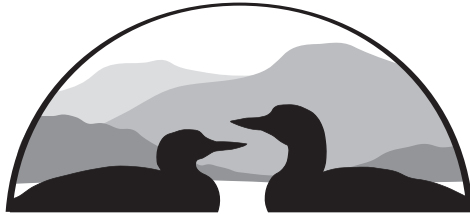


New Hampshire Bird Records



Spring 2011

Vol. 30, No. 1



New Hampshire Bird Records

Volume 30, Number 1

Spring 2011

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Cover Photo: Ruff (foreground) with Greater Yellowlegs by Len Medlock, 04/21/11, Chapman's Landing, Stratham, NH.

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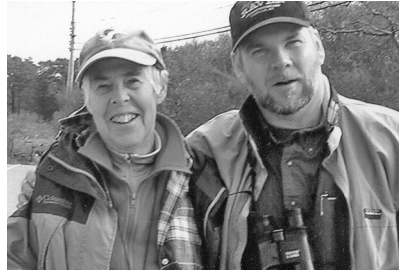
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IN HONOR OF
Betty Densmore

This issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*, with its color cover, is sponsored by Pat Niswander on behalf of the Concord Bird and Wildflower Club in memory of long time member, Betty Densmore. Betty was an avid birder and enjoyed the many field trips that the Club offered. She will be greatly missed.



Betty Densmore on a birding field trip to Cape Cod, MA with Robert A. Quinn.

In This Issue

From the Editor 2

Photo Quiz 3

Spring Season: March 1 through March 31, 2011 4
by Ben Griffith, Lauren Kras, and Eric Masterson

Hawks Galore! 44
by Iain MacLeod

Photo Gallery – Forget the Whales, Watch (out for) the Birds! 46
by Jon Woolf

Field Notes 49
compiled by R.A. Quinn

New Hampshire Audubon’s 2011 Birdathon Highlights 52
by Phil Brown

My First Birdathon 54
by Aiden Moser

Birding New Hampshire’s Largest State Park – Pisgah 55
by Ken Klapper

Backyard Birder – The Confused Bodyguard 60
by George W. Gavutis, Jr.

Answer to the Photo Quiz 62
by David B. Donsker

From the Editor

Welcome New Spring Editors – Eric, Ben and Lauren

This issue, we welcome new Season Editors, Eric Masterson, Ben Griffith and Lauren Kras. Their names are familiar to many of you as active birders in the state and regular contributors to *New Hampshire Bird Records*. You'll also notice that rather than one person as Spring Editor, we have expanded to a team approach. The number of records coming in to eBird makes it challenging for any new editor to take on a season for the first time. The Season Editors not only analyze all the sightings (over 50,000 sightings for this spring!) and choose which ones to publish, but they review all the unusual incoming eBird reports and request more information as needed. It's obviously a time consuming process.

So we are experimenting with the “divide and conquer” approach; dividing the birds into two groups, each covered by different editors. Eric has taken on the first half of the list which includes waterfowl through alcids. Ben and Lauren worked together on the second half of the list from doves all the way through to House Sparrows at the end. They have done an excellent job, despite some challenges. Each brings a different style and voice to the season and his/her own expertise.

We will all be evaluating whether this is a successful strategy, so please let us know what you think. If you are interested in being a Season Editor, please let me know. There will be an opening coming up and we are hoping to continue the dual editor model.

Renewal Reminder!

If you haven't yet renewed your subscription, you will find a Final Renewal Notice enclosed with this issue. Please send it in right away. You can also renew on-line. On-line subscription payments now go through the New Hampshire Audubon secure web site so you can easily use your credit card or PayPal. You can also renew by calling (603) 224-9909 and asking for the “Membership Department” (please have your credit card ready). Thanks for your subscription and support of *New Hampshire Bird Records*.

Photo Quiz



Can You Identify This Bird?

Answer on page 62
Photo by Len Medlock.

Spring Season

March 1, 2011 through May 31, 2011

by *Eric Masterson (Waterfowl through Alcids)*
and *Ben Griffith and Lauren Kras (Doves through Finches)*

The spring started out cold and wet. A warm flow mid-March brought many of the earliest passerine migrants to the state, but wet weather continued through the month. The rain continued in April, but a break in the weather on April 27 resulted in a “flood” of migrants (both the expected early spring species and some unusually early individuals of later species) and an impressive (and rarely witnessed) flight of diurnal migrants.

May started off dry allowing many earlier migrants to settle in before an impressive mid-month spell of precipitation downed shorebirds and waterfowl and held back late passerine migrants. The fallout was especially noteworthy inland, where many species of shorebird are generally scarcer than on the coast. Seventeen species were recorded inland, almost two thirds of all shorebird species recorded during the season. Two **Marbled Godwits** were not only a rare spring record, but get bonus points for also being the first inland record for the state. Passerines took advantage of the good days that they did have this spring, resulting in several impressive fallouts along the coast. Several birders went on early season whalewatches which turned up some remarkable sightings, including four **Leach’s Storm-Petrels** and the state’s second **White-winged Dove** record.

On a statewide scale, a **Pink-footed Goose** marks the rarest bird of the season and will be the state’s first if accepted. Not far behind were two **Ruffs**, a **Swallow-tailed Kite**, the aforementioned **White-winged Dove**, and the **Townsend’s Solitaire** which continued from the winter season into March. Each of these species has fewer than ten previous records for the state. A **Varied Thrush**, a **Summer Tanager**, and a **Yellow-headed Blackbird** were also statewide rarities. An **American Golden-Plover**, two **Orange-crowned Warblers**, and six “**Western**” **Palm Warblers** were noteworthy because of their seasonal rarity.



Birders of all ages lined up to view the Ruff on 04/25/11 at Chapman’s Landing, Stratham, NH.
Photo by Lauren Kras.



The target of their efforts — the Ruff — photo by Len Medlock.



Eric Masterson

Waterfowl through Acids

by Eric Masterson

Waterfowl

It was an above average season for waterfowl, topped by New Hampshire's first ever **Pink-footed Goose**. Found by Taj Schottland and Don Clark on April 2 at Malnati Farm in Walpole, it was likely the same individual seen in New Jersey two weeks earlier based on bill pattern. The other major excitement was provided courtesy of a period of inclement weather. A major flight of **White-winged Scoters** occurred from May 20-22 across New Hampshire's lakes and ponds. In the biggest fallout of the species since 2006, eleven reports totaling 358 individuals were seen from various locations around the state, including six birds at Basin Pond in Chatham. The other scoter species are much rarer inland in spring, and thus two Surf Scoters on the Merrimack River in Hooksett and a single Black Scoter on Spofford Lake were noteworthy.

Seven **Greater White-fronted Geese** were reported, an above average number but consistent with this species increasing regularity. Three **Cackling Geese** were seen along the Connecticut River. Bob Quinn picked his moment to go searching for Brant on May 25 when he tallied 650 migrating north from the coast, with one flock alone consisting of about 200 birds.

Rarer ducks included a **Eurasian Wigeon** and **Red-head** on Great Bay, another Redhead at Meadow Pond in Hampton, and a young male **King Eider** at Rye Harbor State Park in late May. **Long-tailed Ducks** staged at Great Boars Head in Hampton, with a peak count of 500 birds on April 27. For the past few springs, they have gathered at




King Eider by Len Medlock, 05/28/11, Rye Harbor, NH.

this site prior to leaving for their breeding grounds in the Arctic. If you haven't yet seen them, don't miss this impressive sight next year!

Four Barrow's Goldeneye were about average for the state during spring, while a total of 22 Red-breasted Mergansers at 14 locations was the highest inland number in more than 20 years. High counts included seven Northern Shovelers in Hampton and eleven Northern Pintail in Hinsdale. Four **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** were reported from Great Bay and North Hampton.

Ring-necked Duck migration peaked at Powwow Pond in Kingston (324 birds) and Northwood Lake (200 birds) in late March/early April. By contrast, the numbers were lower than usual along the Connecticut River Valley, with a high count of 80 at Wilder Dam in Lebanon.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Pink-footed Goose				
04/02	1	Walpole	Malnati Farm, Rt. 12	T. Schottland, et al.
<p><i>Greater White-fronted Goose</i> by Stephen R. Mirick, 03/15/11, Rt. 155 A (Moore fields), Durham, NH.</p> 				
Greater White-fronted Goose				
03/15	1	Durham	Rt. 155A (Moore) fields	S. Mirick, et al.
03/16	1	Durham	Rt. 155A (Moore) fields	J. Lambert
03/20	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
03/20	1	Dover	Stafford County Farm	D. Hubbard, et al.
03/25	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	S. Brand
03/26	4	Charlestown	Great Meadows	E. Masterson, et al.
Snow Goose				
03/18	19	Holderness	Squam Lakes Natural Science Ctr.	I. MacLeod
03/18	42	Stoddard	Pitcher Mountain	P. Brown, et al.
03/19	105	Charlestown	Charlestown WTP	M. Adams, D. Clark
03/19	60	Conway	Sherman Farm	B. Crowley, J. Scott
03/20	65	Concord	West Portsmouth St.	R. & M. Suomala
03/20	85	Walpole	Malnati Farm, Rt. 12	E. Masterson
03/24	41	Conway	E. Conway fields	B. Crowley
04/04	45	Keene	Keene State WMA	J. Atwood
04/05	105	Lyme	River Road & N. Thetford Rd.	B. Allison
04/05	21	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Mirick
04/07	20	Lancaster	Connecticut River	S. Stoddard
04/09	25	Greenland	Great Bay Discovery Center	G. Tillman
04/17	10	Somersworth		C. Patten
05/23	1	Westmoreland	Hatt Road	G. Seymour
Brant				
03/05	2	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	E. Woodruff
03/13	7	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick, et al.
05/22	345		NH coast	J. Lambert
05/25	650	Rye	Cable Road beach access	R. Quinn
05/28	1		Squam Lake	T. Grade
05/30	1	New London	Pleasant Lake	K. Wilson
Cackling Goose				
03/20	1	Walpole	Malnati Farm, Rt. 12	E. Masterson
04/02	2	Charlestown	Great Meadows	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert
Canada Goose				
03/01	500	Greenland	Great Bay Discovery Center	J. Lambert
03/15	937	Durham	Rt. 155A (Moore) fields	S. Mirick, J. Lambert
03/15	160	Hinsdale	bluffs by Vernon Dam	J. Russo, D. Clark
03/20	2000	Walpole	Malnati Farm, Rt. 12	E. Masterson
03/23	1250	Boscawen	Merrimack River Big Bend	R. Quinn
04/05	300	Hinsdale	Vernon Dam, Connecticut R.	P. Brown, et al.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Mute Swan				
03/04	2	Rye		E. Woodruff
03/06	1	Dover	Pomeroy Cove, Dover Pt.	J. Owens
03/09	2	Hampton	Meadow Pond	J. Lambert
03/10	2	Rye	Eel Pond	B. Crowley, D. Hubbard
03/14	12	Greenland	Sunset Farm	J. Kelly
03/20	10	Manchester	Nutts Pond	N. Beaulac
03/26	3	Nashua	Mine Falls Park	J. Taylor
04/28	1	Concord	South End Marsh	D. Howe
05/05	4	Hinsdale	Hinsdale Setbacks	K. Klapper
Wood Duck				
03/02	2	Durham	Great Bay, Adam's Point	J. Lambert
03/13	39	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	L. Medlock, J. Lambert, et al.
03/19	12	Walpole	Malnati Farm, Rt. 12	M. Adams, D. Clark
03/20	60	Boscawen	Merrimack River Big Bend	R. & M. Suomala
03/25	30	Antrim	Water Street	P. Brown
03/26	30	Charlestown	Great Meadows	R. Quinn, et al.
04/02	80	Walpole	Rt. 12 by Malnati Farm	P. Brown
04/10	37	Canterbury	sod farm	M. & R. Suomala
04/23	35	Kensington	South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
05/10	21	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	D. Howe
Gadwall				
03/20	2	Hinsdale	Rt. 63, s. of town	E. Masterson
03/20	1	Walpole	Malnati Farm, Rt. 12	E. Masterson
03/30	1	Nashua	Mine Falls Park, cove	C. Blackington
04/02	2	Hinsdale	bluffs by Vernon Dam	G. Tillman, B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert
04/02	2	Walpole	Rt. 12 by Malnati Farm	A. Burnett
04/09	2	Charlestown	Great Meadows	E. Masterson
04/27	2	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
05/01	2	Rye	Eel Pond	J. Lambert
05/14	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard, Seacoast CFT
05/21		Rochester	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
Eurasian Wigeon				
03/13	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	L. Medlock, J. Lambert, et al.
American Wigeon				
03/05	3		NH coast	S. Mirick
03/06	3	Hinsdale	Vernon Dam, Connecticut R.	P. Brown
03/20	4	Hinsdale	Rt. 63, s. of town	E. Masterson
03/31	24	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
04/02	6	Walpole	Rt. 12 by Malnati Farm	A. Burnett
04/27	2	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
American Black Duck				
03/05	180	Exeter	Exeter WTP	J. Lambert
03/26	400	Newington	Great Bay NWR	J. Scott, B. Crowley
04/03	122	Charlestown	Great Meadows	R. & M. Suomala
04/21	16	Errol	steamer landing	R. Quinn
04/22	12	Lancaster	Rt. 135 farm fields	R. Quinn

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Mallard				
03/05	2300	Exeter	Exeter WTP	J. Lambert
03/12	300	Exeter	Exeter WTP	L. Medlock, J. Lambert
03/20	125	Dover	Strafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
04/02	70	Concord	Fort Eddy boat launch	R. Quinn, Capital CFT
04/03	190	Charlestown	Great Meadows	R. & M. Suomala
04/03	114	Walpole	Rt. 12 farm field	R. & M. Suomala
Blue-winged Teal				
04/06	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	G. Tillman
04/12	5	Hampton	Meadow Pond	L. Medlock
04/30	2	Hanover	Mink Brook wetlands area	C. Crawford, W. Cripps
05/14	4	Bradford	Melvin Brook	M. Davidson
05/18	2	Rochester	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard, Seacoast CFT
Northern Shoveler				
03/15	1	Portsmouth	South Mill Pond	S. Young
04/05	7	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick
04/08	4	Exeter	Exeter WTP	R. Aaronian
04/11	1	Nashua	Sagamore Bridge access	D. Deifik
04/20	3	Portsmouth	South Mill Pond	S. Young
05/20	1	Derry	Derry WTP	M. Thompson
Northern Pintail				
03/02	1	Rochester	Rochester WTP	J. Lambert
03/06	11	Hinsdale	Vernon Dam, Connecticut R.	P. Brown
03/20	10	Boscawen	Merrimack River Big Bend	R. Quinn
03/30	4	Westmoreland	Sawyer Farm, River Rd.	E. Masterson
04/02	3	Charlestown	Great Meadows	L. Kras, B. Griffith, J. Lambert
04/23	1	Effingham	Granite Rd.	J. & B. Augusti
Green-winged Teal				
03/02	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	J. Lambert
03/22	47	E. Kingston	Bodwell Farm	L. Medlock
03/23	103		NH coast	J. Lambert
04/09	310	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. & J. Mirick
04/22	65	Charlestown	Great Meadows	E. Masterson
04/22	43	Lancaster	Rt. 135 farm fields	R. Quinn
05/01	123	Hampton	Meadow Pond	L. Medlock, J. O'Shaughnessy, J. Lambert
05/07	2	Newmarket	Lubberland Creek Preserve	S. & J. Mirick
Green-winged Teal - Eurasian subsp. Common Teal				
03/13	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	L. Medlock, J. Lambert, et al.
04/05	1	N. Hampton	Little River saltmarsh	S. Mirick
04/06	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	G. Tillman
05/01	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	L. Medlock, J. O'Shaughnessy, J. Lambert
Canvasback				
03/19	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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*Redhead by Len Medlock, 03/08/11,
Meadow Pond, Hampton, NH.*



Redhead

03/08	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick, L. Medlock, J. O'Shaughnessy
03/16	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond south	J. O'Shaughnessy
04/09	1	Greenland	Great Bay	S.& J. Mirick

Ring-necked Duck

03/01	3	Greenland	Great Bay Discovery Center	J. Lambert
03/15	77	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick
03/20	57	Exeter	Exeter WTP	L. Medlock, J. Lambert
03/20	72	Greenland	Sunset Farm	L. Medlock
03/27	324	Kingston	Powwow Pond	J. Lambert
03/28	25	Auburn	Massabesic Lake	P. Brown
04/01	80	Salem	World End Pond	S. Mirick
04/02	21	Boscawen	Merrimack River Big Bend	R. Quinn, Capital CFT
04/02	50	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	L. Kras, B. Griffith, J. Lambert
04/07	200	Northwood	Lakeshore Dr., Northwood Lake	A. Robbins
04/09	80	Lebanon	Wilder Dam	E. Masterson
04/16	49	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
04/18	25	Gilford	Lily Pond	H. Anderson
04/29	25	Moultonborough	Unsworth Preserve	T. Vazzano
05/14	3	Jefferson	Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge	P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT
05/23	1	Hinsdale	bluffs by Vernon Dam	K. Klapper
05/30	1	Rye	Eel Pond	S. Mirick

Greater Scaup

03/13	2	Hinsdale	Connecticut River	D. Adams
03/14	300	Greenland	Great Bay Discovery Center	L. Medlock
03/23	1000	Greenland	Sunset Farm	J. Lambert
04/09	6	Lebanon	Wilder Dam	E. Masterson
04/17	2	Concord	Turtle Pond	A.& G. Robbins, R. Quinn
04/25	2	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	S. Mirick
05/05	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale rail trail	K. Klapper

Lesser Scaup

03/09	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	J. Carroll
04/04	7	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
04/12	12	Exeter	Exeter WTP	L. Medlock
04/16	5	Rye	Eel Pond	S. Mirick
04/19	5	Concord	Turkey Pond	A. Robbins
05/07	1	Errol	Leonard Marsh and Lake Umbagog	R. Quinn

King Eider

05/28	1	Rye	Rye Harbor	S.& J. Mirick, et al.
05/30	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Surf Scoter				
04/26	2	Hooksett	Lambert Park boat ramp	P. Brown, R. Quinn
White-winged Scoter				
05/17	9	New London	Pleasant Lake	R. Quinn
05/21	100	Franklin	Webster Lake	J. Henderson
05/21	115	Woodstock	Hubbard Brook Exp. Forest, Mirror Lake	D. Gochfeld
05/21	75		Grafton County	S. Turner
05/22	7	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
05/22	494		NH coast	S. Mirick
05/22	26	Bradford	Lake Massasecum	C. Martin
05/22	2	Gilmanton	Shellcamp Pond	M. Tarr
05/23	6	Hinsdale	Hinsdale rail trail	K. Klapper
05/23	6	Chatham	Basin Pond	P. & L. Lane
05/29	12		Squam Lake	T. Michel
Black Scoter				
05/04	1	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson
Long-tailed Duck				
03/13	4	Hinsdale	Connecticut River	D. Adams
03/19	5	Hampton	Great Boars Head	J. O'Shaughnessy
04/18	27	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	Z. Cornell
04/21	2	Antrim	Willard Pond WS	J. Brown
04/24	280	Hampton	Great Boars Head	G. Tillman
04/26	3	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	H. Galbraith
04/27	500	Hampton	Great Boars Head	J. O'Shaughnessy, L. Medlock
05/04	4	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson
05/06	200	Hampton	Great Boars Head	J. O'Shaughnessy
05/15	4	Hampton	Great Boars Head	J. O'Shaughnessy
Bufflehead				
03/20	2	Boscawen	Merrimack River Big Bend	R. Quinn
03/22	5	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
03/23	37	Greenland	Great Bay Discovery Center	J. Lambert
03/26	24	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick
04/02	12	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	L. Kras, B. Griffith, J. Lambert
04/10	4	Danville	Pine St. & Barnard Way	J. Lambert
04/14	3	Chesterfield	Big Deal Marsh, Spofford	K. Klapper
04/19	8	Concord	Turkey Pond	A. Robbins
05/06	3	Pittsburg	Second Connecticut Lake ramp	R. Quinn, E. Masterson
Common Goldeneye				
03/05	201	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
03/12	70	Concord	Sewalls Falls	R. Quinn
03/20	140	Hinsdale	Vernon Dam	E. Masterson
04/10	31	Errol		R. Hunt
04/21	85	Errol	dam pool	R. Quinn
04/21	2	Wentworths Location	Magalloway River	R. Quinn
04/22	8	Lancaster	Lancaster WTP	R. Quinn
05/07	5	Errol	dam	R. Quinn, E. Masterson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Barrow's Goldeneye				
03/05	1	Hampton	Great Boars Head	J. O'Shaughnessy
03/05	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
03/12	1	Rye	Seal Rocks	J. O'Shaughnessy, S. Mirick, L. Medlock, J. Lambert
03/23	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
03/28	1	Rye	Seal & Pulpit Rocks	G. Tillman, Z. Cornell
03/31	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
03/31	2		NH coast	S. Mirick
Common Merganser				
03/13	51	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Mirick
03/20	75	Boscawen	Merrimack River Big Bend	R. Quinn
04/02	60	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	L. Kras, B. Griffith, J. Lambert
Red-breasted Merganser				
04/06	2	Lebanon	Wilder Dam	E. Masterson
04/07	2	Hanover	Mink Brook Nature Preserve	A. Dickey
04/09	1	Concord	Merrimack R., Locke Rd. sod farm	R. Suomala
04/09	47		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
04/12	2	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	K. Klapper
04/21	7	Lyme	Grant Brook at River Rd.	J. Norton
04/22	2	Monroe	Comerford Dam	R. Quinn
04/29	2	Hinsdale	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Breder
05/04	2	Enfield	Mascoma Lake	E. Masterson
05/05	1	Andover	Highland Lake	R. Quinn
05/18	1	Boscawen	Martin's field	R. Quinn
05/20	1	Woodstock	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest	A. Muniz
05/21	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	H. Galbraith
05/23	1	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	K. Klapper
05/29	1	Alton	Shore Road, W. Alton	B. Young
Ruddy Duck				
03/14	2	Greenland	Great Bay Discovery Center	G. Tillman
04/14	1	Concord	Turtle Pond	A. Robbins, Z. Cornell

Grouse through Vultures

Steve and Jane Mirick recorded valuable data on coastal migration of birds, with 32 Red-throated Loons moving north on May 22 representing quite a high count for the date. A single record of Horned Grebe away from the coast was low, relative to 19 Red-necked Grebes from various inland locations.

Sooty Shearwater and Wilson's Storm-Petrel recorded on the opening whalewatch of the season on May 21 were on the early side, but the four **Leach's Storm-Petrels** seen the same day were much more unusual. Leach's Storm-Petrels are routine on Cashes Ledge which lies 50 miles east of Jeffreys Ledge, and not uncommonly recorded from Cape Ann during storms, but are very rarely seen on Jeffreys Ledge which lies just 20 miles off the coast. The calm weather for the preceding hours and days makes the sighting all the more intriguing, as the species occurrence in New

Hampshire is usually associated with strong easterly or southeasterly winds. Perhaps they are more frequent spring migrants on Jeffreys Ledge than previously thought, with a relative scarcity of early season opportunities to visit the Ledge one reason why there might not be more records.



Little Blue Heron by Len Medlock, 05/06/11, Exeter WTP, NH

Two **Least Bitterns** were noted from suitable breeding habitat in Durham. Great Egrets, much scarcer inland in spring than fall, were seen in Keene, Swanzey, and Concord. A Little Blue Heron stayed for most of May at the Exeter wastewater treatment plant, delighting multiple observers. Ten Glossy Ibis in Rye on May 22 was a high count, but the farther one gets from the coast, the rarer the species becomes. Thus the Glossy Ibis seen in Keene on April 14 was a regional rarity.

Black Vulture is now an expected though rare spring migrant in New Hampshire. This year, three reports of four birds was not unexpected for this species based on recent spring occurrences. A group of 50 Turkey Vultures in Nashua on April 1 was a particularly large flock for spring.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Spruce Grouse				
03/20	1		Mt. Osceola, West Peak, WMNF	J. Stockwell
Red-throated Loon				
03/02	1	Durham	Great Bay, Adam's Point	J. Lambert
04/19	29	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
05/22	32		NH coast	S. Mirick
Common Loon				
05/22	15		Sunapee Lake	R. White
05/22	79		NH coast	J. Lambert
Pied-billed Grebe				
03/30	2	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick
04/08	2	Concord	South End Marsh	Z. Cornell
04/19	3	Lyme	River Rd., Grant Brook	P. Ackerson
05/01	2	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	L. Medlock, J. Lambert
05/01	2	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	R. Suomala, D. Howe
Horned Grebe				
04/09	20		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
04/22	17	Rye	Seal Rocks	D. Hubbard
04/26	2	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	H. Galbraith
05/23	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale rail trail	K. Klapper

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Red-necked Grebe				
04/09	33		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
04/17	6	Concord	Turkey Pond	A. Robbins, R. Quinn
04/18	2	Hinsdale	Hinsdale rail trail	K. Klapper
04/19	6	Franklin	Webster Lake	R. Quinn
04/22	3	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	H. Galbraith
04/30	50		NH coast	S. Mirick
05/04	2	Enfield	Mascoma Lake	E. Masterson
05/23	1	Hinsdale	bluffs by Vernon Dam	K. Klapper
Northern Fulmar				
05/21	4	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Medlock, J. Woolf
Sooty Shearwater				
05/21	2	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Medlock, J. Woolf
05/28	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick, J. Woolf
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				
05/21	166	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Medlock, J. Woolf
05/28	240	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick, J. Woolf
Leach's Storm-Petrel				
05/21	4	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Medlock, J. Woolf
Northern Gannet				
04/05	3		NH coast	S. Mirick
04/19	22	Hampton	Great Boars Head	S. Mirick
05/05	172	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach, Haverhill St.	S. & J. Mirick
05/21	54	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Medlock, J. Woolf
05/22	100	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson
05/28	22	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick, J. Woolf
Double-crested Cormorant				
03/19	1	Hampton	Great Boars Head	J. O'Shaughnessy
03/23	12	Exeter	Exeter WTP	J. Lambert
03/27	35	Exeter	Exeter WTP	L. Medlock
04/02	7	Walpole	Rt. 12 by Malnati Farm	P. Brown
04/05	17	Charlestown	Connecticut R.	A. Johnson
04/09	11	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Woodward
04/17	355	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
04/21	420	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
04/21	12	Milan		R. Quinn
04/26	62	Hinsdale	bluffs by Vernon Dam	K. Benton
04/26	1682		NH coast	S. Mirick
04/27	75	Concord	Constitution Ave.	R. Quinn, P. Brown, et al.
04/27	146	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	H. Galbraith
05/05	233	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach, Haverhill St.	S. & J. Mirick
05/20	30	Hinsdale	Hinsdale Setbacks	P. & J. Brown et al.
05/22	104		NH coast	S. Mirick
Great Cormorant				
03/03	4	Hooksett	Rt. 3A, s. of bridge	D. Lipsy
03/19	3	Manchester	millyard	I. Hansche
04/18	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale rail trail	K. Klapper
05/22	2	Epping	Hoar Pond	J. Kelly
05/25	1	Rye	White and Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, C. Cox

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
American Bittern				
04/07	1	Rochester	Fowler Farm	D. Hubbard
04/17	1	Hancock	Cavender Road	P. Brown
04/18	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River	A. Robbins
05/14	4	Jefferson	Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge	P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT
Least Bittern				
05/16	1	Durham	Surrey Lane marsh	K. Dorsey
05/22	1	Durham	Surrey Lane marsh	J. Lambert
Great Blue Heron				
03/09	1	N. Hampton	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
03/11	1	Pinkham's Grant	Pinkham Notch pond	W. O'Brien
04/09	10	Durham	pond	D. Dotton
04/24	14	Epping	N. River Rd. bog	G. Tillman
05/31	15	Hollis	Monson Village, SPNHF	C. Sheridan
Great Egret				
03/20	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	J. O'Shaughnessy
04/03	1	Concord	Locke Road sod farm	D. Howe, L. Bauer
04/05	1	Keene	Ashuelot Park	K. Benton
04/05	1	Swanzy	Airport Rd.	A. Johnson
04/17	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	D. Howe, L. Bauer
Snowy Egret				
04/04	2	Hampton	Meadow Pond south	J. O'Shaughnessy
04/30	26		NH coast	S. Mirick
Little Blue Heron				
05/02	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	P. Lacourse
05/25	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	J. Scott
Green Heron				
04/18	1	Somersworth	residence	C. Patten
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
04/10	1	Hampton	Church Street	L. Medlock, J. Lambert, J. O'Shaughnessy
05/23	1	Manchester		N. Beaulac
05/24	3	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	J. Kelly
05/25	1	Hopkinton	Mast Yard SF	P. Hunt, R. Woodward
05/29	1		Squam Lake	T. Michel
Glossy Ibis				
04/09	2	Greenland	Great Bay Farm	D. Hubbard, D. Green, et al.
04/14	1	Keene	Cornwell Dr.	H. Breder
04/30	4		NH coast	S. Mirick
05/02	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	P. Lacourse
05/22	10	Rye	Odiome Point SP	S. Mirick
Black Vulture				
04/12	1	Exeter	Alder St.	P. Lacourse
05/08	1	Strafford	Mt. Evans	J. Lambert
05/17	2	Exeter	Exeter WTP	J. O'Shaughnessy, L. Medlock
05/31	1	Woodstock	Hubbard Brook Exp. Forest, Mirror Lake	D. Gochfeld

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Turkey Vulture				
03/01	8	Newmarket	River St.	B. Griffith
03/17	12	Concord	Turtle Pond	R. Quinn, D. Howe, D. Lipsy
03/31	13	Lancaster		R. Hunt
04/01	50	Nashua	Rt. 111	W. Kramer
04/05	31	Rochester	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard, L. Medlock

Raptors through Cranes

Mississippi Kites returned again to Newmarket and were seen collecting nesting material. This spring, they shared the spotlight with a **Swallow-tailed Kite** reported by Ken Benton on April 26 flying north up the Connecticut River Valley in Hinsdale. Only the fourth state record and the first since 1979, it was likely delivered to New Hampshire by the same combination of weather conditions that brought an exceptional number of Mississippi Kites to Massachusetts.

Exceptional numbers of **Broad-winged Hawks** on April 27 included a remarkable 1,002 birds recorded by two separate observers at Powdermill Pond. In numbers suggestive of a mid-September day, the observers provided documentation that indicated birds were not double counted. This is the largest recorded spring hawk flight for New Hampshire. In total, more than 1,100 Broad-winged Hawks were reported from various locations around the state (see the article in this issue by Iain MacLeod). The following day, this editor flushed a flock of eight American Kestrels from a roost close to Powdermill Pond, perhaps suggesting that the main hawk flight was centered there. Eight American Kestrels were also noted in Great Meadows in Charlestown, the site of the season's only Rough-legged Hawks. In a six hour coastal watch, Steve Mirick recorded a terrific flight of 107 American Kestrels from the Hampton Beach State Park on April 17.




Sandhill Cranes by Mike Thompson, 04/05/11, Depot Road, Hampstead NH.

Clapper Rail is a rare visitor to New Hampshire, which is at the northern limit for the species. Two birds were seen on May 21 behind Little Jack's Restaurant in Hampton, and continued into summer. This section of Hampton marsh was spared the worst excesses of mosquito ditching that blighted many saltmarsh systems in New Hampshire and elsewhere. It continues to be one of the most productive areas of the marsh for birds and one hopes that the rails found it to be suitable

breeding habitat. The number of **Sandhill Cranes** passing through New Hampshire on migration continues to increase, with five reports this spring, including a flock of four in Hampstead on April 5.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Osprey				
03/13	1	Hinsdale	Connecticut River	D. Adams
04/16	1	Lancaster		R. Hunt

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Osprey—continued				
04/22	2	Errol	Mile Long Pond	R. Quinn
04/27	10	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Suomala, P. Hunt, D. Howe, M. Johnson
04/27	14	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River	A. Robbins
04/27	7	Rumney	residence	J. Williams
Swallow-tailed Kite				
04/26	1	Hinsdale	bluffs by Vernon Dam	K. Benton
Mississippi Kite				
05/21	2	Newmarket	Gonet Drive	S. & J. Mirick
05/26	3	Newmarket	Smith Sisters (Follett's Brook) WS	P. Brown
Northern Harrier				
03/12	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond south	L. Medlock, J. Lambert
04/02	2	Boscawen	Merrimack River Big Bend	R. Quinn, Capital CFT
04/17	7	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
05/01	2	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	R. Suomala, D. Howe
05/06	2	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Road	R. Quinn, E. Masterson
Sharp-shinned Hawk				
04/02	1	Colebrook	residence	C. Fife
04/18	6	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	S. & J. Mirick
04/24	4	Strafford	Barn Door Gap Rd.	J. Lambert
04/27	18	Campton	Meadow Ln.	S. Fogleman
04/27	18	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River	A. Robbins
05/06	11	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach, Haverhill St.	S. Mirick
Cooper's Hawk				
04/27	9	Concord	Main Street	R. Quinn
04/27	9	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River	A. Robbins
Northern Goshawk				
03/17	3	Concord	Turtle Pond	R. Quinn, D. Howe, D. Lipsy
Red-shouldered Hawk				
03/03	1	Kensington	Rt. 108	B. Griffith, J. Lambert
03/22	1	Charlestown	Great Meadows	E. Masterson
04/27	2	Farmington	Blue Job Mt.	S. Young
Broad-winged Hawk				
04/07	1	Charlestown	Route 12, near Great Meadows	D. Adams
04/15	15	Concord	Turtle Pond	D. Lipsy, M. Suomala, R. Quinn
04/22	1	Errol	Mile Long Pond	R. Quinn
04/27	416	Bennington	Powder Mill Pond-north	C. Martin
04/27	174	Campton	Meadow Ln.	S. Fogleman
04/27	80	Concord	Main Street	R. Quinn, M. Ciburowski
04/27	111	Farmington	Blue Job Mt.	S. Young
04/27	68	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River	A. Robbins
04/27	49	Rumney	residence	J. Williams
04/27	586	Hancock	Powder Mill Pond	L. & D. Stokes
04/28	60	Hollis	Woodmont Orchards	G. Coffey

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Red-tailed Hawk				
03/17	14	Concord	Turtle Pond	R. Quinn, D. Howe, D. Lipsy
05/27	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet dam	E. Shaw
Rough-legged Hawk				
03/22	1	Charlestown	Great Meadows	E. Masterson
04/02	3	Charlestown	Great Meadows	L. Kras, B. Griffith, J. Lambert
04/07	1	Charlestown	Great Meadows	D. Clark, M. Adams
American Kestrel				
03/15	1	Dover	Stafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
04/09	8	Charlestown	Great Meadows	E. Masterson
04/09	5	Portsmouth	Pease Intl. Tradeport	S. & J. Mirick
04/17	107	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
04/19	14	Swanzy	Keene Airport	P. & J. Brown, E. Ruelas
04/21	60	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick, et al.
04/27	9	Campton	Meadow Ln.	S. Fogleman
04/27	23	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River	A. Robbins
Merlin				
04/17	12	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
04/21	9	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick, et al.
05/06	2	Pittsburg	Second Connecticut Lake ramp	R. Quinn, E. Masterson
Peregrine Falcon				
03/03	2	Nashua	Chandler St. cathedral	I. Preissner
04/21	3	Somersworth	residence	C. Patten
05/13	2	Hinsdale	Hinsdale Setbacks	K. Klapper
				
<p><i>Clapper Rail by Jason Lambert, 05/22/11, behind Little Jack's restaurant, Hampton, NH.</i></p>				
Clapper Rail				
05/21	2	Hampton	Little Jack's restaurant, Rt. 1A	S. Mirick, L. Medlock, et al.
05/25	1	Hampton	salt marsh	S. Mirick, Z. Cornell, J. Scott
Virginia Rail				
04/12	1	N. Hampton	Lovering Road marsh	L. Medlock
04/12	2	Portsmouth	Borthwick Ave.	L. Medlock
04/12	1	Portsmouth	Liberty Mutual	G. Tillman
04/12	1	Portsmouth	Urban Forestry Center	L. Medlock
05/30	5	Sutton	Cascade Marsh	R. Quinn
Sora				
04/30	1	Rye	Odiome Point SP	L. Medlock
05/01	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	L. Medlock, J. O'Shaughnessy, J. Lambert, P. Chamberlin
05/05	1	Stafford	Spruce Pond Bog	S. Young

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Sora—continued				
05/21	1	Portsmouth	marsh by hospital	S.& J. Mirick
05/21	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
05/22	1	Gilmanton	Shellcamp Pond	M. Tarr
05/25	1	Salem	Geremonty Drive marsh	K. Brown
American Coot				
03/05	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
Sandhill Crane				
04/05	4	Hampstead	Depot Rd. ballfields	M. Thompson, L. Medlock
04/17	1	Durham	Rt. 155A (Moore) fields	L. Medlock
04/30	1	E. Kingston	Bodwell Farm	S. Mirick
05/11-14	1	Canterbury	sod farm	A. Taylor
05/17	1	Durham	Rt. 155A (Moore) fields	J. O'Shaughnessy

Shorebirds through Alcids



Short-billed Dowitchers and Dunlin by Paul Merritt, 05/24/11, Lake Opechee shore, Laconia, NH

Perhaps the standout story of the season involves shorebirds. This includes birds in odd places such as the normally coastal Black-bellied Plover, White-rumped Sandpiper, Dunlin, and Short-billed Dowitcher that were seen inland in the Connecticut River Valley, Concord, and Laconia. Several birds were seen at an odd time, including the **American Golden Plover** on April 9 in North Hampton. A quick browse through the last 20 years of *New Hampshire*

Bird Records reveals 399 individual American Golden Plovers seen during fall, but one has to go back to 1991 to find the last spring record for the species. Dave Lipsy set a new spring record count for Solitary Sandpiper when he tallied a remarkable 31 birds while canoeing Eastman Cove on the Merrimack River. Birding by canoe is a highly profitable business! The two **Ruffs** were quite literally birds on the “wrong” continent. The individual at Chapman’s Landing (Great Bay) that lingered for four days was the first “twitchable” Ruff in the state since 1970. More typical of this rare Eurasian transient was the bird that turned up in a flooded cornfield in Charlestown for only a single day.

Yet, despite the appearance of the state’s first Pink-footed Goose, two Ruffs, and a Swallow-tailed Kite, arguably the rarity of the season was the pair of **Marbled Godwits** that were photographed on the banks of the Connecticut River north of Hanover

on May 30. Rare in fall along New Hampshire's coast, the species is exceedingly rare in spring and rarer again inland in New England, this being only the third inland record for the entire region. Like the American Golden Plover, this species migrates north in spring through the central states. The godwits capped a remarkable spring for shorebirds, which also included several **American Oystercatchers**, and both **Red-necked** and **Red** Phalaropes. This brought the spring shorebird species count for the state to 26, fifteen of which were seen in the Connecticut River Valley.

The Connecticut River Valley is also the premier site in the state to see Black Tern in the spring and this year was no exception with nine separate individuals recorded. The weather that brought the Black Terns also delivered seven inland Common Terns, including individuals on Lake Umbagog in Errol and Wilson Pond in Swanzey. The tern rarity of the season however was the second inland spring record of **Forster's Tern**, which appeared on Horseshoe Pond in Concord for a day. Other rare birds included Black-headed Gull at Rochester, two coastal Little Gulls, Laughing Gull in Durham, Lesser Black-backed Gull in Concord, Caspian Tern in North Hampton, and two Parasitic Jaegers.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Black-bellied Plover				
03/05	1		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
05/18	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Quinn, J. Williams
05/21	2	Hinsdale	Hinsdale Setbacks	K. Klapper
05/21	60	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. & J. Mirick



American Golden-Plover by Len Medlock, 04/09/11, Runnymede Farm, N. Hampton, NH.

American Golden-Plover

04/09	1	N. Hampton	Runnymede Farm	L. Medlock, S. & J. Mirick, et al.
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Semipalmated Plover

05/07	1	Canterbury	sod farm	A. Taylor
05/12	33		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
05/18	6	Boscawen	Martin's field	R. Quinn
05/18	11	Rochester	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard, Seacoast CFT
05/20	1	Charlestown	Wetherby Road fields	E. Masterson, K. Klapper, D. Clark, et al.
05/20	125	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
05/21	6	Walpole	Sawyer Farm, River Rd.	K. Klapper
05/24	1	Charlestown	Charlestown WTP	E. Masterson
05/25	45		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
05/29	10	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	S. Mirick

Piping Plover

03/26	2	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop	S. Mirick
05/22	2	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop	R. & M. Suomala, D. Finch

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Killdeer				
03/02	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	J. Lambert
03/07	2	Hollis	River Rd.	T. Hadley
03/19	18	Walpole	Malnati Farm, Rt. 12	D. Clark, M. Adams
03/20	18	Dover	Strafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
03/21	10	Rochester	Meadorboro Rd.	S. Young
03/23	33	E. Kingston	Bodwell Farm	S. Mirick
03/27	89	Durham	Rt. 155A (Moore) fields	J. Lambert
03/31	7	Monroe	McIndoes Reservoir	T. Berriman
04/05	20	Keene	Keene State WMA	J. Atwood
04/07	20	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	A. Taylor
05/06	1	Clarksville	Indian Stream floodplain	R. Quinn, E. Masterson
05/14	12	Canterbury	sod farm	A. Taylor
American Oystercatcher				
05/18	1	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	S. Mirick
05/21	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop	G. Tillman, et al.
05/22	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	E. Masterson
05/26	3	Rye	Ragged Neck	R. Quinn
Spotted Sandpiper				
04/19	1	Antrim	Willard Pond WS	P. Brown
04/27	5	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Quinn
05/04	12	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
05/16	12	Lee	Old Mill Rd. WMA	S. Young
05/21	12	Rye	White and Seavey Islands	D. & M. Hayward, et al.
05/27	12	Jefferson	Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge	L. Thurston
Solitary Sandpiper				
04/29	1	Seabrook	Worthley Ave.	S. Mirick
04/30	1	Durham	Rt. 155A (Moore) fields	K. Dorsey
04/30	3	Hanover	Mink Brook wetlands area	W. Cripps
05/10	31	Concord	Eastman Cove, SPNHF	D. Lipsy
05/20	16	Charlestown	Wetherby Road fields	E. Masterson
05/25	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. & J. Mirick
Greater Yellowlegs				
04/05	3	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	G. Tillman
04/18	30	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	S. & J. Mirick
04/19	2	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	A. Robbins
04/24	35	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	S. Motyl
05/06	3	Clarksville	Indian Stream floodplain	R. Quinn, E. Masterson
05/16	5	Hebron	Hebron Marsh	J. Williams
05/16	9	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park, Contoocook	R. Quinn
05/16	8	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit	T. Vazzano
05/16	4	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake	K. Klapper
05/18	8	Rochester	Rochester WTP	Z. Cornell
05/19	7	Lee	Old Mill Rd. WMA	S. Young
Willet				
04/23	1	Rye	Massacre Marsh	S. Mirick
04/28	1	Hampton	Island Path	L. Medlock
04/30	3		NH coast	S. Mirick
05/03	5	Rye	Rye Harbor	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Lesser Yellowlegs				
04/12	3	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	G. Tillman
05/06	4	Rochester	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
05/10	1	Concord	Eastman Cove, SPNHF	D. Lipsy
05/12	1	Concord	Eastman Cove, SPNHF	D. Lipsy
05/16	2	Lee	Old Mill Rd. WMA	S. Young
05/16	2	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit	T. Vazzano
05/18	8	Rochester	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard, Seacoast CFT
05/20	2	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	B. Crowley, L. Thurston

*Upland Sandpiper by Len Medlock,
05/01/11, Runnymede Farm,
N. Hampton, NH.*



Upland Sandpiper

05/01	1	N. Hampton	Runnymede Farm	L. Medlock, J. O'Shaughnessy, J. Lambert
05/14	2	Newington	Short St., Pease Intl. Tradeport	Z. Cornell

Marbled Godwit

05/30	2	Hanover	Fullington Field	S. Hardy
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Ruddy Turnstone

05/17	1	Rye	Rye salt marshes	S. Mirick
05/18	8		NH coast	S. Mirick
05/29	2	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	S. Mirick

Red Knot

05/21	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. & J. Mirick
05/24	2	Hampton	Hampton Harbor State Marina	L. Medlock, J. O'Shaughnessy, S. Mirick

Sanderling

04/09	164		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
05/25	148		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick


Semipalmated Sandpiper


05/15	33		Hampton Harbor	J. O'Shaughnessy
05/26	356	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick

Least Sandpiper

04/30	5	Hampton	salt marsh	S. Mirick
05/04	10	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
05/13	3	Hinsdale	Hinsdale Setbacks	K. Klapper
05/14	4	Jefferson	Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge	P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT
05/16	11	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park, Contoocook	R. Quinn
05/18	12	Boscawen	Martin's field	R. Quinn
05/20	65	Charlestown	Wetherby Road fields	E. Masterson, K. Klapper
05/20	30	Walpole	Sawyer Farm, River Rd.	K. Klapper

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
White-rumped Sandpiper				
05/17	2	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
05/20	1	Charlestown	Wetherby Road fields	E. Masterson, K. Klapper
05/20	1	Walpole	Sawyer Farm, River Rd.	K. Klapper
05/26	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
Pectoral Sandpiper				
03/20	1		NH coast	J. Lambert
04/13	4	Durham	Rt. 155A (Moore) fields	J. Lambert
04/14	4	Durham	Rt. 155A (Moore) fields	S. Young
Purple Sandpiper				
05/14	100	Rye	Rye Harbor	K. Klapper
05/29	33	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	S. Mirick
Dunlin				
04/19	191		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
05/15	400		Hampton Harbor	J. O'Shaughnessy
05/16	2	Hebron	Hebron Marsh	J. Williams
05/18	1	Rochester	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard, Seacoast CFT
05/24	4	Charlestown	Connecticut River	E. Masterson
05/24	1	Laconia	Opechee Bay	P. Merritt
05/25	93		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
Ruff				
04/21	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	G. Tillman, et al.
04/24	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	Z. Cornell, B. Griffith, et al.
05/20	1	Charlestown	Wetherby Road fields	E. Masterson, K. Klapper, D. Clark, et al.
Short-billed Dowitcher				
05/22	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	L. Main
05/23	18	Rye	Rye Harbor	B. Crowley
05/24	4	Laconia	Opechee Bay	P. Merritt
05/24	48		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick J. O'Shaughnessy, L. Medlock
05/25	30		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
Wilson's Snipe				
03/17	1	Westmoreland	Woodward Road area	A. Burnett
04/05	27	N. Hampton	Runnymede Farm	S. Mirick
04/09	16	Greenland	Great Bay Farm	J. Lambert
04/17	22	Durham	Rt. 155A (Moore) fields	L. Medlock, J. Lambert
05/20	6	Jefferson	Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge	B. Crowley, L. Thurston
American Woodcock				
03/12	1	Bartlett	Intervale, Hill 'n Vale	L. Route
03/12	4	Durham	Rt. 155A (Moore) fields	J. Lambert
03/17	18	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
Red-necked Phalarope				
05/20	1	Derry	Derry WTP	M. Thompson
05/21	286	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Medlock, J. Woolf

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Red Phalarope				
05/18	1	Hampton	Great Boars Head	J. O'Shaughnessy, et al.
05/20	1	Charlestown	Wetherby Road fields	E. Masterson, K. Klapper, D. Clark, et al.
Bonaparte's Gull				
04/05	3	Hinsdale	Vernon Dam, Connecticut R.	P. Brown, et al.
04/17	18		NH coast	S. Mirick
04/26	8	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	H. Galbraith
04/27	2	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Quinn
04/27	2	Sanbornton	Hermit Lake	P. Cerar
05/04	1	Lebanon	Wilder Dam	E. Masterson
05/15	6	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	D. Govatski
05/22	151		NH coast	J. Lambert
Black-headed Gull				
04/05	1	Rochester	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard, S. Mirick
04/07	1	Rochester	Rochester WTP	M. Thompson
				
<i>Little Gull by Len Medlock, 05/20/11, North Hampton State Beach, NH.</i>				
Little Gull				
05/20	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick, J. O'Shaughnessy
05/20	1	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	L. Medlock
05/21	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Medlock, J. Woolf
Laughing Gull				
04/11	1	Durham	UNH Dairy Bar	B. Griffith, L. Kras
04/13	1	Durham	Rt. 155A (Moore) fields	S. Mirick, J. Lambert
04/14	1	Durham	Rt. 155A (Moore) fields	S. Young
05/18	14	Hampton	Great Boars Head	J. O'Shaughnessy
Ring-billed Gull				
03/19	150	Concord	Birch St. Community Garden	R. Suomala
04/13	550	Durham	Rt. 155A (Moore) fields	J. Lambert
04/21	154	Milan		R. Quinn
05/24	144	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
Iceland Gull				
03/09	6	Rochester	Rochester WTP	S. Mirick
03/16	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	J. O'Shaughnessy
04/21	1	Farmington	Garland Farm/Ten Rod Rd. /Baxter Lake area	S. Young
Lesser Black-backed Gull				
03/09	1	Dover	Dover/Gulf Rd.	S. Young
03/10	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	J. Kelly
03/17	1	Farmington	Garland Farm/Ten Rod Rd. /Baxter Lake area	S. Young
04/05	1	Hinsdale	Vernon Dam, Connecticut R.	P. Brown, et al.
04/09	2	Rochester	Rochester WTP	T. Vazzano

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Lesser Black-backed Gull—continued				
04/11	1	Durham	UNH Dairy Bar	B. Griffith, L. Kras
04/27	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	P. Hunt, et al.
05/12	1	N. Hampton	cove at Rye town line	S. Mirick
05/18	1	Rye	Massacre Marsh	S. Mirick
Glaucous Gull				
03/01	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	J. Carroll
03/03	1	Rochester	Rochester WTP	B. Griffith, J. Lambert
03/10	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop	L. Medlock
03/19	1	Farmington	Garland Farm/Ten Rod Rd. /Baxter Lake area	S. Young
03/20	1	Rye	Eel Pond	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert
04/21	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick, et al.
Great Black-backed Gull				
04/21	46	Berlin	Androscoggin River	R. Quinn
Least Tern				
05/18	1		NH coast	S. Mirick
05/22	1		NH coast	S. Mirick
				
<i>Caspian Tern by Len Medlock, 04/28/11, Rye, NH.</i>				
Caspian Tern				
04/27	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	E. Masterson
04/28	1	Rye	beach across from Eel Pond	L. Medlock, et al.
Black Tern				
05/15	3	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	D. Govatski
05/17	2	Hinsdale	Hinsdale Setbacks	K. Klapper, P. Brown
05/24	1	Charlestown	Charlestown WTP	E. Masterson
05/24	2	Charlestown	Connecticut River	E. Masterson
05/24	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
Roseate Tern				
05/15	2		Hampton Harbor	J. Lambert
05/24	20	Rye	White and Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, C. Cox
05/24	20		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick, J. O'Shaughnessy, L. Medlock
Common Tern				
05/04	2	Charlestown	Connecticut River	E. Masterson
05/05	2	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
05/07	1	Errol	Leonard Marsh & Lake Umbagog	R. Quinn, E. Masterson
05/15	59		Hampton Harbor	J. Lambert
05/17	2	Hinsdale	Hinsdale Setbacks	K. Klapper
05/18	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	H. Galbraith
05/19	1	Swanzy	Wilson Pond	K. Klapper
05/21	500	Rye	White and Seavey Islands	D.& M. Hayward, et al.
05/22	4000	Rye	White and Seavey Islands	D.& M. Hayward, et al.
Arctic Tern				
05/20	4	Rye	White and Seavey Islands	D.& M. Hayward, et al.
05/24	8	Rye	White and Seavey Islands	D. Hayward, C. Cox

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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Forster's Tern by Deb LaValley, 04/26/11, Horseshoe Pond, Concord, NH.



Forster's Tern

04/26	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	D. LaValley
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Parasitic Jaeger

05/22	1	Rye	Star Island	J. Lambert
05/22	1		NH coast	S. Mirick

Razorbill

03/19	1	Hampton	Great Boars Head	J. O'Shaughnessy
04/19	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
05/22	2	Rye	Star Island	J. Lambert
05/22	2		NH coast	S. Mirick

Black Guillemot

05/22	6	Rye	White and Seavey Islands	D. & M. Hayward, et al.
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*Lauren Kras and Ben Griffith
photo by Stephen R. Mirick.*

Doves through Finches

by Ben Griffith and Lauren Kras

Doves through Corvids

A **White-winged Dove** anywhere in the state would be cause for excitement, but a bird that landed on a whalewatch boat over 10 miles offshore furnished a second state record in truly remarkable fashion (see article on page 46). The dove stayed on the boat all the way to Rye Harbor, where it flew into a nearby tree and remained for much of the afternoon.

Inclement weather during much of the latter part of May was likely responsible for very late arrivals of both cuckoos and Common Nighthawk in the state. Early Ruby-throated Hummingbirds appeared following a southerly flow on April 27 and 28. A remarkable 16 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were observed migrating along the coast on May 22.

Flycatchers were generally on-time or slightly late. Great Crested Flycatcher is the only exception with multiple April sightings, well early of their median arrival date of May 6. A Willow Flycatcher from May 6 in Hinsdale was early amongst otherwise normal arrivals for the species.



*White-eyed Vireo by Scott Young,
05/25/11, Arboretum Drive,
Newington, NH.*

Shrikes were reported in average numbers this spring. Two **White-eyed Vireos** were found together in appropriate breeding habitat in Newington, but were only seen for two days. All four “regular” vireos (Warbling, Blue-headed, Red-eyed, and Yellow-throated) were earlier than usual, perhaps owing to the same spell of warm weather during late April that brought hummingbirds and warblers north. Blue Jays are often thought of as residents, but high totals from Pittsfield and Barnstead capture this species migratory habits. The northernmost records of Fish Crows this spring come from the Lakes Region, which currently represents the northern limit of the species range. Fish Crows were once restricted to the southeastern corner of the state, but their population has expanded in the past 10 years.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
White-winged Dove				
05/28	1	Offshore Waters	landed on whalewatch boat, flew off at Rye Harbor	S.& J. Mirick, J. Woolf, et al.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				
05/29	1	Durham	Bartlett Road	L. Medlock, J. Lambert
Black-billed Cuckoo				
05/26	1	Lebanon	Boston Lot Lake	J. Norton
05/26	1	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
05/27	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River	A. Robbins
05/28	1	Rumney	residence	J. Williams
Eastern Screech-Owl				
03/17	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
04/01	1	Hollis	South Depot Road	J. Tudor
05/21	1	Greenland	Great Bay Discovery Center	S.& J. Mirick
Common Nighthawk				
05/20	1	Concord	Concord Public Library, Green St.	J. Kolia
05/20	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River	A. Robbins
05/24	30	Concord	Hazen Dr.	K. Tuttle, et al.
05/24	5	Keene	Krif Road	K. Klapper
05/25	3	Pembroke	Pembroke Sand & Gravel	R. Suomala
Eastern Whip-poor-will				
04/27	1	Concord	Clinton St. residence	R. Woodward
04/30	3	Hopkinton	Mast Yard SF	P. Hunt
05/21	4	Rochester	Fowler Farm	D. Hubbard, et al.
Chimney Swift				
04/25	6	Concord	NH State Hospital	P. Hunt
04/25	3	Nashua	downtown	C. Sheridan

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				
04/27		Hinsdale	residence	L. Darcy
04/27	1	Newton	residence	P. McFarland
05/22	8	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson
05/25	16	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. & J. Mirick
Red-bellied Woodpecker				
03/22	1	Holderness	Burleigh Farm Road	I. MacLeod
04/06	2	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano
05/14	1	Rumney	residence	J. Williams
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				
04/05	1	Antrim	Willard Pond WS	P. Brown
04/05	2	Manchester	Currier Drive	R. Frieden
05/08	16	Strafford	Mt. Evans	J. Lambert
Black-backed Woodpecker				
03/23	1	Second College Grant	Black Mountain bridge	S. Hardy
05/14	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge	P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT
05/29	1	Lincoln	Sugar Hill overlook	P. MacLeod
05/29	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet Rd.	R. Bielawski
05/31	1	Millsfield	Mount Kelsey	K. Horton
Olive-sided Flycatcher				
05/20	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. Turner
05/24	2	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River	A. Robbins
05/29	2	Effingham	Huntress Bridge Rd.	D. Duxbury-Fox, R. Fox, et al.
Eastern Wood-Pewee				
05/13	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale rail trail	K. Klapper
05/26	4	Rye	Star Island	R. Quinn
05/29	7	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				
05/19	1	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Rd.	J. Merrill
05/28	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. & J. Mirick, J. Woolf
05/31	4	Millsfield	Mount Kelsey	K. Horton
Alder Flycatcher				
05/13	1	Surry		P. & J. Brown, et al.
05/28	7	Jefferson	Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge	B. Crowley, L. Thurston
05/29	9	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
Willow Flycatcher				
05/06	1	Hinsdale	bluffs by Vernon Dam	K. Klapper
05/18	1	Concord	Horsehoe Pond	R. Quinn, J. Williams
Least Flycatcher				
04/29	2	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park, Contoocook	P. Newbern
04/29	6	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway SP	S. Young
04/30	2	Epping	N. River Rd. bog	G. Tillman
Eastern Phoebe				
03/19	2	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
03/19	1	Lee	Old Mill Rd. WMA	S. Young
03/19	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	B. Heitzman

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Eastern Phoebe—continued				
03/19	1	Westmoreland	Maplewood demonstration garden	K. Klapper
04/05	13		NH coast	S. Mirick
Great Crested Flycatcher				
04/27	2	Hampton	Great Boars Head	S. Mirick, L. Medlock, J. O'Shaughnessy
04/27	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick, L. Medlock
04/28	1	Kensington	South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
04/29	2	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway SP	S. Young
04/29	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River	A. Robbins
05/29	12		Squam Lake	T. Michel
Eastern Kingbird				
04/25	1	Wilmot	Kearsarge Valley Rd.	P. Newbern
04/27	2	Henniker	Contoocook River	A. Moser
04/27	2	Nashua	Yudicky Farm/Southwest Park	C. Sheridan
04/27	2	Newington	Great Bay NWR	J. Kelly
Northern Shrike				
03/02	1	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
03/03	1	Strafford	Rt 126	J. Lambert
03/07	1	Berlin	Argonne St.	K. Dube
03/15	1	Dover	Strafford County Farm	L. Medlock, D. Hubbard
03/15	1	Walpole	Malnati Farm, Rt. 12	D. Clark, J. Russo
03/19	1	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
03/27	1	Charlestown	Great Meadows	D. Clark, M. Adams
03/31	1	Monroe	McIndoes Reservoir	T. Beriman
04/04	1	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
04/11	1	Carroll	Bretton Woods	L. Bergum
04/11	1	Keene	Krif Road	K. Klapper
White-eyed Vireo				
05/25	2	Newington	Arboretum Dr.	S. Young, D. Deifik, P. Miliotis
05/28	1	Newington	Arboretum Dr., Pease Intl. Tradeport	L. Medlock, J. Lambert
Yellow-throated Vireo				
04/30	1	Epping	Flag Hill Winery	G. Tillman
05/01	2	S. Hampton	Chase Road	S. Mirick
05/14	3	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway SP	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert
05/19	2	Sandwich	Mead Conservation Center	P. Hunt
Blue-headed Vireo				
04/15	1	Antrim	Willard Pond WS	P. Brown
04/16	1	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
04/17	1	Warner	Howe Lane	P. Ackerson
04/26	5	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
05/25	2	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	L. Medlock
Warbling Vireo				
04/28	2	Concord	White Farm	P. Hunt
05/07	13	Concord	Fort Eddy boat launch	R. Woodward
05/13	10	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Red-eyed Vireo				
04/29	1	Hampstead	Hazel Drive	L. Medlock
05/01	1	Rindge	Converse Meadow	E. Richard
05/28	27	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
Gray Jay				
03/15	2	T&M Purchase	Mt. Washington	S. Crowley
03/22	1	Second College Grant	Management Ctr.	S. Hardy
05/07	2	Errol	Whaleback Ponds	R. Quinn
05/31	4	Millsfield	Mount Kelsey	K. Horton
Blue Jay				
04/27	51	Barnstead	North Barnstead Rd.	J. Lambert
05/02	68	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River	A. Robbins
05/03	98	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River	A. Robbins
Fish Crow				
03/20	1	Tilton	Winnepesaukee R. behind plaza by Rt. 140	R. & M. Suomala
04/09	2	Ossipee	Routes 25 & 16, W.Ossipee	T. Vazzano
05/17	7	Hampton	Hampton Harbor State Marina	S. Mirick

Horned Lark through Snow Bunting

Tree Swallows were notably early this year, with the first birds recorded on March 9. Purple Martins continued to “hold on” to their status as a breeder in the state with reports of birds at two traditional colonies. Martins in Concord, Rochester, and Hampton represent migrants rather than potential breeders. Melanistic (abnormally dark) birds are extremely rare to begin with, but a melanistic Northern Rough-winged Swallow in Lee on May 16 was the second such bird in the state in as many years!

The large push of migrants on April 27 produced a remarkable high count of 15 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers along the coast. An impressive fallout of Ruby-crowned Kinglets occurred on April 19, including counts of 61 in Rye and 38 in Keene. The **Townsend’s Solitaire** that spent the winter in Strafford lingered until at least March 6 and was the most notable thrush during the season. Not far behind was a Varied Thrush that spent most of March and April in a yard in Antrim. Migrant Gray-cheeked and Bicknell’s Thrushes are rarely documented, so reports of both species this spring was notable. A Hermit Thrush along the coast on March 19 would have been early for a migrant and was likely a surviving over-wintering bird.



*Melanistic Northern Rough-winged Swallow
by Scott Young, 05/16/11, Lee, NH.*

Bohemian Waxwings continued a statewide irruption from the winter and numbers peaked in mid-March and continued well into April. Large flocks in Epping and Somersworth were notable for their proximity to the coast where they are seen less frequently than the rest of the state.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Horned Lark				
03/17	70	Walpole	Malnati Farm, Rt. 12	D. Clark, M. Adams
03/29	63	Newington	Arboretum Dr., Pease Intl. Tradeport	L. Medlock
04/02	14	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
04/15	2	Hampton		J. O'Shaughnessy
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				
04/14	5	Surry	Surry Mountain Lake dam	K. Klapper
04/27	17	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	Z. Cornell
05/28	1	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	B. Crowley, L. Thurston
Purple Martin				
04/16	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard, A. Kimball
04/17	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
04/21	2	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick, et al.
04/27	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	P. Hunt
05/19	6	Laconia	Funspot	P. Hunt
05/21	2	Conway	nesting colony	B. Crowley, J. Scott
Tree Swallow				
03/09	3	Nashua	Verona St. overlook	C. Sheridan
03/17	1	Concord	Turtle Pond	R. Quinn, D. Howe, D. Lipsy
03/17	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
04/05	150	Hinsdale	Vernon Dam, Connecticut R.	P. Brown, et al.
04/07	150	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	D. Howe
04/16	1000	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	K. Klapper
04/16	200	New Durham	Marsh Pond area	S. Young
04/17	600	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	L. Medlock, J. Lambert
Bank Swallow				
04/15	1	Nashua	Fields Grove	C. Sheridan
04/17	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	L. Medlock, J. Lambert
04/18	2	Hinsdale	Hinsdale rail trail and setbacks	K. Klapper
05/04	190	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
05/29	120	Conway	Rt. 113 Sherman Farms area, colony	A. & G. Robbins
Barn Swallow				
04/07	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	L. Medlock, M. Thompson
05/04	180	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
Cliff Swallow				
04/25	1	Barnstead	Brindle Pond	J. Lambert
04/26	1	Swanzy	California Brook Rd. wetlands	D. Adams
04/28	6	Hanover	Dartmouth Riding Center, Etna	J. Norton
05/30	24	Northumberland	Groveton covered bridge park	R. Hunt
Tufted Titmouse				
03/30	1	Pinkham's Grant	Pinkham Notch	J. Kelly

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
House Wren				
04/22	1	Westmoreland	Hatt Road	G. Seymour
05/14	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge	P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT
Winter Wren				
03/19	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
04/08	1	Lee	Old Mill Rd. WMA	S. Young
05/31	10	Millsfield	Mount Kelsey	K. Horton
Marsh Wren				
04/25	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	L. Kras
05/03	2	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick
05/21	10	Hinsdale	Hinsdale Setbacks	P. & J. Brown
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				
04/24	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
04/27	3	Hampton	Great Boars Head	S. Mirick, L. Medlock, J. O'Shaughnessy
04/27	6	N. Hampton	Willow Ave.	S. Mirick, L. Medlock
04/27	6	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick, L. Medlock
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
04/09	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Woodward
04/10	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
04/10	1	Hampton	Church Street	L. Medlock, J. O'Shaughnessy, J. Lambert
04/19	38	Keene	Krif Road	K. Klapper
04/19	61	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
05/29	1	Durham	Bartlett Road	L. Medlock, J. Lambert
Townsend's Solitaire				
03/03	1	Strafford	Hill Library	J. Lambert
03/06	1	Strafford	Roller Coaster Hill	S. Young
Veery				
04/29	1	Kensington	residence	S. Mirick
04/29	1	S. Hampton	Chase Road	S. Mirick
05/22	28	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
Gray-cheeked Thrush				
05/07	1	Woodstock	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest	B. Griffith
Bicknell's Thrush				
05/21	1	Sandwich	Sandwich Dome, Gleason Trail	L. Route
05/29	1	Rye	Star Island	S. & J. Mirick
Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush				
05/30	4	Concord	Mast Yard SF east	P. Hunt
Swainson's Thrush				
05/06	2	Madison	Ward Parcel trail	J. Mullen
05/10	2	Concord	Contoocook River Park/ Island Shores Estates, Penacook	P. Hunt
05/14	3	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway SP	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Hermit Thrush				
03/19	1	N. Hampton	Appledore Road	S. Mirick
04/07	1	Henniker	residence	A. Moser
04/08	2	Hollis	Beaver Brook Assoc.	V. Segarich
04/19	8	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
04/25	7	Lee	Rt. 155	L. Kras
04/27	7	Hampton	Great Boars Head	S. Mirick, L. Medlock, J. O'Shaughnessy
Wood Thrush				
04/27	1	Hampton	Great Boars Head	S. Mirick, L. Medlock, J. O'Shaughnessy
04/28	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano
04/29	1	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park, Contoocook	P. Newbern
04/29	2	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
04/30	1	Epping	Two Rivers Conservation Area	G. Tillman
Varied Thrush				
04/01	1	Antrim	Clinton Rd.	M. Harris
Gray Catbird				
04/27	1	Greenfield	Ravenwood Farm	T. Shiel
04/27	1	Hampton	Church St. water tower parking lot	S. Mirick, L. Medlock, J. O'Shaughnessy
04/27	3	Hampton	Great Boars Head	S. Mirick, L. Medlock, J. O'Shaughnessy
04/27	1	Newton	residence	P. McFarland
04/27	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick, L. Medlock
05/19	16	Keene	KSC athletic fields	K. Klapper
05/21	13	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	A. Moser
Brown Thrasher				
04/16	1	Hampton	Island Path	M. Suomala
04/22	2	Keene	Krif Road	K. Klapper
04/23	1	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
04/25	1	Charlestown	Charlestown WPT	C. Hess
04/25	1	Rye	Awcomin Marsh	J. Carroll
05/01	4	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	R. Suomala, D. Howe
05/06	1	Stewartstown	Connecticut River backwaters	R. Quinn, E. Masterson
05/07	1	Errol	downtown	R. Quinn
American Pipit				
04/02	1	Walpole	Malnati Farm, Rt. 12	D. Clark, M. Adams, J. Russo
04/19	1	Keene	Krif Road	K. Klapper
04/27	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	P. Hunt, Z. Cornell
Bohemian Waxwing				
03/08	400	Meredith	Route 3	T. Vazzano
03/13	122	Hinsdale	Hinsdale rail trail	A. Burnett
03/22	167	Epping	Walmart	B. Griffith
03/31	275	Somersworth	Rt. 9	S. Mirick
04/10	170	Concord	East Street, Penacook	P. Hunt
04/19	1	Chichester	Millican Nurseries	J. Lambert

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Cedar Waxwing				
05/25	264	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. & J. Mirick
05/26	164	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River	A. Robbins
05/28	160	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
05/30	192		NH coast	S. Mirick
Lapland Longspur				
03/05	3	Portsmouth	Pease Golf Course	S. Mirick
03/13	2	Rye	marsh south of Odiorne Pt. SP	J. Lambert
Snow Bunting				
03/03	38	Strafford	Hill Library	J. Lambert
03/05	40	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
03/09	24	Charlestown		M. Martin
04/04	11	Lancaster	Forbes meadows	D. Haas
04/05	1		NH coast	S. Mirick
04/16	1	Antrim	North Main St.	M. Noble

Warblers



Canada Warbler by Ben Griffith, 05/14/11, Durham, NH.

The southerly flow on April 27 and 28 resulted in a respectable tally of 17 species for the month. Notably early were a Chestnut-sided Warbler in Carroll on April 23, a Yellow Warbler in Exeter on April 25, a remarkable eight Prairie Warblers in Barrington on April 28 and a Mourning Warbler on May 10. A “Lawrence’s” hybrid of Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers was reported for the third year in a row in Durham. Orange-crowned Warblers are very rare in spring, so the presence of two birds this season is quite notable.

The most unusual warbler “event” of the spring was a statewide total of six “Western” Palm Warblers. Although fairly common in fall, this form is virtually unrecorded in spring in eastern New England, and there is only one other spring report for the state. “Western” Palm Warblers differ from the “Yellow” Palm Warbler (the expected subspecies in spring) in that they are brown overall with yellow limited to their throat and undertail coverts. Given the lack of previous spring records, any future sightings of this subspecies should be carefully documented. Coastal fallouts on May 14 and May 21 resulted in high counts of migrant warblers both on those days and subsequent days. Most notable of these were an almost unbelievable 150 Northern Parulas and 50 Black-and-white Warblers on Star Island on May 14.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Blue-winged Warbler				
04/30	1	Epping	Flag Hill Winery	G. Tillman
05/03	1	Westmoreland	Hatt Road	G. Seymour
05/04	1	Nashua	Yudicky Farm/Southwest Park	C. Sheridan
05/04	2	Strafford	Spruce Pond Bog	S. Young
Lawrence's Warbler (hybrid)				
05/16	1	Durham	Lamprey River Preserve	K. Dorsey
Tennessee Warbler				
05/11	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano
05/14	2	Greenfield	Ravenwood Farm	T. Shiel
05/14	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge	P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT
05/15	1	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
05/18	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale rail trail	K. Klapper
05/21	1	Keene	KSC athletic fields	K. Klapper
05/21	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	J. Kelly
05/22	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
05/22	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	L. Main
05/22	3	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
05/24	1	Keene	Greenlawn/Woodland Cemetery	K. Klapper, D. Steinberger
05/27	3	Pittsburg	East Inlet dam	E. Shaw
Orange-crowned Warbler				
04/25	1	Salem	World End Pond	S. Mirick
05/08	1	N. Hampton	Willow Ave.	S. Mirick
Nashville Warbler				
04/26	2	Hinsdale	bluffs by Vernon Dam	K. Benton
04/26	1	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
04/28	3	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	D. Howe
04/29	1	Kensington	Bartlett Road Swamp	S. Mirick
04/30	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	S. Mirick
05/15	14	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	L.& L. Medlock, J. Lambert
05/28	1	Rye	White and Seavey Islands	D. Hayward
05/29	14	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	R.& M. Suomala
Northern Parula				
04/26	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River	A. Robbins
04/26	1	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
04/27	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	P. Hunt, Z. Cornell
05/07	8	Keene	Krif Road	K. Klapper
05/07	6	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	L. Medlock
05/14	150	Rye	Star Island	K. Klapper, E. Masterson, et al.
05/15	38	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	L.& L. Medlock, J. Lambert
05/22	31	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
Yellow Warbler				
04/25	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	S. Mirick
04/26	1	Hinsdale	bluffs by Vernon Dam	K. Benton
04/26	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
04/27	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	D. LaValley

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
04/27	2	Hampton	Great Boars Head	S. Mirick, L. Medlock, J. O'Shaughnessy
05/06	13	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
05/07	17	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	G. Tillman
05/11	45	Keene	Krif Road	K. Benton

Chestnut-sided Warbler

04/23	1	Carroll	Beech Hill	N. Mitiguy
04/30	2	Epping	Flag Hill Winery	G. Tillman
04/30	1	Middleton	Jones Brook marsh	H. Grant
05/08	19	Strafford	Mt. Evans	J. Lambert

Magnolia Warbler

05/04	1	Concord	Wildemere Terrace	D. Howe
05/04	1	Harrisville	downtown	P. Brown
05/05	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River	A. Robbins
05/15	13	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	L. & L. Medlock, J. Lambert
05/21	21	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. & J. Mirick

Cape May Warbler

05/08	1	N. Hampton	Willow Ave.	S. Mirick
05/14	2	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson
05/21	2	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River	A. Robbins
05/21	1	Exeter	Powderhouse Pond	L. Medlock
05/22	1	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson, J. Lambert, G. Tillman

Black-throated Blue Warbler

04/26	1	Hampton	Church St. water tower parking lot	S. Mirick
04/27	1	Webster	Call Road	R. Quinn
04/28	1	Concord	White Farm	P. Hunt
04/28	1	Rumney	residence	J. Williams
04/28	2	Woodstock	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest	M. Hallworth
05/08	24	Strafford	Mt. Evans	J. Lambert
05/22	13	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick

Yellow-rumped Warbler

03/21	1	Bedford	Kensington Ln.	B. Griffith
03/26	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	H. Grant
04/09	8	Lebanon	Boston Lot Lake	B. Heitzman
04/11	2	Nashua		C. Sheridan
04/22	155	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway SP	S. Young
04/22	100	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
04/24	50	Epping	Two Rivers Conservation Area	G. Tillman
04/24	44	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway SP	R. & M. Suomala
04/26	60	Antrim	Willard Pond WS	P. Brown
04/27	40	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	Z. Cornell

Black-throated Green Warbler

04/22	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway SP	S. Young
04/22	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River	A. Robbins
04/25	1	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. Suomala
04/28	6	Chester	Wason Pond	S. Santino
05/08	17	Strafford	Mt. Evans	J. Lambert

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Blackburnian Warbler				
04/28	1	Rumney	residence	J. Williams
04/29	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway SP	S. Young
05/01	1	Barnstead	Tom Berry Rd.	J. Lambert
05/01	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge	R. Suomala, D. Howe
05/21	10	Tamworth	James Pond Trail	T. Vazzano, J. Cooley
Pine Warbler				
04/05	1	Bow	Melanie Lane	Z. Cornell
04/06	1	Gilmanton	Gilmanton Iron Works	W. Arms
04/08	2	Northwood	Old Mountain Rd.	S. Young
05/29	20	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
Prairie Warbler				
04/28	8	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
05/01	3	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	L. Medlock, J. Lambert
05/08	22	Lee	Rt. 155 unbuilt subdivision	G. Tillman
05/08	11	Strafford	Mt. Evans	J. Lambert
Palm Warbler				
04/05	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	L. Medlock
04/05	5	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop	S. Mirick
04/07	4	Nashua	Mine Falls Park, cove	C. Blackington
04/08	1	Kensington	South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
04/22	30	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
04/27	40	Nashua	Yudicky Farm/Southwest Park	C. Sheridan
Palm Warbler (Western)				
04/27	1	Hampton	Church St. water tower parking lot	S. Mirick, L. Medlock, J. O'Shaughnessy
04/27	1	Hampton	Great Boars Head	S. Mirick, L. Medlock, J. O'Shaughnessy
05/05	3	Hinsdale	Hinsdale Setbacks	K. Klapper
05/16	1	Lee	Old Mill Rd. WMA	S. Young
Bay-breasted Warbler				
05/04	1	Lebanon	Boston Lot Lake	A. Dickey
05/05	1	Concord	Wildemere Terrace	D. Howe
05/12	1	Exeter	Newfields Rd. residence	P. Chamberlin
05/14	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge	P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT
05/14	2	Rye	Star Island	K. Klapper, E. Masterson, et al.
05/15	1	Exeter	Powderhouse Pond	L. Medlock
05/15	2	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	L. & L. Medlock, J. Lambert
05/21	1	Concord	Horsehoe Pond	R. Quinn, A. & M. Moser
05/22	1	Pittsfield	townwide coverage	A. Robbins
05/23	1	Raymond	residence	S. Santino
05/25	1	Hampton	Church Street	L. Medlock, Z. Cornell
05/28	1	Effingham	Green Mountain Rd.	A. & G. Robbins
05/28	1	Rye	White and Seavey Islands	D. Hayward
Blackpoll Warbler				
05/10	1	Westmoreland	Woodward Road area	A. Burnett
05/11	1	Westmoreland	Partridge Brook Road	K. Klapper
05/12	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River	A. Robbins

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
				
<i>Blackpoll Warbler by Len Medlock, 05/15/11, Powderhouse Pond, Exeter, NH.</i>				
05/15	6	Exeter	Powderhouse Pond	L. Medlock
05/31	10	Millsfield	Mount Kelsey	K. Horton
Cerulean Warbler				
05/09	1	Hinsdale	Wantastiquet Mt. Natural Area	K. Klapper
Black-and-white Warbler				
04/21	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Breder
04/22	4	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway SP	S. Young
05/06	9	Farmington	Scruton Rd. area	S. Young
05/08	31	Strafford	Mt. Evans	J. Lambert
05/14	50	Rye	Star Island	K. Klapper, E. Masterson, et al.
05/22	19	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
American Redstart				
04/29	2	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway SP	S. Young
05/01	2	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
05/02	1	Concord	McLane Audubon Center, Silk Farm Rd.	P. Brown
05/22	40	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
Ovenbird				
04/26	1	Seabrook	Seabrook WTP	S. Mirick
04/27	1	Hampton	Great Boars Head	S. Mirick, L. Medlock, J. O'Shaughnessy
04/28	1	E. Kingston	Willow Road	D. Skillman
04/28	2	Kensington	South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
04/29	12	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway SP	S. Young
05/29	19	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
Northern Waterthrush				
04/17	1	Epping	North River Rd.	G. Tillman
04/22	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River	A. Robbins
04/25	2	New London	Esther Currier WMA at Low Plain	P. Newbern
04/26	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
Louisiana Waterthrush				
04/16	1	Westmoreland	Woodward Road area	A. Burnett
04/21	1	Concord	Contoocook River Park/ Island Shores Estates, Penacook	P. Hunt
04/21	2	Westmoreland	Partridge Brook Road	K. Klapper
04/24	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway SP	R. & M. Suomala
05/14	5	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway SP	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert
Mourning Warbler				
05/10	1	Surry		P. Brown, J. Tilden
05/13	1	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Rd.	J. Merrill
05/22	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Mourning Warbler—continued				
05/25	1	Hampton	Church St. water tower parking lot	S. Mirick
05/26	1	Rye	Star Island	R. Quinn, et al.
05/28	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
05/28	1	Westmoreland	Hatt Road	G. Seymour
05/29	1	Conway	Hurricane Mountain Rd.	A. & G. Robbins
05/31	2	Millsfield	Mount Kelsey	K. Horton
Common Yellowthroat				
04/26	2	Hinsdale	bluffs by Vernon Dam	K. Benton
04/27	2	Hampton	Great Boars Head	S. Mirick, L. Medlock, J. O'Shaughnessy
04/27	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River	A. Robbins
05/22	30	Rye	Odiome Point SP	S. Mirick
Wilson's Warbler				
05/05	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale rail trail	K. Klapper
05/06	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Woodward
05/06	1	Hampton	Great Boars Head	J. O'Shaughnessy
05/06	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale rail trail	K. Klapper
05/15	6	Rye	Odiome Point SP	L. & L. Medlock, J. Lambert
05/22	8	Rye	Odiome Point SP	S. Mirick
05/24	2	Keene	Keene State College athletic fields	K. Klapper
Canada Warbler				
05/06	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale Setbacks	K. Klapper
05/08	1	Strafford	Mt. Evans	J. Lambert
05/10	1	Lyme	Dorchester Rd.	P. Ackerson
05/13	4	Springfield/Enfield	Bog & George Hill Rds.	P. Newbern
05/20	5	Keene	Greenlawn/Woodland Cemetery	P. Brown
05/26	6	Winchester	Pisgah SP	K. Klapper

Towhees through Finches



*Summer Tanager by Danielle Durocher,
05/12/11, Windham, NH.*

A Chipping Sparrow in Henniker on March 1 was an overwintering bird, while it's unclear if the bird in Dover on March 31 is an early migrant or another overwintering bird. Three Clay-colored Sparrows were reported this spring, consistent with the species continued expansion into the northeast. Breeding has yet to be documented in the state, but two territorial males in Newington are suggestive that they may breed in the state soon if they haven't already. Two Grasshopper Sparrows in Amherst were the first detected at this former nesting location in several years. The "Ipswich" subspecies of Savannah Sparrow is unusual away from the immediate coast, so a bird in Greenland was notable.

A young male Summer Tanager was photographed coming to a feeder in Windham on May 9. There are perhaps a dozen previous records of this rare southern tanager, all of which were also spring overshoots. A male Yellow-headed Blackbird that was reported in Danville on April 9 was far from the its usual prairie haunts.

Redpolls continued their winter irruption into April, with standout flocks of 600 in Strafford and 500 in Sandwich. With any large redpoll invasion come reports of Hoary Redpolls and this spring was no exception. Eleven Hoarys were reported from five locations this season; however, this species is extremely difficult to distinguish from Common Redpoll, so records must be carefully documented. A group of 14 White-winged Crossbills visiting a feeder in Rye was a bit puzzling given the paucity of reports elsewhere in the state. This may be a remnant of the small winter flight (see the Winter 2010-11 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*). Steve and Jane Mirick once again documented impressive numbers of goldfinches migrating along the coast as they have in the past few years counting a total of 2,197 American Goldfinch during four migration watches this year.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Eastern Towhee				
04/08	1	Lee	Old Mill Rd. WMA	S. Young
04/19	3	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
04/20	1	Hollis	Heron Pond residence	K. Klasman
04/28	10	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
05/08	14	Strafford	Mt. Evans	J. Lambert
American Tree Sparrow				
03/01	20	Greenland	Great Bay Discovery Center	J. Lambert
03/03	12	E. Kingston	South Rd. residence	B. Griffith, J. Lambert
03/07	9	Westmoreland	Woodward Road area	A. Burnett
04/22	2	Errol	Mile Long Pond	R. Quinn
04/22	1	Hanover	Kendal at Hanover campus	J. Norton
04/22	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River	A. Robbins
04/25	3	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
Chipping Sparrow				
03/01	1	Henniker		A. Moser
03/31	1	Dover	Strafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
04/02	1	Gilmanton	Currier Hill Rd.	J. Stockwell
04/06	1	Hollis	Heron Pond residence	K. Klasman
04/22	24	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway SP	S. Young
05/01	28	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
05/22	22	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
Clay-colored Sparrow				
05/06	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale Setbacks	K. Klapper
05/12	1	Newington	Arboretum Dr., Pease Intl. Tradeport	L. Medlock
05/25	2	Newington	Great Bay NWR	S. Young
05/30	2	Newington	Arboretum Drive, Newington	S. Mirick
Field Sparrow				
03/01	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
04/02	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Field Sparrow—continued				
04/11	1	Exeter	Powderhouse Pond	L. Medlock
04/11	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River	A. Robbins
04/30	12	Concord	USFWS Karner Blue easement	J. Lambert
05/08	11	Lee	Rt. 155 unbuilt subdivision	G. Tillman
Vesper Sparrow				
04/19	4	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind Post Office	J. Lambert
04/20	1	Dover	Strafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
04/22	1	Swanzy	Keene Airport	P. & J. Brown, et al.
04/25	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	S. Mirick, et al.
04/29	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	P. Hunt
05/11	1	Newington	Pease Intl. Tradeport, Newington Rd.	G. Tillman
05/22	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
05/27	2	Concord	Concord Airport, sw side	D. Howe
05/30	1	Rochester	Meaderboro Rd.	S. Young
Savannah Sparrow				
03/03	7	Stratham	Stuart Farm	B. Griffith
03/12	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	L. Medlock, J. Lambert
03/19	1	Hampton	Great Boars Head	J. O'Shaughnessy
03/23	3	Hampton	Island Path	S. Mirick
04/19	80	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind Post Office	B. Griffith
04/20	50	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	D. Lipsy
04/28	25	Nashua	Captain's Corner	C. Sheridan
05/04	50	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
Savannah Sparrow - Ipswich subsp.				
03/23	2	Hampton	Island Path	S. Mirick
03/23	1		NH coast	J. Lambert
04/09	1	Greenland	Great Bay Farm	L. Medlock, S. & J. Mirick, et al.
Grasshopper Sparrow				
05/11	1	Newington	Pease Intl. Tradeport, Newington Rd.	G. Tillman
05/15	2	Amherst	cemetery fields	C. Sheridan
05/21	1	Newington	McIntyre Road	S. & J. Mirick
05/21	1	Swanzy	airport grasslands from Rt. 32	K. Klapper
05/27	2	Concord	Concord Airport, sw side	D. Howe
Nelson's Sparrow				
05/28	1	N. Hampton	Philbrick Marsh	S. Mirick
Saltmarsh Sparrow				
05/21	4	Hampton	Little Jack's restaurant, Rt. 1A	G. Tillman, D. Hubbard
Fox Sparrow				
03/19	5	N. Hampton	Woodland Road	S. Mirick
03/21	6	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
03/23	5	Keene	Krif Road	K. Klapper
03/26	15	Durham	Foss Farm	L. Medlock, et al.
04/09	6	Concord	Locke Road sod farm	R. Suomala
04/10	5	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River	A. Robbins
04/15	6	Westmoreland	Woodward Road area	A. Burnett
04/26	1	Antrim	Willard Pond WS	P. Brown
05/05	1	Hopkinton	Smith Pond Bog WS	P. Brown

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Lincoln's Sparrow				
04/27	2	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River	A. & G. Robbins
05/06	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
05/07	1	Keene	Krif Road	K. Klapper
05/22	2	Rye	Star Island	G. Tillman, E. Masterson
05/22	1	Rye	White and Seavey Islands	D. & M. Hayward, et al.
05/25	2	Rye	Odiome Point SP	Z. Cornell
Swamp Sparrow				
03/05	1	Stratham	Stuart Farm	S. Mirick
03/27	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	J. Lambert
04/24	17	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
05/01	15	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
White-throated Sparrow				
03/01	12	Greenland	Great Bay Discovery Center	J. Lambert
04/26	50	Antrim	Willard Pond WS	P. Brown
04/27	22	Claremont	Juniper Hill	S. Palmer
04/27	35	Westmoreland	Woodward Road area	A. Burnett
05/01	40	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
White-crowned Sparrow				
04/11	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	D. Howe
04/11	1	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
04/26	1	Nashua	downtown	C. Sheridan
05/01	1	Rindge	Converse Meadow	E. Richard
05/03	1	Carroll	Bretton Woods	L. Bergum
05/04	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	S. Mirick
05/07	4	Concord	Contoocook River Park/ Island Shores Estates, Penacook	P. Hunt
05/07	4	Errol	downtown	R. Quinn
05/08	6	Hanover	Kendal at Hanover campus	J. Norton
05/10	4	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River	A. Robbins
05/13	4	Bartlett	Intervale, Hill 'n Vale	L. Route
Dark-eyed Junco				
04/10	56	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
04/11	130	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano
04/11	47	Westmoreland	Woodward Road area	A. Burnett
04/19	60	Keene	Krif Road	K. Klapper
Summer Tanager				
05/09	1	Windham	residence	D. Durocher
Scarlet Tanager				
05/01	1	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	D. Skillman
05/01	1	E. Kingston	Willow Road	D. Skillman
05/02	1	Westmoreland	Woodward Road area	A. Burnett
05/22	6	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
04/25	1	Kensington	South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
04/26	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River	A. Robbins
05/06	8	Hinsdale	Hinsdale rail trail	K. Klapper
05/13	14	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Indigo Bunting				
04/30	1	Kensington	South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
05/05	1	Hollis	Heron Pond residence	K. Klasman
05/29	4	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
Painted Bunting				
03/11	1	Deering	residence	P. Sunderland
Bobolink				
05/03	2	Barnstead	John Tasker Rd.	S. Young
05/03	1	E. Kingston	Bodwell Farm	S. Mirick
05/16	12	Durham	Lamprey River Preserve	K. Dorsey
05/20	20	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	B. Crowley, L. Thurston
05/28	24	Barnstead	John Tasker Rd.	S. Young
Eastern Meadowlark				
03/16	1	Durham	Rt. 155A (Moore) fields	J. Lambert
03/20	3	Walpole	Malnati Farm	E. Masterson
05/08	3	Swanzy	airport grasslands from Rt. 32	K. Klapper
05/21	2	Durham	Rt. 155A (Moore) fields	S. & J. Mirick
Yellow-headed Blackbird				
04/09	1	Danville	Pine St.	A. Pelczar



Rusty Blackbird by Jason Lambert, 04/17/11, Pickering Ponds, Rochester, NH.

Rusty Blackbird				
03/09	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
03/12	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River	A. & G. Robbins
03/14	4	Keene	Krif Road	K. Klapper
03/17	3	Swanzy	Keene Airport	K. Klapper
03/26	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard, B. Crowley, J. Scott
04/12	2	Lyme	Dorchester Rd.	P. Ackerson
04/17	3	Concord	Turtle Pond	A. Robbins
04/18	3	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River	A. Robbins
04/22	7	Keene	Krif Road	K. Klapper
05/06	2	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Road	R. Quinn, E. Masterson
05/07	1	Errol	Magalloway River	R. Quinn, E. Masterson
05/21	1	Northwood	Camp Yavneh	E. Ganin
Orchard Oriole				
04/29	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	P. Hunt
05/03	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	S. Mirick
05/08	3	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	R. & M. Suomala
05/10	2	Concord	Eastman Cove, SPNHF	D. Lipsy
05/18	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard, Seacoast CFT
05/22	2	Rye	Odiome Point SP	R. & M. Suomala
05/25	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River	A. Robbins

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Baltimore Oriole				
04/26	1	Exeter	Newfields Rd. residence	P. Chamberlin
04/26	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River	A. Robbins
05/07	14	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	G. Tillman
05/09	5	Hinsdale	Hinsdale south	G. Seymour
05/14	10	Deering	Deering WS	R. Quinn
05/14	11	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	Z. Cornell



White-winged Crossbill
by Stephen R. Mirick, 3/23/11,
Rt. 1A feeder, Rye, NH.

White-winged Crossbill

03/01	4	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	J. Kelly
03/13	14	Rye	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick, et al.
03/27	14	Rye	Rt. 1A feeder	L. Medlock
04/02	8	Tamworth		T. Cleveland
04/18	1	Raymond	residence	S. Santino
04/19	4	Rye	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
05/17	1	Littleton	Owen Dr.	M. Boulanger

Common Redpoll

03/04	600	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
03/05	160	Bow	West Gate Drive	D. Lipsy
03/05	120	Webster	Call Road	R. Quinn
03/13	150	Carroll	Bretton Woods	L. Bergum
03/20	500	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano
04/26	6	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano
04/27	6	Lancaster	Grove St.	D. Haas
05/10	1	Chatham	Green Hill Road	B. Crowley

Hoary Redpoll

03/02	1	Hollis	Heron Pond residence	K. Klasman
03/10	4	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
03/13	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
03/20	2	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano
03/28	6	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
04/08	3	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano

Pine Siskin

03/13	17	Nottingham	Flutter Street	S. Mooney
03/18	10	Westmoreland	Westmoreland Public Library	A. Burnett
03/31	10	Westmoreland	Westmoreland Public Library	A. Burnett
04/17	10	Hancock	Bobolink Farm	P.& J. Brown, D.& L. Stokes
04/26	15	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young

American Goldfinch

04/30	847	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach, Haverhill St.	S. & J. Mirick
05/05	173	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach, Haverhill St.	S. & J. Mirick
05/25	1078	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Evening Grosbeak				
03/10	25	Warner		M. Wiggin
03/12	30	Bartlett	Intervale, Hill 'n Vale	L. Route
03/15	3	Surry	gravel pits	K. Klapper
03/17	14	Lyme	Whipple Hill	B. Allison
03/20	1	Chichester	Smith Sanborn Rd.	R. Suomala
03/25	2	Second College Grant	Management Ctr.	S. Hardy
04/04	2	Nottingham	Flutter Street	S. Mooney
04/14	2	Greenfield	Ravenwood Farm	T. Shiel
04/20	3	Campton	Ellsworth Hill	S. Osmer
04/24	18	Colebrook	Mohawk Rd.	J. Merrill
04/25	4	Webster	Call Road	R. Quinn
05/16	6	Greenfield	Ravenwood Farm	T. Shiel

Hawks Galore!

by *Iain MacLeod*

April 27, 2011 produced a spectacular spring flight of migrating raptors in the skies over New Hampshire. The first “heads-up” that it was going to be a good day came from Lillian Stokes at 10:13 am when she posted to the New Hampshire birding e-mail list that she and her husband Don had already seen 275 Broad-winged Hawks from their property in Hancock. Chris Martin was in the same area close to Powdermill Pond and he called New Hampshire Audubon to report 360 Broad-wingeds rising up from the surrounding woodlands at 10:10 am. Since Chris saw the birds rising from the trees and he was a half mile north of the Stokes, they were different birds from the ones the Stokes saw in flight and headed north. At 11:14 am thirty more Broad-wingeds were reported in Warner. Later in the day, Lillian posted their totals: 586 Broad-winged Hawks, 3 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 2 Cooper’s Hawks, 2 American Kestrels, 1 Red-shouldered Hawk, 3 Ospreys and 3 Red-tailed Hawks. A really impressive day for spring by any measure and possibly one for the record books. Chris Martin’s tally was an additional 416 Broad-winged Hawks. Other high counts of Broad-wingeds from the day included: 174 by Susan Fogleman over her house in Campton, 111 from Scott Young at Blue Job Mountain in Farmington, 80 counted by Bob Quinn over Concord, 68 by Andrea Robbins over Pittsfield, and 49 from John Williams over Rumney.

It turned out that on that same day in New York a truly staggering Broad-winged Hawk flight had taken place . . . but more on that later. For now, let’s focus on putting this in an historical New Hampshire perspective. Spring hawkwatch sites are fewer and farther between than fall watch sites. The fall Broad-winged Hawk flights are traditionally larger (the numbers swelled by that year’s offspring) and more spectacular (often concentrated over just a few peak days in mid September), but spring watching can be very exciting and it would be great to have more regular watches. Since the mid-2000s, when a surge in building construction at Peaked Hill prevented Susan

Fogleman from continuing that spring watch, there have been no consistently covered spring watch sites in the state.

Looking back through the available records, I can find a Broad-winged Hawk flight of 300 at a watch site in Winchester on April 27, 1990. The next largest flight was of 289 at Peaked Hill in Bristol on . . . once again April 27 . . . in 1994. The following table shows some of the peak spring hawk flights that I could find on record and gives us some indication how remarkable the April 27, 2011 flight really was.

# of Broad-winged Hawks	Date	Location
300	04/27/1990	Winchester watch site
289	04/27/1994	Peaked Hill, Bristol
235	04/23/1992	Peaked Hill, Bristol
218	04/24/1990	Winchester watch site
195	04/23/1992	Winchester watch site
185	04/26/1988	Winchester watch site
173	04/28/1990	Peaked Hill, Bristol
159	04/29/1989	Dame Farm, Durham
155	04/26/1990	Peaked Hill, Bristol
148	04/26/1989	Dame Farm, Durham
120	05/25/2000	Massabesic Audubon Center, Auburn

Susan Fogleman reports that she is sure she had a day of 1,200 at Peaked Hill in the 1980s but the records from that period are archived in the Hawk Migration Association of North America archive at Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania and I could not access them. That makes the 1,002 total Broad-wingeds seen at Powdermill Pond possibly the second-highest total on record for a spring New Hampshire hawk flight.

As mentioned earlier, April 27, 2011 brought an amazing flight to hawkwatch sites in other states. A truly remarkable event happened at Braddock Bay in northern New York along the southern shoreline of Lake Ontario where more than 42,000 raptors were counted on that one day, including 39,417 Broad-winged Hawks! To put that amazing flight in perspective, the ten-year (2001-2010) season-long average count for **all** spring hawkwatch sites combined along the entire eastern flyway is just 9,200 Broad-wings, with the highest combined spring season total for all sites over that same period being 12,915. Braddock Bay (which is considered part of the Central Flyway) ended their spring season with nearly 68,000 Broad-winged hawks tallied. Their average Broad-winged tally for the most recent seven fully-counted spring seasons is 27,100, so April 27, 2011 was a truly monumental event.

Interpreting an event like this is tricky. Were there more Broad-winged Hawks arriving in the eastern United States this spring? Did weather patterns provide perfect conditions for hawk watchers to witness this year's flight? I asked that latter question to our own weather expert Tony Vazzano and it seems the weather was perfect to push Broad-wingeds our way. Tony tells me that there was a warm front stretching from low pressure in Iowa eastward to Boston on the morning of April 26. Early on April

27, as the system was moving eastward, the warm front was progressing northward. It looks as if it stalled across New Hampshire early and then lifted through but, even then, winds at hawk level would have already switched to southerly. There was a fairly strong wind from the south that developed during the day. Concord reached 20 mph. The high temperature there was 81, compared to only 59 on April 26.

So . . . let's all make a pledge to scan the skies next April 27 and see if we can witness another spectacular hawk flight.

Data Sources

New Hampshire Bird Records and archives, circa 1960 through 2008. Audubon Society of New Hampshire, Concord, New Hampshire.

New Hampshire Hawk Watch Coordinator Archive 1988-2005 compiled by Steve Mirick and Susan Fogleman on behalf of the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA)

HawkCount.org. Online raptor migration database of the Hawk Migration Association of North America.

Iain MacLeod is Executive Director of the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center in Holderness, New Hampshire and former Chairman of the Board of the Hawk Migration Association of North America. Iain has birded in New Hampshire for more than 23 years and is a member of the New Hampshire Bird Records Editorial Team and the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee. He lives in Ashland.

Photo Gallery

Forget the Whales, Watch (out for) the Birds!

by Jon Woolf

All photos were taken during the 05/28/11 whalewatch aboard the M/V Granite State out of Rye Harbor, NH.

Granite State Whale Watch's first whalewatch of the 2011 season on May 21 was a mixed bag; awful foggy weather, but several good birds, including Leach's Storm-Petrels and Red-necked Phalaropes. So I decided to go again a week later, on May 28, in search of better weather and better birds. Steve and Jane Mirick had the same idea, so we formed a little group of three birders among the 25 or so whalewatchers.

Sadly, the weather was no better. If anything, it was slightly worse; thick fog at least five miles out from shore, with visibility at times under a quarter mile. Farther



Black-throated Green Warbler by Jon Woolf.



Black-throated Green Warbler resting on a whalewatcher's shoulder.
Photo by Stephen R. Mirick.



Blackburnian Warbler that landed on a whalewatcher's arm. Photo by Stephen R. Mirick.

offshore, it cleared somewhat, but visibility remained under a mile and a half. Also, the choppy seas made several passengers mildly seasick. In the middle of this fog, twenty miles out to sea, however, we became a beacon for a miniature fallout of migrating birds. Over the next half-hour or so, we tallied three species of warblers, Red-eyed Vireo, Cedar Waxwing, Chimney Swift, Eastern Kingbird, a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, and an unidentified *Empidonax* flycatcher. They were all very lost, very tired, and very hungry, all of which made them utterly uninterested in anything as plebeian as avoiding us humans.

They were flying around the boat, landing on the boat, and landing on the people on the boat.

It was just plain surreal, that's the only word to describe the experience. We had found whales just about the same time these birds started appearing, so the boat's whale expert was on the loudspeaker talking about the great show (and it was a great show!) being put on by three humpback whales feeding all around the boat. Few of us on the upper deck, however, could focus on the whales because there were warblers flitting about, landing here and there, hawking flies, zooming past within inches of your face...

They had no interest in staying out of the way. If someone had moved the wrong way at the wrong moment, the bird could easily have gotten hurt. I had the Blackburnian Warbler land on my camera. Jane had one of the Black-throated Green Warblers land on her binoculars. After a moment, it moved on to perch atop another passenger's cap. We watched them hunt some flies that were hanging around – a warbler eating something as big as a large housefly is a somewhat impressive sight! A Common Yellowthroat flew into the main cabin and landed on the floor, forcing one of the crew to very carefully direct it back outside lest it be stepped on, where it decided it preferred being on her arm.

The warbler show was amazing all by itself, but the birding gods weren't quite done with us yet. There was still another bird flying around, which was to provide the perfect capper for the day. This bird made its first appearance not long before the warblers appeared, flying past the boat at high speed and fairly long range. None of us



Common Yellowthroat on a crew member's arm, by Jon Woolf.



White-winged Dove as it flew by the boat, by Jon Woolf.

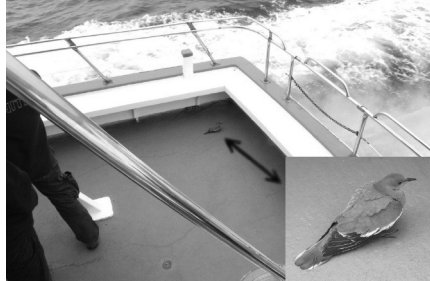
could tell what it was, except that it appeared to have a dovish shape. Shortly after the warblers departed, the mystery bird returned. This time, Steve saw enough to think it was something *very* rare, a **White-winged Dove**. This bird's normal breeding range is Florida, the Southwestern United States and northern Mexico. There was only one previous record for it in Dover, New Hampshire, July 1-3, 2006.

About half an hour later, as we were headed back to port, the bird came by yet again. This time it approached from astern, following the boat's wake, then came up and flew alongside. I still had my camera out, so when Steve yelled I was able to get on it and start taking pictures. Steve and Jane were studying it with their binoculars while I clicked away and Steve kept telling me to "keep shooting, get all the pictures you can, this is amazing." In the next five minutes, I took about fifty pictures. Plenty of them were good enough to confirm the identification, and a few were better than that.

As it turned out though, getting flight shots wasn't *quite* as critical as all that. The dove looked at us from one side, crossed over to the other, dropped back a few feet, then folded its wings and **landed on the deck**.

It stayed there, apparently resting, all the way back into harbor, while Steve kept guard to be sure people didn't scare it away. Once we were in cell phone range, we called several other birders, who called others, and they all met us when we got back to the Rye Harbor dock, about 30 minutes after the dove had landed. All that time, the dove never moved. It sat there on deck for about twenty more minutes, letting us all get good looks and many more pictures too. Finally, it decided it had given us enough photo-ops, flew off and landed in a tree on the harbor grounds. It was still there when the last of us left about half an hour later.

Score for the day: the best looks I've ever gotten at Black-



White-winged Dove riding the boat back to Rye Harbor. Photo by Stephen R. Mirick.



Thanks to the birder communication network Jason Lambert (r) and Len Medlock (l) were waiting at the dock to photograph the White-winged Dove when it arrived back at the dock in Rye Harbor. Photo by Stephen R. Mirick.

throated Green and Blackburnian Warblers, my first Great Shearwater of the year, a Northern Fulmar, three whales, and the second White-winged Dove ever recorded in New Hampshire. For a day that started out as a foggy mess, that's pretty good.

Jon Wolf is a computer programmer by day, and a birder, photographer, and amateur writer weekends and evenings. He volunteers for NH Audubon, primarily running a handful of birding workshops and trips every year.

Field Notes

The Will to Survive

by Christine Sheridan

On the afternoon of May 11, 2011, while birding at Field's Grove in Nashua, I watched a lively bevy of newly hatched Wood Duck ducklings with their somberly beautiful brown mother. I counted the hatchlings carefully. Ten Wood Duck babies! Idly, I watched a little bit of flotsam, perhaps a bit of brown bark and yellowish wood, swirl out from a culvert and bob along down the rushing stream. As it approached, I quickly realized that the "bark chip" was a tiny, day-old Wood Duck. I watched in suspense as the fuzzy little creature was borne along the turbulent stream.

The duckling appeared to have no concept of its dangerous position. Suddenly, it appeared to realize its plight. Peeping frantically it spun around in the water, and began to paddle upstream against the current. Amazingly, it made progress. Over and over, it was swept back by the current; over and over it battled back upstream. The strength and persistence of this newborn were astonishing. Eventually the duckling reached the rushing waters of the culvert. I watched both sides alternately, wondering how it could possibly best the turbulence and emerge on the opposite side. The duckling did not emerge on the marsh side upstream. I concluded that it had been pulled under by the current. Sadly, I began to walk back to the car. It can be hard to remain dispassionate when watching such a brave struggle for survival!

But then I heard....Peeping! I turned towards the peeping sound. The duckling had not been drowned. Apparently it had been swept to the shore and it now scampered up the slope, across the footpath, and into the streamside bushes on the marsh side. Still peeping, it launched itself across the stream. The little Wood Duck seemed near exhaustion as it tacked across the current. If its paddling paused for an instant, it was pulled back towards the treacherous bridge. But finally it made it into the calmer shallows. It continued peeping for its family, but I lost sight of it among the emergent growth. I looked towards a stalking Great Blue Heron. I thought of the local Sharpshinned and Red-tailed Hawks. I considered Snapping Turtles, and the great distance across the marsh to the only Wood Duck family I had observed. I decided I had seen enough for the day, and silently wishing the little bird well, I left Field's Grove. Despite its valiant struggle, I didn't have too much hope for the hatchling.

After a rainy spell, I returned to the Grove. A family of Wood Ducks caught my eye. One, two, ...eight, nine, ten... eleven ducklings; eleven, week-old Wood Ducks. I think the little guy might have made it!

Banded Tern Along the Connecticut River

by Eric Masterson



The Steering light in New York, where the Common Tern was originally banded. Photo by Lee Harper.

Excerpted from a blog written by Eric Masterson for Yankee Magazine, and adapted for New Hampshire Bird Records. RA Quinn.

In mid-May, I was photographing Common Terns in Hinsdale. Common Terns rarely nest inland, including at a couple of spots in Vermont, Maine, and New York. Inland-breeding Common Tern may migrate along the

Connecticut River Valley, following the river as a highway to get to its final destination. Where any one individual is headed is anyone's guess, except if you get lucky. The Common Tern I photographed was banded, so I reported the band number 1322-09499 to the US Fish and Wildlife Service. A few days later, I received an e-mail informing me that the bird was originally banded as a chick on July 11, 2008, six miles west of Massena, New York in the St. Lawrence River Valley, a relatively modest 194 miles northwest of Hinsdale 'as the tern flies', though not the 293 mile route recommended by MapQuest."

Eric followed up with researcher Dr. Lee Harper (who originally banded the bird), and discovered the following (excerpted with permission from an email by Dr. Harper):

"In the late 1990s and early 2000s, I color banded tern chicks for five years in an effort to learn how they reach the St. Lawrence River. Color banding requires that people see your birds and notify you... We have long suspected that St. Lawrence River birds migrate down the Hudson River (or something similar, e.g., the Connecticut River), whereas Buffalo birds migrate down the Mississippi River... Interestingly, most of my band returns from the wintering grounds come from Colombia and Brazil. We trap some birds on the nest to determine the age structure of the population and to collect feather samples for analysis. This year we trapped a bird on the nest that was 18 years old. The average age is seven – amazing that these birds fly roundtrip to the southern tip of Brazil and back each year. Your report of a bird on the Connecticut River is fascinating!"

Fascinating indeed! Thanks to both Eric and Lee for helping with this article. – RA Quinn.

You can read more about the birdlife of the Connecticut River Valley and the New England region at Eric's blog, beyondbirding.wordpress.com.



Banded Common Tern (right) by Eric Masterson, 5/18/11, Hinsdale, NH.



Close view showing the numbers on the band of the Common Tern in Hinsdale, 5/18/11. Photo by Eric Masterson.

Red-breasted Merganser Foraging in a Cornfield

by Robert A. Quinn

On May 18, 2011, during a stretch of inclement weather, I stopped at a partially flooded cornfield in Boscawen (locally known as “Martin’s” field) and witnessed a female Red-breasted Merganser foraging in shallow water in this field. Sometimes when the Merrimack River is near flood stage this lower field will become flooded but on this day the river was not high enough to reach into the field. It is impossible to know whether the acre-sized “puddle” was formed by residual flood waters or just by the abundant rain, but there was enough water and mud to attract some shorebirds in addition to the merganser. Even more surprising to me than a Red-breasted Merganser in a shallow “puddle” was that she was actively foraging, since the species is a classic diving duck and not normally seen feeding in corn fields! She continuously swam around through the cornstalks with her head in the water as if looking for food. She couldn’t dive since the water was only about a foot deep, though I suppose she could have submerged herself. This unusual behavior lasted as long as I was there, maybe twenty minutes or so.

Red-breasted Merganser is common at the coast (except in the summer) but is an uncommon to rare migrant throughout the interior of New Hampshire. They cannot take to the air easily from the ground so how this bird came to be in this almost land-locked situation is a bit of a mystery. Perhaps it thought the water was deeper that it actually was. All references I checked emphasize that it is a fish-eating species that occasionally eats crustaceans as well. Unlike the other two species of merganser, they nest on the ground and perhaps this explains the foraging behavior of this bird. A short check of the literature turned up absolutely no references to this foraging behavior.

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New Hampshire Audubon's 2011 Birdathon Highlights

by *Phil Brown*

We did it; YOU did it. The participants in New Hampshire Audubon's 2011 Birdathon helped us meet many of our goals, including possibly the most lofty one, finding 200 species of birds in the state in a single day (202 actually)! Whether it was the elusive Least Bittern heard calling in a remote marsh in the early morning by the "Peddling Peregrines" or the White-crowned Sparrow found, photographed, and identified by Aiden Moser or the pelagic species reported by Len Medlock on the Granite State Whale Watch, they all helped us get there. The birds on every checklist made it possible for us to reach this milestone for the first time in...well, maybe ever! More important than numbers, this annual celebration of bird diversity, migration, and the New Hampshire birding community, also raised awareness and added to our knowledge of birds.

On Saturday, May 21, dozens of Birdathoners of over 20 teams traversed many parts of the Granite State in search of birds. From the offshore waters beyond the Isles of Shoals to the boreal bogs of Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge, and from the State's border in Hinsdale to the coastal border with Maine, and much in between, we scoured the state's finest birding hotspots, and found some of our own too. Six New Hampshire Audubon Chapters participated in the Birdathon effort, and some of them even turned the event into a Chapter fundraiser to support great programs at monthly meetings. Many of you pledged contributions to New Hampshire Audubon's wildlife sanctuaries – places like Pondicherry and Willard Pond that are so special to so many people and also innumerable denizens of the natural world.

The local birding theme continues to grow in popularity, and all teams appeared to have stayed within their Chapter region, either on bike or by car, and some teams opted for the "Single Location" category, counting species from one park or wildlife sanctuary, or doing a "Big Sit" in their own backyard.

This year's categories again included a special prize for finding the most conservation species, New Hampshire's rare, endangered, threatened, or declining avifauna. This year's event, however, reflected a drop in observation of species in the "Conservation Species" category with only 28 observed of the 39 on the list (compared to 33 found last year). This may have been a result of fewer participants covering New Hampshire's North Country. Some conservation species detected included Peregrine Falcon, Common Nighthawk, Bicknell's Thrush, and Eastern Whip-poor-will, all species monitored by New Hampshire Audubon's conservation programs.

The top finds of the 2011 Birdathon, NH's biggest day of birding, included pelagics: Leach's Storm-Petrel, Red-necked Phalarope, Sooty Shearwater, and Northern Fulmar (which was awarded "Best Bird," an out-of-season species found by Len Medlock on the aforementioned whalewatch); a Clapper Rail behind Little Jack's Restaurant in Hampton, an American Oystercatcher picked out by Greg Tillman on the Hampton Harbor mudflats, Little Gull, Gray-cheeked Thrush, a very late American

Tree Sparrow, and the now resident Mississippi Kites of Newmarket. A few other notables were Least Bittern, Black Guillemot, Cape May Warbler, Roseate Tern, and Olive-sided Flycatcher.

The annual potluck dinner on the following evening was again a fun celebration of birds and New Hampshire's birding community, where participants swapped stories and shared their day's highlights over home-cooked food. New Hampshire Audubon's Nature Store donated many of the prizes, among them, books, notecards, t-shirts, and nest boxes. Other sponsors included Don and Lillian Stokes, who autographed their new books as prizes, and Blue Seal, which donated bags of bird seed (and also gives a 10% discount on bird products to New Hampshire Audubon members).



Leach's Storm-Petrel by Len Medlock, 05/21/11, Isles of Shoals, NH.

Steve and Jane Mirick ("Pish & Chips") again won top honors for the highest statewide total with their personal best total of 155 species despite staying mainly within Rockingham County. The Seacoast-based "Bird Brains" (Dan Hubbard, Mark Hatfield, Greg Tillman, Dottie Wendelken) won the Seacoast Chapter Award with an impressive 131 species. Bob Quinn and company stayed within the Capital Chapter region and found 92 species for top Chapter area honors, and the biking duo of Rich Frechette and Scott Spangenberg, "The Peddling Peregrines," found 119 species in the Monadnock Region to win the "human-powered" category. Julie & Phil Brown peddled their way across Cheshire County to find 15 "Conservation Species" which was top honors when not considering winners of other categories. Also notable was the team of Don and Lillian Stokes and friends, who enjoyed a relaxed day of "Big Sit" birding, recording their personal best, 72 species throughout the day from their back deck, and also raising the most funds for New Hampshire Audubon. They were edged out in the "Single Location" category by Team Pondicherry (Mary Boulanger, Sam Stoddard, Sheridan and Deb Brown), who found six species more while covering the entire Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge. Last, but not least, young birder Aiden Moser added seven species to his life list, winning the "Newbies Award" (see his article on page 54). Thanks to all who participated, and congratulations to all the winners!

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 help to play a role in conserving birds. We count on you to continue celebrating birds and helping us to better understand them by being a good citizen scientist and submitting your reports to NH eBird and New Hampshire Audubon!

The celebration of birds and fellow birders, along with spring migration, peaks in late May. That's when we hope to see you on the next New Hampshire Audubon Birdathon. For more information or to register your team for the 2012 Birdathon, check out the Birdathon website at <http://www.nhaidubon.org/birding/birdathon>.

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

My First Birdathon

by Aiden Moser

The spring 2011 Birdathon was my first Birdathon and also one of my best birding experiences. I joined birders Dave Lipsy and Bob Quinn (our group leader) and we went birding mostly at Horseshoe Pond in Concord and then to the Concord Community Gardens. The Birdathon consists of going to some of the best birding spots you know and trying to see or hear the most species. I liked participating in the Birdathon because you learn new birding spots and you meet other birders. My goal for the Birdathon was to photograph some new birds.

Another reason I like the Birdathon is because I enjoy birding in a group. I like birding with other people because there are more eyes and ears to find birds. I do have to say that I probably would not have found half of my life birds on the Birdathon if it were not for the expert leadership of Bob Quinn. I always seem to find great birds with Bob. Two of my highlights for the Birdathon were the White-crowned Sparrow and the Wilson's Warbler (both of which gave me great photo opportunities). These were only two of the seven life birds that I saw in just six and a half hours.

One of the fun parts of the Birdathon was the potluck the day after. I enjoyed listening to all the fun stories of finding rare birds and discovering who saw the most species. There was also lots of good food. Awards were given for various birding achievements and by the end of the ceremony, almost everyone earned a prize. In fact, I even saw the most life birds in the Birdathon and was awarded a nice book on birds.

Next year I hope to see more species in the Birdathon than this year and maybe find more life birds. I greatly encourage anybody who wants to have a great time birding to take part in the Birdathon, and I also think young birders like me would enjoy the Birdathon.

Aiden Moser

Aiden has been birding and photographing birds for two years (he started at age 8). He first became interested in birds when he started tracing from an old bird book he found in a yard sale. He eventually started learning the birds he traced and soon could identify the common species without looking in a bird book.

Birding New Hampshire's Largest State Park – Pisgah

by Ken Klapper

Cheshire County is home to one of the gems of the New Hampshire State Park system. At over 13,300 acres (21 square miles), Pisgah State Park is the largest state park in the Granite State. Accessible from Chesterfield, Hinsdale, and Winchester, the park attracts a diverse body of users, including cross-country skiers, hikers, mountain bikers, anglers, and hunters. Snowmobile and ATV use is permitted on certain trails, but those seeking quieter areas can find many miles of “foot traffic only” paths. Maps are available from the New Hampshire State Parks website at <http://www.nhstateparks.org/explore/state-parks/pisgah-state-park.aspx> or at major trailheads (look for the mailboxes).

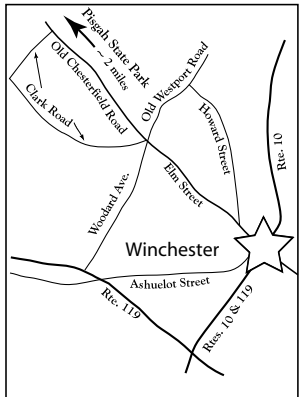
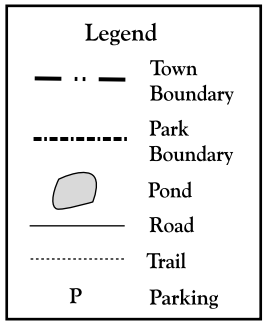
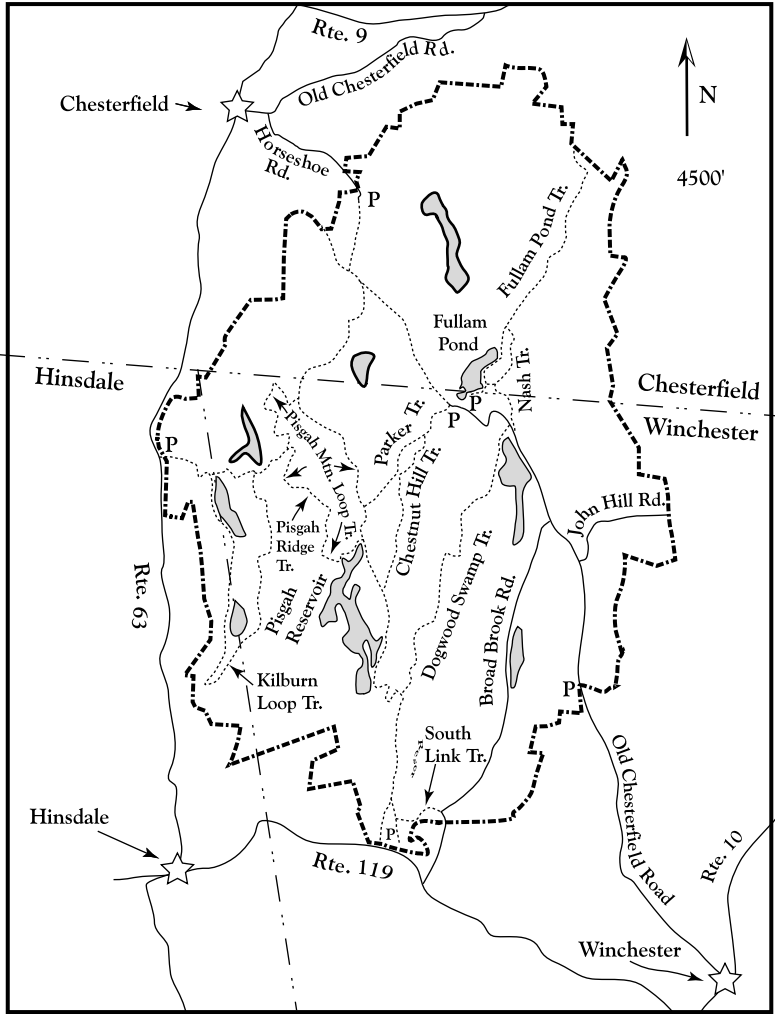
Pisgah's sheer size and diverse mix of forest, wetlands, ponds, and fields provides valuable habitat for plants and wildlife, including birds. Rare forest types such as old-growth hemlock and maple/black gum swamps also contribute to Pisgah's wilderness mystique. Spring visitors will be treated to dazzling wildflowers, such as wake-robin, pink lady's slipper, blue flag iris, and blue cohosh.

Though the park is large and somewhat remote, its birdlife has drawn the attention of several local organizations and universities. New Hampshire Audubon completed a breeding bird survey in 2004, and Antioch University New England students conducted breeding bird surveys from 2004-06. A raptor survey was completed in April 2008 by another Antioch student. Pisgah can be birded any time of the year, but it may be most exciting during spring migration (May) and the June breeding season. Breeding species include 17 species of warblers (Canada, Magnolia, and Nashville among them), several vireos (including Yellow-throated), and Evening Grosbeak. Pisgah is also within the realm of possibility for breeding Cerulean and Worm-eating Warblers, both rarities in New Hampshire which breed in locations just to the south and west of here.

Old Chesterfield Road (Park Entrance to Fullam Pond)

Pisgah's main entrance is found along Old Chesterfield Road in Winchester. For those not desiring a lengthy walk but who wish to accrue a diverse list of bird species, this might be a good choice. This road is usually open to cars as far as Fullam Pond in the summer months (note that these unpaved roads are usually closed to motorized vehicles through the May mud season). At the main gate, stop near the Visitor Center to look for Evening Grosbeak; they can sometimes be found collecting grit from the road or roosting on utility lines or nearby trees. The shrubby field just past the main gate on the east side of the road is worth checking for Nashville Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, and Indigo Bunting.

Just under a half-mile past the gate is a marker for the “Jediah Eaton Homestead” on the left side of the road. Pull off here but watch for large rocks hidden in the grass. Across the trail to the east is a beaver marsh; listen for Eastern Kingbird, Red-winged



Blackbird, and Common Grackle. From this location, I have also noted calling Barred Owl, Least Flycatcher, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Cedar Waxwing, Scarlet Tanager, Purple Finch, and even Yellow-throated Vireo (in migration).

After another third of a mile, look for a pulloff on the right, next to an area that was logged during the winter of 2007-08. One of the goals of this harvest was to increase early successional habitat in the park. Chestnut-sided Warbler, a characteristic species of such habitats, can be heard singing here in the breeding season.

After another tenth of a mile, you will reach a junction with John Hill Road, at which point, Old Chesterfield Road may or may not be gated. If gated, you can park at the side of the trail and walk the rest of the way to Fullam Pond (about a two and a half mile hike one way). For the next mile or so, the road passes through a dry red oak /beech/white pine forest alternating with hemlock slopes. Ovenbirds and Red-eyed Vireos are ubiquitous in this section, and warblers such as Pine, Black-and-white, and American Redstart are all regular breeders. Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Great Crested Flycatcher, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and Scarlet Tanager are all possible along this section of trail.

A little farther along Old Chesterfield Road, the upland habitat gives way to a series of wetlands with a new group of bird species more typical of forest openings. Stop near the forest opening about a mile past John Hill Road (being careful not to block the road for other park users). Northern Flicker, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Least and Alder Flycatchers, Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Phoebe, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, and Baltimore Oriole are some of the more frequently encountered species here. Look and listen carefully in hemlock and northern hardwood forest areas for Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Blue-headed Vireo, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Blackburnian, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, and Yellow-rumped Warblers, Dark-eyed Junco, and White-throated Sparrow.

As a side trip, you may wish to explore Broad Brook Road, which is also open to auto travel. It branches off to the left from Old Chesterfield Road about two miles north of the Visitor Center entrance, and heads southwest (just north of John Hill Road). This trail is a bit rougher than Old Chesterfield Road (you may not want to drive it without high clearance), but is worth exploring for Willow Flycatcher (marsh areas), Black-billed and Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Phoebe, and Louisiana Waterthrush (the latter two near the bridge over Broad Brook).

Fullam Pond Area

Fullam Pond and its surrounding trails offer some of the most diverse birding in Pisgah. From the parking area, scan the pond edges for breeding waterbirds, such as Wood Duck, Mallard, Canada Goose, and Great Blue Heron or migrants, such as Double-crested Cormorant and Common Loon. Open edges around the pond are a great place to scan for soaring raptors, including Osprey (migrant), Bald Eagle (migrant), Northern Goshawk, Cooper's Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Red-tailed Hawk. Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, and Spotted Sandpiper (in migration) can also be found here. Purple Finch has been spotted around the pond, as well as farther up the

Fullam Pond Trail (which follows the increasingly marshy north end of the pond before entering a mix of upland forest types).

The marshy stretch of Old Chesterfield Road from the Nash Trail to the gate west of Fullam Pond is a productive area for locally uncommon breeding songbirds, including Magnolia, Nashville, and Canada Warblers, as well as Northern Waterthrush. This section is also the best area in the park to check for migrant Olive-Sided Flycatchers in late May. At the Chestnut Hill Trail junction, Old Chesterfield Road continues northwest as a non-auto road to the Horseshoe Road trailhead in Chesterfield (which includes a large field area that hosts Chestnut-sided Warbler and Indigo Bunting). This area used to be reliable for Blue-winged Warbler, which may still be found on occasion. Golden-winged Warbler, a rare migrant in New Hampshire and most likely extirpated as a breeder, was spotted here in May 1982.

Kilburn Pond Loop

For those who wish to avoid motorized vehicles, the Kilburn Pond Loop is a great alternative to Old Chesterfield Road. A popular cross-country ski trail in the winter, this five and a half mile loop is perfect for those who like to mix birding with hiking. The loop trailhead is accessed in Hinsdale from the east side of Route 63, about four and a half miles south of Route 9 or four miles north of Route 119. The species along this loop tend to be of the more "northern" character (such as Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hermit Thrush, and Blackburnian Warbler), but areas around the pond contain more wetland loving species such as Common Yellowthroat and Eastern Kingbird. I have been pleasantly surprised by species such as Pine Siskin (early May) and Common Raven (during a winter ski). It's a beautiful hike that deserves more attention from birders. Those who desire a longer (eight and a half mile) hike can link from the northern portion of the Kilburn Pond Loop trail to the Pisgah Mountain Loop, which includes old growth hemlock forest on the Pisgah Ridge Trail. Autumn hikers can also enjoy the fall foliage from this trail, with an unparalleled wilderness view towards Mount Monadnock.

Reservoir Trail

The Reservoir Trail parking area is on the north side of Route 119, about two and a quarter miles east of the Route 63 north junction in Hinsdale center. This trailhead provides access to one of the most productive areas of early successional habitat in the park, a powerline corridor a hundred yards from the parking area. This location is excellent for Wild Turkey, Prairie Warbler, Indigo Bunting, and Eastern Towhee (a declining species in New Hampshire). A utility trail (not an official park trail) provides useful access to explore the habitat along this cut. Continue north on the Reservoir Trail for about a third of a mile until it joins with Reservoir Road (usually closed to vehicles) and continue after another mile and a half to Pisgah Reservoir, the largest body of water in the park. I have observed migrant Bald Eagle at this location. The wooded areas of the Reservoir Trail are populated with species typical of the park, including Brown Creeper, Blackburnian Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, and even Red-shouldered Hawk (near the reservoir).

For an interesting side trip when walking back along Reservoir Road, follow the east branch after the intersection with Reservoir Trail. After about a quarter mile, the

South Link Trail will join on your left. This trail (which connects Reservoir Road to the south end of Broad Brook Road) is worth checking for Evening Grosbeak (listen for their distinctive call notes).

Other Foot Trails

Hiking allows you to explore the majority of Pisgah's trail system. Your chance of coming across a Ruffed Grouse or other secretive wildlife vastly increases on these quieter paths. The Nash Trail, the Chestnut Hill Trail, the Dogwood Swamp Trail, and many others offer park visitors the chance to personalize their hike and seek exciting discoveries.

When visiting, remember to exercise caution, just like in any other wilderness area. Come prepared with maps and compass (park maps are available at the website given above). Be prepared for biting insects in the warmer months (they can be quite intense), and dress for the weather. Bring plenty of water, snacks, a headlamp or flashlight, a first-aid kit, and always let someone know your travel plans. Keep in mind that this is a carry-in carry-out park and contains very few facilities (the Visitor Center at the park entrance is not always open). There may not be any concession stands at Pisgah, but it's a small price to pay for having a freely accessible wilderness park in southwest New Hampshire!

Ken Klapper is a graduate of Antioch University New England, where he researched the decline of Common Nighthawks for his Master's Degree in Conservation Biology. He has led field trips to several Monadnock Region hotspots and works as an independent consultant specializing in bird and conservation projects.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Meade Cadot for sharing his detailed observations of Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers in Pisgah. I would also like to thank Jeff Littleton who discussed his many bird and wildlife observations in the park.

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Backyard Birder

The Confused Bodyguard

by George W. Gavutis, Jr.

I have been a wildlife biologist specializing in waterfowl and other wetland birds for more than 50 years. No matter how long we live there's always something new to see, as this story illustrates.

This spring, I noticed that one of the numerous pairs of Mallards visiting our wetlands had an adult male Hooded Merganser that seemed to tag along and interact with them. For some reason the merganser keyed in on the female Mallard. At the most, the male Hoodie tolerated or ignored the male Mallard, but sometimes he even drove the male Mallard away from the female. The male Mallard put up with this abuse because he didn't consider the male of another species to be a rival, although he was likely, and rightly, confused by what was going on. The female Mallard also tolerated or ignored the courtship displays the merganser was performing for her benefit, although sometimes she would drive him away when he got too close.

The threesome visited other wetlands in our neighborhood and one of our neighbors dubbed them "the three amigos." I don't believe the merganser was ever able to breed with the Mallard, but he was her constant companion from mid-March thru mid-May. Breeding between these two species may not be as far-fetched as you might imagine. Kortright, in his *Ducks, Geese and Swans of North America*, has a color plate showing a number of hybrids, one of which is a male Hooded Merganser x Common Goldeneye hybrid which I would rank as equally unlikely. They aren't even of the same genus!

It was very humorous to observe the male and female Mallard occasionally trying to lose this annoying merganser. They tried sneaking off into the woods, flying away and then dropping into small woodland vernal pools, and going from pond to pond on foot through the grass, but he just wouldn't be shaken. I had to laugh seeing him running behind, looking more like a penguin due to his upright posture ("diving" waterfowl such as Hooded Mergansers have their legs set further back on the body than the "dabbling" species like Mallards). I had never before witnessed a male merganser on land and using that form of locomotion.

A few weeks after I first noticed the trio, the female nested on a hay-covered platform that I had installed for the Canada Geese in one of our ponds. She was in full view of my office observatory, so I was very fortunate to be able to keep tabs on her as the drama progressed. The male Mallard, in typical behavior for a male duck, had less and less to do with this female once she began incubating her clutch of eggs. This is probably innate behavior because the brightly colored male hanging around the female, especially at the nest site, might well attract the attention of a would-be pred-



The "confused" male Hooded Merganser on George Gavutis' pond, by Len Medlock.

ator. The same logic would also normally apply to Hooded Mergansers. If anything, males of that species seem to spend even less time with their females once egg-laying begins. They prefer to wait for their mates to return to them in their more-preferred habitat which is usually in a large beaver pond somewhere in the vicinity. Male ducks just don't have anything to do with the incubating of eggs, defending of the nest, or rearing of the young. Incredibly, this male merganser apparently never read the rule book and he became more than just a would-be suitor, he became a "soul-mate."



The male Hooded Merganser guarding the female Mallard on her nest, by Stephen R. Mirick.

Because of her rather prominent presence in the middle the pond and despite her attempts to remain practically invisible hunkered down in the hay on the nest platform, she was finally spotted by a group of "bachelor" males that were using the pond as a resting site. Since she had no obvious mate near her, she automatically became "fair game" for any male Mallard, so they flushed her from the nest with less than honorable intentions. She immediately assumed the "stodgy" and very unattractive "I'm not interested" posture but it did no good.

Her squawks and quacks of protestation spurred the near-by Hooded Merganser into action. He rallied to her defense and drove them off and never let another duck of any species anywhere near her for the next few weeks while she was incubating. His greatest adversary turned out to be a hybrid Mallard x American Black Duck who was the dominant territorial male on the ponds. The bodyguard established a vigil, close-by her nest 24/7, even when all the other ducks left to spend the night on the larger and safer beaver ponds a few miles away. He even paid no attention to an unattached female Hooded Merganser that dropped in one day and was attracted to him. She swam away in apparent disgust when he just ignored her.

My theory is as follows: when he was "born" he hatched a day or two later than the rest of the clutch. When he finally emerged, his mother had already left her nest with her day-old brood, so he was never able to "imprint" on her. Imprinting may well be the way a male duck identifies what a female duck of his species looks like. He then exited the nest cavity and somehow took up with a brood of mallards, imprinting on that female. Female ducks usually drive away orphaned or lost ducklings, even if they are of the same species and age as their



The female Mallard on her nest.

own. But I have also witnessed situations where such a duckling managed to get accepted. I suspect he may not know he is a merganser and thinks he is a Mallard, or maybe he thinks female Mallards are mergansers. Talk about an identity crisis. What a mess!!!

The week before the female Mallard's eggs hatched, Steve and Jane Mirick and Len Medlock came by to photograph the merganser and "his" lady. Rich Aaronian's ornithology class from Phillips Exeter Academy also visited while the merganser was in the water guarding the female on her nest. The day her eggs hatched the merganser apparently finally gave up and was no longer present. The next day, the female coaxed her new brood of ten ducklings to make the short jump down to the water and they spent most of that day there, feeding and resting. I was able to get a pretty good look at them several times and they all looked like normal Mallard ducklings to me. I was hoping she would stay to raise them, so I could keep watching for a hint of Hooded Merganser traits. Instead, she led them from pond to pond towards the road, headed in the direction of a large new beaver pond complex in Seabrook nearly three miles away. "Mother knows best" they say (I'm not so sure in this case though).

I wished her well and hope she made it, traversing all those back yards, crossing several roads and highways, and avoiding all the potential predators she might encounter with her tiny troop. I think she did, for a few days later, and several more times on subsequent days, a single female Mallard flew in briefly to feed and bathe and then flew up onto the nest platform to preen. Then she winged her way back to the east in the direction of the beaver ponds. You might think she had lost her brood, but I can assure you that, as unlikely as it may seem, female ducks regularly take a well earned break from their young. Ducks sure are amazing creatures!!

George W. Gavutis, Jr. is a semi-retired wildlife biologist who worked 33 years for the US Fish & Wildlife Service. He lives in Kensington and conducts wildlife and habitat inventories and assessments for a number of wildlife agencies and organizations, both as a consultant and as a volunteer.

Answer to the Photo Quiz

by David B. Donsker

This Photo Quiz challenges us to identify a raptor in flight. As we have learned in previous issues, the identification of raptors flying overhead depends on analyzing a combination of plumage, shape and form of the body and the wings, tail length coupled with flight behavior, and "jizz." The latter refers to an inexpressible combination of appearance and behavior that, when taken as a whole, allows experienced observers to recognize a given bird by its general impression. Of course, a photograph deprives us the opportunity to use behavior in our identification, but flight profile, body form and plumage alone can lead us to the right identification.

The bird in the photograph is a large, blackish raptor. It has short, uniformly broad wings and a very short, fanned, squared-off tail. The tail is so short that you can actu-

ally see the tips of the feet extending beyond the tail. Compared to its body, its dark head is small, almost diminutive. The only significant contrast to its blackish plumage is the white outer primary flight feathers. These outer seven feathers are extensively silvery white at their base. Together, they produce a large, conspicuous white patch on the tips of the outer wings.

The size of this raptor and its blackish plumage immediately eliminate all but a few potential candidates. The only large, dark raptors that can be expected to be seen in New Hampshire are two species of eagles, Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle, a single species of buteo (dark morph Rough-legged Hawk), and two species of American vultures, Turkey Vulture and Black Vulture.

Although most buteos are short-tailed and broad winged, the wings of buteos are relatively long compared to our featured bird. In Rough-legged Hawk, the wings and tail are even longer than most other buteos. Proportionally, it is quite different from this short-winged, short-tailed raptor. Although the dark morph of Rough-legged Hawk is quite dark (almost black) the white in the wing involves all of the primary and secondary flight feathers on the underside of the wing which contrast strikingly with the black underwing coverts. Only the primaries are white in the quiz bird. Also, unlike the all-black tail of this bird, the base of the undertail of Rough-legged Hawk is white. (See the Photo Quiz in the Winter 2010-11 of *New Hampshire Bird Records* for more on Rough-legged Hawk identification).

Young Bald Eagles are large, generally dark birds. Bald Eagles, however, are longer winged than the quiz bird and have massively large heads. Although young Bald Eagles have variable amounts of white in the wings, the white in the wings is on the underwing linings and in the axillaries where the wings join the body. The outer primaries of young Bald Eagle are dark, in striking contrast to this bird. In addition, many young Bald Eagles also have some white on the body.

Fully adult Golden Eagles are uniformly dark, with no white on the wings. However, young Golden Eagles very characteristically have white wing patches in their wings at the base of the outer flight feathers. In contrast to this bird, the white patch is recessed away from the actual wing tip and trailing edge of the wing such that the patch is sharply surrounded by dark feathers. In contrast to the quiz photo, the tail of a Golden Eagle is relatively longer and the base of the tail of young Golden Eagle is white, not uniformly black. Although the head of Golden Eagle is much smaller than that of Bald Eagle, it is still much larger than the tiny head of this bird.

That leaves our two vultures. Turkey Vulture and Black Vulture share their large size, dark plumage and small, naked heads. Adult Turkey Vultures have naked pink heads and Black Vultures have blackish heads, but young Turkey Vultures also have dark heads which can lead to some potential confusion. However superficially similar these species are to each other, they are actually quite different in structure and plumage. Turkey Vulture is larger. It is nearly as large as an eagle. It is uniformly dark except that the entire trailing edge of the underwing is silvery white which gives the underside of the wing a two-toned effect. The two-toned effect of the wings in Turkey Vulture can sometimes be hard to see in poor light. Under such conditions, shape and flight profile is invaluable in achieving the right identification. Turkey Vulture has long, broad wings. Its tail is also long and, unlike many raptors, it is only rarely

fanned. In flight, the Turkey Vulture holds its wings in a strong dihedral or “V” shape and characteristically rocks back and forth, as if trying to maintain its balance.

In contrast, Black Vulture is a smaller, stubbier bird. It has large, striking white patches on the underside of the wing tips rather than the silvery flight feathers along the entire trailing edge of the underwing of its sister vulture species. The wings of Black Vulture are short. The tail is remarkably short and it is typically broadly fanned. It is so short, in fact, that the feet often extend beyond the tail. Because of these proportions, the outer tips of the fanned tail can nearly touch the trailing edge of the base of the wing. In flight, the Black Vulture holds its wings generally flat, not in a dihedral. Perhaps because it is so short-winged, it flaps its wings quite often. Typically, it will take 4-5 rapid flaps between short glides. Unlike Turkey Vulture, it never rocks while flying.

With these points in mind, it can be easily determined that our featured bird is a Black Vulture. This outstanding photograph was taken by Len Medlock on May 17, 2011 in Exeter, NH.

Although Black Vulture is a fairly common species in the southeastern United States and an abundant and conspicuous species in the Neotropics, it has been historically a rare visitor to New Hampshire. In the last several decades, however, it has become regularly, but still very uncommonly encountered in the southern part of our state. It is most likely seen in the spring and to a lesser degree in late summer and fall. This appearance in New Hampshire is part of a general trend of expansion of this species into the northeast. Black Vultures generally fly higher than Turkey Vultures. Most New Hampshire sightings have been that of individual birds, although in their breeding range they are often seen in groups, especially at roosts and while sharing the remains of a carcass. Although there are no breeding records of this species for New Hampshire, breeding was confirmed in Massachusetts in 1998 and has been suspected in northwest Connecticut since the mid 1990s. Perhaps, like another southeast raptor, Mississippi Kite, Black Vulture will eventually be added to the list of New Hampshire breeding birds.

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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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Least Bittern by Len Medlock, 05/17/11, Surrey Lane marsh, Durham, NH.



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