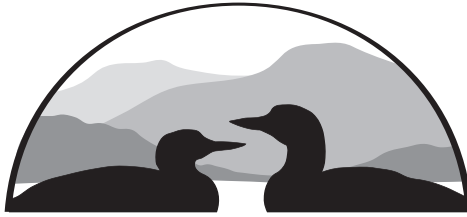


New Hampshire Bird Records



Fall 2011

Vol. 30, No. 3



New Hampshire Bird Records

Volume 30, Number 3

Fall 2011

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Cover Photo: American Avocet by Stephen R. Mirick, 9/4/11, Hampton Harbor by the Yankee Fisherman's Coop., Seabrook, NH.

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

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IN HONOR OF
Stephen R. Mirick

This issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* with its color cover is sponsored by the friends of Steve Mirick in honor of his well-deserved receipt of the 2011 Goodhue-Elkins Award, and in appreciation for his many contributions to the understanding of New Hampshire birds, and for his unbounded enthusiasm for birding in New Hampshire which has benefitted the entire birding community.



Steve Mirick, birding the NH coast with his wife, Jane.

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The Photo Quiz and Where to Bird features will return in the next issue.

From the Editor

by Rebecca Suomala

Guest Editor, Marshall Iliff

We are very pleased to have Marshall Iliff as Guest Editor for the Fall 2011 season. Most of you know Marshall through his position as eBird Project Leader but he comes with impressive credentials having worked on three state records committees, as North American Birds Regional Editor for two different regions on two different coasts, and as a tour leader across the United States and Canada, as well as through much of Central America and Mexico. We are extremely lucky to have someone so qualified who was willing to step in and fill Steve Mirick's shoes as this year's Fall Editor. And what a fall it was with a hurricane and an amazing number of rarities. I don't think I've seen anything quite like it during my 20 years with *New Hampshire Bird Records*. I suspect Marshall was not expecting quite such an involved and time consuming volunteer job and I'm grateful for his commitment to seeing it through. We can all appreciate the expertise and perspective he brings to *New Hampshire Bird Records*. Thank you, Marshall.

Thank You, Len Medlock

This marks Len Medlock's last season as *New Hampshire Bird Records* Photo Editor. We very much appreciate his good work in this position but look forward to still seeing many of his outstanding photos on the pages of *New Hampshire Bird Records*. Len will also be phasing back from his position as Web Master. Len redesigned the entire web site and implemented many changes and updates. We are grateful for all that he has done in both positions.

Thank you

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

Dennis Abbott
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2011 Goodhue-Elkins Award

by David B. Donsker

As presented at the New Hampshire Audubon Annual Meeting, October 2011.

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

The 2011 recipient was Stephen R. Mirick. Thirty years ago, Steve saw his first Magnolia Warbler on a field trip to Foss Farm in Durham in the bird-filled month of May. Since

that fateful moment, Steve has been addicted to birding in New Hampshire. New Hampshire ornithology has been a beneficiary of that passion and commitment ever since.

Perhaps no currently active birder could better exemplify the intent and spirit of the Goodhue-Elkins award than Steve. Almost from the very beginning of his birding activities, Steve understood the importance of carefully documenting his sightings and the significance of complete and accurate record keeping throughout the seasons. He has been an enthusiastic and frequent contributor to *New Hampshire Bird Records*, and is the top submitter of bird records for the state. As a result of his constant birding, diligent record keeping, and dedicated interest in the subject, Steve is extremely knowledgeable about the distribution and the seasonal cycle of birds in New Hampshire. He generously shares this fount of information with the entire New Hampshire birding community through his thoughtful commentaries on NHBirds, in his many contributions to *New Hampshire Bird Records*, and in his personal interactions. He is quick to embrace new technologies that can contribute to documenting and sharing significant bird sightings and the archiving of that data. As one of our state's most respected birders, Steve has followed up on many sightings to confirm reported rarities. He is frequently the "go-to" person when someone has seen something unusual.

As an avid birder who is out nearly every weekend and many times throughout the week, he has contributed countless sightings, especially from his favorite region, the New Hampshire seacoast. He has discovered and documented many rarities, including many first sightings for the state.



Steve Mirick receiving the Goodhue-Elkins Award, October 2011. Photo by Len Medlock

Steve, however, doesn't limit himself to watching and reporting birds. He has served as the Fall Editor of *New Hampshire Bird Records* for more than twenty years and only just recently retired from the position, which he performed with great skill and distinction. He is a founding member of the New Hampshire Rare Bird Committee and has served several terms on the committee. As a committee member, he was a principal collaborator for the recent revision of the New Hampshire state bird list. He is the founder and moderator of NHBirds, the state's birding e-mail list for current bird sightings. Steve has been the compiler of the Lee-Durham Christmas Bird Count (CBC) since 1983, is the long-term coordinator of the Greenland sector of the Coastal New Hampshire CBC, and is a participant in several other CBCs in our state and in Massachusetts.

Steve has been a Breeding Bird Survey volunteer observer for the Dover, NH route since 1987. He has conducted marsh, grassland and shorebird surveys for the US Fish & Wildlife Service and NH Department of Fish & Game. He served as the North Atlantic Regional Editor for the Hawk Migration Association of North America from the late 1980s into the late 1990s and was the New Hampshire Hawk Watch Coordinator during the same time period.

Steve has led innumerable field trips for New Hampshire Audubon, Massachusetts Audubon Society, the Brookline Bird Club, York County Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, the Seacoast Science Center and the Great Bay Discovery Center. In more recent years, he has developed a keen interest in pelagic birding and has led or co-led numerous trips to the waters off New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

Steve has amassed a significant bibliography of publications. He is the author of *Birding the New Hampshire Seacoast and Great Bay* and a *Checklist to the Birds of Great Bay*. He is co-editor of *A Checklist of the Birds of New Hampshire*. Steve has penned many articles for *New Hampshire Bird Records* and *Bird Observer*. He was the author of the "Green-backed Heron" account in the *New Hampshire Breeding Bird Atlas*. Steve was map consultant for the New Hampshire area for the *Sibley Guide to Birds* and the *National Wildlife Federation Field Guide to the Birds of North America*.

Steve is among the respected few who, as leaders and role models, are significantly responsible for the current vitality of the New Hampshire birding community. He has done this through the sharing of his own discoveries, facilitating the sharing of other birder's sightings, and conveying and sharing the excitement that birding brings to him. Steve's enthusiasm for New Hampshire birding is infectious. No one who comes in contact with him can help but be engaged with the joys and rewards of birding. Few are more serious about promoting the state's birding and helping birders increase their own knowledge. Steve has been the head, heart and soul of New Hampshire birding, particularly for the Seacoast region, for the current generation of New Hampshire birders. It is only fitting that this year's award goes to this remarkable and committed individual.

New Hampshire Audubon takes great pleasure in bestowing the 2011 Goodhue-Elkins Award to Stephen R. Mirick.

August 1 through November 30, 2011



Marshall Iliff

by Marshall Iliff, Guest Editor

Each year, New Hampshire's bird coverage gets better and better. A growing community of active and enthusiastic birders seems to be more and more methodical about covering key spots, and most days have at least someone checking key coastal locations. This fall, statewide reporting via eBird and overall high birder activity gave us a great snapshot of a very interesting season. Better connectivity through the NHBirds e-mail list and eBird also allowed coordinated checks for statewide phenomena like the impacts of Hurricane *Irene* and the October fallout (see separate articles on each of these events).

Pack Monadnock was covered consistently again this fall, providing a great season-long view of the raptor movement (see article on page 64). New Hampshire birders continued to explore the pelagic frontier as well, with an organized pelagic trip on September 12, and opportunistic birding on whalewatches and fishing boats, including a November 27 trip to Jeffreys Ledge by Eric Masterson. Given the difficulty of accessing offshore waters, this remains the area that we know least about. How regular are Leach's Storm-Petrels in New Hampshire's offshore waters? How do Cory's Shearwater numbers vary from year to year and what is the true period of occurrence during "up" years for the species in Granite State waters? A season-long seawatch could be illuminating.

Star Island may be the single best location for fall rarities in the state and migration birding there can be a great experience. It is encouraging that more trips are being organized and that, for the 2011 fall season, the island was covered systematically by birders on a total of 12 days: August (19), September (4, 5, 8, 10, 17, 24, 27) and October (6, 16, 22, 29).

Overall, this fall was much warmer and wetter than usual. The unseasonal warmth continued into the winter and records of several unusually late species in November probably can be directly tied to these unusually warm temperatures. Perhaps due in part to the moisture, the fall foliage was unremarkable as many trees retained green leaves much later than usual. Exactly what affect this had on birds is poorly understood, but it could contribute to more insects remaining later, which may in turn contribute to more lingering insectivorous birds.

August was relatively cool and wet, marked by a wet low-pressure system passing through the state and then offshore on August 14-16. A much more significant low, the remnants of Hurricane *Irene*, reached New Hampshire on August 28, with the dissipated center of the storm moving up the Connecticut River Valley after dusk on August 28. By the morning of August 29, the storm had moved well to the northeast of New Hampshire. The storm brought some great sightings, including **White-tailed Tropicbird** and **Sooty Tern**, and an amazing fallout of Hudsonian Godwits and Black Terns (see article on page 48).

September was a bit warmer than average and very wet, with major rainfall in the first week of September and again on September 29. Total rainfall (7.12" in Concord) was about double the average. October was warmer than average and the third consecutive month of above-average moisture. The precipitation was concentrated in two systems. A low pressure system moving up the coast October 1-4 brought rain along with a significant fallout of southern land birds such as **White-eyed Vireo**, **Worm-eating** and **Hooded Warblers**, and **Summer Tanager** (see the "October fallout" article on page 51). On October 28, a Nor'easter brought a remarkably early snowstorm. Accumulations ranged from 8-25" (!) in southern New Hampshire (2-6" in the north).



White-tailed Tropicbird found alive by a family in Charlestown, NH on their front lawn on 8/29/11 the day after Hurricane Irene. It was brought to wildlife rehabilitator, Catherine Greenleaf in Lyme, but it was extremely emaciated and dehydrated and died the next morning despite treatment. Photo by Lt. Robert Bryant, NH Fish and Game Dept.

November, like October and September, was warmer than average (4.2 degrees F above normal in Concord), but returned to more normal precipitation levels. One significant storm brought 5-14" of snow to the north on November 23, but in southern New Hampshire, it just brought 1-4" of rain.

Thanks to *Irene*, the "October fallout," and sightings such as **Curlew Sandpiper**, **American Avocet** and **Eared Grebe**, the number of rarities this fall was phenomenal and there are too many highlights to include them all here. Check the individual sections below and the separate articles on Hurricane Irene (page 48) and the October Fallout (page 51).

I would like to thank everyone who reported their season sightings directly to eBird and responded to inquiries for more information. As an "out of state" guest author, having access to eBird data to compare trends from year to year was invaluable, and this resource will only get richer as new birders are brought into the eBird fold. If you are already reporting your sightings regularly to eBird, please consider trying to tutor a friend to show not only how easy the data entry process is, but how he or she benefits from being an eBird user (personal lists, birdfinding tools, ability to quickly check status and distribution).

New Hampshire, with *New Hampshire Bird Records*, has become a global leader in how eBird can be used in conjunction with a state journal. The seasonal analysis and summaries in *New Hampshire Bird Records* continue the important legacy of a journal like this, while at the same time embracing a modern database with georeferencing and output tools available through eBird. Importantly, this means that the usefulness of the data does not stop at New Hampshire's borders. Instead, it extends well beyond to include national, continental, and indeed global initiatives that use the eBird database as a resource to answer micro- and macro-ecological questions. As just one example of the use of your bird observations in the scientific literature, check out the free online publication by Hurlbert and Liang 2012 (*Spatiotemporal Variation in Avian Migration Phenology: Citizen Science Reveals Effects of Climate Change*. PLoS ONE 7(2):e31662.

doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0031662), which uses eBird data to provide new insight on how arrival dates of migrants vary with temperature.

It has been an honor to serve as Guest Editor for this fall season, and thanks to all who make this journal possible and who share bird sightings from New Hampshire and beyond.

Marshall Iliff lives in West Roxbury, Massachusetts, with his wife and two dogs and works for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology as an eBird Project Leader. He is unbiased in what direction he heads when birding, and crosses into the Granite State whenever the time allows or a recently-discovered rarity is too good to pass up!

Waterfowl and Gallinaceous Birds

Greater White-fronted Goose is increasingly reported in the Northeast with two this year in New Hampshire. Photos of the October bird showed it to be of the Greenland (*flavirostris*) subspecies and the November bird was described as orange-billed, likely also *flavirostris*. Although pink-billed western forms have occurred in Massachusetts, *flavirostris* remains the only subspecies identified in New Hampshire.

Brant are never common in New Hampshire. In 2011, the eight records from October 20 to November 20 were all from the coast with a high count of 25. All Mute Swans were from Rockingham County save for single reports from Strafford and Hillsborough counties; the species' spread now may have slowed in response to control efforts.

The Whooper Swan was a known escapee from a collection in Rye (L. Kras, personal communication). A number of escapees were seen in New England in the mid-1990s, but there have been relatively few since.

Wood Duck counts at Horseshoe Pond peaked at 61, and the only higher count was 100 coming to a night roost in Seabrook on October 4. Note also the high count of Hooded Merganser this season, also from a night roost. Wood Ducks, Hooded Mergansers, and some other waterfowl can form very large night roosts and it is worthwhile for New Hampshire birders to actively look for these important sites. Seven reports of Gadwall included a peak of 10 in a Hampton migration watch on November 19. Eurasian Wigeons have been regular at Sunset Farm, Greenland, in recent years and this fall the high count was four drakes.

Despite a fair number of Surf Scoters inland in Vermont, the only inland Surfs for New Hampshire were the two on Spofford Lake. Interestingly, the season high count for Surf Scoter was from Great Bay instead of the coast which would be the more expected location for higher numbers. Relatively few inland reports of Black and White-winged Scoter included no exceptionally high counts this year.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Greater White-fronted Goose				
10/22	1	Durham	UNH Dairy Barn	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert
10/24	1	Durham	UNH Dairy Barn	B. Griffith
11/30	1	Greenland	Great Bay Discovery Center	C. Borg, J. Kelly

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Snow Goose				
11/05	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	L. Medlock, S. & J. Mirick
11/13	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	L. Medlock, J. Lambert
11/22	1	Enfield	Mascoma Lake	E. Masterson
Brant				
10/20	3	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	L. Medlock
10/22	25	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
10/26	20	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
11/06	3	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick, BBC FT
11/12	1	New Castle	Fort Stark	L. Kras, B. Griffith
11/19	1		NH coast	S. Mirick
11/20	3		NH coast	M. Iiff, S. Mirick, R. & M. Suomala
Whooper Swan				
10/06	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	E. Masterson
Gadwall				
09/30	3		Hampton Harbor	S. Eisenhauer
10/05	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
10/16	1	Greenland	Great Bay Discovery Center	L. Medlock
11/19	10		NH coast	S. Mirick
11/20	2	Exeter	Exeter WTP	L. Kras, B. Griffith, L. Medlock
11/20	2	Greenland	Sunset Farm	M. Iiff
Eurasian Wigeon				
11/06	3	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. & J. Mirick, L. Medlock
11/13	4	Greenland	Sunset Farm	L. Medlock, J. Lambert
11/29	2	Greenland	Sunset Farm	D. Hubbard
American Wigeon				
09/10	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	L. Medlock, J. Woolf
09/11	1	Rye	Eel Pond	L. Medlock, D. Abbott
11/19	50	Greenland	Sunset Farm	L. Kras, B. Griffith
Blue-winged Teal				
09/14	20	Exeter	Exeter WTP	G. Tillman, et al.
10/16	6	Exeter	Exeter WTP	L. Medlock
10/28	4	Littleton	Moore Reservoir, NH access	B. Heitzman
11/02	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
Northern Shoveler				
08/24	2	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick, L. Medlock
08/29	1	Rochester	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
09/09	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
09/23	1	Rochester	Rochester WTP	S. Mirick
Northern Pintail				
10/01	2	Exeter	Exeter WTP	L. Medlock, G. Tillman
10/05	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
Green-winged Teal				
10/23	60	Exeter	Exeter WTP	R. & M. Suomala
10/28	50	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
11/28	2	Rochester	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
11/29	1	Derry	Derry WTP	S. Mirick

Redhead

11/25	2	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
11/26	4	Greenland	Sunset Farm	R. Suomala, et al.
11/30	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	J. Kelly

Ring-necked Duck

10/03	62	Wentworths Location	Magalloway River	R. Quinn
10/24	84	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. Turner
10/27	103	Nelson	Tolman Pond	P. Brown
11/05	35	Concord	Penacook Lake (Long Pond)	P. Hunt, et al.

Greater Scaup

09/24	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	J. Offermann, M. Iliff, R. Schain
10/16	200	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
11/19	1000	Greenland	Sunset Farm	L. Kras, B. Griffith

Lesser Scaup

11/25	60	Exeter	Exeter WTP	S. Mirick, B. Crowley
11/25	5	Rye	Eel Pond	B. Crowley

Harlequin Duck

11/19	4		NH coast	S. Mirick
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Surf Scoter

10/21	2	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson
10/23	75	Greenland	Great Bay	S. Mirick

White-winged Scoter

10/02	108	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	S. Mirick
10/03	4	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. Turner
11/05	1	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	P. & J. Brown, E. Masterson
11/11	1	Bristol	Newfound Lake	E. Masterson
11/12	3	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	R. & M. Suomala
11/18	4		Lake Winnisquam	E. Masterson
11/26	2	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	A. Burnett, D. Clark, J. Russo, T. Schottland
11/30	5	Sutton	Gile Pond	P. Newbern



*Black Scoter by Len Medlock,
10/20/11, Foss Beach, Rye, NH.*

Black Scoter

10/20	16	Gorham		K. Dube
10/23	75	Greenland	Great Bay	S. Mirick
10/28	80	Lancaster	Martin Meadow Pond	R. White
11/07	1	Hanover	Mink Brook point at Connecticut R.	W. Cripps
11/10	80	Hampton	Hampton Beach	J. Swatt
11/22	1	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir	R. Quinn

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Long-tailed Duck				
10/22	2	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
10/22	4	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson, G. Tillman, D. Fallon, D. Parslow
10/23	1	Greenland	Great Bay	S. Mirick
11/05	37	Greenland	Sunset Farm	L. Medlock, S.& J. Mirick
11/26	1	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	A. Burnett
Bufflehead				
10/23	1	Stafford	Lakeview Dr.	S. Young
10/24	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
10/28	3	Exeter	Exeter WTP	L. Medlock
10/28	2	Stoddard		C. Parsons
10/29	2	Stafford	Lakeview Dr.	S. Young
11/12	75	New Castle	Little Harbor	S.& J. Mirick
Common Goldeneye				
10/24	5	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	K. Klapper
10/31	1	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	J. Lambert
11/20	60	Greenland	Great Bay, Bayside Rd. viewpoint	M. Iliff
11/22	12	Errol	Leonard Marsh & Lake Umbagog	R. Quinn
11/25	14	Laconia	Water Street	D. Swain
Barrow's Goldeneye				
11/20	1	Rye	Rt. 1A pullout opposite stone angel	P. Brown, C. Borg
Hooded Merganser				
11/01	74	Barnstead	Locke Lake	J. Lambert
11/05	275	Concord	Penacook Lake (Long Pond)	P. Hunt, et al.
11/20	57	Greenland	Great Bay, Bayside Rd. viewpoint	M. Iliff
Common Merganser				
08/24	25	Lisbon	School Street Bridge	L. Bergum
11/29	145	Dublin	Howe Reservoir	P. Brown
Red-breasted Merganser				
08/29	1	Rye	Rye Harbor	J. Pietrzak
10/22	7	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
10/29	23		NH coast	S. Mirick
11/19	90		NH coast	S. Mirick
11/20	55	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	S. Mirick
11/22	1	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson
11/25	4	Laconia	Water Street	D. Swain
Ruddy Duck				
08/18	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	J. Scott
08/25	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	S. Young
10/04	1	Charlestown	Charlestown WTP	E. Masterson
10/16	7	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
10/17	1	Rochester	Rochester WTP	J. Lambert
10/21	2	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson
10/23	15	Greenland	Great Bay	S. Mirick
11/04	61	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
11/06	1	Rye	Eel Pond	S. Mirick, BBC FT
11/14	122	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
11/17	95	Rochester	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
11/19	2	Rye	Eel Pond	S. Mirick
11/29	2	Rye	Eel Pond	J. Pietrzak, L. McKillop

Spruce Grouse

10/09	1	Success	Success Mountain	T. Howe
10/11	1	Waterville Valley	Mt. Whiteface	S. Hochgraf
11/08	1	Livermore	Mt. Osceola Trail	M. Dyer

Loons to Crane

Red-throated Loons were reported in above-average numbers all along the East Coast this fall. Two New Hampshire observers had counts of more than 250 on both November 19 and 20, indicating peak movement on those dates. An early **Eared Grebe** at the Rochester Wastewater Treatment Plant on August 12 prompted some identification discussion, but photos by Len Medlock showed the slender, upswept bill, dark face, contrasting white throat, and somewhat peaked head that document New Hampshire's third record of this species. Although the August date might seem unusual, there is precedent for migrant Eared Grebes appearing in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern US in August and early September. Birders should be alert and carefully check any grebe at this time in the fall since Horned Grebes don't typically return until late September at the earliest. Another caution in grebe identification in early fall pertains to Red-necked Grebe; immature Hooded Mergansers (which have yellow bills, reddish necks, and flat-topped heads without a prominent crest) can be misidentified as Red-necked Grebes. Habitat can provide a good clue, since shallow beaver ponds are the haunts of the mergansers, while Red-necked Grebes (which generally occur later) prefer coastal waters, wide rivers, or large lakes.

Pelagic efforts in New Hampshire's sliver of offshore waters continue to pay dividends, including further evidence that Cory's Shearwater is becoming regular in Gulf of Maine waters. Coastal seawatches during easterlies on August 7 (S and SSE winds from 15-30 knots), August 15, and during Hurricane *Irene* on August 28 all produced nice counts of tubenoses, jaegers, and other seabirds. The two most impressively inland Great Cormorants (at Penacook and Pack Monadnock) were both flyovers with Double-crested, something to watch for inland in fall.

Observers looking for help in identifying *Accipiters* (always a challenge) may want to take location into account. Sharpshinned is common statewide as a fall migrant, but Cooper's Hawk occurs primarily south of the White Mountains and Northern Goshawk primarily from the White Mountains north. This season's lone report of Cooper's Hawk from New Hamp-



The NH Audubon pelagic birding trip on 9/12/11 aboard the M/V Granite State passing by Appledore Island. Photo by Bill Clark.

shire's northernmost Coos County was off Caps Ridge Trail in the White Mountains on August 23. Similarly, Northern Goshawk is surprisingly scarce away from the North Country and all reports south of the White Mountains are listed. Red-shouldered Hawk occurs mostly in the south, so the two northern records (from Lyman and Franconia) are of note. The big push of Broad-winged Hawks was September 10-19, with very few lingering into October. For more on the fall hawk migration, see the article on page 64. We received more reports of Merlins (109) than American Kestrels (94), a scary trend for American Kestrel populations which continue to plummet as Merlins continue to increase; the only three counts of 10 or more kestrels are listed.

American Coot abundance varies widely from year to year and this was definitely an "up" year. Presumably, this is a result of a good breeding season in their nesting areas to the north and west, which experienced a cool and wet summer that favored marshes and puddles where coots breed. The bumper crop of young coots may well be the cause for the elevated numbers passing through New Hampshire en route to East Coast wintering sites.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Red-throated Loon				
10/04	1	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	K. Klapper, C. Newton
10/22	18	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
11/19	324		NH coast	S. Mirick
11/20	352	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	S. Mirick
11/20	261	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	M. Iliff
Common Loon				
10/29	70		NH coast	S. Mirick
11/26	21	Rye	Concord Pt.	R. Suomala, et al.
Pied-billed Grebe				
09/10	3	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	M. Gimpel, D. Small
11/19	3	Rye	Eel Pond	S. Mirick
11/22	1	Moultonborough	Unsworth Preserve	T. Vazzano
Horned Grebe				
10/23	12	Greenland	Great Bay	S. Mirick
11/11	1	Center Harbor	Five Fingers, Squam L.	E. Masterson
11/14	36	Moultonborough	Blueberry Island	I. MacLeod
11/16	8	Newbury	L. Sunapee from Blodgett Landing	E. Masterson
11/18	2	Alton	Nineteen Mile Bay, L. Winnepesaukee	E. Masterson
11/18	1	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	D. Clark
11/20	12	Greenland	Great Bay, Bayside Rd. viewpoint	M. Iliff
11/20	14	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	R. & M. Suomala
Red-necked Grebe				
09/18	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	L. Medlock, M. Oyler, Z. Cornell
10/06	1		Squam Lake	I. MacLeod
10/17	1	Enfield	Mascoma Lake	E. Masterson
10/21	1	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson
10/21	3	New London	Pleasant Lake	J. Esten
11/05	1	Concord	Penacook Lake (Long Pond)	R. Suomala, P. Hunt, Z. Cornell, D. Howe
11/07	2	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
11/11	1	Sandwich	Sandwich Bay, Squam L.	E. Masterson
11/19	1		Squam Lake	T. Vazzano
11/26	8	Rye	Concord Pt.	R. Suomala, P. Hunt, Z. Cornell, D. Howe
11/29	3	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	P. Brown



Eared Grebe
by Len Medlock,
8/12/11,
Rochester WTP, NH.

Eared Grebe

08/12	1	Rochester	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard, L. Medlock, A. Kimball, S. Mirick
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Northern Fulmar

09/12	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	J. Woolf, S. Mirick, NHA FT
10/09	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick
10/16	1	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson, et al.
11/27	100	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson

Cory's Shearwater

08/02	2	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	J. Kelly
09/12	5	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	J. Woolf, S. Mirick, NHA FT
10/22	2	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson, G. Tillman, D. Fallon, D. Parslow

Great Shearwater

08/28	20		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
09/12	100	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	J. Woolf, S. Mirick, NHA FT
09/24	15	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson, Z. Cornell
10/09	5	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick
10/16	10	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson, et al.
10/22	4	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson, G. Tillman, D. Fallon, D. Parslow
10/29	30	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson, G. Tillman, J. Kelly
11/13	15	Hampton	Hampton River mouth, s. jetty	B. Griffith, L. Medlock, L. Kras
11/27	37	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson

Sooty Shearwater

08/15	1	Offshore Waters	inside Isles of Shoals	L. Kras
08/24	1	Portsmouth	Urban Forestry Center	C. Blackington
09/06	1	Rye	Isles of Shoals	D. Holmes, et al.

Manx Shearwater

08/07	17	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	S. Mirick
08/15	3	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	B. Griffith, J. Lambert, L. Medlock
08/28	4		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick, et al.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Manx Shearwater—continued				
09/12	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	J. Woolf, S. Mirick, NHA FT
11/13	2	Hampton	Hampton River mouth, s. jetty	B. Griffith, L. Medlock, L. Kras
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				
08/02	131	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	J. Kelly
08/15	30	Offshore Waters	inside Isles of Shoals	L. Kras
08/15	17	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	B. Griffith, J. Lambert, L. Medlock
08/19	5	Rye	Star Island	M. Harvey, C. Brown
08/20	5	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
08/26	5	Rye	Rye Harbor	J. Pietrzak
08/27	3		NH coast	S. Mirick
09/12	300	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	J. Woolf, S. Mirick, NHA FT
Leach's Storm-Petrel				
08/28	1	Rye	inside Rye Harbor	G. Tillman, S.& J. Mirick, et al.
09/12	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	J. Woolf, S. Mirick, NHA FT
White-tailed Tropicbird				
08/29	1	Charlestown		K. Sullivan, C. Greenleaf
Northern Gannet				
08/02	48	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	J. Kelly
08/07	516	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	S. Mirick
08/15	108	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	B. Griffith, J. Lambert, L. Medlock
10/16	110	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson, et al.
10/22	185	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
11/27	40	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson
Double-crested Cormorant				
09/27	1975		NH coast	J. Berry, et al.
10/22	997	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
10/29	2162		NH coast	S. Mirick
11/14	1	Alton	Merrymeeting Marsh	A. Robbins
11/25	1	Laconia	Water Street	D. Swain
Great Cormorant				
08/31	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	B. Griffith
09/08	1	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	P. Brown
10/04	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
10/15	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/17	1	E. Kingston	Rt. 108 pond	D. Finch
10/23	1	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Klapper
American Bittern				
08/28	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R.& M. Suomala, P. Hunt, D. Lipsy
09/16	1	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	D. Hubbard
09/18	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	S. Young
10/22	1	Carroll	Bretton Woods Nordic Center	L. Bergum
10/28	1	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park	A. Moser
11/26	1	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	R.& M. Suomala, P. Hunt, Z. Cornell

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Great Egret				
08/09	2	Rochester	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
08/11	1	Bow	Turee Pond	M. Christiansen
08/11	1	Hancock	Route 202, large wetland	P. Brown
08/14	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	D. Howe
08/14	63	Seabrook	Rt. 286	S. Mirick
08/21	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
08/29	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	K. Klapper, H. Galbraith
08/30	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd./Suncook River	A. Robbins
09/18	1	Keene	Krif Rd.	K. Klapper
09/22	1	Canterbury	Canterbury Intervale Farm N.	A. Taylor
09/26	2	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	D. Howe
09/27	1	Nashua	Natick St. riverbank	C. Sheridan
10/02	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Suomala, D. Howe
10/23	2		NH coast	S. Mirick
10/25	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	K. Klapper
Snowy Egret				
08/16	1	Amherst	Ponemah Bog WS	C. Sheridan, L. Deming
08/27	63	N. Hampton	Little River saltmarsh	S. Mirick
08/31	70	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	B. Griffith
10/03	12	Portsmouth	Urban Forestry Center	S. Mirick
10/09	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick
10/19	4	Portsmouth	South Mill Pond	S. Young
Little Blue Heron				
08/14	1	Seabrook	Rt. 286	S. Mirick
08/25	1	Rye	Parsons Creek Marsh w. of Wallis Sands State Beach	B. Crowley
08/26	1	N. Hampton	Appledore Ave.	L. Medlock
09/03	1	Conway	East Conway Rd.	J. Scott
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
08/13	1	Littleton	Home Depot ponds	P. Hunt, L. Potter, C. Lowden
08/14	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	G. Billingham
08/20	1	Randolph	tea house	J. Pietrzak
09/11	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard, Z. Cornell
10/01	13	Hampton	Island Path	S. Mirick
10/15	4	Seabrook	dunes	S. & J. Mirick
10/29	1	Hampton	Island Path	S. & J. Mirick
11/12	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. & J. Mirick
Black Vulture				
11/14	1	E. Kingston	Rt. 108	D. Finch
Turkey Vulture				
10/16	48	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
11/05	19	Greenland	Great Bay Discovery Center	S. Mirick
11/19	5	Nashua	Southwest Park-Yudicky Farm	C. Sheridan
11/22	13	Fremont	Martin Rd.	G. Tillman
11/26	1	Durham	Rt. 155A (Moore) fields	S. Young
Osprey				
09/16	11	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Klapper
09/16	28	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. & J. Mirick
09/17	22	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Klapper

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Osprey—continued				
09/28	75	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Klapper
09/30	32	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Klapper
10/22	1	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Klapper
10/23	1	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Klapper
10/25	7	Hampton	Winnacunnet HS	P. Lacourse
11/19	1	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	C. Borg
Northern Harrier				
09/28	7	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Klapper
11/26	1	Litchfield	Wilson Farms	E. Masterson
Sharp-shinned Hawk				
09/09	74	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Klapper
09/10	46	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Klapper
09/16	77	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. & J. Mirick
09/19	58	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	I. MacLeod, K. Klapper, et al.
09/25	56	Antrim	Willard Pond WS	P. & J. Brown, E. Masterson, et al.
09/25	90	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Klapper
10/07	62	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Klapper
Cooper's Hawk				
08/23	1	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	A. Robbins
09/25	16	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Klapper
Northern Goshawk				
08/02	1	Westmoreland	Woodward Rd.	A. Burnett
08/09	1	Danbury	vineyard	J. Williams
10/02	1	Westmoreland	Woodward Rd.	A. Burnett
10/05	1	Seabrook	Rt. 107 beaver ponds	G. Gavutis Jr.
10/12	4	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Klapper
10/15	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/21	2	Northwood	Old Mountain Rd.	S. Young
10/22	4	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Klapper
10/29	1	Nashua	Oxbow Lake, Mine Falls Pk.	C. Sheridan
Red-shouldered Hawk				
10/08	1	Lyman	Clough Hill Rd.	E. Nielsen
09/10	1	Franconia	South Twin Mt.	S. Schulte
10/12	11	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Klapper
11/27	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
Broad-winged Hawk				
09/10	562	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Klapper
09/11	465	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Klapper
09/16	502	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Klapper
09/16	834	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. & J. Mirick
09/17	3544	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Klapper
09/18	909	Hancock	Antrim Rd.	E. Masterson
09/18	4840	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	H. Walters, K. Klapper, et al.
09/19	776	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	I. MacLeod, K. Klapper, et al.
09/21	100	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Klapper
09/27	210	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd./Suncook River	A. Robbins
10/05	1	Canterbury	Canterbury Intervale Farm N.	A. Taylor
10/05	2	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Klapper

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
10/06	1	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Klapper
10/07	1	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Klapper
10/15	1	Chesterfield	Sugarbush Hill	H. Siener
Red-tailed Hawk				
10/31	44	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Klapper
Rough-legged Hawk				
11/23	2	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
American Kestrel				
09/28	30	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Klapper
10/05	13	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Klapper
10/12	12	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Klapper
Merlin				
08/03	1	Nashua	Caldwell Rd.	C. Sheridan
08/13	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
08/24	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick, L. Medlock
09/16	6	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. & J. Mirick
Peregrine Falcon				
09/10	1	Freedom	Berry Bay area	A. Robbins
09/21	1	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Rd.	J. Merrill
09/27	4	Rye	Star Island	P. Brown, B. Quinn, et al.
Sora				
10/06	2	E. Kingston	Bodwell Farm	G. Gavutis Jr.
American Coot				
10/20	2	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	W. Parnell, E. LoPresti
10/20	41	Rye	Eel Pond	L. Medlock
10/21	4	Swanzy	Keene Airport	M. Metivier, M. Coles, J. Ogorzalek
10/23	61	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick
11/05	46	Greenland	Great Bay Discovery Center	S. Mirick
11/05	58	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick
11/15	28	Rye	Eel Pond	T. Vazzano
11/26	29	Greenland	Sunset Farm	R. Suomala, et al.
Sandhill Crane				
08/05	1	Monroe	McIndoe Reservoir	S. Turner
10/07	4	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Klapper

Shorebirds

Overall, the fall was good for several shorebirds that normally migrate well out over the Atlantic. White-rumped Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, many American Golden-Plovers, Whimbrels, and several other species follow a direct route from Canadian staging grounds over the Northeast coast to South America in fall, but this year storm systems (especially the hurricane and the October 3 storms) seemed to block their passage and resulted in elevated numbers of these species. The extraordinary Hudsonian Godwit counts from *Irene* are mentioned in the special hurricane section, but other

counts included 45 from Rye Harbor State Park on August 15, several birds in Hampton Harbor in September (possibly holdovers from *Irene*), and three sightings in October. American Golden-Plover seemed to have a good year too, possibly also due to birds being grounded by the weather. Most significant among these were the 32 adults at Seabrook Harbor August 28 (a gift of *Irene*). White-rumped Sandpiper occurred in record numbers. Although counts were high for much of the fall (e.g., 82 in Hampton Harbor September 22), migrant White-rumpeds (including many juveniles) appeared to be grounded or pushed to shore coincidentally with the early October landbird fall-out. Steve Mirick had a single day count on the New Hampshire coast that included 50 at Concord Point, a flyby flock of 30-100 (30 definite White-rumpeds, probably 100), and 33 at Hampton Beach. Twenty-two Whimbrel reports on the coast seemed above average, and may have been related to the phenomena above, since it too is a migrant that rarely flies low enough or close enough to shore to be seen from the New Hampshire coast. Most notable were flocks of 23 on August 7 and 100 (!) on August 15 at Rye Harbor State Park during easterlies. In addition to the coastal sightings, one Whimbrel was photographed in a field off Route 49 in Woodstock on August 30-31, very probably a bird grounded by *Irene*.

The eastern subspecies of Willet (*T. s. semipalmata*), which nests in New Hampshire saltmarshes, is now known to be an over-water migrant direct from the East Coast to its South American wintering grounds. It also departs remarkably early. There were only four August reports of Willet, the latest of which was specifically noted as an eastern subspecies at Hampton Harbor on August 20.

Plaice Cove was the place to be for good shorebird viewing this fall. Accumulated wrack was loaded with brine flies and other invertebrates, which in turn attracted large numbers of peeps, Pectoral Sandpipers, Sanderlings, plovers, and other species. The photogenic juvenile **Curlew Sandpiper**, New Hampshire's fourth, was surely the highlight September 17-23. One or more Buff-breasted Sandpipers were likewise enjoyed by crowds of birders for a couple of weeks in September. Other than the cooperative Plaice Cove individual, the only Buff-breasted Sandpipers reported were one at Hinsdale Set-backs August 28 during *Irene* and one at Laconia Country Club September 21.



Curlew Sandpiper by Len Medlock, 9/17/11, Plaice Cove, Hampton, NH.

A few Black-bellied Plovers were noted inland, in Sullivan, Merrimack, and Cheshire Counties (the latter probably because of Hurricane *Irene*) and a Ruddy Turnstone was found at the Ambrose Gravel Pit, Sandwich, September 6-9. Neither of these species are typically reported away from the seacoast. Probably the most-enjoyed rarity this season was the juvenile female **American Avocet**, just the state's fifth, at Meadow Pond and Hampton Harbor August 24 through October 1.

The Marbled Godwit first found in late July at Hampton Harbor remained until August 1. Long-billed Dowitcher is rare in New Hampshire, so the juvenile at Hampton Harbor October 8-9 was much enjoyed. A Wilson's Phalarope was well-photographed inland at the Exeter Wastewater Treatment Plant on September 12 and single inland Red-necked Phalaropes were well-described from Thorndike Pond in Cheshire on August 26 and Rochester Wastewater Treatment Plant on August 29. Also notable were two Red Phalaropes well inland at the Charlestown Wastewater Treatment Plant October 4. The 25 American Woodcock in Hill were flushed and seen flying at dusk in a walk through riparian forest, and probably indicate the peak migratory movement. Exceptionally late were single Pectoral and White-rumped Sandpipers at Greenland November 25.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Black-bellied Plover				
08/15	1	Charlestown	Charlestown WTP	E. Masterson
08/28	8	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	E. Masterson
09/05	105		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
09/26	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd./Suncook River	A. Robbins
11/05	69		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
11/26	1	Hampton	Little Jack's restaurant, Rt. 1A	R. Suomala, P. Hunt, Z. Cornell, D. Howe
11/29	1	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	L. McKillop, J. Pietrzak
American Golden-Plover				
08/26	1	Hampton	Plaice Cove	L. Medlock, S. Mirick, L. Kras, B. Griffith
08/28	32	Hampton	Hampton River mouth, s. jetty	L. Medlock
08/31	1	Rochester	Fowler Farm	D. Hubbard
09/04	1		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
09/06	1	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
09/12	3	Rochester	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
09/19	1	Lebanon	airport	J. Merrow
09/25	1	Antrim	Willard Pond WS	P. & J. Brown, E. Masterson, et al.
09/26	1	Rochester	Rochester WTP	S. Mirick
10/01	1	Concord	West Portsmouth St.	R. & M. Suomala
10/05	1	Rye	Rye Harbor	S. Young
10/06	4	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO	R. Quinn
10/11	1	Benton	Mt. Moosilauke	M. & B. Lipson
Semipalmated Plover				
08/15	1	Walpole	Sawyer Farm, River Rd.	E. Masterson
09/05	525	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
09/07	1	Hancock	Powder Mill Pond	E. Masterson
09/09	1	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
09/10	3	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Small, M. Gimpel
09/11	1	Amherst	Ponemah Bog WS	C. Sheridan
09/23	1	Rochester	Rochester WTP	S. Mirick
09/25	307		NH coast	S. Mirick
10/02	2	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park, Contoocook	R. Suomala, D. Howe
10/07	1	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO	R. Quinn, L. LaPierre
10/15	1	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO	D. Howe

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Piping Plover				
08/31	1	Hampton	Plaice Cove	L. Medlock, B. Griffith
American Avocet				
08/24	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick, L. Medlock
08/29	1		Hampton Harbor	L. Kras, B. Griffith, S. Mirick
10/01	1		Hampton Harbor	D. Hall, S. Mirick, et al.
Spotted Sandpiper				
08/09	19	Rochester	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
09/09	12	Rochester	Rochester WTP	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
10/04	1	Franconia	Echo Lake	R. Quinn
10/06	1	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson
10/23	2	Exeter	Exeter WTP	R. & M. Suomala
10/26	1	Hampton Falls	Depot Rd.	S. Mirick
10/29	1		NH coast	S. Mirick
Solitary Sandpiper				
08/28	5	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	P. Hunt, et al.
10/06	4	Amherst	Ponemah Bog WS	C. Sheridan
10/06	1	Lee	Old Mill Rd. WMA	S. Young
10/08	1	Amherst	Ponemah Bog WS	C. Sheridan
Greater Yellowlegs				
09/18	115	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick
10/09	89	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick
11/13	6	Greenland	Sunset Farm	L. Medlock, J. Lambert
11/19	2		NH coast	S. Mirick
11/20	3	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	S. Mirick
11/25	1	Portsmouth	Urban Forestry Center	S. Mirick
Willet				
08/01	9	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	L. Medlock
08/06	6		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
08/10	1		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
Willet - Eastern subsp.				
08/20	1		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
Lesser Yellowlegs				
08/04	1	Lee	Old Mill Rd. WMA	S. Young
08/28	4	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	P. Hunt, et al.
08/29	5	Rochester	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
09/13	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	J. Lambert
09/17	3	Nashua	F. E. Everett Tpk., near crossing Nashua R.	C. Sheridan
09/28	1	Hancock	Powder Mill Pond	P. Brown
10/04	2	Hampton	Church St. and Hampton Harbor	K. Klapper, C. Newton
10/09	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick
10/09	1	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park, Contoocook	R. Quinn
Upland Sandpiper				
08/12	1	Swanzy	Keene Airport	K. Rosenberg
Whimbrel				
08/01	2	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	L. Medlock
08/07	23	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
08/15	100	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	B. Griffith, J. Lambert, L. Medlock
08/28	11		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick, et al.
08/30	1	Woodstock	Rt. 49 field	R. Bradley
09/10	1	Rye	Star Island	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert
09/11	1	N. Hampton	Little River saltmarsh	L. Medlock, D. Abbott
10/01	1	Hampton	Island Path	S. Mirick
10/04	1	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	L. Medlock

Hudsonian Godwit

08/15	1	Offshore Waters	inside Isles of Shoals	L. Kras
08/15	45	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	B. Griffith, J. Lambert, L. Medlock
08/28	109		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick, et al.
09/12	4	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	Z. Cornell
09/24	1	Hampton	Plaice Cove	R. Woodward
10/02	6	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
10/02	2	Rye	Eel Pond	S. Mirick
10/30	1	Seabrook	Blackwater Creek, Rt. 286	S.& J. Mirick



*Marbled Godwit by Len Medlock,
8/1/11, Yankee Fisherman's
Coop., Seabrook, NH.*

Marbled Godwit

08/01	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	L. Medlock
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Ruddy Turnstone

09/06	1	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
09/09	1	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
09/13	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	L. Medlock, J. Lambert
09/16	31	Rye	Foss Beach	S. Mirick
09/23	20	Hampton	Plaice Cove	D. Doubleday
10/01	1		NH coast	D. Hall, B.& S. Mirick
11/20	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	S. Mirick

Red Knot

08/28	21		NH coast	S.& J. Mirick, et al.
09/01	9	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	S. Santino
09/12	5		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
09/25	4		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
10/02	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	E. Nielsen
10/12	1		Hampton Harbor	E. Masterson

Sanderling

09/16	225	Rye	Foss Beach	S. Mirick
09/24	370	Hampton	Plaice Cove	M. Iloff, R. Schain, J. Offermann

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Sanderling—continued				
09/25	755		NH coast	S. Mirick
10/02	140	Hampton	Plaice Cove	E. Nielsen
10/22	200	Rye	Jeness State Beach	B. Griffith, J. Lambert, L. Kras
11/12	120	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	P. Hunt, S. Cairns
11/25	17		NH coast	S. Mirick
Semipalmated Sandpiper				
08/11	1	Rochester	Rochester WTP	T. Vazzano, B. Quinn
08/20	9	Amherst	Ponemah Bog WS	C. Sheridan
09/07	20	Hancock	Powder Mill Pond	E. Masterson
09/24	250	Hampton	Plaice Cove	M. Iiff, J. Offermann, R. Schain
09/25	641		NH coast	S. Mirick
10/23	3	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	R. & M. Suomala
10/23	2	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	R. & M. Suomala, L. Burton
10/30	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. & J. Mirick



*Western Sandpiper by Len Medlock, 9/8/11,
Yankee Fisherman's Coop., Seabrook, NH.*


Western Sandpiper

08/26	1	Hampton	Plaice Cove	L. Kras, B. Griffith
08/27	2	Hampton	Rt. 1, Taylor River	L. Medlock, S. & J. Mirick
08/27	1	Rye	Wallis Sands State Beach	J. Kelly
08/31	1	Hampton	Plaice Cove	L. Medlock
09/01	2	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	J. Williams
09/05	1	Rye	Rye Harbor	J. Lambert, S. Mirick, B. Griffith
09/10	2	Hampton	Hampton Beach	S. Mirick
09/14	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	J. Williams, B. Crowley
09/24	2	Hampton	Plaice Cove	A. Lacroix
10/01	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach, north	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
10/02	2	Hampton	Plaice Cove	E. Nielsen

Least Sandpiper

08/09	17	Rochester	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
08/26	23	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	Z. Cornell
08/28	23	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	D. Lipsy, P. Hunt, M. & R. Suomala
09/07	10	Hancock	Powder Mill Pond	E. Masterson
09/09	30	Rochester	Rochester WTP	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
09/26	1	Rochester	Rochester WTP	S. Mirick
10/06	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	E. Masterson
10/07	2	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO	R. Quinn, L. LaPierre
10/09	1		Hampton Harbor	L. Medlock, S. & J. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
White-rumped Sandpiper				
09/09	10	Rochester	Rochester WTP	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
09/17	65	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	J. Lambert, L. Kras, B. Griffith
09/22	82		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
09/24	22	Hampton	Plaice Cove	E. Nielsen
09/25	61		NH coast	S. Mirick
10/02	1	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park, Contoocook	R. Suomala, D. Howe
10/02	133		NH coast	S. Mirick
10/06	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	P. Brown
10/07	2	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO	R. Quinn, L. LaPierre
11/10	5		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
11/12	2	Hampton	saltmarsh	S. & J. Mirick
11/25	1	Greenland	fields off Portsmouth Ave.	S. Mirick
Baird's Sandpiper				
09/01	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	T. Vazzano
09/08	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	L. Medlock
09/11	1	Rye	Foss Beach	J. Lambert, L. Kras, B. Griffith
09/26	2	Hampton	Plaice Cove	J. Kelly
09/26	1	Rye	Foss Beach	G. Tillman
10/22	1	Rye	Jenness State Beach	B. Griffith
Pectoral Sandpiper				
09/18	7	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	S. Young
10/07	14	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO	R. Quinn, L. LaPierre
10/07	3	Strafford	Spruce Pond bog	S. Young
10/10	3	Keene	Krif Rd.	K. Klapper
10/17	1	Keene	Krif Rd.	K. Klapper
10/19	1	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO	P. Brown
10/26	3	Hampton	Island Path	S. Mirick
10/30	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
11/08	2	Charlestown	Rt. 12 & 12A	E. Masterson
11/08	1	Durham	Rt. 155A (Moore) fields	S. Young
11/25	1	Greenland	fields off Portsmouth Ave.	S. Mirick
Purple Sandpiper				
11/25	15	N. Hampton	NH coast	S. Mirick
11/26	4	N. Hampton	cove at Rye town line	P. Hunt, et al.
Dunlin				
08/28	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	J. Lambert, S. Mirick, B. Griffith
09/08	1	Rochester	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
09/18	13	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	L. Medlock, M. Oyler
09/27	50	Hampton	Plaice Cove	K. Klapper, J. Berry, et al.
10/03	1	Westmoreland	Chickering Farm	E. Masterson
11/12	450	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	P. Hunt, S. Cairns
11/26	88	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	R. Suomala, P. Hunt, Z. Cornell, D. Howe
Curlew Sandpiper				
09/17	1	Hampton	Plaice Cove	L. Medlock, et al.
09/23	1	Hampton	Plaice Cove	D. Doubleday

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Stilt Sandpiper				
08/24	2	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick, L. Medlock
09/06	1	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	J. Williams
09/21	1	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	D. Hubbard
09/25	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor, north side	S. Mirick
Buff-breasted Sandpiper				
08/28	1	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	E. Masterson
08/29	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	L. Medlock, D. Abbott
08/29	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	J. Kelly
09/18	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	S. & J. Mirick, L. Medlock
09/21	1	Laconia	Laconia CC	H.C. Anderson
09/22	1	Hampton	Plaice Cove	S. Mirick, M. Iliff, A. Lacroix, J. Scott, B. Crowley, et al.
09/26	2	Hampton	Plaice Cove	J. Kelly
Short-billed Dowitcher				
09/03	30	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	S. Mirick
10/09	2		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
10/23	2	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	R. & M. Suomala
Long-billed Dowitcher				
10/08	1		Hampton Harbor	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert
10/12	1		Hampton Harbor	E. Masterson
Wilson's Snipe				
10/19	25	E. Kingston	Bodwell Farm	G. Gavutis Jr.
11/08	1	Charlestown	Rt. 12 & 12A	E. Masterson
American Woodcock				
10/28	25	Hill	Pemigewasset R.	G. Gavutis Jr.
11/13	1	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
11/16	1	Antrim	Willard Pond WS	P. Brown
11/20	1	Newmarket	Smith Sisters (Follett's Brook WS)	P. Brown
				
<i>Wilson's Phalarope by Len Medlock, 9/13/11, Exeter WTP, NH.</i>				
Wilson's Phalarope				
09/12	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	P. Miliotis
09/13	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	B. Griffith, S. Mirick, L. Medlock, J. Lambert
Red-necked Phalarope				
08/26	1	Jaffrey	Thorndike Pond	R. Poole
08/28	3		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
08/29	1	Rochester	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
09/12	30	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	J. Woolf, S. Mirick, et al.
Red Phalarope				
10/04	2	Charlestown	Charlestown WTP	E. Masterson

Gulls through Alcids

The three Little Gulls reported from Hampton Harbor were all distinctly different by plumage, with the most interesting being a fresh juvenile (a plumage rarely seen in the Lower 48) September 10-13. The migratory passage of Lesser Black-backed Gulls is of interest since we still do not know their North American breeding grounds. Nonetheless, regular passage from mid-August to mid-October is the norm on the northern New England coast, and the count of 11 from Jeffreys Ledge on the September 12 pelagic trip is indicative of the peak.

Forster's Terns seem to be more common every year, with high counts of 37 and 29 in early October and a remarkable inland record for New Hampshire photographed at Squam Lake August 25-26. All records after October 8 are listed, including a late mid-November record. Increasingly reported in recent years, Caspian Terns were seen between August 27 and October 3, although this year there were no counts above six. A lone **Royal Tern** on August 15 at Rye Harbor State Park was unusual, but the species has been occurring more frequently in recent years. See the Hurricane *Irene* article for more on other notable terns such as the **Sooty Tern** and the **Black Skimmers**.

A well-photographed juvenile **Long-tailed Jaeger** was a highlight of the September 12 pelagic trip. Four seen during the August 15 storm would be a state high count pending acceptance by the NH Rare Birds Committee. Eight Parasitic Jaegers and 12 Parasitic/Long-tailed Jaegers at Rye Harbor State Park in the August 15 storm was impressive, but those totals were bested by the hurricane totals in late August (see that special section). The November 27 offshore trip had a nice count of Dovekies and three Common Murres, a species that is increasing in New England.



Long-tailed Jaeger by Len Medlock, 9/12/11, Granite State pelagic trip, NH waters.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Black-legged Kittiwake				
11/10	1	Rye	Rye Ledge	S. Mirick
11/10	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
11/13	2	Hampton	Hampton River mouth, s. jetty	B. Griffith, L. Medlock, L. Kras
11/27	29	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson
Bonaparte's Gull				
09/10	210		Hampton Harbor	E. Masterson
09/20	200	Hampton	Plaice Cove	P. Brown
09/20	250	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	P. Brown, et al.
10/06	2	Dover	Cocheco R.	P. Brown

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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Little Gull by Len Medlock, 9/13/11, Yankee Fisherman's Coop., Seabrook, NH.

Little Gull

09/10	1		Hampton Harbor	E. Masterson
09/13	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	L. Medlock
09/17	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	L. Kras, J. Lambert, B. Griffith

Laughing Gull

08/14	85		NH coast	S. Mirick, et al.
08/15	142	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	B. Griffith, J. Lambert, L. Medlock
10/09	1	Rye	Rye Harbor	P. Hunt, S. Mirick, J. Woolf, Z. Cornell, L. LaPierre
10/20	1	Rye	Foss Beach	L. Medlock
10/22	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick

Herring Gull

08/13	500	Hampton	NH coast	K. Rosenberg
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Iceland Gull

10/21	1	Dover	Strafford County Farm	L. Medlock
11/02	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
11/27	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson
11/27	2	Rye	Eel Pond	B. Griffith
11/28	1	Rochester	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard

Lesser Black-backed Gull

08/27	1		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
08/29	1	Rochester	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
09/08	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	P. Brown
09/09	1	Rochester	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
09/10	2		Hampton Harbor	E. Masterson
09/12	11	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	J. Woolf, S. Mirick, et al.
09/17	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	L. Kras, J. Lambert, B. Griffith
09/26	1	Hampton	Hampton River marina flats	B. Crowley
10/01	1	Rye	Rt 1A wooden bridge	S. Mirick, et al.
10/10	2	Rye	Odiome Point SP	J. Kelly

Glaucous Gull

11/27	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	S. & J. Mirick
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Great Black-backed Gull

08/13	200	Hampton	NH coast	K. Rosenberg
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Sooty Tern

08/30	1	Antrim	Rt. 123 opposite Rye Pond	B. Sturgess
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<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Least Tern				
08/10	1		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
08/20	5	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick
08/28	1	Rye	Rye Harbor	B. Griffith
08/28	3		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
Caspian Tern				
08/27	6	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
09/05	1	Rye	Rye Harbor	J. Lambert, B. Griffith
09/10	5	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	L. Medlock, J. Woolf
09/11	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	L. Medlock, B. Griffith, L. Kras
09/18	2	Hampton	Plaice Cove	S. Mirick
09/20	3	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	P. Brown, et al.
09/25	2	Rye	Foss Beach	S. Mirick
10/03	3	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	S. Mirick, B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert
Black Tern				
08/07	3	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	S. Mirick
08/15	4	Offshore Waters	inside Isles of Shoals	L. Kras
08/15	1	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	B. Griffith, J. Lambert, L. Medlock
08/28	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	P. Hunt, M. & R. Suomala, D. Lipsey, Z. Cornell
08/28	18	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. & M. Suomala, D. Howe
08/28	4	Hinsdale	Hinsdale setbacks	E. Masterson
08/28	3	Hampton	Hampton River marina flats	L. Kras, J. Lambert, B. Griffith
08/28	52	N. Hampton	Little River saltmarsh	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert
08/28	8	Rye	Eel Pond	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert
08/28	3	Rye	Rye Harbor	B. Griffith
08/28	275	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
08/29	4	Hampton	Hampton Harbor inlet	S. & J. Mirick
09/01	1	Hampton	Hampton River marina flats	J. Williams
09/04	1		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
09/12	8	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	J. Woolf, S. Mirick, et al.
Roseate Tern				
08/15	40	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	M. Harvey
08/27	35		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
09/08	3	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	L. Medlock
09/10	7	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	L. Medlock, J. Woolf
Common Tern				
08/04	8	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	S. Young
08/06	150		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
08/14	30	Newington	Little Bay, mouth of Bellamy R.	R. & M. Suomala
08/28	500	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert
10/06	1	Portsmouth	Portsmouth Harbor	E. Masterson
10/26	5	Hampton	Hampton Harbor inlet	S. Mirick
10/30	1		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Forster's Tern				
08/25	1		Squam Lake	W. Shafer
08/26	1		Squam Lake	T. Vazzano, W. Shafer
09/12	21		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
10/02	37	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	E. Nielsen
10/08	39		Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick
10/15	7	Hampton	NH coast	S. Mirick
10/26	5	Hampton	Hampton Harbor inlet	S. Mirick
10/29	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach	S. & J. Mirick
11/15	1	Hampton	Great Boars Head	T. Vazzano
Royal Tern				
08/15	1	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	B. Griffith, J. Lambert, L. Medlock
				
<i>Black Skimmer by Len Medlock, 8/31/11, Yankee Fisherman's Coop., Seabrook, NH.</i>				
Black Skimmer				
08/29	6	Hampton	Hampton Harbor	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
08/31	2	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	B. Griffith, L. Medlock, D. Abbott
Parasitic Jaeger				
08/14	1		NH coast	S. Mirick, et al.
08/15	2	Offshore Waters	inside Isles of Shoals	L. Kras
08/15	8	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	B. Griffith, J. Lambert, L. Medlock
08/28	1	Rye	inside Rye Harbor	B. Griffith
08/28	2		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
10/02	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	L. Medlock
Long-tailed Jaeger				
08/15	4	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	B. Griffith, J. Lambert, L. Medlock
09/12	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	J. Woolf, S. Mirick, et al.
Parasitic/Long-tailed Jaeger				
08/15	12	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	B. Griffith, J. Lambert, L. Medlock
09/08	3	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	P. Brown
Jaeger sp.				
08/07	2	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	S. Mirick
08/15	4	Offshore Waters	inside Isles of Shoals	L. Kras
08/27	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
08/28	24		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
09/18	1		NH coast	S. Mirick
Dovekie				
11/27	300	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Common Murre				
11/27	3	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson
Razorbill				
10/22	3	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson, G. Tillman, D. Fallon, D. Parslow
11/20	9	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	S. Mirick
11/27	5	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson
Black Guillemot				
08/14	1		NH coast	S. Mirick, et al.
09/03	3	Hampton	Hampton Harbor inlet	S. & J. Mirick
09/05	1	Rye	Rye Harbor	C. Sheridan
10/16	2	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson, et al.
11/20	3	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	M. Iliff
11/20	2	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	R. & M. Suomala
Atlantic Puffin				
11/27	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson

Cuckoos to Flycatchers



Yellow-billed Cuckoo by Pam Hunt, 10/9/11, Odiorne Point State Park, Rye.

Although five Yellow-billed Cuckoo records in August and September was typical, or even below average, the 14 reports of 19 birds in October was exceptional. The majority of these were the clear result of the October 2 fallout; the Miricks alone found nine on that day. Interestingly, this same storm brought hundreds, perhaps thousands, to Bermuda! On the other hand, the only Black-billed Cuckoo after August was on October 2 in Grafton and did not seem to be a part of the fallout (which was very strictly coastal).

Eastern Screech-Owls, which seem to be slowly expanding in New Hampshire, were confined to Rockingham County save for a lone bird in Ossipee (Carroll County). The three fall Snowy Owl records, all in Rockingham County (first on November 12), were only slightly above average. Barred and Northern Saw-whet Owls did not have a significant invasion year. Of five Short-eared Owls, two were found on trips to Star Island.

Because they are largely silent by late summer, the departure timing of Eastern Whip-poor-wills is poorly known and the two September records this year were noteworthy. Of the eight counts of 100+ Common Nighthawks, seven came from concerted watching around Concord. The most notable nighthawk was a bird found in distress in Rye on October 20 and brought to a wildlife rehabilitator (who ultimately released it in Virginia). Any late October or November nighthawk should be carefully checked for Lesser Nighthawk, which has occurred in November in New Jersey, West Virginia, and Ontario. This one was a clear Common Nighthawk and seemed to be of the expected, Northeastern subspecies *C. m. minor* (the paler *chapmani* and *sennetti* subspecies have occurred in North Carolina and Maryland, respectively, in October).

Groups of over 200 Chimney Swifts were seen on a couple of dates in Concord. Their departure this year appeared to be somewhat early. There were no reports after September 15 save for a lone bird photographed in Hampton on the late date of October 22. Two hummingbirds were seen in October: a late Ruby-throated lingered in Strafford October 1-4 and a **Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird** was photographed in New Ipswich October 18-29 (see the story on page 60).

Red-bellied Woodpecker continues its colonization of northern New England, with a total of 130 distinct reports this season. The three reports listed were the northernmost and in the shadow of the White Mountains, where the species does not yet have a good foothold.

Empidonax flycatchers present identification challenges and any species is rare in October, particularly members of the Willow/Alder ("Traill's") complex. One *Empidonax* at Hampton October 1-3 (before the fallout!) was unable to be identified beyond *Empidonax* sp. despite excellent photos. In addition, a different Willow/Alder Flycatcher was photographed from Hampton Beach State Park on October 8. Much rarer for New Hampshire (but more expected in the United States in October), was an **Acadian Flycatcher** identified from stunning close-up photos. Both of these may be record late dates for New Hampshire. The Acadian will be reviewed by the New Hampshire Bird Records Committee. The photos, however, show a large, large-billed, greenish-backed, long-winged *Empidonax* with limited yellow below which typically eliminates other contenders.

The October fallout produced a few late Eastern Wood-Pewees, Least Flycatchers, and at least one Yellow-bellied Flycatcher as well. A count of 23 Eastern Kingbirds, with 20 in one tree, at Concord was indicative of migration in action August 29. This species departs remarkably early and is quite uncommon after September 1 and rare after September 10.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				
08/13	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
09/09	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
09/24	3	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson
09/27	1	Rye	Star Island	P. Brown, R. Quinn, et al.
09/30	1	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
10/02	2	Hampton	Church St. water tower parking lot	S. Mirick
10/02	3	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	S. Mirick, L. Medlock

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
10/03	1	Rye	Awcomin Marsh	S. Mirick
10/03	3	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	L. Kras, D. Hubbard, J. Lambert, B. Griffith
10/04	2	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
10/06	1	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson
10/07	1	Kingston	Rt. 108	D. Finch
10/07	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
10/09	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	P. Hunt, et al.
10/23	1	Seabrook	Beckmans Landing	J. Lambert, L. Kras, B. Griffith
10/28	1	Salem		K. Wilmarth
Black-billed Cuckoo				
08/05	4	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. Turner
08/12	2	Roxbury	Godwin Cottage	K. Rosenber
08/17	1	Madison	West Branch Pine Barrens Preserve	A. Robbins
08/19	1	Lyme	Chaffee WS	B. Allison
10/02	1	Haverhill	Bedell Bridge SP	J. Andrews
Eastern Screech-Owl				
08/06	1	Ossipee	Roland Park	P. Brown
10/01	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
10/04	1	Rye	Colbourn Rd.	S. Mirick
10/23	1	Greenland	Great Bay	S. Mirick
Snowy Owl				
11/12	1	Hampton	Hampton Harbor, northern marsh	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
11/13	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	J. Lambert, L. Medlock
11/20	1	Hampton	Hampton River marina flats	J. Lambert, et al.
Short-eared Owl				
10/08	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	S. Mirick
10/22	1	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson, G. Tillman, D. Fallon, D. Parslow
10/26	1	Seabrook	Beckmans Landing	L. Medlock, G. Tillman
10/29	1	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson, G. Tillman, J. Kelly
11/22	1	Fremont	Martin Rd.	G. Tillman
Northern Saw-whet Owl				
08/26	1	Chesterfield	MacDonald Rd., Spofford	K. Klapper
09/03	1	Jefferson	Cherry Pond, Pondicherry NWR	H. Grant
09/10	1	Henniker	Old Hillsboro Rd.	A. Moser
10/06	1	Keene	Horatio Colony Preserve	H. Siener
11/05	1	Hinsdale	Pisgah SP, Davis Hill Trail	J. Ogorzalek
Common Nighthawk				
08/18	170	Concord	Capital Commons parking garage	R. Woodward
08/19	125	Webster	Call Rd.	R. Quinn
08/20	244	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Suomala, et al.
08/30	262	Concord	Capital Commons parking garage	R. Woodward
09/03	160	Concord	Capital Commons parking garage	R. Woodward
09/06	100	Weare	Rt. 77 & Sugar Hill Rd.	D. Caldwell
10/20	1	Rye	Wallis Rd.	J. Tucker, B. Griffith

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Eastern Whip-poor-will				
08/11	3	Concord	S. Curtisville Rd.	R. Suomala, S. Parkinson
09/09	1	Concord	Mast Yard SF east	P. Hunt
09/13	1	Concord	Clinton St. residence	R. Woodward
Chimney Swift				
08/19	250	Concord	Legislative parking garage, Storrs St.	R. Suomala
08/20	203	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Suomala, et al.
08/31	212	Concord	Rumford Arms, N. Main St.	R. Suomala
10/22	1	Hampton	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				
10/01	1	Strafford	Lakeview Dr.	S. Young
10/04	1	Strafford	Lakeview Dr.	S. Young
Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird				
10/18	1	New Ipswich	River Rd.	E. & F. Danisienka
10/29	1	New Ipswich	River Rd.	E. & F. Danisienka
Red-bellied Woodpecker				
08/24	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano
09/18		Woodstock	Lost River	T. Knittel
10/06	1	Holderness	wetland by Rt. 93	P. Hunt
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				
11/01	1	Canterbury	Baptist Rd. residence	B. Hillman
11/06	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
Black-backed Woodpecker				
08/07	1	Livermore	Mt. Carrigain	M. Harvey
08/23	2	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	A. Robbins
11/12	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR, Little Cherry Pond trail	R. & M. Suomala
Northern Flicker				
09/27	14	Rye	Star Island	J. Berry, et al.
10/02	19	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park, Contoocook	R. Suomala, D. Howe
10/03	15	Westmoreland	Woodward Rd.	A. Burnett
10/06	10	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson
11/22	1	Fremont	Martin Rd.	G. Tillman
11/22	1	Rochester	Fowler Farm	D. Hubbard
11/25	3	Bow	Knox Rd.	G. Draper
Olive-sided Flycatcher				
08/06	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR-Mud Pond	P. Hunt
08/07	1	Lincoln	Shoal Pond Trail	M. Harvey
08/17	1	Madison	West Branch Pine Barrens Preserve	A. Robbins
08/19	1	Effingham	Rt. 153 tornado disturbed area	A. Robbins
08/20	1	Hollis	Monson Center (SPNHF)	C. Sheridan
08/20	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano
09/03	2	Freedom	Town Forest	A. & G. Robbins
09/09	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd./Suncook River	A. Robbins
09/10	1	Concord	McLane Audubon Center, Silk Farm Rd.	P. Hunt, Z. Cornell
09/24	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd./Suncook River	A. Robbins

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Eastern Wood-Pewee				
09/24	1	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson, Z. Cornell
10/02	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick, L. Medlock, J. O'Shaughnessy
10/03	1	Rye	Awcomin Marsh	S. Mirick
10/04	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
10/08	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	S. & J. Mirick
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				
09/16	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	D. Hubbard
09/24	1	Woodstock	Beaver Pond trailhead	B. Heitzman
10/03	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	D. Hubbard
10/04	1	Hampton	Church St. water tower parking lot	K. Klapper, C. Newton
Acadian Flycatcher				
10/22	1	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson, G. Tillman, D. Fallon, D. Parslow
Alder/Willow Flycatcher (Traill's)				
09/17	1	Rye	Star Island	S. & J. Mirick
09/18	1	Keene	Krif Rd.	K. Klapper
09/19	1	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Rd.	J. Merrill
10/08	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	L. Medlock
Least Flycatcher				
09/18	1	Keene	Krif Rd.	K. Klapper
10/03	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	L. Kras, B. Griffith, J. Lambert
10/04	1	Hampton	Church St. water tower parking lot	K. Klapper, C. Newton
10/04	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
10/05	1	Rye	Odiorne Point	S. Young
Empidonax sp.				
10/01	1	Hampton	Rt. 1A lot	S. Mirick, L. Medlock, et al.
10/03	1	N. Hampton	Willow Ave.	S. Mirick
10/03	2	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	L. Kras, B. Griffith, J. Lambert
10/04	1	Rye	Church Rd.	K. Klapper, C. Newton
Eastern Phoebe				
09/18	16	Grantham	Union Village dam	P. LaBelle
09/26	10	Rochester	Fowler Farm	D. Hubbard
10/10	13	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	E. Nielsen
10/22	2	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson, G. Tillman, D. Fallon, D. Parslow
10/23	1	Middleton	Rt. 153	H. Grant
10/24	1	Exeter	Newfields Rd. residence	P. Chamberlin
10/29	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
Eastern Kingbird				
08/29	30	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Suomala
09/04	6	Nashua	Southwest Park-Yudicky Farm	C. Sheridan
09/04	1	Rye	Star Island	C. Lentz
09/05	2	Lyme	Whipple Hill	B. Allison
09/08	1	Dover	Bellamy River WS	P. Brown
09/08	2	Westmoreland	Woodward Rd.	A. Burnett

Shrikes through Snow Bunting

There were nine reports of Northern Shrike, including a couple of notably early records. Warbling Vireos seem to be occurring later and later each year, but remain noteworthy anytime after about September 25. This year singles were in Rye October 3, Penacook October 15, and exceptionally late in Pittsfield on October 26. Additional vireos are mentioned under the text for the October fallout.



Northern Shrike by Len Medlock, 11/20/11, Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook, NH.

The New Hampshire fall migration of Fish Crows is not well understood and their patterns are changing, as they have moved into new areas in New Hampshire and Maine and have recently overwintered in Maine for the first time. All dates after August 15 are listed. The departure of some swallows is so early that they are barely recorded in fall. There were no reports of Northern Rough-winged Swallow or Bank Swallow after August 29. Numbers for both nuthatches were low this fall with no significant movements reported in New England and eBird frequencies near a five-year low for both species. The three northernmost Carolina Wrens are included below; the species is still largely restricted to the southern third of the state, but continues to expand. A **Sedge Wren** on Star Island October 16 bolstered the impressive list of rarities recorded there this fall.

Mountaintops are sometimes good vagrant spots, although you might not expect them to be. This year a **Northern Wheatear** on the Mt. Moosilauke summit October 11 might have found the alpine tundra familiar habitat, even if on the wrong continent! The Penacook Gray-cheeked Thrush was a nocturnal migrant. Listening for (and recording) the nocturnal flight calls is the best way to detect migrant Gray-cheeked and Bicknell's Thrushes. There were no early Snow Buntings, but a Lapland Longspur photographed September 21 in Hampton was extremely early for New England and is bested in New Hampshire only by one September 18, 2000 on Star Island and one September 10, 1967 in Rye.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Northern Shrike				
10/10	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	C. Farwell
10/12	1	Peterborough	Fremont Conservation Land	F. Von Mertens
10/23	1	Stratham	River Rd.	L. Medlock
White-eyed Vireo				
10/02	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick, L. Medlock, J. O'Shaughnessy
10/03	1	Rye	Church Rd.	S. Mirick
10/04	1	New Castle	Great Island common	S. Mirick
10/04	1	Rye	Highland Park Ave.	S. Mirick
10/04	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	J. Kelly
10/06	1	Seabrook	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
10/08	1	Rye	Central Rd.	S. & J. Mirick
10/09	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	P. Hunt
10/22	1	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson, G. Tillman, D. Fallon, D. Parslow

Yellow-throated Vireo

09/09	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
10/02	1	Hampton	Church St. water tower parking lot	S. Mirick
10/02	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick, L. Medlock, J. O'Shaughnessy
10/03	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	J. Lambert, L. Kras, B. Griffith

Blue-headed Vireo

10/25	1	Westmoreland	Chickering Farm	K. Klapper
10/29	2	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
10/31	1	Harrisville	Rt. 137	E. Masterson

Warbling Vireo

09/26	1	Keene	Krif Rd.	K. Klapper
10/03	1	Rye	Awcomin Marsh	S. Mirick
10/15	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/26	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd./Suncook River	A. Robbins

Philadelphia Vireo

08/19	2	Randolph	Lake Durand	J. Pietrzak
08/24	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano
09/30	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
10/02	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd./Suncook River	A. Robbins
10/03	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick

Red-eyed Vireo

10/16	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
10/21	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/24	1	Exeter	Newfields Rd. residence	P. Chamberlin

Gray Jay

08/03	1	Bethlehem	Crawford, Mt. Tom, A-Z Trail	A.,G.& J. Robbins
08/23	4	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	A. Robbins
09/26	1	Franconia	Cannon Mtn. summit & vicinity	L.& B. Hall, et al.
10/01	1	Pittsburg	Second Connecticut Lake	C. Fagyal
10/09	6	T&M Purchase	Mount Jefferson	M. Brengle
10/17	3	Lyme	Whipple Hill	B. Allison

Fish Crow

08/20	2	Moultonborough	Squam Lake	W. Shafer
08/24	4	Concord	Capital Commons parking garage	R. Woodward, Z. Cornell
08/24	2	Portsmouth	Urban Forestry Center	C. Blackington
08/25	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond south	L. Medlock
08/26	2	Rye	Rye Harbor	J. Pietrzak
08/27	1	Concord	Chesterfield Dr.	J. Pietrzak
09/06	1	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	J. Williams
09/08	12	Plaistow	Rt. 125	S. Mirick
10/19	1	Salem	Target	K. Kelley

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Horned Lark				
10/06	1	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson
10/08	2		NH coast	S. Mirick
10/09	1	Success	Success Mountain	T. Howe
11/08	80	Durham	Rt. 155A (Moore) fields	S. Young
11/26	100	Litchfield	Wilson Farms	E. Masterson
Purple Martin				
08/06	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
08/17	3	Kensington	South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
08/20	1	Kensington	The Cove marsh	G. Gavutis Jr.
08/20	1	Kensington	South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
08/27	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
Tree Swallow				
08/19	200	Rye	Star Island	M. Harvey, C. Brown
08/28	2000	Seabrook	Cross Beach Rd.	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
08/29	1000	Rye	Eel Pond	S. Mirick
10/05	2	Hancock	Harris Center	M. Smyrl
10/08	16		NH coast	S. Mirick
10/15	29		NH coast	S. Mirick
Barn Swallow				
08/13	36	Londonderry	Rolling Meadows Condos	M. Pitcher
08/13	50	Westmoreland	Harvey Pond	A. Burnett
08/20	127		NH coast	S. Mirick
08/28	70	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	P. Hunt
10/06	10	Hampton	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
10/06	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	P. Brown
10/28	1	Derry	Derry WTP	S. Mirick
Cliff Swallow				
08/02	35	New Castle	Fort Constitution	S. Young
08/04	1	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	S. Young
08/17	2	Madison	Lily Pond	A. Robbins
08/27	1	Epping	Two Rivers CA	G. Tillman
09/20	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	P. Brown
09/24	2	Hampton	Plaice Cove	B. Carr
Carolina Wren				
08/04	1	Albany	Pit Rd. residence, Silver Lake	J. Mullen
08/06	1	Hanover	Kendal Campus, Lyme Rd.	J. Norton
11/24	1	Laconia	Taylor Home Drive	D. Swain
Sedge Wren				
10/16	1	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson, et al.
Marsh Wren				
08/03	1	Madison	Mack Pond Area, Silver L. RR trail	J. Mullen
08/24	2	Sandwich	Thompson WS	W. Shafer
09/20	3	Exeter	Exeter WTP	P. Brown
09/27	2	Exeter	Exeter WTP	A. Moser
09/28	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd./Suncook River	A. Robbins
09/30	1	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
10/08	1	Epping	Two Rivers CA	G. Tillman
10/09	1	Croydon	Rocky Bound Pond	L. Lee

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
10/16	1	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson, et al.
10/26	1	Concord	Birch St. Community Garden	P. Brown
10/26	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd./Suncook River	A. Robbins
10/30	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	L. Medlock
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				
10/03	1	Rye	Awcomin Marsh	S. Mirick
10/07	1	Hollis	Monson Center (SPNHF)	C. Sheridan
Golden-crowned Kinglet				
09/27	12	Rye	Star Island	P. Brown, R. Quinn, et al.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
09/27	12	Rye	Star Island	P. Brown, R. Quinn, et al.
10/22	15	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson, G. Tillman, D. Fallon, D. Parslow
11/01	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd./Suncook River	A. Robbins
11/05	1	Concord	Locke Road sod farm	A. Robbins, R. Suomala, M. Reinhard
11/27	1	Rye	Church St.	S. Mirick
11/30	1	Amherst	Ponemah Bog WS	D. Swain
Northern Wheatear				
10/11	1	Benton	Mt. Moosilauke	M.& B. Lipson
Eastern Bluebird				
08/29	35	Amherst	Ponemah Bog WS	C. Sheridan
10/16	36	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
Veery				
09/09	2	Ossipee	Roland Park	D. Small, M. Gimpel
09/10	1	Rye	Star Island	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert
10/02	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S.& J. Mirick, L. Medlock, J. O'Shaughnessy
Gray-cheeked Thrush				
09/26	2	Rumney	Buffalo Rd.	J. Williams
09/27	1	Concord	Contoocook R. Park/Island Shores	Estates P. Hunt
Bicknell's Thrush				
08/23	2	Low & Burbanks	Link Trail off Caps Ridge Trail	A. Robbins
08/23	1	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail	A. Robbins
09/17	2	Waterville Valley	North Peak, Mt. Tripyramid	P. LaBelle
10/08	1	Lincoln	Kinsman Mtn.	P. LaBelle
Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush				
09/12	2	Freedom	Berry Bay area	A.& G. Robbins
09/18	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd./Suncook River	A. Robbins
Swainson's Thrush				
09/02	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd./Suncook River	A. Robbins
09/27	1	Rye	Star Island	J. Berry
10/10	1	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Rd. banding station	J. Merrill
10/15	1	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Rd. banding station	J. Merrill
10/15	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/29	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Hermit Thrush				
10/07	22	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Rd. banding station	J. Merrill
10/10	15	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Rd. banding station	J. Merrill
10/11	29	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Rd. banding station	J. Merrill
10/15	19	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Rd. banding station	J. Merrill
10/18	27	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Rd. banding station	J. Merrill
11/17	1	Hancock	Antrim Rd.	P. Brown
11/18	1	Newmarket	Bay Rd.	H. Chary
11/22	1	Rochester	Fowler Farm	D. Hubbard
Gray Catbird				
08/22	25	Keene	Krif Rd.	K. Klapper
11/06	1	Concord	Healy Park	P. Hunt
11/25	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	P. Miliotis
11/27	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
Brown Thrasher				
09/27	1	Rye	Star Island	P. Brown, R. Quinn, et al.
10/16	1	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson, et al.
10/22	1	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson, et al.
10/23	1	Nashua	Greeley Park	C. Sheridan
American Pipit				
09/11	1	Freedom	Town Forest	A. & G. Robbins
09/18	3		NH coast	S. Mirick
10/07	144	Conway	East Conway fields	B. Crowley, B. Ridgely, T. Vazzano
Lapland Longspur				
09/21	1	Hampton	Plaice Cove	S. Mirick, D. Hubbard, et al.
09/28	1	Conway	Sherman Farm	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely, B. Crowley
10/06	1	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson
10/11	2	Benton	Mt. Moosilauke	M. & B. Lipson
Snow Bunting				
10/29	3	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	H. Grant
10/29	2	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Klapper
10/29	6	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson, G. Tillman, J. Kelly
10/29	10	Thornton	Welch Mtn./Dickey Mtn.	A. Strong
10/29	34		NH coast	S. Mirick

Warblers

Louisiana Waterthrushes can depart for their Middle American wintering grounds as early as the beginning of July, so one singing in Westmoreland through August 20 and one banded in Center Harbor August 11 were both notably late! With the warm fall, a number of warblers lingered into late October and November. Two each of Chestnut-sided and Yellow Warbler in October were only slightly late. Exceptionally late warblers included **Ovenbird** and **Nashville Warbler** on the coast November 12, a well-photographed **Blackburnian Warbler** inland on November 5, and the remark-

able **Cape May Warbler** at Odiorne Point State Park starting November 26 that lingered through the winter. Some believed that Cape May Warbler was a bit more common on the East Coast this fall, and New Hampshire eBird recorded 16 reports of 21 individuals. Whether this increase was due to easterly wind flow, a good boreal breeding year, or some other factor remains an open question.



Yellow-breasted Chat by Jason Lambert, 10/10/11, Odiorne Point SP, Rye.

Of the less common New Hampshire warblers, there were seven Orange-crowned, three Connecticut, and four Mourning Warblers. A good total of 11 Yellow-breasted Chats was reported including four from Star Island, one (or more?) at Odiorne Point State Park for a long time, four that were likely part of the coastal fallout, and just one inland.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Ovenbird				
10/02	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. & J. Mirick, L. Medlock, J. O'Shaughnessy
10/04	2	Hampton	Church St. water tower parking lot	K. Klapper, C. Newton
10/04	1	New Castle	Wild Rose Lane	S. Mirick
10/05	1	Rye	Odiorne Point	S. Young
10/06	1	Amherst	Ponemah Bog WS	C. Sheridan
10/06	1	Hampton	Island Path	S. Mirick
10/06	1	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson
10/07	4	Hollis	Monson Center (SPNHF)	C. Sheridan
10/08	1	Seabrook	dunes	S. Mirick
11/12	1	New Castle	Fort Stark	B. Griffith, L. Kras
Worm-eating Warbler				
10/02	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. & J. Mirick, L. Medlock, J. O'Shaughnessy, et al.
10/04	1	Rye	Church Rd.	K. Klapper, C. Newton
10/04	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	K. Klapper, C. Newton
10/05	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Young
10/06	1	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson
Louisiana Waterthrush				
08/11	1	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Rd.	J. Merrill
08/20	1	Westmoreland	Woodward Rd.	A. Burnett
Northern Waterthrush				
09/27	1	Rye	Star Island	P. Brown, R. Quinn, et al.
10/02	1	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	S. Mirick
10/10	1	Keene	Krif Rd.	K. Klapper
Blue-winged Warbler				
09/10	1	Rye	Star Island	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert
09/16	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. & J. Mirick
10/03	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	B. Griffith, J. Lambert, L. Kras
Black-and-white Warbler				
10/17	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Tennessee Warbler				
08/07	2	Bethlehem	Ethan Pond Trail	M. Harvey
08/17	1	Jefferson	Owlshead Trail	J. Pietrzak, A. Winters
10/02	1	Chesterfield	Horseshoe Rd.	K. Klapper
10/06	3	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson
10/10	1	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Rd. banding station	J. Merrill
10/10	1	Hollis	Woodmont Orchards West	B. Griffith, J. Lambert
Orange-crowned Warbler				
10/06	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
10/08	1	Epping	Two Rivers CA	G. Tillman
10/09	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick, G. Tillman, et al.
10/10	1	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
10/10	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/10	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
10/10	1	Hollis	Woodmont Orchards West	B. Griffith, J. Lambert
Nashville Warbler				
10/22	1	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson, G. Tillman, D. Fallon, D. Parslow
10/23	1	Hampton	Church St. water tower parking lot	S. Mirick
10/24	1	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO	M. Suomala
11/12	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. & J. Mirick
Connecticut Warbler				
09/14	1	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Rd. banding station	J. Merrill
09/17	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
09/28	1	Newbury	Ramblewood Circle residence	P. Newbern
Mourning Warbler				
08/23	1	Webster	Call Rd.	R. Quinn
09/03	1	Freedom	Town Forest	A. & G. Robbins
09/17	1	Rye	Star Island	S. & J. Mirick
10/04	1	New Castle	Great Island Common	S. Mirick
Common Yellowthroat				
08/06	29	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
10/29	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
11/05	1	Portsmouth	Urban Forestry Center	S. Mirick
11/13	1	Newington	Great Bay NWR	J. Kelly
Hooded Warbler				
10/02	1	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
10/04	1	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	K. Klapper, C. Newton
10/09	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
American Redstart				
10/15	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
10/17	1	Durham	Rt. 155A (Moore) fields	S. Young
Cape May Warbler				
09/26	1	Franconia	Cannon Mt. summit & vicinity	L. & B. Hall, et al.
09/27	1	Rye	Star Island	J. Berry, K. Klapper
10/04	1	Hampton	Church St. water tower parking lot	K. Klapper, C. Newton
10/07	1	Cornish	Town House Rd.	D. Doubleday
11/26	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	J. Lambert, et al.
11/30	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	D. Hubbard

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Northern Parula				
10/30	1	Hancock	Kings Hgwy.	E. Masterson
Magnolia Warbler				
10/06	2	Holderness	wetland by Rt. 93	P. Hunt
10/06	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd./Suncook River	A. Robbins
10/06	3	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson
10/09	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
Blackburnian Warbler				
09/17	1	Rye	Star Island	S. & J. Mirick
10/02	1	Hampton		E. Nielsen
10/03	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
11/05	1	Concord	Merrill Park area	A. Robbins, R. Suomala, A. Moser, et al.
Yellow Warbler				
09/27	2	Canterbury	Canterbury Intervale Farm	A. Taylor, et al.
09/27	3	Rye	Star Island	P. Brown, R. Quinn, et al.
10/04	1	Hampton	vacant lot by Ron's Landing	K. Klapper, C. Newton
10/06	1	Hampton	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
Chestnut-sided Warbler				
10/02	1	Chesterfield	Horseshoe Rd.	K. Klapper
10/03	1	N. Hampton	Willow Ave.	S. Mirick
Blackpoll Warbler				
09/24	100	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson
10/27	1	Chesterfield	MacDonald Rd., Spofford	K. Klapper
10/30	1	N. Hampton	Willow Ave.	S. & J. Mirick
Black-throated Blue Warbler				
10/30	1	Chesterfield	MacDonald Rd., Spofford	K. Klapper
Palm Warbler				
09/10	1	Rye	Star Island	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert
09/28	33	Conway	Sherman Farm	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
11/03	1	Concord	Contoocook R. Park/Island Shores	Estates P. Hunt
11/05	1	Stratham	River Rd.	S. Mirick
11/08	1	Durham	Rt. 155A (Moore) fields	S. Young
Pine Warbler				
09/04	14	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/20	1	Strafford	Lakeview Dr.	S. Young
10/22	1	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson, et al.
Yellow-rumped Warbler				
09/20	30	Exeter	Exeter WTP	P. Brown
09/28	165	Conway	Sherman Farm	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
10/29	91		NH coast	S. Mirick
11/20	5	Rye	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	R. & M. Suomala
11/20	2	Seabrook	Seabrook WTP	M. Iliff
Prairie Warbler				
09/10	4	Henniker	Old Hillsboro Rd.	A. Moser
09/21	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd./Suncook River	A. Robbins

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Prairie Warbler—continued				
09/22	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
10/02	1	Hampton	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
10/04	1	Hampton	vacant lot by Ron's Landing	K. Klapper, C. Newton
10/05	2	Rye	Odiorne Point	S. Young
Black-throated Green Warbler				
08/25	11	Rumney	Buffalo Rd.	J. Williams
10/16	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	P. Hunt
10/16	3	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson, et al.
Wilson's Warbler				
09/10	5	Rye	Star Island	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert
10/17	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
Yellow-breasted Chat				
09/08	1	Rye	Star Island	T. Chase
09/24	1	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson
09/27	1	Rye	Star Island	K. Klapper
10/01	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick, et al.
10/03	1	Hampton	Church St. water tower parking lot	C. Borg
10/03	1	Rye	Awcomin Marsh	S. Mirick
10/03	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	D. Hubbard, J. Lambert, L. Kras, B. Griffith
10/04	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
10/16	1	Hampton Falls	Depot Rd.	S. Mirick
10/22	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	J. Lambert, L. Kras, B. Griffith
10/22	1	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson, G. Tillman, D. Fallon, D. Parslow
10/31	1	Hampton	Great Boars Head	J. O'Shaughnessy
11/12	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. & J. Mirick
11/14	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
11/27	1	New Castle	off Rt. 1B	S. Mirick

Sparrows to Finches



Dickcissel by Len Medlock,
10/1/11, field next to Ron's Land-
ing, Hampton, NH.

Totals for the rarer sparrows included 12 Vesper, 3 Grasshopper (all migrants), 3 Lark, and at least 12 Clay-colored Sparrows. Seaside Sparrow is particularly rare in New Hampshire, so one on October 26 in Hampton was a great find and the result of an extremely high tide, which produced records of both Saltmarsh and Nelson's Sparrows as well. Always of note inland, was a single **Ipswich Sparrow** (subspecies of Savannah Sparrow) photographed at the Derry Wastewater Treatment Plant on November 15. Observers are reminded to be extremely cautious with reports of American Tree Sparrow before October 25; Chipping, Field, and American Tree Sparrows are often misidentified, and reports of any outside of expected seasons should be documented with care.

The October fallout produced two **Summer Tanagers**, one photographed on Star Island and one heard-only at Odiorne Point State Park. Although several Blue Grosbeaks in Maine and Massachusetts seemed to be directly related to the coastal October fallout, this was not true of the three Blue Grosbeaks this fall in New Hampshire. The Concord bird, however, appeared on October 3, the day after the main fallout on the coast, so perhaps it could have been connected to that same weather event. If so, it would be the only record from the fallout that occurred well inland. Dickcissels had a great year and were hard to keep track of, with at least 18 reports involving 23 individuals. The drought on the southern Great Plains could have contributed to an eastward shift during breeding season and more birds in the East this fall.

Just three Eastern Meadowlarks were reported this fall, a low total that is at least in part because of the severe plight of some grassland birds in the Northeast. The lone **Yellow-headed Blackbird** (immature male) was, not surprisingly, on Star Island.

Red Crossbills were located in three general regions of the state: in the White Mountains along the Kancamagus Highway; in Chatham; and at two sites in Antrim. We strongly encourage New Hampshire birders to try to get audio recordings of any Red Crossbills, as it is still undetermined what call types occur and when, and whether each call type represents a unique species! (See also the *New Hampshire Bird Records* article, "The First Documented Occurrence of Red Crossbill Call Types 1,2,3 and 10 in New Hampshire" in the Winter 2009-10 issue, Vol. 28 #4.) Small numbers of White-winged Crossbills were regular through September in the White Mountains, but there were just three reports from downstate, including the only two reports after September. Pine Siskins were scattered widely throughout the state starting in early October (high of 62), with just a few reports prior to that.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Eastern Towhee				
08/05	17	Freedom	Town Forest	A. & G. Robbins
08/17	42	Madison	West Branch Pine Barrens Preserve	A. Robbins
11/12	1	Portsmouth	Urban Forestry Center	B. Griffith, L. Kras
American Tree Sparrow				
10/11	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	D. Howe
10/29	2	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
10/29	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
10/31	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd./Suncook River	A. Robbins
Chipping Sparrow				
08/21	58	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
09/28	150	Nashua	Greeley Park	C. Sheridan
10/03	318	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/29	100	Nashua	Greeley Park	C. Sheridan
11/06	5	Nashua	Greeley Park	C. Sheridan
11/13	1	Concord	Tow Path Lane	D. Lania
11/30	1	Canterbury	Canterbury Intervale Farm	A. Taylor
Clay-colored Sparrow				
09/17	1	Rye	Star Island	S. & J. Mirick
09/25	1	Hampton	vacant lot	S. & J. Mirick
09/27	1	Concord	Birch St. Community Garden	R. Suomala
09/27	2	Rye	Star Island	R. Quinn, et al.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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Clay-colored Sparrow—continued

10/02	1	Walpole	River Rd.	A. Moser
10/05	1	Dover	Strafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
10/08	1	Hampton	vacant lot	S. Mirick
10/10	1	Keene	Krif Rd.	K. Klapper
10/13	1	Hampton	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
10/14	1	Sandwich	Thompson WS	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
10/15	1	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO	R. & M. Suomala
10/15	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
10/16	1	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson, et al.
10/23	1	Canaan	rail trail near Potato Rd.	J. Norton
10/26	1	Hampton Falls	Depot Rd.	S. Mirick
10/30	1	Hampton	vacant lot	S. & J. Mirick

Vesper Sparrow

08/22	1	Greenfield	Ravenwood Farm	T. Shiel
09/28	1	Conway	Sherman Farm	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
10/06	2	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO	R. Quinn
10/10	1	Hollis	Woodmont Orchards West	B. Griffith, J. Lambert
10/16	1	Barnstead	North Barnstead Rd. apple orchard	J. Lambert
10/18	1	Lee	Old Mill Rd. WMA	S. Young
10/29	1	Concord	Birch St. Community Garden	R. Suomala
10/29	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
10/30	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	J. Lambert

Lark Sparrow by Lauren Kras, 9/10/11, Star Island, Isles of Shoals, NH.

**Lark Sparrow**

09/10	1	Rye	Star Island	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert
10/02	1	Concord	Birch St. Community Garden	C. Borg, R. Suomala, D. Howe
10/03	1	Sandwich	Thompson WS	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely

Savannah Sparrow


09/28	92	Conway	Sherman Farm	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
10/02	206	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO	R. Suomala, D. Howe
10/16	100	Concord	Russell Martin Park	P. Hunt
11/20	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	M. Iliff
11/24	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	D. Howe
11/25	1	Dover	Strafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
11/25	1	Exeter	Exeter WTP	P. Miliotis

Savannah Sparrow - Ipswich subsp.

10/23	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	R. & M. Suomala
10/23	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. & J. Mirick
11/06	2	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick, M. Watson
11/15	1	Derry	Derry WTP	S. Mirick
11/19	3		NH coast	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Grasshopper Sparrow				
10/16	1	Concord	Russell Martin Park	P. Hunt
10/21	1	Hinsdale	Hudson Farm	E. Masterson
10/23	1	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	R.& M. Suomala, L. Burton
Nelson's Sparrow				
08/06	2	Rye	Rye salt marshes	S. Mirick
10/06	1	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson
10/26	1	Hampton Falls	Depot Rd.	S. Mirick
10/29	2	Hampton	Island Path	S.& J. Mirick
Saltmarsh Sparrow				
08/09	6	Portsmouth	Urban Forestry Center	S. Young
08/21	5	Hampton	Hampton salt marsh	S. Mirick
10/26	1	Hampton	Island Path	S. Mirick
Nelson's/Saltmarsh Sparrow				
10/29	1		NH coast	S. Mirick
Seaside Sparrow				
10/26	1	Seabrook	Beckmans Landing	L. Medlock, G. Tillman, S. Mirick
Fox Sparrow				
10/22	1	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson, G. Tillman, D. Fallon, D. Parslow
10/29	1	Concord	Abbott Rd. stump dump	P. Hunt
10/31	1	Canterbury	Old Tilton Rd. residence	A. Taylor
11/02	3	Rindge	Crawford Pond	P. Brown
11/16	3	Antrim	Willard Pond WS	P. Brown
11/22	1	Rochester	Fowler Farm	D. Hubbard
11/26	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd./Suncook River	A. Robbins
Lincoln's Sparrow				
09/28	12	Conway	Sherman Farm	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
10/17	1	Concord	Birch St. Community Garden	P. Brown
10/17	2	Concord	McLane Audubon Center, Silk Farm Rd.	P. Brown
10/17	2	Westmoreland	Woodward Rd.	A. Burnett
10/21	1	Walpole	Sawyer Farm, River Rd.	L. Clarfeld
10/24	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	J. Kelly
Swamp Sparrow				
09/27	30	Dover	Stafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
09/28	120	Conway	Sherman Farm	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
10/02	27	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO	R. Suomala, D. Howe
White-throated Sparrow				
09/17	2	Rye	Star Island	S.& J. Mirick
09/18	1	Exeter	Newfields Rd. residence	P. Chamberlin
10/06	150	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson
10/15	87	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
White-crowned Sparrow				
09/26	1	Keene	Krif Rd.	K. Klapper
09/26	2	Rochester	Rochester WTP	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
White-crowned Sparrow—continued				
09/30	1	Walpole	Sawyer Farm, River Rd.	L. Clarfeld
10/06	15	Holderness	wetland by Rt. 93	P. Hunt
10/06	25	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson
10/10	40	Hollis	Woodmont Orchards West	B. Griffith, J. Lambert
10/30	1	Chesterfield	MacDonald Rd., Spofford	K. Klapper
11/04	1	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
Summer Tanager				
10/06	1	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson
10/09	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	P. Hunt, C. Borg, et al.
Scarlet Tanager				
09/23	15	Hollis	North Pepperell Rd.	M. Resch
10/05	1	Chesterfield	Sugarbush Hill	H. Siener
10/07	1	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Rd.	J. Merrill
Blue Grosbeak				
09/23	1	Rochester	Rochester WTP	S. Mirick
10/03	1	Concord	Birch St. Community Garden	P. Brown, P. Hunt
10/13	1	Concord	Birch St. Community Garden	P. Brown
10/16	1	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson, et al.
Indigo Bunting				
09/16	18	Walpole	Sawyer Farm, River Rd.	L. Clarfeld
09/17	18	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
10/23	1	Stratham	River Rd.	S. Mirick
10/26	1	Concord	Birch St. Community Garden	P. Brown
Dickcissel				
09/28	2	Conway	Sherman Farm	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
09/30	2	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
10/01	2	Hampton	Rt. 1A vacant lot near Tilton St.	S. Mirick
10/02	1	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO	R. Suomala, D. Howe
10/03	1	Concord	Birch St. Community Garden	P. Brown
10/03	1	Westmoreland	Chickering Farm	E. Masterson
10/05	1	Rye	Odiorne Point	S. Young
10/05	1	Stratham	River Rd.	B. Griffith
10/10	1	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO	R. Suomala
10/13	1	Hampton	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
10/15	1	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO	R. & M. Suomala
10/16	1	Greenland	Great Bay Farm	S. Mirick
10/19	2	Stratham	River Rd.	S. Mirick
10/21	1	Hinsdale	Hudson Farm	E. Masterson
10/23	2	Nashua	Greeley Park	C. Sheridan
10/23	1	Rye	Old Beach Rd.	S. Mirick
10/23	1	Stratham	Squamscott Rd. farm fields	S. Mirick
10/25	2	Hinsdale	Hudson Farm	K. Klapper
Bobolink				
08/12	65	Dover	Stafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
10/10	3	Concord	Birch St. Community Garden	R. Suomala
10/10	3	Dover	Stafford County Farm	J. Scott, B. Crowley
10/16	9	Greenland	Great Bay Farm	S. Mirick
10/16	3	Stratham	River Rd.	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
				
<i>Eastern Meadowlark by Len Medlock, 11/5/11, Hampton, NH.</i>				
Eastern Meadowlark				
10/17	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd./Suncook River	A. Robbins
11/05	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	S. Mirick, L. Medlock
Yellow-headed Blackbird				
10/16	1	Rye	Star Island	E. Masterson, et al.
Rusty Blackbird				
09/25	1	Seabrook	Seabrook WTP	S. Mirick
10/18	30	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO	P. Hunt
10/26	22	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO	P. Brown
11/19	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd./Suncook River	A. Robbins
11/20	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	S. Mirick
11/22	1	Fremont	Martin Rd.	G. Tillman
11/26	11	Concord	Sewalls Falls North	J. Nadeau
11/26	1	Durham	Rt. 155A (Moore) fields	S. Young
Common Grackle				
10/29	1600	Strafford	Lakeview Dr.	S. Young
11/20	2654	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd./Suncook River	A. Robbins
Brown-headed Cowbird				
10/06	250	Seabrook	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
Baltimore Oriole				
10/16	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
10/16	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Road residence	D. Hubbard
Red Crossbill				
08/02	1	Antrim	Robb Reservoir	E. Masterson
08/07	1	Lincoln	Shoal Pond Trail	M. Harvey
08/22	8	Chatham	Little Chatham Rd.	B. Crowley
09/13	20	Waterville Valley	Kancamagus Hgwy., Church Ponds	R. Robinson
09/14	1	Chatham	Upper Kimball Pond	B. Crowley
10/03	3	Livermore	Lily Pond	R. Quinn
10/05	4	Lincoln	Kancamagus Hgwy.	I. MacLeod
10/12	1	Antrim	Willard Pond WS	P. Brown
11/17	3	Chatham	Green Hill Rd.	B. Crowley
White-winged Crossbill				
08/18	16	Hart's Location	Nancy Pond Trail, Crawford Notch	A. & G. Robbins
09/22	1	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Klapper
11/04	1	Hill	Pemigewasset R.	G. Gavutis
11/10	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd./Suncook River	A. Robbins
11/29	3	Antrim	Willard Pond WS	P. Brown
American Goldfinch				
11/12	296		NH coast	S. & J. Mirick
11/19	188	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd./Suncook River	A. Robbins
11/20	311	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	S. Mirick
11/20	156	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd./Suncook River	A. Robbins

Hurricane Irene, August 2011

by Marshall Iliff

It is a rare hurricane that affects New Hampshire, but this year Tropical Storm *Irene* made landfall in New York and tracked northeast to New Hampshire on August 28, and passed over the state on August 28-29. Observers were out birding along the coast and in the Connecticut River Valley on August 28, in the hope that some rare birds entrained in the storm (“moving with the



Sooty Tern found dead at the south end of Rye Pond off Rt. 123 in Antrim on 8/30/11 by Bob Sturgis and reported by Betsy Smith. Photo by Eric Masterson.

storm” as opposed to birds grounded or displaced by the storm) might get transported northwards. As always, extreme caution should be exercised for those who intentionally go birding in such weather. Not only are wind, falling trees, and flying debris potential hazards, but flooding occurs very suddenly and can quite literally sweep your car away or strand you in an unsafe location as flood waters continue to rise. Unfortunately, this scenario played out for numerous New Englanders and New Yorkers during *Irene*, though thankfully all birders stayed safe.

Hurricane *Irene* formed and became a Category 1 storm east of the Lesser Antilles and then made successive landfalls in the US Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Bahamas as it strengthened to a Category 3 storm. Weakening to a Category 1 storm, it made landfall on the Outer Banks of North Carolina on August 27 and then moved northward over the coast to make another landfall near Brigantine, New Jersey at about 5:35 am on August 28. Maintaining Tropical Storm strength, it moved up the coast and passed right over New York City at about 9:00 am. Moving northeastward from there, the weakening storm passed just west of Amherst, Massachusetts at about 4:00 pm. The center of the storm reached the Connecticut River at the Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont borders a few hours later, just as it was getting dark. Although winds were not much over 40 mph by the time the storm reached New England, the heavy rains caused historic local flooding and made *Irene* one of the costlier storms on record, especially in Vermont and New York.

Irene’s most noteworthy Granite State bird was an adult **White-tailed Tropicbird** that was found moribund in Charlestown, August 29 and later expired, becoming New Hampshire’s first record for the species. Another product of *Irene*, an adult Sooty Tern was found dead August 30 in an Antrim driveway. The tern specimen will be preserved at the Museum of Comparative Zoology in Cambridge, Massachusetts and the tropicbird will be preserved at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Neither of these records is without context. Although several past hurricanes have transported White-tailed Tropicbirds to New England, *Irene* smashed all previous

records by transporting 12 or more, including two in Delaware, three in New Jersey, four or five in New York, one in Connecticut, and two in Massachusetts! Sooty Terns, too, were widespread, with numerous birds around New York City and the south shore of New England, and two reaching western Massachusetts. Other sightings in nearby states included: an amazing state-first Band-rumped Storm-Petrel picked up dead in Vermont, and others in New York and Connecticut; an adult Northern Gannet found moribund in Vermont; and a wide scattering of Bridled Terns, all along the New York and southern New England shores (i.e., none transported inland). The only displaced Black-capped Petrel was in Cape May, NJ, where the other major rarity was an apparent Black Swift, perhaps transported from the Caribbean!

Coastally, perhaps the only species likely to have been “transported” north by the storm were six Black Skimmers in the Hampton Harbor area August 29 (two remaining on August 31). Although displaced southern species, like tropicbirds and Sooty Terns, are what many birders hope for, “groundings” are another avian event to watch for in such storms. Even localized thunderstorms can “ground” migrating waterbirds and shorebirds that travel overland, often at great heights. When huge storm systems like a Tropical Storm occur, these groundings can happen widely, as *Irene* showed us.

Numbers of Black Terns seemed to be elevated overall this year, perhaps due to a particularly good breeding season in the prairies. Incredible numbers in New Hampshire on August 28, however, were all directly attributable to *Irene*, and included birds at three inland sites (including a flock of 18 in Concord) and state record high counts on the coast topped by 275+ at Hampton Harbor. Steve Mirick estimated 328 in a full day of birding on the New Hampshire coast (including the 275+ in Hampton Harbor – see box). Although some of these birds were almost certainly migrants grounded by the large storm system (especially those in Concord), the exceptional count on the coast may also have involved birds transported by the southerly and southeasterly winds from offshore waters at Cape Cod, where unusually large numbers had been staging this fall. Either way, Black Tern was certainly the highlight bird of *Irene* in New Hampshire. Hudsonian Godwits, similarly, posted amazing numbers, with 109 counted along the New Hampshire coast during an all-day storm watch August 28. See Steve Mirick’s notes in the box.

Not transported by the storm, but pushed to shore by ESE winds of up to 50 knots on August 28, was a remarkable count of 27 jaegers. Of those, three were identified as Parasitics, including one adult photographed inside Hampton Harbor! Other species observed, which were likely pushed to shore by the winds (although some shorebirds may have been “grounded” or driven from feeding areas), included: 20 Great and 4 Manx Shearwaters, along with a number of distant unidentified shearwaters; 30 American Golden-Plovers; 11 Whimbrel in several groups; 105 Northern Gannets including one seen on the **west** (inland) side of Route 1A; 21 Red Knots in several groups; three Red-necked Phalaropes; and 700 Common and 20 Roseate Terns. Three Least Terns, uncommon after mid-August, set this year’s late date for New Hampshire and were probably gifts of the storm as well, maybe pushed with Black Terns from staging areas on Cape Cod.

Despite being a relatively weak storm, *Irene* was a very large storm and maintained hurricane strength for a comparatively long time. How and why certain storms result

Two Amazing Fall-outs

Steve Mirick's paraphrased notes to the NHBirds e-mail list after a day of storm-birding during Irene on 8/28/11 (posted 8/29/11).

Hudsonian Godwit

“Amazing fall-out of godwits before and during storm. The precise number of birds is still uncertain as it became confusing when birds appeared and disappeared and there was no directional movement for some of them. Break down of sightings is: 9 adults flying north very close at North Hampton State Beach at about 8 am; 18 (most/all adults) circling continuously around Little River salt marsh at about 1 pm; 45 circling Little River salt marsh later; 12 sitting and 2 flying in on Hampton flats at about 4 pm; 15 flying by in a single group and landing in flats; 11 spotted in back of harbor making 26 at one time on flats; 15 flying by and continuing southward.”

Black Tern

“AMAZING fallout of Black Terns. Started slowly with 11 seen flying over our heads at Ragged Neck, heading north at about 10 am. A flock of 50 were seen by Ben Griffith and others at the Little River saltmarsh and we had 8 on Eel Pond. The finale, however was at Hampton Harbor where I estimated 275+. We arrived just as flats were being exposed to find 14 Black Terns in close on beach. From there, the numbers continuously grew over the next four hours as flock after flock flew in from the north, following the channel. Many birds stayed on the flats, but many birds continued southward. Late in the day before leaving, I counted 160+ Black Terns at one time, and I suspect that there were many more located in a large flock in a back channel.

in lots of rare bird sightings and why others do not remains poorly understood, but larger storms that maintain their strength across a large distance usually transport more tropical seabirds northward. The track of a storm is important as well, and the leeward islands and Gulf Stream (both of which *Irene* transited a few days before reaching New England) are areas rich in birds, including Sooty Terns and White-tailed Tropicbirds. Perhaps related, observers on boats off the mid-Atlantic and Southeastern US coasts this year saw very high numbers of White-tailed Tropicbirds, although the cause of this apparent “up year” for tropicbirds is unknown.

It is perhaps not surprising that coastal New Hampshire observers saw no obviously displaced (i.e., southern or tropical) birds from the storm, since its center was so far to the west. The only obvious coastal storm bird away from southern Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut, was a lone Sooty Tern in Boston. However, why did observers along the Connecticut River not manage to see a Sooty Tern, White-tailed Tropicbird, jaeger, or storm-petrel? All of these were seen by me and others in an all-day vigil at Quabbin Reservoir, just 29 miles south of the New Hampshire border! The answer may lie in the timing of the storm. Weakened though it was, the very first suggestion of a bird transported by the storm at Quabbin Reservoir was a Parasitic Jaeger seen around 1:15 pm when the stronger northeastern quadrant of the storm seemed to reach the area. Jaegers, however, migrate overland and this bird may have been put down by the rain clouds rather than being truly “entrained” in the storm. In

fact, the only clearly entrained birds were the White-tailed Tropicbird, Sooty Tern, and Leach's Storm-Petrel; the first two appeared together at 4:30 pm just after the storm passed, the skies cleared, and the winds switched around to be northwesterly. The storm-petrel followed about one hour later. This seems to be a regular pattern in hurricanes, that the rarer entrained birds "drop out" as the storm passes over a water body like a large river or reservoir. This exact same timing was noted for tropical species (including Bridled and Sooty Terns, White-tailed Tropicbird, and Band-rumped Storm-Petrels) in New York City (Andy Farnsworth, personal communication). Since it took the storm another three hours or so to reach New Hampshire, this seemingly magical moment in the storm probably did not occur during daylight hours for Granite State birders, although birds like White-tailed Tropicbird and Sooty Tern were clearly still entrained in the storm and found dead or dying the next morning. By the next morning, clear skies and northwesterly winds made for poor bird-finding conditions on lakes and rivers, affording the healthier birds a chance to return to the ocean. If the next storm to follow such a track occurs during daylight hours, it will be interesting to see if New Hampshire birders find more southern rarities in the moments immediately following the passage of the center of the storm.

The 2011 October Coastal Fallout

by Marshall Iliff

From September 30 to October 1, a strong low-pressure system developed over the southeastern United States, setting up a strong clockwise flow around its center. The result, at the 500 mB level (about 18,000 ft. where many birds presumably migrate) was a flow from the southeast (Alabama, Georgia, and Florida) directly to the Canadian Maritimes and waters off New England. The low deepened over the central Appalachians on October 1 setting up a strong south-southwesterly jet flowing directly to New England. As the low moved slightly northward on October 2, winds weakened somewhat and became more southeasterly. The low basically remained stationary for the next three days, with winds weakening some, but continuing the flow from the Southeastern United States to New England. Southerly winds and rain predominated in coastal New England and offshore from September 29 to October 5, with the system finally clearing out to the north bringing clear skies and northwesterly winds behind it on October 6.



Worm-eating Warbler by Len Medlock, 10/2/11, Odiorne Point State Park, Rye.

It seems clear that a significant packet of migrant landbirds, including White-eyed Vireos, Hooded Warblers, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, and a selection of other species (see Table 1), was displaced offshore from the Southeastern United States on the nights of September 30 and October 1, and possibly subsequent nights. When offshore and displaced from their intended course, many birds simply fly downwind to try to reach land as quickly as possible. These birds flying downwind apparently flew almost directly to New England where they encountered rain, forcing them to land at the first available opportunity. This produced an extraordinary influx of southern species that are typically rare in New Hampshire.

The first indication of the fallout was when Steve Mirick detected several unusual species (including several Yellow-billed Cuckoos and a male **Hooded Warbler**) along the New Hampshire coast on October 2. Realizing what might be going on, he checked coastal migrant traps for the rest of the day and racked up an impressive list including nine Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Hooded and **Worm-eating Warblers**, and a **White-eyed Vireo**, among a number of other noteworthy birds. The ensuing days afforded more excitement, including many more White-eyed Vireos, late Warbling and Yellow-throated Vireos, a couple of **Summer Tanagers**, more Yellow-billed Cuckoos, two more Worm-eating Warblers, and a record-late Blue-winged Warbler. Oddly, although several Blue Grosbeaks were found in Maine, none were seen on the New Hampshire coast. The rarities observed were almost entirely limited to the immediate coast and those seen after October 6 were likely lingering birds or birds moving back to the south, rather than fresh arrivals. A White-eyed Vireo and an **Acadian Flycatcher** on Star Island as late as October 22 may have been birds "stranded" there by this system. Although no other Acadians were identified in this event, the source area (southeastern United States) should have been seeing near-peak passage of Acadians in early October, so the connection between the early October system and this record seems hard to ignore.

On the southern Maine coast, Luke Seitz birded from Fort Foster (right across from Odiorne Point State Park) to Cape Neddick and had an unprecedented one-day total of 11 Yellow-billed Cuckoos, seven White-eyed Vireos, four Hooded Warblers, a Worm-eating Warbler, a Summer Tanager, a Blue Grosbeak, and several other surprises. Perhaps surprisingly, the fallout seemed to be very localized. Unusual records were essentially limited to northern Essex County, Massachusetts (north of Cape Ann) to Cumberland County, Maine. Searchers north and south of those areas did not have much luck finding unusual species.

Perhaps the most unusual aspect of this fallout, is that while it clearly transported unusual numbers of Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Eastern Wood-Pewees, *Empidonax* flycatchers, Yellow-throated and White-eyed Vireos, Hooded and Worm-eating Warblers, Summer Tanagers, and Blue Grosbeaks, it did not result in unusual numbers of other migrants. In fact, the fallout seemed to be almost entirely restricted to those southeastern species that would not be expected in New Hampshire at all at this season, while commoner early October migrants like Blackpoll Warbler, Yellow-rumped

through the Southeast as well. While a few sightings of those species could be linked to the fallout, it was comparatively few when compared to the real “southern” birds. Perhaps the few reports of those species from the coast during that period were in fact of displaced birds from the Southeast as well!

Table 1. Species associated with the October fallout. These include counts and occurrence records that are well outside the norm for New Hampshire. Particularly noteworthy species are in boldface. Not listed are at least three Eastern Wood-Pewees, 27 Red-eyed Vireos, eight Oven-birds, and nine American Redstarts. These are all species that are still passing through New Hampshire in some numbers on these dates, but were also likely part of the coastal fallout. Original sightings for all of these are available from eBird.

Species	Range of dates	No. of reports	Locations
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	October 2-10	10 reports (14+ birds)	NH coast; Kensington
Acadian Flycatcher	October 22	1 report (1 bird)	Star Island
Willow/Alder Flycatcher	October 8	1 report (1 bird)	Hampton
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	October 4	1 report (1 bird), and another probable	Hampton
Least Flycatcher	October 3-4	3 reports (3 birds)	Hampton; Odiorne Point State Park, Rye
<i>Empidonax</i> sp.	October 3-16	5 reports (5 birds)	NH coast; Star Island
White-eyed Vireo	October 2-22	8-9 reports (8-9 birds)	Rye; New Castle; Seabrook
Yellow-throated Vireo	October 2-3	2 reports (2 birds)	Hampton; Rye
Warbling Vireo	October 3	1 report (1 bird)	Awcomin Marsh, Rye
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	October 3-4	1 report (1 bird)	Awcomin Marsh, Rye
Veery	October 2	1 report (1 bird)	Odiorne Point State Park, Rye
Worm-eating Warbler	October 2-6	3 reports (3 birds)	Odiorne Point State Park, Rye; church parking lot, Hampton; Star Island)
Blue-winged Warbler	October 3	1 report (1 bird)	Odiorne Point State Park, Rye
Hooded Warbler	October 2-9	2 reports (2 birds)	Rye Harbor; Odiorne Point State Park, Rye
Yellow-breasted Chat	October 2-4	3 reports (3 birds), not counting Odiorne Point State Park	Rye; Hampton (2)
Summer Tanager	October 6-9	2 reports (2 birds)	Star Island; Odiorne Point State Park, Rye

Events like this may actually be predictable, but, as seen this year, the precise area of landfall for birds displaced by a storm can be very localized and may defy prediction. Furthermore, hundreds or thousands of birds may die in such events, as bad weather forces weaker birds to the ocean’s surface. Fallouts like this are dependent on

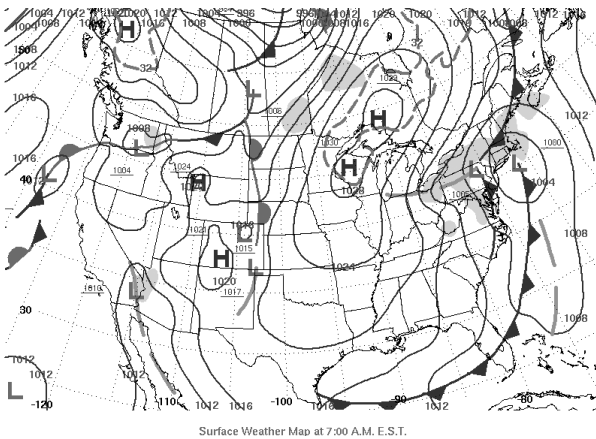


Figure 1. The weather map from October 1, 2011 showing the low-pressure system that stalled over New England and brought the fallout of birds to coastal New Hampshire.

southwesterly winds aloft sweep birds offshore and clockwise rotation returns them to shore in New England and the Canadian Maritimes. In fact, a nearly identical event on October 11, 1998 in Nova Scotia was discussed by McLaren et al. (2000). This event was similar in its species composition, likely origin, weather pattern, and in the very localized nature of the fallout. However, the Nova Scotia fallout was much larger (perhaps in part due to the better migrant traps there) and involved not only southern rarities (10 Hooded Warblers, tens of Blue Grosbeaks, 22 White-eyed Vireos), but also hundreds of Red-eyed Vireos and Indigo Buntings, tens of Scarlet Tanagers and American Redstarts, and several other species which should be common migrants through the Southeastern US in mid-October. Just ten Yellow-billed Cuckoos, despite the high numbers of other birds, does provide an interesting contrast.

Less well-documented, perhaps, was an exceptional fall in 1954 that is discussed in some depth by Veit and Petersen (1993) under their Yellow-billed Cuckoo account (p. 259). That fall had several hurricanes, but I would posit that another weather system more like the New Hampshire one may have been primarily responsible. In 1954, probably building off a record Gypsy Moth outbreak that year, there were counts of 1000+ cuckoos (mostly Black-billed!) on multiple days at Orient Point, Long Island, totals of 250 cuckoos in Maine, and 300 in Massachusetts, including some “flushed from roadside weed patches like quail”. It would be amazing to think what might have been counted with the higher observer coverage of 2011!

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Spotlight on American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*)

by Benjamin Griffith



American Avocet by Len Medlock, 9/6/11, Hampton Harbor by Yankee Fisherman's Coop., Seabrook, NH.

Background

American Avocet is a member of the *Recurvirostridae*, a small family of shorebirds which includes the stilts as well as the avocets. American Avocets are amongst the largest North American shorebirds and are the tallest species of shorebird in North America. They are easily recognized by their piebald back, long neck, and extremely slender up-curved bill.

Breeding Status

American Avocets are widespread breeders throughout the Great Plains and the Great Basin. Avocets nest primarily on small islands in alkali (saline) lakes throughout the region but also may nest on mudflats. They are strictly vagrants to the Northeast, and have never been recorded nesting in New England.

Occurrence in New Hampshire

The first American Avocet was recorded in New Hampshire in 1970. Since then, there have been four additional records (Table 1), the most recent of which was on August 24, 2011 in Hampton. The 2011 individual was seen reliably at least through October 1 and was well photographed. Four of the five records have occurred during the fall season and all have been found along the immediate coast. All but one record were solitary birds, but the fifth record was of a remarkable four individuals.

Table 1. American Avocet records in New Hampshire circa 1963-2011.

Town	Date	Number	Location
Seabrook*	August 22, 1970	1	Hampton Harbor
Rye*	August 10, 1983	1	Wallis Sands marsh
Rye	May 30-June 1, 1990	1	Rye Harbor marsh
Hampton	September 15, 1995	4	North Beach
Hampton/Seabrook*	August 24-October 1, 2011	1	multiple locations

*Record has not been evaluated by the NH Rare Birds Committee.

Occurrence in New England

The New Hampshire records fall in line with regional patterns as almost all New England records are of single birds occurring coastally in the fall. The lack of American Avocet records in New Hampshire prior to 1970 is unsurprising, as they have certainly become more regular. There were only five records in Massachusetts prior to 1955. In contrast, there were nine eBird records of American Avocet in Massachusetts between 2005 and 2010. However, American Avocets have always been dramatically more regular in other coastal New England states than they are in New Hampshire. Part of this difference is likely a result of New Hampshire having much less coastal habitat than other New England states. Nevertheless, areas such as the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge have a shorter coastline than New Hampshire and still have more records of American Avocet. New Hampshire also records fewer Wilson's Phalaropes, Stilt Sandpipers, and Long-billed Dowitchers than neighboring states, all species which share habitat preferences with American Avocet and primarily migrate through the Great Plains. These species occur primarily in shallow coastal ponds and pannes along the East Coast and the lack of avocet records may be the result of a shortage of quality habitat of these types along the New Hampshire coast.

Comments

During the fall of 2011, there appeared to be an influx throughout the Northeast, with at least six, and possibly as many as nine, individuals reported to eBird, all at coastal locales. Three of these were discovered in the week following Hurricane *Irene*, with two of the other records occurring later in the season. The only avocet discovered before the hurricane was the New Hampshire bird which appeared three days before the hurricane reached New England. American Avocets do not occur commonly in the path of the hurricane, so it is unlikely that the records were directly related to the hurricane. The hurricane could have grounded avocets which would otherwise have passed over the region without landing, but this should have resulted in inland occurrences as such weather systems tend to turn up shorebirds at inland locations as well as coastally. Furthermore, the timing of the avocet records during the fall of 2011 was consistent with past years. Even though the hurricane may not have directly led to the vagrancy of American Avocets, the hurricane may still have played a role. The increase in reports immediately after the hurricane could be a result of increased search effort as birdwatchers throughout the region attempted to locate hurricane driven strays. Most of these birds were present for multiple days and likely would have been detected anyway, so this is only a satisfying explanation of the "cluster" of reports immediately after the hurricane, not the increased number of reports overall.

Potentially more relevant to the influx of American Avocets in the Northeast was the weather in their normal range. The northern Great Plains experienced high water levels throughout the breeding season. Some studies have shown that high water levels reduce predation on American Avocet nests. As a result, there may have been increased numbers of juvenile avocets in the northern Great Plains this fall. At the same time that the northern Great Plains were flooded, the southern Great Plains experienced heavy drought. This may have resulted in an abundance of birds and a shortage of stopover habitat as avocets migrated south. Therefore, birds from the north plains may have wandered east in higher than typical numbers. Several other southern

plains species were found in unusual numbers far to the east of their normal range during 2011, including Cassin's Sparrow, Ash-throated Flycatcher, and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. Although none of these birds rely on water as directly, their dispersal has been attributed to the drought.

Data Sources

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

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Ben Griffith has been birding in New Hampshire since he was 8 years old. He will be a Fall Editor for New Hampshire Bird Records and is a member of the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee.

Backyard Birder

Late Nesting Black-capped Chickadee

by Betsy Forsham and
Rebecca Suomala

At the end of August (2011) or beginning of September, I became aware of a Black-capped Chickadee carrying moss into an old bluebird house in my yard in Sutton Mills, New Hampshire. I usually have a number of these friendly little birds in the lilac hedge which partially surrounds the bird house and, in fact, had a chickadee pair success-



Black-capped Chickadee by Len Medlock.

fully nest in that house earlier in the season. After several days of seeing the one bird enter and exit the box, I decided to investigate. On approximately September 6, I opened the box, saw the mossy nest built atop the one from earlier in the summer, gingerly put my hand in, and was amazed to feel four warm eggs! The female appeared and gently scolded me. I closed the box up, stepped back, and in she flew. She was incubating! I regret that I hadn't kept better track of dates, but after I contacted both New Hampshire Audubon and a birder friend on September 9, I did keep a journal of my observations. At that time, she was incubating.

One thing I noticed is that the female chickadee looked somewhat disheveled; rather thin, with feathers sticking out here and there, which seemed unusual for the normally neat looking birds. Her voice was not particularly robust either (and a bit out of tune). She certainly sat through a variety of weather events, from 80 plus degree days, to torrential rains and finally a few mornings in the mid to upper 30s. I kept asking her why she was nesting this time of year!

I continued to monitor the nest, opening it every two or three days (I didn't like disturbing her any more than I had to). She got so used to my checking that she even stopped scolding me when I opened the box. When I looked in on September 26, I used a small mirror, and I discovered that I had been mistaken in my count; there were five beautiful eggs, not four!

The last day that I confirmed her sitting on the nest was October 3. When I checked again after a 36 degree night on October 6, both in the morning and late afternoon, she was not inside and the eggs were cold to the touch. When I removed the eggs a few days later, I noticed that three of them were the usual egg shape (thin and more pointy at one end) and the other two were nearly round. One broke open and showed no signs of anything inside but a tiny, orange-yellow yolk. This poor bird had incubated for nearly one month!! I admire her tenacity, but am relieved that she has moved on to winter preparations.

Addendum by Rebecca Suomala

This may be a record late nesting for Black-capped Chickadee. *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New Hampshire* (C. Foss ed.) lists the range of recorded incubation dates of April 9 through July 5 (based on 20 records during the six-year atlas period). The Black-capped Chickadee account by Dr. Susan Smith in *The Birds of North America*, No. 39 shows the presence of eggs through mid-July and lists a typical incubation time of 12-13 days. I e-mailed Dr. Smith regarding Betsy's late-nesting chickadee and she responded that breeding can be very late and occasionally she has heard fledgling chickadee calls in late September and even into October.

Given the lateness of the nesting, it is not surprising that the eggs failed to hatch. They may have been infertile. A male's breeding condition is driven by hormone levels that have usually decreased to non-breeding levels in the fall. The female may have laid eggs without benefit of a male partner. However, Dr. Smith also reported that 2011 was a poor year for chickadee reproduction in her study area and this might influence late nesting:

"I have only banded eight chickadees so far this fall [2011]; by contrast I had banded 50 last year [2010] by mid-October. So even very late nesting attempts would have a good chance of producing successful offspring. In an ordinary year, the first arrivals (after juvenile dispersal) into an area settle into the highest-ranked slots (replacing breeders that died over the summer), and offspring from late nests often find all the flocks already full, so very late nests are usually unheard of."

Betsy's record is remarkable and shows how backyard birders can contribute to our knowledge of birds, especially with good record-keeping. Thanks to Betsy for sharing her observations.

Fall 2011 Field Notes

compiled by Robert A. Quinn and Rebecca Suomala

From the compilers — *We encourage anyone to submit an interesting story, behavioral tidbit, or photograph that is noteworthy enough to comment on but that does not easily fit into the format of the rest of the publication.*

Lunar Migration Watch

by Iain MacLeod

On certain evenings in the fall, the night sky is filled with literally millions of songbirds heading south. Usually, the only way to know they are there is by their call notes and chirps. When the moon is full, however, you can actually see the silhouettes as the birds pass between you and the moon. You can use binoculars, but a telescope works even better. On October 11, 2011, I set up my scope on my deck and gazed at the bright moon. Immediately, I could see that the sky was filled with birds. I dug out my



Two songbirds cross the moon during an October 11, 2011, migration watch in Ashland, NH. Still image from video by Iain MacLeod.

handy little clicker counter and watched for the next hour. In that time, I counted 194 birds passing in front of the moon. I could identify several species based on their shapes and flight patterns, including two American Woodcock, two Gray Catbirds, a Northern Flicker, several robins, and a nuthatch (probably Red-breasted). The majority I could only identify to family: thrushes (likely Hermit) and sparrows (likely Song, White-throated or Swamp).

Moon-watching as a method of tracking migrating birds has been used for many years. A coordinated study in 1952 used 1,391 observers to track birds. From the first to the fifth of October that year, observers across North America manned 265 observa-

tion points in three Canadian provinces and every state except Alaska, Hawaii, Maine, Nevada, and Utah. A total of 35,407 birds silhouetted against the moon were counted.

Some researchers have extrapolated how many birds might be represented by a moon-watch based on the size of the moon, which is about one 360th of the visible sky. Using that calculation, there might have been 72,000 birds passing over my house per hour on October 11, or about 576,000 over the course of the night...that's a lot of little wings.

To see a video I took on October 11 of some birds passing the moon, visit the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center Youtube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/nhnature#p/u/6/BPGq-gvNxak>.

***Selasphorus* Hummingbird and the Halloween Snow Storm of 2011**

by Elaine Danisienka

I first saw the odd hummingbird on Tuesday, October 18 at about 1:00 pm. It was at one of our hummingbird feeders which, lazily, I had not brought in from the Ruby-throated Hummingbird season. I was shocked and amazed to see a hummer in mid-October. It only took a few seconds to realize it was not a Ruby-throated; lots of rufous coloring on its back, head, tail, etc. Needless to say, I cleaned and replenished both feeders



The Selasphorus hummingbird by Elaine Danisienka at her feeder in New Ipswich during October, 2011.

immediately. We learned from Steve Mirick, who reviewed our photo, that the hummingbird was a young male or female, and not safely identifiable between the rare Rufous Hummingbird and the even rarer Allen's Hummingbird. It was best to call it a "*Selasphorus* hummingbird" although it was most probably a Rufous. We continued to see it many times a day right up to the snowstorm of Saturday, October 29. It started snowing here at 2:30 pm and I saw it as late as about 4:30 pm, feeding in the heavy snow. Sadly, however, that is the last time I saw it; it has not been back since. We assume that it probably perished in the storm.

Color-banded Semipalmated Plover

On September 14, 2011, Bob Crowley was looking through a flock of 120 Semipalmated Plovers at Hampton Beach State Park and was shocked to have a yellow-breasted plover "jump out" at him. It was banded with an orange band and a light blue band on the left leg and a yellow band on the right leg. Its breast had been sprayed with a bright yellow paint. Bob mentioned the sighting in an e-mail to NHBirds. Apparently someone forwarded it to the right person and Bob received the following back from Dr. Yves Turcotte at Collège de La Pocatière in Quebec.

"The bird you observed in Hampton Beach State Park was marked by my students and I (sic) September 8 at St-Germain, Kamouraska County, Quebec (on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River Estuary). This marking is my contribution to the Pan American Shorebird Program. Over the years, birdwatchers reported my Kamouraska County Semipalmated Plovers in the Bay of Fundy, New Jersey, Tobago, French Guyana and Brazil. Your observation was the first from New England. Thanks for reporting it!

If you or other birdwatchers on the US coast see more marked Semipalmated Plovers or Semipalmated Sandpipers, please forward your observations to: yturcotte@cegeplapocatiere.qc.ca.

Merci beaucoup!"



Photo Gallery

Hurricane *Irene* Storm-birding

Hurricane *Irene* was one of the birding events of the season (see the article on page 48) and a few birders were out watching to see what was blown in. All pictures were taken on August 28, 2011, the day of *Irene*, except as noted.



Two of the six Black Skimmers that were brought by Irene stayed until 8/31/11 when they were photographed by Len Medlock from the Yankee Fisherman's Coop., Seabrook, NH.



One of approximately 275 Black Terns in Hampton Harbor during Irene. This was part of an extraordinary fallout with record numbers of this species at the coast and smaller (by comparison) flocks inland. Photo by Len Medlock, Yankee Fisherman's Coop., Seabrook, NH.

There was also an amazing fallout of Hudsonian Godwits at the coast. This group was photographed by Len Medlock, at Little River saltmarsh, N. Hampton, NH.





Birders toughing out Irene in the "shelter" at Ragged Neck, Rye Harbor State Park, NH. Photo taken by Lauren Kras. Left to right: Jane Mirick, Steve Mirick, Ben Griffith, Jason Lambert, Len Medlock.



Leach's Storm-Petrel by Len Medlock, inside Rye Harbor, NH.



Birders at Horseshoe Pond in Concord watching a Black Tern as Irene was winding down. Photo by Pam Hunt. Left to right: Zeke Cornell, Mark Suomala, Becky Suomala, David Lipsy (in truck).

Fall 2011 New Hampshire Raptor Migration Report

by Iain MacLeod



Pack Monadnock 2011 hawkwatchers. Photo courtesy of NH Audubon.

Pack Monadnock Raptor Migration Observatory

Fall 2011 marked the seventh consecutive season of daily coordinated counts conducted under the leadership of New Hampshire Audubon and in a formal agreement with the NH Division of State Parks. The full time Seasonal Counter/Interpreter for 2011 was Ken Klapper, who managed the site Wednesdays through Sundays. Iain MacLeod took over counting duties on Mondays, and Site Coordinator, Julie Brown, counted on Tuesdays. Phil Brown served as the Raptor Observatory Coordinator for New Hampshire Audubon. Full site coverage was maintained daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, from September 1 to October 31, (except in the case of extreme weather) accounting for 368 hours of observation time. A total of 14,256 individual migratory raptors were recorded; a new record by several thousand (previous 6-year average = 8,757*). This year's record total can be largely attributed to an unprecedented Broad-winged Hawk migration (Table 1). Broad-winged Hawks peaked on the weekend of September 17-18, which alone accounted for 8,752 birds.

Turkey Vultures (although, of course, not strictly raptors) are counted here. The counters try to be very conservative in what we count as "migrating" as Turkey Vultures are seen every day of the count, moving in all directions. This year 127 were assumed to be migrating (6-year average = 87).

The **Osprey** count was up this year at 271 (6-year average = 249) with a particularly good showing in September; 75 counted on September 28 was a new single-day

* Throughout this section, the average refers to data from 2005-2010.

record for Pack Monadnock. The **Bald Eagle** total remained remarkably stable at 54 (6-year average = 56). **Northern Harrier** numbers were down this year. Only 58 were counted (6-year average = 82). Peak day was September 28 when seven were counted.

The **Sharp-shinned Hawk** count remained very stable at 1,124 (6-year average = 1,100), while **Cooper's Hawk** numbers were slightly higher than last year with 145 counted (6-year average = 147) and **Northern Goshawks** had a "low" year with 21 (6-year average = 36).

After an all-time high last year, **Red-shouldered Hawks** were much less numerous this year with only 43 counted (6-year average = 68). **Broad-winged Hawks** came through in record-breaking numbers with 11,831 tallied this year (6-year average = 6,344). The peak day was September 18, when 5,208 Broad-winged Hawks filled the sky. The **Red-tailed Hawk** tally was low with 202 counted (6-year average = 251). This may be because there were fewer count days in November (when many Red-tails migrate).

Nine **Golden Eagles** were seen during the regular count period with a tenth seen on November 18. **American Kestrels** have shown a slight rebound over the last couple of years; 170 were counted this season (6-year average = 158). **Merlins** were more scarce with 68 counted (6-year average = 71) which is well below last year's single-season high count of 138. **Peregrine Falcons** had a good year with 40 tallied (6-year average = 30).

Carter Hill Observatory

2011 Official Counter: Robert Vallieres

Carter Hill Observatory logged 325.5 hours between August 31 and November 4 and counted an amazing 12,071 raptors. This is the fourth year for this count, which is organized by New Hampshire Audubon.

Note: The 3-year averages used in this section refers to data from 2008-2010. The count season/hours logged has varied greatly and was much lower in 2008 than in subsequent years.

A total of 149 **Turkey Vultures** were deemed by the counters to be migrants here this year (3-year average = 225).

The **Osprey** count of 107 was well ahead of the 3-year average of 65, but slightly lower than last year's 120. **Bald Eagle** counts were the highest for this site with 78 (3-year average = 35). The **Northern Harrier** count of 32 was slightly lower than last year but still well ahead of the 3-year average of 21.

The **Sharp-shinned Hawk** tally was 300 (3-year average = 283) which was quite a bit less than last year's high of 473. The 117 **Cooper's Hawks** counted was lower than the previous two years (3-year average = 147). **Northern Goshawks** have been very consistent from year to year. This year's 15 was slightly higher than the 3-year average of 11.

Only 11 Red-shouldered Hawks were counted (3-year average = 6) while **Broad-winged Hawks** (similar to Pack Monadnock) broke all records (Table 2). An amazing 10,763 were counted with 7,212 moving on September 18. The **Red-tailed Hawk** total of 65 was a little higher than the 3-year average of 59.

One **Golden Eagle** was seen on October 23. The 94 **American Kestrels** counted was lower than last year but ahead of the 3-year average of 85. The **Merlin** count was the best ever at 59 (3-year average = 36). Peregrine Falcons also hit a high water mark with 19 (3-year average = 13).

Little Round Top Migration Observatory 2011 Official Counter: Susan Fogleman

Little Round Top in Bristol had some intermittent coverage this year. There was one report of 1,600 Broad-winged Hawks on September 11. David Lipsy conducted some counts here in October, but the data was not entered into HawkCount.org (the online database maintained by the Hawk Migration Association of North America), so I am unable to offer any analysis.

Table 1. Broad-winged Hawk fall migration totals and peak counts at Pack Monadnock, NH, 2005-2011. Source: HMANA's HawkCount.org Database.

Year	Year Total	Highest one-day count	Date
2005	3,978	1,687	09/18
2006	7,595	3,044	09/11
2007	7,776	2,676	09/16
2008	6,835	2,424	09/18
2009	4,322	2,042	09/16
2010	7,557	3,328	09/18
2011	11,831	5,208	09/18

Table 2. Broad-winged Hawk fall migration totals and peak counts at Carter Hill, NH, 2008-2011. Source: HMANA's HawkCount.org Database.

Year	Year Total	Highest one-day count	Date
2008	1,904	568	09/13
2009	703	337	09/16
2010	743	(data not available)	
2011	10,763	7,212	09/18

References

Pack Monadnock Raptor Migration Observatory 2011 Season Report. Prepared by Ken Klapper and Julie Brown.

HawkCount.org. Online raptor migration database of the Hawk Migration Association of North America. December 2011.

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

Volunteers and Research

Hawkwatching at Carter Hill Orchard

by *Dave Howe*

Ever wanted to give hawkwatching a try? I had for many years, but other obligations and activities kept me from it. That changed in the fall of 2010 when I took up Robert Vallieres' invitation to join him at Carter Hill Orchard in Concord, NH. I came out one day in early September and, once the hawks starting flying by, I was immediately hooked. I spent many hours there during September and October that year and again in the fall of 2011.

Although there may be better sites for hawkwatching in New Hampshire, Carter Hill is less than five miles from my home and is high enough, with good views in several directions, to offer good hawkwatching. The season total of migrating raptors seen at Carter Hill in the fall of 2011 was 12,017, which included over 10,000 Broad-winged Hawks, and also a record-high 78 Bald Eagles. On September 18, 2011 alone, we counted 7,300 migrating raptors. Because it is a popular orchard that offers pick-your-own apples, a store, and family activities, it affords New Hampshire Audubon a great opportunity to expose the public to the organization, hawkwatching and conservation.

The site is staffed only by volunteers. We are fortunate that Robert Vallieres has been able to devote several days a week to the site. When he cannot count, Robert has other volunteers to make sure that the site is adequately covered. It is also helpful to the regular raptor counter to have assistance for the dual tasks of counting migrating raptors and greeting visitors at this site that focuses not only on research, but on education.



Robert Vallieres with NH Audubon's Red-tailed Hawk during hawkwatch season at Carter Hill. Photo by Debbie dePeyster.

Some of the regular volunteer observers over the last couple of years have included Tom Brewton, David Lipsy, Crawford Lyons and Steve Manifold.

On the weekends, Robert often brings one of New Hampshire Audubon's captive raptors to Carter Hill and gives numerous talks throughout the day to the orchard's visitors. While he is making those presentations, other hawkwatchers cover the roles

of counting from the observation platform and answering questions from the numerous visitors to the platform. For the goals of the project, it is important, especially during the peak migration, to have multiple observers present. No one observer is going to find all the hawks passing by the site. Because of the fine mountain views and regular flow of hawks northwest of the platform, there is a tendency for observers to focus their attention in that direction. Crawford Lyons continues to remind us to look over the southern part of the orchard. The southeastern corner of the orchard has earned the nickname 'Crawford's Corner' among the regular volunteers because of all of the hawks Crawford has found in that part of the sky.

Many of the platform visitors just want to enjoy the view. On a clear day, there are fine views of Mounts Kearsarge, Cardigan, Moosilauke, Lafayette and Belknap, among other peaks. Even those least interested in what we are doing show interest when a raptor comes close by the platform, and it is rewarding to point out the hawks to people, especially young people who show interest in them. A number of visitors have become new birders or more dedicated birders as a result of visiting the orchard. David Lipsy's passion for birding was definitely cemented after visiting the orchard on the day that New Hampshire Audubon released a rehabilitated Broad-winged Hawk in 2010, and young Aiden Moser, who already had a strong interest in birds, became a regular participant in NH Audubon's Capital Chapter birding activities after visiting the orchard in 2010.

This site provides the best-known current location for hawkwatching in the Merrimack River Valley of New Hampshire. In fact, with four (and counting) consecutive years of data, the Carter Hill Raptor Observatory fills an important void in the collection of long-term raptor migration data in northern New England where hawkwatch sites are generally scarce relative to other parts of the country. The migratory raptor data for the site is submitted to New Hampshire Audubon and Hawkcount.org, a national hawk count database created by Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA) and its partners. For information about Hawkcount.org, see Iain MacLeod's article, "Introduction to HawkCount.org", in the Fall 2010 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* (Vol. 29 #3).

Carter Hill's continuing contribution to hawkwatch studies and the education of the public depends on a group of volunteer hawkwatchers, whether they devote several days per season or only a few hours here and there. I'd encourage you to give it a try and spend some time volunteering at a raptor migration location near you.

Dave Howe became a birder in 1982 when he saw an American Kestrel perched on a fence post in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Other commitments and activities distracted him from birding on a consistent basis for quite a time, but he has been a serious birder for the last several years. A Concord resident, he is a Trustee of New Hampshire Audubon and enjoys providing volunteer help with NH eBird and other projects for the organization.

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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A Northern Wheatear (top) and American Golden-Plover were two of the remarkable birds that Mark and Brian Lipson photographed during a hike up Mount Moosilauke in Benton, NH on 10/11/11. They also had five American Pipits and two Lapland Longspurs in the grass at the top with the plover.



A cooperative Curlew Sandpiper, discovered by Len Medlock, delighted many birders for several days in September. Photo by Len Medlock, 9/18/11, Plaice Cove, Hampton, NH.



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