

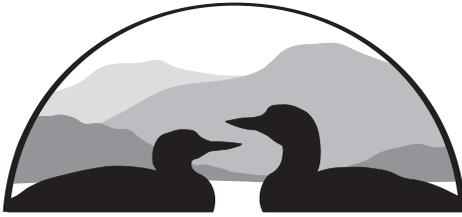
# New Hampshire Bird Records



**Spring 2012**

**Vol. 31, No. 1**

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## New Hampshire Bird Records

### Volume 31, Number 1

### Spring 2012

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*Cover Photo: Summer Tanager by Lauren Kras, 5/5/12, Odiorne Point SP, Rye, NH.*

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IN APPRECIATION OF

*Pat Niswander*



*Pat Niswander in front of a polar bear trap in Churchill, Manitoba, 2012. Photo by Bob Quinn.*

This issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* with its color cover is sponsored by the Concord Bird and Wildflower Club, and the New Hampshire Audubon Nature Store and Staff in recognition of Pat Niswander’s long-time contributions to both organizations. Pat is a long-time member and President of the Concord Bird and Wildflower Club, and has led many field trips. She has been volunteering in the NH Audubon Nature Store for more than 25 years and is a long-time contributor to *New Hampshire Bird Records*. We are delighted to honor Pat with this issue.

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## From the Editor

by Rebecca Suomala

### Guest Editor, Iain MacLeod

We very much appreciate Iain MacLeod's willingness to step in as Guest Co-Editor for the Spring 2012 season. Iain is well-known in New Hampshire's birding community and is a member of the New Hampshire Bird Records' Editorial Team. He has been birding in New Hampshire for more than 24 years and brings this experience to the editor position. Thank You, Iain. Former Spring Editors, Ben Griffith and Lauren Kras have taken over the mantle of Fall Editor and we look forward to welcoming them in this role.

### Welcome New Subscribers

The Spring 2012 issue is the beginning of *New Hampshire Bird Records'* subscription year and we welcome new subscribers. If you have not yet renewed, now is the time to make sure your subscription continues uninterrupted. You can renew by mail, on-line at [www.nhbirdrecords.org](http://www.nhbirdrecords.org), or by phone with a credit card (call NH Audubon's Membership Department at 603-224-9909).

## Blackbird's Return

by David Killam

In an alder by the railroad track  
The redwing tells us he is back.  
He flicks his tail and sings his song  
As if to goad the spring along.  
He flashes crimson epaulets  
As snow fed fresh spring rivulets  
Course o'er the landscape 'neath his gaze  
And promise warmer summer days.  
But even so our Northern clime  
Insists that spring must take her time,  
So I'll not yet dispense with jacket  
In spite of Mr. Redwing's racket.

*Dave Killam is a poet, a musician and a long time birder from Columbia, NH.*



*Red-winged Blackbird  
by Debbie LaValley.*

## Photo Quiz



### Can You Identify This Bird?

Answer on page 62.  
Photo by Len Medlock.

## 2012 Goodhue-Elkins Award



Roger Lawrence with the 2012 Goodhue-Elkins Award.  
Photo by Jay Barry.

*As presented by Jay Barry at the New Hampshire Audubon Annual Meeting, September 29, 2012*

**T**he Goodhue-Elkins Award is given annually by New Hampshire Audubon to recognize an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the study of New Hampshire birds. This award is named for Charles Goodhue, one of the state's first great birders, and Kimball Elkins, who remains the model for critical observation and insightful record keeping.

This year's recipient of the Goodhue-Elkins Award is Roger Lawrence. I think Kimball would be very happy that his old friend is receiving this award.

At the age of fifteen Roger earned his scout merit badge in birdwatching. Seventy-seven years later Roger is still lifting his binoculars to the sky as often as he can.

Roger was a professor of biology at St. Anselm College in Manchester for many years. Although most of his courses revolved around general biology, his great passion was, and still is, birding. Roger devoted his time and effort to New Hampshire Audubon for many years, primarily from the mid-1950s to the mid-1980s. He was a director on the New Hampshire Audubon Board from 1963-1969. He was an observer on the Walpole Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) route from 1966 (the first year that BBS routes were initiated in New Hampshire) to 1973. Roger was an active reporter of bird sightings to New Hampshire Audubon and contributed data to the *New Hampshire Audubon Quarterly* from the 1960s to the 1980s. He led many field trips for New Hampshire Audubon in the 1960s and 1970s. Roger was among a core group of field trip leaders before the era of chapters began that included Kimball Elkins, Tudor Richards, Art Borrer, Dennis Abbott, Davis Finch, Betty and Leon Phinney and Bob Rathbone. He established the Nashua-Hollis Christmas Bird Count (CBC) and was a regular on the Seacoast CBC for many years.

In addition to this, Roger also took time for scientific pursuits. For many years during the 1960s through the 1980s, he kept detailed, meticulous records on first arrival dates for spring migrants. This may represent the first "phenology" study in New Hampshire. In 1966, Roger obtained a bird banding permit from the US Fish & Wildlife Service and banded migrants in the spring and fall at his farm in Merrimack. There was an occasional trip to the wastewater treatment plant to band shorebirds. In winter, his traps would be filled with Evening Grosbeaks, at a time when they were still a regular visitor to southern New Hampshire.

His contributions to New Hampshire Audubon and his personal research activities are only part of Roger's story. His real influence is shown by the many hundreds of students, young and old, that he brought into the birding and natural history community. He has unbridled enthusiasm, passion, and joy when sharing his knowledge and bringing the world of birding to others. As a teacher, you just don't get much better.

It was a warm, sunny day in late April 1960 when an eleven-year-old boy who had always been interested in Natural History decided to go on a "birding" field trip to Gree-

ley Park in Nashua. The first thing that happened was that a man, among the twenty or so people that gathered for the trip came over with a big smile and said, "welcome to the group." That was the first time I met Roger Lawrence. He made sure to stick close by me for the rest of the day, pointing out identification cues for all the species we saw and heard (the Rufous-sided Towhee sounds like "Drink Your Tea"). I was introduced to the importance of keeping a field notebook and keeping accurate data. From that point on, I attended many New Hampshire Audubon field trips and CBCs with Roger. I well remember being at the end of Great Boars Head at 6:00 am in sub-zero wind chills looking for sea ducks. As time went on, I graduated from the University of New Hampshire with a degree in zoology under Art Borrer and then began a career teaching middle school science in Bedford for twenty-eight years. After a suggestion from Roger, we established a hawkwatch for 18 years from 1973-1990.

Little did I know that a lifetime passion would begin that sunny April morning over fifty years ago when a total stranger reached out his hand and said, "welcome to the group." I am sure there are many others out there with stories similar to mine. Roger was always encouraging young people and his students at St. Anselm College to go birding and study ornithology.

After retirement from St. Anselm, Roger, not content to sit at home, brought his passion for birding to younger students. He has been conducting a hawkwatch for the past twenty-five years with elementary students at the Reeds Ferry School in Merrimack. Cindy Janiak, a fourth grade teacher at the school had this to say about Roger:

*"He's introduced an entire generation to birdwatching. He loves the kids.*

*He's very engaging. He teaches them to be patient and observe things."*

The students, as they scanned the skies for kettles of Broad-winged Hawks, said they enjoyed being out in nature and learning from Professor Lawrence, as they call him. When a student asked him why he enjoys birding so much, his reply was, "You never know what's coming next." Asked if he would be back again next year, Roger replied, "If I feel up to it, I'll be here."

Roger lights up the world wherever he goes. At the end of the day when we look back, it is the lives of others that we have influenced that is really important. There are so many lives he has influenced, and so many that are grateful that he was their mentor, their teacher, their friend. So it is an honor and great pleasure for New Hampshire Audubon to award Roger Lawrence with the 2012 Goodhue-Elkins Award.

*Roger Lawrence was unable to attend the meeting to receive the award, but sent the following in acceptance.*

*"I am extremely grateful for the recognition that New Hampshire Audubon has rendered me. It is very pleasing to be recognized by one's peers for my birding activities. It is with pleasure that I look back at the many birdwatching activities I have participated in, yet it is with sadness that my age has placed limitations on active birdwatching. My relationship with New Hampshire Audubon has been long and active, and I look back at the pleasant contacts with many departed members of the Society and some still active in the Society. I wish the Society and its members great birding and a large life bird list."*

Roger W. Lawrence

## Spring Season

**March 1, 2012 through May 31, 2012**

by Eric Masterson (*Waterfowl through Alcids*)  
and Guest Editor, Iain MacLeod (*Doves through Finches*)

**S**pring 2012 in New Hampshire was largely unremarkable for birds, with few avian highlights, but not so the weather, which was warmer and drier than average. The effect on migration was most pronounced in March. The mercury hit 84 degrees Fahrenheit on March 22 and was nine degrees above average for the month. The unseasonal warmth coupled with below average precipitation meant that there was very little snow cover remaining beyond the first week of the month. Ice out on Lake Winnepesaukee was declared on March 23, beating the previous record set in 2010 by one day. These factors facilitated early waterfowl migration (see Figure 1). Waterfowl highlights included five **Greater White-fronted Geese**, the state's second spring record for **Barnacle Goose** and fourth record overall, two **Eurasian Wigeon**, and singles of Canvasback, Redhead, **King Eider**, and Harlequin Duck.



*Sandhill Crane* by Mikie Thompson, 5/24/12, Alexandria, NH.

Several neotropical migrants that overwintered in the state survived through the mild spring, including the Derry Ovenbird (last seen April 14) and the much-viewed Cape May Warbler at Odiorne Point State Park in Rye that was last seen on March 24. Sandhill Crane sightings continued to increase, and the sixteen birds documented this spring constitute a new high water mark. Breeding has been confirmed recently in all adjacent states, but not in New Hampshire.... yet!

The above average warmth continued through April and May with no significant fallouts or storms. The calm spring weather helped nesting Bald Eagles whose young typically hatch in April. Other raptors likely benefitted from the spring weather too, including Ospreys, which had a very productive breeding season statewide. You can read more about the Osprey nesting season in the upcoming Summer issue.

Rarity highlights included two **Least Bitterns**, a Little Blue Heron, two **Cattle Egrets**, six Black Vultures, two **Clapper Rails**, and singles of **American Oystercatcher**, and Little Gull. Rare passerines included two **Acadian Flycatchers**, a **Blue Grosbeak**, and a **Varied Thrush**.



Eric Masterson

# Waterfowl through Acids

by Eric Masterson

## Waterfowl

In this, my second season as Spring Editor, I am struck by the stark difference twelve months can bring. Every year the race north begins about mid-March, but in normal years, sufficient ice and snow remains to slow down early progress. This year the ponds were open and the fields bare throughout southern New Hampshire, and the birds, taking this as a fair weather signal, passed through the state three weeks early, and in many cases did not stop. Figure 1 tabulates the dates of peak waterfowl counts for several migratory species during the last ten years. Numbers were lower than usual, with peak counts of Snow Goose (9), Wood Duck (63), American Wigeon (22), American Black Duck (160), and Green-winged Teal (82), all well below normal.

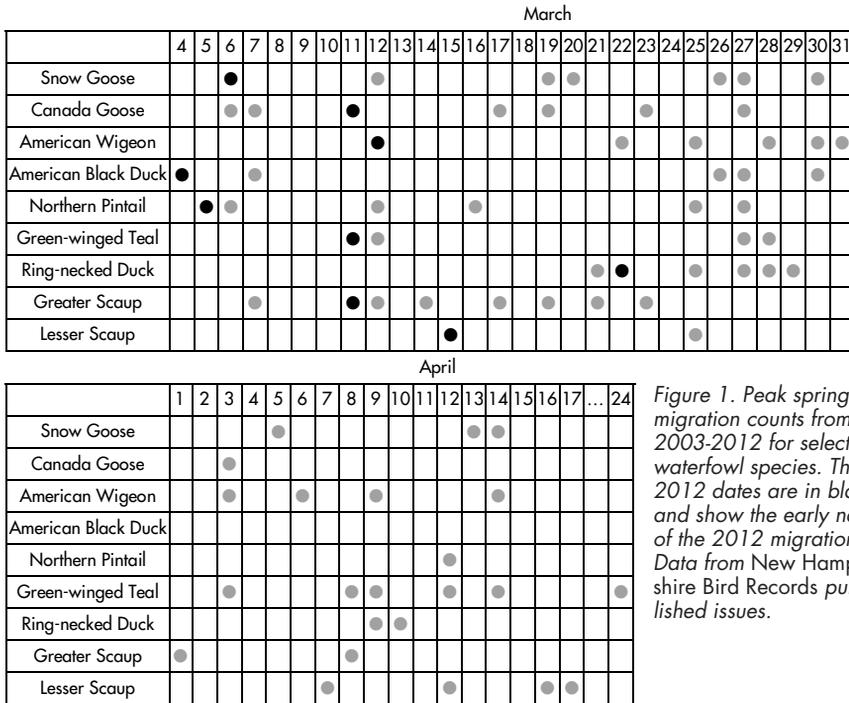


Figure 1. Peak spring migration counts from 2003-2012 for select waterfowl species. The 2012 dates are in black and show the early nature of the 2012 migration. Data from New Hampshire Bird Records published issues.

Rare species were well represented, including at least five **Greater White-fronted Geese** seen at various locations in southern New Hampshire. The state's second **Barnacle Goose** of the year (the first was in winter) and fourth state record overall stopped at Hinsdale for several days beginning March 5. Twelve Gadwall is about



*Greater White-fronted Goose by Scott Young, 3/9/12, Meaderboro Rd., Farmington, NH.*

average, but a group of four at Morrill's Farm in Penacook on March 15 was a notable record for the Merrimack River Valley, where they are rarer than at other traditional stops. Great Bay had a high count of two **Eurasian Wigeon** on March 11. Northern Shoveler was well represented, with four on Squam Lake on March 23, five on the Connecticut River at Hinsdale on April 23, and six at Airport Marsh in Whitefield on May 18. The season's only Canvas-back visited Powwow Pond on March

8. This location also held the state high count of 11 Northern Pintail on March 5. A single Redhead visited Exeter Wastewater Treatment Plant March 24-26, and the same location continued its recent reputation as one of the top sites for Lesser Scaup in the state; 45 individuals were tallied here on March 15.

The most spectacular waterbird of the season was the stunning male **King Eider** that graced Star Island May 20-26. Not too far behind in the rarity stakes, a drake Harlequin Duck visited Little Boars Head, North Hampton on March 6.

Migration of coastal waterfowl through interior New Hampshire was also modest, and included 69 White-winged Scoters on Lake Massabesic on May 15 and nine individual Red-breasted Mergansers, three of which stopped at Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge on May 12 and several others which were seen at traditional sites in southwest New Hampshire. A large concentration of 354 Common Mergansers at Halfmoon Lake in Barnstead on March 20 was impressive. In contrast, it was a fairly poor spring for Ruddy Duck, with only five individuals recorded, including three on Turtle Pond March 13.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Greater White-fronted Goose</b>				
03/05	1	Hinsdale	setbacks	K. Klapper, C. Newton
03/09	2	Rochester	Meaderboro Rd.	S. Young
03/11	2	Charlestown	Connecticut R.	E. Masterson
03/14	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Goodwin Pt.	P. Hunt, C. Borg, D. Lania
03/14	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	D. Lania, Z. Cornell
<b>Snow Goose</b>				
03/08	6	E. Kingston	Bodwell Farm	L. Kras, B. Griffith
03/31	9	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park	K. Barnes
<b>Brant</b>				
03/21	40	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	J. Nadeau
05/14	35	Hinsdale	setbacks	H. Galbraith
05/15	67	Rye	Rye Ledge	P. Miliotis
05/17	88		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
<b>Barnacle Goose</b>				
03/05	1	Hinsdale	setbacks	K. Klapper, C. Newton

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Canada Goose</b>				
03/08	350	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	D. Howe
03/08	1000	E. Kingston	Bodwell Farm	B. Griffith, L. Kras
03/10	600	Charlestown	Rt. 12/12A	D. Clark, T. Schottland, H. Galbraith
03/11	760	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Goodwin Pt.	P. Hunt, D. Howe
03/11	2000	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore/Tecee)	S. Young
03/18	200	Cornish	Rt. 12A	D. Doubleday
<b>Wood Duck</b>				
03/02	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
03/04	2	Concord	Fort Eddy boat launch	D. Howe
03/04	3	Nashua	Fields Grove	C. Sheridan
03/07	7	Hinsdale	Vernon Dam	P. Brown, H. Walters
03/16	26	Walpole	Malnati Farm	A. Burnett
03/24	7	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	J. Scott, B. Crowley
03/25	28	Nashua	Fields Grove	C. Sheridan
03/29	34	Derry	WTP	S. Mirick
03/30	22	Boscawen	Merrimack R., Big Bend	R. Quinn
04/05	30	Kensington	South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
05/01	63	Derry	WTP	S. Mirick
<b>Gadwall</b>				
03/08	1	E. Kingston	Bodwell Farm	B. Griffith, L. Kras
03/11	1	Charlestown	Rt. 12	E. Masterson
03/11	2	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore/Tecee)	S. Young
03/15	4	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Goodwin Pt.	Z. Cornell
03/17	2	Hancock	Powder Mill Pond	P. Brown
03/24	2	Exeter	WTP	S. Mirick
<b>Eurasian Wigeon</b>				
03/11	2	Greenland	Sunset Farm	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert
<b>American Wigeon</b>				
03/10	4	Boscawen	Merrimack R., Big Bend	D. LaValley
03/10	3	Charlestown	Rt. 12/12A	D. Clark, T. Schottland, H. Galbraith
03/12	22	Greenland	Sunset Farm	L. Medlock
03/18	3	Cornish	Rt. 12A	D. Doubleday
03/19	2	Hanover	Mink Brook Point at Connecticut R.	C. Crawford, W. Cripps
03/25	11	E. Kingston	Bodwell Farm	L. Medlock
<b>American Black Duck</b>				
03/04	160	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore/Tecee)	S. Mirick
03/08	100	E. Kingston	Bodwell Farm	B. Griffith, L. Kras
03/28	8	Wentworth	Lower Baker Pond	J. Williams
<b>Mallard</b>				
03/04	562	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore/Tecee)	S. Mirick
03/07	250	Hinsdale	Connecticut R.	D. Clark, J. Russo
03/08	300	Exeter	WTP	L. Kras, B. Griffith
03/11	300	E. Kingston	Bodwell Farm	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert
<b>American Black Duck/Mallard</b>				
03/02	360	Concord	Thirty Pines area, Penacook	P. Hunt

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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**Blue-winged Teal**

04/14	1	Newfields	Rockingham County Rail Trail pond	D. Franceschini
05/05	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Suomala, D. LaValley
05/07	5	Rochester	WTP	D. Hubbard
05/08	2	Hinsdale	setbacks	H. Galbraith
05/16	2	Lyme	River Rd. & N. Thetford Rd.	B. Allison



*Blue-winged Teal by Debbie LaValley, 5/5/12, with Canada Geese at Horseshoe Pond, Concord, NH.*



*Northern Shoveler by Len Medlock, 3/25/12, Exeter WTP, NH.*

**Northern Shoveler**

03/10	2	Charlestown	Rt. 12/12A	D. Clark, T. Schottland, H. Galbraith
03/11	2	Exeter	WTP	J. Lambert, B. Griffith
03/23	4	Holderness	Cams Cove, Squam L.	I. MacLeod
03/26	4	Exeter	WTP	Z. Cornell, M. Thompson
03/31	2	Charlestown	Wetherby Rd. fields	G. Tillman, E. Masterson
04/23	5	Hinsdale	setbacks	H. Galbraith
05/18	6	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	M. Cahill

**Northern Pintail**

03/05	11	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick
03/08	4	Boscawen	Merrimack R., Big Bend	R. Quinn
03/08	8	Greenland	Sunset Farm	L. Kras, B. Griffith

**Green-winged Teal**

03/09	44	E. Kingston	Bodwell Farm	S. Mirick
03/11	82	E. Kingston	Bodwell Farm	J. Lambert, B. Griffith, L. Kras
04/22	25	Hinsdale	setbacks	H. Galbraith

**Canvasback**

03/08	1	Kingston	Powwow Pond	L. Kras, B. Griffith
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*Female Redhead (right) by Len Medlock, 3/25/12, Exeter WTP, NH.*

**Redhead**

03/24	1	Exeter	WTP	S. Mirick
03/26	1	Exeter	WTP	Z. Cornell

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Ring-necked Duck</b>				
03/09	60	Barrington	Swains Lake	S. Young
03/09	107	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick
03/16	50	Concord	Turtle Pond	R. Quinn
03/17	65	Concord	Snow Pond	R. Suomala
03/17	67	Newington	Great Bay NWR	N. & I. Gibb
03/18	117	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	L. Medlock
03/21	162	Northwood	Jeness Pond	J. Lambert
03/24	21	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	J. Scott, B. Crowley
03/29	55	Salem	World End Pond	S. Mirick
<b>Greater Scaup</b>				
03/11	1500	Greenland	Sunset Farm	J. Lambert, B. Griffith, L. Kras
03/16	8	Concord	Penacook Lake (Long Pond)	R. Quinn, K. Murray
03/24	500	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
04/07	213	Greenland	Sunset Farm	S. Mirick
05/06	1	Lebanon	Boston Lot Lake	P. LaBelle
<b>Lesser Scaup</b>				
03/03	34	Exeter	WTP	J. Lambert
03/15	45	Exeter	WTP	P. Brown
04/18	13	Exeter	WTP	P. Miliotis
05/04	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR, Cherry Pond	R. Quinn, L. LaPierre
05/31	2	Woodstock	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, Mirror L.	A. Meyer
<b>King Eider</b>				
05/20	1	Rye	Isles of Shoals, Star Is.	J. Lambert, E. Masterson, et al.
05/26	1	Rye	Isles of Shoals, White Is.	B. Fogarty, T. Pegan, S. MacLean, T. Thai
<b>Harlequin Duck</b>				
04/06	1	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	L. Kras
<b>Surf Scoter</b>				
03/07	70		NH coast	S. Eisenhauer
05/05	120		NH coast	S. Mirick
<b>White-winged Scoter</b>				
05/08	6	Hinsdale	setbacks	H. Galbraith
05/13	2	Dummer	Pontook Reservoir	E. Masterson
05/15	69	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	E. Masterson
05/22	179		NH coast	S. Mirick
05/25	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young, D. Hubbard
<b>Black Scoter</b>				
05/05	100	Hampton	Bicentennial Park	S. Mirick



*Long-tailed Duck by John Williams, 5/5/12, Hampton Beach, NH.*

### **Long-tailed Duck**

03/25	4	Meredith	Lake Waukewan	I. MacLeod
05/05	119		NH coast	S. Mirick

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Bufflehead</b>				
03/14	60	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	A. Aldrich, R. Watson, D. Doubleday
03/31	18	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	A. Burnett
04/01	13	Exeter	WTP	P. Miliotis
04/08	12	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
<b>Barrow's Goldeneye</b>				
03/04	1	Hampton	Great Boars Head	S. Mirick, K. Mueller
<b>Hooded Merganser</b>				
03/07	2	Cambridge		R. Hunt
<b>Common Merganser</b>				
03/20	354	Barnstead	Halfmoon Lake	J. Lambert
03/21	8	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	J. Nadeau

*Red-breasted Merganser*  
by Len Medlock,  
5/12/12, Pondicherry  
NWR, Jefferson, NH.



### **Red-breasted Merganser**

04/01	134	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop	S. Mirick
04/22	2	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson
04/27	2	Swanzy	Dillant-Hopkins Airport	P. Brown
05/01	2	Hinsdale	setbacks	H. Galbraith
05/12	3	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	D. Govatski, P. Brown, et al.

### **Ruddy Duck**

03/10	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	B. Heitzman, M. Oliver, P. Ackerson, S. Eisenhauer
03/13	3	Concord	Turtle Pond	R. Suomala
04/28	1	Exeter	WTP	P. Miliotis, J. Lambert

## **Grouse through Cranes**

**A** high of 45 Common Loons on Lake Massabesic in Auburn on May 1 was a notable count for the location even though it is an established breeding site. Similarly, the flock of 14 Red-necked Grebes on the Connecticut River at Hinsdale was significant for an inland site.

Two Manx Shearwaters were seen flying inside Star Island on May 8, the only record for the season. Surrey Lane marsh in Durham hosted **Least Bittern** for the second successive year, with two birds on May 19. A Little Blue Heron in Rye on May 13 was the sole record for the season. Two **Cattle Egrets** were seen, one at Exeter Wastewater Treatment Plant on May 12 and another in the lot of a car dealership in Portsmouth on May 23, which was photographed adorning the hood of a brand new car. Though the species is more often associated with coastal New Hampshire, three



*Mississippi Kite by Lauren Kras, 5/30/12, Newmarket, NH.*

of the six Black-crowned Night-Herons were recorded at inland sites.

Six Black Vultures was about normal, though what constitutes normal anymore is open to debate as several bird species, including this one, undergo dramatic range adjustments. Then there was the return of the expected Mississippi Kites to Newmarket, where the first one was seen on May 13 along the now famous Gonet Road. A reasonably good spring for migrant Rough-legged Hawks included individuals recorded in Portsmouth, Holderness, Center Harbor, and Freedom, though none from the Connecticut River valley. It was also a good spring for Golden Eagles, which are likely passing

through New Hampshire on their way to breeding grounds in Quebec. Iain MacLeod recorded both a Rough-legged Hawk and a Golden Eagle on March 10 in Holderness, proving that hawkwatching can also be rewarding in spring.

Massachusetts is at the northern limit for **Clapper Rail**, so it is noteworthy that two birds were recorded from the north end of Hampton Marsh for the second successive year. There is only one other spring record for the species during the last twenty years (2007 from the same section of marsh) so it will be worth watching to see if they persist in coming years. There were several records of early Virginia Rails, including two birds on March 23 from Lovering Road in North Hampton. In any other year, this would rank as an extremely early arrival date for the species, but the effects of the extremely mild winter cannot be discounted and several of the early birds may have been winter holdouts.

Like several other expansionary species that are becoming regular fixtures of New Hampshire's spring birding calendar, Sandhill Crane once again is featured, with at least nine records involving sixteen birds in all. One hopes that this presages a first New Hampshire breeding record in the near future.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Spruce Grouse</b>				
05/13	1	Errol	Mollidgewock R. drainage, Umbagog NWR	E. Masterson
05/26	1	Benton	Mt. Moosilauke	C. Blackington
05/27		Pittsburg	East Inlet	B. Griffith, L. Kras
05/27		Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	L. Kras, et al.
05/27		Stewartstown	Hurlburt Swamp	B. Griffith, L. Kras
<b>Common Loon</b>				
03/25	1	Holderness	Holderness Landing	I. MacLeod
05/01	45	Auburn	Lake Massabesic	S. Mirick
05/02	14	Hinsdale	setbacks	H. Galbraith
<b>Pied-billed Grebe</b>				
03/13	1	Hillsborough	Contoocook R.	P. Brown
03/13	1	Kingston	Powwow Pond	S. Mirick
03/18	1	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	L. Medlock

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Pied-billed Grebe—continued</b>				
03/29	6	Salem	World End Pond	S. Mirick
04/08	3	Rye	Eel Pond	M. Thompson
<b>Horned Grebe</b>				
03/31	4	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson
04/08	157		NH coast	J. Lambert
05/03	6	Hinsdale	setbacks	H. Galbraith
<b>Red-necked Grebe</b>				
03/31	3	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson, A. Burnett
03/31	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	J. Kelly
04/07	70	N. Hampton	cove at Rye town line	S. Mirick
04/22	14	Hinsdale	setbacks	H. Galbraith
<b>Manx Shearwater</b>				
05/08	2	Rye	Isles of Shoals, Star Is.	E. Masterson
<b>Northern Gannet</b>				
03/31	51		NH coast	S. Mirick
04/14	234		NH coast	J. Lambert
<b>Double-crested Cormorant</b>				
03/07	10		NH coast	S. Eisenhauer
03/13	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	M. Provencher
03/20	3	Exeter	WTP	P. Hunt
04/07	64	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
04/22	5	Hinsdale	setbacks	H. Galbraith
05/08	226	Rye	Isles of Shoals, Lunging Is.	E. Masterson
<b>Great Cormorant</b>				
05/25	9	Rye	Isles of Shoals, Square Rock	R. Quinn, P. Brown, et al.
<b>American Bittern</b>				
04/08	1	Enfield	Bog Rd.	B. Heitzman
<b>Least Bittern</b>				
05/19	2	Durham	Surrey Lane marsh	S. & J. Mirick
05/23	1	Durham	Surrey Lane marsh	L. Kras
<b>Great Blue Heron</b>				
03/08	1	Concord	McLane Audubon Center, Silk Farm Rd.	P. Hunt
03/11	8	Nottingham	Kenison/Demeritt Pond area	S. Young
03/18	17	Nottingham	Kenison/Demeritt Pond area	S. Young
<b>Great Egret</b>				
04/01	1	Seabrook	Rt. 286	S. Mirick
05/05	1	Concord	South End Marsh	D. Howe
05/06	2	Surry	Dort Rd.	C. Seifer, C. Newton
05/20	1	Northumberland	Potter Brook & Upper Ammonoosuc R.	R. Hunt



*Snowy Egret by Steve Mirick, 3/31/12, Rye marshes, NH.*

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Snowy Egret</b>				
03/31	1	Rye	Rye marshes	S. Mirick
04/02	1	Rye	Awcomin Marsh	J. Kelly
04/08	2	Rye	Concord Pt.	J. Lambert
04/22	21	Rye	NH coast	S. Mirick
<b>Little Blue Heron</b>				
05/13	1	Rye	Parsons Creek saltmarsh w. of Wallis Sands State Beach	J. Lambert, S. & J. Mirick
05/14	1	Rye	Odiorne Pt. salt marsh	M. Thompson
<b>Cattle Egret</b>				
05/12	1	Exeter	WTP	P. Lacourse
05/23	1	Portsmouth	Toyota of Portsmouth, 150 Greenleaf Ave.	S. Lewis
<b>Black-crowned Night-Heron</b>				
04/01	1	Seabrook	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
04/15	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	P. Lacasse
05/13	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway SP	J. Lambert, M. Thompson
05/18	1	Webster	Call Rd.	R. Quinn
05/20	2	Newmarket	River St.	L. Kras, B. Griffith
<b>Glossy Ibis</b>				
04/18	5	Exeter	WTP	P. Miliotis
04/19	2	Hampton	Church St. water tower parking lot	L. Kras
05/26	5	Hampton	NH coast	S. Mirick
<b>Black Vulture</b>				
04/27	1	Barrington	Rt. 4	S. Hale
05/19	3	Portsmouth	Rt. 95 at NH/ME border	P. Blair
05/30	2	Nashua	Four Hills Landfill	M. Medeiros
<b>Turkey Vulture</b>				
03/02	23	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
03/17	24	Hinsdale	bluffs by Vernon Dam	H. Walters
03/17	1	Pinkham's Grant	Pinkham Notch, WMNF	M. Oyler
<b>Osprey</b>				
03/24	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	D. Franceschini
03/31	1	Bridgewater	Bridgewater Power Company	I. MacLeod
03/31	1	New Hampton	Ayers Island Dam	I. MacLeod
04/20	4	Stark	South Pond Rd.	B. Griffith
05/05	5	Hancock	Antrim Rd.	P. Brown
<b>Mississippi Kite</b>				
05/13	1	Newmarket	Gonet Dr.	B. Griffith, L. Kras
05/15	2	Newmarket	River St.	B. Griffith, M. Thompson
<b>Northern Harrier</b>				
04/15	5	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
<b>Red-shouldered Hawk</b>				
03/02	1	Chesterfield	Pisgah SP, Horseshoe Rd. trailhead	K. Klapper
03/05	1	Keene	Rt. 12 near Wyman Rd.	A. Burnett
03/06	1	Chichester	Millican Nurseries	J. Lambert

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Broad-winged Hawk</b>				
03/21	1	Kensington	South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
04/10	1	Deering	Deering WS	P. Brown
04/20	14	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	L. LaPierre
<b>Red-tailed Hawk</b>				
03/18	11	Stoddard	Pitcher Mountain	H. Walters
05/13	2	Errol	Mollidgewock drainage	E. Masterson
05/26	2	Pittsburg	Day Rd., Perry Stream	D. Clapp
<b>Rough-legged Hawk</b>				
03/06	1	Portsmouth	Spaulding Tpk.	K. Dorsey
03/10	1	Holderness	Squam Lakes Natural Science Center	I. MacLeod
03/19	1	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Rd.	J. Merrill
03/28	1	Freedom	Cushing Corner Rd.	J. Rhymer
<b>Golden Eagle</b>				
03/01	1	Dublin	Dublin Observatory	H. Walters
03/10	1	Holderness	Squam Lakes Natural Science Center	I. MacLeod
03/18	1	Stoddard	Pitcher Mountain	H. Walters
04/18	1	Merrimack	Grater Woods	T. Young
04/27	1	Hancock	Powder Mill Pond	D. & L. Stokes
<b>American Kestrel</b>				
03/08	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook R.	A. Robbins
03/10	1	Charlestown	Rt. 12/12A	T. Schottland, H. Galbraith, D. Clark
03/24	1	Berlin		J. Scott, B. Crowley
04/05	1	Stratford	Bog Rd. & Christie Rd.	C. Caron
04/15	8	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
04/21	10	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	L. Kras, B. Griffith
04/27	7	Swanzy	Dillant-Hopkins Airport	P. Brown
<b>Merlin</b>				
03/07	1	Holderness	Squam Lakes Natural Science Center	I. MacLeod
04/08	1	Holderness	Rockywold-Deephaven Camp	I. MacLeod
05/04	2	Sandwich	Squam Lake ne.	T. Vazzano
<b>Clapper Rail</b>				
05/15	2	Hampton	Little Jacks Restaurant, Rt. 1A	J. O'Shaughnessy
05/20	1	Hampton	Little Jacks Restaurant, Rt. 1A	Z. Cornell
<b>Virginia Rail</b>				
03/23	2	N. Hampton	Lovering Road marsh	B. Griffith
03/28	1	Bow	Turee Pond	R. Quinn
03/31	3	Portsmouth	Borthwick Ave. marsh at Portsmouth Regional Hospital	S. Mirick
05/16	3	Sandwich	Thompson WS	T. Vazzano
<b>Sora</b>				
04/28	1	Lee	Old Mill Rd. gravel pit	S. Mirick
05/05	1	Concord	South End Marsh	D. Howe
05/05	2	Lee	Old Mill Rd. gravel pit	L. Kras, B. Griffith
<b>American Coot</b>				
03/24	1	Exeter	WTP	S. Mirick, L. Medlock, P. Miliotis

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
04/20	1		Carroll County, pond s. of Ossipee	B. Pendleton
05/16	1	Auburn		J. Smith



*Sandhill Crane, Alexandria, NH by Michael Thompson, 5/24/12 (left) and JohnWilliams, 5/19/12*

### **Sandhill Crane**

03/17	2	Hollis	Blood Rd. & Pepperell Rd.	J. Oehler
03/18	2	Dover	Strafford County Farm	D. Hubbard
03/25	4	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore/Tecee)	J. Lambert, et al.
04/19	1	N. Sandwich	Fellows Hill Rd.	D. Wilson
05/07	3	Plymouth	Fairground Rd.	unknown, via I. MacLeod
05/07	1	Tilton	Silver Lake	I. MacLeod
05/12	1	Henniker	River Rd.	M. Mccall
05/13	1	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	D. Govatski
05/18	1	Alexandria	Alexandria Common	S. Smith

## **Shorebirds through Alcids**

**U**nusual shorebirds included one **American Oystercatcher** at Odiorne Point State Park on May 26, now a rare but regular spring migrant, though generally absent in fall. Solitary Sandpiper again put on a good show, with 23 birds seen at Morrill's Farm on May 11-16. This was slightly fewer than the record-breaking 31 birds seen on May 10, 2011 in Concord but well above average. A single Greater Yellowlegs seen on



*Solitary Sandpiper by Scott Young, 4/18/12.*

March 6 in Hampton was exceptionally early and more than three weeks ahead of the next one seen on March 31. Two Upland Sandpipers in Hampton on April 17 were an unusual find away from Pease International Tradeport and were likely destined for breeding grounds in Maine. In a tie with the early Greater Yellowlegs for the most remarkable shorebird of the season, a Purple Sandpiper was found on May 29 by Iain MacLeod during a cruise of Squam Lake looking for loons and Bald Eagles. This species is almost exclusively coastal; the Squam bird represents the fifth known record away from the coast. A

Short-billed Dowitcher in Charlestown on May 17 was the only inland record for the species. High counts of Wilson's Snipe (33) and especially of American Woodcock (21) at Bodwell Farm and Warren Farm respectively were noteworthy.

Unusual gulls were rare, with a single Little Gull in Hampton on May 26, three Iceland Gulls in Manchester on March 5, a Lesser Black-backed Gull in Hinsdale on March 7 and four more at Hampton Harbor on May 9 being the highlights. Rare terns however provided the major talking points and, as is often the case in spring, the action sat squarely in the lower Connecticut River Valley. It is not unusual for migratory terns and gulls to be seen on the river before they appear off New Hampshire's coast, but a Common Tern at Hinsdale on April 22 was four days earlier than the previous record and 13 days before the next one appeared on the coast. Perhaps more remarkable is the increase in occurrence of Caspian Tern along the river valley. Though this species is increasing in Vermont, three birds at Hinsdale on May 9 were still a surprise. An extremely late Thick-billed Murre in Portsmouth Harbor on May 8 concludes the waterbird report.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Black-bellied Plover</b>				
04/07	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop	S. Mirick
05/19	75		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
<b>Semipalmated Plover</b>				
05/09	12	Rye	Jeness/Sawyers Beach	B. Griffith, L. Kras
05/15	3	Charlestown	Rt. 12/12A	D. Clark
05/19	82	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop	L. Kras, B. Griffith



*Piping Plover by Lauren Kras, 4/11/12, Hampton Beach, NH.*

### **Piping Plover**

03/30	2	Hampton	Hampton Beach, south end	K. Darling
03/31	5	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	M. Marchand
04/14	6	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	J. Lambert
04/14	3	Hampton	Hampton Beach	J. Lambert

### **Killdeer**

03/03	1	Rye	Straw Point	S. Mirick
03/04	3	Boscawen	Merrimack R., Big Bend	R. Quinn
03/08	1	Hanover	Lyme Rd.	M. Walsh
03/08	8	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
03/11	18	E. Kingston	Bodwell Farm	B. Griffith, J. Lambert
04/19	2	Whitefield		C. Caron

### **American Oystercatcher**

05/26	1	Rye	Odiome Pt.	K. Billings
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<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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*Spotted Sandpiper by  
Steve Mirick, 4/18/12,  
Derry WTP, NH.*

### **Spotted Sandpiper**

04/09	1	Rochester	WTP	L. Kras
04/18	2	Derry	WTP	S. Mirick
05/03	5	Derry	WTP	S. Mirick
05/03	7	Rochester	WTP	Z. Cornell, C. Borg
05/05	1	Pinkhams Grant	Wildcat Mountain Ski Area	R. Quinn
05/11	10	Rochester	WTP	D. Hubbard
05/12	1	Pittsburg	Second Connecticut Lake	E. Masterson
05/12	1	Pittsburg	Big Brook Bog Rd.	E. Masterson
05/12	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook R.	A. Robbins
05/15	15	Rochester	WTP	M. Thompson, B. Griffith

### **Solitary Sandpiper**

04/18	1	Lee	WMA, Old Mill Rd.	S. Young
04/25	1	Derry	WTP	S. Mirick
05/09	6	Danbury	Eastern District Rd.	R. Quinn
05/10	18	Concord	Birch St. Community Garden	Z. Cornell
05/11	23	Concord	Birch St. fields opposite gardens	R. Suomala
05/12	18	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore/Tecee)	J. Lambert
05/12	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	D. Govatski
05/15	8	Charlestown	Rt. 12/12A	D. Clark
05/16	23	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Goodwin Pt.	P. Hunt

### **Greater Yellowlegs**

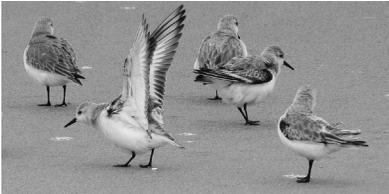
03/06	1	Hampton	Rt. 1 marsh, Taylor R.	J. O'Shaughnessy
03/31	1	E. Kingston	Bodwell Farm	S. Mirick, J. Lambert
04/29	18	Durham	Adams Point WMA	J. Keeley, S. Sullivan
05/18	1	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	M. Cahill

### **Willet**

04/27	1	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	M. Thompson
05/04	7	Hampton	salt marsh behind Little Jacks Restaurant	S. Mirick
05/14	2	Greenland	Sunset Farm	M. Thompson

### **Lesser Yellowlegs**

04/20	1	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	L. Kras
04/22	1	Charlestown	Great Meadow	E. Masterson
04/22	1	Charlestown	Wetherby Rd. fields	E. Masterson
04/24	5	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
04/27	7	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	M. Thompson
05/04	1	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	R. Quinn, L. LaPierre
05/08	3	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park	R. Quinn
05/16	4	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit	T. Vazzano

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Upland Sandpiper</b>				
04/17	2	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	R. Aaronian, et al.
04/21	5	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	L. Kras, B. Griffith
<b>Red Knot</b>				
05/19	1		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
				
<i>Sanderlings by Steve Mirick, 3/2/12, Seabrook Beach, NH.</i>				
<b>Sanderling</b>				
03/02	300	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
05/13	170		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
05/19	150	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop	B. Griffith, L. Kras
<b>Semipalmated Sandpiper</b>				
05/09	1	Rochester	WTP	J. Scott
05/09	3	Rye	pannes s. of Harbor Rd.	S. Mirick
05/15	4	Charlestown	Rt. 12/12A	D. Clark
05/22	34	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
<b>Least Sandpiper</b>				
05/03	10	Rochester	WTP	Z. Cornell, C. Borg
05/05	2	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	D. Howe
05/09	70		NH coast	S. Mirick
05/11	110	Seabrook	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
<b>White-rumped Sandpiper</b>				
05/31	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop	B. Griffith
<b>Purple Sandpiper</b>				
03/11	22	Rye	Rye Ledge	L. Kras, B. Griffith, J. Lambert
04/04	38	Hampton	Hampton Beach	L. Kras
04/07	257		NH coast	S. Mirick
04/15	150	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	Z. Cornell
05/26	1	Rye	Rye Harbor	S. Mirick
05/29	1	Center Harbor	Squam Lake	I. MacLeod
<b>Dunlin</b>				
03/02	500	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
05/22	30	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	A. MacLeod, J. Carroll
<b>Short-billed Dowitcher</b>				
05/15	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop	M. Thompson, B. Griffith
05/17	1	Charlestown	Rt. 12	A. Johnson
05/26	20		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
<b>Wilson's Snipe</b>				
03/13	2	E. Kingston	Bodwell Farm	S. Mirick
03/14	2	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Goodwin Pt.	P. Hunt, C. Borg, D. Lania
03/25	33	E. Kingston	Bodwell Farm	M. Watson

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
03/31	11	Charlestown	Great Meadow	E. Masterson
04/05	17	Charlestown	Rt. 12/12A	D. Clark
04/07	26	Charlestown	Great Meadow	E. Masterson
<b>American Woodcock</b>				
03/02	2	Concord	Thirty Pines area, Penacook	P. Hunt
03/11	21	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
03/16	6	Concord	Birch St. Community Garden	M. & R. Suomala
<b>Red-necked Phalarope</b>				
05/19	1	Exeter	WTP	S. Mirick, D. Hubbard, G. Tillman
<b>Black-legged Kittiwake</b>				
03/04	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach	J. Kelly
<b>Bonaparte's Gull</b>				
04/22	6	Hinsdale	setbacks	H. Galbraith
05/19	40	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop	B. Griffith, L. Kras
<b>Little Gull</b>				
05/26	1	Hampton	Little Jacks Restaurant, Rt. 1A	S. & J. Mirick
<b>Laughing Gull</b>				
05/15	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop	B. Griffith, M. Thompson
<b>Ring-billed Gull</b>				
03/13	200	E. Kingston	Bodwell Farm	S. Mirick
03/14	60	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	D. Howe
05/13	18	Berlin	Androscoggin River	E. Masterson
05/13	27	Errol	Mollidgewock drainage	E. Masterson
<b>Iceland Gull</b>				
03/03	2	N. Hampton	N. Hampton State Beach	S. Mirick
03/05	2	Durham	town landing	S. Young
03/05	3	Manchester	Stark Landing, Commercial St.	L. Hansche
03/08	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
03/09	1	Farmington	floodplain forest	S. Young
03/14	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
<b>Lesser Black-backed Gull</b>				
03/07	1	Hinsdale	Vernon Dam	P. Brown, H. Walters
03/08	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
03/08	1	Rye	Eel Pond	L. Kras, B. Griffith
03/28	1	Dover	Panera Bread, Shaw's Plaza	L. Kras, B. Griffith
04/08	3	Exeter	WTP	B. Rose
05/09	2	Rye	Parsons Creek saltmarsh w. of Wallis Sands State Beach	L. Kras, B. Griffith
05/09	4		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick



*Glaucous Gull* by Clifford Otto, 3/7/12, Hampton Harbor, NH.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Glaucous Gull</b>				
03/02	1		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
03/03	1	Exeter	WTP	J. Lambert
03/05	1	Durham	town landing	S. Young
04/19	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop	D. Hubbard
04/26	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Snyder
<b>Least Tern</b>				
05/19	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop	L. Kras, B. Griffith
<b>Caspian Tern</b>				
05/09	3	Hinsdale	setbacks	H. Galbraith
<b>Roseate Tern</b>				
05/19	2		Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
05/20	1	Rye	Isles of Shoals, Star Is.	E. Masterson, et al.
<b>Common Tern</b>				
04/22	1	Hinsdale	setbacks	E. Masterson
05/05	2	Seabrook	off Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
05/09	1	Hinsdale	setbacks	H. Galbraith
05/09	1	Washington	Pillsbury SP	J. Moul
05/14	350	Rye	Isles of Shoals, Star Is.	E. Masterson
05/29	600	Rye	Isles of Shoals, Star Is.	Z. Cornell
<b>Arctic Tern</b>				
05/20	2	Rye	Isles of Shoals, Star Is.	E. Masterson
05/31	1	Seabrook	Yankee Fisherman's Coop	B. Griffith
<b>Thick-billed Murre</b>				
05/08	1	New Castle	Piscataqua R. inside Fort Constitution	E. Masterson
<b>Razorbill</b>				
03/04	6	N. Hampton	Little Boars Head	S. Mirick
<b>Black Guillemot</b>				
05/20	16	Rye	Isles of Shoals, Star Is.	E. Masterson, et al.
<b>Atlantic Puffin</b>				
05/14	1	Rye	Isles of Shoals, Star Is.	E. Masterson

## Doves through Finches

by Iain MacLeod

### Doves through Corvids

One or two lingering Snowy Owls graced the coast on March 2 and 3, with one very late record on May 17 at Fort Constitution in New Castle; remnants of an excellent Snowy Owl winter. The coordinated Concord Chimney Swift count by New Hampshire Audubon's Capital



Iain MacLeod



*Snowy Owl by Steve Mirick, 3/2/12, Seabrook Beach, NH.*

Area Chapter produced a high of 425 on May 19. The eleven Ruby-throated Hummingbirds counted in Seabrook on May 17 were migrating north.

A late report of a Red-headed Woodpecker at a feeder in Francestown was accompanied by a photograph. It has been several years since the last spring record of this species. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on March 2 in Lyme was an overwintering bird; those at the end of March are most likely to be early migrants. Red-bellied Woodpecker seems to be getting more reliable in central New Hampshire. This spring there were birds in Woodstock and Tamworth in addition to one at a traditional location in Chatham. Most unusual was one at 2,000 feet at Pinkham Notch.

Two **Acadian Flycatchers** were excellent finds; one at Horseshoe Pond in Concord was discovered by Rob Woodward on May 23 and it continued into June giving many birders a chance to see it. The second in Merrimack was a one-day wonder. Fish Crows continue to spread northward in the state with more regular sightings up the Rt. 93 corridor and into the Lakes and Ossipee Regions. The 54 Blue Jays counted in Rye on May 7 were migrating. Although most Blue Jays are permanent residents, some birds do migrate, typically returning north in early May.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Yellow-billed Cuckoo</b>				
05/05	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook R.	A. Robbins
05/23	1	Exeter	Newfields Rd. residence	P. Chamberlin
05/23	1	Lee	Old Mill Rd.	L. Kras
05/24	1	Durham	Surrey Lane marsh	Z. Cornell, C. Borg
05/28	1	Kensington	South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
<b>Black-billed Cuckoo</b>				
05/14	1	Nashua	Mines Falls, Cove Loop Trail	M. Cahill
05/14	1	Wilmot		L. Kras
<b>Eastern Screech-Owl</b>				
04/24	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	L. Hansen
05/17	2	Greenland	Great Bay Discovery Center	M. Thompson
05/18	1	Nashua	Southwest Park-Yudicky Farm	C. Sheridan
<b>Snowy Owl</b>				
03/02	1	Seabrook	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
03/03	1	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick, S. Schulte
05/17	1	New Castle	Fort Constitution	S. Mirick
<b>Northern Saw-whet Owl</b>				
03/19	1	Hancock	Antrim Rd.	P. Brown
04/11	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook R.	G. Robbins
04/16	1	Middleton	Rt. 153	H. Grant

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Common Nighthawk</b>				
05/15	1	Grantham	Dunbar Hill Rd.	S. Brown
05/16	5	E. Kingston	Willow Rd.	D. Skillman
05/16	3	Henniker	Old Hillsboro Rd.	A. Moser
<b>Eastern Whip-poor-will</b>				
04/17	1	Concord	Mast Yard SF east	P. Hunt
04/17	1	Gilmanton	Durrell Mountain Rd.	N. Mitchell
05/12	5	Concord	Mast Yard SF	P. Hunt
05/23	8	Concord	Mast Yard SF	P. Hunt
<b>Chimney Swift</b>				
05/01	50	Bow	Hall St.	P. Brown
05/19	425	Concord	Durgin Block Garage	R. Quinn, L. LaPierre
<b>Ruby-throated Hummingbird</b>				
04/30	2	Exeter	Newfields Rd. residence	P. Chamberlin
05/02	1	Hinsdale	setbacks	H. Galbraith
05/06	1	Carroll	Bretton Woods	L. Bergum
05/17	11	Seabrook	Rt. 1A	S. & J. Mirick
05/20	10	Rye	Isles of Shoals, Star Is.	J. Lambert, B. Griffith, L. Kras
<b>Red-headed Woodpecker</b>				
05/11	1	Francestown	Candlewood Hill Rd.	P. Knight
<b>Red-bellied Woodpecker</b>				
03/07	1	Chatham	Green Hill Rd.	B. Crowley
03/11	1	Tamworth	Gilman Way	J. Moore
03/15	1	Lyme	village	P. Ackerson
03/24	1	Tamworth	Gilman Way	J. Moore
03/28	2	Chatham	Green Hill Rd.	B. Crowley
04/20	1	Woodstock	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest	M. Hallworth, P. Wilkins
04/29	2	Woodstock	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest	M. Hallworth
05/05	1	Pinkhams Grant	Wildcat Mountain Ski Area	R. Quinn
05/13	1	Franklin	Great Gains Memorial Forest	P. Miliotis
05/31	2	Chatham	Green Hill Rd.	B. Crowley
<b>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker</b>				
03/02	1	Lyme	Dorchester Rd.	P. Ackerson
03/22	1	Hancock	Antrim Rd.	P. Brown
03/24	1	Northwood	Doles Marsh	P. Miliotis
03/28	1	Gilsum		M. Wright
04/06	1	Bartlett	Conway House	N. Cassidy
<b>Black-backed Woodpecker</b>				
03/31		Sargents Purchase	Jewel Trail, Mt. Washington, WMNF	K. Pelletier
05/04	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	R. Quinn, L. LaPierre
05/05	1	Sandwich	near Thompson WS	R. Ridgely
05/12	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR, Mud Pond	D. Govatski
05/24	2	Wentworth Location	Umbagog NWR, Magalloway River Trail	W. Lewis
05/25	2	Pittsburg	Magalloway Mountain	D. Clapp
05/27	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	D. Govatski
05/27	2	Pittsburg	East Inlet	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert, C. Borg
05/30	1	Dixville	Dixville Ridge	W. Lewis
05/31	2	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail, WMNF	D. Govatski

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Northern Flicker</b>				
03/04	1	Hopkinton	Bound Tree Rd., Contoocook	S. Burns
03/05	1	Kensington	South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
03/14	2	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Goodwin Pt.	P. Hunt, C. Borg, D. Lania
<b>Olive-sided Flycatcher</b>				
05/13	1		Dodge Pond/Partridge L./ Moore Reservoir survey	S. Turner
05/16	1	Durham	Fogg Dr. fields	K. Dorsey
05/17	1	Madison	Silver Lake Railroad Trail	J. Mullen
<b>Eastern Wood-Pewee</b>				
05/04	1	Hancock	Harris Center	E. Masterson
05/12	1	Deerfield	Pawtuckaway SP, Reservation Rd. loop	R. Suomala
05/27	5	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
<b>Yellow-bellied Flycatcher</b>				
05/13	1	Amherst	Joe English Preserve	M. Cahill
05/23	1	Woodstock	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest	A. Meyer
05/24	2	Millsfield	Kelsey Ridge	W. Lewis
05/24	6	Woodstock	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest	A. Meyer
05/31	7	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail, WMNF	D. Govatski
				
<i>Acadian Flycatcher by Tom Young, 5/30/12, Merrimack, NH.</i>				
<b>Acadian Flycatcher</b>				
05/23	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Woodward, et al.
05/25	1	Concord	railroad wetlands n. of Horseshoe Pond	J. Williams
05/30	1	Merrimack	Trowbridge Dr.	T. Young
<b>Alder Flycatcher</b>				
05/12	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	P. Brown, D. Govatski, et al.
05/13	1	Concord	Fort Eddy Pond	R. Woodward
<b>Willow Flycatcher</b>				
05/14	1	Exeter	WTP	M. Thompson
05/14	2	Hinsdale	setbacks	H. Galbraith
05/15	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	M. Thompson, B. Griffith
<b>Least Flycatcher</b>				
05/02	2	Hinsdale	setbacks	H. Galbraith
05/05	2	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Suomala
05/05	1	Lyme	Dorchester Rd.	P. Ackerson
<b>Eastern Phoebe</b>				
03/03	1	Durham	Mill Pond Park area	S. Snyder
03/14	2	Epping	Two Rivers CA	G. Tillman
03/14	2	Henniker	Old Hillsboro Rd.	A. Moser

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Great Crested Flycatcher</b>				
05/05	1	Newington	Arboretum Dr., Pease Int'l. Tradeport	L. Kras, B. Griffith
05/05	1	Westmoreland	Hatt Rd.	G. Seymour
05/06	1	Hanover	Kendal Campus, 80 Lyme Road	J. Norton
<b>Eastern Kingbird</b>				
05/02	1	Hinsdale	setbacks	H. Galbraith
05/05	1	Amherst	Ponemah Bog WS	M. Cahill
05/05	2	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Suomala
05/05	1	Henniker	Amey Brook Park Loop	A. Moser
<b>Northern Shrike</b>				
03/11	1	Charlestown	Great Meadow	E. Masterson
03/11	1	Lee	Old Mill Rd. WMA	J. Lambert
03/28	1	Plymouth	Hatch Plaza	J. Williams
04/07	1	Hinsdale	Hudson Farm	E. Masterson
04/11	1	Carroll	Bretton Woods	L. Bergum
04/19	1	Kingston	Green Rd.	D. Skillman
04/20	1	Strafford	Parker Mt. /Evans Mt.	S. Young
<b>Yellow-throated Vireo</b>				
04/25	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway SP, Fundy Cove	P. Miliotis
04/29	1	Deerfield	Pawtuckaway SP, Reservation Rd. loop	P. Miliotis
05/02	1	Epping	North River Rd.	G. Tillman
05/06	1	Alton	Merrymeeting Marsh WMA	C. Nims
<b>Blue-headed Vireo</b>				
04/15		Hancock		M. Marchand
04/15	1	Westmoreland	Hatt Rd.	G. Seymour
04/18	4	Woodstock	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest	M. Hallworth
<b>Warbling Vireo</b>				
04/29	2	Hinsdale	setbacks	T. Schottland, D. Clark
05/02	1	Exeter	Powder House Pond	S. Mirick
05/05	20	Hinsdale	setbacks	H. Galbraith
05/06	2		Dodge Pond/Partridge L./ Moore Reservoir survey	S. Turner
<b>Philadelphia Vireo</b>				
05/14	2	Rumney	Buffalo Rd., W. Rumney	J. Williams
05/18	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR, Cherry Pond	M. Cahill
05/25	1	Rye	Isles of Shoals, Star Is.	P. Brown, R. Quinn, et al.
05/31	1	Wilmot	Campground Rd.	P. Newbern
<b>Red-eyed Vireo</b>				
05/05	1	Amherst	Ponemah Bog WS	M. Cahill
05/06	1	Amherst	Joe English Preserve	M. Cahill
05/06	1	Deerfield	Pawtuckaway SP, Reservation Rd. loop	L. Kras, B. Griffith, J. Lambert
05/06	1	Lebanon	Boston Lot Lake	J. Norton
05/06	1	Surry	Dort Rd.	C. Seifer, C. Newton
<b>Gray Jay</b>				
03/21	1	T&M Purchase	Jewel Trail, Mt. Washington, WMNF	J. Andrews
04/07		Bethlehem	Mt. Tom, WMNF	K. Pelletier

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
				
				<i>Juvenile Gray Jay by Lauren Kras, 5/27/12, Pittsburg, NH</i>
05/12	15	Pittsburg	East Inlet	E. Masterson
05/18	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR, Cherry Pond	M. Cahill
05/25	6	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	D. Clapp
05/27	1	Beans Grant	Mt. Jackson summit	A. Beeler
05/27	1	Millsfield	Kelsey Ridge	W. Lewis
05/27	6	Pittsburg	East Inlet	L. Kras, B. Griffith, J. Lambert, C. Borg
05/27	6	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	L. Kras, B. Griffith, J. Lambert, C. Borg
05/31	6	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail, WMNF	D. Govatski
<b>Blue Jay</b>				
05/07	54	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	B. Griffith, L. Kras
<b>Fish Crow</b>				
03/03	2	Durham	Mill Pond Park area	S. Snyder
03/12	6	Salem	Geremonty Dr. marsh	K. Brown
03/12	2	Tilton	Winnepesaukee R. behind plaza by Rt. 140	I. MacLeod
03/13	1	Laconia	Lake Winnisquam, Winnicoash St.	S. Brallier
03/22	40	Manchester		J. Hills
03/29	10	Tilton	Winnepesaukee R. behind plaza by Rt. 140	J. Williams
05/19	5	W. Ossipee	Rt. 25 & Rt. 16	T. Vazzano
<b>Common Raven</b>				
03/01	31	Epping	Pleasant St.	P. Miliotis

## Larks through Buntings

There were no large flocks of Horned Larks reported this spring; the 30 in Durham being the largest. Most larks have left New Hampshire for northern breeding grounds by the end of April. The single bird on May 16 at Concord Airport was at one of the few known breeding locations in the state.

An early Purple Martin at the Ashland Wastewater Treatment Plant on April 23 was one of six swallow species hunting the ponds that day. The mild early spring brought a few early Tree Swallow vanguards in March before a big arrival on March 21. A Marsh Wren at Odiorne Point State Park on March 31 was likely the one that had overwintered there. There was one northerly sighting of Tufted Titmouse in Lancaster. They are still uncommon north of Mount Washington. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on May 3 in Holderness was well to the north of most other records this spring (and historically).

One of the highlights of the season was a **Varied Thrush** in Ossipee. First reported on the last day of winter (February 28), it continued into March and was seen by many until the last report on March 7. A Gray Catbird in Weare on April 1 was very early

and may have been an over-wintering bird. A few lingering flocks of Bohemian Waxwings were around in March, but none in April.

*Bohemian Waxwing*  
by Ken Klapper,  
3/3/12,  
Vilas Middle School,  
Alstead, NH.



<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Horned Lark</b>				
03/04	30	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore/Tecee)	S. Mirick
05/16	1	Concord	Concord Municipal Airport	P. Hunt
<b>Northern Rough-winged Swallow</b>				
04/07	1	Charlestown	Putnam field, N. Charlestown	E. Masterson
04/14	2	Exeter	WTP	L. Kras, J. Lambert
04/15	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Goodwin Pt.	P. Hunt
<b>Purple Martin</b>				
04/23	1	Ashland	WTP	I. MacLeod
05/23	8	Laconia	Funspot	Z. Cornell
05/26	1	Rye	Isles of Shoals, Star Is.	S. & J. Mirick
05/27	1	Conway	Rt. 302 Purple Martin colony	A. Robbins
<b>Tree Swallow</b>				
03/13	3	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park	A. Moser
03/14	2	Epping	North River Rd. bog	G. Tillman
03/14	3	Westmoreland	Partridge Brook & River Rd.	A. Burnett
03/25	300	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park	R. Quinn, P. Hunt
04/04	6	Lyme	Chaffee WS	B. Allison, G. Clark
04/07	1500	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	A. Burnett
05/01	2000	Derry	WTP	S. Mirick
05/04	800	Hinsdale	setbacks	H. Galbraith
05/12	2	Offshore Waters	Jeffreys Ledge	B. Griffith
05/22	30	Second College Grant		W. Lewis
<b>Bank Swallow</b>				
04/15	2	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
04/22	3	Marlborough		L. Davis
04/23	1	Ashland	WTP	I. MacLeod
04/23	1	Hopkinton	Stumpfield Marsh	R. Quinn
05/04	3	Whitefield	Airport Marsh	R. Quinn, L. LaPierre
05/19	40	Canterbury	sod farm	M. & R. Suomala, L. LaPierre, R. Smith
<b>Barn Swallow</b>				
04/07	1	Hinsdale	setbacks	E. Masterson
04/12	2	Chatham		M. Oyler
04/12	1	Northwood	Jeness Pond	J. Lambert
04/23	100	Ashland	WTP	I. MacLeod

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
05/01	200	Derry	WTP	S. Mirick
05/03	100	Hinsdale	setbacks	H. Galbraith
<b>Cliff Swallow</b>				
04/23	1	Ashland	WTP	I. MacLeod
04/29	3	Hinsdale	setbacks	T. Schottland, D. Clark
05/01	1	Rochester	WTP	B. Griffith, L. Kras
<b>swallow sp.</b>				
05/03	200	Hinsdale	setbacks	H. Galbraith
05/08	2000	Hinsdale	setbacks	H. Galbraith
<b>Tufted Titmouse</b>				
04/13	1	Lancaster		C. Caron
<b>House Wren</b>				
04/17	1	Concord	Wildemere Terrace	D. Howe
04/17	1	Rochester	Ten Rod Rd. residence	D. Hubbard
04/18	1	Westmoreland	Hatt Rd.	G. Seymour
04/20	1	Center Harbor	Coe Hill Rd.	J. Merrill
05/31	20	Kensington	Drinkwater Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
<b>Marsh Wren</b>				
03/31	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
04/12	2	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	L. Kras, M. Thompson
04/22	1	Exeter	WTP	B. Griffith, L. Kras



*Blue-gray Gnatcatcher by Steve Mirick, 4/18/12, Derry WTP, NH.*

### **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**

04/18	1	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
04/18	1	Derry	WTP	S. Mirick
04/19	2	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
04/21	3	Keene	Keene State WMA	K. Klapper, C. Newton
05/03	1	Holderness	floodplains	M. Bassett
05/06	1	Alton	Merrymeeting Marsh WMA	C. Nims
05/16	4	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	P. Hunt

### **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**

03/18	1	Nottingham	Kenison Pond/Demeritt Pond area	S. Young
03/24	1	Durham	Rt. 155A fields (Moore/Tecee)	G. Tillman, L. Medlock, Z. Cornell
04/05	1	Rumney	Buffalo Rd., W. Rumney	J. Williams

### **Veery**

05/03	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	Z. Cornell
05/05	1	Westmoreland	Hatt Rd.	G. Seymour
05/06	1	Rumney	Buffalo Rd., W. Rumney	J. Williams
05/27	29	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Bicknell's Thrush</b>				
05/17	2	T&M Purchase	Mt. Madison	M. Cahill
05/23	5	Dixville	Dixville Ridge	W. Lewis
05/28	12	Millsfield	Kelsey Ridge	W. Lewis
05/31	2	T&M Purchase	Mt. Washington	G. Saunders, R. Clark, et al.
05/31	1	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail, WMNF	D. Govatski
<b>Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush</b>				
05/06	1	Dublin	Charcoal & Lake Rd.	A. Aldrich
05/12	2	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
<b>Swainson's Thrush</b>				
05/13	1	Amherst	Joe English Preserve	M. Cahill
05/14	2	Concord	McLane Audubon Center, Silk Farm Rd.	P. Brown
05/19	15	Concord	Mast Yard SF east	P. Hunt
05/23	6	Woodstock	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest	A. Meyer
05/25	11	Pittsburg	Magalloway Mountain	D. Clapp
05/26	1	Hampton	Church St. water tower parking lot	S. Mirick
05/27	10	Pittsburg	East Inlet	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert, C. Borg
<b>Wood Thrush</b>				
05/02	1	E. Kingston	Willow Rd.	D. Skillman
05/02	3	Westmoreland	Woodward Rd. area	A. Burnett
05/04	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano
05/13	20	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway SP	L. Kras
<b>Varied Thrush</b>				
03/04	1	Ossipee	White Pond Rd.	J. Mullen, E. Patterson
03/05	1	Ossipee	White Pond Rd.	B. Crowley
03/06	1	Ossipee	White Pond Rd.	Z. Cornell, E. Patterson, C. Borg
03/07	1	Ossipee	White Pond Rd.	P. Miliotis, J. Tilden, M. Halsey, J. Merrill
<b>Gray Catbird</b>				
04/01	1	Weare		M. Provencher
04/22	1	Portsmouth	Borthwick Ave. marsh	J. Kelly
05/06	20	Hinsdale	setbacks	H. Galbraith
<b>Brown Thrasher</b>				
04/17	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	S. Young
04/18	1	Lee	Old Mill Rd. WMA	S. Young
04/24	1	Plymouth	residence	M. Bassett
<b>American Pipit</b>				
03/31	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Goodwin Pt.	P. Hunt
05/01	2	Rochester	WTP	L. Kras, B. Griffith
05/12	2	Henniker	Old Concord Rd. fields	A. Moser
05/12	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	P. Brown, D. Govatski, et al.
05/17	1	Seabrook	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
05/31	1	T&M Purchase	Mt. Washington	G. Saunders, R. Clark, et al.
<b>Bohemian Waxwing</b>				
03/01	170	Hanover	Kendal Campus, 80 Lyme Road	J. Norton
03/03	210	Alstead	Mechanic St.	K. Klapper

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
03/05	100	Chichester	Millican Nurseries	J. Lambert
03/29	12	Lyme	Rt. 10	J. Williams

*Snow Bunting by John Lloyd,  
3/18/12, Hampton Beach SP, NH.*



### **Snow Bunting**

03/03	23	Walpole	Boggy Meadow Farm	K. Klapper, R. & A. Burnett
03/16	30	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	M. Watson

## **Warblers**

The mild winter resulted in several warbler species overwintering in the state. An Ovenbird that spent the winter in a backyard in Derry was last seen on April 14 – a couple of weeks ahead of the big arrival of migrants. A Pine Warbler in Mont Vernon on March 1 had spent the winter at that feeder and a Common Yellowthroat in Portsmouth on March 31 was likely one that also overwintered. The most viewed of the “winter warblers” was a Cape May Warbler at Odiorne Point State Park in Rye. After surviving the entire winter, it was last reported on March 24.

A Golden-winged Warbler reported on May 18 at Church Street in Hampton would have been the first sighting in the state since 2008 but unfortunately no documentation was provided. This species has declined so much in the state that it is on the NH Rare Birds Committee review list. It is no longer known to breed in the state. Given its rarity and the potential for hybrids with Blue-winged Warbler, it’s important to provide details on any sighting.



*The Cape May Warbler that over-wintered at  
Odiorne Pt. SP. Photo by Jason Lambert.*

The “stop and start” nature of the spring migration meant that some warblers arrived in the mid-March warm spell, but then the push seemed to really slow down during a cool, damp

May and many species actually seemed “late.” There were no really significant fall-outs noted, even on the coastal islands. No “Western” Palm Warblers were recorded (last spring there were six), but “yellow” Palms were noted in May at several known breeding locations in northern towns.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Ovenbird</b>				
03/11	1	Derry	Miltimore Rd.	B. Horton
04/14	1	Derry	Miltimore Rd.	B. Horton
05/01	1	Epping	Two Rivers CA	G. Tillman
05/02	1	Exeter	Newfields Rd. residence	P. Chamberlin
05/05	1	Woodstock	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest	D. Grunzel
05/12	20	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
<b>Louisiana Waterthrush</b>				
04/08	1	Kensington	South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
04/13	1	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway SP	S. Young
04/14	1	Westmoreland	Woodward Rd. area	A. Burnett
04/21	3	Lyme	Grant Brook	C. Crawford
04/24	3	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway SP	J. Kelly
04/26	5	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway SP	S. Young
05/24	1	Madison	Shieling Rd.	J. Mullen
<b>Northern Waterthrush</b>				
04/20	1	Kingston	Green Rd.	S. Mirick
04/21	3	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
05/12	6	Pittsburg	East Inlet	E. Masterson
05/13	6	Errol	Mollidgewock drainage	E. Masterson
05/13	8		Dodge Pond/Partridge L./ Moore Reservoir survey	S. Turner
<b>Blue-winged Warbler</b>				
05/03	1	Antrim	Water St.	P. Brown
05/03	1	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	Z. Cornell
05/03	1	Westmoreland	Woodward Rd. area	A. Burnett
05/17	3	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
				
<p><i>One of 13 Black-and-white Warblers tallied at Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye, NH on 5/7/12.</i>  <i>Photo by Lauren Kras.</i></p>				
<b>Black-and-white Warbler</b>				
04/20	1	Dublin	Mt. Monadnock, Pumpelly Trail	T. Pirro
04/20	1	Strafford	Parker Mt. /Evans Mt.	S. Young
04/20	1	Westmoreland	Hatt Rd.	G. Seymour
05/06	13	Amherst	Joe English Preserve	M. Cahill
05/06	7	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	J. Lambert
05/07	13	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	L. Kras, B. Griffith
<b>Tennessee Warbler</b>				
05/05	1	Hinsdale	setbacks	H. Galbraith
05/07	2	Gilsum		M. Wright
05/07	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano
05/17	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR, Cherry Pond	M. Thompson
05/17	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Nashville Warbler</b>				
04/14	2	Kensington	Moulton Ridge	G. Gavutis Jr.
04/29	1	Woodstock	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest	M. Hallworth
05/05	6	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
05/13	21	Errol	Mollidgewock drainage	E. Masterson
<b>Common Yellowthroat</b>				
03/31	1	Portsmouth	Borthwick Ave. marsh	S. & J. Mirick
04/22	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook R.	A. Robbins
05/06	13	Surry	Dort Rd.	C. Seifer, C. Newton
05/12	29	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
05/20	44	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
<b>American Redstart</b>				
05/03	1	Nelson	Old Stoddard Rd.	E. Masterson
05/03	1	Westmoreland	Woodward Rd. area	A. Burnett
05/12	18	Deerfield	Pawtuckaway SP, Reservation Rd. loop	M. & R. Suomala
<b>Cape May Warbler</b>				
03/02	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick, J. Normandin
03/24	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
05/06	1	Westmoreland	Hatt Rd.	G. Seymour
05/07	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano
05/09	1	Concord	Shaker Rd. & Hot Hole Pond Rd.	Z. Cornell
05/15	1	Concord	Mast Yard SF	Z. Cornell
05/16	1	Henniker	airport	A. Moser
05/17	3	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR, Cherry Pond	M. Thompson
05/18	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook R.	A. Robbins
<b>Cerulean Warbler</b>				
05/13	1	Hinsdale	Wantastiquet Mountain NA	K. Klapper, C. Newton
05/27	1	Hinsdale	Wantastiquet Mountain NA	T. Auer
<b>Northern Parula</b>				
05/05	1	Durham	Old Durham Reservoir	L. Kras, B. Griffith
05/05	1	Hancock	Antrim Rd.	P. Brown
05/05		Newmarket	Lubberland Creek Preserve	S. Mirick
05/05		Peterborough	Nubanusit Neighborhood & Farm	N. White
05/05	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
05/05	3	Strafford	Lakeview Dr.	S. Young
<b>Magnolia Warbler</b>				
05/04	1	Hinsdale	setbacks	H. Galbraith
05/05	1	Antrim	North Main St.	M. Noble
05/05	1	Hancock	Antrim Rd.	E. Masterson
05/05	1	Lyme	Dorchester Rd.	P. Ackerson
05/05	3	Westmoreland	Woodward Rd. area	A. Burnett
05/07	10	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	L. Kras, B. Griffith
05/13	19	Errol	Mollidgewock drainage	E. Masterson
05/16	12	Lincoln	Mt. Hancock	M. Cahill
05/26	32	Pittsburg	Day Rd., Perry Stream	D. Clapp
<b>Bay-breasted Warbler</b>				
05/12	1	Durham	Fogg Dr.	K. Dorsey
05/12	3	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	P. Brown, D. Govatski, et al.

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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*Bay-breasted Warbler*  
by Benjamin Griffith, 5/27/12,  
Pittsburg, NH.

### **Bay-breasted Warbler—continued**

05/12	1	Newbury	The Fells	P. Newbern
05/12	1	Pittsburg	East Inlet	E. Masterson
05/27	8	Pittsburg	East Inlet	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert, C. Borg

### **Blackburnian Warbler**

05/02	1	Hinsdale	setbacks	H. Galbraith
05/02	1	Nelson	Log Cabin Rd.	P. Brown
05/03	1	Woodstock	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest	D. Grunzel
05/06	10	Deerfield	Pawtuckaway SP, Reservation Rd. loop	J. Lambert, B. Griffith, L. Kras
05/27	18	Temple	Wapack NWR	T. Pirro

### **Yellow Warbler**

04/24	1	Rye	Fairhill Ave.	S. Mirick
04/28	1	N. Hampton	Willow Ave.	S. Mirick
04/29	3	Hinsdale	setbacks	T. Schottland, D. Clark
05/05	11	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	D. Howe
05/06	14	Surry	Dort Rd.	C. Seifer, C. Newton

### **Chestnut-sided Warbler**

05/04	1	Epping	Two Rivers CA	G. Tillman
05/04	1	Exeter	Oaklands Town Forest	P. Chamberlin
05/04	1	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano
05/04	1	Westmoreland	Hatt Rd.	G. Seymour
05/12	15	Webster	Little Hill Rd.	R. Quinn, B. Janeway

### **Blackpoll Warbler**

05/12	1	Cornish	Town House Rd.	D. Doubleday
05/13	1	Concord	Horseshoe Pond	R. Woodward
05/13	1	Concord	Wildemere Terrace	D. Howe
05/13	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook R.	A. Robbins
05/13	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
05/23	11	Dixville	Dixville Ridge	W. Lewis
05/24	15	Millsfield	Kelsey Ridge	W. Lewis
05/26	18	Beans Grant	Webster-Jackson Trail	P. Norton
05/31	36	T&M Purchase	Caps Ridge Trail, WMNF	D. Govatski

### **Black-throated Blue Warbler**

05/03	1	Amherst	Joe English Preserve	M. Cahill
05/05	1	Hinsdale	setbacks	H. Galbraith
05/05	5	Woodstock	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest	D. Grunzel
05/07	15	Hollis	Beaver Brook Assn.	M. Cahill
05/13	15	Errol	Mollidgewock drainage	E. Masterson

### **Palm Warbler**

04/04	1	Brentwood	Brentwood Mitigation Area	D. Skillman, P. Miliotis
04/10	5	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	D. Hubbard
04/19	1	Harts Location	Upper Saco River valley	B. Pendleton

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
05/11	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. & J. Mirick, M. Thompson
05/13	6	Errol	Mollidgewock drainage	E. Masterson
05/18	2	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR, Cherry Pond	M. Cahill
05/26	1	Effingham	Watts WS, Huntress Bridge Rd.	G. & A. Robbins
05/27	1	Pittsburg	Scott Bog Rd.	L. Kras, B. Griffith, J. Lambert, C. Borg

### **Pine Warbler**

03/01	1	Mont Vernon	residence	M. Foley
03/21	2	Kensington	South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
03/22	2	Durham	College Woods, UNH	A. Prazar
03/22	3	Webster	Call Rd.	R. Quinn
04/13	16	Nottingham	Pawtuckaway SP	S. Young
04/14	16	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward

### **Yellow-rumped Warbler**

03/07	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Eisenhauer
04/05	1	Westmoreland	Woodward Rd. area	A. Burnett
04/08	2	Kensington	South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
04/16	13	Lyman	Dodge Pond/Partridge L./ Moore Reservoir survey	S. Turner
04/20	30	Dublin	Mt. Monadnock, Pumpelly Trail	T. Pirro

*Prairie Warbler*  
by Benjamin Griffith, 5/6/12,  
Pawtuckaway SP, Deerfield, NH.



### **Prairie Warbler**

05/05	2	Hinsdale	setbacks	H. Galbraith
05/06	2	Amherst	Hertzka Drive	C. Sheridan
05/06	5	Deerfield	Pawtuckaway SP, Reservation Rd. loop	B. Griffith, J. Lambert, L. Kras
05/12	10	Webster	Little Hill Rd.	R. Quinn, B. Janeway
05/19	15	Madison	West Branch Pine Barrens Preserve	T. Vazzano

### **Black-throated Green Warbler**

04/05	1	Ashland	Sanborn Rd.	I. MacLeod
04/21	1	Exeter	Newfields Rd. residence	P. Chamberlin
04/21	1	Hancock	Antrim Rd.	E. Masterson
04/26	1	Woodstock	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest	M. Hallworth
05/07	14	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	B. Griffith, L. Kras

### **Canada Warbler**

05/06	1	Hinsdale	setbacks	H. Breder, H. Galbraith
05/06	1	Westmoreland	Hatt Rd.	G. Seymour
05/06	1	Westmoreland	Woodward Rd. area	A. Burnett
05/18	5	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR, Cherry Pond	M. Cahill

### **Wilson's Warbler**

05/05	4	Hinsdale	setbacks	H. Galbraith
05/06	2	Hinsdale	setbacks	H. Galbraith
05/06	1	Peterborough	Nubanusit Neighborhood & Farm	N. White
05/06	1	Surry	Dort Rd.	C. Seifer, C. Newton

## Towhee through Finches

**A**t least three Clay-colored Sparrows were found in May; all in suitable nesting habitat, but none resulted in a much-anticipated first confirmed nesting record in the state. A **Lark Sparrow** was seen on Star Island on May 8. This western sparrow is seldom seen during spring in New Hampshire and there has been only one other spring report in the past three years (2009). It is most likely to be found in fall. Fox Sparrows were found in high elevation habitat in two locations in the White Mountains suggesting attempted breeding.

Two **Summer Tanagers** were reported; one on May 1 in Franklin and one in Rye on May 5. A **Blue Grosbeak** was seen in Nashua on May 31. Four **Dickcissels** were sighted: one was present for at least a week in Rye, one was on Star Island on May 14, one in Westmoreland stayed for a couple of weeks (last seen April 13), and one in Exeter that had been present since mid-February.



*Pine Siskin by John Lloyd, 3/10/12, Hebron, NH.*

Impressive counts of migrating American Goldfinches were tallied along the coast on May 11 (1,989) and May 17 (462). After a major irruption over the winter, Pine Siskins were reported nesting in several locations throughout the state. This species is a sporadic breeder in the state, especially in the southern portion where nesting is most likely after a winter “invasion.”

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Eastern Towhee</b>				
03/16	1	Portsmouth	Urban Forestry Center	J. Kelly
03/17	1	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
03/23	1	Goffstown	Hooksett Rd.	M. Thompson
04/26	10	Amherst	Ponemah Bog WS	C. Sheridan
05/07	10	Hollis	Beaver Brook Assn.	M. Cahill
<b>American Tree Sparrow</b>				
04/12	2	Chatham		M. Oyler
04/15	1	Fremont	residence	M. Bassett
<b>Chipping Sparrow</b>				
03/01	1	Nashua	Caldwell Rd.	C. Sheridan
03/24	1	Auburn	Massabesic WS	J. Woolf
03/31	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
04/01	2	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
<b>Clay-colored Sparrow</b>				
05/07	1	Newington	Arboretum Dr., Pease Int'l. Tradeport	L. Kras, B. Griffith
05/11	1	Seabrook	Rt. 1A	S. & J. Mirick
05/15	1	Chichester	Millican Nurseries	J. Lambert
05/19	1	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport, n. end	S. Mirick, G. Tillman

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
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*Clay-colored Sparrow by Jason Lambert, 5/15/12, Chichester, NH.*

### **Field Sparrow**

03/31	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. Mirick
04/01	1	Concord	Penacock survey route	P. Hunt
04/03	1	Concord	Locke Road sod farm	D. Lania
05/11	10	Fremont	Spruce Swamp	D. Skillman

### **Vesper Sparrow**

04/15	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Goodwin Pt.	P. Hunt
04/21	2	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Goodwin Pt.	P. Hunt
05/06	1	Sandwich	Ambrose Gravel Pit	T. Vazzano
05/28	1	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest	G.& A. Robbins
05/28	3	Freedom	gravel pit near West Branch Pine Barrens	G.& A. Robbins

### **Lark Sparrow**

05/08	1	Rye	Isles of Shoals, Star Is.	E. Masterson
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### **Savannah Sparrow**

04/06	1	Westmoreland	Woodward Rd. area	A. Burnett
04/08	2	Exeter	WTP	G. Tillman
04/15	35	Hampton	Island Path	L. Kras
04/18	35	Dover	Stafford County Farm	D. Hubbard

### **Savannah Sparrow - Ipswich subsp.**

03/23	1	Seabrook	Haverhill St.	B. Griffith
04/14	2	Hampton	Hampton Beach SP	L. Kras
04/20	1	Hampton	Rt. 101E pools by pumping station	L. Kras



*Grasshopper Sparrow by Christine Sheridan, 5/28/12, cemetery fields, Amherst, NH.*

### **Grasshopper Sparrow**

05/12	2	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	J. Lambert
05/16	6	Amherst	cemetery fields	C. Sheridan
05/16	1	Concord	Concord Municipal Airport	P. Hunt
05/17	1	Newington	McIntyre Road	S. Mirick
05/19	1	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Goodwin Pt.	P. Hunt
05/19	2	Newington	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	L. Kras, B. Griffith
05/21	6	Amherst	cemetery fields	C. Sheridan
05/26	2	Concord	Concord Municipal Airport	D. Howe

### **Nelson's Sparrow**

05/30	1	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	B. Griffith
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<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Saltmarsh Sparrow</b>				
05/19	3	Hampton	Little Jacks Restaurant, Rt. 1A	B. Griffith, L. Kras
05/19	3	N. Hampton	Philbrick Marsh	S. Mirick
<b>Nelson's/Saltmarsh Sparrow</b>				
05/11	1	Seabrook	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
05/30	6	Stratham	Chapmans Landing	B. Griffith
<b>Fox Sparrow</b>				
03/11	5	Durham	Foss Farm	J. Lambert
05/23	2	Dixville	Dixville Ridge	W. Lewis
05/26	1	Millsfield	Kelsey Ridge	W. Lewis
05/31	1	Dixville	Dixville Ridge	W. Lewis
<b>Lincoln's Sparrow</b>				
05/06	1	Hinsdale	setbacks	H. Galbraith
05/06	2	Lebanon	Boston Lot Lake	P. LaBelle
05/07	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook R.	A. Robbins
05/12	1	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	P. Brown, D. Govatski, et al.
05/13	1	Amherst	Souhegan River	M. Cahill
05/13	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
05/13	1	Newton	residence	B. McAvoy
05/14	1	Barrington	Warren Farm	S. Young
05/14	1	Rye	Isles of Shoals, Star Is.	E. Masterson
05/18	1	Beans Purchase	Wildcat Mountain	J. Toledano
05/26	1	Rye	Isles of Shoals, Star Is.	S. Mirick
<b>Swamp Sparrow</b>				
03/09	1	E. Kingston	South Rd.	D. Finch
03/23	2	N. Hampton	Lovering Road marsh	B. Griffith
03/31	3	Portsmouth	Borthwick Ave. marsh at Portsmouth Regional Hospital	S. Mirick
<b>White-crowned Sparrow</b>				
05/02	2	Keene	Keene State WMA	P. Brown
05/04	1	Bow	Melanie Lane	Z. Cornell
05/04	1	Hampton	Island Path	S. Mirick
05/05	10	Hinsdale	setbacks	H. Galbraith
<b>White-crowned Sparrow - Gambel's subsp.</b>				
03/02	1	Seabrook	Rt. 1A	S. Mirick
<b>Summer Tanager</b>				
05/01	1	Franklin	Mountain View Dr. residence	C. Anderson
05/05	1	Rye	Odiorne Point SP	S. & J. Mirick, L. Kras, J. Lambert, B. Griffith
<b>Scarlet Tanager</b>				
05/01	1	Weare		M. Provencher
05/05	1	Concord	Turkey Pond	R. Woodward
05/05	1	Newmarket	Lubberland Creek Preserve	S. Mirick
05/05	1	Westmoreland	Hatt Rd.	G. Seymour
<b>Rose-breasted Grosbeak</b>				
04/05	1	Ashland	Sanborn Rd.	I. MacLeod

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
04/29	1	Deerfield	Pawtuckaway SP, Reservation Rd. loop	G. & J. McKibben, M. Pitcher
05/02	1	New Hampton	Overlook Dr.	M. Hoertdoerfer
05/03	1	Rumney	Buffalo Rd., W. Rumney	J. Williams
<b>Blue Grosbeak</b>				
05/03	1	New London	South Pleasant St.	F. & P. Sladen
05/30	1	Nashua	Four Hills Landfill	M. Medeiros
<b>Indigo Bunting</b>				
05/06	1	Epping	North River Rd. bog	G. Tillman
05/06	1	Kensington	South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
05/06	2	Westmoreland	Woodward Rd. area	A. Burnett
05/08	4	Rye	Isles of Shoals, Star Is.	E. Masterson
<b>Dickcissel</b>				
03/01	1	Exeter	Dewey St.	C. Pawelczyk
03/24	1	Rye	Wallis Rd.	S. Mirick
03/28	1	Westmoreland	Glebe Rd.	E. Speck
03/31	1	Rye	Wallis Rd.	S. Mirick
04/13	1	Westmoreland	Glebe Rd.	E. & M. Speck
05/14	1	Rye	Isles of Shoals, Star Is.	E. Masterson
<b>Bobolink</b>				
05/03	3	Westmoreland	Woodward Rd. area	A. Burnett
05/05	1	Kensington	South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
05/05	1	Newmarket	Lubberland Creek Preserve	S. Mirick



*Eastern Meadowlark by Len Medlock, 4/15/12,  
Pease International Tradeport, NH.*

### **Eastern Meadowlark**

03/09	2	Charlestown	Rt. 12/12A	D. Clark
03/13	1	Hopkinton	Elm Brook Park	A. Moser
03/18	1	Greenland	Great Bay Farm	J. Lambert
04/21	12	Portsmouth	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	B. Griffith, L. Kras

### **Rusty Blackbird**

03/05		Portsmouth	Borthwick Ave. marsh at Portsmouth Regional Hospital	G. Tillman
03/08	1	Gilsum		M. Wright
03/11	3	Greenland	Great Bay Farm	L. Kras
03/31	24	Concord	Morrill's Farm, Goodwin Pt.	P. Hunt

### **Orchard Oriole**

05/04	1	Concord	Turtle Pond	D. Howe
05/05	1	Westmoreland	Woodward Rd. area	A. Burnett
05/07	2	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	J. Kelly
05/18	4	Concord	SPNHF Merrimack River CA	D. Lania
05/26	4	Dover	Bellamy River WMA	S. Young

<i>date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>town</i>	<i>location</i>	<i>observer(s)</i>
<b>Baltimore Oriole</b>				
04/24	1	Epping	Pleasant St.	P. Miliotis
04/30	1	Springfield/Enfield	Bog & George Hill Rds.	P. Newbern
05/14	12	Nashua	Mines Falls, Cove Loop Trail	M. Cahill
05/17	14	Rochester	Pickering Ponds	Z. Cornell, D. Hubbard
<b>Pine Grosbeak</b>				
03/02	1	Kensington	South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
<b>Red Crossbill</b>				
03/10	1	Bethlehem	Trudeau Rd.	B. Crowley, J. Scott
03/10	1	Stoddard	Rt. 9 & Rt. 123	P. Brown
03/17	1	Pinkhams Grant	Pinkham Notch, WMNF	M. Oyler
03/24	6	Jefferson	Pondicherry NWR	B. Crowley, J. Scott
04/19	2	Harts Location	Upper Saco River valley	B. Pendleton
04/30	3	Woodstock	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest	D. Grunzel
05/09	2	Holderness	Holderness Landing	I. MacLeod
05/11	2	Holderness	Perch Pond Rd.	I. MacLeod
<b>White-winged Crossbill</b>				
04/20	21	Stark	South Pond Rd.	B. Griffith
04/27	2	Jaffrey	Mt. Monadnock	J. Young
05/12	100	Pittsburg	East Inlet	E. Masterson
05/31	20	T&M Purchase	Mt. Washington	G. Saunders, R. Clark, et al.
<b>Common Redpoll</b>				
03/17	1	Kensington	South Rd.	G. Gavutis Jr.
03/18	1	Concord	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
03/22	1	Concord	Tow Path Lane	D. Lania
04/01	1	Rye	Rye Harbor SP	B. Perry
04/15	2	Hooksett	residence	T. Cardone
<b>Pine Siskin</b>				
03/03	37	Albany	Pit Rd. residence	J. Mullen
03/28	32	Sandwich	Diamond Ledge	T. Vazzano
03/30	75	Hart's Location	Crawford Notch SP, Pleasant Valley Wayside	J. Phillips
05/09	50	Sunapee	Sunapee Middle-High School area	D. Currier, et al.
05/28	2	Ashland	Sanborn Rd.	R. Bierregaard
05/28	2	Freedom	Freedom Town Forest	G. & A. Robbins
05/29	1	Pittsfield	Tilton Hill Rd. , Suncook R.	A. Robbins
<b>American Goldfinch</b>				
05/11	1989	Seabrook	Rt. 1A	S. & J. Mirick
05/17	462	Seabrook	Rt. 1A	S. & J. Mirick
<b>Evening Grosbeak</b>				
03/25	12	Warner	Howe Lane	M. Wiggin
04/17	14	Lyme	Whipple Hill	B. Allison

compiled by Robert A. Quinn.

## A Wonderful Surprise Discovered in a Duck Nest Box

as told by Lillian Stokes

One of the wonderful stories from the New Hampshire Audubon Birdathon in May of 2012 was that of a magical “Wood Duck” nest box. Lillian and Don Stokes of Hancock had been out of town for the winter and early spring. On the day of the Birdathon, the Stokes were conducting their traditional “Big Sit” Birdathon when a bird in the opening of a nest box on a tree near their barn caught their eyes. Expecting a Hooded Merganser, what they saw instead was a baby Northern Saw-whet Owl, and then, two at once! As has become their custom, the Stokes had invited several Birdathon teams to stop by for birds and a break. As teams progressively arrived, first one, then two, juvenile saw-whets popped out to be counted. Even considering the many rare birds seen by these teams, they were unanimous in agreeing that these cooperative and cute owls were the highlight of their day in the field.



Two young Northern Saw-whet Owls come out to count the birders! Photo by Lillian Stokes

## How the Purple Sandpiper got its Name

by Robert A. Quinn

Many birders have wondered why this rock-hugging winter sandpiper is called the Purple Sandpiper. As with other birds with names based on obscure field marks, this moniker is puzzling at best.

On April 7, 2012, however, Steve Mirick found a cooperative flock of Purples that allowed close approach and he obtained a fabulous photo actually showing the purple sheen on the back! This sheen is visible in color and you can see this striking image on the back cover.

All sandpipers are interesting but the Purple Sandpiper’s life history is absolutely intriguing. It starts with its scientific name, *Calidris maritimus*, which loosely translated means small sandpiper of the coast. This is one of the most coastal of all our sandpipers and it also has the most northerly winter range of any North American

sandpiper. It can even be found in Greenland in the winter months. They are very partial to wave-washed rocks where they feed on small invertebrates between the pulses of the surf\*. Most pertinent to this discussion is that the purple sheen on its back feathers is only there when the birds are in their winter (basic) plumage and is rarely seen. Therefore, Steve has captured a wonderful image actually showing the purple that gives this species its name.

*\*Iain MacLeod's Purple Sandpipers on Squam Lake in spring 2012 was only the fifth record ever away from the immediate coast.*

## **Chimney Swift: The Fascinating Will-o-the-wisp of Urban Areas**

by Robert A. Quinn

Chimney Swifts are ultra-fascinating birds to me and luckily I live near Concord which has more breeding swifts that can be easily watched than any other city in New Hampshire\*. On the evening of May 19, 2012, I ended my Birdathon by counting swifts from the Durgin Block parking garage in Concord, NH. The total of 425 swifts was the highest I have ever recorded in Concord and is significant when compared to other high counts from around the state because it was not weather related. Swirling swifts are a challenge to count, but on this evening there were two of us and we made several careful counts (thanks to Lisa LaPierre for help counting). Many of these birds could have been migrants, but a large number nest in Concord, as attested to by the 250 I tallied on July 20, 2012.

What is so fascinating about swifts? Everything! Here are just a few tidbits:

- The Chimney Swift is the only swift east of the Mississippi River.
- They are the second fastest bird in the world, trailing only the Peregrine Falcon during a dive.
- They are the most aerial of all birds. Swifts in Europe have been documented to have mated in flight and even to sleep on the wing! Their spirited courtship flights are aerial and acrobatic masterpieces.
- They have become dependent on us because they have adapted to nesting in chimneys after the large dead trees they originally used disappeared as the forests were cut down.
- In the late spring, their salivary glands become enlarged because they use saliva to glue their stick nests together. In Asia, swift nests are boiled down to make bird nest soup!
- According to the *Atlas of Breeding Birds in New Hampshire*, they are single brooded, are known to forage through the night when feeding young, are known to sometimes have unmated adult birds help feed the young, and most of their young fledge in late July.

*\* based on a data search of New Hampshire Bird Records, 1986-2008. New Hampshire Audubon, Concord, New Hampshire.*

So, the 250 birds I tallied on July 20, 2012 could easily represent 50 or more families, which is not a surprising number based on the number of chimneys in downtown Concord and the prime foraging areas of the nearby agricultural lands and the Merrimack River.

Did I mention the amazing tornado vortices of swifts that can be seen during the fall migration? Well, I guess that one will just have to wait for the autumnal season of *New Hampshire Bird Records!*

## References

- Foss, C., ed. 1994. *Atlas of Breeding Birds in New Hampshire*. Audubon Society of New Hampshire, Concord, NH.
- Svensson, L. and Grant, P. 1999. *Birds of Europe*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ.

## Dancing Sandhill Cranes in New Hampshire!

by Ben Griffith

On March 25, Jason Lambert found four Sandhill Cranes in the cornfields along Rt. 155A in Durham. He called Lauren Kras and when we arrived, several other people had gathered. The group noticed that the cranes appeared to be paired. Periodically, the cranes in one of the pairs began bowing their heads, stretching their necks, spreading their wings and jumping in reaction to each other's movements. The second pair of cranes appeared agitated by the behavior and would quickly chase the "dancing" pair shortly after the dance started. After being flushed, the dancing pair would not commence dancing for several minutes. Although the "chasing" pair appeared territorial and behaved as a pair, they never did anything that could be considered dancing.

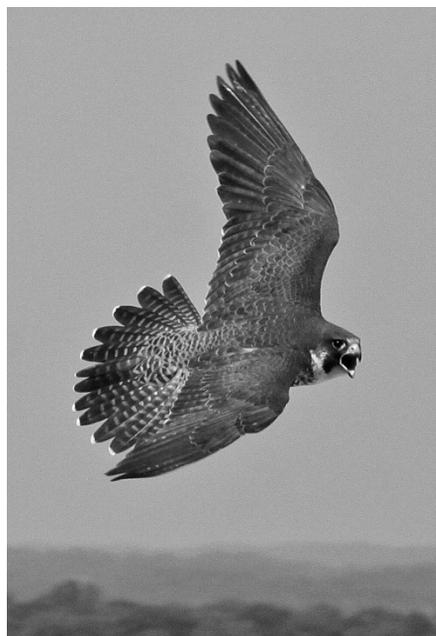


*Sandhill Cranes dancing in Durham on March 25, 2012. Photo by Len Medlock.*

Crane dancing is generally believed to be a courtship activity, as it occurs exclusively between paired birds and is most common during the breeding season. As a result, there are very few previous occurrences of Sandhill Crane dances in New Hampshire, but the behavior can reasonably be expected to occur again in the near future. Sandhill Cranes are increasing in the eastern part of their range and have been documented nesting in recent years in Maine, Vermont, New York, Massachusetts, and Quebec. Perhaps it is only a matter of time before they are documented nesting in New Hampshire as well.

## New Hampshire-born Falcon Sets New England Record for Breeding Dispersal

by Chris Martin



*The Peregrine Falcon from New Hampshire (photo by Greg Greer) and The Manhattan Condominiums building where she nested in 2012.*

A female Peregrine Falcon was banded as a chick at Holts Ledge (Lyme, NH) in 2010 by New Hampshire Audubon Senior Biologist, Chris Martin and Volunteer, Mike Thompson. It was found nesting on the 24th floor of The Manhattan Condominiums building in suburban Atlanta, GA in mid-May, 2012 by a Georgia raptor-watcher named Greg Greer. This bird's dispersal from natal (birth) to breeding site of approximately 950 miles is far greater than any previous breeding dispersal documented for a banded New England peregrine. This bird sets a record among more than 1,000 Peregrine Falcons banded in New England since the early 1990s!

## Photo Gallery

### Highlights from Star Island

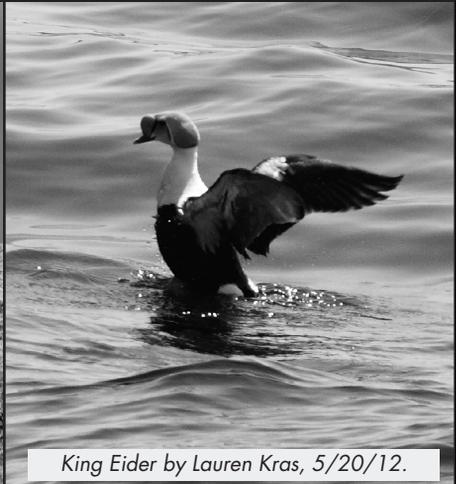
In Spring 2012 there were several trips to Star Island, one of the nine islands in the Isles of Shoals off Portsmouth, NH. Many birds stop on these islands during migration and they can be a great place to see a concentration of songbirds under the right conditions and often include a rarity. Most of the islands are in Maine and not easily accessible, but Star Island is part of the Granite State and has facilities for public visitation in the summer. Special arrangements must be made to visit the island off season. Here are a few photos from some of the special trips this spring.



*Field trip goes on  
Star Island,  
5/20/12.  
Photos by  
Lauren Kras.*



*Lark Sparrow by Eric Masterson, 5/8/12*



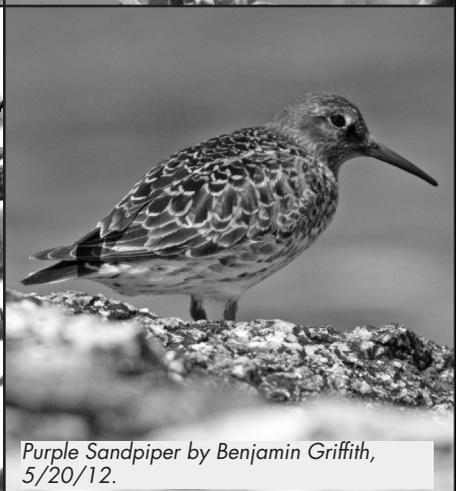
*King Eider by Lauren Kras, 5/20/12.*



*Chestnut-sided Warblers, one by Lauren Kras, 5/22/12 (left) and one by Benjamin Griffith, 5/20/12.*



*Eastern Wood-Pewee by Steve Mirick, 5/26/12.*



*Purple Sandpiper by Benjamin Griffith, 5/20/12.*

## New Hampshire Audubon's 2012 Birdathon Results

by *Phil Brown*



*Red-necked Phalarope photographed by Len Medlock during the Birdathon on 5/19/12 at the Exeter WTP, NH.*

**T**he Birdathon is New Hampshire Audubon's annual celebration of bird diversity, migration, and the New Hampshire birding community. In 2012 Birdathoners tallied 190 species on the big weekend (down from 202 last year), including 29 "Conservation Species," a select list of state-listed endangered, threatened, or declining species (one greater than last year's total). Species such as Red-necked Phalarope, Clapper Rail, Mississippi Kite, Bicknell's Thrush, Boreal Chickadee, White-winged Crossbill, Upland Sandpiper, Least Bittern, and many others, were found on May 19 and 20.

In all, 130 birders on 20 different teams took part either directly through the Birdathon or on a Birdathon field trip. There was good statewide representation, with the heaviest focus still south of the Lakes and White Mountains, but with a few teams farther north. The most popular coverage areas for teams were the Seacoast, the Concord area, and the Monadnock Region. This year again focused on the "birding local" theme that is beginning to define this event, as all teams stayed within their New Hampshire Audubon Chapter area, and several again competed in the human-powered category. Also, many people stayed much more local, limiting themselves to a single town, New Hampshire Audubon wildlife sanctuary, or backyard! This range of activities made for some good fun and story sharing at Sunday's potluck dinner at the McLane Center in Concord. Some great prizes were given away as well.

Through raising their binoculars, participants raised the awareness of birds and their conservation and added to our knowledge of bird distribution (through submitting records to eBird). Also, many birders went the extra mile by raising funds for bird conservation programs at New Hampshire Audubon's wildlife sanctuaries around the state. Funds will be put towards: the purchasing and installation of nest boxes for Eastern Bluebird and American Kestrel in places like the Silk Farm Wildlife Sanctuary in Concord; creating early successional habitat for breeding songbirds through improved forest management and orchard enhancement; and improving birding locations for the public along trails and at observation platforms in places like the Thompson Wildlife Sanctuary in Sandwich.

Thanks to all those who participated and who raised funds in support of these places. Getting out with old and new friends in search of birds, improving upon last year's efforts, and just having fun is an addictive activity during the height of spring birding! I hope that you consider participating next year on May 18, 2013.

### **2012 Birdathon Award Winners:**

**Statewide:** Pish-n-Chips (Steve & Jane Mirick) - 147 species, all within the Seacoast Chapter area

**Seacoast Chapter:** The Bird Brains (Dan Hubbard, Mark Hatfield, Dotty Wendelken) - 114 species

**Other Chapter Area:** The Peddlin' Peregrines (Rich Frechette, Scott Spangenberg) - 111 species

**Human-Powered:** The Schwinnter Wren (Pam Hunt) - 114 species

**Conservation Species:** GTB (Greg Tillman) - 11 species

**Sanctuary:** Pondicherry Marsh Hawks (Dave Govatski, Chris Borg, Mary Boulanger, Sheridan Brown) - 77 species

**Big Sit:** Covert Operations (Lillian & Don Stokes) - 69 species

**Newbies Award:** Lisa LaPierre (most life birds)

**Youth Award:** Aiden Moser (youngest birder)

**Best Bird:** Red-winged Blackbird (Laurel Brown)

**Best Name:** Peddlin' Peregrines

*Phil Brown is the Director of Land Management for New Hampshire Audubon and is the Birdathon Coordinator. He has participated in the Birdathon since 2004 to raise stewardship funding for special places across New Hampshire.*

## Field Trip Report

### International Migratory Bird Day at Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge

by David Govatski



Participants at the Tudor Richards platform on Big Cherry Pond during the IMBD field trip Pondicherry NWR on May 12, 2012. Photo by Len Medlock.

**C**elebrating the spectacle of bird migration is a popular annual event at the Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge in New Hampshire's North Country. The combination of wetlands, grasslands, early successional habitat and forests provide the opportunity to see a wide variety of bird species and wonderful scenery.

This year's 12th International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) event was on May 12, 2012 and the theme was "Connecting People to Bird Conservation." Free IMBD posters and bluebird boxes were handed out. This is also a time when we celebrate former New Hampshire Audubon President Tudor Richards, the father of Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), who helped create the refuge in 1963.

This year's event drew 55 participants and several guides who started the day at 6:00 am at an overlook at Airport Marsh in Whitefield. We were greeted by the sounds of a dozen male Bobolinks, as well as those of Brown Thrashers and Eastern Kingbirds, and also a variety of waterfowl including Common Mergansers and families of American Black Ducks. The early risers walked over to Hazen's Pond and added Wil-



*Osprey by Len Medlock, 5/12/12,  
Airport Marsh, Whitefield, NH.*

son's, Cape May, Bay-breasted and Chestnut-sided Warblers in the surrounding forests.

At 8:00 am, the second wave of participants arrived and we walked the wide trail into Cherry Pond from the Hazen Road trailhead. We were greeted by the flutelike melody of the Wood Thrush as we proceeded in small groups down the trail. We quickly tallied several more warbler species including another Cape May Warbler and Blackburnian, Black-throated Blue and Black-throated Green Warblers.

At the Tudor Richards Overlook on Cherry Pond we were pleased to see three Red-breasted Mergansers that are uncommon at this time of year. Our Common Loon territorial pair was

already back and fishing out in the middle of the hundred acre pond. Some of the group walked to "Moorhen Marsh" and heard several Marsh Wrens while others headed to Little Cherry Pond, deep in the boreal forest. The goal was to find the elusive Black-backed Woodpeckers that live here. We did see a Northern Goshawk at Little Cherry Pond.

The participants then walked back to the trailhead and drove over to Airport Marsh where we had an Osprey waiting. Some of us went to the new Mud Pond Trail off Rt. 116 where we added Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and a Black-backed Woodpecker.

We tallied 96 species of birds for the day after walking eight miles in ten hours. The Cape May, Wilson's and Bay-breasted Warblers were the favorites.

The next day brought a phone call saying that a Sandhill Crane was at Airport Marsh and several of us hurried over to see this bird that had not been recorded here since records began in 1899. Pondicherry NWR always holds a few surprises. IMBD is both a celebration of bird migration and also an opportunity to showcase bird conservation.

Pondicherry NWR celebrates its 50th Anniversary in 2013 and we hope that you will join us for another IMBD on the second Saturday in May, the Big Sit birding event on the second Sunday in October and many other events we are planning. Watch for the new map of Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge that will hopefully be out by the time you read this.

*David Govatski of Jefferson, NH is the President of the Friends of Pondicherry and the Chairman of the Jefferson Conservation Commission. He is an avid naturalist, hiker, canoeist, Nordic skier, and snowshoer as well as an active trip leader.*

## The Story of Waumbek Junction at Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge

by Joanne P. Jones

*If you have been to Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge, you have walked by Waumbek Junction, although you may not have known it at the time. It is the gateway to this very popular birding spot but at one time it was a very busy passenger railway station. This article provides a fascinating glimpse of what Waumbek Junction once looked like and something to envision the next time you walk in to Pondicherry. Ed.*

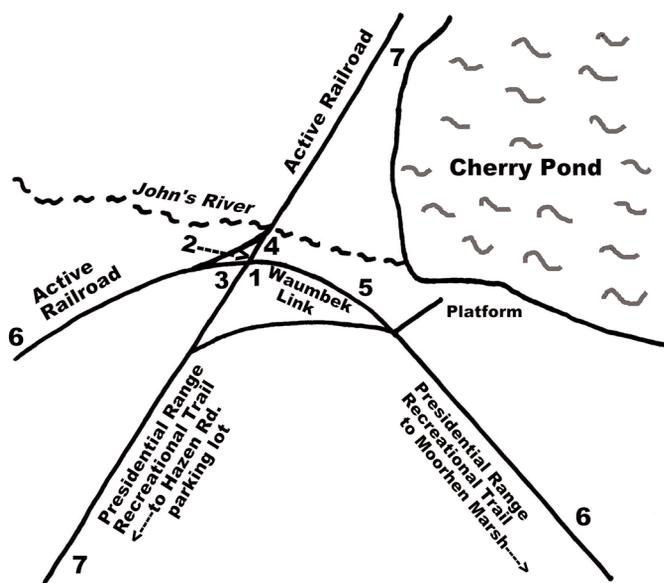


Figure 1.  
A close-up map of Waumbek Junction showing these locations:  
#1 Waumbek Junction;  
#2 the freight house;  
#3 the ball signal;  
#4 the passenger station;  
#5 the station agent's house;  
#6 the former Boston & Maine Railroad; and  
#7 the former Maine Central Railroad.  
Map created by Joanne Jones.

**A**s maintainers of the Little Cherry Pond Trail at Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge, my husband Kevin and I hike the Recreational Trail (sometimes called the rail trail) at least once a month to do trail work. About a mile and a half from the Hazen Road parking lot, we come to a spot where there is a big Pondicherry sign on our right and the trail meets some railroad tracks. Although there is little evidence of the fact, this area where the trail and tracks meet is the site of an old railroad junction known as Waumbek Junction. Dave Govatski told us that several buildings once stood at the Junction and that learning more about them would make a great research project. As a retired librarian, I thought this sounded like the perfect project to tackle, and thus began my quest to tell the story of Waumbek Junction.

Although located in a remote, roadless area, Waumbek Junction (#1 on the map) was an active railroad junction in the late 1800s and early 1900s. It was here that the Boston & Maine Railroad (running roughly west to east; #6 on the map) met the

Maine Central Railroad (running south to north; #7 on the map), allowing passengers to switch from one line to the other. Timetables for the two railroads indicate that the Junction was once a busy place where over a dozen passenger trains stopped during a summer day in the peak years prior to World War I, with passengers changing trains for destinations such as the Waumbek Hotel in Jefferson or the Fabyan House in Bretton Woods.

Interestingly, the Junction has had various names over the years. Originally called Cherry Pond, the name changed to Waumbek Junction in the 1890s. However, in May 1900, the name was officially changed to Jefferson Junction by a railroad order and remained Jefferson Junction until the late 1920s when it was once again named Waumbek Junction. Regarding the meaning of the word “Waumbek”, in their book *The Place Names of the White Mountains*, Robert and Mary Hixon explain that “in some eastern Indian dialects, waumbekket-methna meant literally ‘snowy mountains,’ and in the Algonquin language *waumbik* meant ‘white rocks.’”

Documenting the buildings that once existed at Waumbek Junction was not an easy task since very little detailed information about the Junction is readily available. By far, the most illuminating sources are two unpublished items; the valuation survey records compiled in the early part of the 20th century by the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) as part of a nationwide inventory of railroad assets, and the right-of-way and track maps that were done at this time by the railroads for the ICC. Beginning in 1914, survey parties were sent out to all railroad sites (including Waumbek Junction) to inventory and measure the buildings and other structures at a site and to calculate the value of the property. The records compiled by the survey parties who came to Waumbek Junction in 1914 and 1916, as well as the track maps of the Junction done by the Maine Central and Boston & Maine Railroads, show that a passenger station, freight house, station agent’s house, barn, and ball signal were all found at one time at Waumbek Junction.

The passenger station (#4 on the map) was located on the east side of the Maine Central tracks just north of the junction with the Boston & Maine tracks, before the crossing of the John’s River. It measured 16 ft. by 36 ft. and had platforms that extended along both the Maine Central and Boston & Maine tracks, so that passengers could easily switch from one train to another. Most likely the station was built in late 1895 or early 1896 and then closed to the public about 35 years later in the early 1930s (when passenger service was reduced in northern New England). It sat abandoned for a period of time before it was finally removed. Except for a few pipes hidden in the woods, no real evidence of the station is visible today.

The freight house (#2 on the map) was located in the diamond between the Maine Central and Boston & Maine tracks, across from and slightly south of the station. It measured 16 ft. by 28 ft. and was nearly surrounded by platforms. No date could be found for the construction or demolition of the freight house, but photographs indicate that it was still standing in the early 1980s. The only remaining evidence of the freight house today is the telephone box which was mounted on the front of the building and can now be found partway down an embankment near the river. Near the telephone box can also be found the remains of a clay cistern which served as a dug well that was fed by a spring.



*Waumbek Junction as it appears in 2012. The station in the postcard below would have been located to the left of the large Pondicherry sign along the path heading away from the tracks. Photo by Kevin Jones.*



*Undated postcard, most likely from the early 1900s, showing the passenger station at Waumbek Junction (courtesy of David Govatski).*

South of the freight house and just outside the diamond was a ball signal (#3 on the map) to control the crossing of the trains at the Junction. One ball or one red lantern raised to the masthead meant that Boston & Maine trains could cross the Maine Central tracks. Two balls or two red lanterns meant that Maine Central trains could cross the Boston & Maine tracks. No dates could be found for when this signal was placed at the Junction or for when it was removed. However, at some point, it was taken to the grounds of the Conway Scenic Railroad in North Conway, where it now resides.

The house for the station agent and his family (#5 on the map) was located east of the Junction, about halfway between the Junction and the current Tudor Richards observation platform. Although no photos could be found, the ICC valuation survey records have floor plans for this structure, which show that it was a two-story building with a front parlor, dining room, kitchen, and several bedrooms. The ICC records also have a plan for a small barn, which was probably located somewhere near the house. No dates could be found for the construction of the house and barn, but they were most likely abandoned in the late 1920s. A shallow cellar hole off the Waumbek Link trail is all that remains today.

Very limited information is available about the people who once lived at Waumbek Junction. A handbook published each year by the Maine Central Railroad reveals the names of the agents working and living at the Junction between 1914 and 1930, and the 1920 census indicates that a family of five resided at the Junction at that time.

Unfortunately, the names of those agents who worked and lived at the Junction prior to 1914 could not be found.

Although we don't know much about the human residents, we do know quite a bit about the avian residents of the Junction at this time, thanks to Horace Wright's book *The Birds of the Jefferson Region in the White Mountains*. Published in 1911, this book documents bird sightings by Wright and others in the Jefferson region between the late 1800s and 1911. A frequent visitor to Cherry Pond, Wright meticulously recorded a wide variety of birds seen on or near the pond. It is a fascinating book which shows that, even 100 years ago, Pondicherry was a popular birding spot. New Hampshire Audubon reprinted Wright's book in 2000 with a new Introduction by Tudor Richards and it is available from the NH Audubon Nature Store in Concord.

The complete version of this article, as well as a photo gallery, timeline, and bibliography, can be found on the WhiteMountainHistory.org website ([http://whitemountainhistory.org/Waumbek\\_Junction.html](http://whitemountainhistory.org/Waumbek_Junction.html)).

*Joanne Jones retired in 2011 from Phillips Exeter Academy, where she was a librarian for 27 years. She now volunteers at New Hampshire Audubon and the New Hampshire Historical Society Library in Concord.*

## A Trip to Waumbek Junction in 1979

This photo is from New Hampshire Audubon's Annual Meeting field trip to Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge in June of 1979. The trip was led by Tudor Richards, Carol Foss, and Bob Quinn. This was before the recreational trail (#7 on the map) was used to access the ponds. Bob Quinn remembers,

*"The traditional route into the ponds at the time was by way of "Cinder Road" (the airport runway access road) from the airport and then walking the live railroad tracks (# 6 on the map) the rest of the way to Waumbek Junction. Shortly after reaching the railraod tracks our group was confronted by a long train parked on the main tracks, thereby blocking the easy path in. There was an active siding back in 1979 but this train is clearly on the main line and I don't have any recollection of what transpired but I do have photos at Little Cherry Pond later in the morning so I assume that we just walked around the train."*



In his Introduction to the reprint of Horace Wright's book *The Birds of the Jefferson Region in the White Mountains*, Tudor Richards also describes birding Big Cherry Pond from the top of parked railroad cars.

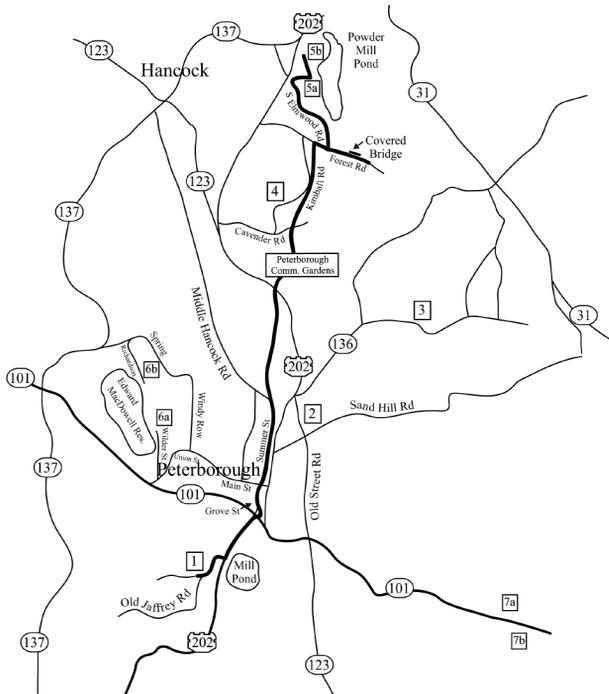
*A New Hampshire Audubon field trip in 1979 looking at the caboose of a train blocking their way to Waumbek Junction.  
Photo by Robert A. Quinn.*

# Birding Peterborough and Hancock Conservation Lands

by Rich Frechette

- 1 Freemont Conservation Property
- 2 Shieling Forest
- 3 Otter Brook Farm
- 4 Walcott Conservation Property
- 5 Elmwood Junction
- 6<sup>a</sup> Edward MacDowell Dam
- 6<sup>b</sup> Pack Monadnock
- 7<sup>a</sup> Temple Mountain Reservation

— Bike Path



Over the years, hard work by many conservation-minded individuals has resulted in the protection of several wonderful pieces of property with excellent birding opportunities. This article is intended to introduce the reader to a few of these true gems. Our focus will be on spring birding, but all of these properties have proven to be highly productive throughout the year.

We will begin our birding day in the usual manner, by car. For this, all directions will start from the junctions of Routes 101 and 202 in Peterborough. For those more adventurous, I will mention how to best bird the region in a human-powered fashion by bicycle or kayak.

## Freemont Conservation Property

Travel south on Rt. 202 for one mile and turn right onto Old Jaffrey Road. A small parking area for the property is on the right at 0.5 mile. Please park well off the road.

The bubbling of Bobolinks will greet you as you exit your vehicle. This property preserves a great example of an old field upland habitat. Nest boxes are filled with Tree Swallows, and in most years, Eastern Bluebirds. An active beaver pond sits in the lower field, where American Bittern and Virginia Rails call actively in the pre-dawn hours. American Woodcock and Wilson's Snipe use the field for their sky dances on occasion. Four species of swallow course over the pond, especially in the early evening and Wood

Duck and Hooded Mergansers have nested nearby. Song and Field Sparrows nest in the grasses while Swamp Sparrows favor the wetter spots near the pond.

As you walk the trail from the parking lot through the upper field and by the beaver pond, you will come to the second field. Listen for Alder Flycatcher and Common Yellowthroat here. Enjoy the swallows as you make your way up the trail to Picnic Rock, dedicated to long time resident and naturalist Richard Johnson (husband of *New Hampshire Bird Records* volunteer, Margot Johnson). Pause here to enjoy the spectacular view of Pack Monadnock and listen to the warblers, tanagers and thrushes calling from the surrounding forest, as well as the goldfinches and raptors overhead.

The trail continues through the field and joins a woodland trail where you will hear three species of thrush (Veery, Hermit and Wood Thrush), woodland species of warbler, Black-capped Chickadees and nuthatches. A short distance will bring you to a small stream which crosses the trail where Jefferson's Salamander makes its home. This is a good spot to turn around.

### **Shieling Forest**

From its junction with Rt. 101, travel north on Rt. 202 for 1.1 mile and turn right onto Sand Hill Road. At the top of the hill, turn left on Old Street Road. The parking lot for the Shieling Forest is on your right.

This property is owned by the state and began as a model for forestry practices. It contains many well marked trails through a variety of habitats including a woodland stream, upland forest, a large sugarbush and a section of red pine monoculture. A highlight is a wildflower garden maintained by the Peterborough Garden Club with examples of many of southern New Hampshire's wildflowers which have been labeled for our education. In addition, the upper field contains a nursery for blight resistant American Chestnut trees.

Here you will find thrushes, tanagers, many species of warblers as well as chickadees, nuthatches and Blue Jays. In the evening, Barred Owls frequently announce their presence, and Northern Saw-whet Owls call quietly. This location is especially fun to bird with young children as the trails include a wonderland of rocks to climb, bridges to play Pooh Sticks from, and fairy houses built by previous visitors.

### **Otter Brook Farm**

Return to Rt. 202 and turn right (north). Go 1.1 miles and turn right on Rt. 136. At 1.7 miles, turn right onto Gulf Road and travel 0.7 mile to find the parking lot of the Happy Valley School on your left. Park way to the right in the lot. This is Peterborough's newest conservation property and will soon sport an information kiosk. This property is made up of miles of old bridal paths and is now open to the public for walking, bicycling and cross-country skiing..... and birding. The birding here has turned out to be fantastic, as evidenced by annual walks led by Harris Center volunteers each spring.

From the lot, walk to the right of the garden and you will come to School Trail. From here, you will quickly come to a field which has been allowed to return to nature. Early successional habitat abounds, and it is inhabited by many Eastern Towhees, Field Sparrows, Eastern Bluebirds and Chestnut-sided Warblers.

There are many trails to explore, but I recommend following School Trail to Hansen Drag and turning right. This will lead you to a beaver swamp complete with Wood Duck, Mallard, many flycatchers and secretive marsh birds such as Sora, Virginia Rail,

American Bittern, and Marsh Wren.

There is a second entry point for the Otter Brook Farm trail system which can be reached by continuing along Gulf Road to its junction with Slip Road. Many more miles of old bridal trail start here, but its birding potential has yet to be discovered.



*Wood Duck by Debbie LaValley.*

### **Walcott Property**

Return to Rt. 202 and turn north (right). In 3.7 miles, after entering Hancock, turn right onto Cavender Road. Travel 0.6 miles and turn left onto Kimball Road. The nondescript entrance to the Walcott lands is at 0.3 miles on your left, a gravel driveway with a sign depicting an owl. Turn in and park by the kiosk.

Owned and maintained by the Hancock Conservation Commission, this property was the home of Dr. Walcott who served his patients in Hancock for decades. It was donated to the Conservation Commission by his son, Dr. Charles Walcott of Cornell's Laboratory of Ornithology with the understanding that it be improved for birds and birding.

There are three well marked trails through the property, which consists mostly of upland hardwood forest. We recommend the blue trail which will bring you through an area that has been selectively harvested to improve the habitat for warblers (e.g., Black-throated Blue and Canada), and leads you to a currently rickety boardwalk into a large freshwater marsh. An early morning visit to the boardwalk, built by the Boy Scouts of Peterborough Troop 8, can yield Sora, Virginia Rail, Marsh Wren, Alder and Willow Flycatcher and Swamp Sparrow. The unobstructed sky view frequently gives long studies of Broad-winged and Red-tailed Hawks, herons, Turkey Vultures and the occasional Bald Eagle flying from its nest on nearby Nubanusit Lake or from the shores of Powdermill Pond.

### **Elmwood Junction**

Return to Rt. 202 and turn north (right). After 2.3 miles, turn right onto South Elmwood and proceed 200 yards and park on the side of the road. Walk the dirt road to your left, which will bring you through a fresh water marsh that leads to Powdermill Pond, a large, dammed up section of the Contoocook River.

At a T-intersection, you can turn right to come to an old railroad bridge which affords excellent views of a large cove with emergent vegetation. When the water level is low and migration is on, shorebirds may gather on the exposed mudflats, including Semipalmated Plover, Least Sandpipers and dowitchers, as well as the more typical Killdeer and Spotted Sandpiper. Northern Rough-winged Swallows have nested in the supports for the now missing railroad bridge, and four species of swallow can be observed coursing over the pond. This is a prime location for American Bittern, and Brown Thrasher has been reliable here. This is also a great spot for the more adventuresome birder to launch a canoe or kayak.

Turn left at the T and you will travel through a stand of mixed forest and come out to a complex of beaver ponds where cormorants, Green Herons and nesting waterfowl may be found. Bald Eagles regularly fly over here.

### **Edward MacDowell Dam**

Built as a response to the devastating floods of 1936, the Edward MacDowell Lake has provided superb birding opportunities. To reach this lake and its surrounding wetlands, marshes and upland softwood forests, start at the junction of Routes 101 and 202 in Peterborough. Travel north on Rt. 202 for 0.6 miles and turn left on Main Street. To reach the main entrance, drive 1.8 mile and turn right onto Wilder Road. The park is at the end of Wilder. An alternate entrance, and one which may lead to better birding opportunities is found by turning onto Windy Row one half mile before Wilder. Travel 1.2 miles and turn left onto Spring Street, then left onto Richardson after driving 0.8 mile. The park is open sunrise to sunset and has restrooms available during the warmer months.

Flycatchers and warblers abound at MacDowell in the spring. The bushes along the lakeside trail will sport Song, Swamp and visiting White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows if you are lucky. One year, the inland form of Nelson's Sparrow spent a day here. Ravens have nested under the footbridge to the dam tower and the begging calls of the chicks can be clearly heard in late May. The songs of Wood and Hermit Thrushes as well as Scarlet Tanagers ring from the forest and waterfowl frequent the lake. When the dam is lowered for maintenance, many species of shorebird and the occasional egret delight the visiting birder.

### **Pack Monadnock and Temple Mountain Reservation**

To get to these higher altitude birding locations return to the junction of Routes 101 and 202 and turn east on Rt. 101. Miller State Park, home of Pack Mondadnock, will be on your left at 8.1 miles. Temple Mountain Reservation is on the right (south) side of the road one tenth of a mile further.

Pack Monadnock is the home of New Hampshire Audubon's first Raptor Observatory which makes it a desirable location for fall birding. Spring has its rewards as well. Dark-eyed Juncos breed here, and crossbills make an occasional appearance. Nesting Ravens and Turkey Vultures soar over the ridge and the views are spectacular. A modest entrance fee is charged and one can choose to drive to the summit or hike up the road or three very interesting trails.

Temple Mountain Reservation is the newest addition to the state park system and is a recently closed ski area. The trails are growing in with early successional trees and bushes and support the area's largest Prairie Warbler concentration as well as numerous Yellow and Chestnut-sided Warblers, American Redstarts and sparrows. Here one can walk up the service road, or bushwhack up the former ski trails. In summer, bring your appetite as the berries are plentiful.

### **Human Powered Birding**

For those who would rather leave the car behind, there is an excellent opportunity for birding by bicycle along the rails-to-trails system. In addition, the Contoocook River has many places to launch your canoe or kayak to leisurely bird while enjoying the water.

A favorite bicycle route starts at the Freemont Conservation Property. After enjoying the dawn chorus and wetland species there, cycle downhill on Old Jaffrey Road to its junction with Rt. 202. Stop at the mill pond across the street where Wood Duck, Canada Goose and Common Merganser are common. The rail trail starts just north of the mill building and follows the river to downtown Peterborough. Along the way, Louisiana Waterthrush, Warbling Vireo and orioles will likely entertain you. Stop in downtown Peterborough to check for new and used bird books, pick up a cup of organic coffee and a scone, and sit in the riverside gazebo to enjoy the swallows, kingbirds and orioles while recharging and relaxing. The bike trail travels north on Summer Street then enters the woods to remain riverside. Beaver activity is prominent here and Northern Waterthrush song rings out from the wet forest.



*Bobolink by Lillian Stokes.*

The path crosses under Rt. 202 and emerges at the Peterborough Community Gardens where Tree Swallows, House Wrens and Eastern Kingbirds will greet you. The path then turns off to the right and follows the river, emerging on Cavender Road in Hancock. Here you have a choice. Continuing straight (north) on the bike path will bring you to fields full of Bobolinks and sparrows, plus wetlands where shorebirds may be found, as well as herons and bittern. Or, turn left to arrive at Kimball Road and the Walcott Property. Either way, the birding will not disappoint you.

Continuing north will bring you to the southern entrance to South Elmwood at its junction with Forest Road. A quick stop at the covered bridge may yield nesting swallows. Travel north on South Elmwood to Elmwood Junction to enjoy this prime birding location.

This route brings you through many diverse habitats including both lowland and upland hardwood forest, old field, wetlands, farm fields, and riparian. Travelling through such varied ecosystems maximizes the number of species possible in a relatively short bike ride. A bonus is that this route involves a minimal amount of uphill cycling. Nearly 120 species have been identified on a single day on this human powered route.

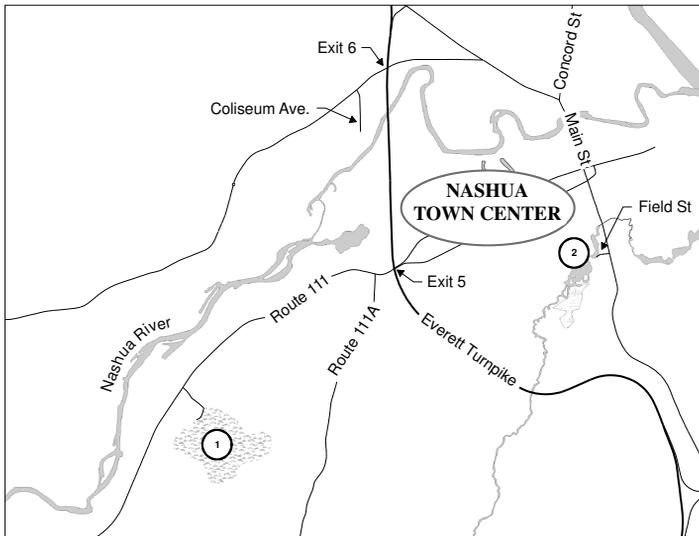
There are many opportunities to bird the area by watercraft. Edward MacDowell Lake has boat launches at both entrances. As mentioned previously, Elmwood Junction has a great area from which to get onto the water. Another boat launch is just across the covered bridge on Forest Road, where one can travel upstream on the river, or downstream onto Powdermill Pond. While floating quietly around the corners, one may spy a heron grabbing its meal, an Osprey catching a fish, or a flotilla of Hooded Merganser chicks scurrying out of sight.

However you choose to bird the conservation properties of Peterborough and Hancock, you will be richly rewarded. And, as you do, tip your cap to those who had the forethought to preserve these open spaces for wildlife to thrive, and for us to be enriched.

*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.*

## Four Hills Landfill

by Eric Masterson



New Hampshire's waste stream is increasingly accommodated through incineration, recycling, and various other avenues that reduce the need for landfills. As a consequence, large municipal refuse dumps, which were a feature of most urban environments in New Hampshire until the late 20th century, are now disappearing and with them the large gatherings of scavenging birds. For instance, 3,453 Herring Gulls and 323 Great Black-backed Gulls were reported from the Keene Christmas Bird Count (CBC) in December 1993, and 1,200 Herring Gulls and 600 Great Black-backed Gulls were reported from the Concord CBC in December 1987, when both cities had operational landfills. Numbers like these would be unthinkable now at either location. For example, four Herring Gulls were found on the Keene CBC in 2011, and only four Herring Gulls and two Great Black-backed Gulls on the Concord CBC the same year, a drop of more than 99% in both cases. The Keene landfill closed in 1991 by order of the federal government, which began phasing out older designs that presented a pollution hazard to groundwater. Alas, Slaty-backed Gull will likely never be added to the bird list of either town, much to the chagrin of area birders.

Four Hills Landfill (number 1 in Figure 1) off Route 111 in Nashua is one of the very few active sites left in the state. Mike Medeiros of the USDA has been stationed there since 2002 and his observations have provided much of the data contained in this article.

Four Hills began operating in 1970 and a good deal of the acreage contained within the perimeter fence has since been filled and capped. The active area of the dump, where new trash is deposited, is now located at the southern end of the property and away from Route 111. The remainder comprises almost 100 acres of reclaimed grassland that is suitable habitat for various species of birds of open field, including Horned Lark, Lapland Longspur, and Snow Bunting, all of which occur in winter. Savannah

Sparrow is a regular summer resident and breeder, and Grasshopper Sparrow, though unrecorded as of the date of this article, is likely a rare visitor.

The landfill is of course an excellent site for gulls, whose numbers can exceed a thousand individuals during winter. There are often one or two Iceland Gulls mixed in with the abundant Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls, and Lesser Black-backed Gull has occurred. Glaucous Gull, although yet to be confirmed, is doubtless an occasional winter visitor. Laughing Gull, a very rare bird away from the immediate coast, has been seen on three occasions.

Turkey Vulture is a common sight in the sky above the landfill and occasionally one or two will persist into winter. Black Vulture has been seen seven times in the last decade, twice each in February, March and June, and once in May. The landfill's southerly location in the Merrimack River Valley makes it as good a place as any to find the species in New Hampshire.

The scrub and field edge along the site perimeter hosts typical early successional species such as Brown Thrasher and Field Sparrow. It is not surprising that a Blue Grosbeak frequented the area from May 30 through June 12, 2012 as the habitat is perfect. This rare overshoot from the south favors forest edges bordering open field with minimal shrub cover, an accurate description of much of the landfill area.

Thanks to Mike's constant presence, a longer list of unusual birds has been recorded at Four Hills Landfill than would otherwise be the case (imagine how much larger your yardlist would be if you worked in your yard). Some of the more noteworthy records are as follows:

- Rough-legged Hawk - three records: mid-March 2008; late November 2010; January 16, 2011.
- Upland Sandpiper - four records: September 5, 2002; September 7-8, 2006; last week of August 2008; August 3, 2009.
- Laughing Gull - three records: early May 2008; early May 2009; April 16, 2010.
- Short-eared Owl - two records: December 11 and 12, 2007, December 5, 2012.

Unfortunately for birders, access into the landfill is restricted. There are no public vantage points that provide an overlook, as the entire property is surrounded by private residences, save for the stretch bordering Route 111. The gulls are actively discouraged from landing, however, so there is often a large cloud circling above the site. It is possible to view these through a scope from the offices just inside the gate, otherwise one must find the gulls where they roost and bathe outside Four Hills. One of the better places to check is Fields Grove Park off Main Street (number 2 in Figure 1). Birds likely commute to the Merrimack River in Manchester and the Derry Wastewater Treatment Plant and potentially other locations on the Nashua or Merrimack Rivers. Gulls will also readily congregate on large flat roofs. These are not in short supply in Nashua, although at the time of writing, there are no known spots that regularly host large numbers of birds and access is likely to again be an issue.

Residents of the city of Nashua can access Four Hills Landfill by permit, although only to the area around the recycling center. Access for non-residents is by permission, which is generally withheld.

The landfill is off Route 111, about 2 miles west of Route 3; the official address is 840 West Hollis Street, Nashua, NH.

## Answer to the Photo Quiz

by David B. Donsker

**T**his issue's Photo Quiz features a songbird, or passerine, perched on a branch of a fir tree. Using the twigs of the tree to judge its size we see that it is a medium-sized, slender bird with all black plumage. The only break in the sea of blackness is a staring white eye. Its bill is sharply pointed and very slightly down-curved at the tip. Its tail is fairly long and slightly flared and rounded at the end.

In eastern North America, all black or blackish songbirds are limited to relatively few species belonging to only four families: male Purple Martin, a member of the swallow family, *Hirundinidae*; three corvids, American Crow, Fish Crow, and Common Raven; our only starling, European Starling; and several species of American blackbirds in the family *Icteridae*.

Purple Martin can be dismissed quickly. As with all swallows, Purple Martin is a short-legged, short-billed, long-winged species. Its general configuration is quite different from this bird with its longish, sharply pointed bill and well exposed, thin legs or tarsi. Unlike our quiz bird, the martin's long wings nearly reach the tip of the tail when it is perched. The martin's bill is all gape; the exposed horny tip is comparatively puny. Swallows feed completely while in flight. Thus, their short legs are used primarily to perch. The tarsi are short and, unlike our featured bird, are virtually invisible.

Our three species of black corvids are all huge passerines. In fact, Common Raven is our largest songbird. In comparison to our featured bird, these three species are massive in general. All have large, stout bills rather than thin pointed bills. In all three species, the wings are long in comparison to tail length with the tips of the wings more closely approaching the end of the tail than is seen in this bird. The raven's wings are intrinsically long. The crows' wings look proportionally longer because they are relatively short-tailed species. The raven and the crows all have black, not white eyes.

Of our smaller black birds, European Starling stands out as the short-tailed outsider. The only true American blackbirds that share the short, square tail and sharply pointed, triangular wings of the starling are our two species of meadowlark. In North America, at least, meadowlarks with their golden-yellow breasts and streaky brown upperparts are anything but black birds. Although the starling's short, square tail is quite unlike the long, rounded tail of our featured bird, the starling does share with it a straight, pointed bill. In breeding plumage, the starling's bill is yellow, a sure giveaway. In non-breeding plumage, the bill reverts to its basic black, so the color of the bill can not always be used to separate starlings from true blackbirds. Unlike our featured bird, the starling has a dark eye.

The members of the family *Icteridae* (which, in addition to blackbirds, includes the aforementioned meadowlarks, as well as orioles, Bobolink, cowbirds, and grackles) that have all black, or substantially black, plumage are relatively limited in the Northeast. These include Brown-headed Cowbird, Common Grackle, Red-winged Blackbird, Rusty Blackbird, and a rare western vagrant, Brewer's Blackbird.

Of all these, the cowbird is the least like the others. Unlike its relatives, the bill of the cowbird is short and stout with a rather finch-like conical shape. The male cowbird has a brown head which, even in a black-and-white photograph, appears paler and duller than the rest of the plumage. This is opposite to our featured bird. Careful examination of the photograph reveals that the head of our quiz bird looks blacker than the subtly duller, paler black of the bird's upperparts, particularly its back, shoulders and wings. Further, the eyes of Brown-headed Cowbird are black, not white.

Although the scarlet shoulders, or epaulets, of male Red-winged Blackbird give the species its common name and are the major field mark of this common species, at times, especially when the bird is not displaying, they may be concealed. Under these circumstances, Red-winged Blackbirds may be a bit puzzling since they may appear all black. Unlike other all black blackbirds, however, Red-winged Blackbird is a rather stocky species. It has a fairly short tail and broadly rounded wings. Its bill is sharply pointed, but it is broad at the base making it appear thicker, and proportionally shorter, than its relatives. Importantly, Red-winged Blackbird has a dark eye unlike the grackle and the two other medium sized blackbirds mentioned above.

With its pale eye, rather long tail and black, pointed bill, it would be very easy to conclude that our featured bird is a Common Grackle. Our regional subspecies of Common Grackle, "Bronzed Grackle," even shows a bit of contrast between a dark head and paler (bronzey) body plumage that may be subtly suggested in the quiz bird. So, if you came to that conclusion, you are not alone. To the unwary, it would be easy to confuse the subject of our Photo Quiz with that rather common and ubiquitous species. There are several features of our subject that distinguish it from Common Grackle, however. Perhaps the length and shape of the tail is the most critical differentiating point. Although our quiz bird has a rather long tail, the tail of Common Grackle is even longer. The long tail of the grackle is especially exaggerated in males, but even in the shorter-tailed females, it is proportionally longer than that of our featured bird. A further distinguishing feature of the tail of the grackle is that it terminates in a wedge or spoon shape. In contrast, the tail of our quiz bird has a slightly rounded or club shape. The bill of the grackle is heavier, longer and thicker than the acutely pointed bill of the quiz bird.

The two medium sized blackbirds in the genus *Euphagus*, Rusty Blackbird and Brewer's Blackbird, are closely related to grackles and, to the unwary, are easily dismissed as their more common relative. Both of these pale eyed blackbirds, however, are smaller, shorter tailed and more slender billed species than grackles. They are very similar to each other, differing primarily in subtleties in the iridescence of the plumage, tone of the color of the iris and the shape of the bill. In comparison to Brewer's Blackbird, Rusty Blackbird is less glossy overall, has a slightly shorter more bulbous tipped tail, and has a longer, more acutely pointed bill that is sometimes slightly down-curved at the tip. The similarity between these two species is somewhat less of a problem in the Northeast where Brewer's Blackbird is only a rare to very uncommon vagrant from the western and midwestern states. In fact, New Hampshire has no accepted record for this species. An excellent clue to their identification is that these two similar species favor quite different habitats. In general, Brewer's Blackbird is a bird of open and agricultural land while the more reclusive Rusty Blackbird

prefers wooded swamps. This is certainly true on their mutually exclusive breeding grounds but is also generally true during migration. Rusty Blackbird prefers to keep its feet wet and can be seen most commonly at the edges of flooded woodlands and riverine habitats. It may also occasionally venture into pastures and fields, especially if the later are also flooded. If Brewer's Blackbird is ever to be discovered in New Hampshire, it will likely be found in those pastures and fields or be spotted in a wintering mixed blackbird flock in some barnyard.

Rusty Blackbird breeds in the boreal spruce-fir forest of Alaska, Canada, and New England. There it breeds in boggy spruce-fir woods and around beaver ponds. That habitat is the ultimate clue to the identity of our quiz bird. The fact that it is perched in a fir, a critical component of its breeding habitat, virtually confirms the identification as Rusty Blackbird and largely excludes other blackbirds of more open country, marshland or deciduous woodland.

This Rusty Blackbird was photographed by Len Medlock at East Inlet in Pittsburg, NH on May 22, 2010. The Connecticut Lakes region, the Lake Umbagog region, and, to a lesser extent, the White Mountains encompass the breeding range for this species in our state. Even there, it is a rare and local summer resident. Rusty Blackbird is an early spring migrant in New Hampshire, arriving in our state from its wintering grounds in the southeast in late March and early April. By the time they prepare to leave the state in autumn, first year birds and adults have molted into the rusty-tipped feathering of its winter plumage from which the common name of this species is derived.

Unlike most of our other blackbirds, Rusty Blackbird populations are in an unexplained sharp decline. It is the focus of research efforts in both the United States and Canada in which New Hampshire Audubon is taking an active role.

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# New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee Report

## Committee Year: 2009

*David B. Donsker, Chair (2011-2012)*

This report from the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee (NHRBC) contains the decisions for records voted on by the Committee during the calendar year 2009. The last report of the Committee, covering decisions made in 2008, was published in the Summer 2009 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* (NHBR).

The NHRBC reviews unusual sightings in an effort to maintain accuracy and scientific integrity of the bird records in New Hampshire. It is independent of NHBR and New Hampshire Audubon. All sightings are evaluated based on details submitted. The Committee requires a vote with not more than one dissension for acceptance of a record. Any new state record requires a unanimous vote.

A rejection is not necessarily an indication that the identification was incorrect but that the information received was not sufficient to allow its inclusion in the state record. Unfortunately, several birds during this time period were rejected for lack of documentation. Adequate documentation is key to whether a report is accepted or not. For information on the Committee and its decision-making process, see the articles in the Summer 1996 and Winter 2005–06 issues of NHBR. The Fall 1996 issue has an article on how to document rare sightings.

Voting members of the Committee during 2009 when these votes took place were: Dennis Abbott, Ralph Andrews, Jim Berry, David Donsker, George Gavutis, Jr., Stephen Mirick, Tony Vazzano, and Rob Woodward (Chair). Terry Bronson served as Secretary at the April meeting. Steve Mirick served as the acting Committee Secretary in the latter half of the year.

## Revision of Mandatory Review List

Cory's Shearwater was removed from the mandatory review list at the April 15, 2009 meeting of the Committee since it has become predictable in New Hampshire waters in the late summer and fall. For a listing of those species which require mandatory review by the New Hampshire Rare Bird Committee, refer to the NHBR website [www.nhbirdrecords.org](http://www.nhbirdrecords.org).

It was decided that Greater White-fronted Goose would remain on the review list due to its possible confusion with other "gray geese" and the difficulty in determining subspecies which may be elevated to species in the future.

## Summer 2008

### Records accepted by the Committee

Mississippi Kite	6/14/2008	Newmarket	
Red-headed Woodpecker	6/5/2008	Bedford	Accepted as one bird only.
Red-headed Woodpecker	7/4/2008	Bedford	
Hooded Warbler	6/7/2008	Holderness	
Summer Tanager	7/16/08	Concord	

**Records rejected by the Committee**

Cory's Shearwater	7/25/2008	Offshore waters	No documentation.
Cory's Shearwater	7/30/2008	Offshore waters	No documentation.
Yellow Rail	6/18/2008	Stratham	No documentation.
Common Murre	6/16/2008	Newcastle	No documentation.
Long-eared Owl	7/18/2008	Hancock	Heard-only bird. No documentation.
Ivory-billed Woodpecker	6/12/2008	Rindge	Not credible.
Cerulean Warbler	6/25/2008	Strafford	No documentation.
Cerulean Warbler	7/3/2008	Strafford	No documentation.
Summer Tanager	6/25/2008	Fremont	No documentation.
Western Tanager	7/25/2008	Chester	No documentation.

**Fall 2008****Records accepted by the Committee**

Cory's Shearwater	8/4/2008	Offshore waters	
Cory's Shearwater (17)	8/9/2008	Offshore waters	
Cory's Shearwater (9)	8/9/2008	Offshore waters	
Cory's Shearwater	8/18/2008	Offshore waters	
Cory's Shearwater	9/11/2008	Offshore waters	
Cory's Shearwater	9/13/2008	Offshore waters	
Cory's Shearwater	10/5/2008	Offshore waters	
Cory's Shearwater	10/10/2008	Offshore waters	
Mississippi Kite	9/7/2008	Newmarket	
Willet, Western subspecies	8/9/2008	Hampton	
Stilt Sandpiper	11/14/2008	Hampton	
Wilson's Phalarope	8/16/2008	North Hampton	(two reports)
Red-necked Phalarope	8/7/2008	Effingham	
Red-necked Phalarope	8/19/2008	Exeter	
Red-necked Phalarope	8/31/2008	Moultonboro/Center Harbor	
Red Phalarope	9/19/2008	Exeter	
Thayer's Gull	11/24/2008	Rochester	(two reports)
Royal Tern	8/2/2008	Rye	(two reports)
Royal Tern	8/9/2008	Offshore waters	
Royal Tern	8/9/2008	Rye	
Rufous Hummingbird	8/22-24/2008	Antrim	
Rufous Hummingbird	10/15-31/2008	Plaistow	(two records)
Myiarchus Flycatcher	11/13/2008	Rochester	
Western Kingbird	10/13/2008	Concord	
Cave Swallow	11/9/2008	Hampton	
Sedge Wren	11/28/2008	Stratham	
Gray-cheeked Thrush/Bicknell's Thrush	9/12/2008	Strafford	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	10/6/2008	Pittsfield	
White-eyed Vireo	10/4/2008	Rye	(two reports)
Golden-winged Warbler	10/2/2008	Lee	
Cerulean Warbler	10/3/2008	Dover	
Worm-eating Warbler	9/29/2008	Lee	
Lark Bunting	10/11/2008	North Hampton	(two reports)
Le Conte's Sparrow	10/18/2008	North Conway	(two reports)
Yellow-headed Blackbird	9/4/2008	Rye	

**Records rejected by the committee**

Cory's Shearwater	8/10/2008	Offshore waters	No documentation.
Cory's Shearwater	9/5/2008	Offshore waters	No documentation.
Cory's Shearwater	9/21/2008	Offshore waters	No documentation.
Gyr Falcon	11/8/2008	Peterborough	No documentation.

Worm-eating Warbler	10/8/2008	Rye	Description was missing some critical morphological features and further included inconsistent features including that described for head plumage and bill size.
Brewer's Blackbird	11/1/2008	Haverhill	Sighting retracted by observer.

## Winter 2008-09

### Records accepted by the Committee

Tundra Swan	2/14/2009	Hinsdale	
Cackling Goose	12/14/2008	Belmont	
Thayer's Gull	12/16/2008	Rochester	
Thayer's Gull	1/12/2009	Rochester	
Glaucous-winged Gull	1/10/2009	Rochester	First state record.
Northern Hawk Owl	12/5/2008	Meredith	
Northern Hawk Owl	1/12/2009	Center Harbor	(two reports)
Northern Hawk Owl	1/13/2009	Center Harbor	
Red-headed Woodpecker	Winter 08/09	Auburn	
Red-headed Woodpecker	1/2/2009	Conway	
Varied Thrush	12/20/2008	Rye	
Varied Thrush	12/22/2008	Rochester	
Varied Thrush	12/23/2008	Rye	(two reports)
Varied Thrush	Jan-Feb/2009	Rochester	
Hoary Redpoll	1/22/2009	Farmington	
Hoary Redpoll	1/22/2009	Sandwich	
Hoary Redpoll	1/23/2009	Sandwich	
Hoary Redpoll	1/25/2009	Keene	
Hoary Redpoll	1/25/2009	Sandwich	
Hoary Redpoll	2/3/2009	Keene	
Hoary Redpoll	2/5/2009	Charlestown	
Hoary Redpoll	2/5/2009	Keene	
Hoary Redpoll	2/5/2009	Sandwich	
Hoary Redpoll	2/7/2009	Sandwich	
Hoary Redpoll	2/14/2009	Colebrook	
Hoary Redpoll	2/14/2009	Pittsburg	
Hoary Redpoll	2/18-19/2009	Sandwich	
Hoary Redpoll	2/21/2009	Berlin	
Hoary Redpoll	2/21/2009	Milan	
Hoary Redpoll	2/22/2009	Swanzy	

### Records not accepted by the Committee

Thayer's Gull	2/18/2008	Rochester	Written description was lacking in detail. The committee evaluated the photos on-line during the meeting and felt that they were inconclusive to eliminate the possibility of a dark winged Kumlien's Gull.
Hoary Redpoll	2/8/2009	Madbury	No documentation.
Hoary Redpoll	2/27/2009	Milan	No documentation.
Blue Tit-Chickadee hybrid	12/21/2008	Concord	The committee felt that this strange looking bird was likely a hybrid. However, the parentage of the bird was deemed to be impossible to tell from the photos or description. Although several e-mails from "ID Frontiers" suggested a Blue Tit-Black-capped Chickadee hybrid, the committee was surprised that other parids were not fully evaluated as possible parents, especially European species including Willow Tit. Accepting a specific hybrid pair was believed to be pure speculation. The committee decided to accept the record as a parid hybrid.

## Spring 2009

### Records accepted by the Committee

Gr. White-fronted Goose	3/16/2009	Merrimack	(two reports)
Gr. White-fronted Goose	3/19/2009	Litchfield	
Mississippi Kite	5/13/2009	Newmarket	
Mississippi Kite	5/13/2009	Newmarket	
Red-necked Phalarope	5/28/2009	Concord	
Arctic Tern	5/29/2009	Hinsdale	
Common Murre	3/15/2009	Offshore Waters	
Great Gray Owl	4/4/2009	Durham	(two reports)
Gray-cheeked Thrush	5/30/2009	Rye	
Hooded Warbler	4/29/2009	Exeter	
Blue Grosbeak	5/12/2009	Pittsburg	
Hoary Redpoll	3/1/2009	Newton	
Hoary Redpoll	3/1/2009	Sandwich	
Hoary Redpoll	3/6/2009	Sandwich	
Hoary Redpoll	3/12/2009	Sandwich	
Hoary Redpoll	3/18/2009	Rochester	

### Records not accepted by the Committee

Cackling Goose	3/15/2009	Hinsdale	No documentation.
Cackling Goose	3/20/2009	Hinsdale	No documentation.
Baird's Sandpiper	5/7/2009	Concord	Insufficient details submitted for documentation of a very rare sighting. There are no known spring records for this species in New Hampshire. In particular, details of size were inconsistent, and no mention of wing length was mentioned. ID seems to be based primarily on call note, but no mention of how many calls were heard.
Yellow-headed Blackbird	4/19/2009	Nottingham	Full documentation not submitted. Observer calls sighting "possible" and identification seemed to be heavily based on call note when plumage characteristics should have been far more conclusive. Due to the rarity of spring sightings in New Hampshire, the committee felt that full documentation with further details was required.
Hoary Redpoll	3/7/2009	Mont Vernon	Insufficient details to omit Common Redpoll as a possibility.

## Earlier Records

### Records accepted by the Committee

Brambling	10/23/1987	Plymouth	Accepted as hypothetical first state record based on excellent field sketch. However, only one observer and without photographic documentation, three is required for a first state record.
Northern Lapwing	3/2/1988	Rye	Accepted as hypothetical first state record. Only one observer.

### Records rejected by the Committee

Brewer's Blackbird	10/9/1988	Littleton	Insufficient details to omit Rusty Blackbird as a possibility.
Am. Three-toed Woodpecker	4/28/1989	Surry	Only the head of the bird was actually seen, which is inconclusive.
Red-headed Woodpecker	Fall 2005	Newington	No specific date provided. No documentation received.
Hoary Redpoll	2/19/2008	Strafford	Insufficient details to omit Common Redpoll as a possibility.

## 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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An unusual photo of a Purple Sandpiper actually showing the purple sheen on the back that gives the bird its name (see page 41). Photo by Stephen R. Mirick, 4/7/12, Hampton Beach, NH.



King Eider by Eric Masterson, 5/20/12, Star Island, Isles of Shoals, NH.



Spruce Grouse by Eric Masterson, 5/16/12, Umbagog NWR, NH.



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