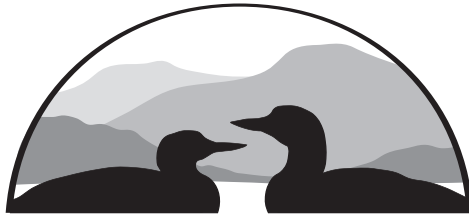


New Hampshire Bird Records



Winter 2007-08

Vol. 26, No. 4



New Hampshire Bird Records

Volume 26, Number 4

Winter 2007-08

- 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 Nickerson, Jeannine Ayer, Julie Chapin, Lynn
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- Photo Editor:* Jon Woolf
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Coordinator and Maps: William Taffe
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Cover Photos: *This winter's invasion of Pine Grosbeaks was impressive with greater numbers than many birders could remember. These photos reflect the varying plumages that occur. Full adult males are striking with their pink coloration. Females and immature males are nearly identical, although females are usually golden yellow while some males may have a stronger orange coloration. Photos taken by Pat Watts in Milton, NH – upper left 1/16/08, bottom 12/26/07; and Mark Suomala – right, 11/11/07 on Quincy Rd. in Rumney, NH.*

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

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IN MEMORY OF
Margaret (Peggy) Damon
(1916-2007)



The friends and family of Peggy Damon have sponsored this issue of New Hampshire Bird Records in her honor. Peggy's binoculars were always within reach and she was an enthusiastic contributor to this publication and New Hampshire Audubon bird conservation projects for many years.

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New Hampshire Bird Records Survey Results Summary

by Rebecca Suomala, Editor

Thank you to everyone who filled in the *New Hampshire Bird Records* survey that came with the Fall 2007 issue. Your responses are most helpful as we plan for the future of the publication. An impressive 25% percent of subscribers completed the survey and volunteer Terry Bronson compiled the results.

It was very clear that most of you (65%) prefer to receive *New Hampshire Bird Records (NHBR)* in printed format or both printed and electronic (14%), and 73% would be willing to pay an additional fee for a printed copy. The size of the issue was not important for most (60%). Thus we are planning to continue the printed publication, and appreciate the willingness of subscribers to support that. The renewal notice enclosed with this issue has details on subscription rates.

The Season Summaries were the most important feature of the publication, followed by Bird Monitoring features, Where to Bird articles, and the Species Spotlight. All other features were rated at a moderate interest level, but were clearly enjoyed by readers. Only 1.2% said the current price was too high, and 32% supported sacrificing articles to keep the cost down. Many individuals (22%) would contribute to an endowment fund for *NHBR* and we are exploring that option.

A majority of you (60%) report your sightings to *NHBR*, and 25% of you would not report if online submission was the only option. For a reporting system, 19% of you specifically preferred eBird, while 47% preferred an online Web site, 9% an Excel file, and 25% paper forms. We are exploring a partnership with eBird, but will do our best to continue to accept sightings reported using the latter two options. Note that reporting forms and an Excel template are available on the *NHBR* Web site, www.nhbirdrecords.org.

Thank you for your wide variety of comments on the various issues. The over-riding consensus was that you, our readers, like the journal and find it a valuable NH Audubon publication that the organization should continue to support. For more detailed survey results, please contact me at bsuomala@nhaudubon.org or 603-224-9909 x309.

Missing the Photo Quiz ?

It's a little different this issue, look on page 54.

Thank You

We are very grateful to the many generous donors who made contributions 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.

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Special thank you to those who donated in memory of Peg Damon. This issue is sponsored in her memory.

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December 1, 2007 through February 29, 2008



David Deifik

by David Deifik

New Hampshire birders were subjected to a very snowy winter. Record or near record amounts during December carried through with continued heavy snowfall for the rest of the season. It was a great season if you liked to bird on snowshoes! The average temperature in December was two degrees below normal, but was over three degrees above normal for January and about two degrees warmer than normal for February. One effect of the deep snow cover was to stress some of our raptors. There were numerous reports of road-killed, injured, or starving Barred Owls this winter.

According to Pam Hunt, New Hampshire Audubon Biologist and Regional Editor for *North American Birds*, many appeared to be young birds that biologists think originated in Canada. A crash in small mammal populations there may have led to an unusual irruption of Barred Owls into New England. The heavy snow and ice cover in New Hampshire made hunting difficult and many owls were likely attracted to roadsides where there was more exposed ground. MassWildlife and the Wildlife Clinic at Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine are collaborating on a study of the owls that died in the region this winter, but results are not yet available.

The season was marked by a relative paucity of mega rarities. Leading the list of such species was the reappearance of the **Eared Grebe**, now nicknamed Earl, marking the third record for the state. It first appeared this year during the fall season on November 17 and was recorded at least through January 19. January records of Gray Catbird and Pine Warbler are considered rare to very rare.

The big news for the season was the appearance of several irruptive species in relatively large numbers. The number of Northern Shrike records was almost an order of magnitude greater than the average for the last three years! Bohemian Waxwing was another species that was widespread, particularly from mid-state south. This is a remarkable turnaround for a species that had just a single bird recorded last winter! This year the Christmas Bird Count alone had over 1,300 Bohemian Waxwings. It has been ten years since we had a widespread incursion of this



Bohemian Waxwing by Jason Lambert, 2/3/08, Barnstead, NH.

species and this year produced more than twice the number of records of that prior 1997-1998 season. Three winter finches also had big irruption years. Pine Grosbeak was recorded in larger numbers than in any of the last 17 years, with quadruple the number of records of the next best season of 2001-2002. Finally the two redpoll species—Common and Hoary—had banner years, comparing favorably to the last big redpoll irruption of 2003-2004. Careful examination of the Common Redpoll flocks again turned up a number of the much rarer **Hoary Redpolls**, although there were about half the number of documented sightings as compared to that last irruption year.

Waterfowl

The growing cadre of avid observers in the southwest corner of the state has led to more intensive coverage of waterfowl movements on the Connecticut River and environs. Six Northern Pintails on Lake Wantastiquet in January marked one of the rarer waterfowl records for the season. Most winter reports are of one or two birds in the coastal region. Ring-necked Duck and both species of Scaup are also quite outstanding mid-winter records from Hinsdale. The Greater Scaup is particularly notable given its affinity for salt water bays. The report of 125 Hooded Mergansers substantially exceeds any single site record for the winter during the last eight years. As recently as five years ago there were only a third as many reports for Hoodies. A single King Eider was reported in early December from Hampton and spent a good deal of the season in this locale. Three Harlequin Ducks were reported from the coast this season. Ruddy Duck is considered rare after mid-December, so single birds from Stratham and Hinsdale are quite notable.



*Harlequin Ducks on granite block
by Benjamin Griffith, 12/9/08,
Rye Harbor, NH.*

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Snow Goose				
12/2	1	Rye	Eel Pond	T. Bronson
Snow Goose - Blue morph				
2/24	2	Greenland	Great Bay Discovery Center	S.& J. Mirick
Canada Goose				
12/5	120	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
12/11	3500		Great Bay	T. Bronson
Wood Duck				
12/15	1	Exeter	marsh at Linden Rd.	T. Bronson, N. Nelson, L. Medlock, J. Woolf
12/30	2	Hinsdale	Hinsdale waterfowl roost, Vernon Dam	C. Seifer
1/5	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Gadwall				
12/30	1	Rye	Foss Beach	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod
1/26	1	Greenland	Great Bay	S.& J. Mirick, D. Abbott, P. Lacourse
Eurasian Wigeon				
1/13	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S.& J. Mirick
2/12	1	Durham	Great Bay off Adams Point	T. Bronson
American Wigeon				
1/13	38	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S.& J. Mirick
American Black Duck				
1/7	200	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Hubbard
1/7	101	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	T. Bronson
2/16	125	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
Mallard				
12/9	435	Newmarket	town landing	T. Bronson
12/31	120	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
1/7	400	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Hubbard
1/13	400	Exeter	Wheelwright Creek	T. Bronson
1/28	150	Salem	Salem center	K. Folsom
2/23	294	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
Mallard/American Black Duck sp.				
1/12	146	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
Northern Shoveler				
1/7	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Young, D. Hubbard



Northern Pintail by Debbie Stahre, 12/8/07, Newmarket, NH.

Northern Pintail

12/9	1	Newmarket	town landing	T. Bronson
12/26	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Hubbard
1/7	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Young, D. Hubbard
1/10	6	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
1/25	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	B. Griffith, L. Medlock
1/26	1	Seabrook	Cross Beach Road	B. Griffith, J. O'Shaughnessy, L. Medlock, J. Hully, G. Tillman, G. Hawkins
1/26	2	Seabrook	Rt. 1A duck pond	S.& J. Mirick, D. Abbott, P. Lacourse
1/29	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
2/17	2	Seabrook	Rt. 1 duck pond	B. Griffith
2/23	5	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Canvasback				
1/26	2	Greenland	Meloon Road	B. Griffith, J. O'Shaughnessy, L. Medlock, J. Hully, G. Tillman, G. Hawkins
Ring-necked Duck				
12/5	5	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
12/29	1	Sanbornton	Lake Winnisquam	P. Hunt, L. Bunten, D. Crook
1/12	4	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
1/19	1	Laconia	Winnepesaukee R. above Eagar Is.	H. Anderson
1/20	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	T. Bronson, S. Spangenberg
Greater Scaup				
12/5	3	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
12/29	15	Sanbornton	Lake Winnisquam	P. Hunt, L. Bunten, D. Crook
1/13	200	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. & J. Mirick
2/12	800	Greenland	Great Bay	T. Bronson
2/23	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	Monadnock Chapter FT
Lesser Scaup				
12/5	1	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson
12/29	1	Meredith	Meredith Bay waterfront	I. MacLeod, M.,D. & J. Coskren
12/30	3	Hinsdale	Hinsdale waterfowl roost, Vernon Dam	C. Seifer
1/12	4	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
1/21	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	E. Masterson, C. Seifer
King Eider				
12/8	1	Hampton	North Side Park	B. Griffith, S. & J. Mirick, J. O'Shaughnessy
1/26	1	Hampton	North Side Park	S. & J. Mirick, D. Abbott, P. Lacourse
Harlequin Duck				
12/3	2	Rye	west of Rt. 1A in creek	S. Mirick
1/7	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	T. Bronson
Surf Scoter				
2/3	324		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
White-winged Scoter				
2/3	225		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
Black Scoter				
2/3	158		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
Long-tailed Duck				
12/29	1	Sanbornton	Lake Winnisquam	P. Hunt, L. Bunten, D. Crook
2/3	87		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
Bufflehead				
12/2	24	Rye	Rye Harbor	T. Bronson
12/15	1	Laconia	Lake Winnisquam, Bartlett Beach	H. Anderson
12/23	26	Portsmouth	Salter Point	S. Young
2/3	36		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Common Goldeneye				
12/9	50		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
12/10	17	Bristol	Newfound Lake	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
12/24	50	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
12/29	115	Sanbornton	Lake Winnisquam	P. Hunt, L. Bunten, D. Crook
12/30	10	Hinsdale	Hinsdale waterfowl roost, Vernon Dam	C. Seifer
1/19	128	Concord	below Sewalls Falls bridge	P. Hunt
1/29	138	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson, L. Tanino
2/12	150	Durham	Great Bay	T. Bronson
2/23	191	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	Monadnock Chapter FT
Barrow's Goldeneye				
12/8	1	Rye	Seal Rocks	B. Griffith, S. & J. Mirick
12/8	1	Rye	Great Boars Head	B. Griffith, S. & J. Mirick, et al.
12/29	1	Sanbornton	Lake Winnisquam	P. Hunt, L. Bunten, D. Crook
1/5	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
1/19	1	Concord	below Sewalls Falls bridge	P. Hunt
1/26	1	Rye	north end of Foss Beach	S. & J. Mirick, D. Abbott, P. Lacourse
1/27	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale waterfowl roost, Vernon Dam	A. Johnson
2/24	2	Hampton	Great Boars Head	S. & J. Mirick
Hooded Merganser				
12/2	2	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
12/5	3	Northwood	Bow Lake/Bennett Bridge	S. Young
12/5	40	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson
12/11	3	Durham	Great Bay at Adams Point WMA	T. Bronson
12/12	1	Hampton	Rt. 101 bridge over marsh	T. Bronson
12/15	1	Rye	creek at Concord Point	P. Hunt, et al.
12/24	10	Walpole	Connecticut River, Bellows Falls	C. Seifer
12/30	21	Hinsdale	Hinsdale waterfowl roost, Vernon Dam	C. Seifer
1/1			Barnet, VT CBC-CW-Monroe sightings	E. Emery, P. Powers, J. Cate
1/5	125	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
1/8	2	Errol	Androskoggin River at Cambridge town line	T. Bronson
1/13	1	Concord	Contoocook Island, Penacook	P. Hunt
1/19	23	Laconia	Lake Opechee at Messer St.	H. Anderson
1/19	1	Concord	above Sewalls Falls bridge	P. Hunt
1/21	1	Rye	Rye Harbor	E. Masterson, C. Seifer
1/24	2	Newmarket	Lamprey River	E. Masterson, D. Fallon
1/26	1	Portsmouth	Mill Pond	E. Masterson, D. Fallon, C. Seifer, L. Tanino, P. Brown
1/26	1	Rye	marsh s. of Rye Harbor	T. Bronson, S. Spangenberg, J. McCoy, M. Neuner
1/29	75	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson, L. Tanino
2/18	1	Rye	Rye marsh	S. & J. Mirick
2/23	52	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	Monadnock Chapter FT
Common Merganser				
12/5	11	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson
12/10	5	Bristol	Newfound Lake	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
12/10	3	Franklin	Pemigewasset River	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
12/13	3	Hampton Falls	Depot Rd.	S. Young
12/15	22	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	P. Brown, J. Tilden

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
12/24	8	Walpole	Connecticut River, Bellows Falls	C. Seifer
1/10	57	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
1/15	6	Greenland	Great Bay	T. Bronson
1/28	9	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	T. Bronson

Ruddy Duck

12/24	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
12/28	1	Stratham	Great Bay Discovery Center	P. Brown
12/30	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale waterfowl roost, Vernon Dam	C. Seifer
1/10	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson

Loons through Raptors

Although we had some excitement with late inland Common Loons last year, the single bird in Laconia from January 22–27 was a truly rare find. The **Eared Grebe**, continuing its appearance from the fall, was certainly the rarest bird during the season. Black-crowned Night-Heron is usually absent from our winter records (most recently seen in winter in January 1995), and so a Portsmouth record this January is quite remarkable.



Bald Eagle in flight above Rochester wastewater treatment plant by Scott Young, 1/29/08, Rochester, NH.

The Mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey was quite a success, with a record high 67 eagles (34 adults, 33 immature) seen during the two-week count period and 59 seen on count day, January 12. Our wintering Bald Eagles are for the most part distributed in five major areas. In descending order of population they are the Merrimack River, Great Bay/Coastal, Connecticut River, Lakes Region, and the Androscoggin River. See the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) summary for record numbers seen during the count. Although absent from inland locales this season, Rough-legged Hawk was seen with frequency in the coastal areas from at least seven sites, although it is likely that the reports included multiple sightings of the same birds and did not represent seven individuals. The report of two separate Golden Eagles, a sub-adult and an immature, in Second College Grant was a very rare find. Both were seen on the day of the Errol CBC, but only one was within the count circle. The immature took off from a carcass at a residence in Maine and flew into New Hampshire, but observers could not confirm that it was within the count circle. Later in the day, Phil Brown and his team spotted a sub-adult with different markings circling within the count circle, providing only the second record for any CBC in the state. It was not far from the Maine border and was also likely attracted by the carcass.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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Red-throated Loon

12/9	25		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
------	----	--	----------	----------------

Common Loon

12/10	1	Bristol	Newfound Lake	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
12/15	4	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	P. Brown, J. Tilden
1/22	1	Laconia	Opechee Bay, Lakeport	E. Regan, W. Arms
2/3	121		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick

Horned Grebe

12/10	1	Hebron	Newfound Lake	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
2/3	39		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick

Red-necked Grebe

12/8	1	Hebron	Newfound Lake	R. & M. Suomala
2/3	64		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
2/20	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Harbor	T. Bronson



Eared Grebe in winter plumage by Stephen R. Mirick, 11/17/07, off the Rye, NH coast.

Eared Grebe

12/3	1	Rye	Seal Rocks	S. Mirick
1/19	1	N. Hampton	Town Line Cove	B. Griffith

Northern Gannet

1/1	20	Hampton	North Side Park	B. Griffith
2/9	3	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	G. & A. Robbins
2/18	1	Rye	Ragged Neck	S. & J. Mirick

Great Cormorant

12/2	1	Hinsdale	Connecticut River	E. Masterson
12/8	50		NH coast	B. Griffith
12/8	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	B. Griffith

Great Blue Heron

12/9	1		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
12/12	1	Hampton	Glade Path	T. Bronson
12/13	1	Hampton Falls	Depot Rd.	S. Young
1/4	1	Portsmouth	Portsmouth Harbor	S. Mirick
1/13	1	Rye	Rye marsh	S. & J. Mirick
1/31	1	Hampton Falls	Depot Rd.	T. Bronson

Black-crowned Night-Heron

1/18	1	Portsmouth	Portsmouth Harbor	S. Mirick
1/26	1	Portsmouth	Portsmouth Harbor	S. & J. Mirick, D. Abbott, P. Lacourse

Turkey Vulture

12/11	1	Newmarket	Langs Lane	T. Bronson
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<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
12/17	1	E. Kingstou	South Rd.	D. Finch
12/19	1	Exeter	Washington St.	R. Aaronian
1/25	1	Manchester	Huse Road	B. Griffith, S. Mirick, D. Abbott, L. Medlock
1/25	1	Newmarket	Dame Road	B. Griffith, L. Medlock
2/17	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
2/19	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
2/19	1	Stratham	Rt. 33 e. of Lovell Rd.	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
2/20	1	Bow	Rt. 3A at Grappone Auto Dealerships	C. Martin
2/25	1	Stratham	Union Rd. powerline	T. Bronson
2/29	1	Windham	Londonderry Rd.	J. Romano

Northern Harrier

12/3	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
12/11	2	Rye	near Rye Harbor	I. MacLeod
12/30	3	Hampton	Hampton Marsh	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod
1/21	1	N. Hampton	Little River WS	P. Brown, J. Tilden, L. Tanino
2/17	1	Seabrook	Cross Beach Rd.	B. Griffith

Northern Goshawk

12/6	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
1/6	1	Fremont	Ingalls Lane	T. Bronson, N. Nelson
1/25	1	Meredith	Old Center Harbor Rd.	F. Tyrrell
2/6	1	Gilmanton	Durrell Mountain Rd.	N.& C. Mitchell
2/9	1	Berlin	Success Rd.	K. Dube, Seacoast Chapter FT
2/10	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	D.& K. Govatski

Red-shouldered Hawk

12/23	1	Salem	Lawrence Rd. residence	K. Folsom
12/26	1	Hudson	Daniel Webster Drive	C. Laffin
2/6	1	Merrimack	Beebe Lane maple swamp	T. Young



*Rough-legged Hawk by Stephen R. Mirick,
1/12/08, Island Path, Hampton, NH.*

Rough-legged Hawk

12/6	1	Rye	Awcomin Marsh	S. Mirick
12/6	1	Hampton	Route 95	S. Mirick
12/8	1	Portsmouth	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	B. Griffith
12/19	1	Newmarket	Oak Knoll Dr.	B. Griffith, M. Harvey
1/1	1	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	B. Griffith
1/12	1	Hampton	Island Path	I. MacLeod, H. Busch, D. Kemp

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Rough-legged Hawk—continued				
1/26	1	Newington	Sunset Farm	E. Masterson, D. Fallon, C. Seifer, L. Tanino, P. Brown
1/26	1	Seabrook	Cross Beach Road	B. Griffith, J. O'Shaughnessy, L. Medlock, J. Hully, G. Tillman, G. Hawkins
2/24	1	Newmarket	Ash Swamp Rd. & Rt. 152	T. Chase
Golden Eagle				
12/19	1	Second College Grant	Magalloway River valley	C. Martin, R. Quinn, S. McCumber, P. Brown, et al.
12/19	1	Second College Grant	w. of Pond Brook Rd. near Diamond Peaks & Maine border	P. Brown, J. Tilden, L. Tanino, A. Clark
American Kestrel				
1/13	1	Hampton	Drakeside Road	S.& J. Mirick
1/26	1	Newington	Route 16	E. Masterson, D. Fallon, C. Seifer, L. Tanino, P. Brown
2/24	1	Hampton	Island Path	S.& J. Mirick
Merlin				
1/2	1	Seabrook	Cross Beach Rd.	T. Bronson
Peregrine Falcon				
1/4	1	Concord	Christian Science Church	C. Martin
1/5	1	Ashland	Ashland Transfer Station	I. MacLeod
1/10	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Hubbard
1/10	1	Manchester	Elm St. at Brady-Sullivan Tower	T. Bronson
1/13	1	Newington	Rt. 16 General Sullivan Bridge	D. Hubbard
1/15	1	Milford	Merrimack St.	B. Chapin
1/28	1	Portsmouth	Portsmouth Fish Pier	T. Bronson
2/21	1	Hebron	Bear Mountain	R. Vallieres

Sandpipers through Alcids



There were no highly unusual sandpipers to report this winter and only a smattering of Sanderling, Dunlin, and Purple Sandpiper reports, with Purple Sandpiper being the most common for the season. As usual for the season, the Rochester wastewater treatment plant had the largest number of records for the less common gulls. A Black-headed Gull spent a good deal of the season there. The 20 Iceland Gulls and seven Glaucous Gulls seen at the

*Black-headed Gull by Mark Suomala, 1/23/08,
Rochester wastewater treatment plant, NH.*

plant on January 25 may be an all-time white-winged gull state record for a single day. Lesser Black-backed Gull continues its presence in the area in winter with about the same number of records as last year. This is a relatively new addition to our expected winter avifauna—it only burst onto the scene at the turn of this century (see the Species Spotlight on page 41)! The two Dovekie records were a real treat, although one of the sightings might have been just over the line in Maine. The other expected alcids were seen on the coast in roughly their usual numbers.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Sanderling				
2/25	19	Rye	Rye Ledge	T. Bronson
Purple Sandpiper				
12/8	60		NH coast	B. Griffith
12/12	26	Rye	Rye Ledge	T. Bronson
Dunlin				
1/6	35	Seabrook	Seabrook Harbor	B. Griffith, L. Medlock, G. Tillman, J. O'Shaughnessy
Black-headed Gull				
12/7	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Hubbard
12/11	1	Newmarket	town landing	T. Bronson
2/26	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Hubbard
Bonaparte's Gull				
12/9	50		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
12/30	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod
Ring-billed Gull				
12/5	750	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	T. Bronson
Herring Gull				
12/5	1500	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	T. Bronson



Above: Iceland Gull by Mark Suomala, 12/25/07, Hampton Harbor, NH.

Right: Iceland Gull by Leonard Medlock, 2/27/08, Exeter wastewater treatment plant, Exeter, NH.



Iceland Gull

12/5	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	T. Bronson
12/21	4		NH coast	S. Mirick
12/25	2	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop	T. Bronson
12/26	3	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop	M. Suomala

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Iceland Gull—continued				
12/30	4	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod
1/5	1	Portsmouth	Portsmouth Harbor	B. Griffith
1/21	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	E. Masterson, C. Seifer
1/24	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	E. Masterson, D. Fallon
1/25	20	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	B. Griffith
Lesser Black-backed Gull				
12/6	1	Dover	downtown on Cocheco River	S. Mirick
12/7	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Hubbard
12/9	1	Rye	Jeness Beach	S.& J. Mirick
12/21	1	Newmarket	downtown	S. Mirick
1/18	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
1/25	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	B. Griffith, L. Medlock
2/3	1	Rye	Frost Point at Odiome Point St. Pk.	S.& J. Mirick
2/20	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Hubbard
Glaucous Gull				
12/6	1	Rye	Rye Harbor	S. Mirick
1/25	7	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	B. Griffith
2/18	1	Portsmouth	Portsmouth Harbor	S.& J. Mirick
Great Black-backed Gull				
12/5	750	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	T. Bronson
Black-legged Kittiwake				
12/31	1	Hampton	North Side Park	S.& J. Mirick
1/12	6	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S.& J. Mirick
Dovekie				
12/31	1	New Castle	Great Island Common	S.& J. Mirick
1/5	1	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	B. Griffith
Thick-billed Murre				
1/6	1	Hampton	Great Boars Head	B. Griffith, L. Medlock, G. Tillman, J. O'Shaughnessy
1/26	1	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	S.& J. Mirick, D. Abbott, P. Lacourse
Razorbill				
12/30	2	Rye	Odiome Point St. Pk.	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod
1/7	25	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach at Haverhill St.	T. Bronson
1/26	6	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	B. Griffith, J. O'Shaughnessy, L. Medlock, J. Hully, G. Tillman, G. Hawkins
1/26	1	Rye	Seal Rocks	T. Bronson, S. Spangenberg, J. McCoy, M. Neuner
Black Guillemot				
12/30	1	Rye	Odiome Point St. Pk.	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod
1/6	15		NH coast	B. Griffith, L. Medlock, G. Tillman, J. O'Shaughnessy

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
1/26	5	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	B. Griffith, J. O'Shaughnessy, L. Medlock, J. Hully, G. Tillman, G. Hawkins
2/4	3	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach at Haverhill St.	T. Bronson
2/15	1	Rye	Ragged Neck	T. Bronson

Doves through Crows

Two seasonal Northern Saw-whet Owl reports are notable as they are not commonly reported in the winter. They are not necessarily rare, but are very difficult to detect. Two Short-eared Owls were reported from the coast early in the season. An additional Short-eared was found late in the season and its photograph graces our back cover. They are typically reported in very low numbers at best, or even missed for the whole season.

Many birders remarked on seeing Barred Owls in the daytime this winter and *New Hampshire Bird Records* received 49 sightings, all from the southern third of the state, except for single records from Laconia, Jefferson, and Monroe. This is a reflection of the irruption discussed in the introduction. Wildlife rehabilitators were swamped with injured Barred Owls. The Center for Wildlife, a nonprofit wildlife rehabilitation facility in York, Maine, took in at least 36 individuals. Normally they take in six to eight owls per year. At Wings of Dawn in Henniker, NH, wildlife rehabilitator Maria Colby worked with about 30 Barred Owls between November and the end of February. Most of these birds had been struck by vehicles. Often the owls were hit as they hunted rodents along the roadside.



Barred Owl by Leonard Medlock, 12/18/07, Exeter, NH.

Red-bellied Woodpecker continues to be more common in the southern half of New Hampshire. What used to be a notable rarity is now an expected part of the woodpecker scene, with a total of 26 reports for the season. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, always rare in winter, was more noticeable this season with no fewer than five seasonal records. Vermont and Maine also reported an unusually high number of sapsuckers this winter.

One of the big stories of the season was the impressive influx of Northern Shrike. Representative records are included, but over one hundred reports were received, about seven times the average of the last few years! It usually takes hearty observers to find Gray Jay in the winter. This season's number of records was above average, with the best count found in the vicinity of Mt. Pierce in the Presidential Range of the White Mountains. There certainly are a lot fewer hikers to give them handouts in winter as snowshoes are required to get to their haunts at this time of year. There was a single record of Fish Crow for the winter, coming from its usual location on the southern state line at Salem.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Mourning Dove				
1/1	40		Barnet, VT CBC-Monroe sightings	E. Emery, P. Powers, J. Cate
Eastern Screech-Owl				
12/6	1	Nashua		E. Masterson
12/12	1	Exeter	Haven Lane	L. Medlock
12/15	1	Exeter	park at Main & Park Sts.	T. Bronson, N. Nelson, L. Medlock, J. Woolf
1/1	1	Merrimack	Bean Road	B. Griffith
1/26	1	Greenland	Great Bay Discovery Center	S.& J. Mirick, D. Abbott, P. Lacourse
2/23	2	Hinsdale	Connecticut River	E. Masterson
Snowy Owl				
1/25	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	B. Griffith, L. Medlock
Short-eared Owl				
12/8	2	Hampton	Island Path	B. Griffith, M. Hatfield, D. Wendelken, S.& J. Mirick, J. O'Shaughnessy
2/12	1	Rye	Fairhill Marsh	M. Suomala
Northern Saw-whet Owl				
12/8	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	B. Griffith
1/26	1	Newmarket	Ash Swamp Road	S.& J. Mirick, D. Abbott, P. Lacourse

Belted Kingfisher

1/24	1	Goshen	Rt. 10, Sugar River tributary	P. Newbern
2/24	1	Walpole	136 Upper Road	A. Johnson

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

12/2	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	T. Bronson
12/7	1	Exeter	Webster Ave.	T. Bronson
12/9	1	Concord	Fisk Hill	R. Woodward
1/3	1	Walpole	Huntington Lane	A. Johnson
1/26	1	E. Kingstons	South Road	E. Masterson, D. Fallon, C. Seifer, L. Tanino, P. Brown

Black-backed Woodpecker

12/18	1	Pittsburg	Canadian Border Station	S. Stoddard, D. Govatski
12/19	1	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR headquarters	P. Brown, J. Tilden, A. Clark, L. Tanino
1/13	2	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road	B. Griffith



Northern Shrike by Ben Griffith, 12/09/07, Rt. 101, Hampton, NH.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Northern Shrike				
12/1	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
12/4	1	Whitefield	Whitefield Airport	D.& K. Govatski
12/8	1	Swanzy	Dillant-Hopkins Airport	C. Seifer
12/9	1	Surry	Dort Road	L. Tanino
12/9	1	Jefferson	Rt. 116 residence	D.& K. Govatski
12/22	1	Tilton	near Tanger Outlets	I. MacLeod
12/27	1	Ashland	Sanborn Rd.	I. MacLeod
12/28	4	Newbury	Route 103	W. LaPorte
12/30	1	Hampton	Island Path	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod
1/2	1	Londonderry	Rockingham Rd.	B. Gamlin
1/5	1	Charlestown	Great Meadows	E. Masterson
1/7	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Young
1/8	1	Holderness	Squam Lakes Natural Science Center	I. MacLeod
1/8	1	Wentworths Location	Lake Umbagog NWR headquarters	T. Bronson
1/10	1	Dover	Liberty Mutual Insurance Bldg.	D. Hubbard
1/13	1	Bethlehem	Route 302	B. Griffith
1/18	1	Northwood	Northwood Lake	S. Young
1/18	1	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
1/26	1	Allenstown	intersection of Rts. 28 & 3	G.& A. Robbins
1/27	1	Gilmanton	Currier Hill Rd.	J.R. Stockwell
1/29	2	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson, L. Tanino
1/30	1	Manchester	Amoskeag Fishways	R. Suomala
1/31	1	Clarksville	Wiswell Rd.	C. Eldelle
2/1	1	Fremont	Martin Rd.	T. Bronson
2/2	1	Merrimack	Daniel Webster Hgwy. at DR Power Equipment store	K. Reid
2/23	2	Hinsdale	Hinsdale Bluffs	Monadnock Chapter FT
2/28	1	Jefferson	Rt. 116 residence	D.& K. Govatski

Gray Jay

12/8	3	Dixville	Mud Pond warming shelter	D.& K. Govatski
12/15	9	Beans Grant	Mount Pierce	D. Govatski, M. Mugica
12/18	7	Pittsburg	East Inlet	P. Brown, J. Tilden, A. Clark, L. Tanino
12/19	6	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR	P. Brown, J. Tilden, A. Clark, L. Tanino
12/30	3	Jefferson	Mt. Starr King summit	B. Desmarais
1/8	2	Wentworths Location	Lake Umbagog NWR headquarters	T. Bronson
2/9	2	Berlin	White Mountain Chalet Inn	K. Dube, Seacoast Chapter FT
2/9	1	Berlin	Success Rd.	K. Dube, Seacoast Chapter FT
2/17	1	Pittsburg	Route 3	L. Medlock

Fish Crow

1/12	5	Salem	Rt. 28 at McDonald's Restaurant	T. Bronson
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Larks through Waxwings

Horned Lark was found in numbers similar to those of last year, principally on the Seacoast and the southern Connecticut River Valley. There was one Boreal Chickadee record south of the White Mountains in Orange. This town is east of Hanover in the

Western Highlands at about 1,200 feet elevation. Though unusual for Hanover, it is a more likely location than farther south at lower elevations where deciduous forests start to dominate. Three separate January records are notable for Hermit Thrush, as were the two Gray Catbird records for that month as well.



Hermit Thrush by Leonard Medlock, 3/15/08, Exeter, NH.

One of the stories for the season was the huge influx of Bohemian Waxwing. Last year there was a single record of a lone bird for the whole season. What a difference a year makes! This year there were about 60 reports, with the largest flock of 900 reported from Loudon, certainly one of the largest flocks of Bohemians ever reported in the state. Each fall, Ron Pittaway of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources distributes a Winter Finch Forecast (including other irruptives). His predictions are based on the state of food resources in the boreal haunts of Ontario. This year he predicted that a poor crop of native Mountain Ash would induce the waxwings to move south and indeed they did with a vengeance.

What started as a smattering of records in mid-fall turned into a torrent of sightings by winter. Interestingly, the most recent year with widespread records was the winter of 2003–2004, the same season as the last redpoll irruption (see below).



Horned Larks by Eric Masterson, 1/6/08, River Rd., Westmoreland, NH.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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Horned Lark

12/24	33	Walpole	Pinnacle View Equipment parking lot	C. Seifer
12/24	550	Westmoreland	Chickering Farm	E. Masterson
1/5	260	Walpole	Sawyer Farm, River Road	E. Masterson
1/5	40	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	B. Griffith
1/7	75	Rye	Awcomin Marsh	T. Bronson
2/4	100	N. Hampton	Runnymede Horse Farm	T. Bronson
2/16	20	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
2/20	10	Concord	Post Office parking lot	P. Brown
2/24	35	Portsmouth	Pease Int'l. Tradeport Golf Course	S.& J. Mirick

Boreal Chickadee

12/18	5	Pittsburg	East Inlet	P. Brown, J. Tilden, A. Clark, L. Tanino
12/22	1	Orange	residence	A. Garland
1/13	1	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road	B. Griffith
1/28	3	Beans Grant	Mount Jackson	D. Govatski
2/9	2	Wentworths Location	Lake Umbagog NWR headquarters	K. Dube, Seacoast Chapter FT
2/17	2	Pittsburg	Route 3	L. Medlock

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Carolina Wren				
12/14	1	Marlow	Marlow Hill Rd.	D. Rota
12/30	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
Winter Wren				
12/2	1	Concord	Contoocook Island, Penacook	P. Hunt
12/15	2	Kensington	Hedges Town Land, beaver pond outlet	G. Gavutis Jr.
12/30	1	Boscawen	Commercial Ave.	P. Hunt
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
1/24	1	Derry	Spollet Road	E. Masterson, D. Fallon
Eastern Bluebird				
12/30	7	Bedford	Beals Rd.	D. Fitch, J. Munier
1/5	4	Hinsdale	Connecticut River	E. Masterson
1/7	2	Rochester	Meadersboro Rd	S. Young
1/7	3	N. Hampton	Rt. 111 at Rt. 95	T. Bronson
1/12	3	Westmoreland	Chickering Road	E. Masterson
1/12	3	Concord	railroad tracks n. of Horseshoe Pond	R. Woodward
1/13	2	Kensington	Shaws Hill off Rt. 150	T. Bronson
1/13	2	Keene	Krif Road	P. Brown
1/13	1	Pittsfield	Will Smith Rd.	G. & A. Robbins
1/19	3	Kensington	Drinkwater Rd. at Unitil Utility HQ	T. Bronson
1/19	5	Rye	off Rt. 1A	S. & J. Mirick
1/23	5	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
2/3	5	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	L. Tanino, K. Bergman
2/19	12	Newmarket	Lubberland Creek Preserve	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
2/19	8	Greenland	Rt. 33 e. of Willowbrook Rd.	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
Hermit Thrush				
12/2	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
1/8	1	N. Hampton	Shiprock Rd.	S. Young
1/21	1	Newmarket	Lubberland Creek Preserve	P. Brown, J. Tilden, L. Tanino
1/27	1	Exeter	Haven Lane	L. Medlock
2/23	1	Manchester	Hall St.	P. Wright
American Robin				
1/6	85	Concord	Murray's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
1/12	300	Newmarket	Grant Rd. at Grapevine Hill Farm	T. Bronson
1/13	300	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. & J. Mirick
1/16	75	S. Hampton	Jewell St.	T. Bronson
1/19	200	Hampton Falls	Elton Lane	T. Bronson
1/19	325	Exeter	Exeter Hospital	T. Bronson
1/19	600	Seabrook	off Rt. 286	S. & J. Mirick
1/20	40	Laconia	Ledges Drive	H. Anderson
1/22	200	E. Kingston	Joslin Rd.	T. Bronson
2/8	95	Brentwood	North Rd. e. of Rt. 125	T. Bronson
2/23	100	Dover	Bayview Rd.	M. Suomala
2/24	286	Swanzy	Dillant-Hopkins Airport	L. Tanino, A. Clark
Gray Catbird				
1/16	1	Litchfield	Hillcrest Rd.	V. Hokenstrom
1/19	1	Newmarket	Rt. 108 at Rite-Aid Pharmacy	B. Griffith

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
American Pipit				
12/2	17	Westmoreland	Chickering Farm	E. Masterson
12/9	1	Hampton	Great Boars Head	S. & J. Mirick
12/14	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Hubbard
12/15	2	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	P. Hunt, et al.
12/24	2	Rye	Ragged Neck	S. & J. Mirick
Bohemian Waxwing				
12/7	175	New London	Newport Rd. near Colonial Plaza	C. Martin
12/8	300	Holderness	Plymouth State University Field House	R. & M. Suomala
12/9	100	Milton	Briar Ridge Rd.	P. Watts
12/10	63	Alton	Rt. 140 at Coffinbrook Rd.	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
12/18	5	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
1/1	900	Loudon	Upper City Rd.	G. & A. Robbins
1/1	30		Barnet, VT CBC-Monroe sightings	E. Emery, P. Powers, J. Cate
1/3	6	Walpole	Pinnacleview Equipment, Rt. 12	A. Johnson
1/4	65	Antrim	Route 202	E. Masterson
1/4	34	Pittsfield	Route 107	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
1/4	200	Northwood	Ridge Road	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
1/4	100	Rochester	Dry Hill Rd.	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
1/7	197	Strafford	Bow Lake Village	S. Young
1/7	60	Farmington	Main St.	S. Young
1/8	2	Milan	Chickwolnepy Rd.	T. Bronson
1/20	1	Exeter	Exeter Hospital	B. Griffith, L. Medlock, J. Hully, G. Tillman
1/20	8	Newmarket	Rt. 108 at Rite-Aid Pharmacy	B. Griffith, L. Medlock, J. Hully, G. Tillman
1/21	5	Concord	South Spring Street	P. Hunt
1/22	175	Laconia	Ledgecroft Place	H. Anderson
1/23	6	Langdon	Holden Hill Rd.	A. Johnson
1/29	38	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
1/29	20	Bethlehem	Rocks Estate	D. Govatski
1/31	100	New Durham	Ridge Road	S. Mirick
2/2	10	Westmoreland	River Road	C. Seifer, L. Tanino
2/7	80	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
2/10	5	Dover	off Tofftree Lane	S. & J. Mirick
2/12	30	Gilmanton	Currier Hill Rd.	J.R. Stockwell
2/12	30	Walpole	Rt. 12 above Connecticut River	C. Seifer
2/15	24	Merrimack	Continental Blvd.	L. Medlock
2/17	74	Chester	Candia Rd.	K. Reid
2/19	31	Amherst	Overlook Dr. Shoe Box store	T. Young
2/24	150	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	G. Hoag
2/25	85	Alstead	Alstead Center	L. Tanino
2/26	100	Newport	Bradford Rd.	A. Mitz
2/26	25	Bradford	West Rd.	M. & D. Halsted
2/28	100	Meredith	Old Center Harbor Rd.	F. Tyrrell
Cedar Waxwing				
12/2	150	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
12/11	200	Durham	town landing	T. Bronson
12/15	114	Exeter	various locations	T. Bronson, N. Nelson, L. Medlock, J. Woolf
1/7	120	Farmington	Main St.	S. Young
1/9	350	Concord	Silk Farm WS	P. Brown

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
1/19	600	Concord	Dogwood Terrace, Penacook	P. Hunt
1/24	800	Concord	Chelsea St.	M. Suomala
1/28	100	Stratham	Great Bay Discovery Center	T. Bronson
2/2	140	Westmoreland	River Road	C. Seifer, L. Tanino
2/12	270	Walpole	Rt. 12 above Connecticut River	C. Seifer

Warblers through Sparrows

Unlike last winter, warblers were represented by just two species, Yellow-rumped and Pine, with a total of five records between them. A **Lark Sparrow** seen in Rye was the most interesting sparrow of the season. Swamp Sparrow is also a sparse winter find and was seen to a much lesser degree than last winter, a relatively banner year for the species. Two Field Sparrows spotted on the Seacoast in January are also considered a rare winter find.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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Yellow-rumped Warbler

12/7	1	Exeter	Webster Ave.	T. Bronson
12/9	1	Seabrook	wastewater treatment plant	S.& J. Mirick
1/12	1	Seabrook	Beckmans Island	S.& J. Mirick

Pine Warbler

12/10	1	E. Kingston	South Road	D. Finch
1/4	1	Chichester	Towle Rd.	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
1/14	1	E. Kingston	South Road	D. Finch
1/26	1	Stratham	feeder on Stratham Heights Road	S.& J. Mirick, D. Abbott, P. Lacourse

American Tree Sparrow

12/16	16	Concord	residence	D.& B. Soule
1/1	12		Barnet, VT CBC-Monroe sightings	E. Emery, P. Powers, J. Cate
1/21	15	Newton	Tara Lane	T. Bronson, P. McFarland
1/25	14	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
2/1	22	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
2/9	20	Berlin	residence	K. Dube, Seacoast Chapter FT

Field Sparrow

1/13	2	Hampton	Northshore Road	S.& J. Mirick
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Lark Sparrow

12/8	1	Rye	Pulpit Rocks Rd.	B. Griffith, M. Hatfield, D. Wendelken
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Savannah Sparrow

1/5	1	Seabrook	wastewater treatment plant	S.& J. Mirick
1/20	1	Stratham	Stuart Farm	T. Bronson, S. Spangenberg

Fox Sparrow

12/8	1	Rye	Pulpit Rocks Rd.	B. Griffith
1/5	1	N. Hampton	feeder	S.& J. Mirick
1/21	1	N. Hampton	Appledore Ave	P. Brown, J. Tilden, L. Tanino

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Song Sparrow				
1/5	2	Rye	Foss Beach seawall	T. Bronson
1/12	1	Laconia	below Lakeport Dam	H. Anderson
1/13	1	Seabrook	Cross Beach Rd.	T. Bronson
1/15	1	Stratham	Great Bay Discovery Center	T. Bronson
1/16	1	Hampton Falls	Rt. 84 at Kensington town line	T. Bronson
1/25	2	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
1/28	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. Harris
1/29	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
Swamp Sparrow				
12/31	1	New Castle	off Rt. 1B	S.& J. Mirick
1/21	1	N. Hampton	Shel-Al Mobile Home Park	B. Griffith, L. Medlock, J. O'Shaughnessy
1/27	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd.	G.& A. Robbins
White-throated Sparrow				
12/4	2	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
12/8	1	Nashua	Dublin Ave.	M. Haig
12/11	3	Newmarket	Lubberland Creek Preserve	T. Bronson
12/16	1	Fremont	Ingalls Lane	T. Bronson
1/1	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
1/5	1	Portsmouth	Woodbury Ave. Wendy's Restaurant	T. Bronson
1/15	1	Stratham	Great Bay Discovery Center	T. Bronson
1/19	1	Hampton Falls	Prescott Lane	T. Bronson
1/20	4	Salem	Lawrence Rd. residence	K. Folsom
1/28	1	Newington	Sunset Farm	T. Bronson
2/19	2	Stratham	Great Bay Discovery Center	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
2/21	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
Dark-eyed Junco				
12/2	36	Concord	Penacook Census Route	P. Hunt
12/8	13	Nashua	Dublin Ave.	M. Haig
12/9	12	Exeter	residence	G. Prazar
1/1	10		Barnet, VT CBC-Monroe sightings	E. Emery, P. Powers, J. Cate
2/12	20	Fremont	Ingalls Lane	T. Bronson
2/16	10	Salem	Lawrence Rd. residence	K. Folsom
Lapland Longspur				
12/6	3	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	S. Young
12/24	2	Westmoreland	Chickering Farm	E. Masterson
1/5	8	Walpole	River Road, Sawyer Farm	E. Masterson
1/20	2	N. Hampton	Runnymede Horse Farm	B. Griffith, L. Medlock, J. Hully, G. Tillman
1/26	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor State Marina	B. Griffith, J. O'Shaughnessy, L. Medlock, J. Hully, G. Tillman, G. Hawkins
2/9	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach St.Pk.	G.& A. Robbins
2/15	4	Rye	Awcomin Marsh	T. Bronson
2/24	7	Portsmouth	Pease Int'l. Tradeport Golf Course	S.& J. Mirick
Snow Bunting				
12/2	13	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	T. Bronson
12/2	2	Carroll	Rts. 302 & 3	J.R. Stockwell

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
12/5	6	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
12/6	43	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	S. Young
12/6	7	N. Hampton	N. Hampton St. Beach	S. Young
12/9	12	Surry	Joslin Road Quarry	L. Tanino
12/9	62		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
12/11	5	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Rd.	F. Tyrrell
12/18	40	Webster	Tyler Rd.	B. Janeway
12/21	23	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
12/21	60	Seabrook	Cross Beach Road	S. Mirick
12/24	100	Westmoreland	Chickering Farm	E. Masterson
12/24	6	Rochester	Gonic along Pickering Road	S. & J. Mirick
12/25	28	Whitefield	Whitefield Airport	D. & K. Govatski
1/1	3	Pittsfield	Upper City Road	G. & A. Robbins
1/6	12	Walpole	Barnett Hill Rd.	A. & L. Johnson
1/7	18	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Young
1/13	3	Brentwood	Commercial Dr.	T. Bronson
1/16	60	Antrim	fields off Rt. 202	P. Brown
2/12	10	Fremont	Martin Rd.	T. Bronson
2/12	35	Litchfield	fields near Broadview Dr.	C. Martin

Blackbirds through Finches

Red-winged Blackbirds were again present during the season; however, there was only one truly mid-winter January record from Exeter. One would consider the 25 blackbirds from Kensington on February 10 to be the vanguard of the spring migrants. The two reports of Eastern Meadowlark are quite notable. The last seasonal record was eight years ago. They have only been reported



Pine Grosbeak by Leonard Medlock, Plymouth, NH.

in three other seasons in the last 15 years. Another outstanding irruptive this season was the Pine Grosbeak. There was not an area of the state that didn't have sightings of the species, from the North Country to the Seacoast and inland. Ron Pittaway also accurately predicted the irruption of Pine Grosbeak for the same reason as the Bohemian Waxwing: failure of the Mountain Ash crop. He also accurately predicted the incursion of Common and **Hoary Redpoll**. He based this prediction on the poor crop of white birch, yellow birch, and alder seeds in Ontario. The last season we had a similar flight was in 2003–2004. Because of the poor seed crop he also predicted a fairly good flight of Evening Grosbeak, which certainly was the case—the best in at least five years. Unlike the redpolls, crossbills of both species were virtually absent with no seasonal records of either species and only a single Red Crossbill on the CBCs and 12 White-winged Crossbills solely on the CBCs as well.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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Red-winged Blackbird

12/7	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
1/21	7	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	E. Masterson, C. Seifer
2/10	25	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
2/17	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	L. Tanino, E. Masterson
2/17	30	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
2/18	3	N. Hampton	Lovering Road	L. Medlock
2/19	2	Greenland	Great Bay Farm	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
2/19	3	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
2/20	30	Greenland	Great Bay Farm	D. Hubbard
2/21	1	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P.& J. Hendrickx
2/23	20	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson

Eastern Meadowlark

2/18	1	Hampton	Island Path	S.& J. Mirick
2/19	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	L. Medlock

Rusty Blackbird

12/2	3	Westmoreland	Chickering Farm	E. Masterson
12/6	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
12/8	3	Plymouth	Thompson Farm Rd.	R.& M. Suomala
12/9	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
12/21	1	Windham	residence	J. Romano
12/26	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
12/26	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
1/17	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch

Common Grackle

2/19	1	Greenland	Great Bay Farm	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
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Brown-headed Cowbird

12/2	6	Westmoreland	Chickering Farm	E. Masterson
12/2	16	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Woodward
12/7	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
12/15	1	Keene	Belmont St.	L. Tanino
1/12	12	Langdon	Holden Hill Rd.	A. Johnson
1/20	5	Stratham	Stuart Farm	S. Spangenberg
1/21	40	E. Kingston	South Road	T. Bronson
2/5	135	E. Kingston	South Road	D. Finch

Pine Grosbeak

12/1	12	Surry	Dort Road	C. Seifer
12/1	5	Gilmanton	Currier Hill Rd.	J.R. Stockwell
12/2	7	Deering	E. Deering Rd.	M. Allen
12/2	20	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Woodward
12/4	9	Gilmanton	town dump	J.R. Stockwell
12/5	20	Hancock	Antrim Road	T. Masterson
12/6	7	Milton	Briar Ridge Rd.	P. Watts
12/7	14	Northwood	Blakes Hill Rd.	M. Suomala
12/7	10	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
12/7	2	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. Suomala
12/8	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	B. Griffith
12/8	6	E. Kingston	Hog Hill	G. Gavutis Jr.
12/8	4	Rumney	Quincy Rd.	R.& M. Suomala
12/9	57	Surry	Dort & Village Rds.	L. Tanino

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
12/9	50	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
12/10	34	Plymouth	Langdon & Parker Sts.	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard, J. Williams
12/11	50	Antrim	Antrim Road	E. Masterson
12/11	8	Sanbornton	Sanbornton Regional School	D. Stavros, L. Bardusk
12/11	11	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
12/13	5	Fitzwilliam	Putney Rd.	C. Rocheleau
12/13	20	Nottingham	Stage Rd. (Rt. 152)	P.& A. Vachon
12/15	7	Swanzy	Dillant-Hopkins Airport	C. Seifer
12/15	59	Keene	various locations	L. Tanino
12/15	5	Rye	Elementary School	P. Hunt, P. Chamberlain, L. Burton
12/15	1	Chesterfield	Pisgah St. Pk.	P. Brown, J. Tilden
12/17	11	Jefferson	Rt. 116 residence	D.& K. Govatski
12/18	5	Pittsburg	East Inlet	P. Brown, J. Tilden, A. Clark, L. Tanino
12/19	17	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR area	P. Brown, J. Tilden, A. Clark, L. Tanino
12/20	1	Center Harbor	along Coe Hill Rd.	F. Tyrrell
12/21	22	Walpole	Savings Bank of Walpole	C. Seifer
12/22	16	Epsom	Rt. 28 near post office	M. Suomala
12/22	16	Woodstock	Russell Farm Rd.	H. Gilman
12/27	23	Plymouth	Hatch Plaza	I. MacLeod
12/30	16	Strafford	Bow Lake Village	S. Young
12/30	8	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Rd.	F. Tyrrell
1/1	8	Hampstead	town hall	S.& J. Mirick
1/1	12	Pittsfield	downtown near Rite Aid store	A. Robbins
1/1	26		Barnet, VT CBC-Monroe sightings	E. Emery, P. Powers, J. Cate
1/2	12	Dunbarton	Stark Hgwy. north	L. Herlihy
1/3	26	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
1/4	50	Peterborough	Route 202	E. Masterson
1/4	8	Strafford	Caverly Hill Rd.	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
1/6	20	Epping	Rts. 27 & 125	B. Griffith
1/6	4	Loudon	intersection Rt. 129 & Youngs Hill Rd.	G.& A. Robbins
1/7	6	Hancock	Antrim Road	E. Masterson
1/7	11	Brentwood	North Rd. w. of Rt. 125	T. Bronson
1/8	20	Fracestown	Red House Rd.	R. Jackson
1/8	2	Newfields	Route 85	S. Young
1/8	3	Milan	Chickwolnepy Rd.	T. Bronson
1/10	1	Westmoreland	River Rd.	R. Ritz
1/12	1	N. Hampton	off Woodland Road	S.& J. Mirick
1/13	4	Holderness	Plymouth State University Field House	B. Griffith
1/13	41	Keene	Dort Road fields	P. Brown
1/19	5	Hampton Falls	Prescott Lane	T. Bronson
1/20	16	Stratham	Bunker Hill & Stratham Heights Rds.	T. Bronson, S. Spangenberg
1/21	3	Barnstead	Oak Rd., Center Barnstead	N. Galli
1/21	6	Seabrook	Locust Street	E. Masterson, C. Seifer
1/21	1	Londonderry	Moose Hill Orchard	S. Molloy
1/22	6	Northwood	Lower Deerfield Rd.	T. Bronson
1/22	6	Exeter	Pickpocket Rd.	T. Bronson
1/23	8	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
1/24	12	Whitefield	Mac's Market	D.& K. Govatski
2/1	13	Kensington	Moulton Ridge	G. Gavutis Jr.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Pine Grosbeak—continued				
2/1	20	Antrim	Main Street	E. Masterson
2/2	7	Loudon	Loudon Ridge Rd.	G. & A. Robbins
2/3	2	Hinsdale	Hinsdale Bluffs	L. Tanino, K. Bergman
2/4	1	N. Hampton	Rt. 111 & Woodland Rd.	T. Bronson
2/5	1	Chester	Clark Rd.	K. Reid
2/7	34	Amherst	Carriage Road	T. Young
2/8	3	New Ipswich	River Rd.	E. Danisienka
2/9	28	Milan	Chickwolnepy Rd.	K. Dube, Seacoast Chapter FT
2/9	44	Berlin	various locations	K. Dube, Seacoast Chapter FT
2/10	11	Kingston	Kingston Shopping Plaza	S. & J. Mirick
2/11	9	Hancock	Main Street	E. Masterson
2/12	10	Greenland	Rt. 151 n. of Breakfast Hill Rd.	T. Bronson
2/18	12	Wolfeboro	Wedeln Rd.	R. Copithorne
2/21	10	Concord	South Concord Meadows, Clinton St.	J. Lessard
2/21	3	Waterville Valley	along Rt. 49	J. Romano
2/21	10	Keene	Bowman Drive at Smith's Industries	R. Ritz
2/21	9	Marlborough	Cemetery Road	C. Seifer
2/24	6	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock	E. Masterson
2/24	10	E. Kingston		S. & J. Mirick
2/24	12	New Boston	South Hill Rd.	S. Martin
2/28	12	Rindge	Farrar Rd.	G. Carmichael
Purple Finch				
1/9	1	Concord	Silk Farm WS	P. Brown
1/10	7	Salem	Lawrence Rd. residence	K. Folsom
1/16	1	Newmarket	Bay Road	H. Chary
1/21	15	Rye	Brackett Road	E. Masterson, C. Seifer
1/28	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
2/2	1	Walpole	Upper Rd.	A. & L. Johnson
2/9	14	Durham	Packers Falls Rd.	R. Ablowich
Common Redpoll				
12/2	45	Concord	Murray's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
12/2	28	Dover	Liberty Mutual Insurance entrance	M. Suomala, K. Dorsey
12/3	20	Lebanon	Buckingham Place	J. Wardrop
12/4	23	Jefferson	Rt. 116 residence	D. Govatski
12/7	45	Milton	Lord Farm Rd.	P. Watts
12/8	15	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
12/8	72	Swanzy	Dillant-Hopkins Airport	C. Seifer
12/8	30	Gilmanton	Middle Route	B. Sens
12/9	40	Surry	Joslin Road Quarry	L. Tanino
12/10	35	Plymouth	Hatch Plaza	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard, J. Williams
12/10	15	Alexandria	West Shore Dr.	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
12/14	30	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
12/15	76	Keene	various locations	L. Tanino, D. Zeh, A. Clark
12/22	60	Ashland	Sanborn Rd.	I. MacLeod
12/23	30	Nottingham	Flutter St.	S. Mooney
12/24	40	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
12/30	70	Strafford	Province Rd. West	S. Young
1/1	20	Pittsfield	Upper City Road	G. & A. Robbins
1/2	50	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Common Redpoll—continued				
1/2	42	New Ipswich	River Rd.	E. Danisienka
1/7	40	Holderness	Squam Lakes Natural Science Center	I. MacLeod
1/8	30	N. Hampton	Fuller Horse Farm, Little River WS	S. Young
1/8	125	Sandwich	Tea Cup Pond residence	T. Bronson, T. Vazzano
1/11	60	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
1/12	10	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. Harris
1/12	25	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Woodward
1/19	25	Brentwood	side of Rt. 125	B. Griffith
1/20	20	Stratham	Willowbrook Rd. & Aberdeen Dr.	T. Bronson, S. Spangenberg
1/25	40	Ashland	Sanborn Rd.	I. MacLeod
1/27	100	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
1/31	150	Hancock	Harris Center	P. Brown
2/2	300	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
2/4	30	Peterborough	General Miller Rd.	J. & T. Delaney
2/5	100	Chester	Clark Rd.	K. Reid
2/9	2	Berlin	Hutchins Rd.	K. Dube, Seacoast Chapter FT
2/9	220	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. Suomala
2/11	30	Gilmanton	Middle Route	B. Sens
2/11	28	Westmoreland	River Rd., north	C. Seifer
2/18	35	Nottingham	Flutter St.	S. Mooney
2/23	7	Merrimack	Trowbridge Dr.	T. & C. Young, A. Tarry
2/23	20	Walpole	Upper Rd.	A. & L. Johnson

Hoary Redpoll

12/16	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
12/19	1	Millsfield	Rt. 26 at Sweatt Farm	R. & M. Suomala
12/27	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
12/27	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
1/8	2	Sandwich	Tea Cup Pond residence	T. Bronson, T. Vazzano
1/19	1	Brentwood	Rt. 125 s. of Epping town line	B. Griffith
1/22	3	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
1/23	2	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Bronson, T. Vazzano
1/26	1	Acworth	end of Coffin Hill Rd.	A. Johnson
1/27	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
1/29	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
2/10	1	Deerfield	Nottingham Road	S. & J. Mirick
2/10	2	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
2/10	2	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
2/11	1	Westmoreland	River Rd. North	C. Seifer

Pine Siskin

12/1	1	Barrington	Alwood Dr. residence	T. & L. Chase
12/21	40	Meredith	Old Center Harbor Rd.	F. Tyrrell
1/1	20		Barnet, VT CBC-Monroe sightings	E. Emery, P. Powers, J. Cate
1/13	1	Epsom	Center Hill Rd.	G. & A. Robbins
1/19	1	Concord	Wildflower Road, Penacook	P. Hunt
1/20	4	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
1/23	15	Rochester	Old Ox Rd.	R. & S. Bickford
1/24	2	Newmarket	Hamel Farm Dr.	P. Hendrickx
1/24	8	Newmarket	Bay Road	H. Chary
1/26	1	Newmarket	Cushing Rd., Moody Point	E. Masterson, S. Spangenberg, et al.
2/3	8	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. Suomala

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Pine Siskin—continued				
2/7	3	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
2/9	12	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. Suomala
2/10	1	Nottingham	Deerfield Road	S.& J. Mirick
2/16	21	Merrimack	Trowbridge Dr.	T.& C. Young, A. Tarry
Evening Grosbeak				
12/2	1	Concord	Fowler Street, Penacook	P. Hunt
12/3	24	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
12/3	20	New Ipswich	River Rd.	E. Danisienka
12/15	19	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
12/15	15	Chesterfield	Chesterfield Rd.	P. Brown, J. Tilden
12/17	45	Jefferson	Rt. 116 residence	D.& K. Govatski
12/23	40	Nottingham	Flutter St.	S. Mooney
12/31		Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
1/1	24		Barnet, VT CBC-Monroe sightings	E. Emery, P. Powers, J. Cate
1/4	16	Barnstead	Rt. 126 at Bow Lake Rd.	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
1/5	3	Londonderry	Rockingham Rd.	R. Gamlin
1/19	30	Langdon	Holden Hill Rd.	A. Johnson
1/27	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
1/31	40	Hancock	Harris Center	P. Brown
2/4	25	Peterborough	General Miller Rd.	J.& T. Delaney
2/9	15	Dummer	Hill Road	K. Dube, Seacoast Chapter FT
2/9	2	Berlin	residence	K. Dube, Seacoast Chapter FT
2/16	2	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
2/25	2	Hancock	Harris Center	L. Tanino
2/26	20	Greenfield	Greenfield State Park	E. Masterson
2/28	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd.	G.& A. Robbins



*Evening Grosbeak by Jason Lambert,
12/15/07, Barnstead, NH.*

Reporters for Winter 2007-08

Rich Aaronian	Michele & David Halsted	Robert Ritz
Jayne Allard	Bill Harris	Andrea Robbins
H. Cook Anderson	Phil Hendrickx	Judy Romano
Widge Arms	Lindsay Herlihy	Charles Royce
Jeannine Ayer	Virginia Hokenstrom	Clifford Seifer
Robert Bradley	Dan Hubbard	Brenda Sens
Terry Bronson	Pam Hunt	Loraine Shuman
Phil Brown	Alan Johnson	John Snow
Hank Chary	Leith Jones	Dot Soule
Tom Chase	David Killam	Dawn Stavros
Elaine Danisienka	Kevin Klasman	J.R. Stockwell
Janet Delaney	Curt Laffin	Mark Suomala
Barbara Desmarais	Joseph & Rebecca Lessard	Rebecca Suomala
Jane Doherty	Iain MacLeod	Lance Tanino
Chet Farwell	Chris Martin	Fred Tyrrell
Davis Finch	Eric Masterson	Tony Vazzano
Dorothy Fitch	Leonard Medlock	Rob Woodward
Kenneth Folsom	Steve Mirick	Mary Wright
Susan Galt	Sandy Molloy	Scott Young
George Gavutis, Jr.	Susan Mooney	Tom Young
David Govatski	Peter Newbern	
Ben Griffith	Kathleen Peterson	Some sightings were
Pam Haggarty	Sheri Pinkham	taken directly from the
Mary Haig	Greg Prazar	NH.Birds list serve.

Reports for the following species were received in Winter 2007-08 but not listed.

Mute Swan	Northern Flicker	American Goldfinch
Common Eider	Pileated Woodpecker	House Sparrow
Red-breasted Merganser	Blue Jay	
Ruffed Grouse	American Crow	Sightings of the species
Wild Turkey	Common Raven	listed above occurred in
Bald Eagle	Black-capped Chickadee	average numbers at expected
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Tufted Titmouse	locations, were discussed in
Cooper's Hawk	Red-breasted Nuthatch	the summaries, or are
Red-tailed Hawk	White-breasted Nuthatch	escaped exotics.
Rock Pigeon	Brown Creeper	
Great Horned Owl	Golden-crowned Kinglet	
Barred Owl	Northern Mockingbird	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	European Starling	
Downy Woodpecker	Northern Cardinal	
Hairy Woodpecker	House Finch	

Christmas Bird Count Summary 2007–2008

by David Deifik

This year's Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) were held between December 14, 2007 and January 5, 2008. These dates are now fixed yearly. There are now 21 counts in the state, though two of these are principally centered in Vermont. However, only 20 counts were run, as the Isle of Shoals count was cancelled for the second year in a row because of unfavorable sea conditions. Noteworthy sightings from the New Hampshire portion of Vermont's Saxton's River and Barnet counts are found in the season summaries.

The total number of species across all counts was 132, the lowest in five years. There were 11 species that tied or set new record high counts for the state, all but one coming from the Coastal count! There were 65 individual count high records this year, about 30% fewer than the average of the last two years. There were ten species new to their respective counts. There were no species new to a New Hampshire count this year. Eared Grebe made its second New Hampshire count appearance and was presumably the same individual that made its first appearance for the state last year in the same locale on the Coastal New Hampshire CBC. Golden Eagle was also seen for only the second time in the state's count history on the Errol-Umbagog count. Its only previous appearance was also on the Errol-Umbagog count in 1983.

Inland waterfowl numbers were generally lower than those of last year. The markedly colder conditions with less open water no doubt contributed to this trend. The Nashua count produced count highs for waterfowl with Common Goldeneye and Hooded Merganser as did the Laconia count for Greater Scaup. Laconia also produced a Ring-necked Duck and the only Lesser Scaup in the state. Other notable inland records were the Sunapee count's first Green-winged Teal and Bufflehead. Coastal count waterfowl numbers were roughly equivalent to last year's, although Brant were absent this year. Northern Shoveler was seen for only the second time on any count on the Coastal CBC. Other scarce winter ducks on the Coastal count were the Eurasian Wigeon, Northern Pintail, and Green-winged Teal. The Lee count picked up Northern Pintail and Ring-necked ducks as well.

Wild Turkey made a clean sweep this year, appearing in all counts in one season for the first time with a record high total of 1,359 as well. It is amazing to note that as recently as 1990 turkeys were seen in only two counts for a total of 42 birds!

As for raptors, the big news aside from the Golden Eagles on the Errol count was the dramatic increase in Bald Eagle sightings for the count season. A total of 53 eagles



Eastern Screech-Owl taken by Leonard Medlock during the Coastal CBC, 12/18/07, Exeter, NH.

were seen on 11 counts, exceeding the previous record high by 20 birds. The Coastal count set a new state high of 17 eagles and both the Lee-Durham and Concord counts set new count highs. The news is not so good for the American Kestrel. For the first time in recent memory no kestrels were seen on count day. In most years, kestrel count numbers are at least in the high single digits. This year only a single bird was seen during count week on the Concord count.

Both Lee-Durham and the Coastal counts found Lesser Black-backed Gulls, with a count of five birds between them. Lee-Durham also set a new state high of nine Glaucous Gulls, a species that was absent from all counts last year.

Barred Owl was seen in unusually high numbers, present on all but four counts. Rarely seen on New Hampshire counts, a Long-Eared Owl was found on the Coastal count, which also had the state's only Short-eared Owl and Northern Saw-whet Owl.

Northern Shrike put in a strong showing, with over triple the number across the state as compared to last year. The state count record of 18 shrikes was tallied on the Coastal count. The Coastal CBC set a new state high for Carolina Wren, almost doubling Nashua's previous state record of nine. Both Nashua and Keene set count highs. The Carolina Wren total for the state again broke a record with 52 birds overall. As recently as 12 years ago, only three of this species were seen on all of the counts! The irruptive Bohemian Waxwing made a strong showing this year with two-thirds of the counts recording them. Although there were no state record high counts for Bohemians in any single count, three counts did see individual record high numbers. Warblers are never a prominent feature of New Hampshire counts, but even less so this season. Other than Yellow-rumped Warbler found on the Coastal and Manchester counts, the only other warbler species was a lone Pine Warbler found on the Concord count. Sparrow numbers were rather anemic this season as compared to the last few years.

One of the big events of the Christmas Bird Count, as well as the whole season, was the widespread irruption of Pine Grosbeaks. One would have to go back 30 years to find a count that exceeded 1,000 individuals, with 1,146 counted that year. This year a record 1,659 were tallied. For the first time Pine Grosbeak was found on every count, seven of which set a count high! Common Redpoll also staged a major incursion, the first one since the 2003–2004 winter season. The 2,885 individuals seen this year have only been exceeded twice, with counts of over 4,000 in the 2003–2004 and 1993–1994 seasons. Despite these high numbers, only one Hoary Redpoll was picked out during the counts. The only other finch to make a good showing was Evening Grosbeak, a bird generally thought to be declining. The two crossbill species, Purple Finch, and Pine Siskin were all found in quite limited numbers.

Individual Count Highlights

Nashua-Hollis

- Count high: Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Common Raven, Carolina Wren

Merlin was seen for the second time. The second highest number for all counts was recorded for Bohemian Waxwing and Pine Grosbeak

Peterborough-Hancock

- First count record: Eastern Screech Owl

- Count high: Snow Bunting, Northern Cardinal, Pine Grosbeak, Common Redpoll

Keene

- First count record: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- Count high: Cooper's Hawk, Barred Owl, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Carolina Wren, Common Redpoll

Bohemian Waxwing was seen for the second time on this count.

Coastal New Hampshire

- New state count high: Eurasian Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Bald Eagle, Sharpshinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Merlin, Rock Pigeon, Eastern Screech-owl, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Northern Shrike, Carolina Wren
- First count record: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- Count high: Mallard, Barrow's Goldeneye, Ruddy Duck, Wild Turkey, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Northern Cardinal

Eared Grebe was recorded for the second time for the state on this count. It was seen at the same location, presumably the same individual, "Earl." Besides being a new state high count, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was seen for the first time on this count.

Lee-Durham

- New state count high: Glaucous Gull
- First count record: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- Count high: Black Scoter, Bald Eagle, Iceland Gull, Mourning Dove, Eastern Screech Owl, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Tufted Titmouse, Northern Cardinal, Pine Grosbeak, Common Redpoll

Bald Eagle was seen in the second highest numbers ever in the state, only three behind the new record set by the Coastal CBC. Black Scoter, Black-headed Gull, and Eastern Screech-Owl were seen for only the second time.

Concord

- Count high: Bald Eagle, Great Cormorant, Eastern Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing
- Great Cormorant, Pine Warbler, and Savannah Sparrow were seen for the second time. American Robin was only two birds shy of a count high. Northern Mockingbird tied the count high.

Laconia

- Count high: Greater Scaup

Long-tailed Duck was seen for the third time. Eastern Bluebird was just one bird short of a count high.

Hanover-Norwich

- New state count high: Cedar Waxwing
- Count high: Bohemian Waxwing

The Bohemian Waxwing count was the second highest ever for the state.

Baker Valley

Cooper's Hawk was seen for the third time.

Littleton

- First count record: Red-breasted Merganser, Merlin, Northern Flicker
 - Count high: Bohemian Waxwing, Northern Cardinal
- Cedar Waxwing had its second highest count for the CBC.

Grafton-Bristol

- First count record: Northern Mockingbird
- Count high: Common Loon, Barred Owl, Pine Grosbeak, House Finch, Common Redpoll

Herring Gull was seen for the second time. Common Redpoll was seen for the third time. Mourning Dove tied the previous count high.

Errol-Umbagog

- Count high: Mourning Dove, Pileated Woodpecker, Gray Jay, Northern Cardinal
- Golden Eagle was seen for only the second time on this or any other count in the state. The first record was in 1983. Hoary Redpoll was also recorded for the second time. Song Sparrow was seen for the third time, most recently in 1976.

Pittsburg

- Count high: Wild Turkey, Barred Owl, Hairy Woodpecker, Black-capped Chickadee

Wild Turkey was seen for the third time.

North Conway

- Count high: Pine Grosbeak

Ring-billed Gull was seen for the first time, but during count week only. Also notable was a Common Grackle seen during count week.

Lake Sunapee

- First count record: Green-winged Teal, Bufflehead, Turkey Vulture
 - Count high: Hairy Woodpecker, Pine Grosbeak
- Bohemian Waxwing and Brown-headed Cowbird were seen for the third time

Manchester

- First count record: Great Horned Owl, Yellow-rumped Warbler
 - Count high: Cedar Waxwing, Pine Grosbeak, Common Redpoll
- Bohemian Waxwing was seen for the second time, as was Pine Grosbeak

Sandwich

- Count high: American Black Duck, Mallard, Wild Turkey, Bohemian Waxwing, Snow Bunting

Northern Mockingbird was seen for the second time. One Hoary Redpoll was seen during count week.

AMC-Crawford

- First count record: Wild Turkey, Common Redpoll
- Count high: Gray Jay, Pine Grosbeak

108th Christmas Bird Count: Dec. 14, 2007 - Jan. 5, 2008

Species	Nsh	Pet	Kee	Cst	Lee	Con	Lac	Han	Bak
Snow Goose	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Canada Goose	98	2	45	4564	41	1	103	-	-
Mute Swan	-	-	-	39	4	-	-	-	-
Wood Duck	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Gadwall	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Eurasian Wigeon	-	-	-	3**	-	-	-	-	-
American Wigeon	-	-	-	33	-	-	-	-	-
American Black Duck	22	-	3	2033	158	12	24	14	-
Mallard	445	1	9	1865	310	55	516	196	24
Black X Mallard sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	3*	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Pintail	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Green-winged Teal	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	725	-	-	15	-	-
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Common Eider	-	-	-	124	-	-	-	-	-
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	119	-	-	-	-	-
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	111	-	-	-	-	-
Black Scoter	-	-	-	8	3	-	-	-	-
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	49	-	-	1	-	-
Bufflehead	-	-	-	145	100	-	2	-	-
Common Goldeneye	28	-	-	388	55	33	315	3	-
Barrow's Goldeneye	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	-
Hooded Merganser	6	-	22	4	-	5	92	18	-
Common Merganser	65	8	36	34	-	42	86	55	-
Red-br. Merganser	-	-	-	147	75	-	-	-	-
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	-
Duck sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	-
Ring-necked Pheasant	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
Ruffed Grouse	1	6	4	1	-	6	-	CW	1
Wild Turkey	55	170	54	66	80	55	62	230	99
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-
Common Loon	-	1	4	50	8	-	3	-	-
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	30	-	-	-	-	-
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	30	-	-	-	-	-
Eared Grebe	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Gannet	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Double-cr. Cormorant	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Great Cormorant	-	-	-	58	-	2	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	3	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-
Turkey Vulture	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Bald Eagle	3	-	-	17**	14	4	3	2	-
Northern Harrier	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	-	2	15**	3	4	-	-	CW
Cooper's Hawk	3	-	3	19**	7	3	1	4	1
Northern Goshawk	2	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Accipiter sp.	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
Red-tailed Hawk	28	4	4	49	29	8	1	5	-
Rough-legged Hawk	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-

Lit	Grf	Erl	Pit	Cnw	Sun	Man	San	Amc	Total
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	146	-	-	5000
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	43
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33
14	-	-	-	5	9	5	14	-	2313
1	38	-	-	67	177	319	137	10	4170
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	1*	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	740
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	124
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	119
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	111
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50
-	-	-	-	-	1*	-	-	-	248
-	5	1	-	-	2	27	-	-	857
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
3	2	-	-	-	10	2	2	-	166
4	6	9	2	-	-	11	-	-	358
1*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	223
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	5
1	-	2	7	1	1	-	3	1	35
101	54	1	5	72	96	11	140	8	1359
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	73
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
-	-	-	-	CW	1*	-	-	-	2
-	1	3	-	1	1	4	-	-	53
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
-	-	1	-	2	1	1	-	-	32
1	1	-	-	-	CW	2	-	-	45
-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	5
-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	4
-	-	-	-	1	2	15	CW	-	146
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3

108th Christmas Bird Count (continued)

species	Nsh	Pet	Kee	Cst	Lee	Con	Lac	Han	Bak
Golden Eagle	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
American Kestrel	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-
Merlin	1	-	-	3**	-	-	-	-	-
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Purple Sandpiper	-	-	-	65	-	-	-	-	-
Dunlin	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-
Black-headed Gull	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-
Ring-billed Gull	113	-	1	577	163	35	100	-	-
Herring Gull	-	-	-	1326	8000	9	12	2	-
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	1	11	-	-	-	-
Lesser Bla.-bac. Gul	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	2	9**	-	-	-	-
Great Bla.-bac. Gull	437	-	-	203	184	1	14	2	-
Gull sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Razorbill	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Black Guillemot	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Rock Pigeon	1201	75	132	2311**	434	769	119	438	28
Mourning Dove	629	170	256	702	867	308	140	406	54
Eastern Screech-owl	-	1	-	6**	2	-	-	-	-
Great Horned Owl	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
Barred Owl	2	2	7	7	7	1	2	4	-
Long-eared Owl	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
N. Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Belted Kingfisher	4	-	-	5	4	1	2	-	-
Red-bel. Woodpecker	21	1	2	15	17	-	-	1	-
Ylw.-bel. Sapsucker	-	-	1*	2**	1*	-	-	-	-
Downy Woodpecker	157	81	85	155	184	63	52	74	18
Hairy Woodpecker	69	57	47	46	79	35	21	64	14
Bla.-bac. Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Flicker	10	-	1	8	10	2	-	-	-
Pileated Woodpecker	8	7	7	3	7	4	6	12	1
Northern Shrike	3	1	7	18**	3	2	2	3	CW
Gray Jay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blue Jay	539	295	309	677	757	261	148	291	102
American Crow	675	130	153	713	838	322	81	3106	22
Common Raven	7	22	9	5	9	7	5	22	8
Horned Lark	-	-	120	116	19	-	-	-	-
Black-cap. Chickadee	790	943	822	949	1287	726	799	1560	479
Boreal Chickadee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tufted Titmouse	184	102	93	216	286	120	79	102	19
Red-br. Nuthatch	18	29	20	26	12	21	17	13	4
White-br. Nuthatch	165	93	75	142	226	128	82	86	21
Brown Creeper	5	8	9	8	9	2	3	10	CW
Carolina Wren	12	2	6	17**	2	6	1	6	-
Winter Wren	2	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-
Golden-cr. Kinglet	20	18	25	4	3	9	1	9	-
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Eastern Bluebird	41	-	7	103	69	13	7	-	-

Lit	Grf	Erl	Pit	Cnw	Sun	Man	San	Amc	Total
-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
1*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	65
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
18	-	-	-	CW	-	40	-	-	1047
-	1	-	-	-	-	19	1	-	9370
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
-	-	-	-	-	-	2	CW	-	843
-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
123	89	-	5	87	70	303	24	-	6208
204	190	34	6	236	96	113	159	-	4570
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	-	-	4
1	3	-	2	3	1	-	4	-	46
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	1
-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	18
-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	60
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
10	31	17	16	43	29	45	42	3	1105
13	23	32	25	40	46	9	50	6	676
1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
1*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32
3	4	10	6	4	1	-	4	1	88
CW	1	2	-	CW	-	-	4	-	46
-	-	11	17	-	-	-	-	15	43
109	147	9	26	47	90	152	161	1	4121
34	31	7	9	41	54	925	18	2	7161
18	19	79	50	55	6	-	23	10	354
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	255
331	1008	510	746	656	664	333	942	69	13614
-	-	4	26	-	-	-	-	5	35
4	45	-	-	18	29	66	62	1	1426
14	11	62	64	16	18	3	24	1	373
16	57	3	2	57	36	42	103	2	1336
-	4	1	5	6	5	-	10	-	85
-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	52
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
4	CW	3	-	2	1	-	2	6	107
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
-	-	-	-	-	-	35	-	-	275

108th Christmas Bird Count (continued)

species	Nsh	Pet	Kee	Cst	Lee	Con	Lac	Han	Bak
Hermit Thrush	1	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-
American Robin	736	10	1	1649	676	133	7	13	-
N. Mockingbird	41	-	4	74	22	23	4	4	-
European Starling	2643	146	272	3622	1981	416	568	350	50
American Pipit	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Bohemian Waxwing	15	-	7	-	28	4	163	784	-
Cedar Waxwing	339	276	291	756	699	565	455	1301**	-
waxwing sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
Ylw.-rumped Warbler	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Am. Tree Sparrow	166	35	112	576	226	124	79	125	8
Savannah Sparrow	-	-	-	6	-	1	-	-	-
Ipswich Sparrow	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Fox Sparrow	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Song Sparrow	21	-	4	123	33	4	1	-	-
Swamp Sparrow	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-
White-thr. Sparrow	22	-	10	92	23	21	1	2	-
White-cr. Sparrow	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Dark-eyed Junco	569	90	136	689	283	137	50	173	CW
Lapland Longspur	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-
Snow Bunting	-	112	32	105	110	35	CW	4	5
Northern Cardinal	228	55	56	322	186	77	38	83	10
Red-winged Blackbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Common Grackle	-	10	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-
Br.-headed Cowbird	-	-	1	26	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Grosbeak	55	262	202	35	33	35	108	309	1
Purple Finch	1	-	2	11	-	-	-	4	-
House Finch	247	20	44	424	209	222	112	379	CW
Red Crossbill	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whi.-wing. Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Common Redpoll	72	285	186	121	327	279	85	546	24
Hoary Redpoll	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	1	-	4	5	-	3	-	-	-
American Goldfinch	395	80	162	737	559	172	158	132	24
Evening Grosbeak	2	243	81	-	13	28	-	12	14
House Sparrow	964	34	215	2041	1084	363	182	261	28
Number of Species	60	41	54	114	68	59	54	46	25
Number of Participants	35	36	25	43	25	13	17	26	8

Total Number of Species Across all CBCs: 132

CW = Count Week

Nsh = Nashua-Hollis (12/29/2007)

Pet = Peterborough-Hancock (12/15/2007)

Kee = Keene (12/15/2007)

Cst = Seacoast (12/15/2007)

Lee = Lee-Durham (12/22/2007)

Con = Concord (12/30/2007)

Lac = Laconia-New-Hampton (12/29/2007)

Han = Hanover-Norwich (1/1/2008)

Bak = Baker-Valley (12/18/2007)

*= New species to count

**=New count high for the state

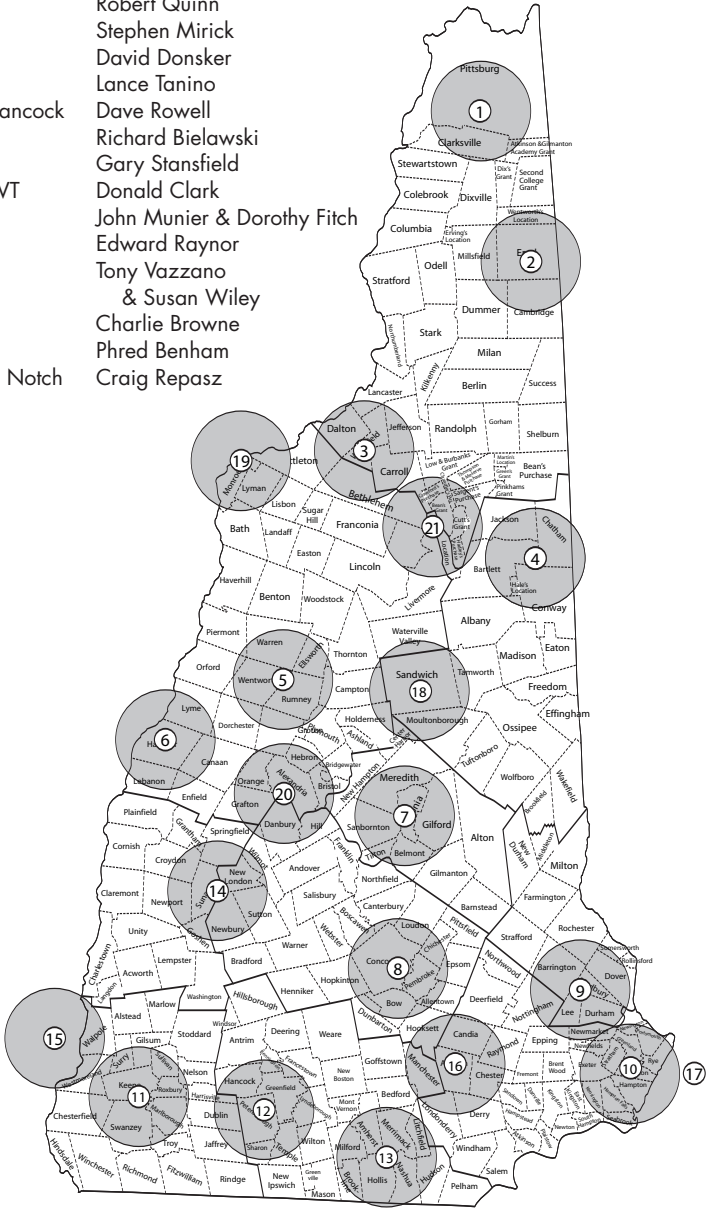
New individual count high

Lit	Grf	Erl	Pit	Cnw	Sun	Man	San	Amc	Total
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
-	5	-	-	-	-	35	1	-	3266
-	1*	-	-	-	-	8	1	-	182
82	255	2	17	96	52	412	87	-	11051
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
85	42	-	-	41	9	25	134	-	1337
30	4	-	-	2	4	231	17	-	4970
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
-	-	-	-	-	-	12*	-	-	18
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
14	24	-	1	4	18	27	24	-	1563
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	1	-	-	-	6	-	-	193
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	172
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
11	5	3	2	5	10	78	3	-	2244
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
CW	-	7	1	86	7	-	35	CW	539
13	12	3	-	3	18	44	6	-	1154
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	10
-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	30
122	37	129	81	47	128	6	53	16	1659
-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	18
3	43	-	-	21	11	62	2	-	1799
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
-	-	2	1	9	-	-	-	-	12
61	141	34	8	59	28	163	461	5*	2885
-	-	1	-	-	-	-	CW	-	1
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13
2	20	1	-	16	14	137	37	-	2646
6	10	15	8	-	61	-	4	-	497
-	17	-	1	4	116	161	135	-	5606
38	39	35	29	37	43	44	37	18	
9	11	15	13	43	12	11	21	14	

Lit = Littleton (12/23/2007)
 Grf = Grafton (12/29/2007)
 Erl = Errol-Umbagog (12/19/2007)
 Pit = Pittsburg (12/18/2007)
 Cnw = North-Conway (1/5/2008)
 Sun = Lake-Sunapee (12/15/2007)
 Man = Manchester (12/15/2007)
 San = Sandwich (12/30/2007)
 Amc = AMC-Crawford (12/15/2007)

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 | Lance Tanino |
| 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 & Dorothy Fitch |
| 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 | Craig Repasz |



Spotlight on Lesser Black-backed Gull (*Larus fuscus*)

by Stephen R. Mirick

The Lesser Black-backed Gull is a medium-sized migratory gull that breeds primarily along the Atlantic coast of Western Europe and winters in northwest Africa; over the last 30 years it has undergone a significant range expansion. The first sighting of this species in the United States was in 1934 when a bird was found in Beach Haven, New Jersey; however, sightings in the United States didn't start growing in numbers until the mid to late 1970s. Since then, sightings of this species have been increasing exponentially so that it is now regularly reported in winter along the eastern seaboard from Maine to Florida.



Lesser Black-backed Gull by
Mark Suomala, 11/23/06, Durham, NH.

Breeding Status

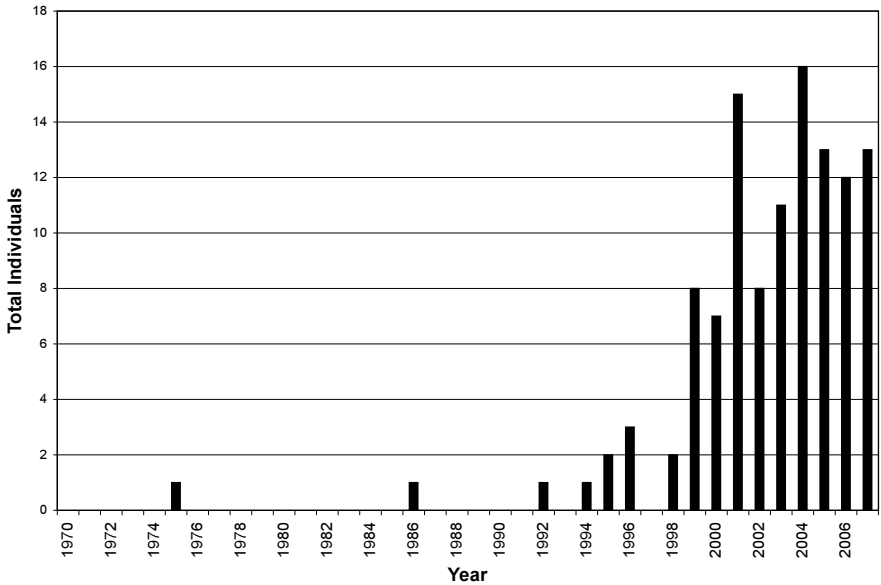
There are three distinct races or subspecies of Lesser Black-backed Gulls, which are mainly differentiated by the darkness of the feathering on the back. The vast majority of United States records, and the only subspecies documented in New Hampshire, is the palest form, or *L. f. graellsii*. This race breeds primarily in Great Britain, France, Iceland, and the Netherlands. Its breeding population has been growing in numbers throughout its range and has also been expanding its range westward so that there are now 10 or more pairs breeding in Greenland.

Nesting in North America outside of Greenland (and an odd breeding record from Alaska) was not known to occur until the summer of 2007 when an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull was seen paired with a Herring Gull in the gull colony on Appledore Island at the Isles of Shoals in Kittery, Maine, less than a mile north of the New Hampshire border. The pair successfully fledged a single chick. Details are still unfolding for this remarkable and long-awaited first confirmed breeding record for continental North America (J. Ellis pers. comm.).

Occurrence in New Hampshire

The first documented occurrence of Lesser Black-backed Gull in New Hampshire came from offshore on November 16, 1975 when an adult was seen and described by Davis Finch and Elisabeth Phinney while on a boat trip near Jeffreys Ledge, several miles offshore. The next occurrence was that of another adult, which was photographed in the Rye marshes on December 31, 1986. The third record came when a bird in third-winter plumage was reported from Jenness State Beach in Rye on January 31, 1992. Starting in the late 1990s, reports of this species increased significantly in the state (Figure 1). This change was due in part to an increase in birding efforts near the Rochester Landfill, which continued to expand in size and where large numbers of gulls feed during the winter.

Figure 1. Lesser Black-backed Gull sightings in New Hampshire between the first state record in 1975 through 2007.



The graph represents the total number of individual birds reported for each calendar year. An attempt was made to avoid duplicate reports such as the single birds frequently seen in Durham and at Odiorne Point State Park in Rye. The total number of individuals represented by the Rochester sightings is difficult to quantify accurately because of the tremendous number of gulls present in the area and the constant turnover of individual birds.

Despite the increase in sightings during the 1990s, this species was not recorded on any New Hampshire Christmas Bird Count until a bird in second-winter plumage was recorded in Durham during the Lee-Durham CBC on December 23, 2000.

Not surprisingly, the vast majority of records in the state come from the seacoast, where the Lesser Black-backed Gull most often mixes in with large gatherings of Herring Gulls or occasionally Ring-billed Gulls. With the closure of most of the other landfills in the state, the largest concentration of gulls in the seacoast occurs at the “Turnkey” landfill, which remains active in Rochester. Gulls are most readily seen at the nearby wastewater treatment plant where they go to rest while “dining” at the landfill. Lesser Black-backed Gulls are now regular at the treatment plant in the late fall and winter months and the maximum counts in the state are of five birds reported here in April 2001 and again in January 2007. Inland, there are scattered reports of single birds from Manchester, Berlin, Enfield and Errol, and two birds were seen together in the spring of 2006 from farm fields in Concord.

Although the species has been reported in every month of the year, most of the sightings occur from mid September through May. There are very few summer records with only two June records and a single July record. The July record came in 2007 and is a rare sighting of an adult in mid-summer, possibly the individual that nested on Appledore Island.

Comments

Lesser Black-backed Gulls continue to increase in the United States and in New Hampshire (Figure 1). It is now a regular winter visitor to the eastern seaboard of the United States and sometimes in large numbers, particularly from more southern locations. Although the species has been reported throughout most of the United States and even Alaska, the east coast is still the stronghold for this species. Maximum counts occur in Pennsylvania (200+) and Florida (500+) and these numbers are increasing each year. It is thought that most of these birds originate from the growing breeding population in Iceland; however, the presence of a North American breeding population has long been speculated. The recent confirmed breeding of this species on the Isles of Shoals supports that theory and also increases the potential for more sightings along New Hampshire's seacoast of pure, and possibly hybrid, birds in the future.

An interesting aspect of the sightings of Lesser Black-backed Gulls is their strong winter site fidelity. This is well illustrated by the recurrence of two individuals in the state. One bird was first noted as an adult in the fall of 2000 at Odiorne Point State Park. It has continued to return to this spot each winter and is often seen by itself or with a small group of gulls from a very small area near Frost Point in the northern end of the park. A second bird was first seen as a second-winter plumaged bird in Durham in December 2000 (see CBC sighting above). Since that first sighting, it has been reported regularly each winter from the same locations in Durham and nearby in Newmarket, often begging for food with the local flock of Ring-billed Gulls!

Data Sources

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

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

New Hampshire Audubon Quarterly, 1961–1976. Audubon Society of New Hampshire, Concord, New Hampshire.

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

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

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An Owl in My Backyard

by *Helen Downing*

Resolved to avoid the usual Christmas stress, I arose one December morning and planned my day around wrapping Christmas presents. To make the best use of time, I decided first to get out and fill the birdfeeders. Recent snow had coated the ground with almost a foot of light powder and the chickadees were getting impatient. With a bucket of black oil sunflower seeds and a few ears of Indian corn saved from this year's harvest, I was ready to get started. As I filled the feeders hanging on an old lilac bush, the chickadees arrived above me and scolded hungrily. Plodding through the snow, I crossed the yard to a wooden feeder mounted on an old pine stump. This feeder has a roof and is a favorite of the Blue Jays and squirrels.

A slight sound above my head made me look up; an owl flew slowly and silently from a branch just overhead to a tree not far away. With my eyes locked on the owl, I finished refilling the birdfeeder. The owl continued to perch and watch me as I backed away silently, wondering how much time it would take to run in the house and get binoculars before it flew away. When I returned, the owl had flown back to its original branch, assured that it was safe to begin its vigil anew. I had noticed that in flight it appeared to be light, creamy beige with touches of a golden brown. In addition, streaks of brown ran vertically down its lighter chest; under its beak, a band of checkered brown and cream feathers formed a thick ruff about the neck. Perched with its back to me, its large dark eyes peered first to its left and then to its right, its head turning to look in my direction, giving the effect of a 180-degree revolution. For the next three hours, it remained on its watch; apparently, a bird feeder can feed more than the seedeaters on my list. Suddenly, the owl's tail lifted and its wings opened; it dove below the feeder and slipped gracefully into the space created between a log and the several inches of new snow. For a few seconds, the owl disappeared only to reappear suddenly, emerging from the trough. It sat a few minutes in the snow with a mouse-like tail hanging from its beak. Lunch soon over, it flew back to its perch.



*Barred Owl by Fred Tyrrell, 12/22/07,
Center Harbor, NH.*

I decided that this was a possible “photo-op.” Presidential in stature, would the owl stay long enough to pose? After another mad scramble to retrieve my camera, sure enough, it posed as patiently as a New Hampshire primary candidate, turning its head first left, then right, then to look almost directly behind. I don’t know when it departed, but it was there until the light faded, which happens early at this time of year. Needless to say, not much wrapping got done. At some point during the afternoon, I checked my bird book to find that this was a Barred Owl, the one who calls, “Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you-all?”

Checking the online archives of the NH.Birds Listserv at www.virtualbirder.com (B-Mail), I discovered that Barred Owls were more plentiful in New Hampshire this winter than in the past, possibly because of a crash in the vole population in Canada. This may account for their being out in daylight. Normally diurnal hunters, under stress owls will hunt during daylight. This makes my owl sighting more bittersweet. Hopefully, this owl will be able to find the voles that plague my garden and have a successful winter.

As I stop and reflect on this day, my neglected “to-do” list didn’t get any shorter, but my list of memorable moments did get longer.

Helen Downing is a UNH Cooperative Extension Master Gardener. She enjoys watching and feeding the birds in her backyard, gardening, and writing nature articles. She lives with her husband in Wentworth where watching nature is a way of life.

Birding Great and Little Bays

by Stephen R. Mirick and Terry Bronson

This article is an update of the feature published in the Summer 2000 issue of New Hampshire Bird Records.

Great Bay is the largest estuary in the state. It encompasses approximately 11,000 acres of tidal water and is bordered by ten towns. It is a wide shallow bay where the tidal waters of the ocean meet the incoming fresh water from seven different rivers that flow into the estuary system. Not surprisingly, the bay also represents the most important migratory stop and wintering area for several species of waterfowl, including the American Black Duck, Canada Goose, and Greater Scaup. In addition, one of the largest wintering populations of Bald Eagles in the state utilizes the bay, and it is an important nesting location in coastal New Hampshire for Ospreys. Because of its importance, Great Bay has been established as part of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System.

Little Bay is commonly considered part of Great Bay, but is technically separate. It encompasses the area north (downstream) from Adam’s Point until it becomes the Piscataqua River at the New Hampshire-Maine border.

The best time of year to visit Great Bay is from October through April, when the greatest number of waterfowl will be present. This is also the best time to view Bald Eagles. The summer is relatively slow on the bay; however, the nesting birds, including Ospreys, will be most easily seen then. Shorebirds may be migrating through during the fall, beginning as early as mid-July. Be aware that hunting is common on the bay in season; birders may be sharing space with hunters at most of the locations outlined below.

Great Bay Discovery Center, Stratham

Formerly the Sandy Point Discovery Center, this area, managed by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, is situated along the southern edge of the bay. It offers a 1,700-foot wheelchair-accessible boardwalk that winds through a forested area, wooded swamp, and out onto the edge of the salt marshes, where there are nice views of the bay. During migration, the boardwalk can be an excellent spot to find migrant warblers and sparrows. Both species of cuckoos have been seen here and Pileated Woodpeckers are year-round residents of the area. From October through April, the boat launch is a good location from which to scan the bay for large flocks of migrant and wintering Greater Scaup, American Black Duck, Common Goldeneye, and Canada Geese. During mid-winter, this area usually becomes iced in, so it is better to search the northern section of the bay from Adam's Point.

To reach the Discovery Center, follow Route 108 north through Stratham to the Route 33 traffic circle. Follow Route 33 east toward Portsmouth for 1.5 miles, just past the set of lights for Squamscott Road. Turn left onto Depot Road and follow it to the end, where you will bear left to enter the parking lot for the nature center.

Chapman's Landing, Stratham

Chapman's Landing is always worth a quick check to see if there are any interesting birds along the river or over the open salt marshes. This public boat launch, managed by New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, is located along the Squamscott River. Public restrooms are open in season. During the early spring and late fall, check the salt pans for Green-winged Teal and Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs. During the summer, Saltmarsh and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows nest here. Be sure to check



Pileated Woodpecker by Fred Tyrrell.

the power lines crossing the river. Ospreys have nested on the poles in recent years, and Red-tailed Hawks can often be seen perched along the wires or soaring overhead. During the winter, the only noteworthy birds seen here are Common Mergansers, which are frequently seen swimming among the ice flows in the river.

To reach Chapman's Landing from the Great Bay Discovery Center, return to Route 33 and drive west for a short distance. Turn right at the first set of lights onto Squamscott Road; scan the marshes and fields here for Northern Harriers, Red-tailed Hawks, Great Blue Herons, Canada Geese, and gulls. Follow this road to the intersection of Route 108. Turn right and head north on Route 108 for less than a half mile and look for the landing on the right, just prior to the bridge over the Squamscott River.

Lubberland Creek Preserve, Newmarket

Managed by The Nature Conservancy, this preserve has a mixture of saltwater marsh, a large field, lowland and upland woodlands, and frontage on Great Bay. There are several trails noted on the information board at the parking area, which itself can be a good spot for migrating warblers, orioles, vireos, and other passerines. One trail goes inland, following a freshwater marsh, then winds up a hill and back. This trail can be good for woodland birds, especially during migration. Another trail crosses the road and traverses the field to The Nature Conservancy's Great Bay headquarters building; Bobolinks are summer residents along this trail. A third trail also crosses the road and winds through lowland forest to the edge of the salt marsh, where you can view Great Bay. There is an Osprey nest visible from this trail, and many passerines inhabit the forest and the edge of the woods fronting the salt marsh. The salt marsh is at the mouth of the tidal Lubberland Creek and at low tide has a large amount of exposed mud, where you may find Great Blue and Green Herons, Greater Yellowlegs, and often other shorebirds. In winter, distant views of waterfowl are possible if you can negotiate the trail.

To reach Lubberland Creek from Chapman's Landing, follow Route 108 north through Newmarket center for 3.4 miles and turn right onto Bay Road just after crossing the Lamprey River. Drive for 1.3 miles to the small parking area on the left.

Along the way are two worthwhile stops, especially in fall and winter: the historic Newmarket Town Landing on the Lamprey River below the dam and the old factory buildings at the foot of Water Street, one block north of the intersection of Routes 108 and 152. Hundreds of Mallards and dozens of gulls congregate here except during extreme cold snaps when the entire river is iced in. A Lesser Black-backed Gull has frequented the area in winter, and Common Mergansers can sometimes be seen downstream. Other waterfowl may be present too.

Adam's Point, Durham

Located at the mouth of Great Bay, Adam's Point is state-owned land and the site of the University of New Hampshire Jackson Estuarine Laboratory. An excellent trail leads around the point and offers numerous locations to scan for migrating and wintering waterfowl along the northern part of the bay. This is one of the easiest places in the state to find Mute Swans. Adam's Point is probably the best area to search for wintering Bald Eagles on the bay. The eagles, best seen with a spotting scope, roost along the shores of the bay or you may find them feeding along the edge of the ice. During the spring, summer, and fall, be sure to check the salt marsh opposite the boat launch.

Snowy Egrets can sometimes be seen feeding in these pools, along with Belted Kingfishers. In migration, shorebirds, especially Greater Yellowlegs, can be common at high tide, roosting and feeding along the edge of the pools. Great Blue Herons at low tide and Double-crested Cormorants are often seen on the Little Bay side of the boat launch. A short trail through the woods that connects the parking lot and the boat launch area may yield forest birds such as Red-bellied Woodpecker. The list of bird species seen from Adam's Point is impressive, and a trip here is highly recommended.

To reach Adams' Point, drive south along Route 108 from Durham for .4 miles and turn left onto Durham Point Road. Drive for 4 miles to Adam's Point Road, where there is a gate but no road sign. Turn left here and follow the road past the boat launch to the end, where there is a public parking lot for the lab and the trails.

From the south from Lubberland Creek, drive 2.7 miles north on Bay Road (it becomes Durham Point Road at the Durham town line) to Adam's Point Road on your right. Then follow directions above.

Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Newington

The northeastern shore of the bay has remained undeveloped over the years because of the former occupation by the Pease Air Force Base. With its closure, this land is now being managed as the Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The unstaffed refuge is administered as a unit of the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge at Newburyport, MA. Two trails provide nice opportunities for birders.

To reach the parking lot for the trails, take Exit 1 off of the Spaulding Turnpike (Route 16) and drive south on Gosling Road into the Pease International Tradeport. Drive .6 miles through a set of lights and turn right onto Arboretum Drive. Follow this road around the northwest side of the airport. At 2.3 miles, you will be at the end of the runway for the airport. Park off the edge of the road and walk to the fence overlooking the airport. From late April through August, Upland Sandpipers may be found out in the grassy area in the middle of the runways. This is one of very few nesting locations for this species in New Hampshire. A spotting scope is usually required, although sometimes the birds can be found close to the fence. Search the sparse vegetation along the end of the runway for Horned Larks, Eastern Meadowlarks, and Vesper Sparrows, which also sometimes nest here.

Continue along the road for one more mile, and you will pass through an automatic gate and into the parking lot and trail heads. A rest room is available here. During migration, the trees and shrubs surrounding the parking lot and near the administration building are well worth checking for warblers, vireos, and sparrows. The shorter of the two trails is .5 miles long and takes you out to Upper Peverly Pond, a freshwater pond that can sometimes be good for waterfowl in the spring and fall. The longer of the two trails is 2 miles long and starts along the edge of the former weapons storage area for the old Pease Air Force Base. Search the brushy areas for Field Sparrow and Brown Thrasher; Eastern Bluebirds and American Kestrels can often be found perched along the wires. Wild Turkeys have been seen near the fence, and Ospreys nest near the back of the fenced area. Common Nighthawks have been seen flying overhead during the daytime. The trail travels by a beaver pond (often good for warblers, Red-eyed Vireo, Eastern Phoebe, Northern Flicker, and other migratory passerines), through an open field (sparrows and Cooper's Hawk), through the woods (Scarlet Tanager, Red-bellied

and other woodpeckers), and eventually comes out at a viewing platform at the Furber Straits at the mouth of Great Bay, directly opposite Adam's Point. Waterfowl and an occasional eagle can sometimes be found along the water's edge.

Sunset Farm, Newington

Sunset Farm is privately owned but has a conservation easement and is open to foot travel. Great Bay is a short 1/4 mile from the road and the slight elevation provides a good view. The cove at Sunset Farm is *the* place to go in New Hampshire for Eurasian Wigeon, one or two of which are usually in the company of numerous American Wigeon during fall and winter. A scope is definitely in order here. The trees and shrubs bordering the field between the road and the bay can yield interesting landbirds such as Northern Shrike and Orange-crowned Warbler. Also be sure to check the shrubs along the road and the fields across the road at Great Bay Farm, which are patronized by various sparrows and, in migration, Wilson's Snipe, Pectoral Sandpipers, and sometimes other shorebirds.

To get here from Portsmouth, follow Route 33 west toward Greenland, turning right onto Portsmouth Avenue .5 mile southwest of Route 95. After .7 mile, turn right onto Newington Road and go .7 mile until you see Great Bay Farm on the right and Sunset Farm on the left. Go about 300 feet past those driveways and turn left at a break in the shrubs bordering the road where there is a line of trees in the middle of the field. There is a small sign indicating the Sunset Farm Conservation Area. Park here next to the road and walk to the right of the row of trees out to the bay's edge. On the way back you may want to walk near the shrubs in the middle of the field to see what's there.

Bayside Road Access, Greenland

The state of New Hampshire Fish and Game Department administers the land off Bayside Road. The view of the bay is limited, but in the spring this can sometimes be a good spot to see the Greater Scaup and dabbling ducks near Pierce's Point. At low tide, there may be numerous Great Blue Herons fishing the shallow water. The trek through the woods should yield typical forest birds during the warm-weather months.

To get here from Sunset Farm, retrace your route on Newington Road back to Portsmouth Avenue, turn right, and go .7 mile to the stoplight at Route 33. Turn right and go 1.2 miles. Immediately after crossing the Winnicut River, turn right onto Bayside Road. Follow Bayside Road for .3 mile and look for the sign on the right after crossing a small creek. Park at the end of the gravel road, cross the railroad tracks, and walk north along the .5 mile trail to the bay. The road may be impassable in winter and rutted and puddle-filled during much of the rest of the year.

Steve Mirick is the Fall Editor of New Hampshire Bird Records and moderator of the NH.Birds Listserv. Terry Bronson is an officer of New Hampshire Audubon's Seacoast Chapter, New Hampshire Bird Records volunteer, and Secretary of the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee.

Gulls of the Rochester Wastewater Treatment Plant

by Kathie Palfy

No, this isn't the "Where to Bird" article, it's a photo gallery to highlight the "gull show" that can be found at the Rochester wastewater treatment plant and the adjacent Pickering Ponds. This haunt is a favorite stop for many birders trying to locate unusual or rare winter gulls. At most times several species of gulls in varying plumages can be viewed. Also sharing the space are many types of ducks. Part



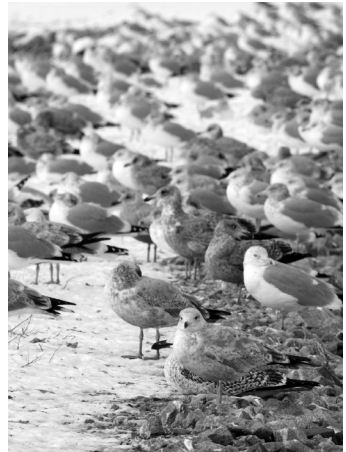
Iceland Gull by Scott Young, 1/29/08, Pickering Ponds.



Glaucous Gull by Jason Lambert, 01/07/08, wastewater treatment plant.

of the lure of the area, for the gulls at least, is the adjacent Turnkey Landfill. Clouds of gulls circle over the landfill when trucks are dumping garbage and large numbers rest and "bathe" at the treatment plant. Weekdays are considered the best times to check for gulls because the landfill is open. The treatment plant is located on Pickering Road in the Gonic section of Rochester. It is only open on weekdays before 3:00 pm and visitors

must check in at the plant before doing any birding. As with any private property, please be courteous and respectful, obey all signage and hours. The access trail to Pickering Ponds is also on Pickering Road, just to the east of the plant and open to the public at any time. Don't forget to dress for the weather, the gulls are displaying their finest for you!



Gulls roosting at the wastewater treatment plant by Jason Lambert, 01/24/08.



Black-headed Gull by Scott Young, 1/7/08, Pickering Ponds.

New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee Report

This report from the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee (NHRBC) contains the decisions for records voted on since the report published in the Spring 2006 (Part 1) and Summer 2006 (Part 2) issues of *New Hampshire Bird Records* (NHBR).

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

A rejection is not necessarily an indication that the identification was incorrect but that the information received was not sufficient to allow its inclusion in the state record. Adequate documentation is key to whether a report is accepted or not. For information on the Committee and its decision-making process, see the articles in the Summer 1996 and Winter 2005–06 issues of NHBR. The Fall 1996 issue has an article on how to document rare sightings. Contact the Managing Editor of NHBR for a copy of these articles.

Voting members of the Committee during 2007 when these votes took place were Dennis Abbott, Ralph Andrews, Jim Berry, David Deifik, Davis Finch, George Gavutis, Jr., Tony Vazzano, and Rob Woodward (chairman). Terry Bronson served as the Committee Secretary.

Spring 2006

Records accepted by the Committee

Greater White-fronted Goose in Charlestown on March 18. (Two reports)

Least Bittern in Rye on May 29.

Black Vulture in Hinsdale on March 28.

Black Vulture in Portsmouth on May 24.

Gyr Falcon in Gilford on March 12.

American Oystercatcher in Rye on May 5.

Red-necked Phalarope in Jefferson on May 12.

Red-necked Phalarope in Jefferson on May 13.

Red-necked Phalarope in Dorchester on May 14.

Red-necked Phalarope in Whitefield on May 14.

Red-necked Phalarope in Concord on May 15.

Red-necked Phalarope in Exeter on May 16.

Red Phalarope in Bow on May 14.

Red Phalarope in Concord on May 14.

Red Phalarope in Dorchester on May 14.

Red Phalarope in Gilford on May 15.

Lesser Black-backed Gull in Concord on May 16.

Arctic Tern in Jefferson on May 14.

Townsend's Solitaire in Nottingham on April 9.

Blue Grosbeak in Hanover on May 8.

Dickcissel in Derry on April 10.

Dickcissel in Swanzezy on May 25.

American Tree Sparrow in Tamworth on May 17.

Hoary Redpoll in Chatham on March 19.

Hoary Redpoll in Sandwich on March 19.

Records not accepted by the Committee

Red-necked Phalarope in Laconia on May 13. No documentation.

Red-necked Phalarope in Gilford on May 15. No documentation.

Red Phalarope in Gilford on May 15. No documentation.

Long-eared Owl in Jefferson on May 24. Description of several hoots and calls not conclusive due to variation in owl calls.

Acadian Flycatcher in Durham on May 19. Song inconclusive. Not seen.

Cerulean Warbler in Strafford on May 17. No optics. Description not convincing.

Cerulean Warbler in Strafford on May 28. No optics. Description not convincing.

Cerulean Warbler in North Hampton on May 31. No optics. Description not convincing.

American Tree Sparrow in Ossipee on May 17. No documentation.

Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow in Concord on May 13. Unusual location. Insufficient details to eliminate other sparrow species.

Summer 2006

Records accepted by the Committee

Albatross species in Hampton on June 6. (Two reports.)

Stercorarius species in Rye on July 19.

Least Bittern in Durham on June 27.

Least Bittern in Stratham on July 8.

Black Vulture in Ossipee on June 29.

American Oystercatcher in Seabrook on June 1.

Common Murre in Rye on July 23.

White-winged Dove in Dover on July 2. (Photos. First state record.)

Selasphorus species in Loudon on July 22.

Selasphorus species in Loudon on July 31.

Clay-colored Sparrow in Concord on June 14.

Records not accepted by the Committee

Mississippi Kite in Kensington on July 9. More detail needed for a rarity of this magnitude.

American Oystercatcher in Hampton on July 15. Brief description does not eliminate other species.

Arctic Tern in Jefferson on June 16. Insufficient details.

Yellow-headed Blackbird in New London on July 1. Insufficient details.

Fall 2006

Records accepted by the Committee

Eared Grebe in Rye on November 30.

American White Pelican in Portsmouth on October 21.

Western Reef-Heron in Rye on August 9. (Photos. First state record.)

Western Reef-Heron in Portsmouth on August 19.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in Hampton on September 17.

Royal Tern in Rye on August 16.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher in Rye on November 18–19. (Three reports. Photos. First state record.)

Northern Wheatear in Salem on September 14. (Two reports.)

Northern Wheatear in Rye on September 16.

Records not accepted by the Committee

Purple Gallinule in Fremont on October 9. Insufficient details.

Barn Owl in Bedford on August 19. Insufficient, unconvincing details for a rare species.

Great Gray Owl in Shelburne on October 4. Date improbable. Details lacking.

Winter 2006–2007

Records accepted by the Committee

Greater White-fronted Goose in Chatham on December 6.

Cackling Goose in Concord on December 7. (First state record for this species under this name, although records exist for Richardson's subspecies of Canada Goose, which is among the subspecies that were split to form Cackling Goose in 2004.)

American White Pelican in Newmarket on December 10.

Black Vulture in Amherst on December 4.

Gyr Falcon in Dover on February 13.

Slaty-backed Gull in Rochester on January 2. (Two reports.)

Slaty-backed Gull in Rochester on January 18. (Two reports.)

Eastern Phoebe in Merrimack on February 5.

Varied Thrush in Dublin on February 20.

Ovenbird in Westmoreland on January 26.

Yellow-headed Blackbird in East Kingston on January 21.

Yellow-headed Blackbird in Stratham on January 21.

Yellow-headed Blackbird in East Kingston on January 25.

Records not accepted by the Committee

Long-eared Owl in Pittsburg on December 19. Call of unseen bird insufficient to identify species.

Eastern Phoebe in Fitzwilliam on February 10. Improbable for date. Not likely to be singing.

Spring 2007

Records accepted by the Committee

Greater White-fronted Goose in Hinsdale on March 18.

Greater White-fronted Goose in Charlestown on March 31.

Cackling Goose in Hinsdale on March 25.

Cackling Goose in Sandwich on April 22.

Barnacle Goose in Hinsdale on March 25 and 27. (Two reports.)

"Common" Green-winged Teal in East Kingston on March 14–15. (Two reports.)

"Common" Green-winged Teal in Charlestown on March 31.

"Common" Green-winged Teal in Keene on April 18.

Pacific Loon in Rye on May 15. (Two reports.)

Eared Grebe in Rye on May 14.

Leach's Storm-Petrel in Hampton on April 16. (Two reports.)

Black Vulture in Hinsdale on April 17.

Mississippi Kite in Kensington on April 24.

King/Clapper Rail in Hampton on May 19, 22, and 25. (Three reports. Bird heard only.)

American Oystercatcher in Seabrook on May 20.

Thick-billed Murre in Hampton on May 7–12.

Long-eared Owl in Deerfield on March 14. (Specimen)

Red-headed Woodpecker in Hillsborough on March 10.

White-eyed Vireo in Chester on May 23.

Prothonotary Warbler in Epping on May 26.

Summer Tanager in Hampton on May 28–29. (Three reports.)

Western Tanager in Goffstown on May 16.

Clay-colored Sparrow in Laconia on May 20.

"Oregon" Dark-eyed Junco in Epping on March 25.

Records not accepted by the Committee

American Oystercatcher in Hampton on May 20. No documentation received. Second-hand report.

Wood Thrush in New Boston on March 5. Observed without optics, while driving.

Blue Grosbeak in Bristol on May 8–9. Indigo Bunting cannot be ruled out.

Blue Grosbeak in Brookline on May 19. Indigo Bunting cannot be ruled out.

Lark Bunting in Fitzwilliam on March 15. Large flock inconceivable. Unsuitable habitat. Unlikely date.

Rustic Bunting in Whitefield on March 23. Purple Finch not eliminated. Insufficient documentation for first state record.

Older Records

Records accepted by the Committee

Rufous Hummingbird in Salem on August 23–24, 2005. (Additional photos received.)
Kentucky Warbler in Rye on September 6, 1998. (Photo. Banded.)

Records not accepted by the Committee

Osprey in Nottingham on December 25, 2005. Bird not described. Unlikely date.
Hoary Redpoll in Loudon on February 8–9, 2004. Cannot rule out leucistic Common Redpoll.
Adult male Hoary would not have heavily streaked flanks.

Records Pending

Least Bittern in Sandwich on May 24, 2007. Documentation not yet received.

Photo Quiz – An Identification Clinic

by David Donsker. Photos by Scott Young, except for Figure 1.

We have used a slightly different format for this issue's Photo Quiz to better present the identification features of the confusingly similar redpolls. Ed.

To the delight of New Hampshire birders, the snowy winter of 2007–2008 was one that exploded with irruptive subarctic and high arctic species. Pine Grosbeaks, Bohemian Waxwings, and redpolls abounded in considerable numbers. As part of this huge influx of redpolls were a significant number of well-documented Hoary Redpoll sightings, including the individual photographed in Steve Mirick's montage of views (Figure 1) which introduces this season's "Photo Quiz."

The identification of Hoary Redpoll is one of the more difficult challenges we face as birders. There are several reasons why this is so.

First of all, in North America four taxa or phylogenetic groups of redpolls are involved. Two full species of redpoll are recognized by the American Ornithologists' Union—Common and Hoary—each with two subspecies. The "Southern" or "Mealy" Common Redpoll, *Carduelis flammea flammea*, breeds in the subarctic boreal forest of Canada and Alaska. It is the most abundant redpoll seen in New Hampshire in any winter. The rarer "Greater" Common Redpoll, *C. f. rostrata*, is a larger, darker form that breeds on Baffin Island and in Greenland. It is typically seen only in major irruptive years. Hoary Redpoll breeds on the arctic tundra. Its two subspecies include the more frequently encountered "Southern" Hoary Redpoll, *C. hornemanni exilipes*, which breeds in northern Canada and Alaska, and "Hornemann's" Hoary Redpoll, *C. h. hornemanni*, the rare, large pale form that breeds in the Canadian High Arctic and Greenland.

Secondly, there are plumage differences between males and females of all forms and between juvenile (first year) and adult birds of both sexes. Thus, any given redpoll flock could have as many as sixteen different plumage classes to contend with: adult males, adult females, juvenile males, and juvenile females of four different sub-



Figure 1. Hoary Redpoll montage by Stephen R. Mirick, 2/10/08, Deerfield, NH.

species. As a general rule, adult males are palest within any given taxon and only males show any pink or red on the breast. Females are more heavily streaked than males and most juveniles are darker and even more heavily streaked than adult females, with juvenile females the darkest and most heavily streaked of all.

Finally, and most frustratingly, there is an incredible variability within sexes and age classes of both species from darker, more heavily streaked forms to paler, less streaked forms. This variability is so great that experts have suggested it eclipses any subtler differences between age/sex classes and frequently between the two species. In fact, David Sibley has recently asserted that ageing a redpoll is not helpful to its identification as younger birds also show a continuum from dark to paler forms. Female redpolls of all forms are particularly vexing and are often impossible to classify. With the exception of many adult males and some adult females, birds of intermediate or indeterminate plumage are to be expected in all redpoll flocks, and the brutal truth is that we just cannot assign many individuals to a given species.

Having said all of this, it is not impossible to identify redpolls to species and even subspecies level. In fact, it is a particularly satisfying challenge to try to do so, and there are fairly reliable ways to accomplish this for many individuals. To do so, however, requires ideal field conditions. Reasonably close, repeated looks are very helpful and, if possible, digital photographs of an individual in different poses and varying light conditions can be a great asset.

Undertail Coverts and Rump

The key features to look for when examining redpolls are the subtle differences in plumage and structure that can separate species. The two most reliable characteristics that can separate the two species are the degree of streaking on the undertail coverts and the degree of streaking on the rump. Unfortunately, these are often the most difficult areas to see well. Undertail coverts can only be seen well from below or at eye-level at a feeder, so their appearance cannot be used as a field mark if the bird is foraging on the ground. Similarly, because the rump is often obscured by the folded wings it is often hard to observe. Also, the rump cannot be reliably evaluated when the bird is fluffed up and it can occasionally be confused with the lower flanks when the latter are also fluffed. If seen well, the undertail coverts of Common Redpoll should be boldly streaked in several rows. Very bright adult male Common Redpolls may have only one medium-width streak, but these birds can almost always be distinguished by their intense reddish pink coloration (Figures 5 and 6). In contrast, adult males and some adult female Hoary Redpolls of both subspecies have either unstreaked undertail coverts or only a single, fine, hairline median streak (Figures 1, 2, and 3).

The rumps of most Common Redpolls are extensively streaked (Fig. 7). Bright adult males with pinkish-red rumps can have almost unstreaked rumps, but the brightness of the rump distinguishes the species. Be aware that some Common Redpolls can have partially unstreaked rumps, so it's important to see the entire rump before concluding that it is unstreaked. Adult male and some adult female Hoary Redpolls (exilipes) have unstreaked white to pale pink rumps and *hornemanni* adults of both sexes have large, unstreaked white or faintly pink rumps (Fig. 3). Many female Hoary Redpolls and all juvenile Hoary Redpolls have variably streaked rumps and so overlap with Common Redpoll in that feature.

Flanks

The next most reliable feature that distinguishes the two species is the degree of flank streaking. Because the undertail coverts and rump are often obscured, the best way to scan a flock for Hoary Redpoll is to look for a pale bird with reduced flank streaking. Common Redpoll typically has thick, brown streaks on its flanks (Figures 6 and 8). In contrast, Hoary Redpoll has narrower, wispy flank streaks, especially towards the rear. (Figures 1 and 2). The rear flanks are often unstreaked. In some adult males, especially those of the subspecies *hornemanni*, the flanks are virtually unstreaked. The degrees of streaking on the undertail coverts, rump and flanks of any individual bird are usually linked, so any bird showing reduced flank streaking bears very close scrutiny. Sibley (2008) has created a diagram based on the work of Troy that attempts to score the degree of streaking in these three regions. He gives a grade of 1 to 6 for each feature depending on the intensity of the streaking with the heaviest streaking earning the lowest grade. The lowest score would be 3 (grade 1+1+1=3), the



Figure 2. Hoary Redpoll, *C. hornemanni*. Note: Small bill; high forehead with “pushed-in” face; small “poll;” wispy rear flank streaks; single faint streak on undertail coverts; pale scapulars.



Figure 3. Hoary Redpoll, *C. hornemanni*. Note: Small bill; “pushed-in” face; small “poll;” unstreaked rump and unstreaked undertail coverts; fairly uniform streaking on mantle.



Figure 4. Hoary Redpoll, *C. hornemanni* (left). Compare to Common Redpoll in foreground. Note the Hoary’s: regular, uniform streaking on mantle; wide wing bar; pale rear scapulars; indistinct rear flank streak; “fluffy” leggings.

highest 18 (grade $6+6+6=18$). Based on this strategy, a male redpoll scoring 14–18 would be a likely Hoary and one scoring 3–7 would reasonably be considered a Common Redpoll. Adult males scoring 8–13 would be intermediate and not assignable to species based on the score alone. Females and juveniles would only require a score of 11 or higher to be considered candidates for Hoary Redpoll and would require scores of 3–6 to be considered likely Commons. Females scoring from 7–10 are intermediate. This approach, however, requires more field application and is not to be considered a “quick fix” to instantly assign any individual redpoll to species.

Mantle and Scapulars

The color of the mantle or central upper back differs between the two species and is another independent variable to consider when trying to identify an individual bird. The mantle ground color of Common Redpoll is generally a warm brown or grayish-

brown. In adult male Hoary Redpoll (*exilipes*) the ground color is whitish-gray to brownish-gray and in *hornemanni* it is even paler, sometimes nearly white. As such, the mantle of adult male Hoary Redpoll looks cooler or “frostier” than that of Common Redpoll. (Female Hoarys, frequently, and juvenile Hoarys, typically, have brownish mantles that overlap that of Common Redpoll.) Another feature of *exilipes* Hoary Redpolls is pale feather edging on the rear scapulars that form a contrasting horizontal band between upper wing coverts on the folded wing and the mantle (Figures 2 and 4). If present, this is a good additional clue as to species, as the same feathers in Common Redpoll show little or no contrast with the mantle. In juvenile birds and darker adult females, the pale rear scapulars may be a good clue to a possible Hoary Redpoll. Further, Common Redpolls frequently have two parallel white stripes or “braces” down the center of the back that contrast with the other back stripes (Fig. 7). The striping on the back of Hoary Redpoll is more uniform (Figures 3 and 4).

Breast, Bill, and Legs

The intensity and distribution of breast color of adult males can be helpful. Common Redpolls have pinkish-red to deep red breasts, but beware of birds in fresh plumage, which may have whitish fringes to the breast feathers, giving them a paler look. In contrast, the breast color of adult male Hoary Redpoll is very pale frosty pink.

Much has been written about the size, structure and bill shape differences between the two species. These features work reasonably well when you are comparing *hornemanni* Hoary Redpolls and Common Redpolls, but they are much less useful in the more common situation in which you are trying to identify an *exilipes* Hoary Redpoll, as there is considerable overlap in these features with Common Redpoll. The classic *hornemanni* Hoary Redpoll is a large bird (“Greater” Common Redpoll is also large, but it is a very dark form that is unlikely to be confused with Hoary Redpoll) with a slightly longer tail than Common or *exilipes* Hoary Redpolls. It has a steeper forehead, flatter crown, and thicker neck than its relatives. Its largish head and bull neck give it a massive-headed appearance. Like many *exilipes* Hoary Redpolls, it has a shorter appearing bill than Common Redpoll. The short appearance of the bill is caused by a more triangular shape (a combination of a broader base and straighter culmen or upper edge) coupled with fluffier feathers around the base of the bill, which can obscure some of the bill. In some individuals this combination of features gives the bill a “pushed-in” look. The problem with using these structural features when trying to identify *exilipes* Hoary Redpoll is that *exilipes* is similar in size to Common Redpoll and is neither bull-necked nor massive-headed. Although some *exilipes* have small, triangular bills, many do not. So, while the presence of these features is an excellent indication of Hoary Redpoll, their absence does not eliminate this species by any means. The same caveats hold true for the fluffiness of the feathers at the base of the bill. (Compare Figures 2 and 3 to Figures 5 and 6).

In addition to often having fluffy feathers at the base of the bill, Hoary Redpolls may also have fluffy tarsal feathers, or “leggings.” If present, these leggings are another good clue that the bird is a Hoary Redpoll (Fig. 4).

Wingbars and Head

Hoary Redpoll typically has a much more prominent and uniformly broader lower wing bar than Common Redpoll, and it has white edges on the inner secondaries,



Figure 5. Common Redpoll, *C. f. flammea*. Note: large bill; sloping forehead; large “poll;” heavily streaked undertail coverts.



Figure 6. Common Redpoll, *C. f. flammea*. Note: large bill; large “poll;” heavily streaked rear flanks; several strong undertail streaks.



Figure 7. Common Redpoll, *C. f. flammea*. Note: streaked rump; white “braces” on mantle; narrow wing bars; lack of pale scapulars.



Figure 8. Common Redpoll, *C. f. flammea* (left), *C. f. rostrata* (center). Note: sloping forehead; heavy flank streaks; lack of pale rear scapulars. *C. f. rostrata* is darker, more heavily streaked and 10% larger than *C. f. flammea*.

which often result in a small but bold white wing panel. Common Redpoll has narrower wing bars and a less distinct wing panel. (Compare Figures 4 and 7).

Hoary Redpolls of both types are less streaked on the nape, cheeks, and supercilium than Common Redpoll. As such, they often look pale headed. Further, the sides of the face and neck in Hoary Redpoll can be distinctly washed with pale buff. Often, but hardly consistently, the “poll” or red forecrown in Hoary Redpoll is smaller than in Common Redpoll. (Compare Figures 2 and 3 to Figures 5 and 6).

Behavior

Finally, there may be some behavioral characteristics that can clue you in to a possible Hoary Redpoll. They have been described as being more aggressive than Common Redpolls at feeding stations. When on the ground below feeders they may feed with their heads more frequently down and their tails more frequently up as they chase other birds away from the fallen seed. Hoary Redpolls may only be loosely associated with the Common Redpolls in a mixed flock. Tony Vazzano (pers. comm.) has noted that it is not uncommon for a Hoary Redpoll to be the one bird left behind when the others fly off in a mass from his feeders. Only when the flock doesn’t stay close by or soon return to the feeder will it then fly off to join the rest of the flock. Once in a great while there will be a single redpoll at his feeders...and it will be a Hoary.

With patience, careful observation, and knowledge of the constellation of subtle field marks that characterize both species, many Hoary Redpolls, especially adult males and some adult females, may be reliably and certainly identified. Many other redpolls will have to be relegated to the “likely Hoary” status and many others, especially females and first year birds, will just have to be dismissed as indeterminate. But the difficulty of redpoll identification should not deter you from the challenge. Redpolls typically irrupt into New Hampshire every other winter. The next time redpolls stage another large influx, watch your feeders carefully. You may be pleasantly surprised.

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Acknowledgements

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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
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge		
PO	Post Office		
R.	River		

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Owls — The Common and the Rare

by Kathie Palfy

Usually nocturnal, many Barred Owls were seen feeding during the day this winter. Although common in the state, sightings during the day are an uncommon treat. Some observers believe that the lack of food up north drove owls south; in other places the deep snow cover made hunting their usual prey difficult. Regardless of the reason, many birders were able to see an owl in the daylight, often near bird feeders hoping to catch a quick snack. Much less common in the state is this Short-eared Owl, posing on a post in Rye for this spectacular photo.



*Barred Owl by Pat Watts,
1/18/08, Milton, NH.*



*Short-eared Owl by Mark Suomala,
2/12/08, Rt. 1A, Rye, NH.*



New Hampshire Audubon
84 Silk Farm Road
Concord, NH 03301-8200