

New Hampshire

BIRD RECORDS

Audubon Society of N.H. VOL. 3, NOS. 1 & 2 JANUARY 1985

As part of their spring report, Sue Gonzalez and Wavell Fogleman included an excellent editorial comment on reporting bird sightings. With their permission I have excerpted from it for this issue's main editorial. We can all learn something from it. In combination with the editorials from Vol. 1, No. 1 and Vol. 2, Nos. 3 & 4, this should give you all the information you need to know in order to submit your sightings. YOU are important to us. This publication is produced by you (through ASNH) and for you. It can only be as good as you make it. So let's all help to make it as comprehensive and valuable as possible--an accurate and thorough record of N.H. bird sightings that we can be proud of. Thanks--and Happy Birding in 1985!

Bob Quinn, Editor

* * * * *

We feel a need again to discuss reporting procedures and comment upon the difficulties with which the editors had to deal this year due to a number of factors. One of those factors is that after about 30 years the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) finally (1983) managed to publish the new sixth edition of the official checklist of North American birds. The AOU consists of professional biologists who decide what shall be called a species and what the official Latin and English names shall be. Each new checklist brings some changes and many of these are reflected in the new field guides.

Beginning with this report the new names and taxonomic order must be followed. We intend to soon make available a revised checklist of the birds of New England so that reporters will be able to use the correct names. Please be aware that you can greatly assist us in the complex chore of editing if you also follow the new order when sending in your slips; that is, if you will presort them we will have less trouble dealing with the 60 or so envelopes full (several hundred slips!) we receive each period.

Some newer readers may now be wondering what we are talking about when we refer to "slips"--the second editing problem. The proper (though admittedly imperfect) format for reporting observations is on 3x5" species slips that are available by request from Audubon House. Until such time as a new method is adopted, everyone's consistent use of the slips, rather than letters or postcards which have to be transferred by us to slips, would be much appreciated! And be sure to send them to the proper editors, on time, or they may not even get used, as we strive hard to keep the reports on a timely schedule. (For more information on what & where to report, see Vol. 2, No. 3, Sept. '84.)

The third problem encountered is a perennial one throughout the country--getting observers to submit proper details on birds which are unusual in location or time. Written records such as these tend to gain strength with time, if only because they become the only data available. Thus, the editors want to make sure that everything is as well documented as possible. While the more casual birdwatchers in the state may

Continued....

not realize the kind of details which are required for acceptance of records by regional or national authorities, there should be no need to remind those state birders of national reputation that even they are required to submit details. Details should include exact location, time of day, lighting, optics used, names of other observers (who should submit their own separate impressions, preferably) and drawings or, best of all, photographs. Furthermore, if a really unusual find is made, and it happens each season, let someone else know immediately (call ASNH) so it can be confirmed and, not incidentally, enjoyed by others.

Plans are underway to reestablish a State Records Committee which will evaluate all unusual sightings and rule upon the official acceptability of them based on established standards. To be eligible for even hypothetical status, a reported sighting will have to be accompanied by details as prescribed above. Birds which are seen by only one, or even two observers, and which are not photographed, remain as hypothetical sightings until such time as a photograph or specimen is in hand.

Some of this season's most interesting sightings will be mentioned in the species accounts, but unfortunately they must remain up in the air as far as records are concerned. Among these are (A) birds which are unexpected in the region, well described yet uncorroborated; (B) birds which may be likely but were reported with no descriptive details; (C) bird reports which were learned of second or third hand, most often without details; (D) birds which are very unlikely and were reported with no details. (The latter were not included in the species accounts here.) The 1984 spring unfortunates are:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| (A) Swainson's Hawk, Bell's Vireo | (C) Mountain Bluebird, White-eyed Vireo, |
| (B) Gyrfalcon, European Goldfinch | Yellow-breasted Chat (Rye), Kentucky Warbler |
| | (D) Carolina Chickadee, Tri-colored Blackbirds. |

The last problem we will mention is the unevenness of coverage in the reports. This year in particular it seemed that fewer than the usual number of reports were received from the southern and coastal portions of the state. Thus, early arrivals there may have been missed and added to the difficulty in correlating the data. Another aspect of the unevenness is that many experienced and valuable field birders are no longer contributing reports. This also tends to skew the data compared to previous years when their reports were coming. It is sad indeed when even former editors appear to have forgotten the value and purpose of these reports. We would hope that all those good birders we know are out birding every week somewhere would see the value in sending in reports-- New Hampshire is rich in bird life and it would be a shame if no one were aware of it.

In conclusion, we would like to emphasize that it is not our intent to hurt anyone's feelings by being so hard-nosed about some reports. We greatly appreciate ALL reports which are submitted to us, for without you contributors there would be no record of what the bird situation is in our state. What we are attempting to emphasize is the necessity for documentation, more participation by veterans, and a standardization of procedure in order to facilitate processing the information. Drop a line to ASNH, ask for some slips, get outdoors and have fun; and when you have a good sighting, put it on a slip before you forget it!

Susan A. Gonzalez, Wavell W. Fogleman

* * * * *

EDITOR'S NOTE: Beginning with this issue we are initiating a new editorial procedure. When an unusual sighting is added by this editor after the seasonal editors have submitted their reports, the sighting will be printed as fide RAQ if it warrants upper case status.

Robert A. Quinn

SPRING MIGRATION

March 1 - May 31, 1984

The season was a trying one, not only for migrants and early nesters, but also for observers. Heavy rains, strong winds, and flooding were some of the major factors which served to thwart those who would go afield this season.

Mild and wet conditions in February gave way to bitter cold during the first half of March, with two major snowstorms occurring, one of which brought 15-30+ inches of snow to the state. Moderating temperatures in mid-March were accompanied by several days of rain and some sleet, followed later by heavy wet snow and high winds.

North-central parts of the state received 2-4 inches more precipitation than normal during April, with some flooding occurring on the 6th; Mt. Washington received 8.3 inches of rain in 24 hours, an inch more than the norm for the month! By April 13 a warming trend prevailed, bringing a good hawk flight. A new storm interfered with hawk-watching on the 15th by bringing rain and thunderstorms intermittently for the next five days, followed by northwest winds. The best hawk flight was on the 23rd, with a strong Broad-wing migration noted, but unfortunately no data were received from hawk-watch sites.

May was cooler and wetter than normal for the second year in a row. New Hampshire received 6 inches of precipitation more than normal--the wettest May since the beginning of record-keeping (1895)! A southwest airflow late on the 8th brought mini-waves of some warblers into the region on May 9 and 10. A series of lows then affected the region, off and on during the week that followed, with rain, sub-normal temperatures and some minor flooding. A blocking front which had been stalled near New Jersey weakened on the 21st, and a southwest airflow once again moved into the region, bringing a wave of "Northern" warblers which was quite impressive to observers who had had their eyes on

the sky and were out bright and early on the 22nd in the central part of the state. The short-lived heat wave produced by that airflow was followed by the passage of a cold front which brought strong thunderstorms and damaging winds to many sections. A very slow-moving system developed on the 28th which brought some of the heaviest rains yet, and persisted into June causing serious flooding in many parts of the state.

Generally, migrants trickled through "on time" (with the exception of the above-mentioned waves). Only a few of those birders who deliberately go in search of expected arrivals submitted reports, giving us an unclear picture of the migration statewide. Many observers echoed one another in their assessment of numbers of birds. The phrase "silent spring" was heard many times by the authors, as indeed many usually "birdy" areas seemed almost devoid of song. Some species that were notably scarce were Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Brown Thrasher, Red-eyed Vireo and American Redstart. Influences detrimental to these species may be affecting them in their wintering areas, but influences possibly detrimental to their nesting success should not be overlooked. Surprises of the season may be discovered by reading further.

Susan A. Gonzalez
Wavell W. Fogleman

* * * * *

LOONS THROUGH HERONS



No large groups of Common Loons were reported this year. Their arrivals inland corresponded quite well with iceout around the middle of April. Pied-billed Grebes apparently arrived later than usual with the first bird reported from Wilmot April 14 (KCE). The only Horned Grebes reported were several seen at the coast on April 11 (TR). A Red-necked Grebe was seen in the Merrimack R. in Concord the first week in March, and about 20 in 2 flocks were seen along the coast April 11 (TR). Tubenoses and other pelagics went unreported for the second year in a row. A lingering Great Cormorant at Rye May 10 was the lone report (DBK). Seven Double-crested

Cormorants were noted inland at Lake Umbagog May 11 (TR).

American Bitterns were either very elusive or unusually late. The first report was not until May 6 in Andover (KCE). A Great Blue Heron in Manchester March 14 (around the end of a major snowstorm) was early and heading south (MTM). An inland GREAT EGRET was in E. Conway from May 2 to the end of the period (BRobinson fide MND). Well-described, the bird was initially in the company of a Great Blue Heron and a Glossy Ibis! Another Great Egret was seen flying over Manchester May 13 (MTM,*). The single Little Blue Heron reported from Rye May 19 (RWS) was late. Also late was Green-backed Heron, the first at Kensington May 2 (RSA). Other reports were from the 7th to 14th with the Robbinses not seeing

one in Pittsfield until the 21st. Quite early were the 2 pairs of Black-crowned Night Herons reported at Rye April 4 (EBunke fide EJV). Equally early was a GLOSSY IBIS inland at Wentworth April 6 (JLanier fide CFS, photo). This bird was a full 2 weeks ahead of Rye reports. Another inland bird, mentioned above, was at E. Conway May 2-20.

WATERFOWL



A flock of about 200 Snow Geese was observed over Plymouth in late afternoon April 2 (SAG), a single Snow Goose was on Horse-shoe Pond, Concord, April 3 (DStavros fide RAQ), and 1 was seen at Elm Brook Park, Hopkinton, on April 21 (TR). Brant began arriving on the coast March 7, with 10 at Hampton Harbor (RSA). One bird settled into Horseshoe Pond, Concord, for a week April 10-16 (RAQ,*). Canada Geese movements seemed normal, peaking around the third week in March. No conclusions can be drawn from the low number of Wood Ducks reported (40 from 15 locations) except that some observers probably did not get slips in on time, though it is possible that the high water levels affected this species.

Green-winged Teal were reported from Franklin April 13 (KCE); Cherry Pond, Jefferson, on April 27; and Leonard Pond, Errol, May 11 (both TR). The largest reported movement of Black Ducks, 85+ at Peaked Hill, Bristol, April 17 (SAG, WWF) coincided roughly with ice-out in central N.H. Two pairs of AMERICAN WIGEON were seen by TR at Meadow Pond in Hampton April 11 and other pairs were on Northwood Lake April 12 (RAQ) and Campton Pond April 26 (PAP). The single Canvas-back at Great Bay March 2 (WTrombly fide RAQ) was a bit early. The largest groups of Ring-necked Ducks reported were 25 at Kingston March 24 (KEF) and 29 (mostly pairs) along the Androscoggin R. in Errol on May 11 (TR).



An Oldsquaw on Big Squam L. May 12 (AGroth fide BSR) was noteworthy inland while TR saw about 24 off Hampton Beach the same day. A remarkable group of about 200 Black Scoters was observed off Hampton Beach by the Kirwans May 10, and TR estimated the flock to number about 500 by the 12th. Two

White-winged Scoters were inland at Danbury May 14 (KCE). A pair of Buffleheads were seen on Turkey Pond in Concord April 15 (TR). Hooded & Common Mergansers were reported in normal numbers. One Red-breasted Merganser was reported at Rye Mar. 10 (DBK) & several were seen along the coast April 11 (TR), but surely more were around, at least coastally.

RAPTORS

Turkey Vultures were being reported from central New Hampshire as early as March 22, Concord (RAQ) and nearly 50 in all were recorded (with some possible overlap). Numbers of Osprey reported remained stable. The Robbinses were once again in the right spot at the right time, seeing the first bird on April 6 and the most birds, 25, April 18 along the Suncook R., Pittsfield. The Bald Eagle reported for the period was an imm. at Robb's Reservoir, S. Stoddard. Seen first by Ben Allison April 21, it was confirmed April 26 by MCadot and his class. Although passage dates were normal, only 9 Northern Harriers were reported. An early Sharp-shinned Hawk March 3, Pittsfield (AER), might have been a wintering vagrant. Other than the 20 observed at Peaked Hill hawk watch site, only 6 others were reported. A single Cooper's Hawk was reported by the Ridgleys near their home on Squam L. March 10, and 2 were migrating at Peaked Hill April 13 (SAG). Northern Goshawk reports were usual in number and dates. Twenty-two Red-shouldered Hawks were reported this spring, up from last year. Broad-winged Hawks arrived as usual around the last week of April; first reports were from Pittsfield April 18 (AER) and Concord, where 13 were seen the same day (TR, BJ).



One of the editors, SAG, had the Friday, April 13 misfortune to be alone at Peaked Hill when she was confronted with what appeared to be 2 SWAINSON'S HAWKS. Although they were seen at about 300 m with a telescope, and excellent details were submitted including a field sketch, the state list must await better evidence before the addition of this western hawk. Two Rough-legged Hawks were reported: "early March" in Hopkinton (NHarris fide RAQ) and April 13 Peaked Hill (SAG). With good numbers of American Kestrels wintering in the southern

part of the state, it is difficult to separate migrants from the March/April reports. It would seem that they began appearing as usual around the end of March. Seven Merlins was a healthy number for our spring season, although the dates were normal. Interestingly, the latest bird was May 6 (AER), as in 1983. An unconfirmed white GYRFALCON was reported from Antrim March 26 (RVincent fide RAQ) without details other than "flying over Franklin Pierce Lake."

PHEASANT THROUGH ALCIDS



MTM reported a Ring-necked Pheasant present in Manchester through March as "apparently wintered." Five Wild Turkeys were reported from Contoocook (BJ) and they were also noted in Durham again this year (RWS). Reports of Northern Bobwhite were received from S. Lyndeboro May 8 (MS, RS) and 2 females at Hampton Falls May 20. (RSA). Are these game birds escapes, released in a stocking program, or true wanderers??

The only rail reports were from RWS, a Virginia Rail in Portsmouth May 19 and a Sora in Durham the same day. A Common Moorhen was found in a marsh near the Ashuelot R., Marlow, May 18 (MC,*). Very few "shorebirds" were reported from the coast, thereby giving an incomplete picture of this spring's migration. Killdeer trickled in on the late side. Except for one in N. Hampton in early March and 2 birds in Salem March 16 (KEF), other reporters indicated first observations from March 24 to April 8. Only 2 Black-bellied Plovers were reported from the coast. Three Semi-palmated Plovers were seen at the coast on May 12 (TR) and 2 were seen inland, at Monroe, on May 19 (EAEmery fide RB). Three each of Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs were seen in W. Hopkinton on May 4 (TR) and both yellowlegs were in Danbury May 14 & 15 (KCE) and Tuftonboro May 21 (RAQ, GCR). The largest group of Solitary Sandpipers reported was 15+ at Danbury May 14 (KCE). The only Sanderlings reported was a flock of 15 at Jeness Beach May 12 (TR). The only report of Least Sandpipers was of 18 in Monroe on May 19 (EAEmery fide RB). Forty calling Short-billed Dowitchers showed their acrobatic stuff as they tried to find some place to land around the recently flooded "Marsh 93" in Holderness May 19

(WWF, SAG, GZimmerman). No unusual Common Snipe reports were received, although the editors found them hard to locate in central N.H.

A Laughing Gull was seen in the area of North Hampton on May 12 (TR). A flock of 50+ Bonaparte's Gulls was seen in Hampton that same day (TR). The only alcid was a THICK-BILLED MURRE found dead on a coastal beach around April 22 (Don Whiting brought the specimen to Audubon House, fide RAQ).



DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Nothing unusual was reported regarding Mourning Doves. A single Black-billed Cuckoo was noted in New Hampton May 22 (LREmons fide VHH). Cuckoos seemed to be much less in evidence in this year of no (?) gypsy moths. A report of a BARN OWL in Manchester late in the evening of May 22 (RMartin fide MTM) was based only on comparing sounds heard over barking dogs with a Peterson recording. For the first time in the three-year term of these editors, no Great Horned Owl reports were received. A Snowy Owl continued through March in Concord and was even seen as late as May 2 (RAQ)! Thirteen Barrred Owls were reported, scattered through the region and the period. The Hillsboro GREAT GRAY OWL tried to outlast the Snowy in Concord, being sighted last on April 29 by Jim Adams (fide RAQ, good details). This is by far the latest report in N.H. records.

Common Nighthawks peaked May 22 around the state, the largest group being 40 at Amherst (WMG,*). More Whip-poor-will reports were received this year and the earliest was May 6 (JTuxill fide RAQ). Traditionally, early arrivals appeared April 25-28; are they really arriving later or are the people who used to get the early birds no longer reporting (or looking)? Chimney Swifts were a tad later than average again this year. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were not well reported. Except for a pair in Manchester May 9 (MTM,*), other birds were not reported until later in May. Mrs. Gilcreast reported her pair has shown up May 14, 15 for about 10 years, but didn't arrive at the feeder this year until May 28. The earliest confirmed migrant Belted Kingfisher was on

April 10 (AER), which was late compared to other years; birds seen in March may have been lingering winter ones.



This year's Red-headed Woodpecker reports were from Hancock May 10-17 (photo'd RAS; fide MC), Melvin Village May 21 (JMD) and Tamworth May 23 for the second year in a row (MND,*). Susan Tufts of Bedford phoned in a report of a RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER, May 17 (fide CFS, good details). One Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was found on time in Salisbury April 9 (KCE) but other reports were of late arrivals. Ridgely reported his usual male at Squam Lake was 2 weeks late. RAQ and Mary Ann Naprava worked hard and found 4 Black-backed Woodpeckers on May 19--a pair in Errol and singles in Wentworth's Location and Second College Grant. Northern Flickers arrived later than usual with one bird in Concord April 4 (VH) and others appearing at various locations April 12-21. Again this year only 2 Pileated Woodpecker reports were received.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH WRENS

Olive-sided Flycatchers were in Center Harbor May 15 (BSR); Exeter May 21 (RSA); Woodstock (2) May 21 (TR); and 3 were reported from 2 other locations. The only Eastern Wood Pewee reported was in New Hampton May 22 (VHH). Six Alder Flycatchers were reported from 5 locations, and a Willow was singing in Franklin May 28 (KCE). Eastern Phoebes were on time, and apparently showing signs of recovering from the previous 2 years' low numbers. Great Crested Flycatchers were on the late side with the first reported from New Hampton May 11 (VHH). Eastern Kingbirds were early this year, with many observers reporting them during the first week of May in several central locations. The only report of Horned Larks was that of 2 or 3 birds April 12 at the Peaked Hill hawk watch site in Bristol (SAG). A lone Purple Martin report was received: Pittsfield, May 9 (AER)--again not a reflection of the current status of this species in the state. Tree Swallows began arriving the end of March/beginning of April, and the main migration peaked



mid-month when RAQ noted "dozens" at Pow Wow Pond in Kingston on April 12, and KEF reported 100 April 13 and 300 April 20 in Salem. Northern Rough-winged Swallows were on the late side of the norm for that species, but "good" numbers were reported from several locations as far north as Plymouth and Tamworth. It is not known at this writing, however, how the species fared following the flooding which occurred during the period when nesting would have been underway. Mrs. Hebert reported finding a New Hampton nest washed out on May 18.

Groups of 50-75 Bank Swallows were reported from several towns, presumably all at probable nesting spots. The Heberts observed 30 Cliff Swallows May 20 in New Hampton, "near no nesting site--probably a migrating flock." Historically the migration of that species is pretty much completed by May 1. No other reports were received, however, to give any clues as to what was happening with the species this spring. Barn Swallows were also late, and since the two species' migration dates usually coincide, and the factors which affect one usually affect the other, then VHH is probably correct in her assessment. The first Barn Swallows were reported from Pittsfield April 26 (AER). HNevers, PSerrentino, and CFS were treated to an encounter with 5 Gray Jays May 24 in Stewartstown. The Blue Jay migration was in full swing by May 25 when "many" were noted migrating all day in Campton and Plymouth (SAG, WWF) and RAQ observed the species still migrating June 9 in Milan.



A Fish Crow reported in Concord May 14 was likely a fledged young Common Crow, based upon the very accurate description received of the bird's vocalizations. Common Ravens were again observed in relative abundance in the southern half of the state, and VHH in New Hampton reported seeing them at 4 different nesting sites, although she observed "none seen up north!" Two were flying over the state house plaza in Concord, March 11 (S Gallagher fide RAQ). A pair was observed in apparent courtship display in Hillsboro March 26 (RAS), and were later seen attacking a Red-tailed Hawk on May 26, leading the observer to feel that the birds were nesting in the area. A pair with 3 young



were found in Antrim at Bald Mtn. where Turkey Vultures nested in 1981 (Neal Clark, fide RAQ). Feeder Parids and Sittids were reported with the usual abundance, and no data indicating migration trends were received. House Wrens were on the late end of the arrival date scale, with the first reported in Hillsboro May 2 (fide RAS), and the next not until May 10 in New Hampton (VHH, RCH). Winter Wren reports were scarce, and those received indicate that the species was at least 2 weeks late in arriving. A Carolina Wren seen and heard singing in Plymouth April 5 (SAG, WWF) was probably the same bird as was reported for the Winter Season at a feeder 2 miles west of this observation. The bird was present for only a brief period, and left for parts unknown.

KINGLETS THROUGH VIREOS

The only Golden-crowned Kinglets reported were 2 in W. Sandwich April 16 (BSR). Ruby-crowned Kinglets averaged 12 days later than normal in most locations with 3 in Pittsfield April 18 (AER, GCR) and 2 in Hollis April 20 (RAQ). Nine others were reported from April 23 through May 7 from 6 locations. Twenty Eastern Bluebirds were reported this season, and most were a week or so later than usual. No reports were received indicating the status of the species in those areas presently thought to be "strongholds." Unverified, and learned of too late to corroborate, was the report of a male MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD in West Campton on May 14 (Noreen Hill fide PAP) and 3 miles downhill from that spot on June 4 (Ken Hoyt fide PAP). Veeries generally were on time, and RAQ observed 3 in Antrim May 16 involved in what he described as a "feeding frenzy." The only Gray-cheeked Thrush report was of a single bird in Henniker May 18 (RAQ, BJaneway). Swainson's Thrushes were a week late as well, up to 2 weeks late in several areas. One was in Mont Vernon April 21 (MS & BSuomala), but no others were reported until the 28th and 29th: Marlborough (JHW), W. Sandwich (BSR), New London (MDS); and a late one was at Boar's Head, Hampton, May 12 (TR). Wood Thrushes were a week later than the average arrival time for



that species--the first in New Hampton May 10 (VHH), and others appearing in Manchester May 15, 16 (MTM). The American Robin migration seemed to peak statewide the last week of March (males) and first week of April (more and more females were being noted toward the end of that week). An albino individual was in the Charles Goodwin yard in Seabrook April 17. Gray Catbirds were only slightly delayed, with the bulk of arrivals being reported around May 12, 13. Brown Thrashers were again late, and seem to be getting more scarce. The first reports were of birds arriving a week late: New Hampton April 28 (VHH) and Hillsboro April 30 (RAS). The only other report was of a bird in Manchester May 18 (MTM). As of May 25 RAS had apparently not seen any others, and remarked, "...generally quite common, but this spring...may be the first time in over 30 years we haven't had at least 1 pair in our pasture." Indeed, in several areas where the species has been found nesting it is now absent.

A pair of Mockingbirds was reported as far north as Pontook Reservoir, Dummer (TR). Again this year the only Water Pipits reported were in Tamworth, where "many" were noted April 28 in a field which had been plowed the previous day (MND). Several flocks of Cedar Waxwings wintered in the state, so it is difficult to be precise in characterizing this spring's migration. Northern Shrikes were in Center Sandwich March 11 (BSR), Concord March 22 (JLT), and Keene April 4-11 (JHW). A WHITE-EYED VIREO was apparently present in the vicinity of the north end of Odiorne Point State Park in Rye from sometime in May until early June (fide RWS). For the second year in a row, BELL'S VIREO was reported. Descriptive details were submitted on 2 birds, one May 18 in Pine Grove Cemetery, Manchester (near last year's observation) (MTM), & another at Odiorne Point State Park May 15 by an observer who has seen the species in the southwest (EWP). Since these records are single-observer sight reports, and lack other documentation such as photographs or a specimen, they must remain in the hypothetical category until such evidence is available. Solitary Vireos were reported from Mont Vernon April 27 (RS) and others from the central region April 29 & 30.



Spring 1984

Three Yellow-throated Vireos were singing in the Metcalf Point area of W. Sandwich May 13 (BSR), and others were reported from Salisbury (2 birds) May 18 (KCE); Durham May 19 (RWS); New Hampton May 21 (VHH); N. Haverhill and E. Washington May 22 (TR). Red-eyed Vireos were 10 days and more late, with the first reports coming from New Hampton (VHH) and Pittsfield (AER) May 20. The central region's "big" day, May 22, produced a peak of 18 in New Hampton (VHH).

WARBLERS



Blue-winged Warblers were noted in Kensington and Exeter May 13 and 24 (RSA), and inland in Moultonboro May 13 (AGroth fide BSR). RSA also had Golden-winged Warblers in the same places on the same dates, and possibly another was heard in Manchester on May 19 (MTM). A Brewster's hybrid was found in Durham May 16 (RWS). Tennessee Warblers were slightly late in Pittsfield May 15 (AER), but the main "push" in the Lakes Region was May 22 when the species was noted by VHH, and many were seen in Plymouth (SAG), and Ellsworth (PAP, JMS). Four Nashville Warblers were noted in Plymouth April 30 (SAG). Peak numbers occurred mid-May, however, in most other locations. Northern Parulas were first observed in Exeter May 6 (RSA), but most other observers did not report the species for several more days. Yellow Warblers were on time in all areas.

Chestnut-sided Warblers arrived May 9, 10 in several locations. Magnolia Warblers, as well, began showing up on those dates, only slightly late for that species, and they peaked on May 22 in the central area. The first Cape May Warbler was noted May 12 in Milford (AEA). Five were in Exeter (RSA) and 3 were in Moultonboro May 13 (BSR,*). Black-throated Blue Warblers also began being seen about May 13. Although JHW observed 4 Yellow-rumped Warblers in N. Swanzey on April 6, no other observers noted any until the end of the month. Two peak movements apparently occurred--one about April 28 (mostly males) and another about mid-May (mostly females); both groups were 10-14 days late, as several reporters noted. The biggest day for Black-throated Green Warblers was May 13 in Exeter where

RSA observed "many." Blackburnian Warblers were about a week late, with arrivals being reported mid-May from several locations, and again, a peak occurred in the central area on May 22. The Pine Warbler migration seemed very drawn out this season, with birds arriving in scattered locations beginning the end of March, and showing up in other places the end of April. The extension of Prairie Warbler range into north-central areas was again exemplified by 2 birds in Franklin May 20 (KCE), 2 singing males and a female in Ashland on the same date (SAG, WWF), another individual in New Hampton May 22 (LREmmons fide VHH), and at least 2 more singing males in Madison on May 25 (SAG, WWF). Palm Warblers were slightly late, with the initial influx noticed around April 18, 19 in several locations. An individual in Marlow May 17 was quite late for the species there (MC).

Some Bay-breasted Warblers had been noted on the near normal arrival date of May 13, Exeter (RSA), but exciting for "northern" observers was a late but very impressive early morning push on May 22 when many were seen in Tamworth (MND) and New Hampton (VHH), and they "were falling out of the trees" in Plymouth (SAG) and Ellsworth (PAP, JMS). Blackpoll Warblers, on the other hand, were right on time, with birds in Exeter May 14 (RSA), New London May 19 (fide KCE), and Dixville Notch May 20 (RAQ). Black-and-white Warblers arrived on normal to slightly late dates in most areas as did American Redstarts. Ovenbirds were at least a week late in most areas, and peaks were noted in New Hampton on May 20, 22, and 25 when the Heberts observed 13, 13, and 16! It would be interesting to learn what effect the heavy rains and flooding had on Northern Waterthrushes, and particularly on Louisiana Waterthrushes, which are not usually noticed by observers until they are present in their breeding territories. The former species was generally on time, but the latter averaged a week to 10 days later than normal in most areas reporting.



KENTUCKY WARBLERS were again noted in the state, but no details were submitted for those sightings. Two birds were reportedly in Pawtuckaway State Park on May 12 (DJAbbott,

DW Finch, phone report to ASNH). A male HOODED WARBLER was seen and photographed in Greenland (EWP fide RAQ). Mourning Warblers were in Hampton May 22 (DBK), New Hampton (VHH) and Amherst (WVG) May 25. Mrs. Hebert observed that the species was "very numerous June 4 in Pittsburg." A few Common Yellowthroats were only a little later than normal, but most did not arrive until about May 12 in several locations. Peaks of 8, 13, and 16 birds were passing through New Hampton on May 13, 19, and 22 (VHH), and MTM had 7 males in Pine Grove Cemetery, Manchester, May 18. Most Wilson's Warblers were at least a week late in all inland and central reporting locations. Canada Warblers were generally a week later than usual, and it seemed to several observers that the species did not really begin to be seen in "usual" numbers until after the middle of May, nearly 2 weeks past the norm. A YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT was reportedly in Rye on May 15 (EWP fide RAQ), and another was seen and heard singing in Hillsboro May 26 (RAS).

TANAGERS THROUGH WEAVER FINCHES

Scarlet Tanagers were on time and reported in normal numbers. Reporters in Milford and Manchester continue to report Northern Cardinals in the usual numbers. A male Cardinal was seen in Pike (TR). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were on time, and in good numbers. For the second year in a row, BLUE GROSBEAKS made an appearance, the first, in Tamworth April 19 (mult. obs. fide MND), apparently stayed at least until May 29. Another, described as an immature male, was in Merrimack sometime in May (Lorraine McCoy fide RAQ), and still another was reported from Keene May 29 (Peg Lepage fide RAQ). Good details accompanied all 3 reports. An extraordinarily early Indigo Bunting was at a Hopkinton feeder April 8-10 (JT, JLT). Others were on time in all areas. Rufous-sided Towhees were nearly 2 weeks late in all areas, with the first birds reported in Hopkinton (EJV), Hillsboro, and Boscawen (RAS) April 30. Others were not reported until May 3. American Tree Sparrows lingered through the end of April as far south as Pittsfield (AER). Chipping Sparrows began arriving on time, and by early



May were present in normal numbers. Field Sparrows were about a week later than usual in Pittsfield, April 12 (AER, GCR), and in Hillsboro April 13 (RAS). By May 12th as many as 7 were found along Manchester Airport's perimeter road (MTM). The only Vesper Sparrows reported were a pair at the Plymouth Airport April 22 (SAG, WWF), and the only Savannah Sparrows reported were 2 birds April 13, and 3 on the 27th in Hillsboro (RAS). The popularly reported Fox Sparrow was, on the average, 1-2 weeks late in most locations. Normally passing through unnoticed in spring, Lincoln's Sparrow reports are always few in number. Birds were reported this year from Marlow May 18 (MC), Woodstock May 21 (TR), and W. Sandwich (BSR), where one was seen and heard singing.

The general movement of White-throated Sparrows into the region began noticeably a little after mid-April, when the species was seen in E. Wolfeboro April 18 (DLR), Milford April 20 (AEA), Tamworth (MND) and Hillsboro (RAS) April 21. By early May the species had become well established throughout, but TR noted "great numbers" at the coast on May 12. White-crowned Sparrows began arriving toward the end of the first week of May--on the late side of normal for that species--and by mid-month had been seen in average numbers in most locations. Dark-eyed Juncos were reported (with the evident confusion that seems to prevail following official acts by the AOU) under no less than 5 different names! The species began arriving about the end of March, and as is the usual case, within a week numbers of birds had grown substantially. Several observers reported having flocks of as many as 30-40 birds in their yards, and in the central part of the state many dozens could be seen along roadsides April 18 (SAG). Sixty-five Snow Buntings were in Loudon March 10 (VH), and 2 were at Whiteface Intervale April 8 (BSR).

Bobolinks were about a week late; 2 were in New Hampton May 13 (VHH), 3 in Hillsboro May 14 (RSA), and several were in Tamworth May 15 (MND). Eastern Meadowlarks were almost 2 weeks late. One was in Keene April 4 (JHW), 5 at Whiteface April 8 (BSR), and 2 near Manchester Airport May 12 (MTM).

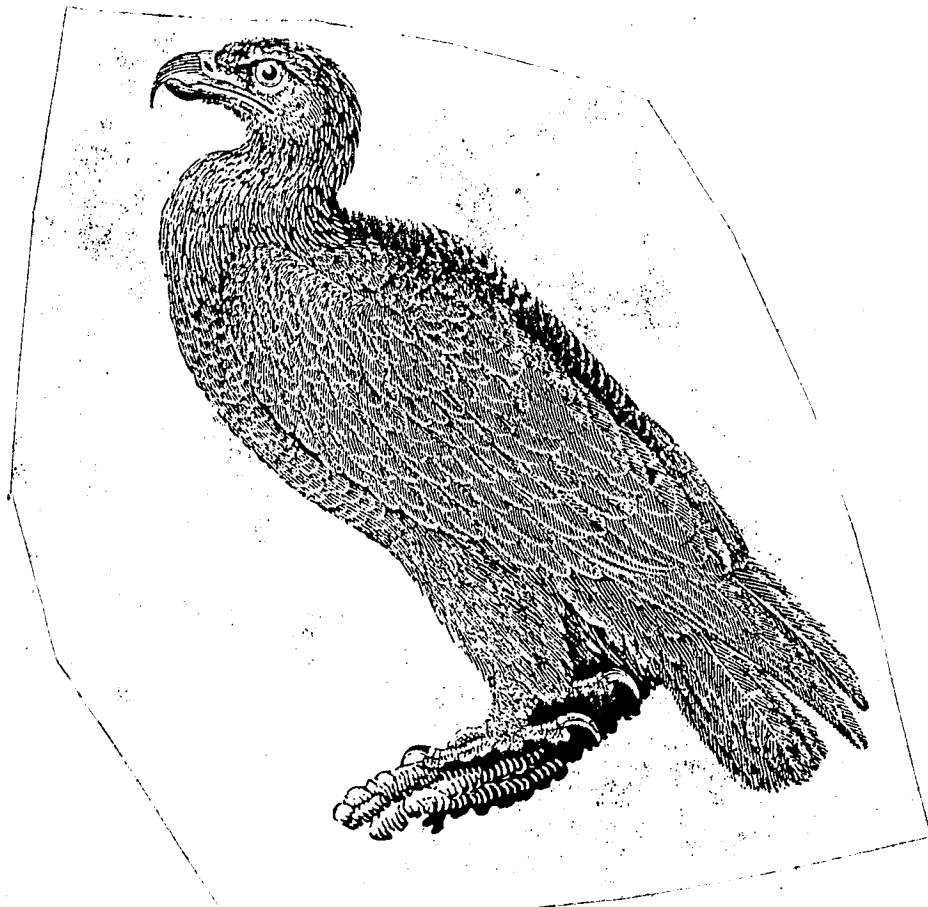
Spring 1984

Rusty Blackbirds were observed in Keene April 5 (JHW), Tamworth May 20 (HSDamon fide MND), Bradford Bog May 16, and Kinsman Notch May 21 (TR), and JHW reported an amazing group of 20 in Keene on April 7. Northern Orioles were a bit on the late side with birds arriving in several locations May 7-9. Migrant Purple Finches augmented a few wintering birds beginning around the end of April. Reports seem to indicate that House Finch numbers are not declining. A report of 3 Common Redpolls in Concord March 8 (RAQ) is the only one received this spring. Pine Siskins, however, were abundant throughout, and were still present at many feeders at the end of May. American Goldfinches were present

in normal numbers. One small flock harbored a surprise for some birders in Milan when they discovered a EUROPEAN GOLDFINCH (undescribed) April 29 (AJ, *). It is possible that this bird may be the same as was reported from Wolfeboro January 11-14, 1983 (see Winter Records, Vol. 2, No. 4). Evening Grosbeaks were migrating through the New Hampton-Plymouth area from mid-April to early May (VHH, SAG), and individuals were noted in Portsmouth May 7 and Rye May 19 (RWS). The editors respectfully decline comment regarding the species now accorded the final position in the new AOU taxonomy.

CONTRIBUTORS

RSAaronian, AEAmes, RBradley, MCadot, MNDamon, JMDuston, KCElkins, WWFogleman, KEFolsom, SDGilcreast, SAGonzalez, WMGoodwill, VHayden, VHHebert, RCHebert, BJaneway, AJohnson, DBKirwan, MTMartin, EWPhinney, PAPhipps, RAQuinn, DLRaddin, TRichards, BSRidgely, AERobbins, GCRobbins, CFSmith, RASprague, JMStark, RWStephenson, MSuomala, RSuomala, JTuixill, JLTuixill, EJVerville, JHward. ASNH = Audubon Society of New Hampshire, * means "and others."



NESTING SEASON

June 1 - July 31, 1984

The record-breaking rains of May continued into the first week of June and resulted in an extended migration period and poor nesting success for some birds. Notable June migrants included Blue Jays, Blackpoll Warblers, and Mourning Warblers (the latter two species are notoriously late migrants). Species that suffered nesting setbacks included loons and waterfowl (flooded nest sites) and swallows and flycatchers (cold temperatures and lack of food).

A majority of this summer's accounts were obtained from data collected during 19 of 22 Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) routes. The bad weather washed out two of the routes and another one was not run. Therefore, a lot of the totals for the BBS routes were lower than usual. Where appropriate, the total number of a species observed on the routes will be compared to its median based on the 19 years of data. The use of a median compensates for, but does not totally eliminate, the incomplete data for 1984's BBS routes.

Species that set record high totals on the BBS this year included Double-crested Cormorant, Tufted Titmouse, Mockingbird, and Warbling Vireo. Species recorded at their lowest total ever were Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Barn Swallow, Brown Thrasher, Hermit Thrush, Veery, Magnolia Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Canada Warbler, and Eastern Meadowlark. Brown Thrasher, Rufous-sided Towhee, and Eastern Meadowlark all continue to exhibit a steady decline.

Exciting observations included three reports of Upland Sandpipers (all from new areas), a Blue-winged Teal family in New Hampton, a Bald Eagle with a radio transmitter,

and a pair of Grasshopper Sparrows in New Hampton. In the exotic category, several Brazilian Cardinals were reported in New Hampshire this summer.

More rails and grassland species were reported this year partly because Roger W. Stephenson was working for The Nature Conservancy on a study of those species. His information plus the invaluable data collected by the Endangered Species Program (ESP) helps give us a clearer picture of those species that often go unobserved/unreported.

Common species that are not mentioned had no significant records submitted.

I wish to express my thanks to all contributors to this year's report and to Audubon House for providing me with information down here in Connecticut.

Alis G. Kuhn
Editor Pro Tem

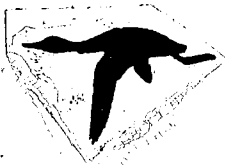
* * * * *

I would like to thank Alis for compiling the bulk of this report during my absence this summer. We are all very happy to see her continuing interest in the bird life of New Hampshire.

Robert A. Quinn
Editor

* * * * *

LOONS - GREBES



The Loon Preservation Committee reported that the heavy rains this spring washed out many Common Loon nests. According to the LPC, "60 chicks survived to fledge this summer, compared to 76 and 83 in 1982 and 1983, respectively." More than half of the artificial islands placed by the LPC were used by loons. At least 3 loons summered at the coast (RWS).

Pied-billed Grebes exhibited a population boom. In addition to the usual report at Cascade Marsh in Sutton (RCV, RWS), 2 more were observed at Eel Pond, Rye, on June 16 (RWS), and one was heard calling at Copp's Pond in Tuftonboro on June 17 (RAQ, ASNH).

Most unusual was a Horned Grebe in breeding plumage off Odiorne Point in July (RWS).

TUBENOSES - BITTERNS

The only report of pelagic birds came from an ASNH whale trip in July when about 85 Wilson's Storm Petrels and 5 imm. Northern Gannets were seen. The population of Double-crested Cormorants at the Isles of Shoals seems to have levelled off at about 1000 pairs (ACB), but more birds continue to be reported inland-- 2 were on First Connecticut Lake June 4 (VHH), 3 were noted on Lake Winnepesaukee June 10 (RAQ,*), and up to 9 were seen in



the Merrimack R. in Manchester (MTM). They were also noted in Littleton and Monroe.

Eight Great Blue Herons were observed on the BBS routes, an above average number (median 6). For the first time in 19 years, no Green-backed Herons were noted on the BBS routes. But a good number were reported from around the state--2 in Concord and one in Amherst (RAQ,*), 2 along the coast and 3 in Nottingham (RWS), and single birds in New Hampton (LREmmons fide VHH), Wilmot (KCE), and New London (KCE, RCV,*).

A Snowy Egret appeared along the Merrimack River in southeast Manchester on July 31 (MTM).

Only 2 reports of Least Bittern were submitted this year. One was found singing in Cascade Marsh, Sutton (RWS), and another in Eel Pond, Rye (EWPhinney fide RWS). A low number of 3 American Bitterns was reported on the BBS routes--well below the median of 9. Bitterns were also found in Danbury (KCE) and in Sutton (KCE, RCV).



WATERFOWL

The BBS reflected a low number of Canada Geese with only one sighting. Individual reports, however, demonstrated a much larger population distribution in the state. Canada Geese were seen at Lake Horace, Weare (HM); Pontook Reservoir, Dummer (VHH); and 4 families noted on Osgood Pond, Milford, totalled 26 birds (AEA). Mallards were down with the BBS routes reporting only 3 (median 9). In addition, a late brood of downy young was seen on July 19 in New Hampton (VHH). Black Duck numbers were also low with only 2 noted on the BBS routes (median 10). Individual reports included 3 families along the coast (RWS) as well as in Sutton and New London (RCV).

The first record of Blue-winged Teal nesting in New Hampton in 45 years was observed by Vera Hebert. A female Wood Duck and 9 young were observed at Eel Pond, Rye (RWS); 4 were sighted at Cascade Marsh, Sutton (RCV), and one in eclipse plumage in Nottingham (RWS). There were no other reports! A very unusual sighting of a male Bufflehead occurred at Lily Cove, Big Squam,

on June 5 (BSR). By the following day it was gone.

Eight Common Eider nests were found on Lunging Island at the Isles of Shoals (ACB). Thirteen Common Eiders and a drake Surf Scoter were seen along the coast (RWS). Common Mergansers went unreported. A family of 16 Hooded Mergansers was seen at Cascade Marsh, Sutton (RCV, DLS, KCE) and another family was noted in Franklin (RAQ).

VULTURES - FALCONS



Sightings of soaring Turkey Vultures were sent in from Franklin (KCE), Sutton (DLS, RCV), Antrim (MR), and Sanbornton (RWS). The most interesting reports, however, were those of up to 13 Turkey Vultures seen daily on Mt. Major, Alton (EGL), and of 11 seen along Red Hill River (RWFoster fide RAQ).

A pair of Goshawks was seen in ASNH's Thompson Refuge on June 21 (BSR), the only record received this year. Red-tailed Hawks were observed over the Merrimack River, Manchester (MTM), in Franklin (KCE), and in Danbury (RCV, KCE). Two Red-shouldered Hawks were recorded on the BBS routes. Red-shouldereds were also observed soaring and calling in Tamworth (ES) on 2 separate occasions, and in Whiteface Intervale (BSR). The ESP documented at least 7 successful Northern Harrier nests in the Colebrook area and found at least 7 additional territories in other northern N.H. sites.

Broad-winged Hawks were seen in Sutton, Warner, and Franklin (KCE), only a small representation of our state's population. Bald Eagles were observed several times during the summer months. On June 11 one adult was recorded over Deephaven Camps, Big Squam (BSR). An immature eagle was seen in Monroe on July 12 (HM). This summer's eagle excitement centered on a bird with a radio transmitter that allowed biologists to follow its movements up and down the Merrimack River (ESP).

The ESP recorded 7 fledged Ospreys this year, the same number as in 1984. Six Kestrels were reported on the BBS routes. In addition, a pair was seen throughout June and July along the Merrimack River, Manchester (MTM), and one was seen in Danbury (RCV, KCE). One

pair of Peregrine Falcons occupied an historical eyrie but did not nest (ESP).

GROUSE - RAILS



Seven Ruffed Grouse observations were submitted from the New London area (RCV), and a family was seen at Ponemah Bog in late June (BS). Although no Virginia Rails were heard on any BBS routes, several were reported throughout New Hampshire. Along the coast, a pair was heard in Portsmouth and one in Exeter (RWS). At Thompson Refuge an adult and a female with young were observed in June and July (BSR). One answered a tape in Danbury (KCE). One or two Soras were recorded on several occasions in Portsmouth (RWS)--the only record submitted this year. Two Common Moorhens (males "singing") were located in Eel Pond, Rye, in among the cattails (RWS, EWP).

SHOREBIRDS



As has been done in the past, we are departing from the normal taxonomic order to discuss our summer residents before dealing with the early migrants. For a complete picture of the shorebird migration, see also the Fall Season.

Killdeer numbers showed a slight improvement on the BBS routes, increasing from 29 in 1983 to 33 this year. However, this is still below the median of 38. Two Woodcocks were reported on the BBS routes, a normal number for this early-nesting species. Common Snipe were unusually high for the second year in a row. Last year 30 individuals were observed, this year 27 (median 16). For the fourth consecutive year Spotted Sandpipers were recorded above their median of 6 birds. Three new sightings of UPLAND SANDPIPERS were submitted this year. Sandy Mallett observed 2 in Rochester and one at Fabyans Point, Newington, on June 21. At the Manchester Airport an Upland Sandpiper was seen in the grassy area just beyond the tarmac (RWS).

Migrant Solitary Sandpipers were noted in Franklin on both June 30 and July 31, and

in Wilmot on July 17 (KCE). On the coast early migrants included 10 Semipalmated Plovers on July 21 and 48 on July 22 (RWS). Ruddy Turnstones and Short-billed Dowitchers were seen at Odiorne State Park beginning July 27 and July 7 respectively (RWS). On July 21 and 22 large flocks of Semipalmated Sandpipers ranging between 561 and 800+ individuals were observed off Odiorne Point (RWS). Least Sandpipers were also noted on these same days but in much fewer numbers. Fourteen Whimbrels were noted at Seabrook July 26 (RB).

GULLS - TERNS



This year there were few individual reports submitted concerning our gull populations. No unusual number of Black-backed Gulls or Herring Gulls were recorded on the BBS routes. Only one Ring-billed Gull was noted in Franklin (KCE). This is not a true reflection of our gull populations. No gulls were reported from the Lakes Region. About 30 Common Tern fledglings were noted by the ESP, a slight improvement over the last few years.

CUCKOOS - OWLS

On the BBS routes no Yellow-billed Cuckoos were observed and a record low number of Black-billed Cuckoos (5) were seen. Sandy Mallett saw one Yellow-billed Cuckoo and 4 Black-billed Cuckoos in Greenland. Two other reports of Black-billed Cuckoos were sent in from Danbury (RCV, KCE) and Meredith (AL).

The only Great Horned Owls reported were in Webster and Henniker (BJ). Two Barred Owls were seen in Jefferson (MR). A little luck and a lot of persistence enabled MR to find a juvenal Saw-whet Owl in a dense Hamlock stand on top of Bald Mtn. in Antrim.

GOATSUCKERS

The ESP recorded Whip-poor-wills from over 77 sites in 50 towns, but it is still a species of concern. Common Nighthawks were noted in 11 towns with 11 reported from Concord and 8 pairs noted in Manchester.

The trend over the 19 years of BBS routes indicates that Chimney Swifts have been declining in the past 7 years. Only 171 Swifts were recorded this year, slightly below their median of 211. Last year a record number of 10 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were observed on the BBS routes. This year only 5 birds were seen. Hummingbirds were also noted in E. Wolfeboro on 2 separate occasions (DLR) and near Silver Lake, Chesham (EHM).



KINGFISHERS - WOODPECKERS

A record low of one Belted Kingfisher was reported on the BBS routes, well below the median of 11. Kingfishers were also observed in southeast Manchester (MTM); Conway Lake, Conway (BM); 2 in Cascade Marsh, Sutton; Greenland; Durham; Wheelwright Creek, Exeter; Rye Marsh (RWS); and in New London (RCV).

Woodpecker numbers seemed to drop substantially in comparison to their high numbers of last year. On the BBS routes 45 Common Flickers were recorded compared to 56 last year. Only 11 Pileated Woodpeckers were noted (20 last year). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers dropped from 32 to 15 recorded on the routes this year. Hairy Woodpecker numbers dropped from 42 to 26 birds; Downy Woodpeckers decreased slightly from 42 to 38 individuals. On an upbeat note, individual reports of 2 Red-headed Woodpeckers were submitted. One bird was seen in E. Alstead in late May feeding at a feeder. Another bird was observed in Meredith on June 3 (AE). A RED-SHAFTED FLICKER was reported along the Merrimack R., Manchester, in the company of a Yellow-shafted Flicker, in both June and July (MTM). Only one Black-backed Woodpecker was reported this year. A male was seen along the Church Pond trail on July 20 (BSR). No Three-toed Woodpeckers were noted this year.

FLYCATCHERS - SWALLOWS

In general, flycatchers did not fare as well on the BBS routes as last year when several species hit an all-time high. All species except Great-crested Flycatcher and

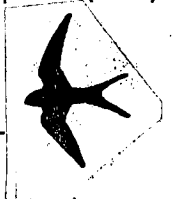


Alder Flycatcher fell below their median. Great-crested Flycatchers, however, were recorded at their highest total, 60 individuals.

Only one Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was observed on the BBS routes. Willow Flycatchers were observed in both Cascade Marsh, Sutton (RWS), and Franklin (KCE). Alder Flycatchers dropped from 113 individuals to 72 birds on the BBS routes this year, but this is still above their median. Alders were also reported in Thompson Refuge and Church Pond (BSR), New Hampton, Meredith, Sanbornton (VHH), Danbury, Sutton, Wilmot (KCE), New Castle, Cascade Marsh/Sutton, and the Rochester sewer beds (RWS). One Olive-sided Flycatcher was found on the BBS routes, the lowest number ever. Three other individual sightings reported birds singing at Hill (KCE), Cricenti's Bog (RCV) and Copp's Pond (RAQ).

Two pairs of Horned Larks were sighted in courtship behavior and carrying food to a nest at the Manchester Airport July 4 (RWS). Adult larks with fledged young were also found at the Nashua Airport (RWS).

Last year swallows were recorded either low or average in numbers. This year Bank Swallows and Cliff Swallows made a sizable rebound. A large colony of Cliff Swallows was noted along the Piscataqua River (RWS). Tree Swallows and Barn Swallows, however, continued to drop in numbers. Barn Swallows hit an all-time low of 187 individuals observed. Perhaps this was due to the heavy spring rains. Only one Rough-winged Swallow was noted on the BBS routes. Three additional individual sightings indicated Rough-wings along the Merrimack R., Manchester (MTM), in New Hampton (VHH), and in Danbury (KCE). Purple Martins were seen in Laconia (VHH) and a large colony of 22-30 was at the Den Blae Golf Course, Sanbornton (RWS).



JAYS - RAVENS

A single Gray Jay was reported from the White Mountains (MR). Blue Jay numbers dropped dramatically, from 508 in 1983 to 365 individuals in 1984. Crows and Ravens also dropped significantly in total numbers

on the BBS routes in comparison to recent years. Overall, though, each species was around its median.

CHICKADEES - GNATCHATCHERS

Black-capped Chickadees, although lower in numbers than in recent years on the BBS routes, continued to hover around their median. For the second year Boreal Chickadees have gone unreported. Tufted Titmouse numbers reached an all-time high on the BBS routes with 30 individuals observed. Two adult titmice with 3 juveniles were recorded as far north as W. Sandwich (BSR).

White-breasted Nuthatch numbers dropped considerably on the BBS routes, with 45 reported last year and only 27 this year, well below their median of 42. Red-breasted Nuthatches also dropped but continued to be close to their median of 24. Six Brown Creepers were noted on the BBS routes, about average since they become silent by early June and are difficult to observe. In addition, one adult with 2 young were noted in late June (BSR).

Last year House Wrens reached their highest since 1976 (114 individuals). This year only 86 were noted--a bit below their median of 100. Winter Wrens remained low in numbers with only 27 found on the routes (median 41). Since 1976 Winter Wrens have been observed less frequently on the survey routes. Marsh Wrens, again, were not seen on the BBS routes. Two individual reports, though, indicated that Marsh Wrens were singing at Eel Pond, Rye, and at Cascade Marsh, Sutton (RWS).

The number of Mockingbirds exploded this year with 34 birds seen on the BBS routes, a new record high for this species. The northernmost route on which a Mockingbird was seen was Milan. Catbirds plummeted from 246 individuals to 169 this year, their lowest number ever on the BBS routes. Likewise, Brown Thrashers dropped considerably to their lowest number of 10 birds. They have exhibited a marked downward trend since 1980.



Wood Thrushes were steady at 324 individuals, which was still slightly below their

median. The Hermit Thrush was yet another bird that reached a record low; only 12 birds were noted on the BBS routes this year, well below their median of 36. Swainson's Thrushes and Veeries were also scarce this year with only 13 Swainson's and 205 Veeries found on the routes--record lows for both species.

No Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were reported on the BBS routes. Two were recorded raising a family at Metcalf Pt., W. Sandwich, in June and July (BSR); one was in Andover (DLS), and a pair was found building a nest in a maple tree that was overhanging the water at the Bradford Bog (RAS, BC).

KINGLETS - VIREOS

Only 3 Golden-crowned Kinglets were reported this year, all in New London (RCV). Ruby-crowned Kinglets continued to increase since dropping off in 1978. Twelve birds were observed on the BBS routes (median 15). Last year Cedar Waxwings reached their second highest number of 383 on the BBS routes. This year, however, they dropped to 239 individuals. Starlings hit their second lowest total ever.

Yellow-throated Vireos were noted on both the Fitzwilliam and Strafford routes. A total of 3 recorded, about average for this species. In addition, male Yellow-throated Vireos were observed singing in Lee (RWS), Sutton (KCE), Franklin (DLS), Antrim (RAQ), and Laconia (VHH). The 19 Solitary Vireos on the BBS routes were the second fewest ever recorded. Last year they were observed at their lowest in 14 years. Red-eyed Vireos dropped from 883 individuals to 589 on the BBS routes, their second lowest number ever. These birds seemed scarce all spring, too. The Philadelphia Vireo reported on the Wilmot BBS route was most unusual, but a Philadelphia Vireo on the Peterborough route June 22 was completely off the track for both time and place! Another new record high was established for Warbling Vireo, with 51 birds reported on the BBS routes. Their numbers appear to be on a steady increase.

WARBLERS

Last year warblers had an excellent year. Most were above their medians and some reached new record highs. This year the situation was just the opposite. Most numbers decreased considerably with Magnolia Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, and Canada Warbler at their lowest density ever on the BBS routes. Mourning Warblers, however, remained high for the second year in a row.

Sandy Mallett observed the unusual behavior of anting by a Black-and-white Warbler (picking an ant off a tree and placing it under its wing). No Golden-winged, Blue-winged, or Tennessee Warblers were seen this year on the BBS routes. Individual reports indicated Golden-winged Warbler pairs in Dover (SM); East Foss Farm, Durham; and Kensington (RWS). Two male Blue-winged Warblers were seen in Rollinsford (SM). Two Tennessee Warblers were recorded in Dummer/Errol (VHH). Yellow Warblers continued to remain high with 111 individuals observed on the BBS routes. Magnolia Warblers, on the other hand, were at their lowest ever with only 28 seen on BBS routes. Cape May Warblers remained steady with the average of 2 birds seen (heard) on the routes.

Black-throated Blue Warblers also hovered around their median with 22 individuals observed. Since 1978 Yellow-rumped Warblers have been seen in increasing numbers ranging between 72 and 111 birds. This year, however, only 48 individuals were recorded on the BBS routes. Black-throated Green and Blackburnian Warblers both continued to be constant around their median. Chestnut-sided Warblers, although improved in numbers in the past 2 years, dropped considerably to their third lowest ever. For the third year, Bay-breasted Warblers were scarce with only 3 birds recorded on the BBS routes. One male Bay-breasted in adult plumage was observed singing on the Church Pond trail on July 20 (BSR). Only 2 Black-poll Warbler reports were submitted--a late migrant in Concord June 4 (RAQ) and in Warner on Mt. Kearsarge on July 19 (RCV). Pine Warblers were seen at their second highest total ever of 15 birds. Five Prairie Warblers were recorded on the BBS routes; 4 of these birds were seen on the

Exeter route. Last year these birds were observed mostly on the Hopkinton route. Prairie Warblers were also noted in Derry (RAQ), Franklin (DLS), and Warner (KCE). Ovenbirds hit their sixth highest number of 391 birds on the BBS routes. Meanwhile Northern Waterthrushes were recorded at their sixth lowest number of only 17 individuals. No Louisiana Waterthrushes were seen on any BBS routes but they were reported in Andover (KCE) and in New Hampton (VHH).

Mourning Warblers were recorded at their all-time high of 13 birds for the second year in a row. Twelve of these sightings were on the Clarksville route. A late migrant Mourning Warbler was noted in Sutton June 5 & 6 (Cliff Rogers, KCE). The 15 noted by Vera Hebert in Pittsburgh on June 4 could easily have included many migrants.



Common Yellowthroats were observed at a record low of 369 birds. Wilson's Warblers went unrecorded for the fourth year in a row. Like the Yellowthroat, Canada Warblers dropped to a new low of 12 individuals. In the two years previous Canada Warblers were well below their median. American Redstart was yet another warbler seen in low numbers. Only 171 birds were recorded, the second lowest ever and well below their median of 249.

BLACKBIRDS



The Eastern Meadowlark, a bird of strictly fields and meadows, has been declining dramatically since 1977. Prior to 1977 the number of individuals ranged between 46 and 83. In 1983, 20 had been observed, and in 1984, only 8. Meadowlarks were also reported at Whiteface Intervale (BSR), Dover, Lebanon Airport, Newmarket, Kensington, Manchester Airport, and Stratham (RWS).

Red-winged Blackbird also dropped considerably in numbers to a record low. Northern Orioles, on the other hand, were seen at their second highest total ever with 203 individuals. Marie Martin found over 20 pairs of orioles in Manchester. Common Grackle was yet another species noted at its

lowest ever. Brown-headed Cowbirds dropped to their second lowest total ever.

TANAGERS - SPARROWS



Scarlet Tanagers dipped slightly from 127 individuals in 1983 to 111 in 1984. Cardinals, though, displayed a surprising drop. Since 1977 their BBS totals have been increasing yearly to their

record high of 18 birds in 1983; this year, however, only 7 were noted. Cardinals were also observed in Manchester (MTM), Andover, Wilnot (KCE), Milford (AEA), and nesting in Keene (BBR). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks also dropped significantly to their fourth lowest ever of 78 birds--well below their median of 100. But they were well reported elsewhere. Indigo Buntings remained steady with 51 individuals recorded on the BBS routes. They were also seen in E. Wolfeboro (DLR), Manchester (MTM), Hudson (BM), Dover, Durham, Plymouth (RWS), and New London (RCV). Only one Evening Grosbeak was seen on the Clarksville BBS route. In addition, they were reported in Errol and New Hampton (VHH).

BBS numbers for Purple Finches dropped dramatically to a record low of 40 birds (median 84). Purple Finches were also reported in Jaffrey (AEA), E. Wolfeboro (DLR), and Silver Lake (EHM). House Finches, though, in the last three years have set new records of over 30 individuals, and they were also observed in Manchester (MTM) and Milford (AEA).

Pine Siskins were low on the BBS routes. In addition, Pine Siskins were recorded in E. Wolfeboro (DLR), Alexandria (CVM fide VHH), and Church Pond Bog (BSR), and 40+ were still in E. Derry on June 3 (RAQ). American Goldfinch numbers dropped from 211 in 1983 to their fifth lowest of 175 individuals in 1984. No Red Crossbills were reported anywhere in the state. No White-winged Crossbills were seen on the BBS routes, but 4 pairs were noted at Church Pond Bog (BSR).

Like so many of the old field and wood margin species this year, the Rufous-sided Towhee has dropped dramatically to a new low of only 71 birds on the BBS routes (median 272). The Towhee has been exhibiting a downward trend since 1978.

Savannah Sparrows hit a new low with only 14 birds on the BBS routes. They were also reported this year in Durham, Lebanon Airport, Dover, Kensington, Manchester Airport, Nashua Airport, and a family at the Plymouth Airport (RWS). No GRASSHOPPER SPARROWS were noted on the BBS but a pair was reported in New Hampton on June 13 (RWS). In the last two years no Vesper Sparrows were seen on the routes. This year one was recorded on the Lempster route. In addition, Vespers were seen in Warner (KCE) and Dummer-Dixville (VHH). Dark-eyed Juncos were observed at their lowest total ever: only 18 birds seen on the BBS routes, well below their median of 48. Two juncos were in E. Derry on June 3 (RAQ). Last year Chipping Sparrows reached an all-time high of 322 birds. This year, however, only 271 individuals were recorded on the BBS routes. Field Sparrows, like other old field species, dropped significantly in numbers to a new low of 12 (median 55). Field Sparrows have been exhibiting a decline since 1976. White-throated Sparrows were also considerably low with their second lowest ever of 218 birds.

On a more positive note, Lincoln's Sparrows remained high with 10 individuals recorded on the BBS routes. Swamp Sparrows increased this year with 35 observed on the routes. Song Sparrows continued to remain down in numbers with their second lowest total ever, with only 261 individuals. Song Sparrows began to decline in 1979 with periodic upswings, but they have not again come close to their highs of 500-600 birds.

* * * * *

CONTRIBUTORS: VAbbiati, AEAmes, RBradley, MTButterworth, LCorey, BCottrell, KCElkins, LREmons, VHayden, VHHebert, BJaneway, RJolly, ALincoln, EGLocke, BMCCarthy, FMcCrillis, HMcDade, EHMacDonald, SMallett, MTMartin, CMatthewson, CVMcMaster, HMartel, PHNordman, EWPhinney, PAPhipps, ESP (Endangered Species Program), DLRaddin, BSRidgely, BBRobert, NHRobertson, RASprague, ESTeele, RWStephenson, BSuomala, ACVernon, RCVernon, plus ACBorrow and MRestani.

* * * * *

CORRECTIONS to Vol. 2, No. 1 (Spring 1983 Season)

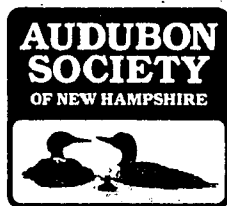
"Common Nighthawks started appearing in central N.H. April 15 (AER, RAQ)." SHOULD READ: May 15.

"A Gray-cheeked Thrush was reported in Durham April 23 (MLD fide VHH)." SHOULD READ: (MLD fide ASNH).

"A PROTHONOTARY WARBLER was reported (without any details) from Lamprey Pond in Hampton (TJBertrand)." SHOULD READ: (TJBertrand fide RAQ). This report was added in after the seasonal editors had submitted their report. (*See procedural note in this issue.-ed*)

ADDENDA to Vol. 3, No. 2 (Summer 1984 Season)

2 yg. Common Goldeneye, Errol, June 30, 1984 (TR)
3 ad. and 2 yg. Red-headed Woodpeckers, Monroe, Summer 1984 (Dawn Stavros)
1 female Black-backed Woodpecker, Galehead Hut area, July 8, 1984 (TR, ASNH)
Willow Flycatcher, Plymouth, June 30, 1984 (SAG, WWF)
Tufted Titmouse, North Conway, June 29, 1984 (TR)
Meadowlark, Whitefield Airport, June 21, 1984 (TR)
House Finch, Bath, June 23, 1984 (SAG, WWF)
GRASSHOPPER SPARROW, Plymouth, June 30, 1984 (SAG, WWF)



P.O. Box 528B
Concord, N.H. 03301

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 522
Concord, N.H.