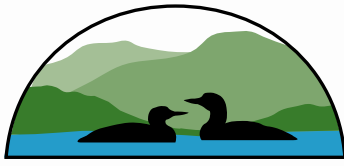


New Hampshire Bird Records





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Protecting our environment since 1914

NEW HAMPSHIRE BIRD RECORDS
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SUMMER 2014

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In This Issue

From the Editor 1
 Photo Quiz 1
 Summer Season: June 1 through July 31, 2014 2
by Tony Vazzano
 Summer 2014 Field Notes..... 16
compiled by Jane Wing and Rebecca Suomala
 Moore Dam Eagles Identified by Chris Martin 16
 Owllet in Prout Park, Manchester by Colleen Baxter..... 16
 Blueberry Island Eagle Rehabilitated by Chris Martin 17
 Boreal Chickadee Nest at Jefferson Notch by Mark Suomala..... 17
 Cormorant and Eel Struggle..... 17
 No Routine Year for Manchester's Peregrine Falcons..... 18
by Chris Martin
 Common Nighthawk 2014 Summary 19
by Rebecca Suomala
 Breeding Least Bitterns at World End Pond..... 20
by Kyle Wilmarth and Amanda Altena
 Purple Martins on the Seacoast..... 22
by Dennis Skillman
 Field Trip Reports..... 26
 Harriers Hike in the White Mountains 26
by Aiden Moser
 Canoe Birding on the Merrimack River 27
by Robert A. Quinn
 Spotlight on Sandhill Crane 28
by Pamela Hunt
 Backyard Birder – Great Blue Heron Hunting Methods 31
by Brenda Sens
 Birding NH Audubon's dePierrefeu-Willard Pond Wildlife Sanctuary 31
by Phil Brown
 The View from a Log – A Great Horned Owl Nest..... 37
by Ellen Kenny
 Answer to the Photo Quiz..... 39
by David B. Donsker

Cover Photos: White Ibis, 7/11/14, Rye, NH. Hybrid Tricolored Heron x Snowy Egret, 7/19/14, Meadow Pond, Hampton, NH [inset]. Both by Steve Mirick.

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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Summer 2014

by Rebecca Suomala

Volunteer Update

Please welcome Kathryn Frieden who has joined the *New Hampshire Bird Records* volunteer team to help with error checking and updating the New Hampshire database of bird sightings in eBird. Some of you may have already received an e-mail from her as she works to follow-up on eBird issues, such as location names or placement of pins. Any help you can provide is most appreciated.

Zeke Cornell has moved into the role of Hot Spot Manager. He is working to catch up on the backlog of suggestions that date all the way back to 2010 in a few cases and numbered nearly 300 when he started. He'll eventually be reviewing all suggestions for eBird Hot Spots in New Hampshire. Using Hot Spots is a great way to improve the usefulness of your eBird data and we hope to stay on top of new suggestions once the backlog is gone!

There's a new crew of volunteers working on preparing historic bird sighting data for upload into eBird. This is data from 1986 through 2009 that was computerized before we

switched to eBird. We've been gradually uploading this data on a town by town basis (61 towns are complete) and the new volunteers will help us continue that process.

Volunteers Needed

Summer Season Editor

Review the eBird reports, write the summaries of the highlights and determine the reports to be published.

Map Maker

Create maps to accompany Where to Bird feature articles.

Where to Bird Feature Coordinator

Create a lineup of topics, contact authors and provide guidance and editing.

Database Programmer

Create a new program for NH Christmas Bird Count data analysis to replace an old existing one.

We hope you'll consider joining the great team of volunteers at *New Hampshire Bird Records*. If you are interested or have questions, please contact me (see inside front cover).

PHOTO QUIZ

Can You Identify These Birds?

Answer on page 39.

Photo by Zeke Cornell.



SUMMER SEASON

June 1 through July 31, 2014

by Tony Vazzano



The summer of 2014 brought fairly typical weather although heat waves were few and, as has been the case in recent years, most of the rain came in a few heavy events. In general, it is unlikely that the weather caused many serious nesting problems, but the heavy rains in late June and early July did mean more Common Loon nest failures than usual.

For large raptors such as Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon there were ups and downs during the breeding season but the overall number of territorial birds continues to increase. **Mississippi Kites** nested in Newmarket in the same area as in previous summers. In what is an incredible statement about patience and persistence in the avian world, the **Sandhill Crane** that found a mate last year after 14 solo years, this year had a family with a newly fledged chick seen in June! This is the first breeding record for the cranes in New Hampshire. A Clay-colored Sparrow in Newmarket was back for a sixth year but was apparently not as fortunate in finding a mate. Fox Sparrow has bred for the past few years in the northern part of the state and this year the population seemed to expand explosively across the White Mountains.



White Ibis by Steve Mirick, 7/12/14, Rye, NH.

The rarity star of the season was a young and cooperative **White Ibis** found in Rye in July, the first in the state in 30 years. Other rarities were certainly not lacking this summer and include a **Pacific Loon** in Rye, an American Coot in

Errol, inland Caspian Terns, a **Royal Tern** in Rye, a **Common Murre** offshore, an **Acadian Flycatcher** in Durham, at least one **Western Kingbird** at the coast, a **Hooded Warbler** in Newington, a **Summer Tanager** in Kingston, and a **Harris's Sparrow** at the Isles of Shoals.

Also of interest is the increasing volume of reports received via eBird. In just one year the number of summer reports has more than doubled and this season there were over 47,000!

Waterfowl through Grebes



Bufflehead by Scott Heron, 6/15/14, Bayberry Pond, Kingston, NH.

Ring-necked Duck is a breeder in far northern New Hampshire but three males and a female in Conway in June were farther south than they typically occur in summer. Black Scoter numbers have been increasing at the coast in summer during the past several years and that trend continued this season. For out-of-season waterfowl this summer there was a Bufflehead seen inland in the middle of June that was probably a late migrant, while one in late July in New London was either a very early fall migrant or a wanderer. They usually leave the state by the end of the first week in June and typically don't return until after September. A Common Goldeneye in Manchester in late June was also unusual for the southern part of the state in summer. This bird was reported as having a possible injury.

A **Pacific Loon** found along the coast in Rye on July 12 was not seen again but was fortunately photographed. It appeared to be a one year old bird. They are uncommon along the New England coast in fall through spring but are even more exceptional in summer. According to John Cooley of the Loon Preservation Committee, it was a better breeding season for Common Loon than last summer with respect to the number of chicks fledged, 152 from 289 occupied territories, although it was only slightly better than the long term average. Interestingly, while Lake Winnepesaukee usually lags in the number of fledged chicks per territory, this year it was 32% higher than the state average and this is probably attributable to intensive nest site management. Heavy rains did cause some flooded loon nests, especially in the Monadnock and Sunapee regions. The Horned Grebe seen in Conway in early June was a late migrant.

Date # Location Observer



Brant by Steve Mirick, 7/12/14, Hampton salt marsh, NH.

Brant

07/12 1 Hampton marsh S. Mirick

Ring-necked Duck

06/06 2 Umbagog NWR, Sweat Meadow, Errol R. Quinn
 06/11 4 Pudding Pond, Conway P. Brown, A. Costa
 06/15 1 Middle Pond, Pittsburg D. Clapp



Common Eider with young by Steve Mirick, 6/14/14, NH coast.

Common Eider

06/21 390 NH coast, tally of young birds S. Mirick

Surf Scoter

06/10 4 NH coast S. Mirick
 06/14 4 Wallis Sands State Beach, Rye S. Mirick
 06/21 3 NH coast S. Mirick

White-winged Scoter

06/07 9 NH coast S. Mirick
 06/10 30 NH coast S. Mirick
 07/12 14 NH coast S. Mirick

Black Scoter

06/10 54 NH coast S. Mirick
 06/14 48 Rye Ledge & Wallis Sands State Beach, Rye S. Mirick
 06/21 33 Jenness Beach & Wallis Sands State Beach, Rye S. Mirick
 07/12 28 Rt. 1A pullout by stone angel, Rye P. Hunt
 07/20 41 NH coast S. Mirick

Long-tailed Duck

06/14 1 Bicentennial Park, Hampton S. Mirick
 06/19 1 N. Hampton State Beach C. Nims
 06/21 1 Bicentennial Park, Hampton S. Mirick
 06/21 1 Rye Ledge S. Mirick

Date # Location Observer



Bufflehead by Jen Esten, 7/25/14, Pleasant Lake, New London, NH.

Bufflehead

06/15 1 Bayberry Pond, Kingston S. Heron
 07/25 1 Pleasant Lake, New London J. Esten

Common Goldeneye

06/14 2 The Glen, Pittsburg P. Wolter, L. Carberry
 06/25 1 Stark Landing, Manchester S. Mirick

Red-breasted Merganser

06/10 1 NH coast S. Mirick
 06/21 2 NH coast S. Mirick
 07/19 1 Wallis Sands State Beach, Rye S. Mirick

Spruce Grouse

06/07 1 Mt. Washington Auto Road, Greens Grant H. Kochenderfer
 06/08 1 Carter Dome, Beans Purchase J. Halibocek
 06/14 1 East Inlet, Pittsburg P. Wolter, L. Carberry, L. Heitzmann
 06/23 6 Magalloway Rd., Pittsburg S. Miller
 07/12 1 Mt. Liberty, Lincoln D. Ellis
 07/15 1 Crawford Path, Mt. Eisenhower to Mizpah Springs, Chandler's Purchase D. Allen, J. Janis

Red-throated Loon

06/26 1 Wallis Sands State Beach, Rye J. Hintermister

Pacific Loon

07/12 1 Seal Rocks, Rye S.&J. Mirick, et al.
 07/13 1 Seal Rocks, Rye J. Scott, B. Crowley

Pied-billed Grebe

06/07 1 Surrey Lane marsh, Durham P. Hunt
 06/08 3 Brentwood Mitigation Area D. Skillman
 06/14 1 Pondicherry NWR, Cherry Pond, Jefferson L. Waters, C. Nims, J. Scott, S. Data
 07/08 3 Copps Pond WMA, Tuftonboro M. Harvey

Horned Grebe

06/02 1 Conway Lake, n. channel T. Keith

Red-necked Grebe

07/12 1 Seal Rocks, Rye S. Mirick, R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, P. Hunt

SUMMER SEASON

Shearwaters through Cranes



White Ibis by Steve Mirick, 7/11/14, Rye, NH.

The offshore birding improved considerably this summer compared to the previous one. Most shearwaters were reported in more typical numbers while Cory's were especially numerous. Wilson's Storm-Petrels were rather scarce. A Least Bittern nest in Salem was one of the most exciting finds of the summer. While this species is reported many years in New Hampshire, documentation of breeding has been lacking, but this year one of the birds was photographed sitting on the nest (see a full account on page 20). An apparent hybrid Tricolored Heron X Snowy Egret was seen in Hampton in July. It is interesting to note that one and possibly two such birds were reported from Scarborough Marsh in Maine at the same time. One might speculate that the parents bred on nearby Stratton Island in Saco Bay where there is a large heron breeding colony. Black-crowned Night-Herons were fairly numerous and there was one Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. Yellow-crowned breed south of New Hampshire but some, especially young birds, wander north in summer. Another bird known to wander northward after breeding season, but still rare in New England, is **White Ibis**. The juvenile seen in mid-July in Rye was New Hampshire's third record; it stayed until almost the end of the month. The first state record was inland, from East Andover, in September, 1969 and in 1984 one had been roosting on Appledore Island (Maine) and was reported from the coast in Rye according to information in the NH Rare Birds Committee Official State Checklist. Their nearest known breeding area is in Virginia.

There was a record 41 territorial pairs of Bald Eagles according to New Hampshire Audubon raptor biologist Chris Martin. However, a third of these pairs did not incubate eggs and there are several possible factors. Among them is early nest abandonment due to ill-timed snow

events and also to new or inexperienced pairs connecting late in the season. Of this year's 27 incubating pairs, 24 were successful in raising one or more young. Two nests, one from Winnepesaukee and one from Squam, produced triplets.

Mississippi Kites returned to nest in Newmarket and fledged one young bird this year.

An American Coot was seen at Lake Umbagog in early June. This is an unusual summer record for New Hampshire even though they nest just north of the state in southern Quebec near the St. Lawrence River. The story of New Hampshire's first known native **Sandhill Crane** is truly remarkable. It was hatched near the Connecticut River in Monroe where an adult has summered for 15 years. Last year that adult bird was joined by a second bird in July and this year two cranes were seen there in spring. After much suspense a fledged young crane was seen with the two adults in the early morning of June 23. Sandhill Cranes often live about 20 years in the wild. An internet search yielded a report about one that was re-captured in New Mexico after having been banded 36 years earlier! Hopefully our pair still has several more productive years to come. The story of this New Hampshire family is part of a bigger one with regard to the species expansion in the northeast in recent years (see the article by Pam Hunt on page 28). Another crane was seen a couple of times in the South Tamworth area during July.

| Date | # | Location | Observer |
|------------------------------|-----|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Cory's Shearwater | | | |
| 06/28 | 19 | Jeffrey's Ledge, NH | J. Hintermister |
| 07/07 | 6 | offshore waters, NH | M. Harvey |
| 07/12 | 14 | Jeffrey's Ledge, NH | S. Mirick |
| 07/12 | 41 | offshore waters, NH | R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, T. Pockette |
| 07/25 | 7 | offshore waters, NH | J.& C. Gamble |
| Great Shearwater | | | |
| 06/24 | 7 | offshore waters, NH | H. Walters |
| 07/12 | 107 | offshore waters, NH | R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, T. Pockette |
| Sooty Shearwater | | | |
| 06/24 | 3 | offshore waters, NH | H. Walters |
| 07/12 | 47 | offshore waters, NH | R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, T. Pockette |
| Manx Shearwater | | | |
| 07/12 | 1 | Jeffrey's Ledge, NH | S. Mirick |
| Shearwater sp. | | | |
| 07/12 | 68 | offshore waters, NH | R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, T. Pockette |
| Wilson's Storm-Petrel | | | |
| 06/08 | 3 | Jeffrey's Ledge, NH | Z. Cornell, R. Suomala |
| 06/28 | 100 | Jeffrey's Ledge, NH | J. Hintermister |
| 07/12 | 130 | offshore waters, NH | R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, T. Pockette |
| 07/18 | 65 | Jeffrey's Ledge, NH | K. Towler, J. Sparrell |

Date # Location Observer

Northern Gannet

06/08 3 Jeffrey's Ledge, NH Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
 07/19 18 Isles of Shoals, White and Seavey Islands, Rye
 D. Winkler
 07/31 10 offshore waters, NH J. Maher

American Bittern

06/05 2 East Inlet, Pittsburg M. Vernon
 06/11 2 Trask Brook Rd., Sunapee D. Jackson
 06/17 2 Airport Marsh, Whitefield D. Govatski
 06/20 3 Thompson WS, Sandwich W. Batsford

Least Bittern

06/01 1 Surrey Lane marsh, Durham K. Towler, J. Sparrell
 06/07 1 Surrey Lane marsh, Durham P. Hunt
 06/11 1 World End Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth, A. Altena

Great Egret

06/08 8 Little River saltmarsh, N. Hampton J. Norton
 07/26 23 NH coast S. Mirick

Snowy Egret

06/10 20 Little River saltmarsh, N. Hampton S. Mirick
 07/12 20 NH coast S. Mirick
 07/15 14 marsh s. of Rye Harbor S. Mirick
 07/23 18 saltmarsh s. of Odiorne Pt., Rye J. Sparrell
 07/24 18 Meadow Pond, Hampton S. Mirick
 07/26 26 NH coast S. Mirick



Hybrid Tricolored Heron X Snowy Egret by Steve Mirick, 7/26/14, Meadow Pond, Hampton, NH.

Snowy Egret x Tricolored Heron (hybrid)

07/19 1 Meadow Pond, Hampton S. Mirick

Green Heron

06/08 2 Loudon Rd. fields behind PO, Concord D. Jackson
 06/17 2 World End Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth
 07/17 4 Pickering Ponds, Rochester D. Hubbard
 07/29 5 Salem K. Wilmarth

Black-crowned Night-Heron

06/08 1 Hammond Hollow, Gilsum M. Wright
 07/12 17 Hampton Harbor Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
 07/18 1 Crestwood Dr., Hollis J. Arabas
 07/22 1 Pleasant Lake, New London J. Esten
 07/26 18 Hampton Harbor Z. Cornell, R. Suomala

Date # Location Observer

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

07/19 1 Meadow Pond, Hampton S. Mirick

White Ibis

07/11 1 Awcomin Marsh, Rye J. Maher, et al.
 07/21 1 marsh s. of Rye Harbor C. Duford
 07/29 1 NH coast S. Mesick



Glossy Ibis by Kyle Wilmarth, 7/10/14, World End Pond, Salem, NH.

Glossy Ibis

06/08 12 Little River saltmarsh, N. Hampton J. Norton
 07/10 1 World End Pond, Salem A. Altena, K. Wilmarth
 07/19 2 Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton S. Mirick

Black Vulture

06/16 1 Old Summit Rd., Keene F. Whitbread
 07/04 1 Broad St., Portsmouth C. Duford



Mississippi Kite by Steve Mirick, 6/23/14, Newmarket, NH.

Mississippi Kite

06/01 1 Dame Rd., Durham S. Mirick
 06/08 2 Dame Rd. at Gonet Dr., Newmarket
 R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
 07/14 3 Gonet Dr., Newmarket M.& P. Wolter

Northern Harrier

06/01 1 Wakeda Campground, Hampton Falls D. Feener
 06/06 2 Bear Rock Rd. fields, Colebrook R. Quinn
 06/06 2 Pondicherry NWR, Cherry Pond, Jefferson
 M. Thompson
 06/08 1 Sweeney Bridge field, Millsfield S. Hale
 06/20 1 Hall Stream Rd., Pittsburg E. Nielsen
 06/21 1 Indian Stream Rd., Pittsburg C. Seifer
 07/06 1 Rt. 145 near Bresett Rd., Clarksville
 Z. Cornell, R. Suomala

SUMMER SEASON

| Date | # | Location | Observer |
|-------------------------|---|--|------------------------|
| Northern Goshawk | | | |
| 06/01 | 1 | Pondicherry NWR, Mud Pond, Jefferson | S. Stoddard |
| 06/07 | 1 | Cannon Mt., Franconia | M. Taylor |
| 06/27 | 1 | Ashuelot River Headwaters Forest, Mountain Rd., Lempster | P. Hunt |
| 07/05 | 1 | Indian Stream Rd., Pittsburg | Z. Cornell, R. Suomala |
| 07/13 | 1 | Under the Mountain Rd., Lyman | S. Turner |

Virginia Rail

| | | | |
|-------|---|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 06/04 | 4 | Geremonty Dr. marsh, Salem | K. Wilmarth |
| 06/10 | 2 | Borthwick Ave. marsh, Portsmouth | S. Bennett |
| 06/20 | 2 | Thompson WS, Sandwich | W. Batsford |
| 07/06 | 2 | South End Marsh, Concord | R. Woodward |
| 07/13 | 2 | Brownfield Rd., Eaton | G. & A. Robbins |
| 07/13 | 6 | Chase WS, Hopkinton | R. Woodward |

Sora

| | | | |
|-------|---|----------------------------|-------------|
| 06/14 | 2 | Geremonty Dr. marsh, Salem | K. Wilmarth |
|-------|---|----------------------------|-------------|

American Coot

| | | | |
|-------|---|--------------------|------------|
| 06/07 | 1 | Umbagog NWR, Errol | A. Tardiff |
|-------|---|--------------------|------------|

Sandhill Crane

| | | | |
|-------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 06/29 | 3 | Rt. 135 fields, Monroe | K. Towler, J. Sparrell |
| 07/09 | 3 | Rt. 135 fields, Monroe | P. Hunt |
| 07/16 | 1 | Rt. 25 w. of Rt. 113, Tamworth | K. Rines |
| 07/31 | 1 | Rt. 25 w. of Rt. 113, Tamworth | K. Rines |

Oystercatcher through Alcids



American Oystercatcher by Scott Heron, 7/3/14, Foss Beach, Rye, NH.

It was not an easy summer for New Hampshire's small population of Piping Plover. Like last year, there was a nest on the harbor side of Route 1A in Seabrook and it fledged one chick. However, there was a total of six nests in Seabrook and Hampton that fledged a total of only two chicks, according to New Hampshire Fish & Game which monitors the nests. They also reported six pairs of Upland Sandpipers at Pease International Tradeport, the only known nesting location in the state. There were four nests hatching 11 chicks, which is close to the average of the past few years. American Oystercatcher is rare but annual in summer and one was photographed as it flew along the shore in Rye. They

nest as close as southern Maine. Hudsonian Godwit has become a very uncommon migrant in the state. Three made a brief appearance in Hampton Harbor in late July. While Ruddy Turnstone is a typical coastal migrant, they are very rare inland compared to some shorebirds; one was seen at Lake Sunapee in late July.

While there was a lack of unusual gull sightings during the season, that was not the case for terns. Caspian Tern nests as close as Lake Champlain in Vermont, but prior to this year, there were only five inland records for New Hampshire for any season, according to Eric Masterson's *Birdwatching in New Hampshire*. That makes the three inland sightings from this summer quite outstanding. They were widely scattered across the central and southern part of the state. **Royal Tern** is very rare here and one was seen flying along the coast during the middle of July. While it was a good summer for unusual terns, it was also a good one for the state's breeding terns. The 2,873 Common Tern pairs at White and Seavey Islands at the Isles of Shoals surpassed the record of a few years earlier by about five dozen pairs. The 76 pairs of Roseate Terns surpassed their record of 63 from two years earlier. The number of Arctic Tern pairs has ranged from two to seven in the past six years and this year there were three pairs.

Common Murre is found on islands off the coast of Maine in summer, but is a very rare summer visitor in New Hampshire waters. This year, one was seen offshore from a whalewatch boat.

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

American Oystercatcher

| | | | |
|-------|---|---|----------|
| 07/03 | 1 | Foss Beach, Rye | S. Heron |
| 07/12 | 1 | Rt. 1A, second pullout s. of Odiorne Pt., Rye | P. Hunt |

Black-bellied Plover

| | | | |
|-------|---|---|------------------------------------|
| 06/08 | 1 | saltmarsh s. of Odiorne Pt., Rye | S. Bennett, Z. Cornell, R. Suomala |
| 07/25 | 1 | Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop, Seabrook | P. Hunt |



Semipalmated Plover by Kyle Wilmarth, 6/3/14, World End Pond, Salem, NH.

Semipalmated Plover

| | | | |
|-------|---|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 06/03 | 1 | World End Pond, Salem | A. Altena, K. Wilmarth |
| 06/08 | 1 | saltmarsh s. of Odiorne Pt., Rye | S. Bennett, Z. Cornell, R. Suomala |

| Date | # | Location | Observer |
|-------|-----|--|----------------------|
| 07/13 | 12 | Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton | J. Scott, B. Crowley |
| 07/26 | 223 | Hampton salt marsh | S. Mirick |
| 07/30 | 300 | Hampton salt marsh | S. Mirick |
| 07/31 | 230 | Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton | J. Maher |
| 07/31 | 215 | Henrys Pool, Rt. 101E, Hampton | T. Vazzano |

Solitary Sandpiper

| | | | |
|-------|---|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| 07/13 | 1 | Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook | P. Hunt |
| 07/17 | 1 | Big Brook Bog, Pittsburg, NH | G. Billingham |
| 07/26 | 1 | McDaniels Marsh WMA, Springfield | C.&J. Gamble |

Greater Yellowlegs

| | | | |
|-------|----|---------------------------|-------------|
| 06/10 | 3 | NH coast | S. Mirick |
| 06/14 | 1 | NH coast | S. Mirick |
| 06/30 | 2 | Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook | C. Sheridan |
| 07/12 | 12 | NH coast | S. Mirick |

Willet

| | | | |
|-------|----|--|------------------------|
| 06/02 | 10 | Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton | J. Kelly |
| 07/12 | 45 | Hampton Harbor | Z. Cornell, R. Suomala |

Lesser Yellowlegs

| | | | |
|-------|----|---------------------------|------------|
| 06/08 | 1 | Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook | S. Bennett |
| 07/04 | 6 | Foss Beach, Rye | S. Heron |
| 07/12 | 13 | NH coast | S. Mirick |

Whimbrel

| | | | |
|-------|---|--|-----------|
| 07/19 | 1 | Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton | S. Mirick |
| 07/19 | 2 | Hampton Harbor | S. Mirick |

Hudsonian Godwit

| | | | |
|-------|---|----------------|------------------------|
| 07/26 | 3 | Hampton Harbor | K. Wilmarth, A. Altena |
|-------|---|----------------|------------------------|

Ruddy Turnstone

| | | | |
|-------|---|--|------------|
| 07/10 | 1 | Star Island | E. Millard |
| 07/23 | 1 | Sunapee Lake | M. Vernon |
| 07/31 | 2 | Isles of Shoals, White and Seavey Islands, Rye | E. Sibbald |

Red Knot

| | | | |
|-------|---|----------------|------------------------|
| 07/26 | 2 | Hampton Harbor | K. Wilmarth, A. Altena |
|-------|---|----------------|------------------------|

Least Sandpiper

| | | | |
|-------|----|---|------------------------|
| 06/03 | 1 | World End Pond, Salem | K. Wilmarth, A. Altena |
| 07/04 | 6 | Hampton salt marsh | S. Mirick |
| 07/06 | 1 | Steeplegate Mall and pond, Concord | B.& C. Baker |
| 07/06 | 53 | NH coast | S. Mirick |
| 07/24 | 38 | Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop, Seabrook | J. Hannafee |

White-rumped Sandpiper

| | | | |
|-------|---|--------------------------------|------------|
| 07/21 | 1 | marsh s. of Rye Harbor | C. Duford |
| 07/31 | 7 | Henrys Pool, Rt. 101E, Hampton | T. Vazzano |

Semipalmated Sandpiper

| | | | |
|-------|-----|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 06/14 | 5 | Hampton salt marsh | S. Mirick |
| 07/04 | 1 | Rye Harbor | S. Heron |
| 07/11 | 20 | Hampton salt marsh | J. Maher, J. McKibben |
| 07/15 | 133 | Hampton salt marsh | S. Mirick |
| 07/30 | 667 | Hampton salt marsh | S. Mirick |

Peep sp.

| | | | |
|-------|-----|----------------|-----------|
| 07/26 | 500 | Hampton Harbor | S. Mirick |
|-------|-----|----------------|-----------|

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



Short-billed Dowitcher by Steve Mirick, 7/13/14, Hampton, NH.

Short-billed Dowitcher

| | | | |
|-------|----|----------------------------------|------------|
| 06/08 | 1 | saltmarsh s. of Odiorne Pt., Rye | S. Bennett |
| 07/04 | 1 | Hampton salt marsh | S. Mirick |
| 07/15 | 54 | Hampton salt marsh | S. Mirick |
| 07/20 | 83 | NH coast | S. Mirick |

Red-necked Phalarope

| | | | |
|-------|---|---------------------|---------------|
| 07/25 | 8 | offshore waters, NH | J.& C. Gamble |
|-------|---|---------------------|---------------|

Parasitic Jaeger

| | | | |
|-------|---|---------------------|---------------|
| 07/15 | 2 | Rye Ledge | S. Mirick |
| 07/25 | 2 | offshore waters, NH | J.& C. Gamble |

Bonaparte's Gull

| | | | |
|-------|-----|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 06/14 | 100 | NH coast | S. Mirick |
| 07/10 | 1 | Bean Brook, Success | K. Nelson, M. Medeiros |
| 07/11 | 1 | First Connecticut Lake, Pittsburg | J. Lambert |
| 07/29 | 1 | Squam Lake | J. Bishop |
| 07/29 | 42 | Rt. 1A pullout by stone angel, Rye | M. Wilson |

Laughing Gull

| | | | |
|-------|----|-----------------|-------------|
| 06/06 | 1 | Hampton Harbor | C. Sheridan |
| 07/12 | 18 | NH coast | S. Mirick |
| 07/23 | 6 | Seal Rocks, Rye | D. Feener |

Lesser Black-backed Gull

| | | | |
|-------|---|----------------|-----------|
| 07/13 | 1 | Hampton Harbor | S. Mirick |
|-------|---|----------------|-----------|

Least Tern

| | | | |
|-------|---|----------------------|------------------------|
| 06/01 | 6 | Rye Harbor SP | D. Feener |
| 06/21 | 2 | Jenness Beach, Rye | S. Mirick |
| 07/12 | 2 | Hampton Harbor | Z. Cornell, R. Suomala |
| 07/12 | 3 | Meadow Pond, Hampton | S. Mirick |
| 07/27 | 4 | Meadow Pond, Hampton | S. Mirick |
| 07/31 | 4 | offshore waters, NH | J. Maher |

Caspian Tern

| | | | |
|-------|---|--|---------------------|
| 06/20 | 1 | Five Finger Pt. NA, Squam Lake, Sandwich | R. Marsh, S. Stuart |
| 06/21 | 1 | Squam Lake | R. Marsh, S. Stuart |
| 07/05 | 1 | Surry Dam | F. Martin |
| 07/08 | 1 | Lake Massabesic, Auburn | T. Demers |
| 07/27 | 1 | marsh s. of Rye Harbor | S. Bennett |

SUMMER SEASON

Date # Location Observer

Roseate Tern

07/12 5 Hampton Harbor Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
07/26 25 Hampton Harbor Z. Cornell, R. Suomala

Arctic Tern

06/08 1 Jeffrey's Ledge, NH Z. Cornell, R. Suomala

Forster's Tern

07/11 1 Hampton Harbor S. Mirick
07/15 1 Hampton Harbor K. Wilmarth, A. Altena

Royal Tern

07/14 1 Rt. 1A, second pullout s. of Odiorne Pt., Rye J. Maher
07/14 1 Wallis Sands, NH S. Bennett

Common Murre

06/28 1 Jeffrey's Ledge, NH J. Hintermister

Black Guillemot

06/06 2 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye S. Mirick
07/19 10 Isles of Shoals, White and Seavey Islands, Rye D. Winkler

Cuckoos through Crows



Black-billed Cuckoo by Scott Heron, 6/19/14, Brentwood, NH.

It was a banner year for Black-billed Cuckoo with dozens of reports. Nearly 20 Yellow-billed Cuckoos were also reported, which is an unusually high number. Common Nighthawk rebounded nicely after a poor breeding season the previous year (see the article by Rebecca Suomala on page 19). Merlin expanded southward in the state ten years ago and it continues to reach farther south. A pair fledged two juveniles in the southeast corner of the state in Kingston, only about five miles from the Massachusetts border. Chris Martin of NH Audubon reported that Peregrine Falcons were found in 23 territories with incubation at 17 of them. There was a record high of 14 successful nests producing 33 young. The 1.94 chicks per nesting pair compared to a 32-year average of 1.64.

Olive-sided Flycatcher is on a long list of aerial insectivores that are declining. NH Audubon has been attempting to confirm their continued presence in areas

where they have not been reported since the *Atlas of Breeding Birds in New Hampshire* in the early 1980's. This has resulted in more reports than usual in central New Hampshire. In the middle of June, two Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were found in southern Sullivan County. They typically breed farther north, mostly in higher elevations. These birds were reportedly acting as though they were on territory but were not found again on two subsequent visits. An **Acadian Flycatcher** was discovered in Durham in the middle of June and was seen through the rest of the month. They breed close by, to the south of the state, and while one was in Concord the previous two summers, they are still unusual in southern New Hampshire.



Western Kingbird by Steve Mirick, 7/6/14, Pease International Tradeport, Newington, NH.

At least one **Western Kingbird** was seen near the coast. While this western stray is rare enough in New Hampshire in fall, it is exceedingly rare in summer and there has only been one other summer record over the years. While two birds were reported and photographed from two different locations this summer, it is possible that they were the same individual.

Fish Crows have been expanding northward along New Hampshire's river valleys for the past decade. This June one was in North Conway, a little farther north than they've been known to occur in the state. They have been regular not too far to the south in West Ossipee, so it was only a matter of time before they reached Conway and the Saco River area. Another was reported from Piermont, an indication that they also continue to slowly expand up the Connecticut River Valley.

Date # Location Observer

Eastern Screech-Owl

06/21 1 Alyson's Orchard, Walpole O. Burton
06/24 1 Yudicky Farm/Southwest Park, Nashua C. Sheridan
07/28 2 Contoocook River Park/Island Shores Estates, Penacook P. Hunt

Northern Saw-whet Owl

06/07 1 Black Cap Mt. Trail, Conway C. Nims, S. McCarthy
06/16 1 Greeley Park area, Nashua J. Maher

Date # Location Observer

Common Nighthawk

06/30 9 Concord Nighthawk Watch R. Suomala, et al.
 07/10 10 Ossipee Pine Barrens Nighthawk Watch
 R. Suomala, et al.

Eastern Whip-poor-will

06/05 9 Freedom Town Forest J. Scott, C. Nims
 07/11 5 Mast Yard SF e., Concord
 A. Moser, H. Walters, NH Young Birders FT

Chimney Swift

06/01 171 old Lebanon Middle School L. Thompson
 06/03 50 Mine Falls Park, Spine Rd., Nashua J. Maher
 06/04 96 Old Academy Building, Orford J. MacQueen
 07/30 80 Durgin Block parking garage, Concord R. Quinn
 07/31 92 KUA powerplant, Meriden S. Hardy

Black-backed Woodpecker

06/01 1 Pondicherry NWR, Mud Pond, Jefferson D. Govatski
 06/02 2 Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem B. Robertson
 06/05 1 Sand Flat Rd., Cambridge R. Quinn
 06/10 2 Caps Ridge Trail, T&M Purchase M. Tower
 06/17 4 Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem K. Kittelberger
 06/21 1 Crawford Path, Mts. Pierce and Eisenhower,
 Beans Grant L. Kras, B. Griffith
 06/21 2 Comstock Hill Road, Pittsburg E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
 06/21 Jewel Trail, Mt. Washington, WMNF,
 Sargents Purchase K. Pelletier
 06/26 1 Santa's Village, Jefferson T. Knittel
 06/29 1 Magalloway Mt., Pittsburg S. Mirick
 07/12 2 Garfield Trail to Mt. Garfield summit, Franconia
 A. Burnett
 07/13 1 Boundary Pond, Pittsburg C. Nims

American Kestrel

06/06 3 Bear Rock Rd. fields, Colebrook R. Quinn
 06/08 4 Strafford County Farm, Dover
 S. Bennett, D. Hubbard
 06/23 2 Hertzka Dr., Amherst C. Sheridan
 07/05 2 Hall Stream Rd., Pittsburg Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
 07/10 2 Wildcat Mountain Ski Area, Beans Purchase
 C. Gjervold
 07/11 3 Hertzka Dr., Amherst C. Sheridan
 07/11 5 Strafford County Farm, Dover D. Hubbard
 07/19 2 Loudon Rd. fields behind PO, Concord R. Woodward
 07/24 4 Rt. 25, Benton J. Williams



Merlin by Scott Heron, 7/21/14, Kingston, NH.

Date # Location Observer

Merlin

06/16 2 Squam Lake W. Batsford, B. Ridsley
 06/22 2 Waterville Valley M. Dyer
 07/12 2 Great Pond, Kingston S. Heron
 07/27 4 Great Pond, Kingston S. Heron

Olive-sided Flycatcher

06/02 1 McDaniels Marsh WMA, Springfield J. Gamble
 06/07 1 Rt. 153 and Watts WS, Effingham G.& A. Robbins
 06/07 1 tornado cut, Town House Rd., Effingham
 G.& A. Robbins
 06/09 1 Bog Rd., Enfield P. Hunt
 06/14 1 McDaniels Marsh WMA, Springfield J. Gamble
 06/15 1 Pondicherry NWR, Cherry Pond, Jefferson
 P. Wolter, D. Heitzmann, L. Carberry
 07/08 1 Chemung State Forest, Meredith
 P. Hunt, J. Henderson

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

06/01 1 Church St. water tower parking lot, Hampton
 S. Mirick
 06/06 1 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye S. Mirick
 06/14 2 Ashuelot River Headwaters Forest,
 Mountain Rd., Lempster P. Hunt
 06/16 10 Umbagog NWR, Mollidgewock Brook,
 Errol G. Gavutis, Jr.
 06/17 15 Caps Ridge Trail, T&M Purchase M. Kemp
 06/21 28 Crawford Path, Mts. Pierce and Eisenhower,
 Beans Grant L. Kras, B. Griffith



Acadian Flycatcher by Steve Mirick, 6/7/14, Durham, NH.

Acadian Flycatcher

06/01 1 Bennett Rd., Durham S. Mirick, et al.
 06/28 1 Bennett Rd., Durham E. Nielsen

Western Kingbird

06/09 1 Philbrick Marsh, N. Hampton E. Williams
 07/06 1 Pease Intl. Tradeport, Short St., Newington
 S.& J. Mirick, et al.

Yellow-throated Vireo

06/08 4 Mitchell Pond, Windham rail trail
 A. Altena, K. Wilmarth
 06/09 1 Chick's Corner wetland, Sandwich T. Vazzano
 07/23 1 Copsps Pond WMA, Tuftonboro M. Batcheller

SUMMER SEASON

| Date | # | Location | Observer |
|---------------------------|---|---|------------|
| Philadelphia Vireo | | | |
| 06/14 | 2 | Scott Bog Rd., Pittsburg | D. Clapp |
| 06/23 | 1 | Dolly Copp Campground, Martins Location | C. Ross |
| 06/24 | 2 | East Inlet, Pittsburg | R. Frieden |
| 07/03 | 1 | Caps Ridge Trail, T&M Purchase | A. Burdo |

Gray Jay

| | | | |
|-------|---|--|------------------------|
| 06/16 | 6 | Umbagog NWR, Mollidgewock Brook, Errol | G. Gavutis, Jr. |
| 06/16 | 6 | East Inlet, Pittsburg | E. Nielsen, S. Sweet |
| 06/22 | 2 | Caps Ridge Trail, T&M Purchase | J. Sparrell, K. Towler |
| 07/12 | 4 | Garfield Trail to Mt. Garfield summit, Franconia | A. Burnett |
| 07/15 | 3 | Mizpah Springs Hut, Beans Grant | D. Allen, J. Janis |

Fish Crow

| | | | |
|-------|---|--|--------------|
| 06/03 | 1 | Range Rd., Sandwich | K. Klapper |
| 06/07 | 1 | White Mountain Hwy., Conway | B. Griffith |
| 06/22 | 1 | Rt. 25C, Piermont | D. Lash |
| 06/27 | 5 | Rt. 16 & Rt. 25, Ossipee | T. Vazzano |
| 07/23 | 1 | Three Mile Island Camp, Lake Winnepesaukee, Meredith | B. Bourgault |

Swallows through Warblers



Purple Martins by Kyle Wilmarth, 6/22/14, East Wakefield, NH.

Last year, a pair of Purple Martins was found breeding in Seabrook. It was the first known Purple Martin nest in the Seacoast area since 2003, although it was later learned that the martins have used this area for at least the three previous years. After much encouragement via new housing (see the article on page 22), this year the site expanded into a small breeding colony of five pairs. The only other known nest areas in the state are a longstanding but declining colony in Weirs Beach and a recently discovered site in Wakefield that had two pairs this year. Both Cliff Swallow and Bank Swallow were reported with greater frequency and in higher numbers than the past few years. This is undoubtedly partly a result of birders making a concerted effort to report swallows and the overall increase in eBird reports. A Ruby-crowned

Kinglet photographed in Rye and another seen in Hollis in the middle of June were unusual; they are usually on their more northern breeding grounds by then. These were either late migrants or wandering birds.

Mourning Warbler is a late spring migrant and it isn't surprising to get a couple of reports in early June from south of their breeding range. Once in a while one tries to set up a territory south of their usual range and is found singing later in June and this was apparently the case for the one in Pittsfield. A Tennessee Warbler seen in Concord on June 8 was undoubtedly a migrant and one seen near Squam Lake several days later was probably also a late migrant. Breeding Palm Warblers have pushed southward through northern New Hampshire over the past decade and there are more reports in central New Hampshire than we used to see. This summer one was reported as far south as Bradford. More unusual was the individual photographed on Star Island at the end of June. **Hooded Warbler** breeds as close as southern New England, but they are still an unusual overshoot in New Hampshire, most often seen in spring or early summer. This year a beautiful male was found in Newington in June. Wilson's Warbler can be a late migrant and is occasionally seen south of its breeding area in early June, which was the case with two birds in Rye. One in Whitefield in late June and two others in Bethlehem in early July were unusually far south for this species in summer.

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

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

| | | | |
|-------|----|--|----------------------------|
| 06/14 | 7 | Sewalls Falls State Recreation Area, Concord | R. Quinn, Capital Area CFT |
| 06/28 | 5 | Airport Marsh, Whitefield | P. & M. Wolter |
| 07/07 | 10 | Connecticut River, Hinsdale | K. Rosenberg |
| 07/22 | 5 | Pickering Ponds, Rochester | D. Hubbard |



Purple Martins by Christine Sheridan, 6/27/14, Funspot, Laconia, NH.

Purple Martin

| | | | |
|-------|---|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 06/01 | 6 | Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook | S. Mirick |
| 06/01 | 4 | Scribner's Pond, Wakefield | K. Wilmarth, A. Altana |

SUMMER SEASON

| <i>Date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>Location</i> | <i>Observer</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>#</i> | <i>Location</i> | <i>Observer</i> |
|-----------------------------|----------|--|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------|---|----------------------------------|
| 06/18 | 14 | Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook | P. Hunt | 06/14 | 1 | Odiorne Point SP, Rye | D. Jackson |
| 06/22 | 6 | Scribner's Pond, Wakefield | K. Wilmarth | 06/15 | 1 | Pennichuck Pond, Hollis | C. Sheridan |
| 06/27 | 7 | Funspot, Laconia | C. Sheridan | 06/16 | 6 | East Inlet, Pittsburg | E. Nielsen, S. Sweet |
| 07/25 | 10 | Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook | P. Hunt | 06/17 | 12 | Indian Stream Rd., Pittsburg | E. Nielsen, S. Sweet |
| Tree Swallow | | | | Veery | | | |
| 07/17 | 200 | Awcomin Marsh, Rye | C. Nims | 06/19 | 10 | Airport Rd., Swanzey | W. Ward |
| 07/20 | 500 | NH coast | S. Mirick | 06/22 | 41 | Turkey Pond, Concord | R. Woodward |
| Bank Swallow | | | | 06/24 | 11 | Pawtuckaway SP, Nottingham/Deerfield | J. Keeley |
| 06/05 | 15 | Horseshoe Pond, Concord | Z. Cornell, R. Suomala | 06/27 | 10 | Hinsdale rail trail | M. Harrison |
| 06/09 | 20 | Bog Rd., Enfield | P. Hunt | 06/29 | 46 | Turkey Pond, Concord | R. Woodward |
| 06/10 | 25 | Saco River & East Side Rd. area, Conway | P. Hunt, P. Brown, et al. | Bicknell's Thrush | | | |
| 06/11 | 30 | Ashley Ferry Landing area, Claremont | V. Jones, C. Martin | 06/01 | 6 | Cannon Mt., Franconia | T. Guida |
| 06/14 | 150 | SPNHF Merrimack River CA, Concord | R. Quinn, Capital Area CFT | 06/06 | 5 | Mt. Garfield Trail, Franconia | D. Swain |
| 06/19 | 30 | Martin's field, Boscawen | R. Quinn, J. Kolas | 06/21 | 16 | Crawford Path, Mts. Pierce and Eisenhower, Beans Grant | L. Kras, B. Griffith |
| 07/02 | 22 | Bog Rd., Enfield | P. Hunt, D. Crook | 06/28 | 8 | Caps Ridge Trail, T&M Purchase | L. Kras, J. Lambert, B. Griffith |
| 07/10 | 35 | McDaniels Marsh WMA, Springfield | J. Gamble | 06/29 | 10 | Davis Path, Stairs Mt., Hadleys Purchase | M. Oyler |
| Cliff Swallow | | | | 07/09 | 7 | Mount Washington Auto Road, Greens Grant | C. Gjervold |
| 06/03 | 12 | Fort Constitution, New Castle | J. Sparrell | 07/12 | 10 | Mount Hancock & South Peak, Lincoln | B. Griffith |
| 06/07 | 10 | Panorama Golf Course, Colebrook | S. Hale | 07/13 | 4 | Tuckerman Ravine, Sargents Purchase | D. Allen, J. Janis |
| 06/07 | 3 | Balsams Wilderness Ski Resort, Dixville | S. Hale | 07/14 | 12 | Crawford Path, Mt. Eisenhower to Mizpah Springs, Chandler's Purchase | D. Allen, J. Janis |
| 06/19 | 3 | Rt. 4 by Mascoma L., Lebanon | P. Hunt | 07/14 | 10 | Crawford Path, Lakes of the Clouds to Mt. Eisenhower, Sargents Purchase | D. Allen, J. Janis |
| 06/22 | 8 | Metallak Rd., Pittsburg | E. Nielsen, S. Sweet | Swainson's Thrush | | | |
| 06/28 | 26 | Tabor Rd., Pittsburg | S. Mirick | 06/10 | 20 | Jefferson Notch Rd., T&M Purchase | A. McCallum |
| 07/12 | 3 | Ice House Rd., Lebanon | D. Jackson | 06/16 | 21 | Smith Brook Rd., Pittsburg | E. Nielsen, S. Sweet |
| Boreal Chickadee | | | | 06/17 | 25 | Indian Stream Rd., Pittsburg | E. Nielsen, S. Sweet |
| 06/01 | 3 | Cannon Mt., Franconia | T. Guida | 06/17 | 18 | Caps Ridge Trail, T&M Purchase | M. Kemp |
| 06/05 | 5 | Caps Ridge Trail, T&M Purchase | D. Govatski | 06/21 | 40 | Crawford Path, Mts. Pierce and Eisenhower, Beans Grant | L. Kras, B. Griffith |
| 06/20 | 5 | Scott Bog Rd., Pittsburg | C. Seifer | 06/28 | 30 | Caps Ridge Trail, T&M Purchase | J. Lambert, L. Kras, B. Griffith |
| 06/21 | 7 | East Inlet, Pittsburg | C. Seifer | 06/29 | 20 | Davis Path, Stairs Mt., Hadleys Purchase | M. Oyler |
| 06/29 | 4 | Davis Path, Stairs Mt., Hadleys Purchase | M. Oyler | 06/30 | 15 | East Inlet, Pittsburg | J. Sparrell, K. Towler |
| 07/12 | 7 | Mount Hancock & South Peak, Lincoln | B. Griffith | 07/11 | 16 | Fourth Connecticut Lake, Pittsburg | J. Lambert |
| 07/16 | 6 | Boundary Pond Rd., Pittsburg | G. Billingham | 07/12 | 15 | Carrigan Mt., White Mt. NF, Livermore | T. Pirro |
| 07/26 | 4 | Mt. Moosilauke, Benton | B. Heitzman | Brown Thrasher | | | |
| Winter Wren | | | | 06/01 | 2 | Pease Intl. Tradeport, Newington | S. Bennett |
| 06/11 | 12 | Jefferson Notch Rd., T&M Purchase | A. McCallum | 06/03 | 2 | Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye | J. & G. McKibben |
| 06/11 | 10 | Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, Woodstock | T. Guida | 06/06 | 1 | Pondicherry NWR, Cherry Pond, Jefferson | M. Thompson |
| 06/16 | 10 | Umbagog NWR, Mollidgewock Brook, Errol | G. Gavutis, Jr. | 06/21 | 2 | Alyson's Orchard, Walpole | O. Burton |
| 06/17 | 28 | Indian Stream Rd., Pittsburg | E. Nielsen, S. Sweet | 06/27 | 5 | West Branch Pine Barrens Preserve, Madison | T. Vazzano |
| 06/21 | 20 | Crawford Path, Mts. Pierce and Eisenhower, Beans Grant | L. Kras, B. Griffith | 07/12 | 3 | Locke Road sod farm, Concord | R. Woodward |
| Marsh Wren | | | | American Pipit | | | |
| 06/03 | 8 | Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield | D. Govatski | 06/11 | 1 | Mt. Washington, T&M Purchase | S. Streich |
| 06/20 | 2 | Thompson WS, Sandwich | W. Batsford | 06/28 | 2 | Caps Ridge Trail, T&M Purchase | L. Kras, J. Lambert, B. Griffith |
| 07/20 | 6 | World End Pond, Salem | K. Wilmarth | 07/01 | 2 | Mount Washington Auto Road, Greens Grant | J. Campbell |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | | | | | | | |
| 06/08 | 5 | Carter Dome, Beans Purchase | J. Halibozek | | | | |
| 06/08 | 4 | Swift Diamond River at Greenough Pond Rd., Dixville | S. Hale | | | | |
| 06/14 | 4 | Cardigan Mt., Orange | S. Eisenhauer | | | | |

SUMMER SEASON

| Date | # | Location | Observer |
|------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Louisiana Waterthrush | | | |
| 06/04 | 1 | Pleasant Lake, New London | D. Jackson |
| 06/16 | 1 | Diamond Ledge Rd., Sandwich | T. Vazzano |
| 06/19 | 1 | Squam Lake | W. Batsford, R. Ridgely |
| 06/29 | 1 | Call Rd., Webster | R. Quinn |

| Date | # | Location | Observer |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Northern Waterthrush | | | |
| 06/05 | 1 | Ravenwood Farm, Greenfield | T. Shiel |
| 06/07 | 1 | Odiorne Point SP, Rye | L. Medlock |
| 06/08 | 2 | Penacook survey route, Concord | P. Hunt |
| 06/14 | 1 | woods behind Concord Hospital | R. Woodward |
| 06/21 | 1 | Pennichuck Pond, Hollis | C. Sheridan |
| 06/29 | 6 | Loverens Mill Cedar Swamp, Antrim | H. Walters, W. Ward |



Blue-winged Warbler by Terri Fratus, 6/7/14, Bennet Rd., Durham, NH.

| Date | # | Location | Observer |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Blue-winged Warbler | | | |
| 06/01 | 1 | Bennett Rd., Durham | G.& A. Robbins |
| 06/01 | 2 | Five Corners Reserve, Lee | G.& A. Robbins |
| 06/05 | 2 | Groton Rd. sand pit, Nashua | C. McPherson |
| 06/06 | 5 | Bellamy River WMA, Dover | D. Franceschini |
| 06/11 | 3 | Pickering Ponds, Rochester | D. Hubbard |
| 06/18 | 1 | Iron Works Rd., Concord | P. Hunt |
| 06/30 | 2 | Yudicky Farm/Southwest Park, Nashua | C. McPherson |

| Date | # | Location | Observer |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Tennessee Warbler | | | |
| 06/06 | 2 | Greenough Pond Rd., Errol | R. Quinn |
| 06/07 | 1 | Moose Brook SP, Gorham | T. Pirro |
| 06/08 | 1 | Penacook survey route, Concord | P. Hunt |
| 06/14 | 3 | Five Finger Pt. NA, Sandwich | T. Michel |
| 06/30 | 3 | East Inlet, Pittsburg | J. Campbell |

| Date | # | Location | Observer |
|--------------------------|----|--|----------------------|
| Nashville Warbler | | | |
| 06/16 | 15 | East Inlet, Pittsburg | E. Nielsen, S. Sweet |
| 06/21 | 4 | Stocker Pond marsh, Grantham | D. Jackson |
| 06/23 | 3 | Penacook survey route, Concord | P. Hunt |
| 06/27 | 4 | Ashuelot River Headwaters Forest, Mountain Rd., Lempster | P. Hunt |
| 06/28 | 4 | Loverens Mill Cedar Swamp, Antrim | H. Walters |
| 07/08 | 13 | Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem | D. Hubbard |

| Date | # | Location | Observer |
|-------------------------|---|---|------------------------|
| Mourning Warbler | | | |
| 06/03 | 2 | Weeks SP, Lancaster | S. Stoddard |
| 06/06 | 1 | Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye | S. Mirick |
| 06/07 | 1 | Reservation Rd. pond beyond Tower Trail, Nottingham | Z. Cornell, R. Suomala |
| 06/08 | 1 | Willard Pond WS Antrim | H. Walters |
| 06/10 | 3 | Caps Ridge Trail, T&M Purchase | M. Tower |
| 06/14 | 3 | Dummer Pond Rd., Dummer | S. Galick |
| 06/15 | 3 | Indian Stream Rd., Pittsburg | D. Clapp |
| 06/16 | 1 | Tilton Hill Rd. at Suncook River, Pittsfield | A. Robbins |
| 06/21 | 6 | Comstock Hill Road, Pittsburg | E. Nielsen, S. Sweet |
| 07/10 | 5 | upper Swift Diamond River, Dixville | P. Hunt |
| 07/18 | 3 | East Inlet, Pittsburg | S. Glynn |

| Date | # | Location | Observer |
|-----------------------|---|--------------------------|----------|
| Hooded Warbler | | | |
| 06/24 | 1 | Great Bay NWR, Newington | P. Hunt |

| Date | # | Location | Observer |
|-------------------------|---|---|-----------------|
| Cape May Warbler | | | |
| 06/06 | 2 | Pondicherry NWR, Cherry Pond, Jefferson | M. Thompson |
| 06/11 | 1 | Black Cap Mt. Trail, Conway | P. Hunt, et al. |
| 06/13 | 1 | Day Rd., Perry Stream, Pittsburg | L. Carberry |
| 06/15 | 1 | Mt. Moosilauke, Benton | G. Robbins |
| 06/15 | 2 | Indian Stream Rd., Pittsburg | D. Clapp |
| 06/19 | 2 | Umbagog NWR, Mollidgewock Brook, Errol | G. Gavutis, Jr. |
| 06/25 | 1 | East Inlet, Pittsburg | D. Heitzmann |
| 07/09 | 1 | Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield | D. Hubbard |
| 07/14 | 1 | Carter Notch, Beans Purchase | D. Pedro |
| 07/19 | 1 | Old Bridle Path Trail, Franconia | L. Carberry |

| Date | # | Location | Observer |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Bay-breasted Warbler | | | |
| 06/04 | 1 | Lake Francis SP, Pittsburg | M. Vernon, J. Nadeau |
| 06/07 | 1 | Jefferson Notch Rd., T&M Purchase | N. Mitiguy |
| 06/13 | 2 | Day Rd., Perry Stream, Pittsburg | L. Carberry |
| 06/15 | 2 | Mt. Moosilauke, Benton | G. Robbins |
| 06/16 | 8 | East Inlet, Pittsburg | E. Nielsen, S. Sweet |
| 06/19 | 3 | Zealand Falls, Bethlehem | B. Allison |
| 07/14 | 3 | Carter Notch, Beans Purchase | D. Pedro |

| Date | # | Location | Observer |
|-----------------------------|----|--|----------------------|
| Blackburnian Warbler | | | |
| 06/08 | 18 | Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, Woodstock | T. Guida |
| 06/17 | 15 | Indian Stream Rd., Pittsburg | E. Nielsen, S. Sweet |
| 06/21 | 30 | Crawford Path, Mts. Pierce and Eisenhower, Beans Grant | L. Kras, B. Griffith |
| 06/21 | 14 | Comstock Hill Road, Pittsburg | E. Nielsen, S. Sweet |

| Date | # | Location | Observer |
|-------------------------------|----|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Chestnut-sided Warbler | | | |
| 06/02 | 12 | Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield | D. Govatski |
| 06/17 | 19 | Indian Stream Rd., Pittsburg | E. Nielsen, S. Sweet |
| 06/21 | 21 | Comstock Hill Road, Pittsburg | E. Nielsen, S. Sweet |

| Date | # | Location | Observer |
|--------------------------|----|---|----------------------|
| Blackpoll Warbler | | | |
| 06/06 | 30 | Mt. Garfield Trail, Franconia | D. Swain |
| 06/21 | 45 | Crawford Path, Mts. Pierce and Eisenhower, Beans Grant | L. Kras, B. Griffith |
| 07/03 | 24 | Caps Ridge Trail, T&M Purchase | A. Burdo |
| 07/14 | 25 | Crawford Path, Lakes of the Clouds to Mt. Eisenhower, Sargents Purchase | D. Allen, J. Janis |

Date # Location Observer

Black-throated Blue Warbler

06/01 20 East Pond Loop Trail, Livermore R. Buchsbaum
 06/06 25 Mt. Garfield Trail, Franconia D. Swain
 06/16 26 Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, Woodstock
 T. Guida
 07/12 24 Garfield Trail to Mt. Garfield summit, Franconia
 A. Burnett

Palm Warbler

06/07 2 Mollidgewock Brook bog, Errol R. Quinn
 06/13 1 Bear Pond Natural Area, Canaan L. Reitsma
 06/14 1 Bradford Bog, Bradford P. Hunt
 06/16 17 Umbagog NWR, Mollidgewock Brook, Errol
 G. Gavutis, Jr.
 06/17 1 Mount Clinton Rd., Crawfords Purchase S. Mesick
 06/17 7 Umbagog NWR, Mollidgewock Brook, Errol
 G. Gavutis, Jr.
 06/24 1 Huntress Bridge Rd., Effingham T. Vazzano
 06/28 4 Church Pond Bog, Albany/Livermore P. Brown
 06/29 1 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye C. Lentz
 06/30 2 East Inlet, Pittsburg J. Campbell

Prairie Warbler

06/11 3 Green Hills Preserve, Conway
 P. Brown, A. Costa, G. Coffey
 06/17 5 Concord Airport C. Nims, J. Scott
 06/21 4 S. Curtisville Rd., Concord J. Pietrzak
 06/29 14 West Branch Pine Barrens Preserve, Madison
 T. Vazzano
 07/05 8 West Branch Pine Barrens Preserve, Madison
 G. & A. Robbins
 07/06 4 Hertzka Dr., Amherst C. Sheridan
 07/12 4 Palmer Conservation Land rail trail, Brookline
 C. McPherson

Canada Warbler

06/02 9 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield D. Govatski
 06/02 4 Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, Woodstock
 T. Guida
 06/09 4 Bog Rd., Enfield P. Hunt
 06/16 5 Umbagog NWR, Mollidgewock Brook, Errol
 G. Gavutis, Jr.
 06/21 8 Comstock Hill Road, Pittsburg E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
 06/21 6 Stocker Pond marsh, Grantham D. Jackson
 06/28 12 Loverens Mill Cedar Swamp, Antrim H. Walters
 07/03 4 Ashuelot River Headwaters Forest, Mountain Rd.,
 Lempster P. Hunt
 07/05 8 Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem A. Bernzweig

Wilson's Warbler

06/05 1 Stebbins Hill Rd., Lancaster S. Stoddard
 06/07 2 Odiorne Point SP, Rye L. Medlock
 06/18 2 Umbagog NWR, Mollidgewock Brook, Errol
 G. Gavutis, Jr.
 06/19 1 Scott Bog Rd., Pittsburg E. Nielsen
 06/24 2 Deer Mountain SP, Pittsburg D. Heitzmann
 06/29 1 Pondicherry NWR, Cherry Pond, Jefferson
 A. Maizlish
 07/05 2 Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem A. Bernzweig

Sparrows through Finches

Clay-colored Sparrow by Steve Mirick, 6/21/14, Newington, NH.

Summer Tanager is another southern breeder that sometimes overshoots its range and gets to northern New England in late spring and early summer. One was seen in East Kingston in June. The now famous Clay-colored Sparrow, longing to make Newington the home of New Hampshire's first breeding pair, was found singing his heart out in his sixth summer here. Once again, his efforts were apparently to no avail, since a mate was not detected. Fox Sparrow was first documented breeding in the state in Pittsburg in 1997. It was not found breeding again until 2012 in northern New Hampshire. This year the population exploded farther south in the White Mountains with reports from several different mountains, although breeding was not confirmed. **Harris's Sparrow** breeds in the northern boreal forest and winters in the plains states. They occasionally stray eastward to New England, but most often in winter at feeding stations, so one photographed at the Isles of Shoals in early June was an outstanding find.

Rusty Blackbird is a declining species in North America and breeds sparingly in northern and central New Hampshire. A breeding pair in Antrim, in Hillsborough County, is the first known one in southern New Hampshire since before the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of New Hampshire*. According to the Atlas, the only breeding ones farther south in the state were in Dublin in 1962 and 1963 when Tudor Richards watched a family group at a beaver pond. There were five reports of Red Crossbill this summer and two reports of White-winged Crossbill; all of the reports were of one or two birds.

SUMMER SEASON

Date # Location Observer

Eastern Towhee

06/21 20 logging road to Pennichuck Pond, Nashua
C. Sheridan
06/27 17 West Branch Pine Barrens Preserve, Madison
T. Vazzano
07/20 14 Little Hill Road, Webster
R. Quinn

Clay-colored Sparrow

06/01 1 Pease Intl. Tradeport, Short St., Newington
R. Hussey
06/24 1 Pease Intl. Tradeport, Short St., Newington P. Hunt
07/10 1 Pease Intl. Tradeport, Short St., Newington J. Maher

Field Sparrow

06/01 5 Great Bay NWR, Newington R. Hussey
06/29 5 Cemetery Fields, Amherst C. McPherson
07/12 9 Palmer Conservation Land rail trail, Brookline
C. McPherson
07/29 5 USFWS Karner Blue easement, Concord D. Lania

Vesper Sparrow

06/02 2 Concord Airport Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
06/04 1 Great Bay NWR, Newington J. Kelly
06/19 2 Martin's field, Boscawen R. Quinn, J. Kolias
07/12 1 Baker River field, Warren R. Van de Poll



Grasshopper Sparrow by Christine Sheridan, 6/19/14, Cemetery Fields, Amherst, NH.

Grasshopper Sparrow

06/01 1 Pease Intl. Tradeport, Newington S. Bennett
06/02 1 Cemetery Fields, Amherst C. Sheridan
06/02 2 Concord Airport Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
06/21 6 Cemetery Fields, Amherst C. McPherson
07/14 4 Arboretum Dr. field, Newington C. Sheridan

Nelson's Sparrow

06/08 4 Philbrick Marsh, N. Hampton Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
06/23 1 Eel Pond, Rye H. Walters, S.& J. Mirick
06/24 1 Chapmans Landing, Stratham P. Hunt
07/12 3 Philbrick Marsh, N. Hampton Z. Cornell, R. Suomala

Saltmarsh Sparrow

06/24 6 Chapmans Landing, Stratham P. Hunt
07/12 8 Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton
Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
07/12 3 Philbrick Marsh, N. Hampton Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
07/27 5 Meadow Pond, Hampton S. Mirick

Date # Location Observer

Fox Sparrow

06/16 2 Dixville Peak S. Galick
06/21 5 Crawford Path, Mts. Pierce and Eisenhower,
Beans Grant L. Kras, B. Griffith
06/28 1 Gulfside/Jewell Trails, Mt. Clay, T&M Purchase
B. Griffith
06/28 3 Caps Ridge Trail, T&M Purchase
L. Kras, B. Griffith, J. Lambert, C. Rimmer
06/29 1 Magalloway Mt., Pittsburg S. Mirick
07/03 1 Crawford Trail, Beans Grant J. Campbell
07/03 1 Caps Ridge Trail, T&M Purchase A. Burdo
07/12 1 Mount Hancock & South Peak, Lincoln B. Griffith

Lincoln's Sparrow

06/15 6 Indian Stream Rd., Pittsburg D. Clapp
06/17 1 Airport Marsh, Whitefield M. Kemp
06/18 5 Magalloway Rd., Pittsburg E. Nielsen, S. Sweet
06/21 4 Smith Brook Rd., Pittsburg C. Seifer
07/09 3 Pondicherry NWR, Mud Pond, Jefferson
T.& D. Swain

Harris's Sparrow

06/05 1 Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye D.& M. Hayward

Summer Tanager

06/20 1 South Rd., E. Kingston D. Finch

Scarlet Tanager

06/07 5 Brookside WS, S. Hampton J. Berry
06/08 6 Horse Hill, Concord R. Woodward
06/09 6 Bog Rd., Enfield P. Hunt
07/20 6 Willand Pond, Somersworth A. Sabatini

Bobolink

06/02 20 Trask Brook Rd., Sunapee D. Jackson
06/06 12 Bear Rock Rd. fields, Colebrook R. Quinn
06/19 12 Airport Marsh, Whitefield J. Mittermeier
06/29 30 Woodward Rd., Westmoreland A. Burnett
07/03 16 Fowler Farm, Rochester D. Hubbard
07/04 25 Hardy Hill fields, Lebanon C. McPherson
07/06 30 Godwin Cottage, Roxbury K. Rosenberg

Eastern Meadowlark

06/01 2 Mountain Road, Concord R. Woodward
06/01 1 Hook Road farm, Lee G.& A. Robbins
06/08 2 Strafford County Farm, Dover S. Bennett
06/14 1 Mountain Rd., Concord J. Nadeau
06/15 1 Dame Rd., Newmarket L. Waters
06/15 3 Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey
H. Walters, W. Ward
07/07 2 Pease Intl. Tradeport, Short St., Newington
C. Sheridan
07/16 1 meadow near transfer station, Thornton
A. Wynn

Rusty Blackbird

06/01 2 Great Glen Trails Outdoor Center, Greens Grant
H.& S. Wemyss
06/06 2 Elbow Pond Rd., Woodstock S. Smith
06/08 3 Swift Diamond River at Greenough Pond Rd.,
Dixville S. Hale

| Date | # | Location | Observer |
|-------|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| 06/13 | 2 | Coon Brook Bog, Pittsburg | P. Wolter, D. Heitzmann, L. Carberry |
| 06/16 | 2 | Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, Woodstock | T. Guida |
| 06/17 | 2 | Indian Stream Rd., Pittsburg | E. Nielsen, S. Sweet |
| 06/22 | 4 | East Inlet, Pittsburg | S. Miller |
| 06/28 | 2 | Loverens Mill Cedar Swamp, Antrim | H. Walters |
| 07/03 | 3 | Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield | J. Campbell |
| 07/08 | 3 | Loverens Mill Cedar Swamp, Antrim | J. McKibben, J. Maher |

Orchard Oriole

| | | | |
|-------|---|---|-----------------------|
| 06/01 | 2 | Westmoreland boat launch | A. Burnett |
| 06/03 | 1 | Horseshoe Pond, Concord | D. Hubbard |
| 06/09 | 1 | Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye | C. Lentz |
| 06/11 | 1 | Brentwood Mitigation Area | J. McKibben, J. Maher |
| 06/11 | 1 | Pickering Ponds, Rochester | D. Hubbard |
| 06/15 | 2 | Bellamy River WMA, Dover | J. Sparrell |
| 06/29 | 2 | Powder House Pond, Exeter | S. Lewis |
| 07/03 | 3 | Adams Point WMA, Durham | J. Hintermister |
| 07/06 | 2 | Powwow River at Whitehall Rd., S. Hampton | S. Heron, E. Nathan |

Purple Finch

| | | | |
|-------|---|----------------------------|-------------------|
| 06/19 | 5 | Bog Rd., Enfield | P. Hunt |
| 06/20 | 6 | Lake Armington, Piermont | K. Settel |
| 06/21 | 6 | East Inlet, Pittsburg | C. Seifer |
| 06/22 | 8 | Knollwood Rd., New London | J. Esten |
| 07/04 | 8 | Ravenwood Farm, Greenfield | T. Shiel |
| 07/20 | 5 | Center Chatham | J. Scott, B. Lund |

Red Crossbill

| | | | |
|-------|---|--|------------|
| 06/17 | 1 | Caps Ridge Trail, T&M Purchase | M. Kemp |
| 06/28 | 2 | Loverens Mill Cedar Swamp, Antrim | H. Walters |
| 07/26 | 1 | Penacook survey route, Concord | P. Hunt |
| 07/30 | 2 | Squam Lakes Natural Science Ctr., Holderness | I. MacLeod |

White-winged Crossbill

| | | | |
|-------|---|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 07/13 | 1 | Brownfield Rd., Eaton | G.& A. Robbins |
| 07/18 | 2 | Cannon Mt., Franconia | H. Walters, NH Young Birders FT |

Pine Siskin

| | | | |
|-------|---|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 06/07 | 1 | Mt. Moriah, Shelburne | T. Pirro |
| 06/14 | 9 | Scott Bog Rd., Pittsburg | P. Wolter, D. Heitzmann, L. Carberry |
| 07/19 | 2 | Mollidgewock SP, Errol | M. Wilson |
| 07/25 | 1 | Hancock | K. Bleicken |
| 07/28 | 1 | Sunset Shore Rd., New London | D. Jackson |

Evening Grosbeak

| | | | |
|-------|---|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 06/07 | 2 | Diamond Ledge Rd., Sandwich | T. Vazzano |
| 06/12 | 2 | Buffalo Rd., Rumney | J. Williams |
| 06/19 | 2 | George Pond, Enfield | P. Hunt |
| 06/20 | 2 | Elaine Dr., Belmont | L. Young |
| 07/15 | 6 | Ravenwood Farm, Greenfield | T. Shiel |
| 07/19 | 3 | Fowlers Mill Rd., Tamworth | S.& J. Mesick |
| 07/20 | 3 | Walpole | P. Blair |



Common Merganser female with chicks on her back by Keith Chamberlain, 7/1/14, Ashland Town Beach, Little Squam Lake.



Killdeer chick by Jonathan Smith, 6/26/14, Manchester, NH.

Summer 2014 Field Notes

compiled by Jane Wing and Rebecca Suomala

Eagles Identified at Moore Dam

by Chris Martin



Photos of Black D9 as an adult, 6/4/14 by Jack Dorsey, and when it was banded as a chick, 6/12/06 by Bill Hanson.

On June 2, 2014, New Hampshire Audubon volunteer, Jack Dorsey and I attempted to read the bands on the two adult Bald Eagles nesting at the “Moore Dam” territory located on Moore Reservoir near the Old Waterford Road boat ramp in Littleton, NH. We were unsuccessful that day, but did confirm the two young in the nest were almost ready to fledge. However on June 4, 2014, Dorsey returned again and succeeded in capturing images that confirmed the identity of **both** the male and female eagle.

The 8-year-old male eagle was silver band 629-52959 on the right leg, “Black D9” on the left leg. Black D9 was banded at a nest at the south end of Lake Umbagog in Errol, NH on June 12, 2006 by Bill Hanson, Jeff Fair, me, and several others. His breeding territory is located about 48 miles southwest of where he was raised. He was first confirmed to be part of the Moore Dam pair in May 2013.

The 10-year-old female eagle is silver band 629-45138 on the left leg, “Red K/R” on the right leg. Red K/R was banded at a nest on Horse Island on Little Sebago Lake in Gray, Maine on June 1, 2004 by a crew from Biodiversity Research Institute as well as Bill Hanson. Her breeding territory is located about 78 miles northwest of where she was raised.

Owlet in Prout Park, Manchester

by Colleen Baxter

One evening in early June, I was walking our dogs in Prout Park in Manchester – the park is located in an urban setting close to Elliot Hospital and Memorial High School in a neighborhood between Mammoth Road and South Willow Street. As we rounded a tree, I spotted a tiny creature on the ground. My dogs ignored it and vice versa. It was an owlet, simply standing there, clacking its beak. My presence did not seem to agitate it either. I was intrigued and enchanted by it and watched it for some time. I was so taken with the bird that I went back with my camera and am so glad I did. It was an experience I won't forget.

Note: According to Becky Suomala of New Hampshire Audubon, Great Horned owlets are often seen on the ground because Great Horned Owls will nest in old, often flimsy nests of other species. The parents continue to feed the young even when they are on the ground. It is surprising to have one nesting in this area of Manchester. – Jane Wing



Photos by Colleen Baxter of a Great Horned Owl chick at Prout Park in Manchester, 6/1/14.

Blueberry Island Eagle Rehabilitated

by Chris Martin



The juvenile Bald Eagle from Blueberry Island photographed at nearby Hull Island, 8/4/14 after being rehabilitated by Maria Colby at Wings of Dawn. Photo by volunteer observer, Jack Dorsey.

A 9.5-week-old nestling Bald Eagle got into trouble on Tuesday, July 8 when her nest collapsed at Blueberry Island in Lake Winnepesaukee (Wolfefboro). She was found huddled on the ground, acting listless, and showed a visible

wing droop. Fearing her condition would further deteriorate without intervention, we transported her to Dr. Michael Dutton at Weare Animal Hospital. X-rays showed no broken bones, but some leg joint swelling. She was also bruised and dehydrated. The bird received fluids, food, and rest at Wings of the Dawn Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Henniker. In one week, she went from 11 lbs. to 12 lbs.! On Wednesday July 16, wildlife rehabilitator Maria Colby, local volunteer Norm Lesser, and I returned her to Blueberry Island after eight days in rehab care. Both the sibling juvenile eagle and one adult were perched in nearby trees during the release.

The rehabilitated bird was banded with a single silver band on its right leg. Four weeks after rescue, and three weeks after being returned to the island and the care of its parents, the Bald Eagle chick that spent a week with Maria Colby at Wings of the Dawn seemed to be doing very well.

Boreal Chickadee Nest at Jefferson Notch

by Mark Suomala

Taken from a post to the NH Birds e-mail list, 6/28/14

Becky Suomala and I found a Boreal Chickadee nest on June 28, 2014 in a large dead paper birch snag located on the northeast side of the Caps Ridge Trail parking lot (off of Jefferson Notch Road in the White Mountains). The adults were making food deliveries to the nest-cavity hole and were visually conspicuous, but made only a few soft sounds. The paper birch snag is multi-trunked and about 20 feet tall with snapped off tops.



Boreal Chickadee bringing food to a nest hole at the Caps Ridge Trail parking lot on approximately June 30, 2014. Photo by Leslie Bergum.

Cormorant and Eel Struggle

Len Medlock captured these images on July 26, 2014 as he and Land Steve and Jane Mirick “witnessed a titanic struggle for this cormorant to enjoy eel à la carte—the eel survived!” (Posted on the NH Birds e-mail list, 7/26/14.)



No Routine Year for Manchester's Peregrine Falcons

by Chris Martin

Manchester's resourceful female Peregrine Falcon, "Black/Green 02/Z," defied the odds by fledging one juvenile in July 2014 after overcoming the loss of her mate of nearly nine years and abandoning her first clutch of eggs. Preserving an unbroken string of 14 productive breeding seasons for the Queen City's nesting falcons since 2001, this success offers a strong case for the resilience of our recovering New England Peregrine Falcon population.

Breeding Peregrines in Manchester have experienced outstanding productivity since first settling at the Brady-Sullivan Tower in Spring 2001. The male falcon, "Black/Green 6/7," had presided over 13 straight successful nesting seasons with two consecutive females and helped raise 38 fledged young, an average of nearly three young per year. Everything seemed on track for yet another good year in 2014. His current mate, 9-year old 02/Z, had produced three eggs by March 29 and was ready to lay her fourth. The pair had started their shared five-week incubation period, but then things began to unravel.

After a routine incubation exchange at 9:40 am on March 29, the 14 year old male departed the nest box to hunt. Less than three hours later, Wings of the Dawn wildlife rehabilitator Maria Colby was gathering him up, badly injured, from Weston Road on Manchester's south side. X-rays confirmed that he had sustained a compound fracture of two bones (radius and ulna) in his right wing (Figure 1). The injury led to surgery to install pins to stabilize his shattered bones, followed by the prospect of months of recuperation, if he were ever to fly wild again. Dr. Michael Dutton of Weare Animal Hospital performed surgery on the male and Maria Colby fed and cared for him at Wings of Dawn. Unfortunately, his condition worsened post-surgery and eventually, we made the difficult decision to euthanize the state's oldest-known and most productive male Peregrine.

At the nest box, 02/Z laid her fourth egg and continued to incubate the clutch on her own. Initially, she fed on a diminishing cache of prey that the male had previously caught and the pair had stashed behind the large block letters on the sides of the Brady-Sullivan Tower. This feeding strategy in the absence of a mate was not sustainable, however. She abandoned her clutch after roughly 48 hours of solo effort.

Just three days after 6/7's injury, Peregrine romance was in the air once again – literally! 02/Z attracted the attention of a new male, a one-year old without any identifying leg bands. NH Audubon raptor volunteer Robert Vallieres saw the pair engaged in acrobatic flights around the building



Remembering Manchester's Peregrine Falcon, "Black/Green 6/7," during his prolific 13-year run as the Queen City's breeding male. Photo by Chris Martin, 5/7/09.

on April 1. Bret Clark from SpectraAccess, which provides Brady-Sullivan's Falcon Cam, used the camera to capture images of the two birds performing a ritualized bowing courtship display at the nest.

Unpaired individuals called "floaters" are an important, but often overlooked, component of healthy wild populations. Because the new male was unbanded, his origins are not known. He was definitely not from Manchester, however, since 100% of those young have been banded. His transitional plumage identified him as a bird hatched in 2013. Coincidentally, 6/7 was also a one-year old when he first claimed a spot in the Manchester breeding territory back in 2001.

Figure 1. X-ray showing the broken bones in of Manchester's male Peregrine Falcon, Black/Green 6/7's wing on 3/29/14. Image courtesy of Concord Area Veterinary Emergency Services.



Common Nighthawk 2014 Summary

by Rebecca Suomala



Female Peregrine Falcon Black/Green 02/Z in courtship with the new male, 4/5/14, as captured on the Peregrine Cam. Photo courtesy of SpectraAccess, Inc.

Based on NH Audubon's more than 30 years of monitoring data, it's safe to say that Peregrine re-nesting rarely results in success. In this case, however, all factors aligned properly: a new male present immediately; only a few days invested in incubating the first clutch; and a safe, undamaged nest site. The first egg of 02/Z's second clutch appeared in the box on April 16, less than three weeks after 6/7's disappearance.

In her second clutch, 02/Z laid five eggs, a grand total of nine, all produced in just over one month's time! At less than a full year old, the new male was ill-prepared for nesting and it took him several days before he stepped up to do his share of the incubation. As a result, only one (the last) of the five eggs in the second clutch yielded a viable chick. The young male was a good hunter, however, and was able to provide enough prey to feed one chick, which fledged on July 4.

So, a new chapter began for Peregrine Falcons in Manchester. If he's made from the right stuff, our new male will own the sky over the Queen City for the next decade or more. If not, he will be replaced by another rival. When it's all about survival, there's really no time for grieving!

NH Audubon has been managing recovery of the Granite State's threatened Peregrine Falcon population for more than two decades with support and guidance from NH Fish and Game's Nongame Program and federal State Wildlife Grants. Thanks to all who support Peregrine recovery in New Hampshire, including natural resource managers and private land owners, volunteer observers and our rock climbing partners. Monitoring activity was also funded in part in 2014 by an anonymous gift from the NH Charitable Foundation.

Chris Martin specializes in raptors as a Senior Biologist with NH Audubon. He coordinates Peregrine Falcon management and recovery activities in New Hampshire.



Common Nighthawk fledglings from the nest in the Broken Ground area of Concord, NH. Photo by Rebecca Suomala, 7/26/14.

Project Nighthawk volunteers were busy monitoring Nighthawks in Concord, Ossipee, and Keene (in partnership with AVEO, a project of the Harris Center). The cold weather in late May and early June seemed to delay nesting, but once the weather warmed there was more activity. We confirmed two nests in Concord, one on a rooftop which failed for unknown reasons. The other nest was at a natural nest site and had two chicks that fledged successfully. We suspect another rooftop nest that also failed and are fairly certain that there was a successful nest on a mall rooftop. That's a record number of nesting attempts in Concord since Project Nighthawk began in 2007.

The nighthawks in the Ossipee Pine Barrens were late settling and there was only casual activity at our first coordinated watch. That changed dramatically on the second watch in early July. Activity was especially intense at one site with at least two nests and the possibility of two or three other nests in the pine barrens area overall. At one watch, we had nine adult birds at one site which is unheard of in New Hampshire in recent years. Five of those birds were males and the behavior indicated that at least one pair was feeding chicks. In 2013, we could confirm only six males and no females in the entire pine barrens.

In Keene, Brett Thelen and the AVEO volunteers recorded four adult nighthawks (three males and one female) which is one less than the last two years. There appeared to be a

rooftop nest that also failed around the same time period as the Concord rooftop nest. There was time for the female to try again but another nesting attempt could not be confirmed.

All of this is a vast improvement over last year when no nests were confirmed in any of these areas and nighthawk numbers were lower than usual. We also had reports of two males displaying at Mt. Cardigan and birds near ridgelines

in Lempster, Marlow and Grantham, but no confirmation of breeding. Nighthawk nests are difficult to find and it takes multiple observations for even our most experienced volunteers to figure out where a nest might be. Often we must use the bird's behavior to determine if there is a nest. There are still very few *successful* nests in New Hampshire for this state-endangered species.

Breeding Least Bitterns at World End Pond

by Kyle Wilmarth and Amanda Altena

All photos taken at World End Pond in Salem, NH.



Least Bittern by Amanda Altena, 7/10/14 at World End Pond, Salem, NH.

On June 11, 2014, Amanda and I stumbled upon a female Least Bittern at World End Pond in Salem, NH. It was a surprising and exciting find to say the least. A few days later, on the morning of June 15, we went back to the pond and spent a good amount of time around the area we had initially spotted it.

We sat in the marsh for close to an hour, listening and looking without hearing or seeing any movement, so we decided to keep moving. As we paddled through a small channel between two stands of reeds, I looked back towards Amanda and happened to notice a clump of dried up vegetation amidst the four foot reeds. I almost wrote it off, but decided to get my binoculars on it and noticed a pretty uniform nest shape. As I scanned through the reeds, to my amazement, I spotted an EYEBALL...the eyeball of a LEAST BITTERN!!! There was a male Least Bittern sitting on a nest. We couldn't believe it!

We revisited the site a couple times a week to document



Least Bittern discovered sitting on a nest, 6/15/14, by Amanda Altena.

the nesting activity, and thankfully, we had a nice spot in the marsh for a blind that would give us decent looks at the nest. Some of the interesting behavior noted included the incubation exchange between the male and female, nest "jabbing" (where the incubating bird jabs its bill through the bottom of the nest creating holes, which is thought to be an act of sanitation for the nest), egg rolling, and eventually tending to the young in the nest. The nest exchange behavior was especially thrilling, providing us with great looks at the female bird when she would land on "her platform" before entering the nest. The male bird was much more elusive and was only seen on the nest or sneaking through the reeds.

The best part about this find is that, not only is Least Bittern considered rare for the location, but this appears to be the first documented breeding for Least Bittern in New Hampshire. *The Atlas of Breeding Birds of New Hampshire (1994)* did not confirm any breeding Least Bitterns, although there was possible breeding at a number of locations.

During the monitoring of the nest, we tried to do as much research on Least Bittern nesting habits as we could. In particular, *The Breeding Ecology of Least Bitterns at Agassiz and Mingo National Wildlife Refuges* by Karen E. Arnold (2005), and *Breeding Biology of the Least Bittern* by Milton W. Weller (1961) were excellent resources. Both of these studies gave us more insight into what behavior to expect and things to be mindful of, such as possible threats to the birds during nesting. Some were clearly visible in this case, including Marsh Wrens, which have been known to puncture holes in Least Bittern eggs. They were present the entire time and often times singing near the bittern nest. The female bittern even gave a kwek call in response to a nearby Marsh Wren on one occasion. Other common threats included large snapping turtles, blackbirds, and of course the weather.

Timeline

We used our best judgment on hatch date and fledge date. We could not confirm whether any eggs had been laid at the time we found the nest, but we assumed that incubation of at least one egg had already begun because a bird was sitting on the nest.

We visited the site a number of times when there was little movement, with just an incubating bird. We saw a lot of preening, settling, and sometimes heard a contact note or two. Some of the more notable visits are below.

On **June 11**, we saw a female at dusk feeding at the edge of reeds and photographed before disappearing into the marsh.

On **June 14**, a male bird sitting on a nest was found nearby the initial sighting location.



The eggs in the Least Bittern nest, just visible when the incubating female raised up to preen and stretch; 6/25/14 photo by Amanda Altena and Kyle Wilmarth.

On **June 25**, we carefully placed a GoPro camera on a long, camouflaged pole. Controlling the camera from our blind with a smartphone app, we captured images of the female bird incubating. On one of the female's preen/stretch routines, we were able to confirm a total of **4 eggs in the nest**.

Later, on **July 6**, the first thing we noticed after settling into our blind was that the nest had sunk considerably, an estimated eight inches from its original location, which made it much harder to see into the nest. This was something we read in the aforementioned studies; the nest will sink lower



Least Bittern chick just visible through the cattails, 7/8/14, by Amanda Altena.

and lower to the water as the weight from the eggs and young increases. After carefully looking with the binoculars, we noticed two **fluffy hatchlings on the nest**.

Then a couple days later on **July 8**, we made a brief visit and noted at least **three hatchlings on the nest**. We did not see any adult bird for about 5-10 minutes until the male bird just sort of appeared on the nest with the young.

Our next visit was the morning of **July 14**, which was just after Hurricane Arthur had brought strong winds and heavy rain to the area. When we arrived, the nest had dropped a considerable amount more and we now had almost no visibility into it. We did, however, see the female visit the nest and assumed young were near the nest area.

From the middle of July, we kept our visits to the nest site limited. We were able to see the adults on one occasion, and also hear the young in the marshes calling to the parents, but we did not see any young birds after they left the nest.

Summary

We believe that the nest successfully raised at least three young, with a strong possibility of a fourth, though we never saw four at one time. Because Least Bitterns lay and hatch roughly one egg per day, and incubate for 17-20 days (beginning with the first or second egg), the best educated guess on hatch date (of first egg) is somewhere around **July 1**. The fledge date is a bit more unclear as the nest had sunk considerably and was out of sight from our blind, but it is estimated that the young began foraging around the nest sometime around **July 17**.

Something to note – Least Bitterns have been known to have two broods in one breeding season. The late timing of this nesting activity begs the question, was this the second brood of the season?

Kyle Wilmarth and Amanda Altena began birding in 2011, focusing mostly on their local patch and photographing what they see along the way. They enjoy contributing to the NH Birds e-mail list, and over the past four years they have tallied close to 200 birds in Salem alone.

Purple Martins on the Seacoast

by Dennis Skillman

All photos taken at Cross Beach Road in Seabrook.



A pair of Purple Martins returned in 2014 to the yellow bird house where they were first discovered nesting in 2013 in Seabrook, NH. Photo by Christine Sheridan, 6/6/14.

In the summer of 2013, Christine Sheridan reported Purple Martins nesting in a yellow bird house off Cross Beach Road in Seabrook, NH. In early spring of 2014, a group of birders, who shared a desire to encourage the growth of a Purple Martin colony where this nest had been found, met with New Hampshire Audubon Senior Biologist, Pam Hunt and took a close look at the yellow box and its surroundings. Pam also involved Sue Foote, Chairman of the Seabrook Conservation Committee, to enlist local support and help determine accessible locations for a Purple Martin colony. The group consisted of: Richard Lombard (a Tree Swallow

landlord in Groveland, MA), Sue McGrath (a Purple Martin steward at Plum Island, MA), JoAnn O'Shaughnessy, Christine Sheridan, Warren Trested, Lauren Kras (President of NH Audubon's Seacoast Chapter), and myself.

Several of the residents of Cross Beach Road had actively encouraged Tree Swallows to nest in this area over many years by placing dozens of nest boxes in the saltmarsh and on their land. It was one of these boxes that provided a home for the pioneering Purple Martins. In talking with the residents, we learned that 2014 was the fourth or fifth year Purple Martins had used the yellow box. We thought it was important to build a relationship with the neighbors who had put so much effort into attracting Tree Swallows and, serendipitously, Purple Martins to nest in this area.

Purple Martins are a species of special concern in New Hampshire, with colonies only known in three locations in 2014 (Wakefield, Laconia and Seabrook) down from 10 locations (none of them in Seabrook) as of 2003 (see the species profile at: http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Wildlife/Wildlife_Plan/WAP_species_PDFs/Birds/PurpleMartin.pdf). It is interesting that sightings in Seabrook and Hampton started appearing in *New Hampshire Bird Records* in the summer of 2009, coincident with anecdotal reports of nesting activity at Cross Beach Road.

Purple Martins are by nature colonial tree cavity nesters. Native Americans used to cut back the branches of small trees and hang hollowed out gourds from the remaining stubs to attract martins to their villages. The species became habituated to living near human settlements, which gave them some protection from predators and provided some relief from insects for the villages. As European settlers cleared the eastern forests, and Native Americans were



Preparing the base of the pole and installing it in the marsh, 4/7/14. Photos by Richard Lombard (left) and Christine Sheridan.



The final installation of the perches, gourds and decoys, 4/7/14. Photos by Christine Sheridan (left) and Richard Lombard.

pushed out of their land, the habitats for Purple Martins dwindled. The martin population declined and only started rebounding as man-made nest boxes became more common. Today, we are in a situation where the Purple Martin population in the eastern United States is totally dependent on human provided nest cavities. They still can be found nesting in trees in the West.

Locating a place to set up nesting for a martin colony was the first decision needed to get our project underway. The Town of Seabrook owns the land where the yellow box is located. The marsh is often flooded at high tides and during storms. In the winter, there are ice flows to deal with. We also discussed placing Purple Martin nest boxes on some town land behind the dunes along Route 1A adjacent to Cross Beach Road. Although this site was on solid ground and more easily accessible, it was nearly a half-mile from the group of swallow boxes that had originally attracted the birds.

We decided, at least initially, that it was important to place the new nest boxes close to the yellow box, where they would be readily visible from the previous year's nest when the birds returned, even though the site presented a challenge as it was isolated by tidal streams. Access to the site for nest checks could only be done at low tide by crossing a tidal stream bed and scaling the opposite mud bank. Placing the structure in the salt marsh, however, presented a number of concerns beyond accessing the nests: instability of the soil, periodic flooding, and accelerated corrosion in a saltwater environment. No one we spoke with, from other martin landlords to equipment suppliers, had experience with this kind of environment. There are also some benefits to the isolated salt marsh location over the solid ground choice. Predators and vandalism would be discouraged, and it was farther from House Sparrow habitat and cover.

With donations of time and money from the group and funding from NH Audubon's Aerial Insectivore Initiative,

Pam ordered the pole structure and plastic gourd nest boxes, while the group members debated how to overcome the problems inherent with the site we had chosen. Warren Trested and I designed and built a support structure for the pole that we thought would work on the saltmarsh.

By early April, we constructed a wooden X-shaped support that would rest on the surface of the marsh and stabilized the pole assembly with guy wires. This would allow us to adjust the verticality of the nest structure if needed. No concrete was used, only an aluminum sleeve buried in the ground and clamped securely to the wooden support. All fittings were aluminum or stainless steel and the aluminum in the ground and exposed to water was primed to reduce corrosion.

On April 7, members of the team gathered together to assemble the nest structure and install it on the marsh. We located the pole about 60 feet from the nearest swallow box to minimize the opportunity for territorial disputes and nesting in the gourds by Tree Swallows. Once the assembly was in place with the gourd entrances blocked, we relied on JoAnn O'Shaughnessy and other birders' reports to monitor for the first arrival of Purple Martins.

The entrances to the gourds are designed to eliminate entry by European Starlings, but we were concerned that House Sparrows or Tree Swallows would take over the gourds. On the advice of Andrew Troyer (a martin landlord in Pennsylvania who manufactures and markets the gourds we chose), we kept the nest entrances blocked until two weeks after we observed Tree Swallows carrying nesting material to their boxes. This would ensure that Tree Swallows, who nest earlier than martins, would be settled when the gourds became available. As it turns out, even though there are many House Sparrows in the area, and in nest boxes, we had no problem with them. The lack of surrounding cover at the martin site likely had something to do with this.

On April 22, three martins were sighted on Plum Island, and a week later (two weeks after seeing the Tree Swallows



A gourd with the entrance blocked early in the season, 4/7/14 (left) by Richard Lombard. Purple Martins flying to and from the gourds, 6/18/14 by Chris Sheridan.

carrying nest material) we opened half our gourds. Joann spotted martins at the gourds a week after that and soon after, we opened the rest of the gourds. Martins were spotted going in and out of the gourds (and the yellow box) on May 20. At this point, our role as martin landlords began.

Actively managing martin colonies can produce better nesting and fledging rates than leaving them on their own, as well as providing accurate data on breeding success. It is, however, demanding of time and effort to be an active martin landlord. Nest checks are done by lowering the gourds with a pulley system every five to seven days, starting shortly after martin activity around the nests begins. The nest checks continue until the last chicks are fledged. At the Seabrook site, this had to be scheduled around tides and availability of team members. The gourds are fitted with threaded ports that allowed us the access we needed to check on nest building, eggs and hatchlings. Part way through the breeding season, chicks were checked for mites and nests were changed by discarding initial nests and replacing with cedar

chips to discourage mite infestations. The Purple Martin Conservation Association (PMCA - <http://purplemartin.org>) provides in-depth information and nest check protocols.

We found the first egg on June 11, and eventually four pairs of martins nested in the gourds (plus the pair in the original yellow box, for a total of five). Of a total of thirteen eggs laid, eight martins fledged, two chicks were lost after a hot stretch, and three eggs never hatched. There were also young observed at the yellow box. The last chicks fledged about August 17. As many as 14 martins were observed at one time in the area at the beginning of the summer, suggesting that a few birds didn't nest, and that there is room for more growth next year. The excitement of seeing the martins take to their new homes and raise their young is hard to describe!

One unanticipated problem we had was the second-year male martins harassing Tree Swallows at their nest boxes as the martin mating season began. There were more male than female martins, and the younger martins were left without



Monitoring the colony by lowering the pole and checking the contents of the gourds, 6/18/14 (left) and on 7/25/14. Photos by Pam Hunt.



Purple Martin eggs (top left), 6/18/14 by Pam Hunt, newly hatched Purple Martin chicks (top right), 7/7/14 and at one week old (bottom left), 7/25/14 by Christine Sheridan, and close to fledging (bottom right), 7/24/15 by Pam Hunt.

mates. Apparently their frustration was taken out on the Tree Swallows. This was a source of consternation for us and for the neighbors who worked so hard to attract the swallows. A possible solution is to move the gourd rack a bit farther into the marsh, creating more separation from the swallow boxes.

After fledging, martins continue to use gourds for roosting until they begin migrating back to Brazil. In early October, we took down the structure, cleaned the gourds, and assessed how our design held up. There was very little damage from the elements and every part can be re-used next spring.

Our first attempt at establishing a growing Purple Martin colony on the New Hampshire Seacoast was a success because of the work and support of many people. Pam's

encouragement, NH Audubon's and the volunteers' financial support, the advice of Andrew Troyer and Sue McGrath, and the enthusiasm of the volunteers who logged many miles and hours, were all needed to send those eight new Seacoast Purple Martins on their way! If you are interested in helping with the 2015 breeding season please send me e-mail at: seabrookmartins@googlegroups.com.

Since retiring from a career in the high tech industry, Dennis Skillman has spent more time pursuing his lifelong love of nature and capturing special moments with his camera. He has volunteered on several NH Audubon projects. To view his wildlife photos see: (<http://www.pbase.com/dennisck>).

Field Trip Reports



Boreal Chickadee photographed by Aiden Moser on Cannon Mountain during the NH Young Birders Club field trip, 7/17/14.

Harriers Hike in the White Mountains

by Aiden Moser

The New Hampshire Young Birders Club, known as “The Harriers,” was founded in the spring of 2013 in hopes of encouraging a passion for the natural world in kids of all ages. As an independently operated branch of the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, the Club runs between twenty and twenty-five trips a year to birding locations around the state and New England, such as bird-banding demonstrations at Odiorne Point State Park, canoeing on Newfound Lake, sketching bird mounts at the Harvard Museum of Natural History, and hammering out bluebird nestboxes to erect in the backyard. To date, over fifty members and their parents have attended Harriers events, including the hiking trip described below by Aiden Moser, one of the Club’s founding members. To learn more about the Harriers, their upcoming trips, and how you can support their efforts, visit www.nhyoungbirders.org. – Henry Walters

On July 17, my mother and I traveled north to Crawford Notch for a camping trip with the New Hampshire Young Birders Club. The first part of the trip was a hike up the Nancy Pond Trail just north of the notch. The 7.1 mile hike traversed brooks and took us up past cascades. During the hike, we heard the songs of several Swainson’s Thrushes, warblers, Winter Wrens, and many more. On the descent,

we came across a flock of birds and discovered three fledgling Golden-crowned Kinglets sitting together midway up a tree and two Boreal Chickadees acting a lot more shy than their typically tame cousins. When the hike was over, we were all tired, but I did enjoy the hike and it was interesting exploring new terrain.

After spending the night at Lafayette Campground, we went to Cannon Mountain to take the tram to the top. Before boarding the tram, we spotted a black bear with two cubs on one of the ski slopes, a Merlin soaring above us, and at least three Broad-winged Hawks putting on a show soaring and screeching. Riding to the summit of the mountain without having to hike at all was a nice change of pace compared to the grueling day before and I had a good feeling that we were going to see some nice birds. After walking around the summit for a few hours, we decided to leave early so we could also bird at Trudeau Road in Bethlehem. Some of our highlights at Cannon Mountain were Boreal Chickadees, a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, a couple of Bicknell’s Thrushes, several species of warblers, and one or two White-winged Crossbills. I think we all had a great time with nice birds and beautiful weather.

Our final stop of the day was Trudeau Road, located in Bethlehem, northwest of Crawford Notch. This is one of the best spots in the area to see Black-backed Woodpeckers, a northern species that inhabits cooler climates. We saw a pair

feeding chicks last year at this location on a different NH Young Birders trip. During our hike, we observed Nashville Warblers, Canada Warblers, Hermit Thrushes, Brown Creepers, and many Common Ravens making all sorts of strange calls. Finally, after we had all said our goodbyes and as we drove back, my last bird of the trip crossed the road in front of us: a Ruffed Grouse.

Canoe Birding on the Merrimack River

by Robert A. Quinn

I have been leading Capital Area Chapter birding boat trips on the Merrimack River for over 25 years and two trips in the summer of 2014 proved the adage “timing is everything.” The trip on June 14, 2014 was very good and very different in character from my trip on July 26, 2014.

June 14, 2014

My condensed notes say “high and fast water, easy paddling, few other boaters, and lots of bird song.” During the few times I have paddled the river in June, those conditions have been the norm. This year, we floated down the Merrimack River in Concord from Sewall’s Falls Dam to the NH Technical Institute boat ramp. The current was strong enough that we barely had to paddle and the group was fun and the birds were active.

Birding and logistical notes: At this time of year, there are very few other boats on the river and the water level is usually high enough to poke into some of the backwaters. The large colonies of Bank Swallows are a special feature and the bird song makes it a wonderful way to record a significant number of individuals too.

Bird Highlights

Osprey – 1
 Spotted Sandpiper – 12+
 Black-billed Cuckoo – seen and heard
 Red-bellied Woodpecker – 2
 Bank Swallow – 200 or so estimated active nest holes
 Eastern Kingbird – 8
 Baltimore Oriole – 16
 Northern Rough-winged Swallow – 7
 Brown Thrasher – 1
 Wood Thrush – 3

July 26, 2014

There were dozens of other boaters and maybe 100 other people on the river! We paddled Jamie Welch Park in Boscawen to the Penacook/Contoocook River take-out in Concord. There was a good current so we did not have to paddle much, but it also reduced the sand/mud habitat.

Birding and logistical notes: At this time of year, there are many boats on the river and almost all of the sandbars

have people camping on them. The water level is usually low enough to create some nice sand/mud habitat. The changes in the bird life are striking compared with June and shorebird migration is usually evident if the water is low enough for sandpipers and plovers (and they are not disturbed by people). Song is reduced but many species are starting to flock.

Table 1. Bird highlights from the July 26, 2014 field trip on the Merrimack River compared with June 14, 2014. Data from Robert A. Quinn, field trip leader.

| Species | July 26 | June 14 | Notes |
|-------------------------------|---------------|------------------|--|
| Common Merganser | 1 | zero | Uncommon |
| Green Heron | 2 or 3 | zero | |
| Turkey Vulture | 12+ | 1 | |
| Osprey | 1 | 1 | |
| Bald Eagle | 1 | zero | |
| Killdeer | 2 | zero | High water in June and too many people on the sand bars in July. |
| Spotted Sandpiper | 2 | 12 | Low in July due to people on the sand bars. |
| Chimney Swift | 16 | 1 | Starting to swarm. |
| Belted Kingfisher | zero! | 1 | Low numbers. |
| Eastern Kingbird | 7+ | 8 | |
| Warbling Vireo | 1 | 7 | |
| Red-eyed Vireo | 7 | 15 | |
| Tree Swallow | 4 | 4 | |
| Northern Rough-winged Swallow | 1 | 7 | |
| Bank Swallow | several birds | 200 active nests | One active nest in July. |
| Barn Swallow | a few | zero | |
| Gray Catbird | 2 | 12 | |
| European Starling | 100+ | 6 | |
| Cedar Waxwing | 20+ | 2 | |
| Song Sparrow | 3 | 17 | |
| Northern Cardinal | 1 | 5 | |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak | zero | 5 | |
| Baltimore Oriole | 2 or 3 | 16 | |

It is always fun to float down the river and look for birds. Each trip is different because the river is different each time. There is always something interesting to see and hear and stopping for swimming or exploring the shore is always an option. However, I would strongly suggest avoiding summer weekends to maximize the birding and minimize the people disturbances. In my next canoe birding article, I will discuss in more detail the pros and cons of paddling during different months.

What a great way to bird!

Spotlight on Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*)

by Pamela Hunt



*Sandhill Crane family
by Zeke Cornell, 7/15/14,
Monroe, NH.*

On June 22, 2014, Joyce and Duane Cate of Monroe entered the New Hampshire ornithological record books when they saw two adult Sandhill Cranes accompanied by a chick in the fields across from their house. Thus was the long-anticipated breeding of this species in the state finally confirmed. The saga of the Monroe cranes began way back in May of 1999, when a single bird (later dubbed “Oscar” by the local schoolchildren) appeared in a field along Plains Road. For the next several years, he returned to this same spot, but was always alone (and we know he was a male because at one point he was observed trying to mate with a Wild Turkey!). In 2013, the situation changed significantly when two birds were regularly observed in the area and, one year later, the pair had successfully hatched a colt (as young cranes are called). As exciting as this event is for New Hampshire, however, it is equally exciting in a broader context, since the Monroe birds are actually part of a major range expansion by Sandhill Cranes into the Northeast.

Historical Occurrence

To set this stage, let’s go back a ways and take a look at historical patterns of crane occurrence in New England. Experts are unsure as to the actual status of Sandhill Cranes in New England in the 1600s to 1800s. Several early reporters (summarized in Melvin 2002, Keith and Fox 2013) imply that the species was regular as a migrant, but there was no evidence of breeding. Numbers may already have been in decline in the mid-Atlantic states by the middle 1700s, and a bird shot in Wakefield NH in 1896 or 1897 was stated by William Brewster (1901) as the first for the state in over a century. The fairly rapid decline in cranes by the nineteenth century is thought to be a result of extensive wetland drainage, hunting, and perhaps persecution as crop pests.

Whatever the cause, by the beginning of the 1900s, there were no cranes breeding east of Michigan, and the species was quite rare even as a migrant. There were a handful of records in upstate New York from 1948 to 1970 (Bull 1974) and one in Massachusetts in 1955 (Veit and Petersen 1993). During the 1970s, records started to increase in the Northeast, apparently associated with the early stages of eastward range expansion (see below), and the first New Hampshire record in almost a century was a bird in Rye in October 1967.

Range Expansion

As recently as the early 1990s, the species only bred as far east as Michigan, but there were signs of scattered pairs colonizing new sites in Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. The first breeding record for Pennsylvania came in 1993 and, by the end of that state’s second Breeding Bird Atlas in 2009, it had been documented in 26 atlas “blocks” (an area one sixth of a topo map). In 2000 (one year after Oscar first appeared in Monroe), the species made a significant jump east and was documented nesting in central Maine (Melvin 2002). There are now five or six pairs breeding in Maine each year and, in the last 10-15 years, the area between Pennsylvania and Maine has slowly started to fill in, with breeding in New York in 2003 (McGowan and Corwin 2008), Vermont in 2005 (Renfrew 2013), and Massachusetts in 2007 (Breeding Bird Atlas). A pair in north-central Connecticut in 2013 is strongly suggestive of that state joining the ranks in the near future. In Canada, the Sandhill Crane breeding range in Ontario almost tripled between 1985 and 2005 (Cadman et al. 2007), it colonized southern Quebec east to the St. Lawrence River, and a single breeding record was even documented in central New Brunswick in 2010.

As the breeding range crept eastward, cranes became more regular as migrants or vagrants in New England. By the mid-1980s, it had become almost annual in Massachusetts (Veit and Petersen 1993). New Hampshire saw its first 20th Century record in Rye on October 8, 1967, followed by additional birds in Canaan in the fall of 1969 and Madbury in October 1970. After another long gap, the next was in Hanover on October 7, 1989, and this can be considered the vanguard of things to come in the Granite State.

Occurrence in New Hampshire

Since that Hanover record in 1989, there have been at least 53 additional sightings of Sandhill Crane in New Hampshire (not counting the Monroe birds), involving over 100 individuals. Only four records came from the 1990s, with 22 in the 2000s and 27 from 2010-2014. The clear growth in records over these last 25 years is shown in Figure 1. Despite the breeding pair, 2014 is unusual in having

Figure 1. Annual pattern of Sandhill Crane records in New Hampshire, 1986-2014. Numbers indicate the number of records, not the number of birds. This graph does not include the records from Monroe. Data from *New Hampshire Bird Records* and eBird (see Data Sources).

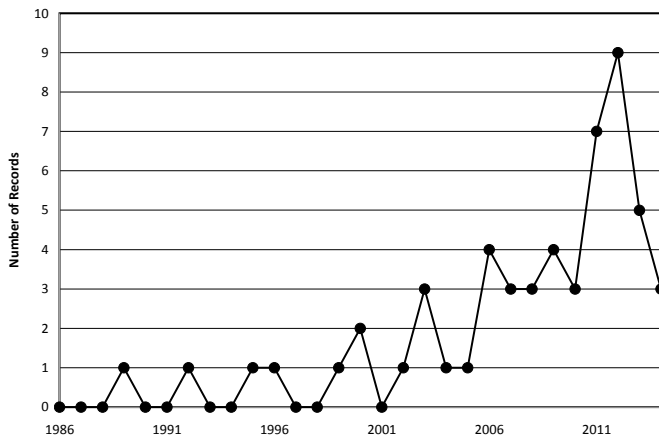
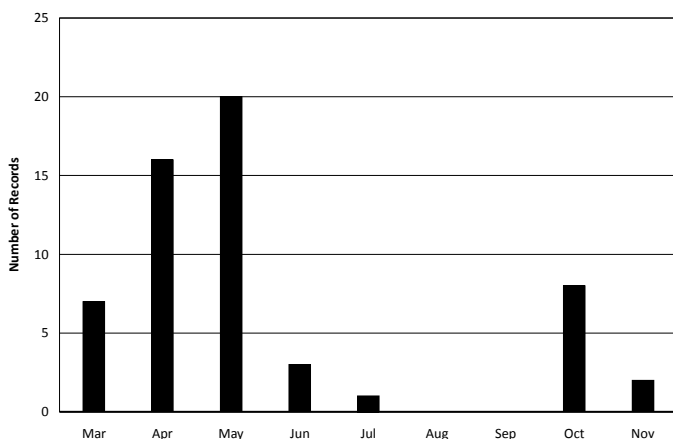


Figure 2. Monthly distribution of Sandhill Crane records in New Hampshire, 1967-2014. In cases where a bird was present for several days, only the month when it was first found is represented. This graph does not include the records from Monroe. Data from Keith and Fox (2013), *New Hampshire Bird Records* and eBird (see Data Sources).



only three records of migrants (although one was highly significant – read on!). Sandhill Cranes are far more likely to be seen in spring than fall (Figure 2), with most records in April and May. In recent years, many spring records appear to have been pairs, and some lucky observers have observed mating dances.

Crane records in the state are clustered in three areas: the Connecticut River Valley (8), Seacoast Region (17), and especially the Merrimack River Valley (26), as shown in Figure 3. Perhaps, as befits the area with the most records, the Merrimack River Valley has also had several birds present for more than a single day. Among the more notable of these are the following: a bird in Boscawen June 22-July 25, 2000; one in Gilmanton April 24-May 1, 2007; and another in Alexandria May 18-24, 2012. The Boscawen bird is particularly notable for occurring in the middle of summer, suggesting it was prospecting for a breeding territory. This same bird may account for a record in nearby Bradford July 28-29, 2000.

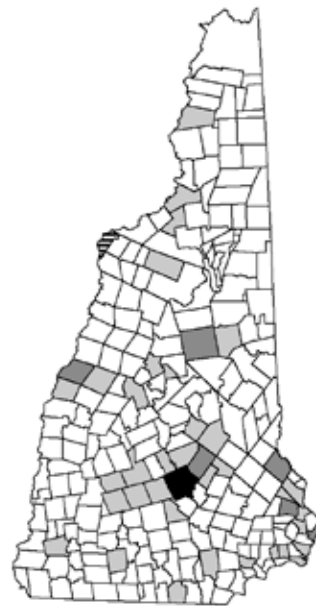


Figure 3. Town-level distribution of Sandhill Crane records in New Hampshire, 1967-2014. The lightest shade of gray indicates a single record, darker gray 2-4 records, and black (Concord) seven records. Monroe is indicated by horizontal black stripes. Data from Keith and Fox (2013), *New Hampshire Bird Records* and eBird (see Data Sources).

The Monroe Story

The crane eventually named “Oscar” was first noted in Monroe on May 27, 1999 and was reported off and on through November 5 of that year. Over the next 15 years, his arrival date varied between March 31 and May 3 (excluding years when the first date he was reported is later in the year and thus not likely to be his actual arrival date). Of the ten arrival dates on file, seven fall between March 31 and April 6. Dates when Oscar was last seen are mostly in October and November, although three times he also lingered into early December (late date Dec. 6, in both 2001 and 2003). For his first decade, Oscar frequented fields along Plains Road and made occasional visits to the Connecticut River and nearby Vermont. In 2012, his activity shifted to cornfields along Route 135 near the river. On July 5, 2013, Oscar finally

had company in the fields of Monroe. Dubbed “Olive,” this female raised the stakes in New Hampshire’s long wait for a breeding pair and this brings us full circle back to June 22, 2014.

Once breeding was confirmed, many birders made the pilgrimage to Monroe to see this newest addition to the state’s breeding bird list. The colt (named “Okie” in following with the “O” theme) was sometimes hard to see as it foraged with its parents in the growing corn, but by the end of the summer it had reached adult size and was far easier to find. The family was last reported in early November 2014, but given the usual departure dates could easily have lingered longer.

While we have proof that cranes bred in Monroe, we still don’t know the exact location. Typical breeding sites include fields, bogs, and marshes and there is certainly no lack of these in the largely undeveloped upper Connecticut River Valley. My guess is that Oscar and Olive built their nest in a secluded corner of the marshes that fringe the McIndoe Falls Reservoir.

The Future

Now that the cranes finally produced a chick in Monroe, it’s likely they’ll be back for several years to come. Cranes can live upwards of 20 years and, even if Oscar is getting on in years, there is certainly no shortage of other cranes moving north through New Hampshire in the event Olive needs a replacement in the near future. For all we know, there are already other pairs nesting in the Granite State. There is plenty of habitat in Coos County and the extensive wetlands around Lake Umbagog are ripe for colonization. Perhaps the birds that keep passing through Concord will finally pair up and settle somewhere in Merrimack County. Last but not least, there was a third, “unheralded,” crane in New Hampshire during the summer of 2014. This bird showed up in Tamworth in late May and was sporadically seen through the end of July. Was it the next seed of a breeding pair? Only time and continued vigilance will tell.

Another possible indicator of things to come, on November 20, 2014, a flock of 29 cranes – the largest gathering ever recorded in New England – was observed in central Maine. The flock was later seen over Seabrook, NH and you can read more about their progress in the upcoming fall issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*. New England is still a long ways from having the tens of thousands of cranes that migrate through the Great Plains each spring, but having roughly a quarter of NH’s records in this one flock is a clear sign that the regional population is burgeoning.

Data Sources

The following data sources were searched for records of this species. The data for all figures represent the number of records; duplicates are not included. Not all records

presented here have been reviewed by the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee. Data on breeding status in the Northeast was obtained from the Breeding Bird Atlas projects listed in the references.

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Backyard Birder

Great Blue Heron Hunting Methods

by Brenda Sens



Great Blue Heron with Yellow Perch, by Duane Cross, 9/17/13, Streeter Pond, Sugar Hill, NH.

On Monday June 9, Sylvia Miskoe sent the following e-mail to the NH Birds e-mail list:

“Yesterday afternoon a blue heron flew down to my pond to fish. He waded along the edge in the grassy side and shortly grabbed a horn pout. He took it onto the short grass and spent some time flinging it to the ground and snapping it up. I could hear the clack of his beak as he grabbed the pout. Finally he positioned it, repositioned it a couple of times, and gulped it down. He followed the swallow with a bit of water. Back to fishing and soon had a 2nd pout. Same process. He continued fishing but disappeared in the brush.”

Many of us have had the privilege of seeing a Great Blue Heron grab a fish in its beak crosswise and then proceed to position it so that it can be swallowed head first. Spending time throwing the fish onto the ground seems highly unusual. It turns out that this type of behavior depends on the type of fish the bird has caught. Hornpouts, also known as Brown Bullheads, are a smooth fish with no scales on their skin. Their dorsal and pectoral fins, however, have sharp sawtooth spines at their base that can be locked in an upright position. According to the Aquarium of the Pacific Online Learning Center, if a fish has dangerous spines or is too large for the heron to swallow, the bird uses its beak to toss the fish violently into the water or onto the ground until the spines break off and/or it breaks into smaller portions thus rendering it safe and possible to swallow. Hats and spines off to a clever adaptation.

Birding NH Audubon's dePierrefeu-Willard Pond Wildlife Sanctuary

by Phil Brown



Sundown over Willard Pond, by Phil Brown.

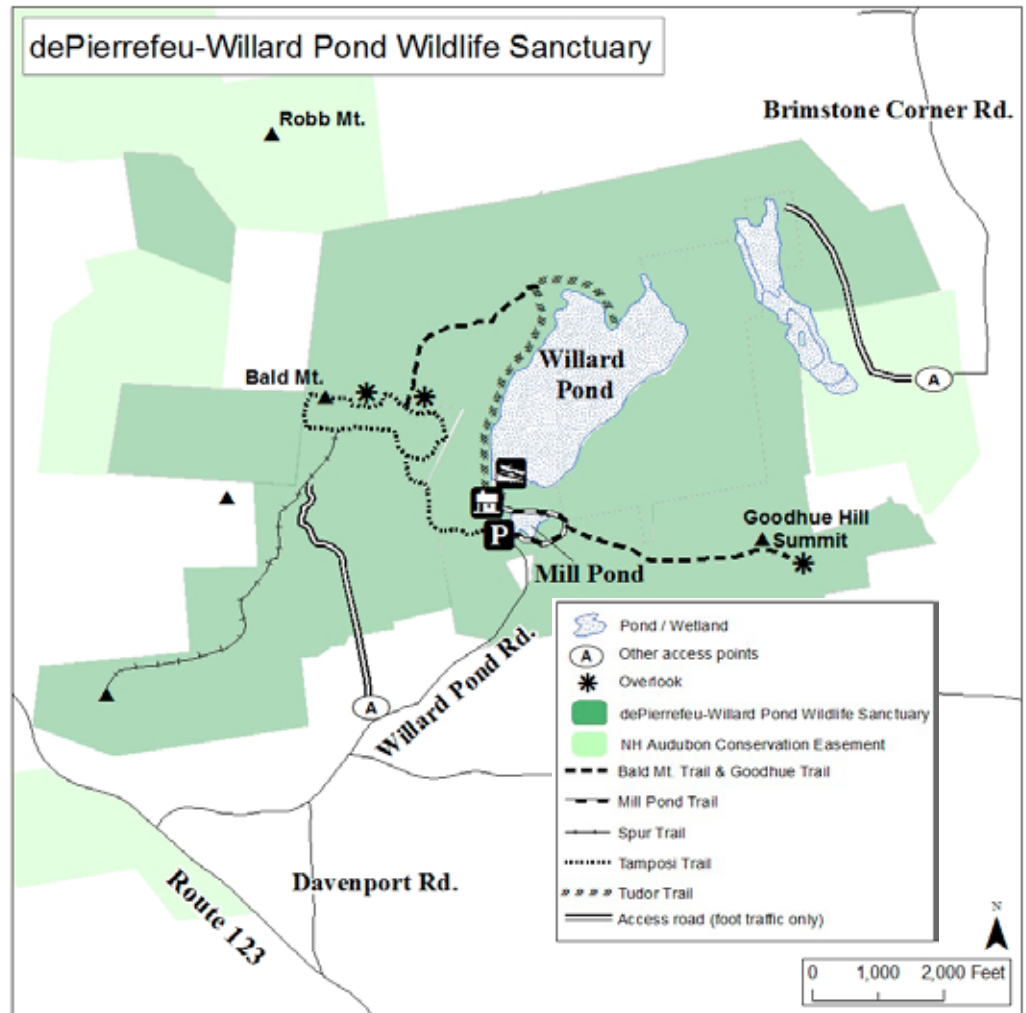
The dePierrefeu-Willard Pond Wildlife Sanctuary located in Antrim and Hancock of rural, northwestern Hillsborough County is New Hampshire Audubon's largest land holding. At 1,700 acres in size and surrounded by another 1,100 acres of conservation easements held by the organization, these conservation lands lie at the heart of an even larger “Supersanctuary” – a matrix of protected landscapes that covers over 20,000 contiguous acres. Not all conserved lands are created, or managed, equally, however. Willard Pond Wildlife Sanctuary (known as “the Sanctuary” hereafter) to the adventurous birder has an ideal configuration of habitat types, management scenarios, and access points that permit exploration by both foot and float. Over seven miles of official trails on the property permit access to several distinct summits which are fine hiking destinations in their own right, but which are also excellent birding locations. Active habitat management with an emphasis on improving bird and wildlife habitat is a theme in parts of the Sanctuary while a hands-off approach is embraced in other areas. Recent “patch cuts” (clearcuts for wildlife) have been installed to add a younger vegetated component to the otherwise forested landscape. A multitude of wetland types dot the drainages emanating from spruce-topped summits, providing an additional landscape feature and additional habitat for wetland bird species. The central feature of the Sanctuary is 108-acre Willard Pond, a pristine gem of the region, with its undeveloped shoreline fully owned by NH Audubon, clear waters, and beautiful hilltop surroundings.

History

Originally protected in part as a gift from donor Elsa Tudor dePierrefeu to National Audubon, the property was transferred to NH Audubon in 1971 and has been managed as a wildlife sanctuary ever since. A series of naturalists have resided at an onsite cottage for 40 years, beginning with Meade Cadot, longtime director of the Harris Center for Conservation Education in nearby Hancock and continuing most recently with Henry Walters, founder of the NH Young Birders Club. Many of the resident naturalists were also birders and maintained adequate records or detailed monthly bird lists. In full disclosure, I write as a former resident naturalist/caretaker myself, living at the cottage during 2010 and 2011, when I recorded over 100 species of birds at the Sanctuary.

Planning Your Visit

This article focuses mainly on the breeding season (late May through July), as this is the most exciting time on the Sanctuary. Other seasons, too, receive some mention where notable numbers and/or species have been recorded. Exploration of the Sanctuary is not for the faint of heart, but there are some easier alternatives. It is a rugged and rocky landscape, with the only level terrain generally being along the access road or on the pond. At the height of black fly season in May, the Sanctuary may not seem like a friendly place for hikers; however, that season is short-lived and with the proper clothing, one can enjoy the birds in comfort. The Sanctuary is home to a healthy population of wide-ranging mammal species such as moose, black bear, and bobcat, all of which can be tracked, with some luck, along the trails. This is part of the reason that dogs are limited; visitors are instructed to bring dogs only on the trails on the west (left) side of the road and to keep them on a short leash at all times. Public visitation to Willard Pond is slow throughout the winter months. It spikes, however, in late April-early May with the stocking of trout for fishing season, and then again in July and August when a hot summer weekend can see over 30 cars packed into the



parking lot, with most of the visitors either swimming at the boat launch or in kayaks on the pond. For best birding and crowd avoidance, arrive early in the morning during breeding season.

One of the best ways to explore the Sanctuary is by water. One can launch a kayak or canoe (no gas-powered engines on Willard Pond – another added charm) and set off across the pond to explore by sight and sound. Otherwise, grab your hiking boots and pack, and read on!

Birding Locations

A) Willard Pond

Begin your trip with a scan of Willard Pond. Parking for the pond, and for all of the other official trails on the Sanctuary, is located a few hundred yards from the launch in a large lot on the left side of the road. Upon arriving in the *parking area*, you should see and/or hear some of the more typical breeding species of the northern hardwood forest that dominates the roadside environment. Purple Finch, Winter Wren, Red-eyed Vireo, and Hermit Thrush may all be singing their melodious songs, and a duet of Black-throated Blue and Black-throated Green Warblers may be sounding

off. In spring and early summer, listen for a Louisiana Waterthrush which often sings from the brook across the road, or an occasional Northern Waterthrush from around the Mill Pond. Pick up a trail guide at the kiosk and look for any notices displayed, and continue down the dirt road past the *NH Audubon cottage* on the left. The Mill Pond will be in view on your right directly across from the cottage. A nest box visible across the pond has attracted prospecting Hooded Mergansers in the past, and Wood Ducks also frequent the pond spring through fall. Check any feeders at the cottage for resident Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, and listen for a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, which may be tapping on the metal flashing of the chimney. Chestnut-sided and Magnolia Warblers, Common Yellowthroat, Song Sparrow, Gray Catbird, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak can also be found during the breeding season in the small clearing around the cottage. Continuing on, you will see Willard Pond and the NH Fish & Game *boat launch* at the end of the road.



Common Loon and chick by Debra La Valley.

Home to a breeding pair of Common Loons most years, *Willard Pond* has become one of the most popular water bodies in the region for nature photographers. A small cove on the left before arriving on the shoreline was a nest site for loons in 2014 (they failed after sitting on eggs for over 60 days, possibly due to disturbance from humans and dogs – a chronic issue at lakes with high human visitation). View loons quietly from the road if they are present. Other species to be watched for here include Great Blue Heron, Spotted and Solitary (in migration) Sandpipers on the rocks or shoreline, American Black Duck, and Belted Kingfisher, which has been found nesting not far away in a sandpit. From the boat launch, you can view most of the pond's shoreline for waterbirds and scan for raptors over Bald Mountain which looms above to the left. The boat launch is one of the best hawkwatching locations on the property in both spring and fall. Merlin, Northern Goshawk, and Northern Harrier have been seen here with some regularity, and Turkey Vultures and Common Ravens can be seen soaring near Bald Mountain where they nest. Scan the

pond for Bald Eagles visiting from nearby Nubanusit Lake (sightings can be daily in tall pines at Pine Point straight across the pond where the Tudor Trail ends). Osprey can also be seen regularly in migration season as they seek out the fish that Willard Pond is famous for among trout fishermen. I once counted seven Ospreys perched around the pond's perimeter in late April. The birds were downed during poor weather, which can also result in dozens or more swallows, predominantly Tree Swallow, skimming over the pond. Common and Hooded Merganser, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, and Mallard are the other likely waterbirds one can find periodically during the breeding season. However, spring and fall migrations are better for diversity and can yield Bufflehead, Ring-necked Duck, Common Goldeneye, Black Scoter, and Double-crested Cormorant. Surprises have included Northern Pintail, Ruddy Duck, Great Cormorant, and once, in April 1985, a flock of 500 Snow Geese!

B) Mill Pond Trail/Goodhue Hill

The tiny (Hatch) *Mill Pond* was home to a sawmill in the 1830s, the stonework of which is still magnificently preserved. A short, but moderate 0.5 mile loop trail (marked in yellow) is accessed across Willard Pond Road from the Tudor Trail just beyond the cottage. The trail crosses the Mill Pond's inlet from the Willard Pond dam just upstream, as well as its outlet into Willard Pond Brook on the trail's far side. Use caution in crossing bridges and rock fords when conditions are wet. The fast-flowing water maintains some open water below the Mill Pond late into the winter, allowing a Belted Kingfisher to spend a cold January here a few years back. In summer, this trail is a quick and quiet escape from the busyness of the boat ramp. Its main functions for birders, however, are for watching waterfowl and accessing the Goodhue Hill Trail (marked in red), that departs the Mill Pond Trail after it crosses the outlet and dam from the Mill Pond Trail's southern access point just before it returns to the large parking area.

Goodhue Hill, at 1,610' in elevation, reflects the age of sheep grazing and succeeding pasture abandonment. The mile long Goodhue Hill Trail (moderate and all uphill, marked in red) is a transect of decreasing forest age as evidenced by the composition of forest species and overall tree canopy height. Brown Creeper, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Pine Warbler are a few of the more common species using large pines along the lower portions of the trail. Red Crossbill has been found feeding on pine cones in late summer and fall. (Both crossbills are possible anywhere on the Sanctuary at any time of year with most of the reports of White-winged coming from November through January.) Farther along, listen for Red-eyed Vireo and Ovenbird (both abundant here), both Least and Great Crested Flycatchers, Wood Thrush, Veery, and other species typical of the

deciduous forest. Bird activity diminishes farther up, but then picks up considerably where a different suite of species utilizes a recent 15-acre clearcut near the summit. The goal of this opening was to enhance wildlife habitat for species of fields and young forests. After crossing a break in the stone wall that divides the forest from the clearing, you will likely notice that regeneration is underway and that the birds are responding accordingly. Follow a path lined by downed branches through the clearing, weaving between nest boxes that are used by Eastern Bluebird, Black-capped Chickadee, and Tree Swallow, making sure to admire the views of surrounding hills from Mt. Monadnock to Mt. Kearsarge and much in between. In just a few years of tree and shrub regeneration, there has been a marked increase in the presence of bird species typical of younger forests. Black-billed Cuckoo, Indigo Bunting, and White-throated Sparrow (rare prior to the clearing) can now be heard with regularity in early summer, and warblers like Common Yellowthroat and Chestnut-sided Warbler are now present in ample numbers. A male Mourning Warbler spent almost two weeks singing from a dense part of the clearcut through early June of 2014. This typically more northern species is attracted by large regenerating patches of forest in the southern highlands of this part of the state, and it may breed nearby. Other breeding species such as Scarlet Tanager, Ruffed Grouse, Nashville Warbler, and Evening Grosbeak (a species that is increasingly difficult to find) all seem to benefit from the increased forest edge. A rocky outcrop with a fine southeastern view can be reached by following the trail a few hundred yards farther to its end. Here, one can watch a stunning sunrise and have a chance to see one of the bobcats that frequents this warm location.

Later in the day, it can make a good spring hawkwatching lookout. The easiest return trip is to retrace your steps and follow the Goodhue Hill Trail back down, but plans to mark a forestry access road as an alternate trail are underway. Allow a few hours for a full exploration of this portion of the Sanctuary.

C) Tudor Trail

The one-mile long *Tudor Trail* (marked in yellow) is ranked as easy to moderate as it wraps around Willard Pond's immediate western edge. Access it from the west (left) side of the road between the cottage and the boat launch, just across from the northern entrance to the Mill Pond Trail. The Tudor Trail traverses a mainly hardwood forest, but it ends in pine and hemlock, adding bird diversity to this walk. Wooded rocky outcrops above the trail on the lower slopes

of Bald Mountain are home to numerous Winter Wrens, and one might be able to hear a Dark-eyed Junco singing above. A wooden bench on the shoreline a little ways along the trail provides a fine vantage point of the pond. At 0.65 miles, on the left, is the junction for the Bald Mountain Trail (marked in red) which climbs steeply for about 0.75 mile to its intersection with the Tamposi Trail on Bald Mountain (see Bald Mountain below). Continuing past this junction, and passing some of the huge glacial boulders that the property is known for, you will reach a spectacular scenic destination known as Pine Point. This can be a productive area for observing foraging loons and spotting overhead raptors like Broad-winged and Red-shouldered Hawks, and Bald Eagle. Pine and Yellow-rumped Warblers, Brown Creeper, and Blue-headed Vireo can be added here easily, and forest birds (as well as human visitors) come to feed on the abundant



Winter Wren by Steve Mirick.

blueberry that grows along the shoreline. Watch for Eastern Kingbirds vigorously defending their nests in low-hanging branches of pines that overhang the pond. To return, follow the Tudor Trail back to Willard Pond Road, or return by making a loop via the Bald Mountain Trail (red, difficult) to the Tamposi Trail (yellow, difficult).

D) Bald Mountain

Bald Mountain, at 2,037 feet in elevation, is one of the highest summits in Hillsborough County and the highest feature of the Sanctuary. A 900 foot elevation gain from the parking area is necessary to reach the summit, but an overlook with excellent views can be reached by gaining a mere 650 feet. From the parking area, hike the steadily climbing two-mile long Tamposi Trail (marked in yellow, difficult) past large boulders and through a maturing northern hardwood forest. Take caution during wet/icy weather, and note that there are some steep sections of trail. Listen for Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Scarlet Tanager, and several warbler species along this path as you traverse stone walls and hop across streams. At 0.75 mile is a trail junction where the Tamposi Trail splits into a large, terminal loop. To continue towards the overlook of Willard Pond and the intersecting Bald Mountain Trail, stay to the right. For the quickest ascent to the summit of Bald Mountain, or to continue onto the remote Spur Trail, stay left. Staying right towards the overlook, the trail climbs steeply in sections and passes under some impressive rock overhangs complete with large, hanging icicles in winter. The overlook is obvious as there is a stunning vantage point of Willard Pond and the surrounding landscape. It is also where the Bald Mountain Trail intersects. (A loop can be made by taking this junction

and following this trail to the Tudor Trail, and back to the parking lot.) Upon reaching *the overlook*, you might see and hear Dark-eyed Juncos, which breed in vegetated areas under rocky slabs, and several other typical woodland bird species should be found. This may also be the premier hawkwatching location on the property as migratory raptors cruise by, gaining lift off thermals, often at eye level, and the view is mainly east and south. Mid to late-April, and late-September to mid-October are the best for raptor diversity, but March may prove rewarding to the adventurous birder with certain promises of Golden Eagles and Northern Goshawks. A flyover American Golden-Plover was the highlight of a late September hawkwatching trip here in 2011, and 56 Sharp-shinned Hawks were counted on the same day. Common Raven and Turkey Vulture soar using thermals created by the bare rocky ledges where they both nest. In fact, Turkey Vulture was first documented as a breeding species for New Hampshire at this location in 1981 by Meade Cadot and then caretaker, Ted Levin.

Continuing toward the viewless Bald Mountain summit, the birding attraction becomes the high-elevation red spruce forest. First, you will pass by several ledges that provide additional views south towards Mt. Monadnock and the more distant Wapack Ridge. Where juniper shrubs dominate, Eastern Towhee is a likely breeder, and additional hawkwatching possibilities occur. As the trail climbs to its highest point, a canopy of older red spruce dominates and shades out the understory. Listen and look for the bright Blackburnian Warbler, which occurs in excellent numbers. Golden-crowned Kinglet, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Magnolia Warbler, and Brown Creeper also prefer this forest type. Northern Saw-whet Owl has been documented here during breeding season. Pause to acknowledge the large rocky slab and trail cairn which mark the highest point of the trail on Bald Mountain. The Tamposi Trail continues back to the intersection of its loop, and the section between the summit and the Spur Trail (see Other Areas) junction are best for birds, with Nashville and Magnolia Warblers being most notable. Allow four or more hours for a leisurely birding pace with stops along the way.

E) Other Areas

Some of the most intriguing birding locations on the Sanctuary occur in places with limited access; however, these areas are best left to the individual to fully explore at one's own pace. The most accessible of these areas might be the "*Tamposi parcel*," a 376-acre acquisition that NH Audubon added to the Sanctuary in 2005. The Spur Trail (marked in blue) provides access, but the path is currently in need of significant maintenance due to storms and recent forest management scenarios that have created additional openings for wildlife. This trail begins along the southern side of

the Tamposi Trail loop about one mile from the parking area. It traverses areas that were formerly heavily logged including the remote southern summits of Bald Mountain where the trail ends in a small loop. Notable features of this trail include an old apple orchard which has recently been "released" (a forest management technique that provides more sunlight to shaded trees), another 15-acre clearcut, wetlands, and abundant younger forests. A pair of Olive-sided Flycatchers (rare in southern New Hampshire during summer) was present near the trail's end into July of 2005, and Mourning Warbler has been recorded here in mid-June using similar early successional forest habitat. An alternate access point to the Spur Trail and the heart of the Tamposi parcel can be reached via a large, *unmarked parking area* along Willard Pond Road on the right just before its junction with Weston Road (on the left) as you leave the main parking area. A series of forest access roads in varying degrees of regeneration permits ample exploration of recent forest openings where Northern Goshawk (year-round, but especially in winter) and Ruffed Grouse can be found with regularity. It is among the few reliable places for American Woodcock on the Sanctuary, and Northern Shrike has occurred here.

The final place I will mention in this article is the similarly remote *northeastern portion* of the Sanctuary, to the north and east of Goodhue Hill. Access is from Gregg Lake Road in Antrim which turns into Brimstone Corner Road (gravel), which becomes rough after the Price Farm on the right. From here, follow this road carefully (high-clearance vehicle required) for 0.5 mile to a junction on the right where you can park out of the way of other vehicles. Access is then possible by foot only following this intersecting woods road through a privately-held NH Audubon conservation easement. Eventually, a short distance after the woods road bends 90 degrees to the right at an old cellar hole, you will cross onto NH Audubon land. From here, you can follow the main trail to the northernmost section of a large, linear, beaver-influenced wetland that is dominated by cattail and emergent marsh vegetation. Mountain laurel is a notable plant feature of the understory, and a large American chestnut tree still survives as of 2014. The birding potential of this area is largely untapped, but the wetland has hosted breeding Marsh Wrens, and American Bittern and Virginia Rail are likely.

Phil Brown works as Director of Land Management for NH Audubon and has spent considerable time managing, recreating, and guiding at the Willard Pond Sanctuary over the past 10 years. He and his wife, Julie, resided at the Audubon cottage as caretaker/naturalists during 2010 and 2011, and they now live in nearby Hancock with two young children.

The View from a Log – A Great Horned Owl Nest

by Ellen Kenny

All photos taken by Ellen Kenny.



The beaver pond with the heron rookery in early March.

This was supposed to be a narrative describing my observations of a Great Horned Owl's nest, the brooding hen, the owlets and their final fledging. While those details do get included here, I've found myself also writing a meditation on place, inspired by one place in particular, but on the importance of place in general and the development of an intimate relationship with a wild space.

As I write this, I'm sitting on a stump at the edge of a beaver pond with a heron rookery, the place where the Great Horned Owl nested. It's seven o'clock on a sultry, mid-July morning and the margins of this large pond are hopping with Cedar Waxwings, darting from snag to snag, swooping after bugs, and congregating, ever so briefly, in twos and threes on one of the dead trees. Eastern Towhees, vocal here throughout the day, lend their insistent "Drink your tea!" to the background of birdsong, along with the



A raccoon climbed a nearby tree to check me out.

high-pitched insistent trill of a bird I don't know. Bullfrogs are thrumming and the green frogs, dense among the lilies, begin their chorus in unison as if by invisible command. A Green Heron comes sailing down to a log like a dropped handkerchief. The four nests with Great Blue Heron young, towering in the middle of the pond, are quiet at the moment, their occupants still, hunch-backed silhouettes in the glare of the morning sun. When an adult flies in for feeding

though, the silhouettes come to life in a frenzy of flapping, posturing, cackling and croaking that can be heard from a quarter mile away.

My attention is diverted by a sound to my right and I watch a raccoon about twenty feet from where I sit, mooching along the bank, threading its way through the dense blueberry shrubs. It hunkers at the water's edge, forepaws submerged, feeling about with its gaze straight ahead. When it turns and notices me, it stands briefly on its hind legs, and with a surprisingly fluid motion, is half way up a slender maple for a better look. Then without haste, it turns its back and descends into the brush. While he's no longer visible, I can see his progress through the blueberry shrubs as their leaves tremble and then become still. More minutes pass watching the abundance of dragonflies and frogs, when I notice a doe on the opposite bank, browsing in the shrubs. Dipping her head at the water's edge, she comes up with a dripping mouthful of greens. The hum of the highway noise I can hear to the southeast is the only sign that I'm not in some remote, pristine wilderness.



Two of the Great Blue Heron nests in the rookery.

I first came here for the Great Blue Herons. In April of 2012, a neighbor told me of a rookery in the Broken Ground woods. About a month later, I found myself trailing this elderly gentleman, Paul, through the woods on a baffling and circuitous trip to the rookery at dusk. The pond was a jewel, dotted with moss covered boulders and beaver lodges. There were seven heron nests and their occupants were backlit by the setting sun. It was breathtaking.

I didn't try to find my way back to the rookery until the next summer, but without my neighbor who had since moved. Finding it again became like searching for Shangri-

La. In the process of trying unsuccessfully to recreate Paul's meandering route, I found other lovely spots, went through much bug repellent, spent a lot of time brushing ticks off my pant legs, and enjoyed being in a wild landscape large enough to get lost in. Finally, last July, following the sounds of the begging, squawking heron youngsters, I found the rookery again.

What began as an appreciation for the herons quickly turned into a deep sense of wonder at the place itself, with hours spent sitting on logs, rocks, and on the ground taking it in. With each visit there were new marvels. I watched a young coyote pouncing on a boulder, trying to catch frogs as they hopped off into the pond. Another day, two bucks lay on the same boulder at noontime, sprawled in the sun like dogs. After the herons fledged and moved on, I started to notice the smaller Green Herons, hopping up the branches of a snag with their amazing long-toed feet. Then one steamy late July morning, there was a bull moose wading in the water lilies. The place itself had become the reason for my visits. What would it be like in the fall? When blanketed with snow?



First sighting of the Great Horned Owl nest in an old Great Blue Heron nest, 3/11/14.

This brings me, finally, to the Great Horned Owl. Winter at the rookery was a still, eerie contrast to the crazy, noisy abundance of summer. Winter afternoons were silent, except for the occasional croak of a pair of Common Ravens that seemed to be keeping an eye on the place. In March, tramping across the frozen pond in snowshoes, I saw a large brownish bird and I was sure it had roosted in one of the dead trees, but when I reached the spot where it should have been, it had vanished. I know now that this was an owl and it had probably sat down in the heron's nest it had usurped for its own. I certainly hadn't thought to look there. Shortly after this, on March 11, I hiked in with several birders who were interested in the location of the rookery. Bob Quinn immediately spotted the owl's ear tufts poking above the rim of one of the empty heron nests that I'd been snowshoeing beneath the week before.

I'd never seen a Great Horned Owl before and the sight of this one, seen through Bob's spotting scope, served to increase my rookery visits to weekly, and then daily, when my schedule allowed. On school days when I had an afternoon free of meetings, I'd head to the woods to get in a visit before dusk. I tried to be as discreet as possible, always sitting on

the same log. I had a full view of the owl, as she had of me. Often, I had only twenty minutes, but being able to spend even this short time in this isolated snowbound spot on a March afternoon, regarding a brooding, watchful owl came to be a very valued part of my day.

On Saturday, April 5, I hiked to the rookery for a morning of watching the owl and when I got to the edge of the pond and looked up, the herons were back. There were four nests, pairs of herons in three of them, one nest with only one bird. Its partner was on a snag, behind and above nest number five, silently regarding the owl. While I'd been anticipating this day, curious to see how the herons and the owl would tolerate each other, I found myself oddly put out. I couldn't sit on my log and regard the owl without potentially spooking the herons. I stayed within the woods and found a more hidden place to watch from, with less of a view of the owl. The antics of heron courtship quickly displaced my sense of loss.

By mid-April, each of the four nests had a brooding heron, and the owl remained as she had been since mid-March, sitting stoically, although now riding a bit higher up in the nest. The only time I saw the herons take any notice of her was one afternoon when her mate flew in and dropped something off for her in the nest. I'd have missed the event completely, so quickly and quietly did it take place, if the sudden squawking from the heron community hadn't alerted me.



The female owl glaring at a Common Raven that swooped in on 5/2/14.

I don't know when the first owlet hatched. Sometimes I'd think I was looking at an owlet, and then I'd see nothing for days and think I'd been mistaken. However, on April 29, I had a clear view of one, and then two owlets! I was back on May 2 and disappointed to not be able to see either of the little ones. The mother, I noticed, was not watching me, but instead looking off to the north. She had her eye on a pair of ravens who flew in across the pond and began cackling and

diving at her. Rising up a little higher and glaring, she let out a hoot, a surprisingly muted sound given the ferocity of her glare. It was the first sound I'd heard her make. The ravens made one more feint in her direction before taking off. When I came back the following day, I was able to see both owlets easily. They looked like fuzzy white tennis balls. It amazed me how quickly they seemed to grow after that. One was quite a bit larger than the other, and by May 5 he was already hopping about and craning his neck over the edge of the nest.



The two owlets still with white down on 5/11/14.

At the same time the owlets were popping up and down between their mother and the rim of the nest, the rookery was filling up with other life. A pair of geese had a nest on the side of a beaver lodge not far from the owl tree, and by the end of May there were goslings and baby Wood Ducks, along with comical, fuzzy heron young in each of the four nests. Beavers were crisscrossing the water, Hooded Mergansers were diving, logs were dotted with basking turtles and the green frog population was overwhelming.



One owlet remaining in the nest, 5/29/14.

On May 15, I noticed that the owlets were now being left on their own for long periods. I was amazed at their size and how adult-like they were beginning to look. On May 28, only the smaller of the two owls was still in the nest and by the first of June, both were in a tree on the island in the center of the rookery. On the morning of June 15, just seconds after I'd arrived and sat down on my log, one of the adult owls flew low right across my field of vision, lugging a dead muskrat like it was a suitcase. It hauled it to a high stump and sat for a minute before taking off with it again and disappearing into the trees. I had brief glimpses of the young owls from time to time in late June, and then for a couple of weeks I saw no sign of them. After this absence, I spotted the pair back in the rookery in the late afternoon of July 25, each sitting on different snags but in close proximity. That was the last time I saw the owls.



The heron nestlings, nearly full grown and waiting for a meal, 7/10/14.

Now that it's July once again, I've had the privilege of four complete seasons of sitting at the edge of the rookery. The hike in, about a mile over sometimes water-logged terrain, has yielded wonders of its own, each bend in the path now associated with something seen there and watched for with each new visit. In all my hours of sitting and watching, I feel like I haven't scratched the surface of all that there is to be witnessed. I'm immensely grateful that such a place exists within the bounds of Concord and that I'm able to watch its moods and changes. Each time I sit down on that log, I have the same sense of heightened awareness and expectation that I did as a child, sitting with my fishing line in the water. You never know what might happen next.

Ellen Kenny teaches the English Language Learners immersion program at the Broken Ground elementary school in Concord, NH, and has enjoyed spending time in the woods since childhood, growing up along the Hackensack River watershed in New Jersey.

Answer to the Photo Quiz

by David B. Donsker

This issue's Photo Quiz features two similar birds swimming on the surface of the water. Both are relatively small-headed, thin-billed species with rather longish necks. Both share a dark patch on the crown and a black "ear spot" behind the eye. They differ in two obvious ways. The bird in the right foreground is clearly smaller than the bird in the left background. The smaller bird has pure pale upperparts, while the larger bird has a darker, barred and scalloped back and a dark lower hind neck. But there are also more subtle differences. The smaller bird also has a shorter, more delicate bill, and its crown patch is much more extensive.

We can eliminate most water birds that swim by the general structures of the birds. These are clearly not tubenosed shearwaters or petrels, broad-billed ducks, short-necked alcids, snake-necked cormorants or sabre-billed gannets. Their rather delicate proportions, thin bills and dark crowns might suggest that they are terns. But terns, despite their close association with water, rarely swim on its surface.

A serious consideration might be that these are one or both of our two pelagic phalaropes, either Red Phalarope or Red-necked Phalarope, in non-breeding plumage. These two shorebirds do typically swim on the surface of the water. Much like these two individuals, phalaropes are fairly small headed, long necked and thin billed. In non-breeding plumage, both are generally greyish with white underparts, like these two birds. Also, similar to these birds, the two phalaropes have some black on the crown, and a black patch behind the eye. To carry the analogy further, Red Phalarope has an unmarked, pale gray back similar to the foreground bird, and Red-necked Phalarope has a patterned back, which might recall the bird on the left. But closer consideration eliminates the phalaropes. First of all, the relative sizes are wrong in these two individuals. Red Phalarope, the species with the unmarked back, is marginally larger than Red-necked Phalarope. The reverse is the case in the birds in the photograph. The dark crown of both phalaropes is further back on the head and is continuous with a dark hind neck which is lacking in both of these birds. Most importantly, however, is that the dark patch behind the eye of either phalarope is continuous with a prominent dark line through the eye. This creates a black mask in both phalaropes rather than the distinct "ear spot" that is seen in these two birds.

Most of you have already concluded that these two birds are gulls. They are, of course. But which ones? We have discussed in previous Photo Quizzes how difficult gull identification can be. First, the plumage and structural differences between species are often subtle. On top of that,

there can be quite striking individual differences within species that are related to age, sex, feather wear, color of the soft-parts (bill, legs, eyes, and orbital ring), stage of moult and even light conditions.

In general, the gulls in our region fall into two categories: Small to medium sized "black-hooded" gulls and medium sized to large "white-headed gulls." The expected "white-headed" gulls in New Hampshire include Greater and Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Glaucous Gull and Iceland Gull. The "white-headed" gulls have in common pure white heads in adult summer plumage. In the winter their heads remain largely white but have variable amounts of dark streaking, depending on the species.

The "black-hooded" gulls, which include Bonaparte's Gull, Black-headed Gull, Little Gull, Laughing Gull, Franklin's Gull and the pelagic Sabine's Gull have, in their adult summer breeding plumage, black, dark gray or brownish-black heads or hoods. In the winter or non-breeding condition, these species either retain the rear portion of the hood or have a dark "ear" spot behind the eye. These gulls achieve adult plumage in two years. Their brief juvenile plumage, held for a few months in summer and early fall, is characterized by streaking or scalloping of the feathers on the mantle or upperparts. In their first winter plumages, they are largely separable from adults by black terminal tail bands. Adults, in contrast, have pure white tails. In summer, first year birds usually have incomplete hoods.

By virtue of their "ear spots," our mystery birds are clearly "black-hooded" gulls in some form of non-breeding plumage. We can also conclude that the smaller bird is an adult because of its pure pale gray upperparts and pale wing tips. The larger bird is in its unfamiliar juvenile plumage which is shortly held in the late summer before the birds molt into first winter plumage. We know this by its strikingly barred and scalloped back.

Three of our "hooded-gulls," Sabine's Gull, Laughing Gull and Franklin's Gull, can be eliminated by the head pattern. These species lack distinct "ear spots" in non-breeding plumage. Sabine's and Franklin's Gulls have partial or half-hoods in winter. Their foreheads turn white, but the rear part of the head remains quite dark. (Also note that these two species are extremely rare in New Hampshire.) In winter, adult Laughing Gulls are less distinctly half-hooded, but the backs of their heads show variable amounts of dark wash. This is sometimes rather restricted in distribution but never develops into a distinct dark "ear spot." Further, Laughing Gull has a long, heavier, droopy bill which is quite unlike the more delicate and straighter bills of these two birds. In addition, Sabine's Gull has a bicolored bill that is pale at the tip. All of these species also have much darker mantles than the adult bird in the photograph.

While not actually a “hooded gull,” one species deserves brief consideration. Although it is “white-headed” in summer plumage, adult Black-legged Kittiwake develops a distinct “ear” spot in winter. But kittiwakes have proportionally short pale bills that are quite unlike the more slender dark bills of these two birds.

The three “hooded-gulls” that have distinct “ear spots” in non-breeding plumage are Little Gull, Bonaparte’s Gull and Black-headed Gull.

Of the three, Little Gull is the most distinctive. It differs from the other two species in having a delicate, short, straight black bill. In winter plumage it also has a more extensively dark crown. Finally, adult Little Gulls have short, rather rounded pale wing tips. In flight, the wings of Little Gull have white restricted only to the very tips of the wings while in both Bonaparte’s and Black-headed Gulls, there is a prominent white wedge along the leading edge of the upper wing. In our quiz photograph, the smaller bird in the right foreground has all the features of an adult Little Gull in non-breeding, winter plumage.

That leaves either Bonaparte’s Gull or Black-headed Gull as the candidates for the larger bird in juvenile plumage. These two species are quite similar in appearance in all plumages. However, there are subtle differences by which they can be distinguished if examined carefully. The rarer Black-headed Gull differs from Bonaparte’s Gull in being slightly larger overall with a larger, heavier bill. Most importantly for this identification, juvenile Black-headed Gull has a pale bill, while Bonaparte’s Gull in this plumage has a black bill. By virtue of these characteristics, the larger bird in the quiz photograph is a juvenile Bonaparte’s Gull.

Bonaparte’s Gull, *Chroicocephalus philadelphia*, is strictly a North American breeding bird. It breeds in loose colonies in the boreal forest of Canada and Alaska. Unlike other gull species, it nests in coniferous trees, generally around bogs, ponds and bays. After a short breeding season, the birds migrate to our coasts where they typically winter in large flocks, although New Hampshire’s largest groups are typically in the fall and they can be sparse during the mid-winter months. In New Hampshire they can be expected to be found in bays and coves from Portsmouth to Seabrook. A few non-breeding birds can be found even in the summer months.

Little Gull, *Hydrocoloeus minutus*, is aptly named. It is the smallest of all gulls. It is a predominantly Eurasian species with small breeding populations in wetlands along the Great Lakes and in the Hudson Bay region of Canada. While rarely encountered until the middle 20th century in North America, it now occurs regularly in small numbers along the eastern seaboard, including coastal New Hampshire, particularly in the fall and early winter. It is usually associated with larger

flocks of Bonaparte’s Gulls. A careful examination of these gull flocks may reward the observer with this lovely prize.

Bird identification in late summer and early fall can often be complicated by the presence of young birds in juvenile plumage. This ephemeral plumage, held for only a few weeks, is often poorly illustrated in field guides. For some species, such as the small sandpipers or peeps, it is the most distinctive of the plumages. But for other species it can lead to misleading identifications. We will explore some of these in future Photo Quiz challenges. Fortunately, most modern guides have tried to include juvenile plumages in their species accounts. A good way to become more familiar with these confusing juvenile plumages is to be consciously aware of them and to continue to go birding even in the doldrums of late summer.

This instructive photograph, which clearly shows the size and structural differences between these two similar species, and which nicely captures the juvenile plumage of Bonaparte’s Gull, was taken by Zeke Cornell at Bicentennial Park in Hampton on August 3, 2014.

For a study on the first winter plumage of Little Gull, see the Photo Quiz by Bob Quinn in the Spring 1999 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* (Vol. 18, No. 1).



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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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Purple Martins at newly installed nesting gourds in Seabrook, 7/25/14. Read about the installation and results inside. Photo by Pam Hunt.



This Least Bittern nested at World End Pond in Salem, NH. See the full account of this first documented breeding record of this species in New Hampshire. Photo by by Amanda Altena, 6/17/14.



Red Knots by Amanda Altena, 7/26/14, Hampton Harbor, NH.

Two young Great Horned Owls in a nest in Concord, NH, 5/26/14. See inside for an article and more photos by Ellen Kenny of the owls and the heron rookery they were in.

