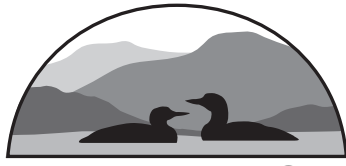


# New Hampshire Bird Records





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IN MEMORY OF

# Chandler S. Robbins

The 2018 issues of *New Hampshire Bird Records* are sponsored by George C. Robbins in memory and honor of his father, Chan Robbins. Each issue has an article by George about his father, highlighting his father's phenomenal accomplishments in the field of ornithology and connections to New Hampshire.



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# Chandler S. Robbins: His third 25 years – 1968-1993

by George C. Robbins

The last segment was a little lengthy, so here I'll touch on a few things that started during the previous 25 years, but were still ongoing in this third 25 years of my Dad's life.

One endeavor was known as the Operation Recovery Program. Initiated by Dad and a few others, this was a coastal bird banding initiative. Many sites along the Atlantic coast were chosen, set up and operated primarily by volunteer bird banders. The requirements to participate in the study were not only to capture, band, and release fall migrants but to also record the weight, wing chord, age and sex of each bird when possible, as well as net-hours each day. The hope was to re-capture birds farther south in their migration and determine how far they had travelled in a single night. Although not enough birds were re-captured to determine that, there were many firsts for the Atlantic coast, including Western Wood-Pewees and a Hammond's Flycatcher caught at Ocean City, MD. There were other firsts for Maryland, including a Rufous Hummingbird and a Western Tanager. Also captured at Ocean City was the first hybrid between a Northern Waterthrush and a Blackpoll Warbler. One interesting result of re-captures showed that many migrants routinely wandered northward for some distance before beginning their southward migration. Operation Recovery was ongoing between 1955 and 1970, when it was brought to an abrupt halt. When an impatient bander complained to the Director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) that Dad was late in publishing a summary of the results, Dad received an immediate cease and desist letter from the Director, saying they should not be studying fall migrant songbirds. Consequently, to this day, reams of information on fall migrating songbirds lie unpublished at Patuxent. Dad still considered Operation Recovery a successful program because some of these coastal banding stations became permanent bird observatories and also because of the training of hundreds of banders who learned to record valuable information about each bird banded. This was the first wide-scale program to record the additional information and was yet another example of the citizen science in which Dad believed so strongly.

Dad now started taking his family with him on some of his major trips. His purpose was always to attend lectures and keep abreast of current ornithological research as an official representative of the USFWS. We went with him to England,

Scotland and Wales in 1966, Alaska in 1968, the Netherlands and Europe in 1970 and 1972, Australia and Tahiti in 1974, and Kenya, the Seychelles, and Mauritius in 1976. These trips were all affiliated with the American Ornithologists Union, International Ornithological Congress, and other official meetings. By the time we (kids) were in our early 20s, we had been all over the world.

One of the topics of discussion at these meetings was the new concept of Breeding Bird Atlases that were ongoing in Europe. At least partly as a consequence of that information, Dad initiated the first Breeding Bird Atlas program in North America in 1971. Starting in 1972 through 2013, Dad not only participated in field work, but was involved in coordinating, editing, consulting and writing species accounts for Breeding Bird Atlas projects in Maryland-DC, New Hampshire, Maine, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia and consulting in many other states. For the New Hampshire atlas, Dad spent weeks here in the state doing field work (1984-1986). He wrote 10 species accounts, including Eastern Whip-poor-will, Purple Martin, and Yellow-throated Vireo, as well as writing the Foreword of the *Atlas of Breeding Birds in New Hampshire*.

At some event where Roger Tory Peterson was speaking, Peterson was asked by a young teen (no, it wasn't I), who is the better birder – you or Chan Robbins? Peterson politely declined to answer, but did say that there was

no one who had better or more well-trained hearing than Chan. Dad had been interested in bird songs since he was very young. As a teenager, a neighbor gave him a tuning fork and suggested he record the exact pitch of birds singing. So, he started very early learning songs and calls. Shortly after he started working at Patuxent, he began writing down cadence (songs per minute), because he had not seen this information published previously. The first time I saw those notes in his field notebooks, I didn't even know what they meant: "Pewee 06 11 18 28 33, etc., Acadian 33 52 11 33 58, etc., Blkpoll 46 54 04 13 etc., Red-eye 22/half min, Y-th Vireo 15/half min, etc." The numbers are measured seconds, which, for example, translated into Eastern Wood-Pewee singing 6-11 times per minute. He also recorded the date, time, temperature, and location for many song intervals of many species over the course of 40 years. Much of this information is included in his *Birds of North America* field guide.

Dad once said that when he was a kid he was just interested in the birds and really didn't pay attention to



Chandler S. Robbins

the habitat. Soon, it became apparent to him that if you didn't have the habitat, you didn't have the birds. So, as he continued (it was kind of a natural progression), he realized that in order to save the birds, you need to save the habitat. Thus began not only his desire to preserve habitat, but his study of what needed to be done to do it the right way. In the mid-1970s, he began what he considered some of his most important work – a forest fragmentation study in Maryland, on breeding territories in hundreds of large and small forest tracts. He and his colleagues determined that it was not good enough to preserve small forest tracts. Many birds, especially the Neotropical migrants, needed large enough tracts of woodlands to successfully rear their young. Small scraps of wild land merely become traps for nesting species. Ample food was not available, and crossing developed areas exposed the birds to too many hazards and predators. The results of these studies helped to change conservation practices. Fewer, but larger, tracts of unbroken habitat were needed, with at least unbroken corridors connecting smaller tracts together.



*On a research trip in a Mexican jungle, Chandler Robbins uses a leaf as an umbrella. Photo by David Holmes, USGS (public domain), from the article: <https://www.usgs.gov/news/chandler-robbins-inspired-generations-scientists-and-birders-1918-2017>*

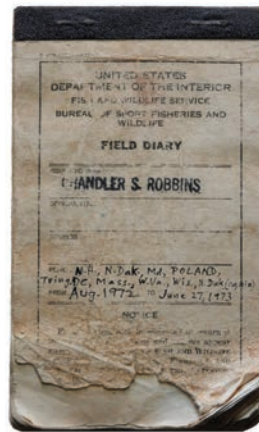
The next phase of the study was done in the tropics, on wintering grounds. Starting in the early 1980s and continuing for nearly 20 years, Dad travelled to Mexico, Central America, and the West Indies to study what the problems were in the winter months where the birds spent more than half of their year. In the tropics, citizen science was once more initiated, as local bird enthusiasts were encouraged to assist Dad and his colleagues. Point counts, as well as mist-netting and banding in different habitats were again on the docket. There has been much habitat destruction in the tropics over the last 50 years, which is why forest fragmentation is an issue there as well as in North America. But although Neotropical migrants require large tracts of unbroken forests to nest, they leave the larger tracts to the resident tropical birds, and utilize the smaller broken tracts for wintering grounds so they are not required to compete for food with the resident species. All of this research was at least, in part, initiated because the results of

the Breeding Bird Survey routes had begun to show long term trends of declines in many of the Neotropical migrant species.

Back in 1976, with two other people, Dad was tasked with drafting and negotiating a USA/Soviet Union Migratory Bird Treaty, which was not only to protect the birds, but the habitats they required. That treaty became the model for future treaties. Also during this period, Dad found time to work on the revision of his field guide, which was published in 1983.

His field diaries, as I have mentioned before, contain invaluable information. I am sure that some have been lost over the years, but one notebook (shown here), which he used over a 10 month span in 1972 and 1973, contains information from no less than 10 places: New Hampshire, North Dakota (twice), Maryland, Poland, Tring (England), Washington DC, Massachusetts, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. Dad went everywhere and kept meticulous notes to document the birds he encountered. Most notes were of the birds he saw or heard, but times, distances, locations, costs and contacts were also noted.

Dad spent a few days, or a few weeks, in New Hampshire most years during this time period. He would visit in order to survey Atlas blocks or he would visit Berry Bay in Freedom for a chance to climb mountains, swim and relax. On any visit, he was seldom far from paperwork that he always brought with him, but he never failed to find time to make notes about the birds he saw. The Purple Martin colony in Effingham Falls was close enough that



*Chan Robbins Field Diary, 1972-73 (10 months).*

birds from that colony could be heard flying over the lake at Berry Bay and whip-poor-wills and Common Nighthawks hunted over the lake in the evening. One year, during field work for the New Hampshire Atlas, while he was climbing Mount Chocorua (7-1-1985), he saw a female Spruce Grouse with two small chicks. Of course, he thoroughly described the encounter:

“Spruce Grouse (female symbol) w/2 downy yg, yellow w/ black eyebrow and orange crown patch. Legs yellow. Only low clucking from (female symbol). Walked away very slowly. One chick crouched motionless for several minutes. W. side Liberty Trail w/in 1/10th mi. of its top end.”

This ends the third installment of Chan Robbins' life. His final years will be detailed in the next issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*.

# Photo Gallery – New Hampshire’s First Wood Stork

This Wood Stork appeared at Pickering Ponds in Rochester on 8-9-18 and stayed until 8-19-18. There were so many great photos taken of this bird that we wanted to share them with you. – Ed.

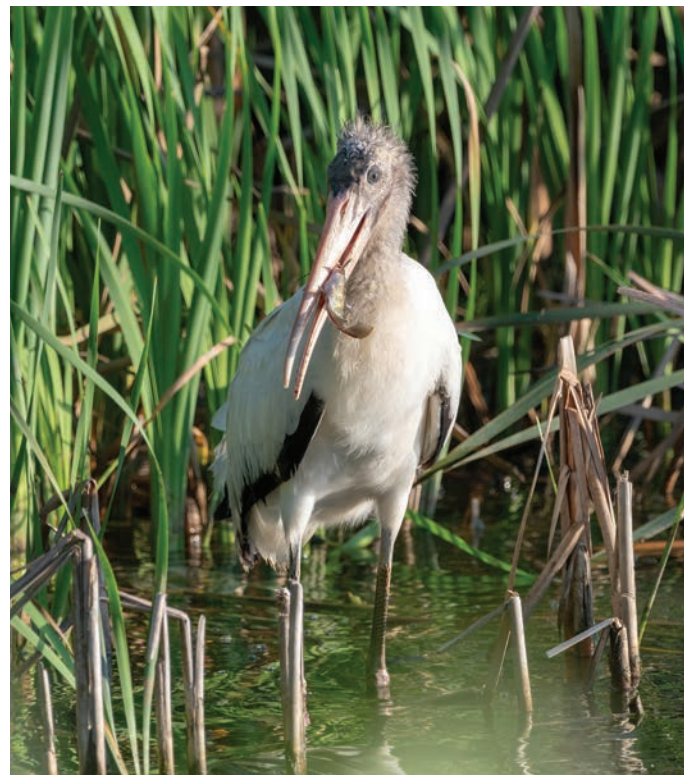
All photos were taken at Pickering Ponds in Rochester, NH.



*Debra Powers,  
8-10-18.*



*Stephen R. Mirick, 8-9-18.*



*Leo McKillop, 8-9-18.*



*Series of Three by Len Medlock, 8-11-18.*

**Aug. 1 through Nov. 30, 2018**

by Benjamin Griffith



The fall of 2018 was cool and wet, with the highest precipitation since 2011 for September through November and the lowest average temperature since 2013 for the same period. Although the average weather was cool, a few strong warm fronts resulted in “bouts” of rare southern species. One in early

August precipitated a state-first **Wood Stork** and **Neotropic Cormorant** as well as a **Swallow-tailed Kite**, while one in November was highlighted by New Hampshire’s fifth **Ash-throated Flycatcher**, a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher**, and a **Hooded Warbler**.

Otherwise a state-first **South Polar Skua** highlighted a long list of rarities including a **Barnacle Goose**, **Townsend’s Solitaire**, **LeConte’s Sparrow**, and **Western Tanager**. Notable events during the season included an excellent year for northern-breeding warblers, a quiet year for Common Nighthawks, several bizarre records of migrants above tree line, high counts of **Pomarine Jaegers** and early irruptions of finches and waxwings.



*Wood Stork by Jason Lambert, 8-12-18, Pickering Ponds, Rochester, NH.*

**Waterfowl**

Although Snow Geese were reported more widely than in recent falls, the two high counts were 15 individuals each, which is the lowest since 2013. A single Snow Goose was first reported on the New Hampshire coast on October 13. Presumably the same individual spent the fall with a flock of Canada Geese and was reported from a number of locations, providing many photo ops as it fed on the grassy lawn of one of the “mansions” in North Hampton. A Greater White-fronted Goose in Rochester was apparently the Western subspecies, which is less expected than the Greenland subspecies in the state. Photos showed unmarked white undertail coverts (vs. barred black in most Greenland),

a pinkish-yellow bill (vs. orange-yellow) and a grayer overall tone to its plumage (vs. browner), in addition to a more slender overall build that help identify this subspecies. As most of these characteristics are comparative, experience with the species is beneficial for trying to sort out subspecies. Two **Cackling Geese** were photographed days apart and represent rare well-documented records of a species which can be easily confused with the highly variable Canada Goose. A **Barnacle Goose** first noticed flying by Odiorne Point State Park was likely also observed near Jenness Beach, although the second observation was initially reported as a “blue” Snow Goose (see Jim Sparrell’s story in this issue). Remarkably, the only other fall record of this species (2007) was also observed migrating with a small flock of Canada Geese on the NH coast in Rye. A large flock of Brant was observed at Pack Monadnock. This species is a scarce migrant inland and most often seen as flyovers such as this.



*Greater White-fronted Goose by Kyle Wilmarth, 9-30-18, Dover, NH.*

Mute Swans were reported by several observers in Meredith, farther north than the species typically occurs in the state. The species has virtually disappeared from many of its usual haunts on the coast. Elsewhere in the state, a swan reported from Pack Monadnock in September was likely a Mute Swan, but the location is far enough from known populations to question whether it could have been a Tundra or Trumpeter. A Redhead on Eel Pond was the only “pochard” of the fall (there were no Canvasbacks observed) as has been typical of recent years. The only other unusual duck of the fall was a “one-day-wonder” female King Eider reported from North Hampton State Beach. Two Barrow’s Goldeneyes, a species which often isn’t reported until winter when more inland water bodies freeze, were reported from opposite sides of the state including a now-repeating male in Errol. Ruddy Ducks were generally found at the typical locations in the southeastern part of the state, but single birds were also reported from Swanzy and Lancaster.



Redhead by Len Medlock, 10-28-18, Eel Pond, Rye, NH.

Date # Location Observer

**Snow Goose**

09/14	1	Bellamy River WMA, Dover	M. Suomala, B. Hopkins
10/18	15	Pondicherry NWR	H. Burns
10/20	1	Rt. 2, Randolph	P.& L. Charron
10/20	15	Sunapee	M. Levasseur
11/17	1	Fuller Mansion, Rt. 1A, N. Hampton	J. Parrot-Willis

**Greater White-fronted Goose**

09/27	1	Rochester WTP	M. Wilson, et al.
10/03	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	C. Breen

**Brant**

09/17	1	Rye Harbor SP	P. Kirkhart, J. Lambert, J. Maher
10/07	1	Lebanon Municipal Airport	W. Scott
10/16	50	Pack Monadnock RO	C. Witko
10/16	25	Rye Harbor SP	L. McKillop
10/17	1	Cold R. near Rt. 123, Walpole	B. Jenisch
11/12	30	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	M. Viens, M. Watson
11/15	11	Little Boars Head, N. Hampton	K. Fenton

**Barnacle Goose**

11/12	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	J. Sparrell, et al.
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**Cackling Goose**

11/13	1	Newton Rd., Plaistow	K. Wilmarth, H. Otto
11/15	1	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	S. Wisley

**Mute Swan**

08/09	1	Birch Brook at Heron Pond Rd., Milford	D. Maxwell
09/01	2	L. Winnepesaukee, Meredith	J. Welch
10/17	2	Powwow Pond, Kingston	H. Burns
11/12	4	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth

**Swan sp.**

09/20	1	Pack Monadnock RO	C. Witko, et al.
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**Wood Duck**

08/13	63	Copps Pond WMA, Tuftonboro	G.& A. Robbins
09/05	81	Colebrook WTP	L. Charron
09/29	55	Monadnock Branch Trail, Rindge	C. Caron
10/07	55	Thompson WS, Sandwich	P. Brown, K. Klapper, et al.

**Blue-winged Teal**

08/17	1	Thirty Pines area, Penacook	P. Hunt
08/18	1	Exeter WTP	L. McKillop, C. McPherson
08/19	1	Umbagog NWR	K. Fenton
08/27	14	Rochester WTP	G.& A. Robbins

Date	#	Location	Observer
09/02	15	Exeter WTP	R. Suomala
09/07	17	Mile Long Pond, Androscoggin R., Errol	A. Griffin
09/11	18	Eel Pond, Rye	S. Mirick
09/19	21	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
11/12	1	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	S. Jaffe
11/15	1	Eel Pond, Rye	H. Bauer



Blue-winged Teal by Leo McKillop, 9-16-18, Exeter WTP, NH.

**Northern Shoveler**

09/08	1	Exeter WTP	M. Watson, P. Miliotis, L. McKillop
09/12	3	Rochester WTP	M. Suomala, B. Hopkins
09/13	1	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	S. Jaffe
10/08	1	Cherry Pond, Jefferson	D. Govatski
10/16	2	Horseshoe Pond, Merrimack	C. Sheridan
10/19	1	Rockingham Rec. Trail, Manchester	C. Sheridan
10/20	7	Exeter WTP	L. McKillop, Z. Cornell, S. Bennett
11/23	2	Great Meadow, Danville	M. Medeiros

**Gadwall**

08/02	2	River Trail near Mink Brook, Hanover	J. Norton
10/21	1	Eel Pond, Rye	K.& A. Wilmarth, R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
11/14	4	Meloon Rd., Greenland	A. Passer
11/16	1	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer

**American Wigeon**

10/14	85	Great Bay, Weeks Pt., Greenland	J. Maher
10/19	1	Powwow Pond, Kingston	K. Wilmarth
11/12	1	Dingman Farm, Kensington	D. Finch
11/15	1	St. Gaudens NHS, Cornish	A. Mejia, K. Jones

**American Black Duck**

10/28	200	Great Bay Discovery Ctr., Greenland	A.& J. Price
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**Green-winged Teal**

08/04	7	Exeter WTP	L. McKillop
08/24	12	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer
09/20	31	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer
10/20	4	Cherry Pond, Jefferson	K. Toomey
11/04	32	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer

# FALL SEASON

*Date # Location Observer*

## Redhead

10/14 1 Eel Pond, Rye J. Sparrell, et al.  
11/01 1 Eel Pond, Rye P. Wood

## Ring-necked Duck

10/19 149 Powwow Pond, Kingston S. Mirick  
10/20 84 Cherry Pond, Jefferson K. Toomey  
10/27 1 Androscoggin R. at Rt. 16, Errol P.& L. Charron

## Greater Scaup

09/11 2 Sunset Farm, Greenland S. Mirick  
09/27 1 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye P. Hunt  
11/21 50 Osprey Cove, Great Bay, Greenland K. Wilmarth

## Lesser Scaup

10/03 1 Rochester WTP S. Mirick  
11/07 1 Lancaster WTP S. Stoddard  
11/25 5 Exeter WTP L. McKillop

## King Eider

09/08 1 N. Hampton State Beach C. McPherson, et al.

## Surf Scoter

09/01 1 Plaice Cove, Hampton S. Mirick  
10/08 3 Androscoggin R. at Rt. 16, Errol D.& G. Dionne  
10/18 2 Androscoggin R., Gorham K. Toomey  
10/20 291 NH coast S. Mirick

## White-winged Scoter

08/26 1 Plaice Cove, Hampton S. Mirick, L. McKillop  
09/25 87 Rye Harbor SP S. Mirick  
10/08 26 Mascoma L., Enfield W. Scott



*Black Scoter by Len Medlock, 8-12-18, Plaice Cove, Hampton, NH.*

## Black Scoter

08/12 7 Plaice Cove, Hampton L. Medlock  
10/08 81 Cherry Pond, Jefferson D. Govatski  
10/16 29 Cherry Pond, Jefferson K. Toomey  
10/20 282 NH coast S. Mirick  
11/07 550 NH coast J. Maher

## Long-tailed Duck

10/16 5 Cherry Pond, Jefferson D. Govatski  
10/18 1 Upper Suncook Rec. Area, Barnstead J. Lambert  
10/20 6 NH coast S. Mirick  
10/27 50 Rye Harbor SP K. Wilmarth, R. Prieto, et al.  
11/11 2 Upper Baker Pond, Orford W. Scott

*Date # Location Observer*

11/16 1 North R. Pond, Northwood S. Hale

## Barrow's Goldeneye

11/17 1 Androscoggin R. at Rt. 16, Errol P.& L. Charron  
11/23 1 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye S. Mirick

## Hooded Merganser

10/29 56 Basin Pond, Chatham B. Crowley  
10/30 32 Arlington Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth  
11/13 47 Locke Lake, Barnstead J. Lambert  
11/17 42 Lakeview Dr., Strafford S. Young

## Common Merganser

11/06 67 Wilson Pond, Swanzey S. Jaffe  
11/12 50 Lake Katherine, Piermont E. Marie  
11/12 40 Range Rd., Sandwich K. Klapper

## Red-breasted Merganser

08/01 1 Little Boars Head, N. Hampton S. Mirick  
10/20 47 NH coast S. Mirick  
10/27 85 Rye Harbor SP K. Wilmarth, R. Prieto, et al.  
10/28 1 Tolman Pond, Nelson H. Strauss  
10/30 11 Cherry Pond, Jefferson D. Govatski  
11/05 1 Pilothouse Rd., New London D. Jackson

## Ruddy Duck

10/04 1 Rt. 135, Lancaster A. Griffin  
10/04 1 Rye Harbor SP C. Fields  
10/08 1 Pickering Ponds, Rochester A. Murray  
10/19 14 Powwow Pond, Kingston S. Mirick  
10/28 25 Pickering Ponds, Rochester A. Murray  
11/06 1 Wilson Pond, Swanzey S. Jaffe

## Spruce Grouse

08/12 2 Cascade Mt. Trail, Success M. Daw  
08/23 1 Dickey Mtn., Waterville Valley J. Holt  
08/24 3 Mt. Waumbeck, WMNF G. Robbins  
09/30 2 Carter-Moriah Trail, WMNF J. Carlson  
11/09 1 Zealand Mt., WMNF C. Underwood

## Pied-billed Grebe

08/01 5 Panorama Golf Course, Colebrook L. Charron  
08/13 9 Cops Pond WMA, Tuftonboro G.& A. Robbins  
09/30 4 Cherry Pond, Jefferson T. McShane  
11/14 1 Meloon Rd., Greenland A. Passer

## Horned Grebe

09/22 2 Cherry Pond, Jefferson K. Toomey  
10/18 1 Upper Suncook Rec. Area, Barnstead J. Lambert  
10/21 2 Pleasant L., New London J. Esten  
10/23 1 North Beach, Hampton H. Bauer  
11/11 6 NH coast S. Heron  
11/24 1 Sewall Rd., Wolfeboro M. Harvey  
11/25 1 Wilder Dam Reservoir, Lebanon W. Scott

## Red-necked Grebe

08/11 1 Umbagog NWR J. Keator  
08/27 1 Potter Farm Rd., Errol R. Quinn  
09/09 1 Sunset Farm, Greenland S. Mirick  
09/20 1 Wilder Dam Reservoir, Lebanon W. Scott  
11/23 9 Pulpit Rocks, Rye P. Hunt, R. Suomala, Z. Cornell  
11/24 7 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye K. Towler, J. Sparrell



**Grouse through Cranes**



*Yellow-billed Cuckoo by Jason Lambert, 10-20-18, Odiorne Point SP, Rye, NH.*

Spruce Grouse were reported in good numbers from expected high elevation or far-northern locations. Both Horned and Red-necked Grebes were found at locations in Coos County approximately a month earlier than they typically arrive. Warm weather in late October frequently brings good numbers of Yellow-billed Cuckoos to the coast, but this season was exceptionally good, with a high count of three at Odiorne Point State Park for a species rarely seen in multiples. Even more exceptional were the three records in the space of two days from Coos County, including one on Mount Washington. Black-billed Cuckoos typically migrate a bit earlier and the last record of the fall came earlier than most of the Yellow-billed reports.

Tallying Common Nighthawks foraging in the evening on their southward migration has been a recent effort of NH Audubon’s Capital Area Chapter and has resulted in regular daily counts of over a thousand birds. This year had more total birds than last year, but there was only one day over 1,000 birds (in contrast, there have been two days that have exceeded 1,000 individuals every year since 2014). See the Concord nighthawk migration summary elsewhere in this issue. Interestingly, the two highest counts of Eastern Whip-poor-wills occurred during the September new moon; this species’ vocalizations typically peak with the full moon. A Chimney Swift on November 4 was the second latest on record for the state (latest on 11-8-05 by Davis Finch, per *The Birds of New Hampshire* by Keith & Fox). Luckily, observers photographed the species well enough to eliminate the similar Vaux’s Swift, which is a known vagrant to eastern North America and should be seriously considered with any unseasonable “Chimney” Swift.

A Virginia Rail was convincingly described from above tree line on Mount Pierce in November. Although far from their expected emergent marsh habitat, the high elevations in the

White Mountains appear to “trap” birds in a similar manner to islands. This extremely scarce habitat has resulted in a disproportionate number of records in recent years, especially when one considers that it’s not usually viewed as a “prime” fall birding destination. A Common Gallinule in Concord was rare, but the species has been reported almost annually in recent falls. It was a quiet fall for coots, with a high count of six considerably below average for the species. Sandhill Cranes were once a real rarity in fall, but they have become expected in small numbers; however, a flock of 35 migrating over Nashua set a new record high count for the state.



*A flock of 35 Sandhill Cranes seen and photographed by David Deifik flying over Nashua, NH on 11-11-18 was a new high count for the state.*

*Date # Location Observer*

**Mourning Dove**

09/28 305 Morrill’s Farm, Penacook P. Hunt, U. Dienes

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo**

09/17 2 Call Rd., Webster R. Quinn  
 10/09 2 Great Bay NWR S. Dodgin  
 10/14 1 Lancaster WTP L. Charron, D. Dionne  
 10/14 1 Fort Hill WMA, Stratford L. Charron, D. Dionne  
 10/15 1 Mt. Washington Auto Road W. Broussard  
 10/20 3 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye S. Mirick, J. Lambert  
 10/28 1 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye J. Parrot-Willis, S. Wong, P. Low

**Black-billed Cuckoo**

09/13 1 Pickering Ponds, Rochester C. Breen  
 09/22 1 Star Island, Isles of Shoals E. Masterson, et al.  
 10/06 1 Turtle Brook, Bethlehem D. Ellis

## FALL SEASON

Date # Location Observer

### Common Nighthawk

08/24 1681 Capital Commons Garage, Concord Z. Cornell, et al.  
 08/25 761 Capital Commons Garage, Concord Z. Cornell, et al.  
 09/20 1 Rt. 12, Westmoreland W. Ward  
 10/01 2 Exeter WTP S. Stoddard

### Eastern Whip-poor-will

09/07 6 Copp Dr., Freemont C. Smith  
 09/08 2 Federal Hill Rd., Milford M. Nickerson

### Chimney Swift

08/29 170 Capital Commons Garage, Concord Z. Cornell, et al.  
 10/10 1 World End Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth  
 11/04 1 Bicentennial Park, Hampton S.& J. Mirick, BBC FT

### Ruby-throated Hummingbird

08/18 12 Green Hill Rd., Chatham B. Crowley  
 08/26 10 Woodmont Orchard, Hollis C. McPherson  
 09/26 1 Errol L. Charron  
 10/04 1 Stumpfield Rd., E. Kingston V. Brown  
 10/09 1 Storrs Rd., Hanover L. Morin

### Virginia Rail

08/23 7 World End Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth  
 10/28 1 Great Bay Discovery Ctr., Greenland A.& J. Price  
 11/11 1 Crawford Path between Mts. Pierce and Eisenhower, WMNF K. Shulgina

### Sora

09/09 1 Rochester WTP D. Hubbard, Seacoast CFT  
 09/27 2 Bodwell Farm, E. Kingston G. Gavutis Jr  
 10/17 2 World End Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth  
 11/30 1 Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton S. Wrisley

### Common Gallinule

09/30 1 Morrill's Farm, Penacook C. Foss

### American Coot

09/29 1 Upper Suncook Rec. Area, Barnstead J. Lambert  
 10/20 1 Horseshoe Pond, Concord R.& M. Suomala, et al.  
 10/31 2 World End Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth  
 11/02 1 Horseshoe Pond, Merrimack C. McPherson  
 11/04 6 Eel Pond, Rye H. Burns

### Sandhill Crane

08/01 3 Rt. 135, Monroe J. MacQueen  
 09/19 2 Ledge Farm Rd. at Rt. 156, Nottingham S.& M. Crowley  
 10/07 1 Keene State WMA P. Kirkhart  
 10/07 3 Monroe fields S. Turner  
 10/12 1 Rt. 103, Bradford S. Lamonde  
 11/16 3 Pinch Hill Rd., Rollinsford S. Mirick, J. Lambert

## Shorebirds through Terns

American Oystercatchers lingered late into the fall on the Isles of Shoals for the fourth straight year, but remain exceptionally rare in fall on the mainland (only one record ever) during the season. The three oystercatchers on Star Island on September 12 comprised two adults and a juvenile, helping to fuel speculation that they are breeding somewhere at the Isles of Shoals. Godwits have been extremely scarce

in recent years, but this years' six Hudsonian Godwits and single Marbled Godwit were much closer to historical counts. Remarkably, one of the Hudsonian Godwits was reported from Charlestown, only a year after the first inland record of this species! It was a good year for Baird's Sandpipers, with at least nine individuals reported, five of which were inland (as with most shorebird species, Baird's Sandpiper is typically recorded coastally). Interestingly, two of these reports came from above tree line, a habitat preferentially used by the species in the western United States. White-rumped Sandpipers also had an above average number of inland reports, coincidentally also with five reported during the season. There was only one Buff-breasted Sandpiper report this fall, slightly below the recent seasonal average. Five Western Sandpipers was about average for this sometimes tricky to identify species. As is typical, all reports were of juveniles, the easier to identify plumage of this species. Concentrations of Pectoral Sandpiper occasionally occur in inland flooded fields and the wet fall seemingly created ideal conditions as double-digit counts were reported from three locations in southern New Hampshire.



Marbled Godwit by Kyle Wilmarth, 8-18-18, Hampton, NH.

A report of 84 Short-billed Dowitchers was the highest fall count since 2009 (although there is a higher count from southbound migration in July 2012). A Short-billed Dowitcher of the subspecies *hendersoni*, which migrates primarily farther south along the Atlantic coast in fall, was recorded from the Rochester Wastewater Treatment Plant. This is the first report since 2015, but this may be partly a result of obscurity rather than rarity. Observers are encouraged to look at any dowitchers in breeding plumage for the orange to extend onto the underparts combined with weaker barring on the flanks. A Wilson's Phalarope

was reported from the Little River Saltmarsh, the tenth report for the state in as many years. This location has been somewhat of a hotspot for the species with three of those ten records coming from this site. A **Red Phalarope** at the Exeter Wastewater Treatment Plant was initially identified as a Red-



*Red Phalarope by Len Medlock, 10-20-18, Exeter WTP, NH.*

necked Phalarope. Given the date in late October, Red is the far more likely species. This is the first fall record since 2015, although an October 2016 record may also pertain to this species. Three Red-necked Phalaropes, primarily a pelagic species but annual inland, were

reported inland in early September, which is when the species is more expected to occur. A “Western” Willet was notable, but the sub-species has become increasingly regular in the state in recent years and is now nearly annual.

The fall of 2018 was “big” for jaegers offshore, with the small species, Long-tailed and Parasitic, almost completely absent, except for two reports of Parasitic (both from shore), but with large species (Pomarine) reported in unprecedented numbers. An immature **South Polar Skua** was photographed extensively during one of NH Audubon’s pelagic trips, establishing a first state record of this species.

The fall pelagic trips resulted in five and seven Pomarine Jaegers, the two highest fall counts for the species, with several other reports from additional offshore trips. Observers on a late-November boat reported



*South Polar Skua by Susan Wrisley, 9-4-18, offshore waters, NH.*

Common Murre, Dovekie, and Atlantic Puffin, all expected at this date offshore during flat seas, but infrequently reported due to lack of coverage.

A large congregation of Bonaparte’s Gulls was present in September in the mouth of Little Harbor, but no Little or Black-headed Gulls were reported. These two species are most likely to be seen with large flocks of Bonaparte’s Gulls. A Glaucous Gull during a storm in early November was on the early side for this Arctic-breeding species, while the adult reported on November 30 marked the 11<sup>th</sup> year that this individual has returned to the same location in Seabrook. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were observed in good numbers during September, which appears to be the best time to look for them. It was a good fall for Caspian Terns, which continue to increase in frequency in the state, with a high count of 27 recorded migrating by Rye Harbor State Park over the course of 2 hours. Medium-sized terns were scarce, with only one report of Roseate Terns on the coast and most Common Terns departing in early August, rather than staging in Hampton Harbor as they have in recent years. Three Forster’s Terns was about typical for the species after it resumed its status as a scarcity after a “bump” in abundance between 2008 and 2012, when between 18 and 40 birds were reported in Hampton Harbor each year.

*Date # Location Observer*

**American Oystercatcher**

09/12	3	Star Island, Isles of Shoals	H. Bauer
09/17	4	Lunging Island, Isles of Shoals	K. Wilmarth, S. Mirick, Seacoast CFT
09/30	1	Star Island, Isles of Shoals	H. Otto, S. Graydon, C. McPherson

**Black-bellied Plover**

08/11	2	Salmon Falls R., Dover	R. Dixon
08/12	2	Castle Shore Rd., Moultonborough	M. Dow
08/16	1	Derry WTP	S. Mirick
08/26	96	Hampton River Marina	P. Miliotis
10/03	2	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray, C. Breen, S. Mirick
10/25	7	Rt. 155A fields, Durham	K. Dorsey
11/18	2	Seabrook Beach	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
11/18	1	Hampton Harbor	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell



*American Golden-Plover by Jason Lambert, 9-18-18, Hampton, NH.*

# FALL SEASON

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
<b>American Golden-Plover</b>							
09/08	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	S. Mirick	10/14	1	Old Claremont Rd. at N. Hemlock Rd., Charlestown	S. McCumber
09/10	1	Hampton River Marina	P. Hunt	10/21	2	Bicentennial Park, Hampton	J. Lambert
09/16	1	Pack Monadnock RO	K. Fenton	<b>Marbled Godwit</b>			
09/29	2	Star Island, Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, et al.	08/18	1	Hampton Harbor	S.& J. Mirick, et al.
10/31	1	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	N. Houlihan	08/25	1	Hampton Harbor	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, et al.
11/03	1	Hampton Beach SP	K. Wilmarth	<b>Ruddy Turnstone</b>			
<b>Semipalmated Plover</b>							
08/20	309	Plaice Cove, Hampton	P. Hunt	08/10	22	Rt. 1A second pullout s. of Odiorne Pt., Rye	J. Pettipas, J. Bourget, S. Wrisley
08/26	250	Hampton Harbor	K.& A. Wilmarth	08/11	45	NH coast	S. Mirick
09/06	6	Sweat Meadow, Errol	N. Houlihan	11/03	2	Rye Harbor SP	J. Lambert
09/10	325	Plaice Cove, Hampton	P. Hunt	<b>Red Knot</b>			
10/03	8	Rochester WTP	S. Lauermann	08/25	2	Hampton River Marina	M. Resch, et al.
11/07	3	NH coast	J. Maher	08/26	1	Yankee Fisherman's Coop., Seabrook	H. Bauer, K.& A. Wilmarth
11/12	1	NH coast	J. Maher	09/19	2	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer
11/23	1	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick	09/27	1	Hampton Harbor	J. Maher
<b>Piping Plover</b>							
08/05	4	Hampton Harbor	S. Wrisley	10/05	1	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer
08/19	1	Rt. 1A dunes, Seabrook	S. McInnis, S. Mac	<b>Stilt Sandpiper</b>			
<b>Killdeer</b>							
10/10	30	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt, U. Dienes	08/01	1	Rt. 1A wooden bridge, Rye	D. Heitzmann, K. Towler, J. Sparrell
11/04	3	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt, U. Dienes	08/08	9	Hampton Salt Marsh CA	L. McKillop
11/12	1	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt, U. Dienes	08/24	1	Rochester WTP	L. Charron, D. Dionne, L. McKillop, J. Lambert
11/18	1	Exeter WTP	L. McKillop	09/30	1	Exeter WTP	P. Wood
<b>Upland Sandpiper</b>							
08/16	4	Portsmouth Int'l. Airport at Pease	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell	10/03	1	Hampton Salt Marsh CA	S. Mirick
08/18	2	Portsmouth Int'l. Airport at Pease	Z. Cornell	<b>Sanderling</b>			
<b>Whimbrel</b>							
08/04	1	Exeter WTP	P. Miliotis	08/16	1	Derry WTP	S. Mirick
08/04	1	NH coast	S. Mirick	09/02	1	Exeter WTP	K. Towler, J. Sparrell
08/19	6	Plaice Cove, Hampton	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell	09/08	85	NH coast	K. Wilmarth
09/01	4	Star Island, Isles of Shoals	C. Lentz	09/09	1	Sunapee Lake	D. Jackson
09/01	8	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	K. Wilmarth	10/08	1	Exeter WTP	P. Miliotis
09/15	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	S. Mirick, et al.	10/12	65	Hampton Beach SP	P. Phillips
09/17	2	Star Island, Isles of Shoals	K. Wilmarth, S. Mirick, Seacoast CFT	11/07	33	Rye Harbor SP	D. Hubbard
<b>Hudsonian Godwit</b>							
08/20	3	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer	11/23	1	Seabrook Beach	P. Hunt, R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
<b>Dunlin</b>							
09/01	1	Plaice Cove, Hampton	L. McKillop, S.& J. Mirick	09/01	1	Plaice Cove, Hampton	L. McKillop, S.& J. Mirick
10/07	2	Charlestown WTP	D. Jackson	10/07	2	Charlestown WTP	D. Jackson
10/10	1	Rochester WTP	L. McKillop	10/10	1	Rochester WTP	L. McKillop
10/14	1	Lancaster WTP	L. Charron, D. Dionne	10/14	1	Lancaster WTP	L. Charron, D. Dionne



*Stilt Sandpiper by Jason Lambert, 9-9-18, Hampton, NH.*



*Whimbrel by Len Medlock, 8-12-18, Plaice Cove, Hampton, NH.*

Date	#	Location	Observer
10/14	1	Copps Pond WMA, Tuftonboro	G.& A. Robbins
10/17	1	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
10/18	2	Turtle Pond, Concord	G.& A. Robbins
10/19	3	Rochester WTP	P. Laipis
10/24	1	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
10/28	235	NH coast	J. Maher
10/31	180	Hampton River Marina	S. Stoddard
11/07	245	NH coast	J. Maher
11/18	158	Seabrook Beach	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell

**Purple Sandpiper**

10/27	4	Rye Harbor SP	J. Lambert
10/28	17	Rye Harbor SP	P. Clement, L. Lee
11/23	21	Rt. 1A, stone angel pullout, Rye	P. Hunt, R. Suomala, Z. Cornell

**Baird's Sandpiper**

08/19	1	Mt. Moosilauke, Benton	S. Lamonde, et al.
08/24	1	Mt. Washington Auto Road	D. Grant
08/25	1	Charlestown WTP	D. Jackson, et al.
08/31	1	Henrys pool, Rt. 101E, Hampton	P. Hunt
09/02	1	Rt. 1A second pullout s. of Odiorne Pt., Rye	D. Moulton
09/06	2	Bicentennial Park, Hampton	S. Mirick, et al.
09/14	1	Rochester WTP	R. Prieto

**Least Sandpiper**

08/10	50	Foss Beach, Rye	S. Heron
09/07	95	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
10/19	6	Rochester WTP	P. Laipis
10/21	1	Eel Pond, Rye	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell

**White-rumped Sandpiper**

08/11	14	NH coast	S. Mirick
08/26	12	Hampton Harbor	K.& A. Wilmarth
09/03	1	Lubberland Creek Preserve, Newmarket	K. Dorsey
09/18	1	Rochester WTP	J. Lambert
10/07	1	Exeter WTP	J. Lambert, L. McKillop
10/14	1	Copps Pond WMA, Tuftonboro	G.& A. Robbins
10/26	10	Rye Harbor SP	R. Prieto
10/28	1	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
11/03	2	Charlestown WTP	D. Jackson
11/09	1	Rye Harbor SP	R. Quinn, M. Foley, I. Brintnall

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper**

09/06	2	Plaice Cove, Hampton	S. Mirick
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*Buff-breasted Sandpiper by Steve Mirick, 9-6-18, Plaice Cove, Hampton, NH.*

Date	#	Location	Observer
10/08	20	Charlestown WTP	K. Cox
10/08	10	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
10/14	10	Exeter WTP	R.& K. Frieden
10/16	19	Locke Rd. sod farm, Concord	D. Lania
10/27	13	Rt. 155A fields, Durham	K. Dorsey
11/04	2	Hoit Rd. Marsh WMA, Concord	P. Hunt
11/08	1	Hampton Salt Marsh CA	S. Mirick

**Semipalmated Sandpiper**

08/16	890	Hampton Salt Marsh CA	D. Small, M. Gimpel
08/20	815	Plaice Cove, Hampton	P. Hunt
09/10	75	Rochester WTP	L. McKillop
11/07	3	NH coast	J. Maher

**Western Sandpiper**

08/25	2	Plaice Cove, Hampton	M. Resch, C. McPherson
08/27	1	Hampton Harbor	J. Maher
08/30	1	Rt. 1A second pullout s. of Odiorne Pt., Rye	H. Bauer
09/12	1	Plaice Cove, Hampton	P. Moynahan, N. Houlihan

**Short-billed Dowitcher**

08/04	84	NH coast	S. Mirick
08/26	35	Meadow Pond, Hampton	S. Mirick
10/08	1	Exeter WTP	P. Miliotis
10/15	1	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer

**Short-billed Dowitcher - hendersoni subsp.**

08/14	1	Rochester WTP	L. McKillop
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**Wilson's Snipe**

10/15	8	Peachblow Farm, Charlestown	D. Clark, M. Adams, S. McCumber
11/06	1	Gorham	K. Toomey
11/11	1	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	P. Hunt

**Wilson's Phalarope**

08/18	1	Little River saltmarsh, N. Hampton	S.& J. Mirick, et al.
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*Red-necked Phalarope by Jim Sparrell, 9-17-18, offshore waters, NH.*

**Red-necked Phalarope**

09/04	23	Jeffreys Ledge	J. Woolf, S. Mirick, NHA FT
09/05	2	Newfound L., Bristol	R. Schain
09/08	1	Charlestown WTP	D. Jackson

**Red Phalarope**

10/20	1	Exeter WTP	L. McKillop, et al.
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**Spotted Sandpiper**

08/01	17	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	J. Sparrell, K. Towler
11/03	1	Opechee Bay, Laconia	K.& L. Elwell
11/15	1	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard

# FALL SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Solitary Sandpiper</b>			
09/28	8	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt, U. Dienes
10/28	1	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
10/29	1	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth

<b>Greater Yellowlegs</b>			
09/24	136	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer
10/20	1	Lake Durand, Randolph	P.&L. Charron

<b>Willet</b>			
08/02	4	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer
09/09	1	Rt. 1A second pullout s. of Odiorne Pt., Rye	R. Prieto

<b>Willet - Western subsp.</b>			
08/08	1	Rt. 1A second pullout s. of Odiorne Pt., Rye	S. Mirick
09/11	1	Pollock Dr. saltmarsh, Rye	S. Mirick

<b>Lesser Yellowlegs</b>			
08/18	35	Little River saltmarsh, N. Hampton	K. Wilmarth
08/25	4	Charlestown WTP	E. Masterson
08/31	13	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
09/06	40	Meadow Pond, Hampton	J. Pettipas, S. Wisley
11/02	1	Birch St. Community Gardens, Concord	S. Oosterveen
11/26	1	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer



*South Polar Skua by Steve Bennett, 9-4-18, offshore waters, NH.*

<b>South Polar Skua</b>			
09/04	1	Jeffreys Ledge	J. Woolf, S. Mirick, NHA FT

<b>Pomarine Jaeger</b>			
09/04	5	Jeffreys Ledge	J. Woolf, S. Mirick, NHA FT
09/17	7	offshore waters	K. Wilmarth, S. Mirick, Seacoast CFT
11/12	2	offshore waters	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
11/30	1	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, J. Lambert

<b>Parasitic Jaeger</b>			
09/25	1	Rye Harbor SP	S. Mirick
11/03	1	Rye Harbor SP	J. Lambert

<b>Dovekie</b>			
11/30	133	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, J. Lambert

<b>Common Murre</b>			
11/30	1	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, J. Lambert

<b>Common/Thick-billed Murre</b>			
10/20	1	Rye Harbor SP	P. Laipis

<b>Razorbill</b>			
10/27	2	Rye Harbor SP	K. Wilmarth
11/09	8	Rye Harbor SP	K. Fenton
11/25	25	Pulpit Rocks, Rye	M. Harvey

Date	#	Location	Observer
11/30	9	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, J. Lambert

<b>Large alcid sp.</b>			
11/25	12	Pulpit Rocks, Rye	M. Harvey

<b>Atlantic Puffin</b>			
11/30	7	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, J. Lambert

<b>Black-legged Kittiwake</b>			
10/20	1	Little Boars Head, N. Hampton	S. Mirick, S. Bennett
10/27	45	Rye Harbor SP	K. Wilmarth, R. Prieto, et al.
11/30	137	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, J. Lambert



*Bonaparte's Gull by Kyle Wilmarth, 10-15-18, Canobie Lake, Salem, NH.*

<b>Bonaparte's Gull</b>			
08/12	2	L. Winnepesaukee, Tufonboro	D. Wilde
08/17	2	Seminole Pt., Lake Sunapee	D. Jackson
08/30	7	Lake Umbagog, n. end, Errol	K. Fenton
09/03	136	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	J. Sparrell, K. Towler
10/09	1	Lake Katherine, Piermont	W. Scott
10/23	3	Oyster R. Landing, Durham	D. Blezard
11/06	1	Rochester WTP	S.& D. Stoddard

<b>Laughing Gull</b>			
08/05	9	Rt. 1A pools s. of Odiorne Pt., Rye	M. Wilson
09/15	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	C. Breen
09/16	13	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer
09/25	10	Rye Harbor SP	S. Mirick

<b>Iceland Gull</b>			
11/03	1	Rye Harbor SP	J. Lambert
11/03	1	Hampton Beach SP	K. Wilmarth
11/10	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard
11/24	1	Berlin paper mill plant	S. Wisley, R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
11/27	2	Hedgehog Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
11/29	2	Rochester WTP	S.& D. Stoddard

<b>Lesser Black-backed Gull</b>			
08/24	1	Hampton Harbor restroom, Rt. 1A, Seabrook	J. Lambert
09/10	4	Eel Pond, Rye	L. McKillop
09/17	6	Rye Harbor SP	J. Lambert

<b>Glaucous Gull</b>			
11/03	1	Rye Harbor SP	J. Arnett
11/16	1	Rochester WTP	J. Lambert
11/29	3	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray, S.& D. Stoddard
11/29	1	Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook	K. Fenton, L. Burford
11/30	1	Yankee Fisherman's Coop., Seabrook	M. Watson

*Date # Location Observer*

**Great Black-backed Gull**

11/24 28 Berlin paper mill plant S. Wrisley, R. Suomala, Z. Cornell

**Least Tern**

08/02 8 Meadow Pond, Hampton H. Bauer  
 08/22 3 Meadow Pond, Hampton H. Bauer

**Caspian Tern**

08/21 1 Meadow Pond, Hampton S. Wrisley  
 08/27 3 Fox Hill Pt., N. Hampton S. Mirick  
 09/17 27 Rye Harbor SP J. Lambert  
 09/25 2 Rye Harbor SP S. Mirick  
 10/22 2 Rye Harbor SP J. Roth

**Black Tern**

08/05 1 Hampton Harbor S. Wrisley  
 08/15 1 Hampton Harbor J. Pettipas, S. Wrisley

**Roseate Tern**

08/04 2 Little Boars Head, N. Hampton S. Mirick  
 08/05 2 Star Island, Isles of Shoals K. Seymour

**Common Tern**

08/04 1 Charlestown WTP D. Jackson  
 08/05 85 Star Island, Isles of Shoals J. Sender, K. Seymour  
 08/07 48 NH coast J. Maher  
 09/22 1 Star Island, Isles of Shoals E. Masterson, et al.  
 11/06 1 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye A. Cutler

**Forster's Tern**

08/05 1 Hampton Harbor S. Wrisley  
 08/16 1 Hampton Salt Marsh CA D. Small, M. Gimpel  
 09/17 1 offshore waters K. Wilmarth, S. Mirick, Seacoast CFT

**Loons through Falcons**

A Red-throated Loon reported from the Connecticut River was notable for a species which is rare away from the coast and was the first inland record for fall since 2012. Wilson's Storm-Petrels' disappearance at the beginning of September was about average for a species that abruptly departs sometime between mid-August and late September. Cory's Shearwater numbers continue to increase in the state with both pelagic trips recording over 100 individuals, an unthinkable feat 10 years ago. Other shearwater numbers were lower than typical, with Great being scarce for most of the fall, and only a single Manx Shearwater report.

A **Wood Stork** found in Rochester after the big July warm front furnished a first state record and was luckily enjoyed by many for 10 days. It spent a lot of time catching fish in the shallows at Pickering Ponds where many photographers captured some great shots. See the Photo Gallery for more images of this photogenic bird. This same warm front also deposited New Hampshire's first **Neotropic Cormorant** in Berlin, which was also enjoyed by many during its marathon 40-day long stay. Good viewing conditions on the morning of October 20 resulted in a count of 1,727 Northern Gannets from the coast in two hours, a high total which corresponds to

the species' peak migration time. A Least Bittern on September 19 was extremely late for this rare, but seemingly increasing, breeder. A Snowy Egret photographed from the Connecticut River was exceptional for what is typically a coastal species in the state. Five or six Little Blue Herons were reported for the season, above average for the species. Interestingly, two of these were inland around the same time as the Snowy Egret, Wood Stork, and Neotropic Cormorant and one must wonder if they were pushed northward by the same front. Three Cattle Egrets were distributed widely across the state in early November, highlighting one of the best times of year to look for this scarce species. Three or four Yellow-crowned Night-Herons along the coast was typical for recent years, but one in Londonderry was notable for how far inland it was.



*Alan Murray often birds at Pickering Ponds in Rochester, NH and on 8-9-18 he discovered this Wood Stork, photographed it to document this first state record, and immediately got the word out to the birding community.*



*Neotropic Cormorant (left) with a Double-crested for comparison. Photo by Kyle Jones, 9-18-18, Gorham, NH.*

## FALL SEASON

There was only one report of Black Vulture for the season, from the species' foothold in the southern Connecticut River valley. A **Swallow-tailed Kite** was video recorded from Newfields during early August, which would be the fourth record for the state if accepted by the NH Rare Birds Committee. Although slightly later than the rest of the southerly vagrants, this bird was still likely a lingerer from the "southern push." It was a good fall for eagles, with record numbers of both species at the Pack Monadnock Raptor Observatory (see the Hawkwatch Summary), in addition to widespread incidental reports of Golden Eagles. Rough-legged Hawks experienced a small irruption in late fall, with 14 different individuals reported from late October onward. Only two Snowy Owls were reported, a change from recent years when they've been much more abundant. Both reports were in the coastal region where they're most common.

It was a good fall for Red-headed Woodpeckers, a scarce visitor at any time of year, with three different birds photographed throughout the fall. There was an impressive push of Northern Flickers in late September and early October, with four counts over 30 during a two week span. Typically, high counts of raptors occur at dedicated migration watches, so the thirty individual American Kestrels counted on fence posts at the Dillant-Hopkins Airport was especially notable.

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

09/25	6	Rye Harbor SP	S. Mirick
10/27	100	Rye Harbor SP	K. Wilmarth, R. Prieto, et al.
11/21	1	St. Gaudens NHS, Cornish	A. Mejia

### Common Loon

10/05	17	Squam L., Center Harbor	I. MacLeod
11/05	80	NH coast	S. Heron
11/12	72	offshore waters	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell

### Wilson's Storm-Petrel

09/04	65	Jeffreys Ledge	J. Woolf, S. Mirick, NHA FT
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### Northern Fulmar

09/25	1	Rye Harbor SP	S. Mirick
11/12	17	offshore waters	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
11/30	24	Jeffreys Ledge	S. Mirick, J. Lambert

### Cory's Shearwater

09/04	221	Jeffreys Ledge	J. Woolf, S. Mirick, NHA FT
09/11	8	NH coast	S. Mirick
09/17	135	offshore waters	K. Wilmarth, S. Mirick, Seacoast CFT
09/21	20	Star Island, Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, et al.
10/27	1	Rye Harbor SP	S. Mirick, et al.

### Great Shearwater

09/04	13	Jeffreys Ledge	J. Woolf, S. Mirick, NHA FT
09/17	5	offshore waters	K. Wilmarth, S. Mirick, Seacoast CFT
11/12	35	offshore waters	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell

### Sooty Shearwater

08/17	1	offshore waters	R. Mercer
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<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
08/23	1	offshore waters	R. Suomala, et al.

### Manx Shearwater

09/04	1	Jeffreys Ledge	J. Woolf, S. Mirick, NHA FT
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Wood Stork by Donna Ellis, 8-12-18, Pickering Ponds, Rochester, NH.

### Wood Stork

08/09	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray, et al.
08/19	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	S. Stoddard, et al.

### Northern Gannet

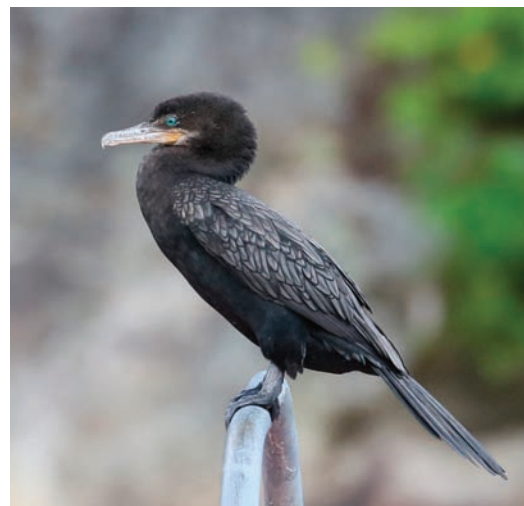
09/11	96	NH coast	S. Mirick
10/20	1727	NH coast	S. Mirick
11/03	224	Rye Harbor SP	J. Lambert

### Great Cormorant

08/13	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	C. Sheridan
08/31	1	L. Winnisquam, Tilton	N. Mitiguy
09/09	8	NH coast	S. Mirick
09/29	8	Star Island, Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, et al.
10/27	20	Rye Harbor SP	K. Wilmarth, R. Prieto, et al.
11/29		Dockham Shore Rd., Gilford	S. Burriss

### Neotropic Cormorant

08/02	1	Hogan Rd., Gorham	F. Izaguirre
09/19	1	Androscoggin R., Gorham	K. Toomey



Neotropic Cormorant by Bob Crowley, 8-15-18, Gorham, NH.



Date # Location Observer

**American Bittern**

09/16 1 Fort Hill WMA, Stratford L. Charron, D. Dionne  
 10/15 1 Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey S. Jaffe  
 10/24 1 Ambrose Gravel Pit, Sandwich K. Klapper, R. Ridgely

**Least Bittern**

09/01 2 Cranberry Pond wetlands, Rt. 12A, W. Lebanon R. Suomala, Z. Cornell  
 09/19 1 World End Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth

**Great Blue Heron**

09/01 32 Sunset Farm, Greenland S. Mirick  
 09/23 31 NH coast S. Mirick  
 10/03 44 NH coast S. Mirick

**Great Egret**

08/02 1 McIndoes Reservoir, Monroe W. Scott  
 08/05 7 Hinsdale Setbacks H. Galbraith  
 08/25 140 Hampton Harbor R. Suomala, Z. Cornell  
 10/15 1 Horseshoe Pond, Concord L. Phillips  
 11/21 1 Eel Pond, Rye K. Wilmarth

**Snowy Egret**

08/03 1 St. Gaudens NHS, Cornish K. Jones  
 08/25 85 Hampton Harbor R. Suomala, Z. Cornell  
 10/12 1 Meadow Pond, Hampton H. Bauer

**Little Blue Heron**

08/05 1 Hinsdale Setbacks H. Galbraith  
 08/11 1 Pickering Ponds, Rochester A. Murray, J. Lambert  
 08/12 1 Rt. 1A pools s. of Odiorne Pt., Rye J. Lambert, D. Jackson, S. Heron  
 08/25 1 Philbrick Marsh, N. Hampton J. Pettipas, S. Wrisley, R. Suomala, Z. Cornell  
 09/13 1 Pollock Dr. saltmarsh, Rye M. Suomala, B. Hopkins  
 10/03 1 Seabrook WTP S. Mirick



*Cattle Egret and Snow Goose by Kyle Wilmarth, 11-3-18, N. Hampton, NH.*

**Cattle Egret**

11/02 1 Great Bay Farm, Greenland J. Maher, M. Pahl, Z. Cornell, D. Prima  
 11/03 1 Horseshoe Pond, Concord R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, et al.  
 11/03 1 Runnymede Farm, N. Hampton K. Wilmarth, et al.

**Green Heron**

08/16 12 Merrimack R., Boscawen R. Quinn, R. Woodward  
 10/03 1 Windham G. Colozzi  
 10/23 1 Pickering Ponds, Rochester A. Murray

Date # Location Observer

**Black-crowned Night-Heron**

08/02 1 Nashua Dr., Nashua C. Sheridan  
 09/12 15 Ocean Blvd., Seabrook N. Houlihan, P. Moynahan  
 09/13 1 Nashua R., Nashua C. Sheridan, N. Murphy  
 09/13 2 Connecticut R., Piermont K. Britton  
 10/13 4 Blue Star Tpk., Portsmouth H. Tyson-Fader  
 11/05 1 Island Path CA, Hampton S. Heron



*Yellow-crowned Night-Heron by Kyle Wilmarth, 8-5-18, Londonderry, NH. The bird is missing the lower part of one leg.*

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**

08/04 1 Kendall Pond, Londonderry A. McDermott  
 08/09 1 Kendall Pond, Londonderry J. Nathan  
 08/10 1 Meadow Pond, Hampton S. Heron  
 08/16 1 Foss Beach, Rye K. & A. Wilmarth  
 08/28 1 Meadow Pond, Hampton H. Bauer  
 09/13 1 Worthley Rd. wetland M. Suomala, B. Hopkins

**Glossy Ibis**

08/02 19 Hampton Marsh J. Maher  
 08/23 27 Meadow Pond, Hampton H. Bauer  
 08/31 45 Autumn Ln., E. Kingston K. Elwell  
 09/03 3 Meadow Pond, Hampton H. Bauer

**Black Vulture**

08/25 1 Woodward Rd., Westmoreland A. Burnett

**Osprey**

09/22 23 NH coast S. Mirick  
 11/04 1 Goss Farm, Rye S. & J. Mirick, BBC FT  
 11/12 1 Northwood Lake S. Young

**Swallow-tailed Kite**

08/14 1 Rt. 108, Newfields V. Porter

**Golden Eagle**

10/19 1 Mountain Rd., Newbury D. Jackson  
 10/30 1 Follet's Brook WS, Newmarket P. Brown  
 10/30 6 Pack Monadnock RO C. Witko  
 11/16 1 Pinch Hill Rd., Rollinsford J. Lambert, S. Mirick  
 11/22 1 Highland Ave., Salem K. Wilmarth

# FALL SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer	Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Mississippi Kite</b>							
08/29	1	Madbury Rd., Durham	S. Mirick	11/24	2	Rt. 1A wooden bridge, Rye	K. Wilmarth
08/29	3	Newmarket	S. Mirick	11/28	1	Old Homestead Hwy., Swanzey	S. Bator, S. Lamonde
08/29	3	Stratham	S. Mirick	11/29	1	Wallis Sands State Beach, Rye	K. Towler
09/01	2	Newmarket	S.& J. Mirick	<b>Eastern Screech-Owl</b>			
09/01	2	Stratham	S.& J. Mirick	08/20	1	Bear Brook SP	D. Patrick
				09/01	2	Oyster R. Forest, Durham	S. Mirick

## Northern Harrier

08/10	1	Panorama Golf Course, Colebrook	L. Charron
08/10	1	Kimball Wildlife Forest, Gilford	V. Hansen
08/10	1	Rt. 1A second pullout s. of Odiorne Pt., Rye	S. Heron
10/21	9	NH coast	K. Wilmarth

## Sharp-shinned Hawk

09/22	72	Pack Monadnock RO	C. Witko
10/14	44	Range Rd., Sandwich	K. Klapper

## Cooper's Hawk

10/07	16	Pack Monadnock RO	C. Witko
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## Northern Goshawk

10/26	3	Pack Monadnock RO	C. Witko
11/07	2	Range Rd., Sandwich	K. Klapper

## Bald Eagle

09/24	23	Pack Monadnock RO	H. Walters
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## Red-shouldered Hawk

10/07	25	Pack Monadnock RO	C. Witko
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## Broad-winged Hawk

09/24	2239	Pack Monadnock RO	H. Walters
10/10	2	Range Rd., Sandwich	K. Klapper
10/14	2	Pack Monadnock RO	K. Fenton

## Red-tailed Hawk

11/04	55	Pack Monadnock RO	K. Fenton
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*Rough-legged Hawk by Leo McKillop, 11-24-18, Rye Harbor SP, Rye, NH.*

## Rough-legged Hawk

10/25	1	Pack Monadnock RO	P. Brown
11/17	1	Pack Monadnock RO	L. Burford
11/21	1	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	J. Maher
11/23	1	Wildcat Mt., WMNF	M. Harvey
11/24	1	Rt. 9, Westmoreland	J. Wing
11/24	1	Island Path CA, Hampton	J. Lambert

## Snowy Owl

11/17	1	Hampton Beach SP	J. Lambert, M. Wilson
11/23	1	Portsmouth Int'l. Airport at Pease	P. Hunt, R. Suomala, Z. Cornell

## Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

10/05	4	Goss Farm, Rye	P. Miliotis
11/22	1	Atkinson	H. Otto
11/22	1	Columbia Ave., Nashua	J. Maher



*Red-headed Woodpecker by Paul Kursewicz, 11-3-18, Epping, NH*

## Red-headed Woodpecker

10/14	1	W. Surry Rd., Keene	B. Reilly
10/14	1	Great Bay NWR	S. Wrisley, J. Sparrell, K. Towler, S. Mirick
11/03	1	Cote Dr., Epping	P. Kursewicz

## Red-bellied Woodpecker

11/21	1	Libby Pond, Gorham	K. Toomey
11/27	1	Spruceville Rd., W. Milan	K. Yelle

## Black-backed Woodpecker

08/24	5	Mt. Waumbek, WMNF	G. Robbins
08/25	1	Deer Mountain SP, Pittsburg	D. Forsyth
09/28	1	Zealand Mt., WMNF	R. Guenther
11/24	1	Cherry Pond access trail, Jefferson	J. Maher

## Northern Flicker

09/20	35	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard
09/28	30	Gorham	K. Toomey
10/03	34	Rt. 26, Colebrook	L. Charron
10/04	40	Range Rd., Sandwich	K. Klapper

## American Kestrel

09/10	30	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	P. Brown
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Date	#	Location	Observer
09/29	30	Pack Monadnock RO	C. Witko
10/10	20	Range Rd., Sandwich	K. Klapper

**Merlin**

09/15	7	Pack Monadnock RO	C. Witko
10/07	8	Thompson WS, Sandwich	P. Brown, K. Klapper, et al.

**Peregrine Falcon**

09/22	5	Pack Monadnock RO	C. Witko, M.& T. Gooley
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**Flycatchers through Vireos**



Possible Hammond's Flycatcher by Kathleen Toomey, 10-14-18, Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge, NH. Currently in eBird as Empidonax sp. pending review by the NH Rare Birds Committee.

Most flycatchers depart the state early in September, so an Olive-sided Flycatcher on September 17 at Pack Monadnock was on the late side. Two October reports of Eastern Wood-Pewee were also late, although a few individuals of this species seem to linger into October in most years. Two Yellow-bellied Flycatchers photographed in late October, on the other hand, were unprecedented. Other individuals of this species were also found late in the season elsewhere in New England. Any late *Empidonax* flycatcher should be given special attention. One individual identified in the field in early October at Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge as a Least Flycatcher showed several characteristics of **Hammond's Flycatcher**, a species undocumented in New Hampshire. Although this species occurs with some regularity in the Northeast, the vast majority of records occur in November or December, when any *Empidonax* warrants extra scrutiny. It will be up to the Rare Birds Committee to determine whether the photos are sufficiently detailed to conclusively identify this bird to species. There were several other late records of *Empidonax* flycatchers, most of which were likely Least, which is the most expected late season species. **Ash-throated Flycatchers** occur coastally on the Eastern Seaboard, predictably after strong southwesterly flows in early November; this year one happened to land at Odiorne Point State Park. Although this species is nearly annual in Massachusetts, this is only the fifth documented record for the state. Remarkably, all four prior records are inland! As is typical of September kingbird vagrants, a Western Kingbird was a one day wonder. A **Scissor-tailed**

**Flycatcher** (only the third in the past decade) later in the fall would be more expected to stay for multiple days, but this one decided to cross the border almost immediately after being sighted and then was only present in Massachusetts for another day before disappearing.



Ash-throated Flycatcher by Leo McKillop, 11-4-18, Odiorne Point SP, Rye, NH.

Vireos provided a challenge this fall. Two mid-September Yellow-throated Vireos were both well-described. This species is at the northern edge of its range and thus scarce during migration. Warbling and Philadelphia Vireos caused folks fits, with numerous misidentified records one way or the other. Part of this difficulty stems from field guides' overemphasis on the dark lores and the presence of yellow on Philadelphia, features shared by some fall Warblings. Typically, Philadelphia Vireo's brightest yellow is on its throat and breast while Warbling is on its flanks and belly. Timing is also a good clue; Warbling typically migrates earlier in the year and have departed by mid-September. Meanwhile, Philadelphia is rare south of its breeding grounds before September. November Red-eyed Vireos may have been lingering birds, but also could have been reverse migrants following the strong front that pushed other southern birds north.

Date	#	Location	Observer
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**Olive-sided Flycatcher**

06/07	1	Rt. 3, Nashua	J. Keyes
08/11	1	NHA McLane Ctr., Concord	R. Quinn, et al.
09/01	1	Cherry Pond access trail, Jefferson	K. Toomey
09/09	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	J. Frost
09/17	1	Pack Monadnock RO	I. MacLeod

**Eastern Wood-Pewee**

08/05	10	Appalachian Trail, Hanover	M. Daw
09/04	6	Salmon Falls Rd., Rochester	D. Hubbard
10/06	1	Bearcamp R., Sandwich	K. Klapper
10/12	1	Church Rd., Rye	S. Mirick

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**

08/18	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	G. Erickson-Harris
09/01	1	Hammond Hollow Rd., Gilsum	M. Wright
09/19	1	Dahl WS, Conway	D. Bricmont

## FALL SEASON

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
<b>Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (con't)</b>							
09/23	1	Star Island, Isles of Shoals	G. Hodgkins	08/13	22	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	S. Jaffe
10/19	1	Gorham	K. Toomey	09/11	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray
10/22	1	Sunapee Harbor	D. Jackson	09/16	1	Goss Farm, Rye	S. Mirick
<b>Alder Flycatcher</b>							
08/21	1	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	N. Mitiguy	<b>Scissor-tailed Flycatcher</b>			
09/03	1	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	S. Jaffe	11/08	1	Hampton Beach SP	Z. Cornell
<b>Willow Flycatcher</b>							
08/25	1	Whitton Pond, Albany	E. Borland	<b>Northern Shrike</b>			
09/01	1	Highland Lake, Stoddard	J. Anderson	11/03	1	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	S. Jaffe
<b>Alder/Willow Flycatcher (Traill's Flycatcher)</b>							
09/01	4	Freedom Town Forest	S. Lee, et al.	11/11	1	Range Rd., Sandwich	K. Klapper
09/22	1	Ash Brook wetland, Keene	W. Ward	11/12	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	R. Quinn, et al.
09/23	1	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson	11/30	2	Tracy Dr., Errol	L. Charron
<b>Least Flycatcher</b>							
09/25	1	Gorham	K. Toomey	<b>Yellow-throated Vireo</b>			
10/03	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	S. Mirick, H. Bauer	09/15	1	Woodland Cemetery, Keene	P. Kirkhart
<b>Empidonax sp.</b>							
10/03	1	Depot Rd., Barnstead	J. Lambert	09/17	1	Hammond Hollow Rd., Gilsum	M. Wright
10/14	1	Cherry Pond access trail, Jefferson	K. Toomey	<b>Blue-headed Vireo</b>			
10/16	1	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	S. Jaffe	09/29	11	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
<b>Eastern Phoebe</b>							
09/30	30	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	K. Wilmarth	10/27	1	Antioch Univ. NE, Keene	S. Lamonde, C. Collins, G. Patsun
10/13	17	NH coast	S. Mirick	10/31	1	Tin Mt. Conservation Ctr., Albany	J. Pinder
11/04	1	Goss Farm, Rye	B. Griffith, R. Prieto, K. Towler	<b>Philadelphia Vireo</b>			
11/06	1	Ash Brook wetland, Keene	S. Lamonde	09/21	6	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard
<b>Ash-throated Flycatcher</b>							
11/04	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	M. Watson, S. Wong, et al.	10/05	2	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard
11/05	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	L. McKillop	10/05	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	M. Wilson
<b>Great Crested Flycatcher</b>							
09/04	1	Tin Mt. Conservation Ctr., Albany	P. Carr	10/09	1	Range Rd., Sandwich	K. Klapper
09/09	1	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth	<b>Warbling Vireo</b>			
09/15	1	Star Island, Isles of Shoals	U. Dienes	09/25	1	Plymouth	J. Sullivan
<b>Red-eyed Vireo</b>							
10/26	1	Pleasant St., New London	J. Esten	09/30	1	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	P. Hunt
11/05	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	L. McKillop	09/30	1	Buffalo Rd., W. Rumney	J. Williams
11/06	1	Old Chesham Rd., Marlborough	S. Jaffe	<b>Corvids through Finches</b>			



Western Kingbird by Steve Mirick, 9-23-18, Rye, NH.

### Western Kingbird

09/23 1 Goss Farm, Rye S.& J. Mirick, et al.

### Eastern Kingbird

08/11 15 Richmond Conservation Land, Orford  
D. Gildersleeve, A. Cooley



Cliff Swallow by Steve Mirick, 11-11-18, Little Boar's Head, N. Hampton, NH.

A flock of 44 Fish Crows reported by experienced observers in Rochester is one of the largest flocks ever reported away from their stronghold in Salem, providing

evidence for their continued increase in the state. Northern Rough-winged Swallows reported in early September were extremely late for this extremely early migrant. Cave Swallow, a vagrant from the southwest, is more expected in November than Cliff Swallow, so a Cliff Swallow observed in North Hampton on November 11 was a bit of a surprise. There was one report of a **Cave Swallow**, but unfortunately it came with no documentation. A Boreal Chickadee on Pack Monadnock was south of this species' normal range in the northern half of the state, but was the third observation of the species at this location in the past 13 years, likely a result of the similarity of habitat to their boreal breeding grounds.

Philadelphia Vireo was reported twice this summer from the southern third of the state, including individuals at Great Bay NWR on June 6 and Saint-Gaudens National Historic Park in Cornish on July 29. This species is a rather late spring migrant compared to other vireo species, with a mean arrival date of May 18 (Keith & Fox 2013). The individual on June 6 represents a presumed late migrant; however, the individual in July was well ahead of the first south-bound migrants, which are expected by mid-August and the peak migration period of late August to mid-September (Keith & Fox 2013). With this species posing a myriad of identification pitfalls for beginning birders, including its visual similarity to fresh-plumaged spring Warbling Vireos which can be strongly washed in yellow, or to the auditory similarity of Red-eyed Vireos and their song, documentation of this species during the summer months outside of medium-elevations in the White Mountains or Coos County is encouraged.

A Marsh Wren reported in early November was most notable for its location in southwestern New Hampshire, away from the species' larger coastal population in the state (although it was at a location where they are known to breed). A **Townsend's Solitaire** was observed briefly in early November, the second fall record (and third overall) in as many years of a species with fewer than a dozen records for the state. Bicknell's Thrush were reported from their breeding grounds well into September. Although these reports likely pertain to this species, extra care should be taken at this time of year due to the potential for migrant Gray-cheeked Thrushes and the tendency for the species to be silent at this date.

Bohemian Waxwings began staging a modest irruption in November; a flock of 120 before the end of the month was noteworthy. Typically this species remains farther north or at high elevation during the fall and only moves south as food supplies dwindle. Evening Grosbeaks had their best fall in recent memory, with flocks reported throughout the state. Pine Grosbeak irruptions often are correlated with Bohemian Waxwings, as the two species eat the same foods, and this year was no exception with reports of over 10 birds from multiple

locations. Common Redpolls hinted at an irruption year with as many as 31 reported from a single location, making it the best fall since 2013 for this arctic-breeding species. On the other hand, small numbers of crossbills were likely "holdovers" from the prior spring and summer's irruption.



*Bohemian Waxwings by Rebecca Suomala, 11-24-18, Jefferson Meadows, NH.*

*Date # Location Observer*

**Blue Jay**

09/12	91	Panorama Golf Course, Colebrook	L. Charron
09/20	160	MacDowell Reservoir, Peterborough	P. Brown, et al.
09/21	200	SPNHF Merrimack R. CA, Concord	R. Quinn, et al.
09/22	72	Pack Monadnock RO	C. Witko
09/26	61	Sweeney Rd., Keene	E. Synnott
10/07	356	Thompson WS, Sandwich	P. Brown, K. Klapper, et al.
10/10	62	Range Rd., Sandwich	K. Klapper

**American Crow**

10/23	476	Millican Nurseries, Chichester	J. Lambert
10/23	1776	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	A. Robbins

**Fish Crow**

08/10	44	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Gochfeld, M. Roach, T. Johnson, G. Armistead
09/14	71	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth

**Common Raven**

09/24	42	Pack Monadnock RO	H. Walters
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**Horned Lark**

09/22	1	Rye Harbor SP	E. Norton
09/30	2	Charlestown WTP	D. Jackson
11/06	50	Rt. 155A fields, Durham	K. Dorsey
11/15	70	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	S. Wisley
11/17	52	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow**

08/04	2	Exeter WTP	P. Miliotis
08/11	1	Meadow Pond, Hampton	K. Dorsey
08/20	1	Rt. 125, Kingston	A. Parsons

**Purple Martin**

08/02	5	Dingman Farm, Kensington	D. Finch
08/12	18	Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook	M. Watson
08/13	2	South Rd., Kensington	G. Gavutis Jr.
08/17	1	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch

# FALL SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Tree Swallow</b>			
08/04	150	Lubberland Creek Preserve, Newmarket	K. Dorsey
08/12	5000	Seabrook Back Dunes	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
09/01	1	Cherry Pond access trail, Jefferson	D. Govatski, K. Toomey
09/01	1000	Star Island, Isles of Shoals	C. Lentz
09/10	230	Hinsdale Rail Trail	P. Brown, et al.
11/04	2	Bicentennial Park, Hampton	J. Lambert
11/04	6	Hampton Beach SP	J. Lambert
11/04	2	Eel Pond, Rye	J. Lambert



Tree Swallow flock by Rebecca Suomala, 8-12-18, Seabrook Back Dunes, NH.

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Bank Swallow</b>			
08/12	10	Exeter WTP	J. Lambert
08/14	17	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Small, M. Gimpel
09/03	2	Lubberland Creek Preserve, Newmarket	K. Dorsey
09/05	1	Dingman Farm, Kensington	D. Finch
09/10	8	Hinsdale Rail Trail	P. Brown, et al.

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Barn Swallow</b>			
08/02	55	NH coast	J. Maher
08/04	40	Lubberland Creek Preserve, Newmarket	K. Dorsey
08/05	60	Rt. 155A fields, Durham	K. Dorsey
09/29	1	Star Island, Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, et al.
10/13	1	Island Path CA, Hampton	S. Mirick
10/16	1	Sweatt farm, Rt. 26, Colebrook	L. Charron

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Cliff Swallow</b>			
08/21	8	Ponemah Bog WS, Amherst	D. Maxwell
09/11	3	Charlestown WTP	D. Clark, M. Adams
09/11	1	Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook	M. Watson
11/11	1	N. Hampton State Beach	S. & J. Mirick, et al.

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Boreal Chickadee</b>			
08/08	15	Mt. Garfield, WMNF	M. Daw
08/11	21	Carter-Moriah Trail, WMNF	M. Daw
08/24	14	Mt. Waumbuck, WMNF	G. Robbins
11/09	1	Pack Monadnock RO	C. Witko, et al.
11/12	1	Pack Monadnock RO	K. Fenton, L. Burford, S. Wisley
11/24	1	Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem	S. Mirick

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Red-breasted Nuthatch</b>			
08/11	35	Carter-Moriah Trail, WMNF	M. Daw
09/30	20	Star Island, Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, et al.

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>House Wren</b>			
08/15	7	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson
09/16	7	Depot Rd., Barnstead	J. Lambert
10/22	1	Birch St. Community Gardens, Concord	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
10/22	1	Woodridge Park, Durham	K. Dorsey

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Marsh Wren</b>			
08/07	6	Chapmans Landing, Stratham	C. Duffy, C. Guindon
08/27	6	World End Pond, Salem	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
10/28	1	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	P. Hunt
11/04	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	T. Pirro, C. Caron

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Blue-gray Gnatcatcher</b>			
08/27	4	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard
09/24	1	Awcomin Marsh, Rye	P. Wood
09/30	1	Contoocook R. Park/Island Shores Estates, Penacook	P. Hunt

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Golden-crowned Kinglet</b>			
08/12	26	Cascade Mt. Trail, Success	M. Daw
10/21	12	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	K. Towler, J. Sparrell
10/28	17	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt



Golden-crowned Kinglet by Jim Sparrell, 10-21-18, Odiorne Point SP, Rye, NH.

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Ruby-crowned Kinglet</b>			
10/26	40	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	P. Miliotis
11/18	3	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	J. Lambert
11/23	1	School St., Concord	D. Moulton
11/24	1	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Eastern Bluebird</b>			
10/17	55	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. Sheridan
10/20	29	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	G. Clucas, C. Michaud

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Townsend's Solitaire</b>			
11/09	1	Bow	B. Griffith

Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Veery</b>			
08/29	6	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard

Date	#	Location	Observer
09/08	1	Cherry Pond access trail, Jefferson	K. Toomey
09/10	3	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard

**Bicknell's Thrush**

08/16	3	Caps Ridge Trail, WMNF	W. Von Herff, C. Frome
09/14	1	Mt. Osceola Trail, WMNF	J. Keator
09/15	2	Mt. Garfield, WMNF	S. Griesemer
09/24	1	Mt. Lincoln, WMNF	M. Strimas-Mackey

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

09/01	1	Freedom Town Forest	A. Robbins
10/04	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	C. Breen
10/14	1	Glenwood Ave., Bartlett	J. Keator

**Swainson's Thrush**

09/20	6	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard
10/26	1	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch
11/08	1	Murray Farms, Penacook	P. Hunt
11/11	1	Clinton St., Concord	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell

**Hermit Thrush**

08/06	28	Appalachian Trail, Orford	M. Daw
10/24	20	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	N. Houlihan, J. Stevens, B. Marvil
11/24	2	Sewall Rd., Wolfeboro	M. Harvey
11/30	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	J. Parrot-Willis

**Wood Thrush**

08/01	6	S. Main St., Newton	H. Burns
09/30	2	Autumn Ln., E. Kingston	K. Elwell
09/30	1	Diamond Ledge Rd., Sandwich	T. Vazzano
10/27	1	White Farm, Concord	P. Hunt

**American Robin**

10/14	200	Tullando farm, Orford	A. Cooley
10/23	719	Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins
10/24	200	Bedell Bridge SP, Haverhill	W. Scott
11/10	355	NH coast	S. Mirick

**Gray Catbird**

09/15	25	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	J. Lambert
09/16	15	Depot Rd., Barnstead	J. Lambert
10/01	16	Benson Park, Hudson	C. Sheridan
11/24	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	J. Lambert
11/27	1	Rt. 111, N. Hampton	S. Mirick
11/29	1	White Farm, Concord	H. Siener

**Brown Thrasher**

09/16	3	Depot Rd., Barnstead	J. Lambert
10/14	1	Fort Hill WMA, Stratford	D. Dionne, L. Charron
10/26	1	Peverly Hill Rd., Portsmouth	S. Mirick
11/18	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	J. Lambert, S. Mirick

**Northern Mockingbird**

08/04	1	Tracy Dr., Errol	L. Charron
09/02	10	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	S. Mirick

**American Pipit**

08/25	1	Owl's Head, Jefferson	K. Fenton
09/15	4	Mt. Washington summit	A.& M.& J.& J. Eckerson
09/16	3	Mt. Lincoln, WMNF	S. Lamonde, A. Ferrario
09/19	1	Mt. Moosilauke summit, Benton	A. Burnett
09/21	3	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson
10/07	75	Charlestown WTP	D. Jackson

Date	#	Location	Observer
10/10	50	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	S. Jaffe
10/19	50	1785 Inn, N. Conway	W. Broussard
10/20	50	Rt. 155A fields, Durham	K. Dorsey
11/27	1	Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton	S. Bennett, S. Wisley, H. Bauer



American Pipit by Debra Powers, 10-9-18, Pickering Ponds, Rochester, NH.

**Bohemian Waxwing**

11/01	2	Great Rock Rd., Sandwich	K. Klapper
11/01	24	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	C. Witko
11/23	120	Rt. 16 at Rt. 302, Bartlett	M. Harvey
11/24	31	Jefferson Meadows, Rt. 115A	S. Wisley, R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
11/24	36	North Rd., Shelburne	S. Wisley, R. Suomala, Z. Cornell

**Cedar Waxwing**

09/13	75	Locke Lake, Barnstead	J. Lambert
09/27	103	Connecticut R. Hubbard WMA, Walpole	D. Clark, K. Cox
11/25	75	Hollis-Brookline High School	C. McPherson

**Evening Grosbeak**

11/14	5	South Mill Pond, Portsmouth	K. Towler
11/17	21	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	S. Jaffe
11/22	21	Highland St., Rochester	K. Ladisheff
11/25	30	Prospect Hill Rd., Canaan	J. Wampler
11/26	27	Riverwood Inn, Jackson	C. Nims, S. McCarthy
11/29	25	Hoit Rd., Concord	P. Hunt, U. Dienes
11/29	25	White Farm, Concord	H. Siener
11/29	40	Groveton WTP	M. Centner
11/30	42	Lakeview Dr., Strafford	S. Young



Evening Grosbeak by Katherine Towler, 11-14-18, Portsmouth, NH.

## FALL SEASON

*Date* # *Location* *Observer*

### Pine Grosbeak

11/09 2 Pack Monadnock RO C. Witko, et al.  
 11/11 1 Dublin Rd., Jaffrey M.& A. Eckerson  
 11/11 2 Silver Mt., Lempster J. Swatt  
 11/16 1 Stevens Hill Rd., Nottingham P. Miliotis  
 11/24 20 Base Station Rd., Crawfords Purchase S. Wrisley,  
 R. Suomala, Z. Cornell  
 11/29 15 Rt. 2, Gorham A. Griffin

### Purple Finch

10/06 25 Freedom Town Forest G.& A. Robbins  
 10/06 35 Davis Pond, Madison E. Johnson  
 10/07 9 Autumn Ln., Nottingham R. Prieto  
 10/17 22 Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield A. Robbins

### Common Redpoll

10/24 1 Umbagog NWR K. Fenton  
 10/31 31 Cherry Pond access trail, Jefferson D. Govatski  
 11/05 10 Range Rd., Sandwich K. Klapper  
 11/11 2 Thompson Forest, Durham K. Dorsey  
 11/21 8 Osprey Cove, Great Bay, Greenland K. Wilmarth  
 11/28 12 Benson Park, Hudson D. Durocher

### Red Crossbill

08/01 4 Panorama Golf Course, Colebrook L. Charron  
 08/08 8 Mountain View Campground, Pittsburg P. Wood  
 08/13 2 Sanborn Rd., Ashland I. MacLeod  
 08/31 1 Freedom Town Forest G.& A. Robbins  
 10/10 7 Pack Monadnock RO C. Witko  
 11/06 1 Fernwood Pt., Sunapee D. Jackson  
 11/11 1 Dublin Rd., Jaffrey M.& A. Eckerson

### White-winged Crossbill

08/16 1 Huntress Bridge Rd., Effingham G.& A. Robbins  
 08/26 6 Mt. Adams, WMNF J.& J.& A. Eckerson  
 10/17 1 Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield A. Robbins  
 10/19 3 Dahl WS, Conway W. Broussard  
 11/14 3 Hanks Rd., Whitefield A. Griffin  
 11/28 1 Green Rd., Kingston S. Heron

### Pine Siskin

10/21 70 Bicentennial Park, Hampton J. Lambert  
 10/23 47 Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield A. Robbins  
 11/05 50 W. Surry Rd., Keene B. Reilly  
 11/09 70 Eastman St., Concord D. Lipsy  
 11/11 41 Errol Public Library L. Charron

### American Goldfinch

09/29 200 Birch St. Community Gardens, Concord D. Jackson  
 10/21 300 Bicentennial Park, Hampton J. Lambert

## Longspurs through Blackbirds

September reports of Lapland Longspur were slightly early, although the species tends to occur slightly earlier than the Snow Buntings it often joins. Snow Buntings did not stage in large numbers at Hampton Beach, with the high count of 200 far below many years' counts of upwards of 500. Remarkably, the only three migrant Grasshopper Sparrows all came from the same location, with an additional single bird from a

known breeding site (Concord Airport). It was a modest fall for Clay-colored Sparrows compared with last year's bonanza, but still good by historical standards with seven birds reported. Notably all but one of these came in a seven day period. A Lark Sparrow reported from the Isles of Shoals was expected at that location where it typically occurs annually (even with the limited coverage on the island). A Fox Sparrow reported on October 16 was actually quite early for this species, which is one of our latest migrants. (The Fox Sparrow on August 2 was in an area where they breed and was not a migrant.) It was a good fall for White-crowned Sparrows, with the highest numbers coming from the less-birded northern part of the state, where flocks of 50 or more were observed roadside. Included in one of these flocks was the western Arctic-breeding "Gambel's" form, which was only identified after the fact from photos posted to the internet. Another of the same subspecies was found along the coast later in the fall. Reports of this subspecies are increasing and it's now reported almost annually in fall. The orange bill and white (rather than black) lores distinguish adults from the more expected eastern subspecies. A **LeConte's Sparrow** was reported from Jackson by an out-of-state birder. If accepted by the NH Rare Birds Committee, it would be the fourth for the state. Seaside Sparrow had its first record since 2011 (see the article by Steve Bennett in this issue). Once a scarce breeder in the Hampton saltmarsh, this species along with the Nelson's and Saltmarsh Sparrows have seen significant declines as a result of rising sea levels. There were no reported concentrations of these latter species this fall, but this may be more related to lack of targeted observer effort than decline. High counts of sharp-tailed sparrow species in fall have typically come from dedicated efforts by a few birders during a high tide rather than incidental observations by birders on the coast.



*Lark Sparrow by Harold Otto, 9-29-18, Star Island, NH.*

At least two Yellow-breasted Chats were reported along the coast this fall, with regular sightings throughout the



season at Odiorne Point, which may have consisted of several individuals. This species, which breeds exclusively to the south of the state, undergoes a reverse migration, and banding stations have shown it to be a regular disperser as far north as Maine during fall and early winter. Yellow-headed Blackbird has been annual or nearly so in recent years, and one was seen intermittently in October in Concord this fall over the course of two weeks. Rusty Blackbirds have experienced widespread declines, but fall counts in New Hampshire over the years have remained relatively stable. This year's larger flocks were more widely reported than usual.



*Yellow-breasted Chat* by Kyle Wilmarth, 9-23-18, Odiorne Point SP, Rye, NH.

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
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**Lapland Longspur**

09/30	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	J. Maher
09/30	3	Pulpit Rocks, Rye	L. Medlock, L. Bobay
10/05	1	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	M. Resch
10/25	1	Rt. 155A fields, Durham	K. Dorsey
10/26	4	Rye Harbor SP	P. Miliotis
11/18	1	Lamoureux Rd., Stratford	C. Caron
11/28	1	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	J. Dunham, S. Lamonde, S. Bator



*Lapland Longspur* by Len Medlock, 9-30-18, Pulpit Rocks, Rye, NH.

**Snow Bunting**

10/20	1	Exeter WTP	S. Mirick, P. Miliotis, R. Prieto, L. Medlock, Z. Cornell
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<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
10/21	1	Rye Harbor SP	J. Lambert
10/28	100	Hampton Beach SP	J. Sparrell, K. Towler, et al.
11/03	200	Hampton Beach SP	J. Lambert
11/03	100	Rye Harbor SP	J. Arnett, D. Ressler
11/28	220	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	S. Lamonde, S. Bator

**Grasshopper Sparrow**

09/01	2	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	M. Resch, C. McPherson
09/20	1	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson
09/27	1	Concord Airport	N. Dorian
09/27	1	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	J. Maher

**Chipping Sparrow**

10/08	254	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/12	65	Greeley Park, Nashua	J. Maher
11/12	1	Tracy Dr., Errol	L. Charron
11/25	3	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	L. McKillop

**Clay-colored Sparrow**

09/23	1	Goss Farm, Rye	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, K. Wilmarth
10/03	1	Great Bay Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick
10/06	1	Tow Path Ln., Concord	D. Lania
10/06	1	Woodridge Park, Durham	K. Dorsey
10/06	2	Bicentennial Park, Hampton	H. Burns
11/09	1	Hampton Beach SP	L. Medlock

**Field Sparrow**

09/01	10	Depot Rd., Barnstead	J. Lambert
09/01	16	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	M. Resch, C. McPherson
11/24	1	Tidewater Farm Rd., Greenland	S. Thimann
11/28	1	Green Rd., Kingston	S. Heron

**Lark Sparrow**

09/29	1	Star Island, Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, et al.
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**American Tree Sparrow**

10/06	1	10-mile survey, Lyman	S. Turner
10/20	1	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/20	1	Coffeetown Rd., Deerfield	S. Kjendal
11/24	30	Krif Rd., Keene	T. Parody

**Fox Sparrow**

08/02	1	turbine access road, Millsfield/Dixville	D.& G. Dionne
10/16	1	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	J. Maher
10/17	1	Pack Monadnock RO	L. Burford
11/16	10	Sligo Rd., Dover	S. Mirick
11/17	11	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch
11/25	10	Pease Industrial Park, Portsmouth	S. Mirick



*Fox Sparrow* by Levi Burford, 10-17-18, Pack Monadnock Raptor Observatory, Peterborough, NH.

# FALL SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer	Date	#	Location	Observer
<b>Dark-eyed Junco</b>							
09/03	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	P. Wood	10/27	1	Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook	S. Mirick
10/28	160	Rousseau Heights, Greenville	D. Ide	10/29	1	Depot Rd., Hampton Falls	H. Bauer
11/10	197	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt	<b>Saltmarsh Sparrow</b>			
<b>White-crowned Sparrow</b>							
09/20	3	The Balsams & trails, Colebrook	L. Charron	08/07	20	Chapmans Landing, Stratham	C. Duffy, C. Guindon
09/25	1	Gorham	K. Toomey	08/19	8	Hampton Marsh, Rt. 101	H. Burns
09/30	1	Depot Rd., Barnstead	J. Lambert	10/13	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	K. Wilmarth
10/10	22	Moulton Farm, Meredith	S. Mirick	10/17	2	Pulpit Rocks, Rye	D. Dionne
10/14	25	Brookside Farm, Jackson	R. Steber, B. Pendleton	10/21	1	NH coast	K. Wilmarth
10/14	20	Rt. 10, Orford	W. Scott	<b>Savannah Sparrow</b>			
10/15	28	Birch St. Community Gardens, Concord	D. Jackson	09/25	50	Dingman Farm, Kensington	D. Finch
10/19	70	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	J. Maher	10/08	170	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
10/22	50	Mountain View Grand Resort, Whitefield	A. Cooley	10/13	175	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson
11/28	1	Evelyn Ave., Raymond	D. Prima	<b>Savannah Sparrow - Ipswich subsp.</b>			
<b>White-crowned Sparrow - Gambel's subsp.</b>							
10/18	1	Pondicherry NWR	H. Burns	09/23	1	Star Island, Isles of Shoals	G. Tillman
11/15	1	Rt. 1A, Rye	S. Mirick	10/08	1	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer
<b>White-throated Sparrow</b>							
09/15	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	J. Sparrell	10/21	1	Rye Harbor SP	J. Lambert
10/07	166	Krif Rd., Keene	C. Caron	11/11	2	North Beach, Hampton	J. Sparrell, K. Towler
10/17	320	Krif Rd., Keene	S. Mirick	<b>Song Sparrow</b>			
10/24	250	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	N. Houlihan, B. Marvil, J. Stevens	10/06	114	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson
<b>Vesper Sparrow</b>							
08/12	1	Rt. 155A fields, Durham	K. Dorsey	10/08	125	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
08/23	2	Freedom Town Forest	G.& A. Robbins	10/29	143	Krif Rd., Keene	S. Mirick
08/24	1	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt	<b>Lincoln's Sparrow</b>			
10/17	2	Concord Airport	M. McCarthy, N. Dorian	08/20	1	Fort Hill WMA, Stratford	J. Sparrell, K. Towler
10/17	2	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray	09/06	1	Power House Rd., Gorham	C. Caron
10/21	2	Krif Rd., Keene	W. Ward	09/09	1	Locke Lake, Barnstead	J. Lambert
11/18	1	Lamoureux Rd., Stratford	C. Caron	09/10	1	Star Island, Isles of Shoals	H. Bauer
11/25	1	Rt. 1A at Central Rd., Rye	S. Mirick	10/06	9	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson
<b>LeConte's Sparrow</b>							
10/13	1	Brookside Farm, Jackson	B. Pendleton	11/08	1	Bedell Bridge SP, Haverhill	W. Scott
				11/11	1	Thompson Forest, Durham	K. Dorsey
				11/18	1	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
<b>Swamp Sparrow</b>							
10/06	55	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson	10/06	55	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson
10/08	30	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt	10/08	30	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
10/26	32	Peverly Hill Rd., Portsmouth	S. Mirick	10/26	32	Peverly Hill Rd., Portsmouth	S. Mirick
<b>Eastern Towhee</b>							
08/11	9	West Branch pine barrens, Madison	S. Lee	08/11	9	West Branch pine barrens, Madison	S. Lee
08/23	6	Freedom Town Forest	G.& A. Robbins	08/23	6	Freedom Town Forest	G.& A. Robbins
09/19	7	Stevens Hill Rd., Nottingham	P. Miliotis	09/19	7	Stevens Hill Rd., Nottingham	P. Miliotis
11/01	1	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	S. Jaffe	11/01	1	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	S. Jaffe
11/02	1	Autumn Ln., E. Kingston	K. Elwell	11/02	1	Autumn Ln., E. Kingston	K. Elwell
<b>Yellow-breasted Chat</b>							
09/23	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	J. Lambert, et al.	09/23	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	J. Lambert, et al.



*Seaside Sparrow*  
by Steve Mirick,  
11-25-18,  
Hampton, NH.



*Yellow-breasted Chat*  
by Leo McKillop,  
11-25-18, Odiorne  
Point SP, Rye, NH.

<b>Seaside Sparrow</b>							
11/25	1	Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton	S. Mirick, et al.				
<b>Nelson's Sparrow</b>							
09/15	2	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	J. Lambert				
10/07	2	Exeter WTP	J. Lambert				
10/27	2	Depot Rd., Hampton Falls	S. Mirick				

Date	#	Location	Observer
10/28	1	Briar Rd., Hampton	S. Mirick
11/25	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	L. McKillop

**Yellow-headed Blackbird**

10/15	1	Birch St. fields opposite gardens, Concord	R. Suomala
10/23	1	Clinton St. at Langley Pkwy., Concord	P. Hunt
10/31	1	Birch St. fields s. of gardens, Concord	Z. Cornell

**Bobolink**

08/24	24	Airport Rd., Swanzey	S. Lamonde
08/25	25	Sandhill Rd., New Hampton	M. Halley
09/01	58	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	M. Resch, C. McPherson
09/17	32	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson
10/10	2	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson
10/15	1	Birch St. Community Gardens, Concord	D. Jackson, L. McKillop, J. Maher
10/22	1	The Balsams & trails, Colebrook	L. Charron

**Eastern Meadowlark**

08/16	3	Portsmouth Int'l. Airport at Pease	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
10/13	3	Red Oak Hill Rd., Epping	A. Harvey
10/16	2	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	S. Jaffe

**Baltimore Oriole**

08/10	10	Russell-Abbott SF	S. Lemire
11/10	1	Birch St. Community Gardens, Concord	R. Suomala, J. Frost
11/15	1	Plymouth	R. Kent
11/18	1	Lawrence St., Seabrook	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell

**Red-winged Blackbird**

08/24	480	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
10/24	1000	Birch St. Community Gardens, Concord	D. Lipsy
10/27	400	Rt. 155A fields, Durham	K. Dorsey
11/08	410	Bedell Bridge SP, Haverhill	B. Allison
11/18	1	Errol Public Library	L. Charron

**Brown-headed Cowbird**

09/27	200	Seabrook Beach	P. Hunt
10/21	65	Rt. 1A n. of Rt. 286, Seabrook	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
11/18	2	Craggy Rd., Northumberland	C. Caron
11/24	1	W. Surry Rd., Keene	B. Reilly

**Rusty Blackbird**

09/30	41	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	C. Foss
10/04	40	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
10/24	50	Bedell Bridge SP, Haverhill	W. Scott
10/29	75	Upper Suncook Rec. Area, Barnstead	J. Lambert
10/29	40	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	S. Jaffe
11/21	16	Wetherby Rd., Charlestown	D. Clark
11/23	1	Lakeview Dr., Strafford	S. Young
11/24	1	W. Surry Rd., Keene	B. Reilly

**Common Grackle**

10/26	750	Great Bay Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick
10/27	1500	Rt. 155A fields, Durham	K. Dorsey
10/31	1000	S. Main St., Newton	H. Burns
11/04	5000	Two Rivers CA, Epping	G. Tillman
11/18	1	Errol Public Library	L. Charron
11/28	1	S. Main St., Newton	H. Burns
11/30	1	Silver Doe Ln., Merrimack	C. Wennert

**Warblers through Dickcissel**

*Hooded Warbler by Ben Griffith, 11-4-18, Little River Saltmarsh, N. Hampton, NH.*

A Louisiana Waterthrush was reported “late” into August from Westmoreland, but this year it was the only report (in contrast to three individuals reported last fall, including one from the same location). A “Brewster’s” Warbler (Blue-winged x Golden-winged Warbler hybrid) seen at Pickering Ponds in August was likely a migrant as the bird had not been reported earlier in the season. It was an excellent fall for Tennessee, Bay-breasted, and Cape May Warblers, species whose populations and distribution vary with the abundance of spruce budworms. The increases in these species are likely a result of a recent outbreak of the “pest” in central Quebec. Nineteen Orange-crowned Warblers was the new normal for this species which was once only annual in the state. It was an excellent fall for Connecticut Warbler, which is not necessarily reported every fall, with six individuals reported widely throughout the state. This species can be challenging to identify in part because of its similarity to Mourning Warbler and also because it spends much of its time on the ground and rarely gives good looks, but is structurally distinctive if seen well. A **Hooded Warbler** was found on the coast during the early November warm spell and represents the second November record of this southern species. Other notable November warblers include a Prairie Warbler in Durham, a Black-throated Blue Warbler that survived through the end of the season in Raymond, a Black-throated Green in Concord, a Tennessee in North Hampton, a Black-and-white Warbler and American Redstart in Rye, single Magnolia Warblers in both Rye and Gorham, and three Northern Parulas on the coast.

A **Western Tanager** was photographed in a yard in Pembroke, the fourth record (second fall record) of this species in as many years. Prior to this cluster of records, there had only been one record between 2004 and 2015. A total of

## FALL SEASON

25 Dickcissels were reported widely throughout the season and the state, roughly typical of recent years.



*Northern Parula by Leo McKillop, 11-4-18, Odiorne Point SP, Rye, NH.*

Date	#	Location	Observer
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### Ovenbird

08/31	6	Freedom Town Forest	G.& A. Robbins
10/04	1	Tin Mt. Conservation Ctr., Albany	P. Carr
10/08	1	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt

### Louisiana Waterthrush

08/12	1	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	A. Burnett
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### Northern Waterthrush

08/04	1	Benson Park, Hudson	S. Wong
09/01	3	Morrill's Farm, Penacook	P. Hunt
09/30	1	Star Island, Isles of Shoals	C. Breen
10/03	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	C. Breen

### Blue-winged Warbler

08/13	2	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	K. Fenton, L. Burford
09/11	1	Star Island, Isles of Shoals	H. Bauer
09/16	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	S. Mirick

### Brewster's Warbler (hybrid)

08/10	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	M. Roach, D. Gochfeld, T. Johnson, G. Armistead
08/11	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	S. Mirick

### Black-and-white Warbler

08/21	7	Call Rd., Webster	R. Quinn
09/21	6	McCabe Forest, Antrim	K. Fenton, L. Burford
10/17	1	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	S. Jaffe
11/19	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	H. Siener

### Tennessee Warbler

08/08	1	Wolfeboro Rd., Hanover	W. Scott
08/08	2	Roland Park Rd., Ossipee	M. Gimpel, D. Small
09/08	5	Bearcamp R., Sandwich	K. Klapper
09/20	4	Intervale Scenic Vista, N. Conway	R. Robinson
09/20	4	Rt. 26, Dixville Notch	D.& G. Dionne
10/20	1	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
10/28	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	B. Green, S. Heron
11/11	1	N. Hampton State Beach	J. Lambert, S.& J. Mirick

Date	#	Location	Observer
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### Orange-crowned Warbler

09/23	1	Gilmore Pond Rd., Jaffrey	C. Heys
09/28	2	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	J. Sparrell, K. Towler, Z. Cornell, C. McPherson
10/03	1	Greeley Park, Nashua	C. Sheridan
10/09	1	Raccoon Hill Rd., Salisbury	K. O'Neill
10/15	1	Gorham	K. Toomey
10/17	1	Krif Rd., Keene	S. Mirick
10/24	3	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	S. Mirick
10/26	1	Dahl WS, Conway	J. Scott, R. Steber, W. Broussard, C. Nims
11/10	1	Birch St. Community Gardens, Concord	R. Suomala, J. Frost
11/16	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	S. Lamonde



*Orange-crowned Warbler by Steve Mirick, 10-21-18, Island Path, Hampton, NH.*

### Nashville Warbler

10/27	1	Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins
11/04	1	Bicentennial Park, Hampton	J. Lambert, et al.
11/10	1	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
11/12	1	Locke Lake, Barnstead	J. Lambert

### Connecticut Warbler

09/13	1	Pack Monadnock RO	C. Witko
09/16	1	Woodridge Park, Durham	K. Dorsey
09/17	1	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard
09/21	1	Lamprey River Preserve, Durham	B. Griffith
09/23	1	Great Bog area, Portsmouth	S.& J. Mirick, et al.
10/01	1	Esther Currier WMA at Low Plain, New London	S. Gremel

### Mourning Warbler

08/24	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	S. Mirick
08/27	2	Magalloway Rd., Pittsburg	D. Forsyth
09/19	1	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard
09/23	1	Awcomin Marsh, Rye	S. Mirick
09/23	1	Diamond Ledge Rd., Sandwich	T. Vazzano
09/29	1	Birch St. Community Gardens, Concord	Z. Cornell, Capital CFT
10/06	1	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard

### Common Yellowthroat

09/20	20	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard
09/25	12	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard

Date	#	Location	Observer
09/27	13	Connecticut R. Hubbard WMA, Walpole	D. Clark, K. Cox
11/18	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	S. Mirick
11/25	1	Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton	S. Mirick, et al.

**Hooded Warbler**

11/04	1	Little River saltmarsh, N. Hampton	B. Griffith, R. Prieto, et al.
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American Redstart by Debra Powers, 11-11-18, Rye Harbor SP, NH

**American Redstart**

08/12	13	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Dionne, P.&L. Charron
09/15	10	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	R. Prieto
10/26	1	Pleasant St., New London	J. Esten
11/11	1	Rye Harbor SP	D. Powers

**Cape May Warbler**

08/21	4	Call Rd., Webster	R. Quinn
09/21	10	Signal Mountain Rd., Millsfield	L. Charron
09/23	10	Star Island, Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, et al.
10/22	1	W. Surry Rd., Keene	B. Reilly
10/22	1	Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield	A. Robbins
11/04	1	Acorn Rd., Hampton	S. Mirick

**Northern Parula**

09/16	10	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	S. Mirick
09/20	30	Dahl WS, Conway	T. Albert
11/04	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	K.& A. Wilmarth, L. Medlock, J. Lambert, P. Miliotis, L. McKillop
11/11	1	Urban Forestry Ctr., Portsmouth	J. Sparrell, K. Towler
11/12	1	N. Hampton State Beach	S. Mirick

**Magnolia Warbler**

09/20	15	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard
09/21	10	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard
11/04	1	Gorham	K. Toomey
11/11	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	S. Mirick

**Bay-breasted Warbler**

08/31	6	Freedom Town Forest	G.& A. Robbins
09/03	5	Buffalo Rd., W. Rumney	J. Williams
09/14	13	Call Rd., Webster	R. Quinn
09/27	1	Gorham	K. Toomey
10/06	1	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard

**Blackburnian Warbler**

08/01	7	Call Rd., Webster	R. Quinn
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Date	#	Location	Observer
10/02	1	Call Rd., Webster	R. Quinn
10/06	1	Nineteen Mile Brook Trail, WMNF	M. Manolova
10/25	1	UNH, Durham	K. Dorsey

**Yellow Warbler**

08/05	18	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	S. Mirick
09/15	12	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	R. Prieto
10/12	1	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	W. Byrnes, G.&J. Collins, N. Lebedzinski, J. Nevard
10/13	1	Squam L., Sandwich	B. Gunn, C. Lowder
10/31	1	Coffeetown Rd., Deerfield	S. Kjendal

**Chestnut-sided Warbler**

08/01	9	Call Rd., Webster	R. Quinn
08/11	6	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	S. Mirick
10/01	1	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	S. Jaffe
10/03	1	Ten Rod Rd., Rochester	D. Hubbard
10/04	1	Winnant Park Trails, Concord	H. Siener

**Blackpoll Warbler**

09/15	25	Mt. Washington, WMNF	A.& M.& J.& J. Eckerson
09/16	17	Pack Monadnock RO	K. Fenton
10/07	17	Thompson WS, Sandwich	P. Brown, K. Klapper, et al.
10/08	18	Exeter WTP	P. Miliotis
10/25	1	North Beach, Hampton	H. Bauer
10/28	1	Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	S. Mirick, P. Low, S. Wong, J. Parrot-Willis

**Black-throated Blue Warbler**

08/05	8	Appalachian Trail, Lyme	M. Daw
10/28	1	Tanglewood Dr., Henniker	D. Ellis
11/30	1	Evelyn Ave., Raymond	D. Prima



Female Black-throated Blue Warbler by Dan Prima, 11-23-18, Raymond, NH.

**Palm Warbler**

08/19	1	Dupuis Trail, Errol	D. Dionne, L. Charron
09/01	2	Freedom Town Forest	S. Lee, et al.
10/05	75	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	M. Resch
11/11	1	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	P. Hunt
11/11	1	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	S. Jaffe

**Palm Warbler - Western subsp.**

09/27	12	Concord Airport	N. Dorian
11/04	1	Goss Farm, Rye	S.& J. Mirick, BBC FT

## FALL SEASON

*Date # Location Observer*

### Palm Warbler - Yellow subsp.

10/08 34 Penacook survey route P. Hunt  
11/18 1 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye S. Mirick, J. Lambert

### Pine Warbler

09/07 30 Hollow Hill Rd., Tamworth S. Joyce, S. Wilcox  
09/29 24 Penacook survey route P. Hunt  
10/27 1 Woodridge Park, Durham K. Dorsey  
11/09 1 Derry WTP S. Mirick

### Yellow-rumped Warbler

10/07 250 Thompson WS, Sandwich P. Brown, K. Klapper, et al.  
10/13 269 NH coast S. Mirick  
10/21 130 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye J. Sparrell, K. Towler

### Prairie Warbler

08/25 6 West Branch pine barrens, Madison G.& A. Robbins  
09/16 10 Depot Rd., Barnstead J. Lambert  
10/14 1 Great Bay Farm, Greenland S. Mirick  
10/14 1 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye D. Stephens  
11/11 1 Thompson Forest, Durham K. Dorsey



*Prairie Warbler by Steve Mirick, 10-14-18, Great Bay Farm, Greenland, NH.*

### Black-throated Green Warbler

08/26 18 Ammonoosuc L., Carroll B. Burke  
09/20 15 Dahl WS, Conway W. Broussard, T. Albert  
10/28 1 Morrill's Farm, Penacook P. Hunt  
11/07 1 Unitarian Church, Pleasant St., Concord P. Hunt, U. Dienes

### Canada Warbler

08/16 4 Huntress Bridge Rd., Effingham G.& A. Robbins  
09/01 1 Cherry Pond access trail, Jefferson D. Govatski  
09/22 1 Dahl WS, Conway W. Broussard  
09/30 1 Goss Farm, Rye L. Medlock

### Wilson's Warbler

08/17 1 Hoag Is., Sandwich D. Scott  
09/01 2 Under the Mountain Rd., Lyman S. Turner  
09/01 1 Tullando farm, Orford W. Scott  
09/15 2 Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye S. Mirick, et al.  
09/30 3 Star Island, Isles of Shoals E. Masterson, et al.  
10/09 1 Contoocook R. Park/Island Shores Estates, Penacook P. Hunt  
10/13 1 Meadow Pond, Hampton H. Bauer

*Date # Location Observer*

### Scarlet Tanager

09/01 4 Freedom Town Forest A. Robbins  
10/08 1 Autumn Ln., Nottingham R. Prieto  
11/01 1 Walnut St., Rochester H. Driscoll



*Western Tanager by Michael Blichman, 11-12-18, Pembroke, NH.*

### Western Tanager

11/11 1 Buck St., Pembroke M. Blichman

### Northern Cardinal

11/16 28 Silver Doe Ln., Merrimack C. Wennerth  
11/25 2 Tracy Dr., Errol L. Charron

### Rose-breasted Grosbeak

09/08 5 Valley Cross Rd., Jackson T. Jerome, P. Carr, W. Broussard  
09/27 5 Connecticut R. Hubbard WMA, Walpole K. Cox, D. Clark  
09/30 1 Hinsdale Setbacks C. Witko, K. Lauer  
10/10 1 Old Chesham Rd., Marlborough S. Jaffe

### Indigo Bunting

08/24 40 Morrill's Farm, Penacook P. Hunt  
09/21 18 Woodmont Orchard, Hollis C. McPherson  
10/14 1 Appledore Ave., N. Hampton S. Mirick  
11/17 1 River Rd., Stratham R. Suomala, Z. Cornell

### Dickcissel

08/23 1 Woodmont Orchard, Hollis C. McPherson  
08/31 1 Freedom Town Forest G.& A. Robbins  
09/01 1 Dingman Farm, Kensington D. Finch  
09/22 4 Star Island, Isles of Shoals E. Masterson, et al.  
09/30 1 Dahl WS, Conway W. Broussard  
09/30 2 Goss Farm, Rye J. Lambert  
10/07 2 Woodmont Orchard, Hollis S. Wrisley  
11/04 1 Bicentennial Park, Hampton S.& J. Mirick, BBC FT  
11/11 1 Clinton St., Concord R. Suomala, Z. Cornello



*Dickcissel by Len Medlock, 9-30-18, Goss Farm, Rye, NH.*

# Fall 2018 New Hampshire Raptor Migration Report

by Iain MacLeod



Merlin by Judd Nathan, 9-14-18, Pack Monadnock, NH.

Fall 2018 marked the fourteenth consecutive fall season of daily coordinated counts conducted at the Pack Monadnock Raptor Migration Observatory at Miller State Park in Peterborough, NH. The count was conducted this year under the leadership of the Harris Center for Conservation in partnership with NH Audubon in a formal agreement with the NH Division of Natural and Cultural Resources. The Seasonal Counter/Interpreter for 2018 was Chad Witko. I was the official counter on Mondays and Henry Walters was the official counter on Tuesdays. Phil Brown served as the Raptor Observatory Coordinator and a wonderful group of dedicated volunteers rounded out the coverage and helped scan the skies. In particular, we must acknowledge Katrina Fenton, Levi Burford, Julie Brown and Mark Timmerman, who each served as official counters at some point during the season.

Full site coverage was maintained daily from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm EST (or close to), from September 1 to November 4 and 9:00 am to 3:00 pm EST from November 5-18. From September 1 to November 18, a total of 455.25 observation hours were logged (216.75 in September, 166.25 in October, and 72.25 in November). September fared best in total count hours, having only two days where no counts were conducted due to rain or a low cloud ceiling (September 12 and 25). While there were several days with reduced hours as a result of the same conditions, only one date logged three hours or less (September 18). Comparatively, October's total count hours suffered considerably, owing to a pattern of overcast conditions and precipitation that seemed to occur on a weekly basis. In total, there were six days when no count was conducted for this month due to poor weather (October 2, 7, 8, 11, 27, and 29). There were also five days that operated with reduced hours (October 1, 13, 15, 24, and 28). This

pattern of poor weather, along with strong winds and eventually snow, continued into November when there were five days that no count was conducted (November 2, 5, 6, 13, 14) and four days with reduced hours (November 1, 3, 10, and 16). The total observation hours is a little below the 10-year average of 509 hours.

A total of 8,842 individual migratory raptors were recorded. That equals 19.42 raptors per hour. The raptors-per-hour count for each month was: September, 36.13; October, 4.64; and November, 3.32.

This year's raptor total was the lowest count since 2009 which had to be attributable to the poor weather, and winds from the wrong direction, which gave us low totals on just about every species. The exception was for the "big ones" – both Bald and Golden Eagles set new season highs.

Interestingly, Putney Mountain in Vermont (just 40 miles due west from Pack) did much better than we did, setting a new season high of nearly 16,000 birds (including single-season highs for both Broad-winged Hawk and Sharp-shinned Hawk), which suggests that for whatever reason the birds were consistently flying farther west and missing us.

The 10-year average is 12,331 raptors (10-year averages in this account refer to data from just the prior 10 years, 2009-2018). Trend graphs for 2009-2018 are presented as "raptors per count hours." Overall, seven species (Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Golden Eagle, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon) show positive 10-year trends, one species (Sharp-shinned Hawk) shows a flat 10-year trend and six species (Osprey, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Red-tailed Hawk, and American Kestrel) show a negative 10-year trend. Our 10-year trend for all raptors combined is positive.

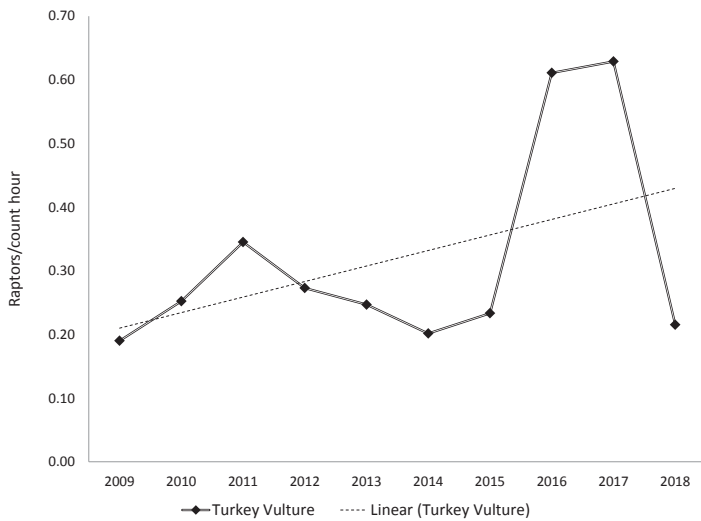
**Turkey Vultures** are late season migrants and generally we don't see obvious signs of southbound birds until well into October. After a record high count last year (324), we saw our count plummet this year to just 98 (Figure 1, 10-year



What hawk is this? Test your identification skills. The answer is at the end of the article. Photo by Judd Nathan, 9-7-18, Pack Monadnock, NH.

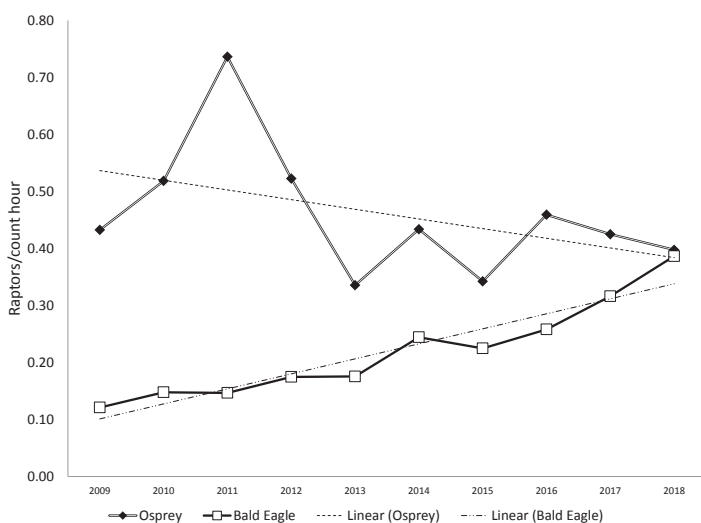
average = 159). We just never saw any big movements this year. The biggest single day count was 27 on October 10.

Figure 1. Ten-year Turkey Vulture trend at Pack Monadnock Raptor Migration Observatory, NH, 2009-2018.



The **Osprey** count of 181 was the lowest count since we started season-long monitoring at Pack in 2005! What the heck is going on with Ospreys? I think the ten-year trend figure really tells the story (Figure 2). As the Bald Eagle count has increased, the Osprey count has decreased to the point that their data lines almost met this year! Maybe next year we will actually count more Bald Eagles than Ospreys. We can assume that a large portion of the Ospreys we count at Pack come from Maine and the breeding population of Bald Eagles in that state hit 733 in 2018 (DeSorbo, pers. com.), which must be having a dramatic impact on nesting success of Ospreys, resulting in fewer youngsters heading south in the fall.

Figure 2. Ten-year Osprey and Bald Eagle trends at Pack Monadnock Raptor Migration Observatory, NH, 2009-2018.



The **Bald Eagle** total (176) set a new season-high count and marks the seventh consecutive season of more than 100 Bald Eagles (Figure 2). The Bald Eagle migration is quite spread out but the bulk moved through in September (123). The peak one-day count was 23 on September 24. The 10-year trend continues to soar and, as mentioned above, nearly surpassed the Osprey total.

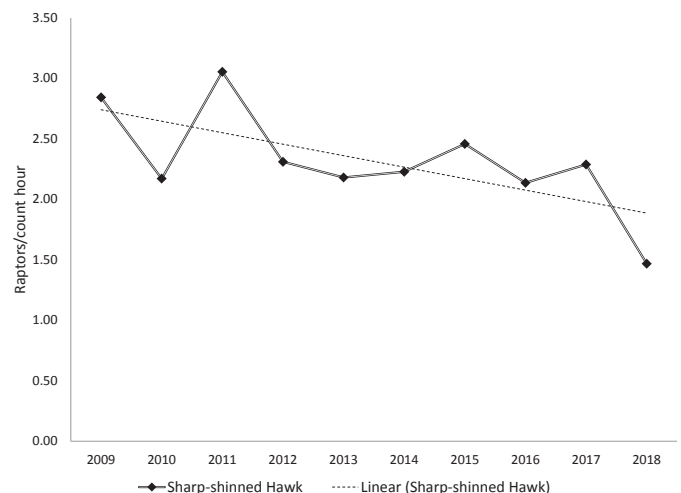
The tally of 64 **Northern Harriers** was our lowest since 2011 and well below the 10-year average of 92. The 10-year trend is negative.



Northern Goshawk by Levi Burford, 10-17-18, Pack Monadnock Raptor Observatory, Miller State Park, NH.

In the accipiter group, the 124 **Cooper's Hawks** tallied this year was lower than last year and well below the 10-year average (148). A look at the 10-year trend shows a slight decline in our count. **Northern Goshawks** hit an all-time low with just 11 counted. The 10-year average is 36 and the overall ten-year trend is slightly down. The **Sharp-shinned Hawk** count was astonishingly low (just 668!). That is the first time we have been below four figures since 2005. The peak count day was September 21 when 93 were counted. A look at the 10-year trend indicates a strong negative trend (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Ten-year Sharp-shinned Hawk trend at Pack Monadnock Raptor Migration Observatory, NH, 2009-2018.





The **Broad-winged Hawk** count was down this year, with only 6,756 counted (10-year average = 9,457). The best flight was on September 24 with 2,239. The ten-year graph shows a lot of annual fluctuation, but the trend is still positive for Pack (Figure 4) even with a drop off in the last three years.

Figure 4. Ten-year Broad-winged Hawk trend at Pack Monadnock Raptor Migration Observatory, NH. 2009-2018.

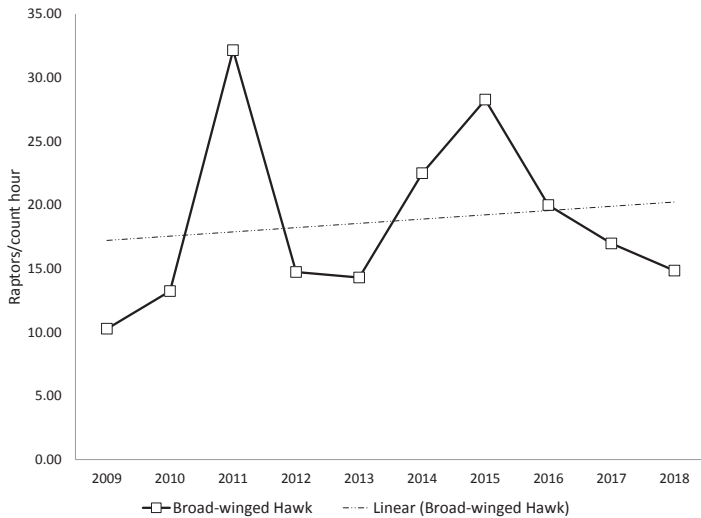


Table 1. Broad-winged Hawk fall migration totals and peak counts at Pack Monadnock, NH, 2005-2018. Source: HMANA's HawkCount.org Database.

Year	Total	Highest one-day count	Date
2005	3,978	1,687	18-Sep
2006	7,595	3,044	11-Sep
2007	7,776	2,676	16-Sep
2008	6,835	2,424	18-Sep
2009	4,322	2,042	16-Sep
2010	7,557	3,328	18-Sep
2011	11,831	5,208	18-Sep
2012	8,848	2,556	17-Sep
2013	8,221	2,759	17-Sep
2014	11,043	4,101	15-Sep
2015	16,693	3,959	17-Sep
2016	10,530	3,245	15-Sep
2017	8,744	1,836	21-Sep
2018	6,756	2,239	24-Sep

The **Red-shouldered Hawk** count of 126 was just ahead of the 10-year average (124). This is normally a late-season migrant for us with the major push happening in November, but this year our high daily count was on October 5 when 25

were counted.

The **Red-tailed Hawk** tally of 246 was our lowest since 2011 and below the 10-year average of 372. Based on the hypothetical 3-4 year boom and bust cycle of voles in the Boreal forest, 2018 was supposed to be an up year but it was not to be. The peak flight day this year was November 4 when 52 were counted.

For the seventh straight year, **Rough-legged Hawk** was recorded. This year two were seen (equaling the site record), one on October 25 and one on November 17.

The total of 22 **Golden Eagles** smashed the previous high count of 13 set in 2015 (10-year average = 8). There were six days when multiples were seen and a new one-day record was set on October 30 when a staggering six were tallied.

The **American Kestrel** count was the highest since 2012 with 171 tallied. The ten-year average is 167. Although the trend line for the last ten years is down, we are seeing a little rebound in the last three years. Let's hope this continues. This species is listed a species of conservation concern in New Hampshire. The **Merlin** count (just 58) was the lowest since 2009. The 10-year average is 93. Overall the 10-year trend is now slightly negative. The **Peregrine Falcon** count plummeted to just 31 (after setting a new single season high last year of 64)... go figure! The 10-year average = 45. The 10-year trend is still positive.

You can read the Pack Monadnock Raptor Observatory Fall 2018 Final Report at:

[https://harriscenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/PMRO\\_Final\\_Report\\_2018.pdf](https://harriscenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/PMRO_Final_Report_2018.pdf)

*Note: The Carter Hill Raptor Observatory was not officially in operation in 2018, but volunteers did count on two days in October for a total of 6.5 hours. 40 raptors were counted: 10 Turkey Vultures, 1 Osprey, 15 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 3 Cooper's Hawks, 2 Red-tailed Hawks, 5 American Kestrels and 4 Merlins.*

#### Data Source

HawkCount.org. Online raptor migration database of the Hawk Migration Association of North America.

*Iain MacLeod is Executive Director of the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center in Holderness, NH and is on the Board of NorthEast Hawk Watch and former board chair of the Hawk Migration Association of North America. Iain founded the Pack Monadnock Raptor Migration Observatory in 2004 and has studied raptors (particularly Ospreys) for 40+ years. Iain is a member of the New Hampshire Bird Records Editorial Team and New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee. He lives in Ashland.*

Answer to the photo id: Red-shouldered Hawk.

# Fall 2018 Field Notes

Compiled by Diana Stephens

## Purple Finch Lost (and Found!) at Sea

by Steve Mirick

All photos were taken on the *MV Granite State* during ANH Audubon's Pelagic Trip on September 4, 2018. The visiting bird is a Purple Finch, which landed on the boat.



*This young finch was lucky to find a boat full of people out at sea. A boat full of birders, no less, who had lots of food. Photo by Steve Bennett.*



*This Purple Finch caught a ride on the boat and provided a fun time for all! Photo by Susan Wrisley.*



*You know what they say about a Bird in Hand... Photo by Steve Bennett.*

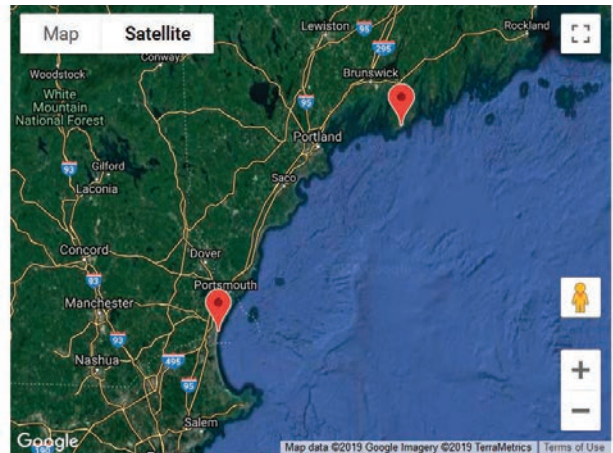
The excerpt below was taken from a NHBirds post by Steve Mirick about a Purple Finch that visited the NH Audubon Pelagic Trip on September 4:

Normally not considered a highlight on a species list, a single juvenile Purple Finch landed on the boat well off shore and stayed on the boat for the whole day! It hopped from person to person, landing on heads, shoulders, optics, etc.. A couple of times it left the boat, but fortunately, it returned because eventually people started feeding it, and it ate (strawberry, grape, apple, banana, peach, watermelon, cranberry)!!! By the end of the trip, it became very comfortable on the boat and eventually, it left the boat as we came up to the dock in Rye Harbor!

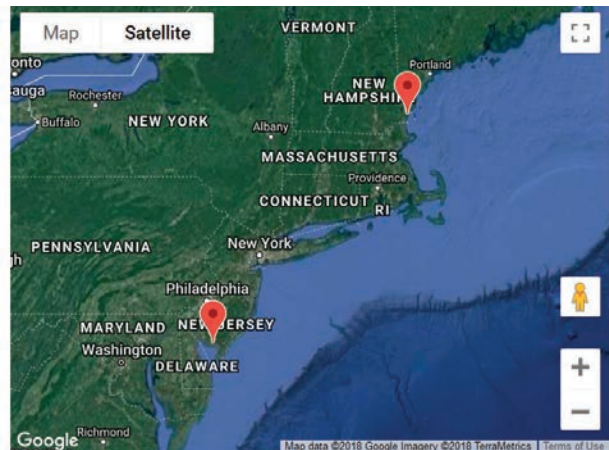


*It landed on hats and heads! Photo by Susan Wrisley.*

## Banded Birds



Steve Mirick photographed this banded Semipalmated Sandpiper on 8-1-18 at the Hampton Salt Marsh Conservation Area in New Hampshire. Steve reported the band and learned that "UC6" had been originally banded on 8-10-15 at Popham Beach, Maine.



Steve Mirick photographed this color-banded Semipalmated Sandpiper (T7E) at Rye Harbor State Park (NH) on 10-12-18. It was banded at the Heislerville Wildlife Management Area in New Jersey on 5-12-16. The Heislerville WMA is a state-owned refuge consisting of over 7,000 acres of habitat in Cumberland County, NJ. This large refuge connects the Maurice River to the Delaware Bay, which is strategically located midway between the Semipalmated Sandpiper's wintering grounds of South America and its Arctic nesting grounds. While in New Jersey in spring, the sandpipers feed on the tiny eggs of the Horseshoe Crab.



Leo McKillop found this Brant in the Rye Harbor State Park parking lot on 10-16-18 and to his delight, it was still there the next morning. He submitted the band information and received a reply from the Bird Banding Laboratory that it was banded in New York in 2015.

## Sleeping Downy Woodpecker



Susan Wrisley captured this Downy Woodpecker sleeping (!) on the feeder at her home in Hollis.

## Red Bat vs. Merlin



*This Red Bat, seen during the day by the Brookline Bird Club, wasn't so lucky in the moments that followed the sighting. Photo by Jason Lambert, 11-4-18, Rye, NH.*

On November 4, Jane and Steve Mirick led their annual Brookline Bird Club field trip along the Seacoast. In addition to some great birds\*, they also had an amazing view of a bat chase at Odiorne Point State Park in Rye, NH. Here is what Steve wrote that evening on NHBirds:

Great views of a Red Bat flying in circles overhead as we watched the Ash-throated Flycatcher at Odiorne. Great light hitting the bat, but hard to photograph! A few minutes later, incredibly, sadly, a Merlin appeared, spotted the bat and repeatedly dove on it as we all watched and screamed... to no avail. After about three attempts, it succeeded and **picked off the red bat** in mid-air! Wish it could have just chased the starlings...

\*Ash-throated Flycatcher, Hooded Warbler, Chimney Swift, Nashville Warbler, Dickcissel

## Fun Watching Chimney Swifts

by Rebecca Suomala



*Chimney Swifts going to roost, 8-20-18, N. Main St., Concord, NH. Photo by Diane Seavey.*

Aside benefit of counting migrating Common Nighthawks in Concord is the opportunity to watch

Chimney Swifts coming in to roost for the evening. They swarm and circle in large numbers (100-200 swifts) over a chimney of interest and then finally, just when you are ready to give up, they start to drop in to the chimney where they will spend the night. Once started, the pace increases and a stream of swifts drops in one after the other in quick succession until there are only a few left. Sometimes they swarm over one chimney but then abandon it for another. They don't always use the same chimney each year but they seem to have a few favorites. Diane Seavey, Anne Forsythe and I were lucky one evening when a group of 107 Chimney Swifts selected a chimney on Main Street right near the Capital Commons Garage where we were watching nighthawks with Zeke Cornell.

## Screech-Owl Flies Into Car

*This happened in 2017, but we just couldn't resist showing you the photos of the incident, which were sent to NH Audubon recently. Ed.*



*This Eastern Screech-Owl more than surprised Bedford resident Kam Mun on 11-7-17 when it flew into Kam's open window while he was driving down Rt. 3A at the border of Manchester and Litchfield. Since the screech-owl flew into his car, Mr. Mun has taken a liking to owls and to learning about them. The Eastern Screech-Owl is a year round resident in New Hampshire and is active at dusk. It feeds on insects and rodents and is willing to use nest boxes.*

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# Cold Plunge for a Seaside Sparrow

by Steve Bennett

A big thank you to Steve and Jane Mirick for once again finding a great New Hampshire bird and for sharing it with the birding community in a manner which allowed several other birders to quickly respond and get on the bird. I'm referring to the Seaside Sparrow that Steve and Jane found in the Hampton marshes late Sunday afternoon (11-25-18). About 10 of us arrived and attempted to relocate the skulky little guy. From the parking lot, he gave teasing, flitty little looks, but not great views.

Kyle Wilmarth was the first to make a foray out into the marsh, into the mid-calf, cold water. This was a bold move, even in his muck boots. Kyle kept shouting "he's right here!" He was experiencing wonderful views from the back of the phragmites, while the rest of us struggled to see it from the dry parking lot. The dumpsters and the shed always seemed to be in the way. Eventually, Jim Sparrell took the plunge;



Seaside Sparrow by Kyle Wilmarth 11-25-18  
Hampton NH.

splash, splash, splash, no going back. After the first step, you are already soaked up to your knees. Several others pondered action from the edge, but decided against taking the plunge. Jeanne-Marie Maher borrowed some boots and decided she was up for the adventure. After a few steps, she hit a big hole and plunged into waist

deep water. She eventually got out and continued on. I later told her that I wouldn't have let her drown, but otherwise she was on her own. She completely understood. It was every birder for her/himself!

Seeing those three out there, standing mid-calf in the cold marsh water and calling out "here it is, here it is" and everybody else with dry feet yelling "where, where", I decided that it was time I took the plunge. In I went. First step – much, much deeper and much, much colder than one would think. After the first step, I was totally committed, because I was already totally soaked. Second step, third step, I tried

walking on some planks, but they were just floating in two feet of water, so right to the bottom I went, again. Kyle was still shouting "here it is", so I took another step, then another, then up to my knees, again. I almost fell over several times, then I remembered that my phone was in my pants pocket and my camera slung over my shoulder. Going too deep will cost thousands of dollars. I could see the others just ahead so I pushed on, looking for higher ground, but there was none. Just water – cold water, everywhere...

Eventually, the four of us found a place of relative safety. We stopped, we watched, we chit, chit, chit. The bird popped up again in front of Kyle, then worked its way down to Jim, then popped up 20 feet in front of me at eye level, in perfect light with an unobstructed view; beautiful, so dark, so well defined. Then bam, gone, it dropped down into the reeds. What a great 10 seconds. Wow! Face to face. Of course, now I still had to get back to the parking lot and dry land. Was it worth it, worth 20 minutes of wading in freezing cold salt water, worth it for one state bird, worth it for a non-lifer, worth getting soaked to the bone in late November freezing cold water?

Heck yes!!

Bring on the Emperor Goose. You can run but you can't hide.

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## Field Trip Report

### SKUA!!

#### NH Audubon's Fall 2018 Pelagic Birding Trip Report

by Jon Woolf

In fall 2008, as a volunteer for Massabesic Audubon Center, I organized and led the first NH Audubon Pelagic Birding Trip. Since then, I've organized two such trips each year, one each in spring and fall. We've had to cancel a few due to bad weather, but whenever we do get to go out, we always seem to find at least one special something to make the trip a success.

In fall 2018, the tenth anniversary fall trip on September 4 proved a perfect case of this. We headed out as always on the *MV Granite State*, checked out the Isles of Shoals for shorebirds and migrants, then headed on out to Jeffreys Ledge. Bird activity was slow and a bit spotty, with groups of Cory's Shearwaters here and there, mixed with other ordinary pelagic species. Several Pomarine Jaegers were seen during the morning, including a couple that were harassing some shearwaters. Jaegers are unusual enough for Jeffreys Ledge that I figured a whole flock of them would be the highlight of the trip. Little did I know.

A lunchtime highlight was provided by a very tired and hungry juvenile Purple Finch, which decided to use the *Granite State* as a resting place, and was even induced to eat some bits of fruit provided by various birders (see the Fall

2018 Field Notes for more). Around 1:30 pm, we found another small flock of shearwaters and, a few minutes later, Steve Mirick on the microphone called out another jaeger approaching from astern.



*South Polar Skua  
by Steve Mirick,  
9-4-18, in offshore  
waters, NH  
during the NH  
Audubon Pelagic  
Birding Trip.*

Then he got excited... and then more excited. Then the bird passed by the boat, giving everyone a good look at its body and wings – its **solid brown** body and wings, with vivid white wrist patches. The many-voiced roar of “**SKUA!!**” was probably audible all the way back to shore. The skua gave us great views and we were able to identify it as a South Polar Skua.

Why the excitement? Any kind of skua is rare in New Hampshire waters. According to the NH Rare Birds Committee, there have been only about six skua reports in the state, most from the 1970s. Although the reports comprised both South Polar and Great Skua, none had sufficient documentation to confirm the species. This was the first ever documented sighting of a South Polar Skua in New Hampshire waters. They’ve been seen in Massachusetts. They’ve been seen in Maine, but never confirmed in New Hampshire. People have been hoping for a skua on the NH Audubon pelagic trips pretty much since we ran the first one. I had never seen a skua at all, and had started to take the talk about “maybe we’ll get a skua” as half wishful and half joking, kind of like “maybe this time we’ll see a Blue Whale” on the *Granite State’s* regular whalewatches. Now, on the tenth anniversary trip, here it was!

The skua circled the boat a few times, then landed on the water perhaps a hundred yards away. Captain Pete Reynolds immediately steered for it, skillfully maneuvering the boat to give everyone good looks. The skua was very cooperative. It hung around for almost half an hour, giving us good long looks both on the water and in the air. It even demonstrated its kleptoparasitic feeding method, chasing after a shearwater that had a mouthful of food. We always have a number of determined photographers with high-end equipment on board. Every time the skua came close, you could hear every

camera on the boat clicking away at high speed. At times, it sounded like high noon on the Western Front.



*Pomarine Jaeger trying to get food from a Great Shearwater by Susan Wrisley,  
9-4-18, NH Audubon Pelagic Birding Trip.*

Sadly, the afternoon was wearing on and we were a long way from Rye Harbor, so eventually we had to leave the skua behind and head for home. On the way in, as usual Steve Mirick drew up a list of species sighted. He recorded a total of 24 species:

Common Eider	Whimbrel
Common Loon	Ruddy Turnstone
Cory’s Shearwater	Sanderling
Great Shearwater	Red-necked Phalarope
Manx Shearwater	Bonaparte’s Gull
Wilson’s Storm-Petrel	Herring Gull
Northern Gannet	Great Black-backed Gull
Double-crested Cormorant	Common Tern
Great Cormorant	Pomarine Jaeger
Merlin	Purple Finch
Black-bellied Plover	American Goldfinch
Semipalmated Plover	

And one **South Polar Skua** – a life bird for me and a memory that I’ll keep forever. What a way to celebrate our tenth-anniversary trip!

## Two Red Heads in One Day

*by Katherine Towler*

Early on the morning of October 14, 2018 Jim Sparrell spotted a drake Redhead on Eel Pond in Rye. After returning to check on the duck later that morning (still there!), Jim and I and Susan Wrisley headed over to Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge (GBNWR) for their Walkabout Weekend. To celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week, GBNWR opened areas of the refuge normally closed to visitors.

## It's Squirrel-maggedon!

by Diana Stephens



Roger Frieden photographed this squirrel swimming across Pawtuckaway Lake in Nottingham, NH, 8-31-18.



A Bald Eagle catching a squirrel as it swam across Squam Lake, 10-5-18, by Iain MacLeod.

This past August and September, Gray Squirrels everywhere seemed to be behaving like lunatics in our backyards and were dying in vast numbers along the highways. The squirrel population had exploded and, sadly, they were running across highways to their deaths. Humans in cars were swerving to avoid the squirrels, sometimes successfully, but mostly not. Squirrels appeared as though they were high on psychedelic mushrooms, doing back flips and swimming across lakes and rivers. The squirrels looked like they were going “nuts.” Some folks thought they were dying because of mosquito spraying along the highways among other theories that were floating around the internet. So, what was actually happening to these creatures?

Every other year, as an evolutionary strategy, oak, hickory and beech trees produce a surplus of acorns and nuts so they have a better chance at survival, and these are called mast years. Fall 2017 was an extraordinary mast year, which means that these trees produced an unusually large number

We had a guided tour of the former weapons storage area and were able to walk into one of the bunkers that was used to house nuclear warheads. We were excited to see the unmistakable nests of Cliff Swallows up in the eaves above the doorway. A good repurposing of the bunker!

After the tour, we took a beautiful walk into the restricted access area of the refuge down Merrimac Drive to Woodman's Point. We had a close encounter with a juvenile Bald Eagle out at the Point, and Susan spotted a massive eagle's nest in a pine tree along the shore of the bay. Altogether, we saw seven Bald Eagles in the restricted area. But the real excitement came on our walk back through the field when we spotted an adult Red-headed Woodpecker flitting through the trees. Our second red head for the day! The woodpecker perched just off the trail, allowing for some great photographs, and hung around long enough for other birders to come see it. At one point as we watched the bird fly off, we heard what we believed was another Red-headed calling, suggesting that there might be a pair. Kyle Wilmarth was able to gain access to the area for the Christmas Bird Count and heard one Red-headed Woodpecker.



Red-headed Woodpecker by Jim Sparrell, 10-14-18, Great Bay NWR, Newington, NH.

In May of 2014, a Red-headed Woodpecker was seen along Bay Road on the western side of Great Bay. One was also seen periodically at Adam's Point from November of 2014 to February of 2015. Let's hope that Great Bay will host a nesting pair and birders will have more opportunities to search for them. This past year, GBNWR has held a series of events to allow the public to explore closed areas of the refuge. Staff told us they would hold more Weekend Walkabouts in the future. In the winter, they have been offering guided snowshoe tours in restricted areas and, once a month in warmer weather, they offer guided bicycle tours. Check the Facebook page of GBNWR for updates on events that allow expanded access to the refuge.

of acorns and nuts. This overabundance of acorns and nuts allowed the rodent population, including squirrels, to soar above their usual numbers. All the food they stored helped them survive the winter and have lots of young in the spring and summer. But, when the food supply dropped back down to lower than normal in the fall of 2018, there were many more squirrels and other rodents desperately searching for food and there was not enough to go around. (The fall of 2018 was actually a very poor mast year.) More squirrels meant more competition for the severely limited food, which in turn meant squirrels traveled a lot, crossing highways and rivers in search of food.

In short, the numbers of dead squirrels and road kill along New Hampshire's highways were staggering. Below are the results of informal gray squirrel mortality surveys conducted by several individuals.

### **Rebecca Suomala 9/23/18**

Counts were made of dead gray squirrel carcasses on five mile stretches of the highway:

Rt. 101 westbound, Mile 125-120, between Exeter and Brentwood = 165 dead.

Rte. 101 westbound to Rt. 93 on-ramp, Mile 105-100, Candia/Auburn/Manchester = 175 dead.

Rt. 93 northbound, Hooksett tollbooth to Rt. 89 on ramp, Mile 30-35, Hooksett - Bow = 159 dead.

### **Pam Hunt**

Rt. 93 northbound from Rt. 89 to Exit 17, about 10 miles in the afternoon, 9/1/18 = 100 dead.

Same route the next morning (9/2/18) going southbound = 100 dead.

Count coming back from the Seacoast on Rt. 101 & Rt. 93 = 280 dead (fall, date unknown)

### **Jeff MacQueen 9/1/18 (from a post to NHBirds the same day)**

Driving from Durham to Plymouth = 213 dead gray squirrels

130+ on Rt. 93 alone from Concord to Plymouth  
Many red squirrels, but not counted

While this was an unusual occurrence, extraordinary mast years have happened occasionally throughout history. The Great Squirrel "Migration" of 1968 occurred in September of that year, when a report by Vagyn Flyger mentioned gray squirrels showing "unusual activity throughout portions of the eastern United States from Vermont to Georgia" (Flyger, 1969). This included large numbers of dead squirrels on the highways as well as accounts of mass migrations, mass starvation, and unusual activities such as swimming across lakes, damaging farmers' crops and entering areas where they had previously been absent. The activity in 1968 took place after an excellent mast year the year before, which was

followed, once again, by a very low mast year.

Some observers this year wondered if there was a squirrel migration or mass movement of some sort. In several different cases in the United States, observers have witnessed mass squirrel migrations or movements from one territory to another. According to an article written by Ernest Thompson Seton in the *Journal of Mammalogy* in 1920, the gray squirrel population in 1800 most likely numbered in the several billions across the United States. (Of course, back then, there were many more intact virgin forests and fewer human obstacles to their survival.) Seton also cites observations by Dr. P.R. Hoy of Racine, Wisconsin who witnessed a movement of a half billion squirrels during four weeks in the early autumn of 1842, and again in 1847, 1852 and 1857. So, that is one theory, one of a squirrel migration, but what we know for certain is that the overpopulation of squirrels this year combined with fewer acorns, nuts and seeds caused the squirrels to move in vast numbers in search of sufficient food and to behave in squirrely ways in order to find it.



*The "squirrel apocalypse" generated this costume idea at the Portsmouth Halloween parade. Photos by Jim Sparrell, 10-31-18.*

What does all this have to do with birds? Squirrels prey on bird nests, especially songbirds with open cup nests, and can influence songbird populations. More squirrels mean some bird species will be less successful raising young. The high squirrel population in the spring and summer of 2018 may mean fewer young birds were raised and headed south in the



fall of 2018 and fewer returned to nest in 2019. The crash of the squirrel population that began with “squirrel-mageddon” in fall 2018, will mean fewer squirrels in 2019 and thus fewer predators of the songbirds that return to breed. Of course, it will also mean less prey for owls and hawks that eat small rodents! Nature is a complex web.

## References

- Seton, E. 1920. *Journal of Mammalogy*, 1(2):53-56.  
Flyger, V. 1969. University of Maryland, paper presented at Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference, WV.

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# A Barnacle Goose Story

## Duck, Duck, Goose!

by Jim Sparrell



*Barnacle Goose by Jim Sparrell, 11-12-18, Odiorne Point SP, Rye, NH.*

Veteran’s Day had the pleasant combination of being a school holiday and reasonably warm for November, with a high of 46° F and virtually no wind to keep the birds down. “Chat Cove” at Odiorne Point State Park in Rye had been host to an Ash-throated Flycatcher, Orange-crowned Warblers, an American Pipit, and a Yellow-breasted Chat, which made it an appealing destination with the afternoon sun still giving good light. On several occasions, there had been Ruby-crowned Kinglets scattered all along the beach. One of the frustrations and pleasures of taking pictures of birds is the hope that next time you can get a better shot. I had some pictures of the Orange-crowned Warblers, but headed to “Chat Cove” hoping to get a close shot of them feeding on the weedy seed heads in that soft, angled autumn light. I walked the Boy Scout Trail and up and down the beach a few times with no success in finding the warblers. I

followed a kinglet through the weeds a few times, but didn’t get any good pictures. I stopped to talk with another birding friend who was also looking for the Orange-crowned, but neither of us had had much of interest despite it being a lovely day, and I decided to give up looking for the warblers.

As I walked away from the cove toward the more open water and the clear view of the Isles of Shoals, a small flock of Canada Geese took off from the water. There was something about how they flew, low over the blue water with Appledore Island in the background that invited me to swing up the camera and snap a couple of shots of the group. I often take too many pictures that I just go home and delete, so I remember thinking, “Stop taking pictures of Canada Geese – what on earth would you want those for?” Also, one of my faults as a birder is that I rarely exercise the patience to sort through familiar flocks of ducks, egrets, robins, geese, or gulls, looking for something different. I took a few more pictures of a Ruby-crowned Kinglet that was flirting with the camera on my way out, headed home, and didn’t even download my pictures to look at them.

Just before I was headed for bed, since the next day was a “school day,” I decided to look at my pictures and remembered that the Canadas had looked lovely coming up off the water. As I scanned those pictures I had an “OMG” moment. One of those geese was much smaller and shaped differently. I was not certain of the identification so I emailed Steve Mirick, who I assume stays up at night waiting to help the rest of us with bird IDs, and in the morning woke up to find his confirmation that it was a Barnacle Goose. It didn’t take long for the Fall eBird reviewer, Ben Griffith, to notice that Bob Quinn had had an interesting goose farther down the coast, shortly after this sighting. I photographed the Barnacle Goose at 2:07 pm and, some time after 2:10 pm at Eel Pond in Rye, Bob Quinn and a small group were scoping migrants from the seawall. He got a quick look at a different goose that he identified as a possible blue morph Snow Goose. The photos I had managed to snap a few minutes earlier farther north provided compelling evidence that his bird was almost certainly the Barnacle Goose continuing down the coast.

According to the American Birding Association (ABA) list of unusual birds for North America, the Barnacle Goose is a code 4 bird, meaning that it tends not to be recorded every year in the ABA area but, with multiple records over the years, does have a pattern of occurrence. The most recent reports for New Hampshire prior to this sighting include a bird in the Hinsdale Setbacks area in March of 2012 and another Barnacle Goose that was seen in the Dover-Somersworth-Rollinsford area during the winter of 2011-2012.

## Amazing Circumstances – Fun with Birds (and Birders)!

by Bob Quinn

Here is more on the record of the Barnacle Goose seen migrating south along the New Hampshire coast on November 12, 2018 and the amazing circumstances that surrounded its discovery.

For me, it started earlier in the day at Odiorne Point State Park where I was guiding a small group. The weather was wonderful and the birding was excellent (Razorbills, Yellow-breasted Chat, etc.). We noticed numerous small flocks of Canada Geese heading south. “Look closely at all the flocks of geese for anything different,” I advised my group throughout the morning. Many enjoyable birding hours and miles went by and eventually something different *did* come along. At that moment, I was busily identifying ducks on Eel Pond with part of the group and, therefore, wasn’t even looking on the ocean side! The call “that’s different” grabbed my attention so I gently coaxed the scope away from whoever was using it, but by then the flock of geese was already beyond us. I managed a north-end view of a southbound goose. This glimpse was good enough for me to detect a goose smaller than the Canadas with a whitish head and grayish-blue wings and body. Ironically, its distinctive tail-end was obscured by one of the other geese. “Obviously,” I thought to myself, I had glimpsed a blue morph of a Snow Goose because what else could it have been?! That was “two strikes” on the field birders, almost resulting in an “out” for the goose (to use a baseball analogy)! Now is when the story truly becomes amazing and, since there is no need to recapitulate what Jim has written, I will keep the rest of the recitation of the circumstances short.

2:10 pm or so. Jim photographed a flock of geese at Odiorne Point in Rye.

2:13 pm or so. The same flock of geese reached the vicinity of Eel Pond and a member of my group noticed that one was different. “Blue” Goose I (erroneously) called it as it faded away.

Later that evening, Jim looked at his images and realized he had something different and special. Steve Mirick confirmed it as a Barnacle Goose. At roughly the same time, Amanda Kallenbach submitted our group’s eBird checklists for the day and shared them with me. Jim also submitted his eBird checklists.

Shortly thereafter, Ben Griffith, Fall Season Editor for *New Hampshire Bird Records*, was scanning the eBird reports and noticed *both* reports, Barnacle Goose and “Blue” Goose, and realized they might be the same individual. He emailed Amanda who emailed me. I looked at Jim’s photos and time stamp and, Voila!, a code 4 ABA bird that almost totally

eluded us field birders, but was caught by Jim’s lens and the amazing 21<sup>st</sup> century digital system!

Some of the lessons from this experience: any bird is possible almost anywhere; look twice (or three times if it is unusual) before you identify; submit your eBird data in a timely fashion; take photos of unusual species; don’t rule out the unexpected! As Ben mentioned to me, a “Blue” Goose would be quite a rarity all by itself.

A goose, serendipity, and the eBird reporting process all added up to an amazing story.

PS. If anyone is wondering, the Barnacle Goose remains a species I have never adequately seen in the wild and therefore awaits addition to my personal list. I look forward to that memorable day.

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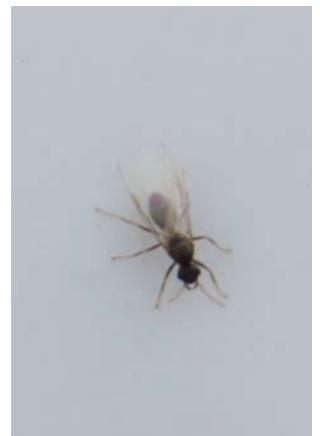
## Common Nighthawk Migration in Concord, Fall 2018

by Zeke Cornell

This fall was the eleventh year of monitoring nighthawk migration in the Concord area. For the third time, we exceeded 5,000 nighthawks for the season (total count was 5,273—the third highest count, see Figure 3). This is a far cry from the early years, when Rob Woodward had 357 birds in five days of watching in the first year (2008\*) and, again in 2010, when the total viewing days expanded to fifteen and still only 357 birds were recorded!

As a reminder of the trend in these counts, there were 1,480 birds recorded in 2012 and that more than doubled to 3,608 in 2013. From 2014 onward, the season totals have been greater than 4,000 (Figure 3), with at least one night each of more than 1,000 birds.

In fall 2018, there was continuous coverage for 19 days from August 18 through September 5. The peak night was August 24 with a count of 1,681 (Figure 1). This date corresponds with the average date of the peak count at this site (Figure 2). In addition to the high count of nighthawks, we had another experience that is worth noting. Just across the Merrimack River, which is not too far from our monitoring perch, we could see small dark blurry patches of the sky (like small clouds of smoke or as



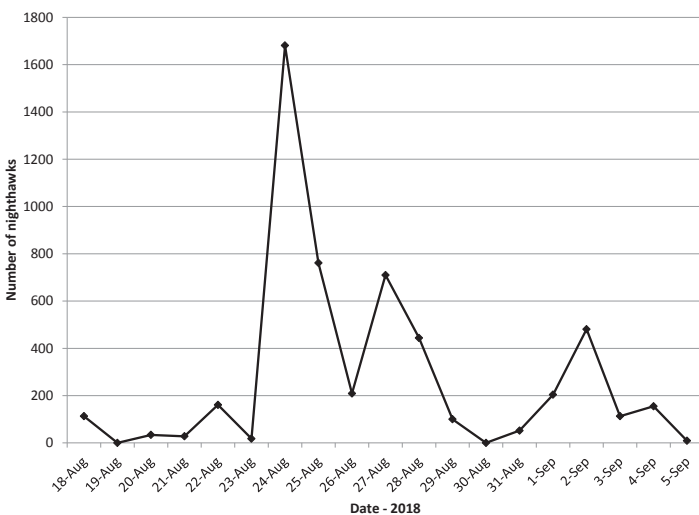
*One of the many flying ants present on the 2018 peak nighthawk count (8-24-18) in Concord, NH by Rebecca Suomala. Unfortunately the clouds of ants were so distant they proved impossible to photograph despite many, many attempts. Thank goodness for digital photography!*

if part of the sky was pixilated on a digital screen) moving along in the distant, light background of the sky. When we could finally get a scope on one area where the blur seemed to pulse repeatedly, we realized that we were watching an uncountable number of flying ants. Some combination of the breezes or the light reflections allowed us to see brief concentrations of the ants as they were floating north on a light southwest wind. With the scope, we could see even the more widely spaced members of this flight. There have been other evenings with the combination of many nighthawks and flying ants, but this particular spectacle was a first for us!

While we tallied a good number of nighthawks on September 2 at 481, the majority of the birds counted were seen in the six evenings of August 24-29. This compression of our migration sightings is unusual compared to previous years. There were two evenings with no nighthawks: August 19 and 30. Weather interfered with counting on August 17 and September 6-9.

\*Note: Watches in 2008 and 2009 were at the Legislative Office Garage in Concord. Graphs include only the data from 2010-2018 after the watch location moved to the Capital Commons Garage and coverage increased to 15 or more days.

Figure 1. Daily total of migrating Common Nighthawks in fall 2018 tallied by Zeke Cornell and volunteers at the Capital Commons Garage in Concord, NH.



Zeke Cornell (front) and visitors watching for nighthawks on the roof of the Capital Commons Garage, Concord, 8-25-18. A scope is indispensable on nights when the birds are distant. Photo by Rebecca Suomala.

Figure 2. Average number of migrating Common Nighthawks by date, 2010-2018, Capital Commons Garage, Concord, NH. Lead counters: Rob Woodward and Zeke Cornell.

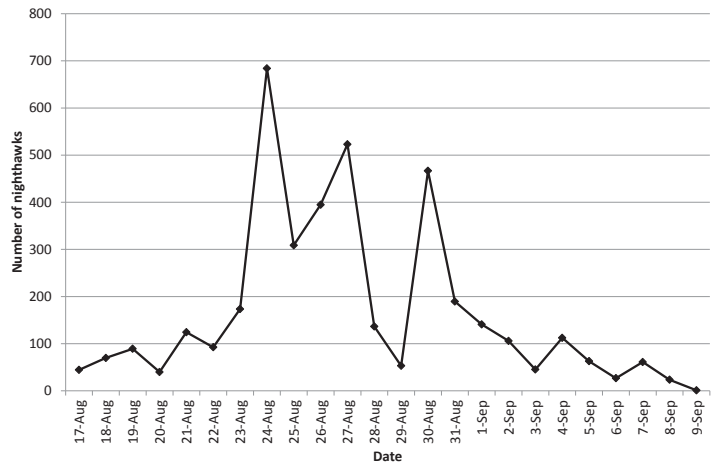
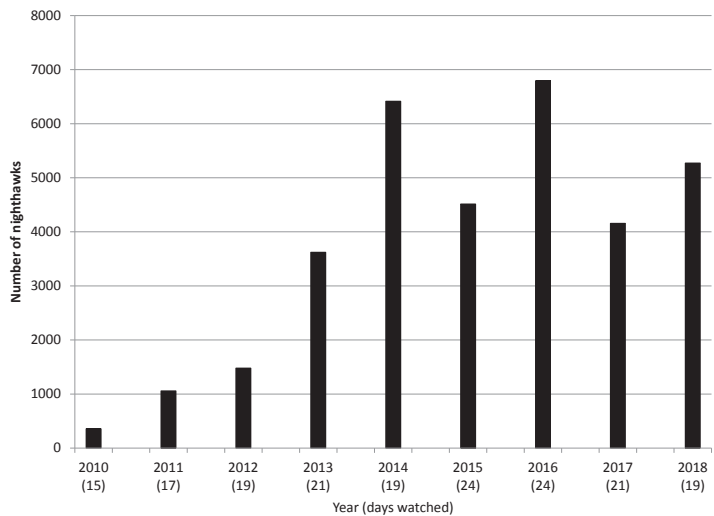


Figure 3. Total number of migrating Common Nighthawks by year, August and early September, Capital Commons Garage, Concord, NH. Lead counters: Rob Woodward and Zeke Cornell.



# Birding NH Audubon's Dahl Wildlife Sanctuary

by Charlie Nims and Phil Brown



*The winter view of Mt. Washington over the Dahl Wildlife Sanctuary by Phil Brown.*

While the Mount Washington Valley is not often thought of as a birding destination but rather as a destination for families, outlet shoppers, river tubers, hikers and skiers, there is some good birding to be experienced if you do visit the area. The birding crown jewel of the Mt. Washington Valley is NH Audubon's Dahl Wildlife Sanctuary located on the west side of Route 16, just before the LL Bean outlet store as one comes into North Conway from the south.

## History and Description

The Dahl Sanctuary was donated to NH Audubon by sisters, Helen and Ruth Dahl, in 1988. Used as farmland throughout the 1800s and early 1900s, the Dahl Sanctuary is now used primarily for open space, low-impact recreation and wildlife habitat.

The property is a compact 60 acres adjacent to the Saco River with a nice mix of habitats including a coniferous forest adjacent to Route 16, a grassland in a varying degree of succession into shrub land, some small oxbows from the Saco and, of course, a stretch of riverside habitat containing tall Silver Maples and associated floodplain forest species, as well as gravel barrens and sandy banks along the immediate river. This varied set of habitats in a small area results in a high variety of bird species. In addition to birds, the Dahl Sanctuary is an excellent place to observe other wildlife including amphibians and mammals, and it is open for public exploration on a year round basis. Several of the natural community types are rare in the state, and two rare plant species occur. For more information about recreational access and these other aspects of the sanctuary, visit <http://www.nhaidubon.org/dahl-wildlife-sanctuary/>.

Historically, it appears that the area has been under

birded. In the six years since 2013, when several local birders began actively birding the area, the number of species reported to eBird has jumped from 62 to 159. Of course, some of this is a variation on the "Patagonia Roadside Stop" effect as the more an area is birded, the more species tend to be recorded.

## Species Highlights



*Orange-crowned Warbler at the Dahl Wildlife Sanctuary, 10-26-18, by Charlie Nims.*

In recent years, there have been some stellar finds at Dahl including Yellow-breasted Chat, Blue-winged Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Connecticut Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Dickcissel and Golden-winged Warbler. In total, 29 warbler species have been seen, several of which breed in the sanctuary.

While the prime time to bird Dahl is from mid-April through early fall, a surprise can turn up at any time of year. In both January 2017 and 2019, flocks of around 100 Bohemian Waxwings were seen and Pine Grosbeaks have appeared on occasion. A Northern Saw-whet Owl once treated two visitors to a rare look as it roosted in a young pine near the trailhead during late fall.

Some of the more common summer residents include Wood Duck, Great Blue Heron, Common Merganser, Broad-winged Hawk, Spotted Sandpiper, American Woodcock, Belted Kingfisher, Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, American Crow, Common Raven, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatch, American Robin, Tufted Titmouse, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow Warbler, Pine Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, American Redstart, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Baltimore Oriole, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and American Goldfinch.

Less common, but regular species include Brown Creeper, Black-billed Cuckoo, Alder Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Great Crested Flycatcher, Brown Thrasher, Indigo Bunting and Purple Finch.

Among the wide diversity of migratory birds recorded are less common northern warbler species such as Mourning, Tennessee, Bay-breasted and Cape May. In addition to the warblers, Blue-headed and Philadelphia Vireos can be present during migration. A few other specialty species of the floodplain forest may be found during migration or breeding season. These include Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Yellow-throated Vireo, all species near the northern edge of their range. More southern species such as Carolina Wren, Northern Mockingbird, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Willow Flycatcher and Fish Crow have also been recorded in recent years.

## How to Bird the Sanctuary

When you park in the lot, pick up a trail map (they are provided in the mailbox) and review the Sanctuary Guidelines posted in the visitor kiosk. You will notice the Pine Trail immediately across the access road from the parking area. It is not usually worthwhile for birding, but a Cooper's Hawk has nested in pines just a little way up this trail.

A good way to bird the sanctuary is to walk from the parking lot down the gravel access trail to the Silver Maple Loop Trail continuing to where it meets the Beach Trail. After parking, you will walk past a gate and the trailhead kiosk following a gravel access path downhill. At the bottom, continue straight through a gap in a small wooden fence on the Silver Maple Loop Trail which heads toward the Beach Trail.

Depending upon the management cycle, there may be a "forest" of sumac on your left and mixed trees and shrubs on your right. This can be a productive area for a wide variety of species. Shortly ahead, at a gravel "bridge" designed to restore floodplain habitat by allowing water passage, there is a small wetland on your right. Depending upon water levels it may appear to be either a small pond or a swampy area. This area is particularly good for Belted Kingfisher, Warbling Vireo, woodpeckers, Common Yellowthroat and several sparrow species.

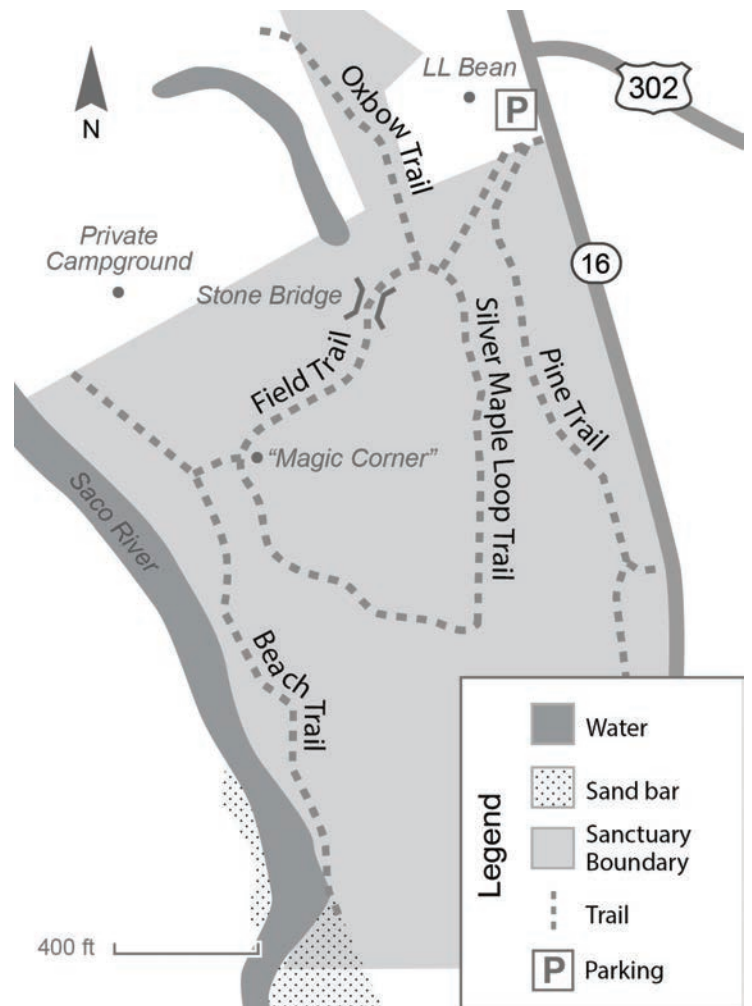
Continuing along the Silver Maple Loop Trail, the habitat becomes more open (patches of regenerating forest are mowed every 8-10 years to maintain shrubland habitat) and is good for House Wren, Chestnut-sided Warbler, American Redstart, sparrows, Indigo Bunting and American Goldfinch. Nest boxes have been maintained in the open areas for Tree Swallows and, less often, Eastern Bluebirds, but are more often homes for Black-capped Chickadees and House Wrens. An American Kestrel nest box located in a Butternut tree has not been used to date.

Approaching the more mature forest ahead, you will come to an intersection where the Silver Maple Loop Trail makes a 90-degree turn to the left (while straight ahead is the intersection with the Beach Trail). This has been the premier Dahl hotspot,

named the "Magic Corner" by Rick Steber and Will Broussard, two regular Dahl birders. It is here that some of the big rarities for Dahl have been seen including both Golden-winged (female seen 5-12-18; posted on eBird with photos) and Blue-winged Warblers. Later in the summer when the Jewelweed is in blossom, this is a haven for Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. Regardless of whether rarities are found, the area around this trail junction always seems to be active with the best strategy being patience.

After birding this spot, a good option is to walk straight ahead on the Beach Trail toward the Saco River. While an alternative is to go left on the Silver Maple Loop Trail (more below) for the sake of habitat diversity, we recommend continuing straight ahead and on the Beach Trail. After crossing a swale where water may accumulate on either side, continue left on the Beach Trail which follows the edge of the Saco River to the "beach" area, an aptly named section along the river used by bathers and tubers during the summer. This cobble barren is also home to rare and sensitive plant species that are tracked by the State of New Hampshire.

Along this trail, keep an eye and ear open for House Wrens, American Redstarts, Chestnut-sided Warblers, Baltimore Orioles, Scarlet Tanager, and cuckoos, among others. The past two years, there has been a lonesome male Louisiana



Waterthrush singing regularly about 50 yards in from the kiosk sign near where the trail enters the “beach.”

Upon reaching the gravel bar, there is usually a nesting colony of Bank Swallows in the eroding bank across the Saco River and it is a good place to wait for a Belted Kingfisher. Bobolinks can be heard, and sometimes seen, in the fields beyond those banks. Spotted Sandpiper, Great Blue Heron and Common Merganser may also put in an appearance as all are regular in this area of the Saco. Keep an eye out for Osprey and Bald Eagle which are regular during migration and may hunt the river during breeding season.



*The Dahl Wildlife Sanctuary “beach” in fall by Phil Brown.*

After visiting the beach, you may choose to return to the Magic Corner and turn right, proceeding onto the remainder of the Silver Maple Loop Trail. Along here breeding Chestnut-sided Warblers and American Redstarts can be numerous. This section is also a good place for thrushes with Veery being the most common. Keep your eyes peeled for a Barred or Great Horned Owl, both of which have been documented in the mature silver maples of this forest. In addition, nest boxes in the floodplain forest may attract Hooded Merganser and Wood Duck, as well as an occasional Northern Saw-whet Owl.

When you complete the Silver Maple Loop Trail and return to the gravel access path where you began, instead of heading up hill to the parking area, you may choose to proceed straight ahead on a well marked path. Shortly, you will pass a small retention pond on the left before entering a wooded area. Immediately upon entering that section, there is a short stub trail on the left that leads in about 20 yards to an oxbow pond where there can be duck species; Wood Duck have nested there, as well as herons and Belted Kingfisher. This trail continues into a private campground, so where that is indicated, please turn around and retrace your steps back to the access path leading to the parking area. This section of path can harbor a variety of birds such as breeding Ovenbird and several woodpecker species including Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and Pileated, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers. In the fall, this can be a great spot for migrating passerines, especially warblers, as there is a nice stand of birch. In the fall of 2018, just before the entry into the birch

section, an Orange-crowned Warbler was spotted on at least two occasions.

Of course, there are lots more birding opportunities in the Mt. Washington Valley (stay tuned for a future issue to learn about several other less-birded locations in this region), but we hope that this gives you a flavor for the birding to be discovered at NH Audubon’s Dahl Wildlife Sanctuary. If you are in the area or headed north of the notches, stop to explore and discover . . . who knows what you might find?!!

## Directions to Dahl Wildlife Sanctuary

Coming from the south via Rt. 16, as one enters North Conway, just before Rt. 302 comes in from the right (east), the sanctuary parking is on the west side of Route 16, but holds only 3-4 vehicles. If it is full, some people park in the LL Bean store parking lot, but please be careful not to impact LL Bean clients, especially in the summer. If coming from the south via Rt. 93 you can take the Kancamagus Highway east (Rt. 112) to Rt. 16 and follow the directions above or take Rt. 3 to Rt. 302 east and follow the directions below.

Coming from the north on Rt. 3, at the traffic lights in Twin Mountain, take Rt. 302 (southeast) over Crawford Notch towards North Conway. Rt. 302 will merge with Rt. 16. Go all the way through the Village of North Conway and then keep an eye out for the LL Bean outlet store on your right. The parking lot is just beyond the light on the right. Alternatively you can take Rt. 16 south from Gorham and merge with Rt. 302 south.

*Charlie Nims is an experienced birder living in the Mt. Washington Valley and a NH Audubon member who volunteers for the Common Nighthawk Project and contributed to the Olive-sided Flycatcher Survey. He avidly birds the Dahl Sanctuary year round.*

*Phil Brown is the Director of Land Management for NH Audubon and has been stewarding the Dahl Wildlife Sanctuary since 2004. On his first visit, he discovered a Northern Saw-whet Owl roosting in a pine and he has been in love with this sanctuary ever since.*

*Please feel free to contact Charlie at [charlie.nims@gmail.com](mailto:charlie.nims@gmail.com) for more birding information, or Phil at [pbrown@nhaudubon.org](mailto:pbrown@nhaudubon.org) for more information about the Dahl Wildlife Sanctuary. Considerable bird data was garnered from [eBird.org](http://eBird.org) for this article. We would also like to thank Rick Steber and Will Broussard for their contributions.*

# Falling in Love with Fall Warblers

*Text and photos by Diana Stephens*



*Yellow-rumped Warbler posing for a photo at Odiorne Point State Park, Rye, NH.*

Sunday, October 14 was a gorgeous autumn afternoon and, on a lark, I decided to head out to Odiorne Point State Park in Rye, NH. I had read on the internet that it was a birding hot spot and was hoping to spot a Pileated Woodpecker. The fall foliage was at its peak as I was on my way to do some birding and hone my photographic skills. I began by walking along the ocean path near the Seacoast Science Center. I'd been there a few months earlier and been enchanted by the variety of species and by the possibilities of experiencing something new and magical!

Heading north towards the bay, the first birds I came across were Double-crested Cormorants sitting on the rocks below. There was a Common Eider hanging out with one of the cormorants. After taking some nice shots, I turned around and headed toward the Settler's Monument. Nothing but peace and quiet and ocean – Aaah! I decided to follow the trail to the left towards the mouth of the river. Suddenly, there was a fluttering in the woods to my right. What I saw at that moment was a medium sized bird with grey wings and a white underbelly. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo! Then I saw another. Or was it the same one? I was trying to figure out if it was the same bird that flew away and came back or if it was a second bird. Immediately after that, I saw a Brown Creeper running up a tree so fast that I was unable to focus on it. I think the name is appropriate.

I have been a professional artist and writer for half of my adult life, but I fell in love with nature when I was a child. Now, in mid-life, I am learning to identify birds through photography. The lens behaves like a pair of binoculars, with the added benefit of capturing the image of the bird so that I can identify it later. My primary interest in being in the woods is of an artistic nature and in photographing birds because they're beautiful. I find it challenging to count birds while I am focusing the lens of my camera.

As I was returning via the ocean towards the parking lot,

I spotted a beautiful little fall warbler, but didn't know which kind it was. Then, I saw the Yellow-rumped Warbler! Very pretty little bird, with white striping on its chest and grey and yellow and white all over. Oh! Then, I realized it wasn't the only one on the beach; there were maybe 10 or 20 of them! They were on a migratory dinner break at the peak of their migratory season. It was 5:00 pm and quite chilly by the ocean. I stood there a while and watched their behavior on the beach. They were flitting and hopping around on the seaweed, hunting for insects, which is their primary food source. Berries comprise about 17% of their diet with their favorites being Bayberry, Red Cedar and Poison Ivy. They are funny little birds that leap up into the air and then down again.

These Yellow-rumped didn't mind being photographed and, when they flew, their movements were extremely quick. Sometimes I can photograph birds in flight, but not these little birds! Thank goodness they stood still long enough for me to get some decent shots. Some of them even posed for me! Then, off they went again. There must have been 20 or 30 more on this side of the path, where the brush was higher and there was a small stand of pine trees.



*This Yellow-billed Cuckoo was **not** flying over the Cuckoo's Nest when spotted.*

Again, I stood and watched them hop from branch to bush to ground, and then do it all over again. Some of them were eating weed seeds or whatever berries they could find. I must have observed and photographed them for 30 minutes or more, until my hands were almost frozen. Sometimes (okay, most times), the artist in me would rather risk the cold than go home without a great shot! Next time, I resolved, I will wear warm gloves and a hat. Nevertheless, I felt compelled by these Yellow-rumped Warblers to stay and witness their migratory stopover.

From whence do they come, and whither do they go? The Yellow-rumped breed from the Arctic tree line south to New England and eastern Pennsylvania. They spend their winters all along the Eastern Seaboard from Massachusetts to Florida

and they occasionally overwinter in New Hampshire, especially along the Seacoast where there can be a reliable supply of Bayberry. I wished I could hug these little birds, they were so adorable! I also feel that way about the Wood Thrush, with their fat little bellies and tiny stick legs.

In the midst of this Yellow-rumped melee, out of nowhere, a yellow and grey Prairie Warbler (just one) flew in and landed on a nearby branch! It only stayed long enough for one photo and then quickly flew away. I found out that other birders had seen the Prairie Warbler that day and it was unusually late in the season. This bird is rare in northern New Hampshire because this is the very northern limit of its breeding habitat. The Prairie Warbler is declining throughout most of its range, but increasing in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Population declines are largely attributable to loss of breeding habitat through development and natural change of shrubby habitat to forest.



*This Prairie Warbler was unusually late but seen by other birders the same day at Odiorne.*

There were so many beautiful birds at Odiorne that day, but no one else walking by seemed to notice them. Some folks would stroll by and ask me what I was looking at. “The birds”, I would say, “the birds!” Ten years ago, I knew very little about birds. I always thought they were pretty, but I truly had **no idea** what I was missing. The vast biological diversity and the sheer numbers of them, not to mention the beauty of it all, simply astounds me. I have not yet photographed a Pileated Woodpecker, but I will always remember this day – the day I fell in love with warblers.

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# Backyard Birder

## Evening Grosbeaks!

by Rebecca Suomala



*Evening Grosbeaks by Susan Wrisley, 11-21-18, Hollis, NH.*

A flash of yellow at the bird feeder! What was that? An Evening Grosbeak! “I haven’t seen one in years!” was a frequent comment during fall 2018 when NH Audubon began to receive reports of Evening Grosbeaks at feeders. A spruce budworm outbreak to our north in Quebec may be responsible for the increase in sightings of these popular birds.

Pam Hunt wrote about the ups and downs of Evening Grosbeaks in the Winter 2015-16 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* (Vol. 34 #4, “Where are the Evening Grosbeaks?”):

For people who were feeding birds in the 1970s and 1980s, these large finches were a mainstay of the winter feeder scene. Flocks of dozens, if not hundreds, would descend on unsuspecting feeder owners and devour whole bags of sunflower seed in a matter of days. But in the early 1990s, they started to disappear and are now an unusual sight almost everywhere in the state.

.....

One important factor may be changes in populations of the spruce budworm, a moth whose caterpillars feed on fir and spruce trees across large portions of the boreal forest. It turns out that Evening Grosbeaks are one of several species that specialize on spruce budworm caterpillars as prey and they tend to have more young when budworm populations are high.

A new budworm outbreak began in Quebec in 2006 and it may be fueling these recent sightings. The picture is far more complex than the excerpt above implies so check Pam’s full article in the *New Hampshire Bird Records* online archives or in the Backyard Winter Bird Survey 2015 summary:

<https://nhbirdrecords.org/prior-years-bwbs-survey-results/>



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# Answer to the Photo Quiz

by David B. Donsker

Nothing is more anticipated in spring than the return of our colorful wood-warblers from their southern wintering grounds as they arrive in New Hampshire to breed or pass through our state to more northerly breeding grounds. With their myriad of colorful patterns, male wood-warblers are avian “eye-candy.” Most are easily identified, even by beginner birders. It’s an absolute joy to watch them.

In contrast, during fall migration, we are confronted by an array of more dully colored and more subtly patterned birds that the great Roger Tory Peterson referred to as “confusing fall warblers.” These birds consist of a mixture of adult males in non-breeding plumage, females and young males, and, most confusing of all, first year female birds. This fall frustration and confusion can replace the euphoria of spring as we attempt to sort these individuals out. With patience, persistence, and knowledge, most individuals can be identified when studied and seen well.

This Photo Quiz focuses on one of those confusing species. The subject is indeed a warbler. We know that almost instantly for several reasons. It’s a small passerine, or perching bird. This can be told by comparing it to the size of the pine needles in the tree in which it is perched. Of the small passerines, very few possibilities, other than a warbler, might even be entertained. The combination of a thin bill and faintly streaked flanks is unique to that family. No other small, thin-billed species has streaked sides. Although streaked flanks are seen in some sparrows and finches, those groups are characterized by short, conical bills. So, a warbler it is.

Let’s examine this individual more closely. Not only is its bill thin, it is sharply pointed and also slightly downcurved. Its flanks are streaked, but only faintly so. Its facial pattern is, perhaps, its most distinctive feature. The bird has a solid grayish-green crown and nape. The eye is surrounded by a thin, broken eye-ring. There is a thin, rather indistinct, horizontal dark line through the eye and a very thin and inconspicuous whitish supercilium or eyebrow which extends to the base of the bill. Notably, it has a well demarcated, olive-gray auricular or ear patch and a prominent pale-yellow patch on the neck behind the auricular. The underparts are generally dull grayish-white with a faint yellow area in the center of the breast. Unfortunately, we cannot see its back or wings in this pose, so we cannot evaluate whether it has any back streaking or wing bars, but we do have enough clues to go on.

We can immediately rule out any of our warblers with unstreaked sides or boldly streaked underparts. That leaves us with a relatively small number of species to consider. All of these belong to the large genus *Setophaga*, even more

specifically, those which were formerly placed in the genus *Dendroica*. The members of this group of warblers constitute the most colorful of our warbler species. All have yellow or white spots in the tail and prominent wing bars. Adult males are rather highly patterned and generally brilliantly colored. Females and young males are duller and less boldly marked. First year females are the drabest of all. Most demonstrate a rather striking seasonal variation between breeding (spring) and non-breeding (fall) plumages. The species to consider include Yellow, Cape May, Cerulean, Magnolia, Blackburnian, Blackpoll, Pine, Prairie, Palm, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, and Townsend’s Warblers. But we can further whittle down the possibilities from this rather longish list.

When approaching the identification of warblers, especially in the fall, a number of features should be carefully evaluated. These include the overall shape, size, tail length, and bill structure of the bird. Wing pattern, including the presence of wing bars or pale patches, is often helpful. So, too, is tail pattern, especially the presence and distribution of any pale spots on the underside of the tail, but most helpful of all can be face pattern. Nearly all of the *Setophaga* warblers can be identified by this feature alone, even in young birds. In the case of this Photo Quiz subject, we are deprived of any view of the back, tail or wings. So, facial pattern is the key to its identification. The fact that this individual lacks the colorful, bold markings of any adult male *Setophaga* warbler leads us to the conclusion that we must be dealing with an immature or female bird.



*Yellow Warbler by Steve Mirick, 10-2-18, Rye, NH.*

Yellow Warbler has a plain face which contrasts strongly with its dark eye. Further, if it shows any streaking at all on the flanks, the streaks are at most subtle and blurry in young male and female individuals. Prairie Warbler is more extensively yellow below. It also has a broad, pale yellow ring surrounding the eye and a dark-olive crescent below the eye region. Cerulean Warbler has a broad pale eyebrow or supercilium which is absent in this bird. Female

Blackburnian Warbler shares with this individual a distinct dark auricular with yellow at its edges, but Blackburnian Warbler has a strongly prominent supercilium and the yellow bordering the auriculars is also in front of the ear patch and it extends onto the bird's throat. Female Townsend's and Black-throated Green Warblers, like Blackburnian Warbler, also have very prominent eyebrows and share with it a rather similar distribution of yellow surrounding the ear patch that extends onto the throat.

Palm Warbler, in all plumages, and unlike this bird, also has a strong supercilium and a prominent dark, horizontal line through the eye. Blackpoll Warbler females and males in fall plumage may have flank streaks of variable intensity and weak eye-brows somewhat reminiscent of this individual, but Blackpoll Warbler lacks a distinct ear patch and its bill is shorter, stouter and paler than the dark, thin and pointed bill of the featured bird.



Fall Blackpoll Warbler by Jason Lambert, 10-20-18, Rye, NH.

Adult female Magnolia Warbler in breeding or first spring plumage has a distinct ear patch bordered by yellow, but in those plumages, it also has a bold supercilium and, like Blackburnian Warbler, the yellow bordering the auricular is mostly below the ear patch and involves the throat. Further, first fall male and fall female Magnolia Warblers lack the distinct ear patch, have a complete yellowish eye-ring, and completely lack any yellow on the side of the neck.

Somewhat like this individual, Pine Warbler has dark cheeks that are strongly set off from the throat and are bordered behind by yellow. It also is similar in having a broken eye ring and a thin line in front of the eye, but the yellow patch behind the ear of Pine Warbler is never as prominent as in this individual. Further, the bill of Pine Warbler is shorter, stouter and not downcurved, as it is in our featured bird.

Young male and female Yellow-rumped Warblers can be very confusing birds since they are so much duller than their spring adult counterparts. Like this individual, they have prominent dark auriculars, a broken eye-ring and a thin pale line in front of the eye, but Yellow-rumped Warbler lacks the

prominent yellow neck patch of this individual and its bill is stouter, shorter and less downcurved.

The only warbler left to consider is Cape May Warbler. Indeed, this is a dull female of that species, quite possibly a first-year bird. Although it may be a bit hard to relate this dull colored individual to the highly patterned spring male of this species, which sports large chestnut-colored cheeks, black-streaked, bright yellow underparts and a large yellow neck patch, the general pattern of the species is retained. The dark auriculars and yellow neck patch coupled with the thin, sharply pointed and slightly decurved bill establishes the identification of this bird.

There is one point of caution that needs to be mentioned concerning this species. Although we cannot see the rump of this individual, Cape May Warbler has a yellow to yellow-green rump in all plumages. This can be initially confusing to the observer of female or first fall birds, since the yellow rump can recall the same field mark in the more common Yellow-rumped and Palm Warblers, but Cape May Warbler is smaller, chunkier and shorter-tailed than either of these similar species. It's important to remember to consider Cape May Warbler when any warbler with a yellow rump is briefly spotted and to look more carefully at other field marks.

Cape May Warbler is a species typical of the boreal forests of Canada and the northern United States. It is an uncommon to rare migrant and rare and sporadic breeding species in New Hampshire. In our state, its breeding range and habitat is intimately tied to the spruce forests of the White Mountains and North Country. A spruce budworm specialist, like Bay-breasted and Tennessee Warblers, its population is tied to the prevalence of that insect larva on the bird's breeding grounds. As such, there is a great fluctuation in its population, with the densest breeding populations associated with spruce budworm outbreaks. In the spring, Cape May Warbler passes through our state in the middle of May. In the fall, it is a rather early migrant, with peak numbers occurring in the last week of August and the first week in September. Regardless of timing, it's always a great day when this uncommon species is encountered.

This Cape May female was photographed by Steve Mirick at Odiorne State Park in Rye on the notably late date of November 28, 2017.

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*Wilson's Snipe by Kyle Wilmarth, 10-24-18, Salem, NH.*

## Abbreviations Used

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

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## Fall 2018 Highlights

### Photo Quiz



### Can You Identify This Bird?

We are once again able to offer a color Photo Quiz, thanks to George Robbins' sponsorship of all four 2018 issues. See inside for the answer. Photo by Stephen R. Mirick.



*Hooded Warbler by Susan Wrisley, 11-4-18, Little River Saltmarsh, N. Hampton, NH.*



*Ash-throated Flycatcher by Jason Lambert, 11-4-18, Odiorne Point SP, Rye, NH.*



*Western Kingbird by Jason Lambert, 9-23-18, Goss Farm, Rye, NH.*



*Scissor-tailed Flycatcher by Zeke Cornell, 11-8-18, Hampton Beach SP, Hampton, NH.*

