

New Hampshire Bird Records





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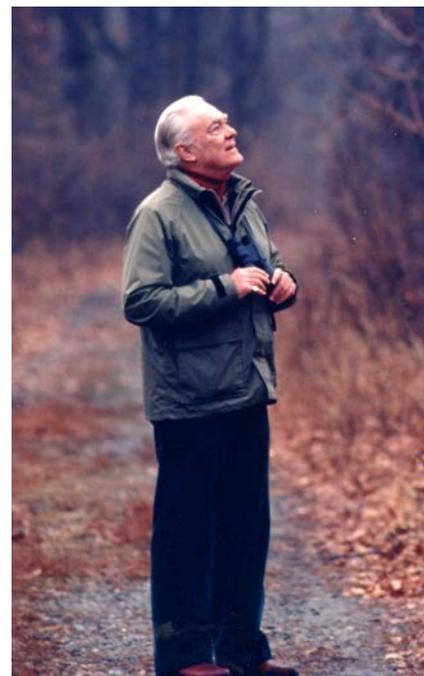
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IN MEMORY OF
Dr. Bev Ridgely

This issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* with its color cover is sponsored by NH Audubon and friends in memory of Bev Ridgely. Dr. Ridgely wrote the *Birds of the Squam Lakes Region* in 1973, which he revised and expanded in 1988. He received the Goodhue-Elkins Award in 2002 and we are pleased to honor him.

Bev Ridgely doing something he enjoyed immensely: bird watching. Courtesy of the Ridgely family.



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Cover Photo: David Lipsy captured the moment when the Great Gray Owl landed on the head of Marsha Richelli (who is coincidentally a NH Audubon volunteer), 3-11-17, Newport, NH. According to Marsha, she saw it coming and told herself not to move. "I felt safe, I had three layers on my head. I knew it landed but I didn't feel any pressure from the talons." She was hoping it wouldn't stay long, and it didn't, taking off across the field to a better perch.

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

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by Rebecca Suomala

Volunteer Opportunities

Join the *New Hampshire Bird Records* team! If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact me.

New Hampshire Bird Records Article Coordinator

Compile and edit articles for the Where to Bird feature, including contacting authors, providing guidance and editing, and facilitating the creation of associated maps as needed. The position requires the ability to meet deadlines and good editing skills. Familiarity with birding throughout the state is helpful, although members of the Editorial Team can provide help in creating a list of topics and authors. Typically done from home.

eBird Data Assistant

Assist with error checking and updating the eBird database of NH bird sightings. Research location and information discrepancies in eBird reports and contact observers to resolve questions. Additional tasks include requesting additional details and possible eBird review of older records. Proficiency with computers and familiarity with NH birds required, familiarity with eBird and internet tools preferred. Although some work may be done from home, most will take place at NH Audubon's McLane Center in Concord.

PHOTO QUIZ

Can You Identify This Bird?

Answer on page 43. Photos by Jim Sparrell.



Bird Data Special Project

Prepare bird sighting data from 1987 to 2009 for upload into eBird from the *New Hampshire Bird Records* database. Tasks include reviewing and standardizing location names, researching locations that are vague or unclear, and mapping locations in eBird. Familiarity with Excel, eBird and Google Maps preferred. Good record keeping and attention to detail are important and some knowledge of birds (common vs. rare) is helpful. Some work can be done at home, but training and most research takes place in the Concord office.

eBird Reviewer

Review unusual birds sightings entered in eBird in New Hampshire and contact observers for clarification or additional details. Current bird sightings are already being reviewed so this position will concentrate on older bird reports. Reviewer must have a strong knowledge of bird identification and distribution but can focus on a specific area of the state where their knowledge is strongest. Experience with eBird is essential. Work may be done at home.

Welcome New Subscribers and **Thanks** to all who have renewed their subscription. A reminder that the password to access the back issues on-line is enclosed with this issue (if your subscription is up to date). To find the archives go to "The Journal" tab on our web site (current issues are not on-line).
- The *New Hampshire Bird Records* Team

2017 Goodhue-Elkins Award

Presented by Bob Quinn at the New Hampshire Audubon Annual Meeting, September 23, 2017.



Bob Quinn presenting NH Audubon's 2017 Goodhue-Elkins Award to Pam Hunt. Photo by Dyanna Smith.

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

The 2017 recipient of the Goodhue-Elkins Award is Pam Hunt. Dr. Pamela Hunt is a Senior Biologist for NH Audubon who received her PhD in Ornithology from Dartmouth College in 1995. She joined NH Audubon in 2000 where she specializes in avian conservation. For those who know Pam, you know that this award is long overdue. The extent of her contributions to our knowledge of New Hampshire birds is tremendous. She began doing this from the time she moved to New Hampshire as a graduate student at Dartmouth in 1989, almost 30 years ago! Initially an avid birder and reporter, in 1991, she moved into the role of volunteer Season Editor for *New Hampshire Bird Records*. Her contributions continued to grow, reporting thousands of bird sightings, conducting regular bird surveys, serving as a Christmas Bird Count compiler and volunteer, and being very involved with the birding community in general.

The challenge for the Awards Group was that Pam works for NH Audubon and current NH Audubon staff members are not eligible to receive this award, except under "exceptional circumstances." After years of discussion, the Awards Group defined what qualified as "exceptional circumstances" and thus, Pam could finally be considered. The primary emphasis of this award must also be on work done as an avocation. Despite the many contributions to

our knowledge of New Hampshire birds that Pam has made through her job, this award recognizes her contributions above and beyond her vocation. All this points to the extraordinary level of achievement needed for a current NH Audubon staff member to be considered as a recipient of the Goodhue-Elkins Award.

Pam passed this high bar with flying colors. She is an exceptional candidate for this award and exemplifies all the criteria, from her extensive field work, to compiling data, to leading many a field trip and sharing her extensive knowledge of birds.

Her contributions to *New Hampshire Bird Records* extend far beyond the role of Season Editor. She has written numerous birding articles, promoted the submission of bird sightings, and provided invaluable assistance to the Managing Editor (in part because she works in the same office!).

She has been a lead inspiration for human powered and local birding, promoting both activities, involving others, and leading by example. Local birding resonates especially well with this award since both namesakes, Goodhue and Elkins, were very local birders.

Pam's list of accomplishments is long, so we provide an example here to illustrate her way of gathering data while involving and educating others. Pam has conducted weekly walking surveys at each of the places she has lived in New Hampshire since October 1989. These include in Enfield, Northfield, and Penacook. Each week, she walks about six miles on a standard route. She records all of the birds she sees, enters the data into NH eBird, and shares the highlights to the NH Birds e-mail list, often providing context and information, such as how her numbers show migration or lack thereof, and how these numbers compare with the average for that date. But it doesn't stop there. She is constantly inviting others to join her on these surveys, all of which are human-powered. She makes them even more enjoyable by celebrating birding anniversaries or adding a shared meal at the end.

Pam has provided a welcoming atmosphere for many people to join in birding, whether by creating the Concord November Challenge, leading a field trip in full Renaissance regalia, or instigating a big day effort in an under-birded New Hampshire county. Bottom line: She makes it fun for people to bird with a purpose! And incidentally she was on the team that still holds the big day record for the most species seen in 24 hours in New Hampshire.

It is with great pleasure that New Hampshire Audubon presents the 2017 Goodhue-Elkins Award to Pam Hunt.

March 1, 2017 through May 31, 2017

by Eric Masterson



On March 1, the beginning of the spring season, I was hawkwatching in Costa Rica, having spent the previous six months migrating there slowly by bicycle. It was in Costa Rica that I saw my first definitive

spring migrants; tens of thousands of Turkey Vultures winging northward along the Caribbean coast. As the annual avian tide began to turn, I took my cue and headed north too, arriving home mid-March. Consequently, I missed the start of the spring season entirely and didn't really find my groove until May, so the following narrative is formed mostly by my reading the reports after the fact.

Spring's arrival was marked by the passage of time more than a change in the weather. March was four degrees colder than normal. As if to compensate, the earth's thermostat overshot and average April temperatures were four degrees



Mew Gull by Kyle Wilmarth, 3-1-17, Salem, NH. The Mew Gull is on the left in both photos, and has its wings raised in one photo. Note the faint ring on the bill and limited black on the wingtips (compare with Ring-billed).

above normal. Two nor'easters hit the state on March 14 and 31. May was closer to average, but a cold snap on the ninth brought some of the coldest May temperatures in decades to higher elevations. A little more than a week later, a record hot spell saw temperatures reach into the 90s on May 18. There were another two nor'easters on May 13 and 25.

Absent any first state records, the species total for the spring reached 274 species, eight fewer than last year. Bird highlights were subdued by the lofty standards of 2016, but included rare spring records of **American Golden Plover** and **Long-billed Dowitcher** on the coast, a rare at any time **Ruff**, also on the coast, a second state record **Mew Gull** at the Sears parking lot in Salem (proving that there are still some things that you can't get at Amazon), a **Golden-winged Warbler** at Canterbury Shaker Village, a Hooded Warbler in Sullivan, a Yellow-throated Warbler in Hampton, and a **Painted Bunting** in Littleton. Then of course, there was the **Great Gray Owl** in Newport, which, though not the rarest bird of the season, was the undoubted showstopper.

Waterfowl

Waterfowl season was routine, although still exciting, with three **Greater White-fronted Geese** and two **Cackling Geese**, most on the Connecticut River as expected, except for one of the Cackling Geese which was seen flying north over Sandwich on April 7.

Five **Brant** at First Connecticut Lake in Pittsburg on May 19 was an uncommon inland record, albeit the Connecticut Lakes are some of the most under birded waterbodies in New England. I live in hopes that a Pittsburg resident will one day get bitten by the birding bug sufficiently enough to subject the lakes to increased spring (and fall) scrutiny.



King Eider by Leo McKillop, 5-17-17, Rye, NH.

An interesting hybrid duck was observed May 10 at the Panorama Golf Course in Colebrook. Certain identification is frequently not possible when dealing with hybrids, although the bird showed characteristics of Mallard and wigeon sp., with some experts favoring American Wigeon and others favoring Eurasian Wigeon. A **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** was found on Meadow Pond in late March and perhaps the same individual was seen along the coast to mid-April. A mini movement of **Canvasback** on April 7 brought a bird to Turtle Pond in Concord and three birds to the Hinsdale Setbacks. Katrina Fenton set a new state high-count for Ring-necked Duck with 512 birds on Lake Umbagog on April 20. An immature male **King Eider** found on the coast in Rye on May 13 remained for the month. A scattering of

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White-winged Scoters decorated interior waterbodies on various dates in May, with a significant movement on May 20 as evidenced by a count of 2,296 birds moving north along the coast. A single Surf Scoter was seen on April 28 at the Hinsdale Setbacks. At least five Barrow's Goldeneye were found from Coos to the coast, with a hybrid Barrow's X Common Goldeneye present on the Androscoggin River in Errol late March through mid April. Single Ruddy Ducks were seen in April at Wilder Dam on the Connecticut River and French's Pond in Henniker.

Date # Location Observer

Greater White-fronted Goose

03/08 2 Hinsdale Setbacks H. Galbraith
04/02 1 Lower Landing Rd., Charlestown J. Lambert

Snow Goose

03/05 1 Bellows Falls Rd., Walpole C. Caron
03/25 38 Ranger Rd., Hollis C. McPherson
03/26 35 Israel R. Campground, Jefferson S. Shapiro
04/07 6 Meredith Bay, L. Winnepesaukee K. Klapper
04/14 1 Horseshoe Pond, Concord Z. Schiewetz



Brant by Jason Lambert, 5-20-17, Pulpit Rocks, Rye, NH

Brant

04/02 3 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye J. Kelly
05/20 270 Pulpit Rocks, Rye J. Lambert
05/23 16 Concord Pt., Rye H. Bauer

Cackling Goose

03/26 1 Hinsdale Setbacks H. Galbraith
04/07 1 Range Rd., Sandwich K. Klapper

Gadwall

03/07 3 Jackson's Landing, Durham K. Couture
03/08 4 Hinsdale Setbacks H. Galbraith, D. Clark
03/09 4 Meadow Pond, Hampton H. Bauer
03/28 24 Hinsdale Setbacks M. Pfeiffer, R. Stewart

American Wigeon

03/04 1 Exeter WTP J. Sparrell
03/07 3 Oyster R. Landing, Durham A. Murray
03/07 5 Ashuelot R., Surry T. Parody
03/26 20 Sunset Farm, Greenland S. Wisley, J. Pettipas
04/07 10 Hinsdale Setbacks H. Galbraith

Date # Location Observer
04/12 2 Rt. 135 farm fields, Lancaster S.& D. Stoddard
05/13 2 Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey W. Ward
05/22 1 Star Is., Isles of Shoals R. Quinn, et al.
05/31 1 Harpers Meadow, Umbagog NWR E. Lipton, J. Eckerson

American Wigeon x Mallard (hybrid)

05/10 1 Panorama Golf Course, Colebrook L. Charron

Blue-winged Teal

04/02 1 Lower Landing Rd., Charlestown J. Lambert
04/08 1 Exeter WTP L. Medlock
04/19 4 Exeter WTP J. Nadeau
04/23 2 Horseshoe Pond, Concord K. Wilmarth, M. Thompson, J. MacQueen
04/24 2 Ahern SP, Laconia J. Kelley
04/28 2 saltmarsh off Pollock Dr., Rye S. Mirick
05/11 1 Airport Rd., Swanzey C. Witko



Northern Shoveler by Christine Sheridan, 3-23-17, Horseshoe Pond, Merrimack, NH.

Northern Shoveler

03/08 3 Horseshoe Pond, Merrimack J. Maher
03/25 5 Fields Grove, Nashua J. Maher
03/26 4 Great Meadow, Charlestown H. Galbraith
04/03 3 Horseshoe Pond, Merrimack J. Maher, D. Lipsey
04/08 4 Exeter WTP L. Medlock, B. Griffith, S. Mirick
04/09 6 Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton D. Lipsey
04/09 3 Hinsdale Setbacks C. Seifer, et al.

Northern Pintail

03/01 8 Philbrick Marsh, N. Hampton D. Hubbard
03/08 6 Hinsdale Setbacks D. Clark
03/10 5 Meadow Pond, Hampton H. Bauer
03/13 14 Lower Meadows, Charlestown K. Fenton, N. Moreau
03/20 3 Merrimack R., Boscawen T. McShane
04/18 3 Exeter WTP D. Tucker

Green-winged Teal

03/01 12 Philbrick Marsh, N. Hampton D. Hubbard
03/07 27 Meadow Pond, Hampton H. Bauer
03/25 166 Meadow Pond, Hampton S. Mirick
04/05 59 Portsmouth CC, Greenland S. Mirick
04/08 65 Bodwell Farm, E. Kingston S. Mirick
04/08 72 Hinsdale Setbacks D. Clark
04/10 122 Great Meadow, Charlestown K. Cox
04/18 40 Rt. 135 farm fields, Lancaster S.& D. Stoddard

Green-winged Teal - Eurasian subsp.

03/25 1 Meadow Pond, Hampton S. Mirick
04/11 1 Meadow Pond, Hampton H. Bauer
04/14 1 Meadow Pond, Hampton K. Fenton
04/15 1 Meadow Pond, Hampton S. Mirick

Date	#	Location	Observer
Canvasback			
04/07	1	Turtle Pond, Concord	S. Wrisley
04/07	3	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith



Canvasback by Leo McKillop, 4-8-17, Turtle Pond, Concord, NH

Date	#	Location	Observer
Ring-necked Duck			
03/03	207	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
04/05	100	Powwow Pond, Kingston	S. Mirick
04/07	302	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
04/08	156	Turtle Pond, Concord	D. Lipsy
04/09	125	Great Bay NWR	S. Wrisley, S. Bennett
04/13	102	Upper Suncook RA, Barnstead	J. Lambert
04/14	115	Androskoggin R. above dam, Errol	S. & D. Stoddard
04/15	112	Upper Suncook RA, Barnstead	J. Lambert
04/20	512	Umbagog NWR	K. Fenton

Date	#	Location	Observer
King Eider			
05/13	1	Pulpit Rocks, Rye	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, et al.
05/30	1	Rt. 1A pullout opposite stone angel, Rye	A. Haverstock, J. Dunham

Date	#	Location	Observer
Surf Scoter			
04/28	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	L. Bate
05/22	40	N. Hampton State Beach	M. Bell, T. Ficker

Date	#	Location	Observer
White-winged Scoter			
05/02	6	Moore Reservoir, Littleton	S. Turner
05/20	10	Lake Winnepesaukee	J. Rice
05/20	5	Second Connecticut L., Pittsburg	H. Walters, K. Fenton
05/20	2296	Pulpit Rocks, Rye	J. Lambert
05/23	8	Hinsdale Setbacks	E. Synnott

Date	#	Location	Observer
Long-tailed Duck			
04/05	2	Wilder Dam Reservoir, Lebanon	J. MacQueen, S. Carline
04/06	1	Blodgett's Landing, Newbury	D. Jackson
04/22	1	Upper Suncook RA, Barnstead	J. Lambert
05/12	1	Lake Umbagog	K. Fenton
05/20	396	Pulpit Rocks, Rye	S. Mirick

Date	#	Location	Observer
Barrow's Goldeneye			
03/06	1	Jackson's Landing, Durham	K. Dorsey, K. Towler
03/13	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
03/18	1	Great Boars Head, Hampton	K. & A. Wilmarth
03/23	1	Sewall's Falls State Recreation Area, Concord	D. Lania
04/20	2	Errol Dam outflow pool	K. Fenton

Date	#	Location	Observer
Common x Barrow's Goldeneye (hybrid)			
03/23	1	Androskoggin R. at Errol dam	L. & P. Charron
04/17	1	Androskoggin R. at Errol dam	L. & P. Charron

Date	#	Location	Observer
Hooded Merganser			
03/13	25	Suncook R., Barnstead	J. Lambert
03/18	55	Canobie L., Salem	K. Wilmarth
03/28	300	Hinsdale Setbacks	M. Pfeiffer, R. Stewart
04/18	15	Cherry Pond, Jefferson	D. Govatski

Date	#	Location	Observer
Common Merganser			
04/02	197	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
04/07	116	Wilson Pond, Swanzey	W. Ward
04/14	80	French Pond, Henniker	D. Lipsy, S. Wrisley

Date	#	Location	Observer
Red-breasted Merganser			
03/24	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	C. Ross
04/08	1	Turtle Pond, Concord	D. Lipsy
04/08	1	Lake Sunapee	D. Jackson
04/19	2	Cherry Pond, Jefferson	D. Govatski
04/22	3	Spofford L., Chesterfield	C. Caron, T. Pirro

Date	#	Location	Observer
Ruddy Duck			
04/05	1	Wilder Dam Reservoir, Lebanon	J. MacQueen
04/13	1	French Pond, Henniker	D. Ellis

Loons through Cranes

A migrant **Red-throated Loon** was observed May 4 on Lake Sunapee, the fifth spring in a row that the species has been recorded inland. In the ten years prior, there was only one spring record, a trend that I suspect has more to do with increased coverage than anything else.



Immature Little Blue Heron by Lori Charron, 5-10-17, Errol, NH.

It was a good season for rare herons and egrets. A **Little Blue Heron** in downtown Errol in early May was only the second record for Coos County, and remarkable on two counts. If you are going to find a Little Blue Heron in New Hampshire, chances are that you will find one on the coast, and inland records are much more likely in summer or fall. The other Coos County record was a July sighting

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in 1987 in Dummer. Three separate occurrences involving four individual **Cattle Egrets** was above average, with single birds at Horseshoe Pond in Concord and Pickering Ponds in Rochester, and two birds at Great Bay Farm in Greenland. A total of 20 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were reported this spring, thirteen of which were recorded as nocturnal migrants from my Hancock home in late April and early May. This species is clearly under-recorded in the state. Away from the coast, the only Glossy Ibis record involved four late April migrants foraging in fields in Canaan.

For birders and conservationists, the diminution of the natural world through habitat loss, species loss, and range contraction is a defining feature of our time, but when we think of loss, it is worth remembering that in a few cases, the pendulum swings the other way. New Hampshire's baby boomer birders (those born from the mid 1940s to the mid 1960s) built their birding lists during the slow-motion invasion of Red-bellied Woodpecker and Carolina Wren. A sighting of a Black Vulture would doubtless have been a sensation back then, but now, millennial birders are spending their formative years under the explicit assumption that Black Vulture and Sandhill Crane are an established part of New Hampshire's avifauna. As I head into my fifties, I wonder what species, now considered beyond the pale, will barely merit a shrug in fifty years; but back to the present. **Black Vulture** and **Sandhill Crane** have reached a tipping point from the perspective of this season editor. This spring there were almost too many to include in the listings, with at least ten of the former reported across six counties and 28 of the latter reported across eight counties. Sandhill Crane has bred already in the state (although only a single pair at present), and surely Black Vulture cannot be too far behind. The Black Vulture in Bartlett was unusually far north.



Black Vulture by Charlie Nims, 3-19-17, Bartlett, NH.

Katrina Fenton recorded 155 migrant Turkey Vultures and eleven migrant Northern Harriers from Hampton Beach on April 3, a high count of the former at any time of the year. A **Golden Eagle** over Sandwich on April 17 was the only spring record. The Mississippi Kites returned to Newmarket on May 19, with three seen on May 23. Northern Goshawks were reported from every county, including Rockingham, reflective of their statewide status, but perhaps also reflective of their status as a near migrant, with some birds, especially individuals seen in the coastal plain, more likely to be transients. Five **Rough-legged Hawks** from five locations were all seen in March. Phil Brown put MacDowell Reservoir on the map with a **Common Gallinule** on May 17, and World End Pond in Salem hosted the season's sole record of American Coot.

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
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Red-throated Loon

04/22	1	Hilton Park, Dover Pt.	J. Lambert
05/04	1	Fernwood Pt., Sunapee	D. Jackson
05/29	2	Seal Rocks, Rye	S. Mirick

Pied-billed Grebe

03/30	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	E. Synnott
03/30	1	Chapmans Landing, Stratham	D. Lipsy
04/17	1	Umbagog NWR Headquarters, Wentworths Location	K. Fenton

Horned Grebe

04/20	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	C. Ross
04/22	1	Lake Sunapee	D. Jackson
05/20	3	Pulpit Rocks, Rye	J. Lambert



Red-necked Grebe by Leo McKillop, 4-12-17, Exeter WTP, NH.

Red-necked Grebe

04/06	1	Connecticut R., Charlestown	D. Clark
04/06	3	Wilder Dam Reservoir, Lebanon	J. MacQueen
04/08	1	Exeter WTP	L. Medlock, et al.
04/08	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	D. Clark
04/22	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	C. Ross
05/01	1	Boston Lot L., Lebanon	K. Thompson
05/07	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	J. Russo

Date	#	Location	Observer
Great Shearwater			
05/27	1	Jeffrey's Ledge	R. Herman, M. Harvey
Wilson's Storm Petrel			
05/27	1	Jeffrey's Ledge	R. Herman, M. Harvey
Northern Gannet			
03/18	1	Little Boars Head, N. Hampton	K.& A. Wilmarth
05/14	20	Rye Harbor SP	S. Mirick
05/27	60	Jeffrey's Ledge	R. Herman, M. Harvey
Great Cormorant			
04/08	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	D. Clark
04/17	2	Turtle Pond, Concord	D. Lania
05/24	1	NH coast	J. Maher



Double-crested Cormorant showing the feature that gives this species its name. Photo by Jim Sparrell, 3-31-17, Rye Harbor, NH.

Date	#	Location	Observer
Double-crested Cormorant			
03/25	2	Rye Harbor SP	B. Denoncour
03/29	1	Canobie L., Salem	K. Wilmarth
04/05	3	Mine Falls Park, Nashua	C. McPherson
04/09	56	Exeter WTP	J. MacQueen
04/11	5	Androscoggin R. at Bridge St., Berlin	L. Charron
04/24	101	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	L. Charron
American Bittern			
04/05	1	Airport Rd., Swanzey	E. Synnott
04/07	1	Goodrich Falls Rd. pond, Bartlett	R. Steber
04/12	1	Bradford Bog, Bradford	B. Duffy
04/27	1	Fort Hill WMA, Stratford	S.& D. Stoddard

Date	#	Location	Observer
Great Egret			
03/25	1	Parsons Creek saltmarsh, Rye	K. Towler, J. Sparrell, S. Mirick
03/31	1	Exeter WTP	L. McKillop
04/10	3	Bedell Bridge SP, Haverhill	K. Hiller
04/22	1	Great Meadow, Hollis	K. Fenton
04/28	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	C. Ross
05/27	35	Yankee Fisherman's Coop., Seabrook	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
05/31	1	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	P. Hunt

Date	#	Location	Observer
Snowy Egret			
04/03	2	Parsons Creek saltmarsh, Rye	B. Crowley, J. Sparrell
04/17	8	NH coast	J. Maher

Date	#	Location	Observer
05/01	13	Parsons Creek saltmarsh, Rye	J. Scott, B. Crowley
05/01	13	NH coast	A. Murray
Little Blue Heron			
05/06	1	downtown Errol	L. Ewans
05/16	1	downtown Errol	K. Fenton



Cattle Egrets by Scott Heron, 5-9-17, Great Bay Farm, Greenland, NH.

Date	#	Location	Observer
Cattle Egret			
04/22	1	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	D. Lania, et al.
04/26	1	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	G. Murphy, D. Lipsy
05/07	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray
05/09	2	Great Bay Farm, Greenland	S. Heron
05/13	2	Great Bay Farm, Greenland	L. Medlock

Date	#	Location	Observer
Green Heron			
04/29	3	Oyster R. Landing, Durham	M. Jacobson, J. Mills-Anderson
04/29	1	Chick's Corner Marsh, Sandwich	K. Klapper

Date	#	Location	Observer
Black-crowned Night-Heron			
04/17	1	Rt. 1A, Seabrook	S. Mirick
04/23	3	Antrim Rd., Hancock	E. Masterson
04/24	1	Antrim Rd., Hancock	E. Masterson
04/28	1	Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins
04/28	6	Antrim Rd., Hancock	E. Masterson
05/04	3	Antrim Rd., Hancock	E. Masterson

Date	#	Location	Observer
Glossy Ibis			
04/12	1	Great Bay Farm, Greenland	L. Medlock, L. McKillop, et al.
04/13	1	Exeter WTP	S. Mirick
04/17	44	Rt. 1A pools s. of Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	J. Maher
04/22	4	Potato Rd., Canaan	J. Wampler
04/29	11	Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton	S. Wrisley, J. Pettipas, S. Bennett
05/21	15	Eel Pond, Rye	S. Mirick

Date	#	Location	Observer
Black Vulture			
03/13	2	Washington St., Claremont	M. Bell
03/17	1	Rt. 16, Bartlett	J. Maher
03/20	1	Rt. 302 at 16A, Bartlett	C. Nims
03/25	2	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	A.& R. Burnett
04/05	1	Ridge Rd., Hollis	T. Murray

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Black Vulture (con't)

Date	#	Location	Observer
04/16	1	Ashland	A. Dill
04/19	1	Rt. 93, Derry	N. Dorian
04/22	1	Rt. 12, Surry	C. Witko
05/20	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	D. Currier, A. Moser, L. Darcy
05/20	1	World End Pond, Salem	K. & A. Wilmarth, M. Wilson
05/22	2	Wantastiquet Mt. NA, Chesterfield/Hinsdale	L. Warren



Black Vulture by Bob Crowley, 3-19-17, Bartlett, NH.

Turkey Vulture

03/19	30	Exeter	D. Finch, B. & T. White
03/31	10	Androscoggin R. at Bridge St., Berlin	L. Charron
04/03	155	Hampton Beach SP	K. Fenton

Osprey

03/23	1	Lafayette Rd., Portsmouth	H. Rutledge
03/30	1	Chapmans Landing, Stratham	D. Lipsy

Golden Eagle

04/17	1	Range Rd., Sandwich	K. Klapper
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Mississippi Kite by Steve Mirick, 5-23-17, Great Bay Discovery Center, Greenland, NH.

Mississippi Kite

05/19	1	Huckins Dr., Newmarket	S. Mirick
05/20	2	Huckins Dr., Newmarket	E. Norton
05/23	2	Great Bay Discovery Ctr., Greenland	N. & W. Barbour, S. Mirick
05/23	3	Huckins Dr., Newmarket	S. Mirick

Date	#	Location	Observer
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Northern Harrier

04/03	11	Hampton Beach SP	K. Fenton
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Northern Goshawk

03/08	1	Mast Rd., Lee	S. Heron
03/11	1	Mason Hill Rd., Tamworth	J. Shea
03/21	1	Upper Suncook RA, Barnstead	J. Lambert
03/22	1	Bellows Falls Rd., Charlestown	N. Houlihan
03/25	1	Everett Tpk., Nashua	J. Menard
04/14	1	Philbrick-Cricenti Bog, New London	D. Jackson
04/16	1	Rt. 25, Rumney	D. Bates
04/25	1	Activity Rd., Richmond	D. Adams
05/08	1	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
05/10	1	Panorama Golf Course, Colebrook	L. Charron

Broad-winged Hawk

04/07	1	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson
04/09	1	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
04/09	1	Great Bay NWR	S. Bennett, S. Wisley
04/10	4	Range Rd., Sandwich	K. Klapper
04/16	15	Range Rd., Sandwich	K. Klapper
04/17	1	Bear Rock Rd. at Reed Rd., Colebrook	R. Quinn

Rough-legged Hawk

03/01	1	Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem	G. & J. McKibben
03/15	1	Rt. 89 between exits 2 & 3, Concord	D. Lipsy
03/15	1	E. Washington Rd. at Danforth Corners Rd., Hillsborough	D. Boudreau
03/25	1	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	S. Wisley, J. Pettipas et al.
03/26	1	Pitcher Mt., Stoddard	P. Brown

Virginia Rail

04/09	2	World End Pond, Salem	K. & A. Wilmarth
04/11	1	Antrim Rd., Hancock	E. Masterson
04/14	1	Portsmouth City Park, Harvard St.	K. Towler
04/14	6	World End Pond, Salem	K. & A. Wilmarth
04/25	1	Fort Hill WMA, Stratford	S. & D. Stoddard

Sora

04/24	1	Wentworth-Douglass Hospital marsh, Rollinsford	S. Young
05/04	1	Geremonty Dr. marsh, Salem	K. Wilmarth
05/05	1	Thompson WS, Sandwich	K. Klapper
05/06	1	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swansey	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
05/12	1	Surrey Ln. marsh, Durham	K. Dorsey
05/13	1	Quincy Bog, Rumney	A. Hulsey
05/30	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	E. Synnott

Common Gallinule

05/17	1	MacDowell Reservoir, Peterborough	P. & A. Brown
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American Coot

04/14	1	World End Pond, Salem	K. & A. Wilmarth
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Sandhill Crane

03/27	1	Rt. 135, Monroe	J. Cate
04/02	2	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	K. Fenton, N. Moreau
04/02	4	Lake Sunapee	D. Jackson
04/05	4	Post Rd., N. Hampton	S. Heron, et al.
04/06	3	Union Rd., Stratham	A. Dodge
04/12	6	Sherman's Farm, Conway	B. Crowley

Date	#	Location	Observer
04/12	1	Shannon Rd., Salem	R. Pappalardo
04/16	2	Cherry Pond, Jefferson	D. Govatski
04/20	1	Barrington Trail S. Young, D. Hubbard, J. Wallace, L. Brill	
04/25	1	N. River Rd., Durham	C. Hutton
04/26	1	Bedell Bridge SP, Haverhill	J. Andrews
05/01	1	Coppal House Farm, Lee	R. Prieto
05/03	1	Millican Nurseries, Pleasant St., Chichester	J. Lambert



Sandhill Crane by Scott Heron, 5-3-17, Lee, NH.

Shorebirds through Terns



Ruff by Susan Wisley, 4-30-17 Hampton, NH.

American Oystercatcher is another bird that seems to be on the increase, with four records along the coast, from Little Harbor to Hampton to Star Island, where the species is now a regular spring migrant. Steve Mirick found a female **Ruff**, also known as a Reeve, in Hampton Marsh on April 29, the 11th record for New Hampshire and the first since 2011. The Ruff's star power drew many birders and, as is often the case, more birders find more birds. Becky Suomala and Zeke Cornell found an **American Golden Plover** in basic plumage while searching for the Ruff. This species normally migrates north through the central US and

spring records are a rarity, with the last spring record coming in the same season as the last Ruff in 2011. Six **Red Knots** and two **Red-necked Phalarope** were spotted offshore by birders heading to Star Island. Ben Griffith saw, and just as importantly heard, a rare **Long-billed Dowitcher** at Odiorne Point State Park on May 28. I am tempted to say that Long-billed Dowitcher is, as with American Golden Plover, rarer in spring than fall, but in truth, it is rare during either season, though exceptionally so in spring, with only one documented spring occurrence from 1987.

A huge movement of Spotted Sandpipers was observed on May 20, with 80 birds counted from Odiorne Point State Park. Katrina Fenton counted 31 Solitary Sandpipers foraging in a beaver wetland at Umbagog National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) on May 11, an exceptionally high count from a single site.



Thick-billed Murre by Benjamin Griffith, 5-27-17, Rye Harbor SP, NH.

The phenomenon of late spring **Thick-billed Murres** continues, with at least a half dozen individuals seen during a ten day period from May 17-27. There were no other reports from earlier in the season and only three reports from the winter season (see the Winter 2016-17 issue, Vol. 35, No. 4). This pattern has been repeating itself for at least ten years, some more so than others, with this spring providing a particularly significant example. While Common Murre and Razorbill are occasionally seen through spring and even summer, especially from the Isles of Shoals or farther out on Jeffreys Ledge, they do not seem to peak during late spring in the same way as we are seeing with Thick-billed Murre. I suspect the bulk of the northern breeding alcids have vacated the southern Gulf of Maine by mid-March. To support this contention, Becky Suomala and Zeke Cornell recorded only three Razorbills and 4 large alcids unidentified to species during an offshore trip on April 3, and this observation tallies with my own personal experience during late winter and early spring trips to the Gulf of Maine in previous years. One can only guess at the causes behind this phenomenon, but I suspect that it is not a positive development and, if it continues, we might have to modify our perception of Thick-billed Murre as a winter visitor. By contrast, Black

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Guillemots do indeed peak in spring, at least near the state's only known breeding ground on the Isles of Shoals. I carefully counted 38 birds rafting up offshore from Star Island on May 12.

Bonaparte's Gulls continue to set the pace north through New Hampshire via the Connecticut River, with a bird appearing at the Hinsdale Setbacks on the Connecticut River on March 28, more than a month before the first migrants appeared along the coast. Kyle Wilmarth found New Hampshire's second **Mew Gull** at the Sears parking lot in Salem on March 1; the seventh gull species for this strip of asphalt. Average numbers of Iceland, Glaucous and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen across southeastern New Hampshire as expected, but were absent elsewhere. The adult Glaucous Gull that wintered in Seabrook was present until April 2, but a month later an immature bird turned up in the area even perching on the same bath house the adult preferred! In order of increasing rarity, **Caspian Terns** were reported from Eel Pond in Rye on May 6 and Hinsdale Setbacks on the Connecticut River on May 18, an **Arctic Tern** was reported from Hampton Harbor on May 13, and a **Forster's Tern** was reported from Seal Rocks in Rye on May 18.

Date # Location Observer

American Oystercatcher

05/13	1	Little Harbor, New Castle/Rye	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala, A. Robbins
05/17	2	Hampton Salt Marsh CA	S. Mirick
05/22	2	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	R. Quinn, et al.
05/31	2	Rt. 1A wooden bridge, Rye	L. McKillop



Piping Plover with a flag marker, by Debra Powers, 5-6-17, Seabrook Beach, NH. This bird was banded in The Bahamas on 11-17-15 and nested in Seabrook in 2016.

Black-bellied Plover

04/28	2	saltmarsh off Pollock Dr., Rye	S. Mirick
04/29	2	Hampton Salt Marsh CA	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
05/13	9	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	C. Guindon, C. Duffy
05/24	55	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	N.& W. Barbour

Date # Location Observer

American Golden-Plover

04/29	1	Hampton Salt Marsh CA	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, et al.
05/03	1	Hampton Salt Marsh CA	S. Mirick

Semipalmated Plover

05/03	3	Hampton Salt Marsh CA	S. Mirick
05/07	31	Seabrook Beach	K. Wilmarth
05/19	66	Hampton Salt Marsh CA	S. Mirick
05/30	2	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
05/31	1	Exeter WTP	J. Price

Piping Plover

04/03	1	Hampton Beach SP	K. Klapper, K. Fenton
04/08	2	Hampton Beach SP	J. Lambert, S. Mirick
05/13	5	Hampton Harbor Inlet	E. Hunn

Upland Sandpiper

04/22	3	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	J. Pettipas, S. Wisley, S. Mirick, J. Lamber, K. Wilmarth
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Ruddy Turnstone

05/07	1	Seabrook Beach	K. Wilmarth
05/20	4	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	C. Lentz

Red Knot

05/22	6	inland of Isles of Shoals	R. Quinn, et al.
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Ruff

04/29	1	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer
04/30	1	Hampton Salt Marsh CA	S. Mirick, et al.
05/01	1	Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton	A.& G. Robbins

Least Sandpiper

04/28	11	saltmarsh off Pollock Dr., Rye	S. Mirick
04/29	2	Exeter WTP	L. McKillop
04/29	100	Hampton Salt Marsh CA	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
05/02	2	Fields Grove, Nashua	C. Sheridan
05/03	1	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	S.& D. Stoddard
05/15	5	Water St., Lancaster	S.& D. Stoddard
05/18	25	Rt. 155A farm fields, Durham	K. Dorsey



White-rumped Sandpiper and Sanderling by Debra Powers, 5-4-17, Hampton Beach, NH.

White-rumped Sandpiper

04/29	1	Hampton Salt Marsh CA	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
05/04	1	Hampton Beach SP	D. Powers

Date	#	Location	Observer
05/07	1	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer
05/17	1	Rye Harbor	L. McKillop, S. Mirick
05/23	1	saltmarsh off Pollock Dr., Rye	S. Mirick
05/27	1	Hampton River Marina mudflats	B. Griffith

Pectoral Sandpiper

05/01	1	Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton	A. & G. Robbins
05/18	2	Cemetery Fields, Amherst	J. Maher

Semipalmated Sandpiper

04/30	1	Hampton Salt Marsh CA	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
05/02	1	Lone Goose Rd., S. Hampton	K. Wilmarth
05/16	20	NH coast	J. Maher
05/24	275	Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton	J. Maher
05/30	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	E. Lipton, J. Eckerson
05/31	2	Exeter WTP	J. Price



Short-billed Dowitchers migrating by Steve Mirick, 5-20-17, Rye, NH.

Short-billed Dowitcher

04/30	1	Hampton Salt Marsh CA	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, et al.
05/17	26	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
05/19	73	saltmarsh off Pollock Dr., Rye	S. Mirick
05/20	1	Cherry Pond, Jefferson	P. Brown
05/20	585	Pulpit Rocks, Rye	J. Lambert
05/22	180	Rt. 1A wooden bridge, Rye	D. Hubbard
05/22	105	Rye Harbor	R. Quinn, et al.

Long-billed Dowitcher

05/28	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	B. Griffith
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Wilson's Snipe

03/20	1	Fields Grove, Nashua	J. Maher
04/02	2	Chapmans Landing, Stratham	J. Pettipas, S. Wrisley
04/03	1	Exeter WTP	K. Klapper, K. Fenton
04/07	11	Strafford County Complex, Dover	A. Murray
04/11	1	East Side River Rd., Milan	L. Charron
05/31	15	Umbagog NWR	E. Lipton, J. Eckerson

Red-necked Phalarope

05/22	2	inland of Isles of Shoals	R. Quinn, et al.
05/27	50	Jeffrey's Ledge	R. Herman, M. Harvey

phalarope sp.

05/27	15	Jeffrey's Ledge	R. Herman, M. Harvey
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Date	#	Location	Observer
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Spotted Sandpiper

04/16	1	Locke Lake, Barnstead	J. Lambert
04/22	1	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
04/24	1	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
04/29	1	Mirror Lake, Whitefield	S. & D. Stoddard
05/20	80	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	K. Towler, J. Sparrell
05/20	46	Pulpit Rocks, Rye	J. Lambert

Solitary Sandpiper

04/13	1	Great Bay Farm, Greenland	S. Bennett
04/28	1	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer
04/28	2	Old Mill Rd. (mitigation area), Lee	S. Young
04/28	1	Meetinghouse Pond, Marlborough	T. Parody
04/29	5	Hawthorne-Feather Airpark, Deering	L. Burford
04/29	5	Mink Brook wetlands, Hanover	G. Clark
05/04	6	Umbagog NWR	K. Fenton
05/06	19	River Trail, Hanover	A. Burnett
05/11	31	Umbagog NWR	K. Fenton

Greater Yellowlegs

04/02	1	Henry's pool, Rt. 101E, Hampton	H. Otto, K. Wilmarth
04/05	6	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer
04/05	2	Lee Hook Rd., Lee	R. Prieto
04/07	1	Great Meadow, Charlestown	D. Jackson
04/27	1	Stockwell Rd., Lancaster	S. & D. Stoddard
04/28	26	saltmarsh off Pollock Dr., Rye	S. Mirick
04/30	35	Hampton Salt Marsh CA	D. Lippy
05/03	40	Hampton Salt Marsh CA	S. Mirick
05/06	3	Ambrose Gravel Pit, Sandwich	K. Klapper
05/06	4	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzy	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
05/06	9	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	B. Crowley

Willet

04/17	1	Rt. 1A pools s. of Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	J. Maher
04/22	1	Parsons Creek saltmarsh, Rye	J. Pettipas, S. Wrisley
04/28	4	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer
04/29	14	Walton Rd., Seabrook	S. Mirick

Lesser Yellowlegs

04/09	1	Great Meadow, Charlestown	P. Brown, C. & L. Witko, S. Lamonde
04/17	2	NH coast	J. Maher
04/29	24	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	B. Griffith
05/03	5	Loudon Rd. fields behind PO, Concord	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
05/04	19	Henry's pool, Rt. 101E, Hampton	S. Mirick
05/07	5	Nansen Wayside Park, Milan	K. Fenton

Thick-billed Murre

05/13	1	Seal Rocks, Rye	C. Guindon, C. Duffy
05/16	1	Pulpit Rocks, Rye	J. Pettipas, S. Wrisley, S. Bennett, K. Vande Vusse, C. Witko
05/17	2	Pulpit Rocks, Rye	S. Mirick
05/17	1	Seal Rocks, Rye	L. McKillop, D. Lippy
05/20	1	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	J. Pettipas, S. Wrisley
05/27	1	Rye Harbor SP	B. Griffith, M. Harvey, R. Herman

Razorbill

03/05	9	Seabrook Beach	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
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SPRING SEASON

Razorbill (Con't)

Date	#	Location	Observer
04/03	9	inland of Isles of Shoals	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
04/22	4	Little Boars Head, N. Hampton	S. Mirick
05/23	1	Rt. 1A pullout opposite stone angel, Rye	W.& N. Barbour
05/27	1	inland of Isles of Shoals	M. Harvey



Black Guillemot by Leo McKillop, 5-17-17, Rye Harbor, NH.

Black Guillemot

05/12	38	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, et al.
05/17	1	Rye Harbor	L. McKillop, S. Mirick

Bonaparte's Gull

03/28	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	J. Russo
04/22	5	Hilton Park, Dover Pt.	J. Lambert
04/26	1	Lake Sunapee	D. Jackson
05/02	4	Fernwood Pt., Sunapee	D. Jackson
05/03	1	Bridge St., Lancaster	S.& D. Stoddard
05/08	1	Moore Reservoir, Littleton	K. Hiller
05/14	1	Swasey Parkway, Exeter	L. Medlock
05/15	2	Exeter WTP	C. McPherson
05/27	6	Fort Constitution, New Castle	Z. Cornell

Laughing Gull

05/07	1	Eel Pond, Rye	S. Mirick
05/13	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	L. Kras, B. Griffith

Mew Gull

03/01	1	Sears parking lot, Salem	K. Wilmarth
03/02	1	Sears parking lot, Salem	H. Bauer

Iceland Gull

03/01	1	Rockingham Park, Salem	S. Mirick
03/08	1	Exeter WTP	A.& G. Robbins
03/08	2	Sears parking lot, Salem	K. Wilmarth
03/17	1	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
03/19	1	Yankee Fisherman's Coop., Seabrook	J. Lambert
03/31	2	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard
04/04	1	Rt. 155A farm fields, Durham	S.& D. Stoddard
05/14	1	Rye Harbor SP	S. Mirick

Lesser Black-backed Gull

03/07	1	Eel Pond, Rye	S. Mirick, H. Bauer
03/31	2	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard
04/03	1	Jeffrey's Ledge	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
04/28	1	Harbor Rd., Rye	S. Mirick

Date	#	Location	Observer
05/07	1	Eel Pond, Rye	S. Mirick
05/14	1	Rye Harbor SP	L. McKillop

Glaucous Gull

03/05	1	Hampton Harbor	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
04/02	1	Hampton Harbor	Z. Cornell, M. Watson
04/08	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	S. Wisley, J. Pettipas
05/04	1	Hampton Beach SP	C. Breen
05/06	1	Yankee Fisherman's Coop., Seabrook	M. Watson, S. Mirick



Glaucous Gull by Steve Mirick, 5-14-17, Hampton, NH.

Least Tern

05/17	2	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
05/17	2	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	B. Deschamp
05/21	2	Seal Rocks, Rye	J. Lambert
05/28	3	Ocean Dr. at Ashland St., Hampton	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala

Caspian Tern

05/06	2	Eel Pond, Rye	S. Mirick
05/18	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	C. Ross, H. Galbraith

Roseate Tern

05/06	4	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
05/07	2	Hampton Harbor channel	S. Mirick
05/16	4	Great Boars Head, Hampton	B. Deschamp

Common Tern

05/04	4	Hampton Harbor	S. Heron
05/05	8	Yankee Fisherman's Coop., Seabrook	L. McKillop
05/06	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
05/07	7	Adams Pt., Great Bay, Durham	A. Kallenbach, D. Tucker
05/07	44	Hampton River Marina mudflats	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
05/14	80	Fort Stark, New Castle	S. Mirick

Arctic Tern

05/13	1	Hampton Harbor Inlet	E. Hunn
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Forster's Tern

05/18	1	Seal Rocks, Rye	K.& A. Wilmarth
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Cuckoos through Snow Buntings

A total of 556 reports of six species of owl were submitted to eBird for the period March 1 to May 31. Of these, 258, or almost 50% pertained to one bird; not one species, but one bird! The Newport **Great Gray Owl**, first seen on February 25, was the bird of the season; not necessarily the rarest, but the coolest. Charlee Breen, the founder and administrator of the Facebook group Birdwatchers of New Hampshire, estimated that approximately 700 people joined the group during and immediately after the owl's stay, doubtless because of the increased exposure the owl provided. While I lament the stress that crowds and photographers place upon star birds like the Great Gray Owl, there is clearly a conservation upside to these events, even if one bird is discommoded.



Great Gray Owl by Duane Cross, 3-14-17, Newport, NH.

An Eastern Whip-poor-will heard in Milford on April 14 was exceptionally early. There were two **Red-headed Woodpeckers** in the southeastern part of the state. With ash trees increasingly succumbing to emerald ash-borer, some models predict that the die-off may benefit the Red-headed Woodpecker. Red-bellied Woodpecker continues its northward march, with a bird seen in Jefferson on May 10. A four vireo day on Star Island May 20 included a Yellow-throated Vireo, a rare migrant for the island.

The discovery of six Fish Crows in the environs of the Hinsdale Walmart on May 24 represents the first evidence of an established population in Cheshire County. Additional individuals were sighted in Jaffrey, Keene and Swanzey, and the species looks to have finally gained a foothold in the Connecticut River Valley. They are surely poised to spread north into the three remaining counties where they are not yet known to breed, just as they moved north along the

Merrimack River Valley in the 1990s. Not normally thought of as a migrant, 17 Common Ravens were counted moving north past Hampton Beach State Park on April 3.

A suite of migrants that usually begin to arrive in New Hampshire toward the end of April got to the Granite State in record time, perhaps aided by weak airflow and warmer than normal conditions. A Great Crested Flycatcher in Mason on April 23 tied the early date for the state. Kyle Wilmarth found a Bank Swallow on April 13 at World End Pond in Salem and Len Medlock found a House Wren in Exeter two days later, both record early dates for New Hampshire. A Marsh Wren on April 22 was also early, but this species is known to occasionally overwinter, muddying the waters somewhat. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Rindge on April 10 tied the record early date.

Two Black-capped Chickadees on Star Island in mid-May are the first individuals that I have seen on the island during more than fifteen years of visits. Carolina Wrens were reported from all counties except Coos, and with 35% of reports coming from Rockingham, the species seems to have recovered from the crash of 2014-2015.

Seldom seen or heard in New Hampshire, three Gray-cheeked Thrushes were reported in May, from Seabrook, Hampton, and Star Island. This species is virtually indistinguishable in the field from Bicknell's Thrush and observers are encouraged to submit sightings as Bicknell's/ Gray-cheeked Thrush unless the bird is heard singing. **Varied Thrush** is less subtle, often enabling bemused feeder watchers to quickly arrive at an accurate identification. They are becoming an increasingly regular winter visitor to New Hampshire and the bird that first appeared at a Swanzey bird feeder on February 12 reappeared on March 4 after a two-week absence, remaining until last seen on March 23.

A Gray Catbird at Sawyer Farm in Walpole on March 27 was a holdover from winter, with the first migrants not appearing for another four weeks. Jim Sparrell and Katie Towler, writing in the Winter 2016-17 issue (Vol. 35, No. 4), stated "Bohemian Waxwings voraciously ate their way south, but none were observed in any of the southern counties during the winter season." Perhaps the depleted food supplies forced them south, with birds reported from every county during the spring season. Approaching routine in current times, they were a rare visitor fifty years ago, when people would travel from all corners of New England to see one (pers. comm. Bob Quinn, see also *The Birds of New Hampshire* by Keith and Fox). The only report of Lapland Longspur came from Woodmont Orchard in Hollis, with three birds on March 26. An extremely late Snow Bunting was photographed on the coast May 1. Most have departed by the first week of April.

SPRING SEASON



A female Snow Bunting in almost complete breeding plumage, by Alan Murray, 5-1-17, Hampton, NH.

Date	#	Location	Observer
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Yellow-billed Cuckoo

05/04	1	South Rd., Kensington	G. Gavutis, Jr.
05/18	1	Dunbarton	B. Griffith
05/19	1	Sand Pond, Lempster	P. Wood
05/21	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray
05/25	1	Fields Grove, Nashua	J. Maher

Black-billed Cuckoo

05/03	1	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch
05/03	1	Ash Brook wetland, Keene	C. Ross
05/03	1	Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins

Eastern Screech-Owl

03/19	1	Bowtie Ln., Hooksett	SNHU Class FT
03/24	1	Haven Ln., Exeter	L. Medlock
03/25	1	Edgewood Cemetery, Nashua	J. Maher



Snowy Owl by Steve Mirick, 4-2-17, Seabrook, NH.

Snowy Owl

03/10	1	Rye Harbor SP	H. Bauer
03/25	2	Yankee Fisherman's Coop., Seabrook	S. Mirick
04/10	1	Yankee Fisherman's Coop., Seabrook	M. Watson

Great Gray Owl

03/01	1	Sugar R. Rec. Rail Trail, Newport	S. Wrisley, J. Pettipas, S. Bennett, et al.
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Date	#	Location	Observer
04/02	1	Croydon Brook Rd., Newport	M. Nelson, et al.

Northern Saw-whet Owl

03/05	1	Newmarket Rd., Warner	F. Moltz
03/25	1	North Rd., Sunapee	D. Jackson
04/01	1	Amory Leland Dr., Thornton	E. Hoffman
04/03	1	Dublin Observatory	H. Walters
04/12	1	Rt. 89, Concord	D. Jackson
05/20	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	H. Walters, P. Brown, K. Fenton
05/25	1	Cannon Mt., Franconia	T. Paez

Common Nighthawk

05/18	2	Steeplegate Mall and pond, Concord	J. Koliass
05/18	2	Beaver Brook Assn., Hollis	C. McPherson
05/23	32	Oak Hill Rd., Brookline	C. McPherson
05/24	30	Matthews Rd., Swanzey	W. Ward

Eastern Whip-poor-will

04/14	1	Federal Hill Rd., Milford	M. Nickerson
04/24	2	Durrell Mt. Rd., Gilmanston	N. Mitchell
05/13	1	Mud Pond, Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson	D. Govatski, P. Brown NHAFT

Chimney Swift

04/28	2	Main St., Marlborough	P. Kirkhart
04/30	150	South St. at Thorndike St., Concord M.& R.	Suomala
05/10	60	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
05/13	3	Camp Dodge Rd., Greens Grant	J. Barbieri
05/27	83	Old Academy Building, Orford	J. MacQueen

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

04/24	1	Oak Hill Rd., Brookline	C. McPherson
04/29	1	Stevens Hill Rd., Nottingham	P. Miliotis
05/01	1	Wheeler Rd., Hollis	S. Wrisley
05/04	2	Page Hill Rd., Lancaster	A. Griffin

Red-headed Woodpecker

03/02	1	Molly Way, Epping	K. Dorsey
03/12	1	Molly Way, Epping	M. Watson
05/28	1	Pittsfield	C. Keene

Red-bellied Woodpecker

05/10	1	McIntire L., Jefferson	L. McIntire
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Yellow-bellied Woodpecker

03/08	1	Greeley Park, Nashua	J. Maher
03/16	1	Whipple Hill Rd., Lyme	B. Allison
03/19	1	Linden St., Exeter	B.& T. White
04/11	7	Strafford Town Forest	S. Young
04/12	1	Zealand Rd., Carroll	N. Mitiguy
04/16	11	Pondicherry NWR access trail	D. Govatski

Black-backed Woodpecker

03/21	2	Pondicherry NWR-Mud Pond, Jefferson	Z. Cornell
05/13	2	Little Cherry Pond trail, Pondicherry NWR	D. Govatski, P. Brown, et al.
05/19	1	Blueberry Swamp, Columbia	K. Fenton
05/21	1	Mt. Field, Bethlehem	A. MacLeod, et al.
05/28	1	Mt. Moosilauke, Benton	A. Burnett
05/31	2	East Inlet, Pittsburg	B. Beehler



Black-backed Woodpecker by Sophia Wong, 5-13-17, Pondicherry NWR, NH.

Date # Location Observer

Northern Flicker

04/05	1	Bretton Woods, Carroll	L. Bergum
04/11	10	Huntington Hill, Hanover	J. Norton
04/11	10	Range Rd., Sandwich	K. Klapper
04/13	14	Hildreth Dam, Warren	E. Marie
04/15	10	Umbagog NWR boat launch (north), Wentworths Location	L. Charron
04/15	15	NH coast	S. Mirick
04/18	25	1785 Inn, N. Conway	R. Steber
04/20	17	Jefferson Meadows	S.& D. Stoddard

American Kestrel

03/05	1	Boggy Meadow Farm, River Rd., Walpole	C. Caron
03/07	1	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	S. Wrisley
03/19	2	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
04/05	1	Water St., Lancaster	S.& D. Stoddard
04/09	9	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick, J. Lambert, K. Fenton
04/22	12	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	S. Mirick
04/29	15	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala

Olive-sided Flycatcher

05/17	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	S. Young
05/18	1	Mollidgewock Rd., Errol	K. Fenton
05/19	1	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
05/20	1	Dingman Farm, Kensington	D. Finch
05/21	2	McDaniels Marsh WMA	J. Gamble
05/29	1	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	A.& K. Wilmarth, B. Griffith, R. Prieto

Eastern Wood-Pewee

05/13	1	Cherry Pond, Jefferson	D. Perry
05/16	1	Dahl WS, Conway	S. Wilcox, S. Joyce
05/16	1	Great Meadow, Hollis	J. Gray
05/16	1	Hubbard Brook Exp. Forest, Woodstock	K. Marini
05/18	5	Hinsdale Setbacks	C. Stanistreet

Date # Location Observer

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

05/18	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	A. Hulsey
05/19	1	Blueberry Swamp, Columbia	K. Fenton
05/21	1	Rt. 16 boreal bog, Errol	K. Fenton
05/21	1	Umbagog NWR	K. Fenton
05/23	1	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	D. Lania
05/23	1	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch



Olive-sided Flycatcher by Ben Griffith, 5-29-17, Star Island, NH.

Alder Flycatcher

05/13	1	Mink Brook Farm, Etna	R. Atkins
05/16	1	Dahl WS, Conway	S. Wilcox, S. Joyce
05/18	1	Greenough Pond Rd., Errol	K. Fenton
05/18	4	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	A. Hulsey

Willow Flycatcher

05/12	1	Upper Suncook RA, Barnstead	J. Lambert
05/12		Elm Brook Park, Hopkinton	C. Taylor
05/18	1	Dunbarton	B. Griffith
05/18	2	Hinsdale Setbacks	C. Ross, J. Swatt
05/20	1	Perras Rd., Groveton	P. Brown, K. Fenton, H. Walters

Least Flycatcher

04/28	2	Tow Path Ln., Concord	D. Lania
04/28	1	Stevens Hill Rd., Nottingham	P. Miliotis
04/29	1	Ash Brook wetland, Keene	W. Ward
04/29	4	Pawtuckaway SP, Nottingham/Deerfield	S. Young
04/29	1	Bearcamp R. trail, Sandwich	K. Klapper
05/11	3	Weeks SP, Lancaster	D. Govatski
05/17	8	Weeks SP, Lancaster	S.& D. Stoddard
05/17	8	MacDowell Reservoir, Peterborough	P.& A. Brown

Eastern Phoebe

03/25	1	Fields Grove, Nashua	N. Houlihan
03/26	1	Charles Bancroft Hgwy., Litchfield	K. Fenton
03/30	1	Musquash CA, Hudson	S. Wong
03/31	1	Claire's Landing, Auburn	S. Mirick
04/02	1	Lower Landing Rd., Charlestown	J. Lambert
04/06	13	Airport Rd., Swanzey	C.& L. Witko, S. Lamonde

SPRING SEASON

Eastern Phoebe (con't)

Date	#	Location	Observer
04/10	1	Old Town Rd., Twin Mountain	N. Mitiguy
04/12	20	1785 Inn, N. Conway	W. Broussard

Great Crested Flycatcher

Date	#	Location	Observer
04/23	1	Mason rail trail	J. Maher
04/29	1	Woodridge Park, Durham	K. Dorsey
04/29	1	Dimond Hill Rd., Epping	G. Tillman
04/29	1	Lakeview Dr., Strafford	S. Young
05/16	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	C. Witko, K. Vande Vusse

Eastern Kingbird

Date	#	Location	Observer
04/19	1	Jericho Rd., Atkinson	H. Otto
04/20	1	Great Meadow, Hollis	C. McPherson, J. Maher
04/29	1	Ash Brook wetland, Keene	W. Ward
04/29	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	A. Murray
04/29	1	Clough SP, Weare	A. Kallenbach, D. Tucker
04/30	4	1785 Inn, N. Conway	W. Broussard
05/13	2	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski, P. Brown NHAFT



Northern Shrike by Len Medlock, 3-5-17, Newport, NH.

Northern Shrike

Date	#	Location	Observer
03/01	1	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	P., L.& A. Brown
03/02	1	Thompson WS, Sandwich	K. Klapper
03/04	1	Sugar R. Rec. Rail Trail, Newport	D. Jackson, et al.
03/05	1	Stevens Hill Rd., Nottingham	P. Miliotis
03/06	1	Pickerel Pond marsh, Laconia	M. Coskren
03/18	1	Concord St., Antrim	L. Burford
04/14	1	1785 Inn, N. Conway	R. Steber
04/20	1	Pingree Rd., New London	M. Vernon

Yellow-throated Vireo

Date	#	Location	Observer
04/29	1	Pawtuckaway SP, Nottingham/Deerfield	S. Young
05/01	1	Woodridge Park, Durham	K. Dorsey
05/02	3	Powwow R. at Hilledale Ave., S. Hampton	K. Wilmarth
05/13	1	Waumbeck Jct., Pondicherry NWR	D. Govatski, P. Brown NHAFT

Blue-headed Vireo

Date	#	Location	Observer
04/11	1	Lake Sunapee	D. Jackson
04/11	1	Bearcamp R. trail, Sandwich	K. Klapper
04/14	1	Stevens Hill Rd., Nottingham	P. Miliotis
04/15	1	S. Main St., Hanover	A. Burnett

Date	#	Location	Observer
04/23	7	Pawtuckaway SP, Nottingham/Deerfield	S. Mirick
04/24	2	Weeks SP, Lancaster	S.& D. Stoddard

Philadelphia Vireo

Date	#	Location	Observer
05/13	1	Claremont Rail Trail, Claremont	P. Newbern
05/17	1	Boston Lot L., Lebanon	B. Allison, S. Tiholiz, J. McQueen, Mascoma CFT
05/18	1	Portsmouth City Park, Harvard St.	J. Sparrell
05/18	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	R. Prieto, L. Kras, K. Towler
05/21	1	Pondicherry NWR-Mud Pond, Jefferson	M. Peretto

Warbling Vireo

Date	#	Location	Observer
04/28	2	Hinsdale Setbacks	C. Ross
04/28	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	S. Mirick
04/29	1	Chick's Corner Marsh, Sandwich	K. Klapper
05/07	9	Hinsdale Setbacks	M. Foster, M. Libby

Red-eyed Vireo

Date	#	Location	Observer
05/04	1	Joslin Land, Milford	S. Lemire
05/05	1	Stevens Hill Rd., Nottingham	P. Miliotis
05/09	1	Panorama Golf Course, Colebrook	L. Charron

Fish Crow

Date	#	Location	Observer
03/01	22	Rt. 28, Salem	S. Mirick
03/03	30	Rt. 28, Salem	S. Mirick
03/08	1	Greeley Park, Nashua	J. Maher
03/16	2	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer
03/18	2	Lincoln St., Exeter	B. White
03/18	2	Walmart, Somersworth	A. Murray
03/25	1	W. Alice Ave., Hooksett	SNHU Class FT
04/07	14	Rt. 16, Ossipee	S. Mirick
04/09	2	Lincoln Park, Gilford	I. MacLeod
04/12	23	MUB/Spaulding Woods, UNH	M. Jacobson
04/20	2	Old Homestead Hgwy., Swanzey	P. Kirkhart
05/24	6	Walmart, Rt. 119, Hinsdale	H. Galbraith

Common Raven

Date	#	Location	Observer
04/03	17	Hampton Beach SP	K. Fenton
04/08	20	Upper Suncook RA, Barnstead	J. Lambert

Horned Lark

Date	#	Location	Observer
03/15	275	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	S. Wrisley
03/17	55	Exeter WTP	J. Parrot-willis
03/18	100	Boggy Meadow Farm, River Rd., Walpole	T. Parody
04/25	1	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	J. Swatt
05/07	1	Rt. 155A farm fields, Durham	J. Lambert

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Date	#	Location	Observer
04/03	1	Horseshoe Pond, Merrimack	J. Maher
04/05	3	Mine Falls Park, Nashua	C. McPherson
04/08	2	Hinsdale Setbacks	D. Clark
05/03	25	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	H. Walters, W. Ward
05/13	23	Exeter WTP	C. Duffy, C. Guindon
05/13	3	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski, P. Brown NHAFT
05/29	25	Little Squam L., Ashland	S. Heinrich
05/30	20	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	J. Eckerson, E. Lipton

Purple Martin

Date	#	Location	Observer
04/28	2	Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook	S. Mirick
04/29	12	Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook	J. Pettipas

Date	#	Location	Observer
05/13	2	Exeter WTP	C. Duffy, C. Guindon
05/15	1	Funspot, Laconia	I. MacLeod
05/17	1	Millican Nurseries, Pleasant St., Chichester	J. Lambert
05/17	1	Hubbard Brook Exp. Forest, Woodstock	A. Hulsey
05/29	1	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	K.& A. Wilmarth, R. Prieto, B. Griffith

Tree Swallow

03/20	1	South End Marsh, Concord	D. Lipsy
03/25	1	Horseshoe Pond, Merrimack	J. McKibben
03/29	82	Hinsdale Setbacks	K. Cox, D. Clark
04/09	424	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick, J. Lambert, K. Fenton
04/11	1	Tracy Dr., Errol	L.& P. Charron
04/13	500	Lake Wantastiquet, Hinsdale	N. Fleck
04/22	2000	Spofford L., Chesterfield	C. Caron, T. Pirrl
04/30	1000	Exeter WTP	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, K. Towler, J. Sparrell
05/05	500	Upper Suncook RA, Barnstead	J. Lambert

Bank Swallow

04/13	1	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
04/19	1	Rochester WTP	B. Griffith
04/24	1	Nashua R. at Merrimack R., Nashua	C. Sheridan
05/06	3	Tullando Farm, Orford	J. MacQueen
05/13	1	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	D. Govatski, P. Brown NHAFT



Barn Swallow by Len Medlock, 5-14-17, Exeter, NH

Barn Swallow

04/08	1	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick, J. Lambert
04/09	1	Binney Hill Rd., New Ipswich	N. Moreau
04/10	11	Nashua River, Nashua	J. Maher
04/13	10	Hinsdale Setbacks	E. Synnott
04/15	1	Lily Pond, Gilford	C. Caron
04/30	100	Exeter WTP	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, K. Towler, J. Sparrell
04/30	2	Martin Meadow Pond, Lancaster	S.& D. Stoddard
04/30	50	Round Pond, Lyman	K. Hiller
05/16	107	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
05/29	400	Little Squam L., Ashland	S. Heinrich

Cliff Swallow

04/17	1	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
04/28	5	Panorama Golf Course, Colebrook	L. Charron
05/02	2	Upper Suncook RA, Barnstead	J. Lambert

Date	#	Location	Observer
05/11	8	Hinsdale Setbacks	C. Stanistreet
05/16	15	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick

Boreal Chickadee

03/06	6	Deer Mt. Campground, Pittsburg	L.& P. Charron
03/19	1	Loon Mt. North Peak, Livermore	K. Wilmarth
05/27	1	Mt. Moosilauke, Benton	K. Marini
05/27	2	Sugarloaf Mt. Trail, Stratford	S. Hale

Tufted Titmouse

03/26	2	Lancaster School, Lancaster	S.& D. Stoddard
03/30	1	Twin View Dr., Carroll	N. Mitiguy
04/10	1	Tracy Dr., Errol	L.& P. Charron
04/11	1	Mechanic St., Gorham	W. O'Brien

House Wren

04/15	1	Haven Ln., Exeter	L. Medlock
04/17	2	Keene Bike Path	S. Lamonde
04/18	1	Caldwell Rd., Nashua	C. Sheridan
04/26	1	Mink Brook Nature Preserve, Hanover	A. Burnett
04/28	1	Squam Lakes Natural Science Ctr., Holderness	I. MacLeod
05/02	1	Tracy Dr., Errol	L.& P. Charron

Winter Wren

03/13	1	Hammond Hollow, Gilsum	M. Wright
04/02	1	1785 Inn, N. Conway	W. Broussard
04/03	1	Mink Brook Nature Preserve, Hanover	P. Geithner, A. Burnett
04/14	1	Zealand Rd., Carroll	N. Mitiguy
04/16	1	Weeks SP, Lancaster	D. Haas



Marsh Wren by Leo McKillop, 4-29-17, Exeter WTP, NH.

Marsh Wren

04/22	1	Exeter WTP	P. Miliotis
04/22	1	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
04/23	2	Hinsdale Setbacks	J. Russo
05/05	2	Thompson WS, Sandwich	K. Klapper
05/13	1	Moorhen Marsh, Pondicherry NWR	D. Govatski, P. Brown NHAFT
05/17	11	World End Pond, Salem	K.& A. Wilmarth

SPRING SEASON

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
Carolina Wren							
03/19	1	Akwa Marina, Laconia	I. MacLeod	05/19	1	Pondicherry NWR access trail	M. Bell, T. Ficker
03/24	1	Mascoma R., Lebanon	J. MacQueen	05/29	1	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	B. Griffith
05/17	1	Dahl WS, Conway	S. Mesick	Hermit Thrush			
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher							
04/11	2	Hinsdale Setbacks	C. Ross	03/18	2	South Rd., E. Kingston	C. Caron
04/11	1	Keene State WMA	T. Parody	03/21	1	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	P. Kirkhart
04/11	2	World End Pond, Salem	K. & A. Wilmarth	04/01	1	McCabe Forest, Antrim	L. Burford
04/30	2	Johnston Is., Lebanon	K. Lanzetta	04/04	1	Sanborn Rd., Ashland	I. MacLeod
05/05	2	Dahl WS, Conway	C. Nims	04/09	1	Star Ridge Rd., Thornton	T. McShane
Ruby-crowned Kinglet							
04/08	1	Gillis Hill Rd., Bennington	P. Eppig	04/12	1	Twin View Dr., Carroll	N. Mitiguy
04/09	1	NHA McLane Ctr., Concord	P. Hunt	Wood Thrush			
04/09	1	1785 Inn, N. Conway	W. Broussard	04/28	1	MUB/Spaulding Woods, UNH	M. Jacobson
04/09	1	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. Sheridan	04/29	3	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch
04/09	1	Hawkin's Farm, Salem	H. Otto	04/29	2	South Rd., Kensington	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04/15	1	Martin Meadow Pond Rd., Lancaster	S. & D. Stoddard	04/29	1	The Residences at Abenaki Springs, Walpole	C. Witko
04/16	16	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt	05/02	1	Quincy Bog, Rumney	A. Hulsey
04/23	10	Dahl WS, Conway	R. Steber, J. Keator	05/03	3	Boston Lot L., Lebanon	B. Allison, G. Clark, Mascoma, CFT
04/23	10	River Trail, Hanover	A. Burnett	05/13	2	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski, P. Brown NHAFT
04/23	10	Chase WS, Hopkinton	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala	American Robin			
04/23	18	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	L. & P. Charron	04/04	1200	Shaw Rd., Pittsfield	J. Lambert
Veery							
04/28	1	Straw Point, Rye	S. Mirick	04/04	648	River Rd., Walpole	D. Clark
04/30	1	Thorne Pond, Bartlett	W. Broussard	04/05	450	Upper City Rd., Loudon	J. Lambert
05/13	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski, P. Brown NHAFT	04/08	520	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	A. Burnett
Gray-cheeked Thrush							
05/19	1	Wildwood Cemetery, Seabrook	S. Mirick	Varied Thrush			
05/28	1	Church St. water tower parking lot, Hampton	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, S. Mirick	03/04	1	Westport Village Rd., Swanzey	M. Danforth
Bicknell's Thrush							
05/21	1	Galehead Hut, Franconia	H. Batcheller	03/23	1	Westport Village Rd., Swanzey	B. Thompson
05/27	1	Mt. Washington Auto Rd.	H. Fechter	Gray Catbird			
05/28	3	Crawford Path, WMNF	C. Nims	03/27	1	Sawyer Farm, River Rd., Walpole	P. Brown
05/30	2	Base Station Rd., Crawford	D. & M. Marjamaa	04/28	2	MUB/Spaulding Woods, UNH	M. Jacobson
05/30	3	turbine access road, Millsfield/Dixville	E. Lipton, J. Eckerson	04/28	1	Church St. water tower parking lot, Hampton	S. Mirick
05/30	6	Mt. Washington Auto Rd.	M. Weaver, E. Miller	04/28	2	S. Main St., Newton	H. Burns
Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's Thrush							
05/18	1	Oyster R. Forest, Durham	K. Dorsey	04/28	1	Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins
05/20	1	Mine Falls Park, Nashua	C. McPherson	04/28	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Kallenbach, D. Currier, A. Murray
05/20	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	A. Murray	04/29	1	Boat Landing Rd., Orford	J. MacQueen
05/28	1	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	K. Heisen	05/06	1	Turnpike Rd., Riverton	S. & D. Stoddard
Swainson's Thrush							
05/03	1	Antioch U. New England, Keene	S. Lamonde, C. Witko	05/06	17	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	J. Lambert
05/07	1	Church St. water tower parking lot, Hampton	J. Lambert, S. Mirick	05/11	20	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray
05/13	1	Contoocook River Park/Island Shores Estates, Penacook	P. Hunt	05/13	28	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	A. Robbins, Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
05/13	1	Lonesome Lake, Lincoln	R. Quinn	05/18	30	Hinsdale Setbacks	C. Stanistreet
Brown Thrasher							
04/12	1	Airport Rd., Swanzey	E. Synnott	Bohemian Waxwing			
04/12	1	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	S. & D. Stoddard	03/04	55	Gorham hydroelectric station	J. Maher
04/14	1	Krif Rd., Keene	K. Klapper	03/04	300	County Rd. at Newport Rd., New London	D. Jackson
04/15	1	Lily Pond, Gilford	C. Caron	03/06	80	Squam R., Ashland	I. MacLeod
Brown Thrasher							
04/12	1	Airport Rd., Swanzey	E. Synnott	03/07	75	Sunapee St., Newport	D. Perry
04/12	1	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	S. & D. Stoddard				
04/14	1	Krif Rd., Keene	K. Klapper				
04/15	1	Lily Pond, Gilford	C. Caron				
Bohemian Waxwing							
03/04	55	Gorham hydroelectric station	J. Maher				
03/04	300	County Rd. at Newport Rd., New London	D. Jackson				
03/06	80	Squam R., Ashland	I. MacLeod				
03/07	75	Sunapee St., Newport	D. Perry				

Date	#	Location	Observer
03/13	200	Mills Falls parking lot, Meredith	K. Klapper
03/13	150	Bean Rd., Moultonborough	K. Klapper
03/19	100	School House Inn, N. Conway	J.& D. Scott
03/22	15	Wentworth-Douglass Hospital, Dover	A. Murray
03/22	40	Hollow Oak Farm, Sullivan	M. Trimitsis
03/24	123	NHA McLane Ctr., Concord	P. Brown, et al.
03/24	150	Squam Lakes Natural Science Ctr., Holderness	I. MacLeod
03/27	115	Pleasant St., Chichester	J. Lambert
04/05	14	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	S. Mirick
04/16	3	NHTI, Institute Dr., Concord	E. Nguyen

Lapland Longspur

03/26	3	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson
04/12	1	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	J. Maher

Snow Bunting

03/04	75	Berlin Airport, Milan	J. Maher
03/05	35	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	S.& J. Mirick, et al.
03/17	30	Sugar R. Rec. Rail Trail, Newport	C. Jones, K. Stevens, T. Socci
03/20	30	Rt. 135 farm fields, Lancaster	S.& D. Stoddard
03/21	34	Moulton Farm, Meredith	K. Klapper
04/30	1	Mt. Lafayette summit, Franconia	J. Stockwell
05/01	1	Hampton Beach SP	A. Murray

Warblers through Finches

If spring is a three part movement, May is the masterpiece, with the arrival of the warblers the defining act. This year, warbler diversity peaked at 29 species, slightly above the thirty-year average of 28 species per spring. It was augmented by several notable rarities, chief amongst which was a **Golden-winged Warbler** at the Canterbury Shaker Village on May 16, the first spring record of this declining former breeder since 2004. In the twenty years prior, the species was reported in two out of every three spring seasons, often involving multiple individuals. One hopes that this is not the fate that awaits Cerulean Warbler, an extremely rare summer resident and occasional breeder. In 20 years to 2012, the species was recorded in every spring but two. In the five years since, it has been recorded in only two spring seasons. If you are fortunate enough to find one on territory, please consider the welfare of the bird first and foremost. Indiscriminate use of playback to photograph rare birds is prohibited by the American Birding Associations code of ethics, and yet the problem persists. Use your judgement before publicizing the location of a rare breeding species. A rare **Hooded Warbler** on May 5 in Sullivan was beyond the northern edge of its range. There are no documented breeding records of this species in New Hampshire. A **Yellow-throated Warbler**, another rare warbler, was found in Hampton on May 7.

Grasshopper Sparrows were found at a new site, with two birds discovered singing on May 27 in suitable breeding

habitat at the same Hinsdale location as the newly discovered Fish Crows. Phil Brown found a **Clay-colored Sparrow** at NH Audubon's McLane Center in Concord on May 22, the only other notable sparrow of the season. A **Summer Tanager** brought a welcome dash of exotic color to a Thornton suet feeder on May 9, though it was bested by the **Painted Bunting** photographed under a Littleton feeding station on May 13. Both sightings demonstrate the value of bird feeders to birds and people alike, especially during the edge of the season when food is scarce. A drab and elusive bunting seen May 29 on Star Island was thought by observers to be a Lazuli Bunting, although it could not be confirmed. **Dickcissels** were seen in Portsmouth on May 18 and Concord on April 24. Apart from Purple Finch, northern finches were restricted to northern counties.

Date	#	Location	Observer
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Ovenbird

04/23	1	MUB/Spaulding Woods, UNH	M. Jacobson
04/23	1	Miller SP, Peterborough	N. Moreau
04/25	1	Panorama Golf Course, Colebrook	L. Charron

Louisiana Waterthrush

04/09	1	South Rd., Kensington	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04/10	1	Urban Forestry Ctr., Portsmouth	J. Sparrell, K. Towler
04/10	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray, D. Hubbard
04/18	1	Millbridge Rd., Sandwich	K. Klapper
04/20	1	Archertown Brook, Orford	J. MacQueen
05/14	1	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard

Northern Waterthrush

04/23	1	Bartell-Palmer CA, Brookline	C. McPherson
04/23	1	Green Rd., Kingston	S. Heron
04/23	1	Salmon Falls R., Rollinsford	R. Hussey
04/24	1	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
04/28	1	Panorama Golf Course, Colebrook	L. Charron

Golden-winged Warbler

05/16	1	Canterbury Shaker Village, Canterbury	R. Smith
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Blue-winged Warbler

04/29	1	Foss Farm, Durham	M. Jacobson, J. Mills-Anderson
04/29	1	Oyster R. Forest, Durham	K. Dorsey
05/02	1	Turee Pond boat launch, Bow	D. Lipsy
05/16	2	Cilley State Forest, Concord	P. Hunt
05/17	5	Yudicky Farm/Southwest Park, Nashua	C. Sheridan
05/19	1	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard

Black-and-white Warbler

04/24	1	Commerce Way, Exeter	C. Guindon
04/24	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	C. Ross
04/24	1	Urban Forestry Ctr., Portsmouth	M. Malby, P. Farr
04/24	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray
04/27	1	Range Rd., Sandwich	K. Klapper
04/28	1	Woodland Trace, New London	D. Jackson
04/29	15	Tucker and French Family Forest, Kingston	S. Heron
04/29	15	Clough SP, Weare	A. Kallenbach, D. Tucker
05/04	1	Round Pond, Errol	K. Fenton

SPRING SEASON



Blue-winged Warbler by Jason Lambert, 5-7-17, Durham, NH.

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
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Tennessee Warbler

05/12	1	Perch Pond Rd., Holderness	I. MacLeod
05/16	1	Wildwood Cemetery, Seabrook	S. Mirick
05/17	5	Storrs Rd., Hanover	L. Morin
05/18	2	Hinsdale Setbacks	C. Ross
05/18	5	Valley Cross Rd., Jackson	R. Steber
05/27	1	Pittsburg	K.& A. Wilmarth

Nashville Warbler

04/25	1	Antioch U. New England, Keene	S. Lamonde, C. Witko
04/28	2	Bartell-Palmer CA, Brookline	C. McPherson
04/28	1	Dahl WS, Conway	R. Steber
04/28	1	Woodland Trace, New London	D. Jackson
05/04	1	Round Pond, Errol	K. Fenton
05/13	12	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski, P. Brown NHAFT

Mourning Warbler

05/16	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	C. Stanistreet
05/18	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	R. Prieto, L. Kras
05/18	1	Cherry Pond, Jefferson	D. Govatski, et al.
05/21	1	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch
05/23	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	C. Nims, J. Scott
05/24	1	Center Chatham	J. Scott
05/24	1	Dahl WS, Conway	C. Nims
05/30	1	Mollidgewock Rd., Errol	E. Lipton, J. Eckerson
05/30	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	J. Eckerson

Common Yellowthroat

04/19	1	Page Hill Rd., Berlin	L.& P. Charron
04/24	1	Martin Meadow Pond, Lancaster	S.& D. Stoddard
04/28	1	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	D. Lipsy, A. Kurdt
04/28	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	C. Ross
04/28	1	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	S.& D. Stoddard
05/18	42	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	A. Hulsey
05/18	41	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	R. Prieto, L. Kras

Hooded Warbler

05/05	1	Juniper Hill Rd., Claremont	S. Palmer
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American Redstart

04/28	1	Beaver Brook Assn., Hollis	C. McPherson
04/28	2	Marlboro St., Keene	W. Ward

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
04/29	1	Mink Brook Nature Preserve, Hanover	A. Burnett, G. Clark
05/06	1	Valley Cross Rd., Jackson	J. Scott
05/07	28	Hinsdale Setbacks	M. Foster, M. Libby
05/13	1	Camp Dodge Rd., Greens Grant	J. Barbieri
05/18	25	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	R. Prieto, L. Kras

Cape May Warbler

04/30	1	Nubanusit Neighborhood and Farm, Peterborough	N. White
05/07	1	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
05/12	1	Straits Rd., New Hampton	S. Andujar
05/13	1	Waumbeck Jct., Pondicherry NWR	D. Govatski, P. Brown NHAFT
05/13	4	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	L. Charron
05/13	2	High Meadow Rd., Moltonborough	M. Giovonizzi
05/29	1	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	B. Griffith, K.& A. Wilmarth, R. Prieto
05/31	1	Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins

Northern Parula

04/15	1	Benson Park, Hudson	K. Klapper, K. Fenton
04/16	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
04/28	1	Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins
04/30	1	Range Rd., Sandwich	K. Klapper
05/03	1	Dorchester Rd., Lyme	P. Ackerson
05/04	1	Panorama Golf Course, Colebrook	L. Charron
05/13	10	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski, P. Brown NHAFT
05/13	25	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	B. Griffith, L. Kras, R. Prieto

Magnolia Warbler

05/03	1	Pleasant St., Goffstown	K. Cole
05/03	1	Ash Brook wetland, Keene	C. Ross
05/07	1	Boston Lot L., Lebanon	D. Doubleday
05/11	1	Umbagog NWR	K. Fenton
05/18	19	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	R. Prieto, L. Kras

Bay-breasted Warbler

05/10	1	Granite Hill School, Newport	P. Newbern
05/13	2	Waumbeck Jct., Pondicherry NWR	D. Govatski, P. Brown NHAFT
05/17	5	Storrs Rd., Hanover	L. Morin

Blackburnian Warbler

04/30	1	Oak Hill Rd., Brookline	C. McPherson
05/01	2	River Trail, Hanover	A. Burnett
05/02	1	Thorne Pond, Bartlett	W. Broussard
05/02	1	10-mile survey, Lyman	S. Turner
05/13	6	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski, P. Brown NHAFT
05/17	10	Hubbard Brook Exp. Forest, Woodstock	A. Hulsey, D. Aube
05/18	10	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	A. Hulsey

Yellow Warbler

04/24	1	Commerce Way, Exeter	C. Guindon
04/28	1	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer
04/28	2	Hinsdale Setbacks	C. Ross, L. Bate
04/28	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Kallenbach, D. Currier

SPRING SEASON

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
05/01	1	Reeds Marsh WMA, Orford	J. MacQueen	05/06	1	Martin Meadow Pond, Lancaster	S.& D. Stoddard
05/07	20	Hinsdale Setbacks	M. Foster, M. Libby	05/10	28	Five Finger Pt. NA, Sandwich	A. Hulsey
05/13	8	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski, P. Brown NHAFT	Yellow-rumped Warbler			
05/16	18	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	J. Maher	04/05	1	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch
05/17	21	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard, Seacoast CFT	04/07	1	1785 Inn, N. Conway	W. Broussard
05/23	41	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	C. Nims, J. Scott	04/07	2	Oxbow Cove, Mine Falls Park, Nashua	C. Sheridan
Chestnut-sided Warbler				04/13	16	Hinsdale Setbacks	E. Synnott
04/30	1	Everett Dam conservation lands, E. Weare Rd., Weare	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala	04/14	1	Tracy Dr., Errol	L. Charron
05/01	1	Black Pond, Windsor	M. Oyler	04/16	32	Mine Falls Park, Nashua	J. Maher
05/02	1	1785 Inn, N. Conway	W. Broussard	04/18	50	Hinsdale Setbacks	C. Ross
05/03	1	Dorchester Rd., Lyme	P. Ackerson	04/19	50	Nottingham Town Hall trail	K. Dorsey
05/03	2	Range Rd., Sandwich	K. Klapper	04/27	50	Northwood Meadows SP, Northwood	P. Farr, A. Murray
05/18	23	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	A. Hulsey	04/28	100	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray
Blackpoll Warbler				04/29	60	Exeter WTP	H. Burns
05/09	1	Mt. Cardigan, Orange	D. Triplett	04/30	70	Great Meadow, Hollis	C. Sheridan
05/10	2	Kensington residence	L. Lackey	05/03	55	MacDowell Reservoir, Peterborough	P.& A. Brown
05/11	1	Strafford County Complex, Dover	D. Hubbard	Yellow-throated Warbler			
05/13	1	Waumbeck Jct., Pondicherry NWR	D. Govatski, P. Brown NHAFT	05/07	1	Church St. water tower parking lot, Hampton	S.& J. Mirick, et al.
Black-throated Blue Warbler				Prairie Warbler			
04/29	1	Rockrimmon Rd., Kingston	A. Roy	04/26	2	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	D. Lipsy
04/30	1	Oak Hill Rd., Brookline	C. McPherson	04/28	2	Bartell-Palmer CA, Brookline	C. McPherson
04/30	1	N. River Rd., Epping	G. Tillman	04/29	4	Hertzka Dr./Northern Blvd., Amherst	C. Sheridan
05/01	1	Boston Lot L., Lebanon	K. Thompson	05/06	1	West Branch pine barrens, Madison	K. Klapper
05/02	1	Squam Lakes Natural Science Ctr., Holderness	I. MacLeod	05/18	25	Dunbarton	B. Griffith
05/03	2	Jobs Creek Rd., Sunapee	D. Jackson	05/19	1	Dahl WS, Conway	C. Nims, R. Steber
05/06	1	Martin Meadow Pond Rd., Lancaster	S.& D. Stoddard	Black-throated Green Warbler			
Palm Warbler				04/22	1	Krif Rd., Keene	W. Ward
04/06	1	Warton Rd., Nashua	A. Moreira	04/24	1	Bowles Rd., Newbury	D. Jackson
04/06	1	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth	04/24	2	Pawtuckaway SP, Nottingham/Deerfield	J. Scott, R. Steber
04/07	1	Strafford County Complex, Dover	A. Murray	04/28	1	Buffalo Rd., Rumney	J. Williams
04/11	2	Cate's Farm, Rt. 25C, Warren	E. Marie	04/30	1	Thorne Pond, Bartlett	W. Broussard
04/14	40	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard	05/05	2	Potter Farm Trail, Errol	K. Fenton
04/20	2	Pondicherry NWR--Mud Pond, Jefferson	D. Forsyth	05/13	10	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski, P. Brown NHAFT
04/22	22	Beaver Brook Assn., Hollis	K. Fenton	Canada Warbler			
04/23	32	Hinsdale Setbacks	J. Russo	05/12	1	Jackson's Landing, Durham	R. Prieto
04/27	20	Northwood Meadows SP, Northwood	P. Farr, A. Murray	05/16	2	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard, R. Steber, L. Smith
05/11	12	Umbagog NWR	K. Fenton	05/17	1	Mink Brook Nature Preserve, Hanover	A. Burnett
Palm Warbler-western subsp.				05/17	1	Goose Pond, New London	D. Jackson
04/19	2	Horse Hill Nature Preserve, Merrimack	M. Cahill	05/17	1	Mirror Lake, Woodstock	A. Hulsey
04/23	1	Pawtuckaway SP, Nottingham/Deerfield	S. Mirick	05/18	1	Rt. 16 boreal bog, Errol	K. Fenton
Pine Warbler				05/27	10	The Balsams, Colebrook	L. Charron, G.& D. Dionne
03/06	1	Bay Rd., Newmarket	H. Chary	05/30	10	Clark Pond Rd., Canaan	P. Bradley
03/29	1	downtown Hanover	B. Allison	05/31	25	Umbagog NWR	E. Lipton, J. Eckerson
04/02	1	W. Portsmouth St., Concord	D. Lania	Wilson's Warbler			
04/10	1	Dahl WS, Conway	C. Nims, R. Steber	05/04	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	P. Farr, A. Murray
04/16	13	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt	05/07	1	Contoocook River Park/Island Shores Estates, Penacook	P. Hunt
04/23	33	Pawtuckaway SP, Nottingham/Deerfield	S. Mirick	05/12	3	Hinsdale Setbacks	C. Stanistreet
				05/13	1	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	D. Govatski, P. Brown NHAFT

SPRING SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
Grasshopper Sparrow			
05/09	2	USFWS Karner Blue Easement, Concord	N. Dorian
05/15	2	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	K. Wilmarth
05/18	5	Cemetery Fields, Amherst	J. Maher
05/18	7	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	P. Hunt
05/23	9	Cemetery Fields, Amherst	J. Maher
05/27	2	Walmart, Rt. 119, Hinsdale	W. Ward, T. Parody
05/28	6	Pease Int'l. Tradeport, Short St., Newington	K. Fenton

Nelson's Sparrow			
05/28	1	Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton	K. Fenton

Saltmarsh Sparrow			
05/28	3	Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala

American Tree Sparrow			
04/24	1	Thompson WS, Sandwich	R. Steber, J. Scott
04/24		Gore Rd., Thornton	P. Bradley
04/30	1	Melanie Ln., Bow	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala

Chipping Sparrow			
03/02	1	Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins
03/26	1	Sunset Farm, Greenland	S. Wrisley, J. Pettipas
04/07	1	1785 Inn, N. Conway	W. Broussard
04/11	2	Shelburne	W. O'Brien
04/30	23	Tracy Dr., Errol	L. Charron
05/01	30	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	T. Parody

Clay-colored Sparrow			
05/22	1	NHA McLane Ctr., Concord	R. Suomala, et al.

Field Sparrow			
04/05	1	Derry	T. Pope
04/07	1	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson
04/07	1	Mine Falls Park, Nashua	J. Maher
04/09	1	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
04/16	1	Boston Lot L., Lebanon	A. Burnett
04/18	2	1785 Inn, N. Conway	R. Steber
04/20	14	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	J. Maher
04/27	15	USFWS Karner Blue Easement, Concord	N. Dorian
05/12	1	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	H. Walters

Fox Sparrow			
04/19	1	Range Rd., Sandwich	K. Klapper
04/22	1	River Trail, Lisbon	K. Hiller
05/04	1	Round Pond, Errol	K. Fenton
05/13	1	Waumbeck Jct., Pondicherry NWR	L. Charron, et al.
05/20	2	Fourth Connecticut L., Pittsburg	H. Walters, K. Fenton
05/21	1	Galehead Hut, Franconia	H. Batcheller
05/30	2	turbine access road, Millsfield/Dixville	E. Lipton, J. Eckerson

White-crowned Sparrow			
04/29	1	Mountain Rd., Concord	J. Nadeau
04/29	1	Breakfast Hill Rd., Greenland	B. Griffith
04/29	3	Krif Rd., Keene	W. Ward
05/02	4	Tracy Dr., Errol	L. & P. Charron
05/08	5	Buffalo Rd., Rumney	J. Williams
05/11	3	Strafford County Complex, Dover	D. Hubbard
05/16	3	Birch St. Community Garden, Concord	P. Hunt

Date	#	Location	Observer
05/17	3	South Mill Pond, Portsmouth	J. Sparrell
05/17	3	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	S. Young

Vesper Sparrow			
04/10	1	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	P. Kirkhart
04/12	1	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
04/17	1	First Connecticut L., Pittsburg	R. Quinn
04/19	2	Concord Airport	N. Dorian
04/20	1	Tullando Farm, Orford	J. MacQueen
04/22	1	Brown Ln., Hollis	C. Sheridan
04/27	5	USFWS Karner Blue Easement, Concord	N. Dorian
05/05	1	Ambrose Gravel Pit, Sandwich	K. Klapper
05/28	1	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	B. Griffith

Savannah Sparrow			
04/05	4	Exeter WTP	H. Bauer
04/07	2	Charlestown WTP	D. Jackson
04/07	2	Strafford County Complex, Dover	A. Murray
04/11	2	Rt. 135 farm fields, Lancaster	S. & D. Stoddard
04/22	55	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson



"Ipswich" Savannah Sparrows by Debra Powers, 4-9-17, Rye Harbor SP, NH.

Savannah Sparrow - Ipswich subsp.			
04/02	9	Rye Harbor SP	K. Wilmarth
04/10	2	Rye Harbor SP	M. Watson

Lincoln's Sparrow			
05/10	1	Airport Rd., Swanzey	C. Witko
05/11	1	Strafford County Complex, Dover	D. Hubbard
05/12	1	Range Rd., Sandwich	K. Klapper
05/13	1	Cherry Pond, Jefferson	D. Govatski, P. Brown NHAFT

Swamp Sparrow			
03/26	1	Hooksett Rd., Auburn	D. Lipsy
04/06	1	Great Bay NWR	A. Murray
04/07	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard
04/11	1	Reeds Marsh WMA, Orford	J. MacQueen
04/11	1	Thompson WS, Sandwich	K. Klapper
04/16	2	Pondicherry NWR access trail	D. Govatski
04/28	28	Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins
05/31	17	Umbagog NWR	E. Lipton, J. Eckerson

Eastern Towhee			
03/14	1	Kenney Rd., New Ipswich	N. Moreau
04/09	1	Nashua River, Nashua	C. Sheridan
04/12	1	S. Main St., Newton	H. Burns

SPRING SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer	Date	#	Location	Observer
04/13	1	Strafford County Complex, Dover	D. Hubbard	05/04	1	Providence Hill Rd., Atkinson	H. Otto
04/13	1	Mink Brook Farm, Etna	R. Atkins	05/06	1	Lyme Rd., Hanover	J. Norton
04/28	16	Bartell-Palmer CA, Brookline	C. McPherson	05/07	3	Green Hill Rd., Chatham	B.& S. Crowley
04/30	1	Mollidgewock Rd., Errol	L. Charron	05/18	1	Pondicherry NWR access trail	J. Normandin
05/24	17	West Branch pine barrens, Madison	S. Lee				

Summer Tanager

05/09	1	Terrace Rd., Thornton	D. Brodie
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Scarlet Tanager

04/29	1	Clough SP, Weare	A. Kallenbach, D. Tucker
05/04	1	SPNHF Merrimack R. CA, Concord	D. Lipsy
05/04	1	Woodridge Park, Durham	K. Dorsey
05/05	1	Lyme Rd., Hanover	J. Norton
05/12	1	Quincy Bog, Rumney	A. Ports
05/13	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski, P. Brown NHAFT

Northern Cardinal

03/01	1	Mechanic St., Gorham	W. O'Brien
03/04	2	Tracy Dr., Errol	L. Charron
03/07	2	240 Portland St., Lancaster	S.& D. Stoddard
04/04	1	Shelburne	W. O'Brien
04/18	1	Cemetery Rd., Errol	K. Fenton
04/23	1	Crawford Path, Beans Grant	P. Crosson
05/13	1	Israel R. Campground, Jefferson	S. Shapiro
05/28	1	Dolly Copp Rd., Gorham	E. Miller, M. Weaver

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

04/28	1	Primrose Ln., Concord	S. Branscombe
04/28	1	UNH, Durham	K. Dorsey
04/28	1	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch
04/28	1	King's Hgwy., Hampton	S. Mirick
04/28	2	Marlboro St., Keene	T. Parody
04/28	1	High Rd., Lee	P. Farr
04/28	1	Old Mill Rd. (mitigation area), Lee	S. Young
04/28	1	Broad St., Rochester	S. Lauermann
04/29	1	Ridgewood Rd., Glen	R. Steber
04/29	1	Dodge Pond, Lyman	S. Turner
05/01	1	Tracy Dr., Errol	L.& P. Charron
05/17	13	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard, Seacoast CFT

Indigo Bunting

04/30	1	Alstead Center Rd., Alstead	M. Harrison
04/30	1	Silver Doe Ln., Merrimack	C. Wennerth



Bobolink by Len Medlock, 5-2-17, Exeter WTP, NH.

Lazuli/Indigo Bunting

05/29	1	Star Is., Isles of Shoals	B. Griffith, et al.
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Painted Bunting

05/13	1	Herbert Ln., Littleton	M. Gallinelli
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Dickcissel

03/18	1	South Mill Pond, Portsmouth	J. Sparrell, K. Towler
04/24	1	Hampshire Dr., Concord	S. Mattlage

Bobolink

05/01	2	Unity Rd., Newport	W. Ward
05/02	1	Exeter WTP	L. Medlock
05/03	3	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	L. McKillop
05/07	1	Trinity Farm, Orford	J. MacQueen
05/07	8	Trask Brook Rd., Sunapee	D. Jackson
05/08	2	Saco R. fields near Attitash Mt., Bartlett	R. Steber
05/13	8	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	D. Govatski, P. Brown NHAFT
05/14	24	Trask Brook Rd., Sunapee	D. Jackson
05/17	25	Cleveland Hill Rd., Tamworth	S. Lee
05/27	40	Wonalancet, Tamworth	R. Evon

Red-winged Blackbird

03/01	3	Old Landing Rd., Durham	K. Hochgraf
03/01	3	Exeter WTP	P. Miliotis
03/01	10	Messer Brook wetland, Hooksett	SNHU Class FT
03/08	13	Groveton WTP	S.& D. Stoddard
03/20	450	Johnston Is., Lebanon	J. MacQueen
03/29	400	Coppal House Farm, Lee	K. Klapper, K. Fenton
04/03	560	Exeter WTP	K. Klapper, K. Fenton



Eastern Meadowlark by Jim Sparrell, 4-9-17, Strafford County Farm, Dover, NH.

Eastern Meadowlark

03/16	2	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	A. Burnett
03/29	2	Rt. 63, Chesterfield	W. Ward
03/29	1	Morrills Farm, Penacook	M. Thompson
04/07	1	Strafford County Complex, Dover	A. Murray
04/08	1	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	J. Maher
04/09	2	Strafford County Complex, Dover	J. Sparrell, K. Towler

SPRING SEASON

Eastern Meadowlark (con't)

Date	#	Location	Observer
04/09	1	Hampton Beach SPK.	Fenton, J. Lambert, S. Mirick
04/10	2	Great Meadow, Charlestown	H. Galbraith
04/12	1	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
04/14	1	Bellamy River WMA, Dover	A. Murray
04/15	2	Pease Int'l. Tradeport, Short St., Newington	J. Pettipas, S. Wisley
04/18	1	Dingman Farm, Kensington	D. Finch
04/22	6	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	Z. Cornell
04/24	1	Lebanon Airport	J. MacQueen
04/27	1	USFWS Karner Blue Easement, Concord	N. Dorian
05/01	1	Unity Rd., Newport	W. Ward
05/05	1	N. River Rd., Lee	C. Duffy
05/07	1	Hampton Beach SP	L.& P. Charron, D. Dionne
05/16	1	Hampton Salt Marsh CA	B. Deschamp
05/18	3	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	P. Hunt

Rusty Blackbird

03/04	1	S. Main St., Newton	H. Burns
03/05	1	Woodridge Park, Durham	K. Dorsey
03/06	1	Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield	G. Robbins
04/06	30	Airport Rd., Swanzey	C.& L. Witko, S. Lamonde
04/12	3	Turnpike Rd., Jefferson	S.& D. Stoddard
04/12	20	Hawkin's Farm, Salem	K. Wilmarth
04/21	40	Beaver Brook, Pelham	B. Griffith

Common Grackle

03/01	10	Messer Brook wetland, Hooksett	SNHU Class FT
03/01	8	Antioch U. New England, Keene	S. Lamonde
03/01	6	downtown Lisbon	K. Hiller
03/07	2	Mechanic St., Gorham	W. O'Brien
04/03	2540	Exeter WTP	K. Klapper, K. Fenton
04/05	1100	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	S. Mirick

Brown-headed Cowbird

03/01	2	Horseshoe Pond, Merrimack	C. Sheridan
03/03	1	Providence Hill Rd., Atkinson	H. Otto
03/04	1	Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins
03/04	1	Meadow Brook, Sunapee	J. Gamble
04/04	1	Ridgewood Rd., Glen	R. Steber
04/07	1	Groveton WTP	S.& D. Stoddard
04/08	143	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick



Orchard Oriole nest by Christine Sheridan, 5-23-17, Nashua, NH.

Orchard Oriole

04/29	1	Portsmouth City Park, Harvard St.	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, S. Mirick
04/30	1	Nashua R. at Merrimack R., Nashua	C. Sheridan, N. Murphy
05/07	1	Snowdrop Ln., Litchfield	L. McKillop
05/07	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray
05/13	1	Darcie Dr., Jaffrey	K. Yurenka

Date	#	Location	Observer
05/17	4	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard, Seacoast CFT
05/23	2	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	D. Lania

Baltimore Oriole

04/26	2	Moulton Ridge Rd., Kensington	G. Gavutis, Jr., A. Smith
04/27	1	Natick St., Nashua	J. Gray
04/28	1	Contookcook R. boat launch, Henniker	D. Ellis
05/02	2	10-mile survey, Lyman	S. Turner
05/02	1	Range Rd., Sandwich	K. Klapper
05/13	14	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	L. Kras, B. Griffith
05/17	12	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard, Seacoast CFT
05/18	1	downtown Errol	L. Charron

Pine Grosbeak

03/05	8	Lancaster School, Lancaster	S.& D. Stoddard
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Purple Finch

03/03	1	Oak Hill Rd., Brookline	C. McPherson
03/03	6	N. River Rd., Epping	G. Tillman
03/10	1	Keene	J. Pipp
04/01	2	Bretton Woods, Carroll	L. Bergum

White-winged Crossbill

04/23	1	Androscoggin R. at Bridge St., Berlin	L.& P. Charron
04/28	1	Range Rd., Sandwich	K. Klapper

American Goldfinch

05/16	916	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
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Evening Grosbeak

03/04	32	Industrial Park Dr., Berlin	J. Maher
03/04	35	Chickwolnepy Rd., Milan	J. Maher
03/10	7	Hammond Hollow, Gilsum	M. Wright
04/07	27	Groveton WTP	S.& D. Stoddard
04/20	2	Dorchester Rd., Lyme	P. Ackerson
05/02	4	1785 Inn, N. Conway	W. Broussard
05/17	1	Coffeetown Rd., Deerfield	S. Kjendal
05/17	3	Pingree Rd., New London	M. Vernon
05/26	1	St. Gaudens NHS, Cornish	K. Jones
05/26	2	Cavender Rd., Hancock	E. Masterson
05/28	2	Osgood Rd., Sanbornton	S. Webb

What is it?



It's a Mute Swan preening! Photographed 3-23-17 by Christine Sheridan at Horseshoe Pond in Merrimack, NH.

Enjoying the Great Gray Owl Visit to Newport, NH

by Dylan Jackson

Special thanks to Dylan for keeping track of this owl and letting the birding community know its daily status. Ed.

In 2017, my girlfriend Jaime got passes to the Vermont Institute of Natural Science's Owl Festival. On February 25, we went to admire some of their captive birds. I was particularly excited to see the Great Gray Owl. Although missing an eye, it was still an amazing creature to see up close and personal. Little did I know, while I was photographing this caged specimen, someone was getting shots of a wild bird only three miles or so from my home.

On February 28, I was birding in unseasonably warm weather in Charlestown when I got a text from a friend telling me to look at a report of a Great Gray Owl that was photographed in Newport. I was stunned to hear such an amazing bird could be so close to my home, so I got back as soon as I could. I searched for a little while where it was photographed but I came up empty-handed. I assumed it had already moved on. Thankfully, I was wrong and the next day the ever intrepid Susan Wisley, Jenna Pettipas, and Steve Bennett texted me to say they had found the bird. I arrived as fast as I could and got to see the owl roosting in a cherry tree only feet away. A truly incredible experience indeed, but this was only the beginning!

In the first two or three days, New Hampshire and Vermont birders were the first to arrive on the scene to see it. As time passed and the bird made itself at home, more and more people started to join in. It drew birders and photographers from all over New England and even locals just curious about all the excitement. Its fidelity to the same field off Route 10 near the Newport High School eventually attracted people from much farther away. Some folks I had the pleasure of meeting came from as far away as New York, Ohio, Virginia, and Pennsylvania and even one man who flew up from Georgia.

While the owl stayed around the same fields for several days, it eventually began moving to different areas in town making its way north, but with hordes of people searching every day, it was almost always relocated somewhere. The

owl steadily attracted a daily crowd of up to 100 or more people. It seemed to always put on a show when the audience gathered. It would fly by at close range, catch and devour prey, and even landed on people's camera equipment (see Photo Gallery)! It really outdid itself when it landed on someone's head (see the Front Cover), a spectacle that a handful of lucky onlookers got to experience first-hand.

While this bird displayed almost a complete lack of fear of people, it was comforting to see that the vast majority of visitors adhered to proper wildlife viewing protocols. Viewers kept a reasonable distance away from the owl to not disturb it or its ability to hunt. In most cases, one could just wait and there was a good chance the bird would fly to a closer perch on its own. People also refrained from imitating owl

and other animal calls, or other methods to get the birds attention such as clapping, whistling, etc. I was especially glad there were no reports of anyone baiting the owl in an attempt to get a better photo. Feeding wild animals is highly frowned upon as it teaches them to seek out people as a source of food, thus putting them at risk of dangerous interactions with humans.

Unfortunately, there were some people who didn't play by the rules, but other birders present were quick to call those people out and played an important part in protecting the owl while it was there. The biggest problems that arose came from people either not respecting private property or getting in confrontations

with each other. In some cases, people trying to keep others from breaking the rules were berated in return. Fortunately, these incidents were few and far between and the majority of people had enjoyable experiences with this amazing bird. It was also nice to see the Newport Police Department help to manage traffic so everyone could see the bird without causing any disturbances.

In the end, the Great Gray Owl spent at least 36 days in Newport and in that time hundreds of people came to see it. Since it decided to reside so close to me, I was extremely fortunate to get a chance to see this bird almost every day. In that time, I met scores of people and received emails from well over one hundred others seeking information about the owl. It was a pleasure to play honorary steward to this bird and I'm happy I could help as many people to see it as I could. It's an experience I'll never forget and as far as I'm concerned, it's welcome back anytime!



Great Gray Owl by Dylan Jackson, 3-1-17, Newport, NH.

Photo Gallery

The Great Gray Owl

A Great Gray Owl in Newport, NH became a celebrity. It stayed for the month of March and was seen and photographed by many people, both birders and non-birders alike. Here's just a sampling of some of the wonderful photos. – Ed.



Steve Bennett, 3-13-17.



Christine Sheridan, 3-13-17.



Duane Cross, 3-14-17.



How not to get a photo of the owl by Tracey Doak, 3-12-17.



Steve Mirick, 3-26-17.



Great Gray Owl viewing party by Chris Gagnon, 3-3-17.



Steve Bennett, 3-13-17.



Francesco Ticozzi, 4-3-17.

Spring 2017 Field Notes

Compiled by Rebecca Suomala and Kathryn Frieden

First Documented Nesting of Double-crested Cormorant in Inland New Hampshire

by Iain MacLeod



Double-crested Cormorant nest by Jane Kelley, 5-17-17, Meredith, NH.

On May 15, 2017, while checking on Bald Eagle and Osprey nests in the Lakes Region, I noticed a large group of Double-crested Cormorants gathered in a group of trees on an island in Meredith Bay (Lake Winnepesaukee). I have often seen cormorants here in the past, so I was not that surprised, but their activity soon caught my attention. One bird flew into the trees carrying a small stick that it gave to a second bird which, in turn, arranged it into an embryonic nest under its feet. Both these birds showed the full breeding plumage with bottle green body feathers, dark orange gular pouch and tufted crests. Over the next hour or so, I watched what I assumed was the male of the pair collect twigs and bring them to his mate. Within that time, they had assembled a reasonable nest. I noticed that the majority of the other 38 cormorants were also in breeding plumage and several seemed to be sitting in pairs. This is the first documented breeding of Double-crested Cormorants in inland New Hampshire and only the second ever on mainland New Hampshire (they regularly breed at the Isles of Shoals). The only other nest away from the Isles of Shoals was one at Little Bay in Durham in June of 1998 (*New Hampshire Bird Records* Summer 1998, Vol. 17, No. 2; *The Birds of New Hampshire* by Keith and Fox.).

On May 17, Jane Kelley visited the site and photographed one of the cormorants sitting in the now well-formed nest, perhaps incubating an egg. I revisited the location on May 25 and discovered that the tree containing the nest had been cut

down. The island is owned by the Meredith Yacht Club. The destruction of the nest tree was reported to NH Fish and Game.

Electrocuted Owls in Sandwich

by Tony Vazzano



Photo by Tony Vazzano of the electrocuted Barred and Great Horned Owl, and the ermine.

On an early morning in late March, after the wind became gusty, I was checking the NH Electric Co-op web page to see if there were any power outages. I noticed that one home in Sandwich was without electricity. I thought perhaps a limb came down in a driveway from a gust of wind. As I zoomed in on the outage map, I could see that the outage was at the home of folks that I knew. A few minutes later a friend phoned to say that our mutual acquaintance was out of power and that there were two dead owls and a dead ermine near the base of the telephone pole by their driveway. It was only a few minutes away so I went over and there was indeed a dead ermine, a dead Barred Owl and a dead Great Horned Owl on the ground by the pole. I moved the owls a little, just a few inches, so I could fit them all in one frame. They did not fall naturally the way the photograph depicts.

It must have been quite a fight and quite a shock. One foot of the Great Horned Owl was completely burnt off and the face of the ermine was black from being singed. My guess is that the Barred Owl caught the ermine and took it to the top of the pole. The Great Horned Owl then heard or saw the commotion and decided to see if it could get a meal out of this situation. They are known to prey on Barred Owls. Both owls have large wing spans and as a fight ensued one of them was probably on or near the transformer and another wing or a foot simultaneously touched one or two of the wires resulting in the instant electrocution of all three of these magnificent creatures. Barred Owl is very common in the Sandwich area and I have probably seen or heard a few hundred in the past 35 years. Great Horned Owl, however, is very, very uncommon and I've only encountered them a couple of times here during all those years. The service continuity manager at the electric company said that all of the poles are fitted as well as they can be to avoid occurrences like this and that he could not remember a similar situation in the past.

Osprey Nest Taken Over by Bald Eagles

by Chris Martin

The Chapman's Landing (aka Squamscott River) Osprey nest site has a nearly quarter-century history, extending back to 1993 when the second confirmed Osprey pair on the NH Seacoast built a nest on the cross-arms of a utility pole there. Shortly thereafter, NH Audubon biologist Diane DeLuca and volunteer Dick Hughes worked with Dick Dumore and others at Public Service Company of NH (PSNH) to install a second lower set of cross-arms to increase the clearance between nest and the energized lines to minimize the electrocution risk. In January 2009, PSNH (now Eversource) replaced the aging poles as part of a transmission line upgrade and I worked with Jim Mayo and others to install one extra-tall pole to support a new nesting platform. Since 1993, this nest site has fledged at least 40 young and succeeded in 21 of 24 nesting seasons.

The nest was taken over by Bald Eagles in 2017. Based on NH Audubon's records, this is the first New Hampshire instance of Bald Eagles actually incubating eggs in a former Osprey nest. I suspect it will not be the last.

Successful Eagle Rehabilitation

by Chris Martin

On March 23, 2017, wildlife photographer Michael LaClair identified "Gold WS1" as a current member of a breeding pair of Bald Eagles on the Connecticut River along River Road in Walpole, NH (see Photo1). Gold WS1 is an eagle hatched in spring 2005 at Third Island on the

Connecticut River in Deerfield, MA. I reviewed my New Hampshire band recovery records and found to my surprise that we've seen Gold WS1 before!

On September 25, 2014, Gold WS1 was picked up on the Connecticut River about one mile upriver from the Putney Landing Public Access by Vermont Game Warden Kelly Price after he received several public reports of a sick eagle in the area. Warden Price took the bird to the VT-NH Veterinary Clinic in Putney, VT. The bird was behaving listlessly and could not fly any distance. It weighed 7.5 lbs. At the veterinary clinic, X-rays for lead were negative and there were no external signs of injury (see Photo 2). The bird gradually



The bands that identified Bald Eagle "Gold WS1" in a photo taken by Michael LaClair 3-24-17 in Walpole, NH (left). Gold WS1 under the care of the VT-NH Veterinary Clinic in Putney, VT (photo source) in the fall of 2014 (below).



improved under care and was returned to the wild at the Putney Landing on the afternoon of September 15, 2014. Story and video were posted by the *Brattleboro Reformer* at the following link:

<http://www.reformer.com/stories/veterinary-clinic-fish-wildlife-release-eagle-once-knocking-at-deaths-door,332122> .

Upon release on September 15 at the Putney Landing, the eagle reportedly flew upriver and almost immediately was seen interacting in the air with two other Bald Eagles. As it turns out, this bird's current nest site is located north of where it was found in September 2014; five miles as a straight line, or six miles along the meandering river.

It is rare to get verification that a rehabilitated raptor has successfully re-entered the breeding population. All parties involved in this story should feel proud of the good work they do, often with little feedback about future outcome.

Rough-legged Hawk at Carcass



These unusual photos of a Rough-legged Hawk sharing a deer carcass with a Bald Eagle were taken by Damon Boudreau's game camera in Hillsboro. These Arctic-breeding hawks migrate south during the winter and are found in New Hampshire usually in winter and early spring. They are versatile hunters that soar over open fields and hover like kestrels, as well as hunt from a perch. Their diet consists mostly of small rodents and it is rare for them to be seen visiting a carcass.

Field Trip Report

A Bike Trail at Dawn and Dusk, with a Twist

by Pam Hunt

The bike trail that borders the fields near NH Audubon's McLane Center in Concord is a popular birding destination. It's convenient, offers easy walking, and passes through a nice mix of habitats. With all three of these features in mind, but primarily the middle one (stay tuned), I offered to lead two trips along the trail for NH Audubon's Capital Chapter in the spring of 2017. Since I work at NH Audubon, I offered both trips on weekdays and thus combined each with a day in the office. This is where the easy walking component becomes important. Birders and colleagues who know me well are increasingly aware of my

penchant for dressing as if I'm going to a Renaissance faire and, if that's what you wear to work, that's what you wear to lead a weekday field trip!



Professional Scientist at Work! Pam Hunt leading a Woodcock Walk, 4-24-17, by Dyanna Smith.

I wasn't that extremely dressed (at least for me; most people probably consider two long skirts extreme!) the evening of April 24, when a dozen birders met for a phenomenally successful American Woodcock walk. We headed for the trail in the fading light and were treated along the way to end-of-day songs from the local cardinal, Pine Warbler, and Song Sparrow. As soon as it was dark enough, we heard our first woodcock peenting just off the trail, maybe only 10-15 feet into the thickets, but never did see him. A little later, however, we heard him take to the air in his aerial display, which most people got to see in the fading light. He landed and took off a few more times, but the culmination of the trip came when he landed in the middle of the path only 30 feet away. Everyone agreed that it was probably the best look at a woodcock they'd ever had – it was even a lifer for a couple of them! In total, we think there were three woodcocks scattered around the edge of the field.



Pam Hunt in full regalia at her spotting scope, leading a field trip for NH Audubon's Capital Chapter, 5-23-17 by Zeke Cornell.

A month later, I offered a second trip along the trail, this one in the morning. In addition, the May 23 trip

was explicitly advertised as being led by someone wearing Medieval attire. So instead of the simple outfit from April, I showed up wearing three skirts, a long-sleeved chemise, bodice, belt, and lace-up leather boots. Better yet, a friend with similar sartorial tastes also wore anachronistic garb! We were joined by four time travelers from the 21st century, and proceeded down the trail as before. There was obviously more bird activity than the April trip and we ended up with 38 species in two hours. Among the highlights was a Baltimore Oriole nest right over the trail, a female redstart collecting strips of bark from a tree trunk for her own nest, and good looks at a Rose-breasted Grosbeak and a Chestnut-sided Warbler. Unfortunately, the real avian highlight was a little frustrating. A rare Clay-colored Sparrow had been found next to the center the previous day and we heard it sing a couple of times from the path. We ended the trip where the sparrow had been seen, hoping it would make an appearance, but it never did sing again, much less show up.

The lesson from this little tale is that good birding can be had almost anywhere, as long as you keep looking, and that it certainly doesn't matter what you're wearing. Before you know it, I'll be keeping my life list in Middle English. Anybody seen a Raredrumbel recently?

Surry Birdathon/Bloomathon

by Wendy Ward

David Hoitt and I have been leading a Sunday morning (7am to 12pm) Birdathon/Bloomathon field trip in the town of Surry for over 30 years. This trip started in 1985 as a gentle walking alternative to the more rigorous hike in Pisgah State Park that Meade Cadot and I offered on the Saturday of New Hampshire Audubon's Birdathon/Bloomathon weekend.

The morning begins in the fields, shrublands, wetlands and gravel pits behind the Surry town hall. Here, the Ashuelot River enters Surry Lake, creating the northern edge of the Ashuelot basin. From here, we move south into the village toward the lake and end in the woodland beyond the dam. After so many years of leading this trip, David and I have established set routines and roles. David is the lead, spotting birds and keeping us on schedule. I am the caboose, helping the group locate the birds, identifying blooms, and providing natural history and ecology commentary. Barbara Skuly always keeps the blooms list, while I wrestle with my tripod and spotting scope.

The protection and management by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) has retained the wetland/shrubland/upland complex of the basin. Recently the ACOE removed invasive shrubs in the upland areas, so it will be a few years before native plants repopulate the site. Some large pines

have been removed from the nearby cemetery, a fallow corn field has become vegetable crops, and the gravel pit has reopened, but even with this activity, the habitat has remained largely unchanged. This combination of undeveloped private and federal lands offers some of the best birding in the area. (See Eric Masterson's *Birdwatching in New Hampshire*).



American Bittern by Scott Wesley.

The shrub wetland behind the town hall offers opportunity for Wilson's Snipe, American Bittern, Northern Waterthrush, Wilson's and Canada Warblers, and Alder and Willow Flycatchers. In the winter, this is a great spot for Northern Shrike. Water levels fluctuate with beaver activity in the wetlands here and in turn, so does the chance to see Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers. In the adjacent gravel pit, Bank Swallows nest and we may find Savannah Sparrows and Killdeer. In most years, a Blackpoll Warbler sings from the remaining pines. Bald Eagles are regulars now as they began nesting consistently at Surry Lake in 2007. The powerlines typically yield a Prairie Warbler or two and sometimes a Field Sparrow and Eastern Towhee. Only the most intrepid, however, will reach the powerlines, as a snowmobile bridge across the stream recently washed out. Now birders must walk the plank of a single I-beam to gain access to the other side.

We briefly tour the village for residential birds and wildflowers and then head to the lake for eagles, Great Blue Herons, sandpipers, and swallows. We usually find Northern Rough-winged Swallows and ravens at the dam on our way to the woodland, our destination for Scarlet Tanagers, woodland thrushes, Blackburnian, Black-throated Green and Black-throated Blue warblers, Winter Wrens, trilliums, and toothworts.

Bird species numbers have been as low as 52 in 1985 to a high of 79 in 2015; the average year is in the mid-60s. David has found our recorded species surprisingly consistent these past 30+ years. Despite our consistency in species

over the years, there have been a few noticeable changes. Nashville Warblers, consistent in the 1980s, have dropped off. American Bittern, Brown Thrasher, and Winter Wren are less frequently recorded. Gulls are not found on the count anymore since the Keene landfill closed in 1999, perhaps a change for the better. The Bank Swallow nesting colony has struggled since the re-opening of the gravel pit. However, since we count species presence rather than overall individual birds, we don't have numbers to track the decline of the colony. Hawk sightings are variable depending on how quickly the morning air warms for good soaring conditions. A few species we have begun to record consistently in recent years are Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Northern Mockingbird, and Double-crested Cormorant.

Bloom species numbers range from 25-45, averaging in the mid-30s as patches of them come and go. The wildflower crew remembers to check all the old haunts, like our one patch of smooth yellow violets behind the town hall, hidden from the main trail. The dog violets and hawthorns are found along the old turnpike to the powerlines, the tiny corn speedwell and northern white violets are near the bathhouse at the lake, and the sweet white violets and trilliums are in the woodland across the dam. One of our most exciting wildflower discoveries was the appearance of wild columbine that Chris Bishop discovered at the edge of the gravel pit in 1992. It disappeared a few years later and was rediscovered in 2014. Barbara Skuly found a now reliable patch of wild ginger in 2010. A single blue cohosh appeared a few times over the years in the woodland beyond the dam.

I cannot do justice to the innumerable memorable birding moments from the Surry Birdathon. We had the incredible coincidence (or not) of an Olive-sided Flycatcher in full view on the same perch two years in a row (2004 and 2005). In 2014, we had close views of both a Blue-headed Vireo in her tiny cup nest and the massive stick platform nest of a now common Common Raven. Of course, there is also the thrill of our first view of the eagle nest at the north end of the lake. My personal Surry Birdathon highlight was in 1988 when David heard and then located the only Mourning Warbler ever on this trip in the shrubs next to the bathhouse. We still check that area every year in hopes of a second sighting.

The Birdathon is not just about the friendly competition with other birding groups to get the highest numbers, but about the people that come out to share their love of birds and their desire to learn more about them. My favorite moments are sharing the excitement when someone gets his or her first good look at a bird. David and I look forward to the regulars that show up each year and miss those who can no longer come. If you aren't too spent from your big day on Saturday Birdathon, come on down to Surry the next morning. We would love to see you.

Birding Orford – a Habitat-rich Town in the Upper Valley

by Jeff MacQueen



Reed's Marsh in Orford by Jeff MacQueen.

Over twenty years ago, I moved from Candia to Orford. As a beginning birder, I was disappointed to be moving farther away from the coast and the southern New Hampshire hotspots that I had been exploring and with which I was becoming more familiar. Since that move, however, I have learned the benefits of slowly and thoroughly birding one's own "patch". Orford has its own hotspots with varied habitats and notable birds to find all year long.

Reed's Marsh and other river sites

The Connecticut River corridor is a great place to bird, especially during spring and fall migration. Orford's western edge follows the river through farmland, marshes, wet meadows and floodplain forests. To get to Orford from southern New Hampshire, take Route 89 to Vermont, and travel north on Route 91 to Fairlee, VT (exit 15). Take Route 5 north to the Samuel Morey Bridge and cross back over into New Hampshire on Bridge Street (Rt. 25A).

Historically, the best known spot for birding in Orford has been Reed's Marsh Wildlife Management Area, managed by NH Fish and Game and two miles south on Route 10 from Bridge Street. There are two areas of open water here, which are actually small oxbow ponds formed when the river changed its course long ago. The water is bordered by cattail marshes where Wood Ducks, Hooded Mergansers and Swamp Sparrows breed. Check also for Great Blue Heron and American Bittern. Warbling Vireo, Baltimore Oriole, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler and Willow Flycatcher are commonly heard and seen. Marsh Wrens were reliable breeders here for years, but unfortunately, not



recently. During spring migration, check for Ring-necked Ducks and Green-winged Teal. Notable birds that have been recorded here include Black-crowned Night-Heron, Great Egret, Virginia Rail, Common Gallinule and American Coot. Diversity has not been as good in recent years, possibly owing to the almost constant presence of Bald Eagles. A pair successfully bred in a large pine tree above the marsh for a few years and they have returned every year since. The nest is visible from Route 10 just south of the marsh, but is obscured from view at the boat launch.

If you are intrepid and have time, a somewhat indistinct but navigable trail follows the southern edge of the marsh to the other body of open water next to the Connecticut River. This is more easily walked during early spring or late fall

when there is less trailside vegetation. Tall, waterproof boots are a must and you should protect yourself against ticks as they can become a nuisance as soon as the days warm up. This setback along the river is usually better for waterfowl than the boat launch area. Check for Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, American Wigeon and Northern Pintail during migration. Walk the trails between the two bodies of water during early spring for birds such as Rusty Blackbird and Palm Warbler. Other migrant passerines can be found here, but as the False Hellebore and Ostrich Ferns grow in, this area becomes much less accessible.

Tullando Farm, owned and operated by the Tullar family since 1956, borders Reed's Marsh to the south. This high-tech dairy farm is home to over 500 registered Holsteins and is becoming one of my favorite spots to bird in town. Park to the right side of the first small "tractor barn" as you approach from the north on Route 10. Please don't block the farm roads and check in with the owners if you visit. There is a manure pond behind the right side cow barn. This is the best spot in town for shorebirds during migration. Least, Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers as well as Semipalmated Plover have been recorded. I have only been checking here recently and I am confident that more unusual shorebirds will be recorded here in subsequent years. A pair of American Kestrels have bred in the nest box behind the tractor barn. Peregrine Falcons, nesting on the Fairlee Palisades and ledges of Sawyer Mountain across the river in Vermont, hunt the numerous Rock Pigeons around the barns. The lower flooded hayfields can be good for waterfowl in spring. Check the cut cornfields for Snow Buntings and Horned Larks in winter. American Tree Sparrows winter along the trees between the fields. Belted Kingfishers and Bank and Northern Rough-winged Swallows nest in the river bank, but please do not approach the unstable edge of the cornfields.

River Road branches off Route 10 on the west side just south of Tullando Farm. A Clay-colored Sparrow was found singing on territory at the Christmas Tree Farm in the nineties and this is my owling spot in town. The Christmas trees are grown up, but the area is good for Northern Saw-whet Owls, and the mature pines and oaks along the river host Great-horned Owls. Barred Owls are also heard along the road and I have recorded Eastern Screech-Owl once here in twenty years.

Travelling north from Reed's Marsh, check the cow pasture and the corn field to your left (west side of the road) from the edge of Route 10. In early spring, the pasture is very wet and is good for waterfowl. The shoulder is wide enough to pull over safely to check both areas. Scan for American Black Duck and Green-winged and sometimes Blue-winged Teal. Wilson's Snipe display and breed here as do Savannah

Sparrows and Bobolinks. Check for Northern Harriers hunting low along the meadow during their migration. American Kestrels also perch along the road and the cut cornfield can be good for ducks and geese in early spring and late fall. Snow Geese have been recorded here several times. Northern Shrikes hunt in this area during some winters and Wild Turkeys are also commonly seen here. Continuing north, check Boat Landing Road (on the left opposite Hebb Dr.) for sparrows in the fall. At the end of this short road, on the left is a playground. The weedy area between the playground and the boat launch has hosted White-crowned and Lincoln's Sparrows, as well as the more common sparrows.

A block north of Boat Landing Road, Route 10 intersects Route 25A and on the corner sits Rivendell Academy. The Rivendell Interstate School District was named by the students for the land of the elves in J.R.R. Tolkien's books. The old Orford Academy sits unused between the new Academy and Route 10. The large chimney on this old brick school is a Chimney Swift roost site. Over a hundred Chimney Swifts have been counted entering the roost at dusk. The best time of the year to enjoy this spectacle is during the early part of fall migration (August), but as the swifts migrate in spring, large counts are also possible. The crabapples and ornamental plantings around the new school and neighborhood have attracted Cedar and Bohemian Waxwings as well as Pine Grosbeaks in winters when these species are present in the region. A Northern Mockingbird has wintered in this area for years. Farther north on Route 10, you will pass the historic "Ridge Houses" and the "Pedestrian Mall". A pair of Merlins were present on the far north end of the mall in the spring of 2017.



Richmond Conservation Land by Jeff MacQueen.

Trinity Farm and the Richmond Conservation Land

The final stop along the river as you travel north through town on Route 10 is the Jacob's Brook outlet. One way to check the outlet is to park at the end of the Pedestrian Mall (the corner of Route 10 and Archertown Road) and walk a short distance up Route 10. There is a trail used by fishermen that heads down to the outlet to the right of the greenhouse at Trinity Farm. The owners of Trinity Farm prefer that visitors use this trail. The fields of the farm have Bobolinks, Savannah Sparrows and occasionally Vesper Sparrows and Eastern Meadowlarks during migration. The weedy edges are also good for sparrows in fall. Walk down to the Jacob's Brook outlet and check for waterfowl such as Common Goldeneye, and Common and Hooded Merganser in spring and fall. When the water is low (usually due to operations of the Wilder Dam downstream in Lebanon), a mudflat is exposed that can be good for shorebirds during migration.

Exactly one mile north of Bridge Street and Patterson's Store on Route 10 is the Orford Conservation Land (Richmond Conservation Land in eBird). This land was given to the town by Hilda and Gould Richmond and is managed by the Upper Valley Land Trust and the Orford Conservation Commission. Take a bird checklist at the kiosk and walk between the cornfield and hayfield. Pine Warblers can be heard high in the pines across from the kiosk. For years a Yellow-throated Vireo has been present around the house to your left. The woods between the hayfields usually have American Redstart, Eastern Wood-Pewee and Red-eyed Vireo. Follow the trail to the water and explore the riparian edge of the property. Warbling Vireo, Baltimore Oriole, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler and Willow Flycatcher sing throughout the breeding season. Notable birds recorded here during the early part of spring migration have included Palm Warbler, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Pied-billed Grebe, Cackling Goose, Osprey, Northern Harrier and Brown Thrasher. Later in the spring, records have included Orchard Oriole, Wilson's, Cape May and Bay-breasted Warblers and Black-billed Cuckoo. The edge of the river can also be productive for warblers and sparrows moving south in the fall. The Orford Conservation Commission is working to make the site more accessible for birders and other visitors.

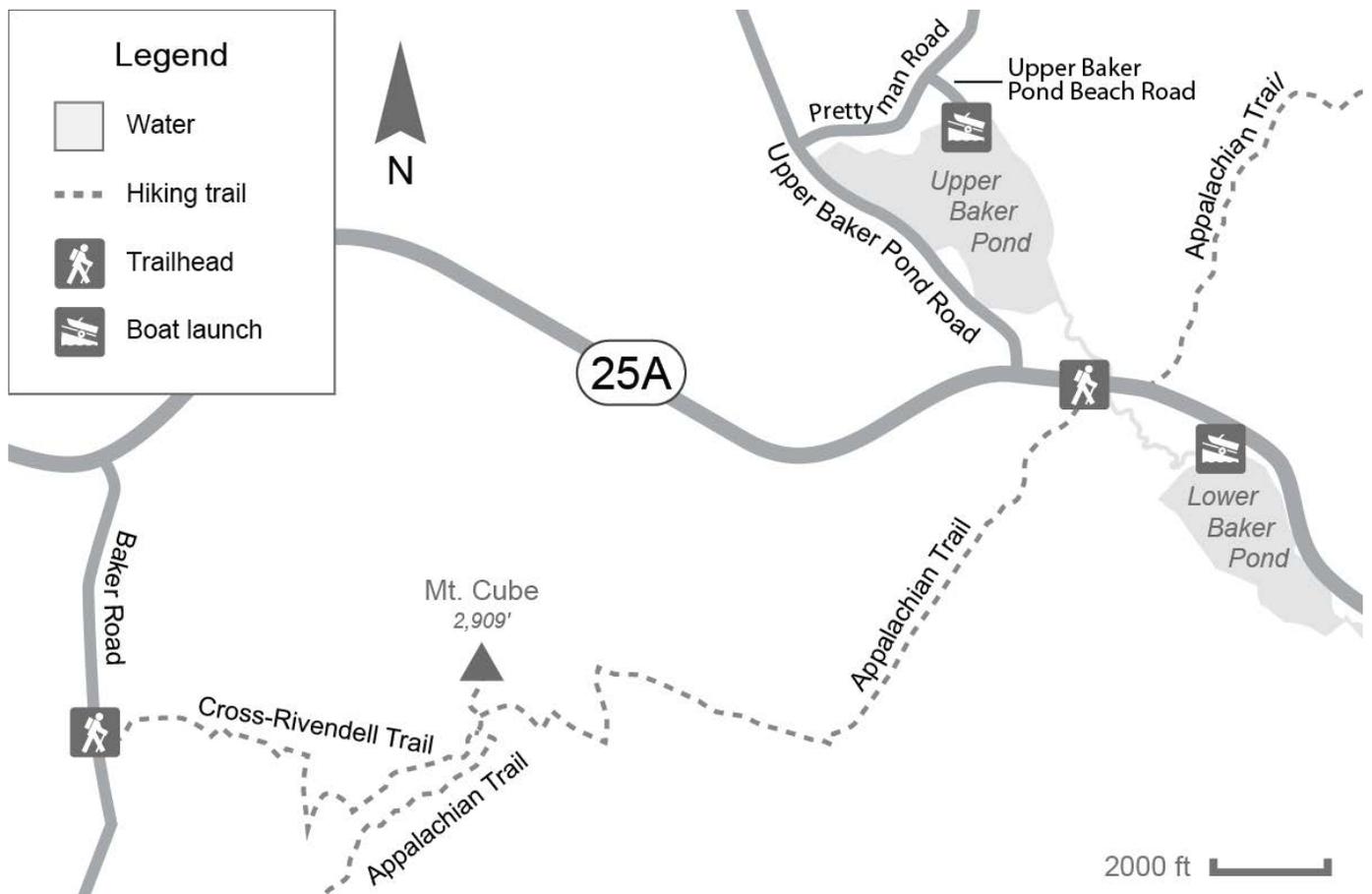
Mount Cube and nearby sites

If you are interested in a nice hike and birding some boreal habitat, Orford has both. Here the Appalachian Trail passes over Mount Cube (elevation 2,880 feet) which is the last peak before northbound thru-hikers enter the White Mountain National Forest. Mount Cube was named for a bear hunter's dog, Cuba, who was lost on the mountain around the time that the town was settled. For years the

mountain was known as “Cuba Mountain.” It is not quite tall enough and does not have enough of the krummholz habitat preferred by species such as Bicknell’s Thrush, but some boreal species can be encountered if you hike to the summit area and explore. To get to Mount Cube, (and as an alternate route to Orford of the one described earlier) coming from southern New Hampshire, take Exit 26 off Route 93 north at Plymouth. Take Route 25 west to Wentworth, then take Route 25A west (also known as Governor Meldrim Thompson Scenic Highway) to Orford. After travelling six miles, look for the Appalachian Trail crossing. This is one access point, but I like to hike Mt. Cube on the Cross-Rivendell Trail from the trailhead on Baker Road. If you continue on Route 25A eight miles, you will find Baker Road on the left; drive one mile along Baker Road to the Cross-Rivendell trailhead. This trail is shorter and birdier than the Appalachian Trail from Route 25A. From the trailhead to the summit, the trail is two miles and follows several long switchbacks through mixed hardwood forest into spruce/ fir forest. You may hear singing Hermit and Wood Thrush, Veery and drumming Ruffed Grouse. Ovenbird territories exist one after another and the “tea-CHER, tea-CHER, tea-CHER” song of this bird is a persistent sound as you hike along. Many other warblers can also be encountered along this trail in spring. Listen for American Redstart, Northern Parula, and Black-and-White, Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue, Magnolia and sometimes Canada Warblers.

As you hike into the spruce/fir habitat, you are sure to hear Blackburnian Warblers, Winter Wrens and finally Blackpoll Warblers which breed around the summit area. The terminus of the Cross-Rivendell Trail is Mt. Cube’s south summit. Nice views of the “Upper Valley” and, on clear days the Green Mountains of Vermont, can be enjoyed from this spot. Swainson’s Thrush, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, White-throated Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco also all breed around the summit area. Boreal Chickadees have been recorded here many times over the years and there is one record for Spruce Grouse on Mt. Cube. Try the spur trail to the north summit to explore more of the mountain and to get fine views of Mt. Moosilauke and the rest of the White Mountains. The many different vocalizations of Common Ravens are often heard in this area. The north summit can be good for hawkwatching in the fall.

Upper Baker and Lower Baker Ponds can be found at the base of Mount Cube on the east side. From Baker Road, head back east on Route 25A; Lower Baker is on the south of Route 25A and Upper Baker on the north. Both lakes can be good for waterfowl in the fall with the possibility of all three scoters and Long-tailed Ducks. A pair of Tundra Swans stayed for a while on these lakes in November of 1998. The other large lake in Orford is Indian Pond. Take Route 25A west for 9.5 miles from the Route 25/25A intersection in Wentworth and turn right onto Dame Hill Road, then take an immediate right onto Indian Pond Road and travel two



miles to Indian Pond. This is a beautiful, undeveloped lake, excellent for canoeing and kayaking. Common Loons have bred here and waterfowl during migration have included all three scoters, Horned and Red-necked Grebe and Ruddy Duck. Check the shoreline for Spotted Sandpipers. American Bittern have been heard in the swamp at the outlet. Interestingly, New Hampshire's only record for Common Chaffinch occurred at a feeder on Indian Pond.

Another interesting spot to explore is Thompson's Tree Farm, over a thousand acres in size and surrounding the southern base of Mt. Cube. Tom Thompson, the son of former New Hampshire governor Meldrim Thompson, operates the tree farm and opens the road every year on the third weekend in June for a "lupine tour." Four-wheeled vehicles are necessary to drive the long road to this remote spot. The payoff is splendid views of blooming lupines with Mt. Cube in the background. The birding is good also. The habitat here has a decidedly boreal feel, at about 2,000 feet in elevation and interspersed with bogs. Interesting birds recorded here have included Olive-sided and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers and Northern Goshawk. The tree farm is at the end of Quinttown Road, which follows the scenic Upper Jacobs Brook and begins on the left side of Route 25A, 10 miles west of Wentworth.

The old hayfields and secondary growth forests around the western base of Mt. Cube, where I live, is my favorite spot in town for several species. American Woodcock breed in my fields and the fields of my neighbors. I have counted as many as eight males displaying while walking our road at dusk. Broad-winged Hawk, Alder Flycatcher, Nashville Warbler and Indigo Bunting are also found throughout the breeding season. One morning in February of 2017, I looked out to see a Townsend's Solitaire in my crabapple tree! Although quite a few birders saw it that day, I was disappointed that it turned out to be a "one-day wonder." It was fun while it lasted and it goes to prove that special birds can be found in your yard and "patch." I encourage birders to explore Orford sometime, but to also bird your own neighborhood and town thoroughly, because there is a lot to learn and enjoy about birds by doing so.

Jeff MacQueen has lived and birded in NH for 28 years. He leads field trips for the Mascoma Chapter of NH Audubon. He taught science and art in Merrimack and Lebanon.



*American Woodcock in Orford
by Jeff MacQueen.*

Bird-glass Collisions

by Laura Deming

Each year in the United States, nearly a billion birds die by colliding with windows, doors, and other glass structures. Another 200 million die in collisions with wind turbines, cell towers, and powerlines, and a staggering 1.5 to 3 billion birds are killed by feral and domestic cats every year. Humans cause these sources of mortality and therefore, we must – and can – solve them. We may have limited influence over energy and communication infrastructure, but we all have the ability to make our homes safe for birds. Free-ranging cats are deadly for birds and many other wildlife species, so if you have a cat, please keep it indoors. If you have windows (which I assume you do), consider treating them with bird-friendly products to deter birds from hitting them.

The problem: birds can't see glass! They fly into windows that reflect vegetation, or glass that they can see through, such as railings, sound barriers, gazebos, breeze ways, and bus shelters. Large windows and doors are especially dangerous, but even small windows pose a threat, as many birds naturally fly through small, dark spaces among trees.

In general, the more glass in a building, the more deadly it is for birds. High-rises (over 12 stories) kill millions of birds each year, especially modern structures with glass facades, however, these buildings account for less than one percent of annual collision mortality. Low rises (4-11 stories) and residences (1-3 stories) account for 56% and 44% of mortality, respectively, because there are so many more of them (Loss et al. 2014). In addition, low buildings reflect surrounding vegetation. Another study found that high rises in less urbanized areas may be especially deadly, because their bright lights are powerful beacons to birds migrating across relatively dark landscapes (Hager et al. 2014). Essentially, no matter where glass is, or what type of structure it is on, it is deadly for birds.

No birds are immune. At least 258 species (about one-third of the species found in North America) have been documented as victims of collisions, from hawks to hummingbirds. Unlike natural dangers, collisions indiscriminately kill healthy, as well as weak, birds, successfully breeding adults, and recently fledged young. Smithsonian researchers have found that White-throated Sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, and Song Sparrows were consistently the most commonly reported in collisions, representing nearly 35% of over 92,000 records from 26 databases (Loss et al. 2014). These species may account for so many collisions due to their large populations relative to other species. When population size and range distribution are accounted for, many other species still exhibited disproportionately high vulnerability to collisions regardless

of building type, including Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Brown Creeper, Ovenbird, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Gray Catbird, Black-and-white Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Painted Bunting, Canada Warbler, Wood Thrush, Kentucky Warbler, and Worm-eating Warbler (Loss et al. 2014). Because most of these data were collected in eastern cities, they do not reflect collision mortality rates for the rest of the country.

Collision deaths occur year-round, but increase significantly during spring and fall migration seasons when birds are traveling through unfamiliar territory. Night-migrating songbirds are the most frequent victims. Nocturnal migrants navigate along migration routes using a variety of cues, depending on the species, including the earth's magnetic field, the stars, patterns of polarized light created by the setting sun, prevailing winds, and topographic features. Night-flying migrants become disoriented by artificial lighting and magnetic fields generated by powerlines and communications equipment. Veering off-course, hundreds of thousands of birds gravitate toward brightly lit urban and suburban areas, eventually landing in patches of vegetation around homes and buildings. In cities, thousands of disoriented birds become trapped in the lights of skyscrapers, flying for hours before dropping exhausted to the ground.

A dramatic example of this phenomenon is the two light beams of the 9/11 Memorial in New York City, which reach four miles into space and are visible to humans 60 miles away. First lit in 2002, people immediately noticed thousands of birds flying around within the intense beams, many eventually colliding with buildings, or dropping exhausted to the ground. New York Audubon has been monitoring the lights during spring and fall migration, notifying the National September 11 Memorial and Museum (who runs the tribute), to turn off the lights when 1,000 or more birds become trapped. The lights are turned off for 20 minutes, allowing birds to clear the area. In 2010, a new moon and cloudy skies caused an estimated 10,000 birds to become trapped through the night, resulting in the lights being shut down five times. A video of this event can be seen at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mWpyLgkKuKc>.

On May 4, 2017, nearly 400 songbirds were killed when they hit the American National Insurance Company's 23-story building at the north end of Galveston Island, Texas. After storms swept through the region the previous night, northbound migrants seeking refuge were lured to the brightly lit building, which sits nearly on the shoreline of the Gulf of Mexico. Birds lost included 90 Nashville Warblers, 60 Blackburnian Warblers, 42 Chestnut-sided Warblers, 41 Ovenbirds and over 160 other individuals of 21 more species; a tragic end to a miraculous journey. This dramatic event fortunately prompted leaders at the

insurance company to make the building less dangerous for migrating birds by extinguishing nonessential lights during the migration season. Working with Houston Audubon and other organizations, the American National Insurance Company has also resolved to help raise awareness of birds in the region.

These dramatic bird-kills highlight the dangers faced by migrating birds, but as mentioned above, high-rises account for less than 1% of building collision mortality. More than 99% of birds die hitting windows and other glass of our homes, schools, businesses, and bus shelters. It's time to do something about it.

There are two main strategies for stopping bird collisions: minimize night lighting and treat windows, doors, and other glass with products that birds can see. Many cities have instituted Lights Out programs to encourage building owners and managers to extinguish excess lighting during months when migrants are traveling overhead. The first of these programs, Lights Out Toronto, was established in 1993. Since then, groups in 18 additional cities have started programs to diminish night lighting serving not only to



An example of a window treatment that prevents collisions at NH Audubon's McLane Center. This "zen curtain" was modeled after the Acopian Bird Saver (<https://www.birdsavers.com/buildyourown.html>), and consists of wooden top and bottom rails with paracord spaced two inches apart. This curtain was expertly made by volunteer Tabor Browder.

reduce bird collisions, but also helping building owners save energy.

Solutions for making buildings bird-safe include minimizing the use of glass, using glass that has visible patterns, and covering existing glass with screens, films, tape, or other products. These last products are the most sensible for most homeowners, as they are inexpensive, relatively

easy to apply, and are very effective at deterring birds. The American Bird Conservancy (ABC) has been leading the charge to raise awareness of the bird collisions issue, conducting research on the effectiveness of various products in deterring collisions, and producing a downloadable document on Bird-friendly Building Guidelines. More information can be found on their website (<http://collisions.abcbirds.org>).

NH Audubon's Bird-friendly Buildings Program began in 2011 when we joined a dozen other organizations nationwide to endorse the ABC's first edition of *Bird-friendly Buildings Guidelines*. Since then, we have collaborated with the ABC to promote their "Bird-Friendly Buildings" program to raise awareness of the devastating collisions problem and present effective solutions for buildings of all sizes. We have been treating the windows and doors at the McLane Center in Concord to make the building safe for birds. The variety of treatments, which includes films, tape, decals, and screens, will exhibit practical and effective solutions for homes, schools, and other buildings.

You can prevent bird collisions at home by covering your windows and other glass. A few products are now on display at the McLane Center as we work to make the building safe for birds. For more information, visit the ABC website noted above. The birds will thank you!

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It takes a special place to produce a Little Egret for your yard list. Steve Mirick was lucky enough to see this individual from inside his porch on Great Bay in Newmarket. This Little Egret was present for just over two months in the summer of 1998 in the marsh at Lubberland Creek Preserve where Steve took this particular photo, not far from his yard.

Yard Listing: The Fascination, the Anecdotes, and, of course, the Numbers

by Phil Brown

The Many Virtues of Yard Listing

I'll admit it, I don't enjoy chasing birds. I'd prefer that they come to me. Maybe this is why I'm such a fan of yard listing. What can initially seem a matter of happenstance, whether or not a bird should stop by your little patch of yard, may, in fact, have some rhyme and reason. I've come to realize that accumulating a growing yard list is a factor of several aspects: location, longevity, awareness, strategy, and a whole lot of luck!

New birders will sometimes ask me my life list total and I typically answer the truth: "I have no idea, but I can tell you how many species I've seen in my yard!" This reply usually intrigues a new birder who has not yet heard of yard listing. It's a good conversation starter and yard listing is a useful strategy for beginning birders to begin accumulating knowledge of species identification, better understand migration timing, learn bird behavior, and learn about other occurrences in the avian world. Regardless of skill level, yard listing also keeps you in touch with common species even as birding can become focused on the unusual. Speaking of which, even rarities can be observed in your own backyard and perhaps with some regularity, if you know where and when to look. Unlike chasing rarities for your state list, however, yard listing requires no fossil fuel! You might even get some exercise if your yard is large. Lastly, it will connect you with your yard in new and exciting ways and you may just discover the wildness of the place you call home.

I interviewed many New Hampshire birders, particularly those involved with this publication, and came up with several suggestions and themes, some of which are detailed in the following sections.

What Defines a "Yard Bird?"

Is it something that you have seen, or do "heard" birds count? Does the bird have to be occurring in your actual yard instead of flying overhead or seen in a next-door-neighbor's tree? Or, even more of a stretch for some, could the species have been recorded, and not even detected in real-time, by either a trail camera or audio recording device? The latter has been deployed by my neighbor and *New Hampshire Bird Records* Spring Editor Eric Masterson over the past couple of years. This tactic has undoubtedly helped Eric stay ahead of my yard list as his recording equipment captures the call

notes of nocturnal migrants flying over his house as he sleeps soundly below!

In yard listing, you, not the American Birding Association (ABA), get to make the rules. My own current view for my yard list is that the species must be a fully countable (included on the official NH state bird list – so I can't count the Chukar) species for New Hampshire and either seen or heard by me, when I have feet on the ground somewhere on my property. My "yard" extends to 22-acres of woodlands and open areas around my house. Eric may claim that the playing field is already not level as his acreage is smaller, but he uses a more sophisticated way of detecting birds, so let's call it even.

Location, Location, Location!

Diversity is the spice of life in the world of building a big yard list. You generally won't find most species of seabirds away from the coast proper, nor will you find open-country birds in the middle of the woods. A little bit of habitat diversity will add a lot of bird diversity. Most of New Hampshire is forested and your house may be surrounded by trees, but don't ignore the beaver pond in the back woods. Check that unique feature more frequently, especially during migration, to add new yard birds. Not all woodlands are equal. Young forest or old field conditions are where you may find a whole suite of early successional forest birds such as Eastern Towhee, Brown Thrasher, and Mourning Warbler.

If you don't have high-quality habitats or features, you may decide to create them instead. The simplest first step is to add a food source. Sunflower seed is the classic choice for a wide variety of winter songbirds and migrants, but you might consider expanding your array of feeders to include other grains such as millet and cracked corn for sparrows, suet for woodpeckers, fruit for orioles, and nectar for hummingbirds.

Natural habitats and food sources, however, can be a superior strategy compared to bird feeders if implemented successfully. Keep in mind that food, water, and shelter are the essential ingredients in attracting birds to your yard. Wildlife plantings for birds, including crabapple, winterberry, mountain-ash, and apple trees, might just be enough to bring in your first yard Pine Grosbeak or Bohemian Waxwing. The same can be said for the attraction of a water feature such as a drip fountain, cascade, or small pond to many of the migratory warblers and other songbirds that would otherwise pass through undetected. Dan Hubbard stresses the importance of chemical-free habitat management and bird baths, a strategy that many interviewed also utilize. Paul Miliotis recommends working with nature through managing habitats to make a garden attractive to wildlife. George Gavutis manages 20 acres for wildlife that include fish ponds, restored wetlands with native shrubs, early successional

habitat, and actively mowed fields. Bob Crowley finds that planting flowering shrubs is key to finding yard birds.

A view of some sky is also an essential way to grow your list over 100 species. Migrating raptors, waterbirds, and other species might only be detectable when flying overhead during spring and fall. On a good raptor day at Pack Monadnock or Carter Hill, you might find me scoping the sky from my back lawn searching (in vain) for my first yard Peregrine Falcon. This tactic has paid off for finding the other falcons and a suite of other raptors and waterbirds which I would not have tallied otherwise.

Proximity and Vigilance – Take it from the Experts

So, the stage is set. Birds are almost always on the move and you might have the perfect yard setup, but will you be there to greet them? Many of us cannot keep daily vigil during the height of migration due to work or other circumstances, but there is much to be said for being ready for your next yard bird. Kathryn and Roger Frieden recommend sleeping with the window open and Hank Chary suggests going out at night to listen for birds. John Williams says to "keep your optics handy!" Chad Witko provides the tip of carefully checking mixed species flocks. Along those lines, Katie Towler and Jim Sparrell recently found a yard-first Dickcissel brought in by the House Sparrow flock, finally delivering something "good" to their yard. Adam Burnett says to be always vigilant (plus it helps having three birders living in the house).

How Many Yard Birds Can You Find?

Many of us who read *New Hampshire Bird Records* get excited about the number of species we can find in a given place, whether it be within the state, a particular county, or simply a favorite location or eBird hotspot. Just over 400 species of birds have now been recorded in New Hampshire, and it is possible to see over 200 species of birds at a handful of hotspots, such as Star Island, Odiorne Point State Park, and even the Exeter Wastewater Treatment Plant, according to eBird data.

Finding 100 species of birds in your own yard (across most of our state's landscapes) is an easily attainable goal, given the right amount of dedication and time, honing of your skills, and strategy. In fairly typical landscapes, I have attained the century mark at five of the six yards where I have lived over 13 years total time in New Hampshire. In many locations, with a mix of habitats including open water, and excellent visibility for sky-watching, 100 species of birds or more are possible each year. How many species do you think can be found in your backyard?

The law of diminishing returns will ensure, after a few years living anywhere, that your yard list will begin to level off. I have come to accept that, short of creating another Powder Mill Pond in my backyard, my Hancock yard list will probably never reach 200 species like that of Don and Lillian Stokes. This is when it becomes fun and useful to maintain an annual or monthly (or even more frequent) species list for ease of comparing two or more years, seasons, and so on. As birders, we love to know the first arrival dates of spring birds such as Eastern Phoebes and Red-winged Blackbirds, the warblers, hummingbirds, and more. I begin watching my basswood tree around the end of March with anticipation that my first spring Yellow-bellied Sapsucker will appear there shortly at its numerous sap wells. Likewise, from several years of spring arrival data in my yard, I can pin down the Hermit Thrush's first visit to a window of three days in early April. Tallying monthly lists since the spring of 2012, I have casually tracked changes and similarities, basing my hypotheses on weather events, climate change, species range expansions, population declines, and other factors. Yard listing can turn any of us into citizen scientists, particularly when this venture is associated with a larger project such as NH Audubon's Backyard Winter Bird Survey, Project Feederwatch, or data entered into eBird. eBird is a great tool for yard listing, and there is even a "My Yard List" function which encourages friendly competition between individuals. Some incredibly diligent birders even enter daily backyard species lists! A link to eBird's Top 10 Yard Lists in New Hampshire is provided here: <http://ebird.org/ebird/nh/site/yard>.

There are other fun variations for maintaining yard lists, too, such as keeping a breeding bird list (species for which breeding evidence has been confirmed) or a list of species whose nests have been found. On one memorable day in June a couple of years ago, I found two active Ovenbird nests in the same walk, a double-first for my yard nest list!

A Yard List Partial Hall of Fame

I polled some of New Hampshire's top birders (current *New Hampshire Bird Records* Editorial Team, as well as a select group of others) in an effort to document the top Granite State yard lists. Some of their stories, species, and strategies may surprise you.

#1: Davis Finch – 218 species! Davis started his list in 1948 and his "yard" consists of 175 acres in East Kingston. His tips included "live many years" and "feed birds abundantly." His famous meat pile attracted species not normally expected such as Thayer's Gull (now a subspecies of Iceland Gull) and Black Vulture. Some of his yard species include birds more common in the early years such as Loggerhead Shrike and Sedge Wren. His yard is responsible for state records such as the recent Eurasian Collared-Dove. Only 100

species to go to tie the ABA area yard list record, set on the Texas coast!

Don and Lillian Stokes recently moved on from their "Bobolink Farm" backyard on Powder Mill Pond in Hancock. By the time they had left, their meticulously manicured-for-the-birds backyard (which includes exceptional views of the pond and the sky above a ridgeline) had given them records of **202 species** including several state rarities.

Dr. Robert Ridgely, of Sandwich, has also tallied a remarkable **200 species or so** from his yard abutting NH Audubon's Thompson Wildlife Sanctuary, a premier birding spot in the region.

Andrea Robbins in Pittsfield has tallied **198 species** and is ranked #55 in the country with this total on eBird at the time of this writing.

George Gavutis has found **187 species** in 44 years on his 20-acre property in Kensington, which is heavily managed for wildlife and includes fish ponds, restored wetlands with native shrubs, early successional habitats, and actively mowed fields. Almost half of this total species number have bred on the property or nearby. His rarest bird was Kentucky Warbler and, just as impressive, he has lured in many species of waterfowl including Northern Shoveler.

Steve Mirick tallied **177 species** from the 141-acre Dame Farm in Durham over 12 years. This includes the state's first accepted record of Worm-eating Warbler. Another former yard in Newmarket (where he lived for over six years) produced rarities such as Little Egret, Leach's Storm-Petrel, Franklin's Gull, and Tundra Swan, among 33 overall species of waterfowl!

Tony Vazzano has found **176 species** in 35 years in his Sandwich yard. This total includes heard Boreal(!) and Long-eared Owls, though both were not accepted by the NH Rare Birds Committee. He never could manage to see the next-door Snowy Owl from his yard, though.

Dan Hubbard has recorded **152 species** over 33 years in his ¼ acre suburban Rochester yard, including 27 species of warblers. He practices chemical-free habitat management and is a fan of bird baths. He suggests that "passive birding from the deck with a glass of wine" is a strategy for growing one's list!

Scott Young has recorded **152 species** from his yard in Strafford.

Iain MacLeod had found **151 species** in his former Deering yard (reportedly with a very strict definition of "yard") in 12 years including the **only** Chestnut-collared Longspur in New Hampshire's history!! Iain offered that habitat diversity and location are the keys to a big list.

Phil Brown has seen or heard **148 species** in five years in his 22-acre Hancock yard.

Paul Miliotis has tallied **140 species** in three years on a 19-acre farm with significant butterfly gardens. Working with nature to make his gardens attractive to wildlife has helped him locate 28 species of warblers there.

Ken Klapper has found **138 species** in three years in Sandwich. Proximity to Squam Lake may have helped him record a Red-necked Grebe as a flyover, as well as Cackling and Snow Goose records in the same day.

Adam Burnett has found **137 species** in eight years in his Westmoreland yard. The highlight was a Snowy Owl that stayed for over two months in 2009, and he has also recorded Black Vulture over a dozen times. In addition to habitat diversity, he advises staying vigilant for new arrivals.

John Williams has recorded **137 species** in 13 years in Rumney, where he manages 55 acres of varied habitats for wildlife.

Katherine Towler and Jim Sparrell have recorded **132 species** in 10 years of birding on South Mill Pond in Portsmouth (a great location for an urban yard!). Among the rarities have been Yellow-breasted Chat an amazing four times in fall and a Dickcissel. They suggest keeping an eye out the windows.



One of the Yellow-breasted Chats that appeared in Jim Sparrell and Katherine Towler's yard, photographed by Jim, 9-19-16.

Bob Quinn – undetermined number, but a remarkable total of 26 species of warblers in his “fairly average” Webster backyard, most eye-level or below and almost all recorded in fall, plus two Pileated Woodpeckers and four Ruffed Grouse in crabapple trees after a big fall snowstorm!

Eric Masterson – undetermined number over 16 years in Hancock; nocturnal flight calls (recorded) of Sora, Virginia Rail, Long-tailed Duck, and Brant, among many others.

Scott Heron – 108 species.

Dave Govatski – 107 species in 10 years; Eastern Whip-poor-will copulating **on** the deck!

Bob Crowley – 101 species over 32 years in Chatham; the most out of place being a European Starling!

Hank Chary – around 100 species in Newmarket including Red-headed Woodpecker.

Lloyd Bunton – 100 or so species in Canaan; Mourning Warbler while doing yard work.

Kathryn and Roger Frieden – 95 species in 28 years in Manchester; Blue Grosbeak (which “followed them back from Big Bend” after a trip to Texas).

Chad Witko – 83 species in two years in Wilton.

A Few Stories from My Yard

Some of my most memorable yard birds in New Hampshire have been warblers: the singing Cerulean as I stepped out of my front door one May morning in Lee; the skulky Connecticut I tracked down in the shrubbery in that same yard; and most recently, the adult male Brewster's (Blue-winged X Golden-winged hybrid – not its own species, but still a really rare and neat little bird that fed around my garden one May as I worked outside with my family). Lloyd Bunton shared a similar story about finding his yard Mourning Warbler through tending to the garden.

I'll always recall the first Common Raven and Pileated Woodpeckers that I saw over my Lee, NH yard (the first New Hampshire residence I had); two forest species which I would never have thought to find in my New York City childhood backyard. But perhaps my most memorable yard bird occurred in that childhood backyard – a Northern Flicker that appeared on a snag one April and stayed to nest. In the last summer of his life as he struggled with cancer, it provided my Grandfather and me with a unique bonding experience that only observing nature can bring.

A lot of the memories of yard birding are more than the birding itself and those memories better connect us with that special place we call home.

Phil Brown has been yard listing his sightings since he first noticed a Great Egret fly over his parents' backyard in Staten Island, NY, in 1986 at the age of six. Coincidentally, he recently added this species as a yard bird for the first time in New Hampshire, observed with his young kids after being woken up early one morning.

Phil would like to thank the New Hampshire Bird Records Editorial Team and many other birders for contributing their thoughts and tips to this article.

Backyard Birder

Wild Turkey Courtship

by Brenda Sens



Displaying male Wild Turkey by Len Medlock.

In June, Sylvia Miskoe posted an e-mail to NHBirds (6-17-16) in which she reported seeing “a large tom in full display walking behind two hens across the back pasture. At the far end, he un-puffed and ate buttercup flowers.” The description led to general curiosity about the courtship displaying behavior of Wild Turkeys and I did some research on the subject.

Adult male turkeys are called gobblers or toms and the immature males are referred to as jakes. There are subtle differences between the two. Jakes have tail feathers that are taller in the center and shorter on the sides whereas the adult tail feathers are equal in length. The beard on jakes is two to three inches long and that on adults is from five to twelve inches in length. The mating behavior of male turkeys bears a strong resemblance to that of peacocks. They try to attract females by puffing up their feathers, spreading their tails and dragging their wings. The behavior is called strutting. Mood alone can cause their necks and the tops of their head to change color in a matter of seconds and they can be red, white, or blue. Although it seems counter-intuitive, a solid white head and neck indicates the highest state of excitement. Vocalizations, too, play a large role in attracting mates and toms are capable of numerous ones. Their gobbles can carry as far as a mile. In addition, they drum, boom, yelp and spit. This same behavior, when directed at other males, is a show of dominance and aggression.

Often, two closely related males display together. This behavior usually results in the dominant turkey fathering

more eggs than he would if courting alone. Because half the genetic make-up of the two male turkeys is identical, the less dominant male benefits by increasing his chances of passing along his genetic material more than he would on his own. Videos of courting behavior may be found online.

Display behavior is most often seen in the early spring, although males often display during other seasons when they come in contact with females. Turkeys are polygamous and the males leave in search of other females after mating, leaving the female to nest and protect the young on her own. A day after hatching, the young are ready to leave the nest and eat on their own while depending on the female for protection. By the time the poults are fourteen weeks old, the sexes differ in appearance.

There is much about a turkey that only a fellow turkey can love. Both sexes have fleshy bumps called caruncles on their heads and necks. Males also sport dewlaps, flaps of skin that stretch from the lower beak to the neck, and snoods, which are loose bits of skin that dangle from the upper mandible of the beak. The size of the snood relates to the health of the male. By the time winter arrives, the young are adult size.



Wild Turkeys by Jason Lambert.

Females and males spend the winter in separate flocks. The young are ready to mate by the time they are a year old, but males of that age do not compete successfully against older males as a rule.

The return of turkeys to the wild in the northeast has been a heartwarming success story and they are always a delight to observe.

Answer to the Photo Quiz

by David B. Donsker

Our featured species is a passerine, or perching bird. Its conical bill instantly marks it as one of our finches or sparrows. We have addressed the identification of this group of birds in many previous Photo Quizzes, but the challenges associated with recognizing its various members bears constant repetition of the subject.

The families that make up this group include: *Calcariidae*, the longspurs and Snow Bunting; *Passerellidae*, the American sparrows; *Fringillidae*, the “true” finches; *Cardinalidae*, the so-called “cardinal-grosbeaks”, which include most of our colorful buntings and grosbeaks; and an introduced family, *Passeridae*, the Old-World sparrows, of which House Sparrow is the only New England representative. That’s still a large number of birds to consider, but the reasonable choices can be limited fairly quickly by examining the structure and plumage characteristics of this individual.

This is a large-headed, short-tailed species. A striking feature of this bird is the stoutness of its pale conical bill. The bill is deep at its base which contributes to its thickness. The underparts are uniformly pale and unmarked with a mere suggestion of a deeper tone on the upper breast. The throat is also pale. Two pale stripes break up the otherwise uniform grayness of the head. There is a pale eyebrow, or supercilium, that extends to the base of the bill and a prominent pale malar stripe along the side of the lower jaw that extends well behind the gray auricular or cheek patch. The back is streaked with bold pale “braces”. Although the wing feathers are edged pale, there are no wing bars.

Snow Bunting is much paler and smaller-billed than this bird when we usually encounter that species in winter. The facial pattern of our longspurs in winter plumage somewhat resembles that of this species in that they have a dark auricular set off by a prominent malar stripe and pale eyebrow, but the auriculars of the longspurs are quite darkly edged. Further, the breast of this group of birds is streaked or otherwise darkly marked and their bills are smaller. Besides, longspurs and Snow Bunting are open country birds and are almost always seen foraging on the ground in fields, parking lots or along the shore. None of these would be likely found perched in a bush or branchy tangle.

The large family that includes the American sparrows is primarily comprised of a multitude of streaky birds with streaky breasts, all of which are easily eliminated. But some sparrows are unmarked below and require some consideration. In winter, both Chipping and Clay-colored Sparrows can show fairly prominent ear patches set off by a prominent supercilium, but in neither species, is the malar

stripe so extensive. Further, both species have finely streaked crowns in this plumage and their conical bills are tiny. Grasshopper Sparrow is a proportionally large-headed, large-billed, short-tailed species, that might recall this bird, but that species lacks this head pattern. Rather than the strong facial stripes, it has a white central crown stripe set off by two dark lateral crown stripes. The large, clear breasted sparrows in the genus *Zonotrichia* (White-crowned, White-throated, and Yellow-crowned) all have dark crown stripes as well. Lark Sparrow is relatively clear breasted and has a prominent auricular patch, but it has a much more complex head pattern, including crown stripes. It also has a dark central breast spot.

Although many of our “true” finches have fairly heavy conical bills, none resemble this bird. Most species are more extensively streaked (think female House Finch), are more richly colored (e.g. male Purple Finch), or have markedly different bill structures (the overlapping mandibles of our crossbills, the rounded conical bill of Pine Grosbeak or the massive conical bill of Evening Grosbeak).

The same can be said of most of the members of the cardinal-grosbeak family. All species in this family have relatively large, to huge, conical bills. But the colorful males of most members of this group including most of our buntings, the crested Northern Cardinal, and the massive-billed grosbeaks aren’t an identification problem. Many females in this group (Blue Grosbeak, Indigo and Painted Buntings), are essentially plain and lack head or facial markings. So, they too can be discounted. Female Rose-breasted Grosbeak and its cousin Black-headed Grosbeak, a rare vagrant to our state, do have a strong facial pattern that includes a dark ear patch and paler malar and supercilium stripes. But the facial pattern in both of these species is much stronger than this bird, and both have streaking on the breast and/or flanks.

That would seem to leave House Sparrow as the only remaining choice. House Sparrow is so familiar to us that we really don’t bother to look at it carefully. Like the featured species, House Sparrow is also a large-headed species with a somewhat similarly shaped, relatively heavy, conical bill. Both sexes are streaked above and clear breasted below. The black-bibbed, white-cheeked male looks nothing like the bird in the photograph, but female House Sparrow is quite similar. Much like this bird, females have a broad, pale eyebrow and pale conical bill, but unlike this bird, female House Sparrow lacks the prominent pale malar stripe. Rather, the cheek and lower part of the face in House Sparrow is uniformly pale. House Sparrow also has a single, fairly prominent, white wing bar.

There is one member of the cardinal-grosbeak family, however, that we haven’t discussed. It is the rather unique and

divergent Dickcissel. Dickcissel can look surprisingly similar to House Sparrow. Both species are roughly the same size and shape. Both have relatively large conical bills. The bill is always pale in Dickcissel, and can be similarly pale in House Sparrow, depending on sex and time of year. Like House Sparrow, it is rather boldly streaked above and unmarked on the lower breast and belly. In summer, the males have a black “V”-shaped bib on a yellow breast recalling the plumage of the meadowlarks with which they share a common breeding habitat in grassy fields and prairies of the central US. These adult males do not present much of an identification challenge, but in winter, Dickcissel is much drabber and the black “V” of the male can be reduced to a diffuse dark patch on the upper breast somewhat recalling male House Sparrow in winter plumage. Female and immature Dickcissels are drabber throughout the year and can look surprisingly like



House Sparrow (left) and Dickcissel (right) by Jim Sparrell.

female House Sparrow. Besides the shared size, shape and bill structure, like female House Sparrow, it is uniformly pale below with a pale eyebrow. Immature Dickcissel is even more nondescript, browner and “sparrow-like”, but winter adult male, female and young Dickcissel can all be distinguished from comparable sexes and ages of House Sparrow with careful observation. Dickcissel in all plumages has a long, pale malar stripe that House Sparrow lacks. This, along with the pale eyebrow, produces a well-defined ear patch in Dickcissel. House Sparrow does not have a defined ear patch because its face lacks the malar stripe and is uniformly dingy buff. The length of the eyebrow is different in the two species. In House Sparrow, it is relatively short and is located essentially entirely behind the eye. In Dickcissel it is longer, extending also in front of the eye to the base of the bill. Female Dickcissel can show some yellowish tinge on the breast and immature Dickcissel is faintly streaked on the underparts. Dickcissel also has reddish-brown feathers at the bend of the wing. House Sparrow lacks any yellow, is always unstreaked below and lacks the chestnut in the wing.

In contrast, House Sparrow also has a single whitish wing bar which Dickcissel lacks. Although the bills of the two species are similar in shape, the beak of Dickcissel is longer and heavier.

Fortunately in New Hampshire, we often have the opportunity to closely compare Dickcissels to House Sparrow because, when this uncommon vagrant is seen in our state, it is almost invariably found in association with flocks of House Sparrow. Perhaps the Dickcissels themselves detect the similarities!

Dickcissel, *Spiza americana*, is a long-distance migrant from the grasslands and prairies of the central United States primarily to the seasonally flooded grasslands of northern South America, primarily in Venezuela. Although it has adapted surprisingly well to agricultural habitats in North America, in South America, it is considered a pest because it forms huge flocks that voraciously feed on rice and other cereal crops. Because of some habitat loss in North America, but more especially because of lethal harassment on its wintering grounds, it has shown a general population decline, particularly in the mid twentieth century, and is a species of concern.

This species has become an essentially annual, but uncommon, visitor to our state generally in the southern regions. It can be encountered in all seasons, but is most likely seen in our state in fall and early winter.

This female Dickcissel was photographed in his yard by Jim Sparrell on March 18, 2017 at South Mill Pond in Portsmouth, NH. Naturally, it was spotted in a flock of House Sparrows.

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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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Colorful Birds of Spring 2017



Yellow-throated Warbler by Jason Lambert, 5-7-17, Hampton, NH.



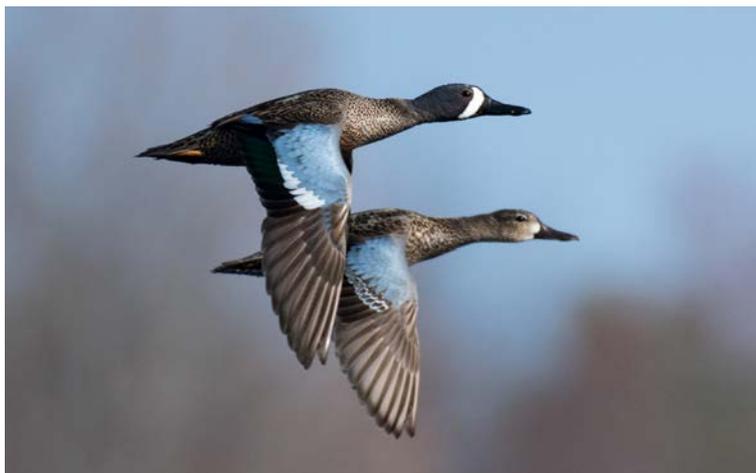
Northern Parula by Scott Heron, 5-4-17, Kingston, NH.



Yellow-rumped Warbler by Leo McKillop, 5-4-17, Exeter WTP, NH.



Baltimore Oriole by Scott Heron, 5-4-17, Kingston, NH.



Blue-winged Teal by Leo McKillop, 4-12-17, Exeter WTP, NH.



Horned Grebe by Scott Heron, 4-9-17, Great Pond, Kingston, NH.

