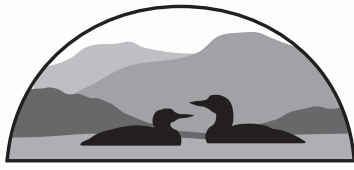


New Hampshire Bird Records





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MANAGING EDITOR

Rebecca Suomala
603-224-9909 X309,
rsuomala@nhaudubon.org

TEXT EDITOR

Dan Hubbard

SEASON EDITORS

Eric Masterson, **Spring**
Chad Witko, **Summer**
Lauren Kras/Ben Griffith, **Fall**
Jim Sparrell/Katie Towler, **Winter**

LAYOUT

Kathy McBride

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David Donsker

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FIELD TRIP REPORTS

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WHERE TO BIRD

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IN HONOR OF

Rob Woodward

This issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* with its color cover is sponsored by friends of Rob Woodward in appreciation of all he's done for birds and birders in New Hampshire.

Rob Woodward leading a field trip at the Birch Street Community Gardens in Concord (10-8-2016) and counting migrating nighthawks at the Capital Commons Garage (8-18-2016, with a rainbow behind him).



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Cover Photos: White Wagtail by Josh Gahagan (top) who discovered the bird on 11-2-2016 at Rye Harbor SP, Rye, NH, and Steve Bennett (bottom), 11-3-2016, Hampton, NH.

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

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Rob Woodward Tries to Leave New Hampshire Behind

From Sandy and Mark Turner, birders from Lyman, NH (at times).

One day in January in Sierra Vista, Arizona —

“Hi. I see you’re from New Hampshire.” (looking at our license plate)

“My name is Rob Rob Woodward.”

“Hi back. Sandy and Mark Turner.” (looking at his binoculars)

“I know your names”.... “from the NH Bird List and *New Hampshire Bird Records*.”

“I know your name!”

“How come we never met?” (together)

For the next three months, we neighbors in Sierra Vista, Arizona enjoyed birding together. Rob was considering retiring to this locale and Mark and I had been snowbirds over several winters there, so we knew the area and many of the local birders. By the time we left for our cottage in Lyman, NH, he had become comfortable; helping lead bird walks at the San Pedro Riparian Area, climbing Hunter Canyon several times for the Rufous-capped Warbler, joining the Spring hawkwatch at Tubac where Common Black Hawk is the target, and watching thousands of Sandhill Cranes at Whitewater Draw. The hairy, scary Carr Mountain Road was conquered for wonderful views of Buff-bellied Flycatchers and Tufted Flycatchers, sometimes in the same binocular view.

As many New Hampshire birders know, Rob enjoys looking for nests. He commented to us that it seemed easier to find them in southeast Arizona. One of the first books he

added to his bird library was *The Arizona Breeding Bird Atlas*. (Too bad he wasn’t in New Hampshire for the fieldwork here.)

Sierra Vista has wonderful birding and many excellent, fun birders. As one American Birding Association former board member said, “Rob will be such an asset to our birding community.”

...and missed here in New Hampshire. Happy Trails, Rob.

Thank You Rob!

In the fall of 2016, Rob Woodward retired and left the state for better year round birding pastures. Rob has led countless birding field trips, especially for NH Audubon’s Capital Area Chapter. He did regular bird surveys at Turkey Pond and led a nighthawk watch in Concord each fall (see his article on page 25). He has been a member of the NH Rare Birds Committee and a regular reporter to *New Hampshire Bird Records* and NH eBird. He will be greatly missed and we’re not surprised to hear that he has already been tapped to lead field trips in Arizona.

Thank you to those who donated towards this issue in Rob’s honor:

Kathleen Brockett, Phil Brown, Capital Area Chapter of NH Audubon, Common Nighthawks Forever, Dorothy Currier, George Green, Sylvia Hartmann, Dan Hubbard, Pam Hunt, Stephanie and Bill Parkinson, Robert A. Quinn, Andrea and George Robbins, Fern Schneider, Mark Suomala, Rebecca Suomala, Ruth White

PHOTO QUIZ

Can You Identify This Bird?



Answer on page 42. Photos by Scott Heron.

August 1 through November 30, 2016

by Benjamin Griffith and Lauren Kras



New Hampshire experienced widespread drought during 2016, with severe to extreme drought covering the southern part of the state throughout the fall season. This extremely dry weather may have contributed to a relatively slow fall migration in several ways. Birds may have departed the breeding grounds early if their nests failed due to drought, there may have been fewer

hatch-year birds for similar reasons, and birds may have been less likely to stop if the dry conditions made the area less productive. A rainy October contrasted with the otherwise dry season and downed waterbirds throughout the interior of the state.



Fork-tailed Flycatcher by Mike Medeiros, 9-20-2016, Lebanon, NH.

Despite the drought, there were quite a few highlights. On the rarity front, a first-for-New-England **White Wagtail** took top billing. Although nothing else was in the same class of rarity as the wagtail, additional highlights included a **Western Grebe**, **Fork-tailed Flycatcher**, **Western Kingbird**, **Prothonotary Warbler**, and **Western Tanager**.

Other exciting events for the fall season

included an incursion of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, potential breeding of American Oystercatchers, a minor irruption of Northern Shrikes, and yet another good fall for Orange-crowned Warblers and Dickcissels.

Waterfowl

It was, in general, a slow fall for geese with only three unusual species documented for the fall season. Two Cackling Geese were convincingly described by experienced observers in Franklin and Rye, but both birds were well photographed and review of photos did not support the identification. This highlights just how challenging this identification is and observers should endeavor



Brant by Leo McKillop, 10-23-2016, Rye Harbor SP, NH.

to photograph any reported Cackling Goose. Critical identification marks are the smaller, more triangular bill, shorter stouter neck, and squarer head. The occurrence of small but otherwise typical Canada-type Geese in New Hampshire is a bit of a mystery, but they may be hybrids with Cackling Geese, Canada Geese that failed to grow to full size due to malnutrition or other defect, or possibly one of the smaller sub-species of Canada Geese. (Check out <http://www.sibleyguides.com/2010/09/bill-size-not-shape-distinguishes-cackling-and-canada-geese/> for an interesting photo comparison of Cackling and Canada Goose bills.) Snow Geese were reported at five locations, about average for recent years, but were highlighted by 89 in Errol. Brant were reported frequently along the coast during October and early November with a large migration event peaking on October 23. Notable was the near disappearance of Mute Swans from the state, with the only reports from the Merrimack River Valley.

Most dabbling ducks were present in moderate numbers at typical migratory locations. Double-digit counts of Blue-winged Teal are expected at the heavily visited Exeter Wastewater Treatment Plant, but counts of 28 and 17 from Lake Umbagog are notable at a location that sees much less birder traffic. Two Eurasian Wigeon on Great Bay was about average for recent years, but 180 American Wigeon is better than usual. A migration count recorded 25 Northern Pintails along the coast, an impressive number for the state, but not the highest count recorded historically.

Three Redheads were reported from widely spaced locations throughout the state. Although this isn't a particularly high number, two of the three were reported during August, rather than the normal October to November peak. Two presumptive hybrid ducks were recorded in the Southwestern Highlands – a Bufflehead x Common Goldeneye was seen for the second year in a row, and a Ring-necked Duck x Scaup was recorded as well. Although ducks hybridize with more regularity than most other birds, these two hybrids are still infrequently recorded. Scaup totals for

the season were fairly typical, with small numbers of both species scattered throughout the state, larger numbers of Greater Scaup migrating along the coast, and a massive flock of Greater Scaup congregating on Great Bay. Common Eider are almost exclusively seen on coastal waters and it is rare to see them inland in New Hampshire. This fall there were two inland reports, one of a flock photographed as it flew over Hollis and the other of just four birds seen through a scope on Squam Lake. Harlequin Ducks from two coastal locations is on par with recent years. A large congregation of Black Scoters in the Hampton Harbor Inlet has become a more frequent sight in recent years, but is nevertheless unusual. Although scoters are typically associated with the coast, inland reports are regular in October and early November, with Black Scoter being the most common.

Date # Location Observer

Snow Goose

10/04	2	Highbridge Rd., New Ipswich	N. Moreau
10/22	2	Wentworth CC, Rye	S. Mirick, et al.
10/27	1	Contoocook R. at River Rd., Penacook	P. Hunt
10/30	1	Elm Brook Park, Hopkinton	S. Lamonde
11/05	1	NH coast	S. Mirick
11/24	89	Tracey Dr., Errol	L. Charron

Brant

09/15	4	Bohanan Farm, Hopkinton	R. Quinn
10/18	15	Sunset Farm, Greenland	A. Murray, P. Farr
10/22	1	Peterborough WTP	P. Brown
10/23	198	Rye Harbor SP	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
10/24	38	Rye Ledge	J. Smith
10/25	1	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Fenton
11/04	1	Etna Rd., Lebanon	K. McEnaney
11/25	6	Hampton Beach	M. Weber

Cackling/Canada Goose

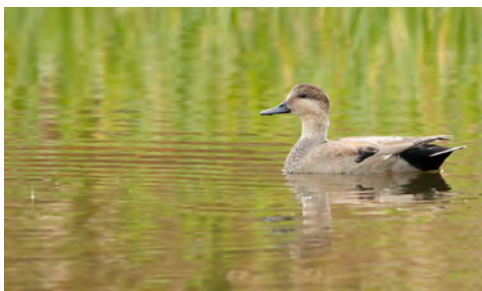
11/28	1	Hedgehog Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
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Mute Swan

11/15	5	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
11/18	5	Nashua R., Nashua	C. Sheridan

Wood Duck

08/03	53	Derry WTP	J. Maher
09/08	67	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
10/19	102	Upper Suncook Recreation Area, Barnstead	J. Lambert
11/10	6	Copps Pond WMA, Tuftonboro	G. Bailey
11/25	1	NH coast	S. Mirick



Gadwall by Len Medlock, 10-30-2016, Exeter WTP, NH.

Date # Location Observer

Gadwall

09/30	1	Exeter WTP	S. Mirick, P. Miliotis
10/27	1	Suncook R. Reservoir, Pembroke/Allentown	P. Brown
11/25	2	Sunset Farm, Greenland	K. Rawdon, J. Scott
11/25	2	Rye Harbor SP	M. Weber

Eurasian Wigeon

09/23	1	Sunset Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick
10/17	2	Sunset Farm, Greenland	J. Scott

American Wigeon

09/03	1	Exeter WTP	D. Jackson
09/10	4	Elm Brook Park, Hopkinton	J. Gamble
10/26	7	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
11/19	180	Sunset Farm, Greenland	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell

Blue-winged Teal

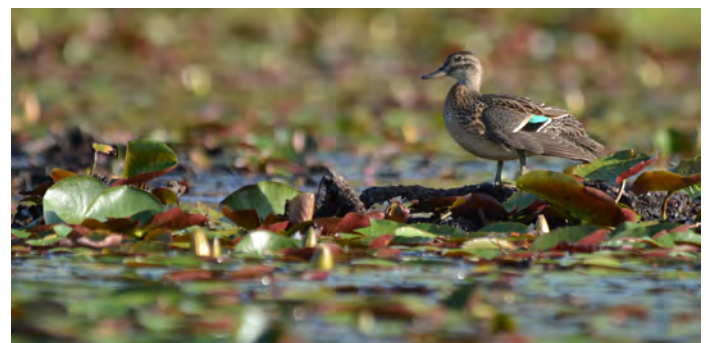
08/17	4	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Triplett
08/19	1	World End Pond, Salem	A. Altena, K. Wilmarth
09/03	6	Upper Magalloway R., Wentworths Location	J. Maher
09/04	28	Harpers Meadow, Umbagog NWR, Errol	J. Maher
10/01	20	Exeter WTP	S. Heron
11/05	1	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth

Northern Shoveler

08/19	1	Squam Lake	W. Shafer
08/22	1	Exeter WTP	L. Allen
09/05	5	Exeter WTP	J. Pettipas, S. Wrisley
09/08	1	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
11/11	1	Country Club Rd., Atkinson	K. Wilmarth
11/21	9	Exeter WTP	L. McKillop

Northern Pintail

09/03	1	Exeter WTP	S. Mirick
10/16	25	Great Boars Head, Hampton	S. Mirick
10/28	5	Little Boars Head, N. Hampton	S. Mirick
11/02	4	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
11/07	4	W. Massabesic Rockingham Trail, Manchester	C. Sheridan
11/28	1	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard



Green-winged Teal by Kyle Wilmarth, 8-5-2016, Salem, NH.

Green-winged Teal

08/02	1	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
08/05	3	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
08/21	23	Exeter WTP	C. Caron
10/03	50	Exeter WTP	J. Scott
10/24	12	Water St., Lancaster	L. Charron
11/05	64	Meadow Pond, Hampton	S. Mirick

FALL SEASON

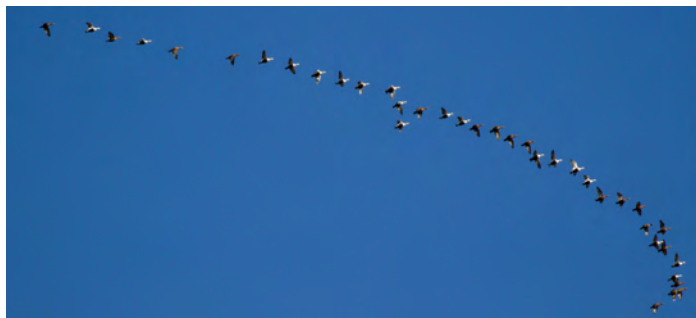
Date	#	Location	Observer
Redhead			
08/23	1	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
08/27	1	Lake Frances SP, Pittsburg	J. Neskey
10/17	1	Exeter WTP	J. Scott

Date	#	Location	Observer
Ring-necked Duck			
08/04	3	Mile Long Pond, Androscoggin R., Errol	D. Dionne
08/05	3	Panorama Golf Course, Colebrook	L. Charron
10/14	41	Hanover Center Reservoir	J. MacQueen
10/30	85	Dodge Pond, Lyman	S. Turner
11/05	54	Carter Hill Orchard, Concord	P. Brown, et al.
11/11	75	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
11/30	1	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth

Date	#	Location	Observer
Greater Scaup			
09/07	1	Exeter WTP	S. Wrisley, D. Lipsy
09/28	1	Sunset Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick
10/26	325	Sunset Farm, Greenland	B. Crowley, J. Scott
10/28	69	Little Boars Head, N. Hampton	S. Mirick
11/11	9	Powder Mill Pond, Hancock	P. Brown
11/18	1606	Sunset Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick

Date	#	Location	Observer
Lesser Scaup			
10/01	1	Canobie Lake, Salem	K. Wilmarth
10/13	7	Massabesic Yacht Club, Auburn	J. McKibben
10/26	3	Sunset Farm, Greenland	J. Maher
11/08	9	Powder Mill Pond, Hancock	C. Sheridan
11/19	4	Cherry Pond, Jefferson	D. Govatski
11/24	3	Eel Pond, Rye	K. Dorsey

Date	#	Location	Observer
Ring-necked Duck x Scaup sp. (hybrid)			
08/26	1	Newfound Lake, Bristol	P. Brown, et al.



Common Eider flock flying over by Christopher McPherson, 11-23-2016, Hollis, NH.

Date	#	Location	Observer
Common Eider			
08/17	172	NH coast	J. Maher
09/12	300	Isles of Shoals, NH	S. Mirick, L. Kras, Seacoast CFT
11/23	38	Hollis-Brookline High School	C. McPherson
11/24	4	Squam Lake	K. Klapper

Date	#	Location	Observer
Harlequin Duck			
10/27	2	Great Boars Head, Hampton	S. Mirick
11/11	1	Wallis Sands State Beach, Rye	S. Heron, et al.
11/19	3	Seal Rocks, Rye	S. Wrisley, et al.

Date	#	Location	Observer
Surf Scoter			
10/10	44	Sand Pond, Lempster	P. Wood
10/17	12	Cherry Pond, Jefferson	D. Govatski
10/22	56	Great Boars Head, Hampton	S. Mirick
10/27	10	Turkey Pond, Concord	P. Brown

Date	#	Location	Observer
White-winged Scoter			
10/28	20	Post Pond, Lyme	B. Allison
10/28	350	Little Boars Head, N. Hampton	S. Mirick
10/28	45	Sunapee Lake	D. Jackson
11/04	1	Akers Pond, Errol	L.& P. Charron, D. Dionne

Date	#	Location	Observer
White-winged Scoter			
10/03	22	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	I. MacLeod
10/16	88	Great Boars Head, Hampton	S. Mirick
10/19	6	Sunapee Lake	D. Jackson
10/28	9	Wilder Dam Reservoir, Lebanon	J. MacQueen
10/31	7	Cherry Pond, Jefferson	D. Govatski
11/24	2	Back Lake, Pittsburg	E. Edwards



Black Scoters by Donna Ellis, 10-10-2016, Pillsbury State Park, Washington, NH.

Date	#	Location	Observer
Black Scoter			
10/10	73	Panorama Golf Course, Colebrook	L. Charron
10/10	150	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Dionne
10/10	29	Long Pond, Lempster	M.& V. Repsher
10/10	50	Pillsbury SP, Washington	D. Ellis
11/13	425	Hampton Harbor Inlet	S. Mirick
11/27	1	Cherry Pond, Jefferson	L. McKillop

Date	#	Location	Observer
Scoter sp.			
11/13	800	Hampton Beach SP	A. Steenstrup, J. Berry

Date	#	Location	Observer
Long-tailed Duck			
10/15	1	Sunset Farm, Greenland	D. Jackson, S. Heron
10/15	1	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
10/25	5	The Balsams & trails, Colebrook	L. Charron, et al.
10/31	8	Cherry Pond, Jefferson	D. Govatski
11/05	14	Rye Harbor SP	J. Trimble
11/24	2	Back Lake, Pittsburg	E. Edwards

Date	#	Location	Observer
Bufflehead			
10/04	2	Freedom Town Forest	R. Davis
10/09	1	Mount Sunapee SP, Newbury	J. Gamble, D. Jackson
10/23	21	Exeter WTP	L. Medlock
10/31	12	Cherry Pond, Jefferson	D. Govatski
11/05	33	Dorr Woolen Mill WTP, Newport	D. Jackson
11/24	25	Lake Francis, Pittsburg	E. Edwards

Date # Location Observer

Common Goldeneye

08/09 1 Airport Marsh, Whitefield L.& P. Charron
 10/29 1 Greenville Reservoir, Temple J. Maher
 11/19 24 Cherry Pond, Jefferson D. Govatski
 11/26 42 Sunset Farm, Greenland S. Mirick

Bufflehead x Common Goldeneye (hybrid)

10/31 1 Tolman Pond, Nelson P. Brown
 11/25 1 Childs Bog, Harrisville P. Brown

Hooded Merganser

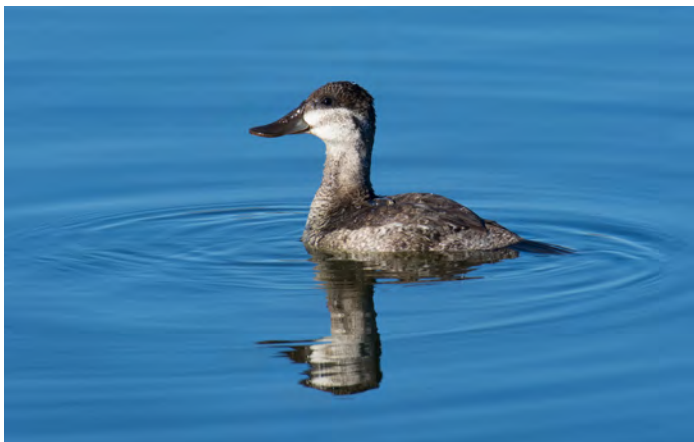
11/05 33 Basin Pond, Chatham B. Crowley
 11/14 63 Arlington Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth
 11/27 31 Mile Long Pond, Androscoggin R., Errol L. Charron

Common Merganser

10/07 92 Rt. 12A boat launch, Cornish A. Hulsey
 11/16 45 Surry Mountain Lake P. Brown
 11/25 50 Skatutakee L., Harrisville P. Brown
 11/27 50 Cherry Pond, Jefferson L. McKillop
 11/30 50 Chesham Pond, Harrisville P. Brown

Red-breasted Merganser

09/28 13 NH coast S. Mirick
 10/26 2 Hinsdale Setbacks H. Galbraith
 10/26 3 Sunapee Lake D. Jackson
 10/28 72 Little Boars Head, N. Hampton S. Mirick
 11/01 1 Akers Pond, Errol D. Dionne
 11/07 5 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield D. Govatski
 11/12 1 Childs Bog, Harrisville P. Brown



Ruddy Duck by Leo McKillop, 10-14-2016, Exeter WTP, NH.

Ruddy Duck

08/10 1 Exeter WTP J. Maher
 10/02 6 Exeter WTP J. Esten
 10/04 1 Rochester C. Breen
 10/17 8 Webster Lake, Franklin R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, S. Mirick
 10/23 21 Exeter WTP P. Miliotis
 10/28 1 Spofford L., Chesterfield R.& K. Frieden
 11/17 8 Willand Pond, Somersworth/Dover A. Murray

Grouse through Ibis

Three Spruce Grouse were reported during the fall season, all from Carroll County, where the species is rare and

local. A report from Baldface Mountain was in a likely location, but two of the reports are likely mis-identified Ruffed Grouse. Erroneous reports of Spruce Grouse are rather common in New Hampshire and are likely a result of the underestimation of the variation in the color of Ruffed Grouse. Spruce Grouse is very local in New Hampshire and only documented from the North Country and mid-to-high elevations in the White Mountains. Tail pattern (black with a reddish tip in Spruce Grouse, gray, brown, or red with a dark band in Ruffed) is an excellent field mark, especially as grouse are often observed flying directly away!

Strong storms in October deposited a typically coastal Red-throated Loon in Barnstead. A **Western Grebe** at Rye Harbor State Park on November 3 would have been a show-stopping bird on any other day, but was found by birders who were desperately (and at the time, unsuccessfully) hoping to relocate the White Wagtail that had been seen there the day before. This is the third record since 2014 for New Hampshire, but only the sixth or seventh in the past 20 years.



Cory's Shearwater by Leo McKillop, 8-2-2016, offshore waters, NH.

Tubenoses were generally present in below-average numbers. Once unthinkable (Cory's Shearwater was less than annual in New Hampshire prior to 2008, see Steve Mirick's article in the Summer 2016 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*), Cory's Shearwater was reported in slightly greater numbers than Great Shearwater, largely a result of a low number of Great Shearwaters. Very few Wilson's Storm-Petrels were reported during the fall, with all reports occurring during August. This species typically lingers into early September. Normally a few Great Cormorants are found in fall migration on inland rivers and ponds, but this year none were reported during the season.

Hérons had an impressive showing along the coast, with a high count of 249 Great Egrets leaving a roost. Normally strictly coastal, a remarkable 35 Snowy Egrets were reported

FALL SEASON

from Chapman's Landing, the second highest count for the Great Bay Estuary. A juvenile Little Blue Heron was reported nearly every day for the first half of August; however, some reports seemed to instead pertain to a Snowy Egret. These species are easily confused as juveniles (see the Summer 2016 Photo Quiz) and Snowy Egrets outnumber Little Blue Herons by over 100 to one. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons have become increasingly regular in recent years, but a total of nine birds reported this year was still exceptional, and the highest total ever for a season.

Date # Location Observer

Spruce Grouse

09/03 1 Baldface Mt., Chatham K. Balschunat



Red-throated Loon by Steve Mirick, 11-5-2016, Hampton, NH.

Red-throated Loon

09/28 2 Rye Harbor SP S. Mirick
 10/16 59 Great Boars Head, Hampton S. Mirick
 10/28 123 Little Boars Head, N. Hampton S. Mirick
 11/25 1 Upper Suncook Recreation Area, Barnstead J. Lambert

Common Loon

09/24 52 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye S. Mirick
 09/28 79 NH coast S. Mirick
 09/29 51 Rye Harbor SP S. Mirick
 10/09 11 Dublin Lake J. Wing

Pied-billed Grebe

08/22 6 Cops Ponds WMA, Tuftonboro A. Robbins
 10/26 7 Hinsdale Setbacks H. Galbraith
 10/31 7 Cherry Pond, Jefferson D. Govatski
 11/27 2 World End Pond, Salem H. Otto

Horned Grebe

10/09 2 Cherry Pond, Jefferson D. Govatski, et al.
 10/18 3 Sunset Farm, Greenland P. Farr, A. Murray
 10/28 1 Sunapee Lake D. Jackson
 11/05 14 NH coast D. & M. Walters

Date # Location Observer

Red-necked Grebe

08/13 1 Rye Ledge S. Mirick
 09/03 1 Sunset Farm, Greenland S. Mirick
 09/04 2 Harpers Meadow, Umbagog NWR, Errol J. Maher
 09/06 1 Hinsdale Setbacks C. Ross
 10/09 2 Cherry Pond, Jefferson D. Govatski, et al.
 10/12 1 Sunapee Lake D. Jackson
 10/17 1 Webster Lake, Franklin R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
 11/02 2 Lake Frances SP, Pittsburg S. Stoddard

Western Grebe

11/03 1 Rye Harbor SP F. Mantlik, et al.

Northern Fulmar

09/30 1 Little Boars Head, N. Hampton S. Mirick

Cory's Shearwater

08/05 12 offshore waters, NH N. Gibb, R. Lambert
 09/12 19 offshore waters, NH S. Mirick, L. Kras, Seacoast CFT
 10/01 1 Little Boars Head, N. Hampton K. Fenton
 10/16 2 Great Boars Head, Hampton S. & J. Mirick
 10/20 4 NH coast S. Mirick
 10/22 3 Great Boars Head, Hampton S. Mirick
 10/22 1 Rye Harbor SP J. Lambert
 10/22 1 Wallis Sands State Beach, Rye J. Lambert

Great Shearwater

09/12 25 offshore waters, NH S. Mirick, L. Kras, Seacoast CFT
 10/08 1 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye R. Lessard
 10/23 3 Hampton Beach P. Wood
 10/24 1 Sawyers Beach, Rye S. Benedetto
 11/03 1 Rye Harbor SP S. Benedetto

Sooty Shearwater

08/02 2 offshore waters, NH J. Pietrzak
 08/02 1 Star Is., Isles of Shoals, Rye S. Cooper
 08/14 2 Jeffreys Ledge, NH S. Mirick
 09/12 1 offshore waters, NH S. Mirick, L. Kras, Seacoast CFT

Manx Shearwater

08/02 2 Star Is., Isles of Shoals, Rye S. Cooper
 08/15 1 Jeffreys Ledge, NH S. Bennett, S. Wrisley
 09/12 4 offshore waters, NH S. Mirick, L. Kras, Seacoast CFT

Shearwater sp.

10/20 12 NH coast S. Mirick
 10/21 3 Great Boars Head, Hampton S. Mirick
 10/28 1 Little Boars Head, N. Hampton S. Mirick

Wilson's Storm-Petrel

08/02 25 offshore waters, NH J. Pietrzak
 08/09 39 offshore waters, NH S. Glynn
 08/27 1 Jeffreys Ledge, NH C. McPherson

Northern Gannet

08/27 17 offshore waters, NH M. Harvey, R. Herman
 09/28 50 NH coast S. Mirick
 10/16 322 Great Boars Head, Hampton S. Mirick
 10/23 540 Rye Harbor SP J. Lambert
 11/20 45 Great Boars Head, Hampton S. Mirick

Date # Location Observer

Great Cormorant

08/28 1 NH coast S. Mirick
 09/12 6 Isles of Shoals, NH S. Mirick, L. Kras, Seacoast CFT

Double-crested Cormorant

09/28 1109 NH coast S. Mirick
 09/29 115 Miller SP, Pack Monadnock K. Fenton
 10/04 105 Carter Hill Orchard, Concord K. Fenton
 10/15 3558 NH coast S. Mirick
 10/16 2214 Great Boars Head, Hampton S. Mirick
 10/27 3268 Great Boars Head, Hampton S. Mirick
 11/06 1 Squam Lake T. Michel
 11/16 1 Mud Pond, Dublin P. Brown

American Bittern

08/09 2 Airport Marsh, Whitefield L.& P. Charron
 08/11 2 McDaniels Marsh WMA, Springfield J. Gamble
 08/13 2 Town House Rd., Cornish D. Doubleday
 09/27 1 Chaffee Wildlife Sanctuary, Lyme B. Allison
 10/08 1 Mill Pond, Durham M. Jacobson

Great Blue Heron

08/07 30 Hampton Harbor R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
 08/20 22 Island Path, Hampton R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
 08/20 55 NH coast S. Mirick

Great Egret

08/20 5 Pond View Rd., Pelham J. Sordillo
 08/20 134 NH coast S. Mirick
 08/26 1 Durand L., Randolph D. Forsyth
 08/28 249 Worthley Rd., Seabrook S. Mirick
 09/05 4 Pickering Ponds, Rochester C. Breen
 10/30 1 NH coast K. Wilmarth

Snowy Egret

08/07 68 Rt. 1A pools s. of Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye S. Wrisley, J. Pettipas
 08/20 86 NH coast S. Mirick
 08/28 78 Worthley Rd., Seabrook S. Mirick
 08/31 35 Chapmans Landing, Stratham L. Kras
 09/04 2 Exeter WTP J. MacQueen



*Little Blue Heron
 by Steve Mirick,
 8-12-2016, Rye, NH.*

Little Blue Heron

08/01 1 Parsons Creek saltmarsh, Rye B. Suomala, Z. Cornell, et al.

Date # Location Observer

Green Heron

08/05 10 Heron Pond, Brox Community Lands, Milford G.& J. Coffey
 08/20 11 Pickering Ponds, Rochester S. Wrisley, J. Pettipas
 09/24 1 James Way, Hudson E. Lai
 09/24 1 Fields Grove, Nashua C. Sheridan

Black-crowned Night-Heron

08/07 1 Benson Park, Hudson B. Mattor
 08/13 1 Nashua Dr., Nashua C. Sheridan
 08/28 25 Hampton Harbor S. Mirick
 10/12 3 Rt. 1A., Seabrook B. Crowley, J. Scott



Yellow-crowned Night-Heron by Debra Powers, 8-18-2016, Durham, NH.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

08/03 1 Worthley Rd., Seabrook J. Maher
 08/10 4 Worthley Rd., Seabrook J. Maher
 08/19 Jackson Landing, Durham D. Powers
 09/04 8 NH coast S. Mirick
 09/22 1 Island Path, Hampton J. Scott, J. Maher

Glossy Ibis

08/01 1 Parsons Creek saltmarsh, Rye J. Sparrell, K. Towler
 08/05 3 Awcomin Marsh, Rye J. O'Shaughnessy
 08/20 9 Island Path, Hampton R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
 08/21 3 Worthley Rd., Seabrook S. Mirick

Vultures through Shorebirds

Two Black Vultures were reported this season, roughly average for recent years. In contrast, Golden Eagle numbers were depressed, with most reports from hawkwatch sites. Only five were reported from Pack Monadnock (compared to 13 last year), but three were reported from Carter Hill, which does not record the species every year. Mississippi Kites once again fledged young from the known nest site at Durrell Woods in Newmarket. The biggest push of Broad-winged Hawks occurred on September 15-16, with the season highs from Carter Hill and Pack Monadnock on those days. Four Rough-legged Hawks was a good total for the fall season. Interestingly, two of these occurred on the same day, both at the two major hawkwatch sites.

FALL SEASON

A Virginia Rail in November was an outlier for a species that typically isn't recorded after September, but small numbers of this reclusive species likely linger late into the fall. Only four American Coots were reported for the season; no more than one at a time. Most years this species is locally common in November. Two Sandhill Cranes spent most of August in Hopkinton at a site that appears to have potential for future nesting. The pair in Monroe that previously bred returned this year, but was never observed with young.



American Golden-Plover by Judy Burrill, 10-8-2016, Mt. Eisenhower, White Mt. National Forest, NH.

American Oystercatchers were recorded on the Isles of Shoals for the fourth consecutive fall (and only the fourth fall ever!). This time several juveniles were observed and may have indicated local breeding! Unfortunately, the young were independent at the time of the observation, so the species still remains to be documented nesting in the state. Although a common migrant coastally, Black-bellied Plovers are unusual inland; reports from the Exeter WTP and Great Bay were noteworthy. A long-staying American Golden-Plover was one of only three coastal sightings for the fall and, along with a late staying Pectoral Sandpiper, delighted birders well into November. Four more American Golden-Plovers were reported inland, including a bird photographed above tree line on Mount Eisenhower in October. There aren't many reports (of any species) from high elevations this late in the season, but this is remarkably the second American Golden-Plover to be photographed above tree line in recent years.



Red or Red-necked Phalaropes by Diane Seavey, 10-2-2016, Steeplegate Mall pond, Concord, NH.

A Whimbrel in Concord is one of the few inland records of this species. This species and Hudsonian Godwit have declined dramatically at the coast; only 12 Whimbrels and 1 Hudsonian Godwit were seen this year. Marsh Road Pond in Rye was nearly dry as a result of the drought and provided incredible concentrations of shorebirds as a result, including two Stilt Sandpipers, two different Baird's Sandpipers, and a massive total of 304 Least Sandpipers. Low water levels may have also contributed to two inland reports of the normally coastal Sanderling. A White-rumped Sandpiper reported after a heavy rainstorm in Lancaster was yet another unusual inland sighting for the fall. Four Red-necked Phalaropes were reported from two inland locations during the October rains. This species usually migrates earlier in the fall, and Red Phalarope is probably just as likely this late in the season, but all of these individuals were diagnostically photographed. Two Western Willets were reported in September, over a week after the last Eastern Willet was reported. The western subspecies is regular on the Atlantic Coast as far north as Cape Cod, but there are only a handful of well-documented records for New Hampshire.

Date	#	Location	Observer
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Black Vulture

09/12	2	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	A. Burnett
09/20	2	Buckmeadow Rd., Nashua	C. Sheridan
09/20	3	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	A. Burnett
09/29	1	Nashua River, Nashua	J. Gray

Turkey Vulture

09/05	60	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	C. Breen
09/21	106	Fore-U Golf Center, Lebanon	S. Wisley, D. Lipsey
09/29	50	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Fenton, PMRO
10/12	29	Carter Hill Orchard, Concord	Carter Hill RO

Osprey

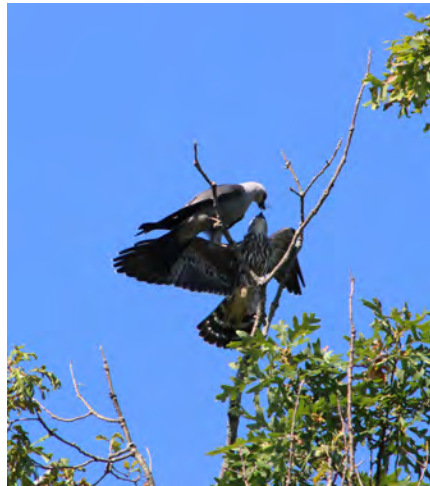
09/16	12	Carter Hill Orchard, Concord	Carter Hill RO
09/16	22	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Fenton, PMRO
09/23	36	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Fenton, PMRO
09/24	44	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	S. Mirick
11/02	1	Spofford L., Chesterfield	E. Synnott
11/04	1	Pack Monadnock, Peterborough	K. Fenton, PMRO
11/04	1	Eel Pond, Rye	T. Murray
11/05	1	Turtle Pond, Concord	

A. Robbins, D. Lania, P. Starkey

Golden Eagle

09/21	1	Carter Hill Orchard, Concord	Carter Hill RO
10/24	1	Rt. 202/9, Henniker	P. Brown
10/24	1	Tullando Farm, Orford	J. MacQueen
11/11	1	Carter Hill Orchard, Concord	Carter Hill RO
11/14	1	Pack Monadnock, Peterborough	PMRO

Date # Location Observer



Mississippi Kites by Debra Powers, 8-27-2016, Newmarket, NH.

Mississippi Kite

08/07 3 Huckins Dr., Newmarket S. Mirick
 09/11 2 Huckins Dr., Newmarket M.& C. McCarthy

Northern Harrier

09/25 15 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye S. Mirick
 09/28 7 Carter Hill Orchard, Concord Carter Hill RO
 09/29 10 Miller SP, Pack Monadnock K. Fenton, PMRO

Sharp-shinned Hawk

09/21 86 Pack Monadnock, Peterborough K. Fenton, PMRO
 09/25 19 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye S. Mirick
 10/10 54 Carter Hill Orchard, Concord Carter Hill RO

Northern Goshawk

09/22 1 Pickering Ponds, Rochester D. Hubbard
 10/04 1 North Mill Pond, Portsmouth J. Kelly
 10/10 2 Carter Hill Orchard, Concord Carter Hill RO
 10/15 6 Miller SP, Pack Monadnock K. Fenton
 11/22 1 Runnymede Farm, N. Hampton H. Bauer

Bald Eagle

09/17 8 Carter Hill Orchard, Concord Carter Hill RO
 09/29 10 Miller SP, Pack Monadnock K. Fenton
 11/26 6 Hill Rd. meat pile, Dummer J. Scott, K. Rawdon, C. Nims

Red-shouldered Hawk

10/15 5 Carter Hill Orchard, Concord Carter Hill RO
 10/31 19 Pack Monadnock, Peterborough K. Fenton, PMRO
 11/30 1 Ten Rod Rd., Rochester D. Hubbard

Broad-winged Hawk

09/15 3245 Pack Monadnock, Peterborough K. Fenton, PMRO
 09/16 3026 Carter Hill Orchard, Concord Carter Hill RO
 09/22 2706 Pack Monadnock, Peterborough K. Fenton, PMRO
 09/24 366 Tilton Hill Rd., Pittsfield A. Robbins
 09/25 166 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye S. Mirick
 10/15 1 Pack Monadnock, Peterborough K. Fenton, PMRO
 10/16 1 Kensan-Devan WS, Marlborough C. Witko

Red-tailed Hawk

10/26 34 Pack Monadnock, Peterborough K. Fenton, PMRO
 11/04 26 Pack Monadnock, Peterborough K. Fenton, PMRO
 11/06 15 Carter Hill Orchard, Concord Carter Hill RO

Date # Location Observer

Rough-legged Hawk

10/24 1 Rye Ledge J. Smith
 10/26 1 Carter Hill Orchard, Concord Carter Hill RO
 10/26 1 Pack Monadnock, Peterborough K. Fenton, PMRO
 11/24 1 Caldwell Rd., Nashua C. Sheridan

Virginia Rail

08/18 1 Chamberlain-Reynolds Memorial Forest, Center Harbor W. Shafer
 08/20 6 World End Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth
 08/28 2 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield D. Govatski
 11/05 1 Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton E. Lipton, T. Swain

Sora

08/30 2 World End Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth
 10/05 1 World End Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth
 10/08 1 Exeter WTP A. Robbins

American Coot

10/22 1 Squamscott R., Exeter S. Heron
 11/15 1 World End Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth
 11/25 1 Cherry Pond, Jefferson D. Govatski
 11/29 1 Exeter WTP L. McKillop, H. Bauer

Sandhill Crane

08/02 1 Rt. 127 fields e. of Hopkinton Dam A. Moser
 08/11 2 Rt. 127 fields e. of Hopkinton Dam Z. French
 09/07 1 Hanson St., Rochester D. Hubbard
 09/25 1 Elm Brook Park, Hopkinton D. Ellis
 09/26 2 Sherman's Farm, Conway T. Vazzano
 10/19 2 Plains Rd., Monroe S. Turner
 11/08 6 Carter Hill Orchard, Concord K. Fenton

American Oystercatcher

09/12 5 Lunging Is., Isles of Shoals S. Mirick, L. Kras, Seacoast CFT

Black-bellied Plover

08/28 75 Hampton Harbor S. Mirick
 09/08 6 Meloon Rd., Greenland J. Schwartz
 09/18 1 Exeter WTP S. Heron, J. Lambert
 09/22 103 NH coast J. Maher
 09/23 2 Sunset Farm, Greenland S. Mirick
 10/22 66 NH coast S. Mirick
 11/20 10 Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop. S. Stoddard



American Golden-Plover by Steve Mirick, 11-5-16, Rye Harbor SP, NH.

FALL SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
American Golden-Plover			
08/31	1	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	S. Mirick
09/15	1	Henrys Pool, Rt. 101E, Hampton	M. Wilson
09/15	1	Rochester WTP	C. Breen
09/16	1	Sherman's Farm, Conway	S. McCarthy, et al.
09/23	1	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
09/25	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	S. & J. Mirick
10/05	3	Hampton Harbor, Hampton R. Marina flats	H. Otto
10/08	1	Mt. Eisenhower	R. Bonney, J. Burrill
11/04	1	Rye Harbor SP	S. Wrisley, J. Pettipas, J. Sparrell
11/13	1	Rye Ledge	S. Mirick
11/14	1	Rye Harbor SP	L. & P. Charron, H. Bauer

Semipalmated Plover

08/03	373	Hampton Salt Marsh CA, Hampton	J. Maher
08/28	250	Plaice Cove, Hampton	S. Mirick
08/28	6	World End Pond, Salem	S. Wrisley, J. Pettipas
09/03	25	Sunset Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick
09/04	10	Oyster River Landing, Durham	J. Mills-Anderson
09/28	6	Canobie Lake, Salem	K. Wilmarth
10/22	62	NH coast	S. Mirick, D. Hubbard, D. Ellis
11/11	1	Rye Harbor SP	D. Hubbard

Piping Plover

08/06	5	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
08/07	3	Hampton Harbor	S. Wrisley, J. Pettipas

Killdeer

08/29	36	Hollis-Brookline HS	J. Maher
09/02	38	Pease Int'l. Tradeport, se. end, Portsmouth	Z. Cornell, R. & K. Frieden
10/22	35	Rt. 155A farm fields, Durham	K. Dorsey
11/19	2	Upper Suncook Recreation Area, Barnstead	J. Lambert

Upland Sandpiper

08/01	12	Pease Int'l. Tradeport, Short St., Newington	S. Cooper
09/07	1	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	K. Wilmarth

Whimbrel

08/14	1	Rye Ledge	S. Mirick
09/02	1	Capital Commons Garage, Storrs St., Concord	Z. Cornell, R. Woodward
09/02	1	Pease Int'l. Tradeport, se. end, Portsmouth	Z. Cornell
10/04	1	Hampton Harbor, Hampton R. Marina flats	D. Lipsy
10/09	2	Rye Harbor SP	J. Lambert

Hudsonian Godwit

09/11	1	Henrys Pool, Rt. 101E, Hampton	J. Lambert
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Ruddy Turnstone

08/02	8	Star Is., Isles of Shoals, Rye	S. Cooper
08/20	6	Concord Pt., Rye	S. Wrisley, J. Pettipas, R. & K. Frieden
08/28	8	Isles of Shoals	K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
10/30	1	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick, BBC FT

Red Knot

08/02	1	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	R. Prieto
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Date	#	Location	Observer
08/17	3	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick, D. Mandell, J. Maher
08/20	4	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick, S. Heron
09/10	1	Rt. 1A wooden bridge, Rye	Seacoast CFT
09/17	2	Hampton Beach, n. end	S. Wrisley, D. Lipsey



Stilt Sandpiper by Jason Lambert, 8-19-2016, Rochester WTP, NH.

Stilt Sandpiper

08/19	2	Rochester WTP	J. Lambert
08/28	2	Marsh Road Pond, Rye	S. Mirick, et al.
08/31	1	Chapmans Landing, Stratham	L. Kras
09/11	8	Henrys Pool, Rt. 101E, Hampton	J. Lambert
10/08	1	Henrys Pool, Rt. 101E, Hampton	S. Heron, C. Sheridan

Sanderling

08/22	125	Rt. 1A High Rock pullout, Rye	J. Dietrich
09/03	12	Sunset Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick
09/11	86	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
09/17	40	Hampton Beach, n. end	S. Wrisley, D. Lipsey
09/19	1	Canobie Lake, Salem	H. Otto, K. Wilmarth

Dunlin

09/23	2	Henrys Pool, Rt. 101E, Hampton	H. Bauer
09/23	2	Meadow Pond, Hampton	S. Mirick
10/04	109	Hampton Harbor, Hampton R. Marina flats	S. Wrisley, D. Lipsey
11/14	173	Hampton Harbor	H. Bauer

Purple Sandpiper

10/28	1	Rye Harbor SP	J. Sparrell
10/29	2	Seabrook Beach	S. Heron
11/12	22	NH coast	J. Maher



Baird's Sandpiper by Jason Lambert, 8-20-2016, Concord Point, Rye, NH.

Baird's Sandpiper

08/17	1	Concord Pt., Rye	S. Mirick, et al.
08/22	1	Concord Pt., Rye	J. Sparrell, K. Towler
08/23	1	Marsh Road Pond, Rye	C. Nims
08/26	1	Charlestown WTP	E. Masterson
09/12	1	Marsh Road Pond, Rye	S. Heron

Date	#	Location	Observer
Least Sandpiper			
08/01	23	Fields Grove, Nashua	C. Sheridan
08/20	304	Marsh Road Pond, Rye	J. Lambert
08/30	93	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
10/14	2	Canobie Lake, Salem	K. Wilmarth
10/15	7	Marsh Road Pond, Rye	S. Mirick
10/22	1	Eel Pond, Rye	S. Mirick
10/22	1	Hampton Beach	S. Mirick

White-rumped Sandpiper			
08/03	1	NH coast	J. Maher
08/12	5	Meadow Pond, Hampton	S. Mirick
08/18	5	Concord Pt., Rye	S. Wrisley, J. Pettipas
08/27	6	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
09/05	1	Charlestown WTP	D. Jackson
09/06	1	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
09/17	10	Bicentennial Park, Hampton	H. Bauer
10/19	2	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
10/22	5	NH coast	S. Mirick
10/29	1	Water St., Lancaster	S. Stoddard

Buff-breasted Sandpiper			
08/24	1	Exeter WTP	S. Heron
09/01	1	Pease Int'l. Tradeport, se. end, Portsmouth	K. Towler, et al.

Pectoral Sandpiper			
08/20	4	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
09/24	8	Eel Pond, Rye	S. Wrisley, J. Pettipas
10/15	5	Sunset Farm, Greenland	S. Heron, D. Jackson
10/18	18	Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton	S. Mirick
10/18	5	Eel Pond, Rye	D. Hubbard
10/19	4	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
11/10	1	Rye Harbor SP	K. Towler, R. Prieto

Semipalmated Sandpiper			
08/03	375	NH coast	J. Maher
08/07	6	Lancy Brook wetland, Brookline	C. McPherson
08/26	450	Swasey Pkwy., Exeter	J. Maher
08/26	300	Hampton Harbor, Hampton R. Marina flats	J. Maher
08/27	250	Marsh Road Pond, Rye	S. Surner
10/23	2	Rt. 1A wooden bridge, Rye	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
11/01	1	Rye Harbor SP	P. Wood

Western Sandpiper			
08/17	1	Hampton Salt Marsh CA, Hampton	S. Mirick, et al.
09/18	1	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick

Short-billed Dowitcher			
08/21	19	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	S. Mirick
09/05	27	Henrys Pool, Rt. 101E, Hampton	J. Sparrell
09/11	32	Henrys Pool, Rt. 101E, Hampton	J. Lambert
10/18	2	Hampton Salt Marsh CA, Hampton	S. Mirick

Wilson's Snipe			
09/08	9	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
10/14	3	Massabesic WS, Auburn	C. Rurik
11/22	1	Globe Manufacturing, Rt. 28, Pittsfield	J. Lambert

American Woodcock			
10/04	4	Rt. 107 beaver ponds, Seabrook	G. Gavutis
10/15	3	Indian Stream Rd., Pittsburg	E. Edwards

Date	#	Location	Observer
11/01	1	The Balsams & trails, Colebrook	L. Charron



Red-necked Phalarope by Jim Sparrell, 9-12-2016, offshore waters, NH.

Red-necked Phalarope			
09/06	1	Exeter WTP	P. Miliotis, et al.
09/12	77	offshore waters, NH	L. Kras, S. Mirick, Seacoast CFT
09/14	2	Jeffreys Ledge, NH	D. Jackson
10/02	1	Exeter WTP	L. McKillop, S. Wrisley, J. Pettipas, et al.

Red/Red-necked Phalarope			
10/02	3	Steeplegate Mall and pond, Concord	D. Seavey

Spotted Sandpiper			
08/21	15	Rochester WTP	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
08/28	11	Exeter R. at Beach Rd., Fremont	E. Nathan
10/12	1	Winnisquam L., Tilton	L. Coulter
10/23	1	Exeter WTP	R. & K. Frieden

Solitary Sandpiper			
08/20	6	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	S. Wrisley, J. Pettipas
09/06	6	Mount Sunapee SP, Newbury	D. Jackson
10/22	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	J. Maher, M. Pahl, A. Kallenbach, R. Bielawski

Greater Yellowlegs			
08/05	75	Meadow Pond, Hampton	J. O'Shaughnessy
08/26	18	Rochester WTP	J. Maher
10/03	104	Meadow Pond, Hampton	J. Maher
10/18	80	Hampton Salt Marsh CA, Hampton	S. Mirick
10/23	3	Water St., Lancaster	S. Stoddard
10/28	1	Moore Reservoir, Littleton	K. Jones
11/19	2	Sunset Farm, Greenland	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
11/19	2	Henrys Pool, Rt. 101E, Hampton	H. Otto

Willet			
08/05	5	Rye Harbor	N. Gibb, R. Lambert
08/17	6	NH coast	J. Maher
08/30	3	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	K. Rosenberg

Willet - Western subsp.			
09/07	2	Hampton Harbor, Hampton R. Marina flats	J. Maher, K. Wilmarth

Lesser Yellowlegs			
08/12	50	Meadow Pond, Hampton	S. Mirick
08/27	40	Marsh Road Pond, Rye	S. Mirick
09/08	29	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
09/24	52	NH coast	J. Maher

FALL SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
10/06	1	Canobie Lake, Salem	K. Wilmarth
11/04	2	Wallis Sands State Beach, Rye	C. Dengler, S. Miller
11/12	2	salt marshes s. of Rye Harbor	G. Tillman

Jaegers to Falcons



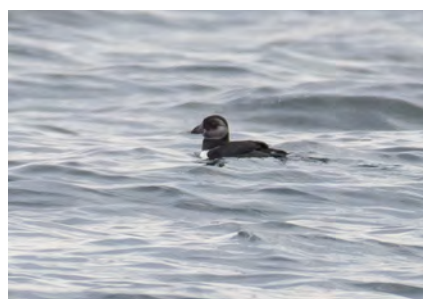
Pomarine Jaeger by Kyle Wilmarth, 9-12-2016, offshore waters NH.

Jaegers went mostly unreported for the season, with only four outings providing sightings; however, the Seacoast Chapter fall pelagic trip provided a total of six individuals, all of the identified birds being either Parasitic or Pomarine. A young jaeger observed from shore on September 5 may have been a Long-tailed Jaeger, the least frequently reported species in the state. A murre reported in October provided a rare fall sighting. The observer felt that the bird was likely a Thick-billed Murre, the less likely of the two species prior to December. An Atlantic Puffin reported on a whalewatch was an unusual sighting, but the species is recorded nearly every fall. A Razorbill on the Seacoast Chapter fall pelagic trip was quite early.

Gulls and terns had a generally quiet fall, with many of the scarcer species barely reported. An adult and juvenile Caspian Tern at the Exeter WTP was unusually far inland for this normally coastal migrant. A single Black-legged Kittiwake is more reflective of a lack of late season trips than anything. However, one Little Gull and no Black-headed Gulls were also fewer than are typically reported in the fall. Locally noteworthy was a Laughing Gull at Chapman's Landing – this species is rarely recorded away from the ocean. Common Terns disappeared from the coast earlier than usual, with no reports after August 28. Small numbers were reported offshore well into September and the latest individual remarkably was on Great Bay. Forster's Terns experience dramatic year-to-year fluctuations, with dozens reported in some years, and in others such as this, the species is nearly absent.

An Eastern Screech-Owl in Pembroke was a rare Merrimack County record; however, the species may be more common in this area, as few observers make a concerted effort to look for it. One of Rich Aaronian's ornithology students reported a Snowy Owl at Stuart Farm that Rich was able to locate the next day. Unfortunately, that same student found it dead within a few days and it appeared to be emaciated. Long-eared Owl is rarely detected in the state, but an injured bird in Seabrook was the third well documented record in the past two years. There was an additional report of one in Hollis (where one was documented last year), but the photos were inconclusive. A Short-eared Owl that was photographed as it flew over Ragged Neck, and posted on the Birdwatchers of New Hampshire Facebook page, was the only sighting this fall. Observers in Concord once again counted Common Nighthawks, with the two highest counts on consecutive dates (see the migration report in this issue). Chimney Swifts typically depart in August, but hawkwatchers noted up to nine in one day at Pack Monadnock, with reports from five other locations after September 5. Most of these reports occurred while observers were scanning the sky for other migrants.

Date	#	Location	Observer
Pomarine Jaeger			
09/12	3	offshore waters, NH	S. Mirick, L. Kras, Seacoast CFT
Parasitic Jaeger			
09/12	1	offshore waters, NH	S. Mirick, L. Kras, Seacoast CFT
10/09	1	Rye Harbor SP	K. Fenton, J. Lambert, S.& J. Mirick
Parasitic/Long-tailed Jaeger			
09/05	1	Little Boars Head, N. Hampton	S. Mirick
Common/Thick-billed Murre			
10/21	1	Great Boars Head, Hampton	S. Mirick
Razorbill			
09/12	1	offshore waters, NH	S. Mirick, L. Kras, Seacoast CFT
09/30	1	NH coast	S. Mirick
11/13	1	Seal Rocks, Rye	J. Maher
11/20	1	Great Boars Head, Hampton	S. Mirick
Black Guillemot			
08/11	1	cove s. of Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	J. MacQueen
09/12	2	Isles of Shoals, NH	S. Mirick, L. Kras, Seacoast CFT
11/06	6	Great Boars Head, Hampton	J. Koon
11/25	4	NH coast	S. Mirick



Atlantic Puffin by Leo McKillop, 8-2-2016, offshore waters, NH.

Date # Location Observer

Atlantic Puffin

08/02 1 offshore waters, NH J. Pietrzak, L. McKillop

Black-legged Kittiwake

10/28 1 Hampton Harbor S. Mirick

Bonaparte's Gull

08/05 1 Moore Reservoir, Littleton S. Turner

08/13 1 Front Park, Massabesic L., Auburn J. Maher

08/13 1 Little Dan Hole Pond, Ossipee D. Small, M. Gimpel

08/21 99 NH coast S. Mirick

09/30 200 Portsmouth Harbor S. Mirick

10/12 2 Sunapee Lake D. Jackson

10/16 86 Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop. H. Bauer

11/25 1 Wilson Pond, Swanzey P. Brown

11/27 1 Seal Rocks, Rye P. Miliotis

Little Gull

10/16 1 Hampton Harbor S. Mirick

Laughing Gull

09/04 1 Chapmans Landing, Stratham S. Mirick

09/05 14 NH coast S. Mirick

10/21 20 Great Boars Head, Hampton S. Mirick

10/23 1 Rye Harbor SP J. Lambert

10/27 1 Great Boars Head, Hampton S. Mirick

Iceland Gull

10/28 1 Hampton Beach SP L. McKillop

10/28 2 Little Boars Head, N. Hampton S. Mirick

10/29 1 Great Boars Head, Hampton S. Mirick

10/29 1 Pickering Ponds, Rochester D. Hubbard

11/14 1 Hedgehog Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth

11/26 1 Exeter WTP P. Miliotis

Lesser Black-backed Gull

09/03 2 Rt. 1A wooden bridge, Rye S. Mirick

09/06 4 Eel Pond, Rye K. Wilmarth

09/06 1 Hampton Beach K. Wilmarth

09/07 1 Foss Beach, Rye K. Wilmarth

09/07 3 Eel Pond, Rye K. Wilmarth

Glaucous Gull

11/26 1 NH coast S. Mirick

Least Tern

08/05 1 Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton J. O'Shaughnessy

08/07 4 Hampton Harbor S. Wrisley, J. Pettipas



Caspian Tern by Steve Mirick, 9-3-2016, Exeter WTP, NH.

Date # Location Observer

Caspian Tern

08/20 7 NH coast S. Mirick

08/28 8 NH coast S. Mirick

09/03 2 Exeter WTP S. Mirick

09/16 6 Eel Pond, Rye H. Bauer

09/25 2 Eel Pond, Rye H. Bauer, K. Wilmarth

10/08 2 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye R. Lessard

10/21 1 Great Boars Head, Hampton S. Mirick



Black Terns by Kyle Wilmarth, 9-12-2016, offshore waters NH.

Black Tern

08/14 1 Jeffreys Ledge, NH S. Mirick

08/27 7 offshore waters, NH M. Harvey, R. Herman

09/12 2 offshore waters, NH S. Mirick, L. Kras, Seacoast CFT

Roseate Tern

08/06 25 Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop. R. Suomala, Z. Cornell

08/20 1 Hampton Harbor S. Heron

Common Tern

08/02 150 White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals S. Cooper

08/13 120 Hampton Harbor & inlet S. Mirick

09/04 1 Hampton Harbor S. Mirick

09/14 16 Jeffreys Ledge, NH D. Jackson

09/28 1 Sunset Farm, Greenland S. Mirick

Forster's Tern

08/06 1 Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop. R. Suomala, Z. Cornell

08/10 3 NH coast J. Maher

08/12 1 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye B. Murtha

09/12 2 offshore waters, NH S. Mirick, L. Kras, Seacoast CFT

10/16 1 Great Boars Head, Hampton S. Mirick

Sterna sp.

09/24 1 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye M. Jacobson, S. Mirick

10/22 1 Pickering Ponds, Rochester J. Maher

Mourning Dove

08/13 90 W. Massabesic Rockingham Trail, Manchester J. Maher

08/21 80 Rochester WTP R. Suomala, Z. Cornell

10/22 150 Rt. 155A farm fields, Durham K. Dorsey

FALL SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
Yellow-billed Cuckoo			
08/01	1	Worcester Is., Wolfeboro	C. Ogan
08/04	1	Call Rd., Webster	R. Quinn
08/08	1	Dodge Pond, Lyman	S. Turner
08/09	1	Cowper Rd., Wolfeboro	D. Doherty
08/15	1	Antrim Rd., Hancock	E. Masterson
08/27	1	Horse Hill Rd., Roxbury	K. Rosenberg
09/01	1	Cornish boat launch	A. Hulsey
10/11	1	Longmarsh Preserve, Colby Marsh, Durham	L. Kras
10/17	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	C. Rurik, M. Chau

Black-billed Cuckoo			
08/02	1	The Balsams & trails, Colebrook	L. Charron
08/17	2	Antrim Rd., Hancock	E. Masterson
08/28	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski
08/28	1	Stevens Hill Rd., Nottingham	P. Miliotis
08/29	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski

Eastern Screech-Owl			
09/07	1	Bow Ln., Pembroke	J. Clark

Snowy Owl			
11/18	1	Stuart Farm, Stratham	S. Merrill

Long-eared Owl			
11/02	1	Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook	P. Pietrowski

Short-eared Owl			
10/24	1	Rye Harbor SP	S. Lewis

Common Nighthawk			
08/26	2014	Capital Commons Garage, Storrs St., Concord	Z. Cornell, R. Woodward, et al.
08/27	2344	Capital Commons Garage, Storrs St., Concord	Z. Cornell, R. Woodward, et al.
08/28	1650	Wellington SP, Bristol/Alexandria	R. Vallieres
09/18	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	C. Breen, S. Bosse
09/21	1	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	A. Burnett

Eastern Whip-poor-will			
09/10	2	Mast Yard SF, Concord	P. Hunt
09/23	2	Durrell Mountain Rd., Gilmanton	N. Mitchell

Chimney Swift			
08/24	370	High St. Garage, Nashua	J. Maher
08/25	230	Capital Commons Garage, Storrs St., Concord	Z. Cornell, et al.
09/15	2	Garrison Hill Park, Dover	A. Murray
09/15	1	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Fenton
09/17	1	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Fenton, T. Parody

Ruby-throated Hummingbird			
10/01	1	Melanie Ln., Bow	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
10/07	1	Lakeview Dr., Strafford	S. Young
10/10	1	Goen Rd., New Ipswich	M. Conrad

Red-headed Woodpecker			
09/16	1	Contoocook R., Contoocook	S. Burns, S. Saviteer

Black-backed Woodpecker			
08/08	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	J. Pietrzak
09/26	1	Magalloway R. Trail, Umbagog NWR, Wentworths Location	B. Schweinhart
10/15	1	Mt. Moosilauke, Benton	J. Baldwin

Date	#	Location	Observer
11/10	2	Crawford Path, Beans Grant	C. Nims
11/23	1	Mt. Hancock	A. Broadwater

Northern Flicker			
10/02	18	Surry Mountain Lake	T. Parody
10/03	12	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	M. Wilson
10/04	14	Buffalo Rd., Rumney	J. Williams
10/06	13	1785 Inn, Rt. 302, Conway	R. Steber, W. Broussard

American Kestrel			
09/16	19	Carter Hill Orchard, Concord	Carter Hill RO
09/29	24	Pack Monadnock, Peterborough	K. Fenton, PMRO

Merlin			
09/25	6	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	S. Mirick
09/29	8	Pack Monadnock, Peterborough	K. Fenton, PMRO
10/03	6	Carter Hill Orchard, Concord	Carter Hill RO

Peregrine Falcon			
09/28	5	NH coast	S. Mirick
10/07	6	Pack Monadnock, Peterborough	K. Fenton, PMRO

Flycatchers to Nuthatches

A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was reported in August in Hooksett underscoring just how early passerine migration occurs. In a similar vein, one banded in Cornish on September 17 was unusually late for the species to be documented in the state. No *Empidonax* flycatchers were seen after September, another sign of the early departure of local species. Likewise, no Eastern Phoebes lingered into November this year. **Western Kingbird** is a rare but annual vagrant. This fall's bird delighted birders for 17 days, a remarkable stay for any fall vagrant. In contrast, the state's second **Fork-tailed Flycatcher** was a one-day wonder – a brief appearance at the Lebanon landfill before being relocated at a nearby miniature golf course that evening. The vast majority of inland records of this species in the northeast have been single-day sightings. In the final 29 days of the season, 16 different Northern Shrikes were reported, more than the 10-year average.



Northern Shrike by Christopher McPherson, 11-5-2016, Nashua, NH.

Most years one or more White-eyed Vireos are found, generally on the coast, and generally in October. This year was no exception, with one photographed at Odiorne Point State Park in early October, but a second bird later in the month in Henniker was more notable as it was inland. Even more notable was a Philadelphia Vireo, a scarce migrant that usually passes through by early October, photographed at Pawtuckaway State Park late in October. This sighting was later than any Red-eyed Vireo seen in the state this fall, with the last Red-eyed observed on October 11, about a week and a half earlier than usual. A large flight of migrating Blue Jays was observed across the state on October 3-4.

Northern Rough-winged Swallows are scarce even in August. One reported on September 7 was notably late. Purple Martins continued near their recently established colonies along the coast, but several reports from Kensington may suggest dispersal from a local colony. Tree Swallows occasionally linger late into the fall, but none were reported after September. One (possibly two) Cave Swallows were found along the coast in November for the ninth year since the species was first recorded in the state in 2003. Tufted Titmice are still quite uncommon in northern New Hampshire; four reports this fall from Coos County was higher than usual. There was a modest irruption of Red-breasted Nuthatches, with small numbers reported widely throughout the state.

Date # Location Observer

Olive-sided Flycatcher

08/10	1	Diamond Ledge, Sandwich	T. Vazzano
08/13	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	S. Mirick
08/18	1	Tilton Hill Rd., Pittsfield	A. Robbins
08/21	1	Pawtuckaway SP, Fundy Cove boat launch, Nottingham	C. Caron
09/19	1	Hopkinton Lake	R. Guthrie
09/20	1	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch

Eastern Wood-Pewee

08/14	5	Beech Hill trails, Dublin	B. Swift
09/29	1	Contoocook R. Park/Island Shores Estates, Penacook	P. Hunt
10/01	1	Birch St. Community Garden, Concord	D. Jackson

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

08/01	1	Casey Dr., Hooksett	J. Pietrzak
08/31	1	Buffalo Rd., Rumney	J. Williams
09/11	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	L. Charron
09/17	1	Cornish boat launch	A. Hulsey

Alder/Willow Flycatcher (Traill's Flycatcher)

09/15	2	Cornish boat launch	A. Hulsey
09/19	1	Antioch Univ. New England, Keene	S. Lamonde
09/20	1	Exeter WTP	H. Bauer
09/29	1	Hawkin's Farm, Salem	K. Wilmarth

Date # Location Observer

Least Flycatcher

09/20	1	Rt. 155A farm fields, Durham	A. Murray
09/24	1	Caldwell Rd., Nashua	C. Sheridan
09/24	1	Knights Meadow Marsh, Webster	R. Quinn, et al.

Eastern Phoebe

09/16	30	Sherman's Farm, Conway	S. McCarthy, J. Scott, R. Steber, C. Nims
10/30	1	UNH campus, Durham	M. Jacobson
10/30	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	J. Roberts

Great Crested Flycatcher

09/01	1	Smith Sisters WS, Newmarket	P. Farr, A. Murray
09/03	1	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch
09/05	1	Silk Farm WS, Concord	R. Quinn, NHA FT



Western Kingbird by Steve Mirick, 10-22-2016, Wallis Sands State Beach, Rye, NH.

Western Kingbird

10/22	1	Wallis Sands State Beach, Rye	K. Towler, et al.
11/07	1	Wallis Sands State Beach, Rye	M. Watson, M. Viens, J. Sparrell

Eastern Kingbird

09/08	2	Elm Brook Park, Hopkinton	D. Ellis
09/09	1	McNair Easement, Lead Mine Rd., Madison	S. Wilcox, G. Bailey
09/10	1	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
09/11	1	Rt. 1A, Seabrook	S. Mirick
09/16	1	Hawkin's Farm, Salem	K. Wilmarth


Fork-tailed Flycatcher

09/20	1	Lebanon Landfill	M. Medeiros, J. McQueen, et al.
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Northern Shrike

11/02	1	Birch St. Community Garden, Concord	P. Hunt, et al.
11/02	1	Brown Farm, Hancock	P. Brown, S. Lamonde

FALL SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer	Date	#	Location	Observer
				Fish Crow			
				08/21	21	Rt. 25 at Rt. 16, Ossipee	T. Vazzano
				08/31	35	McDonald's, Rt. 111, Windham	K. Wilmarth
				09/23	80	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
10/05	70	Rt. 28, Salem	K. Wilmarth				
				Common Raven			
10/04	87	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Fenton				
11/11	133	Powder Mill Pond, Hancock	P. Brown				
				Horned Lark			
09/16	1	Sherman's Farm, Conway	J. Scott, C. Nims, R. Steber				
10/15	150	Rt. 155A farm fields, Durham	K. Dorsey				
10/25	100	Sherman's Farm, Conway	B. Crowley				
11/05	129	Morrills Farm, Penacook	D. Inzerillo, A. Kallenbach, P. Hunt				
11/06	150	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	J. Maher				
				Northern Rough-winged Swallow			
08/02	2	saltmarsh off Pollock Dr., Rye	A. Murray				
08/21	5	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell				
08/28	1	Hampton Harbor, Yankee Fisherman's Coop.	K. Rosenberg				
09/07	1	Exeter WTP	S. Wrisley, D. Lipsy				
				Purple Martin			
08/01	5	South Rd., Kensington	G. Gavutis				
08/02	23	Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook	P. Laipis				
08/03	3	South Rd., Kensington	G. Gavutis				
08/10	1	Chapmans Landing, Stratham	M. Goldthwait, D. Kibbe				
08/21	4	Breakfast Hill Rd., Greenland	B. Griffith				
08/30	2	Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook	K. Rosenberg				
				Tree Swallow			
08/20	5000	Rt. 1A at Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, S. Mirick				
08/30	2200	Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook	K. Rosenberg				
09/25	50	Eel Pond, Rye	K. Wilmarth				
09/30	67	NH coast	S. Mirick				
				Bank Swallow			
08/12	12	Pease Int'l. Tradeport, Short St., Newington	M. Anthony, R. Kovach				
08/26	20	Worthley Rd., Seabrook	C. Nims, J. Scott				
09/07	2	Exeter WTP	J. Maher				
09/07	2	NH coast	K. Wilmarth				
09/18	2	Rye Harbor SP	S. Mirick				
				Barn Swallow			
08/01	94	Pease Int'l. Tradeport, Short St., Newington	S. Cooper				
08/10	60	Copps Pond WMA, Tuftonboro	D. Small, M. Gimpel				
08/10	57	NH coast	J. Maher				
09/23	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray				
10/16	1	Exeter WTP	S. Heron				
				Cliff Swallow			
08/07	3	Horse Hill Rd., Roxbury	K. Rosenberg				
09/18	1	Rye Harbor SP	S. Mirick				
09/23	3	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Fenton				
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White-eyed Vireo				<i>White-eyed Vireo by Aiden Moser, 10-22-2016, Henniker, NH.</i>			
10/08	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	S. Mirick, Seacoast CFT				
10/22	1	Old Concord Rd., Henniker	A. Moser				
Yellow-throated Vireo							
09/10	2	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch				
09/20	1	Freedom Town Forest airstrip	S. Mesick				
09/22	1	Mason Rd., Wilton	G. Coffey				
09/27	1	Brentwood Mitigation Area	K. Towler, J. Sparrell				
Blue-headed Vireo							
09/15	6	Dahl WS, Conway	C. Nims, R. Steber, S. McCarthy, J. Scott				
10/02	6	Penacook survey route	D. Inzerillo, P. Hunt				
10/14	8	Lamprey R. Preserve, Durham	A. Aldrich, A. Murray				
10/27	1	Willand Pond, Somersworth/Dover	A. Murray				
10/30	1	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Fenton				
10/30	1	Tilton Hill Rd., Pittsfield	A. Robbins				
Philadelphia Vireo							
10/01	1	Mack's Apples, Londonderry	B. Kimball				
10/04	1	Pleasant L., New London	D. Jackson				
10/26		Pawtuckaway SP, Nottingham/Deerfield	A. Norton				
Warbling Vireo							
08/27	4	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard				
09/10	4	Dahl WS, Conway	C. Nims, S. McCarthy				
09/20	1	Cornish boat launch	A. Hulsey				
09/20	1	Exeter WTP	H. Bauer				
09/20	1	Chaffee Wildlife Sanctuary, Lyme	B. Allison				
09/20	1	Tilton Hill Rd., Pittsfield	A. Robbins				
Red-eyed Vireo							
09/10	13	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	M. Wilson				
10/10	1	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch				
10/10	1	Canobie Lake, Salem	H. Otto				
10/11	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	K. Towler				
Blue Jay							
09/21	46	Fore-U Golf Center, Lebanon	J. Lambert				
09/27	55	Carter Hill Orchard, Concord	K. Fenton				
10/03	35	Sweeney Rd., Keene	E. Synnott				
10/03	88	Tilton Hill Rd., Pittsfield	A. Robbins				
10/04	60	Carter Hill Orchard, Concord	K. Fenton				
10/04	50	Sweeney Rd., Keene	E. Synnott				
10/04	39	Tilton Hill Rd., Pittsfield	A. Robbins				
American Crow							
11/19	2507	Lebanon Airport	J. MacQueen				

Date # Location Observer

Cave Swallow

11/12 1 Concord Pt., Rye S. Mirick
 11/12 1 Pulpit Rocks, Rye M. Hatfield, et al.

Boreal Chickadee

08/01 8 Jackson Webster Trail, WMNF J. Curd
 08/15 6 Scott Bog Rd., Pittsburg K. Towler, J. Sparrell
 09/24 15 Rt. 16 boreal bog, Errol P.& L. Charron
 09/30 1 Dartmouth Skiway, Lyme J. MacQueen

Tufted Titmouse

08/07 2 Lake Durand, Randolph D. Forsyth
 08/21 2 Breton Woods, Carroll R. Robertson
 10/12 1 Twin View Dr., Twin Mountain N. Mitiguy
 11/18 1 Tracey Dr., Errol P.& L. Charron

Red-breasted Nuthatch

08/25 11 Mt. Kearsarge S. Gremel
 10/07 11 Freedom Town Forest S. Mesick

Wrens to Snow Bunting

A House Wren reported in Errol was quite far north for this normally southern species, while one on November 5 was rather late for this species. A Marsh Wren in November at the Exeter Wastewater Treatment Plant was slightly more expected, but still notable, as the species occasionally lingers into December.

Bicknell's Thrush is incredibly rare away from its high elevation breeding habitat and extreme caution should be exercised in identifying them. This fall four Bicknell's Thrush were initially reported from locations away from their breeding grounds. Fortunately, three were photographed and were confirmed to be Hermit Thrush; the fourth bird wasn't photographed but the description was more typical of Veery. Much of the confusion seems to stem from poor treatment in field guides attempting to distinguish them from the essentially identical Gray-cheeked Thrush (which is also infrequently reported). The addition of photos to eBird reports can be incredibly valuable. Five Swainson's Thrush banded in a day is an unusually high count for fall, but is likely more reflective of the species' inconspicuous habits than rarity. The two highest counts for American Robin both occurred on the same day, likely the result of a large movement the day before. A Brown Thrasher at Odiorne Point State Park on November 27 was on the late side, but the species has lingered at this site more often than most others. A Northern Mockingbird in Wentworth's Location was exceptionally far north for the species.

A **White Wagtail** found on November 2 at Rye Harbor was the first of the species anywhere in New England. As if that were not enough, photographs showed enough detail to identify the bird as the British Isles Pied subspecies. This would represent the first record of this subspecies *anywhere*



White Wagtail by Steve Bennett, 11-3-2016, Hampton, NH.

on this side of the Atlantic! See David Donsker's article on page 36 for more details on this exciting bird. Large flocks of American Pipits were seen at Sherman Farm in Conway and nowhere else in the state. Small flocks of Bohemian Waxwings appeared in the northern part of the state by November 1, a little earlier than usual, and continued the increasing trend for this species. Two in Nottingham were more exceptional, as the species doesn't usually appear in the southern part of the state until fruit crops farther north have been depleted. Snow Buntings were reported in lower than average numbers at their typical staging area at Hampton Beach State Park.

Date # Location Observer

House Wren

08/02 1 Tracey Dr., Errol L. Charron
 08/06 10 Strafford County Farm Complex, Dover D. Hubbard
 09/09 1 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield P. Watkins
 10/09 1 Birch St. Community Garden, Concord D. Jackson
 11/05 1 Warner Rd., Concord P. Brown

Marsh Wren

08/28 3 World End Pond, Salem S. Wrisley, J. Pettipas,
 R. Suomala, S. Heron, Z. Cornell
 09/04 3 Exeter WTP P. Miliotis, C. McPherson
 10/13 2 Thompson WS, Sandwich P. Brown
 11/19 1 Exeter WTP P. Wood

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

08/04 5 Pickering Ponds, Rochester D. Hubbard
 08/15 4 Strafford County Farm Complex, Dover D. Hubbard
 09/02 4 Dahl WS, Conway J. Scott, C. Nims, R. Steber
 09/28 1 Pickering Ponds, Rochester S. Mirick

Golden-crowned Kinglet

08/25 20 Cannon Mt., Franconia A. Nicole
 10/12 25 Strafford School District easement S. Young

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

10/09 11 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield
 S. Wrisley, J. Pettipas
 11/05 5 NH coast S. Mirick
 11/13 1 Lakeview Dr., Strafford S. Young
 11/20 1 Portsmouth City Park, Harvard St. S. Mirick

Bicknell's Thrush

08/01 4 Jackson Webster Trail, WMNF J. Curd
 08/02 1 Middle Carter Mt., Beans Purchase K. Jenkins

FALL SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer	Date	#	Location	Observer
Bicknell's Thrush—continued							
08/19	1	Crawford Path, Beans Grant	W. Sweet				
08/24	1	Mt. Washington Resort	S. Auer				
Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush							
09/21	1	Tilton Hill Rd., Pittsfield	A. Robbins				
09/27	3	The Flume, Franconia Notch SP	M. Brown				
09/30	1	Lake Ave., Sunapee	D. Jackson				
Swainson's Thrush							
08/01	8	Jackson Webster Trail, WMNF	J. Curd				
09/30	5	Cornish boat launch	A. Hulsey				
10/16	1	McNair Easement, Lead Mine Rd., Madison	S. Wilcox, G. Bailey				
10/18	1	YMCA, Summit Rd., Keene	P. Gurn, E. Synnott				
Hermit Thrush							
08/04	12	Freedom Town Forest	A. & G. Robbins				
10/15	11	Diamond Ledge, Sandwich	T. Vazzano				
11/23	1	Ten Rod Rd., Rochester	D. Hubbard				
11/26	1	Colebrook WTP	E. Edwards				
Wood Thrush							
09/07	3	Cornish boat launch	A. Hulsey				
09/27	1	Langdon Park, Plymouth	J. Sullivan				
10/07	1	Cornish boat launch	A. Hulsey				
American Robin							
10/18	147	Carter Hill Orchard, Concord	K. Fenton				
10/30	165	Elm Brook Park, Hopkinton	S. Lamonde				
10/30	250	NH coast	S. Mirick, BBC FT				
11/11	150	South Rd., Kensington	G. Gavutis				
Gray Catbird							
08/27	24	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard				
09/16	22	White Farm, Concord	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell				
11/26	1	Beckman's Landing, Seabrook	S. Mirick				
11/27	2	Urban Forestry Center, Portsmouth	J. Sparrell, K. Towler				
Brown Thrasher							
08/25	1	Panorama Golf Course, Colebrook	L. Charron				
10/22	1	Ten Rod Rd., Rochester	D. Hubbard				
11/27	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	S. Mirick				
Northern Mockingbird							
10/08	1	Umbagog NWR	M. McSorley				
11/27	15	Hollis-Brookline HS	C. McPherson				
White Wagtail							
11/02	1	Rye Harbor SP	J. Gahagan, K. Towler, et al.				
11/03	1	Straw Point, Rye	S. & J. Mirick, et al.				
11/03	1	Great Boars Head, Hampton	J. Maher, et al.				
11/04	1	Great Boars Head, Hampton	M. Watson, et al.				
American Pipit							
08/07	3	Mt. Webster/Jackson area	M. Merithew				
08/19	2	Lake of the Clouds Hut, WMNF	C. Underwood				
09/03	1	Black Brook Rd., Keene	T. Parody				
09/28	75	Sherman's Farm, Conway	R. Steber, J. Scott				
10/01	36	Birch St. Community Garden, Concord	D. Jackson				
10/24	240	Sherman's Farm, Conway	S. McCarthy, C. Nims, J. Scott				



American Pipit
by Leo McKillop,
9-29-2016,
Rye Harbor SP, NH.

11/08	45	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson
11/26	2	Rye Harbor SP	M. Watson

Bohemian Waxwing

11/01	20	The Balsams & trails, Colebrook	L. Charron
11/01	15	Androscoggin R. dam, Rt. 16, Errol	L. Charron
11/06	2	Stevens Hill Rd., Nottingham	P. Miliotis
11/27	33	Colebrook	E. Edwards
11/28	12	Diamond Ledge, Sandwich	T. Vazzano

Cedar Waxwing

09/20	120	Carter Hill Orchard, Concord	K. Fenton
11/13	75	Oyster River Forest, Durham	K. Dorsey
11/15	132	Broad St., Portsmouth, NH	C. Duford



Lapland Longspur by Len Medlock, 10-23-2016, Rye, NH.

Lapland Longspur

09/26	1	Sherman's Farm, Conway	T. Vazzano
10/22	3	Rye Harbor SP	J. Sparrell, K. Towler
10/23	2	Depot Rd., Hampton Falls	J. Maher
10/23	5	Rye Harbor SP	C. McPherson, P. Miliotis
10/31	4	Hampton Beach SP	P. Miliotis

Snow Bunting

10/25	1	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Fenton
10/26	2	Franconia Notch SP	D. Sarausky
11/03	118	Rye Harbor SP	J. Maher
11/07	50	W. Massabesic Rockingham Trail, Manchester	C. Sheridan
11/10	100	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard
11/13	380	Hampton Beach SP	J. Berry, A. Steenstrup

Warblers

Warblers were sparse, in general, but frequently lingered during this fall season. Ovenbirds were reported in typically low numbers, with no reports of more than two away from breeding sites (only October records are listed). A notable exception to the low numbers was a remarkable six Louisiana Waterthrush, as this species almost completely departs the state in July. Perhaps the dry season caused some birds to linger later. In contrast, only 24 Northern Waterthrush were reported for the season. Banding data suggests that this is one of the most abundant fall migrants in the state, but it is often difficult to detect. A Blue-winged Warbler on September 24 was over one month after the next latest report of the species. Likewise, a Tennessee Warbler on October 17 was on the late side for that normally early migrant species. A **Prothonotary Warbler** was photographed in early November in North Hampton, a truly incredible record as there are only five previously accepted records of this southern species (plus a few historic reports that were never addressed by the NH Rare Birds Committee), all from spring or early summer.

At least 27 Orange-crowned Warblers were reported during the fall, reflective of the increasing frequency with which the species is recorded in the state (for comparison 12 were reported in 2008, a remarkable number at the time). This uncommon species often favors the coast and 16 of the reports were within 10 miles of the coast. For more, see the Spotlight on Orange-crowned Warbler by Bob Quinn in the Fall 2010 issue (Vol. 29 No.3) of *New Hampshire Bird Records*. Nashville Warbler is one of the more typical late migrants and six were reported between October 29 and November 2.



Connecticut Warbler by Steve Mirick, 9-17-2016, Durham, NH.

Connecticut Warbler is a rare migrant and can be extremely challenging to identify. This year's well-photographed bird not only stumped the experienced observer but the Season Editor as well. The bill, however, was slightly too heavy and the breast and throat too brown for Mourning Warbler. Two Mourning Warblers was well below normal for this skulking warbler. Common Yellowthroats frequently linger along the coast until the end of the season, but one in Colebrook on November 26 was

notable for the high latitude at which it was found so late in the season. A Magnolia Warbler on the coast on November 4 was also quite late. Bay-breasted Warbler is scarce in fall, especially on the coast, so although six was an above-average number, it is no surprise that all the records were inland. Yellow Warblers mostly depart the state in September, so two on October 25 were notable.

Date # Location Observer

Ovenbird

10/08	1	Grey Rocks CA, Hebron	D. Schamp
10/16	1	Horse Hill Nature Preserve, Merrimack	A. Ammirati

Louisiana Waterthrush

08/06	1	Strafford County Farm Complex, Dover	D. Hubbard
08/09	1	Woodridge Park, Durham	K. Dorsey
08/09	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard
08/12	1	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	R. Burnett
08/13	1	St. Gaudens Natl. Historic Site, Cornish	W. Haugh
08/14	1	Ten Rod Rd., Rochester	D. Hubbard

Northern Waterthrush

08/20	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	S. Wrisley, J. Pettipas
09/15	1	Urban Forestry Center, Portsmouth	J. Sparrell
09/16	1	Cornish boat launch	A. Hulsey
09/21	1	Exeter WTP	L. McKillop

Blue-winged Warbler

08/10	1	Old Hillsboro Rd., Henniker	A. Moser
08/17	2	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard
09/24	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	S.& J. Mirick

Black-and-white Warbler

08/23	8	McNair Easement, Lead Mine Rd., Madison	G. Bailey, S. Wilcox
10/04	2	Musquash Pond, Hudson	S. Wong
10/09	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	J. Maher
10/21	1	Antioch Univ. New England, Keene	C. Witko,
			K. Vande Vusse, S. Lamonde, D. DuBois



Birders watching for the Prothonotary Warbler in N. Hampton, by Steve Mirick, 11-12-2016 (left to right: Rich Aaronian, Jim Sparrell, Steve Bennett, Ben Griffith, Kyle Wilmarth, Greg Tillman, Lauren Kras, and Jason Lambert).

FALL SEASON

Date # Location Observer



Prothonotary Warbler by Amy Kane, 11-8-2016, N. Hampton, NH.

Prothonotary Warbler

11/08 1 N. Hampton State Beach A. Kane
11/12 1 Little Boars Head, N. Hampton S. Mirick, et al.

Tennessee Warbler

09/17 3 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye J. McDermott
09/21 2 Harrington Dr., Merrimack P. Schippani
09/25 2 Morrills Farm, Penacook R. Suomala
09/26 2 Birch St. Community Garden, Concord P. Brown
09/27 2 Brentwood Mitigation Area J. Sparrell, K. Towler
09/28 2 Dorr Woolen Mill WTP, Newport D. Jackson
09/29 1 Birch St. Community Garden, Concord S. Wrisley, D. Lipsey
10/17 1 Woodmont Orchard, Hollis C. Sheridan



Orange-crowned Warbler by Steve Mirick, 10-18-2016, Hampton Falls, NH.

Orange-crowned Warbler

10/18 2 Depot Rd., Hampton Falls S. Mirick
10/22 2 Odiorne Pt. SP, s. end, Rye S. Mirick
11/12 4 Portsmouth City Park, Harvard St. S. Mirick

Nashville Warbler

09/24 4 Birch St. Community Garden, Concord R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
10/29 1 Penacook survey route P. Hunt
10/29 1 Sea Rd., N. Hampton S. Mirick
10/29 1 Urban Forestry Center, Portsmouth B. Griffith
10/30 1 Goss Farm, Rye K. Wilmarth
10/30 1 Exeter WTP B. Griffith
11/02 1 South Mill Pond, Portsmouth K. Towler

Date # Location Observer

Connecticut Warbler

09/17 1 Rt. 155A farm fields, Durham S. Mirick

Mourning Warbler

08/17 1 Antrim Rd., Hancock E. Masterson
09/15 1 Dahl WS, Conway C. Nims, J. Scott

Common Yellowthroat

09/17 16 Birch St. Community Garden, Concord R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
09/20 15 Cornish boat launch A. Hulsey
11/21 1 Exeter WTP L. McKillop
11/26 1 Colebrook WTP E. Edwards

American Redstart

08/21 5 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye S. Mirick
09/05 5 AMC Cold River Camp, Chatham P. Moynahan, N. Houlihan
09/15 5 Bohanan Farm, Hopkinton R. Quinn
10/04 1 South Rd., E. Kingston D. Finch
10/04 1 Ten Rod Rd., Rochester D. Hubbard
11/14 1 Harvard St., Portsmouth D. Hubbard

Cape May Warbler

08/08 1 Pleasant L., New London D. Jackson
08/23 1 Lake Sunapee D. Jackson
09/12 1 Carter Hill Orchard, Concord D. Jackson
09/16 2 Littleton R. Titus
09/25 2 Tilton Hill Rd., Pittsfield A. Robbins
09/26 2 Magalloway R. Trail, Umbagog NWR, Wentworths Location B. Schweinhart
09/28 2 Lakeview Dr., Strafford S. Young
09/30 1 Ash Brook wetland, Keene C. Ross

Northern Parula

09/26 6 Brentwood Mitigation Area S. Mirick
10/06 2 Dahl WS, Conway C. Nims, J. Scott
10/07 1 Urban Forestry Center, Portsmouth S. Mirick
10/30 1 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye S. Mirick, BBC FT

Magnolia Warbler

09/24 6 Dahl WS, Conway S. Mesick
10/03 2 Pickering Ponds, Rochester M. Wilson
10/10 1 Lake Durand, Randolph D. Forsyth
11/04 1 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye S. Young

Bay-breasted Warbler

08/15 1 Scott Bog Rd., Pittsburg J. Sparrell, K. Towler
09/15 1 Jefferson Notch Rd., WMNF J. Maher
09/15 1 Woodward Rd., Westmoreland A. Burnett
09/21 1 Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem S. Jones
09/28 1 Sunset Shores Rd., New London D. Jackson
09/30 1 Woodmont Orchard, Hollis M. Resch

Blackburnian Warbler

09/04 6 Cowper Rd., Wolfeboro D. Doherty, et al.
09/30 1 Woodmont Orchard, Hollis M. Resch
10/16 1 Birch St. Community Garden, Concord S. Wrisley, J. Pettipas, J. Maher

Yellow Warbler

10/01 1 Birch St. Community Garden, Concord D. Lania

Date	#	Location	Observer
10/01	1	Sycamore Field Community Gardens, Concord	D. Jackson
10/25	1	Pine Hill Rd., Nashua	M. Monette
10/25	1	salt marsh s. of Rt. 286, Seabrook	J. Smith

Chestnut-sided Warbler

08/14	9	Beech Hill trails, Dublin	B. Swift
09/21	1	Cherry Pond, Jefferson	S. Turner
09/22	1	Cornish boat launch	A. Hulsey
09/23	2	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
09/23	5	Fowler's Mill Rd., Tamworth	S. Mesick

Blackpoll Warbler

09/12	10	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Fenton
10/08	10	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	S. Mirick, Seacoast CFT
10/15	12	NH coast	S. Mirick
11/06	1	NH coast	J. Mirick
11/13	1	Eel Pond, Rye	S. Mirick

Black-throated Blue Warbler

08/25	10	Mt. Kearsarge	S. Gremel
09/20	3	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	A. Burnett
09/27	3	Pillsbury SP, Washington	J. Swatt
09/30	3	Cornish boat launch	A. Hulsey
10/23	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	J. Pettipas, S. Wrisley, Z. Cornell, et al.

Palm Warbler

11/11	1	Exeter WTP	L. McKillop
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Palm Warbler - Western subsp.

09/26	12	Birch St. Community Garden, Concord	P. Brown
11/12	1	Portsmouth City Park, Harvard St.	J. Mirick

Palm Warbler - Yellow subsp.

10/02	19	Depot Rd., Barnstead	J. Lambert
10/04	21	Sherman's Farm, Conway	C. Nims, J. Scott
10/08	35	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson
11/10	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard

Pine Warbler

09/11	14	Contoocook R. Park/Island Shores Estates, Penacook	P. Hunt
09/19	12	Elm Brook Park, Hopkinton	R. Quinn
11/13	2	N. Hampton State Beach	C. McPherson
11/20	1	Appledore Ave., N. Hampton	S. Mirick

Yellow-rumped Warbler

10/04	60	YMCA, Summit Rd., Keene	E. Synnott
10/08	61	Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem	A. Hulsey
10/09	60	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/ Whitefield	S. Wrisley, J. Pettipas
10/11	60	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
10/14	212	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	M. Resch
10/15	110	Horse Hill Nature Preserve, Merrimack	J. Maher
10/17	50	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith

Prairie Warbler

08/23	8	Freedom Town Forest	A. & G. Robbins
09/04	8	Depot Rd., Barnstead	J. Lambert
09/04	3	Stevens Hill Rd., Nottingham	P. Miliotis
09/25	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	L. McKillop
10/08	1	Goss Farm CA, Rye	S. Mirick, Seacoast CFT

Date	#	Location	Observer
Black-throated Green Warbler			
08/29	11	Panorama Golf Course, Colebrook	L. Charron
09/21	10	Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem	S. Jones
10/15	1	Tilton Hill Rd., Pittsfield	A. Robbins
10/24	1	Exeter WTP	K. Fenton

Canada Warbler

08/15	2	Freedom Town Forest	S. & J. Mesick
08/23	2	Old Homestead Hgwy., Swanzey	P. Kirkhart
09/21	1	Stage Rd., Gilmanton Iron Works	J. McDermott
09/22	1	Cornish boat launch	A. Hulsey



Wilson's Warbler by Steve Mirick, 11-27-2016, Odiorne Point SP, Rye, NH.

Wilson's Warbler

08/05	1	Rye Harbor SP	J. O'Shaughnessy
09/24	2	Elm Brook Park, Hopkinton	M. Wilson
11/27	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	J. Pettipas, S. Mirick

Yellow-breasted Chat

08/21	1	Drake Ln., Rye	J. Butler
09/17	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	K. Wilmarth
09/19	1	South Mill Pond, Portsmouth	J. Sparrell, K. Towler
09/24	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	J. Sparrell, et al.
10/30	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	S. Mirick, P. Miliotis

Warbler sp. (Parulidae sp.)

11/13	1	Eel Pond, Rye	S. Mirick
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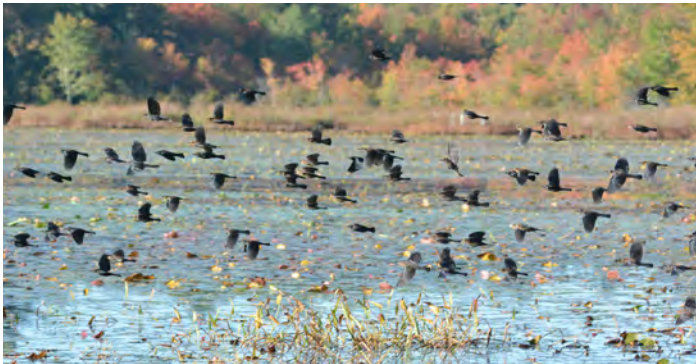
Sparrows to House Sparrow

Nelson's Sparrow is a regular migrant along the coast, but one photographed at Powder House Pond was an unusual location for this species. Six Clay-colored Sparrows were reported for the fall season, an average number of this uncommon migrant in recent years. Lark Sparrow is a rare fall migrant, with most occurring on the coast, but this year all three reports were from inland locations. Savannah Sparrow records are muddled by the presence of two subspecies in the fall and inconsistent reporting.

A Scarlet Tanager on November 1 was exceptionally late for that species, while a **Western Tanager** photographed in

FALL SEASON

Freedom in September was unusually early for this rare vagrant. There's only one other fall record in the past 30 years (on November 30), while the species has been recorded with some regularity in winter during recent years. A total of 26 Dickcissels were reported for the season, a historically high number, but not exceptional in recent years. Rusty Blackbirds have been a species of high conservation interest in recent years after anecdotal data suggested population declines. These haven't necessarily been reflected in the state during fall migration and this fall three flocks containing large numbers of this boreal-breeding blackbird were noted.



Rusty Blackbirds by Kyle Wilmarth, 10-5-2016, World End Pond, Salem, NH.

Continuing the theme of exceptionally late birds, a remarkable three Baltimore Orioles lingered into November. Although this species does occasionally linger late into the fall, three in a single November has never been recorded previously. Likewise, an Orchard Oriole reported on August 21 was exceptional, as the species generally departs the state by mid-July.

Each fall birders look forward to periodic, unpredictable irruptions of finches. This year many species showed early signs of irruptions. Species exhibiting movements this fall included moderate numbers of Pine Grosbeaks (reported from 12 sites) and Red (seven sites) and White-winged (11 sites) Crossbills. After a several-year drought of Common Redpolls, a total of six reported in the fall showed promise for a species whose migration typically doesn't peak until December or January. Pine Siskins were widespread in small numbers, but didn't show signs of a larger irruption. Evening Grosbeaks used to be a regular fall and winter feature throughout the state, but have all but disappeared in recent years. This year there were widespread reports with a few along the coast. Nevertheless, this does not compare to historical records, with dozens at feeders throughout the state.

Date	#	Location	Observer
08/13	1	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson
09/25	1	Brookford Farm, Canterbury	J. Lambert

Grasshopper Sparrow

Date	#	Location	Observer
10/21	1	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	L. McKillop
11/15	1	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson

Nelson's Sparrow

10/18	1	Powder House Pond, Exeter	S. Benedetto
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Nelson's Sparrow - Atlantic subsp.

10/19	4	Depot Rd., Hampton Falls	H. Bauer
10/30	4	Beckman's Landing, Seabrook	B. Griffith

Nelson's Sparrow - Interior subsp.

10/30	1	Beckman's Landing, Seabrook	B. Griffith
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Saltmarsh Sparrow

08/07	12	Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
09/11	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	L. & P. Charron

American Tree Sparrow

10/24	3	Mechanic St., Gorham	W. O'Brien
10/24	2	Tullando Farm, Orford	J. MacQueen
11/13	20	Oyster River Forest, Durham	K. Dorsey
11/26	19	Carter Hill Orchard, Concord	D. Moulton

Chipping Sparrow

09/20	55	Carter Hill Orchard, Concord	K. Fenton
10/01	65	Birch St. Community Garden, Concord	J. Maher
10/22	55	Greeley Park, Nashua	C. Sheridan
11/10	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	P. Wood
11/15	1	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson



Clay-colored Sparrow by Jeanne-Marie Maher, 10-17-2016, Greeley Park, Nashua, NH.

Clay-colored Sparrow

09/24	1	Sunapee State Beach, Newbury	D. Jackson
09/27	1	Urban Forestry Center, Portsmouth	R. Prieto
10/17	1	Birch St. Community Garden, Concord	S. Mirick
10/17	1	Greeley Park, Nashua	J. Maher
10/18	1	Oyster River Forest, Durham	K. Dorsey
10/26	1	Goss Farm CA, Rye	K. Towler

Field Sparrow

09/04	10	Depot Rd., Barnstead	J. Lambert
10/01	10	Busch Farm CA, Newton	E. Nathan, A. Itz
10/02	14	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson
10/31	8	Piscassic Greenway, Newfields	S. Dennett
11/08	1	Farm Rd., Kingston	S. Heron

Date # Location Observer



Lark Sparrow by Christopher McPherson, 8-20-2016, Exeter WTP, NH.

Lark Sparrow

08/20 1 Exeter WTP C. McPherson, P. Miliotis, et al.
 08/21 1 Pickering Ponds, Rochester R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
 09/28 1 Birch St. Community Garden, Concord R. Suomala,
 Z. Cornell, K. Frieden, et al.

Fox Sparrow

08/30 1 Ridgewood Rd., Bartlett R. Steber
 10/01 2 Mink Brook Nature Preserve, Hanover A. Causey
 11/05 5 Jim Hill Riverwalk, Concord P. Brown

Dark-eyed Junco

10/13 105 Saco R. fields near Attitash Mt., Bartlett R. Steber
 10/18 125 Carter Hill Orchard, Concord K. Fenton
 10/27 100 Damsite Rd., Barnstead J. Lambert
 10/29 166 Penacook survey route P. Hunt

White-crowned Sparrow

09/23 2 Penacook survey route P. Hunt
 09/24 2 Elm Brook Park, Hopkinton M. Wilson
 09/24 2 Washington Seventh-day Adventist Church
 B. Pendleton
 09/28 16 Greeley Park, Nashua J. Maher
 10/11 15 Mechanic St., Gorham W. O'Brien
 10/31 10 Antioch Univ. New England, Keene C. Witko
 11/02 4 Woodmont Orchard, Hollis C. McPherson
 11/04 1 Greeley Park, Nashua J. Maher
 11/11 1 Strafford County Farm Complex, Dover A. Murray

White-throated Sparrow

10/04 60 Cornish boat launch A. Hulsey
 10/08 80 Tullando Farm, Orford B. Hancock
 10/18 150 Carter Hill Orchard, Concord K. Fenton
 10/19 65 Loudon Rd. fields behind PO, Concord
 R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, K. Frieden

Vesper Sparrow

09/24 1 Woodmont Orchard, Hollis C. McPherson
 09/26 1 Birch St. Community Garden, Concord P. Brown
 10/12 1 Greeley Park, Nashua J. Maher
 10/14 3 Woodmont Orchard, Hollis M. Resch
 10/14 2 Squamscott Rd. farm fields, Stratham S. Mirick
 10/16 1 Exeter WTP S. Heron
 10/18 1 YMCA, Summit Rd., Keene P. Gurn, E. Synnott

Date # Location Observer

10/19 1 Loudon Rd. fields behind PO, Concord
 R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, K. Frieden
 10/19 1 Rt. 155A farm fields, Durham M. Jacobson
 10/20 1 Fields Grove, Nashua J. Maher

Savannah Sparrow

10/04 80 Sherman's Farm, Conway J. Scott, C. Nims
 10/08 145 Woodmont Orchard, Hollis C. McPherson
 10/19 65 Loudon Rd. fields behind PO, Concord
 R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, K. Frieden
 11/18 4 Woodmont Orchard, Hollis J. Maher
 11/23 1 Tullando Farm, Orford J. MacQueen
 11/27 1 Hawkin's Farm, Salem K. Wilmarth



Savannah Sparrow - Ipswich subsp. by Steve Mirick, 10-29-2016, Plaice Cove, Hampton, NH.

Savannah Sparrow - Ipswich subsp.

10/15 3 Rt. 1A, second pullout s. of Odiorne Pt., Rye
 D. Jackson, S. Heron
 10/30 7 Hampton Beach SP M. Watson
 10/31 4 Rye Harbor SP P. Brown

Song Sparrow

10/14 50 1785 Inn, Rt. 302, Conway R. Steber
 10/17 50 Birch St. Community Garden, Concord S. Mirick
 10/19 120 Loudon Rd. fields behind PO, Concord
 R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, K. Frieden

Lincoln's Sparrow

08/21 1 Campton Pond R. Robertson
 09/06 1 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye P. Graber
 09/27 12 Carter Hill Orchard, Concord K. Fenton
 09/28 10 Birch St. Community Garden, Concord
 R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, K. Frieden, et al.
 10/02 10 Woodmont Orchard, Hollis C. McPherson
 11/01 1 Birch St. Community Garden, Concord S. Bennett
 11/05 1 Exeter WTP C. McPherson

Swamp Sparrow

09/26 30 Sherman's Farm, Conway T. Vazzano
 10/04 25 Rt. 107 beaver ponds, Seabrook G. Gavutis
 10/08 22 Woodmont Orchard, Hollis C. McPherson
 11/20 2 Portsmouth City Park, Harvard St. S. Mirick
 11/27 1 Peterborough WTP P. Brown

FALL SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
Eastern Towhee			
08/06	15	Ponemah Bog WS, Amherst	C. Sheridan
10/07	6	Freedom Town Forest	S. Mesick
10/22	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Kallenbach, R. Beilawski, J. Maher, M. Pahl
11/07	1	Mine Falls Park, Nashua	J. Maher
11/20	1	Portsmouth City Park, Harvard St.	S. Mirick

Scarlet Tanager

08/27	8	Horse Hill Rd., Roxbury	K. Rosenberg
10/06	2	Dahl WS, Conway	C. Nims, J. Scott
10/19	1	Greeley Park, Nashua	J. Maher
11/01	1	Laurelcrest Dr., Brookline	J. Morrissey

Western Tanager

09/26	1	Freedom Town Forest	G. Bailey, S. Wilcox
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Rose-breasted Grosbeak

08/03	10	South Rd., Kensington	G. Gavutis
09/06	5	Dahl WS, Conway	N. Houlihan, P. Moynahan
09/29	1	Green Hill Rd., Chatham	B. Crowley

Indigo Bunting

08/09	31	Morrills Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
09/25	20	Abbott Rd. stump dump, Penacook	R. Suomala
10/05	1	Cornish boat launch	A. Hulsey
10/06	1	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Fenton



Dickcissel by Leo McKillop, 10-21-2016, Woodmont Orchard, Hollis, NH.

Dickcissel

08/29	1	Rt. 1A, Hampton	K. Rosenberg
09/15	1	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	J. Maher
09/28	3	Great Bay Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick
10/05	3	Exeter Station	S. Benedetto
10/06	2	Greeley Park, Nashua	J. Maher
11/22	1	Arboretum Dr., Newington	K. Couture

Bobolink

08/07	22	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson
08/13	50	Trask Brook Rd, Newport/Sunapee	D. Jackson
08/28	22	World End Pond, Salem	S. Heron, R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
10/22	1	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson
10/30	1	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick

Red-winged Blackbird

08/15	1600	Thirty Pines area, Penacook	P. Hunt
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Date	#	Location	Observer
10/01	900	Birch St. Community Garden, Concord	D. Jackson
10/09	2420	Birch St. Community Garden, Concord	D. Jackson
11/14	25	Borthwick Ave. marsh, Portsmouth	A. Murray, P. Farr

Eastern Meadowlark

08/27	5	Pease Int'l. Tradeport, Short St., Newington	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
10/07	1	Rt. 1A pools s. of Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	S. Turner
10/16	1	Rt. 155A farm fields, Durham	A. Murray, P. Farr
10/17	1	Birch St. Community Garden, Concord	S. Mirick
10/27	5	Strafford County Farm Complex, Dover	D. Hubbard



Rusty Blackbird by Christopher McPherson, 10-16-2016, Woodmont Orchard, Hollis, NH.

Rusty Blackbird

09/17	1	Old Concord Rd., Henniker	A. Moser
09/21	1	N. Barnstead Rd., Barnstead	J. Lambert
10/05	73	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
10/16	65	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson
10/30	56	Old Concord Rd., Henniker	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
11/24	1	Warren	J. Cordero

Common Grackle

10/08	1000	Exeter WTP	J. Pettipas
10/29	100,000	Great Bog, Portsmouth	S. Mirick
11/05	1000	High Rd., Lee	P. Farr
11/22	50	Hampton Falls Rd., Exeter	P. Wood

Brown-headed Cowbird

08/03	50	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth, A. Altena
08/22	45	Akers Pond, Errol	D. Dionne
09/28	70	Greeley Park, Nashua	J. Maher
09/30	75	Rt. 1A, Seabrook	S. Mirick
11/06	175	Great Bay Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick
11/10	1	Gorham	W. O'Brien
11/19	1	Arboretum Dr., Newington	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell

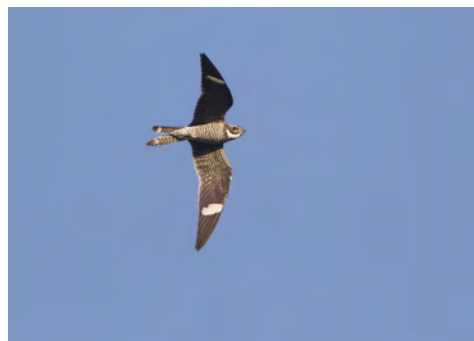
Orchard Oriole

08/21	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
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FALL SEASON

Concord Nighthawk Migration Study – 2016 Update

by Rob Woodward



Common Nighthawk on one of the peak fall migration days, by Jason Lambert, 8-26-2016, Barnstead, NH.

Another record-breaking season was set in 2016 with a final tally of 6,891 Common Nighthawks passing over the Capital Commons Parking Garage in Concord (Figure 1). My project partner Zeke Cornell started the count on August 15 with zero nighthawks followed by one on August 17. This tells us that we started the count at the beginning of migration and probably didn't miss many birds prior to this date. We counted every night thereafter until September 8 when we hit zero again.

I joined Zeke on August 18 when we hit triple digits with 173 birds. With the passage of a cold front, we bottomed out on August 22 with another zero count. Then things really turned around in our favor. The next night, we counted 278 nighthawks and then another 485 the following night. Then, the floodgates opened. The nights of August 26 and 27 were like we had never seen before. Consider the difficulty of trying to describe the sensation of seeing nighthawks fill the sky, literally by the thousands, swirling and soaring in a huge mass. Breathtaking is one word that comes to mind.

On August 26, we counted 2,014 nighthawks between 5:30 and 7:30 pm, a new record single-day count for this project. The weather for August 27 was warm, in the 80s, with a southwest wind; perfect! What's more, my notes say "ants on cars," meaning an abundance of flying ants. We and other nighthawk researchers have noticed a link between the presence of flying ants and a strong nighthawk migration. In keeping with these findings, we broke the record of the night before with 2,344 nighthawks. We already had a season total that exceeded all prior seasons except one.

We hit triple digits again on August 30 and 31, creating the "second peak" at the same or nearly the same date we have recorded it in prior years (Figure 2). Thereafter, we recorded a small but steady trickle for the remainder of the season. The season only lasts about three weeks, but it is so condensed that 78% of the birds were counted in just a five day period.

Date	#	Location	Observer
Baltimore Oriole			
11/02	1	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch
11/09	1	Little Boars Head, N. Hampton	S. Mirick
11/19	1	Exeter	L. Semrau
Blackbird sp.			
10/29	4000	Rt. 155A farm fields, Durham	K. Dorsey
Pine Grosbeak			
10/26	1	Shelburne	W. O'Brien
11/04	8	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Fenton
11/12	8	Rt. 3, Pittsburg	D. Jackson
11/16	7	Chickwolnepy Rd., Milan	D. Forsyth
11/23	8	The Balsams & trails, Colebrook	L. Charron
11/24	14	Lake Francis, Pittsburg	E. Edwards
Purple Finch			
08/24	22	Watts WS, Effingham	A. & G. Robbins
10/01	15	Melanie Ln., Bow	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
10/05	20	Wilton	G. Coffey
10/11	25	Carter Hill Orchard, Concord	K. Fenton
10/27	15	Tracey Dr., Errol	P. Charron
10/29	18	Tilton Hill Rd., Pittsfield	A. Robbins
Red Crossbill			
08/07	1	Ossipee Lake Rd., Freedom	A. & G. Robbins
08/09	1	Little Dan Hole Pond, Ossipee	D. Small, M. Gimpel
11/02	12	Tilton Hill Rd., Pittsfield	G. Robbins
11/05	2	Carter Hill Orchard, Concord	P. Brown
11/06	2	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Fenton
11/13	2	Sanborn Road pond, Ashland	I. MacLeod
White-winged Crossbill			
08/21	6	Breton Woods, Carroll	R. Robertson
08/24	1	Watts WS, Effingham	A. & G. Robbins
09/03	5	Upper Magalloway R., Wentworths Location	J. Maher
11/02	2	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch
11/10	3	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Fenton
11/17	4	Tilton Hill Rd., Pittsfield	G. Robbins
Common Redpoll			
11/05	11	Akers Pond, Errol	D. Dionne
11/05	1	Exeter WTP	K. Wilmarth
11/08	1	Tilton Hill Rd., Pittsfield	G. Robbins
11/13	1	Oyster River Forest, Durham	K. Dorsey
11/15	2	Carter Hill Orchard, Concord	K. Fenton
11/19	3	Miller SP, Pack Monadnock	K. Fenton
Pine Siskin			
10/02	20	Tracey Dr., Errol	P. Charron
10/30	11	Wentworth Hotel, Jackson	D. Berard
10/30	11	Tilton Hill Rd., Pittsfield	A. Robbins
11/05	10	Carter Hill Orchard, Concord	P. Brown
11/05	11	Ten Rod Rd., Rochester	D. Hubbard
Evening Grosbeak			
10/27	4	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch
10/28	10	Dort Rd., Surry	K. Reeves
11/22	6	Rt. 95 Liquor Store, Hampton	N. Houlihan
11/26	37	Chickwolnepy Rd., Milan	J. Scott, K. Rawdon, C. Nims
11/26	1	Causeway St., Seabrook	S. Mirick
11/30	16	Hammond Hollow Rd., Gilsum	M. Wright

Fall 2016 New Hampshire Raptor Migration Report

by Iain MacLeod

Pack Monadnock Raptor Migration Observatory, Peterborough, NH

Fall 2016 marked the twelfth consecutive fall season of daily coordinated counts conducted at the Pack Monadnock Raptor Migration Observatory at Miller State Park. The count is conducted under the leadership of New Hampshire Audubon under a formal agreement with the NH Division of State Parks. The full time Seasonal Counter/Interpreter for 2016 was again Katrina Fenton. I was the official counter on Mondays and other days were filled in by Henry Walters. Phil Brown served as the Raptor Observatory Coordinator for NH Audubon.

Full site coverage was maintained daily from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm EST (or close to), from September 1 to November 20. Out of a possible 81 days, weather prevented counts on only 11 days. Observers tallied 527 hours on the remaining 70 days (222 hours in September; 196.75 hours in October; and 108.25 hours in November). A total of 13,466 individual migratory raptors were recorded. That equals 25.6 raptors per hour. The raptors per hour ratio for each month was: September 54.4; October 5.7; and November 2.4. We work hard for our birds in November!

The previous 10-year average is 11,910 raptors (10-year averages in this account refer to data from 2006-2015). Pretty much everything was down compared to last year's stellar season, but most species totals were close to their 10-year averages. New season-high counts were recorded for Bald Eagle and Turkey Vulture.

Graph Note: I have included some trend graphs for certain species, ten year trends for Pack Monadnock and five years for Carter Hill. In previous years, I have presented trends by using count divided by effort (species season total divided by hours of counting), but this year's graphs are strictly the raw annual counts for each species. For some species I was beginning to question whether our increased late-season hours were "diluting" the counts of certain early season species such as Osprey and American Kestrel. You can conceivably develop a "flight period" calculation for those species and only use the hours within the period of days that species was seen, but I didn't go through that effort. The fact that we have been generally consistent in our hours in recent years makes it more feasible to use total birds.

Turkey Vultures are seen almost daily through late October, moving in all directions, so the counters are very conservative about what is recorded as "migrating." This year



A crowd of people watching and counting nighthawks at sunset on the Capital Commons Garage with Rob Woodward and Zeke Cornell, 8-26-2017. Photo by Bob Linna.

I am happy to report that over the years interest in this project has grown, as reflected in the increasing number of visitors to the site. My hope is that Zeke and others will continue to count Common Nighthawks systematically and build on the solid base of data collected over the last nine years.

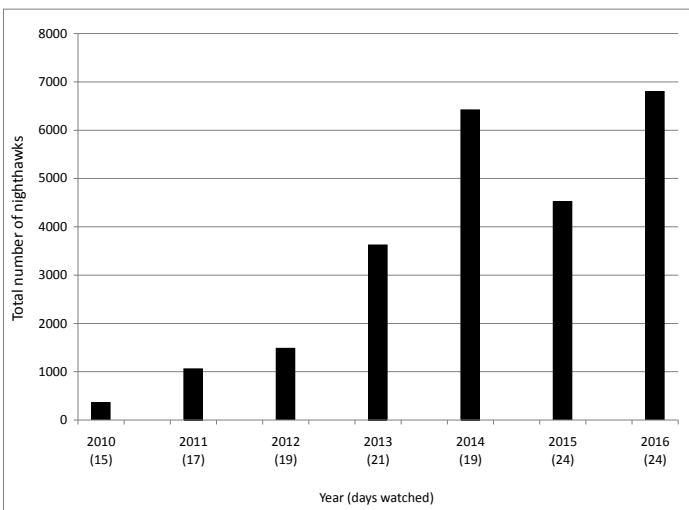


Figure 1. Total number of migrating Common Nighthawks by year in August and early September in Concord, NH. Rob Woodward started this project in 2008 but in 2010 moved from the legislative parking garage to Capital Commons and effort became more consistent.

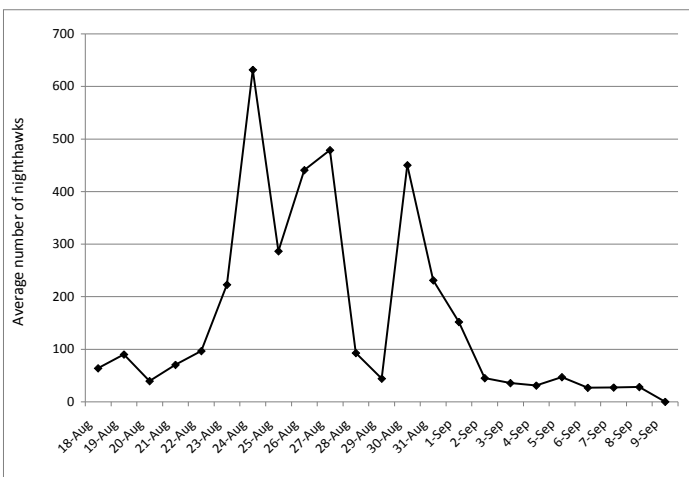


Figure 2. Average number of migrating Common Nighthawks by date in Concord, NH, 2008-2016.

Rob Woodward retired from state government and now enjoys birding every day in his new home in Sierra Vista, Arizona.

a new count site record was achieved; 322 were assumed to be migrating (10-year average = 116). That total is more than double last year and significantly more than our previous season high (164). In September, 127 were tallied, while last year we only counted 25 in that month. So . . . were there more TVs migrating earlier? . . . or did more local birds fool us into thinking they were migrating?

The **Osprey** count of 242 was 20% higher than last year; still well below the 2012 record high (314), but close to the 10-year average of 248. In September, 212 were seen, with the peak flight day of September 23, when an impressive 36 were counted. Only 36 were seen in the entire month of October and one very late bird passed by on November 4. The 10-year trend shows a decline in the overall count, but the last four years show a slight increase after a significant drop between 2012 and 2013.

The **Bald Eagle** total (136) set a new season-high count and marks the fifth consecutive season of more than 100 Bald Eagles (Figure 1). The Bald Eagle migration is quite spread out and the two peak days of nine birds each were September 29 and November 13. The 10-year trend is nothing but up, up, up!

Figure 1. Ten-year Bald Eagle trend at Pack Monadnock Raptor Migration Observatory, NH, 2007-2016.

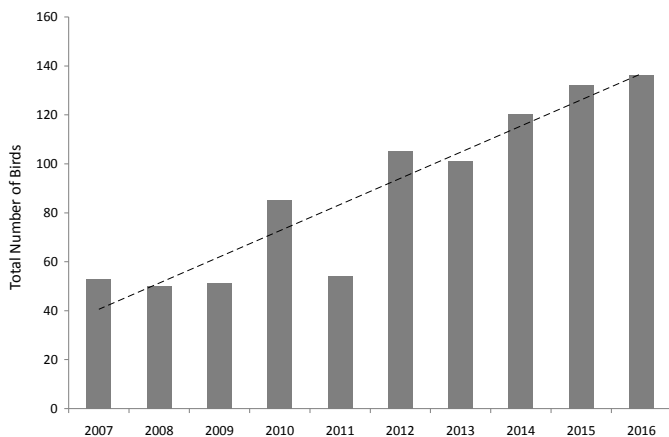
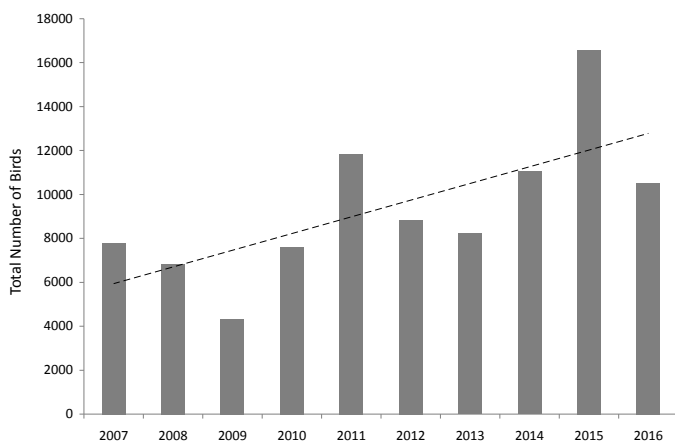


Figure 2. Ten-year Broad-winged Hawk trend at Pack Monadnock Raptor Migration Observatory, NH, 2007-2016.



The tally of 92 **Northern Harriers** was well below the record high number of 2015 (down 26%) and slightly below the 10-year average of 95.

The **Sharp-shinned Hawk** count (1,126) was well down compared to last year and below the 10-year average (1,248). We had solid numbers in September (722, which is slightly below the 10-year average of 735), but October numbers were well down (387 compared to the 10-year average of 477). Generally we have a larger percentage of juvenile Sharp-shinneds earlier in the season and the adults come through later. So, where were the adults? Are more “short-stopping”?, i.e., not migrating as far as they used to because the warming climate allows them to stay farther north. We only had 17 in November, so unless there was an unprecedented late November push, they did not come through this year. A look at the 10-year trend suggests a very stable count.

Cooper’s Hawks had a solid year with a total of 163 (10-year average = 158). **Northern Goshawks** had a slightly above average year with 48 counted (10-year average = 42).

The **Red-shouldered Hawk** count was 117, which is well down from last year and the lowest count since 2011 but right on the 10-year average of 110. The **Broad-winged Hawk** count was good (10,530, our fourth highest count ever), but well below last year’s record of 16,593. The best flight was on September 15 (3,245, Table 1). We had another two-day push on September 21 and 22 with 1,667 and 2,706 respectively. The ten-year graph shows a lot of annual fluctuation, but the trend is clearly up (Figure 2).

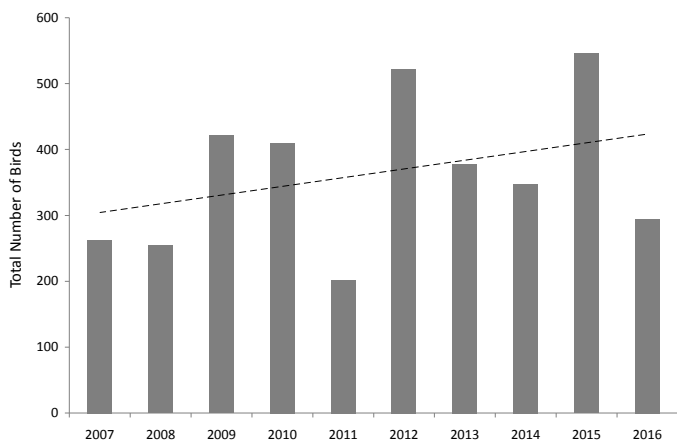
The **Red-tailed Hawk** tally of 294 was well down from last year and below the previous 10-year average of 375.

Table 1. Broad-winged Hawk fall migration totals and peak counts at Pack Monadnock, NH, 2005-2016.

Year	Total	Highest one-day count	Date
2005	3,978	1,687	Sept. 18
2006	7,595	3,044	Sept. 11
2007	7,776	2,676	Sept. 16
2008	6,835	2,424	Sept. 18
2009	4,322	2,042	Sept. 16
2010	7,557	3,328	Sept. 18
2011	11,831	5,208	Sept. 18
2012	8,848	2,556	Sept. 17
2013	8,221	2,759	Sept. 17
2014	11,043	4,101	Sept. 15
2015	16,693	3,959	Sept. 17
2016	10,530	3,245	Sept. 15

Overall, the trend line is positive (Figure 3), but the graph once again bears out the “boom and bust” pattern that I have mentioned before of high counts on a three year cycle (highs in 2009, 2012 and 2015). The hypothesis is that the pattern is tied to fluctuations in red-backed vole populations (or other tree mast-dependent mammals) in the Canadian boreal forests. We can assume that next year will be a low year and we’ll see another peak in 2018. Peak flight day this year was October 26 when 34 were counted. For the fourth straight year, a single **Rough-legged Hawk** was recorded – this year on October 26.

Figure 3. Ten-year Red-tailed Hawk trend at Pack Monadnock Raptor Migration Observatory, NH, 2007-2016.



Five **Golden Eagles** were seen which was less than half of last year’s record flight (10-year average = 8). The **American Kestrel** count rebounded this year (41% higher than last year), but the overall trend is still steadily down (Figure 4). The **Merlin** count (96) was down a little this year compared to last year, but higher than the 10-year average of 87 (Figure 4). A tally of 49 **Peregrine Falcons** was slightly less than last year but above the 10-year average of 41.

Carter Hill Raptor Observatory, Concord

Carter Hill Raptor Observatory logged 527 hours between September 1 and November 15 and counted 6,828 raptors which is slightly below their previous 8-year average of 6,975. This is the ninth year for this count, which is organized by NH Audubon. Full time Seasonal Counter/Interpreter for 2016 was Isabel Gottlieb with assistance from Katrina Fenton and several other volunteers. Counts were conducted in the same fashion as at Pack Monadnock. The 8-year averages used in this section refer to data from 2008-2015. The count season/hours logged has varied greatly and was much lower in 2008 than in subsequent years, but the last five years, in particular, show an increased effort to standardize data.

A total of 244 **Turkey Vultures** were determined to be migrants (8-year average = 231). The **Osprey** count of 90 was below last year and indeed is the lowest count at this

Figure 4. Ten-year American Kestrel (black) and Merlin (light gray) trends at Pack Monadnock Raptor Migration Observatory, NH, 2007-2016.

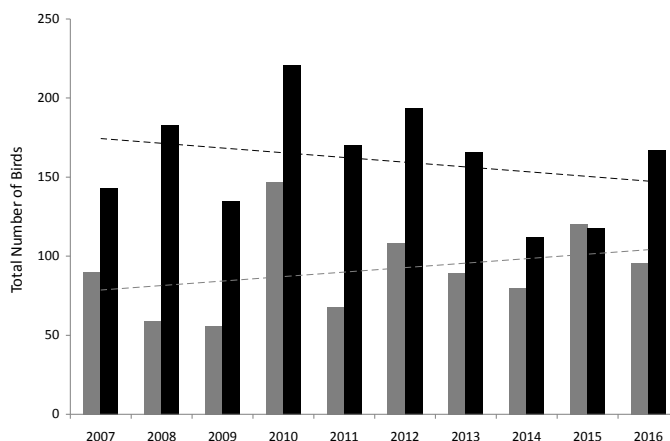
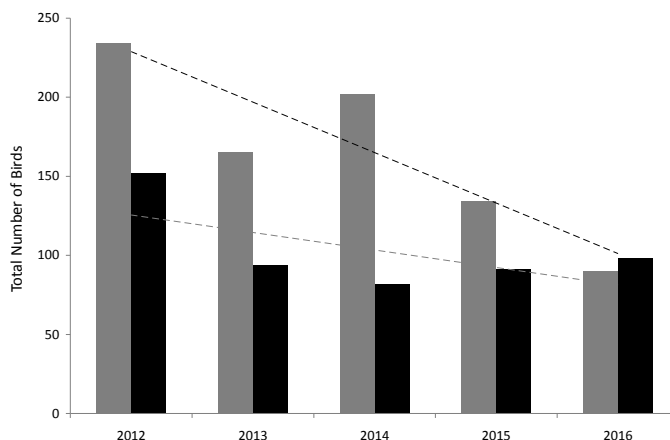


Figure 5. Five-year Osprey (gray) and Bald Eagle (black) trends at Carter Hill Raptor Migration Observatory, NH, 2012-2016.



site since 2009 (the 8-year average is 130). The **Bald Eagle** count of 98 was well below the 2012 record of 152 but still higher than the 8-year average of 75. It’s notable that more Bald Eagles were tallied than Ospreys for the first time. Interestingly, the five-year trend graph shows a decline for both species (Figure 5). The **Northern Harrier** count (71) was down a little compared to the last two years but well above the previous-8-year average of 52.

The **Sharp-shinned Hawk** tally declined precipitously this year. The total of 551 is remarkably low (less than half of each of the last four years) and well below the 8-year average of 742. Where were all the Sharp-shinneds? The 130 **Cooper’s Hawks** counted was slightly less than last year and slightly below the 8-year average (146). The **Northern Goshawk** count (12) was the lowest count since 2008 (8-year average of 16).

The count of 28 **Red-shouldered Hawks** was well below last year (45) and slightly below the 8-year average of 32. The **Broad-winged Hawk** count (5,045) was below last year’s (Table 2). The 8-year average is 4,861. Only 169 **Red-tailed Hawks** were counted which is less than half of last year’s count and a little below the 8-year average.

Table 2. Broad-winged Hawk fall migration totals and peak counts at Carter Hill, NH, 2008-2016.

Year	Total	Highest one-day count	Date
2008	1,904	568	Sept. 13
2009	703	337	Sept. 16
2010	2,422	891	Sept. 18
2011	10,763	7,212	Sept. 18
2012	3,671	1,130	Sept. 20
2013	8,915	4,899	Sept. 19
2014	4,237	1,085	Sept. 13
2015	6,274	1,413	Sept. 23
2016	5,045	3,026	Sept. 16

Three **Golden Eagles** were seen this season matching the high set last year. The 172 **American Kestrels** was almost identical to last year and identical to the 8-year average. The **Merlin** count of 62 was a good jump over last year and higher than the 8-year average of 52. The **Peregrine Falcon** count (22) was just one less than last year and identical to the 8-year average.

Data Source

HawkCount.org. Online raptor migration database of the Hawk Migration Association of North America. Pack Monadnock and Carter Hill.

Iain MacLeod is Executive Director of the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center in Holderness, NH and is on the Board of NorthEast Hawk Watch and former board chair of the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA). Iain founded the Pack Monadnock Raptor Migration Observatory in 2004 and has studied raptors (particularly Ospreys) for 36+ years. Iain is a member of the New Hampshire Bird Records Editorial Team and New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee. He lives in Ashland.

Table 3. Fall raptor migration monitoring data, 2005-2016, from Pack Monadnock and Carter Hill, NH. Source: HMANA's HawkCount.org Database

PACK MONADNOCK

	Obs. Hrs.	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	SW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UR	SE	TOTAL
2016	527	0	322	242	136	92	1126	163	48	117	10530		294	1	5	167	96	49	78		13466
2015	587		137	201	132	125	1443	115	48	141	16593	1	546	1	13	118	120	54	57		19845
2014	491		99	213	120	85	1094	126	22	123	11043	0	348	1	7	112	80	39	53	0	13565
2013	575		142	193	101	100	1254	146	25	118	8221	0	378	1	11	166	89	48	36	1	11030
2012	600.75		164	314	105	91	1388	181	63	209	8848	1	522	1	7	194	108	54	74		12324
2011	368		127	271	54	58	1124	145	21	43	11831		202	0	9	170	68	40	93		14256
2010	574.75		145	298	85	115	1248	168	66	109	7606		410	0	10	221	147	53	105		10786
2009	420.75		80	182	51	88	1196	133	25	129	4322		421	0	6	135	56	30	109		6963
2008	432.75		47	256	50	87	1189	162	28	67	6835		254	0	3	183	59	17	37		9274
2007	410.25		121	291	53	121	1288	186	49	112	7776		263	0	5	143	90	44	82		10624
2006	379.25		99	257	55	77	1253	213	68	46	7595		407	0	11	201	48	29	76		10435
2005	326		29	219	52	24	520	47	11	23	3978		122	0	5	78	40	11	62		5221
Average*	474.38		126	245	83	89	1177	149	40	103	8765	1	347	0	8	157	83	39	72	1	11482

CARTER HILL

	Obs. Hrs.	BV	TV	OS	BE	NH	SS	CH	NG	RS	BW	SW	RT	RL	GE	AK	ML	PG	UR	SE	TOTAL
2016	527		244	90	98	71	551	130	12	28	5045		169	1	3	172	62	22	130		6828
2015	553.75		299	134	91	81	1164	140	21	45	6274		345		3	171	41	23	55		8887
2014	561.75		170	202	82	87	1151	124	14	25	4237		221			243	64	36	222		6878
2013	572.75		333	165	94	66	1198	137	18	59	8915		355	0	0	307	78	17	154		11896
2012	417.75	1	224	234	152	86	1276	207	28	100	3671		273	2	2	305	65	44	472		7142
2011	325.50		149	107	78	32	300	117	15	13	10763		65	0	1	94	59	19	205		12017
2010	302		132	120	60	40	473	211	14	8	2422		72	0	1	166	43	8	620		4390
2009	249		233	38	18	18	251	175	17	6	703		83	1	0	57	48	17	256		1921
2008	202.50		310	38	28	6	125	56	2	3	1904		23	1	0	33	17	13	111		2670
Average*	412.44	1	233	125	78	54	721	144	16	32	4882		178	1	1	172	53	22	247		6959

* all years

Key to Species Abbreviations in Table 3.

BV Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

TV Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)

OS Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

BE Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

NH Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)

SS Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*)

CH Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*)

NG Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)

RS Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*)

BW Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*)

SW Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)

RT Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*)

RL Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*)

GE Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

AK American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)

ML Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)

PG Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)

UR Unidentified Raptor

SE Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*)

Fall 2016 Field Notes

Compiled by Kathryn Frieden

Loon Freed From Fishing Line in Pittsburg

by Tricia Lavallee



This adult Common Loon was photographed by Tricia Lavallee at East Inlet, 8-15-2016. Its behavior alerted her to the presence of its offspring in need of rescue.

I wanted to share with you an experience we had with a juvenile loon that we found ensnared in fishing line at East Inlet in Pittsburg, NH. We love to kayak the East Inlet because there is an abundance of wildlife including Great Blue Herons, Common Loons, Bald Eagles, and the occasional deer or moose. On 8/15, we spent a couple of hours kayaking the inlet and then headed for shore. When we got near the dam area, there was an adult loon calling with a fish in its mouth. We then heard another loon ‘answer’ from the other side of the dam. Upon looking down stream, we noticed that there was a large bird on a small island that was flapping its wings but not really moving anywhere. We then noticed the fishing line leading towards the bird. I headed down the embankment and into the stream towards the bird, while my friend went to the truck to grab the wire cutters and headed down the opposite embankment. When I got to the bird, I could see that it was a juvenile loon and her (or his, but I’ll go with ‘her’) feet were ensnared by fishing line that was wrapped around the bands on her legs. She had been there a while because the grassy area was all matted down and there was quite a bit of poop. Her feet were bone dry.

I cut the line from her, but the stream was fast moving and she really had no place to go. We assumed that she went over the dam because her feet were all tangled. We decided to pick her up and move her to the other side of the dam where

the other loon was waiting with the fish. If we left her where she was, she would have died for sure. We covered her head with a t-shirt and I picked her up to walk her up stream. She pooped on my shoe, but I quickly forgave her. I carried her back up stream about 15 feet and up the embankment. She was moving her feet, so that was a very optimistic sign. Once at the edge of the water on the other side of the dam, I set her down in the water and she didn’t swim away, but started to drink. I put her a little more in the water and she then got her feet wet and started to paddle them. There were 2 adult loons that then started to call and make their way towards the juvenile and she took off towards them. They all met up and swam off.

We went down to ‘Young’s’ store and they called NH Fish and Game for us to tell them what happened. We were hoping someone would do a wellness check on our baby loon. They said the Conservation Officer Chris Egan would check it out. Over the next few days, we kept going back to the East Inlet to check to see that she was OK. On Thursday, 8/18, we took our kayaks out again and saw that the loons all appeared to be doing well (we stayed away the required distance).

Note from Chris Egan to Tricia Lavallee

“I had been notified in the evening regarding a juvenile loon that was below the dam (this happens nearly every fall at East Inlet for some reason). If they are healthy, they can flap and push their way back up over the dam slope into the main body of water. There are just so many people there all day that they wait until dark when there is nobody around because they’re so clumsy on land. I planned to check on the bird the morning after you spotted it, assuming it would have made its way back to the other side. The report the evening before didn’t say it was tangled in line or injured, just swimming below the dam. I’m glad it was someone like you who was able to help the bird out. I’ve been involved in many rescues of animals and people in my 17 year career and have been lucky to have lived in Pittsburg and worked for the Pittsburg patrol since being hired in 1999. I’m glad that you got to experience the same feeling I’ve been lucky enough to have after intervening in a situation that otherwise would have resulted in certain death. The following day, I called John Cooley at the Loon Preservation Committee and advised him of the situation. He believes it was a juvenile that had just been banded a week or two prior.”

Note from John Cooley, Senior Biologist, Loon Preservation Committee

“With loons, fishing line entanglement is one of the most worthwhile rescues to attempt—often there is nothing else wrong with the loon and it will have an excellent chance of recovering and surviving.”

Osprey vs. Bald Eagle

by Fran Keenan

Taken from a post to the NHBirds e-mail list 9-26-2016.

This past Sunday, September 4, my husband and I visited Bristol, NH near Newfound Lake and from the town center we happened to observe a Bald Eagle relentlessly chasing an Osprey that had a large fish in its talons. The eagle and Osprey flew in circles overhead, the Osprey maneuvering more adeptly, but unable to shake the larger bird. The Osprey couldn't stop flapping its wings or fly straight without giving up its advantage. We watched for five minutes before the Osprey dropped the fish and flew off; the eagle at last giving up. I wish we had photos, especially of the person who saw a large fish drop from the sky into their yard!

Peregrine Patriarch in Lawrence, MA

by Chris Martin

Please enjoy this photo taken at the New Balance building in Lawrence, MA, by Massachusetts wildlife photographer Craig Gibson. As many of you may recall, this male peregrine was the runt fourth chick in the very first brood of Peregrine Falcons produced in Manchester, NH in the spring of 2001. "Black/green *6/*4" was first confirmed as a member of a Lawrence, MA nesting pair in April, 2003. Since then, Craig Gibson, Ursula and Dave Goodine, and Massachusetts wildlife biologist Tom French have reconfirmed his identity nearly every year. He is now **15 ½ years old** and among the oldest 1-2% of all peregrines documented in New England during the regional recovery program. He has raised a minimum of 38 fledged young of his own during his tenure in Lawrence. One of his 2013 offspring is now the resident male at the new Merrimack River Rt. 293/101 bridge territory in Bedford/Manchester, NH.

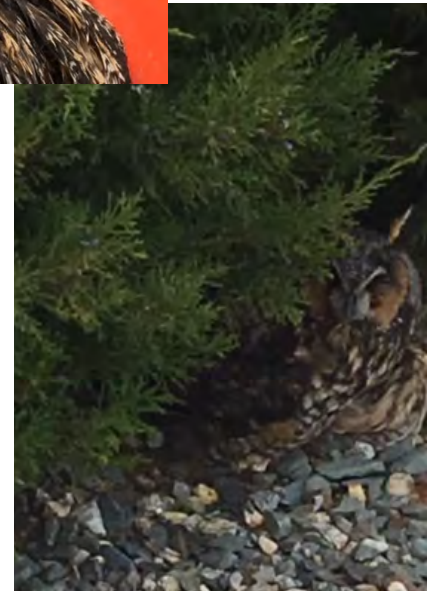


Banded Peregrine Falcon photographed by Craig Gibson, 10-31-2016 in Lawrence, MA.

Long-eared Owl in Seabrook



On November 2, 2016, Pat Pietrowski took these remarkable photos of a Long-eared Owl that she found under a bush in her front yard. It had apparently been hit by a car and suffered a broken wing. She called NH Fish and Game, who took the owl to a wildlife rehabilitator, but unfortunately the owl did not survive.



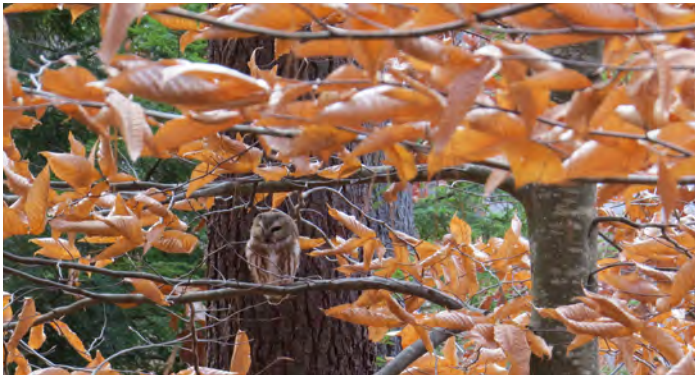
Crossbill? – Not!



This bird generated momentary excitement at the end of Rob Woodward's field trip to the Birch Street Community Gardens in Concord on October 8, 2016. After an initial thought that it was a crossbill, it proved to be a House Finch with an abnormal, crossed bill. Photos by Jen Esten.

Two Saw-whet Owls at the McLane Center in Concord, NH

by Rebecca Suomala



The Northern Saw-whet Owls seen at NH Audubon's McLane Center in Concord, NH on 11-4-2016 by Zeke Cornell (bottom) and 11-17-2016 by Rebecca Suomala.

It was the end of the week, Friday, November 4 and I was leaving work in a hurry for my yoga class. My car was in the back of the parking lot at NH Audubon and as I walked back, the scolding of chickadees and titmice caught my attention. They were focused on a small hemlock at the edge of the parking lot – a perfect perch tree for a Northern Saw-whet Owl. I couldn't resist and detoured to the tree. When I approached the tree, I had just the right view through an opening to see a saw-whet owl sitting towards the end of a branch at eye level. My arms were full, I had no binoculars and I didn't want to leave the bird for fear it would fly off. I had my cell phone and called Zeke Cornell who came right

over bringing camera and binoculars. The owl sat quietly, sometimes closing its eyes, as we watched and took photos. Needless to say I was late to my yoga class. It turned out there was only one place from which you could see the owl. I had never found a perched saw-whet on my own despite much checking and never would have but for the chickadees and a little luck. It was gone the next morning.

On a warm day two weeks later, a few of us were eating lunch outside at a picnic table near the same hemlock tree. I heard chickadee scolding again from the same area and checked the tree. There was nothing there, but the scolding continued and when I checked a second time, I spotted a saw-whet in a small beech tree nearby. It sat there as many NH Audubon staff and volunteers got an opportunity to view it. I thought it had to be the same owl that I'd first found, but when I looked at the pictures, I was surprised to discover there were clearly differences between the two birds – they were not the same bird! This second bird was tawnier, with buffier feathers around the eyes and over the bill. The forehead streaking was slightly different, and there was something odd about its right eye.

According to the *Identification Guide to North American Birds (Part 1)* by Peter Pyle, females may be a richer tawny color in the face than males on average. That may mean the second bird was a female, but there's also some thought that younger birds (hatch-year) average slightly redder in coloration which complicates things. These two were likely migrants on their way south. According to researchers at the Ned Smith Center in Pennsylvania, saw-whets migrate in the fall, leaving Canada in early to late September and heading south, but we don't know how far beyond the Appalachians they may go. Their numbers are cyclical and appear to be tied to a four-year cycle in small rodent populations in the boreal forest of eastern Canada.

Injured Eastern Whip-poor-will



This injured Eastern Whip-poor-will was found on September 1, 2016 on a lawn in Moultonborough and was thought to have hit a window. It was brought to the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, but unfortunately died the next day. Photo by Iain MacLeod.

Field Trip Report

Adventure Birding

by Dan Hubbard



A tree down across the path at Pickering Ponds, 9-11-2016. Photo by Charlee Breen.

On September 11, 2016, I led one of my traditional bird walks at the Pickering Ponds trails in Rochester. When we were across the Cocheco River from the Rochester Country Club, a participant asked me what the shortest route back to the cars was (about a mile away). The siren had sounded on the golf course across the river warning of an impending thunderstorm and her smart phone was informing her that a microburst was imminent. It wasn't lying. I had barely given her directions when it briefly started to sprinkle – then the monsoon hit. Everyone hastened back towards the cars while being drenched by the rain and whipped by the wind.

Progress was impeded by three large trees that had fallen across the trails and required much agility to negotiate passage. When my car was in view, I was a bit unnerved to see a tree down between the front end of my car and the back of Zeke Cornell's truck parked ahead of me. Luckily, there was no damage to the vehicles (not so for the tree). Intrepid



The tree that almost fell on Dan's car, taken the next day after the storm front had passed. Photo by Charlee Breen.

birders Becky Suomala and Zeke were last to return to the cars; undaunted, they were still birding on the way out and added Greater Yellowlegs to the species trip list. Although thoroughly soaked and with surging adrenaline, everyone survived.

Leaving the site was also a challenge. A power pole and another tree down between Pickering and the wastewater treatment plant prevented exiting to the left. A small tree had fallen across Pickering Road to the right, but Ed and Claire Larrabee, who led the exodus, were able to move it off the road and proceed in that direction (interesting detour for some).

Obviously, the brevity of the walk impacted the trip list. We still managed 35 species, including five species of warblers (highlighted by a Wilson's). I usually lead two walks to Pickering Ponds in May and again in September. I can't promise such excitement for every field trip.

Birds and Beer Wrap-Up

by Paul Lacourse

On Saturday, September 10, twenty-eight of us gathered at Odiorne Point State Park in Rye at 7:30 am for the first collaborative field trip between the Seacoast Chapter of NH Audubon and Smuttynose Brewing Company. The trip leaders were Lauren Kras and Ben Griffith from the Seacoast Chapter and Paul Lacourse from Smuttynose. The birding began at Odiorne Point and the trip ended at the Smuttynose Brewing Company headquarters and brewery at Towle Farm in Hampton with a beer tasting and tour of the brewery. Participants included both Audubon Chapter folks and staff from Smuttynose.

The birding was a bit slow for early September, but there were definitely enough birds around to keep everyone happy. Some of the "newbie" birders got great looks at cool life birds such as Cedar Waxwing, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Semipalmated Plover and many others. The culmination of the day at Smuttynose Brewing Company was also great fun with snacks and a beer tasting and tour for those interested. The sounds of laughter and good conversation permeated the tasting area at Smuttynose, as new friends were made and old friendships rekindled. It was a great day for all involved. A big heartfelt thank you to the Seacoast Chapter and the Smuttynose Brewing Company for making this happen. Below is a list of highlights from the 52 species of birds seen.

Red-necked Grebe – still in breeding plumage

Green-winged Teal

Black-bellied Plover – great views of a cool bird especially for new birders

Semipalmated Plover – I heard a few "ooohs!" and "coool!" from people over the scope views of this one

Greater & Lesser Yellowlegs

Red Knot – always great to see in New Hampshire even in fall plumage

Lesser Black-backed Gull – this rare gull (nicknamed “Woody”) continues to return to the area year after year

Eastern Phoebe – lots of migrants around right now especially at Odiorne

Red-breasted Nuthatch – beautiful looks at this stunning bird

Eastern Bluebird – many

Cedar Waxwing – many and for new birders always a treat to see this beauty

Yellow Warbler – only one warbler seen

Baltimore Oriole – a male and female at Odiorne

And... **one Harbor Seal** at Odiorne, which, by the way, is the logo of the Smuttynose Brewing Company!

The Birds and the Bees of Ponemah Bog

by Phil Brown

On September 17, 2016, as part of NH Audubon’s annual meeting, I led a morning field trip to the Ponemah Bog Wildlife Sanctuary, one of the organization’s best-known properties. The trip drew a modest crowd of a dozen or so members who were eager to search for fall migrants and to see the bog mat vegetation that is so easily accessible here. Few blooms remained, but it was interesting to learn about and observe up close some of the Sanctuary’s unique bog plants, such as pitcher plant, sundews, bog rosemary, rhodora, and cotton grass.

There were some birds present, but hot, stagnant mornings in September don’t often make for a great migration show. In all, we recorded 33 species of birds, a decent total for the walking route of just under one mile along the bog boardwalk system and the associated upland trail system that loops the sanctuary. The best birding was along the edge of the bog pond and overhead. A Belted Kingfisher rattled as it flew across the pond, putting on a show. A Solitary Sandpiper nervously rocked its way across the pond lilies, feeding on a wide mudflat – wider than usual

for this time of year as a result of the dry summer and fall. Possibly the most exciting find of the walk was that of three birds circling far overhead which turned out to be Osprey, Herring Gull, and Peregrine Falcon individuals. An Osprey and gull often provide a worthwhile comparison when seen soaring together as they have similar habits when soaring in a thermal. There’s something about the triangular shape of a peregrine in the sky – angled wings and fanned out tail – that evokes a certain emotion, however, from the youngest to the oldest of participants on a field trip. We watched the trio of large birds drift higher and farther away, tiny dots in the sky.

This spectacle was not to be the most memorable, however. Upon nearing the end of the bog boardwalk, as we ventured back toward the parking lot, I stopped briefly to point out the call of a Red-tailed Hawk that was being mimicked by a Blue Jay. Blue Jays routinely imitate all three of New Hampshire’s breeding buteo hawks and their mimic call is often mistaken for that of the real thing. I was not to complete my sentence, though, as I felt myself suddenly pelted just below the eye – it was the unmistakable feel of a yellow jacket sting. The participant behind me also took a sting in the face and the group rapidly moved along the remainder of the boardwalk and out to the cars, as the field trip was cut somewhat short so we could treat our wounds. It certainly made for a memorable excursion to the bog and, a few hours later, I reported our story to the crowd gathered for the annual meeting, generating a good laugh.



NH Audubon's Ponemah Bog Wildlife Sanctuary by Pam Hunt.

White Wagtail in Rye, NH

Discovering a White Wagtail

by Josh Gahagan



White Wagtail by Josh Gahagan, 11-2-2016, Rye Harbor SP, NH.

Taken from a post to NH Birds e-mail list, 11-2-2016

My friend Dale Martin and I were visiting from Massachusetts and were at Rye Harbor State Park when the wagtail appeared. We were photographing a few sparrows when I heard an unusual call note and saw a small bird with a long tail fly into the large brown section of grass on the lawn at around 4:25 pm. I immediately knew this was something mega-rare and frantically yelled out to the others to try and document this bird. I knew it was a wagtail species, but did not narrow it down to a white until after checking my Sibley app. The first twenty minutes after the bird's arrival were frustrating as it was constantly on the move, flying back and forth, and at one point, it flew off and seemed to land on the southern tip of the jetty. It reappeared on the northern beach where the washed-up seaweed is found and quickly settled down into the rocky shoreline, gorging itself on the abundant flies that were actively flying around. I called my friend Justin Lawson since I didn't know any local birders and knew he could get the word out quickly. Another local birder [Katie Towler, see below] happened to show up shortly after I found it and was able to make some phone calls and, within an hour, many birders had showed up and enjoyed views of this incredible bird!

A White Wagtail!

by Katherine Towler

On November 2, 2016, I left work in the late afternoon for a walk at Goss Farm, still hoping for an interesting sparrow or late migrant. On my way back up the coast, I stopped at Rye Harbor State Park to check on the Black-bellied Plovers that had been seen there. As I stepped from

my car, I saw two men running across the parking lot, each with a camera equipped with a long lens. When I asked one of the men what they were photographing, he said, "A White Wagtail!" It took me a second to process this and then to follow them across the parking lot to the overlook at the north end, where the wagtail was perched in the wrack.

Just a few months earlier, my husband Jim Sparrell and I had taken a trip to Sweden and Iceland, where we found many White Wagtails, but here in New Hampshire, at one of my regular birding spots, I could not believe what I was seeing. The bird, a juvenile as it turned out, did not have the dramatic black and white markings of adult plumage. There it was, though, with the distinctive shape of a wagtail and that tail pumping up and down. Josh Gahagan, who had found and identified the bird about eight minutes before my arrival, was on the phone with Massachusetts birders, trying to get the word out, and simultaneously dancing up and down in dizzy excitement. Alan Murray and Patricia Farr, who had been there when the bird was spotted over on the lawn, joined us. We quickly established that Josh did not know how to reach the New Hampshire birding community. I called Steve Mirick and he got the word out.

My phone records show that all of this took about six minutes. I arrived at Rye Harbor SP just before 4:30 and called Steve Mirick four minutes later. He sent out an alert and the post was up on the NH Birds list serve, thanks to Justin Lawson, at 4:36. Josh Gahagan deserves all the credit for identifying the bird and recognizing immediately how big a find it was. I was just thrilled for once in my birding life to be in the right place at the right time.

Joining in on the White Wagtail Fun

by Jon Woolf

I had just left work in Durham and was checking email on my smartphone before hitting the road for home. There was something new on NH Birds: a report of a White Wagtail. A what? Where? A *European* bird at Rye Harbor State Park, less than half an hour away!

I had just almost let the Western Kingbird get away, finally getting over to Wallis Sands to see it only a day or two before it vanished. I'd hate myself in the morning if I left this one until the weekend and missed it. There was still an hour or so of daylight left *and* I happened to have my good camera with me. So, I headed that way.

It took a few minutes more than I expected, but I got to Ragged Neck with about 45 minutes of light left. Finding the bird was no problem. The park was swarming with birders, even though that alert was less than an hour old, and all I had to do was triangulate from the scopes and camera lenses. Nobody, however, was getting too close. Nobody wanted to scare *this* bird away!

We watched it, chatted with each other, and watched a bit more, until the light was nearly gone. Finally, the bird flew off southward, ending a *very* memorable evening.

From the Editor:

After reading the above, one may be tempted to think that wagtail seekers were all lucky enough to find the bird, as was Kathryn Frieden for whom this was her first experience chasing a rarity. Let me dispel this belief by noting that the Managing Editor of this publication tried twice for the wagtail, once too early in the morning before it was re-found and then too late the next morning after it left. Sigh! Chasing rarities is just that way, but sometimes you are lucky enough to be one of the last two people to see the Redwing.

White Wagtail in Coastal New Hampshire – A First New Hampshire Record...and more.

by David B. Donsker

Photos by Lauren Kras

The discovery of a White Wagtail on the coast of New Hampshire on November 2, 2016 (see elsewhere in this issue) was remarkable not only in the fact that it represented the first time this rare vagrant species was detected in the state and, for that matter, the entire New England region, but that it likely represents the first North American record of a previously undocumented subspecies for the entire continent. Although it has a small toe-hold as a breeding species in western Alaska, White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*) is predominantly a common and widespread Old World species. Its primary breeding range is the Eurasian region where it extends from eastern Greenland and northwest Africa through Europe and northern Asia to the Himalayas, China and Japan. It is a polytypic species, that is, it has many morphologically distinct subspecies. The number of subspecies within this species complex varies a bit depending on the classification authority consulted, but there are from nine to eleven currently recognized subspecies. The Cornell/Clements Checklist and eBird recognize ten.

The species occupies a wide variety of open habitats from seashores, lakeshores, bogs and riversides to open country, including low grassland, farmlands, parks and gardens. It is quite tolerant of human habitation and is often encountered in towns and villages. Depending on the subspecies, its breeding habitat occupies a wide elevational range from sea level to 5,000 meters in the Himalayas and the mountains of Central Asia.

Although some subspecies' populations are essentially sedentary, the more northerly breeding populations and subspecies are short to medium distance migrants. Populations from northern Europe and northern Asia migrate to northern Africa and the Middle East and to south and southeastern Asia, respectively. Subspecies that breed at higher elevations are altitudinal migrants.

Given its limited plumage palette of black, white and gray, the various subspecies of White Wagtail are remarkably variable in appearance, at least as demonstrated in adult males in breeding plumage. Females in winter plumage and first winter males of many subspecies are less easily distinguished.

Until the New Hampshire sighting, only three subspecies of White Wagtail had been definitively recorded in North America. All three of these are migratory subspecies that occupy the extreme eastern or western edges of the species range. Two of these are eastern Asian subspecies: *M. a. lugens* and *M. a. ocularis*. *M. a. ocularis* is the widespread Siberian subspecies whose range also extends into extreme western Alaska. *M. a. lugens* occupies a more southerly range in northeast Asia including the Kamchatka Peninsula, Sakhalin Island, northern Japan and northeast China. The third subspecies, the nominate *M. a. alba*, is the more widespread European form which has outlying breeding populations as far west as eastern Greenland and Iceland.

M. a. lugens and *M. a. ocularis* share many similar plumage traits. Like all forms of White Wagtail, the adult males both have white faces, a black crown and nape and black bibs. Both of these subspecies share a broad white wing panel on the greater coverts and a distinct facial pattern that consists of a fairly distinct blackish eye-stripe that extends from the nape to the base of the bill and also transects the otherwise pure white face. The two differ from each other primarily by the back or mantle color of the adult male. *M. a. ocularis* has a gray mantle. In striking contrast, *M. a. lugens* has a black back. In fact, in the 6th and 7th editions of the AOU Checklist (1983, 1998), *M. a. lugens* was regarded as a separate species, Black-backed Wagtail, until it was re-lumped with the other subspecies of White Wagtail in 2005. It also differs from *M. a. ocularis* by having extensively white flight feathers. Females in non-breeding plumage and first fall males of these two subspecies are less easily distinguished from each other in that they both have grayish mantles. Not infrequently, individuals in these plumages cannot be identified as to subspecies, but even in females and young males, the black eye-stripe is a uniquely distinguishing feature of both of these eastern Asia subspecies, so most vagrant individuals can at least be identified as belonging to the *lugens/ocularis* complex.

M. a. lugens and *M. a. ocularis* are casually occurring vagrants to the west coast of North America south of

Alaska, generally in fall and winter. Spring records are fewer. Although many of these records are best left as *ocularis/lugens* types, there are well documented records that have been attributed to one subspecies or the other. Taken together there are approximately 60 records attributed to either of these two subspecies from British Columbia to southern Baja California. Inland and east coast records attributed to either *M. a. lugens* or *M. a. ocularis* are expectedly scarce. There are two records from Nevada. Michigan has an amazing three records of White Wagtail, at least two of which can be attributed to *M. a. ocularis*. Single sightings of *M. a. ocularis*, *M. a. lugens* or individuals of the *ocularis/lugens* complex have been documented in Arizona, New Mexico, southern Louisiana, coastal South Carolina, coastal North Carolina and St. Pierre, off Newfoundland.

The widespread European subspecies, *M. a. alba*, is a gray-backed race with a plain white face and forehead, black throat and bib and white underparts. Its flanks are white or faintly suffused with gray. This subspecies is a very rare vagrant to the eastern seaboard of North America. There are documented records from Newfoundland, Quebec (two records), Florida and interior North Carolina. This subspecies has also been reported in the Caribbean region with documented sightings from Barbados and French Guiana. Two Trinidad records have not been identified as to subspecies.

All this background leads us to the New Hampshire sighting. The importance of trying to establish its subspecific identity was recognized soon after its discovery. Because it was thought to be either an adult female in non-breeding plumage or a young bird, good photographs were determined to be necessary to achieve this. Fortunately, excellent photographs were obtained by Lauren Kras to specifically address some of the subtle plumage characteristics that would be necessary to resolve this issue. The final answer was unexpected.

Because the bird lacks a black eye-stripe, *M. a. lugens* and *M. a. ocularis* can both be readily excluded. That would seem to leave *M. a. alba*, the only other subspecies previously recorded in North America and the subspecies involved in at least five of the previous eastern North American records. There is one other European subspecies of White Wagtail, however, that needs to be considered: “British Pied Wagtail” (or simply “Pied Wagtail”), *M. a. yarrellii*. Pied Wagtail is a distinctive subspecies that is essentially endemic to the British Isles (Britain and Ireland). Many, especially the more southerly breeding populations, overwinter in Britain and Ireland, but it is also a medium distance migrant. The vast majority of individuals from Scotland and northern England, but only a relatively few of those from southern England, evacuate their breeding ranges in the fall to winter

further south. Of those birds that leave Great Britain to overwinter elsewhere, most do so in southwestern France, the western Iberian Peninsula and northwestern Africa. Ringing (banding) studies have shown that the vast majority of the early distant fall migrants (those that arrive on their wintering grounds in October and November) are first winter birds. The peak of adult distant migration occurs later, in mid-winter. Vagrancy is rare, but vagrants have been recorded in other European countries; Cyprus, Israel, the Atlantic Ocean island of Madeira and, notably, Iceland (at least nine accepted records).



White Wagtail
photos by
Lauren Kras,
11-2-2016,
Rye, NH.

M. a. alba and *M. a. yarrellii* (hereafter referred to as “White Wagtail” and Pied Wagtail, respectively) are similar subspecies that are most distinctive in adult male plumage. The most notable distinction in this plumage is the color of the back. “White Wagtail” has a pale to medium gray back while the back of Pied Wagtail is deep black. Pied Wagtail also has more white in the wings, particularly in the greater coverts, and broader white wing edging. Female Pied Wagtail in breeding plumage has a paler back than the male, but its back is generally darker than the comparable plumage of “White Wagtail.”

These two subspecies are most difficult to separate in winter female and first winter male plumages. The problem is that these two plumages in Pied Wagtail can be very similar to the comparable plumages of “White Wagtail.” In particular, the mantle and crown color of Pied Wagtail in some individuals can be as pale gray as that of “White Wagtail.”

There are several key differences in these plumages between the two subspecies, however, that can generally distinguish them, particularly if the identification is made using more than one feature. The two most reliable plumage characteristics involve the extent and shade of gray on the sides of the breast and flanks, and the shade of the rump and upper tail coverts. In contrast to “White Wagtail,” the flanks and sides of the breast of Pied Wagtail are extensively dark gray. In “White Wagtail,” the flanks are white to pale or medium gray and not nearly as prominent. The rump and upper tail coverts of Pied Wagtail are black. These regions in “White Wagtail” are nearly completely gray. Only the longest upper tail coverts are black in that subspecies. Other, less easily evaluated or consistent plumage features can also help in separating these two similar forms in fall female and first fall male plumage. In Pied Wagtail, the forehead is generally white, in “White Wagtail” the forecrown is often pale gray. The crown and hind-neck color of Pied Wagtail is generally darker than that of “White Wagtail” and may have some black feathering, but the crown and nape in “White Wagtail” in those plumages are entirely gray. Similarly, Pied Wagtail may show some black coloring in the mantle and scapulars that would not be expected in “White Wagtail.” Some Pied Wagtails demonstrate scattered black or dark gray spots on the belly. The belly of “White Wagtail” is immaculately white.

The photos of the New Hampshire bird clearly show features associated with *M. a. yarrellii*. Note, in particular, the extensive dark gray flanks and sides of the breast, the black lower back and upper tail coverts, white forehead, and the darkish gray, somewhat blotchy, crown and mantle.

Hector Galbraith, who is quite familiar with *M. a. yarrellii* from his home in the United Kingdom, saw photographs

of this bird soon after its discovery and concluded that it was Pied Wagtail. Further confirmation of the identification of this individual as *M. a. yarrellii* was obtained from Per Alström, one of the world’s experts on pipits and wagtails. Here is his comment:

“I’d say it’s very likely to be a first-winter female *yarrellii*, as suggested by the blackish rump, seemingly very dark grey flanks, rather white ear-coverts and forehead. In some of the pics, there seems to be some blackish mottling on the mantle/scaps as well, which – if correct – are also strong indicators of *yarrellii*. (It’s definitely 1st-winter based on the retained greater coverts, except innermost).”

If accepted, this unique sighting would not only be the first documented record of White Wagtail in New England, but it would also be the first documented sighting of the subspecies *M. a. yarrellii* for the North American continent. Presuming that the identification is correct, the only other issue relevant to this individual is its provenance. Is it possible that this individual arrived on this side of the Atlantic as a ship-assisted stow away? Perhaps, but the several records of *M. a. yarrellii* from both Iceland and Madeira indicate that it is capable of transoceanic vagrancy. The answer to this question is, of course, unknowable, but it is something that the NH Rare Birds Committee will likely ponder.

Acknowledgements

Sincere appreciation and thanks go to Per Alström who generously offered his time and expertise to offer his opinion on the subspecific identity of this remarkable sighting. Many thanks also go to Hector Galbraith for his initial insights regarding its subspecific identity, and for kindly reviewing this article and offering valuable comments on its content and conclusions.

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Volunteers and Research

A Plastic Diet: Is Our Plastic Addiction Ending Up in Our Seabirds?

by Dr. Gabriela Bradt

Since 2012, I have been working in collaboration with the Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation, based in Portsmouth, doing marine debris outreach, education and removal of abandoned (aka: derelict) fishing gear, mainly lobster traps. As we spent time along the coast and out on the Isles of Shoals collecting debris that had washed up on shore, or removing tons (literally tons) of abandoned lobster traps, whole and in bits, and pieces of sloughed off plastic, I began to notice the seabirds, gulls, terns, gannets, shearwaters and cormorants, and how they were interacting with trash, plastics and fishing line.

Appledore, White and Seavey Islands are seabird sanctuaries, places where gulls and terns nest. On Appledore Island, Great Black-backed Gulls (*Larus marinus*) are protected and by default, so are Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*). White and Seavey Islands are the sites for the Tern Restoration Project (<http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/nongame/project-tern.html>), a long-term monitoring and restoration project for three species of terns found in the region, the state threatened Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*), the state endangered Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougali*) and the Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*). As seabird sanctuaries with many nesting birds, these three islands in the Gulf of Maine serve as perfect sites to study interactions that adult and juvenile seabirds can have with plastic pollution and/or derelict fishing gear.

As we collected debris and piled up the abandoned/lost lobster traps that littered the coastline of these islands, we noticed the close proximity of gull nests to trashed traps and buoys and other debris. More significantly, we noticed that the nests themselves often had bits and pieces of plastic and other debris incorporated into them (Figure 1a & 1b).

Not only were adults in close proximity to this pollution, but as it was nesting season, we saw plenty of young chicks either in these nests or near them. Several species of seabirds, including gulls and Northern Gannets (*Morus bassanus*), use seaweed to build their nests, but have been shown to frequently incorporate other man-made materials such as

fishing ropes, lines and nets into their nest construction (Kuhn, et al, 2015). As many as 75% of gannet nests in some populations have some form of marine debris incorporated into their nests. Using these materials as part of nest construction increases the risk of severe to fatal entanglement dangers to both adult birds and chicks. Indeed, we have seen evidence of moderate to severe entanglements here in New Hampshire waters in recent years (Figure 2).

On White and Seavey Islands, where three species of terns nest every year, we removed 2,400 pounds of derelict lobster gear that had accumulated over a sixteen-year period.

Everywhere we went on those islands, we came across active nests with eggs and nervous, dive bombing adult terns protecting them. We also saw plastic debris from the traps, balloons, water bottles, caps, rope, fishing line, lures and single use plastic items in the same areas as these nests. Terns actively bring back food (small forage fish) for their chicks, but unlike gulls, gannets, albatrosses and other pelagic seabirds they do not regurgitate when feeding their young. These different modes of feeding are important in terms of accidental plastic ingestion. Since terns do not regurgitate, the likelihood that tern chicks have a significant amount of plastic in their stomachs is small.

The only way for them to ingest it is if the fish they have eaten had plastic in their stomachs or if chicks themselves eat it. For other seabirds that have large foraging ranges and for whom regurgitation is how they feed their young, the likelihood of them transferring plastic bits and pieces is high. In fact, it has been shown that many seabird chicks have a higher concentration of plastics in their stomachs than their parents, likely from their parents transferring their plastic load to their chicks (Acampora, et al, 2014). A study published in 2015 indicated that 90% of all seabirds globally consumed plastics and predicted that by 2050, 99%



Figure 1a (above). A nesting Herring Gull on Appledore Island, Isles of Shoals, Maine. Notice plastic flagging, pencil and plastic strapping on and near the nest. Photo by Gabriela Bradt.



Figure 1b (left). A plastic toy inside a gull nest. Photo by Liz Craig.



Figure 2 (Collage to right). Dangers of plastic debris. Top left, Black-crowned Night-Heron entangled in string; photo by Liz Craig. Top right, dead cormorant entangled in fishing line; photo by Liz Craig. Bottom left (and insert), gull with fish hook; photo by Liz Craig. Bottom and middle right, Northern Gannet with legs entangled in fishing line; photo by Jennifer Kennedy.

of all seabirds would ingest plastics (Wilcox, et al, 2015). Additionally, a recent study has demonstrated that seabirds are not accidentally eating plastic pieces, they are actively choosing to ingest plastic because it smells like the food they would normally be eating. Foods such as krill eat algae and the algae itself exudes a chemical with a distinctive smell, dimethyl sulfide. Birds that smell dimethyl sulfide know that there is krill to be eaten. Plastic adsorbs different chemicals and algae and when krill eat the algae, the seabirds smell it and eat both the krill and the plastic (Savoca, et al, 2016).

Sadly, we are not surprised by these observations in our ocean backyard here in New Hampshire. Here, like in much of the world, we are over consuming plastics at an alarming rate. In 2016, the New Hampshire Division of Parks and Recreation reported that they removed 150 tons of trash from Hampton Beach alone. That is only one beach from one small coastline (17 miles) out of the entire country. The NH Sea Grant and Blue Ocean Society Beach Microplastics Monitoring program, which has only been collecting data for three years, is one of the first such efforts in the region.

We are monitoring the presence and concentration of small bits of plastic (1-5mm in size) on five of the Granite State's most recreationally important beaches. Seeing how microplastic concentrations are changing over time and space is important to know in order to help make educated decisions about how to mitigate the problem. Unfortunately, three years of data is not enough to get a good picture of what is happening on our beaches. Each beach that we study has a different topography, type of substrate, number of visitors and exposure that it is difficult to make comparisons between them. What we have seen in these three years across every beach sampled is that every year the top three categories of microplastics (in order of greatest concentration to lowest concentration) are:

- 1) **foams** (polystyrene),
- 2) **plastic fragments**,
- 3) **filaments** (polypropylene, nylon).

When we extrapolated our number of plastic pieces/m² for the five beaches combined, we found that the average potential number of microplastic pieces on these five beaches was **14,915,342**. That is over 14 million microplastic pieces over an area of about 91 acres, the size of Appledore island. As the prevalence of microplastics in both freshwater and marine ecosystems continues to increase locally and globally, the potential for serious detrimental impacts to these ecosystems and their residents also increases. As the 2015 report predicts, by 2050, 99% of all seabirds will have ingested plastic. While we have yet to do stomach content studies on seabirds from the Granite State, it is not out of the realm of possibility that these animals (as well as others) are indeed being affected by our addiction to plastic.



Figure 3. Citizen scientists helping to collect beach samples to look for microplastics, small pieces of plastic between 1-5mm in size. Photos by Gabriela Bradt.



If you would like to find out more about the Beach Microplastic project, or would like to volunteer to sample and monitor beaches for microplastics from April-October, contact Dr. Bradt at gabriela.bradt@unh.edu or call 603-862-2033. We are always looking for extra hands!

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Gabriela Bradt, PhD is a Fisheries specialist with NH Sea Grant and UNH Cooperative Extension. She has been working on marine debris and microplastics research and monitoring since 2012 in collaboration with Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation.

Backyard Birder

Chukars – What Are They Doing in New Hampshire?



Chukar by Richard Johnson, 5-6-2016, Newmarket, NH.

by Brenda Sens

Many calls and emails come in to NH Audubon from people who have a Chukar in their backyard or have spotted one in the general area. They look exotic, are listed as living out west, seem to be a very rare find, and cause a great deal of excitement. We would like to try to set the record straight and explain what they are doing in New Hampshire.

Chukars are members of the pheasant family that are native to mountainous areas of the Middle East and Asia. They were brought to this country in the early eighteenth century as a game bird and have established themselves in some of the western states, but not in the Granite State. Here in New Hampshire, they do not naturally occur. People raise them for meat and eggs, as pets, and for the training of hunting dogs. NH Fish & Game requires permits to raise or possess Chukars, but they may be purchased with the appropriate certification. Although Chukars are not known for flying great distances, they are excellent runners and often manage to escape from wherever they are being housed, thus making an appearance where least expected. They may also be released for the purpose of hunting. They are included in the state's small game hunting season with dates and bag limits set by the NH Fish & Game Department: <http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/hunting/small-game-season.html>.

Chukars will come to bird seed and feed on the ground. You may want to check local notice boards for lost birds or put up notices in neighborhood stores to see if the owner can be found. Beyond that, there is little you can do for these birds except enjoy them.

Photo Quiz

by David B. Donsker

This small, streaked bird with a sharp, conical bill is clearly a sparrow. That's the easy part. Sparrows, especially those with streaked breasts, frequently present identification challenges to both beginning and experienced birders.

Why is this so? Sparrows by their very nature are cryptic. Many skulk in thick tangles, grasses or sedges, allowing only for tantalizing glimpses. But even if seen well, these “little brown jobs” with their confusing array of streaks, crown stripes and facial markings and their frequent lack of a single definitive “field mark” can make them look frustratingly similar to one another. Accurate identification generally requires the recognition of a set of structural and plumage characteristics combined with knowledge of selected habitat, behavior and voice.

When viewing a photograph, of course, we are limited to features of structure and plumage and only small clues about habitat. Our featured bird is perched on a small branch in a tangle of branches. This isn't much of a clue about habitat, but it helps a bit.

Our featured bird has a finely streaked upper breast and flanks. The breast streaking is rather sharply separated from the unmarked, white lower breast and belly. Even in this black-and-white photograph, we can see that the tone of the breast is slightly darker than the belly. If this were a color photograph, we would see that the background breast coloration is actually warm buffy. There is a faint “spot” in the center of the breast. The facial pattern is moderately complex. The sides of the crown are finely streaked. The crown feathers are slightly raised, giving the bird a rather crested look. There is a wide pale supercilium or eyebrow that is continuous with the similarly toned pale lores (region between the eye and the base of the bill). The eye itself is surrounded by a narrow eye-ring. The cheeks, or ear coverts, are bordered above and below by a thin, black eye-stripe behind the eye and moustachial stripe, respectively. Below the moustachial stripe is a submoustachial stripe that is clearly paler than the supercilium. Below that is a relatively distinct, dark malar or lateral throat stripe. The throat is nearly white. The bill is conical, but relatively long and moderately stout.

Where do we start? Certainly, all of our sparrows that have unstreaked breasts as adults can be eliminated immediately. That still leaves a lot of sparrows to deal with, however, the *Ammodramus* sparrows—Seaside, LeConte's, Henslow's, Nelson's and Saltmarsh—have a completely different structure. They are chunky, short-tailed birds whose heads, with their flat, sloping foreheads, are quite unlike the nearly

crested head of this bird. Besides, their preferred habitats of grasses and sedges are different from the dense branches in which this bird is perched.

In the autumn, the large set of streak-breasted sparrows is increased even more by juvenile birds of those species that have unstreaked breasts as adults. Juvenile White-crowned Sparrow is much more boldly and extensively streaked below and its facial pattern is much less complex than in this bird. Juvenile White-throated Sparrow has a vaguely similar facial pattern, but like its cousin, White-crowned Sparrow, it is heavily and boldly streaked below. All of the juvenile *Spizella* sparrows (Field, Clay-colored and Chipping) and juvenile American Tree Sparrow are clear breasted as adults, but streaked below in juvenile plumage. Juvenile birds from several of these species can also have a fairly complex facial pattern, but, unlike this individual, juveniles of all of these species have two very prominent white wing bars and, more importantly, small, symmetrically triangular, conical bills. The bill in this bird is comparatively heavy and proportionally long. That leaves Fox, Song, Lincoln's, Savannah, and Vesper Sparrows as well as Swamp Sparrow in its juvenile plumage.

Fox Sparrow has a very heavily streaked breast, which is quite unlike the fine breast streaking of this bird. Its facial markings are also plainer, the most distinctive feature being a strong dark malar or lateral throat stripe, which is relatively inconspicuous in this bird.

The fine breast and flank streaking and fairly distinct eyering might suggest Vesper Sparrow, however, Vesper Sparrow lacks a distinctive supercilium, much less one as broad as in our featured bird. It also has a much better defined malar and its ear coverts are broadly darkly outlined on all sides. Finally, a central breast spot is not a feature seen in this species. Vesper Sparrow is a grassland species that is more likely to be seen on a fence or emergent vegetation rather than in a tangle of branches.

Savannah Sparrow shares many of the features shown in our bird. It can look crested. It has breast streaking that is relatively narrow and which can aggregate into a central breast spot. Its facial pattern is similar with a streaked lateral crown, strong eye-stripe, moustachial and submoustachial stripes and prominent supercilium. However, the streaking on the breast and flanks of Savannah Sparrow is less fine than that shown in this bird. Its supercilium is narrower, paler and more contrasting. Savannah Sparrow has a more prominent, better-defined dark malar. It lacks a distinctive eye-ring and is rather shorter tailed.

Adult Song Sparrow has many of the structural and plumage characteristics shown in this bird. It has a broad supercilium and fairly distinctive eye-stripe, and moustachial and submoustachial stripes and a central breast spot, but in

contrast to this bird, the breast and flank streaking in Song Sparrow is coarse and bold, not fine. Its central breast spot is prominent. Further, a striking characteristic of adult Song Sparrow is its very prominent, broad, dark, lateral throat stripe, which is relatively faint in the featured individual.

That would lead us to Lincoln's Sparrow which has many features similar to those in the featured subject. Unlike the other streak-breasted sparrows discussed above, the breast streaking on Lincoln's Sparrow is very fine and neat and often coalesces into a central breast spot. It also usually terminates quite abruptly at the lower edge of the upper breast so the interface between the streaked upper breast and the clear, white lower breast and belly is rather crisp. Another feature of the breast and flanks in Lincoln's Sparrow, is that the fine streaking is superimposed upon a buffy background that also abruptly stops at the lower breast and belly. These features, coupled with the narrow eye-ring, broad supercilium, and inconspicuous malar would all seem to confirm that our bird is an adult Lincoln's Sparrow.

But, there is something wrong with that "final" conclusion. As alluded to earlier, juvenile sparrows can, and often do, look a bit different from adult birds. This is most notable in the various species in which the adults are clear breasted, but in which the juveniles are streaky breasted, but even in the species which have streaked breasts as adults, the juveniles may also have a different appearance, if more subtly so.

With that in mind, let's reexamine our featured bird. Could this be a juvenile sparrow? In fact, it is. There are several clues to this. There is a general fluffiness to the bird. Note, in particular, those untamed pale flank feathers. This "loose" or "soft" plumage is very characteristic of juvenile birds. Also, the feathers of the lesser and greater wing coverts on the upper wing are rather short and of variable length, an indication that they are molting to another plumage stage. The tail feathers, too, are variable in length giving the tip of the tail a ragged look and suggesting that the feathers of the tail are growing in. Realizing that this individual is a juvenile is critical to its identification because juvenile Song Sparrow is often misidentified as Lincoln's Sparrow. This is because juvenile Song Sparrow has fine breast streaks superimposed on a pale buff chest that is quite reminiscent of Lincoln's Sparrow. This juvenile plumage is ephemeral. It's held for only a relatively short period of time in early/late summer before the bird molts into first winter plumage. At that time of year, Lincoln's Sparrow is generally still on its northern breeding grounds. So, any sparrow seen in summer outside of the range of Lincoln's Sparrow and thought to be that species, should be checked twice to be sure that it isn't a juvenile Song Sparrow. This may not be trivial in the field, but awareness is everything. One helpful hint, in addition

to recognizing that the bird is in juvenile plumage and out of range for the time of year, is the bill structure. Lincoln's Sparrow has a relatively slender conical bill. The conical bill of Song Sparrow is more stout, as is seen in this individual. All this adds up to the conclusion that the featured bird is a juvenile Song Sparrow. Compare the photograph of this juvenile Song Sparrow with those of adult Song and Lincoln's Sparrows which are nearby.



For comparison, an adult Song Sparrow by Len Medlock (above) and a Lincoln's Sparrow by Steve Mirick.



There is just one other caveat that needs to be mentioned. Juvenile Song Sparrow isn't the only species that can be mistaken for Lincoln's Sparrow in late summer and fall. Swamp Sparrow in first winter plumage is frequently misidentified as adult Lincoln's Sparrow. This is not surprising, considering that, in addition to Song Sparrow, both species are in the same genus, *Melospiza*, and share structural similarities. Unlike the clear-breasted adults in breeding plumage, first winter Swamp Sparrows have streaked, grayish buffy breasts that are fairly well demarcated from their white lower breasts and bellies, however, unlike

adult Lincoln's Sparrow with crisp, fine, breast streaks, in these young Swamp Sparrows the breast streaks are blurry. Also, their crowns are darker, their throats are clearer, and their wing coverts are a rich, rusty color. Separating juvenile Swamp Sparrow from juvenile Lincoln's Sparrow can be a real challenge since they are virtually identical. In both of these species, the juveniles are heavily streaked on the back and underparts. They have facial patterns similar to juvenile Song Sparrow, but have distinctly dark crowns. Range, time of year, and habitat are excellent criteria to consider when trying to sort these two juvenile forms from each other.

Because the juvenile plumage of many birds is poorly illustrated in field guides and this plumage stage is held for a short period of time, many birders are less familiar or completely unfamiliar with the appearance of even common species at this stage. When faced with a puzzling individual in late summer...always pause to consider that it may be a juvenile bird.

This juvenile Song Sparrow was photographed by Scott Heron on September 4, 2015 in Kingston, NH.

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Abbreviations Used

AMC	Appalachian Mountain Club
BBC	Brookline Bird Club
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey
CA	Conservation Area
CC	Country Club
CFT	NH Audubon Chapter Field Trip
FT	Field Trip
IBA	Important Bird Area
L.	Lake
LPC	Loon Preservation Committee
NA	Natural Area
NHA	New Hampshire Audubon
NHBR	New Hampshire Bird Records
NHRBC	NH Rare Birds Committee
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
PO	Post Office
R.	River
Rd.	Road
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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Fall 2016 Highlights



Prothonotary Warbler
by Kyle Wilmarth,
11-12-2016,
North Hampton, NH.



White Wagtail feeding on brine flies,
by Susan Wisley,
11-3-2016, Hampton, NH.



Fork-tailed Flycatcher by Kyle Wilmarth, 9-20-2016, West Lebanon, NH.



Western Kingbird
by Phil Brown,
10-31-2016,
Wallis Sands Beach, Rye, NH.

