work was an expansion of the New Hampshire Whip-poor-will monitoring program, which was started by New Hampshire Audubon in 2003. The techniques developed for the Whip-poor-will monitoring program, as well as the data collection techniques used in other large-scale programs, gave the Group a starting place for developing a survey protocol for gathering information about nightjars. Over the last two years, the Group has explored a variety of factors, and has refined and expanded the survey protocol in response to their findings.

Because the Whip-poor-will is the most widespread nightjar in New England, all initial efforts of the Group have focused on this species. One of the most important tasks the Group has tackled to date is determining how best to identify survey routes. One possible approach for route selection is a strictly random method, in which equal-sized quadrangles are identified using topographical maps. However, available data from other programs made it clear that selecting routes randomly would yield very limited data for Whip-poor-wills, and that a more targeted approach is necessary. Therefore, the Group developed a two-tiered approach, in which the first tier of routes is chosen randomly as described above, while the second tier consists of routes that contain habitat known to be suitable for Whip-poor-wills. This two-tiered approach

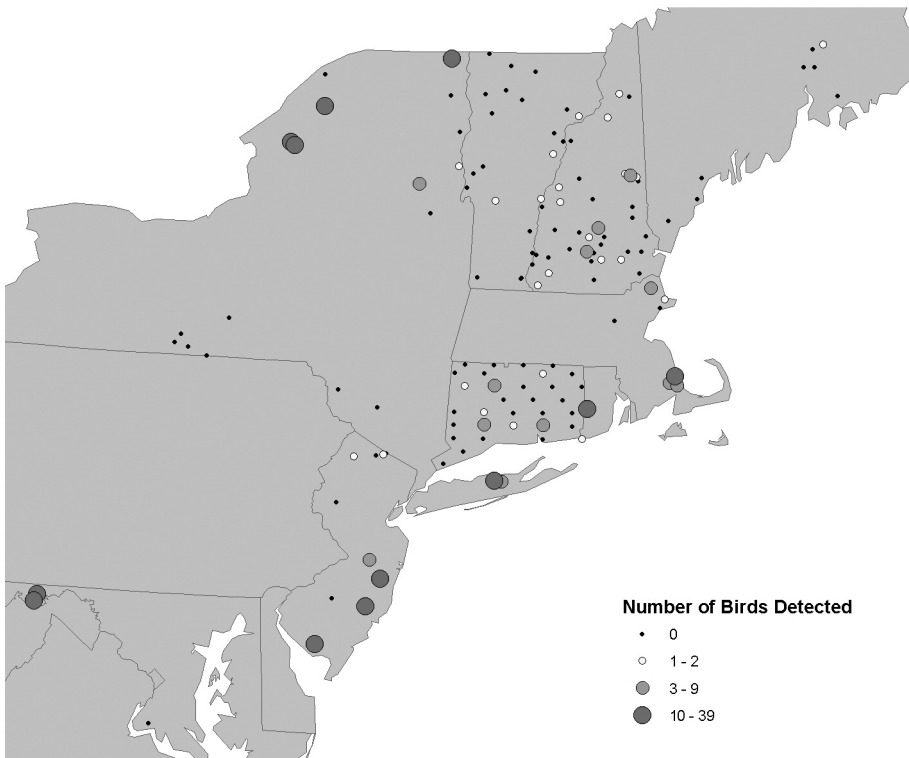
was used in identifying most of the routes surveyed in Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont during the 2006 data collection season.

Figure 1 shows Whip-poor-will counts for the 2006 season. Observers were instructed to survey their routes after sunset but before dawn, at a time when the moon was at least 50% full and not obscured by clouds. Surveys were conducted during two time periods: one in June and a second in July. Due to widespread rain and overcast weather conditions during the June survey period, the amount of data collected in 2006 was lower than anticipated. In total, 141 routes were surveyed across nine north-eastern states.

Densities of Whip-poor-wills were generally lowest in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont (Figure 1), and increased on survey routes to the south and west. Also clearly shown in the figure is that large areas are missing data; some of these under-surveyed areas are places where Whip-poor-wills are known to exist. In particular, useful data could be obtained if routes were added in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and eastern Maryland. Finally, researchers were able to draw some preliminary generalizations from the 2006 data about areas and habitats where higher densities of Whip-poor-wills may be detected. This information will be used to further refine the route-selection protocols.

The information gathered in 2006 represents just the beginning of an ongoing project that will continue to be improved and expanded into the future. A number of ques-

Figure 1. Number of Whip-poor-wills detected on survey routes in 2006.



tions and issues remain unresolved. One of the most important goals of the project is to be able to collect reliable data about apparent population declines. However, it is difficult to monitor changes when the numbers of birds detected are small to begin with. Therefore, a major task for the Group in 2007 and beyond is determining how to collect and analyze the data to enable accurate monitoring of population trends. Additional goals of the Group include expanding information gathered about other nightjar species (Chuck-will's-widow and Common Nighthawk), expanding the surveyed areas both in the northeast and farther south, and continuing to refine the protocol for selecting survey routes.

The nightjar monitoring effort in the Northeast owes most of its success to the volunteers who conduct the majority of the surveys. In the last two years over 150 dedicated souls have gone out listening for Whip-poor-wills under the full moon, often without success. At the moment all the New Hampshire nightjar routes are covered, but we'd like to have a list of people available when vacancies occur, so please contact Pam Hunt (phunt@nhaudubon.org) if you're interested in participating. There may be opportunities to help in other states as well, and Pam can put you in contact with the appropriate state coordinator. In addition, New Hampshire Audubon is always interested in sightings of Whip-poor-wills, including older records from areas where you no longer find the species. Please report sightings to *New Hampshire Bird Records*; forms are available on the Web at www.nhbirdrecords.org or from the Managing Editor.

Spotlight on Stilt Sandpiper (*Calidris himantopus*)

by Eric Masterson

Background

With uncharacteristically long legs and a preference for deeper water, the Stilt Sandpiper is an odd member of the *Calidris* genus of shorebirds. It has a discontinuous breeding range stretching west from James Bay, at the southern end of Hudson's Bay in Canada, to Barrow, Alaska, with an estimated world population of about 50,000 birds.

Breeding Status

There are no breeding records for New Hampshire and the nearest breeding site to the state is in James Bay.

Occurrence in New Hampshire

The great majority of Stilt Sandpiper sightings in New Hampshire occur during the months of July to October. Numbers build from the third week in July, peak during the first week in August,



Stilt Sandpiper by Jim Fenton.

and decline to late October (Figure 1). The average number of Stilt Sandpipers by month is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. The average number of Stilt Sandpipers reported in New Hampshire.

Month	Average number of birds (1947–2005)
July	0.93
August	4.08
September	2.20
October	0.71
July through October	Average number of birds per year
1947–2005	7.92
1967–1973	33.14

The earliest fall record is of an individual seen in Rye on July 8, 1976 and the latest record is November 7, 1984, when three birds were seen in Hampton. There is only one documented spring record of the species from New Hampshire, with an individual seen on May 4, 1974.

During a seven year period from 1967 to 1973, there was a very significant increase in the number of birds seen in New Hampshire, with records from July to October four times above monthly average for the entire period from 1947 through 2005 (Table 1, Figure 2).

Most records are from coastal locations in suitable habitat. The species tends to stay away from tidal mudflats, and instead prefers deeper pools where it forages in belly-deep water. A total of 56 Stilt Sandpipers have also been seen in Exeter in eight different years, mainly at the wastewater treatment plant. The species has also been seen on the Connecticut River at Hinsdale.

Comments

Spring migration takes the species north through the central United States, which explains the scarcity of spring records from New Hampshire. At times, the bulk of the population has been documented at single sites in spring, such as the Cheyenne Bottoms of Kansas, where a high count of 54,900 was tallied on May 11, 1986. Despite the lack of spring reports from New Hampshire, the species is reported annually from Massachusetts; the Bay State offers a greater expanse of coastline and higher quality habitat for Stilt Sandpiper, in addition to receiving good coverage by birders.

Fall migration occurs across a broader front, with juveniles in particular spanning the continent. In the *Birds of Massachusetts*, record fall maxima are reported from 1974 and 1976, showing some correlation with the peak occurrence in New Hampshire during the late 1960s and early 1970s. No evidence could be found to infer any reason for the increase in the species during these years, such as a change in migratory pattern or reproductive success.

So the next time you go birding from July to November along New Hampshire’s coast, check out those brackish and muddy pools for a slight, long-legged shorebird wading in deep water, especially during the first week of August. It might be a Stilt Sandpiper, always a good bird in New Hampshire. Try to determine the age of the

Figure 1. The timing of Stilt Sandpiper occurrence during fall in New Hampshire, records by week from 1947–2005. Data sources searched extend back to 1936, but there were no records prior to 1947.

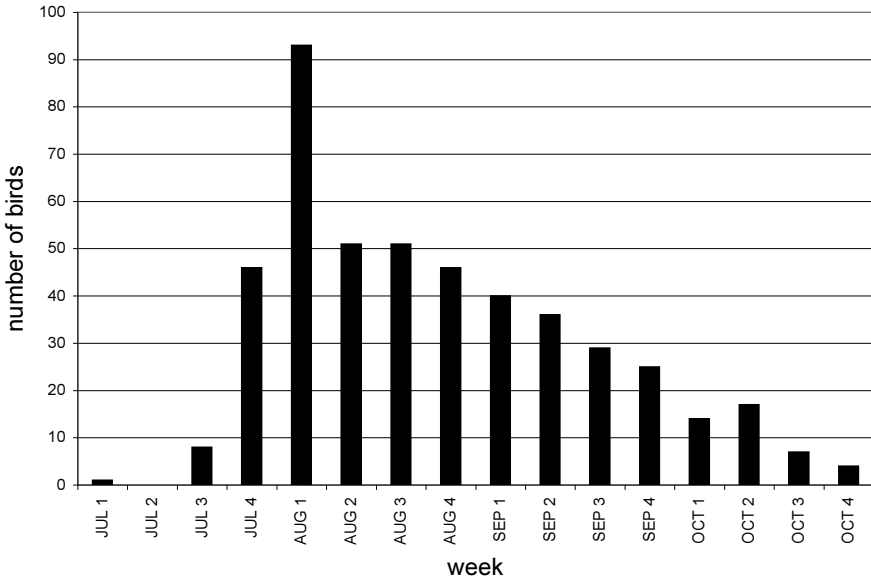
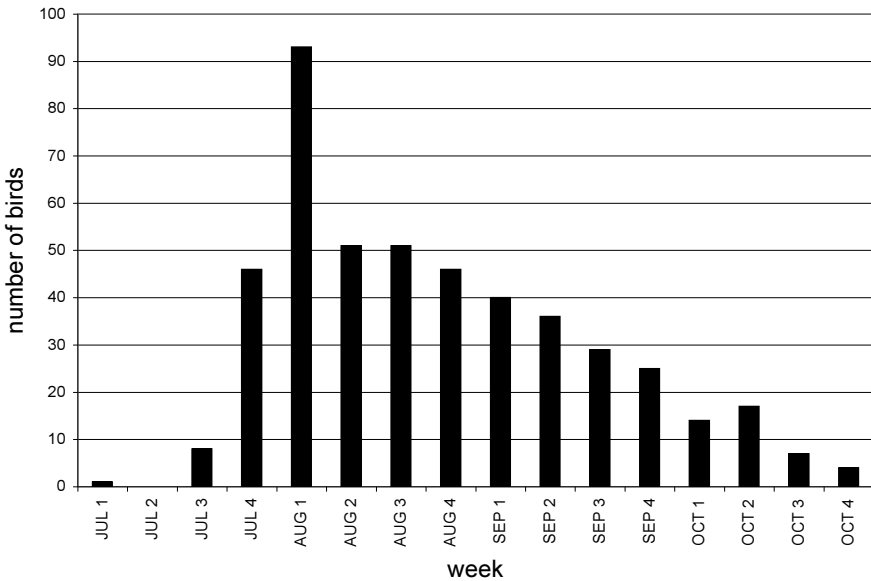


Figure 2. Stilt Sandpiper records by year in New Hampshire, 1947–2005. Data sources searched extend back to 1936, but there were no records prior to 1947.



bird. It will be an adult if it is seen in spring or from late June through July, and if you find one early enough, it should still retain much of its breeding plumage.

Data Sources

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

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

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The Connecticut River Birding Trail

by Bill Taffe

What does New Hampshire have in common with Texas and Florida? A birding trail! All the great birding states have one. Texas boasts its “Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail,” Florida advertises “The Great Florida Birding Trail” and New Hampshire can proudly claim the “Connecticut River Birding Trail,” although “truth in advertising” forces us to admit that we share it with Vermont.

The Connecticut River Birding Trail (CRBT) is a sequence of over 120 first-rate birding sites located along the length of the Connecticut River and its watershed. As the river forms almost the entire boundary between New Hampshire and Vermont, the trail straddles both states.

Like other birding trail guides, the Connecticut River Birding Trail Guide presents a sequence of good birding sites, gives directions on how to get to each, lists the key species featured in the particular habitat, recommends the best season(s) to visit, and provides information about ownership and regulations or restrictions on use of the site.

The Northern Section is a bit more heavily weighted toward New Hampshire, as the Connecticut River flows through New Hampshire and doesn’t become the New Hampshire/Vermont boundary until Stewartstown, NH. Between the headwaters of

the Connecticut River in the Fourth Connecticut Lake and the terminus of this map section in Piermont, NH/Bradford, VT, the Birding Trail recommends and describes 22 birding locations in New Hampshire and 18 in Vermont. In general the locations are within 20 miles of the river but a few are a bit farther afield, including Jefferson Notch in Thompson & Meserves Purchase, Gibbs Brook Scenic Area in Bean's Grant, Zealand Valley in Jefferson (New Hampshire sites), and Darling Hill and Kingdom Trails in Burke and Lyndon (Vermont sites). Two of my favorites are on the list: Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge in Whitefield and the Trudeau Road wetlands in Bethlehem. There is great birding in our Connecticut Lakes/Lake Francis area. Erik Nielsen described birding these northernmost sites of the trail in his article "Birding the Far North—Pittsburg" in the Summer 2005 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* (NHBR), Vol. 24, #2, pp. 48–53.



Brown Thrasher by Jim Block,
6/10/06, Post Pond, Lyme,
NH.

The map of the Central Section slightly overlaps that of the Northern Section, adding a couple of sites in Haverhill, and then continues southward. The map's 46 sites are evenly divided between the two sides of the river down to Cornish, NH, and Putney, VT, although most of the sites are concentrated near and just north of the Lebanon, NH/Hartford, VT area. "Fall Birding in the Upper Valley," an article by Stefan Stürup in the Fall 2000 issue of *NHBR*, describes some of these locations in more detail (Vol. 22, #3, pp. 54–57). The opportunities for great birding along this trail on both sides of the river might even tempt New Hampshire birders to cross the line and do some listing in Vermont!

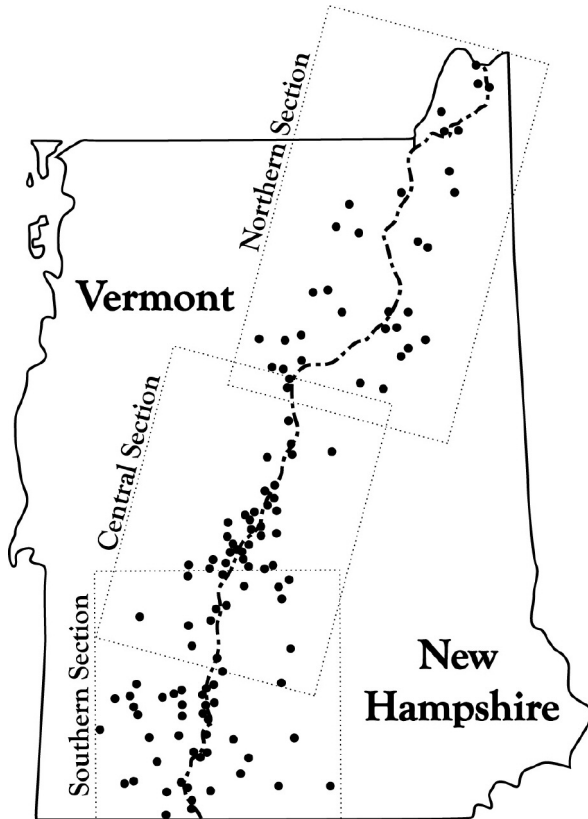
The Southern Section map adds 42 more locations to the trail. Most sites are along the river or within 10 miles of it, but a few "push the boundary" of the watershed on both sides of the border, and there are a couple of outlying locations, such as Mt. Monadnock and the Pack Monadnock Raptor Observatory. One excellent area in Westmoreland, the Cheshire County Nature Trails, was described extensively by Wendy Ward in the Spring 2004 issue of *NHBR* (Vol. 23, #1, p. 48).

The CRBT maps are very nicely printed in full color on heavyweight glossy 24x27 inch paper and are incredibly inexpensive, thanks to the generosity of the donors who supported the project! You can obtain maps from CRBT at P.O. Box 1215, Norwich, VT 05055. For more information, visit the CRBT Web site at <http://www.ctriverbirdingtrail.org> or contact Project Coordinator, Bill Shepard, by e-mail at birdvermont@valley.net or by phone at (802) 649-9075. The project always welcomes donations.

The CRBT offers birders the opportunity to find wonderful birding sites along almost any stretch of the river. Supported by a variety of private and public sources, “this project is dedicated to the conservation of wildlife and their habitats and is a non-profit conservation-education initiative”, explains Project Director Bill Shepard. “We believe that the more people get out and enjoy the land, the more they will respect natural areas and the wonders they highlight. It is our hope that...the public will be inspired to conserve and protect these and other special places, now and in the future.” He hopes that this project will allow you to “enjoy these Birding Trail sites, respect the land and its inhabitants, and share your enthusiasm and love with others.”

Bill Taffe is the former Summer Season Editor and current coordinator of NHBR’s “Where To Bird Feature.” He provides maps for the publication, and is the NHBR Webmaster. He birds throughout New Hampshire, southwestern US, and parts of Mexico and South America. Bill volunteers as a Peregrine Falcon monitor for New Hampshire Audubon and surveys Bicknell’s Thrush on New Hampshire’s Cherry Mtn. for the Vermont Institute of Natural Science.

Figure 1. The three sections of the Connecticut River Birding Trail for which maps are available. The dots show the locations of the birding sites in each area.



Backyard Birder

Four Bird Species on a Raft

Three species visit a merganser family on a raft the same day!

by Tudor Richards

During the course of a particular July day a Common Merganser family, while resting on a small raft a little offshore of our lakeside camp, to my great surprise, was joined on three separate occasions by a very different visitor. First came a Double-crested Cormorant that stayed for quite a while, standing up and looking as if it were an unusually large mother watching out for the thoroughly relaxed young mergansers (see photo). After the cormorant left, a Ring-billed Gull appeared, presumably hoping to steal a fish from the mergansers when they returned to the water to chase minnows in the shallows, as we had seen it do earlier. Then, last but not least, a Spotted Sandpiper stopped by briefly, seemingly not at all concerned by the mergansers. While my hope to see all four species on the raft at the same time was, of course, not realized, I was glad that the arrival of a prowling loon looking for a chance to attack our “pet” mergansers also wasn’t realized.



Double-crested Cormorant and Common Merganser by Tudor Richards, 7/03, Squam Lake, NH.

Why were these birds on the raft?

by Brenda Sens

As convivial as this observation and photograph sound and appear, the birds were probably drawn to this raft for very different reasons. According to Kenn Kaufman in his book *Lives of North American Birds*, mergansers, once they have sated their appetites, are capable of spending hours resting on rocks or the shore. The raft may

have attracted them as an unusually comfortable rock safely surrounded by water, affording the adults and young with a wonderful place to relax.

Cormorants are capable of spending long periods of time in the water fishing and eating. Although the feathers closest to their bodies provide good insulation, the others are structured to decrease buoyancy, making diving and swimming easier for the birds. The result is that these feathers become very wet and cormorants are often seen perching with their wings spread out to dry. Although this cormorant was not indulging in this behavior at the time the picture was taken, it may have come to the raft for that purpose. It was once thought that cormorants were warming up when they sat in the sun with their wings spread, but studies have shown no change in their body temperature when they exhibit this behavior. Researchers have concluded that cormorants spread their wings simply to dry out.

As for gulls, although perfectly capable of finding their own food, they are well known for eating anything and everything they find and stealing from others is a common practice. The observation that the bird was hoping the mergansers would resume fishing and thereby provide it with an easy meal is very likely right on the mark.

The behavior of the Spotted Sandpiper is more problematic. It is difficult to come up with a reason for this solitary bird that rarely stands still to be attracted by a raft that is already occupied. Would that we could ask it directly.

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Special thanks go to Kiah Walker for her research into this topic.

Tudor Richards is a long-time birder in the state and former Director of New Hampshire Audubon. His lifelong accomplishments are numerous and far-reaching.

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

Concord Bird List and Quiz

by Robert A. Quinn

For many years I have been compiling a list of all the bird species seen in the city of Concord, New Hampshire, since the early 1900s. I updated the list in June of 2006 after the sightings of Lesser Black-backed Gull and Clay-colored Sparrow, and the tally was a surprising 275 species. The list comes from records by Francis B. White, Charles Goodhue, Tudor Richards, Kimball Elkins, Kay Dymont, Hazel Miller, Adelma Lajoie, Jane Grant, Rob Woodward, Mark and Becky Suomala, Pam Hunt, Phil Brown, Carol Foss, and many others, plus records I have culled from *New Hampshire Bird Records*.



Green Heron by Debbie Stahre, 08/19/06, Concord, NH.

The full list of 275 species is too long to reproduce here in its entirety. Some of the highlights include a surprising number of rarities such as Greater White-fronted Goose, Tundra Swan, Black Tern, Northern Hawk Owl, Loggerhead Shrike, Sedge Wren, Spotted Towhee, and Bullock's Oriole. Rare warbler species are represented by Prothonotary, Worm-eating, Kentucky, and Hooded, and sparrows include Lark, Henslow's (but not since 1963), and Grasshopper, as well as the Clay-colored Sparrow at Concord Airport in the summer of 2006. Also on the list are coastal species that you would not expect to see so far inland, such as 16 Black-legged Kittiwakes and a Forster's Tern on Turkey Pond on a sunny day in May, Baird's Sandpiper, King Eider, and Dovekie.

Two waterbird fallouts in 1996, which brought some remarkable numbers of typically coastal species, were major events in Concord's bird history.

April 24, 1996

Horned Grebe – 40
 Red-necked Grebe – 42
 Double-crested Cormorant – 16
 Greater Scaup – 18
 Long-tailed Duck – 12
 White-winged Scoter – 2
 Bufflehead – 32

May 11–13, 1996

Solitary Sandpiper – 26
 Spotted Sandpiper – 19
 Least Sandpiper – 120

Another somewhat smaller fallout brought scoters and Short-billed Dowitchers on May 23, 2004. There was a grebe fallout on April 29, 1971 (with a few Long-tailed Ducks too) and another waterbird fallout from May 14 to 22, 2006 brought two species of phalaropes, Common Moorhen, Sandhill Cranes, shorebirds, and the first (and second and third) Lesser Black-backed Gulls for Concord. A total of 19 shorebird

species, with more than 40 waterbird species in all, were seen during the drawdown of Turkey Pond in the summer and fall of 1982. Some of the rarities included Stilt and Baird’s Sandpipers, and Red Phalarope.

A planting of sorghum in a field normally filled with corn produced incredible sparrows in the fall of 2002. And there was the Yellow-throated Warbler in the parking lot at Audubon House during the start of a Capital Area Chapter field trip in May 1997 as well as the Western Kingbird and Ash-throated Flycatcher found by the Suomalas in subsequent Octobers (1998 and 2001) at the Silk Farm Wildlife Sanctuary, plus the White-eyed Vireo in April of 2004.

Of course there are the “missing” species that, while not exactly expected, certainly might be seen in Concord: Ruddy Turnstone, Wilson’s Phalarope, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Three-toed Woodpecker, and other truly rare birds not yet on the list. This list is still a work in progress and I encourage all readers to provide additional thoughts, records, and stories.

Bob Quinn is a New Hampshire native who has birded throughout 49 states. He worked for the New Hampshire Audubon for nine years and continues as an active volunteer. With his business, Merlin Enterprises, he has led dozens of field trips throughout the world. For 20 years he was NHBR editor of the summer season. He was a founding member of the NH Rare Birds Committee, and has a keen interest in the status of breeding birds in the state.

Quiz: Test your knowledge of the birds in Concord

How many species of warblers have been reported in November in Concord, New Hampshire, over the years?

Hint: Cape May and Pine Warblers are not on the list—they have been reported in December, but not in November.

Answer: 13 warbler species.
 Nashville, Nov. 11, 2000; Northern Parula, Nov. 12, 1960; Magnolia, Nov. 8, 1969; Black-throated Blue, Nov. 13, 2001; Yellow-rumped, regular; Black-throated Green, Nov. 18, 1979; Palm, Nov. 10, 2006; Bay-breasted, Nov. 3, 1962; Black-and-white, Nov. 23, 1975; American Redstart, Nov. 1970s; Ovenbird, Nov. 28, 1975; Common Yellowthroat, Nov. 16, 1962; Yellow-breasted Chat, 4+ Nov. reports.

Watch for an article on where to bird in Concord in the next issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* and more on the birds of Concord in a future issue. *Ed.*

New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee Report — Part Two

This is a continuation from the Spring 2006 issue of the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee (NHRBC) report containing the decisions for records voted on by the Committee since the report published in the Winter 2004-2005 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*. At its meeting on October 28, 2006 the Committee established a category of “Qualified Accepted” to be used for historical records that have been submitted or recorded without current standards of documentation but which otherwise are likely valid sightings considering the circumstances of the observation. This category will be used as the Committee goes forward with its evaluation of historical records.

The NHRBC is an independent technical advisory committee to *New Hampshire Bird Records (NHBR)*. See the Spring 2006 issue for more on the NHRBC, its voting process, and the voting members of the Committee during the period in which all these records were evaluated.

Historical and Deferred Records

Records accepted by the Committee

Bell’s Vireo collected in Durham on November 18, 1897. (Photograph obtained of the specimen housed at Harvard University’s Museum of Comparative Zoology. Conclusively establishes this specimen as the first state record).

Western Grebe in Rye on March 28, 29, 1986. (Two reports)

Greater White-fronted Goose in Charlestown on May 6, 1986.

Three-toed Woodpecker in Success on July 6, 1986.

Acadian Flycatcher in Sandwich on July 10, 1986.

Purple Gallinule in Lee on January 25, 1987.

Kentucky Warbler in Durham on May 27, 1987.

Cerulean Warbler in Hinsdale on June 20, 1987.

Wilson’s Phalarope in Rye on August 15, 1988.

Northern Wheatear in Peterborough on September 18-19, 1988.

Townsend’s Solitaire in Errol on December 26, 1988.

Connecticut Warbler in Campton on May 22, 1990.

Western Kingbird in Seabrook on October 9, 1990.

Lark Sparrow in Keene on September 4, 2004.

Glaucous Gull-Herring Gull Hybrid in Rochester on December 29, 2003.

Slaty-backed Gull in Rochester on December 23-27, 2003. (Three separate reports. Photos.

Submitted with thoughtful analysis and expert testimony supporting the identification. It was felt that positive comments by Al Jaramillo who is carefully studying these birds on the west coast was especially compelling. First state and regional record).

Baltimore Oriole in Groveton on December 23, 2003.

Records accepted as “Qualified” by the Committee

Varied Thrush in Sanbornton on January 10, 12, 1987.

Selasphorus hummingbird species in Franconia on August 13, 1987. (Sex of bird not reported).

Blue Grosbeak in Rye on October 18, 1987.

Pomarine Jaeger on an offshore pelagic trip on October 31, 1987.

Records not accepted by the Committee

Greater White-fronted Goose in Grantham on July 1, 1986. Description did not exclude domestic goose or other species of grey geese.

- Tufted Duck in Alton on April 27, 1986. Details insufficient for such a rare species and a first state record.
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, two in Dover on May 23, 1986. Insufficient and conflicting details. Two birds would seem unlikely.
- Black-headed Grosbeak in New Ipswich on May 13, 1986. Adult male spring sighting would be unique. Description insufficient.
- Harris's Sparrow, two in Charlestown on April 5, 1986. Circumstances of observation and report of two birds seems unlikely.
- Clay-colored Sparrow in Durham on September 25, 1986. Description does not exclude Lark Sparrow.
- Swainson's Hawk in Rye on September 16, 1986. Description does not exclude Red-tailed Hawk. Some field marks reported inconsistent with species.
- Blue Grosbeak in Conway on July 14, 1986. Description did not conclusively exclude Indigo Bunting. Date unusual for this species in New Hampshire.
- Hoary Redpoll in Lebanon on March 9, 1987. Second hand report. No primary description submitted.
- Painted Bunting in Andover in May, 1987. Insufficient details.
- Long-billed Dowitcher in Hampton on May 17, 1987. Description does not exclude *hendersoni* race of Short-billed Dowitcher. Breeding plumage Long-billed Dowitcher in spring would be very unusual. Associating with other Short-billed Dowitchers.
- Loggerhead Shrike in Sandwich on March 14, 1989. Behavior reported more compatible with Northern Shrike. Description did not conclusively exclude Northern Shrike.
- Red-necked Grebe in Meredith Center on June 5-19, 1989. Summer record with young would suggest breeding which is not known from this state. Description does not conclusively exclude female Common Merganser with young.
- Brown Pelican in Marlborough on August 20, 1989. Brief sighting. Inland location unlikely for this species. Description does not exclude White Pelican.
- Connecticut Warbler in Hancock on August 30, 1989. Not enough detail submitted to exclude Mourning Warbler which would be more likely on this early date.
- Lark Sparrow in Greenland on September 3, 1989. Experienced observers but no details submitted.
- Little Egret in Hampton on April 29, 1990. Photo submitted but a Snowy-Little Egret hybrid or aberrant Snowy Egret could not be excluded.
- Little Egret in Rye on April 28, 1990. Structural features reported do not conclusively fit Little Egret.
- Barnacle Goose in Northumberland on May 15, 1990. Identification as to species accepted but origin of birds questionable, especially on the late May date.
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in Rye on September 16, 1990. Immature Black-crowned Night-Heron could not be excluded.
- Clay-colored Sparrow in Enfield on September 30, 1990. Juvenile Chipping Sparrow not excluded.
- Brewer's Blackbird in Bradford on October 26, 1990. Number of birds reported (5) unusual. Report written considerable time after the observation.
- Grasshopper Sparrow in Whitefield on July 17, 1999. Rather far north for this species. Insufficient details.
- Gray Partridge in Columbia on December 10, 1997 and January 5, 1998. Identification as to species accepted but origin of birds questionable. Could not exclude released birds.
- Brewer's Blackbird, flock in Haverhill on October 9, 1999. Similar appearing *icterids* not excluded. Report written a considerable time after the sighting. A flock of all males seemed unlikely.
- Gray Partridge in Columbia on June 7, 2004. Identification as to species accepted. Wild origin considered suspect given behavior of bird.
- Hoary Redpoll in Northfield on January 24, 2004. Bird in question was a "probable" Hoary but the description was not conclusive for this difficult identification.

Records deferred by the Committee

- Yellow-headed Blackbird in North Hampton on June 17, 1989. Deferred pending photo that is said to exist.

Answer to the Photo Quiz

by David B. Donsker

This Issue's Photo Quiz shows us a bird flying low over the water, but doesn't give us too many habitat clues to help us. Nonetheless, the water is enough to get us thinking about possibilities within the groups of birds that are associated with open water.

We can eliminate many groups of waterbirds from the structure of the bird alone. Its short, thick neck removes such groups as loons, cormorants, and herons from consideration. Its small, short, slightly hooked bill is unlike the broad bill of most ducks or the proportionally long bills of sandpipers.

Its generally blackish plumage coupled with its prominent white rump eliminates many other possibilities including those species with predominantly white plumage such as most of our gulls and terns. Of this group only Black Tern has predominantly black plumage, but its bill is thinner, its wings are narrower and uniformly gray and it has no contrasting white rump.

The short neck and bill with black head may vaguely suggest an alcid, particularly Dovekie or Black Guillemot in breeding plumage. But among other differentiating features, these birds lack white rumps.

A relatively short bill and white rump can be seen in Black-bellied Plover. But the plover's bill is stouter and its pale crown and upperparts would contrast strongly with its black face and underparts. Furthermore, the plover has a long wing stripe rather than a wing bar and its tail is pale, not black.

Although we don't necessarily think of them as waterbirds, many swallows favor watery habitats and are often seen flying low over the water while foraging for insects. The small bill, short squared tail, and wing structure of this bird vaguely resembles those of swallows, but none of the swallows seen in this state have white rumps.

The only major group of waterbirds left to us are the shearwaters and petrels. Of that order, the only family that combines the features of generally all blackish plumage, small bill, and white rump are its smallest members, the storm-petrels.

Because there are only two species of storm-petrel that frequent New Hampshire waters, you would think that identifying them would be relatively straightforward. It is not – both species have similar plumages, which are characterized by a white rump that contrasts with a blackish body. The fact that these small birds are often seen at a distance, in glare or suboptimal light, while we are trying to balance on the deck of a rocking and rolling boat makes it that much more of a challenge. Because of that, it is often necessary to rely on "jizz" or general impression based on size, shape, flight characteristics, and other behavioral features to identify a particular bird.

When watching storm-petrels, you should try to consciously evaluate several aspects of "jizz." Foremost is flight behavior, which is best evaluated while the species is steadily flying rather than feeding or banking. Note whether the course of the flight is erratic, zigzag, or straight. Try to judge the speed of the bird, the frequency and depth of the wing flapping, and the amount of gliding. The position of the wing during gliding is worth noting, as is the amount of foot pattering on the surface of the sea.

Note whether the birds are attracted to chum and closely follow the boat or if they seem not to care very much about efforts to attract them. Finally, it is good practice to try to get a general impression of the bird as compared to other species, that is whether it most resembles a bat or swallow or a tern or nighthawk.

Looking at storm-petrels at closer range will allow you to better evaluate structural and plumage characteristics to help confirm the identification. Note whether the wings are broad and relatively rounded or more proportionally long and narrow. Check the acuteness of the bend in the wing. As the bird gets closer yet, look for the relative shape and extent of the white rump patch. Try to determine if the tail is squared or forked and, when the bird is reasonably close, see whether or not the legs extend beyond the end of the tail.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel belongs to the genus *Oceanites*. The members of this genus are small- to medium-sized birds with relatively short, rounded wings and long legs that project beyond the tip of the tail in flight. The wings have only a slight bend at the carpal, or wrist. In this genus the tail is short and square or, at most, slightly notched. Wilson's Storm-Petrel has an extensive square-shaped white rump. The white of the rump extends broadly down the rear flanks. Compared to Leach's Storm-Petrel, its plumage is very black. The pale wing bar, formed by the greater coverts, is broad and relatively short and does not extend to the leading edge of the wing. The flight of Wilson's Storm-Petrel has been compared to that of a bat or a swallow. It is typically described as "direct and purposeful." The flight is characterized by rapid, loose wing beats alternating between flapping and gliding. When gliding, the wings of Wilson's Storm-Petrel are held slightly below the horizontal. In flapping flight, the wing beats are stiff and shallow, much like that of a swallow. Wilson's Storm-Petrel is a faithful boat follower. It loves chum (fish bait, a byproduct of fishing boats), and will frequently come in large numbers to the oily slick that the chum creates. When feeding, its long legs allow it to frequently patter on the surface of the water with its wings raised. If and when the birds are very close to the boat, you can occasionally see the yellow webbing between the toes of this species. Wilson's Storm-Petrel prefers shallower inshore waters. As such, observers can frequently see it from land.

Leach's Storm-Petrel belongs to the large genus, *Oceanodroma*. This genus is composed of medium-sized storm petrels with narrow, long wings, moderately forked tails, and short legs. The long wings of these birds are sharply angled or bent at the carpal. The rump patch of Leach's Storm-Petrel has a triangular shape. At sea it appears rather smudgy because of a dark stripe that extends down its center, best seen when the bird is quite close. Unlike the Wilson's, the Leach's rump patch does not extend onto the rear flanks. Leach's Storm-Petrel is browner than Wilson's. Its pale wing bar is longer and it extends to the front edge of the wing. The flight pattern of Leach's Storm-Petrel is quite different from that of Wilson's and is typically the first clue to the identity of this species when seen at sea. Its flight has been compared to that of a tern or nighthawk. The flight is erratic with sudden changes in speed and direction, which is quite unlike the direct flight of Wilson's Storm-Petrel. Also, unlike Wilson's "purposeful" flight, Leach's flight is more buoyant and bounding, with frequent arching and falling. The wing beats are deep and springy. When gliding, the wings are held in a bowed or slightly raised position. Unlike Wilson's Storm-Petrel, Leach's rarely patters on the surface of the water. It is not particularly attracted to

chum and does not typically follow boats. It is unlikely to be seen near shore, preferring the colder, deeper waters well offshore. It is also primarily a nocturnal feeder. These habits conspire to make it much more difficult to see than Wilson's Storm-Petrel.

So to which species does our subject bird belong? Even though we cannot judge behavior, the short broad wings, the extensive bright white rump patch that extends onto the rear flanks, short wing bars, and long legs projecting well beyond the tip of the tail all indicate that this is a Wilson's Storm-Petrel. This excellent photograph was taken by Mandy Houston while on a Granite State Whale Watch out of Rye Harbor on July 23, 2006.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel is a common summer visitor to the waters off of the New Hampshire coast from late May and early June through the middle of September. Although we consider the species to be "ours" during the summer, it is predominantly a denizen of the southern hemisphere where it breeds primarily on subantarctic islands. It begins its return to its breeding colonies in August and by November nearly all breeding birds have arrived to nest. Return to the northern hemisphere begins in March and April. Wilson's Storm-Petrel can be reliably seen in New Hampshire waters throughout the summer. Any whale watch trip will surely result in its sighting. At times, it can be easily seen from shore at such spots as Pulpit Rock, Ragged Neck, or Rye Ledge. It can typically be spotted in small groups following lobster boats.

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13(6):216-222; 14(2):57-59.



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	TNC	The Nature Conservancy
NA	Natural Area	WMA	Wildlife Management Area
NHA	New Hampshire Audubon	WMNF	White Mountain National Forest
NHBR	New Hampshire Bird Records	WS	NHA Wildlife Sanctuary
NHRBC	NH Rare Birds Committee	~	approximately
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge		
PO	Post Office		
R.	River		

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Close Encounters



Babies, Babies, Everywhere!

by Kathie Palfy

This summer provided some unusual glimpses of baby birds. Jim Block discovered a Hermit Thrush nesting under his eaves, an unlikely location for a Hermit Thrush nest but one which afforded him great views of the parents feeding their young. Then in Bedford, Kathleen and Bob Thies spied not one, but three Barred Owlets all perching together in one tree. All three allowed themselves to be photographed for nearly an hour. No one can resist the cuteness of babies!

*Barred Owlets
by Bob Thies, 6/23/06, Bedford, NH.*



Hermit Thrush by Jim Block, 7/4/06, Newbury, NH.



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