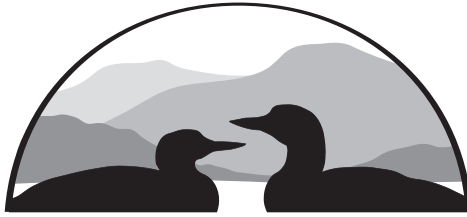


New Hampshire Bird Records



Spring 2008

Vol. 27, No. 1



New Hampshire Bird Records

Volume 27, Number 1

Spring 2008

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Cover Photos: *Ross's Goose in flight above Durham Town Landing by Scott Young, 3/30/08, Durham, NH. Ross's Goose walking in Moore fields on Rt. 155A by Scott Young, 3/29/08, Durham, NH.*

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IN MEMORY OF
Patricia Bruns

T*his issue of New Hampshire Bird Records with its color cover is sponsored by the family and friends of Patricia Bruns. Patricia was a strong supporter of NH Audubon, serving as Executive Councilor throughout the 1970s, and sustaining a deep interest in birds and conservation.*



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From the Editor

Thank You Julie Chapin

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of *New Hampshire Bird Records'* volunteer, Julie Chapin. Julie called me in the spring to tell me she would have to "retire" from her volunteer job because her cancer had returned. She had been a volunteer for 12 years, entering bird sightings into the computer.

Julie would quietly slip in and out of the office, working away on the computer the entire time she was here. I don't think she ever took a break; she always tried to finish all the slips to be entered and kept at it until she was done. She liked to work during the times when no one was in my office because it was peaceful (not a common occurrence). Everyone enjoyed Julie's presence – she was always so cheerful, positive and encouraging. She was modest and unassuming; always worried that she was not doing enough, although of course she was. She enjoyed her volunteer time and made every effort to get here between visits to children and grand-children. She sailed her boat out to visit me on Star Island during my bird banding research when I was away from the office for six weeks at a time.

It was not long after her call this spring that we learned of her passing. Knowing Julie, she spent those last few months with grace and good humor, encouraging and supporting those around her, and enjoying her time with her husband, children, and grand-children. We are grateful for all that Julie did for *New Hampshire Bird Records* and we will miss her quiet and cheerful presence in the office. The *New Hampshire Bird Records* team extends our sympathies to her family and friends.

Becky Suomala

Thank You

A special thank to those who donated in memory of Patricia Bruns. This issue is sponsored in her memory.

Susan & Patrick Ahearn

Eric Bruns

Mr. Joseph N. Buffardi

Diane & John Carroll

Judith Whittemore

Faculty and Staff of Sharon High School

Friends from the Secondary Program, Perkins School for the Blind

Sharon High School Science Department

2008 Goodhue-Elkins Award

As presented by Betsy Janeway at the New Hampshire Audubon Annual Meeting, June 2008.

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

This year's recipient is Kay Dyment. Kay has been an active participant in the New Hampshire birding community for more than 50 years. She grew up in Concord and first got hooked on birding when she saw Common Redpolls in her backyard and went to the library to find out what they were. She remembers the Concord Bird and Wildflower Club coming to look for birds near her house when she was growing up—little did she know she would later become a member and lead club field trips for 60 years! Kay has been a major contributor of Concord bird sightings to New Hampshire Audubon's seasonal bird reports. These reports are part of the historic record available to researchers tracking changes in bird populations.

Kay has also led many local walks for New Hampshire Audubon, and introduced some of today's most influential bird conservationists to New Hampshire Audubon and birding. The very first Audubon field trip that Carol Foss went on was led by Kay Dyment and Norma Struckoff in the 1960s! Carol remembers seeing a Cooper's Hawk at Horseshoe Pond and getting drenched at the end of the trip when they were at St. Paul's School and a long way from their cars.

Kay has been a dedicated volunteer—reliable, consistent, and determined. Her many volunteer projects include the Breeding Bird Atlas, Osprey Weekend, Harrier Day, and Bald Eagle surveys. She became a regular winter eagle volunteer when the project began in the 1980s. In the early days, when eagles were few and far between, she was out once or twice per week all winter long as well as observing from dawn to dusk on coordinated watch days. One year, she and Dawn Stavros trailed an eagle, nicknamed Joe, who was wearing a radio transmitter. As Joe flew north along the Merrimack River they followed along the bypass in Concord with the receiving antennae out the car window! She has long been devoted to the North Country, especially Lake Umbagog, and hardly ever missed an Osprey Weekend or Harrier Day.



Betsy Janeway presents Kay Dyment with the Goodhue Elkins Award, June 14, 2008. NH Audubon photo by Rick Minard.

Kay was one of the stalwarts of the Breeding Bird Survey program for more than 20 years, rising early for the 4:30 a.m. start of her two survey routes each summer. Bob Quinn first met Kay in June of 1977 when he assisted her on her BBS routes. Bob went on to conduct many BBS routes on his own. Kay also trained another assistant, Dawn Stavros, who later took over Kay's routes.

This sharing of knowledge with less experienced birders is a hallmark of Kay's birding activities. She is a very modest person who has been an inspiration for many. Bob Quinn expressed it best when he said "Kay inspired me, and others, by her actions more than her words." New Hampshire Audubon is pleased to honor Kay and her many contributions with this year's Goodhue-Elkins Award.

Photo Quiz



Can You Identify This Bird?

Answer on page 54.
Photo by Scott Young.

Spring Season

March 1 through May 31, 2008



Pam Hunt

by Pam Hunt

Unless you were away on your wintering grounds, you probably recall that the winter of 2007–2008 could be summarized in a single word: snow. The same word could also be applied to roughly half the spring, as even in Concord there was snow cover into the middle of April. Farther north and at higher elevations snow was still on the ground in early May. If there was any effect of the record-breaking snowfall on spring birds, however, it didn't show up in the data. March was wetter

than average (much of it due to snow), and both March and April were somewhat warm, so perhaps as a result there was a lot of water in fields by early April. This flooding may be responsible for the good numbers of waterfowl reported from parts of southern New Hampshire. Among them were more **Greater White-fronted** and **Cackling Geese** from the Connecticut River; high counts for Gadwall, Canvasback, and Redhead; and the state's first record of **Ross's Goose** (in Durham).

The extensive snow cover probably provided an excellent backdrop for a **Gyr Falcon** getting a very early Thanksgiving dinner in Whitefield, but in general there didn't appear to be any snow-related concentrations of birds. But who knows, perhaps the **Painted Bunting** that visited a Bow feeder in early March was desperately searching for a color scheme other than white. At the end of that month the state was treated to an incursion of **Black Vultures**. Winter irruptives such as Northern Shrikes, Bohemian Waxwings, Pine Grosbeaks, and Common Redpolls lingered into April. Also in mid-April, an **Eared Grebe** in Hampton was possibly the local wintering bird that hadn't been seen since mid-January.

In contrast to March and April, May was bone-dry—the driest May in over 100 years. But again, there didn't seem to be any correlation between birds and weather, except perhaps the absence of waterfowl and phalarope fall-outs that might have occurred had there been more rain. Good numbers of scoters and shorebirds were reported from inland locations on May 24, despite any obvious weather event to force them to the



Cackling Goose with two Canada Geese by Byard Miller, 4/2/08, Great Meadows, Charlestown, NH.

ground. Among migrant songbirds, several species of aerial insectivores (e.g., swallows and flycatchers) were clearly late in arriving, a pattern probably tied more to population declines than meteorological events. Observers along the seacoast in April and May also noted large numbers of northbound daytime migrants, as summarized in an accompanying article by Steve Mirick (p. 46). At the end of May, observers in two distant corners of the state were treated to “one-day wonders.” In Jefferson, the season’s second **Painted Bunting** visited a feeder, and in Newmarket a pair of **Mississippi Kites** flew over the Lamprey River. These latter birds would go on to cause quite a sensation, but sharing it with you will be the job of the Summer Editor.

Waterfowl

All in all, it was a very good spring for waterfowl, perhaps because the March rains resulted in extensive flooding in fields along the major rivers and seacoast. The Connecticut River continued to be the waterfowl hot spot of the season. Although there was no repeat of last year’s Barnacle Goose, frequent surveys by local birders turned up at least two **Greater White-fronted Geese** and four **Cackling Geese**. These two species were initially found in the southern portion of the valley, and the later reports from farther north were likely the same birds having moved upriver. Farther up the Connecticut Valley, a large flock of Snow Geese spent part of late March in North Haverhill. Meanwhile, at the other corner of the state, Scott Young photographed a small white goose in Durham that turned out to be the first state record of **Ross’s Goose**. It was seen, usually in the company of Canada Geese, by numerous additional observers over the next two days. Although there was some initial speculation that it might have been a hybrid Ross’s x Snow Goose, multiple expert opinions have since been in favor of its being a pure Ross’s Goose. There were good flights of Brant in late May, including an unknown number passing over Hopkinton the night of May 25 (heard while the observer was conducting a Whip-poor-will survey!).

As for ducks, it was an exceptional spring for Gadwall, with at least 17 reported, while 10 Northern Shovelers is about average for recent years. Canvasbacks and Red-heads also made record showings with 19 and 10 birds, respectively. Unlike most other waterfowl, these two species were not reported from the Merrimack Valley. Are people just not looking in the right places? The high counts of Ring-necked Ducks came from Powwow Pond as usual, peaking this year at 350 on March 29. Steve and Jane Mirick counted an impressive 2,500 White-winged Scoters migrating over Great Bay on May 24, along with 30 Brant. The only inland scoter reports were far from the coast in Pittsburg, also



Northern Shoveler drake by Dennis Skillman, 4/2/08, Exeter wastewater treatment plant, Exeter, NH.

on May 24. In the waterfowl listings, and later for selected seabirds, note the counts for the length of the seacoast on April 27. These data provide one of our only measures of the seasonal abundance of these species in New Hampshire, and thus are potentially quite valuable for tracking changes in local populations and migration timing. Note that the Ruddy Ducks in Rochester were two different birds: a female in April and a male in May.

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|------------------------------------|----------|-------------|---|---|
| Greater White-fronted Goose | | | | |
| 3/22 | 2 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | E. Masterson |
| 3/23 | 2 | Charlestown | Fisk's Meadow (Great Meadow) | A. & L. Johnson |
| Snow Goose | | | | |
| 3/26 | 200 | Haverhill | Grafton County Complex, Rt. 10, N. Haverhill | P. Powers grandson |
| 3/29 | 40 | Charlestown | Fisk Farm, Route 12 | E. Masterson |
| 3/29 | 57 | Conway | East Conway | B. Crowley |
| 3/30 | 240 | Haverhill | Connecticut R. fields, N. Haverhill | R. Bradley |
| 4/1 | 44 | Charlestown | Great Meadow | T. Bronson |
| 4/5 | 13 | Hampton | Hampton Marsh | S. & J. Mirick |
| 4/14 | 36 | Stratford | Connecticut R. backwater | D. Killam |
| 4/16 | 19 | Greenland | Great Bay from Sunset Farm | D. Abbott, T. Bronson |
| Snow Goose - Blue morph | | | | |
| 4/1 | 2 | Charlestown | Great Meadow | T. Bronson |
| Ross's Goose | | | | |
| 3/29 | 1 | Durham | Rt. 155A fields (Moore) | S. Young |
| 3/30 | 1 | Durham | Rt. 155A fields (Moore) | L. Medlock, S. & J. Mirick, D. Donsker, et al. |
| Brant | | | | |
| 3/16 | 4 | Seabrook | Hampton Harbor | S. Mirick |
| 4/6 | 19 | Rye | NH coast | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/15 | 33 | Seabrook | Hampton Harbor | S. Mirick |
| 5/24 | 30 | Newington | McIntyre Road | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/24 | 85 | Rye | s. of Jenness Beach | T. Bronson, D. Hubbard, L. Medlock |
| 5/25 | | Hopkinton | Mast Yard SF | R. Woodward |
| Cackling Goose | | | | |
| 3/30 | 4 | Hinsdale | Connecticut River at setbacks | L. Tanino, C. Seifer, B. Miller |
| 4/6 | 3 | Charlestown | Great Meadow | H. Galbraith |
| Canada Goose | | | | |
| 3/7 | 2500 | Greenland | Great Bay | T. Bronson |
| 3/7 | 325 | Stratham | Great Bay | T. Bronson |
| 3/14 | 500 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | E. Masterson |
| 3/15 | 1000 | | Great Bay | S. & J. Mirick |
| 3/18 | 150 | Litchfield | along Route 3A | E. Masterson |
| 3/22 | 560 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | E. Masterson |
| 3/23 | 334 | E. Kingston | Rt. 108 & Sanborn Rd. | T. Bronson |
| 3/25 | 1173 | Charlestown | Fisk Farm, Route 12 | E. Masterson |
| 3/27 | 820 | Walpole | Rt. 12 & Main St. | L. Tanino |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|-------------------------------|----------|---------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Canada Goose—continued | | | | |
| 3/30 | 1500 | Charlestown | Great Meadows | L. Tanino, P. Brown, C. Seifer |
| 3/30 | 900 | Durham | Rt. 155A fields (Moore) | S. & J. Mirick |
| Mute Swan | | | | |
| 3/6 | 7 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | E. Masterson |
| 5/2 | 1 | Salem | World End Pond | K. Folsom |
| Wood Duck | | | | |
| 3/11 | 10 | Merrimack | Horseshoe Pond | S. Malloy |
| 3/14 | 25 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | E. Masterson |
| 3/26 | 20 | Kensington | Rt. 107 residence, South Rd. | G. Gavutis, Jr. |
| 3/27 | 68 | Walpole | Rt. 12 & Main St. | L. Tanino |
| 3/27 | 29 | Walpole | River Road | L. Tanino |
| 3/30 | 29 | Brentwood | Deer Hill WMA | S. Young, G. Reagor |
| 4/3 | 79 | Charlestown | Great Meadows | E. Masterson |
| 4/3 | 18 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | E. Masterson |
| 4/3 | 52 | Walpole | Malnati Farm, Rt. 12 | E. Masterson |
| 4/3 | 5 | Walpole | River Road | E. Masterson |
| 4/5 | 50 | Concord | | R. Quinn |
| 4/12 | 40 | Concord | Morrill's Farm, Penacook | P. Hunt |
| Gadwall | | | | |
| 3/16 | 4 | N. Hampton | townline marsh | S. Mirick |
| 3/25 | 1 | Charlestown | Fisk Farm, Route 12 | E. Masterson |
| 3/30 | 4 | Charlestown | Great Meadows | L. Tanino, P. Brown, C. Seifer |
| 4/3 | 4 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | E. Masterson |
| 4/11 | 1 | Durham | Little Bay off Adams Point WMA | T. Bronson |
| 4/13 | 2 | Concord | Morrill's Farm, Penacook | P. Hunt |
| 4/25 | 1 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | E. Masterson |
| 5/6 | 2 | Hampton | behind Little Jack's Restaurant | L. Medlock, J. O'Shaughnessy |
| Eurasian Wigeon | | | | |
| 3/6 | 1 | Greenland | Meloon Road | S. Mirick, B. Griffith |
| 4/5 | 1 | Greenland | Sunset Farm | S. & J. Mirick |
| American Wigeon | | | | |
| 3/4 | 6 | Monroe | Connecticut R. at Rt. 135 bridge | R. Bradley |
| 3/6 | 16 | Greenland | Meloon Road | S. Mirick, B. Griffith |
| 3/16 | 8 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | E. Masterson |
| 3/18 | 2 | Nashua | Salmon Brook park | E. Masterson |
| 3/30 | 4 | Charlestown | Great Meadows | L. Tanino, P. Brown, C. Seifer |
| 4/5 | 2 | E. Kingston | Bodwell Farm | S. & J. Mirick |
| 4/6 | 35 | Greenland | Sunset Farm | S. & J. Mirick |
| 4/8 | 2 | Hampton Falls | marsh along railroad causeway | T. Bronson |
| 4/12 | 2 | Concord | Turtle Pond | R. Quinn |
| 4/12 | 2 | Gilford | Rt. 11B fields | I. MacLeod |
| American Black Duck | | | | |
| 3/7 | 175 | Stratham | Great Bay | T. Bronson |
| 3/14 | 100 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | E. Masterson |
| 3/25 | 103 | Charlestown | Fisk Farm, Rt. 12 | E. Masterson |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|-------------|----------|-------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| 3/29 | 137 | Charlestown | Fisk Farm, Rt. 12 | E. Masterson |
| 3/30 | 200 | Charlestown | Great Meadows | L. Tanino, P. Brown, C. Seifer |
| 4/4 | 130 | Greenland | Great Bay | T. Bronson |

Mallard

| | | | | |
|------|-----|-------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 3/14 | 165 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | E. Masterson |
| 3/25 | 177 | Charlestown | Fisk Farm, Rt. 12 | E. Masterson |
| 4/1 | 800 | Charlestown | Great Meadow | T. Bronson |
| 4/5 | 218 | E. Kingston | Bodwell Farm | S. & J. Mirick |
| 4/12 | 282 | Charlestown | Great Meadows | E. Masterson |

Blue-winged Teal

| | | | | |
|------|---|-------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 4/3 | 1 | Brentwood | Deer Hill WMA | S. Young |
| 4/3 | 1 | Walpole | River Road | E. Masterson |
| 4/5 | 2 | Keene | Krif Road | L. Tanino |
| 4/12 | 2 | Concord | West Portsmouth St. | R. Quinn |
| 4/19 | 2 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway Lake | S. Young |
| 4/25 | 2 | Charlestown | Great Meadows | E. Masterson |
| 5/4 | 2 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | E. Masterson |
| 5/22 | 1 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | D. Hubbard |

Northern Shoveler

| | | | | |
|------|---|-------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 3/15 | 1 | Exeter | wastewater treatment plant | L. Medlock |
| 4/2 | 2 | Charlestown | Great Meadows | L. Tanino, A. Clark |
| 4/3 | 4 | Exeter | wastewater treatment plant | L. Medlock |
| 4/6 | 1 | Greenland | Sunset Farm | S. & J. Mirick |
| 4/13 | 5 | Exeter | wastewater treatment plant | S. & J. Mirick |
| 4/16 | 2 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | D. Hubbard |

Northern Pintail

| | | | | |
|------|----|-------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 3/1 | 5 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | E. Masterson |
| 3/1 | 1 | Seabrook | Cross Beach Rd. | T. Bronson |
| 3/11 | 8 | Greenland | Bayside Road access | S. Mirick |
| 3/11 | 12 | Hinsdale | Vernon Dam | A. & L. Johnson |
| 3/29 | 8 | Charlestown | Fisk Farm, Rt. 12 | E. Masterson |
| 4/5 | 15 | E. Kingston | Bodwell Farm | S. & J. Mirick |
| 4/6 | 2 | Tilton | Rt. 140 marsh | I. MacLeod |
| 4/12 | 17 | Charlestown | Great Meadows | E. Masterson |
| 4/12 | 1 | Gilford | Rt. 11B fields | I. MacLeod |
| 5/4 | 1 | Charlestown | Great Meadows | E. Masterson |

Green-winged Teal

| | | | | |
|------|-----|-------------|--|---------------------|
| 3/8 | 2 | Greenland | Newington Road | S. Mirick |
| 3/11 | 4 | Hinsdale | Vernon Dam | A. & L. Johnson |
| 3/14 | 5 | Kingston | Powwow Pond | T. Bronson |
| 3/15 | 19 | | Great Bay | S. & J. Mirick |
| 4/3 | 33 | Charlestown | Great Meadows | E. Masterson |
| 4/6 | 32 | Exeter | river next to wastewater treatment plant | A. & G. Robbins |
| 4/6 | 45 | N. Hampton | Little River saltmarsh | S. & J. Mirick |
| 4/12 | 166 | Charlestown | Great Meadows | E. Masterson |
| 4/12 | 60 | Newmarket | TNC Lubberland Creek Preserve | S. Young |
| 4/13 | 60 | Concord | Morrill's Farm, Penacook | P. Hunt |
| 4/19 | 78 | Hinsdale | Hinsdale Bluffs | M. Iliff, L. Tanino |
| 4/25 | 100 | Charlestown | Great Meadows | E. Masterson |
| 5/4 | 70 | Charlestown | Great Meadows | E. Masterson |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|-------------|----------|-------------|-----------------|--------------------|
|-------------|----------|-------------|-----------------|--------------------|

Green-winged Teal—continued

| | | | | |
|------|---|------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 5/22 | 1 | Sandwich | Ambrose gravel pit, Rt. 113 | T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely |
| 5/23 | 1 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway Lake | S. Young |

Canvasback

| | | | | |
|------|----|-----------|---|------------------------|
| 3/10 | 6 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | E. Masterson |
| 3/11 | 2 | Greenland | Bayside Road access | S. Mirick |
| 3/11 | 2 | Kingston | Powwow Pond | S. Mirick |
| 3/13 | 1 | Monroe | Connecticut R., Plains Rd. bridge to McIndoe Falls | R. Bradley |
| 3/18 | 10 | Stratham | Great Bay from Sandy Pt. Discovery Ctr. | D. Deifik |
| 3/22 | 7 | Greenland | Great Bay access road | L. Medlock, J. Lambert |
| 3/25 | 2 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | E. Masterson |
| 3/29 | 1 | Kingston | Powwow Pond | S. & J. Mirick |

Redhead

| | | | | |
|------|---|-----------|---|------------------------|
| 3/6 | 6 | Greenland | Meloon Road | S. Mirick, B. Griffith |
| 3/13 | 2 | Kingston | Powwow Pond | S. Mirick |
| 3/18 | 2 | Stratham | Great Bay from Sandy Pt. Discovery Ctr. | D. Deifik |

Ring-necked Duck

| | | | | |
|------|-----|-----------|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| 3/1 | 2 | Hinsdale | Connecticut River below dam | E. Masterson |
| 3/4 | 27 | Kingston | Powwow Pond | S. Mirick |
| 3/11 | 20 | Hinsdale | Vernon Dam | A. & L. Johnson |
| 3/13 | 212 | Kingston | Powwow Pond | S. Young |
| 3/29 | 350 | Kingston | Powwow Pond | S. & J. Mirick |
| 3/29 | 65 | Salem | World End Pond | S. & J. Mirick |
| 3/30 | 60 | Brentwood | Deer Hill WMA | S. Young, G. Reagor |
| 3/30 | 75 | Hinsdale | setbacks | L. Tanino |
| 4/3 | 105 | Brentwood | Deer Hill WMA | S. Young |
| 4/4 | 125 | Greenland | Tidewater Farm Dr. pond | T. Bronson |
| 4/5 | 50 | Concord | | R. Quinn |
| 4/6 | 49 | Exeter | wastewater treatment plant | A. & G. Robbins |
| 4/10 | 118 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | E. Masterson |
| 4/13 | 44 | Concord | Turkey Pond survey | R. Woodward |
| 4/16 | 84 | Northwood | Northwood Lake | S. Young |
| 4/19 | 22 | Gilford | Lily Pond | I. MacLeod |
| 4/19 | 31 | Meredith | Lake Waukevan | I. MacLeod |
| 5/3 | 10 | Concord | Turkey Pond survey | R. Woodward |
| 5/27 | 1 | Concord | Merrimack River at NHTI campus | E. Masterson |

Greater Scaup

| | | | | |
|------|------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------|
| 3/7 | 3000 | Greenland | Great Bay | T. Bronson |
| 4/4 | 475 | Greenland | Great Bay | T. Bronson |
| 4/16 | 40 | Greenland | Great Bay | D. Abbott, T. Bronson |



*Lesser Scaup drake by Scott Young,
5/1/08, Pickering Ponds,
Rochester, NH.*

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|----------------------------|----------|-------------|----------------------------|---|
| Lesser Scaup | | | | |
| 3/1 | 1 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | E. Masterson |
| 3/29 | 1 | Kingston | Powwow Pond | S. & J. Mirick |
| 4/12 | 6 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | E. Masterson |
| 4/13 | 2 | Exeter | wastewater treatment plant | T. Bronson |
| 5/9 | 1 | Rochester | wastewater treatment plant | D. Hubbard |
| Common Eider | | | | |
| 4/27 | 161 | | NH coast | S. & J. Mirick |
| Surf Scoter | | | | |
| 4/27 | 192 | | NH coast | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/24 | 4 | Pittsburg | Scott Bog | C. Caron, P. Meleski, T. Pirro |
| White-winged Scoter | | | | |
| 4/27 | 412 | | NH coast | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/4 | 2 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | E. Masterson |
| 5/24 | 2500 | Newington | McIntyre Road | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/24 | 5 | Pittsburg | Second Connecticut Lake | C. Caron, P. Meleski, T. Pirro |
| Black Scoter | | | | |
| 4/5 | 146 | | NH coast | S. & J. Mirick |
| 4/13 | 100 | Seabrook | Seabrook Beach | S. & J. Mirick |
| 4/27 | 60 | | NH coast | S. & J. Mirick |
| Scoter sp. | | | | |
| 4/27 | 100 | Seabrook | Seabrook Beach | S. & J. Mirick |
| Long-tailed Duck | | | | |
| 4/27 | 277 | | NH coast | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/8 | 165 | Hampton | s. of Great Boars Head | T. Bronson |
| Common Goldeneye | | | | |
| 3/1 | 90 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | E. Masterson |
| 3/22 | 144 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | E. Masterson |
| 3/27 | 18 | Errol | Route 16 | A. & L. Johnson |
| 4/6 | 36 | Belmont | Lake Winnisquam | I. MacLeod |
| 4/8 | 80 | Dover | Salmon Falls River | S. Young |
| 4/27 | 1 | N. Hampton | townline cove on Rt. 1A | S. & J. Mirick |
| Barrow's Goldeneye | | | | |
| 3/8 | 1 | Hampton | s. of Great Boars Head | L. Medlock, T. Bronson, J. O'Shaughnessy |
| 3/11 | 2 | Concord | Sewalls Falls | E. Masterson |
| 3/22 | 1 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | E. Masterson |
| Hooded Merganser | | | | |
| 3/1 | 56 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | E. Masterson |
| 3/13 | 26 | Kingston | Powwow Pond | S. Young |
| 3/18 | 10 | Nashua | Salmon Brook park | E. Masterson |
| 3/25 | 18 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | E. Masterson |
| 3/28 | 46 | Hancock | Powdermill Pond | E. Masterson |
| 4/3 | 20 | Brentwood | Deer Hill WMA | S. Young |
| 4/5 | 22 | New Hampton | Winona Lake & Snake River | I. MacLeod |
| 5/10 | 8 | Whitefield | Airport Road | D. Govatski, Int'l. Mig. Bird Day FT |
| 5/23 | 9 | Dover | Stafford County Farm | D. Hubbard |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|-------------------------|----------|-------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Common Merganser | | | | |
| 3/6 | 50 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | E. Masterson |
| 3/17 | 30 | Concord | Sewalls Falls | E. Masterson |
| 3/29 | 28 | Kingston | Powwow Pond | S. & J. Mirick |
| 4/3 | 23 | Charlestown | Great Meadows | E. Masterson |
| 4/3 | 71 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | E. Masterson |
| 4/6 | 85 | Hancock | Powdermill Pond | E. Masterson |
| 4/8 | 68 | Dover | Salmon Falls River | S. Young |
| 4/11 | 35 | Tilton | Winnepesaukee Rd., Rt. 140 | J. Stockwell |
| 4/13 | 13 | Seabrook | off Rt. 1A | S. & J. Mirick |
| 4/16 | 46 | Concord | NHA McLane Center | S. Young |
| 4/19 | 70 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway Lake | S. Young |

Red-breasted Merganser

| | | | | |
|------|----|-----------|--------------------|----------------|
| 4/6 | 2 | Hancock | Powdermill Pond | E. Masterson |
| 4/8 | 2 | Dover | Salmon Falls River | S. Young |
| 4/27 | 89 | | NH coast | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/4 | 1 | Webster | Lake Winnepocket | R. Quinn |
| 5/14 | 3 | Claremont | Connecticut River | C. Martin |

Ruddy Duck

| | | | | |
|------|---|-----------|----------------------------|---------------|
| 4/6 | 1 | Belmont | Lake Winnisquam | I. MacLeod |
| 4/27 | 1 | Rochester | wastewater treatment plant | D. Hubbard |
| 4/30 | 1 | Exeter | wastewater treatment plant | P. Chamberlin |
| 5/21 | 1 | Rochester | wastewater treatment plant | D. Hubbard |



Ruddy Duck drake by Scott A. Young, 5/20/08, wastewater treatment plant, Rochester, NH.

Grouse through Cranes

An Eared Grebe, possibly the same bird that was present in early winter, was a one-day wonder at Hampton Beach on April 16. In the last week of May, lucky observers on the coast were able to see two species of shearwater from shore. While Manx Shearwater is occasionally observed from land at this time of year, Sooty is rare near the shore at any time, so two sightings are quite remarkable. For the second year in a row, **Least Bitterns** were found in the extensive marshes above Vernon Dam in Hinsdale. The Black-crowned Night-Heron in Hopkinton was also heard during Whip-poor-will surveys, which goes to show that you never know what you'll find when you go out at night! Given the relative paucity of ibis reports in recent years, the fact that the first two sightings this season came from inland locations is noteworthy. And then there were the **Black Vultures**. Now breeding in southwestern New England, this southern species continues to increase in northern New England, and the majority of

New Hampshire records are presumed spring migration overshoots. This year there appear to have been five between late March and mid-April.

Black Vultures and Ross's Goose may be notable sightings, but these rarities pale in comparison to a species reported from Newmarket by Darin Franceschini. On May 29, Darin sent a message to the NH.Birds e-mail list that he'd seen two **Mississippi Kites** near the Lamprey River. To date there is not an *accepted* record of this southern species for the state, but observant readers may recall a report from Kensington in 2007 and from Exeter in 2004. I don't want to steal thunder from the Summer Editor, but since the birds were initially reported in spring, it's only fair that I get to say something about them. Suffice it to say that the birds were relocated in early June, confirmed with photographs (thus making another first state record), and were well on their way to becoming a veritable tourist attraction by mid-summer. But the full story will have to wait until the summer issue.




Osprey with rainbow trout by Mary Fran Loggans, 4/19/08, Milford, NH.

Among other raptors, Red-shouldered Hawks were unusually late (median date is March 14), while Broad-wingeds were right on time. Three Rough-legged Hawks are more than usual for spring. Steve and Jane Mirick did some coastal hawk watching on April 13, and were rewarded with impressive numbers of Ospreys, Northern Harriers, and American Kestrels (see Steve's article on page 46). A white-morph **Gyrfalcon** is an exciting enough find on its own, but Sam Sprague got an extra adrenaline rush when he observed one attack a Wild Turkey in Whitefield on March 9. Note that the average weight of an adult female Gyrfalcon is around 4.5 pounds, while that of a female turkey is twice that. Even assuming the situation involved a large falcon going after a small turkey, this size disparity is testament to just how efficient a predator a falcon can be. For the record, despite the turkey flock "circling the wagons" after the initial attack, the falcon struck a second time, killed its quarry, and managed to carry it off out of sight.

It was a good spring for Virginia Rails and Soras, or at least for rail-seekers, since both species were reported in higher numbers and from more locations than usual. Monroe's single Sandhill Crane returned to its fields along the Connecticut River for a

ninth year, with additional sightings of lone Sandhill Cranes in Dover and Sandwich, and four in Warner. The latter birds are especially noteworthy since they were displaying; New Hampshire still lacks a breeding record of this species despite successful nesting in all three bordering New England states.

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|---|----------|-------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Spruce Grouse | | | | |
| 5/25 | 1 | Pittsburg | East Inlet Road | B. Griffith, C. Wright |
| 5/30 | 6 | Pittsburg | East Inlet Road | B. Griffith, C. Wright |
| Red-throated Loon | | | | |
| 4/27 | 8 | | NH coast | S. & J. Mirick |
| Common Loon | | | | |
| 4/5 | 1 | Kingston | Powwow Pond | S. & J. Mirick |
| 4/7 | 1 | Auburn | Clairs Landing at Lake Massabesic | T. Bronson |
| 4/12 | 1 | Surry | Surry Lake | L. Tanino |
| 4/13 | 1 | Concord | Turkey Pond survey | R. Woodward |
| 4/27 | 88 | | NH coast | S. & J. Mirick |
|  | | | | |
| <p><i>Pied-billed Grebe</i> by Dennis Skillman, 5/20/08, Deer Hill Wildlife Management Area, Brentwood, NH.</p> | | | | |
| Pied-billed Grebe | | | | |
| 3/30 | 1 | Brentwood | Deer Hill WMA | S. Young, G. Reagor |
| 3/31 | 1 | Concord | Merrimack River | E. Masterson |
| 4/3 | 1 | Brentwood | Deer Hill WMA | S. Young |
| 4/3 | 1 | Salem | World End Pond | S. Mirick |
| 4/5 | 4 | Kingston | Powwow Pond | S. & J. Mirick |
| 4/23 | 6 | Brentwood | Deer Hill WMA | T. Bronson |
| 5/20 | 1 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | S. Young |
| Horned Grebe | | | | |
| 4/2 | 1 | Hinsdale | setbacks | P. Brown, L. Tanino, E. Masterson |
| 4/13 | 58 | | NH coast | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/24 | 1 | Rye | townline cove | S. & J. Mirick |
| Red-necked Grebe | | | | |
| 3/29 | 1 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | E. Masterson |
| 4/5 | 58 | | NH coast | S. & J. Mirick |
| 4/27 | 16 | | NH coast | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/31 | 1 | Rye | Pulpit Rocks | S. & J. Mirick |
| Eared Grebe | | | | |
| 4/16 | 1 | Hampton | Bicentennial Park | T. Bronson, D. Abbott |
| Sooty Shearwater | | | | |
| 5/24 | 1 | Rye | Odiorne Point St. Pk. | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/31 | 1 | Rye | Pulpit Rocks | S. & J. Mirick, B. Griffith |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|---------------------------------|----------|-------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Manx Shearwater | | | | |
| 5/31 | 5 | Rye | Pulpit Rocks | S. & J. Mirick, B. Griffith |
| Northern Gannet | | | | |
| 4/8 | 25 | Seabrook | Seabrook Beach | E. Masterson |
| 5/10 | 10 | Hampton | Hampton Harbor jetty area | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/31 | 1 | Rye | Pulpit Rocks | S. & J. Mirick, B. Griffith |
| Double-crested Cormorant | | | | |
| 4/5 | 3 | | Great Bay | S. & J. Mirick |
| 4/5 | 6 | Exeter | wastewater treatment plant | G. Prazar |
| 4/5 | 8 | Rye | Eel Pond | S. & J. Mirick |
| 4/13 | 110 | Seabrook | off Rt. 1A | S. & J. Mirick |
| 4/27 | 142 | | NH coast | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/5 | 412 | | NH coast | T. Bronson |
| 5/18 | 250 | Rye | Lunging Is., Isles of Shoals | E. Masterson, R. Suomala, Star Island FT |
| 5/18 | 200 | Rye | Star Is., Isles of Shoals | E. Masterson, R. Suomala, Star Island FT |
| 5/31 | 200 | Hampton | Hampton Beach | S. & J. Mirick |
| Great Cormorant | | | | |
| 3/22 | 2 | Manchester | Merrimack R. from Moore's Crossing | R. Suomala |
| 4/3 | 2 | Bow | Merrimack R. at Turkey R. | T. Bronson |
| 4/13 | 4 | Concord | Morrill's Farm, Penacook | P. Hunt |
| 4/27 | 8 | | NH coast | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/18 | 2 | Concord | Morrill's Farm, Penacook | P. Hunt |
| 5/18 | 2 | Rye | Star Is., Isles of Shoals | E. Masterson, R. Suomala, Star Island FT |

American Bittern
by Scott Young, 5/25/08,
Whitefield Airport, Whitefield, NH.



American Bittern

| | | | | |
|------|---|------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 4/16 | 1 | Sandwich | Thompson WS | R. Ridgely |
| 4/27 | 1 | Whitefield | Airport Marsh | S. & D. Stoddard |
| 5/5 | 1 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway St. Pk. | S. Young |
| 5/8 | 1 | Keene | Greenlawn Cemetery | P. Brown, J. Tilden, C. Wood |
| 5/9 | 2 | Weare | S. Sugar Hill Rd. | R. Woodward |
| 5/24 | 3 | Surry | Dort Rd. & Surry Mountain Lake | L. Tanino, C. Seifer |

Least Bittern

| | | | | |
|------|---|----------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 5/14 | 3 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet marshes | B. Miller |
| 5/18 | 1 | Hinsdale | setbacks | G. Seymour |
| 5/24 | 1 | Hinsdale | setbacks | L. Tanino, C. Seifer, K. Klapper |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|----------------------------------|----------|---------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Great Egret | | | | |
| 4/8 | 4 | Seabrook | marsh along Rt. 286 | T. Bronson |
| 4/13 | 5 | | NH coast | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/15 | 10 | | NH coast | S. Mirick |
| Snowy Egret | | | | |
| 4/8 | 1 | Hampton Falls | marsh along railroad causeway | T. Bronson |
| 4/13 | 16 | | NH coast | S. & J. Mirick |
| Little Blue Heron | | | | |
| 4/13 | 1 | N. Hampton | Little River saltmarsh | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/10 | 1 | N. Hampton | Little River saltmarsh | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/11 | 1 | N. Hampton | town line marsh | T. Bronson |
| Green Heron | | | | |
| 5/6 | 1 | Hinsdale | rail trail | T. Bronson |
| 5/7 | 1 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | D. Hubbard |
| 5/13 | 1 | Exeter | Squamscott R. trail | T. Bronson, R. Craven |
| 5/27 | 3 | Hinsdale | setbacks | T. Bronson |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron | | | | |
| 4/27 | 1 | Rye | Odiorne Point St. Pk. | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/13 | 1 | Hopkinton | Mast Yard State Forest | P. Hunt, R. & M. Suomala, R. Woodward |
| Glossy Ibis | | | | |
| 4/6 | 1 | Manchester | NH Youth Development Ctr., River Rd. | S. Geddes |
| 4/12 | 5 | S. Hampton | Brookside WS | T. Bronson |
| 5/14 | 8 | Rye | Odiorne Point St. Pk. | L. Medlock |
| 5/21 | 1 | Rye | Rye Ledge | B. Griffith |



Black Vulture by Leonard Medlock, 3/28/08, Mast Rd, Durham, NH.

Black Vulture

| | | | | |
|------|---|----------|--|------------------------------------|
| 3/26 | 1 | Tamworth | | J. Phillips |
| 3/29 | 1 | Durham | NHPTV HQ on Mast Rd., Rt. 155A fields (Moore) | D. Donsker, Seacoast Chapter FT |
| 3/29 | 1 | Walpole | River Road, Sawyer Farm | E. Masterson |
| 4/20 | 2 | Newbury | residence | C. & P. Martin |

Turkey Vulture

| | | | | |
|------|----|-----------|---|--------------------------------|
| 3/7 | 1 | Littleton | | C. Johnson |
| 3/14 | 12 | Nashua | East Hollis St. McDonald's residence | J. Ayer, L. Gamache J. Cate |
| 3/24 | 15 | Monroe | | L. Tanino |
| 4/11 | 52 | Keene | Green Wagon Farm | L. Tanino |
| 5/31 | 27 | Rochester | wastewater treatment plant | D. Hubbard |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|----------------------------|----------|--------------|------------------------------|--|
| Osprey | | | | |
| 3/17 | 1 | Concord | over Merrimack River | R. Suomala |
| 3/25 | 2 | S. Hampton | Brookside WS | R. Craven |
| 3/26 | 1 | Hollis | North Pepperell Road wetland | D. Ryder |
| 4/13 | 19 | Seabrook | off Rt. 1A | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/18 | 3 | Seabrook | off Rt. 1A | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/19 | 8 | Brentwood | Deer Hill WMA | T. Bronson |
| Mississippi Kite | | | | |
| 5/29 | 2 | Newmarket | Lamprey River apartments | D. Franceschini, L. Bartholomew, et al. |
| Northern Harrier | | | | |
| 3/1 | 1 | Seabrook | dunes s. of Cross Beach Rd. | T. Bronson |
| 3/3 | 1 | Rye | Fairhill Marsh | J. Lambert |
| 3/6 | 1 | Portsmouth | Pease Golf Course | S. Mirick, B. Griffith |
| 3/26 | 1 | Keene | airport | P. Brown, D. Zeh |
| 3/26 | 1 | Monroe | Connecticut River islands | R. Bradley |
| 3/27 | 1 | Jefferson | Meadows Farm, Rt. 115A | D. Govatski |
| 4/13 | 34 | Seabrook | off Rt. 1A | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/18 | 1 | Seabrook | off Rt. 1A | S. & J. Mirick |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | | | | |
| 4/13 | 5 | Seabrook | off Rt. 1A | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/18 | 4 | Seabrook | off Rt. 1A | S. & J. Mirick |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | | | | |
| 3/22 | 1 | Westmoreland | River Road | A. Johnson |
| 3/23 | 1 | Concord | Morrill's Farm, Penacook | P. Hunt |
| 3/26 | 1 | Keene | airport | P. Brown |
| 4/6 | 1 | Epsom | Route 107 | A. & G. Robbins |
| Broad-winged Hawk | | | | |
| 4/7 | 1 | Newmarket | Bay Road | H. Chary |
| 4/8 | 1 | Harrisville | town center | J. Tilden |
| 4/12 | 1 | New Hampton | Ayers Island Dam | I. MacLeod |
| 4/13 | 1 | Concord | Morrill's Farm, Penacook | P. Hunt |
| 4/19 | 10 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway Lake | S. Young |
| 4/20 | 10 | Antrim | Willard Pond WS | P. Brown |
| Rough-legged Hawk | | | | |
| 3/16 | 1 | Hampton | Island Path | S. Mirick |
| 3/26 | 1 | Haverhill | Clark Pond Rd., N. Haverhill | R. Bradley |
| 4/2 | 1 | Charlestown | Great Meadows | L. Tanino, A. Clark |
| 4/12 | 1 | Charlestown | Great Meadows | P. Brown |
| American Kestrel | | | | |
| 3/17 | 1 | Durham | Woodman Farm Area | S. Young |
| 3/19 | 1 | Westmoreland | wires on River Road | R. Ritz |
| 3/23 | 2 | Walpole | Rt. 12 at Alyson's Orchard | A. Johnson |
| 3/26 | 2 | Monroe | Connecticut River islands | R. Bradley |
| 4/13 | 22 | Portsmouth | Pease Int'l. Tradeport | S. & J. Mirick |
| 4/13 | 102 | Seabrook | off Rt. 1A | S. & J. Mirick |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|-----------------------|----------|--------------|--|---|
| Merlin | | | | |
| 3/5 | 1 | Walpole | Route 12 | A. Johnson |
| 3/8 | 1 | N. Hampton | Runnymede Horse Farm | L. Medlock, T. Bronson, J. O'Shaughnessy |
| 4/13 | 1 | Seabrook | off Rt. 1A | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/18 | 2 | Seabrook | off Rt. 1A | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/25 | 1 | Laconia | Laconia Country Club, Elm St. | H. Anderson |
| 5/26 | 1 | Alton | Treasure Is., L. Winnepesaukee | C. Nims |
| Gyrfalcon | | | | |
| 3/9 | 1 | Whitefield | Kimball Hill Rd. | S. & M. Sprague |
| Virginia Rail | | | | |
| 4/24 | 1 | Rye | Odiorne Point St. Pk. | S. Mirick |
| 4/24 | 2 | Stratham | Chapmans Landing | L. Medlock |
| 4/27 | 1 | Meredith | Chemung Marsh | I. MacLeod |
| 5/1 | 1 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | S. Young |
| 5/18 | 3 | Hinsdale | setbacks | G. Seymour |
| 5/24 | 1 | Peterborough | Rt. 202 north at Gracie's Grain | R. Frechette, S. Spangenberg |
| 5/25 | 2 | Jefferson | Pondicherry NWR | S. Young, G. Reagor |
| 5/26 | 2 | Lee | Gile Rd. marsh | S. Young |
| Sora | | | | |
| 5/20 | 2 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | S. Young |
| 5/24 | 1 | Hancock | Gracey's Grange marsh | S. Spangenberg, R. Frechette |
| 5/24 | 1 | Hancock | Wolcott Preserve | S. Spangenberg, R. Frechette |
| 5/24 | 1 | Hinsdale | setbacks | L. Tanino, C. Seifer, K. Klapper |
| 5/24 | 1 | Peterborough | Route 202 | L. Tanino, C. Seifer, K. Klapper |
| 5/24 | 1 | Peterborough | Rt. 202 north at Gracie's Grain | R. Frechette, S. Spangenberg |
| 5/25 | 2 | Jefferson | Pondicherry NWR | S. Young, G. Reagor |
| 5/26 | 2 | Sutton | Cascade Marsh | P. Newbern |
| Common Moorhen | | | | |
| 5/24 | 1 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | D. Hubbard, T. Bronson, L. Medlock |
| American Coot | | | | |
| 5/30 | 1 | Exeter | wastewater treatment plant | T. Bronson |
| Sandhill Crane | | | | |
| 3/14 | 1 | Dover | Washington St. | C. Farwell |
| 4/6 | 1 | Monroe | | B. Bradley |
| 4/8 | 4 | Warner | Pumpkin Hill Rd., 1 mi. from center of town | N. Nieder |
| 4/29 | 1 | Sandwich | Thompson WS | R. Ridgely |

Shorebirds through Terns



Wilson's Snipe by Jon Woolf, 4/2/08, Exeter wastewater treatment plant, Exeter, NH.

As usual, spring shorebird migration was far less eventful than the fall. Highlights include a pair of record-early Black-bellied Plovers in Hampton on April 5 and a Lesser Yellowlegs in Keene the next day. Another feature of spring shorebird migration is that the more unusual sightings—or at least unexpected ones—are often inland, and such was the case in 2008 as well. On May 24, observers in southwestern New Hampshire had a respectable shorebird fallout, highlighted by 27 Short-billed Dowitch-

ers in Hancock and 18 in Surry. The same locations also hosted 11 and 20 Semipalmated Plovers, respectively, and lesser numbers of yellowlegs and Least Sandpipers. A Semipalmated Sandpiper in Hinsdale on the same day is a very unusual inland record for spring. Still on May 24, hundreds of Short-billed Dowitchers were found at two seacoast locations. Earlier in the season, Concord hosted two Upland Sandpipers on the same day (they historically nested near the Birch Street location). It was a good year for concentrations of Killdeer and Wilson's Snipe during migration, again perhaps a result of the wet fields that resulted from the March rains and snowmelt.

There was little of note in the gull department, with numbers relatively low from even the traditional hotspot at the Rochester wastewater treatment plant. The only unusual gull inland was a young Lesser Black-backed Gull flying up the Merrimack River in Penacook on March 23. Noteworthy terns included a pair of Least Terns at the very end of the season, and widely separated Black Terns in Jefferson and Rye.



Glaucous Gull stretching its wings by Scott Young, 4/9/08, Rochester wastewater treatment plant, Rochester, NH.

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|-----------------------------|----------|-------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Black-bellied Plover | | | | |
| 4/5 | 2 | Hampton | Hampton Marsh | S. & J. Mirick |
| 4/25 | 3 | Hampton | north part of Hampton Harbor | T. Bronson |
| 5/18 | 28 | Hampton | Hampton Harbor | E. Masterson |
| Semipalmated Plover | | | | |
| 5/10 | 61 | Seabrook | Hampton Harbor | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/23 | 175 | Seabrook | Seabrook Beach | B. Griffith, C. Wright, T. Weidman |
| 5/24 | 11 | Hancock | Powdermill Pond at Elmwood Jct. | R. Frechette, S. Spangenberg, D. Stokes |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|--------------------------------------|----------|-------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Semipalmated Plover—continued | | | | |
| 5/24 | 20 | Surry | Surry Mountain Lake | L. Tanino, P. Brown, C. Seifer |
| 5/26 | 3 | Sandwich | Ambrose gravel pit, Rt. 113 | T. Vazzano |
| 5/28 | 12 | Rye | Ragged Neck | T. Bronson |
| 5/30 | 12 | Newmarket | TNC Lubberland Creek Preserve | T. Bronson |

*Piping Plover adult by Leonard Medlock, 4/20/08,
Hampton Beach State Park, Hampton, NH.*



Piping Plover

| | | | | |
|------|---|----------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 4/3 | 2 | Hampton | Hampton Beach St. Pk. | B. Clifford |
| 4/13 | 2 | Hampton | Hampton Beach St. Pk. | S. Young, G. Reagor |
| 4/13 | 1 | Seabrook | Seabrook Beach | S. & J. Mirick |

Killdeer

| | | | | |
|------|----|-------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 3/3 | 1 | N. Hampton | Runnymede Horse Farm | T. Bronson, D. Hubbard |
| 3/4 | 1 | Merrimack | Anheuser-Busch Brewery | C. Martin |
| 3/6 | 7 | Newmarket | TNC Lubberland Creek Preserve | S. Mirick, B. Griffith |
| 3/14 | 8 | Fremont | Martin Road | T. Bronson |
| 3/27 | 10 | Walpole | Rt. 12 & Main St. | L. Tanino |
| 4/1 | 10 | Charlestown | Great Meadow | T. Bronson |
| 4/3 | 24 | Dover | Stafford County Farm | D. Hubbard |
| 4/5 | 39 | Greenland | Great Bay Farm | S. & J. Mirick |
| 4/5 | 36 | N. Hampton | Runnymede Farm | S. & J. Mirick |
| 4/5 | 38 | Northwood | Northwood Lake | S. Young |
| 4/12 | 24 | Gilford | Rt. 11B fields | I. MacLeod |

Spotted Sandpiper

| | | | | |
|------|----|-----------|------------------|--|
| 4/23 | 1 | Brentwood | Deer Hill WMA | J. Woolf, D. Skillman, W. Trested, T. Bronson |
| 4/26 | 1 | Henniker | Contoocook River | P. Brown, R. Bennett |
| 4/29 | 1 | Keene | Krif Road | L. Tanino |
| 5/7 | 10 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | S. Young |
| 5/20 | 25 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | S. Young |

Solitary Sandpiper

| | | | | |
|------|----|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 5/2 | 1 | Keene | Krif Road | P. Brown, C. Wood |
| 5/4 | 1 | Westmoreland | Cheshire Farm complex | P. Brown, Monadnock Chapter FT |
| 5/7 | 3 | Concord | Merrimack Valley CA | T. Bronson |
| 5/8 | 2 | Hampton Falls | s. end of railroad causeway | T. Bronson |
| 5/18 | 19 | Concord | Morrill's Farm, Penacook | P. Hunt |
| 5/24 | 1 | Surry | Surry Mountain Lake | L. Tanino, C. Seifer, P. Brown |
| 5/26 | 4 | Sandwich | Ambrose gravel pit, Rt. 113 | T. Vazzano |

Greater Yellowlegs


| | | | | |
|------|----|-----------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| 3/24 | 2 | Newmarket | Lubberland Creek | P. Brown |
| 4/5 | 3 | | NH coast | S. & J. Mirick |
| 4/6 | 4 | Hampton | Rt. 101E pools by pumping station | R. Aaronian |
| 4/13 | 51 | Seabrook | off Rt. 1A | S. & J. Mirick |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|--------------------------|----------|-------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 5/3 | 34 | Newmarket | TNC Lubberland Creek Preserve | S. Mirick, TNC FT |
| 5/4 | 11 | Concord | Post Office fields | R. Woodward |
| 5/5 | 20 | Keene | Krif Road | A. & L. Johnson |
| 5/28 | 1 | Weare | Army Corps of Engineers land | M. Suomala |
| Willet | | | | |
| 4/27 | 2 | Seabrook | Blackwater Creek | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/5 | 2 | Hampton | Rt. 101E pools by pumping station | T. Bronson |
| 5/11 | 11 | Hampton | marsh behind Little Jack's Restaurant | T. Bronson |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | | | | |
| 4/6 | 1 | Keene | Krif Road | E. Masterson |
| 4/30 | 5 | Stratham | Chapmans Landing | S. Young |
| 5/4 | 4 | Concord | Post Office fields | R. Woodward |
| 5/16 | 3 | Rochester | wastewater treatment plant | D. Hubbard |
| Upland Sandpiper | | | | |
| 4/20 | 1 | Concord | Locke Rd. sod farm | R. Suomala |
| 4/20 | 1 | Concord | Birch St. Community Gardens | R. Suomala |
| 5/11 | 4 | Portsmouth | Pease Int'l. Tradeport | T. Bronson |
| Ruddy Turnstone | | | | |
| 5/20 | 6 | Seabrook | Yankee Fisherman's Coop. | L. Medlock |
| 5/22 | 2 | Hampton | Hampton Harbor jetty area | S. Mirick |
| Red Knot | | | | |
| 5/31 | 1 | Hampton | Hampton Beach | S. & J. Mirick |



Sanderlings on the march by Jon Woolf, 4/11/08, Rye Beach, Rye, NH.

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Sanderling | | | | |
| 4/13 | 80 | | NH coast | S. & J. Mirick |
| 4/27 | 150 | Hampton | North Beach | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/28 | 10 | Seabrook | Seabrook Harbor | T. Bronson |
| Semipalmated Sandpiper | | | | |
| 5/18 | 2 | Seabrook | Hampton Harbor | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/20 | 10 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | S. Young |
| 5/23 | 200 | Seabrook | Seabrook Harbor | B. Griffith, C. Wright, T. Weidman |
| 5/24 | 1 | Hinsdale | setbacks | L. Tanino, C. Seifer, K. Klapper |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|---|----------|---------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Least Sandpiper | | | | |
| 5/7 | 1 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | S. Young |
| 5/8 | 13 | Hampton | Landing Road | T. Bronson |
| 5/8 | 30 | Hampton Falls | s. end of railroad causeway | T. Bronson |
| 5/16 | 20 | Concord | Merrimack River at NHTI campus | E. Masterson |
| 5/20 | 24 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | S. Young |
| 5/26 | 25 | Sandwich | Ambrose gravel pit, Rt. 113 | T. Vazzano |
| White-rumped Sandpiper | | | | |
| 5/23 | 1 | Seabrook | Seabrook Harbor | B. Griffith, C. Wright, T. Weidman |
| 5/31 | 2 | Hampton | Landing Road | B. Griffith |
| Pectoral Sandpiper | | | | |
| 4/13 | 1 | N. Hampton | Runnymede Horse Farm | S. Young, G. Reagor |
| 5/31 | 1 | Hampton | Landing Road | B. Griffith |
| <p><i>Purple Sandpiper by Jon Woolf, 4/7/08, Rye Harbor State Park, Rye, NH.</i></p>  | | | | |
| Purple Sandpiper | | | | |
| 4/6 | 85 | Rye | Ragged Neck jetty | A. & G. Robbins |
| 4/27 | 155 | | NH coast | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/22 | 100 | Hampton | Hampton Harbor jetty area | S. Mirick |
| 5/31 | 2 | Rye | Stone Angel overlook, Rt. 1A | K. Dorsey |
| Dunlin | | | | |
| 5/15 | 100 | Seabrook | Hampton Harbor | S. Mirick |
| 5/31 | 3 | Seabrook | Hampton Harbor | K. Dorsey |
| Short-billed Dowitcher | | | | |
| 5/18 | 1 | Seabrook | Hampton Harbor | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/24 | 200 | Hampton | n. end of Hampton Harbor | T. Bronson, D. Hubbard, L. Medlock |
| 5/24 | 27 | Hancock | Powdermill Pond residence | S. Spangenberg, R. Frechette |
| 5/24 | 5 | Hinsdale | setbacks | L. Tanino, C. Seifer, K. Klapper |
| 5/24 | 100 | Newington | McIntyre Road | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/24 | 1 | Peterborough | Noone Falls | S. Spangenberg, R. Frechette |
| 5/24 | 35 | Rye | Pulpit Rocks | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/24 | 18 | Surry | Surry Mountain Lake | L. Tanino, P. Brown, C. Seifer |
| Wilson's Snipe | | | | |
| 3/29 | 1 | E. Kingston | Bodwell Farm | S. & J. Mirick |
| 3/30 | 2 | Durham | Rt. 155A fields (Moore) | S. & J. Mirick |
| 3/30 | 4 | Exeter | wastewater treatment plant | L. Medlock |
| 4/4 | 16 | Keene | Krif Road | L. Tanino |
| 4/5 | 31 | Greenland | Great Bay Farm | S. & J. Mirick |
| 4/5 | 37 | N. Hampton | Runnymede Farm | S. & J. Mirick |
| 4/13 | 41 | Concord | Morrill's Farm, Penacook | P. Hunt |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|---------------------------------|----------|-------------|------------------------------------|--|
| American Woodcock | | | | |
| 3/12 | 1 | Kensington | Rt. 107 residence, South Rd. | G. Gavutis, Jr. |
| 3/12 | 2 | Rye | Seacoast Science Center | L. Medlock |
| 3/26 | 9 | Surry | Dort Road | L. Tanino |
| 4/3 | 9 | Exeter | Powder House Pond field | L. Medlock |
| Laughing Gull | | | | |
| 5/15 | 1 | Rye | Eel Pond | S. Mirick |
| 5/31 | 4 | Rye | Pulpit Rocks | S. & J. Mirick |
| Black-headed Gull | | | | |
| 3/21 | 1 | Rochester | wastewater treatment plant | D. Hubbard |
| 4/1 | 1 | Durham | Rt. 155A fields (Moore) | S. Young, G. Reagor, C. Farwell, et al. |
| 4/8 | 1 | Rochester | wastewater treatment plant | D. Hubbard |
| 5/18 | 1 | Rye | Jenness Beach | E. Masterson |
| Bonaparte's Gull | | | | |
| 4/1 | 2 | Rochester | wastewater treatment plant | S. Mirick |
| Ring-billed Gull | | | | |
| 3/18 | 50 | Manchester | Merrimack River | E. Masterson |
| 4/3 | 300 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | E. Masterson |
| 4/3 | 130 | Walpole | Malnati Farm, Rt. 12 | E. Masterson |
| 4/12 | 196 | Gilford | Rt. 11B fields | I. MacLeod |
| Iceland Gull | | | | |
| 3/1 | 1 | Exeter | wastewater treatment plant | P. Chamberlin |
| 3/1 | 1 | Seabrook | Seabrook Harbor | T. Bronson |
| 3/24 | 2 | Rochester | wastewater treatment plant | D. Hubbard |
| 5/16 | 1 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | D. Hubbard |
| 5/18 | 1 | Rye | Jenness Beach | E. Masterson |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull | | | | |
| 3/4 | 1 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | S. Young, S. Mirick |
| 3/6 | 1 | Newmarket | off Bay Road | S. Mirick, B. Griffith |
| 3/23 | 1 | Concord | Morrill's Farm, Penacook | P. Hunt |
| 3/24 | 1 | Stratham | Chapmans Landing | P. Brown |
| 4/24 | 1 | Rye | Odiorne Point St. Pk. | S. Mirick |
| 5/4 | 1 | Seabrook | Hampton Harbor | S. & J. Mirick |
| Glaucous Gull | | | | |
| 5/24 | 1 | Seabrook | Seabrook Harbor | T. Bronson, D. Hubbard, L. Medlock |
| Least Tern | | | | |
| 5/31 | 2 | Rye | Pulpit Rocks | S. & J. Mirick, B. Griffith |
| Black Tern | | | | |
| 5/24 | 1 | Jefferson | Pondicherry WS, Little Cherry Pond | C. Caron, P. Meleski, T. Pirro |
| 5/31 | 1 | Rye | Odiorne Point St. Pk. | K. Dorsey |
| Roseate Tern | | | | |
| 5/18 | 4 | Seabrook | Hampton Harbor | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/31 | 6 | Hampton | Hampton Harbor | B. Griffith |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|--------------------|----------|-------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Common Tern | | | | |
| 5/10 | 150 | Rye | White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals | D. Hayward |
| 5/15 | 60 | | NH coast | S. Mirick |
| 5/18 | 2000 | Rye | Star Is., Isles of Shoals | E. Masterson, R. Suomala, Star Island FT |
| 5/31 | 200 | Hampton | Hampton Beach | S. & J. Mirick |
| Arctic Tern | | | | |
| 5/21 | 1 | Hampton | Hampton Harbor | B. Griffith |

Cuckoos through Chickadees

Presaging what seems to have been a good summer for cuckoos, both species were widely reported in May, although entirely from the southern third of the state. The Isles of Shoals may be known to birders for breeding seabirds or migrant songbirds, but tern biologists were surprised by neither of these groups on May 10. On that date they found a Barred Owl and two Common Ravens on White Island, as well as signs of nest building, probably by the ravens. With the seasonal presence of people on the island thereafter, neither species was reported again, but if ravens manage to set up shop on this furthest outpost of New Hampshire, they'll be well on their way to inhabiting the entire state!

Since I've been referring to Whip-poor-will surveys elsewhere in this summary, it seems appropriate that I spend a little time on the actual subjects of these surveys. Fairly intensive monitoring was initiated in two locations this year: Mast Yard State Forest and the Ossipee Pine Barrens. It seems that you can find quite a few Whip-poor-wills if you set your mind to it, at least if you happen to be in one of the few areas of the state where they remain relatively abundant. Despite generally declining populations in the Northeast, Whip-poor-wills in New Hampshire seem to be holding their own, as the breadth of locations here suggests. Three **Red-headed Woodpeckers** in May is slightly more than average, and of particular interest is the apparent pair in Bedford that stayed in the area at least into early June.

Many readers may not be aware of some long-term declines in aerial insectivores (swifts, swallows, some flycatchers, nighthawks) that have actually led to several species being listed as threatened or endangered in Canada. This questionable honor has even gone to common species like the Chimney Swift, with Barn Swallow being not far behind. With these declines in mind, it is interesting to look more closely at arrival dates for aerial insectivores in New Hampshire. Most of these species are actually arriving *later* than they were 40—or even 10—years ago, a pattern that makes sense if you consider that declining populations will eventually result in range retractions (has anyone seen a Golden-winged Warbler lately?) and fewer birds to arrive in general. In any event, arriving later than the long-term average this year were the following: Chimney Swift, Tree Swallow, Eastern Wood-Pewee, and Alder, Yellow-bellied, and Least Flycatcher. Even Eastern Phoebe arrived late, but this might have been more a result of the unusual weather in late March and early April.

Following an exceptional winter invasion, Northern Shrikes lingered into early April, although the majority had moved back to their Canadian breeding grounds by the end of March. Although only the early dates are listed, it seemed to be a good spring for Blue-headed Vireos based on a relatively large numbers of reports, often of multiple individuals. Fish Crows were reported from Gilford and Tamworth, suggesting a consolidation of this species' range extension into the Lakes Region in recent years. Their northward expansion appears to have slowed and they are filling in behind the leading edge.

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|-----------------------------|----------|--------------|---|--|
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | | | | |
| 5/26 | 1 | Barrington | Warren Farm | M. Suomala |
| 5/26 | 1 | Dover | Bellamy River WMA | M. Suomala |
| 5/26 | 1 | Newmarket | TNC Lubberland Creek Preserve | M Suomala, K. Dorsey |
| 5/26 | 1 | Wilmot | Campground Rd. | P. Newbern |
| 5/28 | 1 | Barrington | Warren Farm | S. Young |
| Black-billed Cuckoo | | | | |
| 5/16 | 1 | Westmoreland | Hatt Road | G. Seymour |
| 5/19 | 2 | Brentwood | Deer Hill WMA | T. Bronson |
| 5/23 | 1 | Dover | Bellamy River WMA | B. Griffith, C. Wright, T. Weidman |
| 5/24 | 1 | Nelson | Nelson Road | P. Brown |
| Barred Owl | | | | |
| 5/10 | 1 | Rye | White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals | D. Hayward |
| Short-eared Owl | | | | |
| 4/13 | 1 | Seabrook | Seabrook dunes | S. & J. Mirick |
| Common Nighthawk | | | | |
| 5/15 | 1 | Concord | downtown | M. Ciborowski |
| 5/15 | 1 | Durham | Fogg Drive | K. Dorsey |
| 5/20 | 2 | Keene | Colony Mill | M. Wright |
| 5/26 | 77 | Amherst | Horace Greeley Dr. | S. Spangenberg |
| 5/27 | 45 | Durham | residence | D. Keefe |
| Whip-poor-will | | | | |
| 4/21 | 1 | Hopkinton | Upper Straw Rd. | B. Sorce |
| 4/24 | 2 | Deerfield | backyard beaver pond | C. & J. Carr |
| 5/7 | 1 | Bedford | residence | S. Hunter |
| 5/11 | 1 | Londonderry | | B. Desmarais |
| 5/13 | 7 | Hopkinton | Mast Yard State Forest | P. Hunt, R. & M. Suomala, R. Woodward |
| 5/15 | 1 | Sandwich | end of Diamond Ledge Rd. | T. Vazzano |
| 5/22 | 2 | Rochester | Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd. | D. Hubbard |
| 5/25 | 14 | Freedom | Freedom Town Forest, abandoned airstrip | A. & G. Robbins |
| 5/27 | 1 | Lebanon | Butternut Hollow off Rt. 12A | L. Thompson |
| 5/29 | 10 | Hopkinton | Mast Yard State Forest | P. Hunt |
| Chimney Swift | | | | |
| 4/27 | 1 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | D. Hubbard |
| 5/5 | 2 | Concord | Contoocook Island, Penacook | P. Hunt |
| 5/6 | 3 | Exeter | Gilman Park | P. Chamberlin |
| 5/6 | 3 | Nashua | Fields Grove | D. Deifik |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|-------------|----------|-------------|-----------------|--------------------|
|-------------|----------|-------------|-----------------|--------------------|

Chimney Swift—continued

| | | | | |
|------|-----|----------|-------------------|----------------|
| 5/18 | 73 | Seabrook | off Rt. 1A | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/19 | 20 | Exeter | Powder House Pond | T. Bronson |
| 5/22 | 100 | Exeter | Powder House Pond | P. Chamberlin |



*Male Ruby-throated Hummingbird
by Mary Fran Loggans, 5/16/08,
Francestown, NH.*



*Female Ruby-throated Hummingbird
by Mary Fran Loggans, 5/16/08,
Francestown, NH.*

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

| | | | | |
|------|---|------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| 4/21 | 1 | Franklin | West Franklin | reported on NEHummers.com |
| 4/21 | 1 | New Boston | residence | M. Plunkett |
| 4/26 | 1 | Newmarket | residence | A. Crawford |
| 5/2 | 1 | Strafford | Lakeview Dr. | S. Young |

Red-headed Woodpecker

| | | | | |
|------|---|---------|----------------|--------------|
| 5/11 | 1 | Sharon | Route 123 | M. Cahill |
| 5/31 | 2 | Bedford | Buttonwood Rd. | G. Knoettner |

Red-bellied Woodpecker

| | | | | |
|------|---|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| 4/15 | 1 | Westmoreland | Connecticut R. | R. Ritz |
| 5/7 | 1 | Hancock | Antrim Road | E. Masterson |

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

| | | | | |
|------|---|-----------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 3/31 | 1 | Concord | McLane Center | E. Masterson, R. Suomala, et al. |
| 4/3 | 1 | Rochester | Ten Rod Road residence | D. Hubbard |
| 4/5 | 1 | Hancock | Antrim Road | E. Masterson |
| 4/14 | 1 | Chatham | | B. Crowley |
| 5/5 | 4 | Lyman | Dodge Pond | S. & M. Turner |



*Black-backed Woodpecker by Scott Young, 5/25/08, Little Cherry Pond,
Jefferson, NH.*

Black-backed Woodpecker

| | | | | |
|------|---|-------------|--|------------------------|
| 3/13 | 2 | Beans Grant | Mizpah Cutoff trail | D. Govatski |
| 5/11 | 1 | Jefferson | Pondicherry WS, Little Cherry Pond trail | R. Suomala |
| 5/22 | 2 | Bethlehem | Trudeau Road | B. Griffith |
| 5/30 | 6 | Pittsburg | East Inlet Road | B. Griffith, C. Wright |

Northern Flicker

| | | | | |
|------|---|------------|----------------|--------------|
| 3/10 | 1 | Barrington | Warren Farm | S. Young |
| 3/17 | 1 | Newmarket | Hamel Farm Dr. | P. Hendrickx |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|----------------------------------|----------|-------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 3/24 | 1 | Hancock | Harris Center | P. Brown, M. Cadot |
| 4/17 | 13 | Concord | Silk Farm WS | R. Suomala, T. Bronson |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher | | | | |
| 5/14 | 1 | Lyman | Dodge Pond | S. & M. Turner |
| 5/17 | 1 | Effingham | Huntress Bridge Rd. | A. & G. Robbins |
| 5/24 | 2 | Concord | Little Pond, Horse Hill | R. Woodward, R. Quinn |
| 5/24 | 1 | Hancock | Antrim Road | E. Masterson |
| 5/24 | 1 | Jefferson | Pondicherry WS, Cherry Pond trail | C. Caron, P. Meleski, T. Pirro |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee | | | | |
| 5/10 | 1 | Jefferson | Pondicherry WS | T. Bronson, et al. |
| 5/20 | 2 | Lyman | Dodge Pond | S. & M. Turner |
| 5/23 | 7 | Brentwood | Exeter River | T. Bronson, D. Skillman, W. Trested |
| 5/24 | 1 | Keene | airport | P. Brown |
| Yellow-bellied Flycatcher | | | | |
| 5/26 | 1 | Wilmot | Village Road | P. Newbern |
| 5/29 | 1 | Concord | Iron Works Rd. fields | R. Woodward |
| 5/30 | 4 | Pittsburg | East Inlet Road | B. Griffith, C. Wright |
| 5/31 | 4 | Bethlehem | Trudeau Road | I. MacLeod |
| Alder Flycatcher | | | | |
| 5/16 | 1 | Canterbury | Rt. 93 exit 18 sod farms & nursery | M. Suomala, R. Smith |
| 5/24 | 2 | Nelson | backyard | P. Brown |
| 5/25 | 5 | Concord | Turkey Pond survey | R. Woodward |
| 5/25 | 2 | Effingham | Huntress Bridge Rd. | T. Bronson, L. Medlock |
| 5/25 | 4 | Jefferson | Pondicherry WS | S. Young, G. Reagor |
| Willow Flycatcher | | | | |
| 5/8 | 1 | Walpole | Route 12 | A. Johnson |
| 5/9 | 1 | Lempster | Goshen-Lempster School | P. Newbern |
| 5/9 | 1 | Weare | Army Corps of Engineers land | M. Suomala |
| 5/18 | 1 | Concord | Morrill's Farm, Penacook | P. Hunt |
| 5/18 | 1 | Rye | Star Is., Isles of Shoals | E. Masterson, R. Suomala, Star Island FT |
| Least Flycatcher | | | | |
| 5/5 | 1 | Concord | Contoocook Island, Penacook | P. Hunt |
| 5/5 | 25 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway St. Pk. | S. Young |
| 5/6 | 1 | Dover | Stafford County Farm | D. Hubbard |
| 5/6 | 1 | Lyman | Dodge Pond | S. & M. Turner |
| 5/6 | 1 | Walpole | Upper Road | A. Johnson |
| Eastern Phoebe | | | | |
| 3/25 | 1 | Hancock | Old Dublin Road | P. Brown, M. Cadot |
| 3/25 | 2 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | E. Masterson |
| 3/27 | 1 | Kensington | Moulton Ridge | G. Gavutis, Jr. |
| Great Crested Flycatcher | | | | |
| 5/6 | 1 | Concord | Locke Rd, & sod farm access rd. | M. Suomala |
| 5/6 | 1 | Exeter | Newfields Rd. residence | P. Chamberlin |
| 5/6 | 4 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway St. Pk. | S. Young |
| 5/8 | 1 | Sandwich | Diamond Ledge Rd. | T. Vazzano |
| 5/9 | 1 | Lyman | Dodge Pond | S. & M. Turner |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|------------------------------|----------|--------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Eastern Kingbird | | | | |
| 4/28 | 1 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | T. Bronson |
| 5/5 | 1 | Exeter | Powder House Pond | L. Medlock |
| 5/5 | 1 | Franklin | off Route 3 | I. MacLeod |
| 5/5 | 1 | Weare | Army Corps of Engineers land | M. Suomala |
| 5/6 | 2 | Concord | Locke Rd. & sod farm access rd. | M. Suomala |
| 5/6 | 1 | Keene | Keene cemetery | T. Bronson |
| Northern Shrike | | | | |
| 3/6 | 1 | Bethlehem | River Road | S. & D. Stoddard |
| 3/14 | 3 | Walpole | Rt. 12 in 0.25-mile stretch | A. Johnson |
| 3/17 | 1 | Sandwich | Diamond Ledge Rd. | T. Vazzano |
| 3/26 | 1 | Monroe | Connecticut River islands | R. Bradley |
| 3/30 | 1 | Haverhill | Clark Pond Rd., N. Haverhill | R. Bradley |
| 4/6 | 1 | Concord | West Portsmouth St. | P. Newbern, Soo-Nipi Chapter FT |
| 4/8 | 1 | Keene | Green Wagon Farm | L. Tanino, C. Seifer |
| 4/13 | 1 | Dover | Strafford County Farm | D. Hubbard |
| Yellow-throated Vireo | | | | |
| 5/6 | 1 | Durham | Fogg Drive | K. Dorsey |
| 5/7 | 1 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway St. Pk. | M. Suomala |
| 5/7 | 1 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | S. Young, D. Hubbard, J. Tyler |
| 5/11 | 1 | Hinsdale | setbacks | E. Masterson |
| 5/16 | 1 | Haverhill | Bedell Bridge | J. Williams |
| 5/24 | 1 | Hancock | Nubanusit Rd. | R. Frechette, S. Spangenberg |
| Blue-headed Vireo | | | | |
| 4/14 | 1 | Keene | Court St. powerline trail | L. Tanino |
| 4/18 | 1 | Madbury | Bellamy Reservoir | S. Young |
| 4/19 | 1 | Wilmot | Campground Rd. | P. Newbern |
| 4/20 | 3 | Antrim | Willard Pond WS | P. Brown |
| 4/20 | 1 | Chichester | Smith Sanborn Rd. | R. Suomala |
| 5/5 | 13 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway St. Pk. | S. Young |
| Warbling Vireo | | | | |
| 4/27 | 1 | Surry | Joslin Rd. quarry | L. Tanino |
| 4/30 | 2 | Peterborough | Edward McDowell Dam | E. Masterson |
| 5/1 | 1 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | S. Young |
| 5/4 | 1 | Atkinson | Lewis Lane | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/5 | 1 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway St. Pk. | S. Young |
| 5/5 | 1 | Rye | Odiorne Point St. Pk. | T. Bronson |
| Philadelphia Vireo | | | | |
| 5/25 | 1 | Pittsburg | Scott Bog Road | B. Griffith, C. Wright |
| 5/29 | 2 | Pittsburg | Scott Bog Road | B. Griffith, C. Wright, T. Weidman |
| Red-eyed Vireo | | | | |
| 5/4 | 1 | Walpole | Upper Road | A. & L. Johnson |
| 5/5 | 2 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway St. Pk. | S. Young |
| 5/6 | 1 | Dover | Strafford County Farm | D. Hubbard |
| 5/6 | 1 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway St. Pk. | S. Young |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|----------------------|----------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Gray Jay | | | | |
| 3/2 | 2 | Wentworths Location | Lake Umbagog NWR visitor center | A.& L. Johnson |
| 3/30 | 1 | Jefferson | Mt. Starr King summit | J. Stockwell |
| 5/22 | 1 | Bethlehem | Trudeau Road | B. Griffith |
| 5/24 | 4 | Pittsburg | East Inlet & Scott Bog Rds. | C. Caron, P. Meleski, T. Pirro |
| 5/25 | 1 | Pittsburg | Scott Bog Road | B. Griffith, C. Wright |
| 5/25 | 3 | Pittsburg | East Inlet Road | B. Griffith, C. Wright |
| Blue Jay | | | | |
| 5/7 | 356 | Seabrook | off Rt. 1A | S.& J. Mirick |
| 5/8 | 50 | Hampton Falls | s. end of railroad causeway | T. Bronson |
| 5/11 | 55 | Sandwich | Ambrose gravel pit, Rt. 113 | T. Vazzano |
| 5/16 | 50 | Concord | Silk Farm WS | E. Masterson, NHA FT |
| 5/18 | 121 | Seabrook | off Rt. 1A | S.& J. Mirick |
| Fish Crow | | | | |
| 3/14 | 2 | Manchester | ne. portion of city | J. Hills |
| 3/16 | 2 | Kingston | Powwow Pond | L. Medlock, J. Lambert |
| 3/18 | 1 | Greenland | Sunset Farm | S. Mirick, D. Deifik |
| 3/22 | 10 | Hooksett | Merrimack R. at Robie's Store | R. Suomala |
| 4/12 | 2 | Gilford | Rt. 11B fields | I. MacLeod |
| 4/19 | 3 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway Lake | S. Young |
| 5/3 | 3 | Durham | Three Chimneys Inn | K. Dorsey |
| 5/6 | 4 | Concord | Horseshoe Pond | P. Brown, C. Cabot |
| 5/22 | 2 | Tamworth | off Plains Rd. | T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely, N. Beecher |
| Common Raven | | | | |
| 5/10 | 2 | Rye | White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals | D. Hayward |
| Horned Lark | | | | |
| 3/1 | 250 | Walpole | River Road, Sawyer Farm | E. Masterson |
| 3/8 | 75 | N. Hampton | Runnymede Horse Farm | T. Bronson, Capital Area Chapter FT |
| 3/23 | 3 | Lancaster | Reed Road | S. Stoddard |
| 3/24 | 250 | Durham | Rt. 155A fields (Moore) | S. Young |
| 3/29 | 120 | Walpole | River Road, Sawyer Farm | E. Masterson |
| 4/12 | 150 | Boscawen | River Road fields | R. Quinn |
| 4/12 | 75 | Gilford | Sawyer Meadows | H. Anderson |
| 5/24 | 2 | Portsmouth | Pease Int'l. Tradeport | S.& J. Mirick |
| Purple Martin | | | | |
| 5/25 | 6 | Freedom | Rt. 153 nesting colony | T. Bronson, L. Medlock |
| Tree Swallow | | | | |
| 3/28 | 1 | Boscawen | Water St., Silver Farm field edge | L. Deming |
| 3/30 | 1 | Brentwood | Deer Hill WMA | S. Young, G. Reagor |
| 3/30 | 1 | Hinsdale | setbacks | L. Tanino |
| 4/3 | 50 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | E. Masterson |
| 4/6 | 75 | Swanzy | Dillant-Hopkins Airport | L. Tanino, C. Seifer, Monadnock Chapter FT |
| 4/13 | 100 | Boscawen | Hannah Dustin monument | P. Hunt |
| 4/13 | 300 | Concord | Sewalls Falls | P. Hunt |
| 4/13 | 93 | Seabrook | off Rt. 1A | S.& J. Mirick |
| 4/29 | 140 | Rochester | Rochester area | S. Mirick |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|--------------------------------------|----------|--------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Tree Swallow—continued | | | | |
| 4/30 | 83 | Brentwood | Deer Hill WMA | T. Bronson, D. Skillman, W. Trested |
| 4/30 | 100 | Harrisville | Harrisville Pond | P. Brown, J. Tilden |
| 5/2 | 150 | Salem | World End Pond | K. Folsom |
| 5/18 | 150 | Seabrook | off Rt. 1A | S. & J. Mirick |
| Northern Rough-winged Swallow | | | | |
| 4/12 | 1 | Epsom | Rt. 4 rest area pond | A. & G. Robbins |
| 4/12 | 2 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | E. Masterson |
| 4/13 | 1 | Exeter | Powder House Pond | S. & J. Mirick |
| Bank Swallow | | | | |
| 4/26 | 2 | Sutton | Cascade Marsh WMA | P. Newbern |
| 4/28 | 5 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | T. Bronson |
| 4/30 | 2 | Brentwood | Deer Hill WMA | T. Bronson, D. Skillman, W. Trested |
| 5/11 | 40 | Rochester | wastewater treatment plant | D. Hubbard |
| 5/18 | 45 | Seabrook | off Rt. 1A | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/24 | 100 | Hinsdale | Connecticut River | L. Tanino, C. Seifer, K. Klapper |
| Cliff Swallow | | | | |
| 4/28 | 1 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | T. Bronson |
| 4/30 | 1 | Peterborough | Edward McDowell Dam | E. Masterson |
| 5/1 | 2 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | S. Young |
| 5/18 | 2 | Seabrook | off Rt. 1A | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/24 | 1 | Hinsdale | town | K. Klapper, C. Seifer, L. Tanino |
| 5/24 | 30 | Pittsburg | Rt. 3, near Moose Landing Gift Shop | C. Caron, P. Meleski, T. Pirro |
| Barn Swallow | | | | |
| 4/13 | 3 | Exeter | Powder House Pond | L. Medlock |
| 4/14 | 1 | Rye | Pulpit Rocks | T. Bronson |
| 4/16 | 1 | Hampton | North Side Park | D. Abbott, T. Bronson |
| 5/18 | 100 | Rye | Star Is., Isles of Shoals | E. Masterson, R. Suomala, Star Island FT |
| 5/18 | 75 | Seabrook | off Rt. 1A | S. & J. Mirick |



*Boreal Chickadee by Thomas Murray, 3/11/08,
Route 26, Dixville, NH.*

Boreal Chickadee

| | | | | |
|------|----|-------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 3/11 | 2 | Dixville | Rt. 26 viewing area | T. Murray |
| 3/18 | 14 | Sargents Purchase | Tuckerman Ravine Trail | D. Govatski |
| 5/22 | 1 | Bethlehem | Trudeau Road | B. Griffith |
| 5/30 | 30 | Pittsburg | East Inlet Road | B. Griffith, C. Wright |

Wrens through Tanagers

The pair of House Wrens in Exeter on April 20 tied the record early date for the state. A Wood Thrush in Hinsdale on April 19, while certainly a surprise, was also not record early. The Gray Catbird in Exeter on April 18 would have been a record early date, but given the location near the seacoast it was more likely an overwintering bird.



Bohemian Waxwing by Mary Fran Loggans, 3/1/08, Frankestown, NH.

The winter's Bohemian Waxwing invasion continued in good form through March, with a seasonal high count of 500 birds from Concord on March 26. Dozens (but not hundreds) were still being reported through the first week in April, with the final report being a single bird in Concord on April 27. My guess is that there were a few somewhere in the state in May, just not where birders had a chance of finding them.

It has been a while since I've done a spring warbler table, and given that several people were out counting birds on May 18, I present below a comparison of numbers seen from two Concord and two Rye locations on that day. The Concord locations are my six-mile Penacook survey and Rob Woodward's four-mile walk around Turkey Pond. In Rye, Eric Masterson led an Audubon trip to Star Island, after which Steve and Jane Mirick spent a couple of hours at Odiorne Point State Park. Feel free to draw whatever conclusions you like from this, but two things I noticed right away were (1) a lot more Northern Parulas and Magnolia Warblers on the coast and (2) early migrants (Pine and Palm Warblers, waterthrushes) were mostly away from the coast. And are Ovenbirds absent from the coast because of habitat?



Black-and-white Warbler by Byard Miller, 5/11/08, Roxbury Rd, Marlborough, NH.

| Species | Concord | | Rye | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|
| | Penacook Survey | Turkey Pond | Odiorne Point | Star Island |
| Nashville Warbler | 3 | 3 | 1 | |
| Northern Parula | | | 6 | 8 |
| Yellow Warbler | 3 | 9 | 8 | 8 |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler | 5 | 5 | | 5 |
| Magnolia Warbler | 1 | 5 | 20 | 20 |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler | 1 | 7 | 3 | 7 |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler | 7 | 3 | | 5 |
| Black-throated Green Warbler | 3 | 4 | | 5 |
| Blackburnian Warbler | | 1 | | 5 |
| Prairie Warbler | | | | 1 |
| Pine Warbler | 9 | 15 | | |
| Palm Warbler | 2 | | | |
| Blackpoll Warbler | 2 | 2 | | |
| Black-and-white Warbler | 10 | 6 | 9 | |
| American Redstart | 3 | 4 | 6 | 9 |
| Ovenbird | 11 | 24 | | 1 |
| Northern Waterthrush | 5 | 2 | 1 | |
| Louisiana Waterthrush | 1 | | | |
| Common Yellowthroat | 9 | 53 | 15 | 20 |
| Wilson's Warbler | 1 | | 1 | 4 |
| Canada Warbler | 2 | 1 | | |
| Total Species | 18 | 16 | 10 | 13 |

Also of note during this same period in May were high counts of Yellow Warblers at several inland locations. The warbler tallies for Pittsburg at the end of May probably represent primarily breeding individuals. Rare warblers included two Cerulean Warblers away from their traditional breeding area at Pawtuckaway State Park and a **Hooded Warbler** in Keene. The Lakes Region hosted both of our **Summer Tanagers** this spring, one at each end of May.

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|-------------------|----------|--------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| House Wren | | | | |
| 4/20 | 2 | Exeter | Washington St. | R. Aaronian |
| 4/22 | 2 | Westmoreland | Hatt Rd. | G. Seymour |
| 4/26 | 1 | Walpole | Merriam Rd. | R. Ritz |
| 4/27 | 1 | Kensington | Rt. 107 residence, South Rd. | G. Gavutis, Jr. |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|------------------------------|----------|-------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Winter Wren | | | | |
| 3/14 | 1 | Walpole | Upper Rd. | A. Johnson |
| 3/25 | 1 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | E. Masterson |
| 4/9 | 1 | Hancock | Antrim Road | E. Masterson |
| 4/9 | 1 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | S. Young, J. Tyler |
| Marsh Wren | | | | |
| 5/4 | 1 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | E. Masterson |
| 5/5 | 1 | Rye | Odiorne Point St. Pk. | T. Bronson |
| 5/6 | 1 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway St. Pk. | S. Young |
| 5/15 | 1 | Jefferson | "Moorhen Marsh" Pondicherry NWR | D. Govatski |
| 5/19 | 1 | Exeter | Squamscott R. trail | T. Bronson |
| 5/24 | 10 | Hinsdale | setbacks | L. Tanino, C. Seifer, K. Klapper |
| 5/24 | 1 | Stratham | Chapmans Landing | T. Bronson, D. Hubbard, L. Medlock |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | | | | |
| 4/13 | 1 | Concord | Contoocook Island, Penacook | P. Hunt |
| 4/13 | 1 | Exeter | Powder House Pond | P. Chamberlin |
| 4/13 | 1 | Exeter | Powder House Pond | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/13 | 1 | Concord | Contoocook Island, Penacook | P. Hunt |
| 5/18 | 1 | Rye | Star Is., Isles of Shoals | E. Masterson, R. Suomala, Star Island FT |
| 5/24 | 1 | Brentwood | Deer Hill WMA | T. Bronson, D. Hubbard, L. Medlock |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | | | | |
| 4/24 | 1 | Rye | Odiorne Point St. Pk. | S. Mirick |
| 4/25 | 4 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | E. Masterson |
| 4/26 | 5 | Concord | Morrill's Farm, Penacook | P. Hunt, R. Suomala |
| 4/26 | 2 | Durham | Fogg Drive | K. Dorsey |
| Veery | | | | |
| 5/6 | 1 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway St. Pk. | S. Young |
| 5/6 | 1 | Swanzy | Airport Road | T. Bronson |
| 5/9 | 1 | Brentwood | Rockingham County Farm | T. Bronson |
| Bicknell's Thrush | | | | |
| 5/24 | 3 | Franconia | Cannon Mountain | M. Suomala |
| Swainson's Thrush | | | | |
| 5/15 | 2 | Rye | Odiorne Point St. Pk. | S. Mirick |
| 5/26 | 1 | Concord | White Park | R. Quinn |
| 5/26 | 1 | Seabrook | off Rt. 1A | S. & J. Mirick |
| Hermit Thrush | | | | |
| 3/15 | 1 | Exeter | Haven Lane | L. Medlock |
| 4/7 | 1 | Hancock | Moose Brook | P. Brown |
| 4/13 | 2 | | NH coast | S. & J. Mirick |
| 4/14 | 1 | Nelson | backyard | P. Brown, J. Tilden |
| 4/22 | 1 | Lancaster | Weeks State Park | S. Stoddard |
| 5/9 | 1 | Lyman | Dodge Pond | S. & M. Turner |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|----------------------------|----------|-------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Wood Thrush | | | | |
| 4/19 | 1 | Hinsdale | setbacks | M. Iliff |
| 5/4 | 1 | Walpole | Upper Road | A. Johnson |
| 5/5 | 1 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway St. Pk. | S. Young |
| American Robin | | | | |
| 4/4 | 1000 | Greenland | several locations | T. Bronson |
| 4/4 | 2000 | Litchfield | fields along Rt. 3A | C. Martin, T. Musante |
| Gray Catbird | | | | |
| 4/18 | 1 | Exeter | Powder House Pond | R. Aaronian |
| 4/28 | 1 | Keene | Green Wagon Farm | L. Tanino |
| 5/5 | 1 | Concord | Contoocook Island, Penacook | P. Hunt |
| Brown Thrasher | | | | |
| 4/23 | 1 | Brentwood | Deer Hill WMA | T. Bronson |
| 4/25 | 1 | Exeter | Haven Lane | L. Medlock |
| 4/26 | 1 | Concord | Merrimack St., Penacook | P. Hunt |
| American Pipit | | | | |
| 4/6 | 1 | Gilford | Laconia Airport | I. MacLeod |
| 5/5 | 1 | Concord | Horseshoe Pond | E. Masterson |
| 5/11 | 45 | Sandwich | Ambrose gravel pit, Rt. 113 | T. Vazzano |
| Bohemian Waxwing | | | | |
| 3/5 | 60 | Laconia | Ledgecroft Place | H. Anderson |
| 3/11 | 56 | Gilmanton | Currier Hill Rd. | J. Stockwell |
| 3/12 | 55 | Chester | Clark Rd. | K. Reid |
| 3/16 | 125 | Canterbury | across Merrimack R. from H. Duston Is. | P. Hunt |
| 3/18 | 180 | Concord | S. Concord Meadows | S. Brown, D. Callahan |
| 3/22 | 30 | Walpole | Pine St., N. Walpole | A. Johnson |
| 3/25 | 120 | Laconia | Water St. | H. Anderson |
| 3/26 | 500 | Concord | Storrs Street | R. Quinn |
| 3/30 | 200 | Concord | NHTI boat ramp | R. Quinn |
| 3/31 | 85 | Exeter | Phillips Exeter Academy library, Front St. | R. Aaronian |
| 4/3 | 40 | Nashua | Southern NH Medical Center | D. Deifik |
| 4/5 | 19 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | D. Hubbard |
| 4/6 | 89 | Belmont | Silver Lake | I. MacLeod |
| 4/6 | 30 | Colebrook | Rt. 3 | B. Rappaport |
| 4/6 | 15 | Concord | West Portsmouth St. | P. Newbern, Soo-Nipi Chapter FT |
| 4/6 | 35 | Greenland | Caswell Drive | S. & J. Mirick |
| 4/8 | 20 | Portsmouth | Market St. shopping area | C. Martin |
| 4/13 | 24 | Newfields | Route 85 | S. & J. Mirick |
| 4/27 | 1 | Concord | Contoocook Island, Penacook | P. Hunt |
| Cedar Waxwing | | | | |
| 3/2 | 120 | Concord | Penacook survey route | P. Hunt |
| 3/27 | 100 | Nashua | Southern NH Medical Center | D. Deifik |
| 5/28 | 70 | Amherst | Ponemah Bog WS | C. Sheridan |
| Blue-winged Warbler | | | | |
| 5/6 | 1 | Exeter | Rt. 85 powerline | P. Chamberlin |
| 5/7 | 1 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | S. Young, D. Hubbard, J. Tyler |
| 5/8 | 1 | Concord | Silk Farm WS | R. Woodward |
| 5/15 | 1 | Charlestown | Oxbrook Road | P. Newbern |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|------------------------------------|----------|-------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Brewster's Warbler - hybrid | | | | |
| 5/18 | 1 | Durham | East Foss Farm | K. Dorsey |
| Tennessee Warbler | | | | |
| 5/13 | 1 | Concord | Contoocook Island, Penacook | P. Hunt |
| 5/16 | 1 | Durham | West Foss Farm | K. Dorsey |
| 5/16 | 1 | Keene | Green Wagon Farm | L. Tanino, A. Clark |
| 5/24 | 1 | Jefferson | Pondicherry WS, Cherry Pond trail | C. Caron, P. Meleski, T. Pirro |
| 5/24 | 1 | Nelson | Nelson Road | P. Brown |
| 5/30 | 2 | Pittsburg | East Inlet Road | B. Griffith, C. Wright |
| Nashville Warbler | | | | |
| 4/30 | 1 | Newbury | Stoneybrook WS | P. Newbern |
| 5/2 | 2 | Freedom | Trout Pond CA | T. Vazzano, B. Crowley |
| 5/3 | 1 | Concord | Penacook survey route | P. Hunt |
| 5/4 | 1 | Gilsum | Hammond Hollow | M. Wright |
| Northern Parula | | | | |
| 5/1 | 1 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | S. Young |
| 5/6 | 1 | Chichester | Smith Sanborn Rd. | R. Suomala |
| 5/6 | 1 | Concord | Locke Rd. & sod farm access rd. | M. Suomala |
| 5/6 | 2 | Exeter | Haven Lane | L. Medlock |
| 5/6 | 1 | Nelson | backyard | P. Brown, J. Tilden |
| Yellow Warbler | | | | |
| 4/27 | 1 | Meredith | Chemung Marsh | I. MacLeod |
| 4/30 | 1 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | D. Hubbard |
| 5/1 | 1 | Keene | Antioch University | P. Brown |
| 5/4 | 4 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | E. Masterson |
| 5/16 | 15 | Canterbury | Rt. 93 exit 18 sod farms & nursery | M. Suomala, R. Smith |
| 5/17 | 18 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | D. Hubbard, Seacoast Chapter FT |
| 5/19 | 44 | Brentwood | Deer Hill WMA | T. Bronson |
| Chestnut-sided Warbler | | | | |
| 5/5 | 1 | Weare | Army Corps of Engineers land | M. Suomala |
| 5/6 | 2 | Concord | Locke Rd. & sod farm access rd. | M. Suomala |
| 5/6 | 1 | Nelson | backyard | P. Brown, J. Tilden |
| 5/7 | 2 | Gilsum | Hammond Hollow | M. Wright |
| 5/7 | 1 | Sandwich | Diamond Ledge Rd. | T. Vazzano |
| 5/7 | 2 | Walpole | Upper Road | A. & L. Johnson |
| 5/16 | 16 | Barrington | Warren Farm | S. Young |
| Magnolia Warbler | | | | |
| 4/28 | 1 | Newbury | Hay NWR | P. Newbern |
| 5/6 | 1 | Chichester | Smith Sanborn Rd. | R. Suomala |
| 5/7 | 1 | Nelson | backyard | P. Brown, J. Tilden |
| 5/7 | 1 | Seabrook | off Rt. 1A | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/15 | 15 | | NH coast | S. Mirick |
| 5/26 | 10 | Seabrook | off Rt. 1A | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/30 | 40 | Pittsburg | East Inlet Road | B. Griffith, C. Wright |
| Cape May Warbler | | | | |
| 5/6 | 1 | Exeter | Haven Lane | L. Medlock |
| 5/22 | 1 | Bethlehem | Trudeau Road | B. Griffith |
| 5/24 | 1 | Hancock | Wolcott Preserve | S. Spangenberg, R. Frechette |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|-------------------------------------|----------|---------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Cape May Warbler—continued | | | | |
| 5/25 | 1 | Pittsburg | East Inlet Road | B. Griffith, C. Wright |
| 5/31 | 1 | Whitefield | Pondicherry WS | I. MacLeod |
| Black-throated Blue Warbler | | | | |
| 5/3 | 1 | Concord | Turkey Pond Survey | R. Woodward |
| 5/5 | 1 | Nelson | Lead Mine Road | P. Brown |
| 5/5 | 1 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway St. Pk. | S. Young |
| 5/6 | 2 | Exeter | Newfields Rd. residence | P. Chamberlin |
| 5/6 | 4 | Walpole | Upper Road | A. & L. Johnson |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler | | | | |
| 4/6 | 1 | Hampton Falls | Rt. 84 at Janvrin Rd. | T. Bronson |
| 4/14 | 1 | Exeter | Powder House Pond | T. Bronson |
| 4/18 | 1 | Keene | Green Wagon Farm | L. Tanino, C. Seifer |
| 4/18 | 9 | Madbury | Bellamy Reservoir | S. Young |
| 4/19 | 40 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | D. Hubbard |
| 5/3 | 25 | Brentwood | Deer Hill WMA | T. Bronson, Seacoast Chapter FT |
| 5/4 | 30 | Concord | Ft. Eddy Pond | R. Woodward |
| 5/5 | 34 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway St. Pk. | S. Young |
| 5/6 | 100 | Exeter | Rt. 85 powerline | P. Chamberlin |
| Black-throated Green Warbler | | | | |
| 4/23 | 1 | Harrisville | Child's Bog | J. Tilden |
| 4/26 | 1 | Concord | Turkey Pond survey | R. Woodward |
| 4/27 | 1 | Nelson | backyard | J. Tilden, P. Brown |
| 4/30 | 1 | Hancock | Antrim Road | E. Masterson |
| Blackburnian Warbler | | | | |
| 5/5 | 1 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway St. Pk. | S. Young |
| 5/6 | 1 | Nelson | backyard | P. Brown, J. Tilden |
| 5/8 | 3 | Lempster | Goshen-Lempster School | P. Newbern |
| 5/30 | 15 | Pittsburg | East Inlet Road | B. Griffith, C. Wright |
| Pine Warbler | | | | |
| 4/9 | 1 | Merrimack | business office park | L. Medlock |
| 4/12 | 4 | Concord | | R. Woodward |
| 4/13 | 1 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway St. Pk. | A. & G. Robbins |
| 4/20 | 25 | Concord | Turkey Pond survey | R. Woodward |
| Prairie Warbler | | | | |
| 5/5 | 1 | Exeter | Rt. 85 powerline | P. Chamberlin |
| 5/8 | 3 | Rochester | Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd. | D. Hubbard |
| 5/9 | 14 | Deerfield | Reservation Rd. powerline | T. Bronson |
| 5/9 | 2 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway St. Pk. | S. Young |
| 5/16 | 11 | Barrington | Warren Farm | S. Young |
| 5/19 | 9 | Temple | Temple Mountain | G. Jones |
| Palm Warbler | | | | |
| 4/5 | 1 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | T. Bronson, D. Hubbard, J. Trimble, C. & C. Lapierre |
| 4/9 | 2 | Dover | County Farm Complex | S. Young, J. Tyler |
| 4/15 | 2 | Rochester | Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd. | D. Hubbard |
| 4/18 | 6 | Keene | airport | P. Brown, K. Klapper |
| 4/18 | 21 | Madbury | Bellamy Reservoir | S. Young |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|--------------------------------|----------|--------------|------------------------------|--|
| 4/27 | 50 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | D. Hubbard |
| 5/4 | 15 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | E. Masterson |
| 5/18 | 1 | Effingham | Huntress Bridge Rd. | A. & G. Robbins |
| Bay-breasted Warbler | | | | |
| 5/11 | 1 | Sandwich | Thompson WS | T. Vazzano, Lakes Region Chapter FT |
| 5/16 | 1 | Durham | West Foss Farm | K. Dorsey |
| 5/16 | 2 | Exeter | Powder House Pond | L. Medlock |
| 5/22 | 1 | Tamworth | James Pond Trail | T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely, N. Beecher |
| 5/24 | 1 | Dublin | Dublin Lake Road | E. Masterson |
| 5/25 | 8 | Pittsburg | Scott Bog Road | B. Griffith, C. Wright |
| 5/30 | 30 | Pittsburg | East Inlet Road | B. Griffith, C. Wright |
| Blackpoll Warbler | | | | |
| 5/16 | 1 | Exeter | Powder House Pond | L. Medlock |
| 5/17 | 1 | Durham | Fogg Drive | K. Dorsey |
| 5/30 | 50 | Pittsburg | East Inlet Road | B. Griffith, C. Wright |
| Cerulean Warbler | | | | |
| 5/7 | 2 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway State Park | M. Suomala |
| 5/10 | 1 | Exeter | Powder House Pond | J. Lambert |
| 5/13 | 1 | Concord | Contoocook Island, Penacook | P. Hunt |
| 5/20 | 1 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway St. Pk. | L. Medlock |
| Black-and-white Warbler | | | | |
| 4/23 | 1 | Nelson | Lead Mine Road | P. Brown |
| 4/26 | 1 | Newbury | residence | P. Newbern |
| 4/27 | 1 | Concord | Contoocook Island, Penacook | P. Hunt |
| 4/27 | 1 | Meredith | Chemung Marsh | I. MacLeod |
| 4/27 | 2 | Surry | Dort Rd. & Joslin Rd. quarry | L. Tanino |
| American Redstart | | | | |
| 5/6 | 1 | Concord | Silk Farm WS | P. Brown |
| 5/6 | 2 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway St. Pk. | S. Young |
| 5/6 | 1 | Sandwich | Diamond Ledge Rd. | T. Vazzano |
| 5/6 | 4 | Walpole | Route 12 | A. Johnson |
| 5/30 | 20 | Pittsburg | East Inlet Road | B. Griffith, C. Wright |
| Ovenbird | | | | |
| 4/26 | 1 | Concord | Bog Road, Penacook | P. Hunt |
| 5/3 | 1 | Newmarket | Lubberland Creek Preserve | S. Mirick, TNC FT |
| 5/4 | 3 | Newbury | Hay NWR | P. Newbern |
| 5/4 | 1 | Westmoreland | Cheshire Farm complex | P. Brown, Monadnock Chapter FT |
| Northern Waterthrush | | | | |
| 4/19 | 1 | New London | Mountain Rd. | P. Newbern |
| 4/26 | 2 | Concord | Bog Road, Penacook | P. Hunt |
| 4/26 | 2 | Wilmot | Campground Rd. | P. Newbern |
| Louisiana Waterthrush | | | | |
| 4/12 | 1 | Meredith | Chemung Marsh | I. MacLeod |
| 4/18 | 2 | Madbury | Bellamy Reservoir | S. Young |
| 4/21 | 1 | Sandwich | Diamond Ledge Rd. | T. Vazzano |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|--|----------|----------------|------------------------------------|--|
| Louisiana Waterthrush—continued | | | | |
| 4/22 | 1 | Northwood | Doles Marsh | S. Young |
| 4/22 | 1 | Westmoreland | Partridge Brook Rd. | R. Ritz |
| 4/23 | 1 | Albany | Tin Mountain Conservation Center | J. Potter |
| 5/16 | 1 | Lyman | | M.& S. Turner |
| Mourning Warbler | | | | |
| 5/21 | 1 | Concord | Iron Works Rd. | R. Woodward |
| 5/25 | 1 | Newbury | residence | P. Newbern |
| 5/30 | 2 | Pittsburg | East Inlet Road | B. Griffith, C. Wright |
| 5/31 | 1 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | D. Hubbard, A. Kimball, E. Webber |
| 5/31 | 1 | Whitefield | Pondicherry WS | I. MacLeod |
| Common Yellowthroat | | | | |
| 5/6 | 1 | Hinsdale | rail trail | T. Bronson |
| 5/6 | 1 | Hopkinton | Elm Brook Park | R. Suomala |
| 5/6 | 1 | Nelson | backyard | P. Brown, J. Tilden |
| 5/6 | 1 | Swanzy | Airport Road | T. Bronson |
| Hooded Warbler | | | | |
| 5/8 | 1 | Keene | Greenlawn Cemetery | K. Klapper |
| Wilson's Warbler | | | | |
| 5/11 | 1 | Sandwich | Thompson WS | T. Vazzano, Lakes Region Chapter FT |
| 5/16 | 1 | Canterbury | Rt. 93 exit 18 sod farms & nursery | M. Suomala, R. Smith |
| 5/16 | 1 | Exeter | Powder House Pond | L. Medlock |
| 5/16 | 1 | Keene | Green Wagon Farm | L. Tanino, A. Clark |
| Canada Warbler | | | | |
| 5/16 | 1 | Concord | Silk Farm WS | E. Masterson, NHA FT |
| 5/16 | 1 | Durham | Fogg Drive | K. Dorsey |
| 5/17 | 1 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | D. Hubbard, Seacoast Chapter FT |
| Summer Tanager | | | | |
| 5/3 | 1 | Moultonborough | Bodge Hill Rd. | J. Lacey |
| 5/30 | 1 | Sandwich | Pinehurst Point, Squam Lake | N. Allen |
| Scarlet Tanager | | | | |
| 5/5 | 1 | Walpole | Upper Road | A.& L. Johnson |
| 5/6 | 1 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway St. Pk. | S. Young |
| 5/8 | 1 | Nelson | backyard | P. Brown, J. Tilden |
| 5/8 | 1 | Sandwich | Diamond Ledge Rd. | T. Vazzano |

Sparrows through Finches

As befits a declining species, Eastern Towhees arrived at the tail end of their usual period. The same is true for three sparrow species which are also declining to various degrees: Field, Vesper, and Savannah. Of these, Vesper Sparrow is the least known, so I've decided to include the majority of reports in the listing below. All of these sites are known or potential breeding locations, and there aren't many missing from the list

(Manchester Airport is one). Back in the 1930s, Vesper Sparrows outnumbered Savannahs in the Connecticut River valley. While some sparrows are declining, at least one is expanding its range eastward, as evidenced by the **Clay-colored Sparrow** that spent several days in Barrington at the end of May. It was a good spring for Lapland Longspurs inland, while Durham clearly cornered the market for Snow Bunting.



Clay-colored Sparrow singing by Scott Young, 5/28/08, Warren Farm, Barrington, NH.

Painted Buntings are less than annual, and even then many reports are of drab females or immatures. It was thus nice to have two males this spring, even if only a single observer saw each one. Here's a challenge for you: how far

north in New Hampshire can you find an Eastern Meadowlark? This year the northernmost report was from the relatively tropical climes of Gilford. They used to occur up to Colebrook, but there are fewer and fewer data from the north to determine how common they remain in Coos County. The first Rusty Blackbirds didn't appear until April 5, over a week later than 75% of previous arrival dates (the median is March 22). You guessed it, this is another declining species. There were a good number of Orchard Oriole reports, and I have included several to provide a picture of this species' current distribution in the state.

Finally, there were the remnants of this winter's finch invasions. Pine Grosbeaks were still present in small flocks through mid-March, but dropped to single digits by the month's end. These smaller groups lingered into the first week of April in central New Hampshire, with a final sighting from Barnstead on April 13. Common Redpolls still occurred in flocks of over 100 through late March. By mid-April numbers had dwindled to roughly a dozen in the largest groups, and the final report of the season was a flock of 50 in Gilmanton. Somewhat surprisingly, none of the Hoary Redpolls reported during the winter remained into the spring season. Finally, the most numerous species in Steve and Jane Mirick's May migrant counts along the coast was American Goldfinch (with a smattering of Pine Siskins). Happening upon such movements is hit-or-miss to begin with, and the numbers tallied in their counts are truly exceptional. The reader is once again referred to Steve's article on this phenomenon elsewhere in this issue.

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|-----------------------|----------|-------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Eastern Towhee | | | | |
| 4/20 | 1 | Concord | Locke Rd. sod farm & access road | R. Suomala |
| 4/20 | 1 | Rochester | Ten Rod Road residence | D. Hubbard |
| 4/21 | 1 | Exeter | Haven Lane | L. Medlock |
| 4/22 | 1 | Keene | Green Wagon Farm | L. Tanino |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|--|----------|-------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| American Tree Sparrow | | | | |
| 4/9 | 1 | Newmarket | Bay Road | H. Chary |
| 4/13 | 4 | Concord | Fowler St., Penacook | P. Hunt |
| 4/15 | 1 | Gilsum | Hammond Hollow | M. Wright |
| 4/16 | 1 | Ashland | Sanborn Road | I. MacLeod |
| Chipping Sparrow | | | | |
| 4/11 | 1 | Gilmanton | Loon Pond | J. Stockwell |
| 4/13 | 2 | Concord | Penacook survey route | P. Hunt |
| 4/15 | 1 | Newmarket | Bay Road | H. Chary |
| Clay-colored Sparrow | | | | |
| 5/28 | 1 | Barrington | Warren Farm | S. Young |
| Field Sparrow | | | | |
| 4/12 | 1 | Concord | Morrill's Farm, Penacook | P. Hunt |
| 4/15 | 1 | Gilsum | Hammond Hollow | M. Wright |
| 4/18 | 1 | Kensington | Shaws Hill | T. Bronson |
| Vesper Sparrow | | | | |
| 4/26 | 5 | Concord | Morrill's Farm, Penacook | P. Hunt, R. Suomala |
| 5/5 | 3 | Newington | McIntyre Rd. at Pease Int'l. Tradeport fence | T. Bronson |
| 5/11 | 1 | Sandwich | Ambrose gravel pit, Rt. 113 | T. Vazzano |
| 5/16 | 1 | Canterbury | Rt. 93 exit 18 sod farms & nursery | M. Suomala, R. Smith |
| 5/16 | 1 | Haverhill | Bedell Bridge | J. Williams |
| 5/18 | 1 | Madison | TNC West Branch Pine Barrens Preserve | A. & G. Robbins |
| 5/24 | 1 | Swanzy | Keene Airport | L. Tanino, C. Seifer |
| 5/30 | 1 | Dover | Strafford County Farm | D. Hubbard |
| Savannah Sparrow | | | | |
| 4/12 | 1 | Boscawen | River Road fields | R. Quinn |
| 4/12 | 1 | Concord | Morrill's Farm, Penacook | P. Hunt |
| 4/13 | 2 | Exeter | wastewater treatment plant | S. & J. Mirick |
| 4/16 | 4 | Hampton | Landing Road | D. Abbott, T. Bronson |
| 4/20 | 13 | Keene | Green Wagon Farm | L. Tanino |
| 4/21 | 13 | E. Kingston | Rt. 108 & Sanborn Rd. | T. Bronson |
| 4/22 | 18 | Stratham | River Rd. at Rt. 108 | T. Bronson |
| 4/26 | 45 | Concord | Morrill's Farm, Penacook | P. Hunt, R. Suomala |
| 4/30 | 32 | Portsmouth | Pease Int'l. Tradeport runway | S. Young |
| 5/13 | 50 | Dover | Strafford County Farm | D. Hubbard |
| Savannah Sparrow - Ipswich subsp. | | | | |
| 4/5 | 1 | Hampton | Island Path | S. & J. Mirick |
| Grasshopper Sparrow | | | | |
| 5/30 | 1 | Swanzy | airport | A., L. & P. Johnson |
| 5/31 | 1 | Newington | McIntyre Rd. | K. Dorsey |
| Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow | | | | |
| 5/26 | 1 | Newmarket | TNC Lubberland Creek Preserve | M Suomala, K. Dorsey |
| Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow | | | | |
| 5/24 | 2 | Hampton | behind Little Jack's Restaurant | T. Bronson, D. Hubbard, L. Medlock |
| 5/26 | 1 | Newmarket | TNC Lubberland Creek Preserve | M. Suomala, K. Dorsey |
| 5/30 | 3 | Stratham | Chapmans Landing | T. Bronson |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|-------------------------------|----------|---------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Fox Sparrow | | | | |
| 3/19 | 1 | Kensington | Rt. 107 residence, South Rd. | G. Gavutis, Jr. |
| 3/25 | 1 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | S. Young |
| 3/27 | 2 | Newmarket | Hamel Farm Dr. | P. Hendrickx |
| 3/28 | 1 | Gilsum | Hammond Hollow | M. Wright |
| 3/30 | 1 | Concord | Contoocook Island, Penacook | P. Hunt |
| 4/7 | 1 | Springfield | Old Croydon Rd. | B. Waddell |
| 4/10 | 1 | Columbia | residence | D. Killam |
| Lincoln's Sparrow | | | | |
| 5/6 | 1 | Rochester | Ten Rod Road residence | D. Hubbard |
| 5/9 | 1 | Concord | White Farm | R. Woodward |
| 5/9 | 2 | Keene | Green Wagon Farm | L. Tanino |
| Swamp Sparrow | | | | |
| 4/18 | 5 | Keene | airport | P. Brown, K. Klapper |
| 4/19 | 1 | Durham | Longmarsh Road | S. Mirick, NHA FT |
| 4/19 | 3 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | D. Hubbard |
| 4/20 | 3 | Concord | Locke Rd. sod farm & access road | R. Suomala |
| White-crowned Sparrow | | | | |
| 4/22 | 1 | Stratham | River Rd. at Rt. 108 | T. Bronson |
| 5/6 | 1 | Concord | Silk Farm WS | P. Brown |
| 5/6 | 3 | Hinsdale | setbacks | T. Bronson |
| 5/7 | 1 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | S. Young, D. Hubbard, J. Tyler |
| 5/8 | 2 | Columbia | residence | D. Killam |
| Lapland Longspur | | | | |
| 3/1 | 2 | Walpole | River Road, Sawyer Farm | E. Masterson |
| 3/9 | 1 | Haverhill | Rt.10 corn fields by Clark Pond Rd. | R. Bradley |
| 3/16 | 1 | Walpole | River Road, Sawyer Farm | E. Masterson |
| 4/13 | 1 | Concord | Morrill's Farm, Penacook | P. Hunt |
| Snow Bunting | | | | |
| 3/1 | 20 | Barnstead | Beauty Hill Road | J. & S. Blair |
| 3/14 | 14 | Center Harbor | Coe Hill Rd. | J. Merrill |
| 3/21 | 30 | Walpole | Maple Grove Rd. | A. Johnson |
| 3/22 | 380 | Durham | Rt. 155A fields (Moore) | S. Young |
| 3/29 | 3 | Walpole | River Road, Sawyer Farm | E. Masterson |
| 3/30 | 1 | Durham | Rt. 155A fields (Moore) | S. & J. Mirick |
| 4/6 | 4 | Gilford | Laconia Airport | I. MacLeod |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak | | | | |
| 4/24 | 1 | Merrimack | residence | T. Young |
| 4/24 | 3 | Nottingham | Stevens Hill Rd. residence | D. Crowe |
| 5/1 | 1 | Warner | W. Roby residence | L. & J. Canepa |
| 5/2 | 1 | Ashland | Sanborn Road | I. MacLeod |
| 5/3 | 3 | Bradford | Row Mountain Rd. | S. & C. Goodale |
| Indigo Bunting | | | | |
| 5/8 | 1 | Rochester | Ten Rod Road residence | D. Hubbard |
| 5/8 | 1 | Westmoreland | River Rd. | L. Weston |
| 5/8 | 1 | Windham | residence | J. Romano |
| 5/9 | 2 | Gilmanton | Currier Hill Rd. | J. Stockwell |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|-----------------------------|----------|-------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Painted Bunting | | | | |
| 3/6 | 1 | Bow | Hooksett Tpk. | E. Robinson |
| 5/30 | 1 | Jefferson | residence | J. & T. Kennison |
| Bobolink | | | | |
| 5/4 | 2 | Exeter | Powder House Pond | L. Medlock |
| 5/7 | 3 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | S. Young, D. Hubbard, J. Tyler |
| 5/8 | 1 | Nelson | downtown | P. Brown, J. Tilden |
| 5/9 | 10 | Walpole | River Road | A. & L. Johnson |
| Red-winged Blackbird | | | | |
| 3/6 | 150 | Hinsdale | Lake Wantastiquet | E. Masterson |
| 3/7 | 95 | Greenland | Bayside Road | T. Bronson |
| 3/14 | 150 | Brentwood | Skim Milk Road | T. Bronson |
| 4/12 | 200 | Concord | Morrill's Farm, Penacook | P. Hunt |

*Eastern Meadowlark by Scott Young,
3/26/08, Johnson's Dairy Bar, Rt. 4, North-
wood, NH.*



Eastern Meadowlark

| | | | | |
|------|---|-----------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 3/20 | 2 | Walpole | River Road | A. Johnson |
| 3/22 | 1 | Walpole | Route 12 | A. Johnson |
| 3/26 | 1 | Northwood | Rt. 4, Johnson's Dairy Bar | S. Young, M. Butler |
| 4/12 | 2 | Gilford | Sawyer Meadows | H. Anderson |

Rusty Blackbird

| | | | | |
|------|----|------------|---------------------|---|
| 4/5 | 3 | Kensington | Bartlett Road swamp | S. & J. Mirick |
| 4/5 | 2 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | T. Bronson, D. Hubbard, J. Trimble, C. & C. Lapierre |
| 4/7 | 16 | Keene | Krif Road | P. Brown, J. Tilden |
| 4/13 | 3 | Concord | Turkey Pond survey | R. Woodward |
| 4/20 | 4 | Bradford | off Old Warner Rd. | P. Newbern |
| 5/10 | 5 | Kensington | Bartlett Road swamp | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/24 | 1 | Pittsburg | East Inlet Rd. | C. Caron, P. Meleski, T. Pirro |

Common Grackle

| | | | | |
|------|-----|---------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 3/7 | 15 | Greenland | Bayside Rd. & Palm Dr. | T. Bronson |
| 3/27 | 75 | Hampton Falls | Woodlawn Ave. | T. Bronson |
| 4/2 | 400 | Exeter | Webster Ave. | T. Bronson |
| 4/3 | 150 | Fremont | Martin Road | T. Bronson |
| 4/4 | 325 | Greenland | Bayside Rd. & Great Bay Rd. | T. Bronson |
| 4/5 | 250 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | T. Bronson, D. Hubbard, J. Trimble, C. & C. Lapierre |
| 4/13 | 603 | Seabrook | off Rt. 1A | S. & J. Mirick |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|-----------------------------|----------|---------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Brown-headed Cowbird | | | | |
| 4/13 | 425 | Seabrook | off Rt. 1A | S. & J. Mirick |
| Orchard Oriole | | | | |
| 5/7 | 1 | Newmarket | residence | D. Arnold |
| 5/7 | 1 | Rochester | Pickering Ponds | S Young, D. Hubbard, J. Tyler |
| 5/9 | 1 | Hampton | residence | D. Crowley |
| 5/13 | 1 | Kensington | Rt. 107 residence, South Rd. | G. Gavutis, Jr. |
| 5/16 | 3 | Canterbury | Rt. 93 exit 18 sod farms & nursery | M. Suomala, R. Smith |
| 5/24 | 1 | Roxbury | Otter Brook Lake, rec. area | P. Brown |
| 5/31 | 2 | Amherst | Souhegan River at Route 122 | P. Hunt, T. & A. Saenger |
| Baltimore Oriole | | | | |
| 5/4 | 2 | Newmarket | Hamel Farm Dr. | P. Hendrickx |
| 5/5 | 1 | Concord | Fowler St., Penacook | P. Hunt |
| 5/5 | 1 | Kensington | Rt. 107 residence, South Rd. | G. Gavutis, Jr. |
| 5/5 | 1 | N. Hampton | Runnymede Horse Farm | T. Bronson |
| 5/5 | 1 | Nottingham | Pawtuckaway St. Pk. | S. Young |
| Pine Grosbeak | | | | |
| March | 2 | Hollis | Hayden Road | K. Klasman |
| 3/2 | 15 | Keene | Smith Corporation parking lot | L. Tanino, C. Seifer |
| 3/4 | 16 | Columbia | residence | D. Killam |
| 3/4 | 9 | Tamworth | Deer Hill Rd. | J. Tewksbury |
| 3/6 | 2 | Hancock | Hancock Village | E. Masterson |
| 3/9 | 17 | Concord | Contoocook Island, Penacook | P. Hunt |
| 3/11 | 2 | Litchfield | | S. Malloy |
| 3/14 | 2 | Brentwood | North Rd. w. of Rt. 125 | T. Bronson |
| 3/27 | 9 | Wentworths Location | Route 16 | A. & L. Johnson |
| 4/6 | 2 | Concord | Fowler St., Penacook | P. Hunt |
| 4/6 | 5 | Laconia | Ledgecroft Place | H. Anderson |
| 4/13 | 1 | Barnstead | White Oak Rd., Center Barnstead | N. Gary |
| Red Crossbill | | | | |
| 5/2 | 2 | Effingham | Huntress Bridge Rd. | T. Vazzano |
| 5/10 | 1 | Marlborough | Ogilvie Rd. | M. Legru |
| 5/27 | 4 | Crawfords Purchase | Base Road | B. Griffith, C. Wright, T. Weidman |
| 5/30 | 1 | Pittsburg | East Inlet Road | B. Griffith, C. Wright |
| Common Redpoll | | | | |
| 3/2 | 10 | Columbia | residence | D. Killam |
| 3/6 | 1 | Greenland | Meloon Road | S. Mirick, B. Griffith |
| 3/8 | 40 | Newbury | residence | P. & B. Newbern |
| 3/8 | 120 | Northwood | Bow Lake | S. Young |
| 3/16 | 90 | Concord | Bog Road, Penacook | P. Hunt |
| 4/1 | 180 | Jefferson | Rt. 116 residence | D. & K. Govatski |
| 4/12 | 70 | Sandwich | Diamond Ledge Rd. | T. Vazzano |
| 4/16 | 10 | Ashland | Sanborn Road | I. MacLeod |
| 4/16 | 15 | Columbia | residence | D. Killam |
| 4/16 | 1 | Concord | Bog Road, Penacook | P. Hunt |
| 4/18 | 2 | Sandwich | Diamond Ledge Rd. | T. Vazzano |
| 4/23 | 50 | Gilmanton | Currier Hill Rd. | J. Stockwell |

| <i>date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>town</i> | <i>location</i> | <i>observer(s)</i> |
|---------------------------|----------|-------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Pine Siskin | | | | |
| 5/7 | 3 | Seabrook | off Rt. 1A | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/18 | 4 | Seabrook | off Rt. 1A | S. & J. Mirick |
| American Goldfinch | | | | |
| 5/7 | 1516 | Seabrook | off Rt. 1A | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/18 | 1270 | Seabrook | off Rt. 1A | S. & J. Mirick |
| 5/19 | 376 | Seabrook | off Rt. 1A | S. Mirick |
| Evening Grosbeak | | | | |
| 3/9 | 27 | Gilsum | Hammond Hollow | M. Wright |
| 4/1 | 42 | Jefferson | Rt. 116 residence | D. & K. Govatski |
| 4/13 | 5 | Keene | Green Wagon Farm | L. Tanino |
| 5/2 | 12 | Strafford | Lakeview Dr. | S. Young |
| 5/3 | 10 | Bradford | Rowe Mountain Rd. | S. & C. Goodale |
| 5/7 | 11 | Walpole | Merriam Rd. | R. Ritz |



Baltimore Oriole feeding on an orange-half by Jon Woolf, 5/20/08, Massabesic Audubon Center, Auburn, NH.

Reporters for Spring 2008

Rich Aaronian
 Nelleke Allen
 Sandy Ames
 H. Cook Anderson
 Widge Arms
 Jeannine Ayer
 John Blair
 Terry Bronson
 Phil Brown
 Sheridan Brown
 Michael Cahill
 Lena Canepa
 Chris Carr
 Patience Chamberlin
 Hank Chary
 Tom Chase
 David Crowe
 David Deifik
 Laura Deming
 Barbara Desmarais
 Jane Doherty
 David Donsker
 Kurk Dorsey
 Chet Farwell
 Davis Finch
 Kenneth Folsom
 Jessie Foster
 Darin Franceschini
 Rich Frechette
 Geoffrey Gardner
 George Gavutis, Jr.
 David Govatski
 Ben Griffith

Mary Haig
 Bill Harris
 Bethany Hebert
 Phil Hendrickx
 Dan Hubbard
 Pam Hunt
 Charles Ibach
 Betsy Janeway
 Alan Johnson
 Leith Jones
 David Killam
 Ken Klapper
 Jeanne Lacey
 Jason Lambert
 Debra LaValley
 Chris Lewey
 Iain MacLeod
 John Mann
 Chris Martin
 Eric Masterson
 Len Medlock
 John Merrill
 Steve Mirick
 Sandy Molloy
 Susan Mooney
 Peter Newbern
 Kathie Palfy
 Tom Pirro
 Greg Prazar
 Robert Quinn
 Jason Raper
 Blenda Rappaport
 Robert Ritz

Andrea Robbins
 Linda Roberts
 Edward Robinson
 Judy Romano
 Kevin Schmidlein
 Brenda Sens
 Michael Silvia
 John Snow
 Barbara Sorce
 Scott Spangenberg
 Samuel Sprague
 Dawn Stavros
 J.R. Stockwell
 Sam & Damaris Stoddard
 Larry Sunderland
 Mark Suomala
 Rebecca Suomala
 Lance Tanino
 Jean Tewksbury
 Sandy Turner
 Fred Tyrrell
 Robert Vallieres
 Tony Vazzano
 Pat Watts
 Sarah Webb
 Rob Woodward
 Mary Wright
 Scott Young
 Some sightings were
 taken directly from the
 NH.Birds list serve.

Reports for the following species were received in Spring 2008 but not listed.

Bufflehead
 Ring-necked Pheasant
 Ruffed Grouse
 Wild Turkey
 Great Blue Heron
 Bald Eagle
 Cooper's Hawk
 Northern Goshawk
 Red-tailed Hawk
 Peregrine Falcon
 Herring Gull
 Great Black-backed Gull
 Black Guillemot
 Mourning Dove
 Great Horned Owl

Belted Kingfisher
 Downy Woodpecker
 Hairy Woodpecker
 Pileated Woodpecker
 American Crow
 Black-capped Chickadee
 Tufted Titmouse
 Red-breasted Nuthatch
 White-breasted Nuthatch
 Brown Creeper
 Carolina Wren
 Golden-crowned Kinglet
 Eastern Bluebird
 Northern Mockingbird
 European Starling

Song Sparrow
 White-throated Sparrow
 Dark-eyed Junco
 Northern Cardinal
 Purple Finch
 House Finch
 House Sparrow

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

Diurnal Migration along the New Hampshire Coast

by Stephen R. Mirick

With the exception of hawkwatching, diurnal (daytime) migration of land birds is rarely witnessed and even more rarely recorded. This spring, my wife and I spent several mornings counting migrating birds along the coast in Seabrook and witnessed some dramatic flights of some interesting species (Table 1).

We counted almost all of the birds from an area along Rte. 1A in Seabrook during the morning hours and included in the data only birds moving northward. While daily movements are regular for many species of birds that roost communally, we believe that most of these records represent migrating birds. Similar numbers and composi-

Table 1. Select list of migrating birds observed by Steve and Jane Mirick during the spring of 2008 in Seabrook, NH. Species are in order from most to least numerous.

| | 13-Apr | 7-May | 18-May | 19-May | 26-May | Total |
|----------------------------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| # of Hours | 4.75 | 2.75 | 3.50 | 3.50 | 3.00 | 17.50 |
| American Goldfinch | 3 | 1,516 | 1,270 | 376 | 0 | 3,165 |
| Common Grackle | 603 | 39 | 30 | 30 | 0 | 702 |
| Blue Jay | 0 | 356 | 121 | 24 | 33 | 534 |
| Brown-headed Cowbird | 425 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 425 |
| Tree Swallow | 93 | 44 | 150 | 18 | 0 | 305 |
| American Kestrel | 102 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 103 |
| Red-winged Blackbird | 48 | 18 | 30 | 0 | 0 | 96 |
| Barn Swallow | 0 | 8 | 75 | 2 | 0 | 85 |
| Chimney Swift | 0 | 2 | 73 | 6 | 0 | 81 |
| European Starling | 46 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 56 |
| Greater Yellowlegs | 51 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 51 |
| Bank Swallow | 0 | 0 | 45 | 2 | 0 | 47 |
| American Crow | 34 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 40 |
| Northern Harrier | 34 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 36 |
| Osprey | 19 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 22 |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | 0 | 1 | 15 | 3 | 0 | 19 |
| Great Blue Heron | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 |
| Eastern Kingbird | 0 | 0 | 15 | 2 | 0 | 17 |
| Bobolink | 0 | 0 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 15 |
| Common Loon | 4 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 14 |
| Common Merganser | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | 5 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| Pine Siskin | 0 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 8 |

tions of birds recorded moving north over Plum Island in Massachusetts, approximately 7 miles to the south, support this assumption. Rather strong westerly winds were present on all our counts, which likely helped to concentrate the movement of birds toward the coastline.

It is difficult to draw any significant conclusions based on our limited data, although they do illustrate some interesting results, including the magnitude and timing of coastal migration for a few species. The American Goldfinch migration may be the most interesting. Rick Heil has recorded coastal migration of goldfinches in past springs at Plum Island, but these reports appear to represent a rarely seen event that is not well documented. The migration we witnessed was a consistent movement of flocks of bounding goldfinches moving northward at very low elevations, just over the housetops along Rte. 1A. The flocks generally ranged in size from 10 to 30 birds, but some flocks numbered up to 75 or more.

Large migrations of Blue Jays have been noted historically in New Hampshire; however, our counts represent some of the higher numbers recorded in many years. A great migration of American Kestrels and Northern Harriers occurred in mid-April, and the movement of blackbirds on the same day was also noteworthy, with large numbers of Brown-headed Cowbirds and Common Grackles migrating northward in small flocks, just above rooftops and following the course of Rte. 1A.

Spotlight on Northern Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula*)

by Robert Fox



Northern Hawk Owl by Mark Suomala,
12/30/02, Tamworth, NH.

Background

The Northern Hawk Owl is a member of the family *Strigidae* (Typical Owls). Because it is a big owl with a long tail somewhat like a hawk, it has been called a Hawk Owl. It lives in the boreal areas across Eurasia and North America, where it breeds from Alaska to Newfoundland and southern Labrador. In some winters when food is scarce, it wanders south. It is a rare and irregular fall and winter visitor in New Hampshire.

Breeding Status

The Northern Hawk Owl occupies forest tundra, but seeks edges, clearings, and sparse woodland, where it hunts voles and occasionally small birds. It breeds from

March to September, living in tree cavities and old raptor nests. Unlike most owls, the Hawk Owl hunts by day and tends to perch on the tops of trees, poles, or haystacks, so it is easily seen if present. When it leaves its perch it flies low over the fields hunting rodents before sailing up to a new perch somewhat like a shrike. It is particularly fearless and can be approached for good observation.

Occurrence in New Hampshire

The biggest incursion on record was during 1884 and 1885, with the first record from Colebrook on April 20, 1884. William Brewster collected four near Lake Umbagog (October 25 and 31 and November 15 and 16, 1884). Mr. Wright wrote, in an account from the Jefferson region, “shot one bird in Lancaster (November 19, 1884) and Mr. Norton of Colebrook found them most common.” Norton, writing to Allen on December 1, 1884, said, “they came three weeks ago in greater numbers than ever known before. Farmers’ sons have been killing them all over the country.” Other early records include those from Webster (two shot, another seen in 1884), Washington (1886), Grafton (October 12, 1889), Exeter (December 25, 1902), near Dublin (late November 1905), near Mt. Chocorua (shot November 6, 1926), Bath (March 4, 1942), and Chester (shot November 9, 1945).

More recently (1950–2006), at least 14 Northern Hawk Owls have been reported in New Hampshire (Table 1). The last three reports include some fascinating stories and illustrate the differences in behavior of this species in New Hampshire. All reports show the birds in fairly open country (dead trees in a swamp, open field edge or airport), where they perch during the day on tall trees and are easily seen. Sometimes the bird is seen for only several hours or a day and few people get to see it, as in the 2002 bird in Tamworth. In other cases, the bird(s) remain for many days and are seen by hundreds of birders and photographers, as in the 2000–01 owl at Whitefield Airport, which was present for 78 days. At that time it was said over 1,800 people from 20 states and four countries came to observe; some even brought mice to feed the owl so he would stay.

Table 1. Northern Hawk Owl records in New Hampshire, 1950–2006.

| Date | Location |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Nov. 20, 1958 | Pittsburg |
| Dec. 21, 1961–Jan. 26, 1962 | Laconia |
| Dec. 30, 1964 | Laconia |
| Dec. 17, 1965 (shot) | Northumberland |
| Dec. 28, 1965 | Littleton |
| Dec. 1965–Feb. 1966 (shot) | Lancaster |
| Jan. 5 - Mar. 24, 1969 | Littleton |
| Jan. 28–Mar. 25, 1973 | Gilford |
| Jan. 26, 1974 | Wilton |
| Mar. 1, 1978 | Newmarket |
| Nov. 9, 1991 | Stewartstown, Creampoke Rd. |
| Dec. 1, 2000 for several weeks | Jefferson Meadows |
| Dec. 2, 2000–Feb. 19, 2001 | Whitefield Airport |
| Dec. 29–30, 2002 | Tamworth, Jackman Pond |

Of the 33 reports in New Hampshire, three were in October, six in November, ten in December, five in January, four in February, four in March and one in April. Most owls were seen for 1–3 days, but we don't always know how long the birds were present before being reported. In five examples mentioned above, birds stayed in one location for 36–78 days; food must have been plentiful.

Comments

It is a great birding experience to find, or even see, a Northern Hawk Owl. In New Hampshire before 1890 there was the big invasion of 1884–85 along with two other reports, plus several others in the early 20th century. In Massachusetts there were 24 documented records before 1890 and only five from 1900–93. It is hard to explain why they are far less common now than in the mid 19th century.

What is surprising but typical of these irruptions of northern owls (Hawk, Great Gray, Boreal) is the localized area where they occur. There was a huge incursion in southern Canada and parts of northern United States in 2000–01. In addition to the two in northern New Hampshire, there were 209 in Quebec, but only 18 in New York and Nova Scotia. Such irruptions are believed to be caused by a sudden lack of winter food in the birds' normal territories; birds found dead often appear to have been starving. The birds probably keep moving from one location to another in search of food and, when a good supply of mice is found, they remain until it is time to head north, in late March or April.

An interesting technicality shows how our Northern Hawk Owl relates to other owls. Linnaeus named the bird in 1758 when developing his list of all the birds; probably he used the long tail and large size to call it a Hawk Owl. However, DNA research and other discoveries now divide the Typical Owl family into three subfamilies and six tribes (smaller divisions of a subfamily). Our Northern Hawk Owl now is grouped with 37 other small owls called Pygmy-owls and owlets, most of which live in warm climates and are not found in a circumpolar distribution.

Data Sources

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

New Hampshire Bird Records and archives, circa 1950–2006. New Hampshire Audubon, Concord, New Hampshire.

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

Backyard Birder

Blue Jay Behavior

by Brenda Sens

We tend to take Blue Jays for granted. Sometimes we hear them praised because of their early warnings of danger; sometimes we hear complaints because these same warnings are used to frighten smaller birds away from feeders, clearing the decks for the Blue Jays themselves; sometimes Blue Jay reports take the form of loathing because they are chipping away at the paint on house windows—an action that is thought to be the result of their need for fairly large amounts of calcium in their diet. It was, therefore, very exciting to get not one, but two reports of a different kind of Blue Jay behavior.

In late spring, Dr. James Powers of Hillsborough reported seeing a Blue Jay sitting on a small branch, pushing down with his feet so that it and the branch bobbed up and down in a rhythmic motion. A second Blue Jay watched closely from an adjacent branch about a foot away. The bobbing bird seemed to expect a response from the other bird. When none occurred, the first bird bobbed again and the second bird flew off.

As if this were not interesting enough, another report arrived from Barb Horton of Derry concerning Blue Jay behavior. In mid-February she witnessed over twenty Blue Jays “dancing” in a willow tree. The dance consisted of the birds “standing on their



Blue Jay in tree by Mary Fran Loggans, 5/15/08, Franctown, NH.

tippy toes, looking straight up and making a quick call.” This behavior lasted for about a half-hour before the birds flew off.

Arthur Cleveland Bent, in his *Life Histories of North American Jays, Crows, and Titmice*, first published in 1946, describes this behavior and postulates that the flock of jays consisted of only one female and many males. He concluded that it represented courtship. A look at the Northern Blue Jay account in the *Birds of North America* series (#469), confirms that Blue Jays do indeed bob and dance in the manner described above and that such behavior usually takes place in the early spring. A flock of over twenty birds is described as bobbing and calling together and then flying up and breaking apart into smaller flocks only to come together again in the same tree. At times there is a pause and then, if one bird begins again with a new type of call, the others resume the dance using that same call. Scientists marked breeding pairs of Blue Jays with distinctive colors and discovered that large displaying flocks usually consisted of neighborhood pairs with a few individuals from elsewhere. They concluded that the behavior may have more to do with establishing breeding space than with courtship itself, although it is acknowledged that very little study has been done on this subject.

As the behavior described is not commonly seen, it seems especially fortuitous to have two people in the area witness it and report it to the Volunteer Naturalists at New Hampshire Audubon. It is also very exciting to think that a bird as “common” as the Blue Jay still has something to teach us about its daily life. Perhaps a doctoral project is lurking here for a future ornithologist.

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



*Blue Jay in the snow by
Jon Woolf, 1/15/08, Massabesic
Audubon Center, Auburn, NH.*

Photo Gallery

Bird Nest Boxes

by Jon Woolf

All photos taken at the Massabesic Audubon Center in Auburn, NH, by New Hampshire Bird Records Photo Editor, Jon Woolf.

To us, it looks like a box, easily made with a few pieces of wood, a few screws and nails, and a couple of basic tools. To a bird, however, it's a square tree. There are a number of bird species that like to nest in cavities in tree trunks, but can't excavate those cavities themselves. To these birds, the nest box is a tree trunk, and the empty space inside is a cavity, perfect for nesting in.

Building and monitoring nest boxes is a wonderfully easy way to get involved in wildlife preservation. You can build and set up your own nest boxes, or you can volunteer for a group or organization that already has nest boxes set up and needs them watched.

You can find patterns for nest boxes in many places on the Internet. The book *Woodworking for Wildlife* by Carroll Henderson (published by the Minnesota

Department of Natural Resources) has plans for all the species in our area. If you aren't handy with tools, many nature stores sell prefabricated nest boxes. Check to be sure they are built to appropriate specifications for birds in our area and your yard. Different species need different sized holes and interior spaces, so be sure your boxes are the correct size for the species you might attract. Boxes should not have perches and they should be easily opened for cleaning and monitoring. Additional information and specifications are readily available in the various birdhouse resources.



A pair of Tree Swallows inspect one of Massabesic's nest boxes as a possible home.



A typical nest box for bluebirds, at Massabesic Audubon Center.

With your nest boxes set up, the next step is to start monitoring them. Most of the time this is easy. A nest box should have a hinge on one side, so the box can be opened to see the interior. Monitoring the box involves opening it on a regular schedule and recording what you find inside. The interval between checks should be at least several days, to avoid disturbing the birds too often. You should remove things you don't want to see,

such as wasps, spiders, ants, or fly maggots that may be parasitizing the nestlings.

What to Expect (The Good)

Nearly everyone’s favorite thing to see is a bluebird nest. Eastern Bluebirds build nests made of woven grass blades. They typically lay a clutch of 3–5 pale blue eggs, which are incubated for about three weeks before hatching. Nestlings stay in the nest for another three weeks or so before fledging and flying away.

The nest box achieved fame as a home for bluebirds; however, there are several other species that will nest in boxes. In New Hampshire, other common cavity-nesters include Tree Swallows, Black-capped Chickadees, House Wrens, Tufted Titmice, and House Sparrows. Chickadee nests are made from moss and



Young Tree Swallows in their nest inside a nest box.



A typical bluebird nest: a cup of woven grasses containing four eggs.

lichen. Wren nests are a hodgepodge of sticks. Titmouse nests are made of moss, hair, and bark strips. House Sparrow nests are a jumbled mess of odds and ends; this non-native species often drives away our native nesters so please try to clean out their nests as they are built so they don’t lay eggs.

What to Expect (The Bad)

Nest boxes that aren’t occupied by birds may be homes for other critters: wasps, spiders, or ants. Clean these out as best you can. Typically, the wasps that occupy a nest box are inoffensive paper wasps that take a lot of provocation before stinging. You can knock down the wasp nest with a knife blade or a spatula, then remove the knocked-down nest bits. However, sometimes you might find bald-faced hornets in a box; these can be very aggressive and you should treat them with caution.

Nest boxes that aren’t occupied by birds may be homes for other critters: wasps, spiders, or ants. Clean these out as best you can. Typically, the wasps that occupy a nest box are inoffensive paper wasps that take a lot of provocation before stinging. You can knock down the wasp nest with a knife blade or a spatula, then remove the knocked-down nest bits. However, sometimes you might find bald-faced hornets in a box; these can be very aggressive and you should treat them with caution.

Failed nests are unfortunately part of nature’s balance. The eggs might simply not hatch for some reason. After hatching, the nest might be attacked by predators, parasites, or disease. Sometimes the whole nest is lost; other times, only one or two nestlings might die, and the others survive.

The Massabesic Audubon Center has a monitoring program for its many nest boxes. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Alison Dixon at 603-668-2045.



A chickadee nest of moss and lichens, built inside a nest box.

Answer to the Photo Quiz

by David B. Donsker

This slender woodland bird with its long tail, proportionally long wings, white underparts, and slightly decurved bill can be little else than one of our cuckoos. In flight the proportions and markings of the bird might superficially recall several other birds, but these can be dismissed relatively easily. Blue Jay vaguely shares the longish tail, tail spots, and contrasting underparts and, in flight, its characteristic crest is typically flattened. But the jay has a distinctive black necklace, a prominent white wing bar, and white secondary flight feathers on the trailing edge of the wing. The white tail spots are on the outer edges of the tail, not across the underside of it. Northern Mockingbird is also long tailed and white below, but its large white wing patch, absent in this bird, is a dead giveaway. More than anything, this bird might recall one of our small accipiters, especially Sharp-shinned Hawk. In the field, a cuckoo flying quickly across our field of view can be surprisingly sharpie-like. The long, barred tail is especially similar. But that confusion is not possible in this photograph as the hawk would have a short, hooked bill and its underparts would be either finely barred if it were an adult or streaked if it were a young bird.

So, the challenge of this issue's Photo Quiz is to determine which species of cuckoo this is.

Two species of cuckoo are found in New Hampshire and both breed in the state. Black-billed Cuckoo (Fig. 1), the more often encountered of the two in our region, is a bird of eastern deciduous or mixed forest and is the more northerly breeder. Yellow-billed Cuckoo (Fig. 2) is a species primarily of southern deciduous or mixed forests, but the northern part of its range extends into New England. Both are uncommon and inconspicuous species that spend a great deal of their time in dense foliage looking for caterpillars. Tent caterpillars are their favorite food item and, in years in which these insects are abundant, you are more likely to encounter cuckoos. In most circumstances, however, these rather large birds remain out-of-sight and, when detected, are heard many times more than they are seen.



heard many times more than they are seen.

So, the first challenge of identifying cuckoos by sight is to actually get a view of them! Clear, fully open views are a gift. Much more frequently you will either spot them flying between clumps of dense vegetation or glimpse parts of them through openings in the dense foliage.

Figure 1. Black-billed Cuckoo,
Strafford, NH. Photo by Scott Young, 5/23/07.

The salient features that separate the two species can be clearly seen in these matching photographs by Scott Young. Both share the same body proportions and are functionally grayish-brown above and clear white below. The key features in perching birds are the shape and color of the bill and the pattern of spotting under the tail. Black-billed Cuckoo, as its name implies, has a slender, black bill. In contrast, the bill of the aptly named Yellow-billed Cuckoo is larger and stouter and is primarily yellow. Only the ridge of the upper mandible is black. Be aware that young Yellow-billed Cuckoos may lack yellow on their bills for a very brief period of time in early summer, but other features described below will distinguish them from Black-billed Cuckoos.



Figure 2. Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Strafford, NH.
Photo by Scott Young, 6/10/08.

The undertail patterns of the two cuckoos are quite distinctive. Black-billed Cuckoo has small, fairly inconspicuous tail spots, which, on the closed tail, give the impression of white barring on a grayish-brown tail. Yellow-billed Cuckoo has black tail feathers with huge white tips and so the pattern of its undertail is that of large white spots on a black tail.

Other, more subtle features separate the two species and, if seen well, can be additional clues to the identification. Adult Black-billed Cuckoos have a ring of bare red skin around the eye (orbital ring). The orbital ring in adult Yellow-billed Cuckoo is yellow. Juveniles of both species, however, have greenish-gray orbital rings.

The two photographs are misleading in one feature that distinguishes these two similar species. Generally, Black-billed Cuckoo has duskier white underparts than Yellow-billed Cuckoo, which has brilliant white underparts. But, as these two photographs show, shadowing can give an entirely different impression of the tone of the underparts. Young Black-billed Cuckoos usually have buffy throats. Young Yellow-billed Cuckoos never do.

So, what if you spot a cuckoo in flight and you have only fractions of a second to determine which it is? The best feature to distinguish between these two species is the color of their primary or outer wing feathers. Yellow-billed Cuckoo has bright rufous primary feathers, which can be seen on both the under and upper surfaces of the wings. In contrast, the primary feathers of Black-billed Cuckoo are just barely tipped in rufous. As such, the primary feathers look brown in flight. Be careful, however. In poor light the rufous primary feathers of Yellow-billed Cuckoo may be obscured. So, if you see rufous primaries you've definitely spotted Yellow-billed Cuckoo; but if you cannot see rufous, you cannot always exclude Black-billed Cuckoo.

Another aid to identification of cuckoos in flight is their tail pattern. Unfortunately, the tail pattern cannot be seen in many flying birds and is better defined when the birds are flying away from you. The large white spots of Yellow-billed Cuckoo can often be

seen under these circumstances at the edge of the tail, while those of Black-billed Cuckoo cannot be seen at all or, at best, are inconspicuous.

Of course, we cannot use the tone of the primary feathers in our subject photograph, but the photograph clearly shows the slender black bill and inconspicuous tail spots characteristic of Black-billed Cuckoo. Scott Young took this shot of a flying Black-billed Cuckoo on the Isinglass River in Strafford, New Hampshire in June of 2008.

Since either species of cuckoo is more often heard than seen, learning their characteristic vocalizations is an essential aid to identification. Yellow-billed Cuckoo's song is a series of hard, knocking, guttural croaks that start rapidly and slow at the end, or a rapid series of hard "toks." The latter may be confused with the clucking calls of chipmunks or squirrels. The most common song of Black-billed Cuckoo is a series of hollow, evenly spaced, repeated "cu" notes that are frequently given in triplets. The problem is less likely confusion with Yellow-billed Cuckoo than with the similar vocalization of Least Bittern! Also characteristic is a series of double syllable "cud-owl" notes that are similar to those of Yellow-billed Cuckoo, but clearer, not as guttural, and more rapidly delivered.

Both of our cuckoos arrive in New Hampshire in mid to late May when the caterpillars upon which they feed are already hatched. They are more vocal in the spring than at other times of the year and are more likely to be heard or spotted during that season. Both species are more likely to be vocal in early morning and early evening on calm, muggy days. By the end of September they have largely left for their wintering quarters in the Neotropics.

Because they are never easy to find and, when seen, are frequently surprises, either species of cuckoo will be a highlight of your birding day. Be prepared to recognize them as they fly across your field of view or if you glimpse them in the dense foliage.

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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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Blackburnian Warbler by Leonard Medlock, 5/18/08, on Star Island, NH.



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Female Cerulean Warbler by Jason Lambert, 5/10/08, Powderhouse Pond, Exeter, NH.



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