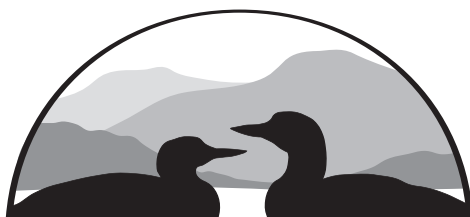


New Hampshire Bird Records



Spring 2009

Vol. 28, No. 1



New Hampshire Bird Records

Volume 28, Number 1

Spring 2009

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Cover Photo: *Ring-necked Ducks at the Exeter wastewater treatment plant by Leonard Medlock. We chose this species for the front cover in honor of Tudor Richard for whom it was a favorite (see page 50).*

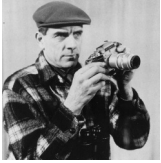
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IN MEMORY OF
Tudor Richards
 FEBRUARY 16, 1915 - MARCH 6, 2009

New Hampshire Audubon is proud to honor Tudor Richards by sponsoring all four of the 2009 *New Hampshire Bird Records* issues in his memory. Tudor was a long-time president of New Hampshire Audubon and a true giant in the New Hampshire birding and conservation communities. Tudor was an avid birder who contributed greatly to our knowledge of New Hampshire's birds in many ways. It seems most appropriate to recognize his contributions with these memorial issues, beginning with Spring 2009. As part of the series, we will be including several items and articles by Bob Quinn that highlight some of Tudor's contributions (see page 48). We are grateful that Tudor was a part of the birding community for so long and we will miss him.

Thank you to the many generous donors who made contributions in memory of Tudor Richards.

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Tudor Richards on his last visit to Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge for the dedication of the Tudor Richards Platform, November 2006. Photo by David Govatski.

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Thanks to everyone who has renewed their subscription and welcome to new subscribers. We very much appreciate those who also made an additional contribution. Your support is critical to *New Hampshire Bird Records*.



Kumlien's Iceland Gull by Scott A. Young, 4/21/09, Rochester wastewater treatment plant, NH.

From the Editor

Volunteer Goodbyes

It is with great sadness that we bid goodbye to volunteer extraordinaire, Terry Bronson who has moved to West Virginia. During his time on the *New Hampshire Bird Records* team, Terry took on a wide variety of tasks including the import of all Excel files (no small job as I can report after doing it for the Spring 09 season). Fortunately, Terry is still willing and able to help process incoming Excel files via the wonders of e-mail for which I have been very grateful especially during the spring crunch time. Terry was also the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee Secretary, processing documentation forms and keeping tabs on unusual reports. In his new home, Terry has broken the curse of the Yellow-breasted Chat (see his article in the Winter 2008-09 issue) and spent the summer contributing to the West Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas. We will miss him but our loss is West Virginia's gain and their birding community will be enriched by his energy and enthusiasm.

We are also sorry to see *New Hampshire Bird Records* Text Editor, Dorothy Fitch, move to Arizona. Dorothy was also key to the final publication of the "Missing Seasons" (six seasons spanning 1986 and 1987 that remained a gap in the publication of New Hampshire's bird sightings until fairly recently). She and her husband John were long-time volunteers for New Hampshire Audubon and we are grateful for all that they have done for the organization. We wish them all the best in their move to the birding mecca of southern Arizona. We are delighted to welcome Dan Hubbard who will be taking over the editing tasks.

New Hampshire eBird is Here!

New Hampshire Audubon and *New Hampshire Bird Records* (NHBR) have teamed up with eBird and are excited to announce the release of **New Hampshire eBird** (ebird.org/content/nh). Making data accessible and available for conservation and research has been at the heart of the NHBR computerization efforts begun in 1986. By collaborating with eBird, NHBR can provide an up-to-date, easier way for volunteers to report their observations and ensure that all the data is widely available for multiple uses. For more, see the article on page 45.

NH eBird will also change how you report your sightings. NH eBird will now be the primary way to send your sightings to NHBR. If you're already an eBird user, you will no longer need to send separate Excel spreadsheets to NHBR. For the rest of us, it's time to become familiar with NH eBird and use it to report our sightings. Regular NHBR reporters will be receiving more detailed information about how to report sightings using eBird. For those without computer access we will be working out the best format for you to continue submitting your sightings. Stay tuned!

2009 Goodhue-Elkins Award

As presented at the New Hampshire Audubon Annual Meeting, June 2009

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

This year's recipient is Robert Bradley of Littleton, NH. Bob Bradley is an avid birder, but specifically relevant to this award is his profound interest in New Hampshire's bird records. He has been a regular contributor of bird sightings to New Hampshire Audubon over many years. Bob was a very active reporter in the 1960s and 1970s, submitting hundreds of reports using the "new" format which required transcribing each sighting onto a 3x5 slip instead of writing an informal letter with a list of sightings. He reported his own observations as well as those of others, ensuring that they would become part of the historical record of bird sightings. Now, as we are assessing various impacts including global climate change, these long-term records are essential to the work that New Hampshire Audubon does.

Bob's observations, and those he reported for other birders, provide a significant portion of the bird sighting data from the 1960s and 1970s when there were few reporters. His waterfowl data provide the majority of reports from the upper Connecticut River and support the potential nomination of that area as an Important Bird Area.

Bob was a volunteer observer for the Breeding Bird Survey in New Hampshire, another long-term census of population trends. He surveyed the Franconia route in most years between 1977 through 1998. He often conducted his route with Marion Fuller, a piano teacher with excellent ears.

He was involved in the publication of bird reports through New Hampshire Audubon and very active in the birding community. According to Denny Abbott, Bob was an important contributor of bird sightings from the northwest corner of the state. He was never afraid to offer constructive criticism regarding the content and format of the season reports. He was a Season Editor for the bird reports in the *New Hampshire Audubon Quarterly* for several seasons.

During the Breeding Bird Atlas project, Tudor Richards asked him to help confirm breeding birds at Pondicherry and Bob had the good fortune to see a mother Virginia Rail with babies. He is surprised he lived to be 30 after going on many a steep birding hike in the White Mountains with Dr. Harry McDade.

Bob has restricted mobility now, but continues to report from the Littleton area. New Hampshire Audubon is pleased to honor Bob Bradley with the 2009 Goodhue-Elkins Award.

Bob Bradley was unable to attend the meeting to receive the award, but sent the following in acceptance. It gives a glimpse into the lively, generous spirit Bob brings to his great interest in birding in New Hampshire.

When the letter arrived informing me that I had received the Goodhue-Elkins award, like so many things in life, I wondered "why me?" with so many good birders out there. I've been birding for over 60 years. If you're in my age bracket please remember Betty Phinney, Vera Hebert, Pauline Merrill, Bob Smart, Bob Vernon, John McIlwaine, Dr. McDade, and Kimball Elkins.

Kimball was always so helpful. On coastal field trips I was usually with him. One May trip we were in the Kensington area. It was a large group with Bob Smart as the leader and Kimball in the last car. He knew one birder would be late and we had just seen a Reeve, a very rare shorebird. Kimball saw the late birder and went back to be sure he saw the Reeve. Kimball always took the time to be sure everyone saw the birds, common or rare. Thank you Kimball!

*On one July trip to the Hampton mudflats, we were hoping to see Willets. I spotted an Avocet. Quietly I told Vera Hebert, then Kimball so they could confirm my identification. It **was** an Avocet! The bird flew and most only saw it in flight. I learned later from Vera that is was a first for New Hampshire.*

Over the years, it's not so much the birds, it's the birders, the people you're with and all the experiences you have with them. Dr. McDade was a great mountain climber and he took me to places I didn't think I would come out of alive. One September, with his mother, we were almost to the edge of Little Cherry Pond. Dr. McDade said "step on the green and everything will be all right." That's what I did and I found myself waist deep in water along with my binoculars. Mrs. McDade was screaming "Get Bob out of the pond, it doesn't have any bottom." And what do you think Dr. McDade replied? "Wait until I identify this bird" which turned out to be a Lark Sparrow. I never did see the bird; muddy binoculars have limited vision.

These days if you are with Becky Suomala, Bob Quinn, Steve Mirick, Denny Abbott and others, consider yourself very lucky because they are very talented. You will have a wonderful time.

Over the years I have been lucky to bird with my close friends, Edith Anne Emery and Priscilla Powers, and their mother Ruby.

I am very grateful for this award.

*Thank you.
Bob Bradley*

Photo Quiz



Can You Identify These Birds?

Answer on page 66
Photos by Geoff Dennis



Pam Hunt

Spring Season

March 1 through May 31, 2009

by Pam Hunt

Spring weather in New Hampshire seems to be getting more and more unusual, perhaps as a result of the vagaries of global climate change. March started the season with relatively normal conditions, although for the second year in a row there was above-average snowfall in the southern part of the state (but nowhere near as much as in 2008!). But then there was April, which, while fairly typical in terms of precipitation, ended on an exceptionally warm note. The heat wave began on April 25, when a warm front and southwesterly flow cleared out some lingering clouds and showers from the previous week. Three days later, after another warm front, the mercury reached 93 degrees in Concord, a mark that wasn't matched until mid-August and remained unsurpassed in 2009. This April warm spell brought several species to the state on the early side, particularly among the warblers.

May turned the tables by being a little cooler than average, although not by much. The weather highlights tended to relate to fallout conditions. Both early in the month, and particularly at the end, southeasterly flows encountered cold fronts, resulting in persistent showers and occasional heavy rain. Under these conditions, waterfowl, shorebirds, and other coastal species are often forced down while migrating overland to arctic breeding areas. Observant birders can take advantage of weather maps and plan their excursions accordingly, usually by focusing on inland lakes and rivers where waterbirds are most likely to congregate. At the very end of May, Eric Masteron timed things right to document such a fallout of shorebirds and terns along the Connecticut River.

Other patterns of the season were less clearly tied to weather, and include excellent counts of both dabbling and sea ducks along the coast, an increase in reports of pelagic species, and the continued northward expansion of species like Red-bellied Woodpecker and Fish Crow. Also, although northern owls and irruptive finches had their moment in the sun during the winter, there were enough



Hooded Warbler by Jason Lambert, 4/29/09, Exeter, NH.

of them in spring to justify a special note in this summary. Rarities of course are one of the reasons we go birding, and this season there was the usual smattering of unexpected (or at least rarely expected) species. These included **Least Bittern**, the return of Newmarket's **Mississippi Kites**, a **dark-morph** Broad-winged Hawk, **Marbled Godwit**, **Great Gray Owl**, **Gray-cheeked Thrush**, **Hooded Warbler**, and **Lark Sparrow**. Read on to learn more about these birds – and many others.

Waterfowl through Grebes



Greater White-fronted Goose by Leonard Medlock, 3/24/09, Merrimack, NH.

Waterfowl watchers in the Connecticut River Valley continue to find new things, as evidenced by several of the high counts in the listings below. Much of these data are from Phil Brown's master's project at Antioch University, in which he is trying to understand the spatial and temporal patterns of waterfowl migration and habitat use in the Middle Connecticut River Valley Important Bird Area. Despite all the people looking – both along the Connecticut and on the coast - numbers of rare geese were down compared to the last few years. Single **Cackling** and **Greater**

White-fronted Geese were in the Connecticut Valley, and a second Greater White-fronted spent a few days in the lower Merrimack River valley. In the case of a swan flying over Freedom, observers ruled out Mute Swan. Although Tundra Swan would be the next most likely, there remains the intriguing potential of Trumpeter Swan, a species which is slowly increasing in areas as close as western New York. Numbers of Gadwall and Northern Shovelers continue to increase, and a pair of the latter were in a very unexpected location on the ocean on May 2. Meadow Pond in Hampton hosted a good variety of dabbling ducks over the course of the season, including some impressive tallies of Green-winged Teal. Among them was a single individual of the Eurasian subspecies, and two additional **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** were seen in Charlestown and Seabrook.

The coastal waterfowl event of the season was without doubt the impressive concentration of Long-tailed Ducks off Great Boars Head in Hampton. After starting to mass on April 24, the flock hit record proportions with 563 birds on May 2. They began to leave for points north soon afterward, and by May 23 they were almost gone. In lieu of separate listings of sea duck reports on the coast, I have elected to present Steve and Jane Mirick's coastal totals for these species on three dates in Table 1. Note how numbers of each species vary during the course of the season, with some species starting to depart earlier than others. For example, grebes are nearly gone from the coast by April, but numbers of Black and White-winged Scoters are still present until their major migration in late May. In the listings, note the smattering of inland sea duck records, including a couple from far to the north in Pittsburg. These species are probably regular here, but the area is not birded frequently enough in spring to have a good idea of the numbers of ducks one would expect there.

Numbers of loons and grebes along the coast are also included in Table 1. Of these species, Red-throated Loons seemed particularly scarce, with no reports of more than single birds for the entire season. There were several inland reports of both Horned and Red-necked Grebes, including good totals for Lake Massabesic and Pittsburg. The Brentwood Mitigation Area continues to be the stronghold for the state's Pied-billed Grebe population.

Table 1. Totals for selected sea ducks, loons, and grebes from three surveys along the New Hampshire coast during Spring 2009. All data from Steve and Jane Mirick. "N.R." = data not reported but species was presumed present.

	March 22	April 26	May 2
Common Eider	62	N.R.	57
Surf Scoter	63	19	34
White-winged Scoter	41	63	51
Black Scoter	17	31	26
Long-tailed Duck	49	446	563
Red-breasted Merganser	101	N.R.	32
Red-throated Loon	1	1	1
Common Loon	60	N.R.	49
Horned Grebe	2	N.R.	N.R.
Red-necked Grebe	17	1	3

date *#* *town* *location* *observer(s)*

Greater White-fronted Goose

3/15	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	T. Pirro
3/16	1	Merrimack	pond at small business complex	L. Medlock
3/17	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	L. Tanino, H. Galbraith
3/19	1	Litchfield	Rt. 3A field, s. of Rodonis Gardens	C. Sheridan, et al.

Snow Goose

3/15	1	Greenland	Great Bay Discovery Center	S. Mirick
3/15	1	Walpole	Bellows Falls dam	P. Brown, J. Tilden
3/19	58	Charlestown	Great Meadows	L. Tanino
3/28	20	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
4/5	287	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	L. Tanino
5/4	1	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	B. Bradley
5/5	1	Canaan	Route 4	L. Jones



A group of migrating Brant by Leonard Medlock, 3/15/09, Star Island, Isles of Shoals, NH.

Brant

3/15	5	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson
4/4	19		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
4/5	11	Hampton	Great Boars Head	T. Bronson
4/11	26	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. & J. Mirick
5/16	55	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson FT
5/17	31		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick, R. Suomala
5/22	32	Seabrook	Seabrook Harbor	L. Medlock

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Cackling Goose				
3/15	1	Hinsdale	waterfowl roost	H. Galbraith
3/20	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
Canada Goose				
3/17	570	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. Mirick
3/17	4500	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	P. Brown, M. Einermann
3/19	1710	Charlestown	Great Meadows and cornfields	L. Tanino
3/25	355	E. Kingston	Bodwell Farm	S. Mirick
Mute Swan				
3/22	8		Great Bay	S. & J. Mirick
4/1	3	Salem	World End Pond	S. Mirick
4/14	1	Nashua	on river	R. Robert
5/29	20	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
Swan sp.				
5/25	1	Freedom	Berry Bay	A. Robbins
Wood Duck				
3/6	3	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	L. Tanino, P. Brown, J. Tilden
3/20	40	Concord	Loudon Rd., field behind PO	R. & M. Suomala
3/29	50	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	L. Tanino
4/1	100	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
4/9	40	Hinsdale	rail trail	L. Tanino
Gadwall				
3/8	2	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
3/20	3	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
3/26	2	Charlestown	Great Meadows	P. Brown
3/28	2	Hampton	Meadow Pond	L. Medlock, S. & J. Mirick, L. Kras
4/3	1	Haverhill	Bedell Bridge St. Pk.	J. Williams
4/4	4	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. & J. Mirick
4/5	1	Lebanon	above Wilder Dam	J. Hart
4/5	2	N. Hampton	Philbrick Pond	S. & J. Mirick
4/19	2	Hampton	Drakeside Road marsh	L. Medlock
5/2	2	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. & J. Mirick
American Wigeon				
3/8	14	Greenland	Great Bay	L. Medlock
3/8	2	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
3/13	3	Walpole	below Bellow Falls Dam	L. Tanino, P. Brown
3/22	49		Great Bay	S. & J. Mirick
3/22	5	E. Kingston	Bodwell Farm, Rt. 108	L. Medlock
4/4	2	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. & J. Mirick
4/9	4	Hinsdale	rail trail	L. Tanino
Blue-winged Teal				
3/30	3	Charlestown	Great Meadows	E. Masterson
4/2	1	Kingston	Powwow Pond	L. Medlock
4/4	2	Concord	West Portsmouth St.	R. Quinn
4/8	2	E. Kingston	Bodwell Farm	S. Mirick
4/8	2	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick
4/10	2	Hinsdale	setbacks	P. Brown, P. Davenport

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
5/2	3	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S.& J. Mirick
5/4	2	Conway	Sherman Farm	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely, B. Crowley
Northern Shoveler				
3/22	2	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	D. Howe
3/28	2	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S.& J. Mirick
3/28	2	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	L. Medlock, S.& J. Mirick, L. Kras
4/6	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	L. Medlock
4/17	2	Rye	Eel Pond	M. Tinglee, R. Aaronian
4/18	1		Lake Winnisquam	M. Collins
5/2	2	Hampton	Great Boars Head	S.& J. Mirick
Northern Pintail				
3/8	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S.& J. Mirick
3/12	14	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
3/15	4	Greenland	Great Bay Discovery Center	S. Mirick
3/15	1	Tilton	Winnepesaukee R. behind BJ's	R.& M. Suomala
3/22	7	Charlestown	Great Meadows	P. Brown, J. Tilden
3/25	7	Kingston	Powwow Pond-IBA	S. Mirick
4/11	2	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S.& J. Mirick
5/5	2	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	B. Bradley
Green-winged Teal				
3/8	14	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S.& J. Mirick
3/22	11	Charlestown	Great Meadows	L. Tanino
3/25	18	E. Kingston	Bodwell Farm	S. Mirick
3/28	132	Hampton	Meadow Pond	L. Medlock, S.& J. Mirick, L. Kras
4/1	16	Swanzy	Dillant-Hopkins Airport	L. Tanino
4/6	50	Hampton	Meadow Pond	E. Masterson
4/8	78	E. Kingston	Bodwell Farm	S. Mirick
4/9	150	Hinsdale	rail trail	L. Tanino
4/11	220	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S.& J. Mirick
4/24	245	Hampton	Meadow Pond	T. Bronson
5/2	34	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S.& J. Mirick
5/11	2	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick
Green-winged Teal-Eurasian subsp. Common Teal				
4/6	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	E. Masterson
4/8	1	Charlestown	Great Meadows	E. Masterson
4/10	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	L. Medlock
4/18	1	Charlestown	Great Meadows	E. Masterson
5/8	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S.& J. Mirick
Ring-necked Duck				
3/6	3	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	L. Tanino, P. Brown, J. Tilden
3/15	4	Tilton	Winnepesaukee R. behind BJ's	R.& M. Suomala
3/17	42	Kingston	Powwow Pond-IBA	S. Mirick
3/21	350	Kingston	Powwow Pond-IBA	S.& J. Mirick
3/25	35	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	P. Chamberlin
3/28	108	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
3/31	65	Hinsdale	setbacks	L. Tanino

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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Ring-necked Duck—continued

4/1	72	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson
4/2	20	Swanzy	Dillant-Hopkins Airport & Wilson Pond	L. Tanino
4/4	37	New Hampton	Lake Waukewan	I. MacLeod
4/8	80	Concord	various ponds	R. Quinn
4/14	30	Nelson	Tolman Pond	P. Brown, J. Littleton

Greater Scaup

3/8	2	Hinsdale	Connecticut River	E. Masterson
3/17	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	T. Bronson
3/17	1500	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
3/18	2	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	T. Bronson
4/4	1	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	R. Quinn
4/10	263	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
4/25	1	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	P. Brown
4/26	2	Hooksett	Merrimack R. by Hooksett power station	A. & G. Robbins

Lesser Scaup

3/8	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	L. Medlock
3/8	2	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
3/26	1	Salem	World End Pond	S. Mirick
4/4	2	Concord	South End Marsh	R. Quinn
4/4	7	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. & J. Mirick
4/4	4	Rye	Eel Pond	S. & J. Mirick
5/26	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Hubbard

Scaup sp.

4/30	15	Littleton	Moore Reservoir, Connecticut R.	S. & M. Turner
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Harlequin Duck

5/3	1	Hampton	Great Boars Head	S. & J. Mirick
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Surf Scoter

4/25	1	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	P. Brown
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White-winged Scoter

5/2	2	Pittsburg	First Connecticut Lake	E. Masterson
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Black Scoter

3/28	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
4/10	1	Hinsdale	setbacks	P. Brown, P. Davenport



Large flock of Long-tailed Ducks off Great Boar's Head by Steve Mirick, 5/2/09, Hampton, NH.

Long-tailed Duck

4/24	60	Hampton	s. side of Great Boars Head	T. Bronson
4/27	2	Ashland	Sanborn Road	I. MacLeod
5/23	4	Hampton	Great Boars Head	S. & J. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Bufflehead				
3/18	48	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	T. Bronson
3/21	8	Kingston	Powwow Pond-IBA	S. & J. Mirick
3/22	1	Merrimack	Horseshoe Pond	S. Molloy
4/1	1	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson
4/7	4	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	T. Bronson
Common Goldeneye				
3/6	198	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	L. Tanino, P. Brown, J. Tilden
3/12	40	Walpole	Route 123 bridge	P. Brown, P. Davenport
3/17	113	Greenland	Great Bay Discovery Center	S. Mirick
3/18	53	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	T. Bronson
3/30	50	Hinsdale	setbacks	L. Tanino, P. Brown
Barrow's Goldeneye				
3/12	2	Walpole	Route 123 bridge	P. Brown, P. Davenport
3/22	1	Hampton	Great Boars Head	S. & J. Mirick
3/30	1	Hinsdale	setbacks	P. Brown, L. Tanino
4/2	2	Hinsdale	setbacks	L. Tanino
Hooded Merganser				
3/6	28	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	L. Tanino, P. Brown, J. Tilden
3/8	100	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
3/15	60	Walpole	below Bellows Falls dam	P. Brown, J. Tilden
3/21	15	Kingston	Powwow Pond IBA	S. & J. Mirick
3/27	170	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	P. Brown, P. Hunt
Common Merganser				
3/6	14	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	L. Tanino, P. Brown, J. Tilden
3/7	17	Litchfield	Moores Falls	S. Molloy
3/13	55	Walpole	below Bellow Falls Dam	L. Tanino, P. Brown
3/21	64	Exeter	Squamscott R. by wastewater treatment plant	R. Suomala, C. Martin, P. Hunt
3/21	30	Kingston	Powwow Pond IBA	S. & J. Mirick
3/22	141		Great Bay	S. & J. Mirick
3/28	31	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. & J. Mirick
3/30	80	Hinsdale	setbacks	L. Tanino, P. Brown
Ruddy Duck				
4/11	2	Merrimack	Horseshoe Pond	S. Molloy
Spruce Grouse				
5/2	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet	E. Masterson
Common Loon				
4/4	1	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	R. Quinn
4/5	1	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	L. Tanino
4/8	1	Harrisville	Silver Lake	P. Brown
4/8	1	Newbury	Lake Todd	P. Newbern
4/29	2	Littleton	Partridge Lake	S. & M. Turner
5/2	4	Pittsburg	First Connecticut Lake	E. Masterson
5/11	33	Seabrook	Route 1A	S. & J. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Pied-billed Grebe				
3/21	1	Kingston	Powwow Pond IBA	S. & J. Mirick
3/26	1	Salem	World End Pond	S. Mirick
4/1	3	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson
4/4	1	Concord	South End Marsh	R. Quinn
4/6	1	Warner	along Route 114	R. Quinn
5/3	6	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson, Seacoast CFT
5/14	1	Sandwich	Chicks Corner wetland	T. Vazzano
5/24	1	Sutton	Cascade Marsh	P. Newbern
Horned Grebe				
4/11	4	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	E. Masterson
4/22	12	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	E. Masterson
5/2	4	Pittsburg	First Connecticut Lake	E. Masterson
Red-necked Grebe				
4/11	10	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	E. Masterson
4/22	2	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	E. Masterson
4/24	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	P. Brown
5/1	2	Lebanon	Boston Lot Reservoir	B. Heitzman
5/2	1	Enfield	Mascoma Lake	T. Brodeur
5/2	16	Pittsburg	First Connecticut Lake	E. Masterson
5/2	3	Pittsburg	Lake Francis	E. Masterson

Northern Fulmar through Sandhill Crane

In a prelude to a summer with exceptional offshore birding, there were three pelagic trips this spring, all of which turned up species of interest. Heading the list is Northern Fulmar, a species rarely reported in the state because it occurs primarily in the winter months when few boats (at least with birders on them) venture offshore. Northern Gannets are certainly more expected, but numbers this spring were significantly higher than average, and many were also seen from shore on a regular basis. Look for other offshore bird totals with respect to alcids in the next section.

Back on shore, it was a good season for noteworthy herons. Heading up the list was a Least Bittern found in Epping by Greg Tillman on May 23 which was last seen on May 25. This species was not reported from the marshes along the Connecticut River in Hinsdale, where it was found the previous two years. A Tricolored Heron in Portsmouth was somewhat on the early side (especially since it is much more expected in mid-late summer), but even more of a surprise was the presence of *three* Snowy Egrets along the Connecticut River in Walpole. Even single individuals of this species are quite rare inland at any season. Amazingly enough, no Black Vultures were reported for the first spring in several years.



Northern Fulmar by Leonard Medlock, 3/15/09, at Jeffreys Ledge.

The two pairs of **Mississippi Kites** that bred in Newmarket last summer returned to their previous nesting sites by May 13. Eastern birders are often unaware that there is a dark morph of the Broad-winged Hawk. This form is far more common at the western edge of the species' range, so one photographed over Durham at the very end of May is extremely noteworthy. Many thanks to Derek Lovitch of Maine for forwarding the report on to me! Golden Eagles are much more likely in fall migration, so to have two reports in early April is a rare event. There were several reports of American Kestrels this spring, which is heartening for this declining species. They still outnumbered Merlin reports by 2:1, but the latter are gaining fast. Birds set up nesting for the first time in Concord this May, but rather than printing any of the several records, readers are encouraged to check out Iain MacLeod's article on Merlins on page 52. It was another good season for Sandhill Cranes, with six individuals reported as well as the Monroe bird that returned for its tenth year.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Northern Fulmar				
3/15	12	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson
5/25	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick, Massabesic Ctr. FT
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				
5/25	16	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick, Massabesic Ctr. FT
Northern Gannet				
3/8	1		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
3/15	2	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson
4/11	2	Hampton	Hampton Beach	S. & J. Mirick
4/25	100	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson
4/28	7		NH coast	S. Mirick
5/2	16		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
5/25	13	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick, Massabesic Ctr. FT
5/29	20	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. & J. Mirick
5/30	20	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
Double-crested Cormorant				
3/28	3	Rye	Eel Pond	S. & J. Mirick
4/2	1	Hinsdale	setbacks	L. Tanino
4/18	319	Seabrook	Route 1A	S. & J. Mirick, M. & S. Turner, A. Kimball
5/25	13	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick, Massabesic Ctr. FT
Great Cormorant				
3/8	30		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
3/18	8	Rye	s. of Concord Point	T. Bronson
4/11	2	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	E. Masterson
5/14	1	Antrim	Willard Pond WS	P. Brown
American Bittern				
4/5	1	Rye	pond s. of Odiome St. Pk.	L. Medlock
4/6	1	New Boston	Colburn Meadow	E. Masterson
4/23	1	Danbury	Danbury Bog	R. Quinn

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
American Bittern—continued				
4/28	1	Chatham	Rt. 113, 1 mile n. of Robbins Ridge Rd.	K. Rines
4/28	1	Sutton	Cascade Marsh	P. Newbern
4/29	1	Sandwich	Thompson WS	T. Vazzano, et al.
Least Bittern				
5/23	1	Epping	North River Rd. beaver bog	G. Tillman
Great Egret				
3/28	1	Rye	marsh s. of Rye Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
4/3	1	Hampton Falls	railroad causeway	T. Bronson
4/4	2	Rye	Rt. 1A wooden bridge	S. & J. Mirick
4/9	1	Laconia	Elm St., Laconia Country Club	S. Powell
4/15	1	Kensington	South Rd. residence, Rt. 107	G. Gavutis Jr.
5/13	14		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
5/19	16	Seabrook	pools off Rt. 286	S. & J. Mirick
Snowy Egret				
4/4	2	Rye	marsh s. of Rye Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
4/10	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
4/11	10		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
5/22	3	Walpole	Rt. 123 bridge, Connecticut R.	L. Tanino
Little Blue Heron				
4/15	1	Hampton Falls	Depot Road	S. Mirick
Tricolored Heron				
4/24	1	Portsmouth	Liberty Mutual, Borthwick Ave.	G. Tillman, J. Mazzaglia, E. Masterson
Green Heron				
4/30	1	New Durham	Merrymeeting Lake	G. Gavutis Jr.
5/1	1	Charlestown	Great Meadows	E. Masterson
5/2	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
5/3	3	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson, Seacoast CFT
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
4/11	1	Seabrook	Worthely Road	S. & J. Mirick
4/28	1	Hampton	Church Street parking lot	S. Mirick, J. O'Shaughnessy
5/16	1	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson
5/29	3	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. & J. Mirick
Glossy Ibis				
3/28	1	E. Kingston	Bodwell Farm, Rt. 108	L. Medlock, S. & J. Mirick, L. Kras
5/8	5	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. & J. Mirick
Turkey Vulture				
3/10	1	Swanzy	Dillant-Hopkins Airport	L. Tanino
3/12	1	Westmoreland	Chickering Farm, Rt. 63	L. Woodward
3/13	9	Hinsdale	Wantastiquet Mountain	L. Tanino, P. Brown
3/13	13	Keene	Green Wagon Farm	L. Tanino
3/15	1	Laconia	Ledgecroft Place	H. Anderson
Osprey				
3/26	1	Kensington	South Rd. residence, Rt. 107	G. Gavutis Jr.
3/27	2	S. Hampton	Brookside WS	T. Bronson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
4/1	1	Newmarket	Bay Rd.	H. Chary
4/1	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	H. Chary
Mississippi Kite				
5/13	1	Newmarket	Gonet Drive	S. Mirick, L. Medlock
5/13	1	Newmarket	S. Main Street	S. Mirick
Northern Harrier				
3/12	1	Seabrook	Cross Beach Rd.	T. Bronson
3/19	1	Charlestown	Great Meadows	L. Tanino
3/24	1	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
3/24	1	Swanzy	Dillant-Hopkins Airport	L. Tanino
3/27	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
4/5	1	Littleton	Pleasant Street	D., D. & H. Sarausky
4/15	1	Haverhill	Bedell Bridge St. Pk.	J. Williams
5/7	1	Whitefield	airport	B. Bradley
Red-shouldered Hawk				
3/7	1	E. Kingston	Bodwell Farm, Rt. 108	L. Medlock
3/15	1	Windham	residence	J. Romano
3/17	1	Hopkinton	Rt. 89 & Rt. 202	P. Brown, J. Tilden
3/17	1	Surry	Surry Dam	L. Tanino
Broad-winged Hawk				
4/2	1	Goffstown	Route 13	E. Masterson
4/9	1	Gilmanton	Currier Hill Road	J. Stockwell
4/11	1	Peterborough	Shieling State Forest	P. Brown, J. Tilden
4/19	2	Exeter	Powder House Pond	L. Medlock
4/19	1	Hancock	Shadrack Pond	P. Brown, J. Tilden
4/20	2	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
4/20	7	Webster	Call Road	R. Quinn
5/31	1	Durham	Durham Reservoir	D. Markey
Rough-legged Hawk				
3/7	1	Durham	Fogg Drive	K. Dorsey
3/19	1	Charlestown	Great Meadows	L. Tanino
Golden Eagle				
4/5	1	Bridgewater	Bridgewater Power Plant	I. MacLeod
4/18	1	Exeter	along Route 108	S. & J. Mirick, J. Lambert, L. Kras
American Kestrel				
3/26	1	Charlestown	Great Meadows	P. Brown
3/27	1	Stoddard	Pitcher Mountain	L. Tanino
3/28	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. & J. Mirick
3/28	2	Newington	Great Bay NWR	NHA Seacoast CFT
3/31	1	Concord	Silk Farm WS	P. Brown
4/18	15	Seabrook	Route 1A	S. & J. Mirick, M. & S. Turner, A. Kimball
Virginia Rail				
4/25	1	Durham	Longmarsh Road	S. & J. Mirick, Seacoast CFT
4/25	2	Portsmouth	Bornholm Ave., hospital marsh	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
4/26	1	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
4/30	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Virginia Rail—continued				
5/3	2	Canterbury	sod farm & nursery on Sand Hill & Intervale Rds.	M. Suomala
5/3	3	Greenland	Great Bay Discovery Center	L. Medlock
5/24	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	L. Medlock
5/24	1	Chatham	Peaked Hill Rd.	A. & G. Robbins
5/24	1	Sutton	Cascade Marsh	P. Newbern
5/31	2	Webster	Knight Meadow Marsh WMA	R. Quinn



Left: Virginia Rail by Leonard Medlock, 5/24/09, Odiorne Pt. St. Pk., Rye, NH.
Right: Sora by Jon Woolf, 4/29/09, Sandy Pt. Discovery Ctr., Greenland, NH.

Sora

4/25	1	Portsmouth	Bornholm Ave., hospital marsh	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
4/29	1	Greenland	Sandy Pt. Discovery Ctr.	J. Woolf
5/9	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. & J. Mirick
5/31	1	Webster	Knight Meadow Marsh WMA	R. Quinn

Sandhill Crane

4/3	1	Monroe	Plains Rd.	E. Emery
4/4	2	Concord	West Portsmouth St.	R. Woodward, M. Suomala
5/3	1	Newmarket	Packers Falls Rd. at Folletts Brook	L. Kras
5/18	1	Concord	West Portsmouth St.	S. Bourne, R. & M. Suomala
5/21	2	Hampton	Winnacunnet HS, Alumni Dr.	P. Lacourse, et al.

Shorebirds through Alcids

Rain and unsettled weather at either end of May resulted in some significant inland shorebird fallouts. Heading the list was a **Baird's Sandpiper** in Concord, which – if accepted by the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee – would potentially represent the first spring record ever for all of New England. Although they occur regularly along the coast in fall, northbound Baird's Sandpipers move almost entirely through the Great Plains. Also note the totals for Solitary Sandpipers and Lesser Yellowlegs for Concord in early May. The southeasterly flow followed by a cold front at the end of the month resulted in additional inland shorebird fallouts, most noteworthy along the Connecticut River. The numbers of Short-billed Dowitchers in particular are higher than some years' totals for the coast in spring, and 100 Semipalmated Sandpipers is perhaps unprecedented for an inland location at any season. And it wasn't just shorebirds, the same fallout produced four Common Terns, three Black Terns, and a single **Arctic Tern**, the latter actually being somewhat more expected inland in spring as it

cuts overland to its far northern breeding grounds. Birders in Concord were similarly treated to a good diversity of shorebirds, and their lack of terns was compensated somewhat by a female **Red-necked Phalarope**.

Meanwhile, birders along the coast had a few good finds of their own. Topping the list was Seabrook's **Marbled Godwit**, another species that is far more likely to turn up in fall. As in the Connecticut Valley, there were good counts of Short-billed Dowitchers and Semipalmated Sandpipers. Particularly noteworthy was a single individual of the *hendersoni* subspecies of Short-billed Dowitcher in Hampton on May 17. Like Baird's Sandpipers, these "Prairie" Short-billed Dowitchers normally migrate north through the Great Plains, as their name implies. The respectable total of 496 Least Sandpipers on May 11 was the combined total of several flocks migrating north. Terns returned to their breeding colony on Seavey Island, but we did not receive any totals for the season. Both species of "white-winged" gulls lingered into May, with a Glaucous at Seabrook and an Iceland at Rochester. Offshore, it was a good spring for alcids. Pelagic trips recorded both species of murres, plus the more expected Razorbill, while Black Guillemots were reported from their usual locations near the Isles of Shoals. Thick-billed Murre and Razorbill also lingered into May.



Thick-billed Murre by Jason Lambert, 3/15/09, at Jeffreys Ledge.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Black-bellied Plover				
4/18	6	Hampton	Hampton Marsh	E. Masterson
4/24	3	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	T. Bronson
4/30	10		Hampton Harbor flats	S. & J. Mirick
5/17	74		Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick, R. Suomala
5/27	29	Concord	West Portsmouth Street	R. Quinn
5/28	7	Charlestown	Connecticut River	E. Masterson
5/30	2	Concord	Post Office fields	R. Quinn, R. Woodward
Semipalmated Plover				
5/8	11		Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
5/17	34		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick, R. Suomala
5/19	176	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
5/22	1	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	L. Tanino, P. Brown
5/28	20	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Woodward
5/30	3	Concord	Post Office fields	R. Quinn, R. Woodward
Piping Plover				
4/5	2	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	S. & J. Mirick
5/13	4	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach, Lawrence St.	S. & J. Mirick
5/22	2	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop, Seabrook flats	L. Medlock

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Killdeer				
3/7	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	P. Chamberlin
3/8	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	L. Medlock
3/8	9	Hampton	Hampton Harbor inlet	S. & J. Mirick
3/12	1	Walpole	Boggy Meadows Farm	P. Brown
3/13	4	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Hubbard
3/21	11	N. Hampton	Runnymede Horse Farm	T. Bronson
3/22	23	Walpole	Malnati Farm, Rt. 12	L. Tanino
3/28	27	N. Hampton	Runnymede Farm	S. & J. Mirick
Spotted Sandpiper				
4/17	1	Keene	Goose Pond	P. Brown, P. Wilson
4/25	1	Charlestown	Connecticut River	P. Brown
4/27	2	Sandwich	end of Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
4/28	1	Hampton	Landing Road	T. Bronson
Solitary Sandpiper				
5/3	1	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson, Seacoast CFT
5/7	1	Dorchester	meadow puddle	J. Williams
5/8	1	Concord	West Portsmouth St.	R. Suomala
5/9	14	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
5/20	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Hubbard
5/28	1	Charlestown	Connecticut River	E. Masterson
Greater Yellowlegs				
3/27	2	Hampton	Landing Road	T. Bronson
4/3	1	Hampton Falls	railroad causeway	T. Bronson
4/10	4	Hampton	Route 1 pans	T. Bronson
4/22	2	Keene	Krif Road	L. Tanino
4/26	6	E. Kingston	Bodwell Farm	S. & J. Mirick
4/27	18	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
5/1	7	Charlestown	Great Meadows	E. Masterson
5/12	22	Seabrook	Route 1A	S. & J. Mirick
5/23	10	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	L. Tanino, P. Brown
Willet				
4/28	1		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
4/30	2	Hampton	saltmarsh	S. & J. Mirick
5/3	10		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
Lesser Yellowlegs				
4/26	1	E. Kingston	Bodwell Farm	S. & J. Mirick
5/1	3	Charlestown	Great Meadows	E. Masterson
5/8	9	Concord	West Portsmouth St.	R. Suomala
5/23	3	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	L. Tanino, P. Brown
Upland Sandpiper				
4/4	1	Dover	near Dover toll booth	C. DeStefano
4/25	3	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
5/3	2	Portsmouth	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	L. Medlock
Marbled Godwit				
5/11	1	Seabrook	beach s. of Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	G. Tillman
Ruddy Turnstone				
5/24	2	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop., harbor flats	L. Medlock, G. Tillman

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
5/25	1	Rye	near White Island	S.& J. Mirick, Massabesic Ctr. FT
Red Knot				
5/19	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop., harbor flats	L. Medlock, B. Griffith, S. Mirick
5/25	1	Rye	near White Island	S.& J. Mirick, Massabesic Ctr. FT
Sanderling				
3/1	26	Hampton	Hampton Harbor Inlet	S.& J. Mirick
4/11	30	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S.& J. Mirick
4/26	130	Hampton	North Beach	T. Bronson, N. Nelson
5/2	175	Hampton	Hampton Harbor Inlet breakwater	S.& J. Mirick
5/17	20		Hampton Harbor	S.& J. Mirick, R. Suomala
5/30	50	Hampton	Hampton Harbor Inlet	S.& J. Mirick
Semipalmated Sandpiper				
5/13	2		Hampton Harbor	S.& J. Mirick
5/14	1	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit	T. Vazzano, N. Beecher
5/19	176	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
5/22	183	Hampton	Meadow Pond	L. Medlock
5/28	100	Charlestown	Connecticut River	E. Masterson
5/28	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
5/30	200	Hampton	Hampton Harbor Inlet	S.& J. Mirick
Least Sandpiper				
4/28	4	Hampton	Landing Road	T. Bronson
5/7	2	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	B. Bradley
5/8	5	Seabrook	Route 286 pools	S.& J. Mirick
5/9	6	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
5/11	496	Seabrook	Route 1A	S.& J. Mirick
5/14	3	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit	T. Vazzano, N. Beecher
5/16	150	North Hampton	Little River Saltmarsh	E. Masterson
5/17	3	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park	R. Quinn
5/18	550	Hampton	Meadow Pond	E. Masterson
5/22	2	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	L. Tanino, P. Brown
5/23	6	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
5/23	7	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	P. Brown, L. Tanino
5/28	18	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Quinn, R. Suomala, et al.
White-rumped Sandpiper				
5/30	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor Inlet	S.& J. Mirick
Baird's Sandpiper				
5/7	1	Concord	Birch St. fields opposite community gardens	R. Suomala, P. Hunt, S. Brown
Purple Sandpiper				
3/22	50	Hampton	Hampton Harbor Inlet breakwater	S.& J. Mirick
4/18	120		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick, M.& S. Turner, A. Kimball
5/2	143		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
5/10	32	Rye	Seal Rocks	A.& G. Robbins
5/30	23	Hampton	Hampton Harbor Inlet	S.& J. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Dunlin				
4/18	30		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick, M. & S. Turner, A. Kimball
5/8	50		Hampton Harbor flats	S. & J. Mirick
5/12	73	Hampton	Hampton Marina	L. Medlock
5/17	100		Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick, R. Suomala
5/22	1	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	P. Brown, L. Tanino
5/28	10	Charlestown	Connecticut River	E. Masterson
Short-billed Dowitcher				
4/26	3		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
5/17	225	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick, R. Suomala
5/22	27	Hampton	Meadow Pond	L. Medlock
5/28	214	Charlestown	Connecticut River, 2 locations	E. Masterson
5/28	27	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
5/29	31	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	L. Medlock
5/29	9	Monroe	opposite Stanton Rd.	B. Bradley
Short-billed Dowitcher - Prairie subsp.				
5/17	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick, R. Suomala
Wilson's Snipe				
3/19	1	Litchfield	Route 3A	L. Medlock
3/22	2		Great Bay	S. & J. Mirick
3/26	12	Greenland	Great Bay Farm	S. Mirick
3/28	3	Charlestown	Great Meadows	P. Brown, NHA FT
5/2	10	Pittsburg	East Inlet	E. Masterson
American Woodcock				
3/8	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	L. Medlock
3/8	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
3/9	1	Portsmouth	Route 33	G. Gavutis Jr.
3/14	3	Kensington	Colby farm fields	R. Aaronian
Red-necked Phalarope				
5/28	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Quinn
Bonapartes Gull				
5/28	1	Charlestown	Connecticut River	E. Masterson
Black-headed Gull				
4/4	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	L. Medlock, J. Lambert
Laughing Gull				
4/25	1		NH coast	E. Masterson
5/17	1		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick, R. Suomala
Iceland Gull				
3/7	2	Exeter	Squamscott R.	P. Chamberlin
3/31	1	Farmington	Ten Rod Road	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
4/6	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
4/7	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	T. Bronson
4/15	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
5/16	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Hubbard

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Lesser Black-backed Gull				
3/18	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	T. Bronson
3/23	1	E. Kingston	South Road	D. Finch
4/2	1	Nashua	Nashua Landfill	E. Masterson
4/9	1	E. Kingston	South Road	D. Finch
Glaucous Gull				
3/8	1	Seabrook	Cross Beach Road	S.& J. Mirick
4/15	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
4/24	2	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	T. Bronson
5/8	1		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
Black-legged Kittiwake				
3/15	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson
Least Tern				
5/17	1	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	S.& J. Mirick, R. Suomala
5/24	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S.& J. Mirick
5/30	2	Hampton	Hampton Harbor Inlet	S.& J. Mirick
Black Tern				
5/28	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
5/29	2	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
5/29	2	Whitefield	Whitefield Airport marsh	B. Bradley
Roseate Tern				
5/17	2	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S.& J. Mirick, R. Suomala
5/30	10	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson FT
Common Tern				
5/8	2		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
5/17	60		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick, R. Suomala
5/28	2	Charlestown	Connecticut River	E. Masterson
5/28	2	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
5/30	25	Hampton	Hampton Harbor Inlet	S.& J. Mirick
Arctic Tern				
5/29	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
Common Murre				
3/15	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson
Thick-billed Murre				
3/2	1	Hampton	Great Boars Head	L. Medlock, J. O'Shaughnessy, J. Lambert, L. Kras, J. Knap
3/15	2	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson
5/2	1	Rye	Route 1A at Eel Pond	S.& J. Mirick



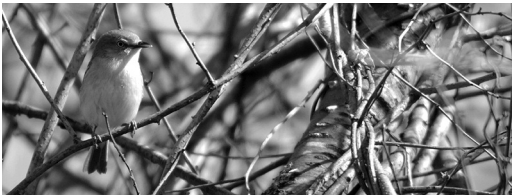
Flock of Razorbills in flight by Leonard Medlock, 3/15/09, at Jeffreys Ledge.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Razorbill				
3/15	40	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson
5/30	1	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
Black Guillemot				
3/1	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. & J. Mirick
5/30	5	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
Alcid sp.				
4/25	2	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson

Cuckoos through Chickadees

After a winter where both Snowy and Northern Hawk Owls made the headlines, these arctic visitors seemed reluctant to leave the limelight in spring. Center Harbor's oft-photographed **Northern Hawk Owl** was last reported March 13, while Snowy Owls lingered through April. But April, or at least six days of it, belonged to the **Great Gray Owl** that appeared in Durham and triggered its own short-lived invasion of birders (see page 64). There were even a couple of Short-eared Owls to spice up an already diverse mix.

Red-bellied Woodpeckers appear to have consolidated some of the gains they made after last fall's northward invasion. They were regular in the area around Concord, and several appear to have remained at sites considerably farther north. That said, their center of abundance is clearly still in the southeastern part of the state. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on March 5 was probably an overwintering bird; otherwise it would represent a record early date by roughly three weeks! Speaking of early dates, the Olive-sided Flycatcher in Lyman missed tying the record by only one day, while a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in Surrey handily beat the previous early date of May 9. Otherwise, flycatchers were more or less on time, although slightly on the early side of the long-term medians.



*White-eyed Vireo by Jason Lambert,
5/2/09, Odiorne Point State Park,
Rye, NH.*

A few Northern Shrikes lingered through the very beginning of April. A **White-eyed Vireo** at Odiorne Point State Park was a one-day wonder, while Yellow-throated and Red-eyed Vireos on April 28 both set new record early arrival dates. Fish Crows were again reported consistently from the Ossipee area, as well as the Lakes Region in Holderness. They are a relatively new arrival to that area of the state. More noteworthy was the species' long-awaited movement up the Connecticut River Valley. A bird in Hinsdale was somewhat expected, given populations not too far south in Massachusetts, but a pair well upriver in Lebanon are testament to this species' continued expan-

sion in the state. Fish Crows were also consistently reported from the immediate coast for the first time. With the exception of Tree Swallows in Hinsdale and along the coast, there were no significant swallow concentrations this season.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				
5/20	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	P. Brown
5/24	1	Nelson	residence	P. Brown
5/30	1	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson FT
Black-billed Cuckoo				
5/11	1	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
5/21	1	Charlestown	Chestnut Flat Rd.	P. Newbern
5/22	1	Newbury	residence	P. Newbern
5/23	1	Keene	Green Wagon Farm	P. Brown, L. Tanino
5/24	1	Webster	power lines at Deer Meadow Rd.	P. Hunt
5/28	1	Newmarket	TNC Lubberland Creek Preserve	K. Dorsey
Snowy Owl				
3/14	1	Seabrook	Rt. 286 behind Shore Club Hotel	K. Olmstead
4/15	1	Hampton	behind Little Jack's Restaurant	T. Vazzano
4/22	1	Rye	Rt. 1 n. near ocean	R. Liab
Northern Hawk Owl				
3/1	1	Center Harbor	Rt. 25 near Canoe Restaurant	A. Greenwood
3/13	1	Center Harbor	Rt. 25 near Canoe Restaurant	J. Merrill
Great Gray Owl				
4/4	1	Durham	Dame Road	T. Bronson, S. & J. Mirick, et al.
4/9	1	Durham	Dame Road	S. Santino, P. Kinnaly
Short-eared Owl				
3/12	1	Keene	Green Wagon Farm	L. Tanino
4/24	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	S. Mirick
Northern Saw-whet Owl				
3/28	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
5/5	1	Dublin	Charcoal Rd.	T. Warren
5/24	2	Jefferson	Whipple Road	S. & J. Mirick
5/30	1	Hopkinton	Mast Yard State Forest	P. Hunt, R. Woodward, R. Quinn
Common Nighthawk				
5/9	1	Amherst	Hertzka Dr.	C. Sheridan
5/16	1	Keene	Colony Mill Shopping Center	L. Tanino
5/17	1	Exeter	residence	G. Prazar
5/18	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
5/20	75	Merrimack	Wasserman Park	T. Young
5/23	6	Concord	Contoocook Island, Penacook	P. Hunt
5/24	9	Concord	residence	R. Woodward
Whip-poor-will				
4/27	1	Conway	Green Hill Rd., 4 miles n. of Rt. 113	K. Rines
4/27	1	Durham	Fogg Drive	K. Dorsey
4/28	1	Tamworth	Tall Pines Rd. residence	J. Tewksbury
5/1	4	Concord	Mast Yard State Forest	P. Hunt

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Whip-poor-will—continued				
5/1	1	Hooksett	Post Rd.	S. Birnbaum
5/3	1	Bath	Rt. 135	S. & M. Turner
5/6	9	Hopkinton	Mast Yard State Forest	P. Hunt, R. Woodward
Chimney Swift				
4/26	2		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
5/2	3	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
5/8	3	Exeter	Powder House Pond	L. Medlock
5/8	4	Seabrook	Route 1A	S. & J. Mirick
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				
4/8	1	Nelson	residence	P. Brown, J. Tilden
4/29	1	Newmarket	Bay Road	H. Chary
5/3	1	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson, Seacoast CFT
5/3	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
5/3	2	Windham	residence	J. Romano
5/4	1	Rumney	residence	J. & J. Williams
Red-bellied Woodpecker				
3/1		Chatham	residence	R. Crowley
3/2	1	Andover	Bridge Rd.	G. & S. Darling
3/2	1	Nelson	residence	P. Brown, J. Tilden
3/17	1	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Rd.	J. Merrill
3/31	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
5/9	1	Andover	Beech Hill Rd.	P. Fenton
5/19	1	Webster	Route 127	R. Quinn
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				
3/5	1	Manchester	residence	J. Duval
4/1	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
4/2	2	Newbury	neighborhood	P. Newbern
4/8	1	Exeter	Conner Farm, Rt. 27	P. Chamberlin
4/8	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
Black-backed Woodpecker				
5/2	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet	E. Masterson
5/30	1	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road	L. Medlock
5/30	1	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	L. Tanino, K. Cox
Northern Flicker				
3/17	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
3/21	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	R. Suomala, C. Martin, P. Hunt
3/22	1		Great Bay	S. & J. Mirick
3/23	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
Olive-sided Flycatcher				
5/4	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
5/17	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd.	A. & G. Robbins
5/20	1	Rumney	meadow	J. Williams
5/21	1	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
5/23	1	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road	J. Williams, J. Lloyd, S. Smith, F. & N. Benham, D. & M. Burne

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Eastern Wood-Pewee				
5/16	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
5/17	1	Keene	Green Wagon Farm	L. Tanino
5/21	1	Surry	East Surry Road	P. Brown
5/23	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
5/23	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S.& M. Turner
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				
5/4	2	Surry	Dort Road	L. Tanino
5/23	3	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road	J. Williams, J.Lloyd, S. Smith, F.& N. Benham, D.& M. Burne
5/28	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Woodward
5/30	1	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	L. Tanino, K. Cox
5/31	1	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
Alder Flycatcher				
5/15	1	Rumney	Berti's oxbow	J. Williams
5/18	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	L. Medlock
5/18	3	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S.& M. Turner
5/23	2	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road	J. Williams, J. Lloyd, S. Smith, F.& N. Benham, D.& M. Burne
5/23	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
Willow Flycatcher				
5/18	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	P. Chamberlin
5/20	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	P. Brown
5/22	1	Keene	Keene State WMA	P. Brown
5/23	1	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road	J. Williams, J.Lloyd, S. Smith, F.& N. Benham, D.& M. Burne
5/23	2	Dover	Strafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
Least Flycatcher				
4/28	1	Antrim	Willard Pond WS	P. Brown, J. Tilden
4/28	1	Hancock	Jaquith Road	P. Brown, J. Tilden
4/30	4	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	S. Mirick
5/2	1	Nelson	residence	P. Brown
5/3	2	Freedom	Scarborough Rd.	A.& G. Robbins
Eastern Phoebe				
3/26	1	Exeter	Newfields Rd. residence	P. Chamberlin
3/27	1	Hinsdale	bluffs	P. Brown, P. Hunt
3/27	1	Kensington	South Rd. residence, Rt. 107	G. Gavutis Jr.
3/28	1	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	NHA Seacoast CFT
3/29	1	Peterborough	Concord St.	E. Masterson
4/9	19	Hinsdale	rail trail	L. Tanino
Great Crested Flycatcher				
4/27	2	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	T. Bronson, D. Hubbard
4/27	1	Lempster	Goshen-Lempster School	P. Newbern
4/28	1	Kensington	South Rd. residence, Rt. 107	G. Gavutis Jr.
4/29	1	Rumney	residence	J. Williams
4/29	1	S. Hampton	Highland Road	S.& J. Mirick, et al.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Eastern Kingbird				
4/27	1	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson
4/28	2	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
4/28	1	Hampton	Church Street parking lot	S. Mirick, J. O'Shaughnessy
4/28	1	Kensington	South Rd. residence, Rt. 107	G. Gavutis Jr.
4/29	1	Nelson	town center	P. Brown, J. Tilden
Northern Shrike				
3/3	2	Portsmouth	behind Beacon Internal Medicine office	C. Munroe
3/7	1	Dunbarton	Stark Hwy N. residence	L. Herlily
3/15	1	Lebanon	food coop.	P. Brown, J. Tilden, E. Carcagno
3/16	1	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
3/21	1	Kensington	South Rd. residence, Rt. 107	G. Gavutis Jr.
3/25	1	Nelson	Route 9 near Apple Hill Rd.	P. Brown
3/27	1	Charlestown	Great Meadows	P. Brown, P. Hunt
4/4	1	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	S.& J. Mirick
White-eyed Vireo				
5/2	1	Rye	Odiome Point St. Pk.	S.& J. Mirick
Yellow-throated Vireo				
4/28	1	Kensington	South Rd. residence, Rt. 107	G. Gavutis Jr.
4/30	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	S. Mirick
5/3	1	Newmarket	Lamprey River TNC Property	S.& J. Mirick
5/9	1	Concord	St. Paul's School	R. Suomala
5/14	1	Sandwich	Dinsmore Pond Rd.	T. Vazzano
5/23	1	Surry	Surry bike path	P. Brown
5/28	2	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
Blue-headed Vireo				
4/18	1	Concord	Contoocook Island, Penacook	P. Hunt
4/22	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
4/22	1	Webster	Call Road	R. Quinn
4/23	1	Nelson	residence	P. Brown
4/24	1	Durham	Longmarsh Preserve	L. Medlock
4/30	12	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	S. Mirick
Warbling Vireo				
4/28	3	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
4/29	2	Exeter	Phillips Exeter Academy field	R. Aaronian
4/30	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S.& M. Turner
4/30	1	Lyme	Post Pond	J. Williams, J. Block
Philadelphia Vireo				
5/9	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
5/30	2	Bethlehem	Zealand Trail	L. Tanino, K. Cox
5/30	1	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson FT
Red-eyed Vireo				
4/28	1	Hancock	Elmwood Junction	P. Brown, J. Tilden
5/7	2	Conway	Dahl WS	P. Brown
5/11	3	Windham	Rail Trail	J. Romano
5/14	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
5/15	3	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd.	A.& G. Robbins
5/15	5	Rumney	residence	J. Williams

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Gray Jay				
3/13	2	Beans Grant	Mt. Pierce summit	J. Stockwell
3/14	2	Bethlehem	Mt. Tom summit	S. Crowley
5/30	2	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	L. Tanino, K. Cox
Fish Crow				
3/8	2	Kingston	Powwow Pond	L. Medlock
3/13		E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
3/26	2	Concord	Fort Eddy Rd.	D. Stavros
3/29	2	Durham	Zeta Chi Fraternity House, UNH	K. Dorsey
3/31	6	Portsmouth	Fleet Street	K. Dorsey
4/4	1	Hampton	near Meadow Pond	S.& J. Mirick
4/11	1	Holderness	Squam Lakes Natural Science Center	I. MacLeod
4/13	1	Center Harbor	Route 25	T. Vazzano
4/15	2	Lebanon	Rt. 12A, West Lebanon	S. Hardy
4/21	2	Holderness	Plymouth State University field house	S.& W. Fogelman
4/30	10		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
5/1	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet Rail Trail	E. Masterson
5/3	1	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest	A.& G. Robbins
5/14	2	Ossipee	Routes 16 & 25W	T. Vazzano, N. Beecher
5/18	2	Tilton	Winnepesaukee R. behind BJ's	I. MacLeod
5/22	1	Nashua	Southwest Park	C. Sheridan
5/24	2	Weare	Clough St. Pk.	E. Masterson
Common Raven				
3/1	1	Seabrook		S.& J. Mirick
Horned Lark				
3/12	22	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	T. Bronson
3/12	2	Westmoreland	River Road	P. Brown
3/26	100	Walpole	Boggy Meadows	P. Brown
3/28	4	Charlestown	Great Meadows	L. Tanino
3/30	31	Gilford	Gilford Meadows	I. MacLeod
4/4	6	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Quinn
4/19	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
5/10	1	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
Purple Martin				
5/3	6	Freedom	Rt. 153 farm n. of Ossipee R.	A.& G. Robbins
5/5	2	Conway	Rt. 302 colony	B. Crowley
5/23	9	Laconia	Fun Spot U.S.A.	S.& J. Mirick
Tree Swallow				
3/22	1	Newmarket	Moody Point	S.& J. Mirick
3/25	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
3/26	3	Greenland	Sunset Farm	L. Medlock
3/27	9	Hinsdale	bluffs	P. Brown, P. Hunt
3/28	150	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
4/18	201	Seabrook	Route 1A	S.& J. Mirick, M.& S. Turner, A. Kimball
4/24	124	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	S.& J. Mirick
5/8	106	Seabrook	Route 1A	S.& J. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				
4/10	2	Hinsdale	setbacks	P. Brown, P. Davenport
4/15	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
4/15	1	Surry	Surry Dam	L. Tanino
4/18	1	Seabrook	Route 1A	S.& J. Mirick, M.& S. Turner, A. Kimball
Bank Swallow				
5/10	2	Seabrook	Route 1A	S.& J. Mirick
5/11	7	Seabrook	Route 1A	S.& J. Mirick
5/13	3	Newmarket	Smith WS	P. Brown
5/23	3	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	P. Brown, L. Tanino
5/24	30	Conway	Sherman Farm, East Conway Rd.	A. & G. Robbins
Cliff Swallow				
5/8	3	Seabrook	Route 1A	S.& J. Mirick
5/10	3	Rye	Odiome Pt. St. Pk.	A. & G. Robbins
5/15	12	Plymouth	Govoni's barn, Route 3A	J. Williams
5/28	20	Plymouth	Govoni's barn, Route 3A	J. Williams
Barn Swallow				
4/7	2	Exeter	Powder House Pond	T. Bronson
4/13	2	Hampton Falls	Dodge Pond	T. Bronson
4/18	1	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	L. Tanino
4/18	1	Keene	Green Wagon Farm	L. Tanino
4/18	4	Seabrook	Route 1A	S.& J. Mirick, M. & S. Turner, A. Kimball
Boreal Chickadee				
3/16	1	Franconia	Lincoln Brook Trail, 3000'	J. Stockwell
5/30	4	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	L. Tanino, K. Cox

Wrens through Warblers

As with Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Carolina Wrens were primarily in southeastern New Hampshire, and may even have been a little less reliable at the northern edge of their range in the state. A bird in Tamworth was the only report north of Concord. Marsh Wrens continue to be a relatively scarce bird in the state, with most reports coming from a handful of traditional locations. This spring, birds at Pawtuckaway and Odiome Point State Parks were unexpected, and it would be interesting to see if these individuals stuck around for the breeding season. Ruby-crowned Kinglets seemed to pass through Concord in good numbers on the last weekend in April, but otherwise there were no concentrations reported. The thrush highlight of the season was a **Gray-cheeked Thrush** on Star Island. This boreal breeder is rarely reported from New Hampshire, although it clearly has to pass through our air space on its way to Canada. The paucity of reports is at least partially because it can be very difficult to distinguish from Bicknell's Thrush, so it was nice to have the Star Island bird singing for a conclusive identification! After their winter invasion, a few Bohemian Waxwings lingered through the first week in April. Almost all were from southwestern New Hampshire, with numbers usually ranging from 20-25. The highest tally was a remarkable 215 from Hanover.



A flock of Bohemian Waxwings by Julie Waters, 3/6/09, Charlestown, NH.

New Hampshire birders were treated to an amazing diversity of warblers – **23 species** – at the very end of April, almost certainly a result of the exceptionally warm weather and southwesterly flows at month's end. A few of these set new early arrival dates (Nashville, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, and Ovenbird), but usually by only a single day, although on average most species did arrive somewhat on the early side. In the rarity department, there were a remarkable three **Lawrence's Warblers** this spring, with at least one

appearing to set up a territory in Nashua. Lawrence's Warblers are the rarer of the two hybrids between Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers (Brewster's being far more common, although not this spring!), and having this many is a sure sign that Golden-winged Warblers are mostly gone from the New England population (see the article in the Spring 2003 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* for more detail on these hybrids). Following in the footsteps of the Baird's Sandpiper and "Prairie" Short-billed Dowitcher was an April record of **Orange-crowned Warbler** from Concord. I say this because Orange-crowns, like those shorebirds, are very rare spring migrants to New Hampshire, and instead tend to move north through the interior of the continent. A **Hooded Warbler** in Exeter generated considerable excitement during its one-day stay; this was only the second time in the last five years that this southern species has made an appearance in New Hampshire. Most **Yellow-breasted Chats** found in New Hampshire occur in the fall, so the presence of two this spring was something of a surprise, and perhaps related to the late April weather as well.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Carolina Wren				
4/29	1	Tamworth	Routes 113 & 113A	T. Vazzano, et al.
House Wren				
4/28	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
4/28	1	Rye	NH coast	S. Mirick
4/28	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
4/29	1	S. Hampton	Highland Road	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
5/1	2	Rumney	residence	J. Williams
Winter Wren				
3/12	1	Tamworth	Cleveland Hill Rd.	G. Hoag
3/23	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
4/2	1	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. Suomala
4/9	1	Hinsdale	rail trail	L. Tanino
4/11	1	New Boston	Joe English Road	E. Masterson
5/2	10	Pittsburg	East Inlet	E. Masterson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Marsh Wren				
4/26	6	Exeter	Squamscott River marshes	M. Harvey
4/28	2	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick
5/2	2	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. & J. Mirick
5/10	2	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	A. & G. Robbins
5/11	7	Hinsdale	Setbacks	L. Tanino, P. Brown
5/11	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	S. Young
5/21	4	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	R. Crowley
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
4/8	1	Nelson	residence	P. Brown
4/10	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
4/17	2	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
4/18	1		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick, M. & S. Turner, A. Kimball
4/19	1	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
4/25	12	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
4/26	15	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
5/15	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd.	A. & G. Robbins
5/25	1	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				
4/24	2	Charlestown	Connecticut R. floodplain forest	P. Brown
4/25	2	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
4/26	2		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
4/26	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	S. & J. Mirick
5/1	20	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet Rail Trail	E. Masterson
5/23	1	Sandwich	Sandwich Mountain	M. Suomala, L. Newell
Veery				
5/7	2	Conway	Dahl WS	P. Brown
5/8	1	Keene	Keene State WMA	L. Tanino
5/9	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt, D. Howe
5/11	1	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
5/13	1	Newmarket	Smith WS	P. Brown
5/25	35	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
Gray-cheeked Thrush				
5/30	1	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	S. & J. Mirick, E. Masterson FT
Bicknell's Thrush				
5/30	1	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	L. Tanino, K. Cox
Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush sp.				
5/25	1	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
Swainson's Thrush				
5/9	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. & J. Mirick
5/16	1	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson FT
5/19	1	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. Suomala
5/21	1	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
5/23	1	Concord	Fowler Road, Penacook	P. Hunt
5/30	4	Bethlehem	Zealand Trail	L. Tanino, K. Cox
5/30	11	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	L. Tanino, K. Cox

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Hermit Thrush				
3/3	1	Exeter	High St. residence	E. Ring
3/25	1	Concord	Turkey Pond	D. Hubbard
4/11	1	Harrisville	Route 137 marsh	P. Brown, J. Tilden
4/18	2	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
4/18	2	Conway	Dahl WS	P. Brown, NHA FT
Wood Thrush				
5/1	1	Newmarket	Bay Rd.	H. Chary
5/2	1	Concord	Bog Road, Penacook	P. Hunt
5/2	1	Nelson	residence	P. Brown, J. Tilden
5/4	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
Gray Catbird				
4/26	2	Concord	South Main St.	I. Bridges
4/29	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
4/29	1	S. Hampton	Highland Road	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
4/30	1	Nelson	residence	P. Brown
Brown Thrasher				
4/18	1	Sandwich	Whiteface-Intervale Road	P. Brown, J. Tilden
4/22	1	Keene	Antioch University	P. Brown
4/25	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
4/26	1	Rumney	Berti's Christmas trees	J. Williams
4/27	3	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson
American Pipit				
4/9	5	Walpole	River Road	P. Brown, J. Rodolico
5/8	2	Concord	West Portsmouth St.	R. Suomala
Bohemian Waxwing				
3/1	26	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
3/2	60	Keene	school, West St. intersection	L. Tanino
3/6	16	Lempster	Goshen-Lempster School	P. Newbern
3/9	200	Lebanon	School Street	D. Jorgenson
3/22	100	Canterbury	Gold Medal Tree Nursery, Intervale Rd.	M. & R. Suomala
3/27	20	Walpole	town center	P. Brown, P. Hunt
4/1	215	Hanover	Hanover Coop	C. Rimmer
4/6	72	Salisbury	Salisbury Heights power line swamp	I. MacLeod



Blue-winged Warbler by Leonard Medlock, 5/8/09, Exeter, NH.

Blue-winged Warbler

4/28	1	Hinsdale	RR grade near Vernon Dam	K. Klapper
4/28	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
4/29	2	S. Hampton	Highland Road	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
4/29	1	Swanzy	Keene Airport	P. Howard
4/30	1	Lee	Garrity Road	S. Mirick
5/1	1	Durham	Fogg Drive	K. Dorsey

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Blue-winged Warbler—continued				
5/3	3	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson, Seacoast CFT
5/8	4	Exeter	Fort Rock Farm	L. Medlock
5/9	1	Weare	Army Corps of Engineer lands	P. Newbern
5/10	1	Concord	Langley Parkway	P. Hunt
5/12	1	Concord	Silk Farm WS	R. Woodward
5/13	1	Concord	Mast Yard State Forest	P. Hunt
5/13	4	Nashua	Southwest Park	C. Sheridan
5/14	3	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
Brewster's Warbler - hybrid				
4/30	1	Durham	Bartlett Lane	K. Dorsey
Lawrence's Warbler - hybrid				
5/2	1	Durham	TNC Lamprey River Preserve	K. Dorsey
5/10	1	Hampton	Church Street parking lot	S. & J. Mirick
5/19	1	Nashua	Southwest Park	C. Sheridan
5/30	1	Nashua	Southwest Park	C. Sheridan
Tennessee Warbler				
5/14	1	Nelson	Lead Mine Road	P. Brown
5/18	1	Holderness	Perch Pond Road	I. MacLeod
5/23	1	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
5/24	1	Chatham	Peaked Hill Rd.	A. & G. Robbins
5/24	3	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	S. & J. Mirick
Orange-crowned Warbler				
4/25	1	Concord	pine barrens	R. Ridgely
Nashville Warbler				
4/22	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
4/28	1	Nelson	residence	P. Brown, J. Tilden
4/28	3	Stoddard	Robb Reservoir	P. Brown
4/29	1	Exeter	off Route 85	S. Mirick
4/29	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
Northern Parula				
4/28	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
4/28	1	Wilmot	Campground Rd.	P. Newbern
4/29	1	S. Hampton	Highland Road	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
4/29	1	Sandwich	Thompson WS	T. Vazzano, et al.
4/30	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
Yellow Warbler				
4/19	1	New Durham	Route 11	S. Turner
4/26	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd.	A. & G. Robbins
4/27	1	Concord	Merrill Park	R. Suomala
4/28	1	Hampton	Church Street parking lot	S. Mirick, J. O'Shaughnessy
4/28	1	Hancock	Route 123	P. Brown
4/28	1	Wilmot	Wilmot Flat	P. Newbern
5/3	26	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson, Seacoast CFT
5/3	15	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
5/8	13	Keene	Keene State WMA & Dort Rd. rail trail	L. Tanino
Chestnut-sided Warbler				
4/28	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
4/28	1	Stoddard	Robb Reservoir	P. Brown, J. Tilden
4/29	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd.	A. & G. Robbins
4/30	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	S. Mirick
5/2	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
Magnolia Warbler				
4/28	1	Hampton	Church Street parking lot	S. Mirick, J. O'Shaughnessy
4/28	1	Rumney	residence	J. Williams
4/28	1	Stoddard	Robb Reservoir	P. Brown, J. Tilden
5/8	1	Lempster	Goshen-Lempster School	P. Newbern
5/9	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
5/16	15	Washington	Pillsbury St. Pk.	P. Newbern
Cape May Warbler				
5/16	1	Concord	Bog Road, Penacook	P. Hunt
5/20	1	Durham	Fogg Drive	K. Dorsey
5/24	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry WS	S. & J. Mirick
5/30	2	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson FT
Black-throated Blue Warbler				
4/26	1	Epping	Mast Road	S. & J. Mirick
4/28	1	Antrim	Willard Pond WS	P. Brown, J. Tilden
4/28	2	New London	Baker Rd.	P. Newbern
4/29	1	S. Hampton	Highland Road	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
4/30	1	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
5/1	1	Rumney	residence	J. Williams
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
3/18	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	T. Bronson
4/7	1	Hanover	Dartmouth College	T. Rosenmeier
4/14	1	Newmarket	Bay Road	H. Chary
4/17	2	Keene	Goose Pond	P. Brown, Antioch University class
4/18	1	Conway	Dahl WS	P. Brown
4/22	2	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
4/29	20	Sandwich	Thompson WS	T. Vazzano, et al.
4/30	11	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	S. Mirick
5/2	23	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
5/3	40	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
5/5	20	Sandwich	Chicks Corner wetland	T. Vazzano
Black-throated Green Warbler				
4/25	1	Weare	Army Corps of Engineer lands	P. Newbern
4/26	2	Exeter	Newsfield Rd. residence	P. Chamberlin
4/26	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
4/26	2	Rumney	residence	J. Williams
Blackburnian Warbler				
4/28	1	Lempster	Goshen-Lempster School	P. Newbern
4/30	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	S. Mirick
5/8	1	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
5/13	1	Rumney	residence	J. Williams
5/14	6	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, N. Beecher
5/16	30	Washington	Pillsbury St. Pk.	P. Newbern

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Pine Warbler				
4/5	1	Kensington	Moulton Ridge	G. Gavutis Jr.
4/8	1	Concord	NHA McLane Center	R. Suomala
4/10	2	Keene	Robin Hood Park	P. Brown
4/10	3	S. Hampton	Burrows-Brookside WS	L. Medlock
4/16	3	Center Harbor	Butterfield Rd.	J. Merrill
4/25	18	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
4/25	15	Weare	Army Corps of Engineer lands	P. Newbern
4/26	27	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
Prairie Warbler				
4/30	1	Durham	Snell Road	S. Mirick
4/30	1	Exeter	Rt. 85 power line	P. Chamberlin
5/2	1	Hampton	Church Street parking lot	S. & J. Mirick
5/3	4	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson, Seacoast CFT
5/3	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
5/9	2	Weare	Army Corps of Engineer lands	P. Newbern
5/10	1	Winchester	Pisgah St. Pk., South Link Trail	L. Tanino, K. Klapper
5/11	1	Ashland	rail road	I. MacLeod
5/13	4	Concord	Mast Yard State Forest	P. Hunt
5/17	2	Peterborough	Temple Mountain	M. Suomala, D. Drachman
Palm Warbler				
4/12	1	Durham	Longmarsh preserve	L. Medlock, J. Lambert, J. Hully
4/16	1	Walpole	River Road	P. Brown
4/18	1	Keene	Krif Road	L. Tanino
4/21	2	Concord	Silk Farm WS	P. Brown
4/25	10	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
Bay-breasted Warbler				
5/14	2	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, N. Beecher
5/19	1	Exeter	Newfields Rd. residence	P. Chamberlin
Blackpoll Warbler				
5/15	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd.	A. & G. Robbins
5/16	1	Canterbury	sod farms off Rt. 93, exit 18	R. Suomala
5/17	5	Exeter	Powder House Pond	L. Medlock
5/19	3	Concord	NHTI walking path	P. Newbern
5/30	11	Bethlehem	Zealand Trail	L. Tanino, K. Cox
Cerulean Warbler				
5/10	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	J. Lambert
5/24	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	S. & J. Mirick
Black-and-white Warbler				
4/25	1	Durham	Longmarsh Road	S. & J. Mirick, Seacoast CFT
4/26	1	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
4/26	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
4/26	1	Richmond		P. Brown, et al.
4/26	3	Rumney	residence	J. Williams
American Redstart				
4/28	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	S. Young
5/2	2	Lebanon	Boston Lot Lake	M. Krenitsky
5/8	1	Concord	West Portsmouth St.	R. Suomala

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
5/8	1	Hampton	Church Street parking lot	S. Mirick
5/9	3	Rumney	town lot along Baker River	J. Williams, et al.
5/30	30	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson FT
Ovenbird				
4/26	1	Seabrook	Seabrook firing range	S. & J. Mirick
4/28	2	Exeter	Newsfield Rd. residence	P. Chamberlin
4/28	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
4/29	1	Nelson	residence	P. Brown, J. Tilden
4/30	1	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
5/3	1	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest	A. & G. Robbins
5/9	1	Columbia	residence	D. Killam
Northern Waterthrush				
4/17	1	Exeter	Newfields Rd. residence	P. Chamberlin
4/25	4	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
4/25	1	Weare	Army Corps of Engineer lands	P. Newbern
4/26	1	Kensington	Bartlett Road Swamp	S. & J. Mirick
4/26	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd.	A. & G. Robbins
5/10	1	Winchester	Pisgah St. Pk. , Broad Brook Rd. & South Link	L. Tanino, K. Klapper
5/24	1	Chatham	Peaked Hill Rd.	A. & G. Robbins
Louisiana Waterthrush				
4/16	1	Lyman	Under the Mountain Rd.	S. & M. Turner
4/19	1	Warner	Pumpkin Hill Rd.	P. Newbern
4/20	1	Webster	Call Road	R. Quinn
4/25	1	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
4/25	1	Westmoreland		P. Brown
4/30	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	S. Mirick
5/3	3	Freedom	Scarborough Rd.	A. & G. Robbins
5/5	1	Sandwich	Smithville Rd.	T. Vazzano
5/7	2	Conway	Dahl WS	P. Brown
Mourning Warbler				
5/27	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
5/30	2	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson FT
5/31	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	L. Medlock
Common Yellowthroat				
4/28	1	Concord	Silk Farm WS	R. Woodward
4/28	1	Hampton	Church Street parking lot	S. Mirick, J. O'Shaughnessy
4/29	1	S. Hampton	Highland Road	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
4/30	1	Nelson	residence	P. Brown
Hooded Warbler				
4/29	1	Exeter	Newfields Rd. residence	P. Chamberlin
Wilson's Warbler				
5/9	2	Seabrook	Cross Beach Road	L. Medlock
5/10	1	Hampton	Church Street parking lot	S. & J. Mirick
5/13	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
5/14	3	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd.	A. & G. Robbins
5/16	1	Rumney	Berti's oxbow	J. Williams

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Canada Warbler				
4/29	1	Exeter	Newfields Rd. residence	P. Chamberlin
5/10	2	Winchester	Pisgah St. Pk., Broad Brook Rd. & South Link	L. Tanino, K. Klapper
5/11	1	Hinsdale	setbacks	L. Tanino, P. Brown
5/15	1	Rumney	meadow edge	J. Williams
5/16	1	Concord	Bog Road, Penacook	P. Hunt
5/16	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
Yellow-breasted Chat				
4/28	1	Hampton	Church Street parking lot	S. Mirick, J. O'Shaughnessy
5/22	1	Nashua	Southwest Park	C. Sheridan

Tanagers through Finches

It's not unusual to have a few Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and Indigo Buntings at the very end of April, so given the April warbler influx the absence of both tanagers and buntings that month is quite unusual. Since most sparrows tend to arrive in mid-April, there didn't seem to be the same early push that we saw for warblers, although a few species were a little bit ahead of their long-term median dates. As for rare sparrows, there was a **Lark Sparrow** in Exeter and two **Clay-colored Sparrows** in Concord. Of the latter, neither appeared to remain into the breeding season, but I predict it is only a matter of time. The reports of Common Grackles below are dominated by large migration counts along the Connecticut River and Seacoast, but note the four birds seen well offshore by Eric Masterson on April 25. This date is somewhat late for migrating grackles, and the location is certainly unexpected. There were more reports of Orchard Oriole than usual, including an unprecedented five from Horseshoe Pond in Concord (1 adult male, 2 first-year males, and 2 females). And if having five Orchard Orioles in Concord isn't enough, Rob Woodward observed one pair nest building on the May 23.

The last of the winter finch invasion included a handful of Pine Grosbeaks through mid-March, White-winged Crossbills through late April, and small flocks of Common Redpolls through late March. Tony Vazzano's increasingly famous flock of Common Redpolls in Sandwich peaked at 400 birds at the end of March and was down to a single bird on April 13. Tony also had his share of the rarer **Hoary Redpolls**, but a couple of others were reported in redpoll flocks in the southeastern portion of the state. Given their impressive winter irruption, Pine Siskins deserve



Adult female Pine Siskin with four fledglings, by Scott A. Young, 5/31/09, Strafford, NH.

special note. Although numbers dropped significantly by the first week in April, birds were reliably seen throughout May even in the southern third of the state. In late May a few presumed young were being seen at feeders, providing the first breeding records from southern New Hampshire in many years. For the second year in a row, Steve and Jane Mirick had some impressive counts of northbound American Goldfinches along the coast in Seabrook.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Scarlet Tanager				
5/5	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
5/9	5	Newmarket	Lubberland Creek Preserve	S. & J. Mirick, TNC FT
5/10	1	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. Suomala
5/10	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
5/10	1	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
5/10	8	Winchester	Pisgah St. Pk.	L. Tanino, K. Klapper
Eastern Towhee				
4/25	1	Concord	River Road, Penacook	P. Hunt
4/25	1	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport, McIntyre Rd.	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
4/26	1	Bradford	West Road residence	M. & D. Halsted
4/26	1	Manchester	Healion St.	E. Dube
4/26	1	Rumney	residence	J. Williams
4/26	6	Seabrook	Seabrook firing range	S. & J. Mirick
5/30	10	Freedom	Pine Barrens	P. Brown, J. Tilden, et al.
American Tree Sparrow				
3/22	70	Hinsdale	River Road	P. Brown
4/4	3		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
4/6	2	Exeter	Newfields Rd. residence	P. Chamberlin
4/10	2	Charlestown	Great Meadows	P. Brown
4/19	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
Chipping Sparrow				
3/28	1	Exeter	Newfields Rd. residence	P. Chamberlin
4/6	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
4/9	1	Gilmanton	Allens Mill Road	J. Stockwell
4/10	1	Newmarket	Bay Road	H. Chary
4/11	1	Keene	Green Wagon Farm	L. Tanino
Clay-colored Sparrow				
5/24	1	Concord	Concord Airport	R. Woodward
5/29	1	Concord	Birch St. community gardens	R. Suomala, S. Brown
Field Sparrow				
4/11	1	Keene	Green Wagon Farm	L. Tanino
4/19	1	Deerfield	Route 107	A. & G. Robbins
4/20	2	Hampton	Island Path	L. Medlock
4/21	1	Webster	Chadwick Hill Road	R. Quinn
Vesper Sparrow				
4/19	4	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
4/24	1	Newmarket	McIntyre Rd	L. Medlock
5/3	1	Canterbury	sod farm & nursery on Sand Hill & Intervale Rds.	M. Suomala

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Vesper Sparrow—continued				
5/4	2	Conway	Sherman Farm	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely, B. Crowley
5/10	6	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
5/23	2	Swanzy	Dillant-Hopkins Airport	L. Tanino, P. Brown
Lark Sparrow				
5/17	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
Savannah Sparrow				
3/26	1	Westmoreland	Chickering Road	P. Brown
4/11	2	Hampton	Island Path	S. & J. Mirick
4/18	4	Keene	Green Wagon Farm	L. Tanino
5/2	10	Concord	Locke Rd. fields	R. Woodward
5/17	10	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
Savannah Sparrow - Ipswich subsp.				
3/8	2	Seabrook	Cross Beach Road	S. & J. Mirick
3/18	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	T. Bronson
4/5	2	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	L. Medlock
Grasshopper Sparrow				
5/10	1	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
5/23	2	Swanzy	Dillant-Hopkins Airport	L. Tanino, P. Brown
5/24	2	Newington	McIntyre Road	L. Medlock, G. Tillman
5/30	1	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson FT
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow				
5/28	2	Newmarket	TNC Lubberland Creek Preserve	K. Dorsey
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow				
5/28	1	Newmarket	TNC Lubberland Creek Preserve	K. Dorsey
Fox Sparrow				
3/18	1	Hinsdale	bluffs	P. Brown
3/18	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
3/20	3	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
3/21	3	Durham	various locations	S. Mirick, Seacoast CFT
4/14	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
4/18	3	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Rd.	J. Merrill
4/19	1	Keene	Green Wagon Farm	L. Tanino
Lincoln's Sparrow				
4/28	1	Concord	Silk Farm WS	R. Woodward
5/17	1	Durham	Fogg Drive	K. Dorsey
5/18	1	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
5/30	3	Rye	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
Swamp Sparrow				
4/4	1		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
4/5	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	L. Medlock
4/15	1	Nelson	Moose Meadow	P. Brown, J. Tilden
4/16	1	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	L. Tanino
4/22	6	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
4/25	7	Weare	Army Corps of Engineer lands	P. Newbern
4/26	24	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
White-crowned Sparrow				
5/2	1	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
5/2	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Woodward
5/2	1	Hampton	Church Street parking lot	S. & J. Mirick
5/2	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. & J. Mirick
5/4	1	Rumney	residence	J. Williams
5/5	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
5/8	1	Keene	Thompson Road Trail	L. Tanino
Dark-eyed Junco				
4/6	68	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
4/7	120	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
4/19	110	Keene	East Surry Road	L. Tanino
Lapland Longspur				
4/18	2	Keene	Krif Road	L. Tanino
Snow Bunting				
3/4	77	Northumberland	Brown Rd.	R. Hunt
3/5	20	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
3/8	7	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. & J. Mirick
3/28	1	Rye	Eel Pond	S. & J. Mirick
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
4/26	1	Newmarket	Bay Road	H. Chary
4/26	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd.	A. & G. Robbins
4/27	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
4/28	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
Indigo Bunting				
5/6	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
5/9	1	Newmarket	Lubberland Creek Preserve	S. & J. Mirick, TNC FT
5/11	1	Walpole	River Road	L. Tanino, P. Brown
5/12	1	Rumney	Feeder	J. Williams
Bobolink				
5/3	1	Freedom	Scarborough Rd.	A. & G. Robbins
5/8	6	Seabrook	Route 1A	S. & J. Mirick
5/9	12	Newmarket	Lubberland Creek Preserve	S. & J. Mirick, TNC FT
5/10	1	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
5/11	9	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
Red-winged Blackbird				
3/6	60	Hinsdale	bluffs	P. Brown, et al.
3/12	515	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
3/15	395	Walpole	Bellows Falls dam	P. Brown, J. Tilden
3/17	185	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	L. Tanino
3/22	1200	Hinsdale	setbacks	P. Brown
Eastern Meadowlark				
3/17	1	E. Kingston	Bodwell Farm	S. Mirick
3/22	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	L. Medlock
3/22	1	Hampton	Route 101	S. & J. Mirick
3/28	1	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	NHA Seacoast CFT
4/2	1	Keene	Cornwall Drive, UPS Bldg.	L. Tanino

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Rusty Blackbird				
3/1	1	S. Hampton	Highland Road feeder	L. Medlock
3/9	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
3/22	1	Concord	Bog Road, Penacook	P. Hunt
3/23	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
3/28	15	Kingston	Powwow Pond-IBA	S.& J. Mirick
4/16	3	Surry	Surry Lake and Village Road	L. Tanino
5/2	14	Pittsburg	East Inlet	E. Masterson
5/14	1	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, N. Beecher
Common Grackle				
3/12	60	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
3/15	395	Walpole	Bellows Falls dam	P. Brown, J. Tilden
3/22	400	Hinsdale	setbacks	P. Brown
4/18	1009	Seabrook	Route 1A	S.& J. Mirick, M.& S. Turner, A. Kimball
4/25	4	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson
Orchard Oriole				
4/28	1	Hampton	Church Street parking lot	S. Mirick, J. O'Shaughnessy
4/30	1	Hampton	Island Path	S.& J. Mirick
5/2	1	N. Hampton	Route 1A, Town Line Cove	S.& J. Mirick
5/3	1	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	T. Bronson, Seacoast CFT
5/4	1	Hinsdale	Vernon dam	G. Seymour
5/4	1	Newmarket	Bay Rd.	H. Chary
5/9	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	L. Medlock
5/13	1	Dover	Bayview Road	P. Brown
5/13	1	E. Kingston	Bodwell Farm	S. Mirick
5/13	1	Nashua	Southwest Park, Yudicky Farm	C. Sheridan
5/17	1	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park	R. Quinn
5/20	3	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
5/22	3	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Woodward
Baltimore Oriole				
4/26	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
4/28	1	Concord	Contoocook Is., Penacook	P. Hunt
4/28	2	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S.& M. Turner
4/29	1	Newmarket	Bay Road	H. Chary
4/29	3	S. Hampton	Highland Road	S.& J. Mirick, et al.
Blackbird sp.				
3/21	6000	Exeter	flying s. on Squamscott R.	R. Suomala, C. Martin, P. Hunt
Pine Grosbeak				
3/8	15	Durham	University of NH campus	K. Dorsey
3/12	6	Tamworth	Cleveland Hill Rd.	G. Hoag
3/14	9	Durham	near University of NH horse barns	S.& J. Mirick
Red Crossbill				
5/23	1	Sandwich	Sandwich Mountain	M. Suomala, L. Newell
White-winged Crossbill				
3/10	3	Littleton	Pleasant Street	D.& H. Sarausky
3/11	25	Durham	University of NH campus	K. Dorsey
3/13	9	Wolfeboro	Blackberry Lane	J.& J. Nelson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
3/22	4	Exeter	Haven Lane feeder	L. Medlock
4/13	1	Concord	South St.	R. Woodward
4/16	15	Center Harbor	Butterfield Rd.	J. Merrill
4/28	37	Laconia	Laconia Country Club, Elm St.	H. Anderson
5/2	1	Concord	Thirty Pines, Penacook	P. Hunt
5/3	11	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest	A.& G. Robbins

Common Redpoll

3/1	50	Colebrook	Indian Trail off Rt. 145	B. Rappaport
3/5	35	Stoddard	Pitcher Mountain	L. Tanino
3/8	75	Bradford	Rt. 103	P. Newbern
3/15	40	Tilton	Winnepesaukee R. behind BJ's	R. & M. Suomala
3/25	150	Bradford	West Road residence	M. & D. Halsted
3/30	1	Barrington	Al Wood Dr. residence	T. & L. Chase
3/30	2	Concord	Bog Road, Penacook	P. Hunt
3/30	400	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
4/17	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano

Hoary Redpoll

3/1	1	Newton	Tara Lane residence	P. McFarland
3/1	3	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
3/12	2	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
3/30	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
4/8	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano

Pine Siskin

3/1	10	Keene	Court Street	L. Tanino
3/7	44	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
3/18	11	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
4/9	12	Hinsdale	rail trail	L. Tanino
4/11	10	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
4/30	10	Rumney	residence	J. & J. Williams
5/5	2	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
5/12	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
5/23	2	Concord	boat launch near Hannah Dustin Is.	P. Hunt
5/30	3	Concord	Birch Street	R. Quinn, R. Woodward

American Goldfinch

5/8	368	Seabrook	Route 1A	S. & J. Mirick
5/10	314	Seabrook	Route 1A	S. & J. Mirick
5/11	1504	Seabrook	Route 1A	S. & J. Mirick
5/12	134	Seabrook	Route 1A	S. & J. Mirick
5/19	46	Seabrook	Route 1A	S. & J. Mirick

Evening Grosbeak

3/1	8	Colebrook	Indian Trail, off Rt. 145	B. Rappaport
3/11	22	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
4/12	3	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
4/24	2	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd.	A. & G. Robbins
5/10	3	Winchester	Pisgah St. Pk.	L. Tanino, K. Klapper
5/16	4	Webster	Little Hill Road	R. Quinn
5/24	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway St. Pk.	S. & J. Mirick

Reporters for Spring 2009

Rich Aaronian
 Michael Amaral
 H.Cook Anderson
 Widge Arms
 Jeannine Ayer
 Jay Barry
 Michelle Beauchamp
 Kim Beauley
 Bert Becker
 Leslie Bergum
 Seron Birnbaum
 Peter Bradley
 Scott Braker
 Tom Brodeur
 Terry Bronson
 Phil Brown
 Patience Chamberlin
 Hank Chary
 Tiffany Chase
 Tom Chase
 Grace Cohen
 Michele Collins
 Bob Crowley
 Sue Crowley
 Steve Darling
 Paul & Karen Dearborn
 Laura Deming
 Carol DeStefano
 Jane Doherty
 Kurk Dorsey
 Elaine Dube
 Jeannie Duval
 Charles Ek
 Paul Fenton Jr.
 Davis Finch
 Kenneth Folsom
 George Gavutis, Jr.

Catherine Gillis
 Sue Gross
 Sarah Hall
 David Halsted
 Michele Halsted
 Ivona Hartshorn
 B. Heitzman
 Lindsay Herlihy
 Vicki Horton
 Dan Hubbard
 Pamela Hunt
 Robert Hunt
 Margot Johnson
 Leith Jones
 Joseph Kabat
 Susan Kazmierski
 David Killam
 Paul Lacourse
 Charlotte Locke
 Iain MacLeod
 Chris Martin
 Roland Martin
 Eric Masterson
 Diana Mattoon
 Paula McFarland
 Leonard Medlock
 John Merrill
 Marsha Miles
 Steve Mirick
 Sandy Molloy
 Susan Mooney
 Chris Munroe
 Joyce & Joel Nelson
 Peter Newbern
 John O'Brien
 John Payzant
 Greg Prazar

Robert Quinn
 Beverly Ramstrom-Manning
 Blenda Rappaport
 Cindy Reid
 Kristine Rines
 Elizabeth Ring
 Robert Ritz
 Andrea Robbins
 Dana Robbins
 Ronald Robert
 Judy Romano
 Dave Sarausky
 Brenda Sens
 Gregory Seymour
 Christine Sheridan
 Dawn Stavros
 J.R. Stockwell
 Scott Stoodley
 Larry Sunderland
 Mark Suomala
 Rebecca Suomala
 Lance Tanino
 Jean Tewksbury
 Greg Tillman
 Sandra Turner
 Robert Vallieres
 Tony Vazzano
 Tony Vlatas
 Tom Warren
 John Williams
 Rob Woodward
 Mary Wright
 Tom Young

Some sightings were taken directly from eBird and the NH.Birds list serve.

Reports for the following species were received in Spring 2009 but not listed.

American Black Duck
 Mallard
 Common Eider
 Red-breasted Merganser
 Chukar
 Ring-necked Pheasant
 Ruffed Grouse
 Wild Turkey
 Northern Bobwhite
 Red-throated Loon
 Great Blue Heron
 Bald Eagle
 Sharp-shinned Hawk
 Cooper's Hawk
 Northern Goshawk
 Red-tailed Hawk
 Merlin
 Peregrine Falcon
 Black-legged Kittiwake

Ring-billed Gull
 Herring Gull
 Great Black-backed Gull
 Mourning Dove
 Eastern Screech-Owl
 Great Horned Owl
 Barred Owl
 Belted Kingfisher
 Downy Woodpecker
 Hairy Woodpecker
 Northern Flicker
 Pileated Woodpecker
 Blue Jay
 American Crow
 Black-capped Chickadee
 Tufted Titmouse
 Red-breasted Nuthatch
 White-breasted Nuthatch
 Brown Creeper

Golden-crowned Kinglet
 Eastern Bluebird
 American Robin
 Northern Mockingbird
 European Starling
 Cedar Waxwing
 Song Sparrow
 White-throated Sparrow
 Northern Cardinal
 Brown-headed Cowbird
 Purple Finch
 House Finch
 House Sparrow

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

New Hampshire eBird and New Hampshire Bird Records

by Marshall J. Iliff and
Rebecca Suomala

New Hampshire Audubon and *New Hampshire Bird Records* have teamed up to collaborate with eBird and are excited to announce the release of **New Hampshire eBird** (www.ebird.org/nh), an eBird portal specifically tailored to the Granite State. Not only does this website provide a version of eBird with a New Hampshire focus, but it will also help

to revise and improve the reporting framework for *New Hampshire Bird Records* (*NHBR*). From now on, reporting to New Hampshire eBird will be all you need to do to make sure your sightings are available for publication in *NHBR*, as well for a wide range of other uses.

What is eBird?

eBird is an online system for recording bird sightings in the US and throughout the western hemisphere. Launched in 2002 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, eBird's goal is to maximize the utility and accessibility of the many bird observations made by recreational and professional bird watchers. eBird's popularity as a way of keeping personal bird records has been on a steady rise. An online bird checklist recording system, eBird doubles as a personal bird records-keeping system, listing program, and resource for understanding bird distribution across the hemisphere. By entering and storing your bird sightings in eBird, you will not only be archiving them securely, but you will be combining them with the observations of tens of thousands of other birders to paint real-time pictures of bird occurrence across the hemisphere. Data exploration tools allow you to explore all eBird data on maps, seasonal bar charts, arrival/departure date tables, and other visualizations. Try it out by exploring questions such as: Where has Yellow-throated Vireo been recorded in New Hampshire?; How does Common Redpoll abundance this winter compare to last winter?; or What is the state late date for Yellow Warbler?

Many birders may not realize just how many groups have uses for their observations. A short list might include: other birders in the state and beyond; *NHBR* editors; *North American Birds* editors; the Important Bird Area program; researchers studying climate change; a state game commission seeking information to support a change in status on the state endangered species list; or a group investigating the conservation implications of a development in a particular patch of forest or grassland. eBird provides a single data source for all these groups, so that all you need to do is to keep up

with what you see (just as you would with your personal sightings database). eBird will make sure the use of your sightings is maximized.

What is an eBird portal?

The main advantage of New Hampshire eBird is to provide a version of eBird that is tailored more specifically to New Hampshire. The “View and Explore Data” tab and “Submit Observations” tab are quick-linked to New Hampshire locations. The eBird banners and photos are of New Hampshire species and, most importantly, the story content is controlled by the sponsors of New Hampshire eBird. This is where you can get information on ways to use New Hampshire eBird more effectively and other topics of relevance to New Hampshire birders. It is important to understand that New Hampshire eBird, Vermont eBird, and other state portals are completely integrated with the eBird system. Any records submitted to any eBird application are accessible and visible in any other eBird application, so it is okay if you move between one and the other.

In conjunction with the New Hampshire eBird portal, we are revising several aspects of eBird. More specific filters will provide better data quality control, improved consistency in location naming will clarify locations across the state, and the eventual upload of the entire *NHBR* database will populate eBird with tens of thousands of vetted records from across the state.

Submitting your sightings to eBird

Setting up an eBird account is quick and easy and once you have one you can start submitting sightings. eBird’s system is designed to record what you see at a given location on a given day—somewhat reminiscent of the old fashioned field checklists for each day of birding at a specific place. By encouraging specific location information, eBird makes it possible to summarize bird data at a variety of scales: region, state, county, town, park, or specific location. Although eBird accepts more general locations (i.e., at county or state level), it functions best when locations are plotted specifically. Any sighting submitted will be permanently available via your personal observations list and will automatically be tracked on your state, county, year, month, and life lists—eBird will automatically update your county and state lists for you based on sightings you enter, even if you don’t know what county you were in!

The primary means of reporting to eBird is via the web interface

(<http://ebird.org/ebird/nh/MyEBird?cmd=SubmitMain>), and you will be presented with several options for mapping your location, including selecting from a list of locations you have used before (“My Locations”) or plotting a new one on a map. After selecting a location, eBird provides a checklist of likely or possible species to choose from, checks for typographical errors or possible misidentifications, and allows you to enter counts, notes, and comments with your checklist. By requesting effort information (i.e., how many hours you were there or how many miles you walked), it allows us to better understand bird abundance, and by promoting submission of complete checklists (all birds seen or heard), eBird can understand not only what species were found but what species were missed (which gives insight on trends in abundance). These data are then integrated with your personal records and lists and also with the master eBird database. If you already have a records keeping system, eBird provides a variety of tools to help convert your current bird records system to eBird.

Reporting your sightings to *New Hampshire Bird Records*

New Hampshire eBird is now the primary system for reporting your bird sightings for publication in *New Hampshire Bird Records*. Current eBird reporters will no longer need to send separate files to *NHBR*. *NHBR* will also be integrating its current review processes with the eBird system.

In the past, sightings for *NHBR* were collected in a variety of ways: excel files, emailed reports, field cards, and other sightings were all entered and organized by volunteers, reviewed by a team of editors, and stored in the *NHBR* database. The eBird system will automatically organize these sightings, provide a first level of error checking, and securely back up the observations within eBird. Furthermore, the data will be put to much more use both inside and outside New Hampshire since eBird data will be available to anyone and everyone with an interest. By collecting sightings via eBird, the *NHBR* team will free up precious volunteer hours for other projects (like the entry of historical sighting cards). But please note that *NHBR* will continue to provide support for those that do not have high-speed internet or do not rapidly adjust to this switch in protocol. eBird is a state-of-the-art system and does have an associated learning curve!

To report your sightings you have several options:

- 1) Report your sightings directly to New Hampshire eBird
- 2) Upload a spreadsheet to New Hampshire eBird
- 3) Send your reports to *NHBR* to upload on your behalf – we're still working this out so look for more information to come.

We hope that people will use option 1 or 2 and we think birders will prefer this so that they have access to all of their reports. However, we're committed to providing option 3 for those who do not have internet access, but reporting forms will be changing. Regular *NHBR* reporters will be receiving more detailed information about how to report sightings using eBird. One major change regular reporters will notice is the concept of reporting all birds, not just the "interesting" ones. This is important to the fundamental goals of eBird and *NHBR* supports reporting of complete checklists whenever possible. The other big change will be the mapping of your birding locations. This is certainly the way of the future and provides possibilities we cannot begin to consider with our current data base. We're looking forward to this new development in bird reporting in New Hampshire and believe it will lead to better accessibility and use of the data.

Thank you for sharing your bird sightings and for your continued support of *New Hampshire Bird Records*.

New Hampshire eBird is a project of New Hampshire Audubon's Conservation Department and made possible with the support of generous donors and the Margery and Lorus Milne Fund supporting conservation research at New Hampshire Audubon.

Marshall J. Iliff works for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology as a project leader for eBird and the Avian Knowledge Network. He lives in West Roxbury with his fiancée and dog and birds the New Hampshire coast whenever gas prices, time, and the allure of closer Massachusetts hotspots allow.

Tudor Richards – The Legacy of a Remarkable Birder

by Robert A. Quinn



Tudor Richards and David Govatski at Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge, November 2006.
Photo by Robert A. Quinn.

Tudor Richards was an incredible pioneer in birding New Hampshire during the late 1940s and throughout his life. Each of the *New Hampshire Bird Records (NHBR)* seasons in 2009 will be in tribute to him and will have an article about Tudor the birder. In these articles I will attempt to connect him and his birding exploits with the season, highlight some of his remarkable contributions to birding in the state, and highlight some of the changes we have seen since then. This first issue also includes a brief overview on Tudor's birding career in New Hampshire. Frequently I will reference a series of articles Tudor wrote in the *New Hampshire Audubon Quarterly (NHAQ)* titled "Inland Water Birds." They were published in four parts:

Part I: Volume 25 Number 2, Spring 1972

Part II: Volume 25 Number 3, Summer 1972

Part III: Volume 26 Number 1, Winter 1973

Part IV: Volume 27 Number 4, Fall 1974

Tudor was born the year after the last Passenger Pigeon died and his lifetime overlapped with some of the big birding names in the 1900s including Ludlow Griscom, Glover Allen, and Roger Tory Peterson. During the early 1950s, he became the first person to thoroughly study the bird life of the entire state, “from Pittsburg and Umbagog in the north to Mount Monadnock and the coast in the south”, as he once told me. This was part of his job surveying waterfowl for the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. He was the first birder to “discover” Lake Wantastiquet and Powwow Pond during those waterfowl surveys.

Tudor chronicled the status of birds in New Hampshire in a series of articles in the 1954 “New Hampshire Bird News” (as the NHAQ was then called). This was the first major published information on the birds of New Hampshire since Glover Allen’s *A List of the Birds of New Hampshire* from 1902.

He saw remarkable changes in the status of numerous species and he submitted records for over 60 years. He also made substantial contributions to several regional books on birds in New Hampshire (e.g., *Birds of the Squam Lakes Region* by Beverly S. Ridgely, 1977 and 1988 and *Monadnock Sightings: Birds of Dublin, New Hampshire 1909-1979* by Elliott and Kathleen Allison).

During the Spring 2009 season and in recent months there were several themes that fit in very nicely with Tudor’s birding interests. These included the migration of waterfowl stopping along the Connecticut River from Hinsdale to Walpole, the spring fall-out of inland shorebirds in Concord and along the Connecticut River, the study of waterbirds at Powwow Pond (see “Waterbird Surveys at Powwow Pond” by Pam Hunt in the *New Hampshire Bird Records* Fall 2008 issue, Vol. 27, No. 3), and the warbler totals from this and recent spring seasons. Tudor pioneered the study of all these areas and phenomena. He also was the first contemporary birder to go to the Cherry ponds at Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge and Lake Umbagog. In recent years, his focus on Turkey Pond in Concord resulted in the highest waterbird species list for any inland body of water in the state. Many of his records were summarized in the “Inland Water Bird” articles cited above.

Waterfowl in General

It is important to realize that Tudor was studying waterfowl for the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department because the birds were still in the recovery stages after the massive slaughter during the market hunting days of 100 years ago. This is pertinent to today’s records because in many ways we are birding during a golden age when numerous species of waterfowl are at all-time historical high populations (understanding that we do not have sufficient data from before the 1880s for adequate comparisons). Species that are much more common now include all the geese species, the rarer puddle ducks such as Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon, and Northern Pintail, plus some of our more interesting local breeders such as Wood Duck and Hooded Merganser. It was not that many years ago when Mallard and Snow Goose were exceedingly rare, Canada Goose were strictly migrants, and Ross’s Goose and Greater White-fronted Goose were almost unthinkable. The flip side is that the American Black Duck has declined significantly (probably due to competition with the introduced Mallard, a duck originally native to the western United States only) and other species seem to occur in low numbers such as Redhead and Canvasback. Space

does not allow a complete list of all the significant changes in the status of waterbirds but it is worth mentioning the increase of the Common Loon as another remarkable change since Tudor first started counting them.



Ring-necked Duck by Steve Mirick.

Ring-necked Duck

We highlighted the Ring-necked Duck on the cover because of the dramatic change in its status over the last 80 years and also because Tudor studied the species for his Masters Degree, and it was always a favorite of his. Quoting from his inland waterbird article (part I, Spring 1972 NHAQ), the Ring-necked Duck "...is now fairly common in migration, which it never used to be; in fact, it was, before 1920, of only accidental occurrence."

Now let's put that quote in perspective. In the spring of 1954, the statewide high count for Ring-necked Ducks listed in *New Hampshire Bird News*, the predecessor of the NHAQ, was 39 at Powwow Pond. The next highest tallies from 1954 were 30 and 14 and the Season Editor termed these "excellent numbers"! In the spring of 1961, the total number of all reports for the entire state was 100, with a maximum of 20 for one day. Compare that with the one-day counts of 350 at Powwow Pond and 250 at Lake Wantastiquet in 2009. We have come to expect big flocks of Ring-necked Ducks but it has only been in the last ten years that we have recorded flocks exceeding 100 (with a record high of 428 at Lake Wantastiquet in April 2003 by Denny Abbott). Many geese and other ducks have had a similar increase in their populations in recent decades. So, in the spring of 2009, we have tremendous records of migrating waterfowl inland, especially at Lake Wantastiquet and Powwow Pond, and we can partly thank Tudor Richards for getting us started birding at those areas.

Shorebirds

The migration of shorebirds (sandpipers and plovers) through inland New Hampshire in the spring is usually overlooked because, if the weather is good, the birds do not stop, and if there is rain, many birders stay at home. Once again Tudor led the way, especially when he lived in Cheshire County from 1958-1969 and determined that the county was "...perhaps the best region of all (inland New Hampshire) for migratory

waterbirds....” A sampling of his records from Cheshire County during just one spring include:

- May 22, 1961-85 Least Sandpipers
- May 26, 1961-15 Semipalmated Plovers
- May 31, 1961-16 Black-bellied Plovers
- June 2, 1961-1 Sanderling

June 10, 1961-2 Ruddy Turnstones and 32 Semipalmated Sandpipers

Most, if not all, of these records were the first for that species at an inland location or a record high for the spring season (inland). It is data like these, along with his motivation example, that inspired me to go out on cold and rainy May 27, 2009, specifically to look for grounded waterbirds. I found 33 Black-bellied Plovers in Concord that day (29 in one flock at West Portsmouth Street). This is apparently the second highest inland tally ever and close to the 40 seen in the Keene area during the unprecedented shorebird fallout of May 2004. A conversation about the plovers with Rob Woodward that night motivated him to check the Horseshoe Pond fields in Concord the next morning, which yielded a flock of 20 Semipalmated Plovers (another near record inland high for spring). His sighting of the plovers then prompted me to head back to Concord that same day (May 30, 2009) where I found an adult female Red-necked Phalarope, in breeding plumage, with the plovers plus a flock of about 25 Least Sandpipers. And I suspect that Eric Masterson had some of the same thoughts (bad weather, waterbirds, Tudor) when he found a remarkable variety and high numbers of shorebirds, and three species of terns (probably unprecedented inland in one 24 hour period!) in Cheshire County during the same time period and inclement weather conditions.

Warblers

There are fewer data from Tudor concerning warblers but one of his better moments with landbirds was a May morning in Sandwich when he recorded 22 species of warblers “before breakfast”. I don’t know what time he stopped for breakfast but you get the idea. To put that in perspective, on a recent spring morning in Sandwich (2007), Tony Vazzano had a very good morning when he recorded 18 species of warblers in one flock and 20 species for the morning. 22 species is a similar total to the number of warblers found on statewide Big Days in recent years! In the spring of 2009, Steve Mirick tallied 26 species of warblers for the entire season and that included the now regularly occurring Cerulean Warbler and the unusual Hooded Warbler found by Patience Chamberlin.

Fun with Rare Birds

Rare birds may not be very significant from a biological point of view, but they are fun. The following examples are amazing records which have not been the start of a trend, but just fluke happenings. They point out the lesson that it is always worth looking! The first example is a Tundra Swan that Tudor found at Turkey Pond in Concord on March 27, 1991. Not only was this a rare bird, and a first for Concord, but it clearly shows that if you go out and look you might find something special. In an average year, there is little or no open water on Turkey Pond in late March so local birders rarely check it out. That was also true in 1991 except for a thin ring of open water all the way around the edge of the pond which prompted Tudor to go and look, and to find

the swan! Other examples include some of his rarest finds at Turkey Pond. During the first two weeks of May you usually do not expect much in the way of inland water-birds. After the rush of early spring waterfowl, there usually is a slow period and sometimes the rest of the season passes quietly. However, on May 9, 1977, Tudor went again to Turkey Pond and found a young male King Eider! Even more amazing than the eider or any other inland record, occurred when Tudor checked Turkey Pond on a nice day, May 22, 1972. Lo and behold there was a small flock of medium-sized gulls. Not the expected Ring-billed Gulls (still uncommon inland back then) but an almost unbelievable sixteen **Black-legged Kittiwakes!** In addition, there was the bonus of a single Forster's Tern, both species being the first inland records ever for New Hampshire!

The Lessons for us Today

New Hampshire birders owe a debt to those outstanding individuals who came before us and Tudor Richards is at the top of that list. Horace Wright (*The Birds of the Jefferson Region in the White Mountains*. 1911) and William Brewster (*Birds of Lake Umbagog region of Maine*. 1938) inspired Tudor, who in turn has inspired many people to make worthwhile contributions to the knowledge of New Hampshire birds. Now it is our turn to break new ground, discover new birding highlights, and bird with a purpose. How best to follow his lead? Get out as often as you can, imbue others with a sense of wonder and excitement about birds, submit your data, and above all else, have fun with birding!

August 2009

Bob Quinn enjoyed birding with, and learning from, Tudor Richards for over 30 years. Their travels were mostly in New Hampshire, especially the North Country, but also included Trinidad and parts of South America. Bob hopes to carry on Tudor's birding projects covering the changes in the bird life of the Lake Umbagog and Concord regions. Meanwhile he continues to run his birding tour and natural history business, Merlin Enterprises.

Spotlight on Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)

by Iain MacLeod

Background

The Merlin (often referred to in the past as the Pigeon Hawk) is a small, stealthy falcon which breeds in northern portions of North America, from Alaska to Maine and throughout Canada. Three recognized races breed in North America. The "Boreal" race (formerly referred to as the "Taiga" race) breeds in eastern portions of Canada and northeastern United States and winters as far south as the Gulf states. The "Richardson's" (sometimes referred to as the "Prairie") race breeds in the northern Great Plains, and the "Black" race is found only in the rain forests of the Pacific Northwest. Six additional races breed in northern Palearctic regions of Europe and



Merlin by Iain MacLeod.

Russia and winter through the southern Palearctic.

Merlins normally nest in forest edge habitat, either naturally occurring along the shores of lakes or rivers, or at clearings created by forestry operations. In North America, the majority of nests occur in abandoned American Crow nests in the crown of a mature coniferous tree. Other stick nests will be used where crow nests are not available such as those of Common Raven and perhaps squirrels. They have been recorded nesting in the tops of broken tree trunks and in Europe (and likely in treeless zones in northern Canada) they will nest on the ground and rarely on cliffs.

After declining during the “DDT era” in the 1950s and 1960s, the Merlin has undertaken a dramatic breeding range expansion in New Hampshire over the last two decades (Figure 1). This expansion into the Granite State is part of an overall breeding popula-

tion increase throughout eastern North America. Atlas data from Ontario, New York, Pennsylvania, and Vermont indicate dramatic expansions between “First Atlas” (c.1980s) and current Atlas fieldwork (Cadman, et al. 2008, Laughlin, et al. 1985, Brauning, 1992, McGowan, 2008).

Migration counts indicate that populations of Merlin have increased in the northeast since 1974 (Farmer, et al. 2008). From 1994 to 2004, an annual increase of 10.2% occurred at Waggoner’s Gap, Pennsylvania. Increases of 3.0% and 4.6% were recorded respectively at Lighthouse Point, Connecticut and Montclair Hawkwatch, New Jersey during that same period, indicating larger population sources to the north of those watch sites.

Records in spring and summer have increased in New Hampshire (Figure 2), with multiple annual breeding records in recent years. This article focuses primarily on breeding expansion in New Hampshire based on May-July records between the years 1989-2008.

Former Breeding Status

The Merlin until fairly recently was primarily a migrant in New Hampshire, seen during spring and fall, travelling between breeding areas to the north and wintering areas to the south. Merlins are now annual breeders in New Hampshire, but this is a very recent phenomenon (Figure 1). Historical nesting data is very sparse and suggests that the Merlin had not nested in the state with any regularity in the hundred years prior to the 1990s. One record in July 1886 in the Great Gulf on Mt. Washington (Allen 1903) is interesting, but inconclusive. Another record of Merlins nesting in a tree cavity in Manchester in 1926 is accompanied by a photo of the nest and a descrip-

tion of the birds by Albert McGowan (ASNH 1927, 1928) that suggests, to this author, confusion with American Kestrel.

During the fieldwork period (1981-86) for the *Atlas of Breeding Birds in New Hampshire* (Foss 1994), there were so few records that the species did not warrant a map in the final publication. The Atlas mentions only a couple of records, both from Pittsburg, in 1986 and 1987.

Recent Occurrence in New Hampshire

During the early 1990s there were increasing breeding season reports around Lake Umbagog, with two July records in 1990, and one June record in 1991. In 1992, there was a mid-May record and two July records, as well as a May record in Pittsburg. In 1994, the first confirmed breeding record occurred. A pair was seen copulating in May near Lake Umbagog and a nest with two fledglings was found in July.

In July 1995, two breeding pairs were located, one near Long Pond in Errol and one at the Umbagog Campground in Cambridge. In 1996 and 1997, there were spring and summer sightings of individuals and consorting pairs around Lake Umbagog, including multiple sightings around the Long Pond nest site, which suggested breeding in both years. During the period of 1998-2000, there were multiple breeding season reports in Errol, Cambridge, Pittsburg, and Dummer suggesting that several pairs were established. Nesting territories were located along woodland edges near lakes or rivers.

In 2001, two pairs of Merlins were found well to the south of the "North Country," one at the Dartmouth Golf Course in Hanover and another at the Riverside Cemetery in Plymouth. Both pairs used old stick nests (likely American Crow) in mature human-planted spruce/fir trees. The Hanover pair successfully raised five chicks and the Plymouth pair fledged at least two young. It seems likely that the blue spruces and balsam firs that had been planted in the cemetery and on the golf course provided suitable "boreal-like" habitat for the Merlins. Also in 2001, a recently fledged chick was seen along the Magalloway River in Errol in July. In 2002, the pairs were back at Hanover and Plymouth, although details of fledgling numbers are lacking in the database. Four Merlins were noted at Hanover Country Club on July 21, which would suggest at least two fledged chicks.

In 2003, there was the now-expected scattering of sightings around Lake Umbagog and in Pittsburg but no nests were documented. In 2004, there were multiple sightings at Greenlawn Cemetery in Keene and four were reported on July 9 at Hanover Golf Course suggesting breeding (the database has no details on whether any of the four were juveniles). During 2005 there were multiple records from the usual areas, and June and July records from Jefferson, Whitefield and Twin Mountain. A pair raised at least three chicks on "Treasure Island" on Lake Winnepesaukee in Alton.

In 2006, two nests were located, one in Keene and one in Alton Bay. The Keene pair raised at least three young and the Alton pair raised two. 2007 saw the first documented nest on Squam Lake in Holderness. This pair used a stick nest in a mature hardwood right in the middle of a large lakeshore camp/resort. Four fledged chicks were observed in July. In 2008, they were back in Alton Bay and the Hanover Country Club and another pair nested in New London. There were multiple sightings at the Laconia Country Club and near Squam Lake.

Figure 1. New Hampshire towns with breeding season (late May through July) records of Merlins in two time periods: a. 1986-2000 and b. 2001-2009. The species was not known to breed in the state prior to 1986.

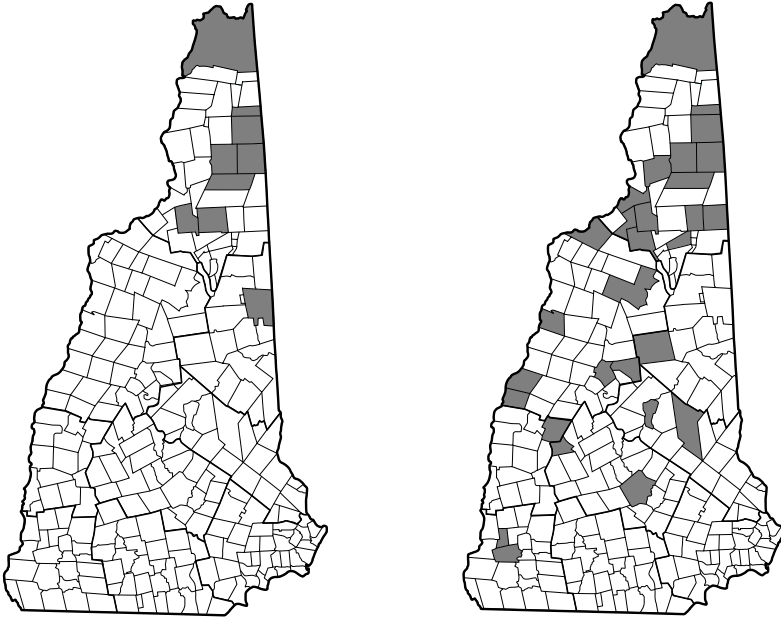
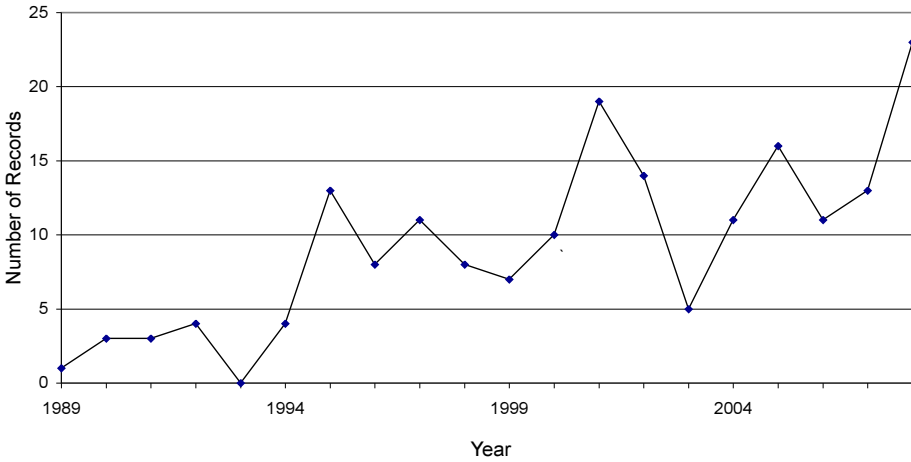


Figure 2. Merlin records, May through July, by year in New Hampshire, 1989-2008.



Comments

As I'm sitting at my computer writing this article, I am torn between finishing it and running over to check on a Merlin nest on the shore of Squam Lake in North Sandwich. This nest, which I located on May 7, 2009 in an old crow nest high in a white pine, is just a half-mile from the nest site located at the camp/resort on Squam Lake in 2007. At about the same time as I found this nest, there were reports of a copulating pair in Concord. That pair nested and produced three young. On June 17, 2009, while conducting my Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) route in Berlin, I found another Merlin nest. This nest, located in a spruce in a narrow strip of woodland between two clearings, is in a light-industrial area on the outskirts of Berlin. Multiple food exchanges were seen and behavior indicated that incubation was underway. Details on these newest sightings will be available in the summer issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*.

So, why have Merlins expanded into New Hampshire and beyond? Certainly the banning of DDT in the 1970s has allowed a rebound in Merlin (and other raptor) populations and a recolonization of former ranges. Although in New Hampshire, data suggest a major colonization of previously unoccupied territory, published reports indicate that much of the expansion in Ontario has been into urban areas where bird feeders attract large numbers of the songbirds on which Merlins prey. In Florida, where many Merlins spend the winter, I have heard that they are common in urban settings, feeding on the profusion of House Sparrows and native songbirds. Perhaps the urbanization of their wintering areas has made them more tolerant of urban areas for breeding. Perhaps there is some synergistic relationship with a prey species that has resulted in a shift in Merlin breeding strategy.

No matter what the reason(s), it seems this charismatic little raptor is going to be here for a while. If the habitat requirements for breeding Merlins in NH are wooded lakeshore habitat, golf courses and cemeteries with planted spruce trees, and urbanized areas with bird feeders, just think of how much potential habitat exists throughout the state. When we get around to doing the second *Atlas of Breeding Birds of New Hampshire*, I can't wait to see how many confirmed breeding records show up in blocks all over the state.



Merlin by Iain MacLeod.

Data Sources

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

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Where To Bird

Birding Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge

by Phil Brown

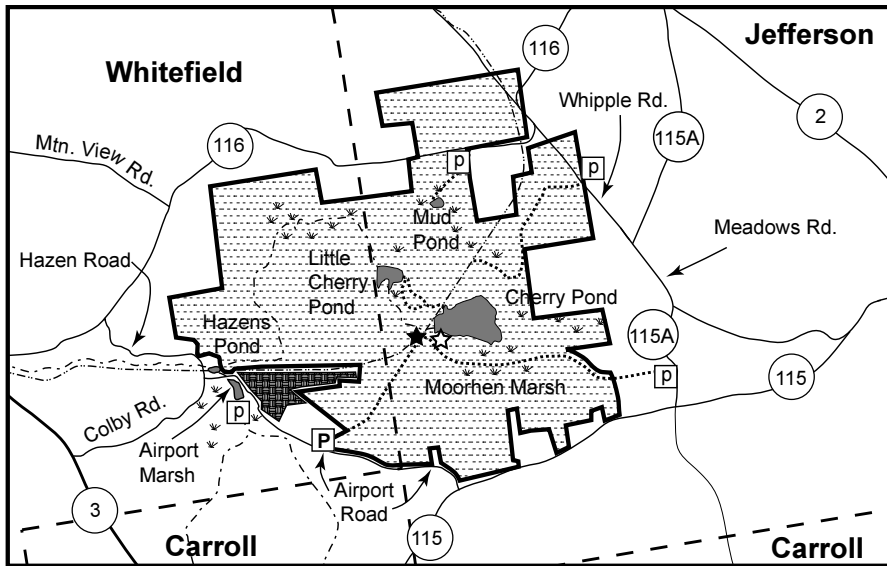
A revision of the 1997 New Hampshire Bird Records article by Robert A. Quinn and David Govatski.



View of Cherry Pond from the Tudor Richards' observation platform at Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge, Jefferson, NH. Photo by David Govatski.

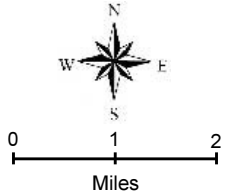
Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge, a birding hotspot located in the northern White Mountain towns of Jefferson and Whitefield, has long been a favorite of birders and naturalists. Ornithologist Horace Wright was the first of many to study this area (1899-1911) about which he wrote a book titled *Birds of the Jefferson Region* in the White Mountains.

Pondicherry is many things. It is a 5,600 acre National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), a division of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish & Wildlife Refuge, and is jointly managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), NH Fish and Game Department (NHF&G), and New Hampshire Audubon (NHA). The history of the refuge dates back to 1963 when NHA, under the leadership of Tudor Richards, acquired 312 acres, and it is still considered one of NHA's flagship sanctuaries. It contains a National Natural Landmark, designated in 1972 by the National Park Service, because of its significant bird and wetland diversity. Pondicherry was also the first Important Bird Area (IBA) designated by NHA. It contains a National Recreation Trail, the Little Cherry



- Trail / Rail Trail
- Road
- - - - Active Railroad
- - - - Stream
- - - - Town Boundary
- Refuge Boundary

- Whitefield Regional Airport
- Parking & Primary Trailhead
- Other parking
- Waumbek Junction
- Tudor Richards Platform



Pond Trail, which takes visitors through boreal forests to a remote pond where Palm Warblers, Black-backed Woodpeckers and Lincoln’s Sparrows breed.

Pondicherry boasts one of the largest checklists of regularly breeding bird species in the state for its size (137 recorded breeders), and the list of species that has been seen here (236) is no less impressive and contains a number of rarities. Northern Hawk Owl, Northern Wheatear, Red Phalarope, Arctic Tern, and Long-eared Owl have all occurred in recent years, and a similar cadre of southern species has been recorded here. There is probably no other similar 6,000 acre area in New Hampshire with the variety of birds that Pondicherry has. The reason is the variety of habitat, especially wetlands, from black spruce bogs to cattail marshes to leatherleaf fens, and a variety of forest communities, including boreal forest. Over 60 butterfly, 50 dragonfly, 40 mammal, 8 fish, and 21 reptile and amphibian species have also been recorded.

Though Pondicherry hosts interesting birds year-round, most birders come for its breeding birds, as well as its almost unparalleled inland migration of waterbirds, however, they take home much more than just a bird list. Other benefits include some of the finest views of the Presidential Range of the White Mountains, a good chance to observe a large mammal (moose and bear seen regularly from spring through fall), and the chance to observe many species of birds in their prime habitats. It’s also much closer to population centers than is the boreal forests of Pittsburg or Lake Umbagog and has easy trail access from several locations. Despite all the attention Pondicherry

receives, a trip here still provides visitors with a feeling of isolation. Some of this can be attributed to thick swarms of black flies and mosquitoes that limit visitors from mid-May through mid-June, but you won't find the same suite of breeding birds anywhere in New Hampshire without them. A recent (2006) bird checklist is available at: http://www.fws.gov/r5soc/library/pondicherry/pondicherry_birds.doc

Birding Locations

Three trailheads provide access to the forest and wetland habitat surrounding Cherry and Little Cherry Ponds. These include the Airport Road trailhead (primary trailhead) in Whitefield, the Cohos Trail (primarily a backcountry hiking trail) along Whipple Road in Jefferson, and the Route 115A trailhead at Jefferson Meadows. Another trail (under construction), beginning at the northern end of Pondicherry on Route 116, is scheduled to open by summer of 2010. This will allow universal (wheelchair) access along a one-half mile trail to Mud Pond Bog, a boreal forest bog.

Begin Pondicherry birding trip by checking the grassland, shrub, and wetland habitat along Airport and Hazen Roads. The Mount Washington Regional Airport (Whitefield Airport) is located approximately one-half mile down Airport Road from the main trailhead and can be a good place to find open habitat birds in winter (Snow



Solitary Sandpiper by Lloyd Alexander, 5/6/09, Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge, Jefferson, NH.

Bunting, Horned Lark, or the uncommon Rough-legged Hawk) and is excellent for grassland birds during breeding season (good numbers of Bobolink and Savannah Sparrow, and often a pair of American Kestrel and Northern Harrier). In spring migration, shorebirds such as Semipalmated Plover and Least Sandpiper can be seen feeding or resting in wet areas of the field close to a parking area at the airport's southern end. Wild Turkeys frequent the forest edges along the airport's margins during the breeding season, and many species of raptors can be found drifting upward on morning thermals or passing over in migration.

At the southern end of the airport's runway along Airport Road is the NHF&G-owned wetland, Airport Marsh. A small parking lot next to the road offers viewing of this excellent birding location and also provides a great vantage point for the airport. While it is small, the pond in the marsh hosts a variety of wetland, woodland, and open habitat bird species during migration and summer months. Hooded Mergansers breed in nest boxes at either end of the pond, and American Black Duck, Mallard, Wood Duck, and Belted Kingfisher are other local wetland specialists that utilize the pond for feeding and resting during the breeding season. Shorebirds can be a highlight along the pond's edge during favorable conditions in May and in shallow water during early fall. Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, and Least, Solitary, and Spotted Sandpiper can often all be found, and sometimes even a more unusual bird. One example was a

dozen Red-necked Phalaropes observed in May of 2007. A Black Tern was observed here in May of 2009. Along the pond's edges, one can find Brown Thrasher, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Eastern Kingbird, and other typical edge species during the breeding season.

Just to the west, Airport Marsh flows under Hazen Road and a set of railroad tracks into another birding hotspot, Hazen's Pond. Walking along the road, one can search the alder-dominated wetland for both Willow (uncommon) and Alder Flycatcher, and migrant and breeding warblers. This area is also reliable for House Wren, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Wood-Pewee, and White-crowned Sparrow (migration).

To access Pondicherry's trails from Airport Marsh, follow Airport Road back one-half mile to a parking area on the left. Here, orient yourself at the USFWS kiosk and begin walking northeast along the Rail Trail that is managed by the New Hampshire Trails Bureau into the heart of Pondicherry's wetlands and woodlands. The trail is maintained for foot and bicycle travel and is universally-accessible for 1.6 miles to the edge of Cherry Pond. In winter, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling are permitted along this section of the Rail Trail.

Local birders know the first stretch of trail as "warbler highway" for obvious reasons. In May, search the treetops of white spruce, balsam fir, and the sweet-smelling (in spring) balsam poplar for singing Northern Parula, Nashville, Blackpoll, and even Bay-breasted or Cape May Warbler. Thrushes, Winter Wren, and Dark-eyed Junco and other sparrows can be found along the open trail, and the surrounding woodlands can be alive with the sounds of drumming Ruffed Grouse and tapping Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. You will pass several patches of younger forest, the overgrown remnants of patch cuts that were only recently excellent habitat for nesting Mourning Warbler. They are now more suitable for Canada Warbler and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. A powerline cut roughly marks the halfway point to Waumbek Junction, where the trail meets an abandoned railroad line. Here, listen for Swamp Sparrow and Chestnut-sided Warbler, and watch for Red-tailed and Broad-winged Hawk and other raptors. Just before the powerline cut is a beaver flowage (right) that sometimes hosts Rusty Blackbird or a Black-backed Woodpecker.

At almost 1.5 miles from the trailhead, a turnoff towards Cherry Pond appears on the right. Take this turnoff towards Cherry Pond or continue straight towards Waumbek Junction. At the junction, the forest opens to manmade clearings and is favorable for several species of flycatcher (Least, Alder, and Yellow-bellied in migration), warblers (including Northern Parula and Wilson's), and Baltimore Oriole. Downstream from Cherry Pond is a small Great Blue Heron rookery (six nests in 2009) along a beaver-flooded portion of the John's River, where Hooded Merganser and Wood Duck also forage and breed.

Backtracking towards the trail to Cherry Pond or taking a spur trail alongside the railroad tracks to the east, you will arrive at a large boulder and a wooden boardwalk. The boardwalk leads to the Tudor Richards Platform overlooking Cherry Pond and the Presidential Range. Stop here to admire the view, scan the pond and skies for ducks and raptors, and appreciate the seed that Tudor planted – which is now Pondicherry – over 40 years ago. This typical lunch spot for a trip to Pondicherry makes a great perch to spot a hunting Merlin atop a dead spruce, eagle or Osprey flying over the pond, or some of the 15+ species of waterfowl that are annual on Cherry Pond. A team of bird-



*Memorial plaque at the Tudor Richards' blind at Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge.
Photo by David Govatski.*

ers participates in an annual "Big Sit" birding event here during peak fall waterfowl migration each October. Scoters, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, and grebes are among the regulars tallied. The snow-capped White Mountains provide the perfect backdrop for golden tamaracks along the edge of Cherry Pond at this time of year, and fresh snow often decorates the peaks until late May. It is easy to see why this and surrounding forests and wetlands have been designated a National Natural Landmark.

A walk east along the Rail Trail from the Tudor Richards platform takes visitors to "Moorhen Marsh," a beaver-flooded black ash swamp and marsh that contains dense stands of cattail. This is a premier breeding area for wetland birds like American Bittern, Virginia Rail, Marsh Wren, and occasionally, Sora. Least Bittern has been seen and heard from this area in recent years, but the namesake Common Moorhen hasn't occurred for many years. As recently as July of 2009, at least 15 Marsh Wrens were heard singing from Moorhen Marsh, but their abundance fluctuates annually. Depending upon water levels, Wilson's Snipe breeds here. Its display flights are best observed at dusk and dawn, also a good time to hear the calls of other marsh birds. Breeding songbirds are visible along the marsh edges, and Rusty Blackbird and Northern Harrier can often be found utilizing the wetlands for feeding.

Continuing north along railroad tracks from Waumbek Junction is the short and scenic Shore Path (to the right) along the west shore of Cherry Pond. Further north is the Little Cherry Pond Trail on the left, across the tracks from the start of the Rampart Path, a scenic path with views across Cherry Pond. Little Cherry Pond is another "must" for a complete birding excursion to Pondicherry. The pond's namesake trail

traverses mature stands of balsam fir and black spruce, providing the best access in recent years for sighting Black-backed Woodpecker, which has nested here recently. Kinglets of both species, Winter Wren, and Northern Parula, Palm Warbler and several other species of warblers nest in these stands in summer and the occasional Boreal Chickadee, Philadelphia Vireo (possible breeder) and Gray Jay can be found here in winter. Northern Goshawk is resident in the forests surrounding Little Cherry Pond and has nested along the trail for several years. Upon reaching the viewing platform (0.6 miles) on the eastern edge of the pond, stop to admire the carnivorous pitcher plants and sundews in the shrub understory of bog rhodora (purple blooms in late May), sheep laurel, and leatherleaf. American Black Duck, Ring-necked Duck and Green-winged Teal are among the waterfowl species that nest around this smaller, more remote, pond. The bog edge is good open habitat for breeding Palm Warbler, and one or more can usually be found here in summer. Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher can often be heard calling from snags, and Lincoln's Sparrow sings from the leatherleaf surrounding the pond. Dawn in late May watching fog burn off and listening to birdsong from the platform may be nothing less than magical. Though remote, the spruce forests of the adjacent John's River "Deadwater" are among the best places in the lower elevations of the White Mountains to find Spruce Grouse (rare), Gray Jay, Rusty Blackbird, and Boreal Chickadee. These areas are only accessible by canoe.

Another trailhead into Pondicherry is accessible along Route 115A. The start of the trail is 0.4 miles north of the junction of Route 115 and 115A in Jefferson Meadows and is marked by a gate on the Presidential Range Rail Trail. This 2-mile trail to Waumbek Junction traverses spruce/fir habitat and passes both Cedar and Moorhen Marshes, the largest freshwater cattail marshes on the refuge. The woodlands along this stretch are good for Northern Parula and Alder Flycatcher sing from the wet shrublands. Spruce Grouse have been sighted taking dust baths along the Rail Trail. This area is an under-birded stretch of trail that can also be productive for mammals such as bobcat and fisher.

Lastly, Whipple Road, located on the northern boundary of Pondicherry, is exceptional for two specialty bird species, Northern Saw-whet Owl and Whip-poor-will. From May through August, both species can be heard singing under moonlight from woodlands in this part of Pondicherry. The Cohos Trail begins at a yellow gate on Whipple Road and is a two-mile connection between Routes 116 and 115A. Early successional forests here of 10 years and younger are currently the most reliable location for Mourning Warbler, several of which can be heard singing from late May through July. Also found along this trail are American Woodcock, Ruffed Grouse, and Scarlet Tanager (in the less common northern hardwoods).

Thanks to Dave Govatski for his guidance and tremendous knowledge about birding in the Pondicherry area, and to Bob Quinn, whose own experiences at Pondicherry and insightful comments helped update the original article he co-authored.

Phil Brown first experienced Pondicherry in 2004, which led him to accept a position with New Hampshire Audubon as Sanctuaries Manager. His first day of work was a field trip to Pondicherry led by Dave Govatski. He and New Hampshire Audubon are proud to share the legacy of keeping Pondicherry an enjoyable experience for visitors and a permanent fixture of the landscape.

Photo Gallery



A Rare Visitor: Great Gray Owl in Durham, NH

The excitement started when a report of a possible Great Gray was posted to the NH.Birds e-mail list. Terry Bronson found and confirmed the bird on April 4. He had been looking for about two hours at several locations and was about to give up when he saw the owl on the ground along an old road. He thought it was a Wild Turkey at first! The word went out immediately and birders flocked to Dame Road in Durham to look for the bird which proved to be very cooperative. We were fortunate that the access point to the owl was on public land managed by the NH Fish & Game Department as part of the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. Over the next six days many birders saw – and photographed – this spectacular owl showing a full range of behavior. It was last seen on April 9. Here is just a selection of the many wonderful photos taken of this Great Gray Owl during its stay in Durham.

*Above:
Watching for prey,
by Leonard Medlock,
4/9/09.*

*Right:
Diving after prey,
by Jim Richmond,
4/6/09.*





*Left:
Preening,
by Leonard Medlock,
4/7/09.*

*Center:
Dropping into flight,
by Jim Richmond,
4/6/09.*

*Bottom:
In full flight,
by Jim Richmond,
4/6/09.*



Answer to the Photo Quiz

by *David B. Donsker*

This issue's Photo Quiz features paired images of two raptors facing us at point blank range. They are so close that you can see every feather. So why are they such a challenge to identify?

Raptors, in general, are just hard. Although there are a relatively limited number of species to choose from, there can be a confusing array of individual variation and plumage differences in adult birds. On top of that, juvenile plumages are usually quite different from those of adults. Plumage differences between many species are often quite subtle. Finally, we are used to seeing raptors in flight and many of the field marks that we have learned for identifying species are based on flight profiles and plumage patterns. Perched raptors deprive us of many of these well-established field marks, so we must look at the birds a bit differently to help us confirm the identification.

When looking at perched raptors, shape and plumage pattern remain the key features to study when attempting to identify a particular bird. Important shape characteristics to consider include the relative length of the tail and the proportionate length of the wings to the tail. This can often be determined by examining how far the wing tips extend towards the tail tip. Also note the length of the legs and the proportions of the feet and bill. Plumage features that are important to observe are the pattern of the back and underparts, the presence and pattern of any tail banding, and any pattern of stripes and marks on the head. Other features to consider are iris color and the amount of feathering on the legs or tarsi.

Just as with shorebirds and gulls, it is important to try to determine if the bird is an adult or a juvenile. In general, juvenile hawks have streaked underparts and brown upperparts with prominent pale feather edging. It is more difficult to generalize about adult plumages, but many of our species have more uniformly patterned backs than juveniles and have at least some barring on their underparts.

Let's look at these two birds more carefully. Both are identical in shape and proportions. They are rather stocky, broad chested raptors. Although we are deprived of seeing the tips of the wings because the birds are facing us and a thick branch obscures our view, judging from the taper of the forewing, the wings in both birds are relatively short. The tail is short too, at least in proportion to the rest of the body. Both birds have faintly banded undertails (you can just make this out in the sunlit tip of the right bird) and both have streaked crowns. In both individuals, the sharply hooked beak is relatively small with a dark tip and pale base, including the cere (the area around the nostrils). Both birds have a fairly prominent, thick, dark malar stripe, although this is more prominent in the bird on the left. Both birds have pale-spotted primaries. This feature is much more distinct on the right hand bird.

But how do these similar birds differ? In the bird on the left, the iris is pale. The bird on the right has a dark iris. Of course, the greatest difference between the two birds is the pattern of the underparts. The left bird is heavily coarsely spotted on the underparts. The spots on the breast and upper belly feathers are arranged lengthwise down the breast which produces a vaguely streaked appearance. In contrast, the under-

parts of the bird on the right are finely barred. The closely spaced horizontal marks on the breast and belly feathers line up across the breast to produce this effect.

But the similarities between these two birds, particularly that of shape and proportions, far outweigh their differences. This is because they are juvenile and adult plumages of the same species, in this particular case, the same individual photographed in the same location in subsequent years. We know that the bird on the left is a juvenile from its pale iris and boldly streaked and spotted underparts. With the exception of falcons, young hawks have pale irises while adult irises are dark. Only young hawks in eastern North America are streaked below. Similarly, only adult hawks have barred underparts.

But what species is this? The rather stocky build coupled with the short wings and short tail eliminates most groups. Falcons and harrier are long winged, long tailed birds. While the malar streak, especially on the juvenile bird, may recall the moustache of the falcons, it has a different shape, is located further forward and extends further down the neck than the falcon's moustache. The juvenile bird, in particular, may recall a young accipiter. All of our juvenile accipiters have strongly streaked underparts. The underparts of goshawk, in particular are often quite bold and blotchy. Like this bird, adult Sharp-shinned Hawk and Cooper's Hawk are finely barred below. But accipiters are long-tailed hawks with tail proportions quite unlike this short tailed individual. No accipiter has spotted or checkered primaries. Rather, their upper wings are quite uniform.

Only buteos combine a short tail with a stocky body. Of the four species regularly seen in New Hampshire, Rough-legged Hawk is the most divergent. The pale morph form of this hawk is pale-headed and both adults and juveniles have black bellies. Dark morph birds are nearly completely dark blackish-brown. Neither remotely resembles this bird. Red-tailed Hawk is a surprisingly variable bird. But eastern Red-tailed Hawks, our only real concern, whether adults or juveniles, typically have unstreaked or faintly streaked, pale chests. All juveniles and most adults have darkish belly bands.

That leaves Broad-winged Hawk and Red-shouldered Hawk. These two small forest buteos are quite similar to each other, particularly in juvenile plumage. Adults are more distinctive. In juvenile plumage, both species can be heavily streaked below and both have distinct malar stripes. But the dark malar is more prominent in Red-shouldered Hawk. The pattern of streaking on the underparts differs between the two species. In Red-shouldered Hawk the streaking is fairly evenly distributed or, if not, may be denser in the center of the upper breast. In contrast, Broad-winged Hawk streaking is least strong in the center of the upper breast. This often leaves the impression of a pale central breast patch. Often, young Broad-winged Hawks are very lightly streaked below with the streaks confined only to the sides of the upper breast. Although we cannot judge the upper tail from the photograph in this individual, a fine point that can separate perched young Red-shouldered Hawk from young Broad-winged Hawk is the pattern of banding on the upper tail. In Red-shouldered Hawk, the banding is finer and more evenly distributed, giving the impression of pale bands on a dark tail. The banding on Broad-winged Hawk is less uniform. The pale bands of the upper and middle tail are broader than the dark bands. This gives the impression of dark bands on a light tail.

Adult Broad-winged Hawks and Red-shouldered Hawks are less similar. Both share in common barred underparts and banded tails. But the tail banding is differently patterned between the two species. Red-shouldered Hawk shows narrow white bands on a dark tail. In contrast, the white bands on the tail of adult Broad-winged Hawk are as wide as the dark bands. Often, only a single prominent white band can be seen in perched birds. The upper wings of the two birds are completely different. In contrast to the strongly spotted and checkered wings of Red-shouldered Hawk, the wings of Broad-winged Hawk are unmarked.

Our featured bird is a *buteo* with a juvenile plumage that is characterized by a prominent malar stripe and heavily streaked underparts which are more concentrated in the central breast. In adult plumage, it has finely barred underparts and strongly spotted wings. It can only be a Red-shouldered Hawk.

Red-shouldered Hawk is an uncommon raptor of the deciduous forests of the southern part of New Hampshire. We are at the northern limit of its eastern range which corresponds to the eastern deciduous forest that extends south to Florida and west to southeast Minnesota to southeast Texas. Although a few birds overwinter, this short-distant migrant generally leaves New England in the late fall to spend the winter months in the southeastern United States. They return to New Hampshire early, usually appearing in March, well in advance of Broad-winged Hawk which winters in the Neotropics. This species is more sensitive than many other forest raptors to forest clearing and development. Although the population of this species has recovered somewhat from their notable decline in the last half of the 20th century, they remain an uncommon denizen of our deciduous forests.

This pair of photographs of the same Red-shouldered Hawk in juvenile and adult plumage was taken by Geoff Dennis at his home in Little Compton, RI. As a juvenile it was photographed on December 11, 2002. A little over a year later, on January 24, 2004, it had moulted into adult plumage when its image was again captured.



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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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Great Gray Owl On The Alert



*Photo by Jon Winslow,
4/6/09, Durham, NH.*



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