

New Hampshire Bird Records





NEW HAMPSHIRE BIRD RECORDS
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MANAGING EDITOR
 Rebecca Suomala
 603-224-9909 X309,
 rsuomala@nhaudubon.org

TEXT EDITOR
 Dan Hubbard

SEASON EDITORS
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 Tony Vazzano, **Summer**
 Lauren Kras/Ben Griffith, **Fall**
 Pamela Hunt, **Winter**

LAYOUT
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 Robert A. Quinn

PHOTO QUIZ
 David Donsker

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WEB MASTER
 Kathy Barnes

WHERE TO BIRD
 Phil Brown

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IN MEMORY OF

Sally Gallagher

This issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* with its color cover is sponsored by the Concord Bird and Wildflower Club and friends in memory of Sally Gallagher. Sally was a long-time member of the Club who led many field trips and shared her enjoyment of birding. She also volunteered for New Hampshire Audubon doing various bird surveys and helping with the New Hampshire Breeding Bird Atlas. Her laughter, energy and enthusiasm will be missed.



Sally Gallagher on a birding trip to Newfoundland in 2002. Photo by Robert A. Quinn.

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Cover Photos: Top: Yellow-crowned Night-Heron by Len Medlock, 4/12/13, Hampton, NH. Bottom: Greater White-fronted Goose by Benjamin Griffith, 4/28/13, Borthwick Ave., Portsmouth, NH. Left: Spruce Grouse by Dave Trumper, 5/12/13, Weetamoo Trail, Mt. Chocorua, Albany, 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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Spring 2013

by Rebecca Suomala

Welcome to a new look for *New Hampshire Bird Records!* We apologize for the delay in getting this issue out, but we are excited to unveil this larger-sized format. We made the change for several reasons. This format allows more flexibility to add articles and increase the number of pages more economically. And as more publications are available on the web, this size format is more efficient to print at home. We are hoping to have an archive of back-issues available on the web in their entirety. This new format will also allow these files to be in color on the web, even if we cannot print them in color. We will continue with a color cover as long as we have a sponsorship for the issue. These covers look great so please contact me if you are interested in sponsoring an issue. Feedback and comments on the new format are most welcome.

The Summer 2013 issue should be out soon now that the new format is ready to go. The Season Editors are finding that the number of eBird reports they have to look through makes it a much longer process to prepare the season summaries and list of sightings. We will endeavor to get the issues to you as soon as possible, but we're still determining a realistic time frame when there may be 40,000 records for a given season!

I am pleased to report that the New Hampshire Bird Records Endowment Fund has doubled and is now over \$20,000. Thanks to everyone who has donated to the Fund. As it grows the Fund will provide stable base funding for all that *New Hampshire Bird Records* does. If you would like to make a contribution, please contact me.

Welcome to new subscribers and thanks to everyone for your patience and support.

PHOTO QUIZ

Can You Identify
This Bird?

Answer on page 35.

Photo by Jon Woolf.



New Guide to New Hampshire Birding



Birdwatching in New Hampshire is a new bird-finding guide for the state and a welcome addition to any birder's library. The previous *Birder's Guide to New Hampshire* by Alan Delorey has been out of print for many years and New Hampshire has needed a new, up-to-date guide. Congratulations to Eric for filling that void.

“Eric Masterson has written an excellent bird-finding guide. It is clearly written, beautifully illustrated, and nicely designed. This guide is a must-have for anybody birding in New England.”
—Don & Lillian Stokes, *Authors of The Stokes Field Guide to the Birds of North America*

Designed to appeal to expert and backyard birdwatchers alike, *Birdwatching in New Hampshire* reveals where, when, and how to watch and enjoy birds in New Hampshire. It not only offers the latest information about the seasonal status and distribution of birds in New Hampshire, but also features a thorough introduction to the art and practice of birdwatching, including equipment, ethics, migration, conservation, and most of all, finding that “good bird.”

The heart of the book is the detailed descriptions and maps that outline more than 120 birding sites across the state, from the Connecticut River Valley to Jeffreys Ledge and Cashes Ledge far off the coast. Drawing upon his extensive knowledge of the habits and habitats of New Hampshire birds, Eric has divided the state into six regions, each with a rich diversity of birdwatching destinations. The guide also features informative accounts of the more than 300 bird species regularly seen in the Granite State, including their preferred habitats and graphs illustrating when each is most likely to be encountered.

See page 21 for an excerpt.

March 1, 2013 through May 31, 2013

by Eric Masterson

If I was to tweet about spring 2013 in 140 characters or less, it would go something like *Greenland Greater White-fronted Geese and Snow Geese forget to leave, warblers and thrushes forget to arrive*. Fortunately, *New Hampshire Bird Records* provides a bit more space.

The spring season runs from March through May, three of the best birding months of the year. By the numbers, the majority of first-of-year records occur in April (approximately 80, versus 50 in March and 65 in May). However, in terms of sheer volume, the greatest number of individual birds migrates to or through the state in May. The effect of weather on migration is most pronounced at this time as it impacts a large volume of birds. Generally speaking, good weather is good for birds and bad weather is good for birding. Those famous fallouts that birders dream about are the product of heavy migration coinciding with bad weather. Just like us, birds don't like to travel during stormy conditions.

Waterfowl, which move through the state primarily in March, also respond to the weather, though for different reasons. They need open water and/or access to forage, parameters that are determined by the amount of snow and ice cover. A harsh spring might create a bottleneck of birds to the south of New Hampshire, waiting for conditions to improve. When winter occasionally times its retreat north through New Hampshire to coincide with the traditional peak time for waterfowl migration, the ensuing hordes of ducks and geese can be remarkable. In the last few years, we have experienced warm springs which permit waterfowl to overfly the state to staging areas in Canada, and this spring



Eurasian Wigeon by Steve Mirick, 4/9/13, East Kingston, NH.

fell closer to this new normal. Waterfowl numbers were light, although there were some interesting sightings, including two **Eurasian Wigeon** away from Great Bay where they are most commonly seen.

You may remember the glorious weather we had in late April courtesy of a stationary high pressure cell that sat squarely over New England. It was great for gardening but not so good for migration, and it played havoc with the arrival times of most of our migrants. The high pressure effectively blocked the normal progression of cyclonic systems that are responsible for creating the southerly winds beloved by spring migrants. These "blocking" highs come in a variety of barometric patterns. An *Omega Block* is created by a low-high-low pressure arrangement, the airflow around which follows a pattern reminiscent of the upper case Greek letter Omega, and one set up shop over New England from April 20 to May 9. Immediately following its passage, a number of laggard species made their first appearance in the state, clear evidence if any was needed, of the role that weather plays in bird migration. I heard my first Wood Thrush on May 11, four days later than the median arrival date and more than a month later than the earliest recorded date of April 4. The first arrival dates of 40 migrant passerines that traditionally arrive between April 20 and May 9, when the blocking high was in place, were on average nine days later than the earliest recorded arrival date. Only Baltimore Oriole set a new early date, though it could have been an overwintering bird. The mid-May push of migrants was brought to an abrupt stop by a period of unsettled weather later in the month, which caused some remarkable fallouts along the coast and on Star Island (see page 23).

Several major rarities added to the excitement this spring, highlighted by the state's first unambiguous **Northern Lapwing** and the seventh record of **Curlew Sandpiper**.

Waterfowl

A Greater White-fronted Goose in Portsmouth on March 12 had either gone unnoticed since its last sighting on January 17, or possibly it was a different bird. Either way, it was seen sporadically in the greater Portsmouth region until it was last sighted on May 3 on Borthwick Avenue. The vast majority of this subspecies winters in Scotland and Ireland. The few birds that migrate down the wrong side of the Atlantic begin moving north through New England in late February and March on the first leg of their arduous trek to breeding grounds in western Greenland. Any birder wishing to add this bird to their state year list would be wise to try to



Greater White-fronted Goose by Aiden Moser, 4/21/13, Liberty Mutual, Borthwick Ave., Portsmouth, NH.

find one before mid-April. This spring's bird, presumably a non-breeder, was exceptionally tardy.

Perhaps there was something in the water, because an apparently healthy **Snow Goose** lingered in Salem until May 22. Birders looked for it unsuccessfully during the Birdathon on May 18, when it would have been a remarkable addition to the list. At least four Cackling Geese was average, with all but one record coming from the Connecticut River Valley. Of perhaps greater interest was a repeat occurrence of a neck-banded Canada Goose seen along a stretch of the Connecticut River near Walpole. The bird, banded in Greenland in 2008, was seen in March of 2011 and again in 2013 in the same general area near Walpole, suggesting site fidelity to a staging area.

Gadwall continues to increase, with seven reports totaling 17 individuals, including birds in Concord, Lyme, Nashua, and Wolfeboro. One of the waterfowl highlights of the season involved **Eurasian Wigeon**. Twenty-five individuals have been recorded during spring since 1990, with all but two occurring on Great Bay. This year, two drakes were seen, both away from the Bay. One was found at Bodwell Farm in East Kingston, with another at Great Meadows in Charlestown, the latter only the third record for the Connecticut River Valley.

A Blue-winged Teal at Exeter Wastewater Treatment Plant on March 21 was early for this normally late spring migrant. Like Gadwall, Northern Shoveler seems to be increasing in New Hampshire, with more than ten records involving as many as 16 individuals. By contrast, Northern Pintail and Green-winged Teal had a modest showing this spring. Powwow Pond continues to host the largest spring concentrations of Ring-necked Ducks (247), and Great Bay continues to be the most reliable site to see the rarer *Aythya* species, with five Canvasbacks and one Redhead tallied in early March. The now expected concentration of Lesser Scaup at the Exeter Wastewater Treatment Plant peaked at 116 on April 7.

A **King Eider** at Seabrook in early March was the only sighting of this rare duck for the entire season. The flock of 110 Black Scoters seen migrating over Powdermill Pond on May 28 was of comparable rarity as this species is a very rare spring migrant away from the coast. Ruddy Ducks were only reported from the Great Bay area, while Barrow's Goldeneye was a bit more widespread, with reports from Hinsdale, Great Bay, Manchester, and the coast.

Date # Location Observer

Greater White-fronted Goose

03/12	1	Urban Forestry Center, Portsmouth	J. Kelly
03/29	1	Hinsdale setbacks	E. Masterson
04/20	1	Liberty Mutual pond, Borthwick Ave., Portsmouth	S. Mirick, A. Moser
04/28	1	Liberty Mutual pond, Borthwick Ave., Portsmouth	S. Mirick, B. Griffith, L. Kras, E. Perkins
05/03	1	Borthwick Ave., Portsmouth	D. Hitchcox



Snow Goose by Kyle Wilmarth, 5/13/13, Hedgehog Pond, Salem, NH.

Snow Goose

03/13	2	Great Meadow, Charlestown	E. Masterson
04/17	1	Rockingham Park racetrack, Salem	K. Wilmarth
05/22	1	residence, Salem	K. Wilmarth

Brant

03/13	1	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
05/18	26	Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye	E. Masterson
04/20	2	Winnisquam Lake	J. Stahl
05/19	149	NH coast	J. Lambert



Cackling Goose by Kyle Wilmarth, 3/24/13, Litchfield, NH.

Cackling Goose

03/13	1	Great Meadow, Charlestown	E. Masterson
03/16	3	Hinsdale setbacks	E. Masterson
03/21	1	Charlestown WTP	P. Brown
03/24	1	fields near Robyn Ave., Litchfield	J. Lambert, et al.

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Date # Location Observer

Canada Goose

03/16 2000 Great Meadow, Charlestown E. Masterson
 03/16 2000 Hinsdale setbacks E. Masterson
 03/29 1000 Great Bay Discovery Center, Greenland K. Elwell,
 A. Walsh, S. Santino
 03/30 328 Occum Pond, Hanover J. Norton
 04/03 1037 Horseshoe Pond Lane, Concord D. Lipsy

Wood Duck

03/11 1 Edgewater Dr., Hooksett R. Quinn, L. LaPierre
 03/22 71 West Portsmouth St., Concord D. Lania
 03/29 82 Connecticut R., Westmoreland E. Masterson
 04/10 15 Rt.135 & Rt. 142, Dalton S. Stoddard
 04/11 35 Grant Brook/Wilder WMA B. Allison
 04/15 19 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield D. Govatski
 04/20 25 Bedell Bridge SP, Haverhill P. Brown

Gadwall

03/04 2 Sunset Farm, Greenland J. Scott, B. Crowley
 03/14 1 Hewes Brook outlet, Lyme J. MacQueen
 03/21 5 Hinsdale setbacks H. Walters
 04/02 2 Horseshoe Pond, Concord D. Lania, A. Moser
 04/05 2 Fields Grove City Park, Nashua C. Sheridan
 04/07 4 Meadow Pond, Hampton S. Mirick
 04/24 1 Abenaki Pond, Rt. 109A, Wolfeboro W. Chatel

Eurasian Wigeon

04/09 1 Rt. 108, E. Kingston S. Mirick, J. Lambert
 04/13 1 Great Meadows, Charlestown J. Russo, D. Johnston,
 M. Adams, D. Clark

American Wigeon

03/02 1 Hall St., Bow P. Hunt
 03/02 2 Sunset Farm, Greenland S. Mirick
 03/16 5 Hinsdale setbacks E. Masterson
 04/07 12 Sunset Farm, Greenland J. Lambert
 04/11 1 Richmond Conservation Land, Orford J. MacQueen

American Black Duck

03/18 63 Hinsdale setbacks E. Masterson
 03/29 60 Rt. 12 pond, Walpole E. Masterson
 03/29 550 Great Bay Discovery Center, Greenland K. Elwell,
 A. Walsh, S. Santino
 04/13 15 Airport Marsh, Whitefield D. Govatski
 04/15 21 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield D. Govatski
 04/20 50 Bedell Bridge SP, Haverhill P. Brown

Mallard

03/03 150 Bodwell Farm, E. Kingston M. Watson
 03/12 140 Derry WTP S. Mirick
 03/14 250 Hewes Brook outlet, Lyme J. MacQueen
 03/28 180 Merrimack R., Big Bend, Boscawen R. Quinn,
 R. Vallieres
 03/28 173 Great Meadows, Charlestown D. Clark
 03/29 115 Great Bay Discovery Center, Greenland K. Elwell,
 A. Walsh, S. Santino

Blue-winged Teal

03/21 1 Exeter WTP S. Mirick
 04/07 2 Eel Pond, Rye S. Mirick
 04/11 2 Bodwell Farm, E. Kingston L. Medlock

Date # Location Observer



Blue-winged Teal by Len Medlock, 4/17/13, Exeter WTP, NH.

04/20 4 Exeter WTP A. Moser
 04/20 4 Meadow Pond, Hampton J. Lambert
 05/22 1 Rochester WTP D. Hubbard

Northern Shoveler

03/14 1 Hewes Brook outlet, Lyme J. MacQueen
 04/14 2 Spofford Lake A. Burnett
 04/14 2 Horseshoe Pond, Concord D. Currier
 04/14 2 Lubberland Creek Preserve, Newmarket N. Purmort
 04/20 4 Exeter WTP A. Moser
 04/28 2 Airport Marsh, Whitefield S. Stoddard

Northern Pintail

03/03 1 Merrimack R. at Hall St., Concord Z. Cornell
 03/16 5 Great Meadows, Charlestown E. Masterson
 03/16 10 Hinsdale setbacks E. Masterson
 03/30 5 Lubberland Creek Preserve, Newmarket B. Rudinsky

Green-winged Teal

03/12 3 Concord D. Lipsy
 04/03 53 Wetherby Rd. fields, Charlestown E. Masterson
 04/06 56 Meadow Pond, Hampton B. Griffith
 04/13 1 Rt 135 S., Lancaster S. Stoddard
 04/13 2 Airport Marsh, Whitefield D. Govatski

Canvasback

03/02 5 Sunset Farm, Greenland S. Mirick

Redhead

03/02 1 Sunset Farm, Greenland S. Mirick

Ring-necked Duck

03/02 1 Great Bay Discovery Center, Greenland S. Mirick
 03/14 50 World End Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth
 03/16 72 Powwow Pond, Kingston J. Lambert
 03/24 247 Powwow Pond, Kingston J. Lambert
 03/26 89 Hinsdale setbacks E. Masterson
 03/30 85 Brentwood Mitigation Area L.& L. Medlock
 04/07 60 Turtle Pond, Concord D. Currier
 04/09 5 Androscoggin R., Bridge St. area, Berlin L. McIntire
 04/13 10 Rt 135 s., Lancaster S. Stoddard

Greater Scaup

03/03 1500 Sunset Farm, Greenland L. Medlock,
 J. O'Shaughnessy
 04/13 560 Sunset Farm, Greenland S. Mirick



Lesser Scaup by Len Medlock, 4/16/13, Exeter WTP, NH.

Date # Location Observer

Lesser Scaup

03/16 8 Hinsdale setbacks H. Galbraith
 04/07 116 Exeter WTP R. Quinn, C. Foss, B. Richards
 04/14 12 Spofford Lake A. Burnett

King Eider

03/03 1 Seabrook Beach S.& J. Mirick, et al.

White-winged Scoter

05/25 2 Spofford Lake E. Masterson
 05/26 9 Upper Baker Pond, Orford J. MacQueen

Black Scoter

05/26 60 North Beach, Hampton S. Mirick
 05/26 30 Concord Point, Rye S. Mirick
 05/28 110 Powder Mill Pond, Hancock H. Walters

Long-tailed Duck

03/16 2 Adams Point WMA, Durham J. Scott, B. Crowley
 04/19 12 Hinsdale setbacks H. Galbraith

Bufflehead

03/04 75 Great Bay Discovery Center, Greenland J. Scott,
 B. Crowley
 04/10 20 Hinsdale setbacks H. Galbraith
 04/15 1 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield D. Govatski

Common Goldeneye

03/05 166 Greenland S. Stoddard
 04/13 12 Sunset Farm, Greenland S. Mirick
 04/20 2 AMC Highland Center at Crawford Notch, Carroll
 L. Lane

Barrow's Goldeneye

03/02 1 Sunset Farm, Greenland S. Mirick
 03/05 2 Merrimack R., Manchester B. Griffith, L. Kras
 04/07 1 Great Boars Head, Hampton S. Mirick

Hooded Merganser

03/10 88 Lake Wantastiquet, Hinsdale E. Masterson
 03/22 3 Mechanic St., Gorham W. O'Brien
 03/26 24 Powder House Pond, Exeter M. Mahata
 04/11 24 Richmond Conservation Land, Orford J. MacQueen

Common Merganser

03/10 84 Lake Wantastiquet, Hinsdale E. Masterson
 03/20 1 Gorham W. O'Brien
 03/22 4 Mechanic St., Gorham W. O'Brien
 03/29 52 Chapmans Landing, Stratham K. Elwell,
 A. Walsh, S. Santino
 04/07 65 Lakeshore Dr., Northwood Lake G.& A. Robbins
 04/08 66 Elm Brook Park, Hopkinton R. Quinn

Red-breasted Merganser

03/23 75 NH coast R. Quinn, et al
 03/24 1 Hinsdale setbacks E. Masterson, et al.
 04/07 2 Turtle Pond, Concord D. Currier
 04/10 2 Hinsdale setbacks H. Galbraith

Ruddy Duck

03/14 14 Adams Point WMA, Durham J. Kelly
 04/11 2 Exeter WTP M. Watson



Ruddy Duck (r) with Northern Shoveler by Steve Mirick, 4/9/13, Exeter WTP, NH.

Turkey through Cranes

Two inland records of **Red-throated Loon**, one on the Merrimack River in Hooksett and one on the Connecticut River in Hinsdale, were quite noteworthy (see page 24). It is an uncommon inland migrant, especially in spring. A Common Loon put down on the Merrimack River in Manchester on March 5 likely because it returned too early and found the lakes still frozen. A count of 19 Horned Grebes from Spofford Lake on April 20 was high for the location.

A trip to Star Island on May 24 was chiefly notable for migrant passerines, although a Sooty Shearwater seen from the boat was on the early side. A count of 350 Northern Gannets from the coast on April 28 was an exceptionally high number for the spring.



Yellow-crowned Night-Heron by Steve Mirick, 4/13/13, Hampton, NH.

Least Bitterns were recorded from the two most reliable sites in New Hampshire, Surry Lane Marsh in Durham and Hinsdale Setbacks, while two Snowy Egrets at Rochester Wastewater Treatment Plant in late April were well inland relative to this species' preferred coastal habitat. Several Little Blue Herons were reported, including individuals from Wentworth and Hinsdale. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron in Hampton and two Tricolored Herons in Rye were the rarest herons of the season. Continuing the theme of long-legged waders, fully half of the eight records of **Glossy Ibis** were recorded well inland, where they are normally a rarity. To illustrate, there have been only 12 spring records away from

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the coastal and Great Bay regions since 1990, including the four birds this year.

One Black Vulture was low by comparison with recent years, while two Golden Eagles, reported from Greenland and Hanover was about normal. The ten Northern Goshawks reported from the southeast coastal plain were most likely migrants. This species is an increasingly scarce breeder with decreasing latitude, and care should be taken to eliminate the more common Cooper's Hawk, especially in the coastal region. Four Rough-legged Hawks was about average for spring.

A **Common Gallinule** on Turtle Pond on May 2 was a nice find, while the wintering American Coot in Wolfeboro lingered long enough to make it into the spring issue. A modest showing of Sandhill Crane (three reports involving five birds) compares with nine records totaling 16 birds last spring. They are clearly increasing in the state, though as the following anecdote illustrates, they remain an unfamiliar sight to many. In mid-March a concerned citizen reported to law enforcement (though not to eBird, home of the "real birding police") "three Emu type birds loose on Lee Hook Road." A photograph helped solve the case of the missing Emus.

Date # Location Observer

Wild Turkey

03/09 50 Plaistow S. Cafiso
03/21 48 Sawyer Farm, River Rd., Walpole P. Brown

Red-throated Loon

03/11 1 Amoskeag Rowing Club, Hooksett R. Quinn,
L. LaPierre
04/13 1 Hinsdale setbacks H. Galbraith
05/26 11 North Beach, Hampton S. Mirick
05/26 5 Little Boars Head, N. Hampton S. Mirick
05/26 1 Concord Point, Rye S. Mirick
05/26 10 Seabrook Beach S. Mirick

Common Loon

03/05 1 Merrimack R., Manchester L. Kras
03/23 93 NH coast R. Quinn, et al
04/13 12 Lake Massabesic, Auburn E. Masterson
04/16 1 Rt.135 & Rt. 142, Dalton S. Stoddard
04/18 2 Martin Meadow Pond, Lancaster S. Stoddard

Pied-billed Grebe

04/15 1 Rt.135 & Rt. 142, Dalton S. Stoddard

Horned Grebe

04/20 19 Spofford Lake E. Masterson
05/24 1 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye R. Quinn,
P. Brown, et al.

Northern Gannet

04/28 350 NH coast S. Mirick
05/24 130 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye R. Quinn,
P. Brown, et al.

Date # Location Observer

Double-crested Cormorant

03/23 6 NH coast R. Quinn, et al
04/28 615 NH coast S. Mirick

Great Cormorant

03/11 2 Bow Junction, Concord R. Quinn, L. LaPierre
04/09 1 Crete's Farm River Rd., Boscawen D. LaValley
05/27 2 Isles of Shoals, Square Rock, Rye E. Masterson

American Bittern

04/10 1 Chaffee WS, Lyme W. Benoit
04/28 1 Airport Marsh, Whitefield S. Stoddard

Least Bittern

05/18 1 Hinsdale powerline dike P. Brown, H. Walters,
A. Moser, A. Burnett
05/19 1 Surrey Lane marsh, Durham J. Lambert

Great Blue Heron

03/02 1 Hess gas station marsh, Salem K. Wilmarth
03/11 1 Commercial St., Concord D. Lipsy
03/13 1 Great Meadow, Charlestown E. Masterson
04/13 1 Airport Marsh, Whitefield D. Govatski
04/14 16 Hampton Beach SP S. Mirick
04/14 4 Airport Marsh, Whitefield S. Stoddard

Great Egret

03/28 1 Parsons Creek saltmarsh w. of Wallis Sands, Rye
M. Thompson
04/08 1 Reed's Marsh WMA, Orford B. Allison, J. MacQueen
05/15 1 Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey P. Brown,
H. Walters, A. Burnett
05/25 1 Wetherby Rd. fields, Charlestown E. Masterson

Snowy Egret

03/31 3 saltmarsh s. of Odiorne Pt., Rye M. Watson
04/14 13 NH coast J. Lambert
04/28 2 Pickering Ponds, Rochester R. Feeney

Little Blue Heron

05/02 1 Beech Hill Rd., Wentworth J. Hannon
05/12 1 Hinsdale setbacks K. Gordon
05/18 1 Philbrick Marsh, N. Hampton P. Brown,
H. Walters, A. Moser, A. Burnett
05/18 1 Odiorne Point SP, Rye G. Tillman, E. Masterson

Tricolored Heron

05/21 2 salt marshes s. of Rye Harbor S. Mirick

Green Heron

04/22 1 Tilton Hill Rd./Suncook R., Pittsfield A. Robbins
04/27 1 Main St. pond, Enfield P. Hunt



*Black-crowned Night-Heron
by Len Medlock,
4/29/13,
Powder House Pond,
Exeter, NH.*

Date	#	Location	Observer
Black-crowned Night-Heron			
04/27	1	Rt. 1A, Seabrook	S. Mirick
04/29	1	Powder House Pond, Exeter	L. Medlock
05/18	1	Buffalo Farm and Marsh, Hancock	H. Walters
05/22	1	Tilton Hill Rd./Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins
05/31	1	Hooksett Rd., Hooksett	B. Griffith

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron			
04/13	1	Cusack Rd., Hampton	L. Medlock, et al.

Glossy Ibis			
04/12	1	Seabrook Beach	L. Kras
04/16	1	Merrymeeting Marsh, Alton	A. Robbins
04/18	1	Eastern District Rd., Danbury	M. Phelps
04/25	1	Agway, Milford	B. Griffith
04/28	8	McIntyre Rd., Newington	L. Medlock, J. Lambert
05/09	1	Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack	L. Kras
05/11	17	NH coast	S. Mirick
05/30	8	off Rt. 1A, Hampton	K. Wilmarth

Black Vulture			
03/13	1	Hawkin's Farm, Salem	K. Wilmarth, A. Altena

Turkey Vulture			
03/10	6	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
03/17	10	Cummings St., Plymouth	E. Hoffman
03/28	1	Portland St., Lancaster	S. Stoddard
03/30	21	Fall Mtn., Walpole	J. Russo, M. Adams, D. Clark, L. Gaudette, M. Harrison
04/08	29	Old Hillsboro Rd., Henniker	A. Moser

Osprey			
03/22	1	West Hollis St. celltower, Nashua	C. Sheridan
03/24	2	Great Bay NWR, Newington	J. Sparrell
04/13	1	Martin Meadow Pond, Lancaster	S. Stoddard
04/14	8	Exeter WTP	S. Mirick
04/14	2	Martin Meadow Pond, Lancaster	S. Stoddard

Golden Eagle			
03/21	1	Rt. 151, Greenland	L. Medlock
03/28	1	Sandy Point Discovery Ctr., Stratham	E. Heckman
03/28	1	McLane grounds, Hanover	K. Kittelberger

Northern Goshawk			
03/01	1	Bean Rd., Merrimack	L. Kras
03/22	1	Antrim Rd., Hancock	P. Brown
04/01	1	Willard Pond WS, Antrim	H. Walters
04/03	1	Merrimack R., Big Bend, Boscawen	D. Lipsy
04/05	1	Old Mill Rd. WMA, Lee	S. Young
04/08	2	Harris Center, Hancock	E. Masterson
04/20	1	Cammet Fields, Raymond	S. Santino
04/22	1	Strafford County Farm, Dover	D. Hubbard
04/22	1	Antrim Rd., Hancock	P. Brown
04/25	1	Smith Sisters (Follett's Brook WS), Newmarket	P. Brown
04/28	1	Lovering Rd. marsh, N. Hampton	B. Griffith, L. Kras
04/30	1	Hawkin's Farm, Salem	K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
05/05	1	Willow Pond Community Farm CSA, Brentwood	L. Medlock

Date	#	Location	Observer
Red-shouldered Hawk			
03/03	1	Rt. 108, Exeter	B. Griffith, L. Kras
03/03	1	Portsmouth Ave., Greenland	B. Griffith, L. Kras
03/03	1	Garland Dr., Pelham	D. Fallon

Broad-winged Hawk			
04/14	2	Exeter WTP	S. Mirick
04/15	1	Millican Nurseries, Chichester	J. Lambert
04/22	12	Antrim Rd., Hancock	P. Brown
04/22	12	Tilton Hill Rd./Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins
04/27	24	Pitcher Mt., Stoddard	P. Brown, et al.
04/28	2	Weeks SP, Lancaster	S. Stoddard

Rough-legged Hawk			
03/02	1	Packers Falls to Lee Hook Rd., Durham	D. Franceschini
03/16	1	Great Meadow, Charlestown	E. Masterson
03/17	1	Raymond	J. Hirst
03/26	1	Exeter WTP	P. Brown, P. Miliotis



Virginia Rail by Amanda Altena, 4/17/2013, Salem, NH

Virginia Rail			
04/13	4	Borthwick Ave., Portsmouth	L. Medlock
04/17	1	Sawyer Brook Pasture, Orford	J. MacQueen
04/24	4	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
Sora			
03/31	1	Hinsdale setbacks	H. Galbraith
04/24	2	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
04/27	1	Exeter WTP	J. Lambert, L. Medlock
04/27	1	Orfordville Rd. beaver pond, Orford	J. MacQueen
05/05	1	Old Mill Rd. WMA, Lee	B. Griffith, L. Kras
05/11	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski, P. Brown, NHA FT
05/16	1	Geremonty Dr. marsh, Salem	K. Wilmarth
05/18	1	Surrey Lane marsh, Durham	K. Dorsey

Common Gallinule			
05/02	1	Turtle Pond, Concord	A. Robbins, et al.

American Coot			
03/22	1	Wolfeboro Bay	W. Chatel
03/26	3	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth, A. Altena

Sandhill Crane			
04/13	2	Millican Nurseries, Chichester	J. Lambert, et al.
04/28	2	Sanborn Rd., Ashland	I. MacLeod
05/22	1	Tilton Hill Rd./Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins

Shorebirds through Alcids

The bird of the season, New Hampshire's first unambiguous **Northern Lapwing** photographed by a non-birder in Loudon on March 10, was highly anticipated. Beginning late fall 2012, at least 11 individuals were recorded across the eastern United States, from Newfoundland to Georgia, in one of the largest incursions of this European species in recorded history. Every year in October, Northern Lapwings move out of continental Europe in large numbers to spend the winter in Ireland, where the climate is milder. Perhaps a number of these birds were swept across the Atlantic by the easterly winds associated with superstorm Sandy. Confirmation of New Hampshire's first record might have proved elusive such was the poor quality of the photo (there are better pictures of Sasquatch) but the bird's highly distinctive appearance shone through the blurred image. Unfortunately it was not seen again, frustrating the many birders who have yet to add this species to their state list.



Dunlin by Kyle Wilmarth, 5/30/13, Hampton Harbor, NH.

A prescient email to the NH Birds e-mail list by Rob Woodward alerted birders to a retention pond in Concord that offered good shorebird habitat just as shorebird migration was gearing up. In the ensuing days, local birders recorded 11 Semipalmated Plovers, a Semipalmated Sandpiper, 13 Least Sandpipers, and a White-rumped Sandpiper. Shorebird occurrence in New Hampshire during spring is perhaps more intimately tied to prevailing weather conditions than is the case with other migrants. Thus, the combination of favorable winds and unsettled weather provided fertile ground for some interesting reports toward the end of May, including a rare inland occurrence of **Ruddy Turnstone** in Concord, and a large flight of 880 Short-billed Dowitchers along the coast. Hampton Harbor hosted high counts of 31 Ruddy Turnstone, 400 Sanderling, 120 Purple Sandpiper and 250 Dunlin in late May.

American Oystercatcher has increased to the point that it is now almost annual in spring, while Red Knot has

decreased to the point that it is now barely annual, thus four of the former in New Castle and six of the latter in Hampton Harbor were interesting. There was one other major shorebird rarity in addition to the lapwing. A **Curlew Sandpiper** was a one-day wonder in Hampton Harbor on May 22.

As has been noted previously by this editor, Bonaparte's Gulls can occur in the Connecticut River valley weeks ahead of their occurrence on the coast, and the pattern was repeated this spring. One was even reported from Whitefield nine days before the first migrants were seen on the coast. Rare gulls included a Little Gull in Rye Harbor in late May, and single Lesser Black-backed and Glaucous Gulls at a meat pile in East Kingston. Noteworthy terns included a Caspian Tern (Hampton Harbor), several Black Terns (Pondicherry, Rye, Powdermill Pond), and a Common Tern on Spofford Lake, all in May.

An Atlantic Puffin was reported from the Connecticut River in Walpole on March 6, when maximum sustained winds were in the order of 22 knots. This would not normally be sufficient to cause inland occurrences of alcids or other strictly pelagic species. Atlantic Puffin in the interior of the state would be unprecedented, and coupled with an absence of details on the sighting, the record is treated here as hypothetical. For the second year running, a Thick-billed Murre was reported in May, this time at Odiorne Point. The species is exceptional after mid-April.

Date # Location Observer

Northern Lapwing

03/10 1 Upper City Rd., Loudon D.& L. Osborne

Black-bellied Plover

05/09 1 Rockingham Park racetrack, Salem K. Wilmarth
 05/11 6 Hampton Harbor S. Mirick, J. Lambert
 05/21 16 Odiorne Point SP, Rye S. Mirick
 05/23 200 Hampton Harbor, Hampton River Marina flats
 D. Rankin
 05/25 1 Charlestown WTP E. Masterson

Semipalmated Plover

05/11 1 Steeplegate Mall & pond, Concord R. Woodward
 05/11 29 Hampton Harbor J. Lambert
 05/23 9 Wetherby Rd. fields, Charlestown E. Masterson
 05/23 150 Hampton Harbor, Hampton River Marina flats
 B. Griffith, L. Kras
 05/24 11 Horseshoe Pond, Concord R. Woodward
 05/26 4 Sawyer Farm, River Rd., Walpole A. Burnett

Piping Plovers by Len Medlock, 4/14/13, Hampton Beach SP, NH.



Date # Location Observer

Piping Plover

03/30 1 Hampton Beach SP J. Lambert
 03/31 1 Seabrook Beach K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
 04/15 4 Hampton Beach SP L. Medlock

American Oystercatcher

05/22 4 Fort Constitution, New Castle E. Masterson

Spotted Sandpiper

04/20 1 Locke Rd. sod farm, Concord D. Howe
 04/20 2 Exeter WTP L. Medlock
 05/22 20 Rochester WTP D. Hubbard
 05/23 11 Charlestown WTP E. Masterson

Solitary Sandpiper

04/28 1 Mink Brook wetlands, Hanover K. Kittelberger
 05/05 1 Tilton Hill Rd./Suncook R., Pittsfield A. Robbins
 05/10 2 Horseshoe Pond, Concord R. Woodward,
 Capital Chapter FT
 05/11 5 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield
 D. Govatski, P. Brown, NHA FT

Greater Yellowlegs

03/30 1 Bodwell Farm, E. Kingston J. Lambert
 04/07 3 NH coast J. Sparrell, S. Mirick
 04/20 18 Rt. 101E pools by pumping station, Hampton
 S. Mirick
 04/29 1 McLane Audubon Center, Silk Farm Rd., Concord
 P. Brown
 05/05 3 World End Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
 05/05 3 Westmoreland boat launch A. Burnett
 05/08 4 Copsps Pond WMA, Tuftonboro A. Robbins
 05/10 3 Pondicherry NRW, Jefferson/Whitefield D. Govatski
 05/15 3 Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey P. Brown,
 H. Walters, A. Burnett

Willet

04/28 1 Rye Harbor SP L. Medlock
 05/11 15 NH coast S. Mirick

Lesser Yellowlegs

04/20 1 Chapmans Landing, Stratham J. Lambert
 04/21 1 Elm Brook Park, Hopkinton A. Pullman, J. Esten
 05/05 1 Morrill's Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook P. Hunt
 05/06 1 Long Meadow Preserve, Auburn M. Carrier
 05/10 5 Rochester WTP D. Hubbard
 05/18 7 Pickering Ponds, Rochester P. Brown, H. Walters,
 A. Moser, A. Burnett

Ruddy Turnstone

05/24 1 Horseshoe Pond, Concord R. Woodward, A. Moser
 05/24 17 Isles of Shoals, Square Rock, Rye P. Brown, et al.
 05/29 31 Hampton Harbor S. Mirick

Red Knot

05/22 1 Hampton Harbor L. Kras
 05/29 6 Hampton Harbor S. Mirick

Sanderling

05/23 400 Hampton Harbor, Hampton River Marina flats
 B. Griffith, L. Kras

Date # Location Observer



Sanderling by Kyle Wilmarth, 5/30/13, Hampton, NH.

Semipalmated Sandpiper

05/11 1 Hampton Harbor J. Lambert
 05/15 1 Steeplegate Mall and pond, Concord R. Quinn
 05/23 250 Hampton Harbor, Hampton River Marina flats
 B. Griffith, L. Kras

Least Sandpiper

05/05 2 Massacre Marsh, Rye J. Lambert
 05/09 10 Rockingham Park racetrack, Salem K. Wilmarth
 05/11 8 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield
 P. Brown, et al.
 05/12 13 Steeplegate Mall and pond, Concord J. Lambert
 05/12 80 Hampton salt marsh S. Mirick
 05/16 17 Exeter WTP P. Miliotis
 05/18 32 Copsps Pond WMA, Tuftonboro A. Robbins
 05/22 1 Old Cherry Mountain Rd. s., Twin Mtn. N. Mitiguy
 05/22 65 Rochester WTP D. Hubbard
 05/23 26 Wetherby Rd. fields, Charlestown E. Masterson

White-rumped Sandpiper

05/11 1 Little Jack's Restaurant, Hampton J. Lambert,
 S. Mirick
 05/12 1 Steeplegate Mall and pond, Concord J. Lambert
 05/22 3 Hampton Harbor L. Kras

Pectoral Sandpiper

04/07 1 Meadow Pond, Hampton S. Mirick
 05/05 1 Exeter WTP J. Lambert

Purple Sandpiper

05/18 120 Hampton Harbor E. Masterson
 05/27 6 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye A. Moser,
 E. Masterson, et al.

Dunlin

05/23 250 Hampton Harbor, Hampton River Marina flats
 B. Griffith, L. Kras

Curlew Sandpiper

05/22 1 Hampton Harbor L. Kras

Short-billed Dowitcher

05/21 11 Pickering Ponds, Rochester J. Scott, B. Crowley
 05/22 880 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye E. Masterson
 05/22 500 Hampton Harbor L. Kras
 05/23 300 Hampton Harbor, Hampton River Marina flats
 D. Rankin

SPRING SEASON

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
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Wilson's Snipe

04/03	1	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	J. Gamble
04/08	20	Sunset Farm, Greenland	M. Thompson

American Woodcock

03/02	1	Great Boars Head, Hampton	L. Medlock, J. O'Shaughnessy
03/06	2	Drinkwater Rd., Kensington	G. Gavutis Jr.
04/13	2	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	D. Govatski

Bonaparte's Gull

04/10	3	Hinsdale setbacks	H. Galbraith
04/13	1	Charlestown WTP	M. Adams, J. Russo, D. Clark
04/13	1	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	D. Govatski
04/20	3	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson
04/30	2	Boston Lot Lake, Lebanon	K. Thompson
05/11	30	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick, J. Lambert
05/12	1	Connecticut R., Monroe	J. MacQueen

Black-headed Gull

03/05	1	Merrimack R., Manchester	L. Kras
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Little Gull

05/27	1	Rye Harbor	A. Moser
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Laughing Gull by Jen Esten, 5/24/13, Star Island, Rye, NH.

Laughing Gull

05/02	1	Hampton Harbor inlet	S. Mirick
05/21	4	Rye Harbor SP	C. Sheridan
05/22	4	Fort Constitution, New Castle	E. Masterson
05/23	3	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
05/24	2	Star Island, Isles of Shoals, Rye	R. Quinn, P. Brown, et al.
05/30	2	Hampton Harbor	K. Wilmarth



Iceland Gull by Kyle Wilmarth, 3/3/13, Salem, NH.

Iceland Gull

03/02	1	Eel Pond, Rye	S. Mirick
03/04	1	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
03/13	1	Hampton Beach	S. Mirick
03/21	1	Fields Grove City Park, Nashua	C. Sheridan
03/25	1	Hedgehog Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
04/13	2	Rockingham Park racetrack, Salem	K. Wilmarth
04/21	1	Exeter WTP	J. Lambert

Lesser Black-backed Gull

03/09	1	Seabrook Greyhound Park	J. Lambert
03/21	1	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch
05/07	1	Rockingham Park racetrack, Salem	K. Wilmarth

Glaucous Gull

03/04	1	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
03/09	1	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch
03/09	1	Eel Pond, Rye	J. Lambert
03/23	1	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	R. Quinn

05/01	1	Swasey Pkwy., Squamscott River, Exeter	T. Vazzano
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Great Black-backed Gull

04/09	125	Androscoggin R., Bridge St. area, Berlin	L. McIntire
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Least Tern

05/12	2	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
05/23	2	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
05/26	5	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick

Caspian Tern

05/18	1	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	P. Brown, H. Walters, A. Moser, A. Burnett
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Black Tern

05/11	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski, P. Brown, NHA FT
05/11	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Mirick, J. Lambert
05/29	2	Powder Mill Pond, Hancock	P. Brown, D.& L. Stokes

Roseate Tern

05/11	7	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick, J. Lambert
05/29	16	Hampton Harbor inlet	S. Mirick

Common Tern

05/11	80	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Mirick
05/22	500	Hampton Harbor	E. Masterson
05/25	1	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson

Thick-billed Murre

03/11	1	Rye Harbor	P. Miliotis, M. Halsey
05/11	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Mirick, J. Lambert

Razorbill

03/16	6	Fort Stark, New Castle	J. Scott, B. Crowley
03/16	8	Little Boars Head, N. Hampton	S. Mirick
03/16	2	Rye Ledge	S. Mirick
03/16	1	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
04/28	1	Rye Ledge	S. Mirick

Cuckoos through Snow Bunting



Eastern Screech-owl by Christine Sheridan, 4/6/13, Hollis, NH.

Seven Yellow-billed Cuckoos was above average and hinted at the summer to come. Five reports of Eastern Screech-Owl did not include any from the southeastern coastal plain, the species' stronghold in New Hampshire. The record from Boston Lot Lake in Lebanon was noteworthy for its more northerly latitude. A single report of a Snowy Owl came from Hampstead on March 16. The long-staying Red-headed Woodpecker that spent the winter at a bird feeder in Alexandria was last reported on May 17 (see also page 26).

Two Yellow-bellied, one Least, two Willow, and a single Great Crested Flycatcher were seen on a trip to Star Island on May 24, not unusual in themselves but part of a remarkable fallout on the coast toward the end of May (see page 32). Returning northward from a fall irruption, Red-breasted Nuthatches were recorded on both trips to Star Island in late May. A particularly heavy migration of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers was noted across northern New England this spring and, in addition to the many reports from southern New Hampshire, an individual was reported from Trudeau Road in Bethlehem on April 27, a northerly location for the species.

The Hermit Thrushes on March 1 in Portsmouth and Sandown were overwintering birds, as was the Brown Thrasher in Grantham on the same date. Varied Thrushes continued in Hopkinton and Bow until March 2 and April 16 respectively, and scattered flocks of Bohemian Waxwings were reported into late March.

Date	#	Location	Observer
Yellow-billed Cuckoo			
05/10	1	Otter Brook Preserve, Sullivan (et al.)	D. Bernstein
05/18	1	Lamprey River Preserve, Durham	K. Dorsey
05/23	1	Church St. water tower parking lot, Hampton	D. Rankin
05/23	1	Fort Stark, New Castle	J. Lambert
05/26	1	Rt. 25 ne. of Heath Pond Bog, Effingham	G.& A. Robbins
05/27	1	Lovewells Pond, Nashua	C. Sheridan
05/30	1	Tilton Hill Rd./Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins
Black-billed Cuckoo			
05/18	3	Brown Farm, Hancock	P. Brown, H. Walters
Eastern Screech-Owl			
03/25	1	Main St., Hollis	L. Medlock
04/06	1	Hollis Monument Square	C. Sheridan, N. Murphy, J. McKibben
04/18	1	Boston Lot Lake, Lebanon	J. Lloyd
05/04	1	residence, Surry	T. Demers
05/11	1	residence, Alstead	M. Harrison
Snowy Owl			
03/16	1	Sawmill Swamp, Hampstead	P. Johnson
Common Nighthawk			
05/12	1	Berry Rd., Nottingham	P. Miliotis
05/18	8	Bean Rd., Merrimack	L. Kras
05/23	22	Tilton Hill Rd./Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins
05/28	101	Powder Mill Pond, Hancock	D. Stokes, H. Walters
Eastern Whip-poor-will			
04/24	1	Durrell Mountain Rd., Gilmanton	N. Mitchell
04/28	3	Mast Yard SF east, Concord	P. Hunt
05/17	2	Bailey Rd., Jefferson	D. Govatski
05/20	4	Mast Yard SF east, Concord	J. Lambert
Chimney Swift			
04/28	2	residence, Salem	K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
04/29	1	Tilton Hill Rd./Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins
05/04	10	Salem Town Forest	K. Wilmarth
05/08	31	Lebanon Junior High School	J. MacQueen
05/09	33	Capital Commons parking garage, Concord	R. Quinn
05/11	2	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski, P. Brown, NHA FT
05/14	45	Northeast Delta Dental Park, Manchester	B. Griffith, L. Kras
05/20	115	Lebanon Junior High School	J. MacQueen
Ruby-throated Hummingbird			
04/27	1	Manchester	S. Hartmann
05/07	1	Green Hill Rd., Chatham	B. Crowley
05/08	1	residence, Alstead	M. Harrison
05/08	1	Ravenwood Farm, Greenfield	T. Shiel
05/08	1	residence, Orford	J. MacQueen
05/14	1	Bretton Woods, Carroll	L. Bergum
05/25	17	Rt.3, Twin Mtn.	D. Hubbard
05/28	20	Center District Rd., Sugar Hill	B. Fraser
Red-headed Woodpecker			
03/06	1	Grafton Rd., Alexandria	P. Hollis, A. Moser
05/17	1	Grafton Rd., Alexandria	P. Hollis

SPRING SEASON

Date # Location Observer

Black-backed Woodpecker

03/03 1 Liberty Springs Trail, WMNF P. Brown
 04/28 2 Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem D. Cross
 05/11 2 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield
 D. Govatski, P. Brown, NHA FT
 05/30 2 Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem K. Dorsey, C. Sheridan

Olive-sided Flycatcher

05/19 1 West Branch Pine Barrens Preserve, Madison
 T. Vazzano
 05/21 1 Tilton Hill Rd./Suncook R., Pittsfield A. Robbins
 05/23 1 Dort Rd., Surry W. Ward
 05/30 1 10-mile Dodge/Partridge/Moore survey, Lyman
 S. Turner



Eastern Wood-Pewee by Jen Esten, 5/24/13, Star Island, Rye, NH

Eastern Wood-Pewee

05/12 1 Faculty Rd. area, Durham S. Snyder
 05/12 1 Rocky Lane, Epping P. Miliotis
 05/15 1 Pickering Ponds, Rochester S. Snyder
 05/23 2 Rye Harbor SP J. Lambert
 05/24 3 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye R. Quinn,
 P. Brown, et al.
 05/27 2 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye E. Masterson, et al.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

05/23 1 Great Boars Head, Hampton S. Mirick
 05/23 1 Odiorne Point SP, Rye J. Lambert
 05/23 2 Rye Harbor SP J. Lambert
 05/24 1 Mud Pond, Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson D. Hubbard
 05/24 2 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye R. Quinn,
 P. Brown, et al.
 05/27 1 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye A. Moser

Alder Flycatcher

05/23 1 Church St. water tower parking lot, Hampton
 D. Rankin
 05/23 6 Great Boars Head, Hampton S. Mirick
 05/24 1 Airport Marsh, Whitefield D. Hubbard
 05/27 8 Turkey Pond, Concord R. Woodward

Willow Flycatcher

05/16 1 Brentwood Mitigation Area D. Skillman
 05/18 2 Hampton Harbor, Hampton River Marina flats
 R. Quinn
 05/24 1 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye R. Quinn,
 P. Brown, et al.
 05/24 1 Airport Marsh, Whitefield D. Hubbard
 05/27 1 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye D. Deiflk
 05/27 1 Odiorne Point SP, Rye J. Tirado

Date # Location Observer

Least Flycatcher

04/29 1 McLane Audubon Center, Silk Farm Rd., Concord
 P. Brown
 05/04 1 Weir Rd., Concord/Boscawen line R. Quinn,
 L. LaPierre
 05/04 1 Indian Pond, Orford J. MacQueen
 05/07 8 Pawtuckaway SP, Nottingham/Deerfield S. Young
 05/09 6 Weeks SP, Lancaster D. Govatski
 05/24 2 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye R. Quinn,
 P. Brown, et al.
 05/27 8 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye E. Masterson, et al.

Eastern Phoebe

03/30 1 Garvins Falls Rd., Concord J. Nadeau
 03/30 1 Nashua Rd., Londonderry G. McKibben
 04/09 1 Portland St., Lancaster S. Stoddard

Great Crested Flycatcher

05/02 1 10-mile Dodge/Partridge/Moore survey, Lyman
 S. Turner
 05/11 1 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield
 D. Govatski, P. Brown, NHA FT
 05/24 1 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye R. Quinn,
 P. Brown, et al.

Eastern Kingbird

04/24 1 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack L. Kras
 04/25 1 Route 202/9, Hillsborough P. Brown
 05/11 4 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield
 D. Govatski, P. Brown, NHA FT
 05/24 2 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye R. Quinn,
 P. Brown, et al.
 05/27 2 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye E. Masterson, et al.



*Northern Shrike
 by Christine Sheridan,
 3/12/13,
 Merrimack, NH.*

Northern Shrike

03/03 1 River Road, Stratham S.&J. Mirick, et al.
 03/04 1 Strafford County Farm, Dover D. Hubbard
 03/04 1 Airport Rd., Keene H. Walters
 03/10 1 Great Meadow, Charlestown E. Masterson
 03/11 1 Anheuser Busch, Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack
 B. Griffith
 03/18 1 Slab City Rd., Grafton R. Blair
 03/20 1 Rt. 103 nw of High St., Newbury A. Moser
 03/23 1 Bennett Rd., Henniker P. Brown
 03/24 1 Massabesic Audubon Center, Auburn K. Wilmarth
 03/31 1 Ash Brook wetland, Keene N. Howe
 04/13 1 Airport Marsh, Whitefield D. Govatski

Date # Location Observer

Blue-headed Vireo

04/16 1 Antrim Rd., Hancock E. Masterson
 04/17 1 Contoocook R. Park, Island Shores Estates,
 Penacook, Concord P. Hunt
 04/24 1 Weeks SP, Lancaster S. Stoddard
 05/24 2 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye R. Quinn,
 P. Brown, et al.
 05/27 2 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye E. Masterson, et al.

Warbling Vireo

04/29 1 Pickering Ponds, Rochester S. Young
 05/01 2 White Farm, Concord Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
 05/04 6 Horseshoe Pond, Concord R. Woodward
 05/18 10 Hinsdale bluffs by Vernon Dam, Hinsdale P. Brown,
 H. Walters, A. Moser, A. Burnett

Philadelphia Vireo

05/21 1 Great Boars Head, Hampton S. Mirick
 05/21 1 Church St. water tower parking lot, Hampton
 C. Sheridan
 05/21 1 Odiorne Point SP, Rye S. Mirick
 05/24 1 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye R. Quinn,
 P. Brown, et al.

Red-eyed Vireo

05/04 1 Bog & George Hill Rds., Springfield/Enfield
 P. Newbern
 05/07 2 Boston Lot Lake, Lebanon B. Heitzman
 05/09 1 University of NH, Durham L. Kras
 05/11 1 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield
 D. Govatski, P. Brown, NHA FT
 05/17 10 Hinsdale bluffs by Vernon Dam H. Walters
 05/18 12 Horseshoe Pond, Concord R. Quinn
 05/24 1 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye R. Quinn,
 P. Brown, et al.
 05/27 8 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye E. Masterson, et al.
 05/30 46 10-mile Dodge/Partridge/Moore survey, Lyman
 S. Turner
 05/31 15 Cherry Pond, Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson
 B. Belanger

Blue Jay

05/02 56 Tilton Hill Rd./Suncook R., Pittsfield A. Robbins



*Fish Crow (best identified by call)
 by Kyle Wilmarth,
 3/18/13,
 Salem, NH.*

Fish Crow

03/06 1 residence, Salem K. Wilmarth
 03/10 1 Yankee Fisherman's Coop., Seabrook J. Lambert
 03/13 1 Suncook River Reservoir, Pembroke/Allenstown
 A. Robbins
 03/31 11 Routes 25 & 16, W. Ossipee T. Vazzano
 04/03 13 Capital Commons parking garage, Concord R. Quinn

Date # Location Observer

*Horned Lark by David Lipsy,
 3/20/13,
 West Portsmouth St.,
 Concord, NH.*



Horned Lark

03/20 65 W. Portsmouth St., Heritage Path n., Concord D. Lipsy
 03/28 75 Great Meadows, Charlestown D. Clark
 03/29 53 Westmoreland boat launch A. Burnett

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

04/08 2 Simeon Wilson Rd., Amherst D. Bernstein
 04/09 1 Strafford County Farm, Dover D. Hubbard
 04/13 1 Morrill's Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook P. Hunt,
 C. Borg
 04/13 2 World End Pond, Salem A. Altena, K. Wilmarth
 05/24 15 Hertzka Drive area, Amherst C. Sheridan



*Purple Martin
 by Kyle Wilmarth,
 5/12/13,
 Wakefield, NH.*

Purple Martin

05/04 1 Hampton Beach J. Kelly
 05/11 6 Great East L., Wakefield K. Wilmarth
 05/21 3 Church St. water tower parking lot, Hampton
 R. Quinn, et al.
 05/22 1 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye E. Masterson
 05/24 3 Hertzka Drive area, Amherst C. Sheridan

Tree Swallow

03/29 10 World End Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth, T. Kavanaugh
 04/07 150 Sewalls Falls State Recreation Area, Concord
 R. Quinn
 04/08 1500 Hinsdale setbacks H. Galbraith
 04/08 300 Elm Brook Park, Hopkinton R. Quinn
 04/14 230 Brentwood Mitigation Area J. Lambert
 04/14 800 Spofford Lake A. Burnett
 04/20 1000 Hinsdale setbacks H. Galbraith
 04/23 15 Martin Meadow Pond, Lancaster S. Stoddard
 04/25 150 Martin Meadow Pond, Lancaster S. Stoddard

Bank Swallow

04/24 2 SPNHF Merrimack River CA, Concord L. Kras
 04/30 18 SPNHF Merrimack River CA, Concord L. Kras
 05/03 2 Hinsdale bluffs by Vernon Dam H. Walters
 05/21 75 SPNHF Merrimack River CA, Concord L. Kras
 05/22 30 McLane Audubon Center, Silk Farm Rd., Concord
 R. Woodward
 05/24 80 Johnson Is., Lebanon J. MacQueen
 05/27 40 Pembroke Sand and Gravel R. Quinn
 05/29 40 Powder Mill Pond, Hancock P. Brown

SPRING SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
Barn Swallow			
04/14	2	Heritage Trail, Moore's Crossing area, Bedford	C. Sheridan
04/15	3	Hampton Beach SP	L. Medlock
04/24	1	Martin Meadow Pond, Lancaster	S. Stoddard
05/12	12	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
05/12	25	Westmoreland boat launch	A. Burnett
05/15	25	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	P. Brown, H. Walters, A. Burnett

Cliff Swallow

04/28	1	Exeter WTP	S. Mirick
05/03	1	Kearsarge Regional HS, Sutton	P. Newbern
05/11	3	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski, P. Brown, NHA FT
05/19	2	Fort Constitution, New Castle	Z. Cornell
05/24	6	Johnson Is., Lebanon	J. MacQueen

swallow sp.

04/20	2000	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson
05/25	300	Charlestown WTP	E. Masterson
05/25	350	Spofford Lake	E. Masterson

Boreal Chickadee

03/03	8	Liberty Springs Trail, WMNF	P. Brown
05/03	1	Mt. Whiteface, Waterville Valley	J. Toledano
05/05		Carter Notch, Beans Purchase	K. Pelletier
05/18		Mt. Tom, WMNF, Bethel	K. Pelletier
05/19	1	Magalloway River Trail, Umbagog NWR, Wentworths Location	C. Hynes
05/26		Mount Guyot, Lincoln	K. Pelletier
05/26	2	East Inlet, Pittsburg	H. Bucht

Tufted Titmouse

03/09	2	Chickwolnepy Rd., Milan	K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
04/07	21	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
05/18	2	Second Connecticut L., Pittsburg	P. Heck

Red-breasted Nuthatch

04/18	15	Fowler Farm, Rochester	D. Hubbard
04/22	10	Snell Rd., Lee	A. LeBlanc
05/24	2	Star Island, Rye	R. Quinn, P. Brown, et al.
05/27	4	Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye	E. Masterson, et al.

House Wren

04/22	1	SPNHF Merrimack River CA, Concord	L. Kras
04/25	2	University of NH, Durham	L. Kras
04/25	1	Tilton Hill Rd./Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins

Marsh Wren

05/04	2	Horse Hill Nature Preserve, Merrimack	L. Kras, B. Griffith
05/05	4	Exeter WTP	J. Lambert
05/18	6	Hinsdale powerline dike	P. Brown, H. Walters, A. Moser, A. Burnett

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

04/17	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	D. Hubbard
04/20	1	Exeter WTP	L. Medlock
04/20	2	Hinsdale setbacks	H. Breder
04/20	1	Spicket River, Salem	K. Wilmarth
04/22	1	Ruth Shepard Trail, Lebanon	J. MacQueen



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher by Len Medlock, 4/20/13, Exeter WTP, NH.

Date	#	Location	Observer
04/27	1	Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem	D. Cross
04/30	1	Copps Pond WMA, Tuftonboro	A. Robbins

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

03/29	1	Reeds Marsh WMA, Orford	J. MacQueen
04/09	1	Tilton Hill Rd./Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins
04/11	4	Lebanon Middle School Trail	J. MacQueen
04/15	15	Southwest Park/Yudicky Farm, Nashua	C. Sheridan
04/28	22	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt

Veery

05/05	1	South Rd., Kensington	G. Gavutis Jr.
05/05	1	Green Rd., Kingston	J. Lambert
05/06	1	SPNHF Merrimack River CA, Concord	L. Kras
05/11	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski, P. Brown, NHA FT
05/17	8	Hinsdale bluffs by Vernon Dam, Hinsdale	H. Walters
05/27	24	Turkey Pond, Concord	R. Woodward

Swainson's Thrush

05/12	1	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	R. Woodward
05/12	X	Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye	E. Masterson
05/18	2	Pawtuckaway SP, Reservation/Tower Rd. loop	P. Miliotis
05/27	1	Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye	E. Masterson, et al.

Hermit Thrush

03/01	1	Harrison Ave., Portsmouth	M. McCann
03/01	1	Crickit Lane, Sandown	J. Neskey
04/10	5	Willard Pond WS, Antrim	H. Walters
04/18	2	Weeks SP, Lancaster	S. Stoddard

Wood Thrush

04/27	1	Bean Rd., Merrimack	L. Kras, B. Griffith
04/30	1	Pleasant St., Epping	P. Miliotis
04/30	1	Berry Rd., Nottingham	P. Miliotis
05/05	6	James Way, Hudson	E. Lai
05/11	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski, P. Brown, NHA FT

American Robin

04/08	500	Richmond Conservation Land, Orford	J. Adams
05/24	2	Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye	R. Quinn, P. Brown, et al.
05/27	1	Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye	E. Masterson, et al.

Varied Thrush

03/02	1	Maple St., Hopkinton	A. Plummer
03/28	1	Saltmarsh Circle, Bow	G. Deragon
04/16	1	Saltmarsh Circle, Bow	G. Deragon

Date # Location Observer

Gray Catbird

04/28 1 Dunkin Donuts, Stratham L. Kras, B. Griffith
 04/29 1 Hawkin’s Farm, Salem K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
 05/01 1 Warren Farm, Barrington S. Young
 05/11 2 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield
 D. Govatski, P. Brown, NHA FT
 05/11 24 Everett Dam ACOE lands, E. Weare Rd., Weare
 Z. Cornell, R. Suomala

Northern Mockingbird

05/31 1 Cherry Pond, Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson
 B. Belanger

Brown Thrasher

03/01 1 New Aldrich Rd., Grantham J. Liepold
 04/21 1 Hinsdale setbacks H. Galbraith
 04/22 1 SPNHF Merrimack River CA, Concord L. Kras
 04/26 3 Airport Marsh, Whitefield S. Stoddard
 05/24 2 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye R. Quinn,
 P. Brown, et al.
 05/27 1 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye E. Masterson, et al.

European Starling

03/03 500 Boggy Meadow Farm, River Rd., Walpole A. Burnett
 04/06 500 Great Bay Farm, Greenland B. Griffith

American Pipit

04/14 2 Old Concord Rd., Henniker A. Moser
 04/20 40 Morrill’s Farm, Penacook P. Hunt, et al.
 05/12 12 Canterbury sod farm Z. Cornell, R.& M. Suomala

Bohemian Waxwing

03/01 36 Sunny Villa, Ossipee M. Gimpel
 03/02 75 Chocorua Village, Tamworth J. Maher
 03/03 20 Dorchester Rd., Lyme P. Ackerson
 03/06 28 Woodward Rd., Westmoreland A. Burnett
 03/20 50 North Country Jewelry Fair, Rt. 16, N. Conway
 B. Crowley
 03/23 38 Stevenson Hill Rd., Sandwich T. Vazzano

Snow Bunting

03/07 21 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield D. Wardwell
 03/09 50 Bridge St. farm, Milan K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
 03/11 7 Rochester WTP D. Hubbard
 03/20 3 W. Portsmouth St., Heritage Path n., Concord
 D. Lipsy, D. Lania

Warblers through Finches

A frontal system that dominated New Hampshire’s weather from May 19 through 24 brought the curtain down on a ten-day period of decent weather for migration. The wind shift and unsettled weather grounded migrants along the New England coast, including a spectacular fallout on New Hampshire’s coast and islands (see page 23). The event was especially well documented at the Church Street water tower parking lot in Hampton and on Star Island. Notable sightings on Star on May 24 included 17



Magnolia Warbler by Jason Lambert, 5/23/13, Great Boar’s Head, Hampton, NH.

species of warblers, featuring an estimated 80 Common Yellowthroats, 50 American Redstarts, 40 Magnolia Warblers, 40 Yellow Warblers, 20 Blackpoll Warblers, and 25 Canada Warblers (see also page 32). The latter number is especially noteworthy, as the population of Canada Warbler is decreasing.

During the same period at the Church Street parking lot (which can be thought of as an island of forest isolated in the middle of a saltmarsh), birders tallied two species of cuckoos, five species of flycatcher, four species of vireo, five species of *Catharus* thrush, and 21 species of warblers. All the birds were seen in a single windbreak of trees less than 300 feet in length, and high counts on May 21 included eight Black-and-white Warbler, 25 Common Yellowthroat, 40 American Redstart, 35 Northern Parula, 20 Magnolia Warbler, 12 Yellow Warbler, 10 Chestnut-sided Warbler, five Blackpoll Warbler, and four Wilson’s Warbler.

Rare and interesting warblers during the season included a **Worm-eating Warbler** at Fort Stark on May 25, a very late migrant Louisiana Waterthrush at Odiorne Point State Park on May 24, and a **Yellow-throated Warbler** at the Church Street parking lot on May 29.

Clay-colored Sparrows continued their remarkable increasing trend, with five birds sighted. The species has been recorded in eight of the last ten springs, compared to a solitary record of a single bird during the entire preceding decade. An “Ipswich” Savannah Sparrow was slightly out of place at Portsmouth Hospital (they are normally exclusively coastal) and a Swamp Sparrow in Charlestown on March 24 was early. A Summer Tanager in Exeter and a Yellow-headed Blackbird in Stratham brought a bit of exotic color to the coastal region. Pine Grosbeaks continued until mid-March, while the amazing invasion of Common Redpolls and a few Hoary Redpolls continued until mid-April. The last Common Redpoll sighting was on May 4.

SPRING SEASON

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
Ovenbird				Mourning Warbler			
04/27	1	Pawtuckaway SP, Round Pond, Nottingham	P. Miliotis, M. Halsey	05/12	1	residence, Alstead	M. Harrison
04/28	1	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt	05/20	1	Hatt Rd., Westmoreland	G. Seymour
05/01	1	Boston Lot Lake, Lebanon	Mascoma Chapter FT	05/23	1	Church St. water tower parking lot, Hampton	D. Skillman
05/04	1	Pinkham Notch & Mt. Wildcat Area, Pinkhams Grant	T. Bruns	05/30	3	Seabrook Back Dunes	S. Mirick
05/04	9	Bog & George Hill Rds., Springfield/Enfield	P. Newbern	Common Yellowthroat			
05/11	14	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski, P. Brown, NHA FT	04/30	1	Boston Lot Lake, Lebanon	K. Thompson
05/27	1	Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye	E. Masterson, et al.	05/01	1	Warren Farm, Barrington	S. Young
Worm-eating Warbler				05/03	1	Hinsdale bluffs by Vernon Dam	H. Walters
05/25	1	Fort Stark, New Castle	J. Lambert	05/05	9	Turkey Pond, Concord	R. Woodward
Louisiana Waterthrush				05/11	12	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski, P. Brown, NHA FT
04/12	1	Rt. 13, New Boston	M. Thompson	05/21	105	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Mirick
04/14	1	Two Rivers CA, Epping	G. Tillman	05/24	80	Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye	R. Quinn, P. Brown, et al.
04/14	1	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	A. Burnett	American Redstart			
04/30	1	Copps Pond WMA, Tuftonboro	A. Robbins	05/01	1	Wildemere Terrace, Concord	D. Howe
05/01	1	Dinsmore Pond Rd., Sandwich	T. Vazzano	05/03	2	Strafford County Farm, Dover	D. Hubbard
Northern Waterthrush				05/03	2	Hinsdale bluffs by Vernon Dam	H. Walters
04/25	2	Great Brook, Langdon	M. Harrison	05/05	4	Highland Center, Carroll	J. Toledano
04/27	1	Bohanon Bridge, Brookline	M. Batcheller	05/19	31	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	J. Lambert
04/28	5	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt	05/21	40	Church St. water tower parking lot, Hampton	R. Quinn, et al.
04/28	6	Low Plain CA, Sutton	P. Newbern	05/21	38	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Mirick
05/01	2	Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem	S. Turner	05/24	50	Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye	R. Quinn, P. Brown, et al.
05/08	2	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski	05/27	20	Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye	E. Masterson, et al.
05/10	6	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski	05/27	20	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	R. Hussey
05/24	4	Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye	R. Quinn, P. Brown, et al.	Cape May Warbler			
Blue-winged Warbler				05/10	1	Old Hillsboro Rd., Henniker	A. Moser
05/03	1	Mt. Whiteface, Waterville Valley	J. Toledano	05/16	1	Mine Falls Park, Nashua	L. Kras
05/05	1	Great Bay NWR, Newington	B. Griffith, E. Perkins	05/17	1	Fogg Dr., Durham	K. Dorsey
Black-and-white Warbler				05/21	2	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski
04/21	1	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	R. Frieden	Northern Parula			
04/21	1	Two Rivers CA, Lebanon	E. Faughnan	04/28	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	L. Kras, B. Griffith, E. Perkins
04/30	9	Southwest Park/Yudicky Farm, Nashua	C. Sheridan	04/28	1	Spicket River, Salem	K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
05/04	2	Highland Center, Carroll	J. Toledano	05/06	1	Garfield Trail, Bethlehem	N. Mitiguy
05/04	16	Bog & George Hill Rds., Springfield/Enfield	P. Newbern	05/08	3	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski
05/10	42	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	J. Kelly	05/11	12	Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski, P. Brown, NHA FT
05/24	4	Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye	R. Quinn, P. Brown, et al.	05/21	35	Church St. water tower parking lot, Hampton	R. Quinn, et al.
05/27	2	Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye	E. Masterson, et al.	Magnolia Warbler			
Tennessee Warbler				05/09	1	McLane Audubon Center, Silk Farm Rd., Concord	P. Brown
05/11	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski, P. Brown, NHA FT	05/10	8	Robb Reservoir, Stoddard	P. Brown
05/14	1	SPNHF Merrimack River CA, Concord	L. Kras	05/11	4	Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski, P. Brown, NHA FT
05/17	1	Granite Hill School, Newport	P. Newbern	05/21	20	Church St. water tower parking lot, Hampton	R. Quinn, et al.
Nashville Warbler				05/21	35	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Mirick
04/29	1	residence, Salem	K. Wilmarth, A. Altena	05/24	40	Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye	R. Quinn, P. Brown, et al.
05/02	1	Mink Brook wetlands area, Hanover	K. Kittelberger	05/27	30	Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye	E. Masterson, et al.
05/04	1	residence, Orford	J. MacQueen				
05/08	17	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski				

Date # Location Observer

Bay-breasted Warbler

05/11 1 Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, Woodstock
D. Grunzel
05/21 2 Church St. water tower parking lot, Hampton
R. Quinn, et al.
05/21 3 Fowler Farm, Rochester D. Hubbard
05/27 2 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye E. Masterson, et al.

Blackburnian Warbler

05/04 1 Pine Knolls Cemetery, Hanover W. Cripps
05/04 1 residence, Orford J. MacQueen
05/04 1 Bog & George Hill Rds., Springfield/Enfield
P. Newbern
05/09 4 Weeks SP, Lancaster D. Govatski
05/19 22 Green Mtn. from Cat Hole Rd., Claremont J. Young
05/24 5 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye R. Quinn,
P. Brown, et al.

Yellow Warbler

04/27 1 Exeter WTP J. Lambert
04/27 1 Gile Rd. marsh, Lee P. Miliotis, M. Halsey
05/02 2 Chaffee WS, Lyme J. MacQueen
05/10 1 Cherry Pond, Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson
B. Allison, D. Govatski
05/10 18 Otter Brook Preserve, Sullivan (et al.) D. Bernstein
05/11 5 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield
D. Govatski, P. Brown, NHA FT
05/11 25 Everett Dam ACOE lands, E. Weare Rd., Weare
Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
05/24 50 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye R. Quinn,
P. Brown, et al.

Chestnut-sided Warbler

05/02 1 Pine St., Newport P. Newbern
05/05 1 Antrim Rd., Hancock P. Brown
05/08 1 Boston Lot Lake, Lebanon Mascoma Chapter FT
05/09 1 Weeks SP, Lancaster D. Govatski
05/11 6 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield
D. Govatski, P. Brown, NHA FT
05/21 10 Church St. water tower parking lot, Hampton
C. Sheridan

Blackpoll Warbler

05/10 1 Maple Street, Newport P. Newbern
05/11 1 Urban Forestry Center, Portsmouth J. Sparrell
05/11 1 Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, Woodstock
D. Grunzel
05/21 3 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield D. Govatski
05/24 15 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye R. Quinn,
P. Brown, et al.

Black-throated Blue Warbler

04/28 1 residence, Walpole L. Stolper
05/01 2 Arethusa Falls Trail, Livermore/Harts Location
P. Demers
05/02 1 Pine St., Newport P. Newbern
05/03 1 Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, Woodstock
D. Grunzel
05/06 1 residence, Orford J. MacQueen
05/10 2 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield D. Govatski

Date # Location Observer



Palm Warbler by Debbie LaValley, 4/8/13, Merrimack River, Concord, NH.

Palm Warbler

04/08 1 Sewalls Falls State Recreation Area, Concord
D. LaValley
04/10 1 Tilton Hill Rd./Suncook R., Pittsfield A. Robbins
04/26 3 Airport Marsh, Whitefield S. Stoddard
04/27 20 Pickering Ponds, Rochester D. Hubbard

Pine Warbler

04/01 1 Bean Rd., Merrimack B. Griffith
04/03 1 Centerra Marketplace, Lebanon B. Heitzman
04/08 1 Granite Hill School, Newport P. Newbern
04/21 18 Turkey Pond, Concord R. Woodward

Yellow-rumped Warbler

03/25 1 Gilmanton Iron Works W. Arms
04/04 2 Tilton Hill Rd./Suncook R., Pittsfield A. Robbins
04/09 1 Sewalls Falls n., Concord J. Nadeau
04/18 1 Martin Meadow Pond, Lancaster S. Stoddard
04/20 35 Morrill's Farm, Penacook P. Hunt, et al.
04/28 50 Exeter WTP J. Esten
05/10 63 Odiorne Point SP, Rye J. Kelly

Yellow-throated Warbler

05/29 1 Church St. water tower parking lot, Hampton
S. Mirick



Prairie Warbler by Lauren Kras, 5/4/13,

Horse Hill Nature Preserve, Merrimack, NH.

Prairie Warbler

04/29 1 Tamposi Water Supply Reserve, Barrington L. Kras
04/30 2 Two Rivers CA, Epping G. Tillman
05/01 3 Warren Farm, Barrington S. Young
05/18 14 Horse Hill Nature Preserve, Merrimack B. Griffith
05/19 21 West Branch Pine Barrens Preserve, Madison
T. Vazzano

Black-throated Green Warbler

04/25 1 Barnstead Rd., Barnstead J. Lambert
04/29 2 Contoocook R. Park, Island Shores Estates,
Penacook, Concord P. Hunt
04/29 1 residence, Sunapee D. Jackson
05/04 3 Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, Woodstock
D. Grunzel

SPRING SEASON

Date # Location Observer

Black-throated Green Warbler—continued

05/05 5 Skookumchuck Brook Trail, Franconia N. Mitiguy
 05/08 3 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield D. Govatski
 05/18 25 Balch Hill, Hanover K. Kittelberger, et al.
 05/21 3 Church St. water tower parking lot, Hampton
 R. Quinn, et al.

Canada Warbler

05/12 1 Powder House Pond, Exeter L. Medlock
 05/15 1 Rt. 120, Cornish P. Newbern
 05/16 1 Berry Rd., Nottingham P. Miliotis
 05/20 3 Mud Pond, Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson D. Govatski
 05/24 6 Church St. water tower parking lot, Hampton
 P. Miliotis
 05/24 25 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye R. Quinn,
 P. Brown, et al.
 05/27 10 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye E. Masterson, et al.

Wilson's Warbler

05/12 1 Horseshoe Pond, Concord R. Woodward
 05/14 1 Lafayette Rd., Portsmouth J. Sparrell
 05/16 1 Rt. 12A, Cornish P. Newbern
 05/18 1 Richmond Conservation Land, Orford J. MacQueen
 05/21 4 Church St. water tower parking lot, Hampton
 C. Sheridan
 05/24 20 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye R. Quinn,
 P. Brown, et al.
 05/27 15 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye E. Masterson, et al.

American Tree Sparrow

03/06 19 Bailey Rd., Jefferson D. Govatski
 04/14 30 Horseshoe Pond, Concord D. Currier
 04/14 1 Portland St., Lancaster S. Stoddard
 04/25 2 Hedgehog Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth
 04/26 1 Faculty Rd. area, Durham S. Snyder

Chipping Sparrow

04/05 1 North Main St., Antrim M. Noble
 04/05 1 Clay Brook at N. Thetford Rd., Lyme J. Norton
 04/08 1 Bretton Woods, Carroll L. Bergum

Clay-colored Sparrow

04/10 2 Western Ave., Henniker A. Moser
 05/12 1 Arboretum Dr., Newington G. & A. Robbins
 05/26 1 Pease Int'l. Tradeport, Portsmouth S. Mirick

Field Sparrow

04/05 1 North Main St., Antrim M. Noble
 04/08 1 Hinsdale setbacks H. Galbraith
 04/11 1 McLane Audubon Center, Silk Farm Rd., Concord
 P. Brown, H. Walters
 04/26 1 Airport Marsh, Whitefield S. Stoddard

Vesper Sparrow

04/10 1 Lebanon Middle School Trail J. MacQueen
 04/29 1 residence, Salem A. Altena
 05/05 1 Morrill's Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook P. Hunt
 05/12 2 Concord Airport J. Lambert
 05/18 1 Four Corners, New London P. Newbern
 05/18 2 Ambrose Gravel Pit, Sandwich T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely

Date # Location Observer

Savannah Sparrow

03/31 1 Morrill's Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook P. Hunt
 04/07 1 Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook S. Mirick
 04/09 1 Strafford County Farm, Dover D. Hubbard
 04/09 1 Exeter WTP S. Mirick



Savannah Sparrow - Ipswich subsp. by Benjamin Griffith, 3/3/13, Rye, NH.

Savannah Sparrow - Ipswich sub-sp.

03/03 2 second pull off s. of Odiorne Pt., Rye B. Griffith,
 L. Kras
 04/14 1 Portsmouth Hospital J. Lambert
 04/14 1 Odiorne Point SP, Rye S. Mirick

Grasshopper Sparrow

05/11 1 Concord Airport R. Woodward
 05/13 1 cemetery fields, Amherst B. Griffith
 05/25 1 Pease Int'l. Tradeport, Short St., Newington
 J. Lambert

Nelson's Sparrow

05/19 1 Lubberland Creek Preserve, Newmarket K. Dorsey
 05/27 1 Chapmans Landing, Stratham J. Gamble

Saltmarsh Sparrow

05/18 1 Little Jack's Restaurant, Hampton P. Brown,
 H. Walters, A. Moser, A. Burnett
 05/19 2 Lubberland Creek Preserve, Newmarket K. Dorsey
 05/26 3 Hampton salt marsh S. Mirick
 05/27 6 Chapmans Landing, Stratham J. Gamble

Fox Sparrow

03/10 1 residence, Swansey D. Hoitt
 03/20 2 Old Drewsville Rd., Walpole L. Stolper
 03/22 1 Tow Path Ln., Concord D. Lania
 03/31 4 Gilsum M. Wright
 04/12 1 Bretton Woods, Carroll L. Bergum
 04/06 8 Foss Farm, Durham J. Lambert
 04/21 1 Penacook survey route P. Hunt

Song Sparrow

03/13 1 Bretton Woods, Carroll L. Bergum

Lincoln's Sparrow

05/06 1 Tilton Hill Rd./Suncook R., Pittsfield A. Robbins
 05/12 1 Seabrook WTP S. Mirick
 05/12 1 Woodward Rd., Westmoreland A. Burnett

Date # Location Observer



Lincoln's Sparrow by Jen Esten, 5/24/13, Star Island, Rye, NH.

05/21 10 Odiorne Point SP, Rye S. Mirick
05/22 20 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye E. Masterson

Swamp Sparrow

03/24 1 Great Meadows, Charlestown P. Brown, et al.
04/06 1 Exeter WTP B. Griffith
04/08 1 Simeon Wilson Rd., Amherst D. Bernstein
04/15 8 Southwest Park/Yudicky Farm, Nashua C. Sheridan

White-crowned Sparrow

05/09 1 University of NH, Durham L. Kras
05/10 1 Penacook survey route P. Hunt
05/10 1 Turtle Pond, Concord D. Lania
05/12 3 Ten Rod Road, Rochester D. Hubbard
05/19 5 Great Boars Head, Hampton J. O'Shaughnessy
05/19 3 residence, Orford J. MacQueen

Summer Tanager

05/06 1 Green St., Exeter M. Schoene

Scarlet Tanager

05/03 2 Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, Woodstock D. Grunzel
05/04 1 Horse Hill Nature Preserve, Merrimack L. Kras, B. Griffith
05/07 1 Pawtuckaway SP, Nottingham/Deerfield S. Young
05/20 1 Mud Pond, Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson D. Govatski
05/27 1 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye E. Masterson, et al.

Northern Cardinal

03/09 2 Chickwolnepy Rd., Milan K. Wilmarth, A. Altena

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

04/27 1 Bayberry Lane, Derry C. Blazak
04/28 1 Elm Brook Park, Hopkinton Z. Cornell, R. & M. Suomala
04/30 3 Southwest Park/ Yudicky Farm, Nashua C. Sheridan
05/11 2 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield D. Govatski, P. Brown, NHA FT
05/21 1 Odiorne Point SP, Rye S. Mirick
05/27 1 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye E. Masterson, et al.

Indigo Bunting

05/08 1 Stevens Hill Rd., Nottingham P. Miliotis
05/09 1 Ravenwood Farm, Greenfield T. Shiel
05/24 5 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye R. Quinn, P. Brown, et al.



Bobolink by Jen Esten, 5/24/13, Star Island, Rye, NH.

Date # Location Observer

Bobolink

05/04 1 residence, Concord J. Nadeau
05/04 2 Lubberland Creek Preserve, Newmarket S. Mirick, et al.
05/09 4 Hill Rd., Alstead M. Harrison
05/10 6 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield D. Govatski
05/24 12 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye R. Quinn, P. Brown, et al.
05/27 2 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye E. Masterson, et al.

Red-winged Blackbird

03/02 215 South Road, E. Kingston S. Mirick
03/12 1 Bretton Woods, Carroll L. Bergum

Eastern Meadowlark

03/26 1 Hampton Harbor, Hampton River Marina flats R. Quinn
04/03 1 Rochester WTP D. Hubbard
04/21 5 Pease Int'l. Tradeport, Short St., Newington J. Lambert

Yellow-headed Blackbird

05/28 1 Rt. 108 at Rt. 33, Stratham B. Collins

Rusty Blackbird

03/11 1 Millyard Technology Park, Nashua C. Sheridan
03/12 1 Ten Rod Road, Rochester D. Hubbard
03/24 1 Great Meadows, Charlestown P. Brown, et al.
04/01 6 Second NH Turnpike fields, Deering P. Brown
04/19 8 South Road, E. Kingston S. Mirick

Common Grackle

03/01 100 South Rd., Kensington G. Gavutis Jr.
03/12 100 Fifield Lane, Nashua D. Deifik
03/13 200 Hinsdale setbacks E. Masterson
03/16 1 Bretton Woods, Carroll L. Bergum

Brown-headed Cowbird

03/01 40 South Rd., E. Kingston M. Thompson, J. Lambert



Orchard Oriole by Kyle Wilmarth, 4/29/13, Salem, NH.

Orchard Oriole

04/29 1 Hawkin's Farm, Salem K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
05/06 1 Exeter WTP P. Miliotis
05/06 1 South Rd., Kensington G. Gavutis Jr.
05/12 3 Pickering Ponds, Rochester D. Hubbard

Baltimore Oriole

04/05 1 Angle Pond, Sandown M. Provencher
04/29 1 Ten Rod Road, Rochester D. Hubbard
05/01 1 Fields Grove City Park, Nashua C. Sheridan
05/06 3 South Rd., Kensington G. Gavutis Jr.
05/24 1 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye R. Quinn, P. Brown, et al.
05/27 2 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye E. Masterson, et al.

SPRING SEASON LISTINGS

Date	#	Location	Observer
Pine Grosbeak			
03/03	40	Trader Joe's Shopping Center, Nashua	R. Templeton
03/08	10	North Rd., Salisbury	D. Wardwell
03/09	3	Chickwolnepy Rd., Milan	K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
03/10	1	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
03/12	7	Digital Federal Credit Union, Hudson	D. Fallon
03/16	1	Mt. Tom, WMNF, Bethlehem	K. Pelletier

Red Crossbill

03/09	1	Old Hillsboro Rd., Henniker	A. Moser
03/17	3	Strafford County Farm, Dover	D. Hubbard
03/19	2	Pinkham Notch, WMNF	W. O'Brien
04/02	6	Twin View Dr., Twin Mountain	N. Mitiguy
05/26	1	Berry Bay Cottage, Freedom	A. Robbins
05/27	1	West Branch Pine Barrens Preserve, Madison	G.& A. Robbins

White-winged Crossbill

03/24	12	Sawyers Crossing Rd., Swanzey	S. Romano
04/22	1	Snell Rd., Lee	A. LeBlanc
05/18	6	West Branch Pine Barrens Preserve, Madison	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely, N. Beecher

Common Redpoll

03/06	200	Harris Center, Hancock	E. Masterson
03/17	230	Diamond Ledge, Sandwich	T. Vazzano
04/10	600	Lakeview Dr., Strafford	S. Young
04/11	250	Knollwood Rd., New London	J. Esten
04/18	105	Lakeview Dr., Strafford	S. Young
04/30	1	Harris Center, Hancock	E. Masterson
05/01	1	Lakeview Dr., Strafford	S. Young
05/04	1	Diamond Ledge, Sandwich	T. Vazzano

Hoary Redpoll

03/18	1	Sanborn Rd., Ashland	I. MacLeod
04/11	1	Diamond Ledge, Sandwich	T. Vazzano
03/17	5	Lakeview Dr., Strafford	S. Young
03/19	1	West St., Northwood	J. Lambert
04/09	3	Lakeview Dr., Strafford	S. Young
04/18	1	Lakeview Dr., Strafford	S. Young

Pine Siskin

03/01	2	Contoocook R. Park, Island Shores Estates, Penacook, Concord	P. Hunt
03/17	4	Mt. Liberty, WMNF, Lincoln	D. Bates
03/18	5	New Boston Rd., Goffstown	J. Dohery
05/05	14	Lakeview Dr., Strafford	S. Young
05/12	12	residence, Alstead	M. Harrison
05/12	14	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	A. Burnett
05/13	30	Fairfield Rd., Hancock	E. Masterson
05/21	11	Cocheco R. area, Farmington	S. Young
05/26	25	Rattlesnake Mt., Rumney	J. MacQueen

Evening Grosbeak

03/30	2	Currier Hill Rd., Gilmanton	J. Stockwell
04/26	5	Old Hillsboro Rd., Henniker	A. Moser
04/27	6	Ravenwood Farm, Greenfield	T. Shiel
05/08	1	Mink Brook Nature Preserve, Hanover	K. Kittelberger
05/11	3	James Way, Hudson	E. Lai

Date	#	Location	Observer
05/17	2	Knollwood Rd., New London	J. Esten
05/26	2	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, Woodstock	D. Grunzel
05/31	2	Green Hill Rd., Chatham	B. Crowley, J. Scott



Common Tern by Kyle Wilmarth, 5/30/13, Hampton Harbor, NH.



Northern Flicker by Debbie LaValley, 4/29/13, Woodlawn Cemetery, Concord, NH.



Male Wild Turkey in full display. Photo by Len Medlock, 3/4/13, Little Bay Rd., Newington, NH.

The Connecticut River Valley – Vernon Dam and Hinsdale Setbacks

by Eric Masterson

The following is an excerpt from Birdwatching in New Hampshire by Eric Masterson, published in 2013 by the University Press of New England (see page 1). It is re-printed with permission of the author and publisher. The excerpt below includes the Overview from the section on the Connecticut River Valley region and the description of the Vernon Dam and Hinsdale Setbacks.

Overview

The Connecticut River links four of New England's six states along its 410 miles, starting at the northern tip of New Hampshire's border with Maine. It flows southward between New Hampshire and Vermont, then through Massachusetts and Connecticut, finally reaching the Atlantic Ocean at Long Island Sound. Like Interstate 91, the river provides a direct north-south corridor through New England - but for birds, not humans. Birds are known to navigate using a variety of methods. Some species use their sense of smell, while others navigate using the earth's magnetic field, but all use visual cues. When the weather is fair, the river valley provides a clear route north in spring and south in fall, even from an altitude of thousands of feet.



The state line between New Hampshire and Vermont follows the low-water mark on the Vermont side of the river. Although most birds seen on the water therefore will be in New Hampshire, several viewing sites included in this guide actually are located in Vermont, including Brattleboro Retreat Meadows, Albee's Cove, Herrick's Cove, Roundy's Cove, White's Cove, and Ompompanoosuc River Flats.

Spring Migration

The area offers some of the finest birding in New Hampshire, with the section that stretches from the

Massachusetts border to Charlestown as good as any. The agricultural fields on both banks provide excellent foraging habitat for waterfowl in the spring. About 25 species of goose and duck are recorded every year, usually including some rare birds like Greater White-fronted Goose, Cackling Goose, Canvasback, or Redhead. This area also furnished the first state records for both Pink-footed Goose and Barnacle Goose.

The Connecticut River would stand out as one of the best spots in the state purely on the basis of the waterfowl migration, but the birding continues to be excellent right through early June, when swallows, warblers, shorebirds, and terns begin to move north through the valley. By the time that spring gives way to summer, about 165 species of migrant birds will have graced the river or its adjacent fields and woodlands, with about 120 of these staying to breed in the river's marshes, floodplain forests, and other habitats.

Waterfowl

Beginning in late February and early March, the flocks of Canada Geese, Green-winged Teal and other waterfowl that have crowded mid-Atlantic coastal marshes during winter heed the call of impending spring and start to head north. Though many follow the Atlantic Coastal plain, others take an inland route along the Connecticut River Valley. Most birds that pass through the area are heading to various parts of Canada: Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, or Labrador, depending on the species. Some individual Canada Geese continue as far north as Greenland.

Peak time for waterfowl runs from mid-March through early April, earlier when the winter is mild, later when it is severe.

Shorebirds and Terns

The Connecticut River Valley is probably the best place in New Hampshire to find Black Tern in spring, and the best area for Common Tern away from the coast. Common Terns spend the winter in the Caribbean and along the coast of South America; in summer they nest primarily in coastal areas of North America. Inland nesting is less common, but there are a few breeding sites in Vermont, Maine, and New York. Inland-breeding terns use the river as a highway to their final destinations. Where each individual is headed is anyone's guess, unless you get lucky and find a banded bird - as I did on May 18, 2011. I reported band number # 1322-09499 to the US Fish and Wildlife Service and a few days later received an e-mail informing me that the bird, a Common Tern, had originally been banded as a chick on July 11, 2008, 6 miles west of Massena. The location, in St.

Lawrence County, New York, is a relatively modest 194 miles northwest of Hinsdale “as the crow flies.” (It’s a bit longer as the tern flies, though not the 293-mile route recommended by MapQuest.)

Caspian Tern is becoming a more regular occurrence, with four birds seen in May 2012. Arctic Tern has been recorded twice here in spring. This species is one of the world’s great long distance migrants, wintering in the Antarctic and breeding as far north as northern Greenland. Mid-May is the peak time for all species of terns in the river valley. During inclement weather, there is an excellent chance of finding Black or Common Terns between Hinsdale and Charlestown, especially at Hinsdale Setbacks, Retreat Meadows, or Herrick’s Cove. Spofford Lake also draws many of the same species and has an excellent record of hosting Black Tern, Common Tern, and Bonaparte’s Gull in spring.

Shorebirds migrate north during the same period as the terns, and can be brought to ground by the same weather conditions, making for a potentially excellent day in the field. At least 27 species of shorebird have been recorded along the Connecticut River in Vermont and New Hampshire, including such regional rarities as Upland Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, Marbled Godwit, Ruff, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, White-rumped Sandpiper, Purple Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Wilson’s Phalarope, Red-necked Phalarope and Red Phalarope.

Water level can affect shorebird occurrence, although terns pay it no heed. When the river is low, Herrick’s Cove and the cove just north of Bellow’s Falls (both in Vermont) provide excellent habitat. Retreat Meadows in Brattleboro, Vermont, also requires low water to offer the best shorebird habitat. If the river is high during bad weather, birds are likely to lay over in one of the many stubble fields that line the river banks. They also will rest on pieces of driftwood.

Other Species

Peak time for the Rough-legged Hawk is the same as that for waterfowl: from mid-March through early April. A close cousin of the more common Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk breeds in the far northern tundra zone and winters across the northern United States. They are relatively common in coastal areas of Massachusetts, especially at the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge on Plum Island, but remain uncommon in New Hampshire.

Warbler migration peaks in May. Though they do not have an aquatic lifestyle like waterfowl or shorebirds, they do use the river as a migration corridor. Herrick’s Cove and the rail trail in Hinsdale are excellent spots to observe spring warbler migration.

Vernon Dam and Hinsdale Setbacks

This area offers a combination of excellent birding and easy walking along an old rail bed. The trails are well maintained and usually dry. Depending on where you park (at the boat launch, Hinsdale High School, or the end of River Road), the walk to the dam can take up to 45 minutes at a leisurely pace. The birding is excellent along the way. From spring through summer, area specialties include Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, and Orchard Oriole. The last is most easily found in the trees around the bluffs overlooking Lake Wantastiquet (the name of the body of water above the dam).

The bluffs are also excellent sites to scan for waterfowl during winter and spring, especially at dusk, when the birds fly in from fields off Stebbins Road in Vermont. A pair of bald eagles has bred nearby for several years and they are usually seen perched in one of the trees lining the river.

The rail trail continues north and south of Hinsdale Setbacks for several miles. For a great one-way walk, leave a car at the boat launch and another at the gas station about 3 miles north on Route 119. You can also walk south of the boat launch for a similar distance; the trail ends at a gravel parking lot off Route 63.

In addition to the species mentioned previously, Red-bellied Woodpeckers are common at this site, and Rough-winged Swallows often breed in the stone embankment near the boat launch. Eastern Screech-Owl also is reliably encountered here at night, though usually only by call. In fact, this is one of the more reliable places to hear them in New Hampshire, outside the coastal plain.

At the north end of Hinsdale Setbacks, a side trail leads into the cattail marsh opposite the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant. This is an excellent spot for a variety of birds, including Virginia Rail, Willow Flycatcher, and Marsh Wren. Ospreys have bred on the High Voltage Pylons, and Peregrine Falcons can often be seen perched on the towers or on the smoke stack on the opposite side of the river.

About 3.5 miles south of Hinsdale along Route 63, just before a sharp curve in the road, you reach Hudson Farm on the right (west) side of the road. This is an excellent spot for birding in September and October. Dickcissel is regular here in fall, and Grasshopper Sparrow has also occurred, with large numbers of the more common species.

Fallout!! May, 2013

by Tony Vazzano



Chestnut-sided Warbler by Benjamin Griffith, 5/23/13, Church Street water tower parking lot, Hampton, NH.

Fallouts of migrant birds in spring are one of the most exciting phenomena a birder can experience. These spring fallouts typically occur on offshore islands and to a lesser extent the coast. Sometimes a concentration of these migrants occurs over small areas well inland. Almost all fallouts are weather related and in New England during spring they are often associated with warm fronts. I don't think there is an official definition of fallout, but when you're walking along a road and need to sidestep the birds at your feet, you know you are amidst one.

On the morning of May 20, 2013, my wife and I and a couple of friends were on our way to catch a ferry to Monhegan Island in Maine, a trip we've made during the spring migration every May for the past 20 years. We experienced showers on our drive from New Hampshire to Mid-Coast, Maine as a warm front was slowly moving through the region. When we arrived on the island a little before noon, the rain stopped and soon the sun was making an appearance. Better still, I could feel the humidity in the air increase and knew the front was moving through. A check of buoy data from a location in the Gulf of Maine only about ten miles from Monhegan confirmed that southeast winds (winds from the southeast) shifted to southwest between 1:00 and 2:00 pm as the front passed by. Having experienced similar weather patterns in May a couple of times in the past, I was excited about the prospect of many birds the next day. In spring, birds use the south and southwest winds behind warm fronts as a tailwind to assist them in their northward journey.

As weak low pressure moved along the front, the front settled farther south in the Gulf of Maine, moving back through the area from the Isles of Shoals to Monhegan during the middle of the night. As the birds experienced a shift in wind direction from a favorable southwest to an unfavorable east wind, they were north of the frontal

boundary and looking for places to land. Those places were the offshore islands in the northern Gulf of Maine and the coastal areas of New Hampshire and southern Maine. Migration had been slow before this week and the birds were ready to pour northward given the right wind and that night the flood gates opened.

On the morning of May 21 on Monhegan, there were birds everywhere that we went. We didn't venture too far because there were so many birds near the village and sporadic showers sometimes sent us back to our room for short periods of time. So, we kept a window list that day and saw 16 species of warblers and a total of 43 bird species, including Lincoln's Sparrow and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, even though we were out of the room birding most of the day. The one rare bird of the day was a Summer Tanager seen at a feeder. Of the over 100 days in May I have spent on the island in the past two decades, I would estimate that I've seen more birds only two or three times, and then just for a day or two.

The first clue on the NH Birds email list that something was going on came at about 9:00 am from Steve Mirick who preceded his report of lots of birds in Hampton with the subject line "fallout on the coast?" Later that morning Rich Aaronian reported good numbers and diversity at the church parking lot in Hampton, a known migrant trap along Route 101. Then Derek Lovitch reported several hundred warblers and over three dozen Swainson's Thrushes during the morning at Fort Foster in Kittery, ME not far from Portsmouth, NH. Meanwhile along the New Hampshire coast, Steve Mirick was seeing hundreds of warblers including an astounding 181 Common Yellowthroats and 22 Wilson's Warblers. Bob Quinn arrived at the church parking lot in Hampton late in the afternoon and had at least 160 warblers of 14 species including over 40 American Redstarts. One tree held 20–30 warblers and had three Scarlet Tanagers in the top of it. It was one of the best spring birding days on the coast in recent memory. On the offshore island of Appledore Island (ME), one of the Isles of Shoals, Becky Suomala was among the biologists banding high numbers of birds including 185 Common Yellowthroats that day. The total of 390 banded birds was the second largest day total in the banding station's history. Large numbers of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were seen around the feeders and the garden, an unusual sight on Appledore.

The front stalled in the Gulf of Maine, settling slightly farther to the south, then lifting a little northward again by May 23. Birds were still flying across the frontal boundary. On Monhegan on May 22, I could sense that there was a turnover of birds based on the different species we were seeing and that there were not quite as many birds overall. Still, a Cape May, a couple of Bay-breasted Warblers and a couple of Tennessee Warblers in the same tree made for

a fun moment. Typically, when the wind is from the east or southeast in spring, birds evacuate offshore islands like Monhegan. Many birds apparently did leave, but because the front was still close by to the south and the wind flow wasn't too strong, many other birds were still flying through the frontal boundary and looking for places to come down as they experienced the wind shift. Numbers were also down on Appledore although there were good numbers of Lincoln's Sparrow (24 banded) and as many as 10 hummingbirds were seen at one time.



Blackpoll Warbler by Jason Lambert, 5/23/13, Great Boar's Head, Hampton, NH.

On Thursday, May 23, the excitement regenerated on the islands and the mainland coast as most spots had more birds than the previous day as fallout conditions persisted. On Monhegan, the American Redstarts arrived and there were about two hundred along and near a half mile of Main Street with about 90% of them female and first year males. *Empidonax* flycatchers had also overrun the island and there were over a hundred in the same area. On Appledore, banders noted "an amazing fallout...with birds everywhere". Despite opening the nets late because of morning rain, they still banded an impressive 276 birds. Not surprisingly, redstarts led the list with 44 and there were 35 *Empidonax*. Jess Mason made a brief stop at the church parking lot in Hampton that morning and commented on NH Birds that there were "tons of warblers." Also, that this was the day of Canada Warblers while the previous day had good numbers of redstarts and Blackpoll Warblers, indicating that there was a turnover of birds on the mainland coast as well.

By the morning of Friday, May 24, the warm front had moved through from the south and there was a cold front on its heels approaching from the west. At the Isles of Shoals, Bob Quinn and Phil Brown brought a group out to bird Star Island (NH) where, with the help of Steve and Jane Mirick, they identified eight species of warblers before the boat even docked. There were so many birds practically at

their feet that it took some of the birders an hour just to get off the pier and onto the island! Tired birds covered the rocks and the shoreline. Meanwhile on nearby Appledore, banders reported "the island is loaded with birds although not as many as the day before." I left Monhegan the previous day but was later told by another birder that while this day was still birdy, each succeeding day for the next couple brought fewer birds to the island. The cold front moved through during the day and stalled offshore as a fairly strong low pressure system developed into a northeaster with rain and even some wet snow in western New Hampshire and Vermont later in the weekend. The dynamics of the atmosphere and migration changed rapidly and the birds dispersed accordingly, essentially putting an end to one of the most memorable spring fallouts in years.

Appledore Island banding data courtesy of Dr. Sara Morris, director of the Appledore Island Migration Banding Station.

Inland Spring Red-throated Loons

by Robert A. Quinn



Red-throated Loon in winter plumage by Len Medlock.

An extraordinarily early and out-of-place Red-throated Loon was seen on the Merrimack River in Hooksett during the afternoon of March 11, 2013, by Lisa LaPierre and me. Apparently, this species has *never* been seen inland in March and it has never been recorded in spring on an inland river before, anywhere in New Hampshire (see Table 1 below).

The bird was glimpsed as we drove into Lambert Park on the east side of the Merrimack River in Hooksett. This brief sighting made me think Red-throated Loon, yet I initially dismissed it as almost impossible because of the date and location. I had seen it well enough, however, to rule out almost everything else before it dove and "disappeared" as

loons are wont to do. A few minutes later Lisa relocated it maybe 50-60 yards away. A Red-throated Loon it was! I put the telescope on it and each of us had a one minute view of a small, clearly light-gray loon with a very thin almost dainty bill that was tilted up noticeably. Its face was white including the area around the dark eye. While I was trying to get a camera ready to document the sighting, it took flight, nimbly lifting off almost like a duck, not the labored take off of a Common Loon. Luckily it flew by us twice before finally heading north up the Merrimack River toward Bow.

In checking records back to the early 1950s (with a few gaps in the data search), I could find only four April records (one might represent a single bird seen twice) plus three spring inland records from the month of May (Table 1), but none in March. In April of 2013, Hector Galbraith also recorded an inland Red-throated Loon in Hinsdale, for a total of five April records.

Table 1. Spring Red-throated Loon sightings in New Hampshire from the early 1950s through 5/31/2013. See below for data sources.

Month	Date	Town	Location	Notes
March	3-11-13	Hooksett	Merrimack River	Unprecedented inland record
April	4-3-10	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	
April	4-7-00	Enfield	Mascoma Lake	
April	4-13-13	Hinsdale	Connecticut River	
April	4-17-10	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	A different individual from 4-3-10?
April	4-29-61	Chesterfield	Spofford Lake	Two birds. NH's first spring inland record
May	5-15-02	Enfield	Mascoma Lake	
May	5-17-94	Enfield	Mascoma Lake	
May	5-26-94	Sutton	Gile Pond	

The first published spring inland record was of two Red-throated Loons that Tudor Richards found on Spofford Lake in Chesterfield, on April 29, 1961. Tudor later wrote a series of articles on Inland Waterbirds that appeared in the *New Hampshire Audubon Quarterly* (Vol. 25 #2, #3; 26 #1; 27 #4, 1972-1974). When commenting on inland waterbird species that are much rarer in spring than fall, he wrote (in 1972) about the April 1961 sighting and said that this record "... may still be the only one for that season." The data indicates it was not until 1994 that the species was seen again in the interior of the state during the spring.

Why March and the Merrimack River? I suspect that the several days of prolonged and very strong easterly winds from winter storm Saturn could explain why this Red-throated Loon came inland. Also, it probably ended up on the Merrimack River because all the ponds and lakes were still frozen. Regardless of the exact causes, it was an unexpected and exciting local sighting.

Data Sources

The data search for this article was thorough but not exhaustive. The sources which were searched included: *New Hampshire Bird News*, 1951–1960. Audubon Society of New Hampshire, Concord, New Hampshire. *New Hampshire Audubon Quarterly*, 1961–1976. Audubon Society of New Hampshire, Concord, New Hampshire. [including Part III of the Inland Water Birds in New Hampshire, Vol. 26, #1. p. 7]. *New Hampshire Bird Records*, 1986–2012. New Hampshire Audubon, Concord, New Hampshire. *Tudor Richards' personal papers*, circa 1948–2005. New Hampshire Audubon, Concord, New Hampshire.

Notes from Bob Quinn's eBird posting: Red-throated Loon *Gavia stellata*

This one is worthy of the filter! A winter plumage individual well seen on the Merrimack River and then in flight. At first glance I was stunned by what looked like a Red-throated Loon which then dove and "disappeared" as loons are wont to do. A few minutes later Lisa relocated it maybe 50-60 yards away. A Red-throated Loon it was! Put the telescope on it and both of us had a one minute view and it was clearly a light gray loon with a very thin almost dainty bill that was tilted up noticeably. Its face was white including the area around the dark eye. As I turned to get my camera Lisa said "its flying" and I turned in time to watch it take off almost like a duck (not the labored take off of a Common Loon). At that point I turned on a small video camera I was holding and tried to record it as it flew by. It was rather bouyant in the air for a loon and it brought its wings well above its back. It passed by us maybe within 50 feet then turned and went by again as it gained altitude and then kept flying north up the Merrimack River until it was out of sight (by then in Bow). An amazing record and a rather good view too. The video is not much to look at but it did record my voice as I described some field marks while the bird was in flight, such as the rather small feet (again compared to a Common Loon).

Thanks to Bob for adding such comprehensive notes on an unusual sighting in eBird. This makes the reviewer's job much easier.

— R. Suomala

Spring 2013 Field Notes

compiled by Robert A. Quinn and Rebecca Suomala

A note from the compilers – We hope that you enjoy these Field Notes and encourage anyone to submit an interesting story, behavioral tidbit, or photograph that is noteworthy enough to comment on but that does not easily fit into the format of the rest of the publication.

Red-shouldered Hawks in Brentwood



Ed and Mary Berry witnessed this pair of Red-shouldered Hawks copulating on 3/23/13 close to their house in Brentwood and took these great pictures of the birds.

NH Peregrine Falcon Found After 12 Years

by Chris Martin

The State of Massachusetts has “found” a Peregrine Falcon that NH Audubon banded at Rumney, NH back in June 2001. With a new high resolution nest camera recently installed, Dick Nathhorst at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst was able to read the band on the adult male Peregrine at the Library Tower.

The adult male is banded black over green 6*/8* left leg (* means sideways alphanumeric characters). He was banded on June 19, 2001 at Rattlesnake Mountain, Rumney, NH by Jim Shimberg, Robert Vallieres, Rebecca Suomala, and me. One of four chicks banded at the nest in 2001, he is now 12 years old. We have no previous reported encounters post-fledging of this individual, but it appears that he has been at UMass Amherst for about a decade. The female mate in this pair was hatched in Manchester, NH in 2002, raised young while she was still in juvenile plumage in 2003, and has raised a total of over 30 young through the 2012 breeding season.

I would have included a photo or two from back in 2001, but it was so long ago that all I have to choose from are 35mm slides!

Peregrine Falcon versus Blue Jay

by Hector Galbraith

Migration was slow in Hinsdale, NH on May 2, 2013, but I did see a pretty spectacular kill by one of the Peregrine Falcons that nest nearby. The falcon came across the Connecticut River from the Vermont side hotly pursuing a small flock of Blue Jays. All of the jays except for one made it safely across to the riparian scrub and dove into it about 20 meters from where I was watching. The laggard jay was obviously not going to make it and was quickly running out of time as the falcon flew up its tailpipe. In an attempt to escape death, the jay dropped down into the Connecticut River. All that could be seen was the jay’s head sticking above the surface of the water and wildly looking around, apparently rigid with terror! The Peregrine circled around above the jay, assessing the situation, then dropped down and swooped in on the unfortunate swimmer. While passing by at a great rate of speed it dropped one leg down, caught the jay, and dragged it out of the river. The jay was last seen screaming loudly and dripping water as it was carried across to the falcon’s nest box.

Red-headed Woodpecker in a Chimney

by Rebecca Suomala

Phil Hollis hosted a Red-headed Woodpecker (and the birders who came to view it) at his feeder in Alexandria daily from December of 2012 until May 17, 2013. During that time, its plumage changed from that of a brown juvenile to a full adult with the typical all-red head, white breast and black wings with prominent white patches. On April 28, he reported in an e-mail:

“The woodpecker has been sitting on my chimney all week (woodstove has been out for a month). Tonight I was eating dinner and I heard something fluttering in the chimney – the bird fell into the chimney! I didn’t want him to get loose into the house so I got a small fishing net that I had and slid it over the opening as I opened the clean-out door. He flew into the net and I was able to



Red-headed Woodpecker on Phil Hollis’s chimney in Alexandria, 4/24/13. Photo by Zeke Cornell.

take him outside and he flew away. Ten minutes later he was sitting in the apple tree, his white a little dingy. Then later he was sitting on the edge of the chimney again.”

Two days later Phil had to get the bird out of the chimney again. Red-headed Woodpeckers nest in cavities so we theorized that maybe “he” was actually a “she” and she was checking out the chimney as a possible nest site. The female is the one who investigates possible nest cavities and April would be the right time of year for her to be checking. After two weeks, “she” stopped going to the chimney and then disappeared from Phil’s yard about a week later.

Owl went a Froggin’

by Tony Vazzano

I have watched a Barred Owl “frogging” in our backyard pond here in Sandwich from April 28 through May 8, 2013. One morning, after daybreak, it spent the better part of an hour there in full sunlight. It perched fairly low, staring intently at the water. I suspect the frogs knew something was amuck. After a while, it flew toward the center of the pond and submerged itself up to its belly, looking not unlike an Osprey, and plucked a frog. It then went to a nearby branch to dispatch it. The owl then carried it back into the woods, apparently to a nest.

On a different day, I saw it take at least one frog and miss another. On another occasion, it caught what looked like a small rodent. Then, it went back to its vigil perch about 12 feet over the edge of the pond, peering down intently, before going to the middle of the pond several minutes later and apparently plucking another frog and taking it back into the woods. We were outside splitting and stacking wood about 150 feet from the bird and it didn’t seem to mind.

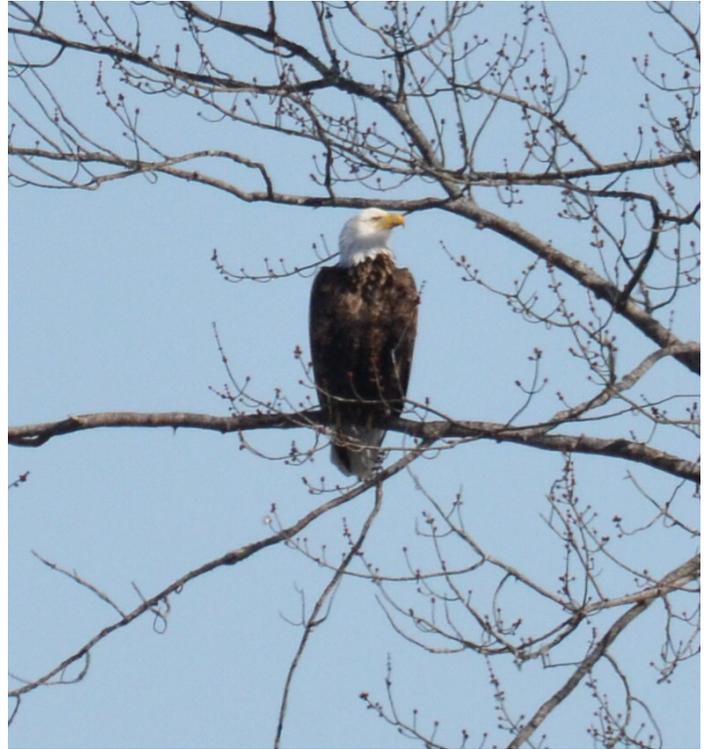
Some additional notes:

- April 28, 2013 - seen for the first time.
- May 3, 2013 - there was a real hootenanny at 4:30 a.m. then one was seen from 6:00-9:15 a.m.
- May 4, 2013 - from 5:00-9:00, I heard two of them hooting back and forth.
- May 5, 2013 - seen from 6:00-8:00 a.m. and at noon it was still there!
- May 6, 2013 - seen from 7:00-9:00 a.m.
- May 7, 2013 - I did not see it but I heard it at dawn.
- May 8, 2013 - seen from 6:00-9:00 a.m.; this was apparently the last day.

About 15 years ago, a Barred Owl spent every early morning and most evenings for over a week catching frogs. It was so reliable that we had neighbors stopping by to watch it through the scope several times. Lots of fun with birds!

Bald Eagle versus River Otter

by Bob Quinn



Bald Eagle by Debbie LaValley, 3/10/13, Big Bend, Merrimack River, Boscawen, NH.

On the evening of March 25, 2013, I joined Robert Vallieres at the Big Bend in the Merrimack River in Boscawen to watch for eagles and migrants. There were five Bald Eagles in total with four staying for the duration of my visit.

Toward dusk, three Northern River Otters appeared, swam across the open river, and then disappeared underneath a shelf of thin ice. Almost immediately, they popped out onto the ice with a rather large fish. This activity was seen by others because, just as suddenly, one of the eagles swooped in and stole the fish from the otters! The eagle took its prize, flew to a nearby tree, finished off its fish dinner, and then went back to its perch.

Other birds of note included:

- 42 Common Mergansers, with much courtship behavior and many vocalizations.
- 33 Wood Duck and 35 Mallards that flew by but did not stop.
- Five fidgety Great Blue Herons that never did get very comfortable with the eagles present.
- Last but not least, there were three vegetarian American Beavers and a single Common Muskrat.

NH Audubon 2013 Birdathon Results

by Phil Brown



Lesser Yellowlegs by Amanda Altena of Birdathon team We Be Birding, 5/18/13, Salem, NH

The Birdathon is New Hampshire's annual celebration of bird diversity, migration, and the New Hampshire birding community. In 2013, Birdathoners tallied 184 species on the Big Day (down from 190 last year, which ran for the entire weekend), including 25 Conservation Species, a select list of state-listed endangered, threatened, and declining species (four fewer than last year's total). Species such as Least Bittern, Little Blue Heron, Sora, Blue-winged Teal, Caspian Tern, Black Guillemot, Common Nighthawk, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Grasshopper Sparrow, and many others, were counted on May 18.

In all, about 85 birders from 15 different teams took part either directly through the Birdathon or on a Birdathon field trip. There was good coverage in southern New Hampshire, but teams were notably lacking in the northern half of the state. The Seacoast, Concord area, and the Monadnock Region were well-represented. A surprise twist this year was that the competition moved away from the human-powered category completely, after having four teams competing for that category in 2012. The birding local theme continued to grow, though, as most teams stayed within their New Hampshire Audubon "Chapter Area," and several teams competed in the "Single Location" and "Big Sit" categories. The range of activities made for some good fun and storytelling during Sunday's potluck dinner at the McLane Center in Concord. Also, some great prizes were again given away.

Through raising their binoculars, participants raised the awareness of birds and their conservation and added to our knowledge of bird distribution (through submitting records to eBird) and many birders went the extra mile to raise funds for bird conservation programs on New Hampshire Audubon's wildlife sanctuaries around the state.

2013 Birdathon Award Winners:

- **Conservation Species: *The Bird Brains*** (Dan Hubbard, Mark Hatfield, Dottie Wendelken, Greg McCrone) – **16 conservation species (and 124 species** for most in Seacoast Chapter area only).
- **Seacoast Chapter Area: *We Be Birdin'*** (Kyle Wilmarth, Amanda Altena) – **89 species.**
- **Chapter Area (non-Seacoast Chapter Area): *The Not So Swifts*** (Bob Quinn, Dot Currier, Jen Esten, Alan Pullman) - **91 species** in the Capital Chapter area.
- **Big Sit: *Copps-n-Robbins*** (Andrea Robbins) – **73 species** from Copps WMA, Tuftonboro.
- **Single Location: *Covert Operations*** (Lillian & Don Stokes) – **71 species** from Big Sit circle on Powder Mill Pond, Hancock.
- **Statewide: *The Harrier Circus*** (Phil Brown, Adam Burnett, Aiden Moser, Henry Walters) - **147 species** from the lower Connecticut River to the Seacoast.
- **Newbies Award: Alan Pullman, Aiden Moser, Amanda Altena, Kyle Wilmarth** (3 life birds).
- **Best Bird: Black-billed Cuckoo** - nocturnal flight calls (*The Harrier Circus*).
- **Worst Miss: White-breasted Nuthatch** (Lisa LaPierre, David Howe).

Getting out with old and new friends in search of birds, improving upon last year's efforts, and just having fun is purely an addictive activity during the height of spring birding! Thanks to all those who participated and who raised funds in support of NH Audubon's wildlife sanctuaries and chapters, and the newly-formed New Hampshire Young Birders Club. For more information about the Birdathon, go to <http://www.nh Audubon.org/birding/birdathon>.

Stay tuned for an expanded Birdathon effort in 2014 as NH Audubon celebrates its centennial year. We look forward to seeing *every* New Hampshire birder (and non-birders, too) participate in this fun event that focuses on bird diversity, bird conservation, and the strong New Hampshire birding community.

Phil Brown is the Birdathon Coordinator for NH Audubon where he serves as Director of Land Management. He has participated in the Birdathon since 2004 to raise stewardship funding for special places across NH.

Backyard Birder

An American Woodcock at the Back Door

by Brenda Sens



The American Woodcock that JoAnn O'Shaughnessy found and photographed in her Hampton backyard on March 2, 2013.

JoAnn O'Shaughnessy arrived home on March 2, 2013 to find an American Woodcock in her yard in Hampton and Len Medlock quickly arrived to photograph the bird. Their posts to the NH Bird e-mail list describe this unusual backyard sighting.

JoAnn's post to the NH Birds e-mail list (03/02/13, 6:20 PM):

I came home from a few hours of birding and as I stepped out of the car, I saw what appeared to be a carved woodcock. No, not wood. It blinked! It was sitting on the back door threshold and stayed there "frozen" in place for a half hour. When Len showed up, it was "be bopping" across the driveway into my neighbor's backyard. It continued to the next yard where we left it probing for worms.

Len Medlock to NH Birds (03/02/2013, 6:54 PM)

JoAnn O'Shaughnessy called me early this evening to watch an American Woodcock in her backyard. I zoomed out of the house, sans wallet and a warm coat, fueled with tremendous excitement. Heck, I even said "Peent!" out loud in the car, repeatedly. I've spent nearly ten years trying just to see them during the day (yup, I've stumbled upon them and flushed a few accidentally, and spent countless hours rummaging through brush), but a chance to snap a photo of one still blows my flippin' mind. Folks, I can barely



Len Medlock's photo of the American Woodcock in JoAnn's backyard, 3/2/2013, Hampton, NH.

contain my excitement---indeed, this bird rocks my world so much, more than any other, and it shocks me to the core that I was actually able to see it. Thank you, JoAnn! I'm never washing my eyes again :)

It can be very difficult to get close up views of these birds in good light as they are often active around dawn and dusk when light levels are low. This strategy, while working well for the woodcock, causes a good deal of frustration for birders. Woodcock behaviors are fascinating, unusual, and remain unseen by many of us. They eat more than their weight in worms and insects daily and their large eyes are placed far back on their heads so that they can be alert for predators even with their bills buried in the soil. The tip of its long bill is flexible, enabling the bird to locate and grab prey. They have been seen doing a strange rocking motion while standing and it is assumed that this causes vibrations that disturb worms into moving so that they can be detected underground. Male displays to attract females are well known. Certain meadows attract a number of males at the same time. After calling on the ground, they rise high in the sky with twisting flight displays that include making twittering sounds with modified wing feathers and their famous peent cries. Females appear in the meadow and the birds pair off and mate. The male takes no part in the rearing of the young who are usually independent by five weeks of age. Given the woodcock's penchant for hiding by day and being active by night, Len Medlock's excitement at being able to photograph a woodcock is easy to understand.

Photo Gallery

Hummingbirds in the Snow

by Betsy Fraser

Northern New Hampshire had a late May snow storm during peak bird migration. The following was written by Betsy Fraser of Sugar Hill, NH describing what was a nerve-wracking time for North Country bird watchers as they tried to help the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds make it through the snow and heavy frosts. Ed.

I've been feeding hummingbirds since 1991. This week, something happened that I've never seen. As in past years, hummingbirds started to periodically swarm at the feeders in mid- to late-May and Photo #1 is representative of the hummer activity at my house in Sugar Hill, NH on May 24. Temperatures had been mild, although a cold, rainy day was forecast for May 25.

I was away during the day on May 25 and came home to find the hummers swarming. They had emptied one of the feeders. At around 7:00 pm on May 25, the unthinkable happened. It started snowing...hard! The weather forecast had said a possibility of snow at altitudes above 2,000 feet. It was snowing much lower, however, as low as 1,100 feet. I went to bed with great anxiety wondering what would happen to all of the hummers who were out in a major spring snow storm.

I woke up at 4:00 am and it was still snowing. There were four inches of heavy, wet snow and trees and plants were leaning over. I always bring hummer feeders in at night, to be sure that bears won't be attracted to them. Also, on cold nights, I bring my feeders in and put them out early so that the birds will have warm nectar. I went out in the snow and hung up six feeders and it wasn't long before the hummers were arriving. It was snowing so hard, however, that it was covering the ports of the feeders making it difficult for the birds to feed. Also, with everything covered in snow, there were few places for the birds to perch. I kept trying to wipe off and clear the feeders, but it was difficult to keep up.

An idea struck me of how to keep the snow from accumulating on the feeders and provide the hummers with a protected area and places to perch. Photo #2 shows my solution. Necessity really is the Mother of Invention! The minute I set up the

umbrella and hung a feeder on the clothes drying rack, the hummers came and fed. I added more feeders to the rack. It stopped snowing around 8:00 am. I relocated the clothes rack to my garden (Photo #3 and #4). The snow melted by the evening of May 26, although we had a hard frost that night. Photo #5, taken on May 27, shows lots of hummers continuing to visit their new "multi-level feeder station." It's so popular, that I may leave it up for the summer!



Photo #1. A swarm of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds around the feeders on May 24, the day before the snow started.



Photo #2. Betsy's successful experiment of hanging a feeder from a clothes rack under the umbrella to keep the snow off the feeder and the nearby perches.

More Hummingbirds Swarming

by Dan Hubbard

I'm pleased (and relieved) to report that the hummers were swarming again on the evening of May 28. I estimate that there were 20-30 hummers buzzing among four feeders in close proximity (three on the clothes rack and one other). It's a relief to see that hummer life appears to be back to normal after an incredibly challenging few days. I am so grateful that the hummers made it through the snow storm.

All photos were taken by Betsy Fraser in her yard in Sugar Hill, New Hampshire.



Photo #3. Hummingbirds coming to one of the feeders on May 26 in the snow that had started the evening before.



Photo #4. The feeders on the clothes rack after the snow stopped in the morning of May 26.

My wife and I spent Memorial Day weekend at our favorite motel, the Four Seasons, at Twin Mountain, NH. The weather was a bit unusual for the time of year with freezing temperatures and snow. Our consternation, however, was minimal compared to the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds who had recently returned from their warm winter habitats. Arising to face a cold and snowy May 25, we first headed to Foster's Crossroads, a general store, to pick up a newspaper. Fortunately for the hummingbirds, the store had several feeders hung and filled. The birds were frantically buzzing around which made it difficult to count them, but there was a minimum of eight. Next, we proceeded about a mile south on Route 3 to the Mountain Bean for breakfast. More feeders were available there, which also were swarmed by hummers. Again, I managed to count a total of eight. Returning to the motel, where there was only one feeder, one more hummingbird was counted (motel owner was suitably chastised for only having one feeder ready). Therefore, 17 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were reported to eBird for a short stretch of Route 3 which, predictably, was received with a bit of skepticism.



Photo #5. Hummingbirds at the new feeder set up after the snow melted on May 27.

Field Trip Reports

Memorable Star Island Trip: The Fallout of May 24, 2013

by Robert A. Quinn and Phil Brown



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher by Jen Esten, 5/24/13, Star Island, NH.

On May 24, 2013, we led a group on a Merlin Wildlife Tours field trip to Star Island at the Isles of Shoals to witness spring migration. At best, Star is difficult to plan with groups and even harder to time for the “right” weather conditions. It is always a guessing game as to how your day is going to turn out. Even when the boat can make it out, it’s often a total bust for birds, but sometimes you win big, as our group did on this chilly morning.

After four days of inclement weather and rough seas, a modest window of decent weather allowed a stalwart birding group to journey out and land on Star Island. What a day it was! Between the two authors and Steve and Jane Mirick, our cumulative number of trips to Star Island exceeds 100, and none of us had ever seen a warbler “fallout” like this. We identified eight species of warblers before we even were tied up to the dock! Dozens of brightly colored sprites were on the bare rocks and in the intertidal zone actively looking for food. The excitement was palpable, and birders and photographers alike could hardly wait their turn to disembark the boat! There were so many tired and preoccupied birds that, shortly after we landed on the island, we cautioned birders not to flinch if a bird landed on them and, in one case, a Yellow Warbler did just that when it took a liking to Miki Foley’s hat!

Fallout conditions in spring often result from lower than seasonal temperatures and precipitation that grounds birds, truly “marooning” them on places like Star Island where feeding opportunities and shelter are limited to begin with. So what’s good for the birders isn’t always good for birds; thus, exhausted birds will often disregard typical human dangers. For a thorough read of this spring’s fallout phenomenon on a regional scale, see Tony Vazzano’s article on page 23.

Once off the boat, we split into three groups, one led by the Mirick’s and one by Phil Brown heading off “inland” and clockwise, respectively, around the island. Bob Quinn proceeded very slowly with his entourage. So slowly in fact, that it took this group almost an hour to go the length of the dock and actually reach the island because there was so much bird activity! Brilliant little yellow birds were everywhere on the ground and constantly flitting about. The close-cropped lawn in front of the Oceanic Hotel was alive with American Redstarts, and Magnolia and Blackpoll Warblers. Reports of Yellow-bellied and numerous “Traill’s” flycatchers came across the radios that the guides carried.

Birders continued to be amazed throughout the rest of the few precious hours on Star. An obligatory lunch stop was taken with binoculars in hands, scanning a grassy patch just above the rocks where Common Yellowthroats flitted about by the dozens. A troop of Bobolinks interspersed with Indigo Buntings and various sparrows, including a few singing Lincoln’s, frequented the field microhabitat.

One of the fascinating aspects of the day was the varying numbers and species recorded by different people, suggesting a higher than tallied total number of individuals. It begs the question of just how many birds were really on the island. Counting each individual was an impossible task and even the most experienced of birders had difficulty estimating numbers of some of the most common warblers such as Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, and Yellow and Magnolia Warblers. Even less numerous migrants such as Blackpoll, Canada, Wilson’s, and Blackburnian Warblers were seen in very impressive numbers.

Migrant birds appeared to be quite localized during this event and some species were seen by various birders in predictable locations throughout the four hours on the island. Many of the flycatchers were around the rocks just beyond the boat and near the fresh water pond, a location that hosted considerable activity. Some of the groups were missing Northern Parula, most likely because this species seemed to be restricted to apple trees and these birders hadn’t looked there.

It was also interesting to note that, in spite of the incredible numbers of certain species across a broad diversity of birds, nothing terribly unusual was noted. One observer reported a possible male Hooded Warbler before the boat let out, but this bird was never relocated. (Nearby Appledore Island, however, did record this species during this same weather event.) A Philadelphia Vireo was noted by Steve Mirick upon arrival and a Mourning Warbler was picked out by Jane Mirick just before we boarded for the return trip. These may have been the “best” finds, but both are rather expected for the late May date.

A question is what do migrating birds do after being

“marooned” on an offshore island like Star? Each island is different in the habitat and food available as a stopover place for migrant songbirds, so likely that plays a large role in determining how long birds will rest and recover there.

Of note is that Eric Masterson led a trip to Star just two days after ours. Despite having what Eric’s group called a very good day, the fact was that these observers experienced quite different conditions from ours, considerably fewer birds and lower diversity.

Notable on their trip were observations of at least two deceased songbird specimens on the island after this sixth consecutive day of poor feeding opportunities. From both this group’s observations and a comparison of observations noted by Tony Vazzano from Monhegan Island and Becky Suomala from Appledore Island, it appeared that the movement of birds off of these islands occurred even during poor migration conditions.



Northern Gannet by Jen Esten, 5/24/13, Star Island, NH.

Just some of the conservative but significant tallies on our May 24 trip were:

- Northern Parula - only about five
 - Yellow Warbler - 45
 - Magnolia Warbler - 40
 - Black-throated Blue Warbler - several, all females, missed by some
 - Black-throated Green Warbler - only about five
 - Blackburnian Warbler - four or five, but spying them resting and feeding on the barren rocks at the edge of the tidal zone was a memorable sighting of this beautiful sprite normally seen in extremely tall conifers
 - “Yellow” Palm Warbler - one, on the late side
 - Blackpoll Warbler - at least 15 with both males and females on the rocks, on the lawn, and in the seaweed
 - American Redstart - 50
 - Mourning Warbler - one seen by a few fortunate folks at the very end of our visit
 - Common Yellowthroat - 80 (but there could have been twice that number)
 - Wilson’s Warbler - somewhere between five and fifteen; the leaders could not agree (!) but regardless it was a great show of this species.
 - Canada Warbler - 20, a dominant bird on the rocks!
- Let’s not forget about the marine birds. The Northern Gannet show on the ride out to Star was rather impressive, with a loose aggregation of nearly 100 seen flying just above the participants. Sprinkle in a good variety of flycatchers and sparrows and a few odd balls like the one Pine Siskin and you have a most memorable day.

Bob Quinn has birded throughout New Hampshire (and the world) for almost 40 years. For 20 years, he was the Summer Editor for New Hampshire Bird Records, and is still an active volunteer. He received the Goodhue-Elkins Award in 2010.

Phil Brown has led several spring and fall birding trips to Star Island for Merlin Wildlife Tours, the Harris Center, and New Hampshire Audubon, where he is Director of Land Management and coordinates NH Audubon’s Raptor Observatories.

Pickering Ponds and Rochester Wastewater Treatment Plant

by Dan Hubbard

On May 15, 2013, I led a field trip for the Seacoast Chapter of NH Audubon to the Pickering Ponds trails and the adjacent Rochester Wastewater Treatment Plant. Fifteen birders joined me for an enjoyable amble around the site that produced 70 species. The day got off to a good start while I was waiting for the group to assemble. The distinctive vocalization of the Yellow-throated Vireo was heard above the parking area and I was able to locate a pair of the vireos building a nest. When my scribe and scope man Zeke Cornell arrived, he was able to provide an excellent view of the nest and nest builders for an appreciative band of participants.

This was a tough act to follow, but as we approached the first pond, an immature Bald Eagle was seen flying away from us over the water. Raptors were well represented for the day with Sharp-shinned, Cooper’s, and Red-tailed Hawks as well as Merlin (I know, not technically a raptor anymore) being sighted.

This was a banner year for Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Pickering (a nest previously located); five were counted this day. Ten species of warblers provided some good looks for the group; resident breeder, Blue-winged Warbler, the favorite of many. Baltimore Orioles and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks constantly provided flashes of color. The second pond, always a productive spot, had Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Double-crested Cormorant, and Hooded Merganser. Two female mergansers were bookends for 15 ducklings (merganserlings?) swimming across the pond. Five species of woodpecker and five species of sparrow added some variety. The troop was able to watch a Brown Creeper perform its typical behavior. A Virginia Rail was seen and heard by most of the birders. Orchard Oriole has reliably been found here in recent years and fledglings observed once. It didn’t let us down this year. Excellent scope views of a male Blue-winged Teal were provided for attendees at the treatment plant. Killdeer, and Spotted and Least Sandpipers were also present. All in all, it was a successful birding day at this popular sight with its many habitat types.

New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee Report

Calendar Year: 2011—Part I

David B. Donsker, Chairman (2011-2012)

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

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

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

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

Mandatory Review List

The following species was removed from the mandatory review list:

Common Moorhen

Although this species is rare, it is easy to identify, annually reported, and is breeding in Massachusetts and Maine, and possibly in New Hampshire.

Criteria for inclusion of the following species were revised:

Greater White-fronted Goose

This species has been reported with greater frequency in New Hampshire and is now annually reported in the state. It is also regular in neighboring states of Massachusetts and Maine. One concern is the seemingly careless identification of subspecies given in too many reports. Particularly based on recent discussions by David Sibley regarding the difficulties of subspecies identification, it was agreed that all reports submitted with an identification given to subspecific level, should be reviewed by the NHRBC. If no subspecies is given, then the report does not need to go to the Committee.

Summer 2010

Records accepted by the Committee

American Oystercatcher	6/12/2010	Seabrook
Black Skimmer	6/12/2010	Seabrook
Atlantic Puffin	7/3/2010	Offshore waters
Cerulean Warbler	6/4/2010	West Chesterfield

Records not accepted by the Committee

White-eyed Vireo	7/16/2010	Pittsfield	This heard only bird was a concern for members as this species is rare in summer, particularly from this area of the state. Bird was only heard for one minute on one day. Mimic-thrushes can often sound similar to a White-eyed Vireo, and in fact, a Gray Catbird was described by the observer as calling a very similar song 4 days later.
Cerulean Warbler	6/26/2010	Holderness	This heard only bird was a concern for members as this species is rare in summer away from Pawtuckaway State Park. Observer failed to describe the song and also describes himself as a beginner. Observer also recognized it was not "confirmed" through sighting.
Worm-eating Warbler	6/9/2010	Nottingham	This heard only bird, a rare species, was a concern for members. Details of song description were sufficiently vague so that other species with very similar songs such as Chipping Sparrow or Dark-eyed Junco could not safely be ruled out.

Fall 2010

Records accepted by the Committee

Gr. White-fronted Goose	10/27/2010	Litchfield
Eurasian Wigeon	11/19/2010	Hampton Falls
Golden Eagle	8/10/2010	Wentworth's Location
Purple Gallinule	10/7/2010	Seabrook
Common Moorhen	9/26/2010	Hinsdale
Red-necked Phalarope	8/10/2010	Rochester
Black-headed Gull	10/6/2010	Bristol
Sabine's Gull	10/6/2010	Bristol/Hebron
Royal Tern	9/12/2010	Seabrook
Black Skimmer	9/10/2010	Rye
Black Skimmer	9/12/2010	Rye
Black Skimmer	9/20/2010	Seabrook
Black Skimmer	9/26/2010	North Hampton
Black Skimmer	10/30/2010	Hampton
Western Kingbird	9/5/2010	Concord
Western Kingbird	9/29/2010	Farmington
Cave Swallow	11/25/2010	North Hampton & Rye
White-eyed Vireo	9/1/2010	Peterborough
White-eyed Vireo	10/10/2010	North Hampton
White-eyed Vireo	10/10/2010	Hampton
Townsend's Warbler	11/7/2010	Walpole (2 reports)
Hooded Warbler	9/19/2010	Bristol
Hooded Warbler	11/27/2010	Seabrook
Blue Grosbeak	10/10/2010	Stratham
Golden-crowned Sparrow	10/18/2010	Derry
Tundra Swan	11/20/2010	Hanover
Cackling Goose	10/13/2010	Rochester
Cave Swallow	11/24/2010	Various coastal
Red-necked Phalarope	9/10/2010	Derry
Red-necked Phalarope	8/20/2010	Exeter

Records not accepted by the Committee

Pacific Loon	11/20/2010	New Castle
Full details not provided. Insufficient details to eliminate small Common Loon.		
Anhinga	8/12/2010	Peterborough
Insufficient details to eliminate Double-crested Cormorant.		
Gyr Falcon	1/5/2010	Grantham
Insufficient details to eliminate leucistic/pale Red-tailed Hawk.		
Eastern Wood-Pewee	10/4/2010	Lincoln
Insufficient details to eliminate Eastern Phoebe.		
Swainson's Thrush	11/1/2010	Rye
Insufficient details to eliminate Hermit Thrush. No discussion of tail included and no discussion of differences with Hermit Thrush.		
Loggerhead Shrike	9/3/2010	Milford
The lack of binoculars and observation from a car were concerns that the views may have been less than optimal to provide a definitive ID for this rare species.		
Magnolia Warbler	9/27/2010	Strafford
The observer failed to respond in the documentation to the fundamental question, which was not the identity of Magnolia Warbler, but the total count of individual birds. Concern was expressed that the reported count of 24 Magnolias was a very high fall total for a 1.5 acre parcel and there are no recent counts like this away from breeding grounds. In addition, no Yellow-rumped Warblers were reported, a species that could cause confusion.		
MacGillivray's Warbler	9/23/2010	Tuftsboro
Not only is the species extremely rare in New Hampshire, but the date is also extremely early as compared to other New England records, therefore, an excellent description would be required. One identification mark that was inconsistent with MacGillivray's Warbler was the description of "slight faded gray feather area just at the base above the bill". This area fits the area of the lores, which should be black in a MacGillivray's Warbler. Another concern was that the report was written six months after the sighting. No indication was made as to whether the report was based on field notes or memory.		

Answer to the Photo Quiz

by David B. Donsker

The subject of this issue's Photo Quiz features a lovely black-and-white portrait of a small perching bird. While color and song are often critical features that are required to identify many songbirds, the careful analysis of structure and plumage pattern alone can often help us achieve that goal. That is the challenge of this particular Photo Quiz.

This is a small, proportionally large-headed perching bird with a stout, thick bill, short neck and relatively short

tail. On closer examination, the bill is slightly hooked at the tip. The head and back are similarly gray-toned in this photograph. This contrasts quite significantly with the seemingly uniform pale underparts including the throat, breast and lower belly. The underside of the tail is gray with some pale edging on the outer tail features. Its most notable features are two prominent wide wing bars and a prominent pale eye-ring which merges with two short, pale lines in front of the eye to form a distinct "spectacle".

Several groups of small birds share the combination of double wing bars and some sort of eye-ring. These include some of our flycatchers, kinglets, vireos and wood warblers.

Like this bird, the confusing *Empidonax* flycatchers (Least, Yellow-bellied, Alder, Willow and Acadian) also have largish heads and eye-rings. But any similarities largely stop there. These small flycatchers have smaller, thinner, more delicate bills. In each of these species, the bills are bicolored. That is, the upper mandible is dark and the lower mandible is pale. This bird has an all dark bill. The flycatchers usually assume a more vertical posture when perched. All have slightly dusky breasts, which contrast subtly with their paler throats and bellies. Their eye rings are either complete and bold, as in Least and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, or narrow or virtually non-existent, as in the other three. None has a spectacle.

The small, short-tailed Ruby-crowned Kinglet differs from the quiz bird in having a much smaller, diminutive bill. Its upperparts and underparts are more uniformly shaded and do not contrast to the degree shown in this bird. Most importantly, the eye-ring of Ruby-crowned Kinglet is completely different. It has a complete eye-ring which is wider in front of and behind the eye. So its eye-ring is actually bolder in the exact areas where it is slightly thinner in the eye-ring of this bird. Most importantly, the kinglet's eye-ring does not form a spectacle.

One of our species of wood warbler, the aberrant Yellow-breasted Chat, has a prominent spectacle, which is one of the most characteristic features of that species. But quite unlike our featured bird, the chat is a long-tailed species that lacks any wing bars.

Several warblers in the large genus *Setophaga* have bold wing bars: Chestnut-sided, Cerulean, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, Yellow-throated and Pine. The adults of virtually all of these species, however, are either striped or otherwise boldly marked. The notable exception in this group is the duller Pine Warbler. Vaguely similar to this bird, it has an eye-ring and a pale line in front of the eye which produce a faint spectacle of sorts. Also, as in the bird in our photograph, its cheeks are darkish, and its throat and underparts are pale. Additionally, Pine Warbler has a stouter bill than many of its congeners. But unlike our featured bird, even the dullest of individuals have faint flank

stripes. Its bill may be stout in comparison to some other warblers, but it is not nearly as thick as the bill in this bird and, importantly, it lacks a hooked tip. Its spectacle is also not so well-defined. Pine Warbler, in contrast to our featured bird, is a proportionally long-tailed species. Further, the warbler has large white tail spots on the outer tail feathers, which are very well defined when seen from below. The underside of the tail of the featured bird is uniformly grayish.

Of our small perching bird candidates, only the vireos share the bill structure and large-headed proportions of our featured species. In fact, the stout, hooked bill is a hallmark of this family of birds.

Several of the vireos in our state, including the ubiquitous Red-eyed Vireo, the common Warbling Vireo, and the uncommon Philadelphia Vireo lack wing bars and spectacles. Four vireo species, however, share these two features. These include Blue-headed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, the uncommon White-eyed Vireo, and Bell's Vireo, which has only been recorded a few times in our state.

Of these four species, Bell's Vireo is the duller and least strongly marked. Its two wing bars are faint, not bold as in this bird. Often the upper wing bar is so indistinct that it can be overlooked. The eye ring and spectacle in Bell's Vireo is also very poorly defined and faint. Further, it has a rather pale, more delicate bill, which is not nearly as stout or dark as that of our featured species.

White-eyed Vireo is a strongly spectacled species with two bold wing bars and is a serious candidate for consideration. Although adult White-eyed Vireo, as its name suggests, has a white iris, young White-eyed Vireos have dark irises similar to our featured bird. It is also a relatively short-tailed species. The distinctions between this bird and a young White-eyed Vireo are rather subtle. Perhaps the best feature to exclude White-eyed Vireo is the structure of the spectacle. In the featured bird, the upper and lower lines that form the front of the spectacle are equally well defined and are of similar thickness. In contrast, the lower line of the spectacle in White-eyed Vireo is virtually nonexistent, and the upper line is thicker. White-eyed Vireo would also lack the contrast seen between the dark cheek and light throat of this bird.

That leaves only two possibilities: Blue-headed Vireo and Yellow-throated Vireo. In actual field conditions, this distinction is generally not a problem at all. Blue-headed Vireo has a pure white throat, white spectacles and blue-gray head. Yellow-throated Vireo has a bright lemon yellow throat, yellow spectacles and an olive green head. In fact, in the field, Yellow-throated Vireo is more likely to be confused with the similarly colored and patterned Pine Warbler than it would be with its vireo cousin. But in a black-and-white photograph, the distinction between Yellow-Throated Vireo and the closely related Blue-headed Vireo is much

less obvious. Both of these vireos are large-headed forms with well developed, prominent spectacles, stout bills, short tails and darkish heads and backs which contrast with paler underparts. So, what clues, if any, can we use to distinguish these two birds? The clues are subtle. Blue-headed Vireo is slightly longer tailed than Yellow-throated Vireo. The tail of our featured bird is very short, thus favoring Yellow-throated Vireo. The cheeks of Blue-headed Vireo contrast quite strongly with its white throat and the tone of the blue-gray head is darker than its olive back. In the bird in the photograph, there is relatively weak contrast between the cheeks and the throat, and the tone of the crown appears to be similar to that of the back, which would be more consistent with Yellow-throated Vireo. Blue-headed Vireo has greenish yellow flanks that would contrast with the remainder of the pale underparts. No such contrast is seen in the lower flank region of Yellow-throated Vireo or of the featured bird. In fact, our quiz bird is an adult Yellow-throated Vireo, which was beautifully photographed by Len Medlock on Gonet Drive in Newmarket, NH on May 17, 2010.

Yellow-throated Vireo is an uncommon summer resident and breeding species of lowland hardwood forest in the southern part of our state. Its broader range is the eastern deciduous forest. As such, it reaches the northeastern limits of its distribution in New Hampshire and neighboring southwestern Maine. During breeding season, it favors large tracts of mature, oak-dominated forest, especially along lake edges and streams. Generally the species nests and sings from the high, dense canopy. Because of this, it can be frustratingly hard to see and is most often recognized by its loud, slow, slurred voice which can be confused with that of Blue-headed Vireo. All of these features make it a species that can be frequently overlooked. One of the more reliable places in New Hampshire to seek this species from May through the breeding season is the western side of Pawtuckaway State Park in Nottingham.

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NH Audubon's Birdathon/Bloomathon – May 17-18, 2014

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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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Spring 2013 Highlights



An American Woodcock that appeared on a doorstep in Hampton on 3/2/13. See the Backyard Birder feature for more. Photo by Len Medlock.



Green Heron photographed by Amanda Altana during the Birdathon, 5/18/13, Salem, NH. See the Birdathon Summary inside.

Fallout!

These warblers were all photographed during an amazing coastal fallout at the end of May.

See inside for articles about the fallout, a field trip to Star Island, and the Spring Season summaries.



Black-throated Green Warbler by Lauren Kras, 5/23/13, Church Street water tower parking lot, Hampton, NH.



Magnolia Warbler by Steve Mirick, 5/23/13, Great Boar's Head, Hampton, NH.



Northern Parula by Eric Masterson, 5/27/13, Star Island, Rye, NH.



Bay-breasted Warbler by Eric Masterson, 5/27/13, Star Island, Rye, NH.



Yellow-bellied Flycatcher by Steve Mirick, 5/23/13, Great Boar's Head, Hampton, NH.

