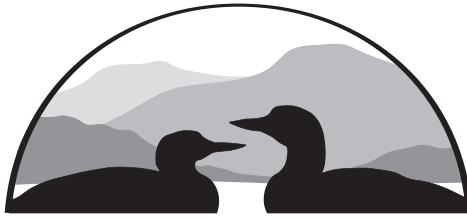


New Hampshire Bird Records



Summer 2008

Vol. 27, No. 2



New Hampshire Bird Records

Volume 27, Number 2

Summer 2008

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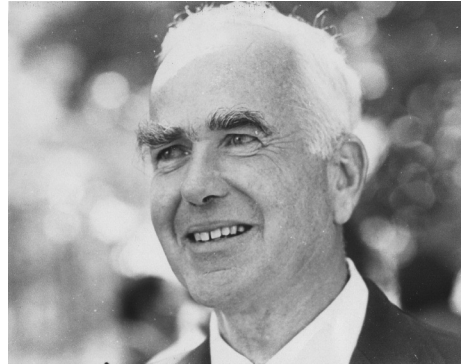
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IN MEMORY OF
Herb Damon

T*his issue of New Hampshire Bird Records with its color cover is sponsored by Pat Niswander in memory of her brother, Herb Damon, avid birder, farmer, forester, and all-around conservationist.*



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From the Editor

Reporting Your Sightings

by Rebecca Suomala, Managing Editor

“What bird sightings should I report to *New Hampshire Bird Records*?”

This is one of the most commonly asked questions, and many birders wonder which of their observations they should report each month. There are no hard and fast rules, but here are some guidelines to help you answer that question.

First it's important to understand that even though we do not publish all reports, each one plays a valuable role in creating an overall picture of a given season. All sightings become part of a database that provides information on bird distribution for many research and conservation projects.

Always report any birds that are unusual for the state or time of year. Please refer to *A Checklist of the Birds of New Hampshire* for information on which species occur when (the checklist is for sale in the Concord Audubon Nature Store and on the *New Hampshire Bird Records* Web site). Reports of species sought by many birders are interesting to all. These include off-shore pelagic species and resident species that are present but not commonly seen, such as boreal species like Gray Jay and Spruce Grouse, nocturnal species such as owls, whip-poor-wills, and nighthawks, and secretive wetland birds such as rails and bitterns.

Most of us wonder whether to report the more common species we see all the time when we are out birding. For migrants, focus on arrival and departure dates, peak numbers, late-lingering or early-returning migrants, inland sightings of ocean waterfowl, hawk flights, and shorebird movements. Report winter visitors such as alcids (i.e., murre, puffins), Glaucous and Iceland Gulls, large flocks of wintering sea ducks and shorebirds, northern hawks and owls, and the winter visitors such as redpolls, Bohemian Waxwings, Pine Grosbeaks, and Pine Siskins.

For the common backyard residents that are present year-round such as Black-capped Chickadee or Blue Jay, report unusually high numbers or sightings that indicate a migration. Reports of species that are present or breeding at an unusual time or location are very valuable.

Visit the *New Hampshire Bird Records* Web site, www.nhbirdrecords.org, for expanded guidelines for each season. Select the “How to Report” option at the top of the page, then the “What to Report” link at the right. Select the “Rare Birds” link for information on how to report an unusual bird.

Remember that every bird is “reportable” and if you're unsure, please send in your observation. It will become part of the data on bird occurrences, even if it does not appear on the pages of *New Hampshire Bird Records*.

Photo Quiz



Can You Identify These Birds?

Answer on page 55.
Photos by Mark Suomala

Summer 2008

June 1 through July 31, 2008



Tony Vazzano

by Tony Vazzano

The outstanding highlight of this summer season can be put in three words: nesting **Mississippi Kites!** After a few unsubstantiated reports from southeastern New Hampshire in the past few years, Mississippi Kites were found nesting in Newmarket in early June and a chick was eventually fledged. The previously known northernmost nestings of this beautiful raptor were in Virginia and Ohio. This is probably one of the

most unexpected ornithological events in New Hampshire in the past few decades. Remarkably, after the summer season had ended, a second nest with a fledged chick was discovered a couple of miles away from the first nest. For more on this remarkable event, see the article on page 34.

Other raptors, including Osprey, Bald Eagle, and Peregrine Falcon, had a very successful season raising young and Merlin continued to expand in southern and central parts of the state.

Some sightings were taken from a report on the NH.Birds e-mail list by a birder hiking the New Hampshire stretch of the Appalachian Trail from June 4 to 25. These observations are interesting because they give us an idea of the relative abundance of some of the breeding species in our mountains.

No report of bird sightings other than terns was received from biologists at the Isles of Shoals tern colony on White and Seavey Islands, resulting in fewer reports of alcids and other species typically seen on the islands.

There were rare birds seen in addition to the kites: **Cory's Shearwater**, **Red-headed Woodpecker**, **Hooded Warbler**, and **Summer Tanager**. Other unusual birds reported were **Least Bittern**, **Black Vulture**, and **Clay-colored Sparrow**.

The summer of 2008 will be remembered as a wet one. Heavy rains during mid and late June came at a vulnerable time for some nesting species and may have negatively affected their ability to fledge young or caused them to re-nest and fledge young later than usual. An unusual major tornado ripped through a portion of east-central New Hampshire in late July that undoubtedly impacted some birds along its 40-mile path.



Two Cory's Shearwaters by Leonard Medlock, at sea on Jeffrey's Ledge.

Waterfowl through Vultures

Reports of stray waterfowl that usually spend the summer to the north included American Wigeon in Newmarket and Northern Shoveler and Ruddy Duck, both in Exeter and both on the same day. Even more unusual was a pair of Ruddy Ducks in Exeter in early July. They are known to breed in Quebec and northern Maine, but not in New Hampshire.

The count of Common Loon pairs was up from last summer to a record high of 247, but fewer nested successfully and the number of chicks was down from what was already a poor season last year, according to the Loon Preservation Committee. (See article on page 40.)

Least Bittern has been reported a little more frequently than usual during the past couple of summers and at least one was found this season in Hinsdale in June. A Black-crowned Night-Heron in Holderness was quite far north and inland from its usual coastal haunts. **Black Vulture** is very uncommon in New Hampshire and most reports are from spring; one was reported in early July with some Turkey Vultures on Mt. Cardigan.

There were a couple of reports of **Cory's Shearwater** from offshore. This species stays south of New Hampshire waters during most summers, but occasionally comes farther north, probably during years when the water is warmer. These reports and other Internet reports from Massachusetts waters indicate that it was a banner year for them in the Gulf of Maine.

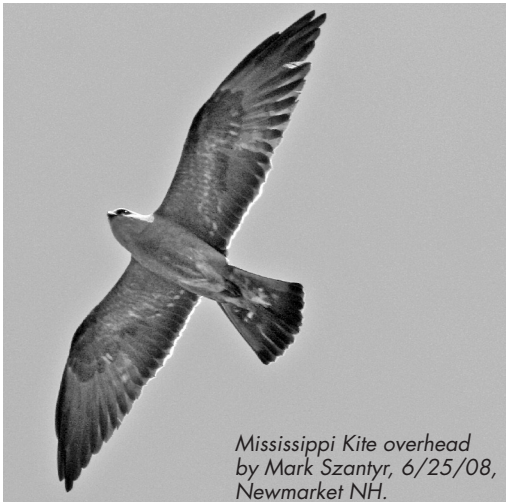
<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
American Wigeon				
6/15	1	Newmarket	TNC Lubberland Creek Preserve	A.& G. Robbins
Northern Shoveler				
6/29	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	L. Medlock
Green-winged Teal				
6/8	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
6/30	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Hubbard
7/25	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
Ring-necked Duck				
6/3	2	Pittsburg	Scott Bog	G. Gavutis Jr.
6/16	2	Pittsburg	Coon Brook Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/18	5	Pittsburg	Coon Brook Road	T. Bronson
Common Eider				
6/1	50	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, S. Mirick, NHA FT
6/15	90		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
6/16	73	Rye	NH coast	T. Bronson
7/9	52	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk., Seal Rocks	T. Bronson
Surf Scoter				
7/23	1	Rye	Rye Harbor	S. Mirick
7/23	1	Rye	Rye Harbor	J. Woolf

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
White-winged Scoter				
6/16	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	T. Bronson
6/29	8	Rye	Jeness Beach	S. & J. Mirick
7/23	8	Rye	Jeness Beach	S. Mirick
Black Scoter				
6/23	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	B. Griffith, C. Wright
6/29	1	Rye	Jeness Beach	S. & J. Mirick
Long-tailed Duck				
6/7	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	B. Griffith, C. Wright
6/22	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	T. Bronson
Common Goldeneye				
6/13	1	Pittsburg	Metallak Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
7/19	2	Errol	Androscoggin & Magalloway Rivers	H. Batcheller
Red-breasted Merganser				
6/15	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. & J. Mirick
6/29	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. & J. Mirick
Ruddy Duck				
6/29	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	L. Medlock
7/5-6	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	Mazzaglia/NH.Birds
Spruce Grouse				
6/3	1	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Road	G. Gavutis Jr.
6/4-25	1	Beans Grant	Crawford Path above Nauman tentsite	S. McCumber
6/4-25	1	Franconia	Twinway Trail	S. McCumber
6/4-25	1	Shelburne	Carter-Moriah Trail	S. McCumber
6/4-25	1	Success	Mt. Success near summit	S. McCumber
6/8	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	A. Johnson
Red-throated Loon				
6/29	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. & J. Mirick
Pied-billed Grebe				
6/18	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
6/25	13	Brentwood	Deer Hill WMA	T. Bronson
7/6	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
7/15	1	Fitzwilliam	Scott Pond	B. Boyer
7/29	10	Brentwood	Deer Hill WMA	T. Bronson
Horned Grebe				
6/1	1	Northwood	Lucas Pond	D. Stahre
6/15	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. & J. Mirick
7/23	1	Rye	cove s. of Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. Mirick
Cory's Shearwater				
7/25	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson
7/30	1	Offshore Waters		M. Harvey, M. Stager
Greater Shearwater				
6/15	1	Offshore Waters	enroute to Jeffreys Ledge	A. Johnson
7/10	2	Offshore Waters		J. Woolf
7/25	7	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Sooty Shearwater				
6/15	1	Offshore Waters	enroute to Jeffreys Ledge	A. Johnson
6/26	1	Offshore Waters	15 miles off Rye Harbor	T. Bronson
7/25	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson
Manx Shearwater				
6/1	1	Offshore Waters	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, S. Mirick, NHA FT
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				
6/15	12	Offshore Waters	enroute to Jeffreys Ledge	A. Johnson
6/23	70	Rye	NH coast	B. Griffith, C. Wright
6/25	12	Offshore Waters	near Isles of Shoals	J. Woolf
6/26	10	Offshore Waters	15-22 miles off Rye Harbor	T. Bronson
7/25	350	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson
7/28	19	Offshore Waters	near Isles of Shoals	T. Bronson
Northern Gannet				
6/16	21	Rye	Rye Ledge & Seal Rocks	T. Bronson
6/17	15	Hampton	Plaice Cove	R. Aaronian
6/25	6	Offshore Waters	near Isles of Shoals	J. Woolf
7/25	20	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson
Great Cormorant				
6/1	1	Rye	Lunging Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, S. Mirick, NHA FT
6/8	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
7/4	1	Litchfield	Thorntons Ferry	S. Molloy
7/6	2	Rye	Lunging Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, NHA FT
American Bittern				
6/2	1	Sandwich	Chicks Corner wetland	T. Vazzano
6/4	1	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	P. Brown
6/6	1	Littleton	Cole Plain swamp	S. & M. Turner
6/16	1	Hampton	behind Little Jack's Restaurant	T. Bronson
6/25	1	Whitefield	Whitefield Airport pond	A. & G. Robbins
6/27	1	Conway	East Conway Rd., East Conway	A. & G. Robbins
7/4	1	Enfield	Mascoma River at McConnell Road	P. Hunt
7/15	1	Errol	Leonard Marsh, Lake Umbagog	C. Martin
Least Bittern				
6/6	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	P. Brown, I. Gillespie, M. Einemann
6/8	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
Great Egret				
6/18	30	Seabrook	Seabrook Marsh	A. & L. Johnson, D. Green
7/14	1	Effingham	Pine River	R. Van de Poll
7/23	7	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Hubbard
7/29	25	Seabrook	Seabrook marshes	S. Mirick
Snowy Egret				
6/18	6	Rye	Awcomin Marsh	P. Brown
7/11	10		NH coast	S. Mirick
7/19	10	Rye	Fairhill Marsh	T. Bronson
7/23	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Hubbard
7/25	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
6/1	1	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, S. Mirick, NHA FT
6/7	1	Holderness	Rt. 113, Pinehurst Rd.	B. Griffith, C. Wright
6/18	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
6/26	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	J. Lambert
7/18	7	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop	L. Medlock
7/31	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd.	A. Robbins
Glossy Ibis				
6/18	2	Rye	Rye Harbor	P. Brown
7/23	1	Rye	Jenness Beach	S. Mirick
Black Vulture				
7/6	1	Orange	Mount Cardigan	C. Wallace
Turkey Vulture				
6/20	2	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
7/8	24	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard

Raptors



*Mississippi Kite overhead
by Mark Szantyr, 6/25/08,
Newmarket NH.*

The discovery of **Mississippi Kites** breeding in New Hampshire is amazing and fascinating, to say the least. Sightings by so many observers and numerous photographs documented and confirmed this species in New Hampshire. (See the article on page 34.) At least one of these Newmarket birds was reported on the NH.Birds e-mail list in late May. They have nested as far north as southeast Virginia and last year they nested in Ohio for the first time. Mississippi Kites have been known to establish breeding colonies far removed from their

main populations, as is the case in southeast Arizona. An apparent sub-adult helper was seen with the pair and this behavior is not unusual for these kites. One could speculate that the sub-adult or even the adults might be New Hampshire natives from a previously undiscovered nest, especially because there have been a couple of reports of this species in the region during the past few years. One of those reports mentioned a kite breaking off a twig, presumably as nesting material! Another nest in Newmarket was confirmed soon after this year's breeding season was over and Internet reports indicated that kites also nested in Connecticut this summer. This is quite an expansion for this graceful raptor.

The raptors that are closely monitored by New Hampshire Audubon had a terrific year and all had a post-DDT record or near record number of fledglings. The 57 nesting pairs of Osprey, 40 of which were successful with at least one chick, raised 87 chicks, up 15% from the previous post-DDT record of 71. The continued recovery of Osprey in the state has led the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department to remove it from the state threatened and endangered wildlife list. Bald Eagles had the same number of nesting pairs as last year; the number of successfully fledged young was 24, three more than the previous record in 2006. Peregrine Falcons were found in 18 territories, 16 of which had documented incubation. Thirteen of these pairs hatched eggs and all were successfully fledged. The total of 27 fledged matches a post-DDT high. All in all, it was a very exciting year for diurnal raptors in the state. You can read more details on page 41.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Mississippi Kite				
6/14	2	Newmarket	Route 152	B. Griffith, C. Wright, et al.
7/20	3	Newmarket	South Main Street	S. & J. Mirick
Northern Harrier				
6/1	1	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, S. Mirick, NHA FT
6/7	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	S. Stoddard, Seacoast Chapter FT
6/8	1	Conway	East Conway Rd. fields	G. & A. Robbins
7/19	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS, Cherry Pond	A., G. & C. Robbins
Red-shouldered Hawk				
6/3	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
6/7	2	Freedom	Green Mountain Rd.	A. & G. Robbins
6/7	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	S. Stoddard, Seacoast Chapter FT
6/8	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
6/10	2	Newington	Great Bay NWR, Stubbs impoundment	G. Gavutis Jr.
6/17	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
6/21	1	Lyman	Lower Mountain Pond	S. & M. Turner
6/29	1	Peterborough	near Rt. 123 & Rt. 101	P. Brown, J. Tilden
7/12	1	Atkinson	Stonewall Terrace	J. Romano
7/12	2	Newmarket	Neal Mill Rd.	K. Dorsey
7/16	2	Rochester	Route 125	T. Vazzano, B. Crowley
American Kestrel				
6/6	1	Dover	Strafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
6/7	2	Freedom	Green Mountain Rd.	A. & G. Robbins
6/7	1	Whitefield	Mt. Washington Regional Airport	S. Stoddard, Seacoast Chapter FT
6/8	1	Dalton	Route 142	T. Bronson
6/12	1	Goshen	Brook Rd. field	P. Newbern
6/12	1	Pittsburg	Metallak Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
7/1	3	Concord	Hoitt Road	B. Vailleurs
7/19	2	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
7/25	5	Fremont	Martin Road	T. Bronson
7/29	2	Brentwood	Deer Hill WMA	T. Bronson
7/30	6	Amherst	PSNH substation, Hertzka Dr.	C. Sheridan

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Merlin				
6/6	1	Holderness	Squam Lakes Natural Science Center	I. MacLeod
6/10	1	Stark	Devils Slide	C. Martin, M. Pelchat
6/17	1	Keene	West Street	P. Brown
6/25	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS, Little Cherry Pond	A.& G. Robbins
July	5	Holderness	Rockywold-Deephaven Camps	K. Wheeler
7/10	2	Hanover	Hanover Country Club	J.& D. Norton, et al.
7/11	1	Alton	Pipers Point Rd.	J. Juneau
7/22	1	New London	Lakeshore Drive	J.& C. Messenger
7/27	5	New London	end of Poor Rd., Lake Sunapee	J. Williamson, B. McCandless

Rails through Alcids

Reports of Sora have been lacking during the past few summers, but this season there were a few from different corners of the state. Piping Plovers continue to hang on by a thread. One nest in Hampton Beach fledged young, while in Seabrook there were two nests with chicks, but fledglings survived from only one of them. Most shorebirds were seen in typical numbers through the season. The same is true for most gulls with the exception that there were more reports of Laughing Gull than usual and a Glaucous Gull, typically found in winter, lingered into early June at Star Island. NH Fish & Game Department reported that 2,227 pairs of Common Terns, 40 pairs of Roseate Terns and eight pairs of Arctic Terns nested at the Isles of Shoals colony. From these, 2,614 Common Tern chicks fledged, along with 46 Roseate Tern chicks and four Arctic Tern chicks.



Piping Plover chick on Hampton beach by Leonard Medlock, 6/1/08, Hampton, NH.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Virginia Rail				
6/7	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	S. Stoddard, Seacoast Chapter FT
6/8	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
6/13	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	M. Suomala
7/6	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
7/20	2	Concord	Locke Rd. marsh	R. Woodward
7/27	1	Hampton	behind Little Jack's Restaurant	T. Bronson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Sora				
6/8	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
6/18	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	A. & L. Johnson, D. Green
7/18	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	H. Batcheller
Black-bellied Plover				
6/2	30	Rye	Seaveys Creek at Rt. 1A	T. Bronson
6/4	12	Rye	Rt. 1A wooden bridge	M. Suomala
6/29	3	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
7/11	3		NH coast	S. Mirick
7/17	2		NH coast	S. Mirick
Semipalmated Plover				
6/4	4	Rye	just s. of Odiorne Point St. Pk.	M. Suomala
7/11	5		NH coast	S. Mirick
7/23	4	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Hubbard
7/25	86	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	T. Bronson
7/26	262		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
Piping Plover				
6/15	5	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	A. Johnson
7/11	3	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
July	11	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Niziolek
Spotted Sandpiper				
7/20	21		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
7/25	17	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
Solitary Sandpiper				
7/16	7	Brentwood	Deer Hill WMA	T. Bronson
7/25	7	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
Greater Yellowlegs				
6/1	2	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, S. Mirick, NHA FT
6/18	1	Hampton	behind Little Jack's Restaurant	A. Johnson
6/29	3	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	S. & J. Mirick
7/9	12	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	T. Bronson
7/11	21		NH coast	S. Mirick
7/25	15	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	E. Masterson
Willet				
6/16	13	Hampton	behind Little Jack's Restaurant	T. Bronson
6/29	22	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
7/11	60	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
7/26	105		Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
Lesser Yellowlegs				
7/9	5	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	T. Bronson
7/15	1	Errol	Leonard Marsh, Lake Umbagog	C. Martin
7/16	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	T. Vazzano, B. Crowley
7/25	10	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	E. Masterson
7/25	5	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
Upland Sandpiper				
6/7	1	Portsmouth	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	B. Griffith, C. Wright

date # town location observer(s)



Whimbrel by Erik Nielsen, 6/15/08, First Connecticut Lake boat launch, Pittsburg, NH.

Whimbrel

6/15	1	Pittsburg	First Connecticut Lake boat landing	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
7/17	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick, L. Medlock
7/25	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson

Ruddy Turnstone

6/4	1	Rye	Concord Point	M. Suomala
7/21	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	T. Bronson
7/25	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	E. Masterson

Sanderling

6/2	100	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	T. Bronson
7/6	8	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, NHA FT
7/25	250	Rye	Jeness Beach	E. Masterson

Semipalmated Sandpiper

7/17	225		NH coast	S. Mirick
7/23	567	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	T. Bronson
7/25	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
7/26	837	Hampton	NH coast	S. & J. Mirick

Least Sandpiper

7/6	1	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, NHA FT
7/16	15	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	T. Vazzano, B. Crowley
7/17	41		NH coast	S. Mirick
7/17	4	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Hubbard
7/25	6	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young

White-rumped Sandpiper

7/11	1	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	J. O'Shaughnessy
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Purple Sandpiper

6/1	6	Rye	Lunging Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, S. Mirick, NHA FT
6/2	11	Rye	Ragged Neck	T. Bronson

Dunlin

6/4	6	Rye	adjacent Rt. 1A wooden bridge	M. Suomala
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Short-billed Dowitcher

7/6	6	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, NHA FT
7/11	76	Hampton	Hampton Harbor, n. end	T. Bronson
7/14	109		NH coast	S. Mirick
7/25	24	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	E. Masterson

Wilson's Snipe

6/4	1	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	P. Brown
6/6	1	Holderness	Perch Pond Road	I. MacLeod

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
6/7	2	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	S. Stoddard, Seacoast Chapter FT
6/14	2	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/15	2	Pittsburg	Day Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/19	1	Pittsburg	Deer Mountain Rd. (Sophie's Ln.)	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
7/18	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	H. Batcheller
American Woodcock				
6/7	4	E. Kingston	Rt. 108 near Kensington line	G. Gavutis Jr.
6/7	3	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	S. Stoddard, Seacoast Chapter FT
6/18	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
6/24	1	Freedom	Trout Pond CA	A. & G. Robbins
6/26	1	Hopkinton	residence	J. Martin
7/29	1	Brentwood	Deer Hill WMA	T. Bronson
Red Phalarope				
7/25	2	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson
Bonaparte's Gull				
6/10	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	M. Fairbrother
7/11	75		NH coast	S. Mirick
7/29	62	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	S. Mirick
Black-headed Gull				
6/23	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	B. Griffith, C. Wright
Laughing Gull				
6/1	1	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, S. Mirick, NHA FT
6/18	1	Rye	Awcomin Marsh	P. Brown
6/29	2		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
7/9	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	T. Bronson, J. Woolf, R. Vranicar
7/14	2		NH coast	S. Mirick
7/25	3	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	E. Masterson
Glaucous Gull				
6/1	1	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, S. Mirick, NHA FT
Least Tern				
6/1	3	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, S. Mirick, NHA FT
7/11	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
Roseate Tern				
6/15	6	New Castle	Fort Stark	S. & J. Mirick
7/17	6		NH coast	S. Mirick
7/25	17	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	E. Masterson
Common Tern				
6/4	150	Rye	just s. of Odiorne Point St. Pk.	M. Suomala
6/15	200	New Castle	Fort Stark	S. & J. Mirick
7/23	54	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	T. Bronson

date	#	town	location	observer(s)
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Arctic Tern in flight on Seavey Island, by Eric Masterson, 6/6/08, Seavey Island, Isles of Shoals, NH.

Arctic Tern

6/1	2	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, S. Mirick, NHA FT
6/15	2	New Castle	Fort Stark	S.& J. Mirick
7/25	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson

Black Guillemot

6/1	8	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, S. Mirick, NHA FT
6/29	2	Rye	Rye Ledge	S.& J. Mirick

Atlantic Puffin

7/25	3	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson
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Owls through Woodpeckers



Yellow-billed Cuckoo by Scott A. Young, 6/10/08, Strafford, NH.

Reports of cuckoos were widespread across the southern half of the state and too numerous to list, with over 20 reports of Yellow-billed and at least 26 reports of Black-billed Cuckoo. Eastern Screech-Owls bred in Concord for the second consecutive year as they continue to become more common across the southern tier of the state. Project Nighthawk volunteers conducted surveys for Common Nighthawks in Concord, finding a dozen birds this summer including one nest containing two chicks. A survey for Whip-poor-wills in Freedom had a count of 23 birds in the area of an abandoned airstrip near the Ossipee Pine Barrens, while another survey found 10 in Hopkinton. Most of the Whip-poor-wills in the state continue to be in the Ossipee Pine Barrens and the Merrimack Valley. Two **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were reported from Bedford, although it is not known if they bred. They are rare but annual in the state and have been known to breed in the past.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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Eastern Screech-Owl

7/15	3	Concord	School Street	R. Woodward
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Female Common Nighthawk with chicks, by Stephanie Parkinson, 07/10/08, Concord, NH.

Common Nighthawk

6/1	1	Exeter	Newfields Road	P. Chamberlin
6/1	1	Pittsfield	Berry Avenue	A.& G. Robbins
6/2	9	Concord	coordinated nighthawk watch	R. Suomala, et al.
6/2	2	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
6/13	1	Keene	west side of Central Square	M. Wright
6/16	1	Lebanon	Wal-Mart Plaza, W. Lebanon	S. Stettenheim
6/18		Canaan	Mount Cardigan	E. Maislen, et al.
6/18	11	Concord	coordinated nighthawk watch	R. Suomala, et al.
7/5	2	Orange	Mount Cardigan	J. Hart
7/8	11	Concord	coordinated nighthawk watch	R. Suomala, et al.
7/27	20	Conway	jct. of Rts. 16, 113 & 153	R. VanVleck
7/31	5	Ossipee	Hanson Road	H. Batcheller

Whip-poor-will

June	12	Hopkinton	Mast Yard State Forest	P. Hunt, et al.
6/2	5	Concord	several east side locations	R.& M. Suomala, R. Quinn, et al.
6/6	1	Sandwich	end of Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
6/9	3	Jaffrey	Jaffrey Airport	E. Masterson
6/20	23	Freedom	Trout Lake CA	P. Hunt, et al.
7/10	10	Hopkinton	Mast Yard State Forest	P. Hunt, et al.
7/15	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S.& M. Turner

Chimney Swift

6/6	4	Dover	Strafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
6/7	5	Litchfield	Thorntons Ferry	S. Molloy
6/16	2	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/27	4	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
7/20	12	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
7/26	3	Dover	Strafford County Farm	D. Hubbard

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

6/12	10	Pittsburg	Metallak Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/21	6	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S.& M. Turner
7/6	6	Dublin	Charcoal Road	T. Warren
7/24	5	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright

Belted Kingfisher

7/20	13	Nashua	Nashua River	C. Sheridan
7/29	5	Brentwood	Deer Hill WMA	T. Bronson

Red-headed Woodpecker

6/5	2	Bedford	Buttonwood Rd.	T. Bronson
7/6	2	Bedford	Buttonwood Rd.	G.& M. Knoettner

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Red-bellied Woodpecker				
6/2	1	Durham	Fogg Drive	K. Dorsey
6/7	1	Concord	South End	R. Woodward
6/8	5	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
6/16	2	Newmarket	Bay Road	H. Chary
6/21	1	Litchfield	Thorntons Ferry	S. Molloy
7/11	1	Strafford	Isinglass River CA	S. Young
7/17	2	Walpole	Mill Pond CA	L. Tanino
7/21	2	Newmarket	Bay Road	H. Chary
7/27	2	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. Harris
7/30	2	Newington	Great Bay NWR	T. Bronson
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				
6/7	4	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	S. Stoddard, Seacoast Chapter FT
6/17	2	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
7/4	4	Enfield	Bog Road	P. Hunt
7/11	4	Strafford	Isinglass River CA	S. Young
7/11	7	Winchester	Pisgah State Park	L. Tanino
Black-backed Woodpecker				
6/7	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	S. Stoddard, Seacoast Chapter FT
6/8	2	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road	T. Bronson
6/25	1	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road	A.& G. Robbins
6/25	3	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS, Little Cherry	A.& G. Robbins
6/27	1	Whitefield	Pondicherry WS	A. Johnson
late June	1	Success	above Dream Lake	S. McCumber
7/8	1	Ellsworth	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest	B. Griffith
7/25	1	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road wetlands	M. Suomala

Flycatchers through Corvids

The Olive-sided Flycatcher reports from Enfield and Effingham, two locations where they have been known to occur in other summers, probably represent the southern limit of the breeding range for this species in New Hampshire. A couple of Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were still migrating through central and southern parts of the state in early June. Vireos were mostly seen in usual numbers and locations; the high count of 54 Red-eyed Vireos was from Winchester. The West Ossipee area remains the northernmost regular location for Fish Crow in the state, but given their slow northward expansion during the past decade, it may just be a matter of time before they are seen in the Saco River Valley in Conway.



Olive-sided Flycatcher by Erik Nielsen, Pittsburg, NH.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Olive-sided Flycatcher				
6/4	1	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	P. Brown
6/6	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd. at Snag Pond	T. Bronson
6/7	1	Holderness	marsh along Rt. 113	S. & J. Mirick
6/7	1	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	S. Stoddard, Seacoast Chapter FT
6/8	1	Chatham	Peaked Hill Rd.	A. & G. Robbins
6/10	1	Effingham	Watts WS	M. Suomala
6/13	3	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/14	2	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/24	1	Effingham	Huntress Bridge Rd.	A. & G. Robbins
6/26	1	Lyman	Under the Mountain Rd.	S. & M. Turner
7/4	1	Enfield	Bog Road	P. Hunt
Eastern Wood-Pewee				
6/1	3	Manchester	TNC Cedar Swamp Preserve	T. Bronson, Capital Area Chapter FT
6/1	5	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, S. Mirick, NHA FT
6/8	8	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
6/20	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/27	3	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
7/11	6	Winchester	Pisgah State Park	L. Tanino
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				
6/1	5	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, S. Mirick, NHA FT
6/2	1	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Road	J. Merrill
6/4-25	77		Appalachian Trail	S. McCumber
6/13	15	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/14	4	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
7/1	2	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road wetlands	T. Vazzano
7/5	6	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge & Link Trails	S. & J. Mirick
Alder Flycatcher				
6/1	2	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, S. Mirick, NHA FT
6/2	1	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
6/6	4	Littleton	Cole Plain swamp	S. & M. Turner
6/7	4	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	S. Stoddard, Seacoast Chapter FT
6/8	2	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
6/10	2	Effingham	Watts WS	M. Suomala
6/14	2	Freedom	Trout Pond CA	T. Vazzano, Lakes Region Chapter FT
6/19	9	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	T. Bronson
6/25	2	Brentwood	Deer Hill WMA	T. Bronson
7/26	13	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
Willow Flycatcher				
6/1	2	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, S. Mirick, NHA FT
6/2	1	N. Hampton	townline marsh	T. Bronson
6/3	3	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	T. Bronson
6/4	3	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	P. Brown

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Willow Flycatcher—continued				
6/6	2	Littleton	Cole Plain swamp	S. & M. Turner
6/8	1	Conway	East Conway Rd., E. Conway	A. & G. Robbins
6/8	13	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
6/13	4	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	M. Suomala
6/18	2	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Road	T. Bronson
7/5	1	E. Kingston	South Road	D. Finch
7/17	1	Ossipee	Ossipee Lake, mouth of Pine R.	P. Hunt
Least Flycatcher				
6/5	3	Moultonborough	Unsworth Preserve	T. Vazzano, et.al.
6/6	3	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Road	T. Bronson
6/7	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	S. Stoddard, Seacoast Chapter FT
6/7	2	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	S. Stoddard, Seacoast Chapter FT
6/14	5	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/25	8	Brentwood	Deer Hill WMA	T. Bronson
7/8	4	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
Eastern Kingbird				
6/1	10	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
6/1	15	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, S. Mirick, NHA FT
6/5	4	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
6/7	3	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	S. Stoddard, Seacoast Chapter FT
7/8	14	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
7/9	25	Amherst	off Hertzka Drive	C. Sheridan
7/16	16	Brentwood	Deer Hill WMA	T. Bronson
7/25	12	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
Yellow-throated Vireo				
6/4	2	Surry	Dort Road	P. Brown
6/7	2	Holderness	Perch Pond Road	I. MacLeod
6/8	4	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
6/8	1	Strafford	Isinglass River CA	S. Young
6/14	1	Warner	Mink Hills Road	P. Brown, J. Tilden
6/25	2	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Road	J. Merrill
6/25	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
7/10	2	Madbury	Hayes & Nute Rds.	T. Bronson
Blue-headed Vireo				
6/7	3	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	S. Stoddard, Seacoast Chapter FT
6/13	4	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
6/17	25	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/19	10	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	T. Bronson
6/21	3	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
7/4	3	Stoddard	Pitcher Mtn. & Hubbard Hill Rd.	L. Tanino
7/5	4	Concord	Oak Hill	R. Woodward
7/11	4	Winchester	Pisgah State Park	L. Tanino
7/12	4	Alton	High Hill Farm, Meaderboro Rd.	S. Young
7/26	3	Strafford	Isinglass River CA	S. Young

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Warbling Vireo				
6/5	6	Moultonborough	Unsworth Preserve	T. Vazzano, et.al.
6/25	6	Brentwood	Deer Hill WMA	T. Bronson
7/6	10	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
Philadelphia Vireo				
6/3	2	Pittsburg	Scott Bog parking lot	G. Gavutis Jr.
mid June		Bethlehem	Zealand Trail	S. McCumber
6/16	2	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/20	1	Pittsburg	Sophie's Lane	T. Bronson
Red-eyed Vireo				
6/13	40	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/21	25	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
7/11	54	Winchester	Pisgah State Park	L. Tanino



Gray Jay by Erik Nielsen, 6/14/08, Pittsburg, NH.

Gray Jay				
6/4-25	6		Appalachian Trail	S. McCumber
6/5	2	Pittsburg	East Inlet boat ramp	G. Gavutis Jr.
6/14	4	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/18	5	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
7/5	3	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge & Link Trails	S.& J. Mirick
7/26	3	Jefferson	Mount Starr King	M. Suomala, D. Drachman
Fish Crow				
6/1	1	Hooksett	Target parking lot, Rt. 93 exit 10	T. Bronson, Capital Area Chapter FT
6/6	3	Ossipee	Rts. 16 & 25W	T. Vazzano
6/8	1	Concord	Thirty-Pines, Penacook	P. Hunt
6/14	1	Ossipee	West Ossipee	P. Hunt
6/18	1	Durham	New England Center	A.& L. Johnson
7/10	1	Dover	Hannafords Supermarket, Rt. 108	K. Dorsey
7/20	1	Seabrook	neighborhood	S.& J. Mirick
Common Raven				
6/13	2	Winchester	Old Spofford Rd.	T. Bronson
6/14	3	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
6/25	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
7/4	2	Stoddard	Pitcher Mtn. & Hubbard Hill Rd.	L. Tanino
7/5	2	Nashua	Route 101A	A.& G. Robbins
7/21	1	Amherst	PSNH substation, Hertzka Dr.	C. Sheridan
7/29	4	Brentwood	Deer Hill WMA	T. Bronson
7/29	11	Dublin	Mount Monadnock	E. Masterson

Horned Lark through Waxwings

Horned Lark was not reported this season and this is probably indicative of the continued decline of this species in the region. It is encouraging to see a few more reports of Bank Swallow colonies than in the past couple of years, but reports of Cliff Swallow continue to be rather sparse. Carolina Wren remained widespread from the Concord area southward this year. The Connecticut River area in Hinsdale produced good counts of Marsh Wren in June with an estimate of up to three dozen. Birders who have yet to see a Bicknell's Thrush need only take a stroll along the Appalachian Trail where 71 were noted during a three-week hike in June, the optimum time of year to see these elusive mountain thrushes singing their fluty song. A two-day survey for American Pipit on Mt. Washington was conducted in July by New Hampshire Audubon senior biologist Chris Martin and biologists from the Vermont Center for Ecological Studies. The total of 38 birds—24 adults and 14 young—shows that the state's only population of this species has increased since a New Hampshire Audubon survey on the mountain 10 years ago.



American Pipit nest with six young on Mt. Washington. Photo by Julie Hart on 7/11/08.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Purple Martin				
6/4	9	Conway	Route 302	B. Crowley
6/7	6	Freedom	Route 153	A.& G. Robbins
6/27	8	Conway	Route 302	A. Johnson
7/16	15	Freedom	Route 153	T. Bronson
7/18	30	Laconia	Fun Spot	P. Hunt
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				
6/3	2	Barrington	transfer station	T. Chase
6/5	1	Pittsfield	Main Street	G. Robbins
6/29	1	Nashua	Mine Falls Pk., Nashua River	B. Harris
7/6	5	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
7/16	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	T. Vazzano, B. Crowley
Bank Swallow				
6/3	15	Roxbury	Otter Brook Recreation Area	P. Brown, C. Wood
6/7	2	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	S. Stoddard, Seacoast Chapter FT
6/8	40	Conway	Rt. 113, East Conway	A.& G. Robbins
6/10	2	Dover	Strafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
6/12	50	Litchfield	Thorntons Ferry	S. Molloy
6/21	40	Epsom	Suncook River, new channel	S. Young
7/6	50	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
7/19	27	Whitefield	Whitefield Airport pond	A.,G.& C. Robbins

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Cliff Swallow				
6/9	1	Hillsborough	NH Liquor Store	E. Masterson
6/18	4	Durham	Univ. of NH field house	A. & L. Johnson
6/18	10	Pittsburg	Metallak Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/25	6	Whitefield	Colby Road	A. & G. Robbins
7/23	1	Rye	Fairhill Marsh	J. Woolf
Boreal Chickadee				
6/4-25	20		Appalachian Trail	S. McCumber
6/6	2	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	T. Bronson
6/8	1	Livermore	just above Goodrich Rock, 2,800'	J. Stockwell
6/15	8	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/17	3	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/20	3	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/25	4	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	A. & G. Robbins
7/5	5	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge & Link Trails	S. & J. Mirick
7/22	3	Franconia	Cannon Mountain	T. Bronson
Carolina Wren				
6/5	1	Keene	Antioch University	P. Brown, P. Davenport
6/7	3	Concord	South End	R. Woodward
6/9	1	Concord	Contoocook Island	P. Hunt
6/12	1	Keene	Barker Street	P. Hunt
6/20	6	Salem	Lawrence Rd. residence	K. Folsom
6/25	1	Concord	Spring Street	R. Woodward
7/3	1	Nashua	Clovercrest Dr.	B. Harris
7/5	1	Manchester	Wellington Ave.	P. Newbern
7/19	1	Concord	Iron Works Rd.	R. Woodward
7/20	1	Concord	Bog Road	P. Hunt
7/20	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. & J. Mirick
7/24	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd.	A. Robbins
7/27	1	Nottingham	Flutter Street	R. & S. Mooney
7/31	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
7/31	1	Newbury	Newbury Harbor	P. Newbern
Winter Wren				
6/4-25	95		Appalachian Trail	S. McCumber
6/13	6	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/13	2	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
6/17	11	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/25	1	Hancock	Antrim Road	E. Masterson
6/26	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
7/4	3	Stoddard	Pitcher Mtn. & Hubbard Hill Rd.	L. Tanino
7/5	1	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Road	J. Merrill
7/5	1	Dublin	Charcoal Road	T. Warren
7/5	1	Tuftonboro	Lower Beech Pond	G. Prazar
7/11	1	Winchester	Pisgah State Park	L. Tanino
7/12	2	Newmarket	Neal Mill Rd.	K. Dorsey
Marsh Wren				
6/6	11	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	P. Brown
6/7	1	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	S. Stoddard, Seacoast Chapter FT
6/8	36	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
6/21	5	Exeter	Squamscott R., wastewater treatment plant	P. Chamberlin

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Marsh Wren—continued				
June-July	4	Sandwich	Thompson WS	R. Ridgely
7/9	1	Sandwich	Thompson WS	P. Brown, R. Popovic
7/8	1	New Durham	Elna River	J. Lambert
Golden-crowned Kinglet				
6/7	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	S. Stoddard, Seacoast Chapter FT
6/13	2	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock	T. Bronson
6/13	3	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
6/15	11	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
7/1	5	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road wetlands	T. Vazzano
7/2	3	Alexandria	Washburn Road	P. Newbern
7/4	2	Stoddard	Pitcher Mtn. & Hubbard Hill Rd.	L. Tanino
7/5	9	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge & Link Trails	S. & J. Mirick
7/31	4	Strafford	Parker Mountain	S. Young
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
6/8	1	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road	T. Bronson
6/13	11	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/14	11	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/25	5	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road	A. & G. Robbins
7/1	3	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road wetlands	T. Vazzano
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				
6/7	4	Holderness	various locations	S. & J. Mirick
6/10	2	Kensington	Kimball Road	T. Bronson
7/27	3	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Woodward
Eastern Bluebird				
6/14	3	Newington	McIntyre Rd., Arboretum Dr.	T. Bronson
6/18	2	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Road	T. Bronson
6/20	4	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
6/21	5	Dover	Strafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
6/25	4	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
7/12	4	Alton	High Hill Farm, Meaderboro Rd.	S. Young
7/14	4	Chester	residence	K. Reid
7/30	6	Newington	Arboretum Dr. at Short St.	T. Bronson
Veery				
6/17	17	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/28	35	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
7/6	10	Dublin	Charcoal Rd. & Monument Rd.	T. Warren
7/6	10	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
7/11	22	Winchester	Pisgah State Park	L. Tanino
Bicknell's Thrush				
6/4-25	71		Appalachian Trail	S. McCumber
6/7	4	Franconia	Cannon Mountain summit area	M. Suomala
6/8	2	Gorham	Mount Washington	M. Suomala
6/27	3	T&M Purchase	Mt. Washington Auto Rd.	A. Johnson
7/5	8	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge & Link Trails	S. & J. Mirick
7/16	13		Mount Washington	B. Griffith, C. Wright
7/22	6	Franconia	Cannon Mountain	T. Bronson
7/25	1	Franconia	Cannon Mountain summit	M. Suomala

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Swainson's Thrush				
6/2	1	Nelson	residence	P. Brown, J. Tilden
6/4-25	155		Appalachian Trail	S. McCumber
6/8	1	Chatham	Peaked Hill Rd.	A.& G. Robbins
6/13	26	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/13	4	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
6/14	16	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/25	1	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road	A.& G. Robbins
7/2	1	Alexandria	Washburn Road	P. Newbern
7/5	30	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge & Link Trails	S.& J. Mirick
Hermit Thrush				
6/17	4	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/27	3	Whitefield	Pondicherry WS	A. Johnson
6/29	5	Antrim	Willard Pond WS	P. Brown, NHA FT
7/4	2	Stoddard	Pitcher Mtn. & Hubbard Hill Rd.	L. Tanino
7/5	4	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
7/11	6	Winchester	Pisgah State Park	L. Tanino
7/20	4	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
7/20	4	Dublin	Charcoal Road	T. Warren
7/31	13	Strafford	Parker Mountain	S. Young
Wood Thrush				
6/8	2	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road	T. Bronson
6/8	3	Chatham	Peaked Hill Rd.	A.& G. Robbins
6/25	4	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
7/6	9	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
7/17	4	Walpole	Mill Pond Conservation Area	L. Tanino
Gray Catbird				
6/1	50	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, S. Mirick, NHA FT
6/25	33	Brentwood	Deer Hill WMA	T. Bronson
6/25	18	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
Brown Thrasher				
6/3	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	T. Bronson
6/14	2	Freedom	Trout Pond CA	T. Vazzano, Lakes Region Chapter FT
6/25	10	Brentwood	Deer Hill WMA	T. Bronson
7/4	2	Litchfield	Thorntons Ferry	S. Molloy
7/6	3	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
7/8	3	Amherst	Hertzka Drive	C. Sheridan
American Pipit				
7/10	38	Sargents Purchase	Mt. Washington above 5000'	C. Martin, et al.
Cedar Waxwing				
6/1	30	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, S. Mirick, NHA FT
6/2	110	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
6/12	15	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
6/15	14	Pittsburg	Day Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/19	20	Walpole	Upper Road	A. Johnson
7/11	17	Winchester	Pisgah State Park	L. Tanino
7/16	20	Brentwood	Deer Hill WMA	T. Bronson

Warblers

The Tennessee Warbler seen in Madison in early June was found in a patch of what may be appropriate breeding habitat, but it was probably a late migrant, as some typically still arrive in early June; they breed sparingly in the White Mountains and northern New Hampshire. The 20 Black-throated Blue Warblers found on a two-mile stretch of trail in Sandwich Notch was a fairly high count for this relatively common breeder. Prairie Warbler was seen in Albany, a stone's throw from the Conway line and about as far north as this species occurs in New Hampshire. Two pairs of Palm Warblers were seen in Effingham. Last year one pair was seen and it was the first time they were found breeding this far south in the state. Louisiana Waterthrush was well reported along the northern edge of its range, with Lyman representing the northernmost location. A **Hooded Warbler** is a rare southern warbler in the state and one was found for the second consecutive summer season. The one in Holderness in early June was especially unusual due to its northerly inland location.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Blue-winged Warbler				
6/2	2	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
6/6	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
6/13	2	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	M. Suomala
6/15	1	Durham	Fogg Drive	K. Dorsey
6/22	1	Exeter	Newfields Road	P. Chamberlin
6/25	1	Brentwood	Deer Hill WMA	T. Bronson
6/30	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
7/1	3	Lee	near Wiswall Road	M. Suomala
7/2	3	Dover	Meserve Road	M. Suomala
7/10	4	Madbury	Hayes & Nute Rds.	T. Bronson
Blue-winged/Golden-winged Warbler Hybrid				
6/7	1	Durham	Foss Farm	B. Griffith, C. Wright
Tennessee Warbler				
6/2	1	Madison	small wetland off N. Division Rd.	P. Hunt
Nashville Warbler				
6/8	2	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road	T. Bronson
6/13	23	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/14	4	Freedom	Trout Pond CA	T. Vazzano, Lakes Region Chapter FT
6/17	15	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/20	11	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
7/1	4	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road wetlands	T. Vazzano
7/4	6	Stoddard	Pitcher Mtn. & Hubbard Hill Rd.	L. Tanino
Northern Parula				
6/5	2	Lyman	Under the Mountain Rd.	S. & M. Turner
6/7	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	S. Stoddard, Seacoast Chapter FT
6/14	1	Warner	Mink Hills Road	P. Brown, J. Tilden
6/17	24	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/22	1	Hancock	Antrim Road	E. Masterson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
7/1	1	Rumney	Polar Caves	J. & J. Williams
7/2	1	Danbury	Wild Meadow Rd.	P. Newbern
7/4	1	Enfield	Bog Road	P. Hunt
7/5	1	Warner	Pleasant Pond	P. Hunt
7/11	1	Strafford	Isinglass River CA	S. Young

Yellow Warbler

6/1	30	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, S. Mirick, NHA FT
6/3	12	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	T. Bronson
6/8	13	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
6/25	40	Brentwood	Deer Hill WMA	T. Bronson
6/25	12	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard

Chestnut-sided Warbler

6/7	8	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	S. Stoddard, Seacoast Chapter FT
6/8	8	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
6/13	9	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
6/17	29	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
7/8	6	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
7/11	6	Winchester	Pisgah State Park	L. Tanino

Magnolia Warbler

6/1	7	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, S. Mirick, NHA FT
6/7	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	S. Stoddard, Seacoast Chapter FT
6/8	2	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road	T. Bronson
6/13	37	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/13	4	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
7/1	22	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Road	T. Vazzano
7/5	12	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge & Link Trails	S. & J. Mirick
7/6	1	Dublin	Charcoal Road	T. Warren

Cape May Warbler

6/6	1	Whitefield	Pondicherry WS	A. & L. Johnson
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Black-throated Blue Warbler

6/5	4	Lyman	Under the Mountain Rd.	S. & M. Turner
6/8	5	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
6/13	20	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
6/20	9	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	T. Bronson
7/11	3	Strafford	Isinglass River CA	S. Young

Yellow-rumped Warbler

6/7	4	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	S. Stoddard, Seacoast Chapter FT
6/8	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
6/17	13	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/18	12	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/21	4	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
7/4	5	Stoddard	Pitcher Mtn. & Hubbard Hill Rd.	L. Tanino
7/5	6	Concord	Oak Hill	R. Woodward
7/15	14	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge & Link Trails	T. Bronson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Black-throated Green Warbler				
6/1	2	Manchester	TNC Cedar Swamp Preserve	T. Bronson, Capital Area Chapter FT
6/5	5	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
6/18	34	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/19	17	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
7/11	16	Winchester	Pisgah State Park	L. Tanino
Blackburnian Warbler				
6/13	9	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
6/15	7	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/17	9	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
7/4	13	Stoddard	Pitcher Mtn. & Hubbard Hill Rd.	L. Tanino
7/5	7	Concord	Oak Hill	R. Woodward
Pine Warbler				
6/5	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
6/21	22	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
7/12	4	Newmarket	Neal Mill Rd.	K. Dorsey
7/27	10	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
Prairie Warbler				
6/1	1	Manchester	TNC Cedar Swamp Preserve	T. Bronson, Capital Area Chapter FT
6/2	3	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
6/3	3	Exeter	Newfields Rd. power lines	P. Chamberlin
6/14	5	Freedom	Trout Pond CA	T. Vazzano, Lakes Region Chapter FT
6/25	10	Strafford	Isinglass River CA	S. Young
7/17	2	Albany	Pequawket Pond	P. Hunt
Palm Warbler				
6/2	4	Effingham	Huntress Bridge Rd.	R. Ridgely
6/15	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS, Little Cherry Pond	E. Masterson
6/18	1	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR	T. Bronson
6/18	1	Pittsburg	Magalloway Road	T. Bronson
6/20	4	Albany	Church Pond bog	R. Ridgely
Bay-breasted Warbler				
6/14	7	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/16	8	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
Blackpoll Warbler				
6/1	4	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, S. Mirick, NHA FT
6/4	1	Nelson	residence	J. Tilden, P. Brown
6/4-25	170		Appalachian Trail	J. Romer
6/5	1	Concord	Contoocook Island	P. Hunt
6/13	29	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
7/5	26	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge & Link Trails	S. & J. Mirick
7/22	4	Franconia	Cannon Mountain	T. Bronson
Cerulean Warbler				
6/23	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	B. Griffith, C. Wright

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Black-and-white Warbler				
6/5	5	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
6/8	11	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
6/17	3	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
American Redstart				
6/1	5	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, S. Mirick, NHA FT
6/11	18	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
6/13	17	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/17	26	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
Ovenbird				
6/5	6	Moultonborough	Unsworth Preserve	T. Vazzano, et.al.
6/13	11	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
6/13	8	Winchester	Old Chesterfield Rd., Pisgah St. Pk.	T. Bronson
6/14	11	Freedom	Trout Pond CA	T. Vazzano, Lakes Region Chapter FT
6/16	9	Epping	rail trail along Mast Rd.	T. Bronson
6/17	8	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/21	20	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
6/22	16	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
6/27	18	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
7/4	26	Stoddard	Pitcher Mtn. & Hubbard Hill Rd.	L. Tanino
7/11	31	Winchester	Pisgah State Park	L. Tanino
Northern Waterthrush				
6/5	2	Lyman	Under the Mountain Rd.	S.& M. Turner
6/8	1	Strafford	Isinglass River CA	S. Young
6/13	1	E. Kingston	South Road	D. Finch
6/13	3	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/17	18	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/22	2	Concord	Bog Road	P. Hunt
6/30	1	Effingham	Huntress Bridge Rd.	J. Potter
7/5	1	Deerfield	Candia Road	P. Newbern
Louisiana Waterthrush				
6/1	1	Eaton	Dolloff Rd. pond	A.& G. Robbins
6/1	1	Eaton	Rt. 153 near Hoyt WS	A.& G. Robbins
6/1	1	Lyman	Under the Mountain Rd.	S.& M. Turner
6/7	1	Holderness	Rattlesnake Mountain	S.& J. Mirick
6/7	2	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	B. Griffith, C. Wright
6/10	1	Langdon	Cold River at Crane Brook Rd.	P. Hunt
6/11	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
6/13	2	Holderness	end of Pinehurst Rd.	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
6/16	1	Keene	Stonewall Farm	P. Brown
6/17	2	Concord	Contoocook Island	P. Hunt
6/20	1	Exeter	Newfields Rd. residence	P. Chamberlin
6/21	3	Albany	Tin Mountain Conservation Ctr.	P. Hunt
6/23	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	B. Griffith, C. Wright
6/23	1	Roxbury	Otter Creek	P. Hunt
6/24	1	Effingham	Huntress Bridge Rd.	A.& G. Robbins
7/3	1	Woodstock	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest	C. Wright
7/17	2	Effingham	Effingham Falls	P. Hunt
7/17	1	Walpole	Mill Pond CA	L. Tanino

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Mourning Warbler				
6/7	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	S. Stoddard, Seacoast Chapter FT
6/8	2	Chatham	Hurricane Mountain Rd.	A. & G. Robbins
6/13	3	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/16	1	Pittsburg	Coon Brook Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/17	2	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/19	1	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/19	1	Stoddard	Pitcher Mountain	P. Brown, J. Tilden
6/21	1	Lyman	Lower Mountain Pond	S. & M. Turner
7/30	1	Northwood	Wallman Conservation Easement	S. Young
Common Yellowthroat				
6/1	32	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
6/1	20	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, S. Mirick, NHA FT
6/17	28	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/25	18	Brentwood	Deer Hill WMA	T. Bronson
6/30	18	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
7/11	22	Winchester	Pisgah State Park	L. Tanino
7/16	25	Brentwood	Deer Hill WMA	T. Bronson
Hooded Warbler				
6/7	1	Holderness	off Pinehurst Road	S. & J. Mirick
Wilson's Warbler				
6/1	5	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, S. Mirick, NHA FT
6/6	2	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Road	T. Bronson
6/7	1	Whitefield	Mt. Washington Regional Airport	S. Stoddard, Seacoast Chapter FT
6/13	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
Canada Warbler				
6/5	1	Lyman	Under the Mountain Rd.	S. & M. Turner
6/8	1	Concord	Bog Road	P. Hunt
6/13	4	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/13	1	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
6/13	1	Winchester	Old Chesterfield Rd., Pisgah St. Pk.	T. Bronson
6/25	1	Strafford	Isinglass River CA	S. Young
6/28	2	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
7/5	2	Deerfield	Candia Road	P. Newbern
7/16	1	Brentwood	Deer Hill WMA	T. Bronson

Tanagers through Finches

A Summer Tanager visited a feeder in Concord for a few days during the middle of July. This southern vagrant is rare in New Hampshire and is more often reported in spring. This is the first summer record since early June 2000 when one was seen on Star Island, a more typical place for vagrants to appear. Six pairs of Lincoln's Sparrows were found at Church Pond Bog near the Kancamagus Highway. This is the

southernmost regular breeding site in the state for these handsome sparrows and it is encouraging to see what appears to be a healthy population. The Lincoln's Sparrow seen in early July in Winchester is difficult to categorize; it may have been a roaming first-year bird or perhaps it wandered after a failed nesting attempt farther north. A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was found singing in Barrington in early June and another was singing in Dover in late June and early July. This sparrow usually lives to our west in summer from the northern Great Lakes to western Canada, but this is the second summer the species has been found singing in the state in the past three summers. There were two scattered reports of single Red Crossbills, while there were several reports of White-winged Crossbills across the north and one report from the far southern reaches of the state.



Clay-colored Sparrow by Dennis Skillman, 6/3/08, Warren Farm, Barrington, NH.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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Summer Tanager

7/16	1	Concord	Dunklee Street	L. Lawson, B. Weiner
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Scarlet Tanager

6/5	4	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
6/18	1	Pittsburg	Magalloway Road	T. Bronson
6/28	9	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
7/11	5	Winchester	Pisgah State Park	L. Tanino
7/12	5	Newmarket	Neal Mill Rd.	K. Dorsey
7/28	4	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard

Eastern Towhee

6/14	8	Freedom	Trout Pond CA	T. Vazzano, Lakes Region Chapter FT
6/25	10	Freedom	Trout Pond CA	A.& G. Robbins
7/4	4	Stoddard	Pitcher Mtn. & Hubbard Hill Rd.	L. Tanino
7/14	5	Wolfeboro	Square Hill	G. Prazar
7/26	12	Strafford	Isinglass River CA	S. Young
7/29	1	Dublin	Mount Monadnock	E. Masterson
7/31	15	Northwood	Wallman Conservation Easement	T. Bronson, S. Young

Clay-colored Sparrow

6/2	1	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
6/23	1	Dover	Meserve Road	M. Suomala
7/2	1	Dover	Meserve Road	M. Suomala

Field Sparrow

6/14	7	Freedom	Trout Pond CA	T. Vazzano, Lakes Region Chapter FT
6/14	6	Newington	McIntyre Rd., Arboretum Dr.	T. Bronson
6/24	8	Freedom	Trout Pond CA	A.& G. Robbins
6/25	4	Brentwood	Deer Hill WMA	T. Bronson
7/6	3	Monroe	Comerford Dam	S.& M. Turner
7/30	4	Newington	Great Bay NWR	T. Bronson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Vesper Sparrow				
6/22	2	Newington	McIntyre Road	S.& J. Mirick
6/24	3	Concord	Concord Airport	T. Bronson
6/25	1	Freedom	Trout Pond CA	A.& G. Robbins
7/19	4	Swanzy	Dillant-Hopkins Airport	L. Tanino
Savannah Sparrow				
6/2	3	Dover	Stafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
6/7	2	Whitefield	Mt. Washington Regional Airport	S. Stoddard, Seacoast Chapter FT
6/19	6	Pittsburg	Day Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/19	2	Stoddard	Pitcher Mountain farms	P. Brown, J. Tilden
7/9	2	Portsmouth	Pease Golf Course entrance	T. Bronson
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow				
6/7	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	M. Suomala
6/10	2	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	T. Bronson
6/18	2	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	A.& L. Johnson, D. Green
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow				
6/7	6	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	M. Suomala
7/21	6	Hampton	behind Little Jack's Restaurant	T. Bronson
Seaside Sparrow				
6/18	2	Hampton	behind Little Jack's Restaurant	A.& L. Johnson, D. Green
Lincoln's Sparrow				
6/1	1	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, S. Mirick, NHA FT
6/19	3	Pittsburg	Magalloway Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/19	4	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/20	12	Albany	Church Pond Bog	R. Ridgely
7/11	1	Winchester	Pisgah State Park	L. Tanino
Swamp Sparrow				
6/14	8	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/17	14	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/18	7	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
6/21	13	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
7/11	10	Winchester	Pisgah State Park	L. Tanino
7/17	6	Ossipee	Ossipee Lake, mouth of Pine R.	P. Hunt
White-throated Sparrow				
6/4-25	165		Appalachian Trail	S. McCumber
6/19	44	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	T. Bronson
Dark-eyed Junco				
6/13	4	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock	T. Bronson
6/19	2	Stoddard	Pitcher Mountain	P. Brown, J. Tilden
6/20	12	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/21	3	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
6/27	10	Salem	Lawrence Rd. residence	K. Folsom
7/2	5	Alexandria	various locations	P. Newbern
7/4	8	Stoddard	Pitcher Mtn. & Hubbard Hill Rd.	L. Tanino
7/11	3	Winchester	Pisgah State Park	L. Tanino
7/15	13	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge & Link Trails	T. Bronson
7/31	3	Stafford	Parker Mountain	S. Young

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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Male Rose-breasted Grosbeak by Leonard Medlock, Mast Road, Epping, NH.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

6/1	5	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
6/18	9	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
6/25	6	Brentwood	Deer Hill WMA	T. Bronson
7/19	11	Rumney	Buffalo Rd. residence	J. & J. Williams

Indigo Bunting

6/1	1	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, S. Mirick, NHA FT
6/12	5	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
6/20	1	Pittsburg	BBS route	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/30	6	Dover	Drew Road	M. Suomala

Bobolink

6/1	5	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, S. Mirick, NHA FT
7/5	49	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
7/18	30	Laconia	Prescott Farm Audubon Center	P. Hunt, M. Tarr, UNHCE workshop
7/27	50	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park	R. Quinn
7/30	25	Dover	Stafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
7/31	90	Northwood	Wallman Conservation Easement	T. Bronson, S. Young

Eastern Meadowlark

6/6	1	Dover	Stafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
6/13	2	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	M. Suomala
6/13	2	Dover	Spaulding Turnpike	D. Hubbard
6/14	1	Pittsburg	Metallak Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/18	1	Concord	Concord Airport	K. Palfy
6/27	1	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
7/4	2	Concord	Concord Airport from Airport Rd.	M. Suomala, K. Dorsey
7/25	5	Fremont	Martin Road	T. Bronson

Rusty Blackbird

6/6	2	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd. at Snag Pond	T. Bronson
6/13	3	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
6/18	2	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR	T. Bronson
6/19	3	Pittsburg	Cedar Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet

Orchard Oriole

6/1	1	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, S. Mirick, NHA FT
6/4	1	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	P. Brown
6/13	2	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	M. Suomala
6/14	2	Exeter	Powder House Pond	L. Medlock, Seacoast Chapter FT
6/14	2	Newmarket	New Road	S. & J. Mirick
6/23	1	Dover	Meserve Road	M. Suomala

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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Orchard Oriole—continued

6/23	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	B. Griffith, C. Wright
7/25	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young

Baltimore Oriole

6/8	12	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
6/19	10	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
6/25	13	Brentwood	Deer Hill WMA	T. Bronson

Purple Finch

6/7	5	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	S. Stoddard, Seacoast Chapter FT
6/13	5	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/20	6	Pittsburg	BBS Route	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/21	8	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
6/25	5	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
7/6	10	Dublin	Charcoal Road	T. Warren
7/12	6	Alton	High Hill Farm, Meaderboro Rd.	S. Young
7/20	6	Salem	Lawrence Rd. residence	K. Folsom

Red Crossbill

7/2	1	Fremont	North Road	D. Nichols
7/9	1	Eaton	Cold Brook Road	J. Potter

White-winged Crossbill

6/25	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS, Little Cherry Pond	A. & G. Robbins
7/13	1	Campton	Dutchman Dave's, Ellsworth Rd.	H. Anderson
7/19	2	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail parking lot	A., G., & C. Robbins
7/21	15	Woodstock	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest	B. Griffith
7/22	1	E. Kingston	South Road	D. Finch
7/28	60	Woodstock	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest	B. Griffith

Pine Siskin

6/6	2	Carroll	Route 3 motel	L. & R. Hallquist
6/14	1	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/17	1	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
7/5	1	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge & Link Trails	S. & J. Mirick

Evening Grosbeak

6/4	2	Chatham	residence	B. Crowley
6/16	2	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
6/17	2	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
6/23	2	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	B. Griffith, C. Wright
7/8	4	Nottingham	Flutter Street	S. Mooney
7/11	1	Winchester	Old Chesterfield Road	L. Tanino
7/20	6	Rumney	Buffalo Rd. residence	J. & J. Williams
7/22	5	Deering	Baldwin Road	L. & P. Sunderland



Great Blue Heron with large fish, by Debbie LaValley, 6/16/08, Concord, NH.

Reporters for Summer 2008

Rich Aaronian
 H. Cook Anderson
 Jeannine Ayer
 Terry Bronson
 Phil Brown
 Lena Canepa
 Patience Chamberlin
 Hank Chary
 Tom Chase
 Laura Deming
 Jane Doherty
 Davis Finch
 Dorothy Fitch
 Kenneth Folsom
 George Gavutis, Jr.
 Ben Griffith
 Bill Harris
 Julie Hart
 Dan Hubbard
 Pam Hunt
 Alan Johnson
 Leith Jones

David Killam
 Mike Kramer
 Linda Lawson
 John Leavitt
 Iain MacLeod
 Chris Martin
 Eric Masterson
 Len Medlock
 John Merrill
 Steve Mirick
 Sandy Molloy
 Susan Mooney
 Peter Newbern
 Erik Nielsen
 Pat Niswander
 Kathie Palfy
 Carol Plato
 Greg Prazar
 Robert Quinn
 Robert Ritz
 Andrea Robbins
 Judy Romano

Brenda Sens
 Christine Sheridan
 J.R. Stockwell
 Larry Sunderland
 Mark Suomala
 Rebecca Suomala
 Lance Tanino
 Sandra Turner
 Tony Vazzano
 Tom Warren
 Ruth White
 John Williams
 Jane Williamson
 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 Summer 2008 but not listed.

Canada Goose
 Mute Swan
 Wood Duck
 American Black Duck
 Mallard
 Hooded Merganser
 Common Merganser
 Ruffed Grouse
 Wild Turkey
 Common Loon
 Double-crested Cormorant
 Great Blue Heron
 Green Heron
 Osprey
 Bald Eagle
 Sharp-shinned Hawk
 Cooper's Hawk
 Northern Goshawk
 Broad-winged Hawk
 Red-tailed Hawk
 Peregrine Falcon
 Killdeer

Ring-billed Gull
 Herring Gull
 Great Black-backed Gull
 Rock Pigeon
 Mourning Dove
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo
 Black-billed Cuckoo
 Great Horned Owl
 Barred Owl
 Downy Woodpecker
 Hairy Woodpecker
 Northern Flicker
 Pileated Woodpecker
 Eastern Phoebe
 Great Crested Flycatcher
 Blue Jay
 American Crow
 Tree Swallow
 Barn Swallow
 Black-capped Chickadee
 Tufted Titmouse
 Red-breasted Nuthatch

White-breasted Nuthatch
 Brown Creeper
 House Wren
 American Robin
 Northern Mockingbird
 European Starling
 Chipping Sparrow
 Song Sparrow
 Northern Cardinal
 Red-winged Blackbird
 Common Grackle
 Brown-headed Cowbird
 House Finch
 American Goldfinch
 House Sparrow

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

Mississippi Kites in New Hampshire

by David B. Donsker

Without doubt, the ornithological highlight of the summer of 2008 in New Hampshire was the most rigorously documented record of Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) in the history of ornithology in our state. Even more amazingly, it became the first documented breeding record not only for New Hampshire, but also for the entire New England region. Because the birds chose a nesting site in an easily accessible urban neighborhood, they became a local phenomenon that was featured in the regional newspapers and on television. Their accessibility, elegance, and uniqueness made them a frequent subject of reports submitted to the state's birding e-mail list, NH.Birds. As a result of this inordinate amount of attention, the appearance, mating, nesting, and successful rearing and fledging of a single chick was witnessed and/or recorded by scores, if not hundreds, of people—birders and casual observers alike.

Mississippi Kite is an uncommon to locally common raptor whose normal breeding range is limited to the southeast and southern Great Plains of the United States. It is typically a colonial nester, although this phenomenon is much more common in the west than in the east. It has been recorded in New England only rarely when individuals, typically on spring migration, overshoot their normal breeding range or otherwise wander. So, when Darin Franceschini belatedly reported to NH.Birds (the statewide birding e-mail list) on June 3, 2008 that on May 28 he and Lizzy Bartholomew had seen a pair of Mississippi Kites flying around the Lamprey River in Newmarket, many of those who read the post wistfully suspected that this was another example of a lucky sighting of a couple of spring overshoots. Several such unconfirmed single-observer sightings had been recorded in New Hampshire in the recent past few years.

But this was not to be the case. At 11:00 in the morning of June 14, Ben Griffith and Charlie Wright spotted two Mississippi Kites on Route 152 in Newmarket. They photographed the birds and in so doing collected solid evidence for the first confirmed record of this species for the state in over a quarter century. The news of the birds spread like wildfire and by the time the day was over, scores of birders had spotted as many as three individual birds in several locations throughout the general area.

Birders were treated to a particularly wonderful show that first day. They watched as these elegant, pearly gray and black raptors with their falcon-like long, tapered wings and flared, squared-off tails acrobatically flew and soared overhead or perched on exposed limbs high in trees along and near South Main Street (Route 152).

On the next day, June 15, even more interesting behavior was witnessed and recorded by Len Medlock, Steve and Jane Mirick and others who observed the pair copulating on several occasions. On June 16, several observers observed more copulation. That same day, George and Andrea Robbins witnessed and carefully described some initial nest building activity in a large sugar maple on the back property of one of the homes on Route 152. However, the pair chose to nest near the top of another large maple in the front of another property along South Main Street, about 4–5 feet below the crown, as reported by Byard Miller. No one saw this nest being constructed

and it would have to be presumed that the pair had built it sometime prior to its discovery. Regardless, a state and regional nesting record had begun to be documented!

By June 17, the female was spending time sitting on the nest. It was on this day that Mike Beath firmly established the existence of a third Mississippi Kite when two other kites were observed flying overhead while the female was sitting on the nest. It was postulated at this time that the third bird could be a subadult “helper,” as cooperative breeding, in which a yearling bird assists in the nesting process, is well known for Mississippi Kite.

Over the next few days the female was seen with increasing frequency on the nest. The other two kites remained active nearby and were reported to occasionally bring food or a twig to the nest. Observations from this period suggest that the third kite was a subadult female with which the male attempted to copulate on several occasions. Within a week of the initial sighting it was clear that the female was definitely incubating on the nest. Although the female was presumably the principal incubating parent, the incubation was shared. Mark Suomala observed and documented at least one incubation swap.

One mystery that soon presented itself was the virtual disappearance of the subadult female after June 30. Since it had been previously observed copulating with the male, the question arose as to whether this bird might also be incubating a clutch somewhere else in the vicinity.

On July 18, almost exactly one month after the initial establishment of the nest, Ben Griffith and Charlie Wright reported that they observed two recently hatched nestlings. This was the expected hatch time, as the incubation period for Mississippi Kite is typically 29–32 days. However, Ben and Charlie were also the only observers to see two newborn kites. On July 20, Steve and Jane Mirick carefully watched the nest and could only discern one nestling. This was to be the case for the rest of the season. If indeed two eggs were successfully hatched, only one nestling survived.



Adult Mississippi Kite feeds its fledged chick, by Jason Lambert, Newmarket, NH

Over the next month, the nestling was observed periodically as it matured. The fluffy white downy natal feathers of the newborn bird were gradually replaced by the streaky brown juvenile plumage characteristic of this species. During this time both parents were active in bringing food to the nestling. On August 20, Steve Mirick reported that the chick appeared to have all of its flight feathers. Given that this species usually fledges at 30–35 days, he predicted that it would fledge in just a few days. Observations by several individuals made when the nestling was 40 days old suggested it may have fledged, as some birders reported an empty nest and others observed the young bird on the nest. Since Mississippi Kite fledglings are reluctant flyers and clumsy eaters for the first 10 days or so after fledging, they typically frequent the nest area and often return to the nest to be fed. Certainly by August 31, the young bird was roosting in trees across the road from the nest tree. But there remained some debate regarding the fledging date. It was reported that the juvenile kite took its first flight early in the morning on August 30, 44 days after hatching. If so, this would have been an unusually late fledging date and, if true, was perhaps attributable to scarce food supply in early summer due to the incessant July rains.

But the kite story was not yet over with another remarkable discovery still to come. Two adult Mississippi Kites had been reported off Bay Road in Newmarket, first by Phil Brown on August 19 and then by Kurk Dorsey on August 31. Although it was easy to just assume that these two birds were the South Main Street pair and that this was one of their hunting grounds, Steve and Jane Mirick began to question that conclusion because of the distance between the two sites. On September 1, the Miricks made the astounding discovery that there were actually two pairs of adult Mississippi Kites in Newmarket—one pair in the general vicinity of Dame Road and Gonet Drive and the original pair on South Main Street! They postulated that there was likely a second kite nest and perhaps young to be discovered in that general area. With that challenge in place, the next day, Debbie Stahre discovered the other kite nest, complete with young kite, high in a hickory tree on Gonet Drive, 1.6 miles from the South Main Street nest. The young bird was in streaked juvenile plumage and was able to fly from the nest into nearby trees, although it too was still being fed by its parents. Some observers observed that this juvenile was more precocious than the juvenile at the South Main Street nest, suggesting that the Gonet Drive chick had hatched earlier.

How and if this second pair was at all related to the “helper” kite observed earlier in the summer, but which largely disappeared after June 30, and whether there were one or two males involved became the subjects of debate. Some observers were convinced that there were two different males. Others remained skeptical and proposed that a single male was servicing both nests. Although the literature indicates that this species is strictly monogamous and that extra-pair copulations have not been described, these birds were at the extreme edge of their breeding range and with limited mating possibilities, the typical breeding behavior of the species may have been altered. On the other hand, the distance between the two nests was not insubstantial. For a single male to be servicing both nests and helping to feed two hungry nestlings would require a significant amount of effort. If, in fact, the “helper” female had mated and nested, that would have explained its sudden disappearance in late June.

Yet another piece to the puzzle transpired on September 7. A group of birders watching the South Main Street nest watched two adults circling overhead when a

third adult flew into the nest as the juvenile was perched nearby. Was this the return of the “helper” kite, as some were convinced? Or was this just a simultaneous observation of the three definitively known adults? So, whether Newmarket hosted five, six, or even as many as seven Mississippi Kites this summer remained an intriguing, unresolved issue.

As reported by Al Maley, the Gonet Road kites likely left the state before September 12, as a visit to that nest on that date produced no sign of the birds. This wasn't surprising because that chick had been the more developed of the two. On that day, the South Main Street chick was reportedly still flying around attempting to catch dragonflies. When Al visited that nest on the morning of September 17, the chick appeared to be strong, with well-developed breast muscles, fully-feathered, and ready to go. Sure enough, when Al returned the next day—a day characterized by strong north winds—there were no kites to be found. A second check two days later confirmed their absence. So, the last of this summer's Mississippi Kites likely disappeared from Newmarket by September 18 for their southward migration. Their route would have taken them into Mexico and then, over the next several months, through Central America into South America to finally spend the boreal winter in northern Argentina and Paraguay. The return trip to North America for this species begins in March and by late April most will have returned to North America.

This first confirmed state breeding record for Mississippi Kite was an amazing and truly exciting event. But it is only part of a remarkable, even improbable, story that is not yet fully told. As mentioned earlier, Mississippi Kite is a rare, but increasingly more regularly encountered spring vagrant to New England. The sightings have principally come from eastern Massachusetts, which has well over two dozen records for the species since it first appeared in that state in 1962. There are at least two records each from Maine, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, all since the late 1980s.

Prior to this confirmed New Hampshire record, there have only been six previously reported sightings of this species in the state. These include four recent reports, all from the last four years, and two older records from the early 1980s. The earliest report of this species from New Hampshire was an adult observed by many individuals during a spring hawkwatch on Peaked Hill in Bristol on April 16, 1982. Sue Fogleman was present that day and, as she remembers it, the bird was observed in the late morning of a bright, clear day. The bird was sketched and possibly photographed by Elizabeth Phinney. The drawing and a detailed description were submitted to *New Hampshire Bird Records* and the observation was published in *American Birds*. Myra Davis also submitted a report on May 9 of that year of another adult in Durham.

The more recent previous records have all been single-observer sightings without photographic documentation. The most recent reports prior to this year were submitted by George Gavutis, who reported a Mississippi Kite flying over his yard in Kensington in July 2006, and by Davis Finch, who briefly saw a Mississippi Kite while driving on Route 108, also in Kensington on April 24, 2007. As remarkable as these reports are, a pair of sightings from 2004 is even more intriguing. On May 7 of that year, Paul LaCourse observed a Mississippi Kite in Exeter, which he described in detail. But even more surprisingly, three weeks later, on May 30, Robert Roy, a wildlife biologist from Yarmouth, Maine, reported seeing a Mississippi Kite while he was fishing on the Lamprey River in Newmarket, approximately a half-mile down-

stream from the town landing. He reported that he first observed the kite when it landed in a tree only 100 feet away from his boat. It then broke off a branch and carried it away. He saw, presumably, the same bird about five minutes later flying just above the treetops along the river edge. He described a gray and black raptor with a slate gray head, black eye patch, red eye, black tail, white secondaries and a reduced 10th primary, all characteristic features of Mississippi Kite. The implausible observation that neither he nor the New Hampshire Bird Records Committee could comprehend was behavior that suggested the bird might be collecting nesting material. A nesting Mississippi Kite in Newmarket, New Hampshire! How incredibly unlikely it seemed at that time.

Have Mississippi Kites been nesting in Newmarket since at least 2004? In retrospect, it would appear that this might be the case. The fact that the pair that nested in Newmarket this year was associated with a third “helper” kite lends further weight to this conjecture. Yearling birds have been associated with nesting pairs in up to 90% of observed nestings, depending on the region and study. Many experienced birders are convinced that these “helpers” are the offspring of the breeding adults, although it has never been proven with genetic or simple banding studies. If this is indeed the case, is the presence of a “helper” bird associated with New Hampshire’s breeding pair further evidence of previous successful breeding in Newmarket? Neighborhood residents also believed the kites had been there in previous years, as they indicated in conversations with visiting birders. Not being birders they didn’t appreciate the significance, but we shouldn’t forget about these unsubstantiated reports.

It is clear that over the last several years, Mississippi Kites have been slowly expanding their breeding range northward. The species has historically existed in two ecologically different breeding ranges. In southeastern United States it breeds in mature bottomland forest and extensive riparian woodland from South Carolina and Louisiana then north along the Mississippi River to southwestern Illinois. The second population breeds in the southern Great Plains of northeast Texas to eastern Colorado, with an isolated subpopulation in New Mexico and southeast Arizona. This population uses rural woodland (or mesquite thickets) associated with prairie or savanna, riparian woodland, and planted shelterbelts. In the last 40–50 years, particularly in the southern Great Plains and to a much lesser extent in the southeast, there has been an increasing incidence of nesting in urban-suburban trees in neighborhoods, parks, and golf courses.

In the last two decades, however, the breeding range has expanded beyond those historical boundaries. Mississippi Kite has become established as a breeding bird along the Virginia-North Carolina border as well as in southwestern Indiana and Nebraska. Until this year, the most northerly isolated breeding records for this species have been in central Iowa and, last year, in Hocking County, Ohio. Amazingly, there was another summer New England record this year for Mississippi Kite. Throughout the month of August, two kites were regularly observed in Simsbury, Connecticut. These were confirmed to have nested and to have fledged a single offspring! (Greg Hanisek, pers. comm.)

There is no doubt that the documentation of a vanguard of Mississippi Kites breeding in New Hampshire, a phenomenon that perhaps has been occurring for at least four years, is part of a general northward expansion of this species’ breeding range. Can we

hope and expect to see these handsome, graceful birds arrive next year? Only time will tell, but it would seem that with its documented pattern of range expansion, the odds are likely that Mississippi Kite will become an established member of New England's avifauna.

Acknowledgements: Many birders and photographers generously reported their observations and submitted photographs of these captivating birds to New Hampshire Bird Records or NH.BIRDS over the entire season. Although several of these individuals who are associated with key events are mentioned by name in this article, everyone who participated in helping to document this remarkable episode in the annals of New Hampshire ornithology is an essential part of the story. These other contributors include Rich Aaronian, Phred Benham, Jim Berry, David Blezard, Terry Bronson, Phil Brown, Patience Chamberlin, Debby Crowley, David Deifik, Kurk Dorsey, Chet Farwell, Steve Grinley, Mike Harvey, Kevin Klasman, Jason Lambert, Derek Lovitch, Jeanette Lovitch, David Merker, Bill Perry, Lyn Rodger, Chris Sheridan, Dennis Skillman, Eduardo del Solar, Starr Snyder, Scott Spangenberg, Mark Szantyr, Emmalee Tarry, Jeremiah Trimble, John Williams, Scott Williams, Jon Winslow, Jon Woolf, Rob Woodward, and Scott Young. Although I have attempted to mention all who submitted postings and/or documentation, I offer my sincerest apologies to anyone I have inadvertently excluded.

The entire birding community should also thank the residents of the South Main Street neighborhood in Newmarket who hosted these breeding birds and who generously tolerated and even welcomed the throngs of birders who flocked to their street to marvel at the kites over the summer. Without their support, cooperation, and stewardship, this story could not have been told and even the success of that nesting might have been at risk. Thanks also to the Gonet Drive residents for their patience and support of the birders visiting the second nest.

Special thanks go to Pam Hunt, Denny Abbott, Sue Fogleman, Becky Suomala, and Steve Mirick who researched or submitted further material used in the preparation of this article.

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Breeding Season Monitoring 2008

Common Loon Breeding Season Summary: Good News and Bad News in 2008

*by John Cooley, Jr., Biologist, and Harry Vogel, Director,
Loon Preservation Committee*

The good news for loon lovers in New Hampshire is that the final count of breeding adult Common Loons in the state increased in 2008 from last year's 224 territorial pairs to 247 pairs—a record high. The number of territorial pairs that nested also increased to a new high, from 141 in 2007 to 160 in 2008. As the loon population expands, Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) staff and volunteers continue to find new “loon lakes” that had been vacant in previous years but now have adult loons present, and in some cases nesting pairs. LPC also recorded higher densities of adult loons on several lakes around the state this year, including the Connecticut Lakes in northern New Hampshire and Conway Lake in the Lakes Region.

The bad news is that this year marked the fifth year of declining nesting success for New Hampshire loons. In contrast to recent seasons, such as 2006, when flooding and rainfall were obvious causes of many nest failures, no single cause seemed to be the culprit in 2008. The combined effect of heavy July rains, nest predators, intruding loons, human disturbance, and other factors meant that this season's record number of nesting loon pairs produced only 97 surviving chicks, fewer than last year's 103 chicks. Statewide reproductive success was less than 0.4 chicks per territorial loon pair, below the long-term rate required to sustain a stable population.

Breeding success was especially low on the state's three biggest lakes: Squam, Umbagog, and Winnepesaukee. Only four chicks survived on Winnepesaukee, two chicks on Squam Lake, and one on Umbagog. The combined total of seven chicks surviving on these three lakes ties a record for the lowest ever recorded, set in 1975—the first year of LPC surveys—and again in 1980.

Artificial nest rafts, ropes, and signs helped offset the impact of the natural causes of low nesting success. LPC volunteers and staff floated 57 artificial rafts this year and provided ropes or signs at 41 nest sites. Altogether, almost 50% of the loon chicks hatched in 2008 benefitted from at least one of these forms of management.

Volunteers continued to play a critical role in conducting loon census surveys in New Hampshire in 2008. On July 19, 549 loon watchers throughout New Hampshire took part in the annual volunteer loon census, covering 122 lakes. Loon monitoring in New Hampshire depends on a dedicated network of lake residents and loon enthusiasts who contribute their observations and energy to protecting loons and their habitat. Please contact LPC (603-476-LOON) to find out more about how to get involved.

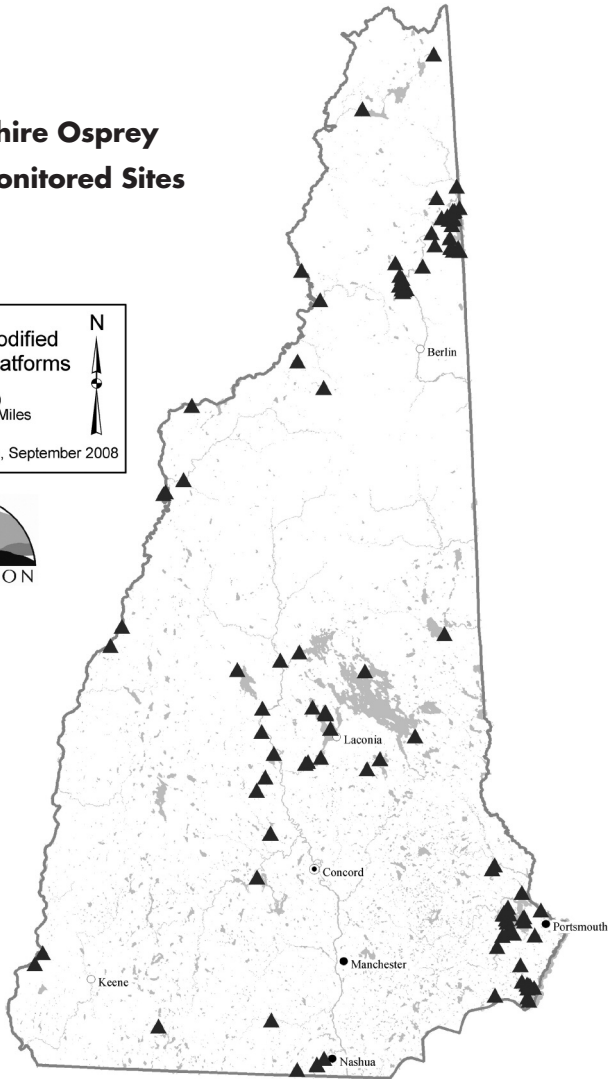
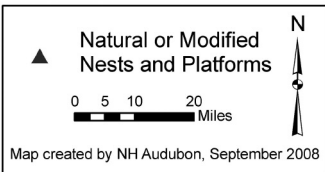
Osprey 2008 Breeding Season

by Chris Martin, Project Leader, New Hampshire Audubon

The 2008 Osprey breeding season in New Hampshire has turned out to be another record-breaker! These statewide estimates for New Hampshire, listed below, are all state-record highs:

- 68 territorial pairs
- 57 active nests (active = evidence that eggs were laid/incubated)
- 40 successful nests (success = at least one young fledged)
- 87 young fledged (1.53 young/active nest; 2.18 young/successful nest)

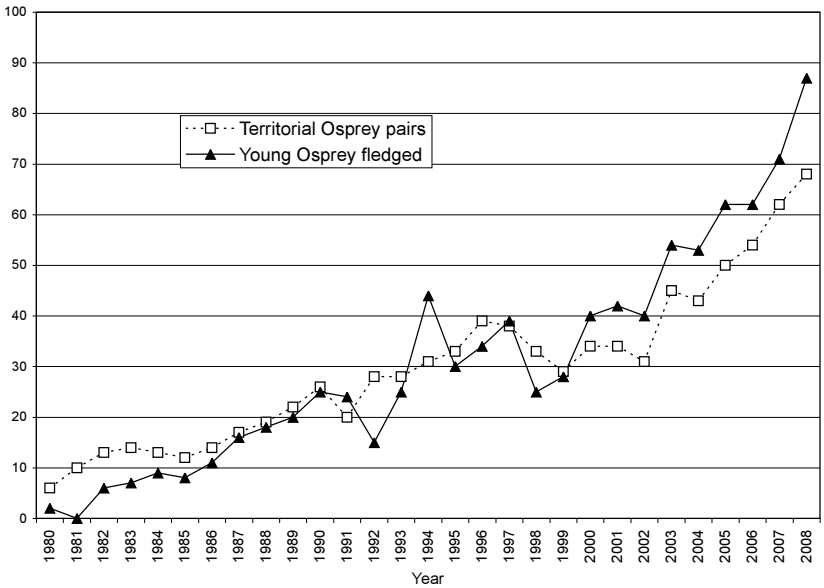
New Hampshire Osprey 2008 - All Monitored Sites



The 2008 season was the fourth consecutive year that we estimated 50 or more territorial pairs of Ospreys present across New Hampshire. Twenty years ago, all of our Osprey pairs were located in the Androscoggin River watershed. Now another major drainage, the Merrimack River watershed, which had no Osprey pairs at all in 1996, has top honors for the major watershed supporting the most territorial pairs (21) in 2008. For only the second time in 669 documented Osprey breeding attempts for New Hampshire from 1980–2008, a nest near Great Bay fledged four young in 2008—quite a rare event!

I am pleased to report that the pace of the state’s Osprey population rebound (Figure 1) has enabled the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department to remove Ospreys from the state’s threatened and endangered wildlife list. This project is funded by the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department and private donations.

Figure 1. Number of territorial Osprey pairs and young fledged in New Hampshire since monitoring began in 1980.



Bald Eagle 2008 Breeding Season

by Chris Martin, Project Leader, New Hampshire Audubon

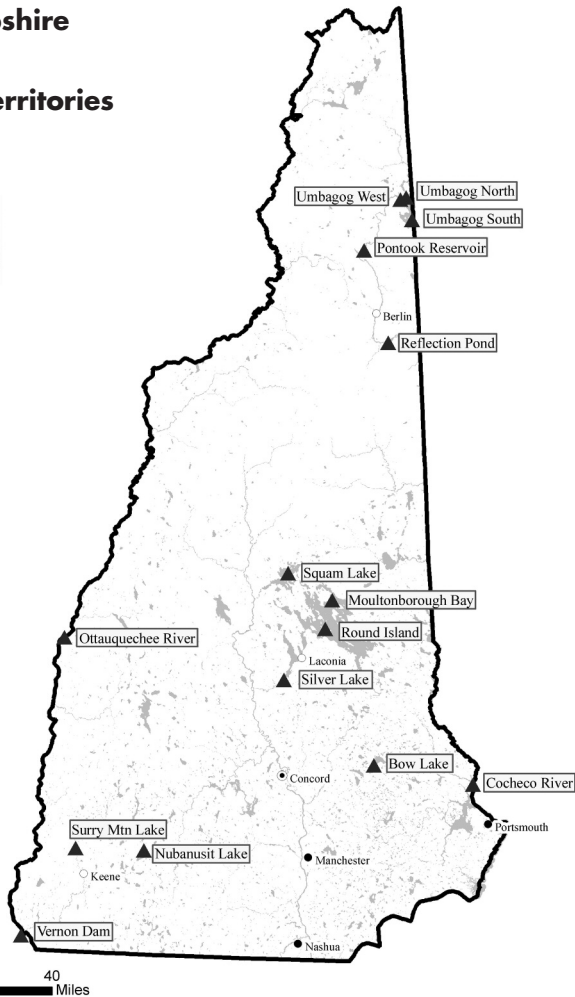
The 2008 New Hampshire Bald Eagle breeding season was highly successful, with numerous post-DDT era state records established. New Hampshire Audubon (NHA) biologists and volunteer observers, with support and cooperation from federal and state agencies and local landowners, documented a total of 15 territorial pairs in 2008, the same number as was confirmed in the state in 2007. One new nesting pair was confirmed at Silver Lake in Tilton, but there was no evidence of a territorial pair that had been present at Merrymeeting Lake in New Durham in 2007. Pair activity without a

known nest was observed for the second straight year on Surry Mountain Lake in Surry.

Incubation was confirmed at a record-high 13 active eagle nests, surpassing the 11 pairs confirmed incubating during both the 2006 and 2007 seasons. Twelve of these pairs fledged young, up 50% from the eight successful pairs last year, and 20% more than the former record-high of 10 successful pairs in 2006. A record-setting total of 24 young Bald Eagles reached fledging age in New Hampshire in 2008, twice as many as in 2007 and more than the previous record-high of 21 fledged in 2006. It is fairly rare for Bald Eagles to fledge three young, but this year three separate pairs (Moultonborough Bay, Nubanusit Lake, and Pontook Reservoir) produced three fledglings each.

Several interesting situations developed in 2008 that involved eagle nests or young eagles. Following a nesting failure in Hinsdale, the nest tree belonging to the Vernon Dam pair fell into the Connecticut River after an extended period of erosive river flow

New Hampshire Bald Eagle Breeding Territories 2008





in April. At Nubanusit Lake, an observer watched an eaglet tumble from the nest to the ground, breaking off several dead branches on the way, but surviving the fall without injury. At Moultonborough Bay, the nest that produced three young collapsed at fledging time, leaving all three fledglings “homeless” but unharmed.

Moultonborough Bay Bald Eagle chick returned to the nest after banding, 6/12/08. Photo by Rick Gray, BioDiversity Research Institute.

Peregrine Falcon 2008 Breeding Season

by Chris Martin, Project Leader, New Hampshire Audubon

New Hampshire’s Peregrine Falcon breeding population continued its gradual recovery during 2008. Biologists and volunteers tallied 18 territories occupied by at least one resident Peregrine, equaling a post-DDT state record-high mark set in 2007. Another state record-high of 13 pairs (100% of those that hatched eggs) fledged young in 2008, surpassing the previous state high mark of 12 successful pairs in 2007. The statewide total of 27 young fledged in 2008 equaled the 2002 record-high, which had not been matched again until this year.

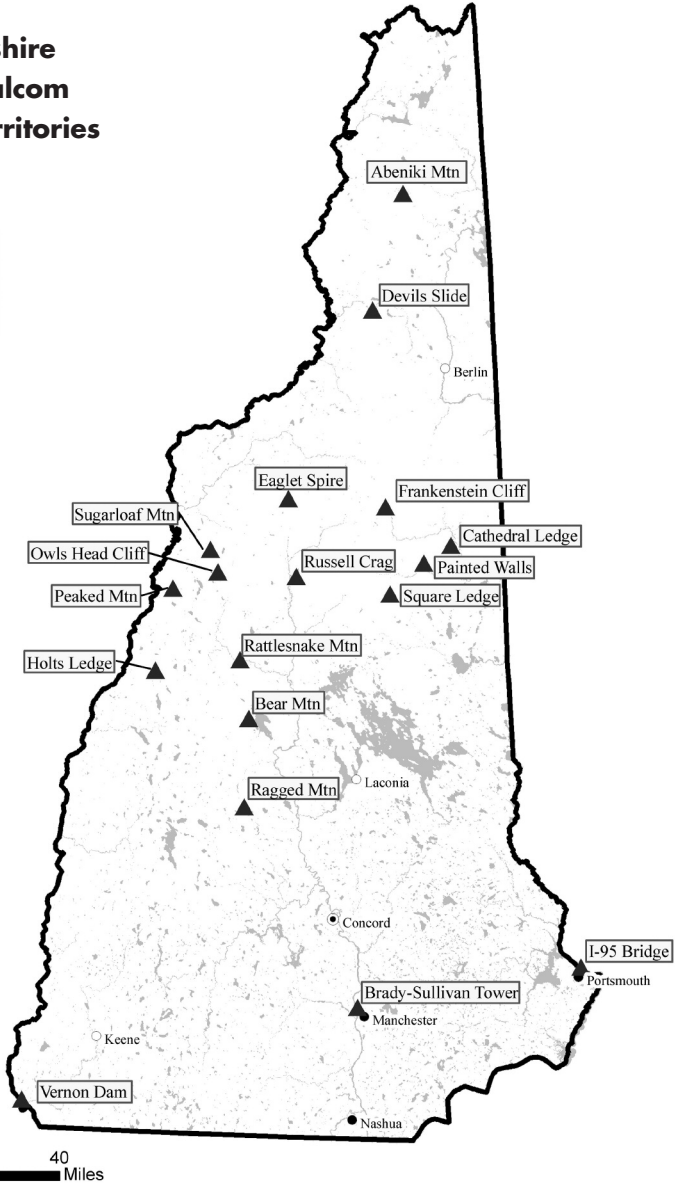
New Hampshire biologists and cooperators accessed nine Peregrine eyries in 2008, banding a total of 16 nestlings at seven productive sites. Falcon banding efforts in the state were supported by a generous donor and coordinated by Chris Martin. Efforts continued in 2008 to determine the status of New Hampshire’s breeding Peregrines that have been banded. Highlights include:

- 13-yr old male from Dixville, breeding in Franconia
- 8-yr old male from Bartlett, breeding in Manchester, mated to a 3-yr old female from Worcester, Massachusetts
- 6-yr old female from Dixville, breeding in Albany, that habitually winters in Concord
- 5-yr old female from Milford, Connecticut, breeding in Lyme
- 4-yr old male from Rumney, breeding in Benton

A total of 66 (22%) of the 300 Peregrine fledglings that have been color-banded at New Hampshire nest sites have later been encountered (alive or dead) and reported to us.

The Peregrine Project is funded by the New Hampshire Fish & Game Department and private donations.

New Hampshire Peregrine Falcom Breeding Territories 2008



Project Nighthawk 2008 Summary

by Rebecca Suomala, Project Leader, New Hampshire Audubon

The summer of 2008 was the second year of New Hampshire Audubon's Project Nighthawk. This project is testing the potential for restoring urban-nesting nighthawks by placing simple gravel "nest patches" on flat rooftops in Concord and Keene. We continued to install additional gravel patches on buildings in Concord, and the Ashuelot Valley Environmental Observatory (AVEO) spearheaded the effort in Keene in partnership with Antioch University New England graduate student Ken Klapper. A new effort in the Hanover area, started by volunteer Lou-Anne Conroy, resulted in the installation of four nest patches.

In response to many requests for "how-to" information, Project Nighthawk created the "Gravel Patch Handbook" with instructions for individuals interested in creating their own patches. Thanks to the help of volunteer Len Medlock, we created a new Web page for the project that includes the Handbook as well as a Photo Gallery of patches and other project information. It's accessible from the *New Hampshire Bird Records* Web site or directly at <http://nhbirdrecords.org/bird-conservation/Nighthawk-main.htm>. Jane Koliass, volunteer Project Assistant, has contributed to all these efforts and is currently finishing an informational poster to place at sites that host a nest patch.

By the end of the 2008 field season, a total of 34 gravel patches had been installed statewide. Volunteers surveyed for nighthawks in towns with patches and monitored the patches, but so far no nighthawks have used a patch. Males have displayed over several patches that overlay roofs with large stone, but there was no sign of nesting. Coordinated watches in Concord produced eight displaying males, two more than last year and in generally the same locations as in 2007. Two females and two chicks (see below) were also seen, making a total of at least 12 nighthawks in Concord.

For the second year in a row, a nighthawk nested on the ground at a business in East Concord. Thanks to the help of workers at the plant, two chicks fledged successfully. The female laid two eggs on June 1, much earlier than last year. The chicks hatched on June 22 and the younger chick stayed at the site for at least 40 days, according to Stephanie Parkinson, who monitored this nest closely. Stephanie observed some fasci-



Female Common Nighthawk sitting on two eggs. Photo by Pamela Hunt, 6/5/08, Concord, NH.

nating behavior after the chicks began flying, including feedings, practice flights, and chases. We held our breath when the chick landed in the street in front of an oncoming car and Mark Suomala stood in the street to stop the car! (This is not officially recommended behavior.) There is very little written information on nighthawk behavior after chick fledging and some observations were very puzzling. Is that the male chasing away the female? Why won't he let her feed the chick? Is that the chick or the female making that funny "peent" call? Who's that third bird? And all of this is taking place in the dark! It shows how much there is to learn and that you can help!

For a more detailed summary of the field season, to volunteer, or to donate to the Nighthawk Project, please contact me at 603-224-9909 x309 or bsuomala@nhaudubon.org.

Whip-poor-will Project 2008 Summary

by Pamela Hunt, Project Leader, New Hampshire Audubon

This is the sixth year that New Hampshire Audubon coordinated Whip-poor-will surveys in the state, and the third year that surveys occurred across a much broader portion of the northeast U.S. Over 100 designated routes were surveyed in 2008, and while not all data have been received, top honors go to Maryland, New Jersey, and New York, all of which had routes with over 25 birds. Closer to home, New Hampshire's 13 survey routes tallied a respectable 24 Whip-poor-wills at locations ranging from Milan to Swanzey. High counts continue to come from the Ossipee and Upper Merrimack River regions, although this year the blue ribbon goes to the Marlow survey route, with a total of six birds.

At the same time that volunteers were conducting surveys along their pre-determined routes, a smaller band of hardcore Whip-poor-will fans helped with a territory mapping project in two "hot spots," the Ossipee Pine Barrens and Mast Yard State Forest in Hopkinton. These locations have a high density of birds that is not well captured by the standard routes. The mapping project involved taking compass bearings on calling birds from fixed points and then using triangulation to determine the approximate location of each Whip-poor-will. We could then determine how many birds were there and what parts of the study area they were using. This information can inform future conservation activity, including possible habitat management.

In the Ossipee Pine Barrens, we focused our efforts on a 1.5 mile abandoned airstrip in Freedom, now part of an extensive area of conservation land owned by the town. All the data haven't been plotted yet, but in the course of a single visit on June 20, I estimated 20–25 birds in this relatively small area—a number that is hard to believe unless you were there. It also illustrates the value of more detailed surveys in hot spots for accurate population estimates. More extensive coverage of Mast Yard provided me with a more confident population estimate of 10–12 pairs, most along edges (as one would expect). Next year we hope to continue this work and hopefully add a radio-telemetry component to better track individual birds.

The Whip-poor-will Project was funded by the Nuttall Ornithological Club, the American Bird Conservancy, and private donations.

Rusty Blackbird Surveys

by Laura Deming, Project Co-Leader, New Hampshire Audubon

In the summer of 2008, New Hampshire Audubon biologists hiked into remote wetlands in the White Mountain National Forest in search of Rusty Blackbirds. This reclusive species breeds in swamps, bogs, and beaver ponds throughout the spruce-fir forests of Canada, Alaska, and the northern United States. Despite the remoteness of their breeding habitat, Rusty Blackbirds are in trouble. Historical records and more recent studies across North America indicate that the Rusty Blackbird decline began in the early 1900s. Over the past forty years, however, this species has declined by about 95%, making it the fastest declining songbird in the northern forest.

The most likely causes of this decline are habitat loss and “blackbird control” programs conducted in the wintering grounds of the southeastern U.S. However, researchers are investigating potential problems with migration habitat and breeding habitat, where climate change, acid rain, and mercury deposition pose serious threats to northern ecosystems.

In an effort to determine the Rusty Blackbird’s status and distribution in New Hampshire’s spruce-fir forests, New Hampshire Audubon initiated surveys of historic and potential breeding sites in 2006. These surveys, which were funded by the New Hampshire Fish & Game Nongame Program, focused on the northern part of the state, and resulted in just three occupied sites out of 23 breeding sites surveyed. In 2008, New Hampshire Audubon staff and volunteers found Rusty Blackbirds in two out of the three historically occupied sites surveyed in the White Mountain National Forest. Plans are underway to expand surveys in the White Mountains in 2009. If you are interested in volunteering to survey for Rusty Blackbirds in 2009, please contact Laura Deming at New Hampshire Audubon, (603) 224-9909 x335; ldeming@nhaudubon.org.

Fledgling Vocalizations of New England Landbirds

by Hope Batcheller

Fledgling birds are a virtually unknown realm. Why is this, given the impact they could have for monitoring breeding birds? Fledglings are young birds that have recently left the nest, but are still dependent on parental care and feeding. Therefore, the presence of fledglings is an indicator of breeding success, and understanding this key stage of birds’ lives could have huge consequences for Breeding Bird Atlases and similar breeding surveys.

Last year, as I was developing my project for an independent study, I met Carol Foss, Ph.D., Director of Conservation for New Hampshire Audubon. She had become



Hope Batcheller recording fledgling vocalizations in the field, photo by Mary Batcheller.

interested in fledglings during her doctoral research and was enthusiastic to help. Her knowledge of fledgling behavior was invaluable, and we have collaborated closely ever since.

I received a grant from the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (VINS) Environmental Science Research Fellowship Program in the winter of 2008 with NH Audubon as my sponsoring organization. My proposed project was to record fledgling landbirds in New England, thereby starting an archive of their vocalizations. Through the grant I purchased audio recording equipment, which included a digital recorder, headphones, and a directional microphone. In early summer I met with Lang Elliott, an expert nature recordist from Ithaca, NY, and creator of *Stokes Field Guide to Bird Songs: Eastern Region*. He not only tutored me in field techniques and recording strategies, but also loaned me a high-quality parabolic reflector for the summer.

With so much support, the 2008 summer field season was very successful. I spent all of July (the peak time for fledglings) in the field. To maximize species variety, I traveled to several locations throughout Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. From open fields in central Vermont, to the deciduous forest of Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest in the White Mountains, to the spruce bogs near Errol, New Hampshire, I visited a great diversity of habitats.

Fledglings are captivating, yet enigmatic. Sometimes they are difficult to detect, but at other times they cooperate perfectly. Expert ventriloquists, they are extremely difficult to locate, a trait that presumably helps them evade predators. Their vocalizations are generally short, repeated notes, which become faster when an adult brings food. Most species have distinctive calls, which are identifiable in the field with practice.

Figure 1. Spectrograph of Black-throated Green Warbler fledgling calls, recorded by Hope Batcheller on July 20, 2008 in Ossipee, NH.

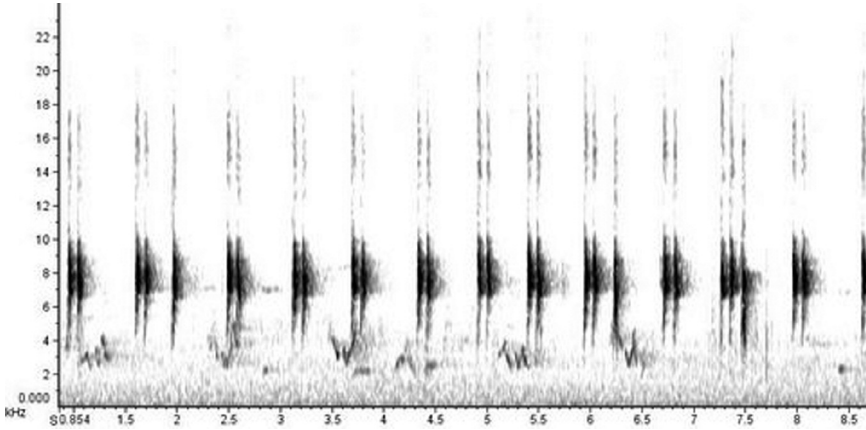
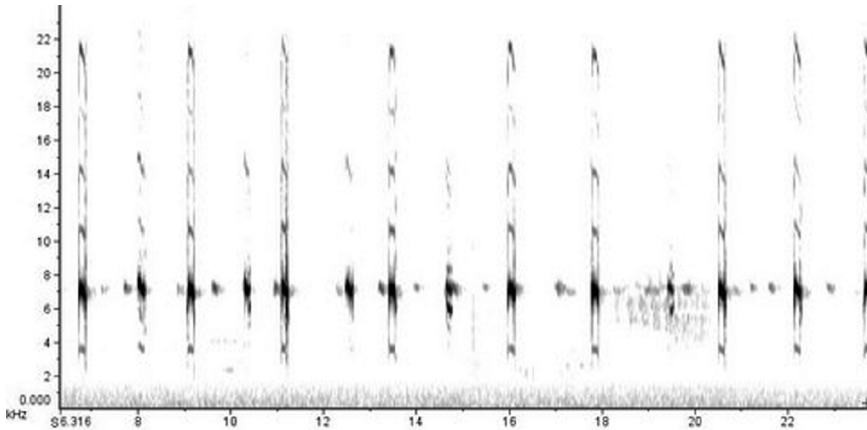


Figure 2. Spectrograph of Winter Wren fledgling calls, recorded by Hope Batcheller on July 18, 2008 at Pondicherry NWR.



Figures 1 and 2 are spectrographs of fledgling calls from two species I recorded. They offer a visual representation of the birds' vocalizations. The horizontal x-axis represents the passage of time, in seconds. The vertical y-axis shows the frequency (pitch), measured in kilohertz (kHz). Darker areas indicate greater intensity (volume).

Behaviorally, fledglings are usually clumsier and less active than adults. A young fledgling often sits stationary, with fluttering wings and beak wide open whenever an adult brings food. Older birds follow their foraging parents, begging constantly. Fledglings are fascinating, and a delight to work with in the field.

The Red-winged Blackbird fledgling shows many characteristics typical of fledglings. Most young songbirds show a brightly colored gape, though this feature is gradually lost as the bird ages. Note the downy plumage, short or non-existent tail, and clumsy perching posture.



Juvenile Red-winged Blackbird photo by Hope Batcheller.

Of course, like any fieldwork, there were ups...and downs. Finding the 2-inch-long Winter Wren fledglings at Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge in northern New Hampshire...then getting caught in a hailstorm

later that day. A fledgling Eastern Towhee calling a foot from the path...but with construction noise in the background that made it impossible to get a perfect recording. The recently fledged Common Yellowthroat four feet away...that wasn't vocalizing. By the end of the summer, however, I had recorded 35 species of fledglings, a very satisfying total.

This fall (2008), I have been working with Lang Elliott to edit my field recordings. By reducing unwanted noise and selecting the best call sequences, even low-quality recordings can become usable. With this preparation, they will be suitable for use on Web sites and audio guides.

As our ability to identify fledglings increases, projects such as a Breeding Bird Atlas will be vastly improved. Much information for such projects is currently lost simply because volunteers cannot identify fledglings. Further studies could also provide insight on call development, adult behavior, and species relationships.

I hope that making these recordings available, along with information on visual identification and behavior, will result in greater attention being paid to fledglings. With so much potential in this field, I encourage birders, scientists, and citizens alike to pursue this new frontier.

Many thanks go to Carol Foss, Lang Elliott, and VINS for their support of this work. For field stories, recordings, and more information, visit www.fledglingbirding.blogspot.com.

Hope Batcheller is a high school junior who has been an avid birder since the age of eight. She lives in Petersburg, New York, near the Vermont and Massachusetts borders.

Photo Gallery

A Visit to New Hampshire's Tern Colony

Text and photos by Jon Woolf

In July 2008, New Hampshire Audubon brought a dozen lucky birders to visit the tern colony on White and Seavey Islands in the Isles of Shoals. We traveled aboard a Shoals Marine Laboratory vessel and spent half a day on the islands, watching and learning about the colony. The majority of the 2,200+ tern pairs nest on Seavey Island which is connected to White Island at low tide. We had an opportunity to observe the terns up close, and saw firsthand how much fun and also how challenging tern-watching can be. We also watched the Tern Project biologists going about their daily business, writing down observations, banding tern chicks, and more.



White Island from the water, with its lighthouse.



Our inflatable ferry from the Shoals Laboratory's boat to the island.



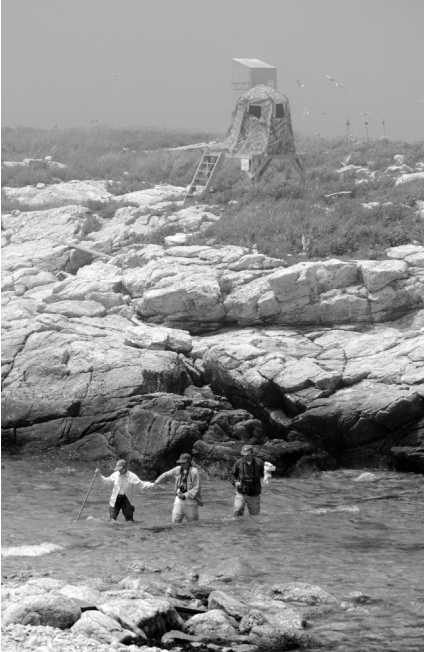
Terns swarm above biologist Susie Burbidge as she collects a tern chick to band.



Common Tern. The terns are always in motion, so getting pictures like this is just a matter of timing. If you miss one chance, another will be along soon enough.



A newly-banded Roseate Tern chick in the hands of biologist, Melissa Hayward.



Steve and Jane Mirick, and Eric Masterson return across the narrow beach from Seavey to White Island as the tide rises.



This is the only place in New Hampshire where you can reliably see Arctic Terns.



The four Tern Project biologists watch as we leave the island. Left to right: Melissa Hayward, Dan Hayward, Susie Burbidge, and Ryan Simmons.

Backyard Birder

Powder Down

by Brenda Sens



Photo by Nicole Murphy, Candia, NH.

People often contact the Volunteer Naturalists' office at New Hampshire Audubon asking about the white imprint of a bird they find on a glass window or door and its cause. This white substance is known as powder down, defined as "a modified type of body feather which disintegrates at the tip into a fine dust made up of scale-like particles" (Leahy 1982). While most birds have this type of feather interspersed among their body feathers, some species, such as herons, have them occurring in well-defined patches.

Powder down is thought to play a role in cleaning and waterproofing the feathers, thereby supplementing or replacing the role of a bird's oil gland. It has been determined that some species of woodpeckers, as well as pigeons and doves (Goodwin 1983), have oil glands that either do not function at all or function at such a low level they do not benefit preening. Instead the plumage of these birds is permeated by powder down. When they strike a window they leave behind a more distinct imprint than other birds because of the dust from their powder down. The photo above shows the imprint left by a Mourning Dove that collided with the window. Although it's hard to imagine that the bird survived, the fine dust from the powder down can dislodge quite easily and this Mourning Dove may have been just fine.

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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.

Answer to the Photo Quiz

by David B. Donsker

We can never get enough practice identifying raptors, the subjects of this issue's Photo Quiz. Because our encounters with hawks are frequently fleeting or at distances that challenge the resolution of our binoculars, not to mention our eyes and brain, plumage details are often of secondary importance for the identification of a particular species. Much more important to observe and synthesize are such features as size, shape, and flight characteristics. More often than not, we encounter hawks in flight overhead and one initial approach to hawk identification is based on flight profiles. Our quiz takes this to the extreme by challenging us to identify two similarly shaped species by silhouette alone.

Excluding the unique, buoyantly low-flying Northern Harrier, which rarely causes confusion with other species of hawk, there are three main groups of hawks found in northeastern North America: *buteos*, *accipiters*, and *falcons*. Each has its own characteristic combination of body form, wing shape, and tail length that largely reflect each group's particular hunting style. These flight profiles help us make the first "cut" in sorting out the various species involved.

Buteos are master soaring birds of open woodlands and fields. They occupy a variety of niches and hunt a wide variety of prey from rodents to flying insects. They are medium to large raptors with robust bodies; long, broad wings; and relatively short, wide tails.

Accipiters hunt smaller birds in forested habitats. As such, they have short, rounded wings and long tails, which help them rapidly maneuver between trees. *Accipiters* range in size from small to large.

Falcons are swift hunters of open habitats that frequently single out prey that they capture in direct flight. They are small to fairly large raptors with long, pointed, tapered wings and proportionately long tails. Their heads are disproportionately large.

Our two subject birds have neither the short tail nor the rounded wings that are characteristic of *buteos*. Although they both are rather long-tailed, like *accipiters*, their sharply pointed, tapered wings are in strong contrast to the short, rounded wings of that group.

So, both of our birds must be *falcons*. Well, before we come to that conclusion, let us look at each one individually.

Nothing could be more like a falcon than the bird in Figure 1. In addition to the long, tapered wings and longish tail, it has a proportionately large head which is another characteristic feature of this family of raptors. Four species of falcon have been recorded in New Hampshire: two smaller species, American Kestrel and Merlin, and two larger, more robust birds, Peregrine Falcon and the majestic Gyrfalcon.

If we look more carefully at this bird, we get the general impression that it is a large falcon. In particular, note the wide body and, especially, the very prominent bill. American Kestrel is much more delicate by comparison, with a slim body and smaller head and bill. Further, its long, pointed wings are narrow, especially at the base where they join the body, and its tail is proportionately longer than those of other falcons. Merlin is barely larger than the kestrel and would, similarly, have a smallish bill. Its wings are also proportionally shorter and more broadly based than other falcons giving them a distinctly triangular shape.

That leaves the larger Peregrine and Gyrfalcon as possibilities. Gyrfalcon is particularly robust with a barrel chest and long, broad, heavy tail. Its wings are also broad and are more rounded at the tip than in other falcons. The bird pictured, though large, has a long, tapered wing. Note especially that the tapering is particularly prominent in the “hand” or outer part of the wing, in contrast to the “arm” or inner part of the wing. This shape has been likened to a tapered candle. The tail is relatively long and broad, but much less so than would be seen in Gyrfalcon. Note also that the closed tail tapers towards the tip. This combination of features—long, broad-based, tapered wing; longish, tapered tail; and robust head and body—is characteristic of the flight profile of Peregrine Falcon.

The bird in Figure 2 shares many features with the first bird and falcons in general. Like Peregrine Falcon, it has long, broad-based, tapered wings and a proportionately long tail. But there are subtle differences that distinguish it from the other bird. The head and beak are smaller than those of the Peregrine. The tail is squared-off at the tip and the outer tail feathers actually flare out a bit. Peregrine Falcon can widely fan its tail, but the closed tail tapers rather than squares-off towards the tip. Note that the “arms” are distinctly narrow in comparison to the broader “hands.” The “hands” are also proportionately slightly shorter than the “hands” of Peregrine in relationship to the rest of the wing. The leading edge of the wing bulges at the wrist and the back edge of the wing is straight. The tapered wing tip is similar in effect to that of Peregrine. However, carefully compare the length of the 10th or outermost primary wing feather of the two birds. In the photo of Peregrine Falcon, note that the 10th primary is just barely shorter than the longest flight feather. Now look at the same feather in the bird in Figure 2. The 10th primary is substantially shorter than the longest primary—just over half the length! This unique set of features, particularly the sharply tapered wing coupled with the flared, squared tail tip and extremely short 10th primary, is characteristic not of any falcon, but of a bird only just recently added to the list of New Hampshire residents: Mississippi Kite.

Like Peregrine Falcon, Mississippi Kite feeds by snatching its winged prey in flight using its speed and maneuverability to succeed in the hunt. But rather than other birds favored by the Peregrine, the primary targets of the kite are themselves another form of aerial hunter—dragonflies.

Although we were fortunate to have Mississippi Kites nest in our state this season, which allowed many of us to study these birds in great detail, a much more likely scenario would be for a single bird to show up as an overshooting spring migrant. Under those circumstances, it would most likely be encountered briefly soaring overhead. It would be very easy, if unprepared, to dismiss it as “merely” a Peregrine. But now we know what to look for.

These very comparable images of Peregrine Falcon in Figure 1 and Mississippi Kite in Figure 2 were both photographed by Mark Suomala, who kindly let us use them for this timely Photo ID article. Thank you to editor Becky Suomala, who in this “summer of the kites” suggested this topic.

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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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*Clay-colored Sparrow by Jason Lambert, 5/31/08,
Warren Farm, Barrington, NH. This male continued singing well into the summer.*



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