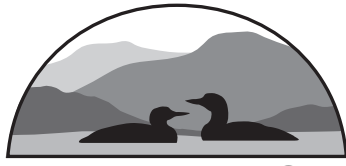


New Hampshire Bird Records





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This issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* with its color cover is sponsored by David Deifik in honor of his mother Sylvia Deifik and in memory of his father Max Deifik.



Max and Sylvia Deifik about 1964.

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Cover Photos: *Western Tanager* by Jason Lambert, 12-24-17, Dover, NH. *Dovekie* by Jason Lambert, 2-24-18, Seabrook, NH.

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

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Winter 2017-18

by Rebecca Suomala

Thank You Kathy!

Kathy McBride has been the designer for *New Hampshire Bird Records* since the Summer 2002 issue. A lot has changed since then. Remember back to when it was a small sized publication with almost no photographs and no color cover? The Summer 2002 had a total of nine photos plus some drawings! Kathy took us through the transition to a color cover, an increasing number of articles, the change to a larger format, and the advent of full color digital versions for the web archives. I'm sorry to say that Kathy had a job change which meant she could no longer do the layout for *New Hampshire Bird Records*. She has been wonderful to work with and I have really appreciated her longevity in this job – it made my job so much easier. I will miss her!

Welcome Dyanna!

We are fortunate that Dyanna Smith could step in and take over as the *New Hampshire Bird Records* designer. She began with the Spring 2017 issue and has helped to make a smooth transition. The fact that she works at NH Audubon is an added advantage, making it easy to review questions and sort

out the process with me. I'm looking forward to working with her.

Welcome Diana Talbot!

We are delighted to introduce Diana Talbot as the new Field Notes Compiler. Diana started with the Spring 2018 season and has been busily gathering stories for the Field Notes feature. Her first work won't appear until the Spring issue, but you may hear from her via email before then if she spots an interesting story.

Time to Renew!

This is the last issue of this subscription year and your renewal notice is enclosed with this issue. (If your subscription is up to date you will have a different notice stating that you do not need to renew.) Thanks for your subscription and support of *New Hampshire Bird Records*.

PHOTO QUIZ

Can You Identify This Bird?



Photos by David Deifik.



Thank You to Donors

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

The following list acknowledges donations received from October 1, 2017 to October 25, 2018. We apologize if we inadvertently omitted you or mis-spelled your name – please let us know.

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Peregrine Falcon by Kyle Wilmarth.

December 1, 2017 through February 28, 2018

by Katherine Towler and Jim Sparrell



Katie and Jim in full birding mode on a trip to California. Photo by Bruce Aird.

The winter of 2017-18 began with unseasonably warm temperatures in early December, continuing a pattern established in late November. By mid-month, conditions took a dramatic turn. The trend of record-setting warmth the past two winters did not hold, with December turning out to be the coldest for the state since 1989. December ended with extreme cold that persisted into the start of January, followed by a northeaster

and heavy snow, which was in turn followed by heavy rains at mid-month even to the north. The temperature and precipitation fluctuations resulted in unusually light snow cover in the north for most of January.

The dramatic shifts and extremes in weather patterns, evident as the effects of climate change intensify, continued through the season. As was true in the winter of 2016-17, February again brought days of record-breaking high temperatures. The monthly average temperature for Concord in 2018 tied the record for the second warmest February in 150 years. On February 21, both Concord and Mount Washington set new records for high temperatures. Early woodcocks, blackbirds and waterfowl arrived with the warmth, but a couple of heavy snowstorms and repeated rounds of freezing rain at the end of the month made winter feel anything but over.

The 2017-18 winter birding season was notable for record late reports of warblers, shorebirds, and a few



Blue Grosbeak by Linda Maley, 12-4-17, Hampstead, NH.

other species, likely the result of the unseasonably warm temperatures in December. Most were on the seacoast, although one hardy warbler was seen in Errol through the first of the year. Other trends included high numbers of Fox Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos reported on Christmas Bird Counts and continuing through the season. Red Crossbills, White-winged Crossbills, and Pine Siskins were plentiful in the north. For the second year in a row, breaking the usual pattern of sightings in alternating years, there were few reports of Common Redpolls. Only a few Bohemian Waxwings were seen, and this species did not move south in any numbers as they have the past couple of winters.

The “half-hardy” birds continued their pattern in recent years of persisting through the winter in many parts of the state, with a good number of reports of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-shouldered Hawk, Gray Catbird, Hermit Thrush, Eastern Towhee, and Pine Warbler. For the winter’s most exceptional sightings, reports of **Golden Eagle**, **Black Vulture**, **Varied Thrush**, and **Western Tanager** were all exciting and notable, as were the first winter state records established for **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**, **Nelson’s Sparrow**, and **Blue Grosbeak**. Another standout bird was New Hampshire’s first overwintering **Sandhill Crane** (see page 30).

Waterfowl through Grebes

A mild start to December allowed waterfowl the luxury of a slow retreat before the arrival of plummeting temperatures at the end of the month. Reports of Snow Geese were scant in December with one in Salem and two in Greenland. In February one or two individuals were reported along the coast or around Great Bay, and several more were reported in Jaffrey and one in Sunapee. Small numbers of Brant were moving along the coast until the end of February, when several groups were spotted as they flew south. Atlantic Brant (the subspecies typically found on the eastern seaboard) rely almost exclusively on eelgrass for their winter food and seek out coastal marshes where they can feed, with most of the population tending toward the mid-Atlantic states, well south of New Hampshire.



Harlequin Duck found on land and returned to the water. Photos by Len Medlock, 1-30-18, Rye, NH.

WINTER SEASON

Southern counties hosted a handful of Wood Ducks with one early arrival at Lower Baker Pond in Wentworth at the end of February following the record-breaking warmth. A **Redhead** briefly appeared on Great Bay in December. For many years Great Bay has hosted at least one **Eurasian Wigeon** affiliating with the many American Wigeon, and this winter was no exception. There were reports of solitary **Harlequin Ducks** along the seacoast including a male that was found out of the water at Rye Harbor State Park and returned to the water by Len Medlock. Single lingering Ruddy Ducks were seen in Dover, Rochester, and Durham. A lingering **Pied-billed Grebe** found in mid-December during the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) in Errol benefitted from the warm temperatures and open water.

Date # Location Observer

Snow Goose

12/12	1	Salem	K. Wilmarth
02/03	1	Rt. 1A wooden bridge, Rye	H. Bauer
02/13	1	Hilton Park, Dover Pt.	A. Murray
02/15	1	Hilton Park, Dover Pt.	Z. Cornell
02/15	1	Wentworth-by-the-Sea CC, Rye	Z. Cornell
02/18	2	Lacy Rd., Jaffrey	T. Niemel
02/21	1	Hilton Park, Dover Pt.	G. Tillman
02/24	1	Trask Brook Rd., Sunapee	D. Jackson

Brant

01/28	8	Hampton Harbor Inlet	J. Lambert
02/28	19	Seal Rocks, Rye	K. Klapper

Wood Duck

12/02	5	Sunset Lake, Greenfield	P. Brown
12/16	1	Pleasant Lake, New London	J. Swatt, M. Vernon
12/19	1	Nashua Airport	C. McPherson
01/08	3	Spaulding Ave., Rochester	S.& D. Stoddard
02/23	4	Powwow Pond, Kingston	S.& D. Stoddard
02/23	5	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
02/24	2	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
02/26	5	Nashua R. by Rideout Rd. trail, Hollis	B. Sprague
02/28	1	Lower Baker Pond, Wentworth	A. Duncan Cooley

Blue-winged Teal

12/01	1	Dingman Farm, Kensington	D. Finch
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Northern Shoveler

12/16	1	Depot Rd., Hampton Falls	T. Coons, H. Stevens
02/27	1	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard

Gadwall

12/02	1	Eel Pond, Rye	S. Mirick
12/10	1	Eel Pond, Rye	J. Lambert

Eurasian Wigeon

12/04	1	Sunset Farm, Greenland	C. Nims, J. Scott
01/29	1	Osprey Cove, Greenland	R.& K. Frieden
02/06	1	Bracketts Pt., Greenland	J. Maher

American Wigeon

12/03	60	Sunset Farm, Greenland	J. Maher
12/10	1	Policy Brook by Lou Ave., Salem	K. Wilmarth

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
12/16	18	Greenland Sector, Coastal CBC	S.& J. Mirick
02/06	19	Bracketts Pt., Greenland	J. Maher
02/19	1	Turnpike Rd., New Ipswich	T. Shaw
02/20	1	Powwow Pond, Kingston	E. Nathan, S. Heron
02/22	4	N. Hampton State Beach	H. Bauer
02/27	1	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard

Mallard

01/01	3	River Rd., Sunapee	D. Jackson
01/13	4	Riveredge Marina, Ashland	I. MacLeod
02/09	3	Rt. 3, Pittsburg	B. Crowley, J. Scott, W. Broussard, R. Steber

Northern Pintail

12/03	1	Gordon Woolen Mill Pond, Newport	J. Gamble, D. Jackson
12/21	7	Rt. 1A at Central Rd., Rye	J. Lambert
01/07	1	Milford Fish Hatchery	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
01/12	1	St. Gaudens NHS, Cornish	K. Kull, K. Jones, W. Smith, C. Sczomak
01/19	3	St. Gaudens NHS, Cornish	K. Jones
01/29	2	Rt. 11B fields, Gilford	I. MacLeod
01/31	3	Pulpit Rocks, Rye	H. Burns



Northern Pintail by Stephen Mirick, 1-21-18, Rye, NH.

Green-winged Teal

12/01	4	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer
12/08	3	Northwood Lake	J. Lambert
01/01	2	Hall St., Bow	D. Lipsy, Y. McCaffery
01/12	1	Petey's Restaurant, Rt. 1A, Rye	M. Watson
01/13	1	Exeter WTP	L. Medlock
02/23	4	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
02/28	10	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer

Redhead

12/02	1	Great Bay Farm, Greenland	L.& L. Medlock
12/03	1	Sunset Farm, Greenland	J. Maher
12/04	1	Sunset Farm, Greenland	C. Nims, J. Scott, L. McKillop
12/16	1	Great Bay	S.& J. Mirick

Ring-necked Duck

12/12	5	Northwood Lake	J. Lambert
12/17	1	Lee-Durham CBC, Oyster River Sector	S. Mirick, et al.
02/08	1	Winnepesaukee R., Laconia	P. Hunt, U. Dienes
02/13	1	Rye Harbor SP	L. Charron, J. Dionne

Date	#	Location	Observer
02/20	6	Powwow Pond, Kingston	E. Nathan, S. Heron
02/21	1	Horseshoe Pond, Merrimack	M. Jacobson

Lesser Scaup

12/12	1	Northwood Lake	J. Lambert
12/24	1	Newfound L. outflow, Bristol	P. Hunt, L. Bunten, S. Whitney
02/17	5	Exeter WTP	L. McKillop, et al.
02/25	26	Exeter WTP	L. Medlock

Common Eider - Northern subsp.

02/03	1	Hampton River Marina	J. Lambert
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Harlequin Duck by Jason Lambert, 2-10-18, Seal Rocks, Rye, NH.

Harlequin Duck

12/10	1	Hampton Harbor Inlet	J. Pettipas, S. Wisley
01/29	1	Rye Harbor	S.& D. Stoddard
01/30	1	Rye Harbor	L. Medlock
02/10	1	Seal Rocks, Rye	J. Lambert
02/28	1	Seal Rocks, Rye	D. Clark, M. Adams, K. Cox, K. Klapper, D. Snyder

Surf Scoter

12/09	60	Pulpit Rocks, Rye	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
02/28	37	Little Boars Head, N. Hampton	M. Adams, K. Cox

White-winged Scoter

01/14	25	Rye Harbor	R.& G. Dean
02/24	19	Great Boars Head, Hampton	J. Lambert

Black Scoter

12/09	46	Little Boars Head, N. Hampton	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
02/10	68	Little Boars Head, N. Hampton	J. Lambert
02/16	87	NH coast	G.& A. Robbins

Bufflehead

12/02	3	White Lake SP, Tamworth	W. Rigazio
12/10	4	Surry Mountain L., Surry	T. Parody
12/11	4	Merrimack R., Manchester	R. Titus
12/12	1	Northwood Lake	J. Lambert
12/17	114	Lee-Durham CBC, Oyster River Sector	S. Mirick, et al.
01/08	1	Stark Landing, Manchester	R.& K. Frieden
02/07	60	Adams Point WMA, Durham	S.& D. Stoddard

Common Goldeneye

12/16	120	Greenland Sector, Coastal CBC	S.& J. Mirick
12/31	67	Silver L., Tilton/Belmont	P. Hunt, D. Howe
01/01	62	Merrimack R., Manchester	D. Jackson
01/07	95	Merrimack R., Manchester	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell

Date	#	Location	Observer
01/14	2	Johnston Island, Lebanon	W. Scott
01/23	13	Androscoggin R., Errol	P.& L. Charron
01/26	14	Connecticut R. at Bellows Falls Dam, Walpole	C. Ross
02/04	30	Sewalls Falls State RA, Concord	A. Kallenbach

Barrow's Goldeneye

12/16	1	Stark Landing, Manchester	R.& K. Frieden
01/01	1	Cochecho R. near Watson Rd., Dover	C. Breen
01/18	1	Watson Rd., Dover	K. Couture
01/26	1	Great Bay Discovery Ctr., Greenland	S. Mirick, P. Lacourse
02/15	2	Stark Landing, Manchester	D. Perry

Hooded Merganser

12/06	19	Chesham Pond, Harrisville	P. Brown
12/13	30	Great Pond, Kingston	S. Heron
12/31	70	Urban Sector, Laconia CBC	P. Brown, K. Klapper
02/20	27	Powwow Pond, Kingston	E. Nathan, S. Heron

Common Merganser

12/03	19	Androscoggin R., Gorham	A. Winters, J. Pietrzak
01/01	40	Lincoln Park, Gilford	I. MacLeod
02/09	9	Rt. 3, Pittsburg	B. Crowley, J. Scott, W. Broussard, R. Steber
02/28	12	Pulpit Rocks, Rye	S. Heron, D. Jackson

Red-breasted Merganser

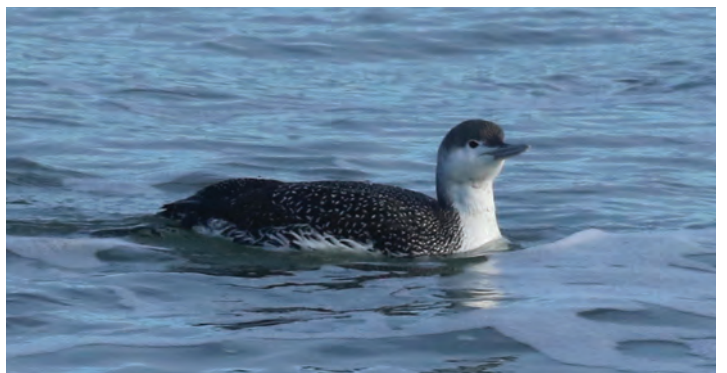
12/16	70	Hampton Beach SP	T. Coons, H. Stevens
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Ruddy Duck

12/04	1	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
12/12	1	Adams Point WMA, Durham	J. Lambert
12/16	1	Great Bay Discovery Ctr., Greenland	S.& J. Mirick

Spruce Grouse

12/04	1	White Mountain Rd., Cambridge	A. Winters, J. Pietrzak
01/03	1	Mt. Flume, Lincoln	D. Jones, B. Schumm, C. McArdle
01/09	1	Starr King Trail, WMNF	D. Durocher
01/12	1	Mt. Moosilauke, Benton	D. Durocher
01/20	1	Zealand Trail, WMNF	D. Durocher



Red-throated Loon by Jim Sparrell, 1-14-18, Rye Harbor SP, NH.

Red-throated Loon

12/04	14	NH coast	J. Maher
12/09	8	Pulpit Rocks, Rye	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
02/24	4	NH coast	S. Mirick

WINTER SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
12/09	1	Androscoggin R. at Rt. 16, Errol	L. Charron
12/09	30	Pulpit Rocks, Rye	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
12/13	1	Newfound Lake	R. Quinn, C. Martin
12/16	2	Meredith Bay, L. Winnepesaukee	M. Wilson
02/10	47	Hampton Harbor Inlet	J. Lambert
02/16	74	NH coast	G.& A. Robbins

Pied-billed Grebe

12/01	1	Eel Pond, Rye	H. Bauer
12/02	1	Eel Pond, Rye	S. Mirick
12/15	1	southern sector, Errol CBC	J. Swatt, B. Quinn, C. Martin, S. McCumber
12/17	1	downtown Errol	P.& L. Charron
01/03	1	Stark Landing, Manchester	J. Nathan

Horned Grebe

12/16	10	Portsmouth East sector, Coastal CBC	Z. Cornell, P. Hunt
12/20	1	Wellington SP, Bristol/Alexandria	P. Benham
01/03	5	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer
01/29	6	Great Boars Head, Hampton	B. Crowley, J. Scott, R. Steber
02/16	47	NH coast	G.& A. Robbins
02/24	18	Hampton Beach	J. Lambert

Red-necked Grebe

12/09	13	Pulpit Rocks, Rye	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
12/18	1	Seminole Pt., Lake Sunapee	D. Jackson
01/28	10	Pulpit Rocks, Rye	R. Prieto
02/15	48	North Side Park, Hampton	H. Bauer
02/24	19	Little Boars Head, N. Hampton	J. Lambert

Northern Fulmar through Gulls

This winter provided some great viewing of seabirds on fishing boats and from land. Three different fishing and research trips provided opportunity for pelagic observations when birders went out on December 3 and 18, and on January 19. Participants recorded a combined total of nine alcid and tubenose species. A single **Great Shearwater** was seen on the first December trip only, and **Common Murre** on only two of the three trips, but Northern Fulmar were reported on all three trips, with a count of 35 on the first December trip. Small numbers of **Atlantic Puffin** and large numbers of **Dovekie** were seen on all three trips as well. In some years, winter pelagic trips yield none of these species, so these are all significant sightings. Black-legged Kittiwake were also noted on all three trips, with a high count of 255 recorded by observers on the first December trip.

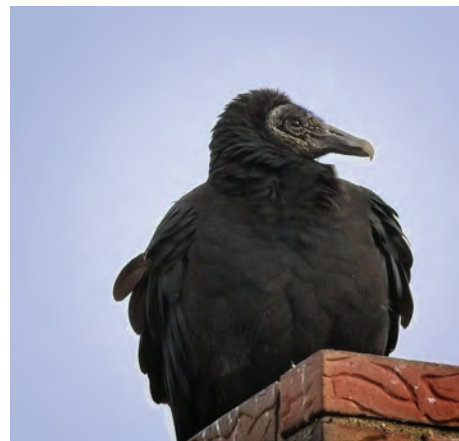
The alcid show from land was the real highlight of the season, however. Dovekie sightings were common from various locations on the seacoast throughout much of February, with a high count of 11 individuals by Steve Mirick on a single day. Prior to 1990, winter sightings of Dovekie were relatively plentiful, but in the years since,

there have been only scattered reports from land in isolated years. The high numbers this season and their proximity to shore brought birders from across the state to the seacoast. Thick-billed Murre sightings from land were also regular throughout February, coinciding with the Dovekie incursion. Razorbills were plentiful all three months of the season, and there were a good number of Black Guillemot seen as well.



Dovekies by Len Medlock, 2-25-18, Seal Rocks, Rye, NH.

Great Blue Heron sightings in December on the Androscoggin River and in Jackson and Warren appear to be among only a few winter records for this species in Coos, Carroll, and Grafton counties respectively. A lingering Great Egret in Seabrook in early December was also likely a result of the warm temperatures. The trend of increasing numbers of Turkey Vultures wintering in New Hampshire continued this season with reports from a number of towns in Rockingham and Strafford Counties in December and January, and from other counties and even as far north as Plymouth in February. Two **Black Vultures** joined a large roost of Turkey Vultures in Exeter. A **Golden Eagle** seen in Seabrook in December was a relatively rare winter sighting.



Black Vulture by Warren Trested, 2-6-18, Exeter, NH.

Up until a couple of years ago, Red-shouldered Hawk reports, although on the increase in winter, were most frequent in eastern Rockingham County, and inland sightings were considered less common. In the winter of

2017-18, this species was observed throughout the season inland in the southern counties of Hillsborough and Cheshire and north up to Merrimack and Strafford Counties, in addition to sightings in Rockingham County. Their diet consists largely of small mammals such as chipmunks and voles, as well as snakes, toads and frogs, which are difficult to come by in the winter. In Wisconsin in the winter, they have been observed taking Mourning Doves, House Sparrows and European Starlings at feeders (Birds of North America, online).

A possible second state winter record and notable sighting came in the form of a photograph sent to NH Audubon of a dead **Purple Gallinule** reportedly found out on the frozen surface of Lake Winnepesaukee. The person who made the observation and took the photograph could not be determined, so this will remain an unofficial sighting, but if the bird had been found alive and confirmed, it would be only the second report of a Purple Gallinule in winter for the state, the first being in Lee in 1987, a bird that died after being found.



Sandhill Crane by Jim Sparrell (taken at 3°F), 1-6-18, Rollinsford, NH.

Sightings of Sandhill Crane are scattered in other seasons, with most reports recording birds in migration. The 2017-18 winter season afforded many birders easy views of this species, however, and will be remembered for New Hampshire's first overwintering **Sandhill Crane**. Affectionately dubbed Kevin, the bird that became a reliable sight in a Rollinsford neighborhood through the summer and fall remained through the winter, surviving on food set out by local residents (for more see the article elsewhere in this issue). Two Sandhill Cranes overwintered near Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, but this is the only other report in the region of an overwintering bird of this species this year. New Hampshire's Sandhill Crane is probably a first record for northern New England.

This winter was also notable for shorebird sightings. The **Semipalmated Plover** that was reported through December

9 in Rye set a new state record for a late date for this species, breaking records set in 1991 and 2004. The report of a Greater Yellowlegs on December 14 is only the second December record for this species in recent decades, although numerous December sightings prior to 1950 are listed in *The Birds of New Hampshire* (Keith and Fox, 2013). Sanderlings were present throughout the season, unlike last winter when there were few reports. Dunlin were seen in smaller numbers, but were persistent, while large flocks of Purple Sandpipers were present from December through February.



Semipalmated Plover by Steve Mirick, 12-9-17, Rye, NH.

There were scattered reports of American Woodcock throughout the season. Reports from Hollis and East Kingston on February 21 may have been overwintering birds, though it is more likely these were returning migrants, in which case both sightings would represent the earliest known dates for a spring return of this species in New Hampshire.

Bonaparte's Gulls were present in small numbers throughout the season, but there were no reports of Black-headed Gull. Birders who ventured to the seacoast were treated to regular sightings of the adult Glaucous Gull in Seabrook, believed to be the same individual that has returned annually since 2008 to perch on the roof of the bathhouse near the Yankee Fisherman's Coop. There were a couple of other Glaucous Gulls seen in Rochester and on the seacoast. Iceland Gulls were also spottily reported on the seacoast and inland in Nashua and Milford.

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
Northern Fulmar			
12/03	35	offshore waters	S.& J. Mirick, R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
12/18	10	Jeffreys Ledge	J. Lambert
01/19	19	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick
Great Shearwater			
12/03	1	offshore waters	S.& J. Mirick, R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
Northern Gannet			
12/03	8	inland of Isles of Shoals	S.& J. Mirick, R. Suomala, Z. Cornell

WINTER SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
Northern Gannet (con't.)			
12/03	14	offshore waters	S.& J. Mirick, R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
12/16	8	Portsmouth East sector, Coastal CBC	P. Hunt, Z. Cornell

Date	#	Location	Observer
Great Cormorant			
01/21	12	Great Island Common, New Castle	K. Klapper
02/17	17	Petey's Restaurant, Rt. 1A, Rye	J. Scott
02/26	25	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	P. Moynahan, N. Houlihan

Date	#	Location	Observer
Double-crested Cormorant			
12/10	2	Eel Pond, Rye	J. Lambert
12/19	3	Rye Harbor SP	C. Breen
12/31	1	Rye Harbor SP	J.& A. Price

Date	#	Location	Observer
Great Blue Heron			
12/03	2	Androscoggin R. at Rt. 16, Errol	L. Charron
12/09	1	Rt. 16, Jackson	J. Keator



Great Egret by Jason Lambert, 12-3-18, Hampton, NH.

Date	#	Location	Observer
Great Egret			
12/08	1	Hampton Salt Marsh CA	H. Stevens

Date	#	Location	Observer
Black Vulture			
12/16	1	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	A. Burnett
01/28	1	Sanborn St., Exeter	B. White, D. Finch, et al.
01/29	2	Sanborn St., Exeter	Z. Cornell, D. Finch
02/19	1	Vine St., Exeter	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell

Date	#	Location	Observer
Turkey Vulture			
12/16	33	Exeter sector, Coastal CBC	L. Medlock
02/01	32	Sanborn St., Exeter	K. Frieden
02/08	35	Sanborn St., Exeter	P. Brown
02/19	42	Vine St., Exeter	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
02/20	3	Hopkinton-Everett Reservoir, Hopkinton	P. Brown
02/24	1	Squam Lakes Natural Science Ctr., Holderness	I. MacLeod

Date	#	Location	Observer
Golden Eagle			
12/10	1	Seabrook WTP	T. Walker

Date	#	Location	Observer
Northern Harrier			
12/01	1	Fernwood Pt., Sunapee	D. Jackson
12/05	1	Beaver Brook Assn., Hollis	G. Coffey
12/06	1	Bedell Bridge SP, Haverhill	W. Scott
12/07	1	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzy	S. Jaffe

Date	#	Location	Observer
12/17	1	Riverglen Ln., Littleton	F.& H. Krauss
02/10	1	Brown Hill Rd., N. Haverhill	H. Farm
02/26	1	NHA McLane Ctr., Concord	P. Brown

Date	#	Location	Observer
Northern Goshawk			
12/06	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	J. Sparrell, K. Towler
12/16	1	The Flume, Amherst	C. Borkowski
12/22	1	Dogford Rd., Hanover	S. Merker
12/27	1	Bay Point Rd., Sunapee	D. Jackson
01/19	1	Jackson	J. Maher
01/30	1	Rt. 12 at Rt. 23, Westmoreland	C. Witko
01/31	1	Bradford Bog	T. Spahr
02/18	1	Starr King Trail, WMNF	H. Otto
02/20	1	Autumn Ln., Nottingham	R. Prieto
02/24	2	Antrim Rd., Hancock	P. Brown

Date	#	Location	Observer
Bald Eagle			
12/29	4	Hampton Beach SP	R.& C.& B. Baker
12/29	4	Rye Harbor SP	J. Kritzer
01/01	4	Exeter WTP	L. McKillop
01/08	6	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
01/13	4	Hilton Park, Dover Pt.	S. Young, D. Hubbard
01/28	4	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	L. Medlock
02/28	4	Akers Pond, Errol	L. Charron
02/28	1	Rt. 130 at Rt. 122, Hollis	N. Moreau



Rough-legged Hawk by Jason Lambert, 2-16-18, Rochester, NH.

Date	#	Location	Observer
Rough-legged Hawk			
12/06	1	Manchester-Boston Regional Airport	K. Wilmarth
12/16	1	Rt. 9, W. Chesterfield	C. Ross
12/29	1	Awcomin Marsh, Rye	S. Bennett
01/03	1	Hanover	E. Jenkins
01/13	1	Turnkey Landfill, Rochester	S. Young, D. Hubbard
01/14	1	Martin Rd., Fremont	S. Mirick
01/20	1	Rt. 101, Amherst	J. Nelson
01/21	1	Sawyer Park, Kensington	K. Klapper
01/21	1	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	J. Sparrell, K. Towler
01/29	1	Broad St., Hollis	C. Sheridan
02/05	1	Rt. 11B, Gilford	M. Coskren
02/16	1	Pickering Rd., Rochester	J. Lambert
02/18	1	Hampton Beach SP	D. Schulman, et al.
02/19	1	Rt. 101, Epping	K. Cox
02/25	1	Ranger Rd., Hollis	C. McPherson
02/27	1	Bellamy River WMA, Dover	S.& D. Stoddard

Date # Location Observer

Sandhill Crane

12/18 1 Main St. at Beccaris Dr., Rollinsford M. King
 02/24 1 Main St. at Beccaris Dr., Rollinsford M. Jacobson

Black-bellied Plover

12/03 5 Hampton Harbor flats, Seabrook
 S.& J. Mirick, R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
 12/11 1 Yankee Fisherman's Coop., Seabrook M. Watson

Semipalmated Plover

12/04 1 cove at Rye/N. Hampton town line J. Maher
 12/09 1 cove at Rye/N. Hampton town line J. Maher

Killdeer

12/16 1 Massacre Marsh at Parson's Creek, Rye
 Z. Cornell, P. Hunt
 02/21 2 Rt. 155A farm fields, Durham R. Prieto
 02/21 1 Southern NH Univ, Manchester D. Swain
 02/24 2 Hampton Salt Marsh CA J. Lambert, H. Otto
 02/28 1 Charles Bancroft Hgwy., Litchfield N. Moreau



Killdeer by Jason Lambert, 2-24-18, Hampton, NH.

Sanderling

12/19 16 Hampton Beach SP P. Benham
 02/16 30 Seabrook Beach S. Mirick
 02/24 21 Hampton Beach SP
 C. Witko, K. Lauer, R. Yurchisin, S. Lamonde

Dunlin

12/02 150 Yankee Fisherman's Coop., Seabrook
 S. Mroz, M. Goetschkes, S. Grinley
 01/03 6 Hampton marsh near Rt. 101 causeway
 S. Mirick, D. Abbott
 02/18 12 Hampton Harbor, Seabrook B. Griffith

Purple Sandpiper

01/20 41 Hampton Beach SP J. Swatt, D. Jackson
 01/20 56 Rye Ledge D. Lipsy
 02/22 40 Rye Harbor SP M. Watson
 02/28 52 Little Boars Head, N. Hampton
 M. Adams, K. Cox, D. Clark
 02/28 20 Seal Rocks, Rye M. Adams, K. Cox, D. Clark

American Woodcock

02/21 1 South Rd., E. Kingston D. Finch
 02/21 1 Broad St., Hollis J. Maher
 02/24 1 Badger Farm Rd., Wilton S. Lemire
 02/26 2 Silk Farm WS, Concord A. Kallenbach
 02/28 1 Old Chesham Rd., Marlborough S. Jaffe
 02/28 1 Urban Forestry Ctr., Portsmouth K. Klapper

Date # Location Observer

Wilson's Snipe

12/07 1 Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey S. Jaffe
 12/30 1 Old Mountain Rd., Moultonborough J. Rice

Greater Yellowlegs

12/04 1 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye C. Nims, J. Scott
 12/10 1 Rye Harbor L. McKillop
 12/14 1 Meadow Pond, Hampton H. Bauer

Dovekie

12/03 170 offshore waters S.& J. Mirick, R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
 12/18 138 Jeffreys Ledge J. Lambert
 01/19 105 Jeffreys Ledge S. Mirick
 02/10 1 Great Boars Head, Hampton R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
 02/24 11 NH coast S.& J. Mirick
 02/28 4 Seal Rocks, Rye K. Klapper



An immature Great Black-backed Gull with a dead Dovekie by Jason Lambert, 2-10-18, Eel Pond, Rye, NH.

Common Murre

12/18 2 Jeffreys Ledge J. Lambert
 01/19 11 Jeffreys Ledge S. Mirick



Thick-billed Murre

12/18 2 Jeffreys Ledge J. Lambert
 02/09 1 Rye Harbor K. Towler
 02/10 5 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye J. Lambert
 02/10 9 NH coast S. Mirick
 02/28 3 NH coast A. Kallenbach
 02/28 1 Seal Rocks, Rye
 M. Adams, D. Clark, K. Cox, K. Klapper



Thick-billed Murres by Jason Lambert, 2-10-18, Odiorne Point SP, Rye, NH.

WINTER SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer	Date	#	Location	Observer
Razorbill							
12/03	14	offshore waters	S.& J. Mirick, R. Suomala, Z. Cornell	01/27	1	Eel Pond, Rye	K. Klapper, C. Witko, P. Brown, S. Lamonde
01/19	40	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick	02/01	1	Nashua St., Milford	J. Wing
01/21	13	Little Boars Head, N. Hampton	J. Lambert	02/15	1	Plaistow	K. Wilmarth
02/10	15	Seal Rocks, Rye	J. Lambert	02/17	2	Exeter WTP	J. Lambert
02/28	6	Great Island Common, New Castle	S. Heron, D. Jackson	Lesser Black-backed Gull			
Black Guillemot							
12/02	3	Rye Harbor SP	L.& L. Medlock	12/16	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray
02/10	4	NH coast	S. Mirick	01/13	1	Eel Pond, Rye	L.& L. Medlock
02/26	1	Seal Rocks, Rye	K. Couture	02/11	1	Yankee Fisherman's Coop., Seabrook	K. Dorsey
Atlantic Puffin							
12/03	1	offshore waters	S.& J. Mirick, R. Suomala, Z. Cornell	02/14	1	Rt. 1A wooden bridge, Rye	P.& L. Charron
12/18	4	Jeffreys Ledge	J. Lambert	Glaucous Gull			
01/19	2	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick	12/01	1	Yankee Fisherman's Coop., Seabrook	M. Watson
Acid sp.							
12/03	50	offshore waters	S.& J. Mirick, R. Suomala, Z. Cornell	12/15	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray
01/19	17	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick	12/27	1	Bicentennial Park, Hampton	S. Mirick
Black-legged Kittiwake							
12/03	255	offshore waters	S.& J. Mirick, R. Suomala, Z. Cornell	12/27	1	High St., Somersworth	A. Murray
12/18	56	Jeffreys Ledge	J. Lambert	01/14	1	Rye Harbor	R.& G. Dean
01/07	14	Seabrook Beach	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell	01/31	2	Rochester WTP	A. Murray
01/07	15	NH coast	S. Mirick	02/28	1	Hampton Harbor restroom, Rt. 1A, Seabrook	D. Clark, M. Adams, K. Cox, K. Klapper, D. Jackson
01/19	30	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick	Owls through Waxwings			
01/30	2	Rye Harbor	L. Medlock				
Bonaparte's Gull							
12/03	5	Bicentennial Park, Hampton	S.& D. Stoddard	<i>Snowy Owl by Richard Howell, 12-1-17, Newfound Lake, Hebron, NH.</i>			
12/06	9	Adams Point WMA, Durham	S.& D. Stoddard	<p>Although this winter season did not bring a major incursion of Snowy Owls as big as that seen in 2013-14, the owls once again frequented the seacoast and were reported from a number of inland locations. Early in the season, a Snowy Owl was seen from the Mount Washington Auto Road, presumably on its way south. In early December, Snowy Owls took to familiar spots at Rye Harbor State Park and Hampton Beach State Park, where they were seen reliably through February. Others were reported at Pease International Tradeport and various spots along the seacoast, with high counts of four different individuals on a single day reported in January and February.</p>			
02/11	1	Eel Pond, Rye	S.& D. Stoddard, J. Lambert	<p>This year the real Snowy Owl story was inland, however.</p>			
							
<i>"Kumlien's" Iceland Gull showing the dark eye of this sub-species. Photo by Jason Lambert, 2-11-18, Seabrook, NH.</i>							
Iceland Gull							
12/15	1	Sears Parking Lot, Salem	K. Wilmarth				
12/31	1	Main St., Nashua	C. Sheridan				
12/31	1	Winnepesaukee R. by Rt. 140, Tilton	P. Hunt, D. Howe				
01/10	5	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard				
01/20	1	Exeter WTP	J. Swatt, D. Jackson				

For three weeks in January, an owl took up residence atop a light pole by the Hyundai dealership in Keene and frequented other spots nearby. Reports came in from the Lebanon Airport and Newfound Lake, Plainfield, and Concord as well, making this a banner year for seeing Snowy Owls in four of the state's inland southern counties.

Two coastal CBC teams, in Seabrook and Rye, were treated to sightings of the elusive **Short-eared Owl**. Later in December, another lucky birder found a Short-eared Owl near Odiorne Point State Park in Rye, where one had also been seen in the fall. Although these repeat sightings suggest a Short-eared may have frequented the marsh across from the park's northern entrance in both seasons, no other sightings were reported.



Eastern Phoebe by Donna Ellis, 1-6-18, Henniker, NH.

For the second winter in a row, after a hiatus for this species in 2015-2016, an immature **Red-headed Woodpecker** was found in New Hampshire. This year's Red-headed frequented a feeder in Rindge. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker sightings were widespread in the southern half of the state, continuing a trend of recent winter seasons. There were a few reports from Carroll County as well, as far north as Jackson and Bartlett. An Eastern Phoebe was photographed in Henniker on January 6, only the third January report in the state in the last ten years and it appears to be the only January report for Merrimack County.

Black-backed Woodpeckers were seen in five different locations this year, including Errol, an increase in sightings over the previous winter when the only reports were from Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge. American Kestrels were found this year only on the seacoast and inland in Rochester, just three sightings in later January. Northern Shrikes were not as widespread as they have been in some years, with sightings concentrated in Swanzey and single reports from Exeter and all the way north in Pittsburg.

Fish Crows have continued to become established in southern New Hampshire, with an increase in sightings

once again in this winter season. Although sightings were confined to Rockingham County, with the exception of a couple of reports from Hillsborough County in Nashua and Litchfield, this species was more widely disbursed than in previous years. Reports of large flocks of 75 birds in Salem and 23 in Litchfield were remarkable for the Granite State. Fish Crows form winter roosts and are sometimes found with American Crows at large roosts in Massachusetts. The large groups in New Hampshire are likely an extension from these Massachusetts roosts.



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher by Warren Trested, 12-27-17, Rye, NH.

A **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** that spent almost the entire month of December in Rye was another lingering species able to survive due to the moderate temperatures in the first half of the month and established a new state winter record. Previously the latest Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in New Hampshire was seen in Somersworth, November 20, 2008. Since this species is primarily dependent on spiders, moths, caterpillars, and other insects for food, the harsh weather at the end of the month likely brought its stay to an end. The Blue-gray is the only true migratory gnatcatcher, typically wintering in large numbers along the Gulf coast into Mexico and northern Central America. Our record-setter was seen in the same area as a late Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Several other sightings of Ruby-crowned Kinglets were observed in southern New Hampshire, as late as mid-January.

In addition to the few Hermit Thrushes found in the southern counties, one was seen in Hanover in early January, when the weather had shifted to single digits. A **Varied Thrush** made a brief appearance in Hanover in mid-December, and one was seen on the Peterborough-Hancock CBC as well. In addition to the several American Pipits found along the seacoast in December, one was found at the Rochester Wastewater Treatment Plant (WTP) and one further west in Swanzey near the Dillant-Hopkins Airport. Bohemian Waxwings were less common this winter in New Hampshire with sightings only in Gorham.

WINTER SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer	Date	#	Location	Observer
Eastern Screech-Owl							
12/16	1	Exeter sector, Coastal CBC	L. Medlock	01/03	1	Autumn Ln., Nottingham	R. Prieto
12/16	3	Greenland Sector, Coastal CBC	S.& J. Mirick	01/11	1	Range Rd., Sandwich	K. Klapper
12/16	1	Edgewood Cemetery, Amherst St., Nashua	J. Pettipas	01/14	1	Sanborn Rd., Ashland	I. MacLeod
12/16	2	Brackett Rd., Rye	Z. Cornell, P. Hunt	01/20	1	Kinsman Mt., Lincoln	D. Ellis
12/31	1	Hollis	C. McPherson	01/25	1	Little Chatham Rd., Chatham	P. Jacobson, K. Rawdon, J. Scott
01/16	1	Jones Ave., Portsmouth	S. Mirick	01/27	1	Creek Farm Rd., Portsmouth	S.& J. Mirick, K. Dorsey
01/21	1	Columbia Ave., Nashua	J. Maher	01/27	1	Marsh Road Pond, Rye	R. Suomala, S. Wisley, J. Pettipas, K. Frieden
01/24	1	Rt. 155A farm fields, Durham	R. Prieto	01/29	1	Cove Rd., Canaan	N. Milkie
01/27	1	Great Bay Discovery Ctr., Greenland	C. Witko, P. Brown, S. Lamonde, K. Klapper	01/31	1	Pingree Rd., New London	M. Vernon
01/27	1	Rye Recreation Area	R. Suomala	02/01	1	Beech Hill Rd., Warren	E. Marie
02/28	1	Shore Dr., Nottingham	R.& K. Frieden	02/15	3	Cow Hill Rd., Bartlett	M. Hurteau
Snowy Owl							
12/01	1	Newfound Lake	R. Howell	02/16	1	Elm St., Manchester	R. Howell
12/02	1	Great Bay Farm, Greenland	L.& L. Medlock	02/17	1	Eagle Mt., Jackson	M. Ocampo, N. O'Reilly
12/03	2	Mt. Washington Auto Rd.	W. Broussard	02/20	1	Tin Mt. Conservation Ctr., Albany	A. Sharp
12/04	1	Ben Young Hill, Clarksville	S. Cummings	02/24	1	Durgin Rd., Ctr. Tuftonboro	T. Lighthart
12/04	1	Hampton Beach SP	J. Heyes, G. Richards, C. Nims	02/27	1	Dogford Rd., Hanover	W. Scott
12/05	1	Rye Harbor	D. Durocher	Red-headed Woodpecker			
12/19	1	Antioch Univ. NE, Keene	C. Witko	01/30	1	Goddard Rd., Rindge	R. Merriam
12/19	1	Lebanon Airport	L. Morse, J. MacQueen, W. Scott	02/04	1	Goddard Rd., Rindge	C. Caron
12/26	1	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	P. Benham, J. MacQueen	02/28	1	Goddard Rd., Rindge	J. Pettipas, S. Wisley
12/30	2	Rye Harbor SP	M. Watson, S. Bennett	Red-bellied Woodpecker			
01/02	3	NH coast	J. Lambert	12/05	1	Mechanic St., Gorham	W. O'Brien
01/13	1	True Rd., Plainfield	J. Elliott	12/16	14	Greenland Sector, Coastal CBC	S.& J. Mirick
01/21	1	Production Ave., Keene	M. Horman	12/17	17	Lee-Durham CBC, Oyster River Sector	S. Mirick, et al.
01/28	2	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	J. Lambert, S. Bennett, L. Medlock, M. Iliff	12/30	12	East Hollis Sector, Nashua-Hollis CBC	M. Resch
02/10	2	Hampton Beach SP	H. Bauer, S. Mirick	12/30	13	Nashua-Hollis CBC, Milford sector	R.& M. Suomala
02/10	4	NH coast	S. Bennett	01/15	1	McIntire Lane, Jefferson	L. McIntire
02/19	1	Washington St., Penacook	C. Osborne	01/16	1	Mechanic St., Gorham	L. Charron
02/28	1	Rye Harbor	S. Bennett	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			



Short-eared Owl by Kyle Wilmarth, 12-24-17, Rye, NH.

Short-eared Owl							
12/16	1	Depot Rd., Hampton Falls	T. Coons, H. Stevens	American Kestrel			
12/16	1	Wallis Rd., Rye	Z. Cornell, P. Hunt	01/27	1	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	E. Norton
12/24	1	Rt. 1A wooden bridge, Rye	K. Wilmarth	01/29	1	Rochester WTP	J. Scott
02/06	1	Philbrick Marsh, N. Hampton	S. Bennett	02/10	1	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	J. Lambert
Northern Saw-whet Owl							
12/16	1	Exeter sector, Coastal CBC	L. Medlock	Merlin			
12/27	1	Farley Rd., Hollis	S. Wisley	12/08	1	Hampton Beach	L. Burford
				12/16	1	Exeter sector, Coastal CBC	L. Medlock
				01/01	1	River Rd. boat ramp, Bow	D. Ellis

Date	#	Location	Observer
01/08	1	Improved Machinery Pond, Nashua	C. Sheridan
01/14	1	Colburn Park, Lebanon	P. Brown
01/27	1	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	J. Maher
01/27	1	Rye Harbor SP	J. Lambert, R. Prieto
02/03	1	Dingman Farm, Kensington	D. Finch
02/15	1	Spring St., Rochester	C. Breen



Merlin by Donna Ellis, 1-1-18, Hooksett boat ramp, NH.

Eastern Phoebe

01/06	1	New England College, Henniker	D. Ellis
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Northern Shrike

12/29	1	Boggy Meadow Farm, River Rd., Walpole	A. Burnett
01/07	1	Broomstick Hill Rd., Littleton	W. Wilczek
01/10	1	Airport Rd., Swanzy	C. Ross, S. Jaffe
01/19	1	Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem	D. Kershner
01/20	1	Raynes Farm, Exeter	C. Witko, P. Brown
01/27	1	First Connecticut L., Pittsburg	C. Nims, D.& J. Scott, P. Jacobson, K. Rawdon

Gray Jay

12/02	3	Mt. Pierce, WMNF	D. Ellis
12/04	4	Tracy Dr., Errol	L. Charron
12/16	3	Mt. Field, WMNF	D. Durocher
12/16	5	Crawford Notch CBC, WMNF	C. Repasz
01/27	4	Deer Mt. SP, Pittsburg	C. Nims, D.& J. Scott, P. Jacobson, K. Rawdon, S.& D. Stoddard
02/09	5	First Connecticut L., Pittsburg	B. Crowley, J. Scott, R. Steber, W. Broussard
02/22	5	Starr King Trail, WMNF	D. Durocher

American Crow

01/20	4000	Cranberry Pond wetlands, Rt. 12A, W. Lebanon	K. Jones
01/29	200	Rt. 11B fields, Gilford	I. MacLeod
02/02	2000	Amoskeag St., Manchester	D. Swain

Fish Crow

12/01	75	Salem	K. Wilmarth
01/11	2	Exeter town boat launch	S. Heron
01/11	1	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer
01/26	1	Northeastern Blvd., Nashua	C. Sheridan
01/26	30	Rockingham Park Blvd. at Rt. 28, Salem	K. Wilmarth
01/28	3	Great Pond, Kingston	S. Heron

Common Raven

01/05	20	Hill Rd. meat pile, Dummer	C. Nims, R. Steber, J. Scott
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Date	#	Location	Observer
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Horned Lark

12/02	60	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson
12/06	30	Red Oak Hill Rd., Epping	A. Harvey
12/10	50	Boggy Meadow Farm, River Rd., Walpole	R.& A. Burnett
12/18	50	Hampton Beach SP	D. Hubbard
01/01	40	NH coast	R. Prieto
01/14	23	Dingman Farm, Kensington	D. Finch
02/04	90	Chickering Farm, Westmoreland	C. Caron
02/17	70	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	R. Suomala
02/21	40	Dingman Farm, Kensington	D. Finch
02/21	15	Pickering Rd., Rochester	A. Murray

Boreal Chickadee

12/09	6	Irene's Path, Waterville Valley	D. Ellis
12/11	3	Mt. Jackson, WMNF	D. Durocher
12/16	1	Crawford Notch CBC, WMNF	C. Repasz
01/03	3	Mt. Hale, Bethlehem	D. Durocher
01/09	3	Starr King Trail, WMNF	D. Durocher
01/20	5	Zealand Trail, WMNF	D. Durocher
01/20	4	Mt. Tripyramid, Waterville Valley	D. Bates
01/22	2	Deer Mt. SP, Pittsburg	Z. Cornell
02/09	3	First Connecticut L., Pittsburg	B. Crowley, J. Scott, R. Steber, W. Broussard
02/23	3	Greeley Ponds Trail, Mt. Osceola, WMNF	T. McLane, G. Wallis
02/26	3	Mt. Ingalls, Shelburne	S. Hale
02/27	3	A-Z Trail at Mt. Tom spur, Bethlehem	S. Webb

Winter Wren

12/16	1	Trailer Pkwy., Errol	P.& L. Charron
12/16	1	The Cedars condos, Portsmouth	Z. Cornell, P. Hunt
12/18	1	Bow sector, Concord CBC	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
01/07	2	Milford Fish Hatchery	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
01/21	1	Sagamore Ave., Portsmouth	S. Mirick

Marsh Wren

12/02	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	L. McKillop
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Blue-gray Gnatcatcher by Stephen Mirick, 12-2-17, Rye, NH.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

12/02	1	Rt. 1A at Central Rd., Rye	S. Mirick, J. Lambert
12/27	1	Rt. 1A at Central Rd., Rye	S. Mirick, S. Beaudreault

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

12/02	1	Rt. 1A at Central Rd., Rye	S. Mirick
12/03	1	Bicentennial Park, Hampton	J. Lambert

WINTER SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
Ruby-crowned Kinglet (con't)			
12/07	1	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	S. Jaffe
12/17	1	Durham	S.& D. Stoddard
12/27	1	Bicentennial Park, Hampton	S. Mirick, D. Skillman, K. Couture
12/31	2	Rt. 1A at Central Rd., Rye	G. Coffey
01/07	1	New Rd., Newmarket	S. Mirick
01/20	1	Dearborn Rd., Greenland	S. Mirick, R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
01/21	1	Sawyer Park, Kensington	K. Klapper

Eastern Bluebird

12/04	20	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard
12/11	20	Autumn Ln., Nottingham	R. Prieto
01/29	30	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. Sheridan
02/01	25	Daniels Hill Rd., Keene	D. Dodge
02/01	1	Hardy Hill Rd., Lebanon	J. MacQueen
02/06	16	Strafford County Complex, Dover	D. Hubbard
02/19	12	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt

Hermit Thrush

12/17	2	West Sector, Keene CBC	K. Klapper
01/08	1	Mink Brook wetlands area, Hanover	J. MacQueen
02/19	1	Old Rye Airstrip, Airfield Rd., Rye	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
02/28	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray

American Robin

12/16	208	Greenland Sector, Coastal CBC	S.& J. Mirick
12/17	202	Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem	D. Govatski, J. Keator
02/14	200	Rt. 25 fields, Benton	E. Marie
02/28	200	Squam Lakes Natural Science Ctr., Holderness	I. MacLeod

Varied Thrush

12/16	1	Rt. 123 wetlands, Hancock	P. Brown
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Gray Catbird

12/19	1	Notchland Inn, Hart's Location	D. Marnich
12/31	1	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer
01/03	1	Ash Brook wetland, Keene	E. Synnott
01/27	1	Urban Forestry Ctr., Portsmouth	R. Prieto
02/03	1	Fort Eddy Rd., Concord	D. Lipsy



American Pipits by Len Medlock, 12-10-17, Rye, NH.

American Pipit

12/04	3	Rye Harbor SP	R. Prieto
12/10	3	Rt. 1A at Central Rd., Rye	J. Lambert
12/13	1	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	S. Jaffe
12/14	1	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
12/15	1	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	S. Jaffe

Date	#	Location	Observer
12/19	3	Rt. 1A at Central Rd., Rye	S. Mirick, P. Benham
12/21	4	Bicentennial Park, Hampton	J. Lambert
Bohemian Waxwing			
01/31	33	downtown Gorham	W. O'Brien

Longspurs to Finches



Cape May Warbler by Jason Lambert, 12-24-17, Bicentennial Park, Hampton, NH.

A few Lapland Longspurs were seen along the seacoast through the end of January, often affiliating with groups of Horned Larks at Hampton Beach State Park, and several were seen in the Keene area with a flock of Snow Buntings. The balmy early December temperatures allowed a nice selection of six different warbler species (and a Yellow-breasted Chat) to hang on for a few additional weeks.

An Orange-crowned Warbler was seen on the seacoast as late as December 24 to join a handful of existing winter records from Derry, New London, Merrimack, Exeter, and North Sandwich. Likewise, a **Cape May Warbler** was faithfully observed at Bicentennial Park in Hampton through December 27, joining previous winter records of one in Concord and the celebrity bird that overwintered at Odiorne Point State Park in 2011. A **Yellow Warbler**, also seen at Bicentennial Park through December 27, established a late winter record for New Hampshire, joining one previous winter record from Exeter in 1983 (*The Birds of New Hampshire*, Keith & Fox, 2013). As the temperatures plummeted at the end of December these warblers quickly vanished. Less unusual as winter visitors, Pine Warblers were reported from Rochester, Brentwood, Kensington, and Rye through the end of December, and one overwintered in Concord. Yellow-rumped Warblers are most likely to be found in winter on the seacoast. One observed for two weeks in Errol through January 1 set a Coos County record and was the northernmost Yellow-rumped Warbler recorded in the state in winter. Previously, that was a bird found in Littleton on January 14, 1997.

In an amazing bit of photographic sleuthing, Jason Lambert provided compelling evidence that the **Yellow-throated Warbler** he found at Odiorne Point State Park

in November was the same bird found by Steve and Jane Mirick at the Seabrook WTP, which continued there through December 19. Jason was able to make this determination through scrutiny of multiple photographs revealing a deformity in the bird's foot and notch in a tertial feather (see the Field Notes).

There were other late records and birding excitement besides the warblers. A **Nelson's Sparrow** found in Bicentennial Park on December 1 establishes a first winter record for New Hampshire. A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was found in Exeter in mid-December and continued to be seen through February 3, frequenting feeders in the area, sometimes in the company of a Dickcissel. Both of these species have been seen more frequently in the winter season in the last five to ten years. While Fox Sparrows are occasionally seen in yards and under feeders in the winter, it is unusual to see more than one. Three showed up in Webster on February 11.



Clay-colored Sparrow by Jason Lambert, 1-28-18, Exeter, NH.

In other exceptional sightings, a **Blue Grosbeak** briefly visited a yard in Hampstead on December 4, paused for photos, and then moved on, establishing a first winter record for this species in the state. A **Western Tanager** found in Dover during the CBC remained for a week. Other interesting sightings included a meadowlark in Rye on December 4, possibly a Western Meadowlark, and several reports of the Oregon subspecies of Dark-eyed Junco. These are difficult identifications, and we will wait for the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee to review the sightings for confirmation of these reports.

Not to be overlooked, it was a terrific year for crossbill sightings with Red Crossbill reports from every county in the state, except for Strafford County. Audio recordings of their calls identified four subspecies in New Hampshire this winter season (Types 1, 2, 3 and 10). White-winged Crossbills were seen in six of the ten counties of the state. Common Redpolls were not common and reported most often from northern New Hampshire.

Date	#	Location	Observer
Lapland Longspur			
12/02	1	Hampton Beach SP	
		S. Mroz, M. Goetschkes, S. Grinley, J. Lambert	
12/27	4	Hampton Beach SP	J. Cosentino
12/27	1	Krif Rd., Keene	P. Kirkhart
12/28	1	Krif Rd., Keene	W. Ward
01/01	1	Rt. 286 pools, Seabrook	
		D. Donsker, R. Suomala, Z. Cornell	
01/20	3	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzy	E. Synnott
01/27	1	River Rd., Exeter	E. Masterson, et al.

Snow Bunting			
12/16	75	Hampton Beach SP	G. Dupont, S. Heinrich
01/18	100	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	M. Jacobson
01/25	75	Rt. 25 fields, Benton	E. Marie
02/04	125	Rt. 155A farm fields, Durham	K. Dorsey
02/17	200	Rt. 63 fields, Westmoreland	R. Burnett
02/18	100	Rt. 16, Milan	L. Charron

Orange-crowned Warbler			
12/01	1	N. Hampton State Beach	S. Mirick
12/16	1	NH coast	K. Wilmarth
12/24	1	N. Hampton State Beach	S. Mirick

Cape May Warbler			
12/01	1	Bicentennial Park, Hampton	S. Mirick
12/25	1	Bicentennial Park, Hampton	S. Mirick
12/27	1	Bicentennial Park, Hampton	D. Skillman

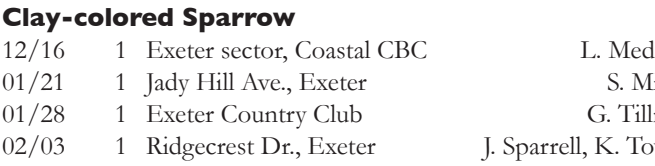


Yellow Warbler by Jason Lambert, 12-3-17, Bicentennial Park, Hampton, NH.

Yellow Warbler			
12/02	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	
		S.& J. Mirick, L. Medlock, J. Lambert, R. Prieto, et al.	
12/03	1	Bicentennial Park, Hampton	J. Lambert
12/03	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	J. Sparrell
12/27	1	Bicentennial Park, Hampton	H. Bauer

Pine Warbler			
12/02	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray
12/08	1	Dingman Farm, Kensington	D. Finch
12/26	1	Pickpocket Rd., Brentwood	E. Shipley
01/21	1	Sagamore Rd. at Clark Rd., Rye	
		R. Suomala, R.& K. Frieden	
01/27	1	Sagamore Rd. at Clark Rd., Rye	R. Suomala,
		K. Frieden, S. Wrisley, J. Pettipas, Z. Cornell	

WINTER SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer	Date	#	Location	Observer
Yellow-rumped Warbler				Field Sparrow			
12/02	3	Philbrick Marsh, N. Hampton	J. Lambert	12/03	1	Hollis-Brookline HS, Hollis	C. McPherson
12/03	1	Dingman Farm, Kensington	D. Finch	01/21	1	Old Rye Airstrip, Airfield Rd., Rye	R. Suomala, R. & K. Frieden
12/10	1	Bicentennial Park, Hampton	L. McKillop, J. Lambert	01/27	1	Rye Airfield	S. Mirick
12/10	2	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	J. Lambert	Fox Sparrow			
12/15	1	Errol Public Library, Errol CBC	J. Swatt, B. Quinn, C. Martin, S. McCumber	12/22	3	Contoocook R. Park/Island Shores Estates, Penacook	P. Hunt
01/01	1	Errol Public Library	L. Charron	12/25	1	Ten Rod Rd., Rochester	D. Hubbard
01/20	1	Dearborn Rd., Greenland	S. Mirick, R. Suomala, Z. Cornell	12/27	1	River View Rd., Newport	B. Baker
01/27	1	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer	01/06	1	Bergeron Ave., Keene	C. Witko, J. Pipp
Yellow-throated Warbler				01/24	1	River Rd., Lyme	H. Swartz
12/02	1	Seabrook WTP	J. Mirick, et al.	02/08	1	Ridgewood Rd., Glen	R. Steber
12/19	1	Seabrook WTP	S. Mirick, P. Benham	02/10	1	Call Rd., Webster	R. Quinn, et al.
Nelson's Sparrow				02/24	1	Oak Hill Rd., Brookline	C. McPherson
12/01	1	Bicentennial Park, Hampton	S. Mirick	02/28	1	Ten Rod Rd., Rochester	D. Hubbard
Chipping Sparrow				White-crowned Sparrow			
12/07	1	Autumn Ln., Nottingham	R. Prieto	12/02	2	13 Mile Woods, Errol	K. & A. Wilmarth
12/30	1	Nashua-Hollis CBC	C. McPherson	12/16	2	Great Bay Farm, Greenland	S. & J. Mirick
01/07	1	Oak Hill Rd., Brookline	C. McPherson	12/25	1	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer
01/08	1	Anne Ave., Salem	A. McDermott	12/27	1	Concord	K. Bachelder
01/19	1	Autumn Ln., Nottingham	R. Prieto	12/31	1	Urban Sector, Laconia CBC	K. Klapper, P. Brown
01/19	1	Ten Rod Rd., Rochester	D. Hubbard	01/11	3	Great Bay Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick
02/11	1	Seed St., Salem	S. Mirick	01/28	3	Great Bay Farm, Greenland	J. Maher
Chipping Sparrow				Savannah Sparrow			
				12/02	3	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson
<i>Chipping Sparrow by Christopher MacPherson, 12-30-17, Nashua-Hollis CBC.</i>				12/10	3	Hampton Beach SP	L. McKillop
Clay-colored Sparrow				12/15	2	River Rd., Walpole	A. Burnett
				01/21	5	Stuart Farm Rd., Stratham	J. Lambert
<i>Clay-colored Sparrow by Len Medlock, 1-9-18, Exeter, NH.</i>				Savannah Sparrow - Ipswich subsp.			
12/16	1	Exeter sector, Coastal CBC	L. Medlock	12/10	1	Hampton Beach SP	H. Burns
01/21	1	Jady Hill Ave., Exeter	S. Mirick	01/07	1	Seabrook Beach	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
01/28	1	Exeter Country Club	G. Tillman	02/17	1	Hampton Harbor dunes at Rt. 1A bridge, Seabrook	L. McKillop
02/03	1	Ridgecrest Dr., Exeter	J. Sparrell, K. Towler	Swamp Sparrow			
Clay-colored Sparrow				12/17	1	Morrills Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
				12/17	1	Wilson Pond outflow, Keene	K. Klapper
<i>Clay-colored Sparrow by Len Medlock, 1-9-18, Exeter, NH.</i>				12/30	1	Horseshoe Pond, Merrimack	R. Bielawski, M. Jacobson
12/16	1	Hampton Sector, Coastal CBC	C. McPherson, W. Fogleman	01/16	1	Rt. 1B, New Castle	S. Mirick
12/01	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	M. Watson, J. Nathan, J. Sparrell	01/22	1	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer
12/04	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	C. Nims, J. Scott	Eastern Towhee			
12/06	1	Pulpit Rock Rd., Rye	D. Hubbard	12/01	1	Wilton	S. Lemire
12/10	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	L. McKillop	12/15	1	Etna Rd., Lebanon	K. Charles
12/16	1	Hampton Sector, Coastal CBC	C. McPherson, W. Fogleman	12/17	1	Chapman Rd., Keene	A. & R. Burnett
Yellow-breasted Chat				12/29	1	Pumpkin Hill Rd., Warner	L. McQueen
12/01	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	M. Watson, J. Nathan, J. Sparrell	02/09	1	Wilton	S. Lemire
12/04	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	C. Nims, J. Scott	02/27	1	Horseshoe Pond, Merrimack	M. Jacobson
12/06	1	Pulpit Rock Rd., Rye	D. Hubbard	Yellow-breasted Chat			
12/10	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	L. McKillop	12/01	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	M. Watson, J. Nathan, J. Sparrell
12/16	1	Hampton Sector, Coastal CBC	C. McPherson, W. Fogleman	12/04	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	C. Nims, J. Scott

Date	#	Location	Observer
Western Tanager			
12/17	1	Dover Sector, Lee-Durham CBC	R. Prieto, K. Wilmarth, J. Lambert
12/24	1	Middle Rd., Dover	J. Sparrell, K. Towler, S. Mirick, J. Lambert



Western Tanager by Jim Sparrell, 12-24-17, Dover, NH.

Blue Grosbeak

12/04	1	Hampstead	L. Maley
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Dickcissel

01/28	1	Exeter Country Club	G. Tillman
01/30	1	Jady Hill Ave., Exeter	S.& D. Stoddard
02/03	1	Ridgecrest Dr., Exeter	S. Mirick
02/14	1	Ridgecrest Dr., Exeter	Z. Cornell

Eastern/Western Meadowlark

12/04	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	J. Maher
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Red-winged Blackbird

12/23	50	Brigham St., Laconia	V. Hansen
01/07	30	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch
01/13	35	Airport Rd., Swanzey	E. Synnott
01/20	1	Grafton St., Berlin	W. O'Brien
01/20	110	Cranberry Pond wetlands, Rt. 12A, W. Lebanon	K. Jones
01/22	150	South Rd., Kensington	G. Gavutis Jr.
02/02	1	Grafton St., Berlin	L. Charron
02/16	5	Lebanon Middle School	J. MacQueen
02/17	43	Great Bay Farm, Greenland	Z. Cornell
02/19	100	Downing Ct., Exeter	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
02/21	150	Main St., E. Kingston	J. Maher
02/22	22	Hillside Rd., Wilton	N. Moreau
02/23	12	West Portsmouth St., Concord	D. Lania
02/23	30	Hastings Ave., Keene	R. Burnett
02/25	50	Ten Rod Rd., Rochester	D. Hubbard
02/28	1	Weather Discovery Ctr., Conway	W. Broussard
02/28	14	Squam Lakes Natural Science Ctr., Holderness	I. MacLeod
02/28	18	Acorn Hill Rd., Lyme	B. Allison
02/28	6	Range Rd., Sandwich	K. Klapper

Brown-headed Cowbird

12/15	60	Taggard Rd., Walpole	D. Clark
02/07	65	Atkinson	K. Wilmarth
02/14	35	Old Hancock Rd. farm, Hancock	P. Brown
02/20	100	Atkinson	K. Wilmarth



Rusty Blackbird by Stephen Mirick, 1-24-18, Freedom, NH.

Rusty Blackbird

12/02	1	Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins
12/08	2	Bedell Bridge SP, Haverhill	W. Scott
12/16	1	The Cedars condos, Portsmouth	Z. Cornell, P. Hunt
12/18	2	Middle Hancock Rd., Peterborough	E. Masterson
01/18	1	Berlin	W. O'Brien
01/24	1	Rt. 153, Freedom	S. Mirick
01/30	3	Boggy Meadow Farm, River Rd., Walpole	W. Ward
02/06	1	Rt. 153, Freedom	S. Mirick
02/16	1	Hammond Hollow, Gilsum	M. Wright

Common Grackle

01/08	2	Flint farm, Rt. 16, Milan	P.& L. Charron
01/27	1	Great Bay Farm, Greenland	R. Prieto
01/27	6	Great Bog, Portsmouth	S.& J. Mirick, K. Dorsey
02/17	13	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	R. Suomala
02/20	30	Autumn Ln., E. Kingston	K. Elwell
02/24	100	Chapmans Landing, Stratham	R. Prieto
02/26	22	Water St., Antrim	P. Brown
02/26	22	Horseshoe Pond, Merrimack	M. Jacobson
02/28	1500	Newington Rd., Greenland	A. Kallenbach
02/28	5	Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins

Evening Grosbeak

12/02	2	Chickwolnepy Rd., Milan	K.& A. Wilmarth
12/26	1	Main St., Greenville	G. Perkins
01/11	3	Old Chesham Rd., Marlborough	S. Jaffe
01/13	1	Cove Rd., Canaan	N. Milkie
01/13	9	Pinnacle Rd., Gilsum	J. Wing
02/13	7	Old Chesham Rd., Marlborough	S. Jaffe

Pine Grosbeak

12/02	1	13 Mile Woods, Errol	K.& A. Wilmarth
12/06	2	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	J. Sparrell, K. Towler
12/14	5	First Connecticut L., Pittsburg	J. Keator
12/16	1	Crawford Notch CBC, WMNF	C. Repasz
12/16	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	K. Wilmarth, R. Prieto
02/02	4	Errol	L. Charron
02/12	3	Pingree Rd., New London	M. Vernon
02/21	1	Fox Run Rd. at Big Rock Rd., Lincoln	B. Schultz

Common Redpoll

12/14	4	First Connecticut L., Pittsburg	J. Keator
12/17	3	Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem	D. Govatski, J. Keator
12/20	6	Tracy Dr., Errol	L. Charron

WINTER SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
12/26	3	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	J. Pettipas, S. Wisley
01/03	6	Franconia Notch SP, WMNF	L. Morgens
01/04	15	Rt. 26, Errol	L. Charron
01/31	18	North Rd. at Valley Rd., Shelburne	W. O'Brien
02/18	4	Riverview Rd., Durham	J. Vincent



Red Crossbill by Kyle Wilmarth 12-2-17, Milan, NH.

Red Crossbill

12/02	7	Chickwolnepy Rd., Milan	K.& A. Wilmarth
12/15	18	Bean Rd., Errol	B. Griffith
12/15	6	Bailey Brook marsh, Nelson	E. Masterson
12/16	5	Old Troy Rd., Dublin	E. Masterson
12/17	12	Penacock survey route	P. Hunt, A. Kallenbach
12/26	9	Osceola Rd., Waterville Valley	D. Doubleday
01/02	7	Stagecoach Rd., Sunapee	D. Jackson
01/10	5	Wapack NWR, Greenfield	T. Spahr
01/20	2	Kimball Rd., Kensington	C. Witko, P. Brown
01/31	6	Mountain Rd., Lempster	T. Spahr
02/12	6	Kancamagus Hgwy., Albany	S. Mirick
02/17	4	Fox SF, Hillsborough	E. Masterson
02/17	6	Blake Hill Rd., New Hampton	B. Belanger
02/24	6	Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem	G.& J. McKibben

White-winged Crossbill

01/10	10	Wapack NWR, Greenfield	T. Spahr
01/21	25	Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem	R. Prieto
02/09	19	First Connecticut L., Pittsburg	B. Crowley, J. Scott, R. Steber, W. Broussard
02/18	22	Base Station Rd., Crawfords Purchase	J. Maher

Pine Siskin

12/14	100	First Connecticut L., Pittsburg	J. Keator
12/16	35	Tin Mt. Conservation Ctr., Albany	R. Steber
12/24	60	N. Groton Rd., Groton	P. Hunt, L. Bunten, S. Whitney
01/25	54	Rt. 26, Errol	L. Charron
02/14	37	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski
02/18	38	Base Station Rd., Crawfords Purchase	J. Maher



Male Northern Harrier by Debra Powers, 2-8-18, Hampton Beach SP, NH.



Great Cormorants in breeding plumage by Len Medlock, 2-11-18, Rye, NH.



Field Sparrow by Stephen Mirick, 1-27-18, Rye, NH.

Christmas Bird Count Summary 2017-2018

by David Deifk

This year's Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) were held between December 14, 2017 and January 5, 2018. There are 19 counts whose center is within New Hampshire borders. Only 18 counts were run this year as the Isles of Shoals Count was cancelled for the third year in a row because of sea conditions. Although centered in Vermont, the Barnet and Saxtons River CBCs overlap into New Hampshire as well. Two of the New Hampshire counts have substantial overlap into neighboring states. The Hanover-Norwich CBC extends into Vermont and the Isles of Shoals CBC substantially extends into Maine. Three other counts have minor overlap into neighboring states as well, those being Errol-Umbagog and North Conway into Maine and a tiny bit of Nashua into Massachusetts.



This Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was a new species for the New Hampshire CBC. Photo by Kyle Wilmarth, 12-16-17, Coastal CBC, North Hampton, NH.

The total species across all counts was 152 versus 123 last year. This is a major improvement over last year's relatively poor showing. Amazingly, this occurred in the face of some bitterly cold conditions on many of the counts. Eight counts started the day below zero degrees! The prize went to the Hanover count whose low temperature for the day was minus 24. A major factor contributing to an outstanding season was the results of the Coastal NH count. The weather was much more benign than last year, without precipitation and with temperatures just above freezing for the day. Total species seen was a record breaking 123 species which was equal to the entire state total last year. This year, two new species to the state were found, both on the Coastal count. They were Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Cape May Warbler. To put that achievement in perspective there have only been four previous species added to the state list since 2006! This brings the total number of species ever seen to 251. Last year, there was only one state high count. This year returned to a more

average of seven. Unusually, all of the new state high counts were found on the Coastal count. There were 52 individual count high records this year which would be about average. There were 17 species new to their respective counts versus three last year.

As for waterfowl, American Black Duck was virtually unchanged from last year. Mallard, however, was about 50% higher than last year. Notable ducks included Ruddy Duck, Northern Pintail and Northern Shoveler on the Coastal count. Inland, there were single Ring-necked Ducks on the Nashua-Hollis and Lee-Durham counts. A Greater Scaup in Hanover, Green-winged Teal in Concord, and Barrow's Goldeneye in Manchester were also of interest.

Turkey Vulture smashed its previous state record of 17 with 53 seen on the Coastal count. Red-shouldered Hawk bounced back this year after being totally absent in 2016. A total of seven were seen on four counts, including a state high of three on the Coastal count. Bald Eagles set a new record last year with a total of 77 birds seen on 14 counts. This year was a bit off that peak with 61 seen. Again, they were seen on 14 counts. There were two additional count week records as well. As has become all too usual, American Kestrel went unreported this year; however, there were 10 Peregrines Falcons seen across the state.

After being found on only one count last year (Nashua, four birds), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker resumed its increasing presence. A record number of 16 was found on 10 counts this year.



This Cape May Warbler was another first for the New Hampshire CBC. It lingered at Bicentennial Park in Hampton, NH where this photograph was taken by Stephen Mirick on 12-25-17.

There were some interesting results for various passerines. Many observers noted a decline in chickadee numbers and the CBC data seems to bear this out. A total of 6,585 Black-capped Chickadees across the state was barely more than half of the average of the previous five years of 11,558. Only three years before a total of 13,580 were seen. Carolina Wren seemed to nose-dive this season with only 11 across the state versus 67 last year. Outstanding was the appearance of the state's first Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on the Coastal count.

Peterborough turned up its first Varied Thrush, which was only the fourth state record. It had gone unreported since 1977. Five to ten years ago, Gray Catbird was unreported most years. This year there was a record breaking seven found on the Coastal count and another three counts reporting one. Besides the new Cape May Warbler, Yellow Warbler was reported for only the second time, also on the Coastal count. Three other warbler species were reported. But what might be the most remarkable warbler record of all was a first record of Yellow-rumped Warbler braving the minus 15 degree cold on the Errol-Umbagog count. This was a first count record. A state high two Yellow-breasted Chats were tallied on the Coastal count. Dark-eyed Junco were remarkably abundant this count. There was a total of 18,239 juncos seen and eight counts set new high numbers. Last year there were only 3,287 birds and the average over the previous five years was only 4,440. Also there were only two count highs over that previous five years. Western Tanager was found for only the second time in the state on the Lee-Durham count.



Yellow-rumped Warbler, first found on the Errol-Umbagog CBC in minus 15 degree temperatures at the Errol Public Library. Photographed by Lori Charron on 01-01-18, the last day it was seen.

As for irruptive finches, Purple Finch bounced back to 629 after only 41 seen last year. Although Common Redpolls were reported in small numbers, the last major irruption was three years ago. Pine Siskins were seen in fairly good numbers with over 900 statewide, but still quite a bit fewer than the 3,006 of two years ago. Though not reported in huge numbers, Red Crossbills were widespread, appearing on 12 counts. Three had count highs and Grafton recorded them for the first time. This might have been expected as they were widely reported in the region during 2017. Evening Grosbeaks have been on a downward slide over the last 25 years. Although there was a slight resurgence last year, they resumed their more usual dismal results with only one bird being seen during count week.

Individual Count Highlights

Nashua-Hollis

- Count High: Wild Turkey, Peregrine Falcon (tied state high), Red-bellied Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Horned Lark
- Red-shouldered Hawk was seen for the third time. The Oregon subspecies of the Dark-eyed Junco was seen for the first time, which was a third state record.

Peterborough-Hancock

- New to count: Varied Thrush (fifth state record)

- Count High: Common Loon, Red-tailed Hawk, Bald Eagle, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-winged Blackbird, Rusty Blackbird (second count record), Red Crossbill, White-throated Sparrow, Northern Cardinal.

Keene

- New to Count: Eastern Towhee
- Count High: Lesser Scaup, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Brown Creeper, Hermit Thrush, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird.

Coastal NH

- New to State: Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cape May Warbler
- New to Count: Yellow Warbler (second state record)
- State High: Turkey Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Eastern Screech-Owl, Gray Catbird, Yellow-breasted Chat, Clay-colored Sparrow
- Count High: Common Raven, Red-winged Blackbird
- Notable was the Oregon subspecies of the Dark-eyed Junco, third for the count, fourth for the state.

Lee-Durham

- New to Count: Western Tanager (second record for the state)
- Count high: Iceland Gull (ties state high), Eastern Bluebird, Northern Cardinal
- A "Nelson's Gull" (Glaucous x Herring Gull) was notable.

Concord

- Count high: White-throated Sparrow
- Second record for Green-winged Teal and third record for Pine Warbler.

Laconia

- Count high: Bald Eagle, Dark-eyed Junco
- Fourth Record for Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and second record for White-crowned Sparrow.

Hanover-Norwich

- New to Count: Greater Scaup
- Count High: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (second record), White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco.

Baker Valley

- Count High: Common Raven
- Third record for Great Blue Heron.

Littleton

- Count High: Sharp-shinned Hawk, American Robin, Dark-eyed Junco
- Northern Harrier was seen for the second time; however, the first record was marked as a questionable sighting making this the first unequivocal record for the count.

Grafton-Bristol

- New to Count: Red Crossbill
- Count High: Mallard, Ring-necked Pheasant, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco.

Errol-Umbagog

- New to Count: Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Winter Wren, Yellow-rumped Warbler
- Count high: Canada Goose.

Pittsburg

- New to Count: Hermit Thrush
- Count high: Mallard, Canada Goose (second record)
- Second record for Winter Wren.

Sunapee

- New to Count: Northern Bobwhite (although all bobwhites in New Hampshire are of dubious provenance), Eastern Bluebird
- Count High: Mallard, Cooper’s Hawk, Bald Eagle, American Crow, Common Raven, Carolina Wren, Dark-eyed Junco, Red Crossbill
- Second Record for Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.



Gray Catbird by Debra Marnich, 12-19-17, Crawford Notch CBC, NH.

Manchester

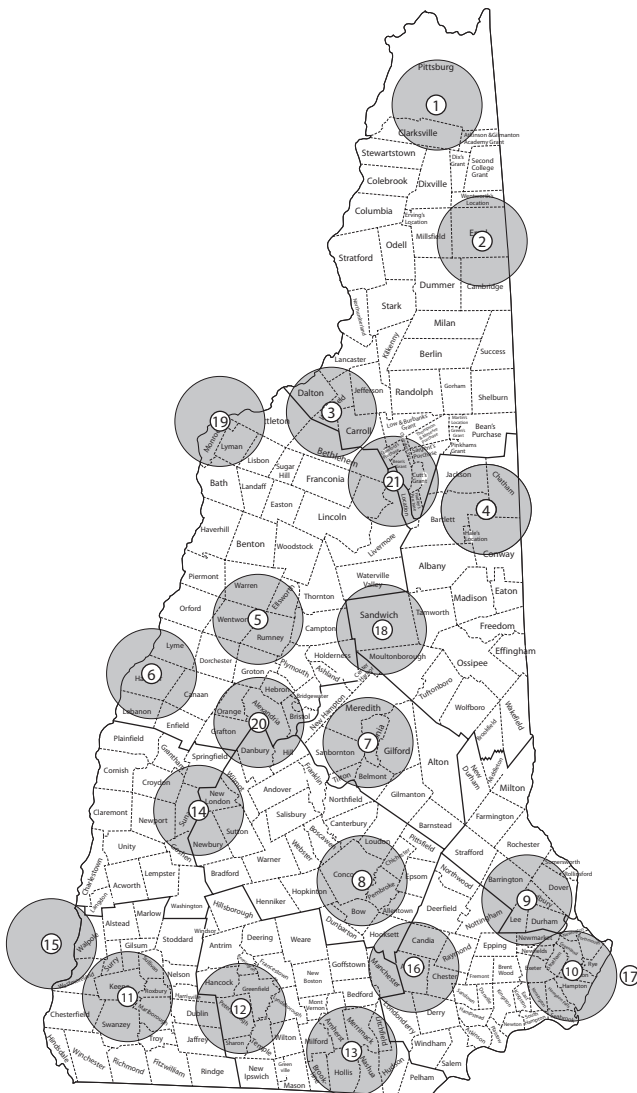
- New to Count: Eastern Screech-Owl, Gray Catbird
- Count High: Red-tailed Hawk, Barred Owl, Common Raven, Hermit Thrush, Dark-eyed Junco
- Second records for Northern Goshawk and Brown-headed Cowbird.

Sandwich

- New to count: Peregrine Falcon, Chipping Sparrow
- Count High: Red-bellied Woodpecker, Dark-eyed Junco, Red Crossbill
- Third record for Hermit Thrush.

AMC-Crawford

- New to Count: Gray Catbird, Red Crossbill
- Count High: Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, American Crow, Dark-eyed Junco, White-winged Crossbill.



Christmas Bird Count Compilers

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

118th Christmas Bird Count: Dec. 14, 2017 - Jan. 5, 2018

Species	Nsh	Pet	Kee	Cst	Lee	Con	Lac	Han	Bak	Lit	Grf	Erl	Pit	Cnw	Sun	Man	San	Amc	Total
Snow Goose	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Canada Goose	133	4	7	4566	623	87	-	-	-	-	2	13	4	-	51	234	-	-	5724
Mute Swan	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Wood Duck	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	4
Gadwall	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Eurasian Wigeon	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
American Wigeon	-	-	-	138	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	138
American Black Duck	12	-	46	1272	145	6	26	2	-	-	17	-	4	-	9	13	-	-	1552
Mallard	176	7	30	2437	406	253	1117	242	-	-	117	-	145	-	770	549	-	7	6256
Black X Mallard sp.	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Northern Shoveler	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Northern Pintail	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Green-winged Teal	-	-	-	1	CW	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Redhead	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Ring-necked Duck	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Greater Scaup	-	-	-	1638	-	-	-	*1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1639
Lesser Scaup	-	-	4	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Common Eider	-	-	-	193	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	193
Surf Scoter	-	-	-	153	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	153
White-winged Scoter	-	-	-	96	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	96
Black Scoter	-	-	-	150	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	150
Long-tailed Duck	-	-	-	71	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	71
Bufflehead	-	-	-	87	119	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	207
Common Goldeneye	10	-	2	249	30	5	87	-	-	-	6	4	-	-	14	47	-	-	454
Barrow's Goldeneye	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Hooded Merganser	-	-	44	47	18	3	102	7	-	4	2	2	4	-	4	27	CW	-	264
Common Merganser	20	1	25	14	5	8	140	12	-	-	13	10	11	-	7	17	-	-	283
Red-br. Merganser	-	-	-	211	49	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	260
Ruddy Duck	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Northern Bobwhite	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*1	-	-	-	1
Ring-necked Pheasant	-	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Ruffed Grouse	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	5	7	3	-	-	2	2	35
Wild Turkey	160	138	70	164	208	52	172	119	41	-	23	-	54	7	65	32	45	2	1352
Red-throated Loon	-	-	-	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25
Common Loon	-	4	2	57	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	66
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Horned Grebe	-	-	-	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
Red-necked Grebe	-	-	-	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	45
Northern Gannet	-	-	-	59	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	59

Total Number of Species Across all CBCs: 152

CW = Count Week

Nsh = Nashua-Hollis (12/30/2017)

Pet = Peterborough-Hancock (12/16/2017)

Kee = Keene (12/17/2017)

Cst = Coastal NH (12/16/2017)

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Amc = AMC-Crawford Notch (12/16/2017)

* = New Species to a Count

** = New high species count for the state

Bold italic=new individual count high

Species	Nsh	Pet	Kee	Cst	Lee	Con	Lac	Han	Bak	Lit	Grf	Erl	Pit	Cnw	Sun	Man	San	Amc	Total
Double-cr. Cormorant	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Great Cormorant	-	-	-	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28
Great Blue Heron	2	-	-	9	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	*1	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
Black Vulture	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW
Turkey Vulture	-	-	-	**53	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	59
Northern Harrier	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	1	1	8	5	4	2	2	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	29
Cooper's Hawk	11	1	8	**20	7	4	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	3	1	-	66
Northern Goshawk	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Accipiter sp.	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Bald Eagle	4	7	4	7	8	CW	10	3	1	-	2	5	2	-	3	1	4	CW	61
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	-	1	**3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Red-tailed Hawk	38	15	15	55	42	10	6	6	-	-	2	-	-	1	1	31	2	-	224
Rough-legged Hawk	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Killdeer	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Sanderling	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Dunlin	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Purple Sandpiper	-	-	-	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33
Wilson's Snipe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*1	-	1
Razorbill	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Black Guillemot	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Bonaparte's Gull	-	-	-	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
Ring-billed Gull	73	-	CW	284	358	20	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	96	-	-	851
Herring Gull	103	-	-	747	1189	1	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2044
Iceland Gull	CW	-	-	1	12	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Lesser Bla.-bac. Gull	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Glaucous Gull	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Nelson's Gull	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Great Bla.-bac. Gull	45	-	-	90	108	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	249
Rock Pigeon	779	94	273	773	231	928	153	360	19	65	80	-	2	54	160	381	3	18	4373
Mourning Dove	545	133	218	320	252	218	118	147	30	57	109	11	5	89	127	111	78	13	2581
Eastern Screech-owl	1	-	-	**18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*1	-	-	20
Great Horned Owl	3	-	1	4	CW	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	10
Snowy Owl	-	-	CW	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Barred Owl	2	4	2	2	1	1	-	CW	CW	2	-	-	-	1	2	2	2	-	21
Short-eared Owl	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
N. Saw-whet Owl	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Belted Kingfisher	3	-	1	5	CW	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	16

Total Number of Species Across all CBCs: 152

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Amc = AMC-Crawford Notch (12/16/2017)

* = New Species to a Count

** = New high species count for the state

Bold italic=new individual count high

118th Christmas Bird Count: Dec. 14, 2017 - Jan. 5, 2018 — continued

Species	Nsh	Pet	Kee	Cst	Lee	Con	Lac	Han	Bak	Lit	Grf	Erl	Pit	Cnw	Sun	Man	San	Amc	Total
Red-bel. Woodpecker	64	25	24	46	60	21	18	4	-	-	1	-	-		3	16	10	-	292
Ylw.-bel. Sapsucker	3	2	-	2	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	16
Downy Woodpecker	137	63	73	111	156	76	102	64	3	7	18	12	8	21	31	53	55	2	992
Hairy Woodpecker	47	51	40	20	26	37	42	43	3	11	11	11	7	13	26	17	68	7	480
Northern Flicker	5	2	2	12	2	-	1	CW	-	-	-	-	-		-	2	1	-	27
Pileated Woodpecker	19	16	12	4	9	8	4	5	CW	5	4	6	4	4	2	3	15	-	120
Merlin	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	3
Peregrine Falcon	4	-	CW	3	-	1	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-		-	1	*1	-	10
Northern Shrike	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		-	-	-	-	1
Gray Jay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	9		-	-	-	9	23
Blue Jay	558	447	365	303	348	332	421	318	52	132	156	96	37	193	309	132	232	42	4473
American Crow	163	254	294	815	296	228	1095	1333	64	102	110	25	35	177	340	77	65	28	5501
Common Raven	12	52	17	10	18	11	14	25	52	20	27	21	28	2	15	11	11	5	351
Horned Lark	130	-	5	214	5	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	368
Black-cap. Chickadee	397	506	553	605	745	360	641	393	43	168	290	521	307	179	234	140	415	88	6585
Boreal Chickadee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	12		-	-	5	7	28
Tufted Titmouse	232	155	142	232	378	196	178	103	1	5	29	-	-	17	52	69	61	-	1850
Red-br. Nuthatch	1	20	11	1	2	7	2	7	-	41	19	163	102	12	11	-	34	7	440
White-br. Nuthatch	115	104	122	123	167	104	98	86	3	7	41	3	1	26	39	44	126	3	1212
Brown Creeper	6	11	32	4	10	8	18	5	1	3	7	7	6	5	4	6	25	5	163
Winter Wren	2	-	-	3	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	*1	1		-	-	-	-	11
Carolina Wren	11	CW	2	12	20	2	CW	7	-	-	-	-	-		3	4	CW	-	61
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	-	-	-	++1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	1
Golden-cr. Kinglet	42	39	63	37	56	37	11	12	-	13	31	79	62	11	15	-	11	17	536
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	-	-	-	4	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	7
Eastern Bluebird	50	14	39	130	192	54	33	9	CW	-	2	-	-	2	*1	30	9	-	565
Hermit Thrush	2	1	4	17	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	*1		-	2	1	-	34
American Robin	348	273	151	912	381	155	143	108	3	216	8	34	4	49	81	40	90	38	3034
Varied Thrush	-	*1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	1
Gray Catbird	-	-	-	**7	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	*1	-	*1	10
N. Mockingbird	34	-	8	36	22	23	6	7	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	-	-	142
European Starling	975	279	841	6856	614	1196	318	525	35	19	74	3	34	76	74	414	26	-	12359
American Pipit	-	-	CW	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	10
Cedar Waxwing	334	91	251	37	221	102	86	14	-	1	65	-	-	18	CW	44	58	-	1322
Snow Bunting	50	11	3	61	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	1		-	-	1	-	130
Orange-cr. Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	1
Cape May Warbler	-	-	-	++1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	1
Yellow Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	1

Total Number of Species Across all CBCs: 152

CW = Count Week

Nsh = Nashua-Hollis (12/30/2017)

Pet = Peterborough-Hancock (12/16/2017)

Kee = Keene (12/17/2017)

Cst = Coastal NH (12/16/2017)

Lee = Lee-Durham (12/17/2017)

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San = Sandwich (12/30/2017)

Amc = AMC-Crawford Notch (12/16/2017)

* = New Species to a Count

** = New high species count for the state

Bold italic=new individual count high

Species	Nsh	Pet	Kee	Cst	Lee	Con	Lac	Han	Bak	Lit	Grf	Erl	Pit	Cnw	Sun	Man	San	Amc	Total
Pine Warbler	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Ylw.-rumped Warbler	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Yellow-breasted Chat	-	-	-	**2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Am. Tree Sparrow	95	31	119	148	106	70	44	73	5	14	12	2	2	15	25	4	29	2	796
Chipping Sparrow	1	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*2	-	6
Clay-colored Sparrow	-	-	-	**2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Field Sparrow	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Fox Sparrow	-	2	1	7	1	-	3	CW	-	-	-	-	-	*2	-	-	-	-	14
Dark-eyed Junco	1115	1533	2524	876	1018	991	2624	1888	150	249	1406	146	216	364	991	412	1642	94	18239
Oregon Junco	*1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
White-cr. Sparrow	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
White-thr. Sparrow	38	86	116	205	87	83	73	74	2	-	13	3	1	4	44	5	28	-	862
Savannah Sparrow	1	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Song Sparrow	55	5	22	128	30	24	9	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	10	-	-	287
Swamp Sparrow	1	-	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Eastern Towhee	-	-	*1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Western Tanager	-	-	-	-	*1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Northern Cardinal	266	97	138	239	290	144	165	129	2	6	22	2	-	15	45	78	30	1	1669
Dickcissel	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Red-winged Blackbird	1	117	107	101	1	-	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	3	-	-	336
Rusty Blackbird	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Common Grackle	-	2	-	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	10
Br.-headed Cowbird	-	2	CW	1	1	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	20
Pine Grosbeak	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	5	7	-	-	-	-	1	24
House Finch	171	53	150	313	167	174	89	112	-	-	21	-	-	-	9	54	7	-	1320
Purple Finch	1	7	3	1	-	-	4	9	3	63	10	250	265	-	4	-	7	2	629
Red Crossbill	-	28	1	3	-	12	2	6	-	-	*9	34	1	-	7	-	24	*3	130
Whi.-wing. Crossbill	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	10	-	7	13	-	-	-	4	19	55
Common Redpoll	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	3	-	5	4	-	-	-	-	4	29
Pine Siskin	-	3	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	23	85	463	313	44	23	-	4	7	968
American Goldfinch	262	343	367	300	300	160	381	412	56	65	102	239	92	169	243	40	377	10	3918
Evening Grosbeak	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	CW
Small finch sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37	37
House Sparrow	1121	94	321	1211	750	460	302	259	12	3	21	-	-	70	122	241	78	-	5065
Number of Species	64	55	62	123	73	54	54	45	25	32	46	38	39	35	45	52	46	30	152
Number of Participants	40	41	34	28	34	20	20	21	9	12	9	14	15	17	13	8	17	13	365

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Bold italic=new individual count high

Winter Field Notes

2017 – 2018

Compiled by Rebecca Suomala and Kathryn Frieden

Can You Find the Bird?



There really is a bird in this photo which demonstrates remarkable camouflage. See the end of the Field Notes for the species and the photographer.

Yellow-rumped Warbler Lingers in Errol

by Lori Charron

On December 15, 2017, the Christmas Bird Count in Errol had a starting temperature of 15 degrees below zero, but remarkably added four new species: Winter Wren, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, and most surprisingly, a Yellow-rumped Warbler! This bird was found coming to a suet feeder at the Errol Library by Chris Martin and his group. For the next few weeks, I stopped at the library



Lori Charron took this photo of the surprise bird of the Errol-Umbagog CBC on 12-24-17. The Yellow-rumped Warbler lingered at the Errol Library until 1-1-18.

frequently to check on it. As the weather was extremely cold, Steve Mirick suggested adding more suet feeders. This was a great idea, as it stopped spending so much energy on chasing the other birds away. It seemed to stay with one of the cardinals, as I always saw them together. On January 1, 2018, it was one of my first birds of the year. “Looking good,” I was happy to report. That night was cold and it became very windy for a few days. Actually, it seemed like it was windy for the next few months! That was the last time I saw it or the cardinal.

Ed. note: This was the first warbler species ever recorded on the Errol-Umbagog CBC over the 60 consecutive years since it began in 1958.

Fox Sparrow Banded and Recaptured 69 days later in Holderness

by Iain MacLeod

The Squam Lakes Natural Science Center in Holderness started a winter bird banding program back in 1979. Since then, Senior Naturalist Dave Erler has conducted annual programs for many hundreds of adults and children in which he demonstrates banding techniques. He allows participants to view the birds close up and (if they want) release the bird back to the wild after banding and measuring.

In those nearly forty years, Dave has banded more than 2,500 birds of 37 species. Dave has recaptured 1,436, all but two were birds he had banded here (75% of those were recaptured in the same winter). On January 6, Dave captured and banded a Fox Sparrow, a species he has caught several times, but “not every year.” On March 17, Dave captured the same Fox Sparrow, most likely indicating that it had spent more than two months at the Science Center.

Breeding Plumage American Goldfinch seen in Ashland in January

by Iain MacLeod

On January 22, I noticed a full breeding plumage male American Goldfinch mixed with 60+ “normal” winter plumage finches. It stuck out like the proverbial sore thumb. In an online article, David Sibley described the annual goldfinch molt cycle: “American Goldfinch follows this pattern. Beginning in September, and continuing for six to eight weeks, they molt all of their feathers, ending up with a completely new and pristine set of feathers (and drab colors) as they head into the winter. In the spring, as they grow new body feathers, the males especially transform into bright yellow breeding plumage, but the wing and tail feathers remain from the previous fall. As these wing feathers get older the pale buff edges fade to white and



Iain MacLeod took this photo of an American Goldfinch in its bright, summer plumage on 1-22-18 in Ashland.

disintegrate, so that by the end of the summer the wings look essentially all black. And in September another complete molt begins.”

So, did this male completely miss the fall molt? What would cause that? The bird was around my feeders for several days and I wondered how long it would be before it caught the local Sharp-shinned Hawk’s eye!

Ruby-crowned Kinglets Overwinter

by Diana Talbot and Rebecca Suomala

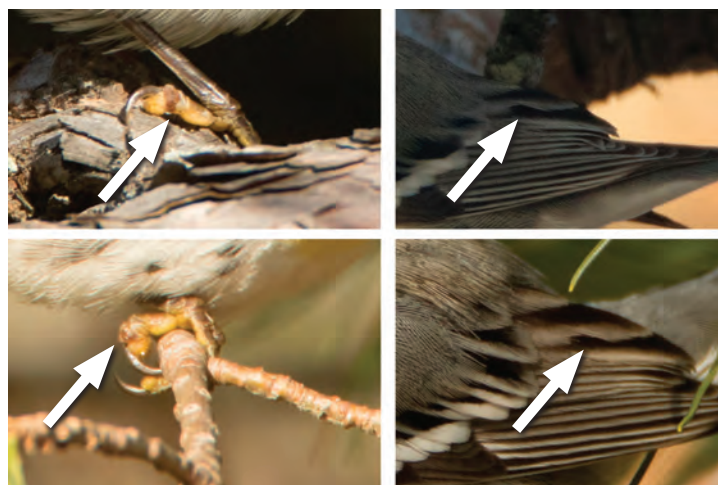
It is unusual to see Ruby-crowned Kinglets in winter, much less have one return to spend the winter at the same feeder two years in a row. This has happened in two separate locations over the past few years. In Winchester, Deborah Hill had a Ruby-crowned Kinglet spend the winter in her yard two years in a row, recording it for the second year on NH Audubon’s 2018 Backyard Winter Bird Survey, when she watched the bird for 2 ½ hours on February 10.

Many birders will also remember “Flitty.” For two years in a row, Bud and Helen Blanchard of Rye hosted “Flitty” at their feeders on West Road. They also hosted many birders, especially during the Superbowl of Birding when teams stopped to check the species off their list. Ruby-crowned Kinglets do not stay in one spot for long, thus the nickname. Sadly, the bird did not return in the winter of 2017-18. We can’t say for certain that it was the same individual each year, but it certainly seems likely!

Yellow-throated Warbler “Migrates” from Odiorne to Seabrook

by Kathryn Frieden

On November 23, 2017 Jason Lambert found a Yellow-throated Warbler at Odiorne Point State Park in Rye, NH – pictured on the cover. It was viewed and enjoyed by many birders over the next week and was even witnessed escaping an attack by a Sharp-shinned Hawk on November 25. It was last seen at Odiorne on November 30. Amazingly, two days later on December 2, Jane Mirick discovered a Yellow-throated Warbler at the Seabrook Wastewater Treatment Plant! When Steve Mirick posted their sighting to the NH Birds e-mail list, he mused, “While it is tempting to think this might be the same bird that has been in Rye (13.6 miles to the north), which seems to have disappeared a couple of days ago, it is just as likely, or even more likely, that this is a different bird.” But then Jason posted a compilation of close-up photos from both locations on Flickr that compared and analyzed unique abnormalities of the bird and proved that they **were** the same bird! The warbler stayed around Seabrook for several weeks and was last seen on December 19.



Jason Lambert put together these photos to compare the Yellow-throated Warbler seen in Rye in November with the one seen in Seabrook in December. The top photos are of the bird in Rye and the bottom photos are of the bird in Seabrook. On the left, there is a thickened brown lesion on the bird’s hind toe. On the right, there is a small area of feather damage. These confirm that it is the same bird.

Seabrook Wastewater Treatment Plant is in New Hampshire!

by Steve Mirick

Ed. Note: On 12-5-17, a post to the Massbird e-mail list about the Yellow-throated Warbler seen at Seabrook Wastewater Treatment Plant noted that the plant was in Massachusetts. This was definitively clarified by Steve Mirick’s post to the NH Birds e-mail list the next day, as follows.

Just to be clear, the Seabrook Wastewater Treatment plant is most definitely in New Hampshire. All of the access road and the buildings and fences are in New Hampshire. It would certainly be odd for a town to build a wastewater treatment plant in an adjacent state!

The state line is very close, however. It is not marked and is therefore open for discussion. The treatment plant is on an island in the Seabrook/Salisbury salt marsh. There are state line granite markers in the salt marsh, but it's difficult to use these to judge how it crosses near the treatment plant. It is believed that most of the Red Pine forest at the end of the access road and toward the back and left is in Massachusetts; however, any birds along the access road, including those birds in the Red Cedars (junipers) along the road and the short White Pines by the office buildings inside the fence, are in New Hampshire.

The most accurate map to use in a case like this would be a survey map performed by a licensed surveyor. Since I don't have one and don't know if there are any available, you can use either the town of Seabrook tax maps or a United States Geological Survey (USGS) map. I reviewed both. They generally agree, and both prove that the Google state line is *not* accurate. We often used USGS maps back when I started birding and yet these maps are now largely ignored. You can still find them by using Cal Topo: <https://caltopo.com/>. The old USGS map doesn't show the newer buildings of the treatment plant, so I overlaid a Google Aerial Map with a USGS topo map to show the difference, see Figure 1. The bold black dashed line shown by the USGS map is *correct*. The thin white dashed line shown by Google Maps is *wrong*. The big numbers 166 and 167 in the salt marsh are the granite state line markers.



Figure 1. New Hampshire-Massachusetts state line at the Seabrook WTP by Steve Mirick. The dashed black line is correct, the white dashed line used by Google Maps is incorrect.

Death of a Snowy Owl

by Alexandra de Steiguer

Ed. Note: Alexandra de Steiguer is the winter caretaker on Star Island, Isles of Shoals. On December 4, 2017, she posted on her public Facebook page that she had found a Snowy Owl that had died. A wing had become entangled in some monofilament fishing line that had been strung over the summer chicken coop. In the thread of comments following the post, which were at times angry, it became clear that the purpose of this fishing line was to protect the chickens from predators. Everyone involved learned something one way or another about protecting our environment and our wildlife. The following are excerpts from Alexandra's post.

I'll never forget the heartbreaking sight that I came across here on the island a few days ago of this magnificent being, hanging by its broad white wing, the single man-made thread wrapped tightly around the very tip. That's all it took. I want always to remember this. Each one of our small, seemingly insignificant actions affects the whole.

As I stood on the front wall this morning waiting for the sun's rise on the watery horizon and the full moon to set over the mainland, two Snowy Owls chased each other across the harbor. One broke away and flew toward me, and then directly over my head, looking down as if to ask "What is this thing, this human?" As the sun rose, I looked along the low-tide rocks of the harbor, at unnecessary plastic water bottles, jugs, a single flip-flop, a mesh bag, detritus of civilization washed up in the surf and I thought, "That's a good question. What are we?"

Before this happened, I wouldn't have known the possible ramification of using fishing line in this way, but now I do. Here is a link to a web site that discusses these issues:

https://www.nature.com/scitable/blog/saltwater-science/monofilament_in_the_ocean

As a final note, I want to say that Star Island continues to be a wonderful model of what can be achieved through conservation and environmental practices and each year the island continues to improve by leaps and bounds. We would be lucky to do so well on the mainland. It may be a bit gushy to say, but it is places like this and the community that surrounds it that gives me faith in humanity. This sad moment will pass, and Snowy Owls will continue to visit and to appreciate the bounty of this wild and rugged little island.

Mystery Goose in Sunapee

by Kathryn Frieden

Dylan Jackson stopped by some fields along Trask Brook Road in Sunapee on February 24, 2018 and discovered an unusual goose. This is the description he posted to the

NH Birds e-mail list on 2-24-18:

“It was noticeably smaller than a Canada Goose and probably the right size for a Snow Goose. It was mostly grayish in color, but paler on the belly. Its head looked like it was starting to turn white and its bill appeared pinkish at the base, but more yellowish at the tip.”



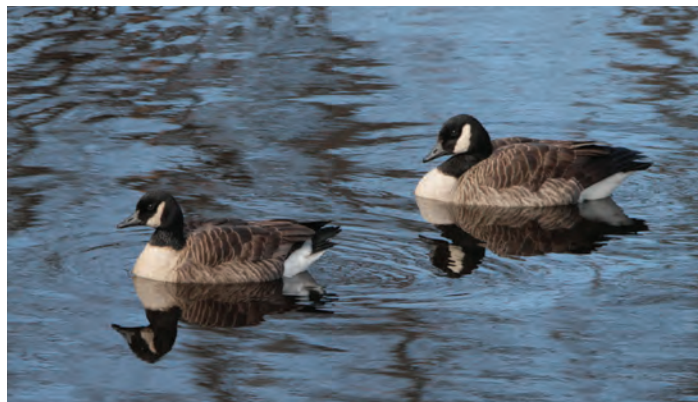
Dylan's mystery goose that he photographed 2-24-18 in Sunapee, NH.

After some research, he was able to identify it as a juvenile “blue” Snow Goose transitioning to adult plumage. Officially this bird is referred to as a dark morph of the Snow Goose. It was originally a separate species known as Blue Goose, but DNA evidence showed that Snow Goose and Blue Goose were a single species and they were combined in 1983. The largest numbers of Snow Geese in the state are seen during fall and spring migration. It is rare for one to linger into the winter and there are only a few February records according to *The Birds of New Hampshire* (Keith & Fox, 2013). It is even more unusual for the “Blue Goose” to be reported in New Hampshire. This makes it an exciting find for Dylan and in his words, “It’s also the first dark-morph Snow Goose I’ve ever seen!” However, the population of dark-morphs is increasing, so there is a good chance New Hampshire sightings will become more frequent.

“Cackling-ish” Goose

by Chris Sheridan

Chris Sheridan found a goose that she thought was a candidate for a Cackling Goose and described it in a NH Birds e-mail list post of 2-26-18. The photo shows “a smaller goose with a steep forehead, stubby neck, and long primary extension; and a somewhat larger goose that seemed intermediate between the smallest bird and the majority of the flock. The intermediate-sized goose did have a noticeably longer neck.”



This photo of a likely hybrid goose taken by Chris Sheridan in Nashua on 2-26-18 illustrates the difficulty of identifying a Cackling Goose.

These characteristics suggested a Cackling Goose. However, after investigating further, Chris came to the conclusion that this smaller goose is more likely a hybrid form. She explained in her follow-up post on 2-28-18 that, “its bill seems to have ‘ordinary’ Canada proportions, and it was somewhat larger than I’d expect for a Cackling.” Furthermore, “it appears that all varieties of Canadas and Cacklings are expanding their ranges, creating overlaps in range, and producing more and more hybrid and backcrossed individuals.” Here is the link to a useful online resource that she found on this topic, written by David Sibley: www.sibleyguides.com/2014/12/cackling-ish-geese/

Did You Find the Bird?



It's a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker! Photo by Steve Mirick, 2-3-18, Exeter, NH.

Sandhill Crane Overwinters in NH—the Continuing Adventures of “Kevin” of Rollinsford

by Kathryn Frieden



“Kevin” strolls through his domain in this photo by Michael King, taken in Rollinsford, NH on 11-30-17.

Kevin Arrives in Rollinsford

On August 21, a Sandhill Crane was first seen in Rollinsford, NH in the fields north of Roberts Road. He took up residence in the area and was an instant celebrity. The townspeople named him “Kevin” after the bird in the 2009 movie “Up.” (If you haven’t seen it yet, I highly recommend it!) He seemed unconcerned with the proximity of people and was often seen strolling down Main Street, which endeared him to the local populace and earned him the nickname “the Mayor of Rollinsford.” He frequented the Fire House, as well as the local cemetery, where he was observed enjoying his own reflection in a few of the tombstones. On November 7, Debra Willard-Powers reported that his left leg had been injured. Although he could still fly, the leg was dangling and he was clearly limping. It was eventually determined that he had probably been bitten, although the source of the bite remained unknown. With the help of information from local people, NH Audubon monitored his recovery. By late November, as Debra wrote

in her article for the Fall 2017 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* (Vol. 36 No. 3), “the crane appears to be getting stronger, putting more weight on its leg, and limping less.” When it was apparent that he would recover, attention turned to the issue of migration. Would he be able to migrate? When would he migrate?



“Should I go or should I stay?” taken by Dennis Drake on 11-16-17 in Rollinsford, NH.

Wintering in Rollinsford

Sandhill Cranes usually migrate south by mid-fall with most of the records in New Hampshire occurring in October, although there has been one recorded as late as December 12 in the past. Speculation continued as to Kevin’s travel plans. On December 17, the *Foster’s Daily Democrat* even published an article entitled “When will Kevin fly south for the winter?” This was followed up on December 21 by a report of him “visiting” Viel’s Farm. As Rollinsford resident Dennis Drake noted, there are cut fields of corn and hay, as well as open barns at Viel’s, so Kevin might well have the means available to survive the winter. And he did continue to stay in the area, eventually settling into the corner of Beccaris Dr. and Main St. as a home base. The residents kept bird seed and water available to him and his well-being was monitored on the Rollinsford NH Happenings Facebook page. He weathered the several large snow storms of the winter and afforded many birders the chance to enjoy a reliable Sandhill Crane sighting. On March 28, a video of him “dancing” was posted on Facebook. The next day, March 29, 2018, was the last known sighting of Kevin in Rollinsford.

Sandhill Cranes in New Hampshire



Kevin is well provided for by Rollinsford residents as is evident in this photo by Katie Towler taken on 1-27-18.

Kevin may be the first Sandhill Crane documented to overwinter in New Hampshire, but he is not the first famous Sandhill Crane in the state. The species has gradually been expanding its range eastward since the early 1970s. Prior to that, at least since the early 1900s, there had been no cranes breeding east of Michigan. In May of 1999, a lone Sandhill Crane was spotted in a field in Monroe, but instead of migrating through, he stayed in the area until November 5. He also was given a name, “Oscar”, and he returned to Monroe year after year, remaining alone until 2013, when he was observed with a second crane. Then, famously, in June, 2014, the pair was spotted with a colt, confirming the first breeding Sandhill Crane record in New Hampshire! For an excellent discussion of the history of Sandhill Cranes in the state and more details about Oscar, please refer to the “Spotlight on Sandhill Cranes” article by Pamela Hunt in the Summer 2014 issue (Vol. 33, No. 2) of *New Hampshire Bird Records*. Successful breeding by this pair was confirmed again in 2015 and 2017.

As the number of crane sightings in the state (as well as Vermont and Maine) has increased over the past two decades, it is likely that there will soon be more breeding pairs. It remains to be seen whether Kevin will return to Rollinsford, or even end up breeding in New Hampshire. Regardless of his future behavior, he has already won a place in the record books for this state.

Sometimes You Just Get Lucky

My Peterborough-Hancock CBC Experience of 2017

by Phil Brown

It started off the usual way – I had not allocated enough time for nocturnal owling to get a response. So began another year participating in the Peterborough-Hancock Christmas Bird Count (CBC), my third CBC in a row. Unlike my other more social CBC experiences in which I team up with friends, I typically do this one solo. Perhaps this is why I take it easy on this CBC. This is my home CBC, which starts as I step out my front door in the 6:00 am darkness, not a true owling kind of darkness, but one that will suffice for a third consecutive day of counting birds in the cold.

A Hermit Thrush “chup” note before daybreak was a fine consolation for my lack of success with owls. This would typically be the top prize for my North Hancock sector, but, as I would come to find out, today was a different kind of day. As luck (and a little effort) would have it, a cooperative Barred Owl responded to my incessant hooting soon after daybreak, so I was spared an owl-less CBC...another good omen. I called in another Barred Owl before dusk in an attempt to get a response from the resident flock of turkeys. My owl call proved rather effective, not just for owls, but for woodpeckers and even an Eastern Gray Squirrel, which fell from a hemlock tree overhead in response to my hooting at dusk!

My traditional best morning spot, in an old field off High Street in Antrim, yielded seven Ruffed Grouse, which was good enough for the entire CBC tally. Grouse are resident here, but I must “grouse” my way through invasive thorny shrubs and other unpleasant vegetation in order to find them. A benefit of this long slog of birding outside of the vehicle on a CBC is catching birds flying to and fro during the morning. Both species of crossbill (seven Reds in one flock, and a single White-winged) sounded off as they flew over. Besides, spending enough time outside in the morning covering the right mix of habitats is a recipe for finding lots of individuals and a high species diversity. I stirred up good-sized flocks of Dark-eyed Juncos, American Goldfinch, American Robins, and a surprise flock of Red-winged Blackbirds, rare on this count.

Mid-morning is time for my second breakfast on a CBC, so when possible, why not take it from the comfort of my own home? I was delighted to find another unexpected species as I approached my house; a Common Grackle feeding alongside my driveway with a mixed flock of songbirds. “Red-wingeds, grackle, Hermit Thrush – what’s

going on today?” I wondered. It had been a late onset of winter, but the weather was cold, so I was surprised to have already found so many “half-hardies.” There would be others.

On a tip from Eric Masterson about a Yellow-bellied



Hermit Thrush by Jane Kelley.

Sapsucker that showed up at the Harris Center’s feeders the day before, I drove up to watch the feeders and wait. It took merely a minute before the bird flew in and was officially recorded on count day. Several miles back down into Hancock village and about an hour later, I stumbled upon another individual sapsucker at a feeder! One on the CBC is notable, so two in just my territory was truly surprising. A bit later after bumping into Meade Cadot and his team at the Valley Farm on Middle Road and watching an adult Bald Eagle drop into a distant field, I heard a ruckus of squeaks and clucks coming from some tall white pines and spotted a huge (for winter) flock of blackbirds, about 120 in all! Almost all were Red-wingeds in multiple plumages, but I was able to pick out at least three Rusty Blackbirds, a very rare bird on the CBC, as well as a female Brown-headed Cowbird, my fourth blackbird species of the day!

The best was still to come! At around 2:00 pm, I stopped along Rt. 123 by a large wetland owned by the Harris Center and noticed robins flying across the road into the shrub-dominated marsh. The second bird I put binoculars on after parking along the roadside was an adult male Varied Thrush!! I watched this beautiful and exotic specimen of the West in awe for as long as it cooperated, maybe for 20 seconds, until it dropped into lower shrubs within the marsh and out of view. I spent the next half hour at this location, searching every robin and even resorting to giving a Barred Owl call. This resulted in not a Varied Thrush, but a Northern Flicker, popping out of the marsh. The Varied Thrush was seemingly a one-day wonder at this location, unfortunately, but it was good enough for a first count record and made for some excitement at the CBC roundup that evening. In perhaps 100 CBCs in which I have participated over the years, this was probably my best find, a true statewide rarity. I was sure

that the Peterborough-Hancock CBC would have many more outstanding finds because of what I had seen in just a small portion of the circle; however, it seemed like I had all the luck on this particular day!

By day’s end, I had tallied a new personal high count for my territory of 42 species (out of the record 55 observed on the entire count) as well as a high of 1,267 individual birds. I’ll probably never enjoy this type of sheer luck on a CBC again! But one can always hope.

The 2017-2018 Red Crossbill Irruption in New Hampshire

by Tim Spahr & Matthew A. Young

Red Crossbills are present in coniferous forests throughout the northern hemisphere around the globe. Work in the last 30 years or so has shown many different flight call types that may represent evolving or fully separate species. In one such example, the Cassia Crossbill was recently granted full species status on the basis of genetic work and study by Behl & Benkman (2018). In general, each crossbill “type” gives unique contact calls, generally in flight, that can be separated from other types via audiospectrographic analysis (Young and Spahr, 2017). Further, most types also have subtle morphological differences (i.e., bill depth) that can be discerned when the birds are in the hand. As an example, Type 6 Red Crossbills are found in the extreme southwestern United States and into Mexico and Central America. Bill measurements of these birds are the largest of any form in the New World. Bill depth is generally indicative of specialization for a particular conifer, however, the birds range widely and exploit various conifers when abundant crops of cones are present.

In the early summer of 2017, several factors aligned to produce a large flight of Red Crossbills away from their



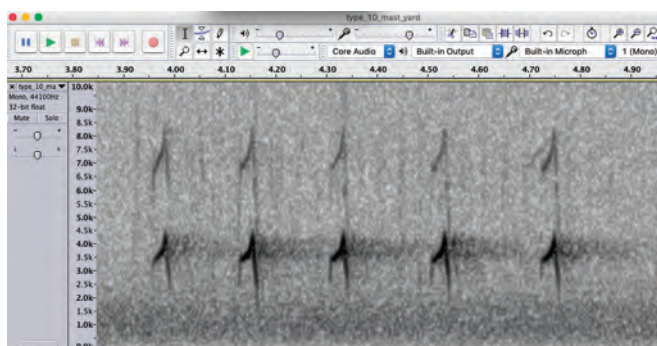
Red Crossbill by Stephen Mirick, 2-12-18, Passaconaway, Albany, NH.

home ranges in the Appalachian and Rocky Mountains, as well as the Pacific Northwest. In the Rockies, a widespread cone crop failure led to birds pouring out of their normal areas. This crop failure also hit the western hemlocks and the coastal variety of Douglas fir and, as a result, western flight call types 2, 3, 4, and even 5 blasted out of their home ranges. By August, western types were arriving in huge numbers along the shores of the Great Lakes, including Minnesota's Stoney Point and Whitefish Point in Michigan. To the south, the spruce crop in the southern Appalachians was below average and this caused the most common type there (Type 1) to move north in search of greener pastures.

During the same early summer months, it became clear that a once-in-a-generation cone crop would be present for crossbills lucky enough to wander east or north. In the northeastern United States, both white and red spruce, as well as eastern hemlock, produced magnificent cone crops. These were followed later in the season by a tremendous white pine mast and even a good Norway spruce cone crop where these non-native trees were present. Not only would irrupting crossbills find enough to survive for the winter, they would find enough native cones for at least two breeding cycles in the Northeast!

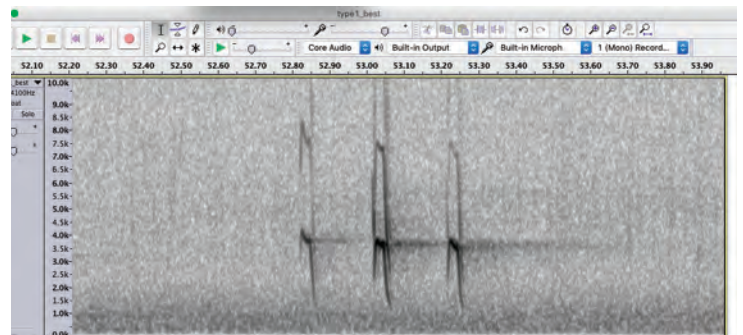
During 2017-2018, New Hampshire birders found four different types of Red Crossbills. Type 10 is the most likely type to encounter in New Hampshire. The standard range of these birds is the Pacific Northwest and also the Northeast, however, it may be that the eastern form of Type 10 represents an entirely new flight call type. In normal years, Type 10 birds are scattered in the Great Lakes east to the Northeastern States and Canadian islands in the Atlantic Ocean; however, this flight call type does not really seem as abundant anywhere the way other call types can be in the western US. During this irruption, New Hampshire birders not only observed eastern Type 10 in over 30 locations, they also confirmed breeding with a number of streaky juveniles observed in several locations. Type 10 flight calls have a sharp, rising quality, often with a husky inflection (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Spectrogram of eastern Type 10 flight call. Time in seconds across the top, frequency in hertz along the left side. Recorded by T. Spahr at Mast Yard State Forest, Concord, NH, March 5, 2018.



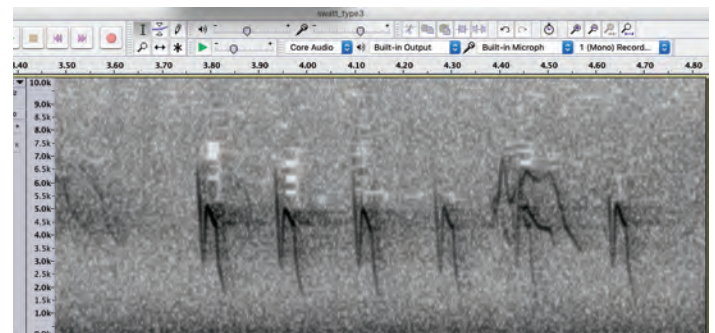
Found in six different locations, Type 1 was the next most common type in New Hampshire during this irruption. Type 1 birds are regularly present in the Appalachians, even as far south as Alabama. In most years, Type 1 does not show up in any numbers in the northeastern United States north of southern New York and it appears uncommon in Canada. Type 1 is a smaller-billed bird and specializes on spruces and white pine. T. Spahr observed a family group of five Type 1s, including three begging juveniles, feeding in a white spruce at Trudeau Road in Bethlehem, NH, October 12, 2017. Type 1 flight calls are clear and sharp, and rapidly descending (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Spectrogram of Type 1 flight call. Recorded by T. Spahr on Oct 12, 2017, Trudeau Road, Bethlehem, NH.



Also found in six different locations, the Pacific Northwest's Type 3 Red Crossbill made a few appearances in New Hampshire during the 2017-2018 irruption. This is the smallest-billed Red Crossbill and it specializes on western hemlock and spruce cones in its core breeding range. The eastern hemlock crop was also excellent in 2017-18 and one suspects the Type 3s had plenty to feed on between the spruce and hemlock crop. Type 3 was also confirmed nesting in northern New York during late winter of 2018 by Matthew Young along with Types 1 and 10. Type 3s are the Northeast's most common irruptive Red Crossbill, making flights to the east every 3-5 years, so it is always a treat having them here every few years. Type 3 flight calls sound thin, fairly high-pitched, and scratchy (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Type 3 flight calls. Recorded by J. Swatt and D. Jackson along Mountain Road, Lempster, NH, March 3, 2018.



Lastly, Type 2 Red Crossbills were present in just two locations throughout New Hampshire. These are large-billed birds, capable of feeding on a wide variety of cone crops in any season. Type 2 has the widest distribution of any crossbill in the United States and can appear just about anywhere. Both sets of Type 2s were faintly recorded and spectrograms are not presented. Type 2 sounds much like Type 1, with a descending component. Type 2 descends more slowly than Type 1 and often has a more ringing quality.

The spectacular cone crop in New Hampshire provided a great home for crossbills in the last year. It also appears the crop limited any large-scale movement to the south of New Hampshire. For example, Types 1 and 10 used Norway spruces and red spruces only for breeding in isolated locations in the towns of Washington and Savoy, MA. Types 2, 3, and 5 were observed singly in the same areas. Types 3 and 10 were observed in small numbers on Mt. Watatic, MA very near the New Hampshire border and Types 1 and 2 were observed again in small numbers in Montague, MA. However, the cone crop in the Northeast was so large and widespread, it is likely that birds coming across the country found enough cones in New York (especially the Adirondacks) and also Ontario to stop their eastward movements. This in turn limited the movement much further east, particularly for Type 3. As an example, Type 4 Red Crossbills, common in the Rockies and Pacific Northwest, were recorded in huge numbers in the Great Lakes areas, but thinned out considerably in New York (six records in 2017-2018) and only appeared as singles in West Virginia and Vermont. One could assume that in a year with a poorer cone crop in New York, these Type 4s might have made it into New Hampshire and farther east.

The 2017-2018 Red Crossbill invasion was one for the record books. While many of the birds stayed in the Great Lakes states, Ontario, and mountains of New York, New Hampshire played a key role in the irruption as well, especially for the eastern Type 10. Crossbill irruptions are irregular and unpredictable events, but we can guarantee there will be another one at some point in the future. Here's to looking forward to more crossbills soon.

Recording flight calls of crossbills during all seasons allows study of the movement of the individual types. Recordings can be obtained using smart phones, voice recorders, or digital cameras. Please send any recordings of crossbills to may6@cornell.edu and tspahr44@gmail.com.

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DOI: 10.1650/CONDOR-17-257.1

Tim Spahr is an astrophysicist specializing in the study of Near-Earth Asteroids. When not too busy at work, he's likely chasing Red Crossbills around the country recording flight call types. Matt Young works at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology as the Macaulay Library Collections Management Leader. Matt became hooked on birds while working as an Americorps team member and has authored eBird articles on North American Red Crossbill and Evening Grosbeak call types.

Twitchers Win the 2018 Townie Award!

The Superbowl of Birding 2018 with the Twitchers in the Rye or "There are no Rock Pigeons in Rye!"

by Kathryn Frieden and Rebecca Suomala

On Saturday, January 27, 2018 at 5:00 am, the Superbowl of Birding XV began and the Twitchers in the Rye were ready! This year was the 10th anniversary for the team, but only Captain Becky Suomala was a veteran. Previous team members were either not available or had officially retired (e.g., previous captain and Hall-of-Famer Pam Hunt). The rookie team members were Susan Wrisley, Jenna Pettipas, and Kathryn Frieden. Because the Twitchers limit their birding to the township of Rye rather than compete within the entire two counties of Rockingham, NH and Essex, MA, their chances of winning an award have been slim, but this year was different. There was a new Townie Award and we had a chance to win!

After the brutally cold weather in early January, we had a terrific day and the thermometer on Kathryn's car read 52 degrees at the end of the day! After predicting a lower than usual total because of the cold weather in early January, we were right on average for species (59 – for the 4th year in a row) and with 104 points were actually on the high side (average 98).

This year could be called either "the year our scouting paid off (sort of)," or "the year we missed Rock Pigeon"! (How is that possible???) We started the competition with some cooperative owling with Steve Mirick's team, the 4th and Longspurs. At our second spot, we had our first of three owl species, an Eastern Screech-Owl called in response to Steve's excellent imitation. After two Barred Owls, we added

a Northern Saw-whet that flew past us in response to Becky's tooting at first light (of course she missed it, but the rest of the team saw it, thank goodness).

Two themes of the day emerged. While exploring a few feeder areas, a very nice woman stopped and asked what we were doing and was delighted to discover that we were the actual Twitchers that she had heard about on New Hampshire Public Radio (NHPR) the evening before. We had become local celebrities! To top that, Annie Ropeik, the environmental reporter for NHPR, joined us in the afternoon to experience the Superbowl firsthand and record our efforts for a radio broadcast. She joined us at noon, recording our discovery of a Black Scoter, the only scoter species we still needed. At Rye Harbor, while checking out a group with scopes in the hopes that they were viewing a Snowy Owl, we happened to "overhear" something about an Iceland Gull at Eel Pond. Sadly, no Snowy, and no Purple Sandpipers either, but off we went to Eel Pond where, indeed, we did find the Iceland Gull. It was fun to run into a few other teams there as well, who were similarly occupied. Before finishing up her reporting for the day, Annie got to see the Iceland Gull and experience the camaraderie of the birding world.

If one theme was our minor celebrity, the other was pigeons; actually, the lack of pigeons. Rock Pigeons had never been missed before by the Twitchers. After all, who doesn't see pigeons? Well evidently the Twitchers! We traveled all over in the late afternoon looking for them, but to no avail. How embarrassing.



The Snow Bunting that we found during scouting at Rye Harbor State Park was still present at sunrise on the day of the Superbowl. Photo by Susan Wrisley.

We did have some great birds, including a few that we scouted and actually appeared the day of the competition.

- Pine Warbler – a scouted bird, only the second time for the Twitchers.
- Green-winged Teal – new for us, from Pulpit Rocks with....

- Northern Pintail – only the second time for us.
- Wild Turkey – only the second time for the Twitchers.
- Turkey Vulture – only the second time for the Twitchers.
- Iceland Gull – one on Eel Pond.
- Razorbill – one flyby, our only alcid; choppy conditions made seawatching difficult.
- Pileated Woodpecker – only the third time for the Twitchers and we had three!
- Common Raven – only the second time for us.
- Hermit Thrush – only the third time for the team.
- Snow Bunting – a scouted bird just after sunrise, only the third time for the Twitchers.
- Red-winged Blackbird – not unusual but not expected after the January deep freeze.

Our misses reflect our more typical experience with scouted birds.

- Rock Pigeon – **Good Grief!** Other than that, we got all of our usual common species.
- Field Sparrow – others saw our scouted bird, but we missed it.
- Purple Finch – a scouted bird with the Pine Warbler didn't appear.
- Golden-crowned Kinglet and Brown Creeper were both seen during scouting.
- Purple Sandpiper – we missed the ones found on Rye Ledge by another team.
- Cooper's Hawk – but we got Sharp-shinned instead which is less common for us.
- Bald Eagle and Hooded Merganser – both species we often get.

We arrived at the compilation site a few minutes before the deadline and donned our Twitchers in the Rye shirts and hoodies. It was great fun to win the new Townie Award (although I think we were the only contender). Next year, we will be the team to beat!

We also raised just over \$3,000 for NH Audubon's bird conservation programs, NH eBird and *New Hampshire Bird Records*. Thanks to everyone who sponsored the Twitchers and helped us raise money for *New Hampshire Bird Records* and NH eBird.

To pledge or read the full summary:

<http://nhbirdrecords.org/twitchers-in-the-rye-superbowl-of-birding-january-28-2017/>

To listen to the NHPR story:

<http://www.nhpr.org/post/birding-bowl-2018-audubon-showdown-draws-flock-nh-seacoast>

Backyard Birder

Mobbing

by Brenda Sens



An Eastern Kingbird and a Common Grackle mobbing an immature Broad-winged Hawk. Photos by Leo McKillop.

People often report seeing one or more small birds, not necessarily of the same species, chasing and attacking a larger bird in flight. Such behavior is referred to as “mobbing.” Although this occurs year-round, it is seen more often in spring when birds are establishing and protecting their territories and definitely do not want other birds intruding in their area. Small birds will defend their nests, eggs, or young by mobbing a perceived threat and the calls they make when doing so often attract others to join in the attack. Owls appear to be a recognized threat, even when dozing in a tree during the day, and are often harassed by smaller birds and forced to move on to a new, more sheltered spot.

The Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) is noted for its aggressive behavior in defense of its territory and nest, but

that theoretical knowledge is scarcely preparation enough for seeing the photograph of one perched on the back of a Bald Eagle! Amazingly, we received photos of two different incidents of a kingbird landing on an eagle. See the back cover of the Summer 2017 issue with a kingbird on the back of an adult Bald Eagle and the ones below of one on an immature eagle.



An Eastern Kingbird chasing and landing on an immature Bald Eagle. Photos by Leo McKillop.

Crows, well-known for grabbing young right out of the nest, are often seen being mobbed by smaller birds. Crows, in their turn, mob larger birds such as hawks and owls. That

behavior can be hazardous as the hawk or owl occasionally turns on the crow and makes a meal of it!



A classic mobbing by an Eastern Kingbird as it chases a well-known marauder of small bird's nests and young, a crow.



Crows mobbing a Snowy Owl at Pease International Tradeport by Jonathan Hornbeck of Seacoast Aerial Solutions, 4-11-18.

Where are the Chickadees?

by Kiah Walker



Black-capped Chickadee by Bob Basile.

Where are the chickadees? It was a common question among serious birders and casual feeder watchers alike over the winter of 2017-18. Even after the Christmas snowstorm and subsequent cold snaps, few Black-capped Chickadees were attending feeders, but they may not have been as absent as they appeared. Based on data collected at Tin Mountain Conservation Center (TMCC) in Albany, NH, chickadees may have been taking advantage of abundant natural food sources, making trips to our bird feeders unnecessary.

TMCC has maintained a year-round study of Black-capped Chickadees since 2014, when staff and interns began color banding them. Upon capture, each chickadee receives a unique combination of three colored plastic bands in addition to a federally issued aluminum band. The chickadees are released unharmed. Observers can then easily resight band combinations from a distance (using binoculars), identifying individual birds without ever recapturing them.

From November 2017 through February 2018, we observed 28 individual chickadees at feeders, a far cry from the 82 chickadees observed the previous winter; however, while roaming the TMCC trail network, we observed an additional twelve chickadees that weren't seen at feeders. All of these, except for two of them, had been reliably seen at TMCC feeders the previous winter. Of the two exceptions, one was last seen in March 2016, while the other was banded as a nestling in the summer of 2017. Of the 71 nestlings banded since 2015, this is the first to be resighted on the property, probably due to a combination of juvenile dispersal and mortality.

Given the greater difficulty of detecting chickadees in dense forests as opposed to easily accessible feeders, we can reasonably assume that more of our banded chickadees were still around the property, even though we didn't resight them.

It appeared that the chickadees were precisely where they should be, distributed throughout New Hampshire's forests, regardless of whether they were at our bird feeders or not. But why weren't they venturing out to find these free, seemingly inexhaustible food sources?

During the winter of 2017-18, chickadees had nearly limitless food sources everywhere they went. Their winter diets consist of invertebrates, berries, and seeds, including conifer seeds. According to data provided by NH Fish and Game biologist Andrew Timmins, the fall of 2017 had the most abundant conifer cone crop since the inception of statewide cone surveys in 2002. Spruces especially were so laden with cones that they were drooping under the weight. Hemlocks and pines also had large cone crops, and fruit-bearing shrubs like winterberry holly, mountain ash, and highbush cranberry fared well, according to silviculturist David Govatski.

In the winter, chickadees usually forage in flocks, which begin to form as soon as the breeding season ends, typically in late June. Chickadee flocks spend most of their time within their home ranges, although they may roam as far as 1.5 km to visit feeders, according to a study from Wisconsin (Brittingham and Temple 1988). If a chickadee can find an excess of food within its home range, it doesn't need to look elsewhere.

Adult chickadees generally stick close to their breeding territories year-round. Few ever migrate, even in years with little food. Fledgling chickadees, however, disperse away from their nest sites. Fledglings may venture far south in some years, sometimes beyond the limits of their breeding range, particularly when food is scarce. Given the abundant seeds and berries across the northeast, young chickadees probably didn't need to move long distances. Canadian chickadees didn't move into New England, but New England chickadees didn't leave the region either.

In addition, reproductive success may have been lower than usual in 2017, according to NestWatch data. (NestWatch is a citizen science program run by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.) In northern New England (Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont), chickadees laid an average of 6.9 eggs and fledged an average of 3.7 chicks from each of the 14 nests monitored by NestWatch participants in 2017. The average for the preceding ten years was 5.8 eggs and 5.1 fledglings per nest from 91 monitored nests, however, the number of monitored nests was typically small and variable between years. Lower numbers of fledged chicks could be related to weather and predation. The bumper food crops benefitted squirrels and chipmunks, which are known to predate songbird nests.

Chickadees are also short-lived, with an average lifespan of less than three years, making annual influxes of newly-fledged chickadees a large component of the population, but poor

weather often negatively impacts chick and fledgling survival. This means fewer young chickadees survive during a breeding season with heavy rainfall, leading to fewer chickadees overall. According to archived weather data from Concord, New Hampshire, the cumulative rainfall for May and June 2017 was the highest since 2006. Chickadee detections during TMCC breeding season point counts (2010-2017) correlate with cumulative rainfall.

Point counts are weekly surveys of birds at established points. (TMCC has 35 such points throughout its 140 acre property.) Counts are typically run only within the breeding season, when males of most species are singing. In 2014, however, TMCC began conducting point counts in the fall and winter as well. While the initiation of the year-round counts is too recent to assess trends or correlations with weather, chickadees were detected less frequently in winter 2017-18 than in previous winters at TMCC, although flock sizes remained consistent, and we saw no indication of local distributional changes.

Chickadee numbers from the local Christmas Bird Count, (run continuously since 1989 in the North Conway area) fail to correlate with breeding season precipitation totals, but Christmas Bird Counts are strongly influenced by effort (number of observers, distance covered) and count day weather. Christmas Bird Counts are valuable snapshots, but they are not useful for short-term or year-to-year comparisons. Even so, the 179 chickadees on the December 2017 count was by far the lowest total ever recorded on the North Conway Christmas Bird Count. The previous low was 355 chickadees in 1993.

So, low numbers of chickadees at feeders in the winter of 2017-18 may have been a result of abundant food supplies and low reproductive success combined. Chickadees weren't dining on sunflower seeds and suet, but they were still well-fed on natural crops and the bumper crop of conifer cones. This should have bolstered winter survival rates and perhaps resulted in a year of high reproductive success in 2018, even if the number of breeding chickadees was below average. Populations will always fluctuate, but only time (and continued resighting, point counts, citizen science programs, and other monitoring efforts) will tell the full story.

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Brittingham, M. and S. Temple. 1988. Impacts of supplemental feeding on survival rates of Black-capped Chickadees. *Ecology* 69:581-589.

Kiah Walker grew up in southern New Hampshire and has since studied and managed birds throughout the northeast. She was an intern at Tin Mountain Conservation Center in the winter of 2017-18.

Birding Green Road, Kingston: The Ordinary Extraordinary Back Road

by Scott Heron

Though perhaps not an extraordinarily exciting spot to the average observer, to the discerning birder, Green Road promises a rewarding glimpse into the natural world. Located within the Powwow River watershed in Kingston, NH, this less-than-a-mile stretch of gravel road offers a good variety of habitat for breeding birds as well as the potential to witness spring and fall migration for a variety of species. While Green Road may appear to be a typical New England back road, it has its share of unique features which include two rare species of insect and a rare stand of Atlantic White Cedar.

Getting there is fairly straightforward. Coming from the north on Route 125, you'll come to an intersection where Route 111, which had merged with Route 125, breaks off and heads west. Stay on Route 125 and in 0.3 miles after the junction, turn left onto Folly Brook Terrace. Coming from the south on Route 125, you'll come to the intersection of Route 125, Hunt Road and Newton Junction Road. Two miles after the junction, turn right onto Folly Brook Terrace. Once on Folly Brook Terrace, immediately turn right onto Frontage Road. After a few dozen feet, turn left onto Green Road. You can start birding at any point.

The road is quiet and traffic is almost entirely limited to patrons of the Kingston Dog Park. Only a handful of homes exist on the road, all of which are at the very end of the road

and completely out of view. There are several areas along the road that are wide enough to safely park a vehicle.

You'll likely first encounter the power lines that travel straight from the Seabrook nuclear power plant and cross the road here. Check the lines for perched birds. Mourning Doves are typical, but raptors such as Red-tailed Hawk and American Kestrel occasionally perch here. Fish Crows can be heard "cah-ing" from the tall pines and probably nest in the area. In the early spring, you can get a front row seat to American Woodcocks displaying at dawn and dusk. They're pretty much a guarantee in any of the open areas along the road during the right time.

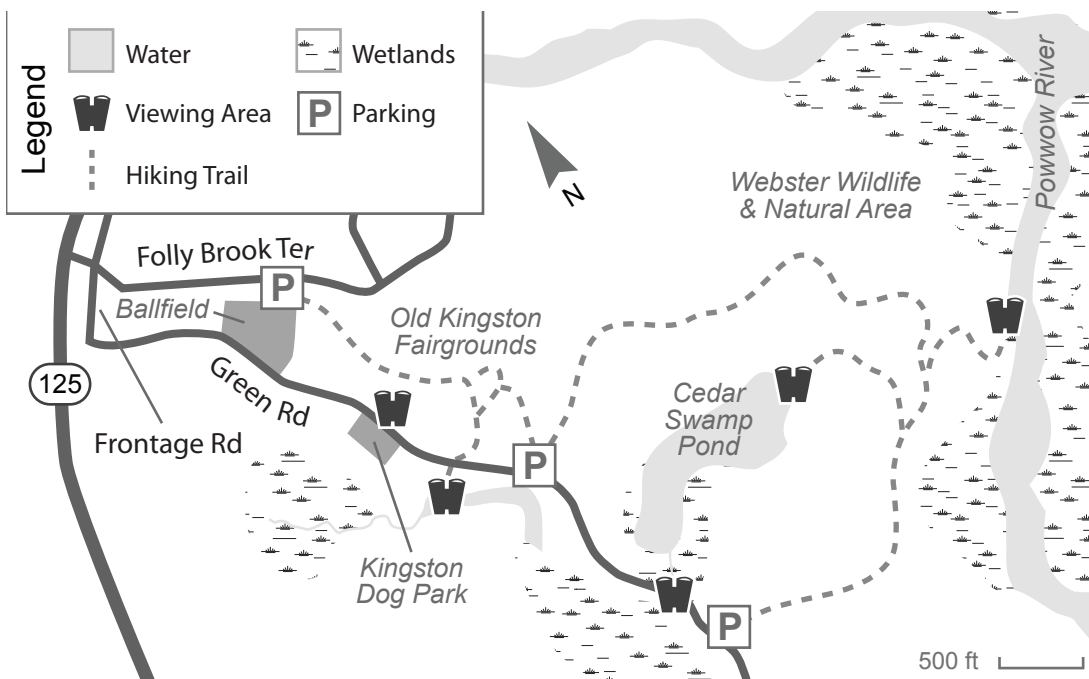
On your left, after the power lines, you'll see softball and football fields. Killdeer and Bobolink have been seen foraging here in spring migration. American Robin, American Crow, and Common Grackle are typical in this field and for the dragonfly enthusiast, a rare species, the Ringed Boghaunter, has been recorded here on occasion.

Continuing down the road, you'll come upon the Kingston Dog Park which includes ample parking. Directly across from the dog park is the old Kingston Fairgrounds. A small field is maintained by the town and supplements a variety of habitats that includes scrub and a small pine barren. As you enter this field, a wire suspended by two posts offers an excellent perch for birds such as Tree Swallow, Eastern Bluebird and the occasional Northern Shrike (winter). The former two species, in addition to House Wren, have taken up residence in bird boxes in the field.

Heading east across the field affords the opportunity to find more local breeders in addition to spring and fall migrants. Field Sparrow, Prairie Warbler, and Eastern Towhee are all present and make their voices heard along

the road wherever habitat suits them. Keep an eye skyward for hawks such as Cooper's, Sharp-shinned, and Red-shouldered. The occasional Peregrine Falcon might be spotted cruising overhead. Large flocks of Canada Geese can be seen either migrating or perhaps just traveling to or from the nearby Powwow River. During breeding season, don't be surprised to see Common Loons flying over as pairs often commute between Country Pond and Great Pond.

Walking northward to



the northern edge of the field, you'll come upon what looks like a small island of birch trees accompanied by large dirt piles from the town's highway department. This immediate area can be great for warbler fallouts in spring and fall migration. Circumnavigate this little island, passing an old utility building now utilized by a breeding Eastern Phoebe pair, and you'll come across more mounds of dirt occasionally used by the highway department. This is one of the best spots for sparrows in Kingston. Chipping, Field, Song, Swamp, Lincoln's, White-crowned, Savannah, and White-throated have all been observed in this one spot; sometimes all at once! These dirt mounds have also proven useful to local breeders. A Belted Kingfisher created a nest in one of the piles one year, and Northern Rough-winged Swallows had been observed inspecting this nest hole. It's unclear whether either species has successfully nested here.



Prairie Warbler by Scott Heron.

Walk back towards the dog park and continue to either walk or drive down the road. Shortly after the dog park, you'll come to a pull-off and a gate on the left. There is a small network of dirt roads that offer more glimpses into the variety of habitats. Exploring this network affords the potential to find more species such as Indigo Bunting, Black-billed Cuckoo, Brown Thrasher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet (migration) and other migrants and residents.

Directly across the road is a stream connecting small beaver ponds. Exploring these ponds may turn up Wood Ducks and kingfishers. A Red-winged Blackbird or Common Grackle may establish a nest in the tall vegetation of the upper pond and the occasional Green Heron may fish from its modest confines.

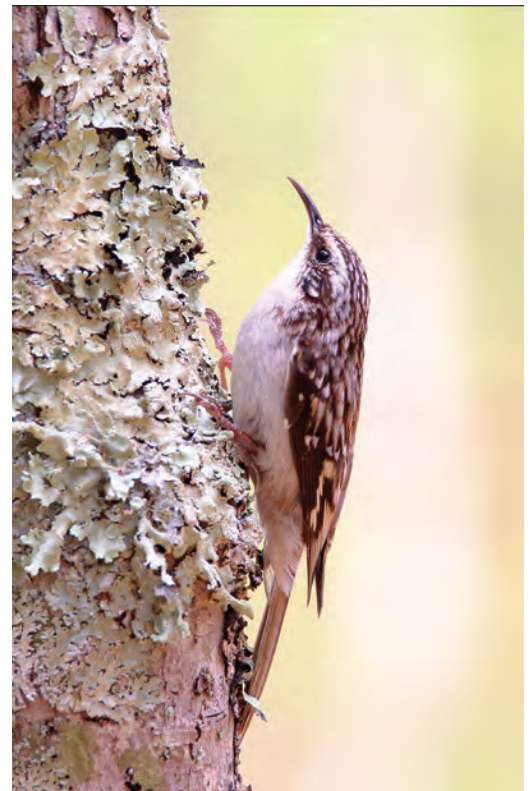
Heading down the road further, you'll come to another pull-off and parking area. Here, a gate marks the trailhead for the Webster Wildlife & Natural Area, a property managed

by the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF). The property includes a hiking trail that travels through a mix of hardwoods and softwoods and terminates at another parking area roughly a third of a mile up the road. This can be a great walk to find woodland birds such as Veery, Hermit Thrush, Ovenbird, Pine Warbler and a variety of woodpeckers.

Within the Webster Natural Area is Cedar Swamp Pond, a kettle pond and a veritable oasis in the middle of the woods. Getting there may require GPS or a little exploring as there is a very seldom-used trail that leads to the eastern edge of the pond. Although it may be underwhelming in terms of bird activity, this small pond offers great protection to migrant waterfowl and in fall migration, it's not uncommon to find dozens of Ring-necked Ducks taking refuge in this small body of water.

Along the Webster Natural Area's main trail, a few spur trails diverge and all typically travel to points along the Country Pond branch of the Powwow River. These lookouts can offer great views into the river and in late winter and early spring, can bring the first glimpse of returning waterfowl. Hundreds of Ring-necked Ducks stop over along the river in March and in one case in 2015, a Ring-necked Duck/Scaup species hybrid was found among dozens of Ring-necked Ducks. Other waterfowl such as Wood Duck, Canada Goose, Mallard, American Black Duck, and Hooded and Common Mergansers all occupy the river at one point or another.

Continuing down the road from the first Webster Natural Area trailhead, keep an eye and ear out for more migrants and breeders. Great Crested Flycatcher, Scarlet Tanager, Baltimore Oriole, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak could be singing from high perches along the roadside.



Brown Creeper by Scott Heron.

Singing Veerys can dot the roadside in spring and summer. A Common Raven may croak from over head or deep in the woods. Brown Creepers are guaranteed to be seen or heard year-round and warblers such as Northern Parula, American Redstart, and Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian, and Magnolia Warbler, all pass through here with some stopping to nest for the season. This is a particularly wet stretch of the road where species such as Northern Waterthrush and Common Yellowthroat are easily heard singing and Winter Wren occasionally sing their chittery song. Declining Rusty Blackbirds have also been seen passing through these swampy areas in early spring or fall.

This stretch also gives the observer an up-close look at the rather rare stand of Atlantic White Cedar, the acreage of which is protected by SPNHF. As rare as this stand of trees may be, an even rarer resident, one whose survival actually depends on these cedars, is Hessel's hairstreak, a small green butterfly. It's so rare in New Hampshire that this portion of Green Road is the only place in the state in which it has been recorded.

Continuing on, you'll finally reach the last parking area on the road (for the second trailhead of the Webster Natural Area trail). Beyond this parking area, the road becomes private. You can either park and hike the latter portion of the Webster Natural Area trail or turn around and head out. This portion of the trailhead is recommended for accessing both Cedar Swamp Pond as well as viewing points along the Powwow River.

Whether you're a beginning birdwatcher or a seasoned lister, Green Road is well worth a visit. While it may be your average, everyday New England back road, the sights and sounds that it promises are anything but ordinary. If anything, it should have us all look a bit deeper into the unassuming places in our own neighborhoods and remind us just how extraordinary the ordinary can be.

New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee Report

Winter 2014-15 through Winter 2015-16

Hector Galbraith, Chair

Michael Resch, Secretary

This report from the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee (NHRBC) contains the decisions for records voted on by the Committee for five seasons: Winter 2014-15, Spring 2015, Summer 2015, Fall 2015, and Winter 2015-16, plus one historical record from 2011.

The NHRBC reviews unusual sightings in an effort to

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

A rejection is not necessarily an indication that the identification was incorrect. Instead, it is possible that the information received was not sufficient to allow its acceptance as a state record. For information on the Committee and its decision-making process, see the articles in the Summer 1996 and Winter 2005-06 issues of *NHBR*.

The five seasons reviewed here included four "firsts" for the state that were accepted by the Committee:

- Smith's Longspur – the 12/18/14 Sandwich record was accepted by the Committee, although added to the New Hampshire state list as "Hypothetical" since per NHRBC Bylaws, there were less than three observers, and/or it lacked a photograph, a specimen, a video recording, or an audio recording.
- Least Tern – first documented breeding record since 1959 (*The Birds of New Hampshire* by Keith & Fox 2013) in New Hampshire with a pair at Hampton Beach State Park in the Summer 2015.
- Lazuli Bunting – a bird photographed on 9/26/15 at Star Island represents a first New Hampshire record.
- Great Blue Heron White Morph – observed from 11/21-12/2/15 in Litchfield, representing a first New Hampshire record for this form of our otherwise common Great Blue Heron.

The NHRBC also reviewed an older record of five Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks photographed on 6/28/11 in Salem, NH. After analysis of the potential provenance of these birds, the Committee decided these were very likely wild birds and have accepted this first state record.

With the addition of Lazuli Bunting and Black-bellied Whistling-Duck to the official New Hampshire state list, that brings the total as of February 2016 to 408.

The Committee has recently reviewed a number of records where submitted documentation was unfortunately of limited quality. One of the best ways to ensure your sighting is accepted by the NHRBC is to prepare and submit adequate documentation of the sighting. By far the best way to submit documentation is to use the "New Hampshire Bird Sighting Documentation" form, which prompts you to address all the salient topics to support the observation. This form is available on the *New Hampshire Bird Records* web site: www.nhbirdrecord.org.

Furthermore, we recommend that you complete a

documentation form even if you are submitting photographs of the bird(s). Recently, the NHRBC has received photographs of many of the sightings that have been submitted for review. However, the quality of these photos isn't always the best and therefore, supplemental information contained on a completed documentation form can be crucial in gaining acceptance of the record.

Speaking of photographs, just because you don't have a photograph of your bird doesn't mean it won't be accepted by the Committee. In fact, many of the recently accepted sightings have been non-photographed birds. The photograph should be just one part of the overall record of the sighting to be submitted to the NHRBC.

The members of the Committee voting on these records were: David Donsker, Kurk Dorsey, Iain MacLeod, Eric Masterson, Mike Resch (Secretary), Rob Woodward (Winter 14-15 through Summer 15), and Hector Galbraith (Chair).

Winter 2014-15

Records accepted by the Committee

Gyr Falcon	1/7/2015	Rochester
Gyr Falcon	1/25/2015	Hampton
Gyr Falcon	12/12/2014	Madbury
Smith's Longspur	12/18/2014	Sandwich
<i>– first NH hypothetical record</i>		
Varied Thrush	2/27/2015	Dublin
Varied Thrush	2/22/2015	Dublin

Records not accepted by the Committee

Gyr Falcon	12/30/2014	Keene
Peregrine Falcon could not be eliminated for this sighting made without optics.		
Gyr Falcon	1/6/2015	Epping
Other species could not be eliminated especially given that the bird was only seen in flight while the observers were driving.		
Lazuli Bunting	1/18/2015	Henniker
The description of this group of six birds did not eliminate Eastern Bluebirds.		

Spring 2015

Records accepted by the Committee

Eurasian Wigeon	4/3/2015	Hinsdale
Eurasian Wigeon	4/5/2015	Westmoreland
Eurasian Wigeon	4/9/2015	Walpole
Wilson's Phalarope	5/28/2015	Odiorne Point
Long-eared Owl	4/8/2015	NH Coast
Northern Wheatear	5/3/2015	South Sutton
Varied Thrush	5/12/2015	Seabrook
White-eyed Vireo	5/10/2015	Odiorne Point
Summer Tanager	4/14/2015	Rye
LeConte's Sparrow	4/14/2015	Rumney

Records not accepted by the Committee

American Three-toed Woodpecker	3/17/2015	Deerfield
The description could not eliminate other more likely woodpecker species.		

Summer 2015

Records accepted by the Committee

Pacific Loon	6/3/2015	North Hampton
White-faced Ibis	7/5/2015	Hampton
American Avocet	7/26/2015	Rt. 286, Seabrook
Least Tern-breeding	June 2015	Hampton Beach State Park
<i>– first recent NH breeding record</i>		
Red-headed Woodpecker	6/3/2015	Milan
Acadian Flycatcher	6/4/2015	Brindle Pond, Barnstead
Acadian Flycatcher	6/7/2015	Pawtucketaway State Park
Acadian Flycatcher	6/16/2015	Hinsdale Setbacks
Yellow-throated Warbler	7/11/2015	Madison

Records not accepted by the Committee - none

Fall 2015

Records accepted by the Committee

Brown Pelican	9/18/2015	Newfound Lake
Brown Pelican	9/18/2015	Probable sighting at Mascoma Lake
Brown Pelican	9/22/2015	Horace Lake
Great Blue Heron, White Morph	<i>– first NH record</i>	
	11/21/2015	Litchfield
Swainson's Hawk	9/22/2015	Pack Monadnock
Red-necked Phalarope	9/16/2015	Lake Winnepesaukee
Franklin's Gull	11/14/2015	Greenland
Long-eared Owl	10/28/2015	Hollis
Rufous Hummingbird	9/27/2015	Andover
Sedge Wren	10/17/2015	Penacook
Gray-cheeked Thrush	9/29/2015	Nottingham
<i>– accepted as "Gray-cheeked/Bicknell's"</i>		
Townsend's Warbler	9/5/2015	Pinkham Notch
Lazuli Bunting	9/26/2015	Star Island
<i>– first NH record</i>		
Western Meadowlark	11/16/2015	North Hampton

Records not accepted by the Committee - none

Winter 2015-16

Records accepted by the Committee

Swainson's Thrush	1/3/2016	Goffstown
Western Tanager	1/31/2016	Hollis
Bullock's Oriole	12/15/2015	Hampton

Records not accepted by the Committee

Black-throated Blue Warbler	12/7/2015	South Tamworth
The submitted description was lacking several of the key details required to successfully identify what would be a very rare wintering bird.		

Earlier Records

Records accepted by the Committee

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	6/28/2011	Salem
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Photo Quiz

by David B. Donsker

This issue's Photo Quiz returns us to the identification challenges often associated with female ducks. Although most male waterfowl are among the most distinctive of all birds to identify and many are colorful and boldly patterned, female ducks are often much more cryptically patterned and colored, and very few are similar in plumage to their male counterparts. As such, they are often a challenge to identify. If associated with the males, which is often the case, either as a mated pair or as part of a larger flock, the identification of these birds is fairly simple, but when seen alone they can often be puzzling.

Our featured bird is a compact duck with a large, grayish bill that has a distinctive white band near the tip. Its coloration is relatively uniform with the exception of paler sides and lower throat and a prominent pale patch at the base of its bill. The crown of its head is strongly peaked rather than flat or rounded and it is darker than the rest of the face. There is a thin white eye-ring and a fainter, and even thinner, pale line behind the eye.

New England ducks can be broadly divided into four groups, each with its own distinctive structure and behavior. These are the dabbling ducks, diving ducks, mergansers and stiff-tailed ducks.

The fish eating, thin-billed mergansers are quite distinctive and present no problem here. With its substantial bill alone, this is certainly not a merganser.

Our only stiff-tailed duck, Ruddy Duck, does have a proportionally large bill, but it has a fairly long tail that it often cocks upright. No tail is even visible in our featured bird. Besides, Ruddy Duck has a large white cheek patch which in the female is divided by a horizontal dark line. The featured duck has no such cheek patch.

Dabbling ducks favor relatively shallow freshwater or brackish creeks, ponds and marshes. They feed by dabbling their bills on the surface of the water and tipping forward to grab subsurface food. They take off from the water directly, often in explosive flight. The body shapes of this group are rather diverse. Some, like the featured bird, are fairly large billed. These include the familiar Mallard and American Black Duck, but both of these species are long-bodied, rather than compact, ducks with paler heads and a dark line through the eye. Female Northern Pintail and Gadwall are plain-faced ducks which lack any distinctive facial markings. Wigeons and Green-winged Teal are small ducks with small bills that are quite unlike this large-billed duck. For a teal, Blue-winged Teal has a proportionally long bill. Similar to our featured duck, the female has a pale patch at the base of the bill and a thin white eye-ring, but unlike the featured

duck, Blue-winged Teal is relatively long-bodied. It has a thin dark eye-line and a flat, rather than peaked, crown. Its bill, relatively larger than other teal, is not as heavy as in the featured bird and it is uniformly dark rather than gray with a subterminal pale band. Finally, among the dabbling ducks, female Northern Shoveler has a very large bill with an indistinct pale patch at the base and, occasionally, a faint eye ring, but the bill of the shoveler is much broader with a unique spatulate shape. So, this species is none of our dabbling ducks.

Diving ducks are, in general, rather compact species that prefer the deeper open water of our bays, inshore ocean or larger lakes. They dive for their food and take off from the water by first running along its surface. This group comprises a diverse set of species including eiders, scoters, goldeneyes, and the typical diving ducks of the genus *Aythya* and their kin.

Eiders are heavy, very large-billed ducks. Female eiders have only subtle facial markings which lack spots or patches. By structure and plumage, they are quite unlike this bird. Female Black Scoter, as well as the two goldeneyes, have plain, or relatively unmarked heads as well. Long-tailed Duck has a short triangular bill quite unlike this bird. Further, though it is shorter than in the male, its tail is longer and more pointed than that of our featured bird. In addition, the boldly patterned face of female Long-tailed Duck in both winter and summer plumage sports a large dark patch on its cheek rather than a smaller white one at the base of the bill. None of these species can be considered here.

Females of the two other scoters, as well as Bufflehead and Harlequin Duck, all have some combination of prominent white patches on their faces. The pattern of these patches, coupled with other structural features are the keys to their identification. Female Bufflehead is a fairly small-bodied, small-billed species with a single white patch behind the eye. Female White-winged Scoter has two white patches on either side of the eye. Neither has a white patch at the base of the bill and are quite unlike this species structurally. Female Harlequin Duck has a white patch at the base of the bill, but it also has another white patch behind the eye. Further, it has a rather small, triangular bill. Like our featured bird, female Surf Scoter has a large bill, a peaked crown and a pale patch at the base of the bill, but its bill is much more triangular in shape and it lacks the pale band near its tip. Also, it has a second pale patch behind the eye and another on the nape. Furthermore, the peak of its crown is more towards the forehead and is much less prominent.

This leaves us with the diving ducks in the genus *Aythya* to deal with. These include Canvasback, Redhead, the two scaups, Ring-necked Duck and the rare accidental Eurasian species, Tufted Duck. These ducks all have in common a similar compact body shape and large bill. Separating the

males of the first two species, the two scaups and the latter two species, when taken as pairs, are identification challenges in themselves. The females, taken as a group, can be even more challenging.

Canvasback is the most distinctive of them all. It is the largest species in the genus with a distinctive sloped forehead and an even more distinctive long, tapered bill with a slightly concave upper mandible. Unlike the grayish bill of the other species in its genus, it has a uniformly black bill.

Like our featured bird, female Redhead has a grayish bill with a subterminal pale band. Although some individuals may have a vague pale patch at the base of the bill, that is rarely as distinct as in our illustrated bird. Many female Redheads have a fairly plain face. More importantly, the crown of Redhead is rounded, not peaked, and it is not appreciably darker than the rest of the head.

Female Tufted Duck shares the gray bill with a pale band near the tip with this bird. Although most female Tufted Ducks lack a pale patch at the base of the bill, some individuals may have a bit of one. It is not as prominent as in this duck. Note that in our featured duck the crown is darker than the lower face and cheeks. Tufted Duck females have a more uniform head color. They also lack the faint white eye ring and the white post-ocular line (or line behind the eye) of this bird. Also, the head shape of Tufted Duck is different. Rather than a peaked crown, its crown is more rounded. Females may have a faint hint of a “tuft,” but that is much more towards the back of the head than is the peak in the crown of this individual.



Lesser Scaup female by Lori Charron.

Female Lesser and Greater Scaups are similar to this featured bird as well. They are even more similar to each other. Like this duck, both scaup have grayish bills with pale patches at their base. But in both scaup these patches are bolder and whiter than in this individual. Greater Scaup has a rounded crown, but the crown in Lesser Scaup is often distinctly peaked like in this individual. But, unlike this female duck, the crown in both scaups is not appreciably

darker than the rest of the head, there is no eye-ring or post-ocular stripe and, most importantly of all, both scaup lack the sharply distinctive white band near the tip of the bill.

That only leaves us with one species to consider. With its dark, peaked crown, faint white eye-ring and postocular stripe, and gray bill with a pale patch at its base and a distinct white band near the tip, our featured species is a female Ring-necked Duck. It was photographed by David Deifik in Nashua on December 20, 2017.

Ring-necked Duck primarily breeds in marshy areas with open expanses of water in boreal forest and prairie regions across Canada and the northern United States. It is a common spring and fall migrant in New Hampshire and a local breeder in the northern part of our state. During migration, it typically congregates in fairly large flocks on freshwater lakes and ponds.

In all plumages, it most resembles a scaup, but anything other than a quick glance will distinguish the males which have black rather than pale gray backs. Solo females take a little more care to identify, especially from Lesser Scaup, but the features highlighted in this Photo Quiz should allow for a solid identification.

The English name for this species, Ring-necked Duck, may be surprising for many birdwatchers who know quite well that the obvious ring in the species is the white band on the bill. “Ring-billed Duck” would seem more appropriate, but if carefully observed, a ring on the neck can be seen on the drake. It is a subtle dark chestnut band on the lower neck. To appreciate it takes keen eyesight, optimal light and good optics. But then, what’s in a name?

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Abbreviations Used

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

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Winter 2017-18 Late Lingers



This meadowlark shows the difficulties in separating Eastern from Western Meadowlarks visually during the non-breeding season. It was photographed by Jeanne-Marie Maher, 12-4-17, Odiorne SP, Rye, NH, and will be reviewed by the NH Rare Birds Committee as a possible Western.



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher by Jason Lambert, 12-21-18, Rye, NH.



Yellow Warbler by Stephen Mirick, 12-25-17, Bicentennial Park, Hampton, NH.



Yellow-throated Warbler by Jason Lambert, 12-3-17, Seabrook, NH.



Yellow-breasted Chat by Leo McKillop, 12-10-17, Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye, NH.



Red-shouldered Hawk by Jason Lambert, 1-26-18, Strafford, NH.

