

# New Hampshire Bird Records





**NEW HAMPSHIRE BIRD RECORDS**  
 VOLUME 32, NUMBER 3  
 FALL 2013

**MANAGING EDITOR**

Rebecca Suomala  
 603-224-9909 X309,  
 rsuomala@nhaudubon.org

**TEXT EDITOR**

Dan Hubbard

**SEASON EDITORS**

Eric Masterson, **Spring**  
 Tony Vazzano, **Summer**  
 Lauren Kras/Ben Griffith, **Fall**  
 Pamela Hunt, **Winter**

**LAYOUT**

Kathy McBride

**ASSISTANTS**

Jeanine Ayer, Zeke Cornell, David Deifik,  
 Margot Johnson, Elizabeth Levy,  
 Susan MacLeod, Aiden Moser,  
 Marie Nickerson, Carol Plato,  
 William Taffe, Tony Vazzano, Phyllis Yaffie

**FIELD NOTES**

Jane Wing

**PHOTO QUIZ**

David Donsker

**PHOTO EDITOR**

Wendy Chatel

**WEB MASTER**

Kathy Barnes

**WHERE TO BIRD**

Phil Brown

**EDITORIAL TEAM**

Phil Brown, Hank Chary, David Deifik,  
 David Donsker, Ben Griffith,  
 Dan Hubbard, Pam Hunt, Lauren Kras,  
 Ed Larrabee, Iain MacLeod, Eric Masterson,  
 Robert A. Quinn, Rebecca Suomala,  
 William Taffe, Tony Vazzano, Jon Woolf

[www.nhbirdrecords.org](http://www.nhbirdrecords.org)

IN MEMORY OF

**Dot Soule**

This issue is sponsored by *New Hampshire Bird Records* and friends in memory of Dot Soule, long-time volunteer for NH Audubon and *New Hampshire Bird Records*. Dot volunteered until she was 92 doing a variety of different jobs behind the scenes for this publication. She will be greatly missed.

*Dot Soule receiving her "Golden Binoculars" from NH Audubon in 2002.*



**In This Issue**

From the Editor ..... 1  
 Photo Quiz ..... 1  
 Fall Season: August 1 through November 30, 2013 ..... 2  
*by Ben Griffith and Lauren Kras*  
 Fall 2013 New Hampshire Raptor Migration Report ..... 20  
*by Iain MacLeod*  
 Photo Gallery – Hawkwatchers at Work..... 22  
*by Phil Brown*  
 Field Trip Report – Fall Warbler Walk at the Freedom Town Forest..... 24  
*by Tony Vazzano*  
 Fall 2013 Field Notes ..... 24  
*compiled by Jane Wing and Rebecca Suomala*  
 Spruce Grouse Dust Bathing..... 24  
*by Robert A. Quinn*  
 Comparing Short-billed and Long-billed Dowitcher ..... 25  
*by Steve Mirick*  
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird Attends Lunch ..... 25  
*by Donna Ellis*  
 Black-and-white Warbler Nest Cleaning..... 25  
*by Colleen Prieto*  
 Scavenging Red-tailed Hawk..... 26  
*by Steve Mirick*  
 Late Barred Owl Fledgling ..... 26  
*by Jane Wing*  
 Concord November Challenge Sets New Record!..... 26  
*by Pam Hunt*  
 Spotlight on White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*) ..... 27  
*by Stephen R. Mirick*  
 Backyard Birder – Insect-eating Birds Eat Berries ..... 29  
*by Brenda Sens*  
 Birding World End Pond & Other Salem Hotspots..... 30  
*by Kyle Wilmarth*  
 Volunteers and Research – Concord Nighthawk Migration Study ..... 33  
*by Rob Woodward and Zeke Cornell*  
 Answer to the Photo Quiz..... 35  
*by David B. Donsker*

Cover Photos: *Calliope Hummingbird* by Christine Sheridan, 10/28/13, S. Mammoth Rd., Manchester, NH. *Rufous Hummingbird* (smaller photo) by Kyle Wilmarth, 9/22/13, Durham, NH.

*New Hampshire Bird Records* is published quarterly by New Hampshire Audubon's Conservation Department. Thank you to the many observers who submit their sightings to NH eBird ([www.ebird.org/nh](http://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 September, 2014

Published by New Hampshire Audubon's Conservation Department

Printed on Recycled Paper



Fall 2013

by Rebecca Suomala

### Volunteer Update

#### **Welcome, Wendy and Jane.**

With this issue we welcome Wendy Chatel to the position of Photo Editor for *New Hampshire Bird Records*. Former Photo Editor, Ed Larrabee, kindly collected photos for the first month of the season until Wendy could take over. Wendy also volunteers for uploading the historical *New Hampshire Bird Records* data into eBird. She has single-handedly uploaded all the data from the Lakes Region towns, where she is most familiar with the birds and birding. Don't hesitate to contact Wendy if you have photos to share or questions about photos in *New Hampshire Bird Records*, [wendychatel@gmail.com](mailto:wendychatel@gmail.com).

We also welcome Jane Wing as the new compiler of Field Notes for each issue. Jane is an avid birder who also volunteers each week for NH Audubon's Backyard Winter Bird Survey, and assists at Mass Audubon's Joppa Flats bird banding station on Plum Island.

Please welcome Wendy and Jane to the *New Hampshire Bird Records* team.

### Volunteers Needed

#### **Where to Bird Feature Coordinator**

This volunteer creates a lineup of topics for the popular Where to Bird feature with help from members of the *New Hampshire Bird Records* Editorial Team. Responsibilities include contacting authors to write those articles, providing guidance and editing, and facilitating the creation of associated maps as needed. The position requires the ability to meet deadlines and good editing skills. Familiarity with birding throughout the state is helpful.

#### **eBird Data Assistant Needed**

This volunteer will assist with error checking and updating the NH database of bird sightings in eBird. The primary task for this position is to research location and information discrepancies in eBird reports and to contact the observers to resolve questions about their sightings. Additional tasks include requesting additional details on some reports and possible eBird review of older records. Proficiency with computers and familiarity with NH birds is required; familiarity with eBird and internet tools is preferred. Although some work may be done from home, most work will take place at the NH Audubon McLane Center in Concord. If you are interested, please contact me (see inside front cover).

## PHOTO QUIZ

---

Can You  
Identify  
This Bird?

Answer on page 35.

Photo by Len Medlock.



**August 1, 2013 through November 30, 2013**

by Benjamin Griffith and Lauren Kras



The fall of 2013 had few high profile rarities and relatively few exceptional counts. The largest standout observation was a **Calliope Hummingbird**. The bird spent over a month visiting a feeder in Manchester and is the first record for New Hampshire. Other noteworthy species during the season included a **Pacific Loon**, a **Clapper Rail**, a **Wilson's**

**Phalarope**, a **Rufous Hummingbird**, a **Sedge Wren**, a **Yellow-throated Warbler**, and a **Blue Grosbeak**.

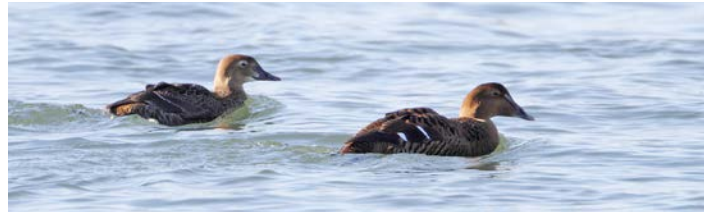
Unlike the spring, migration in the fall tends to be a slower process and every year a few species linger well past their previous record-late dates. This season these included a Great Egret which remained through the end of the season, two White-eyed Vireos and a Philadelphia Vireo in November, and an American Oystercatcher in mid-September.



*Calliope Hummingbird by Jason Lambert, 10/30/13, Manchester, NH.*

Other trends throughout the season included: extremely low numbers of shearwaters and storm-petrels during the months of August and September; possibly a result of poor food supplies offshore, many species that are typically early fall migrants occurring later into September than usual; a result of a rainy month with few good migration days, good numbers of boreal insectivorous breeders during migration; likely due to high budworm and caterpillar numbers during the summer.

**Geese through Ducks**



*King Eider female (left) with female Common Eider, by Len Medlock, 11/30/13, Seabrook, NH.*

Reports of two **Greater White-fronted Geese** this fall continue an increasing trend for this species. Once extremely rare, this species has been nearly annual in fall since 2005. Two sightings this fall is consistent with this trend. It appears that a long-staying bird in Berlin may have been the first Coos County record, although this may have as much to do with the limited observer coverage as rarity for this area. There were five Snow Goose observations this fall, which appears to be about average, but there were no large flocks reported for the second year in a row.

Great Bay continues to be the most reliable place to see wigeon in the state, and this fall brought spectacular numbers of both species. High counts of 180 American and four Eurasian Wigeon exceeded totals in recent years and the Eurasian Wigeon total ties the previous high count for the state. King Eiders are rare at any season, but seem to be especially uncommon in fall. Two together at the end of November were the first recorded in fall since 2007. Other notably high waterfowl counts were 136 Ring-necked Ducks in Salem and 197 and 126 Ruddy Ducks in Windham and Somersworth respectively.

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
-------------	----------	-----------------	-----------------

**Greater White-fronted Goose**

10/13	1	Androscoggin R., 12th St. bridge, Berlin	K. Dube
10/17	1	Androscoggin R. by Bridge St., Berlin	C. Nims
11/11	1	Androscoggin R. by Bridge St., Berlin	R. Quinn, C. Borg
11/19	1	Androscoggin R., 12th St. bridge, Berlin	W. O'Brien
11/25	1	Roberts Rd., Rollinsford	A. Aldrich

**Snow Goose**

09/24	1	UNH hay field, Durham	L. Hetrick
10/08	1	Carter Hill Orchard, Concord	K. Fenton
10/12	7	Windham Rail Trail	F. Hareau
10/18	1	Conway Lake, Brownfield Rd. cove	T. Keith
10/19	1	Emily Lane, Sunpee	J. Balch

*Brant by Steve Mirick, 11/24/13, Rye, NH.*



<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
<b>Brant</b>				<b>Ring-necked Duck</b>			
10/06	5	Rye Harbor SP	S.& J. Mirick	08/04	1	Snow Pond, Concord	P. Brown
10/25	14	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick	08/20	2	Cherry Pond, Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson	W. Shafer, B. Ridgely
10/26	36	NH coast	S. Mirick	10/13	42	Cherry Pond, Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson	D. Govatski, et al.
10/31	1	Great Bay Discovery Ctr., Greenland	S. Mirick	11/09	136	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
11/24	1	Rye Harbor SP	S. Mirick	11/13	38	Tolman Pond, Nelson	P. Brown
<b>Wood Duck</b>				11/15	85	Penacook Lake, Concord	R. Quinn
08/08	42	Copps Pond WMA, Tuftonboro	G.& A. Robbins	<b>Greater Scaup</b>			
10/10	42	Mill Pond Nature Sanctuary, Walpole	R. Quinn, J. Kolias	10/06	9	Rye Harbor SP	S.& J. Mirick
11/20	2	Peterborough WTP	P. Brown	10/26	12	NH coast	S. Mirick
11/30	2	Westmoreland boat launch	A. Burnett	11/15	1400	Sunset Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick
<b>Gadwall</b>				11/22	2	Canobie Lake from Windham boat launch	K. Wilmarth
09/05	1	Pemigewasset R., New Hampton	M. Hoerdtorfer	11/28	3	Penacook Lake, Concord	R. Quinn
10/19	1	Great Bay Discovery Ctr., Greenland	L. Medlock	<b>Lesser Scaup</b>			
10/26	9	NH coast	S. Mirick	10/16	1	Lake Winnepocket, Webster	R. Quinn
<b>Eurasian Wigeon</b>				10/20	4	Sunset Farm, Greenland	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
10/09	2	Sunset Farm, Greenland	J. Lambert	11/10	89	Exeter WTP	P. Hunt, C. Borg
10/19	4	Sunset Farm, Greenland	J. Lambert	11/11	4	Mile Long Pond, Androscoggin R., Errol	R. Quinn, C. Borg
<b>American Wigeon</b>				11/26	21	Canobie Lake Park, Salem	S. Mirick
09/29	6	Exeter WTP	S. Mirick	<b>King Eider</b>			
11/03	6	Bicentennial Park, Hampton	S.& J. Mirick, BBC FT	11/29	2	Hampton Beach SP	J. Lambert, et al.
11/09	180	Sunset Farm, Greenland	H. Walters	<b>Surf Scoter</b>			
11/10	1	Powwow Pond, Kingston	P. Hunt, C. Borg	10/06	7	Moore Reservoir	S. Turner
11/18	1	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard	10/06	217	Rye Harbor SP	S.& J. Mirick
<b>Blue-winged Teal</b>				10/12	122	Rye Harbor SP	S.& J. Mirick
08/11	2	Highland Lake, Stoddard	J. Anderson	10/13	1	Cherry Pond, Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson	D. Govatski, et al.
09/02	6	Highland Lake, Stoddard	J. Anderson	10/15	3	Lake Waukewan, Meredith	I. MacLeod
09/03	5	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard	10/25	500	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
09/05	16	Pemigewasset R., New Hampton	M. Hoerdtorfer	11/03	3	Turtle Pond, Concord	A. Robbins
09/20	35	Exeter WTP	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell	<b>White-winged Scoter</b>			
09/28	4	Main St. pond, Enfield	P. Hunt, NHA FT	10/05	200	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Bennett, S.& J. Mirick, Seacoast CFT
11/09	1	Exeter WTP	H. Walters	10/13	3	Cherry Pond, Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson	D. Govatski, et al.
11/20	1	Peterborough WTP	P. Brown	10/15	70	Carter Hill Orchard, Concord	K. Fenton
<b>Northern Shoveler</b>				10/25	100	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
09/19	2	Exeter WTP	S. Mirick, P. Miliotis	11/11	5	Lake Gloriette, Dixville	R. Quinn, C. Borg
09/29	5	Exeter WTP	S. Mirick	<b>Black Scoter</b>			
10/26	2	Eel Pond, Rye	S. Mirick	08/03	17	North Beach, Hampton	S. Mirick
11/13	3	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard	10/09	13	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski
<b>Northern Pintail</b>				10/13	35	Cherry Pond, Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson	D. Govatski, et al.
08/24	1	Penacook survey route, Concord	P. Hunt	10/13	32	Pack Monadnock, Peterborough	H. Walters, K. Fenton
10/06	3	Peterborough WTP	P. Brown	10/25	300	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
10/12	16	Rye Harbor SP	S.& J. Mirick	11/03	9	Turtle Pond, Concord	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, A. Robbins
10/20	5	Sunset Farm, Greenland	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell	11/03	11	Squam Lake	T. Vazzano, K. Klapper
11/02	1	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	P. Hunt, J. Hills, D. Currier, S. Hartman	<b>Green-winged Teal</b>			
11/16	1	Turee Pond, Bow	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell	10/18	30	Exeter WTP	S. Mirick
11/17	4	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth	10/19	31	Peterborough WTP	P. Brown
<b>Green-winged Teal</b>				10/24	30	Derry WTP	S. Mirick



## FALL SEASON

*Date # Location Observer*

### Long-tailed Duck

10/12 2 Rye Harbor SP S.& J. Mirick  
 10/23 1 Great Bay Discovery Ctr., Greenland S. Mirick  
 11/03 2 Turtle Pond, Concord A. Robbins  
 11/03 2 Indian Pond, Orford J. MacQueen  
 11/06 2 Grace Hill Rd., Newbury D. Jackson  
 11/13 4 Dublin Lake P. Brown  
 11/29 48 Boars Head Ave., Hampton P. Miliotis

### Bufflehead

10/17 1 Exeter WTP P. Miliotis  
 10/17 1 World End Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth  
 10/30 15 Turtle Pond, Concord P. Hunt, R. Quinn  
 10/31 63 Great Bay Discovery Ctr., Greenland S. Mirick  
 11/03 38 Odiorne Point SP, Rye S.& J. Mirick, BBC FT  
 11/12 20 Lake Ave., Georges Mills D. Jackson

### Common Goldeneye

09/22 7 Androscoggin R. at Lake Umbagog, Errol  
 C. Kesselheim, et al.  
 11/03 1 Little Boars Head, N. Hampton  
 S.& J. Mirick, BBC FT  
 11/08 18 Little Cherry Pond, Pondicherry NWR D. Govatski  
 11/15 36 Sunset Farm, Greenland S. Mirick  
 11/25 96 Lake Winnisquam bridge, Rt. 3/11, Belmont  
 I. MacLeod

### Hooded Merganser

11/02 170 Penacook Lake, Concord P. Hunt, K. Fenton  
 11/16 63 Spofford Lake, Chesterfield J. Swatt  
 11/21 93 Lakeshore Dr., Northwood Lake G.& A. Robbins

### Common Merganser

11/11 64 Jackson Pond Rd., New Hampton I. MacLeod  
 11/13 73 Howe Reservoir, Dublin P. Brown  
 11/29 107 Spofford Lake, Chesterfield A. Burnett

### Red-breasted Merganser

10/05 4 Odiorne Point SP, Rye  
 S. Bennett, S.& J. Mirick, Seacoast CFT  
 10/09 3 Three Mile Reservoir, Keene J. Swatt  
 11/13 5 Dublin Lake P. Brown  
 11/30 24 Hampton Beach SP J. Kovner, A. Gurka

### Ruddy Duck

11/12 126 Willand Pond, Somersworth D. Hubbard  
 11/22 197 Canobie Lake from Windham boat launch  
 K. Wilmarth  
 11/25 98 Willand Pond, Somersworth S. Young

## Grouse through Cormorants

**A** Pacific Loon in Rye was only seen for a single day, as seems to be typical for this species in New Hampshire (or the Northeast). Fortunately, it was well-photographed, as many reports of this species turn out to be unusually-plumaged Common Loons. Red-throated Loons also had a good showing this fall, with over 1,000 birds reported migrating on a single day in November from two locations. The count of 1,625 from Hampton represents a new high



*Male Spruce Grouse displaying, by Bob Quinn, 10/4/13, Cambridge, NH. Read more about Bob's observations in Field Notes.*

count for the state. A Red-necked Grebe at Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge in Jefferson represented the only inland record for the fall and occurred in August as is typical for this species.

Tubenoses were noticeably absent this fall compared with recent years. There were only six *individual* shearwaters of any species reported through the end of September. Fortunately, birds seemed to return to our offshore waters by the end of the season; Great Shearwaters and Northern Fulmars were present in good numbers in October and November. Leach's Storm-Petrel was recorded from shore during a storm for the third straight fall. This was only the fourth from-shore sighting in the past 10 fall seasons.

*Date # Location Observer*

### Spruce Grouse

08/04 1 East Inlet Rd., Pittsburg S. Glynn  
 09/28 1 Zealand Trail, Bethlehem G. Richards  
 10/04 2 Cambridge, Sand Flat Rd., Cambridge R. Quinn

### Red-throated Loon

10/05 1 Hampton Harbor S. Mirick, Seacoast CFT  
 11/10 1625 Great Boar's Head, Hampton S. Mirick  
 11/17 98 Rye Harbor SP J. Lambert



*Pacific Loon by Steve Mirick, 10/27/13, Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye, NH.*

### Pacific Loon

10/27 1 Odiorne Point SP, Rye S. Mirick, et al.

### Pied-billed Grebe

08/19 11 Cops Pond WMA, Tufonboro  
 C. Nims, D. Duxbury-Fox, S. McCarthy  
 11/13 10 Powwow Pond, Kingston S. Mirick  
 11/26 1 Canobie Lake Park, Salem S. Mirick

*Date # Location Observer*

**Horned Grebe**

09/29 1 Horseshoe Pond, Concord D. Jackson  
 10/05 8 Lake Umbagog n. end, Errol R. Quinn  
 11/18 6 Brookhurst Ln. West, Meredith I. MacLeod  
 11/18 28 Blueberry Island, Moultonborough I. MacLeod

**Red-necked Grebe**

08/31 1 Cherry Pond, Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson  
 S. Butler, T. Mazerall

**Northern Fulmar**

10/01 18 Jeffreys Ledge, NH W. Cioffi  
 11/22 70 Offshore waters, NH E. Masterson

**Great Shearwater**

08/04 2 Offshore waters, NH  
 R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, E. Masterson, S. McGrath  
 09/16 1 Jeffreys Ledge, NH W. Gross  
 11/22 200 Offshore waters, NH E. Masterson

**Manx Shearwater**

08/04 1 Offshore waters, NH  
 R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, E. Masterson, S. McGrath  
 09/09 2 Jeffreys Ledge, NH L. Kras, Seacoast CFT

**Wilson's Storm-Petrel**

08/04 11 Offshore waters, NH  
 R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, E. Masterson, S. McGrath  
 08/22 4 Jeffreys Ledge, NH D. Blezard  
 09/09 2 Jeffreys Ledge, NH L. Kras, Seacoast CFT

**Leach's Storm-Petrel**

10/12 1 Rye Harbor SP S.& J. Mirick

**Double-crested Cormorant**

10/06 4350 Rye Harbor SP S.& J. Mirick  
 10/12 10404 Rye Harbor SP S.& J. Mirick  
 10/13 104 Carter Hill Orchard, Concord P. Brown, et al.  
 10/13 36 Pack Monadnock, Peterborough  
 H. Walters, K. Fenton

**Great Cormorant**

08/27 1 Pickering Ponds, Rochester D. Hubbard  
 09/21 5 Isles of Shoals, Star Is., Rye R. Suomala, Z. Cornell  
 09/29 1 World End Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth  
 10/05 1 World End Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth

**Hérons through Cranes**



*Little Blue Heron  
 by Steve Mirick,  
 8/11/13,  
 Little River saltmarsh,  
 N. Hampton, NH.*

Great Egrets usually leave the state by the middle of October, so one seen throughout November is truly exceptional. In fact, prior to this year, the latest this species had been recorded in the state was November 13, so this individual, which lingered through the end of the season, far exceeded the previous late record. More expected for November, but rare in the state, was a Cattle Egret seen migrating over Bicentennial Park in Hampton. Little Blue Herons are annual on the coast in fall; this year a single juvenile was seen in North Hampton for only one day.

Golden Eagles are increasing in the east and there were thirteen reported this season. Three during a hawk watch in Peterborough ties the single-day high count for the species. The big day for Broad-winged Hawks fell between September 15 and September 20 depending on the site.

Clapper Rails are rarely detected in the state, but they have been recorded annually in recent years. One spent two days in the Parson's Creek Marsh west of Wallis Sands this fall. A Sandhill Crane migrating over Carter Hill Orchard was consistent with this species' continued increase in the Northeast, but the species is still less than annual as a fall migrant.

*Date # Location Observer*

**American Bittern**

08/08 4 Copps Pond WMA, Tufonboro G.& A. Robbins  
 10/08 2 World End Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth, A. Altena

**Great Egret**

08/08 15 Turee Pond, Bow Z. Cornell  
 08/14 4 Berry Bay cottage, Freedom A. Robbins  
 08/21 61 Hampton Harbor,  
 Yankee Fisherman's Coop, Seabrook J. Lambert  
 10/16 1 Lake Winnepocket, Webster R. Quinn  
 11/10 1 Philbrick Marsh, N. Hampton S. Mirick  
 11/23 1 Philbrick Marsh, N. Hampton J. Lambert

**Snowy Egret**

08/16 2 Exeter WTP P. Miliotis  
 08/31 93 NH coast S. Mirick  
 09/02 52 Philbrick Marsh, N. Hampton B. Griffith  
 09/06 5 Adams Point WMA, Durham T. Thompson

**Little Blue Heron**

08/11 1 Little River saltmarsh, N. Hampton  
 R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, S.& J. Mirick

**Cattle Egret**

11/03 1 Bicentennial Park, Hampton S.& J. Mirick, BBC FT

**Green Heron**

09/05 5 Pickering Ponds, Rochester  
 C. Nims, S. McCarthy, J. Scott, B. Crowley  
 09/24 1 Odiorne Point SP, Rye S. Mirick  
 10/05 1 Adams Point WMA, Durham S.& K. Hochgraf



## FALL SEASON

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
<b>Black-crowned Night-Heron</b>				<b>Broad-winged Hawk</b>			
08/02	1	Fort Eddy boat launch, Concord	T. Arsenaault	09/14	387	Blue Job Mt., Farmington	J. Lambert
08/17	41	Island Path, Hampton	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell	09/15	2500	Nashua Airport	S. Perkins, et al.
09/16	1	Jackson Landing, Durham	C. Prieto	09/17	2759	Pack Monadnock, Peterborough	H. Walters
10/18	1	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth	09/19	4899	Carter Hill Orchard, Concord	K. Fenton
11/30	1	Hampton River Marina flats	S. Mirick	10/09	4	Carter Hill Orchard, Concord	K. Fenton
<b>Glossy Ibis</b>				<b>Red-tailed Hawk</b>			
08/04	5	Hampton saltmarsh	S. Mirick	11/03	47	Carter Hill Orchard, Concord	K. Fenton
08/24	1	Exeter WTP	P. Miliotis	11/03	68	Pack Monadnock, Peterborough	P. Brown, et al.
<b>Osprey</b>				<b>Rough-legged Hawk</b>			
09/15	20	Nashua Airport	S. Perkins, et al.	10/26	1	Pack Monadnock, Peterborough	H. Walters
09/23	37	Winnacunnet High School, Hampton	P. Lacourse, et al.	11/24	1	Hampton saltmarsh	S. Mirick
10/05	15	Pack Monadnock, Peterborough	H. Walters	<b>Clapper Rail</b>			
10/06	26	Rye Harbor SP	S.& J. Mirick	09/24	1	Parsons Creek Marsh w. of Wallis Sands beach, Rye	C. Prieto
11/01	1	Powder Mill Pond, Hancock	P. Brown	09/25	1	Parsons Creek Marsh w. of Wallis Sands beach, Rye	S. Bennett
11/02	1	Pack Monadnock, Peterborough	H. Walters	<b>Virginia Rail</b>			
11/10	1	Canobie Lake Park, Salem	K. Wilmarth	10/04	2	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
<b>Golden Eagle</b>				10/18	1	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
09/24	1	Pack Monadnock, Peterborough	H. Walters	11/11	1	Urban Forestry Ctr., Portsmouth	P. Miliotis
09/29	1	Old Man Museum & Memorial, Franconia	B.& C. Baker, et al.				
10/17	1	Pack Monadnock, Peterborough	H. Walters	<i>Sora by Kyle Wilmarth, 10/19/13, World End Pond, Salem, NH.</i>			
10/19	1	Pack Monadnock, Peterborough	H. Walters	<b>Sora</b>			
10/26	1	Pack Monadnock, Peterborough	H. Walters, et al.	08/11	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	M. Watson, A. Perko
11/01	1	Powder Mill Pond, Hancock	P. Brown	10/13	1	Hampton saltmarsh	S. Mirick
11/02	1	Pack Monadnock, Peterborough	H. Walters, et al.	10/19	2	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
11/03	3	Pack Monadnock, Peterborough	P. Brown, et al.				
11/06	2	Pack Monadnock, Peterborough	H. Walters	<i>American Coot by Amanda Altana, 10/13/13, World End Pond, Salem, NH.</i>			
11/09	1	Pack Monadnock, Peterborough	W. Ward, et al.	<b>American Coot</b>			
<b>Mississippi Kite</b>				10/13	1	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
08/11	3	Gonet Dr., Newington	K.& S. Bennett, et al.	10/13	1	Canobie Lake Park, Salem	K. Wilmarth
08/18	1	Gonet Dr., Newington	K. Marshall	11/13	66	Powwow Pond, Kingston	S. Mirick
<b>Northern Harrier</b>				11/21	2	Exeter WTP	P. Miliotis
09/15	3	Blue Job Mt., Farmington	J. Lambert	<b>Sandhill Crane</b>			
09/28	7	Carter Hill Orchard, Concord	K. Fenton	10/14	1	Carter Hill Orchard, Concord	K. Fenton, et al.
11/05	14	Pack Monadnock, Peterborough	H. Walters	10/26	2	Monroe fields	S. Turner
<b>Sharp-shinned Hawk</b>							
09/23	11	Winnacunnet High School, Hampton	P. Lacourse, et al.				
09/27	101	Pack Monadnock, Peterborough	H. Walters				
10/09	122	Carter Hill Orchard, Concord	K. Fenton				
<b>Cooper's Hawk</b>							
09/21	3	Freedom Town Forest	G.& A. Robbins				
09/24	3	Winnacunnet High School, Hampton	P. Lacourse, et al.				
10/08	17	Pack Monadnock, Peterborough	H. Walters				
<b>Northern Goshawk</b>							
11/17	1	Awcomin Marsh, Rye	P. Miliotis				
<b>Red-shouldered Hawk</b>							
10/29	26	Pack Monadnock, Peterborough	H. Walters				
11/04	10	Carter Hill Orchard, Concord	K. Fenton				
11/13	2	Pack Monadnock, Peterborough	H. Walters				



Shorebirds through skimmers



Long-billed Dowitchers by Jason Lambert, 10/13/13, Henry's Pool, Rt. 101E, Hampton, NH.

An **American Oystercatcher** reported in late September was notable not only for being generally uncommon in the state, but also extremely unseasonable. This species is an early migrant and has not been previously reported during fall in New Hampshire. Piping Plovers are also early migrants, and two during August were likely both migrants, rather than lingering breeders.

Willetts departed earlier than usual with only two reports for the entire season. Usually, this species isn't too hard to find through August and occasionally lingers well into September. Whimbrels typically depart by the end of September, so one on October 13 was unusual. Dunlin are rare away from the coast and Great Bay, so its occurrence on Northwood Lake for the second consecutive year is interesting. Long-billed Dowitchers are less than annual in the state, but a report of two together in Hampton fits the pattern for juveniles in October. A **Wilson's Phalarope** was the third in the state in as many years, after only one record in the prior ten years.



Least Tern by Steve Mirick, 8/3/13, Philbrick Marsh, N. Hampton, NH.

One of three jaegers seen during an October storm had features consistent with Long-tailed, which is perhaps the least likely species at such a late date. The brief observation,

however, did not allow for the observer to conclusively identify it. Counts of 10 and 15 Least Terns in Hampton during early August are among the highest since the late 1950s and perhaps a sign of a regional increase in this species. A Black Skimmer that spent three days in Hampton Harbor was the second of 2013. This species is becoming more regular after going virtually unrecorded in the last decade.

Date # Location Observer

**American Oystercatcher**

09/20 1 Isles of Shoals, Star Is., Rye E. Masterson, et al.



Black-bellied Plover by Len Medlock, 8/25/13, Hampton Harbor, NH.

**Black-bellied Plover**

08/18 143 Hampton Harbor S. Mirick  
 10/22 3 Adams Point WMA, Durham T. Mills-Anderson  
 11/17 10 Seabrook Beach S. Mirick

**American Golden-Plover**

09/02 1 Little River saltmarsh, N. Hampton B. Griffith  
 09/09 5 Jeffreys Ledge, NH L. Kras, Seacoast CFT  
 09/24 5 Rochester WTP M. Thompson  
 10/05 1 Lake Umbagog n. end, Errol R. Quinn  
 10/20 1 Hampton saltmarsh R. Suomala, Z. Cornell

**Semipalmated Plover**

08/17 509 Hampton Beach SP  
 A. Burnett, NH Young Birders FT  
 08/18 581 Hampton saltmarsh S. Mirick  
 08/23 5 Rochester WTP S. Mirick  
 08/24 2 Merrimack R., Boscawen to Penacook  
 R. Quinn, Capital CFT  
 09/05 1 Ponemah Bog WS, Amherst C. Sheridan  
 09/06 2 Bay Point Rd., Newbury R. Beaumont, et al.  
 09/13 224 Seabrook Beach P. Hunt, J. Kanter  
 11/30 1 Seabrook Beach S. Mirick

**Piping Plover**

08/10 1 Jenness Beach, Rye S. Mirick  
 08/15 1 Seabrook Beach P. Hunt, J. Kanter

**Killdeer**

10/18 30 Rochester WTP D. Hubbard  
 10/19 39 Sunset Farm, Greenland J. Lambert  
 11/19 1 Wentworth by the Sea, New Castle E. Ganin

**Spotted Sandpiper**

08/02 18 World End Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth  
 08/21 20 Rochester WTP R. Suomala, Z. Cornell  
 08/24 25 Merrimack R., Boscawen to Penacook  
 R. Quinn, Capital CFT  
 11/04 1 Rye Harbor SP J. Kelly

# FALL SEASON

*Date # Location Observer*

## Solitary Sandpiper

08/24 18 Merrimack R., Boscawen to Penacook  
R. Quinn, Capital CFT  
08/31 10 Mt. Sunapee SP, Newbury J. Gamble  
10/15 1 Fowler Farm, Rochester D. Hubbard  
10/17 1 World End Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth

## Greater Yellowlegs

08/24 15 Merrimack R., Boscawen to Penacook  
R. Quinn, Capital CFT  
09/28 108 Meadow Pond, Hampton S. Mirick  
11/10 11 Sunset Farm, Greenland B. Griffith, L. Kras  
11/17 5 Rye saltmarshes S. Mirick

## Willet

08/12 1 Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook C. Sheridan  
08/24 3 Hampton Harbor,  
Yankee Fisherman's Coop, Seabrook B. Griffith



*Lesser Yellowlegs by Steve Mirick,  
11/4/13, Hampton saltmarsh.*

## Lesser Yellowlegs

08/11 100 Little River saltmarsh, N. Hampton S. Mirick  
08/30 15 Rochester WTP J. Gamble, A. Robinson  
11/04 1 Hampton saltmarsh S. Mirick

## Upland Sandpiper

08/25 6 Pease Intl. Tradeport, Portsmouth  
R. Suomala, Z. Cornell  
09/01 1 Pease Intl. Tradeport, Portsmouth S. Mirick

## Whimbrel

09/01 5 Hampton Harbor S. Mirick  
09/19 1 Plaice Cove, Hampton S. Mirick, D. Abbott  
10/13 1 Hampton saltmarsh S. Mirick

## Ruddy Turnstone

08/20 14 Seabrook Beach J. Williams  
09/15 2 Isles of Shoals, Star Is., Rye S.& J. Mirick

## Red Knot

09/02 5 Hampton Harbor jetty K. Wilmarth, A. Altena

## Stilt Sandpiper

08/11 3 Little River saltmarsh, N. Hampton S. Mirick  
09/13 1 Exeter WTP P. Miliotis  
10/18 1 Rochester WTP D. Hubbard



*Dunlin by Jon Woolf,  
11/2/13, Rye Harbor, NH.*

*Date # Location Observer*

## Dunlin

09/10 1 Adams Point WMA, Durham T. Thompson  
09/14 2 NH coast S. Mirick  
10/20 7 Sunset Farm, Greenland R. Suomala, Z. Cornell  
11/09 354 NH coast S. Mirick  
11/17 2 Northwood Lake J. Lambert

## Purple Sandpiper

10/26 2 NH coast S. Mirick  
11/16 50 Hampton Beach SP J. McKibben



*Baird's Sandpiper  
by Steve Mirick,  
9/14/13, Plaice Cove,  
Hampton, NH.*

## Baird's Sandpiper

08/16 2 Rochester WTP D. Hubbard  
09/04 1 Rochester WTP T. Vazzano  
09/08 1 Hampton Harbor Inlet S. Mirick  
09/13 1 North Side Park, Hampton P. Hunt, J. Kanter  
09/23 1 Hampton Beach SP B. Crowley, J. Scott

## Least Sandpiper

08/23 60 Rochester WTP S. Mirick  
08/24 84 Merrimack R., Boscawen to Penacook  
R. Quinn, Capital CFT  
08/25 15 Peterborough WTP P. Brown, D.& L. Stokes  
09/25 16 World End Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth  
10/19 1 World End Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth

## White-rumped Sandpiper

09/02 25 River St., Seabrook B. Griffith  
09/07 1 Exeter WTP P. Miliotis  
10/20 8 Hampton saltmarsh R. Suomala, Z. Cornell  
11/09 8 NH coast S. Mirick

## Pectoral Sandpiper

09/30 15 World End Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth  
10/12 5 Copps Pond WMA, Tuftonboro A. Robbins  
10/19 12 NH coast S. Mirick, Seacoast CFT  
11/04 5 Hampton saltmarsh S. Mirick  
11/06 8 Charcoal Rd. ponds, Dublin P. Brown  
11/09 1 Exeter WTP H. Walters  
11/09 1 World End Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth  
11/10 1 Great Bay Discovery Ctr., Greenland  
P. Hunt, C. Borg  
11/18 3 Rochester WTP D. Hubbard

## Semipalmated Sandpiper

09/03 12 Rochester WTP D. Hubbard  
09/06 16 Adams Point WMA, Durham H. Allen  
11/04 1 Hampton saltmarsh S. Mirick



Date # Location Observer Date # Location Observer



*Western Sandpiper*  
by Steve Mirick,  
9/12/13, Rye, NH.

**Western Sandpiper**

09/12 1 s. of Odiorne Point, Rye S. Mirick  
10/05 1 Hampton Harbor S.& J. Mirick, Seacoast CFT

**Short-billed Dowitcher**

09/15 23 Hampton River Marina flats L. Medlock, et al.  
10/13 1 Hampton saltmarsh S. Mirick, et al.

**Long-billed Dowitcher**

10/03 1 Henrys Pool, Rt. 101E, Hampton S. Mirick  
10/13 2 Henrys Pool, Rt. 101E, Hampton S. Mirick, et al.  
10/19 1 Hampton saltmarsh S. Mirick, Seacoast CFT  
10/26 1 Meadow Pond, Hampton S. Mirick

**Wilson's Snipe**

08/29 1 Lebanon Middle School Trail J. MacQueen  
08/30 1 UNH Dairy Barn and fields, Durham J. Gamble  
11/10 9 World End Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth  
11/16 1 World End Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth

**American Woodcock**

11/07 1 Orford residence J. MacQueen  
11/10 1 McLane Audubon Center, Silk Farm Rd., Concord R. Woodward

**Wilson's Phalarope**

08/31 1 Little River saltmarsh, N. Hampton S. Mirick  
09/02 1 Little River saltmarsh, N. Hampton K. Wilmarth, A. Altena, J. Kelly

**Red-necked Phalarope**

08/15 1 Seabrook Beach P. Hunt, J. Kanter  
09/09 23 Jeffreys Ledge, NH L. Kras, Seacoast CFT

**Parasitic Jaeger**

10/06 1 Rye Harbor SP S.& J. Mirick



*Pomarine Jaeger*  
by Eric Masterson,  
11/22/13,  
Jeffrey's Ledge, NH.

**Pomarine Jaeger**

11/22 4 Offshore waters, NH E. Masterson

**Jaeger sp.**

10/06 2 Rye Harbor SP S.& J. Mirick

**Razorbill**

11/17 3 Rye Harbor SP J. Lambert

**Black Guillemot**

09/09 2 Isles of Shoals, Star Is., Rye L. Kras, Seacoast CFT  
09/21 1 Isles of Shoals, Star Is., Rye R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, B. Griffith, S. Mirick, L. Kras  
11/17 3 Rye Harbor SP J. Lambert

**Black-legged Kittiwake**

10/12 1 Hampton Harbor S. Mirick

**Bonaparte's Gull**

08/02 3 near Governor's Island, Meredith F. Bouchard  
08/04 2 East Inlet Rd., Pittsburg S. Glynn  
09/06 1 Bay Point Rd., Newbury R. Beaumont, et al.  
09/21 200 Odiorne Point SP, Rye S. Mirick  
10/13 1 Spofford Lake, Chesterfield A. Burnett  
11/18 1 Lake Winnisquam at Winnepesaukee R. mouth, Laconia I. MacLeod

**Black-headed Gull**

11/28 1 Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop, Seabrook J. Lambert, M. Thompson



*Little Gull* by Steve Mirick,  
8/3/13, Plaice Cove,  
Hampton, NH.

**Little Gull**

08/03 1 Plaice Cove, Hampton S. Mirick  
09/21 1 Odiorne Point SP, Rye S. Mirick  
10/05 1 Hampton Harbor S. Mirick, Seacoast CFT

**Laughing Gull**

10/06 25 Rye Harbor SP S.& J. Mirick  
11/03 2 Little Boars Head, N. Hampton S.& J. Mirick, BBC FT

**Iceland Gull**

11/04 1 Rockingham Park Racetrack, Salem K. Wilmarth  
11/17 1 Pickering Ponds, Rochester J. Trimble, C. Lapierre, et al.  
11/24 1 Bicentennial Park, Hampton S. Mirick  
11/26 1 Sandy Pond, Nashua C. Sheridan  
11/26 1 Canobie Lake Park, Salem S. Mirick

**Lesser Black-backed Gull**

08/24 1 Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop, Seabrook B. Griffith  
09/09 4 Jeffreys Ledge, NH L. Kras, Seacoast CFT  
09/13 1 Hampton Beach SP K. McGowan  
09/13 1 Hampton Beach SP L. van Leer  
09/21 2 Odiorne Point SP, Rye S. Mirick

## FALL SEASON

*Date # Location Observer*

### Least Tern

08/04 15 Meadow Pond, Hampton S. Mirick  
 08/08 10 Hampton saltmarsh S. Mirick  
 08/25 1 Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop,  
 Seabrook M. Watson

### Caspian Tern

09/09 3 Star Is., Rye R. Quinn, P. Brown, et al.  
 09/17 3 Great Boar's Head, Hampton S. Mirick  
 09/21 2 Odiorne Point SP, Rye L. Kras, B. Griffith, et al.

### Roseate Tern

08/17 20 Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop,  
 Seabrook L. Medlock  
 09/05 6 Hampton Harbor Inlet S. Mirick

### Common Tern

08/13 100 Riverside Cemetery, New Castle C. Prieto  
 09/05 100 Hampton Harbor Inlet S. Mirick  
 09/19 10 Seabrook saltmarsh G. Gavutis Jr.  
 10/12 1 Hampton Harbor S. Mirick



*Forster's Tern*  
 by Kyle Wilmarth,  
 9/15/13, Odiorne Pt.  
 SP, Rye, NH.

### Forster's Tern

08/04 1 Offshore waters, NH  
 R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, E. Masterson, S. McGrath  
 08/07 1 Hampton River Marina flats J. Lambert  
 08/17 1 Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop,  
 Seabrook L. Medlock, H. Walters  
 09/02 1 Blackwater River, Rt. 286, Seabrook B. Griffith  
 09/08 3 Hampton Harbor Inlet S. Mirick  
 09/15 2 NH coast K. Wilmarth, A. Altena  
 10/05 4 NH coast S. Mirick, Seacoast CFT  
 10/12 1 Hampton Harbor S. Mirick

### Black Skimmer

10/01 1 Hampton Harbor S. Mirick  
 10/03 1 Hampton Harbor S. Mirick

## Doves through Falcons

Normally, Yellow-billed Cuckoo is more common in fall, but they were dramatically outnumbered during the season by Black-billed Cuckoo. This is likely a result of a bumper year for the Black-billed's caterpillar food sources to the north. Snowy Owls began arriving in mid-November and a single-day total of 11 in the coastal area at the end of the month was probably the highest fall season total ever. Short-eared Owls are overwhelmingly more likely to occur along the coast than inland in New Hampshire, but two of this



*Snowy Owl* by Steve Mirick, 11/30/13, Hampton Beach SP.

season's three reports came from inland locations.

Nighthawk watchers were once again out in force in August and managed to tally several totals approaching 1,000. High Chimney Swift counts are mostly a result of an effort led by NH Audubon Biologist, Pam Hunt to locate fall roost sites for this declining species. Observers should keep their eyes open for large numbers of this species in August and report any potential roost areas to NH Audubon and eBird.



*Calliope Hummingbird* by Paul Tremblay, 11/3/13,  
 Manchester, NH.

The fall of 2013 will go down in history as the first season to record three species of hummingbirds in the state. Ruby-throated Hummingbird is the only species to be commonly reported in the state and Rufous Hummingbird is the only other species which had been documented prior to this year. In addition to reports of numerous Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and a single **Rufous Hummingbird**, a stunning male **Calliope Hummingbird** spent over a month visiting a hummingbird feeder in Manchester. As a group, western hummingbirds are occurring with increasing frequency in the Northeast, and Calliope Hummingbird is now nearly annual in New England. Observers should pay close attention to their hummingbird feeders in the fall, especially after September, when most Ruby-throated Hummingbirds have departed.



Date	#	Location	Observer	Date	#	Location	Observer				
<b>Mourning Dove</b>				08/18	56	Union Street, Suncook	P. Hunt, C. Foss				
09/28	70	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	A. Burnett	08/19	54	S. Main St. roost, Concord	C. Foss				
11/02	120	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO, Concord R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, et al.		08/21	69	St. Paul's School roost, Concord	P. Hunt				
11/13	142	Sherman Farm, E. Conway Rd., Conway	T. Vazzano	08/21	64	St. John School roost, Concord	R. Vallieres, P. Hunt				
<b>Yellow-billed Cuckoo</b>				08/29	75	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth				
08/04	1	Berry Rd., Nottingham	P. Miliotis	09/20	1	Pack Monadnock, Peterborough	H. Walters				
08/08	1	Lakeview Dr., Strafford	S. Young	09/23	1	NH coast	F. Mitchell				
08/12	4	Pawtuckaway SP, Nottingham/Deerfield	S. Young	<b>Ruby-throated Hummingbird</b>							
09/16	1	Mile Brook, Deerfield Rd., Nottingham	P. Miliotis	08/08	11	Exeter WTP	P. Miliotis				
09/22	1	Yudicky Farm/Southwest Park, Nashua	C. Sheridan	09/30	1	Lakeview Dr., Strafford	S. Young				
<b>Black-billed Cuckoo</b>				<b>Rufous Hummingbird</b>							
08/10	2	Strafford County Farm, Dover	D. Hubbard	09/22	1	Fitts Farm Dr., Durham	S. Mirick, A. Altena, K. Wilmarth				
08/11	2	Penacook Lake, Concord	P. Hunt	11/14	1	Fitts Farm Dr., Durham	D. Hubbard, A. Kimball				
08/17	2	Under the Mountain Rd., Lyman	S. Turner								
08/25	2	Parker Mt./Evans Mt./Strafford Town Forest	S. Young								
09/09	1	Isles of Shoals, Star Is., Rye R. Quinn, P. Brown, et al.									
09/14	1	Riverlands CA, Canterbury	R. Suomala, M. Suomala								
09/15	1	Berry Rd., Nottingham	P. Miliotis								
<b>Snowy Owl</b>								<i>Calliope Hummingbird by Paul Tremblay, 11/3/13, Manchester, NH.</i>			
11/18	1	Rt. 93, exit 12 S., Concord	K. Tuttle								
11/24	1	Bicentennial Park, Hampton	S. Mirick, C. Prieto								
11/25	1	Kollsman Sports Fields Complex, Merrimack	K. Regan, J. Wing, C. Sheridan								
11/30	9	NH coast	S. Mirick, L. Medlock								
11/30	2	Pease Intl. Tradeport, Portsmouth	S. Mirick								
11/30	1	Blaney Rd., Bethlehem	anonymous	<b>Calliope Hummingbird</b>							
<b>Short-eared Owl</b>				10/06	1	S. Mammoth Rd., Manchester	P.& P. Tremblay				
10/13	1	Sherman Farm, E. Conway Rd., Conway B. Crowley, J. Scott, D. Duxbury-Fox, R. Fox		10/27	1	S. Mammoth Rd., Manchester P. Tremblay, S. Mirick, R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, et al.					
10/26	1	NH coast	S. Mirick	11/23	1	S. Mammoth Rd., Manchester	P. Tremblay				
10/27	1	Pack Monadnock, Peterborough	K. Fenton, et al.	<b>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker</b>							
<b>Common Nighthawk</b>				08/17	5	Squam Lake	W. Shafer				
08/25	966	Capital Commons Parking Garage, Concord Z. Cornell, et al.		11/15	1	Duck Pond, Nashua	D. Deifik				
08/25	741	Old Hillsboro Rd., Henniker	A. Moser	11/17	1	Penacook survey route, Concord	P. Hunt				
08/26	1000	Glen Lake, Rt. 114, Goffstown	C. Tentas	<b>Black-backed Woodpecker</b>							
08/27	640	Capital Commons Parking Garage, Concord Z. Cornell, et al.		08/03	2	Caps Ridge Trail, T&M Purchase	M. Garvey				
08/31	500	Glen Lake, Rt. 114, Goffstown	C.& J. Tentas	10/04	1	Magalloway River, Errol	R. Quinn				
09/04	6	Capital Commons Parking Garage, Concord R. Quinn, et al.		10/20	1	Cherry Pond, Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson	J. MacQueen				
09/20	1	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth	<b>Northern Flicker</b>							
<b>Eastern Whip-poor-will</b>				09/18	15	Monson Center (SPNHF), Hollis	C. Sheridan				
09/20	1	Durrell Mountain Road residence, Gilmanton N. Mitchell		09/25	11	Buffalo Rd., W. Rumney	J. Williams				
<b>Chimney Swift</b>				09/26	15	Tow Path Lane, Concord	D. Lania				
08/08	256	Main Street, Concord	R. Quinn	<b>American Kestrel</b>							
08/11	125	Durgin Block parking garage, Concord	P. Hunt	09/28	25	Carter Hill Orchard, Concord	K. Fenton				
08/12	165	Lebanon Junior High School	J. MacQueen	10/08	23	Pack Monadnock, Peterborough	H. Walters				
08/16	101	Memorial St. Mill roost, Franklin	P. Hunt, C. Foss	10/29	1	Pack Monadnock, Peterborough	H. Walters				
08/18	116	St Joseph's Church, Laconia	J. Kelley	<b>Merlin</b>							
				10/08	10	Carter Hill Orchard, Concord	K. Fenton				
				10/08	16	Pack Monadnock, Peterborough	H. Walters				
				11/23	1	Lake St. at Monroe St., Nashua	C. Sheridan				
				11/30	1	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick				

# FALL SEASON

Date # Location Observer Date # Location Observer



*Peregrine Falcon by Debbie LaValley, 10/2/13, Horseshoe Pond, Concord, NH.*

## Peregrine Falcon

10/06	5	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	D. Jackson
10/06	14	Rye Harbor SP	S.& J. Mirick
10/08	7	Pack Monadnock, Peterborough	H. Walters
10/12	12	Rye Harbor SP	S.& J. Mirick

## Flycatchers through Larks



*Western Kingbird by Cindy House, 11/2/13, Sutton, NH.*

The big story with flycatchers was that many species lingered later into September than usual. Olive-sided, Yellow-bellied, and Traill's (Alder/Willow) Flycatchers and Eastern Kingbird have usually departed by early September, but all of these species were reported late in the month. A word of caution is certainly in order when reporting *Empidonax* flycatchers, as members of this group are often silent in fall and identification is far from straightforward (even in the hand!). There's no shame in leaving these birds identified as *Empidonax*, especially when they're unseasonably late. A Western Kingbird in Sutton was a one-day wonder that fortunately was photographed by the observer. This western visitor is uncommon but is most likely to be seen in the fall season.

Most years one or two **White-eyed Vireos** are found in fall and this year was no exception. Remarkably, both of this year's birds were found on the same day, nearly three weeks after the previous late date for this species. One of these birds stayed for over a week and established a new late date for New Hampshire. The other vireo story of the fall was the high number of reports of Philadelphia Vireo. Normally a very uncommon migrant, there were over 30 reports for the season, far in excess of most past years. Perhaps owing to the high numbers, a Philadelphia Vireo photographed on November 7 established a new late date for the state.

## Olive-sided Flycatcher

08/04	1	Rt. 153 tornado area, Effingham	G.& A. Robbins
08/04	1	Dodge Pond, Lyman	S. Turner
09/21	1	Pats Peak Ski Area, Henniker	A. Moser
09/26	1	Tilton Hill Rd., Pittsfield	A. Robbins

## Eastern Wood-Pewee

08/21	11	Mt. Stanton & Mt. Pickering trail, Bartlett	C. Nims
09/27	1	White Farm, Concord	P. Hunt
09/27	1	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	A. Burnett

## Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

08/24	1	Freedom Town Forest	G.& A. Robbins
09/17	1	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
09/17	1	Tilton Hill Rd., Pittsfield	A. Robbins
09/18	1	Buffalo Rd., W. Rumney	J. Williams
09/18	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	P. Miliotis, et al.
09/19	1	Tilton Hill Rd., Pittsfield	A. Robbins

## Alder Flycatcher

08/02	3	Westmoreland boat launch	A. Burnett
08/23	1	Tilton Hill Rd., Pittsfield	A. Robbins

## Willow Flycatcher

08/10	3	Strafford County Farm, Dover	D. Hubbard
09/03	1	Tilton Hill Rd., Pittsfield	A. Robbins

## Alder/Willow Flycatcher (Traill's Flycatcher)

09/15	2	Isles of Shoals, Star Is., Rye	S.& J. Mirick
09/18	1	Monson Center (SPNHF), Hollis	C. Sheridan
09/23	1	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	A. Burnett
09/25	1	E. Conway fields	B. Crowley, T. Vazzano

## Least Flycatcher

08/27	4	Freedom Town Forest	G.& A. Robbins
09/15	3	Penacook survey route, Concord	P. Hunt
09/25	1	Thirty Pines area, Penacook	P. Hunt
09/29	1	Rt. 155A farm fields (Moore/Teece), Durham	S. Mirick

## Empidonax sp.

09/30	1	James Way, Hudson	E. Lai
-------	---	-------------------	--------

## Eastern Phoebe

09/18	20	Monson Center (SPNHF), Hollis	C. Sheridan
09/24	44	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Mirick
11/02	1	Healy Park, Concord	P. Hunt, A. Moser, S. McCumber
11/02	1	Urban Forestry Ctr., Portsmouth	S. Mirick
11/03	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S.& J. Mirick, BBC FT

## Great Crested Flycatcher

08/06	10	Silver Lake, Nelson	B. Shepard
09/13	1	Call Road, Webster	R. Quinn
09/14	1	Buffalo Rd., W. Rumney	J. Williams

## Eastern Kingbird

08/18	14	Turkey Pond, Concord	R. Woodward
09/01	10	Monson Center (SPNHF), Hollis	C. Sheridan
09/15	3	Riverlands CA, Canterbury	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
09/23	1	Great Boars Head, Hampton	S. Mirick



Date # Location Observer

**Western Kingbird**

11/02 1 Birch Hill Rd., Sutton C. House

**Northern Shrike**

11/14 1 Carter Hill Orchard, Concord K. Fenton  
 11/17 1 Strafford County Farm, Dover D. Hubbard  
 11/23 1 Pease Intl. Tradeport, Short St., Newington J. Sparrell  
 11/30 1 Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook S. Mirick, L. Medlock

**White-eyed Vireo**

11/10 1 Exeter WTP P. Hunt, C. Borg  
 11/10 1 Urban Forestry Ctr., Portsmouth J. Sparrell, K. Towler, et al.  
 11/18 1 Urban Forestry Ctr., Portsmouth C. Sheridan

**Yellow-throated Vireo**

08/02 1 Meredith F. Bouchard  
 08/18 1 Rocky Bound Pond, Croydon L. Lee  
 08/25 1 Amory Leland Dr., Thornton E. Hoffman  
 08/27 1 Freedom Town Forest G.& A. Robbins  
 09/07 1 Fogg Drive, Durham K. Dorsey  
 09/08 1 Pickering Ponds, Rochester D. Hubbard, Seacoast CFT  
 09/19 1 Diamond Ledge, Sandwich T. Vazzano

**Blue-headed Vireo**

09/19 8 Diamond Ledge, Sandwich T. Vazzano  
 09/29 10 Penacook survey route, Concord P. Hunt  
 10/20 1 Penacook survey route, Concord P. Hunt  
 10/22 1 Woodward Rd., Westmoreland A. Burnett

**Warbling Vireo**

08/08 4 Pickering Ponds, Rochester D. Hubbard  
 09/01 1 Bretton Woods X-C Ski Area, Carroll S. Butler, T. Mazerall  
 09/13 5 Horseshoe Pond, Concord D. Jackson  
 09/25 1 Tilton Hill Rd., Pittsfield A. Robbins  
 09/26 1 Lake Ave., Georges Mills D. Jackson

**Philadelphia Vireo**

09/09 2 Isles of Shoals, Star Is., Rye R. Quinn, P. Brown, et al.  
 09/15 3 Isles of Shoals, Star Is., Rye S.& J. Mirick  
 09/18 2 Diamond Ledge, Sandwich T. Vazzano  
 11/07 1 Sycamore Field Community Gardens/  
 Seekamp Trail, NHTI, Concord M. Good, MS

**Red-eyed Vireo**

08/25 23 Livermore Rd., Waterville Valley J. Young  
 09/07 15 Penacook survey route, Concord P. Hunt  
 09/18 17 Odiorne Point SP, Rye S. Mirick  
 10/25 1 Salem residence K. Wilmarth  
 10/29 1 S. Mill Pond, Portsmouth J. Sparrell

**Gray Jay**

08/04 4 East Inlet Rd., Pittsburg S. Glynn  
 08/30 2 Mt. Washington J. Eckerson  
 09/20 2 Mizpah Spring Hut AMC, Beans Grant P. Norton  
 10/04 3 Magalloway River, Errol R. Quinn  
 10/14 2 Crawford Depot, Carroll S. Woodard  
 11/02 2 Mt. Garfield Trail, Franconia M. Ryan  
 11/11 2 Diamond Pond Rd., Colebrook R. Quinn, C. Borg

Date # Location Observer

**Blue Jay**

09/25 54 Tilton Hill Rd., Pittsfield A. Robbins  
 09/28 141 Carter Hill Orchard, Concord K. Fenton  
 10/13 100 Cherry Pond, Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson D. Govatski, et al.

**American Crow**

11/04 1750 Emerson Place Apartments, Lebanon J. MacQueen

**Fish Crow**

08/10 9 Applebee's parking lot, Indian Brook Rd., Dover A. Aldrich  
 10/05 4 World End Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth  
 11/25 1 Salem, NH K. Wilmarth

**Horned Lark**

09/27 10 Sherman Farm, E. Conway Rd., Conway D. Small, M. Gimpel  
 11/03 22 Hampton Beach SP M. Watson, S.& J. Mirick, BBC FT  
 11/09 23 Ambrose Gravel Pit, Sandwich T. Vazzano, K. Klapper  
 11/11 25 Loudon Rd. fields behind PO, Concord R. Woodward

**Swallows through Snow Bunting**



*Sedge Wren by Jason Lambert, 9/29/13, Birch St. Community Gardens, Concord, NH.*

The Purple Martins which were discovered nesting in Seabrook during the summer season continued into August. Tree Swallows are rare in November and when they do occur, they are almost exclusively coastal. A bird seen in Merrimack on November 14 was therefore doubly noteworthy.

**Sedge Wren** is rare at any season. Historically, they have occurred in summer, but recently have been more regular in fall. They have occurred in four out of the past seven fall seasons, but there is only one documented summer record during the same time period. Although common in the southern part of the state, Carolina Wrens are rare north of the White Mountains. One in Lancaster was thus quite noteworthy.

## FALL SEASON

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
<b>Northern Rough-winged Swallow</b>							
08/05	3	Sunapee State Beach, Newbury	D. Hudgins	10/01	4	Contoocook River Park/ Island Shores Estates, Penacook	P. Hunt
08/18	1	Exeter WTP	P. Miliotis	11/19	1	Grove St., Lancaster	D. Haas
<b>Purple Martin</b>							
08/12	9	Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook	C. Sheridan	08/03	4	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard
08/20	2	Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook	J. Williams	08/18	4	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	R. Woodward
08/24	3	South Rd., Kensington	G. Gavutis Jr.	09/13	2	Keene State WMA	E. Jakub
08/27	1	South Rd., Kensington	G. Gavutis Jr.	09/16	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard
<b>Tree Swallow</b>							
08/17	360	Exeter WTP	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell	<b>Golden-crowned Kinglet</b>			
08/17	3000	Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook	A. Burnett, NH Young Birders FT	08/24	50	Mt. Wildcat/Mt. Carter traverse, Beans Purchase	T. Pirro
10/11	1	Exeter WTP	B. Heitzman	09/29	1	Great Bay NWR, Newington	J. Sparrell
11/14	1	Bean Rd., Merrimack	B. Griffith	09/29	2	Urban Forestry Ctr., Portsmouth	J. Kelly
<b>Bank Swallow</b>							
08/17	20	Exeter WTP	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell	<b>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</b>			
09/10	20	Exeter WTP	S. Mirick	10/13	18	Freedom Town Forest	G.& A. Robbins
09/23	2	NH coast	S. Mirick	10/20	21	Cherry Pond, Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson	J. MacQueen
<b>Barn Swallow</b>							
08/17	25	Wapac Ridge (South), New Ipswich	T. Pirro, et al.	10/21	16	Knollwood Rd., New London	J. Esten
08/21	40	Tyler Rd., Webster	B. Janeway	11/10	1	Urban Forestry Ctr., Portsmouth	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert, J. Sparrell, P. Miliotis
09/10	30	Exeter WTP	S. Mirick	11/10	1	Seabrook WTP	P. Miliotis
09/23	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Mirick	11/15	1	Great Bay Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick
09/24	5	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Mirick	11/29	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Mirick
<b>Boreal Chickadee</b>							
08/04	12	Mt. Liberty/Mt. Flume loop, Lincoln	T. Pirro	<b>Veery</b>			
08/25	6	Mt. Tripyramid Trail, Waterville Valley	J. Young	09/01	6	Dollof Pond, Conway	G.& A. Robbins
08/28	9	Mt. Tom/Mt. Field loop from Crawford Notch, Bethlehem	C. Nims	09/08	5	Godwin Cottage, Roxbury	K. Rosenberg
08/30	5	Mt. Washington	J. Eckerson	09/14	2	Sewall Rd., Wolfeboro	M. Harvey
<b>House Wren</b>							
08/31	5	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Mirick	09/23	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Mirick
09/14	5	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Mirick	<b>Bicknell's Thrush</b>			
09/15	6	Penacook survey route, Concord	P. Hunt	08/03	1	Caps Ridge Trail, T&M Purchase	M. Garvey
10/25	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Mirick	<b>Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush</b>			
<b>Winter Wren</b>							
09/17	1	Great Boar's Head, Hampton	S. Mirick	09/01	1	Dollof Pond, Conway	G.& A. Robbins
11/03	3	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, A. Robbins	09/08	1	Godwin Cottage, Roxbury	K. Rosenberg
<b>Sedge Wren</b>							
09/29	1	Birch St. Community Garden, Concord	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, C. Borg, et al.	09/14	3	Sewall Rd., Wolfeboro	M. Harvey
<b>Marsh Wren</b>							
08/17	5	Exeter WTP	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell	09/17	1	Tilton Hill Rd., Pittsfield	A. Robbins
10/05	5	Cherry Pond, Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson	J. Gamble, D. Govatski	10/13	1	Freedom Town Forest	G.& A. Robbins
10/25	1	Exeter WTP	P. Miliotis, D. Doubleday	10/13	1	Cherry Pond, Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson	W. Shafer
11/17	1	Meadow Pond, Hampton	S. Mirick	10/14	2	Squam Lake	W. Shafer
<b>Carolina Wren</b>							
09/15	4	Isles of Shoals, Star Is., Rye	S.& J. Mirick	<b>Hermit Thrush</b>			
09/18	4	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Mirick	10/05	10	Penacook survey route, Concord	P. Hunt
<b>Wood Thrush</b>							
09/25	2	Coe Hill Rd., Center Harbor	J. Merrill	10/06	7	10-mile survey, Lyman	S. Turner
10/04	2	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	A. Burnett	10/13	8	Freedom Town Forest	G.& A. Robbins
10/09	1	Coe Hill Rd., Center Harbor	J. Merrill				



Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Gray Catbird</b>			
08/03	29	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard
08/18	29	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	R. Woodward
11/02	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard
11/06	1	S. Mill Pond, Portsmouth	K. Towler

<b>Brown Thrasher</b>			
09/13	2	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	D. Jackson
10/05	1	Exeter WTP	P. Miliotis
10/06	1	Abbott Rd. stump dump, Penacook	R. Suomala, D. Lania, P. Hunt

<b>American Pipit</b>			
08/21	3	Mt. Washington	P. Addy
09/20	20	Mt. Eisenhower, Beans Grant	P. Norton
10/26	59	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	A. Burnett
11/02	70	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO, Concord	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, et al.
11/02	110	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	P. Hunt, J. Hills, D. Currier, S. Hartman
11/10	150	Rt. 155A farm fields (Moore/Teecee), Durham	K. Dorsey
11/25	4	Westmoreland boat launch	A. Burnett



*Lapland Longspur*  
by Jason Lambert,  
11/3/13,  
Rye Harbor SP, Rye, NH.

<b>Lapland Longspur</b>			
10/20	1	Rt. 155A farm fields (Moore/Teecee), Durham	S. Mirick
10/22	1	Mt. Monadnock summit, Jaffrey	T. Demers
11/02	1	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	P. Hunt, J. Hills, D. Currier, S. Hartman
11/17	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	J. Trimble, C. Lapierre, et al.
11/28	12	Rye Harbor SP	J. Lambert



*Snow Bunting*  
by Henry Walters,  
10/31/13, Pack Monadnock,  
Peterborough, NH.

<b>Snow Bunting</b>			
10/25	2	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
10/26	52	NH coast	S. Mirick
10/26	2	Pack Monadnock, Peterborough	H. Walters, et al.
11/09	175	Ambrose Gravel Pit, Sandwich	T. Vazzano, K. Klapper

Date	#	Location	Observer
11/10	800	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
11/11	200	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	P. Hunt
11/18	129	J Jill Distribution Ctr., Birch Pond Dr., Tilton	I. MacLeod

## Warblers



*Yellow-throated Warbler* by Amanda Altena, 8/10/13, Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye, NH.

Cape May, Bay-breasted, and Tennessee Warbler populations are all tied to Spruce Budworm populations in their boreal breeding grounds. All three of these species were found in above-average numbers this fall, likely the result of a budworm outbreak in eastern Canada. A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was the rarest warbler species of the fall season. This southern species is more often found in the spring season and the last fall report was in 2000. Yellow-throated Warblers depart their breeding grounds by mid-August, when few birders are looking for migrant passerines, so the species is more likely to go undetected than other southern species. No other usually southern species were reported, beyond a handful of Yellow-breasted Chats, which are expected. One in Concord was notable for being away from the coastal region, where most records occur. The only Connecticut Warbler of the fall was reported from Nashua. Seven Orange-crowned Warblers was about average for fall, but three of them were in September, which is unusual for this normally late migrant. A Brewster's Warbler (a hybrid between a Blue-winged and a Golden-winged) was notable not only for being relatively rare, but also for being found at the very northern edge of the Blue-winged Warbler's known range.

Every fall, a few warblers seem to stay past their normal departure dates and this year was no exception. Most exceptional was a Prairie Warbler that was documented on November 3; this species is usually absent by mid-September. Blue-winged Warblers found on September 20 and 21 were also quite late, as most individuals migrate in August.

## FALL SEASON

Any warbler aside from Yellow-rumped Warbler is late in November. A Northern Parula detected as late as November 11 and an Ovenbird on November 18 were both very surprising, but there are a handful of records for these species in November.

Date	#	Location	Observer
------	---	----------	----------

### Ovenbird

09/21	4	Ballard Pond, Derry	K. Wilmarth
10/01	1	Salem residence	K. Wilmarth
11/18	1	Beaver Brook Assn., Hollis	K. Fenton

### Louisiana Waterthrush

08/11	1	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	A. Burnett
08/13	1	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	A. Burnett

### Northern Waterthrush

09/15	3	Isles of Shoals, Star Is., Rye	S.& J. Mirick
09/24	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Mirick
09/26	1	Tilton Hill Rd., Pittsfield	A. Robbins



*Blue-winged Warbler*  
by Ben Griffith,  
9/21/13, Odiorne Pt.  
SP, Rye, NH.

### Blue-winged Warbler

09/13	1	Strafford County Farm, Dover	S. Mirick
09/20	1	Isles of Shoals, Star Is., Rye	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
09/21	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	L. Kras, B. Griffith, et al.

### Blue-winged x Golden-winged Warbler (hybrid)

09/03	1	Buffalo Rd., W. Rumney	J. Williams
-------	---	------------------------	-------------

### Black-and-white Warbler

09/17	8	Mile Brook, Deerfield Rd., Nottingham	P. Miliotis
10/01	1	Contoocook River Park/ Island Shores Estates, Penacook	P. Hunt
10/01	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	J. Kelly
10/01	1	Salem residence	K. Wilmarth
10/03	1	Mud Pond, Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson	R. Quinn

### Tennessee Warbler

08/24	12	Freedom Town Forest	G.& A. Robbins
08/25	4	Livermore Rd., Waterville Valley	J. Young
08/29	8	Freedom Town Forest	G.& A. Robbins
09/07	5	Penacook survey route, Concord	P. Hunt
09/28	2	Mud Pond, Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson	M. Gimpel, D. Small
09/29	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	J. Kelly
10/06	1	Brown Farm, Hancock	P. Brown

### Orange-crowned Warbler

09/16	1	Middle Rd., Hancock	G. Estep
09/29	2	Rt. 155A farm fields (Moore/Teece), Durham	S. Mirick
10/06	1	Abbott Rd. stump dump, Penacook	R. Suomala, D. Lania, P. Hunt
10/28	1	Spring Meadow Farm, Hillsborough	P. Brown
10/31	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	J. Kelly
11/10	1	Seabrook WTP	P. Miliotis

Date	#	Location	Observer
------	---	----------	----------

### Nashville Warbler

08/27	12	Freedom Town Forest	G.& A. Robbins
10/28	1	Spring Meadow Farm, Hillsborough	P. Brown
11/10	1	Wentworth residence	J. Ames

### Connecticut Warbler

10/05	1	Yudicky Farm/Southwest Park, Nashua	J. Huestis
-------	---	-------------------------------------	------------

### Mourning Warbler

08/28	1	Stevens Hill Rd., Nottingham	P. Miliotis
08/31	1	NH coast	S. Mirick
08/31	1	Cherry Pond, Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson	S. Butler, T. Mazerall
09/09	1	Isles of Shoals, Star Is., Rye R. Quinn, P. Brown, et al.	

### Connecticut/MacGillivray's/Mourning Warbler

09/14	1	Riverlands CA, Canterbury	R. Suomala, M. Suomala
-------	---	---------------------------	------------------------

### Common Yellowthroat

09/07	15	Penacook survey route, Concord	P. Hunt
09/08	13	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard, Seacoast CFT
09/18	18	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Mirick
11/17	1	Exeter WTP	S. Mirick, P. Miliotis

### American Redstart

08/18	8	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	R. Woodward
08/31	8	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Mirick
09/01	8	Monson Center (SPNHF), Hollis	C. Sheridan
10/05	1	Cilley State Forest fields, Concord	R. Suomala
10/05	1	Penacook survey route, Concord	P. Hunt
10/07	1	Locke Road sod farm, Concord	D. Lania
10/07	1	Mink Brook Nature Preserve, Hanover	E. Jakub

### Cape May Warbler

08/10	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	L. Medlock, S. Mirick
08/27	4	Freedom Town Forest	G.& A. Robbins
09/07	4	Penacook survey route, Concord	P. Hunt
09/09	4	Star Is., Rye	P. Brown, R. Quinn, et al.
09/12	3	Tilton Hill Rd., Pittsfield	A. Robbins
09/24	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Mirick



*Norther Parula*  
by Steve Mirick,  
11/10/13, Goss Farm CA,  
Rye, NH

### Northern Parula

09/18	6	Monson Center (SPNHF), Hollis	C. Sheridan
09/21	6	Freedom Town Forest	G.& A. Robbins
09/22	10	Yudicky Farm/Southwest Park, Nashua	C. Sheridan
10/14	1	James Way, Hudson NH	E. Lai
11/09	1	Goss Farm CA, Rye	S. Mirick
11/11	1	Goss Farm CA, Rye	J. Sparrell

### Magnolia Warbler

08/20	12	Cherry Pond, Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson	W. Shafer, B. Ridgely
09/07	24	Freedom Town Forest airstrip	T. Vazzano, Lakes Region CFT
10/06	1	Brown Farm, Hancock	P. Brown

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
10/08	1	Contoocook River Park/ Island Shores Estates, Penacook	P. Hunt

**Bay-breasted Warbler**

08/24	3	Freedom Town Forest	G.& A. Robbins
09/07	5	Penacook survey route, Concord	P. Hunt
09/25	1	Thirty Pines area, Penacook	P. Hunt
09/26	1	Pine Grove Cemetery, Manchester	M. Thompson

**Blackburnian Warbler**

08/25	9	Livermore Rd., Waterville Valley	J. Young
08/27	5	Freedom Town Forest	G.& A. Robbins
09/26	1	Dartmouth Riding Center, Hanover	J. Norton
09/28	1	West St., Northwood	J. Lambert

**Yellow Warbler**

08/10	10	NH coast	S. Mirick
09/15	12	Isles of Shoals, Star Is., Rye	S.& J. Mirick
09/29	1	Rt. 155A farm fields (Moore/Teecee), Durham	S. Mirick
10/11	1	Strafford County Farm, Dover	D. Hubbard

**Chestnut-sided Warbler**

08/20	8	Cherry Pond, Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson	W. Shafer, B. Ridgely
08/24	8	Freedom Town Forest	G.& A. Robbins
09/28	1	Mink Brook point at Connecticut R., Hanover	J. Norton

**Blackpoll Warbler**

09/15	23	Penacook survey route, Concord	P. Hunt
09/19	21	Mile Brook, Deerfield Rd., Nottingham	P. Miliotis
09/28	25	Lake of the Clouds area, Sargents Purchase	K. Kittelberger
10/23	1	Great Bay Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick
10/24	2	Yudicky Farm/Southwest Park, Nashua	C. Sheridan
10/25	1	Exeter WTP	P. Miliotis



*Black-throated Blue Warbler*  
by Gerry Coffey,  
10/5/13,  
Temple Mt., NH.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler**

08/25	14	Mt. Trip pyramid Trail, Waterville Valley	J. Young
08/30	7	Pack Monadnock, Peterborough	H. Walters
10/05	1	Temple Mt., Temple	G. Coffey
10/06	1	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	A. Burnett
10/18	1	White Ledge, Albany	J. Young

**Palm Warbler**

08/20	8	Cherry Pond, Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson	W. Shafer, B. Ridgely
09/21	21	Freedom Town Forest	G.& A. Robbins
10/08	24	Woodmont Orchard, Route 122, Hollis	G. Coffey

**Palm Warbler - Western subsp.**

09/12	1	Exeter WTP	P. Miliotis
09/18	1	Hampton Beach SP	P. Miliotis, et al.
10/23	1	Great Bay Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick
10/27	1	Exeter WTP	P. Miliotis

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
-------------	----------	-----------------	-----------------

**Palm Warbler- Yellow subsp.**

09/17	1	Monson Center (SPNHF), Hollis	C. Sheridan
09/18	1	Monson Center (SPNHF), Hollis	C. Sheridan
11/14	1	Pleasant St., Epping	P. Miliotis
11/17	1	Rt. 1A, Hampton	S. Mirick

**Pine Warbler**

08/28	34	West Branch Pine Barrens Preserve, Madison	G.& A. Robbins
09/10	23	Bean Rd., Merrimack	B. Griffith
11/10	1	Fort Stark, New Castle	J. Lambert
11/10	1	Seabrook WTP	P. Miliotis
11/24	1	Rt. 1A, Rye	S. Mirick

**Yellow-rumped Warbler**

09/29	51	Exeter WTP	P. Miliotis
10/13	50	Carter Hill Orchard, Concord	P. Brown, et al.
11/02	78	NH coast	S. Mirick
11/02	12	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	P. Hunt, J. Hills, D. Currier, S. Hartman
11/17	1	Exeter WTP	P. Miliotis
11/17	2	Awcomin Marsh, Rye	P. Miliotis

**Yellow-throated Warbler**

08/10	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Mirick, et al.
-------	---	-----------------------	-------------------

**Prairie Warbler**

08/28	4	West Branch Pine Barrens Preserve, Madison	G.& A. Robbins
08/28	5	Stevens Hill Rd., Nottingham	P. Miliotis
09/07	3	Penacook survey route, Concord	P. Hunt
10/19	1	NH coast	S. Mirick, Seacoast CFT
11/03	1	USFWS Karner Blue easement, Concord	R. Woodward

**Black-throated Green Warbler**

08/25	12	Mt. Trip pyramid Trail, Waterville Valley	J. Young
09/14	16	Call Road, Webster	R. Quinn
09/21	12	Penacook survey route, Concord	P. Hunt
10/08	1	Mink Brook wetlands, Hanover	K. Kittelberger
10/08	1	Salem residence	K. Wilmarth
10/30	1	Ten Rod Rd., Rochester	D. Hubbard

**Canada Warbler**

08/07	3	Watts WS, Effingham	G.& A. Robbins
08/11	4	Freedom Town Forest airstrip	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
09/19	1	Contoocook River Park/ Island Shores Estates, Penacook	P. Hunt
09/21	1	Isles of Shoals, Star Is., Rye	C. Edge

**Wilson's Warbler**

09/21	3	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	L. Kras, B. Griffith, et al.
09/29	1	Rt. 155A farm fields (Moore/Teecee), Durham	S. Mirick
10/05	1	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	P. Hunt

**Yellow-breasted Chat**

09/09	1	Star Is., Rye	R. Quinn, P. Brown, et al.
09/15	1	Isles of Shoals, Star Is., Rye	S.& J. Mirick
09/21	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	L. Kras, B. Griffith, et al.
09/27	1	White Farm, Concord	P. Hunt



# FALL SEASON

## Sparrows through Finches



*Clay-colored Sparrow*  
by Jason Lambert,  
9/28/13,  
Birch St. Community  
Gardens, Concord, NH.

Six Clay-colored Sparrows and three Lark Sparrows were about average for recent years. Both of these western species were once extremely rare in the state, but have been reported with increasing regularity. Fall is usually the season to find White-crowned Sparrows, but no large concentrations were reported during this fall season. Four seen in Greenland in November would likely stay to overwinter.

A **Blue Grosbeak** in Concord was the third straight fall that this species has been found at this location. There are only about 10 state records in the past ten years for this southern species, so three in as many years at one location is quite remarkable. Only four Dickcissels were reported this fall, which is well below the recent average for this increasing species. Small numbers of both crossbill species were reported throughout the state this fall, likely the result of large cone crops throughout the state. Similar cone crops farther north and west, however, prevented a full-scale irruption.

*Date # Location Observer*

### Eastern Towhee

08/01	10	Piper Mountain, Gilford	T. Arsenault
08/28	6	West Branch Pine Barrens Preserve, Madison	G.& A. Robbins
09/01	6	USFWS Karner Blue easement, Concord	D. Jackson
10/11	7	Yudicky Farm/Southwest Park, Nashua	C. Sheridan
11/06	1	Ten Rod Rd., Rochester	D. Hubbard

### American Tree Sparrow

10/18	1	Ashuelot River Park, Keene	M. Castriotta
10/30	2	Contoocook River Park/ Island Shores Estates, Penacook	P. Hunt
10/30	1	Lakeview Dr., Strafford	S. Young
11/17	11	Exeter WTP	P. Miliotis

### Chipping Sparrow

09/10	50	Carter Hill Orchard, Concord	K. Fenton
09/11	50	Carter Hill Orchard, Concord	K. Fenton
09/26	50	Greeley Park, Nashua	C. Sheridan
11/10	1	Green Hill Rd., Chatham, NH	B. Crowley
11/12	1	Ten Rod Rd., Rochester	D. Hubbard

### Clay-colored Sparrow

09/09	1	Star Is., Rye	R. Quinn, P. Brown, et al.
09/14	1	Goss Farm CA, Rye	S. Mirick
09/28	1	Birch St. Community Garden, Concord	J. Lambert
09/30	1	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO, Concord	M. Thompson
10/25	1	Urban Forestry Ctr., Portsmouth	S. Mirick
11/17	1	River Road, Stratham	S. Mirick

*Date # Location Observer*

### Field Sparrow

08/11	12	Freedom Town Forest airstrip	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
11/03	1	River Rd. Christmas Tree Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
11/29	1	Fort Eddy boat launch, Concord	D. Moulton

### Vesper Sparrow

08/07	1	West Branch Pine Barrens gravel pit, Freedom	G.& A. Robbins
09/07	2	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	P. Hunt
09/25	2	E. Conway fields	B. Crowley, T. Vazzano
10/14	2	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell

### Lark Sparrow

09/09	1	Star Is., Rye	R. Quinn, P. Brown, et al.
10/05	1	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	P. Hunt
10/22	1	Island Path, Hampton	P. Miliotis

### Savannah Sparrow

10/04	80	Sherman Farm, E. Conway Rd., Conway	S. McCarthy, J. Scott, B. Crowley, C. Nims
10/05	115	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	P. Hunt
10/06	120	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO, Concord	P. Hunt
11/17	1	Great Bay Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick
11/17	3	River Road, Stratham	S. Mirick

### Savannah Sparrow - Ipswich subsp.

10/16	1	Church St. water tower parking lot, Hampton	P. Miliotis
10/19	6	NH coast	S. Mirick, Seacoast CFT
11/02	6	NH coast	S. Mirick

### Nelson's Sparrow

10/13	1	Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, S.& J. Mirick
10/13	9	Hampton saltmarsh	S. Mirick

### Saltmarsh Sparrow

10/13	1	Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, S.& J. Mirick
-------	---	--	---------------------------------------

### Fox Sparrow

10/24	1	Pack Monadnock, Peterborough	H. Walters
10/26	1	Carter Hill Orchard, Concord	K. Fenton
11/02	6	District 5 Rd., Concord	J. Esten

### Fox Sparrow (Red)

11/29	1	Willow Road, E. Kingston	D. Skillman
11/29	1	Ten Rod Rd., Rochester	D. Hubbard

### Lincoln's Sparrow

09/25	17	Sherman Farm, E. Conway Rd., Conway	T. Vazzano, B. Crowley
09/29	12	Birch St. Community Garden, Concord	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, C. Borg
10/22	2	Carter Hill Orchard, Concord	K. Fenton
11/03	1	Sycamore Field Community Gardens/ Seekamp Trail, NHTI, Concord	A. Robbins

### Swamp Sparrow

10/05	65	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	P. Hunt
10/06	60	Brown Farm, Hancock	P. Brown
11/17	1	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	R. Woodward

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
11/17	1	Exeter WTP	S. Mirick	11/03	1	Sycamore Field Community Gardens/ Seekamp Trail, NHTI, Concord	A. Robbins
11/17	1	Batchelder Rd., Seabrook	S. Mirick	11/30	1	Little River saltmarsh, N. Hampton	S. Mirick
<b>White-throated Sparrow</b>				<b>Rusty Blackbird</b>			
09/01	1	South Rd., Kensington	G. Gavutis Jr.	09/06	1	Tilton Hill Rd., Pittsfield	A. Robbins
10/05	115	Cilley State Forest fields, Concord	R. Suomala	09/20	1	Isles of Shoals, Star Is., Rye	E. Masterson, et al.
10/05	240	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	P. Hunt	10/11	53	Warner Rd. field, Concord	R. Quinn
10/06	120	Brown Farm, Hancock	P. Brown	11/02	60	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook P. Hunt, J. Hills, D. Currier, S. Hartman	
<b>White-crowned Sparrow</b>				11/03	56	Tilton Hill Rd., Pittsfield	G.& A. Robbins
09/24	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	M. Thompson	11/29	4	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	A. Burnett
09/25	3	E. Conway fields	B. Crowley, T. Vazzano	<b>Common Grackle</b>			
09/28	14	Main St. pond, Enfield P. Hunt, Z. Cornell, R. Suomala		10/22	5000	Mountain Rd., Northwood	S. Young
10/04	10	Langenau Forest, Wilmot	D. Jackson	11/03	1000	Strafford County Farm, Dover	D. Hubbard
11/17	4	Great Bay Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick	<b>Brown-headed Cowbird</b>			
<b>Scarlet Tanager</b>				08/31	262	NH coast	S. Mirick
09/07	4	Potter Place, Andover	D. Jackson	10/13	150	Sunset Farm, Greenland	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
09/12	4	Tilton Hill Rd., Pittsfield	A. Robbins	<b>Baltimore Oriole</b>			
09/30	1	Buffalo Rd., W. Rumney	J. Williams	08/10	5	Penacook survey route, Concord	P. Hunt
10/12	1	Orford residence	J. MacQueen	08/15	6	South Rd., Kensington	G. Gavutis Jr.
<b>Northern Cardinal</b>				09/21	2	Isles of Shoals, Star Is., Rye	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
11/12	5	Gorham	W. O'Brien	09/24	2	Great Boar's Head, Hampton	S. Mirick
<b>Blue Grosbeak</b>				<b>Purple Finch</b>			
09/23	1	Birch St. Community Garden, Concord R. Suomala, Z. Cornell		08/08	14	Ravenwood Farm, Greenfield	T. Shiel
09/27	1	Birch St. Community Garden, Concord	P. Hunt	08/24	14	Knollwood Rd., New London	J. Esten
<b>Indigo Bunting</b>				10/29	2	Long Meadow Preserve, Auburn	M. Carrier
09/08	60	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	P. Hunt	11/14	2	Urban Forestry Ctr., Portsmouth	J. Kelly
09/25	30	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO, Concord R. Suomala, Z. Cornell		<b>Red Crossbill</b>			
10/20	2	Birch St. Community Garden, Concord R. Suomala, Z. Cornell		08/11	1	Lake Solitude, Newbury	P. Brown
10/20	1	Carter Hill Orchard, Concord	K. Fenton	08/11	1	Pillsbury SP, Washington	P. Brown
<b>Dickcissel</b>				08/12	2	Ravenwood Farm, Greenfield	T. Shiel
09/07	1	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick	<b>White-winged Crossbill</b>			
09/20	1	Birch St. Community Garden, Concord	P. Hunt	08/04	3	Mud Pond, Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson	S. Glynn
09/21	1	Freedom Town Forest	G.& A. Robbins	08/13	1	Watts WS, Effingham	G.& A. Robbins
09/25	1	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO, Concord R. Suomala, Z. Cornell		10/25	1	South Rd., Kensington	G. Gavutis Jr.
09/29	1	Birch St. Community Garden, Concord R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, C. Borg		<b>Pine Siskin</b>			
<b>Bobolink</b>				08/07	1	River View Rd., Newport	B.& C. Baker
08/14	40	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	A. Burnett	09/07	1	Ten Rod Rd., Rochester	D. Hubbard
08/30	600	Bellamy River WMA, Dover	S. Young	09/08	3	Pack Monadnock, Peterborough	H. Walters
09/09	35	Star Is., Rye	R. Quinn, P. Brown, et al.	10/16	1	Antrim Road, Hancock	P. Brown
10/14	1	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook R. Suomala, Z. Cornell		10/22	1	Ten Rod Rd., Rochester	D. Hubbard
<b>Eastern Meadowlark</b>				10/25	1	Jonathan Hersey Rd., Wolfeboro	W. Chatel
09/08	1	Trinity Farm, Orford	J. MacQueen	10/26	1	Nubanusit Lake, Hancock/Nelson	P. Brown, et al.
09/14	1	Lebanon Airport	W. Cripps, G. Clark	11/25	1	Green Hill Rd., Chatham, NH	B. Crowley
09/15	1	Carter Hill Orchard, Concord	K. Fenton	<b>Evening Grosbeak</b>			
10/06	1	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	P. Hunt	08/04	5	East Inlet Rd., Pittsburg	S. Glynn
10/19	1	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	R. Woodward	08/07	2	Ravenwood Farm, Greenfield	T. Shiel
11/02	1	Turtle Pond, Concord	A. Moser, A. Robbins, D. Lania	08/08	1	Antrim Road, Hancock	P. Brown
				09/25	1	Keene State WMA	M. Castriotta
				10/11	2	Dodge Pond, Lyman	S. Turner
				10/18	2	Gilmanton Iron Works	W. Arms
				10/25	1	Dartmouth Life Sciences Bldg., Hanover	K. Kittelberger

# Fall 2013 New Hampshire Raptor Migration Report

by Iain MacLeod



Merlin at Pack Monadnock by Henry Walters, 9/2/13.

## Pack Monadnock Raptor Migration Observatory

Fall 2013 marked the ninth consecutive fall season of daily coordinated counts conducted under the leadership of New Hampshire Audubon and in a formal agreement with the NH Division of State Parks. The full time Seasonal Counter/Interpreter for 2013 was Henry Walters once again. Phil Brown served as the Raptor Observatory Coordinator for NH Audubon. Full site coverage was maintained daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (or close to), from August 26 to November 15 (except in the case of extreme weather), accounting for 575 hours of observation time. As in 2012, this number is well above the average because of an effort to extend the season into mid-November. A total of 11,030 individual migratory raptors were recorded. The previous 8-year average was 9,985 (8-year averages in this section refer to data from 2005-2012). One new raptor species was recorded, a single Short-eared Owl on October 27. No season highs were recorded, indicating a less than spectacular year, although the tally for Golden Eagle (11) equaled the previous high set in 2006.

The counters try to be very conservative in what is counted as “migrating” since **Turkey Vultures** are seen almost daily through late October, moving in all directions. This year, 142 were assumed to be migrating (8-year average = 102).

The **Osprey** count of 193 was well below last year’s record high (314) and also well below the 8-year average of 261. The **Bald Eagle** total (101) was just shy of the previous single-season high set last year (105) and well above the 8-year

average of 63. The peak flight day was September 17 when 9 Bald Eagles were counted. Exactly 100 **Northern Harriers** were counted this year (up slightly over last year; 8-year average is 83).

The **Sharp-shinned Hawk** count (1,254) was below last year’s record high (8-year average = 1,151), while **Cooper’s Hawk** numbers were at the third lowest since 2005; 146 Cooper’s were counted (8-year average = 154). **Northern Goshawks** had a “down” year with only 25 (8-year average = 41).

The **Red-shouldered Hawk** count was 118, which is well below last year’s record, but still well above the 8-year average of 92. **Broad-winged Hawks** couldn’t match the highs of the last two years (Table 1), but managed the third highest tally of 8,221 (8-year average = 7,349). The peak day was again September 17 (same as last year), when 2,759 Broad-winged Hawks passed over. That tally pales in comparison to the incredible flights witnessed at nearby Mt. Wachusett in Massachusetts. On September 15, counters tallied 14,471 and on September 18 another 12,272, capping a five day span of 1,000+ daily Broad-winged counts. Mt. Wachusett finished the season with 35,070 Broad-wings counted. So, how did all those birds bypass Pack Monadnock, just 25 miles to the north? Our best guess is that westerly winds pushed the birds over the New Hampshire coastal plain and they looped around Pack to the south-east. The **Red-tailed Hawk** tally of 378 was well below last year’s record (8-year average = 325). Peak flight day was November 3 when a spectacular 68 were counted. After being recorded for the first time here last year, a single **Rough-legged Hawk** was recorded on October 26.

Table 1. Broad-winged Hawk fall migration totals and peak counts at Pack Monadnock, NH, 2005-2013. Source: HMANA’s HawkCount.org Database

Year	Year Total	Highest one-day count	Date
2005	3,978	1,687	09/18
2006	7,595	3,044	09/11
2007	7,776	2,676	09/16
2008	6,835	2,424	09/18
2009	4,322	2,042	09/16
2010	7,557	3,328	09/18
2011	11,831	5,208	09/18
2012	8,848	2,556	09/17
2013	8,221	2,759	09/17

Eleven **Golden Eagles** were seen which equals the high set in 2006 (8-year average = 7). The **American Kestrel** count slipped down again, to 166 this season (exactly the 8-year average). **Merlin** numbers were down this year (89) compared to last, but still above average (8-year average = 77). A tally of 48 **Peregrine Falcons** was also a little lower than last year (8-year average = 35).



## Carter Hill Observatory

Carter Hill Observatory logged a record 572.75 hours between September 1 and November 15 and counted 11,896 raptors. This is the sixth year for this count, which is organized by NH Audubon. The full time Seasonal Counter/Interpreter for 2013 was Katrina Fenton and counts were conducted in the same fashion as at Pack Monadnock. This was the first year of full-time extended season coverage which, in combination with good weather conditions, generated more hours watched than in previous seasons. New single-season high counts were set for Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, and Merlin. The 5-year averages used in this section refer to data from 2008-2012. The count season/hours logged has varied greatly and was much lower in 2008 than in subsequent years, but the last two years, in particular, show an increased effort to standardize data.

A total of 333 **Turkey Vultures** were determined to be migrants (5-year average = 210). The **Osprey** count of 165 was well below last year's record high of 234 (5-year average = 107). The **Bald Eagle** count of 94 was well below last year's record of 152 but still higher than the 5-year average of 67. The **Northern Harrier** count (66) didn't quite match last year's record but was well above the 5-year average of 36.

The 1,198 **Sharp-shinned Hawk** tally wasn't too far shy of last year's record high (5-year average = 486). The 137 **Cooper's Hawks** counted was well below last year and the 5-year average (153). **Northern Goshawks** had a slightly above average year (18), but fewer than last year (5-year average of 15).



NH Audubon Naturalist, Katrina Fenton (barefoot in center), and volunteers celebrate the passage of the 10,000th raptor over the Carter Hill Raptor Observatory on September 29, 2013.

The count of 59 **Red-shouldered Hawks** was dramatically lower than last year (100) but well above the 5-year average of 26, while **Broad-winged Hawks** couldn't quite match the incredible flight seen in 2011 (Table 2). Still, an impressive 8,915 were counted with a peak flight day on September 19 (4,899). Having set a new single season site record last year (by a long way) of 273, the **Red-tailed Hawk** total smashed that tally with 355 (5-year average of 103). This is primarily due to many more November hours when the Red-taileds make their big push.

Table 3. Fall raptor migration monitoring data for 2013 from Pack Monadnock and Carter Hill, NH. Source: HMANA's HawkCount.org Database

### PACK MONADNOCK

	Obs. Hrs.	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UR	SW	SE	TOTAL
2013	575	142	193	101	100	1254	146	25	118	8221	378	1	11	166	89	48	36	0	1	11,030	
2012	600.75	164	314	105	91	1388	181	63	209	8848	522	1	7	194	108	54	74	1			12,324
2011	368	127	271	54	58	1124	145	21	43	11,831	202	0	9	170	68	40	93				14,256
2010	574.75	145	298	85	115	1248	168	66	109	7606	410	0	10	221	147	53	105				10,786
2009	420.75	80	182	51	88	1196	133	25	129	4322	421	0	6	135	56	30	109				6,963
2008	432.75	47	256	50	87	1189	162	28	67	6835	254	0	3	183	59	17	37				9,274
2007	410.25	121	291	53	121	1288	186	49	112	7776	263	0	5	143	90	44	82				10,624
2006	379.25	99	257	55	77	1253	213	68	46	7595	407	0	11	201	48	29	76				10,435
2005	326.00	29	219	52	24	520	47	11	23	3978	122	0	5	78	40	11	62				5,221

### CARTER HILL

	Obs. Hrs.	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UR	SW	SE	TOTAL
2013	572.75	333	165	94	66	1198	137	18	59	8915	355	0	0	307	78	17	154				11,896
2012	417.75	1	224	234	152	86	1276	207	28	100	3671	273	2	2	305	65	44	472			7,142
2011	325.5	149	107	78	32	300	117	15	13	10,763	65	0	1	94	59	19	205				12,017
2010	302	132	120	60	40	473	211	14	8	2422	72	0	1	166	43	8	620				1,462
2009	249	233	38	18	18	251	175	17	6	703	83	1	0	57	48	17	256				1,921
2008	202.50	310	38	28	6	125	56	2	3	1904	23	1	0	33	17	13	111				2,670

Key to Species Abbreviations in Table 3.

BV Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

TV Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)

OS Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

BE Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

NH Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)

SS Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*)

CH Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*)

NG Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)

RS Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*)

BW Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*)

SW Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)

RT Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*)

RL Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*)

GE Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

AK American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)

ML Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)

PG Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)

UR Unidentified Raptor

SE Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*)

Table 2. Broad-winged Hawk fall migration totals and peak counts at Carter Hill, NH, 2008-2013. Source: HMANA's HawkCount.org Database

Year	Year Total	Highest one-day count	Date
2008	1,904	568	09/13
2009	703	337	09/16
2010	2,422	891	09/18
2011	10,763	7,212	09/18
2012	3,671	1,130	09/20
2013	8,915	4,899	09/19

No **Golden Eagles** were seen here this season despite the extended coverage through mid-November. The 307 **American Kestrels** counted represented another single-season high (5-year average of 131). Given the general decline of this species throughout the region, this is a somewhat inexplicable increase. The **Merlin** count of 78 was another increase over last year's high, and well above the 5-year average of 46. Strangely, **Peregrine Falcons** dropped off dramatically after setting a new high last year. Only 17 were counted this year compared to 44 last year (5-year average = 20).

## Little Round Top Migration Observatory

2013 Official Counter: David Lipsy

David Lipsy again coordinated a watch at Little Round Top in Bristol. This site has the longest history of any hawkwatch site in the state thanks to Susan Fogleman's work. A total of 656 hawks were seen in the 85 hours tallied between September 1-15.

Twelve **Turkey Vultures** were recorded as migrating. A peak flight of 16 Osprey occurred on September 11 and the total for the season was 45. Nineteen **Bald Eagles** were counted. Two **Northern Harriers** were tallied. For accipiters, 36 **Sharp-shinned Hawks**, eight **Cooper's Hawks** and two **Northern Goshawks** were counted.

Five **Red-tailed Hawks** were counted and 480 **Broad-winged Hawks**. For falcons, 10 **American Kestrels**, four **Merlins** and one **Peregrine Falcon** were tallied.

## References

HawkCount.org. Online raptor migration database of the Hawk Migration Association of North America. Pack Monadnock, Carter Hill and Little Round Top.

*Iain MacLeod is Executive Director of the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center in Holderness, NH and is on the Board of Northeast Hawk Watch. Iain has birded in New Hampshire for more than 25 years and is a member of the Editorial Team and New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee. He lives in Ashland.*

## Photo Gallery

### Hawkwatchers at Work

by Phil Brown

New Hampshire Audubon operates two raptor observatories – Carter Hill in Concord and Pack Monadnock in Peterborough – that are staffed and open to the public between September 1 and November 15. The observatories are each diverse in the experiences they offer, but they provide excellent opportunities to view migrating hawks, eagles, and falcons with expert observers. Upwards of 10,000 raptors have been tallied in a single season at each site, and the spectacle changes as the season progresses. There is much more than birds at the observatories, and the volunteers who have committed time to these sites really make them fun for the regulars, and visitors, alike.



NH Audubon Naturalist, Henry Walters, (left of chalkboard) celebrates the 10,000th raptor of the season with a crowd of volunteers at Pack Monadnock on 10/8/13.



Participants judge delicious apple-themed treats at the First Annual "Core Wars" apple contest at the Carter Hill Raptor Observatory. Photo by Katrina Fenton, 10/19/13.





*How a hawkwatcher eats lunch – Katrina Fenton trying to eat her cold pizza without losing a single hawk. Photo by Phillip Brown, 9/15/13.*

*The first-ever recorded migrant Short-eared Owl in Pack Monadnock Raptor Observatory's nine-year history. Note the large gap in the bird's right primaries. Documentation photo by Lillian Stokes, 10/26/13.*



*A juvenile Sharp-shinned Hawk takes direct aim at the owl decoy at Pack Monadnock. Photo by Andre de Moraes.*



*NH Audubon Naturalist, Katrina Fenton, (center) celebrates her victory in the annual "Big Soup" contest at Pack Monadnock. Photo by Henry Walters, 10/12/13.*



*Looking down at the valley floor with Sharp-shinned Hawks in the foreground. Photo by Katrina Fenton, Pack Monadnock, 10/2/13.*



# Field Trip Report

## Fall Warbler Walk at the Freedom Town Forest

by Tony Vazzano



*Cape May Warbler by Steve Mirick.*

Every fall, usually in the first or middle part of September, the Lakes Region Chapter of New Hampshire Audubon has a bird walk to hopefully see migrating warblers. In 2013, the walk was on September 7 at the Freedom Town Forest with three participants and me as the leader. This is a well-known location not only for its dense concentration of Eastern Whip-poor-wills in the summer but also for both good numbers and good variety of fall warblers (see article by Andrea and George Robbins, *New Hampshire Bird Records* Summer 2011, vol. 30, no. 2). A cold front had passed through two nights earlier and often the second day after the passage of a cold front can be good for finding warblers, so we were optimistic.

A minute after we were on the path, we encountered our first flock and it was a good one; maybe 40 or 50 birds with about a dozen varieties of warblers, so we spent quite a bit of time with them. Not all of us saw all the birds and a couple of the birders were fairly new to fall “warblering,” so I was trying to key on certain species, the ones they wanted to see the most. This flock harbored a Wilson’s and a Bay-breasted Warbler. As we walked towards the old airstrip, an integral part of the habitat here, we had a few more warblers and a little pishing brought in a few more including one of the prizes of the morning, an adult male Cape May Warbler. A few minutes later, we were crossing the south end of the airstrip and a grove of birches ahead of us was literally aflutter with warblers. Often fall warblering in a place like this requires listening for chickadees, walking to where they are

and then pishing to attract other birds nearby. It is typical for flocks of fall warblers to hang out with the local chickadees as they forage for food. This flock, however, was obvious and as we got closer I could see several Magnolia Warblers along with a few other species. Some birds were moving left out of our range of view while we concentrated on the ones in front of us, and others were moving in from our right. There were probably 45-60 birds in this flock and fully half of them were Magnolias – more Maggies than I’ve ever seen in one small area.

The rest of the walk brought more warblers and vireos but the flocks were much smaller, although one of them contained a Philadelphia Vireo that all of us saw well. We had intended to take a trail through a small wetland and then a different path back to the parking area, but the wetland had flooded the trail, so we stayed along the east side of the airstrip and saw fewer birds as we returned. All in all, it was a great morning for birds and in about two and a half hours we saw 16 species of warblers.

## Fall 2013 Field Notes

compiled by Jane Wing and Rebecca Suomala

### Spruce Grouse Dust Bathing

by Robert A. Quinn

In early October, a group of us watched a pair of Spruce Grouse at an active dust bathing spot created at the base of a fallen tree in Cambridge, NH. What was interesting about this observation is that the male fanned his tail out in a noticeable display and then they both sat on the ground at the site for at least 15 minutes. My take on this behavior was that this dust bathing spot was a special enough part of their territory that they were at least partially “defending” it from us. Regardless of their motives it was a marvelous show by this reclusive species.



*A pair of Spruce Grouse photographed by Bob Quinn in Cambridge, NH (near Lake Umbagog) dust bathing on October 4, 2013. (Male (left) and female (right)).*



## Comparing Short-billed and Long-billed Dowitcher

by Steve Mirick

Identification of the two dowitcher species represents one of the more difficult challenges in our area. The Short-billed Dowitcher is the most likely to occur along our coast line; however, the Long-billed Dowitcher can show up, and the plumages and shape of the two are very similar with a lot of overlap. At all times, the distinctive call note is the best way to separate them. In the late fall (after mid-September), juvenile birds are the most likely to be seen, and the separation of juveniles is a bit more straight-forward with a good view. The inner wing feathers, known as the “tertials,” overlap and fold onto the top of the tail and are easily seen on a standing bird. With the Long-billed Dowitcher, the dark tertial feathers are relatively plain with a thin scaly outline of rusty coloration. With the Short-billed Dowitcher, these feathers are boldly marked with irregularly shaped internal markings of buff.



Short-billed Dowitcher



Long-billed Dowitcher

These two photos illustrate the differences in the juvenile tertials (pointed out by the arrows) of the two dowitcher species.

## Ruby-throated Hummingbird Attends Lunch

by Donna Ellis, Henniker, NH

From a post to the NHBirds e-mail list, 9/23/13

A small group of us were sitting at the picnic table eating our lunch at work in Penacook, NH when a Ruby-throated Hummingbird landed on my lunch box, right in front of me. It was less than a foot away just perching and looking around. We all looked in amazement and took a cell phone pic. After about a minute, it decided to move on. It made our day.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird photographed by Blake Chaplin on her lunch box, 9/23/13, Penacook, NH.

## Black-and-white Warbler Nest Cleaning

by Colleen Prieto, Nottingham, NH

From a post to the NHBirds e-mail list 9/1/13

Hearing a ruckus in the yard this afternoon, I went out to see what the chickadees and titmice were all upset about. They seemed to be hollering at each other and as they flew off to continue their discussion deeper in the woods, I noticed this bird (see photo below) hopping all around and up and down, switching back and forth between a couple of trees right next to our deck/house.



Black-and-white Warbler looking for insects, 9/1/13, Nottingham, NH. Photo by Colleen Prieto.



As I watched, it went a bit higher up and then hopped up and in and out of a little nest, over and over again. I thought this might be a Black-and-white Warbler, but in consulting my field guide I realized they are a ground nester. This made me wonder if in fact this was a Black-and-white Warbler and wonder if it's even warbler nesting season....

*Compiler's Note: Colleen was correct in her identification of this bird as a Black-and-white Warbler. This species usually nests at the base of trees and hides the nest with moss and leaves. Due to the time of year Colleen witnessed this behavior and the type of nest it was investigating, the bird was probably looking for insects to eat around the abandoned nest of another species.*

## Scavenging Red-tailed Hawk

by Steve Mirick; edited by Jane Wing

From a post to NHBirds e-mail list 10/23/13



Photo by Steve Mirick

While at the coast on October 23, 2013, I came upon a young Red-tailed Hawk feeding (no doubt scavenging) on a gull at Ragged Neck at Rye Harbor. The Red-tailed was very cooperative for photos while it ate. Note that while it feeds, the nictitating membrane covers the eye to protect it from damage while feeding.

*Compiler's Note: The nictitating membrane is a transparent inner eyelid in birds, reptiles, and some mammals that closes to protect and moisten the eye. It is also called the third eyelid.*

## Late Barred Owl Fledgling

by Jane Wing

From a post on the NH Birds e-mail list by Jen Esten of New London, NH on 10/18/13, and communication with Catherine Greenleaf.

On October 16, 2013, Jen Esten's neighbor was walking her dog when she came upon a Barred Owl on the ground which was unable to fly. The owl deterred the dog with its defensive clicking noises. Jen scooped up the owl, securing it with a towel in a box and took it to St. Francis Wild Bird Hospital in Lyme, NH. Upon the bird's arrival, Catherine Greenleaf, Wildlife Rehabilitator and Director of the hospital thought, "Hmmm, a skeleton with feathers." It was a fledgling that was very dehydrated and nearly starved. Catherine observed muscle trauma to his left wing and many lesions and lacerations to his feet, a sign the bird was on the ground for some time, according to Catherine. "I would say he is the latest fledgling Barred Owl I've had come in, in my 13 years as an avian rehabilitator." Under Catherine's care, the owl gained weight, built-up his fat reserve as well as muscle on his breast, passed all of his prey testing and was released back into the wild in November.

## Concord November Challenge Sets New Record!

by Pam Hunt

For those of you unfamiliar with the Concord November Challenge (CNC), it is a friendly local birding event held in Concord on the first weekend in November. The CNC started in 2008 and has a simple goal: to collectively find as many species of birds as possible within the Concord city limits over a two day period. All birders are welcome, from complete beginners to hardened old salts of capital city birding. The usual plan is for teams to spread out across the city on Saturday morning, hitting all the hot spots, and generally looking for anything they can find. Everyone gets together for lunch at mid-day, at which point the teams report in (much like a Christmas Count, but without the individual tallies) and we find out what was and wasn't seen. After lunch, many folks go back out into the field to specifically seek missing species or visit places no one had gotten to yet. The first day ends with a few people checking out the evening waterfowl roost on Long Pond.

Sunday is usually a less intensive day of birding, with fewer people in the field and generally for less time. The goal here is to really try for species missed on Saturday, and as time allows, to revisit hot spots (e.g., waterfowl are always shifting around, so even multiple visits on the same day can





*Pam Hunt (first row, far right) and the crew of the Concord November Challenge. Photo by Jen Esten.*

turn up surprises!). The event ends with a pot luck dinner Sunday evening where the final list is determined and stories are told. A good time is had by all.

The record for the CNC going into 2013 was an amazing 91 species, set back in 2008 when the weekend fell on November 1-2. In the years since, as the date shifted later and later in the month, the species total dropped, as one would expect given how late this whole thing occurs to begin with. Late fall in central New Hampshire is not always a hospitable place for many birds, and early November marks the time when the last of the lingering migrants have mostly gotten out of Dodge. In such a situation, even a few days can make a huge difference in what species are still hanging around Concord.

The fact that the 2013 CNC fell on November 2-3 was thus a good sign, although our hopes were tempered somewhat by a spell of cold weather in late October. Had the last of the migrants departed already? We were soon to find out, as a record 26 participants in 12 parties hit the ground Saturday morning. And what a fine morning it was, with clear skies and temperatures that eventually rose to around 60.

The lunch rendezvous on Saturday found the list in the high 70s, not a bad place with one and a half days of birding to go. Highlights were “first for CNC” Greater Scaup, Pine Warbler, and Eastern Meadowlark, the latter out of place in a pine tree at Turtle Pond. Also of note were Great Horned Owl, Lapland Longspur, and higher than expected numbers of Fox Sparrows, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Hermit Thrushes, Palm Warblers, and Winter Wrens. Except for the Fox Sparrows, these are the sort of species that are often gone by the time of the CNC. The day ended at 83 species, putting us in a good position for a strong second place finish.

Sunday was cloudy and far colder, but the birders out beating the bushes and scanning the skies managed to find a few more goodies. One highlight was a mini waterfowl fallout on Turtle Pond, which hosted Surf and Black Scoters,

Long-tailed Duck, and Red-breasted Merganser at some point during the day. The hands-down best bird of the weekend, however, was a Prairie Warbler found by Rob Woodward at the Karner Blue Easement near the airport, bringing the weekend total to a remarkable 93 species. It was all the more notable because Prairies are early migrants, and are usually long gone from the state’s interior by mid-September. In fact, there are no October records for Concord.

When the dust settled, it turned out we’d beaten our old record by two species, giving us an amazing 93 for the 2013 CNC. This was despite a couple of misses, most annoying of which was the Peregrine Falcon that had been reliable in downtown Concord. Several people looked for it at various points over both days, but it was nowhere to be found.

Next year the CNC will be the earliest it can be: November 1-2, 2014. Can we reach 100? Or at least beat the new record? The only way to find out will be to join us!

## Spotlight on White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*)

*by Stephen R. Mirick*

### Background and Breeding

The White-eyed Vireo is a small songbird of the southeastern United States and northeastern Mexico with a breeding range in the United States that extends from southeastern Texas and Florida, north to southern Wisconsin and southern New England, as far north as Massachusetts. In winter, birds from the northern part of the range migrate south to overwinter in Florida and other gulf coast states, as well as further south into Mexico, Central America, and Cuba.



*White-eyed Vireo by Jason Lambert, 11/16/13, Urban Forestry Center, Portsmouth, NH.*

The White-eyed Vireo favors dense moist thickets and is often difficult to see. It is most easily located by its distinctive, rapid, complex song which it persistently gives in April and May. The White-eyed Vireo's breeding habitat includes swampy streamside thickets, overgrown fields with shrubby vegetation, bramble patches, and damp, brushy tangles. It is within this vegetation that a well concealed nest is built for the three to five eggs that are laid.

## Historic Records for New Hampshire

The northern edge of the breeding range for White-eyed Vireo is south of New Hampshire, just barely reaching Massachusetts, with almost all confirmed breeding records coming from the extreme southeastern part of Massachusetts. Isolated nesting pairs, however, have been reported farther north, and nesting has been confirmed recently in the vicinity of Marblehead, MA, approximately 25 miles south of the New Hampshire border.

During the mid to late 1800s, the White-eyed Vireo likely nested in New Hampshire; however, the extent of this breeding remains somewhat clouded in mystery. During this time period, the species was reported to have been much more widespread and common in Massachusetts, and there are several intriguing records from New Hampshire. Among these are a record from Nashua in 1881 of a bird seen "carrying nesting material" and another of a bird (prior to 1898) seen at a nest in Franklin from six feet away. It was also reported to have bred in Manchester on Hooksett Road near Massabesic Lake in, and prior to, 1899. For unknown reasons, however, Allen (1903) questioned these records and chose to "exclude the bird from the New Hampshire list, awaiting an undoubted record."

Regardless of its occurrence during the 1800s, it is clear that, for unknown reasons, the species population in the northern parts of its range plummeted during the early 1900s. Reports completely vanished from Massachusetts and New Hampshire until the 1950s when White-eyed Vireos started to reappear as a nesting species in Massachusetts. The first report to come from New Hampshire since 1907, was a bird reported in the Monadnock region of the state on May 7, 1955. Since then, the species has been uncommon to rare and irregularly reported in southern New Hampshire with a noteworthy spike in sightings over the last 10 to 15 years (Figure 1).

In recent years, most records have come from the New Hampshire seacoast, however, a White-eyed Vireo photographed from Umbagog Wildlife Refuge on May 12, 2009 is unquestionably the northernmost record for the state. The majority of sightings in the State come during the migration months of May and October (Figure 2). The

earliest sighting is from April 15 and the latest sighting from November 18.

Most of the sightings reported in the state are likely the result of "overshoots" during migration rather than potential breeding birds. During the *Atlas of Breeding Birds in New Hampshire* (1981-1986), nesting was not confirmed in the state, however, there was one report of "probable" breeding from Rye in 1982. More recently, the report of two birds seen together in suitable habitat in Newington in May 2011 was noteworthy, however, the birds were not seen again. *To date, there are no clear, undisputed records of this species having nested in the state.*

The northern edge of the range of the White-eyed Vireo has fluctuated over the years and this fluctuation will likely continue, however, the *Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas* has shown a significant decrease in population over the past 30 years. Development and the loss of suitable habitat may ultimately limit the range expansion of this species into New Hampshire.

Figure 1. White-eyed Vireo sightings from New Hampshire by year, 1961-2013. Data sources listed below.

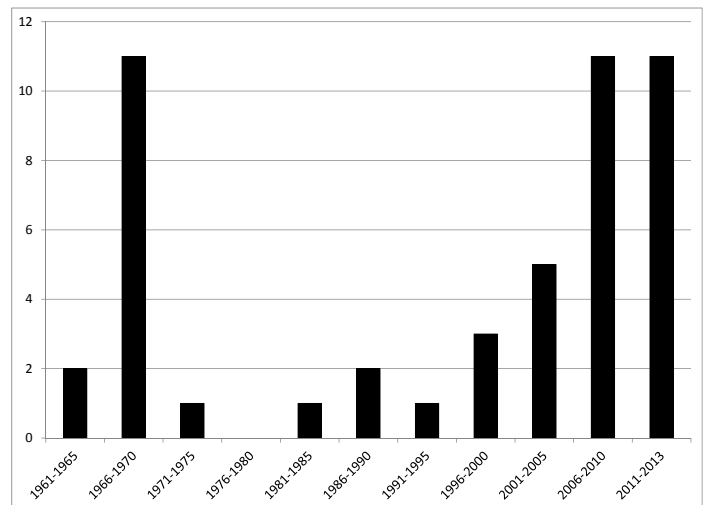
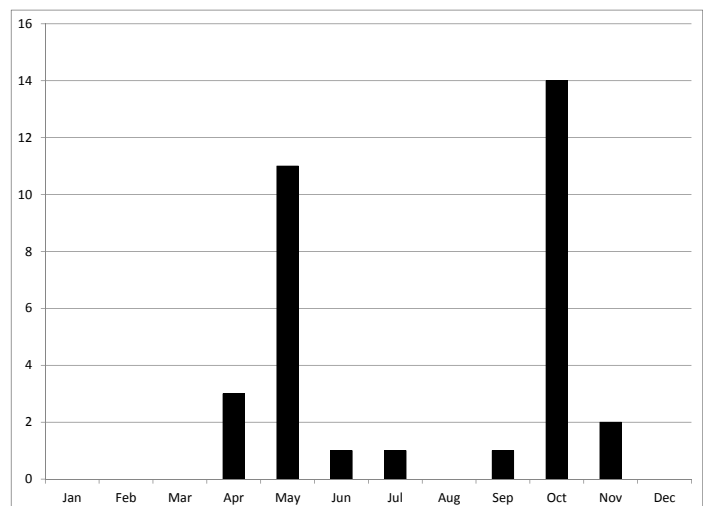


Figure 2. White-eyed Vireo reports by month in New Hampshire since 1980. Data sources listed below.





## Data Sources

The following data sources were searched for records of this species.

*New Hampshire Bird Records* and archives, circa 1963 through November 31, 2012. New Hampshire Audubon, Concord, New Hampshire.

*Bulletin of New England Bird-life*, 1936–1944. New England Museum of Natural History, Boston, Massachusetts.

*Records of New England Birds*, in *Massachusetts Audubon Society Bulletin*, 1945–1955. Massachusetts Audubon Society, Concord, Massachusetts.

*Records of New England Birds*, 1956–1960 and 1964–1968. Massachusetts Audubon Society, Concord, Massachusetts.

eBird. 2014. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance [web application]. Version 2. eBird, Ithaca, New York. Available: <http://www.ebird.org>. (Accessed: February 2014).

## References

Allen, G. 1903. *A List of the Birds of New Hampshire*. Nature Study Press, Manchester, NH.

Breeding Bird Atlas Explorer (online resource). 2014. U.S. Geological Survey, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center & National Biological Information Infrastructure. February 2014.

Foss, C. editor. 1994. *Atlas of Breeding Birds in New Hampshire*. Audubon Society of New Hampshire, Concord, NH.

Keith, A. and R. Fox. 2013. *The Birds of New Hampshire*. The Nuttall Ornithological Club.

Hopp, S., A. Kirby, and C. Boone. 1995. White-eyed Vireo (*Vireo griseus*). In *The Birds of North America*, No. 168 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, PA and The American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.

Sibley, D. 2000. *The Sibley Guide to Birds*. Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., New York, NY.

Veit, R. and W. Petersen. 1993. *Birds of Massachusetts*. Massachusetts Audubon Society, Lincoln, Massachusetts.

## Backyard Birder

### Insect-eating Birds Eat Berries

by Brenda Sens



Red-eyed Vireo eating the fruit of the Virginia Creeper. Photo by Keith Chamberlin, 10/8/13.

In the fall of 2013, there were several posts to the NH Birds e-mail list noting feeding behavior in certain species of birds that seemed unusual.

#### 9/9/13 post by John Williams

“This morning, shortly after the sun hit the yard, a mixed flock of thrushes started feeding vigorously on the hawthorn tree ‘Thornapples.’ First to arrive were 11 robins, several of which were this year’s speckle-breasted young. Then a single Wood Thrush arrived, two Swainson’s Thrushes came in, and finally a Veery showed up. The morning sun lit them beautifully for checking cheeks and jowls. The ‘Event’ lasted about 20 minutes.”

#### 10/7/13 post by Jane Hills

“Yesterday I watched an Eastern Phoebe in my Manchester backyard repeatedly ‘flycatching’ and then ingesting red berries off a burning bush shrub. Yeah, I know that’s an invasive, but it apparently contributes to the diets of some birds.”!

#### 10/8/13 post by Keith Chamberlin

“Do Red-eyed Vireos usually eat berries? I’ve never noticed until I was reviewing some pics from last week. This (see photo above) is a Virginia Creeper vine.”



All of these birds are species we tend to think of as insect-eaters and all of them migrate to New Hampshire for the purpose of nesting. Our observations of them, therefore, are usually limited to their nesting behavior and they all are attracted to insects because that is what they feed their young. Insects are a source of protein for growing baby birds. As adults, insect-eating birds eat fruit as well. Research has shown that when songbirds eat a combination of insects and fruit in the fall in preparation for migration they put on fat (their fuel for migration) more quickly than when they eat just insects or just fruit. Those of us who are fortunate enough to have a place to grow small trees and/or shrubs are in a position to assist and attract a great many birds.

There is an increased interest in using native plants in our horticultural efforts and we in New Hampshire are fortunate to have a list of native trees, shrubs, and vines and their wildlife value available from the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension offices—go to [http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource000427\\_Rep449.pdf](http://extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource000427_Rep449.pdf). (As an aside, it should be noted that apples, much loved by wildlife, are not a native plant but certainly worth having.) Mountain Ash and Serviceberry are among the smaller trees that are much appreciated by numerous birds, including Eastern Bluebirds, Brown Thrashers, Northern Cardinals, Gray Catbirds, Cedar Waxwings, Northern Mockingbirds, thrushes, and Wild Turkeys. When it comes to shrubs, it is difficult to decide from the many choices available, such as all of the berries, native dogwoods, hawthorn, sumac, viburnums, and winterberry. There are other choices that are good for providing cover as well as food when other sources are scarce. Vines, while an excellent choice, are enthusiastic growers and it might be best not to plant them too close to a structure and to be prepared to keep them in check. Virginia Creeper is an attractive plant. Poison Ivy, although appreciated by birds, is obviously not desirable from the human point of view and the native Bittersweet can overrun an area (not to be confused with the Oriental Bittersweet which is invasive and should not be planted). Wild grapes, on the other hand, make good jam should there be any left on the vine.

These are just a few of the suggested plantings. Much has been written about planting gardens with birds and wildlife in mind and, on a cold, windy, winter day, the research is a delightful indulgence.

## Birding World End Pond & Other Salem Hotspots

by Kyle Wilmarth



*Wilson's Snipe at World End Pond, 9/17/13 by Kyle Wilmarth.*

### World End Pond

Tucked away in the southeastern corner of New Hampshire lies a shallow, 130-acre pond known as World End Pond (sometimes referred to as World's End Pond). It offers a rich diversity of wildlife including many species of birds (130 species according to the eBird Hotspot Explorer: [ebird.org/ebird/nh/hotspot/L511323](http://ebird.org/ebird/nh/hotspot/L511323)). Located in Salem, NH and bordering Methuen, MA, World End Pond has proven to be a true hotspot in the world of New Hampshire birding.

The only way to access World End Pond is from Theresa Avenue, off of Butler Street in Salem. From Route 93, take Exit 1 for Rockingham Park Boulevard toward Route 28. Take your first right onto Route 28 south (South Broadway), and at the next light take a left onto Cluff Road next to Target. At the end of Cluff Road, you will come to a three-way stop. Take a right onto Lawrence Road and take your third left onto Tyler Street. Follow Tyler Street to the end at the stop sign at Butler Street. Take a left onto Butler Street and after 500 feet, take your first right onto Theresa Avenue. The pond is at the end of Theresa Avenue, a dead-end road that brings you to a boat launch. The road is quiet and ends somewhat abruptly at the pond. Please be sure to drive slowly (10 mph limit) as you enter. Parking can be limited at times and can be tricky due to the lack of parking spots. There is no formal parking lot, but parking at the end of the road near the boat launch is perfectly fine as long as you don't block the path to the right of the boat launch.

The best way to bird this pond is by canoe, kayak, or flat-bottom rowboat. There are several areas of marsh vegetation around the edges of the pond that are best accessed with a

boat. Having the ability to get into the nooks of the marshes will give you much better odds of seeing species such as rails and sandpipers.

Over the course of nearly two years, I have spent a lot of time exploring this pond, typically with the help of my better set of eyes, Amanda Altena, and have begun to really get a feel for the pond during each season. While the birding can still be very active in the summer, spring and winter, it pales in comparison to the activity I have documented here during fall migration. From migrating songbirds foraging in the trees along the waters edge, to rails and herons lurking among the reeds, over 100 species have been recorded here between August and November.

During the summer months, the vegetation grows substantially and leaves roughly 70% of the pond covered in lilies and other aquatic plants. The rapid plant growth and hot summer days result in low water levels, and small "islands" of undergrowth begin to emerge, exposing excellent areas for migrating shorebirds, a particular treat here. This has to be my favorite part of fall migration at World End Pond.

This pond's ability to attract shorebirds is very interesting. During the spring, and even more so in the fall, when these islands of mud and undergrowth have emerged, it is not unusual to find at least five different species of shorebirds on a given day. Some shorebird species you might find include Pectoral, Least, Spotted, Solitary, and Semipalmated Sandpipers, both yellowlegs, Wilson's Snipe, Killdeer and Semipalmated Plover. Short-billed Dowitcher, somewhat unusual inland in New Hampshire, has also been recorded here. These long-range migrants use the pond as a stopover to rest and feed. The Pectoral Sandpipers have only been seen during the fall, whereas the others mentioned above have been seen during both spring and fall seasons. The Pectorals I have seen have been in groups of up to 20 individuals.

On several occasions, Amanda and I have witnessed Least Sandpipers visibly fatigued, the birds having flown in from high altitudes, dropped to the pond's mudflats and then rested for several minutes before feeding constantly. On one occasion, we watched a resting Semipalmated Sandpiper sleep for nearly 15 minutes, only blinking an open eye for the Pectoral Sandpiper actively feeding around it. Even some raptors like Merlin and Sharp-shinned Hawk have attempted to take advantage of these tired individuals. It can be a challenge at times to paddle with low water levels, but the payoff is worth the trouble.

Another fun, though sometimes challenging group of species to look for, are marsh birds. There are several thick areas of marsh with tall reeds and cattails that provide great habitat for Virginia Rail, Sora, American Bittern and Marsh Wrens. American Coot and Pied-billed Grebe are also

typically seen here during fall migration period, and Least Bittern has been reported, as well. Birding by kayak is one of the best ways to get a good perspective for spotting these birds, which are usually very secretive when approached from land.

Migrating songbirds are also seen here during the fall months. Typically, Pine, Palm, and Yellow-rumped Warblers are some of the most abundant. Yellow Warblers and Common Yellowthroat are also quite numerous, but usually only at the beginning of the fall migration period. A good place to look for songbirds is from the boat launch area. There is a short path (30 feet) to the left of the boat launch with several small trees. Flycatchers, wrens, vireos, kinglets, and several species of sparrows have been seen here. The path is on a little peninsula, which can also be a great place to set up a spotting scope.

What would a good birding pond be without waterfowl? Along with the aforementioned coots and grebes, there have been many species of waterfowl here, another exciting aspect of fall migration at the pond. Hundreds of Ring-necked Ducks and Canada Geese have been counted, strewn across the shallower back edge of the pond. Among the more common Green-winged Teal, Wood Duck, and Mallard, Blue-winged Teal has been here in good numbers. Less common are Northern Pintail, Hooded Merganser, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck, Bufflehead, Black Scoter, and American Black Duck. The waterfowl can often be found hidden behind the marsh vegetation on the edges of the pond, but sometimes are out in the open water. The areas around the marshes are lush with aquatic vegetation, providing a plentiful food source as well as good cover from predators. Unlike the shorebirds, the waterfowl here can be very skittish and are prone to flush when approached. If in a boat, go slowly and try to be quiet.

Birds of prey are seen at the pond with good frequency. Red-tailed Hawks are the usual suspects, but a little time and effort might produce Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks, Northern Harrier, and Bald Eagle. Occasionally, one may find a Northern Harrier floating over the reeds flushing huge groups of ducks into the air, filling the sky. If you stay out until after dark you may see or hear a pair of Great Horned Owls and perhaps the occasional Eastern Screech-Owl from the pond's edge.

Another reason the waterfowl are often skittish is that the pond is a popular hunting spot. During open season, it would not be surprising to see a couple of groups of hunters sitting in blinds across the pond. Be cautious and wear hunter orange.

To summarize a few suggestions and tips for birding the pond, the first major tip is to get out there by kayak if possible. While using a spotting scope will greatly help, you

will not likely see everything the pond has to offer. Having the ability to hide yourself amidst the reeds, and finding the nooks that are rarely explored, will put you in better position for finding some harder to find birds. Lastly, one thing I learned about this pond is that you never know what you're going to find. With a location in the southern tier of the state, and such a rich habitat for bird life, it surely holds potential for surprises.



*White-winged Scoters at Canobie Lake, 10/20/12 by Kyle Wilmarth.*

## Other Salem Hotspots

While you're in the area, a couple of other places you may want to check out during fall migration are Canobie Lake and Hawkin's Farm. Similar to World End Pond, **Canobie Lake** is another great place to find migrating waterfowl, so it is best checked in season. The lake is in both Salem and Windham and it is easily accessible from the Salem side. From Rt. 93, take Exit 3 in Windham toward Indian Rock Road / Rt. 111. Head east on Rt. 111 toward Salem. Go through the light past the Mobile/McDonald's, and at your next light take a right onto Range Road. Follow Range Road for a half mile and take a right onto North Policy Street. Off of North Policy Street, there is a parking area next to the Salem Water Department entrance. This is a good place to scan the water for waterfowl, which can include good numbers of Ruddy Ducks (roughly 200 on one outing), Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, the occasional Red-breasted Merganser (uncommon inland), Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, White-winged and Black Scoter, Mallard, Mute Swan, Canada Goose and the sometimes lingering Wood Duck, which can be seen into November or later depending on how soon the ice freezes. It also would not be unusual to find Red-necked Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, American Coot, and some Common Loons feeding around the pond. With good concentrations of waterbirds, you may even see a couple of Bald Eagles in the tall trees along the water's edge waiting to snatch a meal. From mid-October to mid-to-late December (or when the ice freezes) is typically the best time to visit the lake to view waterfowl.

**Hawkin's Farm** is located in the eastern part of Salem only about a mile from the Massachusetts border. It is located on Town Farm Road/Bluff Street Extension, on the east side of the Spicket River. If coming from Canobie Lake, head

north on North Policy Street and take a right onto Range Road toward Rt. 28. At the intersection, follow the lane for Lake Street. Continue on Lake Street for about three-quarters of a mile, and then turn left onto Bluff Street. Continue on Bluff Street for 2.5 miles and the destination is on your right. There is roadside parking only. A couple of cars can fit next to the trail, and up the road past the house next to the fields, there is a public garden with more space for roadside parking. A public trail runs between the Spicket River and the cornfields, giving good looks into some great habitat for sparrows, warblers and waterfowl. During the fall migration period, it has proven to be especially productive for sparrows, which have included Savannah, Chipping, White-crowned, White-throated, Lincoln's, Fox, American Tree, and many Song Sparrows. The public garden is a great place to find them, as well as around the small pond 100 feet or so from the road (keep an eye out for the Green Heron that favors this little pond, too).

The fields provide an ideal place to look for geese; they have hosted hundreds of Canadas, as well as the occasional Snow Goose mixed in. The open area also gives you the opportunity to spot hunting raptors overhead. Among the typical Red-tailed Hawks that frequent the area are other raptors such as Red-shouldered, Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks, and Peregrine Falcon. If you're lucky, you might even spot a Northern Goshawk (migration). The entire Spicket River area near the farm hosts some great birds as well, and this area is in proximity to the only known Great Blue Heron rookery in Salem, which is up the Spicket River on a private pond not accessible to the public. You will often see Great Blues flying overhead towards the rookery, and even a Black-crowned Night-Heron has been seen along the river. Other notable birds seen here have included Black Vulture, Rusty Blackbird, several species of warblers, and American Woodcock, to name just a few.

For more information on accessing World End Pond or the other locations mentioned in this article, please feel free to email me at [kyle.wilmarth@gmail.com](mailto:kyle.wilmarth@gmail.com). Heading this way and want some birding company? Let me know! Amanda and I would be happy to show you around.

*Kyle Wilmarth is a graphic and web designer from Salem, NH who has been birding since 2009. His interest in birds stems back to the summers spent in coastal New Brunswick, Canada as a child where he first developed an interest in Atlantic Puffins. After a long hiatus, a friend's photo of a Blue Jay reignited his interest in birds and birding. Kyle spends his free time exploring the waters of the Merrimack Valley by kayak with his better half, Amanda Altena, or hiking the trails less traveled around New Hampshire.*



# Volunteers and Research

## Concord Nighthawk Migration Study

by Rob Woodward



Common Nighthawk in migration by Debbie LaValley, 9/3/13, Canterbury, NH.

On the evening of August 29, 2007, Bob Quinn counted 700 Common Nighthawks in a single flock from the legislative parking garage in downtown Concord. Word spread quickly and the following night a small group of us gathered at the garage and counted another 320 nighthawks. Counts from these two nights were the highest number of migrating nighthawks ever recorded in Concord at that time.

Hoping to duplicate these extraordinary numbers, I returned to the legislative parking garage the following year on August 27 and counted 167 nighthawks. Thus began the annual Concord Nighthawk Migration Study, apparently the first and only of its kind in the state, now conducted from the top of the Capital Commons Parking Garage.

My interest in counting migrating nighthawks began much earlier. On August 27, 1997, I happened to notice a flock of nighthawks, 50 strong, passing over my backyard. More may have gone by before I started counting. Each year after that, I sat in a lawn chair in my backyard in late August with pencil and paper and recorded nightly totals. The 70 birds I counted on August 24, 1998 was the daily high-count for the year state-wide! A paltry sum by today's standards!

The Concord Nighthawk Migration Study has grown in effort since 2008. In that first modest year, the watch only lasted from August 27 through August 31, and just 339 birds were counted. The next year, we started on August 24 and counted through September 8 for a total of 785 nighthawks.

In 2010, the legislative parking garage was closed for repairs, so we moved the count to the Capital Commons Parking Garage a few blocks away and began the first year of a full-scale systematic nighthawk migration study. Counts were conducted almost every evening from August 18 through September 7, although, lacking any big flights, the total count dropped to only 357 birds. The method and

system for counting and recording, however, was developed by this time. More importantly, I now enjoyed the very able assistance of Zeke Cornell on a daily basis, making a huge improvement in my ability to locate and count nighthawks.

The counts start between 5:30 and 6:00 pm and go until 7:30 or 8:00 pm. Telescopes are essential as the view from the top of the garage extends a few miles and most birds are distant. Few things are more difficult to count than migrating nighthawks! Unlike raptors, nighthawks often turn direction, even 180 degrees, after we count them, leading to the risk of a double count. They often feed in a large swirling flock, making an accurate count nearly impossible.

In 2011, the number of hours of observation for the season increased to 29 from 19.5 the year before. But the total of 1,059 birds only barely exceeded the two-day total for 2007. Then a new season record of 1,480 nighthawks was set in 2012 over 36 hours of counting. But again there were no really big flights; the highest count was 345 on August 23.

Figure 1. Total number of Common Nighthawks observed migrating during the evenings in August and early September in Concord, NH. The number in parentheses below the date is the number of viewing days.

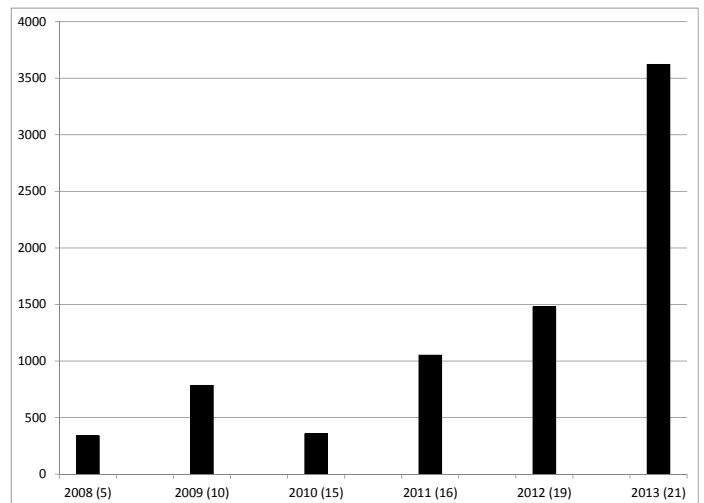
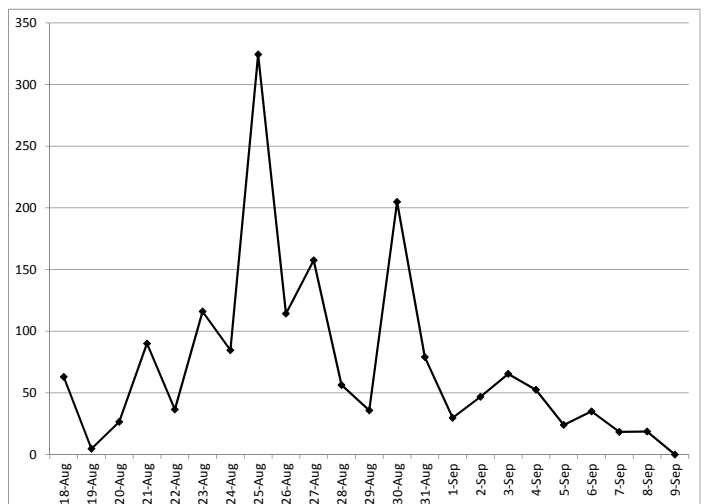


Figure 2. Average number of Common Nighthawks observed migrating during the evening in August and early September in Concord, NH from 2008-2013.



The flight of 700 in 2007 was beginning to look like a once-in-a-lifetime event. Then came the 2013 season!

The year began with good solid counts, including 203 on August 21 and 310 on August 24. The skies opened on August 25 when 966 nighthawks were counted, with another 640 on August 27 and 790 on August 30. These were the kind of numbers we dreamed about and knew were possible but until then had never seen before (Figure 1).

Over the years, we have witnessed other interesting bird sightings from our high perch. Double-crested Cormorants and Ring-billed Gulls daily commute over the Merrimack River to unknown roosting sites. Thousands of Red-winged Blackbirds move in flocks of hundreds toward their roost at the South End Marsh. On August 25, 2009, two Great Egrets flew at eye-level right in front of us. On August 18, 2013, a Peregrine Falcon chased and dove at a Chimney Swift. Then it had the gall to chase and attack a nighthawk! One of the most memorable sightings was on August 21, 2010, when a hummingbird inexplicably chased and attacked a crow!

Dozens of birders have visited us at the garage to witness the spectacle and help with the count. One night, the watch turned into an ice cream social! A visit on a busy night is the most rewarding, but predicting the peak night or nights is difficult (Figure 2). My advice is to visit on more than one night. If you want to win the lottery, buy more than one ticket!

The Common Nighthawk has suffered a long-term population decline throughout its North American breeding range. Downtown Concord hosted over two dozen breeding nighthawks as recently as the 1980s. In 2013, there were no nighthawks regularly flying and calling over downtown on warm summer nights.

No one should mistake the increasing numbers counted in Concord as an indication of an increase in the nighthawk population. Instead, these counts must be placed within the context of a region-wide system of counts measured over the long term. Nighthawk migration studies are still in their infancy. I predict that in coming years, systematic study sites of nighthawk migration will increase in number, just as raptor counts have, providing us with a greater measurement of their population changes and an increased understanding of their complex and enigmatic migration patterns.

*Rob Woodward has been a volunteer field trip leader for New Hampshire Audubon for over 20 years. In addition to his interest in nighthawk migration, he runs a weekly bird survey at Turkey Pond and has a particular interest in studying the status and distribution of the birds of Concord.*

## The Common Nighthawk 2013 Spectacle and Other Sightings

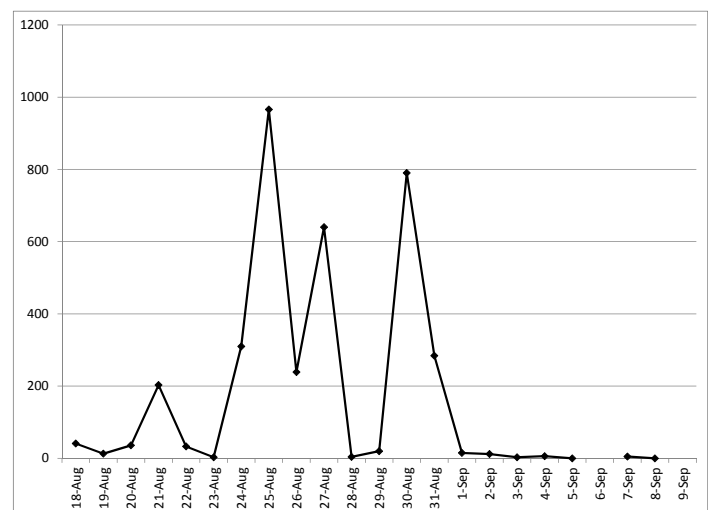
*by Zeke Cornell*

The Common Nighthawk migration monitoring for 2013 had spectacular numbers in the context of the six years since Rob has initiated these observations. On the evenings when nighthawks were present, we had very good showings of birds in migration. The largest count of 966 on the evening of August 25 nearly equaled the total sightings for other years. It was an amazing site and challenging to count! Only time will tell if this year was an exceptional fall-out, but many viewers had incredible looks at the nighthawks, and in significant numbers.

Rob has found that warm, southerly breezes correspond to good movements of the nighthawks in late August and early September (the time of the year when we monitor). One challenge, however, is to determine where the birds will appear relative to our viewing station. The nighthawks can be anywhere around us and at a variety of distances. On the calmest days, there can be smog or heat haze making it difficult to spot distant birds. It is a bonus to have birds flying close by or directly overhead. In the previous years when I have assisted Rob, this has not happened very often. This was another difference in 2013; we had hundreds of birds flying directly overhead or in very close proximity to the parking garage. A good number of visitors were able to witness this phenomena (and help with the counting), and this contributed to a sense of the spectacle for this season.

On the other hand, as the graph in Figure 3 demonstrates, there are wild swings from night to night as to how many birds might be seen. This feast or famine makes it difficult to predict when there will be a good showing, but the data over

*Figure 3. Total number of Common Nighthawks observed migrating during the evening for each night from August 18 to September 9, 2013 in Concord, NH. There were no observations on September 6.*





## Answer to the Photo Quiz

by David B. Donsker

Male waterfowl are among the most distinctive of all birds to identify in breeding plumage. Many are colorful. Most are boldly patterned. Female ducks, however, are often much more cryptically patterned and colored, and very few are similar in plumage to their male counterparts. As such, they are often a challenge to identify. When associated with the males, which is often the case, either as a mated pair or as part of a larger flock, the identification of these birds is fairly simple. But when seen alone they can be puzzling. The quiz bird in this issue features one of these female ducks.

Our featured bird is a small duck with a short upturned tail and small, triangular bill. It is uniformly dark with the exception of its face pattern which is quite boldly marked. The pattern of the face is characterized by a large white patch at the base of the bill extending onto the cheek and two smaller patches, one in front of the eye and the other on the “ear” or the space behind and just below the level of the eye.

New England ducks can be broadly divided into four groups, each with its own distinctive structure and behavior. These are the dabbling ducks, diving ducks, mergansers and stiff-tailed ducks.

The fish eating, thin-billed mergansers are quite distinctive and present no problem here. Our only stiff-tailed duck, Ruddy Duck, cocks its tail. The tail of Ruddy Duck is long, however, and it has a large, spatulate bill which is quite unlike the small triangular bill of this bird. Ruddy Duck does have a large white cheek patch, but it is much larger in proportion to the rest of the face than our featured bird, and it lacks the other two face spots.

Dabbling ducks favor relatively shallow freshwater or brackish creeks, ponds, and marshes. They feed by dabbling their bills on the surface of the water and tipping forward to grab subsurface food. They take off from the water directly, often in explosive flight. This group of ducks includes largish, large-billed species such as American Black Duck and Mallard and smaller-billed, compact species such as American Wigeon and Green-winged Teal. The featured bird is unlike the large, large-billed species. The smaller, more compact teal have a thin rather than triangular bill, so they cannot be considered. On the other hand, wigeons do have short rather triangular bills. But female wigeons, like all female dabbling ducks, have very subtle markings. No female dabbling duck has such a bold face pattern.

Diving ducks are, in general, rather compact species that prefer the deeper open water of our bays, inshore ocean or larger lakes. They dive for their food and take off from the water by first running along its surface. This group comprises



Rob Woodward (far right) and Zeke Cornell (far left) counting migrating Common Nighthawks with several other birders from the roof of the Capital Commons Garage, 8/23/13. Photo by Rebecca Suomala.

the six years suggests the window of best possibilities is in late August.

This unpredictability of nighthawk migration also extends across our region. There is another monitoring station along the Vermont side of the Connecticut River (Westminster Station, Westminster, VT, which is across the river from Walpole, NH; the latitude here, is similar to Concord, NH). It has been interesting to note that the two sites often have big count nights on totally different days.

As Rob mentioned, our five story platform gives us the opportunity for watching other bird activity when there is a dearth of nighthawks. Besides the birds Rob noted, we have seen an occasional Bald Eagle in the river corridor, and I am always scanning the vultures for a Black Vulture.

Additionally, we have had sightings of all three of the smaller falcons most years. Merlins and Peregrine Falcons have chased prey and had enough success for us to watch them de-feather and feast on their catches, while perching on one of the local church spires.

Chimney Swifts are the other most common evening visitors. These birds are widespread in our viewing area. Unfortunately, when at a good distance, the shape and flight style of this swift can be confused with nighthawks. A little practice can usually sort out this challenge. A few times, we also have been fortunate enough to watch these birds congregate around and then enter a local chimney.

Let me encourage everyone to save a day or two in late August and help us find nighthawks in migration.

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

a diverse set of species including eiders, scoters, goldeneyes, and typical diving ducks of the genus *Aythya* and their kin.

Eiders are large, very large-billed ducks, the females of which have only subtle facial markings lacking spots or patches. Both by structure and plumage, they are quite unlike this bird. Female Canvasback and Redhead, as well as the two goldeneyes and female Black Scoter, have plain or relatively unmarked heads as well. None of these can be considered here.

Long-tailed Duck has a short, triangular bill much like this bird and, despite its name, female Long-tailed Duck has a much shorter tail than the male. Its tail is still longer and more pointed than that of our featured bird. In addition, the boldly patterned face of female Long-tailed Duck in both winter and summer plumage sports a large dark patch on its cheek, rather than a large white one.

Females of the rest of the diving ducks all have some combination of white patches on their faces. The pattern of these patches, coupled with other structural features is the key to the final identification.

The white facial patches of both scaups and Ring-necked Duck are predominately confined to a single, variably sized patch at the base of the bill that does not extend onto the cheek. Female Bufflehead is a small short-billed duck somewhat similar in structure to our featured bird. Similar to this bird, it has a bold white ear patch, but the patch is the only white spot on its head. The single patch on the head of female Bufflehead eliminates it as a possibility in this case.

The only female diving ducks that have more than one bold white spot on their heads are White-winged Scoter, Surf Scoter and Harlequin Duck. Female White-winged and Surf Scoter are very similar in appearance. Both have fairly bold white face spots at the base of the bill and on the ear. Both of the ear patches are rather large and conspicuous. The white patches at the base of the bill in both scoters and in Harlequin Duck are different from each other. In Surf Scoter, the patch at the base of the bill is vertically oriented. That is, it is higher than it is wide. In White-winged Scoter, this patch is horizontally oriented (longer than it is tall) and extends to the front of the eye. In neither of the scoters do the facial patches involve much of the cheek. As with our featured bird, female Surf Scoter has a third white patch on the head, but this is located on the back of the head or the nape, not in front of the eye. It is also rather inconspicuous. Very importantly, the two scoters also differ in structure from the featured bird. Both are large ducks with sloping foreheads and similarly large, sloping bills.

The only duck that has three bold white face spots is female Harlequin Duck. Often, the small white spot in front of the eye can be difficult to see which may cause some brief confusion with the two larger scoters. Harlequin Duck,

however, is a small species with a small triangular bill. Its structure is quite unlike that of the larger scoters.

The three bold white facial spots, coupled with its small size and small triangular bill, indicate that this is a female Harlequin Duck. This individual was photographed by Len Medlock in Hampton on November 12, 2012.

Harlequin Duck is an uncommon species with two disjunct ranges in North America: the Pacific Northwest extending to northwest Wyoming and the Northeast where it breeds from Greenland, northern Quebec and Labrador to as far south as the Gaspé Peninsula. On its breeding grounds, it favors fast flowing streams and rivulets. In the east, the species winters from coastal Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to as far south as Maryland. Half of the eastern breeding population winters along the coast of Maine. Although the species can be seen with regularity off the Cliff House in York, Maine and on Cape Anne in Massachusetts, it is surprisingly rare in New Hampshire. In many years, it is not even recorded and, when it is recorded in our state, those reports are infrequent. Although there is no reliable location along our coast to find this species, good places to look for it include off Rye Harbor State Park in Rye and Great Boars Head in Hampton.

## References

- Peterson, R. 1947. *A Field Guide to the Birds*. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, MA.
- Robertson, G. and R. Goudie. 1999. Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from The Birds of North America Online database: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu.bnaproxy.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/466>
- Sibley, D. 2000. *The Sibley Guide to Birds*. Alfred A. Knopf, New York, NY.



# Your Support Makes a Difference — New Hampshire Bird Records Endowment Fund

## What is the New Hampshire Bird Records Endowment Fund?

The Fund was established by two donors and approved by the NH Audubon Board of Trustees to provide long-term support for the collection, organization, quality control, distribution, dissemination, publication, promotion, preservation and storage of New Hampshire bird sighting information. *New Hampshire Bird Records* is the current vehicle and umbrella for these functions and the initial focus of the fund is on supporting all facets of *New Hampshire Bird Records* (both the publication and data aspects).

## Why is the Fund needed?

Funding for the *New Hampshire Bird Records* publication and the data collection effort behind it is an ongoing challenge. Subscription fees do not cover the entire costs. The goal of the Fund is to provide long term stable funding and to help ensure the continuation of this valuable program.

The Fund has doubled since it was first established in 2011. Please help it continue to grow by making a contribution. You can make a donation by using the form in the brochure enclosed with this issue, or contacting the Managing Editor (see inside front cover).

## 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

## NHBR Subscription Form

I would like to subscribe to *NH Bird Records*.

NHA Member \$25.00  Non-member \$35.00

*All renewals take place annually.*

*Mid-year subscribers will receive all issues published in the subscription year.*

I would like to join NHA and receive *NH Bird Records* at the member price.

Family/\$55  Individual/\$39  Senior/\$24

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Payment is by:

check enclosed— payable to NH Audubon

MC  VISA

Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to:** Membership Department, NH Audubon,  
84 Silk Farm Rd., Concord, NH 03301

*Subscribe online at [www.nhbirdrecords.org](http://www.nhbirdrecords.org)*

# Fall 2013 Highlights



*Clockwise, from top left :*

*Snowy Owl by Christine Sheridan,  
11/30/13, Merrimack, NH.*

*Yellow-throated Warbler by Len Medlock,  
8/10/13, Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye, NH.*

*White-eyed Vireo by Kyle Wilmarth,  
11/11/13, Urban Forestry Center,  
Portsmouth, NH.*

*Egrets by Steve Mirick, 8/24/13,  
Seabrook, NH.*

*Clapper Rail by Colleen Prieto, 9/24/13,  
marsh across from Wallis Sands, Rye, NH.*

