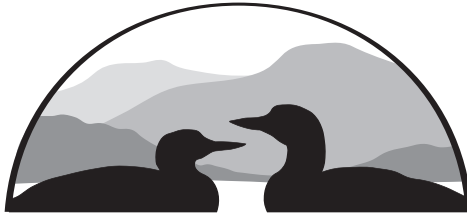


New Hampshire Bird Records



Spring 2010

Vol. 29, No. 1



New Hampshire Bird Records

Volume 29, Number 1

Spring 2010

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White-eyed Vireo by Dick Dionne, 5/12/10, Lake Umbagog NWR, Wentworth's Location, NH.

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

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IN MEMORY OF
Steve Damon

This issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* with its color cover is sponsored by Pat Niswander in memory of her brother, Steve Damon of Tamworth. He was an avid list maker and kept records of arrivals and departure dates for migrating birds as well as daily weather. He had a great sense of humor and an expansive interest in birds that led him to design a feeder that weighed his goldfinches and build a scale model of an Ivory-billed Woodpecker which he put up in his yard for the enjoyment of the local bird club.



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From the Editor

by *Rebecca Suomala, Managing Editor*

Thank You Pam Hunt!

A very special Thank You to Pam Hunt for her 20 years as the Spring Editor for *New Hampshire Bird Records*. Pam has brought tremendous knowledge to the position, working with the data and compiling trends over the years. This is her last spring season, but thankfully she is continuing as Winter Editor while David Deifik will continue to summarize the Christmas Bird Count. Pam's spring shoes will be hard to fill, but we are working on exciting plans for how to do that so stay tuned!

Thank You to Tudor Richards Memorial Donors

We are grateful to the many people who made donations in Tudor Richards honor and helped make possible the sponsorship of the 2009 *New Hampshire Bird Records* in his memory. Additional donor not listed in the Spring 2009 issue: D. Dickinson Henry.

"New Hampshire State of the Birds" Report Released

by *Pam Hunt*

In March 2010, New Hampshire Audubon and the NH Fish and Game Department released the first-ever "State of the Birds" Report for New Hampshire. This report, written by Dr. Pamela Hunt of NH Audubon under contract with the NH Fish and Game Department, is a groundbreaking summary of population trends for all of New Hampshire's breeding birds, a total of 186 species. The report shows that one third of New Hampshire's breeding bird species are experiencing long-term population declines, another third are stable or increasing, and the rest lack the data needed to determine their actual population trends. The report also looks at threats facing bird populations and outlines strategies for addressing them.

The increasing species are, in many cases, our success stories. For example, the continuing increase in Bald Eagles shows what can be done when conservation entities work together to solve problems. At the same time, some populations, such as those of Northern Cardinal and Merlin, are increasing without targeted conservation action. An important goal is to keep the increasing and widespread species common, so we don't need to expend valuable resources bringing them back from the brink.

Declining species are, of course, the ones that attract our immediate attention. These include shrubland and grassland birds, as well as a whole suite of "aerial insectivores," birds, like swallows, that feed on the wing. Of our forest birds, roughly as many are increasing as are decreasing, and many of the latter are species that require larger tracts of forest or that migrate out of the state during the non-breeding season. Land protection and careful planning can minimize the habitat effects here in the Granite State, but it will be equally important to maintain a larger perspective if we are to ensure that migratory species successfully return to nest here each summer.

Other causes of declines can include increased predation and mortality resulting from human activity, chemical contaminants, and the uncertain effects of climate change.

In some ways, the needs are greatest for the 52 bird species whose population trends are either unknown or unclear. Most of these are birds of wetlands and northern forests, and given that the threats to these habitats are sometimes significant, it is imperative to start gathering the needed data. Learning more about these poorly monitored species is key to successful conservation prioritization.

The full report, plus supplementary information such as things individuals can do to help bird populations, can be found at www.wildnh.com/birds. NH Audubon is also producing a Conservation Guide to accompany the report that will also be out soon.

Photo Quiz



Can You Identify This Bird?

Answer on page 62
Photo by Len Medlock

Spring Season

March 1 through May 31, 2010

by Pam Hunt



*The line it is drawn
The curse it is cast
The slow one now
Will later be fast
As the present now
Will later be past
The order is
Rapidly fadin'.
And the first one now
Will later be last
For the times they are a-changin'.*

With apologies to Bob Dylan: “*The climate it’s a-changin’*”. After a winter in which the Mid-Atlantic region saw more snow in February than portions of New Hampshire saw all winter, March continued the trend away from having significant “white stuff” on the ground. Concord received only trace snowfall for the entire month, but, significantly, had near double the normal amount of precipitation – almost all in the form of rain. This pattern played out over most of the state, with bare ground for two-thirds of the state by mid-month. It was also warm, six degrees above the long-term average, making it the fourth warmest March since records started being kept in 1895. Several early migrants likely took advantage of the generally warm conditions to move north at a more rapid pace than normal, as evidenced by record early arrival dates for species such as Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Gray Catbird, and Pine Warbler. Record early ice out (March 24 for Lake Winnepesaukee: the earliest since record-keeping began in 1887!) and abundant rain probably both accelerated northbound waterfowl migration and allowed ducks and geese to spread out over larger areas.

The heat continued into April, the first week of which set temperature records across New England. Although conditions moderated later in the month, it still averaged almost five degrees above normal. In contrast to March however, April was dry, with nearly an inch less precipitation than usual. Although the main effect of the warm and dry month was probably simply the continued tendency for early arrivals, a southeasterly flow followed by a cold front likely grounded the **Royal Tern** found in Hampton on April 10, at a time when it should have been much farther to the south.



Pam Hunt

May continued the warmth, resulting in the season as a whole being the second warmest on record. The dry spell continued as well, with only two thirds the usual rainfall. On the bird front, the beginning of the month saw the near simultaneous arrival of many long-distance migrants such as vireos, warblers, tanagers, and orioles, as well as large concentrations of earlier migrants that had been in the state for a couple of weeks. There was no obvious weather event associated with this mini-fallout, although northwest winds in late April may have served to bottle things up just to the south until winds shifted on May 1. By month's end, birds were settled on their breeding territories and starting the business of rearing the next generation. Many high totals in the listings, such as at Pillsbury and Pawtuckaway State Parks, reflect numbers of breeding birds rather than concentrations of migrants.

Avian highlights of the season not already mentioned included "regular" rarities such as **American Oystercatcher**, **Acadian Flycatcher**, **White-eyed Vireo**, and **Yellow-throated** and **Worm-eating Warblers**. In something of a second tier were the third state record of **White-faced Ibis**, returning **Mississippi Kite** (soon to become mundane?), **Yellow-headed Blackbird**, and the "**Sooty**" **Fox Sparrow** continuing from the winter. The top prizes, however, go to a **Leach's Storm-Petrel** offshore in May, cooperative **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**, and, drum roll please, the first documented state record of **Mew Gull**, which delighted visitors from near and far during its month-long stay in Exeter.

And in keeping with the theme of change so aptly started by Mr. Dylan, I now sign off on my final column as Spring Editor for *New Hampshire Bird Records (NHBR)*. It's still sometimes hard to believe that I've done this for 20 years, following in the footsteps of Susan and Wavell Fogelman, Diane De Luca, and, for a single "guest season", Kimball Elkins. But I'm not gone; in the spirit of "the first one now will later be last" (sorry Bob, that's the final time), I'm taking over editing the Winter season from David Deifik. Not only does this mesh better with my role as New England winter editor for *North American Birds*, it reduces the craziness that ensues when writing this summary coincides with a busy field season. The fact that it's taken three people to replace me is in itself humbling, although Becky Suomala says this has something to do with the increasing volume of eBird records; 43,000 isn't *that* bad! So watch for me again in *NHBR* volume 29, number 4, and keep up the good work of reporting the birds you find in New Hampshire.

Waterfowl

Once again the Connecticut Valley hosted the cream of the spring waterfowl migration. A total of three Greater White-fronted Geese was about normal for recent years, as was a token Cackling Goose. Snow Geese were scarce statewide, even in the usual corridor along the Connecticut River. Note that the bird in Nashua had continued from the winter season. The Connecticut Valley also had a Brant in late March, but all other sightings of this goose were on or near the coast.

A conservative total of 19 Gadwall was reported statewide this spring. This appears to be a record single season count for the state for this increasing species. Northern



Eurasian Wigeon by Steve Mirick, 3/21/10, Great Bay, Greenland, NH.

Shoveler are also on the increase and the total of eight in 2010 is lower than recent years but still above average for the last decade. Among the less expected ducks, a high count of three Eurasian Wigeon on Great Bay was noteworthy, as was a Eurasian Green-winged Teal at Meadow Pond in Hampton for the second year in a row.

A small flock of Lesser Scaup that spent the winter at the Exeter wastewater treatment plant grew through the early spring to a peak of 43 in late March before numbers dropped off rapidly in April. This represents one of

the highest counts on record for the state. Except for a single Harlequin Duck, noteworthy reports of sea ducks were few. The only reports from inland locations were White-winged Scoters at Spofford Lake and a Red-breasted Merganser in Northwood, and there was certainly no repeat of the Long-tailed Duck gathering that graced Great Boars Head last May.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Greater White-fronted Goose				
03/06	1	Hinsdale	Vernon Dam	E. Masterson
03/08	1	Hinsdale	Vernon Dam	E. Masterson
03/17	1	Walpole	Malnati Farm	P. Brown
03/18	1	Charlestown	Rt. 12 corn field	L. Kras
Snow Goose				
03/01	1	Nashua	Bishop Guertin High School	C. Sheridan
03/12	1	Charlestown	Great Meadow	J. Russo
03/18	3	Charlestown	Rt. 12 corn field	L. Kras
03/20	10	Monroe		E. Masterson
03/20	1	Stoddard	Taylor Pond Road	P. Brown
03/28	1	N. Hampton	Runnymede Farm	L. Kras, B. Griffith, J. Lambert, L. Medlock
04/01	1	Nashua	Salmon Brook, Pine St. residence	C. Sheridan



Brant by Lillian Stokes, 3/28/10, Great Meadow, Charleston, NH.

Brant				
03/08	2	Rye	Rye Harbor	S. Mirick, L. Medlock
03/23	12	Rye	Rye Beach	J. Russo

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
03/28	1	Charlestown	Great Meadow	P. Brown, Z. Cornell, NHA Monadnock CFT
05/18	16	Hampton	Great Boars Head	S. Mirick
05/21	12	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
05/22	18	Portsmouth	Piscataqua River	S. & J. Mirick
05/27	30		NH coast	M. Harvey
Cackling Goose				
03/07	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale bluffs	J. Russo
03/10	1	Hinsdale	Vernon Dam, Connecticut R.	P. Brown
Canada Goose				
03/04	350	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. Young
03/06	2000	Hinsdale	Vernon Dam	E. Masterson
03/10	550	Greenland	Sunset Farm	J. Woolf, L. Kras, L. Medlock
03/12	400	Charlestown	Great Meadow	J. Russo
03/16	300	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	P. Brown
03/18	300	Conway	E. Conway fields	B. Crowley
03/20	330	Lancaster		E. Masterson
Mute Swan				
03/06	2	Nashua	opposite high school	C. Sheridan
03/07	1	Boscawen	Merrimack R., near Hannah Dustin Memorial	D. LaValley
03/10	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	D. LaValley
03/12	20	Durham	Great Bay, Adams Point	J. Kelly
03/14	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	Z. Cornell
03/21	3		Hampton Harbor	M. Iliff
05/03	6	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	J. Russo
05/24	3	Lyme	River Road	J. Norton
Gadwall				
03/04	4	N. Hampton	cove at Rye town line	B. Crowley, J. Scott
03/10	2	Hinsdale	Vernon Dam, Connecticut R.	P. Brown
03/13	4	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	C. Seifer
03/13	5	Rye	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
03/19	2	Portsmouth		S. Young
03/21	4	Greenland	Meloon Rd.	J. Lambert
04/05	2	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	L. Main
Eurasian Wigeon				
03/21	2	Greenland	Meloon Rd.	J. Lambert
03/21	3	Greenland	Sunset Farm	M. Iliff
03/25	2	Greenland	Sunset Farm	L. Kras
American Wigeon				
03/08	4	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
03/18		Concord	Turtle Pond	Z. Cornell
03/21	1	Conway	E. Conway fields	B. Crowley
03/21	2	Laconia	L. Winnisquam, end of Water St.	H. Anderson
03/21	2	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	L. Tanino, K. Klapper, P. Brown
03/22	2	New Hampton	Lake Waukewan inlet	I. MacLeod
03/25	27	Greenland	Sunset Farm	P. Brown

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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American Wigeon—continued

03/28	3	Walpole		J. Russo
03/29	5	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	E. Masterson
05/12	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	S. Mirick, Z. Cornell

Blue-winged Teal

03/28	3	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
04/02	2	Greenland	Great Bay	P. van Loon
04/04	2	E. Kingston	Bodwell Farm	J. Lambert
05/01	4	N. Hampton	Lamprey Homestead Conservation Land	J. Lambert, B. Griffith, L. Kras
05/03	5	N. Hampton	Runnymede Farm	L. Medlock
05/12	2	N. Hampton	Lamprey Homestead Conservation Land	J. Lambert, B. Griffith, L. Kras



Blue-winged Teal, by Leonard Medlock, 5/3/10, Runnymede Farm, N. Hampton NH.



Northern Shoveler by Leonard Medlock, 4/25/10, Exeter WTP.

Northern Shoveler

03/29	2	Charlestown	Great Meadow	E. Masterson
03/31		Keene	Ashuelot River overflow	N. De Mond
04/03	2	Charlestown	Charlestown WTP	M. Walsh, J. Russo
04/03	1	Keene	Krif Rd.	L. Tanino, K. Klapper
04/19	1	New Hampton	hatchery pond	I. MacLeod
04/24	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	S. & J. Mirick, J. Lambert, et al.
05/26	2	Rye	Odiome Point SP	S. Mirick
05/28	1	Rochester	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard

Northern Pintail

03/08	2	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
03/13	2	Charlestown	pond south of Great Meadows	L. Tanino
03/14	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	J. Lambert
03/18	2	E. Kingston	Bodwell Farm	S. Mirick
03/20	2	Concord	Turtle Pond	M. & R. Suomala
03/26	2	Charlestown	Great Meadow	E. Masterson

Green-winged Teal

03/09	2	Exeter	Exeter WTP	G. Tillman, et al.
03/11	1	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick
03/12	3	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. Young
03/13	14	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick
03/21	50	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick
03/25	60	Charlestown	Great Meadows	E. Masterson
03/28	25	Concord	West Portsmouth St.	R. & M. Suomala, P. Ackerson, et al.
03/28	30	Walpole		J. Russo
04/08	110	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick
04/14	91		NH coast	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Green-winged Teal-Eurasian subsp. Common Teal				
04/08	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick
Ring-necked Duck				
03/06	1	Hinsdale	Vernon Dam	E. Masterson
03/09	2	Exeter	Swasey Parkway	L. Medlock
03/10	7	Greenland	Sunset Farm	J. Woolf, L. Kras, L. Medlock
03/10	17	Hinsdale	Vernon Dam, Connecticut R.	P. Brown
03/11	14	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick
03/12	59	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	L. Tanino
03/13	60	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	C. Seifer
03/18	72	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	S. Young
03/25	97	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick
03/28	88	Gilford	Lily Pond	H. Anderson
04/01	38	Moultonborough	Ledgy Pond	I. MacLeod
04/02	38	Lee	Gile Rd. Marsh	S. Young
04/24	25	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir	R. & M. Suomala
Greater Scaup				
03/17	4	Exeter	Exeter WTP	L. Tanino, A. Merritt, K. Bergman
03/21	500	Greenland	Meloon Rd.	J. Lambert
03/25	8	Lyme	Grant Brook Outflow	B. Allison
03/29	6	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	E. Masterson
03/31	5	Laconia	L. Winnisquam. Winnicoash St.	S. Brallier
Lesser Scaup				
03/02	11	Exeter	Exeter WTP	S. Mirick
03/10	18	Exeter	Exeter WTP	J. Woolf, L. Kras, L. Medlock
03/19	31	Exeter	Exeter WTP	P. Chamberlin
03/25	43	Exeter	Exeter WTP	S. Mirick
03/25	2	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	E. Masterson
03/25	1	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick
03/28	1	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson
03/31	39	Exeter	Exeter WTP	L. Medlock
04/07	7	Exeter	Exeter WTP	L. Medlock
04/24	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
Scaup sp.				
03/10	1018	Greenland	Sunset Farm	J. Woolf, L. Kras, L. Medlock
03/25	700	Greenland	Sunset Farm	P. Brown
04/04	2	Madison	Lily Pond	S. Lee
Common Eider				
05/26	16	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
Harlequin Duck				
03/14	1	Hampton	Great Boars Head	L. Medlock, S. & J. Mirick
Surf Scoter				
03/17	29	Hampton	Great Boars Head	L. Medlock
03/18	30	Rye	Rye Harbor area	S. Young
04/18	160		NH coast	S. Mirick

date	#	town	location	observer(s)
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White-winged Scoters by Eric Masterson, 5/14/10, Spofford Lake, Chesterfield, NH.

White-winged Scoter

03/21	40		Hampton Harbor	M. Iliff
04/18	76		NH coast	S. Mirick
05/14	8	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	P. Brown
05/27	50		NH coast	M. Harvey

Black Scoter

03/15	26	Hampton	Great Boars Head	L. Medlock
04/18	48		NH coast	S. Mirick

Long-tailed Duck

04/18	141		NH coast	S. Mirick
05/08	50	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	S. Smith
05/17	65	Hampton	Great Boars Head	J. O'Shaughnessy

Common Goldeneye

03/02	42	Walpole	Bellows Falls Dam	C. Seifer
03/04	60	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Young
03/07	100	Hinsdale	Hinsdale bluffs	J. Russo
03/08	72	Hinsdale	Vernon Dam	E. Masterson

Barrow's Goldeneye

03/05	1	Walpole	Bellows Falls Dam	Z. Jakub
03/05	1	Hampton	Great Boars Head	L. Kras
03/05	1	Rye	Rt. 1A pull off by stone angel	L. Kras
04/16	1	Hampton	Great Boars Head	J. O'Shaughnessy

Red-breasted Merganser

03/21	90		Hampton Harbor	M. Iliff
04/04	1	Northwood	Lakeshore Dr., Northwood Lake	A. Robbins
04/18	117		NH coast	S. Mirick

Loons through Falcons

Reports of Common Loon listed below, with the exception of the two coastal counts, are intended to reflect this species first arrival on inland waters. Perhaps because of rapid ice-out, there were no concentrations of loons away from the ocean. Inland grebes were slightly more abundant than inland sea ducks, with most at the Vernon Dam impoundment in Hinsdale.

A dedicated birding pelagic trip on May 31 netted a somewhat late Northern Fulmar, definitely early Sooty Shearwater, and a respectable total of Wilson's Storm-Petrels. The week before, observers on a whalewatch described a **Leach's Storm-Petrel**. This species is far less common than Wilson's, at least in part because it is most active at night and usually occurs farther offshore. Most recent New Hamp-

shire records have actually been in the fall from Great Bay or Hampton Harbor in the wake of strong offshore storms. Northern Gannets were also common in late May, with some exceptionally high counts reported from shore.



Little Blue Heron by Leonard Medlock, 5/9/10, marsh by Wallis Sands State Beach, Rye, NH.

Unusual herons included a single report of Least Bittern from this species' traditional spot in Hinsdale, and both **Little Blue** and **Tricolored Heron** in Rye. But far more noteworthy was the state's third record of **White-faced Ibis**, found with an impressive flock of 33 Glossy Ibis, itself a noteworthy total for recent years. Three reports of a total of four Black Vultures is about average for the last five years.

Osprey arrived on the early side in late March, with the peak of migrants along the coast in early-to-mid April. Newmarket's Mississippi Kites were first reported on May 16, three days later than last year. Was a kite over Kensington earlier in the month one of the Newmarket birds or a new bird setting up shop in the area? Although Golden Eagles are becoming expected during fall migration, spring records are still few and far between. In this context, a remarkable four for 2010 is in all likelihood a new season record. A rough analysis of small falcon records submitted to eBird reveals 37 non-duplicate American Kestrels and 21 Merlins. It will be interesting to compare these numbers in future eBird data to see if they reflect the decreasing and increasing trends in these species, respectively. The records below are a sampling of high counts during migration, which for kestrel does include some breeding sites (e.g., airports). The kestrel in Nashua in early March was an overwintering bird.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Red-throated Loon				
04/03	1	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	L. Tanino, K. Klapper
04/17	1	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	L. Tanino
04/18	17		NH coast	S. Mirick
Common Loon				
03/04	30	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Young
03/30	1	Strafford	Bow Lake	S. Young
04/06	1	Nelson	Granite Lake	P. Brown
04/08	2	Auburn	Claire's Landing, Lake Massabesic	C. Sheridan
04/10	2	Center Harbor	Squam Lake	T. Michel
04/13	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	D. Govatski
04/18	156		NH coast	S. Mirick
Pied-billed Grebe				
03/30	2	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	P. Brown
04/03	1		NH coast	S. Mirick
04/04	1	Madison	Lily Pond	S. Lee
04/06	2	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick
04/11	2	Swanzy	Dillant-Hopkins Airport	P. Brown

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Pied-billed Grebe—continued				
04/12	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	P. Brown
04/13	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	D. Govatski
04/24	1	Durham	Longmarsh Road	S. Mirick, NHA Seacoast CFT
05/28	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
Horned Grebe				
03/29	2	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	E. Masterson
04/03	40		NH coast	S. Mirick
04/18	6		NH coast	S. Mirick
04/20	2	Hampton	Great Boars Head	E. Masterson
Red-necked Grebe				
03/11	22	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	B. Crowley
03/29	5	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	E. Masterson
04/03	68		NH coast	S. Mirick
04/13	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	D. Govatski
04/18	35		NH coast	S. Mirick
Northern Fulmar				
03/10	3	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick, E. Masterson
05/31	2	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, J. Woolf, Massabesic Audubon FT
Sooty Shearwater				
05/29	1	Rye	Star Island	M. Harvey
05/31	2	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, J. Woolf, Massabesic Audubon FT
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				
05/18	2	Rye	inside of Isles of Shoals	R. Suomala
05/23	2	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	J. Lambert
05/31	472	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, J. Woolf, Massabesic Audubon FT
Leach's Storm-Petrel				
05/23	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	J. Lambert, L. Kras
Northern Gannet				
03/23	1	Rye	Rye Beach	J. Russo
04/03	3		NH coast	S. Mirick
04/18	39		NH coast	S. Mirick
05/18	6	New Castle	Piscataqua River mouth	R. Suomala
05/23	50	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	J. Lambert, L. Kras
05/29	225	Rye	Star Island	M. Harvey, et al.
05/29	80		NH coast	S. Mirick
05/30	587		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
05/31	30	Rye	inside of Isles of Shoals	S. Mirick, J. Woolf, Massabesic Audubon FT
Double-crested Cormorant				
03/17	1	Manchester		D. Allaby
03/21	1	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert
03/25	1	Charlestown	Rt. 12/12A jct.	E. Masterson
03/25	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	E. Masterson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
04/07	40	East Kingston	Stumpfield Road	S. Mirick
04/18	450	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	L. Kras, B. Griffith, J. Lambert
04/18	2279		NH coast	S. Mirick
04/28	150		NH coast	S. Mirick
05/15	16	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	D. Govatski, P. Brown, et al.
05/30	100	Rye	Lunging Island	W. Bemis, E. Rowley

Great Cormorant

03/11	12	Hampton	Great Boars Head	B. Crowley
04/06	1	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick

American Bittern

04/10	1	Bartlett	Intervale, Hill 'n Vale	L. Route
04/17	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River	A. Robbins
04/23	2	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
04/24	1	Surry	Dort Rd.	L. Tanino
05/21	1	Hampton	Little Jack's restaurant	J. O'Shaughnessy

Least Bittern

05/22	1	Hinsdale	setbacks	L. Tanino, C. Seifer
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Great Egret

04/03	1		over Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
04/04	1	Rye	marsh w. of Wallis Sands State Beach	J. Lambert
04/07	3	Seabrook	salt marsh, Cross Beach Rd.	L. Medlock
05/01	30		NH coast	J. Lambert, B. Griffith, L. Kras
05/08	1	Chesterfield	Rt. 9 wetland, se. of Spofford Lake	P. Hunt

Snowy Egret

04/18	1	Rye	marsh s. of Rye Harbor	J. Lambert, B. Griffith, L. Kras
04/22	7	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	J. Kelly
05/01	16		NH coast	L. Kras, B. Griffith, J. Lambert

Little Blue Heron

05/06	1		NH coast	L. Kras
05/10	1	Rye	marsh w. of Wallis Sands State Beach	B. Griffith, L. Kras


Tricolored Heron

05/02	1	Rye	marsh s. of Odiorne Point SP	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert, L. Medlock
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*Tricolored Heron with Snowy Egret,
by Leonard Medlock, 5/2/10,
Fairhill Marsh, Rye, NH.*

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Green Heron				
04/22	1	Laconia	Laconia CC	H. Anderson
05/01	1	N. Hampton	Little River saltmarsh	S. Mirick, L. Kras, B. Griffith, J. Lambert
05/02	1	Swanzey	Dillant-Hopkins Airport	P. Brown
05/05	1	Nashua	Natick Street riverbank	C. Sheridan
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
05/01	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. & J. Mirick
05/04	1	Hampton	Church St. parking lot	S. Mirick
05/04	2		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
05/16	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	J. Kelly
Glossy Ibis				
03/26	6	Greenland	Sunset Farm	J. Knapp
04/25	33	N. Hampton	Runnymede Farm	J. Lambert, L. Medlock, et al.
White-faced Ibis				
04/25	1	N. Hampton	Runnymede Farm	J. Lambert, L. Medlock, et al.
Black Vulture				
04/12	1	Manchester	Massabesic traffic circle (Rt. 28 Bypass)	J. O'Shaughnessy
05/03	1	Nashua	Tilton Street ramp	C. Sheridan
05/04	2	Hinsdale	Wantastiquet Mt. NA	P. Brown
Osprey				
03/21	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. & J. Mirick, B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert, L. Medlock
03/23	1	Kingston	Powwow Pond	T. Murray
03/25	2	Durham	Longmarsh Road	L. Kras
04/01	1	Hollis	Black Oak Dr.	L. McKillop
04/02	1	Bridgewater	Bridgewater Power Company	I. MacLeod
04/03	8		NH coast	S. Mirick
04/18	11		NH coast	S. Mirick
Mississippi Kite				
05/06	1	Kensington	South Rd. residence	G. Gavutis Jr.
05/16	1	Newmarket	Gonet Dr.	S. Mirick
05/16	1	Newmarket	Lubberland Creek Preserve	J. Lambert
05/25	2	Newmarket	Gonet Dr.	P. Brown
05/29	1	Newmarket	River St.	M. Harvey, L. Kras, J. Lambert, B. Griffith
Northern Harrier				
03/05	1	Concord	Contoocook R. Park, Island Shores Estates, Penacook	P. Hunt
03/16	1	Stoddard	Pitcher Mtn.	L. Tanino, D. Deifik
03/17	1	Walpole	Alyson's Orchard	P. Brown
03/20	1	Monroe		E. Masterson
03/24	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	D. Govatski
05/13	1	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir	P. Hunt
05/15	2	Whitefield	Airport Marsh & Pondicherry NWR	Z. Cornell
05/17	1		Hampton Harbor	B. L. Kras
05/27	1	Conway	Pitman's field	B. Crowley

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Red-shouldered Hawk				
03/03	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano
03/06	1	Nashua	Fields Grove	C. Sheridan
03/08	1	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick
03/11	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	S. Mirick
Broad-winged Hawk				
04/05	1	Lyme	Whipple Hill	B. Allison
04/08	1	Enfield	Potato Rd.	L. Jones
04/11	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	L. Kras
04/11	2	Stoddard	Pitcher Mtn.	L. Tanino, NHA Monadnock CFT
04/11	2	Westmoreland	Hatt Road	G. Seymour
05/01	41	Exeter	Powder House Pond	P. Lacourse
Golden Eagle				
03/07	1	Stoddard	Pitcher Mtn.	L. Tanino
03/10	1	Stoddard	Pitcher Mtn.	L. Tanino, A. Merritt
04/03	1	Winchester	Old Chesterfield Rd. powerline	L. Tanino
04/15	1	Madison	Mooney Hill Rd.	R. Fox, D. Duxbury-Fox
				
<p><i>American Kestrel by Leonard Medlock, 4/19/10, Pease Int'l. Tradeport, Portsmouth, NH.</i></p>				
American Kestrel				
03/25	2	Dover	NHA Bellamy River WS	P. Brown
03/26	2	Lyme	River Rd. & N. Thetford Rd.	B. Allison
04/02	1	Dover	Stafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
04/07	2	Hampton	Winnacunnet High School	P. Lacourse, et al.
04/07	5	Stoddard	Pitcher Mtn.	P. Brown
04/08	16	Portsmouth	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	S. Mirick
04/11	3	Concord	Locke Road sod farm	R. Woodward
04/11	12	Swanzy	Dillant-Hopkins Airport	P. Brown
04/12	12	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport, Newington Rd.	P. Chamberlin
04/30	12	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
Merlin				
03/05	1	Nashua	Fields Grove	C. Sheridan
03/25	1	Conway	E. Conway fields	B. Crowley
04/10	3		Hampton Harbor	J. Knapp, L. Kras, B. Griffith, J. Lambert
04/30	9	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
05/17	1		Hampton Harbor	B. Griffith, L.Kras

Rails through Alcids

Although there was only a single Sandhill Crane in the state this spring, it was the third time in five years that the species was reported from West Portsmouth Street in Concord. As evidenced by the annual spectacle of crane migration along the Platte River in Nebraska, cranes are often remarkably faithful to stopover sites. Given the species' long lifespan (up to 20 years), it is tempting to assume that the same bird has been visiting the area since 2006, and is perhaps not a vagrant but a migrant heading to a yet-to-be discovered breeding site in northern New Hampshire, northwest Maine, or southern Quebec.


The shorebird highlight of the season was an **American Oystercatcher** seen flying south along Seabrook Beach on May 21. This coastal nester has become regular in New Hampshire in recent years, although most records are from the offshore Isles of Shoals. In general, spring shorebird migration was on the early side, with record early arrivals by Black-bellied Plover and Spotted Sandpiper. Semipalmated Plover, Least Sandpiper, and Semipalmated Sandpiper appeared earlier than 75% of previous "first arrivals" dating back to the 1960s. As usual, there were scattered inland records of several species at traditional "hot spots" like Surry Mountain Lake.

Without doubt, the avian highlight of the season was the **Mew Gull** that frequented Exeter and Stratham from March 2 to April 3. The individual in question was a first-year bird of the European subspecies (also known as the "Common Gull"), and represents a first documented state record. Mew Gulls are found throughout Eurasia and into Alaska and the Pacific Northwest, and most records for the east coast are of the European form. Although the young gull moved around, it was generally easy to find and many birders from across New England were able to see it. (See the Photo Gallery on page 58 for some nice photographs.)

Large terns also made news. First was a **Royal Tern** that made a one-day appearance in Hampton on April 10. Royal Terns are rare vagrants to the state, and most records come from late summer when the species disperses from southern breeding colonies, so a bird this early was extra remarkable. For a bit of context, the earliest record for heavily birded Massachusetts is May 17, over a month later (see also the article on page 45). Following it up was a Caspian Tern in Exeter, also far less common in spring than fall. Also noteworthy was its inland location, since most records of this species are from the immediate coast. Inland records of Bonaparte's Gull and small terns, entirely from the Connecticut River Valley, were generally associated with low pressure systems following southeasterly winds, weather that usually results in rain. Note that these species are likely regular migrants over this part of the state, but are not usually encountered unless adverse weather brings them down. While the May pelagic trip tallied shearwaters and storm-petrels, one in March had a good collection of alcids, including Dovekie and Atlantic Puffin.



Bonaparte's Gull by Eric Masterson, 5/8/10, Spofford Lake, Chesterfield, NH.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Virginia Rail				
03/25	1	Portsmouth	Liberty Mutual	G. Tillman
04/15	1	Portsmouth	Borthwick Ave.	L. Medlock
04/24	4	N. Hampton	Lovering Road marsh	B. Griffith, L. Kras, L. Medlock, S. Mirick
05/01	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	L. Medlock, P. Brown
05/02	2	Keene	Greenlawn/Woodland Cemetery	P. Brown
05/03	4	Salisbury	Stirrup Iron Brook Marsh	I. MacLeod
05/20	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	H. Galbraith
Sora				
04/18	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
05/22	1	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	C. Seifer, L. Tanino
05/26	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
American Coot				
04/22	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
04/28	3	Salem	World End Pond	S. Mirick
Sandhill Crane				
04/08	1	Concord	West Portsmouth St. R. Woodward, et al.	
<p><i>Sandhill Crane by Leonard Medlock, 4/8/10, W. Portsmouth St., Concord, NH</i></p> 				
Black-bellied Plover				
04/07	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	L. Medlock, S. Mirick
05/01	2		NH coast	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert
05/08	1	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park, Contoocook	M. & R. Suomala
05/12	35		Hampton Harbor	J. Lambert, L. Kras
05/17	60		Hampton Harbor	B. Griffith, L. Kras
05/27	100		NH coast	M. Harvey
Semipalmated Plover				
05/07	1	Hampton	Landing Road	L. Medlock
05/08	6		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
05/12	15		Hampton Harbor	J. Lambert, L. Kras
05/17	30		Hampton Harbor	B. Griffith, L. Kras
05/22	1	Derry	Derry WTP	M. Thompson
05/22	4	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	L. Tanino
05/26	2	Exeter	from Swasey Parkway	L. Medlock, NHA Seacoast CFT
05/30	5	Conway	Rt. 113, Sherman Farms area, E. Conway	A. Robbins
05/30	2	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit	T. Vazzano
Piping Plover				
04/11	2	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	L. Medlock
04/30	3	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Killdeer				
03/09	1	Andover		P. Fenton, Jr.
03/10	3	Hinsdale	Vernon Dam, Connecticut R.	P. Brown
03/12	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. Young
03/12	1	Litchfield	Rt. 3A/Naticook Ave. jct.	L. McKillop
03/13	5	N. Hampton	Runnymede Farm	S. Mirick
03/20	15	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	B. Griffith, L. Kras
03/26	30	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	P. Brown
03/27	44	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO	S. Young
03/27	32	N. Hampton	Runnymede Farm	S. Mirick
American Oystercatcher				
05/21	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	A. Iarrapino
Spotted Sandpiper				
04/18	1	Concord	Locke Road sod farm	M. & R. Suomala
04/27	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
05/01	1	N. Hampton	Runnymede Farm	P. Brown
05/01	4	Surry		C. Seifer
05/01	1	Webster	Pillsbury Lake	K. Longfritz, R. Woodward
Solitary Sandpiper				
05/02	3	Keene	Greenlawn/Woodland Cemetery	P. Brown
05/04	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale bluffs	J. Russo, R. Romano
05/04	1	Surry	Joslin Road gravel pit	L. Tanino
05/05	1	Lee	Old Mill Rd. WMA	S. Young
05/05	1	Newmarket	Wiggin Farm CA	L. Medlock
05/08	5	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
05/12	11	Derry	Derry WTP	S. Mirick
05/16	12	Strafford	Old Ridge Road	S. Young
05/18	12	Lee	Old Mill Rd. WMA	S. Young
Greater Yellowlegs				
03/28	1	Hampton	Hampton salt marsh	S. Mirick
04/02	1	Dover	Strafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
04/03	1		NH coast	S. Mirick
04/04	3	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	L. Medlock
04/05	2	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	L. Main
04/30	40	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
05/05	25	N. Hampton	Little River saltmarsh	P. Brown
05/08	5	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	B. Crowley
Willet				
04/27	5	Rye	Rye Ledge	L. Medlock, D. Abbott
04/30	3	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
05/01	12	Hampton	Little Jack's restaurant	P. Brown
05/06	8	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick
05/06	1	Rye	Rye Harbor	G. Tillman
05/25	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	M. Harvey
Lesser Yellowlegs				
04/27	3	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
05/02	2	Rye	marsh s. of Odiorne Point SP	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert, L. Medlock
05/05	10	N. Hampton	Little River saltmarsh	P. Brown

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
05/08	32	N. Hampton	Lamprey Homestead Conservation Land	L. Kras, B. Griffith, J. Lambert
05/08	1	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	B. Crowley
05/10	30	N. Hampton	Rt. 111	S. Mirick
05/11	4	Derry	Derry WTP	M. Thompson
05/11	1	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	P. Brown, J. Tilden
05/15	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	D. Govatski, P. Brown, et al.
05/16	21	N. Hampton	Rt. 111	S. Mirick

Upland Sandpiper

04/24	5	Portsmouth	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	S. Mirick, L. Kras, B. Griffith, L. Medlock
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Ruddy Turnstone

05/20	1	Hampton	Hampton River Marina flats	J. O'Shaughnessy
05/20	1	Seabrook	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
05/22	1	Rye	Star Island	J. Kelly
05/30	4	Rye	Lunging Island	E. Rowley, W. Bemis
05/30	4	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	E. Rowley, W. Bemis

Sanderling

03/05	30		NH coast	L. Kras
04/11	33	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	L. Medlock
04/25	75	Hampton	Hampton Harbor Inlet	S. Mirick
05/09	100	Hampton	Hampton Harbor Inlet	S. Mirick
05/29	72		NH coast	S. Mirick

Semipalmated Sandpiper

05/08	1	N. Hampton	Lamprey Homestead Conservation Land	L. Kras, B. Griffith, J. Lambert
05/22	2	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	L. Tanino, C. Seifer
05/26	3	Exeter	Exeter WTP	L. Medlock, NHA Seacoast CFT
05/27	75		NH coast	M. Harvey

Least Sandpiper

05/01	1	N. Hampton	Little River saltmarsh	L. Kras, B. Griffith, J. Lambert, P. Brown, L. Medlock
05/02	9	Rye	marsh s. of Odiorne Point SP	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert, L. Medlock
05/05	40	N. Hampton	Little River saltmarsh	P. Brown
05/07	194	Seabrook	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
05/08	75	N. Hampton	Lamprey Homestead Conservation Land	L. Kras, B. Griffith, J. Lambert
05/11	13	Derry	Derry WTP	M. Thompson
05/12	1	Concord	Steeplegate Mall & pond	P. Brown
05/12	40	Derry	Derry WTP	S. Mirick
05/12	75	N. Hampton	Lamprey Homestead Conservation Land	L. Kras, J. Lambert
05/14	80	Derry	Derry WTP	M. Thompson
05/15	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	D. Govatski, P. Brown, et al.
05/16	200	Seabrook	Rt. 286	S. Mirick
05/21	12	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	P. Brown, et al.
05/30	1	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit	T. Vazzano

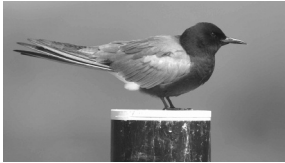
<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Pectoral Sandpiper				
04/20	2	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	G. Tillman
05/07	1	N. Hampton	Runnymede Farm	J. O'Shaughnessy
05/11	2	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	P. Brown, J. Tilden
05/22	1	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	L. Tanino, C. Seifer
Purple Sandpiper				
03/05	30		NH coast	L. Kras
04/14	53		NH coast	S. Mirick
04/18	169		NH coast	S. Mirick
04/20	20	Hampton	Hampton Beach	L. McKillop
05/09	50	Hampton	Hampton Harbor Inlet	S. Mirick
05/24	40	Rye	Seal Rocks	B. Crowley
05/31	2	Rye	Isles of Shoals	S. Mirick, J. Woolf, Massabesic Audubon FT
Dunlin				
04/11	53	Hampton	Hampton River Marina flats	L. Medlock
04/25	175	Hampton	Hampton Harbor Inlet	S. Mirick
05/09	150	Hampton	Hampton Harbor Inlet	S. Mirick
05/22	1	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	L. Tanino, C. Seifer
05/25	30		Hampton Harbor	P. Brown
Short-billed Dowitcher				
05/08	1		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
05/17	6		Hampton Harbor	B. Griffith, L. Kras
05/20	3	Seabrook	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
05/26	17	Sutton	Cascade Marsh	P. Newbern
05/30	11	Hampton	Hampton River Marina flats	L. Medlock
Wilson's Snipe				
03/21	1	N. Hampton	Runnymede Farm	S. Mirick
03/25	15	Greenland	Great Bay Farm	L. Kras
03/27	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	L. Kras, B. Griffith, J. Knapp, J. Lambert
03/27	30	Greenland	Great Bay Farm	B. Griffith, L. Kras
04/02	3	Surry	marsh by church	L. Tanino, P. Brown, P. Davenport
04/08	20	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	S. Young
American Woodcock				
03/09	2	E. Kingston	E. Kingston Elementary School	S. Courchesne
03/15	1	Surry	Joslin Road gravel pit	L. Tanino
03/17	1	Portsmouth	Union Street	L. Medlock
03/17	1	Westmoreland	Hatt Road	G. Seymour
03/18	2	Epping	North River Rd.	G. Tillman
03/19	5	Concord	Birch St. Community Gardens	R. Suomala
Black-legged Kittiwake				
03/05	1		NH coast	L. Kras
Bonaparte's Gull				
05/06	3		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
05/09	1	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	P. Brown
05/14	20	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	P. Brown
05/15	3	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	D. Govatski, et al.
05/30	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	J. Lambert, L. Kras

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Little Gull				
05/27	1		NH coast	M. Harvey
Laughing Gull				
05/30	2		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
Mew Gull				
03/02	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	S. Mirick
03/08	1	Exeter	Swasey Parkway	S. Mirick
03/09	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	B.& J. Goodwin, G. Tilman, J. Lambert, R. Aaronian, L. Medlock, L. Kras, et al.
03/13	1	Stratham	Stuart Farm	S. Mirick
04/03	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	S. Mirick
Iceland Gull				
03/03	1	Derry	Derry WTP	M. Thompson
03/08	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
03/09	1	Exeter	Swasey Parkway	J. Lambert, L. Kras, L. Medlock, et al.
03/27	1	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	S. Mirick
04/06	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	L. Kras
04/25	1	Hampton	North Beach	S. Mirick
05/12	1	Rochester	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
Lesser Black-backed Gull				
03/07	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale bluffs	J. Russo
03/14	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
04/28	2	Rochester	Rochester WTP	L. Kras
05/01	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S.& J. Mirick
05/19	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	L. Medlock, S. Mirick
Glaucous Gull				
03/08	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	L. Medlock, D. Hubbard
03/21	3		NH coast	S. Mirick
04/02	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
04/15	1	Derry	Derry WTP	M. Thompson
04/29	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	J. O'Shaughnessy
Least Tern				
05/17	2		Hampton Harbor	B. Griffith, L. Kras
05/27	2		NH coast	M. Harvey
05/29	2		NH coast	S. Mirick



Caspian Tern by Steve Mirick (right) first seen at Exeter WTP, then with a fish by Lauren Kras (left), 5/12/10, Exeter, NH.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Caspian Tern				
05/12	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP & Swasey Park	S. Mirick, L. Kras, B. Griffith, J. Lambert, Z. Cornell, L. Medlock



Black Tern by Eric Masterson, 5/14/10, Spofford Lake, Chesterfield, NH.

Black Tern

05/08	1	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	B. Crowley
05/08	1	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson
05/14	1	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson

Roseate Tern

05/14	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor Inlet	S. Mirick
05/17	4		Hampton Harbor	B. Griffith, L. Kras
05/29	2	Rye	Star Island	M. Harvey, L. Kras, J. Lambert, B. Griffith

Common Tern

05/06	33		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
05/08	1	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson
05/08	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	E. Masterson
05/14	3	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	P. Brown, D. Bandieri
05/17	40		Hampton Harbor	B. Griffith, L. Kras
05/22	50	Rye	Star Island	J. Kelly, Z. Cornell, L. Kras, C. Sheridan
05/23	200	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Kras, J. Lambert
05/29	500	Rye	Star Island	J. Lambert, M. Harvey, B. Griffith, L. Kras

Arctic Tern

05/19	1	Charlestown	Route 12	E. Masterson
05/30	1	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	W. Bemis, E. Rowley

Royal Tern

04/10	1	Hampton	Hampton River Marina flats	L. Kras, J. O'Shaughnessy, L. Medlock, B. Griffith, J. Knapp, J. Lambert
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Dovekie

03/10	5	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick, E. Masterson
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Common Murre

03/10	11	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick, E. Masterson
04/27	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	L. Kras

Common/Thick-billed Murre

03/10	2	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick, E. Masterson
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Razorbill

03/05	1		NH coast	L. Kras
03/10	16	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick, E. Masterson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
04/18	3	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert
05/02	1		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
Large Acid sp.				
03/10	61	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick, E. Masterson
Black Guillemot				
03/05	2		NH coast	L. Kras
04/27	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	L. Kras
05/29	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	M. Harvey
05/29	10	Rye	Star Island	M. Harvey
Atlantic Puffin				
03/10	4	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick, E. Masterson
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				
05/16	1	Newmarket	Lubberland Creek Preserve	J. Lambert
05/30	1	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
Black-billed Cuckoo				
05/19	2	Surry	airfield	P. Brown
05/21	1	Westmoreland	Hatt Road	G. Seymour
05/22	1	Winchester	Old Chesterfield Rd.	L. Tanino, C. Seifer
05/24	1	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young

Owls through Crows

The northernmost Red-bellied Woodpeckers were in Chatham and Sandwich, with the rest being in the southeastern and southwestern portions of the state. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on March 22 set a new earliest arrival date. Flycatchers on the whole were early, but not dramatically so. An **Acadian Flycatcher** was a nice surprise in Hampton Falls, but the vagrant passerine of the season was certainly the **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** that spent four days in North Conway, where it entertained numerous visiting birders.

White-eyed Vireo is close to annual in New Hampshire, but having three in a single season is unprecedented. While two birds near the coast were in expected locations for this southern species, the third was well to the north near Lake Umbagog, and probably represents the first record from north of the White Mountains. The record early date for Blue-headed Vireo is March 31, with second earliest on April 16. Note that all the



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher by Leonard Medlock, 5/20/10, North Conway, NH.

records listed below fall between these two dates, indicating without a doubt that this species arrived significantly early in 2010. There was even a credible report from late March, but it was never submitted to eBird.

While we're on the subject of Blue-headed Vireos, note the numbers from the coast on May 1. These birds were part of a significant migrant fall-out on May 1-2. As you continue to peruse this season summary, note the numbers of several typically "early migrants" such as Hermit Thrush, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and White-throated Sparrow for these dates. At the same time, May 1 was often the first arrival date for many long-distance migrants returning from the tropics. Looking at the weather in late April and early May provides some clues to this synchronicity. Although there were no southwesterly flows at the end of April to bring birds north, strong northwest flows on the 29th and 30th may have inhibited continued migration and resulted in birds "piling up," particularly along the coast. May 1 and 2 saw a shift to south or southwest flows, which probably helped clear out the accumulated thrushes and sparrows. Note also that the large numbers of Blue Jays reported on May 2 were all migrants, and likely moving in response to the same conditions. There were several Fish Crows reported well outside their usual range in the Southeastern third of NH.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Eastern Screech-Owl				
03/01	1	Dover	residence	L. Kras
05/14	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	J. Knapp
05/27	1	Greenland	Portsmouth & Newington Rds.	M. Harvey
Northern Saw-whet Owl				
03/04	1	Ashland	Sanborn Road	I. MacLeod
03/04	1	Madison	Pit Rd. residence, Silver Lake	J. Mullen
03/10	1	Hinsdale	Vernon Dam, Connecticut R.	P. Brown
03/13	1	Chatham	Green Hill Road	B. Crowley
03/17	1	Portsmouth	Union Street	S. Mirick, L. Medlock, G. Tillman
Common Nighthawk				
05/08	1	Nashua	Southwest Park/Yudicky Farm	C. Sheridan
05/18	1	Hopkinton	Mast Yard SF	P. Hunt
05/19	1	Kingston	Powwow Pond	P. Dearborn
05/20	2	Newmarket	Gonet Dr.	L. Medlock
05/21	3	Hollis	Great Meadow	K. Klasman
05/21	1	Stoddard	Taylor Pond Road	P. Brown
05/21	2	Westmoreland	Hatt Road	G. Seymour
05/22	11	Surry	Dort Rd.	L. Tanino, C. Seifer
05/28	1	Freedom	Berry Bay area	G. Robbins
Whip-poor-will				
04/26	1	Hollis	residence	L. Preissner
05/01	1	Concord	Mast Yard SF east	P. Hunt
05/02	2	Milford	Soft Landings	M. Nickerson
05/05	1	New Boston	residence	K. Rooty, J. Dunigan
05/16	5	Concord	Mast Yard SF east	P. Hunt
05/16	2	Rumney	Fisher Woods residence	J. Williams
05/19	1	Sandwich	end of Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Chimney Swift				
04/28	1	Hampton	Great Boars Head	J. O'Shaughnessy
04/29	2	Bradford	Bradford Elementary School	P. Newbern
04/30	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
04/30	3	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	L. Kras
05/01	8	Concord	Contoocook R. Park, Island Shores Estates, Penacook	P. Hunt
05/01	33	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. & J. Mirick
05/06	14	Ashland	downtown	I. MacLeod
05/08	50	Hillsborough	Contoocook River	P. Brown
05/08	26	Hopkinton	downtown Contoocook by covered bridge	M. & R. Suomala
05/12	75	Salem	World End Pond	S. Mirick
05/13	50	Manchester	Starks Landing & Fisher Cats trail	M. Thompson
05/14	50	Derry	Derry WTP	M. Thompson
05/20	15	Conway	Main St., N. Conway	J. Lambert
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				
04/30	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
05/01	1	Durham	TNC Lamprey River Preserve	J. Lambert
05/03	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	J. Russo
05/03	1	Newbury	Ramblewood Circle residence	P. Newbern
05/03	1	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				
03/22	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
03/26	1	Warner		M. Wiggin
03/27	1	Concord	Contoocook R. Park, Island Shores Estates, Penacook	P. Hunt
03/31	1	Stoddard	Taylor Pond Road	P. Brown
05/22	13	Strafford	Parker Mtn./ Evans Mtn./ Strafford Town Forest	S. Young
Black-backed Woodpecker				
03/07	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	D. Govatski
03/20	1	Lancaster	Rt. 3, n. of Lancaster Center	D. Killam
05/23	2	Pittsburg	East Inlet	L. Medlock
Olive-sided Flycatcher				
05/13	1	Effingham	Watts WS	P. Brown
05/15	1	Effingham	Huntress Bridge Rd., Watts WS	A. Robbins
05/20	1	Henniker	Old Concord Rd.	P. Newbern
05/20	1	Strafford	Parker Mtn./ Evans Mtn./ Strafford Town Forest	S. Young
05/20	1	Sullivan	Seward Mountain Farm	P. Brown
05/29	6	Effingham	Huntress Bridge Rd., Watts WS	A. Robbins
05/29	2	Strafford	Parker Mtn./ Evans Mtn./ Strafford Town Forest	S. Young
Eastern Wood-Pewee				
05/14	1	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
05/15	2	Durham	Foss Farm	J. Lambert
05/16	1	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
05/17	1	Exeter	Newfields Rd. residence	P. Chamberlin
05/20		Woodstock	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest	J. Klavins
05/21		Berlin	Mt. Jasper	L. Alexander

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				
05/11	1	Keene	Green Wagon Farm	L. Tanino
05/16	1	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road	P. Hunt
05/23	1	Pittsburg	Scott Bog	L. Medlock
05/27	1	Stoddard	Taylor Pond Road	P. Brown
05/27	4	Woodstock	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest (restricted access)	M. Lester
05/28	11	Pittsburg	South Bay Bog	M. Harvey
Acadian Flycatcher				
05/23	1	Hampton Falls	Raspberry Farm, Kensington Rd.	S. Mirick, L. Kras, J. Lambert
Alder Flycatcher				
05/14	1	Derry	Island Pond field	M. Thompson
05/15	1	Hampton	church parking lot	J. Lambert
05/15	5	Springfield	Bog & George Hill Rds.	P. Newbern
05/15	1	Surry	Joslin Road gravel pit	L. Tanino
05/16	5	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
05/23	10	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
Willow Flycatcher				
05/15	1	Auburn	Massabesic Audubon Center	S. Waltz
05/18	1	Surry	Dort Rd.	L. Tanino
05/18	1	Weare	Everett Dam, ACOE Lands	P. Newbern
05/20	1	Conway	Garland Pit Road	T. Federer
05/20	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	H. Galbraith
05/21	1	Conway	E. Conway fields	B. Crowley
05/26	1	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road	B. Crowley
05/30	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	J. Scott, B. Crowley
Least Flycatcher				
04/27	1	Keene	Stonewall Farm, W. Keene	P. Brown
05/01	1	Surry	Dort Rd.	L. Tanino, C. Seifer
05/02	1	Ashland	Sanborn Road	I. MacLeod
05/02	2	Keene	Otter Brook Recreation Area	P. Brown
05/02	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert, L. Medlock
Eastern Phoebe				
03/20	2	Lebanon	Boston Lot Lake trail, powerline corridor	B. Heitzman
03/21	1	Rye	Brackett Road	S. Mirick
03/21	2	Swanzy	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Airport Rd.	L. Tanino, K. Klapper
03/22	1	Keene	Green Wagon Farm	L. Tanino
03/22	1	Litchfield	residence	L. McKillop
03/25	1	Charlestown	Great Meadows	E. Masterson
Great Crested Flycatcher				
05/02	1	Epping	North River Rd.	G. Tillman
05/04	1	Concord	Silk Farm WS, McLane Ctr.	R. Woodward
05/04	1	Raymond	residence	S. Santino
05/05	1	Dover	Strafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
05/05	1	Weare	Everett Dam, ACOE Lands	P. Newbern

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Eastern Kingbird				
04/25	1	Meredith	Moulton Farm	I. MacLeod
05/01	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	J. Lambert, L. Kras, B. Griffith
05/01	2	Exeter	Powder House Pond	L. Medlock, P. Brown
05/01	2	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	P. & J. Newbern, C. Crowell
05/01	3	Litchfield	residence	L. McKillop
05/01	1	Surry	Dort Rd.	L. Tanino, C. Seifer
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher				
05/18	1	Conway	Main St., N. Conway	L. Thurston, B. Healy, et al.
05/21	1	Conway	Depot Rd., N. Conway	S. Lee
Northern Shrike				
03/26	1	Beans Grant	Marshfield Station, Cog RR	L. Bergum
03/27	1	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park, Contoocook	R. Suomala
03/28	1	Westmoreland	Chickering Farm	E. Masterson
04/01	1	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
04/06	1	Durham	University of NH	L. Kras
White-eyed Vireo				
04/14	1	Hampton	church parking lot	L. Kras
04/18	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
05/12	1	Wentworths Location	Lake Umbagog NWR trail to kiosk	D. Dionne
Yellow-throated Vireo				
05/04	1	Epping	North River Rd.	G. Tillman
05/04	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale bluffs	J. Russo, R. Romano
05/04	2	Surry	Dort Rd.	L. Tanino
05/06	1	Newton	Peaslee Crossing Road	S. Mirick
Blue-headed Vireo				
04/04	1	Kensington	Drinkwater Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
04/07	2	Antrim	Willard Pond WS	P. Brown
04/10	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	L. Medlock
04/11	1	Exeter	Newfields Rd. residence	P. Chamberlin
04/11	1	Lyme	Dorchester Rd.	P. Ackerson
04/11	4	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway SP	M. & R. Suomala
05/01	11	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
05/01	11	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. & J. Mirick
05/01	10	Thornton	Smarts Brook Trail	R. Buchsbaum
05/04	12	Washington	Pillsbury SP	P. Newbern
Warbling Vireo				
05/01	1	Kensington	Kimball Rd.	P. Lacourse
05/01	1	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	L. Tanino, C. Seifer
05/02	3	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
05/02	4	Exeter	Powder House Pond	J. Lambert, L. Medlock
05/02	2	Keene	Greenlawn/Woodland Cemetery	P. Brown
Philadelphia Vireo				
05/22		Gorham	Mascot Pond	L. Alexander
05/23	2	Pittsburg	East Inlet	L. Medlock
05/27	3	Pittsburg	Scott Bog and East Inlet roads	M. Harvey
05/29	1		NH coast	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Red-eyed Vireo				
05/01	2	Rindge	Contoocook River marsh	E. Richard
05/01	1	Tuftonboro	Mount Shaw	L. Route
05/02	1	Enfield	Potato Rd.	L. Jones
05/02	1	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
05/03	1	Marlborough	Glen Brook	B. Fogarty
05/03	1	Newbury	Ramblewood Circle residence	P. Newbern
Gray Jay				
05/27	11	Pittsburg	Scott Bog & East Inlet roads	M. Harvey
Blue Jay				
05/02	90	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	P. Brown
05/02	40	Keene	Otter Brook Recreation Area	P. Brown
05/02	165	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River	A. Robbins
05/15	61	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
05/15	33	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	L. Tanino
05/20	16	Seabrook	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
Fish Crow				
03/02	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
03/03	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
03/06	1	Exeter	downtown	S. Mirick
03/06	4	Madbury	Kingman Farm	S. Young
03/06	1	Nashua	Fields Grove	C. Sheridan
03/09	1	Concord	SPNHF Conservation Center	J. Pietrzak
03/11	1	Hampton	Great Boars Head	L. Starr, J. Turner
03/12	1	Charlestown	Great Meadow	L. Tanino
03/16	1	Plymouth	Post Office Square	I. MacLeod
03/19	4	Portsmouth		S. Young
04/02	1	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	L. Tanino, P. Brown, P. Davenport
04/04	1	Belmont	Winnisquam Lake	I. MacLeod
04/04	1	Center Harbor	town dock	J. Merrill
04/05	1	Hillsborough	Franklin Pierce Lake	P. Brown
04/06	1	Keene	Green Wagon Farm	L. Tanino
04/09	2	Ossipee	Rts. 25 & 16, W.Ossipee	T. Vazzano
04/22	8	Ossipee	Rts. 25 & 16, W.Ossipee	T. Vazzano
05/06	1	Tilton	BJ's shopping plaza	J. Williams
05/15	1	Freedom	Old Portland Rd.	A. Robbins

Larks through Waxwings

With the exception of Cliff Swallow, swallows tended to arrive on the early side this spring, with Northern Rough-winged Swallow setting a new early date by one day, and Tree and Bank Swallows in the first quartile. The same weather pattern mentioned above resulted in some impressive counts of migrating swallows along the coast on April 30 and May 1. The high counts a week later (May 8-9), mostly at inland sites, involved birds concentrated at wetlands by a cold front and rain. Among the coastal migrants were several Purple Martins, a species rarely recorded away from breeding

sites (all of which are in the Lakes Region) in spring. Note that all the Cliff Swallow records after May 20 are of breeding colonies. Readers are encouraged to report swallow colonies to *Swallow CORE*, a new project of New Hampshire Audubon that hopes to better track these declining species: <http://www.nhbirdrecords.org/bird-conservation/swallow-core.htm>.



Cedar Waxwing
by Jon Woolf.

In looking through the data for the season as a whole, note that in many cases the first arrivals are in southwestern New Hampshire rather than along the coast. This is often the result of that part of the state warming up faster in the absence of a cooling maritime effect. House Wren is a case in point, with the first of these bubbly singers appearing in Westmoreland on April 23, only three days shy of tying the record. The tendency for species to arrive earlier in 2010 was also evident in Ruby-crowned Kinglet and all the thrushes, which, while not setting records, were still ahead of the long-term average. To drive the point home, note that all the Gray Catbird records below beat the old record of April 26. A few Bohemian Waxwing lingered into March after a rather uneventful winter for this irruptive species.

Continued migration watching along the coast turned up exceptional numbers of Cedar Waxwings in late May. The two-day total of over 1300 birds was comprised of over 40 flocks averaging just under 30 birds each.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Horned Lark				
03/04	12	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	B. Crowley, J. O'Shaughnessy, J. Scott
03/06	100	Walpole	field just n. of Sawyer Farm	E. Masterson
03/28	22	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore)	S. Young
04/25	2	Londonderry	Manchester Airport	P. Brown
05/25	2	Portsmouth	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	P. Brown
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				
04/02	5	Nashua	Nashua R. w. of dam viewpoints	C. Sheridan
04/03	2	Boscawen	Hannah Dustin memorial, Penacook	M.&R. Suomala
04/09	2	Derry	Derry WTP	M. Thompson
05/11	25	Derry	Derry WTP	M. Thompson
Purple Martin				
04/30	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
04/30	6	Laconia	Funspot	J. Lambert
05/01	5	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S.& J. Mirick
05/02	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	L. Medlock
05/08	2	N. Hampton	townline cove	L. Kras, B. Griffith, J. Lambert
05/13	2	Conway	breeding colony	B. Crowley
05/15	5	Freedom	Rt. 153 Purple Martin colony	A. Robbins
05/30	2		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Tree Swallow				
03/17	1	Windham	Windham rail trail	T. Murray
03/18	3	Exeter	Swasey Parkway	S. Mirick
03/20	1	Westmoreland	Hatt Road	G. Seymour
03/21	4	Hinsdale	Vernon Dam, Connecticut R.	P. Brown
04/09	200	Derry	Derry WTP	M. Thompson
04/16	450	Barnstead	Brindle Pond	J. Lambert
04/17	1500	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	L. Tanino
04/18	100	Webster	Pillsbury Lake	R. Woodward
04/20	50	Auburn	Massabesic Audubon Center	L. McKillop
04/22	250	Barnstead	Brindle Pond	J. Lambert
04/24	250	Exeter	Exeter WTP	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
04/30	628	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
05/01	375	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. & J. Mirick
05/09	200	Ashland	Ashland WTP	I. MacLeod
05/09	120	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway SP	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert
05/10	700	Pittsfield	WTP, Suncook River	A. Robbins
05/11	100	Derry	Derry WTP	M. Thompson
05/15	200	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	D. Govatski, P. Brown, et al.
05/21	57	Seabrook	Rt. 1A	S. & J. Mirick
Bank Swallow				
04/20	2	Hanover	n. of Wilson's Landing	C. Crawford
04/27	3	Exeter	Exeter WTP	L. Kras
04/29	2	Hanover	Mink Brook Area	P. Johnson
04/30	7	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
05/04	50	Chatham		J. Scott
05/04	50	Surry	Joslin Road gravel pit	L. Tanino
05/05	100	Conway	E. Conway fields	B. Crowley
05/08	40	Hancock	Powder Mill Pond	P. Brown
05/08	1	N. Hampton	Lamprey Homestead Conservation Land	J. Lambert, L. Kras, B. Griffith
05/11	40	Concord	SPNHF Conservation Center	L. McKillop
05/12	30	Derry	Derry WTP	S. Mirick
05/16	100	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	L. Tanino
Barn Swallow				
04/12	1	Durham	University of NH	L. Kras
04/17	1	Exeter	Swasey Pkwy., Squamscott R.	Z. Cornell
04/24	3	Exeter	Exeter WTP	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
04/24	1	Stoddard	Pitcher Mtn.	L. Tanino
04/30	820	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
05/01	116	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. & J. Mirick
05/09	150	Ashland	Ashland WTP	I. MacLeod
05/10	75	Pittsfield	WTP, Suncook River	A. Robbins
05/12	40	Salem	World End Pond	S. Mirick
Cliff Swallow				
04/27	1	Durham	University of NH	L. Kras
04/29	2	Hanover	Mink Brook Area	P. Johnson
04/30	18	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
05/01	10	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. & J. Mirick
05/05	2	Chatham	Butter Hill Road	B. Crowley

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
05/08	8	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park, Contoocook	M. & R. Suomala
05/12	20	Salem	World End Pond	S. Mirick
05/14	3	Derry	Derry WTP	M. Thompson
05/15	10	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	D. Govatski, P. Brown, et al.
05/21	4	Dover	Scammel Bridge	R. Ferraro
05/22	18	Andover	Sam Hill Road	R. Woodward
05/26	16	Dover	General Sullivan Bridge	R. Suomala
05/27	4	Campton	Pulsifer's Farm	J. Williams
05/27	10	Hanover	Dartmouth Riding Center, Etna	J. Norton
05/28	18	Plymouth	Govonni's Farm	J. Williams

Swallow sp.

05/08	330	Hopkinton	Stumpfield Marsh	R. & M. Suomala
05/09	1000	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	P. Brown
05/14	400	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	P. Brown

Boreal Chickadee

03/06	2	Albany	Mt. Chocorua, Champney Falls trail	T. Pirro
03/07	1	Pinkhams Grant	Pinkham Notch	J. Kelly
03/19	4	Chatham		M. Oyler
05/23	4	Pittsburg	East Inlet	L. Medlock
05/28	4	Pittsburg	South Bay Bog	M. Harvey
05/31	1	Easton	N. Peak & S. Peak, Kinsman Mtn.	T. Pirro

Tufted Titmouse

03/10	3	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR, Cherry Pond	L. McKillop, J. Pietrzak
03/22	2	Franconia	Church St. residence	G. Jeffryes
05/16	1	Bartlett	residence	P. Brown

Brown Creeper

03/06	12	Madbury	Kingman Farm	S. Young
03/10	12	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR, Cherry Pond	L. McKillop, J. Pietrzak
03/19	16	Chatham		M. Oyler

House Wren

04/23	1	Westmoreland	Hatt Road	G. Seymour
04/25	1	Hollis	Silver Lake Rd. flea market	A. Robbins
04/29	1	Kensington	South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
04/29	1	Manchester	residence	M. Clark

Winter Wren

03/24	1	Stoddard	Taylor Pond Road	P. Brown
03/27	1	Hampstead	Hazel Drive	L. Medlock, A. Maley
04/04	2	Kensington	Drinkwater Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
04/05	1	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. Suomala
04/05	1	Hancock	Antrim Road	E. Masterson

Marsh Wren

04/25	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	J. O'Shaughnessy, L. Medlock, J. Lambert
05/01	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. & J. Mirick
05/02	3	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	P. Brown
05/04	1	Hampton	Little Jack's restaurant	S. Mirick, L. Kras, B. Griffith
05/07	1	Swanzy	Dillant-Hopkins Airport	P. Brown
05/14	8	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	P. Brown
05/30	3	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	J. Scott, B. Crowley

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				
04/18	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
04/20	1	Swanzy	Dillant-Hopkins Airport	P. Newbern
04/24	2	Amherst	Ponemah Bog	C. Sheridan
04/25	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	S. Young
04/27	1	Durham	Meserve Rd. area	L. Kras
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
04/04	1	Kensington	South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
04/06	1	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. Suomala
04/06	1	Peterborough	Nubanusit Neighborhood & Farm	N. White
04/07	1	Durham	Wednesday Hill Rd.	L. Kras
04/10	10	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
05/02	29	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert, L. Medlock
05/12	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
05/13	1	Westmoreland	Hatt Road	G. Seymour
05/15	1	Effingham	Province Lake	J. Trimble
05/17	3	Hampton	church parking lot	B. Griffith, L. Kras
05/26	1	Woodstock	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest	B. Griffith
Veery				
05/01	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	P. & J. Newbern, C. Crowell
05/02	2	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
05/04	1	Surry	Dort Rd.	L. Tanino
05/05	2	Lebanon	Boston Lot Lake	T. Boze, NHA Mascoma CFT
05/20	40	Strafford	Parker Mtn./ Evans Mtn./ Strafford Town Forest	S. Young
05/23	25	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
05/30	22	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway SP	J. Lambert, L. Kras
Bicknell's Thrush				
05/01	1	Woodstock	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest	J. Klavins
05/30	5	Franconia	Cannon Mtn.	R. Suomala
05/30	4	Livermore	N. Peak & S. Peak Mt. Hancock	M. Harvey, et al.
Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush				
05/22	1	Concord	Mast Yard SF east	P. Hunt
Swainson's Thrush				
05/07		Woodstock	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest	J. Klavins
05/08	3	Atkinson	Atkinson Town Forest CA	S. Waltz
05/08	1	Newmarket	Lubberland Creek Preserve	S. Mirick, et al.
05/08	1	Webster	Pillsbury Lake	R. Woodward, K. Longfritz
05/09	1	Sullivan	East Sullivan	P. Brown
05/27	30	Pittsburg	Scott Bog and East Inlet roads	M. Harvey
05/28	17	Pittsburg	road to South Bay Bog	M. Harvey
05/28	10	Pittsburg	South Bay Bog	M. Harvey
Hermit Thrush				
03/21	1	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	L. Medlock
03/22	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	L. Medlock
04/03	1		NH coast	S. Mirick
04/04	1	Hancock	Antrim Road	E. Masterson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
04/04	1	Laconia	Prescott SF	I. MacLeod
05/01	15	Hampton	church parking lot	J. Lambert, B. Griffith, L. Kras
05/01	15	Hampton	Island Path	L. Kras, B. Griffith, J. Lambert
05/01	13	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. & J. Mirick
05/01	7	Seabrook	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
05/01	41		NH coast	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert

Wood Thrush

04/25	1	Henniker	residence	L. Jefferson
05/01	1	Nashua	Southwest Park/Yudicky Farm	C. Sheridan
05/02	1	Epping	North River Rd.	G. Tillman
05/02	1	Westmoreland	Hatt Road	G. Seymour
05/03	1	Durham	Foss Farm	B. Griffith, L. Kras
05/03	1	Marlborough	Glen Brook	B. Fogarty

American Robin

03/03	40	Greenland	Great Bay Rd. residence	J. Lambert
03/03	50	Derry	Derry WTP	M. Thompson
03/03	35	Madbury	Kingman Farm	J. Kelly
03/04	100	Antrim	downtown	P. Brown
03/05	40	Lee	Tuckaway Farms area	L. Kras
03/11	60	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
03/13	68	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
03/15	145	Surry	Joslin Road gravel pit	L. Tanino
03/16	70	Newmarket	Camp Lee Rd.	G. Tillman
03/16	40	Walpole	along the river	T. Pirro
03/21	270	Concord	Rt. 13 & Iron Works Rd.	R. Suomala
03/21	70	Lee	Flag Hill Winery	G. Tillman
03/22	103	Keene	Green Wagon Farm	L. Tanino
03/24	57	Gorham		W. O'Brien
03/25	140	Conway	Pitman's field	B. Crowley

Gray Catbird

04/06	2	Durham	Mill Pond	S. Snyder
04/15		Keene	Krif Rd.	B. Miller
04/21	1	Hampton	Rt. 101 salt marsh	J. O'Shaughnessy
04/25	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	L. Medlock, J. Lambert

Brown Thrasher

04/07	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	L. Medlock
04/11	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
04/11	1		NH coast	J. Lambert, B. Griffith, L. Kras
04/18	1	Keene	Green Wagon Farm	L. Tanino

American Pipit

05/02	1	Swanzy	Dillant-Hopkins Airport	P. Brown
05/19	2	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit	T. Vazzano, N. Beecher
05/20	1	Seabrook	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
05/21	1	Derry	Derry WTP	M. Thompson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Bohemian Waxwing				
03/03	30	Conway	North Conway	M. Oyler
03/31	13	Newbury	Blye Hill Landing Rd.	M. Rosen
Cedar Waxwing				
05/26	960	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
05/30	398		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick

Warblers through Finches



Worm-eating Warbler by Len Medlock, 5/14/10, Acadia Ave., Hampton, NH.

The phenomenon of many species arriving on May 1 is particularly notable among the warblers. However, it must be noted that May 1 was a Saturday, and this may have biased observers' decisions to go into the field. That said, if there had been a push of migrants prior to May 1, one would have thought someone would have detected one or two earlier in the week. There were almost none except among traditional early arrivals such as Yellow-rumped, Pine, Palm, and

Black-and-white Warblers, and the waterthrushes. Of the warblers, only Pine Warbler significantly preceded its previous early arrival date, in this case by six days. The only vagrant warblers were a nicely photographed **Worm-eating Warbler** in Hampton and a **Yellow-throated Warbler** in Conway. Also of note were two Orange-crowned Warblers. While this species is uncommon but regular in the fall, spring records such as the one in Seabrook are quite rare. Even rarer are winter records, and it is particularly interesting that the bird lingering from mid-January at a New London feeder appeared to represent one of the brighter western subspecies of this widespread warbler. Note the diversity of locations reporting Blue-winged Warbler; this seems to encompass a broader portion of southern New Hampshire than in most recent springs.

Most sparrows arrived on the early side, but not significantly so. Note that the Rochester Chipping Sparrow on March 1 was an individual that spent the winter at a feeder, and is thus not considered an arriving migrant. The same applies to the "**Sooty**" **Fox Sparrow** that spent the winter at a feeder in Barrington; it was last reported on March 20. Also of note, was an "Ipswich" Savannah Sparrow at Pease International Tradeport. This species is normally found on the immediate coast.

As befits a species in rapid decline, Eastern Meadowlark bucked the trend of early arrivals and showed up later than the median arrival date. Rusty Blackbirds were few and far between this spring, with the only concentrations at the Keene Airport in Swanzey. Phil Brown managed to pick a female **Yellow-headed Blackbird** out of a large mixed flock of blackbirds in Greenland on March 25.

A few crossbills graced the North Country, and some Pine Siskins popped up here and there farther south, but given the lack of finch incursions during the previous winter, such a dearth of irruptives was to be expected. Last but not least, Steve and Jane

Mirick once again had fun counting migrating goldfinches along the coast, although numbers were significantly lower than the hundreds tallied the last two springs.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Blue-winged Warbler				
05/01	2	Durham	Smith Sisters WS	P. Brown, et al.
05/02	1	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
05/03	1	Westmoreland	Hatt Road	G. Seymour
05/05		Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard, Seacoast Chapter FT
05/06	1	S. Hampton	Hilldale Ave.	S. Mirick
05/07	1	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	B. Griffith, L. Kras
05/08	6	Lee	old gravel pit, Rt. 155	G. Tillman
05/15	1	Hanover	Ruddsboro Rd.	P. Johnson
05/16	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	L. Tanino
05/20	1	Henniker	Old Concord Rd.	P. Newbern
Tennessee Warbler				
05/15	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	H. Galbraith
05/15	1	Springfield	Bog & George Hill Rds.	P. Newbern
05/21	3	Surry		P. Brown, et al.
05/22	1	Nottingham	Stevens Hill Rd.	S. & J. Mirick
Orange-crowned Warbler				
03/12	1	New London	Parkside Rd.	J. Prew
05/18	1	Seabrook	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
Nashville Warbler				
05/01	4	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
05/01	1	Durham	Smith Sisters WS	P. Brown, et al.
05/01	1	Epping	North River Rd.	G. Tillman
05/01	3	Hampton	Island Path	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert
05/01	2	Lyme	Grant Brook	T. Boze
05/01	3	Rye	Odiome Point SP	S. & J. Mirick
05/01		Woodstock	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest	J. Klavins
05/04	12	Washington	Pillsbury SP	P. Newbern
05/15	6	Effingham	Huntress Bridge Rd., Watts WS	A. Robbins
05/15	20	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	D. Govatski, P. Brown, et al.
05/16	12	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road	P. Hunt
Northern Parula				
05/01	2	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
05/01	2	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	P. & J. Newbern, C. Crowell
05/01	1	Rye	Odiome Point SP	L. Medlock, J. Lambert
05/01	1	Seabrook	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
05/09	10	Rye	Odiome Point SP	S. Mirick
05/15	3	Effingham	Huntress Bridge Rd., Watts WS	A. Robbins
05/15	5	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	D. Govatski, P. Brown, et al.
05/16	4	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road	P. Hunt
Yellow Warbler				
05/01	5	Exeter	Powder House Pond & WTP	L. Medlock, P. Brown
05/01	2	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	P. & J. Newbern, C. Crowell
05/01	2	Marlow	Ashuelot River	L. McCracken
05/01	2	N. Hampton	Little River saltmarsh	L. Medlock, P. Brown

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Yellow Warbler—continued				
05/01	2	Rindge	Contoocook River marsh	E. Richard
05/01	2	Surry	Dort Rd.	L. Tanino, C. Seifer
Chestnut-sided Warbler				
05/01	1	Rindge	Contoocook River marsh	E. Richard
05/02	1	Exeter	Rt. 85 power lines	P. Chamberlin
05/02	1	Lebanon	Boston Lot Lake	J. Norton
05/02	1	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
05/02	2	Sutton		P. Newbern
05/02	2	Swanzy	Dillant-Hopkins Airport	P. Brown
05/16	30	Strafford		L. Medlock, S. Young, et al.
Magnolia Warbler				
05/02	1	Keene	Otter Brook Recreation Area	P. Brown
05/02	1	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
05/04	1	Washington	Pillsbury SP	P. Newbern
05/05		Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard, Seacoast Chapter FT
05/16	10	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road	P. Hunt
05/17	10	Hampton	church parking lot	B. Griffith, L. Kras
05/20	12	Seabrook	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
05/22	20	Rye	Star Island	B. Griffith, L. Kras, et al.



*Cape May Warbler
by Leonard Medlock,
5/3/10, Bartlett Rd.,
Durham, NH.*

Cape May Warbler

05/03	1	Durham	Bartlett Road	L. Medlock
05/03	1	Durham	Meserve Rd. area	L. Kras, B. Griffith
05/09	2	Portsmouth	Union Street	S. Mirick
05/22	1	Rye	Star Island	B. Griffith, L. Kras
05/22	1	Strafford	Parker Mtn./ Evans Mtn./ Strafford Town Forest	S. Young
05/23	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet	L. Medlock
05/30	1	Chatham	Peaked Hill Rd./ FR 450	A. Robbins

Black-throated Blue Warbler

05/01	1	Concord	Contoocook R. Park, Island Shores Estates, Penacook	P. Hunt
05/01	1	Seabrook	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
05/01	2	Strafford	Parker Mtn./ Evans Mtn./ Strafford Town Fores	S. Young
05/01	1	Surry	Dort Rd.	L. Tanino, C. Seifer

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
05/01	1	Tuftonboro	Mount Shaw	L. Route
05/01	1		NH coast	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert
05/04	22	Washington	Pillsbury SP	P. Newbern
05/07	8	Boscawen	Woodman Forest	B. Hillman
05/16	15	Strafford	Evans Mtn.	L. Medlock, S. Young, et al.
05/28	15	Pittsburg	road to South Bay Bog	M. Harvey

Yellow-rumped Warbler

03/03	1	Newmarket	Bay Road	H. Chary
03/21	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	M. Iliff
04/04	1	Keene	Green Wagon Farm	L. Tanino
04/10	1	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
04/12	4	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick
05/02	40	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
05/02	28	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
05/02	20	Hanover	Mink Brook Area	P. Johnson
05/02	50	Stoddard	Taylor Pond Road	P. Brown
05/02	33	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
05/02	24		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
05/14	70	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	P. Brown

Black-throated Green Warbler

04/30	2	Stoddard	Daniel Upton Forest	P. Brown
05/01	6	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
05/01	3	Durham	Smith Sisters WS	P. Brown, et al.
05/01	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	P. & J. Newbern, C. Crowell
05/01	2	Lyme	Grant Brook	T. Boze

Blackburnian Warbler

05/01	1	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
05/01		Woodstock	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest	J. Klavins
05/02	1	Stoddard	Taylor Pond Road	P. Brown
05/03	1	Durham	Bartlett Road	L. Medlock
05/03	1	Durham	Meserve Rd. area	B. Griffith, L. Kras

Pine Warbler

03/21	1	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park, Contoocook	R. & M. Suomala
04/01	1	Danbury	Ragged Mtn.	P. Newbern
04/03	3	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
04/03	1	Rochester	Fowler Farm	D. Hubbard

Prairie Warbler

05/02	1	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	L. Kras
05/02	1	Exeter	Rt. 85 power lines	P. Chamberlin
05/02	2	Kingston	Green Road	S. Mirick
05/02	1		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
05/03	3	Hinsdale	sandpit	J. Russo
05/16	30	Strafford	Evans Mtn.	L. Medlock, S. Young, et al.
05/20	1	Conway	Garland Pit Road	T. Federer

Palm Warbler

04/03	1	Boscawen	Woodman Forest	B. Hillman
04/03	1	Westmoreland	Hatt Road	G. Seymour
04/06	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Palm Warbler—continued				
04/07	2	Seabrook	salt marsh, Cross Beach Rd.	L. Medlock
04/08	2	Durham	Durham Reservoir	L. Kras
04/10	10	Durham	Old Durham Reservoir	B. Griffith
04/10	16	Durham	Woodman Farm area	S. Young
04/10	11	Epping	North River Rd. bog	G. Tillman
Bay-breasted Warbler				
05/14	1	Raymond	residence	S. Santino
05/15	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
05/15	3	Hampton	various locations	L. Medlock, J. Lambert
05/15	1	Springfield	Bog & George Hill Rds.	P. Newbern
05/16	1	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road	P. Hunt
05/16	1	Strafford	Evans Mtn.	L. Medlock, S. Young, et al.
Blackpoll Warbler				
05/11	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	L. Medlock
05/14	1	Hampton	Acadia Ave.	L. Medlock, S. Mirick
05/14	1	Pittsfield	Elm St.	A. Robbins
05/14	1	Rye	Odiome Point SP	J. Knapp
05/15	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	D. Govatski, P. Brown, et al.
05/16	2	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road	P. Hunt
Cerulean Warbler				
05/22		Nottingham	Pawtuckaway SP	Z. Cornell
05/30	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway SP	J. Lambert, L. Kras
Black-and-white Warbler				
04/22	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
04/22	2	Sutton	Cascade Marsh	P. Newbern
04/23	1	Chichester	Millican Nurseries	J. Lambert
04/24	1	Strafford	Parker Mtn./ Evans Mtn./ Strafford Town Forest	S. Young
04/25	1	Rye	Odiome Point SP	L. Medlock, J. Lambert
American Redstart				
05/01	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	P. & J. Newbern, C. Crowell
05/02	2	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
05/02	2	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
05/03	3	Durham	Meserve Rd. area	B. Griffith, L. Kras
05/03	3	Marlborough	Glen Brook	B. Fogarty
05/03	2	Tilton	Vista Heights Road	I. MacLeod
Worm-eating Warbler				
05/14	1	Hampton	Acadia Ave.	L. Medlock, S. Mirick
05/15	1	Hampton	Hemlock St.	J. Lambert
Ovenbird				
05/01	2	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
05/01	2	Exeter	Newfields Rd. residence	P. Chamberlin
05/01	1	Lyme	Grant Brook	T. Boze
05/01	1	Tuftonboro	Mount Shaw	L. Route
05/01	1		NH coast	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Northern Waterthrush				
04/22	1	Lyme	Holts Trail	P. Ackerson
04/22	2	New London	Low Plain CA	P. Newbern
04/23	4	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
05/01	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. & J. Mirick
05/01	1	Webster	Pillsbury Lake	R. Woodward, K. Longfritz
Louisiana Waterthrush				
04/15	1	Concord	Contoocook R. Park, Island Shores Estates, Penacook	P. Hunt
04/15	1	Exeter	Newfields Rd. residence	P. Chamberlin
04/21	1	Hampstead	Hazel Drive	L. Medlock
04/21	1	Hillsborough	Fox SF	J. Swatt
04/21	1	Westmoreland	Hatt Road	G. Seymour
04/25	4	Sandwich	Holderness Rd.	T. Vazzano
Mourning Warbler				
05/15	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	D. Govatski, P. Brown, et al.
05/20	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	H. Galbraith
05/20	1	Strafford	Parker Mtn./ Evans Mtn./ Strafford Town Forest	S. Young
05/21	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
05/21	1	Surry		P. Brown, et al.
05/22	3	Rye	Star Island	B. Griffith, L. Kras, et al.
05/28	4	Pittsburg	road to South Bay Bog	M. Harvey
05/29	2		NH coast	S. Mirick
Common Yellowthroat				
04/26	1	Rye	Myrica Lane	J. O'Shaughnessy
05/01	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	P. & J. Newbern, C. Crowell
05/01	1	N. Hampton	Willow Ave.	S. Mirick
05/01	3	Rindge	Contoocook River marsh	E. Richard
05/01	1	Westmoreland	Hatt Road	G. Seymour
05/16	41	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
05/22	25	Rye	Star Island	B. Griffith, L. Kras, et al.
Wilson's Warbler				
05/06	1	S. Hampton	Chase Road	S. Mirick
05/09	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick, L. Medlock, J. Lambert
05/12	1	Keene	Green Wagon Farm	L. Tanino
05/12		Lebanon	Boston Lot Lake	NHA Mascoma CFT
05/12	1	Madison	Silver Lake RR trail	J. Mullen
05/13	3	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	J. Kelly
05/23	3	Pittsburg	Scott Bog	L. Medlock
Canada Warbler				
05/04	1	Washington	Pillsbury SP	P. Newbern
05/06	1	Kensington	Bartlett Road Swamp	S. Mirick
05/08	1	Harrisville	Rt. 137 beaver pond	P. Brown
05/09	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
05/10	1	Lebanon	Indian Ridge Dr.	J. Norton

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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Eastern Towhee

04/04	1	Kensington	South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
04/07	1	Durham	Jackson Landing	S. Snyder
04/07	1	Exeter	Rt. 85 power lines	P. Chamberlin
04/10	1	Nashua	Southwest Park/Yudicky Farm	C. Sheridan

American Tree Sparrow

03/27	1	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO	S. Young
03/27	1	Greenland	Meloon Rd.	S. Mirick
03/27	1	Keene	Green Wagon Farm	L. Tanino
03/30	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	P. Brown
04/01	1	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young

Chipping Sparrow

03/01	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
04/03	2	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
04/03	2	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
04/04	2	Middleton	Rt. 153	H. Grant
04/05	1	Stoddard	Taylor Pond Road	P. Brown
04/06	2	Durham	Church Hill	S. Snyder

Field Sparrow

03/23	1	Walpole	Rt. 12	W. Ward
04/06	1	Concord	Snow Pond	P. Brown
04/06	1	Newington	McIntyre Rd.	L. Medlock
04/08		Keene	Keene State College, Winchester lot	N. De Mond
04/11	1	Deerfield	Pawtuckaway SP, Reservation Rd.	A. Robbins
04/11	1	Newington	McIntyre Rd., Pease Int'l. Tradeport	L. Medlock, L. Kras, B. Griffith, J. Lambert

Vesper Sparrow
by Leonard Medlock,
4/11/10, McIntyre Rd.,
Newington, NH.

**Vesper Sparrow**

04/11	2	Newington	McIntyre Rd., Pease Int'l. Tradeport	L. Medlock, L. Kras, B. Griffith, J. Lambert
04/13	2	Concord	airport	R. Woodward, F. Schneider
04/13	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	P. Brown
04/14	1	Derry	Derry WTP	M. Thompson
05/16	1	Freedom	gravel pit near TNC West Branch Pine Barrens	A. Robbins

Savannah Sparrow

03/16	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	P. Brown
03/18	1	Newington	Great Bay NWR, Herods Cove	J. Kelly
03/21	4	Greenland	Sunset Farm	M. Iliff
03/21	1	Portsmouth	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	M. Iliff
04/03	3	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Savannah Sparrow-Ipswich subsp.				
03/09	4	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	L. McKillop
03/10	3	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	J. Kelly
03/19	4	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	L. McKillop
03/21	1	Portsmouth	Pease International Tradeport	M. Iliff
04/11	1		NH coast	L. Kras, B. Griffith, J. Lambert
Grasshopper Sparrow				
05/22	1	Portsmouth	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	D. Hubbard, G. Tillman
05/22	2	Swanzy	Dillant-Hopkins Airport	C. Seifer
05/22	1	Newington	McIntyre Rd.	S. & J. Mirick
Nelson's Sparrow				
05/27	2	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	M. Harvey
Saltmarsh Sparrow				
05/14	3	Hampton	Hampton salt marsh	S. Mirick
05/17	5	Hampton	church parking lot	B. Griffith, L. Kras
05/17	5	Hampton	Little Jack's restaurant	B. Griffith, L. Kras
05/23	20	Hampton	Little Jack's restaurant	J. Lambert
Seaside Sparrow				
05/01	1	Hampton	Little Jack's restaurant	L. Kras, J. Lambert, B. Griffith
Fox Sparrow				
03/15	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	M. Bott
03/18	1	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	S. Young
03/19	2	Epping	North River Rd.	G. Tillman
03/19	1	Swanzy	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Airport Rd.	L. Tanino
03/20	1	Ashland	Sanborn Road	I. MacLeod
03/20	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Woodward
04/02	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
04/10	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano
Fox Sparrow (Sooty)				
03/11	1	Barrington	Al Wood Drive	T. Chase
03/20	1	Barrington	Al Wood Drive	T. Chase
Lincoln's Sparrow				
05/08	1	Nelson	Apple Hill Road	P. Brown
05/11	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	L. Medlock
05/12	2	Keene	Green Wagon Farm	L. Tanino
05/12	1	Madison	Silver Lake RR trail	J. Mullen
05/15	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	D. Govatski, P. Brown, et al.
05/22	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
05/26	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
Swamp Sparrow				
04/03	2	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
04/06	2	Concord	Turtle Pond	P. Brown
04/06	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
04/07	1	Kensington	Bartlett Road swamp	S. Mirick
04/08	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	L. Medlock
05/01	14	Hampton	Little Jack's restaurant	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
White-throated Sparrow				
05/01	24	Concord	Fisk Rd.	C. Damon
05/01	175	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
05/01	61	Hampton	Church St. parking lot	S. Mirick
05/01	22	Manchester	residence	N. Beaulac
05/01	100	Nashua	Southwest Park/Yudicky Farm	C. Sheridan
05/01	80	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. & J. Mirick
05/02	44	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert, L. Medlock
White-crowned Sparrow				
04/22	1	Westmoreland	Hatt Road	G. Seymour
05/01	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
05/01	4	Surry		L. Tanino, C. Seifer
Lapland Longspur				
03/27	1	Jefferson	Riverton	S. Stoddard
Snow Bunting				
03/16	4	Stoddard	Pitcher Mtn.	L. Tanino, D. Deifik
Scarlet Tanager				
04/25	1	Stafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
05/02	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
05/02	1	Epping	North River Rd.	G. Tillman
05/03	1	Lyme	Whipple Hill	B. Allison
05/03	1	Newton	Rt. 108	S. Mirick
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
04/20	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
04/25	1	Kensington	South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
05/02	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	P. Brown
05/02	1	Manchester	residence	N. Beaulac
05/02	2	Stafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
05/02	1	Westmoreland	Hatt Road	G. Seymour
Indigo Bunting				
05/03	1	Newbury	Ramblewood Circle residence	P. Newbern
05/04	2	Concord	Silk Farm WS, McLane Center	R. Woodward
05/04	1	Gilmanton	Currier Hill Rd.	J. Stockwell
05/04	1	Keene	Stonewall Farm, West Keene	P. Brown
05/05	3	Exeter	Henderson-Swasey Town Forest	L. Medlock
05/05	1	Lebanon	Boston Lot Lake	T. Boze, NHA Mascoma CFT
Bobolink				
05/01	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. & J. Mirick
05/01	2	Surry	Dort Rd.	L. Tanino, C. Seifer
05/02	2	Stoddard	Taylor Pond Road	P. Brown
05/03	2	Conway	Pitman's field	B. Crowley
05/03	5	Marlborough	Glen Brook	B. Fogarty
Red-winged Blackbird				
03/06	200	Hinsdale	Vernon Dam, Connecticut R.	P. Brown
03/08	150	Exeter	Exeter WTP	L. Kras
03/16	200	Stratham	Stuart Farm	B. Crowley, J. Scott
03/18	302	Durham	O'Kane Road	S. Snyder

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Eastern Meadowlark				
03/19	1	Rochester	fields near Pickering Ponds	B. Griffith, L. Kras
03/26	2	Dover	Strafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
03/26	1	Newington	Great Bay NWR	J. Knapp
03/27	2	E. Kingston	Bodwell Farm	S. Mirick
05/02	1	Swanzy	Dillant-Hopkins Airport	P. Brown
05/16	1	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
Yellow-headed Blackbird				
03/25	1	Greenland	Great Bay Farm	P. Brown
Rusty Blackbird				
03/08	2	Exeter	Exeter WTP	L. Kras
03/20	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
03/21	5	Swanzy	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Airport Rd.	L. Tanino, K. Klapper
03/22	1	Gorham	AMC, 2028 ft. elevation	W. O'Brien
04/01	10	Swanzy	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Airport Rd.	L. Tanino
04/02	1	Kensington	Bartlett Road swamp	S. Mirick
04/24	1	Amherst	Ponemah Bog	C. Sheridan
04/24	2	Berlin	pipeline road swamp	R. Suomala
05/16	1	Strafford	Evans Mtn.	L. Medlock, S. Young, et al.
05/23	3	Pittsburg	East Inlet	L. Medlock
05/23	2	Pittsburg	Scott Bog	L. Medlock
05/28	6	Pittsburg	South Bay Bog	M. Harvey
Orchard Oriole				
05/01	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	L. Medlock, P. Brown
05/03	1	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick
05/04	2	Hinsdale	Hinsdale bluffs	R. Romano
05/06	1	Newton	Peaslee Crossing Road	S. Mirick
05/07	2	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	B. Griffith, L. Kras
05/08	1	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park, Contoocook	M. & R. Suomala
Baltimore Oriole				
05/01	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
05/01	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	P. & J. Newbern, C. Crowell
05/01	1	Kensington	Kimball Rd.	P. Lacourse
05/01	1	Rindge	Contoocook River marsh	E. Richard
05/01	1	Surry		L. Tanino, C. Seifer
05/01	1	Westmoreland	Hatt Road	G. Seymour
Blackbird sp.				
03/09	274	Exeter	Exeter WTP	B. & J. Goodwin, G. Tilman, J. Lambert, L. Kras, L. Medlock, R. Aaronian, et al.
03/10	200	Greenland	Portsmouth CC	J. Woolf, L. Kras, L. Medlock
03/14	1405	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	L. Tanino, A. Merritt
03/16	250	Stratham	Stuart Farm	L. Medlock
Red Crossbill				
03/02	4	Chatham		J. Scott
03/03	2	Conway	East Conway Rd.	B. Crowley
03/06	1	Albany	Mt. Chocorua, Champney Falls trail	T. Pirro
05/15	5	Effingham	Province Lake	J. Trimble
05/16	2	Bethlehem	Trudeau Road	P. Hunt

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
White-winged Crossbill				
03/10	2	Lincoln	Kancamagus Hgwy.	J. Pietrzak, L. McKillop
03/19	12	Chatham		M. Oyler
05/27	7	Pittsburg	Scott Bog and East Inlet roads	M. Harvey
05/30	3	Livermore	North Peak & South Peak Mt. Hancock	M. Harvey, et al.
Pine Siskin				
03/20	2	Plymouth	Fox Pond Park	J. Eastlake
05/07	1	Exeter	Newfields Rd. residence	P. Chamberlin
05/18	2	Hollis	residence	L. Preissner
05/20	1	Bow	Melanie Lane	Z. Cornell
05/23	2	Pittsburg	Scott Bog	L. Medlock
05/30	1	Livermore	North Peak & South Peak Mt. Hancock	M. Harvey, et al.
05/31	2	Easton	North Peak & South Peak Kinsman Mtn.	T. Pirro
American Goldfinch				
04/30	29	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
05/01	43	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. & J. Mirick
05/07	89	Seabrook	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
05/20	13	Seabrook	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
05/21	4	Seabrook	Rt. 1A	S. & J. Mirick
05/26	10	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick

Field Note—White-faced Ibis Chase

by *Len Medlock*

(taken from his post to the *NH.Birds e-mail list*)



White-faced Ibis with Glossy Ibis flock by Len Medlock, 4/25/10, Runnymede Farm, N. Hampton, NH.

April 25, 2010

After a three hour walk around Odiorne Point State Park in Rye, Jason Lambert and I were headed south on Rt. 1A when I spotted what I thought was a migrating flock of Double-crested Cormorants. However, a second more careful look yielded a flock of

34 ibises! I pulled over to the side, leaped out of the car to get Jason, and the two of us ran down Rt. 1A to follow them. (I guess I have to eat more cookies because the weight I lost caused my loose-fitting jeans to slowly slide off as I ran frantically trying to see where the birds were heading — thank goodness children weren't in sight!) Having collected our senses we got in our vehicles and took off in hot pursuit. I managed to relocate the flock at Runnymede Farm in North Hampton on Rt. 111. We both scanned, hoping for a White-faced Ibis, when to my delight, I placed my scope on one bird with a “good” face and Jason yelled with glee “red legs!” — confirming this rare species. We tried to phone as many people as we could to get the word out to the NH.Birds e-mail list.

The bird gave good long views until a loud Harley roared up the road, scattering the flock which began to head north. A hot pursuit followed as five cars piloted by frantic birders drove helter skelter, like a car chase scene from “The French Connection,” to relocate the flock. Alas, the birds kept moving, stopping briefly here and there, and seemed to be heading for Maine as they flew out over New Castle. But.....

Late in the afternoon, Jason and I were heading down Rt. 111, to retrieve his car at Runnymede Farm, and our jaws dropped to discover that the flock had returned and was feeding at the same spot—minus eight birds—but including our white-faced little friend! Again, phone calls went out as phone reception would allow and we snapped a few photos. Many folks got a chance to see the bird, which if accepted by the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee will be a third record for NH—yahoo! When we left, the birds were preening in the corner of the pond next to Runnymede Farm.

Spotlight on Royal Tern (*Thalasseus maximus*)

by Lauren A. Kras and Benjamin Griffith

Background

Royal Tern is the second largest member of the *Sterninae* (Tern subfamily) in the family *Laridae* (Gulls). Within North America, the range of Royal Tern extends from New Jersey and California south to Mexico and throughout the Caribbean. There are also disjunct populations in South America and Western Africa, which some authorities consider a separate species. Throughout their normal range, they are a common sight feeding over shallow coastal waters and resting on sandy beaches.

Breeding Status in the United States

Royal Tern breeds in dense colonies on sandy coastal beaches from April through July in the United States along the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean north to Virginia. Since 1988, small numbers of Royal Tern have nested as far north as New Jersey; however, there are no breeding records for New England.



Royal Tern by Lauren Kras, 4/10/10,
Hampton Harbor, NH.

Occurrence in New Hampshire

There have been fifteen Royal Terns documented in New Hampshire between 1936 and June, 2010 (Table 1). All records have been coastal or in offshore waters. Nine of these individuals occurred in August, three in June, and one each in May, July, and September. In 2010, a Royal Tern was found and documented with clear photographs on April 10 in Hampton Harbor. It stands as the earliest documented record of Royal Tern north of New Jersey. In fact, the earliest recorded dates in adjacent states are May 17, 1979, in Massachusetts and April 24, 1978, in Maine.

Table 1. Documented records for Royal Tern in New Hampshire 1954-2010. Data sources searched extend back to 1936, but there were no records prior to 1954.

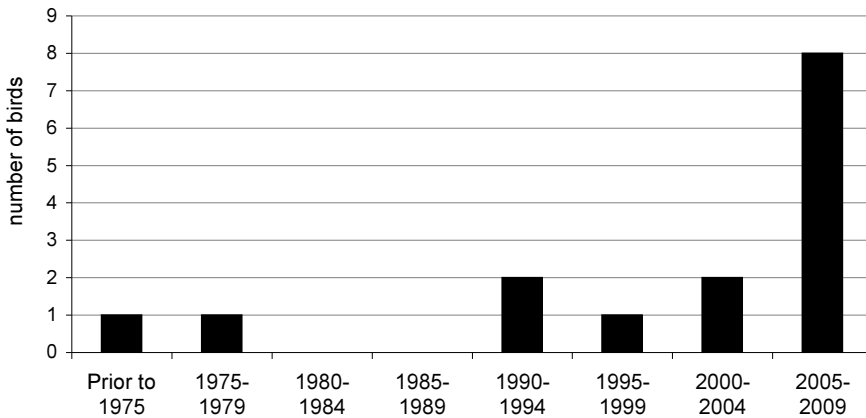
Date	#	Town	Location	Notes
Sept. 4, 1954	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	Hurricane
May 18, 1975	1	Rye	Odiorne Point	Breeding Adult
Aug. 20 & 21, 1991	1	NH coast	2 Locations	Hurricane
June 7, 1992	1	Rye	Foss Beach	
July 10 & 17, 1996	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	Hurricane
Aug. 15, 2004	2	NH coast	Together at 3 locations	Hurricane
Aug. 16, 2006	1	Rye	White & Seavey Islands	
Aug. 2, 2008	1	Rye	Concord Point	
Aug. 9, 2008	1	Offshore	Jeffreys Ledge	
Aug. 9, 2008	1	Rye	Seavey's Creek at Rte. 1A	
June 10, 2009	1	Rye	Jeness Beach	
June 26, 2009	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor flats	
Aug. 9, 2009	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor Inlet	
Apr. 10, 2010	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	Breeding Adult

Comments

While Royal Tern is far from common in New Hampshire, it has become an increasingly common vagrant to the state in recent years (Figure 1). In fact, there are only two records of Royal Tern prior to 1990 and there have been nine records since 2005. Prior to 2005, there are seven records, five of which are associated with hurricanes, including the state's first record from September 4, 1954. Royal Tern is susceptible to being carried north by hurricanes due to its coastal nature; however, despite there being nine records since 2005, there have been no major hurricanes in New England.

In Massachusetts and Maine, Royal Tern occurs annually and shows a somewhat different temporal, but similar geographical and meteorological pattern. Most Massachusetts and Maine records occur between late June and early August with a peak in occurrence in June and July whereas only one of New Hampshire's records has been in July. Similar to New Hampshire, there are numerous hurricane related sightings in Massachusetts. In fact, 125 birds have been recorded after a single storm, and there are numerous other hurricane related sightings. Most of Massachusetts' records are

Figure 1. Royal Tern records by year in New Hampshire, 1954-2009. Data sources searched extend back to 1936, but there were no records prior to 1954.



from Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard or Nantucket. In the rest of the coastal areas they are much less common. Massachusetts has experienced an increase in Royal Tern sightings over time similar to that in New Hampshire. One factor behind this increase may be the increase in nesting colonies farther south on the Atlantic Coast. Populations in Florida and Maryland are reported to be increasing, and since Royal Tern was first reported nesting in New Jersey in 1988, there have been as many as 50 pairs at a single NJ colony in recent years.

Although there is very little information about the abundance of Royal Tern prior to the twentieth century, it is likely that these apparent increases represent a return to historical numbers. Royal Tern is known to have been impacted by DDT until it was banned in 1972, and in the early twentieth century, it was subject to plume and egg hunting. Both of these effects have been major factors in the declines of other waterbirds. The increase in Royal Tern populations corresponds with the regional increase of sightings. The closely related Caspian Tern has also been affected by the same factors and has experienced similar increases throughout the region to the point where it is now a regular migrant along the New Hampshire coast in the fall (For more information, see "Spotlight on Caspian Tern" in the Fall 2008 issue (Vol. 27, #3) of *New Hampshire Bird Records*).

Data Sources

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

New Hampshire Bird Records and archives, circa 1963 through November 30, 2009.

Audubon Society of New Hampshire, Concord, NH.

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

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

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

The authors also checked a database of sightings from the NH coast that was compiled from:

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

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

Data from Maine were provided by Peter Vickery.

References

Robbins, C. 1997. *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia.* University of Pittsburg Press, Pittsburg, PA.

Buckley, P. and F. Buckley. 2002. Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/700doi:10.2173/bna.700>

Veit, R. and W. Petersen. 1993. *Birds of Massachusetts.* Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, MA.

Lauren Kras is a plant biologist who has been birding in the state non-stop ever since she arrived in 2008. She currently serves as the Seacoast Chapter President and can often be seen tripping over her own feet while simultaneously looking for plants and birds along the coast and at wastewater treatment facilities.

Ben Griffith is a Master's Student in natural resources at the University of Vermont. However, he spends most of his time in New Hampshire looking for birds due to two main factors: (1) he has been birding in New Hampshire for as long as he can remember and doesn't know how to do otherwise, and (2) he is coerced into doing so by his co-author.

NH Audubon's Birdathon Highlights

by Phil Brown

How many species of birds pass through New Hampshire each spring? We can't say for sure, but in a quick snapshot of the season – May 22, 2010 – observers found 196 species in places as far-flung as East Inlet in Pittsburg to the Hinsdale Setbacks and Hampton Harbor!

The New Hampshire Audubon Birdathon was a success in that over 50 participants on 18 teams around the state took part in this celebration of birds and birding through many different means of locomotion – by vehicle, boat, bike, and foot. Further, this fully volunteer event raised almost \$8,000 to support New Hampshire Audubon, its regional chapters, and wildlife sanctuaries.

But that's just the numbers. To add some context to this event, teams scoured all of Pittsburg by both car and foot in search of the elusive Spruce Grouse – which proved too elusive on this particular date; beat the bushes on Star Island to reveal a bathing Mourning Warbler among several other notable warbler species; and peddled across chapter regions and counties in search of all the possible species along the routes. The “human-powered” category has grown steadily more popular and in 2010 a total of seven teams chose this fossil-fuel-free method of getting around, while the traditional statewide big day dropped off completely from this year's event.

An added twist to this year's theme included a special prize for finding the most “conservation species” – some of New Hampshire's rare, endangered, threatened, or declining avifauna. In total, 33 of the 39 such species were found by a collection of the state's finest observers on the Big Day. Among them were Sora, Black-backed Woodpecker, Purple Martin, Nelson's Sparrow, Piping Plover, Cliff Swallow, Pied-billed Grebe, and Bicknell's Thrush. Some species, however, such as the American Three-toed Woodpecker and Golden-winged Warbler, would again go undetected. One cannot say conclusively if these species are even present in the state anymore! Some of the day's other top finds included Red-throated Loon, Least Bittern, Ring-necked Duck, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Cape May, Cerulean, and Mourning Warblers, Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, and White-winged and Red Crossbills.

A potluck dinner celebration ensued the following evening, after all participants took some well-deserved rest. Great donated prizes were awarded, including pelagic trip tickets, autographed Stokes field guides and other books, nest boxes, hats, and t-shirts. Steve and Jane Mirick (“Pish & Chips”) took the honors for highest statewide total (147) despite staying mainly within Rockingham County, and the Seacoast-based “Bird Brains” (Dan Hubbard, Mark Hatfield, and Greg Tillman) won the “Seekers” category by finding 16 conservation species. Away from the Seacoast, Lance Tanino and Cliff Seifer found 124 species within the NH Audubon Monadnock Chapter area, and Rich Frechette, “Peddling Peregrine”, had an impressive 111 in the same area, by bike, to win the “human-powered” category. Don and Lillian Stokes enjoyed a relaxed day of “Big Sit” birding, counting 65 species throughout the day from their back deck, while Francie Von Mertens and company found 37 species of birds at Willard Pond Wildlife Sanctuary, leaving plenty of room for competition next year in the sanctuary-wide category!

But, the Birdathon isn't all about seeing the most birds. You don't have to be an expert to play. It's the memories of the day that stand out most and also knowing that you play a role in helping bird conservation. The celebration of birds, birding, and fellow birders, along with spring migration, peaks in late May. That's when we hope to see you for the next New Hampshire Audubon Birdathon on May 21, 2011. For more information or to register your team for the 2011 Birdathon, please contact Phil Brown at pbrown@nhaudubon.org or at (603) 224-9909 x334.

Phil Brown is Director of Land Management for NH Audubon and coordinates NH Audubon's annual Birdathon, along with a team of volunteers. Since moving to NH in 2004, he has participated in the Birdathon to raise stewardship funding for special places and raise awareness of bird diversity across the state.

Gulls, Garbage, and Drinking Water – Understanding the Connection

by Dan Clark

On March 31, 2010, Sheridan Brown saw a Ring-billed Gull with an orange wing-tag in a flooded field off Birch Street in Concord, NH. His inquiry and report of the gull led to the following article. Ed.

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Water Supply Protection (Division) is charged with the long-term management and protection of Boston's drinking water supply. Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs are located in central Massachusetts and serve as the water supply for over 2 million people in the greater Boston area.

A variety of birds utilize the reservoirs for breeding, migratory stops, roosting, and feeding. Some species (i.e., gulls, ducks and geese) can concentrate in large numbers for an extended period of time. Ideally, the Division would like to see the number of gulls roosting on the reservoir substantially reduced or eliminated. In order to achieve a more comprehensive bird control program, the Division began an intensive research program in January 2008 to address the following questions:

1. What and where are the seasonal food resources for each gull species?
2. What are the seasonal movement patterns between feeding and roosting sites, between reservoirs, and between reservoirs and "alternate roosts"?
3. What are the population dynamics of gulls in Massachusetts?
 - a. Where do they nest?
 - b. Sources of mortality
 - c. Lifespan

As part of the study, gulls were captured and marked using a rocket net. Once captured, all birds are marked with a combination of bands and tags. On their legs, birds receive both a silver federal band and a uniquely color-coded metal band. In addition, most birds receive uniquely coded colored wing-tags. A small number of gulls were not fitted with wing-tags and instead were given a satellite transmitter that was harnessed onto their backs. These solar powered transmitters provide up to 6 locations per day from anywhere in the world.

To date, the Division has captured close to 900 gulls (mostly ring-billed), and over 2500 sightings of wing-tagged gulls have been reported. Most of these sightings were documented by the general public and then reported to the Division. While a majority of the sightings



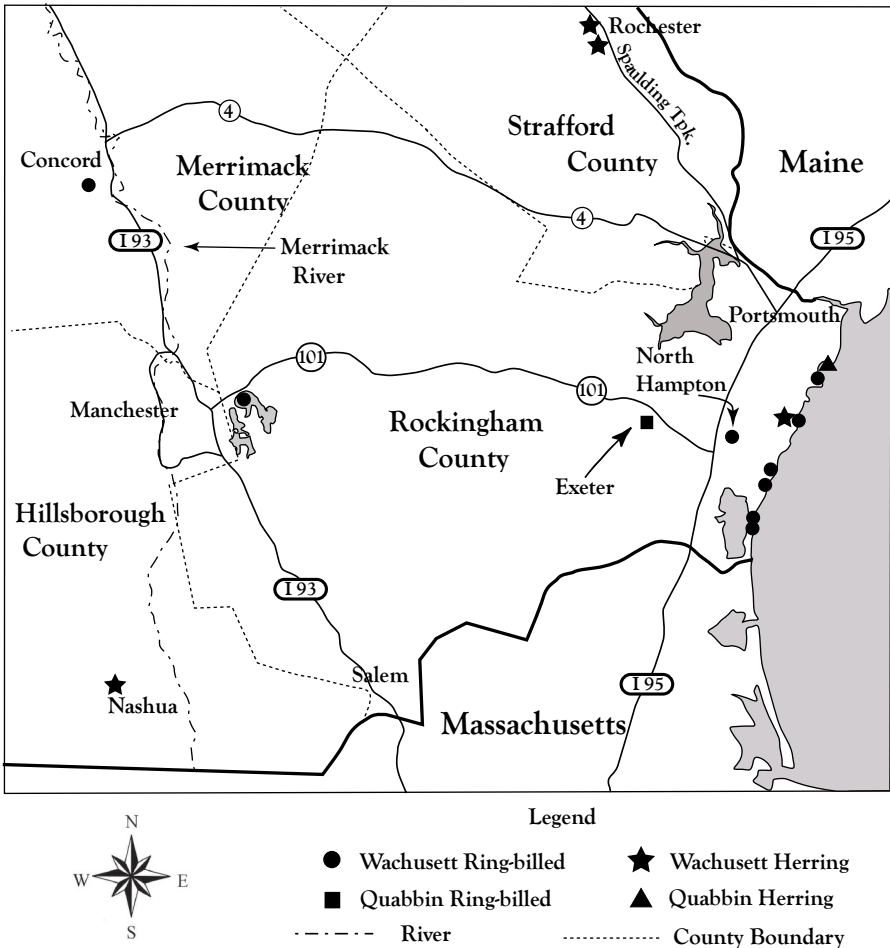
Ring-billed Gull with orange wing-tag by Cliff Otto on 11/3/09 at Lake Massabesic in Auburn, NH.

have been from Massachusetts, study birds have ventured far and wide and been seen from Georgia to Labrador, Canada, including several sightings in New Hampshire.

A Ring-billed Gull seen in Concord, New Hampshire on March 31, 2010 was one of the gulls in our study. This bird (A451) was captured and banded on March 16, 2010 at the Whitney Field Mall in Leominster, MA. Following capture, the bird was seen a couple of times in flooded fields near the mall and at a wastewater treatment plant in Leominster before being seen in New Hampshire. Other wing-tagged gulls have been in a variety of locations in New Hampshire (see Figure 1).

The Division has begun to learn a tremendous amount about gulls. We have been able to identify key feeding areas, document the gulls' use of our water supply reservoirs and other water bodies, and track their movements seasonally. Preliminary data suggest that Ring-billed Gulls rely almost exclusively on humans for food (handouts,

Figure 1. Location of gulls re-sighted in New Hampshire that were originally marked in central Massachusetts by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Water Supply Protection.



feeding). Field work will continue throughout the winter and again next fall. The public's help in reporting sightings is always welcomed. If you see a wing-tagged gull, please contact: dan.clark@state.ma.us or 508-792-7423 ext. 215 with the date and time of the sighting, the color of the wing-tag, and if possible, the alpha-numeric combination.

Dan Clark is the Director of Natural Resources for the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Water Supply Protection. As director, Dan oversees a variety of wildlife programs designed to ensure the long-term protection of Boston's drinking water supply. When he's not scouting parking lots for marked gulls, Dan enjoys fishing, canoeing, and spending time with his family.

Backyard Birder

Dealing with an Injured Bird

by Brenda Sens

Coming upon an injured bird is often a cause of anxiety; we want to help but worry about causing more harm and don't know quite how to proceed. There are two things to keep in mind immediately:

1. Baby birds with feathers that are on the ground during the nesting season are not injured. They are old enough to leave the nest but not yet able to fly far. If they are in a safe area, it is best to leave them alone. If predators are apt to be around, place the bird on the branch of the tree or shrub closest to where it was found. If necessary, put the bird in a box and place the box in a shrub with the box opening to the side so the bird can get out easily. The parents will find it and take care of it until it is old enough to be on its own.
2. Only licensed rehabilitators are legally allowed to take in a wild creature and care for it. It is best to try to reach a licensed rehabilitator as soon as possible. The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department maintains a list of licensed rehabilitators that is available on their website at www.wildnh.com/Wildlife/wildlife_rehabbers.htm. New Hampshire Audubon (224-9909) also has this list and can help you find the one closest to you. Three names and numbers to keep on hand are Cathie Gregg of the Elaine Connors Center for Wildlife in Madison, 603-367-9453, Maria Colby of Wings of Dawn Sanctuary in Henniker, 603-428-3723, and the Center for Wildlife in Cape Neddick, Maine, 207-361-1400.

If you are unsure whether the bird needs help, a general rule of thumb is that, if you can approach a bird closely enough to pick it up, something is wrong. A healthy wild bird will not usually let you come that close. If a large bird appears injured but is still able to fly, run, or swim away from you, there is often little you can do until it weakens enough to approach.



This Golden Eagle was sitting on the ground when it was first seen on the evening of October 14, 2009 in a Moultonborough yard. Unfortunately it did not survive the night and was found dead the next morning. It has been sent for testing but the cause of death is not yet known. Photos by Jeanne Lacey.



Small birds that are injured should be placed in a towel-lined cardboard box with a cover. Pick the bird up by holding it gently around the shoulders so that the wings are against the body and can't flap. If this makes you nervous, place a towel over the bird and then pick it up. The darkness under the towel or in the box should immediately calm the bird down.

Dealing with a raptor is another matter, as one has to be extremely mindful of their beaks and talons. These birds should be covered with a towel and their feet restrained. It is a good idea to use leather gloves although you must still use care to avoid being hurt. A heavy blanket can also be helpful. The best course of action may well be to call the rehabilitator and ask for advice; they may want to come and retrieve the bird themselves.

Birds with long beaks, such as herons or cormorants, are also dangerous and it is essential that you protect your eyes when approaching them. They can strike with surprising speed and commonly target the eyes. If possible, place a pillowcase over their heads and hold their beaks as you pick them up. Here again, getting advice from an experienced rehabilitator is probably the best course of action if possible.

Before providing any food, call a rehabilitator first for advice. You can do more harm by feeding it the wrong thing (especially young birds) than by not feeding. As the bird is hurt and in shock, do not be surprised if it won't eat. The important thing is to get it to help as soon as possible.

Wash your hands thoroughly immediately after handling a bird. Birds can carry diseases that can be transmitted to people, although the chances for this are slim.

We hope that you will never be faced with coping with an injured bird, but you never know when you will come upon the unexpected as this Golden Eagle case illustrates.

Brenda Sens is a Volunteer Naturalist at New Hampshire Audubon. She enjoys watching birds, insects, and other wildlife at her home in Gilmanton.

Where to Bird

Birding Newmarket's Newest Wildlife Sanctuaries – “Smith Sisters” and “Kwaks”

by Phil Brown

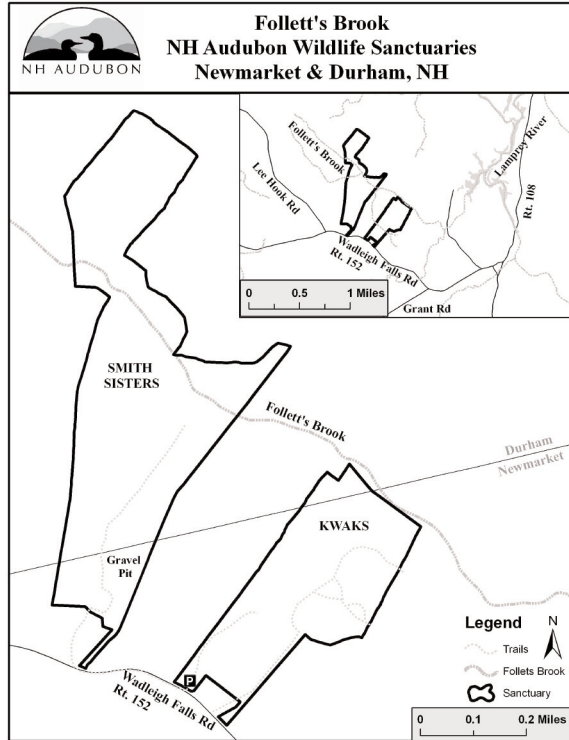
If you are a reader of *New Hampshire Bird Records* or an eBird follower, it should come as no surprise that Newmarket is one of New Hampshire's hotspots, particularly during migration and winter seasons. In 2008, the incredible find of a pair of nesting Mississippi Kites, New Hampshire's undisputed bird of the year, came from a suburban front yard along busy Route 152 in Newmar-

ket. Despite its rarity in the state (the first confirmed record of the species **and** a breeding record!), the Mississippi Kite is not even the most unusual species (that honor goes to Little Egret) to be discovered in this small town located on Great Bay's western shoreline! This sighting, however, opened up the eyes of many birders to the huge range of possibilities in the birding world that might be going unnoticed. Despite the documented history of rare bird occurrences and number of birders covering this town, the birding potential of Newmarket has yet to be fully realized.

In the same year that the Mississippi Kite nest was first discovered, New Hampshire Audubon acquired a 60+ acre parcel of land not one mile west of the kite nest. The acquisition was the first of two in this area facilitated through a sale to the Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership (GBRPP), the conservation partnership which is responsible for conserving so many of Newmarket's green spaces; New Hampshire Audubon is a founding partner. Currently, the two new sanctuaries anchor ongoing protection efforts of the Follett's Brook watershed.

“Kwaks Wildlife Sanctuary”

The first of these conserved lands, affectionately called the “Kwaks Wildlife Sanctuary” because of the seller and neighbor's name, was the first significant acquisition



within the Follett's Brook wetland system. Follett's Brook is an ecologically important tributary of the Lamprey River where many rare species of wildlife and plants thrive. An ecological inventory of the Follett's Brook watershed conducted during the 2004 breeding season by NH Audubon revealed the presence of American Black Duck, Canada Warbler, Wood Thrush, American Woodcock, Eastern Meadowlark, Bobolink, Blue-winged Warbler, and Red-shouldered Hawk, as well as the more expected species. The Kwaks Sanctuary has several habitat types that may be of importance to these species. A 5-acre golf driving range that was converted to hayfield has attracted Bobolink during migration. The site, however, may be too small to sustain a potential breeding population of any true grassland bird species.

Parking for both sanctuaries is located at the Kwaks Sanctuary on Route 152, 1.5 miles west of the Rt. 152 and Rt. 108 junction in downtown Newmarket. The parking lot is identified by a sign displaying the NH Audubon logo and name just past the mailbox for #332 Route 152 (coming from downtown). Birders often need not venture beyond the parking lot to begin noticing avian activity. A Northern Mockingbird that nests in planted maples around the parking lot most often greets the visiting birder during warmer seasons. During January of 2009, Bohemian Waxwings (rare and irruptive) fed alongside Cedar Waxwings in roadside crabapples adjacent to the parking lot. Red-tailed Hawks and the occasional accipiter glide over the field in search of food, while Wild Turkeys roam the grasslands in ever-growing numbers; a flock of 14 poultts were seen in July of 2010. In fall, this can be a great location to view the famous "river of blackbirds," one of New Hampshire's greatest bird spectacles, when grackles (the majority) fly from feeding areas to a large evening roost in Portsmouth. An estimated 50,000 Common Grackles, Red-winged Blackbirds, and other species were observed flying overhead in October of 2009. Also, large numbers of American Robins can be seen flying towards a Newmarket roost on autumn and winter evenings.

To bird the property, follow a mowed trail that leads from the parking lot along the west side of the field. Woodland edge and fruiting shrubs bordering the field attract a wide diversity of species during the breeding season and in migration. Some local breeders that can be observed here include Yellow-throated Vireo, Eastern Bluebird, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Scarlet Tanager. At the bottom of the field is a small wetland lying perpendicular to the access path that often hosts Red-winged Blackbirds in breeding season. The mowed path crosses the wetland and traverses a second smaller, weedy field that is remaining unmanaged to provide a "soft edge" for wildlife, a gradual transition between field and forest. Currently this area is fairly unproductive for birding, but it has potential to host species that inhabit early successional forest. Typical woodland warblers and other songbirds have been noted in the "back 40" acres of oak/hickory/pine forest which is accessed from the mowed field path at the woodland edge past the second field. This trail, which is planned to be a marked trail, eventually leads to an interesting impounded part of Follett's Brook. This wetland contains many dead snags and some cattail marsh where wetland-dependent bird species like Green and Great Blue Heron should be found. Quite likely, Red-shouldered and Broad-winged Hawk frequent this area for feeding during the breeding season. Barred Owls call from the wetlands during the breeding season and Great-horned Owls have been heard calling from the woodland edge around the fields.

“Smith Sisters Wildlife Sanctuary”

The “Smith Sisters Wildlife Sanctuary” lies about two-hundred yards west of the Kwaks Sanctuary along Route 152 on the same northern side of the road; however, parking is currently limited to the parking area at the Kwaks Sanctuary. As with the Kwaks parcel, the Smith Sisters Sanctuary takes its current name from the sellers of the property. In this case, the sellers were five sisters that were descended from the Smith family. Birders must currently access the property from a long driveway that leads past an old gray farmhouse (mailbox #358 on Rt. 152) with a brown barn and mowed field on the right. After the buildings and field, visitors may pass through the sanctuary gate entrance and along a dirt road that leads through a 4-acre gravel pit that is currently being restored to a more natural condition. This property contains a mosaic of habitats of regional importance to birds, including early successional forest, grasslands, and shrub wetlands, all of which are becoming increasingly scarce.

Early successional forest at the Smith Sisters Sanctuary includes an abandoned and soon-to-be-restored gravel pit and adjacent pitch pine-dominated stand (both of which may prove to be good places to find Whip-poor-will and Common Nighthawk), and also areas of shrubland surrounding Follett’s Brook. In the sandy edges of the old gravel pit during breeding season, look for the expected Prairie Warbler and Field Sparrow, as well as the rapidly declining Eastern Towhee and Brown Thrasher (uncommon). Keep an eye out for Bank Swallow and Belted Kingfisher utilizing cavities as nesting sites on the upper portions of the old gravel pit. In migration, the gravel pit can be good for sparrows and warblers. An old woods road leaves the gravel pit to the northwest and passes through a mature white and red pine stand which often has Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet (mainly winter), Pine Warbler (breeding season), and Pileated Woodpecker. Red-bellied Woodpecker has become an expected bird species in the general area and can be found fairly reliably between the gravel pit and Rt. 152. Another species that has seen dramatic range expansion in recent years is the Common Raven, which is often heard or seen flying over this part of the sanctuary. It’s likely that a pair now nests in the general vicinity, but the nest has yet to be found!

The woods road through pine-dominated forest soon gives way to the property’s largest open field of eight acres that supports Bobolink during the breeding season. The breeding highlight here, however, is Blue-winged Warbler, which frequents the field edges and small clusters of shrub “islands” in the middle of this field. Indigo Buntings are common around the field edges, particularly in the large stand of invasive black locust that is slated for removal. The flowering apple trees in their understory draw in warblers, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker during spring migration, and sparrows have been observed in large numbers in the weedy vegetation during fall migration. Farther into the field, a large wet portion of the field appears to be good habitat for migrant Wilson’s Snipe, but this is yet to be affirmed by a documented sighting.

The main path through the field soon leads to another stretch of forest, which is dominated by relatively young hardwoods and is somewhat unremarkable from a birding perspective. The trail descends gradually over a short distance into another large expanse of open fields. This historic hayfield borders the Follett’s Brook wetland

system and is often wet. Stands of alders and wetland herbaceous vegetation stretch from the main tributary into the field. In the breeding season, listen for Alder Flycatcher, and Canada (uncommon), Black-and-white, and Blue-winged Warblers in addition to several other species of songbirds. Hermit Thrush, Veery, and Wood Thrush can all be heard in the surrounding forests, particularly in more inaccessible woodlands across Follett's Brook. Walking to the northeast, you are able to walk across a very narrow section of Follett's Brook on a grated bridge. From here, scan the early successional forest to the east (mainly located on private property) for many of the aforementioned species. One of several prominent snags located along the property boundary is typically a great place to observe Eastern Kingbird, Black-and-white Warbler, and much more. Ruffed Grouse may be found with some persistence around the alder stands and dense shrublands, and American Woodcock undoubtedly breed here.

Follett's Brook is impounded in several places upstream (west) of the bridge, and the vegetation forms a dense area of protection from human disturbance, likely creating nesting locations for American Black Duck and other wetland-dependent species. In addition to the known rare species of plants and reptiles found in this area, these relatively large and undisturbed wetlands seem to be an attractive place for rails and bittern; however, it is doubtful that any birder has spent enough time here to confirm this possibility. Likewise, there is undiscovered avian potential in the forested upland areas to the north of Follett's Brook. Access here is limited to a wetland crossing of Follett's Brook or from adjacent conservation land on the north side of Follett's Brook.

NH Audubon's two newest wildlife sanctuaries are hidden gems that demonstrate some of the bird diversity in Newmarket. An official breeding bird survey is being planned for these properties in an effort to develop a long-term stewardship plan that will better guide future management decisions for both. To volunteer, or for more information, please contact Phil Brown (Director of Land Management) at pbrown@nhaudubon.org or at (603) 224-9909x334. Thanks to the work of conservation partners like NH Audubon and the Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership, we may all have the chance to discover the avian potential of these places.

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Zankel, M. 2004. *Ecological Inventory of the Cocheco River Watershed (Dover) and the Follett's Brook Watershed (Durham, Newmarket, and Lee)*. The Nature Conservancy, Audubon Society of New Hampshire, New Hampshire Natural Heritage Bureau.

Phil Brown is completing a Master's Degree from Antioch University New England in Conservation Biology, where his focus is spring-migrating waterfowl of the Middle Connecticut River Important Bird Area in NH and VT. A resident of the Monadnock Region, he enjoys leading field trips in search of birds and exploring natural areas around the state. Phil works as Director of Land Management for NH Audubon.

Photo Gallery

Mew Gull in Exeter

by Steve Mirick

One of the highlights of the 2010 spring season was this immature Mew Gull which appeared for several weeks in March. The bird was seen most often along the Squamscott River in downtown Exeter or nearby at the Exeter wastewater treatment plant. Prior to this bird, there had been only one record of a Mew Gull (Rochester, April 2005) for which the identification was accepted by the NH Rare Birds Committee; but it was a “single-observer” record so was considered “hypothetical” because it did not meet the criteria for a first state record. The many observers and photographs of the Spring 2010 bird helped to solidify this as the first well-documented record for the state of New Hampshire.



Mew Gull 4/3/10 by
Steve Mirick.

Mew Gull behind Ring-
billed Gull, 4/3/10 by
Steve Mirick.



Most of the Mew Gull records in the eastern United States are of two subspecies or races. One race is from the northwestern United States and Canada and the other is from Europe. Mew Gulls are very similar to Ring-billed Gulls, but are slightly smaller and have a distinctly thinner bill. Immature Ring-billed Gulls also have a bright pinkish base to the bill with a sharply clean-cut black tip, while the bill of the Mew Gull has more of a grayish-green coloration at the base with a less contrasting black tip. Also note the clean, unmarked, white, upper and lower tail coverts and base to the tail feathers in the flight photographs. This area is normally streaked in young Ring-billed Gulls. This also readily identifies this bird as belonging to the European subspecies of Mew Gull (*Larus canus canus*), often referred to as “Common Gull.”

All photos are of the 2010 Mew Gull taken in Exeter, NH.

Mew Gull (right) with two
Ring-billed Gulls,
3/19/10 by Steve Mirick.



Mew Gull in flight, 3/9/10 by Leonard Medlock.



Pondicherry Celebrates Ten Years of International Migratory Bird Day

by David Govatski

The Friends of Pondicherry and New Hampshire Audubon celebrated the 10th annual International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) on Saturday, May 15, 2010 at the Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge in Jefferson and Whitefield, NH. Since 2009, this walk has been co-billed as the Tudor Richards Memorial Field Trip. Forty-one participants including eight leaders found 97 species of birds.

IMBD celebrates migrating birds and is held throughout the Western Hemisphere. In Canada and the United States, it is held in April or May depending on location and peak arrival times. This year's theme was the "Power of Conservation Partnerships." Conservation partnerships are what make the Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge so successful. The partners include NH Audubon, the US Fish and Wildlife Service through the Silvio Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, NH Fish and Game Department, NH Trails Bureau, Friends of Pondicherry and local Conservation Commissions.

Pondicherry IMBDs have been held as early as May 8 when leaves are not on trees and the birds are easier to spot. On early dates, the lack of insects for the birds to eat has limited the number of species to as few as 70. The middle of May provides a better chance to find late arriving species such as Blackpoll and Bay-breasted Warblers and allows participants the full Pondicherry bug experience. The record number of species was 103 in 2009. Unusual bird species seen include Black Tern (2009), Northern Wheatear (2004), Great Cormorant (2006) and Bonaparte's Gull (2010). Over the course of 10 years, 126 species have been observed during this field trip.

The Pondicherry IMBD usually begins at Airport Marsh in Whitefield where a variety of wetland, grassland and scrub-shrub species including Great Blue Heron, Hooded Merganser, Wood Duck, Bobolink, Savannah Sparrow, Brown Thrasher and Gray Catbird can be found. The group then walks the rail trail to Cherry Pond and the Tudor Richards Viewing Platform where Common Loon and Osprey are often seen. Along the way, a wide variety of warblers including Chestnut-sided and Black-throated Blue Warblers, Ovenbird and Northern Waterthrush are usually found. A side trip to "Moorhen Marsh" usually produces more wetland species. Some of the participants then walk the narrow but dry trail to Little Cherry Pond hoping to find Lincoln's Sparrow and Black-backed Woodpecker. By mid-afternoon, the group returns to Airport Marsh and Hazen's Pond to look for key species missed during the day.

The annual IMBD serves a variety of useful social functions. It allows friends and acquaintances to get together after a long winter, for new birders to learn from more experienced birders, and for participants to get free IMBD posters, which are avidly collected by many of the participants. The staff of the Silvio Conte NFWR work closely with volunteers in organizing this event and provide the popular posters.

The primary value of IMBD events is the opportunity to focus on bird conservation while celebrating the arrival of migratory birds. Each year a new theme is chosen to discuss an aspect of bird conservation. Past themes include "Taste of the Tropics –

Shade Grown Coffee and Birds” (2001), “Collision – Clearing the Way for Birds” (2005), and “The Boreal Forest, Bird Nursery of the North” (2006).

International Migratory Bird Day is managed by Environment for the Americas based in Boulder, CO: www.birdday.org. Their focus is making bird education and conservation materials available to the public in the Western Hemisphere.

David Govatski is an avid birder and naturalist and lives with his wife Kathi in Jefferson, NH. He is a retired US Forest Service forester and fire management officer and spends much of his free time in the White Mountains and Northeast Kingdom of VT.

Birding and the Law

by Eric Masterson

Like the majority of active birders, most of my birding adventures occur on land I don't own. Often local, state, or federal governments own the land. This includes wildlife refuges, state parks, and land owned by a town and/or conservation commission. Non-profits, including New Hampshire Audubon, The Nature Conservancy, the Society for the Protection of NH Forests, and other regional land trusts also own or manage land that is important for birds. What if a bird decides to put down on privately owned land, in a densely populated area, or in a sensitive location? Examples include the Upland Sandpiper breeding site at Pease International Tradeport, Hampton Marsh, and Lake Wantastiquet, all adjacent to current or former nuclear facilities.

I have been birding for 32 years and in that time have both personal and anecdotal experience with birders who found themselves on the wrong side of the law (I once spent time in a Greek jail for birding some spectacular impoundments adjacent to a chemical plant). Although the situations have always been resolved to the best of my knowledge, it is prudent to minimize the chance that you will find yourself in such a predicament. A few key points are worth noting.

The first rule when accessing someone else's land is to use common sense. This is especially important today when birders routinely cross state lines, across which property rights can change dramatically. Regardless of your rights, it is always a good idea to ask for permission, and a polite request is often met with a positive response.

The second rule concerns permission. Under NH Common Law, the public has the right to access land that is not posted. We can thank the early colonists for their liberal philosophy on property rights, a philosophy that, supported by case law, persists to this day. In the western US, the concept of a public right to access private land is anathema.

In addition, on July 1, 1973, RSA 79-A was passed by the New Hampshire legislature and signed into law. More commonly known as Current Use, it provides lower taxes to landowners who keep their land open. It also provides for additional tax savings if the landowner agrees to keep the land open for certain activities, including nature observation.

What does all this mean? If private property is not posted, public access for the purposes of birding is permitted in NH. Further, if a landowner files for the additional

reduction in taxes, he or she may not post the land against public access for certain uses, birding included. It does not, however, confer a right to completely unrestricted access onto a person's land. Even with the maximum current use benefits, there are still restrictions governing motorized access and interference with livestock, crops, etc. As previously mentioned, ask for permission first.

Another major issue concerning birding and the law is somewhat murkier. During the winter of 2009-10, a Massachusetts birder was reported to police for looking at private property through binoculars; in essence, he was mistaken for a Peeping Tom. It is practically impossible to avoid including private property in the line of sight when bird watching in an urban environment.

Similarly, birders have been questioned, and even arrested, especially since 9-11-2001, for acting "suspiciously" near sites of national security, such as airports, nuclear facilities, bridges, etc. Many of these sites are amongst the best locations for birding. Whatever the merits of nuclear power, the warm water outflows of nuclear facilities have created several top class birding sanctuaries, both in the US and abroad (don't visit England without stopping at Dungeness Wildlife Reserve). Similarly, airports are the only places where several rare species of grassland birds still breed in NH.

There are several statutes under which a birder could conceivably be questioned regarding the above. New Hampshire statutes RSA 644:6 and RSA 644:9 implement a criminal threshold for loitering and violation of privacy respectively. It is self evident that these statutes demand a fair and balanced interpretation of events on the ground in order to be implemented as intended by the legislature.

Obviously, a good, common-sense code of behavior on the part of the birder, coupled with a reasonable application of the relevant statutes by law enforcement is necessary so that we can continue to enjoy birding throughout the state.

Eric Masterson has been birding for 33 years, mostly in Europe and North America. He is a member of the NH Rare Birds Committee and the New Hampshire Bird Records Editorial Team, and a birding columnist. He is the land protection specialist for the Harris Center for Conservation Education in Hancock.

Answer to the Photo Quiz

by David B. Donsker

Our quiz bird this issue features a small bird perched on a low twig above the water. Its primary characteristics are a prominent white eyebrow or supercilium, streaked underparts, longish, pointed bill, pale legs and plain upperparts and wings.

Quite surprisingly, perhaps, is that there are relatively few groups of perching birds in New Hampshire that share this combination of features. Some of our streak-breasted sparrows have fairly prominent eyebrows (although never as strong as in this bird), but all of these have streaked backs and short, conical bills. Black-and-white Warbler and some other female or young wood warblers in the genus *Dendroica* are

streaked below and have a pale eyebrow, but in each case their backs are also streaked, and they have two prominent wingbars.

Perhaps two other species bear serious consideration. Ovenbird has the same general shape and configuration as this bird. It is also streaked below and has a plain back and wings, but it lacks a white supercilium. Instead it has a prominent eye ring and black lateral crown stripes. American Pipit shares the streaky underparts, pale supercilium and pointed bill of this bird, but the feathers in the wings of the pipit have pale edging and the wings have faint wing bars. It has darkish legs and is proportionally longer tailed. Most importantly, it is a bird of open fields, shores and meadows, not branch-strewn wetlands.

In fact, the only birds that share the plumage characteristics of our featured bird are our two species of waterthrush: Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) and Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*). We are lucky to have both of these specialized wood warblers nesting in our state. On their breeding grounds, they are usually separable by voice and, to some degree, by habitat. The rapid chirping song of Northern Waterthrush falls in pitch at the end, finishing with a diagnostic *chew, chew, chew*. Louisiana Waterthrush has a more complex, musical song which starts with three or four slurred whistles and ends in a complex jumble of notes. Northern Waterthrush prefers wooded swamps, bogs and the swampy edges of slow moving forest streams. Louisiana Waterthrush prefers clearer, more rapidly moving forest streams, particularly in ravines, but it too may breed in forest swamps.

In migration, however, these two species are typically silent and they may occupy overlapping habitats in damp, shaded areas that may not be reflective of their preferred breeding habitat. It is especially under these circumstances that separating these two very similar species can be a real challenge. However similar they may be, the two waterthrushes can be safely identified under most circumstances with good, clear views and by considering a combination of characteristics.

The ground color of the underparts of both species can be variable, however, in Northern Waterthrush, it is generally buffy or yellowish. In Louisiana Waterthrush, the ground color is white with a contrasting patch of color on the flanks that varies from buffy to salmon. Ground color can be a trap for the unwary since some Northern Waterthrushes can have white underparts. These individuals, however, lack the contrasting buffy-orange flanks of Louisiana Waterthrush.

A much touted field mark is the shape and color of the supercilium. In Northern Waterthrush, the supercilium tapers at the rear. It is frequently thin throughout its entire length. It is usually buffy or buffy-white. In Louisiana Waterthrush, the eyebrow in front of the eye may be buffy, but the rear part of the supercilium is always gleaming white. It is broad throughout its entire length and often even widens at the rear. This combination of features makes the eyebrow of Louisiana Waterthrush look much more conspicuous than in its sister species.

The throat of Northern Waterthrush is usually faintly to fairly strongly streaked or spotted. In Louisiana Waterthrush, it is usually immaculately white. The throat streaking in Northern Waterthrush, however, may be very sparse and sometimes appears virtually absent to the field observer. Conversely, an occasional Louisiana Waterthrush may have some very faint, sparse speckling on the throat. Therefore, a

strongly streaked throat can be reliably used to identify a Northern Waterthrush and an immaculate white throat indicates Louisiana Waterthrush, but the apparent absence of streaking or the presence of faint streaking must be judged with caution.

In general, the stripes on the breast of Northern Waterthrush are dense, dark and heavy. Those in Louisiana Waterthrush are sparser, thinner, paler and more diffuse. There can be considerable overlap, however, in the density and darkness of the breast stripes, so care must be used when evaluating this feature.

The bills of these two species are subtly different. The bill of Louisiana Waterthrush is fairly long and strong. In contrast, the bill of Northern Waterthrush, particularly those in New England, is comparatively shorter and thinner. The bill of Northern Waterthrush becomes longer in the more western part of the species' range however. These western birds also tend to have whiter underparts, so this can get a bit tricky, especially outside of the Northeast.

Leg color is another feature that can be used to separate the two species, especially in the spring. The legs of Northern Waterthrush are typically dusky pink. The legs of Louisiana Waterthrush are paler and bright pink.

Much like Spotted Sandpiper, both waterthrushes bob or teeter the rear parts of their bodies while they are foraging on the ground, but there are subtle differences in that movement. Northern Waterthrush usually just moves its tail and hind body in a simple up-and-down motion. In Louisiana Waterthrush, an additional side-to-side motion is added to the bobbing, giving the movement a more sinewy character.

Now let's look at the waterthrush in the photograph. It has a uniformly broad, white supercilium. Its throat is immaculately white. The breast stripes are fine and fairly sparse. The bill is fairly large and stout and the legs very pale. This classic Louisiana Waterthrush was photographed by Len Medlock in Hampstead on April 21, 2010.

Northern Waterthrush breeds in suitable habitat throughout the state. Although its song can be often heard in wooded swamps and bogs in May and June, it is typically hard to see well. Louisiana Waterthrush is largely confined to the southern part of NH as an uncommon breeding species. Its loud song usually gives it away as you are birding along forest streams. Pawtuckaway State Park is a traditionally reliable spot for this bird, but it is becoming more frequently reported from many localities. Because its preferred habitat is slightly more accessible, it is often more easily seen in breeding territory than its more widely distributed relative. Of course, both species can be seen during migration foraging on or near the ground in damp areas. It is during those moments that your identification skills can be put to their greatest test.

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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
FT	Field Trip	SPNHF	Society for the Protection of NH Forests, Concord
IBA	Important Bird Area	T&M	Thompson & Meserves (Purchase)
L.	Lake	TNC	The Nature Conservancy
LPC	Loon Preservation Committee	WMA	Wildlife Management Area
NA	Natural Area	WMNF	White Mountain National Forest
NHA	New Hampshire Audubon	WS	NHA Wildlife Sanctuary
NHBR	New Hampshire Bird Records	~	approximately
NHRBC	NH Rare Birds Committee	WTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge		
PO	Post Office		

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