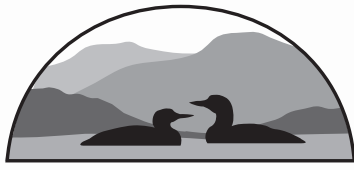


New Hampshire Bird Records





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Protecting our environment since 1914

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IN HONOR OF
David Donsker



David Donsker birding in Monaco. Photo by Terri Donsker.

This issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* with its color cover is sponsored by friends of David Donsker in honor of his well-deserved receipt of the 2015 Goodhue-Elkins Award (see page 2) and his many contributions to *New Hampshire Bird Records*. Congratulations, David!

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Cover Photos, top left: LeConte's Sparrow by Susan Buttrick, 4/14/15, Quincy Bog, Rumney, NH; top right: Common Gallinule by Len Medlock, 5/20/15, Exeter WTP, NH; bottom: Red-necked Phalaropes by Len Medlock, 5/25/15, NH Audubon pelagic boat trip (see story inside).

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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by Rebecca Suomala

Volunteer News

Volunteers are the heart of *New Hampshire Bird Records*. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me (see inside front cover).

We are delighted to welcome **Scott Heron** as the Where to Bird feature coordinator. He takes over from Phil Brown who has transitioned to coordinating the Field Trip Reports – thank you, Phil! Scott is an avid birder who lives in Kingston, NH. He will be contacting potential authors of this popular feature. If you have any ideas for an area to write about, please contact him at: smheron@gmail.com.

It is with regret that we bid goodbye to **Jane Wing** as the Field Notes Editor and **Aiden Moser** as the Rare Bird Data Manager. We very much appreciate all they have done for the publication. We must also announce the official retirement of **Margot Johnson**, longtime volunteer behind the scenes. Margot's contributions were celebrated in the Fall 2010 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* when she celebrated her 90th birthday. We are honored that she volunteered for 26 years with *New Hampshire Bird Records*, coming in once a week, usually with a baked dessert to sweeten our lunch. We will miss her very much.

PHOTO QUIZ

Can You Identify This Bird?

Answer on page 39.

Photo by Scott Young.



Volunteer Needs – Join the Team!

Field Notes Editor Needed

Select and gather all materials for the *New Hampshire Bird Records* Field Notes feature: select stories (includes reviewing the NHBirds e-mail list for material), contact authors or compile written material, and collect photos and captions. Familiarity with birds and birding helpful.

Season Editor

The Season Editor for *New Hampshire Bird Records* reviews the eBird reports for their season, writes the summaries of the highlights and determines the reports to be published. The job requires experience birding in New Hampshire, good writing skills, familiarity with eBird and Excel, and the ability to meet deadlines. Subscriber to the NH Birds e-mail list important; active birder and reporter to eBird preferred.

Back Issues on the Web Site

The *New Hampshire Bird Records* web site now has all back issues available in pdf form, from Spring 1982 through Winter 2013-14! The archives are accessed through a gateway page under “The Journal” tab. It requires a password which is the same for all subscribers in a given year. If you have renewed your subscription, there will be a sheet of paper enclosed with this issue that has the password. The most recent issues will not be on the web page – they will still arrive in printed form. Please let us know if you experience any problems with the site and thanks to volunteer Web Master, Kathy Barnes, for this new feature.

2015 Goodhue-Elkins Award

Written and presented by Stephen R. Mirick at the New Hampshire Audubon Annual Meeting, September 12, 2015.



David Donsker (right) receiving the 2015 Goodhue-Elkins Award from Steve Mirick. Photo by Terri Donsker.

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

The 2015 Goodhue-Elkins Award is presented to David B. Donsker. Although David has been interested in birding since the 1960s, he first became active in the New Hampshire birding community during the 1980s and that interest turned into an all-consuming passion. David first became active in the local Seacoast Chapter of NH Audubon in the early 1990s when he started giving bird programs and participating in local Christmas Bird Counts and field trips. From 1994-2007, he served in various positions on the Seacoast Chapter Executive Board including Program Coordinator, Vice President, and President. Since then, he continues to lead field trips and share programs on his world birding adventures. Among the many programs that he and his wife Terri have presented over the years include programs on Venezuela, the Galapagos Islands, China, Bhutan, Uganda, Hawaii, Cuba, and the East Indies.

David was the compiler for the Seacoast, NH Christmas Bird Count from 1998 to 2009 and has participated in countless area Christmas Bird Counts over the years. He has been the Photo Quiz writer for *New Hampshire Bird Records* since 2001 and currently serves on the Editorial Team. He has authored several articles including one on Winter Birding on the New Hampshire Seacoast and one on the famous Mississippi Kites in Newmarket, NH.

David served on the New Hampshire Rare Bird Committee nearly 10 years and was chair for two years. He also served on a sub-committee that researched the entire history of birds in New Hampshire in order to establish an official State List of the Birds of New Hampshire.

While David's contributions to New Hampshire's birding community have been enormous, his passion for birds has taken him far beyond the borders of New Hampshire. He has traveled the world and visited over 70 countries on seven continents. Unfortunately for David, this has sometimes led him to miss some nice birds in New Hampshire. In September 2000, while he was traveling, I found nine Caspian Terns feeding along the beach a short distance from his house. David didn't see them, but his wife Terri did!

David's passion for world travel and birding has brought his world species list to approximately 6,800 of the 10,580 extant species in the world, an astonishing total that is matched by very few people. David not only wants to see the bird, but also wants to understand the bird, to know more about it, and how it relates to other birds in the world. This interest in avian biogeography and taxonomy led him to join forces with the venerable ornithologist Frank Gill in undertaking a truly monumental effort to create a standardized list of English names of the world's birds. In 2006, David was a contributor and the taxonomic editor in a book entitled *Birds of the World: Recommended English Names*. He is currently the editor for the IOC World Bird List, an internet resource which facilitates worldwide communication in ornithology and conservation.

David has also been a member of the prestigious Nuttall Ornithological Club since 2002 and currently serves as its president. His local and international ornithological memberships are almost too numerous to list.

In 2002, ABC News reported that "David Donsker is a birder obsessed. He has crawled on his belly in a pig farm to glimpse the rare Grenada Dove. He once trekked the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan for the exotic Beautiful Nuthatch and Satyr Tragopan."

Over the years, I've shared many experiences with David, not only on the board of the Seacoast Chapter or at Nuttall meetings, but also at many, many, rare bird discovery sites. I haven't been able to spend as much time birding with David as I'd like; perhaps we both need to retire. However, I have been teammates several times with David while competing in the "Superbowl of Birding," and once spent all day birding with David when we saw 156 species of birds in a single day in New Hampshire.

In my years of birding in New Hampshire, I've known few birders with the thoughtful intelligence, kindness, sincerity, and passion for birds that David shares with his friends and with all members of the New Hampshire birding community.

It is with great pleasure that New Hampshire Audubon presents the 2015 Goodhue-Elkins award to David B. Donsker.

March 1, 2015 through May 31, 2015

by Eric Masterson



The weather can be summarized as cold and dry in March, normal in April, and hot and extremely dry in May, with the brutal winter of 2014-2015 casting a shadow over the entire season. On March 4, the mean temperature in

my hometown of Hancock rose above 32 degrees Fahrenheit for the first time since January 19, yet the winter continued to leave its mark even as the landscape blossomed. Spring cleaners attending to Eastern Bluebird houses reported grim scenes from multiple locations across the state. Dead bluebirds were found in birdhouses in Concord, Kensington, Strafford, Dover, the Lakes Region, and Durham (see page 32). Winter laid claim to the majority of Carolina Wrens in Rockingham County, and without them the spring chorus was a little diminished.

Lake Wantastiquet on the Connecticut River remained frozen through early April, several weeks later than usual. Normally one of the most productive spots in the state for spring waterfowl, it proved to be a big disappointment; however, the winter was only partially responsible in this case. The closing of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in December 2014 denied the river a constant injection of warm water that even during severe winters functioned to keep the river above the dam at least partially open. The open water attracted a range of waterfowl, whose number and diversity routinely increased during early spring.



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher by Len Medlock, 4/15/15, Exeter, NH.

With northerly winds during the latter part of April, migration was generally slow, though a brief period of southerly winds from April 13-15 coincided with the arrival

of some early migrants across the region. May was extremely dry, with less than 20% of normal precipitation and only one day with more than 0.1 inches of rain, compared to an expected seven days. Winds were not particularly favorable for bringing trans-Gulf migrants to New Hampshire until late in the month and presumably most took advantage of the clear weather to continue north to Canada. Tropical Storm Ana, which tracked north along the eastern seaboard in early May, might have also slowed migration. These realities are reflected in the absence of any significant migration event during the month and the general scarcity of spring rarities and overshoots. This pattern was repeated regionally, as noted in late May by Ralph Eldridge on Machias Seal Island, “bird migration continues as the non-event of the year” (post to Maine Birds e-mail list, May 23, 2015), and Paul Champlin from Massachusetts’ south coast “it doesn’t seem that the South coast has had a really decent day of migrants” (post to Mass Bird e-mail list, May 24, 2015). Unsurprisingly, there were only two major rarities during the season, **Northern Wheatear** and **LeConte’s Sparrow**.

As in previous summaries, I have included in the listings the odd, the rare, the early, the late, any record that is significant or that helps bookend the season. I have included the first arrival dates for almost all neotropical migrants, including first records from Coos County. I have also included departure dates for birds that are exclusively winter visitors to New Hampshire. A few records are included in the narrative that are not included in the listings and these chiefly concern birds that were sighted on the Connecticut River, but which were reported exclusively through the Vermont eBird portal. The state line runs down the Vermont bank, so most, if not all sightings on the river can be assumed to have occurred in New Hampshire also. I occasionally use the number of eBird reports as a measure of abundance or to indicate a population trend if additional supporting evidence is available.

Waterfowl

A flock of five **Greater White-fronted Geese** in Charlestown on April 3 tied the all-time state high count. Snow Goose migration was unremarkable and peaked in late March as usual, with high counts of 76 birds from Great Bay and 50 from the lower Connecticut River Valley. Hector Galbraith observed a flock of eight birds flying north on May 13, which is late for Snow Goose in New Hampshire. Steve and Jane Mirick observed 200 Brant flying north past North Hampton a week later, which was right on cue for this species. Both geese arrive on their Arctic breeding grounds around the same time in late May, but the Snow Geese that migrate north through New Hampshire in March are

SPRING SEASON

destined for areas along the St. Lawrence River and estuary, where they stage before continuing to breeding grounds in late May. The Brant that pass through New Hampshire in spring follow a different strategy, remaining much longer in their mid-Atlantic winter quarters, fattening up on eelgrass in preparation for demands of the season ahead.



Canvasback by Steve Mirick, 4/4/15, Exeter, NH.

Three **Cackling Geese** on the Connecticut River was about average, but the species is rarer away from this location, so two birds on Great Bay and a third bird in Orford were noteworthy. If Cackling Geese are more regular on the Connecticut River than on Great Bay, the opposite is true of **Eurasian Wigeon**. For the second successive year, this rare species appeared in the lower Connecticut River Valley, with single males present in Hinsdale and Walpole. Great Bay hosted a third male. The dial continues to shift from uncommon to regular for Northern Shoveler based on records over the last decade. This spring, approximately 30 individuals were seen from multiple locations around the state. This compares with 54 birds total recorded in spring from 1950 to 1980 (*The Birds of New Hampshire*, A. Keith and R. Fox, 2013). A count of 280 Green-winged Teal from Charlestown was particularly high for the location, with a similar number tallied from Little River saltmarsh in North Hampton, both in early April. Single **Canvasbacks** were found on Silver Lake in Tilton, Exeter Wastewater Treatment Plant, and the Connecticut River at Hinsdale, with single **Redheads** noted from World End Pond in Salem and Great Bay. A count of 464 Ring-necked Ducks on the Connecticut River in Hinsdale on April 11 was a record for the location and is possibly the highest point count for the state. A hybrid duck observed at the Exeter Wastewater Treatment Plant in early April yielded enough clues to confidently identify its parentage as **Ring-necked Duck x Lesser Scaup**, a first record of this hybrid in New Hampshire. The hen **Harlequin Duck** that was present at Concord Point on the coast during

the winter continued into March. A modest number of White-winged Scoters occurred inland during spring migration, although 300 scoter species seen flying north over Strafford at last light on May 22 were probably this species, by far the most likely scoter to occur inland in spring. Barrow's Goldeneye was well represented through mid-April, especially on the Merrimack in Manchester, where five birds continued to April 3.



Glossy Ibis by Lloyd R. Bunten, 5/10/15, Canaan, NH.

Date	#	Location	Observer
04/02	1	Connecticut River, Hinsdale	E. Masterson
04/03	5	Great Meadow, Charlestown	D. Jackson
04/03	1	Great Bay Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick, et al.
04/10	1	Sunset Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick



Snow Geese by Len Medlock, 3/27/15, Greenland, NH.

Date	#	Location	Observer
03/26	35	Main St., Lancaster	S. Stoddard
03/27	50	Great Meadow, Charlestown	P. Brown
03/27	50	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	A. Burnett
03/28	76	Great Bay Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick
05/13	8	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith

Date # Location Observer



Brant by Jeanne-Marie Maher, 5/3/15, Rye Ledge, NH.

Brant

03/19	3	Concord Point, Rye	P. Miliotis
05/03	10	Rye Ledge	D. Lipsy, et al.
05/18	37	Yankee Fisherman's Coop, Seabrook	P. Thut
05/21	200	N. Hampton State Beach	S. Mirick

Cackling Goose

04/03	1	Rt. 155A fields, Durham	C. Sheridan
04/06	2	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
04/07	2	River Rd., Stratham	L. Kras
04/23	1	Richmond Conservation Land, Orford	J. MacQueen

Canada Goose

04/03	2000	Great Meadow, Charlestown	D. Jackson
04/03	1200	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
04/05	726	Rt. 155A fields, Durham	J. Lambert
04/11	732	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
04/13	157	Rt. 135 fields, Lancaster	S. Stoddard
04/18	271	Rt. 135 fields, Lancaster	S. Stoddard

Mute Swan

03/08	7	Great Bay NWR, Furber Strait, Newington	T. Barry
04/01	7	Oyster R. Landing, Durham	T. McCreery
04/14	3	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith

Wood Duck

04/04	1	Water St., Lancaster	S. Stoddard
04/08	110	Sawyer Farm, River Rd., Walpole	W. Ward, C. Seifer
04/09	5	Water St., Lancaster	S. Stoddard
04/10	67	Chapmans Landing, Stratham	S. Mirick
04/11	152	Merrimack R. boat ramp, Boscawen	R. Quinn, Capital CFT
04/11	200	Great Meadow, Charlestown	D. Dubie

Gadwall

03/09	5	Rye Harbor	H. Stevens
03/10	4	Exeter Reservoir	H. Stevens
03/16	4	Hampton-Seabrook marsh, Rt. 101	H. Stevens
04/11	3	Great Meadow, Charlestown	P. Brown, D. Edwards
04/11	3	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
04/19	5	Sunset Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick
05/03	2	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	S. Stoddard

Date # Location Observer

Eurasian Wigeon

04/03	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
04/05	1	Westmoreland Boat Launch	A. Burnett
04/09	1	Sawyer Farm, River Rd., Walpole	W. Ward, D. Clark
04/10	1	Sunset Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick
04/13	1	Sunset Farm, Greenland	D. Hubbard
04/13	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	M. Pfeiffer, et al.

American Wigeon

03/07	1	Exeter Reservoir	S. Mirick
03/07	1	Exeter Reservoir	T. Duddy
03/29	7	Great Bay Discovery Ctr., Greenland	J. Lambert
04/03	7	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
04/03	9	Squamscott Rd., Stratham	S. Mirick, K. Wilmarth, A. Altena, Z. Cornell
04/11	2	Great Meadow, Charlestown	P. Brown, D. Edwards
04/13	4	W. Portsmouth St., Concord	G.& A. Robbins
04/13	26	Hinsdale Setbacks	M. Pfeiffer, et al.
04/16	2	Mink Brook wetlands, Hanover	K. Kittelberger
04/19	25	Sunset Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick
04/25	7	Bedell Bridge SP, Haverhill	J. MacQueen



Blue-winged Teal by Len Medlock, 4/6/15, Exeter WTP, NH.

Blue-winged Teal

04/04	1	Great Bay Farm, Greenland	J. Sparrell, K. Wilmarth, L.& L. Medlock, K. Towler
04/06	2	Exeter WTP	D. Hubbard
04/07	3	Great Bay Discovery Ctr., Greenland	J. Maher
04/08	2	Fort Eddy boat launch, Concord	B.& C. Baker
04/11	2	Chapmans Landing, Stratham	J. Maher, S. Heron
04/26	1	pools s. of Odiorne Pt., Rye	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell

Northern Shoveler

04/03	3	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
04/04	3	Exeter WTP	L.& L. Medlock, et al.
04/07	5	Bodwell Farm, E. Kingston	H. Stevens
04/07	2	Connecticut R. below Ompompanoosuc R., Hanover	J. MacQueen
04/07	2	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
04/10	4	Sunset Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick
04/12	4	Hampton Salt Marsh	S. Mirick
04/18	2	River Trail, Hanover	A. Burnett
04/20	2	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	G.& A. Robbins
05/01	1	Rt. 135 & Rt. 142, Dalton	S. Stoddard
05/22	1	Mt. Washington Reg. Airport, Whitefield	M. Webster, S. Sillett, M. Hallworth

SPRING SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
Northern Pintail			
04/03	12	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
04/03	9	Squamscott Rd., Stratham	S. Mirick, K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
04/06	1	Water St., Lancaster	S. Stoddard
04/11	12	Great Meadow, Charlestown	P. Brown, D. Edwards, D. Dubie
04/11	10	Sawyer Farm, River Rd., Walpole	P. Brown, D. Edwards

Green-winged Teal

03/02	1	Exeter Reservoir	S. Mirick
03/19	1	Horseshoe Pond, Merrimack	C. Sheridan
04/06	4	Water St., Lancaster	S. Stoddard
04/11	280	Great Meadow, Charlestown	P. Brown, D. Edwards
04/11	278	Little River saltmarsh, N. Hampton	J. Lambert
04/11	106	Chapmans Landing, Stratham	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
04/21	18	Rt. 135 fields, Lancaster	S. Stoddard

Canvasback

03/20	1	Silver Lake, Tilton/Belmont	G.& A. Robbins, Z. Cornell
04/03	1	Exeter WTP	M. Thompson, et al.
04/03	1	Great Bay Discovery Ctr., Greenland	A. Altena, K. Wilmarth, S. Mirick
04/14	1	Hinsdale bluffs	J. Smith, D. Johnson

Redhead

04/08	1	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
04/14	1	Sunset Farm, Greenland	G. Tillman



Ring-necked Ducks by Scott Heron, 3/13/15, Powwow River, Kingston, NH.

Ring-necked Duck

03/02	1	Adams Point WMA, Durham	T. Murray
03/11	3	Powwow River, Kingston	S. Heron
03/11	1	Silver Lake, Tilton/Belmont	A. Robbins
03/31	390	Powwow Pond, Kingston	S. Heron
04/05	165	Exeter WTP	M. Thompson, J. Lambert
04/07	6	Water St., Lancaster	S. Stoddard
04/08	250	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
04/11	464	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
04/12	176	Lake Winnisquam, s. section, Tilton	I. MacLeod
04/14	37	Androskoggin River at Errol dam	R. Quinn

Greater Scaup

03/27	2	Mascoma R., downtown Lebanon	K. Jones, T. McLane
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Date	#	Location	Observer
03/29	838	Great Bay Discovery Ctr., Greenland	J. Lambert
04/04	3	Fort Eddy boat launch, Concord	R. Quinn
04/08	4	Hinsdale Setbacks	D. Clark
05/09	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT

Lesser Scaup

03/02	1	Exeter Reservoir	S. Mirick
03/04	4	Exeter Reservoir	J. Maher
04/03	5	Suncook R., Barnstead	J. Lambert
04/03	3	Great Meadow, Charlestown	D. Jackson
04/08	100	Exeter WTP	B.& C. Baker
04/13	1	Androskoggin R. at Errol dam	R. Quinn
04/14	4	Turtle Pond, Concord	R. Suomala, P. Hunt
04/14	1	Magill Bay, Androskoggin River, Dummer	R. Quinn
04/14	13	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith

Ring-necked Duck x Lesser Scaup (hybrid)

04/12	1	Exeter WTP	S. Mirick
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Harlequin Duck

03/08	1	Concord Pt., Rye	S. Mirick, S. Heron
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White-winged Scoter

05/16	3	Sunapee Lake	P. Hunt, D. Jackson
05/18	12	Hubbard Brook Exp. Forest, Woodstock	D. Weber
05/19	2	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
05/23	57	Great East Lake, Wakefield	K. Wilmarth
05/26	3	River Trail, Hanover	A. Burnett
05/30	1	Great East Lake, Wakefield	K. Wilmarth



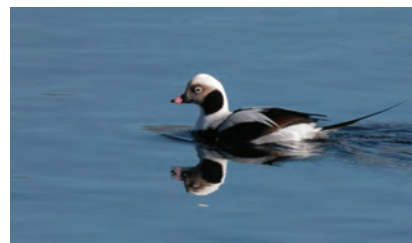
Black Scoter by Steve Mirick, 5/21/15, N. Hampton, NH.

Black Scoter

04/26	331	NH coast	S. Mirick
05/29	320	NH coast	S. Mirick

scoter sp.

05/01	8	Fernwood Point, Sunapee	D. Jackson
05/22	300	Lakeview Dr., Strafford	S. Young



Long-tailed Duck by Susan Wisley, 3/6/15, Amoskeag Fishways, Manchester, NH.

Long-tailed Duck

03/08	1	Lambert Park, Hooksett	J. Lambert
03/08	1	Amoskeag Dam overlook, Manchester	C. McPherson
04/14	3	Upper Suncook Rec. Area, Barnstead	J. Lambert
04/14	5	Hinsdale bluffs by Vernon Dam	J. Smith

Date	#	Location	Observer
Bufflehead			
03/01	20	Riverwalk Way, Manchester	C. McPherson
04/05	14	Adams Point WMA, Durham	E. Parker
04/08	17	World End Pond, Salem	S. Mirick, K. Wilmarth
04/12	16	Exeter WTP	N. Devine
04/14	5	Androscoggin River at Errol dam	R. Quinn
04/17	12	Great Pond, Kingston	S. Heron
04/26	10	Ballard Pond, Derry	A. Altena, K. Wilmarth
04/26	32	NH coast	S. Mirick

Common Goldeneye

03/02	124	Adams Point WMA, Durham	P. Thut
03/07	230	Connecticut River, Hinsdale	E. Masterson
03/08	1	Meadow Rd., Shelburne	C. Caron
03/29	181	Great Bay Discovery Ctr., Greenland	J. Lambert
04/14	63	Androscoggin River at Errol dam	R. Quinn

Barrow's Goldeneye

03/03	5	Merrimack R., Manchester	S. Mirick
03/07	2	Connecticut River, Hinsdale	E. Masterson
03/28	1	Hinsdale bluffs by Vernon Dam	A. Burnett, R. Burnett
03/29	2	Great Bay Discovery Ctr., Greenland	J. Lambert, S. Mirick
04/03	5	Stark Landing, Manchester	Z. Cornell
04/14	1	Androscoggin River at Errol dam	R. Quinn
04/14	1	Hinsdale bluffs by Vernon Dam	J. Smith

Common Merganser

04/03	96	Chapmans Landing, Stratham	C. Duford
04/08	45	World End Pond, Salem	S. Mirick, K. Wilmarth
04/13	54	Suncook R., Barnstead	J. Lambert
04/13	10	Magill Bay, Androscoggin R., Dummer	R. Quinn
04/13	148	Hinsdale Setbacks	M. Pfeiffer, et al.
04/15	9	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick

Red-breasted Merganser

03/11	1	Opechee Bay s. end, Laconia	A. Robbins
03/30	1	Lake Winnisquam bridge, Rt. 3/11, Belmont	I. MacLeod
04/04	1	Westmoreland Boat Launch	A. Burnett
04/12	6	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
04/23	6	Richmond Conservation Land, Orford	S. Turner
04/29	2	Pontook Reservoir, Dummer	S. Stoddard

Ruddy Duck

04/17	2	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard, Z. Cornell
04/17	3	World End Pond, Salem	A. Altena, K. Wilmarth

Loons through Cranes

A Red-throated Loon seen below Wilder Dam on March 13 was a rare, though increasingly regular spring migrant on the Connecticut River. A pelagic trip on May 25 recorded an early Sooty Shearwater and a storm-petrel species that was thought by observers to be a Wilson's. **Least Bittern** returned to World End Pond, where they bred in 2014. Steve and Jane Mirick tallied 13 Great Blue Herons migrating north from Hampton Beach State Park on April 11. Normally scarce inland in spring, Great Egrets were recorded

from seven counties. Another rare hybrid, this time a **Snowy Egret x Tricolored Heron** was recorded from Little River saltmarsh and nearby areas in April, apparently the same bird that was present for much of July and August 2014. A single **Cattle Egret** was seen on April 24 in Plymouth. Glossy Ibis were seen in the interior of the state for the third straight year, with single birds seen in Canaan and Charlestown, in addition to a high count of 22 from the coast. Only one **Black Vulture**, on April 21 in Henniker, was a relatively poor showing for this regular but uncommon southern visitor.

Now that the code has been cracked for fall, hawkwatchers are training their binoculars on the skies in spring. Single **Golden Eagles** in Walpole, Wilmot and Hollis were noteworthy. Katrina Fenton set up shop in Woodmont Orchard in Hollis on April 2 and tallied 76 Turkey Vultures, 17 Red-shouldered Hawks, and 52 Red-tailed Hawks. David Lipsy counted 191 Broad-winged Hawks migrating north over the Post Office fields in Concord on April 22. The Mississippi Kites returned to Newmarket on May 17, with two seen on May 24. Steve and Jane Mirick recorded eight Northern Harriers migrating north along the coast on May 11 and Davis Finch recorded a high count of 18 Bald Eagles from his East Kingston residence on March 2. It was an excellent spring for Rough-legged Hawk, with at least nine birds reported from around the state. Seldom is **Common Gallinule** more numerous than American Coot, but the species beat out coot by two to one, with single birds at Surrey Lane Marsh and Exeter Wastewater Treatment Plant. American Coot, which is more likely in fall, was represented by a single bird at Powderhouse Pond in Exeter. Five reports of **Sandhill Crane** (Hinsdale, Charlestown, Sandwich, Stratham, and Rumney) was about average for recent seasons.

Date	#	Location	Observer
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Red-throated Loon

03/13	1	Wilder Dam Reservoir, Lebanon	W. Cripps, J. MacQueen
04/26	22	NH coast	S. Mirick

Pied-billed Grebe

04/10	3	Hinsdale Setbacks	D. Clark
04/11	2	Fort Eddy boat launch, Concord	R. Woodward
04/13	2	Androscoggin R., Bridge St., Berlin	R. Quinn
04/14	5	World End Pond, Salem	J. McKibben, T. Hatem
05/17	4	Copps Pond WMA, Tuftonboro	A. Robbins

Horned Grebe

04/08	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	D. Clark
04/14	1	Turtle Pond, Concord	R. Suomala, P. Hunt
04/17	6	Great Pond, Kingston	S. Heron
04/18	1	Massabesic Audubon Ctr., Auburn	G.&J. McKibben, H. Otto

SPRING SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
Horned Grebe—continued			
05/12	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	T. Ryan
05/13	1	Boston Lot Lake, Lebanon	
		G. Richens, G. Clark, Mascoma NHA FT	

Red-necked Grebe			
04/14	1	Magill Bay, Androscoggin River, Dummer	R. Quinn
04/14	1	Androscoggin River at Errol dam	R. Quinn
04/14	2	Hinsdale bluffs by Vernon Dam	J. Smith
04/23	6	Pleasant Lake, New London	D. Dubie
04/24	2	Wilder Dam Reservoir, Lebanon	J. MacQueen
05/01	4	Fernwood Point, Sunapee	D. Jackson



*Northern Fulmar
by James Besada,
5/25/15, NH
Audubon pelagic
field trip.*

Northern Fulmar			
05/25	6	Jeffrey's Ledge	S. Mirick, J. Woolf, NHA FT

Sooty Shearwater			
05/25	2	Jeffrey's Ledge	S. Mirick, J. Woolf, NHA FT

Wilson's Storm-Petrel			
05/25	1	Jeffrey's Ledge	C. Nims

Northern Gannet			
05/25	16	Jeffrey's Ledge	S. Mirick, J. Woolf, NHA FT

Double-crested Cormorant			
04/02	3	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	B. Bourgault
04/03	3	Claire's Landing, Auburn	J. McKibben
04/03	13	Great Bay Discovery Ctr., Greenland	
		S. Mirick, K. Wilmarth, A. Altena	

04/06	19	Mine Falls Park, Spine Rd., Nashua	J. Maher
04/13	10	South End Marsh, Concord	P. Brown
04/18	286	NH coast	S. Mirick
04/22	26	Vernon Dam, Connecticut R., Hinsdale	
		P. Gurn, E. Synnott	

05/02	403	NH coast	S. Mirick
05/25	11	Fowler's Mill Rd., Tamworth	S. Mesick

Great Cormorant			
03/01	10	Riverwalk Way, Manchester	C. McPherson
03/08	3	Lambert Park, Hooksett	J. Lambert
03/08	25	NH coast	S. Heron
05/16	1	Concord Point, Rye	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
05/22	1	Star Island, Isles of Shoals	R. Quinn, et al.

American Bittern			
04/13	1	Beaver Brook Great Meadow, Hollis	C. Sheridan
04/15	3	Cavender Rd., Hancock	L. Swope
05/17	3	Copps Pond WMA, Tuftonboro	A. Robbins
05/18	3	Penacook Rd., Sutton	J. Esten
05/22	2	Mt. Washington Reg. Airport, Whitefield	
		M. Webster, S. Sillett, M. Hallworth	

Date	#	Location	Observer
Least Bittern			
05/17	1	World End Pond, Salem	A. Altena, K. Wilmarth

Great Blue Heron			
03/15	1	Hawkin's Farm, Salem	A. Altena, K. Wilmarth
03/19	1	Horseshoe Pond, Merrimack	C. Sheridan
04/11	13	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
05/09	8	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	
		P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT	
05/24	17	Gonet Rd. swamp, Newmarket	
		R. Suomala, Z. Cornell	



*Great Egret
by Cheryl Duford,
3/31/15, Rye, NH.*

Great Egret			
03/31	1	Rt. 1A wooden bridge, Rye	C. Duford
04/01	2	Hampton Salt Marsh	L. Medlock
04/06	1	Fort Eddy boat launch, Concord	D. Lania
04/13	1	Bedell Bridge SP, Haverhill	J. MacQueen
04/15	1	Pequawket Pond at Tasker Hill, Conway	P. Demers
04/25	3	Adams Point WMA, Durham	K. MacLean
05/02	1	Thornton Ferry wetland, Amherst	C. Locke
05/21	1	Upper Suncook Rec. Area, Barnstead	J. Lambert

Snowy Egret			
04/04	3	Philbrick Marsh, N. Hampton	K. Wilmarth
04/08	1	Parsons Creek saltmarsh, Rye	S. Bennett
05/01	11	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	J. Hoag

Snowy Egret x Tricolored Heron (hybrid)			
04/24	1	Little River saltmarsh, N. Hampton	S. Mirick
05/03	1	Philbrick Marsh, N. Hampton	J. Lambert



*Cattle Egret
by Tina Smith-Krause,
4/24/15, Plymouth, NH.*

Cattle Egret			
04/24	1	Chaisson & Loon Lake Rd., Plymouth	C. Smith-Krause

Green Heron			
04/18	1	Oyster R. Landing, Durham	J. Mills-Anderson
04/19	1	Yudicky Farm/Southwest Park, Nashua	C. Sheridan
04/24	1	Quincy Bog, Rumney	A. Ports

Date	#	Location	Observer
Black-crowned Night-Heron			
04/15	1	Rt. 1A, Seabrook	S. Mirick
04/19	1	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	M. Suomala, D. Jackson, et al.
04/29	6	Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton	H. Stevens
05/01	1	Mast Yard SF east., Concord	P. Hunt
05/04	1	Antrim Rd., Hancock	P. Brown
05/07	1	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	H. Walters



Glossy Ibis by Len Medlock, 4/18/15, Philbrick Marsh, N. Hampton, NH.

Glossy Ibis

04/03	6	Squamscott Rd., Stratham	L. Medlock, et al.
04/14	22	NH coast	S. Bennett
04/17	4	Philbrick Marsh, N. Hampton	S. Mirick
04/24	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	S. Stoddard
05/10	1	Rt. 4, Canaan	J. Grafton, K. Kittelberger
05/16	1	Great Meadow, Charlestown	P. Hunt, et al.
05/21	25	Hampton Harbor	I. MacLeod

Black Vulture

04/21	1	Old Hillsboro Rd., Henniker	A. Moser
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Turkey Vulture

03/02	1	Wentworth Douglas Hospital, Dover	D. Blezard
03/03	1	Rt. 9, Henniker	P. Brown
03/04	1	Rt. 111, Hampstead	S. Heron
04/02	76	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	K. Fenton
04/03	20	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	K. Fenton
04/13	10	Androscoggin R., Bridge St., Berlin	R. Quinn
04/24	9	Main St., Lancaster	S. Stoddard
05/04	31	Tanglewood Dr., Henniker	D. Ellis



Osprey by Kyle Wilmarth, 4/8/15, Rockingham Park, Salem, NH.

Date	#	Location	Observer
Osprey			
03/21	1	Rt. 111 & Rt. 28, Windham	A. Altena
03/27	1	Great Bay NWR, Newington	J. Sparrell
03/31	1	Mine Falls Park, Spine Rd., Nashua	J. Maher
04/08	1	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	S. Stoddard
04/11	10	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
04/13	2	Martin Meadow Pond, Lancaster	S. Stoddard
05/21	10	Hampton Harbor	I. MacLeod

Golden Eagle

03/27	1	Connecticut R., below Bellows Falls Dam, Walpole	P. Brown
04/16	1	Bog Mt. Trail, Wilmot	D. Dubie
05/22	1	Upper Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	J. Maher

Mississippi Kite

05/17	1	Rt. 108, Newmarket	S. Mirick
05/24	2	Gonet Rd., Newmarket	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell

Northern Harrier

04/11	8	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
04/12	6	Hampton Beach SP	J. Lambert, S. Mirick

Northern Goshawk

04/03	1	Pease International Tradeport, Short St., Newington	J. Owens, Z. Cornell, S. Bennett
05/02	1	Searles Rd., Windham	A. Altena, K. Wilmarth
05/16	1	Rye Harbor SP	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
05/22	1	Brentwood Mitigation Area	K. Towler, J. Sparrell

Bald Eagle

03/02	18	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch
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Red-shouldered Hawk

03/08	1	Hayes Park, Exeter	J. Sparrell
03/15	1	North Rd. & Rt. 101, Brentwood	S. Heron
03/26	1	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	A. Burnett
04/02	17	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	K. Fenton
05/09	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT

Broad-winged Hawk

04/06	1	Tin Mt. Conservation Ctr., Albany	S. Fensore
04/12	2	Oak Hill Rd., Brookline	C. McPherson
04/12	1	Exeter WTP	J. Lambert, L. Medlock
04/12	1	Kingston	A. Altena, K. Wilmarth
04/12	1	Pease International Tradeport, Short St., Newington	K. Towler, J. Sparrell, D. Tucker
04/21	35	Antrim Rd., Hancock	P. Brown
04/22	53	Birch St. Community Garden, Concord	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
04/22	191	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO, Concord	D. Lipsy
04/22	40	Antrim Rd., Hancock	P. Brown
05/09	4	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT

Red-tailed Hawk

04/02	52	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	K. Fenton
04/22	13	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO, Concord	D. Lipsy
05/09	3	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT

SPRING SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
Rough-legged Hawk			
03/30	1	Ravenwood Farm, Greenfield	T. Shiel
04/02	1	Pease Intl. Tradeport, Newington	S. Bennett
04/04	1	Great Bay Farm, Greenland	L. & L. Medlock
04/07	1	Jefferson Meadows, Rt. 115A	S. Stoddard
04/08	1	Ravenwood Farm, Greenfield	T. Shiel
04/11	1	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
04/11	1	Great Bay NWR, Newington	J. Maher, S. Heron
04/17	1	Rt. 135 & Rt. 142, Dalton	S. Stoddard
04/24	1	Ravenwood Farm, Greenfield	T. Shiel

Virginia Rail

04/07	1	Lovering Rd. marsh, N. Hampton	L. Kras
04/14	2	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
04/29	8	World End Pond, Salem	A. Altena, K. Wilmarth
05/10	5	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	J. Scott
05/28	2	Dead Diamond Rd., Second College Grant	D. Hof

Sora

05/07	1	Brookford Farm, Canterbury	Z. Cornell
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Common Gallinule

05/16	1	Exeter WTP	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, et al.
05/20	1	Exeter WTP	L. Medlock
05/21	1	Surrey Ln. marsh, Durham	S. Mirick
05/23	1	Surrey Ln. marsh, Durham	S. Mirick

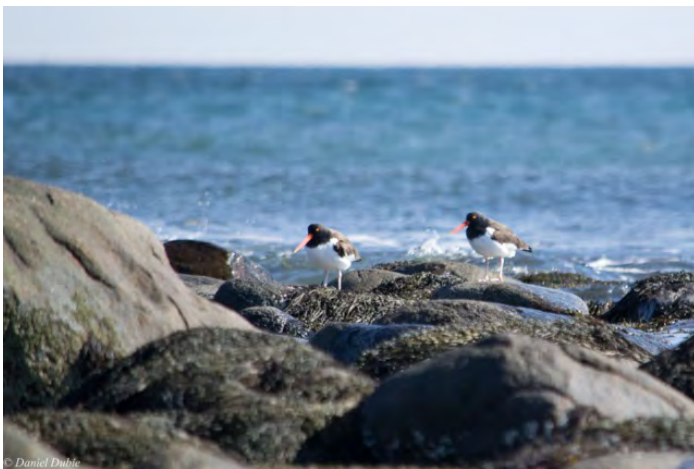
American Coot

05/15	1	Powder House Pond, Exeter	L. Medlock
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Sandhill Crane

04/02	1	Lake Wantastiquet, Hinsdale	E. Masterson
04/04	1	Great Meadow, Charlestown	D. Jackson
04/13	1	Rt. 113 w. of Thompson WS, Sandwich	C. Rines
04/16	1	Quincy Bog, Rumney	S. Buttrick
05/25	5	Squamscott Rd., Stratham	T. Hathaway

Shorebirds through Terns



American Oystercatcher by Daniel Dubie, 4/5/15, Rye Harbor SP, NH.

American Oystercatcher, though rare, is more likely to occur in spring than fall, although not usually until May or early June. A single record of two birds at Rye Harbor State Park on April 5 would have been less surprising a

month later. Shorebirds that barely registered in the state this spring included Whimbrel (one record from Odiorne Point State Park), Ruddy Turnstone (one sighting on Square Rock, Isles of Shoals), White-rumped Sandpiper (one record from Hampton saltmarsh), and Pectoral Sandpiper (one record from Exeter Wastewater Treatment Plant). By contrast, 77 Wilson's Snipe in Stratham on April 9 and 135 Red-necked Phalaropes seen on Jeffreys Ledge on May 25 were impressive totals. Two Razorbills on the same boat trip were on the late side. A **Wilson's Phalarope** put in a brief appearance in the pools south of Odiorne Point on May 28, only the second spring record in at least ten years. This species is rare in the state and more likely to be seen in fall than spring. It was in the same place where a Whimbrel had been present from May 15-25.

Bonaparte's Gulls appeared at inland sites several weeks before they were documented on the coast, an intriguing pattern that has repeated itself every year during my tenure as spring editor. The **Black-headed Gull** that had been present during the winter in Hampton stayed through the latter half of March. Laughing Gulls are rare away from the immediate coast, so a bird at Exeter Wastewater Treatment Plant on April 22 was noteworthy. It was a good spring for Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous Gulls. Iceland Gulls were regularly seen at locations throughout southeastern New Hampshire where gulls routinely congregate, with a high count of nine birds at Rochester Wastewater Treatment Plant on March 9. Their winter range in New Hampshire seems loosely correlated with the density of human habitation, likely related to food availability. Lesser Black-backed Gulls are distinctly less common, although this spring there were approximately 10 birds scattered across the southeast, with three birds at Rochester Wastewater Treatment Plant on April 8. Five Glaucous Gulls included a bird in Berlin.



Caspian Tern
by Len Medlock,
4/18/15,
Exeter WTP, NH.

A **Black Tern** was reported by Don Clark from Herrick's Cove (Vermont) on the Connecticut River on May 19. **Caspian Tern** continues to behave as two different animals

in spring and fall. The species is now an expected spring migrant in small numbers along the Connecticut River Valley; a bird was seen with a Common Tern at Hinsdale on May 19. It remains an extremely rare spring migrant away from the Connecticut River or the coast, and unknown in fall except from the coast. It was thus remarkable that a mini-movement of Caspian Terns occurred on April 18, with individuals seen at Lake Massabesic, Spofford Lake in Chesterfield, Horseshoe Pond in Concord, and Exeter Wastewater Treatment Plant. Another Common Tern was reported by JoAnne Russo on May 7 flying north along the Connecticut River at Herrick's Cove. An Arctic Tern was recorded from the Isles of Shoals on May 22 and a rare spring **Forster's Tern** was seen on the coast on May 15.

Date # Location Observer

American Oystercatcher

04/05 2 Rye Harbor SP D. Dubie

Black-bellied Plover

05/10 12 Hampton Harbor S. Mirick
 05/16 30 Rt. 1A wooden bridge, Rye R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
 05/21 40 Rt. 1A wooden bridge, Rye R. Quinn

Semipalmated Plover

05/10 29 Hampton Harbor S. Mirick
 05/11 2 Fields Grove City Park, Nashua J. Maher
 05/12 1 Seaver Reservoir, Harrisville E. Masterson
 05/13 3 Pickering Ponds, Rochester D. Hubbard, Seacoast CFT
 05/15 40 NH coast K. Wilmarth
 05/16 2 NHA Birdathon, Surry P. Brown, et al.
 05/25 2 Fields Grove City Park, Nashua C. Sheridan
 05/29 48 Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton J. Maher, J. McKibben

Piping Plover

04/03 2 Hampton Beach SP M. Marchand
 04/15 2 Seabrook Beach J. MacQueen
 04/17 3 Hampton Beach SP Z. Cornell



Killdeer by Iain MacLeod, 5/14/15, Laconia, NH.

Date # Location Observer

Killdeer

03/10 3 Millican Nurseries, Chichester J. Lambert
 03/10 1 Rockingham Park track & lot, Salem K. Wilmarth
 03/17 3 Federal Hill Rd., Milford M. Nickerson
 04/02 50 Brookford Farm, Canterbury J. Lambert
 04/04 4 Airport Marsh, Whitefield S. Stoddard
 04/09 45 Great Meadow, Charlestown D. Jackson
 04/11 80 Rt. 155A fields, Durham S. Young

Spotted Sandpiper

04/13 1 Riverlands CA, Canterbury A. Robbins
 04/14 1 Hinsdale bluffs by Vernon Dam J. Smith
 04/14 2 Rochester WTP S. Young
 04/22 1 Water St., Lancaster S. Stoddard
 05/17 8 Pinkham Notch, Pinkham's Grant L. Lane
 05/25 8 SPNHF Merrimack R. CA, Concord R. Woodward



Solitary Sandpiper by Amanda Altena, 5/11/15, Hawkin's Farm, Salem, NH.

Solitary Sandpiper

05/05 4 Tin Mt. Conservation Ctr., Albany S. McCarthy, C. Nims
 05/05 4 Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook P. Hunt
 05/05 8 Meetinghouse Pond, Marlborough B. Reilly
 05/09 1 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT
 05/09 20 Bearcamp Pond, Sandwich J. Rice
 05/10 10 Rt. 4, Canaan K. Kittelberger
 05/10 10 Sewalls Falls n., Concord J. Nadeau
 05/11 17 Fields Grove City Park, Nashua J. Maher

Greater Yellowlegs

04/10 1 Island Path, Hampton S. Mirick
 04/12 8 Henrys Pool, Rt. 101E, Hampton J. Lambert
 04/13 1 Merrimack R., Big Bend, Boscawen A. Robbins
 04/14 1 Hinsdale bluffs by Vernon Dam J. Smith
 04/30 4 Surry Mountain L., Surry P. Brown, M. Einermann
 05/03 5 Upper Suncook Rec. Area, Barnstead J. Lambert
 05/03 6 Pickering Ponds, Rochester C. Lapierre, C. Connelly
 05/09 1 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT
 05/09 14 Rye R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, A. Robbins, J. Maher

SPRING SEASON

Date # Location Observer

Willet

04/26 1 Blackwater Creek, Rt. 286, Seabrook S. Mirick
 05/09 7 Rye R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, A. Robbins, J. Maher
 05/14 7 Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton J. Maher

Lesser Yellowlegs

04/22 1 Awcomin Marsh, Rye C. Duford
 04/23 1 Chapmans Landing, Stratham L. Medlock
 05/07 1 Circumferential Way holding pond, Nashua J. Maher
 05/08 2 Pickering Ponds, Rochester D. Hubbard
 05/12 4 Seaver Reservoir, Harrisville E. Masterson

Upland Sandpiper

04/25 4 Pease International Tradeport, Short St., Newington
 S. Mirick, J. Lambert, J. Sparrell, L. Medlock

Whimbrel

05/15 1 Odiorne Point SP, Rye J. Sparrell, K. Towler
 05/25 1 saltmarsh s. of Odiorne Pt., Rye S. Heron

Ruddy Turnstone

05/25 2 Isles of Shoals, NH S. Mirick, J. Woolf, NHA FT

Purple Sandpiper

05/02 180 NH coast S. Mirick
 05/25 14 Rye Harbor C. Nims
 05/29 2 Rye Ledge J. McKibben

Least Sandpiper

04/26 1 NH coast S. Mirick
 05/02 1 Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton
 R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
 05/05 2 Packers Falls, Durham J. Mills-Anderson
 05/09 1 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield
 P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT
 05/11 14 Fields Grove City Park, Nashua
 J. Maher, C. McPherson
 05/12 17 Seaver Reservoir, Harrisville E. Masterson
 05/13 24 Pickering Ponds, Rochester
 D. Hubbard, Seacoast CFT
 05/14 80 Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook J. Maher
 05/15 8 Water St., Lancaster S. Stoddard
 05/16 11 NHA Birdathon, Surry P. Brown, et al.
 05/17 13 Copsps Pond WMA, Tuftonboro A. Robbins
 05/22 25 Rochester WTP D. Hubbard

White-rumped Sandpiper

05/16 1 Hampton Salt Marsh R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
 05/17 3 Hampton Salt Marsh S. Mirick, S. Heron
 05/29 1 Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton
 J. Maher, J. McKibben

Pectoral Sandpiper

05/23 1 Exeter WTP J. Nelson

Semipalmated Sandpiper

05/11 2 Fields Grove City Park, Nashua J. Maher
 05/14 2 Hampton Salt Marsh J. Maher
 05/15 1 Fields Grove City Park, Nashua C. Sheridan
 05/16 25 Hampton Salt Marsh R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
 05/23 1 Durham Point Rd., Durham R. Prieto
 05/29 82 Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton
 J. Maher, J. McKibben

Date # Location Observer

Peep sp.

04/19 374 Hampton Harbor Inlet S. Heron

Short-billed Dowitcher

05/15 2 Hampton Harbor K. Wilmarth
 05/16 6 World End Pond, Salem A. Altena, K. Wilmarth
 05/20 2 Vernon Dam, Connecticut R., Hinsdale B. Griffith
 05/21 418 N. Hampton State Beach S. Mirick

Wilson's Snipe

03/27 1 Bodwell Farm, E. Kingston S. Heron
 03/30 1 Lebanon Airport J. MacQueen
 04/05 11 Rt. 155A fields, Durham R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
 04/07 29 Great Bay Farm, Greenland J. Maher
 04/09 77 Stratham, Frying Pan Ln., Stratham B. Griffith
 04/12 17 Runnymede Farm, N. Hampton J. Lambert
 04/13 2 Jefferson Meadows R. Quinn

American Woodcock

03/25 1 Coast Public Transit, Sumner Dr., Dover L. Valliere
 03/27 1 Birch St. & Iron Works Rd., Concord Z. Cornell
 03/28 2 Rockingham Recreational Trail
 at Island Pond Rd., Derry S. Heron
 04/02 6 Portsmouth High School J. Sparrell
 04/03 6 Birch St. Community Garden, Concord R. Suomala
 04/11 8 Walden Pond Dr., Nashua C. Sheridan
 04/13 9 Abbot Hill Rd., Wilton C. Witko
 04/18 1 Airport Marsh, Whitefield S. Stoddard
 05/16 8 Neal Mine Rd., Unity P. Hunt, et al.



Wilson's Phalarope by Dave Adrien, 5/28/15, pools s. of Odiorne Pt., Rye, NH.

Wilson's Phalarope

05/28 1 pools s. of Odiorne Pt., Rye D. Adrien

Red-necked Phalarope

05/25 135 Jeffrey's Ledge S. Mirick, J. Woolf, NHA FT

Razorbill

03/08 4 NH coast S. Mirick
 05/25 2 Isles of Shoals, NH R. Gray

Black Guillemot

03/08 7 NH coast S. Mirick
 05/16 10 Star Island, Isles of Shoals J. McKibben

Date # Location Observer



Bonaparte's Gull by Dylan Jackson, 5/9/15, Springfield, NH.

Bonaparte's Gull

04/14	5	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith, J. Maher
04/17	2	Souhegan River Bend, Merrimack	J. Maher
04/21	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
04/23	1	Spofford Lake, Chesterfield	C. Caron
05/05	1	Martin Meadow Pond, Lancaster	S. Stoddard
05/09	1	McDaniel's Marsh WMA, Springfield	D. Jackson
05/09	1	Seal Rocks, Rye	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, A. Robbins, J. Maher
05/10	48	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
05/13	2	Water St., Lancaster	S. Stoddard

Black-headed Gull

03/15	1	Hampton Salt Marsh	S. Mirick
03/29	1	Hampton-Seabrook marsh, Rt. 101	J. Scott



Laughing Gull by Len Medlock, 4/23/15, Swasey Pkwy., Exeter, NH.

Laughing Gull

04/22	1	Exeter WTP	C. Sheridan
05/02	3	NH coast, Rye	S. Mirick
05/18	4	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	P.& P. Thut

Iceland Gull

03/01	2	Riverwalk Way, Manchester	C. McPherson
03/07	5	Cedar Point, Dover	S. Mirick
03/08	3	Exeter WTP	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
03/09	9	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
03/14	1	Amoskeag Dam, Manchester	E. Masterson
03/16	1	Silver Lake, Tilton/Belmont	I. MacLeod
04/14	1	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch
05/01	1	Rockingham Park track & lot, Salem	K. Wilmarth

Date # Location Observer



Lesser Black-backed Gull by Steve Mirick, 4/10/15, E. Kingston, NH.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

03/12	1	Rockingham Park track & lot, Salem	K. Wilmarth
03/14	1	Hilton Park, Dover Point	J. Hannafee
03/17	1	Hampton Beach SP	C. Duford
04/01	2	Peirce Island, Portsmouth	B. Bourgault
04/08	3	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
04/10	1	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch
04/11	1	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	P. Hunt

Glaucous Gull

03/01	1	Cedar Point, Dover	J. Lambert
03/01	1	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick, K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
04/01	1	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch
04/01	1	Yankee Fisherman's Coop, Seabrook	M. Watson
04/12	1	Rotary Park, Berlin	S. Stoddard
05/01	1	Rockingham Park track & lot, Salem	K. Wilmarth
05/05	1	Eel Pond, Rye	E. Masterson

Least Tern

05/21	1	Hampton-Seabrook marsh, Rt. 101	R. Bierregaard
05/29	2	Meadow Pond, Hampton	S. Mirick



Caspian Tern by Zeke Cornell, 4/18/15, Horseshoe Pond, Concord, NH.

Caspian Tern

04/18	1	Lake Massabesic, Auburn	S. Mirick
04/18	1	Spofford Lake, Chesterfield	P. Brown, D. Edwards
04/18	1	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	Z. Cornell
04/18	1	Exeter WTP	P. Lacourse, et al.
05/19	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith

SPRING SEASON

Date # Location Observer

Roseate Tern

05/15 4 Seabrook Beach S. Mirick
05/16 16 Hampton R. Marina flats R. Suomala, Z. Cornell

Common Tern

05/07 7 Yankee Fisherman's Coop, Seabrook L. Medlock
05/10 100 Hampton Harbor S. Mirick
05/19 1 Hinsdale Setbacks H. Galbraith
05/22 200 Star Island, Isles of Shoals R. Quinn, et al.

Arctic Tern

05/22 1 Isles of Shoals, White and Seavey Islands
A. Altena, K. Wilmarth

Forster's Tern

05/15 1 Hampton Harbor K. Wilmarth

Cuckoos through Snow Bunting

Jason Lambert identified six Black-billed Cuckoos by their nocturnal call notes in Barnstead as they were migrating



Red-headed Woodpecker by Jason Lambert, 3/7/15, Durham, NH.

over on the night of May 24. Four Snowy Owls were recorded during the season; an individual was seen on the Isles of Shoals as late as April 25. One of New Hampshire's least known resident bird species, a **Long-eared Owl**, was seen and photographed at a private location in Rockingham County, marking the first record of this

rare and secretive species since 2007. George and Andrea Robbins recorded 37 Eastern Whip-poor-will during a two mile survey of Freedom Town Forest on May 29, a record high count from a single site. The **Red-headed Woodpecker** that spent much of the winter at Adam's Point in Durham continued into April. Steve and Jane Mirick tallied 46 American Kestrels migrating north past Hampton Beach State Park over two days in early April.

First arrivals for most neotropical migrants are normally reported from southern migrant traps, so the first-of-season Yellow-bellied Flycatcher at Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge on May 18 was a surprise. Alder and Willow Flycatchers are notoriously difficult to identify except by voice. In New Hampshire, you can also use geography as an aid to identification. The spring season included 142 reports of Alder Flycatcher and 89 reports of Willow Flycatcher. Of

these, 21 birds were reported from Coos County, all Alder Flycatcher. Location is by no means definitive, but you should look, and more importantly listen twice, if you see or hear a Willow Flycatcher from the North Country, where they are much less common than Alder Flycatcher. The only **White-eyed Vireo** of the season occurred at Odiorne Point State Park in Rye on May 10.



Tree Swallow by Len Medlock, 4/16/15, Exeter, NH.

The Tree Swallow that Iain MacLeod found on March 16 in Tilton provides a case study on the relative benefits of risk. Like a tomato grower who puts out his plants before Memorial Day, the allure of a record crop must be set against the risk of losing all to an early frost. There was still several feet of snow on the ground when the bird arrived, and within a couple of days the temperature dropped well below freezing, where it stayed for a week. The bird's fate was likely sealed and it would be ten days before the next Tree Swallow was spotted in Kingston on March 27, when the mercury in Concord topped out at 39 degrees Fahrenheit.

Carolina Wrens were also hit hard by the brutal winter, although not equally across the state. The population in Rockingham County collapsed, if the number of eBird reports is any guide. From 2012 to 2014, the county, which is normally a stronghold for the species, was responsible for between 28% and 48% of all New Hampshire reports to eBird, but this percentage dropped to 2% in 2015. Birders in coastal Massachusetts reported a similar decline and the population on Star Island and Appledore Island in Maine was wiped out (pers. comm. Sara Morris). In contrast, the population outside of Rockingham County seemed to fare well, with 18% more reports to eBird compared to spring 2014. Birds were reported from Carroll and Coos Counties for the first time in four years. Carolina Wrens feed on or near the ground and the exceptionally deep snow in coastal New Hampshire most likely was responsible for the mass mortality.

Table 1. eBird reports of Carolina Wren during spring season 2012-2015.

Year	# eBird Reports Statewide	# counties with reports	# eBird Reports Rockingham Co.	% eBird Reports Rockingham Co.
2015	271	9	6	2
2014	229	7	71	31
2013	198	7	96	48
2012	92	7	26	28

A single **Northern Wheatear** occurred for the second consecutive spring season, only the third spring record of this rare vagrant normally associated with fall. A second **Varied Thrush** was recorded in Seabrook on May 12, to add to the bird in Dublin that was last seen on March 1. The first Gray Catbird of the season in Jaffrey on April 13 was early. Bohemian Waxwings continued in strong numbers through the end of March and the first half of April, with large flocks of 500 birds seen in Merrimack and Somersworth.

Date # Location Observer

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

05/13 1 Pawtuckaway SP, Round Pond, Nottingham J. Maher
 05/15 1 Cilley State Forest, Concord R. Woodward
 05/24 2 Winchester Dr., Barnstead J. Lambert
 05/26 1 Tin Mt. Conservation Ctr., Albany C. Rosenblatt
 05/29 1 Berry Bay cottage, Freedom G.& A. Robbins

Black-billed Cuckoo

05/10 1 Manchester L. Kornfeld
 05/10 1 Foster's Pond NA, Windham A. Altena, K. Wilmarth
 05/11 1 SPNHF, 54 Portsmouth St., Concord L. Kras
 05/14 1 Coe Hill Rd., Center Harbor J. Merrill
 05/15 1 Hammond Hollow, Gilsum M. Wright
 05/16 1 Pondicherry NWR, Whitefield/Jefferson S. Spector
 05/24 6 Winchester Dr., Barnstead J. Lambert
 05/25 3 Odiorne Point SP, Rye L. Kras
 05/26 3 Winchester Dr., Barnstead J. Lambert



Eastern Screech-Owl by Christopher McPherson, 3/6/15, Hollis, NH.

Date # Location Observer

Eastern Screech-Owl

03/01 1 Odiorne Point SP, Rye S. Mirick
 03/01 1 Salem K. Wilmarth
 03/06 1 Nashua River J. Maher
 03/07 1 Hollis R. Templeton, S. Heron

Snowy Owl

03/16 1 Hampton Beach L. Medlock, J. Kelly
 03/25 1 Mt. Moosilauke, Benton J. LaBelle, I. Cairns
 04/02 2 Pease Intl. Tradeport S. Bennett
 04/21 1 Yankee Fisherman's Coop, Seabrook L. Medlock
 04/25 1 Star Island, Isles of Shoals J. Farrel

Long-eared Owl

04/08 1 NH coast B. Griffith

Common Nighthawk

05/09 2 Windsor Dr., Amherst E. Sharron
 05/12 2 Beaver Brook great meadow, Hollis C. McPherson
 05/14 1 Pineo Rd., Barnstead J. Lambert
 05/17 12 Antrim Rd., Hancock P. Brown
 05/25 16 Soucook River, Concord R. Quinn, J. Kolia
 05/25 11 Rt. 106 & 129 jct., Loudon R. Quinn, J. Kolia

Eastern Whip-poor-will

04/24 1 Depot Rd., Tamworth C. Rines
 05/01 3 Mast Yard SF east, Concord P. Hunt
 05/09 2 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT
 05/29 37 Freedom Town Forest G.& A. Robbins

Chimney Swift

04/18 1 Scotland Rd., Kingston E. Nathan
 04/23 13 World End Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth
 05/09 2 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT
 05/11 10 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield L. Carpenter
 05/19 117 Old Orford Academy Building J. MacQueen
 05/22 119 KUA powerplant, Plainfield S. Hardy
 05/25 189 Spark Bldg., Bank St., Lebanon K. Wohlfort
 05/29 175 Durgin Block parking garage, Concord R. Quinn

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

05/02 1 Willow Rd., E. Kingston D. Skillman
 05/02 1 General Miller Rd., Peterborough J. Delaney
 05/03 1 Gilford J. Kelley
 05/05 1 Bretton Woods, Carroll L. Bergum

Red-headed Woodpecker

03/01 1 Adams Pt. WMA, Durham M. Watson, A. Perko
 04/03 1 Adams Pt. WMA, Durham C. Sheridan, M. Wilson

American Kestrel

04/03 11 Pease Intl. Tradeport S. Mirick
 04/11 24 Hampton Beach SP S. Mirick
 04/12 22 Hampton Beach SP S. Mirick

Olive-sided Flycatcher

05/11 1 Surry Mountain L., Surry P. Gurn, E. Synnott
 05/13 1 Beaver Brook Great Meadow, Hollis C. McPherson
 05/19 2 Hubbard Brook Exp. Forest, Woodstock D. Aube
 05/24 2 Rt. 16 bog, Umbagog NWR, Errol D. Hof

SPRING SEASON

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
Eastern Wood-Pewee				Eastern Kingbird			
05/04	1	Stevens Hill Rd., Nottingham	P. Miliotis	04/22	1	Pawtuckaway SP, Nottingham/Deerfield	M. Thompson
05/09	2	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	J. Sparrell	04/26	1	Beaver Brook great meadow, Hollis	C. McPherson
05/10	2	Quincy Bog, Rumney	A. Ports	05/01	1	Steeplegate Mall pond, Concord	P. Brown
05/12	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith	05/01	1	Rochester WTP	Z. Cornell
05/29	7	Tamworth	S. Mesick	05/09	4	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher				05/10	12	Mines Falls Park, Lincoln Park, Nashua	C. McPherson
05/18	1	Mollidgewock Brook Snowmobile Trail, Cambridge	D. Hof	05/25	14	SPNHF Merrimack R. CA, Concord	R. Woodward
05/18	1	Mink Brook Nature Preserve, Hanover	A. Burnett	Northern Shrike			
05/20	1	SPNHF, 54 Portsmouth St., Concord	L. Kras	03/21	1	Rt. 202/9 e. of Exit 5, off Rt. 89, Henniker	P. Brown
05/24	6	Mt. Osceola Trail, Livermore	A. Burnett	03/29	1	Aladdin St., Manchester	R. Mumford
05/27	4	Mt. Washington Auto-Road: 4000 ft., Sargents Purchase	R. Robinson	03/31	1	Bretton Woods, Carroll	L. Bergum
Alder Flycatcher				04/02	1	Strafford County Farm Complex, Dover	D. Hubbard
05/12	2	Tilton Hill Rd. at Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins	White-eyed Vireo			
05/13	1	Dahl WS, Conway	C. Nims	05/10	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S.& J. Mirick, L. Medlock, J. Maher
05/13	2	Airport Rd., Swanzey	W. Ward, H. Walters	Yellow-throated Vireo			
05/17	1	Airport Rd., Whitefield	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell	05/01	2	Joe English Conservation Land, Amherst	J. Maher
05/22	5	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski	05/01	1	Pawtuckaway SP, Nottingham/Deerfield	S. Young
05/23	9	Bog Rd., Enfield	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell	05/06	1	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, et al.
05/25	11	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski	05/07	1	Weeks SP, Lancaster	S. Stoddard
Willow Flycatcher				Blue-headed Vireo			
05/14	2	Beaver Brook great meadow, Hollis	C. Sheridan	04/14	1	Jaffrey	L. Kras
05/15	2	Great Bay NWR, Newington	S. Bennett	04/16	1	College Woods, UNH, Durham	L. Kras
05/16	3	Hinsdale Setbacks	J. Russo	04/16	1	Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, Holderness	I. MacLeod
Least Flycatcher				Warbling Vireo			
05/02	3	Pawtuckaway SP, Reservation/ Tower Rd. loop, Deerfield	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell	04/30	1	Brentwood Mitigation Area	D. Skillman
05/03	1	Quinn Trail, Hanover	K. Kittelberger	05/02	1	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	R. Woodward
05/03	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	S. Young	05/02	1	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
05/04	6	Pawtuckaway SP, Nottingham/Deerfield	A. Altena, K. Wilmarth	05/05	10	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
05/07	6	Weeks SP, Lancaster	S. Stoddard	05/05	19	Mine Falls Park, Spine Rd., Nashua	J. Maher
Eastern Phoebe				05/12	20	Hinsdale Setbacks	P. Gurn, E. Synnott
03/29	1	Exeter WTP	J. MacQueen	05/23	1	Bretton Woods XCtry Trails, Carroll	N. Mitiguy
03/30	1	Intervale Rd. fields, Gilford	I. MacLeod	Philadelphia Vireo			
03/30	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard	05/11	1	Surry Mountain L., Surry	P. Gurn, E. Synnott
04/01	1	Rt. 11, Sunapee	D. Jackson	05/20	1	SPNHF, 54 Portsmouth St., Concord	L. Kras
04/09	23	Great Meadow, Charlestown	D. Jackson	05/24	1	Star Island, Isles of Shoals	G. Tillman
04/19	18	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt	05/28	2	Mink Brook Nature Preserve, Hanover	J. Maher
05/02	19	Cornish Flat	K. McEnaney	Red-eyed Vireo			
Great Crested Flycatcher				05/03	1	Foss Farm w., Durham	M. Jacobson, J. Mills-Anderson
05/02	2	Ponemah Bog WS, Amherst	C. Sheridan	05/04	2	Mill Pond Ln., Ashland	K. Chamberlin
05/03	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	J. Maher	05/04	1	Jeff Smith Trail, Beaver Brook, Hollis	J. Maher
05/04	3	Hinsdale bluffs by Vernon Dam	P. Gurn, E. Synnott	05/06	2	Tamworth	S. Ashe, R. Steber, N. Beecher
05/09	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT	05/12	4	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	T. Ryan
05/25	8	10-mile Dodge/Partridge/Moore survey, Lyman	S. Turner	05/15	16	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
Blue Jay				05/04	83	Tilton Hill Rd. at Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins

Date # Location Observer



Fish Crow by Terri Fratus, 5/2/15, Dover, NH.

Fish Crow

03/01	4	Salem Plaza Shopping Center	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
03/04	11	Veterans Memorial Pkwy., Salem	J. Maher
03/05	2	UNH, Durham	L. Kras
03/08	2	Amoskeag Dam overlook, Manchester	C. McPherson
03/12	10	Powwow River, Kingston	S. Heron, E. Nathan
03/29	10	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
04/02	14	Strafford County Farm Complex, Dover	D. Hubbard
04/03	11	Rt. 125, Plaistow	S. Mirick
04/23	15	Great Pond, Kingston	S. Heron
04/24	10	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	S. Stoddard
04/28	2	Wal-Mart parking lot, N. Conway	A. Robbins
05/01	9	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	R. Woodward
05/10	7	McDonald's, Union Ave., Laconia	I. MacLeod

Common Raven

03/17	18	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch
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Horned Larks with a Lapland Longspur by Scott Heron, 3/7/15, Agway, Walpole, NH.

Horned Lark

03/03	200	Agway, 334 Main St., Walpole	J. Maher, J. Wing, K. Cox
03/06	73	Exeter WTP	G. Israel
04/09	400	Boggy Meadows Farm, Walpole	D. Clark
04/10	80	Rt. 155A fields, Durham	S. Mirick

Date # Location Observer

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

04/08	1	Waumbec Mill, Manchester	M. Thompson
04/12	1	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
04/13	2	Hinsdale Setbacks	M. Pfeiffer, et al.
05/02	12	Powder House Pond, Exeter	S. Bennett
05/09	2	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT
05/20	12	Vernon Dam, Connecticut R., Hinsdale	B. Griffith



Purple Martin by Steve Mirick, 5/31/15, Seabrook, NH.

Purple Martin

04/12	1	Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook	P. Hunt, C. Sheridan, D. Blezard
04/23	1	Funspot, Laconia	Z. Cornell
05/03	2	Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook	A. Altena, K. Wilmarth
05/05	1	Beaver Brook great meadow, Hollis	C. Sheridan
05/24	2	Scribner's Pond, Wakefield	A. Altena, K. Wilmarth
05/26	1	Cemetery Fields, Amherst	J. Maher
05/27	19	Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook	C. Sheridan, C. McPherson

Tree Swallow

03/16	1	Silver Lake, Tilton/Belmont	I. MacLeod
03/27	6	Powwow Pond, Kingston	S. Heron
03/28	10	Nashua R. at Broad St., Nashua	C. McPherson
04/02	8	Lake Wantastiquet, Hinsdale	E. Masterson
04/12	1031	Hampton Beach SP	J. Lambert
04/13	2	Twin Mt., Carroll	R. Quinn
04/13	3	Berlin Airport, Milan	R. Quinn
04/23	2000	Spofford Lake, Chesterfield	C. Caron

Bank Swallow

04/19	1	World End Pond, Salem	A. Altena, K. Wilmarth
04/20	2	Powder House Pond, Exeter	H. Stevens
04/22	1	SPNHF Merrimack R. CA, Concord	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
05/09	3	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT
05/22	50	McDaniel's Marsh WMA, Springfield	D. Jackson
05/25	40	SPNHF Merrimack R. CA, Concord	R. Woodward
05/31	30	Magnusson Farm, Rt. 125, Kingston	S. Heron

SPRING SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
Barn Swallow			
04/11	1	Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, S.& J. Mirick	
04/12	1	Exeter WTP	L. Medlock, J. Lambert
04/14	2	Hinsdale bluffs by Vernon Dam	J. Smith
04/30	3	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	G.& A. Robbins

Date	#	Location	Observer
Cliff Swallow			
04/23	1	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
04/29	1	World End Pond, Salem	A. Altena, K. Wilmarth
04/30	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
05/08	3	Brookside Farm, Jackson	B. Pendleton
05/14	8	Fort Constitution, New Castle	Z. Cornell
05/21	35	Water St., Lancaster	S. Stoddard
05/23	10	Buttrick Rd., Danbury	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
05/29	12	Gulf Rd., Salmon Falls R., Dover	J. Fecteau

Date	#	Location	Observer
Tufted Titmouse			
04/17	1	Water St., Lancaster	S. Stoddard

Date	#	Location	Observer
House Wren			
04/16	1	College Woods, UNH, Durham	L. Kras
04/17	1	Portsmouth High School	J. Sparrell, K. Towler
04/19	1	Hinsdale bluffs	W. Ward, H. Walters
05/16	1	Akers Pond Rd., Errol	D. Hof

Date	#	Location	Observer
Marsh Wren			
04/23	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	C. Caron
05/04	2	Exeter WTP	S. Lewis
05/06	1	World End Pond, Salem	A. Altena, K. Wilmarth
05/18	1	Pondicherry NWR, Whitefield/Jefferson	S. Stoddard
05/23	5	Hinsdale Setbacks	J. Russo
05/25	6	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski
05/27	2	Thompson WS, Sandwich	S. Mesick

Date	#	Location	Observer
Carolina Wren			
03/11	3	Bennington Gardens	T. James
03/11	3	Mines Falls Park, Lincoln Park, Nashua	J. Maher
04/13		Berlin	L. Alexander
05/24	3	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt

Date	#	Location	Observer
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			
04/15	1	Powder House Pond, Exeter	L. Medlock
04/16	1	World End Pond, Salem	M. Thompson
04/18	1	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch
04/18	1	Beaver Brook great meadow, Hollis	S. Heron, C. McPherson
05/02	8	Hinsdale bluffs by Vernon Dam	P.& J. Brown
05/09	1	Pondicherry NWR, Whitefield/Jefferson	H. Otto
05/10	9	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard, Seacoast CFT

Date	#	Location	Observer
Ruby-crowned Kinglet			
04/07	1	North River Rd., Epping	G. Tillman
04/10	1	Yudicky Farm/Southwest Park, Nashua	C. Sheridan
04/13		Berlin	L. Alexander
04/14	6	Hinsdale bluffs by Vernon Dam	J. Smith
04/19	20	Hinsdale bluffs by Vernon Dam	W. Ward, H. Walters
04/19	12	World End Pond, Salem	A. Altena, K. Wilmarth
04/30	13	Gunn & E. Surry Rd., Keene	D. Hof
05/02	15	Freedom Town Forest	G.& A. Robbins

Date	#	Location	Observer
Northern Wheatear			
05/03	1	Rt. 114 at Lane River, Sutton	F. Sladen, R. White



Veery by Debbie LaValley, 5/16/15, Boscawen, NH.

Date	#	Location	Observer
Veery			
05/02	1	Pawtuckaway SP, Reservation/ Tower Rd. loop, Deerfield	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
05/03	1	Krif Road, Keene	A. Moser
05/06	1	Quinn Trail, Hanover	K. Kittelberger
05/07	1	Weeks SP, Lancaster	S. Stoddard
05/09	1	Dalton Ridge Rd., Dalton	J. Esten
05/25	10	SPNHF Merrimack R. CA, Concord	R. Woodward

Date	#	Location	Observer
Bicknell's Thrush			
05/29	3	Cannon Mt., Franconia	Z. Cornell
05/30	1	Mt. Washington Auto-Road: 4000 ft., Sargents Purchase	R. Robinson

Date	#	Location	Observer
Swainson's Thrush			
05/05	1	Mine Falls Park, Spine Rd., Nashua	J. Maher
05/08	2	Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Manchester	M. Thompson
05/13	1	Pondicherry NWR, Whitefield/Jefferson	S. Stoddard
05/14	1	Mt. Washington Auto Rd., Greens Grant	L. Carpenter

Date	#	Location	Observer
Hermit Thrush			
03/25	1	Main St., Ashland	K. Chamberlin
04/10	8	Mink Brook wetlands, Hanover	K. Kittelberger
04/12		Berlin	L. Alexander

Date	#	Location	Observer
Wood Thrush			
05/01	1	Hinsdale bluffs by Vernon Dam	A. Moser
05/04	1	Two Rivers Conservation Area, Epping	G. Tillman
05/09	5	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT

Date	#	Location	Observer
American Robin			
04/07	200	McLane Audubon Ctr. Silk Farm Rd., Concord	P. Brown
04/09	250	Great Meadow, Charlestown	D. Jackson
04/09	296	Souhegan River Bend, Merrimack	J. Maher
04/09	200	Boggy Meadows Farm, Walpole	D. Clark
04/11	570	Birch St. Community Garden, Concord	R. Suomala, et al.
04/11	250	Runnymede Farm, N. Hampton	J. Lambert

Date # Location Observer

Varied Thrush

03/01 1 Windmill Hill Rd., Dublin D.& G. Levene,
P.& C. Cerroni, S. Spagenberg, F. Doyle
05/12 1 Rt. 286, Seabrook S. Lewis

Gray Catbird

04/13 1 Darcie Dr., Jaffrey K. Yurenka
04/21 1 Hammond Hollow, Gilsum M. Wright
04/25 2 Oak Hill Rd., Brookline C. McPherson
05/09 10 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield
P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT
05/09 21 Odiorne Point SP, Rye
R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, A. Robbins, J. Maher
05/12 21 Nashua & Merrimack R. confluence, Nashua
J. Maher, C. Sheridan
05/17 20 Horseshoe Pond, Concord J. Nadeau

Brown Thrasher

04/14 1 Antrim WTP H. Walters
04/14 1 Hinsdale Setbacks H. Galbraith
04/14 1 Stevens Hill Rd., Nottingham P. Miliotis
04/21 1 Portland St., Lancaster S. Stoddard

American Pipit

05/13 3 Richmond Conservation Land, Orford J. MacQueen
05/22 1 Rochester WTP D. Hubbard

Bohemian Waxwing

03/01 53 Main St., Lancaster S. Stoddard
03/13 65 Meadow Brook, Sunapee J. Gamble
03/15 300 Whitaker Woods, N. Conway C. Nims
03/15 503 Rt. 9, Somersworth S. Mirick
03/21 280 South Concord Meadow Apts. R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
03/28 500 Rts. 11 & 114, New London D. Jackson
03/28 226 Thompson Rd., Pittsfield J. Lambert
04/02 120 River Trail, Hanover A. Burnett
04/20 38 Stevens Hill Rd., Nottingham P. Miliotis
04/22 10 SPNHF Merrimack R. CA, Concord
R. Suomala, Z. Cornell



Lapland Longspur by Jen Esten, 3/7/15, Agway, Walpole, NH.

Lapland Longspur

03/03 6 Agway, 334 Main St., Walpole J. Maher, J. Wing
03/09 5 Rye Harbor SP H. Stevens
03/10 7 Walpole Agway E. Masterson
03/21 1 Agway, 334 Main St., Walpole R. Burnett
04/08 1 Strafford County Farm Complex, Dover L. Kras

Date # Location Observer

Snow Bunting

03/03 25 Agway, 334 Main St., Walpole D. Jackson
03/21 65 Hampton Beach SP S. Mirick
04/13 1 Hampton Beach S. Young

Warblers



Lawrence's Warbler by Steve Mirick, 5/29/15, Newmarket, NH.

It was a fairly poor season for warbler migration and diversity, with 27 ½ species representing the usual cast of characters. There were no rarities apart from an Orange-crowned Warbler on May 12 in Walpole and a half of a Golden-winged Warbler in the form of a Lawrence's Warbler hybrid seen in Newmarket on May 29. Orange-crowned Warbler is a rarity in spring, the vast majority of records occur in fall. Lawrence's Warbler is the back cross of a hybrid of Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warbler (for a full explanation see the article by David Donsker in the Spring 2003 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*, Vol. 22. No.1). There have been three records of this form in the last ten years (Brewster's Warbler is the first generation hybrid of the pairing). Lawrence's Warbler is rare, but not as rare as Golden-winged Warbler, which has largely disappeared from New Hampshire.

The spruce budworm outbreak that has been gathering pace in Quebec for about five years continues to be good news for several species of warblers, including Tennessee, Cape May, and Bay-breasted Warblers. Reports of Tennessee and Bay-breasted Warblers have increased each year since I took over duties as the Season Editor in 2011. Further corroborating evidence of this trend comes from Appledore Island in Maine, which is located less than half a mile from the New Hampshire state line. A banding station has been in operation on the island for more than thirty years. This spring, 14 Cape May Warblers were banded, beating the

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record by one bird. Prior to the current Spruce budworm outbreak, the station banded between two to five Cape May Warblers each spring (pers. comm. David Holmes).

A Mourning Warbler in Hinsdale on May 6 was a record early date for a species that normally does not arrive in New Hampshire until the latter half of May. This was the exception that proved the rule, as the average deviation from the expected arrival date of the other 25 species of regular spring migrant warblers was -0.4 days (*New Hampshire Bird Records*, Vol 26, No. 1). In other words, migration was right on schedule, if subdued.

Date # Location Observer

Ovenbird

04/30	1	Brentwood Mitigation Area	D. Skillman
05/02	1	Pawtuckaway SP, Reservation/ Tower Rd. loop, Deerfield	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
05/02	1	Freedom Town Forest	G. & A. Robbins
05/02	1	Antrim Rd., Hancock	P. & J. Brown
05/02	1	Gunn & E. Surry Rd., Keene	D. Hof
05/05	1	Weeks SP, Lancaster	S. Stoddard
05/15	23	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
05/15	22	Fowler Farm, Rochester	D. Hubbard
05/17	18	Pondicherry NWR, Whitefield/Jefferson	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell

Louisiana Waterthrush

04/14	1	South Rd., Kensington	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04/15	1	North River Rd., Epping	G. Tillman
04/15	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard
04/28	1	Winchester Dr., Barnstead	J. Lambert
05/21	1	Tin Mt. Conservation Ctr., Albany	S. Wilcox, S. Joyce

Northern Waterthrush

04/27	1	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
04/28	1	Village Falls Way, Merrimack	J. Maher
04/29	2	Watts WS, Effingham	A. Robbins
04/29	2	McDaniel's Marsh WMA, Springfield	D. Dubie
05/04	1	Martin Meadow Pond, Lancaster	S. Stoddard
05/09	6	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT



Blue-winged Warbler by Christopher McPherson, 5/9/15, Nashua, NH.

Date # Location Observer

Blue-winged Warbler

05/04	1	Powder House Pond, Exeter	S. Lewis, L. Medlock
05/05	1	Cilley State Forest, Concord	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
05/10	6	Yudicky Farm/Southwest Park, Nashua	C. Sheridan

Lawrence's Warbler (hybrid)

05/29	1	Rt. 152, Newmarket	S. Mirick
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Black-and-white Warbler

04/22	1	Shadow Lake, Keene	P. Gurn, E. Synnott
04/22	1	River Rd., Sunapee Harbor	D. Jackson
04/24	1	Cheney Rd., Kingston	S. Heron
05/07	3	Weeks SP, Lancaster	S. Stoddard

Tennessee Warbler

05/08	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard
05/11	1	Water St., Antrim	P. Brown
05/11	1	McLane Audubon Ctr. Silk Farm Rd., Concord	P. Brown
05/11	1	Trask Brook Rd., Newport/Sunapee	D. Jackson
05/18	5	Mink Brook Nature Preserve, Hanover	A. Burnett
05/18	1	Pondicherry NWR, Whitefield/Jefferson	S. Stoddard

Orange-crowned Warbler

05/12	1	Walpole Valley Farms, 663 Wentworth Rd.	W. Ward
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Nashville Warbler

05/02	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
05/02	1	Weeks SP, Lancaster	S. Stoddard
05/09	25	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT
05/10	11	Yudicky Farm/Southwest Park, Nashua	C. Sheridan

Mourning Warbler

05/06	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
05/11	1	Quinn Trail, Hanover	K. Kittelberger
05/13	1	White Farm, Concord	R. Woodward
05/21	2	Weeks SP, Lancaster	S. Stoddard
05/25	3	Mountain Pond Rd., Umbagog NWR, Errol	D. Hof

Common Yellowthroat

04/30	1	Mink Brook point at Connecticut R., Hanover	W. Schlesinger
05/01	1	Hammond Hollow, Gilsum	M. Wright
05/02	1	Hatt Rd., Westmoreland	G. Seymour
05/03	2	Locke Rd. sod farm, Concord	R. Woodward
05/07	21	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	H. Walters
05/09	8	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT
05/17	21	Suncook R., Barnstead	J. Lambert
05/25	30	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	L. Kras, B. Griffith

American Redstart

05/02	2	Hertzka Dr. area, Amherst	C. Sheridan
05/02	1	Pawtuckaway SP, Reservation/ Tower Rd. loop, Deerfield	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
05/02	5	Round Pond Trail, Gilford	D. Lania
05/07	1	Weeks SP, Lancaster	S. Stoddard
05/09	9	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT
05/25	15	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	R. Quinn

Date	#	Location	Observer
Cape May Warbler			
05/06	1	High Ridge Rd., Dublin	D. Levene
05/06	1	Pine Grove Cemetery, Manchester	M. Thompson
05/08	2	Stevens Hill Rd., Nottingham	P. Miliotis
05/09	3	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT

Date	#	Location	Observer
Northern Parula			
04/30	1	Winchester Dr., Barnstead	J. Lambert
04/30	1	Hillside Dr., Greenland	L. Cogswell
05/07	3	Weeks SP, Lancaster	S. Stoddard
05/09	18	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT
05/10	12	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard, Seacoast CFT
05/16	13	Magalloway River Trail, Wentworth's Location	D. Hof

Date	#	Location	Observer
Magnolia Warbler			
05/04	1	Esther Currier WMA at Low Plain, New London	D. Dubie
05/05	1	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	R. Woodward
05/05	1	Dartmouth College Park, Hanover	K. Kittelberger
05/05	2	Fields Grove City Park, Nashua	C. Sheridan
05/09	10	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT
05/25	17	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	R. Quinn

Date	#	Location	Observer
Bay-breasted Warbler			
05/09	1	Old Hillsboro Rd., Henniker	A. Moser
05/09	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT
05/10	1	Pondicherry NWR, Little Cherry Pond, Jefferson/Whitefield	T. McLane, K. Jones
05/12	6	Mink Brook wetlands, Hanover	K. Kittelberger
05/24	3	Star Island, Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson

Date	#	Location	Observer
Blackburnian Warbler			
05/02	1	Gunn & E. Surry Rd., Keene	D. Hof
05/02	1	Pawtuckaway SP, Round Pond, Nottingham	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
05/07	5	Weeks SP, Lancaster	S. Stoddard

Date	#	Location	Observer
Yellow Warbler			
04/26	1	Darcie Dr., Jaffrey	K. Yurenka
04/30	1	Gillis Hill Rd., Bennington	P. Eppig
04/30	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
04/30	1	Post Pond, Lyme	J. Norton
05/05	44	Mine Falls Park, Spine Rd., Nashua	J. Maher
05/09	10	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT
05/12	30	Hinsdale Setbacks	E. Synnott
05/25	22	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	R. Quinn

Date	#	Location	Observer
Chestnut-sided Warbler			
05/04	1	Water St., Antrim	P. Brown
05/04	1	Turtle Pond, Concord	G. & A. Robbins
05/04	1	Quincy Bog, Rumney	K. MacLean
05/07	1	Weeks SP, Lancaster	S. Stoddard

Date	#	Location	Observer
05/09	14	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT
05/09	15	Boston Lot Lake powerline, Lebanon	A. Burnett

Date	#	Location	Observer
Blackpoll Warbler			
05/08	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard
05/09	1	Birch St. Community Garden, Concord	R. Woodward
05/09	1	Powder House Pond, Exeter	M. Mahata, B. Hall
05/09	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	R. Foye, J. Russo
05/09	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT
05/09	2	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	J. Sparrell



Black-throated Blue Warbler
by Len Medlock, 5/9/15,
Odiorne Point SP, Rye, NH.

Date	#	Location	Observer
Black-throated Blue Warbler			
05/02	1	Palmer-Bartell Preserve, Brookline	C. McPherson
05/03	1	Church St. water tower parking lot, Hampton	J. Maher, S. Mirick
05/03	1	Improved Machinery Pond, Nashua	C. Sheridan
05/07	2	Weeks SP, Lancaster	S. Stoddard

Date	#	Location	Observer
Palm Warbler			
04/05	2	Strafford County Farm Complex, Dover	K. Towler, J. Sparrell
04/06	1	SPNHF, 54 Portsmouth St., Concord	L. Kras
04/12		Berlin	L. Alexander
04/30	16	Fremont Recreational Trail	H. Stevens
04/30	22	Tucker & French Family Forest, Kingston	S. Heron
05/02	18	Brentwood Mitigation Area	D. Skillman

Date	#	Location	Observer
Palm Warbler - Western subsp.			
05/03	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
05/05	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
05/19	1	Poor Rd., New London	D. Jackson

Date	#	Location	Observer
Palm Warbler - Yellow subsp.			
04/19	25	World End Pond, Salem	A. Altena, K. Wilmarth
04/25	20	Hinsdale Setbacks	J. Russo
04/28	16	Brentwood Mitigation Area	P. Miliotis
04/30	18	Beaver Brook Assn., Hollis	J. Maher

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Date	#	Location	Observer
Pine Warbler			
04/04	1	Great Bay NWR, Newington	J. Kelly
04/06	1	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch
04/07	2	Great Meadows, Hollis	C. McPherson
05/02	1	Weeks SP, Lancaster	S. Stoddard



Yellow-rumped Warbler by Steve Liffmann, 4/29/15, Salem, NH.

Yellow-rumped Warbler

04/14	1	Melanie Ln., Bow	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
04/14	3	Hinsdale bluffs by Vernon Dam	J. Smith
04/14	1	Esther Currier WMA at Low Plain, New London	D. Dubie
04/14	1	Tilton Hill Rd. at Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins
04/22	60	Hinsdale Setbacks	S. Petit
04/23	1	Portland St., Lancaster	S. Stoddard
05/01	75	Esther Currier WMA at Low Plain, New London	D. Dubie
05/02	90	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
05/04	50	Powder House Pond, Exeter	H. Stevens
05/05	98	Mine Falls Park, Spine Rd., Nashua	J. Maher
05/08	150	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard
05/09	70	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT

Prairie Warbler

05/02	1	Hertzka Dr. area, Amherst	C. Sheridan
05/03	1	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
05/03	2	Stevens Hill Rd., Nottingham	P. Miliotis

Black-throated Green Warbler

04/22	1	Clearwater Dr., Sunapee	D. Jackson
04/28	1	Two Rivers Conservation Area, Epping	G. Tillman
05/07	2	Weeks SP, Lancaster	S. Stoddard

Canada Warbler

05/06	1	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
05/08	1	Pine Grove Cemetery, Manchester	M. Thompson
05/09	1	Barnstead Elementary School	J. Lambert
05/09	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT

Date	#	Location	Observer
Wilson's Warbler			
05/05	1	Mine Falls Park, Spine Rd., Nashua	J. Maher
05/08	1	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	A. Taylor
05/08	2	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard
05/08	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	J. Kelly
05/09	4	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT

Yellow-breasted Chat

04/17	1	Northwest Blvd. railroad tracks/marsh, Nashua	J. Maher
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Sparrows through Finches



LeConte's Sparrow by Susan Buttrick, 4/14/15, Quincy Bog, Rumney, NH.

All the reports of Vesper Sparrows submitted to eBird are listed except for additional sightings from the same location. With approximately 11 individuals reported from nine locations, this bird appears to be competing with Grasshopper Sparrow for the title of New Hampshire's most threatened breeding sparrow. The latter is more range restricted, with approximately 15 birds from three locations. Birders should continue to be on the lookout for Vesper Sparrow, especially away from known locations. The only two reports of "Ipswich" Savannah Sparrow involved late birds; one at the Urban Forestry Center on April 26 and a bird near the Seacoast Science Center on May 10. The latter is a record late date for this distinctive subspecies that normally leaves New Hampshire by the first week of April for breeding sites at Sable Island, Nova Scotia. A **LeConte's Sparrow** on April 14 and 15 in Quincy Bog, Rumney was a fantastic find in an unlikely location and only the third state record. A stunning male **Summer Tanager** on April 14 through April 16 in Rye was the single record of this regular spring overshoot.

The story on finches was mixed, with a single Pine Grosbeak in Newport and five reports of White-winged

Crossbills, all but one from Carroll County. Red Crossbills were more numerous, with reports scattered across four counties befitting a bird that utilizes a greater range of habitats than the White-winged Crossbill. Large flocks of Common Redpoll continued into early April, although the big numbers remained north of the Lakes Region, with 500 reported from Warren on April 2. **Hoary Redpolls** were reported from Sandwich and Lancaster. In contrast to the redpolls, Pine Siskins continued in numbers across the state through March, most especially in the south, with 210 in Exeter on March 15 and 100 in Bedford on March 30. Evening Grosbeaks were widely and evenly scattered, with reports from all counties except Belknap, Rockingham, and Strafford. Of particular note was a flock of 40 coming to feeders in Lempster, a very significant count of this uncommon species. It will be interesting to note whether the aforementioned spruce budworm outbreak will impact their numbers positively.

Date # Location Observer

Eastern Towhee

04/13	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
04/13	1	Green Rd., Kingston	S. Heron
04/20	1	Bretton Woods, Carroll	L. Bergum
05/07	13	Mast Yard SF, Concord/Hopkinton	P. Hunt
05/10	15	Yudicky Farm/Southwest Park, Nashua	C. Sheridan

American Tree Sparrow

04/22	1	Urban Forestry Center, Portsmouth	T. Barry
04/25	6	Great Meadow, Charlestown	D. Jackson
04/27	2	Melanie Ln., Bow	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell

Chipping Sparrow

04/04	1	Warton Rd., Nashua	A. Moreira
04/05	1	Broadview Farm, Derry	J. Cosentino
04/11		Berlin	L. Alexander

Field Sparrow

03/28	1	Ravenwood Farm, Greenfield	T. Shiel
03/29	1	Hampstead pond	D. Jordan
04/11		Berlin	L. Alexander

Vesper Sparrow

04/12	1	Hawkin's Farm, Salem	
		A. Altena, K. Wilmarth, S. Heron	
04/16	1	Pease Intl. Tradeport	L. Kras
05/01	2	Ossipee Lake Rd. pine barrens, Freedom	G.& A. Robbins
05/03	1	Bedell Bridge SP, Haverhill	J. MacQueen
05/05	1	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	P. Hunt
05/15	1	Water St., Lancaster	S. Stoddard
05/22	1	USFWS Karner Blue Easement, Concord	S. Young
05/25	2	Concord Airport	Z. Cornell
05/28	1	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson

Date # Location Observer



Lark Sparrow by Joann O'Shaughnessy, 5/8/15, Hampton, NH.

Lark Sparrow

05/08	1	Winnacunnet HS, Hampton	P. Lacourse, et al.
05/24	1	Star Island, Isles of Shoals	G. Tillman

Savannah Sparrow

03/29	2	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO, Concord	D. Jackson
03/29	1	Awcomin Marsh, Rye	P. Miliotis
04/18	1	Water St., Lancaster	S. Stoddard
04/22	20	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	A. Moser
04/28	25	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO, Concord	
			R. Quinn, et al.

Savannah Sparrow - Ipswich subsp.

04/26	1	Urban Forestry Ctr., Portsmouth	S. Mirick
05/10	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	L. Medlock



Grasshopper Sparrow by Christine Sheridan, 5/29/15, Cemetery Fields, Amherst, NH.

Grasshopper Sparrow

05/10	1	Concord Airport	D. Jackson
05/16	2	Pease Intl. Tradeport, McIntyre Rd., Newington	
		A. Altena, K. Wilmarth, R. Suomala, Z. Cornell	
05/29	12	Cemetery Fields, Amherst	C. Sheridan

SPRING SEASON

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
Le Conte's Sparrow							
04/14	1	Quincy Bog, Rumney	S. Buttrick	05/01	1	Knollwood Rd., New London	J. Esten
Nelson's Sparrow							
05/22	2	Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton	L. Kras	05/09	10	Hinsdale Setbacks	C. Seifer, W. Ward
Saltmarsh Sparrow							
05/14	1	Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton	J. Maher	05/09	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT
05/29	1	Lubberland Creek Preserve, Newmarket	K. Dorsey	05/10	10	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard, Seacoast CFT
Fox Sparrow							
03/23	1	Hampstead pond	D. Jordan	Indigo Bunting			
03/31	1	Oak Hill Rd., Brookline	C. McPherson	04/26	1	Acadia Ave., Hampton	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
04/10	10	Oak Hill Rd., Brookline	C. McPherson	05/03	1	Whipple Hill, Lyme	B. Allison
04/29	1	High St., Madison	S. Lee	05/04	1	Newmarket Rd., Durham	T. McCreery
04/30	1	Bretton Woods, Carroll	L. Bergum	05/16	1	Magalloway River Trail, Wentworth's Location	D. Hof
Song Sparrow							
04/04	40	Great Meadow, Charlestown	D. Jackson	Bobolink			
04/04	45	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	P. Hunt, Capital CFT	05/05	6	Trask Brook Rd., Newport/Sunapee	D. Jackson
04/04	3	Water St., Lancaster	S. Stoddard	05/06	4	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
Lincoln's Sparrow							
05/03	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	W. Ward	05/06	1	Ash Brook wetland, Keene	W. Ward
05/07	1	Tilton Hill Rd. at Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins	05/09	5	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT
05/07	1	World End Pond, Salem	A. Altena, K. Wilmarth	05/18	20	Depot Rd. fields, Hollis	C. Sheridan
05/16	1	Magalloway River Trail, Umbagog NWR, Wentworth's Location	D. Hof	Red-winged Blackbird			
Swamp Sparrow							
03/15	1	Hampstead pond	D. Jordan	04/03	250	Great Meadow, Charlestown	D. Jackson
03/20	1	Borthwick Ave. marsh	J. Sparrell, K. Towler	04/03	500	Great Bay Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick, K. Wilmarth, A. Altena, L. Kras
04/04	1	Great Meadow, Charlestown	D. Jackson	04/04	55	Bridge & Main St., Lancaster	S. Stoddard
04/12		Berlin	L. Alexander	04/07	400	River Rd., Stratham	L. Kras
White-throated Sparrow							
04/15	1	Bretton Woods Rivers Edge, Carroll	N. Mitiguy	Eastern Meadowlark			
05/01	26	Dahl WS, Conway	S. Finnegan	03/30	1	Stuart Farm, Stratham	M. Thompson
05/09	35	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT	04/03	2	Great Bay Farm, Greenland	L. Kras
White-crowned Sparrow							
03/15	4	Great Bay Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick	04/04	2	Morrills Farm, Goodwin Pt., Penacook	P. Hunt, Capital CFT
04/03	1	Great Bay Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick	05/16	5	Pease International Tradeport, Short St., Newington	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
04/30	1	Hammond Hollow, Gilsum	M. Wright	Rusty Blackbird			
04/30	1	Joslin Rd. gravel pit, Surry	P. Brown, M. Einermann	03/22	1	Fogarty Rd., Barrington	D. Sanders
05/01	4	Tin Mt. Conservation Ctr., Albany	R. Steber	03/29	1	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	D. Jackson
05/09	3	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT	03/30	5	World End Pond, Salem	A. Altena, K. Wilmarth
Summer Tanager							
04/14	1	Rt. 1A at South Rd., Rye	R. Walton	04/10	1	Stockwell Rd., Lancaster	S. Stoddard
Scarlet Tanager							
04/30	1	Parker & Evans Mt./Strafford Town Forest	S. Young	04/14	25	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
05/04	1	W. Branch Pine Barrens Preserve, Madison	S. Lee	Common Grackle			
05/09	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	P. Brown, D. Govatski, NHA FT	03/21	350	Exeter WTP	M. Watson, M. Viens, A. Perko
Rose-breasted Grosbeak							
04/29	1	Darcie Dr., Jaffrey	K. Yurenka	03/28		Berlin	L. Alexander
04/29	1	Old Derry Rd., Londonderry	B. Baker	04/02	4	Jefferson Meadows, Rt. 115A	S. Stoddard
Brown-headed Cowbird							
04/03	1	Twin View Dr., Twin Mt., Carroll	N. Mitiguy	04/11	2948	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
04/03	200	Great Bay Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick, K. Wilmarth, A. Altena, L. Kraus	04/12	1074	Hampton Beach SP	J. Lambert, S. Mirick
04/04	1	Lancaster School	S. Stoddard				
04/12	244	Hampton Beach SP	J. Lambert, S. Mirick				



Orchard Oriole by Dennis Skillman, 5/5/15, Exeter, NH.

Orchard Oriole

05/04	1	Powder House Pond, Exeter	L. Medlock
05/06	2	Salem	K. Wilmarth
05/07	1	Bayberry Pond, Kingston	S. Heron, E. Nathan
05/08	2	Cilley State Forest, Concord	S. Bennett
05/08	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	M. Wilson

Baltimore Oriole

04/28	1	Spit Brook Rd., Nashua	J. O'Connell
05/02	1	Squam Lake	T. Michel
05/05	13	Mine Falls Park, Spine Rd., Nashua	J. Maher
05/10	12	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard, Seacoast CFT

Blackbird sp.

04/05	500	Exeter WTP	M. Watson
04/05	500	Great Bay Farm, Greenland	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
04/11	916	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick

Red Crossbill

03/04	2	Antrim Rd., Hancock	P. Brown
03/09	1	SPNHF, 54 Portsmouth St., Concord	L. Kras
03/21	4	Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, Holderness	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
04/09	3	Mink Brook Nature Preserve, Hanover	A. Burnett
05/01	21	W. Branch Pine Barrens Preserve, Madison	G. & A. Robbins
05/09	2	Doublehead Cabin Trail, Jackson	J. Trimble
05/13	4	Freedom Town Forest	C. Nims
05/16	12	Perch Pond Rd., Holderness	I. MacLeod

White-winged Crossbill

04/27	1	Brandywine Rd., Tamworth	A. Robbins
05/01	1	W. Branch Pine Barrens Preserve, Madison	G. & A. Robbins
05/07	1	Slab City Rd., Grafton	R. Blair
05/15	2	Cathedral Ledge, Bartlett	D. & A. Blezard
05/29	1	Berry Bay cottage, Freedom	G. & A. Robbins



Common Redpoll by Steve Mirick, 3/15/15, Greenland, NH.

Common Redpoll

03/28	200	Ridgewood Rd., Glen	R. Steber
04/02	500	Lund Ln., Warren	M. Cordero
04/10	165	Diamond Ledge, Sandwich	T. Vazzano
04/19	1	Autumn Ln., Nottingham	R. Prieto
04/20	3	Twin View Dr., Twin Mt., Carroll	N. Mitiguy
04/22	2	Portland St., Lancaster	S. Stoddard

Hoary Redpoll

03/13	1	Diamond Ledge, Sandwich	T. Vazzano
03/30	1	Portland St., Lancaster	S. Stoddard
04/02	1	Portland St., Lancaster	S. Stoddard
04/10	1	Diamond Ledge, Sandwich	T. Vazzano

Pine Siskin

03/14	100	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
03/15	210	Rt. 108, Exeter	S. Mirick
03/30	100	Cider Mill Rd., Bedford	C. Borkowski

Evening Grosbeak

03/08	40	Lempster Mt. Rd., Lempster	B. & L. Dwyer
04/22	12	Portland St., Lancaster	S. Stoddard
05/16	10	NHA Birdathon, Surry	P. Brown, et al.



American Bittern by Christine Sheridan, 4/13/15, Hollis, NH.

Field Trip Report

Dancing Woodcocks

by Brynlee Kimball



The NH Young Birder's Woodcock Walk, 4/17/15, checking the fields at NH Audubon's McLane Center with leader, Phil Brown. Photo by Henry Walters.

The night of April 17, 2015 was spectacular. As we waited for everyone to arrive, we all watched the bird feeders at NH Audubon's McLane Center. A White-breasted Nuthatch, a Black-capped Chickadee, a Downy Woodpecker, a Hairy Woodpecker, a Northern Cardinal and a little Pine Siskin are what our eyes beheld. Then, we started inside the McLane Center. Our guide Phil Brown told us about the American Woodcock (what it eats, how it eats, its size, etc.) and we all learned its nicknames: *mud bat*, *bog sucker*, *big eyes*, and my personal favorite, the *timberdoodle*.

Then, we were off along the Concord bike path right up the road. A few of us spotted the Red-bellied Woodpecker (including me!) on our way there. We walked up the path which is next to a field. In the field, we saw many American Robins, an Eastern Bluebird, and heard a Killdeer. Above us flying was a Brown-headed Cowbird, Mourning Doves and even one of the largest raptors, a genuine Osprey. As darkness fell, we all listened over the song of the robins, but the woodcock's "peenting" could barely be heard. So, we walked into the field, hoping to get closer to the woodcocks on the outer edge. Then, we all heard the woodcock and saw it spiral upwards. It circled around above us and then dove in a zigzag spiral – a breathtaking sight to see. Then, we heard another one towards the path. It did its little "dance" and actually landed *on* the path. Everyone got a chance to see the *timberdoodle* (a.k.a. American Woodcock). He was a beautiful light, rusty-brown red; very pretty. We counted five *big eyes* in total, judging by sound and sight. This exhilarating performance by the woodcock made for a night no one will soon forget.

Brynlee Kimball, age 10, is a member of the NH Young Birder's Club, the Harriers. For a full list of the Harriers'

sightings on April 17 (spring peepers and wood frogs excepted), or to hear more about other Harriers opportunities, visit <http://nhyoungbirders.org/>

NH Audubon is a proud sponsor of the Harriers: NH's Young Birders Club.

Connecticut River Waterfowl Safari

by Phil Brown



Crossing under the railroad trestle at Putney Great Meadows on the Connecticut River Waterfowl Safari, 3/28/15. Photo by Phil Brown.

The 32nd annual "Connecticut River Waterfowl Safari" field trip occurred on its usual last weekend of March (3/28/15). This popular trip has been run historically by the Harris Center, and NH Audubon's Monadnock Chapter has been a co-sponsor for the past several years. For many, regardless of weather, it marks the beginning of spring with the return of many migrants. This trip was no different, particularly as it snowed lightly all day long and the temperature remained in the low 30s, but there were birds – 46 species in all – just not the usual plethora of waterfowl. Ground conditions still featured little open water (much of the Connecticut River was still frozen) and snow and ice in many of the usually flooded fields. Considering that waterfowl are facultative migrants, only moving when conditions permit, it seemed as though only a few hardy "scouts" had arrived in the usual places this year; however, more than a few hardy birders bore witness to them with a total of 20 participants.

For the past few years, we split the birders into two groups, allowing for more coverage of places south to Hinsdale and Vernon, VT, as well as for a manageable carpool (this trip has had up to 60 participants in past years).

Phil Brown led the south-bounders from Charlestown, making traditional stops at the Great Meadows, Lower Meadows, Bellows Falls, Malnati Farm, and even a jaunt south to the Putney Great Meadow. Eric Masterson and his group focused primarily on Hinsdale and Vernon, where there was open water and enough birds to fill their morning. Spots along the river in between were primarily frozen, so Eric's group opted out of the usual lunch spot at Herrick's Cove (which was also frozen). The only Snow Geese of the day were found by Eric's group in Vernon along the Blodgett Road fields, a flock of 35. This is one of the better areas for geese, including rare species such as Barnacle and Greater White-fronted, seen on this trip in past years. Even the ubiquitous Canada Goose was fairly scarce this year compared to the thousands sometimes recorded on this trip. The closing of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant in 2014 was apparent to birders in that the warm-water discharge from the cooling towers has ceased, resulting in the lack of open water in the waterfowl roost known as Lake Wantastiquet. None the less, a drake Barrow's Goldeneye (now annual) was a highlight here. It will be interesting to note the difference in numbers of waterfowl here in future years. Other highlights in Hinsdale were 10 Ring-necked Ducks and a lone Mute Swan at the Setbacks, as well as a Bald Eagle. The eagle was enjoyed up close and personal by seven-year old Elias, a student at Dublin's Mountain Shadows School, who was studying birds for his Olympic Studies unit.

The only concentration of waterfowl for the northern group was at Charlestown's Great Meadows, and even this collection paled in comparison to past years. Mallards were most common, numbering around 60, and mixed in were a few each of Wood Duck and American Black Duck, as well as a group of 13 Canada Geese. More exciting were the two Great Blue Herons standing side by side among the waterfowl, which were somewhat concentrated in a narrow stream channel, the only open water around. The major excitement occurred at the next stop, Lower Meadows, where the group viewed an active Bald Eagle nest in a large cottonwood tree across the river in Vermont. This is a new nest site for this pair, which has now nested for a few years in the same vicinity. The group then noted the distant call of a Killdeer, which ultimately gave all participants, including young Charlotte, who had never seen one before, excellent views as it landed directly across Rt. 12 from where we were parked at a used car dealership. Just after this, Henry Walters was scoping a distant group of Horned Larks, when the birds took flight. A Merlin darted overhead, sending the group of 31 larks into the air. The Merlin was seen only by a few for what seemed to be a split second, so we were unable to tell if it had taken its quarry.

The northern group made a traditional stop for bathrooms and provisions, including homemade cider donuts at the Allen Brothers farm stand, an annual highlight. Putney Great Meadow was mainly frozen and lacked any visible geese; however, this stop did provide some entertainment as folks attempted to access this field over and below the railroad trestle (see photo). Some wet feet resulted. The last stop of the day, where this group took their picnic lunch, was in downtown Bellows Falls, just below the dam and across from Fall Mountain in Walpole, NH (where the author had spotted a migrant Golden Eagle, as well as a Black Bear, the day prior). No such luck for these two, but we did watch Peregrine Falcon, Common Raven, and Turkey Vulture, all of which nest on the mountain. We were also treated to close looks of Wood Ducks that were using the "thermal pool" – a small pond embedded between the railroad tracks and old industrial mills which serves as a roost site for dabbling ducks in early spring. At the trip's end, Wendy Ward attempted to show the group the site of Native American petroglyphs on the rocks just below the dam, but they were covered with snow and ice...the common theme of the day on this first spring field trip.

Be sure to join in on this annual tradition: <http://www.harriscenter.org/calendar>

Phil Brown works for NH Audubon as the Director of Land Management. He has led trips, including this one, through the Monadnock Chapter and the Harris Center for several years. Phil has a keen interest in waterfowl migration, spring, and cider donuts, so you can be sure to see him on this trip in future years.

Birds and Whales

by Steve Mirick



Northern Fulmars by James Besada, 5/25/15, on the NH Audubon pelagic field trip.

Taken from a post to the NH Birds email list, 5/26/15.

NH Audubon sponsored an all day pelagic trip on May 26, 2015 aboard the "Granite State" out of Rye Harbor, NH. It was partly cloudy with southwest winds 10-15

mph and seas about one to three feet. We cruised northeast directly up to the “Three Fingers” area of Jeffrey’s Ledge in Maine, where there had been a lot of bird and whale activity the previous weekend. Nothing there!!! So, we cruised south, following the ledge until we ran into an absolute bonanza, first of the very rare **Sei Whales**. They were everywhere! Skim feeding along the surface, there were whales all around the boat. It was a magnificent show and one that is very rarely seen!

As we slowly moved past the Sei Whales, we encountered a huge group of Humpback Whales! Many were mother-calf pairs. There were not quite as many birds as we hoped for, but there were some nice views of Northern Fulmars and Red-necked Phalaropes.

Thanks to Jon Woolf for organizing this trip and to Captain Pete Reynolds for skillfully navigating through the “carpet” of whales without hitting any!

Bird Species List total from Isles of Shoals eastward

- Common Eider – Common around Isles of Shoals, at least five babies seen around Seavey Island. Single flock of 14 flying north (migrating?) over Jeffrey’s Ledge
 - 45 White-winged Scoter – Several small migrating flocks noted during the day
 - 3 Common Loon – on ledge, well offshore. Several more inside of Isles of Shoals
 - 8 Northern Fulmar – One dark morph. Some nice views
 - 2 Sooty Shearwater – Didn’t come too close to boat
 - 30 Northern Gannet – Almost all young birds, but one adult between Star Island and White Island
 - Double-crested Cormorant – Flock of three over Jeffrey’s Ledge flying south (!?). Many on nests at Lunging Island
 - 2 Ruddy Turnstone – on Square Rock at Isles of Shoals
 - 235 Red-Necked Phalarope – Two large flocks of 80-100 birds. Several small to very small flocks
 - 2 Black Guillemot – at Isles of Shoals
 - 2 Razorbill – near Isles of Shoals in Maine, identified late in trip through photos
 - 1 jaeger sp. - only seen by one birder
 - 2 Bonaparte’s Gull - on Jeffrey’s Ledge
 - Herring Gull – Small numbers relative to Great Black-backed Gulls
 - Great Black-backed Gull – Large numbers in area of whales
 - Common Tern – Large numbers at Isles of Shoals over White/Seavey Islands. No Roseates noted.
 - 1 Magnolia Warbler – Immature male flew to boat and through the cabin and into the wheelhouse!
- In Rye Harbor, we were also treated to eight Glossy Ibis flying over Rt. 1A and 12 Purple Sandpipers on the breakwater.

Marine Mammals

- 26+ **Sei Whale** – Incredible group of whales. All skim feeding in an area of copepods
- 23 Humpback Whale counted through photos. Includes at least five mother/calf pairs with some activities seen from the youngsters and a couple of distant breaches
- 1 Minke Whale
- 40 Atlantic White-sided Dolphin, including a few nice aerial jumps
- 1 Basking Shark (distant)

Spring 2015 Field Notes

Compiled by Jane Wing and Rebecca Suomala

Sign of Snowy Owl Predation

by Eric Masterson



This Razorbill head was found during a weekend birding excursion to Star Island, May 22-24, 2015. Located immediately below a balcony railing, the remains are almost certainly the work of a Snowy Owl. Star Island is a prime location for Snowy Owls in winter and early spring, with at least three birds seen during the winter of 2014-15.

Photo by Eric Masterson.

Raven Behavior

by Mary Wright

Taken from an eBird report for March 8, 2015, Gilsum, NH.

A Common Raven (*Corvus corax*), with something white in its bill, flew into a tree. I thought maybe the white was a big chunk of suet, since I had just filled the suet feeder. Raven #1 was joined by another, who perched on the same branch about two feet from #1. With binoculars, I saw the “white” object was not suet, but was a Blue Jay. Raven #1 stood on, plucked (blizzards of) feathers, tore chunks from, and ate the jay exactly as a hawk would have done. Raven #1 did not offer any to #2, nor did #2 beg or attempt to take any or move closer. When most of the jay had been eaten, #1 gathered the remains into a wad (maybe three inches in diameter) in its bill, mopped at the branch with it, looked around for a minute or two, and flew off. Raven #2 followed a minute later. I wish I had seen how the raven obtained the jay. Did it catch it? Pirate it from a hawk? I don’t think the raven found a dead jay, because the carcass was floppy, not frozen. If the raven(s) did the initial capture, did they hunt cooperatively or solo?

Yellow-throated Vireo Nest

by Robert A. Quinn

While I was leading a tour group at Pawtuckaway State Park (Nottingham) in May 2015, we heard a singing Yellow-throated Vireo. Since some of the group had never seen this species before, we worked diligently at trying to find it, but after about 20 minutes without success, we moved on. About an hour later, we came back by the same spot and the bird was still singing from the same spot – the exact same spot. After realizing that this bird was not moving, I changed my search mode to look for a nest rather than a foraging bird, and voila, there it was, a Yellow-throated Vireo singing as it sat on its nest! Good scope views ensued, as did a lively discussion about why a bird would sing while sitting on its nest. After watching the female switch places with the presumed male, we went on our way.

Yellow-throated Vireo is an uncommon, though not rare species, and Pawtuckaway is one of the better places to find it, even though it is fairly widespread south of the White Mountains. Finding a nest is an entirely different matter though. To put this discovery in perspective, during the *six full field seasons* of the NH Breeding Bird Atlas (1981-1985), when hundreds of birders spent almost 10,000 hours searching for nesting/breeding birds, only *two* nests of the Yellow-throated Vireo were found in the entire state!

Coincidentally, on the same Pawtuckaway trip, we also

found nests for Red-eyed Vireo (at about 15 feet off the ground, much lower than you might expect), and a Prairie Warbler. All in all, a fabulous day even though we didn’t see anything considered rare.

The “Black Swallows” of Nashua, NH

by Chris Sheridan



“Black” Northern Rough-winged Swallows gathering nesting material by the school buses.

Taken from a post to the NH Birds e-mail list 5/8/15. All photos taken by Chris Sheridan, 5/8/15, in Nashua, NH except as noted.

I was driving up the roadway to “Joyce Park” at the end of Burke St. in Nashua, when what looked like an all black swallow swooped in front of the car. What was this? A melanistic bird? A species unknown to modern science? This required investigation!



Northern Rough-winged Swallow looking out of the bus tail pipe where it was nest building.

As I parked the car in the lot (the roadway runs through the parking lots for the city school buses), I quickly noticed not one, but six dark colored swallows darting and swooping, picking up small sticks off the asphalt. Opening the car window, I heard the chatter of.....Northern Rough-winged Swallows! Three pairs were carrying nesting material to the exhaust pipes of three different parked school buses, and disappearing inside as they deposited their sticks.

They had gotten soot-covered from stem to stern. A cleaner pair seemed to be studying the situation.

I learned from employees of the bus company (who at first seemed somewhat suspicious of my bus-photographing activities) that those buses had been parked near a grassy area adjacent to the brook until a few days ago. The birds had started their nesting attempts there, and when the buses had been moved to the upper lot, the birds had appeared to relocate them and continue their activity.

The buses, I was told, are driven daily, probably why I saw only a few sticks when I looked in the tailpipes.

Note: In response to this report, two others posted observations of similar behavior to the NH Birds e-mail list. Jim Berry (5/8/15) reported finding Northern Rough-winged Swallows nesting for the first time in school buses at the Topsfield fairgrounds (Essex County, MA) in 2015. Susan Fogleman (5/10/15) noted having seen them nest building



A normally colored Northern Rough-winged Swallow by Amanda Altena, 5/3/15, Exeter, NH.



Northern-Rough-winged-Swallow flying toward a PVC pipe nest in Ohio, 2011. Photo by Greg Miller.

in small airplane exhaust pipes, as well as those of buses.

Chris Sheridan also found a blog showing Northern Rough-winged Swallow nest pipes made out of PVC pipe:

<http://www.gregmillerbirding.com/2011/07/man-made-burrows-for-northern-rough-winged-swallows/>

The nest pipes were fabricated by Robert Hershberger at Time and Optics, Ltd. of Millersburg, Ohio. They have experimented with the design and had success but are not ready to market them.

Great Black-Backed Gull Versus American Eel/Lamprey

by Robert A. Quinn

Two iconic North American wildlife species met at Great Bay in May 2015 with dire results for one of them. As you might know, the Great Black-backed Gull is the largest gull in the world and a voracious predator. It is known to eat almost anything it can catch, including smaller gulls! The American Eel and Lamprey are both fascinating fishes with amazing stories. Eels are born at sea, then migrate to fresh water for the majority of their lives. The tiny young (called elvers) literally swim hundreds or thousands of miles and climb up dams during their fantastic journey. Eels are also considered a delicacy by some people. Lampreys are a very primitive fish without a jaw and are equally likely to be in Great Bay. On this sparkling day in May, a Great Black-backed Gull chose one of these delicacies for his meal. The photos below tell the rest of the story.



Great Black-backed Gull swallowing an American Eel or Lamprey, captured by Brian Reilly in May, 2015 at Great Bay, NH.

Birdathon/Bloomathon 2015

by Rebecca Suomala



This Short-billed Dowitcher photographed by Amanda Altena at World End Pond in Salem was a great inland find during the Birdathon/Bloomathon, 5/16/15.



The Whimbrel in the marshes south of Odiorne Pt. SP, by Len Medlock, 5/16/15, Rye, NH.

On May 16, 2015, over 100 birders and botanists set out with binoculars and field guides to identify as many birds and flowering plants as they could for New Hampshire Audubon's annual Birdathon/Bloomathon. Thanks to everyone's efforts, 178 species of birds were observed across the state, more than 60 different plants were identified, and nearly \$8,000 was raised to support NH Audubon programs, centers and chapters.

The team that observed the most birds was the "Bird Brains", led by Dan Hubbard of the Seacoast Chapter. They observed 126 species, including eight conservation species, the highest for any team. The most blooms (42 species) and the highest combined species (151 birds and blooms) were observed by Lauren Kras's team at Odiorne Point State Park. The "Big Sit" winners were "Copps and Robbins", a team made up of Andrea and George Robbins who tallied 82 species of birds from one spot in Tuftonboro.

The best fund raisers outside the NH Audubon staff were Dan Hubbard (\$592) and Barb Beers (\$525). Ruth Smith and Phil Brown were the top staff fund raisers. Over \$2,000 was raised for NH Audubon's wildlife sanctuaries.

The Conservation Department, of which I am a member, fanned out across the state to see how many species we could tally for the day when all our efforts were combined. Here are a few of our highlights during an amazing day of birding. Chris Martin joined Phil Brown's "Fermented Flicker" team and birded just in the town of Surry where they found an amazing total of 118 species. Pam Hunt concentrated her field efforts in under-birded Sullivan County with a big day

tally of 116 species. I targeted the coast and had 118 species. Carol Foss was the only one to count blooms which she did while conducting field work on Rusty Blackbirds! The combined final tally for the Department was 172 bird species and 12 blooms (no bias in this department!).

Highlights for me included a Common Gallinule at the Exeter Wastewater Treatment Plant (always good birding at a sewage plant), a Whimbrel in the marshes south of Odiorne Point State Park in Rye and a "swallow sweep" of all species plus Chimney Swift. A personal highlight was a group of 11 Roseate Terns roosting on a raft in Hampton Harbor. Remember the days when we never used to see this species?

Great looks at a Black-billed Cuckoo was one of Chris's highlights. At the very end of the day, after resigning themselves to tying Phil's previous single-town record of 117, the "Fermented Flickers" were nearly back at their car and headed for beer when a Common Nighthawk flew over-head peenting – #118! A bonus for the team was having to burn only one gallon of fuel as they drove 30 miles and walked about eight.

Pam's highlight was a Glossy Ibis in Charlestown Great Meadows – the first in Sullivan County in at least 30 years and a treat to see anywhere in the state. Her team's 19 species of warblers was topped off by two Mourning Warblers. House Finch turned out to be their nemesis bird which is apparently scarce in interior Sullivan County!

Thanks to everyone who supported the Birdathon/Bloomathon and helped make it a success.

Backyard Birder

Bluebird Mortality

by Iain MacLeod

On March 21, 2015, Mark Hatfield posted an account on the NH Birds e-mail list of finding five dead Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*) in three out of the nine nesting boxes at West Foss Farm in Durham. One of the three boxes held three bluebirds huddled together and each of the other two boxes had one dead bird. Mark posted a photograph of the three dead bluebirds on the remains of the nest after all were removed from the box and placed on the snow. Under the bluebird bodies was a “bed” of Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) berries.

Just three days later, one of my staff at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center in Holderness was cleaning out our nest boxes and discovered one box with two (a male and female) dead Eastern Bluebirds. They too had bittersweet berries under them. The two were shoulder to shoulder and looked like they had died while sleeping. Just a couple of weeks earlier, I had seen a pair of bluebirds feeding on bittersweet near to the box where the corpses were found.

I initially assumed that the birds had died either of starvation or had been frozen to death. The previous month had been particularly cold in New Hampshire and it certainly seemed reasonable to assume that the bone-chilling temps at night could have overcome the bluebirds.

Phil Brown reports that he and Silk Farm Audubon Sanctuary nest box monitor, Kate Ackerson, found a dead bluebird in mid-April 2015 in a box also atop a pile of bittersweet berries.

So, what’s going on here? Did the birds freeze to death? Did they starve to death? What is the significance of the bittersweet berries?

Phil did some searching online and shared a blog about the value (or lack thereof) of bittersweet as a food source for birds. The blogger postulated that bittersweet is a poor food source as it lacks both fat and antioxidants, but that in some areas, it’s all that some birds have to eat in very severe winters. Perhaps, they pay a price for that food choice.

Matt Tarr, Associate Extension Professor/Wildlife Specialist at UNH Cooperative Extension, offered his thoughts

and shared a paper entitled *It Takes Guts (And More) to Eat Fruit: Lessons from Avian Nutritional Ecology* by Douglas J. Levey and Carlos Martínez del Río.

High-fat fruits are especially valuable to migratory songbirds that are primarily insectivorous during the breeding season, but eat fruits during migration. Other species such as waxwings are specialized to eat sugary fruits (such as honeysuckle and autumn olive) and many of our resident birds that eat a varied diet throughout the year benefit equally from high-fat and high-sugar fruits. This simply means that ALL fruits are valuable to birds and the best way to manage your land to benefit a wide variety of birds is to provide a variety of different fruit- and seed producing plants.

It turns out that all fruits contain secondary metabolites, some of which are beneficial, others not, and perhaps all toxic to birds in **high** doses. Most of our frugivores generally eat a pretty varied diet in order to meet their nutritional needs and avoid consuming too much of any one particular fruit chemical. It seems likely that the **only** food source available to the bluebirds during this severe weather spell was bittersweet and they collected them and stored them in the boxes to sustain them through the bitter conditions. Perhaps too much of one thing proved toxic and the bluebirds actually poisoned themselves (exacerbated by general starvation and extreme cold).

So what can people do? Bluebirds are a species that seem to be extending their year-round range northward, yet available winter foods aren’t necessarily keeping up with this range expansion. Learn what plants on your property produce and hold on to their fruits and seeds during the winter. The most common shrubs to do so tend to be non-native, invasive plants including Japanese and European barberry, multiflora rose, and bittersweet. You should not remove these plants until you can establish other native



Dead Eastern Bluebirds found during spring nest box cleaning. Photos by Mark Hatfield, 3/21/15, Durham (left) and Iain MacLeod, 3/24/15, Holderness, NH.



plants that can provide fruit into the winter. Native shrubs that hold onto their fruits into winter include staghorn sumac (a favorite of bluebirds!), winterberry holly, red chokeberry, highbush cranberry, and greenbrier. The NH State Nursery offers packages of native fruit producing plants for sale every spring and you can place orders at nhnursery.com. If you would like more information about how you can improve bird habitat on your property you can contact your local county Cooperative Extension office.

Warbler World . . . Birding Old Cherry Mountain Road

by *Charlie Nims*



Deception Pond on Old Cherry Mountain Rd., Carroll, NH. Photo by David Govatski.

In spring, we New Hampshire birders cannot wait for the waves of migrants, especially warblers. We want to bird as many days as possible, spending hours searching for fleeting glimpses of warblers that are moving north, not tarrying, as they head toward their breeding grounds. We are happy to get five or six species a day when the first wave comes in late April and hope for 15+ come mid-May. If we get 20, it is a great day. Unless there is a massive fallout, we spend hours twitching with little time for extended observation or behavioral study.

There is a great birding location here in New Hampshire where, from late May to early August, 14+ species of warbler is what I would call normal and 16-20 species a definite possibility. To top it all off, this can be done in a couple of hours over 2.4 easily accessible miles. A bonus is that most of these warblers are on their breeding grounds so they are there all the time allowing those interested to observe breeding behavior and study vocalizations.

The location is Old Cherry Mountain Rd. in the town of Carroll (Coos County), off Rt. 302 very near the Mount Washington Hotel and the Bretton Woods ski resort. It is five miles west of Crawford Notch or 12 miles east of Bethlehem. For those birding Trudeau Road, Old Cherry Mountain Road is about nine miles away. (Detailed directions and GPS coordinates below.)

To be fully transparent, the summer of 2015 was the first time that I birded the area, but I have gone back several times including leading a Massachusetts birding club trip. I have also received input from several birders who have regularly birded there. For the area, there have been 20 warbler species reported to eBird. Some of the highlight warblers include Canada, Tennessee, Cape May, Blackpoll, Palm and Blackburnian. Some of the more common warblers include Magnolia, Nashville, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, and Chestnut-sided. While warblers may be the big attraction, the area can also have other species of interest such as Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Willow and Alder Flycatchers, Common Nighthawk, as well as several hawk species. The potential exists for other interesting species such as Mourning Warbler, Black-backed Woodpecker and Boreal Chickadee.

When birding the area, be very careful with the songs of the Black-throated Blue Warbler (BTBW) and the Blackburnian Warbler (BLBW). In my experience, both in this area and the White Mountains in general, about a third of the calls of the BTBW's are "alternative" to the standard call. With regard to the BLBW, twice I expected to find a Cape May Warbler, given the song to which I was listening, but both times the bird turned out to be a Blackburnian. The upside of this is that it is a great place to study song variation as a component of bird behavior.

Birding the area is quite easy as Old Cherry Mountain Road is a very well maintained dirt road that leaves Rt. 302 just west of the Bretton Woods ski area. (Access is also available from Rte. 115 if coming from the Jefferson area.) An interesting geological note is that this section of the road follows an esker, a glacially deposited ridge. All birding can be done from the road, which generally parallels Deception Brook, crosses it at 0.8 miles, and provides other views of it at several points along the way. While there are numerous places for birding stops, I will list a few of my favorites starting from the Rt. 302 intersection.

Immediately north off of Rt. 302, Lower Falls Road is on your left. A short detour down that road gives the opportunity for Yellow Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart and Alder Flycatcher, among other species. At 0.1 miles (all mileage from Rte. 302 intersection), there is a large field becoming overgrown with small shrubs and brambles on your left which can be good for open area birds.



The Fabyan Guard Station historic site, Old Cherry Mountain Rd., Carroll, NH. Photo by Charlie Nims.

At 0.6 miles, there is an interesting historic site, a 1923 National Forest Service cabin called the Fabyan Guard Station, which was restored in 2014. It is the oldest remaining guard station in the White Mountain National Forest. The cabin, with a historical information plaque, is also a good place to stop to listen for various woodland species.

At 1.0 miles, a high spot on the esker is reached which can be good for Blackburnian Warbler, kinglets and Red-breasted Nuthatches which seem to be everywhere! At 1.2 miles, Deception Brook comes closer to the road. I tend to park here and walk the next 100 yards or so, an area which can have a good variety of species highlighted by Canada Warbler. The next spot I stop at (1.6 miles) overlooks Deception Brook on the west side of the road. Similar to the previous spot, this can be good for Canada and other warbler species, as well as Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. Scarlet Tanagers, Hermit Thrushes and Swainson's Thrushes can be heard or seen almost anywhere along the route.

At 2.2 miles, I like to stop at a small stream crossing which is worth checking for Canada Warbler, thrushes, Cedar Waxwing, and Winter Wren, as well as Broad-winged and Sharp-shinned Hawks. While I have not seen reports of Cooper's Hawk or Red-tailed Hawk, I am sure that they are in the area, not to mention Northern Goshawk. This spot is one of the few places where there are dead snags and an open sky view. About 50 yards south of this stop is a small campsite that can be explored.

The final stop I recommend is at Deception Pond (2.4 miles), a spruce-dominated setting in the shadow of the Dartmouth Range to the east. At this spot, there have been warblers such as Tennessee, Nashville, Magnolia and Blackburnian, along with Mallard (nesting), Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Bufflehead, Belted

Kingfisher, breeding Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Olive-sided Flycatcher and thrushes. It is a jewel of a spot, beautiful and birdy.

If you have time, you might want to continue north on the road to its intersection with Rt. 115. For the ambitious, there is a trailhead at 3.2 miles which leads to the 3,573 foot summit of Cherry Mountain which has great views and where Bicknell's Thrush has been reported. Continuing on Old Cherry Mountain Road, there are several large fields shortly before you reach Rt. 115. Here you can search for grassland birds such as American Kestrel, Eastern Bluebird, swallows and sparrows. From here, it is less than four miles to the Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge trailhead for Cherry Pond and other refuge highlights, and only another mile to the Whitefield Airport with its pond and grassland habitat.

Old Cherry Mountain Road is seasonal, closed in winter. It opens in late May or early June depending upon winter weather and road condition so plan accordingly. For current road information, go to the White Mountain National Forest web site: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/whitemountain/conditions/?cid=STELPRDB5183538>.

Enjoy this wonderful place for warblers and please be sure to post your sightings to the eBird Hotspot: Old Cherry Mt. Rd., Carroll/Jefferson. To date, there have been 85 species reported to eBird, so the 20 warbler species recorded here represent a large percentage of the total. Finally, have a try at birding areas beyond those I have described, as there is lots of unexplored territory!

Detailed Directions

The GPS coordinates for the intersection of Rt. 302 and Old Cherry Mountain Rd. are: N 44° 16' 11.4", W 071° 28' 21.3". From southern New Hampshire, go north on either Rt. 93 or Rt. 16.

From Rt. 93, take Exit 36 to Rt. 3 just north of Franconia Notch. Drive to the junction of Rt. 3 and Rt. 302 at Twin Mountain and turn right onto Rt. 302. Drive about 3.5 miles to Old Cherry Mountain Rd., which is a well-marked left turn shortly before arriving at the Bretton Woods ski area.

From Rt. 16, drive through the North Conway area, staying on Rt. 302 towards Crawford Notch when Rt. 16 turns right towards Pinkham Notch. After reaching Crawford Notch, Old Cherry Mountain Rd. will be five miles on the right just beyond the Mount Washington Hotel and Bretton Woods ski area.

From the north on Rt. 2 in Jefferson, take Rt. 115 west for three miles, and turn left onto Old Cherry Mountain Rd. opposite Rt. 115A. Coming from the Pondicherry NWR trailhead on Hazen Rd., turn left (east) on Rt. 115 to reach the turn.

Thanks to Nancy Mitiguy, Sam Stoddard and David Govatski for their review of and input to this article.

Charlie Nims is an experienced birder who moved to the Mt. Washington Valley almost three years ago. He was actively involved with Massachusetts Audubon and the South Shore Bird Club and now volunteers with NH Audubon. Charlie also enjoys skiing and hiking recently completing the 48 New Hampshire 4000 footers.

Osprey Satellite Tagging

by Iain MacLeod

Photos by David Lipsy, Eagle Eye Photography

On Tuesday May 19, 2015, I led an Osprey research team to the Ayers Island Dam in New Hampton to attempt to capture the breeding male Osprey at the nest there and fit him with a GPS satellite transmitter. The tagging team was Dr. Rob Bierregaard, Chris Martin and I, ably assisted by Dallas Wrath, owner of Donovan Tree Experts, who provided the bucket truck needed to access the nest atop a 40 foot pole.

Curtis Mooney of EverSource Energy (owners of the hydro station at the dam) was also present, as were three employees of 3M, who had helped fund this year's Osprey Tracking Project, and two guests, Fran and Kevin Mandeville. We were also joined by photographer David Lipsy of Eagle Eye Photography, who documented the process.

A transmitter weights 30g (1.1 oz) and includes a mini solar cell to charge the battery.

Capturing an Osprey is like fishing, hours of hanging around, then a few minutes of action. In 2015, we targeted the males to find out about their foraging (males do all the hunting for the nest), but males are **much** harder to catch than females because they are off foraging, leaving the females to tend and guard the nest. We use what is known as a noose carpet, a 48 square inch section of mesh covered with hundreds of monofilament nooses. The carpet is secured on top of the nest and the returning Osprey gets its toes snared in the nooses.

When we arrived, the female was incubating three eggs. In 2011, we had caught and banded her, so we knew she was a veteran female. We don't deploy the trap until we know that the male is close by. This can take hours, as the male may be off fishing for the majority of his day. We always wait until he delivers a fish to the female and she flies off to feed, while the male sits on the eggs. We give her ten minutes or so to eat her fish (if we deployed the trap right away, she would defend the nest and likely drop her meal, which she may have waited all night for). This time, after several hours of waiting, the male arrived with a fish, delivered it to the female and then sat on the eggs. We waited the prerequisite ten minutes and then moved in with the trap. Rob was hoisted in the bucket truck and he attached the trap. Both adults were very vocal and swooped at Rob as he reached the nest (the female was still holding her lunch). We replaced the three eggs with dummy wooden eggs and put the real ones in an insulated box to keep them safe, then we stepped back and waited.



Dr. Rob Bierregaard holding a noose carpet used to capture an Osprey at the nest.



While we waited for the male to arrive with a fish, the female sat tight on her three eggs.



The female Osprey circled overhead carrying her lunch, as the trap was set on her nest.



The eggs were replaced with wooden eggs and stored safely in an insulated box.



The male Osprey arrived and his toes were quickly caught in multiple nooses.



After the male was caught, Rob was quickly lifted to the nest to retrieve him.

As is often the case, the female was first back to the nest (her urge to sit on the precious eggs is very strong). She stamped about trying to sit and quickly snagged her toes. Rob was hoisted back to the nest and quickly hooded the female and removed her from the trap. We had to hold on to her (snug in a custom-made canvas bag we call the Osprey Cozy) until the male was caught, otherwise she might fly straight back to the nest and get caught again. Her absence usually prompts the male to sit back on the eggs. It doesn't always work like clockwork and, on this day, the male was slow to take his turn. Finally after about an hour, he landed on the nest and was quickly caught. Rob was hoisted back to the nest, removed the male, removed the trap, replaced the real eggs and left a tasty fish in the nest as a "present" for the female.

Once the trap was removed, the real eggs returned, and the bucket truck backed away from the pole, I released the female. She flew up river, circled and settled on a nearby tree to preen and sulk. She was back on the eggs soon after.



Gundersen, now banded and fitted with his transmitter, was ready to be released.

The male Osprey, hooded to reduce stress, was banded, weighed and measured, and then fitted with the 1 oz. transmitter backpack, using Teflon ribbons which are sewn together across the chest. The whole process took about forty-five minutes and he was released. His transmitter was now storing hourly data points and the next day it made its first upload to the satellites. We named the male Gundersen, after retired Ayers Island Manager Bob Gundersen, who was a long time steward of the Ospreys at this nest.

Postscript: A couple of weeks later, the eggs were waterlogged in a two-day rain deluge and the female abandoned her incubation. Gundersen remained close to the nest throughout the summer, defending his territory. He headed south on September 7 and spent his winter in Barinas, Venezuela. On January 12, 2016 his transmitter suddenly went dead and no further data was received. I will have to await spring to see if he perished or whether he returns to his nest with a dead transmitter.

Photo Essay: Herring Gull Plumage

by Jon Woolf

Immature gulls are a nightmare problem for most birders. They come in a bewildering variety of plumages, and it takes a lot of study before one can even begin to feel confident about identifying them. A couple of years ago, I stumbled into a very useful tool for understanding and identifying immature gulls. I had noticed, photographed, and reported an adult Herring Gull with band number T47, and got a personal thank-you from Bill Clark, a volunteer member of the Appledore Gull Banding Project at the Isles of Shoals. After that, I started looking for these banded gulls – and finding them! I also started studying gulls more seriously.

A typical large gull takes four years to mature, passing through four distinct plumage cycles on the way. The four cycles roughly correspond to the bird's first 4 years of life: i.e., first cycle is from fledging to its first birthday; second cycle is from first to second birthday; third cycle is from second to third birthday; and the fourth cycle ends around the bird's fourth birthday. Since the bird can't afford to ever be without a functional set of feathers, especially flight feathers, molting is a gradual process that continues throughout the year. Several books and websites describe this process in detail, such as *Gulls of the Americas* by Steve Howell and Jon Dunn (2007) in the Peterson Reference Guide series.

Gulls of the Americas is widely considered a definitive reference on gull plumages. Several other very good books exist on the same subject. So, why this article and



Photo #1
Gull: 55C

Date photographed:
9/17/2014

Age: About 3 1/2
months

Hatchling gulls take about six weeks to grow to full size, develop their first full set of feathers, and learn to fly. This first set of feathers (the "juvenile plumage") is then fully replaced during the first plumage cycle. This photo shows gull 55C over three months after hatching, two months after fledging. Its scaly tan-and-brown appearance is typical of the juvenile plumage. Other features to note are the dark bill and all-dark eye.

accompanying website? All of those sources use gulls whose ages are only estimates. After three years of looking for, photographing, and reporting banded Herring Gulls from Appledore Island, my archives include many photos of immature gulls whose hatch-dates are on record, so their ages are known to within a week or two. A careful selection of these photos could provide a record of the four cycles of Herring Gull plumage, **all with gulls of known age.**

Once I realized what this meant, I set about trying to put it to use. I went through my archives for all the photos of banded gulls I had, then went out to get some more. Eventually, I had enough to assemble a good sequence of Herring Gull plumages, from fledging to adulthood. Below is a sample of some of these photos I compiled for a simple web slideshow, which can be found at www.jwoolfden.com/Gulls/gull_intro.html. This slideshow is **not** intended to be a thorough or complete study. Individual Herring Gulls vary greatly in their rate of maturation and in the timing and speed of their molt cycles. Rather, this is simply an attempt to match Herring Gull plumages with known ages, using a few individuals. Hopefully, this slideshow will help other birders learn how to tell an immature gull's age.

Acknowledgements

Obviously, this article would not have been possible without the efforts of the Appledore Gull Banding Project, run by Dr. Julie Ellis of Tufts University. The best way to repay their efforts is to help them. Please keep an eye out for banded gulls (and other birds) and report any that you see to the national Bird Banding Lab (www.reportband.gov). Appledore gulls may also be reported to the Gull Banding Project at their blog: gullsofappledore.wordpress.com. Appledore-banded Herring Gulls all have green bands

with white text and a three-character code in the pattern letter-number-number (K30) or number-number-letter (55C). Appledore-banded Great Black-backed Gulls have black bands with white lettering in a number-letter-number pattern (5X4).

Jon Woolf is a database programmer and web-designer who spends much of his off-work time pursuing several hobbies, including photography and birding.



Photo #3 Date photographed: Age: 1 year 9 months
 Gull: L52 3/26/2013

This bird is late in its second cycle – that is, approaching its third birthday. It is only a few weeks older than the one in Photo #2, but it's considerably more advanced in its plumage, as adult-color gray feathers are appearing on its back. Overall, this bird is getting very close to adult winter (basic) plumage for a Herring Gull. This and Photo #4 are worth careful study, as they show the same bird about six months (half a cycle) apart.



Photo #2 Date photographed: Age: About 1 year 9 months
 Gull: V18 3/11/2014

This gull was about 21 months old when this photo was taken – late in its second year. Note the ragged edges on the covert feathers, showing that this bird is wearing mostly old feathers. Also note that the patterning is very muddy and the feathers are worn and pale.



Photo #4 Date photographed: Age: 2 years 2 months
 Gull: L52 8/13/2013

L52 early in its third year of life, about five months after Photo #3. The changes from the previous photo are striking, as adult gray feathers now cover the back and wings.

Volunteers and Research

How to Count Birds

by Rebecca Suomala

When reporting bird sightings to eBird or any other data source, it's most helpful to provide an accurate count for each species listed. In eBird, you can use an "x" in the number to indicate presence, but your data will be much more useful if there's an actual number or at least an estimate. When biologists use data to document species' populations or the importance of a site for a given species, numbers of birds are critical. An "x" could mean one or 1,000 and there's a huge difference between those two.

Frequently, however, when it comes to counting large numbers of birds, here's how most of us respond:

"Just one question: how do you do it????"

"The simple answer.....count their legs and divide by two!"

Counting birds is an extremely difficult challenge. It takes time to learn to do it, especially if you are also spending time identifying the different birds in a large, mixed group. eBird took on the task of trying to educate birders with a couple of very helpful articles:

<http://ebird.org/content/ebird/news/counting-101/>
<http://ebird.org/content/ebird/news/counting-201/>

They are worth reading in their entirety and there are some good photo examples. Here are some tips to remember.

Bring a field notebook and write things down. It's difficult to remember what you saw when there are many different species or large numbers of birds.

Count by the smallest grouping possible. For small flocks, you can count each bird, as flocks get larger, count by fives or tens, and for very large flocks, even larger groupings may be needed.

When a single species is "blanketing" an area, figure out how many birds occupy one part of the area and then extrapolate. People generally underestimate numbers in this situation because birds can be so closely packed in.

When massive numbers of birds are moving, use a sampling technique; either count a block of individuals and then extrapolate to the area of the whole flock, or count birds per unit of time as they are streaming by.

For mixed species flocks, determine the proportion of the flock that each species represents, starting with the most common, or use just a sample of the flock if necessary. Then estimate the size of the entire flock and determine the species



Check yourself by taking a photo, making an estimate, and then counting the birds in the photo as Steve Mirick did with this photo of Bohemian Waxwings. To make an exact count of the birds, Steve placed a red dot on every Bohemian Waxwing in the photo and a blue one for every Cedar Waxwing, then counted the dots. The answer is below, but to see the version of this photo showing the red and blue dots and the count breakdown, see the on-line version of this article on the New Hampshire Bird Records web page, www.nhbirdrecords.org under Current Issue (if Spring 2015 is no longer the current issue, click "view the contents of each issue from 2003 to present" to find the article).

counts by the various proportions obtained.

Practice! Estimating flock sizes is a very difficult challenge that requires a lot of practice. When estimating a flock of birds that is stationary, try to test yourself by first performing an estimate of the flock size. Take 10 or 20 seconds to estimate the flock size and then take the time to accurately count each individual bird in the flock. See how close you are to the estimate.

Be as accurate as possible, but it's always better to err on the conservative side.

Keep your reported number to the lowest level of precision; if you counted by tens, report your count to the nearest ten, but don't add on that last group of three birds.

In eBird, your best estimate is always better than an "x."

Thanks to Steve Mirick for contributing to this article and to Chris Sheridan for posing "Just one question" to the NH Birds e-mail list that generated this discussion.

Bohemian Waxwings = 501. Cedar Waxwings = 3.

Answer to the Photo Quiz

by David B. Donsker

Nothing is more anticipated in spring than the return of Neotropical migrants from their southern wintering grounds as they arrive in New Hampshire to breed or pass through our state to more northerly breeding grounds. Arguably, the varied and active wood-warblers are the most anticipated of all.

Indeed, our Photo Quiz subject is a warbler. We know that almost instantly for several reasons. It's a small passerine or perching bird, which we can tell by comparing it to the size of the oak leaves in which the bird is perched. Of the small passerines, very few possibilities other than a warbler could even be entertained. It has a short tail, stout pointed bill and white underparts that might be reminiscent of a nuthatch, but no nuthatch has strongly streaked flanks. Streaked flanks are seen in some sparrows and finches, but those groups are characterized by short, conical bills. Of the small perching birds, only warblers combine the longish, sharply pointed bill and the flank streaking evidenced in this bird.

That settled, let's examine the specific characteristics of this bird. First of all, we are looking at it from below, and we are seeing it on a small branch of an oak tree. So, the bird is likely to be a denizen of the leafy canopy of deciduous woods. Seeing it largely from below limits our ability to see all of its plumage characteristics well, but it does allow us to see some very critical ones. As warblers go, this is a particularly small species, which we can judge by comparison with the adjacent leaves. Notable is its general shape. It has a very short tail. The tail looks even shorter because, in contrast, its wings are really quite long. It has a sharply pointed, but rather stout bill. It is snow white below from its throat through its undertail coverts or vent, save for strong dark streaks on its flanks, and a crisp, narrow, dark band across its upper breast. We can just barely make out two white wing bars on its left wing. It has dark auriculars or cheeks and a white eyebrow or supercilium. The underside of the tail is characterized by two fused large white spots between the black of the base of the tail and the black at the outer tips.

Only a limited number of warblers share some of the above features with this species. Black-throated Blue Warbler is snowy white below and shares the large white spots under the tail, but amongst other differences, it has a black throat and a solid black stripe, rather than streaks, along its flanks. Magnolia Warbler has bold black flank streaks, dark auriculars and a black collar. But the collar of Magnolia Warbler is a necklace of long black streaks that extend well

onto the breast as opposed to the crisp thin band of this bird. Further, it lacks two wing bars and instead, has a large, white wing panel. It is also brilliantly yellow, not snowy white below, is rather long-tailed, and has a smallish bill. The black at the tip of the tail is much more extensive.

Two warblers, very closely related to each other, are vaguely reminiscent of this bird: Black-throated Green Warbler and Townsend's Warbler. The first is a common summer resident throughout the state. The other is a rare western vagrant with only six New Hampshire records. They both have strong black flank streaks and two white wing bars. Townsend's Warbler also has dark auriculars. But both have a black throat and upper breast, a rather short, stout bill and longish tails, which exclude them as possible contenders. In addition, they both have a considerable amount of yellow in the plumage, particularly on the face, which even in this black-and-white photograph should have a different tone than the clean white that is shown in these areas.

Northern Parula has a surprisingly similar shape. It is short-tailed and has a sharply pointed bill. It also has two wing bars and a fairly distinctive breast band. It may even have indistinct flank streaks, but the flank streaks are never as bold and distinctive as in this bird. Its belly is white, but its throat and breast are yellow, which should contrast in tone to some degree with the white belly. Uniquely, its lower mandible is yellow, not black, as in this and other wood-warblers.

Another short-tailed, long-winged warbler with black flank streaks and two white wing bars is Blackpoll Warbler. The most noticeable characteristic of this black-and-white species, however, are its white cheeks, which are in striking contrast to this black-cheeked bird. Blackpoll also lacks the distinctive black breast band of the featured bird and has pale legs unlike other similar warblers, including this subject.

Black-and-white Warbler is superficially similar to Blackpoll Warbler and also has some features shared with our featured species. It is comparatively short-tailed, although not nearly as short-tailed as Blackpoll or this bird. Like this bird, it has a rather prominent, sharply pointed bill, but the bill of Black-and-white Warbler is thin and slightly downcurved, quite unlike the straight, stout, pointed bill of the featured bird. The undertail coverts of the Black-and-white Warbler have bold black spots, unlike the pure white vent of this individual. Like this bird, Black-and-white Warbler has bold black flank streaks, dark auriculars and two white wing bars, but it is much more extensively streaked below. In the male, these streaks converge into a black throat. Granted, the female does have a white throat, but it lacks dark auriculars. Both sexes lack the distinctive black breast band of this bird.

Only one species of wood-warbler, male Cerulean Warbler, has all of the characteristic features of this individual: small

size, short tail, long wings, stout pointed bill, bold dark flank streaks, two white wing bars and extensive white underparts with a distinctive narrow dark breast band. Since Cerulean Warbler is a species that occupies the upper canopy of leafy deciduous forest, getting a good clear view of this desirable small species is often a challenge. More often than not, the only glimpse one can get is that of the white underparts and, if observant, the black breast band. But in the proper habitat, these features, along with the extremely short tail and disproportionately long wings, are enough to establish the identification.

One potentially confusing feature of this particular bird bears further discussion. Although this is clearly a male Cerulean Warbler by virtue of its bold markings and breast band, it has a distinct white supercilium, which we don't typically associate with males of this species. The white eyebrow makes the auricular patch even more distinctive. Although adult male Cerulean Warblers don't have a white eyebrow, females and immature males do. We can reasonably conclude that this young male was hatched the previous summer and photographed in its first spring plumage.

Cerulean Warbler is a species that lives in the upper canopy of the mature deciduous forest of the eastern USA. Its center of abundance is the Ohio River Valley and the Cumberland Plateau region of the Appalachians. But in recent decades, it has expanded its breeding range into the northeast and has a small presence in New England, including southern New Hampshire. It is nowhere common and, alarmingly, has declined precipitously in numbers since the early 20th century. The population decline is thought to be multifactorial, but habitat loss, forest fragmentation, loss of key tree species (American chestnut, oaks and sycamores), and cowbird parasitism are all thought to contribute to this.

In addition to habitat loss in North America, this species is particularly vulnerable to habitat loss on its wintering grounds. As its long wings suggest (long, pointed wings help reduce drag), Cerulean Warbler is a long distance migrant that winters almost exclusively in foothill forest of the Andes of northern South America from Colombia and Venezuela south to northern Bolivia. In route, it uses similar montane forest in Central America. Unfortunately, especially in Costa Rica and Colombia, much of its habitat is also perfect for the production of coffee. As hillsides are cleared of trees for coffee production, Cerulean Warbler habitat is destroyed. For this reason, it is a poster child for the environmental advantages of shade grown coffee.

Cerulean Warbler has a tenuous toe-hold in New Hampshire. Although spring records have been reported as far north as Hanover and Lebanon, most of the limited fall and spring records are from the more southern portions of our state. The only established breeding population had

been in Pawtuckaway State Park in Nottingham, where a few individuals were recorded nearly annually from the early 1990s until fairly recently. But even in Pawtuckaway, it was a challenging bird to see in the high canopy of mature deciduous woodland in the western side of the park. Unfortunately, reports of this species from Pawtuckaway have fallen off in recent years, and the park is no longer a reliable place to find this desirable bird. But if you are up to the challenge, the best way to locate this rarity is to listen for its voice, a series of ascending buzzing notes. Beware however, the voice is similar to that of Northern Parula and reminiscent of the voice of Black-throated Blue Warbler and can be confused with either of these two more common species, especially if heard distantly. But the series of notes in Cerulean Warbler ends in a high pitched, prolonged buzz, which is characteristic of this species.

Encountering Cerulean Warbler in New Hampshire is a real challenge, but the rewards of glimpsing this charismatic and unique species are worth the effort.

This excellent photograph of Cerulean Warbler was taken by Scott Young on May 27, 2012 on North Mountain in, naturally, Pawtuckaway State Park.

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For more information, contact the Managing Editor (see inside front cover).

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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
PMRO	Pack Monadnock Raptor Observatory
PO	Post Office
R.	River
Rd.	Road
Rt.	Route
SF	State Forest
SP	State Park
SPNHF	Society for the Protection of NH Forests, Concord
T&M	Thompson & Meserves (Purchase)
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
WMA	Wildlife Management Area
WMNF	White Mountain National Forest
WS	NHA Wildlife Sanctuary
~	approximately
WTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant

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Spring 2015 Highlights



Summer Tanager by Roger Walton, 4/14/16, Rt. 1A, Rye, NH.



Grasshopper Sparrow by Amanda Altena, photographed during the NH Audubon Birdathon/Bloomathon (see inside for more), 5/16/15, Pease Int'l. Tradeport, Newington, NH.



Amanda Altena photographed these two Mississippi Kites copulating in Newmarket, NH on May 25, 2015, evidence that breeding was definitely occurring.



White-eyed Vireo by Len Medlock, 5/10/15, Odiorne Point SP, Rye, NH.



Red-necked Grebe in breeding plumage by Scott Heron, 3/14/15, Hampton, NH.



An early Indigo Bunting molting into breeding plumage, by Zeke Cornell, 4/26/15, Acadia Ave., Hampton, NH.



Great Cormorant showing the white feathers of breeding plumage, by Steve Mirick, 3/3/15, Manchester, NH.

