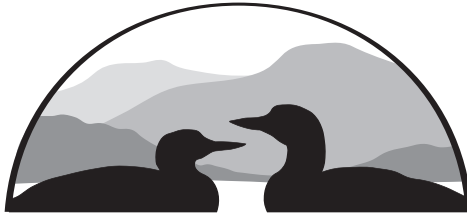


New Hampshire Bird Records



Fall 2009

Vol. 28, No. 3



New Hampshire Bird Records

Volume 28, Number 3

Fall 2009

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Cover Photo: *Western Kingbird by Leonard Medlock, 11/17/09, at the Rochester wastewater treatment plant, NH.*

New Hampshire Bird Records is published quarterly by New Hampshire Audubon's Conservation Department. Bird sightings are submitted to NH eBird (www.ebird.org/nh) by many different observers. Records are selected for publication and not all species reported will appear in the issue. The published sightings typically represent the highlights of the season. All records are subject to review by the NH Rare Birds Committee and publication of reports here does not imply future acceptance by the Committee. Please contact the Managing Editor if you would like to report your sightings but are unable to use NH eBird.

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IN MEMORY OF
Tudor Richards

We continue to honor Tudor Richards with this third of the four 2009 *New Hampshire Bird Records* issues in his memory.

Tudor Richards on November 1, 2001 (age 86) at the foundation of a former camp on an island where one of his most memorable events occurred. In June of 1935, at age 20, Tudor made his first visit to Lake Umbagog. He and a companion paddled the entire length of the lake but their first night was spent in this camp’s shelter because of heavy rain. After completing their long and arduous paddle... well, the rest of the story is best told in his words:

“We couldn’t find the car key and so had to spend another night out in a farmer’s field, with his permission. My thought of what had happened to the key had been right, for after renting an outboard and returning to Dutton Island the next day, I looked down from the edge of the porch where I had draped my wet pants to dry, and there in the grass was what we were looking for!”

Photo and account by Robert A. Quinn

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Photo Quiz will return in the next issue.

Fall Season

August 1 through November 30, 2009

by Stephen R. Mirick

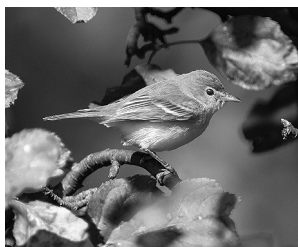
In contrast to the cool and very wet summer, August was slightly warmer and wetter than normal. No doubt this was welcome relief for many re-nesters whose nests had failed during the rains of June and July. Hurricane Bill passed offshore on August 23 with no significant effect on birds; however, Tropical Storm Danny provided some of the month's heaviest rains and a few pelagic birds along the coast. September was slightly cooler than normal and very dry with only two days of precipitation greater than .10". A weak cold front with northeasterly winds brought clearing skies on September 16 when most of the Broad-winged Hawks passed the watchers at Pack Monadnock.



Steve Mirick

October continued cool, but was wetter than normal. A modest storm on October 3 produced some easterly winds and a good migration of birds along the coast as well as an excellent variety of pelagic birds from Ragged Neck in Rye! Most of the rain for the month came on October 23 and 24 with a stalled cold front offshore. This produced some moderate southeasterly winds and a few interesting coastal birds, but also brought heavy rainfall statewide such as the 3.6" of rain that fell in Sandwich. In contrast to November 2008 which was bitter cold, November 2009 was relatively warm with temperatures well above normal. There was no significant snow in the mountains or northern parts of the state and overall precipitation was normal. Despite the warm weather, relatively few "lingering" birds were noted.

The biggest change (and challenge) for this fall season report is the transition to the NH eBird online reporting database managed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. This change will have a dramatic impact on the number of sightings reviewed by the editors each season and will hopefully add significantly to the knowledge of the distribution and abundance of all birds in the state. To highlight this impact, a total of 5,400 sightings were submitted for the fall 2007 season, 6,200 sightings for the fall of 2008, and nearly



Bell's Vireo,
by Leonard Medlock,
10/1/09, Odiorne Point

18,000 sightings through eBird for the fall of 2009! In order to publish a representative sample of the fall birds in a reasonable amount of space, less than 1,400 of these sightings are included in this publication.

Bird highlights for the fall season include a continuation of the summer pelagic show with more **Cory's Shearwaters** and **Long-tailed Jaegers**, plus **Pacific Loon**, **Tundra Swan**, **Black Vulture**, **Mississippi Kite**, **Clapper Rail**, **Franklin's Gull**, a possible **Thayer's Gull**, **Royal Tern**, **Common Murre**, **Western Kingbird**, **Bell's Vireo**, **Rufous Hummingbird**, and **Yellow-headed Blackbird**. Read on for more details!

Waterfowl


A juvenile Greater White-fronted Goose joined a small group of Canada Geese that visited fields in North Hampton and Rye for at least three weeks in November. An impressive flock of eight **Tundra Swans** dropped in for a one-day visit to Lower Kimball Pond which is located partly in Chatham, New Hampshire, but mostly in Fryeburg, Maine. While the birds spent much of the day on the Maine side of the pond, they were also seen in New Hampshire. Relatively few Brant were recorded for the fall; however, a bird seen in Rochester was an unusual find for this normally coastal migrant.



Immature Greater White-fronted Goose, by Steve Mirick, 11/9/09, along Rt. 111, North Hampton, NH.

A huge (by New Hampshire standards) flock of Lesser Scaup decided to spend some time at the Exeter wastewater treatment plant during November with a peak count of 61 noted on November 25. This species is more common further south and flocks greater than 20 birds are rarely reported in New Hampshire. A one-day sighting of a male Redhead with the Greater Scaup on Great Bay on October 6 proved to be the only sighting of this species for the fall. Three male Harlequin Ducks were noteworthy as they were seen migrating south past Ragged Neck in Rye on October 24.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Greater White-fronted Goose				
11/07	1	Rye	Abeniqui Country Club	S. & J. Mirick, L. Kras, J. Lambert, B. Griffith
11/08	1	N. Hampton	Runnymede Farm	L. Kras, B. Griffith
11/15	1	N. Hampton	Runnymede Farm	S. Mirick
11/28	1	N. Hampton	Runnymede Farm	L. Medlock, S. Mirick
Snow Goose				
10/09	1	Rollinsford	Robert's Road	S. Mirick
10/14	30	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	I. MacLeod
10/20	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	J. Scott, B. Crowley
10/22	7	Conway	E. Conway fields	B. Crowley
11/09	1	Conway	Conway Lake	S. & J. Mirick
11/12	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	L. Kras
Brant				
10/11	14	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	S. Mirick
10/15	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment Plant	D. Hubbard
10/20	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	B. Crowley, J. Scott
10/21	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, S. Young
11/05	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick, M. Thompson, J. Williams
11/10	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	M. Thompson, S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Canada Goose				
09/25	599	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino
09/26	220	Conway	E. Conway fields	B. Crowley, T. Vazzano, B. & D. Fox
10/11	172	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino
10/14	300	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	I. MacLeod
10/17	273	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino
10/20	2000	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	B. Crowley, J. Scott
10/28	350	Conway	E. Conway fields	B. Crowley, J. Scott, T. Vazzano
11/02	700	Greenland	Sunset Farm	L. Kras, B. Griffith
Mute Swan				
11/24	13	Newington	Great Bay NWR, Stubbs Pond	R. Suomala, D. De Luca
				
<i>Tundra Swans, by Bob Crowley, 11/9/09, Lower Kimball Pond, Chatham, NH.</i>				
Tundra Swan				
11/09	8	Chatham	Lower Kimball Pond	B. Crowley, et al.
Wood Duck				
08/01	26	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	L. Tanino
09/11	23	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
10/14	15	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
10/16	18	Nashua	Mine Falls Park cove	C. Sheridan
10/23	38	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	E. Masterson
11/10	1	Manchester		D. Allaby
11/25	4	Stratham	Jewell Hill Brook marshes	G. Gavutis, Jr.
Gadwall				
08/17	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Hubbard
10/01	1	Hebron	Hebron Marsh	J. Williams
10/21	1	Londonderry	Derry wastewater treatment plant	M. Thompson
11/08	5	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. Mirick
11/10	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
11/21	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick
Eurasian Wigeon				
10/30	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	L. Medlock, K. & N. Dorsey, S. Mirick
11/01	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	L. Medlock, J. Lambert, B. Griffith, L. Kras
11/09	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	L. Medlock
11/18	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	J. Scott
American Wigeon				
08/28	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	M. Harvey
09/10	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
10/03	12	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	B. Griffith, L. Kras, et al.
11/02	99	Greenland	Great Bay	E. Masterson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
11/05	13	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	J. Williams, S. Smith, J. Lloyd
11/15	70	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
11/20	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	L. Kras
American Black Duck				
10/17	80	Greenland	Sunset Farm	J. Lambert
10/17	30	Newmarket	Great Bay, Bay View Dr.	S. Mirick
10/26	41	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick
11/15	742	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
Blue-winged Teal				
08/20	1	Hampton	Plaice Cove	S. Mirick
08/23	15	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, J. & B. Griffith, L. Kras, L. Medlock
08/28	5	Hampton	Meadow Pond	M. Harvey
09/05	15	Rye	Star Island	S. & J. Mirick
09/12	30	Haverhill	Bedell Bridge St.Pk.	K. Williams
09/12	45	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. Mirick
09/18	37	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	E. Masterson
11/01	4	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	L. Medlock
11/02	1	Nashua	Field's Grove	C. Sheridan
Northern Shoveler				
08/28	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	M. Harvey
09/06	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, J. Lambert, L. Medlock
11/01	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, L. Medlock, et al.
11/01	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	M. Thompson
11/10	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	M. Thompson, L. Medlock
11/12	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	L. Kras
Northern Pintail				
08/23	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, J. & B. Griffith, L. Kras, L. Medlock
09/09	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	J. Lambert
10/24	5		NH coast	S. Mirick, et al.
11/13	2	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick
11/24	2	Cornish	Rt. 12A	D. Doubleday
Green-winged Teal				
08/09	3	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick, et al.
08/20	14	Hampton	Plaice Cove	S. Mirick
09/12	20	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	J. Lambert, S. Mirick
09/23	40	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	P. Brown
10/08	22	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
10/22	30	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Young
10/24	38		NH coast	S. Mirick, et al.
10/25	14	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	E. Masterson
10/25	8	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	D. Howe
10/25	22	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
11/28	14	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	L. Medlock
Redhead				
10/06	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	L. Medlock, S. Mirick, L. Kras

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Ring-necked Duck				
09/02	1	Hinsdale	Vernon Dam	E. Masterson
09/20	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
10/19	28	Moultonborough	Unsworth Preserve	T. Vazzano
10/24	81	Nelson	Tolman Pond	P. Brown
11/01	90	Nelson	Tolman Pond	M. Powell
11/07	50	Concord	Penacook Lake (Long Pond)	P. Hunt
11/08	85	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Suomala, D. Howe
11/16	40	Concord	Great Turkey Pond	P. Brown
11/23	31	Gilford	Lily Pond	I. MacLeod
Greater Scaup				
09/27	2	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
10/09	60	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
10/22	305	Greenland	Sunset Farm	J. Lambert
10/31	3	Bow	Turee Pond	R. Quinn, et al.
11/15	760	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
11/16	17	Chatham	Lower Kimball Pond	B. Crowley
Lesser Scaup				
10/12	1	Kingston	Great Pond	P. Chamberlin
11/08	32	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Young
11/17	48	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	M. Harvey
11/20	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	L. Kras
11/25	61	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	L. Medlock
11/28	58	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
Common Eider				
08/24	100		NH coast	K. Rosenberg
09/05	500	Rye	Star Island	S. & J. Mirick
10/02	57	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, P. Hunt, et al.
10/24	71		NH coast	S. Mirick, et al.
Harlequin Duck				
10/24	3		NH coast	S. Mirick, et al.
11/08	1	Rye	Seal Rocks	S. Mirick
11/10	1	Rye	Wallis Sands State Beach	L. Kras, S. Mirick
Surf Scoter				
09/27	95	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
10/03	307	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	S. Mirick, J. Lambert, L. Medlock, L. Kras, B. Griffith
10/11	89	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Kras, I. Medlock, J. Lambert, S. Mirick
10/14	2	Stoddard	Taylor Pond	P. Brown
10/23	14	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson
10/24	3	Dublin	Dublin Pond	P. Brown
11/07	5	Chatham	Lower Kimball Pond	B. Crowley
11/17	110	Hampton	Great Boars Head	M. Harvey
White-winged Scoter				
08/01	8	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	T. Pirro, C. Caron
08/03	5	Offshore Waters	inshore banks	M. Harvey
09/25	30	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
10/03	333	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	S. Mirick, B. Griffith, L. Medlock, L. Kras, J. Lambert
10/16	5	Stoddard	Taylor Pond	P. Brown
10/23	39	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson
10/24	5	Dublin	Dublin Pond	P. Brown
Black Scoter				
10/08	4	Swanzy	Wilson Pond	P. Brown
10/14	100	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
10/15	11	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	E. Masterson
10/23	78	Charlestown	Rt. 12 pullout	E. Masterson
10/23	30	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson
10/23	3	Hanover	Mink Brook Area	P. Johnson
10/23	6	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	D. Hubbard
10/24	3	Dublin	Dublin Pond	K. Klasman
10/25	3	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	E. Masterson
10/25	4	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	J. Perkins
11/04	120	Greenland	Sunset Farm	P. Brown
11/10	158	Hampton	North Beach	S. Mirick
Scoter sp.				
10/24	403		NH coast	S. Mirick, et al.
Long-tailed Duck				
08/09	1	New Castle	Little Harbor from Fort Stark	S. Mirick, et al.
09/12	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	C. Lapierre, J. Trimble
10/26	8	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	M. Thompson
11/04	18	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	M. Thompson
11/05	18		NH coast	S. Mirick
11/19	14	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	C. Sheridan
Bufflehead				
10/18	4	Kingston	Powwow Pond	L. Kras
10/21	3	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
11/04	20	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	M. Thompson
11/07	30	Durham	Adam's Point, Great Bay	S. Young
11/10	30	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
Common Goldeneye				
10/27	6	Greenland	Sandy Point Discovery Center	M. Thompson
11/07	12	Concord	Penacook Lake (Long Pond)	P. Hunt
11/13	11	Chatham	Lower Kimball Pond	B. Crowley
11/15	8	Northwood	Lakeshore Dr., Northwood Lake	A. Robbins
11/29	27	Greenland	Sunset Farm	L. Medlock
Hooded Merganser				
11/07	150	Concord	Penacook Lake (Long Pond)	P. Hunt
11/12	80	Barnstead	Locke Lake	J. Lambert
11/24	105	Concord	Penacook Lake (Long Pond)	S. Mirick, P. Hunt
Common Merganser				
11/12	47	Barnstead	Locke Lake	J. Lambert
11/16	90	Dublin	Howe Reservoir	T. Warren
11/29	33	Dublin	Howe Reservoir	E. Masterson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Red-breasted Merganser				
08/24	2		NH coast	K. Rosenberg
10/24	101		NH coast	S. Mirick, et al.
11/19	134	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
Ruddy Duck				
09/06	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	L. Medlock
10/09	10	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
10/26	2	Kingston	Powwow Pond	L. Medlock
10/29	3	Nashua	Field's Grove	C. Sheridan
11/04	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	L. Kras
11/05	4	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	M. Thompson

Grouse through Cormorants

Red-throated Loon migration was noted along the coastline with a couple of “seawatches” producing over 500 birds moving south on November 10 and November 11. A seawatch on October 3 produced few loons; however, one of them was reported to be a young **Pacific Loon**.

The pelagic bird show offshore, continuing from the summer 2009 season, was this editor’s pick for the ornithological event of the fall. Abundant birds and whales led to an increase in coverage offshore; many birders attended morning and afternoon whale-watches at least once or twice per week during the summer and fall. Many of the boat trips traveled to two or even three states in pursuit of whales; however, GPS units are now being utilized to accurately delineate state boundaries for the purpose of counting birds only in New Hampshire. Most of the offshore activity took place in the “Scantum” area near the Massachusetts and New Hampshire boundary. This is a southern and eastern portion of Jeffrey’s Ledge, located approximately 20 miles east of Hampton Harbor. There has been some speculation that restrictions on mid-water trawlers, which started in 2007, have led to an increase in herring populations that serve as the main food source for the whales and birds in this region.

Shearwaters were regular and at times abundant in August and some of the highest counts for New Hampshire waters were recorded for all four species, including, for the second year in a row, large numbers of Cory’s Shearwater. On one whalewatch on August 16, Eric Masterson estimated 7,000 shearwaters in view at one spot! Another interesting sighting included a leucistic shearwater, likely a Sooty Shearwater, which was nearly completely white! Shearwaters are very rarely reported from shore in New Hampshire, but the abundance of birds offshore, combined with a coastal storm, resulted in all four species of shearwaters, plus Northern Fulmar, being reported from Ragged Neck in Rye on October 3.



Northern Gannets were reported in average numbers; however, the regular occurrence of up to four or more adult Northern Gannets sitting on Square Rock

Leucistic shearwater, by Leonard Medlock, 8/16/09, at sea off the Isles of Shoals, NH.

was of some interest to the birders on whalewatch boats passing by the Isles of Shoals. This pelagic species is rarely seen sitting on dry land away from its breeding grounds in Canada.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Spruce Grouse				
09/13	1	Beans Purchase	North Baldface	G. DeFrancis
09/19	1	Lincoln	between Mt. Liberty & Mt. Flume	J. Stockwell
11/07	1	Lincoln	Shoal Pond	D. Govatski
11/11	2	Bethlehem	Ethan Pond	D. Govatski
11/25	2	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	L. Bergum
Red-throated Loon				
08/23	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	L. Medlock, L. Kras, B. Griffith
11/08	104	Rye	Seal Rocks	S. Mirick
11/10	351	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
11/11	190		NH coast	S. Mirick
11/19	109	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
Pacific Loon				
10/03	1	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	B. Griffith, L. Kras, L. Medlock, J. Lambert
Common Loon				
10/01	55	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	S. Mirick, L. Medlock
11/10	20	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
11/11	84		NH coast	S. Mirick
Pied-billed Grebe				
08/31	3	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Mirick
09/10	6	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	S. Young
10/15	11	Kingston	Powwow Pond	L. Medlock
10/23	9	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	E. Masterson
10/26	10	Kingston	Powwow Pond	L. Medlock
11/22	10	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick
Horned Grebe				
10/19	2	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	J. Pietrzak
10/21	8	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
11/10	7	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
Red-necked Grebe				
09/08	2	Nelson	Nubanusit Lake	C. Martin, D. Robinson
09/27	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
11/02	3	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	E. Masterson
11/02	3	Barnstead	Locke Lake	J. Lambert
11/11	5		NH coast	S. Mirick
11/17	5	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	M. Harvey
Northern Fulmar				
08/03	1	Offshore Waters	inshore banks	M. Harvey
09/26	2	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	J. Lambert
10/02	2	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, et al.
10/03	5	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	S. Mirick, L. Kras, J. Lambert, B. Griffith, L. Medlock

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
10/04	1	Rye	Star Island	S. Mirick, et al.
10/11	17	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, et al.



(left) Northern Fulmar (dark morph) by Leonard Medlock, 10/11/09, Jeffrey's Ledge, NH. (right) A Cory's Shearwater flies in front of a large flock of resting shearwaters, by Jon Woolf, 8/10/09, Jeffrey's Ledge, NH.

Cory's Shearwater

08/01	4	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, L.& J. Medlock
08/06	15	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Kras, J. Lambert
08/08	9	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, et al.
08/16	280	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson
08/19	75	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	M. Oyler
08/24	40	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	M. Harvey, S. Mirick, L. Kras
08/30	56	Offshore Waters	whalewatch	A. Crary
09/08	31	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, et al.
09/27	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
10/02	8	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	P. Hunt, et al.
10/03	7	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	J. Lambert, Steve Mirick, L. Medlock, L. Kras, B. Griffith
10/04	2	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
10/04	3	Rye	Star Island	S. Mirick, et al.
10/11	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, et al.

Greater Shearwater

08/08	696	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	A. Merritt, L. Tanino
08/16	2093	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S.& J. Mirick, et al.
08/16	4690	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson
09/08	940	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, et al.
10/02	134	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	P. Hunt, et al.
10/03	6	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	B. Griffith, L. Medlock, L. Kras, J. Lambert, S. Mirick
10/04	2	Rye	Star Island	S. Mirick, et al.
10/11	3	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Medlock, et al.
10/24	1		NH coast	S. Mirick, et al.
11/19	10	Hampton	Great Boars Head	S. Mirick

Sooty Shearwater

08/02	2	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	L. Medlock, S.& J. Mirick, J. Lambert
08/06	2400	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Kras
08/08	349	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Tanino, A. Merritt
08/16	1960	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
08/24	400	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	M. Harvey, S. Mirick, L. Kras
09/08	210	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, et al.
09/27	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
10/03	1	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	J. Lambert, L. Medlock
10/24	1		NH coast	S. Mirick, et al.

Manx Shearwater

08/16	70	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson
08/19	10	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	M. Oyler
09/08	67	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	J. Lambert
09/26	3	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	J. Lambert
10/03	1	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	S. Mirick, L. Medlock
10/24	1		NH coast	S. Mirick, et al.

Shearwater sp.

11/11	30		NH coast	S. Mirick
11/13	10		NH coast	S. Mirick

Wilson's Storm-Petrel

08/08	496	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Tanino, A. Merritt
08/16	1000	Offshore Waters	inshore to Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson
08/18	1500	Offshore Waters	Cashes Ledge	E. Masterson
08/24	350	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	M. Harvey, S. Mirick, L. Kras
08/30	62		NH coast	S. Mirick
09/08	260	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, et al.
09/27	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick

Storm-petrel sp.

10/03	1	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	L. Kras
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*Two adult Northern Gannets
roosting on Square Rock, by
Steve Mirick, 10/2/09,
Isles of Shoals, NH.*

Northern Gannet

08/01	15	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick, L. & J. Medlock
08/24	70	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	M. Harvey, S. Mirick, L. Kras
09/27	221	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
10/03	602	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	B. Griffith, et al.
10/04	85	Rye	Star Island	S. Mirick, et al.
10/24	352		NH coast	S. Mirick, et al.

Double-crested Cormorant

08/27	16		Squam Lake	A. Crary
09/05	25	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Doubleday
09/26	1080		NH coast	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Double-crested Cormorant—continued				
10/03	832	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	S. Mirick, et al.
10/10	1724		NH coast	S. Mirick
10/17	670		NH coast	S. Mirick
10/24	1295		NH coast	S. Mirick, et al.
Great Cormorant				
08/15	2	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Kras, J. Lambert, B. Griffith
08/15	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
08/16	2	Rye	Square Rock, Isles of Shoals	L. Medlock, S. & J. Mirick, J. O'Shaughnessy, et al.
09/03	1	Hillsborough	Franklin Pierce Lake	P. Brown
09/05	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Doubleday
10/02	14	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, et al.
11/04	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	P. Brown
11/05	5		NH coast	L. Kras

Hérons through Cranes

For the second fall in a row, large numbers of Black-crowned Night-Herons visited the Hampton Harbor area with a high count of 26 on September 29. Once again, the herons were joined by at least two juvenile Yellow-crowned Night-Herons. A Cattle Egret in Rochester was also noteworthy for the fall season.

A **Black Vulture** proved to be a very elusive bird for this editor, but was enjoyed by a few other birders as it accompanied Turkey Vultures at a vulture roost in Newmarket in mid-November. **Mississippi Kite** returned again to Newmarket with two pairs attempting to nest during the summer; however, the poor weather in June likely resulted in the failure of one of the nests. Nevertheless, one young kite fledged from the Gonet Drive nest site during the fall season.

A remarkable ten Golden Eagles were reported during the fall including a sub-adult bird photographed at Wentworth's Location near the Lake Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge headquarters on November 22. More remarkable was the sight of an immature Golden Eagle hopping around and dragging its wings in a yard in Moultonborough on October 14. Unfortunately, the bird did not survive; it was sent to a lab for testing but it's not yet known what caused its demise.



Golden Eagle by Jeanne Lacey, 10/14/09, Moultonborough, N.H.

Broad-winged Hawk migration peaked in mid-September with over 2,000 birds counted migrating south past Pack Monadnock. A late hawkwatch paid off for observers on Pack Monadnock when an excellent count of 45 Red-shouldered Hawks

was tallied on October 29. See the 2009 hawkwatch summary on page 44 for more details. A **Clapper Rail** was a surprise as it flushed from the Seabrook marshes on October 2. Although there have been some recent summer records, this may be one of the only fall records for the state.

Unfortunately, two perennially reported birds were not reported for the fall season in 2009. One of these was the Sandhill Crane of Monroe which had returned each year since 1999. The other was the Durham Lesser Black-backed Gull, which had returned to the town landing each fall since at least 2001. It's hoped that they were overlooked or went unreported; however, it is also possible that they have died.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
American Bittern				
08/23	3	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit	T. Vazzano
09/09	1	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	R. & M. Suomala
09/20	2	Hillsborough	Bear Hill Rd. wetland	P. Hunt
10/26	1	Dover	Strafford County Complex	B. Griffith, L. Kras
Great Blue Heron				
08/08	20		NH coast	S. Mirick
09/21	22	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	L. Medlock
10/09	18	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
Great Egret				
08/01	14	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	T. Pirro, C. Caron
08/20	2	Marlow	Village Pond	L. McCracken
08/24	3	Concord	Steeplegate Mall pond	G. Niswander
09/05	33	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	R. & M. Suomala
09/07	1	Auburn	NHA Massabesic Center	S. Santino
09/08	3	Concord	Rt. 393 marsh by East Side Dr.	P. Niswander
09/14	7	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	B. Crowley, C. Sheridan
09/21	54	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	L. Medlock
09/27	2	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	S. Young
09/28	1	Charlestown	Connecticut R., e. shore	A. Teague
09/29	32		NH coast	S. Mirick
10/10	22		NH coast	S. Mirick
10/25	5		NH coast	S. Mirick
11/10	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
11/15	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
Snowy Egret				
08/24	65	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	M. Harvey
08/28	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	M. Harvey
09/05	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard, D. Doubleday
09/14	14	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	B. Crowley
09/29	11		NH coast	S. Mirick
10/18	1	Hampton	off railroad tracks	S. Mirick
Cattle Egret				
08/25	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	L. Kras, B. Griffith
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
08/21	10	Hampton	Island Path	A. & G. Robbins, R. Quinn
09/05	20		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
09/21	14	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	L. Medlock

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Black-crowned Night-Heron—continued				
09/29	26	Hampton	Island Path	B. Crowley, J. Scott
10/06	12	Hampton	Island Path	P. Brown
10/15	3	Hampton	Island Path	S. Mirick
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				
08/21	1	Hampton	Island Path	A. & G. Robbins, R. Quinn
09/26	2	Seabrook	Cross Beach Rd. marshes	C. Sheridan
09/29	2	Seabrook	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
10/06	1	Hampton	Island Path	P. Brown
Glossy Ibis				
08/23	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	L. Kras, J. Lambert, L. Medlock, B. Griffith
09/10	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Mirick
Black Vulture				
10/10	1	Newmarket	downtown	P. Brown
11/03	1	Newmarket	Spring St. vulture roost	L. Kras, D. Abbott, D. Finch, L. Medlock
Turkey Vulture				
08/29	48	Keene	Krif Rd.	L. Tanino, P. Brown
08/29	40	Surry	Surry Mtn. Lake dam	L. Tanino, P. Brown
09/04	58	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Hubbard
10/16	27	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino
11/03	34	Newmarket	Spring St. vulture roost	L. Medlock, L. Kras, D. Abbott, D. Finch
11/21	12	Newmarket		S. Mirick
Osprey				
09/19	30	Rye	Odiome Point St. Pk.	S. Mirick
09/24	14	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	P. Brown
09/26	8	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino
11/01	1	Pittsfield	wastewater treatment plant, Suncook R.	A. Robbins
11/10	1	Pittsfield	wastewater treatment plant, Suncook R.	A. Robbins
Mississippi Kite				
08/01	3	Newmarket	Gonet Drive	C. Caron, T. Pirro
08/12	3	Newmarket	Gonet Drive	S. Mirick
08/23	1	Newmarket	Maplecrest Ave.	P. Brown
08/31	2	Newmarket	Gonet Drive	S. Mirick
Northern Harrier				
08/09	1	Seabrook	Seabrook marshes	S. Mirick, et al.
08/16	2	Hampton	Hampton marshes	L. Medlock, S. & J. Mirick
09/06	8	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino
09/19	8	Rye	Odiome Point St. Pk.	S. Mirick
10/01	6	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	S. Mirick, L. Medlock
10/29	6	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino
Sharp-shinned Hawk				
09/13	52	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino
09/19	42	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
09/19	62	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. Mirick
09/24	107	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	P. Brown
09/25	40	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino
09/26	51	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino
10/04	33	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino
10/14	52	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	I. MacLeod
10/16	32	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino
10/17	37	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino

Cooper's Hawk

09/13	6	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino
09/19	7	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino
09/24	12	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	P. Brown
10/02	5	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino

Northern Goshawk

09/13	2	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino
10/14	3	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	I. MacLeod
10/25	2	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino
11/17	2	Stoddard	Pitcher Mtn.	L. Tanino, M. Briggs

Red-shouldered Hawk

08/22	6	Freedom	Berry Bay	A. Robbins
10/16	15	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino
10/17	17	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino
10/23	6	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino
10/29	29	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino
11/04	7	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino
11/29	1	Windham	residence	J. & R. Romano

Broad-winged Hawk

09/13	204	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino
09/14	121	Sugar Hill	Sunset Hill House	S. & M. Turner
09/19	171	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino
09/24	154	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	P. Brown

Red-tailed Hawk

10/16	30	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino
10/17	32	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino
10/23	31	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino
10/25	38	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino

Golden Eagle

10/12	1	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	P. Brown
10/14	1	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	I. MacLeod
10/25	1	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino
11/13	1	Stoddard	Pitcher Mtn.	L. Tanino
11/16	1	Dublin	Charcoal Rd.	T. Warren
11/17	1	Stoddard	Pitcher Mtn.	L. Tanino, M. Briggs
11/22	1	Wentworths Location		J. Lambert

American Kestrel

08/06	7	Swanzy	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Airport Rd.	L. Tanino
08/29	12	Swanzy	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Airport Rd.	P. Brown, L. Tanino
08/30	9	Swanzy	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Airport Rd.	L. Tanino
09/13	12	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
American Kestrel—continued				
09/24	7	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	P. Brown
09/25	9	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino
10/17	7	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino
Merlin				
08/01	2	Dublin	Rt. 101	P. Brown
08/02	1	N. Hampton	Appledore Rd.	L. Medlock, S. & J. Mirick, J. Lambert
09/05	7	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino
09/19	8	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. Mirick
09/24	5	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	P. Brown
11/29	1	Hampton	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
Peregrine Falcon				
08/02	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	L. Medlock, J. Lambert
10/08	7	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	M. Briggs
10/10	4		NH coast	S. Mirick
Clapper Rail				
10/02	1	Seabrook	Beckmans Landing	P. Hunt, J. Lambert, B. Griffith
Virginia Rail				
09/01	1	Nelson	Moose Meadow	P. Brown
09/05	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Doubleday
09/12	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	J. Lambert, S. Mirick, C. Lapierre, J. Trimble
09/22	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. Mirick
09/28	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Mirick
09/29	1	Greenland	Sandy Point Discovery Center	L. Medlock
10/17	1	Stratham	Jewell Hill Brook	G. Gavutis, Jr.
Sora				
09/12	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	J. Trimble, C. Lapierre
11/07	1	Rye	Rye	L. Kras, B. Griffith, J. Lambert
Common Moorhen				
10/04	1	Rye	Eel Pond	L. Kras, B. Griffith, et al.
10/11	1	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick
American Coot				
10/05	1	Alton	Merrymeeting Marsh	A. Robbins
10/11	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
10/15	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	E. Masterson
10/21	19	Kingston	Powwow Pond	P. Chamberlin
11/13	5	Rye	Eel Pond	S. Mirick
11/21	26	Kingston	Powwow Pond	L. Medlock

Shorebirds through Jaegers

The University of New Hampshire (Moore) fields in Durham were plowed and planted with a winter crop during the early fall. This helped to provide good habitat for short-grass shorebirds; large numbers of American Golden-Plovers and Pectoral Sandpipers as well as a Baird's Sandpiper, a rare inland Sanderling, and as many as three Buff-breasted Sandpipers made brief visits. Nearly all Buff-breasted Sandpipers in the northeast are juveniles. Therefore, the report of an adult Buff-breasted Sandpiper on September 16 from this location is particularly noteworthy. Upland Sandpipers are very rarely reported away from their breeding area at the Pease International Tradeport, so a bird reported from Rochester on August 14 was of interest. Late shorebirds included two lingering Solitary Sandpipers in Amherst on October 27, a Buff-breasted Sandpiper in Rye on October 3, a Spotted Sandpiper in Derry on November 3, and a Pectoral Sandpiper in Greenland on November 3.

One of the most astounding shorebird sights of the fall was that of a single flock of about 65 migrating Hudsonian Godwits flying south past Odiome Point on September 12. The majority of this species flies south offshore from staging areas to the north, non-stop all the way to South America. This flock was seen during inclement weather with moderately strong northeast winds which likely pushed them toward the shoreline. Although regular in small numbers in New Hampshire, this may represent the largest flock ever recorded in the state.

Thirteen species of gulls reported for the fall were highlighted by a **Franklin's Gull** photographed at the Rochester wastewater treatment plant on August 24. Two individual gulls, presumed to be hybrids (Great Black-backed x Herring and Herring x Lesser Black-backed), were photographed from Odiome Point State Park on September 12. The identification challenge of gulls is now likely to become more clouded with range expansion of Lesser Black-backed Gull and the recent hybridization of Lesser Black-backed Gull and Herring Gull on Appledore Island, Maine. Another problematic gull was reported from the Rochester wastewater treatment plant on November 30. It was tentatively identified as a juvenile **Thayer's Gull**, but the observer did not feel that it fit the "classic" description for that species. The highlight of the eight species of terns reported for the fall was a Royal Tern in Rye on August 9. This is now the fourth fall season out of the last six in which this species has been recorded. There is a total of only about five or six records for this species in New Hampshire prior to 2004.

Along with the huge numbers of shearwaters offshore, there were also large numbers of jaegers this fall. An incredible total of 20 jaegers was estimated from a whalewatch boat on August 16 and all three species of jaegers were noted during the New Hampshire Audubon organized pelagic trip on September 8. The outstanding digital photography of Christine Sheridan, Jason Lambert and Len Medlock helped to document up to three or four immature **Long-tailed Jaegers** during the fall season.



Long-tailed Jaeger, by Jason Lambert, 9/8/09, Jeffreys Ledge, NH.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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Black-bellied Plover

08/08	40	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	L. Tanino, et al.
08/16	72		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick, L. Medlock
08/21	190	Hampton	Hampton River Marina	A. & G. Robbins, R. Quinn
08/31	100		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
11/11	53	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick



American Golden-Plover by Jason Lambert, 8/29/09, Moore fields, Durham, NH.

American Golden-Plover

08/24	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	L. Kras, S. Mirick
08/28	1	Canterbury	Gold Star Sod Farm	E. Masterson
08/30	21	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	J. Lambert
09/19	3	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. Mirick
09/24	4	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	P. Brown
09/29	1	Webster	Call Road	R. Quinn
10/21	4	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	E. Masterson

Semipalmated Plover

08/02	56	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. & J. Mirick, L. Medlock, J. Lambert
08/16	600	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	L. Medlock, S. & J. Mirick
08/24	800	Hampton	NH coast	K. Rosenberg
08/30	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. Young
09/03	4	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	T. Vazzano
10/27	12	Hampton	Island Path	B. Crowley, T. Vazzano
11/05	3	Rye	Ragged Neck	S. Mirick

Piping Plover

08/09	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick, et al.
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Killdeer

08/30	120	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. Young
08/31	33	Portsmouth	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	S. Mirick
09/01	138	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	L. Kras
09/24	120	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. Young
09/24	26	Hanover	Dartmouth Riding Center, Etna	J. Norton
10/01	30	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
10/23	25	Westmoreland	Chickering Farm	E. Masterson
11/22	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt

Spotted Sandpiper

08/01	7	Rye		T. Pirro, C. Caron
08/14	20	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	B. Crowley, T. Vazzano
09/03	20	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	T. Vazzano
10/21	3	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
10/28	1	Derry	wastewater treatment plant	C. Sheridan
11/03	1	Derry	wastewater treatment plant	M. Thompson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Solitary Sandpiper				
08/09	9	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
08/18	5	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
10/04	6	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
10/23	1	Lee	Old Mill Rd. WMA	S. Young
10/27	2	Amherst	Ponemah Bog	C. Sheridan
Greater Yellowlegs				
08/31	50	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick
09/14	14	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	M. Harvey
09/26	10	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
09/26	100	Hampton	Meadow Pond	E. Masterson
10/26	50	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick
11/15	8	N. Hampton	Rt. 111	S. Mirick
11/22	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	R. Suomala
11/28	2	N. Hampton	Runnymede Farm	L. Medlock
Willet				
08/19	4	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	M. Oyler
09/05	3		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
Lesser Yellowlegs				
08/02	19	N. Hampton	Little River saltmarsh	S. Mirick
08/31	8	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick
09/28	8	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	P. Chamberlin
10/01	6	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
10/08	4	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Hubbard
10/23	2	Charlestown	Great Meadow	E. Masterson
11/01	1	Rye	Rye Harbor	R. Stanton
11/04	1	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	L. Kras
Upland Sandpiper				
08/14	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	B. Crowley, T. Vazzano
08/27	3	Portsmouth	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	S. Mirick
08/31	6	Portsmouth	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	S. Mirick
Whimbrel				
08/01	6	Rye		T. Pirro
08/02	5		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
08/09	10		NH coast	L. Kras
08/24	6	Rye	Rye Harbor	M. Harvey
08/27	1	Portsmouth	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	S. Mirick
08/28	2	Portsmouth	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	M. Harvey
09/20	3	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson, L. Kras
10/01	1	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	L. Medlock
Hudsonian Godwit				
08/01	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	J. Lambert
08/08	2	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	L. Tanino, et al.
08/15	2	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	L. Medlock, B. Griffith, L. Kras
09/12	65	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. Mirick
10/17	2	Hampton	Landing Road	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Marbled Godwit				
09/05	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	L. Medlock
09/06	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	J. Lambert
09/16	1		NH coast	B. Griffith
				
<p><i>Marbled Godwit (right) with Whimbrel (far left) and Black-bellied Plover (left foreground), by Jason Lambert, 9/6/09, Hampton Harbor, NH.</i></p>				
Ruddy Turnstone				
08/08	39		NH coast	S. Mirick
08/16	28		NH coast	S. Mirick
11/01	2	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	M. Thompson
Red Knot				
08/21	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	A. Robbins
08/30	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach	L. Medlock
08/31	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach	S. Mirick
Sanderling				
08/16	100	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
08/29	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. Young
08/30	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	J. Lambert
09/26	125	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
10/30	300	Rye	Jeness Beach	L. Kras
11/01	300	Rye	Jeness Beach	S. Mirick, et al.
11/15	200	Hampton	Hampton Beach	N. Barber
Semipalmated Sandpiper				
08/18	300	Hampton	Plaice Cove	S. Mirick
08/18	500	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
08/24	1200	Hampton	NH coast	K. Rosenberg
08/28	10	Amherst	Ponemah Bog	C. Sheridan
09/26	30		NH coast	S. Mirick
10/30	6	Rye	Jeness Beach	L. Kras
11/03	3	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. & J. Mirick, D. & L. Stokes
11/13	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
Western Sandpiper				
08/17	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Hubbard
08/18	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
08/21	2	Hampton	Landing Road	S. & J. Mirick
08/30	2	Hampton	Landing Rd. pool	A. Cray
09/07	1	Hampton	Plaice Cove	S. Mirick
Least Sandpiper				
08/24	80	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick, M. Harvey, L. Kras
08/27	80	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Hubbard
08/28	15	Amherst	Ponemah Bog	C. Sheridan
08/28	160	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	M. Harvey

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
09/05	40	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	R. & M. Suomala
10/14	2	Lee	Old Mill Rd. WMA	S. Young
10/17	1	Rye	Ragged Neck	S. Mirick

*White-rumped Sandpiper,
by Leonard Medlock, 8/18/09,
Plaice Cove, Hampton, NH.*



White-rumped Sandpiper

08/02	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
08/19	6	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	M. Oyler
10/09	6	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
10/15	1	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	E. Masterson
10/21	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
10/25	21	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	L. Medlock
11/01	17	Rye	Ragged Neck	S. Mirick, et al.
11/05	6	Rye	Ragged Neck	S. Mirick
11/11	2	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	L. Kras
11/17	2	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	L. McKillop

Baird's Sandpiper

08/18	1	Hampton	Plaice Cove	L. Medlock
08/20	3	Hampton	Plaice Cove	J. Lambert
08/22	2	Hampton	Plaice Cove	S. Mirick
09/14	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	B. Crowley
09/21	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	L. Medlock
09/26	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	L. Medlock

Pectoral Sandpiper

08/06	1	N. Hampton	Little River saltmarsh	E. Masterson
08/14	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	T. Vazzano, B. Crowley
09/12	25	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. Young
09/24	4	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. Young
09/28	3	Rochester	Pickering Rd.	S. Mirick
10/18	3	Hampton	Landing Road	S. Mirick
10/23	2	Charlestown	Great Meadow	E. Masterson
10/25	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
11/03	1	Greenland	Great Bay Farm	S. Mirick

Purple Sandpiper

11/04	5	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. & J. Mirick
11/17	7	Rye	Seal Rocks	M. Harvey

Dunlin

08/09	1		NH coast	B. Griffith
10/26	120	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
11/01	18	Greenland	Sunset Farm	L. Medlock
11/05	35	Greenland	Sunset Farm	J. Williams
11/10	20	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
11/13	255	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick

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

08/01	3	N. Hampton	Little River saltmarsh	J. Lambert
08/21	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. & J. Mirick
08/24	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	L. Kras

Peep sp.

08/02	1100	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. & J. Mirick, L. Medlock, J. Lambert
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*Buff-breasted Sandpiper, by Steve Mirick, 8/30/09,
Rye Harbor State Park, Rye, NH.*

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

08/28	1	Canterbury	Gold Star Sod Farm	E. Masterson
08/30	1	Rye	Ragged Neck	L. Medlock
08/31	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. Mirick, et al.
09/09	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	K. Dorsey
09/16	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	L. Kras, B. Griffith
09/20	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. Mirick, S. Young
10/03	1	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	S. Mirick

Short-billed Dowitcher

08/02	213	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. & J. Mirick, L. Medlock
08/03	30	Offshore Waters	inshore banks	M. Harvey
09/26	2	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	L. Medlock

Long-billed Dowitcher

09/18	1	Hampton	Rt.101E pools by pumping station	L. Medlock
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Wilson's Snipe

08/21	1	Hampton	Hampton River Marina	A. Robbins
09/16	12	E. Kingston	Bodwell Farm fields near Rt. 108	G. Gavutis Jr.
10/04	5	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	S. Young
10/25	4	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
11/04	3	E. Kingston	Bodwell Farm fields near Rt. 108	G. Gavutis Jr.
11/07	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt

American Woodcock

10/25	2	Deerfield	Nottingham Rd.	L. Medlock
10/30	4	Bradford	West Rd.	M. & D. Halstead
11/26	1	Dublin	Charcoal Rd.	T. Warren

Red-necked Phalarope

08/01	60	Rye	inside Isles of Shoals	S. Mirick, et al.
08/05	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	E. Masterson
08/08	7	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, et al.
08/16	11	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson
09/08	28	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, et al.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Red Phalarope				
08/06	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Kras, J. Lambert
Phalarope sp.				
08/08	12	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, et al.
Black-legged Kittiwake				
08/16	2	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson
08/19	6	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	M. Oyler
08/29	2		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
09/12	1	Rye	Odiome Point St. Pk.	J. Trimble
09/20	1	Rye	Star Island	M. Harvey, M. Stager
10/24	1		NH coast	S. Mirick, et al.
11/29	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
Bonaparte's Gull				
08/05	2	Cambridge	Lake Umbagog state boat ramp	R. Quinn, C. Martin
08/06	120	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	E. Masterson
09/12	195	Rye	Odiome Point St. Pk.	J. Trimble
09/26	198	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	L. Medlock
10/17	250		NH coast	S. Mirick
10/25	1	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	E. Masterson
11/15	3	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
Black-headed Gull				
11/11	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	L. Kras
Little Gull				
09/27	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
Laughing Gull				
08/29	63		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
09/12	25	Rye	Odiome Point St. Pk.	J. Trimble
10/03	14	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	S. Mirick, L. Kras, J. Lambert, B. Griffith, L. Medlock
10/24	11		NH coast	S. Mirick, et al.

*Franklin's Gull,
by Steve Mirick, 8/24/09,
Rochester wastewater treatment plant, NH.*



Franklin's Gull				
08/24	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	M. Harvey, S. Mirick, L. Kras
08/25	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	B. Crowley, D. Hubbard, L. Maley

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Ring-billed Gull				
09/12	200	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	L. Main, J. Trimble
10/23	600	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	E. Masterson
11/30	200	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	B. Griffith, L. Kras
Herring Gull				
11/17	14000	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	M. Iliff
Herring x Lesser Black-backed Gull (hybrid)				
09/12	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	J. Trimble, S. Mirick
Herring x Great Black-backed Gull (hybrid)				
09/12	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	J. Trimble, S. Mirick
Thayer's Gull				
11/30	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	B. Griffith, L. Kras
Iceland Gull				
10/22	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Young
10/24	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	L. Medlock
11/15	5	Farmington	Ten Rod Rd. guinea fowl farm	J. Lambert
11/26	6	Farmington	Ten Rod Rd. guinea fowl farm	J. Lambert
11/30	6	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	L. Kras, B. Griffith
Lesser Black-backed Gull				
08/18	1	Offshore Waters	Cashes Ledge	E. Masterson
08/31	1	Rochester		S. & J. Mirick, D. Hubbard, A. Kimball
10/10	1	Rye	Rye Harbor	S. Mirick
10/25	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. Mirick
11/14	3	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	B. Griffith, L. Kras
11/17	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	M. Iliff
11/21	2	Rye	Eel Pond & Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	S. Mirick
Glaucous Gull				
11/28	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
11/29	1		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
Great Black-backed Gull				
08/15	200	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	B. Griffith, L. Kras
08/24	1000		NH coast	K. Rosenberg
11/15	350	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	M. Harvey, et al.
Least Tern				
08/01	3	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. Mirick, L. & J. Medlock
08/01	2	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	T. Pirro
08/21	1	Hampton	Plaice Cove	S. & J. Mirick
Caspian Tern				
09/27	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
10/01	4	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	J. Lambert
10/02	4	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	B. Griffith, L. Kras
10/03	2	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	B. Griffith
10/04	2	Rye	Star Island	B. Griffith, J. Lambert, S. Mirick, L. Kras

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Black Tern				
08/03	1	Offshore Waters	inshore banks	M. Harvey
08/19	1	Offshore Waters	Cashes Ledge	E. Masterson
08/23	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	L. Medlock, J. Lambert, B. Griffith, L. Kras
08/29	1	Rye	Ragged Neck	S. & J. Mirick
Roseate Tern				
08/09	17		NH coast	S. Mirick, et al.
08/11	30		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
08/18	20	Hampton	Plaice Cove	S. Mirick
08/28	38	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	M. Harvey
09/12	2	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. Mirick, J. Trimble
Common Tern				
08/09	923		NH coast	S. Mirick, et al.
08/11	509		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
08/15	1500	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	B. Griffith, L. Kras
09/08	148	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, et al.
10/04	1	Rye	Star Island	S. Mirick, et al.
11/01	2	Hampton	Hampton Beach State Park	S. Mirick
Arctic Tern				
08/19	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	M. Oyler
Forster's Tern				
08/08	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	J. Lambert, L. Tanino
08/09	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick, et al.
Royal Tern				
08/09	1	Hampton	Rt. 1A bridge over Hampton R.	B. Griffith, L. Kras
Pomarine Jaeger				
08/15	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Kras, J. Lambert, B. Griffith
08/16	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	J. Lambert, E. Masterson
08/19	1	Offshore Waters	Cashes Ledge	E. Masterson
09/08	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, et al.
Parasitic Jaeger				
08/01	2	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick, L. & J. Medlock
08/15	9	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	B. Griffith, L. Kras
08/16	7	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
09/08	5	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, et al.
10/03	1	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	J. Lambert
Long-tailed Jaeger				
08/15	2	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	B. Griffith, L. Kras
08/16	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
08/18	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	C. Sheridan
09/08	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, et al.



Long-tailed Jaeger (right) and jaeger sp. (left) seen on the fall NH Audubon pelagic trip by Leonard Medlock, 9/8/09, Jeffreys Ledge, NH.



Long-tailed Jaeger, by Leonard Medlock, 9/8/09, Jeffreys Ledge, NH.

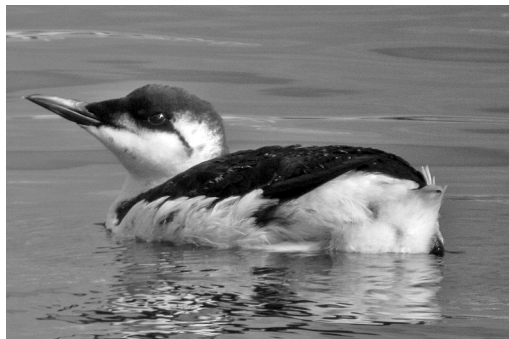
date	#	town	location	observer(s)
Jaeger sp.				
08/15	8	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	B. Griffith, L. Kras
08/16	12	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
09/08	5	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, et al.
09/12	2	Rye	Odiome Point St. Pk.	S. Mirick
10/24	3	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick, et al.



Classic jaeger behavior: A Long-tailed Jaeger chases a tern, trying to steal a meal, by Chris Sheridan, 8/18/09, Jeffreys Ledge, NH.

Alcids through Raven

The most noteworthy alcid sighting for the fall was that of a **Common Murre** which stayed in Rye Harbor on October 31 and November 1. It isn't clear whether the bird was ill, but it gave incredible views for many birders during its stay. Several birders were counting migrating Common Nighthawks this fall; large numbers of nighthawks were noted during the first week and a half of September as they passed south through southwestern parts of the



Common Murre in Rye Harbor, by Steve Mirick, 10/31/09, Rye, NH.

state. The 600 counted in Keene on September 8 is noteworthy for both the large number and the somewhat late date for this rather punctual migrant.

A female or immature hummingbird belonging to the genus *Selasphorus* appeared at a feeder in Hollis in October. It was subsequently captured and banded, and identified in the hand as an immature **Rufous Hummingbird**. Females and immatures are very difficult to identify within this genus, and thus far, only Rufous Hummingbird has been conclusively identified in New Hampshire. Observers should be aware, however, that two recent records of the similar Allen's Hummingbird have been conclusively identified in Massachusetts. Red-bellied Woodpeckers continue to establish themselves in the state with numerous reports; only northerly sightings are included in the published listings. An adult Red-headed Woodpecker reported in Dublin was more of a surprise. For the second fall in a row, a **Western Kingbird** was reported. This one appeared in Rochester on November 13, and, unlike most other New Hampshire sightings, remained several days for many birders to see and photograph.



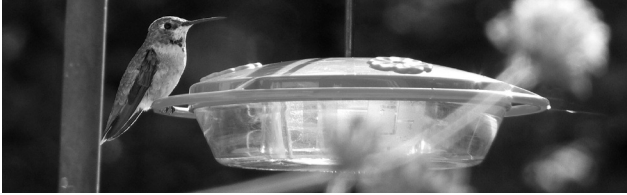
Western Kingbird by Jason Lambert, 11/21/09, seen at Rochester wastewater treatment plant, NH.

One of the rarest sightings of the fall was that of a **Bell's Vireo** discovered at the southern edge of Odiorne Point State Park on October 1. This represents the second modern record (third overall) for this species in the state. It was fairly cooperative, but furtive as usual, for this reclusive species. It was seen daily and last reported on October 5. A very late Red-eyed Vireo on November 7 ranks as one of the tardiest neotropical migrants for the fall. Fish Crow have slowly expanded their range northward into New Hampshire; however, the numbers this fall were the most ever, with widespread reports including one individual as far north as Ossipee.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Common Murre				
10/31	1	Rye	Rye Harbor	S. Mirick
11/01	1	Rye	Rye Harbor	R. Stanton
Razorbill				
11/11	3	Hampton	Great Boars Head	S. Mirick
Black Guillemot				
08/01	1	Rye	Inside of Isles of Shoals	S. Mirick, et al.
11/10	5		NH coast	S. Mirick
11/19	3	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
Atlantic Puffin				
09/26	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	J. Lambert
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				
08/23	1	Roxbury	Godwin Cottage	K. Rosenberg

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Black-billed Cuckoo				
08/05	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
08/11	1	Webster	Call Road	R. Quinn
08/19	1	Hancock	Antrim Road	E. Masterson
08/27	1	Londonderry	Moose Hill	M. Harvey
09/02	2	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
09/11	1	Keene	Keene State WMA	P. Howard
09/13	1	Haverhill	Bedell Bridge St. Pk.	J. Andrews
Eastern Screech-Owl				
09/06	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	L. Medlock, J. Lambert
10/14	1	Exeter	Park Street	L. Medlock
11/07	1	Rye		B. Griffith, et al.
Northern Saw-whet Owl				
10/24	1	Fitzwilliam	Royalston Rd. residence	G. & T. Sillanpas
11/03	1	Ashland	Sanborn Road	I. MacLeod
11/07	1	Durham	Adam's Point, Great Bay	S. Young
11/07	1	Rye	Rye	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert
Common Nighthawk				
08/24	125	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	J. Lambert
08/30	300	Keene	Court St., n. end	L. Tanino, P. Davenport
09/01	120	Swanzy	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Airport Rd.	L. Tanino
09/02	550	Keene		L. McCracken
09/03	150	Keene		G. Seymour
09/03	250	Keene	downtown	E. Ruelas Inzunza, et al.
09/03	521	Keene	Bretwood Golf Course, Rt. 12A	L. Tanino
09/03	178	Westmoreland	River Road, County Farm	L. Tanino
09/08	600	Keene	Keene	L. McCracken
09/09	300	Keene	Keene	L. McCracken
10/06	1	Hampton	Island Path	P. Brown
Whip-poor-will				
08/18	1	Hopkinton	Mast Yard State Forest w.	R. Quinn, P. Hunt
09/02	4	Concord	Mast Yard State Forest e.	P. Hunt
09/07	1	Concord	Mast Yard State Forest e.	P. Hunt
Chimney Swift				
08/06	41	Keene	Central Square	L. Tanino
08/19	60	Concord	Durgin Block Parking Garage top	R. Quinn
09/01	72	Concord	Legislative Parking Garage, Storrs St.	P. Hunt
09/24	1	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	P. Brown
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				
08/01	5	Chatham	residence	B. Crowley
08/03	5	Walpole		J. Pietrzak
08/31	10	Plaistow	Palmer Ave.	S. Waltz
09/03	15	Plaistow		S. Waltz
09/25	1	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
09/26	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
Rufous Hummingbird				
10/12	1	Hollis	Pepperell Rd. residence	L. Kras
10/22	1	Hollis	Pepperell Rd. residence	C. Sheridan

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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*A Rufous Hummingbird
at a feeder,
by Vicki Michaels,
10/21/09, Hollis, NH.*

10/30	1	Hollis	Pepperell Rd. residence	S. Mirick
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Red-headed Woodpecker

09/28	1	Dublin	Rt. 101, Dublin Lake	T. Warren
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Red-bellied Woodpecker

08/12	1	Chatham	residence	B. Crowley
08/26	2	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano
08/28	1	Holderness	Rattlesnake Mtn. trails	A. Crary
09/18	1	Pittsfield	Norris Rd.	G. Robbins
09/24	1	Gilmanton	Upper City Rd.	J. Stockwell
10/23	1	Charlestown	Great Meadow	E. Masterson
10/27	1	Campton	Batchelder Rd., Ellsworth	P. Jeffrey
11/09	1	Conway	Potter Road	S. Mirick

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

08/06	7	Errol	upper Mollidgewock Brook drainage	R. Quinn, C. Martin
09/21	8	Sullivan	Seward Mountain Farm	P. Brown
09/26	4	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. Mirick
09/26	6	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson
11/06	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River	A. Robbins

Black-backed Woodpecker

08/15	2	Lincoln	Mt. Osceola, East Peak trail	T. Pirro
11/11	1	Bethlehem	Ethan Pond	D. Govatski
11/22	2	Wentworths Location		B. Griffith, J. Lambert, L. Medlock, L. Kras

Northern Flicker

09/20	25	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson
09/26	12	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson
09/27	21	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright

Olive-sided Flycatcher

08/06	7	Errol	upper Mollidgewock Brook drainage	R. Quinn, C. Martin
08/26	2	Roxbury	Godwin Cottage	K. Rosenberg
08/27	2	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest	A. & G. Robbins
09/06	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

09/05	2	Rye	Star Island	S. & J. Mirick
09/06	1	Durham	Foss Farm	S. Mirick
09/19	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. Mirick

Least Flycatcher

08/10	5	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest	A. & G. Robbins
10/03	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
10/04	1	Rye	Star Island	S. Mirick, et al.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Eastern Phoebe				
08/16	12	Stafford	Isinglass River Conservation Reserve	S. Young
09/23	17	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
10/04	15	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/29	1	Peterborough	Nubanusit Neighborhood & Farm	N. White
Western Kingbird				
11/13	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	P. Watts
11/17	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	L. Medlock, M. Resch, G. Tillman, M. Iliff
11/22	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
Eastern Kingbird				
08/09	4	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
08/22	4	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
09/23	2	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	P. Brown
Northern Shrike				
10/19	1	Hebron	Hebron Marsh	J. Williams
10/27	1	Cornish	Town House Road	D. Doubleday
11/02	1	Bartlett	Intervale	L. Route
11/10	1	Dover	Stafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
11/21	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
11/22	1	Wentworths Location		B. Griffith
Bell's Vireo				
10/01	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. & J. Mirick, L. Medlock
10/02	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	B. Griffith
10/03	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	J. Lambert
10/04	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. Young, B. Crowley
Yellow-throated Vireo				
09/04	1	Hanover		J. Miller
09/18	1	Madison	Pit Rd. residence, Silver Lake	J. Mullen
09/23	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
09/26	8	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
09/28	7	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
10/04	9	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/04	12	Webster	Call Road	R. Quinn
10/27	1	Cornish	Town House Road	D. Doubleday
Red-eyed Vireo				
08/28	8	Holderness	Rattlesnake Mtn. trails	A. Crary
08/30	7	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
09/17	10	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
10/01	3	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
10/25	1	Keene	Franklin Street	P. Howard
11/07	1	Rye		J. Lambert
Gray Jay				
08/06	5	Errol	upper Mollidgewock Brook drainage	R. Quinn, C. Martin
08/15	1	Lincoln	Mt. Osceola, East Peak trail	T. Pirro
09/06	2	Sargents Purchase	Mt. Isolation summit	J. Stockwell
09/26	2	Dixville	Dixville Peak, 3000'	J. Stockwell
11/07	2	Lincoln	Shoal Pond	D. Govatski
11/22	4	Wentworths Location		B. Griffith, et al.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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Gray Jay on a snag, by Leonard Medlock, 11/22/09, Wentworths Location, NH.

11/23	1	Second College Grant		B. Crowley
11/25	2	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	L. Bergum

American Crow

10/17	295	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino
10/20	500	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. Young
10/25	450	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
11/05	300	Nashua	Natick Street riverbank	C. Sheridan

Fish Crow

08/01	2	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	T. Pirro, C. Caron
08/09	2	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
08/09	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick, et al.
08/11	3	Concord	Fort Eddy Plaza	P. Brown
08/11	2		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
08/12	1	Marlow		L. McCracken
08/21	2	Seabrook	NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
08/23	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	S. Mirick
08/24	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	M. Harvey, S. Mirick, L. Kras
08/27	2	Concord	Sewalls Falls Rd., Beaver Meadow	Golf Course H. Anderson
08/28	3	Nashua	Nashua R., w. of dam	C. Sheridan
09/17	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
09/28	1	Nashua	Southwest Park, Yudicky Farm	C. Sheridan
09/29	1	Ossipee	W. Ossipee, jct. of Rts. 16 & 25	B. Crowley, J. Scott
10/04	1	Ossipee	W. Ossipee, jct. of Rts. 16 & 25	B. Crowley

Common Raven

08/20	2	Hampton	Rt. 95 toll booths	S. Mirick
10/18	50	Chatham	Robbins Ridge, north side	B. Crowley
10/25	35	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino
11/22	60	Chatham	Robbins Ridge, north side	B. Crowley, J. Scott

Larks through Warblers

Purple Martins are declining regionally, so it was somewhat interesting to note the unexpected presence of up to four birds in the Hampton/Seabrook area during August. No Cave Swallows were noted this fall for New Hampshire and relatively few were reported in New England for the first time in several years.

Four Bicknell's/Gray-cheeked Thrush were reported during the fall. This editor is glad that observers are identifying these two species with caution since separating them in the field is difficult, and geographic variability within Gray-cheeked Thrushes needs to be considered. In addition, the status of each species in migration is still not

clearly understood. A nice evening flight of thrushes was noted by Phil Brown when he counted 50 Swainson's Thrush and 30 Veerys calling as they migrated overhead during 30 minutes of observation on the evening of September 5.

Only 28 species of warblers were reported for the fall in contrast to the exceptional 32 species reported last fall. Orange-crowned Warbler is generally a rare coastal migrant during the late fall. This fall a minimum of six were reported including one from Concord on the early date of August 30. Two Connecticut Warblers and four Yellow-breasted Chats round out the warbler rarities for the fall.



Orange-crowned Warbler, by Leonard Medlock, 10/25/09, Island Path, Hampton, NH.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Horned Lark				
09/26	50	Conway	E. Conway fields	B. Crowley, T. Vazzano, B. & D. Fox
10/11	130	Conway	E. Conway fields	B. Crowley, B. & D. Fox, S. Lee
10/31	75	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Quinn, et al.
11/04	18	E. Kingston	Bodwell Farm fields near Rt. 108	G. Gavutis Jr.
11/13	16		NH coast	S. Mirick
11/17	20	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	L. Kras
11/17	15	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	L. Medlock, M. Resch, G. Tillman
11/29	22		NH coast	S. Mirick
Purple Martin				
08/05	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
08/08	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	L. Tanino, et al.
08/12	3	Effingham	Huntress Bridge Rd.	A. & G. Robbins
08/15	1	Seabrook	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
08/18	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
08/22	4	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	L. Medlock, S. & J. Mirick
Tree Swallow				
08/01	400	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	L. Tanino
08/23	1000	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
09/20	1	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino
10/14	3	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	I. MacLeod
Bank Swallow				
08/13	20	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Hubbard
08/21	18	Hampton	Island Path	A. & G. Robbins, R. Quinn
08/26	50	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	M. Harvey
Cliff Swallow				
08/08	3	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Quinn
08/08	4	Dover	Strafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
09/05	3	Rye	Star Island	S. & J. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Barn Swallow				
08/06	100	N. Hampton	Little River saltmarsh	B. Crowley
08/24	50		NH coast	K. Rosenberg
08/26	50	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	M. Harvey
08/28	75	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	M. Harvey
09/23	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	P. Brown
10/04	1	Rye	Star Island	S. Mirick, et al.
Boreal Chickadee				
08/09	8	Low & Burbanks Grant	Jefferson Notch Road	P. Henson
10/04	12	Waterville Valley	Mt. Whiteface - Mt. Passaconaway loop trail	T. Pirro
11/08	8	Franconia	Galehead Hut	L. McKillop
11/11	14	Bethlehem	Ethan Pond	D. Govatski
Carolina Wren				
08/01	1	Littleton	Owen Dr.	M. Boulanger
08/21	5	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. & J. Mirick
08/24	2	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
08/28	3	Holderness	Rattlesnake Mtn. trails	A. Crary
10/10	1	Hanover	Mink Brook Nature Preserve	P. Johnson
11/02	1	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
11/05	1	Keene	Franklin Street	P. Howard
11/21	2	N. Hampton	thicket	S. Mirick
House Wren				
08/12	5	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
08/22	3	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/14	1	Hollis	Beaver Brook Assoc.	C. Sheridan
10/17	1	Nashua	Lovewell Pond	C. Sheridan
10/31	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
Golden-crowned Kinglet				
10/09	27	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
10/10	35	Madison	Davis Pond	E. Johnson
10/12	60	Sargents Purchase	White Mountain National Forest	W. Sweet
11/07	40	Lincoln	Shoal Pond	D. Govatski
11/11	25	Bethlehem	Ethan Pond	D. Govatski
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
09/06	1	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino
09/20	6	Rye	Star Island	S. Mirick, L. Medlock, B. Griffith, L. Kras
10/04	15	Waterville Valley	Mt. Whiteface - Mt. Passaconaway loop trail	T. Pirro
10/10	20	Madison	Davis Pond	E. Johnson
10/12	11	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
11/08	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				
08/09	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
08/13	1	Dover	Strafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
08/26	2	Concord	Locke Road sod farm	R. Quinn
09/06	1	Swanzy	Keene State WMA	L. Tanino

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Veery				
08/27	10	Londonderry	Moose Hill	M. Harvey
09/05	30	Nelson	Spoonwood Pond	P. Brown
10/09	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River	A. Robbins
Bicknell's Thrush				
09/13	5	Beans Grant	Mount Pierce	G. Robbins
Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush				
09/26	1	Durham	Meserve & Bartlett Rds.	K. Dorsey
09/30	1	Madison	Silver Lake RR trail	J. Mullen
10/10	1	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino, W. Ward
10/17	1	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino
Swainson's Thrush				
09/05	50	Nelson	Spoonwood Pond	P. Brown
10/25	4	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/31	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
Hermit Thrush				
10/10	5	Madison	Davis Pond	E. Johnson
10/16	10	Barnstead	N. Barnstead Rd. orchard	J. Lambert
Wood Thrush				
09/05	10	Nelson	Spoonwood Pond	P. Brown
09/17	1	Westmoreland	Hatt Road	G. Seymour
09/25	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
10/14	1	Lebanon	Boston Lot Lake trail	B. Heitzman
Gray Catbird				
09/02	15	Keene	Keene State WMA	B. Miller
09/16	18	Keene	Keene State WMA	B. Miller
09/20	15	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
09/26	30	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson
11/07	1	Concord	Abbott Road stump dump, Penacook	P. Hunt
American Pipit				
09/07	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. Mirick
09/26	200	Conway	E. Conway fields	B. Crowley, T. Vazzano, B.& D. Fox
09/26	175	Conway	Sherman Farm	T. Vazzano, B. Crowley, B.& D. Fox
09/28	60	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. Young
10/21	80	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	E. Masterson
10/25	45	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
11/10	9	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	S. Mirick
11/17	1	Hampton	Little Jack's Restaurant	M. Iiff
Bohemian Waxwing				
11/07	35	Lincoln	Shoal Pond	D. Govatski
11/11	9	Bethlehem	Ethan Pond	D. Govatski
Cedar Waxwing				
08/23	65	Stoddard	Pitcher Mtn.	L. Tanino
08/28	60	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	M. Harvey
09/26	87	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson
11/21	88	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Blue-winged Warbler				
08/26	1	Concord	Merrill Park	R. Quinn
Tennessee Warbler				
08/27	2	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest	A. & G. Robbins
08/28	2	Ossipee	West Branch Pine Barrens	A. & G. Robbins
09/05	2	Concord	Contoocook River Park, Penacook	P. Hunt
09/23	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
09/30	1	Madison	Silver Lake RR trail	J. Mullen
Orange-crowned Warbler				
08/30	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/04	1	Rye	Star Island	B. Griffith, L. Kras
10/25	1	Hampton	Island Path	S. Mirick
11/07	1	Rye	Foss Beach, n. end	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
11/08	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. Mirick
11/17	1	N. Hampton	Atlantic Ave. thickets	M. Iliff
11/29	1	N. Hampton	Rt. 111	S. Mirick
Nashville Warbler				
08/06	5	Errol	upper Mollidgewock Brook drainage	R. Quinn, C. Martin
09/07	15	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest	A. & G. Robbins
10/14	1	Stratham	River Road	S. Mirick
10/17	1	Madison	Chochura View Farm	J. Mullen
11/06	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River	A. Robbins
Northern Parula				
08/27	5	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest	A. & G. Robbins
09/07	4	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest	A. & G. Robbins
09/26	6	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. Mirick
10/04	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/04	1	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest	A. Robbins
Yellow Warbler				
09/05	5	Rye	Star Island	S. & J. Mirick
09/14	12	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	M. Harvey
09/30	1	Conway	Sherman Farm	J. Scott
10/01	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. Mirick, L. & J. Medlock
Chestnut-sided Warbler				
08/08	6	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
08/25	5	Ossipee	West Branch Pine Barrens	A. & G. Robbins
08/27	12	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest	A. & G. Robbins
09/21	1	Stoddard	Pitcher Mountain	R. Romano, J. Russo
Magnolia Warbler				
08/06	16	Errol	upper Mollidgewock Brook drainage	R. Quinn, C. Martin
08/27	8	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest	A. & G. Robbins
08/31	8	Webster	Call Road	R. Quinn
10/10	1	Madison	Davis Pond	E. Johnson
11/01	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River	A. Robbins
Cape May Warbler				
09/05	1	Concord	Contoocook River Park, Penacook	P. Hunt
09/05	3	Rye	Star Island	S. & J. Mirick
09/06	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	J. Lambert, L. Medlock

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Cape May Warbler—continued				
09/07	1	Dublin	Charcoal Rd.	T. Warren
09/17	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
Black-throated Blue Warbler				
09/04	10	Moultonborough	Oak Ridge Trail, Castle in the Clouds	M. & G. Prazar
10/11	1	Jefferson	Bailey Road	D. Govatski
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
09/23	55	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
09/26	56	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	L. Medlock
09/26	250	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson
10/04	57	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/04	53	Rye	Star Island	B. Griffith, L. Kras
10/12	100	Sargents Purchase	White Mountain National Forest	W. Sweet
11/21	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
Black-throated Green Warbler				
08/23	11	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
09/04	7	Rumney	residence	J. Williams
09/08	11	Webster	Call Road	R. Quinn
09/26	7	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson
10/09	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano
10/11	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Medlock, et al.
Blackburnian Warbler				
08/20	4	Webster	Call Road	R. Quinn
08/27	5	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest	A. & G. Robbins
09/21	1	Webster	Call Road	R. Quinn
Pine Warbler				
08/24	20	Effingham	Rt. 153	A. & G. Robbins
08/25	34	Ossipee	West Branch Pine Barrens	A. & G. Robbins
09/06	12	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/28	1	Bradford	West Rd.	M. & D. Halstead
Prairie Warbler				
08/09	6	Amherst	Northern Boulevard, Hertzka Dr.	C. Sheridan
08/25	5	Ossipee	West Branch Pine Barrens	A. & G. Robbins
10/25	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. Mirick
Palm Warbler				
08/06	2	Errol	upper Mollidgewock Brook drainage	R. Quinn, C. Martin
08/27	3	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	B. Crowley
09/26	70	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson
10/04	32	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/07	16	Derry		C. Blazak
10/12	28	Lee	Old Mill Rd. WMA	S. Young
11/07	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
11/29	1	Hampton	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
Blackpoll Warbler				
09/17	40	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
09/20	25	Wakefield	Province Lake, Effingham	J. Trimble
10/17	1	Nashua	Lovewell Pond	C. Sheridan
10/25	1	Hampton	Church Street parking lot	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Black-and-white Warbler				
08/23	5	Roxbury	Godwin Cottage	K. Rosenberg
09/06	6	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	J. Lambert, L. Medlock
10/04	1	Webster	Call Road	R. Quinn
American Redstart				
08/30	7	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
09/26	1	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson
09/30	6	Keene	Keene State WMA	P. Howard
10/01	2	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	S. & J. Mirick, L. Medlock
Ovenbird				
08/06	7	Errol	upper Mollidgewock Brook drainage	R. Quinn, C. Martin
08/28	8	Holderness	Rattlesnake Mtn. Trails	A. Crary
09/23	1	Auburn	NHA Massabesic Center	C. Sheridan
09/23	1	Madison	Osgood Rd., Silver Lake	J. Mullen
Northern Waterthrush				
08/05	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
09/05	7	Rye	Star Island	S. & J. Mirick
09/26	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	L. Medlock
Connecticut Warbler				
09/17	1	Durham	Meserve & Bartlett Rds.	K. Dorsey
09/26	1	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson
Mourning Warbler				
09/07	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt, R. Suomala
Common Yellowthroat				
08/30	16	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
09/13	11	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
09/20	19	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson
09/26	15	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson
11/05	1	Greenland	Newington Rd.	S. Mirick
Wilson's Warbler				
08/26	1	Nelson	town ballfields	P. Brown
09/06	3	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/10	1	Rye	Odiorne Point	S. Mirick
Canada Warbler				
08/27	12	Londonderry	Moose Hill	M. Harvey
09/10	1	Hanover	Huntington Hill	J. Norton
Yellow-breasted Chat				
09/05	2	Rye	Star Island	S. & J. Mirick
09/20	1	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson, M. Harvey, M. Stager
10/03	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	J. Lambert
Warbler sp.				
08/27	80	Londonderry	Moose Hill	M. Harvey
09/19	75	Wakefield	Province Lake, Effingham	J. Trimble
09/20	75	Wakefield	Province Lake, Effingham	J. Trimble
10/09	84	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
11/05	1		NH coast	S. Mirick

Tanagers through Finches

It seems that each of the last few falls I reported record numbers of Indigo Buntings. While it may be that this species was overlooked in the past, the numbers certainly are impressive and seemingly increasing. This year an astounding 80 individuals were reported from Morrill's Farm in Concord surpassing last year's high counts of 50 birds from three locations in Concord. Interestingly, most of these large counts come from patches of standing corn. Dickcissel also had a great fall in New Hampshire with at least eight individuals reported. Normally only one or two are reported in the state each fall. Large flocks of Bobolinks were reported from Durham on September 1 and Northwood on August 15 with 100 or more birds at each location.

Once again, a rare inland sighting of Nelson's Sparrow was reported from Concord. Seen on September 26, it was tentatively identified as being of the "coastal" or *subvirgatus* subspecies. The "inland" subspecies of Nelson's Sparrow is rarely reported, but one possible candidate was closely scrutinized during a very high tide in Hampton Falls on October 17. Another out of place sparrow was an "Ipswich" Sparrow, which was first seen and photographed in Exeter on October 30. This subspecies of the Savannah Sparrow is very closely associated with the dunes and beach grass along the coast and is, therefore, very rare west of the immediate shoreline.



"Ipswich Sparrow" in an unusual location, by Leonard Medlock, 10/30/09, Exeter wastewater treatment plant, NH.

The "Great Bog blackbird roost" was visited several times this fall and it was quite a spectacle for the birders who witnessed it. Eric Masterson attempted to put a number on the phenomenal "river" of Common Grackles by using a "quasi-scientific" methodology of photographing birds every 2 minutes, counting the birds in the photographs, and extrapolating over the 50 minute flight. He came up with an estimate of 343,000 Common Grackles on November 3! An adult male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** made an appearance among the mass of birds on October 30.

Another incredible discovery for the fall was a roosting site for transient Rusty Blackbirds. This species appears to be in a precipitous decline nationally for unknown reasons. Reports are now very limited in New Hampshire and numbers don't generally reach more than a dozen or two at the most. Eric Masterson chanced upon large numbers of birds flying in to roost in the phragmites at the Exeter wastewater treatment plant where he estimated as many as 300 Rusty Blackbirds on October 8. Winter finches were very scarce with only a single report of four Common Redpolls and a few Pine Siskin and crossbill reports, mostly from the northern part of the state.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Scarlet Tanager				
09/04	3	Hanover	Hanover	J. Miller
09/17	3	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
10/04	1	Rye	Star Island	S. Mirick, L. Kras, B. Griffith, et al.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Eastern Towhee				
09/26	6	Strafford	Isinglass River Conservation Reserve	S. Young
09/30	5	Madison	Silver Lake RR Trail	J. Mullen
11/12	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
American Tree Sparrow				
10/24	4	Tamworth	residence	L. Bellen
10/26	2	Dover	Strafford County Complex	L. Kras, B. Griffith
11/07	11	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
11/10	10	Dover	Strafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
11/22	11	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
Chipping Sparrow				
09/19	44	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
09/26	55	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/04	47	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/12	77	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/20	120	Amherst	Nichols Rd. pumpkin fields	E. Masterson
11/11	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River	A. Robbins
Clay-colored Sparrow				
09/22	1	Stratham	River Road	S. Mirick
Field Sparrow				
08/08	4	Madison	TNC Ossipee pine barrens	J. Walker
10/24	4	Tamworth	residence	L. Bellen
11/23	1	Ashland	Sanborn Road	I. MacLeod
Vesper Sparrow				
09/19	1	Durham	TNC Lamprey River	K. Dorsey
09/26	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
09/26	1	Stratham	River Road	S. Mirick
10/03	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
10/08	1	Swanzy	Dillant-Hopkins Airport	P. Brown
11/07	1	Concord	West Portsmouth St.	R. Suomala, P. Myers, D. Howe
Savannah Sparrow				
08/21	25	Amherst	cemetery fields	C. Sheridan
09/26	70	Conway	Sherman Farm	T. Vazzano, B. Crowley, B. & D. Fox
10/04	100	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	S. Young
10/05	75	Dover	Strafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
10/20	100	Amherst	Nichols Rd. pumpkin fields	E. Masterson
10/21	180	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
10/23	100	Westmoreland	Chickering Farm	E. Masterson
Savannah Sparrow - Ipswich subsp.				
10/09	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	S. Mirick
10/10	4		NH coast	S. Mirick
10/30	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	L. Medlock, L. Kras, S. Mirick
11/01	6		NH coast	S. Mirick, et al.
11/03	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
11/05	4	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	J. Williams, S. Smith, J. Lloyd
11/08	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Young

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Nelson's Sparrow				
09/26	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
09/28	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	P. Chamberlin
10/17	3	Hampton Falls	Depot Rd. marshes	S. Mirick
10/29	2	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	J. Lambert
Saltmarsh Sparrow				
08/01	3	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	C. Caron, T. Pirro
08/11	30	Hampton	Hampton salt marsh	S. Mirick
10/10	1	Hampton	Great Boars Head	S. Mirick
Sharp-tailed Sparrow sp.				
11/07	1	Rye	Rye	J. Lambert, L. Kras, B. Griffith, L. Medlock
Ammodramus Sparrow sp.				
10/26	1	Dover	Stafford County Complex	B. Griffith, L. Kras
Fox Sparrow				
10/17	1	Ashland	Sanborn Road	I. MacLeod
10/18	1	Chatham	residence	B. Crowley
10/18	1	Rumney	Fisher Woods residence	J. Williams
11/05	3	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park, Contoocook	R. Quinn
11/07	3	Concord	Locke Road sod farm	R. Suomala, D. Howe, P. Myers
11/11	6	Concord	Turtle Pond	R. Suomala, P. Myers, D. Howe
Song Sparrow				
09/26	70	Conway	Sherman Farm	T. Vazzano, B. Crowley, B. & D. Fox
10/04	54	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
10/11	64	Conway	E. Conway fields	S. Lee, B. & D. Fox, B. Crowley
10/28	100	Concord		R. Quinn
Lincoln's Sparrow				
09/27	6	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	S. Young
09/28	6	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. Mirick
10/11	5	Conway	E. Conway fields	B. Crowley, B. & D. Fox, S. Lee
10/26	2	Dover	Stafford County Complex	B. Griffith, L. Kras
10/29	1	Dover	Chochecho Humane Society	J. Lambert
Swamp Sparrow				
09/26	70	Conway	Sherman Farm	T. Vazzano, B. Crowley, B. & D. Fox
10/21	25	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO	E. Masterson
10/26	30	Dover	Stafford County Complex	B. Griffith, L. Kras
White-throated Sparrow				
10/10	100	Holderness	Squam Lakes Natural Science Ctr.	I. MacLeod
10/11	100	Boscawen	Walker Pond	L. Flynn
10/12	163	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
White-crowned Sparrow				
09/22	1	Concord	Snow Pond	P. Brown
09/22	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. Young
10/03	10	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
10/08	11	Lebanon	Boston Lot Reservoir	B. Heitzman
10/10	12	Holderness	Squam Lakes Natural Science Ctr.	I. MacLeod
10/11	12	Conway	E. Conway fields	S. Lee, B. & D. Fox, B. Crowley
Dark-eyed Junco				
09/05	1	Rye	Star Island	S. & J. Mirick
10/12	100	Sargents Purchase	White Mountain National Forest	W. Sweet
10/25	88	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
11/07	80	Lincoln	Shoal Pond	D. Govatski
11/15	70	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	J. Lambert, B. Griffith, L. Kras, M. Harvey
11/26	71	Keene	Green Wagon Farm	L. Tanino
Lapland Longspur				
09/30	1	Conway	Sherman Farm	J. Scott
10/11	1	Conway	E. Conway fields	S. Lee, B. & D. Fox, B. Crowley
10/31	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Quinn, et al
11/07	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
11/12	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	L. Kras
11/17	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	L. Medlock, M. Resch, G. Tillman, L. Kras
11/18	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	L. Medlock
Snow Bunting				
10/12	5	Sargents Purchase	White Mountain National Forest	W. Sweet
10/23	1	Peterborough	Pack Monadnock hawkwatch	L. Tanino
10/24	16	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	L. Medlock
11/01	295		NH coast	S. Mirick, et al.
11/04	300		NH coast	L. Kras
11/07	17	Concord	Locke Road sod farm	R. Suomala, D. Howe, P. Myers
11/15	75	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	A. Robbins
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
08/21	7	Littleton	Owen Dr.	M. Boulanger
08/27	20	Londonderry	Moose Hill	M. Harvey
08/28	7	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
10/17	1	Kensington	South St.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
Indigo Bunting				
08/08	13	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Quinn
08/09	29	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
08/30	13	Surry	Joslin Rd. quarry	L. Tanino
09/07	10	Concord	Abbott Rd. stump dump, Penacook	R. Suomala, P. Hunt
09/07	80	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	R. Suomala, P. Hunt
09/22	20	Stratham	River Road	S. Mirick
09/26	21	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
10/04	40	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
10/20	1	Amherst	Nichols Rd. pumpkin fields	E. Masterson
10/25	1	Hampton	Landing Road	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Dickcissel				
08/31	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. Mirick, et al.
09/01	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	L. Kras
09/26	1	Rye	Star Island	K. Klasman, E. Masterson
09/26	1	Stratham	River Road	S. Mirick
09/28	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. Mirick
10/04	1	Durham	Meserve/Bartlett roads	K. Dorsey
10/11	1	Greenland	Great Bay Rd.	J. Lambert
10/11	1	Stratham	River Road	S. & J. Mirick, L. Medlock
10/12	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/17	1	Stratham	River Road	S. Mirick
11/29	1	Walpole	Sawyer Farm	E. Masterson



*Two Bobolinks,
by Leonard Medlock,
10/12/09, along River Road in
Stratham, NH.*

Bobolink

08/08	50	Dover	Strafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
08/15	100	Northwood	Wallman CA	S. Young
09/01	150	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	L. Kras
09/09	100	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	R. & M. Suomala
09/22	25	Stratham	River Road	S. Mirick
09/24	31	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. Young
10/08	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. Young
10/15	3	Stratham	River Road	S. Mirick
10/21	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt

Red-winged Blackbird

10/20	2000	Hinsdale	Vernon Dam	E. Masterson
10/31	5000	Portsmouth	Great Bog	S. Mirick
11/07	2000	Durham	Adams Pt., Great Bay	S. Young

Eastern Meadowlark

08/31	8	Portsmouth	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	S. Mirick
10/02	7	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	S. & J. Mirick, L. Medlock

Yellow-headed Blackbird

10/30	1	Greenland	Newington Rd. corn fields	L. Kras
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Rusty Blackbird

08/12	4	Marlow	residence	L. McCracken
10/08	300	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	E. Masterson
10/15	250	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	E. Masterson
10/17	70	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
10/21	7	Swansey	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Airport Rd.	P. Brown
10/27	7	Cornish	Town House Road	D. Doubleday
10/30	14	Greenland	Newington Rd. corn fields	L. Kras
11/04	1	Litchfield	residence	L. McKillop

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
11/10	2	Dover	Strafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
11/18	4	Litchfield	residence	L. McKillop
Common Grackle				
10/16	2,000	Swanzy	Perry Farm	L. Kibler
10/17	8,000	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	S. Mirick
10/20	6,000	Lee	Old Mill Rd. WMA	S. Young
10/27	50,000	Newmarket	Kwaks WS	P. Brown
10/31	100,000	Portsmouth	Great Bog	S. Mirick
11/01	200,000	Portsmouth	Great Bog	S. Mirick, et al.
11/03	343,000	Portsmouth	Great Bog	E. Masterson
11/07	100,000	Durham	Adams Pt., Great Bay	S. Young
Brown-headed Cowbird				
09/22	325	Seabrook	Rt. 286	S. Mirick
Baltimore Oriole				
08/22	6	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis, Jr.
09/20	6	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson
10/02	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	P. Hunt, et al.
10/23	1	Lee	Old Mill Rd. WMA	S. Young
10/25	1	Ashland	Sanborn Road	I. MacLeod
Purple Finch				
08/06	6	Errol	upper Mollidgewock Brook drainage	R. Quinn, C. Martin
10/12	12	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
Red Crossbill				
09/10	5	Tamworth	Emerson Easement	T. Vazzano, B. & D. Fox
10/09	2	Chatham	Upper Kimball Pond	B. Crowley
11/22	1	Wentworths Location		L. Kras, B. Griffith, J. Lambert, L. Medlock
White-winged Crossbill				
08/06	2	Errol	upper Mollidgewock Brook drainage	R. Quinn, C. Martin
08/24	3	Effingham	Watts WS trail	A. & G. Robbins
11/07	40	Lincoln	Shoal Pond	D. Govatski
11/11	17	Bethlehem	Ethan Pond	D. Govatski
Common Redpoll				
11/22	4	Wentworths Location		L. Kras, B. Griffith, J. Lambert, L. Medlock
Pine Siskin				
08/09	1	Low & Burbanks Grant	Jefferson Notch Road	P. Henson
11/07	60	Lincoln	Shoal Pond	D. Govatski
11/11	11	Bethlehem	Ethan Pond	D. Govatski
American Goldfinch				
10/02	65	Rye	Rye Harbor St. Pk.	S. & J. Mirick, L. Medlock
Evening Grosbeak				
09/11	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	L. Medlock
09/21	4	Stoddard	Taylor Pond Road	P. Brown
10/23	1	Lee	Old Mill Rd. WMA	S. Young
11/18	4	Stoddard	Pitcher Mtn.	L. Tanino
11/19	4	Peterborough	Nubanusit Neighborhood & Farm	N. White

Fall 2009 New Hampshire Raptor Migration Report

by Iain MacLeod

The fall of 2009 marked the fortieth season of raptor migration monitoring at Little Round Top in Bristol. This incredible milestone is a testament to the dedication of site leader Susan Fogleman who has led the monitoring efforts for the majority of those forty seasons. Many others have helped with the all-volunteer efforts over the years, but Sue and her husband Wavell have been the inspirational leaders. Congratulations to Little Round Top.



*Young Golden Eagle in flight,
by Leonard Medlock, near Lake Umbagog
National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters,
Wentworth's Location, NH.*

Another milestone was reached at Interlakes Elementary School in Meredith. This season marked the thirtieth consecutive year that the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center has conducted a raptor migration class and hawkwatch with the fourth grade classes. Paul Lacourse also conducted hawkwatch classes once again with his class at Winnicunnet High School in Hampton.

Four sites conducted counts for greater than 20 hours: Pack Monadnock Raptor Migration Observatory in Peterborough, Carter Hill Observatory in Concord, Little Round Top Migration Observatory in Bristol, and Pitcher Mountain in Stoddard. Additionally, Brad Sylvester put in ten hours spread over three days in late August at Blue Job Mountain in Strafford and tallied 29 birds – mostly Turkey Vultures. It would be great to have a daily count at this spectacular site as well as multiple consecutive years of data.

Pack Monadnock Raptor Migration Observatory

2009 Official Counters: Julie Tilden, Lance Tanino, Iain MacLeod, Kate Yard, Peter Davenport and Al Grimstad.

Counts have been conducted here for decades by such hawkwatching pioneers as Ken Folsom. However, 2009 marked the fifth consecutive fall season of daily coordinated counts conducted under the leadership of New Hampshire Audubon and in a formal agreement with the New Hampshire Division of State Parks. With Lance Tanino as the part-time onsite biologist and a core of volunteers coordinated by Julie Tilden, a total of 420.75 hours were logged between September 1 and November 18 and 6,963 raptors were counted (5-year average = 8,503).

The Osprey count was down a little this year at 182 (5-year average = 241). The Bald Eagle total remained remarkably stable at 51 (5-year average = 52; range = 50-55). The number of Northern Harriers seen was 88, which is slightly above the 5-year average. Sharp-shinned Hawk counts remained very stable at 1,196 (5-year average = 1,089) while Cooper's Hawks dropped off slightly to 133 (5-year average = 148; high count in 2006 of 213) and Northern Goshawks were lower at 25 (5-year average = 36; high count in 2006 of 68). Red-shouldered Hawks hit an all-time high of 129, well above the 5-year

average of 75, while Broad-winged Hawks, which made up 62% of the total count, were noticeably down in numbers compared to the last three seasons with only 4,322 (5-year average = 6,101). The peak day this year was September 16, when we counted 2,042 Broad-winged Hawks (Table 1). Red-tailed Hawks had a fantastic year reaching an all-time high of 421, well above the 5-year average of 293. Those chilly late October and early November days can be great fun! Six Golden Eagles were seen this year, twice as many as last year and matching the 5-year average. American Kestrels had another poor showing and continue their decline in the East. Only 135 were counted all season (5-year average = 148), while Merlins were close to the average with 56 seen. How many years will it be before we see more Merlins than Kestrels? Peregrine Falcons bounced back after a down year last year; 30 were seen (5-year average = 26).

Table 1. Broad-winged Hawk fall migration totals and peak counts at Pack Monadnock, NH, and Little Round Top, NH, 2005-2009 from the Hawk Migration Association of North America's (HMANA) HawkCount.org database.

Year	Pack Monadnock			Little Round Top		
	BWHA total	Highest one-day count	Date of highest count	BWHA total	Highest one-day count	Date of highest count
2005	3,978	1,687	09/18	389	154	09/11
2006	7,595	3,044	09/11	1,928	1,176	09/16
2007	7,776	2,676	09/16	743	227	09/18
2008	6,835	2,424	09/18	3,125	1,523	09/17
2009	4,322	2,042	09/16	2,376	1,106	09/16

Carter Hill Observatory

2009 Official Counter: Robert Vallieres

Carter Hill Observatory logged 249 hours between September 2 and October 27 and counted 1,921 raptors. This is the second year for this count, which is organized by New Hampshire Audubon.

Osprey counts in 2008 and 2009 were identical at 38. Bald Eagles were fewer (18 in 2009; 28 in 2008). The Northern Harrier count tripled this year and reached 18. Sharp-shinned Hawk numbers more than doubled and climbed to 251, while the Cooper's Hawk count more than tripled at 175, and Northern Goshawk count hit 17 (there were only two in 2008). Red-shouldered Hawks were few (only 6) and the Broad-winged Hawk count dropped to 703 (1,904 in 2008). Red-tailed Hawks leapt to 83. In both years, a single Rough-legged Hawk was reported. The American Kestrel count of 88 was a major increase over 2008's tally of 33. Merlins also took a major leap from 17 to 48 and Peregrine Falcons went from 13 to 17.

Little Round Top Migration Observatory

2009 Official Counter: Susan Fogleman

Little Round Top in Bristol logged 151 hours between August 30 and September 23 and counted 2,865 raptors. The Osprey count was good this year with a total of 75 (5-year average = 50) and the Bald Eagle count was very high with 56 (5-year average = 36). Northern Harriers reached eight this year, which is well above the 5-year average of five.

Watchers counted 114 Sharp-shinned Hawks (5-year average = 92) and Cooper's Hawks made a good showing with 55 (nearly double the 5-year average of 29). Two Northern Goshawks and no Red-shouldered Hawks were seen (these species tend to migrate later in October). The Broad-winged Hawk count was good with 2,376, well above the 5-year average of 1,712 (Table 1), with a peak flight of 1,106 on September 16. Twenty-five Red-tail Hawks were tallied which is about average. American Kestrels had their best showing at this site for five years reaching 34 (5-year average = 24).

Pitcher Mountain

2009 Official Counter: Lance Tanino

The hardy crew at Pitcher Mountain in Stoddard logged 61.5 hours between November 1 and December 6 and counted 164 raptors. Lance also counted there in November and December 2008 and tallied 63 hawks in 18.75 hours of observation.

The major species this late in the year is Red-tailed Hawk. This year 116 were counted along with 2 Golden Eagles, 14 Bald Eagles, 4 Northern Harriers, 9 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 3 Northern Goshawks, 4 Red-shouldered Hawks, and 1 Merlin. Nice job Lance.

Table 2. Fall raptor migration monitoring data from the four NH sites with more than 20 hours of observations in 2009 from HMANA's HawkCount.org database.hrs. – observer hours

PACK MONADNOCK

	hrs.	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UR*	TOTAL
2009	420.75	80	182	51	88	1196	133	25	129	4322	421	0	6	135	56	30	109	6963
2008	432.75	47	256	50	87	1189	162	28	67	6835	254	0	3	183	59	17	37	9274
2007	410.25	121	291	53	121	1288	186	49	112	7776	263	0	5	143	90	44	82	10624
2006	379.25	99	257	55	77	1253	213	68	46	7595	407	0	11	201	48	29	76	10435
2005	326.00	29	219	52	24	520	47	11	23	3978	122	0	5	78	40	11	62	5221
5-year average	75	241	52	79	1089	148	36	75	6101	293	0	6	148	59	26	73	8503	

CARTER HILL

2009	249.00	233	38	18	18	251	175	17	6	703	83	1	0	57	48	17	256	1921
2008	202.50	310	38	28	6	125	56	2	3	1904	23	1	0	33	17	13	111	2670

LITTLE ROUND TOP

2009	151.00	23	75	56	8	114	55	2	0	2376	25	0	0	34	2	0	95	2865
2008	106.00	25	53	34	4	43	15	0	0	3125	15	0	1	14	1	0	51	3381
2007	123.50	21	46	39	4	118	41	1	0	743	19	0	0	31	4	3	71	1141
2006	100.00	9	39	25	2	123	22	1	0	1928	20	0	2	27	2	5	45	2250
2005	79.00	33	38	24	6	62	13	2	0	389	36	0	2	16	3	4	47	675
5-year average	22	50	36	5	92	29	1	0	1712	23	0	1	24	2	2	62	2062	

PITCHER MOUNTAIN

2009	61.25	3	0	14	4	9	0	3	4	0	116	0	2	0	1	0	8	164
2008	17.75	0	0	1	2	12	2	3	6	0	35	0	1	0	0	0	1	63

Key to Species Abbreviations in Table 3.

TV	Turkey Vulture (<i>Cathartes aura</i>)	BW	Broad-winged Hawk (<i>Buteo platypterus</i>)
OS	Osprey (<i>Pandion haliaeetus</i>)	RT	Red-tailed Hawk (<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>)
BE	Bald Eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)	GE	Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>)
NH	Northern Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>)	AK	American Kestrel (<i>Falco sparverius</i>)
SS	Sharp-shinned Hawk (<i>Accipiter striatus</i>)	ML	Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)
CH	Cooper's Hawk (<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>)	PG	Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)
NG	Northern Goshawk (<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>)	UR*	Unidentified Raptor – "unidentified accipiters, buteos, falcons, and eagles", combined with "unidentified raptors"
RS	Red-shouldered Hawk (<i>Buteo lineatus</i>)		

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Iain MacLeod is Executive Director of the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center in Holderness, NH and former Chairman of the Board of the Hawk Migration Association of North America. Iain has birded in New Hampshire for more than 20 years and is a member of the New Hampshire Bird Records Editorial Team. He lives in Ashland.

Spotlight on Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*)

by Michael Harvey

Background

Sabine's Gull is a unique species generally placed in its own genus, although it is distantly related to the Ivory Gull (*Pagophila eburnea*). A striking and elegant bird, this species is easily recognized in all plumages by its sharply contrasting, black-gray-and-white wing pattern. It breeds on moist tundra, but spends the remainder of the year at sea, primarily along the continental shelf edge.



Sabine's Gull by Jason Lambert, 7/20/09, Hampton Harbor, Hampton, NH.

Distribution

Sabine's Gull breeds at scattered locations in the circumpolar high arctic between 55°N and 75°N. The primary wintering grounds are in the Humboldt Current off western South America and the Benguela Current off southwestern Africa, and most first-year birds are traditionally thought to remain in these areas year-round. Migration is primarily offshore, although occasional records at inland localities suggest that some overland movement occurs (Howell and Dunn 2007).

Occurrence in New Hampshire

Sabine's Gull has been reported in New Hampshire on ten occasions since 1936 (Figure 1). The first record in 1968 was followed by a number of observations during the 1970s and 1980s, but a two-decade hiatus followed before three recent records in 2007 and 2009. Eight of the ten records are of single individuals observed between August 23 and October 7. Two of these were juveniles and the remainder were either adults or presumed adults, with no obvious difference in the timing of records between the two age groups. More unusual were two adults observed together in

Figure 1. Sabine’s Gull records by year in New Hampshire, 1936-2009. Data sources searched extend back to 1936, but there were no records prior to 1968.

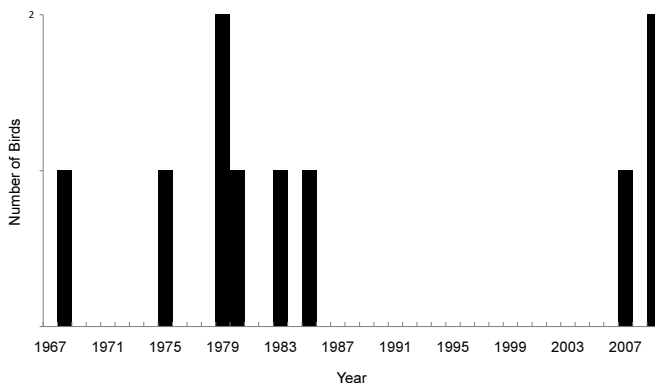
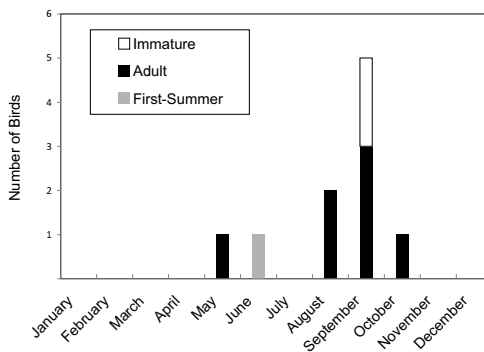


Figure 2. Sabine’s Gull records by month in New Hampshire, 1936-2009. Note that the first date of observation was used for the long-staying first-summer bird. Data sources searched extend back to 1936, but there were no records prior to 1969.



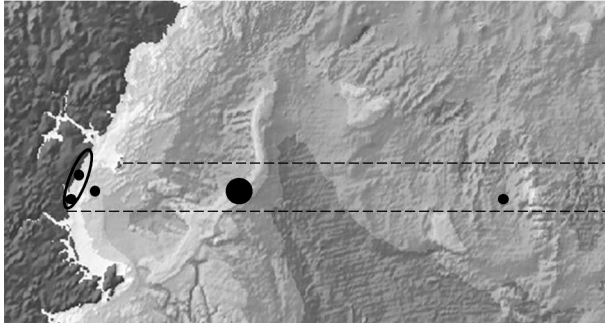
spring (May 18, 1980) and a long-staying first-summer bird present from June 26 through July 26, 2009 during the typical breeding period for this species. The latter bird was remarkable for its tendency to feed close to shore and roost on land at locations such as Hampton Harbor and Hampton Beach State Park; habits that allowed many birders to observe it during its stay. All New Hampshire records of Sabine’s Gull are from the seacoast or pelagic waters (Figure 2). Jeffreys Ledge, a submerged plateau about 25 miles off the New Hampshire coastline, has hosted five individuals, likely because whalewatches provide convenient access to this area during the peak of the Sabine’s Gull fall migration.

Comments

Consistent with the pattern in New Hampshire, most recent records of Sabine’s Gull on the East Coast are in fall, with peak migration occurring between August and mid-October, and smaller numbers as early as late July and as late as December. On average, adults occur earlier in fall than juveniles. Spring records, all from between late April and mid-June, are relatively few. Aside from the New Hampshire record listed previously, there appear to be very few regional records of over-summering birds, including a first-summer bird at Cape Cod, MA from July 1-25, 1993.

In New England, the vast majority of records are from coastal and pelagic areas of Massachusetts (over 150 records), with smaller numbers recorded in coastal Maine, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. Inland records are primarily from Vermont, where

Figure 3. Distribution of Sabine's Gull records in New Hampshire (an open oval is used for the wide-ranging first-summer bird in 2009, the large circle constitutes 5 records), 1936-2009.



lake-watching efforts on Lake Champlain have revealed that the species perhaps occurs there annually in small numbers. (*Field Notes* 1993-1998, *North American Birds* 1999-2007, Veit and Petersen 1993)

Given the pattern of observations in New Hampshire and the context provided by regional data, birders in search of Sabine's Gulls in the state should focus their effort on offshore areas between late August and early October. The easiest way to do this is by taking whalewatches to Jeffreys Ledge; however, getting further offshore to Cashes Ledge may be an even better bet. While less likely, future spring and summer records are a possibility as well. Observers inland should keep this species in the back of their minds as they search large bodies of water, particularly in early fall.

Data Sources

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

New Hampshire Bird Records and archives. circa 1963-2009. New Hampshire Audubon, Concord, NH.

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Where to Bird

Fall Migration on the Monadnock Region's Lakes and Ponds

by Phil Brown

While many birders are looking to the skies at migrating raptors passing south and leaf-peepers are admiring foliage along country roads, another autumn spectacle is occurring at close range, on the numerous lakes and ponds of the Monadnock Region. Migrant waterbirds pass from their breeding grounds across Canada and other northern areas to places south of New Hampshire, resting and feeding on lakes and ponds along the way. Away from the coast, the Connecticut River (and its surrounding water bodies) is the major north-south migration corridor for waterbirds in New Hampshire. Though fall migration for some of this group begins in July (shorebirds, seabirds), this article focuses primarily on fall migration of waterbirds, specifically, waterfowl through Cheshire County's lakes and ponds, roughly from October through December.

Tudor Richards may have been one of the first modern birders to recognize the Monadnock Region for its waterbirds. He once called Cheshire County "perhaps the best inland region of all (New Hampshire) for migratory water birds." During the 11 years that Tudor lived in the Monadnock Region, he documented 78 species of "waterbirds", i.e., waterfowl, grebes and loons, shorebirds, gulls and terns. Sixty of these were observed at Lake Wantastiquet in Hinsdale alone! Thanks to Eric Masterson and others, this stretch has recently been rediscovered as a rarity hotspot in both spring and fall. An updated 'Where to Bird' article about this location and other locations along the lower Connecticut River is in the works for a future issue.

Tudor also brought attention to Spofford Lake, which is now known as the other regional hotspot for waterbirds. It is, in fact, such a standout that the Keene Christmas Bird Count (CBC) circle, one of the original CBCs dating back to 1900, was shifted slightly westward in 1983 to include this waterbird hotspot. Even into early winter, this lake continues to be productive. On December 20, 2009, a single female Surf Scoter and two "count week" Red-breasted Mergansers were first records for the Keene CBC. Common Loon and often grebes, linger until freeze-up in December; Spofford is the waterfowl Mecca for late fall migrant waterfowl when most other lakes have frozen over.

Finding fall waterbirds, as with hawkwatching and other bird migrations, typically involves some strategy. Waterbirds often migrate ahead of approaching low-pressure systems from the north and west; however, they most often become "grounded" and are found on our lakes and ponds when a low-pressure system or nor'easter approaches from the south. Additionally, many waterbirds, as facultative migrants, move when food or ice conditions become unfavorable.

October is "Scoter Month"

While fall migration for many species of raptors, songbirds, and waterfowl peaks in October, Tudor noted that October is "scoter month, at least in a good scoter year."



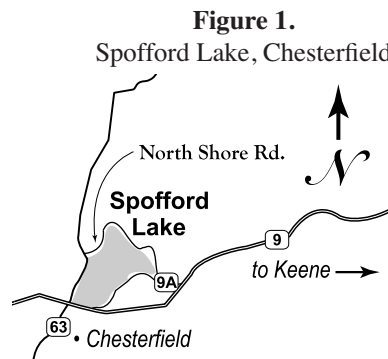
Three scoter species on Dublin Pond, 10/24/09 during a Monadnock Chapter field trip.
Photo by Kevin Klasman.

Scoter migration through the region has historically been best observed at Spofford Lake, and probably still is. Drawn partially from his experience at Spofford Lake, Tudor noted that Black Scoter was the most common of the three scoter species for inland New Hampshire during the fall migration followed by White-winged and then Surf Scoter. Each of the past few years, a modest number of scoter observations of single birds to large flocks have been observed in the Monadnock Region; however, scoter sightings were particularly widespread in 2009. On a New Hampshire Audubon Monadnock Chapter field trip on October 24, all three species were observed and photographed in a small flock on Dublin Pond. This was a spectacle that hadn't been documented since Gerald Thayer's day at the beginning of the last century when Surf Scoter was more expected throughout the region. During the same week, scoters were found on Wilson Pond in Swanze, Silver Lake in Harrisville, Granite Lake in Nelson, and even tiny 10-acre Taylor Pond in Stoddard. In addition, they were noted along the Connecticut River and flying over Pack Monadnock.

Guide to Monadnock Region's Fall Waterbird Hotspots

Public access is difficult or impossible at many of the area's lakes and ponds. Parking may be unavailable and views can be scarce at some lakes that are heavily developed. Boat launches and town beaches are the typical publicly accessible vantage points on some lakes; use courtesy when parking at these places, as you are sharing these areas with other users. Likewise, please be respectful of private property around water bodies.

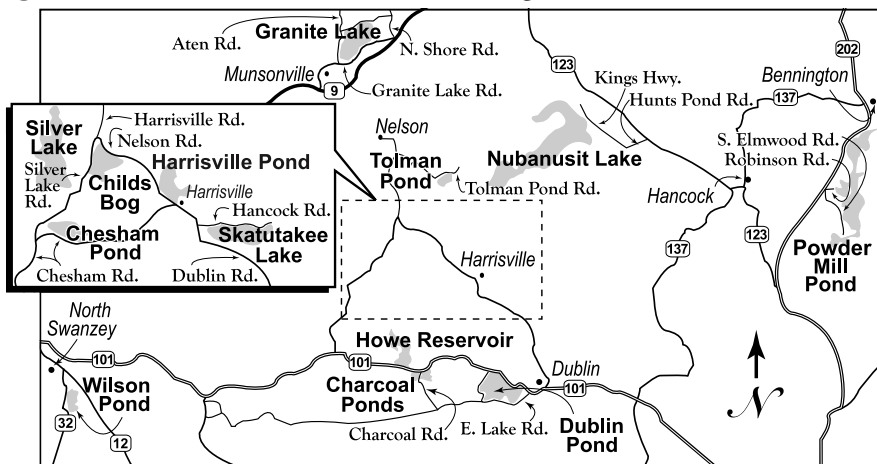
- 1) **Spofford Lake, Chesterfield** (Figure 1): Cheshire County's largest body of water at 732 acres, Spofford Lake is mainly surrounded by privately owned shoreline; however, this lake is probably the most productive of any in the county for waterbirds. The lake is best viewed from the Ware's Grove Public Beach and boat launch located along the southern shore on the western section of Route 9A near its junction with Route 9. From here, you'll also have great views of The Nature Conservancy's Pierce Island where Osprey, Bald Eagle, and Common Loon are frequently seen during breeding season. Depending upon the time of year, Merlin and other raptors can sometimes also be observed perched



on large white pines along its shoreline. Waterfowl and grebes are often scattered about the lake and wind conditions often dictate the shoreline along which they gather. Common and Hooded Mergansers are numerous in late fall into winter along the lake's southern and western edges. Red-necked, Horned, and Pied-billed Grebes are all seen here in small numbers annually between October and December. Diving ducks such as Bufflehead, Long-tailed Duck, and Common Goldeneye are usually also observed in this part of the lake. Stormy conditions can produce large flocks of scoters (up to 600!) and dozens of grebes. Another viewing access point is from the public beach located along North Shore Road. From here, the lake's expansive eastern end can be seen. Large groups of American Black Duck, Mallard, and the occasional odd dabbler are found in this part of the lake.

- 2) **Wilson Pond, Swanzey:** Though much smaller (73 acres) than Spofford Lake, this pond is another good bet for high waterbird numbers and diversity. The best viewing is from the southwestern part of the pond's shoreline at a beach-side parking lot along Route 32, directly across from the Dillant-Hopkins Airport. Species seen here over the past few falls have included Black and White-winged Scoters, Bufflehead, Green-winged Teal, and small groups of cormorants and Red-necked Grebe among the more common Mallard, American Black Duck, mergansers, and Wood Duck. When the pond is lowered, exposed mudflats may host Greater Yellowlegs. Great Blue Heron and small flocks of Least Sandpiper can generally be seen along the shoreline.
- 3) **Dublin Lake, Charcoal Ponds, and Howe Reservoir, Dublin:** East of Keene, some of the best-known locations for waterbirds in the Monadnock Region lie in Dublin. Dublin Lake, Howe Reservoir, and the Charcoal Ponds are conveniently located in close proximity to each other along Route 101 (Figure 2). Dublin Lake, at 236 acres, requires a scope and some caution should be used when parking along East Lake Road to scan its southern shoreline. From downtown Dublin, go west on Route 101 to a left turn on East Lake Road. Scan

Figure 2. Lakes and Ponds of the Monadnock Region



from the roadside view of the lake on the right after safely parking near the 90-degree bend in the road. Diving ducks such as scoters, scaup, and mergansers, as well as Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls, grebes, and Common Loon, are most often seen towards the middle of the lake, sometimes even into January. Along with the more common gull species, Bonaparte's Gull has historically appeared on Dublin Lake in October. In 1956, Dublin birder Tom Warren added Little Blue Heron to the long list of waterbirds observed here. For the Charcoal Ponds, continue west along Route 101 for about 2 miles to a small, gravel parking lot on the left (south) just to the west of Charcoal Road. In fall, particularly after water levels in the ponds are lowered, large groups of Common and Hooded Mergansers join the more regular Mallard and American Black Duck to feed. A scope is necessary to scan most of 117-acre Howe Reservoir, which you can view from a wide pull off on the southern side of Route 101 just west of the Charcoal Pond parking area. Over 100 Common Merganser are sometimes observed feeding on Howe Reservoir during draw-down in November. One can enjoy good, close looks of the mergansers here and also Great Blue Heron, Belted Kingfisher, Herring and Ring-billed Gulls, and the occasional Great Egret or Greater Yellowlegs.

- 4) **Nubanusit Lake, Nelson and Hancock:** At 718 acres, "Nubie" may host waterbird congregations similar to other area lakes, but reports are few probably because there are only two good access points at opposite ends of this long lake. The Hancock boat launch site is the traditional eagle viewing area, providing a distant look (scope required) at an active Bald Eagle nest near the northern tip of the lake. To reach this site from Hancock, take Route 123 north to a left turn on Hunt's Pond Road, following signs to the Harris Center for Conservation Education (Figure 2). Bear right where the road becomes Kings Highway and continue to its end, where the boat ramp is down a short road on the left. In addition to eagles, scan for Red-necked Grebe (reported regularly in fall), Common Loon, American Black Duck, and mergansers. Caspian Tern was recorded here in October of 1953 and Great Cormorant can be found, so this lake is worth checking thoroughly during fall. The Nelson side, at the other end of the lake, is much more remote and less of the lake is visible, but boat traffic is far less for those who wish to paddle out beyond the reach of their optics.
- 5) **Granite Lake, Nelson and Stoddard:** Granite Lake, at 232 acres, has been a reliable place for scoter fallouts and small numbers of other waterbirds, including both Red-necked and Pied-billed Grebes, over the past few years. Viewing the entire lake is done best from the boat launch along Granite Lake Road near the lake's southwestern corner; however, roadside viewing from this road is your best bet for most of the waterfowl that are usually near the pond's eastern shore or around the forested island along the lake's eastern shore. A group of 200 Black Scoters was observed here by lake residents Keith and Roberta Gordon in October of 2008. Roadside parking and scanning is also possible along North Shore Road near the junction of Aten Road on the pond's northeast corner. Granite Lake Road can be reached by driving west from the junction of Routes 9 and 123 South in Stoddard (Figure 2).

- 6) **Powder Mill Pond, Hancock, Bennington, and Greenfield:** Powder Mill Pond, a dammed portion of the Contoocook River in bordering Hillsborough County, is a perennial favorite for waterfowl diversity and congregations. Many birders have contributed sightings from this pond, particularly Don and Lillian Stokes who reside on the pond. Parts of the pond can be viewed from two known hotspots, a roadside pull off in Bennington on the west side of Route 202 north of the junction of Route 137, and a small, historic spot known as “Elmwood Junction” in Hancock (Figure 2). Dabblers such as Mallard, American Black Duck, Canada Goose, and Wood Duck are expected on all parts of the pond, as well as Double-crested Cormorant and numbers of diving ducks such as Hooded and Common Merganser. In addition, look for Bufflehead and Lesser Scaup. To reach Elmwood Junction from the roadside pull off mentioned above, follow Route 202 south to a left turn at South Elmwood Road. Take an immediate left onto Robinson Road and follow this road to a small parking spot at the end, where an old railroad abutment provides views of a marshy inlet. Search for Pied-billed Grebe during October among the more common dabblers and divers. Earlier in fall, Black Tern has been observed feeding over the pond and an occasional Great Egret. Both Black and White-winged Scoters are sometimes observed flying over the pond during October.
- 7) **Harrisville/Nelson lakes and ponds:** Historic Harrisville may be worth a visit for more than just scenic beauty during foliage season. A cluster of medium-sized lakes and ponds (Figure 2 Inset) makes the area attractive to migrant waterfowl. The largest of these, 346-acre Silver Lake, hosted two Long-tailed Ducks on October 26, 2008 and concentrations of American Black Duck, Mallard, and Wood Duck (50+) can be impressive. Skatutakee Lake is a productive stop – a highlight here was a female Northern Pintail on November 21, 2008. Childs Bog, Chesham Pond, and Harrisville Pond all lie within close proximity to each other and can be birded by walking the roads from safe pull offs near each. Pied-billed Grebe was recorded on Harrisville Pond on October 26, 2008 and three Ring-necked Ducks were noted here that November. The highlight waterbird spot of this area, however, may be Tolman Pond in bordering Nelson. During fall of 2008, up to 101 Ring-necked Ducks were observed here, along with two Greater Scaup and six other species of waterfowl. Parking and viewing for this small pond is confined to the roadside of Tolman Pond Road along the pond’s north shore.
- 8) **Other favorite locations for waterbirds:** At Otter Brook Reservoir in Roxbury, Surry Lake in Surry, Swanzey Lake in Swanzey, and Willard Pond in Antrim, fish-eaters like mergansers, loons, and cormorants are observed in fall. Surry Mountain Lake (aka Surry Lake), in particular, has traditionally hosted a great number of waterbirds during spring, and lesser numbers in fall (see *New Hampshire Bird Records* Spring 2007 article by Lance Tanino “Spring Birding in Southwestern New Hampshire: Swanzey, Keene, and Surry”).

Fall Waterbird Survey: In the fall of 2008, following the footsteps of Tudor, a small group of volunteers counted waterfowl on Monadnock Region lakes and ponds. Eighteen volunteers counted waterfowl during each of four organized survey periods

between late October and late November. We found a total of 14 species of waterfowl, not a bad list for inland New Hampshire. Possibly the most interesting find was the “discovery” of Nelson’s Tolman Pond as the Ring-necked Duck stopover site in the Monadnock Region. It wasn’t until talking to Barry Tolman, while scanning the pond from his property, that I realized this spectacle was a regular seasonal phenomenon at this small, remote pond. This was just one example of the many voids existing in the knowledge of bird distribution that wait to be discovered by the birding and conservation communities.

The Black Holes: There are many unknowns and potential hotspots, “black holes” of bird data, which have yet to be discovered. In Cheshire County, these may include some of Stoddard’s larger lakes and ponds; Robb Reservoir (97 acres), Island Pond (179 acres) and the county’s second largest lake, Highland Lake (696 acres). Some of these are close to main roads, but public access and remoteness may be problematic. Undoubtedly, more hotspots lie in southern Cheshire County among the numerous lakes and ponds of Rindge, Fitzwilliam, and Jaffrey. From sampling just a handful of these sites in the 2008 Fall Waterbird Survey, it was clear that choice waterbird habitat exists. For example, in October of 2008, shallow Crawford (Crowcroft) Pond in Rindge hosted a sampling of 14 Wood Duck, 14 American Black Duck, and three of only four Green-winged Teal recorded during the entire waterbird survey. Surely, there are far more of this numerous species, and many others, which pass through Cheshire County unreported or unobserved. The 2008 Fall Waterbird Survey covered only 47 lakes and ponds, in an 18-town focus area, of the hundreds of water bodies that exist across vast Cheshire County. Lessons learned from the survey highlight the importance of talking to your neighbors, getting off the beaten track, and utilizing the birding community to increase coverage and bird reporting. In the spirit of Tudor Richards, you might be motivated to fill the voids that certainly exist in your county, town, or own backyard!

Special thanks to all the birders, and especially Tudor Richards, who have shared and contributed to the growing knowledge about waterbirds within the Monadnock Region.

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Phil Brown is completing a Master’s Degree from Antioch University New England in Conservation Biology, where his focus is spring-migrating waterfowl of the Middle Connecticut River Important Bird Area in NH and VT. A resident of the Monadnock Region, he enjoys leading field trips in search of birds and exploring natural areas around the state. Phil works as Sanctuaries Manager for New Hampshire Audubon, where he was lucky enough to have known Tudor Richards.

Photo Gallery

Stranded on the Flats with a Godwit — Should I invest in a longer lens or a kayak?

by Len Medlock



Hudsonian Godwit on the Hampton Harbor flats. While I was photographing, I noticed how the blue added nice background color to the photo, but gave little thought that I'd be crossing the "blue" to keep my expensive gear dry. Photo by Len Medlock, 8/3/09.

After work, I visited Seabrook harbor to see what was cooking and to my delight spotted a Hudsonian Godwit foraging on the flats. I thought I would try my luck at snapping a few photos of that gorgeous bird. An experienced clammer, I can usually judge how quickly the tide comes in and how long I have until I'm treading a little water on the return but not this time.

After sloggng through the flats with its quicksand-like consistency, I finally reached the godwit (at the farthest flat, of course) and began to crawl toward it; keeping a safe distance so as not to disturb it. Suddenly, a young Great Black-backed Gull landed right near it and "barked" loudly, scattering it and surrounding peeps into the air toward the marsh and out of sight! Slightly displeased, I hung my head and started making the long journey back. I almost reached drier land when I noticed that the bird had returned, at the same spot! So, back out I went, crawling over shards of broken clam and mussel shells, their sharp ends digging into my exposed flesh, all for the chance of photographing this handsome bird. For its part, the bird watched me curiously at first, and then began to preen and pay little attention to me. Having reached an acceptable distance, with my target in sight, I raised my camera slowly and pressed the shutter release. My attention was now fully engaged at the beauty before my eyes, as if the bird had me in a trance, and lowering my camera I stopped to admire the godwit.

I'll open this paragraph with a short anecdote. You know how you hit the "snooze" button on your alarm to catch a few desired winks, and then startle yourself awake, shocked to discover that you overslept 40 minutes? Well, I hit snooze and kept on napping. My memory card full, I stretched slowly to my knees to admire the bird in the setting sun, when to my extreme horror I discovered that the tide had reached my camera bag, that water surrounded me, and that I could see a deep channel appearing between me and dry land.

I tossed the camera in the bag, bid the bird good-bye, and ran with blinding celerity through two feet of water to dry land. It is at this moment that I discovered that I left my hat at the godwit site! Placing the camera bag down on dry flats (at the time), I ran back to the godwit site—the water level is now about two-plus feet—and retrieved my hat. By the time I reached my gear, the tide was rapidly engulfing nearly every dry spot and my walk through now three-plus feet of water to dry land had nearly drained every ounce of energy from me. Now I'm wondering what I'll have to endure to photograph an oystercatcher...

Len Medlock is a birder and clammer who occasionally places himself in precarious situations to see and photograph birdlife in New Hampshire.



Len Medlock and Jason Lambert photographing a Common Murre, by Steve Mirick, 10/31/09, Rye Harbor, NH.



Common Murre in Rye Harbor, by Leonard Medlock, 10/31/09, Rye, NH.



Len Medlock photographs a phalarope, by Eric Masterson, 8/5/09, Plaice Cove, Hampton, NH.



Red-necked Phalarope by Leonard Medlock, 8/5/09, Plaice Cove, Hampton, NH.

Fall Departure Dates for Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*) and Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*)

by Robert A. Quinn

In the Fall of 2009, lingering Solitary Sandpipers sparked questions about the normal departure dates for that species, as well as for the similar Spotted Sandpiper. As birders, we frequently think of Solitary and Spotted Sandpipers as kin species; however, are they really that similar in their ecology and behavior (including migration dates)?

Similarities. Both Solitary and Spotted Sandpipers are widespread throughout most of North America and can usually be found anywhere in New Hampshire, at least during migration. They are roughly similar in size and structure and have similar vocalizations. They also are both approachable and therefore, easy to see in the field. They both migrate at night and can sometimes be heard calling as they pass overhead.

Differences. The Solitary Sandpiper is in the genus *Tringa* and the Spotted Sandpiper is in the genus *Actitis*. The fall concentration sites for the two species in New Hampshire are different. The Spotted Sandpiper is reported mostly from along major rivers such as the Merrimack and the Connecticut and also from White and Seavey Islands at the Isles of Shoals. The Solitary Sandpiper can be found in almost any small puddle and beaver pond throughout the state. However, note in the tables below that the latest Spotted Sandpipers seem to be partial to wastewater treatment plants.

Breeding. The Spotted Sandpiper has nested in every county in the Granite State. It can be found nesting in suitable habitat (on the ground) almost anywhere. Throughout North America it is described as “Our most widespread breeding shorebird. It nests from Alaska to California and Labrador to North Carolina.” (O’Brien, et al. 2006). It nests much farther south than the Solitary Sandpiper and also significantly farther north (ibid).

Solitary Sandpiper does not nest in New Hampshire, breeding to the north in the boreal forest across Canada and Alaska. Uniquely, it is the only North American sandpiper known to nest in trees, using abandoned passerine nests! Early New Hampshire ornithologists suspected that it might nest here because spring migrants can linger into early June and many fall migrants can arrive in early July. The earliest recorded date for a fall migrant is July 2, 1995 in Littleton, so you can understand why the early field observers might have suspected local nesting.



Solitary Sandpiper in fall plumage, by Leonard Medlock, 9/11/09, Exeter wastewater treatment plant, NH.

Fall migration and departure from New Hampshire. The Spotted Sandpiper is a widespread breeder in New Hampshire, and it is hard to detect when fall migrants start to filter through the state. The data indicates a pulse of birds in July and the first two weeks of August that probably represents fledged families as well as some migrants. The high numbers of August are gone by the end of the month and it is most unusual to see more than a handful of birds after September 1. Single Spotted Sandpipers are routinely seen through the end of October and the latest dates are in November, although there is one December record (Table 1).

Table 1. Latest departure dates for Spotted Sandpiper in New Hampshire based on data from a complete search of 1986-2008 records and a partial search of 1951-1985 records (see Data Sources).

The first southbound migrant Solitary Sandpipers arrive in early July and by mid-July they can be rather common. The largest tallies seem to occur between late July

Date	Number of birds	Town	Location	Notes
December 8, 1973	1	Concord		
November 28, 1998	1	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	juvenile
November 23, 1993	1	Laconia	Bartlett Beach	
November 18, 2002	1	Exeter	WWTP	
November 15, 2001	1	Sandwich	Squam Lake	
November 14, 1982	1	Dover	Bellamy River	
November 10, 2007	1	Exeter	WWTP	
November 9, 1980	2	Hampton		
November 8, 2005	1	Rochester	WWTP	
November 7, 2007	1	Rochester	WWTP	
November 7, 1999	1	Exeter	WWTP	
November 1, 2008	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	
November 1, 2007	1	Exeter	WWTP	
November 1, 1973	1	Exeter		

and mid-August, peaking a bit earlier than the highest numbers of Spotted Sandpiper. Similar to the Spotted Sandpiper, it is most unusual to see more than a handful of Solitary Sandpipers after September 1. Small numbers are routinely seen into October and the usual departure dates are in that month. There are two November records. The two birds that lingered this fall, generating the discussion that led to this article, were last seen on October 27, 2009. You can see where they fit into the late date records in Table 2.

Comments. As is the case with so many birds, these two species are fascinating when you begin to look into their life histories. Their departure dates are fun to track, but it is the amazing details of their incredible migrations and their intriguing breeding behaviors that truly impress this birder.

Here are just a few fun facts that I discovered while researching this article. Many Spotted Sandpipers make a direct oceanic migration from New England to South America, where it is the most easily seen “North American” shorebird during the winter months. As with the phalaropes, the Spotted Sandpiper practices role reversal dur-

Table 2. Latest departure dates for Solitary Sandpiper in New Hampshire based on data from a complete search of 1986-2008 records and a partial search of 1951-1985 records (see Data Sources).

Date	Number of birds	Town	Location	Notes
November 10, 1975	1	New Hampton	Fish hatchery	“very late” ed.
November 7, 1969	1	Rye		
October 31, 1969	1	Hollis		“with Pectoral”
October 30, 2007	1	Concord	Turtle Pond	
October 30, 1965	1	Charlestown		
October 29, 1999	1	Franconia	Echo Lake	
October 27, 1956	1	Andover		
October 26, 1991	1	Durham	Adam’s Point	
October 26, 1986	1	Wilmot	Chase Pond	
October 26, 1967	1	Monroe		
October 23, 2004	1	Raymond	Norton Pond	
October 21, 1959	1	Littleton		
October 20, 2007	1	Hampton	Lamprey Pond	
October 18, 2007	1	Brentwood	Deer Hill WMA	
October 18, 1964	1	Lee		

ing the breeding season when “The male becomes attached to a nest site, while a female may subsequently mate with as many as four other males within her territory...” (Foss 1994).

Both species forage during the day but only the Solitary Sandpiper also forages at night. The Solitary Sandpiper routinely wades in water up to its belly while a foraging Spotted Sandpiper almost totally avoids water that deep.

Fun quotes. I would like to close with two quotes from about 100 years ago. These quotes will give you the flavor of old-time ornithology plus, in the case of William Brewster at Lake Umbagog, some amazing records of numbers of birds.

Charles F. Goodhue (1922) on the **Solitary Sandpiper**: “They are not so over-burdened with politeness as their Spotted relatives and do not think it necessary to bow and courtesy (sic) at every opportunity.” Goodhue on the **Spotted Sandpiper**: “I once saw a male trying to woo his lady love, she seemed rather indifferent to his advances. The would be wooer drew in his neck until his bill rested on his breast and with erect wide spread tail and dragging wings he strutted and wheeled before the coy female like a miniature turkey gobbler. He was the most ridiculous bit of pomposity and self conceit I ever saw and from her actions I think the female thought so too.”

William Brewster (1938) on the **Solitary Sandpiper** at Lake Umbagog: “On August 2, 1873, I saw fully one hundred along the Androscoggin River between the Lake and Errol Dam and almost as many more, a few hours later, while going up the Magalloway River some seven or eight miles.” “Here as elsewhere they prefer, to all other haunts, rather narrow stretches of very soft, if not semiliquid (sic), mud quite barren of vegetation, but closely approached on the one hand by lines of trees or bushes, living or dead, and bordered on the other by shallow tepid water into which

they love to wade up to their bellies.” Brewster goes on and on at great length about all species at Umbagog, four full pages just for the Solitary Sandpiper! These two books are hard to come by (Goodhue was never published and Brewster is long out of print) but are a wealth of information and a joy to read.

I hope this whets your appetite to delve deeper into the ecology and behavior of our common species of birds and to perhaps explore the old literature too.

Data Sources

The following data sources were searched for late sighting records of Solitary and Spotted Sandpipers. Not all records presented here have been reviewed by the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee. The data search for this article was not exhaustive but the data presented is representative for the two species. Those sources which were thoroughly searched are noted with a *.

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

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

New Hampshire Bird Records archives, circa 1963-1975 for Solitary Sandpiper. New Hampshire Audubon, Concord, New Hampshire*.

New Hampshire Bird Records, 1986-2008. New Hampshire Audubon, Concord, New Hampshire*.

I also reviewed a card catalogue of bird record citations at New Hampshire Audubon (informally called “The Hanover Project”). Specific sources obtained from these citations are listed individually in References. Historical sightings should be viewed in context of the number of active birders and the accessibility of the data.

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Bob Quinn is a native of New Hampshire who has birded throughout 49 states since 1972. He worked for New Hampshire Audubon for nine years and continues as an active volunteer. With his business, Merlin Enterprises, he has led dozens of field trips throughout the world. He was summer editor for New Hampshire Bird Records, and has a keen interest in breeding birds in New Hampshire. Contact him at raqbirds@aol.com.

Volunteers and Research

Surreal and Silent Migrants Monitoring Common Nighthawk Migration in New Hampshire

by Lance Tanino

It was late August 2007 on a typical warm humid late afternoon in Keene, with a threatening thunderstorm approaching slowly from the northwest. After playing tour guide for my family visiting from Hawaii, I decided to try my luck looking for nighthawks on Court Street. I wasn't very familiar with Common Nighthawks, just enough to know they migrate during that time of year. After not more than ten minutes of walking around the softball fields, I saw a nighthawk overhead flying due south effortlessly flapping its wings. Soon after that another nighthawk appeared. Then another and another flew on a level plane stretched out horizontally in a line. More and more low-flying nighthawks kept appearing, so I drafted my sister to help record numbers as I called them out to her. After five minutes, I wondered whether this continuous flock would ever end. It took another five minutes to reach a total count of 733 nighthawks, all flying low just in front of the approaching thunderstorm. Since that moment I've been hooked on nighthawk migration.

In 2003, Hank Norwood and Jeff Slovin started systematic nighthawk fall migration surveys in the Sudbury-Assabet-Concord River Valley area of Massachusetts. They developed a computerized system allowing real-time data reporting and analyses from various observation points. This user-friendly data entry system can be accessed through the "SuAsCo/Nashua River & Beyond Nighthawk Survey" Web site at www.borobirding.net/nighthawks. Only a few basic observation data are needed: location, time, number of nighthawks, migrating/feeding, and direction of flight. Over the past several years, the survey area has expanded to include the Nashua River, the Merrimack and Connecticut River basins in Massachusetts (upper two-thirds of the state) and New Hampshire (lower one-third of the state) covering approximately 3,300 square miles.

Keene nighthawk observers have entered their migration data into the SuAsCo/Nashua River & Beyond Nighthawk Survey and in 2009 and took the top spot for the highest recorded total for a regional township (multiple sites) with 1,731 nighthawks. It also had the second highest total from a single observation site at the north end of Court Street.

The annual nighthawk watch at the legislative parking garage in Concord also started in a similar way. Two years ago, Bob Quinn, Phil Brown, Pam Hunt, Mark Suomala, and Rob Woodward went up to the garage one evening and saw 700 migrating nighthawks in a single flock. The following night others spotted a flock of 300 nighthawks along the Merrimack River in Concord. Since then, Rob has organized a nighthawk watch during peak migration in late August from the parking garage.

In 2009, Concord, as a township, took second place to Keene with 789 nighthawks. The parking lot location, however, placed first as the best observation site in New Hampshire and Massachusetts for seeing large numbers.

Hancock has also been a nighthawk migration hotspot in recent years. This has been based in large part at Don and Lillian Stokes' backyard along the Contoocook River. Interestingly, the river flows north and migration also appears to occur in the same direction (L. Stokes, pers. comm.). Do nighthawks follow the flow of rivers? Are nighthawks searching for flying insects when they are observed flying north? There are many basic questions about nighthawk migration still left unanswered.

The sightings in Keene, Concord, and Hancock raise an even larger, overriding question: Are large flocks of nighthawks being missed elsewhere in New Hampshire? It seems clear that we need more monitoring locations to get a better overall picture and to answer basic questions about nighthawk migration as they descend through New Hampshire from their major breeding grounds in Canada in August and September.

Nighthawk migration watching has important ecological implications, as Common Nighthawks are rapidly declining in much of the Northeast including New Hampshire, where they are now listed as an endangered species. When you locate a good vantage point, binoculars are usually all you need, although sometimes a field scope is useful. Being an expert birder is not required. Nighthawks are large and distinctive enough for beginners to learn how to identify them quickly. Their relatively low flight makes even naked-eye observations possible. Peak migration, when large flocks are usually seen, occurs during a very small window between mid-August and early September. In the first week of September 2009, I thought I had missed the peak migration; instead, the nighthawks were late compared to the previous year. This shows the importance of watching every night from the same location during a set period of time every year for systematic nighthawk observations to be valuable, much as the technique is used for hawkwatching. Currently, we may not be able to use nighthawk migration data to measure populations, but we might be able to learn the routes they follow in New Hampshire.

Although it's not guaranteed, you may have a similar experience to mine from this past fall when I walked into a large flock, less than a hundred feet in front of me and just a few feet above the ground, feeding on flying insects with their mouths agape in their silent manner. I hope that you will report your sightings to www.borobirding.net/nighthawks and New Hampshire eBird so we can all do our part to help better understand nighthawk migration in New Hampshire and the Northeast. Maybe you, too, will have one of those ultimate surreal birding experiences with Common Nighthawk migration.

References

- Norwood, H. and J. Slovin. November 9, 2009. Background information on nighthawk migration. <http://www.borobirding.net/nighthawks/>
- Norwood, H. and J. Slovin. 2009. 2009 Nighthawk Final Report. http://www.borobirding.net/nighthawks/reports/2009_Nighthawk_Survey_Final_Report.html

Thanks to the following for their helpful suggestions on previous drafts: Phil Brown, Peter Davenport, Hank Norwood, and Becky Suomala.

Lance Tanino has been an active birder in Keene and citizen science participant for the past 25 years. He has been active with New Hampshire Audubon's Pack Monadnock Raptor Migration Observatory as well as reviving a hawkwatch site at Pitcher Mountain in Stoddard for the Monadnock Chapter.

Tudor Richards and the Fall of 2009 – The Continuing Legacy of a Remarkable Birder

by Robert A. Quinn

This is the third in the series of articles about Tudor Richards for the 2009 issues of New Hampshire Bird Records sponsored in his memory. This article focuses on those aspects of his birding that are connected to the fall season as suggested by some of the events during the fall of 2009. The articles by Tudor Richards on Inland Waterbirds referred to below appeared in the New Hampshire Audubon Quarterly (Vol. 25 #2, #3; 26 #1; 27 #4).

Tudor was keenly interested in the inland migration of waterbirds in New Hampshire and in this article I will focus on that phenomenon, with particular emphasis on scoters and shorebirds (sandpipers and plovers). His pioneering efforts are significant to birders and birds today because he was the first birder to regularly check on such popular sites as Powwow Pond, the Lake Umbagog region, the Connecticut Lakes region, Turkey Pond, Lake Wantastiquet and many other sites in Cheshire County, and what is now the Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge. He also birded the Lakes Region, a part of the state that is currently under-birded. He found his share of rarities and there are many lessons to be learned from him.



Tudor Richards during a boat trip on October 28, 2005 celebrating his 70th year on Lake Umbagog. Thanks to Barry Kelley of Berlin for the boat ride. A Black Scoter drake photographed on this same trip appears on the back cover. Photo by Robert A. Quinn.

Early Fall Migrants

As most of you are aware, the “fall” migration is well underway in July and in some cases there are apparent “fall” migrants recorded in late June (especially some of the shorebirds such as both species of yellowlegs, Whimbrel, and Short-billed Dowitcher). Many of these June birds are assumed to be either non-breeders or perhaps failed nesters that are headed south early. For the numerous July migrants, just check any recent summer season of *New Hampshire Bird Records* (NHBR).

Tudor was well aware of this phenomenon and consequently one of the most memorable Concord birding events began in July 1982 when the water of Turkey Pond, located behind Audubon House (now the McLane Center), was drawn down to repair the dam. Tudor went down for a look and on his first visit, July 28, 1982, he saw nine Solitary Sandpipers and several each of Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers. He really hit the jackpot two days later when on July 30, he saw 1 Semipalmated Plover, 1 Pectoral Sand-

piper, 1 Greater Yellowlegs, 10 Lesser Yellowlegs, and 2 Stilt Sandpipers in breeding plumage. Stilt Sandpiper is a very rare bird for Concord and July 30 is a very early record for the state as a whole. That was only the beginning of a veritable flood of migrants at Turkey Pond that fall. There were many noteworthy records and I have put the most significant data in Table 1.

This 1982 bonanza really opened my eyes to the number and variety of migrant shorebirds that pass over and through Concord and it has been a treat to see what each year brings. The larger point is that Tudor taught many of us to make the effort, to take a second look, to discover, and to add to the records and knowledge of our local birds and of New Hampshire as a whole.

Waterfowl in General and Inland Scoters in Particular

Tudor's fascination with inland waterbirds was triggered on September 8, 1934, when, during a Nor'easter, he saw five White-winged Scoters and 13 Common Terns from his family's camp on Squam Lake. Tudor eventually became particularly intrigued with the inland scoter migration, as he made eminently clear in an (unpublished) article he wrote, titled "The Enjoyment of Watching Migrant Scoters on New Hampshire's Inland Waters."

Table 1. Significant records during the draw-down of Turkey Pond in Concord, Fall 1982, from *New Hampshire Bird Records* Vol. 1, No. 3, except as noted. The table begins with shorebird observations, as they are the most significant.

Species	Maximum number	Date	Notes
Black-bellied Plover	1	Sept 16	
American Golden Plover	6	Sept 6	
Semipalmated Plover	8	Aug 26	
Lesser Yellowlegs	10 (each date)	July 30 and Sept 16	
Solitary Sandpiper	9	July 28	One taken by a Northern Harrier
Sanderling	1	Sept 15	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	11	Sept 14	
Least Sandpiper	50+	Aug 20	
White-rumped Sandpiper	3	Sept 14	
Baird's Sandpiper	1	Aug 31	
Pectoral Sandpiper	10 (each date)	Sept 20 and Oct 5	
Dunlin	4	Sept 24	
Stilt Sandpiper	2 and 1	July 30 and Sept 29	Breeding plumage
Short-billed Dowitcher	1	Aug 9	
Red Phalarope	2	Sept 16	Partial breeding plumage
Blue-winged Teal	"25 or so"	fall	
Green-winged Teal	"nearly 100"	Oct 4	
American Wigeon	3	Sept 4	
Glossy Ibis	1	Aug 30	
Double-crested Cormorant	10	Sept 18	RA Quinn personal record

This detailed and engaging article includes marvelous excerpts about scoters from William Brewster's book on the birds of the Lake Umbagog region. For example, Brewster recorded "at least a thousand" scoters from Lake Umbagog in October 1889. It is easy to understand how writings like Brewster's could fire Tudor's imagination and interest in scoters. (Watch for a future NHBR article with much more detail about scoters, Tudor, Brewster, and others.) Tudor himself saw a flock of between 600-750 scoters on Spofford Lake in October 1957, apparently the largest number of inland scoters besides Brewster's record. In Tudor's comments on the Spofford Lake flock, he says:

"There was a constant milling about, with large numbers suddenly rushing in one direction on a broad front...On the water counter-rotating circles seemed to be a common pattern."

These unexplained behaviors (crowding and counter-rotating circles) were commented on in the fall of 2009 by Jim Berry and others on the NH.Birds e-mail list.

More recent scoter fallouts have occurred, especially in 1995 when, quoting Steve Mirick, the Fall Editor of NHBR,

"...the state's largest fallout of Black Scoters occurred: close to 2,000 birds were counted on 17 different inland lakes and ponds across the central and northern parts of the state." (*New Hampshire Bird Records* Vol. 14 No. 3, p. 7)

Steve has also commented on the inland scoter flights in almost every fall season between 1990 and 2008. In recent years, Eric Masterson and others have shown that Lake Massabesic in southeastern New Hampshire is a significant resting stop for scoters and other waterbirds on their way to the coast. Two huge coastal flights of scoters recorded by Steve and Jane Mirick on October 28, 2006 (8,000 birds) and October 7, 2007 (4,000 birds) are also worth mentioning.

Now we will move on to other species of waterfowl. A relatively new phenomenon is the huge concentrations of Common Mergansers on Lake Umbagog just before the lake freezes. From 1996 to 1998, there were flocks of 1,000-2,000 Common Mergansers noted in the fall issues *New Hampshire Bird Records*. Timing and geography can mean everything to birding; the absence of large flocks of mergansers reported from Lake Umbagog since 1998 has more to do with fewer birders being there at the right time than the actual lack of birds.

To wrap up this section on waterbirds, I have compiled a comparison of Tudor's data from Cheshire County during a day in late fall with data from a similar survey conducted 46 years later by Phil Brown and others in 2009 (Table 2). Tudor described the 1963 data as "...very good variety...on a stormy October 29, 1963 at three different locations in Cheshire County." The three locations were Dublin Lake (a.k.a. Dublin Pond), Spofford Lake and Lake Wantastiquet.

These data are certainly not intended to be any kind of scientific comparison; it is just fun to look at the records and speculate a little bit about the differences and similarities. In 1963, Richards' records of most significance were the large numbers of Red-throated Loon and both species of grebes, plus a few more uncommon species such as Brant, Long-tailed Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, and Ruddy Duck. The data reinforces what we seem to know about the recent increases in the Common Loon, Canada Goose, Mallard, and Ring-necked Duck and likely also for the Wood Duck and Hooded Merganser. Speculation aside it is just fun to look at "snap shots" like these.

Table 2. Comparison of waterfowl totals in Cheshire County on a stormy October 29, 1963 (3 locations) with those on a stormy October 24, 2009 (16 locations). The 1963 data is compiled from *Inland Water Birds of New Hampshire-Part IV* by Tudor Richards, *New Hampshire Audubon Quarterly*, Vol. 27, No.4 (Fall 1974). The 2009 sightings by Phil Brown and other observers were taken from the NH.Birds list. Totals from Dublin Pond/Lake are broken out separately for comparison at that location. The table follows the taxonomic order of 1963.

Species	Totals in 1963	Totals in 2009	Dublin Lake 1963	Dublin Lake 2009
Canada Goose	zero	8		
Brant	1	zero	1	
Wood Duck	zero	13		
American Wigeon	1	zero		
American Black Duck	2	4		
Mallard	zero	132		
Green-winged Teal	2	zero		
Ring-necked Duck	1	81		
Scaup species	2 + 15?	zero		
Surf Scoter	21	2		2
White-winged Scoter	1	6		6
Black Scoter	16	4	1	2
Scoter species	15	zero		
Long-tailed Duck	6	zero	4	
Bufflehead	11	zero	9	
Common Goldeneye	5	zero	4	
Hooded Merganser	zero	10		
Common Merganser	zero	7		
Red-breasted Merganser	4	zero	4	
Merganser species	17	zero		
Ruddy Duck	11	zero		
Red-throated Loon	6	zero		
Common Loon	1	4+		
Horned Grebe	81+	zero	30+	
Red-necked Grebe	16	zero		
Double-crested Cormorant		zero	1	
Great Blue Heron	zero	1		
Ring-billed Gull	zero	1		

Fall 2009

In looking at the fall of 2009, some of the significant inland waterbird records include 2 individual Whimbrel in July, 1 at Lake Umbagog and 1 at Squam Lake. Eight Tundra Swan were seen in Chatham. There were at least 3 Great Egret in Concord, probably more, including the first ever for Turkey Pond (now up to 72 species of waterbirds per Rob Woodward). There are three sites worth mentioning that are relatively new for birding since Tudor was traveling the state: Lake Massabesic with reports of 3 Black Scoters, 8 Long-tailed Ducks, 1 Bonaparte's Gull, 550 Ring-billed Gulls, 45 Herring Gulls, and 5 Great Black-backed Gulls in October 2009; the Rochester Wastewater Treatment Plant which has had so many rarities and high numbers of common species that there is not room to list all the data; and Penacook Lake in Concord (a.k.a. Long Pond) which has proven to be a significant fall waterfowl roosting site with a state record 350+ Hooded

Mergansers seen there recently. Suffice it to say that these three sites have added to our knowledge of inland waterbirds; and, by the way, Tudor recorded almost 100 species of inland waterbirds, the last one being a Black-headed Gull at the Rochester Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Rare Birds

Tudor discovered his fair share of fall rarities, but one of his sightings stands out above all the others. It was just after the passage of a hurricane. Here is a description of the record in his own words (from the *Inland Water Birds of New Hampshire*, Part IV).

“...on August 14, 1955 at Lake Wantastiquet, Hinsdale, ...an unfamiliar harsh note ...almost immediately attracted my attention...a tern, and by the process of elimination, a Sooty Tern, a tropical species ordinarily occurring no nearer than the Dry Tortugas, off Key West, Florida! What made this all the more remarkable was that three others were seen within the next few minutes...I did my best to photograph one of the terns as it perched on a floating board, but fearing it would take off at any moment, I was too hasty and ran out of film before getting really close—only to discover that the bird was too exhausted to fly!”

Landbirds should not be forgotten in this paean to waterbirds as Tudor enjoyed them as well. One of the memorable sightings for him was that of the Ash-throated Flycatcher in Concord during October 2001 because it was right at Audubon House (the McLane Center), a site near and dear to his heart.

The Lessons

The fall migration is the longest one of the birding year and from early July, well into what is actually winter, birds are on the move. For many of us, the fall migration is the most exciting and enjoyable part of the birding year. Paraphrasing Tudor, since the fall migration goes well into January and perhaps even February (see the next installment of this series) it is likely that it overlaps with the very earliest of the spring migration! So, get out there and bird; bird during inclement weather, bird your local area more often, or get out a map or a GPS and discover some birding terra incognita. Study migration patterns, anticipate when and where good migratory movement may occur, and then prove your ideas on the ground; and, oh yes, please submit your data to NHBR via NH eBird and even consider writing a short article for NHBR. Bird on!

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.

Abbreviations Used

BBC	Brookline Bird Club	R.	River
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey	Rd.	Road
CA	Conservation Area	Rt.	Route
CC	Country Club	SF	State Forest
CFT	NH Audubon Chapter Field Trip	St. Pk.	State Park
FT	Field Trip	SPNHF	Society for the Protection of NH Forests, Concord
L.	Lake	T&M	Thompson & Meserves (Purchase)
LPC	Loon Preservation Committee	TNC	The Nature Conservancy
NA	Natural Area	WMA	Wildlife Management Area
NHA	New Hampshire Audubon	WMNF	White Mountain National Forest
NHBR	New Hampshire Bird Records	WS	NHA Wildlife Sanctuary
NHRBC	NH Rare Birds Committee	~	approximately
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge		
PO	Post Office		

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A Chance Encounter by Robert A. Quinn



The Black Scoters in flight were photographed at Cherry Pond on Oct. 27, 2006. Tudor Richards and I had first seen these birds from the Rt. 115 overlook of Cherry Pond. Tudor, age 91, was not up for a fast hike to the pond, so I went by myself and reported back. He wrote me his thoughts about this flock.

"I wanted to thank you... for that superb photo of the flying and sleigh-bell calling Black Scoters. I can never thank you enough. ...it was a new experience for me to see and be able to identify them from Rt. 115, as near as I've been able to tell, about two miles away."

(12/11/06)

From an unpublished article by Tudor, "The Enjoyment of Watching Migrant Scoters on New Hampshire's Inland Waters":

"It wasn't long however, before I became aware of them [scoters] as inland migrants, though it took longer for me to realize how interesting and even appealing they are as such. The Black Scoter... in fact, eventually became one of my favorite birds."



Photo by Bob Quinn during a boat trip on October 28, 2005 celebrating Tudor's 70th year on Lake Umbagog, NH.



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