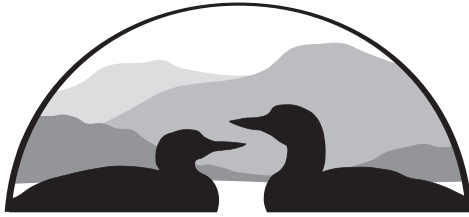


New Hampshire Bird Records



Winter 2006-07

Vol. 25, No. 4



New Hampshire Bird Records

Volume 25, Number 4

Winter 2006-07

- 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:* Terry Bronson, Kathie Palfy, Diane Parsons
- Assistants:* Marie Anne, Jeannine Ayer, Julie Chapin, Lynn Edwards,
Margot Johnson, Susan MacLeod, Carol Plato, Dot Soule,
Jean Tasker, Tony Vazzano
- Photo Quiz:* David Donsker
- Photo Editor:* Bill Baird
- Where to Bird Feature
Coordinator and Maps:* William Taffe

Cover: "Chickadees at Sunset" is an oil painting by Alison Vernon of New London, NH. She contributed it in memory of her father-in-law, Bob Vernon. Its selection was prompted by a card from Ruth White, sent to Bob shortly before he died, saying "If we have a chance, I think we should all return as chickadees. Wouldn't that be fun?" Bob, his family, and friends have enjoyed this thought and found it most appropriate. Alison regularly displays her work at her gallery and studio, Little Brook in New London, NH. Her web site is www.alisonvernon.com, and she is also represented by the BFW Galleries in Canton, MA and the Framer's Market Gallery in Bedford, NH.

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IN MEMORY OF
Robert C. Vernon

T*his issue of New Hampshire Bird Records, with its color cover, is sponsored by the friends and family of Bob Vernon, who was a longtime bird reporter and volunteer for this publication.*



Bob birding in Gloucester, MA.

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Two Second State Records! Back Cover

From the Editor

New timeline for *New Hampshire Bird Records*

by Rebecca Suomala, Managing Editor

We are working on a new schedule for *New Hampshire Bird Records* that will bring each issue to you more quickly after the season ends. In the past, we have typically mailed an issue about nine months after the end of the season. Our new timeline aims to cut that time almost in half. We'll be working to bring you an issue about five months after the season ends.

You can help us meet our timeline by reporting your sightings to us at the end of each month. Late reports that come in after the season ends cause a delay in sending the season to the season editor, extending our publication time. We have updated reporting packets available by mail (please call or e-mail me if you'd like to receive one), or you can find all the information and forms on the Web site at www.nhbirdrecords.org. Don't forget you can submit your sightings in an Excel file using a file format available on the Web site or via e-mail.

This change also means that you'll receive your renewal notice much earlier in the year. It will still come with the Winter issue and your subscription will cover a full year of issues: Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. We expect to mail your renewal in July each year instead of October, as in the past.

Thank you to all of you who have already renewed your subscriptions. Please let us know what you think of the new timeline!

Time to Renew

*Yes, it's time to renew already. We've changed our timelines (see above) and the winter issue with the renewal notice is arriving much sooner than it used to. Your renewal notice is enclosed with this issue! The Spring 2007 issue is already in process, so please send your renewal right away. **Thank you.***

Thank You

We are very grateful to the many generous donors who have provided additional financial support to *New Hampshire Bird Records*. Your donations help New Hampshire Audubon bring you this publication and make the bird sighting data available for bird conservation throughout the state.

Thank you to those who made an additional donation to support *New Hampshire Bird Records*.

Meredeth Allen	Allan Keith
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Harriet Hofheinz	Francie Von Mertens
Joseph Kabat	

Special thank you to those who donated in memory of Robert C. Vernon. The Vernon family requested that donations be used to sponsor this issue and support *New Hampshire Bird Records*, for which he volunteered for many years.

Dorothy Berry	Richard Reuper
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Photo Quiz



Can You Identify This Bird?

Answer on page 62
Photo by Joshua Carloni

Winter Season

December 1, 2006 through February 28, 2007

by David Deifik

New Hampshire birders take pride in defying the elements to take to the field in winter. For the first half of the winter we were treated to remarkably mild conditions. This was the third warmest December on record. Precipitation for this time was slightly above normal, but came mostly as rain. January continued the mild trend with record warmth on January 6. Unfortunately winter reality set in at mid-month, producing more typically cold conditions that persisted through a colder than normal February. The late freeze-up had tragic consequences for a group of Common Loons. On Lake Winnepesaukee 22 loons were found stranded as the lake iced up. Unfortunately only four birds survived (see the article on page 47). The above average snowfall for February helped compensate for the relatively snow-free early winter. Thanks go to Tony Vazzano of North Winds Weather for providing us with his monthly weather summaries.



David Deifik

An **American White Pelican** reported on Great Bay in early December was quite remarkable. Two years ago an inland report of this species was the first winter season report. The state's second record of **Eared Grebe** appeared just before the start of the season and stayed through February 4. **Black Vulture** is being reported with increasing frequency in the state, but they are still considered rare and a winter record from Amherst in early December is quite unusual. A **Gyrfalcon** report from Dover is only our fourth record since 2001 (see the Spotlight on Gyrfalcon in the Winter 2005-06 issue). The Rochester wastewater treatment plant again produced some very exciting gull watching. From there, in January, came our likely second and third state records of **Slaty-backed Gull**—one an adult and the other a third-year bird. Three warbler records were outstanding: a **Yellow Warbler** in early December, an **Ovenbird** in late January, and a **Cape May Warbler** on December 1. A **Lincoln's Sparrow** report is rare for the season, with a **Clay-colored Sparrow** even more unusual. Rare at any season, the report of two separate **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** found on the same late January day was a remarkable coincidence.



*Slaty-backed Gull by James Smith, 1/3/07,
Rochester Wastewater Treatment Plant, Rochester, NH.*

Waterfowl

The extensive open water particularly early in the season produced a good number and variety of waterfowl. Cackling Geese were reported from Concord and Hinsdale. The Cackling Goose is a recent split from the Canada Goose. It was created from the splitting off of the four smallest subspecies of the Canada Goose, *minima*, *hutchinsii*, *leucopareia*, and *taverneri*. The smallest of these four subspecies is about the size of a Mallard. However the largest Cackling Goose subspecies, *taverneri* is about the same size as the smallest subspecies of the Canada Goose, *parvipes*, which can complicate identification. Cackling Goose populations typically winter in California's Central Valley, the Southern Great Plains, and the western Gulf Coast. It is rare to casual elsewhere on the continent. A Greater White-fronted Goose was reported in South Chatham. Greater White-fronted Goose is not common in the state and typically reported in spring or fall. There have only been two other winter records since 1990.

There were multiple Wood Duck reports and a new Christmas Bird Count (CBC) high count for Nashua. Inland waterfowl records from the Lakes Region have not been as numerous since the 2002–2003 season. This may reflect a particular spike in abundance that has now fallen back to a more “normal” level. One exception is Hooded Merganser which seemed to be remarkably abundant from the Lakes Region south.



Two Gadwall reported from Portsmouth were notable, as there was only one previous winter record in the last four years. Other notable ducks reported were Blue-winged Teal, Canvasback, and Ruddy Duck.

Hooded Mergansers by Fred Tyrrell, 2/3/07, Center Harbor, NH.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Greater White-fronted Goose				
12-06	1	Chatham	Lower Kimball Pond, w. shore	R. Crowley
Snow Goose				
12-16	6	Greenland	Great Bay	S.& J. Mirick, K. Dorsey, J. Silver
12-29	2	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
01-07	3	Greenland	Great Bay, Sunset Farm	S.& J. Mirick
Snow Goose - Blue morph				
01-27	3	Hampton	Winnacunnet High School	T. Bronson, R. Frechette, D. Rowell, S. Spangenberg, F. Doyle



“Blue” Snow Goose
by JoAnn O’Shaughnessy,
1/23/07, Hampton, NH.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Canada Goose				
12-05	161	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	L. Tanino
12-05	240	Monroe	Plains Rd.	E. Emery, P. Powers
12-08	400		NH coast	S. Mirick
12-16	43	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
12-29	200	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
01-06	125	Derry	Beaver Lake	A. & B. Delorey
01-18	700	Stratham	Sandy Point	M. Harvey
01-18	900	Durham	Adams Point	M. Harvey
01-30	500	Stratham	Rt. 108 near Squamscott Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
01-31	1500	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
02-26	475	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
Cackling Goose				
12-07	1	Concord	Penacook Lake (Long Pond)	R. Quinn
Brant				
01-21	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. & J. Mirick
Mute Swan				
12-09	2	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
01-09	1	Swanzy	Wilson Pond	L. Tanino
01-18	5	Durham	Adams Point	M. Harvey
01-20	4	Nashua	upper Nashua R. from Mine Falls	B. Harris
Wood Duck				
12-06	1	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Pk.	E. Masterson
12-12	1	Franklin	Webster Lake	C. Martin
12-14	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr., Piscassic R.	P. Hendrickx
01-31	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
02-28	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
Gadwall				
01-27	2	Portsmouth	back channel	T. Bronson, R. Frechette, D. Rowell, S. Spangenberg, F. Doyle
American Wigeon				
12-05	1	Portsmouth	South Mill Pond	P. Brown
12-10	2	Greenland	Great Bay, Sunset Farm	R. & M. Suomala
01-10	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, et al.
01-21	3	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. & J. Mirick
02-10	5	Durham	Adams Point	S. & J. Mirick
American Black Duck				
12-16	8	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
Mallard				
12-16	118	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
01-01	43	Monroe	Barnet CBC, NH sightings	
Blue-winged Teal				
12-02	1	Rye	Eel Pond	S. & J. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Northern Shoveler				
12-03	4	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	R. & M. Suomala
01-10	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, et al.
01-31	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
Northern Pintail				
12-06	3	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	E. Masterson
12-16	1	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
01-14	1	Portsmouth	North Mill Pond	S. & J. Mirick
01-21	2	Hampton	Wheelerator duck pond	S. & J. Mirick
01-27	2	Exeter	Wheelright Creek	S. & J. Mirick, D. Abbott, P. Lacourse
01-31	4	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
02-28	4	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
Green-winged Teal				
12-05	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	P. Brown
12-06	9	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	E. Masterson
12-22	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	M. Harvey
Canvasback				
12-16	3	Greenland	Great Bay	S. & J. Mirick, K. Dorsey, J. Silver
Ring-necked Duck				
12-02	3	Rye	Eel Pond	S. & J. Mirick
12-03	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	R. & M. Suomala
12-06	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	E. Masterson
12-07	3	Webster	Lake Winnepocket	P. Brown
12-09	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
01-01	1	Rye	Eel Pond	S. & J. Mirick
01-09	10	Concord	Penacook Lake (Long Pond)	P. Hunt
01-14	1	Rye	Eel Pond	S. & J. Mirick
02-28	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
Greater Scaup				
12-10	500	Greenland	Great Bay, Sunset Farm	R. & M. Suomala
12-10	4	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake, Spofford	L. Tanino
12-12	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	T Bronson
01-06	2	Derry	Beaver Lake	A. & B. Delorey
01-27	10	Hampton	Hampton Beach	E. Masterson, P. Brown, D. Fallon, S. Wollney
02-10	1013	Durham	Adams Point	S. & J. Mirick
Lesser Scaup				
12-02	3	Hampton	Eel Pond	S. & J. Mirick
12-09	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
12-09	4	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson
12-10	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	R. & M. Suomala
01-09	1	Concord	Penacook Lake (Long Pond)	P. Hunt
01-13	2	Derry	Beaver Lake	A. & B. Delorey
Scaup sp.				
12-07	3	Marlborough	Kensan-Devan WS	J. Tilden, P. Brown

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
King Eider				
12-02	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	S. & J. Mirick
02-24	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	E. Masterson, J. Hills
Bufflehead				
12-01	10	Concord	Snow Pond	P. Brown
12-05	11	Rye	Eel Pond	T. Bronson
12-06	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	E. Masterson
12-29	1	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson
12-29	16	Rye	Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	T. Bronson
01-07	2	Manchester	Massabesic WS	E. Masterson
01-22	24	Portsmouth	Portsmouth Harbor to Wentworth Hotel	T. Bronson
02-28	5	Portsmouth	Urban Forestry Center	T. Bronson
02-28	2	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
Common Goldeneye				
12-06	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	E. Masterson
12-07	3	Winchester	Winchester Town Beach	L. Tanino
12-07	5	Webster	Lake Winnepocket	P. Brown
12-10	22	Greenland	Great Bay, Sunset Farm	R. & M. Suomala
12-14	11	Northwood	Northwood Lake	E. Masterson
12-14	18	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake, Spofford	L. Tanino
12-16	32	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
12-22	2	Gilmanton	Crystal Lake	W. Arms
12-25	1	Derry	Beaver Lake	A. & B. Delorey
01-02	102		NH coast	T. Bronson
01-07	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	E. Masterson
01-22	38	Rye	Foss Beach to Wentworth Hotel	T. Bronson
01-27	25	Concord	Sewalls Falls	R. Woodward
01-30	97	Durham	Adams Point WMA	T. Bronson
02-10	2	Errol	Androscoggin River dam	M. Suomala, C. Ciccone, K. Dorsey
02-12	105	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
02-17	220	Manchester	Merrimack River	E. Masterson
02-21	10	Hampton	Island Path	T. Bronson
Barrow's Goldeneye				
12-08	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	S. Mirick
12-30	1	Sanbornton	Lake Winnisquam, off Lower Smith Rd.	P. Hunt, E. Masterson
01-01	1	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	S. & J. Mirick
01-27	1	Hampton	Plaice Cove	T. Bronson, R. Frechette, D. Rowell, S. Spangenberg, F. Doyle
02-10	1	Rye	s. of Concord Point	S. & J. Mirick
02-17	1	Dover	Cedar Point	S. & J. Mirick
Hooded Merganser				
12-06	11	Barrington	Ayers Pond	E. Masterson
12-06	4	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Pk.	E. Masterson
12-06	5	Northwood	Northwood Lake	E. Masterson
12-07	4	Swanzy	S. Winchester St., Rt. 10	L. Tanino
12-07	1	Winchester	Winchester Town Beach	L. Tanino
12-07	7	Swanzy	Swanzy Lake	L. Tanino
12-07	9	Webster	Lake Winnepocket	P. Brown

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Hooded Merganser—continued				
12-07	105	Concord	Penacook Lake (Long Pond)	R. Quinn
12-09	20	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
12-09	53	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson
12-09	3	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
12-10	2	Northwood	Harvey Lake	R. & M. Suomala
12-10	8	Nelson	Granite Lake, Munsonville	K. Gordon
12-11	22	Monroe	Connecticut River	B. Bradley
12-14	16	Swanzy	Swanzy Lake	L. Tanino
12-16	28	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
01-11	7	Auburn	Lake Massabesic at Clairs Landing	T. Bronson
01-13	15	Concord	Penacook Lake (Long Pond)	P. Hunt
01-23	7	Monroe	Connecticut River	E. Emery
01-27	2	Nashua	Nashua R., Chandler St.	B. Harris
01-27	2	Hampton	Hampton Marsh	E. Masterson, P. Brown, D. Fallon, S. Wollney
01-27	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	T. Bronson, R. Frechette, D. Rowell, S. Spangenberg, F. Doyle
01-31	70	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
02-04	3	Rye	near Rye Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
02-10	2	Berlin	Androscoggin R. at Berlin town line	M. Suomala, C. Ciccone, K. Dorsey
02-17	4	Concord	below Sewalls Falls	P. Hunt
02-17	5	Manchester	Merrimack River	E. Masterson
Common Merganser				
12-05	30	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	L. Tanino
12-07	1	Winchester	Winchester Town Beach	L. Tanino
12-07	4	Webster	Lake Winnepocket	P. Brown
12-09	13	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
12-10	41	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake, Spofford	L. Tanino
12-11	45	Monroe	Connecticut River	B. Bradley
12-14	12	Swanzy	Swanzy Lake	L. Tanino
12-16	19	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
12-25	2	Derry	Beaver Lake	A. & B. Delorey
12-28	16	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	T. Bronson
12-29	29	Dublin	Dublin Lake	E. Masterson
01-01	1	Monroe	Barnet CBC, NH sightings	E. Emery, J. Cate, P. Powers
01-02	60	Concord	Penacook Lake (Long Pond)	P. Hunt
01-11	240	Laconia	Opechee Bay	C. Martin
01-12	10	Newmarket	town landing	T. Bronson, R. Frechette
01-19	4	Nashua	Nashua R. boat ramp at Jensens Pk.	B. Harris
01-23	11	Monroe	Connecticut River	B. Bradley
01-31	40	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
02-06	10	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	T. Bronson
02-10	2	Berlin	Androscoggin R. at Berlin town line	M. Suomala, C. Ciccone, K. Dorsey
02-10	3	Errol	Androscoggin River dam	M. Suomala, C. Ciccone, K. Dorsey
02-15	2	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
02-17	20	Manchester	Merrimack River	E. Masterson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Red-breasted Merganser				
12-03	5	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	L. Tanino
12-09	1	Chesterfield	Spofford lake	E. Masterson
12-12	1	Barrington	Mendums Pond	T. Chase
12-19	160	Rye	NH coast	M. Harvey
01-18	1	Stratham	Sandy Point	M. Harvey
01-18	1	Durham	Adams Point	M. Harvey
Ruddy Duck				
12-03	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	R. & M. Suomala
12-14	1	Northwood	Northwood Lake	E. Masterson
12-21	2	Windham	Canobie Lake	M. Harvey
12-23	1	Durham	off Fox Point	S. & J. Mirick
12-27	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. & J. Mirick
02-24	1	Rye	Rye Harbor	S. & J. Mirick

Pheasant through Raptors

There was a single report of Spruce Grouse found by an intrepid observer below the summit of Mt. Pierce. Inland records of Red-throated Loon are quite sparse, so a sighting from Swanzeay on December 3 was notable. Reports of inland Common Loon were more than double last year's number. See page 47 for more on the loon stranding. Imagine the surprise a pair of duck hunters had when an **American White Pelican** landed among their goose decoys. They were hunting at the mouth of the Lamprey River on Great Bay in early December when the pelican landed but 60 feet away! This is only the third record for the winter season in 17 years and it was well described. The previous two records were from December of 2004 and probably involve the same individual as they were seen on the same day less than ten miles apart.

Certainly one of the rarest birds of the season was an **Eared Grebe** found in Rye. It was found on the last day of the fall season and was reported through February 4. This is only the second state record for this species and provided a first Christmas Bird Count record. American Bittern was again recorded this season with one report in early December and another in early January, when it is considered rare. Similarly to last year, the mild early winter conditions produced an abnormally high number of Great Blue Heron records. A single **Black Vulture** report from Amherst in early December was quite remarkable, even considering the increasing number of reports in the state. Repeating the outstanding reports from last year, Turkey Vultures were observed in far greater numbers than would be expected for the winter season. The number of records increased by a factor of seven from two years ago!

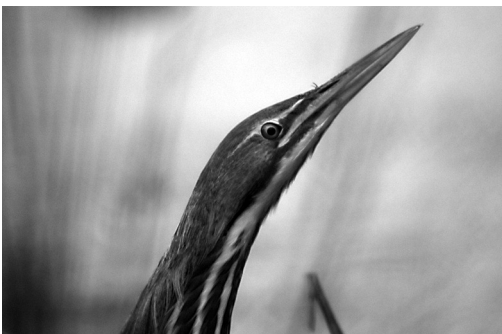


Eared Grebe by Stephen R. Mirick, 12/27/06, Rye, NH.

This year's mid-winter Bald Eagle survey was carried out from January 3–17. A total of 50 eagles were counted during the period, just 10% less than the record numbers of the prior two years. The highest numbers were found along the Connecticut and Merrimack Rivers. The third annual Late Winter Bald Eagle survey took place from February 15 through March 1. A total of 76 eagles (42 adults, 34 immature) were seen during the period, with 63 seen on the count day of February 24. This was an outstanding year for Rough-legged Hawk. Sightings were concentrated on the Seacoast and the Southern Connecticut River Valley. The high count of four was noted in Westmoreland on February 12. There were two records of American Kestrel, a declining winter bird. A well described **Gyrfalcon** from Dover on February 13 would be only our second winter record in five years.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Ring-necked Pheasant				
12-16	1	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
01-25	3	Kensington	Route 150	P. Brown
Spruce Grouse				
01-19	1	Beans Grant	Mt. Pierce, below summit	R. Dodd
Wild Turkey				
12-11	4	N. Hampton	Woodland Rd. n. of Rt. 111	T. Bronson
12-16	11	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
12-17	22	Concord	Oak Hill Rd.	J. Tilden, M. Coppola, P. Brown
12-19	202	Monroe	n. Monroe & Plains Rd.	E. Emery, P. Powers, B. Bradley
01-18	30	Newbury	Newbury traffic circle	P. Newbern
01-22	3	Deerfield	Mt. Delight Rd.	D. Crowe
01-27	10	Newington		E. Masterson, P. Brown, D. Fallon, S. Wollney
01-30	8	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	T. Bronson
01-30	84	Haverhill	Clark Pond Rd., N. Haverhill	B. Bradley
02-13	21	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd. near Goldmine Rd.	M. Wright
02-16	10	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
02-21	16	Chatham	Chatham-Conway town line	R. Crowley
02-21	16	Brookline	residence	E. Nickerson
02-22	70	Bath	West Bath Rd.	B. Bradley
02-24	28	Westmoreland	River Rd.	L. Tanino, P. Brown, J. Tilden
02-25	150	Bath	Mimot Farm	B. Bradley
02-28	8	Portsmouth	Corporate Dr. e. of Grafton Dr.	T. Bronson
Red-throated Loon				
12-03	1	Swanzy	Wilson Pond	L. Tanino
12-29	5	Rye	Seal Rocks	T. Bronson, P. Brown
01-27	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	E. Masterson, P. Brown, D. Fallon, S. Wollney
Common Loon				
12-07	1	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	L. Tanino
12-12	1	Barrington	Mendums Pond	T. Chase
12-17	1	Laconia	Lake Opechee, from Lakeport Dam	H. Anderson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
12-18	30	Rye	Concord Point	S. Mirick
12-29	2	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson
01-02	11		NH coast	T. Bronson
01-08	1	Dublin	Dublin Lake	T. Warren
01-09	1	Littleton	Moore Dam	E. Emery, P. Powers
01-11	1	Laconia	Paugus Bay	C. Martin
Pied-billed Grebe				
12-16	1	Greenland	Beaver Pond	S. & J. Mirick, K. Dorsey, J. Silver
Horned Grebe				
01-07	10		NH coast	E. Masterson
Red-necked Grebe				
12-12	2	Laconia	Lake Winnisquam off Bartlett Beach	H. Anderson
12-25	3	Laconia	Lake Winnisquam off Bartlett Beach	H. Anderson
01-07	60		NH coast	E. Masterson
Eared Grebe				
12-01	1	Rye	Seal Rocks	S. Mirick
02-04	1	Rye	Seal Rocks	S. & J. Mirick
Northern Gannet				
12-21	52	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	M. Harvey
12-24	19	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. & J. Mirick
American White Pelican				
12-10	1	Newmarket	Great Bay at Lamprey R. mouth	A. Wood
Double-crested Cormorant				
12-05	2	Newmarket	town landing	P. Brown
12-15	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
12-16	1	Stratham	Squamscott River	S. Mirick
01-07	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	E. Masterson
Great Cormorant				
12-03	29	Rye	NH coast	T. Bronson
02-06	20	Rye	Concord Point	T. Bronson
02-06	1	Manchester	above Rt. 293 at exit 5	T. & C. Young



*American Bittern by Leonard Medlock,
1/6/07, "Henry's" Pool, Hampton, NH.*

American Bittern

12-03	1	Hampton	Rt. 1A, behind Little Jack's Restaurant	R. & M. Suomala
01-02	1	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	T. Bronson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Great Blue Heron				
12-04	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
12-05	4		NH coast	T. Bronson
12-05	1	Dover	Bellamy River WS	P. Brown
12-11	4	Hampton	Meadow Pond	T. Bronson
12-15	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	T. Bronson
12-20	1	Peterborough	Fremont Conservation Land, S. Peterborough	D. Baum
12-29	1	Exeter	Squamscott R. next to wastewater treatment plant	T. Bronson
12-29	1	Hampton	Island Path	P. Brown
01-13	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	H. Chary
01-16	1	Hampton Falls	marsh at end of Depot Rd.	T. Bronson
01-26	1	Newmarket	wastewater treatment plant	P. Brown
Black Vulture				
12-04	1	Amherst	across Rt. 101A from Mobil Station next to Wal-Mart	T. Young
Turkey Vulture				
12-02	1	Londonderry	Rt. 93	K. Folsom
12-02	1	Derry	Rt. 93	K. Folsom
12-16	2	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
12-26	1	Salem	Lawrence Rd. at watertower	K. Folsom
12-30	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
12-31	3	Brentwood	Rt. 101 e. of exit 8	N. Nelson
01-01	14	Newmarket	off Nichols Ave.	S. & J. Mirick
01-01	49	Monroe	Barnet CBC, NH sightings	
01-06	3	Walpole	Upper Rd.	A. Johnson
01-07	18	Newmarket	off Nichols Ave.	S. & J. Mirick
01-13	1	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson, N. Nelson
01-24	1	Derry	Rt. 93	K. Folsom
02-09	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	T. Bronson
02-10	1	Fremont	Martin Rd.	T. Bronson
02-11	1	Lee	Rt. 155 n. of Rt. 152	T. Bronson, N. Nelson
02-16	1	Newmarket	Rts. 108 & 152	T. Bronson
02-17	1	Belmont	Rt. 140	J. Stockwell
02-20	1	Nashua	Tumble Brook	B. Harris
02-21	1	Nottingham	residence	J. Cassidy
02-24	2	Exeter	Watson Rd.	G. Cypher
02-25	1	Kensington	Moulton Ridge	G. Gavutis
02-26	4	Newmarket	Lamprey River at Rt. 108	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
Bald Eagle				
12-16	1	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
01-01	4	Monroe	Barnet CBC, NH sightings	
Northern Harrier				
12-03	2	Hampton	Rt. 1A, behind Little Jack's Restaurant	R. & M. Suomala
01-06	1	Walpole	Upper Rd.	A. Johnson
01-07	2	Hampton	Hampton Marsh	E. Masterson
01-22	2	Rye	marsh s. of Rye Harbor	T. Bronson
01-24	1	Stratham	Swampscott Rd.	T. Bronson
01-31	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
02-04	1	Westmoreland	White Road	E. Masterson
02-10	1	Hampton	Rt. 101 causeway	S. & J. Mirick
Sharp-shinned Hawk				
01-01		Monroe	Barnet CBC-CW, NH sightings	
Cooper's Hawk				
12-16	2	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
01-01		Monroe	Barnet CBC-CW, NH sightings	
Northern Goshawk				
12-03	1	Nottingham	Stevens Hill Rd. residence	D. Crowe
12-29	1	Strafford	e. side of Parker Mt., Rt. 126	G. Gavutis
Red-shouldered Hawk				
02-28	2	E. Kingston	town hall	S. Mirick
Red-tailed Hawk				
12-16	15	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
01-01		Monroe	Barnet CBC-CW, NH sightings	
Rough-legged Hawk				
01-24	1	Sanbornton	Abbott's Farm Fields, Tilton town line	D. Stavros, H., W. & L. Bardusk
01-26	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	J. Tilden, P. Brown
01-27	1	Durham	UNH agricultural fields & Rt. 4	D. & A. Stavros
01-27	1	Portsmouth	Great Bog	E. Masterson, P. Brown, D. Fallon, S. Wollney
01-27	2	Portsmouth	Fabyan Pt.	L. Tanino, J. Tilden, J. Ladd, M. Gaige
01-29	1	Springfield	Old Croydon Rd.	B. Waddell
02-11	1	Lebanon	Signal Hill	D. Jorgensen
02-12	4	Westmoreland	Rt. 63	E. Masterson
02-13	1	Tilton	Rt. 132, 1 mi. n. of Rt. 11	D. Stavros, L. H. & W. Bardusk
02-17	1	Hampton	Tidemill Road	S. & J. Mirick
02-17	3	Walpole	River Rd.	D. Clark
02-21	1	Seabrook	Cross Beach Rd.	T. Bronson
American Kestrel				
12-05	1	Newington	near Pease Int'l. Tradeport	P. Brown
02-18	1	Peterborough		V. Fortier
Merlin				
01-01	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor marina	S. & J. Mirick
01-27	1	Seabrook	off Rt. 1A	S. & J. Mirick, D. Abbott, P. Lacourse
Gyr Falcon				
02-13	1	Dover	Cote Dr., Piscataqua R. near Hilton Park	J. Owens, P. Rose
Peregrine Falcon				
12-09	2	Plymouth	Rt. 25, 5 mi. from Rattlesnake Mtn.	J. & J. Williams
12-10	1	Littleton	off Meadow St.	P. Powers
12-23	1	Rumney	Buffalo Rd. residence	J. Williams
12-24	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Woodward
01-13	1	Concord	downtown Concord	R. Woodward

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Peregrine Falcon—continued				
02-19	1	Laconia	Boulia Gowell Lumber	J. Stockwell
02-24	2	Portsmouth	Memorial Bridge	S. & J. Mirick
02-24	1	Seabrook	Rt. 286 marsh	C. Martin, R. Suomala

Coot through Alcids

American Coot was another beneficiary of the mild early winter conditions, with almost twice the number of records of last year. Powwow Pond again was the epicenter of coot occurrence with a one-day count of 116, almost double the number counted there at about the same time last year. **American Woodcock** is extremely rare in the winter season. An early December record was the first for the winter season since December 1998. Even more remarkable is that both records were by the same observer in the North Country!



Slaty-backed Gull by Stephen R. Mirick, 1/3/07, Rochester, NH.



Slaty-backed Gull by Mike Harvey, 1/18/07, Rochester, NH.

Once extremely rare, Lesser Black-backed Gull continues to be an increasing feature of our wintering gull population. As many as five individuals were recorded at the Rochester wastewater treatment plant. Large numbers of gulls, including a remarkable high of 14 Iceland Gulls, frequent the treatment plant, which is adjacent to a large landfill. One of the most exciting birding events of the season was the appearance of **Slaty-backed Gull** at the plant. There appeared to be two birds involved, an adult and a third year bird. The birds were extensively studied and photographed. Pending review by the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee, this would constitute second and third state records. The first state record of the species also occurred at the Rochester wastewater treatment plant in December of 2003. This gull of the Eastern Pacific Ocean region is rare but increasingly reported from the west coast of the U.S. Records beyond that area are still quite outstanding.

A Dovekie found on the coast at North Hampton was a nice Christmas present for the observer. This was the sole record for the season. Most of the alcids (including Razorbills and Black Guillemots) reported on December 21 were flying south along the coast; of the 15 unidentified alcids one was a small bird that was either a Dovekie or Atlantic Puffin.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
American Coot				
12-02	2	Durham	Adams Point WMA	C. Martin
12-02	8	Rye	Eel Pond	S. & J. Mirick
12-05	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
12-05	14	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	P. Brown
12-07	116	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick
01-07	2	Rye	Eel Pond	S. & J. Mirick
01-12	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	T. Bronson, R. Frechette
02-04	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
Killdeer				
12-11	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. Young, P. Brown
12-17	2	Stratham	fields off Squamscott Road.	S. & J. Mirick
01-07	1	Hampton	rocks near Plaice Cove	S. & J. Mirick
Sanderling				
01-06	100	Hampton	Hampton Harbor jetty	S. Mirick, MAS FT
01-17	55	Seabrook	Beckmans Pt.	L. Tanino, P. McKinley, A. Clark
Purple Sandpiper				
12-05	23	Rye	n. end of Foss Beach	T. Bronson
12-20	40	Rye	Seal Rocks	T. Bronson
01-06	50	Hampton	Hampton Harbor jetty	S. Mirick, MAS FT
01-17	10	Seabrook	Beckmans Pt.	L. Tanino, P. McKinley, A. Clark
01-27	25	Hampton	Hampton Beach	E. Masterson, P. Brown, D. Fallon, S. Wollney
Dunlin				
12-29	30	Hampton	Island Path	P. Brown
01-06	200	Hampton	Hampton Harbor jetty	S. Mirick, MAS FT
02-24	8	Hampton	Glade Path	C. Martin, R. Suomala
Wilson's Snipe				
02-13	1	Salem	near exit 2 off Rt. 93	A. Maley
American Woodcock				
12-06	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.



Black-headed Gull by Scott Young, 1/4/07, Rye, NH.

Black-headed Gull

12-15	1	Rye	Seal Rocks	S. Mirick
12-22	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
01-21	1	Rye	Seal Rocks	E. Masterson, D. Fallon
02-21	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	R. Crowley, L. Thurston


<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Bonaparte's Gull				
12-02	225		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
12-29	18	Rye	Seal Rocks	T. Bronson, P. Brown
01-02	57		NH coast	T. Bronson
01-27	1	Rye	Foss Beach	E. Masterson, P. Brown, D. Fallon, S. Wollney
Ring-billed Gull				
12-01	50	Littleton	Moore Dam	B. Bradley
12-15	39	Laconia	Lake Winnisquam, mouth of Durkee Brook	H. Anderson
12-15	8	Keene	Court St. n. end	L. Tanino
12-16	176	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
12-19	250	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	M. Harvey
01-07	1	Concord	Thirty Pines, Penacook	P. Hunt
02-09	100	Kingston	Little River Rd. farm	T. Bronson
02-17	5	Manchester	Merrimack River	E. Masterson
Herring Gull				
12-16	9	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
12-19	3000	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	M. Harvey
02-09	1400	Kingston	Little River Rd. farm	T. Bronson
Iceland Gull				
12-02	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
12-15	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	S. Mirick
12-17	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
12-19	6	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	M. Harvey
12-29	1	Rye	Seal Rocks	T. Bronson, P. Brown
01-05	10	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
01-10	14	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	M. Harvey
01-21	1	Seabrook	Cross Road	E. Masterson, D. Fallon
02-10	1	Kingston	dairy farm	S. & J. Mirick
02-21	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	T. Bronson



*Lesser Black-backed Gull by Mark Suomala,
12/3/06, Durham Town Landing, Durham, NH.*

Lesser Black-backed Gull

12-01	1	Rollinsford	off Rt. 4	S. Mirick
12-02	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk., Frost Pt.	S. & J. Mirick
12-03	1	Durham	town landing	M. Suomala
12-05	1	Newmarket	town landing	P. Brown
12-22	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	M. Harvey
01-02	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	T. Bronson
01-03	3	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, J. Smith, B. Griffith
01-04	5	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	M. Harvey
01-14	1	Newmarket	town landing	S. & J. Mirick
02-10	1	Rye	Frost Point at Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. & J. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Slaty-backed Gull				
01-02	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, M. Harvey, et al.
01-03	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, J. Smith, B. Griffith
01-10	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, J. Smith, M. Harvey
01-18	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, M. Iliff, J. Trimble, B. Stymeist, C.& C. LaPierre, M. Harvey, et al.
Glaucous Gull				
12-05	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
12-21	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	M. Harvey
12-22	3	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	M. Harvey
01-05	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
Great Black-backed Gull				
12-19	300	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	M. Harvey
01-07	2	Auburn	Massabesic WS	E. Masterson
02-09	20	Kingston	Little River Rd. farm	T. Bronson
02-17	13	Manchester	Merrimack River	E. Masterson
Black-legged Kittiwake				
01-07	1	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	E. Masterson, J. Hills, G. Tillman
				
<p><i>Dovekie by James P. Smith, 12/25/06, North Hampton at Rye town line, NH.</i></p>				
01-27	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach	E. Masterson, P. Brown, D. Fallon, S. Wollney
Dovekie				
12-25	1	N. Hampton	Rt. 1A cove at Rye town line	S.& J. Mirick, J. O'Shaughnessy
Murre sp.				
12-19	1	Rye	Seal Rocks	M. Harvey
Razorbill				
12-02	2		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
12-12	1	New Castle	near Wood Is. lighthouse	J. Carloni, J. Borgenson
12-19	4	Rye	NH coast	M. Harvey
12-21	22	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	M. Harvey
01-07	5		NH coast	E. Masterson, J. Hills, G. Tillman
01-07	3	Rye	Ragged Neck	S.& J. Mirick
02-10	2	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S.& J. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Black Guillemot				
12-19	2	Rye	NH coast	M. Harvey
12-21	19	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	M. Harvey
01-27	3	Rye	Ragged Neck	S.& J. Mirick, D. Abbott, P. Lacourse
02-10	3		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
Alcid sp.				
12-19	16	Rye	NH coast	M. Harvey
12-21	15	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	M. Harvey

Pigeon through Lark


A count of three Eastern Screech-Owls from the coastal region was notable as was a single record from the inland location of Hinsdale. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, not seen annually, was reported twice this season. There were at least 19 Northern Flickers reported from scattered towns in the southern tier of the state, primarily south and east of Concord. Northern Shrike was fairly well reported, though not in the numbers of last year. There was only one seasonal report of Gray Jay. There were three Fish Crow reports, all from the southeast corner of the state.



Northern Shrike by Leonard Medlock, 1/6/07, Fremont, NH.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Rock Pigeon				
12-16	144	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
01-01	25	Monroe	Barnet CBC, NH sightings	
Mourning Dove				
12-16	128	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
01-01	75	Monroe	Barnet CBC, NH sightings	
Eastern Screech-Owl				
12-16	3	Greenland	off Bayridge Road	S.& J. Mirick, K. Dorsey, J. Silver
01-31	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
Great Horned Owl				
01-27	1	Newmarket	Great Bay	E. Masterson, P. Brown, D. Fallon, S. Wollney
01-27	1	Stratham	Stuart Farm	T. Bronson, R. Frechette, D. Rowell, S. Spangenberg, F. Doyle
01-31	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
02-23	1	Kensington	Moulton Ridge, e. end	G. Gavutis Jr.
Barred Owl				
12-16	1	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Northern Saw-whet Owl				
01-21	1	Dublin	Charcoal Rd.	T. Warren
01-27	1	Newmarket	Wiggin Farm/Tuttle Swamp CA	T. Bronson, R. Frechette, D. Rowell, S. Spangenberg, F. Doyle
Belted Kingfisher				
12-16	1	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
Red-bellied Woodpecker				
12-03	1	Fremont	Ingalls Lane	T. Bronson
12-05	1	New Castle	Wild Rose Ln.	P. Brown
12-06	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
12-06	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
12-09	1	Windham	Londonderry Rd. residence	J. Romano
12-09	2	Chesterfield	River Rd.	E. Masterson
12-14	1	Goffstown	Paige Hill Rd.	K. Nielson
12-16	2	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
12-21	1	Manchester	Bernard St.	B. Holmes
12-24	1	Concord	Turkey R.	R. Woodward
12-30	1	Manchester	Campbell St.	R. Trexler
01-03	1	Brookline	residence	M. Anne
01-04	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
01-11	1	Farmington	Reservoir Rd.	P. Frisella
01-13	1	Newton	Nordic Woods Lane	B. Lewis
01-15	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
01-16	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. Harris, et al.
01-21	2	Exeter	residence	G. & M. Prazar
01-21	1	Seabrook	Lower Collins St.	E. Masterson, D. Fallon
02-01	1	New London	Old Main St.	C. Bradford, F. Hammond
02-09	1	Tamworth	Bolles Rd., Chocorua	A. Phenix
02-17	4	Erroll	Long Pond Rd.	K. Dube, Seacoast Chapter FT
02-19	2	Hanover	Etna residence	D. Merker
02-19	2	Merrimack	Trowbridge Dr. residence	T. Young
02-19	2	Newmarket	Bay Rd.	H. Chary
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				
01-27	1	Atkinson	Willowvale Road	S. & J. Mirick, D. Abbott, P. Lacourse
02-08	1	Dover	Prospect St. residence	S. Galt
02-10	1	Durham	Old Landing Rd.	F. Hochgraf
Downy Woodpecker				
12-16	15	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
01-01	17	Monroe	Barnet CBC, NH sightings	
Hairy Woodpecker				
12-16	5	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
01-01	14	Monroe	Barnet CBC, NH sightings	
Pileated Woodpecker				
12-16	2	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
Northern Shrike				
12-06	1	Grafton	Height of Land	G. Renee
12-14	1	Greenland	field off Newington Road.	S. Mirick
01-05	1	Fremont	Martin Rd.	T. Bronson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Northern Shrike—continued				
01-09	1	Epping	rail trail e. of Fremont Rd.	T. Bronson
01-20	1	Hancock	Antrim Road	E. Masterson
01-20	1	Rochester	off Pickering Road	S. & J. Mirick
02-13	1	Fremont	Martin Rd. near Tack Shack	M. Zimmerman
Gray Jay				
02-17	2	Wentworths Location	Lake Umbagog NWR headquarters	K. Dube, Seacoast Chapter FT
Blue Jay				
12-16	33	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
01-01	39	Monroe	Barnet CBC, NH sightings	
American Crow				
12-16	466	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
01-01	100	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
Fish Crow				
01-27	3	Hampton	Winnacunnet Rd. & Landing Rd.	T. Bronson, R. Frechette, D. Rowell, S. Spangenberg, F. Doyle
02-22	1	Newmarket	residence	K. Dorsey
02-26	1	Kingston	dairy farm	S. Mirick
Common Raven				
12-16	7	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
01-01	6	Monroe	Barnet CBC, NH sightings	
				
<p><i>Horned Lark by Stephen R. Mirick, 1/28/07, Hampton, NH.</i></p>				
Horned Lark				
12-05	24		NH coast	T. Bronson
12-06	6	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	E. Masterson
12-11	11	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. Young, P. Brown
12-17	120	Concord	Morrill's Farm	P. Hunt
01-18	60	Stratham	Stuart Farm	M. Harvey
01-22	16	Rye	Ragged Neck	T. Bronson
01-25	40	Haverhill	Rt. 10 corn fields, N. Haverhill	B. Bradley
01-26	11	Hampton	Rt. 1A at Rt. 27	T. Bronson
01-27	100	Stratham	Stuart Farm	T. Bronson, R. Frechette, D. Rowell, S. Spangenberg, F. Doyle
02-09	37	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	T. Bronson
02-09	10	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	T. Bronson
02-17	40	Litchfield	Route 3A	E. Masterson
02-21	5	Hampton	Island Path	T. Bronson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
02-22	10	Haverhill	Clark Pond Rd., N. Haverhill	B. Bradley
02-24	49	Walpole	River Rd., north	L. Tanino, P. Brown, J. Tilden
02-24	8	Portsmouth	Pease Golf Course	R. Suomala
02-25	750	Westmoreland		D. Clark

Chickadees through Waxwings

The mild conditions may have induced more exploration by birders at the higher elevations of the White Mountains. They certainly produced a much greater than average number of reports of Boreal Chickadee. A high count of 25 from Lowe's Path in Randolph on New Year's Day is certainly notable.

Though there were not quite as many reports as last year, Carolina Wren has now become a fixture of our states avifauna. Winter Wren was found in about the same abundance as last year. A Marsh Wren found in Great Bog last year in late January was certainly a great find. The same observers found it again this year at the same place at virtually the same time. Was it the same bird?

Eastern Bluebird was very widely reported. We had a good winter for Hermit Thrush in 2005-06, and we about doubled the reports for this year. A numerical highlight of the season came from observation of the Newfields American Robin roost. In mid-December 8,000+ birds were observed going to roost. This is certainly one the largest counts ever made in the state. Typically, we might have a single Brown Thrasher report in the winter season, and not every year. This year we had three separate winter reports. Bohemian Waxwing is a classic irruptive species, sometimes here in the hundreds, sometimes virtually absent; a single late season record from Concord was the only bird found for the entire season.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Black-capped Chickadee				
12-16	152	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
01-01	89	Monroe	Barnet CBC, NH sightings	
Boreal Chickadee				
12-03	2	Low & Burbanks Grant	Bumpus Basin, 3,000'	J. Stockwell
12-03	6	Randolph	Howlser Ridge, 3400'	J. Stockwell
12-17	3	Bethlehem	Avalon Trail, 3700'	J. Stockwell
12-31	1	Franconia	Garfield Trail, 3900'	J. Stockwell
01-01	25	Randolph	Lowes Path	P. Brown
02-10	2	Errol	Long Pond	M. Suomala, C. Ciccone, K. Dorsey
02-11	2	Lincoln	Mt. Flume, East Ridge, 2,800'	J. Stockwell
02-11	2	Lincoln	Osseo Trail, 3,100'	J. Stockwell
Tufted Titmouse				
12-16	16	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
01-01	11	Monroe	Barnet CBC, NH sightings	

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Red-breasted Nuthatch				
12-16	2	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
01-01	4	Monroe	Barnet CBC, NH sightings	
White-breasted Nuthatch				
12-16	26	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
01-01	6	Monroe	Barnet CBC, NH sightings	
Brown Creeper				
12-16	2	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
Carolina Wren				
12-04	1	Goffstown	Maple Ave.	A. Varjabedian
12-08	1	Windham	Londonderry Rd. residence	J. Romano
12-11	1	Derry	Ledgewood Dr.	M. Messinger
12-11	1	Salem	residence	K. Folsom
12-16	1	Keene	town	L. Tanino
12-16	2	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
12-26	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
12-31	1	Bath	Goose Lane	S.& D. Morse
01-03	2	Londonderry	Gilcrest Rd.	D. Lievens
01-05	1	Gorham	Jimtown Rd. residence	J. Brown
01-16	1	Littleton	Partridge Lake Rd.	D. Goudie
01-18	2	Stratham	Sandy Point	M. Harvey
01-21	4	Seabrook	South Main St. neighborhood	S.& J. Mirick
01-26	2	New Castle	Vennard's Ct.	C. White
01-31	2	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
02-09	2	Lebanon	Indian Ridge Dr., W. Lebanon	T.& N. Rounds
02-14	1	Monroe	residence	E. Emery
02-20	1	Stratham	Portsmouth Ave.	M. Roberts
02-20	2	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. Harris
02-21	1	Dover	Prospect St.	S. Galt
Winter Wren				
12-03	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
12-07	1	Deering	Deering WS	P. Brown
12-17	2	Concord	Oak Hill powerlines	J. Tilden, M. Coppola, P. Brown
12-31	1	Rumney	Buffalo Rd. residence	J. Williams
01-14	1	Portsmouth	hospital marsh	S.& J. Mirick
01-14	1	Newmarket	off Beech St. extension	S.& J. Mirick
02-18	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
Marsh Wren				
01-21	1	Portsmouth	Great Bog	S.& J. Mirick
Golden-crowned Kinglet				
12-03	11	Concord	Penacook survey	P. Hunt
12-12	1	Exeter	Exeter R. trail s. of Gilman Pk.	T. Bronson
12-15	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
12-16	7	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
12-20	2	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
12-25	2	Chester	Hillside Haven	A.& B. Delorey
01-23	3	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
01-27	5	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
02-02	1	Fremont	North Rd. at rail trail	T. Bronson
02-17	1	Wentworths Location	Lake Umbagog NWR headquarters	K. Dube, Seacoast Chapter FT
02-26	3	Durham	Adams Point WMA	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

12-16	1	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
12-30	1	Northfield	Shaker Rd.	P. Hunt
01-07	1	Hampton	Ancient Highway	S. & J. Mirick
01-21	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. & J. Mirick

Eastern Bluebird

12-09	12	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
12-16	25	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
01-04	12	Tilton	Rt.132 field & road by Joshua Ln. cemetery	D. Stavros, L. Bardush
01-09	8	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
01-24	4	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	T. Bronson
01-27	8	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
02-14	5	Hollis	Black Oak Dr.	R. Berti

Hermit Thrush

12-05	1	Derry	Ledgewood Dr.	M. Mensinger
12-07	1	Salem	King Easement property	C. Martin
12-10	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
12-12	1	Exeter	Oak St. extended	T. Bronson
12-16	1	Greenland	near Brick House	S. & J. Mirick, K. Dorsey, J. Silver
12-16	1	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
01-19	1	Swanzy	Eaton Rd.	J. & R. Snow
01-20	1	Stafford	Lakeview Dr.	S. Young
02-02	1	Manchester	residence	J. Hills
02-06	1	Epping	North River Rd. n. of Old Hedding Rd.	T. Bronson
02-10	1	Nashua	Dublin Ave.	M. Haig
02-12	1	Nottingham	Nottingham PO, Rt. 152	D. Crowe
02-16	1	Northwood	Lower Deerfield Rd. s. of Bigelow Rd.	T. Bronson
02-17	1	Newington	Arboretum Drive	S. & J. Mirick
02-24	1	Kensington	Moulton Ridge	M. Perry

American Robin

12-11	125	N. Hampton	South Rd. at Winnicut R.	T. Bronson
12-17	8000	Newfields	flying to roost	S. & J. Mirick, D. Abbott
12-18	100	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	J. Tilden, P. Brown, L. Tanino, M. Smith
12-22	65	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
01-05	9	Livermore	Kancamagus Pass	B. Bradley
01-07	10	Franconia	Mittersill Mtn.	M. & D. Harvey
01-15	50	Laconia	Ledgecroft Place	H. Anderson
01-20	30	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
01-23	40	Dover	Prospect St. residence	S. Galt
01-24	26	Westmoreland	River Rd.	R. Ritz
01-25	100	Gilford	Varney Pt.	B. Fay
02-01	50	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr. neighborhood	B. Harris
02-04	1	Lincoln	Greeley Pond Trail, 2,000'	J. Stockwell
02-10	1	Greens Grant	19 mile Brook Trail, 1,900'	J. Stockwell
02-11	8	Lincoln	Osseo Trail, 1,900'	J. Stockwell

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
American Robin—continued				
02-11	1	Lincoln	Mt. Flume Summit, 4,328'	J. Stockwell
02-13	60	Concord	Post Office	R. Quinn
02-13	3	Littleton	Cindy Rd.	E. Emery, P. Powers
02-17	158	Walpole	River Rd.	D. Clark
02-17	1	Benton	Glenn Cliff Trail, 2,700'	J. Stockwell
02-22	6	Bath	West Bath Rd.	B. Bradley
02-25	4	Franconia	Lincoln Brook Trail, 2,200'	J. & K. Stockwell
Varied Thrush				
02-20	1	Dublin	Burpee Rd.	G. & F. Bartlett
Gray Catbird				
02-10	1	Wolfeboro	Blackberry Lane	J. Nelson
02-12	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
Northern Mockingbird				
12-16	2	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
Brown Thrasher				
01-30	1	Chichester	Canterbury Rd.	L. Noel, M. Reinhardt
02-11	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Quinn
02-25	1	Belmont	River Rd., Lochmere Village	H. Anderson
European Starling				
12-16	252	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
01-01	116	Monroe	Barnet CBC, NH sightings	
American Pipit				
12-02	1	Rye	Odiome Point St. Pk.	S. & J. Mirick
12-16	1	Stratham	Squamscott Road fields	S. & J. Mirick, K. Dorsey, J. Silver
12-16	57	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
01-27	1	Hampton	Plaice Cove	T. Bronson, R. Frechette, D. Rowell, S. Spangenberg, F. Doyle
01-27	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	S. & J. Mirick, D. Abbott, P. Lacourse
02-04	1	Westmoreland	White Road	E. Masterson
02-04	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
02-17	6	Walpole	River Rd.	D. Clark
Bohemian Waxwing				
02-15	1	Concord	Olive Garden, Loudon Rd.	D. Stavros, L. Bardusk
Cedar Waxwing				
12-07	100	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
12-12	100	Peterborough	Elementary School, High St.	V. O'Connor
12-12	75	N. Hampton	South Rd. at Winnicut R.	T. Bronson
12-16	53	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
12-22	307	Plymouth	Plymouth State University	J. Williams
12-22	90	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
01-05	180	Livermore	Kancamagus Pass	B. Bradley
02-01	41	Laconia	Ledgercroft Place	H. Anderson
02-10	50	Exeter	Exeter Hospital grounds	N. Nelson
02-14	80	Keene	Court St.	L. Tanino
02-26	53	Stratham	Sandy Pt. Discovery Ctr.	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard

Warblers through Sparrows

The mild conditions in early winter produced above average numbers and variety of warbler species. A **Cape May Warbler**, initially reported from late November, just made it to the beginning of the winter season. The number of Yellow-rumped Warbler records was almost five times that of last year. Often this is the only warbler species reported in the winter. A **Yellow Warbler** from early December in Exeter might be the most remarkable warbler of the season. It is normally very rare by mid-September and absent by October. An **Ovenbird** found in late January is a fairly unusual find as well.

Sparrow reports were quite remarkable. There were significant numbers of Chipping Sparrows, and even greater numbers of Swamp Sparrows. Both of these sparrows are quite scarce in the winter. Even more remarkable were the three reports of **Lincoln's Sparrow** as there are only three previous winter Lincoln's records over the last ten years! The number of White-throated Sparrow reports was almost four times that of last year as well.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Yellow Warbler				
12-03	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	R. & M. Suomala
Cape May Warbler				
12-01	1	Rye	Myrica Avenue	S. Mirick
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
12-05	1	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. Delorey
12-16	1	Greenland	near Beaver Pond.	S. & J. Mirick, K. Dorsey, J. Silver
12-17	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
12-29	1	Hampton	Depot Rd.	P. Brown
01-01	1	Hampton	wastewater treatment plant	S. & J. Mirick
01-14	1	Hampton	Tidemill Road	S. & J. Mirick
01-25	1	S. Hampton	Highland Rd.	P. Brown
01-27	1	Kensington		E. Masterson, P. Brown, D. Fallon, S. Wollney
02-24	1	Concord	W. Portsmouth St. near Mill Stream	M. Suomala, NHA FT
Palm Warbler				
12-23	1	Durham	off Langley Road	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
12-29	1	Hampton	Island Path	P. Brown
Ovenbird				
01-26	1	Westmoreland	Hatt Rd.	G. Seymour
Common Yellowthroat				
12-16	1	Portsmouth	railroad tracks n. of Banfield Rd.	P. Hunt, P. Chamberlain
12-16	1	Greenland	Newington Road. field	S. & J. Mirick, K. Dorsey, J. Silver
01-14	1	Hampton	Tidemill Road	S. & J. Mirick
American Tree Sparrow				
12-09	50	Westmoreland	River Rd.	E. Masterson
12-16	88	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
12-17	47	Concord	Abbott Rd. stump dump	P. Hunt

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
American Tree Sparrow—continued				
01-01	18	Monroe	Barnet CBC, NH sightings	
01-31	7	Littleton	residence	B. Bradley
Chipping Sparrow				
12-09	1	Rumney	Buffalo Rd. residence	J. & J. Williams
01-16	2	Rochester	off Pickering Road	S. Mirick
01-25	1	Kensington	Drinkwater Rd.	P. Brown
01-27	1	Exeter		E. Masterson, P. Brown, D. Fallon, S. Wollney
Clay-colored Sparrow				
12-17	1	Concord	Mountain Rd. grassland, n. of golf course	P. Brown, J. Tilden, M. Coppola
Field Sparrow				
12-12	1	Exeter	Charter St. parking lot	T. Bronson
Savannah Sparrow				
01-18	12	Stratham	Stuart Farm	M. Harvey
01-21	2	Seabrook	Cross Road	E. Masterson, D. Fallon
02-04	3	Greenland	Newington Road	S. & J. Mirick
02-10	8	Stratham	Stuart Farm	S. & J. Mirick
02-24	3	Walpole	River Rd., north	L. Tanino, P. Brown, J. Tilden



Fox Sparrow
by Jennifer & Scott Perry,
2/16/07, Deerfield, NH.

Fox Sparrow				
02-05	2	Deerfield	Rt. 43 residence	J. & S. Perry
02-28	1	Alton	Cascade Terrace, Alton Bay	M. & R. Foster
Song Sparrow				
12-11	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
12-16	9	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
12-17	7	Concord	Abbott Rd. stump dump	P. Hunt
12-23	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
12-31	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
12-31	3	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
01-18	16	Stratham	Stuart Farm	M. Harvey
01-18	6	Stratham	Sandy Point	M. Harvey
02-06	4	Rye	Rye Harbor at Saunder's Restaurant	T. Bronson
02-17	4	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind P.O.	R. Woodward
02-21	1	Hampton	Glade Path	T. Bronson
02-25	2	Barrington		S. Young

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Lincoln's Sparrow				
12-17	1	Bedford	road to Moore's Crossing	R. Quinn, K. Bronson
12-23	1	Durham	off Dame Road	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
01-27	1	Stratham	Stuart Farm	T. Bronson, R. Frechette, D. Rowell, S. Spangenberg, F. Doyle
Swamp Sparrow				
12-16	1	Keene	Greenlawn Cemetery	L. Tanino
12-16	1	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
12-17	1	Concord	Mountain Road grassland	J. Tilden, M. Coppola, P. Brown
01-07	3	Greenland	off Rt. 33	S. & J. Mirick
01-14	1	Portsmouth	hospital marsh	S. & J. Mirick
01-14	6	New Castle	marsh off Rt. 1B	S. & J. Mirick
01-21	3	Seabrook	Worthley Drive marsh	S. & J. Mirick
01-26	1	Newmarket	Lubberland Creek Preserve	P. Brown
01-27	1	Kensington		E. Masterson, P. Brown, D. Fallon, S. Wollney
White-throated Sparrow				
12-09	7	Windham	Londonderry Rd. residence	J. Romano
12-10	3	Stratham	Sandy Pt. Discovery Ctr.	R. & M. Suomala
12-12	5	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. Harris
12-16	4	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
12-17	1	Concord	River Rd., Penacook	P. Hunt
12-26	3	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
12-31	5	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
01-05	2	Kensington	Old Amesbury Rd.	T. Bronson
01-09	1	Epping	rail trail e. of Fremont Rd.	T. Bronson
01-18	2	Stratham	Sandy Point	M. Harvey
01-19	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	T. Bronson
01-30	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
02-02	4	Chester	Hillside Haven	A. & B. Delorey
02-14	1	Fremont	Ingalls Lane	T. Bronson
02-17	2	Concord	Bow St. feeder	R. Woodward
02-22	3	Westmoreland	River Rd.	R. Ritz
02-24	6	Walpole	River Rd., north	L. Tanino, P. Brown, J. Tilden
02-28	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
White-crowned Sparrow				
12-17	1	Concord	Abbott Rd. stump dump	P. Hunt
01-27	1	Kensington		E. Masterson, P. Brown, D. Fallon, S. Wollney
02-04	1	New Castle	off Rt. 1B	S. & J. Mirick
Dark-eyed Junco				
12-06	20	Thornton	Talford Brook, WMNF	J. Williams, A. Johnston
12-16	90	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
12-17	104	Concord	Penacook survey	P. Hunt
01-01	31	Monroe	Barnet CBC, NH sightings	
01-07	73	Winchester	Pisgah St. Pk., Kilburn Rd. & Ridge Trail	L. Tanino
01-15	48	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	M. & R. Suomala

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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Dark-eyed Junco—continued

01-19	90	Fremont	Ingalls Lane	T. Bronson
01-20	20	Brookline	residence	M. Anne
01-22	25	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
02-14	102	Fremont	Ingalls Lane	T. Bronson
02-14	38	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
02-18	8	Nashua	Burke St.	J. Ayer

Lapland Longspur

12-29	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	T. Bronson, P. Brown
02-04	15	Westmoreland	White Road	E. Masterson
02-09	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	T. Bronson
02-24	6	Portsmouth	Pease Golf Course	R. Suomala
02-24	1	Walpole	River Rd.	L. Tanino, J. Tilden, P. Brown



Lapland Longspur by Stephen R. Mirick, 1/28/07, Hampton, NH.



Snow Bunting by Stephen R. Mirick, 1/28/07, Hampton, NH.

Snow Bunting

12-03	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	R. & M. Suomala
12-05	7	Rye	Wallis Sands State Beach	T. Bronson
12-12	1	Concord	Snow Pond	P. Brown
12-30	1	Belmont	Jamestown Rd.	P. Hunt
01-27	6	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	E. Masterson, P. Brown, D. Fallon, S. Wollney
01-27	50	Stratham	Stuart Farm	T. Bronson, R. Frechette, D. Rowell, S. Spangenberg, F. Doyle
02-04	200	Westmoreland	White Road	E. Masterson
02-04	16	Bath	West Bath Rd.	B. Bradley
02-06	30	Monroe	North Monroe	E. Emery, P. Powers
02-06	80	Peterborough	Fremont Field	D. Baum, F. Von Mertens
02-16	118	Westmoreland	Rt. 63 & River Rd.	L. Tanino
02-17	50	Concord	Birch St. gardens	R. Woodward
02-18	15	Walpole	River Rd., north	L. Tanino
02-18	15	Kensington	Kensington Place subdivision	G. Gavutis
02-22	120	Bath	Minot Farm	B. Bradley
02-25	700	Westmoreland		D. Clark

Northern Cardinal

12-16	23	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings
01-01	13	Monroe	Barnet CBC, NH sightings

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Dickcissel				
12-24	1	Durham	Emery Farm	S. & J. Mirick
Red-winged Blackbird				
12-11	1	Littleton	Owen Dr.	D. & M. Boulanger
01-21	1	Kingston	South Road	E. Masterson, D. Fallon
01-23	40	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
01-25	1	Kensington	Route 150	P. Brown
01-26	6	Kensington	Old Amesbury Rd. powerline	T. Bronson
01-27	12	Kensington		E. Masterson, P. Brown, D. Fallon, S. Wollney
01-27	1	E. Kingston	South Road	S. & J. Mirick, D. Abbott, P. Lacourse
01-30	1	Littleton	residence	B. Bradley
02-15	4	Hanover	Claffin Circle	R. Spiegel
02-22	1	Derry	residence	N. Webb
02-23	1	Weare	residence	R. Conroy
02-25	1	Westmoreland		D. Clark
02-28	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
02-28	1	Littleton	residence	B. Bradley

Blackbirds through Finches

Last year was a banner year for Red-winged Blackbirds and this year was just about its equal. The occurrence of **Yellow-headed Blackbird** at any season is quite remarkable, as this bird nests no closer than Michigan. Incredibly, we had two individuals last year, and this year we again had two records, one of them from the same locale in Stratham. Both of these were adult birds, but sufficiently far apart that they likely represent separate individuals. Baltimore Oriole is quite sparse in the winter, so a mid-January record from Hampton is noteworthy.

Both crossbills were absent from the southern half of the state, but there was one record of Red Crossbill from the North Country. White-winged Crossbill was much more widely represented, but again, restricted to the White Mountains and further north. Common Redpoll is another irruptive species with wide swings in occurrence. This was obviously not a flight year. We had just two seasonal records, both from the North Country, for a total of seven birds.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Yellow-headed Blackbird				
01-21	1	Stratham	Stuart Farm	S. & J. Mirick, D. Abbott, P. Lacourse
01-21	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	E. Masterson, D. Fallon
01-26	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	P. Brown
01-27	1	Stratham	Stuart Farm	S. & J. Mirick, D. Abbott, P. Lacourse
Rusty Blackbird				
12-09	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Common Grackle				
12-03	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
12-15	3	Keene	Court St. n. end	L. Tanino
01-27	3	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S.& J. Mirick, D. Abbott, P. Lacourse
Brown-headed Cowbird				
12-16	400	Greenland	Coastal CBC, Greenland sector	S.& J. Mirick, K. Dorsey, J. Silver
01-15	4	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
01-18	250	Stratham	Stuart Farm	M. Harvey
01-21	12	Kingston	South Road	E. Masterson, D. Fallon
01-23	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
01-26	12	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
01-27	150	Stratham	Stuart Farm	E. Masterson, P. Brown, D. Fallon, S. Wollney
02-10	50	Kingston	dairy farm	S.& J. Mirick
02-26	10	Newington	Sunset Farm	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
Baltimore Oriole				
01-16	1	Hampton	Lovering Road	S. Mirick
Purple Finch				
12-09	1	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
12-16	5	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
01-01	6	Monroe	Barnet CBC, NH sightings	
01-04	33	Springfield	Old Croydon Rd.	B. Waddell
01-09	8	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
01-13	10	Dummer	Rt. 16, Pontook Reservoir	A. Johnson
01-23	18	Littleton	residence	B. Bradley
02-10	20	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	M. Suomala, C. Ciccone, K. Dorsey
02-10	10	Errol	Long Pond	M. Suomala, C. Ciccone, K. Dorsey
02-10	20	Milan	Chickwolnepy Rd.	M. Suomala, C. Ciccone, K. Dorsey
02-17	15	Milan	Chickwolnepy Rd.	K. Dube, Seacoast Chapter FT
02-24	4	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
House Finch				
12-16	16	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
01-01	1	Monroe	Barnet CBC, NH sightings	
Red Crossbill				
02-17	5	Milan	Chickwolnepy Rd.	K. Dube, Seacoast Chapter FT
White-winged Crossbill				
12-07	16	Bethlehem	Zealand Notch Rd., WMNF	J. Williams
01-05	3	Carroll	Bretton Woods ski area	L. Tanino
02-10	60	Errol	Long Pond	M. Suomala, C. Ciccone, K. Dorsey
02-10	20	Milan	Chickwolnepy Rd.	M. Suomala, C. Ciccone, K. Dorsey
02-10	40	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	M. Suomala, C. Ciccone, K. Dorsey

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Common Redpoll				
01-13	6	Dummer	Rt. 16, Pontook Reservoir	A. Johnson
02-23	1	Alexandria	AMC Mt. Cardigan Lodge	R. Duncan
Pine Siskin				
12-18	5	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	J. Tilden, P. Brown, L. Tanino, M. Smith
12-21	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	M. Harvey
01-05	5	Carroll	Bretton Woods ski area	L. Tanino
01-07	40	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	M.,D.,& R. Harvey
02-05	1	Gilmanton	Crystal Lake, Gilmanton Iron Works	W. Arms
02-10	20	Milan	Chickwolnepy Rd.	M. Suomala, C. Ciccone, K. Dorsey
02-10	30	Errol	Long Pond	M. Suomala, C. Ciccone, K. Dorsey
02-10	20	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	M. Suomala, C. Ciccone, K. Dorsey
02-17	5	Milan	Chickwolnepy Rd.	K. Dube, Seacoast Chapter FT
American Goldfinch				
12-16	111	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
01-01	34	Monroe	Barnet CBC, NH sightings	
Evening Grosbeak				
02-17	40	Milan	Chickwolnepy Rd.	K. Dube, Seacoast Chapter FT
02-27	4	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow Rd.	M. Wright
House Sparrow				
12-16	167	Walpole	Saxtons River CBC, NH sightings	
01-01	11	Monroe	Barnet CBC, NH sightings	

Notes:

Reporters for Winter 2006-07

H. Cook Anderson	George Gavutis, Jr.	Judy Romano
Marie Anne	Dayton Goudie	Tracy Rounds
Widge Arms	Mary Haig	Brenda Sens
Jeannine Ayer	Bill Harris	Greg Seymour
Karen Balestracci	Phil Hendrickx	John Snow
Gail Bartlett	Lindsay Herlihy	Rebecca Spiegel
Dick & Mary Boulanger	Fred Hochgraf	Dawn Stavros
Carleton Bradford	Dan Hubbard	J. R. Stockwell
Bob Bradley	Pam Hunt	Mark Suomala
Terry Bronson	Alan Johnson	Rebecca Suomala
Phil Brown	Margot Johnson	Bill Taffe
Joshua Carloni	Joe Kabat	Lance Tanino
Julie Cassidy	Naomi Levesque	Ron Trexler
Hank Chary	Chris Martin	Tony Vazzano
Tom Chase	Eric Masterson	Tom Warren
Donald Clark	Steve Mirick	John Williams
Linda Cowie	S. A. Morse	Adam Wood
David Crowe	Joel Nelson	Rob Woodward
Robert Crowley	Peter Newbern	Mary Wright
Talbot Curtin	Pat Niswander	Scott Young
Glen Cypter	Jeffrey Owens	Tom Young
Alan Delorey	Kathie Palfy	
Barbara Delorey	Greg Prazar	Some sightings were
Richard Dodd	Robert Quinn	taken directly from the
Jane Doherty	Martha Reinhardt	NH.Birds list serve.
Kenneth Folsom	Robert Ritz	
Susan Galt	Melodie Roberts	

Reports for the following species were received in Winter 2006-07 but not listed.

Common Eider	Sightings of the species listed above occurred in average numbers at expected locations, were discussed in the summaries, or are escaped exotics.
Surf Scoter	
White-winged Scoter	
Long-tailed Duck	
Ruffed Grouse	
Northern Flicker	
Brown Creeper	

Christmas Bird Count Summary 2006-07

by David Deifik

Statewide Highlights

This year's Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) were held between December 14, 2006, and January 5, 2007. There are now a total of 21 counts in the state, though two of these are principally centered in Vermont. Sightings from the New Hampshire portion of the Saxton's River and Barnet count are found in the season summaries. The Isles of Shoals CBC was not run this season because of unfavorable ocean conditions on count day. Almost half the counts experienced some degree of precipitation, though only Lee-Durham had heavy rain and the Sandwich count heavy snow.

The total number of species across all counts was a record 146, beating last year's record by three species. Two new species for any count were the **Eared Grebe** on the Seacoast count and the **Clay-colored Sparrow** on the Concord count. New high counts for the state were set by 13 species. There were 99 individual count high records this year, slightly higher than last year, and 16 species were new to their respective counts.



Eared Grebe by Mark Suomala, 12/3/06, Rye, NH.

There were generally no dramatic differences in waterfowl numbers from last year to this. The exception to this was the dramatically increased numbers of both Hooded and Common Mergansers. Both species set new highs in three counts. Prior to this year the high count for Turkey Vulture was three from Nashua. The 26 from Lee-Durham broke that record impressively. The occurrence of two Greater Yellowlegs from the Seacoast CBC was notable. Quite remarkable was the finding of two **American Woodcock** on both the Seacoast and Littleton counts. There were only eight previous records for this species, all single birds. Red-bellied Woodpecker continues to increase, particularly in the very southernmost portion of the state; Nashua broke its own previous record set in 2004 with 37 birds this year. Littleton set a new state high with Golden-crowned Kinglet. Given the relative abundance of Eastern Bluebird this season, it comes as no surprise that the Seacoast count set a new record. American Robins were also quite abundant with huge numbers found on the Seacoast and the

Manchester counts, both with numbers exceeding previous state highs. Nashua set a new state high with Cedar Waxwing, while two other counts set count highs for that species. A Pine Warbler on the Nashua count was an unusual find. Other warblers included Yellow-rumped and Palm Warbler, and Common Yellowthroat. Northern Cardinal made an impressive showing this year: Nashua broke the previous state record by 50%, and six other counts set their own records as well. There were a few other notable sparrow records. They included a Vesper Sparrow, two Lincoln's Sparrows, a White-crowned Sparrow, and a Dickcissel. Swamp Sparrows were quite notable, almost tripling their count from last year. Field Sparrow is never common on the counts, but the single report represents a notable low for the species. White-winged Crossbill was dramatically increased over last year. As an irruptive species this is to be expected. Red Crossbill did not increase at all, with only a single count week record.

Individual Count Highlights

Nashua-Hollis

- New state count high: Red-bellied Woodpecker, Cedar Waxwing, Northern Cardinal
- Count high: Mute Swan, Wood Duck, Wild Turkey, Cooper's Hawk, Great Horned Owl, Common Raven, Golden-crowned Kinglet, American Tree Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow

Great Cormorant was recorded for the second time. Hooded Merganser tied the previous high. Pine Warbler was seen for the second time.



*Red-bellied Woodpecker by Alan Phenix,
2/16/07, Chocura, NH.*

Peterborough-Hancock

- First count record: Merlin
- Count high: Mallard, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Bald Eagle, Northern Goshawk, Common Raven, Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Northern Cardinal

Red-tailed Hawk tied the previous count high. Hermit Thrush was recorded for the third time.

Keene

- First count record: Mute Swan, Wilson's Snipe, Swamp Sparrow
 - Count high: Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Belted Kingfisher, Eastern Bluebird, American Goldfinch
- Hermit Thrush was recorded for the fourth time.

Seacoast

- First state record: Eared Grebe
 - New state count high: Red-tailed Hawk, American Woodcock (shared with Littleton), Eastern Screech-Owl, Winter Wren, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin
 - Count High: Snow Goose, Common Raven, Red-winged Blackbird
- As is usual, Seacoast had the high species count for the state at 109.

Lee-Durham

- New state count high: Turkey Vulture
- First count record: Ruddy Duck, Black-headed Gull, Palm Warbler, Lincoln's Sparrow
- Count high: Great Blue Heron, Ring-billed Gull, Cedar Waxwing, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal

Merlin was recorded for the second time. Eastern Phoebe was seen for the second time. Dickcissel was seen for the fourth time.

Concord

- First state record: Clay-colored Sparrow
- First count record: Yellow-rumped Warbler, Savannah Sparrow
- Count high: Great Blue Heron, Red-tailed Hawk, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Carolina Wren, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, House Finch, American Goldfinch

Lesser Scaup was tallied for the second time as was Wilson's Snipe. Belted Kingfisher and Downy Woodpecker tied their previous count highs. Gray Catbird was seen for the third time. White-crowned Sparrow was recorded for the second time.

Laconia

- Count high: Wild Turkey, American Crow, Carolina Wren
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet was seen for the fourth time.

Hanover-Norwich

- Count high: Cooper's Hawk, Carolina Wren
- Eastern Bluebird was seen for the third time.

Baker Valley

- First count record: Eastern Bluebird
- Count high: Cooper's Hawk

Littleton

- New state count high: American Woodcock (shared with Seacoast), Golden-crowned Kinglet
- Count high: Ring-billed Gull, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, White-winged Crossbill

Yellow-rumped Warbler was seen during count week. There is only one previous count record.

Grafton-Bristol

- First count record: Northern Saw-whet Owl, White-throated Sparrow
- Count high: Canada Goose, Mallard, Ruffed Grouse, Red-tailed Hawk, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Downy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, American Crow, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, American Robin, European Starling, American Tree Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal

Hooded Merganser was recorded for the third time. Barred Owl was recorded for the second time. Ruby-crowned Kinglet was seen during count week.

Errol-Umbagog

- Count high: Canada Goose
- Northern Cardinal was recorded for the fourth time.

Pittsburg

• Count high: Mallard, Common Merganser, Common Loon, Red-tailed Hawk, Rock Pigeon, Black-capped Chickadee, Boreal Chickadee, Pine Siskin
Spruce Grouse was seen for the second time. Long-eared Owl was recorded for the second time.

North Conway

- First count record: Cooper's Hawk
- Count high: Red-tailed Hawk, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird

Bald Eagle was seen for the third time. Northern Harrier was seen for the fourth time.



*Cooper's Hawk by Donna Liolis,
2/8/07, West Franklin, NH.*

Lake Sunapee

- Count high: Canada Goose, American Crow, Northern Cardinal
Wood Duck was seen for the third time.

Manchester

- First count record: Lincoln's Sparrow
- Count high: Hooded Merganser, Red-tailed Hawk, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin (second highest count ever for the state), European Starling, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird

Wood Duck and Ring-necked Duck were both seen for the third time. Barred Owl was recorded for the fourth time. Red-bellied Woodpecker and Pileated Woodpecker tied their previous count highs. Carolina Wren and Winter Wren were both seen for the third time. Chipping Sparrow was seen for the third time. Purple Finch was seen for the second time.

Sandwich

- First count record: Common Grackle
- Count High: Canada Goose, Common Loon, American Robin, Northern Cardinal
Hooded Merganser was recorded for the third time. Eastern Bluebird and Snow Bunting were seen for the second time.

AMC Crawford Notch

- First count record: American Goldfinch, Evening Grosbeak
- Count high: American Black Duck, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Boreal Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Dark-eyed Junco, House Finch

107th Christmas Bird Count: Dec. 14, 2006 - Jan. 5, 2007

species	Nsh	Pet	Kee	Cst	Lee	Con	Lac	Han	Bak
Snow Goose	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	1094	91	179	2868	800	320	83	CW	-
Brant	-	-	-	22	-	-	-	-	-
Mute Swan	5	-	*1	36	3	-	-	-	-
Wood Duck	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gadwall	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
American Wigeon	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-
American Black Duck	47	1	3	1555	143	29	10	17	14
Mallard	719	71	110	1003	682	184	308	356	-
Northern Pintail	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Canvasback	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	502	-	-	-	-	-
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
King Eider	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Common Eider	-	-	-	110	-	-	-	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	97	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	130	-	-	1	-	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	70	-	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	102	-	-	-	-	-
Bufflehead	-	-	-	110	200	-	-	-	-
Common Goldeneye	11	-	-	262	43	2	255	-	-
Barrow's Goldeneye	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Hooded Merganser	4	2	70	14	52	41	159	5	-
Common Merganser	32	43	88	3	9	42	500	30	1
Red-br. Merganser	-	-	-	225	3	-	1	-	-
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	7	*2	-	-	-	-
Duck sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	CW	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ruffed Grouse	4	11	3	1	3	4	4	2	8
Spruce Grouse	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wild Turkey	127	41	34	6	130	39	111	80	-
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	29	-	-	-	-	-
Common Loon	-	1	-	80	-	-	4	-	-
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	17	-	-	-	-	-
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	95	-	-	-	-	-
Eared Grebe	-	-	-	+1	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Gannet	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
Double-cr. Cormorant	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-
Great Cormorant	1	-	-	23	-	-	-	-	-
American Bittern	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	2	1	-	26	11	3	-	-	-
Turkey Vulture	-	-	-	3	**26	-	-	-	-
Bald Eagle	-	4	1	2	-	1	3	2	-
Northern Harrier	-	CW	-	5	1	-	-	-	-
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	-	6	6	2	1	2	-	-
Cooper's Hawk	10	CW	-	8	5	3	1	7	2
Northern Goshawk	1	3	-	CW	-	-	-	1	-
Accipiter sp.	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

Lit	Grf	Erl	Pit	Cnw	Sun	Man	San	Amc	Total
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
13	28	9	-	-	19	445	31	-	5980
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	45
-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	12
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
5	25	1	5	1	16	5	CW	-	1877
-	106	-	123	22	131	443	12	17	4287
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	5
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	502
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	110
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	97
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	131
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	102
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	310
-	22	-	1	-	11	97	CW	-	704
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
10	3	-	1	-	9	19	10	-	399
-	6	10	41	-	17	39	5	-	866
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	229
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3
11	9	5	23	3	5	-	4	-	100
-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
25	1	-	-	CW	31	-	15	-	640
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29
CW	-	-	6	-	4	CW	7	-	102
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	95
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	44
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29
2	-	5	1	1	-	2	1	-	25
-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	7
-	CW	-	-	-	CW	-	1	-	20
-	-	-	-	*1	2	3	-	-	42
-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	9
-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2

107th Christmas Bird Count (continued)

species	Nsh	Pet	Keel	Cst	Lee	Con	Lac	Han	Bak
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Red-tailed Hawk	25	6	5	**70	15	19	5	8	2
American Kestrel	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-
Merlin	1	*1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
American Coot	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Killdeer	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-
Greater Yellowlegs	-	-	-	**2	-	-	-	-	-
Sanderling	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Sandpiper	-	-	-	28	-	-	-	-	-
Dunlin	-	-	-	250	-	-	-	-	-
Wilson's Snipe	-	-	*2	-	-	1	-	-	-
American Woodcock	-	-	-	**2	-	-	-	-	CW
Black-headed Gull	-	-	-	1	*1	-	-	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	103	6	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	125	1	1	747	1200	67	260	1	-
Herring Gull	233	14	1	2365	10935	44	34	2	-
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	1	5	-	-	-	-
Lesser Bla.-bac. Gul	-	-	-	CW	1	-	-	-	-
Great Bla.-bac. Gull	291	2	-	362	478	1	24	5	-
Gull sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-
Bla.-leg. Kittiwake	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Razorbill	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-
Black Guillemot	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-
Rock Pigeon	973	127	173	1541	363	490	122	550	26
Mourning Dove	634	228	212	492	465	329	178	358	63
Eastern Screech-owl	-	-	-	**5	-	-	-	-	-
Great Horned Owl	4	1	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
Barred Owl	1	-	1	5	-	2	5	1	CW
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
N. Saw-whet Owl	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	6	-	5	6	4	8	4	-	1
Red-bel. Woodpecker	**37	4	2	9	7	1	-	-	-
Downy Woodpecker	159	59	49	92	62	83	75	55	29
Hairy Woodpecker	76	42	18	20	19	64	35	32	12
Bla.-bac. Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Flicker	9	-	-	28	10	-	-	-	2
Pileated Woodpecker	7	6	1	2	1	8	3	3	3
Eastern Phoebe	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Northern Shrike	-	CW	1	2	1	-	-	-	-
Gray Jay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	645	315	231	409	275	327	225	238	76
American Crow	512	299	85	881	393	546	817	2900	75
Common Raven	5	60	10	5	4	5	4	39	13
Horned Lark	-	-	-	113	37	124	-	4	-
Black-cap. Chickadee	923	1023	710	737	822	653	622	1391	382
Boreal Chickadee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tufted Titmouse	229	104	61	192	182	159	96	74	20
Red-br. Nuthatch	14	39	31	1	7	21	7	29	13
White-br. Nuthatch	181	128	82	119	115	126	76	111	46
Brown Creeper	18	14	11	4	9	15	6	5	1
Carolina Wren	5	2	1	7	4	8	3	9	-
Winter Wren	3	-	1	**7	2	3	-	-	-
Marsh Wren	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Golden-cr. Kinglet	71	55	21	41	60	40	16	20	13

Lit	Grf	Erl	Pit	Cnw	Sun	Man	San	Amc	Total
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
3	3	3	4	4	3	21	1	-	197
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	250
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
**2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	109
37	-	-	-	-	6	219	-	-	2664
102	-	-	-	CW	-	197	2	-	13929
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
39	-	-	-	1	-	13	-	-	1216
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
53	141	-	16	37	96	480	6	-	5194
138	190	20	7	218	38	152	162	-	3884
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
1	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	21
-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	*1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	35
-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	64
28	42	14	21	43	14	26	50	8	909
17	25	24	10	34	8	12	46	4	498
2	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	49
2	8	3	6	4	CW	3	1	-	61
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
1	1	3	-	2	1	-	1	1	14
-	-	6	11	-	-	-	-	5	22
152	148	74	38	116	160	226	113	9	3777
135	114	30	24	167	217	248	45	10	7498
38	26	32	52	25	10	5	14	10	357
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	278
653	803	468	590	731	589	309	492	102	12000
-	-	8	78	-	-	-	17	26	129
4	29	-	-	53	19	68	64	-	1354
147	32	102	110	30	54	5	15	12	669
17	38	1	6	73	20	58	60	5	1262
9	9	4	2	9	13	3	4	3	139
-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	41
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	17
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
**133	35	48	59	15	22	6	23	31	709

107th Christmas Bird Count (continued)

species	Nsh	Pet	Kee	Cst	Lee	Con	Lac	Han	Bak
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	-	-	-	3	1	-	1	-	-
Eastern Bluebird	46	10	25	**137	49	9	4	2	*2
Hermit Thrush	2	1	1	7	1	-	-	-	-
American Robin	790	17	28	**5469	328	135	101	19	-
Gray Catbird	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
N. Mockingbird	36	-	2	66	26	14	3	3	-
European Starling	749	351	704	6719	1113	837	458	851	235
American Pipit	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Cedar Waxwing	**1013	182	113	340	784	439	563	442	-
Ylw.-rumped Warbler	-	-	-	2	1	*2	-	-	-
Pine Warbler	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	-	*1	-	-	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Am. Tree Sparrow	539	73	105	279	282	321	101	149	4
Chipping Sparrow	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Clay-colored Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	+1	-	-	-
Field Sparrow	-	-	-	CW	-	1	-	-	-
Vesper Sparrow	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Savannah Sparrow	4	-	-	4	-	*3	-	-	-
Fox Sparrow	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Song Sparrow	84	3	8	139	66	47	6	8	-
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	*1	-	-	-	-
Swamp Sparrow	-	1	*1	17	7	1	-	-	-
White-thr. Sparrow	98	8	7	132	62	33	8	3	-
White-cr. Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Dark-eyed Junco	903	541	410	326	558	453	303	426	34
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	-	6	-	CW	-	-	1	-	-
Northern Cardinal	**338	51	46	224	180	130	91	104	13
Dickcissel	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Red-winged Blackbird	2	-	-	26	1	3	-	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Common Grackle	4	-	1	5	1	1	-	-	-
Br.-headed Cowbird	-	-	-	521	-	-	-	4	-
Pine Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Finch	7	4	3	1	4	1	13	9	6
House Finch	171	20	74	268	103	377	110	189	3
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whi.-wing. Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Redpoll	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	CW	-
American Goldfinch	671	383	411	772	348	827	509	586	224
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-
House Sparrow	556	192	259	1245	493	446	217	339	-
Number of Species	66	49	54	109	73	64	53	46	29
Number of Participants	46	38	29	42	22	18	18	15	15

Total Number of Species Across all CBCs: 146

? = Questionable Sighting
 CW = Count Week
 Nsh = Nashua-Hollis (12/30/2006)
 Pet = Peterborough-Hancock
 (12/16/2006)

Kee = Keene (12/16/2006)
 Cst = Seacoast (12/16/2006)
 Lee = Lee-Durham (12/23/2006)
 Con = Concord (12/17/2006)
 Lac = Laconia-New-Hampton
 (12/30/2006)

Han = Hanover-Norwich (1/1/2007)
 Bak = Baker-Valley (12/16/2006)
 += New species for the state
 *= New species to count
 **= New count high for the state
New individual count high

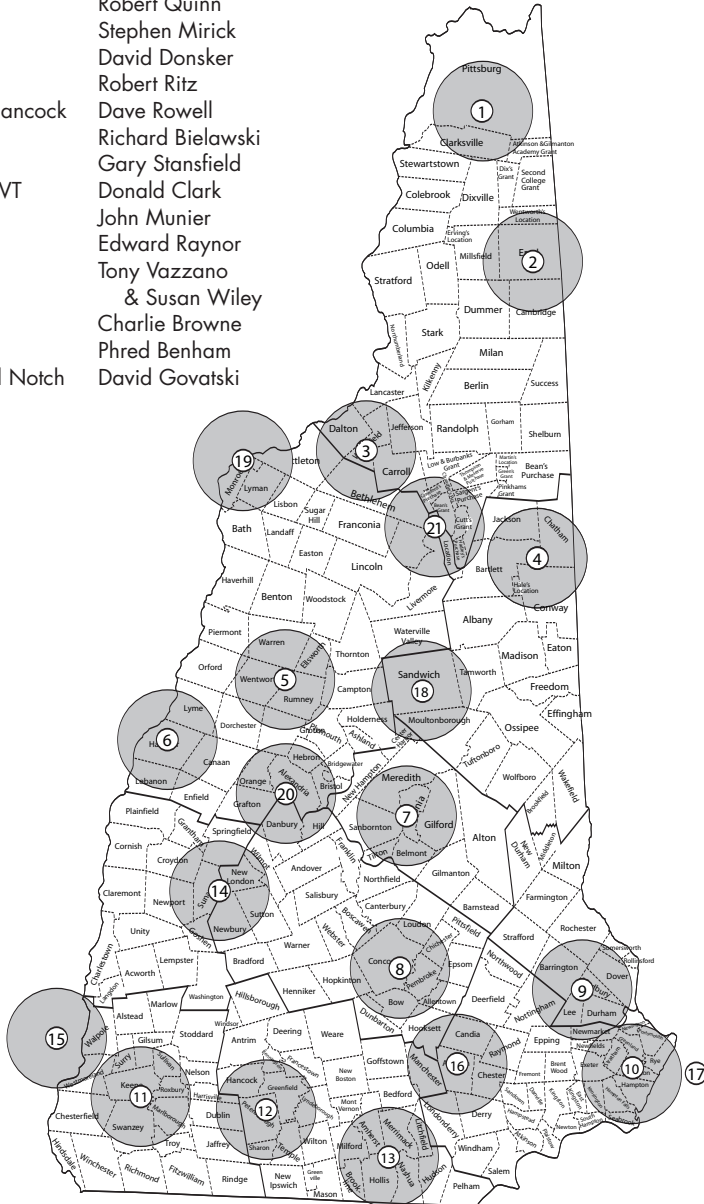
Lit	Grf	Erl	Pit	Cnw	Sun	Man	San	Amc	Total
-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
-	-	-	-	-	-	50	3	-	337
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
22	24	-	-	4	2	2672	90	49	9750
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	160
144	338	2	15	70	232	2868	84	-	15770
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	9	-	-	26	85	86	69	9	4160
CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
5	27	3	5	65	20	83	40	-	2101
-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	1	-	-	-	1	12	1	-	376
-	-	-	-	-	-	*1	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27
-	*1	-	-	1	4	16	-	-	373
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
72	176	95	91	230	105	358	129	24	5234
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	9
12	22	1	1	36	38	57	28	-	1372
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
3	-	-	-	18	-	17	-	-	70
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	2	-	*1	-	15
10	-	-	-	100?	-	-	-	-	635
-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	5
219	-	205	134	2	6	2	8	11	635
14	-	-	-	CW	40	42	2	-	1413
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	0
106	-	92	157	-	-	-	CW	3	358
10	-	-	10	14	-	-	-	-	34
85	-	179	392	-	-	-	CW	-	664
151	169	173	112	381	103	270	714	*3	6807
CW	CW	2	-	-	-	-	-	*1	15
1	75	4	18	18	98	344	11	-	4316
42	38	34	38	37	43	52	43	21	
10	13	10	10	44	9	12	21	15	

Lit = Littleton (12/17/2006)
 Grf = Grafton (12/30/2006)
 Erl = Errol-Umbagog (12/20/2006)
 Pit = Pittsburg (12/19/2006)
 Cnw = North-Conway (12/30/2006)

Sun = Lake-Sunapee (12/16/2006)
 Man = Manchester (12/16/2006)
 San = Sandwich (12/30/2006)
 San = AMC-Crawford (1216/2006)

Christmas Bird Count Compilers

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



Lake Winnepesaukee Loon Stranding

by John Cooley

Excerpted from the *Loon Preservation Committee Newsletter*, Spring 2007.

By now, many readers will have already heard the bad news from Lake Winnepesaukee: in mid-February 22 loons were found stranded on the ice of the Broads, with only five surviving. The Winnepesaukee Broads are in the center of the lake, due north of Gilford. The stranded birds were found between Welch Island and Rattlesnake Island, about a kilometer (half mile) from shore, northeast of Ellacoya State Park, near the deepest part of the lake. The 17 mortalities collected from Winnepesaukee February 18–22 represent three percent of New Hampshire's adult loon population, and more mortalities than the Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) usually recovers in the course of an entire year.



One of five Common Loons found alive and transported by snowmobile with the aid of volunteers, Judy and Scott Ellis, who also took the photo.

Explaining the Stranding

As the recovered carcasses were examined and logged at LPC, and as we checked with local anglers, lake residents, and New Hampshire Fish and Game personnel about the freeze-up chronology this winter, a working theory emerged to explain the stranding. First, record warm temperatures in December and January appear to have lured the loons into staying too long on the lake. This was confirmed by ice-angler Ken Col-

bert, who reported that he had seen 20–30 loons in the last remaining patch of open water on the Broads around January 30. As the weather turned sharply colder in the last week of January and the first week of February, the lake froze over quickly. In a usual year, such a freeze up might come in December or early January, sending the last migrants south. But this year, by late January, at least some of the loons lingering on Winnepesaukee were already in the midst of their annual remigial molt, when old flight feathers drop out and are replaced. This molt leaves loons flightless for several weeks, and usually occurs on the ocean wintering grounds. On Winnepesaukee the molting loons were stranded, and had no way to leave as the ice closed in. All of the dead loons examined at LPC showed flight feathers that were partly missing, or only partly grown in. Because loons are such heavy birds, with high wing loading, the loss of even a few flight feathers can prevent them from taking to the air.

More is needed to explain the five loons that were discovered alive and released. These loons could not have survived on the solid ice of the Broads during the weeks between the freeze-up and their discovery in mid-February. Apparently, they were

later arrivals, not yet molting, and must have been lured into landing near the original group, perhaps mistaking the clear black ice created by January's rapid freeze as open water. The big Nor'easter on Valentine's Day, and high winds in the couple of days following, may have blown this second group in from the coast, or overland from other open lakes or rivers, perhaps necessitating a forced landing on Winnepesaukee. Maine loon rescuer/rehabilitator Kappy Sprenger reported receiving an injured loon blown inland during the same period, and Vermont Fish and Game staff reported loons on Lake Champlain also threatened by encroaching ice during February's continued cold, suggesting some possible sources for the decoyed loons.

Unfortunately, the frozen carcasses of the original group were a convincing decoy for the later arrivals. Loons usually arrive on the lakes in the spring immediately after ice-out to begin defending breeding territories. It seems possible that by attempting to over-winter on the lake, or to join other loons on what appeared to be open water, the stranded loons may have been looking for an early advantage in the annual competition for available breeding territories and mates. Loons in either group may also have encountered open water on the Winnepesaukee Broads last winter or in other warm years, and been inclined to look there again for a landing spot. New Hampshire Fish and Game biologist John Viar provided useful information on ice-in dates, and loon expert Dave Evers formulated the logic of the decoy-phenomenon behind this chronology.

Population impact

Does the stranding mean that Winnepesaukee, where the breeding population numbers around 40–50 loons, lost a third of its breeding loons in a single event? Probably not. Because loons tend to raft together on bigger lakes as they migrate in the fall, the stranded loons had probably gathered on the Broads from several lakes and perhaps more distant populations, spreading the impact of their loss. None of the loons were banded, so their origin is uncertain, but analysis of bill, tarsus (leg), and wing measurements may help trace their location by placing them on the size continuum from the bigger loons of the New Hampshire and Maine populations to the smaller birds of more inland populations.

Recent work comparing population viability analyses for many species has shown that the length of the monitoring period used to estimate viability affects the estimate. In short, the longer a species is monitored, the more likely we are to see rare catastrophes, and the more conservative our estimates become. February's stranding proves this point, and encourages our protection efforts and conservation planning to expect the unexpected.

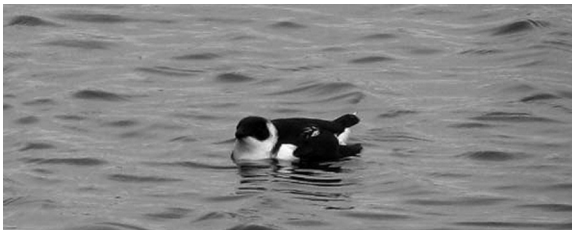
John Cooley, Jr. is staff biologist at the Loon Preservation Committee and lives in Center Sandwich, NH. The Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) works to restore and maintain a healthy population of loons throughout New Hampshire, and to promote a greater understanding of loons and the natural world through 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).

Photo Gallery

Dovekie, A Christmas Treat

What better Christmas present for birders than a chance to see a rare winter visitor to New Hampshire! While out checking the coast on Christmas day, James Smith and JoAnn O'Shaughnessy came upon a Dovekie north of Foxhill Point in the bay on the North Hampton/Rye townline. Word spread about this Christmas treasure and Len Medlock dropped his pumpkin pie and hurried off to get a look. By now several people had gathered to photograph this auk when to everyone's surprise they saw their Christmas gift being chased underwater by a Common Loon. A good day was had by all as the Dovekie emerged unscathed and remained in the area until December 29.

All photos by James P. Smith, 12/25/06, North Hampton at Rye town line, NH.



A History of New Hampshire's Published Bird Sightings

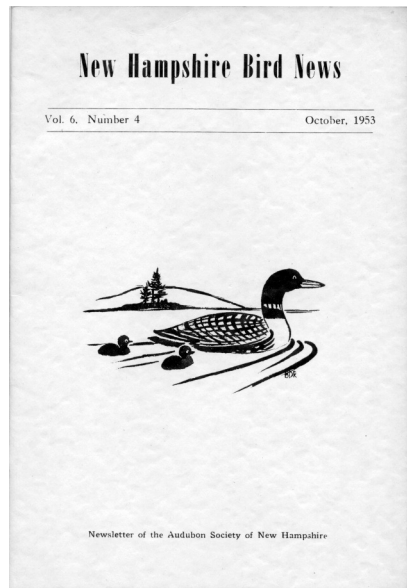
by Jim Berry and Rebecca Suomala

New Hampshire has a rich ornithological history. There are many facets to this history that we hope to present in future articles, but in honor of the 25th anniversary of *New Hampshire Bird Records*, we begin with a history of the published record of New Hampshire bird sightings.

That published record goes back a long way, and has taken one of two major tracks, one regional and the other in-state. For a period of over thirty years, from late 1936 through 1968, various observers from all six New England states submitted their observations to compilers in Boston, who published a monthly newsletter on bird sightings from around the region. The first iteration was the *Bulletin of New England Bird Life*, published by the New England Museum of Natural History, the forerunner of the Boston Museum of Science. That publication lasted through 1944, after which the newsletter was taken over by the Massachusetts Audubon Society and called *Records of New England Birds*. After 1968, Mass Audubon ceased publishing bird records, leaving a void in several New England states that would eventually be filled by newly established journals or newsletters in the affected states.

That void was never a problem in New Hampshire, where continuous publication of bird records had been going on since 1921, longer than in any other New England state. From the beginning, the driving force behind this effort has been the Audubon Society of New Hampshire (ASNH), whose publications, beginning with the *ASNH Bulletin* in 1921, have always included seasonal bird records in one form or another. The vehicle changed format several times over the years; in 1951 bird records moved from the *ASNH Bulletin* to *New Hampshire Bird News* (1951–60). This was a critical period, when three people—Vera Hebert, Tudor Richards, and Robert Smart—did the majority of the compiling and made the state's records much more systematic. Tudor Richards was Executive Director of New Hampshire Audubon and one of the first people to travel the state looking for birds. Robert Smart was “the most active and expert bird observer in New Hampshire for many years” (*New Hampshire Audubon* 15:3, Mar–Apr 1979) and President of New Hampshire Audubon for four years.

Vera Hebert was especially committed to systematic record-keeping. She was instrumental in the creation of the 3x5 reporting slips in



the early 1960s. These slips could be filed by species, making it far easier to find and track reports—a challenge before the records were computerized in 1985. These slips are still on file at New Hampshire Audubon and available to anyone interested in checking historical reports. A variation of that original slip design is still used today by some reporters. Vera was the summer season editor and also the overall records editor for 23 years, keeping the publication timely and encouraging documentation of rarities.

In 1961 the records moved to the *New Hampshire Audubon Quarterly* and stayed there through 1976. During that time it was, according to Bob Quinn, “one of the premier publications in all of New England.” In 1977 the Quarterly became bimonthly and was renamed *New Hampshire Audubon*; the bird sightings remained in that publication for over five years. Kimball Elkins was a key volunteer during several important transitions. He was the fall season editor and also an editor of *Records of New England Birds*. In 1978, the summer editor position passed from Vera Hebert to Bob Quinn.

In 1982 the records were split off and have been published ever since in the separate quarterly journal you are now reading, *New Hampshire Bird Records (NHBR)*. *NHBR* was first edited by Robert A. Quinn during what was a challenging transition time as the new publication got off the ground. When Diane De Luca joined New Hampshire Audubon she took over the editorship in the Fall 1987 issue, followed by Rebecca Suomala in 1989 (see also “25 Years of *New Hampshire Bird Records*” in the Fall 2006 issue). *NHBR* uses a seasonal format, with an editor for each season’s records. It also contains feature articles on various aspects of New Hampshire field ornithology, as did its predecessor publications. Records are computerized at New Hampshire Audubon and provide a searchable database of bird reports for the state.

Many names feature prominently in the history of published bird records in New Hampshire. We recognize a few here, although there are many and we are sure to miss some. All of the following have been significant contributors to New Hampshire’s record of published bird sightings through their activities as long-term season editors and active reporters: Dennis Abbott, H. Cook Anderson, Bob Bradley, Alan Delorey, Diane De Luca, Kimball Elkins, Susan and Wavell Fogleman, Lynn Harper, Vera Hebert, Pamela Hunt, Roger Lawrence, Stephen Mirick, Helen Parker, Elisabeth and Leon Phinney, Robert Quinn, Tudor Richards, Andrea and George Robbins, Roger Stephenson, and Robert Smart. These birders, and many others, have sustained and contributed to a tradition that provides a lasting record of bird sightings both past and present.

If you would like to contribute to this tradition and become a reporter, subscriber, volunteer or supporter of *New Hampshire Bird Records*, please contact the managing editor, or visit the Web site, www.nhbirdrecords.org.

Jim Berry, a long-time New Hampshire Audubon member and resident of Ipswich, Massachusetts, is working on a book about the birds of Essex County to update Charles Wendell Townsend’s The Birds of Essex County, Massachusetts of 1905. His research into the historical records sparked his interest in the history of New England ornithology. This article is adapted from Jim’s “An Outline of Published Bird Records in New England” (Bird Observer 30:6, December 2002). Bob Fox, Allan Keith, Steve Mirick, Bob Quinn, and Tudor Richards all made helpful suggestions on drafts of the earlier article with regard to published records in New Hampshire, and are given credit here as well.

Spotlight on Spruce Grouse (*Dendragapus canadensis*)

by Mark Suomala



Spruce Grouse by Mark Suomala, Mt. Starr King, NH.

Background

The Spruce Grouse is an elusive but tame member of the forest grouse family. In New Hampshire, it is a year-round resident that is able to survive the winter months by shifting its spring and summer diet of spruce and fir, berries, seeds, fruits, and insects (especially grasshoppers) to only spruce and fir buds and needles during the fall and winter seasons. This diet shift is accompanied by a seasonal increase in the size of the gastrointestinal tract to enable processing of the additional coniferous foliage.

Breeding Status

The Spruce Grouse breeds in the boreal forests of Canada and the northern United States. In New Hampshire, it breeds in dense coniferous forests in northern New Hampshire from the White Mountains to the Canadian border. While most individuals do not migrate, some have been documented to move short distances (less than 10 miles) on foot between summer and winter territories.

Occurrences in New Hampshire

Spruce Grouse sightings are reported every year. Many of the sightings are by hikers in the White Mountains or recreational birders walking forest roads in Pittsburg. According to the *Atlas of Breeding Birds in New Hampshire*, "Individual birds use home ranges averaging less than 10 acres (24 hectares)." As such, repeated sightings

from the same general areas can occur from year to year. In the White Mountains, Spruce Grouse are most often found near mountain ridges and peaks.

The *New Hampshire Bird Records* data from 1985 to 2006 contains 165 separate reports with a total of 281 Spruce Grouse sightings, of which 191 were adults and 90 were chicks. The reports came from more than 60 different locations, with over 50 of those sites scattered throughout the White Mountain National Forest. Most reports are from June and August; there are fewer reports from May and July, and only a scant number from other months. The Pittsburg, North Conway, and Sandwich Christmas Bird Counts have recorded single birds on rare occasions.

The single location that had the highest number of reports (19) is the East Inlet Road area in Pittsburg, with a total of 22 adults and 35 chicks. The chicks were always seen with adults and never alone. The location with the second highest number of reports (16) is the Mountain Pond Road and Eames Road area in Errol, with 16 adults and 13 chicks recorded. The Errol sightings are generally from less easily accessed areas than in Pittsburg, and field researchers made many of the reports. In the White Mountains, two locations stood out as having the most reports during the review period: the Caps Ridge Trail that starts in Jefferson Notch and ascends Mount Jefferson had 8 reports of single adult birds, and the summit of Wildcat Mountain in Pinkham Notch had 7 reports of single adult birds. Another area with multiple reports is more spread out, located on the east side of Crawford Notch; it includes the Webster Cliff Trail (6 reports), nearby Mount Jackson (3 reports) and Mount Pierce (2 reports), and the Mispah Cut-off Trail (4 reports). Other locations of note were Mount Tecumseh (5 reports); Mount Osceola (4 reports); Mount Hale (5 reports); and the ridgeline between Mount Starr King and Mount Waumbek (4 reports).

Comments

According to Bent (1932), "These birds are killed for food all through the fall and winter by hunters of large and small game, by lumbermen, and by trappers and others. They are so easily killed that they are disappearing very rapidly, and are now very scarce in northern New England in any but the most inaccessible regions." Given this quote, it seems probable that Spruce Grouse was once much more abundant, especially when coniferous forests were more extensive and before the grouse were heavily hunted. The Spruce Grouse earned the nickname "fool hen" because its tameness allowed it to be easily approached and killed. Spruce Grouse is no longer hunted in New Hampshire, and so is no longer being impacted by that activity. However, the lowland spruce-fir forests that were logged, generally below 2,500 feet, have grown back as hardwoods and, for the most part, no longer contain suitable habitat for Spruce Grouse. According to Wright (1911), "Canada Spruce Partridge" was "an uncommon resident on the Presidential Range and formerly in heavily timbered lands in the valley bottom." One could speculate that if the forest were allowed to proceed through normal forest succession stages, the lowland coniferous forests could eventually grow back, replacing the hardwoods, and the Spruce Grouse might once again become more numerous there.

Spruce Grouse may be more common than we know, but because its habitat is often so difficult to explore, reports are mainly from areas that birders can readily get to, and many of these areas are usually only searched from late spring through early fall

because to their remoteness and the potential for severe, or even life-threatening, weather conditions.

Searching for Spruce Grouse can be a very frustrating experience at times, as the bird blends into its surroundings, usually does not flush when approached, and may remain motionless when an observer is near it. Once you have located a Spruce Grouse, remember the general location; you may often find a bird in the vicinity in subsequent visits, and sometimes even in consecutive years.

Each of the three main locations listed—Pittsburg, Errol, and the White Mountains—presents its own challenges. Pittsburg probably has the most sightings because, other than the long drive to get there, its terrain is the easiest to traverse, with several dirt roads located right in the middle of prime Spruce Grouse habitat and generally level walking conditions. The Errol sites, while also generally level, are more difficult to access because most are a good distance from a drivable road and require bushwhacking (off-trail walking). Most of the White Mountain sites require hiking for several miles on rough, uneven trails that are often steep. The Caps Ridge (Mount Jefferson) and Wildcat Mountain trails may have a higher number of sightings because the trails can be hiked in one day, and there is a good view from the top of both mountains. Wildcat's trails can be accessed from the gondola, and that may be one of the reasons that there are more reports from there.

Additional sightings from the White Mountain National Forest and the Nash Stream State Forest that are not included in the *New Hampshire Bird Records* database were not reviewed for this article.

Mark Suomala has lived in New Hampshire since 1965 and has hiked and birded extensively throughout the state. He worked on the White Mountain National Forest Wildlife Monitoring Program as a Field Technician (paid birder) for 3 years and saw many Spruce Grouse during that time. He runs his own bird guiding and tour business: <http://www.marksbirdtours.com>.

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Data Sources

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Backyard Birder

Snowflake-catching Bohemian Waxwings

by David Mills

The winter of 2003–04 saw an invasion of Bohemian Waxwings in record numbers. In March, Iain MacLeod remarked on the NH.Birds listserv about an unusual behavior he observed in a flock of a hundred or so Bohemian Waxwings in the tree tops. The birds were, to use his words, “hawking for snowflakes” just as a snowstorm was beginning. He noted that this behavior was similar to fly catching by Cedar Waxwings in the summer when a bird would jump from a branch several feet into the air, catch something, and then return to its perch. But all he could see in the area during this occasion were snowflakes. A couple of other messages to the listserv followed with observations of more snowflake catching by both Bohemian and Cedar Waxwings. These observations sparked my interest and I decided to do some research on this fascinating behavior.

Both Bohemian Waxwings (*Bombycilla garrulus*) and Cedar Waxwings (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) are very social birds that feed and fly in close proximity. They eat fruits in very large quantities. In fact, berries from trees and shrubs make up about 80 to 90% of the diet of these birds and they can even subsist exclusively on a fruit diet for up to 10–18 days at a time. If necessary, they will also eat available insects to gain additional nutrition.

Observations of Cedar Waxwings catching snowflakes have been made as early as 1866 by Mr. Brewster in Watertown, MA (Forbush 1929). More recently, Cedar Waxwings have been photographed catching snowflakes during a heavy snowstorm (Mead). Bohemian Waxwing’s eating snow and fly catching snowflakes was also reported in England (Jacobs). This reference also notes that, according to *The Birds of the Western Palearctic: Vol V*, waxwings consume large quantities of water or snow between meals and have been observed flycatching snowflakes. Bohemian Waxwings perched in the tops of trees have been observed to occasionally fly down to ground level to drink water or eat snow then fly back to resume eating more berries. They are even known to drink tree sap.

One might suspect that eating berries would not generate thirst in these birds, as fruit is mostly water. However, Randy Laugh of the Department of Biology at Saint Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia, Canada, has suggested that while berries are mostly water when fresh, when they are left on trees and bushes during the cold temperatures of winter they become dried out. The result is similar to leaving unwrapped food in one’s freezer. The food sublimates or dries out. He does not claim that this is necessarily the case, but thinks it is a plausible explanation (Bird Chat



Bohemian Waxwing
by E.J. Sawyer

Archives December 1995 Week 1) . It does seem to fit with the birds' need for water and their observed efforts to catch snowflakes and eat snow. In *The Birds of North America* (Witmer 2002), the author suggests that the chemical makeup of desiccated fruits creates a need for more water because of the osmotic imbalance between the hydrated bird and the dried out berries.

As water is generally available in frozen form during the winter, the birds will hydrate themselves by eating snow from the ground. When there is no snow or it is firmly packed down, it seems likely that the birds will eat the falling snowflakes to obtain the necessary water. They catch the snowflakes using the same technique that they use for catching flying insects, sallying forth from a perch to snatch a flake from the air, hence the reports of "hawking" for snowflakes.

David Mills, a resident of Concord, New Hampshire, is an avid hiker with an environmental studies degree.

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Winter Birding at Pickering Ponds

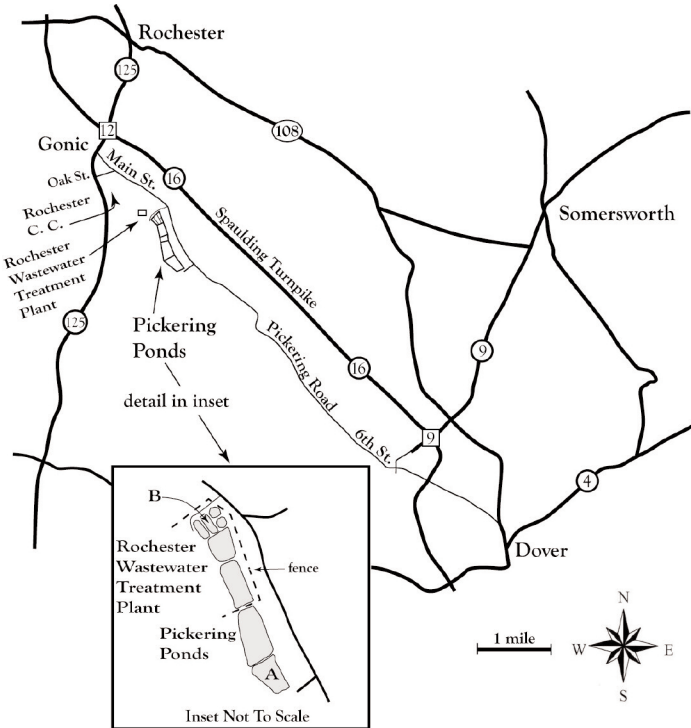
by Dan Hubbard

Winter birding is not a recreational pursuit for the faint of heart (unless one travels to a tropical clime). Biting winds and sub-freezing temperatures are not conducive to careful study of avian characteristics. However, sometimes the rewards are worth the adversity.

A birding destination that has proven to be very productive for winter birding is the Pickering Ponds trails/wastewater treatment plant site in Rochester, New Hampshire. Wastewater treatment plants are used extensively by migrating shorebirds and wintering waterfowl. The nutrients in partially treated wastewater are the base of the food chain that ultimately attracts birds. The various organisms available at different levels of the food chain and various microhabitats created by the treatment process attract a wide variety of species at various times of year.

The Pickering Ponds area is a public trail system that includes over two miles of trails that encircle two old settling ponds and also follow the banks of the Cocheco River. The ponds provide habitat for gulls and waterfowl and the Cocheco River sections provide riparian habitat as well as wet habitat with alder, willows, and cattail marshes. When snow covered, the trails are used for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

The combination of the various trail habitats, the wastewater treatment plant, and a large landfill nearby makes this area unique. It is probably most noted for the thousands of gulls



that visit. The gulls are found either swirling above the landfill, in the first Pickering Pond from the parking lot (see pond A on accompanying map), or at the treatment plant. Most of these are Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls with fewer numbers of Ring-billed Gulls. Iceland (15 counted January 10, 2007), Glaucous, and Lesser Black-backed Gulls are fairly routine during the winter months. A first year Black-headed Gull was present during the winter of 2006–07. The highlight of that winter was the discovery of two Slaty-backed Gulls. A Slaty-backed Gull present during December 2003 was a first record for New Hampshire and New England. A Thayer's Gull observed December 28, 2005, is also a New Hampshire first. Franklin's Gull (4th state record) and Laughing Gull (rare inland record) have also made appearances.

Ducks and geese are also common visitors as they travel south each winter seeking open water. Hundreds of Mallards and American Black Ducks take advantage of the sewage pond (see B on the accompanying map) that stays unfrozen all winter at the treatment plant. Canada Goose, Snow Goose, Gadwall, Ring-necked Duck, Northern Pintail, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon, Common Goldeneye, and Green-winged Teal have all been noted during the winter months. Rare inland records of Common and King Eider and Barrow's Goldeneye have been reported. Additional waterfowl species observed during the late fall and/or early spring are American Coot, Wood Duck, Hooded Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Bufflehead, Blue-winged Teal, Pied-billed Grebe and Mute Swan. On October 28, 2003, 323 Green-winged Teal were counted, which may be a record high for the state. Not a sighting for this season, but nonetheless notable, was the first New Hampshire record of Eared Grebe, initially found here on September 14, 1998.

Because of the abundant prey available, raptors can be prevalent. Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon as well as Cooper's, Sharp-shinned and Red-tailed Hawk have been observed during winter months. The several Bald Eagles that routinely spooked the gulls and ducks at the treatment plant were an annoyance to those seeking the Slaty-backed Gull.

Occasionally, a Ruffed Grouse will startle a birder along the river trails. Some passerines that have been observed during the winter months include (among other usuals) Snow Bunting, Horned Lark, Golden-crowned Kinglet, American Tree Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, and Common Raven. American Robin and Eastern Bluebird sometimes overwinter here.

The Pickering Ponds trails and Rochester wastewater treatment plant can provide some exciting and (unless you are a gull expert) challenging winter birding. However, because of the diverse habitats every season is productive. I have personally recorded 166 species here (as of May 21, 2007) and generally add to my list every year. I am sure that Steve Mirick, to whom I owe gratitude for providing historical data for this article, could add substantially to the total number of species observed.

To get to the trails from the south, take exit 9 off the Spaulding Turnpike in Dover. Turn left at the end of the exit ramp, and then left again back over the turnpike. The road ends at a traffic light opposite a Liberty Mutual building. Turn right onto 6th Street and follow it north; the name changes to Pickering Road in Rochester. At 4.2 miles (opposite 374 Pickering Road), a paved access road on the left leads a short distance to the gravel parking lot and the trailheads. Go through a fence gate at the end of the access road to get to the trails around and between the ponds. You can access the river trails at three places on the far side of the ponds. The treatment plant is about a mile beyond the trail access road on the left.

From the north, you can reach the sites from Rt. 125. From exit 12 off the Spaulding Turnpike, proceed south on Rt. 125 to the first traffic light. At the traffic light, turn left onto

Main Street in Gonic (part of Rochester) at the fire station. Follow Main Street (which becomes Pickering Road) for about a mile; the treatment plant will be on the right. From the south on Rt. 125, take a right onto Oak Street at the Rochester Country Club. This will shortly lead to Main Street, where you should turn right. Proceed for less than a mile to the treatment plant on the right or a mile farther on the right for the trails.

The treatment plant is only open on weekdays from 7:30–3:00 and visitors must check in at the office. Please leave the plant by 2:45 so that plant personnel are not inconvenienced when closing. Do not drive on the dikes and do not block the road. The Pickering Ponds trails are not gated and are always open during daylight hours.

Dan Hubbard has been birding for over 20 years, but with greater intensity since retiring from the NH Public Health Laboratories in January 2005. Dan holds degrees in biology and zoology from Northeastern University and the University of New Hampshire, respectively. A member of the Executive Board and Program Planning Co-Chair for Seacoast Audubon, Dan also volunteers for several environmental organizations: NH Audubon (Whip-poor-will & marshbird surveys), NH Fish & Game (Piping Plover monitoring), Great Bay Discovery Center (Osprey nest monitoring), and the Cocheco River Watershed Coalition (water testing and biomonitoring). He leads a beginners' birdwalk at Pickering Ponds every May.

Research



Effects of Wind Power Installations on Birds

by Stephen R. Hale

Recent spikes in the costs of oil and gasoline, the war in Iraq, and growing awareness of the impacts of global climate change have forced discussions at the local and national levels of alternative fuel use. Prominent in these discussions has been the large-scale development of wind turbine facilities. Wind energy is the fastest growing source of energy in the United States. In the period from 1981 to 2004, U.S. production of electricity by wind power escalated from 10 MW (megawatts) to over 6,000 MW (Winegrad 2004). Moreover, many states have recently set lofty goals supported by strict timelines to meet explicit targets for the amount of energy coming from renewable resources (including hydro-power). Therefore, the coming decades promise a landscape peppered with wind farms.

But, what are the environmental impacts of wind farms? Do wind farms solve some environmental problems, but create other problems? Do wind farms affect bird populations? First intuition suggests that the height and spread of the tower platforms and turbine blades, respectively, would pose equal or greater danger to birds than the already documented hazards posed by collisions with radio and cell phone towers,

which have been estimated to kill 4–10 million bird each year. Currently, the estimated annual total number of birds killed by collisions with wind turbines (tower plus blades) is far less (on the order of 10,000 birds per year, based on an average of 2.2 fatalities per turbine per year) than for communication towers and even other sources of bird mortality (Table 1, Curry & Kerlinger 2006, Winegrad 2004). However, the number of turbines is expected to steeply accelerate over the coming decade, and steps will have to be taken to lessen the impact on birds.

Studies on both older and modern turbines have revealed specific factors in turbine placement and design that can be modified to avert collisions with birds. These studies suggest that wind-turbines may not pose the same dangers as communication towers. Furthermore, there is evidence that some species are more prone to collisions with wind-turbines than others. Presently, most evidence and research has been conducted on the large wind farms of the west (especially the Altamont Pass Wind Resource Area in California), where grassland birds and raptors have proven susceptible to collision (Thelander 2004).

Based on existing research, the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) has authored a wind energy policy that adopts several guidelines in relation to the siting and design of wind farms (American Bird Conservancy 2006). All new wind farm projects should have a risk assessment with respect to bird and bat abundance, migration timing and abundance, and habitat usage. Wind farm projects should be, whenever possible, sited in poor bird habitat areas, such as heavily disturbed lands or lands with intensive agriculture. Moreover, wind farms should not be constructed in areas having known landscape features that attract birds. Additionally, the densities of threatened or endangered species should be taken into consideration.

Research on a variety of tower types has revealed that guy wires are a big problem for birds with wingspans greater than one foot. For this reason, the ABC recommends all turbine platforms and towers be supported by a single solid column rather than guy wires or a lattice of supporting beams. The design of a lattice of supporting beams, which can be attractive as a perch or overnight roost, should be avoided so that birds are not drawn into the area of rotating blades. Also, the turbines should have minimal lighting, and any lighting should consist of pulsing strobes, not continuous lighting. Lastly, the ABC recommends that transmission wires leaving the wind farm site be buried underground to avoid using poles and wires that may attract birds into the area.

Far less is known about wind farm development in New Hampshire and the north-east. However, two wind farms are planned to be up and running in 2007–2008. The Lempster Wind Power Project will run twenty wind-turbines and supply the electricity needs for 10,000 homes. In Berlin, NH, the Jericho Mountain Wind Project has a four-turbine wind project under development. These small-scale, community-level wind projects can serve as good initial sources of information on how birds respond to these new features of the landscape.

Birders living near these projects may be able to monitor these turbines for impacts on birds. For example, during the fall raptor migration, continuous observation can reveal if the raptors fly near these sites, if near misses occur, or if actual collisions occur. Some of these projects may be constructed with easements on public lands. Therefore, it may be possible to get permission to perform ground inspections during periods of turbine maintenance.

Wind-power represents a clean energy source that can hopefully be developed in an environmentally friendly way. At present wind power projects are an exceedingly small fraction of our total energy production. However, if these projects grow in distribution, number, and size, they could usher in an exceptionally large and new disturbance on an already stressed landscape for birds. It is vitally important that we gather research on the various types of wind power placements and designs and the specific impacts on birds and other wildlife species so that we can feel good about the benefits that wind power provides.

Table 1. Estimated numbers of bird deaths attributed to various human factors. Data compiled from various sources by Curry & Kerlinger, LLC a consulting firm that researches and assists in the planning of wind power facilities (Curry & Kerlinger 2006). Many readers may recognize the name Kerlinger (Paul), a recognized expert in bird and raptor migration.

Source of Bird Deaths	Number per Year
Glass Windows	100–900 million
Hunting	100 million
House Cats	100 million
Automobiles	50–100 million
Transmission Line Collisions	50–100 million
Agriculture (Pesticides and Mowing)	67 million
Communication Towers	4–10 million

Source: www.currykerlinger.com.birds/htm

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Answer to the Photo Quiz

by David B. Donsker

With its relatively short neck, black upperparts, and gleaming white underparts, this bird is easily identified as one of the alcids, a member of the family that includes the auks, murres, guillemots, and puffins. As is often the case in the field, the challenge comes in determining to which of these rather similarly patterned and nearly identically colored species this individual belongs.

Alcids are all small- to medium-sized, plump-bodied seabirds. Most have legs that are set very far back, which gives them a “penguin-like” shape. This is particularly evident when they are on land, where they assume a vertical posture. This penguin-like image is enhanced by their generally black-and-white plumage. On the water, they tend to be very buoyant, floating like corks on top of the surface. However, when they are actively feeding, they dive frequently and remain submerged for what seems like forever, often popping up scores of yards away from their original positions. Getting good glimpses of these birds under these circumstances adds to the challenge. While feeding they swim low in the water with their necks often retracted and their tails frequently elevated. They dive with partially opened wings, which allow them to “fly” underwater. When actually flying, typically low over the water, they exhibit rapid, almost whirring wing beats, relatively narrow, pointed wings, and plump, torpedo-shaped bodies.

All of the features characteristic of the alcids are seen in the bird in our image. It has nearly uniform black upperparts and white underparts. The only white on the upperparts is a thin white bar on the trailing edge of the secondaries, or inner wing feathers. Its tail is rather acutely pointed and slightly elevated. Note specifically that in this individual there is a strong, but slightly blurry diagonal dark line extending backward from behind the eye. This line separates the broad white crescent on the side of the head from the white throat and foreneck. The bill is stout and rather thick, or deep, in the vertical axis. The bill is prominently rounded at the tip.

The five species of the auk family that can be expected in New Hampshire waters are Atlantic Puffin, Black Guillemot, Razorbill, and the two species of murre, Common and Thick-billed. All of our alcid species have both breeding and non-breeding plumages as well as immature plumages that need to be considered when evaluating an individual bird. The breeding plumage is usually the most distinctive in each of these species. With the exception of the puffin, all alcids in breeding plumage have fully black heads and throats. The puffin in breeding plumage is well known, with a clownish white face, black collar and massive, triangular, brightly colored bill. The bill is less brightly colored in winter and less massive in juvenile birds. But even in these plumages, the bill is bulky and generally triangular. The sides of the head, gray in these birds, still contrasts with the black crown, neck and collar, forming a distinctive large face patch.

Atlantic Puffin can be eliminated rather quickly. Even though the bill on this bird is rather stout, it is not as triangular or as huge as would be seen in the puffin at any age. Other, more subtle features that eliminate puffin include the diagonal dark line extend-

ing behind the eye (Atlantic Puffin has a short, horizontal, thin dark line behind the eye that is virtually undetectable in the field) and the white secondary bar, a feature that is completely absent in Atlantic Puffin.

Since it lacks a fully black head, our mystery bird must be another species of alcid in winter plumage. Black Guillemot can be easily dismissed as both the winter adults and immature birds are much paler overall and have largely whitish heads and necks. They also retain a large white wing patch rather than a thin secondary bar.

The Dovekie share some features with this bird including the white secondary bar and the white crescent on the side of the head. But the diminutive Dovekie has a very short, stubby bill that is quite unlike the long, stout bill of this much larger bird.

That leaves our three larger alcids: Thick-billed and Common Murres and Razorbill. These are superficially very similar birds with many overlapping field marks. All three of these species are approximately the same size and have the typical alcid black-over-white plumage pattern. All three have distinctive white secondary bars, and all have relatively long bills. At a distance, and particularly while flying, these three species are often difficult to separate. Many simply have to be let go as "large alcid species." However, when bobbing on the surface of the ocean and seen closely or with good optics, they can be separated from each other with reasonable confidence.

Of the three, Thick-billed Murre looks the least like our featured species. As its English name implies, the bill of this species is relatively thick. But it is not nearly as stout, nor as rounded at the tip, as that of the bird in the photograph. More easily distinguished is that in Thick-billed Murre, the black of the crown extends down well below the eye. It never shows the broad white crescent or the diagonal dark stripe behind the eye that are so clearly evident in the bird in the photograph. Beware of young Razorbills, however. They have much more extensive dark crowns and smaller bills than adult birds and can resemble Thick-billed Murre. But in Razorbill there is always a patch of white behind the eye, even if limited. This patch is not seen in Thick-billed Murre.

Common Murre and Razorbill both share a similar facial pattern in winter plumage. In both species there is a broad white crescent or patch on the side of the head behind the eye. Both species have a dark line that extends diagonally behind the eye, although it is typically better defined and thinner in Common Murre than it is in Razorbill. This posterior eye line can be a very confusing field mark. It is consistently evident in Common Murre, but it can be variably well-defined in Razorbill. Although it is shown well in the Razorbill illustration in *The Sibley Guide to Birds*, it is not well illustrated in most of the other major North American field guides.

However, there are several features that can help to clearly distinguish these two species from one another. The chief distinguishing feature is the structure of the bill. The bill in Common Murre is straight and relatively thin with a pointed tip. It is quite unlike the stout, deep bill of Razorbill with its prominently rounded tip. Further, at close range, Razorbill has a vertical white line near the tip of the bill that is absent in Common Murre. (Beware, however, as young Razorbills may lack this feature.) In Razorbill, the tail is relatively long, sharply pointed, and frequently raised. Common Murre, in contrast, has a shorter, blunter tail. If the bird is seen well, another point of separation can be seen on the flanks. Razorbill shares pure white flanks with Thick-billed Murre; Common Murre, on the other hand, frequently has faint dark streaks

along its flanks. When seen, this is an excellent field mark. However, the streaked flanks of Common Murre may be concealed by the folded wing and they are weak or absent in many immature birds and in some adults, so be careful when using this feature. Finally, although it cannot be appreciated in this black-and-white photograph, the upperparts of Razorbill are jet black, while those of Common Murre are typically dark brown.

All of the features of adult Razorbill in winter plumage can be seen in this photograph: the stout, deep bill that is rounded at the tip, a diagonal dark stripe behind the eye, the broad white crescent or patch on the side of the head, the sharply pointed and upturned tail, and pure white flanks.

This Razorbill was photographed by Joshua Carloni at the mouth of Piscataqua River in New Castle opposite the Wood Island lighthouse on December 12, 2006.

Razorbill is an uncommon, though annual winter visitor to the New Hampshire seacoast. It breeds on coastal cliffs, offshore rocks, and islets from down east Maine and Atlantic Canada along the rim of the North Atlantic through western Greenland, Iceland, and Scandinavia to the northern and western coasts of the British Isles and northwestern France. In the winter, their range extends much farther down the Atlantic coast to the offshore waters of the Mid-Atlantic States and, rarely, even farther south. In New Hampshire, search for Razorbill from the many promontories that reach out into the ocean along our coast. The most accessible of these are Odiorne State Park, Pulpit Rock, Ragged Neck, Little Boar's Head, and the coves north and south of Greater Boar's Head. As it is not always an easy bird to find, spotting one of these desirable winter visitors on a calm, crisp December day can be the highlight of any field trip.



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Abbreviations Used

BBC	Brookline Bird Club	Rd.	Road
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey	Rt.	Route
CA	Conservation Area	SF	State Forest
CC	Country Club	St. Pk.	State Park
FT	Field Trip	SPNHF	Society for the Protection of NH Forests, Concord
L.	Lake	T&M	Thompson & Meserves (Purchase)
LPC	Loon Preservation Committee	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
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Two Second State Records!

by Kathie Palfy

This winter New Hampshire became host to two very rare visitors to the New England coast. The second state record of both an Eared Grebe and Slaty-backed Gull were reported. The Eared Grebe was discovered on November 30, 2006 off Seal Rocks in Rye, NH. Often seen diving several feet from shore, it lingered until at least February 4.



Eared Grebe by Scott Young, 1/04/07, Pulpit Rocks, Rye, NH.

On January 2, 2007 at the Rochester wastewater treatment plant the Slaty-backed Gull became the bird to see. A second, Slaty-backed Gull was reported from the same location on January 18. Neither gull was seen after January 22.



Slaty-backed Gull by Stephen R. Mirick, 1/10/07, Rochester, NH.



New Hampshire Audubon
3 Silk Farm Road
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