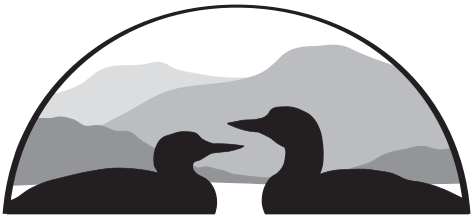
New Hampshire Bird Records

Summer 2010 Vol. 29, No. 2



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Volume 29, Number 2

Summer 2010

Cover Photos: American Oystercatchers by Leonard Medlock, Hampton Harbor, 6/12/10.

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

www.nhbirdrecords.org

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IN HONOR OF

Robert A. Quinn

Photos by Marc Brody

This issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* with its color cover is sponsored by the friends of Bob Quinn in honor of his contributions to understanding of New Hampshire birds and his well-deserved receipt of the 2010 Goodhue-Elkins Award.

In This Issue

From the Editor

NH eBird – Mapping Locations

Please help make the data in NH eBird as useful and meaningful as possible. Mapping locations correctly is critical so the sightings truly match where you saw them. NH Audubon has already mapped eBird's Rusty Blackbird sightings to look at the species' movements during the year. Accurate locations are a must for this kind of conservation work.

GIS technology allows researchers to compare bird locations with habitat types using land cover maps. The more precisely a location is mapped, the better. For example, a Pied-billed Grebe seen on a pond that is incorrectly plotted in the middle of a field is problematical for analysis. *New Hampshire Bird Records* also uses your location coordinates to identify the town for each sighting. There are a surprising number of locations that are plotted far enough away from their true position that they appear in a different town.

It is also helpful to name your location so that others can understand where you were. Location names help other birders determine where a species was seen. Names such as "WOLF2" or "my house" are very difficult for anyone else to find. Try to use something that is more readily identifiable, such as a street name followed by the town (i.e. 84 Silk Farm Rd., Concord), or the name of a public property (i.e. NH Audubon McLane Center, Concord).

When you map your location, please:

- Zoom in on the map as much as you can before you plot your point, and be as accurate as possible. Use the small magnification square on the left to quickly zoom in to an area.
- Use existing hot spots when possible. These are indicated by the red colored markers on the maps. We are trying to add more for heavily birded areas.
- Name the site so others can understand where you were – including the town is helpful.

We are pleased to welcome Dave Howe, a new volunteer for *New Hampshire Bird Records*, who will be following up on NH eBird data questions. You may receive an e-mail from him asking about a location or requesting you to re-name or move a location. This helps NH eBird provide quality data and the better the data, the more it can be used for bird conservation. So please help by doing what you can to accurately map the sightings you enter in eBird.

Thank you

We are very pleased to sponsor this issue in recognition of Bob Quinn's many contributions to *New Hampshire Bird Records,* birds and birders in New Hampshire. We are grateful to the donors who made this sponsorship possible.

Sharon Brody
Concord Bird and Wildflower Club
David Donsker
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Daniel Fallon
Carol Foss
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Tony Vazzano

2010 Goodhue-Elkins Award

As presented at the New Hampshire Audubon Annual Meeting, June 2010

The Goodhue-Elkins Award is given annually by New Hampshire Audubon to recognize an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the study of New Hampshire birds. This award is named for Charles Goodhue, one of the state's first great birders, and Kimball Elkins, who remains the model for critical observation and insightful record keeping (see the article about these two individuals on page 47).

Bob Quinn receiving the Goodhue-Elkins Award, June 2010. Photo by Ed Quinn.

The 2010 recipient was Robert A. Quinn. Bob is a native of New Hampshire and well-known and respected in the state's birding community. He has led innumerable field trips, always generous with his time and knowledge as he encourages beginning birders, and challenges experienced birders, to look at birding in new ways. He makes field trips special by knowing where and how to find the birds, helping each person to see the bird, and sharing his deep knowledge about those birds. Bob spurs birders on to learn more about the birds in their own area by looking for nesting or watching for when even common species arrive and depart.

When he was a teenager growing up in Concord, he was introduced to birding by his older brother, Joe. But it was in the fall of 1972, while visiting York, Maine, that birding truly captured him. He noticed some black and white birds on the ocean, picked up his binoculars to look at them and hasn't put them down yet!

After graduating from the University of NH in 1976 with a degree in Zoology, he spent three months birding and traveling around the lower 48 states. After that he started as a volunteer and then staff member for New Hampshire Audubon, becoming its first staff ornithologist. He has continued to this day as an active volunteer for the organization and an active birder in the state.

Bob's contributions to our knowledge of New Hampshire's birds are many and varied. He has conducted innumerable bird surveys, with his favorites so far being Pondicherry Wildlife Sanctuary – providing data to support the creation of the National Wildlife Refuge there; Lake Umbagog to the far north; and Turkey Pond following Tudor Richard's interest in this local sanctuary. In 2003 he was recognized by the US Breeding Bird Survey for having completed 50 cumulative routes in NH – that's 50 mornings of getting up to begin surveys at 4:34 am! He took part in the NH Breeding Bird Atlas, another of his favorites, and gathered data for the Dunbarton Conservation Commission that helped them expand the conservation lands at Kimball Pond. He has been gathering bird data for the Concord area, both past and present and encouraging others to contribute to our knowledge of the town's avifauna.

He has participated in just about every aspect of birding in the state. He began the New Hampshire Rare Bird Alert phone hot line in 1977 and was the recorded voice for many years. In 1994 he took over the job of Concord Christmas Bird Count compiler. He was also a founding member of the NH Rare Birds Committee.

Bob is a strong believer in good record-keeping and the *New Hampshire Bird Records* quarterly. While working for NH Audubon, he took over editorship, and then continued as the volunteer Summer Season Editor for 20 years. He has sent his reports to *New Hampshire Bird Records* over many years contributing to the database of bird sightings in the state to this day.

Although he leads trips nationally and internationally through his business, Merlin Enterprises, he has a keen interest in the birds of NH, particularly in understanding the role NH plays in the status and distribution of birds in the region. He has consistently shared his knowledge and spurred others on to contribute to our knowledge of NH's birds. Bob is constantly going beyond the data, seeking answers to the still unresolved questions about the birds of our state.

Eric Masterson wrote the following: "I cannot let Bob Quinn's deserved moment of recognition go without mention. In an age of celebrity, when all too many people are lured by the promise of a quick fix, Bob's dedication to his craft is commendable. Birders are drawn to the exotic and the rare amongst the common and drab. Bob has consistently kept his eye on the ball – the larger picture as it were. His great knowledge of, and interest in inland waterbirds, especially their migratory habits in NH, inspired me to look further into the fascinating phenomenon. His contributions to both birding and the birding community in NH make him a worthy recipient of this award."

New Hampshire Audubon is very pleased to honor Bob Quinn for his lifelong passion and commitment to the birds of New Hampshire with the 2010 Goodhue-Elkins Award.

Can You Identify This Bird?

Answer on page 57
Photo by Eric Masterson

Summer Season

June 1 through July 31, 2010

Tony Vazzano

by Tony Vazzano

Summer 2010 provided stark contrasts in birds and weather from the previous summer. The chief differences were a return to normal seabird numbers (i.e., very few), and hot, dry weather as opposed to the wet conditions of last year. Presumably, this weather benefitted many species, probably being most beneficial to insectivores and ground nesters.

Rare birds this summer included a few reports of **Cory's Shearwater**, three **American Oystercatchers** in Seabrook, a **Black Skimmer** in Hampton, a **Caspian Tern** in Charlestown, a **White-eyed Vireo** in Pittsfield and territorial **Cerulean Warblers** in Hinsdale, far from the only known breeding area in the state, Pawtuckaway State Park in Nottingham. Not quite as newsworthy, but still of note, were summering Ring-necked and Ruddy Ducks in the southern part of the state, two **Black Vultures**, an **Atlantic Puffin**, and a couple of **Clay-colored Sparrows**.

While there was only one report of **Mississippi Kite**, there were several reports in spring and a nest was found in August, just after the summer season ended. Bald Eagles had a fairly good breeding season with a record number of territorial pairs although fewer young fledged than in 2008's record year. Peregrine Falcons produced a record number of birds fledged, the 30th consecutive year they have nested in New Hampshire in the post DDT era.

Finally, there was one other major difference this summer from that of 2009. Instead of sifting through and trying to make sense of 4,300 reports, this year there were 22,316 reports to look at because of our switch to eBird as a reporting system.

Black Skimmer by Leonard Medlock, 6/12/10, Hampton Harbor, NH.

While the Brant seen in June was probably a late spring migrant, the Blue-winged and Green-winged Teals seen in late July were early fall migrants. Ring-necked Duck breeds sparingly in northern New Hampshire but it is not a summer resident in the southern part of the state, so one summering in Exeter was interesting. A Long-tailed Duck and a Red-breasted Merganser lingered along the coast into June. Ruddy Ducks are seen in fall often enough, but four summering in southern New Hampshire, at the wastewater treatment plant ponds in Derry, seems very unusual. However, a similar number has spent the past few summers not too far away in Sanford, in the southwest corner of Maine, also at wastewater treatment plant ponds, where nesting was confirmed last year.

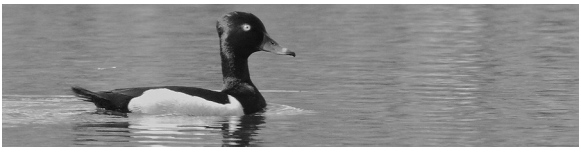
X-ray of Common Loon from Squam Lake that died from lead poisoning in fishing tackle. Photos by Mark Wilson.

Common Loons had a good year overall, with slightly more adults than last year and at least 125 surviving young, compared to 109 last year, according to biologists of the Loon Preservation Committee. Lake Umbagog loons had a much better year, fledging seven more chicks than the past three years combined. Meanwhile, Winnipesaukee and Squam Lakes only had three and four fledged chicks, respectively. There was an increase in nest predations this year and adult loons continue to die from poisoning due to lead fishing tackle, as indicated by a necropsy of an adult from Squam Lake (see photo).

Northern Gannet on a patio in Rye, NH on 6/3/10. Photo by Denise Berrigan.

Numbers of pelagic birds were way down from last year's record tallies. Whether or not last summer's high numbers were simply a fluke remains to be seen. There were some reports of **Cory's Shearwater**, a species that typically stayed south of New Hampshire waters until three years ago, but the total number was less than 10% of what was seen last summer. A Northern Gannet became disoriented when a thunderstorm hit the Rye coast on June 3. It landed on a private patio by the ocean and stayed half an hour before flying back over the ocean. For the first summer in a few years there were no reports of the rare Least Bittern, despite one birder conducting a survey in Hinsdale where they have been found in previous years. Counts of 62 Snowy Egrets and 37 Great Egrets were impressive near the coast in Rye on the last day of the ornithological summer, but more intriguing was a report of a surprising 11 Great Egrets in Hanover late in July. While nearly a dozen or more near the coast would not raise any eyebrows, this is a high number so far inland. **Black Vultures** ventured into two locations in the southern edge of the state. Its occurrence is probably to be expected annually at this point as they have slowly expanded northward in the past decade. The closest confirmed nesting is in northwestern Connecticut.

date	*#*	*town*	*location*	*observer(s)*
Brant				
06/27	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. Mirick
Wood Duck				
06/01	16	Sandwich	Chicks Corner wetland	T. Vazzano
06/04	28	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
06/12	15	New London	Low Plain NA	Z. Cornell
06/16	11	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. Turner
Blue-winged Teal				
07/30	2	Bradford	Melvin Brook	M. Davidson
Green-winged Teal				
07/20	2	Exeter	Exeter WTP	S. Mirick



Ring-necked Duck by Leonard Medlock, 6/30/10, Exeter WTP, NH.

Ring-necked Duck				
06/13	8	Errol	Magalloway R., Androscoggin R. & Lake Umbagog	L. Tanino, C. Foss, F. Nevers, C. Martin

date	*#*	*town*	*location*	*observer(s)*
06/19	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	B. Crowley, J. Scott
06/25	5	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir	R. Quinn
06/27	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	L. Medlock
07/04	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet dam	M. Iliff
07/20	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	S. Mirick
Common Eider				
06/09	45	Rye	Seal Rocks	P. Brown
06/22	80	Rye	Isles of Shoals	L. Kras
Surf Scoter				
06/05	3	Hampton	North Beach	S.& J. Mirick
07/10	1	Hampton	n. of Great Boars Head	S.& J. Mirick
White-winged Scoter				
06/04	15	Hampton	North Beach	S. Mirick
06/19	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	P. Brown
06/27	2	Hampton	North Beach	S. Mirick
07/19	1	Rye	Seal Rocks	S. Mirick
Black Scoter				
07/22	1	Rye	ocean at Rye Harbor	J. Pietrzak
Long-tailed Duck				
06/04	1	Hampton	North Beach	S. Mirick
Common Goldeneye				
06/13	5	Errol	Magalloway R., Androscoggin R. & Lake Umbagog	L. Tanino, C. Foss, F. Nevers, C. Martin
06/25	3	Errol	Magalloway River	R. Quinn
Red-breasted Merganser				
06/23	3	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. Mirick
Ruddy Duck				
06/01	3	Derry	Derry WTP	M. Thompson
06/30	4	Derry	Derry WTP	M. Thompson
07/07	4	Derry	Derry WTP	M. Thompson

Spruce Grouse by Phil Brown, 6/26/10, between the summits of Mt. Flume and Mt. Liberty in the White Mountain National Forest, NH.

Spruce Grouse				
06/25	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd., mile 10.5-12	L. Therrien
06/26	1	Lincoln	Mt. Flume-Mt. Liberty loop	P. Brown, J. Tilden
Pied-billed Grebe				
06/04	1	Errol	Umbagog NWR, Leonard Pond	M. Vernon
06/14	1	Concord	Steeplegate Mall & pond	A. Robbins
06/14	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
07/05	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd., mile 2.4	M. Iliff
07/22	7	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	S. Young

date	*#*	*town*	*location*	*observer(s)*
Cory's Shearwater				
07/03	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Medlock, W. Cioffi
07/04	3	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	B. Griffith, L. Kras
07/04	1	Rye	Isles of Shoals	J. Lambert, L. Medlock
07/27	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	B. Griffith, L. Kras

Great Shearwater by Jon Woolf, 7/15/10, at sea off Jeffreys Ledge.

Greater Shearwater				
06/06	1		NH coast	L. Kras, J. Lambert, M. Harvey, B. Griffith
06/16	5	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	J. Lambert, B. Griffith, L. Kras
07/03	7	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Medlock, W. Cioffi
07/04	20	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Kras, B. Griffith
07/24	5	Rye	inside of Isles of Shoals	S. Mirick, J. Woolf, Massabesic Audubon FT
07/27	8	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	B. Griffith, L. Kras
Sooty Shearwater				
06/06	3		NH coast	B. Griffith, J. Lambert, L. Kras, M. Harvey
06/16	5	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Medlock, B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert
07/03	2	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	W. Cioffi, L. Medlock
07/04	12	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Kras, B. Griffith
Manx Shearwater				
07/03	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Medlock, W. Cioffi
07/04	2	Rye	Isles of Shoals	L. Medlock, J. Lambert
07/24	2	Rye	inside of Isles of Shoals	S. Mirick, Jon Woolf, Massabesic Audubon FT
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				
06/16	275	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Medlock, L. Kras, B. Griffith, J. Lambert
06/22	38	Rye	Isles of Shoals	L. Kras
07/03	27	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Medlock, W. Cioffi
07/04	83	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Kras, B. Griffith
07/10	60		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
07/14	30		NH coast	S. Mirick
07/27	120	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Kras, B. Griffith
07/27	30		NH coast	L. Kras
07/31	30	Rye	Foss Beach	L. Tanino, C. Seifer
07/31	24	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	L. Tanino, C. Seifer
07/31	24	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	L. Tanino, C. Seifer
Northern Gannet				
06/02	29	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick

date	*#*	*town*	*location*	*observer(s)*
06/04	50	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
06/05	130		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
06/06	150		NH coast	B. Griffith, M. Harvey, L. Kras, J. Lambert
06/09	50	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	P. Brown
07/10	19		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
07/27	12	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Kras, B. Griffith
American Bittern				
06/06	2	Hampton	Little Jack's restaurant marshes	S. Mirick
06/12	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	J. Forbes, C. Ciccone, BBC FT
06/25	1	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir	R. Quinn
06/25	1	Pittsburg	Tabor Rd.	L. Therrien
06/27	1	Whitefield	Whitefield Airport	I. MacLeod
07/05	1	Swanzey	Dillant-Hopkins Airport	J. Russo
07/10	2	Carroll	Old Cherry Mountain Rd.	N. Mealey
07/10	1	Hampton	Little Jack's restaurant, Rt. 1A	M. Lester
07/10	2	Hampton	Little Jack's restaurant	S.& J. Mirick
Great Blue Heron				
06/01	31	Rochester	heron rookery	D. Hubbard
06/04	13	Strafford	Parker Mtn./Evans Mtn./Strafford Town Forest	S. Young
06/09	15	Rochester	Quail Drive heron rookery	D. Hubbard
06/18	16	Franklin	power line swamp	I. MacLeod
07/22	12	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	S. Young

Five of the 11 Great Egrets at Slade Pond in Hanover, NH on 7/25/10. Photo by Jim Kennedy.

Great Egret				
07/25	11	Hanover	Slade Pond	J. Kennedy
07/25	37		Hampton Harbor	B. Griffith, L. Kras
07/28	8	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	B. Crowley, T. Vazzano
07/31	1	Bath	covered bridge	K. Burdick
Snowy Egret				
06/05	9		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
07/10	15		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
07/31	62	Rye	Awcomin Marsh	L. Tanino, C. Seifer
Green Heron				
06/05	1	Nashua	Southwest Park-Yudicky Farm	C. Sheridan
06/14	2	Concord	Steeplegate Mall & pond	A. Robbins
06/19	3	Exeter	Exeter WTP	B. Crowley, J. Scott
06/19	1	Orford	Reeds Marsh	P. Johnson
06/24	4	Exeter	Exeter WTP	L. Medlock
07/02	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
07/22	3	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	S. Young
07/31	3	Nashua	Nashua River	C. Sheridan

date	*#*	*town*	*location*	*observer(s)*
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
06/12	1		Hampton Harbor area	J. Lambert, L. Kras
07/27	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	J. Kelly
07/30	1	Hampton	Little Jack's restaurant, Rt. 1A	B. Crowley, J. Scott
Glossy Ibis				
06/09	1		Hampton Harbor area	P. Brown
07/20	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	S. Mirick
07/31	1		Hampton Beach, south	B. Griffith, L. Kras, T. Brooks
Black Vulture				
06/04	1	Newmarket		L. Kras
06/05	1	Hinsdale	Wantastiquet Mtn. NA	L. Tanino, K. Klapper

Raptors

Osprey by Lauren Kras.

Ospreys have recovered so well in the state that New Hampshire Audubon biologists are no longer able to monitor all the nests, although most were documented with the help of volunteers. There were at least 67 territorial pairs with 42 of them successfully fledging at least 88 chicks. This is one more than 2008's banner year and way ahead of last year. In fact, it was the greatest variation from one year to the next in 30 years of monitoring Osprey in New Hampshire. Since there are likely some unknown nests in the state, the actual number of birds is probably higher. Birders are encouraged to report nesting behavior or possible nesting sites. For more on the Ospreys in the Lakes Region see the article on page 50.

Mississippi Kites were present again in Newmarket but breeding was not confirmed until August. This is the third year that nesting has been confirmed for these beautiful raptors that mostly nest far to the south of New England. NH Audubon continues to monitor Bald Eagles and this summer there was a record 22 territorial pairs; 14 pairs incubated eggs, nine of which fledged young. Snow in April caused three nest failures north of the mountains. There were 25% fewer successful nests and 30% fewer fledglings than in 2008's record season. Bald Eagles began nesting in the state almost 25 years ago, in the post DDT era, but two-thirds of all the eagles fledged in New Hampshire have been in the past five years – 90 of them! There were a few more reports of American Kestrel this year than last, but that may be a result of having more reports available through eBird. It is a species that has been declining during the past decade. While not yet common, Merlin continues to be relatively widespread to the north and west of Concord. Peregrine Falcons had a terrific year with 35 birds fledged, surpassing the old record of 29. There were a record 19 breeding territories that were

occupied by at least one falcon and 16 of those hosted territorial pairs, according to NH Audubon raptor biologist Chris Martin.

date	*#*	*town*	*location*	*observer(s)*
Mississippi Kite				
07/02	1	Newmarket	near Main St. & Packers Falls	L. Kras
Northern Harrier				
06/09	1	Pittsburg	Scott Bog	B. Crowley, J. Scott
06/13	2	Errol	Leonard Marsh	L. Tanino, C. Foss, F. Nevers, C. Martin
06/19	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	G. Billingham
06/25	2	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir	R. Quinn
07/01	1	Pittsburg	Scott Bog	L. Medlock, J. Hully
American Kestrel				
06/02	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	L. Starr, J. Turner
06/11	2	Dover	Strafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
06/19	1	Newington	Great Bay NWR	B. Crowley, J. Scott
06/24	1	Conway	East Conway fields	B. Crowley, J. Atkins
06/26	2	Errol	Umbagog NWR, Harpers Meadow	R. Quinn
07/16	2	Conway	East Conway fields	B. Crowley
07/17	2	Colebrook	Diamond Pond Road	P. Hunt
07/21	4	Lee	Old Mill Rd. WMA	S. Young
07/30	4	Newington	Great Bay NWR	J. Kelly
Merlin				
06/06	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet	M. Harvey, J. Lambert, L. Kras, B. Griffith
06/10	2	Sunapee	Sunapee Lake	L. Dale
06/13	3	Errol	Lake Umbagog area	L. Tanino, C. Foss, F. Nevers, C. Martin
07/05	1	Hinsdale	Connecticut R. by Brattleboro, VT marina	M. Iliff
07/08	4	Hanover	Hanover golf course	J. Norton
07/25	1	Hampton	s. side of Great Boars Head	S. Mirick
07/28	2	Intervale	Hill N Vale Ln.	L. Route
Peregrine Falcon				
07/14	1		NH coast	S. Mirick
07/25	1		NH coast	S. Mirick

Rails through Alcids

There were more Soras heard or seen this summer than in the past several years which was a pleasantly surprising contrast to last summer when none were reported. Piping Plovers have had at least a couple of nests in the Seabrook-Hampton Beach

Sora by Scott A. Young, 7/2/10, Pickering Ponds, Rochester, NH.

area for several years. This year (in May), eggs were stolen from one nest. Not by the typical animal thief that does this kind of thing, but sadly, by a person; a federal crime for this protected species. Only one plover chick hatched this season. **American Oystercatcher** breeds mostly to the south of New Hampshire and, although a few breed to our northeast in Maine and Nova Scotia, they are still a somewhat unexpected sight on our coast. Three were seen early in June in Seabrook. A flock of about a dozen White-rumped Sandpipers was seen in early June. They are typically late spring migrants, seen until mid-June, but most pass through the central part of the continent and are rarely seen in New Hampshire at that time. Little Gull is fairly unusual in New Hampshire, but one was found in Hampton in early June, a somewhat more typical time than last summer's July sighting. Lesser Black-backed Gull is not an annual summer visitor, but two were seen in Seabrook during June. They are more often seen during late fall through early spring, although one has been nesting with a Herring Gull for the past few years on nearby Appledore Island, at the Isles of Shoals on the Maine side of the border.

The **Caspian Tern** seen in Charlestown in late June in the southwestern part of the state was a good find for anywhere in the state but is an especially good find so far inland in New Hampshire. They have occurred inland in June before, as recently as June 10, 2003 in Pittsburg, although that was two weeks earlier. There was a coastal sighting in Rye on June 21 several years ago. They breed inland as close as Lake

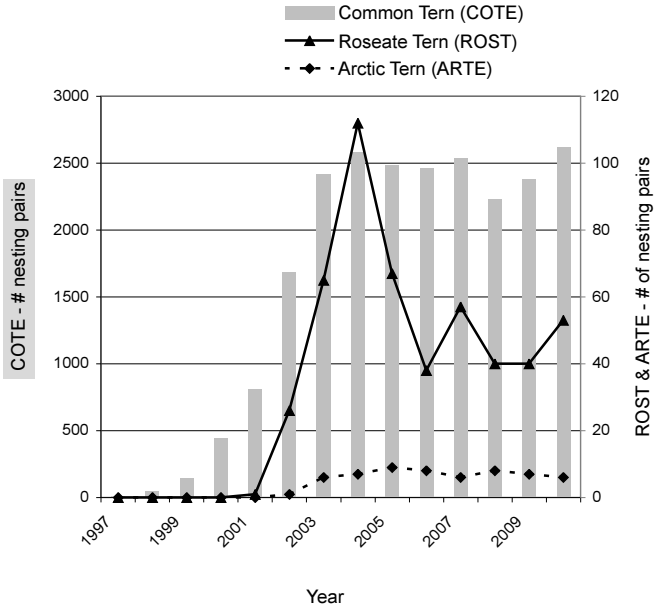


Figure 1. Number of nesting terns at White & Seavey Islands, NH from 1997 (the first year of the nest colony restoration program) to 2010. NH Audubon initiated the restoration, in partnership with the NH Fish and Game Department's Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program (current project manager), the Office of State Planning, the Shoals Marine Laboratory, the NH Department of Resources and Economic Development, and many others.

Champlain. A Black Tern in breeding plumage was an unexpected find off Pulpit Rocks in Rye on June 27. They breed inland in other northern New England states but not in New Hampshire. A few are occasionally seen near the coast or offshore in summer. There were 2,615 Common Tern nests on White and Seavey Islands at the Isles of Shoals. This total is a little higher than those recorded since 2003 when the population increased dramatically, see Figure 1. There were 56 Roseate Tern nests and six Arctic Tern nests at the colony this summer. Black Skimmer is a rare bird in New Hampshire, usually staying south of our region. The one in Hampton on June 12 is one of the few that have been photographed in the state. There was one report of an unidentified jaeger offshore; quite a difference from last year when there were unusually high numbers. Atlantic Puffin is not frequently seen in summer in New Hampshire waters, even though they breed in Maine. One was reported from the Isles of Shoals and another offshore, both during early July.

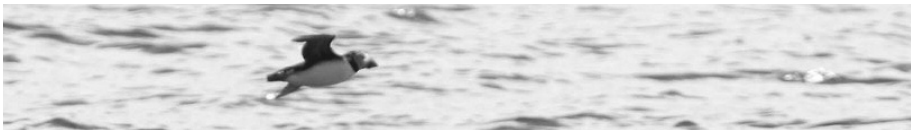
date	*#*	*town*	*location*	*observer(s)*
Virginia Rail				
06/22	9	Concord	West Locke Rd.	R. Quinn
06/27	4	Nashua	Sagamore Bridge retention basin	D. Deifik
07/02	17	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young, D. Hubbard
Sora				
06/01	1	Greenland	Great Bay Discovery Center	J. Kelly
06/22	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
06/27	4	Nashua	Sagamore Bridge retention basin	D. Deifik
06/30	1	Bradford	Lake Massasecum	M. Davidson
Black-bellied Plover				
06/02	23		Hampton Harbor area	S. Mirick
06/06	20		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
06/09	2		Hampton Harbor area	P. Brown
07/25	1		NH coast	S. Mirick
07/30	4	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	B. Crowley, J. Scott
Semipalmated Plover				
06/06	5		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
07/04	1	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	S. Mirick
07/27	150		NH coast	L. Kras
07/30	200		Hampton Harbor area	C. Caldwell
Piping Plover				
06/03	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	Z. Cornell
06/05	4	Seabrook	off Seabrook Beach	S.& J. Mirick
07/30	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach, Haverhill St.	B. Crowley, J. Scott
American Oystercatcher				
06/12	3	Seabrook	Seabrook marshes, Beckmans Landing	L. Medlock, L. Kras, J. Lambert

American Oystercatchers by Leonard Medlock, Hampton Harbor, 6/12/10.

date	*#*	*town*	*location*	*observer(s)*
Spotted Sandpiper				
06/01	7	Derry	Derry WTP	M. Thompson
06/01	10	Lee	Old Mill Rd. WMA	S. Young
06/07	5	Exeter	Exeter WTP	L. Tanino, J. Russo, D. Clark, M. Adams
06/14	11	Orford	Reeds Marsh	P. Johnson
07/05	9	Concord	Merrimack R., Sewalls Falls to NH Technical Institute	R. Quinn
07/06	5	Rochester	Rochester WTP	B. Crowley, J. Scott
07/11	13	Boscawen	Merrimack R. to Penacook	R. Quinn
07/20	16	Lee	Old Mill Rd. WMA	S. Young
07/28	12	Rochester	Rochester WTP	B. Crowley, T. Vazzano
Solitary Sandpiper				
06/01	1	Lee	Old Mill Rd. WMA	S. Young
06/08	1	Derry	Derry WTP	M. Thompson
07/08	1	Carroll	Bretton Woods, Ammonoosuc R.	L. Bergum
07/27	1	Strafford	Strafford School CE	S. Young
07/31	3	Nashua	Nashua River	C. Sheridan
Greater Yellowlegs				
06/13	1	Seabrook	Hampton-Seabrook marsh, Rt. 286 pools	R.& M. Suomala
07/10	1	Hampton	Little Jack's restaurant, Rt. 1A	M. Lester
Willet				
06/12	15		Hampton Harbor area	J. Lambert, L. Kras
07/14	22	Hampton	Hampton Harbor, northern section	S. Mirick
07/14	8	Rye	Rye Harbor	S. Mirick
Lesser Yellowlegs				
07/10	3		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
07/30	15	Hampton	Little Jack's restaurant, Rt. 1A	B. Crowley, J. Scott
Upland Sandpiper				
06/19	1	Portsmouth	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	B. Crowley, J. Scott
Whimbrel				
07/21	1		Hampton Harbor area	J. Lambert
07/25	2	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	L. Medlock, J. Lambert
Ruddy Turnstone				
07/24	2	Rye	inside of Isles of Shoals	S. Mirick, J. Woolf, Massabesic Audubon FT
07/25	4	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	L. Medlock, J. Lambert
Red Knot				
06/02	2		Hampton Harbor area	S. Mirick, J. Lambert
Sanderling				
06/06	1		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
07/21	12		Hampton Harbor area	J. Lambert
07/28	16	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	T. Vazzano, B. Crowley
Semipalmated Sandpiper				
06/04	70		Hampton Harbor area	L. Kras
06/05	43		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
06/11	1	Hampton	North Beach	S. Mirick

date	*#*	*town*	*location*	*observer(s)*
07/16	35		NH coast	S. Mirick
07/25	318		NH coast	S. Mirick
07/31	500		Hampton Harbor area	L. Kras, B. Griffith, T. Brooks
Least Sandpiper				
06/03	12	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	Z. Cornell
06/30	2	Hampton	Hampton salt marsh	S. Mirick
07/21	14	Rochester	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
07/25	15	Amherst	Ponemah Bog	C. Sheridan
07/31	100		Hampton Harbor area	B. Griffith, L. Kras, T. Brooks
White-rumped Sandpiper				
06/05	2	Rye	s. of Rye Harbor	S.& J. Mirick
06/06	13		NH coast	J. Lambert, L. Kras, B. Griffith, M. Harvey
Short-billed Dowitcher				
06/06	2		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
07/10	1		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
07/31	15		Hampton Harbor area	B. Griffith, L. Kras, T. Brooks
Wilson's Snipe				
06/01	1	Haverhill	Rt. 25 wet meadow	J. Williams
06/04	8	Errol	Umbagog NWR, Leonard Pond	M. Vernon
06/05	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	D. Hubbard
06/27	1	Hebron	Hebron Marsh WS	P. Brown, J. Tilden
07/04	2	Jefferson	Rt. 115A open field	M. Iliff
American Woodcock				
06/02	6	Hopkinton	Mast Yard SF	P. Hunt
06/08	3	Errol	Umbagog NWR, Mollidgewock Brook survey	G. Gavutis Jr.
06/21	2	Freedom	West Branch Pine Barrens Preserve	P. Hunt
07/15	1	Conway	Dahl WS	P. Brown
07/17	2	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd. /Suncook River	A. Robbins
Bonaparte's Gull				
06/04	35		Hampton Harbor area	L. Kras
06/06	27		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
07/25	26		NH coast	S. Mirick
07/26	1	Bradford	Lake Massasecum	M. Davidson
Little Gull				
06/04	1	Hampton	Hampton River Marina flats	J. O'Shaughnessy, L. Kras
Laughing Gull				
06/12	1		Hampton Harbor area	L. Kras, J. Lambert
06/20	3		Hampton Harbor area	L. Kras
07/10	2		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
Lesser Black-backed Gull				
06/09	1		Hampton Harbor area	P. Brown
06/20	1		Hampton Harbor area	L. Kras

date	*#*	*town*	*location*	*observer(s)*
Least Tern				
06/13	6	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	L. Medlock
07/04	5		Hampton Harbor area	S. Mirick
07/28	3	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	T. Vazzano
07/31	3	Portsmouth	The Decks	E. Quinn
Caspian Tern				
06/23	1	Charlestown		L. Tanino, D. Clark, J. Russo, M. Adams
Black Tern				
06/27	1	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	S. Mirick
Roseate Tern				
06/05	12		Hampton Harbor	S.& J. Mirick
06/12	5	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	L. Medlock
07/10	8	Rye	White and Seavey islands	L. Tanino
07/14	7		NH coast	S. Mirick
07/25	5		NH coast	B. Griffith, L. Kras
07/27	10		NH coast	L. Kras
Common Tern				
06/13	100	Portsmouth	Pierce Island	R.& M. Suomala
07/10	1000	Rye	White and Seavey islands	M. Lester
07/30	200	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	B. Crowley, J. Scott
Arctic Tern				
07/04	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Kras, B. Griffith
07/10	2	Rye	White and Seavey islands	L. Tanino, M. Lester
Black Skimmer				
06/12	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	L. Medlock
Jaeger sp.				
07/27	1	Rye	inside of Isles of Shoals	L. Kras, B. Griffith
Black Guillemot				
06/06	1	Rye	Ragged Neck	S. Mirick
06/22	5	Rye	Isles of Shoals	L. Kras
06/27	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	L. Medlock, S.& J. Mirick
06/27	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
07/10	2	Rye	White and Seavey islands	M. Lester
07/31	1	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	L. Tanino, C. Seifer



Atlantic Puffin by Leonard Medlock, 7/2/10, near the Isles of Shoals, NH.

Atlantic Puffin				
07/03	1	Offshore Waters	just outside Isles of Shoals	L. Medlock, W. Cioffi
07/10	1	Rye	White and Seavey islands	L. Tanino, M. Lester

Cuckoos through Corvids

Cuckoos were slightly better reported this summer with about a dozen of each species seen or heard. This is the first summer since 2004 that no Eastern Screech-Owls were reported. Hopefully, this is simply a result of their secretive, nocturnal habits. Volunteers for NH Audubon's Project Nighthawk found about the same number of Common Nighthawks in Concord as last year, but the pair that had nested in East Concord appeared to have moved across the Soucook River to Pembroke. This was the only confirmed nighthawk nest in the state and it fledged one chick. Watchers in Keene were unable to locate a nest in the area where a young fledgling was seen last year. There were more sightings of Chimney Swifts this summer, and in larger numbers than we've had reported in the past several years. While that may be cause for some optimism for this declining species, the number may simply be a result of more reports through eBird.

White-eyed Vireo by Lauren Kras, 6/15/10, Odiorne Pt. State Park, Rye, NH.

Red-bellied Woodpecker continues to be fairly widespread in central and southern parts of the state. A juvenile with an adult female in Sandwich was as far north as this species has been confirmed breeding in the state. The **White-eyed Vireo** heard in Pittsfield by an experienced observer was north of its usual range and farther north than most of the New Hampshire records. Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen in Strafford, a bit farther south than their usual haunts. The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in Sunapee on June 4 was a late migrant. Fish Crow has been extending its range northward. Lately, it has been seen in the Upper Connecticut River Valley (Lebanon/Hanover area), but this summer there was an intriguing report of one seen and heard in Lancaster, quite a bit farther north. However, because of the late June date when young crows might be leaving the nest, the observer was not able to completely rule out a juvenile American Crow. Birders in northern New Hampshire should be aware of both the similarity and the difference in the calls of Fish Crow and juvenile American Crow.

date	*#*	*town*	*location*	*observer(s)*
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				
06/02	1	Concord	Mast Yard SF east	P. Hunt
06/11	1	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
07/05	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
07/07	1	New London	Philbrick-Cricenti Bog	S. Young
07/12	1	Stoddard	Pitcher Mountain	P. Brown
07/18	1	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
Black-billed Cuckoo				
06/12	1	Barrington	Beauty Hill Rd.	A. Robbins
06/15	1	Walpole	County Rd.	H.& G. Beck
06/19	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	G. Billingham
06/21	1	Westmoreland	Hatt Road	G. Seymour
06/24	1	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	P. Brown

date	*#*	*town*	*location*	*observer(s)*
Black-billed Cuckoo—continued				
06/30	1	Newmarket	River St.	L. Kras
07/08	1	Rumney	Fisher Woods residence	J. Williams
07/12	1	Stoddard	Pitcher Mountain	P. Brown
07/19	1	New Ipswich	Wapack Ridge, south	T. Pirro
07/20	1	Freedom	Berry Bay area	C. Robbins
Northern Saw-whet Owl				
07/05	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet dam	M. Iliff
07/05	1	Webster	Call Road	R. Quinn
07/08	1	Conway	Hiram Philbrook Rd., Center Conway	M. Albert
07/12	1	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	K. McFarland, P. Johnson
Common Nighthawk				
06/01	3	Chichester	Tractor Supply Co., Rt. 4	L. Kras
06/03	2	Pembroke	N. Pembroke Rd.	R. Suomala
06/08	4	Concord	Project Nighthawk Coord. Watch	P. Nighthawk
06/08	3	Pembroke	N. Pembroke Rd.	R. Suomala, et al.
06/10	1	Keene	Keene shopping center	L. Tanino, B. Folk
06/17	5	Concord	Project Nighthawk Coord. Watch	P. Nighthawk
07/03	2	Freedom	Ossipee barrens	M. Iliff
07/07	5	Concord	Project Nighthawk Coord. Watch	P. Nighthawk
Whip-poor-will				
06/02	2	Concord	Mast Yard SF east	P. Hunt
06/02	2	Concord	USFWS Karner Blue easement	R. Suomala, C. Plato
06/02	2	Hopkinton	Mast Yard SF	P. Hunt
06/03	1	Franklin	New Hampton Rd.	E. Towle
06/03	3	Pembroke	N. Pembroke Rd.	R. Suomala
06/22	7	Hopkinton	Mast Yard SF	P. Hunt, R. Woodward, R. Quinn, N. Handwerker
06/23	19	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest, Ossipee Lake Rd.	A. Robbins
Chimney Swift				
06/06	29	Rumney	Jiggs Auction Barn	J. Williams
06/08	20	Derry	Derry WTP	M. Thompson
06/13	12	Pittsfield	Pittsfield WTP/ Suncook River	A. Robbins
06/20	10	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
07/04	90	Concord	Durgin parking garage	R. Quinn
07/22	25	Nashua	downtown	C. Sheridan
07/25	30	Pittsfield	Pittsfield WTP/ Suncook River	A. Robbins
Red-bellied Woodpecker				
06/01	1	Chatham	Green Hill Road	B. Crowley
06/15	2	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				
06/01	2	Peterborough	General Miller	J. Delaney
06/15	5	Strafford	Parker Mtn./Evans Mtn./ Strafford Town Forest	S. Young
06/22	9	Chatham	Mountain Pond, WMNF	A. Robbins
06/22	8	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
06/22	17	Wilmot	New Canada Rd.	P. Newbern
07/30	11	Strafford	Parker Mtn./Evans Mtn./ Strafford Town Forest	S. Young

Black-backed Woodpecker at its nest, by Eric Masterson, 6/30/10, Lake Umbagog area, NH.

Black-backed Woodpecker

06/02	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	L. Starr, J. Turner
06/05	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	M. Lester
06/20	1	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	L. Tanino, C. Seifer, K. Klapper, P. Dexter
06/30	1	Errol	Magalloway River bank	E. Masterson
07/18	2	Stewartstown	Coleman SP campground	P. Hunt, H. Grant

Olive-sided Flycatcher

06/12	5	Errol	Lake Umbagog, Mollidgewock section	L. Tanino, C. Foss, S. Flint, G. Gavutis Jr.
06/15	2	Strafford	Parker Mtn./Evans Mtn./ Strafford Town Forest	S. Young
06/24	2	Effingham	Huntress Bridge Rd./Watts WS	A. Robbins
06/25	2	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road mile 10.5-12	L. Therrien
07/03	1	Moultonborough	Squam Lake	D. Hudgins
07/16	1	Croydon		W. Ward
07/23	3	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. Turner
07/31	1	Albany	Church Pond Bog	P. Hunt

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

06/04	1	Sunapee	WOLF4	P. Newbern
06/05	2	Chatham		M. Oyler
06/07	1	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	D. Hubbard
06/09	14	Errol	Umbagog NWR, Mollidgewock Brook survey	G. Gavutis Jr.
07/03	13	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	S. Mirick

Alder Flycatcher

06/12	6		Coos County	M. Oyler
06/20	5	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	L. Tanino, C. Seifer, K. Klapper, P. Dexter
06/22	7	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
07/27	5	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	J. Kelly
07/31	6	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward

Willow Flycatcher

06/04	15	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	M.& J. Harvey
06/14	3	Orford	Reeds Marsh	P. Johnson
06/25	4	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
07/21	4	Dover	Strafford County Farm	D. Hubbard

Eastern Kingbird

07/05	10	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
07/11	11	Boscawen	Merrimack R. to Penacook	R. Quinn
07/23	10	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. Turner
07/27	13	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	J. Kelly
07/31	15	Nashua	Nashua River	C. Sheridan

date	*#*	*town*	*location*	*observer(s)*
White-eyed Vireo				
07/16	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd.	A. Robbins
Yellow-throated Vireo				
06/02	6	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway SP	S. Mirick
06/21	2	Center Harbor	Squam Lake	W. Batsford
06/25	1	Strafford	Parker Mtn./Evans Mtn./ Strafford Town Forest	S. Young
07/24	2	Surry	Joslin Road Gravel Pit	L. Tanino
Blue-headed Vireo				
06/17	7	Greenfield	Wapack NWR	L. Tanino, P. Brown, T. Stage
06/20	7	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	L. Tanino, C. Seifer, K. Klapper, P. Dexter
06/22	5	Chatham	Mountain Pond, WMNF	A. Robbins
06/22	5	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
06/24	13	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	L. Therrien
06/26	7	Lincoln	Mt. Flume-Mt. Liberty loop	P. Brown, J. Tilden
Warbling Vireo				
06/04	10	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	M.& J. Harvey
06/14	7	Orford	Reeds Marsh	P. Johnson
06/14	12	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
Philadelphia Vireo				
06/06	1	Pittsburg	Scott Bog	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert, M. Harvey
06/19	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet	L. Tanino, C. Seifer, K. Klapper, P. Dexter, T. Stage
06/19	2	Pittsburg	Scott Bog	L. Tanino, C. Seifer, K. Klapper, P. Dexter, T. Stage
07/01	3	Pittsburg	East Inlet	L. Medlock, J. Hully
Red-eyed Vireo				
06/13	23	Errol	Magalloway R., Androscoggin R. & Lake Umbagog	L. Tanino, C. Foss, F. Nevers, C. Martin
06/15	22	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
07/05	30	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
Gray Jay				
06/06	10	Pittsburg	East Inlet	L. Kras, J. Lambert, B. Griffith, M. Harvey
06/09	4	Errol	Umbagog NWR, Mollidgewock Brook survey	G. Gavutis Jr.
06/20	4	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	L. Tanino, C. Seifer, K. Klapper, P. Dexter
06/25	3	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Road	L. Therrien
06/26	3	Pittsburg	Magalloway Mountain	L. Therrien
07/02	3	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	J. Swatt
07/17	3	Stewartstown	Coleman SP campground	P. Hunt
07/18	2	Beans Grant	Crawford Path	R. Woodward
07/18	5	Stewartstown	Coleman SP campground	P. Hunt
Fish Crow				
06/06	3	Ossipee	Rts. 25 & 16, W. Ossipee	T. Vazzano
06/07	1	Laconia	Lake Winnisquam, Winnicoash St.	S. Brallier

date	*#*	*town*	*location*	*observer(s)*
06/09	2		Hampton Harbor area	P. Brown
06/22	2	Derry	Derry WTP	M. Thompson
07/03	2	Concord	Locke Road sod farm	R. Woodward
07/03	1	Freedom	Ossipee barrens	M. Iliff
07/03	2	Moultonborough	Squam Lake	D. Hudgins
07/05	2	Concord	Abbott Rd. stump dump, Penacook	P. Hunt
07/29	2	Durham	Adams Point, Great Bay	L. Kras
07/31	2	Nashua	Nashua River	C. Sheridan

Horned Lark through Warblers

Swallows, including Northern Rough-winged, Bank, and Cliff, were well reported throughout the state with higher numbers than in the past several years. Bank and Cliff Swallows have been in general decline and the higher numbers may be a result of having more observations available through eBird. Cliff Swallows were nesting under a bridge in Dover where they have been for several years. While nesting under bridges is not unprecedented in New Hampshire, they have been reluctant to do so here in contrast to other parts of the country where the practice is more common. Unfortunately, some of the nests were usurped by House Sparrows. Purple Martins were seen at their few known locations in the state and a report from Milton indicated the possibility of nesting martins near there, a previously unknown nesting site. The June 2 observations of a "gray-cheeked" type thrush and a Swainson's Thrush in Concord involved late spring migrants that were identified by flight calls.

The Magnolia Warbler in Sandwich on July 16 was an adult, at a locale where the species does not breed, essentially heralding the start of the fall migration. Palm Warblers were seen in many of their known nesting areas (see article on page 37). Cerulean Warbler is quite rare in the state outside of Pawtuckaway State Park in Nottingham, but two singing males were discovered on the lower slopes of Mt. Wantastiquet in Hinsdale, in southwestern New Hampshire. They were found breeding here in the late 1980s so their presence is not too surprising, and it is possible that they have been in this area all along. While this is a declining species in eastern North America, the population at Pawtuckaway State Park appears to have remained fairly consistent for many years. Mourning Warblers are sometimes still migrating north through the state in early June, which is undoubtedly what the one in Keene was doing on June 5.

date	*#*	*town*	*location*	*observer(s)*
Horned Lark				
06/06	1	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert, M. Harvey
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				
06/01	4	Derry	Derry WTP	M. Thompson
06/03	2	Lee	Old Mill Rd. WMA	S. Young
06/08	2	Concord	Industrial Park Drive	R. Quinn
06/14	12	Concord	Steeplegate Mall & pond	A. Robbins
06/25	6	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
07/01	5	Concord	Contoocook River Park, Penacook	P. Hunt

date	*#*	*town*	*location*	*observer(s)*
Northern Rough-winged Swallow—continued				
07/05	10	Meredith		D. Hudgins
07/11	18	Boscawen	Merrimack R. to Penacook	R. Quinn
Purple Martin				
06/03	19	Laconia	Funspot	P. Hunt
06/04	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	M.& J. Harvey
06/21	3	Freedom	Rt. 153 Purple Martin colony	A. Robbins
06/30	4	Conway	Purple Martin colony	B. Crowley
07/14	9	Conway	Purple Martin colony	B. Crowley
07/14	4	Milton	Rt. 125	J. Ferrelli
07/27	2	S. Hampton	off Rt. 150	S. Mirick
Bank Swallow				
06/03	12	Lee	Old Mill Rd. WMA	S. Young
06/04	25	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	M.& J. Harvey
06/07	10	Swanzey	Talbot Hill beaver pond	G. Lilly
06/12	46	Pembroke	Pembroke Sand & Gravel	R. Suomala
06/19	45	Orford	Reeds Marsh	P. Johnson
06/25	35	Conway	East Conway Road	M.& D. Webster
06/29	100	Concord	SPNHF Merrimack River CA	R. Quinn
07/01	65	Canterbury	Much-a-do bluffs	R. Quinn
07/02	70	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
07/04	20	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	M. Iliff
07/15	30	Conway	Dahl WS	P. Brown
Cliff Swallow				
06/15	18	Plymouth	Govonni's Farm	J. Williams
06/17	15	Hanover	Connecticut R. at Ompompanoosuc R.	W. Cripps
06/20	14	Dover	General Sullivan Bridge	R. Quinn, R. Suomala
06/20	16	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	L. Tanino, C. Seifer, K. Klapper, P. Dexter
06/25	40	Milan	Berlin Municipal airport	R. Quinn
06/25	25	Pittsburg	Tabor Rd.	L. Therrien
06/26	6	Millsfield	Rt. 26 farm	R. Quinn
06/27	6	Bartlett	Kearsarge St.	R. Quinn
07/01	5	Hanover	Dartmouth Riding Center near Etna	J. Norton
07/04	4	Lebanon	Mascoma Lake historic site	J. Williams
07/11	30	New Castle	Fort Constitution/Portsmouth Harbor Light	R.& M. Suomala
Boreal Chickadee				
06/03	2	Woodstock	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest	M. Lester
06/06	8	Pittsburg	East Inlet	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert, M. Harvey
06/25	2	Bethlehem	Willey Range, Mts. Tom, Field, Willey and Avalon	T. Pirro
06/26	2	Lincoln	Mt. Flume-Mt. Liberty loop	P. Brown, J. Tilden
07/03	4	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	S. Mirick
07/24	11	Pittsburg	Scott Bog	G. Billingham
Carolina Wren				
07/09	1	Holderness	West Rattlesnake Mtn.	D. Hudgins
Winter Wren				
06/05	4	Chatham		M. Oyler

date	*#*	*town*	*location*	*observer(s)*
06/11	8	Errol	Umbagog NWR, Mollidgewock Brook survey	G. Gavutis Jr.
06/17	8	Greenfield	Wapack NWR	L. Tanino, P. Brown, T. Stage
06/19	10	Pittsburg	East Inlet	L. Tanino, C. Seifer, K. Klapper, T. Stage, P. Dexter
06/22	10	Bartlett	Town Hall Rd.	A. Robbins
06/26	12	Lincoln	Mt. Flume-Mt. Liberty loop	P. Brown, J. Tilden
06/26	14	Pittsburg	Magalloway Mountain	L. Therrien
07/04	12	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	M. Iliff
07/18	12	Beans Grant	Crawford Path	R. Woodward
Marsh Wren				
06/04	20	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	M.& J. Harvey
06/07	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	J. Kelly
07/03	8	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	L. Tanino, D. Deifik
07/10	2	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S.& J. Mirick
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				
06/13	6	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Woodward
06/21	1	Bradford	Pleasant View Rd.	E. Aronson
06/22	1	E. Kingston	Stagecoach Road	S. Courchesne
06/25	1	Strafford	Parker Mtn./Evans Mtn./ Strafford Town Forest	S. Young
07/15	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	B. Crowley, J. Scott
07/31	2	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	L. Tanino, C. Seifer
Golden-crowned Kinglet				
06/04	4	Stoddard	Taylor Pond Road	P. Brown, et al.
06/17	11	Greenfield	Wapack NWR	L. Tanino, P. Brown, T. Stage
06/19	14	Pittsburg	East Inlet	L. Tanino, C. Seifer, K. Klapper, T. Stage, P. Dexter
06/22	6	Chatham	Mountain Pond, WMNF	A. Robbins
06/25	5	Franconia	Cannon Mt.	M. Lester
06/27	6	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	I. MacLeod, et al.
07/03	4	Jaffrey	Mt. Monadnock	P. Brown
07/05	6	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR, Cherry Pond	J. Sweeney
07/07	1	New London	Philbrick-Cricenti Bog	S. Young
07/13	5	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	P. Johnson, K. McFarland
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
06/05	2	Chatham		M. Oyler
06/11	2	Errol	Umbagog NWR, Mollidgewock Brook survey	G. Gavutis Jr.
06/19	5	Pittsburg	East Inlet	L. Tanino, C. Seifer, K. Klapper, T. Stage, P. Dexter
06/25	4	Bethlehem	Willey Range, Mts. Tom, Field, Willey and Avalon	T. Pirro
06/25	3	Franconia	Cannon Mtn.	B. Weinstein
07/08	2	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	L. Southworth
Veery				
06/04	5	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
06/05	5	Nashua	Southwest Park-Yudicky Farm	C. Sheridan
06/11	6	Errol	Umbagog NWR, Mollidgewock Brook survey	G. Gavutis Jr.

date	*#*	*town*	*location*	*observer(s)*
Veery—continued				
06/11	6	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest	J. Scott
06/15	6	Strafford	Parker Mtn./Evans Mtn./ Strafford Town Forest	S. Young
06/20	37	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
06/20	5	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	L. Tanino, C. Seifer, K. Klapper, P. Dexter
07/03	11	Concord	Locke Road sod farm	R. Woodward
07/07	12	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
Bicknell's Thrush				
06/12	4	Franconia	Franconia Notch SP	J. Forbes, C. Ciccone, BBC FT
06/29	6	Sargents Purchase	Mt. Washington toll road	P. Folsom
07/03	11	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	S. Mirick
07/13	10	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	K. McFarland, P. Johnson
07/18	1	Beans Grant	Crawford Path	R. Woodward
Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush				
06/02	1	Concord	Mast Yard SF east	P. Hunt
Swainson's Thrush				
06/05	10	Chatham		M. Oyler
06/09	5	Errol	Umbagog NWR, Mollidgewock Brook survey	G. Gavutis Jr.
06/12	6		Coos County	M. Oyler
06/16	6	T&M Purchase	Mt. Washington	P. Johnson, K. McFarland, et al.
06/19	7	Pittsburg	East Inlet	L. Tanino, C. Seifer, K. Klapper, T. Stage, P. Dexter
06/22	7	Chatham	Mountain Pond, WMNF	A. Robbins
06/22	14	Bartlett	Town Hall Rd.	A. Robbins
06/22	6	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
06/26	28	Lincoln	Mt. Flume-Mt. Liberty loop	P. Brown, J. Tilden
06/26	9	Pittsburg	Magalloway Mountain	L. Therrien
06/27	15	Benton	Mt. Moosilauke	R. Buchsbaum
06/28	15	Kilkenny	Unknown Pond	R. Buchsbaum
07/03	30	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	S. Mirick
07/18	17	Beans Grant	Crawford Path	R. Woodward
Brown Thrasher				
06/02	4	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	B. Crowley
06/09	2	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	P. Brown
06/19	2	Portsmouth	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	B. Crowley, J. Scott
06/25	1	Milan	Berlin Municipal airport	R. Quinn
06/30	2	Conway	Purple Martin colony	B. Crowley
07/03	7	Concord	Locke Road sod farm	R. Woodward
07/03	2	Freedom	Ossipee barrens	M. Iliff
07/04	1	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	M. Iliff
American Pipit				
06/16	6	Sargents Purchase	Mt. Washington, Alpine Garden area	K. McFarland, P. Johnson
06/27	5	T&M Purchase	Mt. Washington	R. Quinn
Cedar Waxwing				
06/13	26	Errol	Magalloway R., Androscoggin R. & Lake Umbagog	L. Tanino, C. Foss, F. Nevers, C. Martin

date	*#*	*town*	*location*	*observer(s)*
06/16	100	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
06/19	30	Orford	Reeds Marsh	P. Johnson
06/22	24	Chatham	Mountain Pond, WMNF	A. Robbins
06/25	42	Strafford	Parker Mtn./Evans Mtn./ Strafford Town Forest	S. Young
06/30	69	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Rd.	J. Merrill
07/03	40	Pittsfield	Pittsfield WTP/ Suncook River	A. Robbins
07/31	60	Nashua	Nashua River	C. Sheridan
Blue-winged Warbler				
06/01	1	Lee	Old Mill Rd. WMA	S. Young
06/09	2	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	P. Brown
06/09	1	Westmoreland	Hatt Road	G. Seymour
06/14	3	Hudson	Dracut Rd. power line	C. Sheridan
06/14	4	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
Brewster's Warbler (hybrid)				
06/19	1	Hudson	Dracut Rd. power line	C. Sheridan
Tennessee Warbler				
06/05	1	Chatham		M. Oyler
06/06	2	Pittsburg	East Inlet	B. Griffith, J. Lambert, L. Kras, M. Harvey
07/12	1	Stoddard	Pitcher Mountain	P. Brown
07/17	1	Stewartstown	Hurlburt Swamp Preserve	P. Hunt
Nashville Warbler				
06/02	4	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	L. Starr
06/05	12	Chatham		M. Oyler
06/12	4	New London	Low Plain NA	Z. Cornell
06/22	4	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
06/25	7	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road mile 10.5-12	L. Therrien
07/01	8	Pittsburg	East Inlet	L. Medlock, J. Hully
07/05	9	Bethlehem	trails w. of Trudeau Rd.	J. Sweeney
07/05	10	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd. at Scott Bog Rd.	M. Iliff
Northern Parula				
06/04	9	Errol	Umbagog NWR, Leonard Pond	M. Vernon
06/12	4	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	J. Forbes, C. Ciccone, BBC FT
06/13	17	Errol	Magalloway R., Androscoggin R. & Lake Umbagog	L. Tanino, C. Foss, F. Nevers, C. Martin
06/20	27	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	L. Tanino, C. Seifer, K. Klapper, P. Dexter
Chestnut-sided Warbler				
06/08	8	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	J. Scott
06/11	8	Errol	Umbagog NWR, Mollidgewock Brook survey	G. Gavutis Jr.
06/13	15	Errol	Umbagog NWR, Mollidgewock Brook survey	G. Gavutis Jr.
06/22	10	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
06/26	8	Bow	Garvin Falls Road	D. Howe
07/05	20	Roxbury	Godwin Cottage	K. Rosenberg
Magnolia Warbler				
06/05	10	Chatham		M. Oyler
06/08	2	Stoddard	Pitcher Mountain	P. Brown
06/12	17	Errol	Umbagog NWR, Mollidgewock Brook survey	G. Gavutis Jr.

date	*#*	*town*	*location*	*observer(s)*
Magnolia Warbler—continued				
06/14	1	Exeter	Newfields Rd. residence	P. Chamberlin
06/22	10	Chatham	Mountain Pond, WMNF	A. Robbins
06/24	13	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	L. Therrien
06/25	14	Pittsburg	East Inlet Road mile 10.5-12	L. Therrien
07/16	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano
Cape May Warbler				
06/13	1	Jefferson	red camp	L. Bergum
06/13	1	T&M Purchase	Mt. Washington	M. Bernard
07/01	3	Pittsburg	East Inlet	L. Medlock, J. Hully
Black-throated Blue Warbler				
06/07	10	Hinsdale	Wantastiquet Mt. NA	P. Brown
06/17	14	Greenfield	Wapack NWR	L. Tanino, T. Stage, P. Brown
06/17	18	Washington	Pillsbury SP	P. Newbern
06/20	10	Campton	Percival Morgan Trail	R. Buchsbaum
06/22	10	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
06/25	10	Strafford	Parker Mtn./Evans Mtn./ Strafford Town Forest	S. Young
06/26	35	Lincoln	Mt. Flume-Mt. Liberty loop	P. Brown, J. Tilden
06/28	10	Kilkenny	Unknown Pond	R. Buchsbaum
07/03	10	Jaffrey	Mt. Monadnock	P. Brown
07/16	12	T&M Purchase	Mt. Washington	C. Murray
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
06/17	18	Greenfield	Wapack NWR	L. Tanino, P. Brown, T. Stage
06/22	10	Chatham	Mountain Pond, WMNF	A. Robbins
06/24	15	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	L. Therrien
06/26	20	Pittsburg	Magalloway Rd.	L. Therrien
07/03	13	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	S. Mirick
07/25	12	Pittsfield	Pittsfield WTP/ Suncook River	A. Robbins
Blackburnian Warbler				
06/05	6	Chatham		M. Oyler
06/17	11	Greenfield	Wapack NWR	L. Tanino, P. Brown, T. Stage
06/17	12	Washington	Pillsbury SP	P. Newbern
06/20	6	Center Harbor	Squam Lake	W. Batsford
06/22	3	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
06/26	12	Lincoln	Mt. Flume-Mt. Liberty loop	P. Brown, J. Tilden
07/03	5	Jaffrey	Mt. Monadnock	P. Brown
07/04	4	Concord	Oak Hill	R. Woodward
Pine Warbler				
06/15	16	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
06/27	23	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
07/04	10	Concord	Oak Hill	R. Woodward
07/05	10	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
07/21	12	Madison	West Branch Pine Barrens Preserve	T. Vazzano, B. & D. Fox
Prairie Warbler				
06/01	4	Lee	Old Mill Rd. WMA	S. Young
06/09	4	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway SP	L. Medlock, D. Abbott, B.& D. Fox
06/14	7	Hudson	Dracut Road power line	C. Sheridan
07/21	4	Madison	West Branch Pine Barrens Preserve	T. Vazzano, B. & D. Fox

date	*#*	*town*	*location*	*observer(s)*
Palm Warbler				
06/09	1	Effingham	Huntress Bridge Rd.	T. Vazzano
06/09	12	Errol	Umbagog NWR, Mollidgewock Brook survey	G. Gavutis Jr.
06/24	1	Effingham	Huntress Bridge Rd./Watts WS	A. Robbins
06/26	2	Pittsburg	Magalloway Mountain	L. Therrien
07/04	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR, Cherry Pond	M. Iliff
Bay-breasted Warbler				
06/20	2	Pittsburg	East Inlet	L. Tanino, C. Seifer, K. Klapper, P. Dexter
06/26	2	Lincoln	Mt. Flume-Mt. Liberty loop	P. Brown, J. Tilden
Blackpoll Warbler				
06/05	12	Chatham		M. Oyler
06/09	1	Hampton	Church Street parking lot	S. Mirick
06/18	12	Franconia	Cannon Mtn.	L. Alexander
06/21	2	New London	Barlow Trail, Mt. Kearsarge, Winslow SP	E. Aronson
06/26	20	Lincoln	Mt. Flume-Mt. Liberty loop	P. Brown, J. Tilden
06/26	10	Pittsburg	Magalloway Mountain	L. Therrien
07/03	27	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	S. Mirick
Cerulean Warbler				
06/02	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway SP	S. Mirick
06/04	2	Hinsdale	Wantastiquet Mt. NA	M.& J. Harvey
Northern Waterthrush				
06/07	2	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. Turner
06/09	2	Effingham	Huntress Bridge Rd.	T. Vazzano
06/12	2	New London	Low Plain NA	Z. Cornell
06/12	2		Coos County	M. Oyler
06/20	2	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
06/20	6	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	L. Tanino, C. Seifer, K. Klapper, P. Dexter
06/22	5	Chatham	Mountain Pond, WMNF	A. Robbins
06/27	1	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	I. MacLeod, et al.
Louisiana Waterthrush				
06/01	1	Sandwich	Dinsmore Pond Rd.	T. Vazzano
06/02	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway SP	S. Mirick
06/04	1	Sunapee	WOLF2	P. Newbern
06/08	2	Salisbury	Blackwater R. at Warner Rd.	P. Hunt
06/13	1	Hanover	Ruddsboro Rd.	P. Johnson
06/20	3	Barnstead	Suncook Lake	E. Pilotte
Mourning Warbler				
06/04	1	Keene	Ashuelot River Park	J. Atwood
06/12	5		Coos County	M. Oyler
06/13	6	Errol	Umbagog NWR, Mollidgewock Brook survey	G. Gavutis Jr.
06/19	2	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	L. Tanino, C. Seifer, K. Klapper, P. Dexter, T. Stage
06/26	6	Dixs Grant	Corser Brook Rd.	R. Quinn
06/26	6	Errol	Corser Brook Rd.	R. Quinn
07/05	2	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd. mile 9.0 clearcut	M. Iliff

date	*#*	*town*	*location*	*observer(s)*
Wilson's Warbler				
06/19	2	Pittsburg	Scott Bog	L. Tanino, C. Seifer, K. Klapper, P. Dexter, T. Stage
07/01	2	Pittsburg	East Inlet	L. Medlock, J. Hully
07/05	1	Pittsburg	Scott Bog, first bog	M. Iliff
Canada Warbler				
06/12	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	J. Forbes, C. Ciccone, BBC FT
06/17	12	Washington	Pillsbury SP	P. Newbern
06/22	4	Chatham	Mountain Pond, WMNF	A. Robbins
06/22	3	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
06/25	3	Strafford	Parker Mtn./Evans Mtn./ Strafford Town Forest	S. Young
06/26	3	Pittsburg	Coon Brook Bog	L. Therrien
07/05	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt

Towhee through Finches

Clay-colored Sparrow by Eric Masterson, 6/14/10, Hancock, NH.

This summer's singing **Clay-colored Sparrow** reports were from Hancock and Newington. They have been seen singing in the state four of the past five summers. While they breed very sparsely in some surrounding states, they have yet to be confirmed breeding in New Hampshire. Grasshopper Sparrow continues to be a very uncommon breeding bird with each of the few reports this summer from the airports in Concord, Keene/Swanzey, and Newington. Nelson's Sparrow continues to be reported in Stratham, Hampton and Rye. They have been seen in the past during breeding season in all of these areas. Most of the population of the subvirgatus subspecies of Nelson's breeds northward along the coast of Maine and the Maritime Provinces with the southernmost breeding documented in coastal New Hampshire. There are often a few summer Lincoln's Sparrows reported from the central and southern White Mountains area, but this summer all the reports were from the far north.

Rusty Blackbird is a declining species across its range of northern, swampy woodlands. This season there were no records from the southern White Mountains. While there were a few reports of White-winged Crossbill in the north, mostly from Pittsburg, Red Crossbill went unreported this summer. Evening Grosbeak was once known in New Hampshire only as a winter visitor. This summer, they were seen in nearly every section of the state with the exceptions being the lower Merrimack Valley and the Seacoast.

date	*#*	*town*	*location*	*observer(s)*
Eastern Towhee				
06/14	7	Hudson	Dracut Road power line	C. Sheridan
06/25	8	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway SP	E. Pilotte
06/25	11	Strafford	Parker Mtn./Evans Mtn./ Strafford Town Forest	S. Young
07/21	12	Madison	West Branch Pine Barrens Preserve	T. Vazzano, B. & D. Fox
Clay-colored Sparrow				
06/13	1	Newington	Arboretum Dr., Pease Int'l. Tradeport	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert, B. Perry, J. O'Shaughnessy, L. Medlock
06/14	1	Hancock	Antrim Road	E. Masterson
06/22	1	Newington	Arboretum Dr. field	D. Hubbard
Field Sparrow				
06/01	2	Lee	Old Mill Rd. WMA	S. Young
06/02	2	Newington	McIntyre Road	B. Crowley
06/07	6	Concord	Concord Airport, Airport Rd.	A. Robbins
06/11	2	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	J. McCrory
06/12	2	Northwood	Lucas Pond Rd. power line	A. Robbins
06/21	5	Webster	Huntoon Bog Pond	R. Quinn
07/03	3	Freedom	Ossipee pine barrens	M. Iliff
07/22	4	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	S. Young
Vesper Sparrow				
06/07	3	Concord	Airport Rd., Concord Airport	A. Robbins
06/23	1	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest, Ossipee Lake Rd.	A. Robbins
07/03	3	Freedom	Ossipee pine barrens	M. Iliff
07/05	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
Savannah Sparrow				
06/14	5	Orford	Reeds Marsh	P. Johnson
06/24	4	Piermont	Route 25	R. Quinn
06/25	4	Milan	Berlin Municipal airport	R. Quinn
06/26	7	Errol	Umbagog NWR, Harpers Meadow	R. Quinn
06/29	4	Lancaster	Lost Nation Rd.	P. Folsom
07/04	4	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	M. Iliff
Grasshopper Sparrow				
06/02	1	Newington	McIntyre Road	B. Crowley
07/03	2	Concord	Concord Airport, sw. side	D. Howe
07/05	1	Swanzey	Dillant-Hopkins Airport	J. Russo
Nelson's Sparrow				
06/08	5	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	L. Medlock, D. Abbott, B.& D. Fox, A. Keith
06/23	4	Hampton	Hampton salt marsh	L. Medlock
07/23	1	Rye	Locke Road	S. Mirick, P. Hunt
Saltmarsh Sparrow				
06/19	2	N. Hampton	Little River salt marsh	P. Brown, NHA FT
06/19	3	Rye	Awcomin Marsh	P. Brown, NHA FT
06/30	14	Hampton	Hampton salt marsh	S. Mirick
07/10	15	Hampton	Little Jack's restaurant, Rt. 1A	M. Lester
07/31	7	Hampton	Little Jack's restaurant, Rt. 1A	L. Tanino, C. Seifer

date	*#*	*town*	*location*	*observer(s)*
Seaside Sparrow				
06/23	2	Hampton	Hampton salt marsh	L. Medlock
Lincoln's Sparrow				
06/06	1	Pittsburg	Scott Bog	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert, M. Harvey
06/26	1	Dixs Grant	Corser Brook Rd.	R. Quinn
06/26	10	Errol	Umbagog NWR, Harpers Meadow	R. Quinn
Swamp Sparrow				
06/04	9	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	M.& J. Harvey
06/12	7	Bradford	Lake Massasecum	M. Davidson
06/15	15	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
06/22	5	Sandwich	Guinea Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
07/05	15	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR, Cherry Pond	J. Sweeney
07/12	6	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
07/17	11	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
White-throated Sparrow				
06/09	40	Errol	Umbagog NWR, Mollidgewock Brook survey	G. Gavutis Jr.
06/24	37	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	L. Therrien
06/26	22	Pittsburg	Magalloway Rd.	L. Therrien
07/01	20	Pittsburg	East Inlet	L. Medlock, J. Hully
07/07	24	New London	Philbrick-Cricenti Bog	S. Young
07/16	25	T&M Purchase	Mt. Washington	C. Murray
Scarlet Tanager				
06/04	8	Hinsdale	Wantastiquet Mt. NA	M.& J. Harvey
06/09	5	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway SP	L. Medlock, D. Abbott, B.& D. Fox, A. Keith
06/17	6	Greenfield	Wapack NWR	L. Tanino, P. Brown, T. Stage
06/22	8	Chatham	Mountain Pond, WMNF	A. Robbins
06/29	5	Exeter	Newfields Rd. residence	P. Chamberlin
07/05	4	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
07/23	5	Rochester	Fowler Farm	D. Hubbard
07/23	6	Strafford	Old Ridge Road	S. Young
Bobolink				
06/09	13	Rochester	Fowler Farm	D. Hubbard
06/22	16	Sandwich	end of Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
06/24	17	Piermont	Route 25	R. Quinn
06/27	18	Hanover	Goodfellow Rd.	A. Wagner
07/29	20	Rochester	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
Eastern Meadowlark				
06/11	2	Dover	Strafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
06/24	2	Piermont	Route 25	R. Quinn
06/24	1	Rochester	Fowler Farm	D. Hubbard
07/05	1	Swanzey	Dillant-Hopkins Airport	J. Russo
Rusty Blackbird				
06/09	9	Errol	Umbagog NWR, Mollidgewock Brook survey	G. Gavutis Jr.
06/12	5	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	J. Forbes, C. Ciccone, BBC FT
06/12	3	Atkinson & Gilmanton Academy Grant	Abbott Brook headwaters	L. Tanino, C. Martin

date	*#*	*town*	*location*	*observer(s)*
06/12	3	Errol	Lake Umbagog, Mollidgewock section	L. Tanino, C. Foss, S. Flint, G. Gavutis Jr.
06/19	2	Pittsburg	Scott Bog	L. Tanino, C. Seifer, K. Klapper, T. Stage, P. Dexter
06/24	2	Pittsburg	Indian Stream Rd.	L. Therrien
07/01	3	Pittsburg	East Inlet	L. Medlock, J. Hully
Orchard Oriole				
06/04	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	M.& J. Harvey
06/04	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
06/09	1	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	P. Brown
06/09	1	Hampton	Church Street parking lot	S. Mirick
06/09	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick, P. Brown
06/22	5	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
06/24	2	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	P. Brown
06/27	1	Concord	Iron Works Rd. at Birch St.	D. Howe
07/05	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
07/20	3	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	J. Pietrzak
Purple Finch				
06/07	7	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. Turner
06/09	3	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
06/10	6	Chatham	Green Hill Road	B. Crowley
06/15	4	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
06/24	12	Effingham	Huntress Bridge Rd./Watts WS	A. Robbins
07/03	4	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	S. Mirick
07/08	8	Rumney	Fisher Woods residence	J. Williams
White-winged Crossbill				
06/08	12	Pittsburg	Scott Bog	B. Crowley, J. Scott
06/20	8	Pittsburg	East Inlet	L. Tanino, C. Seifer, K. Klapper, P. Dexter
06/27	2	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	I. MacLeod, et al.
Pine Siskin				
06/20	75	Pittsburg	East Inlet	L. Tanino, C. Seifer, K. Klapper, P. Dexter
06/22	1	Freedom	Berry Bay area	G. Robbins
06/25	2	Bethlehem	Willey Range, Mts. Tom, Field, Willey and Avalon	T. Pirro
Evening Grosbeak				
06/02	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway SP	S. Mirick
06/04	2	Stoddard	Taylor Pond Road	P. Brown, et al.
06/06	4	Pittsburg	Scott Bog	B. Griffith, L. Kras, M. Harvey, J. Lambert
06/06	2	Webster	Call Road	R. Quinn
06/16	4	Madison	Pit Road residence, Silver Lake	J. Mullen
06/25	6	Milan	Berlin Municipal airport	R. Quinn
06/29	7	Rumney	Fisher Woods residence	J. Williams
07/03	3	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano
07/22	1	Antrim	Willard Pond WS	P. Brown

Field Notes

Peregrine Falcon 2010 Breeding Season

by Chris Martin, NH Audubon raptor biologist

The New Hampshire Peregrine Falcon recovery effort celebrated the 30th consecutive breeding season since the state's first post-DDT era falcon pair was found nesting in Franconia Notch. New Hampshire's state-listed threatened peregrines posted an impressive new benchmark for number of young fledged in 2010. This season's statewide total of 35 young fledged sets a new state record-high, surpassing the previous high of 29 young fledged by over 20% (Figure 1). And the state's most well-watched pair in Manchester fledged five young, the first time any New Hampshire Peregrine Falcon pair has accomplished that in the 30-year history of nest site monitoring in the Granite State.

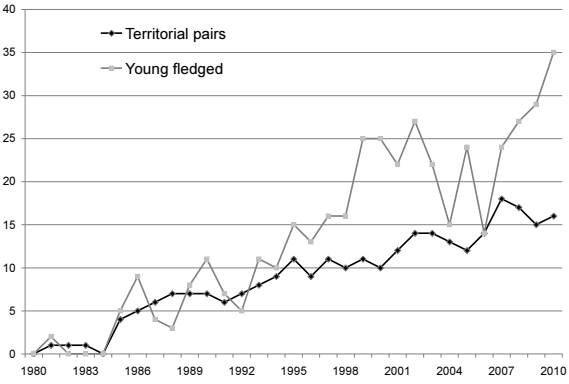


Figure 1. Peregrine Falcon breeding success in NH, 1980-2010.

Other breeding season highlights included the Portsmouth Harbor pair, which fledged three young while using for the first time a gravel-filled tray that was originally installed under the roadway of the I-95 Bridge in Spring 2007 by USFWS biologists. Also of note was the rehabilitation of Manchester female fledgling black/green C/E, who was successfully reunited with her parents and four brothers after spending a week in recovery care at Wings of Dawn Rehabilitation Center.

Peregrine Falcon chicks on the nesting tray under the I-95 Bridge, 6-7-10 by Chris Martin.

A big thank you to all collaborating biologists, volunteer observers, rock climbers, land managers, web cam operators, raptor rehabbers, donors, and others who made the 2010 NH peregrine falcon breeding season a success. Peregrine Falcon management is supported by a federally-funded contract with the NH Fish & Game Department, however Peregrine Falcon monitoring (e.g., behavioral observation and searches for new sites) is funded by private donations to NH Audubon's Conservation Department.

Bald Eagle 2010 Breeding Season

by Chris Martin, NH Audubon raptor biologist

The 2010 New Hampshire Bald Eagle breeding season was exciting and groundbreaking in several respects. Working with support and cooperation from federal and state agencies, corporate partners, and local landowners, NH Audubon biologists and volunteer observers located more territorial bald eagle pairs in the state and confirmed identities of more individual eagles than ever before, and also used satellite technology for the first time to begin tracking a few of New Hampshire's fledgling eagles after they left their nests.

The 22 territorial pairs and 14 incubating pairs documented in the Granite State this year both are new post-DDT era record-highs. But despite more pairs and more nesting attempts, productivity lagged in 2010; one spring snowfall event in northern New Hampshire in late April was largely responsible. Happening right at hatch time, the heavy snow contributed to three simultaneous nest failures north of the White Mountains.

After a long wait, it appears that the Merrimack River corridor is finally attracting the attention of several prospecting eagle pairs. However, locating their nests (if they actually exist) has been a challenge. Over the spring and summer we documented three new breeding age pairs but no nests on Massabesic Lake, on the Merrimack in Boscawen, and above Franklin on the Pemigewasset River, which is a tributary to the Merrimack.

Juvenile Bald Eagle with satellite transmitter, 9/6/10, near Blueberry Island on Lake Winnipesaukee. Photo by Lauren Goldsmith.

Thanks to a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), three juvenile eagles from two nests in Moultonboro and New Durham were also fitted with backpack-style satellite transmitters that should enable us to track their dispersal patterns regardless of where they roam. With luck, these transmitters will allow us to monitor the travels of these three youngsters for the next two or more years, a time during which immature eagles are often quite transient.

NH Audubon's Bald Eagle monitoring and management work is supported by a federally-funded contract with the NH Fish & Game Department, by grants from TransCanada Corporation and NFWF, and by NH Audubon donors and volunteers.

Rusty Blackbirds with Radio Transmitters

by Carol Foss and Laura Deming, NH Audubon

Rusty Blackbird by Leonard Medlock, 5/22/10, East Inlet, Pittsburg, NH.

The 2010 Rusty Blackbird field season was marked by diverse efforts and exciting discoveries. The season got off to a cold and muddy start with surveys of potential breeding habitat in the Androscoggin Watershed on the first two weekends in May. Field technician Rachel Rabinovitz soon arrived to monitor activity at 10 breeding territories north and west of Errol. Five parties drove, hiked, and canoed the roads and wetlands of Pittsburg and Clarksville on the third weekend of May to survey for Rusties there. The following week University of Georgia Ph.D. student Patti Newell began capturing and banding adults and young, and attaching radio transmitters to selected individuals. Rachel, joined by Eian Prohl, Laura Deming, John Nelson and Hope Batcheller, turned her attention to radio-telemetry, and several intrepid citizen scientists assisted with nest site observations and radio tracking activities on the second weekend of June. Lighthawk pilot Janice Newman flew Rachel and Chris Martin over the Androscoggin Valley to determine the distance from which the transmitter signals could be detected from the air. Finally, in mid-July, a team measured nest site and habitat characteristics for 12 breeding pairs.

Surveys located 23 Rusty Blackbird pairs in the Androscoggin Watershed and seven in Pittsburg and Clarksville. Field staff monitored 14 nests, of which 11 successfully fledged young. Patti Newell banded 29 adults and 32 fledglings, and collected tissue samples for analyses of contaminants, blood parasites, stable isotopes, and genetics. She attached radio transmitters to 19 individuals, which the field team followed for the next six weeks (until the radio batteries died). This radio tracking data has provided the first available information on post-fledging activities of Rusty Blackbirds. Fledglings remained near their nest sites for the first few days, and then moved to nearby forested wetlands, where they hid in dense vegetation while their parents foraged and brought them food. Once they were able to fly well, the families traveled together among a number of wetlands, and eventually joined with other families in riparian areas, where they remained into mid-July. We look forward to continuing the telemetry study in 2011 with longer-lived radios, and learning even more about these elusive birds!

Spotlight on Palm Warbler *(Dendroica palmarum)*

by Pamela Hunt

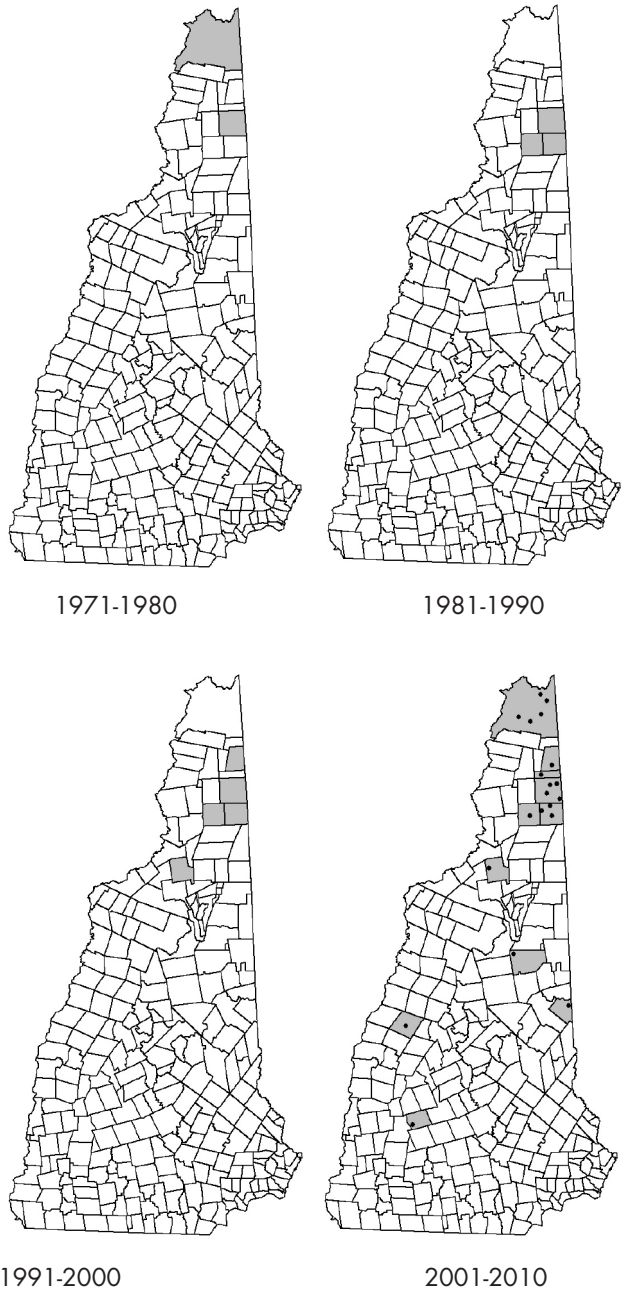
The Palm Warbler is known to most New Hampshire birders as a regular spring and fall migrant through the state and is among the first species to appear in the spring and the last to leave in the fall. It spends the winter, largely near the coast, from the southeastern United States to Puerto Rico. It was from the bird's habitat association during the winter, when it was first discovered, that the species got its name. However, if one was to consider its *breeding* habitat, "Bog Warbler" or "Muskeg Warbler" would be more appropriate, since these boreal habitats are where the species nests and rears its young. Although we tend to think of Palm Warbler as a migrant in New Hampshire, it is in these northern bogs that our story begins.

Breeding season Palm Warblers were first documented in New Hampshire in 1955, when Tudor Richards found two birds at Floating Island Bog along the Androscoggin River in Errol (Richards 1994). Breeding was confirmed two years later but, between 1960 and 1980, there were apparently no visits to this location to see if the species was still present. Palm Warblers were found near Back Lake in Pittsburg in 1975; the first time the species was found outside of Errol during the breeding season. Visits to Errol resumed in the 1980s. During the Breeding Bird Atlas period that covers 1981-1986, Palm Warblers were recorded twice at Floating Island Bog, although breeding was not confirmed. A third site was found in 1985 when observers detected a singing male at a bog in Dummer (Figure 1).

In the next decade, new sites were discovered in the area around Lake Umbagog (Figure 1), including the town of Cambridge, and in the Second College Grant. Palm Warbler was generally considered a rare and local breeder in this area (and presumably also in Pittsburg, although there had been no records there since 1975). All this began to change in 1997 when, in the course of extensive field work in the Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge, Bob Quinn found a small colony of the warblers at Little Cherry Pond in Jefferson, some 30 miles southwest of the cluster of sites around Lake Umbagog (Figure 1). Considering the extensive historical work in the Pondicherry area (Wright 1911, T. Richards unpublished data), this range extension was likely of recent origin.

There was little change in status for another decade, although the species was relocated in Pittsburg in 2005. In 2007, however, there was another jump to the south; well to the south. In that year, George and Andrea Robbins confirmed breeding in Effingham (50 miles southeast of Jefferson) and Jim Block photographed a bird on June 17 and 30 even farther afield at a bog in Bradford (over 80 miles southwest). The following year, breeding was confirmed in Canaan (M. Goodnow, observer) and a small population was discovered at Church Pond Bog in Albany (R. Ridgely, observer). Birds continued in Effingham through 2010 and breeding was confirmed in Albany in 2009. During this same period, the number of occupied sites in Pittsburg and the Errol area continued to grow and, by the summer of 2010, there were at least 13 active sites in the state (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Towns with breeding season records (gray shading) of Palm Warbler by decade, 1971-2010. Small black dots in the 2001-2010 map indicate approximate locations of specific sites.



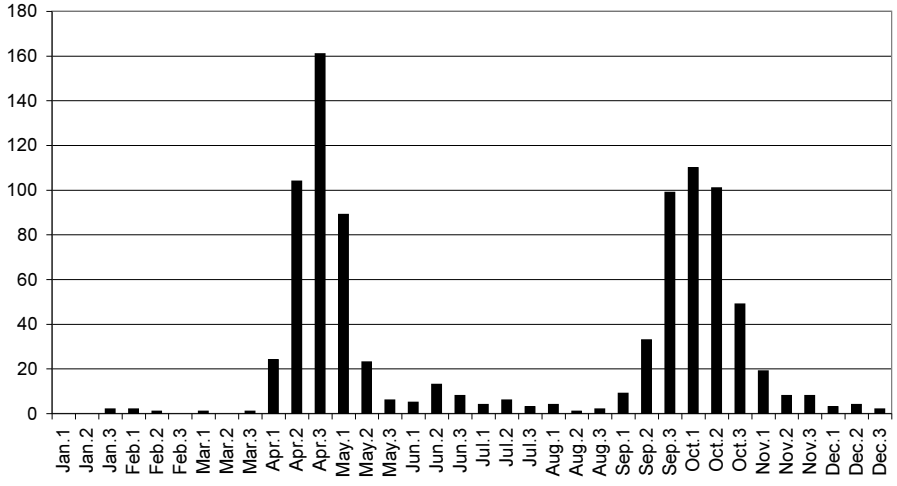
The southward range expansion documented in New Hampshire is part of a larger regional trend, as illustrated by the recent completion of second generation Breeding Bird Atlases in the Northeast. The species was first found breeding in New York in 1984 but, by the time that state's second atlas was completed in 2005, it had been documented in a total of 43 blocks; all in the Adirondack Mountains (McGowan and Corwin 2008). Vermont had to wait until 1993 for its first nesting record, which was in a remote bog in the Northeast Kingdom (Vermont Center for Ecostudies, unpublished data). By the end of that state's second atlas in 2007, Palm Warbler had been found in seven blocks, mostly in the Northeast Kingdom, but with an outlying record in the southern Green Mountains that is currently the southernmost breeding season record anywhere on the planet. Finally, based on preliminary data (field work was completed in 2010), the number of occupied blocks in the Maritime Provinces of Canada has roughly doubled since

1990 (Maritimes Breeding Bird Atlas website). In Ontario, where Palm Warbler is especially common in the northern portion of the province, overall atlas detections were up 74% between 1980-85 and 2000-05, but there was no clear southward range expansion (Cadman et al. 2007). Instead, the increase was attributed to better atlas coverage.

Expanding populations are often also increasing populations and data on overall abundance support the idea of a range expansion. Although most of the Palm Warbler's range is not covered by the Breeding Bird Survey, the species is generally increasing 1-2% per year in the northwestern part of its range (Sauer et al. 2008). In addition, the number of "western" Palm Warbler (see below) passing through Long Point, Ontario has been increasing since 1961, although less so in the early 2000s (unpublished data in Cadman et al. 2008). Finally, it's possible that the increase is even detectable in casual migration data; numbers on a 6.5 mile survey route in Concord averaged 1-5 in 2005-07 and 9-16 in 2008-09 (P. Hunt, unpublished data).

Of course, bird ranges are changing all the time. We are well aware of the northward expansions of species like Northern Cardinal and Tufted Titmouse in the 1970s and, more recently, those of Red-bellied Woodpecker and Carolina Wren. Given that Palm Warbler is a northern species, its southward expansion in the face of a warming climate presents something of a conundrum. Tree species typical of their habitat (tamarack and black spruce) are cold adapted species that are predicted to move northward as temperatures increase and increased incidence of summer drought conditions in New England could potentially further stress sensitive bog habitats. So why is Palm Warbler moving south in the face of a warming climate? We honestly don't have any obvious answers and the best we can do is to continue to document the species' distribution and see what happens over time.

Figure 2. Number of reports of Palm Warbler to *New Hampshire Bird Records*: winter 1986 through summer 2009. Records are grouped by ten day periods within each month.



While this article focuses on changes to the breeding distribution of the Palm Warbler in New Hampshire and the Northeast, I would be remiss to completely ignore the part of the year when the species is most likely to be encountered by birders. This is during migration, when the Palm Warbler is among the first warblers to be encountered in spring and the last to depart in fall. Based on over 30 years of data from the 1960s through the 2000s, the average first arrival in spring is April 14 (only Yellow-rumped and Pine Warblers arrive earlier), with a quarter of all first arrivals occurring on or before April 9. The earliest arrival on record is March 30. The migration peaks during the last week of April and first week in May (Figure 2) and by mid-May your best chance to see a Palm Warbler is on their breeding grounds. Fall migration begins in early September, although birds don't typically reach southern New Hampshire until the middle of the month, and peaks in the first half of October (Figure 2). A few birds can still be found in the southern third of the state into the first week of November, but after that point they become scarce.

One interesting side story about Palm Warbler migration through New England relates to the relative abundance of the two subspecies. The form nesting in New Hampshire is the "yellow" Palm Warbler, which breeds from eastern Ontario through northern New England to Newfoundland and southern Labrador (Wilson 1996). The "western" Palm Warbler breeds from the Northwest Territories east to central Ontario and the northern Great Lakes. These two subspecies have a "crossover" migration pattern, with "western" birds wintering south and east of "yellow" birds, predominantly in Central America, the Greater Antilles, and the Atlantic Coast from Florida to North Carolina (Figure 3). Eastern birds winter primarily along the Gulf Coast (Wilson 1996). "Yellow" Palm Warbler is the dominant form in spring migration in New England averaging 88% of inland birds and 99% of birds at coastal banding stations (Galbraith et al. 2010). Most spring "westerns" migrate northward well to the west of New England and those that do visit are most likely in early May, often after the "yellow" birds have already passed through. "Western" birds are much more common in the fall, when 15% of inland birds and a whopping 73% of coastal birds are of this subspecies (Galbraith et al. 2010), perhaps reflecting the predominant direction of fall movement toward the Caribbean.

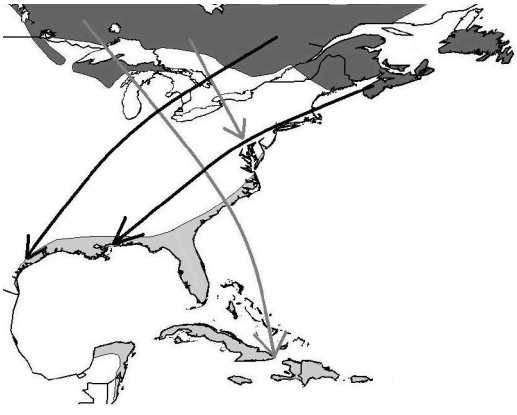


Figure 3. Breeding (dark gray) and wintering (light gray) ranges of the Palm Warbler. The arrows show the approximate migration routes of the eastern subspecies (black) and the western subspecies (gray).

Palm Warbler is a rare winter bird in New Hampshire, with all records from the Seacoast Region (immediate coast and sites near Great Bay). Most winter records (including several from the Coastal Christmas Bird Count) are from December and probably represent lingering migrants rather than birds that intend to stay the

length of the season. Exceptions include a bird at Odiorne Point State Park in Rye on February 4-5, 1989 and another in the same location from January 21 to March 5, 2006.

The Palm Warbler is thus something of a rarity among New Hampshire's warblers in being a "bird for all seasons." While admittedly rare in winter, it is a common migrant and a well-established and more frequent breeder in our northern bogs. Keep this in mind the next time you see one, whether in a remote tamarack bog in Pittsburg, a fall field of goldenrod in Concord, or on a palm-lined beach in Florida.

Data Sources

The following data sources were searched for records of this species. Duplicate records are not included in the figures. Not all records presented here have been reviewed by the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee.

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Photo Gallery

Jump Day!

Hooded Mergansers and Wood Ducks both nest in cavities and will readily use nest boxes. The female incubates the eggs until they hatch, but she does not feed the young. Within 24 hours after hatch, she leaves the nest cavity and calls to the chicks from the ground below the nest. The young use their sharp claws to climb up to the nest hole and then jump down to the ground. Within a short time, they are all gone. Wood Ducks can nest as high up as 65 feet and Hooded Mergansers 50 feet so the chicks may fall quite a long way. Remarkably they survive and then follow the female to water – another journey fraught with dangers. Once they reach water, the female tends the chicks while they forage for themselves.

Len Medlock was privileged to see and photograph "jump day" for a brood of young Hooded Mergansers and young Wood Ducks. Ducks nest earlier in the season than most other birds, so their young hatch before *New Hampshire Bird Records* "nesting season" officially begins on June 1 but we're delighted to bring them to you in this summer issue. – *Editor*

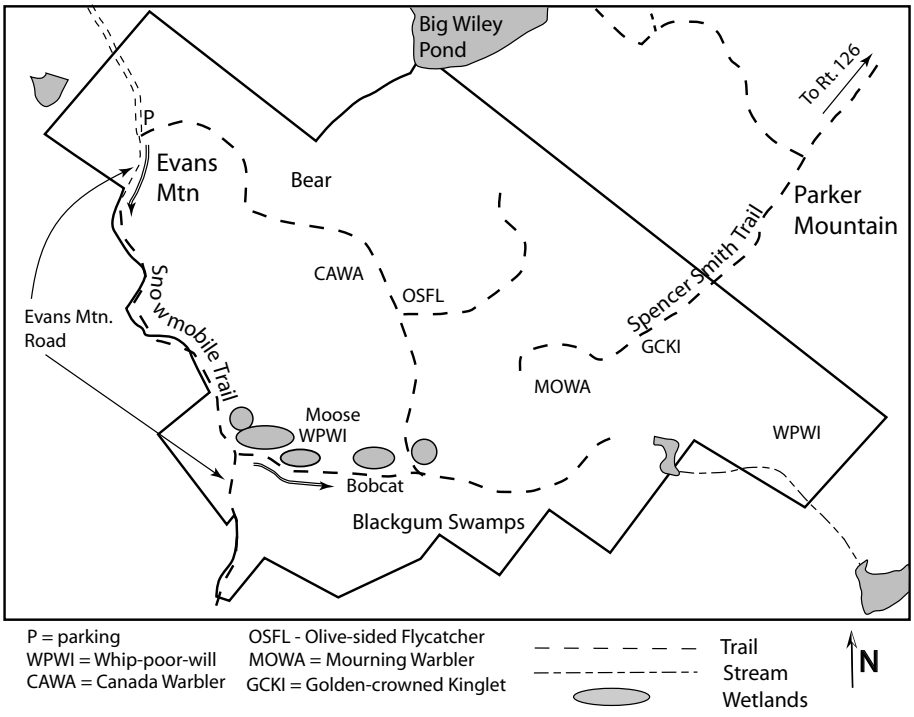
All photos taken by Len Medlock.

Wood Duck Jump Day, 5/15/2010, Hampstead, NH.

Hooded Merganser Jump Day, 5/12/10, Hampstead, NH.

Birding Evans Mountain in Strafford, NH

by Scott Young



Beginning in late 2009, a dream of many Strafford residents began to materialize – the conservation of Evans Mountain. The 1,015 acres that comprise this territory are uplands with small streams that flow south to fill Bow Lake, the headwaters of the Isinglass River. The north side supplies water to the Big River, then the Suncook, and eventually the Merrimack River. Geographically, this is part of the Upper Coastal Plain, an area undergoing increasing development pressure. We call the area "mountains" because it includes the highest of our lands in the Town of Strafford, a southerly sweeping arch from Parker Mountain (elevation 1,352 feet) to the east and Evans Mountain (elevation 1,232 feet) to the west. Perhaps the most popular hiking spot in town, the prime destinations are the south facing cliffs along the rocky ridges and talus slopes. One can look down on Bow Lake and at times see and hear Common Loons in the near coves or watch Bald Eagles working from the islands. To the south is Saddleback Mountain and to the east Great Bay and beyond.

There are two ways to approach this property. From the east, the Spencer Smith trail begins from Route 126, two thirds of the way up Parker Mountain. The trail

begins as a slow ascent, then steepens, but soon begins to level off on the ridgeline amongst rocky lichenous balds interspersed with stands of spruce and dwarf oak. This is the Parker Mountain Wildlands Reserve. Eventually, you will pass a cairn, enter the Evans Mountain property and shortly reach the main cliffs. On the way, amongst the many openings and rocky faced vistas, I have encountered an abundance of Hermit Thrush, Dark-eyed Junco, and warblers including Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Yellow-rumped, and Nashville. On this trail during the breeding season, I also have come across Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Common Nighthawk, and Mourning Warbler.

As you approach the cliffs and look to the north of the trail, you will see evidence of heavy logging. This is a big part of the story on this land; it has been "worked" three times in the last 20 years. From the cliffs, the property boundary below will look remarkably defined due to the sparse forest. The one central area that did not suffer this fate includes the southerly talus slopes and the ridgeline. Much of the property now has an early successional feel as it did 100 years ago when this land was pasture. With protection from irresponsible logging, the forests will return and resemble the abutting conservation lands. Most recreationists turn back once reaching the cliffs; however, the trails beyond are interesting though less traveled.

The second approach to the property is via Evans Mountain Road, entering from the north. From Route 126/ Parson's Hill Road in northwest Strafford travel 0.9 miles until the T-intersection with Evans Mountain Road. Bear left for 0.6 miles on this two lane gravel road that passes hay fields with abundant Bobolinks and an occasional American Bittern. Eventually, the road becomes a one lane class VI affair, passes down through a stream drainage at the start of the Evans Mountain property, and ascends to a grassy parking area on the left across from an old graveyard in another 0.4 miles. Beyond this point I would suggest walking until you've seen the shape the road is in (see map). A side road just after the cemetery ends in a field opening to vistas of the White Mountains. Continuing up Evans Mountain Road on foot, on the immediate left is a short trail up onto Evans Mountain, a somewhat bald peak. Evans Mountain Road soon crests and upon descending the terrain moderates below the ridge and a series of seven beaver ponds become evident beginning after the first log yard. At the first main intersection, veer left and you will enter the heart of the southern lands. Look for Wood Duck, Great Blue Heron, and Bald Eagle around these ponds. This spring the woods resounded with Veerys, so numerous that the count was lost. The land is pocketed with medium and small wetlands, abundant with amphibian egg masses in the spring. Many of the early successional habitat species are present in high numbers, Eastern Towhee, Prairie Warbler, and Indigo Bunting. Dark-eyed Junco and White-throated Sparrow abound. For the intrepid, between the second and third log yards and to the south are numerous ancient Black Gum basin swamps (even 25 inch diameter trees can be greater than 600 years old). This is a great birding spot for close encounters with the frugivores seeking the highbush blueberries or the drupes of the gums. Eventually, the road tapers to a wet meadow where I have encountered Whip-poor-will in the twilight. The mud flats on the road have an entertaining mix of Bobcat, Coyote, Moose and White-tailed Deer tracks. Ruffed Grouse are in all quarters.

Olive-sided Flycatcher by Scott Young, 6/8/10, Evans Mountain, Strafford, NH.

If it is the north face of the mountain you wish to explore, immediately down the log road from the parking area you'll find a classic two-seater at the end of this clearing blocked to vehicles by boulders. Once, a Ruffed Grouse challenged me from the top while her brood scurried in every direction. The terrain on this side is a gentler descent to Big Willey Pond, a glacial water body. Up and down the gradient are a variety of wetlands including red spruce swamps, emergent marshes and high elevation vernal pools. Among uplands similar to the Spencer Smith Trail, sweeps of lowbush blueberry bring a host of Cedar Waxwings, Scarlet Tanagers and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. Under proper swampy conditions, I have come across territories of Canada Warblers and documented a breeding pair of Olive-sided Flycatchers. Eventually, the logging roads fan out and dissipate into moose browse and blackberry thickets.

There are three key characteristics of Evans Mountain that warrant its preservation. One outstanding feature of this land is the seven percent wetlands coverage. This doesn't include a common habitat type we have termed rutted wet meadows, that amphibians seem to like. The wetlands communities are highly varied and include nine different types from rocky streams, small ponds, high elevation blackgum swamps and emergent marshes. I mention these because many creatures including birds rely on wet habitat for sustenance.

The second important characteristic is the connection of this land to abutting conservation properties. The Evans Mountain parcel is part of a 6,000 acre unfragmented habitat block as defined by the NH Fish and Game Department's Wildlife Action Plan. Directly across Route 126 is a 16,000 acre block. The Blue Hills Foundation, a partner in the conservation of Evans Mountain along with the Strafford Conservation Commission and Bear-Paw Regional Greenways, has over 5,000 acres of land in permanent conservation within these two blocks. To the east and south are Strafford Town Forest tracts (684 acres) and private conservation easements held by Bear-Paw Regional Greenways. Large intact tracts are necessary to support many of our species of concern such as Northern Goshawk and Blanding's Turtle and also the rise and fall of beaver ponds to support Great Blue Heron rookeries.

A third characteristic is species diversity. During a June 2010 Biothon (Biological Marathon involving mostly natural history professionals) on the property, we logged around 460 species in a hot half day. Significantly, invasive species are a very minor component of the plant communities. In the five years since birding has become more than incidental to me, I have recorded 119 bird species around this ridgeline. I hope if you take the challenge to explore this special place you'll be able to encounter some of this biota and to add to the knowledge of this mountain habitat.

As of this writing, the three previously mentioned conservation partners have purchased the property. We are fund raising and grant writing for the $500,000 we have taken out in loans to complete the purchase. The source of funds to pay these loans will determine ultimate ownership and use (i.e., working forest, wildlife habitat management, wetlands restoration, etc.). Regardless of source, the Evans Mountain property will always be open to passive recreational uses. One of the more humorous fund-raising tools we have used is three migratory flocks of Pink Flamingos that have already landed at my home (A donation gets 20 flamingos on a neighbor's lawn of your choice). Every bit helps to preserve the continued flourishing of our feathered companions.

Scott Young is an avid bird and dragonfly watcher. His preference has been working with his back adjusting God's handiwork. However, he states, "as my body enters a stage of protest and birding has become more than someone else's oddity, I've noticed the less I do the more I see."

Charles Goodhue and Kimball Elkins

"The Bug Hunting Man" and "The Dean of New Hampshire Birders"

by Robert A. Quinn

Pioneering ornithologist and author Charles Goodhue liked to be called "the Bug Hunting Man." Not birds! Bugs! Especially moths and butterflies! The man who wrote the most recent book on the birds of New Hampshire (circa 1922) was just as interested in insects as he was in birds, and proud of it too. Kimball Elkins, on the other hand, was very focused on birds, though his passion and depth of knowledge was not initially obvious because he was so quiet and unpretentious.

We all have benefited from birders who came before us and, in the annals of New Hampshire birding, Goodhue and Elkins were two of our most significant ornithological pioneers. Each man made unique contributions to the knowledge of New Hampshire's bird life. In 1995, New Hampshire Audubon established the Goodhue-Elkins Award to honor them and to acknowledge other people's contributions to the study of New Hampshire's birds. I have connections to both of these remarkable men which makes being named the 2010 recipient of the Goodhue-Elkins Award that much more meaningful to me. It is a special, yet humbling, experience of which I am quite proud.

Charles Goodhue was born in New Hampton, NH, in 1854 but lived for most of his life in Webster and Boscawen. In 1877, at the age of 22, he published a series of articles on the birds of the Webster region in the magazine, *Forest and Stream*, which included one of the first known annotated bird lists for a specific area of New Hampshire. He went on to become the acknowledged local expert on birds and other aspects of natural history, which culminated with a 480 page book on the birds of New Hamp-

shire that he hand wrote (in 54 days!) in 1921. Unfortunately, that book was never published. There are about twenty copies of the original manuscript, however, one of which I own, and several others are in the NH Audubon library. Goodhue did have many of his local bird records published in another book entitled "Birds at Concord, New Hampshire" by Francis B. White (1937). Meanwhile, Kimball arrived on the New Hampshire birding scene.

Kimball Elkins was born in 1903 and raised on a family farm in Andover, NH, though his career took him to Massachusetts for many decades. Andover is a little north of Goodhue's Webster birding haunts. Kimball spent a lot of time birding in New Hampshire even when he was living in Massachusetts and his bird records go back at least as far as the 1930s. During the 1950s and 1960s he was very involved with NH Audubon, leading local trips and acting as a Season Editor for *New Hampshire Bird Records*. He presumably overlapped with Goodhue (who was still alive in 1933) but there is no evidence that they ever met.

Elkins retired to his ancestral home in 1971 and spent the next 30+ years sharing his extensive birding knowledge. I had the pleasure of birding with him and learning from him. When Tudor Richards and Carol Foss had a bird question that they couldn't answer, they would look at each other and say "Kimball will know." He compiled the first modern checklist of the birds of New Hampshire in 1982, the updated edition of which, we are still using today. One of Elkins' earliest achievements was "discovering" Goodhue's work. In 1961, Elkins wrote an article for the *New Hampshire Audubon Quarterly* comparing Goodhue's bird records from 1877 to his own Andover records of the 1950s and 1960s. Thus we have a wonderful and fascinating record of the changes over that 80+ year span, from the same part of the state. Space limitations don't allow a detailed re-cap of those changes but here are just a few tidbits. In Webster in the 1870s, there were no records for Mallard, while Upland Sandpiper, Common Nighthawk and Northern Harrier were common breeders. Also, there were no records for Mourning Dove, but the Passenger Pigeon was fairly common!

There's more to come. In 2008, I moved to Webster and now have extra incentive to carry on the tradition of Charles Goodhue and Kimball Elkins. Along with local birders such as Betsy Janeway and Carol Foss, I am updating the bird data started by Goodhue and continued by Elkins; 135 years and counting! Stay tuned.

Bob Quinn has birded throughout NH (and the world) for almost 40 years. For 20 years he was the Summer Editor for New Hampshire Bird Records*, he was a founding member of the NH Rare Bird Committee, and he has a keen interest in the status of birds in NH. He is an active volunteer for* New Hampshire Bird Records *and the proprietor of a natural history services business, Merlin Enterprises.*

The New Hampshire State Bird List

by Stephen R. Mirick

On April 15, 2009, a subcommittee was formed by the New Hampshire Rare Bird Committee (NHRBC) for the purpose of developing an "official" New Hampshire State Bird List. The intent of the list is to establish a baseline of accepted bird species which have occurred in New Hampshire following the current taxonomy accepted by the American Ornithologists' Union in the 7th edition of their checklist and its supplements. Over the course of the year, many resources were researched by the subcommittee in order to prepare the list. On April 20, 2010, the NHRBC voted to accept the list that had been developed. The list is not meant to include every sighting of each rare bird species, but rather to assure that there is at least one credible record for each species that is included on the list.

Since the 1970s, it has been generally accepted procedure to not include a new species on the state list unless the sighting was documented by three separate observers, or by specimen, photograph, video, or sound recording. This requirement was adopted by the NHRBC and is included in its current bylaws. For the purposes of generating this list, however, it was recognized that some historic records would not likely pass this test, and some leniency was given. Judgment calls were necessary for a few species that did not meet these criteria.

The state list includes two categories. One category is the "main" list which includes 399 species. The other category is the "hypothetical" list which includes 11 species. The main list includes records which are believed to be factual. It includes modern records which are well supported with details, as well as historic records which are from published resources and often include specimen records. Six species on this list are given an asterisk since they are historic records of birds that have become extinct or were extirpated from the state many years ago. The hypothetical list includes modern records which are likely accurate, but do not meet the current criteria for a first state record.

The committee hopes that this list will be maintained as a dynamic document which will change as taxonomic changes are made and as new species are added to the state's avifauna. It is also recognized that past records may be reevaluated if greater detail is discovered and that future evidence or judgment may support the addition or removal of past records from the appropriate lists.

You can see the full list of the birds that were accepted as well as some comments on some of the rarities, on the Birding Resources page of the *New Hampshire Bird Records* web site:http://www.nhbirdrecords.org/birding/index.htm#list

Ospreys in the Lakes Region

by Iain MacLeod

Three large Osprey chicks and mom at the big old nest in a heron rookery in Hill, NH. Photo by Iain MacLeod, 7/2/06.

Given the large number of lakes, ponds and other wetlands in the Lakes Region, this author is surprised to find no historical records of Osprey nesting in the region. According to the *Atlas of Breeding Birds in New Hampshire* (Foss, 1994), the only confirmed or probable breeding records during the atlas period (1981-1986) were in Coos County. Historically, they were considered common summer residents only in the Lake Umbagog area (Maynard 1871, Brewster 1925).

Osprey were first officially recorded nesting in the New Hampshire Lakes Region in 1997. I well remember the excitement when New Hampshire Audubon (where I was Communications Director at the time) received the call reporting a pair building a nest on a Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH) utility pole next to Lake Winnisquam in Belmont. I visited the site on May 28 and was delighted to find the male adding sticks to the embryonic nest on the double cross arms of the large double poled structure. As I watched, he also started bringing sticks to a snag in the nearby wetland as the female watched. He was a busy boy, snapping off branches one after the other and trying to get them to balance in the tree top. This is typical behavior of a young male trying to impress a newly attracted female.

Just a couple of weeks later, Chris Martin, Senior Biologist for NH Audubon (NHA), who is responsible for Osprey monitoring statewide, got another call, this

time from naturalist Ed Morier. Ed was doing bird survey work for the Army Corp of Engineers along the Franklin Falls flood control lands and had followed a stream up to a large beaver pond in the town of Hill where he found several active Great Blue Heron nests. Right in the middle of the rookery was a larger nest and he saw an Osprey perched nearby. I accompanied Ed to the site on a hot sticky late afternoon on June 16 and documented our first confirmed breeding of Osprey in the Lakes Region; in fact the first in the entire Merrimack River watershed. On that visit, I could see two small chicks in the nest. If it weren't for Ed (who has since sadly passed away), we might not have discovered this remote site for years.

The nest was substantial and a second nest in a nearby tree was also obviously Osprey built. Both had originally been heron nests. Osprey use much larger sticks in their nests and it is easy to see the transition from small heron twigs to large Osprey branches. A later visit with Chris and New Hampshire Fish and Game's (NHF&G) John Kanter revealed that there were actually three chicks. The size of the nest and the fact that they fledged three young makes it likely that this pair had nested here in previous years. This nest became one of the most productive nests in the state, fledging 29 chicks in 11 years (Table 1). Osprey use of heron nests in active rookeries was to become a regular occurrence in the growing Lakes Region population.

The Belmont site had a struggle getting established, even with a secure nesting platform that was attached to the pole by PSNH. On April 12, 1998, I watched as the male added sticks to the pole nest. The female was not the same one I had seen here in June 1997, so the male was starting from scratch in his courtship efforts. On April 28, a home owner near the nest found the female dead on the shore of the cove. A necropsy revealed a "blunt trauma" on her chest suggesting a violent impact; perhaps she hit an electric wire or an object in the water. She had eggs formed in her reproductive tract, so was close to laying. In Hill, the same established pair fledged three chicks again.

In 1999, pairs were back at both nests in early April and both nests had eggs. The Hill pair hatched three chicks, but likely only fledged two. The Belmont pair failed late in incubation. In 2000, the Belmont nest was finally successful and hatched and fledged two chicks. Another new pair was found adding sticks to a heron nest in a beaver pond in Meredith (LR03 in Table 1) in late June. On July 1, I visited the pond and witnessed typical early courtship behavior, suggesting either a new pair or a so called "frustration nest," which Osprey often build after they have failed elsewhere.

The summer of 2001 was eventful. The Hill nest was successful once again (Table 1) and the Belmont pair was back but they failed shortly after hatch. The Meredith pond was not occupied, but a new nest was found in a large wetland in Laconia about 4.5 miles from the Meredith nest. I believe this nest was built by the same pair that tried in Meredith in 2000. This nest was successful and one chick was fledged there that year.

On July 9, I made an observation that eventually led to the finding of two new nests. On my way back from Hill, I decided to stop by Webster Lake in Franklin. As soon as I arrived, I located two male Osprey fishing over the lake. Both made repeated dives after fish over the next hour without resting. This sort of concerted effort is typical of males that have hungry broods to feed. Non-breeding birds will often perch and show less urgency in their efforts. I hoped to get a flight line after a

successful catch but neither bird obliged – that day! On July 31, I returned and after a couple hours of watching, a male Osprey caught a fish, circled up high over the lake and headed south with the fish held "torpedo fashion" and vanished over the far hills. He was obviously heading for a previously undiscovered nest. I scoured the maps and plotted his course towards a wetland three miles away in Salisbury. The next day, I bushwhacked my way to the wetland and to my delight there was a huge nest on a tall snag in the middle of the beaver meadow. A female Osprey perched on the nest with three large young close to fledging.

Like the large Hill nest, I'm sure this nest had been in use in previous years. These sites tucked away in remote beaver ponds could go undetected for years. This Salisbury nest has been occupied every year since but no one has ever reported "finding it." In 2002, the nest in Meredith had toppled by early April and when I checked the Laconia site on April 6, the nest they used the previous year was occupied by an incubating Great Blue Heron. I scanned the maps and noticed a suitable marsh about 1.5 miles to the east (also in Laconia). On April 21, I checked the marsh and found a pair of Osprey building a new nest on a twenty-foot stump. I was delighted to "refind" this pair, but when I visited on May 5, only the male was present, perched nearby and there was no activity in the new nest. A check back at the Meredith pond revealed a heron building in the old tree.

Ever since seeing those two males hunting on Webster Lake in July, 2001, I was sure there was yet another nest nearby. I scanned online aerial photos and noticed a perfect looking wetland in Franklin to the north of Webster Lake. In the photos, I could see that there were standing dead trees in the pond. On June 9, I bushwhacked my way to the pond and was delighted to hear that tell-tale whistle of an alarmed Osprey. As expected, there was a rookery of herons with one nest occupied by an incubating female Osprey – the region's seventh nest. By July 17, the nest had failed and was empty.

No new nests were found in 2003 but four pairs raised 11 chicks. A pair was back in Franklin but failed during incubation. In 2004, two new nests were found; one in a very strange place. Workers at the PSNH Ayres Island Dam in New Hampton were surprised to find a pair of Osprey building a new nest on a metal structure that held a pulley on the dam. After consultation with NHA and NHF&G officials, PSNH installed a platform on a pole on the south side of the river about fifty yards from the original nest structure. They moved the sticks to that platform and altered the pulley tower to make it less attractive. The pair happily moved to their new nest.

The second new nest was reported to NHA in June near Hermit Lake in Sanbornton. I checked this nest on July 6 when I observed a very small chick being fed by the female. This nest was more typical; built on a dead snag on top of an old heron nest in a beaver pond. On July 29, the chick was still in the nest, still well shy of fledging but by August 11 the nest was empty and had failed (likely the chick was preyed upon by a raccoon).

In 2005, the tree in Sanbornton toppled during the winter but a new nest was found by fellow volunteer Hal Busch about four miles away in Meredith and this may have been built by the same pair. The pair built up a nice nest through the summer but did not lay eggs. Two additional nests were found, both in old heron nests in beaver

ponds. One in Webster was found by Betsy Janeway and one in Gilmanton by Brenda Sens. Neither new pairs laid eggs.

In 2006, eight pairs reared 17 chicks – a new high for the region. On April 13, I followed up on a report of Osprey at another beaver pond in Salisbury (about 2.7 miles from the other Salisbury site). I found a pair busy building up a good-sized nest in the middle of a heron rookery. I later learned from the couple who own a home overlooking the pond that this pair had raised at least one chick here in 2005. I returned here on June 5 to find that the tree had snapped off and the nest was lost and the pair was building a new nest on a different tree in the swamp.

In 2007, Hal Busch found a new nest in another beaver pond in Gilmanton. This pair laid eggs that failed to hatch. On May 19, I followed up on a third-hand report of a large stick nest on a cell phone tower in Moultonborough. I have to say, I was sure it was going to be a Common Raven nest, but . . . it was an Osprey; our first cell tower Osprey nest in New Hampshire. This pair successfully raised one chick. Evidently a pair of Osprey had nested on a dead snag in a pond less than two miles from the cell tower nest and had raised at least one chick in 2006. The nest had toppled during the winter and likely that pair moved to the cell tower in 2007. The owner of a home on the edge of the pond, who had seen the nest in 2006, installed a nice platform on a tree in the same pond in the hope of attracting another pair. So far that platform has remained empty.

I found another new pair on May 24 while on one of the Lake Cruises run by the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center. This pair was bringing sticks to a utility pole on the north shore of Squam Lake in Holderness less than 1.5 miles from my office. The live electric wires were running power to some cottages on a nearby point; a very dangerous situation. Before the birds could harm themselves, Chris Martin and I met with engineers from New Hampshire Electric Coop (NHEC) and we agreed it was best to discourage the pair from nesting here. NHEC offered to install a new nesting pole at the Science Center that winter in hopes of keeping the pair on Squam. The male Osprey had other ideas and moved five miles west over to the Pemigewasset River and started building a nest on an identical NHEC pole in Bridgewater. By the end of the summer, he had the beginnings of a solid nest. This time the wires were not live and were removed. The new pole was installed by NHEC at the Science Center that winter, but so far it has not been occupied.

There was a sad start to 2008. My early April check at the Hill nest revealed that the new 2007 nest tree had also toppled. Only the female (same bird each year since 1997) was present, perched on the shore of the beaver pond waiting for her male to arrive. I found the fresh remains of a second adult Osprey near the base of a large hemlock tree close to my normal observation point on the pond shore. The feathers showed signs of chewing by a mammalian predator and whitewash on the ground indicated that the Osprey was alive while on the ground. I suspect that this was the missing male. There had been some major April snows that year and I suspect that the old male had arrived back too early and starved to death waiting out the snows. Perhaps he took shelter close to the ground and was grabbed by a hunting red fox or fisher. Without the male to start a new nest (only a couple of usable trees remained in the swamp), it was the end of this nest site. This nest was not occupied in 2009 or 2010.

Osprey chick and mom at cell tower nest in Laconia, NH. Photo by Iain MacLeod, 7/18/10.

Elsewhere, 10 pairs reared a Lake Region record of 19 chicks. Two new nests were found; both on cell towers. The first, on an enormous tower in Tilton, was reported to Chris Martin in May. I checked it on May 5 and found a female incubating in a small (new) nest. This pair hatched at least one chick but the pair failed shortly after hatch likely because of a severe storm and was building a frustration nest in late July on a nearby utility pole.

I found our third cell tower nest in early June on a low structure near Opechee Bay in Laconia. A quick scoping revealed an incubating female. This new nest failed during or just after hatch. Another new nest was found by Hal Busch and Everett McLaughlin on July 21 in a road-side beaver swamp in Alton. The nest contained two large chicks which successfully fledged.

2009 started off well but the near continuous rains in June adversely affected chick productivity at several sites. Five pairs failed, including one that incubated for more than 60 days and one that lost three large chicks when their nest blew out in a storm. In 2010, eight pairs reared 17 chicks. One pair lost three chicks (likely eaten by a raccoon); another nest was tipped or preyed upon during incubation. Two other pairs failed; one started building a frustration nest on a nearby high voltage transmission tower. At the beaver swamp in Alton, a pair returned to the same tree in late May, built a new nest but did not lay. One new nest, in a swamp in Meredith, was found by Pam Hunt and Jane Rice in late July. This small nest was likely built by a new young pair.

Summary

Between 1997 and 2010, 106 nesting attempts have been documented in the Lakes Region with 67 being successful, producing at least 140 chicks to fledging age. The most successful single year was 2008 when we recorded 15 nesting pairs of which 10

successfully fledged 19 chicks. Overall, the average number of chicks fledged per successful nest is 2.1 per year. See Table 1.

Nests have been built on dead trees, poles (either utility poles or nesting platforms on poles), cell towers and on one occasion, on a metal structure on a dam. See Table 2 for details. In general, dead tree nests in beaver ponds are prone to predation and collapse. The pair at LR07 in a beaver pond in Franklin is on its fourth tree in nine years! Because of this, they have only managed to fledge nine chicks (well below the region-wide average annual productivity). Poles provide a solid structure that lasts for many years and productivity is higher. Cell towers it seems are also providing viable sites and I suspect that a greater proportion of nests will be on these towers in the future.

Overall, 66% of nesting attempts have been in trees but only 59% of tree nests have been successful. Only 24% have been on poles, but 76% of them have been successful; 9% have been on cell towers with 70% success. Having said all that, if a pair finds a good tree that stands for many years and has a predator guard, they can be very suc-

Table 1. Osprey Breeding Data in New Hampshire's Lakes Region, 1997-2010. Shading indicates occupation by pair. A? indicates the nest was reported as occupied, but not verified. (Data source: I. MacLeod personal records.)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	TOTAL
LR22 -- Meredith														0	**0**
LR21 -- Alton												2	0	0	**2**
LR20 -- Laconia												0	2	2	**4**
LR19 -- Tilton												0	0	2	**2**
LR18 -- Bridgewater											0	1	1	2	**4**
LR17 -- Moultonborough										?					**?**
LR16 -- Holderness											0				**0**
LR15 -- Moultonborough											1	2	2	3	**8**
LR14 -- Gilmanton											0	3	0	2	**5**
LR13 -- Salisbury									?	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
LR12 -- Gilmanton									0	3	2	2	2	0	**9**
LR11 -- Webster									0	1	1	0	1		**3**
LR10 -- Meredith									0	0	0	0			**0**
LR09 -- Sanbornton								0							**0**
LR08 -- New Hampton								0	2	2	3	2	3	1	**13**
LR07 -- Franklin						0	0	1	0	2	2	3	0	0	**8**
LR06 -- Laconia						0									**0**
LR05 -- Salisbury					3	0	3	3	2	3	2	2	1	2	**21**
LR04 -- Laconia					1		2	2	1	1	0	1	1	0	**9**
LR03 -- Meredith				0											**0**
LR02 -- Belmont	0	0	0	2	0	3	3	2	3	2	1	1	3	3	**23**
LR01 -- Hill	3	3	2	3	2	3	3	3	2	3	2				**29**
Chicks Fledged	**3**	**3**	**2**	**5**	**6**	**6**	**11**	**11**	**10**	**17**	**14**	**19**	**16**	**17**	**140**
Nests with Pairs	2	2	2	3	4	5	5	7	9	10	14	15	14	14	**106**
Nests fledging young	1	1	1	2	3	2	4	5	5	8	8	10	9	8	**67**
Chicks fledged/successful nest	3.0	3.0	2.0	2.5	2.0	3.0	2.8	2.2	2.0	2.1	1.8	1.9	1.8	2.1	**2.1**
Broods of 3	1	1		1	1	2	3	2	1	3	1	2	2	2	**22**
Broods of 2			1	1	1		1	2	3	3	4	5	3	5	**29**
Broods of 1					1			1	1	2	3	3	4	1	**16**
Failed after hatch			1		1	2	1	1	1	2	4	5	5	4	**27**
Pair present but did not lay	1	1		1		1		1	3		2			2	**12**
Single bird only												1	1		**2**
Reported, outcome unverified									1	1					**2**

Table 2. Nest site preference of New Hampshire's Lakes Region Osprey, 1997-2010. (Data source: I. MacLeod personal records.)

	Trees	Poles	Cell Towers	Other	Total
Nesting attempts	70	25	10	1	**106**
% of all nesting attempts by type	66%	24%	9%	0.9%	
Nests fledging young	41	19	7	0	**67**
% of nesting attempts successful	59%	76%	70%	0%	**63%**
Chicks fledged	86	40	14	0	**140**
Chicks fledged per nesting attempt	1.2	1.6	1.4	0.0	**1.3**
Chicks fledged per successful nest	2.1	2.1	2.0	0.0	**2.1**

cessful. The Hill site produced 27 chicks using the same nest tree for ten years. The first Salisbury site has produced 21 chicks over ten years on the same tree. Whenever possible, Chris Martin coordinates the installation of sheet metal predator guards around trees and poles to thwart mammalian predators (raccoons, fishers and black bears). This work is done primarily in the winter when frozen ponds allow access to the trees. We have documented eight instances when we suspected mammalian predators caused failures. In all cases, these were nests in unguarded trees.

The future seems bright for Osprey in the Lakes Region. Our fieldwork has identified many wetlands with suitable dead trees that have not yet attracted Osprey. At least a dozen seemingly suitable cell towers have been identified and there are countless utility poles close to water which would seem attractive. High voltage electric transmission towers might be the next nest du jour for Lakes Region Osprey.

As a top of the food chain indicator species it is important to monitor their breeding success over extended periods of time so that trends can be identified. Over the coming years I am curious to record how increased overlap with the growing Bald Eagle population will impact Osprey. In 2011, we propose to use satellite transmitters on a few Lakes Region youngsters and adult males to learn more about fledgling survival rates and migration paths, and understand foraging habits of males; what lakes and sections of rivers are most important to these feeding males. Much more fun lies ahead.

Acknowledgements

I first want to thank Chris Martin, NHA, and NHF&G's Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program for the statewide coordination and oversight of Osprey monitoring… and for allowing me to continue to play with Osprey. Thanks also to my fellow Lakes Region Osprey monitoring volunteers Hal Busch and Everett McLaughlin for all their great work. I'm grateful to John and Mary Calurusso and Rachel and Denis Cotnoir for allowing me access to their properties to watch "their" backyard nests. Thanks also to Public Service of New Hampshire, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative and Bridgewater Power Company for their support of Osprey management.

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

Answer to the Photo Quiz

by David B. Donsker

The subject of this issue's Photo ID has a certain twist to it. At first glance, this generally white bird with its apparent solidly black head might suggest that it is an adult of one of our hooded gulls, Bonaparte's Gull, Black-headed Gull, or Little Gull, in breeding plumage. In particular, the short bill and lack of a distinctive eye is reminiscent of Little Gull which has an extensive black hood and lacks any markings around the eye to set the black eye off from the remainder of the black head. Little Gull is also the smallest billed of these three gull species.

This bird, however, has pointed wings and a forked tail! Little Gull has broad, rounded wings. Bonaparte's Gull, which of the three hooded gull species has the most tapered wings, doesn't have wings that would be this acutely tapered. Most importantly, all of our hooded gulls have squared off tails.

So, clearly this white bird with a forked tail must be one of our terns. If true, the puzzle of the black head becomes immediately clear. Although we are largely observing the underside of the bird, it has twisted its head up and to the right. As such, we are seeing its black crown, not a black head at all. The fact that the crown is solid black indicates that this is an adult tern in breeding plumage. Since it has a deeply forked tail and small bill, it cannot be one the two largest species, either Caspian or Royal Tern. Its lack of a white forehead eliminates Least Tern. So, this must be one of our medium sized terns in the genus *Sterna*; Common, Arctic, Roseate or Forster's Tern.

Separation of these four species is one of the more challenging problems in field identification. Not only are the field marks that can be used to distinguish between them often subtle, we frequently observe these birds at medium to far distances. It is tempting to give up and just chalk them up as tern species. With patience, however, good optics and knowledge of the features that separate these four similar species, most individuals can be identified with confidence.

To compound the matter, later in the summer, adult birds begin to molt into non-breeding plumage that is different from that of breeding birds. Further, even early in the season, adult birds returning from their wintering grounds may be joined by first year birds which have a plumage that is different from the adults. Finally, late in the season, the flocks of terns are joined by newly fledged juvenile birds that have a plumage that differs from either adults or first year birds. The identification of young *Sterna* terns and adult terns in non-breeding plumage are separate problems in field identification that will be addressed in future Photo ID articles. This time, we will concentrate on separating adult birds in breeding plumage. Since Forster's Tern which breeds outside our area in southeastern salt marshes and central state prairie wetlands is invariably seen in New Hampshire in non-breeding plumage, it will also not be addressed further in this article.

Bill color can be a useful tool in establishing identification during breeding season. Arctic Terns have uniformly colored, deep red bills. The bill of the typical Common Tern is red to red-orange with a black tip. The dark tip of some Common Terns is absent during the summer, however, and some Arctic Terns will have a small dark bill

tip. The bill of Roseate Tern is the longest of the three. During most of the breeding season, it is black with just a hint of red at the base. During the high breeding season, however, it may be red for fully half of its length which the unwary could confuse with Common Tern. So, caution must be used when relying on bill color as the primary field mark. Analyzing a suite of structural and plumage characteristics is the key to identification.

Let's start with bill structure which should be considered in addition to bill color. Arctic Tern has a short, thin bill. The bill of Common Tern is longer and marginally thicker. Roseate Tern's bill is the longest and thinnest of the three. This feature of the Roseate Tern is even more exaggerated because of the dark color.

Of the three species, Arctic Tern has the shortest legs. This can be appreciated only in perched birds. It is especially useful in mixed species flocks. Caution should be used, however, in evaluating leg length as well since the apparent length of the legs can be affected by how much the breast and belly feathers are puffed out.

Other structural differences can be appreciated best in perched birds. Both Arctic Tern and Roseate Tern have rounder head profiles than Common Tern. Wing extension is also a useful distinction. The shorter tail of Common Tern is invariably shorter than the length of the wings. The longer, outer tails of Arctic Tern and Roseate Tern typically extend beyond the wingtips. In Arctic Tern this is slightly so. In Roseate Tern, this is quite dramatic since its tail is the longest of the three and its wings the shortest. Especially later in summer, however, when the outer tail feathers of Arctic and Roseate Tern may be broken or missing, this feature cannot be used reliably.

Body plumage should also be taken into account. Roseate Tern is the palest of the three. Not only are its under parts white (faintly blushed pink in high breeding plumage, as its name suggests), but its back is also very pale gray. Both Common and Arctic Terns have medium gray backs. They both have grayish breasts as well. The breasts are generally slightly darker gray in Arctic Tern than in Common Tern. Further, in most Arctic Terns, the gray of the breast extends farther onto the throat. This contrasts with the white cheeks producing a white stripe between the black cap and the gray throat. Many Arctic Terns have paler throats, however, which reduces this effect and some Common Terns are nearly as dark and extensively gray below as Arctic Tern. Further, in bright light, the grayish breasts of either species can be very hard to distinguish. Again, beware.

Flight silhouette is a very useful tool to evaluate. The combination of small head, small bill, and proportionally long outer tail feathers of Arctic Tern leaves the impression the wings are set further forward on the body. Common Tern has a larger, flatter head, longer bill, and shorter tail, so it wings, in comparison, look like they are set farther back. The effect is not dissimilar to that between Sharp-shinned Hawk and Cooper's Hawk, although much more subtle. Especially when seen together, the longer outer tail feathers of Arctic Tern in comparison to Common Tern can be quite noticeable. The pale Roseate Tern has long outer tail streamers and a long bill. Its flight silhouette is somewhat reminiscent of a small tropicbird.

Although at a distance all three species appear to have pure white tails, at close range the tail patterns are different. Roseate Tern has a truly all white tail. In both Arctic and Common Tern, the outer webs of the outer tail feathers are dark resulting in a

fine dark edge to the tail. This is somewhat more prominent in Common Tern than in Arctic Tern, but this is subtle.

Perhaps the best set of features to help distinguish between these three very similar species is their differences in upper wing and under wing patterns.

Adult Arctic Terns have uniformly gray upper wings. In Roseate Terns, the outer two or three primary feathers are dark gray. Because the rest of the wing of Roseate Tern is very pale, the contrast between the leading edge of the wing and the rest of the upper wing can be very striking. In Common Tern, the outer five or six primaries are notably darker than the inner five. This results in a very noticeable dark wedge on the outer upper wing. This wedge becomes even more noticeable in late summer and fall and is a very reliable field mark.

The trailing edge of the under wing pattern is also very distinctive between these three species and may be the most reliable field mark of all. The outer seven or eight primaries of Arctic Tern are distinctly darkly tipped. This results in a very fine, thin, dark trailing edge to the outer under wings. This line is even better defined because the rest of the primary and secondary feathers of Arctic Tern's wings are translucent making the rest of the wing appear very white. In contrast, the dark tips of the undersides of the primaries of Common Tern are broader and are limited to the outer five or six primaries. Its wings are not translucent or have only a small patch of translucency in the inner primaries. As a result, the dark line of the trailing edge of the under wing is shorter, thicker and less sharply defined than it is in Arctic Tern. The trailing edge of the under wing of Roseate Tern is completely white because its primaries have no dark tips.

Let's return to the featured bird. Even though the bill is foreshortened because of the angle of the photograph, it is still quite small and delicate and appears to be uniformly colored. The under parts are dark gray. Although it is facing away from us, we can still see a contrasting white line between the black crown and the gray lower throat. The tail is deeply forked and the outer tail feathers are elongated. The under wing is pure white with a very sharply defined dark thin line along the trailing edge of most of the outer wing.

This adult Arctic Tern in breeding plumage was photographed by Eric Masterson at White Island in June, 2008.

The best place in New Hampshire to compare the subtle differences of these three terns is to visit the breeding colony on White and Seavey Islands at the Isles of Shoals. Each summer, there are several opportunities to join field trips to the Isles either arranged through chapters of New Hampshire Audubon or through privately chartered trips. The fact that we have a vital tern colony on the Isles of Shoals is, in itself, a remarkable story. Historically, the Isles of Shoals had the most significant tern colony in the Gulf of Maine. But interference by humans and predatory gulls extirpated the colony in the middle of the last century. Through the efforts of New Hampshire Audubon, in cooperation with the NH Fish and Game Department's Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program, the Shoals Marine Laboratory and the New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development, restoration of the tern colony began in 1997. Gulls were discouraged from breeding by using nonlethal means to disrupt their nesting activities. Tern decoys were employed to encourage terns to nest

on the islands. In 1998, 45 pairs of Common Terns nested. They were joined by 26 pairs of Roseate Terns in 2002 and six pairs of Arctic Terns in 2003. Currently, the restoration is managed by NH Fish and Game and there are about 2,000 pairs of Common Terns nesting on the islands which are joined by approximately 40 pairs of Roseate Terns and eight pairs of Arctic Terns (see the graph in the "Rails through Alcids" Summary on page 14). It's an amazing sight to see these noisy but angelic birds swirling about the Isles of Shoals on a summer day and to remember that with enlightened conservation efforts we can hope to preserve such marvelous creatures.

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Abbreviations Used

BBC	Brookline Bird Club	R.	River
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey	Rd.	Road
CA	Conservation Area	Rt.	Route
CC	Country Club	SF	State Forest
CFT	NH Audubon Chapter Field Trip	SP	State Park
		SPNHF	Society for the Protection of NH Forests, Concord
FT	Field Trip		
IBA	Important Bird Area	T&M	Thompson & Meserves (Purchase)
L.	Lake		
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		
NHRBC	NH Rare Birds Committee	WS	NHA Wildlife Sanctuary
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge	~	approximately
PO	Post Office	WTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant

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A rare color trait...

The adult Northern Rough-winged Swallow on the far left of this photo is a very rare example of melanism. It was seen feeding young and was photographed by Andrea Robbins on July 3, 2010 in Pittsfield.

Color abnormalities in birds are very rare and most often take the form of whitish feathers which can cover either a portion, or all of a bird's plumage. This inherited abnormality is known as "leucism" and is caused by a partial or total lack of pigment in feathers. Much more rare is a genetic abnormality which produces an excessive amount of melanin in feathers. This is known as "melanism" and produces a darkened appearance which can range from brown to black in birds. Although rarely encountered, the melanistic trait is a dominant characteristic, which can be passed down. It is believe that some species which exhibit dark morphs, or variants, have evolved in this way.

— Stephen R. Mirick

New Hampshire Audubon
84 Silk Farm Road
Concord, NH 03301-8200