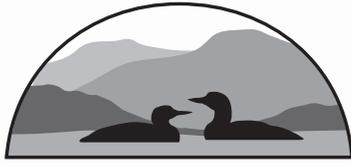


# New Hampshire Bird Records





**NH AUDUBON**  
Protecting our environment since 1914

**NEW HAMPSHIRE BIRD RECORDS**  
VOLUME 34, NUMBER 4  
WINTER 2015-16

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IN CELEBRATION OF  
**Pamela D. Hunt**

This issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* with its color cover is sponsored by the many people who have appreciated Pam's contributions to this publication and to birds and birding in New Hampshire during her long tenure as Season Editor.

*Pam's Renaissance Fair alter ego, still keeping track of the birds she sees at the Fair.*



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Cover Photos: *Western Tanager* (top left), *by William Kramer* ([www.williamkramer.com](http://www.williamkramer.com)), 1/31/16, Hollis, NH. *American Redstart* (top right) *by Stephen Mirick*, 12/19/15, Greenland, NH. The bottom photo *by Terri Fratus* shows both *Turkey Vulture* and *Black Vulture* (right) on the Lincoln Street school chimney, 2/2/16, Exeter, NH (see the *Superbowl of Birding* article for more).

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

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### Winter 2015-16

by Rebecca Suomala

#### Thank You, Pam Hunt!

After serving as Season Editor for 26 seasons, Pam Hunt is retiring! This is her final issue. She has been an editor longer than any other season editor in *New Hampshire Bird Records'* history as an independent publication. That's quite an accomplishment. She started as the Spring Editor in 1991 and in her second season she drew the cover illustration, offering it for sale with proceeds to benefit *New Hampshire Bird Records*. In 2010, she edited both spring and winter, then she changed to the Winter Editor to match her volunteer position as Regional Winter Editor for *North American Birds*. She has brought incredible knowledge to the position as well as humor and a wealth of birding experience in the state. The weekly surveys she has done since October of 1989 have given her a finger on the pulse of bird movements in the state that is incredibly valuable. I have personally taken advantage of her knowledge for just about every issue of the publication (it helps that we work in the same office).

She has seen many changes in the publication, navigating the transition to eBird and its associated changes with great skill. In her first spring season as editor in 1991, long before eBird, there were 2,365 sightings submitted compared to 39,458 in this Winter 2015-2016 season (and 112,679 in

Spring 2016)! That's a big change. Her second year, 1992, was the year we switched to a subscription publication from a NH Audubon member benefit. When she started, we had no articles in the publication, and guess who wrote one of the very first – yes, Pam! – in the Winter 1995-96 issue. It was about the return of the Baltimore Oriole (thanks to re-splitting the Northern Oriole) and other recent changes to bird names and taxonomy, a topic she has tackled many times in *New Hampshire Bird Records*. She has written numerous articles which have greatly improved the publication and we hope she will still be an occasional contributor.

There's not enough room to describe all of Pam's contributions and we're grateful for all that she has done. We are very happy to be able to sponsor this issue in her honor. Thank you to all who contributed to make this possible.

Please make ready to welcome the new Winter Editors, Jim Sparrell and Katie Towler. I'll introduce them in the next winter issue.

#### Field Notes Compiler Needed

This volunteer gathers stories and photos for the regular Field Notes feature in each issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*. Responsibilities include reviewing the NHBirds e-mail list for potential stories, contacting authors, obtaining photos, and occasionally writing text. The position requires familiarity/interest in birding, the ability to meet deadlines and good editing skills. If you are interested, please contact me (see inside front cover).

## PHOTO QUIZ

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**Can You Identify This Bird?** Answer on page 43. Photos by Jim Sparrell (left) and Charlie Nims (right).



## Thank You to Donors

We are very grateful to everyone who has donated to *New Hampshire Bird Records*, sponsored an issue, or supported the “Twitchers in the Rye” during the Superbowl of Birding. Subscription revenue does not cover the full costs of *New Hampshire Bird Records* and your contributions help make it possible for New Hampshire Audubon to bring you this publication and maintain the quality of the records. We are especially grateful to those who have contributed to the New Hampshire Bird Records Endowment Fund. This fund is building a secure base of long-term support for the collection, organization, publication, preservation and storage of New Hampshire bird sighting information. Support for data compilation and management was also received from New Hampshire Audubon’s Dr. Margery J. Milne and Dr. Lorus J. Milne Biological Science Research Fund.

The following list acknowledges donations received between November 1, 2015 and November 15, 2016 with the exception of the Spring 2016 sponsorship. We apologize if we inadvertently omitted you or mis-spelled your name – please let us know.

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## December 1, 2015 through February 29, 2016

by Pamela Hunt



*Pam Hunt at the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers on one of her Lewis & Clark expeditions.*

If the winter of 2014-15 will be remembered for its cold and snow, the winter of 2015-16 was, by most accounts, the exact opposite. Across both New Hampshire and all of New England, it was the warmest winter since consistent records began in 1896. It all started with a record-breaking December, which averaged 11 degrees above normal in Concord. Many Granite State residents will remember going outside in T-shirts on Christmas Day (I was even barefoot for a while – just so I could say I was!),

when the mercury set a new record of 62 degrees in Concord. January and February followed suit with above average temperatures, although a brief deep freeze in the middle of February served as a reminder that we still live in northern New England. While precipitation actually averaged well above normal, relatively little came in the form of snow. This was received with relief by southern communities that had been inundated by snow the previous winter, but low and inconsistent snow cover in the north was not good for a local economy that depends on snowmobilers and other winter recreation. At least the ski areas could make their own snow – when it was cold enough.

As befits a mild winter, half-hardies were widespread, but recall that they were widespread the previous winter as well. It's likely that the patterns we see in Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Red-shouldered Hawks, Hermit Thrushes, and the rest are less about any given winter and more about longer-term changes in both climate and bird populations. The populations of most of these half-hardies are increasing,



*Bullock's Oriole by Jeanne-Marie Maher, 12/17/15, Hampton, NH.*

so there are likely to be more around to linger. In contrast, declining species like Eastern Towhee, Brown Thrasher, and Field Sparrow remain relatively scarce in winter. Although there are certainly still a few around, they aren't getting to the point where I no longer bother to list them – a point that Hermit Thrush has most certainly passed. The other regular chapter in a winter summary is the finch flight, but this season it was largely limited to the north.

Rarities were also relatively scarce, with the star of the show being a **Bullock's Oriole** that spent most of December at a feeder in Hampton. A **Black Vulture** in Exeter was a close second and was certainly more visible to more birders. Other rarities were more often of the one-day wonder variety, including **Western Tanager**, **Swainson's Thrush**, and several unexpected lingerers well into the winter.

### Waterfowl through Herons

Despite the mild weather, there weren't many particularly noteworthy waterfowl records this winter. As in recent years, there were good showings of Gadwall and Northern Shoveler, and definitely more Ruddy Ducks than usual. Great Bay and the nearby Exeter Wastewater Treatment Plant hosted the majority of the season's more unusual records. Given the amount of open water, it was something of a surprise that there were essentially no unexpected sea ducks inland during December. Barrow's Goldeneyes were relatively widespread, with multiple birds on the Seacoast, Great Bay, and the Merrimack River, and another well to the north on the Androscoggin River. Late February saw the beginnings of spring migration as species like Northern Pintail and Wood Duck began to show up in the Connecticut and Merrimack River valleys.

A handful of Common Loons remained inland into February, and over the course of the winter many needed to be rescued by biologists when they lingered too long and were trapped by increasing ice. Birders on offshore fishing trips noted good numbers of Great Shearwaters in December; this species is clearly now to be expected in New Hampshire waters in early winter. The **Great White Heron** (the white morph of Great Blue Heron normally found in southern Florida) first found in Litchfield in November remained until December 2, and probably represents the first winter record of this form north of Delaware.

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

#### **Snow Goose**

12/24	8	Sherman Farm, Conway	B. Crowley
-------	---	----------------------	------------

#### **Brant**

12/04	12	Sunset Farm, Greenland	N. Houlihan
12/28	2	Rye Harbor	C. Woolley, M. Desrosiers
01/31	1	Rye Ledge	S. Mirick

# WINTER SEASON

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
<b>Mute Swan</b>				<b>Northern Shoveler</b>			
01/03	1	Potanipo Pond, Brookline	C. McPherson	12/08	2	Exeter WTP	J. Scott, C. Nims
02/21	1	Wildcat Falls, Merrimack	J. Benson	12/10	2	Derry WTP	S. Mirick
<b>Wood Duck</b>				12/13	5	Spofford Lake, Chesterfield	P. Gurn, E. Synnott
12/26	1	Nashua-Hollis CBC, Milford sector	D. Harris, B. Becker	01/02	3	Exeter WTP	L. Medlock, J. Sparrell
01/12	2	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard	01/06	4	Exeter WTP	C. Sheridan, D. Fortnam, S. Mirick
01/14	1	Two Rivers CA, Lebanon	J. MacQueen	01/11	5	Exeter WTP	J. Scott, B. Crowley, C. Nims, C. Leuchtenburg
02/02	2	Mascoma River, Lebanon	J. MacQueen	<b>Northern Pintail</b>			
02/19	2	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard	12/01	1	Sunset Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick
02/24	1	Powwow Pond, Kingston	S. Heron	12/15	1	Powwow Pond, Kingston	S. Heron
02/28	2	Hiroshi Hayashi Conservation Land Trail, Peterborough	C. Witko, K. Vande Vusse, L. Caldwell	12/20	1	Bow power plant	R. Woodward, F. Schneider
02/29	2	Suncook R. at Tilton Hill Rd., Pittsfield	A. Robbins	01/30	3	Exeter WTP	S. Mirick, et al.
02/29	4	Newton Rd., Plaistow	K. Wilmarth, A. Altena, J. Scott, C. Nims	02/04	1	Benson Park, Hudson	D. Fallon
<b>Gadwall</b>				02/20	4	Rye Harbor SP	K. Wilmarth
12/18	1	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard	02/23	2	Exeter WTP	K. Couture
01/01	11	Sunset Farm, Greenland	J. Lambert, K. Fenton	02/25	4	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
01/23	2	Great Island Common, New Castle	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala	02/27	2	Chapmans Landing, Stratham	S. Mirick
01/30	4	Meloon Rd., Greenland	L. Kras, R. Prieto, B. Griffith, J. Lambert	<b>Green-winged Teal</b>			
02/21	1	Wallis Sands State Beach, Rye	S. Mirick	12/01	14	Meadow Pond, Hampton	S. Mirick
<b>Eurasian Wigeon</b>				<b>Green-winged Teal (American)</b>			
12/01	2	Sunset Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick	12/15	1	Mine Falls Park, Spine Rd., Nashua	J. Maher
01/01	5	Sunset Farm, Greenland	J. Lambert, K. Fenton	01/03	1	Merrymeeting R., New Durham	J. Lambert
01/09	2	Sunset Farm, Greenland	K. Wilmarth, A. Altena	01/04	1	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
<b>American Wigeon</b>				01/07	2	Exeter WTP	J. Lambert, K. Fenton
12/01	234	Sunset Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick	01/07	1	Johnston Island, Lebanon	J. MacQueen
12/19	137	Sunset Farm, Greenland	S. & J. Mirick	01/09	1	Meadow Rd., Newport	D. Jackson
12/20	1	Exeter WTP	B. Baker	01/27	1	South Mill Pond, Portsmouth	S. Young
01/01	148	Sunset Farm, Greenland	J. Lambert	02/20	1	Messer Pond, New London	D. Jackson
01/02	53	Sunset Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick	<b>Canvasback</b>			
01/03	1	Henrys Pool, Rt. 101E, Hampton	S. Mirick	01/01	1	Sunset Farm, Greenland	L. Medlock, et al.
01/17	1	Downing Ct., Exeter	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala	01/03	1	Sunset Farm, Greenland	S. Bennett
01/17	2	Garland Rd., Rye	S. Mirick	<b>Redhead</b>			
01/30	5	Downing Ct., Exeter	E. Masterson, C. McPherson, G. Tillman	12/06	1	Sunset Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick
02/21	2	Powwow R. at Small Pox Rd., Kingston	S. Heron	12/13	2	Sunset Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick
02/26	1	Fields Grove City Park, Nashua	C. Sheridan	01/07	3	Bracketts Pt., Greenland	J. Lambert, K. Fenton
02/28	4	Lake Wantastiquet, Hinsdale	T. Pirro	02/23	1	Exeter WTP	K. Couture
				02/29	1	Exeter WTP	G. Tillman, D. Hubbard
				<b>Ring-necked Duck</b>			
				12/25	26	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
				12/27	13	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
				02/24	3	Captain Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
				02/26	2	Exeter WTP	G. Santino, S. Santino
				02/28	4	Lake Wantastiquet, Hinsdale	T. Pirro
				02/29	8	Exeter WTP	D. Hubbard
				02/29	6	Powwow Pond, Kingston	S. Heron
				<b>Greater Scaup</b>			
				12/13	2	Exeter WTP	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
				12/13	1400	Sunset Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick
12/20	3	Eel Pond, Rye	P. Miliotis				
01/01	3000	Sunset Farm, Greenland	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala				
01/02	1	Winnisquam Lake, Laconia	J. Lambert, L. Kras, B. Griffith				
01/02	1	Wilson Pond, Swansey	W. Ward				

Northern Shoveler by Stephen Mirick, 12/11/15, Exeter, NH.

Date	#	Location	Observer
01/09	1000	Great Bay Discovery Ctr., Greenland	S. Heron
01/11	5	Exeter WTP	C. Leuchtenburg
01/27	1	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	C. Nims
02/25	5	Exeter WTP	J. Maher

**Lesser Scaup**

12/12	4	Exeter WTP	P. Miliotis
12/19	3	Eel Pond, Rye	M. Watson
12/27	1	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
01/03	1	Canobie Lake, Salem	K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
01/30	20	Great Bay, Greenland	L. Kras, R. Prieto, B. Griffith, J. Lambert
02/29	20	Exeter WTP	D. Hubbard

**Common Eider**

12/05	32	N. Hampton State Beach	K. Vande Vusse
01/10	42	Rye Harbor SP	L. Kras, J. Lambert, B. Griffith

**Harlequin Duck**

12/09	1	Concord Pt., Rye	J. Maher
12/15	1	North Beach, Hampton	J. Parrot-Willis

**Surf Scoter**

01/03	33	Seabrook Beach	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
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**White-winged Scoter**

12/05	27	N. Hampton State Beach	K. Vande Vusse
01/31	25	Rye Harbor SP	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala

**Black Scoter**

12/05	100	Seabrook Beach	K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
02/04	30	Hampton Beach	J. Russo, D. Clark, L. Gaudette



Long-tailed Ducks by Scott Heron, 12/6/15, Rye, NH.

**Long-tailed Duck**

12/05	31	N. Hampton State Beach	K. Vande Vusse
12/06	24	NH coast, Rye	S. Heron
01/05	20	N. Hampton State Beach	S. Stoddard
01/17	32	Seabrook Beach	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala

**Bufflehead**

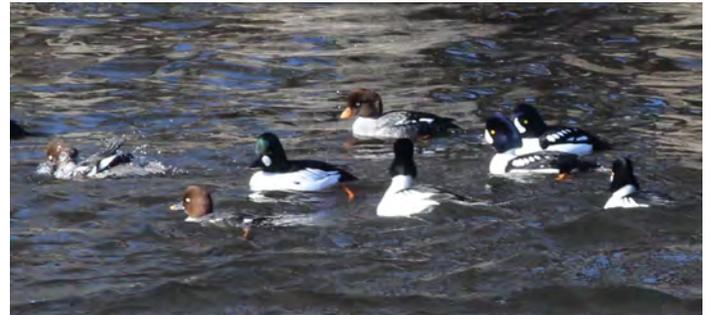
12/05	5	Potanipo Pond, Brookline	C. McPherson
12/05	2	Dorr Woolen Mill WTP, Newport	D. Jackson
12/07	1	Opechee Bay, Laconia	I. MacLeod
12/12	25	Northwood Lake	R. Suomala
12/13	1	Merrimack R., Manchester	C. Nims, C. McPherson
12/13	2	Willand Pond, Somersworth/Dover	A. Murray, A. Aldrich
01/01	38	Newcastle Ave., Portsmouth	J. Sparrell
01/09	1	Merrimack R., Stark Landing, Manchester	M.& R. Suomala, J. Swatt, D. Jackson

**Common Goldeneye**

12/06	27	Merrimack R., Stark Landing, Manchester	C. McPherson
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Date	#	Location	Observer
12/27	42	Hinsdale Setbacks	L. Bate
01/01	162	Great Bay Discovery Ctr., Greenland	S. Heron, E. Nathan, A. Itz

01/02	124	Winnisquam Lake, Laconia	J. Lambert, L. Kras, B. Griffith
01/05	30	N. Hampton State Beach	S. Stoddard
01/07	20	Squam Lake w., Holderness	I. MacLeod
01/07	79	Merrimack R., Manchester	S. Mirick
01/09	80	Great Bay Discovery Ctr., Greenland	S. Heron
01/09	42	Bartlett Beach, Laconia	J. MacQueen
01/09	3	Sunapee State Beach, Newbury	D. Jackson
01/09	2	Pulpit Rocks, Rye	J. Sparrell
01/11	3	Androscoggin R., Errol	S. Stoddard
01/11	200	Great Bay Dr., Greenland	J. Scott, B. Crowley, C. Nims
01/14	17	N. Walpole	M. Harrison
01/27	7	Androscoggin R., Rt. 16, Dummer	L. Charron
02/20	36	Green Hill Rd., Chatham	B. Crowley
02/28	35	Sewalls Falls State Recreation Area, Concord	R. Quinn



Two drake and one hen Barrow's Goldeneye by Charlie Nims, 1/11/16, Manchester, NH.

**Barrow's Goldeneye**

12/01	1	Androscoggin R., Rt. 16, Dummer	L. Charron
12/06	2	Merrimack R., Stark Landing, Manchester	C. McPherson
12/20	1	Eel Pond, Rye	B. Baker
01/02	3	Winnisquam Lake, Laconia	J. Lambert, L. Kras, B. Griffith
01/07	3	Merrimack R., Manchester	S. Mirick
01/07	1	NH coast	J. Lambert, K. Fenton
01/10	1	Rt. 16, Errol	J. Maher
01/21	2	Merrimack R., Manchester	J. Swatt, D. Jackson, K. Towler
01/25	1	Eel Pond, Rye	C. Kozlosk
01/30	1	Great Bay Discovery Ctr., Greenland	S. Mirick, E. Masterson, et al.
02/07	1	Merrimack R., Manchester	J. MacQueen
02/20	1	Androscoggin R., Errol	S. Stoddard
02/21	1	Bicentennial Park, Hampton	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala, D. Howe
02/27	1	Great Bay, Greenland	S. Mirick

**Hooded Merganser**

12/03	27	Great Bay NWR, Newington	D. Lima
12/05	29	Great Meadow, Charlestown	D. Jackson

# WINTER SEASON

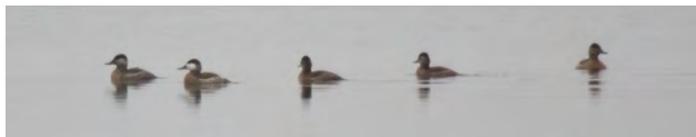
Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Hooded Merganser—continued</b>			
12/07	23	Silver Lake, Tilton/Belmont	I. MacLeod
12/08	25	Sunset Farm, Greenland	J. Scott, C. Nims
12/08	23	Northwood Lake	A. Robbins
12/16	11	Trinity Farm, Orford	J. MacQueen
12/19	38	W. Massabesic Rockingham Trail, Manchester	R.& K. Frieden
12/20	52	Penacook Lake, Concord	R. Quinn
12/24	29	Mink Brook wetlands, Hanover	J. Hill
01/02	35	Canobie Lake, Salem	K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
01/04	42	Northwood Lake	A. Robbins
01/04	34	Jeness Pond, Northwood	A. Robbins

## Common Merganser

12/12	37	Northwood Lake	R. Suomala
12/21	34	Center Harbor Town Docks	I. MacLeod
12/30	60	Lake Skatutakee, Harrisville	K. Pick
01/02	104	Paugus Bay, Laconia	K. Fenton
01/03	42	Twentymile Bay, Tuftonboro	A. Robbins
01/07	430	Squam Lake w., Holderness	I. MacLeod
01/12	51	Opechee Bay, Laconia	J. Maher

## Red-breasted Merganser

12/04	25	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Santino, N. Houlihan
12/05	40	N. Hampton State Beach	K. Vande Vusse
12/18	40	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	J. Maher
01/01	34	Great Island Common, New Castle	J. Sparrell, K. Towler
01/05	58	Great Island Common, New Castle	B. Crowley
01/09	154	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
01/17	60	Hampton Harbor	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala



*Ruddy Ducks by Leo McKillop, 12/2/15, Lake Massabesic, NH.*

## Ruddy Duck

12/01	32	Willand Pond, Somersworth/Dover	A. Murray
12/03	4	Lake Massabesic	S. Mirick
12/04	1	Arlington Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
12/08	2	Bay Rd., Newmarket	J. Scott, C. Nims
12/08	3	Northwood Lake	A. Robbins
12/10	4	Beaver Lake, Derry	S. Mirick
12/19	4	Exeter WTP	M. Watson
12/26	13	Willand Pond, Somersworth/Dover	M. Foster
12/27	22	Canobie Lake, Salem	K. Wilmarth
01/03	29	Great Bay Discovery Ctr., Greenland	B. Griffith, R. Prieto
01/03	1	Willand Pond, Somersworth/Dover	A. Murray, G. Tillman
01/07	7	Bracketts Pt., Greenland	J. Lambert, K. Fenton
01/26	1	Exeter WTP	P. Wood
01/28	2	Canobie Lake, Salem	J. Maher

## Red-throated Loon

12/05	14	N. Hampton State Beach	K. Vande Vusse
01/03	8	Bicentennial Park, Hampton	S. Mirick
02/07	23	NH coast	E. Masterson

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Common Loon</b>			
12/05	28	N. Hampton State Beach	K. Vande Vusse
12/13	33	Great Island Common, New Castle	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
12/13	1	Third Connecticut Lake, Pittsburg	P.& M. Wolter
12/15	2	Spofford Lake, Chesterfield	C. Ross
12/16	2	Fernwood Pt., Sunapee	D. Jackson
12/17	1	Sunapee State Beach, Newbury	D. Jackson
12/17	1	Gardner Bay, Sunapee	D. Jackson
12/20	4	Spofford Lake, Chesterfield	S. Heron, C. McPherson
12/20	1	Penacook Lake, Concord	R. Quinn
12/24	1	Georges Mills Harbor, Sunapee	D. Jackson
01/01	28	Great Island Common, New Castle	L. Medlock
01/01	2	Meadow Brook, Sunapee	J. Gamble
01/02	2	Winnisquam Lake, Laconia	J. Lambert, L. Kras, B. Griffith
01/06	1	Spofford Lake, Chesterfield	C. Ross
01/07	3	Squam Lake w., Holderness	I. MacLeod
01/08	1	Lake Sunapee Yacht Club	D. Jackson
01/13	1	Fernwood Pt., Sunapee	D. Jackson
01/18	1	Gardner Bay, Sunapee	D. Jackson
01/21	1	Meredith Bay	S. Mirick
02/08	1	Bartlett Beach, Laconia	I. MacLeod
02/21	1	Silver Lake, Tilton/Belmont	I. MacLeod

## Pied-billed Grebe

12/03	2	Great Bay NWR, Newington	J. Kell
12/19	1	Coastal CBC Stratham Sector	J. Maher, G. Tillman

## Horned Grebe

12/21	22	Boathouse Rd., Moultonborough	I. MacLeod
02/07	10	Rye Harbor SP	T. Walker

## Red-necked Grebe

01/01	10	Rt. 1A, second pullout s. of Odiorne Pt., Rye	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala, S. Santino, N. Houlihan
02/02	18	Jeness State Beach, Rye	L. Kras
02/07	12	Bicentennial Park, Hampton	K. Towler, J. Sparrell



*Northern Fulmar by Rebecca Suomala, 12/5/15, Jeffreys Ledge, NH.*

## Northern Fulmar

12/05	21	Jeffreys Ledge, NH	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
12/18	47	Jeffreys Ledge, NH	J. Maher
01/07	25	Jeffreys Ledge, NH	Z. Cornell
01/10	1	Rye Harbor SP	L. Kras, J. Lambert, B. Griffith

*Date # Location Observer*

**Great Shearwater**

12/05 13 Jeffreys Ledge, NH Z. Cornell, R. Suomala  
 12/18 22 Jeffreys Ledge, NH J. Maher

**Northern Gannet**

12/05 10 Jeffreys Ledge, NH Z. Cornell, R. Suomala  
 12/18 64 Jeffreys Ledge, NH J. Maher  
 12/19 14 Coastal CBC, Portsmouth e., s. sector, Rye  
 P. Hunt, et al.  
 12/19 40 Pulpit Rocks, Rye B. Griffith, R. Prieto  
 01/07 19 Jeffreys Ledge, NH Z. Cornell

**Double-crested Cormorant**

12/05 6 Portsmouth Harbor S. Mirick  
 12/13 1 Wilson's Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth  
 12/20 1 Oyster River, Durham S.& J. Mirick, et al.  
 12/28 1 Rye Harbor C. Woolley, M. Desrosiers  
 01/23 1 Hampton Harbor S. Mirick, et al.

**Great Cormorant**

12/18 35 Jeffreys Ledge, NH J. Maher  
 02/24 2 Wildcat Falls, Merrimack J. Benson

**Great Blue Heron**

12/14 1 Back Lake, Pittsburg L. Kras, J. Lambert, B. Griffith  
 12/20 1 Morrills Farm, Penacook P. Hunt, J. Cosentino  
 01/08 1 Chickering Farm, Westmoreland E. Synnott



*Great White Heron  
 by Stephen Mirick, 12/2/15,  
 Litchfield, NH.*

**Great Blue Heron (White form)**

12/02 1 Chase Brook Pond, Litchfield K. Wilmarth,  
 C. Sheridan, S. Bennett, S. Mirick

**Raptors through Gulls**

After a couple of early January sightings elsewhere in the Seacoast region, a **Black Vulture** settled in Exeter on January 27. It regularly roosted on a school chimney until at least February 11. At the same time, the number of Turkey Vultures wintering in southeastern New Hampshire continues to grow and, in this mild



*Rough-legged Hawk by Charlie Nims,  
 1/27/16, Seabrook, NH.*

winter, many wandered farther afield than their traditional haunts around Exeter and Newmarket. As in the previous winter, there were several Red-shouldered Hawks, primarily near the coast. Rough-legged Hawks are always scarce inland, so it was nice to see reports of presumed migrants away from the coast in late February.

Shorebirds were atypically uncommon this winter, with lower than usual numbers of Purple Sandpipers and extremely few Dunlin. One highlight was a Wilson's Snipe that presumably lingered until at least late January in Portsmouth. Observers on the Coastal Christmas Bird Count (CBC) December 19 were lucky enough to see a **Pomarine Jaeger** harass a gull offshore. This is the expected jaeger in early winter in New England, but seeing one from shore is still noteworthy in New Hampshire. On the alcid front, there was a good showing of Thick-billed Murres and an exceptional Razorbill flight at the very beginning of February. Gulls were represented by the usual species in the usual places, although Bonaparte's Gulls were more prevalent than the previous winter.

*Date # Location Observer*

**Black Vulture**

01/13 1 International Dr., Portsmouth J. Lambert  
 01/25 1 South Rd., E. Kingston P. Lacourse  
 01/27 1 Lincoln St. Elementary School, Exeter B. White  
 02/11 1 Lincoln St. Elementary School, Exeter P. Lacourse

**Turkey Vulture**

12/20 35 Lamprey River Preserve, Durham K. Dorse  
 12/24 18 Salmon St., Newmarket S. Heron  
 01/13 55 Linden St., Exeter B. White  
 01/28 16 Linden St., Exeter S. Mirick, P. Lacourse  
 02/04 1 Lyme Rd., Kendal at Hanover J. Norton  
 02/29 3 Peach Tree Rd., Auburn J. Pettipas  
 02/29 27 Hubbard Hall, UNH, Durham M. Jacobson  
 02/29 1 Rockywold-Deephaven Camp, Holderness  
 I. MacLeod  
 02/29 2 Hooksett S. Szelog  
 02/29 1 Panther Dr., Nashua J. Wing  
 02/29 2 Coolidge Way, Raymond S. Santino

**Golden Eagle**

12/15 1 Hill Rd. meat pile, Dummer W. O'Brien

**Northern Harrier**

12/30 1 Tullando Farm, Orford J. MacQueen  
 01/01 1 Great Island Common, New Castle L. Medlock  
 01/02 1 Waxy O'Connors Irish Pub,  
 Winchester St., Keene D. Adams  
 01/20 1 Awcomin Marsh, Rye S. Bennett  
 01/23 1 Woodward Rd., Westmoreland R. Burnett  
 01/28 1 Blackwater R. at Rt. 286, Seabrook L. McKillop  
 02/04 1 Urban Forestry Center, Portsmouth J. Sparrell

# WINTER SEASON

Date # Location Observer



Northern Goshawk by Susan Lee, 2/15/16, Madison, NH.

## Northern Goshawk

12/06	1	Meadow Brook, Sunapee	J. Gamble
01/01	1	Durham Reservoir	R. Prieto
01/02	1	Mt. Chocorua, Albany	N. Martineau
01/18	1	Rt. 103 fields, Claremont	B. Baker
01/18	1	Tanglewood Dr., Henniker	D. Ellis
01/30	1	Hammond Hollow, Gilsum	M. Wright
02/08	1	Rt. 89, Hopkinton	P. Eppig
02/15	1	High St., Silver Lake, Madison	S. Lee
02/25	1	Pingree Rd., New London	M. Vernon
02/28	1	Bog Rd., Concord	P. Hunt
02/28	1	East Inlet Rd., Pittsburg	L.& L. Medlock

## Red-shouldered Hawk

12/07	1	Ten Rod Rd., Rochester	D. Hubbard
12/19	1	Coastal CBC Stratham Sector	J. Maher, G. Tillman
12/21	1	Broad St., Portsmouth	C. Duford
12/26	1	Bruce Anderson Memorial Forest, Kingston	S. Heron
01/01	1	Brickyard Pond Park, Exeter	S. Heron, E. Nathan, A. Itz
01/08	1	Rt. 1, Seabrook	P. Wood
01/16	1	Rocky Pond Rd., Hollis	C. McPherson
01/17	1	Rt. 108, Newfields	S. Mirick
01/19	1	Randall Rd., Lee	R. Prieto
01/22	1	Lake Massabesic	J. Maher
02/12	1	Stump Pond Brook, Merrimack	J.& J. Wing
02/12	1	Rt. 101 at Rt. 93, Manchester	S. Bennett
02/17	1	Calvary Cemetery, Newmarket	S. Heron
02/21	1	Salem	K. Wilmarth
02/26	1	Stevens Hill Rd., Nottingham	P. Miliotis
02/29	2	Amherst	S. Spangenberg
02/29	1	Newton Rd., Plaistow	K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
02/29	1	Call Rd., Webster	R. Quinn



Rough-legged Hawk by Joann O'Shaughnessy, 1/27/16, Seabrook, NH.

Date # Location Observer

## Rough-legged Hawk

01/14	1	Pease Intl. Tradeport, Portsmouth	J. Sparrell
01/25	1	Rt. 286 saltmarsh, Seabrook	C. Sheridan
02/20	1	Rt. 95, N. Hampton	P. Blair
02/21	1	New Boston Rd. at Main St., Kingston	S. Heron
02/23	1	Burleigh Farm Rd., Holderness	I. MacLeod

## American Coot

12/11	1	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
12/15	23	Powwow Pond, Kingston	S. Heron
12/25	1	Eel Pond, Rye	B. Crowley
12/26	20	Powwow Pond, Kingston	S. Heron
01/15	1	Rye Harbor SP	R.& K. Frieden

## Sandhill Crane

02/28	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murra
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## Killdeer

12/19	1	Chickering Farm, Westmoreland	D. Clark
12/28	1	Westmoreland boat launch	A. Burnett
01/02		Merrimack WTP	M. Timmerman
02/21	3	UNH Dairy Barn, Durham	J. Lambert
02/28	1	Mountain Rd., Concord	J. Nadeau
02/28	1	Strafford County Farm Complex, Dover	D. Hubbard
02/29	2	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO, Concord	D. Lania
02/29	2	Rt. 155A (Moore) fields, Durham	S. Heron

## Greater Yellowlegs

12/06	1	pools s. of Odiorne Pt., Rye	S. Mirick
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## Dunlin

01/26	35	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop	J. Lambert
02/14	4	Hampton Harbor	Z. Cornell

## Purple Sandpiper

12/08	30	Rye Harbor SP	S. Bennett
12/28	15	Little Boars Head, N. Hampton	C. McPherson
01/18	9	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop	J. Sparrell
02/28	24	Rye Harbor SP	T. Vazzano

## Wilson's Snipe

01/29	1	Urban Forestry Center, Portsmouth	C. McPherson, R. Prieto
01/30	1	Urban Forestry Center, Portsmouth	E. Masterson, C. McPherson, G. Tillman, L. Kras, B. Griffith, J. Lambert

## American Woodcock

12/04	1	Smoky Camp Brook, Errol	L. Charron
02/28	1	Impco pond, Nashua	C. Sheridan
02/29	3	Portsmouth HS	J. Sparrell

## Pomarine Jaeger

12/19	1	Pulpit Rocks, Rye	J. Lambert, L. Kras, B. Griffith, R. Prieto
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## Dovekie

01/10	2	Rye Harbor SP	J. Lambert, L. Kras, B. Griffith
02/14	1	Hampton Beach SP	C. Cooper-Mullin, M. Moniz, S. Brenner, O. DaRugna

## Common Murre

12/18	2	Jeffreys Ledge, NH	J. Maher
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Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Thick-billed Murre</b>			
12/05	1	Seabrook Beach	K. Wilmarth
01/30	1	Pulpit Rocks, Rye	E. Masterson, C. McPherson, J. Maher, G. Tillman
01/30	1	Rye Harbor SP	K. Towler, J. Sparrell
01/30	2	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick, et al.
02/01	1	Rye Harbor SP	R. Prieto
02/02	2	North Side Park, Hampton	J. Lambert, L. Kras
02/02	1	Concord Pt., Rye	K. Fenton, J. Lambert, L. Kras
02/21	1	Pulpit Rocks, Rye	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala, D. Howe
02/21	1	Hampton Harbor	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala, D. Howe, A. Altena, K. Wilmarth



Razorbill by Scott Heron, 12/6/15, Rye, NH.

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Razorbill</b>			
12/05	24	Jeffreys Ledge, NH	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
12/19	17	Pulpit Rocks, Rye	J. Lambert, L. Kras, R. Prieto, B. Griffith
01/07	24	Jeffreys Ledge, NH	Z. Cornell
01/10	82	Rye Harbor SP	L. Kras, J. Lambert, B. Griffith
02/02	69	Seabrook Beach	J. Lambert, L. Kras
02/03	253	Rye Harbor SP	J. Lambert
02/07	210	NH coast	E. Masterson

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Large alcid sp.</b>			
12/05	14	Jeffreys Ledge, NH	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Black Guillemot</b>			
12/06	8	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
12/19	8	Pulpit Rocks, Rye	J. Lambert, L. Kras, R. Prieto, B. Griffith

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Atlantic Puffin</b>			
12/05	2	Jeffreys Ledge, NH	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala



Black-legged Kittiwake by Zeke Cornell, 1/7/16, Jeffreys Ledge, NH.

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Black-legged Kittiwake</b>			
12/05	3	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
12/05	4	Jeffreys Ledge, NH	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
12/18	17	Jeffreys Ledge, NH	J. Maher
01/07	14	Jeffreys Ledge, NH	Z. Cornell
01/10	8	Rye Harbor SP	L. Kras, J. Lambert, B. Griffith
02/07	45	NH coast	E. Masterson

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Bonaparte's Gull</b>			
12/04	60	Hampton Beach SP	C. Schlotterbeck
12/06	16	Sunset Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick
12/19	125	Atlantic Ave. at Ocean Blvd., Hampton	C. McPherson, W. Fogleman
01/01	53	Great Island Common, New Castle	L. Medlock
01/06	20	Fort Constitution, New Castle	D. Hubbard
01/10	15	Rye Harbor SP	L. Kras, J. Lambert, B. Griffith
01/22	3	Eel Pond, Rye	J. Maher
02/06	1	Rye Harbor SP	J. Pettipas, S. Wisley, S. Heron

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Iceland Gull</b>			
12/01	1	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Iceland Gull (kumlieni)</b>			
12/03	1	Rockingham Park, Salem	K. Wilmarth
12/08	1	Exeter WTP	J. Scott, C. Nims
01/12	4	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
02/23	3	Hedgehog Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Lesser Black-backed Gull</b>			
12/01	1	Eel Pond, Rye	S. Mirick
01/02	1	Winnisquam Lake, Laconia	J. Lambert, L. Kras, B. Griffith
02/20	1	Swasey Parkway, Exeter	S. Mirick, K. Wilmarth

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Glaucous Gull</b>			
12/04	1	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop	C. Schlotterbeck, S. Santino, N. Houlihan
12/18	1	Jeffreys Ledge, NH	J. Maher
01/09	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard, S. Young
01/09	1	Eel Pond, Rye	S. Mirick
01/13	1	Exeter WTP	P. Wood
02/16	2	Eel Pond, Rye	L. McKillop, J. Lambert

**Owls to Wrens**



Carolina Wren by David Haas, 1/17/16, Lancaster, NH.

Although Snowy Owls again appeared in New Hampshire, the birds we hosted were far less reliable

# WINTER SEASON

than the last two years. The exception may have been on the Isles of Shoals, where three were reported in late January, but access to the islands is understandably a little difficult in winter! The same observers who found the jaeger on the Coastal CBC also detected an owl migrating south offshore. The bird's shape and behavior indicated that it was either a Short-eared or Long-eared Owl (former is far more likely), but it was too distant for conclusive identification. Red-bellied Woodpeckers continue to consolidate their foothold in northern New Hampshire, with three records from the White Mountains this season. As has become typical, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were relatively widespread in southeastern New Hampshire and individuals even appeared well to the north in Carroll County.

As noted in last winter's summary, Eastern Phoebes are probably getting a little more reliable in early December, at least near the coast. Having *two* of them, with both present into the second half of the month, is unprecedented. The bird at the Seabrook wastewater treatment plant was present until at least January 17, shifting it into the third latest phoebe position briefly held by the bird in Rochester in 2015. Then, out of nowhere, Chris McPherson found a phoebe in Hollis in February. When it was refound February 23 it became the latest winter record. A Blue-headed Vireo in Hinsdale was only the second winter record for the state. Carolina Wrens were hit hard in many areas of the state during the cold winters of 2013-14 and 2014-15 and in some places are still recovering. At the same time, however, this species is methodically pushing north, as evidenced by a bird photographed in Lancaster. This is actually the northernmost record for the state, but it probably won't be for long!

*Date # Location Observer*

## Eastern Screech-Owl

12/15	1	Mine Falls Park, Spine Rd. entrance, Nashua	J. Maher
12/19	2	Greenland Sector, Coastal CBC	S.& J. Mirick
12/20	1	Beckwith Ballfields, Hillside Dr., Dover	J. Lambert
12/25	2	Salem	K. Wilmarth
01/05	1	Cavalier Ct., Hollis	S. Wisley
01/06	1	Edgewood Cemetery, Amherst St., Nashua	S. Ross
01/17	1	Hollis-Brookline HS wetlands, Hollis	C. McPherson
01/23	1	Windham	K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
02/01	1	Autumn Ln., Nottingham	R. Prieto
02/26	1	Plaistow	K. Wilmarth



*Snowy Owl by Kyle Wilmarth, 2/20/16, Hampton, NH.*

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
<b>Snowy Owl</b>			
12/01	1	Hampton Beach SP	D. Heitzmann
12/06	1	Rye Harbor SP	S. Bennett
01/20	1	Rye Harbor SP	S. Bennett
01/23	3	Isles of Shoals, Star Island, Rye	A. deSteiguer
01/29	1	Hampton Beach SP	L. Kras, E. Grzywacz
02/15	1	Seabrook Beach	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
02/23	1	Hampton Beach SP	K. Couture
02/23	1	Rye Harbor SP	K. Couture

## Asio sp.

12/19	1	Pulpit Rocks, Rye	J. Lambert, L. Kras, B. Griffith
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## Northern Saw-whet Owl

12/06	3	Pitman Rd., Barnstead	J. Lambert
12/06	1	Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem	K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
12/20	1	Bog Rd., Penacook	P. Hunt, J. Cosentino
12/31	1	SOLO campus, Madison	N. Martineau
01/02	1	Creek Farm, Portsmouth	S. Heron, D. Jackson
01/06	1	Beaver Brook Assn., Maple Hill, Hollis	K. Fenton
01/16	1	Rt. 11, w. of Georges Mills, Sunapee	D. Jackson
01/31	1	Melanie Ln., Bow	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
02/10	1	Philbrick-Cricenti Bog, New London	D. Jackson
02/21	1	Green Hill Rd., Chatham	B. Crowley, J. Scott

## Red-bellied Woodpecker

12/22	1	Fox Run Rd., Lincoln	B.& S. Schultz
12/30	1	Glen	P. Demers
01/01	1	Green Hill Rd., Jackson	J. Maher
02/25	1	Fox Run Rd., Lincoln	B.& S. Schultz



*Yellow-bellied Sapsucker by Christopher McPherson, 2/14/16, Hollis, NH.*

## Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

12/07	1	Pine Grove Cemetery, Salem	K. Wilmarth
12/20	1	Abbott Rd. stump dump, Penacook	P. Hunt, J. Cosentino
01/03	1	Sandwich CBC	K. Fenton
01/15	1	Lakeview Dr., Strafford	S. Young
01/19	1	Linden St., Exeter	B. White
01/19	1	Caldwell Rd., Nashua	B. McInnis
01/20	1	Rt. 111, Atkinson	J. Lahey
01/23	1	Boggy Brook Trail, Jackson	J. Maher
01/24	1	Joslin Rd., E. Kingston	S. Mirick
01/31	1	Great Bay Discovery Ctr., Greenland	L.& L. Medlock
02/14	1	Hollis-Brookline HS wetlands, Hollis	C. McPherson

## Black-backed Woodpecker

12/06	1	Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem	K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
12/16	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski
02/06	1	Chickwolnepy Rd., Milan	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
02/10	1	Errol	L. Charron

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>American Kestrel</b>			
12/06	1	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson
01/15	1	Flint Farm, Milan	K. Fenton, J. Lambert
01/17	1	Rt. 28, Salem	K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
02/05	1	E. Milan Rd. industrial park, Berlin	S. Stoddard
02/10	1	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. Sheridan

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Merlin</b>			
12/07	1	Broad St., Portsmouth	C. Duford
12/18	1	Ferry St., Allentown	A. Robbins
12/22	1	Stiles Rd., Salem	K. Wilmarth
12/31	1	Caldwell Rd., Nashua	C. Sheridan
01/05	1	Sunset Farm, Greenland	P. Miliotis
01/09	1	Rochester Neck Rd., Rochester	D. Hubbard
01/20	1	South Rd., E. Kingston	S. Bennett



*Eastern Phoebe by Stephen Mirick, 12/6/15, Seabrook WTP, NH.*

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Eastern Phoebe</b>			
12/06	1	Seabrook WTP	S. Mirick
12/09	1	Tidewater Farm Rd., Greenland	S. Mirick
12/19	1	Tidewater Farm Rd., Greenland	S. & J. Mirick
01/17	1	Seabrook WTP	S. Mirick
02/07	1	Hollis-Brookline HS wetlands, Hollis	C. McPherson
02/23	1	Wheeler Road, Hollis	S. Wisley

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Northern Shrike</b>			
12/04	1	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	D. Small
01/12	1	Diamond Ledge, Sandwich	T. Vazzano
01/14	1	Strafford County Farm Complex, Dover	D. Hubbard
01/30	1	Harvey Swell Rd., Colebrook	S. Stoddard
02/04	1	Chickwolnepy Rd., Milan	J. Lambert, K. Fenton
02/12	1	Kearsarge Mt. Rd., Wilmot	D. Jackson
02/21	1	Flagstone Industrial Park, Newport	D. Jackson
02/22	1	Stratham Heights Rd., Stratham	B. Griffith
02/27	1	Merrimack R. by Kimball Dr., Hooksett	M. Timmerman
02/27	1	Pease Intl. Tradeport, Portsmouth	B. Crowley
02/29	1	Kearsarge Mt. Rd., Wilmot	D. Jackson

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Blue-headed Vireo</b>			
12/05	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Gray Jay</b>			
12/08	3	Umbagog NWR, Magalloway River Trail, Wentworths Location	B. Crowley
12/12	1	Mt. Hancock, Lincoln	N. O'Reilly
12/13	3	West Inlet Rd., Pittsburg	M. Wolter
12/16	2	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski
01/01	3	Mt. Willey Trail, Bethlehem	D. Lania, et al.

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Fish Crow</b>			
01/07	2	Crawford Path, Beans Grant	S. Crowley
01/28	4	Jackson-Webster Trail, Hart's Location	C. Nims
02/22	3	Mt. Tom summit, Bethlehem	D. Ellis
02/22	4	Deer Mountain SP, Pittsburg	R. Steber, J. Scott
02/28	2	Dam Rd., Errol	J. Fecteau
02/28	12	East Inlet Rd., Pittsburg	L. & L. Medlock

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Fish Crow</b>			
01/02	5	Adams Point Rd., Durham	K. Hojnacki
01/04	16	Burger King, Salem	K. Wilmarth
01/31	1	Lincoln St. Elementary School, Exeter	G. Tillman
02/10	1	Rt. 125 Petco parking lot, Plaistow	D. Prima
02/21	2	clocktower, downtown Nashua	C. Sheridan
02/21	4	N. Hampton	S. Heron
02/29	5	Great Pond, Kingston	S. Heron

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Horned Lark</b>			
12/05	22	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. Sheridan
12/19	60	Squamscot Rd., Stratham	S. Mirick, et al.
01/01	50	Chickering Farm, Westmoreland	A. & R. Burnett
01/02	16	Rye Harbor SP	J. Hoag
01/07	24	Exeter WTP	J. Lambert, K. Fenton
01/17	60	Stuart Farm, Stratham	S. Mirick
01/17	20	River Rd., Walpole	R. Burnett
01/24	31	Hampton Beach SP	S. Heron
02/09	10	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. Sheridan
02/15	33	Boire Field, Nashua	J. Maher
02/19	1	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO, Concord	D. Lania
02/21	2	Trask Brook Rd., Sunapee	D. Jackson



*Boreal Chickadee by Len Medlock, 2/28/16, Pittsburg, NH.*

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Boreal Chickadee</b>			
12/04	5	Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem	D. Small
12/09	1	Mt. Shaw, Moultonborough	A. Costa
12/14	63	Back Lake, Pittsburg	L. Kras, J. Lambert, B. Griffith
12/14	34	East Inlet Rd., Pittsburg	L. Medlock, D. Govatski
12/20	6	Mt. Hibbard, Waterville Valley	D. Ellis
01/02	2	Mt. Chocorua, Albany	N. Martineau
01/02	5	Mt. Tecumseh, Waterville Valley	J. Baur
01/28	7	Jackson-Webster Trail, Hart's Location	C. Nims
02/02	1	Akers Pond, Errol	L. Charron
02/27	1	Mt. Lafayette, Franconia	A. Burnett

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Tufted Titmouse</b>			
02/12	1	North Rd., Shelburne	J. Fecteau
02/26	1	Cross St., Whitefield	S. Stoddard

# WINTER SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>House Wren</b>			
12/20	1	Middle Rd. cattail marsh, Dover	J. Lambert
<b>Winter Wren</b>			
12/21	1	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	A. Burnett
01/14	4	Georges Mill Rd., Springfield	L. Hayden
01/29	1	Mine Falls Park, Spine Rd., Nashua	J. Maher
01/31	1	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO, Concord	R. Woodward
01/31	1	Borthwick Ave. marsh, Portsmouth	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
02/10	1	Mink Brook wetlands, Hanover	J. MacQueen
02/22	1	Powder Mill Hatchery, New Durham	A.& M. Perko
<b>Carolina Wren</b>			
01/06	1	Grove Street, Lancaster	D. Haas

## Kinglets to Waxwings



Brown Thrasher by Christopher McPherson, 2/13/16, Hollis, NH.

At least 11 Ruby-crowned Kinglets were reported in southern New Hampshire this winter and time will tell whether this tiniest of the half-hardies is the next species in line to become a more regular winter resident. Meanwhile, as I've been noting for a few seasons, Hermit Thrushes were seemingly everywhere. There were roughly 30 submitted to eBird for the season, including one as far north as Conway

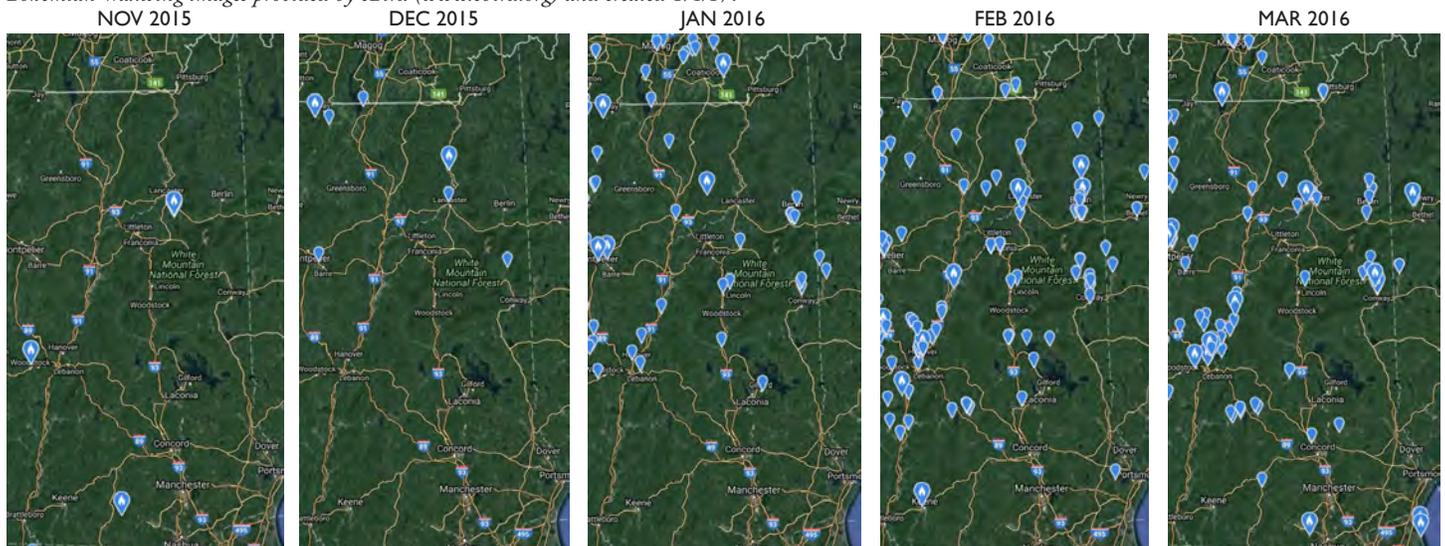
and unknown numbers of additional birds reported on CBCs or at winter bird feeders (e.g., NH Audubon's Backyard Winter Bird Survey). So, since Hermit Thrushes are getting a little blasé, it was nice to spice up the winter with a **Swainson's Thrush**. This species should be in Central America in winter, so it doesn't count as a half-hardy, and the bird that visited a Goffstown feeder in early January is the first winter record for the state. There were six Gray Catbirds reported, half last winter's number, but the two Brown Thrashers is about typical.

This winter's Bohemian Waxwing flight was, as expected, better than the previous one (recall that this species, like many northern irruptives, shows a two year cycle). Rather than sorting through all the data in eBird and trying to determine which records to publish, I present below a series of eBird maps from November to March. These clearly show the gradual southward movement of this irruptive over the course of the winter. Most records, and the largest flocks, were north of the White Mountains. At the risk of stealing some thunder from the spring summary, numbers in the south seemed a little higher in March.



Ruby-crowned Kinglet by Stephen Mirick, 1/9/16, Seabrook, NH.

Bohemian Waxwing images provided by eBird ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org)) and created 1/4/17.



Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</b>			
12/06	1	Ashuelot R. mouth, Hinsdale	H. Galbraith
12/07	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	P. Gurn
12/11	1	Willand Pond, Somersworth/Dover	J. Lambert
12/12	1	USFWS Karner Blue easement, Concord	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
12/20	1	Spofford Rd., Westmoreland	P. Brown, D. Edwards, M. Einermann
12/21	1	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	A. Burnett
01/09	1	Weare Rd., Seabrook	S. Mirick
01/17	1	West Road, Rye	S. Mirick
01/24	1	Wagon Hill Farm, Durham	A. Murray
01/24	1	New Rd., Newmarket	S. Mirick
01/28	1	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. Sheridan
02/07	1	West Road, Rye	K. Towler, J. Sparrell

**Eastern Bluebird**

01/01	56	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	R. Prieto
01/31	60	Hollis-Brookline HS wetlands, Hollis	C. McPherson



Swainson's Thrush by Kristen Cole, 1/5/16, Goffstown, NH.

**Swainson's Thrush**

01/03	1	Pleasant St., Goffstown	K. & S. Cole
01/05	1	Pleasant St., Goffstown	K. & S. Cole

**American Robin**

01/05	400	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	B. Crowley
01/23	4000	Great Bog, Banfield Rd., Portsmouth	S. Mirick
02/04	1000	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson

**Gray Catbird**

12/05	1	Urban Forestry Center, Portsmouth	S. Mirick, S. Heron
12/19	1	Tide Mill Rd., Hampton	C. McPherson, W. Fogleman
12/19	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	R. Prieto, B. Griffith
12/20	1	Merrimack R., Garvins Falls, Bow	R. Woodward, et al.
01/29	1	Pleasant St. area, Hanover	T. McLane
01/29	1	Urban Forestry Center, Portsmouth	C. McPherson
02/17	1	Mascoma River, Lebanon	T. McLane

**Brown Thrasher**

12/20	1	Fogarty Rd., Barrington	D. Hubbard, et al.
01/02	1	Hollis-Brookline HS wetlands, Hollis	C. McPherson, C. Sheridan
02/27	1	Hollis-Brookline HS wetlands, Hollis	C. McPherson

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>American Pipit</b>			
12/06	1	s. of Odiorne Pt., Rye	S. Mirick
12/19	1	Pulpit Rocks, Rye	P. Hunt, et al.
12/20	1	Lee-Durham CBC, Madbury	L. Medlock



Bohemian Waxwings by Stephen Mirick, 2/28/16, Gorham, NH.

**Bohemian Waxwing**

02/07	1200	Exchange St., Berlin	L. Kras, J. Lambert, B. Griffith
02/07	800	Union St., Gorham	J. Lambert, L. Kras, B. Griffith

**Longspurs to Finches**



Pine Warbler by Jason Lambert, 1/1/16, Seabrook, NH.

Our usual winter warbler, the Yellow-rumped, has been somewhat scarce in recent years, so it was good to see a few more records in 2015-16, even if numbers were still on the low side. As for the unusual warblers, the season saw a mix of the regular half-hardies (Common Yellowthroat, Pine Warbler and, increasingly, Palm Warbler) and a handful of surprises. Among the latter, Orange-crowned and Black-throated Blue Warblers are found with some regularity, but **Nashville Warbler** and **American Redstart** are quite remarkable. The Nashville in Hollis is only the second winter record for the state and all the more remarkable by being in February; the bird had probably been present all winter. The redstart in Dover was a first winter record, but it had less than a day to bask in its glory until the *second* was found in Greenland on the Coastal CBC.

In the sparrow department, a **Clay-colored Sparrow** was a nice find in Salem in February, while a **Gambell's**

## WINTER SEASON



*Red Crossbill by Len Medlock, 2/28/16, Milan, NH.*

**White-crowned Sparrow** (one of the western subspecies) again overwintered near Great Bay. The town of Hollis produced yet another rarity when William Kramer found and photographed a **Western Tanager** at a private location on January 31. Four **Dickcissels** is an above-average number and three of them stayed around for at least a week. Eastern Meadowlark populations in the Northeast have declined significantly over the last 20 years, resulting in far fewer winter records than there used to be. The presence of three birds at the Strafford County Farm in December was thus noteworthy, all the more so since at least two of them made it into February. Orioles had a good showing, with at least five **Baltimore Orioles** scattered around the state and the western vagrant **Bullock's Oriole** at a Hampton feeder in late December. This is only the fifteenth record of this western species for the state, and the seventh in winter.

The winter finch flight was largely uneventful. With the exception of a handful of birds in Gorham in early February, Pine Grosbeaks were restricted to Pittsburg, with numbers in the 5-10 range. Purple Finches made it south of the White Mountains, but were generally scattered and in very low numbers (usually only one of two at a given location). Small numbers of both Red and White-winged Crossbills were reported in the north. After the previous winter's strong flight, no one expected redpolls to be widespread in 2015-16, and these predictions were confirmed. This species tends to appear in large numbers every other year and we had a good flight in 2014-15. Although Common Redpolls were reported from most parts of the state, the vast majority were in the north and, even there, counts never got out of the single digits. Pine Siskins did better, with multiple large flocks in the north and more consistent reports in the south, although numbers there were still usually less than five. In January and early February, a large flock of Evening Grosbeaks (sometimes numbering over 20) frequented the feeders along Chickwolnepy Road in Milan, a traditional winter finch hot spot. Elsewhere in the state, however, this former winter standby was decidedly scarce, with scattered

records in the north and only a handful south of the White Mountains. For more on Evening Grosbeaks see my article on page 28.

*Date # Location Observer*

### Lapland Longspur

01/24 1 Hampton Beach SP F. Missud  
02/15 1 Landing Rd., Hampton J. O'Shaughnessy

### Orange-crowned Warbler

01/19 1 Walnut Ave., N. Hampton T. Kinsman

### Nashville Warbler

02/07 1 Oak Hill Rd., Brookline C. McPherson  
02/12 1 Heron Marsh Ln., Brookline J. Maher

### Common Yellowthroat

12/20 1 Toftree Ln. at Dover Pt. Rd., Dover J. Lambert

### American Redstart

12/18 1 Dover Community Trail J. Lambert  
12/19 1 Ocean Rd., Greenland S.& J. Mirick

### Black-throated Blue Warbler

12/07 1 Bryant Rd., Tamworth D. Eastman

### Palm Warbler - Western subsp.

12/19 1 Great Bay Farm, Greenland S.& J. Mirick

### Pine Warbler

12/06 1 Seabrook WTP S. Mirick  
01/18 1 Seabrook WTP J. Lambert  
02/04 1 Woodmont Orchard, Hollis C. McPherson

### Yellow-rumped Warbler

12/06 4 Odiorne Point SP, Rye S. Mirick  
01/01 5 Odiorne Point SP, Rye K. Fenton, J. Lambert  
01/28 1 Tidewater Farm Rd., Greenland S. Mirick, P. Lacourse  
01/28 1 Weare Rd., Seabrook S. Mirick  
01/31 1 Woodmont Orchard, Hollis C. McPherson  
02/28 1 Odiorne Point SP, Rye P. Brown, et al.



*Western Tanager, by William Kramer (www.williamkramer.com), 1/31/16, Hollis, NH.*

### Western Tanager

01/31 1 Hollis W. Kramer

### Chipping Sparrow

12/18 1 Ferry St., Allentown A. Robbins  
12/20 1 Penacook survey route P. Hunt, J. Cosentino  
01/24 1 Woods Dr., Newmarket S. Mirick

Date # Location Observer

Clay-colored Sparrow by Kyle Wilmarth, 2/9/16, Salem, NH.



**Clay-colored Sparrow**

02/09 1 Rockingham Park, Salem K. Wilmarth  
02/10 1 Rockingham Park, Salem Z. Cornell, K. Wilmarth

**Field Sparrow**

01/02 1 Airport Rd., Swanzey W. Ward  
01/26 1 Breakfast Hill Rd., Greenland L. Kras  
02/21 1 Hollis-Brookline HS wetlands, Hollis C. McPherson

**Fox Sparrow**

01/02 1 Lincoln Dr., Bow R. Lessard  
01/04 1 Ten Rod Rd., Rochester D. Hubbard  
01/08 1 Cider Mill Rd., Bedford C. Borkowski  
01/09 1 Ridgewood Rd., Bartlett R. Steber  
01/17 1 Great Bay Rd., Greenland S. Mirick  
01/18 1 Melanie Ln., Bow Z. Cornell, R. Suomala  
01/18 1 Trillium Ln., Grantham R. Clark  
01/20 1 Bretton Woods, Carroll L. Bergum  
02/14 1 Little Chatham Rd., Chatham J. Scott

**White-crowned Sparrow**

12/05 1 Sagamore Ave., Portsmouth S. Mirick

**White-crowned Sparrow (leucophrys)**

12/19 3 Great Bay Farm, Greenland S.& J. Mirick  
02/06 1 Great Bay Farm, Greenland S. Heron, J. Sparrell, K. Towler

**White-crowned Sparrow - Gambel's subsp.**

12/06 1 Great Bay Farm, Greenland S. Mirick  
01/18 1 Great Bay Farm, Greenland J. Lambert

**Savannah Sparrow**

12/18 1 Ferry St., Allentown A. Robbins  
12/24 1 Krif Road, Keene D. Hof  
01/04 1 Woodmont Orchard, Hollis J. Maher  
01/07 6 Stuart Farm, Stratham J. Lambert, K. Fenton  
01/17 4 River Rd., Stratham S. Mirick  
02/11 3 Rockingham Park, Salem S. Mirick, K. Wilmarth

**Swamp Sparrow**

12/26 1 Pennichuk Brook, Nashua C. McPherson  
01/17 1 Stuart Farm, Stratham S. Mirick  
01/31 1 Borthwick Ave. marsh, Portsmouth Z. Cornell, R. Suomala  
02/07 1 Little R. at Appledore Ave., N. Hampton J. Sparrell, K. Towler

**Eastern Towhee**

12/12 1 Loudon Rd. fields behind PO, Concord Z. Cornell, R. Suomala  
12/20 1 Clement Hill Rd., Deering S. Walker, D. DeLuca

Date # Location Observer

02/10 1 Loudon Rd. fields behind PO, Concord Z. Cornell  
02/27 1 Joslin Rd., E. Kingston S. Mirick



Dickcissel by Zeke Cornell, 1/2/16, Laconia, NH.

**Dickcissel**

12/03 1 South Rd., E. Kingston D. Finch  
12/11 1 South Rd., E. Kingston D. Finch  
12/19 1 Newington Rd., Greenland S.& J. Mirick  
01/01 1 School St., Laconia I. MacLeod  
01/09 1 Beckman's Landing, Seabrook S. Mirick  
01/12 1 School St., Laconia J. Maher  
01/30 1 Great Bay Farm, Greenland S. Mirick, E. Masterson, et al.  
02/06 1 Beckman's Landing, Seabrook R.& K. Frieden

**Eastern Meadowlark**

12/13 3 Strafford County Farm Complex, Dover D. Hubbard  
01/09 1 Hampton WTP L. Medlock  
02/12 2 Strafford County Farm Complex, Dover J. Maher  
02/21 1 Hampton WTP S. Mirick

**Rusty Blackbird**

12/06 2 Loudon Rd. fields behind PO, Concord R. Woodward  
12/11 2 Sherman Farm, Conway B. Crowley  
12/12 3 Morrills Farm, Penacook P. Hunt  
12/26 1 Horseshoe Pond, Merrimack R. Bielawski, M. Jacobson  
01/07 1 Kimball Rd., Kensington J. Lambert, K. Fenton  
01/22 1 Powwow R. at Small Pox Rd., Kingston S. Heron

**Bullock's Oriole**

12/15 1 Tide Mill Rd., Hampton R. Jackson  
12/25 1 Tide Mill Rd., Hampton S. Mirick



Baltimore Oriole by Mike Noel, 12/24/15, Franklin, NH.

**Baltimore Oriole**

12/19 1 Ocean Rd., Greenland S.& J. Mirick  
12/20 1 Toftree Ln., Dover J. Lambert  
12/24 1 Thunder Rd., Franklin M. Noel

## WINTER SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer	Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Baltimore Oriole—continued</b>				<b>Common Redpoll</b>			
12/29	1	Roberts Rd., Rollinsford	L. Brown	01/30	10	Rt. 3, Pittsburg	S. Stoddard
01/04	1	Dartmouth College Hwy., Lebanon	D. Draper	02/14	1	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	R. Burnett
01/06	1	Dartmouth College Hwy., Lebanon	J. MacQueen	02/27	7	Pittsburg	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala, et al.
<b>Purple Finch</b>				02/28	1	Half Wild Farm, N. Haverhill	R. Hacking
12/22	132	Chickwolnepy Rd., Milan	J. Maher	<b>Pine Siskin</b>			
12/23	173	East Inlet Rd., Pittsburg	J. Maher	01/15	118	Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem	J. Lambert
<b>Red Crossbill</b>				01/15	133	Chickwolnepy Rd., Milan	J. Lambert
01/01	22	Green Hill Rd., Jackson	J. Maher	02/09	105	Rt. 16, Wentworths Location	S. Stoddard
02/07	18	Rt. 16, Errol	L. Kras, J. Lambert, B. Griffith	02/28	200	Beach Rd., Pittsburg	L. Medlock
<b>White-winged Crossbill</b>				<b>Evening Grosbeak</b>			
12/04	23	Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem	R. Suomala	12/31	4	Whipple Hill, Lyme	B. Allison
12/18	20	Nancy Pond, Livermore	T. McLane, K. Jones	01/12	62	Chickwolnepy Rd., Milan	C. Nims, J. Scott, B. Crowley, R. Steber
01/05	10	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski	01/18	9	Hammond Hollow, Gilsum	M. Wright
02/28	12	Ethan Pond Trail, Hart's Location	C. Nims	01/21	4	Surry town center	C. Caron
02/28	17	East Inlet Rd., Pittsburg	L. & L. Medlock	02/27	3	Deer Mountain SP, Pittsburg	S. Bennett

## Field Trip Report

### “December Mud Season” Christmas Bird Count in Pittsburg and Errol, NH

by Glen Chretien

It was with great anticipation that I awaited the arrival of the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) season. In years past, I had participated in several counts near my home town of Assonet, MA. Some included looking for owls at 2:00 o'clock in the morning and other days saw temperatures fall from a high of 18 degrees (F) to 12 degrees as the day passed. Who could forget the incredible year that included the Snowy Owl irruption? This year would be different, however; I had been invited by friends of mine at NH Audubon to join their team in northern New Hampshire.

My involvement with NH Audubon began with my family's first visit to the Pack Monadnock Hawkwatch site four years ago. Its welcoming family of watchers has kept me returning from southeastern Massachusetts on a regular basis. My son's membership in The Harriers, NH's Young Birders Club, expanded my exposure to the Granite State's offerings with spring trips to Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge and paddling Newfound Lake. It quickly became clear that my visits across the border were increasing in frequency.

The next step in my exposure began with tales from Katrina Fenton, Phil Brown, and others about the great white north. Stories about walking across frozen swamps and traversing fields with the aid of cross country skis and snowshoes resonated with me. I was frequently reminded that you haven't seen the White Mountains until you've seen them truly buried in white. All of this effort with one goal in mind, counting birds. Not just counting birds for your



*An unusual, completely snow-free view from the lofty heights of Magalloway Mountain Road in Pittsburg during the CBC, 12/14/15. Photo by Phil Brown.*

life list, state list, or year list, but to count birds in a way that gives back. Citizen science at its best, all while playing in a winter wonderland.

Most of our team traveled up to Colebrook, NH on 12/13/15 in advance of the next two days' counts. Whispers amongst the passengers began with the amazement that Franconia Notch had never been this brown before. The vehicle thermometer suggested temperatures in the 40s and quite frankly did not see below freezing for the next three days. A little pre-count birding was planned. How could a little practice hurt before the marathon that awaited us? We aimed for Fort Hill Wildlife Management Area in Stratford. Instead of frozen turf, the truck and our feet lumbered through inches of mud. After we noticed a tadpole swimming in a flooded pathway, we knew that this count year would be different.

Day one of our two day CBC began in Pittsburg on 12/14/15. As we wandered about our area of the designated count circle, several locals stopped to chat with us. The neighborly conversations often led to an opportunity to educate them on the significance of a CBC. The discussions



*Katrina Fenton sporting mild weather gear and attempting to feed a Gray Jay during the Pittsburg CBC, 12/14/15. Photo by Phil Brown.*

also led to commentary on what the locals had seen recently. A common theme amongst the residents was the weather. They assured us that even though the cold was missing, the clouds and precipitation would be ever-present this time of year. They were not wrong as the two days remained heavily overcast and showers persisted on and off for both days.

As an outsider and southerner, I was amazed by the topography of Pittsburg. The landscape changes quickly with each mile farther north. Trees grow narrow and traffic nonexistent. Birds were numerous this year. Our team had a personal high species count and the entire group counted 4,520 birds, the highest figure in its 64 year history. Although Purple Finch and Pine Siskin accounted for 60% of birds counted, 20 minutes of this very special day was very different for me. Our count ended on Magalloway Road. Here, within those 20 minutes, I experienced three life birds. It all started with a Blue Jay that caught our eyes. Because he insisted on being counted, we pulled over and investigated the environs. Shortly thereafter, two interesting flyover birds perched and turned out to be Pine Grosbeaks. Our activity drew the attention of chickadees and amongst them was clearly the Boreal Chickadee. Lastly, a Gray Jay joined the fray. His curiosity overwhelming him, he literally flew a perfect square around me perching on the four corners, all within 30 feet of me.

I went to sleep that night wondering how Errol could compete with my recent experience. It did not disappoint. The rain was a little heavier in the morning but birding from the car windows proved to be very effective. After a drive through beautiful Dixville Notch, it was game on for day two of the northern counts. When the weather finally broke, we found ourselves traveling down a road near Lake Umbagog that my navigation device could only identify as an unknown road. We divided up our team when we reached a small quarry near a swamp. Part of our team gleefully located a Black-backed Woodpecker, ending a two year count drought. I, however, wandered around the quarry because I have had great luck in quarries back home. Here, I encountered dozens of White-winged Crossbills and nearly a dozen Red Crossbills. It was a calling Northern Goshawk that drew my attention to the east. Not seeing what I expected, my binoculars were drawn to a bird perched at the peak of the

tallest tree. A Northern Shrike would round out my life bird number at four for the trip.

The Errol count was another successful day. We came close to a record number of species with 37 and together counted 2,696 birds. Common Grackle was a surprise find. The team also worked hard to find a Barrow's Goldeneye. As for the four of us, we were pleased with a high species count.

This year, we missed the snow and cold in the same way that we would miss an asteroid striking planet Earth. I sensed that there wasn't a longing for sub-freezing temperatures and knee-deep snow struggles. There was a declaration of amazement and for some a bit of relief. We entered new territories and found a great number of birds. No amount of writing can relate the camaraderie among the count teams. Our early morning kickoff breakfasts and our wrap up dinners were excellent bookends to the task at hand. I want to thank my friends across the border for including me in such a fun yet important event. As for the snow, anyone who has traveled to see birds of a different feather in a new land can appreciate that something is always missed to make you want to come back. In this case, I hope to return and count all over again, but this time in a winter wonderland.

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## Christmas Bird Count Summary 2015-2016

*by David Deifik*

The 116th Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) were held between December 14, 2015 and January 3, 2016. There are 19 counts whose center is within New Hampshire borders. Only 18 counts were run this year as the Isles of Shoals count was cancelled because of weather issues. Although centered in Vermont, the Barnet and Saxton's River CBCs overlap into New Hampshire as well. Two of the New Hampshire counts have substantial overlap into neighboring states. The Hanover-Norwich CBC extends into Vermont and the Isles of Shoals CBC substantially extends into Maine. Three other counts have minor overlap into neighboring states as well, those being Errol-Umbagog and



*There was a lack of snow on many Christmas Bird Counts as illustrated by this snow-free marsh with a bit of open water on the Coastal CBC. Rebecca Suomala took this photo while Pam Hunt (left) was pishing for birds, 12/19/15.*

North Conway into Maine and a tiny bit of Nashua into Massachusetts. Sightings from the New Hampshire portion of the Saxton's River and Barnet, Vermont counts do not appear on the CBC table but are discussed in the individual count highlights.

Total species across all counts were 148. That was four more than last year. There was one new species for the state this year. An American Redstart was found on the Coastal count. That brings the total of species ever seen to 249. Another redstart was also a count week bird for the Lee-Durham count. There have only been three new species in the last nine years, a Fish Crow on the Nashua-Hollis count in 2014, Northern Parula on the Coastal count in 2011, and a Clay-colored Sparrow on the Concord count in 2006. There were seven species that set new record high counts for the state, about the average for recent years. Four of these new records came from the Coastal CBC, two from Pittsburg, and one from Lee-Durham. There were 52 individual count high records this year, about average for the last few years. There were 13 species new to their respective counts, about 20% below average for recent years.

As for waterfowl, American Black Duck and Mallard both fell off modestly from last year's count. Unlike last year, there were no inland scoter records this season. All scoters were recorded only on the Coastal count. Hooded Merganser records were more than double their ten year average last year. This year exceeded that number by 30%. Four counts set count highs and it was new for one northern count, Baker Valley. Common Merganser was closer to its historic average. Only one count, Peterborough-Hancock, set a count high. Ruddy Duck was seen in record numbers on the Lee-Durham count and for the first time since 1999 on the Manchester count. Inland Common Loon records were again relatively numerous with a total of 29 tallied on nine inland counts.

Bald Eagles set a new record with a total of 72 birds being seen statewide on 14 counts. The previous count record was 56 birds set two years ago. As late as 1999, state totals were only in the single digits.

Similarly to last year two American Kestrels were again found this year. This is only the second time in eight years that more than one bird has been seen, being completely missed as often as not. As recently as 13 years ago, American Kestrel was at least seen in the high single digits on an annual basis.

As for irruptive finches, Purple Finch staged the most notable incursion. It was only missed on one count and the total was over 1,800 compared to last year's 72. Pittsburg set a new state high and one other count set a count high. Unlike last year, Common Redpoll was virtually absent in the state. Pine Siskin also had a good incursion with triple the number of last year which itself was a fairly good year. Evening Grosbeaks have been on a downward slide over the

last 25 years. Last year provided some slight relief with 70 birds recorded; however, this year they were virtually absent with only three seen in one count only (Keene).

## Individual Count Highlights

### Nashua-Hollis

- Count High: Common Raven
- Eastern Screech-Owl was seen for the second time, Pine Warbler for the third time.

### Peterborough-Hancock

- Count High: Common Merganser, Mallard, European Starling
- American Black Duck tied its previous count high.

### Keene

- Count high: Cooper's Hawk, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Common Raven
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet was seen for the fourth time.

### Coastal New Hampshire

- New for the State: American Redstart
- New state count high: Bonaparte's Gull, Eurasian Wigeon, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal
- Bald Eagle and White-crowned Sparrow tied previous state high set on the Coastal count. Eastern Phoebe was seen for the third time.

### Lee-Durham

- New to count: Brown Thrasher
- New state count high: Turkey Vulture
- Count high: Ruddy Duck, Wild Turkey
- American Redstart was seen during the count week. Lincoln's Sparrow and Baltimore Oriole were seen for the second time. House Wren was seen for the third time. American Pipit was seen for the fourth time.



*Baltimore Oriole by Jason Lambert, 12/20/15, in Dover, NH during the Lee-Durham CBC.*

### Concord

- Count high: Hooded Merganser, Great Blue Heron, Common Raven
- Second count records: Northern Saw-whet Owl, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Common Yellowthroat

### Laconia

- First count record: Lesser Black-backed Gull
- Count high: Ring-billed Gull, Wild Turkey (second highest for state), Common Raven, Tufted Titmouse
- Dickcissel was seen for the second time.

### Hanover-Norwich

- First count record: Baltimore Oriole
- Count high: Ring-billed Gull, Hooded Merganser, Wild Turkey, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird

### Baker Valley

- First count record: Hooded Merganser
- Count high: Cedar Waxwing

### Littleton

- First count record: Turkey Vulture
- Count High: Tufted Titmouse, Snow Bunting

### Grafton-Bristol

- Count high: Canada Goose, Red-tailed Hawk, Purple Finch

### Errol-Umbagog

- Count high: Golden-crowned Kinglet, Northern Cardinal

### Pittsburg

- New to the count: Cooper's Hawk
- New state count high: Boreal Chickadee, Purple Finch
- Count high: Bald Eagle, American Crow
- Second count record: Great Blue Heron

### North Conway

- Count high: Tufted Titmouse
- Red-bellied Woodpecker was seen for the fourth time. Hermit Thrush was seen for the second time.

### Lake Sunapee

- Count high: Canada Goose, Belted Kingfisher
- Second count record: Northern Goshawk

### Manchester

- First count record: Turkey Vulture, Brown-headed Cowbird
- Count high: Hooded Merganser, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-winged Blackbird

### Sandwich

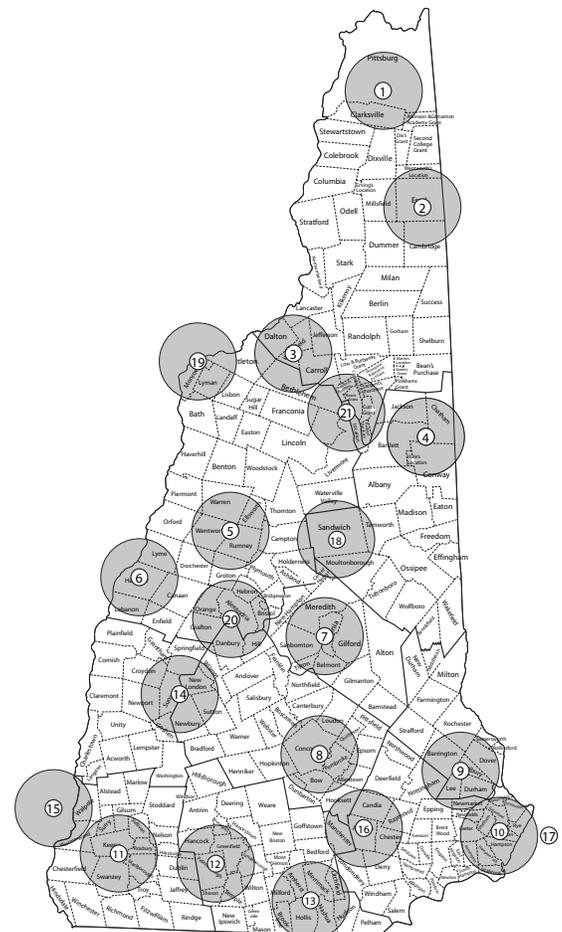
- Count high: Hooded Merganser, Common Goldeneye, Purple Finch, Northern Cardinal
- Hermit Thrush and Common Grackle were seen for the second time. Northern Goshawk was seen for the third time.

### AMC-Crawford

- First count record: American Black Duck, Ring-necked Duck, Bohemian Waxwing
- Count high: Brown Creeper, Northern Cardinal
- Canada Goose was seen for the second time

## Christmas Bird Count Compilers

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



# 116th Christmas Bird Count: Dec. 14, 2015 - Jan. 5, 2016

Species	Nsh	Pet	Kee	Cst	Lee	Con	Lac	Han	Bak	Lit	Grf	Erl	Pit	Cnw	Sun	Man	San	Amc	Total	
Canada Goose	502	130	229	4057	617	293	239	24	-	-	<b>60</b>	-	-	<b>15</b>	<b>66</b>	170	2	1	<b>6405</b>	
Mute Swan	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1</b>
Wood Duck	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	<b>3</b>
Gadwall	-	-	-	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>6</b>
Eurasian Wigeon	-	-	-	<b>**4</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>4</b>
American Wigeon	-	-	-	<b>**161</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>161</b>
American Black Duck	2	11	41	1900	106	24	16	3	-	-	-	5	4	-	26	3	10	*2	<b>2153</b>	
Mallard	257	77	80	1040	702	287	780	413	4	CW	21	-	94	-	227	250	72	15	<b>4319</b>	
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>2</b>
Northern Pintail	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>2</b>
Green-winged Teal	-	-	-	<b>**16</b>	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>17</b>
Redhead	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>2</b>
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	12	3	CW	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	*1	<b>19</b>	
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	1400	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1401</b>
Lesser Scaup	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>10</b>
Common Eider	-	-	-	49	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>49</b>
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	156	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>156</b>
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	88	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>88</b>
Black Scoter	-	-	-	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>50</b>
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>90</b>
Bufflehead	-	-	2	116	41	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>159</b>
Common Goldeneye	6	-	1	91	16	23	220	3	-	-	10	7	1	-	-	38	<b>41</b>	-	<b>457</b>	
Barrow's Goldeneye	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>4</b>
Hooded Merganser	5	16	30	10	12	<b>90</b>	112	<b>119</b>	*6	5	4	-	3	-	52	<b>87</b>	<b>36</b>	-	<b>587</b>	
Common Merganser	-	<b>113</b>	60	3	9	5	171	34	-	2	14	15	7	-	25	-	86	-	<b>544</b>	
Red-br. Merganser	-	-	-	160	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>163</b>
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	-	<b>9</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	<b>21</b>
Ruffed Grouse	-	10	2	1	2	2	2	2	CW	15	8	19	13	1	1	-	7	3	<b>88</b>	
Spruce Grouse	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	<b>3</b>
Wild Turkey	109	210	87	127	265	52	<b>285</b>	<b>270</b>	37	87	18	42	46	31	139	1	90	1	<b>1897</b>	
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>16</b>
Common Loon	-	1	4	84	-	1	12	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	3	1	3	-	<b>113</b>	
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1</b>
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>29</b>
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	41	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>41</b>
Northern Gannet	-	-	-	60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>60</b>
Double-cr. Cormorant	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>4</b>
Great Cormorant	-	-	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>17</b>
Great Blue Heron	4	-	-	13	3	<b>4</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	*2	1	-	-	-	<b>28</b>

Total Number of Species Across all CBCs: 148

CW = Count Week

Nsh = Nashua-Hollis (12/26/15)

Pet = Peterborough-Hancock (12/19/15)

Kee = Keene (12/20/15)

Cst = Coastal NH (12/19/15)

Lee = Lee-Durham (12/20/15)

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Amc = AMC-Crawford (12/19/15)

+ = New Species to the state

\* = New Species to a Count

\*\* = New high species count for the state

***Bold italic = new individual count high***

Species	Nsh	Pet	Kee	Cst	Lee	Con	Lac	Han	Bak	Lit	Grf	Erl	Pit	Cnw	Sun	Man	San	Amc	Total
Turkey Vulture	-	-	-	10	<b>**47</b>	-	-	-	-	*1	-	-	-	-	-	*1	-	-	59
Northern Harrier	-	-	-	3	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	1	4	6	3	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	CW	-	25
Cooper's Hawk	6	-	<b>6</b>	5	5	2	1	4	-	1	-	-	*1	-	2	1	-	-	34
Northern Goshawk	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	1	-	6
Accipiter sp.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bald Eagle	1	2	<b>7</b>	20	9	4	2	5	-	-	1	5	<b>10</b>	1	2	-	3	-	72
Red-shouldered Hawk	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Red-tailed Hawk	53	10	23	46	40	22	10	15	-	2	<b>5</b>	2	1	-	3	<b>30</b>	2	-	264
Greater Yellowlegs	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Purple Sandpiper	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Pomarine Jaeger	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Dovekie	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Razorbill	-	-	-	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
Black Guillemot	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Alcid sp.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bla.-leg. Kittiwake	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	<b>**344</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	344
Ring-billed Gull	102	-	18	921	318	116	<b>398</b>	<b>29</b>	-	6	-	-	-	-	1	236	6	-	2151
Herring Gull	41	1	-	873	973	2	22	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	25	1	-	1939
Iceland Gull	CW	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Lesser Bla.-bac. Gull	-	-	-	1	1	-	*1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	1	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Great Bla.-bac. Gull	29	-	-	-	94	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	129
Rock Pigeon	759	135	383	682	345	507	227	659	18	108	60	-	2	1	128	142	15	CW	4171
Mourning Dove	425	127	163	287	223	262	316	321	37	112	19	5	14	110	116	67	145	6	2755
Eastern Screech-owl	1	-	-	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Great Horned Owl	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5
Snowy Owl	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Barred Owl	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	CW	-	1	-	8
N. Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Belted Kingfisher	4	-	-	2	5	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>3</b>	-	1	-	20
Red-bellied Woodpecker	43	9	15	47	33	10	8	<b>4</b>	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	<b>18</b>	3	-	192
Ylw.-bel. Sapsucker	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	4
Downy Woodpecker	125	82	77	102	123	70	124	96	11	24	12	12	10	51	38	44	74	14	1089
Hairy Woodpecker	51	39	28	24	26	29	63	58	6	26	4	4	3	39	25	12	65	8	510
Black-backed Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2

Total Number of Species Across all CBCs: 148

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\*= New Species to a Count

\*\*= New high species count for the state

***Bold italic = new individual count high***

# 116th Christmas Bird Count: Dec. 14, 2015 - Jan. 5, 2016 — continued

Species	Nsh	Pet	Kee	Cst	Lee	Con	Lac	Han	Bak	Lit	Grf	Erl	Pit	Cnw	Sun	Man	San	Amc	Total
Northern Flicker	9	1	-	7	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	1	1	-	<b>23</b>
Pileated Woodpecker	5	6	9	4	8	4	7	<b>22</b>	4	1	2	6	5	7	3	3	15	CW	<b>111</b>
American Kestrel	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	<b>2</b>
Merlin	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	<b>2</b>
Peregrine Falcon	2	-	-	1	*1	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>4</b>
Eastern Phoebe	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1</b>
Northern Shrike	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	<b>3</b>
Gray Jay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	4	-	-	-	-	7	<b>20</b>
Blue Jay	480	182	267	232	267	239	271	415	84	89	70	79	67	108	203	79	146	26	<b>3304</b>
American Crow	219	124	523	733	227	768	949	1978	27	155	80	26	<b>73</b>	219	167	172	131	14	<b>6585</b>
Common Raven	<b>20</b>	38	<b>26</b>	5	16	<b>20</b>	<b>32</b>	49	6	64	9	15	80	17	11	7	16	9	<b>440</b>
Horned Lark	CW	-	32	125	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>172</b>
Black-cap. Chickadee	623	770	911	827	929	610	1189	1118	135	645	321	686	717	448	439	618	748	227	<b>11961</b>
Boreal Chickadee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	**103	-	-	-	7	15	<b>140</b>
Tufted Titmouse	204	145	171	262	391	207	<b>265</b>	<b>179</b>	15	<b>18</b>	6	-	-	61	65	70	90	-	<b>2149</b>
Red-br. Nuthatch	2	25	15	2	1	5	11	18	7	139	14	183	298	51	38	-	44	47	<b>900</b>
White-br. Nuthatch	176	130	141	181	245	170	186	144	16	40	27	1	-	97	64	75	149	3	<b>1845</b>
Brown Creeper	5	5	5	2	9	10	5	7	-	12	5	1	6	11	4	2	10	8	<b>107</b>
House Wren	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1</b>
Winter Wren	-	-	CW	1	5	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>10</b>
Carolina Wren	21	6	9	9	16	3	2	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	<b>80</b>
Golden-cr. Kinglet	3	16	16	27	38	8	18	6	-	43	12	<b>118</b>	82	47	9	1	8	34	<b>486</b>
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1</b>
Eastern Bluebird	111	23	46	174	121	13	32	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	12	-	<b>546</b>
Hermit Thrush	3	1	1	5	3	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	<b>2</b>	-	1	1	-	<b>22</b>
American Robin	423	94	39	267	28	141	38	21	21	31	1	-	-	2	19	19	24	-	<b>1168</b>
Gray Catbird	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>4</b>
Brown Thrasher	-	-	-	-	*1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1</b>
N. Mockingbird	43	1	11	30	16	14	10	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	<b>135</b>
European Starling	1845	<b>446</b>	727	1925	707	1115	443	548	20	92	61	7	57	131	229	746	79	-	<b>9178</b>
American Pipit	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>2</b>
Bohemian Waxwing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*1	<b>1</b>
Cedar Waxwing	340	78	190	190	77	39	170	90	<b>61</b>	1	1	-	-	25	25	74	102	-	<b>1463</b>
Snow Bunting	-	-	8	-	CW	-	-	20	-	<b>50</b>	-	1	1	28	-	-	14	-	<b>122</b>
Common Yellowthroat	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>2</b>
American Redstart	-	-	-	+1	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>1</b>

Total Number of Species Across all CBCs: 148

CW = Count Week

Nsh = Nashua-Hollis (12/26/15)

Pet = Peterborough-Hancock (12/19/15)

Kee = Keene (12/20/15)

Cst = Coastal NH (12/19/15)

Lee = Lee-Durham (12/20/15)

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Lac = Laconia-New Hampton (1/2/16)

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Grf = Grafton-Bristol (12/26/15)

Erl = Errol-Umbagog (12/15/15)

Pit = Pittsburg (12/14/15)

Cnw = North Conway (12/29/15)

Sun = Lake Sunapee (12/19/15)

Man = Manchester (12/19/15)

San = Sandwich (1/3/16)

Amc = AMC-Crawford (12/19/15)

+ = New Species to the state

\* = New Species to a Count

\*\* = New high species count for the state

***Bold italic = new individual count high***

Species	Nsh	Pet	Kee	Cst	Lee	Con	Lac	Han	Bak	Lit	Grf	Erl	Pit	Cnw	Sun	Man	San	Amc	Total
Palm Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Pine Warbler	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Am. Tree Sparrow	99	66	87	133	98	175	55	92	4	3	8	19	1	65	6	12	38	-	961
Chipping Sparrow	-	-	CW	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Fox Sparrow	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	6
Dark-eyed Junco	501	171	486	368	445	395	767	<b>1511</b>	217	51	72	81	25	<b>1570</b>	84	168	359	31	7302
White-cr. Sparrow	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
White-thr. Sparrow	44	CW	11	137	75	15	8	2	1	-	-	-	-	3	2	5	3	-	306
Savannah Sparrow	-	-	-	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Song Sparrow	72	-	11	110	39	22	6	1	-	1	3	-	-	2	2	3	2	-	274
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Swamp Sparrow	1	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Eastern Towhee	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Northern Cardinal	212	69	99	226	265	130	112	<b>136</b>	14	14	7	<b>8</b>	-	<b>42</b>	29	40	<b>46</b>	<b>4</b>	1453
Dickcissel	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Red-winged Blackbird	3	-	-	12	-	2	-	<b>41</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	17	-	-	76
Rusty Blackbird	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Common Grackle	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	6
Br.-headed Cowbird	-	3	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	*1	-	-	6
Baltimore Oriole	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	*1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Pine Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	12	-	-	-	1	-	17
House Finch	345	6	48	321	254	205	93	78	-	-	3	-	-	8	8	49	6	-	1424
Purple Finch	4	28	22	1	4	3	71	109	10	280	<b>15</b>	217	**945	9	38	-	<b>57</b>	5	1818
Red Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	1	-	-	-	-	-	23
Whi.-wing. Crossbill	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	84	21	2	-	-	-	1	108
Common Redpoll	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	15	17
Pine Siskin	2	6	8	-	-	-	-	5	13	205	50	917	1755	16	24	-	187	118	3306
American Goldfinch	494	239	321	593	632	327	633	695	143	186	77	72	52	<b>1034</b>	275	130	514	32	6449
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Small finch sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
House Sparrow	1290	177	266	1783	1021	409	712	239	3	15	104	-	-	5	104	359	83	-	6570
Number of Species	58	45	53	111	70	62	55	52	27	37	37	37	37	39	45	50	53	31	148
Number of Participants	43	38	25	44	29	26	24	27	5	16	9	12	13	42	17	13	21	18	422

Total Number of Species Across all CBCs: 148

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# Winter 2015-16 Field Notes

compiled by Rebecca Suomala and Kathryn Frieden

## Great Horned Owl Release

by Terri Fratus



Jane Kelly and Chris McKee releasing the Great Horned Owl, 1/23/16. Photos by Terri Fratus.

Frigid temperatures didn't discourage the gathering of about 50 people at the Danville Elementary School in Danville, NH on January 23, 2016. These brave folks came to attend the release of a Great Horned Owl by Jane Kelly, a bird of prey educator and rehabilitator from On the Wing in Epping, NH. The owl was rescued when he got caught in wire when trying to "fly the coop" after having a duck dinner in a nearby duck pen. He was rescued by NH Fish & Game Officer Chris McKee and Danville's animal control officer, Sheila Johannesen. The Great Horned Owl's rehabilitation was facilitated by Jane Kelly and Veterinary and Emergency Hospital of Brentwood.

## Site Fidelity of Wintering Gulls

by Stephen Mirick



Glaucous Gull by Scott Heron, 12/12/15, Seabrook, NH.

The winter of 2015-2016 brought with it the perennial return of a Glaucous Gull to Seabrook, NH. Its return each winter is eagerly anticipated and it was first reported on November 19, 2015. My wife and I have nicknamed him or her "Glockenspiel!" Its return is evidence of the strong winter site fidelity shown by some gulls. This particular bird has returned each winter to Hampton harbor and prefers the tiptop of the bathhouse building in Seabrook, where it delights in eating bread crumbs along with the other gulls. According to my estimates, this individual bird has returned every winter since 2008-2009 and I have estimated its age at approximately 8 or 9 years old!

Another example of site fidelity of gulls comes from the famous Lesser Black-backed Gull at Odiorne Point State Park, nicknamed "Frosty." This bird returned every winter to a specific, small, rocky cove near Frost Point at Odiorne. It was seen at least every year from the winter of 2000-2001 through the winter of 2010-2011. It was estimated to have lived at least 13 years before its presumed demise.

## Whooper Swan on the Coast



Whooper Swan with a Mute Swan at Eel Pond in Rye. Photo by Amy Kane, 12/13/15.

A Whooper Swan was seen on Eel Pond in December 2015. This was likely the same bird that had been seen by several birders at several locations previously during the year. Scott Heron then posted the following compilation of sightings to the NHBirds email list (12/13/15):

12/16: Eel Pond, Rye—M. Watson, the last sighting in Winter 2015-16

12/12: Eel Pond, Rye—S. Heron

7/26-11/5: North Hampton—A. Kane

7/3-7/13: Lamprey Pond, Hampton—several observers

5/9: Lubberland Trail, Newmarket—S. Mirick, et al.

4/18: Exeter WTP—several observers

Amy Kane had a particular interest in this bird which had spent much of the summer and fall at her house. In a post to NHBirds (12/13/15) she wrote:

“Thanks, Scott Heron, for the compilation of recent Whooper sightings. I have a bit to add to the saga. The Whooper took up residence at our place July 26 to September 10, and then flew away... leaving plenty of molted swan feathers all over. But one week later, I was coming back from a walk down the road and found the swan “waiting for me” by the mailbox! She (no idea if the Whooper is a male or female but I came to think of it as a female, and named her Griselda) stayed until November 5. I was really hoping she would find some swan friends and a good place to make it through winter (our half-acre pond is usually frozen solid by now). That Mute Swan on Eel Pond has been solo for a few months, so maybe this is the start of a beautiful friendship!

Griselda could be aggressive with people and especially unfamiliar dogs, hissing, spitting, and rushing at them with wings half-raised. But she never completed the attack. Also, you could stop a feigned attack by walking slowly toward her, raising your arms, and talking calmly - if you turned your back or walked away she might resume! But she grew used to the people she saw frequently, especially the lady with the camera (me) who liked to sit around near her (sometimes with a glass of wine, as the sun was setting - ah, I miss summer).”

For more photos of Amy’s time spent as an adoptive “Mother of Whooper Swans,” check out this link: <http://amybirds.com/tag/whooper-swan/>.

Another memorable Whooper Swan account with a slightly different point of view is told by Steve Mirick—“Kujo, the Territorial Whooper” at: <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!searchin/nhbirds/whooper%7Csort:date/nhbirds/DhKaK7ZUOgc/YuBhw9MTKq0J>

## 2016 Superbowl of Birding – A New Hampshire Compilation



The “Twitchers in the Rye” scanning the ocean during the Superbowl of Birding, 1/30/16.

Contrary to popular belief, the Superbowl is actually a birding competition that takes place on the last Saturday in January. This competition involves looking for as many bird species as possible between 5:00 am and 5:00 pm and each species having a point value (five points maximum). It is run by Massachusetts Audubon’s Joppa Flats Education Center and teams can compete in Essex County, MA and/or Rockingham County, NH. There are a number of New Hampshire teams which generates fierce, but friendly, competition for the “Rockingham County Rocks Award” given to the team with the most points in Rockingham County. Occasionally, one of the Rockingham teams even wins the “Director’s Award” for the greatest number of species overall or the “Zeiss Joppa Cup,” the grand prize for the team with the greatest number of points overall.

Regular readers of *New Hampshire Bird Records* are familiar with the Superbowl adventures of the “Twitchers in the Rye” team, but we thought it would be fun for readers to hear from each of the 2016 New Hampshire Superbowl teams. The date was January 30, 2016. While preparing for the event, Michael Pahl, the non-birding husband of participant Jeanne-Marie Maher, adapted the song “Smoke on the Water” by Deep Purple for the event. We present it here as a precursor to the highlights of the day.

*Ed.*

### Ducks on the Water

*By (Deep) Purple Gallinule (aka Michael Pahl)*

We all came out to count them,  
Finding teal along the shoreline.  
To make records of our sightings,  
We didn’t have much time.  
King Eiders and some Mallards,  
They were swimming all around,  
But some stupid with a shotgun,  
Scared them all from the ground.

Ducks on the water, a few are goldeneye.  
Ducks on the water...

They flew down the waterway,  
Calling with an awful sound.  
Canvasbacks were flying in and out,  
Nowhere coots to be found.  
When it all was over,  
We had to find another place.  
But day time was running out,  
It seemed that we would lose the race.  
Ducks on the water, a few are goldeneye.  
Ducks on the water...

We sat around in many blinds,  
They were empty, cold and bare.  
But with our spotting scopes just outside,  
Making our findings there.  
With a few Gadwalls, a few Redheads,  
We won many a bet.  
No matter what we manage to list,  
I know I know we'll never forget.  
Ducks on the water, a few are goldeneye.  
Ducks on the water...

## NH Young Birders Superbowl

by Brynlee Kimball

This year's Superbowl of Birding was a real treat for The Soaring Raptor Kids (Charlotte Marchione, Étienne Marchione, Steven Kimball, and me)! I saw many life-list birds. Here is a small recap of the highlights of the trip. In a small saltwater marsh at the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), a causeway splits into three with a tower in the middle. This is good habitat for ducks like goldeneyes. Up on the observation tower, it was really windy and bitter cold. It was totally worth it though! Looking out we couldn't see much on the marsh. Then the man next to us helped us out by pointing out some goldeneyes. Not just Common Goldeneyes though, there was even a rare Barrow's Goldeneye! It was a life-lister for all of us. We hung around watching the goldeneyes for a while before heading back down.

Another major highlight was the three scoters. Walking along the beach, there was a nice viewing platform. Not too many people were there, but there was a nice lady wearing a fur cap. She helped us identify three different scoters; the Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, and Black Scoter. So many scoters in one place! The last exciting find was on our way back through Plum Island, an uncommon sight, a Short-eared Owl! I think our whole team was really excited

to see this welcome visitor! What a nice surprise too! Lots of birders had parked their cars on the side of the road and were eagerly jamming their binoculars in their eyes. This owl was sweeping back and forth landing occasionally on the side of the berm, a nice ending-out bird.

We finished up doing a sweep of the other side of the Parker River NWR. Only a few chickadees were willing to show themselves. Then, the award ceremony for the Superbowl took place at a church. Our team was awarded the Parker River Award with 43 different species in the Parker River NWR alone! I can only guess what next year's birding Superbowl will bring!

## Superbowl Strategy with the 4th and Longspurs

by Stephen Mirick

The key to a good Superbowl day is to have a strategy. So, when Jane and I joined forces with Paul Lacourse and Kurk Dorsey for the Superbowl of 2016, we knew what we were going to do, starting with the "opening kickoff" at 5:00 am! For the previous several days, Paul had been following a group of Turkey Vultures into an evening roost in a private mobile home park in Exeter. Turkey Vultures are a "5-pointer," a very rare species that commands an extra three points if you report the species first during the day. So, our strategy was to start at exactly 5:00 am and shine our flashlights up into the roost trees and get a Turkey Vulture for eight points! Simple...right?

Unfortunately, things don't always work the way you want during the Superbowl. Incredibly, after several nights in a row of roosting at this location, the Turkey Vultures chose to roost in a different spot the night before the Superbowl! At 5:00 am, we came up empty! We went to our backup trees by a nearby park. No luck! One more spot to check was the



*The infamous Black Vulture, photographed by Steve Mirick the day after the Superbowl, 1/31/16, on the Lincoln Street school chimney, and the crowd it attracted (photo by Rebecca Suomala).*



Lincoln Street school chimney. At first, there appeared to be nothing there, but then we pointed a flashlight on the top of the chimney and there was a distinct blob sitting on top. We set up a spotting scope and I got as close as I dared to the school (while searching for police!) to shine my flashlight as bright as I could. Definitely a vulture! must be a Turkey Vulture. We phoned in the sighting as a Turkey Vulture at 5:15 am. Sadly, too late for the three bonus points as Lauren Kras's team beat us to it at 5:00 am with Turkey Vultures at a roost site in Newmarket!

Oh well, a Turkey Vulture was still a good bird and we were glad to check it off our list, but we never did see the head or feet on that dark blob. It must have been a Turkey Vulture....or was it?!?!?! Incredibly, the next day, an extremely rare Black Vulture was discovered perched on this same chimney exactly where we saw that blob! And it continued to hang out on this chimney for a couple more days!

The birdwatcher's creed for attempting to identify a fleeting glimpse of a potentially rare bird is (and should be) "When you hear hoof beats, think of horses not zebras." But perhaps we can now re-write this adage to state, "When you hear hoof beats, think of horses, but consider zebras!"

*Note: The 4th and Longspurs won the 2016 Rockingham County Rocks Award.*

## The Wry Knot's Superbowl of Birding

by Greg Tillman

Maybe the best part of the Birding Superbowl is meeting rarely seen friends at 5:00 am under a cold, starry winter sky. Like many joys of the day, it is all the more appreciated for the hurdles that precede it: waking at oh-dark-thirty, searching for last minute maps and lunch packs, avoiding sleeping spouses, and driving for an hour or more on coffee and anticipation.

Then, honestly, even a lovely, starry New Hampshire morning gets less interesting in the repeated absence of Barred Owls. Alas, after two frustrating hours of distant dogs barking, we never did hear a Barred Owl. Just before dawn, however, our faith and energy was restored by the gentle trilling of an Eastern Screech-Owl at Great Bay Discovery Center, barely audible even in the quiet dawn.

So the chase began for our team, the Wry Knots, Christopher McPherson, Eric Masterson, Jeanne-Marie Maher, and me. We missed a scouted Chipping Sparrow, but caught a Turkey Vulture still roosting in the trees. Our lone Great Blue Heron looked colder than we were, and had our sympathy, but a flock of Horned Larks looked exuberant in the early daylight! We lost time at the utterly silent Brookside Sanctuary and balanced homeowner privacy and birding imperatives to find a Northern Pintail in Exeter.

There was great joy in the rediscovery of a scouted Wilson's Snipe as it flushed briefly from a marsh, and equally in the late afternoon, when a Northern Flicker was picked out by a teammate from what seemed like half mile away. Finally, we finished up with a rapid drive down the seacoast, and lo, a fly-by of a Thick-billed Murre!

Just like that, the choices are made, the birds are found or missed, and the day is over. It's time for the recap, a little food and warmth, and telling stories in the company of a hundred like-minded crazy people. Already looking forward to next year!

## The Twitchers Without Their Captain

by Rebecca Suomala

The Twitchers in the Rye had a very fun day in the 2016 Superbowl of Birding. We traditionally stay in just the town of Rye, NH and we also raise money for *New Hampshire Bird Records* and NH eBird. This year our team captain, Pam Hunt, departed for the (comparative) warmth of Florida and we were left to fend for ourselves.

As usual, the first hour or so was spent in futile checks of supposedly reliable spots for owls until we salvaged our captainless confidence with a single Great Horned Owl at 6:15! The rest of the morning was busy adding new species at every turn, but we had to work hard in the afternoon to scrounge up any new species. Most exciting were four species new for the Twitchers, one of which was a five-pointer: Turkey Vulture (five pt.), Bonaparte's Gull and Yellow-rumped Warbler at Odiorne Pt. State Park, and Ruby-crowned Kinglet which was a staked out bird at a feeder on West Road.

A Greater Scaup, never a given for us, was a great find by Andrea. We missed Red-throated Loon last year but had several this year. Contrary to our usual experience, two Razorbills flying by were seen by all of us before they disappeared! One Common Grackle flying over the Wentworth by the Sea golf course is a species we've only had one other year. Two Mute Swans were missing in the



*The 2016 Twitchers in the Rye rockin' our hoodies at the Superbowl wrap-up party. Left to right: Andrea Robbins, Becky Suomala, Pat Myers (hiding her team tee under a fleece), and Peg Ackerson.*

morning, but appeared at Eel Pond in the late afternoon – our last new species of the day.

We had no major misses (at least for our Rye territory) and a total of 59 species (our average over the last eight years) and 95 points (average 98). The team decided we did all right despite our team captain being away. This is such a fun way to spend a winter day of birding in New Hampshire!

## The Grouse Whisperers Miss Their Scouts

by Ken Klapper and Katrina Fenton

The Grouse Whisperers competed once again in Rockingham County for the 2016 Superbowl of Birding. This year we suffered the formidable loss of our fearless Team Captain Phil Brown; however, we rallied as Katrina Fenton and Ken Klapper split the duties of Captaincy, Cliff Seifer safely navigated the roads of coastal New Hampshire with gentle aplomb, and new teammate Charlotte Harding kept all afloat with her rock-solid optimism.

Despite seeing rival teams more often than scouted birds, we still managed a total of 64 species and 116 points. Our highlights included only one five-point species (a Turkey Vulture at Salmon Drive, unfortunately not at 5:00 am but at least easily found on a return visit). We managed to round up a few nice four-pointers, including both Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Purple Finch at feeders in Rye. One of the day's most exciting moments happened on the highway, as Katrina spotted a Red-shouldered Hawk amongst the shops and buildings along Route 1 in Hampton Falls. Screeching to a halt, we jumped out of the car and ran back several blocks only to find the raptor had disappeared. As we walked dejectedly back to our vehicle, however, we heard the distinctive screeching of our nearly-missed quarry. Finally, the famous Seabrook Glaucous Gull provided a rare respite in an otherwise "pointless" afternoon dead-stretch.

Major misses include every other scouted five-point species, a few one-pointers (Common Merganser and Northern Harrier), ANY owls, and many other birds Katrina had scouted throughout the weeks before (too numerous to list!).

## The Belichukars Win the Cup

by Lauren Kras

Excerpted from a post to NHBirds, 1/1/2016

For the 2016 Superbowl Jason Lambert, Ben Griffith, and I teamed up with Robbie and Robert Prieto to form the Belichukars. We managed to turn up a species high of 88 and a total of 198 points to secure the Zeiss Joppa Cup! It was a close win, eking out only one species and six points more than the Blue-gray Passcatchers.

Overall we had a very good morning and a great day. We missed many staked out birds, but fortunately our second locations for a few were productive and in spots where we missed one thing another bird frequently made up for it (for example, we missed White-crowned Sparrow which is worth four points at Great Bay Farm, but found our only Northern Flicker which was worth three points).

Highlights included lucking out with four species of owls in less than 30 minutes, Ben spotting (and elatedly yelling about) a Northern Pintail at Downing Court after 20 minutes of searching and missing it at the treatment plant just prior, Jason wishing for a Red-shouldered Hawk all day until we finally found one in a spot we hadn't had one before, Jason still wishing for a Belted Kingfisher right until we found one as the sun was setting (beautiful sunset too), and having lots of laughs with some awesome company!



The 2016 Belichukars receiving the 2016 Zeiss Joppa Cup (left to right): Robbie Prieto, Elite QB calling out every play (or bird) and the master of the 4-point scouting; Robert Prieto, Captain of keeping the long drive going and Defensive Coordinator; Jason Lambert, Captain of Special Birds and the king of the "Birding Hail Mary"; Lauren Kras, Paperwork Captain and Offensive Jersey Coordinator, and Ben Griffith, Pintailback and Captain of Audibles. Photo by Susan Carlson courtesy of Mass Audubon's Joppa Flats Education Center.

## Where are the Evening Grosbeaks?

by Pamela Hunt



Evening Grosbeak by Charlie Nims, 1/24/16, Milan, NH.

This article is reprinted from the 2015 summary of NH Audubon's annual Backyard Winter Bird Survey (BWBS). The BWBS began in 1987 and helps biologists track trends in New Hampshire's winter bird populations. It takes place on the second weekend in February and participants can report their results on a paper form or on-line. This is a New Hampshire only survey and is different from the Great Backyard Bird Count, a more recent, similar nationwide count that sometimes takes place on the same weekend. We suggest people take part in both. To participate in NH Audubon's BWBS, check the web site: <http://nhbirdrecords.org/bird-conservation/bwbs/backyard-winter-bird-survey/>. – Ed.

One of the most frequent questions we receive about winter birds here at New Hampshire Audubon has to do with the absence of Evening Grosbeaks in the last couple of decades. For people who were feeding birds in the 1970s and 1980s, these large finches were a mainstay of the winter feeder scene. Flocks of dozens, if not hundreds, would descend on unsuspecting feeder owners and devour whole bags of sunflower seed in a matter of days. But in the early 1990s they started to disappear and are now an unusual sight almost everywhere in the state.

So what happened? This question is not as straightforward as one might think since, prior to the 1960s, Evening Grosbeaks were almost as rare as they are now. They were a species of boreal and mountain forests in Canada and the Rocky Mountains and weren't recorded in New England until a small invasion in 1889-90. Over the next 50 years, Evening Grosbeaks remained uncommon and somewhat irregular, but all this changed in 1944. That winter, the birds arrived in force for the first time and large numbers even reached into southern New England. By the 1960s, they had become regular visitors, although numbers were still highly variable. This brings us to the years many remember, when Evening Grosbeaks were a fixture at feeders across the Northeast throughout the 1970s and 1980s. Their abundance varied over a 2-3 year cycle (Figure 1), but people still expected to see them every winter. That started to change in the early 1990s and now we're back to the point where Evening Grosbeaks are a rare treat over most of New Hampshire.

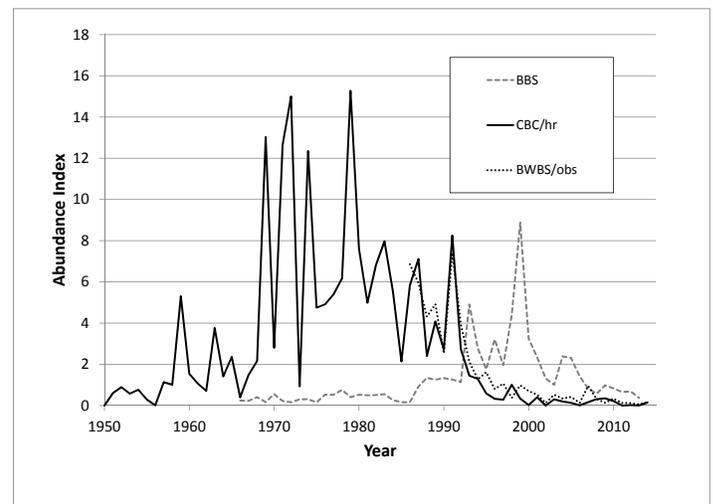
Now we can return to the original question: What happened? One important factor may be changes in populations of the spruce budworm, a moth whose caterpillars feed on fir and spruce trees across large portions of the boreal forest. It turns out that Evening Grosbeaks are one of several species that specialize on spruce budworm caterpillars as prey and they tend to have more young when budworm populations are high. Although budworm data are unavailable for the 1800s, it is possible that outbreaks in the western part of the grosbeak's range resulted in the "extra" birds that invaded east in the late 1800s. Budworm outbreaks in the Midwest and Northeast in the mid-1900s likely fueled the continued increases and the period of peak abundance in New Hampshire corresponded with a major budworm outbreak in northern New England and southeastern Canada that began in the late 1960s. This last outbreak was wrapping up by 1990, corresponding nicely to the recent drop in grosbeak numbers. Another factor sometimes proposed for the historic increases in Evening Grosbeaks was the extensive planting of box-elder (also called ash-leafed maple) in the Northeast. These trees provided food for the smaller, early incursions and allowed birds to survive the winter (bird

feeders took on a major role by the 1960s).

An interesting sidebar to this story relates to breeding populations here in New Hampshire. Evening Grosbeaks were extremely rare during the summer in New England until the 1960s and had only been recorded breeding a handful of times in over 50 years. They began to increase in summer in the 1970s, likely in conjunction with the budworm outbreak, but then the story becomes more complicated. Breeding season data from the Breeding Bird Survey (see Figure 1) show continued increases through 2000 and then a decline. I actually don't have a good explanation for this, other than perhaps a time lag in the response of our local breeders to the decline in budworm after 1990.

A new budworm outbreak began in Quebec in 2006 and small numbers of moths are already being detected in northern Maine. We still haven't seen a major increase in Evening Grosbeak numbers, but there is still plenty of time. Budworm outbreaks may last for 15-20 years if not aggressively treated and bird populations generally take a few years to respond. The scarcity of Evening Grosbeaks in the 21st century also means there are a lot fewer birds around to respond to the outbreak in the first place. If we fail to see an increase in grosbeak numbers, it may be an indication that other factors, including forestry practices, land use, or climate change, are also affecting populations of this iconic bird. So keep watching and who knows, you just might be going through sunflower seed a little faster than usual in another 10 years.

Figure 1. Populations of Evening Grosbeaks in New Hampshire, 1950 to 2013. Data are presented from three sources and adjusted for abundance as follows. BBS = Breeding Bird Survey, a continent-wide summer survey with 23 routes in New Hampshire. CBC = Christmas Bird Count. CBC data on this graph are from seven New Hampshire counts with relatively consistent coverage starting in 1950. Total numbers of birds have been divided by the number of hours spent counting to adjust for variable effort. BWBS = NH Audubon's Backyard Winter Bird Survey. Here again the totals have been adjusted for effort by dividing by the number of participating observers.



# Photo Gallery

## Gray Jays (and People!) at Deer Mountain Campground

by Rebecca Suomala

On February 27, 2016 a group of us traveled to Pittsburg to search for winter finches and boreal birds. Deer Mountain Campground on Rt. 3 in northern Pittsburg can be a reliable spot for both Gray Jay and Boreal Chickadee. We were not disappointed, but the experience was not what you'd expect in the wilds of northern New Hampshire. There was actually snow on the ground at this point in what had been a relatively snowless winter, and that proved a great attraction to snowmobilers. We were not alone! Gray Jays are well known for trying to steal a handout but they didn't

need to do any stealing that day. Numerous people were feeding them – not just the visiting birder photographers of our group – and the Gray Jays knew it! They gathered around the hordes of people despite the noisy snowmobiles and the hubbub of people. What a difference from the quieter summer campground experience when the jays are a bit more secretive during the nesting season!

*All photos taken on 2/27/16 at Deer Mountain Campground in Pittsburg except as noted.*



*Cars lined the road on both sides of the entrance to Deer Mountain Campground, and snowmobiles drove through. A fire and a hospitality tent drew a crowd of passing snowmobilers, and we weren't the only ones to be feeding the Gray Jays! Photos by Rebecca Suomala.*





*The Gray Jays had no fear and came in quite close to us, picking up food wherever it was, by Jenna Pettipas (above) and Dylan Jackson.*



*Close-ups by two people in our group, Scott Heron (right) and Jeanne-Marie Maher.*

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# Backyard Birder

## Foot Quivering and Other Odd Behaviors of Hermit Thrushes

by Brenda Sens



*Hermit Thrush by Scott Heron, 1/16/16, New Castle, NH.*

Most thrushes migrate south, but a few Hermit Thrushes do appear during the winter in New Hampshire. This would be the only spotted thrush likely to be seen here in the winter, with rare exceptions. People are often curious about their behavior when one appears in their yard, and two observations caught our attention.

In an email to the NHBirds email list, 11/9/2015, Mike Resch made the following observation:

...I had the pleasure of watching three Hermit Thrushes feeding in the lawn right outside my window. Interestingly I noticed one bird with a rapidly shaking leg, as if it was shivering. Then I realized it was actually quickly tapping the ground—at which point it cocked its head to look down to the ground. A few seconds later it moved along a few inches and rapidly tapped the ground again, though with the other leg.... I've got to believe the bird was trying to attract and collect worms in the lawn....

Mr. Resch went on to ask if others have seen Hermit Thrushes feed like this, which prompted me to do some research. He was accurate in his assumption that it was a feeding behavior and an attempt to cause insects to move about and show their presence.

Many bird species are known to try to attract or reveal their prey by the use of foot and leg movements. Many types of birds such as Great Blue Herons and American Avocets have been observed shuffling their feet in the water to flush fish and invertebrates. This behavior in thrushes was initially thought to be aggressive behavior toward other birds, especially during the breeding season. When it was seen in migrating thrushes on the coasts of Louisiana, Florida, Alabama and Mississippi, however, as well as the barrier islands (important stopovers for migrating birds), and went on for long periods of time followed by attempts to capture prey, observers realized it was a foraging behavior as well (W. Yong & F. Moore, *Wilson Bulletin*, 102-3, 1990).

The following month (December 28, 2015), an email arrived at NH Audubon noting another interesting behavior on the part of a Hermit Thrush, one of three at Pickering Ponds in Rochester, NH. Charlee Breen asked, “Do you know why they move their beak like calling, but no sound comes out”? (You can see the video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cSZJf6q9Hc>). She wondered why a bird would do this and worried that it might be a sign of a respiratory problem.

The bird may have been in distress of some kind, but I could not find a reference describing this exact behavior. Rebecca Suomala mentioned that birds which hit windows occasionally do something similar, but she has never seen it go on for very long or with as much bill movement as shown in Charlee's video. The behavior is similar to gaping, which is one of the ways birds have of lowering their body temperature when under heat stress. This exposes the moist linings of their mouths causing evaporation and thereby cooling their bodies. The next step is panting much the way a dog or cat would. This move increases the amount of moisture that is expelled thereby increasing the cooling. Unfortunately, it can also lead to an imbalance in the amounts of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the bird's system causing dizziness and lack of balance. Some birds, should these maneuvers prove inadequate, are able to resort to gular fluttering. This consists of vibrating the floor of the mouth which succeeds in further increasing cooling through evaporation without any damaging side effects. It is possible, despite it being the month of December, that the temperature in the sun during the exceptionally mild winter might have caused this particular thrush to feel the heat to an uncomfortable degree.

# Birding in Hollis

by Christopher McPherson

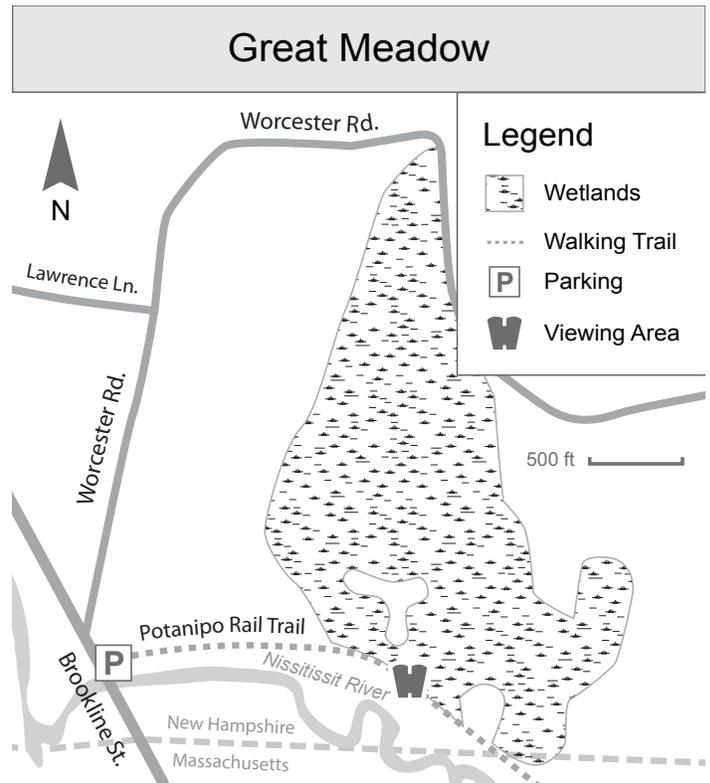


*Brown Thrasher by Christopher McPherson, 1/24/16, Hollis-Brookline HS, NH.*

As birdwatchers, we are all attracted to locations that offer the greatest variety and numbers of avian species. Diversity, coupled with a history of rare and unusual sightings, enhances appeal. These areas occur where conditions offer migrating birds advantages such as cover, food and water. When these birdy locations are easily accessible, with good parking, maintained paths and reasonable crowds, it's easy to take a few minutes from your busy day to enjoy a rewarding birding experience. I know of several places in Hollis, New Hampshire that afford such birding opportunities.

Hollis is a unique southern New Hampshire town located on the Massachusetts border in Hillsborough County. Home to several large apple orchards and agricultural operations, Hollis has diverse ecological habitats that attract a variety of avian species, especially during the spring and fall migrations. Hollis is also home to several very active conservation groups, including the Beaver Brook Association and the Nissitissit River Land Trust, which keep large tracks of fields, forests and wetlands under conservation, while maintaining some 35 miles of trails for public use.

Because of Hollis' commitment to conservation and agriculture, there are multiple parking areas with kiosks displaying trail maps and general information on local wildlife. With great parking and easy access, I often visit three or four locations in a given outing, varying the habitat from wetland to orchards to pumpkin fields (one of my favorites in the fall).



## Beaver Brook Association's Great Meadow

A typical outing for me in Hollis starts at Beaver Brook Association's Great Meadow accessed using the Potanipo Rail Trail. The trail head parking is just south of the intersection of Worcester Road and Brookline Street, right before the bridge over the Nissitissit River on the left side, if you're heading into Pepperell, MA. Great Meadow is best birded in spring, summer and fall. Winter at Great Meadow is sure to bring treacherous trail conditions and little bird diversity.

One of the things I like about this location is that it's a short hike to get to good habitat. From the parking lot to the meadow takes about ten minutes (.25 miles), where you will find an elevated rail bed which offers a nice viewing advantage. This trail continues into the Bemis Road Conservation Land in Pepperell, MA.

Spring birding at Great Meadow can be rewarding, as the short hike is full of singing Brown Creepers and the calls of both Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches. It is also a great place to encounter one or more of the six species of woodpeckers that are common in this area (Northern Flickers, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, and Pileated, Red-bellied, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers). Spring highlights include American Bittern, Virginia Rail, Blue-winged Teal, Red-shouldered Hawk, Olive-sided Flycatcher and Northern Goshawk. I wouldn't classify Great Meadow as a warbler hotspot, but as many as fifteen species of warbler have been recorded here over the last three years. It's a great place to get your first-of-year Pine, Palm and Yellow-rumped Warblers! The large wetland meadow and the elevated rail bed make

Great Meadow a nice place to look for migrating raptors, waterfowl and nighthawks. Great Meadow is an eBird hotspot identified as “Beaver Brook Great Meadow Hollis” with more than 122 species.

## Hollis Brookline High School (HBHS)

My next stop is almost always Hollis Brookline High School (HBHS) located off of Rt. 122 in the area of Cavalier Court and Love Lane, just south of the intersection of Rt. 130 and Rt. 122 in Hollis. HBHS can be birded year round, but I think it shines in the fall and spring when migrants are taking advantage of the plentiful food resources and dense cover. HBHS offers a great variety of habitats including wetlands, fields and great hedgerows flush with a variety of food items for hungry migrants. A word of caution: I do not bird HBHS school grounds while school is in session or if there are school events. There is nothing forbidding access, I just try to avoid the area during these times so I'm not encroaching on students and staff or arousing undue suspicion.

HBHS has plenty of parking but no clearly defined trails; however, most areas can be accessed by the athletic fields, so be creative and gravitate towards the habitats that appeal to you. I often improvise and walk the edges of the fields, poking in and out of the various locations. I recommend parking in the lower parking lot next to the baseball field. If you follow the sidewalk up the hill towards the school, you will have great views of the larger pond (on the right). This pond has great cattail habitat and is home to nesting Green Herons and Wood Ducks.

If you continue up the sidewalk, you will notice the substantial sumac stands on each side of the road. This is a great food source for overwintering birds where I've had Brown Thrasher, Eastern Bluebird, Northern Flicker and large groups of American Robins well into winter. Continuing on the sidewalk, you will eventually run into the access road for the football field. This access road is also thick with sumac and other food-bearing plants that keep this location busy during late fall into early spring. Following the access road out to the football field, you can walk along the back side of a pond with elevated views of the cattail stands. This is a great place to see Northern Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Wood Duck, Brown Thrasher, Eastern Phoebe, Field Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in late fall and early spring. If you continue along the fence, you will eventually run into Love Lane.

Love Lane is a low-traffic, dead end road that is surrounded by athletic fields and bordered by a dense hedgerow. This location always seems to have large numbers of American Robins in the spring and fall. Wherever you can find large concentrations of robins, there are opportunities

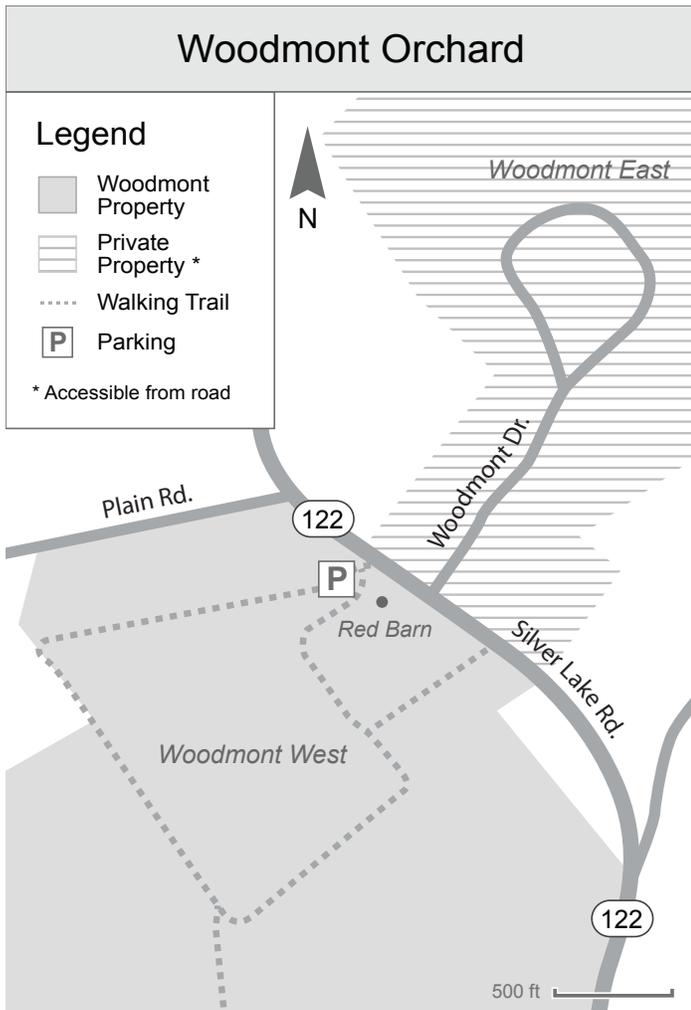
to luck upon something special. It was here at Love Lane that I first discovered a Redwing (*Turdus illiacus*), an unusual visitor from Europe/Asia, mixed in with a thousand or so American Robins working the fields and hedgerows (see the upcoming Spring 2016 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* for more on this amazing record). Once you're on Love Lane, you can travel west where the road ends on the edge of Beaver Brook Association land, or east where you end up at the intersection of Jeff Smith Way and Love Lane. You will begin to recognize where you are once you head south on Jeff Smith Way. The baseball field will be on your right, along with the lower parking lot near the baseball field. It's very important to check out the farm bordering Jeff Smith Way on the left. This is a good place to find Eastern Screech-Owl, Eastern Bluebird, Purple Finch, very early Eastern Phoebes and several species of woodpecker including Red-bellied Woodpecker and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Hollis Brookline High School (HBHS) is an eBird hotspot identified as “Hollis/Brookline High School” with more than 83 species.



*Eastern Screech-Owl found near the Hollis-Brookline High School by Christopher McPherson.*

## Woodmont Orchard

One of my favorite stops is Woodmont Orchard located off of Rt. 122 near the intersection of Plain Road and Woodmont Drive. This location is so large that it can easily fill a day of birding. Unfortunately, part of the orchard is now under development with private housing planned for much of the east orchard. The west orchard is owned by the town of Hollis and partially leased out for agricultural purposes. Parking is available on the west side of Rt. 122, just south of the intersection with Plain Road and across from Woodmont Drive. There is a sign that says “Woodmont” by the entrance to the parking area and a red barn next to it. (A second red building on the edge of a small pond next to



Rt. 122 is a former ice house.) The orchard is a great birding location in spring, summer and fall. During winter, it can be a little more challenging with major snowmobile routes crisscrossing the orchard.

Fifteen species of sparrow have been identified at Woodmont Orchard over the last few years including Song, Swamp, Fox, Field, Lincoln's, Vesper, House, American Tree, White-crowned, White-throated, Chipping, Clay-colored, Savannah, and Grasshopper Sparrows and Dark-eyed Junco. It's not unusual to have eight or nine species of sparrow in a single outing during the spring and fall with 10 species of sparrow being a very real possibility.

There is no preferred way to bird Woodmont Orchard. If you're starting in the west orchard, I recommend just following the dirt road from the parking area. The road runs along fields of strawberries, pumpkin, squash and corn, which are flush with sparrows during the spring and fall. The road will take you high into the orchard where you can wander down farm roads and paths cutting through the apple trees or bordering the agricultural fields. The west orchard has had a number of great birds including Long-eared Owl, Dickcissel, Pectoral Sandpipers, eastern- and western-type Palm Warblers, Snow Buntings, Horned Larks, Bobolinks and American Kestrels.

The east orchard can be accessed by Woodmont Drive, which is across Rt. 122 from the red barn. This side of the orchard will eventually be developed into private housing, but for the time being, the land is not posted and farm roads remain open. Woodmont Drive is not a through-road, so it's a great place for car birding. I've had great luck car birding Woodmont Drive with Swainson's Hawk, Vesper Sparrow and Grasshopper Sparrow, to name a few, all from the car!



*American Kestrel by Christopher McPherson, 12/31/15, Woodmont Orchard, Hollis, NH.*

Because of the fantastic views from both the east and west orchards, this can be a great place to experience the spring and fall hawk migration with sightings including Northern Goshawk, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed, Broad-winged, Red-shouldered, Sharp-shinned, and Cooper's Hawks, Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, American Kestrel and Bald Eagles. The orchard was lucky enough to host an overwintering American Kestrel during the winter of 2015-16. Woodmont Orchard is an eBird hotspot identified as "Woodmont Orchard, Hollis" with more than 129 species.

On a side note, Hollis has proven to be a very productive birding area with seasonal records of Clay-colored Sparrow, Connecticut Warbler, Dickcissel and two first-state records of Swainson's Hawk and Redwing (pending acceptance by the NH Rare Birds Committee). I mention this because every time I bird in the spring and fall, I feel like anything is possible in the varied habitat of Hollis. I believe the more Hollis is birded, especially during the migration windows, the more we will understand how important this area is for migrants. I recommend birding in Hollis. It's a small town with very little traffic and plenty of places to bird with very little distraction. Enjoy!

*Chris McPherson lives in Brookline, NH with his wife Jennifer and children Fiona and Elliot. He began birding in New Hampshire in 1991 until the early 2000s when he left to pursue a career in the biopharmaceutical industry. In 2011 the urge to return to New Hampshire and raise his children won out over career aspirations and he began birding again after a decade away.*

# Owl Harassment

by Rebecca Suomala and Kathryn Frieden



*The star attraction! A Snowy Owl perched on the roof of the “pink house” near Rye Harbor State Park attracted a crowd on 12/14/15, arousing the curiosity of the homeowners, both young and old. Photo by Rebecca Suomala.*

Over the past few years, there has been increasing concern over negative attention paid to owls, both those nesting in New Hampshire and special winter visitors such as the Snowy Owl. This is such a charismatic and photogenic bird that it attracts a great deal of attention. Unfortunately, this attention can have negative consequences, as many of us have seen. This is often due to photographers crossing the boundaries of ethical birdwatching.

During the winter of 2015-16, we were once again privileged to have a Snowy Owl wintering in Rye as we have for several years. Multiple incidents of inappropriate and potentially harmful behavior were observed, both toward nearby homeowners and the owl itself. Many people approach the bird too closely, with frequent reports of photographers approaching the bird until it flies. But some of the more egregious examples witnessed this past winter included people throwing snowballs at the bird in order to get a flight photograph, shining 1-million candle-power flood lights on the bird at night, and trespassing on private property despite objections expressed by the homeowner from her doorstep. There are also reports of someone buzzing the bird repeatedly with a drone as it tried to roost on the rocks at low tide and dog owners allowing their dogs to flush and then chase the bird.

One day in December, an observer counted 27 cars stopped to view the Rye Harbor Snowy at 7:30 am (only three were from New Hampshire, one from Maine, and the rest from Massachusetts). That same week, NH Audubon received a call from a Rye homeowner who was very upset about people trespassing on private property to view and photograph the Snowy next to Rye Harbor State Park. She considered NH Audubon to be at fault for “publicizing” the owl’s appearance (by including it in the Rare Bird Alert).

How many of us have been scanning the ocean for birds only to be asked if we are looking at the “Snow White Owl?”

It’s not only Snowy Owls that have been affected. In the spring of 2016, a Barred Owl nest was discovered at Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge. According to one birder, the nest was observed without incident for several weeks until discovered by a photographer late one afternoon. By 6:30 the next morning, photographers were lining up with their big lenses and clearing the view corridor. Photographers chased the owlets through the woods resulting in an attack by an adult owl that left one photographer with a lacerated scalp, requiring a trip to the hospital! A large amount of vegetation was also removed from the nest area, including small trees and brush, in order to afford unobstructed views of the nest. This could have endangered the owlets by removing cover and exposing them to predation. Consequently, the trail was closed, preventing respectful owl-viewing by anyone else.

Another example is the disturbance of an Eastern Screech Owl in Nashua after its location was posted on the NHBirds e-mail list. Despite being clearly visible from at least 50 feet away when it was perched in its hole, people went right up to the tree, evidenced by trampled snow. Eventually, it left its roosting area.

Some of this bad behavior is based on ignorance about owls and birds in general. From the incidents reported, it appears that photographers are the worst offenders. There is a wide spectrum of owl photographers, ranging from drive-by people who see the commotion and, armed with iPhones, walk right up to the bird to get the photo; to people who spend hours waiting for the ideal photo; to birder photographers who stop, take a few shots from a safe distance and move on. We learned that owl photos and owl merchandise are much more lucrative than any other type of bird, so professional photographers may have a financial incentive. For perhaps the majority, who don’t know they could be causing harm, conscientious birder-photographers can help educate these folks about owls. We also want to set a good example and make sure members of the birding community are not a part of the problem. Be aware of good birding etiquette (see the American Birding Association’s Birding Code of Ethics, summarized on the NH Audubon web site at: <http://www.nh Audubon.org/get-outside/birding/birding-basics/>). Speak out (courteously) when someone is misbehaving! Sometimes peer pressure can be a good thing. It may not seem successful or be received well, and you may be ignored (or even laughed at), but it may give the person pause the next time.

The article which follows is about Snowy Owl Viewing and is also available on the NH Audubon website (<http://www.nh Audubon.org/snowy-owl-viewing-observe-without-disturbing/>). This can serve as a guideline for other species

as well and as an educational aid that is worth sharing as widely as possible, especially if you are connected to a photography group. Not all photographers are disrespectful and some love the owls as much or more than any birder. At least one photographer has shared the above article with her photography group.

Photographers regularly search for owls and word spreads quickly when one is located. We also know that owl locations are being mined from our online birding information sites such as the NHBirds e-mail list and eBird. This raises the question of how much information to share about owl viewing locations. Other places, such as the Ontario bird list, no longer post specifics about owl roosting or nesting sites, but that makes it challenging for respectful birders to experience the wonderful sighting of an unusual owl. Owl viewing can provide a special experience that leads to caring and conservation – something that can benefit birds in the long term. Detailed entries in eBird help identify important owl habitat. Should we include detailed location information in our posts to NH Birds and our eBird entries? Does the potential benefit outweigh the impacts to one particular bird? There may not be one best answer for every situation. Various options include posting a sighting to NH Birds with specific details available by request. eBird entries can be done at a Town Level initially, then made more specific when the bird is gone. Nesting owls may be particularly sensitive to disturbance and warrant extra caution in reporting their location.

We can help by making sure the New Hampshire birding community's behavior is above reproach and by providing information about owl harassment. Protecting and being respectful of the birds we love to watch is the ultimate goal.

Thanks to Steve Mirick, Steve Bennett and Zeke Cornell for their assistance with this article.

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## Snowy Owl Viewing – Observe without Disturbing

From the NH Audubon web site: <http://www.nh Audubon.org/snowy-owl-viewing-observe-without-disturbing/>

Snowy Owls are magnificent birds and attract considerable attention when they visit New Hampshire in the winter. Enthusiastic observers and photographers need to remember that these birds are already stressed by hunger and cold temperatures, so it is important to resist the temptation to get too close for a clearer look or better picture.

Snowy Owls, often inexperienced young birds that hatched the previous summer, wander south during the



*Snowy Owl by Len Medlock.*

winter months when food is scarce in their Arctic habitat. The southward journey and cold temperatures require a lot of energy, as does finding prey in unfamiliar territory. Human disturbance can add significantly to their energy demands. The effects of disturbance can be obvious – causing a bird to “flush” or leave its perch – or invisible – making a bird too nervous to leave the safety of a high perch to pursue prey, or increasing metabolism and stress hormones. While a single incident may not be life threatening, the cumulative effects of repeated disturbances, which are likely to occur when an owl perches in highly visible, public locations, reduce the likelihood that they will survive to return north to breed.

Observers and photographers should practice good ethics by keeping a respectful distance from any bird. In general, if the bird reacts to your presence, you are too close. When the bird starts staring at you, you're close enough and it's time to back up. For birds on the ground this is about 100 feet. Flushing the bird is direct interference with its roosting and foraging behavior and deprives others of the opportunity to observe the owl.

An automobile makes an excellent blind, so watch from your car if possible. If this isn't practical, approach the owl with the wind in your face. Owls take off into the wind and, if the bird chooses to fly while you are approaching, it will not want to fly toward you. Always give the bird room and back up as soon as it responds to your presence.

Don't get carried away by excitement – always respect private property and area-closed signs. Snowy Owls at the coast often roost in fragile dune habitat, which is closed to foot traffic.

It is possible to love owls to death. Flushed birds have collided with stationary objects and once airborne they attract the attention of crows, gulls and hawks, which will pursue and harass them, reducing opportunities to hunt. Be responsible and give owls the privacy they need.

Seeing a Snowy Owl is a rare privilege. Set a good example for others by following and sharing these guidelines and have a wonderful Snowy experience!

# Technology Series

## Trail Cameras: They're for the birds, not just deer hunters!

by Eric Aldrich

All photos taken by Eric Aldrich's trail cams.



A Bald Eagle with several crows captured by Eric's trail cam.

If you're looking for a new way to experience the remarkable bird life happening in your neighborhood, think about using a game camera. Also known as trail cams, these motion-activated cameras are readily purchased via the Internet or stores that sell hunting equipment. You can buy one from \$100 to well over \$500 or even \$1,000, depending on the bells and whistles, but \$120 to \$200 will get you a decent trail cam that will get you good bird images. I happen to use Bushnell Trophy Cams, but check the buyers' guides below to see what camera works best for your budget and needs.

There are a million possibilities, but they basically work like this: mount one to a tree; aim it at your intended target (more on that later); let some time go by to allow an animal to trigger the motion sensor; check your images; enjoy. Then, repeat, make adjustments and enjoy some more.

Trail cams have come a long way from their origins in the 1980s and 1990s, when they used film and users waited days or more to see the results. With the digital revolution and its modern cameras, you can now aim, check the images and adjust your camera right away. Then, after you've let a few days or weeks go by, you can easily see what you captured in your camera trap.

These cameras are generally intended for deer hunters hoping to pattern deer habits. They're really best-suited for deer, bear, moose and other larger mammals, but you can easily use them for birds. Not all birds probably, but certain birds and situations.

In my use of trail cams for almost 10 years, intensely in the past two, I've gotten shots ranging from simply being able to identify the bird to pretty nice images of birds in

their natural habitat. Your own success depends on where you place the camera and how much time and effort you're willing to invest from one situation to another. You'll have plenty of images with no birds, and plenty of "wind shots," where the motion sensor is triggered by the breeze and a jiggling leaf.



A Great Blue Heron checking out the camera.

### Things you can try for birds.

Place it at a marsh, where you might get a Great Blue Heron or waterfowl. In my efforts to get photos of bobcats, black bears, beavers and otters, I've placed one of my cameras at a narrow pinch point in a big marsh. Beavers have built a small dam here, which is used as a travel corridor by a handful of mammals, but it is also a hot spot for ducks, geese and other birds. I've gotten some great shots here of American Bitterns, Wood Ducks and mergansers. I've also gotten images of Great Blue Herons snapping up white suckers (and even a mouse!) and inspecting the camera itself.

Try a fresh woodpecker hole. I've gotten some neat shots of a Pileated Woodpecker and incidental images of a flying squirrel. It has to be a fresh woodpecker hole; one where you're confident the bird is going to return to its work. If the hole is high, mount the camera on a pole and strap the pole to a tree a few yards away from the hole.

Locate an owl nest. This strategy is a variation on the woodpecker hole, only it takes a lot more luck or diligence. If you happen to locate an owl's nest in a hollow tree, set up a camera nearby. This can be tricky, considering an owl's nest can be pretty high. So, use the pole trick or a variation with a long, sturdy sapling. Good luck!

Aim it on a songbird nest. I've had a little luck doing this. Part of the challenge is that the camera has to be a few yards away from the nest so you can get clear images. If you can locate an active, low-to-the-ground nest that's not obscured by branches, this can work. Sometimes, the best bet is to mount the camera to a tripod, allowing you to easily adjust the camera to where it gets the best shots. I recently had an Eastern Phoebe build a nest in the bow of my stored, upside-down canoe. Instead of using the trail cam, I set up a GoPro

(mini-video camera) a few inches away from the nest and got some decent shots of the phoebe and its young.



*A Turkey Vulture coming down to land on a carcass and putting up a crow.*

Carcasses for birds of prey. This isn't everyone's cup of tea, but it's actually how I got started in this whole trail cam obsession. If you're lucky enough to obtain a carcass, set a camera on it. Usually, before you get the big, exciting mammals (black bears, bobcats, fishers), you get the birds of prey, such as Turkey Vultures, ravens and crows. In fact, I've found the presence of those birds is what often alerts the mammals to the presence of the carcass. By placing the carcass out in a big opening, such as a clearcut or a field, I've even gotten images of Bald Eagles and Red-tailed Hawk (fighting over the meal). The bigger the carcass, the better your luck, but I've gotten some impressive bird images from carcasses of beavers and Wild Turkeys.

For shorebirds, go low. If you can place your camera on a cool place like the Isles of Shoals for a few hours, set it right on the ground or low on a tripod. Don't disturb or disrupt the gulls, but place the camera where you know it'll get some decent, up-close shots.

Know the habits. Want a Ruffed Grouse? Find a drumming log in the spring and place the camera accordingly. From personal experience, I can tell you this is not easy!



*A Great Blue Heron at night.*

## A Few Tips.

**Secure Your Camera.** You've invested in the trail cam; be sure to protect it. Even if you set your camera in what seems like a low-risk, remote place, you can't guarantee it won't get swiped. I've found that out the hard way. You can get camera security devices from \$20 cables to \$60 boxes. There are even pricier options.

**Don't Check It Too Often.** Once you set your camera, give it a few days and nights to see what's there. If you check it too often, you'll spook the wildlife. When you do check it, be prepared to swap the card that's in the camera with another card. The pricier alternative, of course, is a camera that sends images to your phone, email or a website.

**Art vs. Intel.** If you're after cool images, try sets from interesting angles, like from a high branch aiming low, or from the ground, aiming up. If you're just trying to camera-trap a bird, go for the obvious angles. Even if your goal is intel, remember that careful placement can yield remarkably beautiful images of wildlife. Go for it!

**Experiment & Keep Track.** Challenge yourself and try to capture other species. How about a weasel? Or a beaver? Keep track of what you're doing and save those photos in an organized way.

**Share the Joy.** Post your photos on social media; not all of them, just the best ones! Friends will love what you're capturing.

## Online Buying Guides

[www.trailcampro.com](http://www.trailcampro.com)

[www.besttrailcameraguide.com](http://www.besttrailcameraguide.com)

[www.chasingame.com](http://www.chasingame.com)

*Eric Aldrich of Hancock writes the Bobcat's Tail, a monthly outdoors column in the Monadnock Ledger-Transcript and is former editor of NH Wildlife Journal. He also runs the [Hancock Wildlife Camera](#) on Facebook.*



# New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee Report

Calendar year: 2012

*David B. Donsker, Chairman (2011-2012)*

This report from the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee (NHRBC) contains the decisions for records voted on by the Committee during the calendar year 2012.

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

A rejection is not necessarily an indication that the identification was incorrect but that the information received was not sufficient to allow its inclusion in the state record. Adequate documentation is key to whether a report is accepted or not. For information on the Committee and its decision-making process, see the articles in the Summer 1996 and Winter 2005–06 issues of NHBR. The Fall 1996 issue has an article on how to document rare sightings. Contact the Managing Editor of NHBR for a copy of these articles. Current subscribers can access them on the web site, [www.nhbirdrecords.org](http://www.nhbirdrecords.org), under The Journal tab.

In 2012, the voting members of the Committee included Eric Masterson, Ben Griffith, Mike Resch, Ken Klapper, Hector Galbraith, Iain MacLeod and David Donsker (chair). The Committee met only once in 2012. Its meeting was held on April 26, 2012.

## Summer 2011 Records

### Records accepted by the Committee

American Oystercatcher	06/17/11	Rochester
American Oystercatcher	06/18/11	Rye Ledge
Red Phalarope	07/17/11	Grafton Pond
Long-tailed Jaeger	07/16/11	Jeffrey's Ledge
Gray-cheeked Thrush	06/08/11	Nelson Crag, Mt. Washington
Cape May Warbler	06/17/11	Pittsfield

### Records not accepted by the Committee

Fulvous Whistling Duck	06/28/11	Sutton
It was felt that the description and circumstances could not exclude a young Canada Goose or a domestic goose variety.		
Three-toed Woodpecker	06/15/11	Lake Umbagog NWR

Three-toed Woodpecker 06/20/11 Lake Umbagog NWR  
Identification in both circumstances was based on drumming alone which was felt to be insufficient for definitive identification.

Sedge Wren 06/28/11 North Rd. Danbury  
Identification was based on call only which was felt to be insufficient to exclude Common Yellowthroat.

Philadelphia Vireo 07/13/11 Moultonborough  
The committee determined that Red-eyed Vireo could not be excluded given the circumstances of the sighting and the unusually southern location for this record.

Cape May Warbler 07/03/11 138 Bowles, Newbury

Cape May Warbler 07/08/11 Hay Forest, Newbury

The fact that two birds were identified on two separate days adds weight to the likelihood that this was a resident species, but the forest type described is not appropriate for Cape May Warbler in breeding season. Further, the description of voice and the brief description for the 7/3/11 sighting did not exclude Blackburnian Warbler which would be an expected species in the habitat and locales described.

Wilson's Warbler 07/10/11 Peterborough

This southern location is very unlikely for this species in mid-breeding season. Habitat described as cattail marsh is also quite atypical for Wilson's Warbler. Description as given was not sufficient to exclude American Goldfinch. Some committee members felt that Common Yellowthroat could not be excluded.

Western Tanager 06/05/11 Chester

No details submitted.

### Record tabled for a future meeting:

Black Bellied Whistling Duck 06/28/11 Salem

This would be a first state record. As such, it requires a unanimous vote for acceptance. Although the photograph submitted was uncontestable, the sole dissenting vote was based on a question of provenance. The committee agreed to table the discussion until a subsequent meeting pending research concerning the provenance matter.

## Fall 2011 Records

### Records accepted by the Committee

Leach's Storm-Petrel	8/28/2011	Rye Harbor
Leach's Storm-Petrel	8/28/2011	NH Coast
Leach's Storm-Petrel	9/12/2011	Offshore NH
White-tailed Tropicbird	8/29/2011	Charlestown

This is a first state record based on good photographic evidence.

Snowy Egret	9/15/2011	Concord
Little Blue Heron	9/3/2011	Conway
Greater White-fronted Goose (Greenland)	10/22/2011	Durham
American Avocet	8/29/2011	Hampton
Western Sandpiper	8/27/2011	Hampton
Long-tailed Jaeger (4)	8/15/2011	Rye Harbor S.P.
Long-tailed Jaeger	9/12/2011	Jeffrey's Ledge
Long-tailed Jaeger	9/12/2011	Jeffrey's Ledge
Long-tailed Jaeger	9/12/2011	Jeffrey's Ledge
Royal Tern	8/15/2011	Rye Harbor S.P.
Sooty Tern	8/30/2011	Antrim

Black Skimmer	8/29/2011	Hampton
Black Skimmer	8/31/2011	Yankee Coop, Seabrook
Common Nighthawk	10/20/2011	Rye
Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird	10/18/2011	New Ipswich
Sedge Wren	10/16/2011	Star Island
Northern Wheatear	10/11/2011	Mt. Moosilauke
Gray-cheeked Thrush	9/27/2011	Penacook
White-eyed Vireo	10/3/2011	Rye
White-eyed Vireo	10/4/2011	Rye, Odiorne Point
White-eyed Vireo	10/4/2011	Rye
White-eyed Vireo	10/4/2011	New Castle
White-eyed Vireo	10/9/2011	Odiorne Point
White-eyed Vireo	10/22/2011	Star Island
Warbling Vireo	10/26/2011	Pittsfield
Blackburnian Warbler	11/5/2011	Concord
Worm-eating Warbler	10/2/2011	Rye
Worm-eating Warbler	10/4/2011	Rye
Worm-eating Warbler	10/6/2011	Star Island
Connecticut Warbler	9/14/2011	Center Harbor
Hooded Warbler	9/6/2011	Deering
Hooded Warbler	10/2/2011	Rye Harbor SP
Hooded Warbler	10/9/2011	Rye, Odiorne Pt.
Yellow-breasted Chat	9/8/2011	Star Island
Summer Tanager	10/6/2011	Star Island
Blue Grosbeak	9/23/2011	Rochester
Blue Grosbeak	10/3/2011	Concord
Blue Grosbeak	10/16/2011	Star Island
Yellow-headed Blackbird	10/16/2011	Star Island

#### Records not accepted by the Committee

White Ibis 9/10/2011 Ossipee Lake

Although a compelling report, the details submitted were missing some key characteristics. The supporting photograph was not felt detailed enough by the majority to exclude similar species of white birds with black wing tips.

Whooper Swan 10/6/2011 Rockingham

Provenance known to be an escapee from a Rye aviculturist.

Acadian Flycatcher 10/22/2011 Star Island

Accepted as "*Empidonax* species". Despite some expert testimony supporting Acadian Flycatcher, the majority of the committee felt that a Traill's Flycatcher could not be excluded. The original submitter felt that the call was characteristic for Willow Flycatcher.

White-eyed Vireo 10/2/2011 Rye

White-eyed Vireo 10/6/2011 Seabrook

White-eyed Vireo 10/8/2011 Rye

Although these particular submissions were very likely to be White-eyed Vireos, particularly given the large numbers of this species submitted during the same time period, and accepted by the committee, the very limited details supplied for these three records could not exclude other vireo species.

Summer Tanager 10/9/2011 Odiorne Point

Although this was a good fall for Summer Tanager in New England, the dissenters felt that a voice record alone was insufficient to confirm the identification. Also, the fact that the bird could not be located visually in this relatively open habitat was troubling.

#### Records tabled until a future meeting

Eared Grebe 8/12/2011 Rochester WTP

Although there were sufficient votes to accept the record, in deference to the lone dissenter who had a very strong opinion, it was determined to table this record until the fall meeting. Outside expert opinions will be sought.

Red-necked Phalarope 8/26/2011 Jaffrey

It is understood that a photograph of this record was obtained but was not available to the committee. If a photograph is available, it will be added to the documentation.

#### Records deferred

Cory's Shearwater 8/2/2011 Jeffrey's Ledge

Cory's Shearwater 9/12/2011 Jeffrey's Ledge

Cory's Shearwater 10/22/2011 Star Island

Cory's Shearwater is no longer a mandated NHRBC review species. Records were deferred to the *New Hampshire Bird Records* Season Editor.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak/ American Goldfinch 11/5/2011 Horseshoe Pond, Concord

The committee deferred the opportunity to officially weigh in on the identification of the bird in the photograph. Arguments for both Rose-breasted Grosbeak and American Goldfinch were made by various committee members without resolution.

#### Records previously tabled at the 2011 meeting

#### Records accepted by the Committee

Hoary Redpoll (*hornemanni*) 02/27/11 Strafford

Hoary Redpoll (*exilipes*) 01/30/11 Strafford

The committee determined that at least one of the Hoary Redpolls documented in photographs downloaded from the net during this period was consistent with *hornemanni* and that up to four *exilipes* were photographically documented.

Greater White-fronted Goose (Greenland) 3/20/2011 Penacook

Accepted as Greater White-fronted Goose, Greenland race, based on photographic evidence.

Hoary Redpoll Spring 2011, multiple dates Strafford

Photographs downloaded from the net appeared to show at least four individual Hoary Redpolls during this time period at this location.

Marbled Godwit 5/30/2011 North of Hanover

Although the birds in the photograph were roosting on the Vermont shore of the Connecticut River, they flew into New Hampshire airspace over the river itself based on first-hand witness accounts.

#### Records not accepted by the Committee

Common Redpoll (*rostrata*) 12/05/10 Strafford  
No details or photographs submitted.

Curve-billed Thrasher 10/29/1964 Barrington

This was an historical record submitted to the committee for formal evaluation. The committee determined that the evidence in the written description was insufficient to exclude Black-billed Cuckoo which some committee members actually felt was more likely given the features described. Some of the features described in the report

were felt by some committee members to be frankly inconsistent with Curve-billed Thrasher.

### Records tabled until a future meeting

Hoary Redpoll 3/30/2011 Pinkham Notch  
This record not adequately discussed given the late hour and some confusion with the records of the Stoddard reports.

Black Vulture  
No details, including those of date and locale were submitted. Pending submission of those details.

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## Corrections

The following corrections were found after the issue was published. Minor typos are not included. Please let us know of any inaccuracies you find in any issue so we can correct the data.

### Summer 2013

Inside front cover – should read New Hampshire Bird Records, Volume 32, Number 2, Summer 2013, not Number 1, Spring 2013.  
p. 11 & p. 13 The Blue-winged Warbler and Orchard Oriole of 06/01 was observed by D. Hubbard, Seacoast CFT.

### Fall 2013

p. 2 The Snow Goose on 10/19 was seen at Emily Lane, Sunapee not Sunpee.  
p. 6 The Mississippi Kites were seen in Newmarket not Newington.  
p. 11 A Rufous Hummingbird sighting on 10/9 by John Rowley in Langdon was accidentally omitted.  
p. 25 The photo caption for the Dowitchers should include “Photos by Steve Mirick.”  
p. 25 The photo caption for the Ruby-throated Hummingbird should read “on Donna Elis’s lunch box” not “her lunch box.”

### Winter 2013-14

p. 6 Common Goldeneye on 12/14 in Rye, observer should be R. Suomala not R. Somama.  
p. 9 Thick-billed Muure was misspelled, it should be Thick-billed Murre  
p. 13 The Gray Jay on 12/18 in Errol was observed only by R. Suomala and Z. Cornell not by D. Deifik.  
p. 30 & In this Issue (inside front cover) The title “Downed Red-necked Grebe” should be “Downed Horned Grebe.”  
p. 32 Under Nashua Public Library the bottom line should read “Continue 0.1 miles to...”

### Spring 2014

Inside front cover– In Celebration, third line should read

“Concord Bird and Wildflower Club” not “Wildlife Club.”

p. 4 & p. 5 Snow Goose and Canada Goose on 03/23, the observer should be “Monadnock CFT” not “Monadnock CT.”  
p. 6 The Green-winged Teals-Eurasian subsp. on 04/05 in Stratham and 04/11 in Canterbury are not Eurasian subsp., they are Green-winged Teals.  
p. 26 Under American Goldfinch on 03/29 the location should be Cambridge not Errol.  
p. 31 At the end of the fifth line from the bottom it should read “Continue along Pearl...” not “Continuing along...”  
p. 40 Phil Brown’s photo caption should read “21 species of warblers” not “nearly 20 species.”

### Summer 2014

p. 2 Under heading June 1 through July 31, 2014, second paragraph, a Clay-colored Sparrow was back in Newington not Newmarket.  
p. 5 On 07/11, the White Ibis at Awcomin Marsh was observed by J. Maher, J. McKibben, et al.  
p. 6 The American Coot was observed in Wentworths Location not Errol.  
p. 9 Merlins were observed on 06/16 by B. Ridgely not B. Ridsley.  
p. 11 Swainson’s Thrush on 07/12 were observed on Mt. Carrigain, not Carringan Mt.  
p. 17 The record of Fish Crow on 05/31 could not be confirmed and was a publication error.  
p. 25 Purple Martin photo by Pam Hunt on 7/24/15, should be 7/24/14.

### Fall 2014

Inside front cover– in the cover photo credits Christopher McPherson should be Christopher McPherson.  
p. 9 Sandhill Crane photo, year should be 2014.  
p. 33 Right column Louise Bevier should be Louis Bevier.  
p. 18 Warblers through Sparrows, next to last sentence, the parenthetical should read “(all of the inland published records are of interior Nelson’s Sparrows except the five at Hampton Salt Marsh on 10/25)”.

### Winter 2014-15

p. 2 Tony Vazzano should be added to the list of donors to the “Twitchers in the Rye”.  
p. 10 In the Gyrfalcon listing, on 01/26, observer J. Lampert should be J. Lambert.  
p. 19 In the Sandwich CBC highlights the Hooded Merganser should be in the Count high listing not in the First count record.

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# Answer to the Photo Quiz.

by David B. Donsker

Fittingly for the season, the Photo Quiz in this issue features two “winter finches” in the snow. We know that these two birds are finches by their bills. Although each species has a bill that is quite unique (which we will discuss later) the bills of both species are generally conical. Conical bills are relatively short and deep at the base. This bill shape is especially well suited to provide the power necessary to crack the hard casing of seeds...a predominant component of the finch diet.

These two birds are also similar in that both have dark wings that contrast with paler body plumage. Further, in both species, the wings are strongly marked with two white wing bars and pale feather edging on the flight feathers. The body plumage of the bird on the left is essentially unmarked. The bird on the right is very faintly streaked on the crown, back and flanks.

Although the dark wings, prominent white wing bars and fairly uniform body plumage are shared by both birds, what makes them so strikingly different is the shape of their bills. The bird on the left has a large, but stubby conical bill with a strongly arched upper mandible. In contrast, the bill of the bird on the right, though still generally conical, is more elongated. The upper mandible is strongly hooked at the tip. In fact, though it is hard to completely appreciate in the photograph, the tip of the upper bill actually crosses over the tip of the lower mandible.

Perhaps you have already determined the identity of these two species. Certainly the bill shape of both birds is really quite unique. But in this quiz, we have the advantage of “seeing” these birds quite well. It’s not always so easy in the field. So, let’s go through a more rigorous analysis:

The birds that we refer to as “finches” encompass several families of small passerine or “perching” birds. These include the American sparrows and old world buntings; the longspurs and the related Snow Bunting; the so-called “cardinal-grosbeaks”; the “true” finches; and an introduced family, the old world sparrows, of which House Sparrow is the only New England representative. That is still a large number of birds to consider, but the reasonable choices can be limited fairly quickly by examining the plumage and structural characteristics of the featured birds.

Although two prominent wing bars are surprisingly uncommon in our many sparrow species, some sparrows do have them. Notably, these include American Tree Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow and White-throated Sparrow. Although many of our sparrows are very strongly streaked, each of the sparrows mentioned above

has unstreaked underparts. But unlike these two birds, the conical bill of these four sparrows is small, short and sharply pointed. Bill shape alone eliminates any species of sparrow.

Other “finch” species can be quickly eliminated: Female House Sparrow is a relatively plain bird with a larger conical bill than our native sparrows. It has some white markings on the wings, and often demonstrates a single pale wing bar. But it does not have the pair of prominent white wing bars shown in these two species. Longspurs in winter plumage have faint wing bars, but they have much more complex facial patterns than either of these two species and are heavily streaked above. Snow Bunting has prominent white wing patches, but lacks the wing bars.

Only one of our cardinal-grosbeaks bears some consideration in this discussion. It is Western Tanager, a rare vagrant to our state, generally appearing in late fall and early winter. While the male Western Tanager in breeding plumage is a colorful, unmistakable bird, female Western Tanagers are rather dull, greenish-yellow birds, with plain underparts and dark wings with two prominent wing bars. It might be confused with the bird on the left. But the bill of the tanager is completely different from that of either of the two featured birds. Unlike the bird on the left, the tanager’s bill is proportionally longer and much less conical. It differs from the bird on the right by lacking the hooked tip. Thus, bill shape alone dismisses it as a possibility.

That leaves the true finches. In our state, that family includes several species that can be grouped by their bill size: The small-billed goldfinches, siskins, and redpolls; medium-billed “rosefinches” (House and Purple Finch) and the two crossbills; and two large-billed grosbeaks: Pine Grosbeak and Evening Grosbeak.

All of the small-billed true finches have two prominent wing bars. But siskins and redpolls are all heavily streaked, so they bear no resemblance to either of these two birds. American Goldfinch in non-breeding male and female plumages are plainly marked species. But the small, symmetrical, sharply pointed conical bill of the goldfinch bears no resemblance to the bills of either of these two birds.

Female Purple Finch and House Finch both have faint wing bars, but are heavily streaked unlike either of these two birds. Evening Grosbeak has white wing patches rather than wing bars and has a massive pale bill that looks nothing like that of either of these two birds.

That leaves our two crossbills and Pine Grosbeak. Since Red Crossbill essentially lacks wing bars, one of these two birds must be Pine Grosbeak and the other White-winged Crossbill.

Now the choice is simple. The bird on the left, with its stubby conical bill is Pine Grosbeak. The bird on the right, with its obviously crossed bill is White-winged Crossbill.



Backlit conditions can make our two featured species difficult to separate. Photo by Rebecca Suomala.

So, why should we pair these two species in this Photo Quiz? First, the differences in bill shape, which is so obvious in the close photographs, in particular the “crossed bill” of the crossbill, is often not that clear in the field if the birds are seen at a distance and without the benefit of a scope. This is particularly problematical in the winter when the skies are often cloudy and the bird being observed is frustratingly backlit while perched on the top of tree, as these species often do. (See the above photograph to get an idea of this problem.) So other features must be used to establish the identification. Further, despite the obvious differences in bill shape, these two species do have several features in common. Both male Pine Grosbeak and male White-winged Crossbill are pinkish-red species that superficially resemble each other. There are no other finch species that share the combination of pink body plumage and white-wing bars superimposed on blackish wings. In both species the females and non-breeding males are duller birds. In this plumage, the Pine Grosbeak is grayish and generally unmarked. The crossbill is more yellowish and faintly streaked. But in the dull light of an overcast winter day, these faint colors are difficult to appreciate. Even without appreciating the obvious differences in bill shape, these two species can be separated by their differences in body proportions. The grosbeak is substantially larger than the crossbill. It is twice its weight and nearly 50% larger in proportions. More importantly, the grosbeak has a long tail while the tail of the crossbill is substantially shorter. Note how much farther the tail extends beyond the tip of the wings in the featured photograph of that species and how much shorter the tail of the crossbill appears in its photo. This difference in body proportion can help in identifying these species when seen at a distance, especially in poor light.

Further in common, both of these species are boreal forest breeders that are periodically irruptive in the winter. That is, when conditions are right and food supplies are scarce or limited on their breeding grounds, they will extend their range substantially further south in search of suitable food supplies. In the case of Pine Grosbeak, these food sources frequently include ornamental shrubs and trees where small flocks of these uncommon birds can consume fruit and seeds. The crossbill often appears in large flocks. Because their unique bills are uniquely designed for removing seeds from the cones of evergreens, they are rarely found away from cone-bearing trees. This species specializes in softer small-coned species than their larger relative, Red Crossbill, so they favor hemlocks and spruces. But they will also devour the seeds of pine cones when available.

The photograph of backlit birds in the treetop are White-winged Crossbills, photographed by Rebecca Suomala at Trudeau Road in Bethlehem, 12/4/15. The photograph of Pine Grosbeak was taken by Jim Sparrell in Pittsburg on 2/27/16. The image of female White-winged Crossbill was taken by Charlie Nims in Bartlett the next day, on 2/28/16. As these photographs indicate, winter is a great time to go birding and the lure of encountering any of these desirable irruptive “winter finches” further adds to the excitement. So, bundle up and enjoy.

## References

- Peterson, R. 2008. *Peterson Field Guide to the Birds of North America*. Houghton Mifflin, New York, NY.  
 Sibley, D. 2014. *The Sibley Guide to Birds. 2nd edition*. Knoph. New York, NY.



For comparison, a Red Crossbill photographed by Bob Crowley, 1/30/16, N. Chatham, NH.

# New Hampshire Bird Records Endowment Fund

Donations to this fund provide long-term support for all facets of *New Hampshire Bird Records*, from the publication to the collection, organization, quality control, dissemination, preservation, and storage of New Hampshire bird sighting information.

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

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# Winter 2015-16 Highlights



*Bullock's Oriole by Lauren Kras, 12/16/15, Hampton, NH.*



*Nashville Warbler by Christopher McPherson 2/9/16, Brookline, NH.*



*Swainson's Thrush by Kristen Cole, 1/5/16, Goffstown, NH.*



*White-winged Crossbill by Scott Heron, 2/27/16, Pittsburg, NH.*

*Evening Grosbeak by Len Medlock, 2/28/16, Milan, NH. Find out what's happened to Evening Grosbeaks in the article inside.*



*A Great Horned Owl about to be released back into the wild. Photo by Terri Fratus, 1/23/16. See the story in Field Notes.*

