

New Hampshire Bird Records





NEW HAMPSHIRE BIRD RECORDS
 VOLUME 32, NUMBER 2
 SUMMER 2013

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Cover Photos: Mississippi Kites at the nest in Newmarket, NH. Adult by Len Medlock, 7/28/13, chick in the nest by Iain MacLeod, 7/23/13.

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

New Hampshire Bird Records © NHA June, 2014

Published by New Hampshire Audubon's Conservation Department

Printed on Recycled Paper

Summer 2013

by Rebecca Suomala

Volunteer Update

Thank You, Ed

This is Ed Larrabee's final issue as Photo Editor for *New Hampshire Bird Records*. We very much appreciate all that Ed has done. With more and more people taking photos, it is quite a job to compile them for each issue. And special thanks to Ed for continuing during the first month of the fall season while we found a new Photo Editor.

We are grateful to all of the photographers who allow us to use their photos in the publication. The quality and quantity of photos has changed dramatically with the advent of digital photography. We now have far more photos for each issue and they are so much easier to use than slides or prints.

Thank you to all who share your photos with us.

New Summer Editor Needed

Tony Vazzano will be continuing as Summer Editor for one more season in 2014. We are looking for someone interested in taking over this volunteer position. The Season Editor reviews the bird reports for their season, writes the summaries of the highlights and determines the reports to be published. The job requires experience birding in New Hampshire, good writing skills, familiarity with eBird and Excel, and the ability to meet deadlines. With the advent of eBird there is a lot of data to review and the new editor could apprentice with Tony in 2014. If you are interested, please contact me (see inside front cover).

PHOTO QUIZ

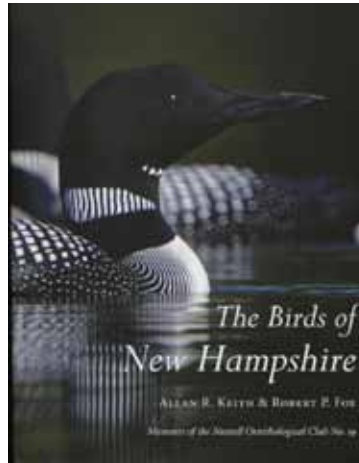
Can You Identify

This Bird?

Answer on page 27.

Photo by Brian Reilly.

New Reference on New Hampshire's Birds



The Birds of New Hampshire by Allan Keith and Robert Fox is an important new resource for the state. The purpose of the book is to describe the status and distribution of the species of birds known from New Hampshire (427 species). It is the only single place you can go for comprehensive information on the state's birds from as far back as is known. It is

the result of decades of dedicated effort and the first state-wide coverage of all species in 110 years.

The major advantage this book provides is that all information is gathered together in one place so that you don't have to search multiple references to learn about the history of the species or how often a rarity has been seen in the state. For researchers, the bibliography alone is a terrific reference. The book also contains:

- history of New Hampshire Christmas Bird Counts,
- summary of New Hampshire hawkwatch data,
- location and identity of over 4,800 museum specimens,
- summary of over 17,500 bird band returns for New Hampshire,
- Breeding Bird Survey results since 1966.

This historic compilation of records of bird sightings within the state provides an invaluable resource for anyone interested in the dynamic world of bird distribution and abundance. It's a one-of-a-kind resource and a valuable reference to have in both town and personal libraries.

See page 20 for a species account excerpt for Sandhill Crane.



2013 Goodhue-Elkins Award



Susan Fogleman receiving the 2013 Goodhue-Elkins Award from Bob Quinn.

As presented by Robert A. Quinn at the New Hampshire Audubon Annual Meeting, September 28, 2013.

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

The 2013 recipient of the Goodhue-Elkins Award is Susan Fogleman. Susan's longevity as watcher and site leader every fall on Little Round Top for more than 35 years places her as a standout among New Hampshire birders. There are few others who have participated in an organized collection of bird data for that length of time in New Hampshire.

The following, from a tribute celebrating the 40th anniversary of the hawkwatch site on Little Round Top, describes how Susan got started:

"When Susan Fogleman first visited Little Round Top her backpack did not bear data sheets, lunch, a compass, windmeter, thermometer nor any of the other tools she carries today. Instead she bore a 10-month-old and the accoutrements necessary when lugging such a package into the field. A few days later she carried the same, along with some Tonka toys for the 5-year-old who scurried up the trail ahead of her. She had become hooked on hawk watching. The kids grew, Susan absorbed excellent ID tips from her mentors, and eventually became a co-leader with Elizabeth Phinney."

Iain MacLeod wrote this tribute in *New Hampshire Bird Records*:

"The fall of 2009 marked the fortieth season of raptor migration monitoring at Little Round Top in Bristol. This incredible milestone is a testament to the dedication of site leader Susan Fogleman who has led the monitoring efforts for the majority of those forty seasons. Many others have helped with the all-volunteer efforts over the years, but Sue and her husband Wavell have been the inspirational leaders."

Susan went on to become the New Hampshire State Hawkwatch Coordinator and authored a presentation for the Hawk Migration Association of North America on Hawk Identification which is a valuable tool for learning how to identify hawks. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Hawk Migration Association of North America and the Board of NorthEast Hawk Watch.

Susan is an avid birder who reported her sightings to New Hampshire Audubon and was Spring Season Editor for *New Hampshire Bird Records* for four years. She was also a regional coordinator and field surveyor for 35 Breeding Bird Atlas blocks and was the Lakes Regional Christmas Bird Count Compiler for 10 years. She has led countless field trips on land and sea and taught birding workshops and classes. She has also taught for the College of Lifelong Learning and in the Continuing Education Division at Plymouth State University. As a field ornithologist she has worked for various federal, state and provincial agencies on projects all across New England and north to Hudson's Bay.

Susan joined New Hampshire Audubon in the late 1960s soon after discovering the hottest birding spot in central New Hampshire, a wetlands area in Holderness near Plymouth which she called "The Marsh." She was invited to join the New Hampshire Audubon board after she sent a letter contesting their support of a proposed extension of Rt. 93 through the Baker River valley. As a trustee she advocated for the conservation of birds of prey. She was Charter President of Lakes Region Chapter and later editor of the Pemigewasset Chapter's newsletter.

In recognition of her many contributions and especially her hawkwatching longevity, New Hampshire Audubon takes great pleasure in bestowing the 2013 Goodhue-Elkins Award to Susan Fogleman.

June 1 through July 31, 2013

by Tony Vazzano



The summer of 2013 turned out to be quite warm and very wet across the state. Rainfall in Concord was 181% of normal due to a few heavy rain events. Some nesting problems involving Common Loon and Common Nighthawk may have been a result of the heavy rain. In New Hampshire, these two species are not as common as their name implies. There were 13 days of 90 degrees or above in Concord compared to a normal of six.



Common Loon on nest with a chick and an egg by Jen Esten, 6/7/13, Pleasant Lake, NH.

Many birds whose nests are monitored by New Hampshire Audubon and NH Fish and Game biologists had terrific breeding seasons. These include Bald Eagle and Piping Plover. The stalwart luminaries of the season were the **Mississippi Kites** in Newmarket. The birds have been present in summer for at least the past six years and a nest was found by birders in 2013. Another stalwart star of more than a decade of summers has been the **Sandhill Crane** in Monroe. It was seen in its usual fields this year but in July it was joined by a second bird! The most unusual report of the season was a **Chuck-will's-widow** heard and recorded in Newton and will likely be accepted as the first one in the state. The **Acadian Flycatcher** that was found in Concord last year returned to the same location in early June. Other rare birds included **Black Skimmer**, **Red-headed Woodpecker** and two **Yellow-headed Blackbirds**.

Waterfowl through Grebes

Usually there are several ducks seen that would be considered out-of-season in summer in New Hampshire, but this year there were scarcely any. The teals reported, especially the Blue-winged, are early migrants. At least a few of all three scoter species regularly appear in summer along the coast, although there were more Black Scoters than usual this summer. The Surf Scoter on Lake Sunapee was quite unusual. They are a fairly rare migrant inland in spring and one on June 9 was a very late migrant. The most unusual waterfowl sighting was a Red-breasted Merganser photographed on Lake Sunapee on the same day. While they are sometimes seen along the coast in summer, they are exceedingly rare inland. A Red-throated Loon lingered off the coast. While not often seen near the New Hampshire coast in summer, they are not unusual farther up the coast, in Maine.



Common Loon by Chris Hatch, 7/11/13, Long Pond, Lempster, NH.

John Cooley, Senior Biologist with the Loon Preservation Committee in Moultonborough, reports that the number of Common Loon pairs occupying a territory rose from 280 last year to 284. Nevertheless, it was the fourth worst year of breeding success in 38 years of monitoring with respect to the number of fledged chicks per territorial pair. Only 63% of the territorial pairs attempted nesting and of these, 58% were successful hatching a total of 157 chicks. In the end, 118 of these chicks survived. These nesting statistics are lower than average. Very wet weather in June and above average temperatures in July may have contributed to this. Wet Junes have become more regular in recent years and can cause nesting failure for loons. June rainfall in the past decade has been greater than any other decade on record in the state. If this excessive rainfall in June is a long-term part of the climate change equation, it doesn't bode well for loons in New Hampshire.

SUMMER SEASON

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
Blue-winged Teal			
06/03	4	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
07/20	1	Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton	S.& J. Mirick
07/21	1	Hampton salt marsh	S. Mirick
Green-winged Teal			
07/28	1	Exeter WTP	S. Mirick
Surf Scoter			
06/07	4	Pulpit Rocks, Rye	S. Mirick
06/09	1	Lake Sunapee SP, Newbury	A. Moser
06/22	1	Rye Ledge	S. Mirick
07/28	1	Rye Harbor Z. Cornell, R. Suomala, S. Mirick	S. Mirick
White-winged Scoter			
06/08	11	NH coast	S. Mirick
06/22	3	Rye Ledge	S. Mirick
07/13	8	NH coast	S. Mirick
Black Scoter			
06/08	36	NH coast	S. Mirick
06/18	20	North Beach, Hampton	S. Mirick
07/13	22	NH coast	S. Mirick
07/20	7	Rye Ledge	J. Gamble
07/28	17	North Beach, Hampton	S. Mirick
Common Goldeneye			
06/17	1	Metallak Road, Pittsburg	E. Nielsen
06/19	1	Day Rd., Perry Stream, Pittsburg	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
Red-breasted Merganser			
06/09	1	Lake Sunapee SP, Newbury	A. Moser
06/22	1	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
07/13	1	n. of Little Boars Head, N. Hampton	S. Mirick
07/21	1	Rye Harbor	S. Mirick
07/27	1	Rye Harbor creek	S. Mirick
Spruce Grouse			
06/02		Mt. Tom, WMNF, Bethlehem	K. Pelletier
06/08		Valley Way trail, Mt. Madison/ Mt. Adams, T&M Purchase	K. Pelletier
06/23	1	Jefferson Notch Rd., T&M Purchase	O. Burton
07/06	1	Caps Ridge Trail, T&M Purchase	B. Griffith, L. Kras
Red-throated Loon			
06/02	1	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
06/26	1	Seabrook Beach	Z. Cornell
07/13	1	Hampton Harbor, Seabrook	S. Mirick
Pied-billed Grebe			
06/16	2	Scott Bog Rd., Pittsburg	G. Johnson
07/03	1	Mount Washington Auto Rd., Greens Grant	S. Goodman
07/07	2	Highland Lake house, Stoddard	J. Anderson
07/13	1	Brentwood Mitigation Area	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
07/17	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard
07/27	2	Davis Brook, Bradford	M. Davidson

Shearwaters through Cranes



Black-crowned Night-Heron, by Amanda Altena, 7/13/13, Hampton Harbor, NH.

Seabirding in New Hampshire waters is always a gamble, as some years simply have few birds out there to be seen. This summer the birds were exceptionally scarce and there was only one report each for Great and Manx Shearwater, while Cory's went unreported for the first time in six years. Wilson's Storm-Petrels were no exception with a maximum of 93 that were spread out along the coast in Rye on a mid-summer day. Large numbers of Snowy Egrets were seen along the coast in late July and also more Black-crowned Night-Herons than are typically seen, but there were no unusual egrets or herons reported.

Bald Eagles had another terrific breeding season and New Hampshire Audubon biologist Chris Martin reports new state record highs established for territorial pairs (40), active nests (30), successful nests (21) and young fledged (35). Black Vulture is another southern bird that has become annual in the southern part of the state and one was seen in Newmarket in June. **Mississippi Kites** have become a regular feature in Newmarket and they returned for their sixth year. This year, a nest was confirmed and at least one chick was seen in it. A single **Sandhill Crane** has been a regular visitor in the fields of Monroe near the Connecticut River from spring into fall for the past 14 years. This year, remarkably, a second bird joined it and they were seen together many times after first sighting in early July. Sandhill Crane has nested in recent years in surrounding states but not in New Hampshire. Perhaps 2014 will finally be the year it happens here.

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
Great Shearwater			
07/04	3	Offshore waters	J. Carroll
Manx Shearwater			
06/08	1	s. of Rye Harbor SP	S. Mirick

Date # Location Observer

Wilson's Storm-Petrel

06/10 4 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye J. Luedtke
 06/29 93 NH coast S. Mirick
 07/04 40 Offshore waters J. Carroll
 07/31 28 Jeffreys Ledge (NH) B. Devine

Northern Gannet

06/03 3 Offshore waters inside of Isles of Shoals L. Kras
 07/06 8 Offshore waters (NH) Z. Cornell, et al.
 07/18 20 Offshore waters (NH) M. Rockmore
 07/31 21 Jeffreys Ledge (NH) B. Devine

American Bittern

06/03 1 Bog Pond, Danbury J. Gamble
 06/08 2 Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem H. Walters
 06/14 2 Mt. Moosilauke Hwy., Haverhill S. Eisenhauer
 06/20 3 Chaffee WS boat launch, Lyme B. Allison
 07/02 1 Basin Pond, Chatham D. Beattie

Great Egret

06/24 16 Hampton Harbor, Seabrook Z. Cornell
 07/27 26 NH coast S. Mirick



Snowy Egret by Kyle Wilmarth, 7/13/13, Hampton, NH.

Snowy Egret

06/22 36 NH coast S. Mirick
 07/20 69 NH coast S. & J. Mirick
 07/28 36 Awcomin Marsh, Rye Z. Cornell, R. Suomala

Black-crowned Night-Heron

06/02 2 Rt. 1A, Seabrook S. Mirick
 07/24 9 Hampton Harbor, Seabrook Z. Cornell, R. Suomala

Glossy Ibis

07/06 18 Hampton Harbor, Seabrook S. Mirick
 07/28 7 Awcomin Marsh, Rye Z. Cornell, R. Suomala

Black Vulture

06/23 1 downtown Newmarket D. Akers



Mississippi Kite by Len Medlock, 7/28/13, Newmarket, NH.

Mississippi Kite

06/01 1 Gonet Dr., Newmarket S. Mirick
 07/20 3 Gonet Dr., Newmarket Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
 07/30 3 Gonet Dr., Newmarket J. Sparrell

Northern Harrier

06/09 1 Magalloway Rd., Pittsburg Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
 06/17 1 Rt. 135 field, S. Lancaster R. Suomala, C. Foss
 07/29 1 Rt. 286 pools, Seabrook J. MacQueen

Date # Location Observer

Northern Goshawk

06/16 1 Mount Washington Auto Rd., Greens Grant D. Schaffter, J. Barros
 06/23 1 Valley Rd., Jefferson O. Burton
 07/06 1 Woodward Rd., Westmoreland A. Burnett

Red-shouldered Hawk

06/01 2 Great East Lake, Wakefield K. Wilmarth
 06/05 1 Waukegan Golf Course, Center Harbor J. Heaney
 06/15 1 Lamprey River Preserve, Durham K. Dorsey
 06/23 1 Franconia Notch SP O. Burton
 06/29 2 Berry Bay cottage, Freedom A. Robbins
 07/09 1 Under the Mountain Rd., Lyman S. Turner

Virginia Rail

06/03 2 World End Pond, Salem A. Altena, K. Wilmarth
 06/09 1 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield C. Nims, et al.
 06/12 3 Geremonty Drive marsh, Salem K. Wilmarth
 06/16 1 Great East Lake, Wakefield K. Wilmarth
 06/23 1 Pawtuckaway SP, Nottingham D. Levenson
 07/02 5 Geremonty Drive marsh, Salem Z. Cornell, R. Suomala, M. Iliff
 07/04 1 Chapmans Landing, Stratham R. Woodward
 07/07 2 South End Marsh, Concord R. Woodward
 07/07 2 Chase Sanctuary, Hopkinton R. Woodward
 07/14 1 East Inlet Rd., Pittsburg R. Frieden



Sora by Steve Mirick, 6/27/13, Geremonty Dr. marsh, Salem, NH.

Sora

06/12 2 Geremonty Drive marsh, Salem K. Wilmarth
 07/02 2 Geremonty Drive marsh, Salem Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
 07/07 3 South End Marsh, Concord R. Woodward

Sandhill Crane

07/05 2 Littleton Rd., Monroe E. Fortin
 07/25 2 Rt. 135, Monroe T. Vazzano

Plovers through Alcids

Piping Plover had a spectacular year in New Hampshire. Seven pairs successfully fledged a total of 12 chicks. For the first time since they returned to breed in New Hampshire in the mid-1990s, a pair nested in the dunes west of Route 1A and raised three chicks. NH Fish and Game biologist Sarah Pease, who monitored the plovers this season, thinks the very successful year was a result of the weather. As quoted in New Hampshire Fish and Games quarterly publication *Wildlines*, Sarah remarked: It rained every day for almost two weeks straight, which kept people and predators away, so the beaches were quiet this year during mid-nesting season.

SUMMER SEASON



Piping Plover chick by Amanda Alvina, 7/22/13, Hampton, NH.

Still, a raptor preyed on two newly hatched chicks and an adult plover at one nest site and a skunk ate eggs at another. Upland Sandpiper is another species monitored by biologists at NH Fish and Game. This summer they reported four nests at Pease International Tradeport, the only site in the state where they nest. Three chicks were seen with adults and as many as ten juveniles were seen in July, although some of these could have been migrants. Marbled Godwit is a rare migrant in New Hampshire and is occasionally seen on the flats in Hampton Harbor in late summer. This year three were seen there in late July.



Common Tern by Len Medlock, 7/27/13, Hampton Harbor, NH.

A first summer Little Gull was present in Seabrook during the second half of July. American Oystercatcher breeds mostly to the south of New Hampshire but a few breed in Maine and Nova Scotia. They have become annual in the state and there were a couple of reports from the Isles of Shoals in June, a location where they have been seen many times in the past. **Black Skimmer** breeds exclusively to the south of New Hampshire but it has become nearly annual here in the past several years and one was photographed in Seabrook in July. Biologists working under contract with NH Fish and Game at the Isles of Shoals reported 2,619 pairs of Common Terns on White and Seavey Island, up slightly from last year. The number of Roseate and Arctic Tern pairs, 59 and two respectively, were down slightly. In keeping with the poor seabird season, only one jaeger was reported. It was reported as a Parasitic, but its photograph has generated some discussion as to whether it was a Long-tailed Jaeger. The report will go to the NH Rare Birds Committee for review.

Date	#	Location	Observer
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Semipalmated Plover

06/01	10	Hampton Harbor, Seabrook	S. Mirick
07/13	11	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop., Seabrook	Z. Cornell, et al.
07/27	103	NH coast	S. Mirick

American Oystercatcher

06/01	2	Star Island, Rye	L. Kras
06/30	2	Star Island, Rye	S.& C. Parr

Solitary Sandpiper

07/16	1	Ponemah Bog WS, Amherst	P. Brown
07/17	1	South Rd., Kensington	G. Gavutis, Jr.
07/25	1	Howe Reservoir, Dublin	E. Masterson
07/27	1	Shepherd's Hill Condos, Hudson	E. Huestis

Greater Yellowlegs

06/09	1	Scott Bog Rd., Pittsburg	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
07/06	1	Hampton Harbor, Seabrook	S. Mirick
07/27	22	NH coast	S. Mirick



*Willet adult (top)
7/24/13*

*and
Willet chicks,
6/22/13,
off Rt. 286,
Seabrook, NH.
Photos by Steve
Mirick*



Willet

06/22	18	NH coast	S. Mirick
07/17	79	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick

Lesser Yellowlegs

07/06	3	NH coast	S. Mirick
07/27	42	NH coast	S. Mirick

Whimbrel

07/21	1	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
07/28	1	Hampton Harbor, Hampton River Marina flats	L. Medlock, S. Mirick

Marbled Godwit

07/22	3	Hampton Harbor	I. MacLeod
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Ruddy Turnstone

07/20	2	NH coast	S.& J. Mirick
07/28	2	Hampton Harbor, Hampton River Marina flats	L. Medlock

Semipalmated Sandpiper

07/03	4	Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye	S. Parr
07/20	6	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
07/24	600	Hampton salt marsh, se. corner	S. Mirick
07/26	1	Howe Reservoir, Dublin	E. Masterson

Least Sandpiper

07/04	7	Hampton salt marsh	S. Mirick
07/09	2	Otter Brook Dam Recreation Area, Keene	L. Butler

Date	#	Location	Observer
07/19	12	Ponemah Bog WS, Amherst	C. Sheridan
07/25	90	Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook	S. Mirick

Pectoral Sandpiper

07/22	1	Rt. 286, Seabrook	K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
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Stilt Sandpiper

07/13	1	Little River saltmarsh, N. Hampton	J. Lambert
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Short-billed Dowitcher

07/04	1	Hampton salt marsh	S. Mirick
07/13	8	Hampton Harbor	K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
07/24	10	Hampton salt marsh, se. corner	S. Mirick
07/27	23	NH coast	S. Mirick

Jaeger sp

07/04	1	Offshore Waters	J. Carroll
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Bonaparte's Gull by Amanda Altena, 7/24/13, Hampton, NH.

Bonaparte's Gull

06/07	5	Eel Pond, Rye	M. Watson
06/22	15	NH coast	S. Mirick
07/27	15	NH coast	S. Mirick

Little Gull

07/13	1	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop., Seabrook	S.& J. Mirick, R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
07/24	1	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop., Seabrook	S. Mirick, et al.

Laughing Gull

06/08	1	NH coast	S. Mirick
07/12	2	Hampton Beach	J. Kelly
07/24	6	Hampton Harbor, Seabrook	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala



Least Tern by Kyle Wilmarth, 7/13/13, Hampton, NH.

Least Tern

07/06	1	Hampton Harbor, Seabrook	S. Mirick
07/21	3	Hampton salt marsh	S. Mirick
07/28	5	NH coast	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala

Black Tern

06/03	1	Offshore waters inside of Isles of Shoals	L. Kras
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Roseate Tern by Amanda Altena, 6/2/13, Hampton, NH.

Roseate Tern

06/22	10	Hampton Harbor & inlet	S. Mirick
07/13	30	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop., Seabrook	Z. Cornell, S. Mirick, et al.

Date	#	Location	Observer
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Arctic Tern

07/18	2	Offshore waters near Isles of Shoals	M. Rockmore
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Black Skimmer

07/24	1	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop., Seabrook	S. Mirick, et al.
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Black Guillemot

06/01	2	Star Island, Rye	L. Kras
06/13	3	Star Island, Rye	C. Lentz
06/22	1	Rye Ledge	S. Mirick

Atlantic Puffin

06/01	1	Star Island, Rye	L. Kras
06/30	2	Star Island, Rye	M. Mansfield

Cuckoos through Horned Lark



Black-billed Cuckoo by Jonathan Smith, 6/13/13, Massabesic Audubon Center, Auburn, NH.

Both cuckoos were reported in higher numbers than average. There were a few dozen reports of Black-billeds, too numerous to list. Eastern Screech-Owl was reported from southern Carroll County, near Lake Winnepesaukee in Moultonborough. They have expanded slightly northward in central and eastern New Hampshire in recent years. Project Nighthawk volunteers were unable to confirm nesting anywhere in the state, although it was strongly suspected at a couple of sites. Project Coordinator, Rebecca Suomala, reported that nighthawks appeared to be late in settling down and some seemed like they never did. She speculated that cold rainy weather in June followed by frequent rains may have caused nest failure. There were fewer birds in the Concord and Ossipee regions while Keene had the same number of birds as previous years. A **Chuck-will's-widow**

SUMMER SEASON

was an exciting find in Newton during the first week of June. It was apparently only heard one night and fortunately an audio recording was made to confirm the identity.

Red-headed Woodpecker is very rare in summer in the state and an adult was found in Belmont in early June. They typically range to the west and south of New England. Peregrine Falcons had 22 territories in the state this year and incubation at 19 of them according to NH Audubon's raptor biologist, Chris Martin. While these were record high numbers, there were only 11 successful nests producing 25 fledged chicks. Two Yellow-throated Vireos reported from Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge were unusually far north for this species; they are not often found in or north of the White Mountains. An **Acadian Flycatcher** was seen and heard at the same location in Concord as last summer. This is yet another species breeding south of New Hampshire that has not been confirmed as breeding here.

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
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Yellow-billed Cuckoo

06/01	1	Mast Yard SF, Concord/Hopkinton	R. Woodward
06/02	1	Nubanusit area, Peterborough	N. White
06/02	1	Hawkins Farm, Salem	T. Kavanaugh
06/02	1	Lakeview Dr., Strafford	S. Young
06/17	1	Champlin Forest Reservation, Rochester	D. Hubbard
06/22	1	Hubbard Brook Exp. Forest, Woodstock	M. Smith
06/23	1	Heath Rd. farm, Conway	G.& A. Robbins
06/24	1	Rt. 302, Bartlett	J. Lawson
06/24	1	Rock Barn field, Plymouth	J. Williams
06/26	1	Scarboro Rd., Freedom	G.& A. Robbins
07/04	1	Mt. Monadnock, Jaffrey	E. Richard
07/07	1	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River, Pittsfield	A. Robbins
07/11	1	Antrim Rd., Hancock	P. Brown
07/19	1	Coolidge Way, Raymond	S. Santino
07/19	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	Z. Cornell
07/20	1	Antrim Rd., Hancock	E. Masterson
07/20	1	Portland St., Lancaster	S. Stoddard

Eastern Screech-Owl

06/13	1	Applecroft Farm, Dunbarton	P. Sullivan
07/23	2	Geneva Point Rd., Moultonborough	G. Power
07/23	1	Depot Road, Stratham	P. Hunt

Chuck-will's-widow

06/03	1	Tara Lane, Newton	P. McFarland
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Eastern Whip-poor-will

06/01	3	Clinton St. & Birchdale Rd., Concord	R. Woodward
06/12	7	Curtisville Rd., Concord	R. Quinn, J. Kolas
06/13	3	West Branch Pine Barrens Preserve, Madison	E. Masterson
06/24	6	West Branch Pine Barrens Preserve gravel pit, Freedom	G.& A. Robbins
06/24	4	TNC, Red Baron Gate, Windsock Village, Ossipee	G.& A. Robbins

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
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Red-headed Woodpecker

06/02	1	Elaine Dr. swamp, Belmont	L. Young
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Red-bellied Woodpecker

07/05	2	wetland by Rt. 93, Holderness	A. McAndrews, J. Montejo
07/16	3	Diamond Ledge, Sandwich	T. Vazzano

Black-backed Woodpecker

06/02	2	Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem	J. Sparrell
06/10	3	Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem	S. Turner
06/16	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski
06/17	1	Carter Dome, Beans Purchase	J. Halibozek
06/20	1	East Inlet Rd., Pittsburg	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06/21	2	Caps Ridge Trail, T&M Purchase	G. Billingham, K. Marshall
06/26	2	Magalloway Mountain, Pittsburg	J. Carroll
07/03	3	Caps Ridge Trail, T&M Purchase	J. Sparrell

American Kestrel

06/02	3	Mountain Rd., Concord	R. Woodward
06/02	3	Lee Hook Road powerline, Lee	G.& A. Robbins
06/15	2	Strafford County Farm, Dover	D. Hubbard
06/28	2	Rt. 113, N. Chatham	B. Crowley
06/29	2	Red Brook beaver pond, Rt. 25, Ossipee	G.& A. Robbins
06/29	3	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	J. Scott, B. Crowley
07/20	4	Portland St., Lancaster	S. Stoddard



Merlin by Keith Chamberlin, 7/21/13, Ashland, NH.

Merlin

06/16	1	Great East Lake, Wakefield	K. Wilmarth
06/30	2	Jefferson Notch Rd., T&M Purchase	N. Houlihan
07/07	1	Common Man Inn, Plymouth	J. Montejo, A. McAndrews
07/10	1	Old Hillsboro Rd., Henniker	A. Moser
07/17	4	Spofford Lake	K. Gunther
07/18	1	Scott Bog, Pittsburg	T. Vazzano
07/20	4	Berry Bay cottage, Freedom	A. Robbins
07/21	1	Ashland	K. Chamberlin
07/26	3	Lower Kimball Pond, Chatham	B. Crowley
07/27	2	McDaniels Marsh WMA, Springfield	J. Gamble
07/31	1	Rocky Bound Pond, Croydon	L. Lee

Olive-sided Flycatcher

06/03	1	Philbrick-Cricenti Bog, New London	T. Armstrong
06/04	1	Lyman survey route	S. Turner
06/04	3	East Inlet Rd., Pittsburg	S. Glynn
06/10	1	Ravenwood Farm, Greenfield	T. Shiel
06/26	1	Rt. 153, Watts WS backside, Effingham	G.& A. Robbins
07/04	1	Church Pond Bog, Albany	J. Lambert

Date # Location Observer



Acadian Flycatcher by Kyle Wilmarth, 7/21/13, Concord, NH.

Acadian Flycatcher

06/09 1 fields n. of Horseshoe Pond, Concord E. Becker
 07/07 1 fields n. of Horseshoe Pond, Concord A. Moser
 07/21 1 fields n. of Horseshoe Pond, Concord K. Wilmarth, A. Altena

Willow Flycatcher

06/01 2 Reeds Marsh WMA, Orford J. MacQueen
 06/02 5 Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook R. Woodward
 06/09 5 Muddy Pond, Kensington G. Gavutis, Jr.
 06/16 3 Bedell Bridge SP, Haverill J. MacQueen
 06/23 1 Rt. 113, Sherman Farms, E. Conway G. & A. Robbins
 06/24 1 Rt. 302, Bartlett J. Lawson

Yellow-throated Vireo

06/26 1 Richmond Conservation Land, Orford J. MacQueen
 07/01 1 Cold River camp, Chatham D. Beattie
 07/22 1 Pitcher Mt., Stoddard A. Downey
 07/27 2 Pondicherry NWR, Mud Pond, Jefferson D. Govatski

Blue-headed Vireo

06/10 4 Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem S. Turner
 06/15 5 Mt. Eisenhower & Mt. Pierce, Beans Grant A. Burnett
 06/15 4 Cheshire County P. Brown
 06/18 11 Cedar Stream Rd., Clarksville E. Nielsen
 06/19 15 Indian Stream Rd., Pittsburg E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
 07/19 4 Cardigan Mountain SP, Orange P. Benham, L. Beckman

Warbling Vireo

06/01 8 Bedell Bridge SP, Haverill W. Cripps
 06/03 9 Pickering Ponds, Rochester D. Hubbard
 07/07 7 River Rd., Chesterfield K. Rosenberg

Philadelphia Vireo

06/03 2 Scott Bog Rd., Pittsburg L. Nielsen
 06/04 3 East Inlet Rd., Pittsburg S. Glynn
 06/18 1 Cedar Stream Rd., Clarksville E. Nielsen
 06/30 1 Pinkham Notch, Pinkham's Grant N. Houlihan
 07/27 1 Dolly Copp Campground, Martins Location B. Griffith, L. Kras

Gray Jay

06/03 6 Scott Bog Rd., Pittsburg L. Nielsen
 06/04 3 Caps Ridge Trail, T&M Purchase M. Harvey
 06/09 2 Caps Ridge Trail, T&M Purchase J. Scott et al.
 07/05 1 Mount Carrigain, Livermore P. Jenkins
 07/13 1 Signal Ridge Trail, Mt. Carrigain, Livermore W. Eriksen

Date # Location Observer

07/13 2 Magalloway Mountain, Pittsburg R. Frieden
 07/16 3 Day Rd., Perry Stream, Pittsburg R. Frieden
 07/20 3 Pondicherry NWR, Mud Pond, Jefferson K. Fenton

Fish Crow

06/03 8 World End Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
 06/09 4 Fort Eddy Rd., Concord R. Quinn
 06/26 3 Rt.16 & Rt. 25, West Ossipee T. Vazzano
 07/06 3 Powwow Pond, Kingston D. Skillman
 07/07 1 Great East Lake, Wakefield K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
 07/27 4 Hampton Harbor, Hampton River Marina S. Mirick

Horned Lark

06/23 1 Pease Int'l. Tradeport S. Mirick

Swallows through Waxwings



Purple Martin by Christine Sheridan, 7/24/13, Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook, NH.

As is the case with most aerial insectivores, Purple Martin has declined in New Hampshire and is close to being extirpated in the state. The only longstanding colony is in Laconia, but this year a few martins were discovered in two new locations. One pair bred in Wakefield and a pair nested in Seabrook where four juveniles were seen with four adults (see page 17). Cliff Swallow is another insectivore in decline. This season there were only a few reports during June and the maximum seen at any one location was eight. Carolina Wrens were widely distributed across the southern part of the state as they often are, but there were only three reports north of Merrimack County.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

06/03 5 Horseshoe Pond, Concord M. Alexander
 07/13 6 Amherst A. Bernzweig
 07/13 5 Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River, Pittsfield A. Robbins

SUMMER SEASON

Date # Location Observer Date # Location Observer



Purple Martin over the box with a nest on Cross Beach Road, Seabrook, NH (see the Photo Gallery for more on this nest). Photo by Christine Sheridan, 7/24/13.

Purple Martin

06/01	4	Great East Lake, Wakefield	K. Wilmarth
06/02	11	Funspot, Laconia	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
06/02	1	Hampton Harbor, Seabrook	K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
06/25	14	Funspot, Laconia	J. MacQueen
07/24	8	Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook	C. Sheridan
07/28	5	Great East Lake, Wakefield	K. Wilmarth, A. Altena

Bank Swallow

06/01	50	SPNHF Merrimack River CA, Concord	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
06/18	18	Fort Hill WMA, Stratford	R. Suomala, C. Foss
07/20	30	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala

Cliff Swallow

06/16	8	Fort Constitution, New Castle	J. Sparrell
06/21	8	Tabor Rd., Pittsburg	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06/29	3	Pulsifer's Farm, Campton	J. Williams

Boreal Chickadee

06/09	4	Caps Ridge Trail, T&M Purchase	S. Mirick
06/18	6	Scott Bog Rd., Pittsburg	E. Nielsen
06/20	8	East Inlet Rd., Pittsburg	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06/30	2	Slide Brook, WMNF, Easton	J.R. Stockwell
07/11	1	Cannon Mt., Franconia	C. Edge
07/24	2	Lonesome Lake, Lincoln	V. Ascrizzi
07/28	8	Mt. Washington, Boott Spur Trail, Sargents Purchase	B. Griffith, L. Kras

Winter Wren

06/04	10	Caps Ridge Trail, T&M Purchase	M. Harvey
06/09	13	Caps Ridge Trail, T&M Purchase	A. Burdo
06/19	10	Indian Stream Rd., Pittsburg	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06/22	12	Jennings/Sandwich Mt., Waterville Valley	T. Pirro
06/23	19	Caps Ridge Trail, T&M Purchase	O. Burton
07/04	10	Cannon Mt., Franconia	A. McAndrews, J. Montejo

Marsh Wren

06/03	3	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
06/15	2	Surrey Lane marsh, Durham	K. Dorsey
06/16	5	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
07/28	3	Exeter WTP	S. Mirick

Carolina Wren

07/03	2	Plymouth	A. McAndrews, J. Montejo
07/04	1	Bridge St., Orford	J. MacQueen
07/13	1	Hospital Road, Haverhill	D. Deifik

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

07/05	3	wetland by Rt. 93, Holderness	A. McAndrews, J. Montejo
07/06	3	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	R. Woodward
07/30	3	Freedom Town Forest	A. Robbins, et al.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

06/08	4	Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem	A. Burdo
06/20	7	East Inlet Rd., Pittsburg	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06/23	1	Cannon Mt., Franconia	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala

Veery

06/16	39	Turkey Pond, Concord	R. Woodward
07/05	10	wetland by Rt. 93, Holderness	A. McAndrews, J. Montejo
07/05	10	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	K. Rosenberg

Bicknell's Thrush

06/08	8	Cannon Mt., Franconia	P. Brown, et al.
06/09	5	Mt. Washington Auto Rd., Greens Grant	H.& R. Maciver
06/15	7	Mt. Eisenhower & Mt. Pierce, Beans Grant	A. Burnett
06/23	6	Caps Ridge Trail, T&M Purchase	O. Burton
06/30	5	WMNF, Beans Purchase	N. Houlihan
07/24	1	Lonesome Lake, Lincoln	V. Ascrizzi
07/24	1	Tuckerman Ravine Trail, Sargents Purchase	F. Shaffer
07/27	8	Crawford Path, Mt. Jackson, Beans Grant	P. Wiczorek

Swainson's Thrush

06/09	14	Caps Ridge Trail, T&M Purchase	A. Burdo
06/17	20	East Inlet Rd., Pittsburg	E. Nielsen
06/18	11	Scott Bog Rd., Pittsburg	E. Nielsen
07/06	20	Caps Ridge Trail, T&M Purchase	B. Griffith, L. Kras
07/28	25	Mt. Washington, Boott Spur Trail, Sargents Purchase	B. Griffith, L. Kras

Brown Thrasher

06/01	3	Garvin Falls Rd., Concord	D. Howe
06/16	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski
06/23	4	Locke Road sod farm, Concord	R. Woodward
06/27	2	West Branch Pine Barrens Preserve, Madison	G.& A. Robbins
06/29	3	Hertzka Dr. area, Amherst	C. Sheridan

American Pipit

06/29	1	Mt. Washington, T&M Purchase	N. Houlihan
07/14	1	Mount Washington Auto Rd., Greens Grant	J. MacQueen
07/28	2	Mt. Washington summit area, Sargents Purchase	B. Griffith, L. Kras

Cedar Waxwing

06/01	23	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Mirick
06/05	32	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
06/08	23	Southwest Park/Yudicky Farm, Nashua	C. Sheridan
06/16	22	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski
06/19	27	Indian Stream Rd., Pittsburg	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
07/26	80	East Inlet Rd., Pittsburg	D. Govatski
07/27	30	Hampton Beach	A. Bernzweig

Warblers through Finches



Clay-colored Sparrow by Steve Mirick, 6/23/13, Pease International Tradeport, Newington, NH.

Mourning Warbler is a particularly late northbound spring migrant and an early fall migrant. One seen in Webster on June 1 and two seen in Nashua on June 8 were undoubtedly late northbound migrants. The two in Stoddard in mid-June had apparently stopped their migration there as a pair was seen and a male was heard singing into July. In late July, three were seen nearby, also in Stoddard. This is well south of their normal summer breeding range. Perhaps the three seen in late July were the result of local dispersion of a family group. The two Blackpoll Warblers in Nashua on June 8 were late migrants; they breed in New Hampshire but only in higher elevations well to the north of Nashua. This is also the case for the Wilson's Warbler seen in Haverhill on June 1. A Clay-colored Sparrow returned to Newington for the fifth summer. Unable to find a mate to become the state's first known breeders of this species, it was reportedly cavorting with a Field Sparrow in late June! No other details were forthcoming concerning this odd couple. There were only two reports for Vesper Sparrow this summer. Birders are encouraged to report all sightings of grassland birds since numbers of many of them continue to decline. Fox Sparrow went unreported this summer after breeding was confirmed in northern New Hampshire the previous two years. This is probably because the researchers who found them the last two years were not working in Dixville this summer and there may not have been enough hiking birders to find others that may have been present elsewhere.

Yellow-headed Blackbird occasionally strays eastward and, in New Hampshire, they are sometimes reported in fall, less often in spring and are even rarer in summer. There were two individuals seen and photographed this summer; a female in Hinsdale and a male in Benton. New Hampshire Audubon's Rusty Blackbird Project discovered many previously unknown breeding territories in spring

and early summer. The Rusty Blackbird population declined dramatically in the 1970s and never recovered. The project is monitoring this species to better understand its needs and possible causes for the decline. There were five reports of Red Crossbill scattered across the state this summer, all of three individuals or fewer. White-winged Crossbill went unreported.

Date # Location Observer

Louisiana Waterthrush

06/06	2	Pawtuckaway SP, Nottingham	M. Harvey
06/16	2	Suncook Lake, Barnstead	E. Pilotte
06/19	1	Oyster River Park, Durham	D. Hubbard
06/23	2	Pawtuckaway SP, Nottingham	D. Levenson
06/27	1	Contoocook River Park, Penacook	P. Hunt
07/04	1	North River Rd., Epping	M. Iloff

Northern Waterthrush

06/16	2	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
06/26	3	Huntress Bridge Rd., Watts WS, Effingham	G.& A. Robbins
06/30	1	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
07/17	1	Old Rt. 114 off River Rd., Henniker	A. Moser

Blue-winged Warbler

06/01	1	Bellamy River WMA, Dover	D. Hubbard
06/05	1	South Rd., Kensington	G. Gavutis, Jr.
06/09	1	Garvins Falls, w. side, Bow	J. Nadeau
06/09	1	Packers Falls Park, Durham	K. Dorsey
06/13	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard
06/22	1	Great Bay NWR, Newington	R. Hussey
06/22	2	Lubberland Creek Preserve, Newmarket	R. Hussey
07/30	1	Strafford County Farm, Dover	D. Hubbard

Tennessee Warbler

06/04	2	East Inlet Rd., Pittsburg	S. Glynn
06/08	1	Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem	K. Fenton, H. Walters
07/01	1	Pondicherry NWR, Cherry Pond, Jefferson	S. Johnson
07/27	1	Cannon Mt., Franconia	K. Wilmarth, A. Altena

Mourning Warbler

06/01	1	Call Road, Webster	R. Quinn
06/06	1	Green Crow property, Stoddard	E. Masterson
06/08	2	Southwest Park/Yudicky Farm, Nashua	C. Sheridan
06/09	1	Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem	C. Nims
06/09	1	Caps Ridge Trail, T&M Purchase	C. Nims, et al.
06/13	2	Green Crow property, Stoddard	M. Cadot
06/18	1	Buckhorn Rd., Pittsburg	E. Nielsen
06/18	1	Magalloway Rd., Pittsburg	E. Nielsen
06/19	2	Indian Stream Rd., Pittsburg	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06/21	2	Smith Brook Rd., Pittsburg	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06/23	6	Caps Ridge Trail, T&M Purchase	O. Burton
06/25	1	Green Crow property, Stoddard	P. Brown, et al.
07/03	1	Green Crow property, Stoddard	E. Masterson
07/22	3	Pitcher Mt., Stoddard	A. Downey

Cape May Warbler

06/01		Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem	L. Kramer
06/04	3	East Inlet Rd., Pittsburg	S. Glynn

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Date	#	Location	Observer	Date	#	Location	Observer
Bay-breasted Warbler				Wilson's Warbler			
06/03	1	Scott Bog Rd., Pittsburg	L. Nielsen	06/01	1	Bedell Bridge SP, Haverill	Mascoma CFT
06/17	5	East Inlet Rd., Pittsburg	E. Nielsen	06/04	1	East Inlet Rd., Pittsburg	S. Glynn
06/21	1	Magalloway Rd., Pittsburg	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet	06/18	1	Scott Bog Rd., Pittsburg	E. Nielsen
06/23	3	Caps Ridge Trail, T&M Purchase	O. Burton	06/20	1	East Inlet Rd., Pittsburg	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
Blackburnian Warbler				Eastern Towhee			
06/06	10	Pawtuckaway SP, Nottingham	M. Harvey	06/04	9	Monson Center, Hollis	D. Deifk
06/15	14	Mt. Eisenhower & Mt. Pierce, Beans Grant	A. Burnett	06/05	5	Nottingham Rd., Deerfield	D. Wardwell
06/17	9	East Inlet Rd., Pittsburg	E. Nielsen	06/27	8	West Branch Pine Barrens Preserve, Madison	G.& A. Robbins
06/30	6	Wantastiquet Mt. Natural Area, Chesterfield	P. Brown, M. Einermann	07/19	7	Ponemah Bog WS, Amherst	C. Sheridan
06/30	6	Wantastiquet Mt. Natural Area, Chesterfield	P. Brown, M. Einermann	07/27	5	Freedom Town Forest, airstrip	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
Chestnut-sided Warbler				Clay-colored Sparrow			
06/01	5	Turkey River, Concord	R. Woodward	06/03	1	Short Rd., Pease Int'l. Tradeport, Newington	J. MacQueen
06/04	6	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	J. Swatt	06/23	1	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	S. Mirick
06/16	5	Dorchester Rd., Lyme	P. Ackerson	07/06	1	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	S. Mirick
06/19	22	Indian Stream Rd., Pittsburg	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet	Field Sparrow			
06/20	5	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	A. Burnett	06/01	3	Mast Yard SF, Concord/Hopkinton	R. Woodward
06/23	5	Buffalo Rd., W. Rumney	J. Williams	06/22	3	Hidden Meadow Tree Farm, Bath	R. Quinn, D. Blais
07/05	6	Godwin Cottage, Roxbury	K. Rosenberg	06/27	4	Freedom Town Forest	G.& A. Robbins
Blackpoll Warbler				07/30	4	Freedom Town Forest	A. Robbins, et al.
06/08	2	Southwest Park/Yudicky Farm, Nashua	C. Sheridan	Vesper Sparrow			
06/15	34	Mt. Eisenhower & Mt. Pierce, Beans Grant	A. Burnett	06/24	1	West Branch Pine Barrens Preserve gravel pit, Freedom	G.& A. Robbins
06/23	40	Caps Ridge Trail, T&M Purchase	O. Burton	07/20	1	Short Rd., Pease Int'l. Tradeport, Newington	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
Black-throated Blue Warbler				Grasshopper Sparrow			
06/01	10	Hubbard Brook Exp. Forest, Woodstock	B. Zyla	06/02	1	cemetery fields, Amherst	C. Sheridan
06/09	6	Pisgah SP, Winchester	A. Burnett	06/19	3	Concord Airport	J. Baldwin
06/15	9	Mt. Eisenhower & Mt. Pierce, Beans Grant	A. Burnett	06/23	3	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	S. Mirick
06/18	13	Cedar Stream Rd., Clarksville	E. Nielsen	07/17	1	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	P. Benham, L. Beckman
06/24	24	Hubbard Brook Exp. Forest, Woodstock	M. Smith	Nelson's Sparrow (left) and Saltmarsh Sparrow (right)			
Palm Warbler				<i>by Steve Mirick, 6/26/13, Philbrick Marsh, N. Hampton, NH.</i>			
07/12	2	Pondicherry NWR, Mud Pond, Jefferson	R. Frieden	Grasshopper Sparrow			
07/25	1	Franconia Notch SP, Old Man Viewing	F. Shaffer	06/02	1	cemetery fields, Amherst	C. Sheridan
Pine Warbler				06/19	3	Concord Airport	J. Baldwin
06/16	14	Turkey Pond, Concord	R. Woodward	06/23	3	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	S. Mirick
06/24	12	Pisgah SP, Winchester	C. Morris	07/17	1	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	P. Benham, L. Beckman
06/30	11	Penacook Survey Route	P. Hunt	Nelson's Sparrow (left) and Saltmarsh Sparrow (right)			
07/04	18	Turkey Pond, Concord	R. Woodward	<i>by Steve Mirick, 6/26/13, Philbrick Marsh, N. Hampton, NH.</i>			
Prairie Warbler				Canada Warbler			
06/01	8	Garvin Falls Rd., Concord	D. Howe	06/05	5	Bear Pond Natural Area, Canaan	T. Armstrong
06/05	6	Nottingham Rd., Deerfield	D. Wardwell	06/08	3	Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem	A. Burdo
06/23	2	Garland Gravel Pit, E. Conway	G.& A. Robbins	06/16	9	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski
06/27	6	West Branch Pine Barrens Preserve, Madison	G.& A. Robbins	06/26	4	Huntress Bridge Rd., Watts WS, Effingham	G.& A. Robbins



Grasshopper Sparrow by Steve Mirick, 6/23/13, Pease Intl. Tradeport, Newington, NH.



Nelson's Sparrow (left) and Saltmarsh Sparrow (right) by Steve Mirick, 6/26/13, Philbrick Marsh, N. Hampton, NH.

Date	#	Location	Observer	Date	#	Location	Observer
Nelson's Sparrow				Orchard Oriole			
06/26	3	Philbrick Marsh, N. Hampton	S. Mirick	06/01	1	Bellamy River WMA, Dover	D. Hubbard
07/13	2	Philbrick Marsh, N. Hampton	Z. Cornell, et al.	06/01	1	Mast Yard SF, Concord/Hopkinton	R. Woodward
Saltmarsh Sparrow				06/02	1	White Farm, Concord	R. Woodward
06/22	4	Hampton salt marsh	K. Wilmarth	06/02	1	Spicket River at Hawkin's Farm, Salem	K. Wilmarth, A. Altana
06/24	4	Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton	Z. Cornell	06/06	2	Bellamy River WMA, Dover	P. Brown
07/13	5	Philbrick Marsh, N. Hampton	Z. Cornell, et al.	06/23	1	Arboretum Dr., Newington	S. Mirick
Lincoln's Sparrow				06/24	2	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard
06/04	1	East Inlet Rd., Pittsburg	S. Glynn	07/14	3	Rt. 28 wetland behind Haffner's car wash, Salem	K. Wilmarth
06/05	1	Caps Ridge Trail, T&M Purchase	S. Glynn	Purple Finch			
06/21	4	Smith Brook Rd., Pittsburg	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet	06/03	3	Danbury rail trail	J. Gamble
Bobolink				06/03	3	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River, Pittsfield	A. Robbins
06/01	10	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	A. Burnett	06/12	10	Ravenwood Farm, Greenfield	T. Shiel
06/06	12	Bellamy River WMA, Dover	P. Brown	06/19	4	Indian Stream Rd., Pittsburg	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06/09	22	Tilton Hill Rd., Pittsfield	A. Robbins	06/20	3	East Inlet Rd., Pittsburg	E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
07/05	14	wetland by Rt. 93, Holderness	A. McAndrews, J. Montejo	06/22	3	Jennings/Sandwich Mtn., Waterville Valley	T. Pirro
07/30	16	Strafford County Farm, Dover	D. Hubbard	06/23	3	Pawtuckaway SP, Nottingham	D. Levenson
07/31	37	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	A. Burnett	06/26	3	Huntress Bridge Rd., Watts WS, Effingham	G. & A. Robbins
Eastern Meadowlark				06/29	5	Under the Mountain Rd., Lyman	S. Turner
06/02	3	Mountain Rd., Concord	R. Woodward	07/14	9	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River, Pittsfield	A. Robbins
06/23	4	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	S. Mirick, C. Rauwerdink, S. Graydon	Red Crossbill			
06/25	7	Lebanon Airport	P. Hunt, R. Renfrew	06/13	3	Old Hillsboro Rd., Henniker	A. Moser
07/17	2	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	P. Benham, L. Beckman	06/16	1	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
Yellow-headed Blackbird				06/22	2	Jigger Johnson Campground, Albany	B. Griffith, L. Kras
06/02	1	Hinsdale residence	R. & D. Caouette, E. Masterson	07/04	1	Church Pond Bog, Albany/Livermore	J. Lambert
07/16	1	Benton residence	D. Witcher	07/18	2	Scott Bog, Pittsburg	T. Vazzano
Rusty Blackbird				Pine Siskin			
06/16	1	Scott Bog Rd., Pittsburg	G. Johnson	06/13	1	Tilton Hill Rd., Suncook River, Pittsfield	A. Robbins
06/17	4	East Inlet Rd., Pittsburg	E. Nielsen	06/28	1	Star Island, Rye	S. Island
06/18	2	Cedar Stream Rd., Clarksville	E. Nielsen	07/03	1	Jonathan Hersey Rd., Wolfeboro	W. Chatel
06/27	4	Closton Beaver Pond 2, Milan	D. Cote	07/25	1	Cathedral Ledge, Conway	F. Shaffer
06/28		Hubbard Brook Exp. Forest, Woodstock	N. Hernandez	Evening Grosbeak			



Orchard Oriole by Steve Mirick, 6/23/13, Pease International Tradeport, Newington, NH.

06/07	5	Rt. 25A, Orford	J. MacQueen
06/08	6	Ravenwood Farm, Greenfield	T. Shiel
06/09	1	Deer Mountain SP, Pittsburg	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
06/14	2	Mt. Moosilauke Hwy., Haverhill	S. Eisenhauer
06/16	2	Dodge Pond, Lyman	S. Turner
06/16	3	Casalis Forest, Peterborough	P. Miliotis
06/17	2	Metallak Road, Pittsburg	E. Nielsen
06/22	1	East Side River Rd., Milan	H. Chase
06/23	2	Knollwood Rd, New London	J. Esten
06/25	1	Green Crow property, Stoddard	P. Brown, et al.
06/29	2	Rice Hill Rd. at state border, Freedom	G. & A. Robbins
07/01	2	Mountain Rd., Salisbury	S. Gage
07/03	1	Old Hillsboro Rd., Henniker	A. Moser
07/04	2	Godwin Cottage, Roxbury	K. Rosenberg
07/08	1	Millican Nurseries, Chichester	J. Lambert

Summer 2013 Field Notes

Banded American Pipit on Mt. Washington

by Pamela Hunt

On July 14, 2013, Jeff MacQueen drove up the Mt. Washington Auto Road with his family, stopping along the way to listen and look for birds. When they were almost at the top, Jeff saw an American Pipit in the vicinity of the Alpine Garden. We have known about this small population of breeding pipits on Mt. Washington since the early 1990s, but Jeff's was a little more noteworthy. He noticed that the bird was color-banded and was able to record the color and positions of the three bands (reading a band NUMBER on a pipit in the field is likely impossible!). The bird in question had a yellow band on its right leg and a yellow band above an aluminum ("white" in Jeff's description) on the left.

Knowing that Jared Woodcock, a graduate student at Plymouth State University, was studying the Mt. Washington pipits a few years ago, I contacted his advisor and, through various email exchanges, eventually learned that the bird had been banded as a one-year-old female (at a nest) in the summer of 2009 near the cog railway. She appears to have moved her location a little in the intervening years, but it's pretty cool to have a 5 year-old pipit right at the top of New Hampshire. In fact, according to the species account in the "Birds of North America," the oldest pipit on record was 5 years, 1 month, so Jared and Jeff's bird is at the high end for known longevity!

Osprey Nest in Concord, NH

by Chris Martin

An Osprey pair fledged two young at a nest on Rossvie Farm in Concord, NH. Bob Quinn did some research and believes this is the first Osprey nest ever in Concord. The nest was located on a man-made pond with a small earthen dam at the south end. Bob speculates that the dam was built a long time ago for irrigation purposes but currently the pond is inhabited by beavers. Here are a few observations of the nest.



Adult and one of the chicks
at Concord's first Osprey nest,
7/19/13 photo by Chris Martin.

7/19/13, Chris Martin: This morning, before it got too hot, Crawford Lyons, Robert Vallieres, and I visited the active Osprey nest located in Concord. We watched the adult male Osprey arrive with a fish for the adult female and their two chicks, which are now about seven weeks old.

7/29/13, Crawford Lyons: Robert (Vallieres) and I checked out the Rossvie Ospreys. Fortunately, both the birds and nest made it through last week's storms including the "microburst" that hit some trees hard on Rattlesnake Hill. The youngins are at fledging status. The more robust one is now flying around the nest and perching on a nearby snag, whereas the runtish one is squawking and working out its flying muscles on the nest trying to catch up to its sibling. Based on what I observed Friday, they will likely both be off the nest by tomorrow or the following day. We saw all four birds, including the male bringing a fish that Robert thinks may have been a catfish.

8/2/13, Crawford Lyons: Saw both fledglings and the mother hanging out on snags in the marshy area on the west side. After about 45 minutes, they all flew to the nest and squawked a lot, but I left before the male showed up.

8/10/13, Bob Quinn: Rob Woodward and I saw both fledglings flying but still begging to be fed.

Red-breasted Nuthatch at Woodpecker Nest

by Rebecca Suomala

During the summer of 2013, there was an active Black-backed Woodpecker nest that was visible from a trail off Trudeau Road in Bethlehem (see page 16). On more than one occasion, observers watching the nest remarked on a female Red-breasted Nuthatch visiting the nest and engaging in some puzzling behavior. Despite much speculation, the reason for her behavior remains a mystery.

Aiden Moser:

"On June 8, 2013, during a NH Young Birders Club trip, we witnessed some interesting behavior by a female Red-breasted Nuthatch. The nuthatch was investigating the Black-backed Woodpecker nest cavity on Trudeau Road. It repeatedly probed its head into the woodpecker's nest hole. The chicks within the cavity would poke their heads out and force the nuthatch to back off. Every few minutes, the female woodpecker came to feed the chicks and scared away the nuthatch."

Zeke Cornell:

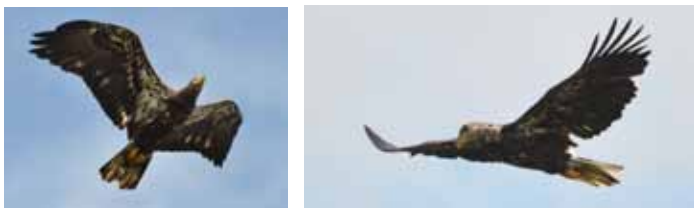
"In June of 2013, I visited the wetlands off of Trudeau Road twice, in the hopes of seeing the nesting Black-backed Woodpecker. On June 4, I was lucky enough to meet Duane Cross on the trail. He had been reporting on the nest site and quickly brought me to a great viewing location. We saw both parents on this visit. A notable activity was watching a Red-breasted Nuthatch persist in visiting the nesting tree. The

nuthatch would land on the tree in the general vicinity of the nest cavity and seemed to be feeding along the main trunk. The female Black-backed quickly responded to these visits (it happened four different times), flying to the tree and chasing off the nuthatch. On the fourth visit, the woodpecker chased the nuthatch twice more to adjoining trees, continuing the chase longer than the previous interactions. On June 8, Becky Suomala and I returned to the nest site. A Red-breasted Nuthatch visited the tree on this occasion as well. She came down the trunk and actually peered into the nest hole, then fluttered up higher on the trunk when the female Black-backed came in with food. These were great viewing opportunities and a lucky bit of serendipity in the world of birdwatching.”

Bald Eagle with Radio-transmitter Reappears in Boscawen

by Chris Martin

On August 3 and 4, 2013, photographer and eagle-watching volunteer, Debbie LaValley captured a photo that allowed us to identify “Black A/U”, a male Bald Eagle from a nest near the Powdermill Fish Hatchery in Merrymeeting Marsh in New Durham, NH. In June 2010, New Hampshire Audubon had fitted a satellite transmitter on this eagle when it was still in the nest as part of a project funded by the Merrimack River Bald Eagle Fund. Of three nestling eagles fitted with transmitters for this project, “Black A/U” was the only one that survived into its second autumn season.



Photos by Debbie LaValley of “Black A/U” on 9/8/12 (left) and 8/13/13.

Debbie found this now 3.5 year-old eagle, still carrying its expired transmitter, along the Merrimack River in Boscawen near a section of the river it has favored during each of its two previous free-flying summers. She observed the bird in the company of a 4-year-old sub-adult. A younger immature eagle was also in the vicinity at the time. Thanks to Debbie for her reports.

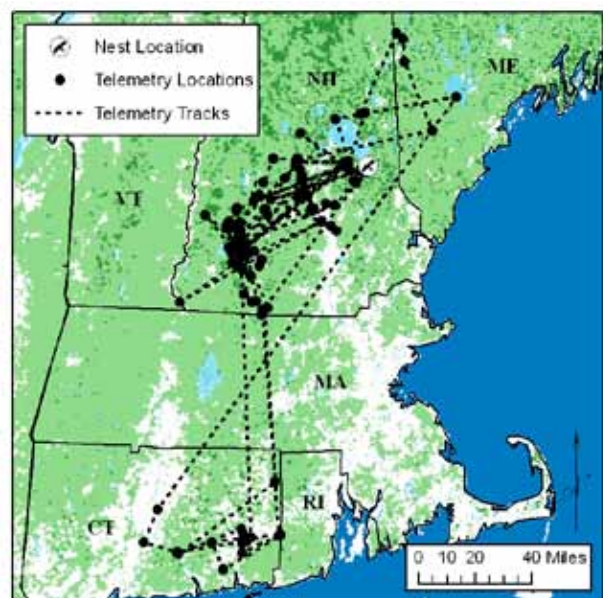
Nighthawk in a Building?

by Rebecca Suomala

On June 5, 2013, I received a phone call from a business in East Concord who thought they had a Common Nighthawk trapped in their warehouse. This business is located in the area where nesting nighthawks have been documented in recent years, so I headed over to check it out.

On August 29, 2012, I had checked out a report of a nighthawk in a large warehouse at a business in Franklin and found, to my surprise, it actually was a nighthawk. I was unsuccessful at either capturing the bird or coaxing it out of the warehouse and it disappeared amidst rows of boxes. Fortunately, it was captured later by an employee and brought to Wildlife Rehabilitator, Maria Colby. She fed it for two days before successfully releasing it. I never could figure out how it got in the building.

With this memory fresh in my mind, I arrived at the building in East Concord in early June and was shocked to find, not a nighthawk, but a whip-poor-will, roosting about 20 feet up on a pipe. It did not move as we walked underneath it and seemed to be half asleep despite the loud machinery nearby. Eastern Whip-poor-wills can be heard calling in East Concord, especially near the Karner Blue Easement on Chenell Drive. The business sometimes leaves large lights on at night if they are working late and we have seen nighthawks feeding on insects drawn to the lights. Perhaps a whip-poor-will would also be attracted to the insects but why it would choose to roost in a noisy, active building is a mystery. The business planned to leave a large bay door open near the bird and it presumably left that evening. (With amazing lack of forethought, I didn’t bring a camera to document the occurrence, sigh.)



A map of the locations of Bald Eagle, “Black A/U”, documented by NH Audubon before the signal was lost from the battery-powered transmitter in August 2012.

Black-backed Woodpecker Nest in Bethlehem

compiled by Rebecca Suomala



Black-backed Woodpecker bringing food to the nest hole off Trudeau Road on 6/15/13. Photo by Duane Cross.

Duane Cross discovered a pair of Black-backed Woodpeckers excavating a nest hole near the wetlands off Trudeau Road in Bethlehem on April 28, 2013. He visited the nest regularly and posted updates on the NH Birds e-mail list providing a chronology of events for a species whose nesting cycle isn't well known. After observing the pair excavating the hole through at least May 12, he noted that on May 19 all was quiet and the female appeared in the nest hole. On May 28, he received a report of the adults bringing food to the nest hole indicating the presence of chicks, which he confirmed two days later. Incubation time is not well known for Black-backed Woodpeckers but most sources cite 12-14(?) days (the question mark is included in the citation showing how much information is lacking). On June 1, he noted that the parents were feeding the chicks every 20-25 minutes and on June 8 the young were quite vocal. Duane confirmed at least three chicks on June 13 and found that feeding had increased greatly with the parents making eight feeding visits in the first 20 minutes that he was there. Below is his account of the chicks fledging. Thanks to Duane for sharing his reports with the NH Birds e-mail list so that other birders were able to see these birds.

From a post by Duane Cross of Franconia, NH to the NH Birds e-mail list, 6/19/13

This morning, I arrived at the nest earlier than normal at 5:20 am. Heard a lot of vocalization from both parents and the chick. I snuck in quickly thinking that the adults were coaxing the young out of the nest. They left as I got into position to

observe the nest. I quickly got into my climbing tree stand and climbed into position and waited. I photographed six different feedings. At 6:05 am, the female came in and the chick popped out of the hole and onto the side of the tree. The female fed him and he circled the tree once. All of a sudden a second head popped out of the hole. The first chick said, "this is how you do it" and suddenly flew off to a clump of red spruce where he landed and started chattering. The female then left, I assume for more food.

I sat for 15 minutes hoping for the parents to return and draw the second chick out. Had to get to work so I climbed down and had gone about 20 yards when I heard a parent return and a bunch of chattering. I ran back in time to see the second chick fly and land on a dead spruce close by. I popped a few pictures of the two chicks and headed out on the run. I had called Dale Martin of Massapoag Photography who was in town to photograph the nest to tell him that the chicks were fledging. I met him on the way out. He arrived just in time to see a third chick leave the nest. As he was photographing the chicks and parents he heard yet a fourth chick calling from the nest. Dale climbed into the stand expecting to photograph the fourth chick fledging. He sat there to noon. The parents returned once to try and coax the fourth chick out of the nest but he wouldn't leave. They apparently had their hands full with the first three chicks out of the nest as they never returned to feed number four.

I was very surprised at the number of chicks as in the final two days there was never more than one chick vocalizing even while the parents were feeding. Guess they were saving energy by taking turns. I was also amazed at the ability of the chicks to fly some distance and with decent skills for their first flight.

I watched the parents spend two plus weeks excavating the nest hole. I watched them switch incubating duties. I photographed them nearly every day coming and going as they fed their chicks and I didn't expect to be there when they fledged as I only have a 50 minute window before work each morning. I was on cloud nine to be able to witness and photograph this fledging. Somewhat sorry I missed the last two but am still quite thrilled.



Black-backed Woodpecker adult and young in the nest hole on 6/17/13. Photo by Duane Cross.

Photo Gallery

Purple Martin Nest in Seabrook

On July 24, 2013, Chris Sheridan discovered a pair of Purple Martins nesting in a Tree Swallow box in the saltmarsh off Cross Beach Road on Seabrook. It's a bit unusual to have a martin using a swallow box since they usually prefer to nest in colonies and typically use boxes with slightly larger nest holes. Purple Martins have declined in New Hampshire; the Funspot in Laconia was the only confirmed nesting site in 2012 and the only site with more than one pair in 2013. This new pair in Seabrook and a pair discovered nesting in Wakefield were encouraging additions to the state's nesting martin locations in 2013. It has been many years since Purple Martins have nested on the coast, where they were last reported in Greenland and Rye in 2003. There is a colony at Plum Island, Massachusetts just south of the New Hampshire border which could be the source for the Seabrook nesting pair. Young from this colony may have expanded to New Hampshire or a pair of breeding birds may have relocated for the season. According to Sue McGrath, Purple Martins did not nest at one of the Plum Island sites in 2013 due to a Red-tailed Hawk that perched consistently on the martin poles.

*A Purple Martin adult bringing a dragonfly to feed the young in the nest box.
Photo by Len Medlock, 7/28/13.*



The nest was in a Tree Swallow box among many houses set out in the marsh. Photo by Len Medlock.



Len Medlock reported that a Merlin was always very close to the swallow nest boxes. He photographed it dining on either a martin or (more likely) a swallow.



Tree Swallow at one of the boxes near the Purple Martins, by Christine Sheridan, 7/24/2013.



Three Purple Martin fledglings photographed on the wires near the nest box by Christine Sheridan, 8/12/13.

All photos were taken on Cross Beach Road in Seabrook, NH.

Forty Years of New Hampshire Birds at an Elevated Locale

by Robert I. Rotberg



Red-tailed Hawk by David Lipsy.

Climate changes, habitat alterations, shifts in forest composition, variations in insect availability, and much more have doubtless influenced the bird species that we now see (and hear) or no longer see (or hear) in northern New Hampshire. For forty years I have kept records of the birds at one secluded elevated site in northwestern Madison, NH, and have noted many alterations, most since the start of this decade.

My observation locale is unusual because it sits atop an 1,800 foot hill facing Mount Chocorua to the west and Silver Lake to the south. It is on the edge of the Sandwich Range and not far from the White Mountains. Except for a house and observation area, the hill is heavily wooded with old growth Northern Red and Eastern White and Black Oaks, Ironwoods, Hornbeams, Red and Sugar Maples, Eastern White and Red Pines, Eastern Hemlocks, and White and Black Spruces. Only the southern slopes have been cleared, maintaining abundant edges and a mix of vegetation, including a small vegetable garden and a wildflower area. There is very little vehicular or human disturbance.

I have closely watched the bird life for more than four decades, daily in summer and periodically in the other seasons. I have noted each time a species has been seen or heard at least once on a given day. Bird species that were abundant in the 1980s and 1990s remain abundant, but with some startling omissions during the last two or three years. Some species that were never seen in the earliest years are now regular visitors.

Early years of life on the hill in the 1970s and 1980s always brought daily visits by White-breasted Nuthatches, Dark-eyed Juncos, Black-capped Chickadees, American Goldfinches, Purple Finches, House Finches, Cedar Waxwings, Blue Jays, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, and Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers galore. I also noted the presence of Scarlet Tanagers, Northern Flickers, Blackburnian Warblers, Eastern Phoebes, Eastern Wood-Pewees, Indigo Buntings, Gray Catbirds, occasional Broad-winged Hawks circling and screaming, and Red-tailed Hawks soaring. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers routinely arrived in August focusing obsessively on two very lofty white pines. We have always, however, been too far north and too high in elevation for Northern Cardinals and for all but an occasional Tufted Titmouse, both species which have extended their range northward into the state in my lifetime. No Red-bellied Woodpeckers or Black Vultures, two more recent arrivals from the south, have ever been seen either, even though Red-bellied at least have occurred not far from here.

The avian action from the 1970s through the 1980s was memorable largely for its consistency. Table 1 has a list of regularly seen species. A Least Flycatcher in August 1989 was a new addition to the overall species list. A few warbler species appeared once or twice during the 1980s and have never been seen again. The Hermit Thrushes (but not other thrushes) always sang all morning and all late-afternoon during the 1980s, from a rock outcropping 10 feet from the house. In more recent years, the Hermit Thrushes continue to sing lustily and constantly in May, June, and July, but from cover and not near the house. Ravens (never crows) must nest nearby along the abundant cliffs; there have always been many screaming and soaring.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird by Aiden Moser.

Table 1. Commonly seen species at the Rotberg hilltop in Madison from 1970-1990.

Broad-winged Hawk	White-breasted Nuthatch
Red-tailed Hawk	Brown Creeper
Mourning Dove	Hermit Thrush
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	Cedar Waxwing
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Ovenbird
Downy Woodpecker	Black-and-white Warbler
Hairy Woodpecker	American Redstart
Northern Flicker	Blackburnian Warbler
Pileated Woodpecker	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Chipping Sparrow
Eastern Phoebe	Scarlet Tanager
Great Crested Flycatcher	Dark-eyed Junco
Blue Jay	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Common Raven	Purple Finch
Black-capped Chickadee	House Finch
Red-breasted Nuthatch	American Goldfinch

During the 1990s, there were only a few notable additions to this species list. The southern slope saw Chestnut-sided Warblers for the first time in 1990. Evening Grosbeaks were present not only at Christmas, but also in May, June, and July throughout the 1990s. A White-throated Sparrow was added to the list in July 1990 while Palm Warblers and Nashville Warblers were found in August of 1990. There were Common Yellowthroats in September of 1990. In 1991, an Olive-sided Flycatcher appeared in July and in April of 1992, a Pine Siskin provided an unusual and singular sighting (for the hilltop). None of these new species have been seen consistently since the early 1990s.

Well into the twenty-first century there continued to be a steady presence of the species listed in Table 1. There was the occasional (but not infrequent) small *empidonax* flycatcher, groups of Ruffed Grouse, Barred and Great-horned Owls (usually at dusk, sometimes later), and the occasional but regular sightings of two or three kinds of vireos. Every now and again a robin appeared early in the new century despite the absence of hospitable terrain. Gray Catbirds were seen and heard occasionally but only in the first years of this century.

In this century, the major avian sighting shifts from the last century included the introduction of Turkey Vultures in great numbers from about 2005. Notable by their absence since 2010 have been Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Evening Grosbeaks, nary a one, and they are very hard to miss. Also, and very puzzling, since the beginning of July 2011, there have been no chickadees, previously ubiquitous visitors. How can that be? I have seen a few chickadees at much lower



Black-capped Chickadee by Benjamin Griffith.

elevations, about 1,000 feet, and heard them closer to a nearby and lower lake, but not at the feeders and not on the hilltop.

Other retreats or absences are harder to categorize. The Indigo Buntings of the 1980s have not been seen since. A number of warblers, such as Canada, Wilson's, and Magnolia have not been glimpsed or heard since the 1990s. No Brown Creepers have been seen in this century.

I leave it to readers more expert than I to decide whether three years' worth of absences of grosbeaks and chickadees (once ubiquitous) constitutes a meaningful trend or too short a time series to draw conclusions. Nevertheless, I can't help but wonder if the abrupt failure, of first grosbeaks, and now chickadees to appear on the daily species log, the paucity of warblers, the relative scarcity of Blue Jays, and a lack of Brown Creepers may be indicative of major species shifts at locations such as mine.

Robert I. Rotberg taught politics at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and in the MIT political science department for fifty years. He is also President Emeritus of the World Peace Foundation. He lives in Massachusetts and, since 1973, in Madison, NH. He is a member of the Mass., NH, and Maine Audubon Societies and the Loon Preservation Committee of NH.

The Birds of New Hampshire

Sandhill Crane *Grus canadensis*

The following is an excerpt of one species account from The Birds of New Hampshire by Allan R. Keith and Robert P. Fox, published in 2013 by the Nuttall Ornithological Club (see page 1). It is re-printed with permission of the author and publisher.

Status. Now a regular seasonal transient and occasional in summer. It was probably a regular migrant and possibly a summer resident in precolonial times (Wood 1634).

Early reports to 1950. Listed by Belknap (1792) as “Crane, *Ardea canadensis*,” the same name applied by Linnaeus. Allen (1876) believed that this species was regular and perhaps even common in most of New England in precolonial times on the basis of the report by Morton (1632): “Cranes, there are great store, that ever more came there at St. David’s day [March 1]...These sometimes eat our corne...and [are] a goodly bird in a dishe.” Palmer (1949) wrote that at “the time of the early voyagers, cranes appear to have been fairly common on the Atlantic slope. One species, at least, occurred northeast to Nova Scotia, and may have been a rare summer resident in ME.” One shot at Lovell’s Pond near Wakefield in either 1896 or 1897 was bought by N. Dearborn from J. S. Turner, a taxidermist, and was given to what is now UNH at Durham. Though unlabelled, what is almost certainly the same specimen is now #732 in the mounted collection there.

1950 to present. The first report since 1896–1897 was 1 at Dover 13–24 Oct 1970 (N. Bickford, A.C. Borrer *et al.*). Records since then were sporadic to 1990 after which it has been found with greater regularity and it has occurred annually 1999–2009. This increase has probably been related to its more regular occurrence in ME (Melvin 2002) and VT which culminated in its breeding in both those states by 2006 and by 2007 in MA. Likely the same individual bird appeared at Monroe every year 1999–2009, extreme early arrival being 31 Mar in 2000 (S.B. Turner *et mult.*) and in 2006 and 2007 (both E.A. Emery) and latest in fall being 6 Dec in 2001 (J. Cate, E.A. Emery) and in 2003 (E.A. Emery, P. Powers); more typical arrival was by mid-April and departure was by mid-November.

Spring. Other than the Monroe bird, at least 17 records 1996–2009 between extreme dates of 1 at Concord 4 Mar 2009 (R.A. Woodward *et al.*) to 1 at Rochester 8 Jun 2004 (S.R. Mirick). Nine reports from the coastal region, 4 reports from the Connecticut River valley, and 4 from the Merrimack River valley. All records for 1–2 birds except high count of 4 at Warner 8 Apr 2008 (N. Neider).

Summer. Other than the returning Monroe bird, 1 at Boscawen 21 Jun to 25 Jul 2000 (M. Lahar *et mult.*) and

probably the same bird nearby at Bradford 28–29 Jul 2000 (R. Whittier *et al.*).

Fall. Other than the returning Monroe bird, surprisingly fewer reports at this season than in spring: 5 records 1970–2009, of which 3 were in October, between extreme dates of 2 at Hanover 7 Oct 1989 (J. Barrett) and 1 at Concord 12 Dec 1977 (K.E. Dymnt). Two reports from the coastal region, 2 from the Merrimack River valley, and 1 from the Connecticut River valley.

Birding in the White Mountains in June and July

by Mark Suomala



Black-backed Woodpecker by Mark Suomala

The dramatic landscape of the White Mountains is a wonderful place in which to go birding. Roadside birding is possible in some areas and there are some easy walks, but for those with the ability and interest, there are also some marvelous hikes that can be taken in conjunction with birding. The White Mountains are located mainly in New Hampshire and contain the five highest mountains in New England, including the highest, the well-known Mount Washington at 6,288 feet (a relatively small portion of the White Mountains extends into Maine).

The biggest birding draw has to be scarce boreal (northern) species that have limited breeding ranges in the Northeast, such as Spruce Grouse, Gray Jay, Black-backed Woodpecker, and Boreal Chickadee, and the Bicknell's Thrush, a difficult-to-see songbird that breeds only in northeastern North America. Many of these species are found only in small numbers and can be difficult to locate unless you conduct research ahead of time. There are many other species that occur in higher numbers and are sometimes easier to see, but are still of great interest to birders because they generally breed away from dense human populations. These include Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Mourning Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Rusty Blackbird, White-winged Crossbill, Red Crossbill, and Evening Grosbeak.

This article focuses on the roadside sites and easy walking sites. The main research sources I suggest for additional information are NH eBird (www.ebird.org/nh), *New Hampshire Bird Records*, the NH Birds e-mail list (an open Google Group), and New Hampshire Audubon's weekly Rare Bird Alert (available on the NH Audubon website, www.nhauudubon.org, on the NH Birds e-mail list, or by phone recording). These resources can help to determine the best dates to search for species, as well as providing ideas for sites to visit.

Cannon Mountain, Franconia Notch

This site is mainly known for Bicknell's Thrush and other more common species that favor spruce/fir forest habitat, such as Blackpoll Warbler and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. Note that Gray Jay, Spruce Grouse, and Black-backed Woodpecker are not normally seen on the mountaintop and Boreal Chickadee is rarely reported. The easy route is to take the tram from the base of Cannon Mountain to the summit and walk the loop trail. The trail is rough and uneven but has little change in elevation. Caution – if the rocks are wet, take extra care so as not to slip. For Bicknell's Thrush, stop and listen anywhere along the loop trail, but especially at the cliff overlooks. A spotting scope can sometimes be helpful. The thrush is often easy to hear but maddeningly difficult to see. It does not always "tee-up" on top of a tree, but often sings from within the foliage. Swainson's Thrush is also here and can be confused with Bicknell's Thrush, so be sure to look carefully at any thrush or be familiar with the songs or other vocalizations to confirm any Bicknell's Thrush sightings. Warning – the tram is safe, but not recommended if you are uncomfortable with heights. Also, the cliff walk part of the summit loop trail traverses numerous areas adjacent to sheer drop-offs. There are restrooms and a small sandwich shop located in the summit building. Be sure to scan the ski

trails from the road and from the tram for black bears that like to forage on the open slopes. The tram charges a fee and normally begins operation on Memorial Day weekend. The first daily tram-run usually starts just after 9:00 am. To get there, take Exit 34B off Route 93 and follow signs to the Cannon Mountain Tramway. For more details about the schedule of operations, please see the Cannon Mountain tram website: <http://www.cannonmt.com/>.

Trudeau Road, Bethlehem

This site is mainly known for its boggy woodland and wetland areas, which typically host at least one resident pair of Black-backed Woodpeckers. The woodpeckers can be seen year-round, but it is much easier to find them during the breeding season when they are vocalizing and drumming (they have sometimes nested in highly visible locations such as along Trudeau Road or nearby trails). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher is common, and Boreal Chickadee and Ruby-crowned Kinglet are sometimes reported, but, despite favorable habitat, Spruce Grouse and Gray Jay have rarely been seen here. White-winged Crossbills favor this site in irruption years. Other species of interest that are regularly reported during the breeding season include Canada, Magnolia, and Blackburnian Warblers, and Alder Flycatcher. The site is most easily reached by traveling north for about one-half mile on Trudeau Road from Route 3. There is a gated forest road on the west side of the road (park on the east side of Trudeau Road as there is more room and you won't block the gate). Walk past the gate for a short distance (about 800 feet) until you reach a four-way intersection. Turn right and walk slowly, looking and listening for bird vocalizations and drumming. When you reach an open water wetland (about 1,200 feet) on the west (left) side of the trail, you have reached the end of the main woodpecker area. The trails extend for many miles, and who knows what you might also turn up if you explore! The site is only about eight miles northeast of Cannon Mountain, so the two locations are easily combined to make a half-day trip (if you start at Trudeau Road at sunrise) or full-day trip. To get to Trudeau Road from the Cannon Mountain tramway parking area, travel north on Route 93 to Exit 35 and from there travel east on Route 3 until you see Trudeau Road on your left (north side of Route 3). There are no restrooms.

Mount Washington Auto Road, Pinkham Notch

This site is mainly known for breeding Bicknell's Thrush and American Pipit. The road is eight miles long and ascends to the summit of Mount Washington. To try for the thrush, drive the Auto Road to the four mile marker and park your car in the gravel area on the right (north) side of the road.

Look and listen for Bicknell's Thrush, Blackpoll Warbler, and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher on either side of the road. Bicknell's Thrush can occur anywhere in the stunted spruce-fir habitat above this point. Swainson's Thrush is also found, so be sure to use songs or other vocalizations to confirm any Bicknell's Thrush. Unlike Cannon Mountain, Bicknell's Thrush at this site is more likely to "tee-up" on the top of a tree. If you drive farther up above tree line to the "Cow Pasture," you can look and listen for American Pipit, which nests in this area. The "Cow Pasture" is a relatively flat area near Mile 7 of the Auto Road and at an elevation of about 5,800 feet. Beware of traffic on the road that, besides creating a hazard, can make noise that interferes with your hearing! Wind can also be a factor and can make birding here very difficult.

Note: this road is very steep and there are no guardrails above tree line, which can be very disconcerting. There is a fee to drive the road in your own car and passengers cost extra. The Auto Road normally begins operation on Memorial Day weekend or earlier, and opens at 7:00 am. There are certain vehicle restrictions, so check with them beforehand: <http://mtwashingtonautoroad.com/> or (603) 466-3988. There are a few special days designated each year for earlier access to the road (be sure to make reservations for these opportunities). You can also have a van drop you off and pick you up; a good option if you don't want to drive. Fees apply for all of these options. From North Conway, take Route 16 north approximately 20 miles to reach the entrance to the Mount Washington Auto Road on the left.

Jefferson Notch Road



Caps Ridge Trailhead by Mark Suomala.

This site provides options for birding from the car, easy walking, or hiking. The road is nine miles long, unpaved, travels in a south/north direction and reaches an elevation of 3,009 feet at its highest point (the highest public road in New Hampshire). At the highest point is a parking lot where the Caps Ridge Trail (hiking) starts and this is where most birders go for boreal birds. Black-backed Woodpeckers are sometimes seen in the parking area and have even nested there. Bicknell's Thrush can occur in the parking area in late May or early June, but this is usually only temporary, as they

will move to higher elevation for nesting. Boreal Chickadees and Gray Jays usually occur higher up the trail and Spruce Grouse has occurred higher up in the past, but not for several years. Two singing Mourning Warblers were located on the Caps Ridge Trail in 2013. The trail is rough and steep (an 800 foot elevation gain over one mile) and is not recommended unless you have hiking gear and are in good shape. The road and the parking area are also good places to look for Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and Blackpoll Warbler. Other species that have been found along the road at lower elevations include Bay-breasted and Cape May Warblers, and Philadelphia Vireo.

To reach Jefferson Notch Road, take Base Station Road off of Route 302 north of Crawford Notch (and south of the intersection of Routes 3 and 302), near Fabyan's Station Restaurant and proceed 4.4 miles to Jefferson Notch Road which is on the north (left) side. It is dirt, sometimes twisty, and can be very narrow. The road typically opens on Memorial Day weekend, but if there have been spring washouts, opening may be delayed. Check with the White Mountain National Forest office for status, (603) 536-6100. You can reach Route 302 from Route 93 or Route 16 – check your map or GPS unit for directions.

A Few Special Notes about White Mountain Birding

Season: June is an ideal time to visit – birds are on territory and singing vigorously. July can be a good time to encounter family groups of birds.

Time of day: Early morning is the best time for birding, but high elevation birds such as Bicknell's Thrush are often active well into the late morning.

Weather: Weather in the White Mountains can be very unpredictable, and electrical storms can be quite violent at times. Use common sense and terminate your outing if conditions look questionable.

Biting insects: mosquitos, black flies, no-see-ums, and deer flies can make your birding difficult or even unbearable. Be sure to bring repellent with you and wear protective clothing.

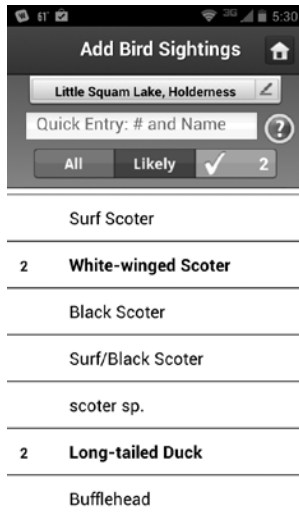
A few bird notes: Tennessee Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, and Cape May Warbler are all spruce-budworm specialists (they eat them) and are not common when spruce-budworms are not present. Spruce budworm pesticides are sometimes applied to commercial forests in the northeast. Evening Grosbeaks can occur throughout the area – get to know their flight call to find them. Crossbills are irruptive in nature and are not always present. Spruce Grouse is rarely seen when you are looking for one!

Mark Suomala has conducted bird surveys throughout the White Mountains and has guided many birders there to see the area specialties.

Technology Series

BirdLog

by Ben Griffith



Example of the screen for entering the birds into eBird in the field using BirdLog.

Not too long ago, I was dutifully filling out paper slips for submission to *New Hampshire Bird Records*. In 2009, *New Hampshire Bird Records* began accepting submissions through eBird and the way sightings were submitted and archived changed. Around the same time, I bought my first “smartphone” and began wishing that I was able to submit my sightings as soon as I left the field. As technology improved, I eventually was able to enter sightings through the eBird website, but it was cumbersome.

The introduction of BirdLog changed that. BirdLog is an app developed in conjunction with eBird for both iOS and Android. There is a North American version and a Worldwide version, both available for a reasonable fee, a portion of which goes to support eBird. The BirdLog app is designed to make entering bird sightings in the field easy and it largely succeeds. With all of the benefits of entering sightings in the field, however, come a few drawbacks.

Location errors

When you start up BirdLog and choose to submit sightings, most of the time you will choose a location from a map. By default, the GPS on your device will automatically try to locate you and your checklist will be “pinned” at that location. In theory, this is great. Unfortunately, there are a few pitfalls that warrant caution. First and foremost, it’s important to do a reality check and make sure you are placing your point correctly. It’s possible that your device gets no GPS signal and tries to place you according to cell towers or some other less-than-reliable method. This could result in your checklist falling miles away from where you actually are and possibly in the wrong town or even the wrong state!

Once you’ve determined that you’re in the correct location, you should make sure the location is meaningful. In older versions, if you were away from a road, BirdLog would give GPS coordinates as the default location name. Although

very precise, they are essentially meaningless to anyone without a way to map these coordinates. Thankfully, newer versions have done away with GPS coordinates, instead using street names. This still isn’t ideal, but it’s certainly better than meaningless coordinates. Sometimes, there will be an eBird hotspot or a personal location already entered. In these cases, you can just touch the pin and BirdLog will let you create a checklist at that location. The rest of the time, you can touch the little notepad icon next to the location name to edit to a more meaningful name.

Checklist Errors

Once you’ve started entering sightings, there are still problems that can arise that are unique to BirdLog. If you don’t have a data connection when you start the checklist, it may give you a “generic” species list that isn’t based on location or season. Unfortunately, this means that rarities and high counts won’t be flagged for confirmation and if you’re not careful, you might end up entering a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (BBWD) instead of a Bay-breasted Warbler (BBWA). You should be checking your species list before you submit it anyway, but this is especially true with BirdLog checklists.

Even if BirdLog downloads the filters for the sighting date and location, it still makes it easy to pass over a flagged sighting without entering notes. The eBird website opens a comment box and demands your attention when you enter an unusual observation. BirdLog merely asks you to check a box. You may still long-press (press and hold for a second) the species name to enter comments and should probably get in the habit of doing so. It will not only make things easier for the eBird reviewers, it will also make your own records more useful if you return at a later date.

On the whole, BirdLog is a great tool for quickly entering data into eBird and with care, can increase the accuracy of reports. Using the tips above will ensure that data entered by this method can be used to the fullest.



A BirdLog screenshot showing a map for choosing your location. This person already has existing personal eBird locations in the area.

New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee Report

Calendar Year: 2011—Part II

David B. Donsker, Chairman (2011-2012)

This report from the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee (NHRBC) contains Part Two of the decisions for records voted on by the Committee during the calendar year 2011.

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 *New Hampshire Bird Records (NHBR)* and New Hampshire Audubon. All sightings are evaluated based on details submitted. The Committee requires a vote with not more than one dissent 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. 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.

In 2011, the voting members of the Committee were: Eric Masterson, Ben Griffith, Tony Vazzano, Stephen Mirick, Dennis Abbott, Hector Galbraith, Iain MacLeod and David Donsker (Chair). Stephen Mirick continued to serve as acting Committee Secretary.

Winter 2010-2011

Records accepted by the Committee

Townsend's Solitaire	01/01/11	Bow
Townsend's Solitaire	02/11/11	Strafford
Spotted Towhee	02/03/11	Peterborough
Spotted Towhee	02/06/11	Peterborough
Hoary Redpoll	01/01/11	Sandwich
Hoary Redpoll	01/10/11	Dublin
Hoary Redpoll	01/16/11	Warner
Hoary Redpoll	02/12/11	Sandwich
Hoary Redpoll	02/19/11	Errol

Records not accepted by the Committee

Northern Hawk Owl 12/11/10 Meredith
Insufficient details were submitted. Also, concern was expressed that the sighting was recorded without optics and while driving.

Spring 2011

Records accepted by the Committee

Leach's Storm-Petrel	5/21/2011	Offshore Waters
Greater White-fronted Goose	3/20/2011	Penacook

Pink-footed Goose	4/2/2011	Walpole (2 reports)
The committee approved this record of Pink-footed Goose, with photographic documentation. This species qualifies to be added to the official state list as a first state record.		
Cackling Goose	3/20/2011	Walpole/Charlestown
Cackling Goose	4/2/2011	Walpole
Eurasian Green-winged Teal	4/5/2011	N. Hampton
Eurasian Green-winged Teal	4/10/2011	Hampton
Swallow-tailed Kite	4/26/2011	Hinsdale
Clapper Rail	5/21/2011	Hampton
American Golden Plover	4/9/2011	N. Hampton
American Oystercatcher	5/21/2011	Seabrook
American Oystercatcher	5/22/2011	Rye
Ruff	4/21-22/2011	Stratham (2 reports)
Ruff	5/20/2011	Charlestown
Red-necked Phalarope	5/20/2011	Derry
Forster's Tern	4/26/2011	Concord
White-winged Dove	5/28/2011	Offshore Waters
Gray-cheeked Thrush	7/1/2011	Hubbard Brook
Bicknell's Thrush	5/29/2011	Rye
Varied Thrush	4/1/2011	Antrim
White-eyed Vireo	5/25/2011	Great Bay NWR
White-eyed Vireo	5/25/2011	Great Bay NWR
Orange-crowned Warbler	4/25/2011	Salem
Orange-crowned Warbler	5/8/2011	N. Hampton
Western Palm Warbler	4/27/2011	Hampton
Western Palm Warbler	5/5/2011	Hinsdale
Western Palm Warbler	5/16/2011	Lee
Cerulean Warbler	5/9/2011	Hinsdale
Summer Tanager	5/9/2011	Windham
Painted Bunting	3/11/2011	Derry
Yellow-headed Blackbird	5/9/2011	Danville
Hoary Redpoll	3/2/2011	Hollis
Hoary Redpoll	3/13/2011	Rochester
Hoary Redpoll	3/20/2011	Sandwich
Hoary Redpoll	4/8/2011	Sandwich

Records not accepted by the Committee

Greater White-fronted Goose (Greenland)	3/16/2011	Durham
No details submitted to support Greenland race.		
Greater White-fronted Goose (Greenland)	3/20/2011	Dover
Insufficient details to support Greenland race.		
Greater White-fronted Goose (Greenland)	3/20/2011	Penacook
No details submitted to support Greenland race.		
Western Wood-Pewee	5/29/2011	Rye
Despite the expertise of the observer, most committee members expressed concern regarding a "heard only" record for a sighting of this magnitude. The bird was not seen, and no audio recordings were obtained. One member who searched for bird, expressed concern regarding odd vocalizations given by Alder Flycatchers in the area, which might lead to some confusion.		
American Tree Sparrow	5/20/2011	Hampton
Potential confusion with a Swamp Sparrow since no wing bars were mentioned by the observer. Because of the rarity of the late record, it was felt that a better description was necessary to eliminate other species.		

Earlier Records

Records accepted by the Committee

Common Murre	2/13/2010	Rye
Common Moorhen	10/4/2009	Rye
Black Skimmer	9/18/2010	Rye
Yellow-headed Blackbird	3/25/2010	Greenland

Records not accepted by the Committee

Blue Grosbeak	10/10/2009	Conway
It was felt by some that the description of the wings was insufficient and fit better for Brown-headed Cowbird.		
The date of the report vs. the date of the observation was questioned and not clearly identified for this late report.		
Brewer's Blackbird	1/12/1972	Concord
Excellent summary of this sighting compiled by Davis Finch which discredited this previously accepted report.		

The Next New Hampshire Breeders

by Pam Hunt

Birds are among the most mobile organisms on the planet and as a result, their distributions are constantly changing, sometimes making the range maps in field guides obsolete within a few years. For example, the Second Edition of the National Geographic *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* (1987) barely shows Red-bellied Woodpecker in Massachusetts, while the Sixth Edition (2011) accurately portrays the species occupying the entire southern third of New Hampshire. If there had been a National Geographic guide in the 1950s, it wouldn't have shown Northern Cardinals or Tufted Titmice in New Hampshire at all. It is in this context of change that I thought it would be a neat exercise to attempt to predict the future: what new breeding species will colonize the Granite State in the next decade or two?

First, here is a little history. The baseline for comprehensive surveys of breeding distribution is the *Atlas of Breeding Birds in New Hampshire*, conducted in 1981-86. Certainly, we knew a lot about where species occurred prior to this, but the *Atlas* was the first time the whole state had been surveyed at the same time and using the same methods. This exceptional effort yielded confirmed breeding for 176 species. Another 17 species that had previously been known to breed were not confirmed during the *Atlas* survey period. Many of these have long since been extirpated in New Hampshire (Northern Bobwhite, Loggerhead Shrike, Henslow's Sparrow), while others are now relatively widespread in appropriate habitat (Bald Eagle, Palm Warbler).

Fast forwarding to 2009, I identified 182 breeding species for *The State of New Hampshire's Birds*. Again there have been

losses (Blue-winged Teal, Common Gallinule, Red-headed Woodpecker, Golden-winged Warbler) and gains (Red-bellied Woodpecker, Cerulean Warbler, Fox Sparrow, and the famous Mississippi Kites), but the overall number of breeders is amazingly similar to what it was 30 years ago. A quick perusal of the list suggests that many of the lost species were always somewhat rare, or at least of irregular occurrence and patchy distribution, while the new ones are typically on the advancing front of regional range expansions (usually from the south, although Merlin and Fox Sparrow came from the north). It's that regional perspective that allows one to make predictions, so let's launch into my top six new breeders for New Hampshire!



Sandhill Cranes dancing, by Len Medlock, 3/25/12, Durham, NH.

Sandhill Crane

Readers of *New Hampshire Bird Records* will be well aware that a single Sandhill Crane has been frequenting Monroe for over a decade and was joined by a presumed mate in 2013. Not considering a regional context, this would simply be another oddball bird report, but Sandhill Cranes have been gradually moving east from the Great Lakes for 20 years. Nesting was first confirmed in New England in central Maine in 2000 and that state now hosts 5-7 pairs annually, while Vermont and Massachusetts confirmed breeding in 2005 and 2007, respectively. With cranes also now breeding to our north in Quebec, it's only a matter of time before they do so here. Perhaps the summer of 2014 will find us discussing the appearance of one or two young cranes (or "colts") in the fields of Monroe!

Clay-colored Sparrow

Although visually quite the opposite from the large conspicuous Sandhill Crane, the Clay-colored Sparrow is

following the same pattern; expanding from the Midwest. It was first documented breeding in northwestern New York in the early 1980s and in the last decade was confirmed in both Vermont (five Atlas blocks) and Massachusetts (one block on Cape Cod). With persistent singing birds near the Pease International Tradeport the last couple of years, it's even possible that Clay-colored's have already added themselves to the list of breeding species; it's just that someone has to prove it!

Worm-eating Warbler

I have long held that the dry west-facing slopes of Mt. Wantastiquet in Hinsdale are the perfect place for Worm-eating Warblers to nest. They have long been known to breed in the Connecticut River Valley of Massachusetts (dating to the first *Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas* in the late 1970s) and in the last five years were confirmed breeding as close to the New Hampshire border as the towns of Deerfield (20 miles) and Orange (five miles). Worm-eating Warblers have also increased in the area around Boston, going from only two blocks in the first *Atlas* to a dozen or so today. During the first *Atlas of Breeding Birds of New Hampshire*, a male of this species was present in South Hampton for much of the summer of 1985, but never appeared to attract a mate. So, it's high time that a pair finds each other north of the border, somewhere in southwestern or southeastern New Hampshire, and adds themselves to the state's breeding list!



Gadwall in flight by Len Medlock (with Mallards in the background), Exeter, NH.

Gadwall

Go a few miles south of the border to Plum Island in the summer and Gadwall is one of the most common breeding ducks. Yet it remains fairly rare, even as a migrant, anywhere in New Hampshire. What's up with that? Granted, much of Plum Island is a National Wildlife Refuge and specifically managed for waterfowl, but surely a few adventurous Gadwall seeking lower taxes would be willing to set up housekeeping in the Granite State. Numbers of Gadwall

seen during spring migration in New Hampshire seem to be increasing, so perhaps one day soon those first colonists will lay their eggs somewhere around Great Bay or in a hidden marsh along the Seacoast. Who will be the first to find them?!

Hooded Warbler

This species shows a Massachusetts distribution very similar to that of the Worm-eating Warbler, although it was recorded in less than half as many *Atlas* blocks. One of those blocks, however, home to a "probable" breeding record, actually straddles the New Hampshire border near Warwick. You can't get any closer than that! Perhaps 10 miles away to the northeast is Rhododendron State Park in Fitzwilliam. Hooded Warblers *love* dense Rhododendron thickets, but does anyone go birding in Rhododendron State Park? Maybe someone should give it a try!

Black Vulture

Black Vultures have been slowly moving north over the last few decades, as increasing New Hampshire records attest. In Massachusetts, they were first confirmed breeding in the Blue Hills outside of Boston in 1998, and while not confirmed during the recent *Atlas*, have become reliable in the southwest portion of the state. Finding a vulture nest is no easy task, however, but perhaps someone will stumble upon one while searching for Worm-eating and Hooded Warblers in Cheshire County!

While that wraps up my half-dozen completely new breeding species for New Hampshire, I'd like to bring the list up to an even ten with a few "re-colonists." These are species that used to breed here, were extirpated at some point in the past, but which have a reasonable chance of reestablishing breeding in the state. Included in this list are Black-crowned Night-Heron, Golden Eagle, Least Tern, and Acadian Flycatcher. The night-heron is a little enigmatic. There were multiple suspected breeding events during the *Atlas*, but the species has not been confirmed in the state since 1980. It is certainly possible that a pair or two are nesting undetected near the coast, waiting to be discovered. If Golden Eagles re-colonize the state, it would be from the opposite direction, as emigrants from a slowly growing population in eastern Canada. The last Golden Eagle nest in New Hampshire was from Lake Umbagog region in the 1950s, and if the species reappears, it will almost certainly be on a cliff somewhere from the White Mountains north.

Like Gadwalls, Least Terns nest on Plum Island, Massachusetts, where they share beaches with Piping Plovers. Given that the plovers have reestablished a tenuous foothold at Hampton and Seabrook, perhaps a few terns will eventually join them. Last but not least is Acadian Flycatcher, the single historic breeding record being a female incubating in Sandwich (of all places) in 1986. Given increases in Massachusetts in the last three decades, and perhaps an



Least Tern by Steve Mirick, 7/21/13, Little Jack's, Hampton, NH.

uptick in New Hampshire records, it is high time this species attempts a repeat performance, although probably not at 1400 feet in central New Hampshire.

There are lots of other predictions one could make about changing breeding bird distributions in New Hampshire: When will Double-crested Cormorants start nesting inland? Will some unexpected seabird settle in the tern colony on the Isles of Shoals? Will hikers in the White Mountains find the first breeding Pine Grosbeaks since perhaps the late 1800s? We certainly weren't predicting that Mississippi Kites would be nesting in Newmarket, so all my speculation above could be undone with a single pair of Eurasian Collared-Doves taking up residence in an orchard in Hollis. If so, or if any of my other speculations come to pass, you heard it here first!

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Answer to the Photo Quiz

by David B. Donsker

The subject of the Photo Quiz for this issue is plain. It's about as plain as plain can be. The black-and-white photo reveals only a uniformly pale gray perching bird with a sharply pointed, conical, finch-like bill. It has a dark eye and dark legs and feet. Its throat is just a bit paler than the rest of the plumage. It has a relatively short tail. That's it.

The plainness of the bird, however, is a helpful clue to its identification. Surprisingly few birds lack distinctive plumage markings. Most, even those with the very simplest of plumages, have something that stands out. It may be the faint eye-ring of female Mourning Warbler or Common Yellowthroat. It may be the slight contrast between the pale face and eyebrow, and darker crown and nape of the two notoriously plain species: female Wilson's Warbler and Warbling Vireo. Even something as plain gray as Gray Catbird at least has a dark cap. None of these birds, in any case, could be confused with the featured bird, since all are structurally quite different from it. Most notably, all have thinner, smaller or longer bills.

Many of us consider female House Sparrow to be a plain, dingy bird. Certainly, with its conical bill, it would be very easy to conclude that this individual is a finch or a sparrow. Female House Sparrow, however, is actually quite well marked, if you take the time to look at it. Its back is strongly streaked. It has a pale wing bar on the upper wing and it has a broad, pale eyebrow. Besides, its conical bill is pale horn-colored rather than dark as in this individual.

Our native sparrows, even those which lack streaked breasts, are all much more strongly marked than this bird. They either have streaked backs like Grasshopper Sparrow, patterned heads like White-crowned Sparrow or prominent wing bars as in Field Sparrow. Though conical, the bills of our native sparrows are generally smaller and more delicate than the rather hefty bill of our featured bird.

Similarly, our native finches and grosbeaks, which often share the prominent conical bill of this bird are mostly well-marked, but there are some exceptions. Female Summer Tanager and Scarlet Tanager (which are more closely related to cardinals and grosbeaks than they are to the "true" tanagers of the Neotropics) are quite plain birds. Both, however, are structurally different from our featured bird. In particular, the beak of Summer Tanager is much longer and heavier. The bill of Scarlet Tanager is much less conical than the bill of the bird in the photograph. In addition, the wings of female Scarlet Tanager, though not as black as the male's, are contrastingly darker than the rest of the plumage.

Three female finches are also quite plain birds. The least plain of these is female Blue Grosbeak which, like the male, has distinctive wing bars, but which in the female are buffy, not cinnamon. An uncommon vagrant to New Hampshire is Painted Bunting. Although the male of this species is spectacularly colored with contrasting fields of blue, red and green, the female is uniformly plain green. Even so, it is not as uniformly colored as our featured bird, since the yellowish underparts are brighter than its more greenish upperparts. The bill of Painted Bunting is smaller and less sharply pointed than the bill of this bird and the culmen (upper edge of the upper beak) is slightly curved. The culmen of this bird is perfectly straight.

Female Indigo Bunting, however, requires serious consideration. It is fairly uniformly plain brown with a conical dark bill and dark eye. As with the bird in the photograph, the throat of the female bunting is just ever so paler than the rest of the plumage, and the breast may be vaguely streaked (as is frequently the case with the featured species). But the bill of the bunting is smaller and less sharply pointed than it is in this bird. On close examination, the female bunting has two very faint pale wing bars. Despite its plainness, it is even less plain than our featured bird.

Similar to this bird, juvenile European Starling is fairly uniformly pale gray with a slightly paler throat and short tail. Unlike adult birds in breeding plumage, its bill is dark not yellow. However, the bill structure of the starling is completely different from that of this bird. Rather than sharply pointed and conical, it is long and hefty.

The only other group of birds with generally plain, unmarked plumage is the American blackbirds. Although the males of this group are black, the females of some species are paler gray or gray brown. Virtually all of these can be eliminated by various structural features. Common Grackle is much longer and lankier with a long, keeled tail. Adult birds have pale eyes. Juvenile grackles have dark eyes, but they have the lanky, long-tailed structure of the adult. Rusty Blackbird also has a pale eye, not a dark eye, and its bill is thin and slightly decurved.

There is one blackbird, however, that is structurally different from the rest. That species evolved on the short grass prairies of the American Midwest and Great Plains. Only later did it spread into the rest of the continent as forests were cleared for farmland and other development. Unlike most other blackbirds which subsist primarily on insect and other animal matter during the breeding season but switch primarily to grain and weed seeds in the winter, this species subsists on a higher proportion of weed seeds than its relatives, even during the summer months, as its original habitat might suggest. Perhaps its penchant for seeds is related to its conical, finch-like bill which is unique in its

family. This aberrant blackbird is Brown-headed Cowbird.

Male Brown-headed Cowbird, with its brown head and contrasting glossy black body and its preference for conspicuous open habits, is often one of the first and easiest birds to identify and learn. In contrast, female Brown-headed Cowbird, perhaps because it is so plain, and its conical bill and relatively short tail are so different from other blackbirds, is frequently a puzzling identification, especially among beginning birders. It is often thought to be some kind of finch or sparrow.

Because New Hampshire was a forested state in the early years of its development, the plains-loving Brown-headed Cowbird only entered the state in the post-colonial period. The clearing of the native forest for farmland in the nineteenth century, however, saw the rapid incursion of this species into the state. Now it is known to breed in every New Hampshire county, although it is still more common in the southern part of New Hampshire than in the far north.

This species is the only North American bird that is an obligate nest parasite. That is, it always lays its eggs in the nests of other species, and it is the adults of those other species which raise the hatchlings to fledglings. Because cowbirds prefer open habitats, the nests of birds at the edge of forest clearings are at the greatest risk for nest parasitism. While some species recognize the foreign eggs and eject them from the nest or merely build a new nest on top of the parasitized one, other species may abandon their nest or raise the precocious young cowbirds to the detriment of their own young. As such, where cowbird parasitism is common, some species of native forest birds are put at risk and, if already uncommon to begin with, can be threatened with extirpation or even local extinction. Thus, forest fragmentation, which favors cowbird expansion, has become a serious problem affecting the survival of some of our forest species.

This excellent portrait of a female Brown-headed Cowbird was taken by Brian Reilly in his backyard in Keene in early May 2013.

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Abbreviations Used

BBC	Brookline Bird Club
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey
CA	Conservation Area
CC	Country Club
CFT	NH Audubon Chapter Field Trip
FT	Field Trip
IBA	Important Bird Area
L.	Lake
LPC	Loon Preservation Committee
NA	Natural Area
NHA	New Hampshire Audubon
NHBR	New Hampshire Bird Records
NHRBC	NH Rare Birds Committee
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
PO	Post Office
R.	River
Rd.	Road
Rt.	Route
SF	State Forest
SP	State Park
SPNHF	Society for the Protection of NH Forests, Concord
T&M	Thompson & Meserves (Purchase)
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
WMA	Wildlife Management Area
WMNF	White Mountain National Forest
WS	NHA Wildlife Sanctuary
~	approximately
WTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant

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Summer 2013 Highlights



Read about where to find boreal birds such as this Gray Jay in an article about birding in the White Mountains by the photographer, Mark Suomala.



Black-backed Woodpecker feeding young at a nest, 6/16/13, in Bethlehem, NH. See inside for more information and photos of this nest. Photo by Duane Cross.

Rails at Germonty Drive Wetland, Salem, NH

Both Sora and Virginia Rails were found at a marsh on Germonty Drive in Salem and photographed by Kyle Wilmarth.



Above: Sora 6/23/13.



Adult Virginia Rail (above right), 7/14/13 and juveniles (right), 7/20/13.

