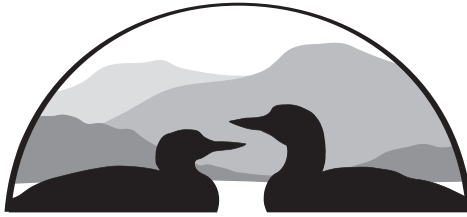


New Hampshire Bird Records



Fall 2012

Vol. 31, No. 3



New Hampshire Bird Records

Volume 31, Number 3

Fall 2012

<i>Managing Editor:</i>	Rebecca Suomala 603-224-9909 X309, bsuomala@nhaudubon.org
<i>Text Editor:</i>	Dan Hubbard
<i>Season Editors:</i>	Eric Masterson, Spring; Tony Vazzano, Summer; Lauren Kras/Ben Griffith, Fall; Pamela Hunt, Winter
<i>Layout:</i>	Kathy McBride
<i>Assistants:</i>	Jeannine Ayer, Zeke Cornell, David Deifik, Margot Johnson, Elizabeth Levy, Susan MacLeod, Aiden Moser, Marie Nickerson, Carol Plato, William Taffe, Tony Vazzano, Phyllis Yaffie
<i>Field Notes:</i>	Robert A. Quinn
<i>Photo Quiz:</i>	David Donsker
<i>Photo Editor:</i>	Ed Larrabee
<i>Web Master:</i>	Kathy Barnes
<i>Where to Bird:</i>	Phil Brown
<i>Editorial Team:</i>	Phil Brown, Hank Chary, David Deifik, David Donsker, Ben Griffith, Dan Hubbard, Pam Hunt, Lauren Kras, Ed Larrabee, Iain MacLeod, Eric Masterson, Robert A. Quinn, Rebecca Suomala, William Taffe, Tony Vazzano, Jon Wolf

Cover Photo: Say's Phoebe by Jason Lambert, 11/22/12, Penacook (Concord), 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 MEMORY OF
Joseph F. Quinn

This issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* with its color cover is sponsored by the friends and family of Joe Quinn. Joe was an avid birder and volunteer for NH Audubon who also inspired his younger brother, Bob, to take up birding. He will be missed.



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From the Editor

by Rebecca Suomala

Volunteer Update

With this issue, we welcome Ben Griffith and Lauren Kras as the Fall Editors. Ben and Lauren were Season Editors with Eric Masterson for Spring 2011 and have now taken over the fall season. Both are active birders in the state and bring a wealth of knowledge to the position. The fall season is the only season that is four months long, from August through November, encompassing most of the fall migration. Ben and Lauren have an exciting and challenging job to review all the records, find the highlights and interpret the events of the season for the rest of us.

We also welcome several other volunteers to the *New Hampshire Bird Records* team. Aiden Moser has been helping to process rare bird documentation since the Fall 2011 season and I have been remiss in formally introducing him to the readership. Many of you already know him as an avid young birder from the Henniker area. Phyllis Yaffie is now helping with publication preparation and her assistance is much appreciated. Zeke Cornell joined the *New Hampshire Bird Records* team in 2012, helping with eBird review and quality control. He often follows up on records with location questions or other discrepancies so that the database will be as valuable and accurate as possible. If you receive an e-mail from him with questions about a sighting, we appreciate your help in resolving or correcting your eBird record.

We are very grateful for all the volunteers who help with *New Hampshire Bird Records*. Their help is vital to all that we do.

Photo Editor Needed - see page 3

Thank You

We are very pleased to sponsor this issue in memory of Joe Quinn. We are grateful to the donors who made this sponsorship possible.

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 Edward Quinn
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 Tony Vazzano & Susan Wiley
 Margaret Watkins

Photo Quiz



Can You Identify This Bird?

Answer on page 65
Photo by Len Medlock.

Photo Editor Needed

This volunteer job involves gathering photos for each issue from sources including the NH.Birds e-mail list and photographer web sites, contacting photographers and compiling images with photo information. Proficiency with computers and e-mail essential, knowledge of New Hampshire birds and birding preferred. This is an ideal position to do from home. If you are interested in this position please contact the Managing Editor (see inside front cover).

Fall 2012

August 1, 2012 through November 30, 2102



Lauren Kras and Ben Griffith
photo by Stephen R. Mirick.

by Ben Griffith and Lauren Kras

The fall season started out warm and wet through October, but ended with a cold, extremely dry November. In fact, it was the driest November recorded in Concord in 130 years. Hurricane (“Superstorm”) Sandy struck New Hampshire during the last days of October, creating a modest fallout of waterbirds, most notably an inland **Tricolored Heron** and an inland Leach’s Storm-Petrel. Migration for most of our “regular” species was modest, but the widespread irruption of waxwings, shrikes, nuthatches, and finches made up for it.

The headliner rarities for the fall were **Swainson’s Hawk** and **Say’s Phoebe**, both never previously documented in the state. Not far behind were **Eared Grebe**, **American White Pelican**, and **American Avocet**. Rounding out the season’s rarity reports were **Tundra Swan**, **Red-headed Woodpecker**, **Western Kingbird**, **Cave Swallow**, **Summer Tanager**, and **Blue Grosbeak**.



Eared Grebe by Jason Lambert,
10/15/12, Rye Harbor, NH.

Waterfowl through Grebes




Snow Goose by Jory and Brenda Augenti,
10/20/12, Granite Rd., Effingham, NH.


Waterfowl migration was modest during the fall season, with several species occurring in below average numbers, and many less common species not appearing at all. However for many species, migration extends well into December; many of these species were recorded in higher numbers after the season ended. The notable rarity report was of three **Tundra Swans** flying over Wagon Hill Farm in Durham. If the report is accepted by the NH Rare Birds Committee, this would be only the fourth record of this rare migrant in the past 10 years. Although never common in fall, numbers were lower than

expected for Snow Geese (eight) and Greater White-fronted Geese (none). Northern Shovelers and Gadwall were reported in lower numbers than recent years. No Red-heads were reported on Great Bay for the first time since 2008. Lesser Scaup have continued their annual increase at the Exeter Wastewater Treatment Plant, with a high count from the fall of 129, likely the highest count for the state.

Waterfowl fallouts are expected inland after fall storms and a pair of observers documented a large fallout of coastal waterbirds in the Lakes Region on November 17. Black Scoters were the most common species, but smaller numbers of Surf and White-winged Scoters as well as two Red-throated Loons were reported. The largest fall storm, Hurricane Sandy, failed to produce significant numbers of waterfowl despite broad coverage by birders of southern New Hampshire lakes and ponds. There were a handful of scoters and Long-tailed Ducks, but no large concentrations. The one notable exception was the widespread reports of Common Loons. This species occurs regularly on inland lakes until they freeze, so it's unclear how many of these reports were a result of birds grounded by the storm rather than simply because of increased coverage. An **Eared Grebe** was found and well photographed at Rye Harbor State Park, representing one of only a few records for the state. Horned Grebes staged on Lake Winnepesaukee for the third year in a row, with a high of 54 reported from Moultonborough.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Snow Goose				
10/05	5	Benton	Mt. Moosilauke	O. Burton
10/05	1	Concord	Carter Hill Orchard	P. Brown, K. Fenton, et al.
10/07	1	Concord	Carter Hill Orchard	K. Fenton
10/20	1	Ossipee	Granite Road	J. & B. Augenti
11/03	1	Greenland	fields off Portsmouth Ave. and Newington Rd.	S. Mirick
Brant				
10/07	28		NH coast	S. Mirick
10/09	7	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach, Haverill St.	S. Mirick
10/11	18	Rye	Isles of Shoals, Star Island	E. Masterson, et al.
10/13	179		NH coast	S. Mirick
10/23	1	Rochester	WTP	D. Hubbard, S. Young
10/26	1	Rochester	WTP	Z. Cornell, D. Hubbard
11/01	4	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	A. Altena
11/04	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
Tundra Swan				
11/20	3	Durham	Wagon Hill Farm	S. Guare
Wood Duck				
09/02	119	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	J. Pietrzak
09/04	92	Derry	WTP	S. Mirick
09/17	3	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Kras, Seacoast Chapter FT
10/06	40	Boscawen	Merrimack River to Penacook	R. Quinn
10/28	45	Concord	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	P. Hunt
11/25	1	Hancock	Antrim Road	P. Brown
11/29	1	Concord	SPNHF Merrimack River Conservation Area floodplain	A. Robbins

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Gadwall				
09/12	1	Salem	Hawkin's Farm	K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
09/29	1		NH coast	S. Mirick
11/01	2	Hinsdale	Setbacks	J. Russo
11/16	1	Exeter	WTP	S. Santino
11/17	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick
Eurasian Wigeon				
11/03	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	J. Lambert
11/10	2	Greenland	Sunset Farm	J. Lambert
11/23	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	D. Tucker
American Wigeon				
09/30	1	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
10/04	4	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
10/27	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
11/06	32	Greenland	Sunset Farm	L. Medlock
11/21	1	Concord	Penacook Lake (Long Pond)	R. Quinn
11/23	41	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick, D. Tucker
				
<p><i>Blue-winged Teal</i> by Lauren Kras, 9/23/12, Eel Pond, Rye, NH.</p>				
Blue-winged Teal				
08/17	9	Pittsburg	Scott Bog	J. Filiberti
09/02	10	Stoddard	Highland Lake residence	J. Anderson
09/12	40	Exeter	WTP	S. Young
09/15	30	Hinsdale	Setbacks	E. Masterson
09/19	70	Charlestown	Connecticut River	E. Masterson
09/27	25	Rye	Eel Pond	E. Masterson
10/07	37	Exeter	WTP	P. Miliotis
11/06	3	Exeter	WTP	L. Medlock
Northern Shoveler				
10/17	1	Rye	Eel Pond	D. Hubbard
10/24	3	Exeter	WTP	P. Miliotis
11/01	3	Hinsdale	Setbacks	J. Russo
Northern Pintail				
09/01	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick
10/05	6		NH coast	S. Mirick
11/03	4	Rye	Eel Pond	S. Mirick
Green-winged Teal				
08/01	3	Rochester	WTP	S. Young
09/24	40	Exeter	WTP	L. Erickson, L. Kras
11/03	80	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick
11/17	68	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick
11/24	14	Exeter	WTP	P. Miliotis
11/25	2	Nashua	Improved Machinery Pond	C. Sheridan

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Ring-necked Duck				
08/23	1	Tuftonboro	Copps Pond	G. & A. Robbins
09/25	5	Tuftonboro	Copps Pond	A. Robbins
10/22	41	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR, Cherry Pond	D. Govatski
10/27	58	Nelson	Tolman Pond	P. Brown
11/17	50	Gilford	Lily Pond	P. Hunt
11/21	60	Concord	Penacook Lake (Long Pond)	R. Quinn
11/30	23	Harrisville	Childs Bog	E. Masterson
Greater Scaup				
10/04	15	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	S. Mirick
10/27	450	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
11/19	3		Winnisquam Lake	I. MacLeod
11/21	2	Nelson	Tolman Pond	P. Brown
11/23	1500	Greenland	Sunset Farm	D. Tucker
11/23	1	Meredith	Lake Waukewan	I. MacLeod
11/23	1	Rye	Eel Pond	S. Mirick
11/25	6	Hampton	Hampton Beach	S. Mirick
11/26	1	Northwood	Lakeshore Dr., Northwood L.	A. Robbins
Lesser Scaup				
10/17	1	Exeter	WTP	J. McKibben
10/27	2	Exeter	WTP	Z. Cornell
11/01	10	Hinsdale	Setbacks	J. Russo
11/23	12	Rye	Eel Pond	R. & M. Suomala
11/24	129	Exeter	WTP	P. Miliotis
				
<p><i>Harlequin Duck</i> by Steve Mirick, 11/11/12, Great Boar's Head, Hampton, NH.</p>				
Harlequin Duck				
10/28	3		NH coast	S. Mirick, J. Lambert, L. Medlock
11/11	1	Hampton	Great Boars Head	P. Hunt, S. Mirick, et al.
11/25	1	Hampton	Great Boars Head	J. Scott, B. Crowley, P. Hunt
Surf Scoter				
09/11	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
10/25	7	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson
10/30	3	Meredith	Lake Waukewan	R. Quinn
11/05	9	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR, Cherry Pond	D. Govatski
11/25	400		Hampton Beach	S. Mirick
White-winged Scoter				
10/13	6	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	A. Burnett
10/14	7	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR, Cherry Pond	D. Govatski
10/30	42	Henniker	airport	A. Moser
10/30	25	Meredith	Lake Waukewan	R. Quinn
11/25	400	Hampton	Hampton Beach	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Black Scoter				
10/25	50	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	E. Masterson
11/05	72	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR, Cherry Pond	D. Govatski
11/17	80	Bristol	Newfound Lake	R. Quinn, E. Masterson
11/17	80	Laconia	Bartlett Beach, Winnisquam Lake	R. Quinn
11/17	220	Newbury	Blodgett Landing, Lake Sunapee	R. Quinn, E. Masterson
11/25	1700	Hampton	Hampton Beach	S. Mirick
Long-tailed Duck				
10/09	2	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach, Haverill St.	S. Mirick
10/30	4	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	E. Masterson
11/03	1	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	A. Burnett
11/04	27		NH coast	N. Paulson
11/14	2	Barnstead	Upper Suncook L. from Narrows Rd.	A. Robbins
11/17	1	Bristol	Newfound Lake	R. Quinn, E. Masterson
11/17	3	Laconia	Bartlett Beach	R. Quinn
11/17	1		Sunapee Lake	E. Masterson
11/17	1		Winnisquam Lake, south section	E. Masterson
Bufflehead				
10/12	2	Errol	Umbagog NWR	R. Quinn
10/30	16	Portsmouth	Creek Farm	J. Kelly
11/03	27	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	A. Burnett
11/20	25	Greenland	Great Bay Discovery Center	S. Mirick
11/22	26	Hampstead	Angle Pond	J. Nugent Jr.
Common Goldeneye				
10/12	2	Errol	Umbagog NWR	R. Quinn
10/28	3	Strafford	Bow Lake	A. Hrycyna
11/17	41	Hebron	Hebron Marsh	E. Masterson
11/26	42	Barnstead	Upper Suncook L. from Narrows Rd.	A. Robbins
Hooded Merganser				
11/18	80	Concord	Penacook Lake (Long Pond)	P. Hunt
11/21	180	Concord	Penacook Lake (Long Pond)	R. Quinn
11/30	65	Northwood	Northwood Lake	S. Young
Common Merganser				
11/14	47	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR, Cherry Pond	D. Govatski
11/21	60	Harrisville	Childs Bog	P. Brown
11/26	41	Northwood	Jeness Pond	A. Robbins
11/30	120	Harrisville	Lake Skatutakee	E. Masterson
Red-breasted Merganser				
09/15		Rye	Odiome Point SP	L. Kras
10/28	98		NH coast	L. Medlock
10/30	5	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson
11/05	1	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	H. Walters
11/15	1	Harrisville	Childs Bog	P. Brown
Ruddy Duck				
11/03	8	Concord	Turkey Pond	D. Lania, R. Suomala
11/07	25	Greenland	Sunset Farm	J. Scott, B. Crowley
11/09	33	Rochester	WTP	D. Hubbard

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Spruce Grouse				
08/26	2	Wentworths Location	Umbagog NWR, Magalloway R.	Trail T. O'Malley
08/27	3	Beans Purchase	Mt. Hight	P. Norton
09/27	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge	D. Govatski
10/08	1	Lincoln	Franconia Notch SP	D. Hilberman
10/21	1	Lincoln	Shoal Pond	D. Govatski
10/25	1	Whitefield	Mountain View Grand Resort & Spa	M. Haribal
Red-throated Loon				
09/27	1	Rye	Foss Beach	E. Masterson
10/28	138		NH coast	J. Lambert, L. Medlock
11/17	1	Bristol	Newfound Lake	R. Quinn, E. Masterson
11/17	1	Sunapee	Sunapee Lake	E. Masterson
11/19	1	Enfield	Mascoma Lake	P. Hunt
Pied-billed Grebe				
10/12	12	Tuftonboro	Copps Pond	A. Robbins
10/18	10	Salem	World End Pond	S. Mirick
10/26	28	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick
Horned Grebe				
09/02	1	Rye	Foss Beach	B. Blauvelt
10/05	1	Lyman	Dodge Pond	S. Turner
11/19	54	Moultonborough	Blueberry Island	I. MacLeod, T. Vazzano
Red-necked Grebe				
08/05	4	Conway	residence pond	T. McCarthy
08/12	4	Westmoreland	Connecticut R. boat launch	A. Burnett
08/18	4	Marlow	Sand Pond	C. Edge
09/09	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge	C. Borg
09/15	2	Rye	Odiome Point SP	S. Mirick
Eared Grebe				
10/07	1	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	J. Smith
10/15	1	Rye	Rye Harbor	S. Lewis

Tubenoses through Herons



Shearwater numbers were on par with recent years. Most trips offshore tallied between 10 and 50 Great Shearwaters and smaller numbers of Cory's Shearwaters. Until 2007, Cory's Shearwater occurred extremely infrequently. Since 2008, they have consistently increased, and now appear to have established themselves as an expected species on Jeffrey's Ledge in fall. Wilson's Storm-Petrels departed from the state early this year, with low numbers through August and

Cory's Shearwater by Lauren Kras, 9/3/12, Jeffreys Ledge, NH.

a high count of only eight during September. In contrast, the previous three years recorded high counts of 300, 55, and 260 during September. Leach's Storm-Petrels are rare inshore, but are frequent "victims" of hurricanes, often blown towards shore or even far inland. Hurricane Sandy deposited three birds in New Hampshire, including one far inland on Lake Massabesic in Auburn.



Three **American White Pelicans** in Rye represents the eighth record for New Hampshire and a high count for the state, although they are annual in surrounding states. Great Cormorants are rare but regular inland in fall, generally occurring on larger lakes and ponds. A long-staying bird along a small creek near the Willey House in Crawford Notch was truly out of place!

Large numbers of Great and Snowy Egrets congregated on the coast in late August and September. Mixed in were several Little Blue Herons, along with perhaps the most puzzling bird of the fall. On September 9 at Philbrick Marsh in North Hampton, there was a blue-and-white mottled heron that structurally was very similar to a Tricolored Heron. The bird was identified as a probable **Tricolored Heron x Snowy Egret** hybrid, but hybrids are always very difficult to identify. Unfortunately, without having seen the parents of the bird, it is very unlikely that we can ever be 100% sure about the true parentage of this bird. **Tricolored Herons** are rare in the state and occur almost exclusively along the coast, but one this fall was in Grafton immediately following Hurricane Sandy. Black-crowned Night-Herons did not congregate in Hampton Harbor as they have in many recent years, but were apparently still using the Hampton/Seabrook marsh as 20 were counted leaving a roost one day on Cross Beach Road. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons often associate with large congregations of Black-crowned Night-Herons, and several observers were lucky enough to photograph two birds on Cross Beach Road this fall. Almost all of New Hampshire's Yellow-crowned Night-Herons are immatures, which closely resemble their more common relative and caution should be used in identifying them.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Northern Fulmar				
10/17	7	Offshore Waters	seabird survey	T. Johnson, D. Vander Pluym
Cory's Shearwater				
08/31	3	Offshore Waters	whalewatch out of Rye Harbor	M. Oyler, H. Tetreault, E. Raynor
09/03	13	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Kras, B. Griffith, J. Lambert
09/03	8	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	K. Horn, D. Freiday, B. Ciuzio, R. Horn
09/09	2	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Medlock
09/17	8	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Kras, Seacoast Chapter field trip



*Great Shearwater
by Jim Besada,
9/17/12, offshore
waters, NH.*

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Great Shearwater				
08/26	104	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Glynn
08/31	46	Offshore Waters	whalewatch out of Rye Harbor	M. Oyler, E. Raynor, H. Tetreault
09/17	82	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Kras, Seacoast Chapter field trip
Sooty Shearwater				
08/26	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Glynn
09/09	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Medlock
Manx Shearwater				
08/26	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Glynn
08/31	1	Rye	just outside Rye Harbor	H. Tetreault, M. Oyler, E. Raynor
09/03	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	B. Ciuzio, R.& K. Horn, D. Freiday
09/17	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Kras, Seacoast Chapter field trip
Wilson's Storm-Petrel				
08/12	17		NH coast	S. Mirick
08/24	28	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Glynn
08/26	23	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Glynn
09/17	2	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Kras, Seacoast Chapter field trip
 				
<i>Leach's Storm Petrel by Christine Sheridan, 10/30/12, Lake Massabesic, Auburn, NH.</i>				
Leach's Storm-Petrel				
10/28	1		NH coast	S. Mirick, L. Medlock, J. Lambert
10/29	1		NH coast	S. Mirick
10/30	1	Auburn	Front Park, Lake Massabesic	E. Masterson, et al.
Northern Gannet				
09/03	25	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	R.& K. Horn, B. Ciuzio, D. Freiday
09/08	30	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
09/17	22	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Kras, Seacoast Chapter FT
10/09	100	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach, Haverill St.	S. Mirick
Double-crested Cormorant				
10/05	2959		NH coast	S. Mirick
10/06	2661		NH coast	S. Mirick
10/21	2481		NH coast	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Great Cormorant				
08/30	1		Rochester WTP	L. Kras
09/07	1	Hart's Location	Rt. 302	K. Nath
09/20	1	Hart's Location	Crawford Notch SP, Willey House	P. Saenger
09/22	1	Sunapee	Sunapee Harbor	A. Moser
10/05	8		NH coast	S. Mirick
10/20	1	Keene	Robin Hood Park	O. Salisbury
11/23	1	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	A. Burnett
American White Pelican				
11/03	3	Rye	Concord Point	S. Mirick
American Bittern				
08/23	8	Tuftonboro	Copps Pond	A. Robbins
11/11	1	Hampton	Henrys Pool, Rt. 101E by pumphouse	K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
Great Egret				
08/17	68	Seabrook	Rt. 286 pools	M. Watson
10/07	37		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
11/03	1	Dover	Eliot Bridge	J. Lambert
Snowy Egret				
08/17	84		NH coast	S. Mirick
10/05	19	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick
10/09	13	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick
Little Blue Heron				
08/17	1		NH coast	S. Mirick
08/28	1	Rye	Rye Harbor	P. Miliotis
09/01	1	N. Hampton	Philbrick Marsh	S. Mirick
Black-crowned Night-Heron				
08/26	1	Woodstock	Waterest Campground	T. Pirro
09/07	1	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit	T. Vazzano
09/28	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd. at Suncook River	A. Robbins
10/06	20	Hampton		C. Sheridan
10/15	5	Seabrook	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				
09/12	1	Seabrook	Cross Beach Rd.	M. Watson
09/15	2	Seabrook	Cross Beach Rd.	A. Moser
10/07	1	Seabrook	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick



Black-crowned Night-Heron (left) and Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (right) by Steve Mirick, 10/8/12, Rt. 1A, Seabrook, NH.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Glossy Ibis				
08/12	1		NH coast	S. Mirick
09/01	2	Seabrook	WTP	S. Mirick
09/14	2	N. Hampton	Philbrick Marsh	S. Mirick, P. Miliotis

Diurnal Raptors through Shorebirds

Hawk migration was once again well documented at NH Audubon's Raptor Observatories at Pack Monadnock and Carter Hill (see page 51). Broad-winged Hawk migration was modest, with season totals of 8,848 at Pack Monadnock and 3,671 at Carter Hill. Without a doubt, the rarity of the hawkwatch season was a **Swainson's Hawk** reported from Pack Monadnock on September 10. The species is currently considered "hypothetical" in New Hampshire because the only previous sighting did not meet the criteria for a first state record set by the NH Rare Birds Committee, meaning it was neither photographed, nor documented by three observers. Alas, this report also fails to meet these criteria and will also remain hypothetical.



Piping Plover by Steve Mirick, 9/8/12, Jenness Beach, Rye, NH.

Piping Plovers are one of the first shorebirds to depart in the fall with breeders typically leaving by the beginning of August. One photographed on September 9 was therefore extremely late. A large incursion of Northern Lapwings along the east coast included a bird less than a mile across the border in Berwick, ME which was last seen flying towards the Salmon Falls River in New Hampshire. Unfortunately, the bird was never seen crossing the river and we

can't be totally sure that it ever actually entered the state. An **American Avocet** was seen and photographed in Rye on August 30 for New Hampshire's sixth record, but was never relocated.

Whimbrels made a modest appearance this fall, although the reports from September 29 and October 5 were both extremely late. Marbled Godwits are very uncommon in New Hampshire, but one or two seem to appear every year. The five birds found together this year rank as one of the highest counts for the state. The inland highlight of the season was a drawdown at Powdermill Pond in Hancock which provided habitat for large numbers of shorebirds including Sanderlings and a Ruddy Turnstone, both rarities away from the coast (see page 59). Buff-breasted Sandpiper is one of the few uncommon species that occurs inland as frequently as at the coast, but this year both records were from Hampton. **Long-billed Dowitchers** don't occur in New Hampshire every year, but when they do, they're generally juveniles. Thus, an adult seen and heard over Henry's Pool and then relocated at Meadow Pond was doubly noteworthy.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Black Vulture				
09/19	1	Epping	Rt. 101 at Rt. 125	J. O'Shaughnessy
09/21	1	Concord	Carter Hill Orchard	P. Brown, et al.
Turkey Vulture				
08/21	120	Nashua	Hassell Brook area	C. Sheridan
11/07	32	Nashua	Caldwell Road	C. Sheridan
Osprey				
09/16	38		NH coast	S. Mirick
10/05	50	Concord	Carter Hill Orchard	K. Fenton
11/03	2	Windham	Canobie Lake	K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
11/12	1	E. Kingston	Willow Road	D. Skillman
11/16	1	Strafford	Bow Lake	S. Young
Golden Eagle				
09/15	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/06	1	Concord	Carter Hill Orchard	P. Brown, J. Atwood, S. Kebler, et al.
10/08	1	Franconia	Lafayette Ridge loop	A. Grimstad, N. Hanke
10/25	2	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	H. Walters
11/05	1	Jaffrey	Mt. Monadnock, Marlboro Trail	T. Warren
11/26	1	Stratham	River Road	S. Mirick
Mississippi Kite				
09/09	1	Newmarket	Rite Aid, 73 Exeter Rd.	B. Griffith
Northern Harrier				
08/19	1		Hampton-Seabrook marshes	S. Mirick
10/09	15	Concord	Carter Hill Orchard	H. Walters
10/25	10	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	H. Walters
Sharp-shinned Hawk				
10/05	166	Concord	Carter Hill Orchard	K. Fenton
10/08	111	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	H. Walters
Cooper's Hawk				
10/05	21	Concord	Carter Hill Orchard	K. Fenton
10/05	13	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	H. Walters
Northern Goshawk				
09/27	7	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	H. Walters
10/13	1	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	S. Mirick
Bald Eagle				
09/12	14	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	H. Walters
09/20	12	Concord	Carter Hill Orchard	K. Fenton
Red-shouldered Hawk				
10/17	31	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	H. Walters
10/24	46	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	H. Walters
Broad-winged Hawk				
09/12	2401	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	H. Walters
09/16	135		NH coast	S. Mirick
09/17	2556	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	H. Walters
09/20	1130	Concord	Carter Hill Orchard	K. Fenton
10/23	1	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	H. Walters

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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Sora by Kyle Wilmarth, 9/30/12, World End Pond, Salem, NH.

Sora

09/30	1	Salem	World End Pond	K. Wilmarth
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Common Gallinule

09/26	1	Salem	World End Pond	S. Mirick
10/01	1	Salem	World End Pond	A. Altena

American Coot

09/15	1	Hinsdale	Setbacks	E. Masterson
09/23	1	Rye	Eel Pond	L. Kras, B. Griffith
09/26	1	Exeter	WTP	P. Miliotis
11/03	3	Rye	Eel Pond	S. Mirick
11/23	59	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick

Sandhill Crane

08/31	1	Monroe	fields	S. Turner
09/10	1	Monroe	Connecticut R. below McIndoe Dam	M. Amaral

Black-bellied Plover

09/09	80	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	B. Griffith
11/23	4	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick, M. & R. Suomala
11/23	7		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick, M. & R. Suomala

American Golden-Plover

09/03	1	Hampton	Plaice Cove	L. Medlock
10/10	6	Conway	Sherman Farm	J. Scott, T. Vazzano
11/21	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	K. Wilmarth, A. Altena

Semipalmated Plover

08/01	14	Hancock	Powder Mill Pond	E. Masterson
08/12	1141		NH coast	S. Mirick
08/18	1	Charlestown	WTP	E. Masterson
08/23	5	Exeter	WTP	P. Miliotis
08/23	2	Tuftonboro	Copps Pond	A. Robbins
09/29	1	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	H. Walters
11/23	1		Hampton Beach SP	R. & M. Suomala

Piping Plover


09/08	1	Rye	Jeness/Sawyers Beach	S. Mirick
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Killdeer

08/05	100	Hancock	Powder Mill Pond	E. Masterson
08/30	58	Rochester	WTP	L. Kras
10/12	145	Madbury	Kingman Farm	S. Snyder
11/25	1	Rye	Rt. 1A, 2nd pull off s. of Odiome	B. Griffith, L. Kras, S. Mirick

American Avocet

08/30	1	Rye	marsh s. of Odiome Point SP	J. Lambert, L. Kras
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<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Spotted Sandpiper				
08/08	14	Rochester	WTP	D. Hubbard
10/30	1	Auburn	Front Park, Lake Massabesic	C. Sheridan, et al.
10/30	2	Charlestown	WTP	E. Masterson
Solitary Sandpiper				
08/06	15	Hancock	Powder Mill Pond	P. Brown
08/26	16	Lee	Old Mill Rd. WMA	S. Young
10/14	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR, Cherry Pond	D. Govatski
Greater Yellowlegs				
10/07	185	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick
11/23	6	Hampton	pools behind Little Jack's	S. Mirick
Willet				
08/19	6	Hampton		A. Altena, K. Wilmarth
09/01	4		NH coast	S. Mirick
Lesser Yellowlegs				
08/01	14	Hancock	Powder Mill Pond	E. Masterson
10/07	25	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick
10/10	5	Portsmouth	South Mill Pond	T. Hall
10/21	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
Whimbrel				
08/02	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
08/05	2		NH coast	S. Mirick
08/19	1		NH coast	S. Mirick
09/15	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
09/29	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	M. Iliff
10/05	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	L. Medlock
Marbled Godwit				
09/08	5	Hampton	Hampton Harbor, Hampton R. Marina flats	L. Medlock
09/16	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
				
<i>Ruddy Turnstone by Lauren Kras, 9/24/12, Jenness Beach, Rye, NH.</i>				
Ruddy Turnstone				
08/02	4	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	B. Crowley, J. Scott
08/05	1	Hancock	Powder Mill Pond	E. Masterson
08/24	4	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	M. Gimpel
09/01			NH coast	S. Mirick
09/24	1	Rye	Jenness/Sawyers Beach	L. Kras, L. Erickson
Red Knot				
08/02	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach, Haverill St.	J. Scott, B. Crowley
09/16	3	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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Sanderling by Steve Mirick, 10/27/12, Plaice Cove, Hampton, NH.

Sanderling

08/01	2	Hancock	Powder Mill Pond	E. Masterson
08/18	1	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson
09/19	1	Charlestown	WTP	E. Masterson
10/27	400	Hampton	Plaice Cove	S. Mirick

Semipalmated Sandpiper

08/01	26	Hancock	Powder Mill Pond	E. Masterson
08/18	3	Charlestown	WTP	E. Masterson
08/27	500	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	S. Mirick
08/30	8	Rochester	WTP	L. Kras
09/29	4	Salem	World End Pond	A. Altena, K. Wilmarth
11/06	2	Hampton	Hampton-Seabrook marsh, Rt. 1, Taylor R.	S. Mirick
11/10	1	Hampton	Hampton-Seabrook marsh, Rt. 1, Taylor R.	J. Lambert

Western Sandpiper

09/09	2	Rye	Foss Beach	L. Kras, B. Griffith
09/15	3	Hampton	Plaice Cove	J. Trimble
09/18	1	Hampton	Plaice Cove	S. Mirick

Least Sandpiper

08/05	70	Hancock	Powder Mill Pond	E. Masterson
08/26	120	Lee	Old Mill Rd. WMA	S. Young
08/30	42	Rochester	WTP	L. Kras
09/15	45	Hampton	Plaice Cove	J. Trimble
10/08	4	Exeter	WTP	P. Miliotis
10/14	1	Charlestown	WTP	E. Masterson

White-rumped Sandpiper


08/05	2		NH coast	S. Mirick
08/20	19	Hampton	Plaice Cove	T. Vazzano
09/11	25	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
11/11	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	P. Hunt, S. Mirick
11/25	1	Rye	Rt. 1A, 2nd pull off s. of Odiome	L. Kras, et al.



Baird's Sandpiper at Plaice Cove, Hampton, NH, by Steve Mirick, 8/18/12 (left) and Cliff Otto, 8/19/12 (right).

Baird's Sandpiper

08/18	1	Hampton	Plaice Cove	S. Mirick
08/20	3	Hampton	Plaice Cove	T. Vazzano

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Baird's Sandpiper—continued				
08/30	1	Rochester	WTP	L. Kras
09/09	1	Hampton	Plaice Cove	K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
Pectoral Sandpiper				
08/02	15	Hancock	Powder Mill Pond	E. Masterson
09/11	4	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick
09/19	3	Charlestown	Connecticut River	E. Masterson
09/24	4	Exeter	WTP	L. Kras, L. Erickson
09/29	20	Salem	World End Pond	A. Altena, K. Wilmarth
10/02	5	Tuftonboro	Copps Pond	A. Robbins
10/14	9	Charlestown	WTP	E. Masterson
10/30	2	Charlestown	WTP	E. Masterson
Purple Sandpiper				
11/11	5	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick, P. Hunt
Dunlin				
09/08	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
10/14	1	Charlestown	Connecticut River	E. Masterson
11/06	2	Greenland	Sunset Farm	L. Medlock
11/23	175	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
Stilt Sandpiper				
09/11	3	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick
10/01	1	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	G. Gavutis Jr.
10/07	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick
10/09	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick
				
<p><i>Buff-breasted Sandpiper by Steve Mirick, 9/11/12, Hampton Beach SP, Hampton, NH.</i></p>				
Buff-breasted Sandpiper				
09/11	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
09/14	1	Hampton	Plaice Cove	P. Miliotis
Short-billed Dowitcher				
08/04	6	Hampton	Hampton Harbor, Hampton R. Marina flats	Z. Cornell
09/09	2	N. Hampton	Philbrick Marsh	A. Altena, K. Wilmarth
09/11	9		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
09/19	4		Hampton Harbor	K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
Long-billed Dowitcher				
09/03	1	Hampton	Henrys Pool, Rt. 101E by pumphouse	L. Kras, B. Griffith
09/11	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Mirick
Wilson's Snipe				
08/06	1	Hancock	Powder Mill Pond	P. Brown
09/30	4	Salem	World End Pond	K. Wilmarth
10/14	4	Concord	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	P. Hunt
11/01	1	Stoddard	Robb Reservoir	E. Masterson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
American Woodcock				
10/12	4	Hill	Pemigewasset River	G. Gavutis Jr.
11/06	2	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	G. Gavutis Jr.

Red-necked Phalarope
by Steve Mirick,
11/17/12,
Great Boar's Head,
Hampton, NH.



Red-necked Phalarope

08/24	12	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Glynn
09/03	12	Rye	Isles of Shoals	L. Kras, B. Griffith, J. Lambert
09/04	30		NH coast	N. Paulson
11/17	1	Hampton	Great Boars Head	S. Mirick
11/18	1	Hampton	n. side of Great Boars Head	B. Crowley

Gulls through Falcons

Bonaparte's Gulls made a strong showing along the coast, with several flocks numbering over a hundred birds. Most years, one or two Little or Black-headed Gulls make an appearance in these flocks, but neither species was reported this fall. Laughing Gulls were reported in low numbers at the coast, with fewer reports than usual and no counts higher than four. Laughing Gulls are extremely rare inland, but Hurricane Sandy deposited five at various locations in Cheshire County, marking some of the few records away from the immediate coast. Large gulls are often overlooked and accurate counts are infrequently reported, but a count of 530 Ring-billed Gulls at Lake Massabesic this fall was exceptional. Lesser Black-backed Gulls appeared in above average numbers this fall in spite of an absence of reports from their historical stronghold at the Rochester Wastewater Treatment Plant. A high proportion of juveniles, which are easily overlooked, was reported this fall, so there were likely more Lesser Black-backed Gulls that went undetected.

A total of 13 reports of 29 individual Caspian Terns is about average for recent years. Forster's Terns continued the recent trend of staging in Hampton Harbor in



Caspian Tern by Len Medlock, 9/3/12, Plaice Cove, Hampton, NH.

September and early October and generally seem to be the most common species of tern during that time. This year, several Common and Forster's Terns lingered into November, far beyond their normal early October departures. After a good year for jaegers in 2011, there was only a single report for this fall. There were also few reports in 2008 and 2010, with higher counts in 2009. It looks as though a biennial cycle of occurrence on Jeffrey's Ledge may be developing, but it's too early to draw conclusions.

Common Nighthawks are easily observed during fall migration and the high counts from the season were the results of concerted efforts to track this declining species' migration. Eastern Whip-poor-wills, on the other hand, are rarely found during the fall. The single observation from this season was of a singing bird in September. Every year it seems that one or two Ruby-throated Hummingbirds stay around into the first few days of October, usually in the southern part of the state, but a bird at Bretton Woods was both far north and late when it survived at a feeder through October 14 (see page 46). Observers should take care to confirm that these late hummingbirds are in fact Ruby-throated and not one of the many western species regularly recorded in the East in the fall. **Red-headed Woodpeckers** are annual in New Hampshire, often coming to feeders at private residences. This fall one was well photographed visiting a feeder in Atkinson. Unlike hawks, falcons largely follow the coast or migrate offshore. A coastal count of 17 Peregrine Falcons was the highest for the season.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Black-legged Kittiwake				
11/23	8	Hampton	Hampton Beach	J. Fisher
Bonaparte's Gull				
08/01	1	Hancock	Nubanusit Lake	E. Masterson
08/12	163		NH coast	S. Mirick
09/15	257	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
09/27	211	New Castle	Fort Stark	E. Masterson
Laughing Gull				
09/11	4	Hampton	Plaice Cove	S. Mirick
10/30	1	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson
10/30	2	Hancock	Powder Mill Pond	P. Brown
10/30	2	Hinsdale	Lake Wantastiquet	E. Masterson
Ring-billed Gull				
11/02	120	Derry	WTP	S. Mirick
11/10	165	Greenland	Sunset Farm	M. Watson
11/19	82	Exeter	WTP	B. Heitzman
11/26	530	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	E. Masterson
Iceland Gull				
10/30	1	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	E. Masterson
11/02	1	Derry	WTP	S. Mirick
11/04	1	Exeter	WTP	P. Chamberlin
11/09	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	S. Mirick
11/12	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	C. Sheridan
11/17	1	Greenland	fields off Portsmouth Ave. and Newington Rd.	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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Lesser Black-backed Gull by Jason Lambert, 9/17/12, offshore waters, NH.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

09/04	4		NH coast	N. Paulson
09/14	3	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
09/17	4	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Kras, Seacoast Chapter field trip

Glaucous Gull

10/30	1	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	D. Blezard
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Least Tern

08/05	1		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
08/12	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	P. Miliotis, S. Mirick

Caspian Tern

09/03	3	Hampton	Plaice Cove	L. Medlock
09/03	2	N. Hampton	cove at Rye town line	B. Griffith, L. Kras
10/04	7	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
10/15	1	Rye	Eel Pond	L. Medlock

Roseate Tern

08/18	38	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	S. Mirick
09/09	2	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	L. Kras, B. Griffith

Common Tern

08/12	225		NH coast	S. Mirick
09/13	57		Hampton Harbor	Z. Cornell
11/04	2		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick, B. Griffith, N. Paulson
11/06	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor Inlet	S. Mirick

Forster's Tern


08/18	1	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	S. Mirick
09/09	7	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	B. Griffith, L. Kras
10/05	23	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	L. Medlock
11/04	8		Hampton Harbor	B. Griffith
11/07	3		Hampton Harbor, Hampton R. Marina flats	J. Scott, B. Crowley
11/07	2		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick

Sterna sp.

11/18	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	K. Wilmarth
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Parasitic Jaeger

09/14	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert
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<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Razorbill				
10/28	2		NH coast	J. Lambert, S. Mirick, L. Medlock
Large alcid sp.				
11/07	3	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
Black Guillemot				
08/18	1	Rye	off Jenness Beach	S. Mirick
Mourning Dove				
11/17	267	Westmoreland	boat launch	A. Burnett
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				
08/02	1	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
08/05	1	Hopkinton	Chase WS	R. Quinn
08/05	1	Jaffrey	Mt. Monadnock, Birchtoft Trail	T. Pirro
08/11	1	Exeter	Newfields Rd. residence	P. Chamberlin
09/01	1	Croydon	Penny Royal Hill	L. Lee
09/11	1	Nottingham	Stevens Hill Road	P. Miliotis
09/17	1	Nottingham	Stevens Hill Road	P. Miliotis
10/04	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
10/11	1	Salem	residence	K. Wilmarth
Black-billed Cuckoo				
08/17	1	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	D. Skillman
08/18	1	Lyman	Under the Mountain Rd.	S. Turner
08/24	1	Roxbury	Godwin Cottage	K. Rosenberg
09/08	1	Nelson	Spoonwood Pond	P. Brown
09/14	1	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
09/20	1	Durham	Fogg Drive	K. Dorsey
10/04	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Rd. residence	D. Hubbard
10/06	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
				
<i>Common Nighthawk by Lillian Stokes, 8/6/12, Powder Mill Pond, Hancock, NH.</i>				
Common Nighthawk				
08/23	345	Concord	Capital Commons Parking Garage	R. Woodward
08/24	200	Keene	TD Bank	M. Keleher
08/25	132	Henniker	Old Hillsboro Rd.	A. Moser
09/03	1026	Hancock	Powder Mill Pond	D. Stokes
Eastern Whip-poor-will				
09/14	1	Freedom	Camp Calumet	W. Lees
Chimney Swift				
08/06	50	Salem	Geremonty Drive marsh	K. Wilmarth
08/24	90	Concord	Capital Commons Parking Garage	R. Quinn
09/08	17	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	H. Walters
09/18	2	Seabrook	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				
09/06	12	Concord	Carter Hill Orchard	K. Fenton
10/05	1	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	H. Walters
10/13	1	Concord	Birch St. Community Garden	Z. Cornell
10/14	1	Carroll	Bretton Woods	L. Bergum
Red-headed Woodpecker				
08/14	1	Atkinson	residence	S. Poublon
08/23	1	Atkinson	residence	L. Kras, J. Lambert
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				
10/06	6	Rye	Isles of Shoals, Star Island	E. Masterson
10/06	4	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
11/09	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
11/24	1	Kensington	South Road	G. Gavutis Jr.
Black-backed Woodpecker				
08/17	1	T&M Purchase	WMNF, Caps Ridge Trail	A. Robbins
09/03	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge	D. Govatski
10/07	2	Beans Grant	Mt. Webster to Mt. Jackson Loop	M. Brengle
Northern Flicker				
09/02	15	Hollis	Monson Center (SPNHF)	C. Sheridan
09/21	13	Concord	Carter Hill Orchard	P. Brown
09/24	18	Conway	Sherman Farm	J. Scott, et al.
09/24	15	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
11/26	4	Nashua	Cambridge Rd.	D. Fortnam
American Kestrel				
09/29	15		NH coast	S. Mirick
10/05	45	Concord	Carter Hill Orchard	K. Fenton
10/08	15	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	H. Walters
10/09	28	Concord	Carter Hill Orchard	H. Walters
Merlin				
09/29	24		NH coast	S. Mirick
Peregrine Falcon				
09/29	7		NH coast	S. Mirick
10/05	9	Concord	Carter Hill Orchard	K. Fenton
10/05	9	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	H. Walters
10/06	17		NH coast	S. Mirick, NHA field trip

Flycatchers through Vireos

Two “Traill’s” Flycatchers (Alder or Willow Flycatchers, which are nearly impossible to separate by sight), were reported in early October. Both of these species have largely departed by early September, so these records stand as quite late. There were several later reports in the Fall of 2011, at least one of which was tentatively identified as a Willow. Perhaps most of the records of “Traill’s” Flycatchers from September onward pertain to this species, but at present it is purely a matter of conjecture. A well documented **Say’s Phoebe** was the first record for New Hampshire (see page 57). This

species is annual in New England, so it's occurrence in the state was only a matter of time. Say's Phoebes are notoriously short-staying visitors to the East Coast, with most disappearing the same day they're found, but this bird delighted observers for nearly a week. This fall's **Western Kingbird** was in Hopkinton. Prior to 2007, Western Kingbirds were only recorded every three or four years, but since then, they have become annual or nearly so.



Northern Shrike by Len Medlock, 11/6/12, River Rd., Stratham, NH.

Northern Shrikes were reported with above average frequency during the season, signaling a minor invasion of the species. Yellow-throated Vireos are uncommon during fall migration and one on September 24 was doubly notable, as it was also unusually late. It was apparently a bumper year for Philadelphia Vireos, and there were at least 31 reported from 22 locations throughout the fall. No White-eyed Vireos were reported during the fall for the first time since 2006.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Olive-sided Flycatcher				
08/24	2	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano
09/02	2	Hollis	Monson Center (SPNHF)	C. Sheridan
09/19	1	Webster	Call Road	R. Quinn
Eastern Wood-Pewee				
08/02	20	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway SP, South Mtn.	J. Layman
08/31	5	Lebanon	Boston Lot Reservior	S. Eisenhauer
09/01	5	Rochester	Fowler Farm	D. Hubbard
09/18	3	Rochester	Fowler Farm	D. Hubbard
09/30	1	Hancock	Antrim Road	P. Brown
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				
09/03	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	D. Freiday
Alder Flycatcher				
08/26	3	Lyman	Under the Mountain Rd.	S. Turner
09/17	1	Nottingham	Stevens Hill Road	P. Miliotis
Willow Flycatcher				
08/12	4	Salem	railroad tracks behind Salem Ford	K. Wilmarth
08/12	4	Salem	Spicket Hill	K. Wilmarth
08/18	1	Alexandria		T. Sackton
Alder/Willow Flycatcher (Traill's Flycatcher)				
10/05	1	Portsmouth	Urban Forestry Center	S. Mirick
10/08	1	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind Post Office	R. Suomala

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Least Flycatcher				
08/24	5	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest	A. Robbins
09/24	1	Conway	Sherman Farm	S. Lee, et al.
10/04	1	Hampton	Island Path	S. Mirick
Eastern Phoebe				
09/24	11	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
11/03	1	Concord	Sewalls Falls State Recreation Area	P. Hunt
11/04	1	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind Post Office	R. Suomala
Say's Phoebe				
11/17	1	Concord	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	C. Borg, et al.
11/23	1	Concord	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	D. LaValley, R. Frieden, D. Johnston, J. Nadeau
Great Crested Flycatcher				
08/25	3	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest	A. Robbins
09/07	1	Kensington	South Road	G. Gavutis Jr.
09/09	1	Concord	off Hooksett Tpk.	R. Woodward
Western Kingbird				
10/06	1	Hopkinton	W. Hopkinton industrial site	A. Moser, P. Brown
Eastern Kingbird				
08/02	10	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
09/02	6	Hollis	Monson Center (SPNHF)	C. Sheridan
09/18	2	Auburn	Long Meadow Cemetery	M. Carrier
Northern Shrike				
10/30	1	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
11/02	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd. at Suncook River	A. Robbins
11/05	1	Westmoreland	Woodward Road	A. Burnett
Yellow-throated Vireo				
08/28	1	Webster	Call Road	R. Quinn
08/29	1	Chatham	Green Hill Road	B. Crowley
09/01	2	Croydon	Penny Royal Hill	L. Lee
09/01	2	Croydon	Rocky Bound Pond	L. Lee
09/03	1	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
09/12	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard, Seacoast Chapter FT
09/24	1	Rye	Eel Pond	L. Erickson, L. Kras
Blue-headed Vireo				
09/24	6	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
09/24	6	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	L. Erickson, L. Kras
11/03	1	Hampton	Church St. water tower parking lot	S. Mirick
Warbling Vireo				
09/24	2	Conway	Sherman Farm	J. Scott, C. Nims, S. Lee
10/06	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
Philadelphia Vireo				
08/22	2	Ossipee	Roland Park	M. Gimpel
08/22	2	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano
08/28	2	Webster	Call Road	R. Quinn

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Philadelphia Vireo—continued				
09/03	3	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest	J. Scott, B. Crowley
09/13	2	Henniker	Old Hillsboro Rd.	A. Moser
09/26	1	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
10/01	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano
Red-eyed Vireo				
08/05	18	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
08/26	16	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
08/28	16	Webster	Call Road	R. Quinn
10/27	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick

Jays through Snow Bunting



*One of the many Red-breasted Nuthatches seen on a trip to Star Island, Rye, NH.
Photo by Keith Oshel, 10/10/12.*

Swallows staged in large numbers both on the coast and on Star Island this fall. Most coastal concentrations of swallows consist of almost entirely Tree Swallows, but Star Island's contained nearly equal numbers of Tree and Barn Swallows, likely resulting in a high count of the latter for the state. November swallows are always noteworthy and almost always coastal. A late Tree Swallow migrating by Pack Monadnock on November 11 was not only late, but also inland. A strong southwesterly flow followed by a cold front the last weekend of November resulted in a fallout of Cave Swallows along the New England coast. Although nearly expected during these conditions in late November (see page 41), **Cave Swallow** remains a review species for the NH Rare Birds Committee and all records should be carefully documented. Several reports, all likely valid, went by the wayside as a result of failure to submit documentation.

Red-breasted Nuthatches made a strong push southward for the first time since 2007, with a substantial presence in the southern part of the state throughout the season. A sure sign of an invasion was a trip to Star Island that produced 15 Red-breasted Nuthatches, nearly one for every tree on the Island! A Ruby-crowned Kinglet on November 25 stayed well beyond the species' usual departure time during the first few days of the month. A Bicknell's Thrush banded in Center Harbor was carefully distinguished from the nearly identical Gray-cheeked Thrush, and gives us a better idea of this cryptic species' migratory period. There was an early push of Bohemian Waxwings, with a total of 221 individuals reported throughout the state. Most remarkable was a single bird at Rye Harbor State Park on October 31, not only early but also perhaps the first fall record for Rockingham County.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Gray Jay				
10/07	11	Cutts Grant	Mt. Webster to Mt. Jackson Loop	M. Brengle
10/13	10	Bethlehem	Mt. Willey	Y. Yeung
Blue Jay				
09/20	71	Concord	Carter Hill Orchard	K. Fenton
09/21	128	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd. at Suncook River	A. Robbins
09/25	88	Concord	Carter Hill Orchard	H. Walters
Fish Crow				
08/24	11	Concord	Capital Commons Parking Garage	R. Woodward
09/29	1	Salem	Target, 203 Broadway	M. Watson
09/30	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	J. Nugent Jr.
Common Raven				
09/21	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	S. Snyder
11/04	43	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	H. Walters



*Horned Lark by Deanne Fortnam, 11/10/12,
Boire Field, Nashua, NH.*

Horned Lark

11/06	80	Conway	Sherman Farm	B. Crowley, J. Scott
11/12	240	Concord	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	P. Hunt
11/17	250	Nashua	Boire Field Airport	D. Fortnam

Purple Martin

08/13	2	Kensington	South Road	G. Gavutis Jr.
08/21	1	Kensington	South Road	G. Gavutis Jr.



Tree Swallows roosting on the beach, by Steve Mirick, 9/22/12, Rye, NH.

Tree Swallow

08/12	8400		NH coast	S. Mirick
08/18	2000	Rye	Isles of Shoals, Star Island	B. Griffith
9/22	3500	Rye	Jeness Beach	S. Mirick
10/21	1	Rye	Pulpit Rocks	S. Mirick
11/11	1	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	H. Walters

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Bank Swallow				
08/12	30	Westmoreland	boat launch	A. Burnett
08/20	16	Exeter	WTP	P. Miliotis
09/04	2	Derry	WTP	S. Mirick
Barn Swallow				
08/18	1500	Rye	Isles of Shoals, Star Island	B. Griffith
09/16	5	Hampton	Plaice Cove	S. Mirick
09/22	4	Rye	Jeness/Sawyers Beach	S. Mirick
Cliff Swallow				
08/31	28	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	J. Pietrzak
09/11	25	Hampton	North Beach	J. Dietrich
10/13	1		NH coast	S. Mirick
Cave Swallow				
11/24	12-16		NH coast	S. Mirick, et al.
11/25	1	Hampton	Meadow Pond	P. Hunt
11/25	1	Rye	s. of Odiorne Point	S. & J. Mirick, et al.
Red-breasted Nuthatch				
08/19	18	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
10/06	15	Rye	Isles of Shoals, Star Island	E. Masterson
10/21	14	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Recreation Area	C. Caron
10/24	27	Rochester	Fowler Farm	D. Hubbard
House Wren				
10/09	1	Salem	residence	K. Wilmarth
Marsh Wren				
09/12	11	Exeter	WTP	S. Young
10/31	1	Hampton	Little Jacks Restaurant, Rt. 1A	A. Moser
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				
08/02	4	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
09/09	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	Z. Cornell, D. Hubbard
09/11	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
Ruby-crowned Kinglet				
10/05	20	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
10/08	12	Moultonborough	Bald Knob	H. Batcheller, A. Johnson, B. Fogarty
10/14	12	Effingham	Green Mt., High Watch Trail	J. Young
11/12	1	Westmoreland	Woodward Road	A. Burnett
11/25	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
Eastern Bluebird				
10/21	31	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd. at Suncook River	A. Robbins
11/15	50	Kensington	South Road	G. Gavutis Jr.
Veery				
09/28	2	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd. at Suncook River	A. Robbins
10/07	1	Hanover	Mink Brook Nature Preserve	K. Kittelberger
Bicknell's Thrush				
08/12	1	Sargents Purchase	WMNF, Hermit Lake shelter	S. Schulte
09/03	1	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Road	J. Merrill

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush				
09/01	1	Antrim	Willard Pond	J. Anderson
09/02	1	Conway	Dollof Pond	A. Robbins
09/20	2	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd. at Suncook River	A. Robbins
09/28	2	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd. at Suncook River	A. Robbins
10/04	1	Bow	Melanie Lane	Z. Cornell
10/07	1	Hanover	Mink Brook Nature Preserve	K. Kittelberger
Swainson's Thrush				
09/20	22	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd. at Suncook River	A. Robbins
09/28	18	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd. at Suncook River	A. Robbins
10/11	2	Hanover	Mink Brook Nature Preserve	K. Kittelberger
10/13	1	Tuftonboro	Copps Pond	A. Robbins
Hermit Thrush				
10/08	12	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Road	J. Merrill
10/16	6	Westmoreland	Woodward Road	A. Burnett
10/17	2	Offshore Waters	seabird survey	T. Johnson, D. Vander Pluym
11/25	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
Wood Thrush				
09/28	2	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd. at Suncook River	A. Robbins
11/12	1	Westmoreland	Woodward Road	A. Burnett
American Robin				
10/21	589	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	S. Mirick
Gray Catbird				
08/02	25	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
08/30	20	Hancock	Moose Brook Rail Trail	P. Brown
09/24	23	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
11/01	1	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
11/05	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Rd. residence	D. Hubbard
11/10	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Young
Brown Thrasher				
08/30	4	Hancock	Moose Brook Rail Trail	P. Brown
10/13	1	Concord	Birch St. Community Garden	R. Woodward, D. Lania
10/15	1	Rye		S. Lewis
American Pipit				
10/20	350	Concord	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	D. Lania, Z. Cornell, P. Hunt
10/23	260	Conway	Sherman Farm	J. Scott, T. Vazzano
11/21	1	Derry	WTP	S. Mirick
Bohemian Waxwing				
10/28	28	Clarksville	West Rd., w. of Hwy. 145	C. Borg
10/28	1		NH coast	L. Medlock, J. Lambert, S. & J. Mirick
11/13	55	Moultonborough	Rt. 25 and Old Rt. 109	T. Vazzano
11/14	80	Holderness	Athletic Center, Plymouth State University	C. Berthoud
Lapland Longspur				
10/04	1	Rye	s. of Odiorne Point	S. Mirick
10/08	2	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind Post Office	R. Suomala

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Lapland Longspur—continued				
11/04	2	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	M. Watson, B. Griffith, P. Miliotis
11/07	2	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	P. Miliotis
11/07	2	Rye	Rye Harbor	P. Miliotis
11/12	2	Concord	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	P. Hunt



Snow Buntings at Hampton Beach State Park, NH, left by Aiden Moser, 10/31/12, right by Christine Sheridan, 11/10/12.

Snow Bunting

10/25	2	Concord	Carter Hill Orchard	P. Brown, K. Fenton
11/05	210	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	Z. Cornell, D. Hubbard
11/15	300	Nashua	Boire Field Airport	C. Sheridan

Warblers through Sparrows



Clay-colored Sparrow by Steve Mirick, 10/27/12, Ancient Highway, Hampton, NH.

In general, warblers had a modest fall with no large multi-species fallouts and with most species following expected patterns of occurrence. The notable exceptions to this were the “budworm” warblers (Tennessee, Bay-breasted, and Cape May), which showed a spectacular fall with numbers far above any recent year. These three species feed primarily on Spruce Budworm, which undergoes periodic outbreaks. During outbreaks, all three species show population increases, therefore their high numbers this year are likely a result of an outbreak farther north. There was a large fallout on October 21 when over 700 Yellow-rumped Warblers were counted coming in off the ocean. However, the late date precluded substantial numbers of any other species being present. In the scarce-but-annual category were five Orange-crowned Warblers, four Connecticut Warblers, four Mourning Warblers, and four Yellow-breasted Chats.

In contrast to the warblers, sparrows were well-reported. Certainly most noteworthy were Clay-colored Sparrows. Only a decade ago, this species was less than annual, but this year there were a whopping 14 reported, most of which were well photographed. Although usually more common than Clay-colored Sparrow, Vesper Spar-

row still had an above average showing of 14 reports. There was only a single Lark Sparrow seen this fall (it stayed for only a day) which is below average for recent years. More common species also were detected in good numbers. One observer estimated 70 White-crowned Sparrows and a truly mind-boggling 2,500 Dark-eyed Juncos in the vicinity of Lake Umbagog NWR in Errol. Until 2008, "Ipswich" Savannah Sparrows were virtually unrecorded away from the immediate coastline in New Hampshire, but one photographed in Stratham was part of a recent trend towards rare-but-regular sightings inland in Rockingham County.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Ovenbird				
09/17	5	Nottingham	Stevens Hill Road	P. Miliotis
09/26	2	Effingham	Gray Fox Road	M. Purcell
09/30	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
Blue-winged Warbler				
09/01	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
08/24	6	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest	A. Robbins
08/26	6	Roxbury	Godwin Cottage	K. Rosenberg
08/28	6	Webster	Call Road	R. Quinn
10/06	6	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	M. Watson
10/07	1	Francetown	Bulmer's	R. Mayer
10/07	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd. at Suncook River	A. Robbins
Tennessee Warbler				
08/25	15	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest	A. Robbins
09/11	5	Hanover	E. Wheelock Rd. at Balch Hill	K. Kittelberger
09/15	4	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/05	2	Hampton	Great Boars Head	S. Mirick
10/13	1	Concord	Birch St. Community Garden	Z. Cornell, R. Woodward
10/17	1	Offshore Waters	seabird survey	T. Johnson, D. Vander Pluym
Orange-crowned Warbler				
10/05	1	Portsmouth	Urban Forestry Center	S. Mirick
10/06	1	Jackson	Brookside Farm	B. Pendleton
10/07	1	Enfield	Bog Road	J. Norton
10/23	1	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
11/03	1	N. Hampton	Rt. 111	S. Mirick
Nashville Warbler				
09/17	6	Randolph	Appalachia trailhead RR bed	P. Williams
10/14	1	Concord	Cilley State Forest fields	R. Suomala
11/03	1	Hampton	Church St. water tower parking lot	S. Mirick
Connecticut Warbler				
09/03	1	Keene	Krif Road	C. Newton
09/11	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
09/16	1	Conway	North Conway	M. Oylar
09/24	1	Effingham	Gray Fox Road	M. Purcell
Mourning Warbler				
08/17	1	T&M Purchase	WMNF, Caps Ridge Trail	A. Robbins
09/03	1	Concord	SPNHF Merrimack R. Conservation Area	J. Pietrzak
09/11	1	Nashua	Greeley Park	C. Sheridan
09/15	1	Hanover	E. Wheelock Rd. at Balch Hill	K. Kittelberger

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Common Yellowthroat				
08/19	27	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
08/30	18	Hancock	Moose Brook Rail Trail	P. Brown
10/23	1	Conway	Sherman Farm	J. Scott
11/06	1	Westmoreland	Woodward Road	A. Burnett
Cape May Warbler				
08/25	10	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest	A. Robbins
Northern Parula				
09/11	3	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
09/12	10	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	Z. Cornell
11/02	1	Greenland	Great Bay Discovery Center	S. Santino, K. Elwell, C. Schloterbeck
Magnolia Warbler				
09/01	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
09/06	10	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest airstrip	T. Vazzano
09/15	10	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
09/17	10	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano
10/07	1	Hudson	Musquash Conservation Land	E. Lai
10/07	1	Westmoreland	Woodward Road	A. Burnett
Bay-breasted Warbler				
08/25	4	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest	A. Robbins
09/01	2	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest	A. Robbins
09/11	3	Hanover	E. Wheelock Rd. at Balch Hill	K. Kittelberger
09/27	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano
Blackburnian Warbler				
08/24	8	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest	A. Robbins
09/24	1	Sanbornton	Calef Hill Rd., Calef farm	K. Thorington
10/06	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano
Yellow Warbler				
08/02	4	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
09/26	1	Derry	WTP	S. Mirick
10/01	1	Jackson	Eagle Mountain golf course	B. Pendleton
10/04	1	Hampton	Island Path	S. Mirick
10/04	1	Jackson	Brookside Farm	B. Pendleton
10/06	1		Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
Chestnut-sided Warbler				
08/24	10	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest	A. Robbins
08/30	12	Hancock	Moose Brook Rail Trail	P. Brown
09/05	6	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano, B. Bruni
09/06	6	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest airstrip	T. Vazzano
09/20	1	Westmoreland	Woodward Road	A. Burnett
10/02	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge Rd.	T. Vazzano
Blackpoll Warbler				
09/13	20	Hancock	Antrim Road	P. Brown
09/15	44	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
09/22	22	Concord	Contoocook River Park/Island Shores Estates	P. Hunt
09/24	20	Hudson	residence	E. Lai
10/07	10	Westmoreland	Woodward Road	A. Burnett

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
10/21	2	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
11/04	1	Concord	Wildflower Dr., Penacook	P. Hunt

Black-throated Blue Warbler

08/07	11	Newbury	Mt. Sunapee SP, Andrew's Brook Trail	D. Lania
10/23	1	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
10/27	1	New Castle	off Rt. 1B	S. Mirick
10/27	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick

Palm Warbler

08/24	1	Lyman	Under the Mountain Rd.	S. Turner
09/23	14	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/03	15	Hancock	Antrim Road	P. Brown
10/09	80	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
10/27	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/27	1	Greenland	Great Bay Farm	S. Mirick
11/04	1	Exeter	Newfields Rd. residence	P. Chamberlin

Pine Warbler

09/06	32	Madison	West Branch Pine Barrens Preserve	T. Vazzano
09/23	33	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
11/01	1	Hinsdale	Setbacks	J. Russo
11/04	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
11/10	1	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	J. Lambert

Yellow-rumped Warbler

10/04	100	Seabrook	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
10/09	60	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
10/13	37	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/20	58	Jaffrey	Mt. Monadnock, Birchtoft Trail	E. Richard
10/20	200	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	H. Walters
10/21	706	Seabrook	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
11/12	1	Concord	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	P. Hunt

Prairie Warbler

08/30	4	Auburn	Massabesic Audubon Center	K. Wilmarth
08/30	4	Hancock	Moose Brook Rail Trail	P. Brown
10/07	1	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	H. Walters
10/11	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd. at Suncook River	A. Robbins

Black-throated Green Warbler

08/23	15	Webster	Call Road	R. Quinn
08/28	13	Webster	Call Road	R. Quinn
09/02	18	Lempster	Long Pond	M. Krampitz
09/11	30	Hanover	E. Wheelock Rd. at Balch Hill	K. Kittelberger
09/15	15	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
09/15	15	Westmoreland	Woodward Road	A. Burnett
10/09	1	Concord	Contoocook River Park/Island Shores Estates	P. Hunt
10/10	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd. at Suncook River	A. Robbins

Canada Warbler

08/04	4	Effingham	Watts Wildlife Sanctuary	A. Robbins
08/24	3	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest	A. Robbins
09/15	1	Durham	Fogg Drive	K. Dorsey
09/15	1	Hanover	E. Wheelock Rd. at Balch Hill	K. Kittelberger

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Wilson's Warbler				
10/14	1	Concord	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	P. Hunt
11/12	1	Concord	Contoocook River Park/Island Shores Estates	P. Hunt
Yellow-breasted Chat				
09/03	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	J. Lambert
10/04	1	Hampton	Church St. water tower parking lot	S. Mirick
10/05	1	Rye	Old Beach Rd.	S. Mirick
11/04	1	Portsmouth	South Mill Pond	M. Watson
Eastern Towhee				
08/01	15	Stoddard	Hubbard Hill	P. Brown
08/11	12	Madison	West Branch Pine Barrens Preserve	A. Robbins
09/22	10	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
11/24	1	Concord	residence	J. Nadeau
American Tree Sparrow				
10/23	1	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
10/23	4	Conway	Sherman Farm	J. Scott, T. Vazzano
10/24	1	Exeter	WTP	P. Miliotis
10/27	30	Jackson	Brookside Farm	B. Pendleton
11/06	30	Stratham	River Road	S. Mirick
11/09	27	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit	T. Vazzano
11/12	29	Concord	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	P. Hunt
Chipping Sparrow				
09/15	91	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/09	47	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd. at Suncook River	A. Robbins
11/07	1	Hancock	Antrim Road	P. Brown
11/10	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	M. Watson
11/11	2	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
Clay-colored Sparrow				
09/08	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
09/28	1	Keene	Krif Road	L. Erickson, A. Moser
10/01	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Rd. residence	D. Hubbard
10/02	1	Jackson	Brookside Farm	B. Pendleton
10/07	1	Durham	Rt. 155A (Moore) fields	S. Mirick
10/07	2	Rye	Goss Farm Conservation Area	S. Mirick
10/10	2	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
10/16	1	Concord	Carter Hill Orchard	H. Walters
10/22	1	Stratham	River Road	S. Mirick
10/23	2	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
10/27	1	Hampton	Ancient Highway	S. Mirick
Field Sparrow				
08/04	8	Hancock	Moose Brook Rail Trail	P. Brown
09/14	5	Madbury	Kingman Farm	S. Snyder
11/01	1	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
11/03	1	Concord	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	P. Hunt
Vesper Sparrow				
08/02	1	Concord	Locke Road sod farm	D. Lania
08/03	1	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest	A. Robbins
09/13	2	Greenfield	Ravenwood Farm	T. Shiel
09/28	1	Keene	Krif Road	L. Erickson, A. Moser

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
10/02	1	Conway	Sherman Farm	T. Vazzano
10/14	2	Concord	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	P. Hunt
10/19	1	Exeter	WTP	P. Miliotis
10/21	1	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind Post Office	R. & M. Suomala
10/21	1	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park	C. Caron
10/23	1	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
10/23	1		Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
10/25	1	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young

Lark Sparrow by Steve Mirick, 10/4/12, Hampton Beach, Hampton, NH.



Lark Sparrow

10/04	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
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Savannah Sparrow

10/20	120	Concord	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	Z. Cornell, P. Hunt, D. Lania, et al.
10/21	45	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind Post Office	M. & R. Suomala
10/23	58	Conway	Sherman Farm	T. Vazzano
11/26	3	Stratham	River Road	S. Mirick

Savannah Sparrow by Christine Sheridan, (left) 11/10/12, Hampton Beach, NH.; (right) 10/13/12, Greeley Park, Nashua, NH.



Savannah Sparrow - Ipswich subsp.

10/13	1	Stratham	River Road	B. Griffith, L. Kras
10/27	1	Hampton	Plaice Cove	S. Mirick
11/01	6	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	A. Altena

Nelson's Sparrow


10/05	1	Hampton	Henry's Pool, Rt. 101E by pumphouse	S. Mirick
10/20	10	Hampton	salt marsh	S. Mirick

Saltmarsh Sparrow

08/02	13	Hampton	Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A	B. Crowley, J. Scott
10/20	6	Hampton	salt marsh	S. Mirick

Fox Sparrow

10/14	1	Westmoreland	Cheshire County Farm complex	E. Masterson
10/26	4	Westmoreland	Woodward Road	A. Burnett
10/27	4	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park	R. Suomala
11/10	5	Webster	Call Road	R. Quinn
11/26	1	Stratham	River Road	S. Mirick
11/29	1	Concord	Appleton St.	A. Robbins

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Song Sparrow				
10/21	160	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind Post Office	R. & M. Suomala
10/23	100	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
10/28	160	Concord	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	P. Hunt
Lincoln's Sparrow				
09/10	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
09/11	1	Hampton	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
09/11	1	Nottingham	Stevens Hill Road	P. Miliotis
09/22	8	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
10/08	20	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard, S. Young
10/26	1	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick
11/01	1	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
Swamp Sparrow				
09/29	50	Hollis	Woodmont Orchards	P. Brown
10/10	32	Conway	Sherman Farm	J. Scott, T. Vazzano
10/21	60	Concord	Loudon Rd. fields behind Post Office	M. & R. Suomala
10/23	80	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
11/21	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
				
<i>White-throated Sparrow by Christine Sheridan, 10/13/12, Greeley Park, Nashua, NH.</i>				
White-throated Sparrow				
10/02	305	Conway	Sherman Farm	T. Vazzano
10/05	200	Concord	Carter Hill Orchard	P. Brown, K. Fenton
10/08	150	Nashua	Greeley Park	C. Sheridan
10/14	200	Concord	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	P. Hunt
White-crowned Sparrow				
09/16	1	Northwood	West Street	J. Lambert
09/27	3	Lyme	Whipple Hill	B. Allison
09/28	3	Concord	Birch St. Community Garden	R. Suomala
10/08	30	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young, D. Hubbard
10/13	70	Errol	Umbagog NWR	R. Quinn
10/14	60	Concord	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	P. Hunt
11/17	1	Charlestown	boat landing	T. Schottland
11/18	1	Concord	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	S. Young, P. Hunt, A. Moser
11/20	1	Milford	North River Rd.	J. Broyles
Dark-eyed Junco				
10/13	2500	Errol	Umbagog NWR	R. Quinn
10/14	150	Effingham	Lakeview Neuro Rehab, High Watch Rd.	J. Young
10/23	300	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
10/24	110	Westmoreland	Woodward Road	A. Burnett
10/27	230	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt

Tanagers through House Sparrow

A Summer Tanager in female-type plumage was reported visiting a bird bath in Gilmanton, but did not stay around for photos. If accepted, this would be one of the few fall records for this southern species in the state and the only one away from the coast. **Blue Grosbeak** is a more expected southern straggler and this year one was reported from Concord for the second fall in a row. There were 11 Dickcissels reported from locations scattered throughout the state, about average for recent years.


Most Bobolinks depart by the end of August, but small numbers consistently linger into October. This year, single Bobolinks in Barrington and Stratham were especially late. Blackbirds once again roosted in extremely large numbers in Portsmouth's Great Bog although there were fewer reports than previous years. Rusty Blackbirds are generally uncommon migrants in fall, but occasionally form large groups. Flocks of 30 and 50 were noteworthy this fall.


Nearly all of our irruptive finches moved south in large numbers this fall. Pine Grosbeaks began appearing well south of the White Mountains in November to start off a major invasion of this species into the southern part of the state. Crossbill movements are always an enigma, and both species were reported in numbers during the fall. They appeared early in the season in the north and west of the state, but made their way to the coast by the seasons' end. Common Redpolls, as with Pine Grosbeaks, started appearing in early November and numbers grew throughout the month. Most redpoll irruptions bring Hoary Redpolls, but they often don't appear until the winter; none were reported before the end of November. Pine Siskins, on the other hand, seemed to peak in October before largely disappearing to points south in November. Reports of Evening Grosbeaks from the mid-Atlantic suggest that there was large movement of the species as well, but sightings in New Hampshire were only slightly above average for the season.



*Common Redpoll by Len Medlock,
11/21/12.*

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Scarlet Tanager				
09/20	6	Hanover	E. Wheelock Rd. at Balch Hill	K. Kittelberger
09/21	6	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	H. Walters
10/05	1	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
10/07	1	Durham	Fogg Drive	K. Dorsey
10/15	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Rd. residence	D. Hubbard

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Rose-breasted Grosbeak				
09/03	5	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest	A. Robbins
09/10	4	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd. at Suncook River	A. Robbins
10/09	1	Concord	Carter Hill Orchard	H. Walters
10/09	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd. at Suncook River	A. Robbins
10/21	1	Portsmouth	Harrison Ave.	M. McCann
Blue Grosbeak				
10/13	1	Concord	Birch St. Community Garden	R. Woodward, Z. Cornell, D. Lania
10/14	1	Concord	Birch St. Community Garden	R. Suomala
Indigo Bunting				
09/15	35	Concord	Abbott Road stump dump	P. Hunt
09/15	41	Concord	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	P. Hunt
09/15	20	Walpole	Sawyer Farm, River Rd.	L. Clarfeld
10/21	1	Concord	Abbott Road stump dump	P. Hunt
11/04	1	Greenland	Great Bay Farm	S. Mirick
				
<i>Dickcissel by Steve Mirick, 10/27/12, Old Beach Rd., Rye, NH.</i>				
Dickcissel				
08/26	1	Hancock	Powder Mill Pond	D. Stokes
08/29	1	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
08/29	1	Concord	Turkey Pond	A. Robbins
09/03	1	Freedom	Berry Bay cottage	A. Robbins
09/14	1	Hampton	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
09/23	1	Walpole	Boggy Meadow Farm	A. Burnett
10/13	1	Stratham	River Road	L. Medlock
10/14	1	Concord	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	P. Hunt
10/14	1	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park	R. Quinn
10/27	1	Rye	Old Beach Rd.	S. Mirick
11/01	1	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
Bobolink				
08/03	80	Westmoreland	Woodward Road	A. Burnett
08/14	80	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	S. Young
08/19	25	Stratham	River Road	S. Mirick
09/02	21	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Woodward
10/21	1	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
10/27	1	Stratham	River Road	S. Mirick
Eastern Meadowlark				
09/03	1	Portsmouth	Pease International Tradeport	S. Mirick
10/21	1	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
10/21	1	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Recreation Area	C. Caron
10/25	1	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
11/20	1	Greenland	Sunset Farm	J. Kelly

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Rusty Blackbird				
09/17	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd. at Suncook River	A. Robbins
09/29	50	Haverhill	Bedell Bridge SP	B. Allison, G. Clark, S. Hardy
10/07	11	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd. at Suncook River	A. Robbins
10/28	30	Concord	White Farm	R. Woodward
11/30	1	Kensington	South Road	G. Gavutis Jr.
Common Grackle				
10/20	1500	Greenland	Great Bay Discovery Center	S. Santino
10/23	1200	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
10/23	20000	Durham	Smith Sisters WS	P. Brown
11/10	20	Hudson	residence	E. Lai
11/10	1	Salem	residence	K. Wilmarth
Brown-headed Cowbird				
09/29	30	Seabrook	Hampton-Seabrook marsh, Rt. 286 pools	M. Iliff
10/05	32	Hampton	Henrys Pool, Rt. 101E by pumphouse	S. Mirick
11/04	50	Greenland	Great Bay Farm	S. Mirick
11/22	1	Merrimack	Kenny Lane	S. Molloy Dahlfred
Baltimore Oriole				
09/17	1	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	L. Kras, Seacoast Chapter field trip
09/17	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd. at Suncook River	A. Robbins
09/22	3	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
Pine Grosbeak				
10/28	5	Clarksville	Rt. 145 near the Town Hall	C. Borg
11/03	1	Concord	Locke Road sod farm	R. & M. Suomala, D. Lania
11/07	20	Plymouth	Hatch Plaza	I. MacLeod
11/16	24	Conway		B. Crowley
11/17	16		Meredith Bay	R. Quinn
11/30	20	Concord	Birch St. Community Garden	P. Brown
				
<p><i>Purple Finch</i> by Aiden Moser, 10/13/12, Henniker, NH.</p>				
Purple Finch				
10/07	21	Henniker	Old Hillsboro Rd.	A. Moser
10/08	28	Rochester	Ten Rod Rd. residence	D. Hubbard
10/14	22	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd. at Suncook River	A. Robbins
11/22	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	M. Watson
11/22	1	Peterborough	Wilder Street, W. Peterborough	A. Burnett
Red Crossbill				
08/03	1	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest	A. Robbins
09/02	30	Concord	Carter Hill Orchard	P. Brown, K. Fenton
10/26	11	Henniker	Old Hillsboro Rd.	A. Moser
10/27	10	Harrisville	Chesham Pond	P. Brown

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
Red Crossbill—continued				
11/04	32	Rochester	Rt. 125	J. Trimble
11/23	1	Newmarket	River Street	L. Kras, B. Griffith
11/24	16	Hampton	North Side Park	S. Mirick
White-winged Crossbill				
08/18	12	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest	A. Robbins
09/03	65	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest	A. Robbins
10/28	30	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	H. Walters
11/01	22	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd. at Suncook River	A. Robbins
11/25	25	Hampton	North Side Park	P. Hunt
Common Redpoll				
10/27	1	Nelson	Tolman Pond	P. Brown
11/03	15	Jefferson	w. of North Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
11/11	31	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park	Z. Cornell
11/14	35	Peterborough	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	H. Walters
11/18	70	Concord	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	S. Young, P. Hunt
11/19	37	Gilford	Airport Road, Laconia Airport	I. MacLeod
11/26	150	Stratham	River Road	S. Mirick
11/27	28	Nashua	Greeley Park	D. Deifik
11/28	50	Milford	North River Rd.	J. Broyles
11/29	58	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano
Pine Siskin				
10/13	423		NH coast	S. Mirick
10/15	100	Rochester	Ten Rod Rd. residence	D. Hubbard
10/16	90	Strafford	Lakeview Drive	S. Young
10/21	138		NH coast	S. Mirick
10/23	75	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd. at Suncook River	A. Robbins
11/28	12	Bow	Melanie Lane	Z. Cornell
Evening Grosbeak				
11/05	18	Lempster	Long Pond Rd. residence	J. Swatt
11/10	12	Carroll	Twin View Dr.	N. Mitiguy
11/11	12	Hancock	Antrim Road	E. Masterson



Great Egret by Debbie LaValley, 9/11/12, Horseshoe Pond, Concord, NH.

Spotlight on Cave Swallow (*Petrochelidon fulva*)

by Zeke Cornell

Background

The Cave Swallow, as the name implies, nests and roosts in caves. This species will also nest under bridges, use sinkholes and, in the Yucatan, it has been observed using wells. In the United States, breeding occurs primarily in Texas, and it has also expanded its range into southeastern New Mexico. A small stable population also nests in southern Florida, south of Miami.

Currently, there are five subspecies recognized in North and Central America. The three Caribbean subspecies are *P.f. fulva* (which is thought to be the Florida breeder), *P.f. poeciloma*, and *P.f. puertoricensis*. The subspecies in southern Mexico/Yucatan Peninsula is *P.f. citata*. The other subspecies of Mexico, *P.f. pallida*, resides in the northern Mexican states and the southwestern United States.

Swallows are generally named for their nesting sites. The approximate translation of the scientific name for Cave Swallow is Petro (rock) chelidon (swallow) fulva (tawny).

Occurrence in New Hampshire

Cave Swallows were first encountered in New Hampshire in 2003 and have been recorded in seven of the last ten years (not seen in 2006, 2009, and 2011, Table 1). Steve and Jane Mirick recorded the first sighting on November 26, 2003 when they found four birds along the shoreline at Concord Point in Rye. The birds roosted under the eaves of a nearby house and emerged the next morning on Thanksgiving Day to the delight of many birders. (See Steve's article in the Fall 2003 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*, Vol. 23, #3.)

All of the sightings in New Hampshire have been during the month of November and only along the seacoast. The sightings range in date from November 4 to November 27, with the preponderance between November 24 and November 27. The locations stretch from Hampton Beach State Park at the southern end to Odiorne Point State Park in Rye at the northern reach. Since 1986, the similar Cliff Swallow has only been seen in November on two occasions, once in 1993 and once in 1998, so members of the *Petrochelidon* genus (Cave/Cliff Swallow) seen in late fall are likely to be the Cave Swallow. (Identifications of the November Cliff Swallows were carefully determined by observers—Steve Mirick, et al.) Table 1 shows the locations and the number of birds reported over this past decade.



Cave Swallow by Len Medlock, 11/24/12, Rye, NH.

Table 1. Cave Swallow occurrence in New Hampshire, 2003-2012 (Data sources: *New Hampshire Bird Records* March 1986 to July 2009; eBird online database, 2009-2012)

Year	Dates of occurrence	Number of birds
2003	Nov. 26-27	4
2004	Nov. 26	1
2005	Nov. 12	1
2006		none
2007	Nov. 4	1
2008	Nov. 9	1
2009		none
2010	Nov. 24-25	6-10
2011		none
2012	Nov. 24-25	12-16

The birds seen in New Hampshire are believed to be of the subspecies *P. f. pallida*, which is the southwestern variety from New Mexico or Texas. Engel et al (2011) analyzed specimens from eastern North America and determined that vagrants in this area were consistent with the southwestern subspecies and not birds from the Caribbean area.

Expansion and Vagrancy

Cave Swallows were first documented nesting in Texas in 1914 and in New Mexico in 1930. Previously, the Cave Swallow was considered vagrant in the US, but the species seemed to be expanding from northern Mexico. Florida's first nests weren't recorded until 1987, even though vagrants were reported nearly a hundred years prior in 1890. The nesting in Florida seems to coincide with a major expansion of this species since the mid-1980s. It had been anticipated that the birds nesting in Florida would continue to expand northward, but as of 2011, this has not occurred. The expansion in Florida and Texas has been assisted by human structures, such as culverts and bridges. Once restricted to the Edwards Plateau in Texas, Cave Swallows now reach nearly 200 miles from the Plateau, extending from the Louisiana-Texas border well into west Texas. It has been noted that this is particularly true along the interstate highways (10 and 20), as well as along other routes with highway bridges. Before the 1980s, Cave Swallows wintered south of the US border. Since the 1980s, birds in Texas have regularly overwintered there, but some of the southwestern subspecies (*P. f. pallida*) have extended this overwintering to coastal South Carolina and Georgia in more recent years.

As the expansion of the Cave Swallow has continued during the last 25 to 30 years, there have been regular vagrant reports in many areas, but in particular into the Great Lakes, the Northeast, and across eastern Canada through Quebec and into the Atlantic Provinces. The birds in the Northeast are seen most often in late fall (November and December) and there is speculation that these incursions are related to weather patterns. The increase in sightings in more recent years may also be the result of better coverage by birders, now anticipating possible vagrants at that time of year.

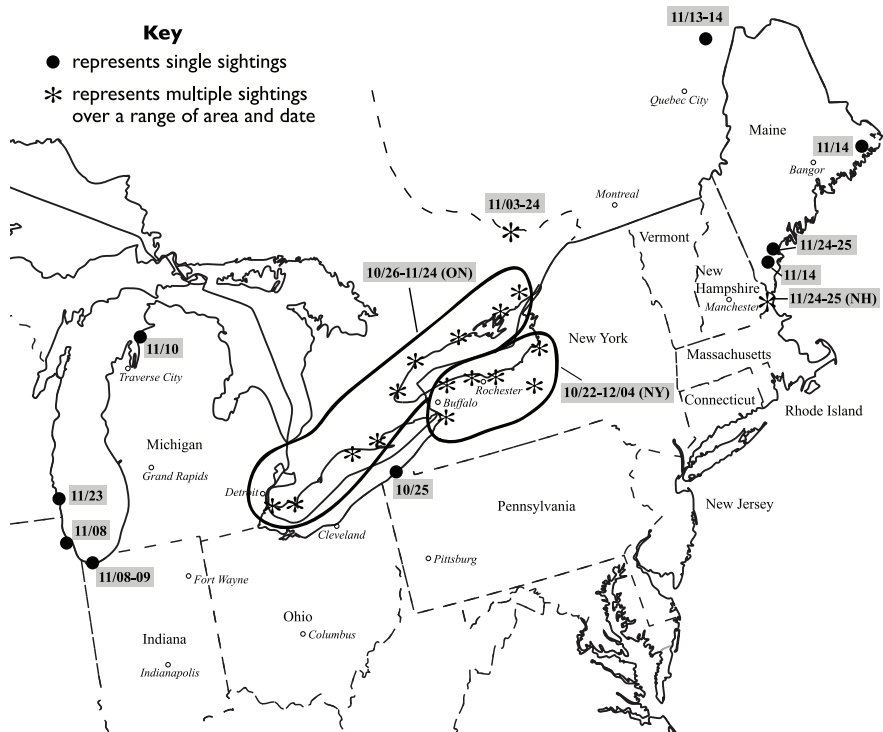


Figure 1. 2012 Cave Swallow Vagrancy (Great Lakes, Canada, New York, Maine, and New Hampshire). Reports from the fall season of 2012 illustrating the initial appearance of Cave Swallows in the Great Lakes area before being recorded in New Hampshire. For areas with multiple sightings (i.e. Lake Ontario and Lake Erie) only selected sighting locations are shown. Data from areas to the south of New Hampshire and the Great Lakes are not included. Data source: eBird.

Comments

Cave Swallow sightings are typically for only a day or two in any given season. While the records indicate November is the most likely month in New Hampshire for these vagrants, predicting whether Cave Swallows will occur in a particular year and when is more difficult. Interestingly, a cursory review of sightings in 2010 and 2012 indicates that Cave Swallows were seen in the Great Lakes region, across eastern Canada, and in Maine (eBird data) before there were any records in New Hampshire. For example, there are many records from the Great Lakes region in November 2012 including the following at Lake Ontario on November 12: 44 at Derby Hill, 61 at Hamlin Beach and 11 at Braddock Bay. In that year New Hampshire had the largest numbers of Cave Swallow sightings recorded to date. In 2011 (October-December), however, there were no records of Cave Swallows from the Great Lakes region and no records from anywhere in New England north of Connecticut.

According to Steve Mirick (personal communication), he has noticed a very strong correlation between observations of Cave Swallows on the New Hampshire coast and cold fronts with west or northwest winds. He has observed that the typical pattern is

for Cave Swallow numbers to build in the Great Lakes region in certain years and then, when a strong front with cold northwest winds occurs, the birds are transported to the coast of New Hampshire and other New England states. He has remarked on this in numerous posts to the NH Birds email list over the years.

Michael Fahay (a resident and birder of Maine) has observed a similar pattern in Maine:

“It’s also very easy to track the movements of Cave Swallows using eBird’s mapping function. In years where we’ve had observations of these in Maine, they have invariably shown up along the shores of the Great Lakes before we see any. This year doesn’t look good. Except for an early report from NJ on Halloween, recent reports have been limited to Cape May, NJ, and a few in MD.” (posted on Maine Birds in November of 2011)

Michael’s forecast was accurate and, as stated previously, no sightings were recorded for Maine or New Hampshire in 2011.

This means we can use the mapping feature in eBird to provide a possible early warning system for Cave Swallow occurrence in New Hampshire. Steve Mirick offers a tutorial on the use of eBird’s mapping function in the Fall 2010 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*, Vol. 29, #3, “Using eBird to Find When and Where a Species Occurs.” The article is also available online at the *New Hampshire Bird Records* web site at: <http://www.nhbirdrecords.org/journal/articles/NHBR-Fall2010.pdf> (or go to the *New Hampshire Bird Records* home page, click on contents, scroll down to Fall 2010, and click on the hot-link to Steve’s article). When using the map and data for the current year (select the CHANGE DATE button and choose only the current year), we can see if there have been Cave Swallows reported in the eastern United States. If there are reports from the Great Lakes, birders in New Hampshire should be on the lookout.

In a bit of serendipity, the write-up on Cave Swallow in *Birds of North America* discusses predators of this species. The author states that there is a paucity of information regarding avian predators of the Cave Swallow. Known predators are the Great Horned Owl and the Barn Owl and it is likely that the Spotted Owl, which roosts in caves, is a predator of the Cave Swallow as well. The final comment of this section is “Falcons (*Falco* spp.) are also likely but unproven predators of Cave Swallows” which *New Hampshire Bird Records* can now document! (See Rich Frechette’s article “Cave Swallow for Lunch” on page 64.)

On a different note, the literature on the taxonomy of this species can be a bit confusing. Until recently, South America was considered to have two subspecies of Cave Swallow, but those are now viewed as a separate species, Chestnut-collared Swallow, *Petrochelidon rufocollaris* with two distinct subspecies. In addition, authorities are discussing whether the Caribbean species and the northern Mexico/southwestern United States subspecies should be split into *P. fulva* and *P. pallida*. This is complicated by evidence of mitochondrial exchange between these disparate groups. Furthermore, one can find seven named forms in the literature for the North American groups, although the *Birds of North America* currently cites only the five previously described subspecies.

This is a great bird to see in New Hampshire. Watch for eBird postings across the eastern and northern portions of the United States or Canada, as discussed, and best of luck each autumn.

A special thanks and acknowledgment to David Donsker for his assistance on the taxonomy of this species and the views of various naming authorities, and Steve Mirick for his editing and invaluable documentation of Cave Swallow movements over the years.

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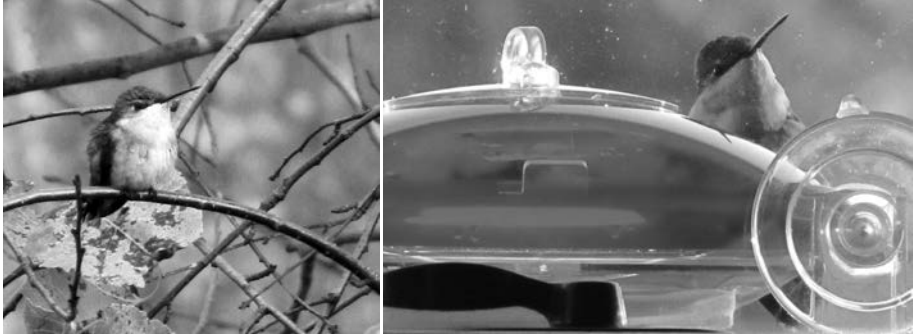
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Zeke Cornell has been birding for four plus decades, but only recently in New Hampshire. He is enjoying becoming acquainted with the nooks and crannies of the Granite State and New England birding.

Backyard Birder

A Special October Hummingbird

by Leslie Bergum



Female Ruby-throated Hummingbird on 10/8/12 at her residence in Bretton Woods, NH. "I love how she strategically perched near the few remaining leaves; so naturally smart," Leslie Bergum, photographer.

The Ruby-throated Hummingbird coming to the feeder on 10/13/12, the next to last day it was seen. The flecks on the window are ice crystals that formed after Leslie opened the window to put the feeder out in the early dawn. Photo by Leslie Bergum.

It is suggested that hummingbird feeders be left up for at least two weeks after the last fall sighting in case there are any stragglers. My last hummingbird sighting for the fall 2012 season was September 19. I intended to take the feeder in the very day my late season visitor happened by. On October 5, 2012, a female Ruby-throated Hummingbird arrived. This beautiful, tiny little bird endured some rough weather during her 10 day stay including winds, driving rains, cold temperatures (a morning low of 25 degrees), and even an afternoon with snow squalls.

The peak autumn colors gave way to leafless trees, weather continued to threaten, and the summits received their first blanket of snow while she was here. Early mornings required that I make sure nectar and feeder ports did not freeze. I did some research about hummingbirds and their migration, shared emails and spoke with several experts who assured me I was not going to keep her around by maintaining a food source. After being here for so many days, we began to think perhaps she had a biological condition that was preventing her from migrating...but I never gave up hope.

I have learned that late season records of hummingbirds in the northeast are more likely to be off-course western species such as Rufous or Allen's Hummingbirds, so a Ruby-throated this late is particularly unusual. I submitted daily posts to eBird (<http://www.ebird.org/nh>), a real-time online checklist program, as well as Journey North, a citizen science, internet-based program to engage students in global study of wildlife migration and seasonal change (<http://www.learner.org/jnorth/humm/fall2012/update101212.html>).

The last time I saw her was Sunday, October 14, before I left for the annual Big Sit event at Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge. I arrived home after dark and my husband, Erik reported seeing her around 5:30 pm. On Monday morning, I woke up at 6:30 am when it was still fairly dark out, took a quick look, but did not see her at the feeder. It was 54 degrees, and knowing the nectar would be far from freezing, I went back to bed for an hour. I was home all day that day and did not see her at the feeder or on her usual perching tree. The high was 64 and it was calm all day, a perfect day to go. We had discussed taking the feeder down at dusk if she had not been spotted. Mid-day I spoke with Rebecca Suomala, Senior Biologist at New Hampshire Audubon, who agreed that would be the best plan. I watched the feeder like a hawk, especially during the last two hours of the day. She did not make an appearance and, when darkness fell, I took the feeder down.

It is my hope she took off that morning and the remainder of her journey south was safe after having spent 10 days resting and refueling under some pretty harsh conditions here at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire. It is likely her destination was southern Mexico or Central America, although I have read that some birds stay in North America along the Gulf Coast or at the tip of Florida and they are usually birds from farther north rather than birds that spent the summer there. I wonder where she went and if she will ever stop by again during future migrations.

With my point-and-shoot camera, I was able to capture some great photos of her. She was an amazing little bird; so cute, so beautiful and so tough!

Leslie Bergum is an avid birder, nature lover and outdoors woman. She is a board member of NH Audubon's Ammonoosuc Chapter and is active with local, regional, and state committees protecting natural resources. Leslie also volunteers for many organizations, agencies, and citizen science projects. As a result of her late season hummingbird experience she will be going to Central America later this year to help with studies of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds on their winter grounds.

Where to Bird

Birding the East Conway Fields

by Bob Crowley

East Conway, New Hampshire and adjacent Fryeburg, Maine offer some excellent open field habitat that is productive for birds in all seasons. The best time to bird these fields is in the fall. During spring and summer the fields are busy with agricultural activities, so it is best to stick to the perimeter of the fields at these times. The fields are heavily worked, so please abide by a few basic birding etiquette guidelines when birding these privately-owned fields. Do not drive into the fields, do not bring dogs, and please give workers and equipment plenty of room. Abiding by these few guidelines will ensure a welcome experience.

The best way to reach the area is by driving Maine Rt. 113 traveling west from Fryeburg, Maine at the junction of Rt. 302. After crossing the Saco River and the Maine/New Hampshire state line, signed and marked to the left (south) by a row of thirty foot high arborvitae, you will come upon the entrance road to the Sherman Farm property on your left. Coming from New Hampshire at the junction of Rt. 16 and Rt. 113 in Conway, go straight through both traffic lights towards Fryeburg, Maine, staying on Rt. 113. At the next set of lights for the junction of Rt. 113 and Rt. 302, turn left on Rt. 302. Then turn right onto East Conway Road (the first right you come to). Stay on East Conway Road until you pass The Sherman Farm Stand. Just beyond their driveway take a right onto River Road. A short distance down the road on the right you will see a farm road. Park just beyond this on the roadside and enter here.

This is a good place to park off the pavement along Route 113 (also known as River Road). Start your walk into the fields along a gated farm road, Entrance Road, (open at times for farm use and when the maze is open) which runs north to south. To your right is a brook that has been straightened and ditched, lined with alder and other deciduous shrubs. This brook drains a farm pond and wet area between the farm road and the dairy barns, greenhouses and farm stand. The corn maze for which Sherman Farm is well-known is on the left along Entrance Road. This is reportedly the best corn maze in New England and draws large crowds of visitors when it is open after Labor Day. You are allowed to pass through the fields to go birding.

The field on the left of Entrance Road often has Canada Goose, Mallard, American Black Duck, Green-winged Teal, and an occasional Northern Pintail when there are puddles and when the fields are fallow. Also, not to be overlooked when there are pools of standing water are shorebird species that occur here during fall migration. These include American Golden-Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Spotted, Solitary, Pectoral, and Least Sandpipers, Greater Yellowlegs and Wilson's Snipe.

As you continue on the farm road, the thicket to your right and the brook can be great places to look for Gray Catbirds, Eastern Towhees, American Robins, blackbirds and various sparrows. Many species of warblers including Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-rumped, Wilson's, and Blackpoll Warblers have been found here during migration.



Green Heron by Debbie LaValley

Canada Geese and several species of waterfowl congregate in the farm pond at the head of the brook. Among them can be Wood Duck, American Wigeon and Blue-winged Teal. American Bittern and Green Heron can be found in the cattails and may breed here. Great Blue Herons are more conspicuous waders when they are seen standing in the pond.

As you proceed farther along the farm road, a swampy area south of the farm pond is another area that is good for sparrows. Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, and Red-winged and Rusty Blackbirds can be found among the many European Starlings in the trees behind the farm pond.

You have been walking more or less from north to south parallel to East Conway Road. The road ends here, and upon turning to the left (southeast) you begin to walk along the first hedgerow. This is my favorite spot in this area. You should make a decision based on the position of the sun as to which side of the hedgerow to walk along (you'll want the sun at your back for best viewing conditions). This area is the place to find the greatest variety of warblers, vireos, kinglets, sparrows and blackbirds in the fall.

Bob Fox found a Blue Grosbeak (rare) here on October 11, 2009 at the spot where there is a gap to the next field. Farther along, where the hedgerow peters out and becomes a weedy open area with shrubs, Tony Vazzano and Bob Ridgely found a LeConte's Sparrow (rare) on October 18, 2008 and two Dickcissels on September 28, 2011.

Continuing straight, you arrive at a section of an oxbow of the Saco River. At the back of the fields is a steep bank where you can look down on the old course of the Saco. The south edge of the fields is a great place for Wood Ducks and dabbling ducks, especially in years when there's a large crop of acorns.

The weeds and shrubs along the banks provide great cover for passerines. I found my life Connecticut Warbler here among the jewelweed, a habitat that is fairly expected for this reclusive species. Continuing along into the southeastern corner of the fields is the asparagus patch. This is where we have found Vesper Sparrow in the fall (although there is some indication they may be breeders here, too) among other more common sparrow species. Nearby, the row of planted cedars on the NH/ME state line would seem to be a good location for roosting owls, although I have never had any luck finding any.

Birding in the area's open fields is best in fall. There is always a chance for an unusual goose such as Snow (annual) and Cackling (one found by Tony Vazzano on October 28, 2009) among the regular flocks of Canada Geese, which can number up to 1,000 in the early spring and again in late fall. During migration, dabbling ducks can sometimes be found in ponded water in the fields. Savannah, Song and Chipping Sparrows, along with Dark-eyed Juncos, are found in the corn stubble after the fall harvest.

Horned Lark and Lapland Longspur have been found here in the winter among the Snow Buntings. American Pipits are here in great numbers (200 or more) during migration, especially in fall.

Raptors include all three falcons: Peregrine Falcon, Merlin and American Kestrel, the last of which can often be observed hunting over the open fields where it breeds. Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks are frequent visitors, patrolling the songbird flocks for prey. Northern Harrier can be found here at any time of the year aside from when there is snow cover, suggesting that a breeding location may be nearby. Red-tailed Hawks and Bald Eagles are year-round and are joined in the warmer months by Turkey Vultures, and Broad-winged and Red-shouldered Hawks. We have not found a Black Vulture or Rough-legged Hawk yet but they are on our wish list.

When planted with hay, the field to the north of River Road has had Pectoral Sandpiper in numbers, and American Kestrels are often found here. The Saco River is located to the north of this field and can be seen from River Road. The sandbars and beaches of this stretch of river are where one can find roosting Canada Geese, gulls,

and several shorebird species, particularly, Spotted Sandpiper. Belted Kingfisher and the colonial Bank Swallow nest in burrows in the high, sandy banks of the river. The swallows sometimes breed in large numbers here. Bald Eagle, Osprey, Common Merganser, and Double-crested Cormorant can all be observed fishing along the river when paddlers don't dominate the river in spring and fall.

Traveling west along River Road, you will come to a section of the old course of the Saco River on the right. Great Blue Heron, Belted Kingfisher, Hooded Merganser, Wood Duck, and Green-winged Teal can be found here as long as there is open water.

If you are approaching the area from Route 302, East Conway Road, Conway your first stop will be the sheep pasture (or paddock) on the east side of East Conway Road. If you are lucky, the Dechambeau Family will be training their champion border shepherds and you will be able to see them in action. Killdeer may be found among the sheep, and Tony Vazzano and Bob Ridgely once found an Upland Sandpiper (rare) calling as they were having lunch by the roadside on September 18, 2009. There is a fire pond on the west side of East Conway Road across from the sheep pasture. A Little Blue Heron (rare) was observed here by Joe Scott on September 1, 2011.

The dairy barn to the side and rear of the farm stand is a good location to look for predators hunting the many Rock Pigeons, House Sparrows, and European Starlings that frequent this area. Also keep your eyes open for an occasional Dickcissel in the House Sparrow flocks. The area around the greenhouse gardens harbor Song, Savannah, Chipping, White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows, all of which are quite common here in the fall, especially if it is weedy in the paths between the rows mulched with plastic.

The Sherman's Farm Stand offers refreshments, including coffee, hot soup, chili and pastries along with their vegetables, meats, and of course, the dairy products they are famous for. Do make it known to the owners and to visitors that you are birders by wearing your binoculars with pride and telling them about what you've seen.

Bob Crowley is a retired Lineman who worked for Massachusetts Electric for forty years. He lives in Chatham, NH and birds daily along the NH /ME border. He got his start in birding on walks in North Andover, MA led by Oscar Root and was lucky enough to be working outside in the Merrimack River Valley every day of his time with Massachusetts Electric.

Fall 2012 New Hampshire Raptor Migration Report

by Iain MacLeod

Pack Monadnock Raptor Migration Observatory

2012 marked the eighth consecutive fall 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 2012 was the most-eloquent Henry Walters, who managed the site Wednesdays through Sundays. Iain MacLeod took over counting duties on Mondays, and Katrina Fenton on Tuesdays. Phil Brown served as the Raptor Observatory Coordinator for New Hampshire Audubon. Full site coverage was maintained daily from 9am to 5pm, from August 23 to November 15, (except in the case of extreme weather) accounting for 600.75 hours of observation time. A total of 12,324 individual migratory raptors were recorded (previous 7-year average = 9,651*). Two new raptor species were recorded, a single Swainson's Hawk and a Rough-legged Hawk. New season-high totals were recorded for seven other species: Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, and Peregrine Falcon.

Turkey Vultures (although, of course, not strictly raptors) are counted here. The counters try to be very conservative in what we count as "migrating" since Turkey Vultures are seen just about every day of the count, moving in all directions. This year, 164 were assumed to be migrating (7-year average = 93).

The **Osprey** count hit a new single-season high this year at 314 (7-year average = 253). In addition to the higher numbers, the lateness of the migration was unprecedented. In October, 133 were counted, including the 2012 single-day peak flight of 36 on October 5 (the 7-year October average is just 45, with the previous high being 69). The **Bald Eagle** total smashed previous single-season highs with 105 (7-year average = 57). Peak flight day was September 12 when 14 Bald Eagles were counted. **Northern Harrier** numbers were up this year with 91 (7-year average = 81). The peak day was October 25 when ten were tallied (mostly lovely males).

The **Sharp-shinned Hawk** count set a new season record with 1,388 (7-year average = 1,117), while **Cooper's Hawk** numbers reached the highest since 2008; 181 Cooper's were counted (7-year average = 151). **Northern Goshawks** had an "up" year with 63 (7-year average = 38).

Red-shouldered Hawks also reached a single-season high with 207, smashing the previous high of 129 (7-year average = 76). **Broad-winged Hawks** couldn't quite match the high of last year, but managed the second highest tally of 8,848 (7-year average = 7,135). The peak day was September 17, when

* 7-year average refers to data from 2005-2011



Golden Eagle by Katrina Fenton
seen on Pack Monadnock,

2,556 Broad-winged Hawks filled the sky (see Table 1). The **Red-tailed Hawk** tally hit an all-time high with 522 (7-year average = 297). Peak flight day was October 24 when 53 were counted streaming out of the chilly northern sky.

The most remarkable sighting of the season was a single **Swainson's Hawk** on September 10, a first for the count and a very rare bird in New Hampshire. The long-awaited first **Rough-legged Hawk** was spotted by Katrina on October 23. Every year since the count started we have hung into the cold November days hoping for this northern visitor.

Seven **Golden Eagles** were seen, which is exactly the seven-year average. **American Kestrels** continued their slight rebound over the last couple of years; 194 were counted this season (7-year average = 162). **Merlins** had a strong year with 108 counted (7-year average = 73), a bounce back from a low year in 2011, after a record year in 2010. **Peregrine Falcons** set a new single-season high of 54 (7-year average = 32). The peak day was October 5 when nine of these fantastic falcons were seen.

Carter Hill Observatory

Carter Hill Observatory logged 417.75 hours between September 1 and November 19 and counted 7,142 raptors. This is the fifth year for this count, which is organized by New Hampshire Audubon. New single-season high counts were set for almost every species. In some cases there were dramatically higher counts. A team of seven volunteers including Henry Walters, Katrina Fenton, Robert Vallieres and Phil Brown provided coverage and shared "coordinator" duties.

Note: the 4-year averages used in this section refers to data from 2008-2011. The count season/hours logged has varied greatly and was much lower in 2008 than in subsequent years.

A **Black Vulture** on September 21 was an exciting observation and a first for this site. A total of 224 **Turkey Vultures** were deemed by the counters to be migrants here this year (4-year average = 206).

The **Osprey** count of 234 smashed the previous high and was well ahead of the 4-year average of 76. As at Pack Monadnock, the Osprey migration period continued much later than usual with 103 counted in October, including the season-high daily count of 50 on October 5. The **Bald Eagle** count also smashed the previous high, almost doubling it. An impressive 152 were counted (4-year average = 46). The **Northern Harrier** count also more than doubled the previous year's high with 86 counted (4-year average of 24).

The **Sharp-shinned Hawk** tally almost tripled the previous single-season high with 1,276 (4-year average = 287). The 207 **Cooper's Hawks** counted was just lower than the previous single season record (4-year average = 140). **Northern Goshawks** also saw a high year. This year's 28 was much higher than the 4-year average of 12.

The count of **Red-shouldered Hawks** increased dramatically with 100 recorded (4-year average = 8) while **Broad-winged Hawks** couldn't quite match the incredible flights seen in 2011; 3,671 were counted with a peak flight day on September 20. The **Red-tailed Hawk** total of 273 smashed the previous high (4-year average of 61).

Two **Golden Eagles** were seen in October. The 305 **American Kestrels** counted represented another single-season high (4-year average of 88), beating the previous

high of 166 by a wide margin. The peak daily count was 45 on October 5. The **Merlin** count of 65 was only slightly above last year's high, but well above the 4-year average of 42. **Peregrine Falcons** also hit a new high water mark with 44 (4-year average = 14).

Little Round Top Migration Observatory

2012 Official Counter: David Lipsy

Little Round Top in Bristol had increased coverage this year after some recent years of intermittent coverage. This site has the longest history of any hawkwatch site in the state thanks to Susan Fogleman's work. It was nice to see David Lipsy pick up the reigns this year (with some help from others) and put in 87 hours of observation from September 1-23 during with a total of 6,092 hawks.

No vultures were recorded as migrating. A peak flight of 25 Osprey occurred on September 17 and the total for the season was 53. There was a good count of 42 **Bald Eagles** although David did speculate on whether some were local residents (several breeding territories are now within "sight" of this site). Ten **Northern Harriers** were tallied. For accipiters, 66 **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, 29 **Cooper's Hawks** and two **Northern Goshawks** were counted.

Only one **Red-shouldered Hawk** and two **Red-tailed Hawks** were counted (not surprising as the majority of these hawks migrate in October), but this site did record an impressive 5,807 **Broad-winged Hawks**. The peak flight day was September 13 when 2,404 were counted.

One **Golden Eagle** was counted on September 19. For falcons, 30 **American Kestrels**, five **Merlins** and four **Peregrine Falcons** were tallied.

Table 1. Broad-winged Hawk fall migration totals and peak counts at Pack Monadnock, NH, 2005-2012. 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
2012	8,848	2,556	09/17

Table 2. Broad-winged Hawk fall migration totals and peak counts at Carter Hill, NH, 2008-2012. 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	2422	891	09/18
2011	10,763	7,212	09/18
2012	3,671	1,130	09/20

Table 3. 2012 Fall raptor migration monitoring data from Pack Monadnock and Carter Hill, NH. Source: HMANNA's HawkCount.org Database

PACK MONADNOCK

	Obs. Hrs.	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK
2012	600.75		164	314	105	91	1388	181	63	209	8848	522	1	7	194
2011	368		127	271	54	58	1124	145	21	43	11831	202	0	9	170
2010	574.75		145	298	85	115	1248	168	66	109	7606	410	0	10	221
2009	420.75		80	182	51	88	1196	133	25	129	4322	421	0	6	135
2008	432.75		47	256	50	87	1189	162	28	67	6835	254	0	3	183
2007	410.25		121	291	53	121	1288	186	49	112	7776	263	0	5	143
2006	379.25		99	257	55	77	1253	213	68	46	7595	407	0	11	201
2005	326.00		29	219	52	24	520	47	11	23	3976	122	0	5	78

CARTER HILL

	Obs. Hrs.	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK
2012	417.75	1	224	234	152	86	1276	207	28	100	3671	273	2	2	305
2011	325.5		149	107	78	32	300	117	15	13	10763	65	0	1	94
2010	302		132	120	60	40	473	211	14	8	2422	72	0	1	166
2009	249		233	38	18	18	251	175	17	6	703	83	1	0	57
2008	202.50		310	36	28	6	125	56	2	3	1904	23	1	0	33

Key to Species Abbreviations in Table 3.

BV	Black Vulture (<i>Coragyps atratus</i>)	CH	Cooper's Hawk (<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>)	GE	Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>)
TV	Turkey Vulture (<i>Cathartes aura</i>)	NG	Northern Goshawk (<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>)	AK	American Kestrel (<i>Falco sparverius</i>)
OS	Osprey (<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>)	RS	Red-shouldered Hawk (<i>Buteo lineatus</i>)	ML	Mertin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)
BE	Bald Eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)	BW	Broad-winged Hawk (<i>Buteo platyterus</i>)	PG	Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)
NH	Northern Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>)	SW	Swainson's Hawk (<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>)	UR	Unidentified Raptor
SS	Sharp-shinned Hawk (<i>Accipiter striatus</i>)	RT	Red-tailed Hawk (<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>)		
		RL	Rough-legged Hawk (<i>Buteo lagopus</i>)		

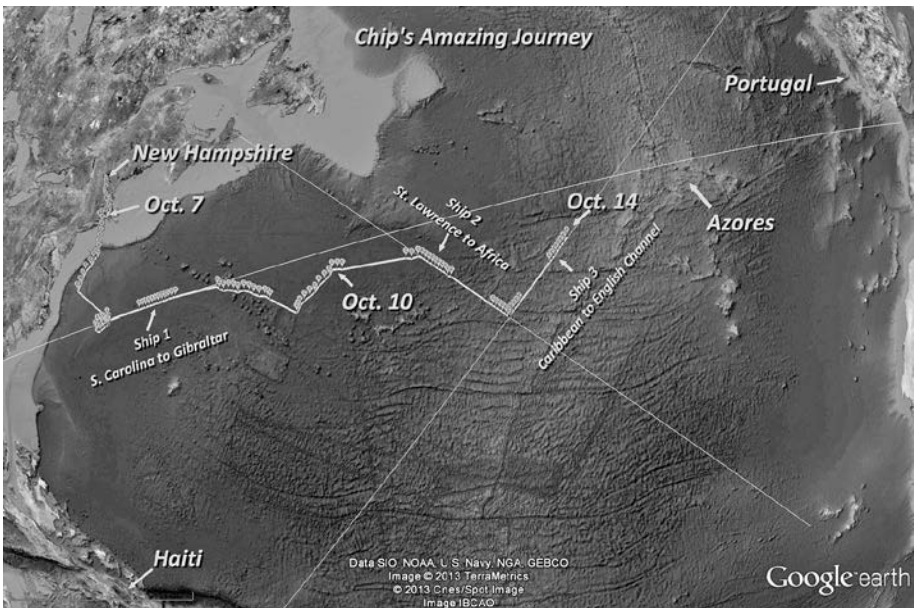
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Iain MacLeod is Executive Director of the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center in Holderness, NH and former Chairman of the Board of the Hawk Migration Association of North America. Iain has birded in New Hampshire for more than 20 years and is a member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

Satellite Tracking Reveals Remarkable Journey of a Young Osprey

by Iain MacLeod



The use of light-weight GPS-enabled satellite transmitters (known as PTTs, Platform Transmitter Terminals) on Ospreys is revealing remarkable insights into their migrations. One juvenile Osprey, nicknamed Chip, from a nest in Tilton, New Hampshire, demonstrated in an extreme way that first migrations of inexperienced birds are filled with peril and bad luck. Here is the story of his ill-fated odyssey.

Chip and his sister Jill were trapped at their nest in Tilton, NH, on August 2, 2012 (under federal and state permits) by my research partner Dr. Rob Bierregaard using a

specially-designed trap, known as a noose carpet, baited with a fish. PTTs weighing 30 grams were fitted like backpacks using teflon straps and both birds were quickly released. Hourly location data from the PTTs is viewable on Google Earth which allowed us to “follow” the birds’ journeys.

After hanging around the nest area for the next couple of weeks, Chip departed the nest for the last time on the morning of August 21 and ended his first day 85 miles away on one of the Boston Harbor Islands. On August 22, he headed south to Rhode Island along the Pettaquamscutt River. Chip remained at this location for the next six weeks.

Chip finally decided to continue his migration on October 7. Unfortunately, he headed directly south, out to sea. He paralleled the coast (125 miles offshore) for the whole day and by 9:00 pm had gone 316 miles. He was straight out from the Virginia Coast. He hit rough weather that first night and either landed on a ship or got blown off course and out to sea. By 9:00 am on October 8, he was lost and spent most of that day flying around in a wide circle some 300 miles offshore. By 7:00 pm, he was on a ship that was on a South Carolina to Gibraltar bearing and rode east likely right through the night of October 9. (Note: we can tell that he was on a boat because of the very direct straight line bearing, constant height above sea level, and speed, which was too slow for an Osprey to fly in a sustained fashion.) He was flying for most of October 10 and 11, likely until 10:00 am on October 12. His straight line distance covered was more than 760 miles . . . east! At 10:00 am on October 12, he was on another ship, likely headed from the St. Lawrence River to Africa. He stayed with that ship until mid-afternoon of October 13 and then skipped to another ship, likely headed from the Caribbean to the English Channel. By now, he was so lost and so far from the east coast of the United States that his only hope was to reach the Azores. Ospreys do occasionally show up on these remote islands, but whether they are lost migrants from North America or Europe has been previously unknown. At this point, he was closer to Portugal than to South America, where he should have been heading.

Alas, Chip did not make it to Europe. On October 14, he left his last ship and flew for a short time before ditching in the sea about 400 miles from the Azores. It would have been a week since he had last eaten in the shallow waters of Rhode Island, so he would have been in bad shape.

Chip’s amazing journey, although harrowing to follow, reveals that a cross-Atlantic journey by a North American Osprey is possible. If Chip had been able to survive for one more day, he would have been within an easy flight of the Azores where he could have refueled and then perhaps made it to Europe. He became, however, one of the 80% of juvenile Ospreys that do not survive their first migrations.

To see all the details of Chip’s journey and follow other tagged New Hampshire Ospreys, go to: http://www.nhnature.org/programs/project_ospreytrack/osprey_maps.php.

Footnote: Chip’s sister, Jill left New Hampshire on September 10 and flew directly to Long Island. She made a picture-perfect flight down the east coast and reached Cuba on September 19. She made a successful crossing of the Caribbean on the night of September 25-26, reaching Colombia. She continued through Colombia into Venezuela and reached northern Brazil on October 4. Her data points from the next three days suggest that she perished; likely killed by a larger predator. Our third

tagged NH Osprey, Art, an adult male from a nest in Bridgewater, showed the advantage of experience. He made a trouble free migration all the way down to east-central Brazil (south of the Amazon). He began his journey back on March 15, 2013. Check the website for further updates.

Say's Phoebe in New Hampshire, A State First

by Chris K. Borg



Say's Phoebe by David Lipsy, 11/19/12, Penacook, NH.

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) is a flycatcher most often associated with open, typically dry, country of the North American West. Preferred habitats include sparsely treed localities where low bushes, fences, buildings, rock faces, and earthen hummocks provide lookout perches. Such habitats span a range of conditions from prairie farms and western ranches to sagebrush plains and arid badlands. Say's Phoebe is principally an aerial insectivore, hawking wild bees and wasps most frequently, but also capturing

flies, beetles, grasshoppers, and moths (including caterpillars).

Intriguingly, the species has one of the broadest latitudinal ranges amongst North American flycatchers, extending from Central Mexico north into the arctic tundra of Alaska and Northwestern Canada. Given its northerly distribution, the species is well adapted to contend with periods of cold weather and the paucity of flying prey by hover-gleaning insects from low vegetation. Northern populations, however, ultimately do migrate, spending their winters in the American Southwest and Central Mexico, where they overlap with non-migratory residents. Say's Phoebe is generally considered a short to medium distance migrant, but those breeding in the Arctic are known to travel well over 2,000 miles to their wintering grounds.

East of the Great Plains, Say's Phoebe is generally considered a vagrant and is accidental, or casual at best, in New England. However, a recent review of eBird (the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's online citizen science reporting network) from the year 2000 through October of 2012 reveals no fewer than 16 distinct records of Say's Phoebe in Massachusetts (8), Maine (5), and Vermont (3). Interestingly, Parker River National Wildlife Refuge (MA) and Monhegan Island (ME) were the only locations among the aforementioned records supporting multiple Say's Phoebe sightings (Parker River NWR three and Monhegan Island four respectfully) likely due to a combination of both geography and the high frequency of birder visitation.



Birders viewing the Say's Phoebe at Morrill's Farm, 11/17/12. Photo by Zeke Cornell.

With so many records in recent history from surrounding states, it was only a matter of time before New Hampshire would itself have a record of Say's Phoebe, the State's first! In fact, many seasoned birders have said the State was overdue. On November 17, 2012 at 9:40 am, while I was birding a cattle pasture at Morrill's Farm in the village of Penacook (Concord), New Hampshire's first Say's Phoebe found me. It was a cool (38°), clear, calm day that would soon turn chaotic as birders from far and wide descended on Morrill's for a glimpse at this rarity. For six ensuing days (through November 23, 2012) this phoebe was observed by well over 25 birders. Many astute observers noted the bird's affinity for roosting amongst livestock on those frigid evenings. Others witnessed the bird hover-gleaning insects after bouts of sunning from low cool morning perches. And some were even afforded views of the phoebe eating a caterpillar. There was also at least one close encounter with a Sharp-shinned Hawk! Shortly after the last recorded sighting at Morrill's Farm, however, a Say's Phoebe was coincidentally observed on November 25 from Basse-Aboujagane in Westmorland County, New Brunswick, Canada. Was this the same bird? Regrettably we'll never know.

C.K. Borg is a conservation biologist and naturalist. He holds a bachelor's of science degree in wildlife biology and a master's of science degree in ecology and evolutionary biology. He is currently a Land Protection Specialist with the Society for the Protection of NH Forests.

Diary of a Drawdown

by Eric Masterson

All photos were taken by Eric Masterson at Powder Mill Pond during the 2012 draw-down.

I spent the first twenty years of my life birding world class shorebird sites in Ireland and now find myself in the Monadnock Region of New Hampshire, almost 80 miles from the ocean. I was forced by circumstance to find a new way to see shorebirds. There is ample evidence to suggest that many of the characteristic species of coastal New England migrate overland in significant numbers. When the appropriate habitat exists in the interior of New Hampshire, they find it every time.

I have grown to love the thrill of finding unusual shorebirds inland and one of the best ways to do so is during a drawdown of a large water body. Perhaps the single most remarkable example of this phenomenon dates to the fall of 1982 when Turkey Pond in Concord was drained to facilitate repairs to the dam. Tudor Richards recorded nineteen species of shorebirds from July through September of that year, including several species seldom recorded away from the coast such as Stilt Sandpiper. Pam Hunt documented a similar event at Mascoma Lake in Enfield from late August through early September of 1999. She recorded nine shorebird species during the drawdown, including a very rare inland record of Baird's Sandpiper. The habitat also offered refuge for a Little Blue Heron, another exceedingly rare inland straggler.

Lake Umbagog has experienced several low water events. Because the ornithological record of the lake dates to the late 19th century era of William Brewster, the shorebird list is more impressive than elsewhere in New Hampshire excepting the immediate coast. More recently, during a low water event in October 2001, Bob Quinn recorded 14 Black-bellied Plovers, six American Golden-Plovers, two White-rumped Sandpipers, and two Long-billed Dowitchers, all where the Androscoggin



Pectoral Sandpiper, 7/28/12.

River exits the lake. The dowitchers in particular were a great rarity away from the coast and there has not been an inland record since.

It was thus with some anticipation that I learned that Powder Mill Pond, just three miles from my home, was to be drained this past summer. The pond is an artificial impoundment created by a dam on the Contoocook River upstream of Bennington and is operated by the nearby Monadnock Paper Mill. The dam was originally built in 1823 to provide power to a gun powder manufacturing facility and now provides a constant water flow to power two hydro stations in Bennington. It was rebuilt in 1939 after suffering extensive damage from the 1938 hurricane. As with all dams in New Hampshire, it is regulated by the Dam Bureau, which issues licenses contingent on appropriate safety and environmental review. The license was set to expire in 2014, so the mill inspected the dam and conducted a series of studies to satisfy relicensing requirements. Damage was detected several feet below the waterline, so the 435 acre pond was drained for much of July through early August in 2012, coincidental with the first half of the fall shorebird migration window which runs from mid-July through late September.

As soon as the shallow lake was drained, extensive mudflats appeared at the southern end where the river enters the pond. I knew to expect the expected – shorebirds that breed inland and occur commonly in freshwater habitats or sod, and several species that prefer saline and coastal habitat during migration but which are not uncommon inland. The former includes familiar birds like Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, and Wilson's Snipe, and the latter includes birds that are almost guaranteed to occur in suitable habitat during the migration window, such as Semipalmated Plover, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Semipalmated Sandpiper, and Least Sandpiper. These two groups together total about ten species, yet more than forty species of shorebirds have been recorded in New Hampshire, and most of them have been documented inland one or more times. In addition to the expected, I was hoping for one or two of the rarities.



Ruddy Turnstone, 8/6/12.



Sanderling, 8/6/12.

Timing and habitat apart, the other major variable that determines shorebird occurrence inland is weather, specifically inclement weather that forces actively migrating shorebirds to ground. I checked the forecast daily to ensure I didn't miss any promising conditions, but being only three miles from my house, I was able to visit the area almost twenty times between July 5 and August 8. I was happy to find a Lesser Yellowlegs with ten Least Sandpipers and twenty-six Killdeer on July 9, a happy but unremarkable occurrence. Because of the scale and quality of the habitat, I expected that birds would linger and numbers would build through the month. By July 18, the species count had grown to six with the arrival of the first Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers, and eight Semipalmated Sandpipers. The latter, though not uncommon, are significantly scarcer inland than Least Sandpiper, which is the default peep (*calidris* species) away from the coast. Throughout most of July, the weather was calm with light and variable winds, but on July 24, a cold airstream from Canada delivered the first exciting payload. I took a canoe out onto the main channel the next day and was delighted to find several hundred shorebirds comprising eleven species, including five



Short-billed Dowitcher, 7/25/12.

Pectoral Sandpipers, and both White-rumped Sandpiper and Short-billed Dowitcher which are rare inland. The Pectoral Sandpipers, although not uncommon from August through October, were particularly early.

The pattern progressed through the end of July, with more shorebirds arriving daily to bring some remarkable peak counts for an inland site, including 100 Killdeer, 22 Solitary Sandpiper, 27 Lesser Yellowlegs, 26 Semipalmated Sandpiper, 98 Least Sandpiper, and 15 Pectoral Sandpiper. At times, the scene was more reminiscent of Hampton Marsh than Hancock, especially from an auditory perspective. Mixed flocks wheeled about above the mudflats uttering trills and whistles incongruous with an evening paddle on a freshwater pond almost 100 miles from the coast.

More unsettled weather in late July downed a couple of migrating Sanderling, the rarest species thus far and number 13 of the “fall” birding season. Toward the end of the month, I got word that the repairs were close to completion and anticipated the end of the birding bonanza. The weather Gods organized one last hurrah, however. The flash boards were reinstalled on Friday August 3, but the drawdown was so extensive that it took several days for the pond to refill. Another low pressure system from the north brought a cold front and precipitation on August 4. It dropped rain to help speed the recovery of the pond, but also a Ruddy Turnstone, the fifth record of this species in the interior of New Hampshire, species number 14 for the fall, and by far the rarest of all at this site.

No matter where you live in the state, shorebirds of many unexpected varieties pass through your airspace in spring and fall, unseen and unheard, except when habitat becomes available. Don't miss the chance if it comes your way. The smart money is on Lake Umbagog; the license for the dam expires in 2014.

Field Notes Fall 2012

Horned Grebe “Staging Area” on Lake Winnepesaukee

by Iain MacLeod

On November 5, 2012, while conducting Bald Eagle monitoring, I located a flock of 12 Horned Grebes, all in non-breeding plumage, in a sheltered cove on Lake Winnepesaukee along the western shore of Moultonborough Neck. The western edge of the cove is defined by several islands, Hull Island, Minister Island (aka Blueberry Island) and Black Cat Island. On November 11, 2012, there were 54 Horned Grebes at the same location and 16 Common Loons were also present. On December 3, 2012 (a windy choppy day), I could only locate 10 grebes, but on December 14 there were 57. On January 6, 2013, I observed just one lone Horned Grebe.

The Moultonborough cove is an area that I have visited regularly each of the last two fall/winter seasons, and I have found Horned Grebes here on previous occasions. In 2011, I observed 36 Horned Grebes in the cove on November 14 and 54 on December 19. As has been typical of recent winters, the lake was completely ice-free. I made

observations at several other locations around Moultonborough Neck on December 19 but found only two more Horned Grebes near Long Island Bridge and five near Geneva Point. On January 2, 2012, when there was still open water, two Horned Grebes were still lingering in the cove. In 2010, I found a flock of 27 Horned Grebes along with 15 Common Loons on November 8.

Inland congregations of Horned Grebes of this magnitude are not common in New Hampshire in the fall and no other such large flocks have been reported in the Lakes Region in recent years. John Williams has had some good counts on Newfound Lake (19 on 12/24/2000, 23 on 11/18/2001, 22 on 11/16/2002, 12 on 11/11/2003). Eric Masterson did a little research (Keith and Fox 2013) and came up with the following inland fall/winter records: Chesterfield - November 10, 1955, 110 birds; Laconia - November 26, 1961, 180 birds; Lake Winnisquam - December 14, 1957, 300+ birds; and Laconia - January 2, 1954 (Christmas Bird Count), 213 birds (CBC records).

It is noteworthy, but perhaps coincidental, that the peak flock size I observed in the Moultonborough cove was fairly consistent. It seems likely that this shallow, sandy bottomed cove provides good feeding and a safe staging area for Horned Grebes migrating from their Arctic breeding grounds to the eastern seaboard where they spend the winter. On no occasion did I see any of the grebes fly and it is possible that this cove serves as a molting area.

Unfortunately, this cove is not viewable by land from a public access point. I watch this area from the dock of a private residence with permission of the owners.

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The Perils of Vagrancy

A Leach's Storm-Petrel was blown off-course by Hurricane Sandy and discovered by Eric Masterson on Lake Massabesic on October 30, 2012. A number of birders quickly went to the lake to see the bird and David Lipsy documented its fate. This photo and the following article illustrate the perils birds face when they are out of their normal range. Ed.



A gull preying the Leach's Storm-Petrel that was blown inland to Lake Massabesic by Hurricane Sandy. Photos by David Lipsy, 10/30/13

Cave Swallow for Lunch

by Rich Frechette

While enjoying great views of White-winged and Red Crossbills at Salisbury Beach State Park on November 25, 2012, Dave Levene and I noticed a NH Birds e-mail post about a Cave Swallow just south of Odiorne Point State Park in Rye, NH. A quick adjustment of our plans found us arriving at the site right at lunch time. A smiling birder pointed us to the bird which was resting on a rock not more than 15 feet from us. We were soon joined by Katie Towler and Jim Sparrell. With the temperature in the twenties and a very brisk, cold wind blowing from the north, a Cave Swallow clearly seemed out of place.



Cave Swallow before it was eaten by the Merlin at Odiorne Point State Park, Rye, NH. Photo by Steve Mirick, 11/25/12.

Cold weather survival is a simple matter of energy balance. By finding enough high quality food to keep the biologic fires stoked, a bird can survive the bitterest cold. Failing to do so means certain death. Unfortunately, Cave Swallows are primarily insectivores. While we did see it catch a single insect, the subfreezing temperatures clearly had challenged this bird. As it perched on the rock, its wings drooped weakly by its sides. When the bird attempted to fly, we saw it lurch upwards and then land with what can best be described as a flop. Absent were the sweeping, acrobatic turns and glides this species is known for. Without a doubt, its energy stores were on empty at this point.

While we were discussing the bird's predicament, there was a sudden, loud scraping sound as a Merlin landed right on top of the swallow. The falcon had come in so fast and so low that none of us saw it until the moment of impact. The Merlin mantled its prize while it appeared to stare us down for several seconds (clearly saying "mine!") before flying to a rock at the water's edge with its meal in its talons. At that moment, Steve and Jane Mirick pulled into the parking area. Steve signaled me with a questioning two thumbs up, to which I responded with a frown and my right thumb up, but the left thumb down. Upon learning of the swallow's fate, Steve launched himself on a rather nimble, but perilous dash across the wet rocks, risking broken ankles and optics in a valiant effort to intervene. The Merlin, however, had other ideas and flew off, still clutching its lunch.

We were all stunned by the swiftness of the attack, and awed by the stealth of the falcon's approach and kill. We all agreed that the swallow had no warning, and felt no pain. We also agreed that a quick death as lunch for a Merlin was far better than slowly succumbing to hypothermia.

Rich Frechette has been birding in the Monadnock Region since 1987. He wishes to thank all those throughout New Hampshire who have so generously shared their enthusiasm, their knowledge, and their sightings over the years. That is what makes birding so enjoyable.

Answer to the Photo Quiz

by David B. Donsker

The fall migration, though certainly less colorful than in spring, is looked for with great anticipation by birders throughout New Hampshire. One of the highlights of this season is the opportunity to witness the southward migration of our many species of shorebirds as they head to southern climes from their boreal breeding grounds. The mudflats, sandy shores, wrack lines, mussel beds and rocky outcroppings along the New Hampshire seacoast attract many species that briefly stop in our state as they bulk up for their arduous migration. This opportunity can be as frustrating as it is exhilarating. The identification of shorebirds presents one of the greatest challenges to birders. For many of us, the confusing number of similar forms, varying only subtly in plumage characteristics, is enough to cause us to abandon all hope. With patience, however, good optics and experience, shorebirds can be tackled and even mastered.

Getting a handle on the size and structure of the bird are the most helpful components of shorebird identification. When judging size, it is best to compare the bird in question with familiar birds around it. Fortunately, many shorebirds favor habitats where other common birds such as gulls, terns or more familiar waders congregate and frequently shorebirds form mixed flocks which allow for easy comparison between species. When considering structure, the major things to notice are bill length, leg length, neck length, and the general form of the head and body. More subtle clues to examine include the exact configuration of the bill (the presence and direction of any curvature; the shape of the bill tip, etc.), the relative length of the wings and the posture of the bird (horizontal or upright).

Plumage characteristics are the next thing to examine. Most shorebirds have three plumages: basic, alternate and juvenile. The most subtle plumage is the basic or non-breeding plumage that the adults retain for most of the year. These plumages are frequently an uninspiring combination of brown or gray above and white below. The alternate or breeding plumage, by contrast, can produce some of the most strikingly handsome patterns to be found in our birds. Rich reddish tones, blacks and whites often predominate. Since this plumage is retained only for a short period in the summer, it can often be confusing when we see a familiar species in this plumage. In the fall, young birds in juvenile plumage follow the adults in migration. Juvenile plumage is fresh and crisp with sharply defined contrasting edges to the feathers of the upper parts and wings. This results in the appearance of bright lines, scales or scallops on the backs and upper wing feathers (scapulars and wing coverts) of most juvenile birds. In the fall, the recognition of juvenile plumage is important to avoid attributing such a bird to an unusual species.

Other plumage characteristics to consider when looking at a particular shorebird are the pattern of markings on the breast and flanks and markings on the head. In flight, notice the color of the rump, tail markings and wing pattern. Leg color can be helpful in identifying shorebirds, but beware! Leg color is frequently variable and is often obscured by mud.

How does any of this apply to our mystery bird? Its coastal habitat, evidenced by the fact that it's standing on a pile of seaweed, helps point us towards shorebird. Its thin bill, well-exposed tibia (upper leg), long tarsus (lower "leg") and long toes confirm that our bird is clearly a shorebird. Since the bird is alone, size cannot be judged accurately, but we get the impression that this is a small to medium-sized species based on the size of the seaweed fragments upon which it is standing. If we look at the structure, we see a relatively short-legged, short-necked, full chested shorebird with a medium length, straight bill that droops slightly towards the tip. The pale edges and dark centers of upper wing feathers, the greater coverts, indicate that this is a juvenile bird. The smudgy gray feathers just showing on the mantle or back suggests that it is just beginning to molt into first basic plumage.* Especially noticeable is the length of the wings. This is a long-winged species. Notice how far the wing tips extend beyond the tertials (the elongated, white-edged wing feathers) and the tip of the tail. This gives this bird a very sharply pointed, elongated rear end. Subtle plumage markings include a pale supercilium or "eyebrow" and faint streaking on the upper breast and along the flanks. The legs and bill are black. The bird holds a generally horizontal posture.

Structure alone immediately eliminates most shorebirds from the range of possibilities. The bird is obviously a sandpiper, not a plover with their short, thick bills. Many other sandpipers are also so completely different in shape that they are immediately excluded from the possibilities. Among these are long-legged, long-necked forms such as the yellowlegs and Willet; long-legged, short-billed species like Buff-breasted Sandpiper; the long-billed, short legged snipe and woodcock and the dowitchers with their long, straight bills. Also excluded are large, unique sandpipers like godwits and curlews with their long upward or downward curved bills.

Most deserving of our consideration are the typical sandpipers of the genus *Calidris*. These are all small to medium-sized species, and the ones that generally cause the greatest confusion in shorebird identification. Some are unlike our bird based on structure alone. Dunlin and Curlew Sandpipers both have long, gradually decurved, rather than the straight bill of our quiz bird. Stilt Sandpipers also have a gently decurved bill and, in addition, has long, yellow legs. Purple Sandpiper is another yellow-legged member of the group and is also much darker and chunkier than our bird with a bill that is generally yellow at the base.

The Sanderling is straighter-billed than our quiz bird and is very white in the face and underparts in juvenile plumage with no streaking on the breast or flanks. In juvenile plumage, it has a striking, black-and-white, spangled back that contrasts with its pure white underparts. Pectoral Sandpiper has a medium length bill and is also a relatively long-winged species. It, however, has a densely streaked breast with an abrupt lower border. Significantly, unlike our bird it also has yellowish legs.

Red Knot is similar to this bird in that it is fairly long-winged (though not as long as this bird) and has markings on the flanks. Red Knot, however, has a relatively short, straight, finely pointed bill unlike the droopy bill of this bird. In juvenile plumage, its

*This plumage follows their juvenile plumage and is acquired primarily on the wintering grounds of South American-wintering species. Some head and body feathers of this plumage are acquired early and can be seen in New Hampshire.

legs are yellow-olive, not black and its wing coverts are not broadly edged white. Rather they are finely fringed with delicate white and black lines. The flanks are barred, not streaked.

That leaves the smallest members of the genus, the “peeps” (Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Baird’s Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper). Least Sandpiper, the smallest of the peeps, shares with this bird the slightly drooped bill. It is rather like a miniature version of Pectoral Sandpiper, however, with a darkish breast and pale yellowish or greenish yellow legs. Baird’s Sandpiper is similar in size and structure sharing the long-winged, pointed-rear profile of this bird and it also has a black bill and legs. Its bill, however, is straighter, more sharply pointed and proportionally shorter, lacking the droop at the tip. It has a much more prominently marked breast which produces a diffuse breast band. Its flanks are unstreaked and it lacks such a distinct eyebrow. In juvenile plumage, its back looks distinctly scaled which is quite different from the undistinguished pattern of the mantle of the featured bird.

Semipalmated Sandpiper and Western Sandpiper share many things in common with this individual. Both have black bills and legs. Juvenile Semipalmated Sandpiper also has a fairly prominent supercilium and, as with this bird, has a “capped” appearance. Like this bird it has dark lores, the space between the eye and the base of the bill. The bill of the typical Semipalmated Sandpiper, however, is shorter and straighter and slightly expanded at the tip. The bill of this bird is more similar to that of Western Sandpiper in that it droops slightly and is finer at the tip. Typical juvenile Western Sandpiper has a generally paler face, particularly so on the lower cheeks. Its eyebrow is much less distinct and the dark lores are thinner. Semipalmated Sandpiper has unstreaked flanks. Western Sandpiper may have some fine flank streaking, but generally it is not as prominent as in this bird. More importantly the wing structure of these two sandpipers is completely different from our featured bird. Semipalmated and Western Sandpiper are both short-winged species. In these species, the wings do not extend beyond the tail tip. Neither species has such significantly elongated wings. The clincher in this excellent photograph is that the toes of this individual lack the partial webbing (semipalmation) that are characteristic of both Semipalmated Sandpiper and Western Sandpiper.

This combination of features in a peep: markedly elongated wings, strong supercilium, streaked flanks and straight, finely tipped, black bill slightly drooped at the tip are characteristic of White-rumped Sandpiper. Of course, White-rumped Sandpiper is the only peep with a pure white, unmarked rump. Unfortunately, this field mark is seen best when the bird is in flight. The beauty of all of this is that you don’t have to see the rump to make the proper identification.

White-rumped Sandpiper is a fairly common fall migrant in New Hampshire as it moves down the Atlantic Coast to its wintering grounds in southern Brazil, Chile and Argentina. Its return trip to its breeding grounds of the high arctic in Alaska and Canada takes it through the Central flyway of the Great Plains so it is not to be expected in our state in the spring except as a vagrant. During fall migration, it frequently associates with other peeps, particularly Semipalmated Sandpiper on muddy shores and tidal flats. Its long wings and full chest are reflections of its migratory path

which is one of the longest taken by any species in the Western Hemisphere. Longer, pointed wings create less drag and are often characteristic of long-distance migrants of a variety of bird species. The full chest is associated with the larger flight muscles and more prominent breast bones that are needed for these longer flights.

This juvenile White-rumped Sandpiper was photographed by Len Medlock at Ragged Neck, Rye Harbor State Park, NH on October 25, 2009.

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White-rumped Sandpiper by Lauren Kras, 9/24/12, Jenness Beach, Rye, NH.

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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Fall 2012 Highlights



Clockwise from top left:

American White Pelican by Steve Mirick, 11/3/12, Rye, NH.

Cave Swallow by Jason Lambert, 11/25/12, Odiorne Point SP, Rye, NH.

Marbled Godwit by Len Medlock, 9/8/12, Hampton Harbor from the Yankee Fisherman's Coop., Seabrook, NH.

Cory's Shearwater (left) and Great Shearwater by Benjamin Griffith, 9/3/12, Jeffreys Ledge, NH.



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