

New Hampshire Bird Records





IN MEMORY OF

Arthur Mudge

This issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* with its color cover is sponsored by New Hampshire Audubon and friends in memory of Art Mudge. Art was an avid birder and long-time friend, supporter, and trustee of NH Audubon.



Art Mudge receiving NH Audubon's Tudor Richards Award in 2012. Photo by Bob Quinn.

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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

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Jane Wing

PHOTO QUIZ

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WEB MASTER

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WHERE TO BIRD

Phil Brown

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Cover Photos: Snowy Owl (top) by Terri Fratus, 2/28/14, Rye, NH. Townsend's Warbler (bottom left) by Deanne Fortnam, 12/12/13, Odiorne Pt. St. Rye, NH. Spotted Towhee (bottom right) by David Lipsy, 2/1/14, Rye, NH.

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

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Winter 2013-14

by Rebecca Suomala

Thank You!

We appreciate all of the support from volunteers and contributors that makes *New Hampshire Bird Records* the wonderful publication that it is. Please see page 2 for a special thank you to donors.

The goal of the *New Hampshire Bird Records* publication is to bring you information on birds and birding in New Hampshire, provide analysis and summaries that help us all learn more about the birds in our state, encourage the recording and submission of bird sightings (via NHeBird), provide a venue to record bird stories that might otherwise be lost, and foster the birding community and our enjoyment of birds. Behind the scenes, making all of that possible, is the effort to ensure New Hampshire has quality data on bird sightings that is organized, useful, accessible, and archived for the historic record. If you have any suggestions for articles or features you would like to see, please don't hesitate to contact me or any of the Editorial Team members. Thank you for your patience as we work to catch up on publication.

Time to Renew!

This is the last issue of this subscription year and your renewal notice is enclosed with this issue. (If you have already renewed or just begun your subscription you will have a different notice stating that you do not need to renew.) Thanks for your subscription and support of *New Hampshire Bird Records*.



Horned Lark by Deanne Fortnam, 1/8/14, Hampton, NH.

PHOTO QUIZ

Can You
Identify
This Bird?

Answer on page 35.

Photo by Steve Mirick.



Thank You to Donors

We are very grateful to those who have donated to *New Hampshire Bird Records*, sponsored an issue, or supported the “Twitchers in the Rye” during the annual Superbowl of Birding. Subscription revenue does not cover the full costs of *New Hampshire Bird Records* and your contributions help make it possible for New Hampshire Audubon to bring you this publication and maintain the quality of the records.

We are especially grateful to those who have contributed to the New Hampshire Bird Records Endowment Fund. This fund is building a secure base of long-term support for the collection, organization, publication, preservation and storage of New Hampshire bird sighting information.

Support for data compilation and management was also received from New Hampshire Audubon’s Dr. Margery J. Milne and Dr. Lorus J. Milne Biological Science Research Fund.

The following list acknowledges donations received between August 16, 2013 and October 8, 2014. We apologize if we inadvertently omitted you or mis-spelled your name – please let us know.

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December 1, 2013 to February 28, 2014

by Pamela Hunt



The motto of this winter for those of us who *try* to keep in mind longer term trends was yep, a normal winter. For the short-term thinkers, it was instead all about the Polar Vortex. According to the Northeast Regional Climate Center, the winter of 2013-14 was essentially dead-on average in terms of precipitation and a few degrees colder relative to 120 year trends. When one had to go outside, however, especially in

February, one realized that it *was* indeed cold and snowy out there. As I commented in the 2012-13 summary, we've been spoiled by warm winters of late, so when a winter comes along that's closer, or slightly more wintry, than the long-term average, it tends to get our attention. February was certainly the deal-breaker here, at least in some parts of the state. There was no contending that it stayed cold for most of the month and, at least in the southern part of the state, never seemed to stop snowing. Concord had its fifth snowiest February in 140 years, with 23 inches more than normal. During a particularly memorable stretch, the state as a whole accumulated between 15 and 30 inches in **four** storms in the period of February 13-21.

As usually happens when the snow starts to accumulate, many birds are driven to edge habitats and feeders in search of food. For the second time in three years, numerous displaced Barred Owls were reported on listserves and to NH Audubon (see page 29). If the snow wasn't enough of a problem, the prolonged cold only made it crustier and harder for the birds to penetrate in pursuit of subnivean rodents (underneath the snow). With increasing numbers of half-hardies (e.g., Hermit Thrush, Gray Catbird, Eastern Towhee) lured to linger in the north by the general warming trend, proportionally more are caught off guard by actual winter conditions, and thus turn to feeders for sustenance. An edge of note this winter was the ice edge on the Great Lakes, or relative lack of it. As a result of one of the most extensive freezes in recent history, waterbirds that normally winter in open areas of these inland seas were forced south and east in numbers, with many showing up in unusual places in the Granite State.

This was perhaps the poorest winter for northern finches in decades, with only a smattering of records far to the north early in the season, but we more than made up the difference



Snowy Owl by Len Medlock, 1/20/14, NH coast.

with another irruptive, Snowy Owls. The beautiful arctic owls were something of a fixture this winter, including several records from inland locations. Read on for a lot more detail on the largest southern movement of Snowys in decades. Other highlights treated in more detail in the summaries include an excellent winter sampling of offshore waters and the usual smattering of vagrants from various corners of the continent.

Waterfowl through Grebes



Gadwall by Len Medlock, 1/20/14, marsh s. of Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye, NH.

Given the colder-than-recent conditions and relatively rapid ice-up, there were relatively few noteworthy waterfowl, even along the coast. A trio of Gadwall managed to remain along the coast for most of January, and one well inland in Laconia was a definite surprise. There were only single reports for Northern Shoveler and Canvasback, while a male Redhead on Great Bay was sporadically seen for about

WINTER SEASON

half the season. One of the fall season's two female King Eiders was last seen in Hampton in early December, and could very well have been the same bird later found in New Castle. It certainly wouldn't be hard for a non-descript bird like this to remain undetected among Common Eiders for much of the winter.

The outlet of Hampton Harbor proved an excellent place for duck watching for much of the season, with often huge numbers of eiders and, more unusual, a small flock of Greater Scaup that also included a few Lesser Scaup. Both species are far more common on quieter waters such as Great Bay and inland freshwater, as many of the records below indicate. Overall, inland locations hosted a good variety of diving ducks throughout the season. Early-season records likely represent lingering migrants, but those in January and February were most likely part of a story unfolding on a continental scale.

If we thought it was cold here in New Hampshire, we had nothing on the Midwest, where regular southward pulses of arctic air resulted in most of the region experiencing top ten coldest temperatures. As a result, by the end of February the Great Lakes were 92% covered in ice (30-40% is normal), the second largest extent on record. As the ice gradually built up over the course of the season, waterbirds that normally spend most of the winter in the open areas were increasingly forced to seek out open water elsewhere. Doubtless most of these ducks and grebes took shortcuts to the mid-Atlantic states or headed straight south to the Gulf of Mexico, but keep in mind that Lake Champlain is also something of a Great Lake and it also mostly froze over. Birds evacuating Lake Champlain and heading to the Gulf of Maine pass right over New Hampshire, and if they see open water or simply become exhausted, they come to pay a visit. There's really no other way to explain a Red-necked Grebe recovered at Loon Mountain in January or a Horned Grebe on a Plymouth doorstep a mere three weeks later (see the Winter Field Notes). In February, additional Horned Grebes and a small influx of Red-breasted Mergansers stopped on the Connecticut and Merrimack Rivers on their way to the ocean. Red-throated Loons were scarcer than usual along the coast, and given that there were no notable numbers, I have elected not to include any in the listings below.

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
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Snow Goose

12/12	1	Hampton Beach	C. Sheridan
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Brant

02/08	3	Great Boars Head, Hampton	K. Kittelberger
02/08	11	Ragged Neck, Rye	K. Kittelberger, W. Ward, H. Walters
02/25	5	N. Hampton State Beach	J. Carroll

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
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Wood Duck

12/14	1	Sugar R., Lower Main St., Sunapee	D. Jackson
02/22	1	Home Depot, Keene	H. Walters, W. Ward
02/22	1	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard, S. Young
02/22	3	Spicket River, Salem	K. Wilmarth
02/28	1	Sugar R., Lower Main St., Sunapee	D. Jackson

Gadwall

12/10	1	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
12/21	2	Oyster River Sector, Lee-Durham CBC	S. Mirick
01/09	1	Fort Stark, New Castle	J. Scott, S. McCarthy, B. Crowley, C. Nims
01/20	3	saltmarsh s. of Odiorne Pt., Rye	L. Medlock, P. Hunt, et al.
02/03	3	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	S. Stoddard, S. Mirick
02/04	1	Eager Island, Laconia	T. Arsenaault

Eurasian Wigeon

12/14	1	Greenland Sector, Coastal CBC	S. Mirick
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American Wigeon

12/14	3	Greenland Sector, Coastal CBC	S. Mirick
12/30	4	Meloon Rd., Greenland	A. Passer
01/25	2	Great Bay, Greenland	P. Brown

Northern Shoveler

12/01	3	Eel Pond, Rye	B. Griffith
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Northern Pintail

12/02	1	South Mill Pond, Portsmouth	J. Kelly
12/14	2	Greenland Sector, Coastal CBC	S. Mirick
12/21	2	Oyster River Sector, Lee-Durham CBC	S. Mirick
01/08	1	Exeter WTP	J. Lambert
01/29	1	Hassell Brook Rd., e. of Rt. 3, Nashua	C. Sheridan
02/04	1	South Mill Pond, Portsmouth	K. Towler
02/05	1	Hassell Brook Rd., e. of Rt. 3, Nashua	C. Sheridan
02/09	1	Lakeport	I. MacLeod



Green-winged Teal by Christine Sheridan, 1/31/14, Hassell Brook, Nashua, NH.

Green-winged Teal

12/08	1	South Mill Pond, Portsmouth	S. Mirick
12/16	1	Henrys Pool, Rt. 101E, Hampton	K. Wilmarth
01/20	1	South Mill Pond, Portsmouth	P. Hunt
02/01	1	Jalbert Dr., Nashua	J. McKibben
02/17	1	Hassell Brook Rd., e. of Rt. 3, Nashua	C. Sheridan

Canvasback

01/12	2	Great Bay, Greenland	S. Mirick
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WINTER SEASON

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
Redhead				12/04	1	Hampton Beach SP	J. Russo
12/14	1	Greenland Sector, Coastal CBC	S. Mirick	01/23	1	Great Island Common, New Castle	P. Brown
01/14	1	Great Bay, Greenland	J. Lambert	02/22	1	Great Island Common, New Castle	S. Mirick
01/30	1	Great Bay off Bayridge Rd., Greenland	S. Mirick	Common Eider			
Ring-necked Duck				12/01	43	Hampton Beach SP	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
12/03	4	Canobie Lake, Windham	S. Mirick	12/29	75	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	F. Marengi, J. Shenot
12/08	3	Eel Pond, Rye	S. Mirick	01/12	250	Hampton Beach SP	B. Griffith
12/28	1	Eager Island, Laconia	H.C. Anderson	01/31	300	Hampton Beach SP	J. Guion
01/05	1	SP Hunt walking bridge, Manchester	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala	02/23	50	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, et al.
01/16	1	Lake Wantastiquet, Hinsdale	E. Masterson	02/22	215	Hampton Harbor inlet	J. Lambert
02/19	17	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith	Harlequin Duck			
02/22	2	Nashua R. & Merrimack R. e. of Main St., Nashua	C. Sheridan	02/11	1	Rye Harbor SP	J. Lambert
02/22	2	Sugar R., Sunapee	D. Jackson	Surf Scoter			
02/28	1	Sugar R., Sunapee	D. Jackson	12/02	100	Hampton Beach SP	D. Ely
Greater Scaup				12/14	79	Rt. 1A, Rye	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala, P. Hunt
12/01	3	Penacook Lake, Concord	P. Hunt	12/30	1	Ledyard Bridge, Hanover	S. Hardy, C. Crawford
12/01	1	Lake Waukewan, Meredith	I. MacLeod	01/09	119	Fort Stark, New Castle	J. Scott, S. McCarthy, B. Crowley, C. Nims
12/14	1400	Greenland Sector, Coastal CBC	S. Mirick	01/12	100	Hampton Beach SP	B. Griffith, S. Mirick
12/14	6	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	B. Griffith, et al.	02/09	316	NH coast	S. Mirick
12/27	50	Hampton Beach SP	F. Marengi	02/22	137	Hampton Harbor inlet	J. Lambert
12/29	2	Opechee Bay at Lakeport Dam, Laconia	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, D. Deiflk	White-winged Scoter			
01/09	1	Eager Island, Laconia	P. Hunt	01/12	50	Hampton Harbor inlet	S. Mirick
01/12	58	Hampton Harbor inlet	S. Mirick	01/19	100	Hampton Beach SP	C. Caron, T. Pirro
01/30	815	Great Bay off Bayridge Rd., Greenland	S. Mirick	01/28	55	Hampton Beach SP	S. Schulte
02/01	54	Hampton Harbor inlet	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala	02/09	151	NH coast	S. Mirick
02/04	1	Eager Island, Laconia	T. Arsenault	Black Scoter			
02/07	5	Bellows Falls Dam, Walpole	D. Clark	12/08	600	N. Hampton State Beach	S. Mirick
02/22	1	Sugar R., Sunapee	D. Jackson	12/10	2	Connecticut R. above Wilder Dam, Lebanon	C. Rimmer
Lesser Scaup				02/01	100	Bicentennial Park, Hampton	S. Stoddard, M. Goodson
12/02	4	Governors Island Bridge, Gilford	I. MacLeod	02/01	50	North Side Park, Hampton	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
12/03	16	Canobie Lake, Windham	S. Mirick	02/01	150	Hampton Harbor inlet	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
12/19	2	Lake Wantastiquet, Hinsdale	E. Masterson	02/01	160	Little Boars Head, N. Hampton	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
01/20	1	Exeter WTP	M. Watson, A. Perko, J. Weisner	02/01	200	Rye Ledge	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
02/20	1	Opechee Bay, s. end, Laconia	P. Hunt	02/01	593	NH coast	S. Mirick
02/22	3	Hampton Harbor inlet	J. Lambert	Scoter sp.			
02/24	11	Opechee Bay, Laconia	I. MacLeod	01/19	1000	Hampton Beach SP	C. Caron, T. Pirro
King Eider				Long-tailed Duck			
12/01	2	Hampton Beach SP	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala, M. Thompson	02/01	20	Rye Ledge	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
				02/09	51	NH coast	S. Mirick
<i>King Eider by Jason Lambert, 2/14/14, New Castle, NH.</i>				Bufflehead			
King Eider				12/01	1	Lake Waukewan, Meredith	I. MacLeod
12/01	2	Hampton Beach SP	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala, M. Thompson	12/11	2	residence, Sunapee	D. Jackson
King Eider				12/11	7	Canobie Lake, Windham	K. Wilmarth
12/01	2	Hampton Beach SP	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala, M. Thompson	12/21	105	Oyster River Sector, Lee-Durham CBC	S. Mirick
King Eider				01/12	45	Great Bay NWR, Woodman Pt. marsh, Newington	R. Watson
12/01	2	Hampton Beach SP	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala, M. Thompson	02/09	43	NH coast	S. Mirick
King Eider				02/20	1	Winnepesaukee R. behind Rt. 140 plaza, Tilton	P. Hunt
12/01	2	Hampton Beach SP	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala, M. Thompson	02/23	1	Water Street Cafe, Laconia	H. Anderson

WINTER SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
Common Goldeneye			
12/14	211	Greenland Sector, Coastal CBC	S. Mirick
12/14	78	Rt. 1A, Rye	Z. Cornell, R. Somama, P. Hunt
12/19	225	Lake Wantastiquet, Hinsdale	E. Masterson
12/28	74	Merrimack R. between Pleasant St. & Bridge St., Manchester	J. Shenot, F. Marengi
01/05	110	SP Hunt walking bridge, Manchester	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
01/13	64	Stark Landing, Manchester	S. Mirick
01/16	195	Lake Wantastiquet, Hinsdale	E. Masterson
01/30	235	off Bayridge Rd., Greenland	S. Mirick
02/06	3	Androscoggin R., Errol	S. Severs
02/06	95	Lake Wantastiquet, Hinsdale	E. Masterson
02/08	11	Winnepesaukee R. behind Rt. 140 plaza, Tilton	J. MacQueen
02/15	44	Sewalls Falls, Concord	D. Howe, R. Quinn



Barrow's Goldeneye (center) by David Lipsy, 12/26/13, Sewalls Falls, Concord, NH.

Barrow's Goldeneye

12/07	1	Commercial St., Manchester	J. McKibben
12/19	1	Lake Wantastiquet, Hinsdale	E. Masterson
12/22	1	NH coast	K. Wilmarth
12/25	2	Merrimack R.	D. Lipsy
12/26	1	Sewall's Falls, Concord	D. Lipsy
01/24		N. Hampton State Beach	J. O'Shaughnessy
01/30	1	Great Bay off Bayridge Rd., Greenland	S. Mirick
02/01	1	Boars Head Ave., Hampton	P. Miliotis
02/06	1	Lake Wantastiquet, Hinsdale	E. Masterson
02/15	1	Great Boars Head, Hampton	S. Mirick
02/17	1	Waumbec St., Manchester	G.& J. McKibben

Hooded Merganser

12/19	110	Lake Wantastiquet, Hinsdale	E. Masterson
12/29	48	Silver Lake, Tilton/Belmont	P. Hunt
01/24	20	Rt. 1A wooden bridge, Rye	S. Mirick
02/24	24	Opechee Bay, s. end, Laconia	I. MacLeod

Date	#	Location	Observer
Common Merganser			
12/01	44	Lake Opechee, n. end, Laconia	H. Anderson
12/14	50	Spofford Lake, Chesterfield	A. Burnett
12/19	66	Lake Wantastiquet, Hinsdale	E. Masterson

Red-breasted Merganser

02/09	80	NH coast	S. Mirick
02/22	2	Connecticut R., n. of Sumner's Falls, Plainfield	D. Crook
02/22	2	Nashua R. & Merrimack R. e. of Main St., Nashua	C. Sheridan
02/27	2	below Wilder Dam, Lebanon	K. Jones

Ruddy Duck

12/01	1	Penacook Lake, Concord	P. Hunt
12/03	2	Auburn Circle beach	F. Keenan
12/03	112	Canobie Lake, Windham	S. Mirick
12/11		Canobie Lake, Windham	K. Wilmarth
12/14	1	Greenland Sector, Coastal CBC	S. Mirick
12/21	4	Oyster River Sector, Lee-Durham CBC	S. Mirick

Common Loon

12/02	5	Weirs Beach, Laconia	I. MacLeod
12/14	2	Sunapee Harbor	J. Gamble
12/23	15	Rye Harbor SP	L. Benner
12/24	1	Meredith Bay	I. MacLeod
01/18	1	Winnisquam Trail near Messer St., Laconia	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
02/01	15	Hampton Beach SP	P. Hunt
02/01	22	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop., Seabrook	S. Mirick
02/09	107	NH coast	S. Mirick
02/15	179	NH coast	S. Mirick
02/22	70	Hampton Harbor inlet	J. Lambert



Horned Grebe by Geoff Niswander, 2/22/14, Merrimack River, Bow, NH.

Horned Grebe

12/01	23	Blueberry Island, Moultonborough	I. MacLeod
01/30	1	High St., Plymouth	C. Barker

Date	#	Location	Observer
02/16	1	Nashua R. & Merrimack R., Nashua	C. Sheridan
02/22	1	River Rd. boat ramp, Bow	G. Niswander

Red-necked Grebe

12/08	2	Gale Ave., Laconia	H. Anderson
01/07	1	Loon Mt., Lincoln	T. Doran

Tubenoses through Alcids

It was an excellent winter for pelagic birding in New Hampshire! The season started on a high note when Eric Masterson found both **Great** and **Sooty Shearwaters** plus eight **Pomarine Jaegers** from a fishing boat on December 10. All of these appear to be new record late dates for New Hampshire waters and the number of Great Shearwaters is exceptional even for warmer waters to our south. At the season's end, two separate trips on the same boat in February treated participants to a veritable alcid extravaganza (see page 28). All six North Atlantic species were seen on both trips, with Dovekies in the 100s and double-digit tallies for the locally rare Common Murre and Atlantic Puffin. All three of these trips are summarized in the table below rather than in the listings.



Atlantic Puffin by Eric Masterson, on the 2/23/14 boat trip to Jeffrey's Ledge.

Species	12/10/13	2/12/14	2/23/14
Northern Fulmar	x	25	32
Great Shearwater	90		
Sooty Shearwater	1		
Northern Gannet	30	1	4
Pomarine Jaeger	8		
Dovekie		713	466
Common Murre		20	16
Thick-billed Murre		2	7
Razorbill	30	184	60
Atlantic Puffin		14	17
Black-legged Kittiwake	60	144	297

x=species seen but not counted

Details for the three trips:

December 12: Eric Masterson, Eastman's fishing trip out of Seabrook, NH.

February 12: Steve Mirick, Jason Lambert all day trip on the Gulf Challenger to Jeffrey's Ledge.

February 23: Zeke Cornell, Chris Borg, Pam Hunt, Jon Woolf, Katie Towler, Jim Sparrell, Steve & Jane Mirick, Eric Masterson, Rob Woodward, and Becky Suomala. All day Eastman's fishing trip out of Seabrook, NH to Jeffrey's Ledge.

With respect to alcids, this table is an excellent illustration of how different species are distributed relative to the coast. Species like Common Murre and Atlantic Puffin are far more pelagic than Razorbill and Thick-billed Murre, as evidenced by sightings of the latter two species from shore (see listings) and lower numbers of Thick-billed versus Common offshore. Black Guillemots are almost entirely a near shore species, with all birds on the February trips seen in the vicinity of the Isles of Shoals, and thus not included in the table. Now you know where all the Dovekies are in the winter! This smallest alcid *does* get seen from shore with some regularity, but never in numbers (except during storms), but like puffins and Common Murres, it is far more common farther out. What we'll likely never know with much certainty is just how their numbers vary out there, since getting offshore in winter is difficult and unpredictable.

Two **Great Egrets** lingered into December for the first time ever, setting a new late date for the state on December 12 (there are a handful of November records). Rough-legged Hawks are not a guaranteed wintering bird in New Hampshire, so the one or two birds in the Hampton/Seabrook marshes from mid-December through January were appreciated by several birders. There was definitely a dark morph bird present, but many reports did not note plumage, so it is impossible to tell how many birds were involved. Birders are encouraged to note plumage details for species like this with distinctive variants. An American Coot lingered in downtown Laconia into mid-January. Another in Wolfeboro on January 27 could have been the same bird, although the conditions in Laconia remained ice-free. After a few lingering birds in early December, shorebird activity was reduced to our three regular wintering species (Sanderling, Dunlin, and Purple Sandpipers), and even then Purple Sandpipers seemed unusually scarce.

Bonaparte's Gulls were extremely rare this winter and there was only a single report of Black-headed Gull. White-winged gulls, by contrast, were seemingly everywhere. Our most common species in this group is the Iceland Gull and, in addition to several in expected areas along the coast (not

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Thayer's Gull by Mike Resch, 1/13/14, East Kingston, NH.

listed), there were at least nine inland records, including a high count of three in Rochester and six discernable individuals in Salem at various times. The latter birds probably also account for records in East Kingston and Manchester (and another that appeared in Nashua in March). In addition to the returning adult at Seabrook, Glaucous Gulls also turned up in East Kingston, Salem, and Nashua. But trumping both the preceding species is the enigmatic **Thayer's Gull**. A bird matching most characteristics for this species (which is somewhat intermediate between Herring and Iceland, and sometimes considered a subspecies of the latter) appeared at a meat pile in East Kingston in mid-January, where it was well-documented and awaits formal review. Another possible Thayer's from the coast in December was eventually suspected to be an aberrant Herring Gull or some sort of hybrid. Two small terns seen in Rye on December 12 were suspected to be Commons, but Forster's is the more likely species in early winter in New England.

Date # Location Observer

Double-crested Cormorant

12/01 1 Hampton Beach SP Z. Cornell, R. Suomala, S. Mirick
 12/08 1 Portsmouth Commercial Fish Pier S. Mirick
 12/16 1 Henrys Pool, Rt. 101E, Hampton S. Santino

Great Cormorant

01/05 1 Commercial St., Manchester Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
 01/25 15 Concord Pt., Rye P. Hunt, R. Suomala, P. Ackerson
 01/28 4 Stark Landing, Manchester S. Mirick
 02/17 2 Waumbec St., Manchester G. & J. McKibben
 02/22 1 Nashua R. & Merrimack R. e. of Main St.,
 Nashua C. Sheridan

Date # Location Observer



Great Blue Heron and Great Egret by David Lipsy, 12/03/13, N. Hampton, NH.

Great Blue Heron

12/08 1 Fields Grove City Park, Nashua C. Sheridan
 02/17 1 Sewalls Falls, Concord J. Nadeau

Great Egret

12/01 1 Philbrick Marsh, N. Hampton S. Mirick
 12/09 2 Philbrick Marsh, N. Hampton S. Mirick
 12/12 1 Philbrick Marsh, N. Hampton C. Sheridan

Black-crowned Night-Heron

12/02 1 Exeter R. at Phillips-Exeter Academy R. Aaronian
 12/08 1 Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's
 Coop., Seabrook S. Mirick

Turkey Vulture

01/10 7 Stepping Stone Rd., Lee A. Tappan
 02/08 11 Exeter D. Finch, B. White
 02/15 8 Lincoln Street Elementary School, Exeter P. Lacourse
 02/22 2 Nashua R. & Merrimack R.
 e. of Main St., Nashua C. Sheridan
 02/23 2 Salem A. Altena, K. Wilmarth
 02/25 6 Butterfield & Coe Hill Rd., Center Harbor J. Merrill

Northern Goshawk

12/08 1 Rt. 302, N. Conway B. Griffith
 12/08 1 Hawkin's Farm, Salem A. Altena, K. Wilmarth
 01/14 1 Harris Center, Hancock E. Masterson
 02/23 1 WMNF, Starr King Trail, Jefferson B. Griffith, L. Kras



Red-shouldered Hawk by Amanda Altena, 2/13/14, Salem, NH.

Date	#	Location	Observer
Red-shouldered Hawk			
12/22	1	Dort Rd., Rt.12A, Surry	E. Masterson, W. Ward, H. Walters
01/18	1	Exeter WTP	S. Bennett
01/21	1	Quaker Lane, Seabrook	S. Mirick
02/13	1	Geremonty Dr. marsh, Salem	K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
02/20	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	C. Prieto
02/20	1	Geremonty Dr. marsh, Salem	K. Wilmarth
02/22	1	Great Bog, Banfield Rd., Portsmouth	C. Duford

Date	#	Location	Observer
Rough-legged Hawk			
12/16	1	Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton	I. MacLeod
12/17	1	Rye Harbor SP	J. Lambert
12/17	1	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	P. Brown, K. Klapper, K. Fenton, H. Walters
12/31	1	Great Bay NWR, Newington	J. Sparrell
01/19	1	Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook	C. Caron, T. Pirro
01/25	1	Great Bay, Greenland	P. Brown, H. Walters

Date	#	Location	Observer
American Coot			
01/03	1	Messer St. bridge, Laconia	S. Zaza, P. Fernandes
01/18	1	Winnisquam Trail near Messer St., Laconia	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
01/27	1	Wolfeboro Bay	W. Chatel

Date	#	Location	Observer
Black-bellied Plover			
12/01	1	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
12/03	1	Seabrook	B. Stymeist

Date	#	Location	Observer
Killdeer			
12/14	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	B. Griffith, L. Kras, et al.
12/16	1	Henrys Pool, Rt. 101E, Hampton	J. Lambert
02/24	1	Winnipesaukee R. behind Rt. 140 plaza, Tilton	S. Stoddard

Date	#	Location	Observer
Ruddy Turnstone			
02/04	1	Little Boars Head, N. Hampton	D. Doubleday

Date	#	Location	Observer
Sanderling			
12/14	45	Hampton Beach SP	J. MacQueen
01/12	55	Seabrook Beach	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
02/01	70	Hampton Beach SP	P. Hunt, Capital Chapter FT
02/04	110	Little Boars Head, N. Hampton	S. Bennett

Date	#	Location	Observer
Dunlin			
12/01	250	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
12/05	147	Hampton Beach SP	J. Berry
01/25	20	Concord Point, Rye	P. Hunt, et al.
02/23	7	Hampton Harbor, northside jetty	C. Borg, et al.



Purple Sandpiper by Len Medlock, 1/20/14, Rye Harbor, NH.

Date	#	Location	Observer
Purple Sandpiper			
12/24	23	Rye	C. Sheridan, D. Fortnam
01/04	43	NH coast	S. Mirick
01/09	43	Seal Rocks, Rye	S. Stoddard
01/20	46	Rye Harbor SP	Z. Cornell
02/01	38	Little Boars Head, N. Hampton	B. Crowley, J. Scott



Wilson's Snipe by David Lipsy, 12/18/13, Hampton Marsh, NH.

Date	#	Location	Observer
Wilson's Snipe			
12/18	1	Rt. 101 marsh, Hampton	M. Harvey, S. Bennett, P. Peterson

Date	#	Location	Observer
Dovekie			
01/24	1	Rye Harbor	H. Walters, K. Fenton



Thick-billed Murre by Steve Mirick, 1/17/14, Hampton, NH.

Date	#	Location	Observer
Thick-billed Muure			
01/11	1	Seal Rocks, Rye	J. Lambert
01/18	1	Rye	B. Johnson, S. Barnes, L. Mack, D. Schulman
01/18	1	North Side Park, Hampton	S. Mirick
01/24	1	N. Hampton State Beach	J. O'Shaughnessy
01/25	1	Great Boars Head, Hampton	S. Mirick
02/04	1	Great Boars Head, Hampton	S. Bennett, J. Carroll
02/04	1	cove s. of Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	D. Hubbard

Date	#	Location	Observer
Razorbill			
12/29	14	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	F. Marengi, J. Shenot
01/12	44	Little Boars Head, N. Hampton	S. Mirick
01/12	20	Seabrook Beach	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala

Date	#	Location	Observer
Black Guillemot			
02/23	8	offshore waters near Isles of Shoals	Z. Cornell, et al.

Date	#	Location	Observer
Black-legged Kittiwake			
12/09	1	Pulpit Rocks, Rye	S. Mirick
01/14	1	Rye Harbor SP	J. Lambert

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Date	#	Location	Observer
Bonaparte's Gull			
12/31	1	NH coast	S. Mirick
01/18	3	NH coast	P. Brown, E. Masterson, C. Seifer
02/23	1	Jeffreys Ledge	E. Masterson



Black-headed Gull by Kyle Wilmarth, 12/29/13, Rye, NH.

12/29	1	Bass Beach Cove, Rye	K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
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Thayer's Gull			
01/08	1	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch, et al.
01/16	1	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch, et al.

Iceland Gull			
12/11	1	Rockingham Park, Salem	K. Wilmarth
12/23	2	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch
12/27	1	Hedgehog Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
12/28	1	Merrimack R. between Pleasant & Bridge St., Manchester	F. Marengi, J. Shenot
01/07	2	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
01/14	1	Hedgehog Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
01/14	2	Rockingham Park, Salem	K. Wilmarth
01/15	1	Exeter WTP	J. Sparrell
01/15	5	Rochester WTP	S. Young
01/18	4	NH coast	S. Mirick
02/18	3	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
02/27	1	Rockingham Park, Salem	K. Wilmarth

Lesser Black-backed Gull			
12/14	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert, M. Bassett
12/29	1	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch
01/11	1	Eel Pond, Rye	S. Mirick, K. Towler, J. Sparrell, J. Lambert
02/08	1	Great Boars Head, Hampton	K. Kittelberger



Glaucous Gull by Kyle Wilmarth, 1/29/14, Rockingham Park, Salem, NH.

12/23	1	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch
12/24	3	NH coast	K. Wilmarth
12/31	1	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
01/08	1	Exeter WTP	J. Lambert

Date	#	Location	Observer
01/09	1	downtown Nashua	C. Sheridan
01/29	1	Rockingham Park, Salem	K. Wilmarth
02/11	2	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
Tern (Sterna) sp.			
12/12	2	Ragged Neck, Rye	C. Sheridan

Owls through Falcons



The much-photographed Snowy Owl that spent the winter at Rye Harbor State Park. Photo by Karen Bachelder, 2/8/14.

In the event you were somewhere outside of North America this winter, I'll simply state that there were a few Snowy Owls around. In one of this species' largest-ever irruptions into the Northeast, Snowy Owls made it as far south and east as Jacksonville, Florida and Bermuda, and were simply everywhere in New England. At one point in late November, when the influx started, observers in coastal New Hampshire tallied as many as eleven in a single day. By early December, most had settled into their favorite spots along the coast, although as the listings show there were also several inland during this period. Most of these inland birds were in the Connecticut and Merrimack River Valleys, but with the exception of a long-staying bird in Merrimack, most were only seen for a day or two. Those on the coast, in stark contrast, became celebrities. Most famous of all was one at Rye Harbor State Park that was probably photographed by hundreds of people from December through April (and which caused owl jams on Route 1A – see the Photo Gallery), but others at Odiorne Point State Park and Hampton/Seabrook also had their share of the paparazzi. I estimate 8-10 such resident birds along the immediate coast and another 1-2 at Pease or Great Bay, but because of the sheer number of reports they are not included in the listings below. It is generally assumed that the birds at the latter location were in something of a state of flux, since at least

once, owls were captured and relocated to Coos County (*vide* Dave Govatski). At least three were also reported from Star Island, although these were not submitted to eBird.

The general consensus in ornithological circles is that this Snowy Owl invasion was the result of a good breeding season in northern Quebec, which is probably why the invasion had an eastern bias. Lemmings were apparently everywhere and this allowed owls to have larger clutches and successfully raise more young. Once winter started all these young owls had to go somewhere and north was not a viable option. So south they came, in numbers not seen for perhaps half a century or more. As one would expect given the presumed reason for the irruption, most of the birds were young, often (but not always) indicated by relatively dark plumage, and generally in good shape. Several birds were fitted with satellite transmitters in the Northeast and Midwest and you can see their movements on the Project SNOWstorm website: <http://www.projectsnowstorm.org/>. Many owls were still in New Hampshire well into the spring, but you'll have to wait until the next issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* to learn what they were up to!!

A locally rare Short-eared Owl (or possibly two) made an appearance along the coast in December and, at the month's end, one made a cameo appearance at a far-less-expected location in the Lakes Region. For the second season in a row, New Hampshire hosted a wintering Red-headed Woodpecker. This one appeared in Alstead in January and continued at least into March. Another appeared briefly near Great Bay in Newmarket in February. Northernmost Red-bellied Woodpeckers were almost all at the same latitude in Lyme, Campton, and North Conway. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were again widespread, with at least ten in the southern part of the state and one well to the north in Bartlett. This total does not include additional birds on Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) or NH Audubon's Backyard Winter Bird Survey.

To return to the theme of arctic raptors that started this section, one of "the birds" of the season was the immature **Gyr Falcon** found in Hampton during the Coastal CBC. It proved hard to relocate, however, was only found by a few of many birders who searched for it, and was last conclusively seen only three days later. The rise and fall of Merlin and American Kestrel populations continues, respectively, with scattered records of the former and no reports of the latter (except on the CBCs, see the CBC Summary). Northern Shrikes staged a relatively average incursion with at least 20 individuals reported throughout the state.

Date	#	Location	Observer
Eastern Screech-Owl			
12/14	1	Brackett Rd., Rye	Z. Cornell, P. Hunt
12/21	1	Lee-Durham CBC, Dover n. sector	J. Lambert
01/21	1	Salem residence	A. Altena, K. Wilmarth



Snowy Owl by Bob Lisk, 12/11/13, Gilmanton, NH.

Date	#	Location	Observer
Snowy Owl			
12/04	1	Lake Massabesic, Massabesic Audubon Center, Auburn	J. Woolf
12/05	1	Shackford Pt., Lamprey R. mouth, Newmarket	A. Crawford, D. Arnold
12/07	1	Ten Rod Rd., New Durham	D.& D. Monahan
12/08	1	Sunset Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick
12/08	1	Sam's Club, Manchester	J. Smith
12/11	1	Province Rd., Gilmanton	C.& B. Lisk
12/11	1	Fort Stark, New Castle	C. Prieto
12/14	1	Sawyer Farm, River Rd., Walpole	T. Johansson, D. Clark
12/17	1	BAE Systems, Nashua	J. Hickey
12/22	1	Anheuser-Busch, Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack	J. Wing
12/28	1	Pease Intl. Tradeport, Newington Rd.	D. Lania
01/04	2	Short Rd., Pease Intl. Tradeport, Newington	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
01/06	1	Kollman's Athletic Field, Merrimack	C. Sheridan, D. Fortnam
01/20	2	Short Rd., Pease Intl. Tradeport, Newington	P. Hunt, R. Suomala
01/29	1	Brattleboro Rd. at Prospect St., Hinsdale	L. Grimes
01/31	1	Morse Hill Rd., Charlestown	H.& C. Hill
02/01	1	Gill Stadium, Manchester	T. Reinhardt
02/04	2	Short Rd., Pease Intl. Tradeport, Newington	S. Bennett



Short-eared Owl by Joel Huntress, 1/5/14, Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook, NH.

Date	#	Location	Observer
Short-eared Owl			
12/13	1	Rt. 1A wooden bridge, Rye	S. Bennett
12/21	1	Island Path, Hampton	M. Suomala, et al.
12/28	1	Hadley Rd., Laconia	H.C. Anderson
01/05	1	Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook	J. Sparrell

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Date # Location Observer

Northern Saw-whet Owl

12/30 1 Rt. 9, Barrington J. Pietrzak
 01/25 1 Love Lane, Rye S. Mirick, R. Suomala
 02/03 1 Colebrook S. Severs
 02/23 1 Auburn residence J. Pettipas



Red-headed Woodpecker
 by Eric Masterson, 1/9/14,
 Alstead, NH.

Red-headed Woodpecker

01/04 1 Alstead residence L. Therrien
 01/19 1 Chartier Ln., Alstead A. Burnett
 02/15 1 Barberry Coast, Newmarket R. Ellwood

Red-bellied Woodpecker

12/15 2 Trapper Rd., Campton I. Gould
 01/03 1 Skimobile Rd., N. Conway D. Eddison
 01/28 1 Hulbert Outdoor Center, Lyme M. Sabatine,
 J. Wagner

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

12/14 1 Holland Way, Exeter D. Deifik
 12/14 2 Coastal CBC, Kensington sector D. Tucker, et al.
 12/14 1 River Rd. s., Walpole D. Clark
 12/17 1 Columbia Ave., Nashua J. Maher
 12/17 1 Beckman's Landing, Seabrook J. Lambert
 12/28 1 Border St., Milford R. Suomala, M. Suomala
 12/29 1 Ruby Ln., Tilton P. Hunt
 01/08 1 Beeson & Chester St., Nashua J. Maher
 01/13 1 Bartlett C. Costello
 01/25 1 Brackett Rd., Rye P. Hunt, et al.
 01/25 1 Red Mill Ln., Rye P. Hunt, et al.

Black-backed Woodpecker

02/27 1 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson
 /Whitefield D. Govatski

Merlin

12/01 1 Hampton Harbor K. Wilmarth
 12/17 1 Airport Marsh, Whitefield P. Brown, H. Walters
 01/04 1 Wentworth-Douglas Hospital,
 Central Ave., Dover A. Aldrich
 01/08 1 Short Rd., Pease Intl. Tradeport, Newington
 P. Miliotis
 02/06 1 Nashua River N. Murphy
 02/09 1 Sanborn Rd., Ashland I. MacLeod
 02/18 1 Hanover Country Club W. Cripps
 02/20 1 Spicket R. at Hawkin's Farm, Salem K. Wilmarth

Gyr Falcon

12/14 1 Rt. 101 marshes, Hampton W. Fogleman
 12/17 1 Rt. 101 marshes, Hampton D.& H. Mauer



Gyr Falcon by Joann O'Shaughnessy, 12/14/13, Henrys Pool, Rt. 101E,
 Hampton, NH.

Jays through Snow Bunting

A Gray Jay was photographed in Effingham which is an unusual location for this species. They are typically found farther north and at higher elevation where the forests are predominantly spruce and fir. There are very few records south of the White Mountains.

Fish Crows continue to be a rare wintering species in the state, but careful observers are now documenting them with some regularity in the extreme southern portions of Rockingham County. As this species continues to expand north and the climate continues to warm, we should see them increasing their winter presence over the next 10-20 years. It was another good season for open country birds like Horned Lark, Snow Bunting, and Lapland Longspur. Longspurs in particular were quite numerous, with double-digit counts along the coast, several in Nashua, and singles in the Connecticut River Valley. American Pipits were also present in above-average numbers along the coast, but far less expected was one seen and heard far offshore during the late February pelagic trip!



Ruby-crowned Kinglet by Donna Ellis, 2/14/14, Manchester, NH.

Carolina Wrens appeared to stage a major northward dispersal event in the fall of 2013. How else do we explain the three reports from Coos County this winter? The next most northerly birds (in Orford and Alexandria) were tropical by comparison. There are only three previous records of the species from Coos County, all from the Lancaster/Groveton area, and none were from the winter season. At the other end of the state, two Ruby-crowned Kinglets managed to linger into winter, with one eking out an existence along the river in downtown Manchester at least into mid-February.

This winter, American Robins generally appeared less common than usual at the start of the season, but as winter progressed (and got more wintery) larger flocks started congregating. The listings below include *all* reports of over 100 individuals. There were at least nine Gray Catbirds, with eight in Rockingham County and one less-expected well inland in Hillsborough. Unlike robins, Cedar Waxwings seemed to occur in similarly-sized flocks throughout the winter, although the species in general was far more dispersed and not easily found in many areas. Among the Cedars were literally a handful of Bohemians, a grand total of three birds in the Lakes Region. Bohemian Waxwings were scarce across most of the Northeast this winter, with the only concentrations in northern Maine.

Date # Location Observer

Gray Jay

12/09	4	Mts. Field & Tom loop, Bethlehem	L. Kras, B. Griffith
12/18	4	Errol Hills Estate, Rt. 26, Errol	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, D. Deifk
12/19	12	East Inlet dam, Pittsburg	R. Quinn
01/12	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski
02/08	1	Province Lake Rd., Effingham	M. Gruel
02/09	2	Deer Mountain SP, Pittsburg	Z. Cornell
02/22	2	Crawford Path, WMNF, Carroll	G.& J. McKibben

Fish Crow

12/21	1	Salem residence	K. Wilmarth
01/09	3	Target, S. Broadway, Salem	K. Wilmarth
02/01	1	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch
02/08	2	Barnes & Noble, Salem	A. Altena, K. Wilmarth

Horned Lark

12/10	68	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	A. Burnett
12/14	100	Squamscott Rd., Stratham	S. Mirick
12/15	50	Boggy Meadow Farm, River Rd., Walpole	A. Burnett
12/26	50	Manchester-Boston Regional Airport, Londonderry	M. Harvey
12/28	50	Nashua Airport Boire Field, Perimeter Rd.	D. Fortnam
01/19	60	Broad St., Hollis	J. Wing
01/24	67	Stuart Farm, Stratham	S. Mirick

Date # Location Observer

Boreal Chickadee

12/09	4	Mts. Field & Tom loop, Bethlehem	L. Kras, B. Griffith
12/18	2	Lakeside Rd., Cambridge	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
12/19	12	Lake Frances SP, Pittsburg CBC	H. Walters
01/10	2	Liberty Springs Trail, Lincoln	G. Sorenson
02/08	4	Crawford Depot, Carroll	D. Bates
02/23	5	Starr King Trail, Jefferson	B. Griffith, L. Kras

Marsh Wren

12/14	1	Greenland Sector, Coastal CBC	S. Mirick
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Carolina Wren

12/23	1	Berlin residence	K. Dube
01/04	1	Second Connecticut Lake, Pittsburg	A. Altena, K. Wilmarth
01/19	1	Patten Rd., Alexandria	J. Thompson
02/09	1	Rivendell Academy, Orford	J. MacQueen
02/28	1	Grove St., Lancaster	D. Haas

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

12/01	1	Eel Pond, Rye	B. Griffith
02/14	1	Merrimack R., Manchester	D. Ellis
02/17	1	N. Commercial St., Manchester	P. Hunt

Hermit Thrush

12/14	1	Etna residence	D. Merker
12/23	1	Mont Vernon residence	K. Mitchell

American Robin

12/14	1800	Greenland Sector, Coastal CBC	S. Mirick
01/04	1500	Portsmouth Traffic Circle	D. Tucker
01/08	200	Mallard Point Rd., Merrimack	J. McKibben
01/29	250	Ayer St. at Webster St., Nashua	J. Maher
02/03	200	Kingston	E. Nathan
02/05	335	Marlborough St., Keene	W. Ward
02/15	115	Basin St., Concord	R. Quinn, D. Howe
02/15	200	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	R. Quinn, D. Howe

Gray Catbird

12/14	2	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert, M. Bassett
12/21	1	Toftree Ln., Dover	J. Lambert
12/25	1	Exeter residence	R. Aaronian
01/23	2	Woodland Rd., N. Hampton	J. Lambert
01/24	1	Brackett Rd., Rye	S. Mirick, P. Lacourse
01/24	1	Willowbrook Ave., Stratham	S. Mirick, P. Lacourse
02/03	1	Brackett Rd., Rye	K. Wilmarth
02/15	1	Woodland Rd., N. Hampton	S. Mirick
02/22	1	Preston St., Hillsborough	J. Flanders
02/25	1	Willowbrook Ave., Stratham	S. Mirick

Brown Thrasher

12/14	1	Brackett Rd., Rye	P. Hunt, Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
12/14	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert, M. Bassett
01/15	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	S. Mirick
02/09	1	Brackett Rd., Rye	S.& J. Mirick

American Pipit

12/26	2	Ragged Neck, Rye	S. Mirick
01/26	1	Rye Ledge	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, S. Mirick

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Date # Location Observer

American Pipit—continued

02/23 4 Rye Harbor P. Miliotis, C.& J. Estrella
02/23 1 Jeffreys Ledge R. Woodward, et al.

Bohemian Waxwing

12/29 2 Cherry Valley Rd., Gilford P. Fernandes
02/09 1 Coe Hill Rd., Center Harbor J. Merrill

CedarWaxwing

12/04 200 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye D. Bernstein
12/14 161 Peterborough-Hancock CBC,
N. Hancock sector P. Brown, K. Fenton
12/20 175 Sutton Rd., New London J. Esten
12/21 285 Lee-Durham CBC, Madbury
n. sector R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
12/21 135 West Cemetery, Rt. 10, Orford J. MacQueen
12/28 250 Christian Hill, Amherst R.& M. Suomala
12/30 350 Sunapee residence D. Jackson
01/02 175 downtown N. Conway J. Maher
01/05 120 USFWS Karner Blue easement, Concord
P. Hunt, S. Manifold
01/12 450 downtown Peterborough P. Brown
01/13 100 Holy Rosary Credit Union,
Brock St., Rochester D. Hubbard
01/17 100 Pickering Ponds, Rochester D. Hubbard
01/20 108 Story Land, Glen J. Maher
01/24 100 Woodward Rd., Westmoreland A. Burnett
01/27 100 Horseshoe Pond, Concord D. Lania
02/02 220 Rt. 9, Chesterfield H. Walters, W. Ward
02/05 210 Marlborough St., Keene W. Ward
02/06 100 Sudikoff Lab, Maynard St., Hanover W. Cripps

Lapland Longspur

12/10 1 Woodward Rd., Westmoreland A. Burnett
12/14 1 Greenland sector, Coastal CBC S. Mirick
12/16 1 Boggy Meadow Farm, River Rd., Walpole J. Russo
12/26 1 Hampton Beach SP J. Lambert
12/28 2 Nashua Airport Boire Field,
Perimeter Rd. D. Fortnam
01/04 11 NH coast S. Mirick
01/05 9 Nashua Airport Boire Field,
Perimeter Rd. J.& G. McKibben
01/05 16 NH coast J. Lambert
01/08 20 NH coast J. Lambert
01/15 8 Hampton Beach SP G.& J. McKibben
01/28 2 Hampton Beach SP J. Lawson



*Snow Buntings by
David Lipsy, 1/7/14,
Hampton Beach SP.*

Snow Bunting

12/02 100 Rochester WTP S. Young
12/08 100 Seabrook Beach S. Mirick

Date # Location Observer

12/08 40 Sawyer Farm, River Rd., Walpole A. Burnett
12/19 3 Lake Frances SP, Pittsburg CBC
P. Brown, K. Klapper, K. Fenton, H. Walters
12/26 50 Manchester-Boston Regional Airport,
Londonderry M. Harvey
12/27 100 Hampton Beach SP F. Marengi
12/28 50 Nashua-Hollis CBC, Pine Hill, Hollis J. Maher
01/01 32 Beans & Greens Farm, Gilford P. Fernandes, S. Zaza
01/06 30 Nashua Airport Boire Field, Perimeter Rd.
C. Sheridan, D. Fortnam
01/09 12 Squam Lake I. MacLeod
01/15 30 Brown Farm, Hancock P. Brown
01/26 140 Peaked Moon Farm, Piermont J. MacQueen
01/27 30 Burough Rd., Canterbury A. Taylor
01/31 31 Wilder Dam, Lebanon B. Allison
02/06 150 N. Thetford & Breck Hill Rd., Lyme J. Norton
02/08 45 Kelley Horse Ranch, Milan
Z. Cornell, K. Dube, Seacoast Chapter FT
02/18 60 Burough Rd., Canterbury A. Taylor
02/22 58 South Court St., Woodsville R. Quinn
02/22 42 Moore Reservoir, Littleton R. Quinn
02/23 40 Rt. 116, Jefferson L. Kras, B. Griffith
02/23 50 Waumbek Golf Course, Jefferson L. Kras, B. Griffith

Warblers through Finches

Winter started on a high note for warblers, with four species recorded at Odiorne Point State Park on the Coastal CBC December 14. The star was certainly the **Townsend's Warbler** discovered the previous weekend, but a winter **Palm Warbler** and Yellow-breasted Chat were nothing to sneeze at. The Townsend's frequented the same wrack-line (washed up seaweed) as the Cape May Warbler of 2011-12, and was regularly joined by multiple Yellow-rumped Warblers. The latter continued in numbers through the end of the month, but then, as in most years, reports got sparse through the remainder of the season. More unexpected was a Yellow-rumped at a feeder well inland in Alstead in early January and one that spent the winter at a feeder in Bath.



Townsend's Warbler by Warren Trested, 12/10/13, Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye, NH.

Another western vagrant, and one that entertained far more birders than the Townsend's Warbler, was the **Spotted**

Towhee first discovered in a tiny Rye thicket along Route 1A on January 25. The great irony of this discovery was that this was the day of the annual Superbowl of Birding, in which five teams of birders were scouring the New Hampshire Seacoast (see page 33), but *none* of them found the towhee. It ended up lingering well into spring and, during the early part of its stay, was almost as effective at creating traffic jams as the Snowy Owl a few miles farther north. A handful of Eastern Towhees was about par for the course in these days of increasing numbers of half-hardies. There was a nice mix of unexpected sparrows, mostly near the Seacoast. Included in this list were two Clay-colored (close to annual in early winter), unexpected **Lincoln's** and **Nelson's**, a trio of White-crowns, and apparently two *different* **Oregon Dark-eyed Juncos**. The Nelson's Sparrow is perhaps most unusual, since most individuals of this species winter in the mid-Atlantic or southern states and the species has only been found a handful of times in New Hampshire in winter.

Finally, there were the winter finches, or more accurately the *lack* of winter finches. Very few individuals of any species wandered south of Canada this winter and, of those that did, the majority were in far northern New Hampshire. The only exception was our state bird, the Purple Finch. Even then, numbers dropped precipitously after a major peak in extreme northern New Hampshire in December and birds were few and far between elsewhere. Where all the December birds actually *went* remains something of a mystery, since a perusal of eBird data shows a good spread of sightings to our south (all the way to Georgia) in January and February, but generally low numbers. The only other finch reliably reported south of the mountains was the Evening Grosbeak, but as has become the norm, they were widely scattered and in very low numbers.

Date	#	Location	Observer
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Palm Warbler

12/14	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	P. Hunt
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Pine Warbler

12/28	1	Brentwood residence	H. Hutchinson
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Yellow-rumped Warbler by Donna Ward, 1/2/14, Alstead, NH.

Date	#	Location	Observer
Yellow-rumped Warbler			
12/14	3	Coastal CBC, Kensington sector	D. Tucker, et al.
12/14	8	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	L. Medlock
12/21	1	Watson & Cocheco R., Dover R.	Suomala, Z. Cornell
12/24	12	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	C. Sheridan, D. Fortnam
12/28	1	Nashua n. sector, Nashua-Hollis CBC	D. Deifik, J. Kirk
12/28	1	Nashua R. & Merrimack R., Nashua	C. Sheridan, J. Kegley
01/03	1	Alstead residence	D. Ward
01/21	2	Seabrook WTP	S. Mirick
01/25	1	Willowbrook Ave., Stratham	S. Mirick, P. Lacourse, K. Dorsey
02/01	1	Eel Pond, Rye	S. Mirick
02/09	1	Hill Rd., Bath	L. Michelsen
02/15	1	Seabrook WTP	S. Mirick



Townsend's Warbler by Aiden Moser, 12/8/13, Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye, NH.

Townsend's Warbler

12/08	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	A. Moser
12/14	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert, M. Bassett, et al.

Yellow-breasted Chat

12/14	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert, M. Bassett
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Spotted Towhee by Phil Brown, 2/3/14, Rye, NH.

Spotted Towhee

01/25	1	Central Rd. at Rt. 1A, Rye	J. Smith
02/25	1	Central Rd. at Rt. 1A, Rye	A. Aldrich, K. Janes
02/25	1	Central Rd. at Rt. 1A, Rye	S. Mirick, A. Moser

WINTER SEASON

Date # Location Observer



Eastern Towhee
by Steve Mirick,
1/27/14,
Appledore Ave.,
N. Hampton,
NH.

Eastern Towhee

12/17 1 Epping residence S. Basile
12/21 1 Watson Rd. & Cardinal Dr., Dover
R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
01/13 1 Ashland residence K. Chamberlin
01/21 1 Appledore Ave., N. Hampton S. Mirick
02/25 1 Appledore Ave., N. Hampton S. Mirick

Chipping Sparrow

12/03 1 Kendal at Hanover, Lyme Rd. J. Norton
12/11 1 Bretton Woods, Carroll L. Bergum
12/15 1 Caldwell Rd., Nashua C. Sheridan
12/21 1 Oyster River sector, Lee-Durham CBC
S. Mirick, J. & D. Ekstrom
01/07 3 Caldwell Rd., Nashua C. Sheridan
02/17 1 Sunapee Middle HS, N Rd.
Sunapee Middle School Class



Clay-colored Sparrow by Andrea Robbins, 12/08/13, Allentown, NH.

Clay-colored Sparrow

12/08 1 School St., Allentown A. & G. Robbins
12/16 1 River Rd., Stratham Z. Cornell
12/20 1 Scamman's Farm, River Rd., Stratham K. Wilmarth

Field Sparrow

12/14 2 Hampton and Seabrook beaches K. Wilmarth
12/28 1 Nashua n. sector, Nashua-Hollis CBC
D. Deifik, J. Kirk

Savannah Sparrow - Ipswich subsp.

12/02 1 Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook D. Ely
01/04 3 Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook S. Mirick
01/05 4 NH coast J. Lambert
01/22 2 Rt. 1A, Seabrook S. Mirick

Date # Location Observer

Nelson's Sparrow

12/18 1 Hampton Marsh n. of Rt. 101 M. Harvey

Lincoln's Sparrow

01/24 1 Great Bay Rd., Greenland S. Mirick, P. Lacourse
01/25 1 Great Bay Rd., Greenland
S. Mirick, P. Lacourse, K. Dorsey

Swamp Sparrow

01/05 1 Great Bay Farm, Greenland S. Mirick
01/15 1 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye S. Mirick
01/17 1 Squamscott R., Exeter S. Mirick
01/19 1 Webster Ave., Exeter S. Mirick
01/21 1 Rt. 111, N. Hampton S. Mirick
02/01 2 North Shore Rd., Hampton S. Mirick

White-crowned Sparrow

12/14 3 Greenland sector, Coastal CBC S. Mirick
02/20 3 Great Bay Farm, Greenland S. Mirick



Oregon Junco by Steve Mirick, 1/27/14, Hampton, NH

Dark-eyed Junco - Oregon subsp.

01/22 1 Huckleberry Ln., Hampton S. Mirick
01/27 1 North Shore Rd., Hampton S. Mirick



Rusty Blackbird by Zeke
Cornell, 12/30/13, Melanie
Ln., Bow, NH.

Rusty Blackbird

12/01 2 Sawyer Meadows, Gilford H. Anderson
12/09 2 South Rd., E. Kingston D. Finch
12/11 2 Tilton Hill Rd. at the Suncook R., Pittsfield
A. & G. Robbins
12/14 25 Greenland sector, Coastal CBC S. Mirick
12/15 1 South Rd., E. Kingston D. Finch
12/16 2 Boggy Meadow Farm, River Rd., Walpole D. Clark
12/22 1 Keene CBC, Westmoreland s. sector
P. Brown, D. Edwards

Date	#	Location	Observer
12/30	1	Melanie Ln., Bow	Z. Cornell
02/15	5	Fowler St., Penacook	P. Hunt
02/22	1	Sandwich residence	J. Rice
02/23	3	Goss Farm, Rye	C. Estrella, P. Miliotis
02/28	2	Tilton Hill Rd. at the Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins

Brown-headed Cowbird

01/18	150	South Rd., E. Kingston	P. Brown, E. Masterson, C. Seifer, D. Finch, et al.
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Baltimore Oriole by Susan Dionne, 12/15/13, Derry, NH

Baltimore Oriole

12/15	1	Derry residence	P.& S. Dionne
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Pine Grosbeak

12/19	16	Rt. 3 n. of Deer Mountain, Pittsburg	R. Quinn, D. Govatski, K. Wethersfield
01/02	1	Ravenwood Farm, Greenfield	T. Shiel

Purple Finch

12/02	2	Green Hill Rd., Conway, NH	G. Baker
12/08	2	Sawyer Farm, River Rd., Walpole	A. Burnett
12/09	1	Tilton Hill Rd. at the Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins
12/14	3	Peterborough-Hancock CBC, N. Hancock sector	P. Brown, K Fenton
12/14	3	River Rd., Sunapee	D. Jackson
12/19	84	Lake Frances SP, Pittsburg	P. Brown, K. Klapper, K. Fenton, H. Walters
12/19	25	Pittsburg CBC, Indian Stream sector	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, C. Martin, S. McCumber
12/19	100	Rt. 3 n. of Deer Mountain, Pittsburg CBC	R. Quinn, D. Govatski, K. Wethersfield
12/22	8	Keene CBC, Westmoreland s. sector	P. Brown, D. Edwards
01/01	5	Hanover-Norwich CBC	P. LaBelle
01/01	1	Hanover-Norwich CBC, Lyme sector	J. MacQueen
01/18	2	Rt. 150 powerline, Kensington	P. Brown, E. Masterson, C. Seifer

Date	#	Location	Observer
01/21	4	Harris Center, Hancock	E. Masterson
02/07	1	Ten Rod Rd., Rochester	D. Hubbard
02/16	10	Center District Rd., Sugar Hill	E. Fraser
02/20	4	Portland St., Lancaster	S. Stoddard
02/28	12	Bailey Rd., Jefferson	D. Govatski

White-winged Crossbill

12/18	3	Lakeside Rd., Cambridge	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
12/19	2	Pittsburg CBC, Indian Stream sector	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, C. Martin, S. McCumber

Common Redpoll

12/18	1	Braggs Bay, Errol	R. Quinn, S. McCumber
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Pine Siskin

01/04	15	Pittsburg, NH	A. Altena, K. Wilmarth
02/08	1	Twin Mountain, Carroll	D. Bates
02/09	6	Deer Mountain SP, Pittsburg	Z. Cornell

Evening Grosbeak

12/22	6	New London	M. Vernon
01/01	1	Hanover-Norwich CBC	P. LaBelle
01/20	1	Scott Mitchell Rd., Peterborough	H. Walters
02/23	12	Dodge Hollow Rd., Lempster	T. Riel



Northern Flicker by Carolyn Barkowski, 1/10/14, Bedford, NH.

Christmas Bird Count Summary 2013-2014

by David Deifk

This year's Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) were held between December 14, 2013 and January 5, 2014. There are now 19 counts whose center is within New Hampshire borders. Although centered in Vermont, the Barnet and Saxton's River CBCs overlap into New Hampshire as well. Two of the New Hampshire counts have substantial overlap into neighboring states. The Hanover-Norwich CBC extends into Vermont and the Isles of Shoals CBC substantially extends into Maine. Three other counts have minor overlap into neighboring states as well, those being Errol-Umbagog and North Conway into Maine and Nashua having a tiny overlap into Massachusetts. Of the New Hampshire counts, all but the Isles-of-Shoals count were run this year. Poor sea conditions were responsible for the cancellation of the count for the second year in a row. Sightings from the New Hampshire portion of the Saxton's River and Barnet, Vermont counts do not appear in the CBC table, but we did obtain data from the Saxton's River count. Highlights of that data are presented in the summaries of the individual counts below.

Total species across all counts were 146 compared to 134 last year. For the first time in two years there was a new species to the state. This was a Fish Crow seen on the Nashua-Hollis CBC. There was a previous count week record from 2009 on the Lee-Durham count. The total count of species ever seen across all counts is now 248. There have only been three new species in the last seven years, a Northern Parula on the Coastal count in 2011, a Clay-colored Sparrow for the Concord count in 2006, and the Fish Crow in Nashua this year. There were seven species that set new record high counts for the state, the same number as last year which is about the recent average. Three of these new records came from the Coastal CBC, and four came from the Lee-Durham count. There were 73 individual count high records this year compared to 62 last year. This is about



Hooded Mergansers by David Deifk on the Laconia CBC, 12/29/13, at Opechee Bay.

20% above the average of the last few years. There were eight species new to their respective counts compared to 19 last year, about half the average for recent years.

Inland waterfowl were not quite as abundant as last year. A notable exception was a count high for Common Merganser on the Nashua count. The only Wood Duck in the state was found on the Sunapee count (fourth record for the count). Ducks that are typically scarce inland included both scaup species on the Laconia count, as well as Ring-necked Duck found on both the Laconia and Sunapee counts. Barrow's Goldeneye was found on both the Coastal and Manchester counts (total of three). For our most numerous ducks, Mallard numbers were about 30% over the average of the last ten years. American Black Duck fared quite a bit worse than last year. They were down by about 25% of their 10 year average. Hooded Merganser records were found in about average numbers this year, down from the highs of the last two years. Inland Common Loon records were much scarcer than last year with only one quarter of the unusually high count of 25 last year. The Laconia count was the only source of these inland Common Loons.

As for raptors, Bald Eagles exceeded last year's total of 53 birds to set a new CBC record of 57 birds. The record high of 53 was set in 2008 and matched last year. They were widely distributed with reports from 16 of the 18 counts, two of those being new count highs. As late as 1999, state totals were in the single digits!

As with last year's CBCs, there was but a single American Kestrel which was recorded on the Lee-Durham count. This is only the third record in six years! As recently as eleven years ago, American Kestrel was at least seen in the high single digits on an annual basis.

One of the most outstanding records for the state this year was a Gyrfalcon found on the Coastal count, which was only the second state CBC record. Along with sightings of Merlin and Peregrine Falcon, this marks the first time that all four of the falcons on the New Hampshire State List have been seen during a Christmas Bird Count season!

Wild Turkey continues its population rise with a record number counted in the state. Every count recorded Wild Turkey and a new state count high was set by the Lee-Durham CBC. Both the Laconia and Hanover counts beat the previous state high as well! Two other counts set individual count highs.

One of the biggest winter events has been the virtually unprecedented influx of Snowy Owls to our region. This was reflected by a state record nine Snowy Owls found on the Coastal count. This was more than double the previous high of four set in 1954! Singles were also found on the Nashua count and in the New Hampshire portion of the Saxton's River count.



*Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
by David Deifik
on the Coastal CBC,
12/14/13, Exeter, NH.*

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker has been increasing over about the last five years with a previous maximum of six birds across the state. This year a total of 10 birds were seen (if one includes the New Hampshire birds on the Saxton's River count). The Coastal CBC set a state high record with four individuals. Laconia also had a count high of two. Pileated Woodpecker saw an approximately 80% increase over last year's count. Lee-Durham set a new state high of 25 birds.

Carolina Wren numbers were again outstanding with a record high of 169 counted which eclipsed the previous record of 100 set last year. This is almost three times the average of the last 10 years and significantly more than last year's count. Lee-Durham grabbed a new state high count to surpass the record set last year by the Coastal count by almost a factor of two! Eastern Bluebird exceeded the high numbers of last year which was a record year. Although there was not a new state high for a single count, five counts did set individual count highs.

Cedar Waxwing made a nice recovery from the low of 934 birds totaled last year. This year was about double the recent 10 year average.

The outstanding small passerine this year would have to be the Townsend's Warbler recorded on the Coastal CBC. This is only the second CBC record for the state.

Always quite rare for any CBC, Eastern Towhee was recorded on four counts this season with a total of five birds involved. The last time this was exceeded was back in the 1969-1970 season when nine birds were recorded (eight on the Coastal count!). It was a new species for the Peterborough-Hancock count.

New to the Coastal count was a Clay-colored Sparrow. This is only the third CBC record for the state with both previous records coming from the Concord count.

This was not a good flight year for any of the irruptive finches with the exception of Purple Finch. Three quarters of their total were seen on the Pittsburg count. Pine Grosbeak and Common Redpoll were virtually absent two years ago, but then had a very strong year last year. This year they were

again virtually absent with only single birds of each recorded. Both crossbills were virtually absent as well with only one Red Crossbill seen on the AMC-Crawford count and 13 White-winged Crossbills seen on the Pittsburg count. Pine Siskin was present in very modest numbers, only reported from three counts. Evening Grosbeak has nearly disappeared from our CBCs with only 11 reported this CBC. Almost all of them came from the Conway count with the exception of a single bird on the Hanover count.

Individual Count Highlights

Nashua-Hollis

- New to State: Fish Crow
- Count high: Common Merganser, Red-bellied Woodpecker (beat previous state high), Eastern Bluebird, American Robin

Winter Wren tied the previous record of three. Lapland Longspur was seen for the second time.

Peterborough-Hancock

- First count record: Eastern Towhee
- Count High: Red-bellied Woodpecker, Eastern Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Northern Cardinal

Downy Woodpecker tied the previous count high set last year. Northern Flicker and Carolina Wren tied previous count highs as well.

Keene

- Count high: Belted Kingfisher, Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Song Sparrow, Brown-headed Cowbird, American Goldfinch

Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers were all close to previous count highs. Northern Flicker tied its previous high of two. Yellow-rumped Warbler was seen for the third time.

Coastal

- New to Count: Gyrfalcon, Townsend's Warbler, Clay-colored Sparrow
- New State Count High: Wild Turkey, Snowy Owl, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
- Count high: Red-bellied Woodpecker (beat previous state high), Carolina Wren

A record high of 121 species was found. This is both a record for the count as well as for any CBC in the state. Two outstanding birds, Gyrfalcon and Townsend's Warbler were recorded for the first time on the count and for only the second time in the state. Clay-colored Sparrow was also new for the count and a third record for the state. There were three other warbler species seen besides the Townsend's. A robust count of 42 Yellow-rumped Warblers is the highest number since 1997. A Yellow-breast Chat and a Palm Warbler (Western form) were also seen. Gray Catbird tied the previous record of four set in 2005.

Lee-Durham

- New State Count High: Wild Turkey, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Carolina Wren
- Count high: Gadwall, Long-tailed Duck, Nelson's Gull (Herring X Glaucous Gull Hybrid), Northern Flicker, Hermit Thrush, American Robin

Ruddy Duck tied the previous record of four set last year. Red-throated Loon was seen for the second time. Two Gray Catbirds tied the previous high set in 1996.

Concord

- Count high: Wild Turkey, Bald Eagle, Pileated Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Northern Mockingbird

Laconia

- Count high: Wild Turkey, Mourning Dove, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren



Carolina Wren by Rebecca Suomala on the Laconia CBC, 12/29/13, Laconia, NH.

Cooper's Hawk tied the previous high count of two. A Short-eared Owl was counted for the first time as a Count Week bird. Eastern Bluebird missed tying last year's count high of 18 by one bird.

Hanover-Norwich

- Count high: Wild Turkey

A Surf Scoter was seen for the first time as a Count Week bird. Carolina Wren just missed last year's record of 18 by two birds. Winter Wren was seen for the fourth time.

Baker Valley

- Count high: Eastern Bluebird

Winter Wren and Chipping Sparrow were seen for the second time.

Littleton

- Count high: Carolina Wren
- Snowy Owl was seen for the first time as a Count Week

record. Pileated Woodpecker tied the previous record of seven seen in 1993. Gray Jay was seen for the fourth time.

Grafton-Bristol

- Count high: Snow Bunting

Six Hooded Mergansers was one shy of the previous count high set in 2004.

Errol-Umbagog

- Count high: Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch

Pileated Woodpecker tied the previous record of 10 set in 2007. Song Sparrow was recorded for the fourth time.

Pittsburg

- First count record: Sharp-shinned Hawk
- Count high: Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch

Ring-necked Pheasant was seen for the third time. A Great Blue Heron was seen during count week, there being only one previous count record. Pileated Woodpecker was seen in near record numbers only two less than the nine seen in 1996.

North Conway

- Count high: Downy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Golden-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, American Goldfinch

Lake Sunapee

- Count high: Downy Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse

A Peregrine Falcon was seen for the first time as a Count Week bird. Hairy Woodpecker was seen in its second greatest abundance.

Manchester

- Count high: Barrow's Goldeneye, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Purple Finch

Pileated Woodpecker was just one bird shy of the previous count high of five seen in 2011. Hermit Thrush was seen for the second time. White-throated Sparrow missed the previous count record of 16 set in 2006 by one bird.

Sandwich

- First count record: Red-shouldered Hawk
- Count high: Rock Pigeon, Pileated Woodpecker (equal to previous state record)

Carolina Wren was seen for the fourth time. Eastern Bluebird just missed tying the previous record of 16 set in 2008 by one bird.

AMC-Crawford

- First count record: Merlin
- Count high: Downy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Golden-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, American Goldfinch

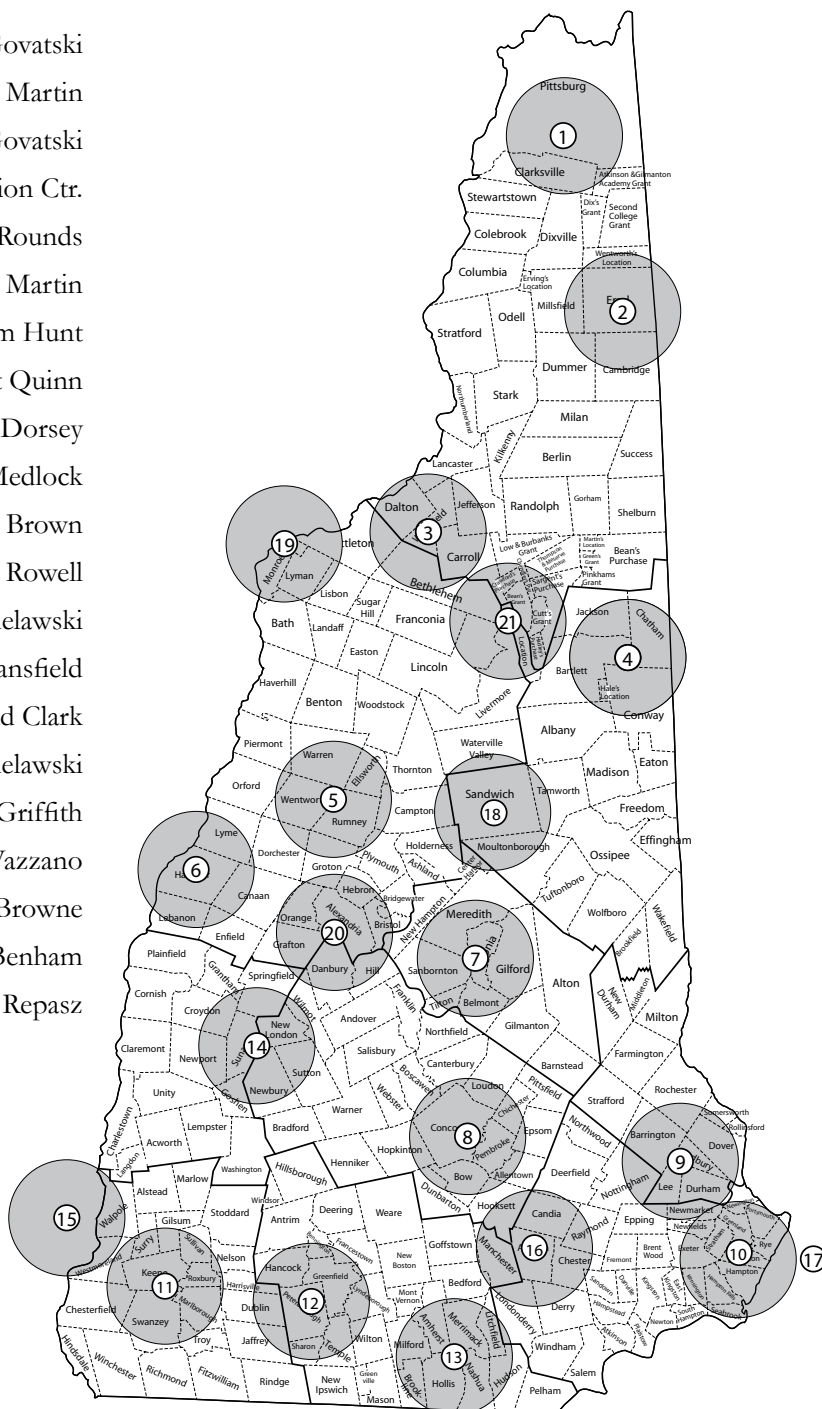
Red-tailed Hawk was seen for the second time as were Black-backed Woodpecker, Northern Shrike, and Northern Cardinal. American Tree Sparrow was seen for the third time.

Saxton's River

Though listed as a Vermont count, a significant portion of the count circle is in New Hampshire. We were able to get the data for those New Hampshire birds thanks to Don Clark who provided the data. Highlights among the total of 47 species seen in New Hampshire include: one Snowy Owl, two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, two Winter Wrens, one Snow Bunting, one Fox Sparrow, and one White-crowned Sparrow.

Christmas Bird Count Compilers

1	Pittsburg	David Govatski
2	Errol-Umbagog	Chris Martin
3	Littleton	David Govatski
4	North Conway	Tin Mtn. Conservation Ctr.
5	Baker Valley	Steve Rounds
6	Hanover-Norwich	Walter Ellison & Nancy Martin
7	Laconia-New Hampton	Pam Hunt
8	Concord	Robert Quinn
9	Lee-Durham	Kurk Dorsey
10	Coastal	Len Medlock
11	Keene	Phil Brown
12	Peterborough-Hancock	Dave Rowell
13	Nashua-Hollis	Richard Bielawski
14	Lake Sunapee	Gary Stansfield
15	Saxton's River, VT	Donald Clark
16	Manchester	Richard Bielawski
17	Isles of Shoals	Ben Griffith
18	Sandwich	Tony Vazzano
19	Barnet, VT	Charlie Browne
20	Grafton-Bristol	Phred Benham
21	AMC Crawford Notch	Craig Repasz



114th Christmas Bird Count: Dec. 14, 2013 - Jan. 5, 2014

species	Nsh	Pet	Kee	Cst	Lee	Con	Lac	Han	Bak	Lit	Grf	Erl	Pit	Cnw	Sun	Man	San	Amc	Total
Canada Goose	294	1	8	5582	822	24	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	-	-	6775
Mute Swan	-	-	-	7	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
Wood Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Gadwall	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Eurasian Wigeon	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
American Wigeon	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
American Black Duck	33	-	3	1046	180	10	20	9	-	-	21	8	2	2	7	38	6	-	1385
Mallard	594	-	28	1222	685	388	992	679	-	-	16	6	3	51	210	250	112	CW	5236
Black X Mallard sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Northern Pintail	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Green-winged Teal	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Redhead	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	3
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	1422	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1424
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
King Eider	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Common Eider	-	-	-	116	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	116
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	214	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	214
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	185	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	185
Black Scoter	-	-	-	496	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	496
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	66	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	69
Bufflehead	-	-	-	160	127	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	287
Common Goldeneye	2	-	-	487	39	6	80	6	-	-	CW	9	-	-	-	48	-	-	677
Barrow's Goldeneye	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	3
Hooded Merganser	12	-	2	17	8	-	121	14	-	-	5	2	2	3	14	1	-	-	201
Common Merganser	111	-	3	54	4	9	71	65	-	-	1	33	2	-	14	26	-	-	393
Red-br. Merganser	-	-	-	158	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	197
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Ring-necked Pheasant	-	1	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	6
Ruffed Grouse	-	9	4	1	2	2	-	1	-	2	-	31	2	3	CW	-	3	6	66
Spruce Grouse	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Wild Turkey	44	132	54	156	**265	152	253	259	35	55	3	33	35	75	85	33	52	14	1735
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Common Loon	-	-	-	49	7	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	64
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
Northern Gannet	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Great Cormorant	-	-	-	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42

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species	Nsh	Pet	Kee	Cst	Lee	Con	Lac	Han	Bak	Lit	Grf	Erl	Pit	Cnw	Sun	Man	San	Amc	Total
Great Blue Heron	1	-	1	7	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	CW	-	-	-	12
Black-cr. Night Heron	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Turkey Vulture	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bald Eagle	4	3	1	12	1	5	4	9	1	1	1	7	2	-	1	3	2	-	57
Northern Harrier	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Sharp-shinned Hawk	6	2	-	6	3	3	2	1	CW	1	1	-	*1	-	CW	2	-	-	28
Cooper's Hawk	8	2	-	8	7	4	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	37
Northern Goshawk	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	1
Red-shouldered Hawk	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*1	-	2
Red-tailed Hawk	40	5	7	42	31	11	10	16	2	1	1	3	1	2	2	17	2	1	194
Rough-legged Hawk	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
American Kestrel	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Merlin	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*1	2
Gyr Falcon	-	-	-	*1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Peregrine Falcon	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	1	-	-	2
Killdeer	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Sanderling	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Purple Sandpiper	-	-	-	103	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	103
Dunlin	-	-	-	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	46
Wilson's Snipe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Ring-billed Gull	55	-	1	372	97	30	71	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70	1	-	697
Herring Gull	322	-	-	778	1843	9	61	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	87	-	-	3118
Iceland Gull	-	-	-	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Nelson's Gull	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Lesser Bla.-bac. Gull	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Great Bla.-bac. Gull	30	-	-	52	323	1	10	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	428
Dovekie	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Thick-billed Murre	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Razorbill	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Black Guillemot	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Rock Pigeon	589	74	216	1147	452	751	197	429	15	224	74	-	7	111	109	268	46	-	4709
Mourning Dove	709	112	279	386	666	349	795	334	51	168	14	21	13	183	208	128	210	3	4629
Eastern Screech-owl	-	-	-	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Great Horned Owl	-	-	-	3	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	7
Snowy Owl	1	-	-	**9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Barred Owl	CW	2	3	3	4	CW	1	1	-	1	CW	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	19

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114th Christmas Bird Count: Dec. 14, 2013 - Jan. 5, 2014 — continued

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Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	CW	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
N. Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Strigiformes/owl sp.	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Belted Kingfisher	7	-	7	4	4	-	2	CW	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	26
Red-bel. Woodpecker	46	15	11	52	**53	10	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	195
Ylw.-bel. Sapsucker	1	-	-	**4	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Downy Woodpecker	161	132	82	157	158	82	123	85	12	17	17	21	12	44	68	115	61	11	1358
Hairy Woodpecker	43	82	49	33	53	45	67	50	5	13	11	22	16	40	42	22	53	7	653
Bla.-bac. Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	1	5
Northern Flicker	11	2	2	15	16	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	-	54
Pileated Woodpecker	5	8	6	5	**25	11	11	6	3	7	2	10	7	10	3	4	23	9	155
Northern Shrike	-	-	1	1	3	3	1	1	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	-	3	1	18
Gray Jay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	23	24	-	-	-	-	-	49
Blue Jay	280	454	291	659	454	233	411	458	138	121	119	127	73	286	281	135	276	47	4843
American Crow	226	97	150	474	182	172	-	1003	34	131	41	18	46	153	213	67	52	25	4402
Fish Crow	+1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Common Raven	7	22	9	4	7	4	14	25	2	54	9	46	59	34	9	3	18	10	336
Horned Lark	60	-	12	138	50	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	268
Black-cap. Chickadee	594	960	760	933	1016	630	-	1623	384	464	461	837	948	623	795	244	788	228	
Boreal Chickadee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	43	-	-	-	-	7	65
Tufted Titmouse	171	147	121	286	332	203	178	97	8	9	18	-	1	36	55	85	62	1	1810
Red-br. Nuthatch	6	16	12	6	5	1	12	20	5	58	12	222	323	36	17	4	16	33	804
White-br. Nuthatch	185	162	114	181	290	133	175	198	19	28	34	3	1	74	62	65	135	11	1870
Brown Creeper	9	12	5	6	11	6	6	6	-	9	1	6	7	14	-	7	9	3	117
Carolina Wren	31	7	14	27	**41	8	7	16	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	13	1	-	169
Winter Wren	3	1	1	5	4	5	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	23
Marsh Wren	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Golden-cr. Kinglet	35	16	22	22	24	22	36	10	1	41	10	64	83	12	22	13	9	81	523
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Eastern Bluebird	140	30	38	156	126	39	17	-	4	-	CW	-	-	4	-	51	15	-	620
Hermit Thrush	1	-	1	14	9	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	31
American Robin	-	82	288	3527	1266	243	33	4	1	2	6	3	-	14	94	188	3	154	6927
Gray Catbird	-	-	-	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
N. Mockingbird	44	-	7	39	39	34	9	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	-	-	197
Brown Thrasher	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
European Starling	-	142	450	1589	1486	1026	647	488	5	84	74	8	21	173	296	570	104	-	8450
American Pipit	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Bohemian Waxwing	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	38	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	40

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Cedar Waxwing	942	718	923	346	682	201	883	1016	-	30	70	-	-	184	422	119	58	-	6594
Ylw.-rumped Warbler	1	-	1	42	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	46
Townsend's Warbler	-	-	-	*1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Yellow-breasted Chat	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Eastern Towhee	-	*1	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	5
Am. Tree Sparrow	121	70	114	193	119	91	99	198	4	14	6	9	4	19	29	26	27	2	1145
Chipping Sparrow	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	11
Clay-colored Sparrow	-	-	-	*1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Field Sparrow	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Savannah Sparrow	1	-	-	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Fox Sparrow	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Song Sparrow	95	4	19	146	57	38	8	4	-	-	-	1	-	4	CW	22	-	-	398
Swamp Sparrow	-	-	-	6	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
White-thr. Sparrow	51	3	21	178	65	10	7	13	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	15	2	-	368
White-cr. Sparrow	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Dark-eyed Junco	757	122	383	783	594	253	211	272	31	7	5	3	4	40	51	168	38	5	3727
Lapland Longspur	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Snow Bunting	62	-	3	51	2	-	3	43	-	9	45	-	4	2	3	25	16	-	268
Northern Cardinal	233	76	97	278	242	141	80	106	15	15	8	3	1	15	38	104	21	2	1475
Red-winged Blackbird	-	-	1	12	4	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	25
Rusty Blackbird	-	-	1	**36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37
Common Grackle	1	-	-	3	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Br.-headed Cowbird	-	-	6	2	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Small finch sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Pine Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	13
Purple Finch	-	8	18	1	3	-	-	13	-	4	-	7	379	9	5	24	7	1	479
House Finch	269	7	100	1226	205	72	148	142	-	-	14	-	-	3	37	14	CW	-	2237
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Whi.-wing. Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	5	3	-	-	-	1	-	29
Common Redpoll	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pine Siskin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	50	8	-	-	-	-	59
American Goldfinch	351	162	472	384	385	210	330	223	118	147	96	299	118	248	248	127	394	96	4408
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	11
House Sparrow		113	272	1226	621	393	293	295	-	20	10	-	-	13	103	308	-	-	4676
Number of Species	59	42	55	121	79	50	55	48	26	39	35	35	40	40	39	52	40	28	
Number of Participants	32	49	21	29	31	19	30	28	5	14	8	13	13	43	20	15	23	18	

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Photo Gallery

Snowy Owl Extravaganza

The amazing Snowy Owl invasion in the winter of 2013-14 enticed photographers to the coast and produced many wonderful photos. Below is just a selection of some of the images and stories. Note: despite the appeal of getting a close shot of these spectacular birds, we encourage birders and photographers alike to not disturb these owls and give them space (if the owl reacts to your presence, you are too close). – Ed.



This Snowy Owl with the A75 white wing tag was photographed at Hampton Beach, NH by Phillip August on 12/3/14. According to Norm Smith, Snowy Owl researcher with Massachusetts Audubon, the owl was banded by his friend, Dan Zazelenchuk in Canada. It was banded and wing tagged on 11/23/12 as a hatch-year male north of Kyle, Canada and weighed 1,615 grams. It had been seen on Plum Island, MA on 11/21/13 and in Revere, MA on 11/18/13. (From a post to MASSBIRD.)



Snowy Owl on top of a crane in Seabrook, NH. Photos by Steve Mirick, 12/26/13.



The Snowy Owl that spent the winter at Rye Harbor SP was seen and photographed by many. The following photos are all of this bird.



Snowy Owl "groupies" watching the owl eat, by Rebecca Suomala (top), and Steve Mirick.



Coughing up a pellet on the roof of the Rye Harbor SP restrooms. Photos by David Lipsy.



Photo by David Lipsy, 1/7/14.



Photo by Joel Huntress, 1/25/14.

Field Trip Report

Winter Offshore – Dovekies!

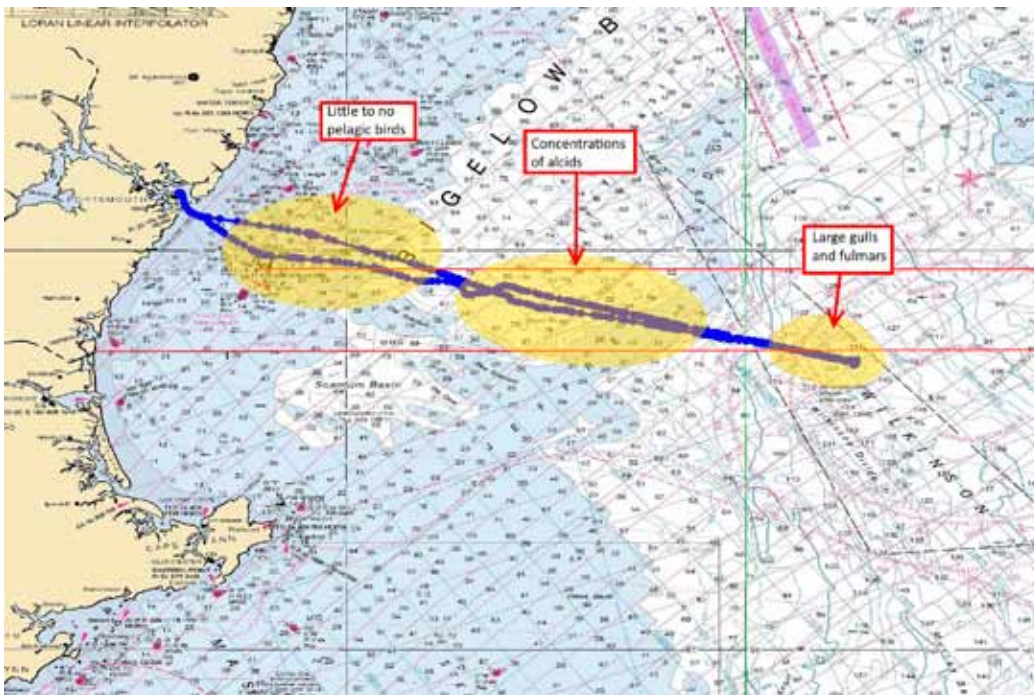
by Rebecca Suomala



A few of the many Dovekies on the boat trip to Jeffrey's Ledge, 2/23/14. Photo by Eric Masterson.

On February 23, 2014, a group of us went on a regularly scheduled deep sea fishing trip by Eastman's out of Seabrook. The trip was partially prompted by a report from Steve Mirick of a trip he took on February 12 aboard the UNH research vessel "Gulf Challenger" during a water sampling trip to Wilkinson's Basin. On that trip, he had massive numbers of Dovekies (717) as well as 21 Common Murres, two Thick-billed Murres, 184 Razorbills, and 14 Atlantic Puffins. Almost all the alcids were in New

Figure 1. Map of the Gulf Challenger trip on 2/12/14 by Steve Mirick.



Hampshire waters along with 25 Northern Fulmar and 154 Black-legged Kittiwakes. Steve created a map of his route and the concentrations of birds (Figure 1).

The only company doing regular offshore trips this winter was Eastman's and Steve's spectacular report prompted Zeke Cornell to share the details and recruit birders to join an upcoming trip on February 23. Thus 11 birders (Chris Borg, Pam Hunt, Jon Woolf, Katie Towler, Jim Sparrell, Steve & Jane Mirick, Eric Masterson, Rob Woodward, Zeke Cornell and I) headed out on a fishing boat to Jeffrey's Ledge with a similar number of fisherman.



Birders bundled up for the February 23, 2014 boat trip with Eastman's to Jeffrey's Ledge. Photo by Steve Mirick.

It was a full day trip and the conditions were about as good as you could hope for on a winter day. Seas were two to four feet and the boat was rolling a bit causing initial distress for some of us, but it improved over time. Temperatures were relatively mild (30-40s) with winds of 10-20 knots causing some chop but still allowing great sightings. We had a



Northern Fulmar by Jason Lambert, 2/12/14, Jeffrey's Ledge.

sweep of the alcids (Black Guillemot, Dovekie, Razorbill, Common and Thick-billed Murre, and Atlantic Puffin) and lots of other great sightings, all in New Hampshire waters. The highlights included a huge number of Dovekies (466) with some terrific, close views, great looks at Northern Fulmars, Atlantic Puffins and Common Murres, and an unusually large flock of 250 Black-legged Kittiwakes. One of the most bizarre sightings was an American Pipit, seen and heard by a few people on the boat when we were at Jeffreys Ledge, more than 20 miles from shore. We had a total of 20 species on the offshore waters plus a few more at Hampton Harbor, including a Snowy Owl in the dunes when we came back to dock. It was great to have so many sets of birding eyes on the boat. The totals for the alcids and a few other offshore birds are below. All in all a spectacular winter trip offshore.



Immature Atlantic Puffin by Eric Masterson, 2/23/14 boat trip with Eastman's to Jeffreys Ledge.



Black-legged Kittiwake by Jon Woolf, 2/23/14 boat trip with Eastman's to Jeffreys Ledge.

Note: Kyle Wilmarth and Amanda Altena went out on a similar boat trip on March 8, 2014 and found that the number of alcids had dropped dramatically from the numbers on the February 23 trip, although they still had good variety.

Highlights from a boat trip to Jeffreys Ledge, NH on 2/23/14.

- Northern Fulmar 32, both dark and light morph
- Northern Gannet 4
- Dovekie 466, many groups in flight along the boat or just in front of the bow.
- Common Murre 16
- Thick-billed Murre 7
- Common/Thick-billed Murre 4
- Razorbill 60
- Large alcid sp. 86, too distant to identify
- Black Guillemot 8, near the Isles of Shoals
- Atlantic Puffin 17
- Black-legged Kittiwake 297
- Bonaparte's Gull 1
- Iceland Gull 2
- American Pipit 1

Backyard Birder

Barred Owls at Your Feeder

by Brenda Sens



Barred Owl by Jennifer McKown, 2/9/14, Brookfield, NH.

During January and February of 2014, New Hampshire Audubon received numerous emails and telephone calls from people who reported seeing Barred Owls perched on or near their bird feeders during the day as well as at dawn and dusk. Although Barred Owls do occasionally hunt during the day, most people do not expect this behavior and find it very unusual. Although Barred Owls feed on a variety of mammals and do take the occasional bird, they are known mainly for their consumption of a great many mice. As we know all too well, the winter of 2013-14 was one of extreme cold and heavy snows, causing the smaller mammals to travel through tunnels beneath the surface. This, in turn, made it more difficult for the owls to find as much food as they needed and hunger brought them out at all hours in hopes of finding small creatures feeding on spilled seed. A number of people who contacted us hoped to be able to help the owls get through this ordeal. Unfortunately, Barred Owls are attracted by the movement of living mammals, and there is little that can be done to help the owls in this situation.

Winter 2013-14 Field Notes

What's on the Snowy Owl Menu this Winter?

by Brian Cassie



Remains of a Razorbill eaten by the Snowy Owl that spent the winter of 2013-14 at Rye Harbor State Park. Photo by Rebecca Suomala who did not report it to Brian Cassie so it's not on his list below.

I have been in the birdwatching game for a little over forty years and I have seen some very good Snowy Owl flights in the Northeast, but 2013-2014 is most definitely the winner. If you have always thought that your favorite patch of coastal marsh or dune would one day have a Snowy Owl in residence, chances are this was the winter when it happened. The owls invaded, passed through, and stayed in grand numbers. I managed to see 112 Snowy Owls this winter, from late November to late March, from southern Maine to eastern Connecticut.

So many Snowys and so many opportunities via sightings, photographs, and owl pellet dissections, to get a glimpse of what the owls were eating. I collected Snowy Owl pellets in Salisbury, Scituate, Marion, and Westport, MA; Middletown, RI; and had one sent to me from Rye, NH. I watched Snowys hunting and got prey and hunting details from many online and in person contributors. From Maine to Washington, D.C., here are the foods Snowy Owls prefer (or at least have been documented eating by my circle of correspondents) when lemmings are no longer part of the landscape:

Birds

Horned Grebe*, Great Cormorant, Northern Gannet, American Bittern, American Black Duck, Harlequin Duck, Long-tailed Duck, Common Eider, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck, American Coot, Sanderling, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Dove, Barn Owl, American Crow, and unidentified songbirds

Mammals

Eastern Cottontail, Norway Rat, Meadow Vole*, shrew sp, and unidentified small mammals

* Lots of these were documented. Yumm!

Gyr Falcon Kleptoparasitizes a Peregrine Falcon

by Ben Griffith

On December 15, 2013, Lauren Kras and I observed the Gyr Falcon perched on the condos near Henry's Pool in Hampton. As we were watching, it started to stretch its wings and we anticipated an imminent flight. It took off and ascended quickly, circling progressively higher. We did our best to stay on the bird, but only had a single scope set up. As I was following it, a strikingly smaller falcon, a Peregrine, entered the frame. To my shock, the Gyr Falcon was heading straight for it! As the Gyr Falcon dove at the Peregrine Falcon, I noticed something drop from the Peregrine's talons and get lost behind the trees. I transferred the scope mid-altercation to Lauren and she was able to watch a short bit more of the chase, before the Peregrine Falcon disappeared. As she was watching the Gyr Falcon, she noticed that it was now carrying quite a large load in its talons. The Gyr Falcon descended and we lost it behind the trees. We're not sure if the Gyr Falcon got the Peregrine's prey, or managed to catch the Peregrine, but either way, it was a spectacular sight. The behavior of stealing another animal's prey is known as kleptoparasitism. It is well-known amongst the skuas and jaegers, but is recorded in a huge variety of birds including passerines (especially corvids), ducks, gulls and hawks. Gyr falcons are regular employers of this foraging strategy, but given their rarity in populated areas, it is infrequently observed.

Downed Red-necked Grebe

by Jane Hills

For the second time in less than a month, the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center put out a call in late January for volunteers to transport a land-bound grebe for release on the New Hampshire coast. On the first occasion, a Red-necked Grebe needed taxi services. This time it was a Horned Grebe (see photo) that had been found in a yard in Plymouth. Sylvia Hartmann and I (both from Manchester) volunteered for the job, and we successfully released the grebe at Hampton Harbor just after sunset on the same day (January 30, 2014).



Horned Grebe, found by Charlie Barker in his Plymouth backyard on 1/30/14, being transported back to the ocean the same day. Photo by Sylvia Hartmann.

The volunteer taxi drivers reported that the bird was quiet and relatively motionless in its cardboard box during the entire drive from Holderness to Seabrook. On the beach, it stayed in the now-open box and had to be picked up and placed in the water for release. After swimming about ten feet, the bird turned and looked back for about 20 seconds (as if to figure out how it got from a yard in Plymouth to Hampton Harbor), and then began making very short dives. The grebe then swam farther away from the beach and made repeated longer dives. It seemed to be behaving normally. We departed into the impending darkness with a wave and a “good luck, buddy.”

Iain MacLeod, Executive Director of the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, speculates that both grebes may have come from the Great Lakes or Lake Champlain (see also the Winter Season write-up by Pam Hunt). Very cold weather caused sections of the lakes to freeze, which hasn't happened in recent years. These birds were heading for the Atlantic coast and ended up grounded, likely because they inadvertently landed on open tarmac that they mistook for water. Then they crawled their way to the places where they were found.

Winter Birding in Urban Nashua – Beyond House Sparrow, Rock Pigeon and European Starling

by Chris Sheridan

When the days are dark, short, and cold, winds are blustery, and trails are snowy and slick with ice, some easily accessible spots in the city of Nashua can provide interesting birding. Mostly in or near the downtown area and east of the F.E. Everett Turnpike, most of these require little or no walking, have good and mostly free parking and are generally focused on our major waterways: Salmon Brook, the Nashua River and the Merrimack River.

Salmon Brook

Salmon Brook arises in rural Dunstable, MA and, after wending its way through Dunstable and south Nashua, dives through a series of culverts under highways and developments, and emerges here and there in the more developed parts of Nashua.

Field's Grove Park

From Exit 4E on the Everett Turnpike in Nashua, proceed 0.7 miles east on East Dunstable Road to lights at Main Street. Turn left and proceed 0.4 miles to Field Street (a small side street

on the left). Turn left and drive a short distance to Field's Grove City Park parking lot.

Here, Salmon Brook flows from brushy wetlands into an expansive shallow pond and meadow. Mergansers, dabblers, gulls and geese tarry here in winter wherever there is open water. Wild rice has proliferated explosively in the last few years, providing abundant wildlife food and indicating the water quality here is quite good.

During most winters (one exception being the winter of 2013-2014), the current keeps the channel of the brook and at least the far end of the marsh open. Wood Ducks and Great Blue Herons often overwinter and Bald Eagles may try out the fishing and duck hunting. Species found here have included American Coot, Ruddy Duck, Northern Pintail, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler and Snow Goose. Green-winged Teal are fairly regular in late winter. American Black Ducks favor the far end of the marsh. One or two Iceland Gulls can often be spotted among the many gulls that loaf, fish and try to steal from the Hooded and Common Mergansers.

From the parking lot, it's a short walk to a row of trees and brush, and the marsh. (Caution, it can be icy.) The lower impoundment can be viewed from the parking area. As the low sun shines directly across the marsh in afternoon, best winter viewing is in the morning, especially on sunny days.

Improved Machinery Pond (IMPCO Pond)/Joyce Sanctuary

From Field's Grove, return to Main Street and turn left, moving into the right lane to turn right at the lights at Allds Street in less than 0.1 miles. Take Allds Street 0.3 miles to the lights at Burke Street, turn right and proceed down Burke Street 0.7 miles to a gate house on the left, bear right (between the school bus parking lot and large buildings) and continue straight along the drive to the parking lot at IMPCO Pond.

Off the end of Burke Street, this little pond and wetland (created by an old dam and culvert on the brook) often provide open water for bird and wildlife watching. There is a viewing platform at the pond and visitor parking is available. Along with our typical winter waterbirds, American Wigeon and Pied-billed Grebe have been spotted here. Finches, sparrows, woodpeckers and Carolina Wrens enjoy the surrounding scrub and trees. A pair of Common Ravens seems fascinated by the commercial buildings around the pond and can sometimes be seen using them as a “playground,” or can be heard croaking in the trees. They first tried nesting in a metal shed, but their nest fell down and they settled for a nearby cell tower. As I write, the adjacent building and lot are vacant and for sale, so there may be changes in the future, however, the pond and adjacent wetland are city owned and should remain accessible. The area shown on maps as “Joyce Sanctuary,” a wetland area in a slow bend of the brook at the west end of the parking lot,

is fenced off from the main pond but there is fair viewing through the fence.

Merrimack River at Crown Street

Returning to Burke Street, bear left on Burke Street, turn right almost immediately on Arlington Street, and proceed on Arlington Street 0.6 miles to Crown Street on the right. Turn right at Crown Street and continue 0.3 miles to a sharp bend in the road, which then runs along the levee at the Merrimack River. Park along the side of the road. Steps lead up to an air monitoring shed on top of the levee. (They may not be shoveled out in deep snow and can be icy.)

The stretch of Crown Street running east from Arlington Street provides the most accessible view of the Merrimack River near downtown. The street bends sharply and runs along the Merrimack River. Parking along the roadside, take the wooden steps up the levee to a good viewpoint of bridge and river. The little air-quality monitoring hut provides a windbreak in this very breezy spot. This is another good place to find Bald Eagles. Besides the more common winter birds, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Red-breasted Merganser and Glaucous Gull have turned up here. Trees at the edge of the mowed area and a brushy vacant lot at the bend in the road are often active with feeding birds. Red-bellied Woodpeckers like this area, as do over-wintering Eastern Bluebirds and the occasional late Yellow-rumped Warbler.

Downtown and Nashua River

Cleaned up after horrific industrial pollution in Massachusetts and Nashua, this lovely tributary of the Merrimack River increasingly draws use by birds, fish, other wildlife, and humans. Ducks, geese, Mute Swans, Bald Eagles and, in all seasons except winter, Osprey share the resource with deer, fox, mink, muskrat, beavers and otters.

Nashua Public Library

From Crown Street, return back to Arlington Street, turn right on Arlington and drive to East Hollis Street, turn left on East Hollis Street, continue 0.5 miles to lights at Spring Street, and turn right. Drive 0.1 miles to Temple Street (crossing an intersection at East Pearl Street), then turn right on Temple Street. Continue 0.1s mile to Cottage Street on the left, turn



Bald Eagle by Christine Sheridan, 1/9/14, Nashua, NH.

left and drive to the parking lot at the Nashua Public Library. Parking is metered.

Fruit trees and other plantings bring in typical frugivores and, in early winter especially, migrating native sparrows. At the rear of the parking lot, wooden steps with guardrails lead down to a footpath along the Nashua River, which ends at Temple Street. Wintering mergansers, goldeneyes and Bald Eagles can be found. My first sighting of Great Cormorants away from the coast was from here. The footpath and stairs can provide good birding, but can be very icy in winter.

Downtown

The Nashua River flows through downtown, which in itself can provide some interesting winter birding. For several years now, a pair of territorial Peregrine Falcons and the occasional wanderer have found the city to be excellent pigeon-hunting grounds. A favorite perch has been the steeple of the Main Street Methodist Episcopal Church. Friends and I have watched them hunt and chase while we enjoyed lunch at a local restaurant!

Snow and ice covered ground seem to draw in other raptors from the hinterlands, where they find opportunities to snag starlings, sparrows, finches, pigeons and the occasional waxwing or robin. Cooper's Hawks, Sharp-shinned Hawks and in most years, a Merlin or two, make the winter city their home.

Fruit trees around downtown can draw numerous birds, including hundreds of Cedar Waxwings and up to a few dozen Bohemian Waxwings in irruptive years.

Millyard Technology Park

From the library, return to the intersection of Cottage and Temple Streets, cross Temple Street (one way street), continue to the intersection of East Pearl Street and turn right on Main Street. (Keep an eye out for raptors on the steeples.) Continue on Main Street to the intersection of Water Street, keeping to the left for a left turn on Water Street. Follow Water Street to Factory Street and turn right. Keeping to the right (avoiding the traffic circle), turn right at the sign for Clocktower Place, continue through the Clocktower Place parking lot (fruit trees here attract many birds in late winter—beware of the speed bumps!). At the end of Clocktower Place, bear right on Pine Street, then right on Technology Way. Take Technology Way around the restored mill buildings to the Millyard Technology Park lot at the bend of the Nashua River.

Just behind the downtown area, Millyard Technology Park, with a large parking lot and landscaped area tucked away on a bend in the river, can provide some good winter birding. Behind some restored Nashua Corporation buildings and opposite Mine Falls Park, the river remains partially open during all but the coldest winters. The surrounding trees and plantings attract passerines. The birches draw finches, including redpolls in irruptive years, and the bank

of the river hosts woodpeckers, mergansers, goldeneyes, and Cedar Waxwings as well as wintering Song, American Tree, and White-throated Sparrows (among hordes of House Sparrows). A venerable Great Blue Heron has lingered here for many years (with the notable exception of the harsh winter of 2013-2014). If there is any one good place for Merlin-spotting, the snags and wooden utility poles here provide a decent chance. A magnificent pair of Red-tailed Hawks has made a white pine on the bank of the river their home, providing great views of their courtship and hunting behavior. Mammals like deer, fox, muskrat, beavers and otter can sometimes be seen.

Currently, a new bridge and the long controversial “Broad Street Parkway” is being constructed across the river. Effects of this major road through the valley of the Nashua River remain to be seen.

Exit 6 Department of Transportation Lot

Just off Exit 6E of the Everett Turnpike is the former “rest area,” now property of the NH Department of Transportation. Situated between the highway and a bend in the Nashua River, this lot includes riverside trees, shrubs and vines, a small brook and wetlands. This is another easily accessible birding area in winter. Plenty of parking is available.



Northern Pintail by Christine Sheridan, 1/29/14, Hassell Brook, Nashua, NH.

While Nashua has some fine large parkland and conservation parcels to explore, it’s fascinating to see how much avian life, beyond House Sparrow, Rock Pigeon and European Starling, can be found in the most heavily developed areas of the city. Right downtown or within a very short drive or walk, many species have found niches in the urban landscape, and many have returned to the once polluted rivers. May they continue to thrive among our vacant spaces, waterways, railroad and power line easements, parking lots, and backyards.

Chris Sheridan is an accomplished wildlife photographer and birder who resides in Nashua, NH. She has travelled widely in Nashua and occasionally ventures into the hinterlands.

Superbowl of Birding Adventures with the “Twitchers in the Rye”

by Pam Hunt



The celebrity Snowy Owl at Rye Harbor State Park, seen by the Twitchers and photographed by team Captain, Pam Hunt, 1/25/14.

An annual tradition continued on the morning of January 25, 2014, with the “Twitchers in the Rye” beginning the “Superbowl of Birding.” The weather, although cold to start, moderated during the day and was one of the milder days in recent weeks. With single digit temperatures, persistent sub-zero wind chills, and a few snow storms preceding the Superbowl, the Twitchers weren’t expecting a record-breaking year but there were surprises.

The Twitchers began the day at the official starting time of 05:00 am. We convened at an owling spot with a couple of other teams (to minimize harassment of the owls), and the game was on. A Northern Saw-whet Owl was the hoped for target, and after patiently listening and whistling for 15 minutes, enough members of all three teams had heard the little owl’s feeble attempts at responding (but who can blame it, it was 14 degrees outside with a wind chill of three), and then, we were off.

We tried for Eastern Screech-Owl and Great Horned Owl without success, and so, with something resembling sunrise on the cloudy eastern horizon, we headed to our first staked-out bird, a Brown Thrasher that was visiting a nearby feeder. It turns out that Steve Mirick’s “Fourth and Longspurs” had the same idea, as they arrived on the scene shortly after us. We all were using the same strategy; the thrasher is a five-point bird, and the first team to report a given five-pointer gets an extra three points. When the thrasher finally showed up, we called the sighting in to “Superbowl Central,” and both teams got to receive the bonus points, the first time the Twitchers have ever gotten them! While waiting for the thrasher, we learned that the Longspurs had just heard a Great Horned Owl a couple of miles down the road in the exact location we had been calling half an hour earlier. We assumed the owl had gotten intrigued by *our* calling, but took its sweet time to make itself known.

The show must go on, however, and we added all sorts of expected songbirds, including a nice group of 8-10 bluebirds emerging from an old martin house. At a famously birdy spot, Pam noticed a woodpecker up in a tree. Immediately, she yelled out “SAPSUCKER!! (another five-pointer) and, after much searching, relocated the sapsucker on a much closer tree for the entire team to see, phoned it in, and learned that we had gotten **another** three bonus points. There were good spirits all around (although we still griped about the owl as we drove by our pre-dawn hooting spot, but I digress).

A Snowy Owl at Rye Harbor State Park was a treat, although somewhat expected given how many were being seen in New England. This particular Snowy had been making its home on the bathroom building and causing “owl jams” for over a month. A Fox Sparrow (a four-point species) and Great Blue Heron were new for the Twitchers. By the afternoon, the wind had been persistent enough to whip up the surf, making seawatching difficult. We spotted a Black-legged Kittiwake, but missed Red-necked Grebe for the first time, and never found any Black Scoters or alcids. We ended the day with 58 species and 104 points, about average for our six-year history, and raised more than \$1,500 for *New Hampshire Bird Records* and NH eBird (two projects of NH Audubon’s Conservation Department).

The Twitchers even had a brush with the paparazzi in the form of Rick Dumont who wrote about the Twitchers and the Superbowl of Birding in an excellent article for the *Fosters Daily Democrat!* The photo shoot yielded a Bald Eagle for the team which was also a life bird for Rick. It was only later that we learned a Spotted Towhee (only the fourth ever for the state) had been seen that same day just 200 yards from where we were being photographed! (The only saving grace was that no other Superbowl team saw it either.)

Check the *New Hampshire Bird Records* web site (www.nhbirdrecords.org) to read the expanded summary, see the full list of species, look at past years’ results, and make a donation if you so choose.



The 2014 Twitchers in the Rye (Pat Myers, captain Pam Hunt, driver Becky Suomala, and rookie Peg Ackerson), 1/25/14, and the highly secretive Spotted Towhee. Team photo by Rick Dumont (fakery by P. Hunt).

Volunteers and Research

Counting on Birds – the Christmas Bird Count

by Rebecca Suomala



Willem Lange, host of NH Public Television’s *Counting on Birds*, at the Christmas Bird Count in Errol, NH with Lauren Kras and Ben Griffith’s team.

The annual Christmas Bird Count is a volunteer effort that began in 1900 and is the longest running Citizen Science survey in the world! It’s a tradition that many birders look forward to at a time when the weather has gotten cold and our summer birds are long gone. It’s also a tradition, however, that provides valuable data for monitoring the long-term health and status of bird populations across North America. When combined with other surveys such as the Breeding Bird Survey, it provides a picture of how the continent’s bird populations have changed in time and space over the past hundred years.

It began in 1900 when Frank Chapman proposed the count as an alternative to the annual Christmas “Side Hunt” – a team contest to see who could shoot the most birds (and other wildlife). There were 26 counts in that inaugural year, including one in Keene, NH. Clarence Morrison Brooks tallied 16 Black-capped Chickadees, one American Crow, and one Northern Shrike between 10:30 am and 1:30 pm. His was the only count in New Hampshire that first year. Now there are 21 counts in the state and over 2,300 in the US, Canada and many countries in the Western Hemisphere. In that first year, 27 people took part; today, more than 60,000 people participate in the count.

In their recent documentary, *Counting on Birds*, New Hampshire Public Television highlights the annual Christmas Bird Count. New Hampshire viewers will recognize some of the “stars” of the show. The documentary crew traveled to Keene where they joined Phil Brown for that count and then to Errol where they accompanied Bob Quinn and Becky Suomala, as well as Lauren Kras and Ben Griffith’s team. Any Christmas Bird Count volunteer will recognize and appreciate this film, both for the New Hampshire flair

and for the further travels to Maine, Ecuador and even Cuba, as well as the conservation message behind all the data collection.

The Christmas Bird Count is coordinated by National Audubon, but each count has a local compiler for their designated count circle. Participants are welcome and beginning birders can be teamed up with experienced people. For a list of New Hampshire counts and who to contact for each count, go to the Birding Resources page of the *New Hampshire Bird Records* web site, www.nhbirdrecords.org.

Kudos to New Hampshire Public Television, and the Butler Foundation who provided the funding, for promoting this international volunteer effort. *Counting On Birds* is available for online viewing at video.nhptv.org, along with the other three award-winning specials (*Bird Tales*, *Saving Songbirds*, *Journey of the Broad-Winged Hawk* – which also feature local New Hampshire birds) produced by NHPTV that explore and celebrate New England's migratory birds.

Answer to the Photo Quiz

by David B. Donsker

In the Fall 2013 issue of the Photo Quiz, we tackled the often challenging task of identifying female ducks. We are going to do so again. This is a shared problem for all of us, particularly when an individual female is found without a male in close proximity to help us out. Although drakes are usually colorful and/or boldly patterned, female ducks are often much more cryptically patterned and colored, and very few are similar in plumage to their male counterparts. Therefore, it is much more important to focus on structure when observing these birds and to be aware of subtle patterns in plumage.

Our featured bird is a hefty, thick-necked species with a rounded head that is slightly fuller in back and sloped in front. It has a dark triangular bill with a slightly concave upper edge which accentuates the slope of the forehead. The back edge of the bill is deeply notched. There is a short lobe of feathers that extend from the face into the base of the bill. The gape, or angle of the bill where the jaws hinge, is sharply pointed and upturned and is continuous with a furrow in the feathering on the lower face. This produces the impression of a broad smile. There is a faint, pale line that separates the face from the back of the head, which is continuous with a bolder arch above the eye. The body plumage, though seemingly subtle at first, is in fact, fairly distinctive. It can best be described as scaly. The bold, pale feather edges give the back or mantle a strongly scaled appearance. The scapulars, or feathers bordering the upper edge of the folded wing, also

have pale edging. Notice further the fine scales on the lower neck and upper breast and the bolder scales that can be seen on the rear flanks.

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 and the large-billed Ruddy Duck with its stiff, cocked tail are quite distinctive and present no problem here.

Dabbling ducks favor relatively shallow freshwater or brackish creeks, ponds and marshes. 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 with its dark triangular bill is unlike the large, large-billed species whose bills are broad and flattened into the classic “duck-bill” shape. 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. Female wigeons, however, like most female dabbling ducks, have very subtle markings. They do not have the arched eyebrow or the complex shape of the base of the bill of this bird and they have a more vertical, rather than sloped, forehead.

One aberrant dabbling duck, however, is worth consideration. Female Wood Duck has a triangular bill and, like this bird, has a fullness of the feathering at the back of the head, which is a reflection of the bushy mane of the male. It also has bold white facial markings around the eye. But female Wood Duck has a very plain back and the markings on the flanks are spots, not scales. Its bill is proportionally much smaller. It has a high forehead and the white markings around the eye are in the form of a bold white horizontal teardrop rather than a pale white arch.

Diving ducks are, in general, rather compact species that prefer the deeper open water of our bays, inshore ocean or larger lakes. This group comprises a diverse set of species including eiders, scoters, goldeneyes, and typical diving ducks of the genus *Aythya* and their kin.

Many female diving ducks have bold white facial markings such as spots in front of the eye or on the side of the head, or crescents at the base of the bill and, thus, can be discounted here. These include female White-winged and Surf Scoters, Harlequin Duck, Long-tailed Duck, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Duck and Bufflehead.

On the other hand, other female diving ducks have plain, nearly uniform head markings and so are equally unlikely to be our featured bird. Redhead, both goldeneyes and the round-headed Black Scoter can be included in this group.

Female Canvasback shares the sloping forehead, stout neck

and black bill of this bird and also has a faint pale arch over the eye. But unlike our featured subject, its head is much less rounded, the slope of the forehead is more extreme, and its back, neck and flanks are uniform without any scales or other markings.

That leaves our two eiders, Common Eider and King Eider. Eiders are large, hefty ducks with thick necks and sloping foreheads. They are unique amongst our ducks in having elongated bill protuberances on the upper and lower portions of the bill which extend onto the face producing a prominent lobe of feathers that projects into the base of the bill. The lower bill process is slightly upturned and sharply pointed. This produces the impression of a grin which is formed by the gape and is accentuated by a contiguous groove in the facial feathers of the lower face. Although the adult males are among our most distinctive ducks and can be readily identified, the plain, tawny females are remarkably similar in the field. They are best separated from each other by careful attention to their structure, the configuration of the base of the bill and the shape of the interface with the rest of the face, and the pattern of feathering, especially on the neck, breast and flanks.



Photo by Len Medlock

The accompanying photograph shows these distinguishing features clearly. In this photo, a female King Eider is on the left and a female Common Eider is on the right. King Eider is smaller than Common Eider. It is less hefty, but has a proportionally thicker neck. It has a rounder, much less elongated head which is fuller in back, forming a short mane. This head shape subtly echoes the helmeted look of the male King Eider. Female King Eider has a faint pale arch over the eye and the mane on the back of the head is separated from the face by a subtle pale line. These further subtly reflect the male's head pattern.

King Eider has a shorter, stubbier, blacker bill than Common Eider. Further, the configuration of the base of the bill differs between the two species. This important feature can be seen well with good optics. The protrusion of the upper mandible of the bill which extends back towards the eye is much shorter in King Eider than in Common Eider in which it is longer and narrower. In addition, the lobe of

feathers interrupting the base of the bill in Common Eider is much longer than it is in King Eider. In Common Eider it closely approximates the level of the nostrils. In King Eider, this feathered lobe is shorter and blunter and falls well short of the nostrils. The gape of the bill in King Eider is more strongly upturned making the grin in this species more distinctive than in its larger relative.

At a distance, female Common and King Eiders are both tawny ducks with barred flanks. More careful examination, however, shows that the markings on the breast and flanks of Common Eider consist of fairly evenly spaced, parallel bars. In King Eider, the markings on the flanks are composed of zigzag arrays of chevrons giving the flanks a scaly appearance, while those on the lower neck and breast are composed of finer, crescent-shaped scales.

The excellent portrait of a female King Eider introducing this Photo Quiz was photographed by Steve Mirick in New Castle on February 3, 2014. The photograph of female King Eider and Common Eider swimming together was captured by Len Medlock in Seabrook on November 30, 2013.

In North America, King Eider breeds along the arctic coasts of Alaska through the Canadian arctic archipelago to northern Greenland where it is one of the more common species. The western population winters primarily in the Bering Sea. The eastern population winters in maritime environments primarily off the coasts of Labrador, Newfoundland and southern Greenland but with much smaller numbers south of the Gulf of St. Lawrence along the Atlantic coast as far south as Virginia. King Eider is a regular, though very uncommon, winter visitor to the coast of New Hampshire. It is reported nearly annually in small numbers throughout that season and is to be looked for whenever eiders are encountered. Although the spectacular adult males are highly desired, young males and females are more often encountered. Be prepared to carefully examine every group of eiders you spot. You may be well rewarded for your efforts.

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Abbreviations Used

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

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Winter 2013-14 Highlights

Photos, clockwise from top right:

Gyr Falcon by Len Medlock, 12/15/13, Hampton, NH.

Lapland Longspur by Deanne Fortnam, 1/8/14, Hampton, NH.

One of the "half-hardies" on the coast (see the Winter 2013-14 Season Summary inside), a Brown Thrasher by Steve Mirick, 1/15/14, Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye, NH.

A Common Murre (top) flying with Razorbills on one of the winter boat trips (see the Field Trip Report and the Winter Summary for more). Photo by Jason Lambert 2/12/14.

