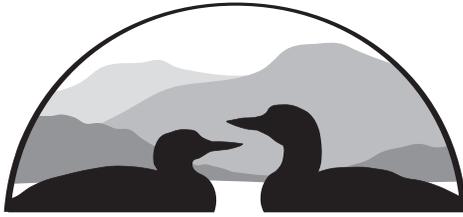


New Hampshire Bird Records



Fall 2008

Vol. 27, No. 3



New Hampshire Bird Records

Volume 27, Number 3

Fall 2008

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Cover Photo: *Snowy Owl at Rye Harbor State Park, NH, on 11/2/08 by Peter Manship.*

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

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IN MEMORY OF
Julie Chapin

This issue of New Hampshire Bird Records with its color cover is sponsored by John and Julie Bassi in memory of her mother, Julie Chapin. Julie took great pleasure in her volunteer work at NH Audubon. She loved birding, most often during walks in the woods or peering out her kitchen window at her abundant bird feeders. She shared her passion for birds with her children and grandchildren.



Julie with grand-daughter Claire Bassi.

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From the Editor

by Rebecca Suomala, Managing Editor

New Hampshire Bird Records Editorial Team

A new volunteer team will now be working on the planning and production of each issue. *New Hampshire Bird Records* (NHBR) has expanded over the years and this team will help us continue to offer articles and other items of interest to birders in the publication and on the Web site. A list of the NHBR Editorial Team members is on the inside front cover. Many of the people on the ETeam are familiar to NHBR readers and birders in the state. If you have an idea for an article or feedback please don't hesitate to contact any member of the team.

We very much appreciate the help and support of these Team members and all the NHBR volunteers.

Help the Birds by Drinking "Bird Friendly" Coffee



On February 6, Bridget Stutchbury presented a wonderful program at New Hampshire Audubon in Concord introducing us to the challenges birds face during summer, winter, and migration. One of the take-home messages was that we can all do something to help birds—by drinking “bird friendly” coffee. “Bird Friendly®” coffee is not just a description, it’s a trademark certification program by the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center (SMBC) with strict scientific certification standards for coffee farming that is

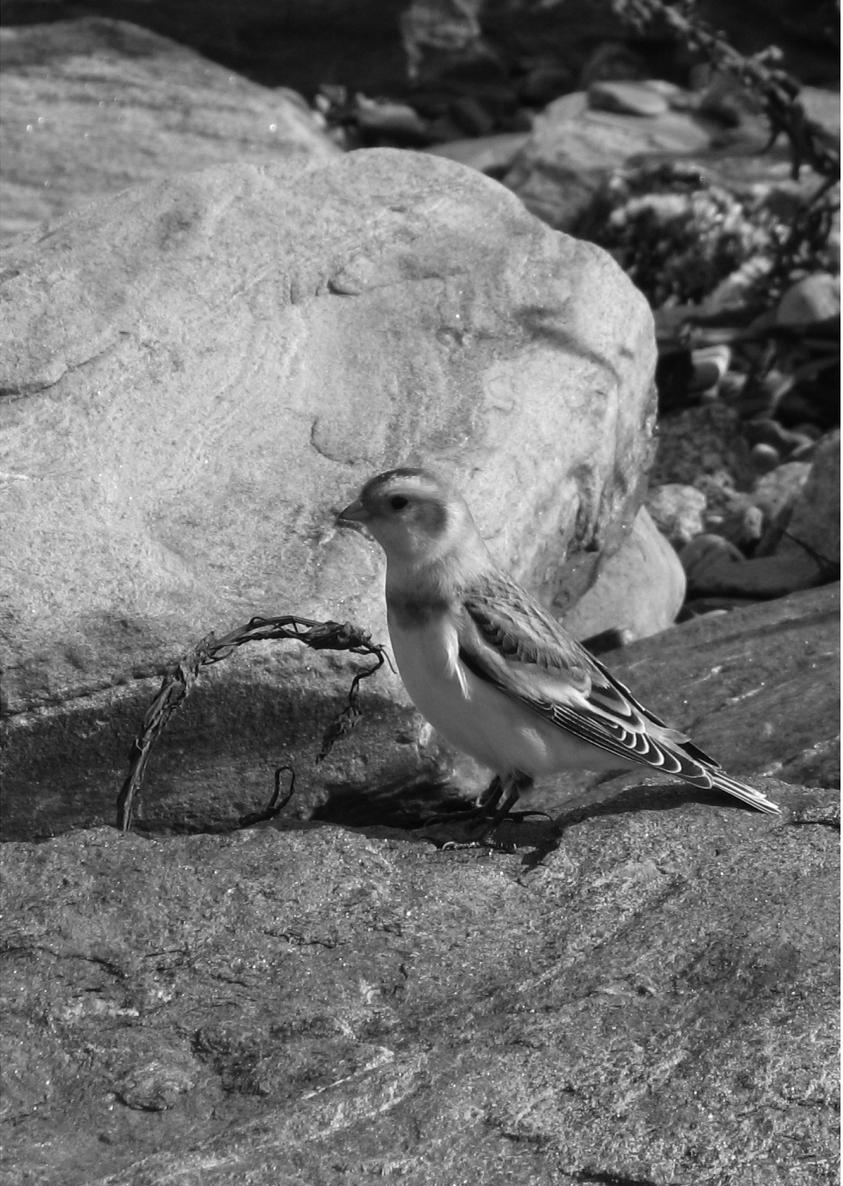
organic, shade grown, sustainable, and environmentally friendly. As we learned, not all shade grown coffee is the same. The SMBC certification is your best assurance that the coffee you are drinking is helping preserve habitat needed by neo-tropical migrant birds.

Birders need to become more aware of and committed to drinking truly bird friendly coffee and understanding the importance of promoting shade grown coffee in migratory bird conservation. The problem, of course, is where to buy certified “Bird Friendly” coffee, especially in New England. To address this problem, and promote a shift in coffee drinking behavior among the birding community, Birds & Beans™ was launched. The Birds & Beans collective includes three “birding rock stars”—Kenn Kaufman, Bridget Stutchbury, and Scott Weidensaul. Birds & Beans provides a truly great tasting “bird friendly” coffee for the birding community and their friends.

Find out more at www.birdsandbeans.com. Proceeds from the sale of Birds & Beans coffee goes to SMBC and New Hampshire Audubon.

Make a difference for our migrant songbirds by changing your coffee habits!

Photo Quiz



Can You Identify This Bird?

Answer on page 66.

Photo by Jon Woolf

Fall Season

August 1 through November 30, 2008

by Stephen R. Mirick

The fall season started with very wet weather, particularly in early August, and saturated grounds led to localized flooding. A storm on August 6 produced strong southeast winds and some interesting pelagic birds for the date. Fortunately, the rain didn't dampen the success of the two Mississippi Kite nests in Newmarket and each nest successfully fledged a single chick. Tropical Storm Hanna raced past the coast of New Hampshire on September 6, producing heavy rains in southern New Hampshire, but no significant pelagic or windblown birds along the coast. Hurricane Kyle did the same later in the month. The forecasted high seas and damaging winds stayed well offshore and spared the New England coast. A cold front on September 17 produced northwesterly winds the following day and a nice flight of Broad-winged Hawks on Pack Monadnock.



Steve Mirick

October was just slightly colder and wetter than normal with no major weather systems. A strong cold front on November 9 brought brisk westerly winds and a great flight of American Goldfinches and the first in a wave of late swallows along the coast. Bitter cold weather moved into the state in mid-November and the weekend of November 22–23 produced near record low temperatures that never got above freezing anywhere in the state. Heavy snow hit northern parts of the state on November 25, but despite the cold, a few lingering migrants survived, including some record late Blackpoll Warblers and an Eastern Phoebe along the coast.

The number and quality of bird reports submitted to *New Hampshire Bird Records* continues to improve in the state. Much of this may be related to the increase in use of the Internet, which has expanded the network and knowledge of birders throughout the region. This fall, over 6,200 reports were entered into the *New Hampshire Bird Records* database, of which just under 25% will be published. This is the best dataset of records this editor has seen for any fall season. Thanks to everyone who takes the time to submit their records and add to the database of information on New Hampshire's birds.

The season's observations were augmented by the continuation of a full-time fall hawkwatch at Pack Monadnock in Peterborough and two birding daytrips to Star Island at the Isles of Shoals. Pam Hunt's continued "human-powered" efforts have led to increased coverage in the Penacook area of Concord. Her 15-mile marathon "Great Penacook Walkabouts" are now becoming legendary and her efforts have put Morrill's farm on the map as a birding hot spot. Meanwhile, my wife, Jane, and I once again concentrated a great deal of our time on coastal migrants, resulting in some interesting observations of migrating loons, terns, waterfowl and goldfinches.

Bird highlights for the fall season are numerous and include a continuation of the incredible **Mississippi Kite** story, a remarkable influx of **Cory's Shearwaters**, a **Thayer's Gull**, **Lark Bunting**, **LeConte's Sparrow**, **Western Kingbird**, **Cave Swallow**, **2 Rufous Hummingbirds**, **Sedge Wren**, **Cerulean and Worm-eating Warblers**, **Yellow-headed Blackbird**, **2 Royal Terns**, and a record-breaking flight of **Caspian Terns** (see also page 59). Read on for more details!



Lark Bunting by Jason Lambert, 10/11/08, "townline" cove, N. Hampton, NH.

Waterfowl



Snow Goose and Canada Goose in flight, by Scott Young, 11/26/08, Rochester wastewater treatment plant, Rochester, NH.

Generally, waterfowl were reported in average numbers for the fall with no real rarities. In contrast to last year's six species of geese reported, only the three common species—Brant, Snow Goose, and Canada Goose—were reported. One of the waterfowl highlights for the fall was the large inland concentration of 300 Black Scoters on Lake Massabesic on October 17 as well as a more widespread inland fall-out of Black Scoters on November 1, which included small groups of inland scoters seen on ponds and lakes in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. A large flock of 400 seen on Great Bay the same day was equally rare and was observed to fly up, circle, and swirl high over the bay before departing toward the coast in the late morning.

An all-day count of coastal migrants on October 1 resulted in a nice assortment of dabbling ducks noted moving south, but not many scoters. Included were 167 American Black Ducks, a possibly record high 119 Northern Pintail, 56 Green-winged Teal, 42 American Wigeon, and a Northern Shoveler. Generally, there are only one or two reports for Long-tailed Ducks at inland locations in the fall, but this year there were seven reports totaling 17 ducks, spanning a wide range of dates.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Snow Goose				
10/6	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. Young
10/18	1	Conway	Sherman Farm	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
11/4	1	Conway	Pudding Pond, N. Conway	S. Mirick
11/11	60	Webster	Call Road	R. Quinn
11/24	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Hubbard
11/30	1	Hampton Falls	Applecrest Farm Orchards	L. Medlock
Brant				
10/4	20	Hampton	Hampton Harbor inlet	S. Mirick, Seacoast CFT
10/29	81		NH coast	E. Masterson
10/29	4	Greenland	Great Bay	T. Bronson
10/29	1	Madbury	field near 61 Moharimet Dr.	D. Melvin
Canada Goose				
10/4	500	Keene	Krif Road	L. Tanino
10/6	1030	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock	J. Tilden
10/21	789		Great Bay	T. Bronson
11/19	2240		NH coast	J. Smith
11/21	260	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	E. Masterson
11/23	596		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
Wood Duck				
8/15	20	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	E. Masterson
10/1	25		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
10/1	34	Hinsdale	Ebenezer Hinsdale Farm	P. Hunt
10/3	20	Rye	Eel Pond	E. Masterson
10/24	23	Newton	Country Pond	T. Bronson
11/21	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Young
11/28	1	Rye	Eel Pond	S. & J. Mirick
Gadwall				
11/24	1	Hampton	Plaice Cove	A. Budington
11/28	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Hubbard
American Wigeon				
9/1	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. & J. Mirick
10/1	42		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
10/13	1	Concord	Contoocook Island, Penacook	P. Hunt
10/29	1	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick
11/7	2	Wolfeboro	Lake Wentworth	B. & D. Fox
11/17	65	Greenland	Great Bay	T. Bronson
11/22	1	Walpole	Connecticut River	E. Masterson
American Black Duck				
10/1	167		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
10/21	285		Great Bay	T. Bronson
11/22	52	Hinsdale	Connecticut River	E. Masterson
11/22	59	Walpole	Connecticut River	E. Masterson
11/26	216		Great Bay	T. Bronson
Mallard				
9/3	300	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	T. Bronson
11/20	300	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Hubbard

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Blue-winged Teal				
8/19	4	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
8/20	1	Kensington		G. Gavutis Jr.
9/3	5	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
9/12	4	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Young
9/28	6	N. Hampton	Eel Pond	P. Brown, L. Tanino
10/29	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	P. Brown
11/19	2	Rye	Ragged Neck	J. Smith

*Northern Shoveler
male with females,
by Leonard Medlock, 11/10/08,
Exeter wastewater treatment plant,
Exeter, NH.*



Northern Shoveler

8/26	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Hubbard
9/27	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	L. Medlock
10/1	1		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
11/10	6	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	L. Medlock
11/24	6	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	P. Brown

Northern Pintail

9/20	20	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. Mirick, et al.
10/1	119		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
11/19	1	Rye	Eel Pond	J. Smith
11/21	1	Harrisville	Skatutakee Lake	P. Brown

Green-winged Teal

8/17	2	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
8/20	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
8/20	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
9/12	30	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Young
9/13	45	Hampton	Meadow Pond	M. Iliff
9/17	26	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. & J. Mirick
9/29	29	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	T. Bronson, K. Dorsey
10/1	56		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
11/11	60	Hampton	Meadow Pond	E. Masterson
11/22	3	Hinsdale	Connecticut River	E. Masterson
11/22	1	Walpole	Connecticut River	E. Masterson

Ring-necked Duck

8/26	5	Wentworths Location	broad cove of Magalloway R.	C. Sheridan
10/9	1	Rye	Eel Pond	S. Mirick
10/23	105	Kingston	Powwow Pond	T. Bronson
10/31	101	Nelson	Tolman Pond	P. Brown, et al.
11/5	320	Kingston	Powwow Pond	T. Bronson
11/11	35	Madison	Durgin Pond	J. Potter
11/16	84	Chatham	Upper Kimball Pond	R. Crowley
11/30	7	Laconia	Lake Opechee, west end	H. Anderson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Greater Scaup				
10/1	8		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
10/21	222	Greenland	Great Bay	T. Bronson
10/25	2	Nelson	Tolman Pond	P. Brown
11/8	475	Greenland	Great Bay	S.& J. Mirick
11/25	51	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
Lesser Scaup				
10/12	5	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
10/17	3	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	E. Masterson
11/11	1	Conway	Pequawket Pond	J. Potter
11/12	1	Rye	Eel Pond	R. Quinn, G.& A. Robbins
11/29	10	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	M. Suomala
11/30	3	Laconia	Lake Winnisquam	E. Masterson
Surf Scoter				
10/1	115		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
10/13	51		NH coast	S. Mirick
10/22	21	Pittsburg	Back Lake	I. MacLeod
White-winged Scoter				
10/1	250		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
10/5	135	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	S. Mirick, NHA FT
10/17	4	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	E. Masterson
10/19	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	L. Tanino, A. Clark
10/24	3	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	L. Tanino
10/30	1	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	L. Tanino, D. Zeh, P. Davenport
11/26	2	Newmarket	Great Bay	T. Bronson
Black Scoter				
8/6	2		NH coast	S. Mirick
10/6	1	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	L. Tanino
10/7	17	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	L. Tanino
10/17	300	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	E. Masterson
10/17	20	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock	J. Tilden
10/18	11	Concord	Merrimack River	R. Woodward
10/30	120	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	L. Tanino, D. Zeh, P. Davenport
11/1	14	Concord	Penacook Lake	P. Hunt, R. Quinn, S. Brand, R.& M. Suomala
11/1	24	Concord	Turtle Pond	R. Suomala
11/1	400	Greenland	Great Bay	S.& J. Mirick
11/1	16	Swanzy	Wilson Pond	K. Klapper
11/18	25	Salem	World End Pond	K. Folsom
11/19	4	Auburn	Lake Massabesic, Clairs Landing	C. Sheridan
Long-tailed Duck				
10/14	2		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
10/22	8	Pittsburg	Back Lake	I. MacLeod
10/24	1	Hanover	Ledyard Canoe Club	C. Governali
10/26	2	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	E. Masterson
10/26	2	Harrisville	Silver Lake	P. Brown, C. Wood, M.& N. Briggs

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
11/1	1	Concord	Penacook Lake	P. Hunt, R. Quinn, S. Brand, R. & M. Suomala
11/3	17	Rye	Ragged Neck	T. Bronson
11/9	1	Hanover	Ledyard Bridge	D. Hardy
11/15	10		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
11/21	2	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	E. Masterson
Bufflehead				
10/22	1	Concord	Snow Pond	P. Brown
10/23	3	Kingston	Greenwood Pond	W. Trested, D. Skillman
10/29	13		Great Bay	T. Bronson
10/30	30	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	L. Tanino, D. Zeh, P. Davenport
11/1	29	Durham	Great & Little Bays off Adams Pt.	T. Bronson
11/17	15	Greenland	Great Bay	T. Bronson
11/17	10	Plainfield	River Road	L. Tanino, K. Yard
11/17	20	Rye	Eel Pond	T. Bronson
Common Goldeneye				
10/29	2	Greenland	Great Bay	T. Bronson
11/1	1	Concord	Penacook Lake	P. Hunt, R. Quinn, S. Brand, R. & M. Suomala
11/25	99	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
11/26	46	Manchester	Lake Massabesic	E. Masterson
11/30	168	Laconia	Lake Winnisquam	E. Masterson
Hooded Merganser				
10/24	44	Dublin	Charcoal Road ponds	L. Tanino
10/31	35	Dublin	Howe Reservoir	T. Warren
11/1	150	Concord	Penacook Lake	P. Hunt, R. Quinn, R. & M. Suomala
11/6	93	Barnstead	Locke Lake	J. Lambert
11/17	30	Charlestown	Great Meadows	L. Tanino, K. Yard
11/17	27	Chatham	basin	R. Crowley
11/22	42	Hinsdale	Connecticut River	E. Masterson
11/27	78	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	L. Tanino
11/29	120	Concord	Penacook Lake	P. Hunt
11/30	43	Laconia	river at Eagar Island	H. Anderson
Common Merganser				
8/9	14	Pittsburg	Metallak Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
11/1	27	Swanzy	Wilson Pond & Swanzy Lake	K. Klapper
11/8	24	Barnstead	Locke Lake	J. Lambert
11/20	65	Moultonborough	Lake Kanasatka	M. Suomala
11/21	45	Harrisville	Skatutakee Lake	P. Brown
11/24	33	Swanzy	Swanzy Lake	L. Tanino, P. Davenport, D. Zeh
11/28	34	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	L. Tanino
11/30	99	Laconia	Lake Winnisquam	E. Masterson
11/30	250	Moultonborough	Lake Kanasatka	E. Masterson
Red-breasted Merganser				
8/2	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. & J. Mirick, L. Medlock, B. Griffith
10/17	26	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. & J. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Red-breasted Merganser—continued				
10/26	1	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	E. Masterson
11/8	20	Greenland	Great Bay	S. & J. Mirick
11/25	70	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
11/30	1	Laconia	Paugus Bay	E. Masterson
Ruddy Duck				
9/19	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	T. Bronson
10/25	20	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	M. Suomala, NHA FT
10/31	3	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	
11/11	18	Kingston	Powwow Pond	L. Medlock
11/12	5	Newton	Country Pond	T. Bronson
11/21	13	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Young
11/26	3	Manchester	Lake Massabesic	E. Masterson
Duck sp.				
8/20	1093	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick

Grouse through Cormorants

Red-throated Loons and Common Loons are well known for their large coastal migrations in the fall; however, this is rarely seen, or at least rarely documented in New Hampshire. This fall, over 2,000 loons, of which nearly 1,200 were Red-throated Loons and 800 were Common, were counted moving south along the coast. Over 1,000 of these were counted over the weekend of October 18–19.

Generally regarded as a warm water species, **Cory's Shearwaters** occurred in large numbers in the colder ocean waters north of Cape Cod during 2008 and record numbers wandered northward into New Hampshire and Maine. While the 17 reported on August 9 may represent a record high count for New Hampshire, several hundred were reported a short distance to the south on Stellwagen Bank off the coast of Massachusetts. Jon Woolf and the Massabesic Audubon Center organized an all-day pelagic trip on September 11. It traveled offshore through Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine waters and was very successful with halcyon seas and a good variety of sea birds (see page 63). From shore, a remarkable total of 15 Manx Shearwaters was seen flying past Seabrook Beach on August 6 and ranks as one of the highest shore-based totals observed in New Hampshire.



Cory's Shearwater taking off, by Leonard Medlock, 9/11/08, at sea on Jeffreys Ledge.

For the fourth fall in a row, birders carefully counted migrating cormorants along the coast. All of the coastal reports in the listing represent migrating birds only. Formerly only recorded along the immediate coast, Great Cormorants are now seen inland each fall. This year one was seen in Auburn and another in Laconia.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Spruce Grouse				
9/10	1	Sargents Purchase	Mount Isolation	B. & D. Hanaway, S. & P. Boulter
Red-throated Loon				
8/3	1		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
10/18	298		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
10/19	488		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
10/25	1	Moultonborough	Squam Lake	T. Vazzano
10/26	263		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
11/12	1	Auburn	Lake Massabesic, Clairs Landing	K. Reid
11/30	21	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. & J. Mirick
Common Loon				
9/18	136	Rye	Concord Point	S. & J. Mirick
9/19	78		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
9/30	62		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
10/17	228	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. & J. Mirick
10/18	236		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
Pied-billed Grebe				
9/5	10	Brentwood	Deer Hill WMA	T. Bronson
10/4	8	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	L. Tanino
10/11	4	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	E. Masterson
10/23	15	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick
11/11	21	Kingston	Powwow Pond	L. Medlock
11/19	20	Kingston	Powwow Pond	W. Trested, D. Skillman
11/29	3	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	L. Tanino
Horned Grebe				
8/3	1		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
10/29	5	Greenland	Great Bay	T. Bronson
11/9	3	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson
11/12	9	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	R. Quinn, G. & A. Robbins
Red-necked Grebe				
8/7	2		NH coast	S. Mirick
10/11	1	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson
10/26	1	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	E. Masterson
10/26	1	Dublin	Dublin Lake	P. Brown, L. Tanino, K. Klapper, C. Wood, M. & N. Briggs
10/26	1	Newton	Country Pond	L. Medlock
11/7	1	Swanzy	Wilson Pond	K. Klapper
11/29	2	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	L. Tanino
11/30	3	Laconia	Lake Winnisquam	E. Masterson
Northern Fulmar				
10/1	1	Offshore Waters	e. of Isles of Shoals	P. Reynolds

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Cory's Shearwater				
8/4	15	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson
8/9	17	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	D. Abbott, D. Donsker, M. Resch
8/18	2	Offshore Waters	10-14 miles e. of Isles of Shoals	T. Bronson
9/5	2	Offshore Waters		J. Woolf
9/11	14	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, Massabesic Audubon Center FT
9/13	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	M. Iliff
9/21	1	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	S. & J. Mirick
10/5	1	Offshore Waters	off Seabrook coast	L. Kras
10/10	1	Offshore Waters	e. of Isles of Shoals	T. Bronson
Greater Shearwater				
8/4	6	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson
8/9	5	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick
8/9	8	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	D. Donsker, D. Abbott, M. Resch
8/10	4	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson
9/5	2	Offshore Waters		J. Woolf
9/11	3	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, Massabesic Audubon Ctr. FT
10/10	1	Offshore Waters	s.e. of Isles of Shoals	T. Bronson
Sooty Shearwater				
8/4	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson
Manx Shearwater				
8/3	1		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
8/4	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	E. Masterson
8/6	15	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
9/11	1	Offshore Waters	15-20 miles offshore	T. Bronson, et al.
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				
8/4	160	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson
8/7	44		NH coast	S. Mirick
8/8	63	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	G. & A. Robbins
8/9	43	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick
8/10	145	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson
Northern Gannet				
8/6	158	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
8/7	217		NH coast	S. Mirick
10/16	379		NH coast	S. Mirick
10/18	175	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. & J. Mirick
10/26	131		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
11/16	159		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
Double-crested Cormorant				
8/9	221		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
9/19	1043		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
9/30	1770		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
10/1	2742		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
10/14	1312		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
10/15	1423	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	L. Medlock

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
10/18	4118		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
10/19	982		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
11/22	1	Walpole	Connecticut River	E. Masterson
Great Cormorant				
8/20	2	Rye	s. of Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. Mirick
8/29	1	Exeter	Phillips Exeter Academy boathouse	D. Finch
10/26	1	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	E. Masterson
11/21	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	H. Chary
11/23	37		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
11/26	1	Greenland	Great Bay	T. Bronson
11/30	1	Laconia	Lake Winnisquam	E. Masterson

Herons through Cranes

Forty-three Great Blue Herons were counted migrating south on September 30 and this includes a high-flying flock of 14 birds soaring south along the coast just after dawn. Great Egrets continue to increase in New Hampshire and 121 were counted on August 31 from Seabrook at dawn as they flew north from a roost site in Salisbury, MA. Black-crowned Night Herons were remarkably common in Hampton Harbor during August and September and were found roosting nearby in Hampton. They were joined on September 29 by two rare **Yellow-crowned Night Herons** in juvenile plumage.

Black Vultures continue to expand their range northward and the species is now being seen on an annual basis in New Hampshire, primarily in spring and early summer. For the first time, there were two fall reports, both of single birds and both from southern parts of the state in Keene and Nashua.

The absolutely incredible story of nesting **Mississippi Kites** in Newmarket became even more mind boggling with the discovery of second nest in Newmarket on September 2! Both nests successfully fledged a single chick. Prior to 2008, there were no photographic records of this species for the state and no known nesting locations for this species north of Virginia and east of Ohio! For full details see the Summer 2008 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*.

As usual, hawk migration reached its peak in mid-September with the highest Broad-winged Hawk counts coming on September 17 and 18. We received many reports of several raptor species and only a few could be included. Generally speaking, Bald Eagle, Osprey, Cooper's Hawks, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon reports continue to increase while American Kestrel reports continue to drop.



Mississippi Kite adult and juvenile, by Jason Lambert, 9/4/08, Newmarket, NH.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
American Bittern				
9/30	1	Seabrook	Cross Beach Road	S. & J. Mirick
10/18	1	Hampton	Island Path	J. O'Shaughnessy
10/18	1	Seabrook	Cross Beach Road	J. O'Shaughnessy
10/24	1	Hampton		S. Mirick
11/15	1	Hampton	Little Jack's Restaurant	S. & J. Mirick
Great Blue Heron				
8/20	31	Newmarket	Great Bay	S. Mirick
9/6	48		Great Bay	T. Bronson
9/30	43		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
Great Egret				
8/6	1	Concord	Rt. 393 marsh by Merrimack R.	R. Suomala
8/8	1	Concord	Contoocook River	L. Deming
8/9	62		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
8/11	3	Charlestown	Connecticut River	L. Tanino
8/31	121	Seabrook	Rt. 286 marsh	S. & J. Mirick
9/2	1	Tilton	Rts. 140 & 11	D. Stavros
9/7	1	Concord	pond behind Wal-Mart	D. Stahre
9/13	95	Hampton	Hampton marshes	M. Iiff
10/4	1	Merrimack	Horseshoe Pond	C. Sheridan
10/29	6	Rye	marsh s. of Rye Harbor	E. Masterson
Snowy Egret				
8/2	41		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick, L. Medlock, B. Griffith
8/17	60		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
9/12	18		NH coast	T. Bronson
10/8	4	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	T. Bronson
10/13	1		NH coast	S. Mirick
Little Blue Heron				
8/25	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. Engstrom
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
8/2	18	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick, L. Medlock, B. Griffith
8/2	4	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. Young
8/7	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	E. Masterson
8/12	1	Chatham	Upper Kimball Pond	K. Crowley, J. Atkins
8/27	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
8/31	22		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
9/29	13	Hampton	Island Path	S. & J. Mirick
10/17	3	Hampton	Island Path	J. O'Shaughnessy
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				
9/29	2	Hampton	Island Path	S. & J. Mirick
9/30	1	Hampton	Glade Path	T. Bronson
Glossy Ibis				
8/19	1	Portsmouth	Lafayette Rd. & Andrew Jarvis Dr.	M. Modern
Black Vulture				
8/31	1	Keene	Court St. north end	L. Tanino
10/25	1	Nashua	Westgate Crossing	C. Sheridan

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Turkey Vulture				
8/12	1	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
8/13	1	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
8/13	1	Pittsburg	Young's Store	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
9/18	64	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
10/6	47	Laconia	Lakeport Square	H. Anderson
10/25	35	Nashua	Westgate Crossing & Lovewell Pond	C. Sheridan
11/16	7	Exeter	Front St.	R. Aaronian
11/27	8	Newmarket	Packers Falls Rd.	M. Mongeon
Osprey				
9/1	6	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. & J. Mirick
9/17	9	Nelson	Apple Hill Road	P. Brown
9/18	23	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock	I. MacLeod, J. Tilden, D. & L. Stokes, et al.
10/4	9		NH coast	S. Mirick, Seacoast CFT
11/2	1	Strafford	Bow Lake	C. Farwell
11/8	1	Milford	Fish Hatchery, N. River Rd.	C. Sheridan
11/9	1	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	L. Tanino, P. Davenport, M. Briggs
Mississippi Kite				
8/9	4	Newmarket	Rt. 152	R. Frechette, S. Spangenberg, F. Doyle
9/1	5	Newmarket	South Main St. & Bay Road	S. & J. Mirick
9/7	6	Newmarket		S. & J. Mirick, et al.
9/9	1	Newmarket	Gonet Drive	M. Suomala
Bald Eagle				
9/18	10	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock	I. MacLeod, J. Tilden, D. & L. Stokes, et al.
11/19	5	Dummer	Hill Road & Pontoook Reservoir	K. Dube
11/22	5		Connecticut R., Cheshire & Sullivan Counties	L. Tanino, K. Yard
Northern Harrier				
8/3	1		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
8/17	1	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	S. & J. Mirick
8/18	1	Freedom	Freedom town forest	G. & A. Robbins
11/29	1	Greenland	Newington Road	S. & J. Mirick
11/30	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
Sharp-shinned Hawk				
9/18	60	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock	I. MacLeod, J. Tilden, D. & L. Stokes, et al.
10/10	20	Temple	Pack Monadnock	L. Tanino
10/12	23	Freedom	Freedom town forest	G. & A. Robbins
10/13	76	Ashland	Sanborn Road	I. MacLeod
Red-shouldered Hawk				
10/13	3	Ashland	Sanborn Road	I. MacLeod
11/2	6	Stoddard	Pitcher Mountain	L. Tanino
Broad-winged Hawk				
9/17	365	Chichester		J. Lambert
9/17	300	Conway	East Conway Rd. fields	T. Vazzano, B. Crowley

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Broad-winged Hawk—continued				
9/17	491	Nelson	Apple Hill Road	P. Brown
9/18	2424	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock	I. MacLeod, J. Tilden, D. & L. Stokes, et al.
Red-tailed Hawk				
10/31	15	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock	L. Tanino, J. Tilden, K. Yard
11/4	10	Stoddard	Pitcher Mountain	L. Tanino, R. Quinn
11/12	15	Stoddard	Pitcher Mountain	L. Tanino
11/17	14		Connecticut R., Cheshire & Sullivan Counties	L. Tanino, K. Yard
Rough-legged Hawk				
11/19	1	Rye	Awcomin Marsh	J. Woolf
11/21	1	Hampton	Rt. 101	J. O'Shaughnessy
Golden Eagle				
10/24	1	Durham	Fogg Drive	K. Dorsey
10/31	2	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock	L. Tanino, J. Tilden, K. Yard
11/2	1	Stoddard	Pitcher Mountain	L. Tanino
11/16	1	Ashland	Sanborn Road	I. MacLeod
American Kestrel				
8/9	5	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	R. Frechette, S. Spangenberg, F. Doyle
8/29	3	Tamworth	Mt. Chocorua	B. Wauchope
9/18	8	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock	I. MacLeod, J. Tilden, D. & L. Stokes, et al.
9/19	3	Stoddard	Pitcher Mountain	L. Tanino
10/10	9	Temple	Pack Monadnock	L. Tanino
Merlin				
8/6	1	Concord	Huntington Street	S. Brand
8/10	3	Errol	just n. of Rt. 16 & 26 jct.	G. Gavutis Jr.
8/13	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	E. Masterson
8/13	1	Portsmouth	near Maplewood Ave.	K. Dorsey
9/19	6		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
11/29	1	Hampton	King's Highway	S. & J. Mirick
Peregrine Falcon				
9/29	4		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
10/1	7		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
10/4	4		NH coast	S. Mirick, Seacoast CFT

Shorebirds through Jaegers

The fall season included reports of an astounding total of 33 species of shorebirds. Although there were no major rarities, reports of Marbled Godwit, multiple Baird's and Buff-breasted Sandpipers, and all three phalarope species can hardly be considered common! Red and Red-necked Phalaropes are generally pelagic in migration; however, this fall there were four separate inland reports, including a more unusual Red Phalarope in Exeter on September 19.

A Willet of the western subspecies was reported from Hampton on August 9. Rarely reported north of Massachusetts, this taxon may represent a distinct species, according to some experts. A Whimbrel seen “catching grasshoppers and eating blueberries” on the summit of Pack Monadnock takes the honors for the most out-of-place shorebird for the fall. Late shorebirds included a record late Stilt Sandpiper that lingered until November 15 and was likely the first November record for this species in the state and one of the latest records for New England.

The Rochester wastewater treatment plant continues to shine as the premier gull-watching spot in New Hampshire and one of the finest in New England. This fall, a total of nine species of gulls were reported including a rare inland sighting of a Laughing Gull and also a **Thayer’s Gull**, only the second state record in over 20 years.



Thayer’s Gull at Rochester wastewater treatment plant, by Steve Mirick, 11/24/08, NH.

Not many kittiwakes were reported this fall; however, one was seen off Seabrook Beach on the early date of August 6. More remarkable was the fact that this well-seen bird was a juvenile, in plumage rarely encountered in the fall. Large numbers of Bonaparte’s Gulls were seen along the coast in early August, but inland sightings are more unusual, and the 15 reported in Pittsburg on August 10 were noteworthy.

Most Arctic Terns are thought to migrate well offshore and leave the region by late August to begin their long migration to the Antarctic. Therefore, an Arctic Tern photographed in Hampton Harbor on September 30 was an extremely rare find. Perhaps more unusual was the abundance of Forster’s Terns that congregated in Hampton Harbor during September and October. Rarely more than one or two are reported in any given fall; therefore, the total of up to 37 is remarkable. Strangely, they seemed to prefer resting (and defecating) on one specific boat in the harbor, most likely to the ire of the boat owner! At least two **Royal Terns** were reported during the fall season with one bird reported offshore and another one or two birds seen along the coast. Normally a very rare southern species in the state, there appears to be a significant increase in records for New Hampshire over the last 10 to 20 years.

A migration of 48 **Caspian Terns** was witnessed along the coast on October 1 during a sea watch. This may rank as the highest daily total ever recorded in New England. For more on this event, see the article on page 55.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Virginia Rail				
8/2	1		Squamscott River	S. McGrath, S. Sellers
8/8	2	Newington	Mott’s Pond	J. Richardson
8/30	1	Hopkinton	Chase WS	R. Woodward
9/20	1	Rye	Odiome Point St. Pk.	S. Mirick, et al.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Virginia Rail—continued				
10/4	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. Mirick, Seacoast CFT
11/1	1	Concord	Post Office fields	M. Suomala
Common Moorhen				
10/1	1	Rye	Eel Pond	S. & J. Mirick
American Coot				
10/10	2	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick
10/24	15	Kingston	Powwow Pond	T. Bronson
10/31	25	Kingston	Powwow Pond	T. Bronson
11/11	31	Kingston	Powwow Pond	L. Medlock
11/19	38	Kingston	Powwow Pond	W. Trested, D. Skillman
11/30	2	Exeter	Powder House Pond	L. Medlock
				
<p><i>Sandhill Crane</i> by John R. Williams, 10/18/08, Plains Rd., Monroe, NH.</p>				
Sandhill Crane				
10/18	1	Monroe	Plains Road	J. Williams, Pemigewasset CFT
11/18	1	Monroe	Plains Road	T. Bronson
Black-bellied Plover				
8/16	50	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	R. Suomala
9/29	120	Hampton	Hampton marshes	S. & J. Mirick
10/25	127		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
11/15	36		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
American Golden-Plover				
9/9	4	Swanzy	Dillant-Hopkins Airport	L. Tanino
9/10	1	N. Hampton	Little River saltmarsh	E. Masterson
9/13	2	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
9/21	1	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, NHA FT
10/2	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	K. Dorsey
10/13	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
Semipalmated Plover				
8/4	500	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	E. Masterson
8/9	1085		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
8/30	559		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
9/13	568	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	T. Bronson
9/22	300	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	T. Bronson, L. Medlock
11/8	9	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. & J. Mirick
Piping Plover				
Aug.	5	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Niziolek
Killdeer				
9/1	48	Epping	Martin Road	T. Bronson
9/29	120	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	T. Bronson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
10/4	54	Concord	Vineyards condos, Bog Rd., Penacook	P. Hunt
10/11	30	Westmoreland	Chickering Farm	E. Masterson
11/8	19	N. Hampton	Runnymede Horse Farm	S.& J. Mirick
11/21	3	N. Hampton	Runnymede Horse Farm	J. O'Shaughnessy
11/30	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
Spotted Sandpiper				
8/2	9		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick, L. Medlock, B. Griffith
8/20	12	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
10/9	1	Concord	Contoocook Island, Penacook	P. Hunt
10/29	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	P. Brown
11/1	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	L. Kras
Solitary Sandpiper				
8/9	2	Pittsburg	Day Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
9/5	3	Brentwood	Deer Hill WMA	T. Bronson
9/13	8	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
9/21	3	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	K. Dorsey
10/6	1	Kingston	Powwow Pond	L. Medlock
Greater Yellowlegs				
8/9	2	Pittsburg	Day Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
9/10	205	Hampton	Meadow Pond	E. Masterson
9/13	157		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
10/24	1	Nashua	Lovewell Pond	C. Sheridan
11/7	1	Swanzy	Wilson Pond	K. Klapper
11/8	10	Greenland	Great Bay	S.& J. Mirick
11/9	22	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	S.& J. Mirick
11/9	1	Swanzy	Wilson Pond	P. Davenport
11/15	4		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
Willet				
8/2	7	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	S.& J. Mirick, L. Medlock, B. Griffith
9/1	1	Hampton	Plaice Cove rocks	S.& J. Mirick
Willet - Western subsp.				
8/9	1	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	S.& J. Mirick
Lesser Yellowlegs				
8/17	35	N. Hampton	Little River saltmarsh	S.& J. Mirick
8/24	30	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S.& J. Mirick
8/29	1	Charlestown	wastewater treatment plant	L. Tanino
8/30	40	N. Hampton	Little River saltmarsh	E. Masterson
9/10	50	Hampton	Meadow Pond	E. Masterson
10/1	9	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. Young
10/9	4	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick
Upland Sandpiper				
8/8	6	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	G.& A. Robbins
8/9	9	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	R. Frechette, S. Spangenberg, F. Doyle
9/1	8	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	S.& J. Mirick
9/7	3	Portsmouth	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	L. Medlock, J. O'Shaughnessy, et al.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Whimbrel				
8/1	4	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	L. Medlock
8/17	1	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock summit	G. Coffey
9/13	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	M. Iliff
9/21	1	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, NHA FT
Hudsonian Godwit				
8/2	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	L. Medlock, S.& J. Mirick, B. Griffith
8/16	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	R. Suomala
10/4	1	Hampton	Hampton marshes	S. Mirick, Seacoast CFT
10/7	1	Seabrook	boat ramp	L. Medlock
<i>Marbled Godwit by Steve Mirick, 9/21/08, Plaice Cove, Hampton, NH.</i>				
Marbled Godwit				
9/21	1	Hampton	Plaice Cove rocks	S. Mirick, et al.
Ruddy Turnstone				
8/2	30	Rye	Seal Rocks s. to Foss Beach	L. Medlock, S.& J. Mirick, B. Griffith
8/15	46	Rye	Foss Beach	S. Mirick
8/30	43		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
Red Knot				
8/9	3	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	S.& J. Mirick
9/13	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	L. Medlock, S.& J. Mirick
9/13	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	T. Bronson, M. Iliff
Sanderling				
8/9	108		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
8/30	150		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
9/10	100	Rye	Jeness Beach	E. Masterson
9/29	277		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
10/13	104	Hampton	Hampton Beach & Plaice Cove	T. Bronson
11/26	30	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	T. Bronson
Semipalmated Sandpiper				
8/3	1202		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
8/4	1000	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	E. Masterson
9/13	521	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	T. Bronson, M. Iliff
11/8	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S.& J. Mirick
11/15	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S.& J. Mirick
Western Sandpiper				
8/30	1	Rye	s. of Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S.& J. Mirick
9/1	1	Hampton	Plaice Cove rocks	S.& J. Mirick
9/6	1	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	S.& J. Mirick
9/7	1	Hampton	Plaice Cove rocks	L. Medlock, J. O'Shaughnessy, S.& J. Mirick
9/13	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	T. Bronson, M. Iliff



<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Least Sandpiper				
8/4	50	Hampton	Hampton marshes	S. Mirick
8/12	2	Pittsburg	Metallak Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
8/16	30	Rye	Awcomin Marsh	R. Suomala
8/30	49		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
9/6	5	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Hubbard
9/13	2	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
9/27	2		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
10/1	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. Young
White-rumped Sandpiper				
8/30	21	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
9/13	16	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
9/29	12	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
10/22	10	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	E. Masterson
10/25	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	M. Suomala, NHA workshop
11/8	10		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
11/13	1	Hampton	Plaice Cove	A. Budington
Baird's Sandpiper				
8/30	3	Hampton	Hampton Beach	S. & J. Mirick
8/31	1		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
9/13	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. & J. Mirick
9/18	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. & J. Mirick
9/21	1	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	P. Chamberlin
10/6	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	L. Medlock
Pectoral Sandpiper				
8/9	1		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
8/30	1	N. Hampton	Little River saltmarsh	E. Masterson
9/10	7	N. Hampton	Little River saltmarsh	E. Masterson
9/13	12	N. Hampton	Little River saltmarsh	S. & J. Mirick
10/1	2	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. Young
10/11	2	Westmoreland	Chickering Farm	E. Masterson
10/24	4	Hampton	Hampton marshes	S. Mirick
11/2	3	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	S. Young
11/9	1	Westmoreland	Chickering Farm	E. Masterson
Purple Sandpiper				
10/26	2	Rye	Ragged Neck	S. & J. Mirick
11/12	2	Hampton	Plaice Cove	R. Quinn, G. & A. Robbins
11/23	34	Rye	near Concord Point	S. & J. Mirick
11/27	24	Hampton	Great Boars Head	J. O'Shaughnessy
11/28	47	Rye	Concord Point	S. & J. Mirick
Dunlin				
8/9	1		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
9/29	18		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
10/4	100	Hampton	Hampton marshes	S. Mirick, Seacoast CFT
10/25	210		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
11/12	200	Hampton	Plaice Cove	R. Quinn, G. & A. Robbins
11/26	200	Hampton	Plaice Cove	L. Medlock

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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Stilt Sandpiper

9/10	3	Hampton	Meadow Pond	E. Masterson
9/10	2	N. Hampton	Little River saltmarsh	E. Masterson
9/28	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	K. Dorsey
10/2	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. & J. Mirick
10/5	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	D. Hubbard
11/14	1	Hampton	Landing Road	T. Bronson
11/15	1	Hampton	Landing Road pools	S. & J. Mirick

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

9/7	1	Hampton	Plaice Cove rocks	L. Medlock, J. O'Shaughnessy, S. & J. Mirick
9/7	6	Portsmouth	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	L. Medlock, J. O'Shaughnessy, et al.
9/13	1	Hampton	Plaice Cove rocks	S. & J. Mirick

Short-billed Dowitcher

9/13	32		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
9/19	43	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
10/19	1	Hampton	Hampton marshes	S. & J. Mirick, L. Medlock, J. Lambert
10/25	1	Hampton	Plaice Cove rocks	S. & J. Mirick

Wilson's Snipe

9/29	2	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	T. Bronson, K. Dorsey
10/1	2	Brentwood	Deer Hill WMA	G. Gavutis Jr.
10/29	10	E. Kingston	Rt. 108 & Sanborn Rd. fields	G. Gavutis Jr.
11/9	1	Westmoreland	Chickering Farm	E. Masterson
11/13	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	H. Nevers

American Woodcock

11/26	1	E. Kingston	wooded area	M. Bott
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Wilson's Phalarope

8/17	1	N. Hampton	Little River saltmarsh	S. & J. Mirick
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Red-necked Phalarope

8/7	1	Effingham	residence	J. & B. Augenti
8/10	1	N. Hampton	Little River saltmarsh	E. Masterson
8/19	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	M. Reeve
8/31	3	Moultonborough	Squam Lake near Long Island	R. Ridgely, J. Loomis
9/11	18	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, Massabesic Audubon Center FT
9/13	1	Offshore Waters		M. Iiff
9/21	1	Offshore Waters	5 miles e. of Seabrook Nuclear Plant	J. Sutherland



Red Phalarope at Exeter Wastewater Treatment Plant, by Leonard Medlock, 9/19/08, Exeter, NH.

Red Phalarope

9/19	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	T. Bronson, L. Medlock
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<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Phalarope sp.				
9/11	4	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, Massabesic Audubon Center FT
Black-legged Kittiwake				
8/6	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
9/28	1	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	P. Brown, L. Tanino
Bonaparte's Gull				
8/9	306		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
8/10	15	Pittsburg	Camp Otter Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
9/10	360	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	E. Masterson
9/25	1	Errol	Lake Umbagog	R. Quinn, H. Nevers, M. Farmer, M. McLane
10/1	375		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
10/26	2	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	E. Masterson
11/15	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. & J. Mirick
11/26	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Young
Little Gull				
8/7	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
9/18	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor inlet	S. & J. Mirick
10/3	1	Portsmouth	Portsmouth Harbor	E. Masterson
Laughing Gull				
8/2	12		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick, L. Medlock, B. Griffith
9/6	10	Rye	Ragged Neck	S. & J. Mirick
9/24	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	T. Bronson
9/29	9		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
10/26	3		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
10/29	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Hubbard
Ring-billed Gull				
8/10	14	Pittsburg	First Connecticut Lake boat landing	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
10/7	410	Manchester	Lake Massabesic	E. Masterson
11/18	115	Littleton	Moore Reservoir	T. Bronson
11/26	200	Manchester	Lake Massabesic	E. Masterson
11/26	175	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant & Pickering Ponds	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard, B. Griffith
Herring Gull				
11/26	3300	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant & Pickering Ponds	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard, B. Griffith
Herring X Glaucous gull hybrid				
11/26	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	B. Griffith
Thayer's Gull				
11/24	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	B. Griffith, S. Mirick
Iceland Gull				
10/21	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
10/25	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Hubbard
11/8	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	S. & J. Mirick
11/13	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Hubbard

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Iceland Gull—continued				
11/26	6	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant & Pickering Ponds	B. Griffith, T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
11/30	2	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	P. Benham
Lesser Black-backed Gull				
8/7	1	Dover	Strafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
8/29	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Hubbard
8/30	1	Rye	Jeness Beach	L. Medlock, E. Masterson
8/30	1	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson
8/30	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
8/31	1	Rye	Seavey Creek at Rt. 1A	S. & J. Mirick
9/14	5	Rye	NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
9/27	2	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. & J. Mirick
11/15	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	S. & J. Mirick
11/26	6	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant & Pickering Ponds	B. Griffith, T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
Glaucous Gull				
11/13	1	Rye	Jeness Beach	D. Abbott
11/23	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
11/24	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	B. Griffith, S. Mirick
11/25	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	T. Bronson
11/25	2	Rye	coves s. of Odiorne Point St. Pk.	T. Bronson
11/28	1	Hampton	North Beach	S. & J. Mirick
11/30	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	P. Benham
Great Black-backed Gull				
11/26	525	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant & Pickering Ponds	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard, B. Griffith
Least Tern				
8/9	1	Seabrook	Rt. 286 marsh	S. & J. Mirick
8/10	2	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson
Caspian Tern				
9/12	3	N. Hampton	N. Hampton St. Beach	A. Pike
9/18	2	Rye	Concord Point	S. & J. Mirick
9/19	3		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
9/19	2	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	T. Bronson, S. & J. Mirick
9/30	3	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
10/1	48		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
10/1	18	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	T. Bronson
10/9	2	Hampton	Plaice Cove rocks	S. Mirick
10/14	3		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
Black Tern				
8/9	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick
8/19	1	Peterborough	Edward MacDowell Lake	K. Klapper
9/2	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	L. Medlock, J. O'Shaughnessy
9/6	2	Rye	Ragged Neck	S. & J. Mirick
Roseate Tern				
8/7	16	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
8/9	19	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
8/16	28	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	R. Suomala
9/1	2	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	L. Medlock

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Common Tern				
8/10	1	Pittsburg	Metallak Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
8/10	80	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
9/2	60	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	T. Bronson
9/11	2	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, Massabesic Audubon Center FT
9/13	12	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor area	S. & J. Mirick
9/19	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
9/29	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
Arctic Tern				
9/30	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick



*Forster's Tern in winter plumage,
by Leonard Medlock, 9/1/08,
Hampton Harbor, Hampton, NH.*

Forster's Tern

8/1	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	L. Medlock, B. Griffith
8/30	3	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	E. Masterson
9/13	19	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	M. Iliff
9/17	14	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	L. Medlock
9/19	37	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
10/1	24	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	T. Bronson
10/22	15	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	E. Masterson
10/29	4	Hampton		E. Masterson

Royal Tern

8/2	1	Rye	Concord Pt., Wallis Sands Beach	L. Medlock, S. & J. Mirick, B. Griffith
8/9	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	D. Donsker, D. Abbott, M. Resch
8/9	1	Rye	Seavey Creek at Rt. 1A	R. Frechette, S. Spangenberg, F. Doyle

Parasitic Jaeger

9/28	1	Hampton	Great Boars Head	P. Brown, L. Tanino
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Jaeger sp.

9/11	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, Massabesic Audubon Center FT
9/21	1	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, NHA FT
9/21	1	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	S. Mirick

Alcids through Raven

It was an odd season for alcids: the normally common Razorbill went unrecorded, while there were rare fall sightings of Atlantic Puffin, Thick-billed Murre, and Dovekie! Two juvenile Black Guillemots were spotted along the coast in August with one inside Rye Harbor and another inside Little Harbor. This raises more questions as to whether they may have nested nearby along the New Hampshire or southern Maine coastline where they have not yet been discovered breeding.

A total of 16 Black-billed Cuckoos were reported for the fall with a late bird seen on October 2 in Concord. Owl reports included at least six Snowy Owls that staged a modest incursion during the fall. Particularly noteworthy was a bird seen at 5,500' elevation along the Mt. Washington Auto Road near the Cow Pasture on November 5.

A modest number of Northern Saw-whet Owls were also reported, including one unusual report from August of an owl on a commercial fishing boat approximately 32 miles off the coast of Hampton. The bird reportedly circled the boat a few times and then landed. After the boat returned to shore, the young bird was brought to the Center for Wildlife in York, Maine, where it was examined, given a few meals, and then released!

Thanks to increased effort by several birders nice flights of Common Nighthawks were recorded migrating south through Concord and Keene in mid to late August. A hatch of flying ants was a target for large numbers of feeding Chimney Swifts and Common Nighthawks that balled up in huge groups along the Connecticut River on August 13.

A male Rufous Hummingbird was reported for only three days at a feeder in Antrim; however, a second male Rufous in Plaistow stayed for two months and was seen by scores of birders. A large group of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds coming to a feeder in Monroe on August 16 was noteworthy not only for its size, but also because it included an albino bird!



*Male Common Nighthawk in flight,
by Scott Young, 8/27/08,
Pickering Ponds, Rochester, NH.*



*Female Common Nighthawk in flight,
by Scott Young, 8/27/08,
Pickering Ponds, Rochester, NH.*

Red-bellied Woodpeckers continue to expand northward into the state with a total of 125 birds reported for the fall. Although this likely reflects some duplicate reports, it nevertheless is the highest fall total ever reported. The two northernmost reports came from Freedom and Sandwich.

Flycatcher highlights included a **Western Kingbird** in Penacook and a flycatcher identified as being in the *Myiarchus* genus from Rochester on November 13. At this date, the likely species would be Ash-throated Flycatcher, for which there are only three or four prior records for the state. There were 12 reports of Olive-sided Flycatcher for the fall, with all records coming from August. For the second fall in a row, one or more White-eyed Vireos were recorded from Odiorne Point State Park in Rye. Many participants on a New Hampshire Audubon field trip enjoyed seeing one on October 4.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Dovekie				
10/29	1	Rye	townline cove	E. Masterson
Thick-billed Murre				
11/25	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick



Juvenile Black Guillemot by Leonard Medlock, 8/2/08, off Fort Stark, New Castle, NH.

Black Guillemot				
8/2	1	New Castle	Fort Stark	L. Medlock, S.& J. Mirick, B. Griffith
8/9	1	Rye	Rye Harbor	S.& J. Mirick
10/25	6	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S.& J. Mirick
Atlantic Puffin				
10/1	1	Offshore Waters	e. of Isles of Shoals	P. Reynolds
10/5	1	Offshore Waters	near Old Scantum Bank	P. Reynolds, B. Bouchet
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				
8/3	1	Amherst	Horace Greeley Rd.	S. Spangenberg
8/8	1	Strafford	Pig Lane	S. Young
8/23	1	Farmington	Blue Job State Forest	S. Young
9/4	1	Sunapee	Great Island	J. Block
9/6	1	Barnstead	residence	J. Lambert
9/9	1	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
9/22	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
10/12	1	Concord	Penacook wastewater treatment plant	P. Hunt
Black-billed Cuckoo				
10/2	1	Concord	Silk Farm WS	T. Bronson, R. Suomala, C. Martin
Eastern Screech-Owl				
10/4	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. Mirick, Seacoast CFT
10/9	1	Keene	Horatio Colony Nature Preserve	B. Miller
10/21	1	Exeter	Park Street playground	L. Medlock

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Snowy Owl				
11/2	1	Rye	Ragged Neck	S. & J. Mirick, BBC FT
11/5	1	T&M Purchase	Mt. Washington near Cow Pasture, 5500'	S. Welsh
11/10	1	Hampton Falls	Crank Road	S. Carlson
11/16	1	Marlborough	Stone Pond Rd. & Frost Hill Rd.	H. Switzer
11/24	1	Walpole	s. River Road	B. Caruthers
11/26	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	L. Medlock
Short-eared Owl				
10/3	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	E. Masterson
Northern Saw-whet Owl				
8/16	2	Wentworths Location	Rt. 16	C. Sheridan
8/10	1	Offshore Waters	32 miles offshore	York Center for Wildlife
9/3	1	Durham	Fogg Drive	K. Dorsey
9/13	1	Dublin	Charcoal Road	T. Warren
10/10	2	Rumney	residence	J. Williams
11/4	3	Keene	Beech Hill Preserve	C. Volonte, C. Seifer, L. Tanino
11/7	1	Nelson	backyard	P. Brown
11/7	1	Walpole	residence	A. Johnson
11/28	1	Westmoreland	Maplewood nature & river trail	C. Volonte, L. Tanino
Common Nighthawk				
8/13	21	Walpole	Malnati Farm, Route 12	L. Tanino
8/13	11	Westmoreland	Stuart & John's Sugar House, Rt. 63	L. Tanino
8/14	40	Concord	Pembroke Road area	G. Page
8/17	211	Keene	Court St. north end	L. Tanino
8/21	219	Keene	Court St. north end	L. Tanino
8/22	117	Keene	Court St. north end	L. Tanino
8/27	167	Concord	legislative parking garage	R. Woodward
8/28	55	Andover	Proctor Academy	A. McIntyre
8/28	75	Concord	legislative parking garage	R. Woodward
8/28	47	Manchester	Merrimack R. at Granite St.	J. O'Shaughnessy
8/29	72	Concord	legislative parking garage	R. Woodward, et al.
8/29	233	Keene	Court St. north end	L. Tanino, K. Klapper
8/29	65	Merrimack	residence	T. Young
8/30	420	Keene	Court St. north end	L. Tanino, K. Klapper
9/4	62	New Hampton	Dana Hill Rd. e. of Rt. 93 exit 23	C. Bousquet
9/15	1	Hampton	North Beach	T. Bronson, N. Nelson
Whip-poor-will				
8/1	9	Freedom	Freedom town forest	G. & A. Robbins
8/12	4	Hopkinton	Mast Yard State Forest	P. Hunt
8/24	3	Hollis	Rocky Pond Rd., Beaver Brook Assn.	G. Coffey
Chimney Swift				
8/13	210	Walpole	Malnati Farm, Route 12	L. Tanino
8/13	300	Westmoreland	Stuart & John's Sugar House, Rt. 63	L. Tanino
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				
8/16	25	Monroe	Stanton Rd. residence	S. Turner
9/30	1	Amherst	Horace Greeley Rd.	S. Spangenberg
9/30	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	Concord Bird & Wildflower Club
10/5	1	Peterborough	residence	C. Lake

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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Rufous Hummingbird at a feeder in Plaistow, NH, by Leonard Medlock, 11/4/08.

Rufous Hummingbird

8/22	1	Antrim	Franklin Pierce Lake residence	K.& B. Pribble
mid-Oct.	1	Plaistow	Arbor Lane	S.& B. Cowan
10/31	1	Plaistow	Arbor Lane	T. Bronson, S. Mirick
11/9	1	Plaistow	Arbor Lane	S. Spangenberg, F. Doyle

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

8/12	3	Webster	Call Road	R. Quinn
8/27	5	Nelson	Moose Meadow	P. Brown
10/4	3	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/5	5	Concord	Merrill Park & Mill Stream area	R.& M. Suomala
10/12	3	Durham	residence	L. Burton

Black-backed Woodpecker

8/14	1	Pittsburg	Deer Mountain Rd., Sophie's Lane	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
8/14	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
8/28	1	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	G.& A. Robbins

Northern Flicker

9/13	19	Freedom	Freedom town forest	G.& A. Robbins
9/21	10	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, NHA FT
9/22	10	Keene	Woodland Cemetery	C. Seifer
9/22	13	Tamworth	Tall Pines Rd. residence	C.& J. Tewksbury

Eastern Wood-Pewee

8/10	10	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
10/4	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
10/4	1	Durham	Fogg Drive	K. Dorsey

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

9/10	1	Beans Grant	Mount Pierce	S. Hunter
9/21	1	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, NH Audubon FT
9/30	1	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock	J. Tilden

Least Flycatcher

8/12	7	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
8/26	5	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
9/13	4	Freedom	Freedom town forest	G.& A. Robbins
10/4	1	Rye	Odiome Point St. Pk.	S. Mirick, Seacoast CFT
10/5	1	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	S. Mirick, NHA FT

Eastern Phoebe

9/21	16	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
9/23	12	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
9/24	12	Exeter	Raynes farm, Rt. 85	P. Chamberlin
11/1	1	Durham	college woods	K. Dorsey, T. Bronson
11/2	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	S. Brand
11/21	1	N. Hampton	Rt. 1A at Fuller Road	T. Bronson, S. Young

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
11/22	1	N. Hampton	Willow Road	S.& J. Mirick
Myiarchus Flycatcher sp.				
11/13	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
Western Kingbird				
10/13	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt, R. Quinn
Eastern Kingbird				
8/1	27	Amherst	PSNH substation, Bon Terrain	C. Sheridan
8/21	18	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
Northern Shrike				
10/17	1	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
10/20	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	T. Bronson
10/25	1	Greenland	off Newington Road	S.& J. Mirick
11/11	1	Moultonborough	Sheridan Road	I. MacLeod
11/16	1	Swanzy	Dillant-Hopkins Airport	K. Klapper, M. Walter
11/18	1	Chatham	residence	R. Crowley
11/26	1	Dover	Stafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
11/27	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
White-eyed Vireo				
10/4	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. Mirick, Seacoast CFT
10/8	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	T. Bronson
10/11	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	P. Hunt
Blue-headed Vireo				
9/16	6	Sandwich	near end of Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
9/22	5	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park	R. Quinn
10/9	11	Concord	Contoocook Island, Penacook	P. Hunt
10/11	5	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
11/1	1	Keene	bike path at Ashuelot R. bridge	K. Klapper
11/1	1	Seabrook	wastewater treatment plant	S.& J. Mirick
11/2	1	Concord	Penacook wastewater treatment plant	P. Hunt
11/11	1	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
Philadelphia Vireo				
8/9	4	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
8/12	1	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
8/14	3	Pittsburg	Deer Mountain Rd., Sophie's Lane	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
8/26	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
9/2	3	Stafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
9/8	2	Sandwich	near end of Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
9/24	2	Lebanon	Mill Rd. at Mascoma River	D. Jorgensen
9/27	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S.& J. Mirick
10/10	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. Young
Red-eyed Vireo				
8/17	10	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
9/12	14	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/9	4	Rye	NH coast	S. Mirick
10/14	2	Boscawen	Boscawen Town Forest	T. Bronson
10/14	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
10/21	1	Greenland	Bayside Rd. NHF&G access	T. Bronson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
10/25	1	Rye	near Eel Pond	S. & J. Mirick
Gray Jay				
8/5	1	Jefferson	Little Cherry Pond	G. & A. Robbins
8/10	5	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
8/12	3	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
8/14	2	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
8/31	1	Pittsburg	Deer Mountain campground	P. Hunt
9/1	1	Bethlehem	Mt. Tom summit	J.R. Stockwell
9/1	1	Bethlehem	Mt. Willey summit	J.R. Stockwell
9/1	2	Pittsburg	Fourth Connecticut Lake	P. Hunt
mid-Oct.	4	Errol	Akers Pond Rd.	J. Villeneuve
Fish Crow				
8/4	2	Hampton	Hampton marshes	S. Mirick
9/1	6	Concord	Storrs St. parking garage	R. Suomala
11/1	1	Concord	Fort Eddy Plaza	M. Suomala
Common Raven				
9/17	40	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock	J. Tilden
11/12	19	Stoddard	Pitcher Mountain	L. Tanino
11/19	50	Dummer	Hill Road	K. Dube

Larks through Warblers

While several **Cave Swallows** were reported to our north and south, only a single Cave Swallow report came from the New Hampshire coast, on November 9. Several November sightings of both Tree and Barn Swallows were also noteworthy for their late dates.

Carolina Wrens also continue to do well in New Hampshire and are gradually moving northward into the state. A total of 73 birds were reported for the fall with most coming from south of the Lakes Region. For the second fall in a row, a **Sedge Wren** was reported in New Hampshire. Scott Young, who chanced upon this rare and reclusive species in Stratham on November 28, captured this one in a great photograph.

It was a great fall for warblers in New Hampshire with 32 species recorded! The reports include such rarities as **Cerulean Warbler**, two **Worm-eating Warblers**, and a **Golden-winged Warbler**. Orange-crowned Warblers are rarely reported so this fall's total of 12 birds is remarkable. It's also noteworthy that half of the reports came from inland locations, where the species is more unusual, and one of the



A very late male *Black-throated Blue Warbler*, by Steve Mirick, 11/23/08, on Little Boar's Head along Rt. 1A, North Hampton, NH.

reports included an immature male captured at a banding station in Center Harbor on October 11. Palm Warblers were also reported in large numbers for the fall with a huge flock from the Freedom Town Forest on October 14. The conservative estimate of 60 was comprised entirely of the "eastern" subspecies according to the observer.

A record late Blackpoll Warbler and a tardy Black-throated Blue Warbler shared the same front yard along Rt. 1A in North Hampton for nearly a week during the last week of November. Incredibly, during this time, these two were joined by a second Blackpoll and two Orange-crowned Warblers! Another incredible sighting was that of a male Blackpoll Warbler in breeding (alternate) plumage that was photographed in Seabrook on the extremely late date of November 23. This is especially rare since Blackpolls typically molt to their winter (basic) plumage in August. Additional late November warblers included a Black-throated Green Warbler and an American Redstart on November 1 and a Prairie Warbler that lingered until at least November 8 in Greenland.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Horned Lark				
9/21	2	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	K. Dorsey
10/25	45	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
11/9	80	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	K. Dorsey
11/9	49	Hampton	King's Highway	S. & J. Mirick
11/9	200	Westmoreland	Chickering Farm	E. Masterson
11/10	200	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
Purple Martin				
8/2	4	Effingham	Huntress Bridge Rd.	G. & A. Robbins
8/2	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
8/21	1	E. Kingston	South Road	D. Finch
Tree Swallow				
8/7	1000	Seabrook	Seabrook dunes	S. Mirick
8/17	1000	Seabrook	Rt. 286 marsh	S. & J. Mirick
8/30	1500	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson
9/3	500	Hampton	Hampton marshes behind Henry's Pool	T. Bronson
9/13	50	Hampton	Island Path	M. Iliff
11/9	4	Hampton	King's Highway	S. & J. Mirick
11/11	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	E. Masterson
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				
8/2	2	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	S. & J. Mirick, L. Medlock, B. Griffith
Bank Swallow				
9/13	6	Hampton	Island Path, Little Jack's Restaurant	M. Iliff
Cliff Swallow				
9/13	2	Hampton		M. Iliff
9/13	1	Rye	Rt. 1A	S. & J. Mirick
Cave Swallow				
11/9	1	Hampton	King's Highway	S. & J. Mirick
Barn Swallow				
8/8	105	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	G. & A. Robbins

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
9/13	15	Hampton	Island Path	M. Iliff
9/13	15	Seabrook	Rt. 286 marsh	S. & J. Mirick
9/17	3	Conway	East Conway Rd. fields	T. Vazzano, B. Crowley
11/11	3	N. Hampton	Rt. 1A at Rt. 111	T. Bronson
11/16	2	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	S. & J. Mirick
Swallow sp.				
10/29	1	Rye	cove s. of Odiorne Point St. Pk.	T. Bronson
11/9	4	Hampton	King's Highway	S. & J. Mirick
Black-capped Chickadee				
9/21	58	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
11/18	58	Albany	Kancamagus Highway	S. Mirick
11/30	55	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
11/30	72	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
Boreal Chickadee				
8/1	7	Franconia	Little Haystack Mtn.	M. Harvey, M. Stager
8/12	8	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
8/12	13	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
8/30-31	15	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	S. Brand, et al.
9/25	2	Tamworth	Mt. Chocorua	S. Mesick
10/23	1	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock	J. Tilden
11/18	2	Albany	Kancamagus Highway	S. Mirick
Red-breasted Nuthatch				
10/23	16	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
11/18	23	Albany	Kancamagus Highway	S. Mirick
House Wren				
9/24	8	Concord	Birch St. community gardens	M. Suomala
10/8	1	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Road	J. Merrill
10/13	1	Concord	River Road Christmas tree farm	P. Hunt
10/18	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
Winter Wren				
8/5	5	Jefferson	Little Cherry Pond	G. & A. Robbins
8/31	3	Pittsburg	clear cut w. of South Bay Bog	P. Hunt
11/30	1	Bethlehem	near Gale River	M. Harvey
11/30	2	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road trails	M. Suomala
Sedge Wren				
11/28	1	Stratham	Great Bay Discovery Center	S. Young
Marsh Wren				
8/2	5	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant/Squamscott R.	P. Chamberlin
9/13	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. & J. Mirick
10/4	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. Mirick, Seacoast CFT
10/12	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	S. & J. Mirick
11/15	1	Hampton	Little Jack's Restaurant	S. & J. Mirick
11/24	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
11/29	2	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	M. Suomala
11/30	1	Greenland	Great Bay Discovery Center	S. & J. Mirick
Golden-crowned Kinglet				
10/5	30	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	S. Mirick, NHA FT
10/12	9	Freedom	Freedom town forest	G. & A. Robbins

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Golden-crowned Kinglet—continued				
11/22	10	Auburn	Massabesic WS, Battery Pt. trail	C. Sheridan
11/30	10	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road	M. Harvey, B. Griffith
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
9/16	8	Sandwich	near end of Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
10/5	30	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	S. Mirick, NHA FT
10/11	15	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	P. Hunt
10/12	12	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/13	13	Concord	Contoocook Island, Penacook	P. Hunt
11/18	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				
8/2	2	Concord	Horseshoe Pond railroad tracks	R. Woodward
8/17	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
9/4	1	Durham	Fogg Drive	K. Dorsey
9/7	2	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	R. Suomala
11/20	1	Somersworth	Rt. 108	L. Chase
Eastern Bluebird				
10/7	16	Rumney	Buffalo Road meadow	J. Williams
10/12	18	Freedom	Freedom town forest	G. & A. Robbins
10/17	14	Chichester	Horse Corner Rd.	R. Suomala
10/20	17	Rumney	Buffalo Road meadow	J. Williams
10/30	24	Durham	residence	D. Keefe
Gray-cheeked Thrush				
9/12	1	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
10/6	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Road	A. Robbins
Bicknell's Thrush				
8/1	4	Franconia	Little Haystack Mtn.	M. Harvey, M. Stager
8/28	1	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	G. & A. Robbins
9/1	1	Pittsburg	Fourth Connecticut Lake	P. Hunt
9/23	1	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Road	J. Merrill
Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush sp.				
8/31	2	Pittsburg	Deer Mountain campground	P. Hunt
9/28	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Road	A. Robbins
Swainson's Thrush				
8/31	10	Pittsburg	Deer Mountain campground	P. Hunt
9/1	10	Pittsburg	Deer Mountain campground	P. Hunt
10/8	2	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
Hermit Thrush				
9/1	7	Pittsburg	Deer Mountain campground	P. Hunt
10/5	5	Sandwich	Thompson WS	T. Vazzano, Lakes Region CFT
10/13	9	Concord	Contoocook Island, Penacook	P. Hunt
10/19	21	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
Aug-Nov	203	Center Harbor	banded, Coe Hill Road	J. Merrill
American Robin				
10/24	487	Charlestown	Great Meadows	L. Tanino
11/7	2000	Amherst	Stearns Rd. at Rhodora Dr.	C. Sheridan
11/24	3000	Newmarket	Folletts Brook	P. Brown

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Gray Catbird				
8/12	12	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
9/5	20	Brentwood	Deer Hill WMA	T. Bronson
9/22	15	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	T. Bronson
11/1	1	Concord	Turtle Pond	R. Suomala
11/8	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. & J. Mirick
11/30	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	P. Benham
Brown Thrasher				
8/2	2	Exeter	Powder House Pond	P. Chamberlin
8/17	1	Seabrook	Seabrook dunes	S. & J. Mirick
9/5	1	Brentwood	Deer Hill WMA	T. Bronson
9/22	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
American Pipit				
9/13	5	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	T. Bronson, M. Iliff
9/17	1	Conway	East Conway Rd. fields	T. Vazzano, B. Crowley
10/17	80	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. Young
10/19	75	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	S. Brand
10/19	60	Westmoreland	Chickering Farm	E. Masterson
10/26	60	Amherst	pumpkin field off Rt. 101A	E. Masterson
11/1	60	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Quinn
11/1	103	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	T. Bronson, K. Dorsey
11/9	12	Westmoreland	Chickering Farm	E. Masterson
Cedar Waxwing				
10/30	150	Hooksett	Central Park Drive	P. Yaffie
11/6	100	Manchester	Southern NH University	B. Craven
11/8	250		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
11/30	800	Concord	Tanner Street	P. Hunt
11/30	7000	Plymouth	Plymouth State University, downtown	B. Griffith
Blue-winged Warbler				
8/2	1	Exeter	Newfields Rd. residence	P. Chamberlin
9/5	2	Brentwood	Deer Hill WMA	T. Bronson
9/9	1	Rumney	Alder swamp	J. Williams
Golden-winged Warbler				
10/2	1	Lee	Lee Five Corners reserve	A. Eaton
Tennessee Warbler				
8/27	2	Nelson	town ballfields	P. Brown
8/31	2	Webster	Call Road	R. Quinn
9/5	2	Nelson	backyard	P. Brown
9/29	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Road	A. Robbins
10/3	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Road	A. Robbins
Orange-crowned Warbler				
9/14	1	Bristol	Wellington St. Pk. boat ramp	J. Williams
9/18	1	Brentwood	Deer Hill WMA	D. & J. Green
9/27	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
10/5	1	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	S. Mirick, NHA FT
10/6	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Road	A. Robbins
10/11	1	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Road	J. Merrill
10/13	1	Hampton	Church St. parking lot	S. Mirick
10/26	1	Hampstead	neighborhood	A. Maley

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Orange-crowned Warbler—continued				
11/8	1	Hampton	Church St. parking lot	S. & J. Mirick
11/12	1	Rye	N. Hampton town line	R. Quinn, G. & A. Robbins
11/20	2	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	J. O'Shaughnessy
Nashville Warbler				
8/30	9	Nelson	town ballfields	P. Brown
8/30-31	20	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	S. Brand, et al.
10/21	1	Concord	Merrimack Street	P. Hunt
10/25	1	Greenland	off Newington Road	S. & J. Mirick
10/25	1	Rye	Eel Pond	L. Kras, J. Knapp
11/2	1	Hampton	n. of Bicentennial Park	S. & J. Mirick, BBC FT
Northern Parula				
9/13	3	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
9/17	4	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. & J. Mirick
9/23	3	Amherst	Northern Blvd.	C. Sheridan
9/30	3	Brentwood	Deer Hill WMA	T. Bronson
10/26	1	Newfields	Piscassic Greenway & Cole Farm	T. Bronson, N. Nelson
Magnolia Warbler				
8/9	11	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
8/13	9	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
9/16	15	Sandwich	near end of Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
10/6	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
10/19	1	Concord	Thirty Pines, Penacook	P. Hunt
Cape May Warbler				
8/27	1	Freedom	Freedom town forest	G. & A. Robbins
9/4	1	Concord	Contoocook Island, Penacook	P. Hunt
9/11	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, Massabesic Audubon Center FT
9/13	2	Concord	Contoocook Island, Penacook	P. Hunt
10/5	1	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	L. Medlock, J. Lambert, NHA FT
10/5	1	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	S. Mirick, NHA FT
10/25	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	M. Suomala, NHA FT
Black-throated Blue Warbler				
10/4	3	Durham	Lamprey River Preserve	K. Dorsey
10/13	1	Concord	River Road Christmas tree farm	P. Hunt
10/14	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. Mirick
11/21	1	N. Hampton	Rt. 1A at Rt. 111	A. Budington, J. O'Shaughnessy
11/26	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head vicinity	M. Suomala
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
10/3	50	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	E. Masterson
10/4	42	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/11	109		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
11/1	25	Concord	West Portsmouth Street	R. Suomala
11/15	1	Keene	Antioch University New England	L. Tanino
11/18	1	Albany	Kancamagus Highway	S. Mirick
11/29	9		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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Black-throated Green Warbler

8/31	25	Webster	Call Road	R. Quinn
9/17	8	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. & J. Mirick
9/21	8	Concord	Penacock survey route	P. Hunt
10/26	1	Nashua	Lovewell Pond	C. Sheridan
10/27	1	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Road	J. Merrill
11/1	1	Exeter	Washington St. residence	R. Aaronian

Pine Warbler

8/19	30	Madison	West Branch R. pine barrens	G. & A. Robbins
9/13	41	Concord	Penacock survey route	P. Hunt
9/20	11	Concord	Contoocook Island, Penacock	P. Hunt
11/8	1	Hampton	off Route 1A	S. & J. Mirick



*Prairie Warbler, by Jason Lambert, 10/5/08,
Star Island, Isles of Shoals, Rye, NH.*

Prairie Warbler

8/19	5	Madison	West Branch R. pine barrens	G. & A. Robbins
8/25	3	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
8/31	3	Webster	Route 127	R. Quinn
10/4	3	Enfield	Potato Road	L. Jones
10/5	2	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	S. Mirick, NHA FT
10/10	1	Durham	West Foss Farm	K. Dorsey
11/1	1	Greenland	Great Bay Farm	S. & J. Mirick
11/8	1	Greenland	Great Bay Farm	S. & J. Mirick

Palm Warbler

9/16	2	Sandwich	near end of Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
9/17	12	Conway	East Conway Rd. fields	T. Vazzano, B. Crowley
9/21	27	Concord	Penacock survey route	P. Hunt
9/23	30	Amherst	Northern Blvd.	C. Sheridan
10/3	15	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	E. Masterson
10/4	26	Concord	Penacock survey route	P. Hunt
10/14	60	Freedom	Freedom town forest	G. & A. Robbins
11/16	1	Concord	River Road, Penacock	P. Hunt
11/24	1	Auburn	Massabesic WS	P. Brown
11/29	1	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	R. Frechette

Bay-breasted Warbler

9/2	1	Hancock	Harris Center	P. Brown
9/2	1	Portsmouth	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	S. McGrath
9/8	1	Sandwich	near end of Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
9/13	1	Concord	Contoocook Island, Penacock	P. Hunt
9/13	1	Freedom	Freedom town forest	G. & A. Robbins
9/17	2	Conway	Moat Mountain, N. Conway	S. Young
9/19	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
9/25	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Blackpoll Warbler				
8/30	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
9/1	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
9/12	42	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
9/17	30	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. & J. Mirick
9/21	34	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
9/30	20	Brentwood	Deer Hill WMA	T. Bronson
11/1	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	L. Medlock
11/1	1	Seabrook	wastewater treatment plant	S. & J. Mirick
11/2	1	Durham	West Foss Farm	T. Bronson, K. Dorsey
11/4	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	T. Bronson
11/19	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	J. Smith
11/23	2	N. Hampton	off Route 1A	S. & J. Mirick
11/23	1	Seabrook	wastewater treatment plant	S. & J. Mirick
11/26	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head vicinity	M. Suomala
Cerulean Warbler				
10/3	1	Dover	Rt. 103 w. of Bear Road	L. Kras, D. Burdick, et al.
Black-and-white Warbler				
9/21	3	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, NHA FT
9/22	3	Newmarket	Lubberland Creek Preserve	L. Kras
10/8	3	Merrimack	business office complex	L. Medlock
10/11	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	P. Hunt
10/13	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
American Redstart				
8/9	6	Concord	Horseshoe Pond RR tracks	R. Woodward
8/26	9	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
9/21	6	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, NH Audubon FT
10/12	1	Nashua	off Gilson Road	C. Sheridan
10/18	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	L. Medlock, J. Lambert
11/1	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt, S. Brand
Worm-eating Warbler				
9/29	1	Lee	Lee Five Corners Reserve	A. Eaton
10/8	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	T. Bronson
Ovenbird				
10/2	1	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
10/4	1	Northwood	Old Mountain Road	S. Young
10/5	1	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	S. Mirick, NHA FT
Louisiana Waterthrush				
8/3	1	Eaton	Rt. 153	G. & A. Robbins
Connecticut Warbler				
9/4	1	Durham	Fogg Drive	K. Dorsey
9/13	1	Concord	Murray's Greenhouse, River Rd., Penacook	P. Hunt
9/23	1	Durham	Doe Farm	T. Bronson
Mourning Warbler				
9/18	1	Brentwood	Deer Hill WMA	D. & J. Green
10/15	1	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Common Yellowthroat				
8/10	25	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
8/13	16	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
9/13	17	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
9/21	15	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, NHA FT
10/5	7	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	S. Mirick, NHA FT
10/6	6	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
11/11	1	Concord	White Farm	P. Brown
11/15	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. & J. Mirick
Wilson's Warbler				
8/19	3	Madison	West Branch R. pine barrens	G. & A. Robbins
9/16	3	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	C. Seifer
10/4	1	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
Canada Warbler				
10/6	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
Yellow-breasted Chat				
9/21	1	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	S. Mirick
11/24	1	Greenland	Great Bay Discovery Center	B. Heckman
11/26	1	Greenland	Great Bay Discovery Center	L. Medlock

Tanagers through Finches

A Lark Bunting made a run for the rarest sparrow sighting of the fall with a cooperative bird that remained, and was enjoyed by many birders, for a full day along the coast on October 11. There are only three or four previous records for this species in the state, with the last record dating back to October 1975! However, the bunting was outshone—if not with its cooperativeness, but with its rarity—by a **LeConte's Sparrow** found in Conway a week later on October 18. Unfortunately, this bird did not linger and was only seen by two birders. The only previous record in New Hampshire for this species was from May, 2000.

Two different singing Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows along the immediate coast in August are likely part of a small breeding colony within the saltmarsh. More unusual was the report of two inland migrant Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows from Concord.

Incredibly, there were three separate reports of over 50 Indigo Buntings in the Concord area. Prior to 2003, this editor could not find any reports of Indigo Bunting flocks greater than 19, and these reports may represent the highest ever recorded in the state.



Lark Bunting by Leonard Medlock, 10/11/08, "townline" cove on Rt. 1A, N. Hampton, NH.

A **Yellow-headed Blackbird**, photographed on Star Island on September 4, was the first fall record of this western species since 2005. Rusty Blackbirds are a species of concern with steadily declining populations; therefore, reports from Morrill's farm, where a flock of 50+ birds was present for a couple of weeks in October, were encouraging. This is the largest fall flock reported since 2002.

Three great flights of migrating American Goldfinches were witnessed along the coast with the highest total of over 2,500 moving by in small flocks on November 9. Observers documented a total of approximately 114 flocks in a little over 3 hours. The flocks showed a range in size of between 2 and 76 birds with an average of 20 birds per flock.

Pine Siskins and White-winged Crossbills descended southward through New Hampshire during the fall in what was to become one of the largest incursion winters for both species in many years. Hawkwatchers at Pack Monadnock witnessed large numbers of Pine Siskins migrating past the summit over the course of the season. The full-time hawkwatcher at the site, Julie Tilden, remarked that most flocks seemed to come from the northeast and pass over the summit with many flocks averaging about 50 to 60 birds.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Scarlet Tanager				
9/2	7	Hancock	Harris Center	P. Brown
9/21	6	Marlborough	Rt. 101	P. Brown
10/5	2	Concord	Merrill Park & Mill Stream area	R. & M. Suomala
10/11	1	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
Eastern Towhee				
8/17	6	Peterborough	Temple Mountain	K. Klapper
9/5	8	Brentwood	Deer Hill WMA	T. Bronson
9/27	9	Kingston	Green Road	T. Bronson
11/2	1	Concord	Abbott Road	P. Hunt
11/2	2	Concord	Mill Stream	R. Suomala
American Tree Sparrow				
10/18	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
10/29	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
10/29	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	P. Brown
11/1	10	Concord	Birch St. community gardens	R. Suomala
11/26	25	Dover	Stafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
11/30	14	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
Chipping Sparrow				
8/30	83	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/4	101	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/5	50	Concord	Merrill Park & Mill Stream area	R. & M. Suomala
10/10	30	Canterbury	Gold Star Nursery	P. Hunt
11/13	1	Newmarket	Bay Road	H. Chary
11/17	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Road	G. & A. Robbins
11/27	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
Clay-colored Sparrow				
10/5	1	Concord	Birch St. community gardens	R. Suomala
11/7	1	Concord	Birch St. community gardens	M. Suomala

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Field Sparrow				
8/7	20	Freedom	Freedom town forest	G. & A. Robbins
9/15	5	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	P. Brown
10/25	1	Portsmouth	Urban Forestry Center	S. & J. Mirick
11/2	1	Concord	Mill Stream	R. Suomala
11/14	1	Keene	Krif Road	L. Tanino
Vesper Sparrow				
8/1	1	Freedom	Freedom town forest	G. & A. Robbins
8/8	1	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	G. & A. Robbins
8/17	4	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
9/29	4	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	T. Bronson
10/4	1	Durham	Lamprey River Preserve	K. Dorsey
10/5	1	Londonderry		A. Robbins
10/13	2	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt, R. Quinn
10/14	2	Concord	Birch St. community gardens	P. Hunt
10/25	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
11/1	1	Swanzy	Dillant-Hopkins Airport	K. Klapper
Lark Sparrow				
9/7	1	Keene	Keene State University athletic complex	K. Klapper
Lark Bunting				
10/11	1	N. Hampton	Rt. 1A at Rye town line	S. & J. Mirick
Savannah Sparrow				
10/4	120	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
10/5	70	Concord	Birch St. community gardens	R. Suomala
10/5	60	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	P. Hunt
10/6	50	Concord	Birch St. community gardens	E. Masterson
10/13	150	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt, R. Quinn
10/15	50	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	T. Bronson
10/24	100	Dover	Strafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
11/9	6	Westmoreland	Chickering Farm	E. Masterson
Savannah Sparrow - Ipswich subsp.				
10/18	1	Hampton	Little Jack's Restaurant	S. & J. Mirick
10/25	3		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
11/12	2	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	R. Quinn, G. & A. Robbins
11/19	2	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	J. Smith
				
<i>Grasshopper Sparrow by Leonard Medlock, 10/25/08, Willow Rd., N. Hampton, NH.</i>				
Grasshopper Sparrow				
10/25	1	N. Hampton	Willow Road	S. & J. Mirick, L. Medlock
10/31	1	Keene	Krif Road	K. Klapper
Le Conte's Sparrow				
10/18	1	Conway	Sherman Farm	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow				
8/3	1	N. Hampton	marsh off Rt. 1A	S. & J. Mirick
8/4	1	Hampton	Hampton marshes	S. Mirick
8/9	1	Newmarket	Lubberland Creek Preserve	K. Dorsey
9/14	1	Rye	Rt. 1A at Rye Ledge	S. & J. Mirick
10/11	1	Concord	Birch St. community gardens	M. Suomala, R. Woodward, et al.
10/12	5	Hampton	Hampton marshes	E. Haskell
10/22	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Quinn
10/24	7	Hampton	Hampton marshes	S. Mirick
11/15	1	Rye	Rt. 1A s. of Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. & J. Mirick
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow				
8/4	134	Hampton	Hampton marshes	S. Mirick
9/30	25	Hampton	Little Jack's Restaurant	S. & J. Mirick
10/24	7	Hampton	Hampton marshes	S. Mirick
11/15	1	Hampton	Little Jack's Restaurant	S. & J. Mirick
Sharp-tailed Sparrow sp.				
10/24	20	Hampton	Hampton marshes	S. Mirick
Seaside Sparrow				
9/28	1	Rye	Bass Beach marsh	P. Brown, L. Tanino
Fox Sparrow				
10/12	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/13	1	Nelson	backyard	P. Brown
11/2	4	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
11/5	3	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Road	J. Merrill
11/9	4	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
11/25	3	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
Song Sparrow				
10/12	68	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/13	70	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt, R. Quinn
10/25	45	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
Lincoln's Sparrow				
9/17	6	Conway	East Conway Rd. fields	T. Vazzano, B. Crowley
9/22	5	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
9/24	8	Concord	Birch St. community gardens	M. Suomala
9/28	6	Rumney	Sand Hill Road	J. Williams
10/1	5	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
10/5	10	Concord	Birch St. community gardens	R. Suomala
10/6	8	Concord	Birch St. community gardens	E. Masterson
10/13	6	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt, R. Quinn
11/1	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. & J. Mirick
11/2	1	Concord	Abbott Road	P. Hunt
11/8	1	Greenland	Great Bay Farm	S. & J. Mirick
Swamp Sparrow				
10/5	20	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	P. Hunt
10/5	35	Concord	Post Office fields	P. Hunt
10/24	30	Dover	Stafford County Farm	D. Hubbard

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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White-throated Sparrow

10/5	50	Concord	Merrill Park & Mill Stream area	R. & M. Suomala
10/12	89	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/13	80	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt, R. Quinn
10/19	137	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt

White-crowned Sparrow

9/24	1	Peterborough	Rt. 123	P. Brown
9/25	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
10/12	13	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/13	25	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt, R. Quinn
10/14	15	Concord	Birch St. community gardens	P. Hunt
10/15	18	Concord	Post Office fields	M. Suomala, R. Woodward, et al.
10/18	8	Conway	Sherman Farm	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
11/15	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	L. Medlock
11/30	1	Greenland	Great Bay Farm	S. & J. Mirick

Dark-eyed Junco

10/18	68	Concord	Contoocook Island, Penacook	P. Hunt
10/19	87	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/19	60	Westmoreland	Chickering Farm	E. Masterson
10/28	150	Surry	Surry Dam Road	L. Tanino
11/9	134	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
11/18	40	Keene	Green Wagon Farm	L. Tanino

Lapland Longspur

10/11	1	Walpole	River Road	E. Masterson
10/12	2	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
10/16	1	Rye	Ragged Neck	S. Mirick
10/18	3	Conway	Sherman Farm	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
10/19	1	Westmoreland	Chickering Farm	E. Masterson
11/2	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	S. & J. Mirick, BBC FT
11/3	1	Rye	Ragged Neck	D. Donsker, P. Miliotis
11/24	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	P. Brown

Snow Bunting

10/12	1	Freedom	Freedom town forest	G. & A. Robbins
10/19	3	Rye	Ragged Neck	S. & J. Mirick
10/21	27	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	S. McGrath
11/1	300	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	S. & J. Mirick
11/2	100	Chandlers Purchase	Mt. Eisenhower summit	J.R. Stockwell
11/2	60	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit	T. Vazzano
11/10	55	Sandwich	fairgrounds	T. Vazzano
11/26	35	Keene	Krif Road	L. Tanino
11/27	50	Strafford	Sloper Road	D. Hubbard



Female or juvenile Rose-breasted Grosbeak on a feeder, by Jon Woolf, 11/2/08, Massabesic Audubon Center, Auburn, NH.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
9/5	6	Exeter	Haven Lane	L. Medlock
9/13	4	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
11/14	1	Bradford	West Road	M. & D. Halsted
11/19	1	Auburn	Massabesic Audubon Center	C. Sheridan
Indigo Bunting				
8/21	50	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	S. Brand
8/31	50	Concord	Post Office fields	R. & M. Suomala
9/13	55	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
9/15	40	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	P. Brown
10/6	2	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. Young
10/7	1	Dover	Strafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
10/13	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt, R. Quinn
				
<p><i>Dickcissel, by Leonard Medlock, 11/2/08, near Bicentennial Park, Hampton, NH.</i></p>				
Dickcissel				
10/14	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. Mirick
10/25	1	Concord	Murray's Greenhouse, River Rd., Penacook	P. Hunt
10/26	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. & J. Mirick
10/26	1	Stratham	River Road	S. & J. Mirick
11/2	1	Hampton	n. of Bicentennial Park	S. & J. Mirick, BBC FT
11/3	1	Hampton	n. of Bicentennial Park	D. Donsker, P. Miliotis
Bobolink				
8/17	14	Seabrook	Rt. 286 marsh	S. & J. Mirick
8/31	70	Concord	Post Office fields	R. & M. Suomala
9/1	75	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. & J. Mirick
9/7	32	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
10/11	1	Westmoreland	Chickering Farm	E. Masterson
10/13	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt, R. Quinn
10/17	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. Young
10/25	1	Greenland	Great Bay Farm	S. & J. Mirick
Red-winged Blackbird				
10/5	200	Concord	Horseshoe Pond & fields	M. Suomala
10/12	8210	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	L. Tanino, C. Seifer
10/19	9739	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	L. Tanino, A. Clark
10/25	100	Hampton Falls	Depot Road	T. Bronson
10/30	300	Pittsfield		G. & A. Robbins
11/9	100	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
11/17	100	Greenland	Sunset Farm	T. Bronson
Eastern Meadowlark				
8/8	5	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	G. & A. Robbins
9/1	5	Portsmouth	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	S. & J. Mirick
10/2	6	Swanzy	Dillant-Hopkins Airport	P. Brown
11/3	1	Rye	Awcomin Marsh	T. Bronson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Yellow-headed Blackbird				
9/4	1	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	J. Ficker, A. Pike, et al.
Rusty Blackbird				
9/28	6	Lyme	Lyme Center residence	P. Ackerson
9/30	20	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
10/2	25	Swanzy	Dillant-Hopkins Airport	P. Brown, P. Davenport, C. Wood
10/11	5	N. Hampton	off Rt. 111	S.& J. Mirick
10/12	5	Walpole	River Road	L. Tanino, C. Seifer
10/13	50	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt, R. Quinn
10/25	56	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
10/30	6	Newmarket	Bass Street	K. Dorsey
11/1	40	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt, S. Brand
11/17	2	Dover	Stafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
11/23	2	Hampton Falls	Woodlawn Avenue	T. Bronson
11/30	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	L. Kras, J. Knapp
Common Grackle				
10/15	12,000	Kingston	New Boston Road	S. Mirick
10/26	6,000	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	E. Masterson
11/7	2,350	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
Brown-headed Cowbird				
10/25	450	Greenland	Great Bay Farm	S.& J. Mirick
11/1	120	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	T. Bronson, K. Dorsey
11/3	100	Hampton	Brown Ave. at Susan Lane	T. Bronson
Baltimore Oriole				
8/10	6	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
8/12	8	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
8/24	6	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/5	2	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	S. Mirick, NHA FT
11/1	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Quinn
11/11	1	Rye	Odiome Point St. Pk.	E. Masterson
Oriole sp.				
11/30	1	Laconia	Water Street condo lot	H. Anderson
Blackbird sp.				
10/1	1000	Hinsdale	Monkey Island, Connecticut R.	P. Hunt
Pine Grosbeak				
10/17	1	Nelson	backyard	P. Brown
10/20	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	T. Bronson
11/2	7	Stoddard	Pitcher Mountain	L. Tanino
11/30	1	Bethlehem	Rt. 3 w. of Trudeau Rd.	M. Harvey
Purple Finch				
10/12	19	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/23	16	Newmarket	Bay Road	H. Chary
11/1	19	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
Red Crossbill				
8/28	2	Concord	Contoocook Island, Penacook	P. Hunt
8/28	1	Jefferson	trail into Pondicherry NWR	G.& A. Robbins

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
White-winged Crossbill				
8/1	2	Franconia	Little Haystack Mtn.	M. Harvey, M. Stager
8/1	1	Hampstead	residence	A. Maley
8/18	10	Freedom	Freedom town forest	G. & A. Robbins
8/27	12	Effingham	Huntress Bridge Rd.	G. & A. Robbins
11/3	30	Campton	residence	S. Fogleman
11/4	35	Stoddard	Pitcher Mountain	L. Tanino, R. Quinn
11/5	30	Antrim	Willard Pond WS	P. Brown
11/8	30	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
11/8	40	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	L. Tanino
11/8	40	Webster	Call Road	R. Quinn
11/9	20	Amherst	Horace Greeley Rd.	S. Spangenberg, F. Doyle
11/9	25	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	L. Tanino, P. Davenport, M. Briggs
11/9	9	Hampton	King's Highway	S. & J. Mirick
11/9	40	Hancock	Halfmoon Pond	P. Brown, J. Tilden
11/12	33	Stoddard	Pitcher Mountain	L. Tanino
11/18	32	Albany	Kancamagus Highway	S. Mirick
11/18	75	Stoddard	Pitcher Mountain	L. Tanino
11/23	18		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
Common Redpoll				
11/2	27	Bedford	Rt. 101	S. Spangenberg
11/4	15	Nelson	backyard	P. Brown, J. Tilden
11/10	2	Harrisville	Silver Lake	P. Brown
11/11	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	E. Masterson
11/12	20	Nelson	Great Meadow	P. Brown
11/13	3	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	A. Budington
11/29	10	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
Pine Siskin				
10/8	100	Nelson	backyard	P. Brown
10/10	40	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Road	A. Robbins
10/11	40	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
10/11	65	Walpole	River Road	E. Masterson
10/12	265	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock	J. Tilden
10/13	100	Ashland	Sanborn Road	I. MacLeod
10/14	250	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock	J. Tilden
10/17	275	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock	J. Tilden
10/17	55	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
10/18	210	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock	J. Tilden
10/18	50	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
10/19	180	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock	J. Tilden
10/21	175	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock	J. Tilden
10/23	150	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock	J. Tilden
11/1	40	Keene	cemetery	K. Klapper
11/2	40		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick, BBC FT
11/3	50	Concord	Contoocook Island, Penacook	P. Hunt
11/4	55	Bradford	West Road	D. Halsted
11/9	20	Newton	residence	P. McFarland
11/22	34	Surry	Surry Recreation Area	K. Klapper
11/23	36	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	L. Tanino, K. Yard, K. Klapper

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
American Goldfinch				
10/21	100	Dover	Stafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
10/26	100	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. & J. Mirick
11/9	2531	Hampton	King's Highway	S. & J. Mirick
11/16	425	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	S. & J. Mirick
11/29	400	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	S. & J. Mirick
Evening Grosbeak				
8/3	4	Nottingham	Flutter Street	S. Mooney
8/11	5	Pittsburg	Young's Store	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
8/11	2	Walpole	Merriam Road	R. Ritz
8/15	1	Berlin	near Ammonoosuc River	C. Sheridan
8/23	2	Concord	Beaver Meadows Village	P. Niswander
8/29	1	Nelson	backyard	P. Brown
11/1	2	Concord	Mast Yard State Forest	R. Quinn
11/30	3	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road trails	M. Suomala



*Snowy Owl at Rye Harbor State Park, NH, on 11/2/08,
by Leonard Medlock.*

Reporters for Fall 2008

Rich Aaronian	Michele Halsted	Robert Ridgely
Jayne Allard	Bill Harris	Robert Ritz
H. Cook Anderson	Eric Haskell	Andrea Robbins
Widge Arms	Dan Hubbard	Muriel Robinette
Jeannine Ayer	Pam Hunt	Judy Romano
Tom Bassett	Marshall Iliff	Jason Roper
Henry Beck	Tom James	Brenda Sens
Joel Bedard	Leith Jones	Christine Sheridan
Leslie Bergum	David Killam	Dawn Stavros
Stijn Brand	Lauren Kras	Sharon Stichter
Terry Bronson	Iain MacLeod	J.R. Stockwell
Phil Brown	Chris Martin	Mark Suomala
Bonnie Caruthers	Eric Masterson	Rebecca Suomala
Patience Chamberlin	Len Medlock	Lance Tanino
Hank Chary	Don Melvin	Jean Tasker
Tom Chase	John Merrill	Eric Taussig
Susan Cowan	Steve Mirick	Jean Tewksbury
Laura Deming	Susan Mooney	Sandra Turner
Jane Doherty	Peter Newbern	Fred Tyrrell
David Donsker	M. Nickerson	Tony Vazzano
Kurk Dorsey	Erik Nielsen	Tom Warren
Alan Eaton	Pat Niswander	John Williams
Brenda Ellis	Nathan Peters	Rob Woodward
Davis Finch	Anna Pike	Jon Woolf
Kenneth Folsom	Scott Pratt	Scott Young
George Gavutis, Jr.	Greg Prazar	
Julie Girard	Kim Pribble	Some sightings were
Ben Griffith	Robert Quinn	taken directly from the
David Halsted	Michael Reeve	NH.Birds list serve.

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

Mute Swan	Downy Woodpecker	Wood Thrush
Common Eider	Hairy Woodpecker	Northern Mockingbird
Chukar	Pileated Woodpecker	European Starling
Ring-necked Pheasant	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Yellow Warbler
Ruffed Grouse	Alder Flycatcher	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Wild Turkey	Willow Flycatcher	Blackburnian Warbler
Northern Bobwhite	Great Crested Flycatcher	Northern Waterthrush
Green Heron	Yellow-throated Vireo	Northern Cardinal
Cooper's Hawk	Warbling Vireo	House Finch
Northern Goshawk	Blue Jay	House Sparrow
Rock Pigeon	American Crow	Sightings of the species listed
Mourning Dove	Tufted Titmouse	above occurred in average
Great Horned Owl	White-breasted Nuthatch	numbers at expected loca-
Barred Owl	Brown Creeper	tions, were discussed in the
Belted Kingfisher	Carolina Wren	summaries, or are escaped
Red-bellied Woodpecker	Veery	exotics.

Raptor Migration in New Hampshire

by Ernesto Ruelas Inzunza and Julie Tilden

Many aspects of raptor migration in New Hampshire remain a mystery, despite the network of monitoring sites throughout the northeast. For instance, all of the formal sites operate exclusively in the autumn, leaving the spring northward movements largely unknown. With the exception of regional summaries included in the journal *Hawk Migration Studies* and annual reports in *New Hampshire Bird Records*, e.g., Fogleman (2006), MacLeod (2006), there is very little published information for the state. The comprehensive catalogue of Zalles and Bildstein (2000) does not include a single site from New Hampshire.

Most of the existing data come from a handful of sites that have been operated intermittently since the 1960s such as Blue Job Mountain in Farmington and Pawtucket-away State Park in Nottingham. Sporadic data have been compiled over the years from Pitcher Mountain in Stoddard, and Crotched Mountain in Bennington. The Seacoast and major river systems such as the Connecticut and Merrimack also offer glimpses of these southbound migrants. Coastal migration in NH has been monitored for years at Odiorne State Park in Rye. Currently, active monitoring sites are predominantly situated in the central and southern parts of the state, stretching from the White Mountains south to the Monadnock region, which are the focus of this paper. Coastal sites are not included.

This article has a two-fold purpose. First, we provide a summary of the fall 2008 hawkwatch season based on reports submitted to HawkCount.org by Julie Tilden, Robert Vallieres, and Susan Fogleman. Second, we summarize the current knowledge of geographic and seasonal migration patterns of 12 species of raptors and compare the fall 2008 field season with data from previous years.

Active Sites and Field Coverage

The Pack Monadnock Raptor Migration Observatory is located within Miller State Park in Peterborough, NH. New Hampshire Audubon, under the guidance of Iain MacLeod, recognized this site as a prime spot for watching hawks and created the observatory in 2005. Since then, an autumn count has been conducted during September and October by a New Hampshire Audubon biologist and it is a popular and important site for the state as the only full-time staffed monitoring location. The



Northern Harrier by Scott Young, 9/11/08, Blue Job Mtn., Farmington, NH.

north-facing observatory provides a 200-degree view and is part of the northern edge of the Wapack Trail, a ridge running south for 34 km (21 miles) into Massachusetts.

Little Round Top Migration Observatory is located in the Slim-Baker Conservation Area in Bristol, NH. It is one of a number of small hills in the piedmont of New Hampshire's White Mountains and overlooks the Pemigewasset River valley with a panoramic 270-degree view facing the northeast (Fogleman 2006). Data collection dates back to 1967, and more recently a volunteer-organized fall count has been conducted during September from 2003 through 2008.

The third site reported in this article, Carter Hill Observatory in Concord, NH, is a new autumn site started by New Hampshire Audubon in 2008. Staffed by Robert Valieres, a NH Audubon volunteer from September 1 through October 18, this site is situated on a north-facing ridge, overlooking the Contoocook and Merrimack River valleys at Carter Hill Orchard.

Other sites operate with less frequency. At the Interlakes Elementary School in Meredith, personnel conduct observations on one to two days during mid-September of each year with support from the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center. Since 2005, fourth graders have been learning about migration and recording southbound migrants from an elevated track on school grounds.

2008 Site Reports

Pack Monadnock—A total of 9,247 raptors of 14 species were counted at Pack Monadnock between September 1 and October 31, 2008. Julie Tilden was the hawk-watcher/interpretive naturalist, counting a mean of 21 raptors per hour during 433 hours of observation. Overall temperatures were mild throughout September and into October with only six days of rain. September 13–22 marked the peak movement for Broad-winged Hawks, with 97% of the season's 6,835 Broad-wings passing during that window. A new daily record for the site of 42 Ospreys was set on September 11. Bald Eagle numbers remained consistent with the past three years, with a total of 50 for the season. Sharp-shinned Hawks, the second most abundant species at this site, were a constant presence throughout the season. Likewise, American Kestrel numbers remained consistent with the past three seasons. Only two Golden Eagles were recorded this year, both on the last day of the count.

Non-raptor species were also noted from the observatory. Among the 83 species were Boreal Chickadee, Snow Bunting, White-winged Crossbill, and Brant. This autumn was a phenomenal season for Pine Siskin, with over 6,500 counted during October. Outreach and education efforts increased this year with over 5,000 visitors and 24 school groups visiting the observatory. An annual raptor event took place on September 20, during which a rehabilitated juvenile Broad-winged Hawk was released from the monitoring site.

Little Round Top—A total of 3,381 raptors of 11 species were counted at Little Round Top Migration Observatory this fall, with 32 raptors per hour tallied during 106 observation hours. The count period was August 31 through September 24 and was conducted by Susan Fogleman and a team of volunteers. Of the raptors counted, Broad-winged Hawks made up 92% of the flight, with a new daily record of 1,523 set on September 17. One Golden Eagle was recorded on September 16.

Table 1. Records of migrating raptors observed at Little Round Top Migration Observatory, Bristol, NH (2003-2008), and Pack Monadnock Raptor Migration Observatory, Peterborough, NH (2005-2008).

Species	Little Round Top			Pack Monadnock		
	Mean Autumn Count	Max. (Year)	Min. (Year)	Mean Autumn Count	Max. Year)	Min. (Year)
Turkey Vulture (<i>Cathartes aura</i>)	16	33 (2005)	4 (2003)	52	121 (2007)	3 (2004)
Osprey (<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>)	44	68 (2004)	37 (2003)	166	291 (2007)	39 (2004)
Bald Eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)	29	39 (2007)	24 (2005)	32	55 (2006)	2 (2003)
Northern Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>)	3	6 (2005)	1 (2008)	43	121 (2007)	4 (2004)
Sharp-shinned Hawk (<i>Accipiter striatus</i>)	83	123 (2006)	32 (2008)	609	1,288 (2007)	77 (2004)
Cooper's Hawk (<i>A. cooperii</i>)	20	41 (2007)	9 (2003)	82	213 (2006)	6 (2004)
Northern Goshawk (<i>A. gentilis</i>)	2	3 (2003)	1 (2007)	27	68 (2006)	3 (2003)
Red-shouldered Hawk (<i>Buteo lineatus</i>)	0	--	--	37	112 (2007)	1 (2004)
Broad-winged Hawk (<i>Buteo platypterus</i>)	1,796	3,736 (2004)	389 (2005)	4,448	7,776 (2007)	1,513 (2003)
Red-tailed Hawk (<i>B. jamaicensis</i>)	19	36 (2005)	11 (2003)	161	407 (2006)	5 (2003)
Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>)	2	2 (2006)	1 (2008)	5	11 (2006)	1 (2004)
American Kestrel (<i>Falco sparverius</i>)	21	31 (2007)	8 (2008)	89	201 (2006)	15 (2004)
Merlin (<i>F. columbarius</i>)	2	4 (2007)	1 (2003)	35	90 (2007)	7 (2004)
Peregrine Falcon (<i>F. peregrinus</i>)	3	5 (2006)	1 (2004)	16	44 (2007)	1 (2004)
Unknown Raptor	30	49 (2007)	23 (2005)	35	68 (2007)	2 (2008)

Carter Hill—This new site in Concord sparked a lot of attention this fall, given its location at a busy apple orchard. Robert Vallieres, counter and educator, had over 2,000 visitors throughout the season and over 20 visits from school groups. He drew large crowds with live raptors from New Hampshire Audubon's Education Department. A total of 2,670 raptors of 14 species were counted at Carter Hill for a mean of 13 raptors per hour during 203 hours of observation. Broad-winged Hawks, as in other sites, made up 71% of the flight with 97% passing from September 10–20. Their highest numbers were on September 13 and 18 with 568 and 341, respectively. Bald Eagles totaled 28 for the season, with a daily high of four. One Rough-legged Hawk was seen on September 8, an early date for the species. Only three Red-shouldered Hawks and two Northern Goshawks were recorded, a somewhat surprising total when compared to the other sites (Table 1).

The Interlakes Elementary School observed raptors for 11.5 hours this autumn and counted a total of 77 raptors including 39 Turkey Vultures, 23 Broad-winged Hawks and 2 Bald Eagles. Detailed counts for the autumn 2008 season are available online at www.hawkcount.org. See Table 1 for a comparison of the first three sites.

Seasonal Timing of Raptor Migration in New Hampshire

Here we use data from Pack Monadnock (2005–2008) to describe the timing of the autumn migration of the 12 most common species (Figure 1). In order to make the graphs visually comparable across species and independent of seasonal count, we plotted the percentage of total migration observed per three-day period. The seasonal pattern of migration in different species can be classified in three categories: “early-season” migrants, including Osprey, Bald Eagle, Broad-winged Hawk, and American Kestrel; “mid-season” migrants, including Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper’s Hawk, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon; and finally “late-season” migrants including Turkey Vulture, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Red-tailed Hawk.

Comments

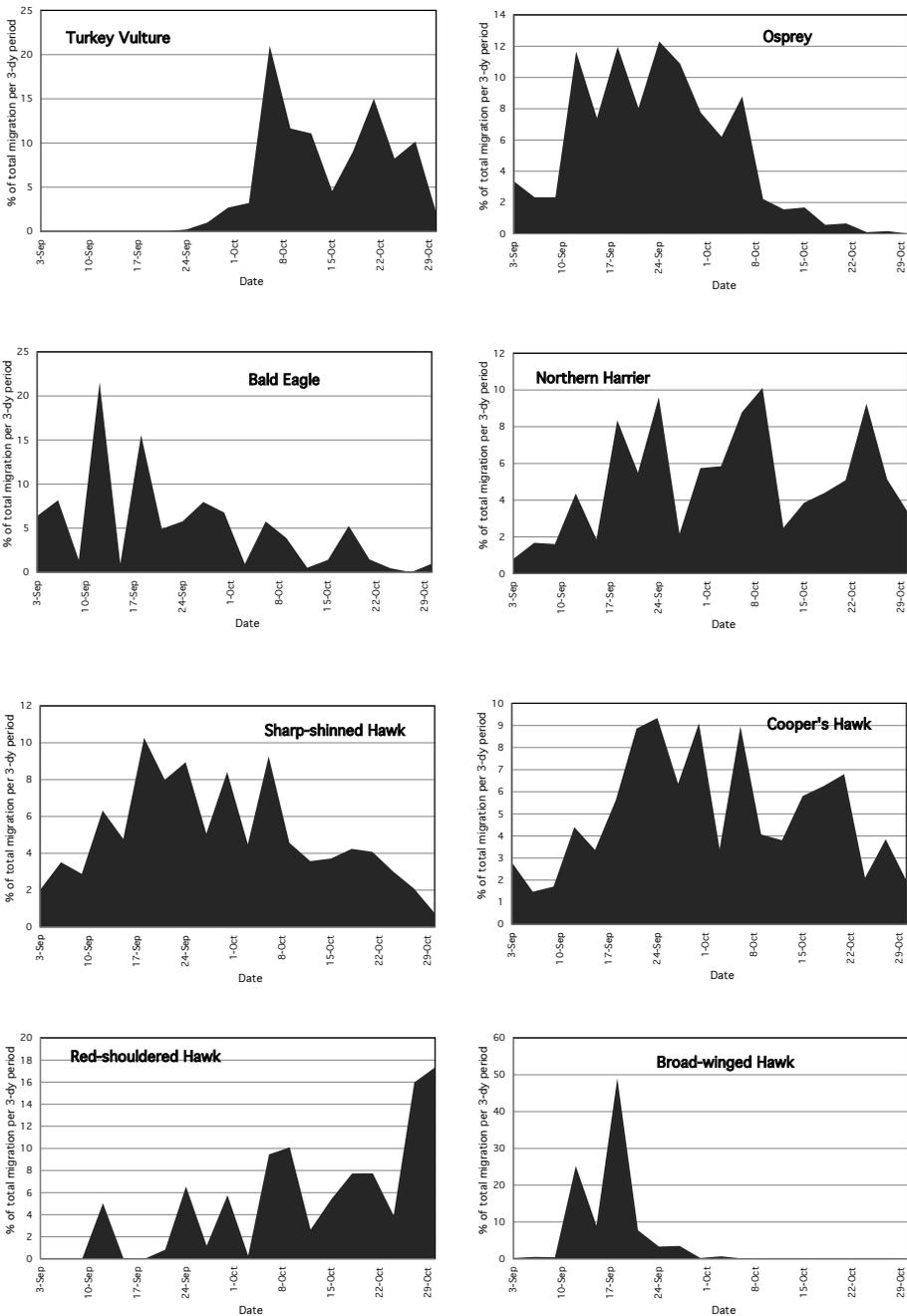
Raptors migrating through the state often use prominent land features such as ridgelines, coastlines, and rivers as “leading” or “diversion” lines (Bildstein 2006). However, the more specific migration patterns these birds follow in relation to New Hampshire’s topographic features and prevailing weather remains largely unstudied, particularly in spring and in the northern, eastern, and western regions of the state. These data are critical to inform the development of power, communication, and other infrastructure.

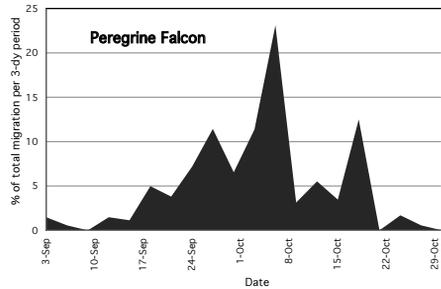
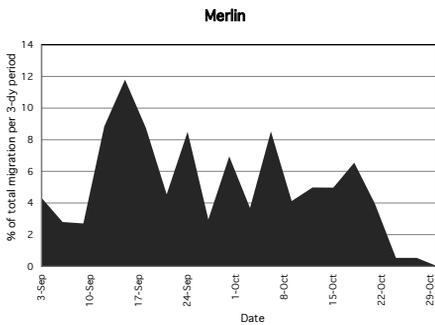
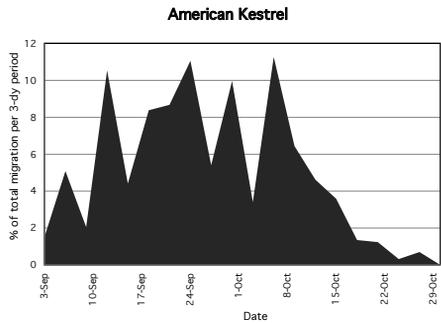
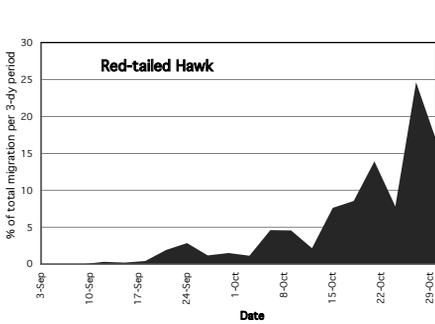
Raptors tallied in the state are assumed to breed in the northeastern United States and across southern and eastern Canada, although the population and species-specific origin of these migrants remain unknown. Likewise, their wintering destinations range from within New Hampshire, throughout the southern United States, to as far south as Central and South America.

It is essential to maintain current monitoring sites to build upon the data from past years, given the fact that population trend analyses require long-time series of data, and to extend the network of sites to further our understanding of raptor movements throughout the northeast. In contrast with other areas in the northeast with an abundance of monitoring sites such as Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, southern New York, and New Jersey, there are very few sites monitoring raptor migration in northern New England, with only three active sites in Maine and one in Vermont.

Aside from data collection for research and population monitoring, a top priority for migration sites is education. New Hampshire sites have been successful in reaching out to thousands of people, educating the public about migration and connecting people to nature.

Figure 1. Phenology of the autumn migration of 12 species of raptors in New Hampshire. Data from Pack Monadnock (2005–2008), Peterborough, NH.





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Ernesto Ruelas Inzunza is the Raptor Population Index (RPI) Project Manager of Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA) and is currently a post doctoral fellow at Dartmouth College, studying the effects of climate change on raptor migration. Julie Tilden is the Monitoring Site Coordinator for HMANA. HMANA is a membership-based organization committed to the conservation of raptors through the scientific study, enjoyment, and appreciation of raptor migration. For information, visit www.hmana.org, or contact the organization at: P.O. Box 721, Plymouth NH 03264; e-mail: ruelas@hmana.org or tilden@hmana.org. For details about the RPI, visit www.rpi-project.org and learn about the collaborative conservation efforts to study status and trends of migratory raptors through long-term monitoring.

Spotlight on Caspian Tern, *Sterna caspia*

by Stephen R. Mirick

Background and Breeding Status

The Caspian Tern is the largest tern in the world and is cosmopolitan in its range, occurring in all of the continents of the world except Antarctica. In North America, Caspian Terns nest in widely scattered colonies that can range from a few pairs to as many as 9,900 pairs in a colony on a Columbia River island in Washington.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has recognized five disjunct breeding populations in North America: Pacific coast/western United States, central Canada, Great Lakes, Gulf coast, and

Atlantic coast. The Atlantic coast population occurs south of us in very small ephemeral colonies in New Jersey, North Carolina, and Virginia, and north of us in Newfoundland and possibly Quebec. The closest nesting birds to New Hampshire are located in a relatively new colony located on Lake Champlain in Vermont and New York, an eastward expansion of the Great Lakes population. The species winters on the coast from the southern United States into Mexico and Central America.

Historic Changes in Population

As with many other species of terns, the population of Caspian Terns plummeted by the early 20th century due to the slaughter of birds for their eggs and feathers. Recovery during the mid-1900s was slowed by the effects of DDT and associated eggshell thinning. Since then, however, the population of Caspian Terns has rebounded and an increase in their numbers has been noted throughout much of North America. In eastern Canada, however, the species holds on precariously with very few breeding colonies. Historic breeding colonies from the late 1800s in Quebec and Labrador have essentially disappeared, while a small breeding colony in Newfoundland (numbering approximately 100–125 pairs in 2001) has increased somewhat and remains the only significant colony in the region. On Lake Champlain, Caspian Terns are increasing in number. They were first observed nesting in 2001, and although they have nested on islands in both New York and Vermont, the primary colony is located on the Four Brother's Islands in New York, where a colony had grown to approximately 50 pairs as of 2007.

Forbush (1925) states (somewhat ambiguously) that the Caspian Tern in New England was “formerly a not uncommon migrant coastwise, but now rare and local in the spring migration although in autumn it is sometimes not very rare locally.” Dearborn (1903) called the Caspian Tern “an irregular visitor” to coastal New Hampshire. Veit



Caspian Tern by Irene Malo, 8/1/07,
Swasey Parkway, Exeter, NH.

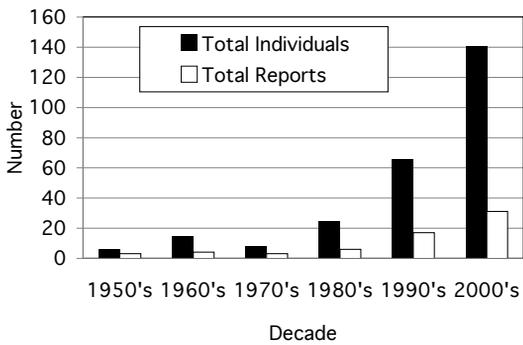
and Petersen (1993) describe the Caspian Tern in Massachusetts as being an “uncommon spring and occasionally fairly common fall migrant to the coast.”

The change in status of this species during migration in New England over the years is somewhat unclear. It is possibly cyclic due to the small and unstable breeding populations to our north. In addition, the species passes quickly through the state during migration as will be discussed below, and it is possible the species is overlooked.

Current Occurrence in New Hampshire

Currently, Caspian Terns in New Hampshire are probably best described as being rare in the spring and uncommon, but regularly encountered along the coast, in the fall. There is a clear increase in the number of birds and of reports in the state over the last 50 years, as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Caspian Terns records by year in New Hampshire, 1951-2008.

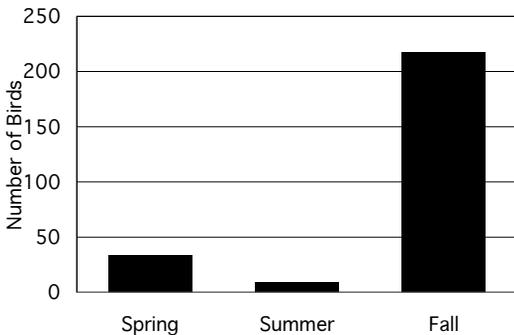


Almost all reports come from the coast. Inland, the species is quite rare, with only two records noted west of the Great Bay estuary. One bird was reported from Squam Lake in Center Harbor on August 3, 1984, and another was reported from Second Connecticut Lake in Pittsburg on June 10, 2003.

Caspian Terns occur in New Hampshire from mid-April through October, with a peak in occurrence during spring and fall migration from late April

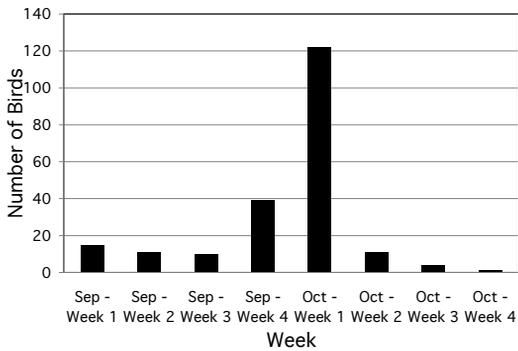
through mid-May and again in late September and early October, Figure 2. Summer records are more unusual with relatively few records from June, July, and August.

Figure 2. Caspian Tern records by season in New Hampshire, 1951-2008.



The fall migration of this species appears to be quite concentrated during the last week of September and the first week of October as shown by Figure 3. Interestingly, three of the state’s largest counts of Caspian Terns—including 11 in 1961, 14 in 2006, and 48 in 2008—all occurred on October 1! The state’s second highest count of 30 was just three days later on October 4, 1997.

Figure 3. Caspian Tern records during September and October in New Hampshire, 1951-2008.



Logic would suggest that most of the spring and fall migrants reported in New Hampshire are from the Newfoundland colony; however, this is not certain and it is also possible that some come from the central Canada population or from the Great Lakes population. Band recoveries have shown that birds from the Great Lakes area disperse as far to the east as Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. Mid-summer records may also involve birds from southern colonies either dispersing northward or carried northward by storms.

Comments on Migratory Behavior

An interesting aspect of Caspian Terns is their brief, transient occurrence in New Hampshire. The majority of fall sightings are of migrating birds, with most reports involving birds flying directly along the coast, only occasionally stopping to rest. The state's largest daily totals of 48 on October 1, 2008, and 30 on October 4, 1997, represent two of the highest totals ever recorded in New England and are comprised of all day counts of small migratory groups of birds moving south along the coast. None of these birds were reported the following day. Of the 173 Caspian Terns that I've recorded in New Hampshire, I have never seen one stopping to feed! I've seen only migrating birds and birds resting along the shoreline.

This isn't to say that Caspian Terns don't sometimes feed during their migration. In fact, a bird was seen on April 20, 1980, (not by me) feeding in Eel Pond in Rye, reportedly catching and eating an "8-inch long horned pout!" On that same day, 16 Caspian Terns were reported along the New Hampshire coast, an extraordinary total and one of the largest spring reports for this species in New England.

This transient behavior during passage in New England has also been reported in the past. Petersen and Veit (1993) state "Migrating Caspian Terns fly quickly and directly to their breeding grounds and do not usually remain in Massachusetts for long." Forbush (1925) references a quote by Joseph Hagar from Marshfield Hills, MA: "They are so strictly a species of passage, that I had never seen one alight until the morning of Sept. 9, 1921, when the flock of three circled about and lit for a brief moment on the sand bar off Trouasant's Island. They had scarcely folded their wings when they were up again and passing down the river to the southward."

Because I have witnessed several of the largest migratory flights of this species recorded in New England, I would like to share a few personal observations regarding their fall migration behavior:

- Caspian Terns migrate singly or in small groups rather than in large groups. I researched three of the largest migratory flight days that involved a total of 92

birds. Of the 27 migratory flocks seen moving southbound, group sizes ranged from one to six birds with one exceptional group of 10 migrating together. The average group size was 3.4 birds.

- It appears that family groups likely migrate together. For most of the reports, the ages of the individuals weren't reported or couldn't be determined; however, there are several instances when it is apparent that a juvenile is following an adult as the cries of the young are often accompanied by the raspy calls of the adult.
- Caspian Terns hug the immediate shoreline in migration. Although I have seen Caspian Terns migrating offshore at Appledore and Monhegan Islands in Maine, all of my fall sightings of migrating birds in New Hampshire have been of birds very close to shore. Most often, the birds are flying low over the immediate shoreline or less than 100 yards offshore. I have rarely seen Caspian Terns far enough offshore to require a spotting scope to see and identify them.
- I have also observed migrating and resting birds in Hampton Harbor. These sightings indicate that birds will sometimes veer from the immediate shoreline over marshes and estuaries when present, perhaps to rest and possibly feed from time to time.

Data Sources

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

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Birding Powder House Pond in Exeter

by Leonard Medlock

Exeter was settled in 1638 and in 1775 became New Hampshire's Revolutionary War capital, a distinction it held for fourteen years, until Concord assumed the title. On December 17, 1812, the State Legislature passed a resolution empowering the Governor to purchase a supply of powder, half of which was to be stored in Exeter, and to "procure some suitable magazines, or safe place of deposit—for the safe keeping of the public stores aforesaid." That "safe place" is the small brick building, the Powder House, which remains to this day. There is speculation that a number of barrels stored in the Powder House were used at the Battle of Bunker Hill. Today, the town-owned property is a popular spot for dog walkers and joggers who can traverse its short loop trail in just 10 or 15 minutes; however, birders would be wise to stop at intervals, for this little gem of a location can offer some great finds.

In spring, the Powder House Pond loop and adjacent shrubby habitat are muddy, but the reason migrating warblers and nesting birds like it is clear: a good quantity of insects. Tree Swallows, Northern Rough-winged Swallows, and warblers take advantage of this insect-rich habitat when they visit Powder House Pond in early April. A birder can fill his or her "who's who" list of warblers by simply standing at the entrance to the loop and walking toward the powder house. It shouldn't be difficult to spy American Redstart, Nashville, Magnolia, Yellow, Black-throated Blue, and even Blackpoll Warblers in the thickets. Northern Waterthrush can sometimes be seen at the base of the bushes near the entrance. On May 10, 2008, Powder House Pond was treated to a very special visitor: a female Cerulean Warbler. (So they do exist in New Hampshire outside of Pawtuckaway State Park!)

Last year, my son and I installed four bluebird boxes in the adjacent shrubby habitat, and visitors need not brave thickets (and ticks) to glimpse nesting birds, for we placed box #1 near the loop for all to enjoy. The first year produced three nests, which fledged 14 young swallows, but Eastern Bluebirds have also checked out the boxes. This habitat is also perfect to witness the much-anticipated American Woodcock "peenting" and flight displays (this writer's favorite spring ritual). As many as 11 woodcock have been heard or seen displaying in this field in one evening. Mallards work the edges of the pond, and Green Herons can be seen standing motionless near reeds, hoping for fish unaware of their surveillance.

Summer brings more insects (and more ticks), but drier conditions. The corner of the "bluebird box habitat" usually sports nesting pairs of Orchard Orioles and Baltimore Orioles, and Yellow Warblers and Warbling Vireos can also be found. A short, easy trail on the northern edge of the field (marked by a small post with a blue arrow) provides access to a smaller pond that hosts Great Blue Herons and turtles, and provides a view of the Swampscott River, where one may spy an Osprey following the river on its journey to Great Bay. Beware of poison ivy!

In the fall, take a moment to enjoy the colors and view of downtown Exeter from the powder house, which could inspire a fine landscape painting in the style of Currier

& Ives, but the good birding continues with migrating warblers and waterfowl. To some, autumn is the best time to visit Powder House Pond for waterfowl. Pied-billed Grebe and American Coot occur regularly and Ruddy Duck is sometimes seen, as well as Blue- and Green-winged Teal. Rarities in the fall have included Purple Gallinule, Sora, Orange-crowned Warbler and Lark Sparrow. The pond freezes solid in winter, but in good fruiting years the trees and bushes at the entrance and along the loop, where warblers greeted boot-soaked visitors in spring, can offer winter visitors good numbers of Cedar Waxwings and, rarely, Bohemian Waxwings or Pine Grosbeaks.



*American Coot on Powderhouse Pond,
by Leonard Medlock,
11/30/08, Powder House Pond, Exeter, NH.*

Directions: Take Exit 11 off Route 101 and head south on Portsmouth Avenue (Route 108). Turn right onto Green Hill Road (between Walgreen's Pharmacy and the Mobil station). Drive one block and turn left onto Jady Hill Circle. Drive one block where it makes a sharp right turn and then drive three blocks. Make a left onto Jady Hill Avenue and follow it until it ends at the pond.

Leonard Medlock lives in Exeter within walking distance of Powder House Pond. He has been an avid birder and photographer for several years, is currently the Webmaster of the New Hampshire Bird Records and New Hampshire Audubon Seacoast Chapter Web sites, and is a board member of the Seacoast Chapter.

Volunteer Opportunities and Research

Waterbird Surveys at Powwow Pond

by Pam Hunt

Powwow Pond in Kingston is well known to many New Hampshire birders as a good place to observe waterfowl during migration. In March and April, it is one of only a handful of sites where you can see flocks of over 100 Ring-necked Ducks. In fall, while the numbers of Ring-necks are usually lower, Powwow Pond consistently supports more Ruddy Ducks, Pied-billed Grebes, and American Coots than any other site in the state. Because of these high counts of diving ducks, grebes, and coots, New Hampshire Audubon recognized Powwow Pond as an Important Bird Area (IBA) in 2005. The New Hampshire IBA Program is part of a national and international effort to identify areas that provide critical habitat to birds during some stage of their annual cycle. IBAs are identified based on strict scientific criteria, including 1) the presence of threatened or endangered species, 2) presence of other species and habitats of con-

ervation concern, and 3) areas where birds congregate during breeding, migration, or winter. It is hoped that recognition of IBAs can help guide future conservation and research efforts at areas that meet these criteria. See the *New Hampshire Bird Records* Web site for a list of IBAs and more on the IBA program.



Ruddy Duck flock, including one fall-plumage male and three females, by Leonard Medlock

In the spring of 2008, the Powwow Council (local lake association) applied to the NH Department of Environmental Services for an herbicide permit. The association wished to reduce the amount of **native** aquatic vegetation in the shallow areas of the pond, which was interfering with boat activity. New Hampshire Audubon and NH Fish and Game expressed concern over this application for multiple reasons (including the pond's value to migrating waterfowl), and the permit was eventually denied. There is still interest in reaching a consensus on vegetation management at Powwow Pond, and to that end New Hampshire Audubon initiated waterbird surveys in the fall of 2008. The goal of these surveys was twofold: 1) to evaluate the use of other ponds in the area and 2) to document which areas of Powwow Pond were more important to waterfowl. Results of this study could then be used to inform future herbicide use.

Several local birders agreed to conduct volunteer surveys, which in addition to Powwow Pond occurred at Long Pond in Danville; Greenwood, Great, and Halfmoon Ponds in Kingston; and Country Pond in Kingston and Newton. Surveys took place between October 6 and December 6, and occurred roughly bi-weekly at Powwow and weekly at the other ponds. Observers recorded the number of birds seen from any of several vantage points on each pond.

When all the data were in, it was immediately clear that the three small ponds (Long, Halfmoon, and Greenwood) were rarely used by waterfowl, and then primarily by the more common Mallards. While the three larger ponds (Great, Country, and Powwow) all supported similar numbers of species, the total number of birds at Powwow was roughly five times that at the other two ponds. In addition, Powwow was the only pond with significant numbers of the four focal species: Ring-necked and Ruddy Ducks, Pied-billed Grebe, and American Coot. After Powwow Pond froze in late November, the number of ducks at Great and Country Ponds increased, but by this point in the season almost all birds were Canada Geese and Mallards. Table 1 compares waterbird numbers at these three ponds.

Within Powwow Pond, most birds were found in a vegetated area along the pond's north-central shoreline. This use pattern is consistent with the habitat and dietary

Table 1. Waterfowl numbers at three ponds in Kingston, NH during October 6 through December 6, 2008.

Pond	Can. Goose		Mallard		Ring-neck		Ruddy D.		PB Grebe		Am. Coot	
	x	M	x	M	x	M	x	M	x	M	x	M
Great Pond	4.1	20	9.1	36	0.2	2	not found		0.8	2	not found	
Powwow Pond	15.9	74	34.8	147	33.6	320	4.0	18	8.3	21	10.7	38
Country Pond	0.4	1	14.5	59	0.1	1	0.6	5	not found		not found	

x = Mean number of individuals over all visits

M = Maximum number of individuals observed on any single visit

needs of the focal species. In fall migration, all prefer shallow ponds with large stands of emergent and submerged aquatic vegetation, and all but the grebe have a significant amount of plant material in their diets. In fact, species such as arrowhead and pondweed—both present at Powwow Pond—feature heavily in descriptions of these species' diets.

So why is Powwow Pond so much better than nearby ponds for migrating waterbirds? This is almost certainly due to the aforementioned vegetation, which is in turn a result of Powwow's average depth (it is significantly shallower than the other large ponds, averaging only 4 feet). Because the deeper ponds support much smaller areas of emergent vegetation, they are less attractive to ducks, grebes, and coots. To bring the story back full circle, removal of vegetation at Powwow Pond could significantly reduce its value to waterbirds, and in such a scenario there would not be similar habitats nearby as alternatives for its target species. This possibility should be taken into consideration as the several groups with interests in Powwow Pond continue discussions about future herbicide treatment.

The Powwow Pond story is an excellent example of how volunteer birders can team up with conservation biologists to collect valuable data that inform land and water use. The pond's IBA status would not have been possible without the data submitted to *New Hampshire Bird Records* over the years, and this in turn led to the project described above. This is but one of many such projects where birders can directly inform bird conservation activity, including at other Important Bird Areas. We should all consider directing some of our birding time toward such conservation pursuits. In the end, the birds we all care about will benefit! More information on IBA data needs is available on the *New Hampshire Bird Records* Web site, www.nhbirdrecords.org – click the Bird Conservation tab.

Photo Gallery

Tri-State Pelagic Birding Trip

by Jon Woolf

On September 11, 2008, New Hampshire Audubon and Granite State Whale Watch cooperated to produce a pelagic birding trip into New Hampshire waters. Forty birders boarded the MV *Granite State* out of Rye, NH, for an eight-hour expedition that covered portions of the area called Jeffreys Ledge from just north of Cape Ann, Massachusetts, through New Hampshire and into Maine waters, then returned to harbor by way of the Isles of Shoals (Figure 1). The trip took place in near-perfect weather: no clouds, bright sun, and flat calm seas. The only real problem was the wind: there wasn't any, which meant that birds had to work to get into the air, and many didn't bother. Although birds didn't exactly fill the sky, we got a steady stream of good sightings throughout the day, highlighted by a number of pelagic species.

Figure 1. Chart of the course taken by *Granite State*. The dashed horizontal lines indicate the Maine-NH and NH-Massachusetts borders. Produced by Steve Mirick.



onto Jeffreys Ledge in record-high numbers. The tri-state trip recorded a total of 78 Cory's and only seven Greater Shearwaters. Fourteen of the Cory's Shearwaters were seen in New Hampshire waters; this is one of the highest totals on record for the state. Thirty-seven of the Cory's were in Maine waters, and this total likely represents the highest number ever reported for Maine.

Red-necked Phalaropes and Red Phalaropes are shorebirds that spend their winters at sea. They start to appear

Pelagic trips are always unpredictable; sometimes you see more than expected, sometimes less. On this day, we indeed saw some things we didn't expect, and saw fewer than expected of others.

Greater Shearwaters are common in the cooler water of the Gulf of Maine, while Cory's Shearwaters usually prefer the warmer water to the south of Cape Cod, rarely wandering as far north as Jeffreys Ledge. A normal year in the Gulf of Maine offers large numbers of Greater Shearwaters and few, if any, Cory's Shearwaters. This year, however, the numbers were reversed: Cory's Shearwaters swarmed



Two Cory's Shearwaters by Leonard Medlock.

in the Gulf of Maine in July, and peak in numbers around late August and September. Red-necked Phalaropes are usually much more common in the Gulf of Maine than Red Phalaropes. So they were on our trip: we saw more than a hundred Red-necked Phalaropes, with a handful of Red Phalaropes mixed in.



A single Red Phalarope (far left) with a flock of Red-necked Phalaropes, by Jon Woolf.

Northern Gannets are usually common sights offshore in September. We saw many of them throughout the trip, including one large group of over 100 in a floating roost. A gannet's plumage changes throughout its first four years in much the same way as a large gull's does, developing stage by stage from all-brown in a hatch-year bird to the full adult plumage of white with black wingtips and yellow head. Most of the gannets we saw were mixed brown and white, or mostly white, indicating young birds from one to three years old.



Two Northern Gannets in different plumage stages, by Jon Woolf. The amount of white indicates age: the bird on the left is almost mature, while the browner bird on the right is younger.

Other pelagic birds included two Manx Shearwaters, a few Wilson's Storm-Petrels, two juvenile Laughing Gulls, four juvenile Common Terns, an unidentified jaeger, an unidentified murre, and an Atlantic Puffin. To top it all off, we had a small, steady stream of migrant landbirds: two Merlins, a Brown-headed Cowbird, and six species of warblers including a Cape May Warbler.

We were looking for birds, but when whales cross your path it's still exciting to check them out. We had several species of marine mammals pay us a visit: 3-4 pods of White-sided Dolphins and several Fin Whales. One of the whales provided a silent reminder of the hazards these huge creatures face: its back was heavily scarred from

an encounter with a boat propeller. Finally, we saw several groups of Harbor Porpoises—not a rare animal, but a rare sighting. Harbor Porpoises are so small that any kind of wave action makes them nearly invisible.



Two Atlantic White-sided Dolphins swim close alongside the boat, by Jon Woolf.

A large Fin Whale scarred by an encounter with a boat's propellers, by Jon Woolf.



The good weather, calm sea conditions, some very good birds, and the usual professional job of the Granite State crew made it an enjoyable trip for all. Group leader and master-birder Steve Mirick did an equally good job calling out and identifying the birds we saw, while tracking the boat's course by GPS and keeping a running count of birds seen. NH Audubon will be running a similar pelagic trip in Fall 2009; contact the Massabesic Audubon Center for details, 668-5605.



The Tri-state Pelagic Birding Trip participants, dockside in Rye Harbor upon return, by Jon Woolf.

Answer to the Photo Quiz

by David B. Donsker

With its short conical bill this bird can only be a member of one of the several families that we commonly refer to as “finches.” These families include *Emberizidae*, the American sparrows and old world buntings; *Cardinalidae*, the so-called “cardinal-grosbeaks”; *Fringillidae*, the “true” finches; and an introduced family, *Passeridae*, the old world sparrows of which House Sparrow is the only New England representative. That’s still a large number of birds to consider, but the reasonable choices can be limited fairly quickly by examining the plumage characteristics and, to some degree, the habitat of the bird in question.

Our featured bird is generally very pale. Its lower underparts are pure white. There is no hint of streaking or spotting anywhere on the lower breast or belly. Although its head is fairly well marked, it also has a generally pale appearance, largely due to the broad white eye-brow and nearly white face, which is only interrupted by a fairly prominent dark ear patch and a darkish crown. The only feature breaking up the pure white underparts is a diffuse but prominent dark breast patch. The back is heavily streaked, but the streaks are fairly narrow against a pale background. A large white wing patch is present, which corresponds to the greater coverts of the upper wing. The flight feathers of the wings and tail are strongly edged in white.

So, let’s begin to eliminate some of the possible species. House Sparrow is so familiar to us that we generally don’t tend to look at it very carefully. Both sexes are streaked above and unmarked below. Like this bird, females have a broad, pale eye-brow, and winter males have a diffuse dark breast patch. Both sexes, but especially males, can have a variable amount of white in the upper wing. But this bird is clearly not a House Sparrow. Only males have dark breast patches, but this is part of a larger, dark bib, and the white in the upper wing is never this extensive. Further, the bill of House Sparrow is proportionally longer than the small, triangular bill of this bird.

The members of the cardinal-grosbeak family are generally characterized by brightly colored males and warm colored, otherwise unmarked, females. But one divergent member of this family, Dickcissel, can look surprisingly similar to House Sparrow and must be considered. Dickcissel is streaked above and unmarked below. In winter, the males can have a diffuse dark patch on their upper breast. But among other things, Dickcissel has a chestnut, not white, patch on the upper wing and lacks the extensive white feather edging and general overall paleness of this bird. Its breast patch is located higher, more on the lower throat, and its eyebrow is narrower.

None of our “true” finches resembles this bird. Most species are more extensively streaked (think female House Finch, Pine Siskin, or Common Redpoll), are more richly colored (e.g., male Purple Finch) or plainer (female or non-breeding male American Goldfinch). The only member of this family that even suggests this bird is adult male Hoary Redpoll. Hoary Redpoll shares the overall whiteness of this bird, has a streaked back on a white ground, has white-tipped greater coverts, and could even have a diffuse darkish (pink) breast patch. But the redpoll would lack the ear patch of

this bird. Its bill is tiny, and it would have a more limited crown patch and black chin and throat. Many adult male Hoary Redpolls would show at least some wispy streaking along the rear flanks.

The large family that includes the American sparrows and old world buntings is primarily comprised of a multitude of streaky birds, all of which are easily eliminated. Some sparrows are unmarked below, such as White-crowned and Chipping Sparrow, but none of these remotely resembles this bird. One member of this family, Lark Bunting, a rare visitor to our state, does have large white wing patches, but males in non-breeding plumage and females are heavily streaked.

The longspurs are also members of this group. Like the featured bird, longspurs can have a darkish breast band and dark ear patch. But in longspurs, the cheek patch is set off from the rest of the face by a complete or interrupted dark frame. Lapland Longspur, by far the more common longspur found in our state, is streaked on the flanks. It also lacks the generalized paleness and the large white wing patch of this bird. Chestnut-collared Longspur, a very rare accidental to New Hampshire, is less strongly marked than Lapland Longspur. It has a white wing patch that is much smaller than that of the featured bird. Although less strongly marked than Lapland Longspur, males generally look scaled on the breast, and the dull females are faintly marked underneath with blurry streaks. Neither species is as pale as this individual.

Frequently associating with Lapland Longspurs is another species which, though not a "finch," bears a superficial resemblance to this bird. Horned Lark shares some of the features exhibited in the photograph. Although breeding males with their black masks and sharp black bibs are unmistakable, females, particularly in winter plumage, are duller with less sharply defined masks and breast patches. But it has only a faintly streaked back, lacks the large white wing patch and has a thinner bill.

The only bird that combines all of the features of our subject, particularly its overall whiteness, is the aptly named, Snow Bunting, *Plectrophenax nivalis*. Although adult birds in breeding plumage, especially males, are sharply dressed in black and immaculate white, we typically see them in non-breeding plumage. That plumage is more subdued with the black replaced by streaky buffy tones. Buffy patches appear on the upper breast (more prominent on the sides) and the auriculars ("ear patches"). Yet, even in this "duller" plumage, the whiteness of this species cannot be denied. The underparts retain their snowy whiteness, and the tail feathers are edged in white. But the most salient feature is the extensive amount of white retained in the wings. Even in duller first winter females, the inner rear wing (the secondary flight feathers) and most of the greater coverts retain their brilliant whiteness. This is especially astonishing to see when the birds take flight and the full wing is exposed. No other New England passerine is so strikingly white. Nothing else looks like it.

This Snow Bunting, a male in non-breeding plumage, was photographed by Jon Woolf on October 26, 2005, at Rye Harbor State Park, NH, one of the more predictable sites for this species.

Snow Bunting is a fairly common winter visitor to New Hampshire, where it prefers open habitats such as fields and rocky shorelines that mimic its breeding grounds on the arctic tundra. It usually appears, and can be seen in its greatest numbers, in late October and early November. Flocks of hundreds of birds can often be seen at that time in predictable sites, such as the parking lot at Hampton Beach State

Park, NH. Numbers of birds persist throughout the winter, particularly if the ground remains at least partially snow-free. Snow Bunting frequently associates with Horned Lark and Lapland Longspur. It is always a challenge to find one or two subtly marked longspurs in a large flock of Snow Buntings. But it is usually not a challenge to find the lone Snow Bunting in a flock of larks. Once the birds take flight and its spectacular white wing patches are flashed, the bunting's presence is obvious.

References

- Dunn, J. and J. Alderfer, eds. 2006. *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America*. Fifth Edition. National Geographic Society, Washington, DC.
- Sibley, D. 2000. *The Sibley Guide to Birds*. Alfred A. Knopf. New York, NY.



Corrections

The following corrections were found after the issue was published. Minor typos are not included. Please let us know of any inaccuracies you find in any issue so we can correct the computerized data file of sighting records.

Winter 2005-06

- p. 6 In the second paragraph, an Ash-throated Flycatcher was seen in East Kingston not Kingston.
- p. 11 The Northern Gannet on 01-02 was seen “offshore near Isles of Shoals.”
- p. 11 In the Grouse through Raptors summary, the next to last sentence, there were two records for American Kestrel, not three.
- p. 12 The second Great Blue Heron observed on 01-02 was seen in North Hampton at the North Hampton/Rye town line not Hampton.
- p. 15 The two Killdeer on 01-21 were seen in Rye not Portsmouth near Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.
- p. 15 In the Coot through Alcids summary, third paragraph, the second sentence should read “essentially unreported in winter until five years ago.”
- p. 30 and 36 The 2 Red- x Yellow-shafted Flickers listed for the Keene count were Northern Flickers. They were a new species for the count but not a new count high for the state.
- Back Cover In the second sentence it should read “An Orange-crowned Warbler visited a feeder all season” not “for several days”. In the third sentence the Palm Warbler was seen in Rye not Hampton. In the fifth sentence, Baltimore Orioles were also seen in New Castle and Bethlehem.

Abbreviations Used

BBC	Brookline Bird Club	R.	River
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey	Rd.	Road
CA	Conservation Area	Rt.	Route
CC	Country Club	SF	State Forest
CFT	NH Audubon Chapter Field Trip	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		

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A Few Highlights from Fall 2008.



*White-eyed Vireo by Jason Lambert, 10/04/08
at Odiorne Point State Park, Rye, NH.*



*Sedge Wren by Scott Young, 11/28/08,
Great Bay Discovery Center, Greenland, NH.*



*Greater and Cory's Shearwaters by Leonard Medlock, 9/11/08, at sea on Jeffreys Ledge.
See the article inside on the Tri-State Pelagic Birding Trip.*



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