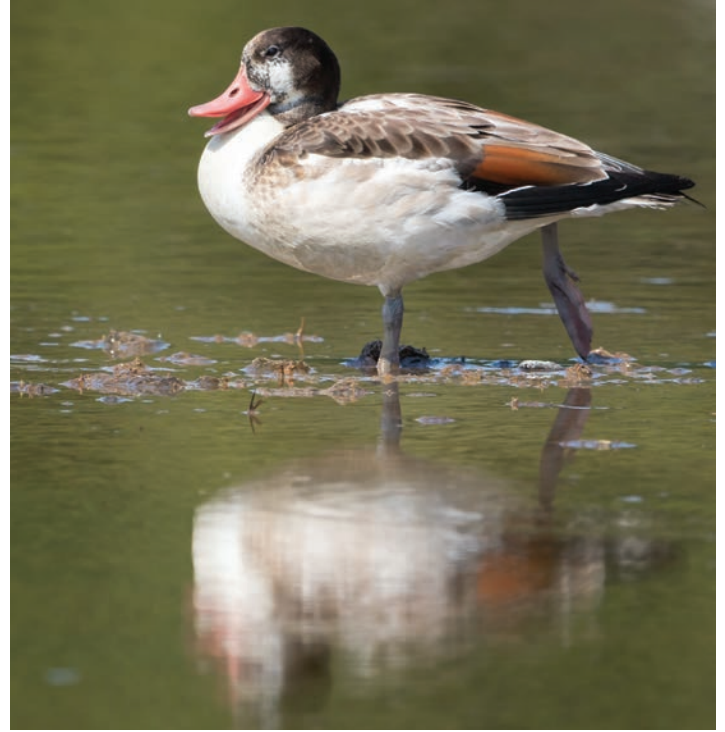


# New Hampshire Bird Records





IN MEMORY OF  
**Terri Ellen Donsker**

This issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* with its color cover is dedicated to the memory of Terri Ellen Donsker by her loving husband, David Donsker. Terri was a force of nature who thoroughly enjoyed all that life, with its infinite variety and beauty, provided. She was an award winning photographer, avid gardener, enthusiastic traveler and a student of many subjects from succulent plants to German literature. Her love for New Hampshire's forests, mountains, lakes and seashore made her adopted state her enduring home.



*Windy sailor.*

**NEW HAMPSHIRE BIRD RECORDS**  
 VOLUME 36, NUMBER 3  
 FALL 2017

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*Cover Photos: American Avocet photographed by Dick Dionne, discovered by Gregg Dionne, 8-23-17, Colebrook WTP, NH; Common Shelduck (male) by Len Medlock, 9-4-17, Rye, NH; Yellow-throated Warbler by Jason Lambert, 11-24-17, Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye, NH; MacGillivray's Warbler by Steve Mirick, 9-4-17, Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye, NH.*

*New Hampshire Bird Records* is published quarterly by New Hampshire Audubon's Conservation Department. Thank you to the many observers who submit their sightings to NH eBird ([www.ebird.org/nh](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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## Fall 2017

by Rebecca Suomala

### Thank You Lauren!

Mass Audubon has lured away one of *New Hampshire Bird Records* Season Editors – Lauren Kras. She and Ben Griffith have been the co-editors of the fall season, but she has taken an exciting job as the director of Mass Audubon's new Tidmarsh Wildlife Sanctuary in Plymouth, Massachusetts. The New Hampshire birding community will miss her presence, but we wish her well and congratulate her on her new position. Fortunately, Ben will be continuing as solo Fall Editor for this very busy season. Whew!

### New Hampshire Bird Records Endowment Fund Update

Thanks to your contributions, the *New Hampshire Bird Records* Endowment Fund is over \$43,000! It is exciting to see this fund growing and I am grateful for everyone's support. I hope you will help us reach our next landmark – \$50,000!

The Fund was approved by the NH Audubon Board of Trustees to provide long-term support for the collection, organization, quality control, distribution, dissemination, publication, promotion, preservation and storage of New Hampshire bird sighting information. *New Hampshire Bird*

*Records* is the current vehicle and umbrella for these functions and the initial focus of the fund is to support all facets of *New Hampshire Bird Records* (both the publication and data aspects, including eBird).

Make a donation by using the form in the brochure enclosed with this issue. If you would like to include the Endowment Fund in your estate planning, please contact me (see inside front cover).

### Attention Photographers!

Have a cover-worthy photo? Be in the next NH Audubon Afield newsletter! Photos need to be at least 9x11.5" and 300dpi to be large enough for the printed cover. If you're not sure, we can check it. Include a brief story about the photo for the photo credit box on the inside cover. Send images to Dyanna Smith, [dsmith@nhaudubon.org](mailto:dsmith@nhaudubon.org).

## PHOTO QUIZ

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### Can You Identify This Bird?

Answer on page 43. Photo by Steve Mirick.



## FALL SEASON

**Aug 1, 2017 through Nov 30, 2017**

by Benjamin Griffith



The fall season was overall cool and dry, with the notable exception of October, which was remarkably warm and wet as the result of the remnants of several tropical storms sweeping across the area during the month. It was the warmest October in 139

years and the second warmest on record. The southerly flow which brought warm air at the end of October also appeared to push many migrants which had previously left back into the region, resulting in many exceptionally late observations as well as a few rarities. Other major events for the season included concentrations of Cory's Shearwaters seen from the coast, an exceptional year for interior shorebirds, including a Hudsonian Godwit in Rochester, remarkable counts of Sandhill Cranes, and widespread Clay-colored Sparrows.



Thanks to multiple people and a series of posts, we quickly learned about the presence of this rare bird in New Hampshire! Heather Burns located the bird and posted a photo to the ABA "What's This Bird" Facebook page, Tim Swain then posted the photo to the ABA "Rare Bird Alert" Facebook page, Joe Bourget sent the information to Dylan Jackson, and Dylan posted it to NH Birds. Within minutes, Steve Mirick (typing as Dylan's post came through) had confirmed the photos and the location. Common Shelduck by Leo McKillop, 8-21-17, Rye, NH.

On a more practical note, both of the pelagic trips that NH Audubon usually offers in the fall were canceled due to weather. This may have impacted the number of reports of shearwaters, jaegers and other species normally highlighted on these trips. The Exeter Wastewater Treatment Plant began major re-construction which limited birder's access to the weekends and caused huge changes to two of the ponds. The

southeast pond was being re-done, resulting in temporary shorebird habitat of mud and shallow water. The restricted access and construction activity around the ponds likely reduced waterfowl activity and reporting at this site.

Rarities were not in short supply this season, headlined by a **Common Shelduck**, a species for which there presently are no accepted records (although that may change as old records initially dismissed as escapes are reevaluated). Not far behind were a **Western Wood-Pewee** (likely the first documented record of the species anywhere in New England) and a **MacGillivray's Warbler** (the first photographed record for the state). Other exceptional sightings for the season included **American Avocet**, the continuing **Brown Pelican** and a **Townsend's Solitaire**. More regular but still rare species reported included Tundra Swan, Cave Swallow, Yellow-throated Warbler, Hooded Warbler, and Yellow-headed Blackbird.

### Waterfowl



*Tundra Swans by Leo McKillop, 11-22-17, Hampton Beach SP, NH.*

Greater White-fronted Goose is principally a rare spring migrant in the state; the two reported this fall were the first fall records since 2013. Most fall records are from mid-October onward, so one on September 26 was especially notable. Brant were reported in good numbers, both coastally (where they are expected in low numbers) and inland (where they are quite rare). Six **Tundra Swans** were photographed flying over Hampton. If accepted, this would be the first fall record since 2010. A flock of three swans (species unknown) seen on the Carter Hill hawkwatch is intriguing given the inland location away from typical Mute Swan locations. Most Mute Swan reports are from Rockingham County or along the southern Merrimack and Connecticut River valleys; the ones in Wakefield were at an unusual location. A juvenile **Common Shelduck** was first reported on

August 13 and stayed for nearly a month. This species has historically been dismissed as an exotic; however, they have been increasing in Iceland and many recent records may pertain to wild individuals. It hardly seems a coincidence that a second juvenile of this species was observed at the same time in the St. Lawrence Valley of New York, and a juvenile appeared in Pennsylvania shortly after its disappearance from New Hampshire. The NH Rare Birds Committee will be reviewing this record.

Blue-winged Teal is typically one of the earliest waterfowl species to migrate and it has typically departed the state by early October. Observers should take care to document later records, especially those of females, as Green-winged Teal can easily be confused with them. Northern Shovelers have increased in recent years, but the only individuals reported this fall were in Exeter. A few less common species that are typically observed on the coast and large rivers were reported from sites well away from those localities: a Gadwall at Pondicherry NWR in Jefferson, and a Redhead in Franconia Notch. Common Mergansers are common throughout most of the state, but rarely documented from the immediate coast. Several were reported from coastal locations with inadequate documentation.

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Snow Goose</b>			
09/25	1	Peterborough	D. Smith
10/16	40	Acorn Hill Rd., Lyme	B. Allison
10/22	4	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch
11/15	1	Post Pond Ln., Lyme	B. Allison
11/28	1	Roberts Rd., Rollinsford	K. Couture

<b>Greater White-fronted Goose</b>			
09/26	1	Hooksett Crushed Stone, Hackett Hill Rd., Hooksett	S. Manifold
10/16	1	Bedford	B. Griffith

<b>Brant</b>			
09/25	2	Peterborough	D. Smith
10/16	462	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	K. Fenton
10/28	1	Wilson Pond, Swanzey	P. Kirkhart
10/31	12	Carter Hill RO, Concord	K. Fenton
11/01	28	Carter Hill RO, Concord	K. Klapper
11/01		Antrim Rd., Hancock	E. Masterson
11/03	2	Wilder Dam Reservoir, Lebanon	J. Norton

<b>Mute Swan</b>			
10/31	3	Jennifer Lane, Wakefield	W. Rigazio

<b>Tundra Swan</b>			
11/22	6	Hampton Beach SP	L. McKillop

<b>Swan sp.</b>			
10/31	3	Carter Hill RO, Concord	K. Fenton

<b>Common Shelduck</b>			
08/13	1	Rt. 1A pools s. of Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	H. Burns
09/11	1	Rt. 1A pools s. of Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	L. McKillop

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Wood Duck</b>			
08/24	88	Colebrook WTP	L. Charron
09/09	60	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
10/21	113	Upper Suncook Rec. Area, Barnstead	J. Lambert

<b>Blue-winged Teal</b>			
09/17	20	Exeter WTP	J. Lambert
10/05	4	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth

<b>Northern Shoveler</b>			
09/09	4	Exeter WTP	J. Pettipas, S. Wrisley, J. Sparrell, K. Towler
09/24	2	Exeter WTP	L. Medlock

<b>Gadwall</b>			
09/04	2	Rt. 1A pools s. of Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	D. Bates
09/09	1	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer
10/08	1	Cherry Pond, Jefferson	D. Govatski, et al.
11/12	7	Eel Pond, Rye	K. Wilmarth
11/18	3	Exeter WTP	J. Maher, J. Lambert, L. Medlock, S.& D. Stoddard

<b>Eurasian Widgeon</b>			
09/22	1	Sunset Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick
10/13	1	Sunset Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick

<b>American Wigeon</b>			
09/06	9	Sunset Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick
10/12	2	The Balsams & trails, Colebrook	L.& P. Charron, D. Dionne
10/13	83	Sunset Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick
11/02	8	Rye Harbor SP	L. McKillop
11/09	143	Sunset Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick
11/30	1	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth

<b>Northern Pintail</b>			
08/30	1	Exeter WTP	D. Moulton
11/01	6	Highland Ave., Salem	K.& A. Wilmarth
11/05	6	Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton	S. Mirick, BBC FT
11/05	7	NH coast	S. Mirick, BBC FT

<b>Green-winged Teal</b>			
08/15	4	Exeter WTP	J. Price
08/17	2	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
09/10	50	Exeter WTP	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
10/22	41	Eel Pond, Rye	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
11/04	1	The Balsams & trails, Colebrook	L.& P. Charron, D. Dionne

<b>Redhead</b>			
10/17	1	Franconia Notch SP	K. Wilmarth

<b>Ring-necked Duck</b>			
08/21	13	Harpers Meadow, Umbagog NWR, Errol	R. Quinn
09/21	3	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
10/16	100	Hanover Center Reservoir	W. Scott
11/14	106	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth

<b>Greater Scaup</b>			
10/06	20	Pontook Reservoir, Dummer	J. Pietrzak
10/13	310	Sunset Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick
10/22	13	Moore Reservoir, Littleton	S. Turner
10/25	85	Adams Point WMA, Durham	A. Harvey

## FALL SEASON



Greater Scaup (right – note the more rounded head) and Lesser Scaup (note the peak on the back of the head) by Stephen Mirick, 10-29-17, Rye, NH.

Date # Location Observer

### Lesser Scaup

08/02	1	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
09/17	1	Exeter WTP	J. Lambert
10/08	1	Cherry Pond, Jefferson	D. Govatski, et al.
11/07	2	Cherry Pond, Jefferson	D. Govatski
11/18	6	Eel Pond, Rye	J. Pietrzak
11/29	2	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth

### Harlequin Duck

10/24	2	NH coast	S. Mirick
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### Surf Scoter

10/11	1	Pondicherry NWR	D. Dionne, P. Charron
10/15	3	Cherry Pond, Jefferson	A. Griffin
10/19	1	Wilder Dam Reservoir, Lebanon	J. MacQueen
10/28	1	Pondicherry NWR	L. Charron, D. Dionne

### White-winged Scoter

10/04	1	Lake Umbagog n. end, Errol	R. Quinn
10/08	4	Cherry Pond, Jefferson	D. Govatski, et al.
10/12	6	Childs Bog, Harrisville	E. Synnott
10/12	1	Squam Lake, Holderness	I. MacLeod
10/28	1	Colebrook WTP	L. Charron, D. Dionne
11/02	6	Wilson Pond, Swanzey	C. Witko, S. Lamonde
11/04	12	Cherry Pond, Jefferson	D. Govatski
11/14	1	Lake Massabesic, Front Park, Auburn	L. McKillop

### Black Scoter

09/22	1	Chocorua Lake, Tamworth	S. Mesick
10/11	63	Cherry Pond, Jefferson	D. Govatski
10/12	20	Akers Pond, Errol	L. & P. Charron, D. Dionne
10/12	57	Martin Meadow Pond, Lancaster	A. Griffin
10/29	440	Great Boars Head, Hampton	S. Mirick
11/03	14	Carter Hill RO, Concord	K. Klapper
11/05	237	NH coast	S. Mirick, BBC FT
11/14	1	Sunapee State Beach, Newbury	J. Gamble

### Long-tailed Duck

10/29	165	Great Boars Head, Hampton	S. Mirick
10/31	1	Connecticut R., Walpole	C. Witko, S. Lamonde
11/07	1	The Balsams & trails, Colebrook	L. Charron
11/19	1	Lake Francis, Pittsburg	R. Quinn, P. Brown

### Bufflehead

10/16	1	Thorne Pond CA, Bartlett	C. Nims, J. Scott
11/02	40	Spofford Lake, Chesterfield	J. Swatt
11/25	37	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	C. Michaud, G. Clucas

Date # Location Observer

### Common Goldeneye

09/15	4	Scott Bog, Pittsburg	D. Foster
10/13	1	Lincoln Transfer Station	B. Schultz
10/23	7	The Balsams & trails, Colebrook	L. Charron
11/28	82	Great Bay Discovery Ctr., Greenland	S. Mirick
11/30	66	Merrimack R., Manchester	S. Mirick

### Hooded Merganser

11/12	32	Loon Lake, Croydon	J. Gamble
11/12	40	Childs Bog, Harrisville	T. Parody
11/16	131	Arlington Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth

### Common Merganser

11/17	89	Androscoggin R. at Rt. 16, Errol	L. Charron
11/19	95	Wilson Pond, Swanzey	P. Kirkhart
11/21	49	Locke Lake, Barnstead	J. Lambert

### Red-breasted Merganser

09/20	2	Rye Harbor SP	J. Lambert
10/06	2	NH coast	S. Mirick
10/28	1	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	L. Charron, D. Dionne
11/04	2	Upper Suncook Rec. Area, Barnstead	J. Lambert
11/05	286	NH coast	S. Mirick, BBC FT
11/10	1	Seminole Pt., Lake Sunapee	D. Jackson
11/23	1	Connecticut R., Charleston	Anonymous

### Ruddy Duck

10/03	2	Rochester WTP	T. Vazzano
10/05	1	Canobie Lake, Salem	K. Wilmarth
10/08	4	Cherry Pond, Jefferson	D. Govatski, et al.
10/31	44	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
11/04	2	Wilson Pond, Swanzey	R. Lessard, W. Ward
11/10	2	Eel Pond, Rye	A. Winters, J. Pietrzak
11/24	2	Wilson Pond, Swanzey	P. Kirkhart

## Grouse to Herons

Spruce Grouse were reported from four locations, more than usual for the fall season, but perhaps reflective of a trend for more casual birders (and serious hikers) to report to eBird. Red-throated Loon is extremely rare away from the coast, but two were reported inland during the fall. Although Northern Fulmar is regular offshore, two reports from the coast were unusual. Large flocks of Cory's Shearwaters were observed from shore during October. Manx and Sooty



Northern Gannets by Leo McKillop, 10-15-17, Ragged Neck, Rye, NH.

Shearwaters, on the other hand, were observed in lower numbers than typical for the fall, potentially a result of no dedicated pelagic field trips.

On October 15 Steve and Jane Mirick documented an amazing southbound flight of 2,131 Northern Gannets in 2.5 hours. According to Steve's eBird entry, this was:

"An extremely accurate count. Jane counted birds that passed channel marker for the entire 2.5 hours. I kept score. AMAZING first 1/2 hour when 1,000+ were counted moving south between 8 and 8:30."

There appeared to be no particular weather reason for the movement which included all ages of birds. This appears to be the second highest count for the state.

The **Brown Pelican** first reported in July continued to be seen intermittently into August. Two **Least Bitterns** reported in Lebanon included at least one juvenile, suggesting potential breeding in the area. A Great Egret lingered well into the fall along the coast and a November 25 last date for the season is exceptional. One in Columbia was exceptionally far north and inland for this normally coastal species, although post breeding inland reports are regular in fall. Three Little Blue Herons included two notable inland records of this typically coastal species. A single Glossy Ibis in Hanover was also unusual inland and one in Sandwich in October was extremely late for an inland location. Yellow-crowned Night-Herons joined the Black-crowned Night-Heron roost in Seabrook for the second year in a row; this year two were reported.



Least Bittern (juvenile) by Kenneth Cox, 8-20-17, Cranberry Pond wetlands, West Lebanon, NH.

Date	#	Location	Observer
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**Spruce Grouse**

08/04	2	Davis Path, Mt. Crawford, WMNF	C. Nims
09/02	6	Mt. Pierce, WMNF	G. Lynch
09/11	2	Mt. Starr King, Jefferson	D. Durocher
09/25	5	Crawford Path, WMNF	D. Zelov
10/07	2	Crescent Ridge Trail, Randolph	J. Pietrzak

**Red-throated Loon**

10/01	1	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, et al.
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Date	#	Location	Observer
10/06	5	NH coast	S. Mirick
10/25	1	Upper Suncook Rec. Area, Barnstead	J. Lambert
10/29	281	Great Boars Head, Hampton	S. Mirick
11/01	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
11/05	834	NH coast	S. Mirick, BBC FT

**Pacific Loon**

11/25	1	Pulpit Rocks, Rye	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, A. Robbins
11/26	1	Pulpit Rocks, Rye	J. Gamble, et al.

**Common Loon**

10/21	56	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	S. Mirick
11/05	100	NH coast	S. Mirick, BBC FT

**Pied-billed Grebe**

08/29	7	Copps Pond WMA, Tufonboro	A.& G. Robbins
10/19	9	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
10/23	12	Powwow Pond, Kingston	S. Heron

**Horned Grebe**

10/03	1	Bicentennial Park, Hampton	S. Mirick
10/08	1	Cherry Pond, Jefferson	D. Govatski, et al.
10/08	2	Scott Bog, Pittsburg	C. Caron
11/24	13	Boathouse Rd., Moultonborough	I. MacLeod

**Red-necked Grebe**

09/27	1	Canobie Lake, Salem	K. Wilmarth
09/29	1	Pulpit Rocks, Rye	M. Wilson
10/02	1	Dulac St., Lebanon	K. Lanzetta
10/20	2	Cherry Pond, Jefferson	D. Govatski
11/07	1	Sandwich Town Beach, Squam L.	K. Klapper
11/12	1	Androscoggin R. at Rt. 16, Errol	D.& G. Dionne
11/12	1	Goose Pond, Keene	W. Scott



Northern Fulmar by Steve Mirick, 9-24-17, NH coast.

**Northern Fulmar**

09/23	2	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	J. Lambert, S. Mirick
09/24	3	offshore waters	S. Mirick
10/07	3	Great Boars Head, Hampton	S. Mirick, Seacoast CFT
10/22	13	Jeffreys Ledge	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, J. Sparrell

**Cory's Shearwater**

09/17	15	offshore waters	D. Jackson, J. Bourget
10/14	60	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
10/14	40	Little Boars Head, N. Hampton	S. Mirick
10/25	19	NH coast	S. Mirick

# FALL SEASON

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
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## Great Shearwater

08/18	43	Jeffreys Ledge	Z. Cornell
08/23	35	offshore waters	P. Brown, S. Mirick, NHA FT
10/22	250	Jeffreys Ledge	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, J. Sparrell
10/25	7	NH coast	S. Mirick

## Sooty Shearwater

08/04	1	offshore waters	P. Brown
08/23	5	Jeffreys Ledge	R. Burnett
10/22	1	Jeffreys Ledge	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, J. Sparrell

## Manx Shearwater

10/22	1	Jeffreys Ledge	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, J. Sparrell
10/24	1	Great Boars Head, Hampton	S. Mirick
10/25	1	Rye Harbor SP	J. Lambert

## Wilson's Storm-Petrel

08/14	225	Jeffreys Ledge	J. Berry
08/18	129	Jeffreys Ledge	Z. Cornell
09/24	8	offshore waters	S. Mirick

## Northern Gannet

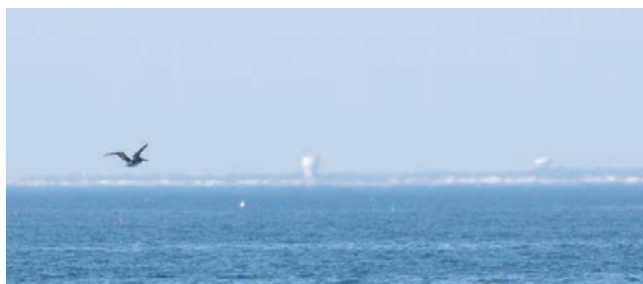
08/23	300	Jeffreys Ledge	P. Brown, S. Mirick, NHA FT
09/03	1059	Rye Harbor SP	J. Lambert
10/15	2131	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
10/24	1591	Great Boars Head, Hampton	S. Mirick
11/29	2	Rt. 1A second pullout s. of Odiorne Pt., Rye	D. Lima

## Great Cormorant

09/06	1	Wilder Dam Reservoir, Lebanon	J. MacQueen
09/13	1	Rt. 95, Greenland	R. LeBlanc
09/18	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray
09/22	3	Androscoggin R. near North Rd., Shelburne	W. O'Brien
09/22	1	Lake Winnepocket, Webster	R. Quinn
09/30	30	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	J. Maher
10/29	1	Wilder Dam Reservoir, Lebanon	W. Scott
11/18	18	NH coast	J. Maher

## Double-crested Cormorant

09/03	631	Rye Harbor SP	J. Lambert
10/03	649	NH coast	S. Mirick
10/14	2701	Little Boars Head, N. Hampton	S. Mirick
10/18	3416	Rye Harbor SP	L.& L. Medlock
10/29	7158	Great Boars Head, Hampton	S. Mirick, J. Lambert



*Brown Pelican by Len Medlock, 8-20-17, near Isles of Shoals, NH.*

## Brown Pelican

08/08	1	Seabrook Beach	J. MacQueen
08/18	1	White & Seavey Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Ford, T. Ouellette, B. Palestis
08/20	1	near Isles of Shoals	L. Medlock

## American Bittern

08/08	2	Panorama Golf Course, Colebrook	L. Charron
08/26	2	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	L.& P. Charron, D. Dionne
08/29	3	Copps Pond WMA, Tuftonboro	A.& G. Robbins
10/01	1	Copps Pond WMA, Tuftonboro	S. Wilcox, G. Bailey

## Least Bittern

08/16	2	Cranberry Pond wetlands, W. Lebanon	W. Scott
08/27	1	Cranberry Pond wetlands, W. Lebanon	J. Sparrell, K. Towler
09/09	1	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth

## Great Blue Heron

09/06	16	Sunset Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick
10/07	20	NH coast	S. Mirick, Seacoast CFT



*Great Egret by Wendell Lees, 8-7-17, Pinkham Notch, NH.*

## Great Egret

08/04	4	McNair Easement, Madison	S. Wilcox
08/04	6	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray, S. Mirick
08/05	3	Morningside Flight Park, Charlestown	D. Jackson
08/07	2	Pinkham Notch, WMNF	W. Lees
08/11	2	Beaver Brook, Plainfield	K. Jones
08/23	60	Hampton Harbor	S. Heron
09/01	1	Rt. 3, Columbia	T. Vazzano
09/15	4	McIndoes Reservoir, Monroe	W. Scott
09/27	49	NH coast	S. Mirick
10/28	1	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	P. Kirkhart
11/25	1	Landing Rd., Hampton	L. McKillop

## Snowy Egret

08/13	1	Jackson's Landing, Durham	K. Dorsey
09/02	34	NH coast	S. Mirick
10/18	1	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer

## Little Blue Heron

08/01	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard, M. Wilson, A. Murray
08/07	1	Meadow Pond, Hampton	P. Miliotis
08/24	1	World End Pond, Salem	K.& A. Wilmarth
08/31	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	P. Farr, A. Murray

## Cattle Egret

10/26	3	Flint Farm, Milan	L.& P. Charron, D. Dionne, G. Pinto
11/03	1	Krif Rd., Keene	W. Ward, et al.
11/05	3	Flint Farm, Milan	L.& G. Charron, D. Dionne
11/07	1	Krif Rd., Keene	E. Masterson



Date	#	Location	Observer
10/08	1	Rochester WTP	S. Bennett
10/14	1	Turtle Pond, Concord	L. McKillop

**Green Heron**



Cattle Egret by Dick Dionne, 10-26-17, Milan, NH.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron**

08/11	1	Merrimack R., Manchester	S. Mirick
08/16	3	Nashua R., Nashua	C. Sheridan, J. Maher
08/16	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray, K. Couture
08/28	2	Mill Pond Nature Sanctuary, Walpole	D. Badders
09/02	16	Rt. 1A, Seabrook	S. Mirick
09/23	1	Nashua R., Nashua	C. Sheridan
10/20	1	Antrim Rd., Hancock	E. Masterson
11/01	1	Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook	M. Watson

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**

08/13	1	Rt. 1A at Chelmsford St., Seabrook	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, S. Mirick
08/18	2	Rt. 1A at Chelmsford St., Seabrook	L. McKillop
09/27	1	Seabrook Back Dunes	S. Mirick

**Glossy Ibis**

08/02	1	Hanover Center Reservoir	W. Scott
08/05	1	Newfields	L. Liimatainen
08/12	10	Little River saltmarsh, N. Hampton	S. Mirick
08/14	1	Hanover Center Reservoir	K. Jones
08/15	13	Huckleberry Ln., Hampton	C. Nims
09/05	1	Rochester WTP	J. Scott, C. Nims
10/06	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	P. Hunt
10/07	1	Ambrose Gravel Pit, Sandwich	R. Ridgely

**Vultures through Crane**

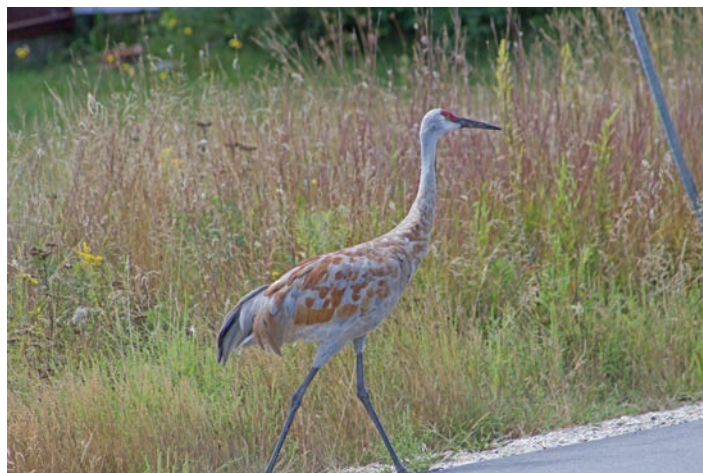
Until very recently, Black Vulture would have been a season highlight, but the species is becoming more regular and this fall five were reported. Thirteen Golden Eagles reported for the season is about average for recent years, but four in one day at Carter Hill Raptor Observatory was likely a new high count for any hawkwatch site in the state. By contrast, Broad-winged Hawks trickled through the state, with high counts at Carter Hill and Pack Monadnock well below recent years' averages. See the Fall Raptor

Migration Report in this issue for more. Several late reports of Broad-winged Hawks were either misidentified, or poorly documented. This species typically departs the state by the first week in October, and careful notes or photos should be taken for birds after this time.



Common Gallinule by Jason Lambert, 10-22-17, Upper Suncook Lake, Barnstead, NH.

Common Gallinule has not been reported during the fall in recent years, so the three birds reported from two locations this year were exceptional. American Coot is typically a fairly common migrant, especially coastally, but the only concentration this year was on Eel Pond, where the high count of 13 fell short of many other years. Once quite rare, Sandhill Cranes continue to increase in the east, with over 40 different birds reported throughout the fall season. One Sandhill Crane that appeared in Rollinsford in August and was still present at the end of November, became a favorite among birders and the local townspeople. See more about "Kevin" on page 41 and stay tuned for more in the next issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*.



Rollinsford's celebrity Sandhill Crane "Kevin," photographed by Debra Powers, 8-25-17, Rollinsford, NH.

# FALL SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Black Vulture</b>			
009/11	2	Wantastiquet Mt. NA, Chesterfield/Hinsdale	P. Brown
10/14	1	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	A. Burnett
10/18	1	Old Summit Rd., Keene	F. Whitbread
10/22	3	Costco, Daniel Webster Hgwy., Nashua	A. Moser
10/31	1	Rt. 95, Portsmouth	M. Resch

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Turkey Vulture</b>			
08/16	105	Cranberry Pond wetlands, W. Lebanon	K. Jones
09/13	72	Carter Hill RO, Concord	D. Jackson
10/12	151	Pack Monadnock RO	K. Fenton

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Osprey</b>			
08/12	10	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
09/04	13	Carter Hill RO, Concord	Carter Hill RO
09/12	20	Pack Monadnock RO	PMRO
09/14	1	Buck Rub Lodge, Rt. 3, Pittsburg	D. Foster
10/07	16	Pack Monadnock RO	K. Fenton
11/09	1	Broad St., Rochester	S. Laueremann
11/22	1	Highland Lake, Stoddard	J. Anderson

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Golden Eagle</b>			
10/01	1	Pack Monadnock RO	PMRO
10/12	1	Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem	T. Spahr
10/16	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	K. Fenton
11/07	4	Carter Hill RO, Concord	Carter Hill RO
11/12	1	White Mt. Hgwy., N. Conway	M. Douglass

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Northern Harrier</b>			
09/12	6	Pack Monadnock RO	PMRO
11/04	5	Carter Hill RO, Concord	P. Brown
11/17	1	Strafford County Complex, Dover	D. Hubbard
11/18	1	Highland Lake, Stoddard	J. Anderson

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Sharp-shinned Hawk</b>			
09/21	93	Pack Monadnock RO	K. Fenton
10/11	70	Carter Hill RO, Concord	Carter Hill RO

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Cooper's Hawk</b>			
09/13	22	Carter Hill RO, Concord	Carter Hill RO
09/21	14	Pack Monadnock RO	K. Fenton

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Northern Goshawk</b>			
10/01	1	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch
10/16	2	Carter Hill RO, Concord	Carter Hill RO
10/28	2	Pack Monadnock RO	K. Fenton

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Bald Eagle</b>			
10/01	14	Pack Monadnock RO	PMRO
10/03	8	Carter Hill RO, Concord	K. Fenton, K. Klapper

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Red-shouldered Hawk</b>			
11/04	18	Carter Hill RO, Concord	P. Brown
11/04	46	Pack Monadnock RO	K. Fenton
11/07	18	Carter Hill RO, Concord	K. Fenton
11/07	27	Pack Monadnock RO	PMRO
11/08	39	Pack Monadnock RO	K. Fenton

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Broad-winged Hawk</b>			
09/13	1373	Pack Monadnock RO	K. Fenton
09/16	629	Carter Hill RO, Concord	K. Klapper
09/21	1836	Pack Monadnock RO	K. Fenton

Date	#	Location	Observer
10/23	1	Tracy Dr., Errol	P. Charron
10/24	1	Tin Mt. Conservation Ctr., Albany	A. Sharp

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Rough-legged Hawk</b>			
11/07	1	Pack Monadnock RO	PMRO
11/14	1	Carter Hill RO, Concord	K. Fenton

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Virginia Rail</b>			
08/14	1	Thompson WS, Sandwich	C. Nims, R. Steber
08/18	1	Cranberry Pond wetlands, W. Lebanon	D. Jackson, L. McKillop
09/09	2	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth



*Sora* by Kyle Wilmarth, 8-17-17, World End Pond, Salem, NH.

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Sora</b>			
09/12	1	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
10/08	1	Thompson WS, Sandwich	P. Brown, et al.
10/27	1	The Balsams & trails, Colebrook	L. Charron

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Common Gallinule</b>			
10/19	1	Upper Suncook Rec. Area, Barnstead	J. Lambert
10/22	1	Eel Pond, Rye	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, J. Sparrell
10/28	2	Eel Pond, Rye	K. Towler, J. Sparrell, S. Mirick
11/03	1	Upper Suncook Rec. Area, Barnstead	J. Lambert

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>American Coot</b>			
09/11	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	P. Brown
10/22	2	Upper Suncook Rec. Area, Barnstead	J. Lambert
10/22	13	Eel Pond, Rye	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, J. Sparrell
10/31	2	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray
11/04	1	Morrills Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt, J. Swatt, U. Dienes
11/06	1	Unsworth Preserve, Moultonborough	T. Vazzano
11/08	1	Wolfeboro	W. Rigazio
11/21	1	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Sandhill Crane</b>			
08/06	1	Milton	J. McKown
08/17	2	Rt. 156 s. of Deerfield Rd., Nottingham	R. LaClair
08/21	1	Toll Rd., Rollinsford	D. Burke
08/23	3	Monroe fields	S. Turner
10/11	2	fields w. of Rt. 10, Lyme	B. Lundborg
10/14	3	Plains Rd., Monroe	S. Turner
10/31	4	Red Oak Hill Rd., Epping	A. Harvey

Date	#	Location	Observer
11/07	2	Carter Hill RO, Concord	K. Fenton
11/08	8	Carter Hill RO, Concord	K. Klapper
11/11	18	Carter Hill RO, Concord	K. Klapper
11/23	8	Willow Rd., E. Kingston	D. Skillman
11/30	1	Lower Mill Rd., Rollinsford	D. Powers

border in Newburyport, MA, they are rare in our state. There were none reported in fall 2016, one in fall 2015 and very irregular prior to that. It's possible that the North Hampton individual was the same one seen in Rye the previous two days. All were juveniles.

**Shorebirds**



American Avocet by Dick Dionne, 8-23-17, Colebrook WTP, NH.

The star of the fall shorebird migration was an **American Avocet** in Colebrook. This was only the eighth documented sighting for the state and it was the first record away from the immediate coast! American Oystercatchers were reported from the Isles of Shoals for the third consecutive year and one was reported from the mainland coast for the first time in fall. Black-bellied Plovers have been reported from inland locations with little or no documentation. Although less common coastally, American Golden-Plover is at least as likely at inland locations. We encourage reporters to include a photo or description of either inland plover. An Upland Sandpiper in North Hampton was a rare record away from their lone breeding site at Pease International Tradeport.

Sightings of Whimbrels and Hudsonian and Marbled Godwits continue to decline in New Hampshire. Once expected in Hampton Harbor, these three species are now infrequently reported. This may be related to the disappearance of the mussel beds which once covered the flats opposite Yankee Fisherman's Coop. Blue mussels have declined by 60% in New England according to a 2016 study published in *Global Change Biology* (Sorte, et al.). The only one of the three reported in the harbor this fall was Whimbrel with only two reports. Most other Whimbrel reports were flyovers. There were no godwit reports of either species in the harbor this fall for the second consecutive year. Remarkably, there was a sighting of Hudsonian Godwit from Rochester, likely the first documented record of this species away from the coast.

Three Wilsons' Phalarope is a remarkable number for any season in New Hampshire. While quite regular just over the



Wilson's Phalarope by Rebecca Suomala, 8-11-17, Rochester WTP, NH.

There was a nice scattering of inland shorebird reports. The Rochester Wastewater Treatment Plant had an incredible fall for shorebirds. In addition to the previously mentioned godwit and phalarope, there were reports of Ruddy Turnstone, White-rumped Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, and Short-billed Dowitcher, in addition to the species regularly reported inland. Other noteworthy sightings of typically coastal shorebirds included a Sanderling in New London and a remarkable report of nine White-rumped Sandpipers from Exeter. Another dowitcher, a juvenile photographed in Lancaster in early August, caused a bit of confusion about specific identity. Some plumage features suggest an extremely rare inland Long-billed Dowitcher but the date (juvenile Long-billed Dowitchers are almost completely unrecorded away from Alaska in August) as well as the difficulty in seeing feather detail leave the identity obscure. This serves as a reminder that even the "easy" juvenile plumage of this species can be very confusing and supporting vocalizations are very helpful in establishing identification.

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>American Avocet</b>			
08/23	1	Colebrook WTP	D. Dionne
<b>American Oystercatcher</b>			
08/12	1	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
09/30	1	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, et al.
<b>Black-bellied Plover</b>			
08/23	80	NH coast	J. Maher
09/11	1	Tullando farm, Orford	J. Norton
10/06	85	Hampton Harbor	J. Maher
11/02	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray
11/05	63	Hampton Harbor restroom, Rt. 1A, Seabrook	J. Lambert
11/26	17	Hampton Harbor	S.& J. Mirick
11/29	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	D. Currier

# FALL SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer	Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>American Golden-Plover</b>							
09/08	1	N. Hampton State Beach	J. Maher	10/08	1	Hampton Salt Marsh CA, Hampton	S. Mirick, R. Suomala, H. Otto
09/09	1	Rt. 155A farm fields, Durham	J. Lambert	<b>Hudsonian Godwit</b>			
09/09	2	Exeter WTP	J. Pettipas, S. Wisley	10/07	1	Rochester WTP	J. Twombly
09/15	1	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard	<b>Ruddy Turnstone</b>			
09/18	2	Rt. 1A second pullout s. of Odiorne Pt., Rye	S. Bennett	08/19	11	NH coast	S. Mirick
09/21	1	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth	09/01	1	Rochester WTP	J. Lambert, et al.
10/05	1	Charlestown WTP	E. Masterson	10/07	1	NH coast	S. Mirick, Seacoast CFT
10/10	1	State Military Reservation, Concord	P. Hunt	<b>Red Knot</b>			
10/31	1	Rye Harbor SP	L. McKillop	08/30	1	Hampton Harbor	B. Griffith
<b>Semipalmated Plover</b>				10/05	1	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
08/05	785	NH coast	S. Mirick	10/08	1	Hampton Harbor	R. Suomala, S.& J. Mirick
08/07	6	Rochester WTP	M. Wilson	<b>Stilt Sandpiper</b>			
08/08	304	NH coast	A.& G. Robbins	08/12	2	Little River saltmarsh, N. Hampton	S. Mirick
08/25	6	Second Connecticut L., Pittsburg	M. Wilson	08/17	2	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer
09/07	3	Copps Pond WMA, Tuftonboro	A. Robbins	09/05	1	Rochester WTP	J. Scott, C. Nims
09/16	4	Oyster R. Landing, Durham	M. Jacobson	09/09	1	Exeter WTP	S. Wisley, et al.
09/16	440	NH coast	S. Mirick	09/10	1	Exeter WTP	J. Price
09/19	1	Rt. 155A farm fields, Durham	J. Lambert	09/17	1	Hampton Salt Marsh CA, Hampton	S. Mirick
10/21	30	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick	<b>Sanderling</b>			
11/26	1	Central Rd. at Rt. 1A, Rye	S.& J. Mirick	09/04	1	Lake Sunapee, New London	D. Jackson
<b>Piping Plover</b>				09/17	133	Ocean Blvd., Hampton	R. Smith
08/05	4	NH coast	S. Mirick	11/08	100	Seabrook Beach	H. Otto
08/18	1	Hampton Beach SP	A. Winters, J. Pietrzak	<b>Dunlin</b>			
<b>Killdeer</b>				09/12	8	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	H. Bauer
08/22	58	Runnymede Farm, N. Hampton	H. Bauer	10/18	1	Charlestown WTP	E. Masterson
09/02	61	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson	10/21	135	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
09/16	75	Rt. 155A farm fields, Durham	K. Dorsey	10/29	1	Wilder Dam Reservoir, Lebanon	W. Scott
11/12	1	Rye Harbor	W. Tatro	11/01	5	Pack Monadnock RO	K. Fenton
				11/08	400	Seabrook Beach	H. Otto
				11/28	227	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
				<b>Purple Sandpiper</b>			
				11/06	3	NH coast	R. Quinn, A. Kallenbach
				11/27	8	North Beach, Hampton	H. Bauer
				<b>Baird's Sandpiper</b>			
				08/19	1	Foss Beach, Rye	S. Mirick, et al.
				08/21	1	Rye Harbor	D. Kieser
				08/27	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray
				08/27	1	Rt. 1A pools s. of Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	M. McBrien
				08/27	1	World End Pond, Salem	K.& A. Wilmarth
				08/29	1	Copps Pond WMA, Tuftonboro	A.& G. Robbins
				09/09	1	Exeter WTP	S. Mirick, et al.
				09/16	1	Hampton Beach	S. Mirick
				<b>Least Sandpiper</b>			
				08/04	80	Rochester WTP	S. Mirick
				08/13	75	Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook	K. Rosenberg
				08/20	42	Tullando farm, Orford	A. Duncan Cooley, J. MacQueen
				10/21	2	Exeter WTP	P. Miliotis
				10/22	1	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
				<b>White-rumped Sandpiper</b>			
				08/05	8	NH coast	S. Mirick
				08/08	1	Rochester WTP	A.& G. Robbins, S. Bennett, D. Hubbard



*Upland Sandpiper by Steve Mirick, 8-12-17, Runnymede Farm, N. Hampton, NH.*

## Upland Sandpiper

08/04	3	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	J. Sparrell
08/12	1	Runnymede Farm, N. Hampton	S. Mirick, et al.
08/13	1	Runnymede Farm, N. Hampton	S. Mirick

## Whimbrel

09/06	4	Rye Harbor	A. Winters, J. Pietrzak
09/10	4	Lubberland Creek Preserve, Newmarket	J. Maher
09/18	4	Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook	R.& K. Frieden, S. Bennett

Date	#	Location	Observer
08/13	9	Exeter WTP	P. Miliotis
10/08	1	Rochester WTP	J. Lambert
11/06	11	NH coast	J. Maher
11/25	7	Rye Harbor SP	J. Maher



*Buff-breasted Sandpiper* by Leo McKillop, 8-28-17, Rochester WTP, NH.

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper**

08/26	1	Exeter WTP	S. Mirick, et al.
08/28	2	Rochester WTP	R.& K. Frieden, L. McKillop
09/01	2	Exeter WTP	P. Miliotis
09/01	1	N. Hampton State Beach	K. Wilmarth
09/03	1	Exeter WTP	J. Scott

**Pectoral Sandpiper**

09/04	6	World End Pond, Salem	K.& A. Wilmarth
09/20	4	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
09/24	5	Exeter WTP	A. Winters, J. Pietrzak, L. Medlock
10/22	6	Copps Pond WMA, Tuftonboro	A.& G. Robbins
11/04	2	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
11/22	1	Rochester WTP	S.& D. Stoddard

**Semipalmated Sandpiper**

08/02	50	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
08/05	562	NH coast	S. Mirick
08/19	679	NH coast	S. Mirick
08/26	300	Exeter WTP	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
10/07	1	Charlestown WTP	D. Jackson
11/08	1	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
11/08	1	Seabrook Beach	H. Otto



*Western Sandpiper* (right) by Steve Mirick, 8-14-17, Hampton Salt Marsh, NH.

**Western Sandpiper**

08/06	1	Hampton Salt Marsh CA, Hampton	S. Mirick
08/14	1	Hampton Salt Marsh CA, Hampton	S. Mirick
08/27	1	Rt. 1A pools s. of Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	J. Maher, M. Iliff

Date	#	Location	Observer
09/05	1	Foss Beach, Rye	K.& A. Wilmarth
09/19	1	Rt. 1A pools s. of Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	D. Hubbard, S. Mirick

**Short-billed Dowitcher**

08/05	21	NH coast	S. Mirick
08/15	1	Rochester WTP	C. Nims, L. McKillop
09/02	11	NH coast	S. Mirick
10/18	1	Hampton Harbor restroom, Rt. 1A, Seabrook	L. McKillop

**Dowitcher sp.**

08/12	1	Lancaster WTP	S.& D. Stoddard, L.& P. Charron, D. Dionne
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**American Woodcock**

10/23	4	Pontook Reservoir, Dummer	D. Dionne
11/02	3	Birch St. Community Garden, Concord	R. Suomala
11/13	1	Rt. 2, Jefferson	G. Gavutis
11/14	1	Nottingham	B. Griffith

**Wilson's Snipe**

11/18	2	Dingman Farm, Kensington	D. Finch
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*Wilson's Phalarope* by Alan Murray, 8-9-17, Pickering Ponds, Rochester, NH.

**Wilson's Phalarope**

08/09	1	Pickering Ponds/Rochester WTP	A. Murray, D. Hubbard
08/27	1	pools s. of Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	M. Iliff, et al.
08/29	1	Little River saltmarsh, N. Hampton	B. Griffith

**Red-necked Phalarope**

08/13	1	Charlestown WTP	D. Jackson
08/23	60	Jeffreys Ledge	P. Brown, S. Mirick, NHA FT
08/27	1	Lancaster WTP	A. Griffin
08/28	1	Connecticut R., Dalton	S. Burns
09/04	1	Lancaster WTP	D. Forsyth, B. Crowley
09/17	21	offshore waters	D. Jackson, J. Bourget
09/20	1	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
09/24	3	offshore waters	S. Mirick

**Spotted Sandpiper**

08/05	16	NH coast	S. Mirick
08/25	15	Merrimack R., Boscawen to Penacook	R. Quinn, Capital Area CFT

## FALL SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer	Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Spotted Sandpiper (Con't)</b>							
08/31	10	Rochester WTP	L. McKillop				
10/12	2	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	C. Leuchtenburg				
10/17	1	Childs Bog, Harrisville	E. Masterson				
<b>Solitary Sandpiper</b>							
08/04	4	Lancy Brook wetlands, Brookline	C. Sheridan				
09/18	7	Childs Bog, Harrisville	E. Masterson				
09/19	5	Rt. 155A farm fields, Durham	J. Lambert				
10/08	1	Grey Rocks CA, Hebron	D. Schamp				
10/08	1	Airport Rd., Whitefield	L. McKillop, J. Pietrzak				
<b>Greater Yellowlegs</b>							
10/16	143	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer				
10/25	7	Adams Point WMA, Durham	A. Harvey				
11/12	3	Oyster R. Landing, Durham	S.& D. Stoddard				
11/14	4	Adams Point WMA, Durham	A. Harvey				
11/16	12	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer				
11/20	1	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer				
<b>Lesser Yellowlegs</b>							
08/02	30	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer				
08/11	16	Rochester WTP	A.& G. Robbins				
08/18	43	Charlestown WTP	D. Clark				
09/04	6	Lancaster WTP	D. Forsyth				
11/07	1	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer				
11/26	1	Rt. 1A pools s. of Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	S.& J. Mirick				
<b>Pomarine Jaeger</b>							
10/22	1	Jeffreys Ledge	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, J. Sparrell				
<b>jaeger sp.</b>							
08/13	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	K. Rosenberg				
10/22	4	Jeffreys Ledge	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, J. Sparrell				
<b>Razorbill</b>							
10/15	1	Little Boars Head, N. Hampton	J. Lambert				
10/22	3	Jeffreys Ledge	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, J. Sparrell				
10/29	4	Great Boars Head, Hampton	S. Mirick				
11/28	3	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	J. Berry				
<b>Black-legged Kittiwake</b>							
10/22	3	Jeffreys Ledge	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, J. Sparrell				
<b>Bonaparte's Gull</b>							
08/12	120	Rt. 1A pullout by stone angel, Rye	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell				
08/26	1	Old W. Ossipee Rd., Freedom	A.& G. Robbins				
10/06	1	Riverside Dr., Berlin	J. Pietrzak				
10/08	126	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	R. Suomala, S. Mirick				
10/25	11	Seminole Pt., Lake Sunapee	D. Jackson				
11/04	1	Rt. 155A farm fields, Durham	J. Lambert				
11/26	1	Bicentennial Park, Hampton	H. Bauer				
11/29	1	Rt. 1A second pullout s. of Odiorne Pt., Rye	D. Lima				
<b>Black-headed Gull</b>							
10/14	1	Little Boars Head, N. Hampton	S. Mirick				

## Jaegers through Falcons

It was a quiet year for jaegers offshore, with no Parasitic Jaegers reported (typically the most frequently reported species). There were several jaegers reported on an October fishing trip. At this date, the later-migrating Pomarine Jaeger is more likely and one bird was positively identified as such. Lesser Black-backed Gulls had a modest year, with generally low numbers compared with recent double-digit fall high counts. Only three kittiwakes were reported, a low number considering the large numbers of other pelagics reported during fall storms.

Once quite uncommon, Caspian Terns were reported frequently from the coast as has been typical in recent years, reflecting their general increase in the northeast. Smaller terns, on the other hand, were nearly completely absent. Numbers of Roseate, Common, and Forster's Terns were all below typical fall concentrations.

A Black-billed Cuckoo reported on November 1 was exceptionally late for this species, which migrates primarily in August and September. Yellow-billed Cuckoos reported in the following days were also on the late side, but more in line with historical records. Six reports of Short-eared Owls was greater than any other year since at least 2009. Falcons are principally coastal migrants and migrate concurrently with Caspian Terns, so it's a little surprising that there were no high counts of any species coastally.



*Laughing Gull (juvenile) by Leo McKillop, 9-21-17, Sawyers Beach, Rye, NH.*

### Laughing Gull

08/07	16	NH coast	M. Wilson
10/06	60	NH coast	S. Mirick
11/05	1	Great Boars Head, Hampton	S. Mirick, BBC FT

### Ring-billed Gull

11/04	211	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO, Concord	D. Jackson
11/05	600	NH coast	S. Mirick, BBC FT

### Iceland Gull

10/22	1	Jeffreys Ledge	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, J. Sparrell
10/25	1	Hampton Beach SP	J. Lambert
11/09	1	Hedgehog Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
11/14	1	Ellacoya SP, Gilford	M. Coskren
11/17	1	Rochester WTP	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, D. Hubbard
11/27	3	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard

### Lesser Black-backed Gull

08/13	1	Yankee Fisherman's Coop, Seabrook	K. Rosenberg
09/02	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	R. Karchnyak

Date	#	Location	Observer
09/16	3	Eel Pond, Rye	K. Wilmarth
09/30	1	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, et al.
11/28	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray

**Herring x Lesser Black-backed Gull (hybrid)**

09/16	1	Plaice Cove, Hampton	S. Mirick
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**Glaucous Gull**

10/01	1	Star Is. to Portsmouth boat	E. Masterson, G. Tillman
11/05	1	Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton	S. Mirick, BBC FT
11/18	1	Sawyers Beach, Rye	L. McKillop
11/24	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray

**Great Black-backed Gull**

10/08	1	Cherry Pond, Jefferson	D. Govatski, et al.
11/18	2	Androskoggin R. at Bridge St., Berlin	R. Quinn, P. Brown

**Least Tern**

08/07	15	Seabrook Beach	S. Wrisley, S. Bennett
08/26	4	Yankee Fisherman's Coop, Seabrook	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell



*Caspian Tern by Leo McKillop, 9-17-17, Swasey Parkway, Exeter, NH.*

**Caspian Tern**

09/03	2	Rye Harbor SP	J. Lambert
09/17	2	Swasey Pkwy., Exeter	L. Medlock, et al.
09/17	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	D. Jackson
10/01	2	Rye Harbor SP	L.& L. Medlock, J. Lambert
10/04	2	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
10/07	6	NH coast	S. Mirick, Seacoast CFT
10/18	7	Rye Harbor SP	L.& L. Medlock
10/29	3	Great Boars Head, Hampton	J. Lambert, S. Mirick

**Black Tern**

08/23	2	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick
09/03	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray
09/04	1	Exeter WTP	D. Tucker, D. Donsker, P. Miliotis

**Roseate Tern**

08/07	2	Yankee Fisherman's Coop, Seabrook	J. MacQueen
09/09	3	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	L. Scacchetti

**Common Tern**

08/05	50	NH coast	S. Mirick
10/14	2	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick
10/24	1	Eel Pond, Rye	J. Pietrzak

Date	#	Location	Observer
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**Forster's Tern**

08/07	2	Hampton Harbor	S. Wrisley, S. Bennett
09/03	1	Rye Harbor SP	S. Mirick, J. Lambert
10/21	2	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	S. Mirick
10/21	1	Rye Harbor SP	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, B.& S. Schultz, L. McKillop, J. McKibben



*Black Tern by Leo McKillop, 9-4-17, Pickering Ponds, Rochester, NH.*

**Tern sp.**

11/03	1	Adams Point WMA, Durham	M. Watson, A. Steenstrup
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**Yellow-billed Cuckoo**

08/06	2	Sanborn Rd., Ashland	I. MacLeod
08/26	2	Ponemah Bog WS, Amherst	S. Auer, K. Barnes
11/03	1	Adams Point WMA, Durham	M. Watson, A. Steenstrup
11/07	1	Rochester	C. Breen

**Black-billed Cuckoo**

08/02	3	Bradford Bog, Bradford	T. Spahr
09/06	1	Mink Brook Nature Preserve, Hanover	K. Thompson
09/07	1	Mud Pond, Jefferson	L. Charron, D. Dionne
09/30	1	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, et al.
11/01	1	Knox Marsh Rd., Dover	K. Dorsey

**Eastern Screech-Owl**

09/08	1	Autumn Ln., Nottingham	R. Prieto
09/25	1	Fundy Trail, Pawtuckaway SP, Nottingham	R.& K. Frieden
10/18	2	Broad St., Portsmouth	C. Duford
11/25	4	Salem	K. Wilmarth

**Snowy Owl**

10/27	1	Bow Lake, Strafford	G. Wilder
11/09	1	Hampton Beach SP	P. Christoph
11/16	1	Stoddard	J. Pipp, A. Ferrario
11/16	1	Carlisle Plank Flooring, Rt. 9, Stoddard	S. Lamonde, C. Witko
11/29	1	Rye Harbor SP	C. Breen

## FALL SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Short-eared Owl</b>			
10/06	1	Hampton River Marina	S. Bennett, S. Wrisley, S. Mirick
10/21	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	S. Mirick
10/21	1	Rye Harbor SP	J. Lambert
11/02	1	Krif Rd., Keene	W. Ward
11/04	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	K. Towler, J. Sparrell
11/04	1	Seabrook Back Dunes	J. Lambert



Short-eared Owl by Jim Sparrell, 11-4-17, Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye, NH.

### Northern Saw-whet Owl

10/07	1	Pack Monadnock RO	K. Fenton
10/18	2	Upper Kimball Pond, S. Chatham	R. Steber
11/03	1	Greenleaf Dr., Exeter	J. Pietrzak
11/12	1	Winchester Dr., Barnstead	J. Lambert
11/14	1	Shelburne	W. O'Brien

### Common Nighthawk

08/30	1050	Capital Commons Garage, Storrs St., Concord	Z. Cornell
08/30	1399	Powder Mill Pond, Hancock	D. Stokes
09/14	5	Autumn Ln., E. Kingston	K. Elwell
09/25	1	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch

### Eastern Whip-poor-will

08/10	1	Twin Tamarack Rd., New Hampton	J. Thompson
08/17	1	Durgin Rd., Tuftonboro	T. Lighthouse
08/25	1	Lakeview Dr., Strafford	S. Young
09/04	1	USFWS Karner Blue easement, Concord	S. Bennett, S. Wrisley
09/14	2	Federal Hill Rd., Milford	M. Nickerson

### Chimney Swift

08/02	50	Red Oak Hill Rd., Epping	A. Harvey
08/20	65	Riverside Way, Wilton	G. Coffey
08/24	70	Capital Commons Garage, Storrs St., Concord	R. Quinn
08/30	70	High St. garage, Nashua	J. Maher
09/21	1	Carter Hill RO, Concord	K. Klapper
10/05	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	S. Mirick

### Ruby-throated Hummingbird

09/05	9	Pack Monadnock RO	H. Walters
09/09	10	Pack Monadnock RO	K. Fenton
09/26	1	Lakeview Dr., Strafford	S. Young
10/01	1	Tanglewood Dr., Henniker	D. Ellis

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Yellow-bellied Sapsucker</b>			
10/07	5	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	D. Mandell
11/26	1	South Rd., Kensington	G. Gavutis
11/28	2	Ridgewood Rd., Glen	R. Steber
11/30	1	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard

### Black-backed Woodpecker

08/08	2	Cohos Trail, Panorama Shelter to Coleman SP	J. Toledano
08/13	2	Magalloway R. at Rt. 16, Errol	D. & G. Dionne
09/02	2	Little Cherry Pond, Pondicherry NWR	J. Maher
09/15	1	East Inlet, Pittsburg	D. Foster

### Northern Flicker

08/04	10	Lancy Brook wetlands, Brookline	C. Sheridan
09/12	11	Freedom Town Forest	A. Robbins
09/30	10	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, et al.
10/10	15	Green Wagon Farm, Keene	B. Reilly
11/26	1	Diamond Ledge Rd., Sandwich	T. Vazzano
11/30	2	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	C. Breen

### American Kestrel

09/15	22	Carter Hill RO, Concord	K. Klapper
09/21	22	Pack Monadnock RO	K. Fenton
10/29	1	Carter Hill RO, Concord	K. Klapper
11/01	2	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. Sheridan

### Merlin

09/15	8	Carter Hill RO, Concord	K. Klapper
09/21	13	Pack Monadnock RO	K. Fenton

### Peregrine Falcon

09/27	4	Carter Hill RO, Concord	K. Klapper
10/11	7	Pack Monadnock RO	K. Fenton



Western Wood-Pewee by Eric Masterson, 10-1-17, Star Island, Isles of Shoals, NH.

## Flycatchers through Snow Bunting

A Western Wood-Pewee was carefully documented and its distinctive call was recorded from Star Island, which would be the first accepted record anywhere in New England. This species is essentially identical by plumage to Eastern Wood-Pewee, so there's a chance that the occasional vagrant is overlooked. The same trip also documented a late Great-crested Flycatcher. It was a quiet fall for Northern Shrikes, with only three reports, all from November. This species frequently experiences a small pulse of migrants in



late October, but that didn't happen this year.

Only twelve years ago White-eyed Vireo was completely unexpected in fall migration, but the two this year was average since then. A Bell's Vireo was reported at the Concord Community Gardens on October 1 and 2, 2017, and while both observers provided written documentation the accompanying photos were admittedly poor and we will await the review of the NH Rare Birds Committee.

Twenty-nine Purple Martins in Seabrook represented reasonable nesting success of the recently established colony. Large numbers of other swallow species staged at the same Cross Beach Road site, primarily Tree Swallows, but also good numbers of Bank Swallows lingered well into August. There were several September Bank Swallows as well, notable for a species that typically departs by the end of August. Two **Cave Swallows** were reported this fall, notably one on October 26 which was the first October record for this increasing species.




*Blue-gray Gnatcatcher by Steve Mirick, 11-26-17, Rye, NH.*

Red-breasted Nuthatches, an irruptive species, were scattered through the state in low numbers, likely taking advantage of good cone crops in the boreal forest to the north and not moving south in large numbers. A record late Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was found at the end of November in Rye, at the same location where a Spotted Towhee was present during the winter of 2014! Ruby-crowned Kinglets are regularly reported late into November, but this year saw an exceptional number, perhaps pushed back northward by the south winds in late October. A **Townsend's Solitaire** was remarkably the second record of this rare western species in 2017, but was the first fall record in over thirty years. A Lapland Longspur reported on the coast in September was unusually early for a species that more typically occurs in October and November.

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Olive-sided Flycatcher</b>			
08/14	2	Ammonoosuc R. Trail at Gale R., Lisbon	K. Hiller
08/22	2	Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins
08/23	2	Buffalo Rd., Rumney	J. Williams
09/04	2	Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins
09/17	1	Rt. 153 tornado clearing, Effingham	A. Robbins
09/26	1	Locke Rd., Concord	A.& G. Robbins
<b>Western Wood-Pewee</b>			
10/01	1	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, et al.
<b>Eastern Wood-Pewee</b>			
08/27	10	Lead Mine Rd., Nelson	T. Parody
10/01	1	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, et al.
10/04	1	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch
10/05	1	Dahl WS, Conway	S. Wilcox, G. Bailey
<b>Yellow-bellied Flycatcher</b>			
09/08	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray
09/08	1	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	R. Burnett
09/11	1	Range Rd., Sandwich	K. Klapper
<b>Alder Flycatcher</b>			
08/21	1	McNair Easement, Madison	S. Wilcox, S. Joyce
08/23	1	Oyster R. Landing, Durham	R. Prieto
<b>Willow Flycatcher</b>			
08/22	4	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	J. Nathan
08/27	1	Oyster R. Forest, Durham	K. Dorsey
<b>Alder/Willow Flycatcher (Traill's Flycatcher)</b>			
09/24	2	Mine Falls Park, Nashua	C. Sheridan
09/26	1	Ash Brook wetland, Keene	C. Ross
<b>Least Flycatcher</b>			
08/28	16	Freedom Town Forest	A. Robbins
09/24	1	Mine Falls Park, Nashua	C. Sheridan
09/27	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard
10/03	1	Antioch U. New England, Keene	S. Lamonde
10/04	1	Goose Pond, Keene	R. Yurchisin
<b>Empidonax sp.</b>			
09/29	1	Hawkin's Farm, Salem	K. Wilmarth
<b>Eastern Phoebe</b>			
09/08	36	Peterborough WTP	P. Brown
09/09	25	Kingman Farm Trails, Madbury	L. Johnas
09/22	19	Sherman's Farm, Conway	R. Steber, W. Rigazio
11/03	1	Long Pond Rd., Lempster	J. Swatt
11/05	1	Dingman Farm, Kensington	D. Finch
<b>Great Crested Flycatcher</b>			
09/10	1	Colby Marsh, Durham	J. Maher
09/24	1	Tow Path Ln., Concord	D. Lania
09/30	1	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, et al.
<b>Eastern Kingbird</b>			
08/08	13	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray
08/17	14	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. Sheridan
09/13	1	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	H. Bauer
09/22	1	NH coast	J. Maher

# FALL SEASON

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
<b>Northern Shrike</b>				<b>Purple Martin</b>			
11/15	1	Awcomin Marsh, Rye	C. Breen	09/08	1	Peterborough WTP	P. Brown
11/21	1	Mollidgewock Rd., Errol	L. Charron, J. Dionne	08/08	29	Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook	A. & G. Robbins
11/24	1	Wolfeboro Rd., Hanover	W. Scott	08/14	4	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch
<b>White-eyed Vireo</b>				08/14	2	Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins
11/05	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	S. Mirick, BBC FT	08/18	4	South Rd., Kensington	G. Gavutis
11/12	1	N. Shore Rd., Hampton	S. Mirick	08/23	2	Hampton Harbor	S. Heron
<b>Yellow-throated Vireo</b>				08/27	1	Rt. 1A pools s. of Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	M. McBrien
09/28	1	Mason Rd., Wilton	G. Coffey	08/31	2	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer
10/28	1	Briar Rd., Hampton	S. Mirick				
11/24	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	S. Mirick				
<b>Blue-headed Vireo</b>							
09/17	8	Elm Brook Pk., Hopkinton	R. Quinn				
10/01	10	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, et al.				
10/27	1	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	M. Resch	<i>Tree Swallows by Steve Mirick, 8-13-17, Seabrook, NH.</i>			
11/13	1	Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins	<b>Tree Swallow</b>			
<b>Philadelphia Vireo</b>				08/05	350	Charlestown WTP	D. Jackson
10/01	1	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, et al.	08/23	3500	Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook	S. Heron
<b>Warbling Vireo</b>				08/26	10,000	Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
09/25	2	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray	10/04	1	Eel Pond, Rye	D. Hubbard
09/26	1	N. Barnstead Rd., Barnstead	J. Lambert	11/17	1	Rochester WTP	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, D. Hubbard
<b>Red-eyed Vireo</b>				<b>Bank Swallow</b>			
08/30	22	Call Rd., Webster	R. Quinn	08/21	20	Rye Harbor	D. Kieser
10/29	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	K. Wilmarth	08/23	25	Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook	S. Heron
11/06	1	Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins	09/03	1	Charlestown WTP	D. Jackson
<b>Gray Jay</b>				09/05	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray
08/11	5	East Inlet, Pittsburg	J. Maher	09/08	1	Derry WTP	S. Mirick
08/22	6	Milan Hill SP, Milan	S. Zyla	09/08	1	Peterborough WTP	P. Brown
10/06	9	Crawford Path, Mt. Pierce, WMNF	J. & M. & A. Eckerson	<b>Barn Swallow</b>			
11/25	4	Dry River Campground, Crawford Notch SP	M. Macedo-Lima	08/14	50	Drake Ln., Rye	J. Butler
<b>Blue Jay</b>				08/27	59	Westmoreland Boat Launch	A. Burnett
09/09	88	Balsam Ridge Tree Farm, Canaan	S. Weaver	09/20	1	Rye Harbor SP	J. Pietrzak
10/03	123	Carter Hill RO, Concord	K. Fenton, K. Klapper	09/23	2	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	P. Farr
<b>Fish Crow</b>				<b>Cliff Swallow</b>			
08/01	5	Tanger Outlets, Tilton	P. Fernandes	08/07	5	Elm Brook Pk., Hopkinton	R. Quinn
08/15	50	Rt. 125, Plaistow	K. Wilmarth	08/09	4	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer
09/04	120	World End Pond, Salem	K. & A. Wilmarth	08/23	2	Rt. 1A pools s. of Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	A. Lin-Moore
09/05	2	Rt. 16, Ossipee	J. Scott, C. Nims	08/24	1	Derry WTP	S. Mirick
10/14	1	Rt. 3, Laconia	P. Hunt	09/08	2	Peterborough WTP	P. Brown
11/25	14	Rt. 38 at Rt. 28, Salem	K. Wilmarth	<b>Cave Swallow</b>			
<b>Common Raven</b>				10/26	1	Rye Harbor SP	L. McKillop
11/09	93	Pack Monadnock RO	K. Fenton	11/04	1	Bicentennial Park, Hampton	J. Lambert
<b>Horned Lark</b>				<b>Boreal Chickadee</b>			
08/01	4	Alpine Garden Trail, Mt. Washington	C. Engstrom	08/02	8	Crawford Path, WMNF	M. Cahill
08/11	2	Rt. 155A farm fields, Durham	K. Dorsey	08/05	7	East Inlet, Pittsburg	Z. Cornell
09/15	1	Pack Monadnock RO	K. Fenton	08/08	8	Tuckerman Ravine Trail, WMNF	N. Russo
10/11	12	Pack Monadnock RO	K. Fenton	08/09	4	Davis Path, Mt. Crawford, WMNF	S. Wrisley, S. Bennett
11/19	80	Rt. 155A farm fields, Durham	S. & D. Stoddard	10/01	7	Wildcat Ridge Trail, WMNF	P. Crosson
<b>Northern Rough-winged Swallow</b>				10/04	7	Franconia Notch SP	J. Keator
08/21	2	Rye Harbor	D. Kieser				
08/23	2	Depot Rd., Barnstead	J. Lambert				

*Date # Location Observer*

**Brown Creeper**

09/30 10 Star Is., Isles of Shoals E. Masterson, et al.  
 11/18 10 Carter-Moriah Trail, WMNF K. Pieper, N. Dorian

**House Wren**

10/08 1 Lake Durand, Randolph L. McKillop, J. Pietrzak  
 10/08 2 Goss Farm, Rye S. Mirick, R. Suomala  
 10/10 1 Dahl WS, Conway C. Nims, W. Broussard  
 10/28 1 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye M. Viens

**Winter Wren**

08/02 8 Scott Bog, Pittsburg J. Pettipas, S. Bennett, S. Wisley  
 08/08 4 Cannon Mt., Franconia L. Bobay  
 10/16 1 Mud Pond, Jefferson C. Nims, J. Scott  
 11/29 1 Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield A. Robbins

**Marsh Wren**

11/04 1 World End Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth  
 11/05 1 Turtle Pond, Concord D. Lania, G.& A. Robbins

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**

08/08 9 Pickering Ponds, Rochester A. Murray  
 09/02 4 South Rd., E. Kingston D. Finch  
 10/27 1 Dingman Farm, Kensington D. Finch  
 11/12 1 Eel Pond, Rye K. Wilmarth  
 11/26 1 Central Rd. at Rt. 1A, Rye S.& J. Mirick

**Golden-crowned Kinglet**

09/30 50 Star Is., Isles of Shoals E. Masterson, et al.  
 10/10 30 Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem R. Suomala  
 10/10 40 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield R. Suomala

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet**

10/01 32 Diamond Ledge Rd., Sandwich T. Vazzano  
 10/04 20 Dorchester Rd., Lyme P. Ackerson  
 10/08 20 Penacook survey route P. Hunt  
 11/25 2 N. Shore Rd., Hampton S. Mirick  
 11/25 1 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye J. Lambert  
 11/25 2 Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey P. Kirkhart



*Townsend's Solitaire by Katrina Fenton, 10-28-17, Pack Monadnock Raptor Observatory, NH.*

**Townsend's Solitaire**

10/28 1 Pack Monadnock RO M. Timmerman, K. Fenton, et al.

**Veery**

09/09 4 Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield A. Robbins  
 10/03 1 Pickering Ponds, Rochester D. Hubbard  
 10/31 1 South Rd., E. Kingston D. Finch

*Date # Location Observer*

**Bicknell's Thrush**

08/04 1 Mt Washington Auto Rd. E. Hendricks  
 08/06 1 Caps Ridge Trail, WMNF K. Wilmarth  
 08/10 1 Moat Mt. trail, Albany A. Lee  
 08/18 3 Hammond Trail, Tamworth R. Fick  
 09/02 1 Tuckerman Ravine Trail, WMNF D. Pedro

**Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush**

09/02 2 Mud Pond, Jefferson J. Maher  
 09/28 10 Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield A. Robbins  
 09/29 1 Columbia Ave., Nashua J. Maher  
 10/10 1 Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem R. Suomala  
 10/29 1 Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield A. Robbins

**Swainson's Thrush**

09/08 10 South Rd., E. Kingston D. Finch  
 09/09 63 Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield A. Robbins  
 09/28 61 Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield A. Robbins  
 10/11 2 South Rd., E. Kingston D. Finch  
 10/11 2 Busch Farm, Rt. 108, Newton H. Burns  
 10/22 1 Stevens Hill Rd., Nottingham P. Miliotis

**Hermit Thrush**

08/02 14 Freedom Town Forest A.& G. Robbins  
 10/31 12 Mason Rd., Wilton G. Coffey  
 11/28 1 South Rd., Kensington G. Gavutis  
 11/28 1 South Rd., E. Kingston D. Finch

**Wood Thrush**

09/28 5 Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield A. Robbins  
 09/30 1 Dingman Farm, Kensington D. Finch  
 10/02 2 Woodridge Park, Durham K. Dorsey

**American Robin**

10/29 423 Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield A. Robbins  
 11/01 982 Carter Hill RO, Concord K. Klapper  
 11/14 555 Carter Hill RO, Concord K. Fenton

**Gray Catbird**

08/11 29 Pickering Ponds, Rochester A. Murray  
 09/08 24 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye J. Lambert  
 09/30 22 Keene State WMA T. Parody  
 11/29 1 Pickering Ponds, Rochester A. Murray  
 11/30 1 Senter Cove Rd., Derry J. Cosentino

**Brown Thrasher**

08/17 5 Pheasant Run, E. Kingston A. Parsons  
 10/01 1 Nottingcook Forest, Bow A. Kallenbach  
 10/03 1 The Residences at Abenaki Springs, Walpole C. Witko  
 10/11 1 Rt. 126, Strafford S. Young  
 10/19 1 Dahl WS, Conway W. Broussard

**American Pipit**

08/28 1 Freedom Town Forest A. Robbins  
 09/03 1 Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield A. Robbins  
 09/18 150 Pickering Ponds, Rochester A. Murray  
 10/27 300 Woodmont Orchard, Hollis S. Spangenberg  
 11/06 200 Boggy Meadow Farm, River Rd., Walpole S. Lamonde  
 11/21 65 Dingman Farm, Kensington D. Finch  
 11/24 11 Westmoreland Boat Launch A. Burnett

## FALL SEASON

*Date # Location Observer*

### Cedar Waxwing

09/07 150 Mt. Moosilauke Hgwy., Haverhill W. Scott  
 10/07 100 Bedell Bridge SP, Haverhill B.& S. Schultz  
 11/01 130 Carter Hill RO, Concord K. Klapper

### Lapland Longspur

09/29 1 Rt. 1A second pullout s. of Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye  
 J. Maher, E. Masterson  
 10/16 2 Woodmont Orchard, Hollis C. Sheridan  
 11/05 1 Morrills Farm, Penacook A.& G. Robbins  
 11/11 4 Hampton Beach SP J. Lambert

### Snow Bunting

10/21 1 Pack Monadnock RO K. Fenton  
 11/05 40 Upper Suncook Rec. Area, Barnstead J. Lambert  
 11/07 23 Toad Hill Rd., Chatham L. Burford  
 11/19 50 Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey P. Kirkhart  
 11/25 72 Hampton Beach SP A. Gurka

## Warblers.

Freedom Town Forest has been making a name for itself in recent years for the remarkable concentrations of Tennessee and Cape May Warblers found at the site in August. This year it resulted in incredible high counts of 16 Tennessee and 22 Cape May Warblers. These numbers nearly match the reports of both species for the rest of the state combined. On the rarity front, a male **Hooded Warbler** was banded in Northwood, the first fall record of this southern species since 2011. A **MacGillivray's Warbler** in September was the first documented record for the state. The species has been nearly annual in Massachusetts in recent years, so it was certainly on the list of anticipated species. Lastly, a **Yellow-throated Warbler** was discovered at Odiorne Point State Park in mid-November. Remarkably, shortly after its departure from Odiorne Point on November 30, the same bird (based on a foot deformity) was relocated 10 miles to the south in Seabrook on December 2.



*MacGillivray's Warbler by Len Medlock, 9-4-17, Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye, NH.*

Every year, a few warblers seem to linger a little later than they're supposed to. This year was no exception, with some remarkably late warblers likely due to the southwesterly flow and accompanying mild temperatures in October. The annual Concord November Challenge, led by Pam Hunt, had five species of warblers on the weekend of November 4-5 in the town of Concord, including first-

ever Black-and-white and Nashville Warblers. In addition to the Yellow-throated Warbler mentioned above, late records of Tennessee Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow Warbler, and "Yellow" Palm Warbler were likely tied to the southwesterly flow and record October warmth. Also late, but not related, was a Blue-winged Warbler on September 30, the third latest on record.

*Date # Location Observer*

### Ovenbird

09/04 8 Horatio Colony Nature Preserve, Keene R. Yurchisin  
 10/02 1 South Rd., E. Kingston D. Finch  
 10/20 1 Antioch U. New England, Keene R. Yurchisin

### Louisiana Waterthrush

08/08 1 Eastview Trail, Harrisville E. Masterson  
 08/13 1 Penacook survey route P. Hunt

### Northern Waterthrush

08/05 2 Long Pond Town Forest, Lempster  
 J. Swatt, D. Jackson  
 08/06 2 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye S. Mirick  
 08/14 2 Champney Falls Trail, WMNF D. Small, M. Gimpel  
 09/02 2 Lake Shore Park, Gilford D. Marchant  
 09/09 2 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye S. Mirick, J. Lambert  
 09/18 1 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye P. Wood  
 09/19 1 Great Bay Farm, Greenland S. Mirick

### Blue-winged Warbler

09/04 2 Horatio Colony Nature Preserve, Keene R. Yurchisin  
 09/30 1 Star Is., Isles of Shoals E. Masterson

### Black-and-white Warbler

08/01 8 Freedom Town Forest C. McFadden  
 08/06 8 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye S. Mirick  
 08/29 12 Long Pond Rd., Lempster P. Hunt, J. Swatt  
 10/24 1 Birchview Terr., Hanover E. Bracey  
 11/05 1 Commercial St., Concord B. Dymont

### Tennessee Warbler

08/30 12 Blanchard Rd., Pittsburg T. Vazzano  
 09/04 15 Hanover Center Rd., Hanover W. Scott  
 09/08 16 Freedom Town Forest A.& G. Robbins  
 11/11 1 Fort Stark, New Castle J. Lambert  
 11/24 1 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye K.& A. Wilmarth, D. Hubbard,  
 S. Spangenberg, H. Otto, R.& K. Frieden

### Orange-crowned Warbler

09/21 1 Pickering Ponds, Rochester  
 D. Hubbard, S.& M. Turner  
 10/03 1 Stevens Hill Rd., Nottingham P. Miliotis  
 10/04 2 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye S. Mirick  
 10/07 3 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye S. Mirick, Seacoast CFT  
 10/23 1 Dahl WS, Conway W. Broussard  
 11/04 1 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye K. Towler, J. Sparrell  
 11/26 1 N. Hampton State Beach S.& J. Mirick, J. Lambert

### Nashville Warbler

08/12 7 Day Rd., Perry Stream, Pittsburg J. Maher  
 08/22 10 Mollidgewock Bog, Errol R. Quinn

Date	#	Location	Observer
11/04	1	Pembroke Rd. powerline, Concord	M. Suomala, K. Klapper, D. Howe
11/14	1	Greeley Park, Nashua	J. Maher

**MacGillivray's Warbler**

09/04	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	B. Griffith, L. Kras, J. Lambert
09/11	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell

**Mourning Warbler**

08/28	4	Mud Pond, Jefferson	A. Roy, A. Winters, J. Pietrzak
08/29	2	Durand Rd., Randolph	A. Winters, J. Pietrzak
09/05	1	Rt. 16, Ossipee	J. Scott
09/06	1	Under the Mt. Rd., Lyman	S. Turner
09/06	1	Pack Monadnock RO	K. Fenton
09/07	1	Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins
09/19	1	Lebanon Airport	J. MacQueen
09/20	1	Freedom Town Forest	A. Robbins

**Common Yellowthroat**

08/21	18	McNair Easement, Madison	S. Wilcox, S. Joyce
09/08	34	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	J. Lambert
11/08	1	Ash Brook wetland, Keene	S. Lamonde
11/29	1	Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins



Hooded Warbler by Casey Coupe, 8-23-17, Northwood, NH.

**Hooded Warbler**

08/23	1	Northwood	E. Holm, M. Tarr
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**American Redstart**

08/30	20	Freedom Town Forest	A. Robbins, J. Maher
09/08	20	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	J. Lambert
10/03	1	Durand Rd., Randolph	A. Winters, J. Pietrzak
10/07	3	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	S. Mirick, Seacoast CFT

**Cape May Warbler**

08/27	22	Freedom Town Forest	S. Mirick
09/11	5	Dahl WS, Conway	J. Scott
09/20	4	Ash Brook wetland, Keene	S. Lamonde
09/23	4	Benson Park, Hudson	S. Wong
09/30	7	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	J. Maher
10/07	1	Antioch U. New England, Keene	W. Ward
11/28	1	Bicentennial Park, Hampton	S. Mirick
11/28	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	K. Fenton, S. Mirick, J. Berry, J. Maher

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Northern Parula</b>			
09/09	10	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard
09/10	9	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
09/16	8	Winter St., Ashland	R. & K. Frieden
09/28	8	West Locke Rd., Concord	K. Frieden, R. Suomala
10/08	1	Thompson WS, Sandwich	P. Brown, K. Klapper
10/17	2	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	L. McKillop
11/11	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	J. Lambert

**Magnolia Warbler**

08/27	18	Freedom Town Forest	S. Mirick
09/10	10	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/14	1	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard
11/08	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray

**Bay-breasted Warbler**

09/10	4	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
09/10	5	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	J. Lambert
10/02	2	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard
10/03	1	Ashuelot River Headwaters Forest, Lempster	T. Spahr

**Blackburnian Warbler**

08/19	7	Call Rd., Webster	R. Quinn
08/26	9	Durand Rd., Randolph	A. Winters, J. Pietrzak
08/28	9	Mud Pond, Jefferson	A. Roy, A. Winters, J. Pietrzak
10/08	1	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/26	1	Rye Harbor SP	L. McKillop

**Yellow Warbler**

08/06	16	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	S. Mirick
11/11	1	North Side Park, Hampton	S. Mirick, J. Lambert
11/24	1	Bicentennial Park, Hampton	J. Lambert

**Chestnut-sided Warbler**

08/26	8	Durand Rd., Randolph	A. Winters, J. Pietrzak
08/27	8	Freedom Town Forest	S. Mirick
09/06	8	Dixville Notch SP	L. Charron
09/23	1	Unknown Pond, Kilkenny	S. Roberts
10/14	1	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard

**Blackpoll Warbler**

08/02	20	Crawford Path, WMNF	M. Cahill
08/02	1	Freedom Town Forest	A. & G. Robbins
09/27	10	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard
09/29	10	Locke Rd., Concord	A. Kallenbach, R. Quinn, T. McShane
11/15	1	Awcomin Marsh, Rye	C. Breen
11/23	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	J. Lambert, et al.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler**

08/30	5	Freedom Town Forest	A. Robbins, J. Maher
10/07	3	Yudicky Farm/Southwest Park, Nashua	C. Sheridan
10/10	1	Badger Farm Rd., Wilton	S. Lemire

**Palm Warbler**

09/06	1	Under the Mt. Rd., Lyman	S. Turner
09/22	28	Freedom Town Forest	A. & G. Robbins

**Palm Warbler - western subsp.**

09/24	7	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
11/04	1	Birch St. Community Garden, Concord	D. Jackson
11/11	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	K. Wilmarth, J. Lambert

## FALL SEASON

Date # Location Observer

### Palm Warbler - yellow subsp.

10/02 21 Lancy Brook wetlands, Brookline C. Sheridan  
 11/04 1 Birch St. Community Garden, Concord D. Jackson  
 11/14 1 Pickering Ponds, Rochester D. Hubbard

### Pine Warbler

09/15 14 Sunapee State Beach, Newbury D. Jackson  
 10/01 18 South Rd., E. Kingston D. Finch  
 11/30 1 Pickering Ponds, Rochester A. Murray  
 11/30 1 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye R. Crichton, D. Prima, L. Charron

### Yellow-rumped Warbler

09/22 136 Freedom Town Forest A. & G. Robbins  
 09/29 70 Pickering Ponds, Rochester A. Murray  
 10/01 52 Depot Rd., Barnstead J. Lambert  
 10/11 46 Pack Monadnock RO K. Fenton



Yellow-throated Warbler by Leo McKillop, 11-26-17, Odiorne Point SP, Rye, NH.

### Yellow-throated Warbler

11/23 1 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye J. Lambert, L. McKillop, et al.  
 11/30 1 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye D. Prima, K. Towler, L. Charron, R. Crichton

### Prairie Warbler

08/27 8 Freedom Town Forest S. Mirick  
 09/29 1 N. Barnstead Rd., Barnstead J. Lambert  
 10/08 1 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye S. & J. Mirick, R. Suomala

### Black-throated Green Warbler

09/08 21 E. Branch Rd., Jackson S. Wilcox, S. Joyce  
 09/09 22 Pickering Ponds, Rochester D. Hubbard  
 09/16 14 Magalloway Rd., Pittsburg D. Foster  
 09/18 12 Freedom Town Forest A. Robbins  
 10/09 1 Mason Rd., Wilton G. Coffey  
 10/09 1 Langenau Forest, Wilmot D. Jackson  
 10/14 1 Dahl WS, Conway W. Broussard, R. Steber

### Canada Warbler

08/30 3 Call Rd., Webster R. Quinn  
 09/16 1 Magalloway Rd., Pittsburg D. Foster  
 09/16 1 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye J. Nelson, S. Mirick

### Wilson's Warbler

09/02 4 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield D. Govatski  
 09/10 4 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye J. Lambert  
 10/07 1 Charlestown WTP D. Jackson  
 10/07 1 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye S. Mirick, Seacoast CFT



Grasshopper Sparrow by Chris McPherson, 9-17-17, Woodmont Orchards, Hollis, NH.

## New World Sparrows through House Sparrow

Grasshopper Sparrow is at the northern edge of its range, thus infrequently reported as a migrant, but individuals at Woodmont Orchard likely represented migrants. Woodmont Orchards continues to be a sparrow hotspot, with additional uncommon sparrow records for the fall including a Nelson's Sparrow, two Clay-colored Sparrows, and two Vesper Sparrows. Clay-colored Sparrows had an exceptional fall with a minimum of 20 different birds reported. For context, six were reported in 2016 and that was identified as a "good" year! Lark Sparrows were found at three locations, a fairly typical number. Most White-crowned Sparrows in the state are the dark-lored "Eastern" form; however, two individuals of the western "Gambel's" race were identified.



Yellow-breasted Chat by Leo McKillop, 9-10-17, Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye, NH.

Five Yellow-breasted Chats were reported for the fall, four in the more expected coastal locations, but an individual in Conway was notably far north for this species. Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Indigo Bunting were both reported

in the first few days of November, quite late for species that typically depart in early October. Dickcissels were present in below-average numbers compared with recent years. Yellow-headed Blackbird is rare but regular in fall; this year two were reported.

Finches were diverse with nearly every regular species (except Hoary Redpoll) reported. Most species were reported in low numbers; however, both species of crossbill were reported widely and in large numbers throughout the state in response to a heavy white pine and spruce cone crop. Red Crossbill reports included juveniles with adults. Remarkably, one of the few Pine Grosbeaks reported during the fall was from the southeastern part of the state, the area in which the species is generally least frequently reported.

*Date # Location Observer*

**Grasshopper Sparrow**

08/09 4 Concord Airport N. Dorian  
 09/17 1 Woodmont Orchard, Hollis C. McPherson  
 10/21 1 Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey W. Ward

**Nelson's Sparrow**

10/12 1 Pickering Ponds, Rochester A. Murray  
 10/15 20 Hampton Salt Marsh CA, Hampton S. Mirick  
 10/15 1 Woodmont Orchard, Hollis C. McPherson

**Saltmarsh Sparrow**

08/04 5 Chapmans Landing, Stratham G. Clucas  
 10/07 2 Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton S. Mirick, Seacoast CFT  
 10/15 1 Hampton Salt Marsh CA, Hampton S. Mirick

**American Tree Sparrow**

10/24 1 Great Bay Farm, Greenland S. Mirick  
 10/28 1 Depot Rd., Barnstead J. Lambert  
 11/21 30 Portsmouth City Park, Harvard St. J. Maher  
 11/24 16 Bellamy R. WMA, Dover J. Lambert

**Chipping Sparrow**

08/26 92 Woodmont Orchard, Hollis C. McPherson  
 10/08 74 Penacook survey route P. Hunt  
 10/10 70 State Military Reservation, Concord P. Hunt  
 11/22 1 Badger Farm Rd., Wilton S. Lemire  
 11/24 1 Concord Airport J. Pietrzak

**Clay-colored Sparrow**

09/04 1 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye J. Lambert, B. Griffith, L. Kras  
 09/14 1 Hawkin's Farm, Salem K. Wilmarth  
 09/17 2 Woodmont Orchard, Hollis C. McPherson  
 09/30 2 Star Is., Isles of Shoals E. Masterson, et al.  
 10/03 2 Goss Farm, Rye H. Bauer, S. Mirick  
 10/04 2 Great Bay Farm, Greenland S. Mirick  
 10/05 1 Depot Rd., Barnstead J. Lambert  
 10/05 1 Carter Hill RO, Concord K. Klapper  
 10/05 1 Woodridge Park, Durham K. Dorsey  
 10/07 1 Ambrose Gravel Pit, Sandwich R. Ridgely  
 10/12 1 Pickering Ponds, Rochester J. Maher, A. Murray  
 10/23 1 New Ipswich N. Moreau, K. Fenton

*Date # Location Observer*  
 10/28 1 Pumpelly Ln., Dublin T. Warren  
 11/09 2 Great Bay Farm, Greenland S. Mirick  
 11/26 1 North Side Park, Hampton J. Lambert

**Field Sparrow**

09/16 17 Woodmont Orchard, Hollis C. McPherson  
 10/06 13 Depot Rd., Barnstead J. Lambert  
 11/05 1 Merrill Park, Concord R. Suomala, Z. Cornell  
 11/05 1 Woodmont Orchard, Hollis C. McPherson



*Eric Masterson took this remarkable photo for New Hampshire of a Lark Sparrow and a Clay-colored Sparrow next to each other on Star Island, 9-30-17.*

**Lark Sparrow**

09/24 1 Locke Rd., Concord D. Lania  
 09/30 1 Star Is., Isles of Shoals E. Masterson, et al.  
 10/01 1 River Rd., Stratham K. Wilmarth, J. Lambert, J. Sparrell, K. Towler

**Fox Sparrow**

10/08 1 Airport Rd., Whitefield J. Pietrzak, L. McKillop  
 10/19 1 Hebron Marsh D. Hubbard  
 10/20 1 Pack Monadnock RO K. Fenton  
 10/28 3 Ashuelot River Headwaters Forest, Lempster T. Spahr

**Dark-eyed Junco**

11/18 103 Penacook survey route P. Hunt  
 11/30 86 Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield A. Robbins

**White-crowned Sparrow**

09/11 1 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye D. Hubbard  
 09/17 1 Depot Rd., Barnstead J. Lambert  
 09/19 1 Sherman's Farm, Conway J. Scott, C. Nims, W. Broussard, D. Scott, D. Smith, B. Crowley  
 10/03 7 Carter Hill RO, Concord K. Fenton, K. Klapper  
 10/06 5 Fowler's Mill Rd., Tamworth S. Mesick  
 10/28 5 Black Mt., Jackson B. Pendleton  
 10/31 5 Woodmont Orchard, Hollis G. Coffey  
 11/13 3 Great Bay Farm, Greenland S. Mirick  
 12/02 2 13 Mile Woods, Errol K. & A. Wilmarth

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

10/15 1 Goss Farm, Rye S. Wong, D. Jackson  
 11/09 1 Great Bay Farm, Greenland S. Mirick

**White-throated Sparrow**

10/01 86 River View Rd., Newport B. Baker  
 10/13 74 SPNHF Merrimack R. CA, Concord A. Winters, J. Pietrzak

## FALL SEASON

### Vesper Sparrow

08/09	3	Concord Airport	N. Dorian
08/09	1	Ossipee Lake Rd., Freedom	A. Robbins
09/02	2	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson
09/14	1	Sugar Hill hawkwatch	S. Turner
09/24	1	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer
09/25	1	Greeley Park, Nashua	J. Maher
10/07	1	Rt. 155A farm fields, Durham	K. Dorsey
10/25	1	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	H. Walters
10/28	1	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. Sheridan

### Savannah Sparrow

10/13	127	Sherman's Farm, Conway	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
10/14	80	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO, Concord	R.& M. Suomala
10/28	175	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. Sheridan
11/24	1	Drinkwater Rd., Kensington	H. Stevens
11/30	2	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	C. Breen

### Savannah Sparrow - Ipswich subsp.

10/22	1	Rye Harbor SP	P. Miliotis
10/29	4	saltmarsh s. of Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	K. Wilmarth
10/30	2	Rye Harbor SP	H. Bauer
11/18	3	Hampton Beach SP	C. McPherson

### Song Sparrow

10/13	55	Sherman's Farm, Conway	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
10/14	80	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO, Concord	R.& M. Suomala
10/14	52	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt

### Lincoln's Sparrow

09/09	1	Freedom Town Forest airstrip	S. Mesick
09/17	8	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson
10/03	9	Carter Hill RO, Concord	K. Fenton, K. Klapper
10/27	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard
11/05	1	Morrills Farm, Penacook	A.& G. Robbins

### Swamp Sparrow

10/07	27	Birch St. Community Garden, Concord	D. Jackson
10/14	20	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO, Concord	R.& M. Suomala
11/18	1	Exeter WTP	J. Lambert
11/25	1	Woodland Rd., N. Hampton	S. Mirick
11/25	1	Urban Forestry Ctr., Portsmouth	S. Mirick

### Eastern Towhee

08/01	10	Morse Preserve, Alton	M. Cahill
08/14	23	W. Branch Pine Barrens Preserve, Madison	S. Lee
08/30	23	Freedom Town Forest	A. Robbins, J. Maher
11/04	1	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer
11/30	1	Badger Farm Rd., Wilton	S. Lemire

### Yellow-breasted Chat

09/08	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	J. Lambert
09/11	1	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	H. Bauer
09/29	1	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer
10/13	1	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard
11/28	1	Pulpit Rocks Rd., Rye	S. Mirick, J. Berry, J. Maher
11/30	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	K. Towler

### Scarlet Tanager

08/02	6	Freedom Town Forest	A.& G. Robbins
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Date	#	Location	Observer
08/31	5	Silk Farm WS, Concord	R. Quinn, A. Kallenbach, T. McShane
10/08	1	Woodridge Park, Durham	K. Dorsey
10/08	1	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch
11/15	1	Lyme Rd., Hanover	J. Bayliss



*Rose-breasted Grosbeak by Leo McKillop, 11-5-17, Pickering Ponds, Rochester, NH.*

### Rose-breasted Grosbeak

09/06	5	Balsam Ridge Tree Farm, Canaan	S. Weaver
10/01	1	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, et al.
11/05	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	L. McKillop, J. Pietrzak

### Indigo Bunting

09/15	7	Carter Hill RO, Concord	A. Griffin, K. Klapper
09/30	6	Charlestown WTP	D. Jackson
10/10	1	Birch St. Community Garden, Concord	E. Masterson
10/10	1	Goss Farm, Rye	H. Bauer
11/04	1	Great Bay Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick

### Dickcissel

08/01	1	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch
08/17	1	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson
08/25	1	Dingman Farm, Kensington	D. Finch
08/26	1	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch
09/04	2	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson
10/03	2	Antioch U. New England, Keene	W. Ward, S. Lamonde, C. Witko
10/07	2	Goss Farm, Rye	S. Mirick, Seacoast CFT
11/03	1	Depot Rd., Durham	M. Thompson
11/03	1	Great Bay Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick

### Yellow-headed Blackbird

08/20	1	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Nathan
11/11	1	Pack Monadnock RO	K. Fenton



Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Bobolink</b>			
08/07	75	Elm Brook Pk., Hopkinton	R. Quinn
08/09	60	former Cate's Farm, Rt. 25C, Warren	E. Marie
08/12	75	Red Oak Hill Rd., Epping	A. Harvey
08/27	75	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson
10/13	5	Sherman's Farm, Conway	T. Vazzano, R. Ridgely
10/13	1	Great Bay Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Eastern Meadowlark</b>			
09/25	1	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson
10/02	3	Dingman Farm, Kensington	D. Finch
10/14	1	Rt. 155A farm fields, Durham	K. Dorsey
10/24	2	Red Oak Hill Rd., Epping	A. Harvey
11/24	2	Dingman Farm, Kensington	D. Finch

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Baltimore Oriole</b>			
08/26	8	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	S. Mirick
10/01	1	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, et al.
10/23	1	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard
10/29	1	NH coast	K. Wilmarth

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Red-winged Blackbird</b>			
11/02	1100	Greenleaf Dr., Exeter	A. Winters, J. Pietrzak
11/04	1200	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Brown-headed Cowbird</b>			
08/29	75	Ocean Blvd., Seabrook	J. Sender
10/14	200	Portsmouth Ave., Seabrook	S. Mirick

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Rusty Blackbird</b>			
09/21	2	Beaver Brook Assn., Hollis	C. Sheridan
09/22	2	Freedom Town Forest	A. Robbins
10/11	185	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch
11/04	100	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
11/05	40	Powwow Pond, Kingston	K. Wilmarth
11/25	21	Spicket R., Salem	K. Wilmarth
11/28	3	South Rd., Kensington	G. Gavutis
11/30	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Common Grackle</b>			
09/07	1200	South Rd., Kensington	G. Gavutis
11/05	5500	Lakeview Dr., Strafford	S. Young

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Blackbird sp.</b>			
11/11	22,300	Lakeview Dr., Strafford	S. Young

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Evening Grosbeak</b>			
08/08	1	Tuckerman Ravine Trail, WMNF	N. Russo
08/13	1	Horse Hill Rd., Roxbury	K. Rosenberg
08/27	1	Lookout Ledge, Randolph	A. Winters, A. Roy, J. Pietrzak
09/24	1	Pack Monadnock RO	K. Fenton

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Pine Grosbeak</b>			
11/05	1	Powwow Pond, Kingston	K. Wilmarth
11/28	2	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	L.& P. Charron

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>House Finch</b>			
09/12	60	Birch St. Community Garden, Concord	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
09/29	40	Goss Farm, Rye	H. Bauer

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Purple Finch</b>			
10/08	14	Martin Meadow Pond Rd., Lancaster	C. Caron
10/16	12	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski
10/21	4	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Common Redpoll</b>			
11/18	3	Carter-Moriah Trail, WMNF	K. Pieper, N. Dorian
11/28	2	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	L.& P. Charron

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Common/Hoary Redpoll</b>			
10/14	4	Ammonoosuc Ravine Trailhead, WMNF	M. Nation
10/29	3	Bear Brook boat launch, Wentworth Location	L. Charron



Red Crossbill by Len Medlock, 8-25-17, Effingham, NH.

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Red Crossbill</b>			
08/13	12	Huntress Bridge Rd., Effingham	S. Lee
09/03	11	Thorne Pond CA, Bartlett	C. Nims
10/11	20	Rt. 26 at Bull Moose Lodge Rd., Cambridge	R. Quinn, J. Koliass
10/12	20	Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem	T. Spahr
11/23	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	J. Lambert

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>White-winged Crossbill</b>			
08/06	10	Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem	K. Wilmarth
09/27	24	Lily Pond, Rt. 112, WMNF	J. Collins
11/15	25	Pack Monadnock RO	K. Fenton
11/25	1	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Pine Siskin</b>			
10/05	1	Carter Hill RO, Concord	K. Klapper
10/14	1	Pack Monadnock RO	K. Fenton
11/07	1	Greenleaf Dr., Exeter	J. Pietrzak, A. Winters
11/15	10	Rt. 25, Sandwich	G. Gavutis
11/18	44	Diamond Ledge Rd., Sandwich	T. Vazzano
11/24	10	Mill Brook area, Thornton	G. Recer, C. Graichen

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>American Goldfinch</b>			
09/21	150	Greeley Park, Nashua	J. Maher
11/01	150	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard
11/18	152	Carter Hill RO, Concord	K. Klapper
11/21	113	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	J. Pietrzak, A. Winters

# Fall 2017 New Hampshire Raptor Migration Report

by Iain MacLeod



Katrina Fenton updating the daily hawk totals during a busy day on Pack Monadnock.

## Pack Monadnock Raptor Migration Observatory, Peterborough, NH

Fall 2017 marked the thirteenth consecutive fall season of daily coordinated counts conducted at the Pack Monadnock Raptor Migration Observatory at Miller State Park. The count is conducted under the leadership of NH Audubon in a formal agreement with the NH Division of Natural and Cultural Resources. The Seasonal Counter/Interpreter for 2017 was again Katrina Fenton. I was the official counter on Mondays and Henry Walters was the official counter on Tuesdays. Phil Brown served as the Raptor Observatory Coordinator for NH Audubon and a wonderful group of dedicated volunteers rounded out the coverage and helped scan the skies.

Full site coverage was maintained daily from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm EST (or close to), from September 1 to November 20. Out of a possible 81 days, weather prevented counts on only nine days. Observers tallied 515.25 hours on 72 days (215.5 hours in September, 197 hours in October, and 102.75 hours in November). This is a little above the 10-year

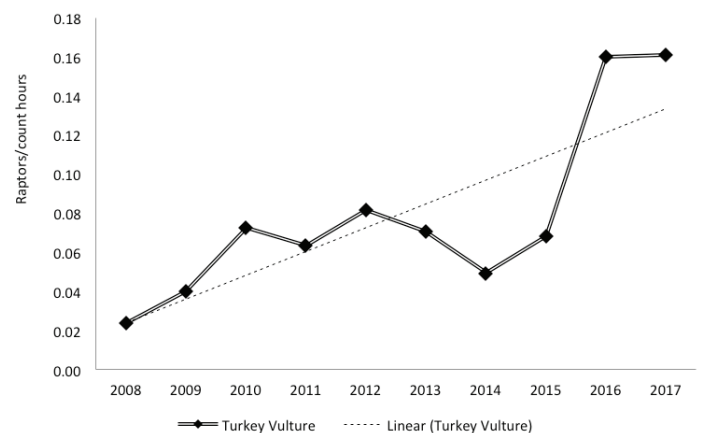
average of 499 hours, but slightly less than the last two years. A total of 11,803 individual migratory raptors was recorded. That equals 22.91 raptors per hour. The raptors-per-hour ratio for each month was: September, 46.75; October, 6.31; and November, 4.82.

The 10-year average is 12,213 raptors (10-year averages in this account refer to data from just the prior 10 years, 2007-2016). New season-high counts were recorded for Bald Eagle, Turkey Vulture, Rough-legged Hawk, and Peregrine Falcon.

Trend graphs were created for most species for data for 2008-2017. They are presented as “raptors per count hours.” Overall, seven species (Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Golden Eagle, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon) show positive 10-year trends, one species (Sharp-shinned Hawk) shows a flat 10-year trend and six species (Osprey, Northern Harrier, Cooper’s Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Red-tailed Hawk, and American Kestrel) show a negative 10-year trend. Our 10-year trend for all raptors combined is positive.

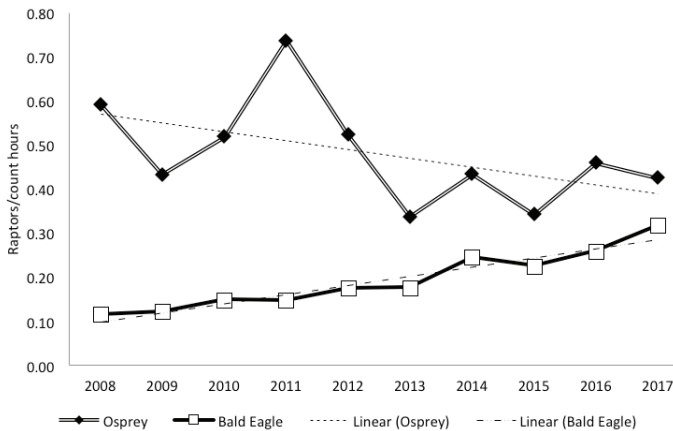
**Turkey Vultures** are late season migrants and generally we don’t see obvious signs of southbound birds until well into October. A new single-season count record (324) was established with just two birds more than last year’s record count (10-year average = 138). We had one huge day on October 12 when 146 were counted. Figure 1 shows a steady increase in the count for this species. I assume this indicates that this species continues to spread and increase farther north into Maine and eastern Canada, resulting in larger numbers migrating through New Hampshire.

Figure 1. Ten-year Turkey Vulture trend at Pack Monadnock Raptor Migration Observatory, NH, 2008-2017.



The **Osprey** count of 219 was down compared to last year and well below the 10-year average of 245 (Figure 2). In September, 168 were seen, with the peak flight day on September 12 when 20 were counted. The 10-year trend shows a decline in the overall count, but the last four years show a slight increase after a significant drop between 2012 and 2013. As I've discussed in previous reports, the impacts of the expanding Bald Eagle population is likely having a negative impact on Ospreys throughout eastern North America.

Figure 2. Ten-year Osprey and Bald Eagle trends at Pack Monadnock Raptor Migration Observatory, NH, 2008-2017.



The **Bald Eagle** total (163) set a new season-high count and marks the sixth consecutive season of more than 100 Bald Eagles (Figure 2). The Bald Eagle migration is quite spread out and the peak day was October 1 when 14 were counted. The 10-year trend continues to soar and matches the breeding data for the Northeast which indicates a steady increase.

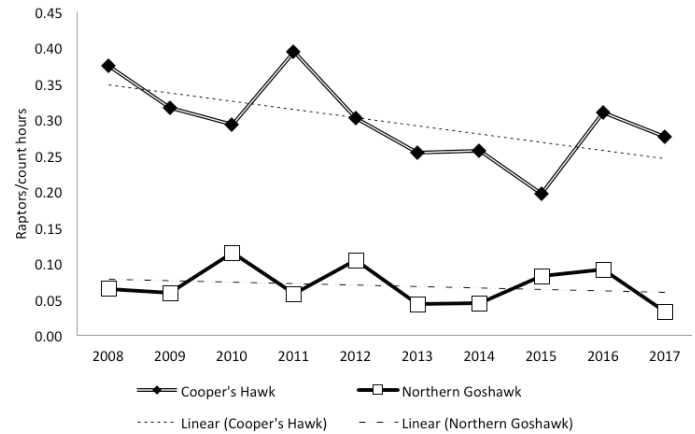
The tally of 82 **Northern Harriers** was well below the record high number of 125 in 2015 (actually this year was the lowest tally since 2011) and a little below the 10-year average of 96. The 10-year trend is negative.

**Cooper's Hawks** had an average year with a total of 142 counted. That is a little less than last year and below the previous 10-year average of 153. A look at the 10-year trend shows a slight decline in our count (Figure 3).

**Northern Goshawks** had a "down" year (lowest in last 10 years) with just 17 counted, demonstrating the typical boom and bust cycle of this boreal forest species. Northern Goshawk distribution fluctuates based on Ruffed Grouse and Snowshoe Hare numbers (Figure 3). In years when hares and grouse crash, more goshawks move south in search of winter food. Given the high mast year that we experienced last year, it is safe to assume that there were lots of grouse and hares and therefore many fewer goshawks migrated south through New Hampshire in 2017. So a "down" year for our count translates to a good (food-abundant) year for the goshawk.

The 10-year average is 40 and the overall ten-year trend is slightly down, but that trend line would change back to positive territory with an "up" year next year.

Figure 3. Ten-year Cooper's Hawk and Northern Goshawk trends at Pack Monadnock Raptor Migration Observatory, NH, 2008-2017.



The **Sharp-shinned Hawk** count (1,179) was slightly up compared to last year and slightly below the 10-year average (1,235). The peak count day was September 21 when 93 were counted. A look at the 10-year trend indicates a very stable count.

The **Broad-winged Hawk** count was down this year, with only 8,744 counted (10-year average = 9,361). The best flight was on September 21 when 1,836 were counted. The ten-year graph shows a lot of annual fluctuation, but the trend is still positive for Pack even with the drop off for the last two years.

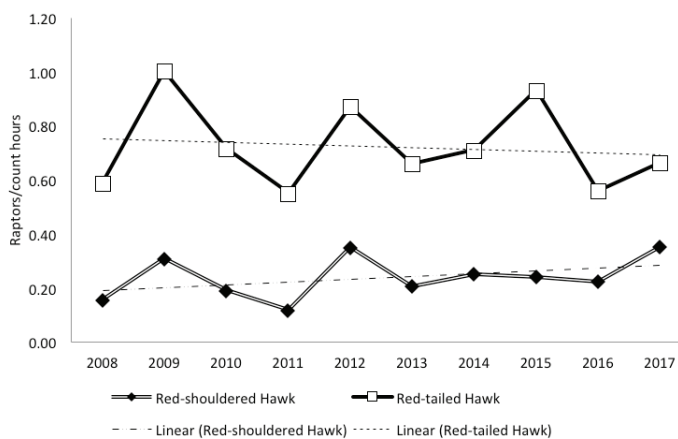
Table 1. Broad-winged Hawk fall migration totals and peak counts at Pack Monadnock, NH, 2005-2017. Source: HMANA's HawkCount.org Database.

Year	Total	Highest one-day count	Date
2005	3,978	1,687	18-Sep
2006	7,595	3,044	11-Sep
2007	7,776	2,676	16-Sep
2008	6,835	2,424	18-Sep
2009	4,322	2,042	16-Sep
2010	7,557	3,328	18-Sep
2011	11,831	5,208	18-Sep
2012	8,848	2,556	17-Sep
2013	8,221	2,759	17-Sep
2014	11,043	4,101	15-Sep
2015	16,693	3,959	17-Sep
2016	10,530	3,245	15-Sep
2017	8,744	1,836	21-Sep

Overall, throughout the Northeast, recent Broad-winged Hawk fall migration trends are down (*NorthEast Hawk Watch 2016 Hawk Migration Report* by T. Battaly, 2017) and climate change may be a factor. Warmer temperatures in September may result in stronger thermals and Broad-winged Hawks flying higher and being less detectable. Trudy Battaly compared average temperature data from Hartford, CT for 1980-2016 and the number of Broad-winged per 100 hours counted by all the NorthEast Hawk Watch sites (in ME, NH, VT, MA, CT, RI, eastern NY, northern NY and southern NB) and there was a strong correlation. Counts of Broad-winged Hawks at sites in Texas and Mexico seem stable or increasing which seems to support the hypothesis that we might be counting fewer Broad-winged in the Northeast because we are detecting fewer rather than because of a population decline. We have to keep watching the skies on this one.

The **Red-shouldered Hawk** count was 180 which was our second-best count ever and well above the 10-year average (117). This is a late-season migrant for us with the major push happening in November (121 counted). Both New Hampshire sites had excellent tallies for this species as did several other sites in the east (particularly Chestnut Ridge, NY which tallied 437 in November). The peak daily count was November 4 when 46 passed the mountain. Figure 4 shows a pretty healthy positive trend.

Figure 4. Ten-year Red-shouldered Hawk and Red-tailed Hawk trend at Pack Monadnock Raptor Migration Observatory, NH. 2008-2017.



The **Red-tailed Hawk** tally of 341 was a little higher than last year but below the 10-year average of 364. Overall, the trend line is slightly negative (Figure 4), but the graph once again bears out the “boom and bust” pattern that I have mentioned in prior reports of high counts on a three year cycle (highs in 2009, 2012 and 2015). The hypothesis is that the pattern is tied to fluctuations in red-backed vole populations (or other tree mast-dependent mammals) in the Canadian boreal forests. So, will we see a big flight again in 2018? The peak flight day in 2017 was November 8 when 62

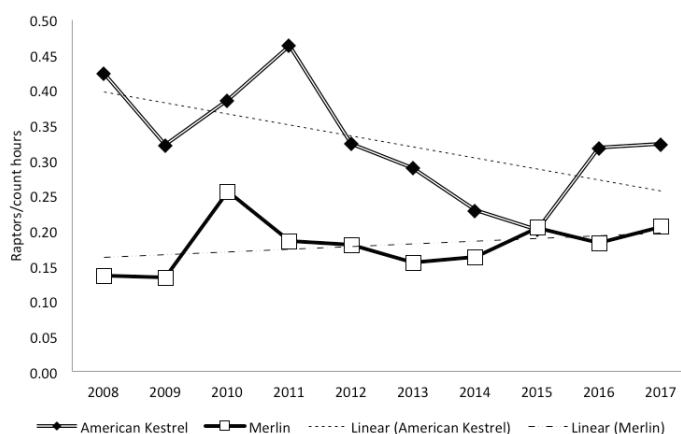
were counted.

For the sixth straight year, **Rough-legged Hawk** was recorded. This year two were seen (a new site record), one on October 11 and one on November 5.

Seven **Golden Eagles** were seen which was more than 2016 but well shy of the record 13 seen in 2015 (10-year average = 8). Most were seen in November and no more than one was seen in a day, so as usual each sighting was a special event. Our ten-year trend is up.

The **American Kestrel** count was almost identical to last year and slightly above the ten-year average, but overall the 10-year trend is negative (Figure 5). This species is listed as a species of conservation concern in New Hampshire.

Figure 5. Ten-year American Kestrel and Merlin trends at Pack Monadnock Raptor Migration Observatory, NH, 2008-2017.



The **Merlin** count (106) was up a little this year compared to last year, and higher than the 10-year average of 91. The peak day was September 21 when 13 were counted. Overall the 10-year trend is positive (Figure 5).

The **Peregrine Falcon** count set a new single season record by a wide margin. An impressive 64 were counted (10-year average = 43). The peak day was October 11 when seven were counted. The 10-year trend is strongly positive.

## Carter Hill Raptor Observatory, Concord

Full 2017 was the 10th consecutive year of counts at Carter Hill Raptor Observatory in Concord; congratulations on that milestone. The count is also conducted under the leadership of NH Audubon. The full time Seasonal Counter/Interpreter for 2017 was Ken Klapper (a Pack Monadnock alumnus) with assistance from Katrina Fenton, Robert Vallieres and several other volunteers.

Full site coverage was maintained daily from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm EST (or close to) from September 1 and November 20. Of the 81 days in the count period, weather prevented counts on 12 days. A total of 512.5 hours were logged on the remaining 69 days (219 hours in September, 200.5 in October, and 93 in November).

A total of 6,278 raptors were counted which is below the prior-9-year average of 6,959. The 9-year averages used in this section refer to data from 2008-2016. The raptors-per-hour ratio for each month was: September, 21.3; October, 6.21; and November, 3.97. Single-season records were established for Turkey Vulture and Golden Eagle.

Trend graphs were created for all species (except Rough-legged Hawk) for data for 2008-2017. The standardization in methodology along with the extension of the season through mid-November did not occur until the 2012 season, so linear trend lines are presented for 2012-2017 data only. Data are presented as “raptors per count hours.”

Two species (Turkey Vulture and Golden Eagle) show positive trends over the 2012-17 period. Twelve species (Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Cooper’s Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin and Peregrine Falcon) all show negative trends over the 2012-17 period.

A new single season record was set with 429 **Turkey Vultures** tallied (9-year average = 233). The 2012-17 trend line is positive.

The **Osprey** count of 131 was higher than 2016 and the 9-year average (125). The trend graph shows data all over the place, but the 2012-17 trend line is markedly negative.



Bald Eagle by Aiden Moser.

The **Bald Eagle** count of 96 was very similar to last year and higher than the 9-year average of 78. The 2012-17 trend line is negative.

The **Northern Harrier** count (53) was down compared to the last two years but very close to the 9-year average of 54. The 2012-17 trend line is negative.

The **Cooper’s Hawks** count (108) was less than last year (130) and well below the 9-year average (144). The 2012-17 trend line is negative. The **Northern Goshawk** count of six was the lowest count since 2008 and half of last year’s count (9-year average of 16). The highest ever count here

was 28 in 2012. See the description above of the cyclical nature of this northern accipiter. The 2012-17 trend line is slightly negative. The **Sharp-shinned Hawk** tally bounced back a little this year over 2016’s very low 551, but was still well below the 2012-15 years which were all above eleven hundred. The 9-year average is 721. The 2012-17 trend line is slightly negative.

The **Broad-winged Hawk** count (3,842) was the lowest since 2012 and well below the 9-year average of 4,882. The peak flight day was September 15 when just 691 passed over the platform. The 2012-17 trend line is negative.

Table 2. Broad-winged Hawk fall migration totals and peak counts at Carter Hill, NH, 2008-2017. Source: HMANA’s HawkCount.org Database.

Year	Total	Highest one-day count	Date
2008	1,904	568	13-Sep
2009	703	337	16-Sep
2010	2,422	891	18-Sep
2011	10,763	7,212	18-Sep
2012	3,671	1,130	20-Sep
2013	8,915	4,899	19-Sep
2014	4,237	1,085	13-Sep
2015	6,274	1,413	23-Sep
2016	5,045	3,026	16-Sep
2017	3,842	691	15-Sep

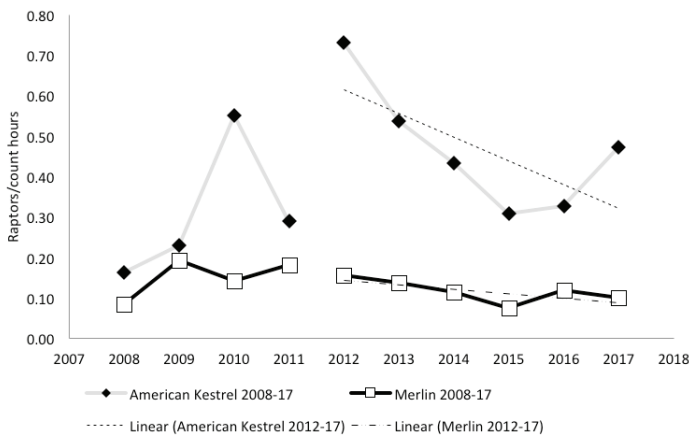
The count of 87 **Red-shouldered Hawks** was a huge jump over last year and almost three times the 9-year average (32). The peak flight days were November 4 (same as Pack) and November 7 when 18 were counted on each day. The 2012-17 trend line is negative. The 224 **Red-tailed Hawks** was more than the previous year and well ahead of the 9-year average. The annual pattern mirrors the “every three years” cycle we see at Pack Monadnock (see above) and the 2012-17 trend line is negative. A single **Rough-legged Hawk** was seen this year on November 14.

Five **Golden Eagles** were seen this season which sets a new single season record for this count site. Four of them were seen in one day (November 7) which has to be a first for any New Hampshire hawkwatch site.

The 242 **American Kestrels** was a nice jump over last year and well ahead of the 9-year average. The 2012-17 trend line is strongly negative (Figure 6). The **Merlin** count of 51 was down compared to last year and slightly below the 9-year average. The declining trend (Figure 6) is surprising, given that this species is increasing as a breeder in the state and shows a positive trend at Pack Monadnock. The **Peregrine Falcon** count (21) was almost identical to last year and

right about the 9-year average, but the 2012-17 trend line is strongly negative.

Figure 6. American Kestrels and Merlins per hour (2008-2017) at Carter Hill Raptor Migration Observatory, NH, with linear trend lines for 2012-2017.



### Data Source

HawkCount.org. Online raptor migration database of the Hawk Migration Association of North America.  
 NorthEast Hawk Watch 2016 Hawk Migration Report.

*Iain MacLeod is Executive Director of the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center in Holderness, NH and is on the Board of NorthEast Hawk Watch and former board chair of the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA). Iain founded the Pack Monadnock Raptor Migration Observatory in 2004 and has studied raptors (particularly Ospreys) for 37+ years. Iain is a member of the New Hampshire Bird Records Editorial Team and NH Rare Birds Committee. He lives in Ashland.*



Red-tailed Hawk by Debra Powers.

## Western Wood-Pewee on Star Island!

by Greg Tillman



Western Wood-Pewee by Eric Masterson, 10-1-17, Star Island, Isles of Shoals, NH.

On the weekend of September 30 and October 1 in 2017, Eric Masterson led a group that I was lucky enough to be part of – Star Island’s last program of the year, fall birding. Star Island can be cold, windy, and barren in the fall and that Saturday was blustery and overcast; however, we managed to find a nice collection of birds, including American Oystercatcher, Black-billed Cuckoo, some migrating warblers, and at least two Eastern Wood-Pewees. Late-fall flycatchers are always worth pausing over, although many are dismayingly silent, but as far as anyone could tell, our pewees were simply two Eastern Wood-Pewees. (Reviewing photos later seemed to confirm that, but still....)

In a pleasant turn of weather, Sunday dawned sunny and almost warm, the island was reasonably full of birds and it was a beautiful day to be birding. Looking for new species that may have arrived overnight and seeing what had departed is one of the charms of birding Star Island, but initially, it looked like we had many of the same birds that we’d seen on Saturday, including the two pewees. We thought.

All the birds were a little more vocal on Sunday (maybe they liked the weather too) and by mid-morning, Eric began to pause over a pewee singing from the pines. As the morning progressed, the bird remained eminently cooperative and continued to sing. Eric and the group began to wonder if “yesterday’s” pewees had moved on and “today’s” pewee was a little different. Encouraged by Eric, all of us began looking, and listening, and photographing, and recording. Pretty soon we began speculating, too. “Does it sound like...?” “Is it...?” “Do you think it might be...?”

Well, it did, and it sure seemed as if it was. We had ourselves a **Western** Wood-Pewee!

After much consulting of field guides and review of audio

recordings, most of us were pretty confident by day's end, but you don't want to claim a state record lightly. Eric facilitated some confirmation discussions; dozens of photographs were shared with multiple experts, amateur and professional; plumages were discussed; and emails "flew" back and forth. Audio recordings were exchanged and listened to and discussed some more. Eventually, consensus emerged; we had documented the first Western Wood-Pewee confirmed in New Hampshire!

"Confirmed" is a key word, of course. Vagrant flycatchers are not uncommon in the fall, but vagrant pewees are not often found. The differences between Eastern and Western Wood-Pewees are slight (to say the least), and a combination of luck, opportunity, skill, and lots of documentation identified this bird. Some of that documentation was audio recording, which is a relatively new and really interesting sub-field of birding. (There's a whole Facebook group dedicated to nocturnal flight calls!)

We could record this bird singing, in part, because Star Island is small and we had nowhere else to go! If I pass a silent pewee on the mainland this October, will I wait for it to sing? Follow it around? And if it sings an interesting song, will I have recording equipment with me?

Finding a rare bird like this was tremendous fun, but another reason I like birding is the back stories: the stories of migration, and behavior, and evolution. In the vast avian genetic continuum, linked over time back to the dinosaurs and before, why is there even such a thing as a Western Wood-Pewee? Speculating on speciation is where evolution meets some experimental limits, but some authorities consider Eastern and Western Wood-Pewees as part of a superspecies, along with the Tropical Pewee; three genetically similar but geographically separated species.

It seems least plausible that the separation of eastern and western is part of a long story of geology and continental drift; the Rockies pushing up, creating the rain shadow that formed the Great Plains, ultimately separating two populations of pewees and leading to two different species. I love the idea that twenty or so birders were on Star Island and excited about a cryptic brown bird because of genetic variation ultimately driven by the geologic history of the earth itself.

As we think about that perspective, let's mention one more perspective. October is getting towards the end of migration season for pewees in New Hampshire. This bird had already flown east instead of south. Was it a first year bird? A recovering parent? For this individual bird, its evolutionary history, its record-setting status, and a group of very excited birders were all irrelevant. For this bird, the life story of its fall migration was in progress. We sampled just a few hours of that story. Bon voyage.

*Greg is a longtime birder with an uninteresting day job who moved to New Hampshire in 2000. He confines his twitching to New Hampshire mostly, and likes birding his local patch in Epping. He enjoys seeing charismatic avian megafauna with his spouse Siobhan, and little brown jobs by himself, whenever he can.*

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## Common Shelduck in New Hampshire

by Ben Griffith



*Common Shelduck by Jason Lambert, 9-8-17, Rye, NH.*

On August 13, Heather Burns photographed an unusual "duck" feeding in the saltmarsh pools south of Odiorne Point State Park in Rye, NH. Thanks to the American Birding Association's Facebook page, the bird was determined to be a juvenile Common Shelduck (*Tadorna tadorna*), a European species that, as an adult, superficially resembles an overgrown mallard with a metallic green head and a chestnut breast. The similarities end there, however, as the remainder of its body is white with black and chestnut markings on its wings and a bright pink bill. The Rye shelduck wasn't quite so bright with a bubblegum-colored bill and a dusky gray head. Wild individuals of this species have never been documented in New Hampshire, so the record wasn't met with much fanfare, as shelducks are relatively popular in waterfowl collections and the species is certainly known to be kept in New Hampshire. In addition, mid-August isn't really known as a time for waterfowl migration.

Unsurprisingly, the near unanimous initial reaction to this bird seemed to be skepticism about it being a naturally occurring vagrant. However, evidence began to mount suggesting that maybe that wasn't the case. By the time the bird disappeared, so had much of the skepticism. What follows is a summary of the evidence in support of Common Shelducks, and this bird in particular, as wild vagrants.

## Migratory Behavior

Although some Common Shelducks remain on their breeding grounds year-round, the species has a well-documented mid-summer migration, in which most adults depart their breeding grounds to molt in the North Sea between late July and August. Although juveniles do not take part in this migration, they are independent and likely disperse from their breeding grounds. Shelducks continue to disperse from September through November, and again in April and May. Common Shelduck records in the Northeast are more widely distributed throughout the year than many other waterfowl, but perhaps that's unsurprising given their broader migratory period than most ducks and geese.

## Changes in Status and Distribution

There has been a gradual colonization of Common Shelduck in Iceland, with breeding having taken place since at least the 1990s and over 50 breeding pairs noted since 2010. Details of the migratory behavior of this population are poorly known, but most of birds appear to depart during the winter months. As the Icelandic population has increased, there has been an increase in reports from northeastern North America, with reports becoming more frequent farther north and east. Part of this increase in records may stem from an increased interest in reporting presumed exotics or a general increase in reporting, but this increase has been dramatically less noticeable throughout the rest of the country. The presence of free-flying juveniles in North America was unknown prior to a single record in August, 1984. Common Shelduck in this plumage went unreported until 2014, when another juvenile was reported, again in August.



An adult Common Shelduck in an aviary by Ben Griffith.

## Potential For Captive Origin

Although this species is regularly kept in captivity, most waterfowl breeders pinion and either band or remove the hind toes of captive birds prior to their reaching flight age.

Notably, none of the juveniles (and as far as the author knows, none of the birds reported in northeastern North America) have shown any definitive signs of captive origin. Additionally, there is no evidence that the increase in sightings in the Northeast corresponds with an increase in the captive population. Although these birds have generally been reported from the same region of the continent, sightings are widespread within that region, but concentrated coastally and in the St. Lawrence Valley.

## Additional Sightings August – September 2017

Perhaps the single most convincing piece of evidence for the wild origin of the Rye shelduck was the presence of a second juvenile Common Shelduck reported from the St. Lawrence Valley of New York, approximately 200 miles northwest of Rye on August 9, 2017. The bird was reported again on August 13, the same day the Rye bird was discovered, eliminating the possibility of a single bird. There was an additional sighting of a juvenile shelduck (photographed) in Pennsylvania three days after the Rye bird disappeared. Although one can contrive a circumstance where two juvenile shelducks would escape and end up 200 miles apart and be discovered within four days of each other, it certainly seems simpler to accept these birds as wild vagrants.

## Summary

There is an emerging pattern of Common Shelduck records in late summer and early fall in northeastern North America. The frequency and pattern of these records are not explained well by potential escapees, especially given the lack of any concrete evidence that any of the records represent birds of captive origin. At the same time, an increasing population in Iceland provides a reasonable alternative and presently seems like the most likely source for the majority of Northeastern records. In light of this evidence, the American Birding Association and the American Ornithological Society have both recently added the species to the *Checklist of North American Birds* as a naturally occurring vagrant to North America.

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# Fall 2017 Field Notes

Compiled by Kathryn Frieden

## Return of the Leucistic Chipping Sparrow

by Dylan Jackson



Note the white cheek and forehead of this Chipping Sparrow photographed on 9-12-16 by Dylan Jackson at Carter Hill Orchard in Concord, NH.



The identical leucistic markings are unmistakable in this photo taken 9-13-17 by a surprised Dylan Jackson, again at Carter Hill Orchard.

On September 13, I helped the folks at Carter Hill Orchard in Concord by being a stand-in counter at their hawkwatch platform for most of the day. Before the count began, I walked around parts of the orchard to search for migrant passerines. Warblers were few and far between, but I did find a few first-of-fall Lincoln's Sparrows.

The most exciting find was when I came upon the same leucistic Chipping Sparrow that I had found last year in the same exact spot. Not only that, but the date was exactly one year and one day later! What a bizarre discovery!

*Dylan should definitely check out Carter Hill Orchard again mid-September 2018. – Ed.*

## One Bird Leads to Another – Birding by Behavior

by Susan Wrisley

In the past couple of years, I have become very interested in the concept of birding by behavior, since knowing a bird's

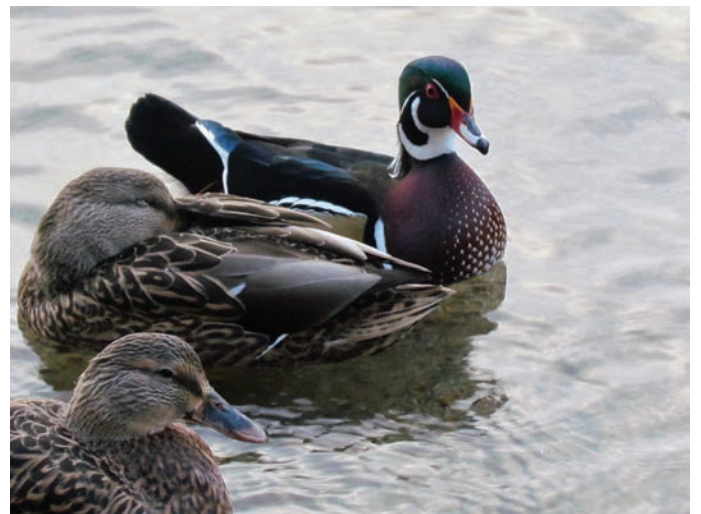
behavior can help find it or identify it. It recently occurred to me, however, that one bird's behavior can be used to help locate a different bird.

In early October, Steve Bennett and I set out to see if we could relocate a Short-eared Owl that Steve Mirick found earlier that day at Hampton Harbor. It didn't take long for us to realize that the owl had flown off. We knew that Short-eared Owls prefer low-light for hunting when not in breeding season and typically roost during the day, so we planned to return near dusk for another look.

We returned as the sun was starting to go down and began scanning the marsh. My excitement soared as a raptor finally appeared, but the brilliant white patch on its rump said Northern Harrier, not Short-eared Owl. Steve and I discussed how we often see harriers and "shorties" appear together at dusk and attempt to drive each other out of the area. With this in mind, I said to Steve, "I'm going to stay on the harrier because it's going to lead us to the shorty." As Steve continued scanning, I continued watching the harrier. A minute or two later, it dove at the ground and another bird popped up. We put the scope on them and sure enough, it was a shorty and a harrier tangling over the marsh, just as we had predicted! It was knowledge of the harrier's behavior that led to our success in finding the Short-eared Owl.

## Wood Duck Who Thinks He's a Mallard

by Kathryn Frieden



Roger Frieden photographed this friendly Wood Duck swimming with his Mallard pals on 10-22-17 at Echo Lake, Franconia, NH.

One of our family traditions is to go birding on my birthday, October 23. So on October 22, my husband Roger and I headed north in order to be able to get to Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge, our chosen location for 2017, early the next morning. On the way north, we stopped at Franconia Notch State Park, mainly to look for the Redhead that Kyle Wilmarth had reported during the

previous week, but also because it is a great place to enjoy both beautiful scenery and wonderful New England fall weather. As we walked toward Echo Lake, we noticed a group of eight Mallards sitting at the side of the trail. They stood up and with a lot of quacking, started waddling down toward the water. That was when we realized that one of the Mallards was actually a male Wood Duck! Instead of immediately taking off to a distant part of the lake as Wood Ducks typically do, he ignored us and hopped into the lake along with the Mallards. They swam around the shallow water in front of us, presumably hoping to be fed. They stayed roughly in pairs, and the Wood Duck seemed to be paired with one of the female Mallards. They swam together and even did some head-tilting and preening behaviors. According to the *Birds of North America Online*, there is little information about the interspecies behaviors of Wood Ducks, but they do tend to associate with Mallards when they aren't competing for feeding territories. Mallard x Wood Duck hybrids can be found among captive birds, but none are documented in the wild. We did not find the Redhead, but we did enjoy our closest and most extended view of a Wood Duck ever!

## Dark-eyed Junco with Wing Bars

by Kathryn Frieden



Kyle Wilmarth took this photo of a Dark-eyed Junco on 11-12-17 near Plaice Cove in Hampton.

The Dark-eyed Junco is found throughout North America and has at least six different populations that differ in the color and contrast of head and body plumage. The most widespread is the Slate-colored form, which is the one found in the eastern United States. According to the *Birds of North America Online*, about 3% of these individuals will have weak white wing-bars. The wing bars in this photo are fairly prominent, which is more rare, according to *The Sibley Guide to Birds*. There is also a White-winged form that breeds in the Black Hills of South Dakota and has limited range. It is the largest of all the Dark-eyed Juncos and can be differentiated by its overall paler gray color.

## Peregrine Attack!

by Robert Quinn



These dramatic photos were taken on 10-8-17 by Steve Mirick while birding on the coast with Jane Mirick and Becky Suomala. They were watching shorebirds at the Hampton Saltmarsh when, according to Steve's post in NH Birds, "a peregrine came out of nowhere and nabbed a yellowlegs!" Quite an exciting moment for even the most experienced birders!

## Hermit Thrush Nests Two Feet Apart!

by Phil Brown

On August 1, 2017, as I was preparing to meet a conservation crew that would be camping at NH Audubon's Willard Pond Wildlife Sanctuary in Antrim, I was informed by a volunteer about a ground-nesting bird that was discovered in weedy vegetation in the camping area. This was somewhat surprising initially, as the date was August 1 and it seemed late for most songbirds to be caring for young in nests. The bird was initially described as a robin, but when I learned it was on the ground, I knew it had to be a closely-related thrush; egg color was probably the reason for the confusion on the part of the volunteer.

Sure enough, upon closer inspection, I peered into the remnant vegetation (that was left unmowed for the sake of the nesting bird) to find an adult Hermit Thrush nervously sitting on a small cup nest. The volunteer had briefly mentioned another, inactive, nest in this area, but I had assumed the nest had been destroyed already. However, as I took another close look to determine the stage of nesting by the thrush, I noticed **another** nest, this one with two blue eggs. The nest was approximately two feet from the active Hermit Thrush nest and appeared to be identical in construction. I recognized the eggs to be those of a thrush and, from watching the nest later on, it did appear to be abandoned. In discussing this with other birders, it appears likely that the Hermit Thrush failed in its nesting attempt with the nest containing two eggs, then rebuilt (perhaps a new male/female involved) for some reason in nearly the

same spot! It defies logic, somewhat, why a nesting failure would lead to nesting in almost the exact same spot...but only the birds know the answer to that.

At one point during my initial observation, a Pickerel Frog leapt from the grassy vegetation at my feet and landed directly on the adult Hermit Thrush! The adult immediately left the nest, probably thinking it had just had a brush with death! I was then able to see three small nestlings that appeared to be no more than a day or two old. Cautiously monitoring the nest site over the next two weeks, I observed the nestlings grow and on August 10 found what appeared to be two large, speckled nestlings. When I next checked the nest on August 15, they were gone. I suspect they were able to fly shortly after my previous observation, so hopefully they survived to adulthood. Perhaps a later nesting season translates into later fall departures for this species (there were ample sightings of Hermit Thrush in November).

## Pondicherry Experiences Bombogenesis

by Kathryn Frieden

Many people probably remember the major wind storm that blew across New England on October 29, 2017, which introduced the word “bombogenesis” to our vocabulary. One of the major effects of the storm was the number of trees that were destroyed. Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in Jefferson/Whitefield was significantly affected, which in turn, has an impact on habitat for birds and other wildlife. Visitors to the area may certainly notice the difference, both in scenery and bird species.

On November 2, 2017 David Govatski posted the following to the NH Birds email list:

The 8 miles of trails at the Pondicherry NWR in Jefferson and Whitefield suffered extensive blowdowns from the Sunday wind storm. Volunteers and a USFWS forester are working on reopening the trails for public access. The Mud Pond Trail is now fully reopened. The Rail Trail from Airport Road to Cherry Pond is fully open for walking or bicycles. We are working on reopening the Rail Trail to Route 115A and are almost to Slide Brook. The Little Cherry Pond Trail was extensively damaged and is closed with hundreds of blowdowns and it is even hard to find the route in places. The national champion black spruce was a casualty and is uprooted. The Mooseway Trail section near the LCP trail is closed.

On Cherry Pond today there were 12 White-winged Scoters and 1 Pied-billed Grebe. The sound of chain saws is not the best way to find birds. We will get the trails fixed!

David updated their extensive work at Pondicherry with the following post on November 6, 2017:

There was one loon and 12 Ring-necked Ducks on Cherry Pond on Monday morning. Visibility was not good in the light rain that was falling and there were a lot of other waterfowl further out on the pond. We had two three-person saw crews that were able to reopen both the Little Cherry Pond Trail and the Mooseway Trail. Our four helpers came from AmeriCorps and were essential to getting the trail reopened. We had about 90 trees to cut through. The forest between Cherry and Little Cherry Ponds looks considerably different now but disturbance is something forests deal with, as will this spruce-fir forest. The habitat will change and be favorable for different wildlife species, for example, snowshoe hare will benefit.

Thank you to David Govatski, Kevin and Joanne Jones, and to all the other dedicated volunteers who worked so hard to restore the trails of Pondicherry!

## Construction at the Exeter Wastewater Treatment Plant

by Kathryn Frieden



*The Exeter WTP under construction. Photo by Rebecca Suomala.*

On May 23, 2017, Steve Mirick posted to the NH Birds email list that the Exeter WTP was closed to birders until further notice. He had been called by the director of the Public Works Department of Exeter because the presence of heavy equipment on site presented safety concerns. Subsequently, the ban was relaxed on weekends provided no work was going on. When Steve visited the WTP on August 26 for the first time in several months he noted in a follow-up post:

Ponds #4 and #5 will never be the same again and the ‘center island’ of forest is no longer. But, the birds still come to visit, and most noteworthy,

Pond #3 is drawn down and had a lot of shorebirds, highlighted by a Buff-breasted Sandpiper!

Ponds #4 and #5 were closest to the buildings and used to have lots of cattails around them. It remains to be seen what the final result will be when the renovations are completed, but there will certainly be some changes in bird sightings over the long term; and in the short term, many fewer reports from Exeter WTP can be expected.

If anyone has good photos of the “scenery” at the WTP before the construction began, please send them to *New Hampshire Bird Records* (birdrecords@nhaudubon.org). We would like to compile a before-and-after comparison to help document any change in bird sightings. Becky Suomala has noted that, in uploading *New Hampshire Bird Records’* historic bird reports into eBird, there are locations that once had many great sightings, but no longer have any reports. Documenting changes in New Hampshire birding locations may be very helpful for future researchers. As Becky said, “Who would have imagined we’d be looking at this data 30 years later and trying to find places like ‘The Metal Shop’ in Hampton Falls, wondering why there are no longer shorebirds there?” Fortunately there are still active birders with this historical memory (and yes, we found ‘The Metal Shop’), but documenting changes is always a good idea.

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## Field Trip Report

### Alice Bemis Thompson Wildlife Sanctuary Big Sit

by Phil Brown

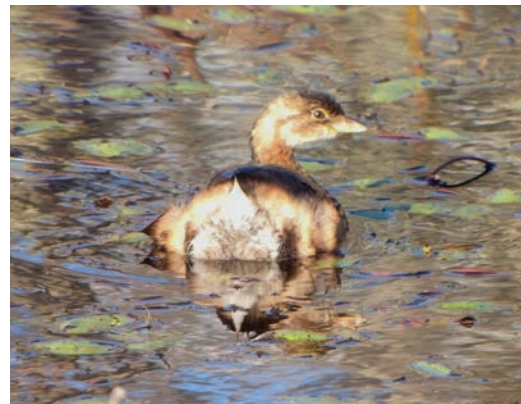


From left to right, Chris Bensley, Robert Ridgely, and Ken Klapper (co-leader) at the inaugural Big Sit, 10-8-17. Photo by co-leader Phil Brown.

The inaugural Big Sit was conducted at the new Ridgely Observation Platform of NH Audubon’s Thompson Wildlife Sanctuary in Sandwich on October 8, 2017. The platform, 12’x10’ in size, was constructed by NH Audubon last fall and formally dedicated to Dr. Beverly (father) and Dr. Robert (son) Ridgely, who put Thompson “on the map”

for its birdlife. The platform and trail leading to it is ADA-accessible for people with physical disabilities and enables the public to enjoy a spectacular view of the Sandwich Range of the White Mountains and the Ossipee Mountains, a tremendous view of surrounding wetland habitats, and a rich diversity of plant and animal life. For the past several years as we constructed the trail and boardwalk, I had pictured the platform serving as an excellent Big Sit location, much as the Tudor Richards platform is at the Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge.

NH Audubon seasonal naturalist Ken Klapper and I represented the organization for the day. We arrived at 6:15 am to the sound of Wilson’s Snipe calling as they flew about the marsh. Our major bird excitement occurred within 15 minutes of our arrival when the silhouetted form of a large owl drifted across the sky. The size, shape, and behavior of this bird told us it was not the expected Barred or Great Horned Owl, but rather, an Asio owl, very likely a Short-eared Owl!



One of two Pied-billed Grebes that were very cooperative and offered great views during the Big Sit. Photo by Phil Brown.

By 7:00 am, we had 22 species of birds including American Bittern and several ducks, as well as resident and migratory songbirds. By 8:00 am our list stood at an impressive 35 with Sora, Pied-billed Grebe, and Rusty Blackbird highlighting the hour. Our first visitor and birder, David Forsyth, joined us during this time until heavy rain chased us all away around 9:30. Robert and Peg Ridgely offered us shelter, coffee and cake at their home and we returned an hour later when the rain let up a bit, adding Red Crossbill fairly quickly.

After a slow and drizzly couple of hours, we had a turn of luck just past noon when a Ring-billed Gull flew by. In a matter of just a few minutes, we then added Sharp-shinned Hawk and our first of three or more Merlins that would keep us company much of the remainder of the day. Many visitors enjoyed seeing a Merlin in the scope as well as looking down at one of the two Pied-billed Grebes that would quietly bask in the open water close to the platform. These were our two “mascot” species for the afternoon and the best seen by many observers.

Another high point came when a family from south of Boston appeared on the platform and another three species were added in rapid succession (as seems often to be the case on Big Sit days, especially following dry spells for birds). A nice close Osprey flew right over us, giving the family good looks, and the two boys in the group were so excited by birds that they wanted to come back the next day. Herring Gulls and our only look at a Great Blue Heron then followed. Not long after that, there was another surprise bird. A long-winged shorebird flew in from the north and circled around the marsh, calling and giving us good looks. It turned out to be a Pectoral Sandpiper, an unusual but regular inland migrant during October.

The sun overtook the low clouds during the two o'clock hour and opened up the floodgates of visitors too. A steady stream of hikers (many of whom were at the nearby Sandwich Fair and visiting from out of town) came out to enjoy the view and learn about what we were doing. Local birders, Robert Ridgely, Tony Vazzano, and Susan Wiley joined us for a bit, as did Kate Thompson and other relatives of the Thompson family whose name was bestowed upon the sanctuary several decades ago. It was a very enjoyable and social afternoon and we accomplished the additional goal of public outreach during these pleasant hours, when many of the 73 total visitors came through.

As the sky began to grow dark, we awaited our 50th species – a milestone on a Big Sit – and were rewarded as both #50 (American Black Duck) and #51 (Green-winged Teal) came in to a waterfowl roost in the marsh that was dominated by Wood Ducks. It was a memorable scene as mist lifted over the water with ducks flying in against the backdrop of the Sandwich Range, finally out in its full glory for the first time all day. We called it quits just after 6:45 pm, making for a 12.5 hour day at the platform.



Fall at the Thompson Wildlife Sanctuary boardwalk by Phil Brown.

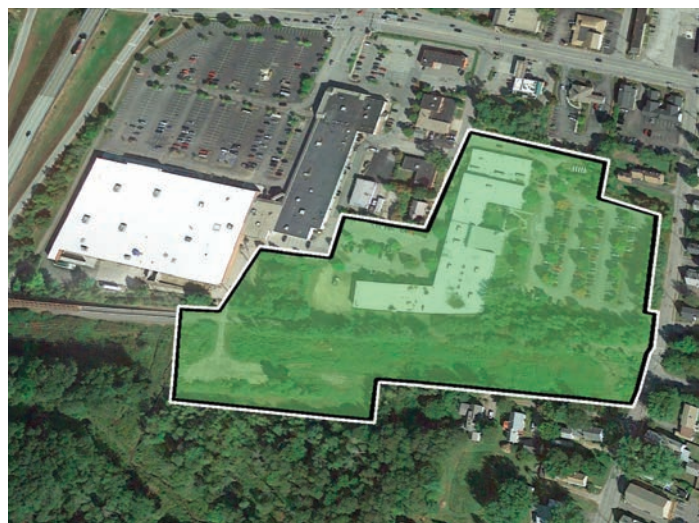
The 2018 Thompson Wildlife Sanctuary Big Sit will be held on October 7. Plan to drop by!

## Antioch Bird Club's First Annual Fall Birdathon a Success

by Chad Witko

On September 11, 2017, the Antioch Bird Club held its first annual Fall Birdathon fundraiser at Antioch University New England (AUNE) in Keene. The goal of the event was to raise funds for the Antioch Bird Club and to increase awareness on campus of the diversity of bird species that pass through our urban university during any given day. The event started just before dawn at 4:51 am and lasted until just after sunset, ending at 7:30 pm. All birding was conducted at the eBird hotspot for the school, which is within the natural property boundary of the campus as well as the adjacent bike path and powerline cut that directly borders the campus to the south (-9.5 acres, Figure 1).

Figure 1. Antioch Birding Area. Birding efforts were restricted to Antioch University New England's eBird hotspot, affectionately dubbed by club members as the "Antioch Birding Area." This area is comprised of the AUNE campus and the bike path and powerline cut immediately to the south.



During the course of the event, five intrepid birders contributed 50-man hours detecting a total of 41 species. This included 1 new species for the property (Pine Warbler), which increased the eBird hotspot total to 103 species, tying it for 15th in Cheshire County (all time). The peak of observations occurred between 4:51 and 7:15 am when a full 25 species were observed. Mid-day saw the total stalled at 35 species for several hours before a push of activity during the final hour yielded the remaining species.

Highlights included: 2 Great Blue Herons (flyovers), 6 Broad-winged Hawks (mid-day flyovers), 18 Common Nighthawk (first observed at 5:33 pm), 2 Swainson's Thrush (pre-dawn flyovers), a Brown Thrasher (last bird of the day in fading light along the bike path), 4 Tennessee Warblers (all seen well at low heights), 2 Northern Parula, 2 Magnolia Warblers, a Pine Warbler (campus first), 2 Wilson's Warblers, a Scarlet Tanager, and 3 House Sparrow (the hardest species

to get; not observed until 6:02 pm!).

For the full list, please visit ebird:

<http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S39141277>



*The 2017 Antioch Bird Club Birdathon Group included Steven Lamonde (left) and Chad Witko (second from right) who were joined by some surprise visitors during the late afternoon hours including Jess Meck (AUNE Conservation Biology student), and Sam Jaffe of the Caterpillar Lab.*

While we surpassed our target for bird species on the day (40), we fell just shy of our fundraising goal of \$10 per species in combined pledges, ending with \$8.10 per species. Nevertheless, we are thrilled for the campus-wide support of our small student-run club from students and faculty alike. We are also content in knowing that our birding efforts on campus for one day raised critical funding to help the club with future endeavors including birding field trips for graduate students, the maintenance of our beloved feeder system (and seed!), and habitat enhancement on campus to give breeding, migrating, and wintering birds a small, yet critical patch of habitat in a predominantly urbanized environment.

## Seabirds, Whales, and Ales!

*by Phil Brown*

On August 23, 2017, NH Audubon offered a slightly different type of field trip that paired birds with beer! “Seabirds, Whales, and Ales” was launched with much fanfare as a van full of participants departed the McLane Center in Concord bright and early for the NH Seacoast.

Steve Mirick and I guided the group of 13 around local hotspots during the morning hours in search of shorebirds and other coastal specialties such as the Night-Heron roost in Seabrook, which had both a juvenile Yellow-crowned and up to nine Black-crowneds. The Baird’s Sandpiper that Steve found on Foss Beach yielded stunning looks at close range from the rocks above the beach where it fed. “Henry’s Pool” produced an excellent selection of shorebirds including nice

comparisons of both yellowlegs, and single Pectoral and Solitary Sandpipers. Cross Beach Road was full of Tree and some Bank Swallows and still had a lingering Purple Martin near the nest boxes.



*A Baird's Sandpiper was one of the birding highlights of the trip. Photo by Dyanna Smith.*

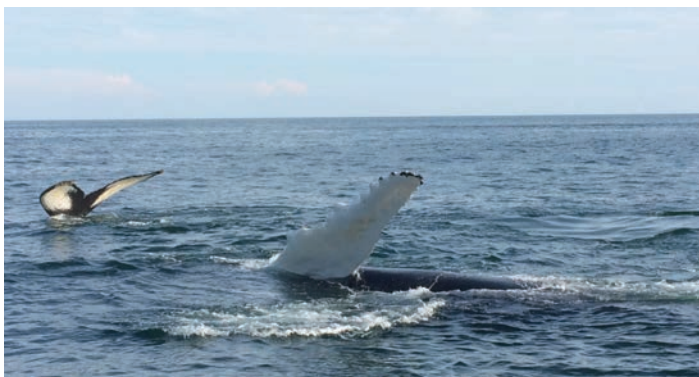
Then, it was on to the beer! Smuttynose Brewery in Hampton was the chosen location and a natural fit for a NH Audubon group for several reasons. The brewery is a LEED-Gold certified facility (one of just three such breweries in the country). NH Audubon’s McLane Center headquarters was the first LEED-Gold building in New Hampshire. Birder and longtime Seacoast Chapter member Paul Lacourse, who works at Smuttynose, gives an excellent tour. And last, but not least, the beer is good! The group enjoyed Paul’s informative tour about beer brewing and some of the sustainability features of the facility before a brief sampling session. This was followed up with an enjoyable sit-down meal at Smuttynose Brewery’s Hayseed Restaurant.



*The group enjoys beverages and a meal at the Hayseed Restaurant. Photo by Dyanna Smith.*

Due to stormy seas from a passing cold front the evening before, the morning whalewatch that the group was scheduled to go on was cancelled. Thankfully, the afternoon Granite State Whale Watch was on and the seas had calmed.

In fact, we couldn't have asked for a better whalewatch experience; the whales and seabirds put on a stellar show! There were several highlights in each category: pods of Atlantic White-sided Dolphins ripping across the surface of the water in every direction (one large group contained over 200 individuals!); a Humpback Whale and calf feeding alongside the boat for some time; a feeding frenzy of Northern Gannets cruising and diving all around the boat; Wilson's Storm-Petrels, Great Shearwaters, and Red-necked Phalaropes in good numbers and viewed under optimal conditions; plus a couple of Black Terns far offshore. Steve got to share the mic with the Blue Ocean Society narrators, so he was able to call out birds and provide seabird lessons to everyone aboard! Upon docking back in Rye Harbor, there were smiles all around. The fresh ocean air and scenery, life birds seen by many, newfound camaraderie between participants sharing common interests, and all the memories (and photographs) made for a fun and informative day.



*A Humpback Whale and its calf feeding close to the Granite State providing great views for everyone.*

It was easy to see how craft beer and birding pair so well! As always, stay tuned for the NH Audubon printed and electronic media for field trip offerings.

## Where Were All the Birds?

by Pam Hunt

Perhaps the most frequent call to NH Audubon (and to partners such as NH Fish and Game) in the fall of 2017 had to do with the question, "Why are there no birds around?" The query generally came from diligent feeder watchers who were somewhat dismayed at the relative absence of stalwarts like chickadees and finches at their feeders. It was repeated on email lists, perhaps even muttered in the streets, and, in all cases, there was a pervasive sense of concern. Had some new disease emerged to wreak havoc on our native songbirds? Did it have anything to do with the intense hurricane season? People were genuinely worried.

Those of us out tromping through the woods and fields weren't generally seeing the same avian absences, although

for some species (particularly warblers, but that's a separate story) numbers were lower than expected. We also saw something else; an exceptional autumn food crop. Spruce and pines were literally weighed down with cones in some areas, fruiting shrubs were heavy with berries, acorns bounced off of cars, and even weedy species produced exceptional seed crops. The season was also relatively mild, which could have resulted in higher numbers of insects than usual. Birds had ready access to all these food sources and, as a result, were probably less likely to visit the feeders in our yards. This, plus the possibility that the warmer-than-average temperatures had resulted in many migrants lingering in the north, was the answer that we usually gave to members of the public.

But it's always safe to have some data to back you up, and to that end I turned to my long-running "Penacook Survey Route," a 10 km (6.5 mi) walk established in August 2005 and surveyed once a week. The route passes through a mix of forest, wetland, low density housing, a couple of condo complexes, and along a river. It probably provides as good a representation as any of the timing and abundance of birds over the course of a year in the interior of New Hampshire, so I dug into the data to see how the fall of 2017 compared to previous years.

Table 1. Weekly abundance (Oct. 1 to Nov. 20) of 12 common feeder birds on the Penacook Survey Route, comparing 2017 to the average over the previous 12 years.

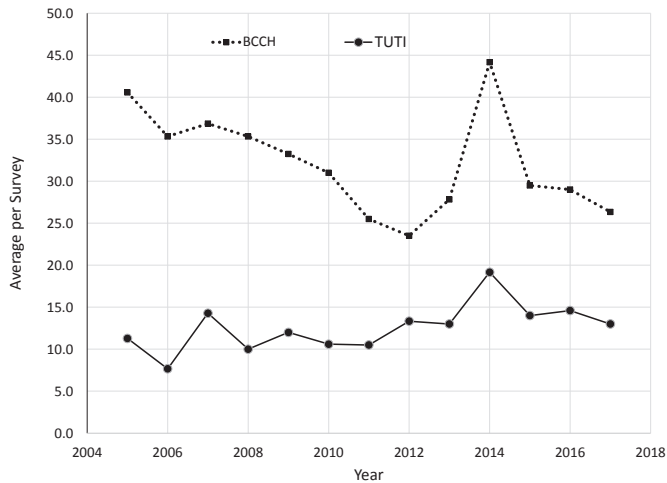
Species	2017	2005-2016	Lowest (year)	Highest (year)	General trend
Mourning Dove	5.83	6.4	2.2 (2013)	20.0 (2006)	Variable
Downy Woodpecker	5.67	5.41	3.7 (2005)	8.0 (2014)	Slow increase
Hairy Woodpecker	3.83	4.7	2.9 (2007)	6.2 (2010)	Stable
Blue Jay	19.17	20.31	13.2 (2013)	28.5 (2014)	Stable
Black-capped Chickadee	26.33	32.65	44.2 (2014)	23.5 (2012)	Slow decrease
Tufted Titmouse	13	12.54	7.7 (2006)	19.2 (2014)	Slow increase
White-breasted Nuthatch	7.5	8.43	4.3 (2006)	13.3 (2014)	Slow increase
White-throated Sparrow	30.33	37.31	10.0 (2016)	82.0 (2007)	Variable
Dark-eyed Junco	38.33	60.63	27.3 (2015)	127.9 (2007)	Variable
Northern Cardinal	6.83	7.06	5.3 (2005)	8.8 (2012)	Slow increase
House Finch	19.83	7.87	4.7 (2006)	19.8 (2017)	Increase
American Goldfinch	22.17	22.11	14.2 (2013)	26.7 (2005)	Stable

I extracted the data on 12 common birds for the last 13 falls, focusing on the period between Oct 1 and November 15. For each species, I calculated the average number of birds each year for that six week period and then plotted that number on a graph by year. I also calculated the average of the previous 12 years (I'll call it the long-term average) for direct comparison to 2017. The results of this exercise are summarized in Table 1 and the text and figures that follow it.

From this table, it appears that the abundance of most species in 2017 was not terribly different than that over the preceding 12 years. Sometimes they were a little less common, sometimes a little more common. The only species

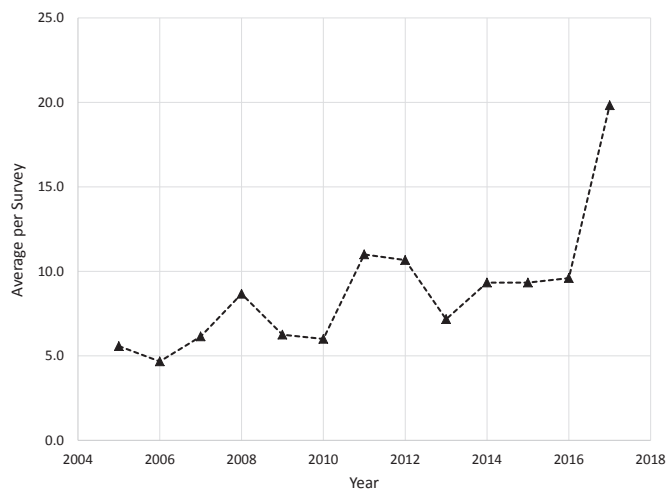
that appears to be showing a decline is the Black-capped Chickadee (Figure 1), and 2017 saw the third lowest average abundance on record for this species. The same was true for Hairy Woodpecker, although the long-term trend for that species is one of stability.

Figure 1. Annual fall abundance of Black-capped Chickadee (BCCH) and Tufted Titmouse (TUTI) on the Penacook Survey Route from 2005 to 2017. Note the general decline in the chickadee and increase in the titmouse. The chickadee peak in 2014 is probably the result of a strong migratory movement that fall. Although chickadees are generally non-migratory, large movements called irruptions occur irregularly and are usually comprised of young birds.



Among the other non-migratory species, Tufted Titmice (Figure 1), White-breasted Nuthatch, Downy Woodpecker, and Northern Cardinal are all increasing, albeit slightly. Also increasing is the non-native House Finch, which hit a record high in 2017 (Figure 2). This species is still recovering from a significant population crash due to Salmonella in the mid-1990s.

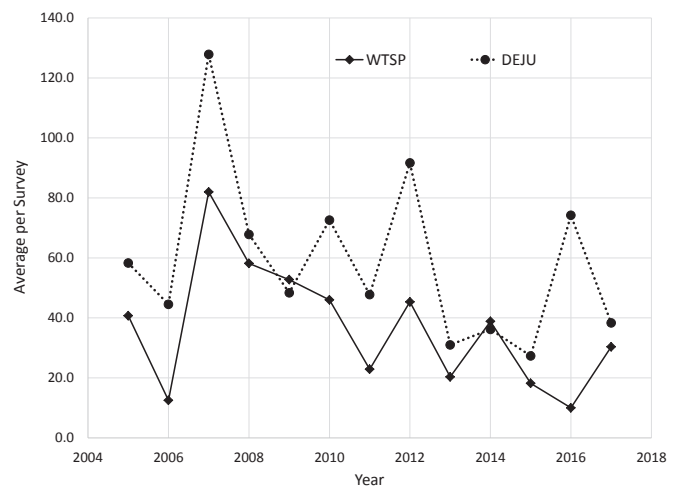
Figure 2. Annual fall abundance of House Finch on the Penacook Survey Route from 2005 to 2017.



The remaining five species in this analysis are at least partially migratory. Mourning Doves and Blue Jays move south in some years and not in others, with jays varying a lot

depending on acorn crops. Goldfinches show a pretty clear two-year cycle in winter data, but surprisingly this was not apparent in the fall data from Penacook. All three of these species also show a lot of variation that makes it difficult, if not foolhardy, to speculate on trends. Finally, we come to two common species that are primarily migrants in the area: White-throated Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco. Both are declining as breeding birds, a pattern evident in the fall data, although there remains a lot of inter-annual variation (Figure 3). These two species often seem to go up and down together, which may have something to do with food supplies during the fall.

Figure 3. Annual fall abundance of White-throated Sparrow (WTSP) and Dark-eyed Junco (DEJU) on the Penacook Survey Route from 2005 to 2017.



The main take-home message here is that most of our common feeder birds were not unusually scarce during the fall of 2017 and often just the opposite. Instead of visiting people’s feeders, they were out in the woods and fields feasting on abundant natural foods. As winter set in, some observers noted their birds returning, but in many cases still not to “expected” numbers. Chickadees, for example, remained a source of concern, but multiple sources of data suggested they were still out in the woods rather than at feeders. For instance, some birders noted them feeding on white pine seeds, not what one would consider typical chickadee fare. Then, of course, there were the juncos. After a fall in which they were relatively uncommon, they arrived with a vengeance by early December and set new record highs on Christmas Bird Counts.

But that’s a story for the next season.



# Dublin Birding Areas

by Tom Warren

Dublin, NH, the highest village in New England at 1,492 feet and located between Peterborough and Keene, offers a range of habitats from swamps, streams, ponds and lakes in addition to conifer forests and mixed hardwoods. Early ornithological observers included John Eliot Thayer and Henry David Thoreau as well as the former Executive Director of NH Audubon, Tudor Richards.

Mt. Monadnock offers spectacular views of autumn raptor migration, including specialties such as Golden Eagles and Peregrine Falcon. Breeding birds range from Virginia Rail and Spotted Sandpiper to many species of thrushes, vireos and warblers. There are herons, egrets and many waterfowl species.

## Mud Pond

This is an excellent site for Great Blue Heron, American Bittern, Virginia Rail, Osprey and Bald Eagle, as well as Swamp Sparrow, warblers such as Yellow Warbler and Common Yellowthroat, and Scarlet Tanager and Great Crested Flycatcher. In migration, there are several species of waterfowl to look for including Wood Duck and Green-winged Teal, among the more common species. Also look for otter and mink. It is located near the intersection of Routes 137 and 101. From Route 101, take Route 137 south and Mud Pond is a swampy wetland on your left. At the south end of the wetland on the left there is a pull off and a small boat launch area (just north of Goldmine Rd.) where you can walk along the shore.

## Monument Road

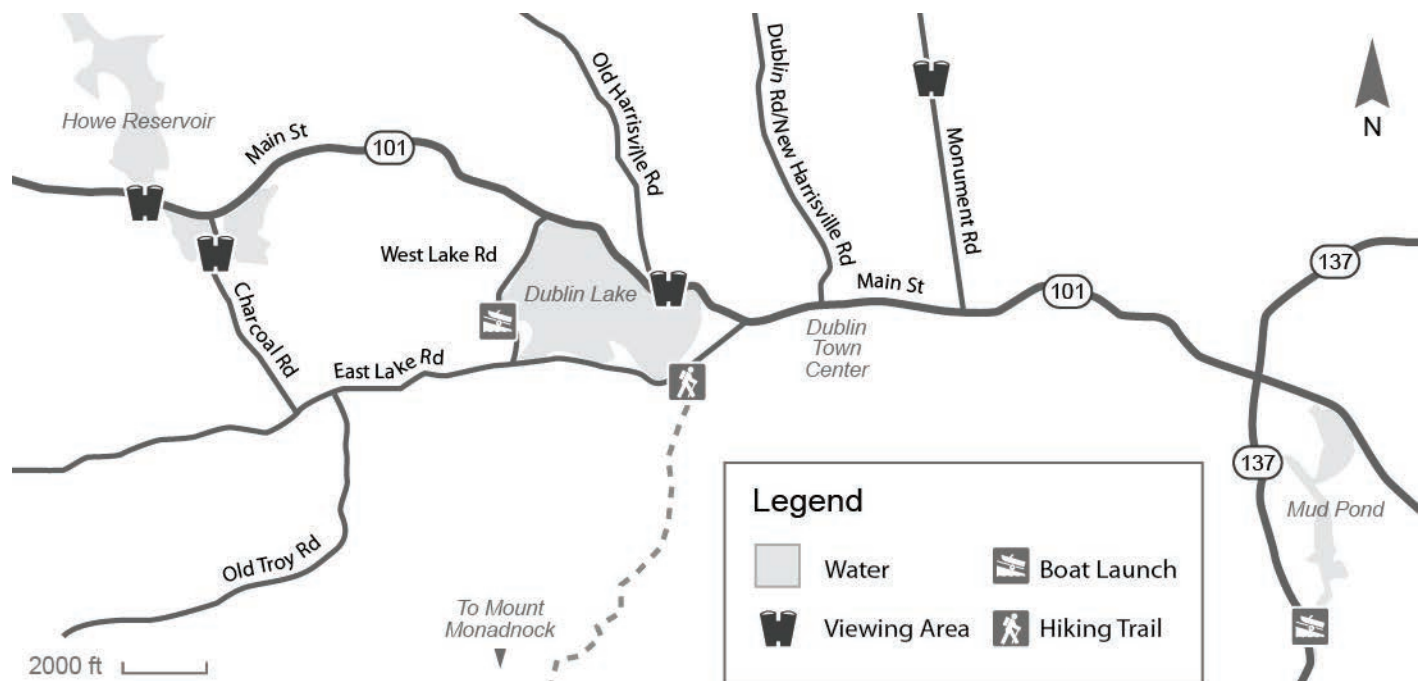
Back on Rt. 101, head west, and just before downtown Dublin, turn right (north) on Monument Rd. In about a mile, there is a beaver pond on the left, just past the powerlines. This is an excellent site for Wood Duck, Hooded Merganser and migrating ducks in fall and also, Barred Owl in the evening. Breeding birds include warblers, vireos, and both Alder and Willow Flycatcher.

## Dublin Lake

This large, deep, glacial lake is about one mile west of the Dublin town center. Route 101 goes along the north shore and there is a pullout on the south side of the road where you can park and view the lake. Coming from Dublin center, pass Old Harrisville Road on the right and go around a sharp curve. Watch for a gravel pullout on the left at the end of the guard rail with an opening to the lake. There is a second pullout area at the end of the next guard rail on the left. Park on the wide, gravel shoulder and walk about 50 feet through a band of trees to the lake.

There is also a boat launch on the western shore of the lake on West Lake Road. This provides an easy parking location with good views of the lake. It is possible to circumnavigate the lake for a variety of view points, but not all spots are appropriate for stopping. From Route 101, turn left (south) on East Lake Road (some maps show it as Lake Road) between Dublin center and Dublin Lake. Turn right on West Lake Road to reach the boat launch, which is just a short distance on the right opposite Mauran Lane. Continue north on West Lake Road to complete the circuit back to Rt. 101.

Look for Common Merganser and Hooded Merganser as well as migrating ducks in fall including all three scoters, scaup, Ring-necked Duck and possibly Ruddy Duck.



Common Loons are easily seen here as long as there is no ice. Several species of gulls are often observed as well as Bald Eagles and Ospreys.



*Common Loons by Roger Frieden.*

### **Howe Reservoir**

Continuing west on Route 101, about three miles west of Dublin center, watch for Charcoal Road to the south which bisects a part of Howe Reservoir. Once a brook, it is now a reservoir offering a range of ducks, herons, Osprey and Bald Eagles, as well as many warblers and thrushes on trails adjacent to the water. When the water is down in late fall (October-November), it becomes an excellent location for migrating shorebirds, including Greater Yellowlegs and Pectoral Sandpiper. In addition to Charcoal Road, there is a gravel pullout where you can park on the south side of Rt. 101 just west of Charcoal Road.

The main portion of Howe Reservoir, located on the north side of Route 101, can be viewed from a large, wide shoulder on the south (eastbound) side of the highway (or you can walk from the gravel pullout mentioned above). Common Mergansers congregate here in large groups up to 100 or so and other species of waterfowl, such as Common Goldeneye and Bufflehead, are often mixed in.

### **Local Hiking/Cross Country Skiing Trails**

These trails are located on lands conserved by the Society for the Protection of NH Forests, The Monadnock Conservancy and Dublin School.

### **Dublin School Ski Trails**

From Rt. 101, go north on Dublin Road/New Harrisville Road. Watch for signs for Dublin School cross-country ski trails. They are past the school, near the junction with Beech Hill Rd. They are open to the public and are good for woodland birding, either hiking in summer or skiing in winter.

### **Kennelly Forest, Charcoal Road**

See above for directions to Charcoal Rd. (Howe Reservoir). Drive south on Charcoal Road and watch for a sign on the right for the Kennelly Forest. Park on the road and follow a trail that goes all the way to Stone Pond in

Marlborough. There are generally good woodland birds all along the trail, with thrushes and warblers in season.

### **Old Troy Road**

This is an excellent area for crossbills, Pine Siskins, and redpolls in ancient Hemlock stands. From Dublin center, take Rt. 101 west, turn left on East Lake Rd, then continue straight on to Old Marlborough Rd. (West Lake Rd. goes right). Old Troy Rd. is on the left opposite the golf course. You can drive or walk about two miles of the road, watching and listening.



*Bobolink by Jim Sparrell*

### **Old Harrisville Road**

There are good fields on this road with both Bobolink and Eastern Meadowlark. Old Harrisville Road leaves Rt. 101, just west of Dublin center and opposite the east end of

Dublin Lake. Follow the road until you get to an area with open fields on both sides of the road, about 2-3 miles. Park your car along the road to observe the birds in the fields.

### **Mt. Monadnock, Pumpelly Trail**

This trail (4.5 miles to the summit) provides habitat for a wide range of nesting birds from warblers to thrushes, and also including Winter Wren, Common Raven, and Northern Goshawk for those intrepid hikers reaching Thoreau's Bog, high on the trail. The summit can be good in the fall for American Pipits, Snow Buntings and raptors. The trailhead is on East Lake Road less than a half mile from Rt. 101.

### **Dublin Trail**

The Dublin Trail, also known as the Farmer's Trail, is another excellent trail for breeding woodland birds in June. From Rt. 101, go south on East Lake Road for about a half mile. Park on the road. The trail goes off to the left (south). There are usually cars parked here.

For additional information on birding in this area see "Fall Migration on the Monadnock Region's Lakes and Ponds" by Phil Brown in the Fall 2009 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* (Vo. 28, No. 3).

*Tom Warren has been interested in birds since the age of three. He has guided bird walks and owl prowls, participated in annual Christmas Bird Counts and the Pack Monadnock Hawk Watch, and traveled to other migration areas. He is a NH Audubon Trustee and is committed to protecting birds and their habitats.*

# The Case of an Injured Crane – and How to Handle Injured Birds

by Kathryn Frieden



On 11-7-17, Debra Powers took this photo of the Sandhill Crane in Rollinsford when she saw him limping with an injured left leg.

Do you know what to do if you come across an injured bird? This is the frequent subject of questions received by NH Audubon staff, but when the bird is as large as a Sandhill Crane, there are quite different considerations, as Debra Powers describes in the following story which she wrote on November 29, 2017.

## The Rollinsford Sandhill Crane has its Ups and Downs

by Debra Powers

“Kevin,” the Sandhill Crane affectionately named by Rollinsford residents, has been a permanent fixture in town since mid-August. Often, he has been sighted on Rollins Road or at Viels Farm eating in the corn fields. On November 7, 2017, I observed him at Viels Farm. The bird was clearly injured; putting no weight on its left leg. When attempting to move around, it hopped and would almost fall over. When flying, it had very little lift and the injured left leg would dangle. It is unclear how the bird was injured; some townspeople saying it was hit by a car, with others stating it was attacked by geese. After speaking with two rehabilitation centers, which were unable to send someone out at that time due to lack of volunteers,

I sought help from the birding community and they quickly assisted, contacting the NH Fish and Game Department. NH Fish and Game contacted Wings of the Dawn Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Henniker, and their advice was not to attempt to capture the crane at that time, but to just monitor it due to its ability to continue flying. Over the next week, however, a well-meaning individual did attempt to capture it several times. Because of this, NH Fish and Game personnel came out to also attempt to capture it, but were unsuccessful. Through social media, word got out to please leave the bird alone and just report its condition and whereabouts. This did occur and with the assistance of the caring Rollinsford residents, we were able to continue to track the bird and provide locations and videos to NH Fish and Game and Wings of the Dawn. As of November 29, we continued to see the Sandhill Crane eating in fields and walking down Main Street in Rollinsford. It is encouraging that Kevin appears to be getting stronger, putting more weight on his leg, and limping less. Maria Colby of Wings of the Dawn has mentioned that Sandhill Cranes can linger into mid-December and so the hopes are that the bird will be strong enough to migrate by then.

*Ed. Note: Stay tuned as the saga of Kevin of Rollinsford continues in the Winter 2017-18 issue.*

Wings of the Dawn is a wildlife rehabilitation and bird sanctuary in Henniker, NH run by Maria Colby. Her recommendation is to call Wings of the Dawn at (603)428-3723 before approaching any animal, unless you feel that the animal is in immediate danger. If you do rescue a bird or animal, place it in a box lined with a towel and with a secure lid. Make sure the lid has holes in it! Place it in a dark, quiet place and don't stress the animal by handling it or talking to it, which is, of course, the natural tendency due to our human desire to give comfort. It is also best not to attempt to give it food or water. As soon as possible, get in touch with Wings of the Dawn, or another wildlife rescue organization, such as the Center for Wildlife, at (207)361-1400, in Cape Neddick, Maine. They were also involved in helping to monitor Kevin after his injury. Other resources for injured birds can be found at the NH Fish and Game website: <https://wildlife.state.nh.us/wildlife/rehabilitators.html>.

In our own backyards, we may find a bird that was stunned by hitting a window. Sometimes non-intervention is the best course of action. If left to itself and protected from any nearby pets, the bird will often recover over the next few minutes to an hour and fly off. If the stunned bird is not

in a safe location, it can be gently picked up and moved to a nearby bush or tree. The bird can also be placed in a box as described above where it will be dark, quiet and warm (but not too warm) for a short time as it recovers. Bring the box outside to check the bird's status and allow it to fly off on its own. If it clearly cannot fly, call a licensed wildlife rehabilitator in your area.

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## Volunteers and Research

### You Can Help Advance Science by Reporting Bird Bands

by Kathryn Frieden

The use of a bird band for the advancement of scientific knowledge about birds was started in 1902 with the banding of 23 Black-crowned Night-Herons in Washington, DC. More than 100 years later, bird-banding is still an important tool used for conservation and ornithological research. The process involves a trained bird-bander capturing the bird, usually in a mist net, attaching a small coded band to its leg, and then releasing it; all with minimal trauma to the bird. The hope is that anyone who finds a banded bird, either alive or dead, will report the band number. This information will then go back to the program doing the banding. Here are two stories in which someone in New Hampshire finds and reports a banded bird in very different circumstances.

#### Eastern Bluebird

While walking in a field near her home in Warner, NH on August 7, 2016, Trudy Daniels came upon a male Eastern Bluebird that had been dead for some time, based on the condition of the remains. What made this a notable find was the silver band on the bird's leg. Realizing this was information that someone would want to have, Trudy mailed the band and the bird's location to NH Audubon. I volunteer for *New Hampshire Bird Records* and Becky Suomala asked me to report it. This was a good opportunity to learn how to report a bird band, which turns out to be very easy to do. After reporting the band number, we received a certificate (Figure 1), which we were able to send on to Trudy Daniels. From the certificate, we learned that the bird was two years old when Trudy found it and had come from the area near New Scotland, New York. The bander listed on the certificate is Laura Sommers, so we wrote to her asking about the banding project that she was involved with. Here is her reply:

“I would like to add my thanks to Trudy Daniels for reporting the bluebird. The bird was banded at the Five Rivers Environmental Education Center in

Delmar, New York. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has been running a Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) station there since 2001. MAPS is a program started by the Institute for Bird Populations (IBP). For a good description of the program, see IBP's website: <http://www.birdpop.org/pages/maps.php>. I was one of the people who started the MAPS station, so have been involved with it for 17 years now. My name appears on certificates from the Banding Lab because I am the “master permittee” for DEC's nongame federal bird banding permit.”

#### Gray Catbird



*In this photo taken by Eric Masterson on 5-14-17 while on Star Island, NH, he focused carefully on the leg band rather than on the Gray Catbird itself.*

In 2017, while Eric Masterson was leading his annual spring weekend trip to Star Island at the Isles of Shoals, he photographed a Gray Catbird in a bush that had a band on it. Thanks to the wonders of digital photography, he was able to read the band and then report it to the Bird Banding Laboratory. Typically a report of a banded songbird only comes in if the bird is dead or captured at a banding station other than the one where it was originally banded. A live recovery is much more exciting for the banders. After reporting the catbird band, Eric received a certificate and learned that it had been banded two years earlier on 8-17-15 on Appledore Island (the largest island of the Isles of Shoals). At the time of its banding it was a hatch-year bird, meaning it was born that summer and was likely hatched from a nest on Appledore, as catbird migration had not yet begun when it was banded. It evidently returned to the Isles of Shoals, where catbirds are known to breed, and had set up a breeding territory on Star Island.

The Appledore Island Migration Station (AIMS) is a banding station that was first opened in 1974 and has banded over 120,000 birds, all by trained and dedicated volunteers and students. These intrepid bird banders spend time in rugged areas with challenging conditions to perform what is often a labor of love. Bird banding is an important research tool in the US and Canada, as described in the

following notice that is received along with the certificate.

### The North American Bird Banding Program

“Bird banding is important for studying the movement, survival, and behavior of birds. About 60 million birds representing hundreds of species have been banded in North America since 1904. About 4 million bands have been recovered and reported.

Data from banded birds are used in monitoring populations, setting hunting regulations, restoring endangered species, studying effects of environmental contaminants, and addressing such issues as Avian Influenza, bird hazards at airports, and crop depredations. Results from banding studies support national and international bird conservation programs such as Partners in Flight, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, and Wetlands for the Americas.

The North American Bird Banding Program is under the general direction of the U.S. Geological Survey and the Canadian Wildlife Service.”

Figure 1. Certificate of Appreciation awarded to Trudy Daniels for reporting a banded Eastern Bluebird.



We can't all become trained bird banders, but we can help their efforts pay off by reporting bird bands whenever we find one, either in a photograph or on a dead bird. The process is easy and can be done by phone, computer, or even by mail. Please Report Bands at [www.reportband.gov](http://www.reportband.gov) or call 1-800-327-BAND. The mailing address is: Bird Banding Laboratory, 12100 Beech Forest Road, Laurel, MD, 20708.

## Answer to the Photo Quiz

by David B. Donsker

Many shorebirds create identification challenges even for the more experienced field observers in our midst. So, it shouldn't be surprising that we've returned to this subject once again for the Photo Quiz in this issue.

As we have noted in the past, the identification of shorebirds demands careful observation of often subtle features in the shape and plumage characteristics of the bird in question. When considering shape, you should note the major features of bill length, leg length, neck length, the relative size of the bird, and the general form of the head and body. More subtle clues to examine include the exact configuration of the bill, the relative length of the wings, the size of the head relative to the body, and the posture of the bird.

One of the more frustrating aspects of shorebirds is that each species typically has three distinct plumages that must be considered: adult basic or non-breeding plumage, adult alternate or breeding plumage, and juvenile plumage. The somber and often dull basic plumages of adult birds are usually quite distinct from the striking plumage that adults briefly carry as their glorious summer garb. Juvenile plumages are rather similar to adult basic plumage, but appear fresh and crisp with sharply defined contrasting edges to the feathers, particularly of the upperparts and wings. This results in the appearance of distinct scales or scallops on the backs and upper wing feathers of most juvenile shorebirds.

In examining the shape of our mystery bird, we notice that it has a rather short, straight bill projecting from a small and rounded head. The wings are long and project sharply at the rear of the bird. The legs are of medium length. The most striking aspect of its otherwise subtle plumage is the prominent spangling on its back and wings. Other features to note are a distinct, streaked dark cap that contrasts with a broad white eyebrow or supercilium and paler nape, and a faint “ear-spot” behind the eye. The breast and flanks are faintly coarsely streaked and fuse on the upper breast into a subtle barring.

Shape helps us to determine quickly to which of the several groups of shorebirds this species belongs. By virtue of its short, relatively stocky bill, it is a plover. Most of our sandpipers and other shorebirds have proportionally longer bills and even those species with shorter bills have bills that are much thinner. Of the sandpipers, Buff-breasted Sandpiper comes closest in its appearance to this bird, but its bill is much thinner in comparison and its breast, in all plumages, is clearer than the bird depicted.

Two genera of plovers can be found in North America: the smallish *Charadrius* plovers such as Piping and Semipalmated Plovers and Killdeer; and the larger and somewhat longer-legged tundra plovers of the genus *Pluvialis*, which includes Black-bellied Plover and the three golden-plovers, European, American, and Pacific. All of the *Charadrius* plovers found in our region retain one or two full, or at least partial, breast bands in all plumages. Our featured species lacks a breast band. That, coupled with its upright posture and relatively longer legs, clearly places our bird in the genus *Pluvialis*.

The challenge comes in determining which of these very similar species our bird represents. Shape and plumage characteristics are again key to the identification, but the differences between these species are subtle. Assigning a plumage to this bird is an important first step. The breeding plumage of all of the tundra plovers is a striking combination of silvery-gray or golden spangled upperparts, separated from a velvety black face and underparts by a variably broad white flank stripe that is continuous with a white supercilium. The basic and juvenile plumages are much less bold and lack both the black underparts and flank stripe. As stated earlier, juvenile plumages differ from adult plumages by virtue of their bolder and crisper back and wing markings. With that in mind, we can discern that our strongly spangled featured bird is in juvenile plumage.

Black-bellied Plover differs from the North American golden-plovers by several characteristics of shape and plumage. It is a rather robust, large-headed bird with a stout, heavy bill when compared to the daintier, smaller-headed and small-billed golden-plovers. Juvenile birds have fine streaking on the breast and flanks, unlike the coarser markings, trending to barring on the breast, that are seen in golden-plovers. Further, in juvenile birds the cap is paler and less well demarcated from the rest of the head and nape than in the golden-plovers. In flight, diagnostic features that separate Black-bellied Plover from all of the golden-plovers are black axillaries or “arm-pits,” a white rump, and a bold white wing stripe. In contrast, the axillaries of the two North American golden-plovers are gray-brown, their rumps are dark, and the wing stripe less distinct. Of course, these features cannot be appreciated in this standing bird, but the other plumage and shape characteristics described above indicate that it is a golden-plover. A word of caution; although we think of Black-bellied Plover as grayish and golden-plovers as showing yellowish tones, this distinction is not true of juvenile birds. Juvenile Black-bellied Plovers have upper wing coverts that are neatly notched with yellowish-buff and underparts that are suffused with pale yellowish-buff, giving many of these birds a distinctly “golden” hue. Similarly, the juvenile American Golden-Plover, the species that is expected in New Hampshire, is the grayest of the three golden-plovers, making distinction by tone a trickier proposition than one might otherwise expect.

The only confirmed species of golden-plover found in New Hampshire is American Golden-Plover, so it can be reasonably assumed that any golden-plover seen in our state is likely to be of this species; however, Pacific Golden-Plover has been well-documented as close to our border as Plum Island and European Golden-Plover has been recorded from Atlantic Canada and south coastal Maine, so it pays to look carefully at these birds when possible. The European species

is unique, differing from both North American species by its larger, squarer head and by its white, rather than grayish, underwings and axillaries. Pacific and American Golden-Plovers are very similar to each other, especially in juvenile and basic plumage, and for years were considered to be the same species; however, there are shape and plumage characteristics that, with careful observation, can be used to separate them from each other. In general, American Golden-Plover is slightly larger, slimmer, shorter-legged, and longer-winged. While the first two characteristics are not useful to distinguish individual birds, the shorter legs can be noticed in flight because, unlike Pacific Golden-Plover, the legs do not project beyond the tail. The longer wings are a more useful field mark in standing birds. The wings look even longer in American Golden-Plover because the tertials or innermost flight feathers are shorter than those of Pacific Golden-Plover. Thus, in the folded wing of American Golden-Plover, the primary projection (or extension of the tips of the primaries beyond those of the tertials) is quite long. Usually four or sometimes five of the dark primary feathers can be seen projecting beyond the spotted tertials in juvenile birds. In contrast, only two to three primary feather tips are exposed in Pacific Golden-Plover. (This long primary projection is another feature that can be used to separate juvenile American Golden-Plovers from juvenile Black-bellieds). The cap of American Golden-Plover is also more distinct than that of Pacific Golden-Plover due to its whiter supercilium and paler gray nape, and the ear-spot is less prominent and more smudged. As mentioned before, American Golden-Plover in juvenile plumage is grayer with little if any yellow tones on the face and breast, while juvenile Pacific Golden-Plovers are noticeably yellowish.

Now look again at our featured bird. It has a very prominent cap that contrasts strongly with a white eyebrow and pale nape and a small, indistinct ear-patch. Even more striking is the primary projection. At least four distinct dark primary feather tips are easily counted beyond the heavily spotted tertials. Thus, our featured bird is an American Golden-Plover in juvenile plumage.

This photograph was taken by Steve Mirick at Ragged Neck (Rye Harbor State Park) in Rye in late October, 2017.

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

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## Fall 2017 Highlights



*White-eyed Vireo by Len Medlock, 11-5-17, Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye, NH.*



*Hooded Warbler captured 8-23-17 in mist nets during a research project in Northwood, NH. Photo by Casey Coupe.*

## Late Linger



*Tennessee Warbler by Kyle Wilmarth, 11-24-17, Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye, NH.*



*Yellow-throated Vireo by Steve Mirick, 11-24-17, Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye, NH.*



*Orange-crowned Warbler by Jason Lambert, 11-26-17, N. Hampton State Beach, NH.*



*Cape May Warbler by Steve Mirick, 11-28-17, Bicentennial Park, Hampton, NH. One of two Cape May Warblers seen by Steve that day; the other was at Odiorne Pt. SP.*

