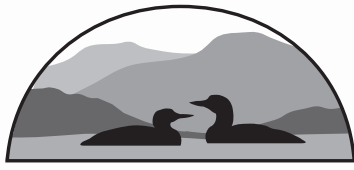


# New Hampshire Bird Records





**NH AUDUBON**  
Protecting our environment since 1914

**NEW HAMPSHIRE BIRD RECORDS**  
VOLUME 35, NUMBER 1  
SPRING 2016

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IN HONOR OF  
**Davis Finch**

This issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* with its color cover is sponsored by friends of Davis Finch in honor of his receipt of the 2016 Goodhue-Elkins Award (see page 2). Known to many as the friendly host of a meat pile that once attracted many birds, Davis is a humble world expert on birds, who over the years has kindly helped many local birders.



*Davis surrounded by gulls coming to the meat pile.  
Photo by Scott Heron.*

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*Cover Photos: Redwing in flight by Christopher McPherson on the day he discovered it, 3/13/16, in Hollis, NH. Perched Redwing by Jason Lambert, and the crowd viewing the bird, photographed by Frank Mantlik, 3/14/16.*

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

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by Rebecca Suomala

**New Hampshire Bird Records Endowment Fund Update**

I am pleased to report that contributions to the New Hampshire Bird Records Endowment Fund now total more than \$38,000! Thanks to everyone who has donated to the Fund. It's not too late to have your contribution matched – we're almost there, but still have more to go to reach the full \$10,000 challenge by the two anonymous donors. As it grows, the Fund will provide stable base funding for all that *New Hampshire Bird Records* does. If you would like to make a contribution or include the Endowment Fund in your estate planning, please contact me.

**REMINDER - Back Issues on the Web Site**

All back issues are available in PDF form on the *New Hampshire Bird Records* web site. If your subscription is up-to-date (renewals were enclosed with the Winter 2015-16 issue), the password to access the back issues will be enclosed with the Spring 2016 issue. The password is the same for all subscribers in a given year. The archives are accessed through a gateway page under "The Journal" tab. The most recent issues will not be on the web page – they will still arrive in printed form.

*Welcome New Subscribers and Thanks to all of those who have renewed their subscription.*  
– The *New Hampshire Bird Records* Team

PHOTO QUIZ

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**Can You Identify This Bird?**

Answer on page 43. Photos by David Hoitt.



# 2016 Goodhue-Elkins Award

*Written and presented by David Donsker at the New Hampshire Audubon Annual Meeting, September 17, 2016.*



*Davis Finch receiving the 2016 Goodhue-Elkins Award from NH Audubon and holding the presentation photo, taken by Scott Heron, of Davis surrounded by gulls at his famous meat pile. Photo by Terri Donsker.*

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

The 2016 recipient, Davis Finch, is fittingly deserving of this prestigious award. He has spent his lifetime observing, recording, and sharing his knowledge of the birds of our state and beyond our borders, to birdwatchers and professional ornithologists alike.

Davis began birdwatching as an extension of his interest in the natural world as a child and young man, as he explored the forest and fields around his family property in South Kingston. Davis's father bought this property when Davis was merely a year old and Davis resides in his family home to this day, having carefully observed its flora, fauna and ecological succession over the ensuing years. He is familiar with every corner and nook, boulder and tree of his beloved

property. Davis's precocious and growing interest in birds was encouraged by his parents and was nurtured by several of their colleagues at the Exeter Academy who took him under their wings and involved Davis in their birding excursions. While at Yale University, Davis was further influenced by the great professor of ornithology, S. Dillon Ripley, and by his friendship with the late Noble Proctor, who himself became a greatly respected naturalist and was a protégé of Roger Tory Peterson.

Even as a teenager, Davis began to submit bird records to New Hampshire Audubon. His observation of Blue-winged Warbler in Wilton in 1955 was only the second record of that species in New Hampshire (the first record was of one recorded twenty years earlier) and a harbinger of this species' expansion into the southern part of our state. He continued to regularly submit records while in his twenties and early thirties into the early 1970s including, notably, the third state record for House Finch in, of all places, Errol in 1967, and the first state record for Fish Crow in Kingston in 1971.

Davis further contributed to the knowledge and distribution of New Hampshire and New England birds when he agreed, at the urging of the renowned New Hampshire birder, Bob Smart, and others, to serve as the regional editor for the Northeastern Maritime region for *Audubon Field Notes* (now *North American Birds*) which he did in the decade from 1967 to 1977.

Using his acquired knowledge of New England avifauna and succumbing to his passion for birds, Davis changed career paths in the early 1970s, forgoing his profession as an instructor of French at Yale and Vassar to form one of the pioneer bird tour companies, Northeast Birding, which specialized in trips to New England and adjacent Canada. Subsequently, in partnership with Will Russell, Davis founded Wings, which became one of the three major American bird tour companies. Wings gradually expanded its coverage to include tours to Alaska, Mexico, and Central and South America in which Davis took an active and principal part. Eventually he focused his interest on Middle and South America, leading more than 90 trips to the New World Tropics, concentrating on Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Guyana. As a bird tour leader, Davis inspired and influenced many of his clients. I can gratefully attest that he changed my life when I had the great pleasure of traveling with him to South America soon after I became interested in birding in a serious way. In the "green mansions" of the forests of Guyana and the high Andes, Patagonian steppes and the pampas of Argentina, I learned to appreciate Davis'

remarkable field and leadership skills. He was a careful organizer whose incomparable field notes were so precise that he, in the pre-GPS era, could locate with pinpoint accuracy the most obscure territory of a species that he had previously scouted, even in the infinite sameness of the Patagonian steppes. He was a thoughtful, courteous and skillful leader with a profound command of bird identification and vocalizations and an uncanny ability to attract even the shiest of birds with his virtuosic command of recorded tapes. The sheer enthusiasm that Davis exuded in these adventures was infectious and eventually led me to my unquenchable quest to see and learn about the world's birds.

Davis has shared his knowledge of birds in other ways, as well. He has served as a leader of workshops for The Institute for Field Ornithology in Maine, Mexico, and Venezuela. He was a principal consultant for *The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds*, and *The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding*. He was a consultant for *Field Guide to the Birds of Cuba* by Orlando Garrido and Arturo Kirkconnell and co-author of *Field Checklist of the Birds of Guyana*. He has published five papers related to bird distribution in Guyana and co-authored "Pelagic Birds in the Gulf of Maine" published in *American Birds*.

He has unselfishly deposited many of his sound recordings at Cornell University's Macaulay Library of Natural Sounds, including 1175 from Guyana, obtained from 20 expeditions exploring the rivers of that country's interior and ascents of Mount Roraima and mountains in the Acary Range.

He has further applied his knowledge of ornithology and bird distribution by serving on the Rare Bird Committees of Trinidad and Tobago, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine.

Davis has been a member of three venerable ornithological societies: The Nuttall Ornithological Club, The Linnaean Society of New York and the Ornithological Association of la Plata in Argentina.

Even though his responsibilities with Wings often took him far away from his home, Davis has managed to regularly and actively participate in many years of Christmas Bird Counts as a compiler and participant in New Hampshire and Maine starting in 1951. Notable has been his participation in the Coastal New Hampshire Count as a participant and compiler for over six decades and serving as a foremost member of the Errol and Pittsburg counts. Davis participated in the Errol-Umbagog CBC for 27 years between 1965 and 2007, serving over half of that time as its compiler. He has been an active member of the Seacoast Chapter of New Hampshire Audubon where, in addition to regularly attending its meetings, he also has led chapter field trips and has given presentations.

Perhaps most notably for many of us in this room, for twenty years, up until the winter before last, Davis maintained a "bird feeder of epic proportions" on his property in East Kingston in the form of a meat pile composed of scraps and bones obtained primarily from Shaws' butchers and augmented by an occasional deer carcass. This was no small amount of carrion. Davis has calculated that over the course of those twenty years, he added 128,000 pounds to the meat pile; just over three tons per year! This mound of bones and scraps attracted a good variety of birds such as gulls, crows, ravens, and eagles. Aside from these avian scavengers, his "feeder" was attended by a host of human visitors from all walks of life from both novice and long-time birders to eagle enthusiasts and biologists. Although the meat pile had attracted rarities over the years, including several Thayer's Gulls, I suspect that Davis is somewhat disappointed that it never managed to attract a Golden Eagle. That would have been a crowning glory to his substantial yard list. On a more serious side, during the last several years, Davis sent reports of banded gulls at the meat pile to be entered into the database of the Appledore Gull study coordinated by Julie Ellis. But even without the meat pile, Davis's property and neighborhood has attracted a number of additional rarities that he has enthusiastically shared with others. In recent years this has included a vagrant Ash-throated Flycatcher and, just this spring, another of his first state records...Eurasian Collared Dove.

Most remarkable, however, is Davis' generosity. Davis' kind heart and charity extends to anyone who visits his property. He has even ensured that his beloved property and lifetime home will remain protected for conservation in perpetuity under the auspices of the Southeast Land Trust.

Speaking for New Hampshire Audubon, it is our sincere pleasure to present the 2016 Goodhue-Elkins Award to a most deserving recipient, Davis Finch.



*The 2016 Goodhue-Elkins Award presented to Davis Finch (center) by David Donsker (right) and Scott Heron (left), 9/17/06. Photo by Terri Donsker.*

March 1, 2016 through May 31, 2016

by Eric Masterson



If rarities are the currency of birding, New Hampshire won the lottery this spring. Revisions to the state list arrived by the month, requiring multiple rewrites for an article on the next ten first-state records (see the article on page 39).

In the process, a new spring record of 282 species reported to eBird was established. It was a truly remarkable season; unique and unprecedented in the history of birding in New Hampshire. However, not all rarities are created equal. Of four first-state records, three were highly anticipated donut holes; birds that have occurred in every New England state except New Hampshire. The fourth was an outstanding rarity.

The American Birding Association (ABA) ranks species on the national list on a scale of 1 to 6 by rarity, with code 6 reserved for birds that are functionally extirpated from the ABA checklist area and have a probability of occurrence approaching zero. Code 1 represents the most common and widespread species. Though New Hampshire has no shortage of headline birds each year, very few rise to the level of ABA code 3 or higher. The state list includes at least three code 6 rarities all of which are now extinct: Eskimo Curlew, Great Auk, and Passenger Pigeon (a fourth, Labrador Duck probably occurred in New Hampshire). The art of the possible begins with code 5, but New Hampshire is at a geographical disadvantage right from the start. The pattern of occurrence of most code 5 and code 4 vagrants is clustered around several geographical hotspots, where the exotic avian influence from adjacent continents is most keenly felt. These rarity clusters are located at the outposts of North America: western Alaska, Newfoundland, Texas, Florida, and the continental shelf. National rarities are the birding currency of places like Attu and Key West. Birding in New Hampshire is usually dominated in regional rarities, with the emphasis on usually.

Chris McPherson discovered a Code 4 **Redwing** in Hollis on March 13, the fourth record for the eastern United States and one of the rarest vagrants ever to occur in New Hampshire. To find its equal, you have to go back to the Western Reef-Heron of fall 2006, New Hampshire's only code 5 rarity, but don't take my word for it. You can judge a bird by the company it keeps, and the Redwing attracted approximately 500 listers from across the eastern United

States and Canada; a who's who of birders from Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Toronto.



Tufted Duck by Jason Lambert, 3/4/16, Captain Pond, Salem, NH.

Although the season was only two weeks old when the Redwing turned up, the state list already had cause to be dusted down. Since 1989, Tufted Duck has been an annual visitor to the northeast (typically in late fall to early spring), with records from all New England States (Figure 1), including Vermont (12 records), Maine (8 records), and Massachusetts (in excess of 17 records). With the exception of Great Bay, however, New Hampshire in winter offers little open brackish or freshwater for ducks and geese. Vermont has Lake Champlain which rarely freezes over completely. Maine and Massachusetts have an abundance of water bodies in the coastal zone, where the moderating influence of the ocean usually serves to maintain at least some open freshwater. Perhaps the warm winter played a part, but fortune favors the active birder. Kyle Wilmarth found a stunning drake **Tufted Duck** on Captain Pond in Salem on March 4. It is likely the same bird that was present on nearby Kenoza Lake in Massachusetts until January 25.

Approximately a month later and less than halfway into the season, Jason Lambert and Katrina Fenton found the third first-state record of the spring; a **Mountain Bluebird** at Pease International Tradeport on April 9. This bird may have arrived with a wave of at least nine individuals that appeared in the northeast during the fall of 2015. As with the Tufted Duck, there are records from all New England states including Maine (2), Massachusetts (10), and Vermont (1).

On May 25, following seven barren weeks without a first state record, Davis Finch found a **Eurasian Collared-Dove** in East Kingston. Native to the Indian subcontinent, this species expanded its range into Western Europe, reaching Ireland in 1959. By the time I left Dublin for the United States in 1999, they were breeding in my backyard. The species was introduced to the Bahamas in the 1970s and spread to mainland Florida in the 1980s, thereafter

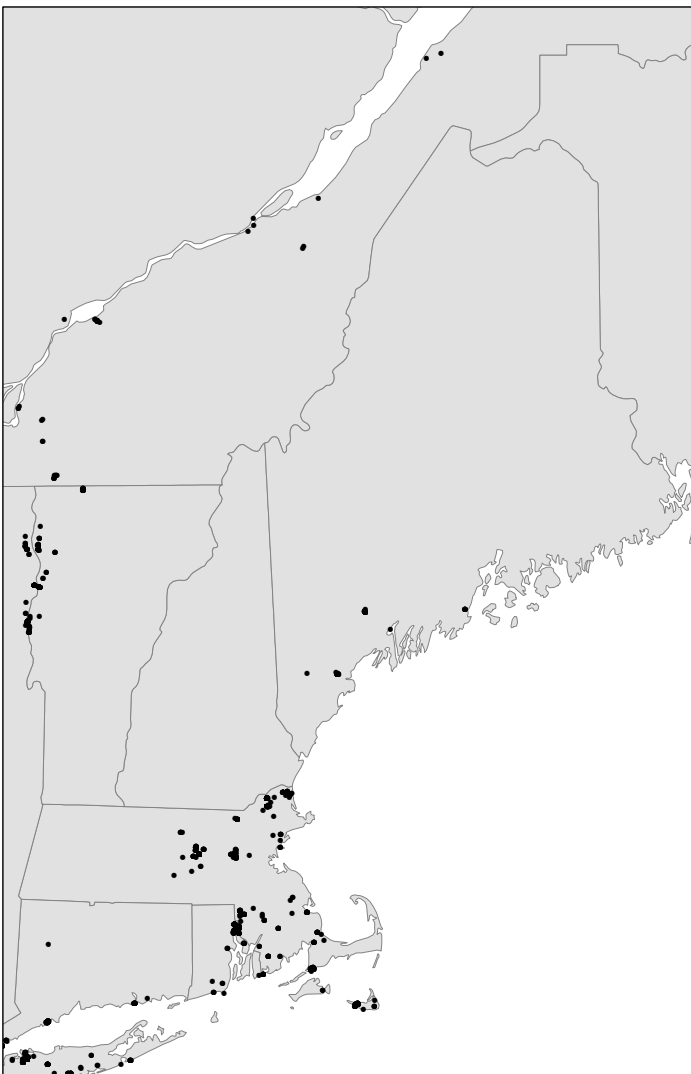
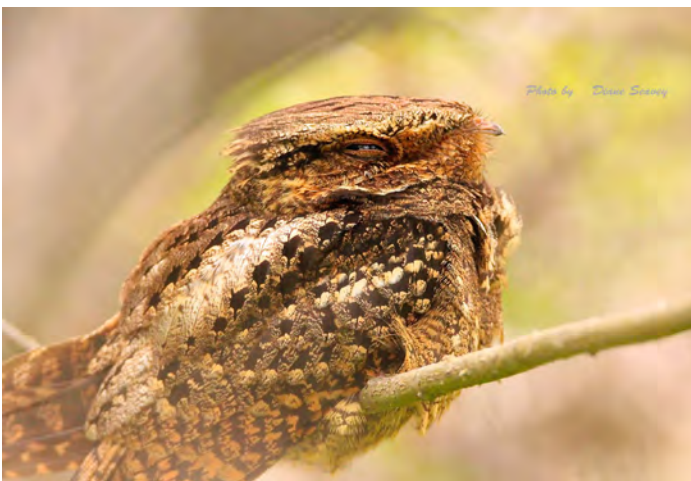


Figure 1. Tufted Duck reports from the state's surrounding New Hampshire. Data from eBird.

colonizing the remaining continental US except for the northeast, where they remain a rare vagrant. Again, New Hampshire was the donut hole, with records from all other New England states, including one each for Maine and Vermont and three records for Massachusetts.



Chuck-will's-widow by Diane Seavey, 5/21/16, Star Island, NH.

Notwithstanding four first-state records, the season was of such a high caliber that there were several lesser but still major rarities to set the spring apart, including **Western Grebe** in Hampton and **Chuck-will's-widow** and **White-winged Dove** on Star Island. Congratulations to Chris, Davis, Jason, Katrina, and Kyle. Finding a first-state record is a difficult accomplishment and one that will only get harder with the passage of time. You can read more about their experiences finding these rarities in a separate article.

Note: Bird data for all figures are from eBird. 2012. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance [web application]. eBird, Ithaca, New York. Available: <http://www.ebird.org>. (Accessed: July 2016).

### Waterfowl

If waterfowl migration in spring 2015 was impacted by a harsh winter, it is fair to say that migration this spring was impacted by the lack of one. Winter 2014-15 broke records for its severity; winter 2015-16 broke records of a different sort. The March 18 ice-out on Lake Winnepesaukee was the earliest by five days since records began in 1887. The fields bordering the Connecticut River from the Massachusetts border north to Charlestown were free of snow for the entire season and the ice above Vernon Dam cleared on February 24, the earliest in recent memory. The mercury in Concord topped 60 degrees Fahrenheit the following day. Waterfowl migration peaked in early March, a full month ahead of spring 2015.

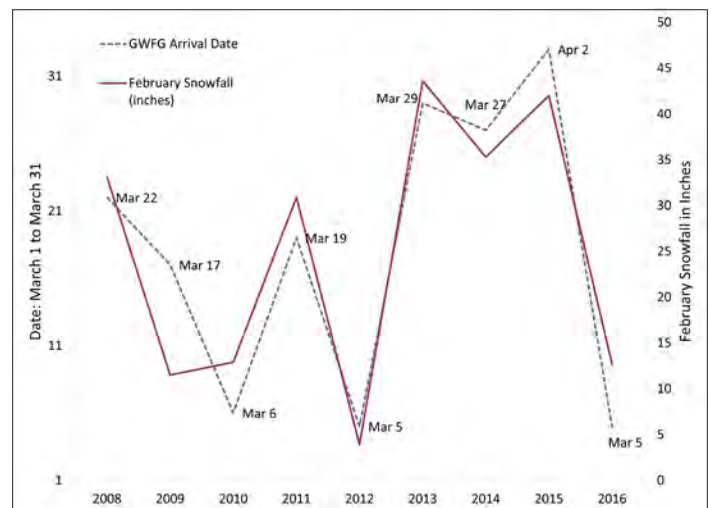


Figure 2. The correlation of Greater White-fronted Goose (GWFG) arrival date (left axis) with the February snowfall (data compiled by Tony Vazzano, North Winds Weather).

**Greater White-fronted Goose**, a rare but annual spring migrant along the lower Connecticut River valley, is a marker by which I set my watch for waterfowl migration. They usually appear on the crest of the wave of Canada Geese, providing a snapshot of the influence of weather on

## SPRING SEASON

timing. Based on the assumption that February snowfall is a predictor of March snow cover, there is a clear correlation between the movement of geese and the amount of snow in the fields (Figure 2). No such relationship exists when the same data is plotted against average temperature for February or March. Curiously, the birds tend to disappear once they reach the general latitude of Charlestown, NH. There is only one more northerly spring record, of a single bird seen in Newbury, VT on April 20, 2011 (Figure 3). Peak abundance of Canada Geese in this region (the Connecticut River valley north of Charlestown to Lancaster region) is also relatively reduced. This is despite the availability of excellent habitat north into Coos County and the continued alignment of the river valley with the shortest flight path to the area of western Greenland where some of our geese breed. By way of explanation, and building on the correlation between timing of movement and snow cover, I suspect the majority of the geese migrate from southwestern New Hampshire, bypassing

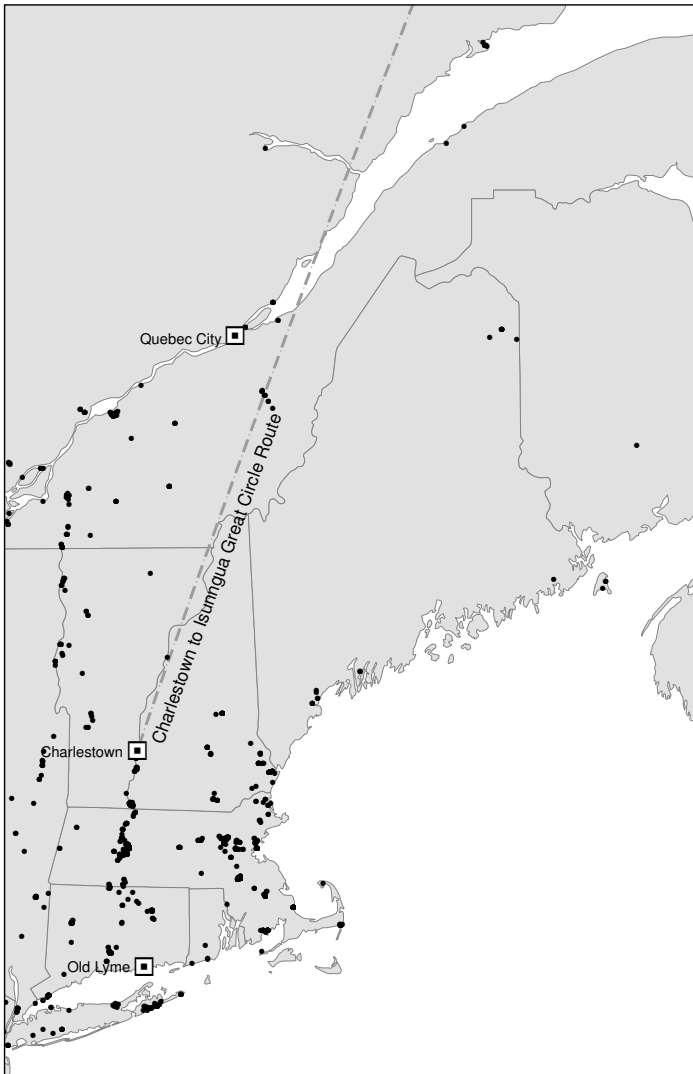


Figure 3. Greater White-fronted Goose (GWFG) reports in the Northeast from eBird. The dashed line shows the direct route to Isunngua, Greenland, the area where we know from banding studies that some of New Hampshire's migrant Canada and Greater White-fronted Geese breed.

Coos County with its heavier snow cover, to staging grounds in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, where there may be superior forage than would normally be available in Coos County. In support of this theory, this spring for only the second time, two Greater White-fronted Geese appeared 80 miles north of Charlestown, first appearing on the Vermont side of the river on March 12, with one bird appearing in Haverhill, Grafton County on March 13. If warm winters become the norm, I suspect that North Country birders will be graced with more frequent visits by rare geese.

Adam Burnett recorded 92 Snow Geese flying north over Walpole on March 23, the largest flock this spring. Hector Galbraith reported the only **Cackling Goose** of the season, a late bird at Hinsdale on May 15. Reports of Wood Ducks were remarkably scarce along the main channel of the Connecticut River, likely because the birds were able to find open creeks and backwaters upon their arrival. It was a good spring for Northern Pintail, with a high count of 36 birds in Charlestown on March 12, but otherwise, waterfowl migration was underwhelming. A wonderful collection at Magill Bay on the Androscoggin included a drake American Wigeon and three drake Blue-winged Teal on March 31, both first March eBird records *ever* for Coos County. A drake Gadwall appeared in the same location on April 8, with six above Wilder Dam in Lebanon on March 17. Great Bay hosted a **Eurasian Wigeon** until April 30, while a bird found late March at Pickering Ponds in Rochester was a first site record. Northern Shoveler continues to trend in a positive direction, with at least 47 individuals scattered across the state from Hampton to Colebrook. One or more **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** were seen in Meadow Pond in Hampton and Philbrick Marsh in North Hampton from late March to mid-April. The **Tufted Duck** on Captain Pond from March 4-8 took the prize for the rarity of the season, until it promptly relinquished the honor to the Redwing. Another, or perhaps the same bird, was seen again on World End Pond in Salem April 22-23. A first year male **King Eider** remained at Star Island for a week in May and a pair of Harlequin Ducks was present in Rye late April, with another bird seen in Rye May 9.



King Eider by Diane Seavey, 5/21/16, Star Island, NH.



Scoters are normally restricted to the coast in spring with one exception. Based on a substantial body of data, it is clear that a significant number of White-winged Scoters take an inland route north in late May, with fallouts expected during inclement weather. This spring, clear and calm skies ensured safe passage and there were only three reports of eight birds total from inland lakes and ponds. By contrast, Surf and Black Scoters are never expected in spring, yet two Surf Scoters were seen on Newfound Lake, with a third bird on Spofford Lake and three Black Scoters stopped off on the Connecticut River in Hinsdale. A hybrid Common x Barrow's Goldeneye was photographed on the Androscoggin River in early April.

*Date # Location Observer*

**Greater White-fronted Goose**

03/05	2	Hinsdale Setbacks	J. Swatt
03/08	3	Great Meadows, Charleston	H. Galbraith
03/13	1	Connecticut R., Haverhill	J. Andrews

**Snow Goose**

03/23	92	Westmoreland boat launch	A. Burnett
03/25	44	Sherman's Farm, Conway	J. Maher

**Brant**

05/18	140	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	J. Sparrell
05/20	90	Rye Ledge	S. Mirick
05/22	56	Pulpit Rocks, Rye	K. Fenton, J. Lambert

**Cackling Goose**

05/15	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
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**Canada Goose**

03/11	400	Rt. 135 farm fields, Lancaster	S. Stoddard
03/17	2348	Great Meadows, Charleston	D. Clark

**Wood Duck**

03/21	46	Westmoreland boat launch	A. Burnett
03/25	40	South Rd., Kensington	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05/30	54	Copps Pond WMA, Tuftonboro	S. Mesick

**Gadwall**

03/01	2	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	M. Thompson, D. Ellis, Z. Cornell
03/09	2	Great Meadows, Charleston	E. Masterson
03/17	6	Wilder Dam Reservoir, Lebanon	J. Lloyd
03/25	2	N. Conway CC	E. Lipton
04/08	1	Magill Bay, Androscoggin R., Dummer	P.& L. Charron
04/10	2	Rye Harbor SP	G. Vigna
04/16	2	Rt. 108, E. Kingston	S. Mirick

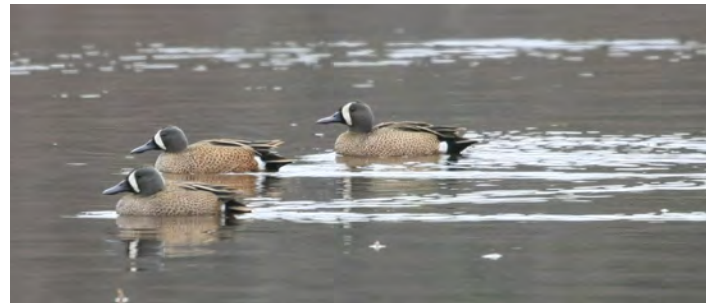
**Eurasian Wigeon**

03/24	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray
04/30	1	Sunset Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick

*Date # Location Observer*

**American Wigeon**

03/08	8	Great Bay Discovery Center, Greenland	S. Santino
03/09	3	Winnisquam L. at Winnepesaukee R. mouth, Laconia	A.& G. Robbins
03/17	7	Great Meadows, Charleston	E. Masterson
03/19	3	Upper Suncook Recreation Area, Barnstead	J. Lambert
03/25	1	Plains Rd., Monroe	R. Suomala
03/30	1	Magill Bay, Androscoggin R., Dummer	P.& L. Charron
04/25	5	Hampton-Seabrook marsh, Seabrook	G. Gavutis, Jr. H. Galbraith
05/22	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	



*Blue-winged Teal by Lori Charron, 3/31/16, Magill Bay, Dummer, NH.*

**Blue-winged Teal**

03/31	3	Magill Bay, Androscoggin R., Dummer	P.& L. Charron
04/01	1	Exeter WTP	R. Prieto, J. Sparrell, K. Fenton
04/08	4	Exeter WTP	J. McKibben, M. Mahata
04/09	3	Magill Bay, Androscoggin R., Dummer	P. Charron
05/13	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	B. Kimball

**Northern Shoveler**

03/10	1	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
03/16	1	Great Meadows, Charleston	H. Galbraith
03/17	1	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	J. Nadeau
03/18	1	Mink Brook point at Connecticut R., Hanover	J. Norton
03/26	3	Meadow Pond, Hampton	S. Mirick
04/02	3	Great Bay NWR, Newington	K. Hojnacki
04/03	1	Water St., Lancaster	S.& D. Stoddard
04/16	5	Great Meadows, Charleston	D. Jackson
04/19	4	World End Pond, Salem	J. Maher
04/20	1	Derry WTP	J. Maher
05/09	6	Panorama Golf Course, Dixville Notch	L. Charron
05/10	2	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	S. Young, D. Hubbard
05/11	9	Exeter WTP	Z. Cornell, A. Hamlin
05/18	7	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	D. Govatski
05/29	3	River View Rd., Newport	B. Baker, et al.

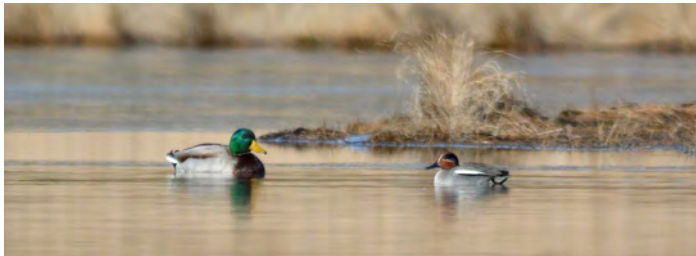


*Migrating Brant by Steve Mirick, 5/20/16, Rye, NH.*

# SPRING SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Northern Pintail</b>			
03/07	6	Chapmans Landing, Stratham	M. Watson
03/11	18	Wetherby Rd., Charlestown	E. Masterson
03/11	2	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	D. Lania
03/12	3	Upper Suncook Recreation Area, Barnstead	J. Lambert
03/12	2	River St., Conway	J. Maher
03/17	2	Rt. 135 farm fields, Lancaster	S. Stoddard
04/12	2	Reed's Marsh WMA, Orford	J. MacQueen

<b>Green-winged Teal</b>			
03/19	82	Meadow Pond, Hampton	E. Masterson
03/20	6	Stockwell Rd., Lancaster	S. Stoddard
03/27	236	Meadow Pond, Hampton	J. Lambert
04/02	41	Bodwell Farm, E. Kingston	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
04/12	188	Great Meadows, Charleston	E. Masterson



*The Eurasian sub-species of the Green-winged Teal (right) by Kyle Wilmarth, 4/9/16, N. Hampton, NH.*

<b>Green-winged Teal - Eurasian subsp.</b>			
03/26	1	Meadow Pond, Hampton	S. Mirick
04/09	1	Philbrick Marsh, N. Hampton	S. Mirick
04/17	1	Meadow Pond, Hampton	S. Mirick
<b>Ring-necked Duck</b>			
03/02	60	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
03/17	70	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
03/21	120	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
03/22	89	Lily Pond, Gilford	P. Fernandes
04/06	67	Stone Pond, Marlow	J. Swatt
04/08	58	Magill Bay, Androscoggin R., Dummer	P&L. Charron
04/12	61	Reed's Marsh WMA, Orford	J. MacQueen
05/05	2	Tolman Pond, Nelson	P. Brown
05/14	1	Lubberland Creek Preserve, Newmarket	A. Hamlin

<b>Tufted Duck</b>			
03/04	1	Captain Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth, et al.
03/08	1	Captain Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth, et al.
04/23	1	World End Pond, Salem	A. Altena, K. Wilmarth, et al.

<b>Greater Scaup</b>			
03/06	400	Sunset Farm, Greenland	D.&J. Scott
03/22	2	Otter Pond, Sunapee	D. Jackson
04/02	1	Mile Long Pond, Androscoggin R., Errol	P&L. Charron
04/09	2	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
05/25	1	Sunset Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Lesser Scaup</b>			
04/11	65	Exeter WTP	J. MacQueen
<b>King Eider</b>			
05/22	1	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, et al.
<b>Harlequin Duck</b>			
04/22	1	Seal Rocks, Rye	S. Mirick, et al.
04/24	2	Seal Rocks, Rye	P. Brown, L. Bonniwell
05/09	1	Rye Harbor SP	R. Prieto, J. Sparrell, L. McKillop

<b>Surf Scoter</b>			
05/02	1	L. Sunapee Yacht Club, Sunapee	D. Jackson
05/07	2	Spofford L., Chesterfield	E. Masterson

<b>White-winged Scoter</b>			
05/07	2	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith, J. Russo
05/12	1	Lake Ave., Sunapee	D. Jackson
05/17	5	Squam Lake	I. MacLeod
05/19	440	NH coast	S. Mirick

<b>Black Scoter</b>			
03/25	1	Fort Eddy boat launch, Concord	D. Lania
03/25	3	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith

<b>scoter sp.</b>			
05/02	30	Lake Sunapee	D. Jackson
05/13	15	Lake Sunapee	D. Jackson

<b>Long-tailed Duck</b>			
05/07	23	Newfound L., Bristol	E. Masterson
05/07	8	L. Sunapee Yacht Club, Sunapee	D. Jackson
05/18	5	NH coast	J. O'Shaughnessy

<b>Bufflehead</b>			
03/26	14	Newport WTP	D. Jackson
04/20	11	Derry WTP	J. Maher
05/07	18	Newfound L., Bristol	E. Masterson
05/21	1	Locke Lake, Barnstead	J. Lambert

<b>Barrow's Goldeneye</b>			
03/06	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith, E. Masterson
03/09	1	Fenton Ave., Laconia	A. Robbins
04/02	1	Androscoggin R. at Errol dam	J. Fecteau

<b>Common x Barrow's Goldeneye (hybrid)</b>			
04/06	1	Androscoggin R. at Errol dam	L. Charron

<b>Common Merganser</b>			
03/17	117	Webster L., Franklin	R. Quinn

<b>Red-breasted Merganser</b>			
03/05	1	Nashua R. at Merrimack R., Nashua	J. Gray
03/27	1	Great Meadows, Charleston	D. Jackson
04/07	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith, J. Russo
04/14	2	Otter Pond, Sunapee	D. Jackson
05/05	3	L. Sunapee Yacht Club, Sunapee	D. Jackson
05/07	1	Spofford Lake, Chesterfield	E. Masterson
05/13	2	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	B. Kimball

<b>Ruddy Duck</b>			
03/05	2	Adams Point WMA, Durham	A. Murray
03/14	1	Willand Pond, Somersworth/Dover	A. Murray, A. Aldrich
03/28	1	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth

Date	#	Location	Observer
04/07	5	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith, J. Russo
05/31	1	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard

## Grouse through Cranes

The Red-throated Loon that sought refuge on Spofford Lake in early May was a relatively rare spring sighting at an inland location. Steve Mirick has a knack for finding **Pacific Loons** along New Hampshire's coast in late spring and early summer, enough to suggest that this is the best place at the best time to find the species in the state. Steve and Jane found a bird on May 22 and another two were seen on May 30, all in North Hampton. Nearby, a **Western Grebe** remained in Hampton for about a week in mid-April.



*Tri-colored Heron by Steve Mirick, 5/29/16, Rye, NH.*

An extremely confiding Sooty Shearwater was photographed by birders taking the ferry to Star Island on May 23 and perhaps the same individual was seen at Odiorne Point a week later. Manx Shearwater was recorded from Seabrook on May 23 and North Hampton on May 30. **Least Bittern** returned to World End Pond in Salem, with two birds seen on May 21. **Little Blue** and **Tricolored Heron** made the list with one record apiece at Gilman Park in Exeter and the "Wooden Bridge" in Rye. Black-crowned Night-Heron occurred in average numbers, with birds in Exeter, Hampton, and Newmarket, but their true abundance in the state is difficult to discern due to their nocturnal habits. Migrants are occasionally recorded, as with the bird that Andrea Robbins heard flying overhead while she was listening for owls, but the extent of their occurrence, especially inland, is poorly known. I have been operating a nocturnal flight call station from my Hancock yard every fall for several years and this year I expanded the project to spring, recording all migrants from mid-April through the end of May during appropriate weather conditions. Amongst the sparrows, warblers, and assorted other migrants, I was surprised to record at least 14 Black-crowned Night-Herons spread over the season, suggesting that they are not quite as scarce inland as one might think.



*Red-shouldered x Red-tailed Hawk hybrid by Kyle Wilmarth, 3/11/16, Atkinson, NH.*

It was a good spring for **Black Vulture**, with individuals sighted in Bedford and Candia, and multiple reports from the Connecticut River Valley, with two sighted in Walpole and a single bird in Stewartstown. **Mississippi Kites** returned to Newmarket, with at least five birds seen on May 28. Steve and Jane Mirick witnessed a terrific spring flight of Sharp-shinned Hawks from the coast, with 70 birds on May 9 and another 51 on May 10. By contrast, the coast is the least likely place in New Hampshire to find Northern Goshawk; a bird in Rye on March 11 was noteworthy. Kyle Wilmarth found an apparent Red-shouldered x Red-tailed Hawk in Atkinson, possibly a first or second state record of this unusual hybrid. Rough-legged Hawks were scarce, with single birds in Laconia and Nashua. A **Common Gallinule** was found at Airport Marsh in Whitefield, where it remained for a week in late May. A second bird was heard-only at the Exeter Wastewater Treatment Plant. The **Sandhill Cranes** returned to Monroe and additional migrants were sighted in Conway, Henniker, and Salem.

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Spruce Grouse</b>			
04/15	1	Androscoggin R. at Rt. 16, Dummer	L. Charron
05/08	1	Mollidgewock Rd., Errol	G. Chapin, S. Robinson
05/21	1	Appalachian Trail, Carter Mt., Beans Purchase	D. Kembel
05/22	1	Mt. Isolation & Boott Spur, Cutts Grant	A. Burnett
05/27	1	Mt. Washington Auto Rd.	G. Lindeman
<b>Red-throated Loon</b>			
04/22	36	Great Boars Head, Hampton	S. Mirick
05/02	1	Spofford L., Chesterfield	E. Masterson
<b>Pacific Loon</b>			
05/22	1	Little Boars Head, N. Hampton	S. Mirick
05/30	2	Little Boars Head, N. Hampton	J. Lambert, J. Sparrell, K. Towler, et al.

# SPRING SEASON

Date # Location Observer

## Common Loon

04/02 67 NH coast S. Mirick  
05/05 38 L. Sunapee Yacht Club, Sunapee D. Jackson

## Horned Grebe

04/02 27 NH coast S. Mirick  
04/09 1 Birch Point Rd., Sunapee D. Jackson  
05/09 1 Hinsdale Setbacks R. Menck

## Red-necked Grebe

04/02 78 NH coast S. Mirick  
04/10 4 Lake Massabesic, Auburn E. Masterson  
04/10 2 Silver Lake, Nelson P. Brown  
04/18 4 Lower Kimball Pond, Chatham B. Crowley  
04/22 1 L. Armington/L. Tarleton access areas, Piermont P. Brown  
05/07 4 Newfound L., Bristol E. Masterson  
05/07 7 Connecticut R. opposite Herricks Cove, Charlestown D. Jackson  
05/07 4 Mascoma Lake, Enfield E. Masterson  
05/07 29 L. Sunapee Yacht Club, Sunapee D. Jackson  
05/08 7 Spofford Lake, Chesterfield E. Masterson



Western Grebe by Jason Lambert, 4/17/16, Hampton, NH.

## Western Grebe

04/14 1 Great Boars Head, Hampton R. Ridgeley, P. Chamberlain et al.  
04/22 1 Great Boars Head, Hampton S. Mirick

## Northern Fulmar

04/02 3 Jeffreys Ledge J. Sparrell, R. Suomala, Z. Cornell

## Sooty Shearwater

05/23 1 Star Is., Isles of Shoals R. Quinn, et al.  
05/29 1 Odiorne Point SP, Rye S. Mirick, J. Lambert, K. Fenton

## Manx Shearwater

05/23 1 Seabrook Beach at Haverhill St. A. Robbins  
05/30 1 Little Boars Head, N. Hampton S. Mirick

## Double-crested Cormorant

03/24 1 Exeter WTP L. McKillop  
05/08 87 Old Hillsboro Rd., Henniker A. Moser  
05/08 1063 NH coast migration watch S. Mirick

## Great Cormorant

03/13 1 Dubes Pond, Hooksett S. Szelog, et al.  
05/17 1 Squam Lake I. MacLeod  
05/23 4 Star Is., Isles of Shoals R. Quinn

## American Bittern

04/02 1 Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield A. Robbins  
04/09 1 Trask Brook Rd., Newport/Sunapee D. Jackson

Date # Location Observer

## Least Bittern

05/11 1 World End Pond, Salem A. Altena, K. Wilmarth  
05/21 2 World End Pond, Salem A. Altena, K. Wilmarth



Great Egret by Steve Bennett, 3/21/16, Awcomin Marsh, Rye, NH.

## Great Egret

03/21 1 Awcomin Marsh, Rye S. Bennett  
04/23 2 Charlestown Meadows D. Clark, D. Jackson  
04/28 1 Nashua River, Nashua J. Gray  
05/01 18 Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook S. Heron, D. Jackson  
05/04 1 Turtle Pond, Concord D. Lania  
05/06 1 Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey T. Parody

## Snowy Egret

03/27 1 Rt. 1A wooden bridge, Rye J. Lambert  
04/01 1 Chapmans Landing, Stratham S. Heron  
04/11 1 Horseshoe Pond, Concord M. Spurduto  
04/14 13 Parsons Creek saltmarsh, Rye R. Prieto

## Little Blue Heron

05/07 1 Gilman Park, Exeter J. Price

## Tricolored Heron

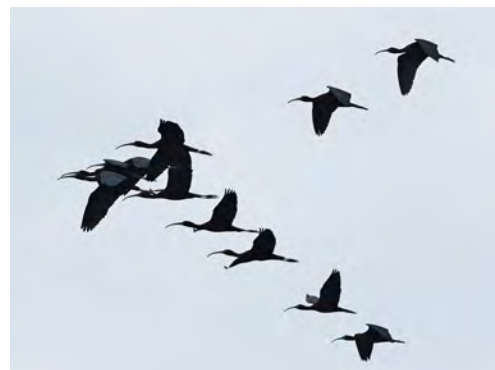
05/29 1 Odiorne Point SP, Rye J. Lambert, K. Fenton, et al.

## Green Heron

04/18 1 Round Pond, Nashua C. Sheridan  
04/25 1 Wellington Rd. pond, Manchester L. McKillop

## Black-crowned Night-Heron

04/17 1 Antrim Rd., Hancock E. Masterson  
04/18 1 Antrim Rd., Hancock E. Masterson  
04/23 1 Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield A. Robbins  
04/27 1 Exeter WTP L. McKillop  
04/28 2 Antrim Rd., Hancock E. Masterson  
05/06 1 Island Path, Hampton J. O'Shaughnessy  
05/22 1 Newmarket Town Landing J. Lambert, K. Fenton



Glossy Ibis by Steve Mirick, 4/22/16, Rye, NH.

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Glossy Ibis</b>			
03/30	2	Chapmans Landing, Stratham	G. Tillman, et al.
04/02	1	Bodwell Farm, E. Kingston	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, S. Mirick
04/22	24	Awcomin Marsh, Rye	S. Mirick
04/22	46	Rye Harbor	S. Heron
04/23	1	World End Pond, Salem	A. Altena, K. Wilmarth, H. Otto
04/24	6	Sunset Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick
04/27	30	The Breakers, Rt. 1A, Rye	S. Bennett
05/09	56	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
05/28	7	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Williams
<b>Black Vulture</b>			
03/28	1	Rt. 101 at Kilton Rd., Bedford	B. Griffith
04/02	1	Connecticut R. below Bellows Falls Dam, Walpole	P. Brown, W. Ward
04/22	2	Rt. 12 at Office Industrial Pk Dr., Walpole	W. Ward
05/21	1	Owens Rd., Stewartstown	T. Allen
05/26	1	Rt. 101, Candia	S. Wisley
<b>Osprey</b>			
03/14	1	Hollis HS	G. Richards
03/25	2	Great Bay NWR, Newington	J. Sparrell
03/28	2	J. Jill HQ, Tilton	I. MacLeod
04/01	1	Androscoggin R. at Rt. 16, Dummer	P. Charron
<b>Mississippi Kite</b>			
05/19	1	Piscassic St., Newmarket	S. Mirick, C. Nims, J. Scott, D. Scott
05/21	1	Chapmans Landing, Stratham	P. Brown, D. Hubbard, et al.
05/28	5	Piscassic St., Newmarket	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala, S. Bennett, S. Mirick
<b>Sharp-shinned Hawk</b>			
05/09	70	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
05/10	51	NH coast migration watch	S. Mirick
<b>Northern Goshawk</b>			
03/11	1	Awcomin Marsh, Rye	S. Bennett
05/28	1	Piscassic St., Newmarket	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala, S. Bennett, S.& J. Mirick
<b>Broad-winged Hawk</b>			
04/09	1	Spruce Swamp, Fremont	J. Sparrell
04/12	1	Wheeler Rd., Hollis	S. Bennett
05/03	2	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	K. Fenton
05/09	16	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
<b>Red-shouldered x Red-tailed Hawk (hybrid)</b>			
03/11	1	Rt. 121, Atkinson	K. Wilmarth
<b>Rough-legged Hawk</b>			
03/12	1	Morrills Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
<b>Virginia Rail</b>			
04/12	1	Ten Rod Rd., Rochester	D. Hubbard
04/14	5	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
05/29	1	upper Magalloway R., Wentworths Location	J. Gamble

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Sora</b>			
05/08	1	Surrey Ln. marsh, Durham	K. Dorsey
05/10	1	Geremonty Dr. marsh, Salem	K. Wilmarth
05/21	1	Thompson WS, Sandwich	P. Brown, H. Walters, K. Fenton
05/27	1	Surrey Ln. marsh, Durham	S.& J. Mirick, K. Towler, J. Sparrell



*Common Gallinule* by Dave Govatski, 5/24/16, Airport Marsh, Whitefield, NH.

**Common Gallinule**

05/09	1	Exeter WTP	B. Griffith
05/20	1	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	J. Sparrell, K. Towler
05/31	1	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	K. Dorsey

**American Coot**

04/10	1	Exeter WTP	G.& J. McKibben, J. Lambert, M. Watson, M. Halsey, C. McPherson
05/29	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith

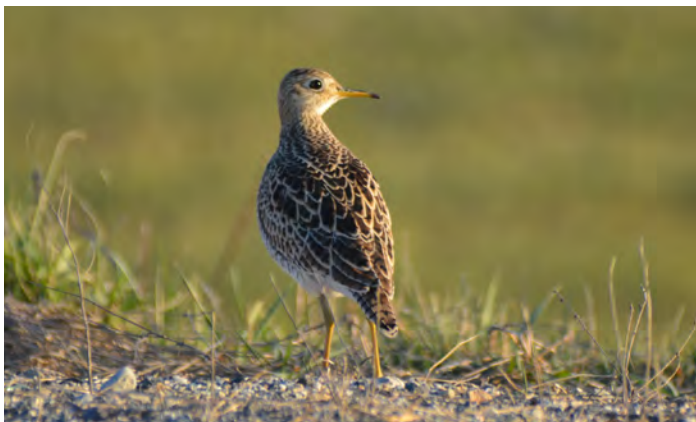
**Sandhill Crane**

03/26	2	Plains Rd., Monroe	J. MacQueen
04/02	2	Old Concord Rd. fields, Henniker	J. Kanter
04/14	1	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
04/25	1	Sherman's Farm, Conway	B. Crowley

**Shorebirds through Terns**

An **American Oystercatcher** at Seabrook on May 22 was the only record of the season. The **Willet** at World End Pond on May 10 was not. The latter offers a great illustration of our predisposition to judge avian rarity based on anthropomorphic parameters. Willet is a common summer resident along our short coastline; however, with the exception of Great Bay, the species is an exceptionally rare bird west of Rt. 95, with only three inland records listed in *The Birds of New Hampshire* (by Keith and Fox), none of which are well documented. Judged solely in terms of a bird's likelihood to occur at a particular point in space and time, the Willet was one of the rarities of the season, although this is a difficult argument to make this spring.

**Upland Sandpiper** returned to Pease, with four birds on April 23, but away from this location the species remains very rare. The bird that Dylan Jackson found in Sunapee, although not quite as unusual as the errant Willet, was the first record for Sullivan County in the modern era. Additional birds were seen at Stuart Farm in Stratham



*Upland Sandpiper by Dylan Jackson, 4/20/16, Sunapee, NH.*

and Moore Fields in Durham. Ruddy Turnstone is an uncommon spring migrant; there was but a single record last year. This year, with eight birds from five locations, the individual seen in Great Bay Wildlife Refuge was the most noteworthy, as the species is normally strictly coastal. At least two **Red Knots** frequented Hampton Harbor mid to late May and two White-rumped Sandpipers were present at Wallis Sands Beach in Rye on May 27, the only report this season. The only Pectoral Sandpiper report this spring was at Pickering Ponds in Rochester. Phil Brown, Katrina Fenton, and Henry Walters had the good fortune to witness a flock of approximately 140 **Short-billed Dowitchers** flying north over the Thompson Wildlife Sanctuary in Sandwich on May 20, the same day a group of 14 was sighted on Lily Pond in Gilford. Four **Red-necked Phalaropes** seen at Rye on April 24 were exceptionally early. Always a treat in spring, the species is more typically seen mid to late May.



*Caspian Tern by Eric Masterson, 5/1/16, Spofford Lake, NH.*



*Forster's Tern by Eric Masterson, 5/2/16, Connecticut River, Charlestown, NH.*

Bad weather forced two birds to seek shelter on Newfoundland Lake May 7 and another five were seen near Pierce Island in Portsmouth on the same date. A **Parasitic Jaeger** flew north past Concord Point in Rye on May 27, while a coastal Thick-billed Murre on May 3 and a Black-legged Kittiwake on May 27 were both on the late side. The 34 Bonaparte's Gulls on Lake Sunapee May 5 were the largest spring flock recorded inland in the modern era. Similar inland spring totals include 33 at Spofford Lake on May 14, 2010 and 32 at Lake Umbagog on May 4, 1998.

A series of low-pressure systems passed through New Hampshire during the first week of May, creating the conditions for a spectacular fallout of terns in the southwestern part of the state. At least 27 individuals of four species were recorded, highlighted by at least seven **Caspian Terns**, a single **Black Tern**, numerous Common Terns, including a flock of ten on Spofford Lake, and a single **Forster's Tern** on the Connecticut River in Charlestown. New Hampshire birders with history will remember a time when Common Tern was the rarer inland *sterna* tern. The population of Common Terns breeding on Lake Champlain has remained fairly static at about 200 pairs, so it seems unlikely that this colony is responsible for the uptick. Common Tern is flourishing, however, along the St. Lawrence River and estuary. A banded bird sighted in Hinsdale in 2011 was traced to a colony about 60 miles southwest of Montreal. Caspian Tern has also increased as a spring migrant in the Connecticut River Valley, however, unlike Common Tern, it has been almost extirpated from the Gulf of St. Lawrence as a breeder (pers. comm. Ian Nisbet). This suggests that our migrant Caspian Terns are headed for Lake Champlain or to colonies farther afield in Newfoundland and Labrador.

*Date # Location Observer*

**American Oystercatcher**

05/22 1 Seabrook Beach S. Mirick

**Black-bellied Plover**

05/01 2 Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook S. Heron, D. Jackson

05/12 15 NH coast S. Heron

05/14 25 NH coast J. Maher, C. McPherson, G. Tilman, E. Masterson

05/19 50 Hampton River Marina flats C. Nims, J. Scott, D. Scott

**Semipalmated Plover**

05/03 2 Hampton Salt Marsh, Hampton S. Mirick

05/08 4 Hampton Salt Marsh, Hampton R. Suomala

05/08 12 Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton R. Prieto

05/18 46 Hampton Salt Marsh, Hampton S. Mirick

05/20 14 Rochester WTP D. Hubbard

05/30 8 Pleasant L., New London M. Vernon

Date # Location Observer



*Piping Plovers territorial dispute by Scott Heron, 5/1/16, Hampton, NH.*

**Piping Plover**

03/30 1 Hampton Beach SP S. Mirick  
 04/05 4 NH coast J. Maher  
 04/25 7 Hampton Beach A. Hamlin

**Killdeer**

03/01 2 2nd NH Tpk., Deering P. Brown  
 03/02 3 Rt. 155A fields, Durham A. Murray  
 03/25 6 Rt. 135 at Rt. 142, Dalton S. Stoddard  
 03/26 40 Rt. 155A fields, Durham R. Prieto  
 04/03 41 Sherman Farm, Conway B. Crowley  
 05/07 2 Airport Marsh, Whitefield K. Fenton

**Spotted Sandpiper**

04/18 1 Rochester WTP D. Hubbard  
 04/23 3 Exeter WTP J. Lambert  
 05/07 1 Old Cherry Mt. Rd., Carroll/Jefferson C. Nims  
 05/07 1 N. Mountain Pond Rd., Errol G. Chapin, S. Robinson

**Solitary Sandpiper**

05/07 5 Hampton Salt Marsh, Hampton S. Mirick  
 05/07 1 Beaver Brook Assn., Hollis C. McPherson  
 05/10 1 Campton Bog M. Thompson  
 05/11 9 McDaniels Marsh WMA, Springfield D. Jackson  
 05/12 1 Blueberry Swamp, Columbia K. Fenton

**Greater Yellowlegs**

04/01 1 Chapmans Landing, Stratham G. Tillman  
 04/02 5 Chapmans Landing, Stratham S. Mirick  
 04/20 1 Hinsdale Setbacks H. Galbraith  
 04/20 1 Richmond Conservation Land, Orford J. MacQueen  
 04/23 28 NH coast J. Lambert  
 04/28 3 Fort Eddy boat launch, Concord Z. Cornell, R. Suomala  
 05/05 10 Great Meadows, Charleston E. Masterson  
 05/07 6 Airport Marsh, Whitefield K. Fenton  
 05/12 1 Blueberry Swamp, Columbia K. Fenton

**Willet**

04/30 5 NH coast S. Mirick  
 05/10 1 World End Pond, Salem H. Otto, K. Wilmarth  
 05/22 7 Rt. 1A wooden bridge, Rye S. Myers

**Lesser Yellowlegs**

04/04 1 Exeter WTP L. McKillop  
 04/09 1 Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton Z. Cornell, R. Suomala  
 04/14 4 Hampton Salt Marsh, Hampton J. Maher

Date # Location Observer

05/01 12 Great Meadows, Charleston E. Masterson  
 05/11 18 Pickering Ponds, Rochester D. Hubbard, et al.  
 05/12 2 Trinity Farm, Orford J. MacQueen  
 05/21 2 Cops Ponds WMA, Tuftonboro A. Robbins

**Upland Sandpiper**

04/20 1 Trask Brook Rd, Newport/Sunapee D. Jackson  
 04/22 1 Trask Brook Rd, Newport/Sunapee C. Sheridan  
 04/23 1 Rt. 155A fields, Durham K. Dorsey, J. Lambert  
 04/23 4 Pease Intl. Tradeport, Short St., Newington Z. Cornell  
 04/30 3 Stuart Farm, Stratham S. Mirick

**Ruddy Turnstone**

05/08 3 NH coast migration watch S. Mirick  
 05/17 1 Rt. 1A wooden bridge, Rye J. MacQueen  
 05/21 1 Yankee Fisherman's Coop, Seabrook H. Walters  
 05/21 2 Star Is., Isles of Shoals E. Masterson, et al.  
 05/28 1 Rt. 1A wooden bridge, Rye Z. Cornell, R. Suomala

**Red Knot**

05/12 1 Hampton River Marina flats S. Bennett, S. Heron  
 05/13 2 Yankee Fisherman's Coop, Seabrook S. Heron, M. Jacobson, J. Maher, C. McPherson  
 05/20 1 Hampton Harbor K. Wilmarth

**Sanderling**

03/30 1 Hampton Beach SP S. Mirick  
 05/29 13 Odiorne Point SP, Rye B. Chambers, A. Chambers

**Dunlin**

04/22 145 Hampton Harbor E. Masterson  
 05/02 1 Connecticut R. opposite Herricks Cove, Charlestown E. Masterson  
 05/15 122 Hampton Harbor J. Lambert, K. Fenton

**Purple Sandpiper**

04/23 217 NH coast J. Lambert  
 05/01 98 Hampton Harbor Inlet S. Heron, D. Jackson  
 05/27 12 Hampton Harbor Inlet S. Mirick

**Least Sandpiper**

05/03 5 Hampton Salt Marsh, Hampton S. Mirick  
 05/09 29 Hampton Salt Marsh, Hampton S. Mirick  
 05/12 1 Trinity Farm, Orford J. MacQueen  
 05/18 210 Hampton Salt Marsh, Hampton S. Mirick  
 05/18 4 Hinsdale Setbacks H. Galbraith  
 05/20 4 Fields Grove City Park, Nashua J. Maher  
 05/21 1 Barnstead J. Lambert  
 05/21 9 Cops Ponds WMA, Tuftonboro A. Robbins  
 05/25 34 World End Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth

**White-rumped Sandpiper**

05/27 2 Parsons Creek saltmarsh, Rye S. Mirick

**Pectoral Sandpiper**

05/03 1 Pickering Ponds, Rochester A. Murray, D. Hubbard

**Semipalmated Sandpiper**

05/07 1 Hampton Salt Marsh, Hampton S. Mirick  
 05/12 4 South Mill Pond, Portsmouth J. Sparrell  
 05/20 8 Fields Grove City Park, Nashua J. Maher  
 05/27 120 Hampton Salt Marsh, Hampton S. Mirick

# SPRING SEASON



*Short-billed Dowitcher by Jane Kelley, 5/20/16, Lily Pond, Gilford, NH.*

## Short-billed Dowitcher

05/07	3	Hampton Salt Marsh, Hampton	S. Mirick
05/08	25	Rye Harbor SP	J. Sparrell
05/18	44	Meadow Pond, Hampton	S. Mirick
05/20	14	Lily Pond, Gilford	J. Kelley
05/20	140	Thompson WS, Sandwich	P. Brown, H. Walters, K. Fenton

## Wilson's Snipe

03/12	1	Great Bay Farms, Greenland	S. Mirick
03/12	1	Middle Hancock Rd., Hancock	E. Masterson
04/09	20	Bodwell Farm, E. Kingston	S. Mirick

## American Woodcock

03/07	1	Wilton	S. Lemire
03/08	6	Rideout Rd., Hollis	K. Fenton
03/10	1	Rt. 25A, Orford	J. MacQueen
03/22	1	Old Cherry Mt. Rd., Carroll/Jefferson	N. Mitiguy

## Red-necked Phalarope

04/24	4	Rye Harbor SP	C. Baker, B. Baker
05/07	2	Newfound L., Bristol	E. Masterson
05/07	5	Pisquataqua R. near Peirce Is., Portsmouth	L. Cogswell

## Parasitic Jaeger

05/27	1	Concord Pt., Rye	S. Mirick
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## jaeger sp.

05/22	1	Concord Pt., Rye	S. Mirick
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## Common Murre

04/02	3	Jeffreys Ledge	J. Sparrell, R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
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## Thick-billed Murre

03/05	1	Hampton Beach SP	K. Parexus
04/02	2	Jeffreys Ledge	J. Sparrell, R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
05/03	1	Seal Rocks, Rye	S. Mirick

## Razorbill

04/02	31	Jeffreys Ledge	J. Sparrell, R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
05/22	1	Pulpit Rocks, Rye	K. Fenton, J. Lambert
05/30	2	Little Boars Head, N. Hampton	B. Griffith

## Black Guillemot

04/02	11	NH coast	S. Mirick
05/22	6	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, et al.



*Black-legged Kittiwake by Steve Mirick, 5/27/16, Great Island Common, New Castle, NH. This is presumably the same bird that was seen 30 minutes earlier at Pulpit Rocks in Rye.*

## Black-legged Kittiwake

05/27	1	Pulpit Rocks, Rye	S.& J. Mirick
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## Bonaparte's Gull

04/02	3	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
04/12	1	Spofford L., Chesterfield	E. Masterson
04/22	3	L. Massabesic, Front Park, Rt. 28B	E. Masterson
05/04	2	Connecticut R. opposite Herricks Cove, Charlestown	E. Masterson
05/05	5	Spofford L., Chesterfield	E. Masterson
05/05	1	Powder Mill Pond, Hancock	P. Brown
05/05	2	Hinsdale Setbacks	E. Masterson
05/05	1	Post Pond, Lyme	J. MacQueen
05/05	34	L. Sunapee Yacht Club, Sunapee	D. Jackson
05/07	3	Newfound L., Bristol	E. Masterson
05/15	3	Pontook Reservoir, Dummer	D. Dionne, L. Charron, P. Charron
05/27	3	Hinsdale bluffs by Vernon Dam	T. Parody

## Laughing Gull

05/27	4	Hampton Harbor Inlet	S. Mirick
05/30	1	Jeness/Sawyers Beach, Rye	J. Sparrell, K. Towler

## Iceland Gull

03/04	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	C. Breen
03/04	1	Hedgehog Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
03/06	1	Exeter WTP	L. Medlock
04/02	1	inland of Isles of Shoals	J. Sparrell, Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
05/12	1	Eel Pond, Rye	S. Bennett

## Lesser Black-backed Gull

03/26	1	NH coast	R. Prieto
04/02	1	Jeffreys Ledge	J. Sparrell, Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
04/11	1	Exeter WTP	J. Maher
04/23	1	Hampton Harbor Inlet	S. Mirick, J. Lambert
05/16	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	M. Nicodemus



*Glaucous Gull and Fish Crow by Jason Lambert, 3/14/16, Seabrook, NH.*



Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Glaucous Gull</b>			
03/04	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	C. Breen
03/06	1	Eel Pond, Rye	J. Nelson
03/06	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	A. Murray
03/07	1	Yankee Fisherman's Coop, Seabrook	M. Watson
04/30	1	Hampton Beach SP	J. Arnett

<b>Least Tern</b>			
05/18	3	Meadow Pond, Hampton	S. Mirick
05/18	1	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
05/22	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Myers
05/22	4	Yankee Fisherman's Coop, Seabrook	C. Caron
05/29	2	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	B. & A. Chambers

<b>Caspian Tern</b>			
05/01	3	Connecticut R. opposite Herricks Cove, Charlestown	E. Masterson
05/04	1	Spofford L., Chesterfield	E. Masterson
05/05	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	E. Masterson
05/07	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	J. Russo

<b>Black Tern</b>			
05/07	1	Spofford L., Chesterfield	E. Masterson

<b>Roseate Tern</b>			
05/15	7	Hampton Harbor	J. Lambert, K. Fenton
05/22	3	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Myers



Common Tern by Eric Masterson, 5/1/16, Spofford Lake, NH.

<b>Common Tern</b>			
04/30	2	Hampton Harbor Inlet	S. Mirick
05/01	10	Spofford L., Chesterfield	E. Masterson
05/03	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	E. Masterson
05/03	2	Lake Sunapee	D. Jackson
05/05	1	Spofford L., Chesterfield	E. Masterson
05/09	65	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
05/14	300	NH coast	J. Maher, C. McPherson, G. Tillman, E. Masterson
05/31	9	Royalls Cove, Dover	A. Hamlin

<b>Forster's Tern</b>			
05/02	1	Connecticut R. opposite Herricks Cove, Charlestown	E. Masterson

## Doves through Waxwings

The fourth addition to New Hampshire's state list occurred on May 25 when Davis Finch found a

**Eurasian Collared-Dove** in East Kingston. A **White-winged Dove** marked the start of a fantastic birding weekend on Star Island in late May. Only the third state record, the bird was accidentally flushed late in the evening of May 20 from a small grove of conifers that sit at the center of the small 46-acre granite island. Though it went to roost on island, it was not seen again. That same evening, a large nightjar was flushed from the road not 100 yards from where the dove was seen. It was clearly not a Common Nighthawk, but neither the light nor the bird cooperated to enable a definitive identification. Fortune prevailed and, at 3:00 pm the next day, Michael Pahl refound presumably the same bird roosting near the grove of conifers (read more in the Field Trip Report). After some frantic phone calls and texts, it was identified as New Hampshire's second **Chuck-will's-widow** (pending review by the NH Rare Birds Committee). The first probable record was found on Star Island exactly 50 years earlier to the day, May 20, 1966! Unfortunately, Robert Smart, one of the observers, did not consider the viewing conditions good enough for confirmation. The first confirmed record was a bird recorded calling in June of 2013 in Newton, NH.

I recorded at least 15 Black-billed Cuckoos and one Yellow-billed Cuckoo migrating over my yard the night of May 25. Steve Bennett found the only Short-eared Owl of the season at Awcomin Marsh in Rye on March 11. The Snowy Owl saga rumbled on, with multiple sightings along the coast to at least April 27. Northbound migrants were recorded in Freedom on March 25 and Sandwich on March 28. Adult **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were seen in Merrimack, Londonderry, Alton and Tamworth. Rob Woodward continued his hot streak with **Acadian Flycatcher** by finding a bird while leading a field trip to Clough State Park in Weare on May 21. The species is barely annual in the state, though four Acadian Flycatchers banded at the Appledore Banding Station in Maine this spring suggests that this hard to identify species might be less rare than is generally thought.



Snowy Owl by Steve Mirick, 4/24/16, Rye, NH.

## SPRING SEASON

Fish Crow continues to expand northward, with records from seven of New Hampshire's ten counties, including a rare record from the Connecticut River Valley. They remain rare, however, in Cheshire, Coos, Grafton, and Sullivan Counties and observers should beware confusing their calls with fledgling American Crows in spring and summer. The May 25 sighting of Horned Larks at Concord Airport included a female on a nest with four eggs that Pam Hunt found while she was doing a Grasshopper Sparrow survey inside the fence. The other May reports listed below may also represent nesting sites, which are rare in the state. Purple Martins returned to Cross Beach Road, now the largest colony in New Hampshire with 18 birds on May 22. Jason Lambert found a record early Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Bellamy River Wildlife Sanctuary in Dover on April 10.



*Redwing by Jason Lambert, 3/14/16, Hollis, NH.*

The arrival of favorable weather in late May facilitated migration, notably including a high count of 28 Swainson's Thrush at Odiorne Point State Park on May 26. **Varied Thrush**, a star bird in a normal season, played understudy to the two superstar thrushes this spring. A bird was found visiting a Merrimack backyard for most of March. A single Gray-cheeked Thrush was recorded flying over Star Island during the night of May 20. The aforementioned **Redwing** arrived with a massive influx of several thousand American Robins on March 13, with which it associated for the duration of its stay. It was last seen on the morning of March 16, when it cleared out with the bulk of the robins. According to the America Birding Association (ABA), "Redwing is a highly migratory *Turdus* thrush with a number of records in the eastern ABA Area most from Canada's Maritime Provinces but scattered as far south as Pennsylvania." The Hollis record appears to be only the fourth from the eastern United States. The **Mountain Bluebird**, the other member of the thrush family that provided a first state record this spring, was found at Pease International Tradeport on April 9. It was associating with a small group of Eastern Bluebirds and stayed for a week to April 15.

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
<b>Eurasian Collared-Dove</b>			
05/25	1	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch, et al.

<b>White-winged Dove</b>			
05/20	1	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, et al.



*Yellow-billed Cuckoo by Steve Mirick, 5/7/16, Hampton, NH.*

<b>Yellow-billed Cuckoo</b>			
05/07	1	Church St. water tower parking lot, Hampton	S. Mirick
05/09	1	Exeter WTP	B. Griffith
05/12	1	Lily Pond, Madison	S. Wilcox, G. Bailey
05/14	1	Everett Dam conservation lands, E. Weare Rd., Weare	R. Woodward
05/18	1	Oyster River Forest, Durham	K. Dorsey
05/18	1	Autumn Ln., Nottingham	R. Prieto
05/21	1	Woodridge Park, Durham	K. Dorsey
05/28	1	Powder Major's Farm and Forest, Madbury	L. Kras

<b>Black-billed Cuckoo</b>			
05/12	1	Antrim Rd., Hancock	E. Masterson
05/13	1	Fremont Conservation Land, Peterborough	H. Walters
05/13	2	Pisgah SP	R. & K. Frieden
05/14	1	Woodridge Park, Durham	K. Dorsey
05/20	1	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	K. Fenton

<b>Eastern Screech-Owl</b>			
03/05	1	River Rd., Orford	J. MacQueen
03/07	1	Mine Falls Park, Spine Rd. entrance, Nashua	J. Maher
03/19	1	Lexington St., Dover	P. Thut
03/23	1	Broad St., Portsmouth	C. Duford
03/27	1	Hawkin's Farm, Salem	K. Wilmarth
04/03	1	Hollis HS wetlands	C. McPherson
05/15	1	Jericho Rd., Atkinson	H. Otto

<b>Snowy Owl</b>			
03/05	2	Awcomin Marsh, Rye	S. Bennett
03/25	1	Scarboro Rd., Freedom	J. Rhymer
03/28	1	Diamond Ledge, Sandwich	T. Vazzano
04/27	1	The Breakers, Rt. 1A, Rye	S. Bennett, S. Mirick



*Short-eared Owl by Steve Bennett, 3/11/16, Awcomin Marsh, Rye, NH.*

<b>Short-eared Owl</b>			
03/11	1	Awcomin Marsh, Rye	S. Bennett

Date # Location Observer

**Common Nighthawk**

05/16 1 Strafford County Farm Complex, Dover A. Murray  
 05/18 1 Pease Int'l. Tradeport S. Bennett  
 05/19 3 Great Meadow, Hollis C. McPherson, J. Maher  
 05/20 6 Brentwood Mitigation Area H. Otto, K. Wilmarth  
 05/21 12 World End Pond, Salem A. Altena, K. Wilmarth

**Chuck-will's-widow**

05/21 1 Star Is., Isles of Shoals E. Masterson, et al.

**Eastern Whip-poor-will**

04/29 1 Durrell Mt. Rd., Gilmanton N. Mitchell  
 04/30 3 Mast Yard SF, Concord/Hopkinton P. Hunt  
 04/30 1 Cheney Rd., Kingston S. Mirick  
 04/30 1 Small Pox Rd., Kingston S. Mirick  
 04/30 2 Federal Hill Rd., Milford M. Nickerson  
 05/14 2 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield D. Govatski NHAFT  
 05/20 16 Parker Mt /Evans Mt./Strafford Town Forest S. Young

**Chimney Swift**

04/21 1 Upper Suncook Recreation Area, Barnstead J. Lambert  
 04/24 1 Exeter WTP R. Suomala, Z. Cornell  
 04/25 14 World End Pond, Salem S. Mirick  
 05/01 55 Nashua River, Nashua C. McPherson  
 05/07 110 Amoskeag Dam overlook, Manchester R. Suomala  
 05/08 130 Nashua River, Nashua J. Maher  
 05/10 89 NH coast migration watch S. Mirick  
 05/19 8 N. Stratford K. Fenton  
 05/20 4 The Balsams Resort, Dixville L. Charron  
 05/22 86 CHSW roost, Old Academy Bldg, Orford J. MacQueen

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird**

04/28 1 S. Mammoth Rd., Manchester P. Tremblay  
 04/29 1 Willow Rd., E. Kingston D. Skillman  
 04/30 1 Lakeview Dr., Strafford S. Young  
 05/13 2 Bretton Woods, Carroll L. Bergum  
 05/14 2 Tracy Dr., Errol L. Charron

**Red-headed Woodpecker**

05/10 1 Silver Doe Ln., Merrimack C. Wennerth  
 05/19 1 Deer Hill Rd., Tamworth L. Pike  
 05/23 1 Londonderry M. Kravets  
 05/24 1 Cascade Terr., Alton M.& R. Foster

**Black-backed Woodpecker**

03/12 1 Webster-Jackson Trail, WMNF A. Norton  
 04/06 1 Mile Long Pond, Androscoggin R., Errol J. Scott, B. Crowley  
 04/30 1 Mt. Kinsman, Lincoln W. Malan  
 05/08 1 Mollidgewock Rd., Errol G. Chapin, S. Robinson  
 05/22 1 Mt. Isolation & Boott Spur, Cutts Grant A. Burnett  
 05/30 3 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield T. Berriman  
 05/31 2 Caps Ridge Trail, WMNF K. Dorsey

**Northern Flicker**

04/01 31 Silk Farm WS, Concord P. Brown

Date # Location Observer



*Olive-sided Flycatcher by Scott Heron, 5/15/16, Kingston, NH.*

**Olive-sided Flycatcher**

05/13 1 W. Branch Pine Barrens Preserve, Madison S. Lee  
 05/14 1 Creek Farm, Portsmouth S. Bennett  
 05/15 1 Kingston A. Itz  
 05/18 1 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield K. Fenton  
 05/27 2 Mountain Pond, Chatham J. Scott, C. Nims, R. Steber

**Eastern Wood-Pewee**

05/11 1 Madame Sherri Forest, Chesterfield P. Kirkhart  
 05/12 1 Oak Hill trails, Shaker Rd., Loudon D. Lania  
 05/12 1 Captain Pond, Salem P. Perreault  
 05/14 1 McCrillis Hill Rd., Center Harbor K. MacLean  
 05/21 2 Dolly Copp Campground, Martins Location L. MacKay  
 05/27 10 Pawtuckaway SP, Nottingham/Deerfield K. Fenton

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**

05/23 2 Mud Pond, Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson D. Govatski  
 05/24 1 Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem J. Scott  
 05/26 1 Odiorne Point SP, Rye S. Mirick  
 05/28 10 Caps Ridge Trail, WMNF E. Chaffee

**Acadian Flycatcher**

05/21 1 Everett Dam conservation lands, E. Weare Rd., Weare R. Woodward, et al.

**Alder Flycatcher**

05/14 1 Creek Farm, Portsmouth D. Blezard  
 05/15 1 Woodridge Park, Durham K. Towler  
 05/17 1 Pontook Reservoir, Dummer P. Charron

**Willow Flycatcher**

05/13 1 Landing Rd., Hampton H. Stevens  
 05/15 1 Surrey Ln. marsh, Durham K. Towler, J. Sparrell  
 05/17 1 Wildcat Falls, Merrimack C. Sheridan  
 05/19 1 Hinsdale Setbacks R. Romano  
 05/21 5 World End Pond, Salem A. Altena, K. Wilmarth

**Alder/Willow Flycatcher (Trail's Flycatcher)**

05/08 1 Odiorne Point SP, Rye S. Mirick

**Least Flycatcher**

04/30 2 Millican Nurseries, Chichester J. Lambert  
 04/30 1 Squam Lake, Holderness T. Michel  
 05/01 3 Pawtuckaway SP, Reservation/Tower Rd. loop Z. Cornell, R. Suomala  
 05/12 14 Weeks SP, Lancaster D. Govatski

# SPRING SEASON

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
<b>Eastern Phoebe</b>				<b>Philadelphia Vireo</b>			
03/13	1	Penacook survey rt., Concord	P. Hunt	05/17	1	Buffalo Rd., W. Rumney	J. Williams
03/14	1	Newton Rd., Plaistow	K. Wilmarth	05/26	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Mirick
03/16	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	K. Fenton, J. Maher	05/26	1	Surry Mountain Lake	C. Ross
03/16	1	Hollis HS	G. Richards, R. Cavalieros, M. Wolter	05/27	1	RR tracks by Round Pond, Nashua	C. Sheridan
03/27	15	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith	05/30	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	K. Fenton
04/01	1	Bretton Woods, Carroll	L. Bergum	<b>Red-eyed Vireo</b>			
04/01	1	Water St, Lancaster	S. Stoddard	04/29	1	Columbia Ave., Nashua	J. Maher
04/08	28	Penacook survey rt., Concord	P. Hunt	05/07	1	Canterbury Wood	A. Taylor
<b>Great Crested Flycatcher</b>				05/09	1	McDonnell property, Exeter	C. Guindon
05/03	1	Lakeview Dr., Strafford	S. Young	05/10	1	Campton Bog	M. Thompson
05/09	1	Strafford County Farm Complex, Dover	D. Hubbard	05/14	1	Bretton Woods, Carroll	L. Bergum
05/09	1	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	W. Ward, H. Walters	05/15	1	Akers Pond, Errol	D. Dionne, L. & P. Charron
05/10	1	Mink Brook Nature Preserve, Hanover	K. Kittelberger	05/27	58	Mt. Clinton Rd., Carroll	R. Merrill
05/20	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	K. Fenton	05/28	23	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	D. Williams
05/20	8	Yudicky Farm/Southwest Park, Nashua	C. Sheridan	<b>Gray Jay</b>			
05/21	5	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski	03/12	5	Mts. Jackson-Pierce-Eisenhower	J. Toledano
<b>Eastern Kingbird</b>				03/12	6	Webster-Jackson Trail, WMNF	A. Norton
04/24	1	Great Meadow, Hollis	C. McPherson	05/11	7	Mt. Field, Bethlehem	K. Hughlock
04/29	1	Penacook survey rt., Concord	P. Hunt	05/28	5	Lake Frances SP, Pittsburg	J. Neskey
05/03	2	Nashua River, Nashua	J. Gray	<b>Blue Jay</b>			
05/03	2	Great Bay NWR, Newington	A. Hamlin	05/01	59	Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins
05/10	7	Willand Pond, Somersworth/Dover	A. Murray	05/09	36	Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins
05/13	2	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	B. Kimball	<b>Fish Crow</b>			
05/15	12	Dahl WS, Conway	R. Steber, W. Broussard	03/02	1	Great Bay Discovery Center, Greenland	S. Stoddard
<b>Northern Shrike</b>				03/04	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	C. Breen
03/04	1	Kearsarge Mountain Rd., Wilmot	D. Jackson	03/06	4	UNH, Durham	M. Jacobson
03/06	1	Flagstone Industrial Park, Bald Mt. Road, Newport	D. Jackson	03/08	6	Everett Tpk., Exit 11, Merrimack	T. Young
03/25	1	Sherman's Farm, Conway	J. Maher	03/09	4	Rts. 16 & 25 jct., Ossipee	T. Vazzano
04/02	1	Pontook Reservoir, Dummer	L. Charron	03/12	14	Rt. 125, Kingston	S. Mirick
<b>Yellow-throated Vireo</b>				04/09	6	Opechee Bay, Laconia	P. Brown
05/03	1	Woodridge Rd. area, Durham	K. Dorsey	04/18	12	Silk Farm WS, Concord	P. Brown
05/07	1	Schwarz Farm, Orford	J. MacQueen	04/21	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	J. Russo
05/08	1	Peanut Trail, Newton	K. Wilmarth	04/25	25	Cluff Rd., Salem	S. Mirick
05/27	4	Pawtuckaway SP, Nottingham/Deerfield	K. Fenton	05/06	12	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard, A. Murray
<b>Blue-headed Vireo</b>				<b>Horned Lark</b>			
04/15	2	Horseshoe Pond, Merrimack	C. Sheridan	03/20	300	Great Meadows, Charleston	H. Galbraith
04/16	1	Chase WS, Hopkinton	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell	05/17	1	Nashua Airport	P. Brown
04/17	1	Old Dublin Rd., Hancock	E. Masterson	05/25	2	Concord Airport	P. Hunt
04/23	9	Pawtuckaway SP, Reservation/Tower Rd. loop	P. Hunt	05/25	2	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	N. Sharp
04/30	1	Old Cherry Mt. Rd., Carroll/Jefferson	N. Mitiguy	<b>Northern Rough-winged Swallow</b>			
04/30	1	Twin View Dr., Twin Mountain	N. Mitiguy	04/02	3	Powwow Pond, Kingston	S. Mirick
05/02	3	Mud Pond, Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson	K. Fenton	04/02	3	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray
<b>Warbling Vireo</b>				04/06	2	Horseshoe Pond, Merrimack	C. Sheridan
04/25	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	C. Ross	05/02	54	Ashland WTP	I. MacLeod
04/28	1	Fort Eddy boat launch, Concord	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala	05/18	6	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	D. Govatski
04/29	1	Great Meadow, Hollis	C. McPherson	<b>Purple Martin</b>			
05/07	8	Hinsdale Setbacks	J. Russo	04/02	1	Exeter WTP	D. Swain
05/10	1	Mud Pond, Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson	K. Fenton	04/21	2	Great Meadow, Hollis	C. Sheridan
				04/22	2	Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook	S. Mirick
				05/02	1	Nashua R. at Merrimack R., Nashua	J. Maher
				05/11	4	Funspot, Laconia	P. Hunt
				05/12	11	Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook	S. Heron

# SPRING SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
05/25	26	Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook	D. Skillman
05/28	3	Scribner's Pond, Wakefield	K. Wilmarth

## Tree Swallow

03/12	1	Exeter WTP	L. Medlock
03/12	3	Island Dr., Merrimack	M. Timmerman
03/13	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
03/18	20	Horseshoe Pond, Merrimack	M. Jacobson, C. Sheridan
03/28	75	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
04/02	150	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray
04/06	1700	Spofford L., Chesterfield	E. Masterson
04/14	1	Water St, Lancaster	S. Stoddard
04/17	2	Pontook Reservoir, Dummer	L. Charron
05/03	300	McDaniels Marsh WMA, Springfield	D. Jackson
05/05	250	Powder Mill Pond, Hancock	P. Brown
05/08	400	Ashland WTP	I. MacLeod
05/09	660	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
05/10	384	NH coast migration watch	S. Mirick
05/18	250	Pondicherry NWR access trail, Whitefield/ Jefferson	R. Steber, D. Govatski, W. Broussard

## Bank Swallow

04/23	1	Brindle Pond, Barnstead	J. Lambert
04/23	2	World End Pond, Salem	A. Altena
04/29	13	SPNHF Merrimack R. CA, Concord	Z. Cornell
05/03	40	McDaniels Marsh WMA, Springfield	D. Jackson
05/18	5	Cherry Pond, Jefferson	D. Govatski

## Barn Swallow

04/05	1	Nashua River, Nashua	J. Gray
04/06	1	Horseshoe Pond, Merrimack	C. Sheridan
04/12	1	Exeter WTP	L. McKillop
05/02	100	Ashland WTP	I. MacLeod
05/07	2	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	K. Fenton
05/09	453	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick



*Cliff Swallows by Scott Heron, 5/10/16, Dover, NH.*

## Cliff Swallow

04/26	1	Upper Suncook Recreation Area, Barnstead	J. Lambert
04/28	1	Exeter WTP	A. Moser
04/29	2	Hinsdale Setbacks	J. Russo
05/04	4	Brown School, Berlin	P. Demers
05/07	1	Panorama Golf Course, Dixville Notch	L. Charron, P. Charron
05/10	14	Washington Street Mills, Dover	S. Heron
05/10	29	NH coast migration watch	S. Mirick
05/12	8	Panorama Golf Course, Dixville Notch	L. Charron

Date	#	Location	Observer
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## Tufted Titmouse

03/27	1	Lancaster School	S. Stoddard
05/27	1	Mt. Washington Airport, Whitefield	S. Mirick

## House Wren

04/21	1	Peverly Meadow, Canterbury	M. Spurduto
04/21	1	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	W. Ward
04/23	1	Shaker St., New London	P. Newbern
05/14	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski, P. Brown NHAFT

## Marsh Wren

04/22	1	Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins
04/23	1	Meadow Pond, Hampton	M. Resch, J. Lambert
04/24	1	Awcomin Marsh, Rye	S. Bennett
04/27	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	C. Ross
05/14	3	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/ Whitefield	D. Govatski NHAFT

## Carolina Wren

05/23	1	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	R. Quinn
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*Blue-gray Gnatcatcher by Jason Lambert, 4/10/16, Bellamy River WMA, Dover, NH.*

## Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

04/10	1	Bellamy River WMA, Dover	J. Lambert
04/21	1	Benson Park, Hudson	K. Fenton
04/21	1	Horse Hill Nature Preserve, Merrimack	K. Fenton
05/14	1	The Balsams Resort, Dixville	D. Dionne, L. Charron

## Ruby-crowned Kinglet

03/31	1	Greenlawn/Woodland Cemetery, Keene	K. Vande Vusse, L. Caldwell, C. Witko
04/07	2	Contoocook R. Park/Island Shores Estates, Penacook	P. Hunt
04/09	1	Spruce Swamp, Fremont	J. Sparrell
04/16	1	River Rd., Hanover/Lyme	G. Clark, Mascoma CFT
04/20	12	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
04/20	1	Pinkham Notch, WMNF	C. Smith
04/24	4	Umbagog NWR	P. Charron, L. Charron
04/27	16	Yudicky Farm/Southwest Park, Nashua	J. Maher

## Mountain Bluebird

04/09	1	Pease Intl. Tradeport, se. end, Portsmouth	J. Lambert, K. Fenton, et al.
04/15	1	Pease Intl. Tradeport, se. end, Portsmouth	R. Quinn, C. Leuchtenburg, H. Stevens, et al.

# SPRING SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Veery</b>			
04/24	1	Rt. 12A, Alstead	M. Harrison
04/30	1	Trescott water supply lands, Hanover	R. Atkins
05/02	1	Stevens Hill Rd., Nottingham	P. Miliotis
05/13	1	Dalton Ridge Rd., Dalton	J. Esten
05/14	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/ Whitefield	D. Govatski, P. Brown NHAFT

## Bicknell's Thrush

05/07	1	Lonesome Lake, Lincoln	C. Marland
05/22	7	Mt. Isolation and Boott Spur, Cutts Grant	A. Burnett
05/27	4	Mt. Washington Auto Rd.	G. Lindeman
05/28	9	Cannon Mt., Franconia	G. Richards

## Swainson's Thrush

05/11	1	Russell-Abbott SF, Mason	S. Lemire
05/12	1	Mink Brook Nature Preserve, Hanover	K. Kittelberger
05/14	1	Oyster River Forest, Durham	A. Murray
05/14	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	S. Lee
05/16	4	The Balsams Resort, Dixville	L. Charron
05/26	28	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Mirick

## Hermit Thrush

03/05	1	Meadow Brook, Sunapee	J. Gamble
03/25	1	Great Meadow, Hollis	C. McPherson
03/31	1	Horse Hill Nature Preserve, Merrimack	J. Maher
04/03	1	Rt. 12A, Alstead	M. Harrison
04/16	10	WMNF, Waterville Valley	D. Inzerillo
04/20	1	Pinkham Notch, WMNF	C. Smith
04/22	1	Twin View Dr., Twin Mountain	N. Mitiguy
04/27	10	Beaver Brook Assn., Hollis	K. Fenton
04/29	10	Shaw Pond, Freedom	G. Gavutis, Jr.

## Wood Thrush

04/30	1	Jim Hill Riverwalk, Concord	D. Inzerillo
05/01	2	Woodridge neighborhood, Durham	K. Dorsey
05/03	1	Old Monson Village, Hollis/Milford	C. Sheridan
05/12	1	Dalton Ridge Rd., Dalton	J. Esten
05/14	2	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/ Whitefield	D. Govatski, P. Brown NHAFT

## Redwing

03/13	1	Hollis HS	C. McPherson, et al.
03/16	1	Hollis HS	T. Green, R. Suomala

## American Robin

03/13	4038	Hollis HS	D. Hitchcox
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Varied Thrush by Sharon McCarthy, 3/4/16, Merrimack, NH.

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Varied Thrush</b>			
03/04	1	Pearson Rd., Merrimack	S. McCarthy
03/31	1	Pearson Rd., Merrimack	S. McCarthy

## Gray Catbird

04/19	1	Urban Forestry Center, Portsmouth	L. McKillop
04/23	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	D. Small
04/28	1	Van Dyke Rd., Hollis	L. Rowe
05/10	26	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard
05/13	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	B. Kimball
05/14	1	Bretton Woods, Carroll	L. Bergum
05/21	40	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	J. Maher, G.Kovaliv

## Brown Thrasher

03/16	1	Hollis HS	A. Lin-Moore
04/11	1	Ten Rod Rd., Rochester	D. Hubbard
04/13	1	Mountain Rd., Concord	J. Nadeau
05/13	2	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	B. Kimball
05/27	7	RR tracks by Round Pond, Nashua	C. Sheridan

## Bohemian Waxwing

03/03	300	Whitaker Woods, Rt. 302, N. Conway	R. Steber
03/03	550	Main St., New London	D. Jackson
03/03	130	Sunapee PO	J. Gamble
03/18	300	CRREL, Lyme Rd., Hanover	M. Walsh
03/18	300	Rt. 135 farm fields, Lancaster	S. Stoddard
03/21	110	Main St., Berlin	S. Stoddard
03/23	161	Bailey's Farm, Lyme	J. MacQueen
04/18	12	Rt. 4/28 traffic circle, Lee	S. Heron
04/23	2	Sunapee	D. Jackson
05/04	3	Choate Cluster, Dartmouth College	A. Burnett

## Warblers through Finches



Bay-breasted Warbler by Steve Mirick, 5/22/16, Odiorne Pt. State Park, Rye, NH.

Note: Arrival dates of migrants were compared with the first quartile date listed in Pam Hunt's article "Spring Arrival Dates Revisited" in *New Hampshire Bird Records*, Spring 2007 (Vol. 26, No. 1).

Early migrants had the better weather and many April travelers arrived about a week early, including several species of swallow, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Gray Catbird, Ovenbird and Northern Parula. Thereafter, the weather

deteriorated through much of May and later migrants arrived closer to their due date. Amid the storms, there were a few brief windows of opportunity during which there was some movement, notably on April 22, May 7, 8, and 10, but it wasn't until the third week of May that high pressure settled over the northeast, providing the clear calm conditions for birds to move in numbers. I know this because of the aforementioned nocturnal flight call station in my backyard, where I track bird migration measured in calls per hour. Although some unusual migrants passed overhead during April and May, with few exceptions, the volume was not especially significant. That changed in late May and on the night of May 25, I recorded 95 calls per hour, by far the biggest night of the season. In addition to the previously mentioned 15 Black-billed Cuckoos and one Yellow-billed Cuckoo, I recorded almost 50 Swainson's Thrush and a few each of Spotted Sandpiper, Alder Flycatcher, and Willow Flycatcher. Warbler spectrograms are notoriously difficult to identify to species and, of the many hundred warbler calls, I identified most to *Parulidae* species. Canada Warbler has a diagnostic spectrogram, however, and I am confident that a relatively high number passed overhead during the night of May 25, likely in excess of 25 individuals. The phenomenon appears to have been regional. Steve Mirick recorded 18 Canada Warblers at Odiorne Point State Park on May 26, an impressive total for this scarce warbler. On the same day, on Monhegan Island off the coast of Maine, "the blooming apple trees were literally loaded with warblers and there were birds in virtually every shrub...the best that many of the longtime Maine birders have ever seen it" (pers. comm. Phil Brown).

Despite the theme of the season, there were no rare migrant warblers, except for a couple of backyard surprises: a **Brewster's Warbler** in Phil Brown's Hancock backyard on May 8 and a **Cerulean Warbler** in Kurk Dorsey's Durham backyard on May 27. Cerulean Warbler also returned to a known location in Hinsdale, with one bird seen on May 20. An American Tree Sparrow in Kensington on May 16 was exceptionally late. Other rare passerines included a **Clay-colored Sparrow** in Pittsfield, a **Lark Sparrow** on Star Island, **Blue Grosbeak** in Manchester and Seabrook, and **Dickcissel** in Portsmouth and Durham.

Date	#	Location	Observer
04/18	1	Old Monson Village, Hollis/Milford	J. Maher
04/28	1	Yudicky Farm/Southwest Park, Nashua	C. Sheridan
04/30	4	Longstack Precipice, Alton	A. McNulty
05/04	4	Pinkham Notch, WMNF	A. Hayes
05/08	2	Mollidgewock Rd., Errol	G. Chapin
05/09	13	Palmer-Bartell Preserve, Brookline	J. Maher

Date	#	Location	Observer
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Which waterthrush is it, Northern or Louisiana? Answer below. Photo by Steve Mirick. Hint: It was taken in Nottingham 4/30/17.

**Louisiana Waterthrush**

04/14	1	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	R. Burnett
04/15	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	K. Couture
04/17	1	Oyster River area, Durham	S. Mirick
04/23	8	Pawtuckaway SP, Reservation/Tower Rd. loop	M. Suomala, et al.

**Northern Waterthrush**

04/23	2	Green Rd., Kingston	S. Heron
04/29	1	Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem	J. Swatt
04/30	6	Esther Currier WMA at Low Plain, Sutton	P. Newbern
05/02	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	K. Fenton
05/06	1	Blueberry Swamp, Columbia	K. Fenton
05/18	11	Cherry Pond, Jefferson	D. Govatski

**Answer:** The photo above is a Louisiana Waterthrush - the more likely species at that time and place. For more see Steve's article on waterthrushes in the Spring 2014 Issue (Vol. 33, No. 1) of New Hampshire Bird Records.

**Blue-winged Warbler**

05/01	1	Gilley State Forest, Concord	R. Woodward
05/03	1	Woodridge neighborhood, Durham	K. Dorsey
05/10	3	Great Bay NWR, Newington	K. Hojnacki
05/11	6	Yudicky Farm/Southwest Park, Nashua	C. Sheridan
05/11	1	Buffalo Rd., W. Rumney	J. Williams

**Brewster's Warbler (hybrid)**

05/08	1	Antrim Rd., Hancock	P. Brown
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**Black-and-white Warbler**

04/22	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	B. Baker
04/23	2	Indian Rock Open Space, Merrimack	R. Bielawski
04/23	2	Cascade Marsh, Sutton	P. Newbern
05/07	1	Pondicherry NWR access trail, Whitefield/ Jefferson	K. Fenton
05/08	1	Mollidgewock Rd., Errol	G. Chapin, S. Robinson
05/08	25	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	J. Lambert

**Tennessee Warbler**

04/29	1	South Rd., Kensington	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05/14	1	Lovers Lane Rd., Charlestown	D. Jackson
05/14	1	Contoocook R. Park/Island Shores Estates, Penacook	P. Hunt
05/14	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/ Whitefield	D. Govatski, P. Brown NHAFT
05/14	1	121 Eastern Ave., Manchester	L. McKillop

# SPRING SEASON

Date # Location Observer

## Tennessee Warbler—continued

05/14 1 Granite Hill School, Newport P. Newbern  
05/14 1 Everett Dam conservation lands, E. Weare Rd.,  
Weare R. Woodward

## Nashville Warbler

04/27 1 Pickering Ponds, Rochester D. Hubbard  
04/28 1 Nashua River, Nashua J. Gray  
05/02 1 Long Woods Rd. marsh, Deering P. Brown  
05/02 1 Mud Pond, Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson K. Fenton  
05/08 1 Tracy Dr., Errol L. Charron, P. Charron

## Mourning Warbler

05/19 1 Pingree Rd., New London M. Vernon  
05/20 1 Yudicky Farm/Southwest Park, Nashua C. Sheridan  
05/22 1 Brody's Ln., Jefferson M. Walter  
05/24 1 Dorchester Rd., Lyme P. Ackerson  
05/25 1 Dahl WS, Conway C. Nims  
05/28 1 Bedell Bridge SP, Haverhill A. Burnett,  
G. Clark, P. Newbern  
05/29 1 Woodridge Park, Durham K. Dorsey  
05/30 1 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield T. Berriman

## Common Yellowthroat

04/09 1 Odiorne Point SP, Rye S. Mirick  
04/28 1 Mine Falls Park, Nashua J. Maher  
04/29 1 Locke Rd. sod farm, Concord R. Woodward  
04/29 1 Quincy Bog, Rumney A. Ports  
04/29 2 World End Pond, Salem S. Liffmann  
05/04 1 Pinkham Notch, WMNF A. Hayes  
05/10 13 Pickering Ponds, Rochester D. Hubbard  
05/12 1 Blueberry Swamp, Columbia K. Fenton  
05/21 30 Odiorne Point SP, Rye B. Griffith  
05/23 25 Star Is., Isles of Shoals R. Quinn, et al.  
05/26 25 Odiorne Point SP, Rye S. Mirick



American  
Redstart by Jane  
Kelley, 5/16/16,  
Gilford, NH.

## American Redstart

04/30 1 Pawtuckaway SP, Nottingham/Deerfield S. Mirick  
05/02 1 Pickering Ponds, Rochester P. Moynahan, N. Houlihan  
05/04 1 W. Portsmouth St., Concord M. Thompson  
05/06 12 Pickering Ponds, Rochester A. Murray  
05/10 1 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield K. Fenton  
05/12 4 Weeks SP, Lancaster D. Govatski  
05/21 20 Odiorne Point SP, Rye B. Griffith  
05/21 50 Star Is., Isles of Shoals E. Masterson, et al.  
05/26 36 Odiorne Point SP, Rye S. Mirick

Date # Location Observer

## Cape May Warbler

05/08 2 Old Hillsboro Rd., Henniker A. Moser  
05/09 1 Horseshoe Pond, Concord Z. Cornell, R. Suomala  
05/09 1 Mountain Rd., Concord J. Nadeau  
05/09 1 Mink Brook Nature Preserve, Hanover K. Kittelberger  
05/09 2 Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield A. Robbins  
05/09 1 Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest,  
Woodstock A. Sharp  
05/11 1 Tracy Dr., Errol P. Charron  
05/14 1 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/  
Whitefield D. Govatski, P. Brown, H. Walters, et al.  
05/18 10 Pondicherry NWR access trail, Whitefield/  
Jefferson R. Steber, D. Govatski, W. Broussard

## Cerulean Warbler

05/20 1 Wantastiquet Mt. NA, Chesterfield/  
Hinsdale J. Russo, R. Romano  
05/27 1 Woodridge Park, Durham K. Dorsey, et al.

## Northern Parula

04/20 1 Hawkin's Farm, Salem K. Wilmarth  
04/22 1 Musquash CA, Londonderry M. Marchand  
04/25 1 Winchester Dr., Barnstead J. Lambert  
05/03 1 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield K. Fenton  
05/08 10 Odiorne Point SP, Rye J. Lambert

## Magnolia Warbler

05/07 1 Hinsdale Setbacks H. Galbraith  
05/10 1 Mud Pond, Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson K. Fenton  
05/12 2 Blueberry Swamp, Columbia K. Fenton  
05/21 50 Star Is., Isles of Shoals E. Masterson, et al.

## Bay-breasted Warbler

05/10 1 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield K. Fenton  
05/10 1 Marlboro St., Keene W. Ward  
05/14 1 Birch Circle, Brentwood J. Price, A. Price  
05/21 6 Mountain Pond, Chatham R. Steber  
05/23 5 Star Is., Isles of Shoals R. Quinn  
05/28 1 Mt. Washington, WMNF G. Lindeman

## Blackburnian Warbler

04/28 1 Bean Rd., Merrimack B. Griffith  
04/30 1 Pawtuckaway SP, Nottingham/Deerfield S. Mirick  
05/02 1 Lake Sunapee D. Jackson  
05/10 1 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield K. Fenton  
05/12 7 Weeks SP, Lancaster D. Govatski

## Yellow Warbler

04/29 1 Longview Rd. bridge, Hancock H. Walters  
04/29 5 Hinsdale Setbacks J. Russo  
04/29 1 Peaslee Crossing Rd., Newton S. Mirick  
04/30 5 Hollis HS wetlands C. McPherson  
04/30 5 Nashua R. at Merrimack R., Nashua C. Sheridan  
05/06 1 The Balsams Resort, Dixville L. Charron  
05/08 26 Nashua R. at Merrimack R., Nashua J. Maher  
05/14 25 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/  
Whitefield D. Govatski, P. Brown NHAFT

## Chestnut-sided Warbler

05/04 1 College Woods, Durham A. McNulty, M. Dunn  
05/07 1 Ash Brook wetland, Keene W. Ward



Date	#	Location	Observer
05/07	1	Krif Rd., Keene	W. Ward
05/08	1	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, Woodstock	D. Aube
05/12	1	Weeks SP, Lancaster	D. Govatski
05/12	1	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	K. Fenton
05/21	25	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, et al.

**Blackpoll Warbler**

05/07	1	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, Woodstock	D. Aube, A. Hulsey
05/08	3	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, Woodstock	C. Marland
05/09	1	McDonnell property, Exeter	C. Guindon
05/13	1	Baypoint Rd., Newbury	D. Jackson
05/18	9	Cherry Pond, Jefferson	D. Govatski
05/30	8	Church St. water tower parking lot, Hampton	R. Prieto



*Black-throated Blue Warbler*  
by Scott Heron,  
5/10/16, Kingston,  
NH.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler**

04/30	2	Jim Hill Riverwalk, Concord	D. Inzerillo
05/01	1	Old Hillsboro Rd., Henniker	A. Moser
05/03	1	Old Norcross Rd., Sunapee	D. Jackson
05/04	1	Pinkham Notch, WMNF	A. Hayes
05/10	3	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	K. Fenton
05/14	12	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski, P. Brown NHAFT
05/15	12	Fox Run Rd. at Big Rock Rd., Lincoln	S. Schultz, B. Schultz

**Palm Warbler**

03/19	1	Nashua R. at Merrimack R., Nashua	C. Sheridan
03/31	1	Horse Hill Nature Preserve, Merrimack	J. Maher
03/31	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard
04/12	10	Great Meadow, Hollis	C. McPherson
04/16	25	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard
04/21	40	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
04/24	1	Umbagog NWR	P. Charron, L. Charron
04/29	1	Pinkham Notch, WMNF	C. Smith

**Pine Warbler**

03/30	1	Ponemah Bog WS, Amherst	J. Maher, K. Fenton
04/01	2	Silk Farm WS, Concord	P. Brown, R. Suomala
04/01	4	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson
04/01	2	Willand Pond, Somersworth/Dover	A. Murray
04/17	25	Beaver Brook Assn., Hollis	C. McPherson
05/13	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	B. Kimball

Date	#	Location	Observer
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**Yellow-rumped Warbler**

03/18	2	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	M. Wilson
03/30	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
03/30	1	Old Monson Village, Hollis/Milford	C. Sheridan
04/07	3	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	L. McKillop
04/20	5	Pinkham Notch, WMNF	C. Smith
04/21	80	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
04/22	6	Old Cherry Mt. Rd., Carroll/Jefferson	N. Mitiguy
05/02	200	Ashland WTP	I. MacLeod

**Prairie Warbler**

04/27	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	C. Ross
04/29	1	Locke Rd. sod farm, Concord	R. Woodward
04/29	1	Stevens Hill Rd., Nottingham	P. Miliotis
05/13	12	Captain's Way powerlines, Exeter	H. Stevens

**Black-throated Green Warbler**

04/25	2	Kenney Rd., New Ipswich	N. Moreau
04/26	4	Oak Hill Rd., Brookline	C. McPherson
04/26	1	Antrim Rd., Hancock	P. Brown
05/03	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	K. Fenton
05/04	1	Pinkham Notch, WMNF	A. Hayes
05/08	16	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, Woodstock	A. Hulsey

**Canada Warbler**

05/08	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	J. Sparrell, J. Lambert, S. Mirick
05/10	2	Long Woods Rd. marsh, Deering	P. Brown
05/10	1	Woodridge Park, Durham	K. Dorsey
05/10	1	Buffalo Rd., W. Rumney	J. Williams
05/13	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	B. Kimball
05/20	1	Old Cherry Mt. Rd., Carroll/Jefferson	S. Turner
05/26	18	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Mirick

**Wilson's Warbler**

05/05	1	Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins
05/09	1	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
05/09	1	Krif Rd., Keene	W. Ward, H. Walters
05/09	1	Fields Grove City Park, Nashua	J. McKibben, J. Maher
05/21	20	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, et al.



*Grasshopper Sparrow* by Susan Wisley, 5/25/16, Concord Airport, NH.

**Grasshopper Sparrow**

05/11	1	Pease Intl. Tradeport, McIntyre Rd.	B. Griffith
05/12	2	Concord Airport	Z. Cornell
05/14	1	Cemetery Fields, Amherst	J. Maher, C. McPherson, G. Tillman, E. Masterson

# SPRING SEASON

Date # Location Observer

## Grasshopper Sparrow—continued

05/25 8 Concord Airport P. Hunt  
05/28 11 Cemetery Fields, Amherst C. Sheridan

## Nelson's Sparrow

05/29 1 Odiorne Point SP, Rye J. Lambert, K. Fenton  
05/29 1 Rt. 1A wooden bridge, Rye J. O'Shaughnessy,  
P. Miliotis  
05/30 1 Philbrick Marsh, N. Hampton S. Bennett

## Saltmarsh Sparrow

05/27 1 Philbrick Marsh, N. Hampton S. Mirick  
05/28 1 Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton  
Z. Cornell, R. Suomala  
05/31 1 Lubberland Creek Preserve, Newmarket K. Dorsey

## American Tree Sparrow

03/22 35 Great Meadows, Charleston D. Jackson  
04/28 1 Ten Rod Rd., Rochester D. Hubbard  
05/16 1 South Rd., Kensington H. Stevens

## Chipping Sparrow

03/10 1 Silver Doe Ln., Merrimack C. Wennerth  
03/26 1 Phillips Exeter Academy, Exeter H. Stevens  
03/26 1 Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield  
A. & G. Robbins  
03/27 1 Tow Path Ln., Concord D. Lania  
04/16 1 Owens Rd., Stewartstown T. Allen  
04/19 2 Gorham W. O'Brien  
04/19 26 Greeley Park, Nashua J. Maher  
04/28 50 Strafford County Farm Complex, Dover D. Hubbard

## Clay-colored Sparrow

05/19 1 Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield  
A. & G. Robbins

## Field Sparrow

03/11 2 Woodmont Orchard, Hollis C. Sheridan  
03/31 1 Robert Milligan Pkwy., Merrimack J. Maher  
03/31 1 Pickering Ponds, Rochester D. Hubbard  
05/08 12 Piscassic Greenway, Newfields S. Dennett

## Lark Sparrow

05/26 1 Star Is., Isles of Shoals K. Heisen

## Fox Sparrow

03/02 1 Abbot Hill Rd., Wilton C. Witko  
03/03 2 Chatham J. Scott  
03/09 3 Ten Rod Rd., Rochester D. Hubbard  
03/17 1 Bretton Woods, Carroll L. Bergum  
05/08 1 River Trail, Hanover A. Burnett  
05/22 4 Mt. Isolation and Boott Spur, Cutts Grant A. Burnett

## White-crowned Sparrow

04/02 1 Great Bay Farm, Greenland S. Mirick  
05/01 3 Great Bay Farm, Greenland S. Heron, D. Jackson  
05/04 1 Hammond Hollow, Gilsum M. Wright  
05/06 2 Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest,  
Woodstock D. Aube

## Vesper Sparrow

04/16 3 Morrills Farm, Penacook P. Hunt  
04/17 1 Woodmont Orchard, Hollis C. Sheridan

Date # Location Observer



*Vesper Sparrow*  
by Debra LaValley,  
4/17/16,  
Boscawen, NH.

04/17 1 River Rd., Boscawen D. LaValley  
04/18 1 Rt. 25, Benton Flats E. Marie  
04/19 1 Lebanon Airport J. MacQueen  
04/19 1 Greeley Park, Nashua J. Maher  
04/29 1 Salem Rd., Atkinson K. Wilmarth, A. Altena  
05/11 2 Pease Intl. Tradeport, McIntyre Rd. B. Griffith  
05/30 1 Tulando Farm, Orford B. Hancock

## Savannah Sparrow

03/20 1 Hawkin's Farm, Salem K. Wilmarth  
03/26 1 Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook S. Mirick, R. Prieto  
03/31 1 Four Corners, New London P. Newbern  
04/06 1 Rt. 135 farm fields, Lancaster S. Stoddard  
04/28 50 Strafford County Farm Complex, Dover D. Hubbard

## Savannah Sparrow - Ipswich subsp.

03/17 2 Seabrook Beach S. Mirick  
04/23 1 Hampton Beach SP J. Lambert

## Lincoln's Sparrow

05/05 1 Huntington Hill, Hanover J. Norton  
05/09 1 Breakfast Hill Rd., Greenland B. Griffith  
05/10 1 Willow Ave., N. Hampton S. Mirick  
05/12 1 Tin Mt. Conservation Ctr., Albany R. Bracken  
05/27 1 Jericho Rd., Bartlett R. Merrill

## Swamp Sparrow

03/30 3 Hinsdale Setbacks H. Galbraith  
03/31 1 Pickering Ponds, Rochester D. Hubbard  
04/02 2 Great Meadows, Charleston P. Brown  
04/02 2 Exeter WTP D. Swain  
04/02 1 Sugar R., Newport D. Jackson  
04/17 1 Bog Brook, Cambridge L. Charron  
04/20 3 Pinkham Notch, WMNF C. Smith  
05/10 25 Campton Bog M. Thompson

## Eastern Towhee

03/10 1 Loudon Rd. fields behind P.O., Concord M. Thompson  
04/04 1 Tarn Rd., Lyndeborough/Mont Vernon R. Dionne  
04/07 1 Pickering Ponds, Rochester A. Murray  
04/12 1 Mountain Rd., Salisbury S. Gage  
04/14 1 Twin View Dr., Twin Mountain N. Mitiguy  
04/28 11 Yudicky Farm/Southwest Park, Nashua C. Sheridan

## Scarlet Tanager

05/05 1 Heritage Hill Rd., Windham L. Ferrisi-Guttman  
05/06 1 Horseshoe Pond, Concord Z. Cornell  
05/07 1 Lubberland Creek Preserve, Newmarket S. Mirick  
05/14 1 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/  
Whitefield D. Govatski, P. Brown NHAFT  
05/20 1 Old Cherry Mt. Rd., Carroll/Jefferson S. Turner

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Rose-breasted Grosbeak</b>			
04/23	1	South Rd., Kensington	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04/26	1	Orchard Hill Rd., Peterborough	S. Joseph
04/28	1	Crestwood Dr., Concord	B. Dymont
04/28	1	Nashua River, Nashua	C. Sheridan
05/08	2	Tracy Dr., Errol	L. Charron
05/11	7	Parker Rd., Carroll	N. Mitiguy



Blue Grosbeak by Roger and Kathryn Frieden, 5/8/16, Manchester, NH.

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Blue Grosbeak</b>			
05/08	1	Currier Dr., Manchester	R.& K. Frieden
05/27	1	Worthley Ave., Seabrook	S. Mirick

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Indigo Bunting</b>			
04/25	1	Tin Mt. Conservation Ctr., Albany	R. Bracken
05/06	3	Agony Hill Rd., Andover	A. Deegan
05/07	1	Kingston	A. Roy
05/14	1	Dalton Ridge Rd., Dalton	J. Esten
05/14	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski NHAFT

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Dickcissel</b>			
04/15	1	Portsmouth	B. Brawn
05/19	1	Rt. 155A fields, Durham	K. Dorsey

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Bobolink</b>			
05/07	1	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	R. Woodward, Capital CFT
05/09	2	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	W. Ward, H. Walters
05/09	2	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	R. Burnett
05/10	7	Rockingham County Complex fields, Brentwood	S. Heron
05/13	6	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	B. Kimball
05/14	7	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski NHAFT
05/25	30	Elm Brook Park, Hopkinton	D. Ellis

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Red-winged Blackbird</b>			
03/01	800	S. Policy St. Conservation Land, Salem	K. Wilmarth
03/05	2	Rt.16, Errol	A. Altena, K. Wilmarth
03/09	1	Bretton Woods, Carroll	L. Bergum
03/20	300	Exeter WTP	H. Stevens
03/26	450	Rt. 155A fields, Durham	D. Blezard

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Eastern Meadowlark</b>			
03/09	2	Middle Hancock Rd., Hancock	E. Masterson
03/13	1	Hollis HS	C. McPherson, et al.
03/16	2	Sawyer Farm, River Rd., Walpole	J. Maher. K. Fenton

Date	#	Location	Observer
03/20	7	Strafford County Farm Complex, Dover	J. Sparrell, K. Towler
03/28	2	Trask Brook Rd, Newport/Sunapee	D. Jackson
04/06	2	Lebanon Airport	J. MacQueen
04/10	3	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	P. Brown
04/15	1	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	R. Burnett
04/23	1	Mountain Rd., Concord	J. Nadeau
04/23	1	Bodwell Farm, E. Kingston	S. Heron
04/23	6	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	J. Lambert
05/04	1	Fowler Farm, Rochester	D. Hubbard
05/07	1	Charlestown WTP	E. Masterson, D. Jackson
05/07	1	River Rd., Piermont	J. MacQueen
05/08	1	MacKintosh Rd., Wilton	S. Lemire
05/13	1	Hampton Salt Marsh	A. Monk, H. Stevens
05/15	1	Surrey Ln. marsh, Durham	K. Dorsey

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Rusty Blackbird</b>			
03/09	1	Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield	A.& G. Robbins
03/11	15	Great Meadows, Charleston	D. Jackson
03/12	3	Morrills Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
03/22	2	Pinkham Notch, WMNF	W. O'Brien
03/25	3	Cross St., Whitefield	S.& D. Stoddard
04/07	22	Trask Brook Rd, Newport/Sunapee	J. Swatt

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Common Grackle</b>			
03/01	1	Loverin Hill Rd., Croydon	D. Jackson
03/01	4	Exeter WTP	L. McKillop
03/01	2	Ash Brook wetland, Keene	K. Vande Vusse
03/06	1	Columbia	L. Mills
03/07	750	Captain Pond, Salem	J. Maher
03/11	20	Jefferson Meadows, Rt. 115A	S. Stoddard
03/30	564	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
04/05	1000	Exeter WTP	J. Maher

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Brown-headed Cowbird</b>			
03/07	2	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. Sheridan
03/09	10	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson
03/09	7	Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins
03/20	160	Great Meadows, Charleston	H. Galbraith
03/26	2	Lancaster School	S. Stoddard
03/30	221	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
04/08	1	Bretton Woods, Carroll	L. Bergum

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Orchard Oriole</b>			
05/08	1	Silver Doe Ln., Merrimack	C. Wennerth
05/09	1	Antrim WTP	P. Brown
05/09	1	Exeter WTP	B. Griffith

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Baltimore Oriole</b>			
04/28	1	Nashua River, Nashua	C. Sheridan, J. Gray
04/29	1	Oak Hill Rd., Brookline	C. McPherson
05/02	1	Granite St., Allentown	B. Eaton
05/11	14	Mine Falls Park, Nashua	J. Maher
05/11	10	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard, Seacoast CFT
05/14	12	Brentwood Mitigation Area	H. Stevens
05/14	11	Everett Dam conservation lands, E. Weare Rd., Weare	R. Woodward
05/15	20	Dahl WS, Conway	R. Steber, W. Broussard
05/15	1	Akers Pond, Errol	D. Dionne, L. Charron, P. Charron

# SPRING SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Pine Grosbeak</b>			
03/04	1	Rt. 145, Clarksville	K. Fenton, J. Lambert

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Purple Finch</b>			
03/24	60	Portland St., Lancaster	S. Stoddard



Red Crossbill by Kyle Wilmarth, 3/5/16, Dummer, NH.

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Red Crossbill</b>			
03/01	4	Old Cherry Mt. Rd., Carroll/Jefferson	C. Nims
03/01	2	Rt 3 n. to border, Pittsburg	S.& D. Stoddard
03/05	5	Rt. 16, Dummer	A. Altena, K. Wilmarth
03/11	1	Jefferson Meadows, Rt. 115A	S. Stoddard
03/13	1	Dam Rd., Wentworths Location	J. Maher
03/18	8	Androscoggin R. at Errol dam	L. Charron
03/19	2	Mt. Tecumseh, Waterville Valley	S. Heron
04/03	3	Main Rd., Chatham	B. Crowley
05/07	2	Old Cherry Mt. Rd., Carroll/Jefferson	C. Nims
05/10	12	Panorama Golf Course, Dixville Notch	L. Charron
05/13	7	Dalton Ridge Rd., Dalton	J. Esten
05/21	2	Pinkham Notch, WMNF	C. Smith
05/23	4	Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest	M. Webster
05/24	6	Mt. Clinton Rd., Crawfords Purchase	J. Scott, C. Nims
05/25	3	Freedom Town Forest	A. Robbins
05/27	4	Watts WS, Effingham	A. Robbins
05/31	2	Caps Ridge Trail, WMNF	K. Dorsey

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>White-winged Crossbill</b>			
03/01	4	Rt 3 n. to border, Pittsburg	S.& D. Stoddard
03/05	3	Rt.16, Errol	A. Altena, K. Wilmarth
03/06	3	Carter Notch Rd., Jackson	J. Maher
03/08	3	Bretton Woods, Carroll	L. Bergum
03/12	2	Webster-Jackson Trail, WMNF	A. Norton
03/13	3	Dam Rd., Wentworths Location	J. Maher
03/17	3	Attitash Woods Rd., Bartlett	E. Metcalf, T. Metcalf
03/19	4	Starr King Trail, WMNF, Jefferson	J. Toledano

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Common Redpoll</b>			
03/01	12	Rt 3 n. to border, Pittsburg	S.& D. Stoddard
03/05	1	Rt. 115, Twin Mountain	A. Altena, K. Wilmarth
03/12	3	Old Waterville Rd. Trail, Waterville Valley	M. Merithew
03/25	3	Black Mt., Jackson	B. Pendleton
04/11	1	Tracy Dr., Errol	L. Charron

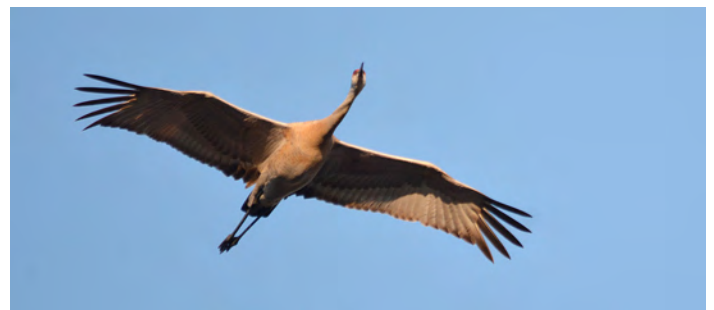
Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Pine Siskin</b>			
03/01	83	Rt 3 n. to border, Pittsburg	S.& D. Stoddard
03/05	75	Rt. 115, Twin Mountain	A. Altena, K. Wilmarth

Date	#	Location	Observer
03/07	100	Whipple Hill Rd., Lyme	B. Allison
03/25	80	Black Mt., Jackson	B. Pendleton
05/16	1	Ten Rod Rd., Rochester	D. Hubbard

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>American Goldfinch</b>			
04/04	100	Cider Mill Rd., Bedford	C. Borkowski
04/04	150	Lyme Farm Fresh fields	B. Allison
05/10	705	NH coast migration watch	S. Mirick

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Evening Grosbeak</b>			
03/05	15	Chickwolnepy Rd., Milan	A. Altena
03/06	1	Columbia	L. Mills
03/06	13	Errol Motel	T. Duddy
03/11	1	Mink Brook wetlands, Hanover	T. McLane, K. Jones
03/23	5	Hammond Hollow, Gilsum	M. Wright
03/23	2	Fox Run Rd. at Big Rock Rd., Lincoln	S. Schultz, B. Schultz

Date	#	Location	Observer
03/29	16	W Surry Rd., Keene	B. Reilly
04/03	1	Portland St., Lancaster	S. Stoddard
04/19	5	Gorham	W. O'Brien
04/24	4	Sanborn Rd., Ashland	I. MacLeod
04/29	4	Sargent Hill Rd., W. Chesterfield	J. Burge
04/29	2	Old Hillsboro Rd., Henniker	A. Moser
05/02	1	Applewood Ln., Temple	S. Wolfe
05/03	2	Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem	K. Fenton
05/03	2	Rt. 302, Hart's Location	L. Lankin
05/03	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	K. Fenton
05/03	1	Pingree Rd., New London	M. Vernon
05/06	1	Barbara C. Harris Camp, Greenfield	P. Brown
05/07	4	Gillis Hill Rd., Bennington	P. Eppig
05/09	2	Lincoln Dr., Bow	R. Lessard
05/09	3	Blackberry Ln., Harrisville	E. Heron
05/09	1	Stevens Rd., Lebanon	J. MacQueen
05/09	1	Warton Rd., Nashua	A. Moreira
05/09	1	Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins
05/13	1	Perch Pond Rd., Holderness	I. MacLeod
05/14	3	Harris Ctr. for Conservation Education, Hancock	G. Tillman
05/16	2	Old Tilton Rd., Canterbury	A. Taylor
05/16	2	Washington Rd., Goshen	J. Moul
05/17	2	The Balsams Resort, Dixville	L. Charron
05/17	1	Buffalo Rd., W. Rumney	J. Williams
05/18	2	Panorama Golf Course, Dixville Notch	L. Charron
05/24	1	Twin View Dr., Twin Mountain	N. Mitiguy
05/25	1	Mountain Rd., Salisbury	S. Gage
05/29	1	Lakeview Dr., Strafford	S. Young
05/30	2	Ridgewood Rd., Glen	R. Steber



Sandhill Crane by Kyle Wilmarth, 4/14/16, World End Pond, Salem, NH.

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# Spring 2016 Field Notes

Compiled by Rebecca Suomala and Kathryn Frieden

## Nesting Turkey Vulture

by Michael Harris



A Turkey Vulture nest with two eggs found in Hollis by Michael Harris, 5/21/16.

I was out for a walk in the woods with my grandchildren. We always find interesting things to explore including old farm equipment, abandoned structures, streams, ponds, animal skeletons, etc. We came across a small structure that extended about three feet under the ground level and a similar amount above ground with a dilapidated roof. My son wanted to climb down into it to discover what he could about the builder's intent. I peered inside and saw eggs, so I called him to exit immediately. We had seen a large bird up in the tree and flying about. She took note of us, but did not seem alarmed. I wasn't sure what the bird was. It did look somewhat like several immature eagles we had seen in a previous season. When I looked it up online, it was still hard to tell but the eggs were the giveaway – it was a Turkey Vulture.



The adult Turkey Vulture photographed near its nest by Michael Harris on 5/21/16.

## Raven Felony at Trudeau Road

by Henry Walters

Taken from a post to the NH Birds email list 5/14/2016.

An early evening stop at Trudeau Road in Bethlehem yielded little but a chorus of peepers and pickerel frogs so deafening, I had to make spitballs out of a couple of receipts in my pocket and turn them into ear plugs. On the way out, however, a Sharp-shinned Hawk calling loudly about 100 yards from the path reminded me to take them out again. Through a weirdly perfect keyhole in the spruce/ fir, I watched a Common Raven land on the nest tree, dip its head, and emerge with a Sharp-shinned Hawk chick in its beak. The chick was certainly more than a mouthful, perhaps a couple of weeks old. The raven flew with it to a neighboring tree, ten feet from the nest, and proceeded to eat, all the while being strafed by the bereaved hawk. The difference between the fluttery half-dives a sharpie might make at a fake owl and these falcon-like passes was incredible. The hawk gained height with each pass, like a child pumping himself higher and higher on a swing, all to no effect. The raven ate for about four minutes. I hadn't been particularly moved up to this point, just fascinated, but after the raven finished, he let out a series of notes that made the hair stand straight up on the back of my neck. They were way lower in pitch than the usual croaks and drawn out like human syllables when you slow down a cassette tape. The Sharp-shinned Hawk had gone completely silent. The raven flew off, crop bulging, without any attack or pursuit. Maybe it would have been different had I not been watching alone, but in the moment, it was terrifying. It was an oddly disturbing end to a wonderful International Migratory Bird Day at Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge, with a host of great people and great birds.

## Raptor Attack at Pondicherry!

by Jeanne-Marie Maher

Taken from a post to the NH Birds email list 5/25/2016.

I got up before dawn to drive north to Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge. It was at Little Cherry Pond where the big event occurred. Shortly after I took the left fork toward the pond, I was attacked by what I initially thought was a Sharp-shinned Hawk agilely diving through the trees. It landed high in front of me and I got a quick look: squared-off tail; long and lean; no mottling or streaking on chest; and what appeared to be very dark eyes. I grabbed my camera and was trying to focus for a picture when the "fun" started. The partner, and then the original bird as well, started to dive bomb me. I moved away as quickly as I could, until I assumed I was out of reach of a presumed nest and thought

I would be fine, but the attack continued! From behind me, a shadow overhead served as a warning, then a bird would appear nearly on top of me and, mostly in silence, aim for my head. There were a few alarm calls, but most of them were mine. Thank goodness I had a hat on! I picked up a stick and swung it back and forth overhead as I high-tailed it out of there, finally escaping the “entertainment.” It certainly got my blood pumping! Afterwards, I wondered if it could have been a Northern Goshawk, but I certainly didn’t go back to try to find out. Does this behavior occur with other nesting accipiters?

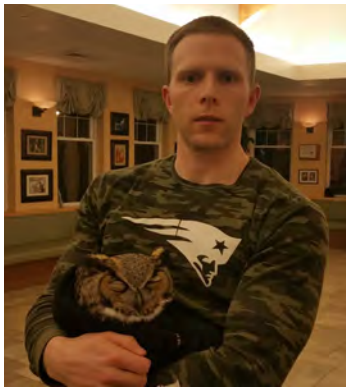
*Yes, it does, but is most commonly associated with the Northern Goshawk. The area near Little Cherry Pond has had a Northern Goshawk nest in the past, and sometimes a section of the trail is closed because of it – for the reasons illustrated above! Ed.*

## Great Horned Owl Rescue

*by Chris Cummings*



*Great Horned Owl found injured on roadway in Merrimack, NH by Chris Cummings on 3/26/16.*



*Chris with his rescued owl –it’s alive!*

On Saturday, March 26 of this year, shortly after 9:00 pm, my wife Caitlin and I were leaving the Outlets in Merrimack, NH when suddenly a Great Horned Owl flew into our car’s driver’s side window glass as we drove down Industrial Blvd. As an ardent lover of birds of prey, I looped back around to check on the owl which was now lying in the middle of the roadway. The owl appeared dead; however, when I picked him up to move him out of the roadway he kicked his legs. It was at that point that I was grateful I had checked on him and that no other cars struck him in the time it took us to turn around.

Caitlin called the CAVES animal hospital in Concord and they advised us to wrap the owl in a blanket and bring it to them. The ride from Merrimack to Concord was a melancholic one because I was uncertain if the owl was still alive or if it had died during transport. Thankfully, once we arrived at CAVES, the staff noted that the owl appeared to be in good condition and was most likely stunned from the collision. Two days later, Caitlin and I, along with Maria Colby from Wings of the Dawn Wildlife Rehabilitation

Center in Henniker and a NH Fish and Game officer, successfully released the owl back into the woods near the Merrimack Outlets. It was a great outcome for an Easter weekend!

## Confiding Black-capped Chickadee

*by Rob Woodward*

*Taken from a post to the NH Birds email list 4/30/2016.*

On the morning of April 14, 2010, while standing adjacent to the prison field along the railroad tracks above Horseshoe Pond, Concord, I noticed a very close chickadee. A second later it was even closer as it landed on the pen in my hand and then stood on my notebook! This had never happened to me before.

Today they took it to another level. This morning, April 30, 2016, I walked up the railroad tracks at Horseshoe Pond. Some new migrants included Yellow Warbler and Warbling Vireo. Not a quarter of a mile from the above-mentioned incident, I stopped to notice a pair of Black-capped Chickadees only 10 feet away. I had a sense they were particularly confiding. Just then, one flew straight at me, hesitated for a split second, and then went for it. She landed on my hat! Not satisfied with that little stunt, she dropped down to my left shoulder. Finding the left side wasn’t so bad, she then walked across the back of my neck to perch on my right shoulder. I’m watching all of this in my shadow on the ground, frozen with wonder. Trying to get a rise out of this big ol’ Homo sapiens, she then proceeded to peck my ear! “Had enough?! No? Try this!” Now it’s my NECK she’s pecking at! Oh, did I mention they have sharp little beaks? They do. For the grand finale, she swooped back up to the top of my hat, completing the conquest.

*Rob confirms that this is a true story! Ed.*

## Hunting Owl Video

*by Summer Brooks*

While participating in the Harris Center’s vernal pool mapping project this spring, I left a wildlife camera at one of the pools. I expected mostly raccoons or some other indiscriminate omnivore feasting on amphibians or their eggs. I thought I might even see some crows or ravens taking advantage of the bounty. I never imagined that my camera would record a Barred Owl catching salamanders (likely spotted salamanders). The owl visited the pool daily for five days. My previous observations in the area hinted at a nesting pair nearby, but I can’t be sure if this owl was feeding chicks in early May or only itself.

After seeing the video on Facebook, staff at the Vermont

Reptile and Amphibian Atlas noted that salamanders have toxins in their skin to ward off predation and wondered if the owl eats only their less-toxic heads or if it is unaffected by the toxin. Either way, this owl appears to have taken full advantage of the mole salamanders' brief time above ground.

Watch the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SynVF6qkl60>

## Warblers Begin Nesting Even in Early Spring

In the world of birding publications, summer is considered the breeding season, but it actually starts in the spring, with owls and waterfowl the earliest to start nesting. Warblers, and other migrants, get to work right away once they return in the spring.



*Barred Owl baby by Jim Sparrell, 5/22/16, Great Bay NWR, Newington, NH.*



*Great Horned Owllet by Christopher McPherson, 5/6/16, Hollis, NH.*



*Common Merganser female with her brood by Jane Kelley, 5/25/16, Lake Winnepesaukee, Melvin Village, NH.*



*Wood Duck female with young by Steve Mirick, 5/19/16, Exeter WTP, NH.*



*An Ovenbird sitting in its nest – it gets its name from the domed shape of the nest, similar to a beehive oven. Photo by Gerry Coffey, 5/29/16, Wilton, NH.*



*A female Blackburnian Warbler gathering nesting material. Photo by Aiden Moser, 5/22/16, Mt. Wantastiquet, Hinsdale, NH.*

## Lowe's Ravens on Daniel Webster Highway in Nashua

by Chris Sheridan

On Sunday, April 10, 2016, making the best of (another) sprained ankle, I snuck down the Daniel Webster Highway commercial strip before things got too busy to do some car-birding, in particular to visit with the Lowe's ravens – getting big, but still in their nest. Their impressive dad was there, feeding something that looked suspiciously like road-kill. He came down to gronk and bill-clack at some onlookers. I suspect the young will be fledging before too long, and he is feeling protective.

These are probably the same birds Nancy Murphy and I used to enjoy watching while they played, courted, and attempted a nest (which either fell or was knocked down) on old industrial buildings off Burke Street in Nashua during the winter of 2012-2013. Later that spring while scanning for Peregrine Falcons, Robert Vallieres spotted them nesting on a cell tower at Rivier College. By winter, they were found hanging around at Lowe's. Jim Kegley and I spotted them there during the 2013 Christmas Bird Count, strutting around the parking lot and visiting local dumpsters.

Apparently, they liked that location and nested “under the radar” during the 2014, 2015, and 2016 seasons. The current nest location was reported to NH Audubon’s Chris Martin by a birder from Westford, MA.



*These photos were taken on 3/21/16, when the nestlings were quite small. They show the nest at Lowe’s loading dock, where they are said to have nested for three years (kudos to Lowe’s for letting them stay), and the male bird with at least two eggs (probably pigeon eggs) in his beak.*



*This shows the nestlings near fledging on 4/10/16, and then the handsome male bird cussing me out from the fence line.*

## Discovering a New State Record!

*It is striking to note that when each of these observers discovered a rarity, they contacted the same person – Steve Mirick. Many of us in the birding community owe a year, state, or life bird to Steve. He is not only the creator and moderator of NH Birds e-mail list, but he quickly spreads the word on many rare sightings, and posts reports for others when they cannot. He often makes contact with homeowners to broker permission for the birding community to visit. Special thanks to Steve and all those who share sightings, whether their own or others, for the rest of us to see and enjoy. – Ed.*

### Tufted Duck in Salem

*by Kyle Wilmarth*



*Tufted Duck by Kyle Wilmarth, 3/4/16, Salem, NH.*

The morning of March 4, 2016, I decided to take the “scenic” route to work for no apparent reason. This route takes me along Captain Pond in Salem, where I noticed a group of Ring-necked Ducks as I drove by. I almost didn’t stop, but something told me to take a look. When I stopped and picked up my binoculars I almost immediately noticed an oddball sleeping among the group – clean black back, bright white flanks.... “No way!” I said to myself. Then it raised its head. A Tufted Duck! I immediately called Amanda and informed Steve Mirick, and off to work I went. The bird was associating primarily with two female Greater Scaup and even displayed for one of them a couple of times. It was loosely associating with the flock of approximately 20 Ring-necked Ducks along the northwest shore of the pond.

Even more remarkable was that nearly two months after the initial sighting, the bird was relocated at World End Pond on April 22; again with a flock of Ring-necked Ducks. They departed a few days later.



## Sunday, March 13 was a Good Day!

by Christopher McPherson



Redwing by Christopher McPherson, 3/14/16, Hollis, NH.

The weather was looking great on Sunday, March 13, 2016, and my wife and children had company so I was set free. Off I went. My first stop was Beaver Brook's Great Meadow in Hollis where I had a Northern Goshawk. Nice! I hadn't seen a Goshawk in all of 2015. I made a brief visit to Black Oak Drive for a duck check and then on to the Hollis Brookline High School (HBHS). When I arrived, there were American Robins everywhere. I didn't think much of it at first and just proceeded to work the area. I saw lots of the usual suspects and decided to focus more on the large robin flocks that covered all of the athletic fields and were actively feeding on the sumac. I hunkered down and began to pick through the robins in hopes of finding the likes of a Fieldfare. The effort was tedious. There were so many robins and so many plumage variations – light, dark, partially leucistic, you name it. I began to think it was a completely wasted effort and it was time to throw in the proverbial towel and call it a day. I made my way to Love Lane and quickly started working my way back to my car, when I noticed a large group of robins feeding in one of the fruit-bearing trees. I caught a quick glimpse of a robin-like bird. I took a few pictures as best I could, but this bird acted differently: quick on the ground and a bit skulky. I looked my pictures over, and as usual they were under-exposed and out of focus, but something about the head stuck out. "What's with the eyebrow and what's with the bill?" I hesitated for a few minutes and then decided the best thing would be to relocate the bird and get a few more pictures. When I rounded Love Lane onto Jeff Smith Way I saw the bird on the baseball field and was able to take a few more photographs as it searched for worms just like a robin. The bold white eyebrow was vivid and extended too far into the nape for a robin. I had never seen anything like it. The bird only remained on the ground briefly, then flew for cover so I was able to get reasonable photos of the bird in flight. I pursued it into the hedgerow and was able to get a few close looks. That's when

I realized I needed to get home to look at the photos and a field guide.

It's not a long drive so I arrived home in a few minutes, and began uploading the photos and flipping through my field guides. It took a few guides before I found what I thought was a match; *The Sibley Guide To Birds, Second Edition*, page 439 had the perfect matching picture! The words "Very rare visitor from Eurasia...few records south to Pennsylvania..." sent me into a bit of a panic. My wife and her friends (who think I'm this crazy birding guy) found the event entertaining. Shaking with excitement and barely able to type a message, I sent Steve Mirick and Eric Masterson a Flickr link to the photo. I needed confirmation to make sure I wasn't going crazy. A call from Steve within minutes of sending the email confirmed my suspicions. I recall Steve saying something along the lines of "...get the word out, this is a big deal." At this point breathing was a challenge. "What have I done now?" I posted a message to the NH Birds e-mail list. Plans were made to meet back at HBHS so I arrived early and was waiting in the parking lot for others to arrive. At this point I still hadn't had a chance to learn anything about the Redwing and how unusual a New Hampshire sighting would be, but I quickly realized how special this bird was as one birder after another poured into the parking lot at HBHS. The search was on!

After several hours of searching by the growing mob, the Redwing hadn't turned up. The realization that I might be the only one to see the bird set in. I had to break away from the search to meet a family obligation, but after several hours I rejoined the search and heard scattered rumors the bird had been seen by others. I was off the hook; the sighting had been corroborated! The next morning, I stopped by HBHS at 8:00 am to find cars parked up and down Jeff Smith Way and birders everywhere. The Redwing had been relocated and was being seen and photographed by many. The next few days brought wonderful encounters with birders from all over New England, and a few terrific posts on when a Redwing is not a Red-winged (blackbird)!

## Mountain Bluebird!

by Katrina Fenton



Mountain Bluebird by Jason Lambert, 4/10/16, Pease International Tradeport, Portsmouth, NH.

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## Field Trip Report

### Good Luck Chuck

by Michael Pahl

Nature is interesting and full of surprises. Often what grabs your attention is a common occurrence (“oh look, blackbirds harassing a hawk”), but every once in a while, it turns out to be a rare sighting (“oh wait, those Red-winged Blackbirds aren’t chasing a Red-tailed, it’s.....”). And so it was one May weekend on the Isles of Shoals. Eric Masterson led a trip to Star Island in search of spring migrants. We arrived Friday evening, May 20, 2016 and shortly after, Eric happened upon a White-winged Dove, an amazing rarity for the state (only the third state record), although the sighting was brief. He also saw a bird he suspected might be a nightjar, but the encounter lasted only seconds. Morning brought in warblers and more: Blackburnians, Blackpolls, etc., as well as Black Guillemots and Ruddy Turnstones; a fabulous start to the trip. Eric had scheduled to talk about migration rarities on the Isles of Shoals post lunch. A cadre of us (raised in the “it’s nice, go outside and play” era) couldn’t bear being inside (sorry Eric!), so continued our search for birds instead.

The pine grove’s edges had been an active and successful site at daybreak and five of us returned there; however, I (a non-birder) wandered down the narrow middle alley instead. Focusing on the ground, due to the dense shrubs, I soon saw some movement. It was “only a robin”, but then I noted a very odd looking tree limb a foot or two off the ground. It took a while to convince myself there was a bird there, not just a tree burl. Trying to remain quiet, I texted Scott Heron “*Here now,*” thinking that should be enough to get the group over promptly. Jeanne-Marie Maher (my birder spouse) wandered by, wondering where I had rambled off to. When she and Scott arrived, I directed their attention to my new



*Chuck-will's-widow by Jeanne-Marie Maher, 5/21/16, Star Island, NH.*

It was a Saturday morning in early April, 2016. Jason Lambert and I had been birding in the seacoast area and were driving out of the Pease Golf Course parking area after watching a couple of American Kestrels and scanning the fields. As we were leaving, Jason noticed a bluebird sitting on the fence. We thought it looked a bit funny, so we got out of the car and took a few pictures. Jason sent one of the pictures to Steve Mirick while we worked out whether she could possibly be an extremely pale Eastern Bluebird, or if she was in fact a Mountain Bluebird as she appeared to be.

Steve confirmed our identification of Mountain Bluebird and replied that he was on his way. In the meantime, the bird had given us the slip. We spent the next several minutes working the fence line in both directions, finally tracking her down again as she foraged with a small group of Eastern Bluebirds. Over the course of the morning, birders began to appear from Rockingham County and beyond, alerted by phone calls, text messages, and posts to the NHBirds e-mail list. The Mountain Bluebird stayed for about a week. Jason and I checked in on her a couple of times, as did many other birders from New Hampshire and beyond.

### Eurasian Collared-Dove in East Kingston, May 25, 2016

by Davis W. Finch

Rarely is a dove on a wire more than a blip on the very margin of consciousness, noted and forgotten. In this case, however, I pulled over at once and confirmed with binoculars the details I thought I had just seen: larger and grayer than a Mourning Dove with a more ample tail, a narrow but bold black collar, and gray undertail coverts contrasting with white rectrices (tail feathers). It was a Eurasian Collared-Dove!

It was 6:00 in the evening, and I was just up the road from my house. I phoned Steve Mirick immediately, who posted the sighting to the NH Birds e-mail list, and by 8:00, when darkness was approaching, some ten or more observers had seen, and in many cases, photographed the bird. It consorted with eight or more Mourning Doves, fed with them at birdseed scattered on the ground, and reportedly approached and cooed in response to recordings.

It seemed reasonable to hope that it would remain in the neighborhood, but it was never seen again. Ben Griffith posted it to the American Birding Association’s Rare Bird Alert, along with a link to the beautiful Steve Mirick photo (on the back cover), so the bird achieved widespread if momentary celebrity. But how I wish more people had seen it!



Birders gathered at the Chuck-wills-Widow location with leader Eric Masterson who talked it over with the crowd as everyone took turns walking into the thicket to observe the bird. Photo by Chris McPherson.

find – “interesting brown bird, isn’t it?” After study with and without binoculars (it was only five feet away), they thought it was a whip-poor-will. With numerous photos in hand, Jeanne-Marie headed back to notify Eric. Scott (along with Chris McPherson and Greg Tillman) joined in to observe. I texted Eric, “possible Whip-poor-will in fir grove.” Whips are almost always heard and rarely, if ever, seen, so a second message was sent: “Visual.” That should get his attention!

Through the marvels of modern telecommunications, Eric received only the second text, “Visual.” That meaning nothing, he ignored it (rightfully so) and began his lecture. At that moment, Jeanne-Marie entered the room, signaled “time out,” walked up to Eric and, in a quiet sidebar, described what we had discovered. Eric excitedly turned back to the room with “Class dismissed! Follow me!”, grabbed his gear and hustled out the door with the entire audience in tow behind. The next several hours were a vigil. Eric and others kept eyes (and cameras) on the bird throughout the evening (including dinner on site). All trip participants, and eventually everyone else on the island, saw the bird. It remained on its perch the entire time, not really caring about our presence. A myriad of photos and exact descriptions were sent to solicit definitive opinions from other experts. Eric played some whip-poor-will and Chuck-will’s-widow calls. The bird responded only by turning its head to the latter. As dusk encroached, the bird took off.

**Chuck-will’s-widow** was the species finally definitively determined. The first probable New Hampshire Chuck-will’s-widow was seen on Star Island on May 21 of 1966,

but was not seen well enough for confirmation. The only confirmed record in the state was a recording of a calling bird in Newton on June 3, 2013 (pending acceptance by the NH Rare Birds Committee, as for our bird as well). Quite a rare bird to experience and it occurred exactly 50 years to the day after that first probable report. Chuck gets my vote as Bird of the Year!

## Birdathon at Everett Dam Conservation Lands

by Rob Woodward



Black-billed Cuckoo by Jen Esten, 5/21/16, Everett Dam, Weare, NH.

What a fantastic day! On May 21, 2016 I led a field trip to the Army Corps of Engineers lands around Everett Lake (adjacent to Clough State Park) for NH Audubon’s Capital Chapter as part of the annual Birdathon/Bloomathon fund raiser. The area has such a lovely setting with an abundance of birds. Apart from the rarities I’ll mention, the close looks at Rose-breasted Grosbeak, American

Redstart, Baltimore Oriole, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler and the list goes on, is worth the walk alone. After we reached the boundary of the state park we turned back. Within a few paces, Fern “Eagle Eye Lady” Schneider found a very close **Black-billed Cuckoo!** As soon as it started to sing, it was joined by a **second** Black-billed Cuckoo. They moved together only a little ways where we put them in the scope! By now we were strutting, but oh no, there was more, **much** more! While trying to identify the builder of a nest, I heard an odd sound. Could it be? It is! **Acadian Flycatcher!!!** The bird positioned into better view in a small dead tree and called out “Pizza!” a few times, clinching the identification. We walked back giddy, chins up, chests puffed out.

Participant’s Note: As we turned around at the gates of the state park, Rob reassured the group that the trip wasn’t over because, on the way back, we would certainly see new species. A few minutes later his words proved remarkably true!

# Spotlight on Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*)

by David B. Donsker



Blue Grosbeak by Roger Frieden, 5/8/16, Manchester, NH.

Blue Grosbeak (*Passerina caerulea*) is a member of a genus of generally colorful buntings of North and Middle America that includes among its members such gems as Painted Bunting and Varied Bunting and other “blue buntings” including the very closely related Lazuli Bunting of the American West and our familiar Indigo Bunting. The Blue Grosbeak is the “incredible hulk” of the clan. It is not only larger than the other members of the genus, but it also sports a massive conical bill and slightly peaked crown which gives it a rather bull-headed appearance. Its plumage at all seasons and ages in both sexes is very similar to Indigo Bunting except that both sexes have two chestnut-cinnamon wing bars which, in addition to its huge bill, sets it apart from its more common cousin.

In its breeding habitat, Blue Grosbeak is a relatively widespread but uncommon, low density species. It is a creature predominantly of weedy fields and forest edge bordering on bushy open areas and streams. In the southwest, it also favors drier bushy desert and savanna and, in the southeast, open pine forest. During breeding season, males can often be spotted on transmission wires or singing from the tops of trees or bushes. In migration, it favors similar habitats, but will also inhabit the brushy edges of cultivated fields, overgrown vegetable gardens and bushy pastures. In these habitats, it can be skulking and elusive.

The breeding range of Blue Grosbeak extends from the Mid-Atlantic States throughout the American south and southwest, Mexico and Central America to Costa Rica. It winters as far south as Panama.

As with many other southeastern species such as Red-bellied Woodpecker, Tufted Titmouse and Northern Cardinal, the original range of this species was much more southern than its current distribution. Since the mid-twentieth century, its breeding range has expanded

northward to include southeastern New York and northern New Jersey, but unlike the aforementioned species, Blue Grosbeak has not established itself as a breeding bird in New England. Yet, it is a regular, but rare, spring and fall visitor to northern New England with records from Maine and Massachusetts and occasionally into southeastern Canada, predominantly as migratory overflights in the spring and vagrants in the fall. Very occasionally they can be seen at feeders until early winter, but few survive the winter in northern New England.

## Occurrence in New Hampshire

Blue Grosbeak is a rare to very uncommon, but increasingly regular, visitor to our state, primarily in the spring and fall. As Figure 1 indicates, it is more commonly seen in the spring and is less often detected in the fall. Most frequently, it is found as a single individual that is observed for only a day. In the fall, it frequently joins mixed flocks of other seed-eating birds, where it can often be seen for two to several consecutive days. Summer records are rare, but when individuals are discovered, they can persist for many days to weeks, perhaps in an attempt to set up a breeding territory. A good example of this was a vocal male discovered in the weedy field at the NH Audubon’s McLane Center in Concord on June 8, 2007 until June 17. Another individual was seen off and on in Hollis throughout the month of July in 1992. An additional summer visitor persisted for nearly two weeks in Nashua from May 30 to June 12, 2012.

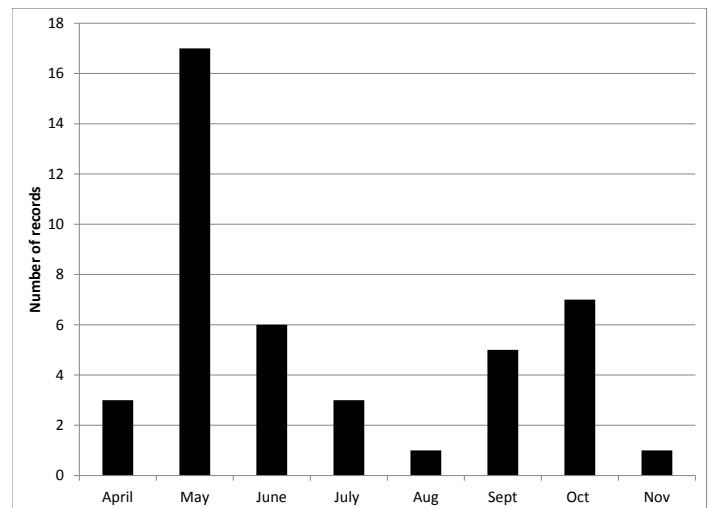


Figure 1. Blue Grosbeak sightings in New Hampshire by month, March 1, 1986 through May 31, 2016. Data from eBird and New Hampshire Bird Records as cited in Data Sources.

According to Keith and Fox (2013), Blue Grosbeak was first reported in New Hampshire in Derry in late May, 1894. The few records of this species in the first half of the twentieth century were primarily summer sightings in Pittsfield, Concord, Jackson and, notably for three consecutive summers in the 1920s, in Franklin.

Sightings increased substantially in the latter half of the twentieth century. From 1960 to the spring of 2016, there have been at least 58 reports of this species as extracted from Keith and Fox (2013), *New Hampshire Bird Records* and NH eBird. As mentioned previously, the majority of these (33) are spring sightings. Seventeen are fall reports and the remaining 11 are summer records.

The appearance of this species in New Hampshire over the years has not been predictable or steady. Rather, there seems to be some years or periods in which this species has been more frequently seen. Veit and Petersen (1991) report that 1973 was a major flight year in Massachusetts with a total of 31 individuals reported in the spring of that year. Although New Hampshire didn't appear to have a major flight year that year, there were a total of 16 sightings in the five years between 1992 and 1997 and 13 in the last five years from 2011-2016. This contrasts significantly with only eight sightings reported in the entire decade from 1998-2009 (See Figure 2).

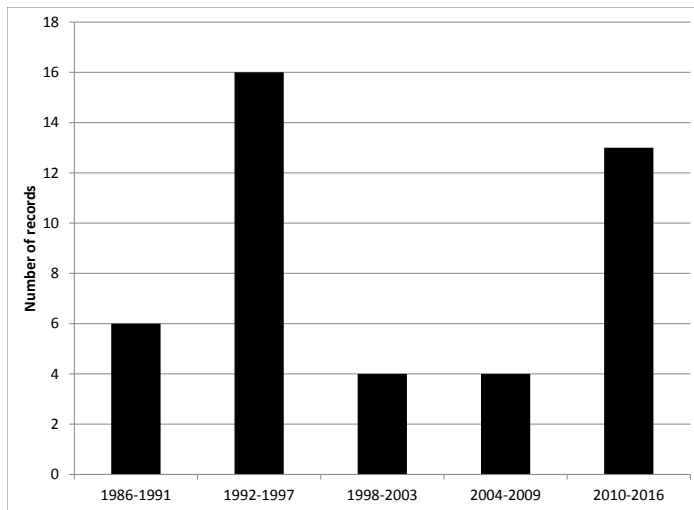


Figure 2. Blue Grosbeak sightings in New Hampshire by year, March 1, 1986 through May 31, 2016. Data from eBird and New Hampshire Bird Records as cited in Data Sources.

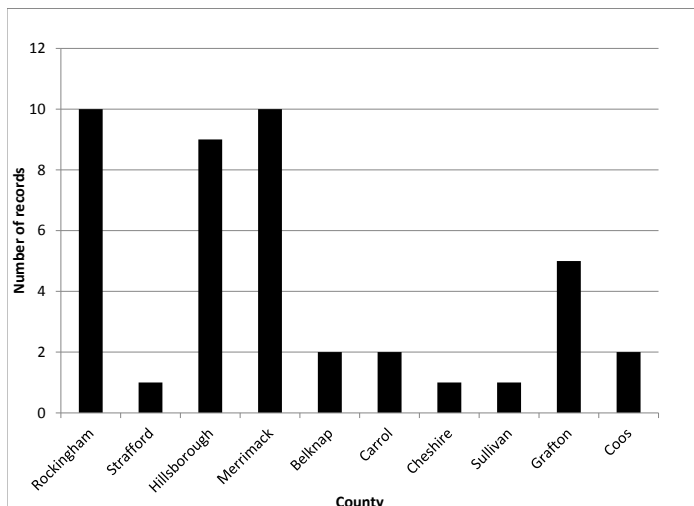


Figure 3. Blue Grosbeak sightings in New Hampshire by County, March 1, 1986 through May 31, 2016. Data from eBird and New Hampshire Bird Records as cited in Data Sources.

Perhaps not unexpectedly for a species with southern affinities, sightings in recent years have largely been from the southern half of the state. The vast majority of reports have been from Rockingham, Hillsborough and Merrimack Counties (Figure 3), although every county in the state has had at least one record since 1986. These are also more heavily birded and populous counties, so this pattern of observations might also be influenced by that factor.

Because the appearance of Blue Grosbeak in New Hampshire is sporadic and unpredictable, actually encountering one is a rare event. In the fall, especially, it is a good idea to check weedy fields and carefully examine mixed flocks of seedeaters. In recent years, the Birch Street Community Garden in Concord has been a fairly active site for this species in the fall. There have been sightings at this location in late September and early October in four consecutive years from 2011 through 2014 and the descriptions indicate it was not the same bird each year. No other site in the state has been as reliable for this desirable species. Finally, don't discount the resemblance of this species to Indigo Bunting and vice versa. Although its huge bill and cinnamon wing bars are distinctive, they can be deceiving when there is no other bird for comparison, and in other aspects these two closely related species resemble each other quite strongly. It's always wise to take a second look, and a photo for documentation.

Thanks to Steve Mirick for reviewing this article and for providing helpful comments.

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# Birding at Mink Brook in Hanover, NH

by Adam Burnett

Mink Brook is a stream in Hanover, New Hampshire that empties into the Connecticut River. The last two miles of the brook hosts a trail network that is excellent for birding. Most of these trails are located in Mink Brook Nature Preserve, a 112-acre Hanover Conservancy and Upper Valley Land Trust property that straddles Mink Brook in the area between Route 120 and Route 10. West of Route 10 is the River Trail, which is maintained by the Town of Hanover. This trail follows the last half-mile of Mink Brook out to the Connecticut River before turning north, running along the riverbank, and terminating at the west end of Maple Street.

## Getting There

From the four-way intersection of East Wheelock Street, West Wheelock Street, North Main Street, and Main Street (Route 10) in downtown Hanover, take Route 10 south for half a mile. As you near the bottom of the hill you are descending, on the right you will see a dirt road leading down to an electrical substation. Follow this road for a short distance and park in the parking lot.

## Mink Brook Nature Preserve: Quinn Trail

Walk back out to Route 10 and cross it at the intersection with Brook Road, just south of where you parked. Look for a small brick building at the corner of Brook Road and Route 10, on the south side of Brook Road. The Quinn Trail begins here and extends eastward from the grassy area around the building. Follow the Quinn Trail as it parallels Brook Road for a few hundred yards. Along the wide, grassy trail, you pass through habitat dominated by shrubs and tall

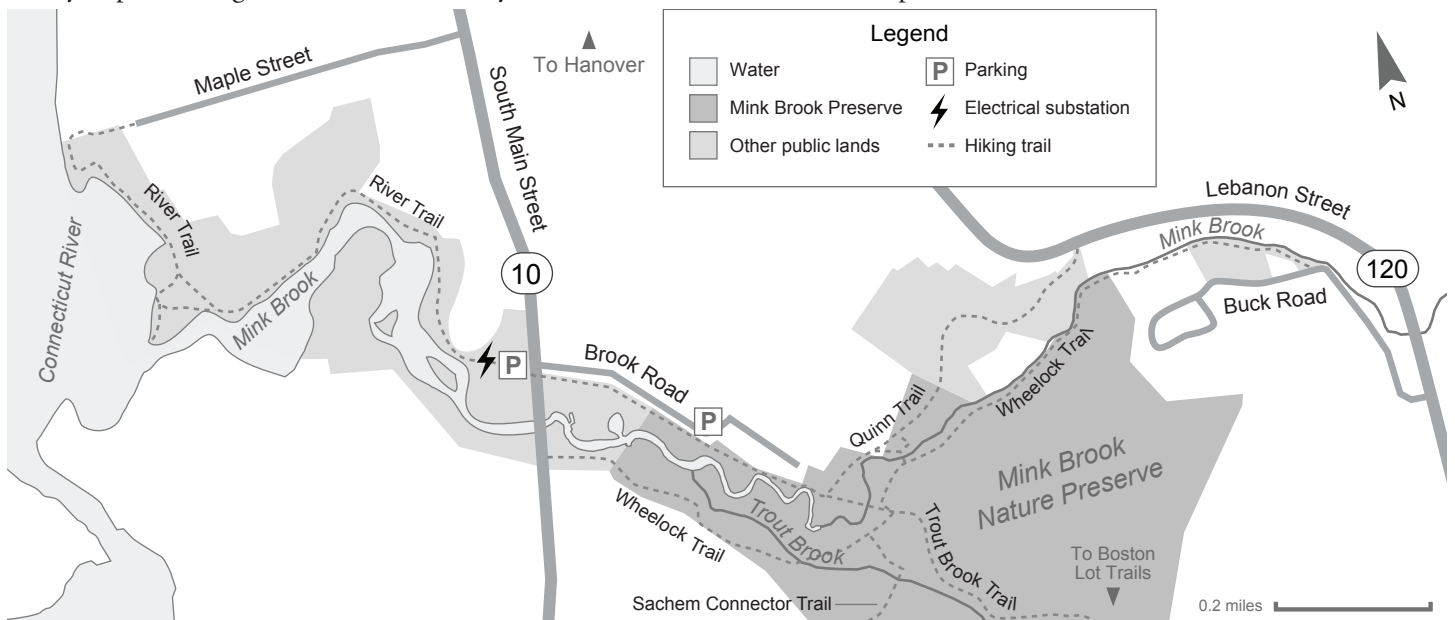
reeds, backing up to the wetlands surrounding Mink Brook. This stretch of trail provides good views of Yellow Warblers, American Redstarts, and nesting Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers during the breeding season, and is a good place to look for Northern Cardinals and Carolina Wrens year-round. This



American Woodcock at Mink Brook by Adam Burnett.

also is a solid place to find all manner of migrant songbirds in spring and fall, as is the entirety of the large area of brushy and weedy vegetation surrounding Mink Brook. Deer frequent this area; ticks do too. After a couple hundred yards, the trail rejoins Brook Road. Follow the road for another couple hundred yards, through more good birding habitat, with lawns on your left and the shrubby and weedy Mink Brook floodplain beyond a row of trees on your right, until you reach a small parking area and a gate for the Nature Preserve.

The Quinn Trail continues through the gate, leading past a trail kiosk and through an open strip of forest along the edge of Mink Brook. Along here there are a couple of nest boxes used by House Wrens and perhaps other species. Soon you arrive at an open area with a view down to the brook and,



on the other side of the trail, a view through a garden up to a large white house. In winter, the people who live in this house sometimes maintain a feeding station by the side of the trail, worth checking for Carolina Wrens and sparrows. There is sometimes a filled hummingbird feeder in front of the house. This open area also hosts staghorn sumac, good for robins and waxwings, and some open snags for Great Crested Flycatchers. Ducks are occasionally this far up the brook, but never in large numbers, just an occasional mallard or merganser to surprise you.

The trail continues past this open area and through more streamside woods, good for a wide variety of songbirds. At about a quarter-mile from the gate, a side trail comes in on the right, leading immediately to a nifty log bridge across the brook. This is the way to the Wheelock Trail. Before you take this side trail, look again around the edges of the grassy clearing here. This seems to be a particularly good spot for migrant warblers.

If you were to continue on the Quinn Trail, you would pass abruptly into woods with more hemlocks and pines. The trail through these woods eventually arrives at a dirt track which leads to Route 120. Along the way, the trail intersects two nice loop trails. It also passes by piles of scrap metal and wood, old furniture, and all sorts of other things, including a couple of dwellings created from these reused items. I usually do not continue onto this eastern half of the Quinn Trail, but it is worth checking out. For now, take the aforementioned side trail and cross Mink Brook via the bouncy log bridge to get to the Wheelock Trail.

## Mink Brook Nature Preserve: Wheelock Trail

Take a right turn on the Wheelock Trail to head back out toward Route 10. A left turn would take you deeper into the woods and you would eventually end up on Buck Road in Hanover. I have never followed this part of the trail, but I suspect it offers more of the same birds to be had elsewhere in the forests of the Preserve.

As you go right from the bridge, the Wheelock Trail winds through piney woods. Red-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren, Brown Creeper, and Pine Siskin can be found here through much of the year and Red Crossbills have also occurred here. I once flushed a Ruffed Grouse along this trail, although I have found more of them deeper into the woods to the south.

The Trout Brook Trail and the Sachem Connector Trail extend southward from the Wheelock Trail. The short Sachem Connector Trail leads through the woods before following a power-line cut. A bit beyond the Preserve boundary, this trail reaches an open area on the west side of Sachem Village in Lebanon. From here, the Indian Ridge Trail leads southward and connects with the network of

trails at Boston Lot in Lebanon. An excellent walking loop, through a great diversity of habitats, can be made down through the Preserve to Boston Lot, out to the Wilder Dam, and back up to the Preserve, adding in the River Trail as well. I have never followed the Trout Brook Trail in its entirety, but it seems to offer more forest birding as well as views out to a power-line cut. These two side trails are sometimes hard to follow, as are the Indian Ridge Trail and other trails to the south.

As you continue westward on the Wheelock Trail, the woods get progressively more open. After about 0.3 miles, the trail leaves the woods and enters more forest-edge habitat. The trail passes along the edge of a power-line cut, as well as the weedy and shrubby floodplain of Mink Brook. This habitat is good for a variety of songbird migrants. In late May, the flowering apple trees here are attractive to warblers, especially Tennessee Warbler. As you continue, the brook grows wider and the dry shrubby and weedy area gives way to a marshy section along the brook's edge. The trail rises and climbs onto an elevated bank of the brook, then heads out and intersects Route 10, only a short distance south of where you started your walk on Brook Road.

## River Trail

While the River Trail is not part of Mink Brook Nature Preserve, it offers access to what is perhaps the best part of Mink Brook for birding. It begins at the parking lot by the substation. Start here and walk westward along the trail, which follows the northern bank of Mink Brook.

A narrow, less-traveled part of the trail runs along the southern edge of the substation, from the Route 10 sidewalk to the main access for the River Trail. This narrow section of trail can bring you close to birds like Swamp Sparrows, Yellow Warblers, and the occasional Green Heron, plus many other landbirds. Watch out for a sharp piece of steel cable sticking a couple of inches out of the ground at one point.

The first half-mile of the River Trail is wide and well-traveled by runners, dog-walkers, and other trail users. It follows the edge of Mink Brook to the brook's confluence with the Connecticut River. At the eastern end of the trail are reed and cattail beds, and large mudflats are exposed here when the water is low. It looks like shorebird habitat, but not many shorebirds have been found here thus far. A wide variety of songbirds can occur along this stretch of trail. Watch and listen for Merlins, which may nest here. In summer and fall, ducks gather here, including Mallards, Wood Ducks, American Black Ducks, and Common and Hooded Mergansers, plus the occasional Green-winged Teal. The large pool just upstream of the wastewater treatment plant is often the best place for ducks along the River Trail. (The treatment plant does not have any large pools of water

and thus does not seem to be much of an attractant for waterbirds.)

As you approach the Connecticut River, there are several small side trails that intersect one another and offer different routes to the part of the River Trail that parallels the river. I recommend staying as far south as possible and taking the little spur trail out to the very mouth of Mink Brook. This spot offers the trail's best view of the river, particularly when low water enables you to walk down onto the shore. Scan the opposite shore from here. Even if you do not see any birds on the river immediately, there may be ducks, herons, or cormorants tucked in by the banks. Make sure to scan all the way upriver to Ledyard Bridge, since birds in the river below the bridge are often visible from here. (Many of the notable birds reported from Ledyard Bridge over the years should also have been visible from the River Trail.) This vantage point at the mouth of Mink Brook can be a great spot during spring and fall waterfowl migration. On a rainy November day, I saw a Black Scoter from here, and on a rainy June 1, I saw a rain-downed Common Loon. Other highlights here have included White-winged Scoter, Northern Shoveler, Pied-billed Grebe, and migrating nighthawks. This can be a good place to see migrant flocks of swallows over the river as well, especially on rainy days.

From here, you could retrace your steps back to the parking area. For a longer loop, you can follow the River Trail northward for another 0.4 miles to its end at the west end of Maple Street in Hanover. This walk northward along the River Trail will give you more vantage points of the river, including closer views of the setback below Ledyard Bridge and any birds it might hold. From the end of Maple Street, the walk back to the substation parking lot via Maple Street and Main Street is 0.9 miles.

## Conclusion

This trail system has a nice variety of habitats, which makes for a nice variety of birds. I have observed over 130 species here and, according to the lists for the several eBird hotspots corresponding to the Mink Brook trail system, the total species list exceeds 160. In addition to good breeding bird diversity, it has hosted a nice variety of uncommon migrant species, plus several out-of-season records of common birds. As far as I know, nothing mind-blowing has been found here yet, but it is a nice, well-rounded birding spot, and one I have thoroughly enjoyed monitoring over the last few years. These trails have already received quite a bit of attention from birders, but they deserve even more!

The Mink Brook Nature Preserve has a nice website where you can find a trail map: <http://www.hanoverconservancy.org/lands/mink-brook/>.

*Adam Burnett is a junior at Dartmouth College, where he is a physics major. He grew up in Westmoreland, NH, and has been birding all his life.*

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## Backyard Birder

### Hummingbird Courtship Behavior

*by Brenda Sens*

On May 25, 2016, Dana Duxbury-Fox reported fascinating Ruby-throated Hummingbird behavior to the NHBirds email list. A few hours after witnessing a male hummingbird engaging in its typical vertical zooming courtship dance from their deck, Dana and her husband: "...suddenly saw something new—this floating dance of a pair. They would float up and then down maybe three feet in distance up and down around the feeder in unison. One might pause and feed and then the floating dance would start again—up and down."

Never having come upon mention of this behavior before, it seemed worth researching. Numerous sources dealing with Ruby-throated Hummingbird mating habits were available on the web but the only one that described this particular behavior was [www.birdhouses101.com/rub-throated-hummingbird-mating.asp](http://www.birdhouses101.com/rub-throated-hummingbird-mating.asp). As not all of us are capable of putting our complete trust in internet sources, further confirmation in the form of the printed word was sought. The Ruby-throated Hummingbird account in *The Birds of North America* (Frank Gill, Alan Poole, eds., Philadelphia PA, 2002) made no mention of this dance. Happily, Cleveland Bent's *Life Histories of North American Birds, Bulletin 176: Ruby-throated Hummingbird* (U.S. National Museum) contained more detailed observations of courtship. In addition to reporting a male's solo dance that took place in a straight line rather than vertically, Mrs. Charles W. Melcher wrote the following to Mr. Bent:

"Another performance we witnessed lasted two or three minutes. A male and a female were flying up and down. They were facing each other with tails spread, and there was much twittering. They covered a distance of 5 or 6 feet, and their flight was almost vertical. When he was at the top of his flight, she was at the bottom of hers, and when she was at the top he was at the bottom. They were about 2 ½ feet apart. There was no thrusting at each other until, at the last, they came together for an instant on the windowsill."

Let's hope we all get to see this one day.



# The Next Ten ... (or 13) New Species for New Hampshire

by Iain MacLeod



*The Tufted Duck was one of four species added to the New Hampshire state list in the spring of 2016. Photo by Steve Mirick, 3/7/16, World End Pond, Salem, NH. What species will be next?*

This article started with a simple question – “What will be the next 10 new species of birds added to the New Hampshire Bird Checklist?” We asked this question of the *New Hampshire Bird Records* Editorial Team and got lists from eight people: Eric Masterson, Tony Vazzano, Pam Hunt, Ben Griffith, Dan Hubbard, Bob Quinn, Phil Brown, David Deifik, and David Donsker.

We actually had to ask the question twice, because within a week of posing the question, two species which were probably going to be on everyone’s list, actually showed up and added themselves to the list – the Mountain Bluebird and the Eurasian Collared-Dove. What a spring for firsts it was!!

So, once everyone had redone their lists, I gathered them together and here are the results. What might be surprising is that the total number of species suggested by the nine participants was 43, which indicates that there are a lot of potential firsts.

There was some commonality: one species was on six of the nine lists, another was on five, two were on four of the lists, nine species were on three lists, and ten species were on two lists. The remaining 20 species were unique to each list.

The “winner” with six votes is the Brown Booby, so double check those young Northern Gannets you see offshore. Great Skua had five votes and Crested Caracara and South Polar Skua each had four votes. Red-necked Stint, Bar-tailed Godwit, Black-tailed Godwit, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Eurasian Golden Plover, Fieldfare, Magnificent Frigatebird, Tropical Kingbird, and Yellow-billed Loon had three votes. Willow Ptarmigan, Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, Black-throated Sparrow, Boat-tailed Grackle, Brewer’s Blackbird, Cassin’s Kingbird, Gray Kingbird, Hermit Warbler, Kirtland’s Warbler, and Sage Thrasher each had two.

The list was rounded out by single suggestions of Ancient Murrelet, Black-tailed Gull, Brown-chested Martin, California Gull, Common Ringed Plover, Couch’s Kingbird, Garganey, Gray Flycatcher, Gray Heron, Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch, Long-billed Murrelet, Monk Parakeet, Painted Redstart, Rock Wren, Scott’s Oriole, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Smew, Swainson’s Warbler, Vermilion Flycatcher, and White-winged Tern.

So . . . what do *you* think? Did our panel of experts miss something? Were they way off the mark? . . . All I know is that the next new bird for the New Hampshire list could be any one of forty-three species . . . so go find them.

Combined List of 13 Suggested Species for the Next New Hampshire First State Record (with three or more votes).

Brown Booby
Great Skua
South Polar Skua
Crested Caracara
Red-necked Stint
Bar-tailed Godwit
Black-tailed Godwit
Black-chinned Hummingbird
Eurasian Golden Plover
Fieldfare
Magnificent Frigatebird
Tropical Kingbird
Yellow-billed Loon

# Volunteers and Research

## Birds and Adelgids

by Jen Weimer

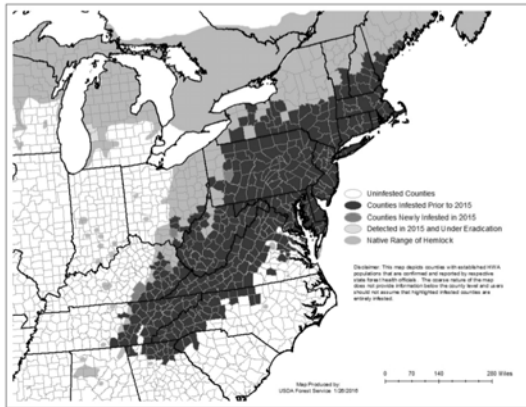


Figure 1. The extent of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Infestations in North America as of 2015, according to the USDA Forest Service.

### Introduction

Hemlocks in New Hampshire are currently threatened by invasions of numerous invasive and exotic pests: siroccoccus tip blight; elongate hemlock scale; and hemlock woolly adelgid, to name a few. Of these, hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) is currently causing the most widespread damage throughout the native range of hemlock. HWA is a small aphid-like insect that only feeds on hemlock. It was introduced to Virginia in the early 1950s from Japan and has since spread north to Maine and south to Georgia (Figure 1). In New Hampshire, infestations are known to occur within 121 towns in eight counties (Figure 2).

HWA can be diagnosed by the presence of dry white woolly ovisacs on the undersides of young hemlock branches. This “wool” can generally be found year round, but is most abundant when adults are laying eggs. HWA completes two overlapping generations per year. During March and April, adults of the overwintering generation each lay up to 300 eggs within their woolly covering. Crawlers hatch from April through May and then settle on the

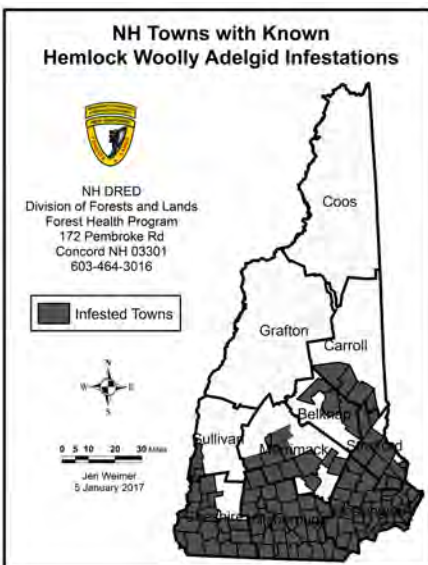


Figure 2. The New Hampshire towns with known HWA infestations as of January 2017, according to the NH Division of Forests and Lands.



The HWA woolly ovisacs on the underside of hemlock needles. Photo by Jen Weimer.

twigs near the bases of the needles, where they insert their sucking mouthparts and feed throughout their development. This spring generation matures by the middle of June and deposits an average of 75 eggs each. The next generation of crawlers hatch in early July and settle on the new growth. They are generally settled and dormant by the beginning of August. In mid-October, feeding resumes and the characteristic woolly covering begins to develop. Nymphs feed during the winter and mature by spring.

Trees weakened by the feeding of HWA often succumb to other diseases and wood boring insects such as hemlock borer. Left untreated, HWA can kill trees in the northeast within 10 years. Trees infested with HWA are often also infested with elongate hemlock scale and tip blight resulting in quicker tree mortality. Recent drought conditions may also lead to an increase in hemlock mortality in southern New Hampshire. Systemic insecticides work best to kill HWA and can be applied by homeowners or certified professionals. Treatments may take up to a year to work, but will keep trees protected for many years following application. Depending on levels of infestation in the area and the chemical used, treatments will likely need to be reapplied every 3-7 years. Efforts are also underway to establish predatory beetles as biocontrol, but this could take decades to become a viable management tool.

### The Connection between Birds and HWA

It has long been suspected that HWA's primary vector is birds. New infestations of HWA are often found in or near hemlocks with birdfeeders, along waterways, roads, and field edges where birds often perch. A recent study shows that birds can pick up crawlers while brushing up against or perching on branches and incidence is highest when peak crawler emergence coincides with birds' spring migrations (Russo, et al. 2016). Birds are important vectors of HWA whether they spend time in hemlock canopies or are primarily ground-dwelling, as eggs and crawlers can be



HWA may be spread by birds coming to feeders near hemlock trees. Photo by Jen Weimer.

found throughout an infested stand. Studies also show that birds in hemlock forests can pick up and carry adelgids up to two kilometers away from infested hemlock (McClure, 1990). With many small songbirds migrating from South America or the Caribbean all the way to boreal Canada, it is easy to see how HWA could be moved long distances by birds.

In addition to being vectors, birds may also be victims of the effects of HWA as hemlock forests decline and revert to other tree species. Ninety-six bird species are associated with hemlock forest types in the northeast (Yamasaki, et al. 2000) and the decline in hemlock could have some significant impacts on the occurrence and distribution of these species. Eight of these associated species are considered strongly associated with eastern hemlock habitats: Great Horned Owl, Long-eared Owl, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Blue-headed (Solitary) Vireo, Blue Jay, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Hermit Thrush, and the Black-throated Green Warbler (DeGraaf, et al. 1992). Species that rely heavily on live hemlocks such as the Black-throated Green Warbler will likely be negatively impacted by hemlock decline. Other bird species, however, may benefit from an increased number of dead trees or canopy gaps. Studies in Pennsylvania have shown both negative and positive effects on the abundance of bird species depending on their preferred habitats (Becker, et al. 2008).

HWA will impact all of us in some way whether you're a birder, tree hugger, hiker, forester, homeowner, or a landowner. You can help slow the spread by monitoring your trees annually and treating infested hemlock when possible. Report sightings of infestations and contact a forester or arborist to help you make management decisions. Although there is no research on the subject you could try giving your favorite hemlock tree a hug.

### How You Can Help

- Remove birdfeeders during HWA crawler & egg stages (March-August)
- Report sightings of HWA to the NH Division of Forests and Lands [Jennifer.Weimer@dred.nh.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Weimer@dred.nh.gov) 603-464-3016
- Upload photos of suspect HWA to [NH Bugs.org](http://NH Bugs.org) for identification

- Treat HWA infested landscape hemlocks with systemic insecticides
- More info about HWA can be found online at [nhdff.org](http://nhdff.org) or [NH Bugs.org](http://NH Bugs.org).

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Jen Weimer is a Forest Health Specialist with the NH Division of Forests and Lands helping to protect New Hampshire's forests through outreach, trapping, surveys, and hugs. You can follow her on twitter @nhdffl or Facebook at New Hampshire Forest Health.

# New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee Report

Winter 2011-12 through Fall 2012

*Hector Galbraith, Chair*

*Michael Resch, Secretary*

This report from the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee (NHRBC) contains the decisions for records voted on by the Committee for four seasons – Winter 2011/2012, Spring 2012, Summer 2012, and Fall 2012, voted on in 2016.

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

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

The members of the Committee voting on the records in these four seasons were: David Donsker, Kurk Dorsey, Iain MacLeod, Eric Masterson, Mike Resch, Rob Woodward, and Hector Galbraith (Chair). Mike Resch served as the Committee Secretary.

## Winter 2011-12

### Records accepted by the Committee

Pacific Loon	1/14/2012	Hampton/Seabrook
Barnacle Goose	12/14/2011	Rollinsford
Thayer's Gull	2/17/2012	East Kingston
Common Murre	1/11/2012	Jeffrey's Ledge
Varied Thrush	1/14,16/2012	Dover
Varied Thrush	2/28/2012	Ossipee
Western Tanager	12/14/2011	Campton
Painted Bunting	12/28/2011	Harvest Dr., Dover
Painted Bunting	1/2/2012	Fairway Dr., Dover
White-crowned Sparrow (Gambel's)	1/22/2012	Seabrook
Yellow-headed Blackbird	1/9/2012	East Kingston

### Records not accepted by the Committee

Long-eared Owl	12/24/2011	Stratham
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This bird was seen briefly while the observers were driving; no optics were used. The committee felt that

Short-eared Owl could not be eliminated and as a result accepted the record as *Asio*, sp..

Long-eared Owl	1/1/2012	Walpole
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This was a heard-only bird. Although multiple calls were heard, the committee felt it is very difficult to identify Long-eared Owls solely based on calls.

## Spring 2012

### Records accepted by the Committee

Barnacle Goose	3/5/2012	Hinsdale
Red-necked Phalarope	5/19/2012	Exeter
Acadian Flycatcher	5/23/2012	Concord
Acadian Flycatcher	5/30/2012	Merrimack
Varied Thrush	3/4/2012	Ossipee
Cerulean Warbler	5/13/2012	Chesterfield/Hinsdale
Summer Tanager	5/1/2012	Franklin
Summer Tanager	5/5/2012	Rye
Blue Grosbeak	5/3/2012	New London
Blue Grosbeak	5/30/2012	Nashua

### Records not accepted by the Committee

Williamson's Sapsucker	3/7/2012	Washington
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Given that this species is not generally prone to vagrancy, a more detailed description would be required to accept this as a first NH state record.

## Summer 2012

### Records accepted by the Committee

Leach's Storm-Petrel	7/28/2012	Rye
Wilson's Phalarope	6/7/2012	Derry
Sedge Wren	7/16/2012	Sandwich

### Records not accepted by the Committee - none

## Fall 2012

### Records accepted by the Committee

Leach's-Storm Petrel	10/28/2012	Rye
Leach's-Storm Petrel	10/29/2012	Rye
American White Pelican	11/3/2012	Rye
Wilson's Plover	9/5/2012	Rye
Red-headed Woodpecker	8/14/2012	Atkinson
Say's Phoebe	11/17/2012	Concord
Cave Swallow	11/25/2012	Hampton
Cave Swallow	11/24 & 11/25/12	Rye & Hampton
Cave Swallow	11/25/2012	Rye
Bicknell's Thrush	9/3/2012	Center Harbor
Yellow-throated Warbler	approx. 11/22-30/2012	Ossipee
Summer Tanager	9/5/2012	Gilsum
Blue Grosbeak	10/13/2012	Concord
Yellow-headed Blackbird	11/8/2012	East Kingston

### Records not accepted by the Committee

Leach's Storm-Petrel	8/24/2012	Jeffreys Ledge
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In order to accept this somewhat out-of-season sighting the Committee felt that a more detailed description eliminating Wilson's Storm-Petrel would be needed.

Tricolored Heron	10/31/2012	Grafton
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The bird was spotted in a habitat which would be most unusual for Tricolored (found in a stream in a mixed

	deciduous forest) and at a very late date. Plus, the Committee agreed that the description was not sufficient to eliminate other large waders.	
Tundra Swan	11/20/2012	Durham
	The Committee felt that the submitted description could not eliminate Mute Swans.	
Broad-winged Hawk	11/30/2012	Etna
	Photographs submitted were insufficient to eliminate Red-shouldered Hawk.	
Swainson's Hawk	9/10/2012	Peterborough
	Although the description was compelling, the Committee felt that the description was not sufficiently detailed to accept this sighting as a first state record.	
Northern Lapwing	11/3/2012	Rochester
	The identification of this bird is not in doubt; however, it is not clear that the bird was actually seen in NH. The observer was standing in Maine and watched the bird fly toward NH but it apparently disappeared from sight before it reached NH airspace.	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	10/3/2012	East Kingston
	This observation was of two birds heard calling overhead nocturnally. It is not clear that Gray-cheeked can conclusively be separated from Bicknell's solely based on call notes, therefore, the Committee accepted the sighting as Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush.	
Cassin's Vireo	9/15/2012	Pittsfield
	Despite a very detailed description, a pale Blue-headed Vireo could not be eliminated.	

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## Answer to the Photo Quiz

by David B. Donsker

With its very short, almost invisible legs, tiny bill, and proportionally very long wings, the subject of this Photo Quiz can only be a member of one of two unrelated families, the swifts or the swallows. Although swallows are members of the Passerines, or perching birds, and swifts are more closely related to hummingbirds than any other family, these two groups show a considerable number of structural similarities. These similarities, an example of convergent evolution, are due largely to the fact that both groups have a nearly identical feeding strategy, which is to snatch flying insects while the birds themselves are airborne. Both groups are master aerialists, spending much of their active time in flight. As such, they have short legs that are needed only for perching and long wings that provide them with excellent aerial maneuverability. In addition, the members of both families have very small bills, but proportionally very large gapes (a feature that they also share with nightjars, a group with similar feeding habits) that allow them to literally scoop insects out of the air.

In addition to the features mentioned above, let's look more carefully at the plumage and structure of the featured

bird. It is strongly bicolored. It has a dark crown, nape, auriculars ("ear" patch) and underwings. These contrast sharply with the bright white underparts. The white throat is separated from the remainder of the white underparts by a sharply defined, dark upper breast band from which extends a short, dark stripe that extends to the mid-breast. The tail is proportionally quite long and tapered, and terminates in a short notch.

Although the swifts (*Apodidae*) comprise a large family with many species worldwide, only one species, Chimney Swift, is encountered in New Hampshire. Chimney Swift is a uniformly grayish-brown species with a short, bluntly tapered tail. The gleaming white underparts of this bird are quite unlike grayish underparts of the swift, as is the notched, rather than bluntly tipped, tail.

In contrast, swallows (*Hirundidae*), an equally large family, is well represented in our state with six breeding species: the larger Purple Martin and five smaller swallows, Tree, Bank, Northern Rough-winged, Cliff and Barn. Within the last several years, one additional species has been added to the state list: the vagrant Cave Swallow.

Purple Martin is unique amongst our swallows, not only in its large size, but that it is our only species that shows sexual dimorphism. That is, the adult males and females have distinctly different plumages. The male Purple Martin is uniformly dark bluish black, so it is quite unlike this bicolored bird. Female (and juvenile) Purple Martins are dull bluish-purple above but have contrasting grayish underparts (darker on the breast and throat) as well as a faint gray hind collar and forehead. Although juvenile Purple Martins have paler lower breasts and bellies than do females, their throats and upper breasts are similarly dark gray and the bellies are faintly streaked or spotted. So, both juvenile and female Purple Martins lack the crisply two-toned, white-throated appearance of the featured bird.

Barn Swallow, rather similarly to this bird, has a long slender tail, but an adult Barn Swallow has an even longer, deeply forked tail, rather than a notched tail. A juvenile Barn Swallow has a more shallowly forked tail, however, which might recall the notched tail in this bird. Also, like this bird, Barn Swallow has a band that separates the throat from the breast, but the breast band of Barn Swallow is much thinner and less prominent than that in our featured species. Further, in many other aspects, Barn Swallow is quite unlike the featured bird. It may have very pale, nearly white, underparts, but its throat is always contrastingly dark. Its underwings are two-toned with dark flight feathers, but with pale under wing coverts. The featured bird has uniformly dark underwings.

Cliff and Cave Swallows are superficially rather similar to each other. They have dark bluish-black upperparts, pale underparts and throats that contain various shades of orange

that range from tawny to dark rufous. Both have tawny rumps that contrast with their dark blue upperparts. The rumps can only be seen well from above while the birds are in flight, so that particular feature doesn't help us with this individual which, in this case, is seen from below. Also, both species do have a number of other plumage features that are lacking in this bird. These include a pale hind collar, spotted under tail coverts and pale underwings. Further, Cliff Swallow has a dark throat. Cave Swallow has a tawny throat as an adult and a very pale throat in juvenile plumage. But even a pale tawny throat would be quite evident in this black-and-white photograph which demonstrates a distinctly white throat. Further, both Cliff and Cave Swallows lack a dark breast band and both species have square-tipped tails quite unlike the notched tail of this individual.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow is pale below and dark above with gleaming white under tail coverts like the featured bird, but the throat of Rough-winged Swallow is dusker. Rather than a distinct breast band, Rough-winged Swallow has a diffusely brownish upper breast that merges with its dusky throat. Besides, Rough-winged Swallow has a square, rather than notched, tail. So this cannot be a Rough-winged Swallow.

Like our subject, Tree Swallow is strongly bicolored, with dark bluish green (or brown in juvenile birds) upperparts and gleaming white underparts, including the throat. Tree Swallow also has dark auriculars like the featured bird. In juvenile and in many female Tree Swallows, the white of the throat wraps behind the auriculars in a fashion that is similar to the bird in the photograph. Like our featured bird, Tree Swallow has dark under wings. Although adult Tree Swallow has pure white underparts from throat to vent and it lacks a distinctive breast band, juvenile Tree Swallow can have a noticeable upper breast band. But the breast band in juvenile Tree Swallow is much less defined and crisp and it lacks the dark stripe which extends from its lower edge. The tail of a Tree Swallow is also notched, but it is not as proportionally long as the tail of this bird.

With its brilliant white throat and underparts contrasting with dark upper parts and a dark cheek, dark under wings, distinctive breast band, and notched tail, our featured bird can only be Bank Swallow. This adult Bank Swallow was photographed by David Hoitt in Surry, New Hampshire on May 3, 2015.

Although it may be fairly easy to identify this bird as Bank Swallow from a still photograph, in the field, swallow identification can be trickier. As we all know, swallows are rapid flyers, banking and darting quickly as they hunt for their insect prey. This makes seeing them well in binoculars frustratingly difficult at times. Often, finer features, such as the crisply defined breast band in this species are surprisingly

difficult to see. So, using structural and behavioral features help immensely in the identification of species within this family of birds. Bank Swallow is fairly tiny. It is the smallest of all of our swallow species. Size alone can help separate this species from other swallows in mixed flocks. The flight pattern is different in Bank Swallow than similarly patterned swallows. Bank Swallow flies erratically, with shallow, rapid wing beats. Northern Rough-winged Swallow, in contrast, has deep, smoother wing beats. Tree Swallow often flaps and glides. Also, Tree Swallow and rough-winged swallow have relatively broad wings. Bank Swallow has noticeably thinner, tapered wings.

Bank Swallow is a common, but local, breeding bird in New Hampshire although, like many aerial insectivores, it has shown a decline in recent decades. It is widely distributed throughout the entire state, but it is limited in the breeding season to areas with suitable nesting habitat. As its name would suggest, its normal breeding habitat is the vertical banks of rivers where the species forms concentrated clusters of burrows dug into the sandy or muddy soil of the bank. In addition, Bank Swallow has adapted to gravel pits as another preferred habitat for nesting. Arrival in New Hampshire is in late April to early May. It is a fairly early autumn migrant. It leaves for its wintering grounds in South America in late July through August and is nearly gone from the state by the first of September. In the spring and fall migrations, it often forms large flocks, frequently in association with other swallow species, where it can be found foraging over bodies of water. Identifying individual swallow species in these flocks is an excellent exercise for practicing your birding skills.

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

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## Abbreviations Used

BBC	Brookline Bird Club
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey
CA	Conservation Area
CC	Country Club
CFT	NH Audubon Chapter Field Trip
FT	Field Trip
IBA	Important Bird Area
L.	Lake
LPC	Loon Preservation Committee
NA	Natural Area
NHA	New Hampshire Audubon
NHBR	New Hampshire Bird Records
NHRBC	NH Rare Birds Committee
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
PMRO	Pack Monadnock Raptor Observatory
PO	Post Office
R.	River
Rd.	Road
RO	Raptor Observatory
Rt.	Route
SF	State Forest
SP	State Park
SPNHF	Society for the Protection of NH Forests, Concord
T&M	Thompson & Meserves (Purchase)
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
WMA	Wildlife Management Area
WMNF	White Mountain National Forest
WS	NHA Wildlife Sanctuary
~	approximately
WTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant

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## Spring 2016 Rarities



Mountain Bluebird by Jason Lambert (left) and Steve Mirick (right), 4/10/16, Pease International Tradeport, Portsmouth, NH.



Chuck-will's-widow by Chris McPherson, 5/21/16, Star Island, Isles of Shoals, NH. Eurasian Collared-Dove by Steve Mirick, 5/25/16, E. Kingston, NH.



Tufted Duck by Jason Lambert, 3/4/16, Captain Pond, Salem, NH.

### Rare Bird Alert, 4/1/16: American Robin in Hollis!



After looking for the Redwing among thousands of robins, many birders appreciated this April Fool's photo and posting to NH Birds by Scott Heron: "I managed to pick out a single American Robin in the fields around Hollis High School this morning. Subject bird was first seen at 7:48am and is currently still present."

