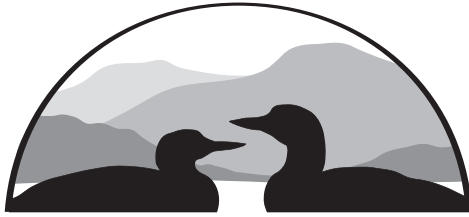


New Hampshire Bird Records



Summer 2009

Vol. 28, No. 2



New Hampshire Bird Records

Volume 28, Number 2

Summer 2009

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Cover Photo: *Lawrence's Warbler*, by Chris Sheridan, 6/17/09, Southwest Park, Nashua, NH.

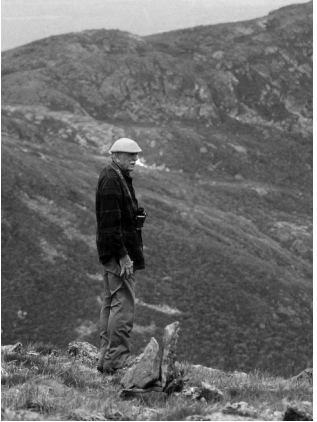
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IN MEMORY OF
Tudor Richards
FEBRUARY 16, 1915 – MARCH 6, 2009

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

Tudor Richards still doing what he loved at the age of 81: birding in the New Hampshire wilderness. Photo taken by Bob Quinn in June, 1996 as Tudor was overlooking the Great Gulf in the White Mountain National Forest.

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Report Your Sightings via NHeBird

Don't forget to report your sightings on-line with NH eBird: www.eBird.org/nh. Thanks to everyone who has already switched over. If you don't have a computer or on-line access, please contact me (see inside front cover) for the new reporting forms – please don't use the old ones. Volunteers will enter your sightings into eBird and the old forms don't have the information we need to do that.

Tell a Friend about *New Hampshire Bird Records*

We continue to receive great feedback about *New Hampshire Bird Records* and the improvements in the publication. Help spread the word and build subscriptions by telling a birding friend and encouraging them to subscribe. They'll enjoy learning about New Hampshire's birds and *New Hampshire Bird Records* will also benefit. More subscribers helps us keep our costs down and build a knowledgeable birding community.

Watch for the Spring Birdathon in May

NH Audubon is bringing back a spring migration tradition, the Birdathon! Mark your calendars for May 22, 2010, right around the peak of spring migration for many of New Hampshire's breeding and migrant birds. Count as many species as you can in this friendly competition, and celebrate bird diversity with fellow birders the following day in Concord. For more details, or to register, contact Phil Brown at 603-224-9909 x334 or pbrown@nhaudubon.org.

Volunteer Needs

New Hampshire Bird Records thrives on volunteer involvement and below are two new volunteer needs. If you are interested in either of these opportunities, please contact me (see inside front cover) for more information.

Historical Data Review – assist with preparing historical data for import into eBird by reviewing and standardizing locations and other information. Must be familiar with NH birding locations, NH birders, and Excel.

Spring Season Editor – responsibilities include reviewing the season and incoming sightings, selecting records to publish, writing interpretive summaries for each issue, and reviewing rarities. Must be knowledgeable about birds and birding in New Hampshire, proficient on the computer and familiar with Excel, a good writer, well organized, and able to meet deadlines.

The NH Rare Birds Committee requested that we post the open volunteer position of secretary (non-voting member). If you are interested, please contact NH RBC chair, Rob Woodward at 603-224-0889 or rwoodward@dhhs.state.nh.us.

Photo Quiz



Can You Identify This Bird?

Answer on page 63
Photos by Leonard Medlock

Summer 2009

June 1 through July 31, 2009



Tony Vazzano

by Tony Vazzano

The return of the **Mississippi Kites** to Newmarket was an exciting event this summer, even though it was certainly anticipated after the two successful nests last year. There were two nests again this year but only one of them was successful. What wasn't expected was the huge numbers of pelagic species, mostly seen offshore from whalewatch boats, making 2009 the

Summer of the Seabird! Many shearwaters and jaegers were seen in record high numbers this summer. Rarities highlighting the summer seabird list were **Northern Fulmar**, **Cory's Shearwater**, **Red-billed Tropicbird**, **Long-tailed Jaeger**, and **Sabine's Gull**. The tropicbird is extremely rare in New England waters and the one photographed at the Isles of Shoals was a first state record for New Hampshire. The fulmars and Cory's Shearwaters were seen in relatively high numbers.

Other rarities for the season include a **Red Phalarope** in Littleton, two **Royal Terns** along the coast, a **Summer Tanager** heard in a yard in Hancock, a **Painted Bunting** in Portsmouth, and an inland **Nelson's Sparrow** in Surry. Less rare but still fairly unusual were **Least Bittern**, **Cattle Egret**, **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**, **Black Vulture**, and **Clay-colored Sparrow**.

For raptors monitored by New Hampshire Audubon, it was a season of mixed results. Osprey productivity was down considerably this summer, partially due to heavy June rains, but the number of pairs increased. The number of Bald Eagles fledged was down 33% from last year while the number of territories was up substantially. With Peregrine Falcon, it was somewhat the opposite with slightly fewer documented pairs producing a record number of young.

The entire summer was excessively wet with July rainfall totals generally surpassing those of June; the June and July combined total rainfall approached record levels in many areas. This can have an undesirable effect, especially for ground and roof nesting species such as Common Nighthawk. Nestlings drowned in one nighthawk nest. As was the case last summer, some of the rains came at a vulnerable time for other nesting species and may have had a negative impact on the numbers of fledged young. The timing of this year's rains was such that birds appeared to re-nest and fledge young later than normal.



First-summer Sabine's Gull in Hampton Harbor, by Leonard Medlock, 7/3/09, Hampton, NH.

Waterfowl through Gannet

Out of season waterfowl included an American Wigeon in Exeter on June 10 and at least two Long-tailed Ducks along the coast in June and July. Northern Bobwhite is no longer an established breeder in the state so a report of a pair apparently nesting in Kingston was interesting. The male was banded and the pair had probably been released. Chukar is only an established breeder in portions of the western United States so an adult with a chick seen in Conway on June 9 was perhaps more surprising than the bobwhites. The adult birds had also likely been released. A total of over 100 surviving Common Loon chicks was about 10 more than last year (see article on page 40). The adult population has expanded in the past four years but there is still an average of less than one chick fledged for every two pairs.

The seabird extravaganza this summer was nothing short of spectacular. **Northern Fulmar**, **Cory's Shearwater**, Greater Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, and Northern Gannet were seen in unprecedented numbers. Fulmars more typically occur in off-shore New England waters in late fall and winter. Of course, because birders were seeing good birds, more birders went out on whalewatch boats and therefore even more birds were seen and reported. Intrepid New Hampshire pelagic birder Emmalee Tarry reported the results of some fisheries research on NH.Birds. As Emmalee so succinctly put it: "Unless you believe in the tooth fairy, something has to have changed out there." A source told her that there have been some changes in the herring fishery regulations resulting in more of the baitfish this year on Jeffreys Ledge than has been typical in recent years. Is this the chief reason that there were so many birds offshore in New Hampshire waters this year? Tern colonies in the Gulf of Maine also reported good quantities of fish being brought to feed chicks – a welcome change for some colonies with low food supplies the past few years.

In 1985, four boat trips from mid June to mid July, averaging 211 Wilson's Storm-Petrels per trip, prompted Elisabeth (Betty) Phinney to comment, "I have not seen this many storm-petrels since we had the East German fishing fleet off the coast in the late 1960's" (*New Hampshire Bird Records*, Vol. 4, No. 2). This summer, in the same time period, eight whalewatch trips to offshore waters averaged 531 per trip. How did this summer really stack up against past years for pelagic species? Table 1 shows numbers for several species in the past 20 summers combined (1220 days) compared to a 20-day period from this summer.



Cory's Shearwater by Leonard Medlock, 7/4/09, at sea off Jeffreys Ledge.

Table 1. Comparison of total seabird numbers in June and July from 1989 through 2008 to numbers reported from June 23 through July 12, 2009. Data from *New Hampshire Bird Records*.

Species	Past 20 Summers Combined		20 Days from Summer, 2009	
	Number of Birds	Number of Reports	Number of Birds	Number of Reports
Northern Fulmar	2	1	29	4
Cory's Shearwater	10	2	80	6
Greater Shearwater	298	21	1,950	8
Sooty Shearwater	89	13	791	9
Manx Shearwater	72	28	6	3
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	13,472	115	3,802	11
Northern Gannet	1,336	90	542	11
Pomarine Jaeger	0	0	1	1
Parasitic Jaeger	8	3	6	4
Long-tailed Jaeger	0	0	2	2
Atlantic Puffin (from shore)	1	1	2	1



Wilson's Storm-Petrels pattering on the water, by Jon Woolf, 7/6/09, at sea off Jeffreys Ledge.

New Hampshire's first **Red-billed Tropicbird** was photographed at White and Seavey Islands on the Isles of Shoals after a few days of northeast winds. It is typically an open ocean bird and in the eastern Atlantic their range is the Caribbean Sea, rarely straying to the Gulf Stream north of North Carolina. Remarkably, one has been a summer visitor in Maine, near Matinicus Rock and Seal Island in the Gulf of Maine, the past four summers. It was present there this year but was not seen from June 19 to the first week in July. Since they are so rare in the Gulf of Maine, ours was probably the same bird that was at Seal Island.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Brant				
6/2	6	Hampton	s. of North Side Park	P. Chamberlin
6/5	1	Hampton	Great Boars Head	S. Mirick
6/14	2	Rye	Jeness Beach	S.& J. Mirick
American Wigeon				
6/10	1	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	L. Medlock
Green-winged Teal				
6/3	1	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
7/19	1	Errol	Lake Umbagog, Leonard Marsh	M. Harvey
Ring-necked Duck				
6/14	2	Pittsburg	Big Brook Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
7/17	1	Wentworths Location	Magalloway River	M.& A. Vernon
7/19	1	Errol	Lake Umbagog, Leonard Marsh	M. Harvey
7/19	1	Errol	Whaleback Ponds	M. Harvey
Common Eider				
6/14	174		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
6/26	20	New Castle	Fort Stark	R. Suomala, et al.
7/21	45	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	M. Harvey
7/21	50	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	M. Harvey
Surf Scoter				
6/14	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	S.& J. Mirick
White-winged Scoter				
6/5	5	Hampton	North Beach	S. Mirick
6/14	2	Rye	Jeness Beach	S.& J. Mirick
6/24	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
6/28	6		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
Long-tailed Duck				
6/5	1	Hampton	Great Boars Head	S. Mirick
6/10	1	New Castle	Little Harbor	S.& J. Mirick
6/15	1	Hampton	Great Boars Head	L. Medlock
7/6	2	Rye	Rye Ledge	S.& J. Mirick
Common Goldeneye				
6/14	2	Pittsburg	Metallak Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
7/17	6	Wentworths Location	Magalloway River	M.& A. Vernon
7/19	1	Errol	Lake Umbagog	M.& A. Vernon
Hooded Merganser				
6/1	11	Epping	Home Depot pond	K. Dorsey
6/21	7	Concord	red maple swamp n. of Horseshoe Pond	D. Howe
6/26	5	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	A.& G. Robbins
7/17	8	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	M. Harvey
Common Merganser				
6/26	8	Dummer	Sessions Brook	R. Quinn, L. Tanino
6/27	5	Freedom	Leavitt Bay	A.& G. Robbins
7/3	13	Dublin	Dublin Lake	T. Warren
7/19	3	Errol	Lake Umbagog	M.& A. Vernon
Red-breasted Merganser				
6/6	1		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick

date # town location observer(s)



Female Spruce Grouse, by Steve Mirick, 7/1/09, Pittsburg, NH.

Spruce Grouse

6/6	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet	L. Medlock
6/16	1	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR, Eames Rd. survey rt.	G. Gavutis Jr.
7/1	6	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	J. Mirick

Red-throated Loon

6/7	1	Offshore Waters	Granite State whalewatch	K. Dorsey
6/10	2	Rye	Rt. 1A pulloff opposite stone angel	E. Masterson
6/24	2	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
7/9	1	Rye	Rt. 1A pulloff opposite stone angel	E. Masterson

Common Loon

6/10	6		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
6/16	5	Pittsburg	Metallak Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
7/17	4	Pittsburg	road to South Bay Bog	M. Harvey
7/19	5	Errol	Lake Umbagog, Leonard Marsh	M. Harvey
7/29	3	Hopkinton	Clement Pond, Contoocook	A. Hueglin

Pied-billed Grebe

6/8	4	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
7/17	2	Hollis	near Nashua town line	C. Sheridan
7/27	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard

Red-necked Grebe

6/5	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	S. Mirick
6/10	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	E. Masterson
6/20	1	Rye	Seal Rocks	S. & J. Mirick
7/31	1	Rye	Concord Point	M. Harvey

Northern Fulmar

6/25	19	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson
7/4	6	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Medlock, J. Lambert, D. Abbott, P. Lehman
7/5	3	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick
7/6	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick

Cory's Shearwater

6/26	1	Offshore Waters	inshore banks	M. Harvey
7/4	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Medlock, J. Lambert, D. Abbott, P. Lehman
7/5	6	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick
7/6	17	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick
7/10	15	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Tanino, K. Cox
7/12	40	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick, L. Kras, B. Griffith
7/14	5	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely, B. Crowley

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Greater Shearwater				
6/24	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
6/25	60	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson
7/4	80	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Medlock, J. Lambert, D. Abbott, P. Lehman
7/5	81	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick
7/6	200	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick
7/10	26	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Tanino, K. Cox
7/12	1500	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick, L. Kras, B. Griffith
7/14	48	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely, B. Crowley
Sooty Shearwater				
6/7	1	Offshore Waters	Granite State whalewatch	K. Dorsey
6/24	85	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
6/25	48	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson
6/26	1	Offshore Waters	inshore banks	M. Harvey
7/4	225	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Medlock, J. Lambert, D. Abbott, P. Lehman
7/5	29	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick
7/6	200	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick
7/12	200	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick, L. Kras, B. Griffith
7/14	25	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely, B. Crowley
Manx Shearwater				
6/10	4	Rye	Seal Rocks	E. Masterson, S. & J. Mirick, L. Medlock, J. O'Shaughnessy, L. Kras
6/24	3	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
7/4	2	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Medlock, J. Lambert, D. Abbott, P. Lehman
7/12	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick, L. Kras, B. Griffith



Flock of Wilson's Storm-Petrels, by Jon Woolf, 7/6/09, at sea off Jeffreys Ledge.

Wilson's Storm-Petrel				
6/19	50		NH coast	B. Griffith, L. Kras, R. Terrill
6/21	102		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
6/24	45	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
6/25	52	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson
6/26	70	Offshore Waters	inshore banks	M. Harvey
6/28	369		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Wilson's Storm-Petrel—continued				
7/4	300	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Medlock, J. Lambert, D. Abbott, P. Lehman
7/6	1800	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick
7/14	600	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely, B. Crowley
7/26	331		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick



Red-billed Tropicbird off White Island, by Dan Hayward, 6/23/09, Isles of Shoals, Rye, NH.

Red-billed Tropicbird

6/23	1	Rye	Isles of Shoals	D. Hayward
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Northern Gannet

6/6	37	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. & J. Mirick
6/10	115		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
6/24	168	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
7/4	100	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Medlock, J. Lambert, D. Abbott, P. Lehman
7/5	110	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick
7/8	15	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
7/12	25	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick, L. Kras, B. Griffith
7/26	121		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick

Bitterns through Vultures



Yellow-crowned Night-Heron feeding, by Leonard Medlock, 7/25/09, Hampton Harbor, NH.

Least Bittern continues to be rare in the state and only one was reported this summer, in Sandwich. Because it is such a secretive bird, it is probably not quite as rare as the lack of reports would seem to indicate. While the past three summers have brought a few sightings, sometimes they go completely unreported. Little Blue Heron is a good find along the coast, but an even better find inland where

a juvenile was seen at a pond in Ashland in July. A **Cattle Egret** was seen in Chichester. It is an occasional wanderer in New Hampshire but it has been four years since we've had a summer sighting (and that one was at the Isles of Shoals). There were more reports of Green Heron than usual across the northern edge of their range in the

state with two reports each from Grafton and Carroll Counties. Black-crowned Night-Herons were well reported and the 17 seen in Hampton Harbor was an unusually high count for summer. **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** is rare in the state, breeding south of New Hampshire. A juvenile was seen in the Hampton marshes in late July. The only Glossy Ibis report was a single bird seen offshore between the coast and the Isles of Shoals. A **Black Vulture**, typically a more southern bird, put in an appearance in Hinsdale, in the southwest corner of the state. A few roost semi-regularly in nearby Vermont and are occasionally seen over this part of New Hampshire.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
American Bittern				
6/3	1	Surry	Dort Road	L. Tanino
6/9	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd.	A. & G. Robbins
6/14	1	Pittsburg	Tabor Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/23	1	Surry	Surry bike path	P. Brown, J. Tilden
6/26	1	Jefferson	Jefferson Meadows	L. Tanino
6/26	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR, Cherry Pond	A. & G. Robbins
7/5	1	Conway	E. Conway Rd., Sherman Farm	A. & G. Robbins
7/19	1	Errol	Lake Umbagog, Leonard Marsh	M. Harvey
7/20	1	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir	M. Harvey
Least Bittern				
6/28	1	Sandwich	Thompson WS	R. Ridgely
Great Blue Heron				
6/13	16	Rochester	Quail Drive	D. Hubbard
6/16	6	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR, Eames Rd. survey rt.	G. Gavutis Jr.
7/23	23	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	L. Medlock
Great Egret				
6/6	8		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
7/10	14	Seabrook	Seabrook marsh	L. Tanino
7/25	30	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	L. Tanino
7/31	33	Hampton	Hampton Harbor saltmarsh	L. Tanino
Snowy Egret				
7/10	21	Seabrook	Seabrook marsh	L. Tanino
7/21	14	N. Hampton	Little River saltmarsh	M. Harvey
7/25	14	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick, L. Kras, L. Medlock, et al.
7/28	35	N. Hampton	Little River saltmarsh	M. Harvey



*Immature Little Blue Heron by Iain MacLeod,
7/16/09, Sanborn Rd., Ashland, NH.*

Little Blue Heron

7/16	1	Ashland	Sanborn Rd.	I. MacLeod
7/20	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	L. Medlock
7/29	1	Rye	Odiorne Point St. Pk.	L. Kras

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Green Heron				
6/1	1	Nashua	Southwest Park	C. Sheridan
6/6	1	Holderness	Carns Cove, Squam Lake	T. Grade
6/7	1	Roxbury	Woodward Pond	J. Tilden
6/8	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
6/11	1	Chesterfield	Gulf Road	R. Quinn
6/20	1	Ossipee	Rt. 25, marsh e. of Heath Pond Bog	A.& G. Robbins
6/24	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
7/3	1	Effingham	Huntress Bridge Rd.	A.& G. Robbins
7/14	2	Exeter	wastewater treatment plant	M. Harvey
7/14	1	Rumney	Rt. 25 near Polar Caves	C. Martin
7/25	8	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S.& J. Mirick, L. Kras, L. Medlock, et al.
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
6/10	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	L. Medlock
6/25	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	E. Masterson
7/9	5	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	L. Medlock, J. Lambert
7/23	17	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	L. Medlock
7/31	4	Hampton	Island Path	B. Griffith, L. Kras
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				
7/25	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor Marina	L. Medlock, S.& J. Mirick, L. Tanino, C. Seifer, K. Cox
7/31	1	Hampton	Island Path	B. Griffith, L. Kras
Glossy Ibis				
7/5	1	Rye	offshore inside Isles of Shoals	S.& J. Mirick
Black Vulture				
6/6	1	Hinsdale	Vernon Dam impoundment	S. Reagan
Turkey Vulture				
6/16	19	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
6/26	12	Gorham	Gorham dam reservoir	L. Tanino, R. Quinn

Raptors

Mississippi Kites were back in Newmarket with two nests in the same locations as last year's nests. While both pairs were observed incubating eggs, apparently only the pair on Gonet Drive was successful in raising a fledgling this year. Mississippi Kites also nested in Connecticut again this summer and a pair was also reported in New York State. Are they here to stay?

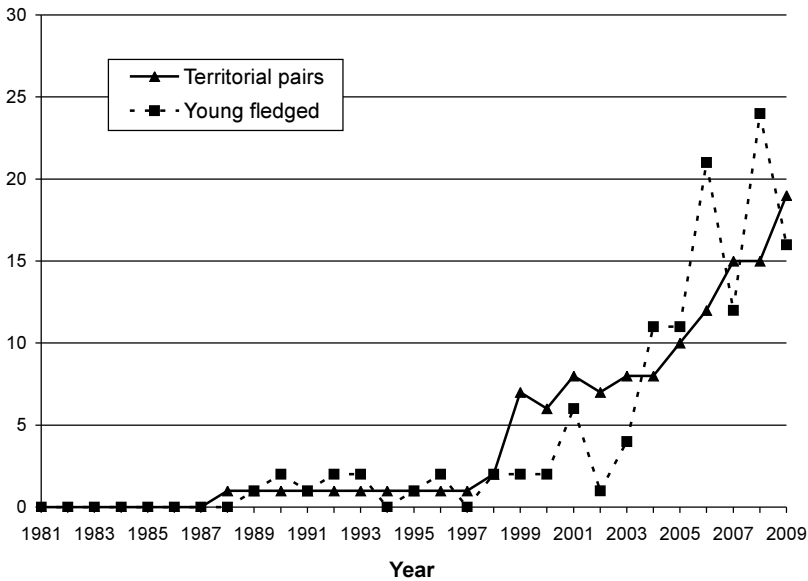


Heavy June rains took a toll on Osprey nestlings (e.g., one rotting tree that supported a nest fell over) and the number of fledged chicks was down nearly a third from last year's record number. Nevertheless, there were more pairs reported this year.

Close encounter between Mississippi Kite and Baltimore Oriole, by Lawrence Paoletti, 6/1/09, Newmarket, NH.

Bald Eagle territories reached a new high of 20 and there were 11 active nests producing 16 young. While there were fewer young than last year, the increase in the number of established territories certainly bodes well for the future of eagles in New Hampshire (Figure 1). Peregrine Falcons had a good year. The 17 documented pairs were down by one from last year, but a record of 29 young birds fledged. The first Merlin nest documented in Concord fledged three young and there were nests reported in Berlin and Sandwich. For the first time, reports of Merlin exceeded those of American Kestrel as the former species increases and the latter declines. Because of the decline in kestrels, birders are encouraged to report them, especially during the breeding season.

Figure 1. Productivity trends in New Hampshire's Bald Eagle population, 1981-2009. Prior to 1988, the last known successful eagle nesting in the state occurred in 1949. Data gathered by NH Audubon staff and volunteers with support from the NH Fish and Game Department. Compiled by Chris Martin, NH Audubon.



<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Mississippi Kite				
6/10	1	Newmarket	Gonet Road	E. Masterson
6/26	1	Newmarket	Main St.	R. Suomala
6/28	3	Newmarket	Main St. nest	S. Spangenberg, F. Doyle, R. Frechette
7/18	4	Newmarket	Gonet Road	L. Medlock
Northern Harrier				
6/26	1	Jefferson	Rt. 115A	A. & G. Robbins
7/17	1	Colebrook	Hughes Rd.	M. Harvey
7/18	1	Errol	Harpers Meadow	M. Harvey
7/19	1	Errol	Lake Umbagog, Leonard Marsh	M. Harvey
7/22	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	P. Brown

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Northern Goshawk				
7/17	1	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
Red-shouldered Hawk				
6/2	2	Harrisville	Skatutakee Lake	P. Brown
6/3	1	Rumney	Buffalo Road	J. & J. Williams
6/3	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
6/16	3	Exeter	Newfields Rd. power lines	P. Chamberlin
7/3	3	Freedom	Old Portland Rd.	A. & G. Robbins
American Kestrel				
6/1	1	Goshen	Brook Rd.	P. Newbern
6/8	1	Henniker	Routes 202 & 9	P. Brown
6/10	1	Dover	Strafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
6/13	1	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/20	1	Effingham	Ryefield Rd.	A. & G. Robbins
6/23	1	Westmoreland	Route 63	P. Brown
7/1	2	Walpole	Alysons Orchard	P. Brown, J. Tilden
7/17	2	Pittsburg	Hall Stream Rd.	M. Harvey
7/17	2	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
7/19	2	Holderness	Rt. 113	R. Ridgely
7/22	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	P. Brown, D. Govatski
7/24	4	Dover	Strafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
7/31	1	Hampton Falls	Depot Rd. marshes	M. Harvey
Merlin				
6/10	2	Concord	Dunklee St.	R. Vallieres
6/17	1	Jefferson	jct. of Rts. 2 & 115	C. Martin
6/17	1	Woodstock	Rt. 116	S. & M. Turner
6/17	2	Berlin	Rt. 110	I. MacLeod
6/23	1	Clarksville	Route 3	B. Griffith, L. Kras
6/23	1	Spofford	Spofford Lake	J. Tilden
6/24	1	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	B. Griffith, L. Kras
6/26	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry, Little Cherry	A. & G. Robbins
6/27	1	Harrisville	Great Meadow	P. Brown, P. Davenport, J. Tilden
7/7	5	Sandwich	Pinehurst Rd.	I. MacLeod
7/9	4	Concord	south end	R. Woodward
7/18	1	Errol	Androscoggin River	M. & A. Vernon
7/23	2	Lebanon	Connecticut R. opposite Wilder boat launch	C. Rimmer
7/24	4	Holderness	Livermore Cove, Squam Lake	T. Grade
7/29	4	Waterville Valley	golf course, 7th hole	J. Henderson
7/30	4	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir	C. Martin
7/31	1	Seabrook	Route 1A	S. Mirick

Rails through Shorebirds

While Virginia Rails were seen or heard in many areas of the state, Sora went unreported for the first summer in seven years. Piping Plovers were present again in Hampton and Seabrook with five pairs but only two young birds fledged. An American Oystercatcher was seen flying past Hampton Beach in July. Most of the population is south of New Hampshire, but a few breed in Maine and Nova Scotia. Inland Whimbrel

are very rare, but one was seen last year, and this year there were two reports. One was heard as it flew overhead at dawn at Lake Umbagog, while the other was on a rock in Squam Lake on July 9. It may seem a bit early for them to be migrating through, but 27 were seen offshore, flying south, on the same day. Marbled Godwit is a rare late summer and fall migrant; this year one was seen in Hampton Harbor late in July. The Baird's Sandpiper seen in July was an adult bird. Most of the Baird's seen in New Hampshire are juveniles. Southbound migrating adults are exceedingly rare in New England. Red Phalarope is an exceptional sighting anywhere in the state in early summer, but especially inland; one was on a street in Littleton in early June. This arctic breeder is known as an offshore migrant in New England.



Red Phalarope in odd surroundings, by Ralph Aldrich, 6/8/09, Littleton, NH.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Virginia Rail				
6/8	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
6/13	2	Webster	Knights Meadow Marsh	R. Quinn
6/14	8	Sandwich	Thompson WS	R. Ridgely
6/16	2	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	L. Medlock
6/20	3	Portsmouth	hospital marsh	S. & J. Mirick
6/26	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	A. & G. Robbins
7/4	1	Ossipee	Route 25, marsh e. of Heath Pond Bog	A. & G. Robbins
7/20	2	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir	M. Harvey
Black-bellied Plover				
6/1	35	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
6/14	2		Little Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
7/24	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	M. Harvey
7/31	10	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
Semipalmated Plover				
6/1	2	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
6/2	2	Webster	Trumbull Pond	R. Quinn
7/12	2	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	L. Tanino
7/24	12	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	M. Harvey
7/26	95	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	S. & J. Mirick
7/31	25	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	M. Harvey
Piping Plover				
6/2	3	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	L. Medlock
6/10	2	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. & J. Mirick
7/9	4	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor flats	L. Medlock, J. Lambert

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Killdeer				
6/12	2	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Hubbard
6/23	1	Freedom	Ossipee Lake Rd.	A. & G. Robbins
7/25	25	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	K. Dorsey
American Oystercatcher				
7/8	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	S. Mirick
Spotted Sandpiper				
6/1	6	Nashua	Gilson Rd. sandpit pond	C. Sheridan
6/8	7	Sandwich	end of Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
6/12	3	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Hubbard
6/13	1	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/26	1	Errol	Androscoggin River	L. Tanino
7/17	4	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. & J. Mirick
7/26	8		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
Solitary Sandpiper				
7/30	1	Durham	town landing	K. Dorsey
7/31	3	Hampton	Meadow Pond	M. Harvey
Greater Yellowlegs				
6/27	1	Rye	Rye Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
7/9	2	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	L. Medlock, J. Lambert
7/21	13	N. Hampton	Little River saltmarsh	M. Harvey
7/28	11	N. Hampton	Little River saltmarsh	M. Harvey
7/31	9	Hampton Falls	Depot Rd. marshes	M. Harvey
Willet				
6/1	5	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
6/17	14	Hampton	Hampton Marsh north of Rt. 101	E. Masterson
6/26	20	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	M. Harvey
7/11	53	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
7/31	4	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	M. Harvey
Lesser Yellowlegs				
7/14	3	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	M. Harvey
7/28	35	N. Hampton	Little River saltmarsh	M. Harvey
7/31	6	N. Hampton	Little River saltmarsh	M. Harvey
Upland Sandpiper				
6/10	2	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	E. Masterson
Whimbrel				
7/9	1	Moultonborough	Yard Islands, Squam Lake	R. Ridgely
7/9	27	Rye	offshore inside Isles of Shoals	P. Hunt
7/10	3	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	L. Tanino
7/28	5	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	M. Harvey
Marbled Godwit				
7/30	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	E. Masterson
Ruddy Turnstone				
6/1	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
7/24	5	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	M. Harvey
7/31	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	M. Harvey

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Red Knot				
7/23	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	L. Medlock
Sanderling				
7/17	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
7/21	3	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	M. Harvey
7/26	12		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
7/31	10	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	L. Tanino
7/31	15	Hampton	North Beach	L. Tanino, K. Cox
7/31	29	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	M. Harvey
Semipalmated Sandpiper				
6/1	220	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
7/21	76	Hampton	Landing Rd. marshes	M. Harvey
7/24	57	Hampton Falls	Depot Rd. marshes	M. Harvey
7/26	316	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	S. & J. Mirick
7/30	300	Rye	Jeness Beach	E. Masterson
7/31	250	N. Hampton	Little River saltmarsh	M. Harvey
7/31	125	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	M. Harvey
Least Sandpiper				
6/10	4	Rye	Rt. 1A pulloff opposite stone angel	E. Masterson
7/11	7	Hampton Falls	Depot Rd.	L. Medlock, J. Lambert
7/25	40	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	L. Tanino
White-rumped Sandpiper				
7/31	1	Rye	Jeness Beach	B. Griffith, L. Kras
Baird's Sandpiper				
7/28	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. salt pannes	M. Harvey
7/29	1	Rye	Rt. 1A pulloff s. of Odiorne Pt. St. Pk.	L. Kras
Pectoral Sandpiper				
7/29	4	N. Hampton	Little River saltmarsh	S. Mirick
7/31	1	Hampton	Landing Road	B. Griffith, L. Kras
Dunlin				
6/1	20	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
Stilt Sandpiper				
7/28	1	N. Hampton	Little River saltmarsh	M. Harvey
Short-billed Dowitcher				
6/1	20	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
7/8	30	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	S. Mirick
7/12	149	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	L. Tanino
7/23	270	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	G. Robbins
7/31	15	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	M. Harvey
Short-billed Dowitcher - Prairie subsp.				
7/29	1	N. Hampton	Little River saltmarsh	S. Mirick
Wilson's Snipe				
6/3	1	Surry	Surry Lake	L. Tanino
6/6	2	Pittsburg	East Inlet	L. Medlock
6/13	2	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR, Androscoggin s. area	G. Gavutis Jr.
6/20	1	Effingham	Ryefield Rd.	A. & G. Robbins
6/26	3	Jefferson	Whipple Rd.	A. & G. Robbins

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
American Woodcock				
6/6	4	Pittsburg	Deer Mountain Campground	L. Medlock
6/12	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
6/22	1	Conway	Garland Pit Rd., East Conway	A. & G. Robbins
6/29	1	Nashua	old sandpit off Groton Rd.	C. Sheridan
Red-necked Phalarope				
7/14	3	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely, B. Crowley
Red Phalarope				
6/8	1	Littleton	Remich St.	M. Aldrich

Gulls through Alcids

Herring Gulls nested again on rooftops in Manchester, as a few have in recent years, with single nests in four different locations. If one were to make a list of the most unexpected gulls to spend a summer month in New Hampshire, **Sabine's Gull** would certainly be near the top of that list. A first-summer bird was discovered and photographed along the coast in Rye on June 26 and then was occasionally seen in Seabrook and Hampton during the following 30 days. This small, arctic gull is quite rare as an offshore, fall migrant in New England waters. A first summer plumaged bird lingering along the coast is unprecedented in New Hampshire and probably New England. One-year-old birds don't usually nest and are more typically found in ocean waters off of Africa. A Black-headed Gull and a Little Gull also spent most of July in the same area (see the Photo Gallery on page 56-7). These two rare gulls have become a little more regular in the state during the past 10-15 years but are still unusual in July.

Royal Tern is rare this far north in summer; there were two sightings along the coast in June. Caspian Tern is a rare species more often seen in fall than summer, so the July 10 sighting of one in Hampton Harbor was a surprise. Least Tern sightings were more numerous than usual this summer. A Black Tern in Concord in the middle of June was rare inland for the date, but was apparently a late migrant.



*Royal Tern by Eric Masterson, 6/10/09,
Jeness Beach, Rye, NH.*

Jaegers were a big part of this season's seabird show. There were several reports of Parasitic Jaeger, including two seen from the mainland. Parasitic is the most likely jaeger to be seen from shore. Incredibly, all three jaegers were seen from a whalewatch boat on July 4. Equally remarkable, two **Long-tailed Jaegers** were seen offshore near the Isles of Shoals on that day from two different whalewatches; one an adult and the other a sub-adult! All four previous state records for this species

were inland! (See the article on page 42.) More Long-taileds were observed offshore shortly after the summer season. The presence of so many jaegers on Jeffrey's Ledge (see Table 1) was probably partly due to the same factors that brought in the record number of shearwaters. The increased number of terns over the years, due to the tern restoration project on White and Seavey Islands, may be another factor because jaegers often associate with terns. Another exciting seabird report, two Atlantic Puffins, came from the same day and location as one of the Parasitic Jaegers (and the 85 Sooty Shearwaters) seen from shore. They are occasionally seen at the Isles of Shoals in summer, but summer sightings from the mainland are few and far between. Not surprisingly, these sightings followed a few days of northeast winds. Birds have an easier time flying with a tail wind so winds from the east (including northeast and southeast) tend to nudge seabirds closer to shore than they would be otherwise.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Sabine's Gull				
6/26	1	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	M. Harvey, et al.
7/3	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	L. Medlock, J. O'Shaugnessy, M. Suomala
7/8	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	S. Mirick
7/21	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	M. Harvey
7/26	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	L. Medlock, E. Masterson, S.& J. Mirick
Bonaparte's Gull				
6/5	40		NH coast	S. Mirick
6/15	78	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	L. Medlock
7/12	170	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	E. Masterson
7/26	125		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
Black-headed Gull				
7/11	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	L. Medlock, S.& J. Mirick, J. Lambert, et al.
7/28	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Harbor	L. Kras
Little Gull				
7/8	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	S. Mirick
7/12	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	S.& J. Mirick
7/20	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	L. Medlock
7/25	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	S.& J. Mirick, L. Kras, L. Medlock, et al.
Laughing Gull				
6/10	2	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S.& J. Mirick
6/26	3	Rye	Wallis Sands	R. Suomala
7/8	22	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
7/12	15	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	E. Masterson
7/26	12		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
Least Tern				
6/20	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S.& J. Mirick
6/23	2	Hampton	Hampton Beach St. Pk.	S. Mirick
6/24	4	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
7/18	6	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	L. Medlock, B. Griffith, L. Kras

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Least Tern—continued				
7/25	3	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	L. Medlock, L. Kras, S. & J. Mirick, et al.
7/26	8		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
Black Tern				
6/14	1		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
6/15	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	J. Vernon
6/24	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	J. Williams
7/12	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick, L. Kras, B. Griffith
Roseate Tern				
6/10	10	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	E. Masterson
7/26	20	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	E. Masterson
7/29	30	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	S. Mirick
Common Tern				
6/5	50		NH coast	S. Mirick
6/26	50	Offshore Waters	inshore banks	M. Harvey
7/8	200	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
7/28	120	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	M. Harvey
Arctic Tern				
6/19	1	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	B. Griffith, L. Kras, R. Terrill
7/12	6	Rye	Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	L. Medlock, E. Masterson, et al.
7/28	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Harbor	L. Kras
Forster's Tern				
7/26	2	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	E. Masterson
7/30	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	E. Masterson
7/31	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Harbor	S. Mirick, L. Tanino, K. Cox
Royal Tern				
6/10	1	Rye	Jeness Beach	E. Masterson, et al.
6/26	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor flats	M. Harvey
Pomarine Jaeger				
7/4	1	Offshore Waters	whalewatch	B. Griffith, L. Kras
Parasitic Jaeger				
6/24	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
7/4	2	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Medlock, J. Lambert, D. Abbott, P. Lehman
7/6	2	Rye	Rt. 1A pulloff opposite stone angel	E. Masterson
7/14	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely, B. Crowley
Long-tailed Jaeger				
7/4	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Medlock, J. Lambert, D. Abbott, P. Lehman
7/4	1	Offshore Waters	whalewatch	B. Griffith, L. Kras
Black Guillemot				
6/24	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
6/28	1	Rye	near Rye Ledge	S. & J. Mirick
7/4	1	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	B. Griffith, L. Kras
7/25	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. & J. Mirick, L. Kras, L. Medlock, et al.

Atlantic Puffin

6/24	2	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
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Cuckoos through Corvids

Numbers of both cuckoo species were down considerably from last year when they were so abundant. While a Snowy Owl in summer is not unprecedented in New Hampshire, it is certainly a rarity. One was seen in Stratford on July 9. The fact that one was captured at the Isles of Shoals tern colony and released on June 25 in Stratford seems to solve some of the mystery of this sighting. Perhaps it was so well fed on terns that it was reluctant to leave for its arctic home.



Flooded Common Nighthawk nest site (left), and dead nighthawk hatchling and pipping egg (right). Photos by Jane Kolas, 7/2/09, Concord, NH.

As part of New Hampshire Audubon's Project Nighthawk, volunteers surveyed nighthawks in Concord and tallied 12 individuals during the nesting season, similar to last year, but with fewer males on territory (five compared to seven in 2008). A pair nested in East Concord at the same location as last year. Unfortunately, a heavy rainstorm on July 2 flooded the nest and drowned the chicks — one had just hatched and the other was pipping. The pair re-nested nearby but was also unsuccessful at that site. Project partners in Keene were excited to discover an adult feeding a recently fledged juvenile on a rooftop on July 23 — the first confirmed breeding in Keene in many years and the only other confirmed nesting in the state this year.

Whip-poor-will surveys and reports indicate little change from the past couple of years. The Ossipee area and the Merrimack/Piscataquog valley continue to be the strongholds for this species. Chimney Swift numbers continue fairly low with scattered reports of mostly one to four individuals; there were two reports of a dozen birds and a maximum of 32 in Keene by the end of July. Hurricane Wilma adversely affected Chimney Swift populations several years ago. Also, a study in England of the Common Swift, a bird that also nests in chimneys, showed a 47% population decline in 10 years, mostly due to building improvement and demolition. These same factors

could be contributing to a decline of Chimney Swift in the Northeast but there are probably other factors involved (see the article on aerial insectivores on page 50).

Yellow-bellied Flycatchers seen on Mt. Kearsarge in Wilmot were noteworthy as they are rarely reported south of the White Mountains in the breeding season, except for late spring migrants in early June. This year's observations of Fish Crow show it to be firmly established northward to Lebanon, Plymouth, and West Ossipee. The birds reported in spring continued along the coast in Hampton and Seabrook during the summer.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				
6/7	1	Nelson	Nubanusit Lake, Cabot Preserve	P. Brown
6/8	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
6/13	1	Newmarket	Gonet Road	L. Kras
6/16	1	Concord	Mast Yard State Forest	P. Hunt, NHA FT
6/17	1	Exeter	Newfields Rd. residence	P. Chamberlin
Black-billed Cuckoo				
6/5	2	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Knapp
6/10	2	Dover	Strafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
7/4	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
7/14	1	Durham	Foss Farm	M. Harvey
7/19	1	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
7/25	1	Concord	White Farm	R. Woodward
7/30	1	Westmoreland	Hatt Rd.	G. Seymour
Snowy Owl				
7/9	1	Stratford	Bog Rd.	S. Stoddard
Northern Saw-whet Owl				
6/1	1	Concord	Mast Yard State Forest	P. Hunt, R. Woodward
Common Nighthawk				
6/2	1	Sullivan	Bolster Pond	P. Brown
6/2	4	Webster	Trumbull Pond	R. Quinn
6/5	2	Madison	West Branch Pine Barrens Preserve	P. Hunt, J. Kolias
6/8	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
6/10	2	Tamworth	Depot Rd.	K. Rines
6/11	4	Sandwich	near Thompson WS	R. Ridgely
6/27	1	Ossipee	Whit's End Campground, W. Ossipee	P. Hunt
7/15	1	Gilmanton	Gilmanton Elementary School, Rt. 140	W. & C. Arms, B. Sens
7/23	3	Keene	Central Square, Keene Housing Authority roof	K. Klapper, D. Moon
Whip-poor-will				
6/2	3	Canterbury	Canterbury nightjar survey route	P. Hunt
6/2	2	Londonderry	Londonderry nightjar survey route	S. Molloy
6/3	1	Gilmanton	Guinea Ridge Road	A. Fitzpatrick
6/4	2	Jefferson	Jefferson nightjar survey route	D. Govatski, L. Bergum
6/4	1	Milan	Milan nightjar survey route	J. Ely, J. Brown
6/4	1	Stark	Milan nightjar survey route	J. Ely, J. Brown
6/5	5	Madison	Madison nightjar survey route	P. Hunt
6/6	4	Hollis	Long Hill Road	M. Boulanger
6/6	1	Weare	Weare nightjar survey route	K. Roy

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
6/8	1	Swanzy	Partridgeberry Lane	S. Reagan
6/12	1	Boscawen	Corn Hill Road	N. Rideout
6/13	1	Raymond	Chester Rd.	L. Mulligan
6/16	2	Canaan		L. Reitsma
6/24	2	Freedom	Ossipee Lake Rd., Freedom Town Forest	A. & G. Robbins
6/25	4	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard, R. Bickford, S. Bickford
6/27	1	Tamworth	Chinook Trail	N. Beecher
6/29	1	Marlow	Marlow nightjar survey route	A. & R. Fisher
7/12	2	Concord	residence	R. Woodward

Chimney Swift

6/8	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
6/11	2	Gilsum	village	M. Wright
6/18	1	Pittsburg	Metallak Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/19	3	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
6/20	4	Dover	Strafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
6/26	2	Errol	Androscoggin River	L. Tanino, R. Quinn
6/26	2	Hampton	Little Jack's restaurant	M. Harvey
6/28	1	Dixville	Route 26, Dixville Notch	L. Tanino, R. Quinn
7/16	2	Second College Grant	Magalloway River	M. & A. Vernon
7/19	12	Laconia	Laconia CC, Elm St.	H. Anderson
7/30	32	Keene	Central Square	L. Tanino
7/30	12	Nashua	Southwest Park	C. Sheridan

Red-bellied Woodpecker

6/1	2	Durham	Fogg Drive	K. Dorsey
6/1	1	Gilmanton	Currier Hill Rd.	J. Stockwell
6/8	2	Newmarket	Bay Road	H. Chary
6/9	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
6/13	3	Hinsdale	Pleasant St.	S. Flagg
6/23	2	Westmoreland	Route 63	P. Brown
7/5	2	Conway	corner of Dolloff Rd. & Rt. 153	A. & G. Robbins
7/5	1	Nashua	Southwest Park	C. Sheridan
7/12	3	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

6/10	5	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
6/27	11	Errol	Eames & Lakeside Rds.	L. Tanino, R. Quinn
6/28	5	Dixville	Route 26 & Rice Mtn. Road	L. Tanino, R. Quinn
7/3	5	Effingham	Huntress Bridge Rd.	A. & G. Robbins
7/15	6	Sandwich	off Route 113A	T. Vazzano

Black-backed Woodpecker

6/6	1	Pittsburg	Deer Mountain Campground	L. Medlock
6/13	1	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR, Androscoggin s. area	G. Gavutis Jr.
6/16	2	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR, Eames Rd. area	G. Gavutis Jr.
6/17	4	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	R. Heil
6/18	3	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/30	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely, P. Chamberlin

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Olive-sided Flycatcher				
6/4	1	Dover	Stafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
6/6	1	Effingham	Huntress Road	P. Hunt
6/11	1	Sandwich	near Thompson WS	R. Ridgely
6/12	2	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/13	3	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/15	2	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
6/15	3	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/23	2	Effingham	Huntress Bridge Rd.	A. & G. Robbins
7/17	4	Pittsburg	South Bay Bog	M. Harvey
7/20	5	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir	M. Harvey
7/21	1	Sandwich	Route 113A	T. Vazzano
7/28	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Road	T. Vazzano
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				
6/1	1	Hampton	Church Street parking lot	S. Mirick
6/7	1	Woodstock	Elbow Pond	J. Williams, Pemigewasset CFT
6/14	10	Errol	Lake Unbagog NWR, Harpers n. area	G. Gavutis Jr.
6/17	12	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/17	14	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	R. Heil
6/17	2	Wilmot	Mount Kearsarge	R. Quinn, J. Berry
7/17	15	Pittsburg	South Bay Bog	M. Harvey
7/20	5	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir	M. Harvey
Alder Flycatcher				
6/1	1	Hampton	Church Street parking lot	S. Mirick
6/4	2	Dover	Stafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
6/4	3	Washington	Pillsbury State Park	P. Hunt, W. McCumber
6/6	4	Effingham	Huntress Bridge Rd.	P. Hunt
6/7	7	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
6/13	17	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/16	4	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
7/20	7	Cambridge	Bog Brook	M. Harvey
7/20	7	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir	M. Harvey
Willow Flycatcher				
6/4	3	Dover	Stafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
6/7	2	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
6/8	3	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
6/12	2	Lisbon	Cole Plain swamp	S. Turner
6/13	1	Sandwich	Thompson WS	R. Ridgely
6/15	8	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
6/25	1	Danbury	Danbury Bog	P. Newbern
7/5	3	Conway	Sherman Farm, East Conway Rd.	A. & G. Robbins
7/25	3	Nashua	Nashua R., from Stellos launch to Hollis line	C. Sheridan
Eastern Kingbird				
6/2	10	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
6/15	6	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
6/20	5	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
7/17	30	Nashua	Nashua R., from Stellos launch to Hollis line	C. Sheridan

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Yellow-throated Vireo				
6/1	2	Durham	Fogg Drive	K. Dorsey
6/3	1	Surry	Dort Road	L. Tanino
6/10	1	Newmarket	Gonet Rd.	E. Masterson
6/15	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
6/23	1	Surry	gravel pit	P. Brown, J. Tilden
6/24	1	Westmoreland	Cheshire County Farm	P. Hunt
7/9	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Road	T. Vazzano
7/14	3	Durham	Foss Farm	M. Harvey
Blue-headed Vireo				
6/7	6	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
6/13	17	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/16	13	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/28	14	Dixville	Rt. 26, Dixville & Millsfield	L. Tanino, R. Quinn
7/17	6	Wentworths Location	Magalloway River	M.& A. Vernon
7/17-20	6	Errol	Lake Umbagog	M.& A. Vernon
Warbling Vireo				
6/10	5	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S.& M. Turner
6/16	9	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
6/29	9	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	S.& J. Mirick
Philadelphia Vireo				
6/16	2	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
7/2	2	Pittsburg	Scott Bog	S.& J. Mirick
7/3	1	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	S.& J. Mirick
Red-eyed Vireo				
6/10	10	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S.& M. Turner
6/15	22	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/17	24	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/20	27	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
6/27	51	Errol	Eames, Mountain Pond & Greenough Rds	L. Tanino, R. Quinn
6/28	23	Dixville	Route 26 & Rice Mtn. Road	L. Tanino, R. Quinn
7/4	14	Hinsdale	Wantastiquet Mtn. State Forest	M. Harvey
7/11	29	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
7/17	20	Pittsburg	road to South Bay Bog	M. Harvey
Gray Jay				
6/1	7	Pittsburg	East Inlet	L. Medlock
6/4	13	Pittsburg	East Inlet & Magalloway Rd.	S.& M. Turner, B.& B. Wotton
6/16	3	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR, Eames Rd. area	G. Gavutis Jr.
6/27	5	Cambridge	Lakeside Road	R. Quinn, L. Tanino
6/27	9	Errol	Route 16 & Sand Flat Road	R. Quinn, L. Tanino
7/2	3	Pittsburg	Scott Bog	S.& J. Mirick
7/17	4	Pittsburg	South Bay Bog	M. Harvey
7/22	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	P. Brown, D. Govatski
Fish Crow				
6/10	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach	E. Masterson
6/26	2	Ossipee	West Ossipee	P. Hunt
6/27	1	Ossipee	Leavitt Bay	A.& G. Robbins
6/28	1	Freedom	West Branch Pine Barrens Preserve	P. Hunt
7/3	1	Londonderry	Shaws parking lot, Nashua Rd.	M. Harvey

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Fish Crow—continued				
7/6	2	Plymouth	Main Street, near river	T. Vazzano
7/11	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	S. & J. Mirick
7/14	1	Durham	fire station	K. Dorsey
7/14	1	Milton	Milton Pond	P. Hunt, M. Reinhardt
7/14	5	Ossipee	jct. of Routes 25W & 16	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely, B. Crowley
7/17	2	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	S. & J. Mirick
7/18	4	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Woodward
Common Raven				
6/3	1	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
6/6	4	Effingham	Huntress Bridge Rd.	P. Hunt
6/13	4	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/20	6	Surry	Surry Mountain Dam	L. Tanino
6/26	5	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd. trail	A. & G. Robbins
6/30	2	Nashua	Southwest Park	C. Sheridan

Horned Lark through Warblers



*Palm Warbler at Church Pond Bog,
by Jason Lambert, 6/7/09, Albany, NH.*

Purple Martin continues to hang on in New Hampshire, albeit precariously. They were reported from their usual locations in Freedom, Conway and Laconia. June reports of Tree Swallow were scattered across the state but numbers of these adult birds were low and a couple of observers commented on the lack of them this year (see also page 50). Carolina Wren reports were down this summer with the

northernmost bird reported in Concord. This may reflect two consecutive winters of heavy snowfall. A canoe ride along the Squamscott River in Exeter yielded an impressive 50 Marsh Wrens. The Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrushes reported from Concord in early June were heard migrating overhead at night. Northern Mockingbird may be another species in general decline in the region. They are a southern species that has not made any real advances northward in the state in the past 25 years.

Three adult Lawrence's Warblers were seen in Nashua. The Lawrence's Warbler is the rarer of the two hybrids of the Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers and their presence is an indication that Golden-winged Warblers are in continued decline across the region. The last summer record for Golden-winged Warbler was from the northern part of the state on June 1, 2006. Palm Warbler continued in its recently expanded range in Carroll County and was also well reported from the northern part of the state,

southward to Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge. This is a big change from when the *Atlas of Breeding Birds in New Hampshire*, covering the early and mid 1980's, indicated only two "possible" breeding records. There are probably already locations for this species waiting to be discovered, and if not, there likely will be soon.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Horned Lark				
6/30	3	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt, E. Brunkhurst
Purple Martin				
6/20	1	Effingham	Ryefield Rd.	A. & G. Robbins
6/26	2	Meredith	Wickwas Lake	P. Hunt
7/3	9	Freedom	Rt. 153 colony	A. & G. Robbins
7/9	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	S. Mirick
7/18	25	Laconia	Fun Spot, Weirs Beach	P. Hunt
7/27	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
7/31	3	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	L. Medlock, B. Griffith, L. Kras
July	12	Conway	Rt. 302 colony site	B. Crowley
Tree Swallow				
6/11	17	Pittsburg	Metallak Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/20	12	Dover	Stafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
6/26	3	Hampton	Little Jack's restaurant	M. Harvey
6/29	13	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	S. & J. Mirick
7/17	200	Hampton	Hampton salt marsh	S. & J. Mirick
7/21	2000	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	M. Harvey
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				
6/4	3	Dover	Stafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
6/12	1	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Hubbard
6/13	2	Hampton	Hampton salt marsh	S. & J. Mirick
6/22	1	Conway	Rt. 113, Sherman Farm, E. Conway	A. & G. Robbins
6/25	1	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
6/26	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	M. Harvey
6/29	1	Enfield	Potato Rd.	L. Jones
7/18	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	L. Medlock, B. Griffith, L. Kras
Bank Swallow				
6/4	4	Dover	Stafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
6/12	25	Rochester	wastewater treatment plant	D. Hubbard
6/22	15	Conway	Rt. 113, Sherman Farm, E. Conway	A. & G. Robbins
6/23	30	Surry	gravel pit	P. Brown, J. Tilden
7/6	26	Orford	Connecticut River	C. Martin
7/17	50	Pittsburg	Hall Stream Rd.	M. Harvey
7/17	20	Pittsburg	Tabor Rd.	M. Harvey
7/31	1	Rye	Concord Point	M. Harvey
Cliff Swallow				
6/1	9	Durham	University of NH field house	K. Dorsey
6/11	20	Pittsburg	First Connecticut Lake	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/13	22	Pittsburg	Metallak Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/14	25	Pittsburg	Tabor Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/17	20	Milan	Milan BBS route	I. MacLeod
6/23	10	Bridgewater	Bridgewater Hill Rd. barn	J. Williams

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Cliff Swallow—continued				
6/23	12	Campton	Pulsifer's barn, Bog Road	J. Williams
6/25	4	Tamworth	Mountain Road barn	P. Brown
6/26	20	Dover	General Sullivan Bridge by Dover Pt.	R. Suomala
6/26	8	Tamworth	Community School, Bunker Hill Rd.	P. Hunt
7/12	20	Campton	Beebe River Industrial Pk.	I. MacLeod



Boreal Chickadee by Leonard Medlock, 6/1/09, Pittsburg, NH.



Boreal Chickadee adult removing a fecal sack from a nest cavity, by Steve Mirick, 6/1/09, Pittsburg, NH.

Boreal Chickadee

6/6	3	Pittsburg	East Inlet	L. Medlock
6/16	1	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR, Eames Rd. area	G. Gavutis Jr.
6/18	7	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/24	20	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	B. Griffith, L. Kras
6/26	2	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	A. & G. Robbins
6/28	5	Dixville	Route 26	L. Tanino, R. Quinn
6/28	6	Millsfield	Route 16	R. Quinn, L. Tanino
6/28	7	Shelburne	Mount Moriah	M. Harvey
7/17	17	Pittsburg	South Bay Bog	M. Harvey
7/17	1	Wentworths Location	Magalloway River	M. & A. Vernon
7/19	1	Franconia	Cannon Mtn.	R. Suomala
7/20	1	Cambridge	Bog Brook	M. Harvey

Carolina Wren

6/5	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
6/14	1	Concord	Loudon Rd.	P. Newbern
6/17	1	Walpole	Merriam Rd.	R. Ritz
6/27	1	Walpole	Rt. 12 baseball field	P. Newbern
7/4	1	Durham	Bartlett Lane	K. Dorsey
7/12	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
7/31	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	M. Harvey

Winter Wren

6/1	1	Nashua	Southwest Park	C. Sheridan
6/6	1	Center Harbor	Chamberlain-Reynolds Forest	T. Vazzano, Lakes Region CFT
6/13	16	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/15	19	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/17	14	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	R. Heil
6/30	4	Whitefield	Pondicherry NWR	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely, P. Chamberlin
7/4	1	Concord	quarries	R. Woodward

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Marsh Wren				
6/15	25	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
6/17	50	Exeter	Squamscott R. marsh downstream of Rt. 101	E. Masterson
6/20	3	Portsmouth	hospital marsh	S. & J. Mirick
6/25	6	Sandwich	Thompson WS	P. Brown
6/26	5	Hampton	Meadow Pond	M. Harvey
Golden-crowned Kinglet				
6/10	2	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
6/13	3	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR, Androscoggin s. area	G. Gavutis Jr.
6/13	14	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/17	2	Wilmot	Mount Kearsarge	R. Quinn, J. Berry
6/26	4	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd. trail	A. & G. Robbins
6/27	18	Errol	Eames, Lakeside & Greenough Rds	L. Tanino, R. Quinn
6/30	2	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	S. & J. Mirick
7/17	12	Pittsburg	South Bay Bog	M. Harvey
7/20	2	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir	M. Harvey
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
6/12	2	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
6/13	8	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/16	17	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/17	1	Wilmot	Mount Kearsarge	R. Quinn, J. Berry
6/26	2	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	A. & G. Robbins
7/11	1	Sandwich	Black Mountain Pond	P. Brown, R. Bennett
7/22	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	P. Brown, D. Govatski
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				
6/17	1	Nashua	Southwest Park	C. Sheridan
6/20	3	Dover	Stafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
6/24	1	Charlestown	Great Meadows	P. Hunt, J. Lambert
6/29	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	S. & J. Mirick
7/12	3	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Woodward
7/20	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
7/26	2	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	K. Dorsey
Eastern Bluebird				
6/17	1	Pittsburg	Hill Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
7/17	2	Wentworths Location	Magalloway River	M. & A. Vernon
Veery				
6/4	4	Dover	Stafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
6/6	3	Center Harbor	Chamberlain-Reynolds Forest	T. Vazzano, Lakes Region CFT
6/6	4	Effingham	Huntress Bridge Rd.	P. Hunt
6/15	4	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
6/16	5	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
6/20	45	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
Bicknell's Thrush				
6/5	3	Franconia	Cannon Mtn. summit, Franconia Notch	S. & M. Turner, B. & B. Wotton
6/7	2	Woodstock	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest	B. Griffith
6/17	8	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	R. Heil
6/28	6	Shelburne	Mount Moriah	M. Harvey

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Bicknell's Thrush—continued				
7/5	5	Sargents Purchase	Mt. Washington, Alpine Garden area	L. Medlock
7/19	2	Franconia	Cannon Mtn.	M. & R. Suomala, et al.
Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush sp.				
6/1	10	Concord	Mast Yard State Forest	P. Hunt
6/5	3	Concord	Mast Yard State Forest	P. Hunt
Swainson's Thrush				
6/7	1	Woodstock	Elbow Pond	J. Williams, Pemigewasset CFT
6/12	12	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/14	5	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR, Harpers n. area	G. Gavutis Jr.
6/15	14	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/17	32	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	R. Heil
6/28	22	Shelburne	Mount Moriah	M. Harvey
Northern Mockingbird				
6/22	1	Conway	Sherman Farm, East Conway Rd.	A. & G. Robbins
6/25	1	Conway	Settlers Green	P. Brown
7/15	1	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit	T. Vazzano
Brown Thrasher				
6/6	3	Newington	McIntyre Road	S. & J. Mirick
6/10	2	Exeter	Powder House Pond	L. Medlock
6/16	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
6/17	1	Berlin	Milan BBS route	I. MacLeod
6/29	4	Nashua	old sandpit off Groton Rd.	C. Sheridan
7/12	3	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest	A. & G. Robbins
American Pipit				
7/5	2	Sargents Purchase	Mt. Washington, Alpine Garden area	L. Medlock
7/10	3	Sargents Purchase	Mount Washington	P. Brown
Cedar Waxwing				
6/1	24	Nashua	Southwest Park	C. Sheridan
6/2	12	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
6/13	34	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/26	47	Errol	Androscoggin River	L. Tanino, R. Quinn
6/28	10	Dixville	Route 26	L. Tanino, R. Quinn
7/5	15	Nashua	Southwest Park	C. Sheridan
7/16	10	Second College Grant	Magalloway River	M. & A. Vernon
7/17	15	Wentworths Location	Magalloway River	M. & A. Vernon
7/20	10	Cambridge	Bog Brook	M. Harvey
7/20	25	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir	M. Harvey
Blue-winged Warbler				
6/1	2	Nashua	Southwest Park	C. Sheridan
6/8	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
6/15	1	Dover	Stafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
6/25	1	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
6/29	4	Nashua	old sandpit off Groton Rd.	C. Sheridan
7/4	4	Durham	Bartlett Lane	K. Dorsey
7/4	4	Durham	Surrey Lane	K. Dorsey

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Lawrence's Warbler - hybrid				
6/1	1	Nashua	Southwest Park	C. Sheridan
6/17	3	Nashua	Southwest Park	C. Sheridan
Tennessee Warbler				
6/24	1	Pittsburg	Moose Falls Road	B. Griffith, L. Kras
Nashville Warbler				
6/4	7	Stoddard	Pitcher Mountain	L. Tanino
6/4	2	Washington	Pillsbury State Park	P. Hunt, W. McCumber
6/6	3	Effingham	Huntress Bridge Rd.	P. Hunt
6/7	2	Woodstock	Elbow Pond	J. Williams, Pemigewasset CFT
6/13	6	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR, Androscoggin s. area	G. Gavutis Jr.
6/13	29	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/17	5	Wilmot	Mount Kearsarge	R. Quinn, J. Berry
6/25	1	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
6/28	14	Shelburne	Mount Moriah	M. Harvey
6/30	2	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	S. & J. Mirick
6/30	6	Whitefield	Pondicherry NWR	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely, P. Chamberlin
7/20	3	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir	M. Harvey
Northern Parula				
6/5	2	Fitzwilliam	Rhododendron St. Pk.	P. Brown
6/13	26	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/14	3	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
6/26	51		Errol region	R. Quinn, L. Tanino
7/16	7	Second College Grant	Magalloway River	M. & A. Vernon
7/20	16	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir	M. Harvey
Chestnut-sided Warbler				
6/4	6	Stoddard	Pitcher Mountain	L. Tanino
6/13	15	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/20	6	Dover	Stafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
6/30	6	Whitefield	Pondicherry NWR	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely, P. Chamberlin
7/20	3	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
Magnolia Warbler				
6/13	13	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/15	2	Lempster	Goshen-Lempster School	P. Newbern
6/16	22	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/17	2	Wilmot	Mount Kearsarge	R. Quinn, J. Berry
6/26	1	Dublin	Charcoal Rd.	T. Warren
6/28	12	Dixville	Rt. 26, Dixville & Millsfield	L. Tanino, R. Quinn
6/30	8	Whitefield	Pondicherry NWR	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely, P. Chamberlin
7/20	6	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir	M. Harvey
Cape May Warbler				
6/13	1	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR, Androscoggin s. area	G. Gavutis Jr.
6/24	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	B. Griffith, L. Kras

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
6/4	6	Stoddard	Pitcher Mountain	L. Tanino
6/6	6	Concord	Oak Hill	R. Woodward, Capital CFT
6/7	5	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
6/8	1	Kensington	Rt.107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
6/13	13	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/16	13	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/30	12	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	S.& J. Mirick
7/20	30	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir	M. Harvey
Black-throated Green Warbler				
6/13	25	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/15	17	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/17	34	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
7/13	4	Deerfield	North Road	M. Harvey
7/29	4	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
Blackburnian Warbler				
6/4	4	Stoddard	Pitcher Mountain	L. Tanino
6/6	3	Concord	Oak Hill	R. Woodward, Capital CFT
6/13	21	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/16	4	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR, Eames Rd. area	G. Gavutis Jr.
6/28	10	Shelburne	Mount Moriah	M. Harvey
7/12	1	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest, Mary's Mtn.	A.& G. Robbins
7/13	1	Deerfield	North Road	M. Harvey
7/18-20	12	Errol	Lake Umbagog	M.& A. Vernon
Prairie Warbler				
6/16	4	Concord	Mast Yard State Forest	P. Hunt, NHA FT
6/20	4	Exeter	Newfields Rd. power lines	P. Chamberlin
6/22	5	Conway	Garland Pit Rd., East Conway	A.& G. Robbins
6/25	2	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest	A.& G. Robbins
6/29	16	Nashua	old sandpit off Groton Rd.	C. Sheridan
Palm Warbler				
6/6	1	Effingham	Huntress Bridge Rd.	P. Hunt
6/8	3	Albany	Church Pond Bog	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert
6/27	2	Cambridge	Sand Flat Road	R. Quinn, L. Tanino
7/17	16	Pittsburg	South Bay Bog	M. Harvey
7/18	2	Errol	Harpers Meadow	M. Harvey
7/19	10	Errol	Lake Umbagog, Leonard Marsh	M. Harvey
7/20	3	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir	M. Harvey
7/22	5	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	P. Brown, D. Govatski
Bay-breasted Warbler				
6/12	4	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/12	2	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/13	2	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/15	2	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/16	12	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
Blackpoll Warbler				
6/1	1	Hampton	Church Street parking lot	S. Mirick
6/2	1	Dublin	Dublin Lake	P. Brown

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
6/8	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
6/14	17	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	L. Medlock, L. Kras, J. Lambert
6/16	12	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/28	4	Dixville	Dixville Notch	R. Quinn, L. Tanino
6/28	15	Shelburne	Mount Moriah	M. Harvey
American Redstart				
6/1	4	Hampton	Church Street parking lot	S. Mirick
6/2	8	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
6/3	4	Nashua	Southwest Park	C. Sheridan
6/13	21	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/15	4	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
6/29	3	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	S. & J. Mirick
Ovenbird				
6/4	11	Stoddard	Pitcher Mountain	L. Tanino
6/18	14	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
6/20	17	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
6/26	28		Errol region	R. Quinn, L. Tanino
7/4	7	Hinsdale	Wantastiquet Mtn. State Forest	M. Harvey
Northern Waterthrush				
6/2	1	Exeter	Newfields Rd. residence	P. Chamberlin
6/3	1	Rumney	Berti's Meadow	J. Williams
6/5	1	Fitzwilliam	Rhododendron St. Pk.	P. Brown
6/6	1	Center Harbor	Chamberlain-Reynolds Forest	T. Vazzano, Lakes Region CFT
6/12	2	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
6/12	7	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/12	7	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/15	4	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR, Tidswell Pt. area	G. Gavutis Jr.
6/23	2	Effingham	Huntress Bridge Rd.	A. & G. Robbins
7/3	9	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	S. & J. Mirick
Louisiana Waterthrush				
6/1	1	Webster	Call Road	R. Quinn
6/2	1	Webster	Dustin Road	R. Quinn
6/3	1	New Boston	Thomas Easement Tucker Mill Rd.	E. Masterson
6/4	1	Washington	Pillsbury State Park	P. Hunt, W. McCumber
6/5	1	Gilmanton	Durrell Mountain Road	P. Hunt, M. Tarr
6/9	1	Sandwich	Dinsmore Pond Rd.	T. Vazzano
6/26	2	Ossipee	Bearcamp River, W. Ossipee	P. Hunt
Mourning Warbler				
6/1	1	Durham	Fogg Drive	K. Dorsey
6/5	1	Gilmanton	Durrell Mountain Road	P. Hunt, M. Tarr
6/13	2	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/15	4	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/28	3	Dixville	Route 16 & Rice Mountain Road	R. Quinn, L. Tanino
Common Yellowthroat				
6/2	18	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
6/13	31	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/25	17	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Common Yellowthroat—continued				
7/11	35	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
7/19	25	Errol	Lake Umbagog, Leonard Marsh	M. Harvey
7/20	20	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir	M. Harvey
Wilson's Warbler				
6/12	2	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/16	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
Canada Warbler				
6/5	3	Fitzwilliam	Rhododendron St. Pk.	P. Brown
6/5	1	Gilmanton	Durrell Mountain Road	P. Hunt, M. Tarr
6/6	2	Effingham	Huntress Bridge Rd.	P. Hunt
6/7	1	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
6/7	5	Woodstock	Elbow Pond	J. Williams, Pemigewasset CFT
6/12	3	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/16	7	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/23	2	Effingham	Huntress Bridge Rd.	A. & G. Robbins
6/28	2	Dixville	Route 26	L. Tanino, R. Quinn
7/17	5	Pittsburg	South Bay Bog	M. Harvey

Tanagers through Finches



*Nelson's Sparrow at Chapman's Landing,
by Leonard Medlock, 7/31/09, Stratham, NH.*

New Hampshire three out of the past four summers. It may be just a matter of time before a breeding pair is found in our state. The Nelson's Sparrow found in Surry on June 3 was essentially a late spring migrant but its presence in spring or early summer at an inland location is very rare. This is the first year breeding was confirmed at the coast for Nelson's Sparrow, although they have been reported there in summer. The species has also been known to breed at Chapman's Landing on Great Bay. Lincoln's Sparrow is always a good find south of the Kancamagus Highway in the breeding season; one was found at Thompson Wildlife Sanctuary in Sandwich in late June. A pair was found breeding very near this site several years ago.

A Summer Tanager was heard in a yard in Hancock by two observers quite familiar with its rather unique call. This rare, southern tanager is more often reported in New England in late spring, but there have been a few summer reports in our state in recent years. A singing **Clay-colored Sparrow** was seen this summer. This species has bred as close as Vermont and has been found singing in

A male **Painted Bunting** was seen at a feeder in Portsmouth during the first week of June. The range of this gaudy bird is typically well south of New England but occasionally a few wander northward. It was seen for a short time one morning and then not seen again. Eastern Meadowlark is yet another species that has declined in the state and reports were especially sparse this year. Red Crossbills were reported from a few locations with the largest flock in Sandwich. An audio recording of this flock was made and sent to a researcher at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology who determined that there were four different vocal types of Red Crossbill in the flock (types 1, 2, 3, and 10). We hope to have more information about these different types in a future issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*. This flock included streaked juvenile birds indicating that there was probably breeding nearby. There were several reports of White-winged Crossbill, mostly from the north. Both species of crossbills were likely present because of an abundant cone crop for several types of conifers.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Summer Tanager				
6/6	1	Hancock	Powdermill Pond	L.& D. Stokes
Eastern Towhee				
6/4	4	Stoddard	Pitcher Mountain	L. Tanino
6/18	3	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
6/25	1	Alexandria	Mt. Cardigan Rd.	P. Newbern
6/29	4	Nashua	old sandpit off Groton Rd.	C. Sheridan
6/30	5	Kensington	Rt.107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
7/15	1	Sandwich	off Route 113A	T. Vazzano
7/17	4	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
Clay-colored Sparrow				
6/5	1	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Knapp
Field Sparrow				
6/3	1	Surry	Dort Road	L. Tanino
6/7	1	Newington	McIntyre Road	L. Medlock
6/13	1	Sullivan	Valley Road	P. Brown, J. Tilden
6/16	1	Hopkinton	Mast Yard State Forest	P. Hunt, NHA FT
6/18	1	Gilsum	Hammond Hollow	M. Wright
6/29	15	Nashua	old sandpit off Groton Rd.	C. Sheridan
7/3	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Road	T. Vazzano
7/7	1	Nelson	Apple Hill Road	P. Brown, J. Tilden
7/17	5	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
7/24	3	Enfield	Potato Road	L. Jones
Vesper Sparrow				
6/6	1	Newington	McIntyre Road	S.& J. Mirick
6/14	2	Freedom	off Ossipee Lake Rd.	R. Ridgely
6/23	1	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport, McIntyre Rd.	D. Hubbard
6/30	9	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt, E. Brunkhurst
7/5	1	Conway	Rt. 113, Sherman Farm, E. Conway	A.& G. Robbins
7/12	1	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest	A.& G. Robbins
7/17	6	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Savannah Sparrow				
6/14	2	Pittsburg	Tabor Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/24	6	Charlestown	Great Meadows	P. Hunt, J. Lambert
7/5	5	Conway	Rt. 113, Sherman Farm, E. Conway	A. & G. Robbins
7/17	26	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
7/19	45	Errol	Lake Umbagog, Leonard Marsh	M. Harvey
Grasshopper Sparrow				
6/6	4	Newington	McIntyre Road	S. & J. Mirick
6/30	7	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt, E. Brunkhurst
7/17	11	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
Nelson's Sparrow				
6/3	1	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	L. Tanino
6/5	1	N. Hampton	Philbrick Pond	S. Mirick
6/16	3	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	L. Medlock
7/17	1	N. Hampton	town line cove	S. & J. Mirick
7/19	1	Rye	Fairhill Marsh	S. & J. Mirick
7/31	3	N. Hampton	Philbrick Marsh	L. Medlock
Saltmarsh Sparrow				
6/6	14	Hampton	Little Jack's Restaurant	S. & J. Mirick
6/13	30	Hampton	Hampton salt marsh	S. & J. Mirick
6/16	9	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	L. Medlock
7/13	7	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	L. Medlock, J. Lambert
7/20	40	Hampton	Hampton salt marsh	S. Mirick
Seaside Sparrow				
6/19	1	Hampton	Little Jack's Restaurant	B. Griffith, R. Terrill
7/3	1	Hampton	Hampton marshes	L. Kras, B. Griffith
Lincoln's Sparrow				
6/15	3	Pittsburg	Magalloway Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/15	1	Pittsburg	Perry Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/15	4	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/25	1	Sandwich	Thompson WS	P. Brown
7/3	4	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	S. & J. Mirick
7/17	11	Pittsburg	South Bay Bog	M. Harvey
7/19	9	Errol	Lake Umbagog, Leonard Marsh	M. Harvey
7/22	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	P. Brown, D. Govatski
Swamp Sparrow				
6/15	10	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
6/16	7	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
7/4	19	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
7/19	40	Errol	Lake Umbagog, Leonard Marsh	M. Harvey
7/20	25	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir	M. Harvey
White-throated Sparrow				
6/6	3	Effingham	Huntress Bridge Rd.	P. Hunt
6/7	2	Woodstock	Elbow Pond	J. Williams, Pemigewasset CFT
6/15	25	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/17	27	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/28	18	Dixville	Rt. 26, Dixville & Millsfield	L. Tanino, R. Quinn
7/15	8	Sandwich	off Route 113A	T. Vazzano

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
6/7	6	Concord	Turkey Pond survey	R. Woodward
6/8	12	Kensington	Rt. 107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
6/16	5	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
6/17	4	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
6/18	3	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/18	7	Rumney	Buffalo Rd.	J. & J. Williams, et al.
6/20	5	Hinsdale	Pleasant St.	S. Flagg
6/30	20	Kensington	Rt.107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
7/12	5	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest	A. & G. Robbins
Painted Bunting				
6/2	1	Portsmouth	residence	D. Mooney
Bobolink				
6/3	12	Surry	Dort Road	L. Tanino
6/8	25	Sandwich	end of Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
6/10	9	Dover	Strafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
6/13	17	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
6/14	5	Pittsburg	Tabor Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/24	20	Charlestown	Great Meadows	P. Hunt, J. Lambert
6/26	11	Jefferson	Jefferson Meadows	L. Tanino, R. Quinn
7/14	60	Newmarket	Lubberland Creek Preserve	M. Harvey
Eastern Meadowlark				
6/7	2	Newington	McIntyre Road	L. Medlock
6/14	1	Pittsburg	Tabor Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/18	1	Rochester	Fowler Farm, Salmon Falls Rd.	D. Hubbard
6/24	1	Concord	Post Office fields	R. Quinn
6/26	2	Jefferson	Jefferson Meadows	R. Quinn, L. Tanino
7/17	5	Concord	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
Rusty Blackbird				
6/7	4	Woodstock	Elbow Pond	J. Williams, Pemigewasset CFT
6/15	1	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR, Tidswell Pt. area	G. Gavutis Jr.
6/15	5	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/15	2	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/16	7	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/17	5	Errol	ne. of Akers Pond	C. Martin
6/26	5	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd. trail	A. & G. Robbins
6/28	1	Dixville	Route 16	R. Quinn, L. Tanino
Orchard Oriole				
6/6	1	Seabrook	off Worthley Road	S. & J. Mirick
6/16	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
6/23	1	Walpole	Alysons Orchard	P. Brown
7/5	1	Nashua	Southwest Park	C. Sheridan
7/20	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
Purple Finch				
6/6	2	Effingham	Huntress Bridge Rd.	P. Hunt
6/10	4	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
6/13	2	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/17	5	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Purple Finch—continued				
6/28	10	Dixville	Rt. 26, Dixville & Millsfield	L. Tanino, R. Quinn
7/17	5	Pittsburg	South Bay Bog	M. Harvey
7/26	1	Newmarket	Bay Road	H. Chary
Red Crossbill				
6/16	4	Sandwich	near Thompson WS	R. Ridgely
6/24	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	B. Griffith, L. Kras
7/15	2	Sandwich	jct. Stevenson Hill & Brown Hill Rds.	T. Vazzano
7/21	3	Ellsworth	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest	B. Griffith
7/21	35	Sandwich	Route 113A	T. Vazzano
7/25	40	Sandwich	near Thompson WS	R. Ridgely
White-winged Crossbill				
6/6	1	Effingham	Huntress Bridge Rd.	P. Hunt
6/16	2	Errol	Lake Umbagog NWR, Eames Rd. area	G. Gavutis Jr.
6/24	7	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road	B. Griffith, L. Kras
6/27	2	Cambridge	Lakeside Road	R. Quinn, L. Tanino
7/12	1	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest	A. & G. Robbins
7/17	6	Pittsburg	South Bay Bog	M. Harvey
7/22	12	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	P. Brown, D. Govatski
Pine Siskin				
6/3	2	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
6/5	1	Gilmanton	Durrell Mountain Road	P. Hunt, M. Tarr
6/13	2	Harrisville	Harrisville Pond	P. Brown, J. Rodolico
6/15	1	Pittsburg	Smith Brook Road	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
6/19	1	Kensington	Rt.107 residence, South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
6/20	2	Hancock	Harris Center	P. Brown, et al.
7/20	1	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir	M. Harvey
Evening Grosbeak				
6/7	2	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. & M. Turner
6/11	1	Hinsdale	Pleasant St.	R. Flagg
6/18	4	Rumney	Buffalo Rd.	J & J .Williams, D. Schwemm, L. Young, et al.
6/23	5	Freedom	Scarboro Rd.	A. & G. Robbins
6/25	2	Webster	Call Road	R. Quinn
6/27	2	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
7/7	2	Nelson	residence	P. Brown
7/18	2	Errol	Lake Umbagog	M. & A. Vernon



Mixed flock of Greater and Sooty Shearwaters, by Jon Woolf, 7/6/09, at sea off Jeffreys Ledge.

Reporters for Summer 2009

H. Cook Anderson
 Jeannine Ayer
 Mary Boulanger
 Phil Brown
 Patience Chamberlin
 Hank Chary
 Bob Crowley
 Jim & Brenda Davulis
 Jane Doherty
 Kurk Dorsey
 Bill Dumont
 Sue Farris
 Shannon Flagg
 Kenneth Folsom
 Sarah Gammon
 George Gavutis, Jr.
 David Govatski
 Benjamin Griffith
 Sarah Hall
 Michael Harvey
 David Howe

Dan Hubbard
 Pamela Hunt
 Leith Jones
 Jane Kolia
 Debbie LaValley
 Iain MacLeod
 Chris Martin
 Eric Masterson
 Leonard Medlock
 Anita Memos
 Marsha Miles
 Steve Mirick
 Joan Monahan
 Dennis Mooney
 Peter Newbern
 Erik Nielsen
 Pat Niswander
 Robert Quinn
 Kristine Rines
 Robert Ritz
 Andrea Robbins

Paul Roberts
 Brenda Sens
 Gregory Seymour
 Christine Sheridan
 Debbie Stahre
 J. B. Stockwell
 Rebecca Suomala
 Lance Tanino
 Sandra Turner
 Robert Vallieres
 Tony Vazzano
 Mark Vernon
 Tom Warren
 Rob Woodward
 Mary Wright

Some sightings were taken directly from eBird, and the Upper Valley and NH.Birds e-mail lists.

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

Canada Goose
 Mute Swan
 Wood Duck
 American Black Duck
 Mallard
 Ring-necked Pheasant
 Ruffed Grouse
 Wild Turkey
 Northern Bobwhite
 Double-crested Cormorant
 Great Cormorant
 Osprey
 Bald Eagle
 Sharp-shinned Hawk
 Cooper's Hawk
 Broad-winged Hawk
 Red-tailed Hawk
 Peregrine Falcon
 Ring-billed Gull
 Herring Gull
 Great Black-backed Gull
 Rock Pigeon
 Mourning Dove
 Great Horned Owl
 Barred Owl

Ruby-throated Hummingbird
 Belted Kingfisher
 Downy Woodpecker
 Hairy Woodpecker
 Northern Flicker
 Pileated Woodpecker
 Eastern Wood-Pewee
 Least Flycatcher
 Great Crested Flycatcher
 Eastern Phoebe
 Blue Jay
 American Crow
 Barn Swallow
 Black-capped Chickadee
 Tufted Titmouse
 Red-breasted Nuthatch
 White-breasted Nuthatch
 Brown Creeper
 House Wren
 Hermit Thrush
 Wood Thrush
 American Robin
 Gray Catbird
 European Starling
 Yellow Warbler

Black-throated Blue Warbler
 Pine Warbler
 Black-and-white Warbler
 Scarlet Tanager
 Chipping Sparrow
 Song Sparrow
 Dark-eyed Junco
 Northern Cardinal
 Indigo Bunting
 Red-winged Blackbird
 Common Grackle
 Brown-headed Cowbird
 Baltimore Oriole
 House Finch
 American Goldfinch
 House Sparrow

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

Common Loon 2009 Summary

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



Common Loon adult by John Rockwood, Lake Massabesic, Auburn, NH.

In 2009, The Loon Preservation Committee's (LPC) annual monitoring of the New Hampshire loon population showed an increase in the number of nesting loon pairs and of the total adult population. Unfortunately, this increase was countered by another season of poor nesting success, due in part to the many nests flooded by heavy rains in June and July.

This year 184 loon pairs nested in New Hampshire and the total adult population was tallied at close to 600. Both of these values are higher than in 2008. Successful nests hatched 162 chicks, roughly 25% more than in 2008; however, the number of flooded nests was the second highest recorded since 1975. The key measure of breeding success, the number of chicks surviving (CS) to mid-August per territorial loon pair (TP), was approximately 0.42 CS/TP this year, well below the long term average needed to sustain a viable population. We continue to see the state's biggest lakes having very low nesting success (five chicks each surviving on Winnepesaukee and Squam, three surviving on Umbagog, one surviving on Massabesic), but there are encouraging signs from other big lakes, such as Wentworth (three successful nests), Newfound (a new, successful nest site), and Mascoma (a successful nest).

Statewide monitoring relied on nine field biologists and over 500 volunteer census observers and covered over 300 lakes. New Hampshire's bird watching community continues to provide invaluable information to the effort and LPC appreciates this help. Please send your photographs and reports of band sightings and observations of breeding loons to *New Hampshire Bird Records* (via NH eBird) or to LPC at field@loon.org.

Peregrine Falcons – A Moving Experience

After eight consecutive years of producing young in a nest box installed on the Brady-Sullivan Tower near the Amoskeag Bridge, Manchester's falcon pair moved one mile down Elm Street to nest on the Citizens Bank building. "We were looking for them in their usual spot, but they weren't there, and the camera showed an empty nest!" said Chris Martin, NH Audubon's raptor specialist, who coordinates the state's Peregrine Falcon management efforts. The female falcon laid her eggs on a narrow decorative ledge at Citizens Bank – right over Elm Street. This female was raised in a similar window box situation in Worcester, Massachusetts in 2005, so perhaps the Citizens Bank ledge reminded her of her old home. Unfortunately the ledge would not



Above: The adult Peregrine Falcon pair perched just above the original nest site – a narrow ledge between a decorative railing and the window. Photo was taken from a conference room within the Citizens Bank building by John Dyke of Citizens Bank.

allow the young peregrines room to spread their wings and exercise their wing muscles before taking flight. "When the chicks were three weeks old, we moved them into a more secure nest box located on the roof," said Martin. After a nervous couple of hours, the adults located the chicks in their new home and all was well. All three chicks ultimately fledged without incident.



Right: Three downy Peregrine Falcon chicks, 5/15/09, in their new home custom-built by NH Audubon's Chris Martin (also the photographer).



Left: The whole family of Peregrine Falcons at the new nest box, 5/16/09. Photo taken from an office window across Elm Street by Karen Charron of FairPoint Communications.

Spotlight on Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*)

by Stephen R. Mirick



Immature Long-tailed Jaeger by Leonard Medlock, 8/16/09, offshore waters, NH.

Background and Breeding

The Long-tailed Jaeger is one of three species of predatory, gull-like birds that also include the Parasitic Jaeger and the Pomarine Jaeger. These three species all nest on the arctic tundra, but are otherwise pelagic for the rest of the year, migrating well offshore, and traveling the world's oceans, and therefore rarely seen from land. Although they hunt small birds and mammals on the breeding grounds, they all practice kleptoparasitism when at sea. Kleptoparasitism is the

feeding strategy in which other species of birds are chased in an effort to steal their food. Most often the victim is a tern, and jaegers can often be seen isolating an individual tern from a flock and chasing it with amazing speed and agility.

A holarctic breeder, the Long-tailed Jaeger is the northernmost nester of the three jaegers and occurs to the northern extent of land in the arctic. It is also considered to be the most widespread and abundant of the three and it is the most highly pelagic in migration, with the primary route believed to be along or beyond the continental shelf. It is therefore the most difficult of the three species to see from near-shore fishing and whalewatch boats. Because of the pelagic nature of Long-tailed Jaegers, the wintering range is not clearly understood. It is believed that most Long-tailed Jaegers migrate south toward the offshore waters of Argentina and Africa in the South Atlantic.

The Long-tailed Jaeger is the smallest and most tern-like of the jaegers, and is also the rarest and most highly prized species of jaeger for birders to find on the east coast. Extremely beautiful and graceful in flight, an adult Long-tailed Jaeger with elongated central tail streamers is one of the most sought after of the pelagic birds.

Historic Records for New Hampshire

Historically, there is little known of this species in New Hampshire. Glover Allen in his 1903 book "*The Birds of New Hampshire*," makes no reference to any records in the state. He only records the occurrence of Parasitic Jaeger and doesn't mention Long-tailed Jaeger.

There are very few records for New Hampshire because of the relative scarcity of offshore birding trips combined with the state's relatively short coastline and narrow offshore waters. The only historic records that are known for New Hampshire are as follows:

6/18/65 - Reportedly the first record for New Hampshire came on June 18, 1965 from Lancaster, NH when an adult bird was picked up in moribund condition and subsequently died. The specimen was donated to the collection at the University of New Hampshire where it is currently mounted in a display at the Spaulding Life Science Center building.



6/18/68 - The second record for New Hampshire came three years later when Tudor Richards discovered and photographed a sub-adult bird swimming on Squam Lake (see page 48). The bird remained for one more day and was seen by a few birders before leaving.

Adult Long-tailed Jaeger in breeding plumage, 6/18/74, by Dorothy Crumb, Surry, NH.

6/18/74 - Almost unimaginably, the state's third record came from JUNE 18 again! This time an adult bird was discovered in a gravel pit in Surry, NH. The bird apparently remained in the area and was observed by visiting birders for as long as three weeks!

5/24/75 - The state's fourth record was an adult bird found in the Quincy Bog area in Rumney. Although only a "fly-by", it was meticulously described by three experienced birders.

Until the summer of 2009, these were the only accepted records for the state of New Hampshire and these four records are remarkable for all being adult or sub-adult birds and, most noteworthy, because all of these records are from locations well away from the seacoast! As stated earlier, this is a highly pelagic species south of Canada and most records in New England come from offshore whalewatches, birdwatching trips and fishing boats. Veit & Petersen (1993) state that in Massachusetts, the species



Immature Long-tailed Jaeger, by Leonard Medlock, 9/8/09, off Jeffrey's Ledge.

is "a rare migrant offshore, particularly near the continental shelf" and "exceedingly rare within sight of land." They go on to state that the only inland record from Massachusetts was a juvenile taken in Sharon, MA on September 20, 1880! Wiley and Lee (1998) expand on this to state "most individuals migrate over the open ocean; rarely is this species observed near shore. Although some overland migration occurs at high latitudes, in the populated regions of North America inland birds apparently represent vagrants."

Because of the difficulties with identification, it is possible that this species has been overlooked, at least to some extent. Immature and especially juvenile Long-tailed Jaegers can be very similar to young Parasitic Jaegers. There are numerous New Hampshire records of unidentified jaegers over the years. Although it may have been this species, the NH Rare Birds Committee ultimately rejected one report submitted of a Long-tailed Jaeger along the coast on May 25, 2005 for insufficient details.

New Hampshire Records for 2009

Incredibly, the summer and fall of 2009 (through 9/10/09) produced at least six additional reports of Long-tailed Jaegers for the state, all from offshore waters between the Isles of Shoals and an offshore fishing area known as "Old Scantum." Some of these may represent the same individual and the NH Rare Birds Committee has not yet evaluated the records, although most have been well photographed. Two other Long-tailed Jaegers were photographed during this time frame in the same general offshore waters, but one was just south of the New Hampshire state line and the exact location of the other sighting was not specified with respect to the state line. The reports for summer and fall 2009 are as follows:

7/04/09 - A Long-tailed Jaeger in first summer plumage was seen and photographed on a morning whalewatch and an adult or near-adult was reported from an afternoon whalewatch boat. Both were from an area just past the Isles of Shoals.

8/15/09 - Two individual Long-tailed Jaegers in first summer plumage were photographed from an afternoon whalewatch boat in the vicinity of Old Scantum.

8/16/09 - A Long-tailed Jaeger in first summer plumage was photographed on an afternoon whalewatch boat near Old Scantum.

9/08/09 - A Long-tailed Jaeger in first summer plumage was photographed near Old Scantum on a New Hampshire Audubon pelagic bird trip and was seen and enjoyed by many.

It's not clear why these young Long-tailed Jaegers have spent the summer in waters off the New Hampshire coast, but it is clear they have had plenty to eat! These records correspond with an abundance of bird, whale and fish activity offshore with birders on whalewatch boats recording hundreds to thousands of shearwaters and as many as 20 Humpback and Fin Whales as well.

Data Sources

The following data sources were searched for records of this species. The New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee has not reviewed all records presented.

New Hampshire Bird Records and archives, circa 1963 through May 31, 2009. New Hampshire Audubon, Concord, New Hampshire.

Bulletin of New England Bird-life, 1936–1944. New England Museum of Natural History, Boston, Massachusetts.

Records of New England Birds, in Massachusetts Audubon Society Bulletin, 1945–1955. Massachusetts Audubon Society, Concord, Massachusetts.

Records of New England Birds, 1956–1960 and 1964–1968. Massachusetts Audubon Society, Concord, Massachusetts.

NH.Birds e-mail list (Summer and Fall 2009 through September 10, 2009).

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- Wiley, R. and D. Lee. 1998. Long-tailed Jaeger (*Stercorarius longicaudus*), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/365doi:10.2173/bna.365>

Tudor Richards Legacy: Summer 2009

by Robert A. Quinn and Rob Woodward

This is the second in the series of articles about Tudor Richards for the New Hampshire Bird Records 2009 issues sponsored in his memory. This article focuses on those aspects of his birding that are connected to the summer season as suggested by some of the events during the summer 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).

Part 1

by Robert A. Quinn

Tudor Richards covered the entire state for professional as well as birding reasons. In so doing, he discovered a number of birding “firsts” that remain noteworthy today. He also found his share of rarities.

In this article, we will look at some of his records from “the North Country” (Tudor’s name for the area north of the White Mountains including the Pittsburg and Lake Umbagog regions), Squam Lake, and Turkey Pond. Once again, there are many connections between Tudor and the summer of 2009. Finally, there are the lessons we can learn from him.



Tudor Richards and Bob Quinn at Floating Island Bog, Errol, NH.

Significant breeding records

Many of you have birded the East Inlet area in Pittsburg and know it as a wild and unique birding spot. You might even be aware of the Norton Pool tract, a remnant of old growth Red Spruce forest that has never been logged. Did you know, however, that Tudor birded East Inlet when the entire valley, from ridge to ridge, was old-growth, uncut spruce-fir? The date was July 8, 1953 and the highlights of his morning there are very interesting:

Bay-breasted Warbler - 30	Blackburnian Warbler - 7
Swainson's Thrush - 26	Blackpoll Warbler - 7
Golden-crowned Kinglet - 18	Gray Jay - 6
Winter Wren - 17	Boreal Chickadee - 5
Black-throated Green Warbler - 15	Nashville Warbler - 5
White-throated Sparrow - 15	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher - 5
Yellow-rumped Warbler - 14	Rusty Blackbird - 3
American Redstart - 14	Olive-sided Flycatcher - 2
Magnolia Warbler - 12	Ovenbird - ZERO
Dark-eyed Junco - 12	Ruby-crowned Kinglet - ZERO
Blue-headed Vireo - 8	

The Bay-breasted Warbler numbers really stand out. The high number is presumably due to the amount of old growth in 1953 and to a higher population of one of their key food sources, the Spruce Budworm (currently low in numbers due to spraying). Many of the other species seem on par for 2009; however, some of Tudor's low numbers are equally interesting, such as only one Northern Parula and zero Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Ovenbird. Caution should be exercised when comparing this data to 2009 but it is fun nonetheless. Also note the changes as mentioned in the "Northern Birds South" section of this article below.

The Ring-necked Duck Story

Ring-necked Duck nests in small numbers in northern New Hampshire, especially in Pittsburg, the Lake Umbagog watershed, and Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge; however, that has not always been the case. The species was extremely rare in the first half of the 1900s, even as a migrant, and it did not nest in New Hampshire at all. In 1947, however, according to Tudor's Inland Waterbird articles, Hilbert Siegler of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department discovered "...the first non-flying, young, Ring-necked Ducks ever recorded in New Hampshire, thus establishing the first breeding record for the state." With this evidence spurring him on, Tudor went to the Cherry ponds (the area was not known as Pondicherry until the 1960s) the next year and "...was thrilled to discover four broods...". He later went on to document the only known nesting records for Ring-necked Duck in southern New Hampshire, on Perkins Pond in Troy (1962 and 1964) and on Turtle Pond in Concord (1965). Apparently, the status of Ring-necked Duck as a breeder has not changed much in recent decades. Yet Tudor never tired of looking for them, and as recently as 1998 he found several on Pudding Pond in Conway during the breeding season. How many nesting Ring-necked Ducks did you find, and report in NH in 2009?

In his Inland Waterbird series, he says something very important. To paraphrase Tudor, he essentially stated that rare birds are fun though not usually scientifically significant, but that range extensions are significant. So let's look at some of the more interesting breeding records in 2009 and put them in perspective.

Northern Birds South

You are probably aware of many southern birds moving north (e.g., Northern Cardinal, Red-bellied Woodpecker, etc.), but there is a long history of northern birds moving south too. Tudor discovered the first breeding record in the state for Ruby-crowned Kinglet in Rumney during June and July 1947. Also in 1947, he induced a Lincoln's Sparrow in Pittsburg to cross the border from Canada, thereby establishing the first breeding season record for that species. Later, he and others located Lincoln's Sparrow at Church Pond Bog in Livermore, which remained the southernmost nesting site in the state for many years.

More pertinent to 2009 is the status of Palm Warbler as a breeding species in New Hampshire. Tudor recorded the first breeding season records of Palm Warbler in July 1955 and July 1957, both in the Floating Island Bog near Lake Umbagog. During the next 40 years, this warbler seemed to be restricted to that one area. Fast forward to 1997 and beyond, when suddenly Palm Warblers were discovered nesting at Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge, then in more recent years, in Effingham and even Bradford. Of particular note, and to make the Tudor connection even more fun, there have been records of Palm Warbler at Church Pond Bog during the summers of 2008 (Bob Ridgely) and 2009 (Ben Griffith, Lauren Kras, and Mike Harvey). Tudor was instrumental in putting Church Pond Bog on the birding map and would be very happy that Palm Warbler, which he thought should be re-named "Bog Warbler", is now nesting there.

In his quest to seemingly check out every pond and lake in the state, Tudor discovered other interesting breeding records, such as a family of Rusty Blackbird at Lake Solitude on Mount Sunapee on June 16, 1953 and several Rusty Blackbird families at Howe Reservoir in Dublin in 1962 and 1963. His heart would have been warmed by the 2009 study of Rusty Blackbird in New Hampshire conducted by Carol Foss and crew, especially since the research indicates that New Hampshire has one of the healthier populations for the species in the entire Northeast. Carol, by the way, is a very key person originally hired at New Hampshire Audubon and inspired by Tudor.

The Common Loon and the Endangered Species Program

Tudor was instrumental in the very first surveys to monitor the Common Loon in New Hampshire in the early 1970s, and in 1974 he hired Bob Ridgely as the first paid biologist to work for the nascent Loon Preservation Committee. Not only have loons made a fabulous recovery since then (about 6 nests in 1970 versus 160 in 2008), but Ridgely has gone on to become an internationally significant and well-known expert on South American birds. He is author of the *Birds of Ecuador* and the discoverer of numerous new-to-science bird species. This is just another example of how Tudor has influenced several generations of birders and ornithologists. To get another perspective on his influence, please read part 2 of this article by Rob Woodward about the Turkey Pond survey and Tudor's inspiration.

Another major success story, in which Tudor and his historic records played a big role, was the establishment of the State's Endangered Species Program. At the time, Osprey, Bald Eagle, and Peregrine Falcon were *almost completely absent* as breeding birds in our state and now we can count the nests by the dozens.

Early Fall Migrants

Obviously Tudor understood the importance of finding and documenting significant breeding records, but he also thoroughly enjoyed migration, especially of inland water birds. So, in the heat of late July 1982, when he noticed that the water level at Turkey Pond behind Audubon House in Concord was low enough to expose some mud, he went down for a look. On that first visit, July 28, 1982, he saw nine Solitary Sandpiper and several each of Least and Semipalmated Sandpiper; however, he really hit the jackpot two days later when on July 30 he saw one Semipalmated Plover, one Pectoral Sandpiper, one Greater Yellowlegs, 10 Lesser Yellowlegs, and two Stilt Sandpiper in breeding plumage. Stilt Sandpiper is a very rare bird for Concord and it also was a very early record for the state as a whole. I will leave the rest of the 1982 low water at Turkey Pond story for the fall season.



Adult Long-tailed Jaeger sighted by Tudor Richards on Squam Lake, June 18, 1968.

Rare Birds During the Summer Season

The big story of 2009 was the incredible seabird show off shore. Here again, there is a fascinating connection with Tudor. One of the noteworthy species this summer was Long-tailed Jaeger. Before the summer of 2009, there had only been four Long-tailed Jaegers ever recorded in New Hampshire and Tudor found one of them on Squam

Lake on June 18, 1968! (See Steve Mirick's article about Long-tailed Jaegers on page 42) The story is that Tudor was on vacation at his family's camp when he wandered down to the dock and glanced out over the lake. In his words, "One of the rarest birds in my experience in New Hampshire is one spotted by chance through my telescope...Could it be? Yes, it was a *jaeger*...". Tudor managed to take some photographs of the bird, yet, in the field he could not quite decide whether it was a Parasitic or a Long-tailed Jaeger. Later, the photos proved it was a Long-tailed Jaeger, only the second ever recorded for New Hampshire. By the way, all three species of jaegers have been recorded on Squam Lake, so the lesson we can take away is to always expect the unexpected, especially when birding lakes and rivers.

Tudor had a few other noteworthy summer finds, such as a Bonaparte's Gull at Cherry Pond in June 1964. This gull was seen along with Roger Tory Peterson, who Tudor had convinced to speak at the 50th New Hampshire Audubon Annual Meeting, and Chandler Robbins, author of the ground breaking "*Golden Guide*" to birds. Another interesting summer sighting was that of a migrant flock of five Short-billed Dowitcher seen on June 30, 1972, also at Cherry Pond. Short-billed Dowitcher is both

rare inland and unusual for this date (they were presumed to be southbound migrants). Another summer rarity was a Red-necked Phalarope he found on Squam Lake on July 25, 1960.

The Lessons Learned

Tudor was wide ranging in his birding interests and exploits and he leaves us with several lasting lessons. Make the effort to bird new and different sites including new sites at regular birding spots. Mike Harvey's investigation of South Bay Bog in Pittsburg this summer is a good example. There are few reports from this bog and we know little about the bird life there despite numerous observations from other Pittsburg locations. Document significant breeding birds. Push the boundaries of what we know about early and late migrants. Take a second look (especially on inland bodies of water) and maybe you too can make some birding history!

Here are some examples of new or, in some cases, forgotten about birding sites you could investigate: East Colebrook, Bear Brook State Park in Allenstown and Deerfield, Cascade Marsh in Sutton, Cheshire, Henniker, Hillsborough, Lempster, McDaniel's Marsh in Springfield, Merrymeeting Marsh in Alton, Milton including Great East Lake and the Salmon Falls River, Piermont including Lake Tarleton, Pillsbury State Park in Washington, Success Pond, Tuftonboro, and the wetlands of Rindge.

If you accept this challenge, you will add to our knowledge of the birds in New Hampshire and have fun while doing it. Me? I'll be somewhere north of the White Mountains...

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.

Part 2

by Rob Woodward

Each time I walk around Turkey Pond in Concord conducting the Turkey Pond bird survey, I feel privileged to walk in the footsteps of some who have gone before me. Tudor was one such person who regularly surveyed and recorded the birds at Turkey Pond. In an article Tudor wrote for the *Atlas of Breeding Birds in New Hampshire* entitled "A Proposed Division of New Hampshire into Avifaunal Regions Based Largely on the Altitudinal Distribution of Breeding Birds," he includes part of his records of a bird walk he took at Turkey Pond on July 6, 1974 as an example of the birds that can be found in the "Southern Lowlands."

From the moment I read the article I thought how fascinating it would be to re-enact this walk to compare the changes in the birdlife over the ensuing decades. Surprisingly, it was not until 2002, eight years later, that I walked around Turkey Pond,

covering a substantially similar route, on nearly the same day of the year, starting at the same time of day 28 years later. Notes in my journal from that day read: "There was something surprisingly satisfying about it and exciting to compare to Tudor's findings." Thus began the Turkey Pond bird survey.

The comparisons are indeed fascinating. For example, we can compare a Turkey Pond bird survey conducted on June 21, 2008, with a walk Tudor took on June 17, 1977. Tudor admits in his notes that it was a "poor list" and that he was 62 years old at the time but nonetheless, it is illustrative of the changes. Red-eyed Vireo (14) (25) and Pine Warbler (5) (22) have both increased substantially over the years. Besides documenting the local extirpation of American Bittern and Marsh Wren, Tudor's records also record the disappearance of Eastern Towhee (5) (0) as a breeder, a trend reflected in Breeding Bird Survey data in New Hampshire. Chestnut-sided Warbler has also declined substantially (13) (6).

Many other changes for other species at other seasons are evident from Tudor's records. Fortunately, his good work inspired others to continue to document the common birds in local habitats, allowing for comparisons that lead to a greater understanding of the birds of New Hampshire.

Rob Woodward is an active birder in Concord who has been leading bird walks for New Hampshire Audubon for 17 years and has been studying the birds of Turkey Pond for seven years.

Where are all the Swallows? Breeding Bird Survey Data Show Declines

by Pamela Hunt

We're all familiar with swifts and swallows. They are usually easy to identify, easy to find, and amaze us with their flying abilities. The bad news, and I'll cut to the chase here, is that these familiar aerial acrobats are almost universally in decline here in New Hampshire and the Northeast. Figure 1 shows population trends for Chimney Swift and five species of swallows in New Hampshire based on data collected through the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS). For those unfamiliar with the BBS, it is a system of hundreds of 25-mile roadside routes scattered throughout the United States and southern Canada. Each route is surveyed once a year, and during the survey an observer records all birds seen or heard at 50 stops half a mile apart. There are 23 such routes in New Hampshire, and most have been done every year since 1966.

From Figure 1 it is obvious that most of the species depicted are in steady decline, the only exception being the Northern Rough-winged Swallow. Not shown is our largest swallow, the Purple Martin, which in New Hampshire has gone from 10 colonies to three in less than a decade. Three species (Purple Martin, Bank Swallow, and Cliff Swallow) have decreased to the extent that they were recently added to the state's list of "Species of Special Concern." And believe it or not, the Chimney Swift was officially listed as "threatened" in Canada in 2007. These declines are part of a larger pattern in which most species of "aerial insectivores" (birds that feed on insects caught on the

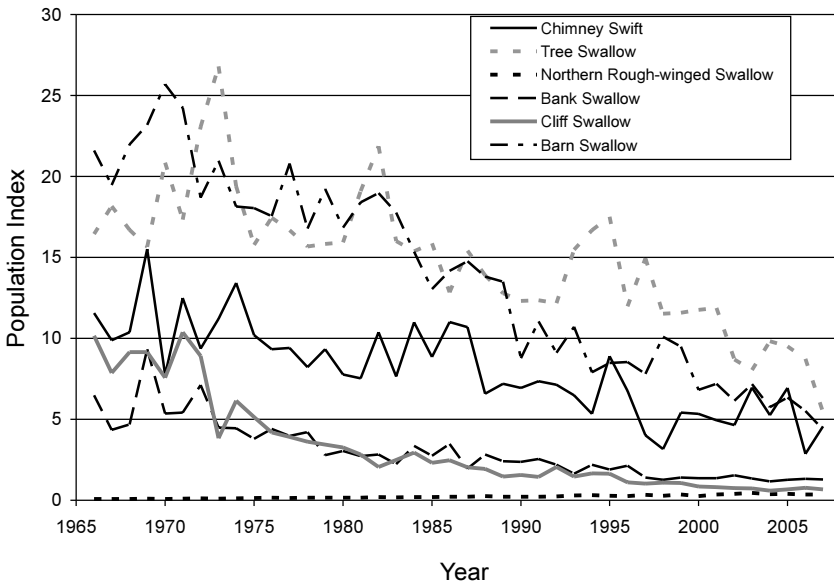
wing, including swallows, flycatchers, and nightjars) are declining over large portions of their ranges – and we don't know why. Some hypotheses include climate change (e.g., colder, wetter springs making it more difficult to forage), pesticides on breeding, wintering or migration stopover sites, mortality during migration, and the perennial boogeyman of habitat loss.

For our swifts and swallows, New Hampshire birders can help us get a better understanding of how populations are faring in the Granite State by reporting large migratory concentrations and nesting sites to *New Hampshire Bird Records*. It's even easier to report now through the new NH eBird (see page 2). Of particular interest are Chimney Swift roosts and any nesting sites of Bank, Cliff, or Barn Swallows (although typically colonial nesters, many former colonies are now just a few nests, so please report any nests). By learning where our aerial insectivores are gathering and breeding, we may have the opportunity to focus research or conservation efforts at the sites where such activity can do the most good. You can help by encouraging building owners to accommodate nesting swallows. Also, you can help reduce potential risks to these insect eating birds by buying organic produce and avoiding pesticide use in your own backyard and town.



Adult and fledgling Tree Swallows by Jon Woolf, 6/17/09, Massabesic Audubon Center, Auburn, NH.

Figure 1. Swallow and Chimney Swift population trends in New Hampshire. The Population Index is derived from Breeding Bird Survey data (<http://137.227.242.23/bbs/bbs.html>) and is a rough reflection of the number of birds per route (statewide) in a given year.

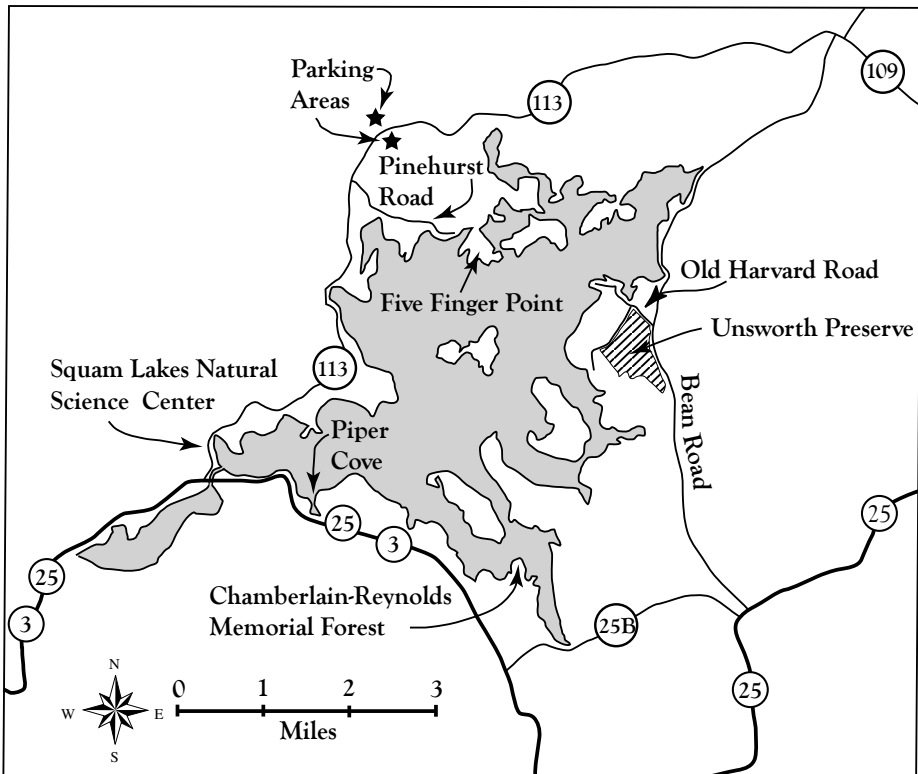


Squam Lake Area Birding

by Tony Vazzano and Iain MacLeod

Introduction

Squam Lake is New Hampshire's second largest lake and is located only a few miles northwest of the state's biggest lake, Lake Winnepesaukee. Little Squam Lake is considerably smaller and lies just to the west, between Holderness and Ashland. Squam Lake is in the towns of Holderness, Center Harbor, Moultonborough and Sandwich. The beauty of the lake combined with the variety of nearby habitats provides birders with ample reason to visit. Public access to areas for viewing the water from land is extremely limited, although canoe, kayak, and boat access is available. The lake is typically frozen from mid or late December until the middle of April and sometimes later. Winter birds are often scarce in the area, although in some years there are abundant "winter finches," but the best birding is from May through October. Waterbirds can be seen anywhere on the lake but many species are more often seen in the nearby ponds and wetlands. Areas to look for landbirds along or near the lakeshore include trails at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center in Holderness, the Chamberlain-Reynolds Forest in Center Harbor, Unsworth Preserve in Moultonborough and the University of New Hampshire - Five Finger Point Natural Area in Sandwich.



Raptors can be seen at any of these locations. Broad-winged Hawk is the most commonly seen hawk in summer while Red-shouldered Hawk is less common. Sharp-shinned Hawk and Cooper's Hawk are seen more often during migration and sometimes in winter. American Kestrel is declining in numbers and now very uncommon in the Squam area as a breeding bird, while Merlin presence is expanding on the northern shore of the lake. Barred Owl is by far the most common owl around the lake throughout the year but there are often a few Great Horned Owls in the area. Northern Saw-whet Owl passes through during migration, sometimes staying the winter and probably breeding some years.

Chamberlain-Reynolds Forest

The Chamberlain-Reynolds Forest in Center Harbor is owned by the New England Forestry Foundation and managed by the Squam Lakes Association. About six miles of trails traverse the property and include a variety of habitats and some pleasant birding. The tall canopy can provide a challenge for viewing some of the warblers and vireos, while the boardwalk through a swampy area provides the best looks at several species. Any of our migrant songbirds may pass through here in spring and fall, and sometimes there are good-sized flocks. One October day brought about 90 Red-breasted Nuthatch to a couple of miles of trail! During the breeding season some of the more evident birds in the forest are Blue-headed and Red-eyed Vireo, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Veery, Hermit and Wood Thrush, Northern Parula, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Black-Throated Green, Blackburnian and Pine Warbler, Ovenbird, and Scarlet Tanager. Along and near the boardwalk, Warbling Vireo, Alder Flycatcher, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, Swamp Sparrow, and Baltimore Oriole are often seen and, occasionally, Louisiana Waterthrush and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Directions: From Holderness, take Route 3 south. At about 4 miles, turn left on College Road. The parking area is 0.4 miles on the left. From Center Harbor, take Route 25B. At 2.9 miles, turn right onto College Road. The parking area is 0.3 miles on the right. For a trail map, go to: <http://www.squam lakes.org/images/maps/neffa-map.jpg>

Unsworth Preserve

Unsworth Preserve in Moultonborough is owned by the Squam Lakes Conservation Society (<http://www.squam lakes.com/>). In April it is one of the better areas to look for waterfowl including some of the best viewing right along Bean Road. Old Harvard Road provides views of a portion of the wetland and also access to the trail that begins just beyond the wetland on the left. The waterbirds most commonly seen here in spring are Wood Duck, American Black Duck, Mallard, Ring-necked Duck, and Hooded and Common Merganser. Less commonly seen are Green-winged Teal, Bufflehead, and Common Goldeneye. Occasional or rare spring visitors are Gadwall, American Wigeon, Blue-winged Teal, Lesser and Greater Scaup, Barrow's Goldeneye and Pied-billed Grebe. Wood Duck and Hooded Merganser can usually be found during the summer breeding season. In fall, there is not as much variety in waterfowl but that is the best time to see Pied-billed Grebe and possibly an American Coot. In mid-October, some years see tallies of 100-200 Ring-necked Duck.

Old Harvard Road and the trail behind the wetland are good for migrant passerines in spring and fall as well as breeding birds in summer. Most of the birds are seen along the first half mile of trail and along the short spur path that goes onto a small peninsula. Some of the more typical breeding birds here are Belted Kingfisher, Warbling Vireo (common along the road), Least Flycatcher, Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Veery, Yellow Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Scarlet Tanager, Baltimore Oriole, and Swamp Sparrow.

Directions: From the Center Harbor-Moultonborough town line on Route 25, go north on Bean Road. At 3.2 miles you will see the wetland on the left and at another 0.4 miles turn left onto Old Harvard Road. More of the wetland is visible on the left and just after there is a small parking area, also on the left, almost hidden by the trees. This is where the trail begins.

Squam Lakes Natural Science Center

The 200 acres of wooded trails, wetlands and meadows at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center (<http://www.nhnature.org>) on Route 113 in Holderness hold a nice variety of birds. Tree Swallows and House Wrens monopolize the many nesting boxes on the property, but sadly, no bluebirds have nested in recent years. American Woodcock are in the field next to the parking lot in the spring and Indigo Bunting and Warbling Vireo are frequently heard throughout the summer. In the woods on the way up Mount Fayal, Blackburnian and Black-throated Green Warbler are in the high pines and hemlocks and Baltimore Oriole are on the woodland edge. A nice alder swamp near the marsh boardwalk usually has Alder Flycatcher, Yellow Warbler and Common Yellowthroat in the spring. In winter, the berry-bearing shrubs and trees around the parking area attract both species of waxwing.

Directions: From Route 3 in Holderness, go east on Route 113; the center is on the left in a few hundred yards. The Science Center trail is open May 1 to November 1 with an admission fee.

Another good spring birding location is nearby, along the Squam (aka Ashland) River. From the end of Little Squam to the village of Ashland, there are some lovely inlets, bays, and marshes that offer excellent habitat for waterfowl. This area is easily viewable from Route 3 or from River Road. In early spring look for Common Goldeneye, Hooded and Common Merganser, Wood Duck, and American Black Duck. This is also a regular location for Pied-billed Grebe, although they likely don't linger to breed. In fall, after the water has been drawn down, shorebirds sometimes stop here, and Pectoral Sandpiper has been seen in October.

Five Finger Point Area

Five Finger Point is a peninsula on the north side of Squam Lake owned by the University of New Hampshire. The shoreline provides beautiful views of the lake as well as a chance to scope the nesting Bald Eagles. In the beginning stretch of the trail, especially near the stream crossing, Louisiana Waterthrush and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher can often be found. There was an unusual sighting of Hooded Warbler along this part of the trail in early June, 2008. Not surprisingly, since much of the habitat is similar, many of the summer birds found at Unsworth Preserve and Chamberlain-Reynolds Forest are also found here. From the shore, look for waterbirds, especially in spring

and fall. In spring and early summer, the Bald Eagle nest on Little Loon Island can be scoped from the shoreline.

The trail to Five Finger Point connects with a series of trails that include hikes to and around West and East Rattlesnake Mountains which afford exceptional views of the lake. There are also numerous trails in the Squam Range that begin on Route 113 just north of the lake. Some of the wetlands adjacent to the road and the trails can harbor an American Bittern or an Olive-sided Flycatcher. In summer, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Swainson's Thrush and Blackpoll Warbler can be found along the Crawford Ridgepole Trail. Boreal Chickadees have been seen in recent years along the eastern part of the trail. Along Squam Lake Road (aka Bean Road), there is a trail to the top of Red Hill, which also provides an opportunity for some of these higher elevation birds. For birders who enjoy hiking bigger mountains, nearby Sandwich Mountain has an elevation of nearly 4000 feet and occasionally Spruce Grouse are seen near the summit. This is also a possible location for Bicknell's Thrush.

Directions: From Holderness, take Route 113 east 5.1 miles, then turn right onto Pinehurst Road. From Center Sandwich, Pinehurst Road is 6.7 miles on the left. At 0.9 miles, Pinehurst Road ends at the beginning of a private road marked by stone pillars. There is usually room to park on the right. Walk along the private road to the trailhead, just ahead on the left. At the major trail junction after the stream, follow the trail to the right to reach Five Finger Point. For the trails around West and East Rattlesnake Mountains, there is a large parking lot on Route 113 located 5.6 miles from Holderness. The trail for the Rattlesnakes is off the south side of the highway while a trail leading to the Crawford Ridgepole Trail and the Squam Range starts from the north side of the road. The Squam Lakes Association (<http://www.squamlakes.org/>), about 1.5 miles south of Holderness on Route 3, sells a trail guide for all of the trails around Squam. Trail guides are also usually available at the general stores in Holderness and the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center.

On The Lake

For spring and late fall migration, canoe or kayak are the only options for getting out on the lake and the best way to see birds on the water. A public boat landing is located between Little and Big Squam on Rt. 113. Another excellent access point is at Piper Cove adjacent to the Squam Lakes Association offices on Route 3 in Holderness. From mid-May to mid-October, the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center offers boat tours on the lake, including loon and eagle cruises.

In May and October, all three scoters are a possibility and that is also when the handful of Long-tailed Duck records have occurred. Sightings of scoters usually range from individuals to flocks of 40 although a flock of over 500 White-winged Scoters was seen flying north, away from the lake on May 25, 2004. November is the best time to spot the uncommon Red-throated Loon. After Squam is free of ice in spring, Horned and Red-necked Grebes are a possibility and many of the previously mentioned waterfowl can be seen in some of the smaller coves. The grebes are more often seen in fall. Scoters and other waterbirds that are much more common along the sea-coast are sometimes seen in the Squam area in migration during periods of east or northeast winds. These conditions have also produced May sightings of shorebirds,

including Short-billed Dowitcher and Red-necked Phalarope. Black Tern has also been seen during or after an easterly wind. Perhaps the most unusual tern on the lake, because of its late date, was an Arctic Tern on October 8, 2006. Common Tern is very uncommon on the lake while Bonaparte's Gull is uncommon but regular, most often seen in August. Common Loon nests at a few locations on the lake and is probably the most conspicuous bird on the water.

Osprey in summer has been a relatively new addition to the Squam avifauna. A pair unadvisedly attempted to build a nest on a utility pole on Finnesterre Point in May 2007. For the safety of the birds (and the human residents) the birds were discouraged from nesting on the live wires. A pole and artificial nest were installed on the grounds of the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center to encourage the pair to linger, but the male relocated five miles away to another utility pole in Bridgewater. A pair of Bald Eagles has nested on Little Loon Island, in the north-central section of the lake for the past several years. The nest is visible from the water and one of the eagles is often seen roosting in pine trees nearby or flying by across the northern half of the lake. The area from Little Loon Island to Yard Islands is a good place to look. Shorebirds sometimes stop on the rocks of Yard Islands to rest. A Whimbrel was seen here in July of 2009. Other rarities on the lake, seen only once or twice, include a Western Grebe in July, 2007 and all three species of jaegers. The Long-tailed Jaeger was found and photographed by Tudor Richards on June 18, 1968. It stayed a few days and was seen by several birders (see the article on page 45).

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Photo Gallery

Gull Bonanza at Hampton Harbor in July, 2009

A Sabine's Gull brought many birders to Hampton Harbor in July and they were treated to not only wonderful views of this first-summer bird, but also a variety of other gulls – notably these “hooded” gulls. All five species pictured here were seen on one day, July 12, in the Harbor! A pretty remarkable gull day for New Hampshire.



All photos were taken in Hampton Harbor, NH, except the Laughing Gull, as noted.

First-summer Sabine's Gull by Leonard Medlock, 7/3/09.



Adult Bonaparte's Gull
by Leonard Medlock,
7/11/09.



Adult Black-headed Gull
by Jason Lambert,
7/11/09.



Adult Laughing Gull in Hampton Beach State Park
by Leonard Medlock,
7/9/09,
Hampton, NH.



Immature Little Gull
by JoAnn O'Shaughnessy,
7/8/09.

Volunteers and Research

Keeping Volunteers in the Dark: Research on Nighthawks and Whip-poor-wills in New Hampshire

by Rebecca Suomala and Pamela Hunt



Pam Hunt holding the first Whip-poor-will to receive a radio transmitter in NH.

New Hampshire Audubon (NHA) biologists in the Conservation Department are conducting research on Common Nighthawks (Rebecca Suomala) and Whip-poor-wills (Pamela Hunt). Both species have declined throughout the Northeast for reasons not yet known. Volunteers are a critical component of both research projects and they contribute significantly to the in-depth study of these birds. In these days of limited funding, dedicated volunteers can help the dollars go further and provide data we couldn't get

any other way. It takes a little more effort, but the payback makes it well worthwhile.

The initial goal of Project Nighthawk was to test rooftop nest patches to see if they would attract nesting nighthawks back to our cities and towns. Common Nighthawks once nested on flat, peastone gravel roofs, but in recent years, rubber and PVC have largely replaced peastone roofing, and nesting nighthawks have disappeared from most New Hampshire towns. Since the Project's inception in 2007, 45 patches have been installed in the state, thanks to help from project volunteers Jane Koliias in Concord and Lou-Anne Conroy in the Upper Valley, and the Ashuelot Valley Environmental Observatory and Ken Klapper in the Keene area. As with many projects, the initial focus expanded as we learned more about the species. Concerns about potential rooftop predation led us to try and locate any rooftop-nesting nighthawks in Concord; however, the only nest that could be found was on the ground in a busy work yard of a manufacturing company. Thanks to the efforts of the business and its workers, these birds raised one young in 2007 and volunteers checked the site each night until the chick fledged. In 2008, this same pair fledged two young, although one chick stayed at the nest site for more than 30 days. Each night volunteer Stephanie Parkinson observed and documented post-fledging behavior about which there is little written or known. The chick's eventual departure finally allowed her to recover from sleep deprivation.

In 2009, a crew of dedicated volunteers watched each evening at this same nest documenting behavior from the start. When the nest failed from flooding rains, we were able to use what the volunteers had learned about courtship and incubation behavior to locate

the site where they re-nested. The second nest was on a rooftop at a company that would not allow us access so we had to watch from the ground. Volunteers observed behavior each night and were able to follow incubation and subsequently confirm a second nest failure (at or just after hatch).

Watching behavior is a challenge, especially for stealthy species that are active at night. There are times when you think you know what to expect from the birds and then realize that the resident male is not chasing away some foreigner, but his own mate! There was also the time we kept a vigil the night after the newly hatched chicks had drowned and saw the pair behave in ways we'd never seen before. There are, however, other times when you finally realize how much you've learned, which leads you to make a startling discovery! We're hoping to publish some of the behavioral observations and re-nesting data.

Dedicated volunteers have also helped us learn more about Whip-poor-wills. In an effort to learn more about the Whip-poor-will decline, New Hampshire Audubon initiated roadside survey routes in 2003, and this methodology has since been used by several other states. Volunteers conduct these routes each year as part of the Whip-poor-will long term monitoring effort. To date, well over 100 people have surveyed routes in 11 states. The result of all those hours in the dark (often without even hearing a Whip-poor-will!) is both a more rigorous monitoring methodology and a better idea of where Whip-poor-wills remain common. We tend to call the latter areas "hot spots."

More recently, NHA initiated studies of Whip-poor-will habitat use at two such hot spots in New Hampshire: the Mast Yard State Forest in Hopkinton and the Ossipee Pine Barrens in Freedom and Madison. Using a small group of dedicated volunteers, we conducted "triangulation mapping" at both sites in 2008 and 2009. This technique involves two observers taking simultaneous compass bearings on a calling bird and using the intersection of the two bearings to locate the bird. The compilation of several compass locations during the season provides a rough map of where birds spend most of their time (or at least the singing males!). What is the bottom line? At Mast Yard, there were 10-12 territories each year that were concentrated in open areas at either end of the forest's 700 acres. The mother lode of Whip-poor-will territories was an estimated 20 along an unfinished airstrip in Freedom in 2008. The Nature Conservancy's West Branch Preserve in Madison and Freedom hosted 4-5 in 2009. Attempts to add radio transmitters to the project ran into a variety of problems in 2009. For example, the transmitters arrived late and the only one we were able to attach fell off after 24 hours – and then there was the weather. We hope to hit the ground running in 2010 when volunteers will once again unpack their headlamps and compasses and stay up past their bedtimes.

Great credit goes out to the select volunteers who are willing to endure mosquitoes, ticks, and sometimes, total darkness in pursuit of Whip-poor-wills. Remember that these birds are active at night, even more so than nighthawks! Rare are the times you even get to see your study organism, but when you do, it is always a special treat. Of course, there's always the bonus of hearing owls and coyotes, and seeing the evening sky relatively unobscured by urban lights.

This type of volunteering requires commitment and it takes a bit more effort than a recreational birding outing; however, it's also fun and you can learn a lot as well as make a unique contribution. There are times when there's nothing to see and times when it's

cold or hot or raining; however, you meet new people who share your interests and experience completely new things, such as seeing an adult nighthawk feeding a baby or hearing the low growling of a Whip-poor-will only a few feet away (which you still can't see!). Whether it's conducting an annual Breeding Bird Survey route, participating in Mountain Birdwatch, or observing Common Nighthawks and Whip-poor-wills, the extra effort makes a big difference and you're collecting valuable data that wouldn't be possible without you.

If you'd like to help with Project Nighthawk contact Becky Suomala, bsuomala@nhaudubon.org, 603-224-9909 x309; for Whip-poor-wills contact Pam Hunt, phunt@nhaudubon.org, 603-224-9909 x328.

Technology Series

An Overview of Digiscoping

by Leonard Medlock

Laurance Poh, recognized as the father of digiscoping, was an avid birdwatcher and an active participant of the Malaysian Nature Society. He often used a spotting scope to observe birds from a distance without alerting them and in 1999 he began using a Nikon CoolPix to explore digital photography. An experienced photographer, he realized that these "tools of the trade" could be combined, and digiscoping was born.

Laurence pioneered the technique now known as digiscoping or "digital camera scope photography." Digiscoping is a method of using a digital camera through a spotting scope. All you need is a spotting scope, a steady tripod, a point-and-shoot (PS) camera with a 3-4x optical zoom, and (optionally) a mount to center the camera on the scope's eyepiece. Prior to digiscoping, photographers relied on cameras coupled to heavy (and expensive!) lenses. In digiscoping, the 3-4x optical zoom on most PS cameras, with a range of 35-140mm, plus the 20x magnification on the spotting scope translates to over 2000 mm magnification—just enough reach to photograph distant wildlife. The newest PS cameras sport an optical zoom greater than 4x, but most digiscopers seem to prefer the 3-4x optical zoom as it minimizes vignetting (vignetting is the dark circle that surrounds the viewing area in the eyepiece).

A digiscoping set-up is more portable and usually far less expensive than traditional photographic equipment, but it does have its limitations. For example, digiscoping flying birds can be nearly impossible since one would have to track the bird through the scope while viewing the bird through the camera's lens or LCD. What a challenge this would be to follow a swallow or a Merlin! Following and locking focus on a soaring raptor or feeding sandpiper can be tricky because the focus distance changes quickly. Still, I have seen many excellent photos taken with an inexpensive PS camera and a reasonably priced scope. Regardless, the main points are to enjoy taking photos, to appreciate the wildlife you're photographing, and to share your discoveries with friends and family.

Selecting the camera

Choose a digital camera that has an optical zoom of 3-4x and 6-8 megapixels (MP). If you wish to print 8x10 photos, then 10-12 MP (most inexpensive new cameras have 10 MP) should work nicely, and higher megapixels allow for more cropping. Bring your scope in the store along with your adapter or camera mount if you are using one. Yes, it may seem odd or uncomfortable to waltz into a store with your scope and tripod over your shoulder, but testing the digiscoping setup at this time may mitigate any setup troubles later in the field. The purpose of a mount or adapter is to center your camera over the scope's eyepiece. Some scope manufacturers make mounts designed to work with their scopes. These mounts are threaded so that they screw on to the camera or to the camera's conversion lens adapter, a threaded tube that permits the camera to accept telephoto lenses. I've seen homemade mounts that employ a hollowed-out lid of an aspirin bottle that work just as well, their primary function being to align the camera with the scope's eyepiece. A camera mount is not essential and many birders digiscope by simply handholding the camera close to the scope's eyepiece. Some prefer not to use a mount because it may compromise their birding since one would have to take time to attach the mount to the scope. However, sharp photos require a stabilized set-up and that means no camera shake. A slight wind or unsteady hand can increase blur. Image-stabilized (IS) cameras can compensate for camera shake but they cost more.

Test the camera's functionality in the store. Ensure that the camera's optical zoom, when viewed through the scope at 20x (more on that later), eliminates vignetting, the dark circle that surrounds the viewing area in the eyepiece. Simply increase the camera's optical zoom to confirm that the scope's image fills the LCD screen and that vignetting is eliminated. Also, verify that the camera's LCD is bright enough to view the image, that the camera mount (if using one) fits securely on your camera, and that the set-up is easy to attach and to remove. The following is a partial list of cameras that are good digiscoping candidates, as used and tested by some digiscopers who keep a blog of their photos:

- Canon Powershot A590-IS (I use this one)
- Canon Powershot A570-IS
- Canon Powershot A640 (discontinued but may be available online)
- Nikon Coolpix P5100 (discontinued but may be available online)
- Nikon Coolpix P6000

Digiscoping Techniques

First, set your scope's zoom magnification to 20x or use a fixed 20x eyepiece; 30x or even 60x might be tempting, but more magnification may mean a decrease in light that reaches the camera's sensor. Set the camera's shooting mode to A (Aperture priority) which forces your camera to set the shutter speed automatically based on the aperture setting that you dial in to your camera. In good light, set your ISO to 100 and dial the aperture to f4-4.5 which allows much faster shutter speeds, like 1/800, to capture fast, rapid movements. In addition, it is best to disable your camera's digital zoom feature because higher magnification will decrease the amount of light reaching the camera's sensor. I use center-weighted or evaluative focus settings, since most cameras do a good job of sensing the lighting conditions and because the bird is usually in the center of the frame. In bright light, a low ISO setting from 50-200 will minimize in-camera noise, but

in overcast light, a slightly higher ISO at 400 may be necessary to maintain a fast shutter speed. Auto white balance is usually a safe bet. It's good practice to read your camera's manual to learn how to adjust your camera's settings for its optimal performance.

Attach the camera to the camera's adapter and then affix the adapter to the scope's optical lens, or if handholding the camera, be sure not to scratch the scope's eyepiece. Try to get as close as you can without disturbing the bird so that the bird fills the camera's frame. If you are a beginner, practice on House Sparrows or Mourning Doves; any backyard bird will do. It is helpful to keep the sun to your back to allow more light to reach the camera's sensor; more light means a faster shutter, which can freeze motion, and a smaller aperture (e.g., f4) yields more depth of field. Remember, to eliminate vignetting increase the camera's optical magnification, usually at about 3-3.5x, until the camera can no longer see the dark edges. Vignetting can also be cropped off later, at the expense of image size, to either magnify or center the image.



Photo of a Ring-billed Gull (circled in black) with a Canon PowerShot A590IS not attached to zoom eyepiece. Taken by Leonard Medlock at Exeter wastewater treatment plant.



Digiscoped photo of the same Ring-billed Gull with a Canon PowerShot A590IS attached to a 20-60 zoom eyepiece (20x used); Shutter 1/500, Aperture f/5.6; ISO 100; cropped to 900x600. Photo by Leonard Medlock.

Adjust the focus on the scope until the image appears sharp in the camera's LCD. Ideally, you'll want the bird's eye or face in focus. If the bird moves, adjust the scope's focus and recompose the shot. Press the shutter half way to lock focus and ensure the image in the LCD is sharp. That done, press the shutter fully (and smoothly) to take the photo. Don't be afraid to experiment with some of your camera's other settings, from Auto to Manual, to see which setting works for you. If your camera has a movie setting, try taking some video but remember that it will exhaust a considerable file size on your memory card. With some practice and patience, you may discover that digiscoping is a fun and inexpensive way to record and to share your discoveries in the field.

A list serve dedicated to digiscoping at <http://www.birdingonthe.net/maillinglists/DIGL.html> is a good resource to learn about the latest camera/scope combinations, field techniques, etc.

Leonard Medlock lives in Exeter and enjoys photographing birds. He is the web master for the New Hampshire Bird Records Web site and a board member of the Seacoast Chapter at www.seacoastchapter.org.

Answer to the Photo Quiz

by David B. Donsker

This streaked passerine bird with its short, conical bill is clearly a sparrow. That's the easy part. Sparrows, especially those with streaked breasts, frequently present identification challenges to both beginning and experienced birders.

Why is this so? Sparrows by their very nature are cryptic. Many skulk in thick tangles, grasses or sedges, allowing only tantalizing glimpses. But even if seen well, these "little brown jobs," with their confusing array of streaks, crown stripes and facial markings, and their frequent lack of a single definitive "field mark," can look frustratingly similar to one another. Accurate identification generally requires the recognition of a set of structural and plumage characteristics combined with knowledge of selected habitat, behavior and voice.

When viewing a photograph, of course, we are limited to features of structure and plumage and only small clues about habitat. Our only clue to habitat is that our featured bird is standing in an open patch of thin, dry, mown grass. It has a finely streaked upper breast and flanks. The breast streaking is rather sharply separated from the unmarked, white lower breast and belly. It has a fairly prominent central breast spot. The slightly crested crown is uniformly finely streaked as is the back or mantle. The bird lacks a distinct, well-defined, supercilium or eyebrow. The eye itself is surrounded by a narrow but conspicuous eye-ring. The auriculars, or ear coverts, are rather darkly outlined which contrasts with their paler center. The auriculars in turn are bordered below by a white crescent-shaped malar, or moustache, which extends behind the auriculars. Below the moustachial stripe is a faint lateral throat stripe. The tail is of medium length.

Where do we start? Certainly, all of our sparrows that have unstreaked breasts can be eliminated immediately. That still leaves a lot of sparrows to deal with. The *Ammodramus* sparrows—Seaside, Le Conte's, Henslow's, and Saltmarsh and Nelson's Sparrows—have a completely different structure. They are chunky, short-tailed birds whose heads, with their flat, sloping foreheads, are quite unlike the nearly crested head of this bird.

That leaves Fox, Song, Lincoln's, Savannah, and Vesper Sparrows and the sparrow-like female Lark Bunting. Fox Sparrow and Song Sparrow as well as Lark Bunting have coarse, heavily streaked breasts, which is quite unlike the finer breast streaking of this bird. All of those species also have a very strong dark lateral throat stripe, which is missing in this bird. Don't let the central breast spot fool you. Many species of sparrow with streaked breasts can demonstrate a central breast spot. It is not limited to Song Sparrow.

The fairly fine breast and flank streaking, peaked crown, prominent pale moustache, indistinct lateral throat stripe and distinct eye-ring might suggest Lincoln's Sparrow; however, Lincoln's Sparrow has a distinctive broad, gray supercilium. Its breast streaks are even finer and crisper and terminate even more abruptly so that the interface between the breast and belly is very crisp. It is more slender billed than this bird.

Savannah Sparrow shares many of the features shown in our bird. As suggested by the photograph, Savannah Sparrow is a bird of grassy habitats. Like this bird, it can look crested. Similarly, it is a neat and cleanly marked species. It has breast streaking that is relatively narrow and frequently aggregates into a central breast spot. Its facial pattern is similar with a well-defined white moustache and fairly prominent auriculars; however, Savannah Sparrow has a whitish medial crown stripe, prominent pale supercilium and a strong dark eye-line that extends behind the eye. Its auriculars are not as strongly outlined and they lack the impression of a pale central zone. Savannah Sparrow has a more prominent, better-defined dark lateral throat stripe. Importantly, it lacks a distinctive eye-ring. It also is shorter tailed.

That leaves Vesper Sparrow. The combination of finely and uniformly streaked crown and breast, indistinct supercilium, darkly outlined, pale-centered auriculars and white eye-ring are unique to this species. A very distinctive and unique field mark of Vesper Sparrow that cannot be easily appreciated in these photographs is its prominent white outer tail feathers. These are particularly noticeable when the bird is flushed, but they are harder to appreciate in non-flying birds. If you look carefully in the photographs, you can see them on the underside of the tail on the view of the bird facing forward. There is only a faint hint of a white outer tail feather on the right side of the tail in the image of the bird photographed from the back. Harder to see generally, and certainly not easily recognizable in these black-and-white photographs, is a distinctive reddish brown shoulder patch. This can actually be perceived as a paler triangular patch at the bend of the wing in the photograph of the bird taken from the rear.

One word of caution: although we eliminated Grasshopper Sparrow from any consideration because adult Grasshopper Sparrows have clear, unmarked breasts, that species does share the same grassy habitat as Vesper Sparrow. Grasshopper Sparrow also has a distinct eye ring. Although adults are clear breasted, juvenile birds have finely streaked breasts, therefore, a brief glimpse of a Grasshopper Sparrow, under the right set of circumstances, may confuse it with a Vesper Sparrow. Regardless of age, Grasshopper Sparrows have flatter head profiles, proportionally longer and larger bills and shorter tails than Vesper Sparrow, so any confusion can be avoided by noticing these distinctive differences in shape and proportions.

Vesper Sparrow is an uncommon and local breeding bird of dry, grassy habitats with areas of exposed soil and scattered low bushes in our state. Once the most common sparrow in New Hampshire when farming was a major industry, as the state has become reforested and suitable habitat has disappeared, Vesper Sparrow numbers have significantly declined. Along with other grassland birds, it is now a species of special concern in New Hampshire. Some of the best places to find this species are now the grassy edges to airfields. The Concord Airport and the Pease International Tradeport are fairly reliable sites for this species. It remains a common species in the United States where grassland still predominates in the Midwest and Prairie States.

Vesper Sparrows are early spring arrivals and late fall migrants. They generally appear in early April or even late March. It is often conspicuous in suitable habitat and sings its low sweet whistled song and musical trills throughout the day. Its song is usually performed from an exposed perch on a fence, shrub, tree or rock. Most depart in October but individuals can linger into early November.

These excellent photographs of an adult Vesper Sparrow were taken by Len Medlock at one of the more reliable spots for this species. It was on the west side of the runways at the Pease International Tradeport along McIntyre Road in Newington on April 24, 2009.

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New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee Report

This report from the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee (NHRBC) contains the decisions for records voted on by the Committee since the report published in the Winter 2007-08 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records (NHBR)*.

The NHRBC is an independent technical advisory committee to *NHBR*. It reviews unusual sightings in an effort to maintain accuracy and scientific integrity of the database of bird records maintained by New Hampshire Audubon. All sightings are evaluated based on details submitted. The Committee requires a vote with not more than one dissension for acceptance of a record. Any new state record requires a unanimous vote.

A rejection is not necessarily an indication that the identification was incorrect but that the information received was not sufficient to allow its inclusion in the state record. Adequate documentation is key to whether a report is accepted or not. For information on the Committee and its decision-making process, see the articles in the Summer 1996 and Winter 2005-06 issues of *NHBR*. The Fall 1996 issue has an article on how to document rare sightings. Contact the Managing Editor of *NHBR* for a copy of these articles.

Voting members of the Committee during 2008 when these votes took place were Dennis Abbott, Ralph Andrews, Jim Berry, David Deifik, David Donsker, George Gavutis, Jr., Tony Vazzano, and Rob Woodward (chair). Terry Bronson served as the Committee Secretary.

Revisions to Required Documentation List

The Committee adopted a list several years ago, available on the *NHBR* web site, www.nhbirdrecords.org, of species that require review by the Committee before they can be accepted into the official state records. These birds are very rare in the state or very difficult to identify. The latest revisions to this list are as follows:

- Ross's Goose (added)
- Least Bittern (removed)
- Black Vulture (removed)
- American Oystercatcher (removed)
- Red Phalarope (now required if other than pelagic or coastal sighting)
- Red-necked Phalarope (now required if other than pelagic or coastal sighting)
- (Both Phalarope changes are not new requirements but simply adoption of the same language restrictions used for other coastal and pelagic species.)
- Rufous Hummingbird (removed)
- Any hummingbird other than Ruby-throated or Rufous (added)
- Clay-colored Sparrow (removed)
- Lark Sparrow (removed)

Observers are still encouraged to continue detailed reporting of unusual species not on the review list to help *NHBR* staff, Season Editors, and the Committee evaluate such sightings.

Summer 2007

Records accepted by the Committee

- Western Grebe in Holderness on July 21.
- Least Bittern in Hinsdale on July 5.

Atlantic Puffin in Hampton on June 10.
 Kentucky Warbler in Kensington on June 1.
 Hooded Warbler in Surry on June 7.
 Blue Grosbeak in Concord on June 7.

Records not accepted by the Committee
 Least Bittern in Sandwich on June 2. No documentation.
 Golden Eagle in Pittsburg on July 27. Photo too distant to identify.
 Common Murre in Rye on June 13. No documentation.
 Barn Owl in Auburn on June 7. More likely juvenile Barred or Great Horned owl. Unlikely habitat.
 Long-eared Owl in Chester on June 11. Call of unseen bird insufficient to identify species.
 Acadian Flycatcher in Surry on June 7. Sound not well described for species visually identical to other *Empidonax* flycatchers.
 Hooded Warbler in Kensington on June 3. View not good enough to be conclusive.

Fall 2007

Records accepted by the Committee

Greater White-fronted Goose in Portsmouth on November 24.
 Cackling Goose in Rollinsford on November 16.
 Barnacle Goose in Rye on October 7.
 Eared Grebe in Rye on November 17.
 Common Moorhen in Hinsdale on September 18.
 Red Phalarope in Rochester on September 14.
 Sabine's Gull in Rye on September 22.
 Rufous Hummingbird in Westmoreland on October 23.
 Red-headed Woodpecker in Rye on September 9.
 Black-backed Woodpecker in Nottingham on September 22.
 Black-backed Woodpecker in Concord on November 18.
 Western Kingbird in Exeter on September 15.
 Cave Swallow in Hampton on November 4.
 Cave/Cliff Swallow species in Hampton on November 17.
 Sedge Wren in Rye on October 21.
 White-eyed Vireos in Rye on October 6, 14, and 20, (likely same bird, different observers).
 Painted Bunting in Concord on October 1.
 Clay-colored Sparrow in Stratham on September 16.
 Clay-colored Sparrow in Hinsdale on September 24.
 Lark Sparrow in Rye on October 21.
 Lark Sparrow in Rye on November 24.
 Hoary Redpolls in Sandwich on November 26 and 28.

Records not accepted by the Committee

Pacific Loon in Rye on October 20. Not sufficiently distinguished from small Common Loon.
 Flight view only.
 American Three-toed/Black-backed Woodpecker species in Hopkinton on November 24. Immature
 Hairy Woodpecker not ruled out.
 Hoary Redpoll in Rochester on November 25. Not enough written detail.

Winter 2007-2008

Records accepted by the Committee

Golden Eagle in Second College Grant on December 19.
 Great Gray Owl in Campton on February 3.
 Hoary Redpolls in Sandwich on December 16, Lancaster on December 18, Millsfield on December 19, Sandwich on December 27, Brentwood on January 19, Sandwich on January 22, Acworth on

January 26, Sandwich on January 27, Strafford on January 27, Sandwich on January 29, Deerfield on February 10, Sandwich on February 10, Westmoreland on February 11.

Records not accepted by the Committee

Golden Eagle in Second College Grant on December 19. Different bird than the one approved. No documentation.
Gyr Falcon in Bedford on January 28. Insufficient description. Didn't eliminate Northern Goshawk.
Northern Hawk Owl in Sugar Hill on January 26. Insufficient description, especially tail length.
Hoary Redpolls in Ashland on December 22, Sandwich on January 8, Strafford on January 20. No documentation.

Spring 2008

Records accepted by the Committee

Eared Grebe in Hampton on April 16.
Greater White-fronted Geese in Hinsdale on March 22 and 25, and Charlestown on March 23.
Ross's Goose in Durham on March 29–31. First state record, three reports.
Cackling Geese in Hinsdale on March 30 and Charlestown on April 6.
Mississippi Kite in Newmarket on May 29.
Gyr Falcon in Whitefield on March 9.
Common Moorhen in Rochester on May 24.
Red-headed Woodpecker in Sharon on May 11.
Red-headed Woodpecker in Bedford on May 31.
Cerulean Warbler in Exeter on May 10.
Cerulean Warbler in Concord on May 13.
Hooded Warbler in Keene on May 8.
Summer Tanagers in Moultonborough on May 3.
Summer Tanager in Sandwich on May 20.
Painted Bunting in Bow on March 6.
Painted Bunting in Jefferson on May 30–31.

Records not accepted by the Committee

Great Gray Owl in Richmond on March 23. Incomplete description.
Acadian Flycatcher in Marlborough on May 14. Incomplete description.
Gray Kingbird in Walpole on May 8. Unconvincing description by inexperienced observer.

Historical Records

Records accepted by the Committee

Mississippi Kites in Bristol on April 16, 1982. Qualified accepted* as first state record.
Mississippi Kite in Durham on May 9, 1982. Qualified accepted.*
Mississippi Kite in Exeter on May 7, 2004. Reconsideration of prior non-acceptance.
Mississippi Kite in Newmarket on May 30, 2004. Reconsideration of prior non-acceptance.
Mississippi Kite in Kensington on April 24, 2007. Reconsideration of prior acceptance.
Golden Eagle in Pittsburg on June 8, 2004.
Yellow-headed Blackbird in North Hampton on June 17, 1989.

Records not accepted by the Committee

Least Bittern in Sandwich on May 24, 2007. No documentation.
Mississippi Kite in Kensington on July 9, 2006. Reconsideration of prior non-acceptance. Not seen well.
Swallow-tailed Kite in Franconia on April 29, 1878. Reconsideration of prior non-acceptance.
Probable misidentification of collected egg. April nesting too incredible in New Hampshire for a southern species.

*Qualified accepted is a category for very old records before documentation was required, based on knowledge of the qualifications of the observers.

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



Red-billed Tropicbird seen flying by Lunging Island at the Isles of Shoals on June 23, 2009. Photo was taken by Tern Biologist, Dan Hayward, from White Island, Rye, NH.



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