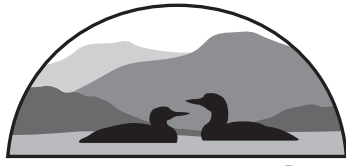


New Hampshire Bird Records





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MANAGING EDITOR

Rebecca Suomala
603-224-9909 X309,
rsuomala@nhaudubon.org

TEXT EDITOR

Dan Hubbard

SEASON EDITORS

Eric Masterson, **Spring**
Chad Witko, **Summer**
Ben Griffith, **Fall**
Jim Sparrell/Katherine Towler, **Winter**

LAYOUT

Dyanna Smith

PUBLICATION ASSISTANT

Kathryn Frieden

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David Deifik, Elizabeth Levy,
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FIELD NOTES

Diana Talbot

PHOTO QUIZ

David Donsker

PHOTO EDITOR

Wendy Chatel

WEB MASTER

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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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Cover Photos: *The Golden-winged Warbler (top)* provides a link to Chan Robbins for whom this issue is sponsored (see the article on Chan). Photo by Jason Lambert, 5-10-18, at the Milford-Hollis line, NH. *Hooded Warbler (left)* by Len Medlock, 5-7-18, Exeter, NH. *Kentucky Warbler (right)* by Scott Turnbull, 5-6-18, Great Bay Discovery Center, Greenland, NH.

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

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Spring 2018

by Rebecca Suomala

Thank You George!

We are very grateful to George Robbins for sponsoring all four 2018 issues in memory of his father, Chandler S. Robbins. Although he did not live in New Hampshire, Chan spent time in the state and helped with the Breeding Bird Atlas and other endeavors. His contributions to our knowledge of birds and their conservation are legendary and it will be a pleasure to read about them in George's articles. Thank you for this wonderful tribute!

Welcome Gail Coffey!

We are excited to welcome Gail Coffey as the new compiler for the Field Trip Reports. In this feature, we like to highlight the interesting sightings and events on field trips that are not always captured by the list of birds seen. If you are interested in writing up a trip that you were on, please contact her at gcoffeywriter@gmail.com. Gail is also helping with some

eBird review and has already made a dent in some of the older *New Hampshire Bird Records* data that we've uploaded to eBird. If you would like to help with historical eBird review, please contact me.

Welcome New Subscribers...

...and **Thank You** to those who have renewed their subscription. A reminder that the password to access the back issues will be enclosed with this issue (if your subscription is up to date). The archives are under "The Journal" tab on the web site.

Where's the Photo Quiz?

Thanks to George Robbins' sponsorship of all four 2018 issues with lots of advanced notice, we are excited to offer a color Photo Quiz for the first time. See the Back Cover!

Chan Robbins: The First 25 Years

by George Robbins

I am sponsoring and dedicating the 2018 *New Hampshire Bird Records* issues to my father, Chandler S. Robbins. The year 2018 is the 100th anniversary of his birth. He died in 2017, a few months shy of his 99th birthday. In each of the four 2018 issues, I will attempt to portray Chandler S. Robbins' life – who he was, his phenomenal accomplishments in the field of ornithology, and his ties to one of his favorite states – New Hampshire. Each issue will look at a 25 year period of his life. From here forward, I will refer to him simply as Chan or Dad.

His first 25 years – 1918-1943

Chan was born in Belmont, MA, just outside of Boston, the eldest of three brothers. His parents, Samuel and Rosa Robbins (professionals in the speech therapy department at Emerson College), instilled a sense of the natural world and its environment in their sons. They would go for walks in the woods and mountains of Massachusetts and New Hampshire and always carried their "field glasses" with them, studying not only the birds, but mammals, reptiles, insects and plants as well. Dad had a distinct and profound fascination with birds at a very young age. So, it is not at all surprising that I found, in Dad's logbook of birds, entries starting when he was 11 years old, a page for each species. On each species' page was listed

the first time he saw that species, as well as subsequent times, mostly the first for the year, and notable numbers and places where the species was observed. In addition, who he was with during that observation and any other notes on the sighting were included. Unfortunately, entries are encoded, with no key, so some of my interpretations can only be conjecture. For example, one person with whom he birded was KCE in the 1930s – more on that later as I refer back to that log book.

At age 14, Dad was instrumental in forming the Washington Bird Club, to be renamed the Belmont Bird Club two years later. He was the secretary for the club for its first six years, until he moved out of the area. Dad also was instrumental in the formation of the Christmas Census (Christmas Bird Count, or CBC, as it is known today) in Belmont and Fresh Pond, MA. He also started the North Carter Mt. and Mt. Washington CBCs (in NH) as well. Although I don't believe any of those counts are still viable today, Belmont is currently included in the Greater Boston CBC.

While still in high school, Dad wrote a letter to Fred Lincoln at the National Bird Banding Lab in Washington, DC. He (Dad) inquired if a bird banding permit might be issued to his father, Samuel Robbins, so that he (Chan) might be able to band under him, because Dad was only 17 at the time. (One needed to be 21 years of age.) Surprisingly to Dad,

the permit was granted! So at age 17, he started a lifelong career of banding birds. Although he may not have had the expertise at the time, he would later become one of the strong advocates for additional data collected for every bird banded (weight, wing chord length, age, sex, etc.), because, after all, you had it in the hand already.

The now so-called citizen science was not yet in existence, but Dad was one of the early on, true believers in it, as I will expound upon in a future issue.

At age 18, as published in the March 1937 edition of the *Bulletin of the Massachusetts Audubon Society*, Dad ended 1936 with 246 species for the state of Massachusetts, finishing in fourth place for the year behind Ludlow Griscom (a very famous ornithologist of the day) who had 291. Dad had entered Harvard University in the fall of 1936, so he couldn't devote as much time to birding and don't forget, neither Dad, nor his parents, had a car in those days.

By this time, 1936-1940, there were many entries in Dad's log book of birds, including many from the state of New Hampshire. But by far the majority of entries were from the state of Massachusetts, where Dad grew up, including probably the most from Belmont, his home town. One particular record which I found noteworthy was a flock of 2,000+ blackbirds, 1,000+ Grackles and 1000+ Rusties (Rusty Blackbirds) that flew over his house on October 31, 1937. Knowing Dad, the Rusties were, I am sure, identified largely by call notes. Another story relayed by family through the years took place on April 28, 1938 when they were all sitting down for dinner. Dad jumped up and ran outside, saying, "Dinner will have to wait! There's a Golden-winged Warbler singing!" Another Massachusetts entry took place on December 7, 1941, at Halibut Point in Rockport, MA. Their list for the day included Snowy Owl, five Black Guillemots and 53 Dovekies. Who was birding with Chan that day? His father and one KCE, whom I happened to have mentioned earlier, also known as Kimball C. Elkins, of Goodhue-Elkins Award fame and a long time New Hampshire birder. Dad knew Kimball from his days at Harvard, where Kimball was the Senior Assistant in the Harvard University Archives. From then and all his years afterward, Dad always

referred to Kimball as his friend, Kim. I have never heard anyone else ever refer to him as Kim, but that's what Dad always called him. (With no TV and no cell phones, I doubt that they had any idea what was happening at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii that day!)



Chan Robbins, High School

His other Massachusetts records included 120 pipits (American Pipits) on burned peat at Rock Meadow in Belmont on November 2, 1939, 77 Eastern Bluebirds migrating over his house in Belmont on October 31, 1937, and a greater number of records (12) for Short-billed Marsh (Sedge) Wren than Long-billed (Marsh) Wren (10), including four Sedge Wrens in Belmont (all singing). One significant Marsh Wren record was of 22 he had in Lynnfield Meadows on June 14, 1940. Another log entry was under Snowy Owl (Belmont, Oct. 20, 1934.). He noted: "It sat all day in field and wall. In late PM it flew off toward Arlington. Shot in wing at E. Boston Airport

1 or 2 days later by a cop for disturbing the gulls. Taken to Franklin Park Zoo where we saw it next summer." There are four records of auk – that would be Razorbill, not Great Auk – Dad wasn't that old! (Great Auk became extinct in the mid-1800s). On November 11, 1936, there were 750 Red-backed Sandpipers (Dunlin) in Newburyport Harbor, and on September 7, 1940, 600 Black-bellied Plovers on Castle Neck in Ipswich. A week later, on September 13, 1940, 30 (American) Golden Plovers were seen on Plum Island. On February 2, 1939 at Monomoy (Cape Cod, MA), there were 1,000 American (Black) Scoters in with 39,000 White-winged Scoters, in addition to 25,000 American (Common) Eiders. Another interesting observation occurred in 1939, from March 8 - May 2. Between March 10 and 15, Dad estimated 1,000 Purple Finches around the feeders at his house in Belmont, but, during that nearly two month period, he banded a total of 1,665 Purple Finches there. Knowing that Dad's estimates were always conservative, there were probably well over that number actually present. The last Massachusetts species that I'll mention here is Golden-winged Warbler, a species that is in drastic decline today.

Dad has 19 different entries in his log book, 14 of which are from Belmont. On June 2, 1940, he had 12 Golden-winged Warblers in Essex County, MA, yet on that same date, he recorded no entries for Blue-winged Warbler. Today, those numbers for Golden-winged and Blue-winged would likely be reversed. Also noteworthy was his sighting of one female Golden-winged Warbler in Central Park, New York City on August 20, 1940.

There are many entries in Dad's log from times he spent in New Hampshire, from his teenage years forward. Some significant records include an American (Common) Goldeneye on June 26, 1939 at Rye Beach, a pair of Red-breasted Mergansers on Lake Winnisquam in Meredith on July 19, 1937, 107 Common Nighthawks flying over Lake Ossipee on August 29, 1937, two male Prairie Warblers in Ossipee on June 27, 1939, and a pair of Bald Eagles in Ossipee in August of 1937 (don't forget, this was long before the widespread use of DDT). He also saw two Philadelphia Vireos and a Semipalmated Plover at Berry Bay in Freedom, NH (one of Dad's favorite places) on August 26, 1937. The following week, at age 19, Dad hiked the Presidential Range in the White Mountains with his brother Roger. Some of the more notable log entries from that trip were a (Northern) Goshawk near the summit of Mt. Clay, a Pigeon Hawk (Merlin) on Mt. Pleasant (Mt. Eisenhower as it is known today), Acadian (Boreal) Chickadees (referred to as common, with a note that a Black-capped Chickadee was seen at even higher elevation on the summit of Mt. Pleasant – maybe chased there by that Merlin?), as well as two life birds: Spruce Grouse and Bicknell's Thrush. Bicknell's Thrush was only a subspecies of Grey-cheeked Thrush at that time, but was specifically noted as Bicknell's by Dad.

Some additional New Hampshire entries include:

- three records of Barred Owl, including 2 at Pinkham Notch and one on the Mt. Washington CBC 12-26-1942;
- a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and three Olive-sided Flycatchers on 8-16-1942 on Mt. Monadnock;
- two Olive-sided Flycatchers, 8-21-1937, Freedom;
- a House Wren singing in Laconia, noted by Dad as being "north for that species" in July of 1937.

On October 25, 1942, Dad was at the Great Gulf area of Mt. Washington where he had his last of the year for that location Song Sparrow, three White-throated Sparrows, and two Savannah Sparrows. He also saw 36 Fox Sparrows there that day and a Spruce Grouse. He saw a pair of (Northern) Rough-winged Swallows and their nest in Barnstead on June 30, 1939, and noted Purple Martins last date for the year of August 27, 1937 in Effingham Falls. That colony of Purple Martins nested there for the next 70 years, but is unfortunately now gone. Lastly, I have no idea when this observation

occurred as it was not in his logbook. It's even possible it was years after his early years in the state, but I know the actual location; Dad had a Sedge Wren in Eaton.

While at Harvard, from 1936-1940, Dad's birding prowess was already well known; however, his advisor, who just happened to be none other than Ludlow Griscom, strongly advised Chan not to go into Ornithology as a vocation, because there were just no jobs to be had in that field. So Dad changed his major to Physics, and graduated from Harvard in the class of 1940, which just happened to be the same Harvard graduating class as one John F. Kennedy. Go ahead, Google it if you don't believe me!

After college, Dad would move to the vicinity of Manchester, Vermont to teach. I believe it was high school Physics, Chemistry and Math. There are, once again, several records from his log during those years. Some of the more noteworthy include:

- a Duck Hawk (Peregrine Falcon) in March and April of 1941;
- Mourning Dove (rare in northern New England at that time), 4-14-1941;
- both Black and Yellow-billed Cuckoos, 5-17-1941;
- (Eastern) Whip-poor-will, 5-6-1941;
- Purple Martin, 5-16-1941;
- Winter Wren (Dad's favorite bird), 4-12-1941;
- Northern Shrike, 10-26-1940 in Arlington, VT;
- 30 Blackpoll Warblers, 6-18-1941 on Mt. Equinox, VT;
- the first county record for Louisiana Waterthrush, 4-22-1941;
- 35 Pine Grosbeaks, 3-9-1941;
- Henslow's Sparrow in three places on 6-18-1941;
- 130 Snow Buntings, 1-18-1941.

Except where noted otherwise, all of those records were from Manchester, VT. He also had a rare spring record of Golden Eagle there on April 15, 1941.

Early in 1942, after the United States entered World War II, Dad declared himself a conscientious objector and worked for the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC as it was known). He worked in the White Mountains of New Hampshire until early in 1943 when Fred Lincoln (remember him, from the National Bird Banding Lab?) said to someone, "Get me Chan Robbins!" So in April of 1943, at age 24, Dad transferred to Maryland with the CCC, to a newly-formed wildlife research station called Patuxent, and thus began a nearly 75 year long affiliation with the world-renowned research facility known today as Patuxent Research Refuge in Laurel, MD. You will learn more about those years in the next three issues of *New Hampshire Bird Records*, as I continue the story of his outstanding contributions to the field of Ornithology.

March 1 through May 31, 2018

by Eric Masterson



Notable weather that affected migration included heavy precipitation in March, with total snowfall of almost 30 inches, and a cold snap in mid-April that negatively affected some early season migrants. The latter event was responsible

for a rash of dead Eastern Phoebes reported from Keene, Harrisville, Sunapee, and the Lakes Region and it delayed the arrival of other species like Chipping Sparrow and Pine Warbler. Few of these were around until the advent of high pressure and southerly winds on April 21 opened the floodgates. The same cold snap, which manifested as a cold northerly airflow on April 14, turned northeasterly with a wintry mix of precipitation on April 15 that pushed a record number of migrating Lesser Black-backed Gulls to the coast. According to the National Weather Service, the high temperature of 32 (degrees F) on April 15 was the latest date on record that the high temperature did not warm above freezing.

A more migrant-friendly southerly airflow on April 26 turned westerly the following day, and was followed by a front and northerly winds on April 29 – perfect fallout conditions. This weather sequence resulted in one of the great waterbird fallouts in the history of the state, centered along the Connecticut River Valley. See Bob Quinn’s article for more on the historic perspective of this fallout. The return of benign conditions on May 3 and 4 facilitated many first-of-year records.

The 273 species tallied for the spring season is above the 20 year average of 261 species, although the 10 year average



Tundra Swan by Harry Moulton, 4-10-18, Newfound Lake, Hebron, NH.

is 273 species, likely reflecting the growing popularity of eBird, and possibly birding itself.

Although there were no first state records, there was a good smattering of rare spring visitors. These included **Tundra Swan** in Hebron, Common Eider in Rochester, American-Golden Plover, Stilt Sandpiper, and Red-necked Phalarope all in Hampton, Red Phalarope in Ashland, **Little Gull** in Sunapee, **Tricolored Heron** in Rye, **Northern Wheatear** in Durham, Golden-winged Warbler in Hollis, **Kentucky Warbler** in Greenland, **Hooded Warbler** in Exeter, **Summer Tanager** in Farmington, and **Blue Grosbeak** in Rollinsford.

References used for historical bird data were *eBird* and *The Birds of New Hampshire* by Keith and Fox (2013).

Note: We experienced a significant glitch with the eBird data for the Spring 2018 season: 40,000 records were mysteriously left out of the data file we initially received and had to be added later in a somewhat complicated and cumbersome process that greatly increased the potential for errors. We apologize for any mistakes in the list of sightings. Please let us know if you find any. Thank you! R. Suomala – Ed.

Waterfowl through Grebes

The annual Connecticut River waterfowl safari on March 31, which is run jointly by the Harris Center for Conservation Education and NH Audubon, found a river valley devoid of snow and birds. I have been observing spring waterfowl migration on the river for the best part of 20 years and birds are moving north earlier than they were 20 years ago. I assume that favorable weather conditions prompted most waterfowl that move north along the Connecticut River valley to overfly the state and head north to staging grounds along the St. Lawrence River estuary. Notwithstanding the aforementioned, interesting sightings included a flock of 40 Snow Geese in Lancaster, a **Greater White-fronted Goose** in Effingham and a different individual in Conway the following day, a **Tundra Swan** in Hebron, a Eurasian Wigeon on Great Bay, Redhead in Salem and Hinsdale, two King Eiders at the Isles of Shoals and a single on the coast at North Hampton, a rare inland record of Common Eider in Rochester, a drake Common Eider of the northern subspecies *dresseri* in Hampton, a pair of Harlequin Ducks in Rye, a hybrid Common X Barrow’s Goldeneye in Errol, and a Ruddy Duck in Enfield. A terrific flight of more than 3,000 White-winged Scoter was observed moving north off the coast on May 24.

The standout story of the spring in regards to waterfowl, however, and arguably the avian highlight of the season occurred on April 29 and 30. Many early season migrants are

waterbirds of one variety or another and because associated fallouts are concentrated on lakes and ponds, they are highly visible. By contrast, fallouts of warblers and other passerines tend to blend into field and forest, losing some of their effect. Slack winds and clear skies for much of the latter third of April provided clear sailing for migrants, but a cold front on April 29 brought rain and north winds, causing a massive downing of birds across western New Hampshire. Thanks to the immediacy of modern communication, word quickly spread, enabling birders to visit nearly all major hotspots to survey the magnitude of the event. Although the fallout involved multiple species, it was remarkable less for diversity than for abundance of a few key players, one of which was Bufflehead. At least 838 were tallied across ten sites, from Surry to Monroe, including 300 birds on Moore Reservoir in Littleton and 222 on Spofford Lake in Chesterfield. The figure was likely higher, as observers at Moore Reservoir reported hundreds of distant birds that eluded identification.

Unfortunately, Lake Wantastiquet in Hinsdale was not covered until April 30. Birds wait for no man or woman, and this is especially true of spring migrants grounded by weather. Western Massachusetts reported elevated numbers of many of the same species, so it seems plausible that Hinsdale, a known hotspot for spring waterfowl, may have been inundated with birds. Similarly, no reports came down from the Connecticut Lakes, although they may have still been under ice. The previous spring high count for Bufflehead is 110 birds recorded on Lake Massabesic on April 23, 1996. The same lake held two birds on April 29, 2018, underscoring the regional nature of the event. Despite a flock of 45 Long-tailed Ducks on Spofford Lake on April 29, which is somewhat high for the species, Bufflehead was the only species of waterfowl clearly impacted by the event, although not the only species of bird. Read on!

Date # Location Observer

Snow Goose

03/04	2	Bedell Bridge SP, Haverhill	W. Scott
04/01	40	Rt. 135, Lancaster	A. Griffin
04/02	66	Sherman Farm, Conway	B. Crowley
04/07	1	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell

Greater White-fronted Goose

04/10	1	Effingham	J.& B. Augenti
04/11	1	Sherman Farm, Conway	J. Scott

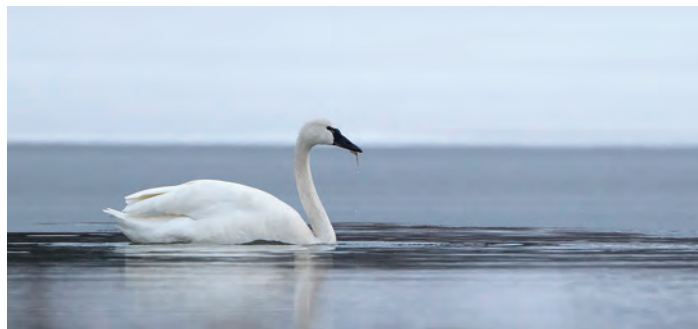
Brant

03/05	40	Ft. Constitution, New Castle	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod
05/18	71	NH coast	R. Prieto
05/23	42	Yankee Fisherman's Coop., Seabrook	H. Bauer
05/29	31	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Mirick, et al.

Date # Location Observer

Tundra Swan

04/11	1	Hebron town beach, Newfound Lake	H. Moulton, T. McShane, et al.
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Tundra Swan by Jason Lambert, 4-11-18, Newfound Lake, Hebron, NH.

Wood Duck

04/24	50	Bedell Bridge SP, Haverhill	W. Scott
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Blue-winged Teal

03/27	1	Eel Pond, Rye	L. McKillop
04/05	2	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	S. Jaffe
04/06	2	Great Meadow, Charlestown	K. Cox
04/06	4	Sunset Farm, Greenland	C. Nims
05/23	1	Rochester WTP	S.& D. Stoddard

Northern Shoveler

03/05	5	Bodwell Farm, E. Kingston	E. Masterson, I. MacLeod
03/21	1	World End Pond, Salem	J. Maher
03/28	2	South Mill Pond, Portsmouth	J. Sparrell, K. Towler
04/07	4	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer, S. Mirick
04/07	14	Eel Pond, Rye	K. Wilmarth
04/30	1	Lancaster WTP	A. Griffin

Gadwall

03/11	5	Bodwell Farm, E. Kingston	S. Mirick
03/12	1	Eel Pond, Rye	L. McKillop, D. Hubbard
03/31	2	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
05/02	1	Hampton Salt Marsh CA	S. Mirick

Eurasian Wigeon

03/25	1	Great Bay Discovery Ctr., Greenland	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
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American Wigeon

03/02	1	Rochester WTP	L. McKillop, S.& D. Stoddard
03/03	3	Newington Rd., Greenland	T. Thompson
03/13	1	Bodwell Farm, E. Kingston	K.& A. Wilmarth
03/15	2	Charlestown Meadows	D. Clark, M. Adams
03/28	5	Hinsdale Setbacks	E. Masterson, H. Galbraith
04/17	7	Winnepesaukee R. at Rt. 140, Tilton	R. Simmons
04/21	2	Androscoggin R. at Rt. 16, Errol	L. Charron
04/21	7	Great Bay NWR	K. Hojnacki
05/02	1	Boston Lot Lake, Lebanon	G. Clark, B. Allison, Mascoma CFT
05/22	2	Magalloway R., Umbagog NWR, Errol	K. Fenton

American Black Duck

04/01	75	Tullando Farm, Orford	A. Cooley, J. MacQueen, W. Scott
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SPRING SEASON

Date # Location Observer

American Black Duck (con't)

04/17 115 Upper Suncook Rec. Area, Barnstead J. Lambert
04/17 200 Sunset Farm, Greenland H. Bauer

Northern Pintail

03/02 3 St. Gaudens NHS, Cornish K. Jones, K. Kull
03/03 4 Great Bay Farm, Greenland J. Lambert
03/05 11 Bodwell Farm, E. Kingston
E. Masterson, I. MacLeod
03/23 4 Hinsdale Setbacks S. Lamonde
03/24 5 Charlestown Meadows D. Clark, M. Adams
04/13 2 River Trail, Hanover A. Burnett

Green-winged Teal

03/30 58 St. Gaudens NHS, Cornish K. Jones
04/01 85 Bodwell Farm, E. Kingston J. Sparrell
04/19 95 Wetherby Rd., Charlestown D. Jackson
04/28 7 Sweat Meadow, Umbagog NWR, Errol R. Quinn

Redhead

03/19 1 World End Pond, Salem L. McKillop
03/21 4 Hinsdale Setbacks M. Adams, A. Burnett, D. Clark
03/26 4 Hinsdale Setbacks B. Powers, M. Pfeiffer

Ring-necked Duck

03/03 16 Exeter WTP L. McKillop
03/04 10 Laconia Rd., Tilton J. Landry
03/19 1 Androscoggin R. at Errol dam L. Charron
03/19 100 World End Pond, Salem L. McKillop
04/07 190 Northwood Lake R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
04/28 212 Harpers Meadow, Umbagog NWR, Errol R. Quinn

Lesser Scaup

03/03 61 Exeter WTP S. Mirick
03/26 1 Lake Winnisquam, Tilton I. MacLeod
04/07 2 Wilder Dam Reservoir, Lebanon W. Scott
04/27 2 Cherry Pond, Jefferson R. Quinn, J. Koliás
04/28 5 Harpers Meadow, Umbagog NWR, Errol R. Quinn
04/29 2 Chesham Pond, Harrisville P. Brown

King Eider

05/19 1 Star Island, Isles of Shoals (female) E. Masterson, et al.
05/20 1 Lunging Island, Isles of Shoals (male)
E. Masterson, et al.
05/28 1 cove at Rye/N. Hampton town line L. McKillop

Common Eider

05/03 223 NH coast S. Mirick
05/25 1 Pickering Ponds, Rochester K. Bedard, A. Murray



Common Eider by Alan Murray, 5-25-18, Pickering Ponds, Rochester, NH.

SPRING SEASON

Date # Location Observer

Common Eider - Northern subsp.

03/03 1 Rye Harbor SP J. Lambert

Harlequin Duck

03/06 2 Pulpit Rocks, Rye S.& D. Stoddard, S. Wrisley

Surf Scoter

04/15 1 Spofford L., Chesterfield E. Masterson
04/29 3 Goose Pond, Canaan W. Scott
04/29 5 Moore Reservoir, Littleton R. Quinn
05/20 130 Bicentennial Park, Hampton C. Duffy, C. Guindon

White-winged Scoter

04/29 9 Spofford L., Chesterfield E. Masterson
05/22 4 Mason Rd., Brookline J. Maher, C. McPherson
05/22 1 Panorama Golf Course, Colebrook L. Charron
05/22 277 NH coast S. Mirick
05/23 2 Boston Lot Lake trail, Lebanon S. Tiholiz,
B. Allison, Mascoma CFT
05/23 7 McDaniels Marsh WMA, Springfield M. Vernon
05/23 2 Airport Marsh, Whitefield S. Mirick
05/24 3103 NH coast S.& J. Mirick
05/27 4 Hinsdale Setbacks H. Galbraith
05/29 1 Upper Baker Pond, Orford H. Stevens

Black Scoter

03/30 1 Gordon Woolen Mill Pond, Newport
D. Jackson, J. Gamble, M. Chadwick
04/17 3 Wilson Pond, Swanzey S. Jaffe, W. Ward
05/13 383 NH coast S. Mirick

Long-tailed Duck

04/28 213 NH coast S. Mirick
04/29 45 Spofford L., Chesterfield E. Masterson
04/29 17 Mascoma L., Enfield W. Scott
04/29 25 Moore Reservoir, Littleton R. Quinn
04/29 28 Lake Sunapee Yacht Club, Sunapee D. Jackson
04/29 15 Surry Mountain L., Surry E. Masterson
05/05 210 Hampton Beach Z. Cornell, R. Suomala, M. Wilson
05/13 228 NH coast S. Mirick

Bufflehead

04/29 65 Newfound Lake, Bristol R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
04/29 40 Goose Pond, Canaan W. Scott

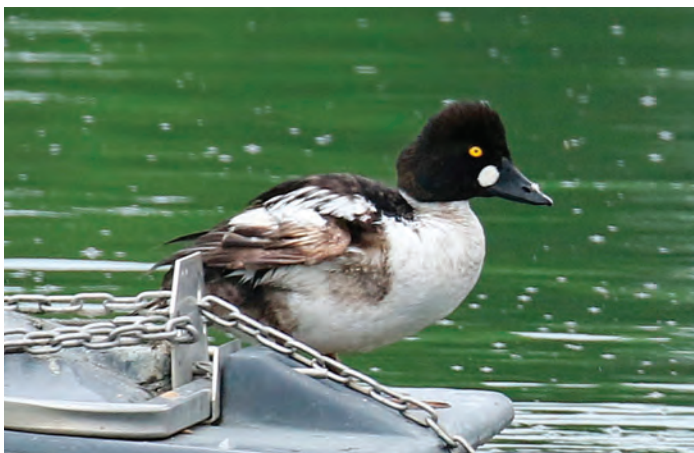


King Eider by Leo McKillop, 5-28-18, Little Boars Head, N. Hampton, NH.

Date	#	Location	Observer
04/29	222	Spofford L., Chesterfield	E. Masterson
04/29	55	Crystal Lake, Enfield	W. Scott
04/29	50	Mascoma L., Enfield	W. Scott
04/29	24	Mile Long Pond, Androscoggin R., Errol	L. Charron
04/29	300	Moore Reservoir, Littleton	R. Quinn
04/29	34	Post Pond, Lyme	W. Scott
04/29	25	Comerford Reservoir, Monroe	R. Quinn
04/29	23	Surry Mountain L., Surry	E. Masterson
05/17	2	Otter Pond, Sunapee	D. Jackson
05/18	1	Pleasant L., New London	J. Esten

Common Goldeneye

03/25	100	Sunset Farm, Greenland	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
04/18	118	Errol dam outflow pool	K. Fenton
05/26	1	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	L. McKillop
05/28	1	Exeter WTP	S. Mirick



Common Goldeneye by Steven Mirick, 5-28-18, Exeter, NH.

Barrow's Goldeneye

03/07	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	S. Lamonde
03/16	2	Pemigewasset R., Franklin	K. Cox
03/26	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	M. Pfeiffer, B. Powers
04/06	1	Turtle Pond, Concord	D. Lania
04/18	2	Errol dam outflow pool	K. Fenton
05/02	1	Androscoggin R. at Rt. 16, Errol	L. & P. Charron

Common x Barrow's Goldeneye (hybrid)

03/04	1	Androscoggin R. at Errol dam	L. Charron
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Red-breasted Merganser

04/14	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
04/29	4	Mascoma L., Enfield	W. Scott
04/29	2	Akers Pond, north end, Errol	L. Charron, G. Dionne
04/29	1	Moore Reservoir, Littleton	R. Quinn
04/29	2	Post Pond, Lyme	W. Scott, K. Thompson, S. Tiholiz, J. Norton
04/29	60	NH coast	R. Prieto
05/03	1	Grace Hill Rd., Newbury	D. Jackson

Ruddy Duck

04/17	1	Main St., Enfield	K. Brodeur
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Spruce Grouse

04/28	1	Valley View Dr., Pittsburg	K. Hiller
05/16	1	Panorama Golf Course, Colebrook	L. Charron



Spruce Grouse by Lori Charron, 5-16-18, Panorama Golf Course, Colebrook, NH.

Loons through Cranes

Single Red-throated Loons were observed on the Connecticut River in Charlestown, at the Rochester Wastewater Treatment plant (see the Field Notes in this issue), on Opechee Bay and on Pawtuckaway Lake in Nottingham, the latter coinciding with the aforementioned fallout, but the event did not impact loons to the degree that it did grebes. These were grounded in record numbers, including 730 Horned Grebes, with 300 birds on Moore Reservoir (a new state high count, see Bob Quinn's article elsewhere in this issue), 220 on Newfound Lake, and 82 on Sunapee, and 583 Red-necked Grebes, including 300 on Moore Reservoir.



Red-throated Loon by Jane Kelley, 5-5-18, Opechee Bay, Laconia, NH.



Red-necked Grebe by John Keator, 4-30-18, Moore Reservoir, Littleton, NH.

The only Wilson's Storm-Petrel report was from a fishing boat trip to Jeffreys Ledge. The Northern Fulmar seen from

Rye is one of only two reports from land in May in the eBird data. A Great Cormorant on Squam Lake in May was noteworthy, as the species is seldom reported on migration from the interior of the state. Least Bittern returned to known haunts in Salem and Lebanon. Great Egret numbers inland were impressive for spring, with birds reported from Conway, Littleton, Hudson, Bennington, Concord, and Tilton, with a peak daily coastal count of 20 birds in early April. Great Egrets are much more common inland in fall. A Little Blue Heron reported inland from Swanzey in early May was a terrific record for the location. They are more typical on the coast where there was both an adult and an immature reported in May. A hybrid egret reported from North Hampton in late April was presumed to be a Snowy Egret X Tricolored Heron. A **Tricolored Heron** in Rye was found at the same time in May as the last spring sighting in 2016. The Black-crowned Night-Heron in Conway is the northern most record for spring in the past 20 years.



Little Blue Heron by Len Medlock, 5-9-18, Rye, NH.

Black Vultures were reported from Charlestown, Durham, Walpole, Wilton, Nashua, North Hampton, Portsmouth, and Exeter. Mississippi Kites again returned to Newmarket, with two birds on May 21, and two adults were also found in Durham suggesting a possible new nesting territory. Rough-legged Hawks were seen in Rye, Greenland, and Seabrook, with the last report coming on April 7. American Coot was recorded at Wilson Pond in Swanzey and Pickering Ponds in Rochester. The Sandhill Crane that spent the winter in Rollinsford (“Kevin”) was last seen on March 29. A pair with one young was spotted in Nottingham on May 27 representing only the **second nesting record** for the state. Sandhill Cranes were also spotted in East Kingston, Bristol (at the police station!), Wilton, and Monroe.

Date	#	Location	Observer
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Red-throated Loon

03/02	1	Rochester WTP	S. Stoddard
04/17	1	Charlestown WTP	D. Jackson
04/29	1	Pawtuckaway Lake	C. LeBlanc
05/05	1	Opechee Bay, Laconia	J. Kelley

Common Loon

03/06	97	NH coast	S.& D. Stoddard
03/31	1	Lake Wantastiquet, Hinsdale	E. Masterson, et al.
04/01	1	Pawtuckaway L., Nottingham	R.& K. Frieden
04/01	1	Grassy Pond, Rindge	E. Richard
04/15	13	Spofford L., Chesterfield	E. Masterson
04/18	1	Androscoggin R. at Rt. 16, Errol	K. Fenton
04/30	20	Lake Sunapee	E. Masterson

Horned Grebe

04/07	1	Connecticut R. opposite Herricks Cove, Charlestown	D. Jackson
04/29	220	Newfound Lake, Bristol	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
04/29	12	Goose Pond, Canaan	W. Scott
04/29	71	Spofford L., Chesterfield	E. Masterson
04/29	12	Mascoma L., Enfield	W. Scott
04/29	100	Moore Reservoir, Littleton	R. Quinn
04/29	16	Post Pond, Lyme	W. Scott
04/29	30	Comerford Reservoir, Monroe	R. Quinn
04/30	18	Cherry Pond, Jefferson	D. Govatski
04/30	300	Moore Reservoir, Littleton	J. Keator
04/30	82	Lake Sunapee	E. Masterson
05/13	1	Star Island, Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, et al.
05/13	2	Newbury Beach, Lake Sunapee	S. Lewis



Horned Grebe by Shannon Lewis, 5-26-18, Lake Sunapee, NH.

Red-necked Grebe

04/29	50	Newfound Lake, Bristol	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
04/29	16	Goose Pond, Canaan	W. Scott
04/29	39	Spofford L., Chesterfield	E. Masterson
04/29	14	Mascoma L., Enfield	W. Scott
04/29	300	Moore Reservoir, Littleton	J. Keator
04/29	14	Post Pond, Lyme	W. Scott
04/29	75	Comerford Reservoir, Monroe	R. Quinn
04/30	14	Cherry Pond, Jefferson	A. Griffin
04/30	14	Blodgett’s Landing, Newbury	D. Jackson
04/30	47	Lake Sunapee	E. Masterson
05/06	14	Bicentennial Park, Hampton	K. Towler

SPRING SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
Northern Fulmar			
03/31	1	Jeffrey's Ledge	J. Sparrell, R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
05/20	1	Seal Rocks, Rye	R. Prieto

Wilson's Storm-Petrel			
05/17	13	Jeffrey's Ledge	Z. Cornell

Northern Gannet			
03/03	1	Rye Harbor SP	J. Lambert
03/31	4	offshore waters, NH	J. Sparrell, R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
04/28	2	NH coast	S. Mirick
05/17	41	Jeffrey's Ledge	Z. Cornell

Great Cormorant			
03/27	1	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
03/31	7	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Mirick

Double-crested Cormorant			
03/24	1	Eel Pond, Rye	R. Bielawski, M. Jacobson
03/31	2	Charlestown WTP	P. Brown, et al.
04/07	27	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer
04/14	30	Bellows Falls Rd., Charlestown	A. Wilson
04/26	6	Androscoggin R. by Bridge St., Berlin	L. & P. Charron
04/29	1100	NH coast	R. Prieto
05/01	888	NH coast	S. Mirick

Least Bittern			
05/20	2	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
05/25	1	Cranberry Pond wetlands, Rt. 12A, W. Lebanon	J. MacQueen

Great Egret			
03/28	2	Rt. 286, Seabrook	L. Medlock
04/07	1	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	D. Lipsy, R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
04/07	20	Seabrook WTP	S. Mirick
04/14	1	Winnepesaukee R. at Rt. 140, Tilton	R. Simmons
04/18	1	Hobbs St. & W. Side Rd., Conway	T. Jerome, W. Broussard
04/23	1	Benson Park, Hudson	D. Durocher
04/26	1	Gillis Hill Rd., Bennington	P. Eppig
05/26	1	Rt. 135 at Rt. 18, Littleton	A. Griffin



Tricolored Heron with Snowy Egrets by Rebecca Suomala, 5-26-18, Rye, NH.

Snowy Egret			
04/10	1	Rt. 1A between Locke and Harbor Rds., Rye	L. McKillop

SPRING SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
04/14	8	Parsons Creek saltmarsh, Rye	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
05/03	28	NH coast	S. Mirick

Little Blue Heron			
05/05	1	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzeey	J. Maher, P. Kirkhart, S. Jaffe
05/08	1	saltmarsh s. of Odiorne Pt., Rye	L. McKillop, et al.
05/22	1	Parsons Creek saltmarsh, Rye	S. Mirick
05/27	1	Parsons Creek saltmarsh, Rye	P. Miliotis

Tricolored Heron			
05/26	1	Parsons Creek saltmarsh, Rye	S. & J. Mirick, et al.

Snowy Egret x Tricolored Heron (hybrid)			
04/28	1	Little River saltmarsh, N. Hampton	S. Mirick

Black-crowned Night-Heron			
04/27	1	Rt. 1A, Seabrook	S. Mirick
05/02	1	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard
05/27	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith

Glossy Ibis			
04/01	2	Bodwell Farm, E. Kingston	J. Sparrell
04/07	1	Wetherby Rd., Charlestown	M. Adams, A. Deen, D. Clark, C. Provost
04/08	2	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	M. Foley
04/20	1	Wetherby Rd., Charlestown	Z. Cornell



Osprey dive by Leo McKillop, 5-4-18, Pickering Ponds, Rochester, NH.

SPRING SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
Glossy Ibis (con't)			
05/02	8	Hampton Salt Marsh CA	S. Mirick
05/05	1	Trask Brook Rd., Newport/Sunapee	D. Kucia, S. Stratton
05/11	13	NH coast	R. Prieto
05/14	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray, S.& D. Stoddard, D. Hubbard
05/21	30	Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton	H. Bauer

Black Vulture

03/23	1	Halls Crossing Rd. at River Rd. S., Walpole	C. Hess
03/31	1	Charlestown WTP	D. Jackson
04/01	3	Rt. 155A fields, Durham	S. Stoddard
04/03	1	Gibbons Hgwy., Wilton	C. Heys
04/10	2	Everett Tpk. between exits 4 & 5, Nashua	K. Fenton, J. Maher
04/13	2	Portsmouth Traffic Circle	P. Miliotis
04/14	1	Rt. 101 at Exit 9, Exeter	J. Pettipas
05/26	1	UNH, Durham	R. Prieto, K. Dorsey

Turkey Vulture

03/05	13	Thirty Pines area, Penacook	D. Ellis
03/09	26	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
03/14	19	Elm St., Milford	C. Heys
03/23	1	Lancaster WTP	A. Griffin
04/03	17	Rt. 302, Bartlett	C. Nims
05/25	35	Airport Rd., Lebanon	T. Perkins

Osprey

03/28	1	Great Bay NWR	J. Sparrell
04/01	1	Bridgewater Power Co., Bridgewater	I. MacLeod
04/02	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	J. Gamble, M. Chadwick
04/18	1	Errol dam outflow pool	K. Fenton
04/21	6	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick

Mississippi Kite

05/21	2	Maplecrest St., Newmarket	R. Prieto
05/26	2	Madbury Rd., Durham	S. Mirick, et al.

Broad-winged Hawk

04/04	1	Plymouth	J. Sullivan
04/11	3	Beech Hill Rd., Dublin	H. Walters
04/14	2	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	W. Ward
04/17	1	Main St., Enfield	K. Brodeur
04/26	1	Errol dam outflow pool	K. Fenton

Rough-legged Hawk

03/11	1	Concord Point, Rye	S. Mirick
03/17	1	Rt. 33, Greenland	S. Thimann
04/07	1	Rt. 286, Seabrook	K. Wilmarth

Virginia Rail

04/14	3	Borthwick Ave. marsh, Portsmouth	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
04/14	2	World End Pond, Salem	K.& A. Wilmarth
04/19	1	Gile Road Marsh, Lee	R. Prieto, A. Murray
04/21	1	St. Paul's School trails, Concord	H. Walters
04/21	1	W. Locke Rd., Concord	M.& R. Suomala
04/21	2	Surrey Ln. marsh, Durham	K. Dorsey
04/23	1	Antrim Rd., Hancock	E. Masterson
04/26	2	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	S. Jaffe
05/08	5	Geremonty Dr. marsh, Salem	K. Wilmarth

SPRING SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
05/12	1	Moorhen Marsh, Pondicherry NWR	D. Govatski, P. Brown, C. Martin, NHA FT
05/12	3	Thompson WS, Sandwich	R. Ridgely, NHA FT

Sora

05/03	1	Borthwick Ave. marsh, Portsmouth	J. Maher
05/05	1	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	J. Maher
05/08	2	Geremonty Dr. marsh, Salem	K. Wilmarth
05/14	1	Powder House Pond, Exeter	C. Guindon
05/27	2	Fort Hill WMA, Stratford	D. Dionne, L. Charron

American Coot

04/29	1	Wilson Pond, Swanzey	P. Kirkhart, W. Ward, S. Jaffe
05/16	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	J. McKibben, D. Currier, D. Hubbard, S.& D. Stoddard, A. Murray

Sandhill Crane

03/29	1	Main St. at Beccaris Dr., Rollinsford	R. St. Hilaire
04/02	1	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch
04/03	1	Lake St., Bristol	C. Hunt
04/06	1	Kimball Rd., Wilton	K. Guadagni
04/12	2	Ledge Farm Rd. at Rt. 156, Nottingham	D. Harmon
05/25	1	Rt. 135, Monroe	J.& D. Cate
05/27	3	Stevens Hill Rd., Nottingham	P. Miliotis

Shorebirds through Terns



Red-necked Phalarope by Stephen R. Mirick, 5-28-18, Hampton, NH.

American Oystercatchers were documented from Rye in early April and late May. Ruddy Turnstones were relatively plentiful this spring, with multiple reports, including a peak count of 10 birds on Square Rock, Isles of Shoals. Up to five White-rumped Sandpipers were reported from the coast throughout May. A single Red Knot in Rye on May 28 was the only record for the season. The **Stilt Sandpiper** in Hampton on May 11 can fairly lay claim to being the rarity of the season, this being the first spring record of the species in New Hampshire. Dunlin are scarce away from the coast in spring so two in McDaniels Marsh in Springfield were noteworthy. For the second season running, an American Golden-Plover appeared in Hampton. Like Stilt Sandpiper, the spring migration track for this species runs north through the center of the continent, with a more dispersed route south in the fall. Upland Sandpipers

returned to Pease, with a high count of four birds on April 26. A **Red-necked Phalarope** in Hampton late May and a **Red Phalarope** in Ashland mid-April were the only New Hampshire phalaropes of the season. A single Red Phalarope in New York City on April 17 and a single bird in Montour County, PA on April 16, were the only other records of this species from the northeast, suggesting a small regional movement early in the season.

Normally, a boat trip to Jeffreys Ledge in December is required to see **Dovekie**, but they had a good showing on the coast during the first half of March, with birds reported from multiple locations. A tally of ten birds along the New Hampshire coast on March 1 was particularly noteworthy. Three Thick-billed Murres were seen from various points along the coast later in the month.



Bonaparte's Gull by Jason Lambert, 4-29-18, Upper Suncook Lake, Barnstead, NH.

It was an incredible spring for Bonaparte's Gull, the third and final protagonist in the great waterbird fallout of 2018. On April 15, a flock of 72 Bonaparte's Gulls on Spofford Lake shattered the previous inland high count of 40 birds from Lake Umbagog, but this was just a prelude to the massive flock of birds that sought shelter on Lake Sunapee at the end of the month, topping out at 300 individuals on April 30. Smaller numbers were observed on Newfound

Lake (28), and Moore Reservoir (30), and elsewhere along the Connecticut River. The conditions seemed perfect for an inland occurrence of **Little Gull**, which seek out the company of Bonaparte's Gulls, so I took out my kayak and went looking for one on Lake Sunapee with the Bonaparte's flock. Success! Rare in the state at any time in any place, an adult bird on Lake Sunapee on April 30 was the fourth record away from the coast. See the Field Notes for a photo.

Several each of Iceland and Glaucous Gulls were recorded, including an Iceland Gull in Berlin in early April. A remarkable 24 Lesser Black-backed Gulls were recorded along the coast on April 16, migrant birds brought in from the Gulf of Maine by the same low pressure system that downed the first flock of Bonaparte's Gulls on Spofford Lake. Least Tern continue trending in a positive direction, with a maximum of 14 birds on May 29. Three records of Caspian Tern were all coastal. The Common Tern seen at Surry Mountain Lake was the only inland tern this spring.

Date # Location Observer

American Oystercatcher

04/06	2	cove s. of Odiorne Pt. SP, Rye	W. Broussard, J. Scott, R. Steber, C. Nims
05/23	2	Star Island, Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson
05/26	1	Concord Point, Rye	A. Robbins. R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
05/30	1	NH coast	R. Prieto

Black-bellied Plover

04/21	1	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
05/04	4	Yankee Fisherman's Coop., Seabrook	L. Medlock
05/14	38	Hampton River Marina	H. Bauer
05/16	63	Hampton Harbor restroom, Rt. 1A, Seabrook	R. Prieto

American Golden-Plover

05/05	1	Hampton Salt Marsh CA	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, et al.
05/06	1	Hampton Salt Marsh CA	S. Mirick, J. Lambert

Semipalmated Plover

05/03	1	NH coast	S. Mirick
05/06	12	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
05/16	102	Seabrook Beach	J. Sparrell, K. Towler



Lesser Black-backed Gulls by Jason Lambert, 4-15-18, Rye, NH.

SPRING SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
Semipalmated Plover (con't)			
05/23	14	Rochester WTP	S. Stoddard
05/26	2	McDaniels Marsh WMA, Springfield	D. Jackson
05/28	60	Hampton Marsh	J. Maher
05/31	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	S. Stoddard



American Golden-Plover by Jason Lambert, 5-6-18, Hampton, NH.

Piping Plover

04/08	2	Hampton Beach SP	J. Lambert
05/22	6	Hampton Beach	Z. Cornell

Killdeer

03/01	2	Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton	L. McKillop
03/01	1	Tilton Hill Rd. by Suncook R., Pittsfield	G. Robbins
03/29	1	Flint farm, Milan	P. Charron
04/08	27	Rt. 155A fields, Durham	M. Wilson
04/21	21	Sherman's Farm, Conway	C. Lewey, R. Steber, W. Rigazio, W. Broussard

Upland Sandpiper

04/23	2	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	J. MacQueen
04/26	4	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	J. Sparrell, K. Towler
05/23	12	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	P. Hunt, B. Ferry

Ruddy Turnstone

05/14	6	Hampton River Marina	H. Bauer
05/19	10	Lunging Island, Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, et al.
05/27	2	Rye Ledge	J. Lambert



Dunlin by Leo McKillop, 5-27-18, Hampton, NH.

SPRING SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
Red Knot			
05/28	1	Little Harbor, New Castle/Rye	R. Prieto

Stilt Sandpiper

05/11	1	Hampton Salt Marsh CA	S. Mirick
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Sanderling

03/03	3	Rye Harbor SP	S. Wrisley
04/28	34	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
05/05	70	Seabrook Beach	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell

Dunlin

04/28	100	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
05/05	150	Seabrook Beach	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
05/20	2	McDaniels Marsh WMA, Springfield	D. Jackson
05/27	15	NH coast	K. & A. Wilmarth

Purple Sandpiper

04/14	167	Rye Harbor SP	J. Sparrell
04/29	176	Hampton Beach SP	J. Sparrell
04/29	8	Pulpit Rocks, Rye	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
05/07	235	NH coast	J. Maher
05/15	120	Hampton Beach SP	S. & D. Stoddard



Purple Sandpiper by Stephen R. Mirick, 3-3-18, Rye, NH.

Least Sandpiper

04/28	3	Hampton Salt Marsh CA	S. Mirick
05/02	1	World End Pond, Salem	A. Wilmarth
05/03	12	NH coast	S. Mirick
05/05	82	Hampton Salt Marsh CA	S. Wrisley, J. Pettipas
05/07	250	Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton	S. & D. Stoddard
05/09	2	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	A. Griffin
05/22	7	Bearcamp Pond, Sandwich	H. Stevens

White-rumped Sandpiper

05/06	1	Hampton Salt Marsh CA	S. Mirick
05/08	3	Hampton Salt Marsh CA	S. Mirick
05/13	5	Hampton Salt Marsh CA	S. Mirick, J. Lambert
05/29	5	Hampton Salt Marsh CA	S. Mirick

Semipalmated Sandpiper

05/06	1	Hampton Salt Marsh CA	S. Mirick
05/13	21	Hampton Salt Marsh CA	S. Mirick
05/23	13	Rochester WTP	S. Stoddard
05/26	130	Rt. 286, Seabrook	S. Mirick
05/29	150	Hampton Salt Marsh CA	S. Mirick

SPRING SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
Short-billed Dowitcher			
05/05	2	Hampton Salt Marsh CA	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
05/19	200	Yankee Fisherman's Coop., Seabrook	R. Quinn, D. Bechtel, et al.
05/25	33	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Mirick
05/28	1	NH coast	J. Maher



Short-billed Dowitcher by Stephen R. Mirick, 5-25-18, Rye, NH.

American Woodcock

03/01	7	Benson Park, Hudson	S. Wong
03/25	1	Central St., Lisbon	K. Hiller
03/28	1	Tin Mt. Conservation Ctr., Albany	A. Sharp
03/28	7	Birch St. Comm. Garden, Concord	M.& R. Suomala
04/17	6	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard
04/20	1	Martin Meadow Pond Rd., Lancaster	A. Fisher

Wilson's Snipe

04/01	5	Dingman Farm, Kensington	D. Finch
04/04	12	Rt. 155A fields, Durham	S. Mirick
04/14	14	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson
04/15	18	Great Bay Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick
04/22	1	Rt. 16, Errol	L. Charron

Red Phalarope

04/17	1	Mill Pond Lane, Ashland	J. Grinley
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Red-necked Phalarope

05/28	1	Hampton Beach SP	J. Sparrell, et al.
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Red-necked Phalarope by Len Medlock, 5-28-18, Hampton Beach, Hampton, NH.

Spotted Sandpiper

04/24	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray, J. Sparrell
04/29	1	Upper Suncook Rec. Area, Barnstead	J. Lambert
04/29	2	Lancy Brook wetlands, Brookline	C. McPherson

SPRING SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
05/04	3	Heath St., Lancaster	A. Griffin
05/22	15	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
05/27	35	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	J. Lambert, S. Mirick

Solitary Sandpiper

04/21	1	Exeter WTP	L. McKillop
04/28	1	Exeter WTP	L. McKillop
04/29	1	River Trail, Hanover	A. Burnett
05/02	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	N. Mitiguy
05/05	10	River Trail, Hanover	A. Burnett
05/25	1	Panorama Golf Course, Colebrook	L. Charron

Greater Yellowlegs

04/07	4	Chapmans Landing, Stratham	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
04/08	4	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer
04/12	1	Chase Brook Pond, Litchfield	L. McKillop, C. Sheridan
04/13	14	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer
04/28	1	Harpers Meadow, Umbagog NWR, Errol	R. Quinn
04/28	34	NH coast	S. Mirick
04/29	7	Colebrook WTP	R. Quinn
04/29	45	NH coast	R. Prieto

Willet

04/28	5	NH coast	S. Mirick
05/03	19	NH coast	S. Mirick

Lesser Yellowlegs

04/20	1	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer
04/28	2	Hampton Salt Marsh CA	Z. Cornell, J. Lambert
04/29	3	Lower Meadows, Charlestown	C. Lawlor
04/29	5	Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton	S.& D. Stoddard
05/02	8	Great Meadow, Charlestown	K. Cox
05/04	3	River Trail, Hanover	B. Allison, Mascoma CFT
05/07	15	Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton	H. Bauer
05/11	1	Akers Pond, north end, Errol	D.& G. Dionne

Dovekie

03/01	10	NH coast	S. Mirick
03/02	2	Rye Harbor SP	J. Lambert
03/03	4	NH coast	S. Mirick
03/18	1	Seal Rocks, Rye	J. Gamble, M. Chadwick

Common Murre

03/31	2	offshore waters, NH	J. Sparrell, Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
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Thick-billed Murre

03/01	3	NH coast	S. Mirick
03/31	1	Jeffrey's Ledge	J. Sparrell, Z. Cornell, R. Suomala

Razorbill

03/01	4	NH coast	S. Mirick
04/29	9	Seal Rocks, Rye	B. Griffith
05/13	1	Hampton Beach	S. Mirick
05/19	1	Star Island, Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, et al.

Black Guillemot

05/03	61	Star Island, Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson
05/13	4	Little Boars Head, N. Hampton	S. Mirick

Black-legged Kittiwake

03/31	2	Jeffrey's Ledge	J. Sparrell, Z. Cornell, R. Suomala
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Date	#	Location	Observer
Bonaparte's Gull			
03/30	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
04/15	72	Spofford L., Chesterfield	E. Masterson
04/29	28	Newfound Lake, Bristol	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
04/29	30	Moore Reservoir, Littleton	R. Quinn
04/29	94	Lake Sunapee Yacht Club, Sunapee	D. Jackson
04/30	17	Blodgett's Landing, Newbury	D. Jackson
04/30	300	Lake Sunapee	E. Masterson, J. Gamble, M. Chadwick



Black Guillemot by David Forsyth, 5-19-18, Star Island, NH.

Little Gull

04/30	1	Lake Sunapee Yacht Club, Sunapee	E. Masterson, D. Jackson
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Laughing Gull

04/16	1	Massacre Marsh at Parson's Creek, Rye	L. McKillop
04/16	9	NH coast	S. Mirick

Iceland Gull

03/09	4	Hampton Beach SP	Z. Coeman
03/09	4	Rochester WTP	D. Hubbard
03/16	2	Rockingham Park racetrack, Salem	K. Wilmarth
04/05	1	Androscoggin R. by Bridge St., Berlin	P.& L. Charron
04/29	1	Rye Harbor SP	C. Michaud
05/20	1	Great Is. Common, New Castle	R. Prieto

Lesser Black-backed Gull

03/06	1	Rt. 125, Plaistow	S. Mirick
04/16	1	Portsmouth Ave. at Newington Rd., Greenland	S. Mirick
04/16	24	NH coast	S. Mirick
05/27	1	Jeness Beach, Rye	J. Lambert

Glaucous Gull

03/02	1	Rochester WTP	L. McKillop, S.& D. Stoddard
03/03	1	Hampton Harbor	S. Mirick



Least Tern by Leo McKillop, 5-22-18, Hampton Beach SP, NH.

Date	#	Location	Observer
03/26	1	Eel Pond, Rye	H. Bauer
03/31	1	Hampton Harbor	J. Sparrell,
			Z. Cornell, R. Suomala, S. Mirick
04/23	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray
Least Tern			
05/20	5	NH coast	S. Mirick
05/22	11	Hampton Beach SP	L. McKillop
05/29	14	Seabrook Beach	J. Maher

Caspian Tern

04/28	1	Sunset Farm, Greenland	S. Mirick
05/19	2	Rye Harbor SP	R. Quinn, D. Bechtel, et al.
05/28	1	Hampton Beach SP	S. Wrisley, S. Bennett

Roseate Tern

05/11	7	Hampton Beach SP	S. Mirick
05/16	9	Yankee Fisherman's Coop., Seabrook	L. McKillop

Common Tern

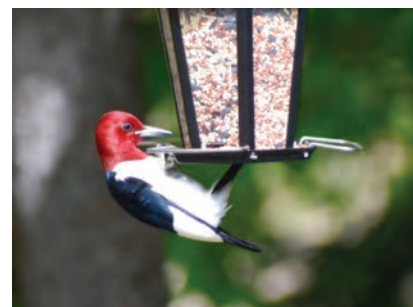
05/03	1	Star Island, Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson
05/03	25	Seabrook Beach	S. Mirick
05/05	3	Jackson's Landing, Durham	K. Dorsey
05/11	1000	Star Island, Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, et al.
05/20	1	Surry Mountain L., Surry	W. Ward, D. Hoitt

Cuckoos through Snow Bunting

Snowy Owls continued on the coast through May 19 and northbound individuals were recorded in Kingston, Jackson, and Manchester. Short-eared Owl is the rarer of the two winter owls these days, especially inland. Two birds, in Westmoreland and Concord, were exciting finds.

Common Nighthawk migration peaked on May 22 with 28 birds observed in East Kingston. Nineteen Eastern Whip-poor-wills were surveyed in Amherst – welcome news for this declining species. Likewise the 150 Chimney Swifts observed in Salem was a welcome sight; another aerial insectivore that is trending in a negative direction.

Three **Red-headed Woodpeckers**, one each in Bartlett, Rindge, and Alexandria, was a good showing. This handsome woodpecker is still rare enough that it is hard to detect a trend, but if there is one, it seems to be positive.



Linda Ewens was so excited to see this Red-headed Woodpecker, she had to look three times to make sure it was real. It arrived in her yard at 8:45 am on May 24, 2018 and stayed all day!

All the flycatchers arrived roughly on schedule, which is fine if your schedule is set to late April or May, but Eastern Phoebe traditionally begin to arrive in the second half of March, which puts them at risk of late winter storms, as happened in 2018. Numerous moribund individuals

SPRING SEASON

were reported from across the state north to the Lakes Region, concentrated in a five day period from April 16-20.

A Canada Jay on Mt. Monadnock was remarkably far south for this denizen of the northern spruce-fir forests. The bird was well described and seen along the ridgeline in a section of conifers. There has not been a Canada Jay confirmed south of the Lakes Region since 1989.

Fish Crow looks to have established a foothold in Cheshire County, with birds seen in Keene from late March through May. A count of 50 Common Ravens on March 2 in Barnstead was remarkable. Purple Martins peaked on May 19 with 20 birds observed at the Hampton colony on Cross Beach Road. Perhaps because of the heavy March snow totals, Tree Swallows arrived late this year, with the first birds not detected until March 25.

One of the rarest birds of the season, a **Northern**



Northern Wheatear by Leo McKillop, 4-15-18, Oyster River Forest, Durham, NH.

Wheatear delighted birders with an extended eight-day stay in the vicinity of Oyster River Forest in Durham. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet seen at the Hinsdale Setbacks on March 1 likely overwintered in the region, as the first wave of migrant kinglets waited another month to arrive in the state. The same reasoning applies to the early March Gray Catbirds recorded from Keene and Nottingham. Though not an epic winter for Bohemian Waxwings, there were several spring reports through May 9, a late date for this species.

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
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Yellow-billed Cuckoo

05/05	1	Gilmore Pond Rd., Jaffrey	C. Heys
05/07	2	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	C. Michaud
05/20	1	Federal Hill Trails, Milford/Hollis	J. Maher, J. Forbes, M. Wilson

Black-billed Cuckoo

05/06	1	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard
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SPRING SEASON

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
05/09	1	Matthews Rd., Swanzey	W. Ward
05/10	1	Federal Hill Trails, Milford/Hollis S.& D. Stoddard, G. Tillman, J. Lambert	
05/22	1	Fort Hill WMA, Stratford	D.& G. Dionne
05/26	1	Rt. 135 at Rt. 142, Dalton	A. Griffin
05/29	3	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch

Eastern Screech-Owl

03/16	1	Chestnut St., Manchester	D. Swain, et al.
04/02	1	Nashua	J. Maher
04/22	1	Gilmore Pond Rd., Jaffrey	C. Heys
05/06	1	Shaker Rd., Canterbury	N. Dorian

Snowy Owl

03/24	4	NH coast	S. Bennett
04/30	1	Adams Rd., Jackson	C. Lewey, et al.
05/03	1	Three Rivers Farm, Dover	D. Tucker
05/15	1	Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton M. Watson, S.& D. Stoddard	
05/15	1	North Rd., Kingston	D. Finch
05/23	1	Star Island, Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson



Snowy Owl by Jonathan Hornbeck of Seacoast Aerial Solutions, 4-11-18, Pease Int'l Tradeport, Portsmouth, NH.

Short-eared Owl

03/14	1	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	A. Burnett
04/17	1	Concord Airport	N. Dorian

Common Nighthawk

05/15	3	Winchester Dr., Barnstead	J. Lambert
05/20	12	Continental Blvd., Merrimack	J. Maher
05/21	17	Emmet Rd., Dover	C. Michaud, G. Clucas
05/22	28	Autumn Lane, E. Kingston	K. Elwell
05/23	12	Great Pond, Kingston	B. Green

Eastern Whip-poor-will

05/03	1	Birch St. Comm. Garden, Concord	R. Suomala, K. Munney
05/03	2	USFWS Karner Blue easement, Concord	Z. Cornell

SPRING SEASON

Date # Location Observer

Eastern Whip-poor-will (con't)

05/09 5 Hertzka/Northern Blvd., Amherst C. McPherson
 05/15 1 Mud Pond, Jefferson D. Govatski
 05/17 8 Freedom Town Forest airstrip P. Hunt, J. Mazurowski
 05/20 19 Hertzka/Northern Blvd., Amherst J. Maher
 05/24 19 Parker Mt., Strafford S. Young

Chimney Swift

04/25 5 World End Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth
 05/02 1 Noyes St., Concord R. Suomala
 05/07 1 Panorama Golf Course, Colebrook L. Charron
 05/13 44 Pickering Ponds, Rochester D. Hubbard, Seacoast CFT
 05/14 150 World End Pond, Salem K. Wilmarth
 05/22 59 Old Academy Building, Orford J. MacQueen

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

04/28 1 S. Main St., Newton H. Burns
 04/30 2 Silver Doe Ln., Merrimack C. Wennerth
 05/06 1 Tracy Dr., Errol P.& L. Charron

Red-headed Woodpecker

03/28 1 Thorne Pond, Bartlett R. Steber
 04/03 1 Goddard Rd., Rindge J. Maher
 05/24 1 Berry Farm Rd., Alexandria L. Ewens

Red-bellied Woodpecker

05/05 1 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield D. Brown

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

03/22 1 Fox Run Rd., Lincoln B.& S. Schultz
 03/30 1 Hammond Hollow Rd., Gilsum M. Wright
 03/31 1 Corn Hill Rd., Boscawen D. Lania
 04/20 1 Weeks SP, Lancaster A. Griffin

Black-backed Woodpecker

03/18 1 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield A. Norton
 03/20 1 Mt. Field, WMNF D. Durocher
 03/23 2 Zealand Trail, WMNF D. Durocher
 05/14 1 Cannon Mt., Franconia J. Carlson

American Kestrel

03/11 1 Conner Farm WMA, Exeter J. Sparrell
 03/16 1 W. Portsmouth St., Concord D. Lania
 03/30 3 Halls Crossing Rd. at River Rd. S., Walpole C. Hess
 04/01 5 Woodmont Orchard, Hollis C. McPherson
 04/07 1 Rt. 135 at Rt. 142, Dalton A. Griffin
 04/07 14 Pease Int'l. Tradeport R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
 04/21 14 Hampton Beach SP S. Mirick

Olive-sided Flycatcher

05/15 1 Stevens Hill Rd., Nottingham P. Miliotis
 05/22 1 Scott Rd., Tamworth S. Lee
 05/22 1 Star Ridge Rd., Thornton T. McShane
 05/23 2 Watts WS, Effingham A. Robbins
 05/23 1 Buck Meadow CA, Nashua C. Sheridan, J. Maher
 05/23 1 McDaniels Marsh WMA, Springfield M. Vernon
 05/24 1 West Branch pine barrens, Madison S. Lee
 05/25 1 Livermore Cove, Holderness T. Michel
 05/26 2 Loveren Mill Cedar Swamp, Antrim
 W. Ward, E. Masterson, D. Carrier
 05/28 2 Watts WS, Effingham Z. Cornell
 05/30 1 Hubbard Brook Exp. Forest, Woodstock K. Bird

SPRING SEASON

Date # Location Observer

Eastern Wood-Pewee

05/13 1 Swamp Rd. at Gridley R., Sharon S. Hecker
 05/14 1 Hinsdale Setbacks C. Stanistreet
 05/14 1 Landaff T. Burns

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

05/18 1 Lakeview Dr., Strafford S. Young
 05/19 1 Mink Brook Nature Preserve, Hanover A. Burnett
 05/22 1 Mt. Washington Auto Rd.
 L. Carretero, E. Soler, D. Ward, E. Capella
 05/28 5 Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem
 A. Kallenbach, M. Suomala, S. Turner

Alder Flycatcher

05/14 1 Stevens Hill Rd., Nottingham P. Miliotis
 05/16 1 Boston Lot Lake, Lebanon B. Allison, Mascoma CFT
 05/18 1 Panorama Golf Course, Colebrook L. Charron

Willow Flycatcher

05/13 1 Depot R., Barnstead J. Lambert
 05/14 1 Woodmont Orchard, Hollis J. Maher
 05/27 4 Richmond Conservation Land, Orford B. Hancock

Least Flycatcher

04/27 1 Sand Pond, Lempster P. Wood
 05/01 1 Wells St, Enfield T. Perkins
 05/01 1 Pawtuckaway SP, Nottingham/Deerfield K. Frieden
 05/02 1 Horseshoe Pond, Concord
 M.& R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
 05/05 1 Little Cherry Pond trail, Pondicherry NWR M. Oskarsson
 05/11 9 Bedell Bridge SP, Haverhill W. Scott

Eastern Phoebe

03/30 3 Lancy Brook wetlands, Brookline C. McPherson
 03/30 1 Hammond Hollow Rd., Gilsum M. Wright
 03/30 1 Thornton Gore Rd., Thornton P. Bradley
 04/05 1 Androscoggin R. by Bridge St., Berlin P.& L. Charron
 04/15 22 Liberty Lane E., Hampton C. Michaud
 04/16 20 Pickering Ponds, Rochester A. Murray

Great Crested Flycatcher

05/01 1 Dahl WS, Conway W. Broussard
 05/02 1 Thompson WS, Sandwich C. Nims, J. Scott, R. Steber
 05/03 1 Horseshoe Pond, Concord R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
 05/03 1 Merrimack R. CA, Concord Z. Cornell, D. Lipsy
 05/04 1 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield J. Keator



Great Crested Flycatcher by Len Medlock, 5-7-18, Greenland, NH.

SPRING SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
Eastern Kingbird			
04/28	1	Ponemah Bog WS, Amherst	P. Brown
04/30	1	Parsons Creek saltmarsh, Rye	L. Charron
05/01	1	Trask Brook Rd., Newport/Sunapee	D. Jackson
05/03	1	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	N. Mitiguy

Date	#	Location	Observer
Northern Shrike			
03/21	1	Winnicut Rd., Stratham	L. O'Neil
04/04	1	fields north of Newport HS, Newport	D. Jackson

Date	#	Location	Observer
Yellow-throated Vireo			
05/02	1	Epsom	C. Borgmann
05/03	1	Thompson Forest, Durham	K. Dorsey
05/03	1	Woodridge Park, Durham	K. Dorsey
05/03	1	N. River Rd., Epping	G. Tillman
05/03	1	Autumn Lane, Nottingham	R. Prieto
05/05	1	Mt. Morgan, Holderness	J. Toledano
05/08	2	Hinsdale Setbacks	C. Ross

Date	#	Location	Observer
Blue-headed Vireo			
04/13	1	Moulton Ridge Rd., Kensington	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04/14	1	Oyster R. Forest, Durham	K. Dorsey
04/17	1	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard
05/02	2	Weeks SP, Lancaster	A. Griffin

Date	#	Location	Observer
Philadelphia Vireo			
05/20	1	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	S. Mirick
05/21	1	Dunvegan Woods, Hampton	S. Mirick
05/21	1	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer
05/23	1	Watts WS, Effingham	A. Robbins
05/23	1	Star Island, Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson
05/25	2	Hatt Rd., Westmoreland	G. Seymour

Date	#	Location	Observer
Warbling Vireo			
04/28	1	Surrey Ln. marsh, Durham	K. Dorsey
04/28	1	N. River St., Holderness	C. Frignoca
04/28	1	wetland by Rt. 93, Holderness	J. Sullivan
05/03	1	Lower Landing Rd., Charlestown	K. Cox
05/03	2	Eastman St., Concord	D. Lipsy
05/03	1	Ash Brook wetland, Keene	A. Ferrario, S. Lamonde
05/13	14	Mines Falls Park, Nashua	C. McPherson
05/16	18	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard
05/21	1	Fort Hill WMA, Stratford	D.& G. Dionne

Date	#	Location	Observer
Red-eyed Vireo			
05/03	1	Concord St., Antrim	L. Burford
05/04	1	Stevens Hill Rd., Nottingham	P. Miliotis
05/04	1	Portsmouth High School	J. Sparrell
05/16	1	Weeks SP, Lancaster	A. Griffin
05/21	25	Main St., Ctr. Sandwich	R. Muskat

Date	#	Location	Observer
Canada Jay			
03/13	4	Errol Public Library, Errol	L. Charron
05/06	1	Mt. Monadnock	N. Paulson

Date	#	Location	Observer
Fish Crow			
03/01	2	Great Pond, Kingston	S. Heron
03/04	1	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
03/15	16	Haynes Blvd., Plaistow	H. Burns
03/18	3	Main St., Nashua	C. McPherson
03/23	30	Great Pond, Kingston	S. Heron
03/30	2	Antioch Univ. NE, Keene	S. Lamonde, C. Witko

SPRING SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
04/04	8	W. Locke Rd., Concord	R. Quinn
04/08	2	Birch Pond Dr., Tilton	I. MacLeod
04/24	1	Dahl WS, Conway	R. Steber
04/27	10	Rt. 1A, Rye	S. Mirick
05/13	4	Roxbury St., Keene	P. Kirkhart
05/13	6	Horseshoe Pond, Merrimack	M. Jacobson
05/28	8	McDonald's, Rt. 16, Ossipee	C. Nims

Date	#	Location	Observer
Northern Rough-winged Swallow			
04/08	1	Mine Falls Park, Spine Rd. entrance, Nashua	C. McPherson
04/11	2	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	S. Mirick
04/12	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
04/29	20	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	G. Clucas
05/05	2	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski

Date	#	Location	Observer
Purple Martin			
04/28	5	Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook	Z. Cornell
05/19	20	Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook	R. Quinn, D. Bechtel, et al.

Date	#	Location	Observer
Tree Swallow			
03/27	2	Chase WS, Hopkinton	P. Brown
03/29	2	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
03/31	5	Charlestown WTP	D. Jackson
04/22	2	Errol Public Library, Errol	L. Charron
04/29	300	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	G. Clucas
04/30	200	Spofford L., Chesterfield	E. Synnott
04/30	200	Fishers Bay, Lake Sunapee	J. Gamble, M. Chadwick
05/06	300	Turtle Pond, Concord	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell

Date	#	Location	Observer
Bank Swallow			
04/26	2	Hinsdale Setbacks	C. Ross
04/28	6	Nashua R. at Merrimack R., Nashua	C. Sheridan
04/29	6	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	G. Clucas, C. Michaud
05/02	4	wetland by Rt. 93, Holderness	P. Bradley
05/05	5	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	K. Fenton
05/09	20	Merrimack R. CA, Concord	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala, K. Frieden
05/24	30	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard

Date	#	Location	Observer
Barn Swallow			
04/14	2	Clocktower Place, Nashua	L. Perry
04/14	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	S.& D. Stoddard, A. Murray



Canada Jay by
Donna Ellis,
3-18-18, South
Hancock Mt., NH.

SPRING SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
Barn Swallow (con't)			
04/19	2	Horseshoe Pond, Merrimack	C. Sheridan
04/20	3	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
04/24	2	Umbagog NWR, Wentworths Location	K. Fenton
04/29	50	Little Squam L., Holderness	I. MacLeod
04/29	50	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray
05/07	70	NH coast	J. Maher

Cliff Swallow

04/30	8	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth
05/01	1	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	S. Jaffe
05/05	1	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	K. Fenton
05/09	2	Merrimack R. CA, Concord	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala, K. Frieden
05/21	12	Bridge St., Milan	L. Burford
05/26	12	Fresh Creek Farm, Strafford	K. Dorsey
05/27	10	Beede Flats Rd., N. Sandwich	R. Muskat



Cliff Swallow by Jason Lambert, 5-13-18, Barnstead, NH.

Boreal Chickadee

03/03	6	Mt. Jackson, WMNF	S. Cramp
03/18	6	Hancock Loop Trail, WMNF	D. Ellis
03/27	6	Tuckerman Ravine Trail, WMNF	R. Simmons

Tufted Titmouse

03/21	1	Summer St., Lancaster	A. Griffin
05/04	2	Androscoggin Ranger District Trail, Gorham	J. Dockens, A. Griffin
05/23	1	Fletcher St., Lancaster	A. Griffin

House Wren

04/21	1	Oyster R. Forest, Durham	A. Wilmarth
04/23	1	Tracy Dr., Errol	L. Charron
04/23	1	Autumn Lane, Nottingham	R. Prieto
04/26	1	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard

Winter Wren

04/01	1	Cherry Pond access trail, Pondicherry NWR	D. Govatski
04/02	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	C. Breen
04/05	1	St. Gaudens NHS, Cornish	K. Kull
04/10	1	Esther Currier WMA, New London	D. Dubie
04/12	1	Dinsmore Pond Rd., Sandwich	K. Klapper

SPRING SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
Marsh Wren			
04/21	1	Surrey Ln. marsh, Durham	K. Dorsey
04/24	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	R. Prieto
05/07	12	World End Pond, Salem	A. Wilmarth
05/08	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	C. Ross
05/12	7	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski, P. Brown, C. Martin, NHA FT

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

04/17	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray
04/18	1	Great Meadow, Hollis	C. Sheridan
04/21	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	C. Corey, M. Pfeiffer, J. Nealon
04/22	1	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
04/28	1	N. River St., Holderness	C. Frignoca
04/28	1	wetland by Rt. 93, Holderness	J. Sullivan

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

03/01	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	J. Swatt
04/11	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	C. Ross
04/11	1	Lebanon Airport	J. MacQueen
04/14	1	Post Pond, Lyme	L. Morin
04/14	14	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Mirick
04/18	15	Hinsdale Setbacks	H. Galbraith
04/23	1	Lake Francis SP, Pittsburg	J. Neskey
05/04	25	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	C. Witko, L. Morley

Northern Wheatear

04/14	1	Oyster R. Forest, Durham	K. Dorsey, et al.
04/22	1	Oyster R. Forest, Durham	H. Burns, T. McCreery, M. Weber, D. Kembel



Northern Wheatear by Jason Lambert, 4-15-18, Durham, NH.

Veery

05/02	1	N. Main St., Lebanon	T. Perkins
05/02	1	Middleton	H. Peckham
05/04	1	Tower Lane, Greenfield	P. Brown, et al.
05/12	3	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski, P. Brown, C. Martin, NHA FT

Bicknell's Thrush

05/22	1	Mt. Boott Spur, WMNF	J. Jansen
05/25	3	Cannon Mt., Franconia	C. McPherson
05/27	1	Sandwich Dome	D. Scott
05/28	4	Mt. Liberty summit, WMNF	J. Pettipas

SPRING SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
Swainson's Thrush			
05/08	1	Lakeview Dr., Strafford	S. Young
05/08	1	Hubbard Brook Exp. Forest, Woodstock	A. Sharp
05/09	2	Spartan Way, Merrimack	S. Shultz
05/09	2	Range Rd., Sandwich	K. Klapper
05/11	1	The Balsams & trails, Colebrook	L. Charron
05/28	4	Magalloway R. Trail, Umbagog NWR	D.& G. Dionne
05/29	1	Stevens Hill Rd., Nottingham	P. Miliotis

Hermit Thrush

03/24	1	Great Bay NWR	J. Sparrell
03/29	2	Hinsdale Setbacks	C. McPherson
04/06	1	Star Ridge Rd., Thornton	T. McShane
04/15	1	Bretton Woods Nordic Ctr., Carroll	S. Griesemer
04/18	20	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard
04/24	19	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	R. Prieto

Wood Thrush

05/01	1	Lakeview Dr., Strafford	S. Young
05/03	1	Oak Hill Rd., Brookline	C. McPherson
05/03	2	Dimond Hill Rd., Epping	G. Tillman
05/07	1	Lost Nation Rd., Northumberland	M. Centner
05/14	7	Hinsdale bluffs	E. Synnott

Gray Catbird

03/01	1	Ash Brook wetland, Keene	S. Lamonde
03/04	1	Gile Rd., Nottingham	J. Carlson
04/14	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	J. Lambert
04/23	1	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer
05/01	2	Lake Tarleton boat ramp, Piermont	E. Marie
05/03	2	Panorama Golf Course, Colebrook	L. Charron
05/06	26	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	J. Lambert
05/06	18	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	W. Ward

Brown Thrasher

04/14	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	J. Lambert
04/15	1	Hollis-Brookline High School	C. McPherson
04/16	1	Occom Pond, Hanover	A. Burnett
04/28	4	Concord Airport	M. McCarthy, N. Dorian
04/28	1	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	N. Mitiguy

American Pipit

04/01	1	Cross Beach Rd., Seabrook	J. Lambert
04/08	1	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	S. Spangenberg
04/10	1	Upper Suncook Rec. Area, Barnstead	J. Lambert
05/12	1	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	
		D. Govatski, P. Brown, C. Martin, NHA FT	
05/22	1	Mt. Washington Auto Rd.	
		L. Carretero, E. Soler, D. Ward, E. Capella	
05/22	8	Glen Boulder Trail & Mt. Boott Spur, WMNF	J. Jansen
05/25	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Mirick

Bohemian Waxwing

03/29	1	Millican Nurseries, Chichester	J. Lambert
04/07	20	Tuckerman Ravine, WMNF	A. Stevens
05/09	1	Dahl WS, Conway	G. Havard

Cedar Waxwing

05/25	286	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Mirick
05/26	110	Church St. water tower, Hampton	
		A. Robbins, Z. Cornell, R. Suomala	
05/28	300	South Rd., Kensington	G. Gavutis, Jr.

SPRING SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
Lapland Longspur			
03/18	1	Bedell Bridge SP, Haverhill	W. Scott
Snow Bunting			
03/01	1	Piper Mt., Gilford	J. Pettipas
03/12	3	Rye Harbor SP	D. Hubbard
03/18	1	Bedell Bridge SP, Haverhill	W. Scott
03/18	4	E. Side River Rd., Milan	C. Caron

Warblers through Sparrows

The natural order of birds at the moment is a managed state of disorder. Thanks to genomic sequencing, next year this section will be titled sparrows through warblers, but birds care not for our taxonomic charts.



Golden-winged Warbler, 5-9-18, by Sharon Harvell who found the bird off Federal Hill Rd. at the Hollis-Milford town line, NH.

Nothing defines spring migration like the arrival of the warblers. They are loved for as many reasons as they are varied; diversity is their hallmark. With 26 regulars that breed in the state, anything extra is gravy, and most years there is some gravy. The 29 species recorded this spring was slightly above the thirty year average of 28, the honor roll including a **Kentucky Warbler** in Greenland (recorded in four of the last 30 springs), **Hooded Warblers** in Exeter and Hopkinton (eight of 30 springs), and most significantly, **Golden-winged Warbler** (14 of 30) in Conway, Strafford, and Hollis, where a male and female were present. Golden-winged Warbler is a declining species, listed as near threatened due to a combination of factors, including habitat loss and competition from Blue-winged Warbler. A Mourning Warbler seen in Hinsdale on May 5 was record early, beating the previous record by almost a week. Amongst the mountain of reports of Palm Warbler, there was a single record of the western subspecies reported from Concord. The Eastern or Yellow sub-species is the default in spring; the western is more likely to be found in the fall. A Black-throated Green Warbler in South Hampton on April 13 was

SPRING SEASON

also record early, again by almost a week. There were single records of both **Summer Tanager** and **Blue Grosbeak**, both photographed in May, from Farmington and Rollinsford respectively.



Summer Tanager by Priscilla Frisella, 5-15-18, Farmington, NH.

Grasshopper Sparrows returned to their regular haunts, including the newly discovered site in Hinsdale with a maximum count of seven birds on May 27. Clay-colored Sparrows were reported from Hampton and Exeter; the latter was a bird that wintered

over. Saltmarsh Sparrows are rarely if ever reported in New Hampshire away from their known breeding sites, so a bird seen on Star Island on May 18 was especially exciting. A Swamp Sparrow on March 4 in Lyme was early for such a northerly location.

Eastern Meadowlarks were reported from across southern New Hampshire, including a count of 16 birds from Pease International Tradeport on May 23. A high count of 30 Rusty Blackbirds was tallied at World End Pond in Salem. Conforming to expectation, Evening Grosbeak was reported from every county but Strafford, while Pine Grosbeak was reported only in Coos, our northernmost county. In keeping with the winter season report which documented few Common Redpolls, their numbers were low, with a few reports from Coos County and a single bird reported from New London. The terrific showing of Red Crossbills resulting from the huge cone crop in the summer of 2017 continued into spring, with birds reported from every county except Rockingham and Strafford. By contrast, the only report of Red Crossbill in spring 2017 was from Coos County.



Red Crossbill by Jason Lambert, 4-28-18, New Rd., Barnstead, NH.

Date	#	Location	Observer
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Ovenbird

04/22	1	South Rd., Kensington	G. Gavutis, Jr.
04/28	1	Great Bay Discovery Ctr., Greenland	S. Thimann
04/29	1	Thompson Forest, Durham	K. Dorsey
04/29	1	Great Meadow, Hollis	C. McPherson
04/30	1	Britton Lane, Lyme	R. Lovejoy
05/03	1	Panorama Golf Course, Colebrook	L. Charron
05/07	20	Yudicky Farm/Southwest Park, Nashua	C. Sheridan
05/09	22	Palmer-Bartell Preserve, Brookline	J. Maher, C. Sheridan

Louisiana Waterthrush

04/13	1	Palmer-Bartell Preserve, Brookline	C. McPherson
04/13	1	Rochester	C. Breen
04/14	1	Melanie Lane, Bow	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
04/27	1	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard
05/19	4	Atkinson, NH	K. Wilmarth

Northern Waterthrush

04/24	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	S.& D. Stoddard, L. McKillop
04/26	1	Spinney Lane, Durham	R. Prieto
04/27	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Mirick
05/05	1	Cherry Pond access trail, Pondicherry NWR	K. Fenton, L. Burford
05/11	7	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski
05/23	7	Watts WS, Effingham	A. Robbins

Golden-winged Warbler

05/09	1	Federal Hill Trails, Milford/Hollis	S. Harvell, et al.
05/10	2	Federal Hill Trails, Milford/Hollis	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, J. Lambert, M. Resch, et al.
05/12	1	Dahl WS, Conway	C. Nims, S. McCarthy
05/18	1	Lakeview Dr., Strafford	S. Young
05/20	1	Federal Hill Trails, Milford/Hollis	M. Wilson



Golden-winged Warbler by Warren Trested, 5-10-18, Federal Hill Rd. Trails, Hollis-Milford line, NH.

Blue-winged Warbler

05/02	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	R. Prieto, B. Griffith
05/03	1	Thompson Forest, Durham	K. Dorsey
05/04	2	Great Bay NWR	K. Hojnacki
05/05	1	Mines Falls Park, Nashua	C. McPherson
05/16	6	Great Bay NWR	G. Tillman

Date	#	Location	Observer
05/21	5	Yudicky Farm/Southwest Park, Nashua	C. Sheridan
05/24	1	Valley Cross Rd., Jackson	R. Steber

Black-and-white Warbler

04/24	1	Spinney Lane, Durham	R. Prieto
04/24	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	L. McKillop
04/24	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	R. Prieto
04/24	1	Brookside WS, S. Hampton	K. Elwell
05/02	1	Dahl WS, Conway	C. Nims, R. Steber, W. Broussard
05/03	14	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	K. Towler
05/04	1	King's Pond, Twin Mountain	N. Mitiguy
05/11	40	Star Island, Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, et al.

Tennessee Warbler

05/11	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	S.& D. Stoddard, C. Nims, A. Murray
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05/12	1	Balch Hill, Hanover	B. Allison, Mascoma CFT
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05/13	1	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
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05/16	1	Cherry Pond access trail, Pondicherry NWR	D. Govatski, J. Scott, W. Broussard, R. Steber
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05/26	8	Tracy Dr., Errol	L. Charron
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Orange-crowned Warbler

05/18	1	Meadow Pond, Hampton	H. Bauer
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Nashville Warbler

05/02	1	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard
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05/03	1	Concord St., Antrim	L. Burford
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05/03	1	Hoit Rd., Concord	P. Hunt, U. Dienes
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05/06	3	Mollidgewock Rd., Errol	P.& L. Charron
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05/16	13	Cherry Pond access trail, Pondicherry NWR	D. Govatski, J. Scott, W. Broussard, R. Steber
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Mourning Warbler

05/05	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	K. Charles, C. Ross, A. Schiller, C. Stanistreet, et al.
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05/16	1	Boston Lot Lake, Lebanon	B. Allison, Mascoma CFT
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05/24	1	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard
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05/26	1	Little Cherry Pond trail, Pondicherry NWR	J. Sparrell, K. Towler
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05/27	2	Church St. water tower, Hampton	S. Wrisley, S. Bennett, B. Crowley
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05/30	4	Millbrook Rd., Stark	J. Dockens
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Kentucky Warbler

05/06	1	Great Bay Discovery Ctr., Greenland	S. Turnbull
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Kentucky Warbler
by Scott Turnbull,
5-6-18, Great Bay
Discovery Center,
Greenland, NH.

Date	#	Location	Observer
Common Yellowthroat			
04/20	1	Coffeetown Rd., Deerfield	S. Kjendal
04/20	1	Broad St., Nashua	J. Maher
04/28	1	N. River St., Holderness	C. Frignoca
04/29	1	Colby-Sawyer College pond, New London	C. Marland
05/04	2	Turbine access road, Millsfield/Dixville	P.& L. Charron
05/06	24	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	W. Ward
05/22	106	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Mirick

Hooded Warbler

05/06	1	Green St., Exeter	A. McTammany
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05/07	1	Philips Exeter Academy, Exeter	L. Medlock, C. Guindon
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05/11	1	Contoocook	J. Newsom
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American Redstart

05/03	1	Cove Rd., Canaan	N. Milkie
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05/03	1	Old Chesham Rd., Marlborough	S. Jaffe
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05/03	4	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	S. Stoddard
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05/03	3	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	S. Jaffe
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05/05	1	Pontook Reservoir, Dummer	P.& L. Charron
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05/22	20	Silk Farm WS, Concord	P. Brown
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05/22	37	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Mirick
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Cape May Warbler

05/04	1	Autumn Lane, Nottingham	R. Prieto
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05/08	1	Woodridge Park, Durham	K. Dorsey
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05/08	2	Ellacoya SP, Gilford	D. Perry
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05/09	3	Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem	S. Turner
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05/12	1	Rt.16, Cambridge	C. Foss, NHA FT
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05/13	8	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	D. Hubbard, Seacoast CFT
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Northern Parula

04/29	1	Tracy Dr., Errol	L. Charron
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04/30	1	Magalloway R. Trail, Umbagog NWR	P.& L. Charron
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05/02	1	Winchester Dr., Barnstead	J. Lambert
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05/02	2	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	M.& R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
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05/10	14	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	K. Towler
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05/11	40	Star Island, Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, et al.
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05/16	13	Cherry Pond access trail, Pondicherry NWR	D. Govatski, P. Brown, C. Martin, NHA FT
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05/16	13	Cherry Pond access trail, Pondicherry NWR	D. Govatski, P. Brown, C. Martin, NHA FT
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05/16	13	Cherry Pond access trail, Pondicherry NWR	D. Govatski, P. Brown, C. Martin, NHA FT
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Magnolia Warbler

05/03	1	Hatt Rd., Westmoreland	G. Seymour
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05/03	1	NH coast	S. Mirick
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05/05	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski
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05/18	20	Star Island, Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, et al.
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05/22	28	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Mirick
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Magnolia Warbler
by David Forsyth,
5-18-18,
Star Island,
NH.

SPRING SEASON

Date # Location Observer

Bay-breasted Warbler

05/08 1 Shaker Rd., Canterbury N. Dorian
 05/09 1 W. Locke Rd., Concord Z. Cornell, R. Suomala, K. Frieden
 05/10 1 Odiorne Point SP, Rye J. Sparrell, K. Towler
 05/12 2 Waumbek Jct., Pondicherry NWR

D. Govatski, P. Brown, C. Martin, NHA FT

05/18 8 Lakeview Dr., Strafford S. Young
 05/22 6 Knight's Meadow Marsh Rd., Webster R. Quinn

Blackburnian Warbler

05/02 1 Boston Lot Lake, Lebanon
 G. Clark, B. Allison, Mascoma CFT

05/03 1 Concord St., Antrim L. Burford
 05/03 1 Cove Rd., Canaan N. Milkie
 05/03 1 Grace Hill Rd., Newbury D. Jackson
 05/03 1 Autumn Lane, Nottingham R. Prieto
 05/03 1 Pleasant Acres Corp., Rt. 11, Sunapee D. Jackson
 05/04 1 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield M. Oskarsson
 05/28 15 Tin Mt. Conservation Ctr., Albany J. Pinder

Yellow Warbler

04/28 1 Lamprey R. Preserve, Durham K. Dorsey
 05/02 4 Horseshoe Pond, Concord M.& R. Suomala
 05/02 1 Clearwater Dr., Grantham C. Rimmer
 05/02 2 Hinsdale Setbacks P. Kirkhart
 05/02 1 Boston Lot Lake, Lebanon

G. Clark, B. Allison, Mascoma CFT

05/03 1 Airport Marsh, Whitefield N. Mitiguy
 05/12 18 Ashuelot Rail Trail, Keene W. Ward, NHA FT
 05/13 20 Brentwood Mitigation Area G. Tillman
 05/13 28 Pickering Ponds, Rochester S. Wisley
 05/22 18 Odiorne Point SP, Rye S. Mirick

Chestnut-sided Warbler

05/02 1 Raccoon Hill Rd., Salisbury K. O'Neill
 05/03 1 Panorama Golf Course, Colebrook L. Charron
 05/03 1 NHA McLane Ctr., Concord P. Hunt
 05/03 1 Dahl WS, Conway W. Broussard
 05/03 2 Strafford County Complex, Dover D. Hubbard
 05/03 2 Thompson Forest, Durham K. Dorsey
 05/10 16 Federal Hill Trails, Milford/Hollis R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
 05/23 14 Watts WS, Effingham A. Robbins
 05/30 18 Millbrook Rd., Stark J. Dockens



Blackpoll Warbler
 by Jane Kelley,
 5-8-18, Gilford,
 NH.

Blackpoll Warbler

05/06 1 Brasen Hill Farm, Barrington D. Hubbard, S. Young
 05/09 1 Contoocook R. Park/Island Shores Estates, Penacook
 P. Hunt

Date # Location Observer

05/10 1 Hancock Rail Trail, Hancock E. Masterson
 05/12 3 Waumbek Jct., Pondicherry NWR
 D. Govatski, P. Brown, C. Martin, NHA FT
 05/21 15 Hinsdale Setbacks C. Stanistreet

Black-throated Blue Warbler

05/02 1 Horseshoe Pond, Concord M.& R. Suomala
 05/02 1 Two Rivers CA, Epping G. Tillman
 05/02 3 Odiorne Point SP, Rye L. Medlock
 05/04 2 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield J. Keator
 05/07 15 Tin Mt. Conservation Ctr., Albany J. Pinder

Palm Warbler

04/01 1 Cheshire Rail Trail, Westmoreland R. Burnett
 04/02 1 Pickering Ponds, Rochester C. Breen
 04/07 4 Grassy Pond, Rindge E. Richard
 04/19 55 Great Meadow, Hollis C. McPherson
 04/21 67 Hinsdale Setbacks C. Corey, M. Pfeiffer
 04/21 75 Thompson Forest, Durham K. Dorsey
 04/27 50 Pickering Ponds, Rochester J. Sparrell, K. Towler
 04/30 3 Magalloway R. Trail, Umbagog NWR P.&L. Charron
 05/09 1 Odiorne Point SP, Rye J. Pratt

Palm Warbler - Western subsp.

05/03 1 Horseshoe Pond, Concord
 M.& R. Suomala, Z. Cornell, K. Frieden

Pine Warbler

04/04 1 Willey Rd., Milton A. Haeussler
 04/05 1 Miltmore Rd., Antrim A. Soule
 04/06 2 South Rd., Kensington G. Gavutis, Jr.
 04/06 1 Arboretum Dr., Newington L. McKillop
 04/24 40 Pawtuckaway SP, Nottingham/Deerfield S. Young
 04/29 1 Magalloway R. bend (Parson's Landing), Errol
 K. Fenton, L. Burford

Yellow-rumped Warbler

03/04 2 Peirce Island, Portsmouth S. Mirick, E. King
 03/28 1 Woodmont Orchard, Hollis C. Sheridan
 04/01 1 Dingman Farm, Kensington D. Finch
 04/13 1 Johnson Is., Lebanon J. MacQueen
 04/15 1 Fox Run Rd., Lincoln B.& S. Schultz
 04/27 1 Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield D. Govatski
 05/02 50 Horseshoe Pond, Concord M.& R. Suomala
 05/03 75 Pickering Ponds, Rochester A. Murray
 05/03 70 Odiorne Point SP, Rye K. Towler



Prairie Warbler
 by Jason Lambert,
 5-12-18,
 Barnstead, NH.

Prairie Warbler

04/29 1 Pickering Ponds, Rochester K. Boden

Date	#	Location	Observer	Date	#	Location	Observer
05/02	5	Two Rivers CA, Epping	G. Tillman	04/15	24	Nimble Hill Rd., Newington	J. Lambert
05/02	2	Old Mill Rd. mitigation area, Lee	R. Prieto	05/04	26	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	S. Jaffe
05/02	1	Horse Hill Nature Preserve, Merrimack	J. Maher	Clay-colored Sparrow			
05/02	1	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	S. Jaffe	03/15	1	Ridgecrest Dr., Exeter	S. Mirick
05/12	12	Depot R., Barnstead	J. Lambert	05/23	1	Hampton Beach SP	S. Wrisley
05/14	12	Federal Hill Trails, Milford/Hollis	C. Sheridan	Field Sparrow			

Black-throated Green Warbler

04/27	1	Contoocook R. Park/Island Shores Estates, Penacook	P. Hunt
04/28	1	Lakeview Dr., Strafford	S. Young
04/28	1	Treatment Plant Rd., Sunapee	D. Jackson
04/28	1	Great East L., Wakefield	K.& A. Wilmarth
05/04	1	Androscoggin Ranger District Trail, Gorham	J. Dockens

Canada Warbler

05/06	1	Mollidgewock Rd., Errol	P.& L. Charron
05/12	1	Lancy Brook wetlands, Brookline	C. McPherson
05/12	1	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	C. Duffy, C. Guindon
05/12	2	Thompson WS, Sandwich	R. Ridgely, NHA FT
05/23	5	Watts WS, Effingham	A. Robbins
05/26	6	Cherry Pond access trail, Pondicherry NWR	M. Webster, W. Feeny

Wilson's Warbler

05/05	1	Oak Hill Rd., Brookline	C. McPherson
05/06	1	Great Bay NWR	K. Hojnacki
05/08	1	Ellacoya SP, Gilford	D. Perry
05/10	1	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard
05/12	1	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	D. Govatski, P. Brown, C. Martin, NHA FT
05/18	5	Star Island, Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, et al.
05/22	21	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Mirick

Grasshopper Sparrow

05/03	1	Concord Airport	Z. Cornell, R. Suomala, K. Frieden
05/07	5	Concord Airport	N. Dorian
05/11	2	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	K.& A. Wilmarth
05/12	1	Cemetery Fields, Merrimack Rd., Amherst	C. McPherson
05/12	1	old Hinsdale Raceway	C. Ross
05/17	6	Concord Airport	N. Dorian, M. McCarthy
05/17	5	old Hinsdale Raceway	S. Lamonde
05/19	4	Cemetery Fields, Merrimack Rd., Amherst	L. Pagano
05/27	7	old Hinsdale Raceway	H. Galbraith

Saltmarsh Sparrow

05/17	1	Chapmans Landing, Stratham	R. Prieto, C. Guindon
05/18	1	Star Island, Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, et al.
05/20	2	Little Jacks restaurant, Rt. 1A, Hampton	K. Wilmarth
05/22	2	Lubberland Creek Preserve, Newmarket	K. Dorsey

American Tree Sparrow

04/24	1	Silver Doe Ln., Merrimack	C. Wennerth
04/25	1	Upper Suncook Rec. Area, Barnstead	J. Lambert

Chipping Sparrow

03/24	1	Noyes St., Concord	R. Suomala
03/26	1	Caldwell Rd., Nashua	C. Sheridan
03/30	3	Mink Brook Nature Preserve, Hanover	B. Allison
04/15	4	Twin View Dr., Twin Mountain	N. Mitiguy

Date	#	Location	Observer
04/15	24	Nimble Hill Rd., Newington	J. Lambert
05/04	26	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	S. Jaffe

Clay-colored Sparrow

03/15	1	Ridgecrest Dr., Exeter	S. Mirick
05/23	1	Hampton Beach SP	S. Wrisley

Field Sparrow

04/02	1	Great Meadow, Charlestown	S. Lamonde
04/02	1	Silk Farm WS, Concord	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
04/05	1	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	C. McPherson
04/17	1	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard
04/29	1	Rt. 26, Errol	R. Quinn
05/07	10	Concord Airport	N. Dorian
05/09	10	Hertzka/Northern Blvd., Amherst	C. McPherson
05/22	15	Freedom Town Forest	A. Robbins

Fox Sparrow

03/01	2	Bellamy R. WMA, Dover	A. Murray
03/01	1	South Rd., E. Kingston	D. Finch
03/02	1	Oak Hill Rd., Brookline	C. McPherson
03/17	1	Squam Lakes Natural Science Ctr., Holderness	I. MacLeod
03/28	1	Lost Nation Rd., Northumberland	M. Centner
04/10	5	Esther Currier WMA, New London	D. Dubie
04/22	8	Pico Rd. & Bliss Lane, Lyme	W. Scott
05/20	1	Glen Boulder Trail, Mt. Isolation, WMNF	A. Burnett

White-crowned Sparrow

04/24	1	Partridge L., Lyman	S. Turner
04/29	1	Gilmore Pond Rd., Jaffrey	C. Heys
05/02	6	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	M. Wilson
05/03	5	McCrillis Hill Rd., Center Harbor	K. MacLean
05/03	4	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	N. Mitiguy
05/24	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	D. Carrier
05/25	1	Panorama Golf Course, Colebrook	L. Charron

Vesper Sparrow

04/13	2	Concord Airport	N. Dorian, M. McCarthy
04/14	2	Northern Rail Trail at Main St., Enfield	W. Scott
04/14	2	Trinity Farm, Orford	J. MacQueen
05/06	1	Airport Marsh, Whitefield	A. Griffin
05/21	5	Concord Airport	N. Dorian, M. McCarthy



Saltmarsh Sparrow by Christopher McPherson, 5-18-18, Star Island, NH.

SPRING SEASON

Date	#	Location	Observer
Savannah Sparrow - Ipswich subsp.			
04/02	3	Rye Harbor SP	L. McKillop
04/21	1	Rye Harbor SP	S. Mirick



Ipswich Sparrow by Jason Lambert, 4-1-18, Rye Harbor SP, Rye, NH.

Lincoln's Sparrow

05/03	1	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard
05/06	1	Keene State WMA	R. Yurchisin, S. Lamonde
05/18	6	Star Island, Isles of Shoals	E. Masterson, et al.
05/22	6	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	S. Mirick
05/27	1	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	A. Burdo, D. Weber
05/28	1	Highland L., Stoddard	J. Anderson
05/29	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	D. Glasco

Swamp Sparrow

04/01	1	Brookside WS, S. Hampton	K. Elwell
04/03	1	Upper Suncook Rec. Area, Barnstead	J. Lambert
04/15	1	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard
04/24	1	The Balsams & trails, Colebrook	L. Charron
04/30	14	Great Meadow, Hollis	J. Maher
05/02	15	Thompson WS, Sandwich	J. Scott, C. Nims, R. Steber

Eastern Towhee

03/02	1	Badger Farm Rd., Wilton	S. Lemire
04/13	1	Concord Airport	N. Dorian, M. McCarthy
04/13	1	Marlboro St., Keene	T. Parody
04/13	1	Parker Mt., Strafford	S. Young
04/15	1	Cove Rd., Canaan	N. Milkie
04/16	6	Front St., Manchester	A. Brisson
04/28	1	Errol Motel, Errol	R. Quinn
05/10	21	Federal Hill Trails, Milford/Hollis	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell

Summer Tanager

05/15	1	Reservoir Rd., Farmington	P. Frisella
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Scarlet Tanager

05/03	4	Durham	K. Dorsey
05/03	1	Buck Meadow CA, Nashua	C. Sheridan
05/07	1	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard
05/09	1	Boston Lot Lake, Lebanon	B. Allison, Mascoma CFT
05/13	1	Cherry Pond, Jefferson	D. Forsyth
05/28	11	Tin Mt. Conservation Ctr., Albany	J. Pinder

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

04/28	1	Gilmore Pond Rd., Jaffrey	C. Heys
04/28	1	Warton Rd., Nashua	A. Moreira

Date	#	Location	Observer
04/29	1	Cash St., Croydon	S. Grader
05/05	2	Twin View Dr., Twin Mountain	N. Mitiguy

Blue Grosbeak

05/24	1	Wentworth St., Rollinsford	M. Trull
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Indigo Bunting

05/05	1	Alstead Ctr. Road, Alstead	M. Harrison
05/05	1	Squirrel Dr., Auburn	K. Topliff
05/05	1	Columbia Ave., Nashua	J. Maher
05/07	1	Panorama Golf Course, Colebrook	L. Charron

Bobolink

05/02	4	Dahl WS, Conway	W. Broussard
05/03	2	Woodward Rd., Westmoreland	R. Burnett
05/05	2	Pondicherry NWR, Jefferson/Whitefield	D. Govatski, D. Brown
05/26	20	Memorial St., Northfield	J. Landry
05/27	15	Dort Rd., Surry	T. Parody

Eastern Meadowlark

03/27	1	former Cate's Farm, Rt. 25C, Warren	E. Marie
03/28	1	Great Meadow, Charlestown	E. Masterson
04/01	1	Dingman Farm, Kensington	D. Finch
04/10	4	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	J. Maher
04/15	1	Birch St. Comm. Garden, Concord	R. Suomala
04/22	1	Horseshoe Pond, Concord	D. Lania
04/23	1	Plymouth, NH	J. Sullivan
05/01	1	Hinsdale Setbacks	C. Ross
05/02	1	N. River Rd., Epping	G. Tillman
05/02	1	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	L. Medlock
05/05	3	Elm Brook Park, Hopkinton	S. Lamonde
05/09	1	Mountain Rd., Concord	J. Nadeau
05/15	3	Airport Rd., Swanzey	Z. Cornell
05/23	16	Pease Int'l. Tradeport	P. Hunt, B. Ferry
05/30	2	Dingman Farm, Kensington	D. Finch



Orchard Oriole by Len Medlock, 5-12-18, Exeter, NH.

Orchard Oriole

05/02	2	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	B. Griffith, R. Prieto
05/03	1	Gilmore Pond Rd., Jaffrey	C. Heys
05/03	1	S. New Hampshire U., Manchester	D. Swain, et al.
05/03	2	Odiorne Point SP, Rye	J. Sparrell
05/10	4	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray, S. Young

<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Observer</i>
Baltimore Oriole				Evening Grosbeak			
05/02	1	Autumn Lane, E. Kingston	K. Elwell	04/02	2	Rousseau Heights, Greenville	D. Ide
05/02	2	Silver Doe Ln., Merrimack	C. Wennerth	04/02	2	Howe Lane, Warner	M. Wiggin
05/04	1	Reeds Marsh WMA, Orford	J. MacQueen	04/16	5	Old Chesham Rd., Marlborough	S. Jaffe
05/13	13	Mines Falls Park, Nashua	C. McPherson	04/18	3	Sanborn Rd., Ashland	I. MacLeod
05/22	3	Weeks SP, Lancaster	D. Ward	04/19	2	Colby Hill Rd., Springfield	S. Barker
Red-winged Blackbird				05/01	2	Summer St., Lancaster	A. Griffin
03/01	60	W. Portsmouth St., Concord	D. Lania	05/05	1	Mt. Doublehead, Jackson	J. Trimble
03/01	13	Lower Wolfboro Rd., Hanover	W. Scott	05/06	2	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
03/01	50	Hinsdale Setbacks	J. Swatt	05/18	2	Pine Hill Rd., Croydon	L. Newcomb
03/01	40	Horseshoe Pond, Merrimack	J. Maher	05/20	2	Autumn Lane, Nottingham	R. Prieto
03/03	1250	Newington Rd., Greenland	T. Thompson	05/29	2	Barker Lane, Stratham	W. Chandler
03/06	200	Bedell Bridge SP, Haverhill	E. Marie	Pine Grosbeak			
03/10	1	Main St., Errol	J. Maher	03/15	3	Tracy Dr., Errol	L. Charron
Brown-headed Cowbird				03/27	4	Tuckerman Ravine Trail, WMNF	R. Simmons
03/03	14	Great Bay Farm, Greenland	J. Lambert	Purple Finch			
03/03	7	Pickering Ponds, Rochester	A. Murray	03/18	54	Chickwolnepy Rd., Milan	C. Caron
03/16	1	Summer St., Lancaster	A. Griffin	03/18	40	Joe Dodge Lodge, Rt. 16, Pinkham's Grant	L. Manzi
03/17	30	Ridgecrest Dr., Exeter	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell	04/01	24	Cherry Pond, Jefferson	D. Govatski
03/20	40	Horseshoe Pond, Merrimack	M. Jacobson	Common Redpoll			
04/22	91	Hampton Beach SP	J. Lambert	03/26	1	Tracy Dr., Errol	L. Charron
Rusty Blackbird				04/06	1	Esther Currier WMA, New London	D. Dubie
03/05	1	Ash Brook wetland, Keene	C. Ross	04/10	1	Pinkham Notch, WMNF	D. Brown
03/09	1	E. Watson St., Dover	R. Comeau	Red Crossbill			
03/23	1	Woodmont Orchard, Hollis	J. Maher	03/03	14	Ashuelot R. Headwaters Forest, Lempster	D. Jackson, J. Swatt
04/01	1	Bedell Bridge SP, Haverhill	J. MacQueen, W. Scott, A. Duncan Cooley	03/25	5	Errol	L. Charron
04/04	30	World End Pond, Salem	K. Wilmarth	04/12	9	Range Rd., Sandwich	K. Klapper
04/20	15	Ashuelot R. Park, Keene	S. Tickner	04/30	3	Penacook survey route	P. Hunt
04/21	1	Errol	P.& L. Charron	05/01	2	YMCA Camp Coniston	L. Newcomb
05/04	12	Dillant-Hopkins Airport, Swanzey	S. Jaffe	05/03	4	Pitcher Mt., Stoddard	P. Brown, et al.
Common Grackle				05/06	11	Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem	R. Suomala, Z. Cornell
03/01	3	Plymouth State Univ.	A. Cooley	05/08	9	Tom Berry Rd., Barnstead	J. Lambert
03/01	15	W. Portsmouth St., Concord	D. Lania	05/10	5	Gregg L., Antrim	L. Burford
03/01	12	Hinsdale Setbacks	J. Swatt	05/30	22	Mt. Washington Auto Rd.	M. Retter
03/01	12	Antioch Univ. NE, Keene	S. Lamonde	White-winged Crossbill			
03/01	15	Horseshoe Pond, Merrimack	J. Maher	03/06	50	Mt. Lincoln & Mt. Lafayette, WMNF	L. Grove
03/03	20000	Great Bay Farm, Greenland	S.& J. Mirick, J. Lambert	03/12	2	Ashuelot R. Headwaters Forest, Lempster	T. Spahr
03/16	6	Summer St., Lancaster	A. Griffin	03/20	10	Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem	T. Spahr
04/22	624	Hampton Beach SP	J. Lambert				



Male White-winged Crossbill by Donna Ellis, 4-22-18, Greenleaf Hut, Mt. Lafayette, NH.



Female White-winged Crossbill by Donna Ellis, 3-31-18, Mt. Isolation, NH.

SPRING FIELD NOTES

Date # Location Observer

White-winged Crossbill (con't)

03/23 32 Zealand Trail, WMNF D. Durocher
 03/25 15 Errol L. Charron
 03/31 4 Webster-Jackson Trail, WMNF J. Pettipas
 04/22 10 AMC Highland Center at Crawford Notch L. Lane
 05/06 1 Mt. Monadnock N. Paulson

Pine Siskin

03/03 40 Ashuelot R. Headwaters Forest, Lempster
 D. Jackson, J. Swatt
 03/03 50 Monadnock-Sunapee Greenway Trail, Washington
 E. Masterson
 03/12 13 Bog Rd., Enfield T. Spahr
 03/14 15 Tin Mt. Conservation Ctr., Albany A. Sharp
 03/14 2 Gilmore Pond Rd., Jaffrey C. Heys
 03/18 42 Chickwolnepy Rd., Milan C. Caron
 03/20 22 Trudeau Rd., Bethlehem T. Spahr
 03/25 41 Errol L. Charron
 03/31 12 Thornton Gore Rd., Thornton P. Bradley
 04/02 15 Bear Notch Rd., Albany S. Mirick
 04/10 12 Esther Currier WMA, New London D. Dubie
 04/14 2 Mt. Monadnock D. Ellis
 04/16 3 Front St., Manchester A. Brisson
 04/19 42 Headquarters, Umbagog NWR, Wentworths Location
 K. Fenton
 05/05 1 Prescott Farm Environmental Education Ctr., Laconia
 K. Banyas
 05/05 1 Portsmouth S. Marison
 05/13 1 Hardy Rd., Londonderry M. MacInnis
 05/22 30 Mt. Washington Auto Rd.
 E. Soler, L. Carretero, D. Ward
 05/28 16 East Inlet, Pittsburg J. Gamble, M. Chadwick

American Goldfinch

03/08 100 Sanborn Rd., Ashland I. MacLeod
 04/15 100 Dame Hill Rd., Orford E. & A. Cooley
 04/16 150 Green Hill Rd., Chatham B. Crowley
 05/11 102 Hampton Beach SP S. Mirick



Ring-necked Duck by Len Medlock, 3-24-18, Exeter, NH.

Spring 2018 Photo Bonus



Great Egret by Stephen Mirick, 4-28-18, Seabrook, NH.



Red-tailed Hawks by Jason Lambert, 3-8-18, Durham, NH.

The Great Grebe Fallout of April 2018

by Robert A. Quinn

The Event

Serendipity and awareness were with me on April 30, 2018 as I drove to the overlook of Moore Reservoir in Littleton, with hope but few expectations. **Jackpot!** Hundreds, if not over a thousand, birds were scattered about on the open water. Realizing this was a major event, I called to report it and ask for help! Initially, most of the birds were close enough to be identified by telescope, but that changed quickly once the rain stopped – they swam farther offshore and became little specks. I actually counted 200+ Buffleheads and 100+ Red-necked Grebes, but then I wanted to discover what else was out there before they swam out of range.

Scanning for different species turned up:

- many Horned Grebes
- 25+ Ring-necked Ducks,
- 20+ scaup species,
- 25+ Long-tailed Ducks,
- 10 Green-winged Teal,
- 5 Surf Scoters,
- at least one male Red-breasted Merganser.

Just as I was preparing to depart, a flock of 30 Bonaparte's Gulls (Boneyes) and several Greater Scaup flew in.

While watching this spectacle, joined by Sandy and Mark Turner plus Mary and Dick Boulanger, word reached us that there were **more** birds downstream at Comerford Dam, so I headed south. Final totals between all observers that day at Moore Reservoir was an estimated 300 Horned Grebes, 300 Red-necked Grebes and 300 Bufflehead.

Serendipity

I was already in the field that weekend, birding at Errol/Lake Umbagog on Saturday, April 28. A cold rain that began Saturday night was enough to shoo me out of Errol early on Sunday. I headed west with a stop in the Colebrook area,



Horned and Red-necked Grebes by John Keator, 4-30-18, Moore Reservoir, Littleton, NH.

finding eight Greater Yellowlegs and one Boney, but nothing hinting of a true fall-out. I worked my way south, checking dozens of flooded fields and several ponds without any birds in them. I was tired from three days in the field and almost went home, but instead, I decided to make one more stop, at Moore Reservoir in Littleton, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Awareness

The awareness for me goes back decades when I acquired my interest and inspiration for inland waterbirds from Tudor Richards. He was an incredible pioneer in birding New Hampshire from the late 1940s up to the early 21st century. He had an abiding passion for what he called inland waterbirds, and I caught that passion.¹ Therefore, I am always alert for the conditions that bring migrating waterbirds down to earth, especially inland.

Timing

Besides the timing being right for migrating birds to run into inclement weather, there was another key timing element to this event. Local birders Mark and Sandy Turner had stopped by Moore Reservoir earlier in the day and it had been too foggy to see anything. If I had faced the same conditions, I would have shrugged and moved on! The other interesting temporal component is that these fallouts always have been spring events, so far. Below is the data.

Historic Perspective and Data

The sources of the data and associated quotes are listed at the end of the article.

This is the **sixth time** grebes have “fallen-out” in such numbers in April/early May. It is the **fourth time** that such an event has been noted at **Moore Reservoir** in Littleton (1972, 1996, 2002, and 2018). The other two events were at Squam Lake (April 26, 1992) and in the Concord region (April 25, 1971). Interestingly, this is the first time that Buffleheads shared almost equally in the number of birds. It apparently is also the most widespread geographically, when the birds on Newfound Lake and Lake Sunapee are added into the total (and ultimately Spofford



Lake and some on Surry Lake).

April 25, 1971 – “following a cold front” and largely “driven” by Tudor Richards with help from Kimball Elkins. The two of them checked eight bodies of water in the Concord-Andover area and found... “unprecedented totals of 40 Red-necked Grebes and 212 Horned Grebes...” and “... also 16 Greater Scaup...about 10 Buffleheads, a pair of Oldsquaw...”

May 7, 1972 – 134 Horned Grebes reported by Robert Bradley at Moore Reservoir in Littleton (the previous high was 58 in 1970), but apparently no Red-necked Grebes or other waterbird species (or not enough to report/publish).

April 26 and 27, 1992 – “Warm weather on April 21 and 22 may have pushed raptors and grebes...into the state a few days later.” On April 26, “...unprecedented totals of 150 Horned Grebes and 450 Red-necked Grebes...” were seen on Squam Lake in Holderness by George W. Gavutis. But very few other species were connected with this fall-out with a modest 10 Common Loons and five White-winged Scoters also noted on Squam that day. Eighty-five Double-crested Cormorants on Walker Pond on April 25, 1992 in Webster (Elizabeth C. Janeway) were probably brought down by whatever conditions downed the grebes.

April 23-24, 1996 – “Warm air encountered cold air and produced rain and a fallout April 23-24 ...50 Horned Grebes on Lake Massabesic on April 23 plus 115 in West Hopkinton/Elm Brook and 34 on Concord ponds, total of 212 and similar for Red-necked Grebe total of 202...” Many other species were involved this time including Gadwall, both scaup, a few White-winged Scoters, lots of Buffleheads but zero Boneys.

April 23, 2002 – A fallout (brought about by record heat April 9-20 followed by a drop in temperature of 60 degrees!) at Moore Reservoir yielded 130 Horned Grebes and 196 Red-necked Grebes. Just downstream at Comerford Reservoir there were 80 more Horned Grebes but zero (apparently) Red-necked Grebes. No other species were reported. (Robert Bradley was the sole reporter listed).

April 29, 2018 – At least 838 Bufflehead tallied over ten sites in western New Hampshire including 300 or more on Moore Reservoir in Littleton and 222 on Spofford Lake in Chesterfield, obliterating the old record high of 110 seen on Lake Massabesic on April 23, 1996 (Gary Mitchell). A total of 730 Horned Grebes reported with an estimated 300 on Moore Reservoir, 220 on Newfound Lake, and 82 on Sunapee Lake plus 730 total Red-necked Grebes with an estimated 300 on Moore Reservoir. (R.A. Quinn, et al.).

Commentary

In my post on April 29, 2018, I ended with, “**Finally – get out tomorrow morning if you can!**” And Dylan Jackson

did just that finding 250+ Boneys which prompted Eric Masterson to go look for Little Gull, which he found and photographed!

This “...massive downing of birds in western NH.” (Eric Masterson in his Spring Summary in this issue) was record breaking and a birder cannot expect to be in the right place at the right time very often. But if you watch the weather and go out during storms, you just might hit a smaller fallout. It is worth noting that many spring seasons have at least modest weather-related fallouts that have been observed. Examples in just the last 14 springs include:

2005- a coastal phalarope fallout.

2006- phalaropes and other shorebirds and gulls inland.

2007- Black Terns, shorebirds, and warblers.

2008- waterfowl inland.

2009- shorebirds and terns inland.

2010- no fallouts.

2011- waterfowl, cormorants, shorebirds, and terns inland.

2012- no fallouts.

2013- warblers coastally and at Star Island.

2014- land birds coastally.

2015- no fallouts.

2016- terns in early May inland.

2017- no fallouts.

2018- grebes etc.

Many thanks to Becky Suomala, Dave Govatski, Sandy and Mark Turner, Mary and Dick Boulanger, Dylan Jackson, Suzanne Smith, and other observers for sharing and helping.

¹For more on Tudor Richards and inland waterbirds see my articles on him in the four 2009 issues of *New Hampshire Bird Records* (Vol. 28, Nos. 1-4) and his series of articles:

“Inland Water Birds in New Hampshire, Parts I-IV” by Tudor Richards, *The New Hampshire Audubon Quarterly*, Vol. 24, No. 2 through Vol. 27, No. 4 (Spring 1972 through Fall 1974).

Data Sources

In addition to the articles by Tudor Richards listed above, the following data sources were searched for waterbird fallout records.

Keith, A., and B. Fox. 2013. *The Birds of New Hampshire*. Memoirs of the Nuttall Ornithological Club No. 19. *New Hampshire Audubon Quarterly*, 1971–1972. Audubon Society of New Hampshire, Concord, New Hampshire. *New Hampshire Bird Records* and archives, 1990 through 2018. New Hampshire Audubon, Concord, New Hampshire.

Spring 2018 Field Notes

Compiled by Diana Talbot and Kathryn Frieden

Sandhill Crane Visits the Bristol Police

This Sandhill Crane stopped by the Bristol Police Department on April 4, 2018. Was he arrested for flying too fast? Or, maybe fishing illegally? We may never know. Sargent Aaron Chapple of the Bristol NH Police Department photographed the suspect checking out the police cruiser.



The Concord Point Chukar

Chukars are not native to New Hampshire but one appeared at Concord Point in Rye during the second half of May and became something of a local celebrity. It generated many calls to NH Audubon and was a popular photography subject even for the birders. Chukars were introduced from Eurasia in the 1800s for hunting purposes. It is native to the Middle East and Asia but now lives and breeds in the high desert plains of western North America. It can be seen almost anywhere on occasion because it is regularly hunted and released as a game bird. There was a second Chukar in Rye in May as well as one in Hopkinton and a group of four in Conway.



Chukar by Len Medlock, 5-19-18, Rye, NH.

Nesting in the Snow



Bald Eagles begin nesting early in the spring and may find themselves incubating during a snowstorm, as this bird was. It was still sitting after the snowfall and was photographed by Jack Dorsey 3-15-18 on Martin Meadow Pond in Lancaster, NH.

Eagle Trio at Nest

by Chris Martin

In mid-March, 2018, **three** adult Bald Eagles were identified sharing a nest near River Road in Walpole, NH. All three Bald Eagles were hatched from different nest sites in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Reports of three adult eagles tending a nest are fairly rare and this was the first documented instance on record in New Hampshire.

Since all were color banded, local photographers managed to identify all three individual eagles. The first eagle, "Orange H4" was hatched in 2012 at a nest at Mt. Lizzie on the Quabbin Reservoir in Massachusetts. This identification was confirmed by Deborah Baker with a photo on March 17, 2018. This is possibly a female based on size and weight at banding.

The second eagle, "Black 8M" was identified from its left leg silver band. The right leg color band shows its hatch year was 2005 at a nest at Barkhamsted Reservoir in Litchfield, CT. This eagle's natal site is 78 miles south-southwest of the Walpole nest and it was confirmed as female at this same site in 2017. This eagle was identified from a photo on 3-11-18 by Chris Roberts.

The third eagle, "Black V3" was hatched in 2012 at a nest at Hemlock Reservoir in Easton, CT, 132 miles south-southwest of the Walpole site. Measurements at banding suggested it was a male. Identification was confirmed from a photo on 3-11-18 by Chris Roberts.

Thanks to Chris Roberts and Deb Baker for their efforts to confirm the identification of these birds. Unfortunately, this was a failed nest attempt, as the eagles were not spotted after early April. Successful re-nesting by Bald Eagles has never been documented in New Hampshire to date.

Substantial progress towards full recovery led the New



An Unusual Sight – three color-banded Bald Eagles sharing a nest on River Road at the Walpole, Westmoreland town line. The 3-17-18 photos were taken by Deb Baker and the 3-11-18 photos by Chris Roberts, Walpole, NH.

Hampshire Fish & Game Department to formally remove the Bald Eagle from the state's List of Threatened and Endangered Wildlife in March 2017. The Bald Eagle breeding population in New Hampshire has been doubling roughly every five years since the late 1990s.



Red-throated Loon at the Rochester WTP

by Sam Stoddard

A Red-throated Loon was first observed stranded in mud in an empty impoundment at the Rochester WTP on March 2, 2018. Dan Hubbard and I alerted the WTP staff and the NH Loon Preservation Committee to the plight of this bird. A plan was developed to monitor the bird for a day or two and if necessary move the bird to a better location. The next day, the loon had managed to cross over the dike to the adjoining impoundment which contained water. This impoundment measured about 100 feet by 250 feet and the loon was happily swimming about. By the next day, the loon was no longer present and was believed to have successfully flown away. This was a first eBird record for this species at the Rochester WTP.



A Red-throated Loon stranded in the mud at the Rochester WTP, 3-2-18. Photo by Sam Stoddard.

Dead Thick-billed Murres

Thick-billed Murres spend their lives at sea, except when they come to land to breed. They are occasionally seen on the NH coast in winter and at least two were found dead in March of 2018.



This Thick-billed Murre was photographed by Jack Barbett on 3-3-18 after a powerful Nor'easter created heavy damage along the coast. Some beach walkers had found the injured bird, wrapped it in a towel and brought it to a warm restroom at Hampton Beach to see if that would help. There were signs the bird crawled around for a while before expiring. Apparently they left it there not really knowing what to do. A reminder that if you find an injured bird, call a wildlife rehabilitator (see "The Case of the Injured Crane" in the Fall 2017 issue (Vol. 36, No.3) of New Hampshire Bird Records). The nearest rehabilitator on the NH coast is the Center for Wildlife in Cape Neddick, ME, 207-361-1400.

Where's Waldo?



One of these gulls is **not like the others**. Can you spot the gull that is different from the rest of the flock? See the answer at end of Field Notes! Photo by Eric Masterson.

Dead Thick-billed Murres (con't)



Jon Woolf photographed this Thick-billed Murre on 3-18-18 on the coast in Rye, NH.

Whip-poor-will at the Gardens

by Rebecca Suomala

Many birders are familiar with the Birch Street Community Gardens in Concord for its great fall birding. I have a plot in the gardens and live just a few minutes away. When I received a text from a fellow gardener, Ken Munney, that he could hear an Eastern Whip-poor-will calling from the gardens, I headed over right away. It was almost 9:00 pm on May 3, 2018, and whip-poor-wills hadn't yet been reported in the state that spring. I had also never heard one at the gardens, but their call is unmistakable. As I drove in the dirt road to the gardens with my window down, all was quiet, but there was a lump in the road! I lined up the lump in my headlights, put up my binoculars, and, to my great surprise, I could see it was the whip-poor-will. I've heard these birds call many times, but I rarely see them and

almost never in good light. I ever-so-slowly moved the car forward, my Prius running on quiet electrical power. The bird sat as I took photos, its eyes reflecting the light. When I looked down to text Ken about the bird, it disappeared and was never heard again. Two other people had whip-poor-wills returning to the state that same night.



Eastern Whip-poor-will by Becky Suomala, 5-3-18, Concord, NH.

Banded Barn Swallow on Star Island

by Diana Talbot

While on Star Island in mid-May, Eric Masterson encountered a Barn Swallow with a band on its leg and reported the sighting. Star Island is one of nine Isles of Shoals located seven miles off the coast of New Hampshire and Maine. The swallow appeared to be nesting underneath a porch at one of the buildings on the island.

Eric photographed the swallow and was able to determine the band number (#2510-66822) which he reported to the US Bird Banding Laboratory.



This banded Barn Swallow was photographed and identified on Star Island in May, 2018.

This particular Barn Swallow was banded as a chick on Appledore Island in Maine by Collin Hertz in 2014. Collin was a Cornell University student looking at nest provisioning behavior using radio frequency identification (RFID) technology. David Bonter, an Avian Ecologist at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in Ithaca, NY, said Collin's study was looking at parental provisioning behavior and asked if dads pull their weight when it comes to providing food for their offspring. "Because it is very difficult to quantify how much food swallows bring to nests, we attached passive integrated transponders to swallows and installed RFID antennas on each nest. This allowed us to record the number of visits made by each male and female to the nest on an hourly basis." Collin found that once the chicks hatched, males visited the nests about 80% as much as the females (or about 10 times per hour.) "So, while the females appear to be doing the bulk of the work (like in our own species!), the males were playing an active role in nest provisioning," Bonter added.

According to information from the North American Bird Banding Program, bird banding is important for studying the movement, survival and behavior of birds. About 60 million birds representing hundreds of species have been banded in North America since 1904. About four million bands have been recovered and reported.

For more information about the Bird Banding Program, please see the Volunteers and Research feature in the Fall

2017 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* (Vol 36, No.3). To report a band, please go to www.reportband.gov.

Yellow-stained Downy Woodpecker in Ashland



This Downy Woodpecker visited Iain MacLeod's feeder for several weeks. One theory is that the yellow stains were caused by something inside the bird's nest cavity.

American Robin in Costume



*This unusual looking bird is a leucistic American Robin. It lacks pigments in some of its feathers, creating a speckled pattern that normal robins don't have. For more on leucism, see the article by Aiden Moser in the Fall 2014 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* (Vol. 33, No.3), also online at: http://nhbirdrecords.org/all-articles/Vol33_No_3_Leucism_article.pdf*

Woodcock in Snow

by Diana Talbot

Every year, in early spring, Mark Primack has heard Woodcock in the small, steeply sloped yard behind his house in Berlin, NH. He had seen them fleetingly before, but never in the snow. On the afternoon of April 6, 2018, a heavy spring snow fall had begun. The robins had been around all morning, but had receded into a corner of his small wooded yard. Just then, Mark noticed something different – a woodcock! “I got up from the table and began shooting photos through the window, then quietly went out onto the porch. I couldn’t believe this thing, probing into 3-4 inches of snow and clearly finding and consuming wiggling worms.” Mark noticed the woodcock feeding in the cold snow for at least ten minutes that day.

A little while later, he took a video of the bird consuming worm after worm, probing near the stalks of his Black-eyed Susans. The bird dove down, his head almost beneath the snow, the flakes gathering on its bill from probing beneath the surface. The next morning, Mark said there were new woodcock tracks in the same area. A week later, after another snow storm, more tracks appeared in the same location in the corner of his yard.

It is extremely rare to see an American Woodcock in the winter months of December, January or early February. They typically begin to appear in the month of March or the end of February in mild winters, becoming common in late March and April. They are readily found in spring during their courtship displays, but are much harder to find from June through October. This bird species is a common summer resident and breeder in the state. According to *The Birds of New Hampshire* (Keith & Fox 2013),

the American Woodcock is only known to have successfully wintered once. The population size fluctuates from year to year, but appears to have declined slowly since 1960.

The American Woodcock is normally found in damp, brushy woods. Males choose nearby grassy or brushy fields to display. Unlike other shorebirds, they are solitary, secretive and cryptic in pattern. The woodcock walks slowly with a constant rocking and bobbing motion of the body. This bird species has suffered declines in the past four decades, likely caused by drainage of wetlands and development which has disrupted their breeding, migration and winter habitat. Pesticides have also affected earthworm populations in many areas, impacting the woodcock’s primary food source.

References

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Answer to “Where’s Waldo?”

Eric Masterson photographed this large flock of Bonaparte’s Gulls on Lake Sunapee 5-1-18. It is not only remarkable to have so many Bonaparte’s inland, but Eric also spotted the similar, but much rarer Little Gull – it is the one that has a darker underwing. From the center of the image, it is the third gull on the right. Little Gulls are often seen with Bonaparte’s Gulls.



Woodcock with snow on its bill from probing for worms.



Probing for worms under the snow.



Going deep! Look at the eye almost beneath the snow.



After the deep dive, here it is seen inhaling a worm.



Where to Bird in Epping

by Greg Tillman

Over the past twenty years, Epping has recorded nearly 170 separate species; not bad for a lake-less, inland town! That list includes Cattle Egret, Least Bittern, Northern Goshawk, Red-headed Woodpecker and Prothonotary Warbler, to name some highlights. Not that you'll see those birds every trip, of course, or even every year, but like many areas in New Hampshire, the ratio of birders to good birding sites means that Epping is pretty seriously under-birded.

Despite that list, Epping has just two (two!) eBird hotspots and one of them is from a feeder stakeout years ago! Let's step off of Route 101, away from Route 125, behind the shopping areas, and see what's missing.

(Note: many of the trails listed here are "class 6 roads," which means they are town rights-of-way, but unmaintained, and usually not drivable. The land on either side may be privately owned.)

Burley Farms and Beaver Bog

Maybe because of the Great Blue Heron rookery, or maybe because the varied habitat attracts such a range of species, this is one of my absolute favorite areas to bird in Epping. You might find almost anything here during migration! The rookery, bog, and surrounding land have, thankfully, been recently protected by the Southeast Land Trust (SELT).

Fascinating as they are, please keep some distance from the Great Blue Heron nests in May and June. Other breeding birds include Wood Duck, Hooded Merganser, Green Heron,

and Swamp Sparrow. In migration, I have had, at least once each, Virginia Rail, Sora and, most remarkably, a Least Bittern and there is often a stray Double-crested Cormorant.

Eastern Meadowlarks, Bobolinks, and American Kestrels sometimes stop in the adjacent fields. The deep woods behind hold an excellent collection of forest birds (see Dimond Hill). The mixed scrub around the bog is also good for Yellow Warblers, orioles, Indigo Buntings, and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. Migrating warblers have included Nashville, Wilson's, Canada and once, a Mourning Warbler. Least and Alder Flycatcher and all four vireos are possible and the pond often abounds with flying swallows.

Directions: From Route 125 northbound, turn right onto North River Road just past Route 87 (Hedding Road). The bog is unmistakable, opposite 264 North River Road. Note that North River Road intertwines Route 125 like the "S" of a dollar sign, so there are several intersections of North River and Route 125.

Just south of 293 North River Road, a trail called Range Road (and sometimes other names) provides a good view of the bog and heron nests. If you walk a few hundred yards in, the trail crosses the bog below the beaver dam. Range Road is not on Google Maps.

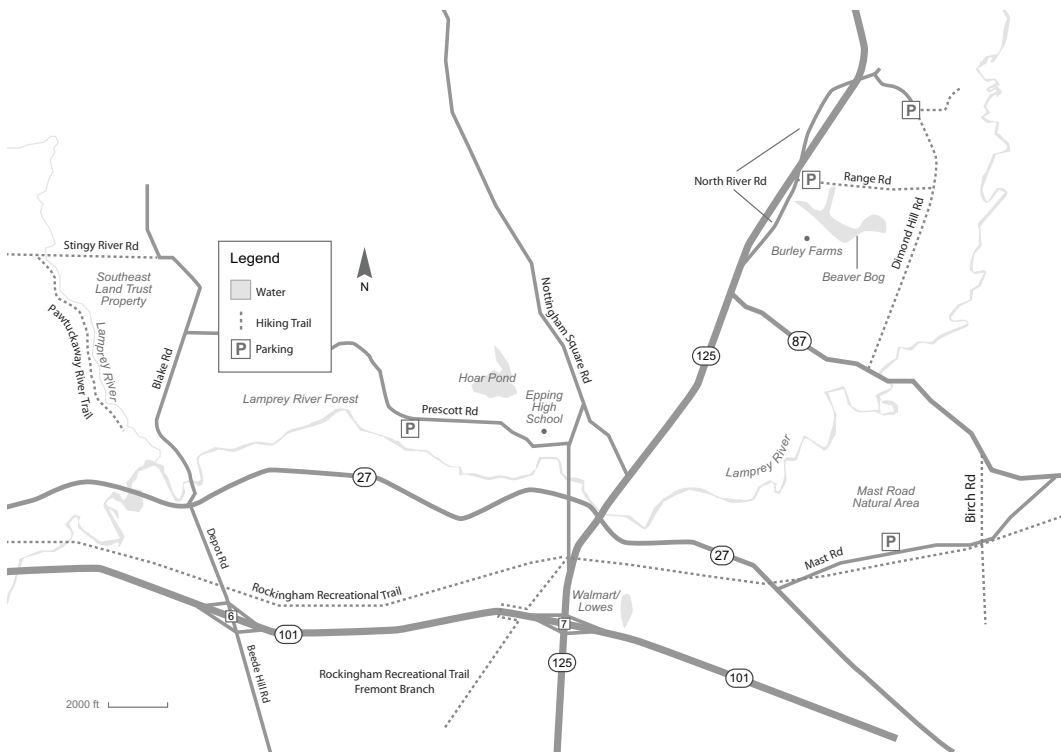
The area can also be accessed and birded from the Burley Farms at 245 North River Road, part of the SELT conservation property. See www.seltnh.org for some additional information.

Dimond Hill Road

Dimond Hill Road (class 6) runs through an excellent pine-oak-hemlock forest, for almost two miles of uninterrupted birding. It is behind the Beaver Bog and the properties eastward abut the Lamprey River.

From the north end of Dimond Hill, past the first house, there is an old gravel pit on the eastern side. As you pass, you should be able to pick up songs of Prairie Warbler, Eastern Towhee, and probably Field Sparrow. You might hear Louisiana Waterthrush near the river and it's a good place for Chestnut-sided and Magnolia Warbler. Brown Thrashers no longer nest here, but may migrate through. I startle Ruffed Grouse, or their loud takeoff startles me, in this area once or twice each year!

A little farther, on the west



side, there's a wet meadow that always has the potential for interesting sparrows. Alder Flycatcher is possible and a Red-tailed Hawk is likely perched somewhere on the edge. Evenings in March and April, you can hear American Woodcock "peenting."

From here, the trail is mostly forested. Barred Owls are often heard at dusk. In the summer, Broad-winged Hawks nest and tanagers, Pileated Woodpeckers, Red-eyed and sometimes Yellow-throated Vireos, Ovenbirds, thrushes, pewees and similar forest species abound. Purple Finches breed here, though they can be hard to find. In the winter, it can be a very quiet walk, broken by chatter from small flocks of kinglets, chickadees, and White or Red-breasted Nuthatches, with the occasional caw of a Common Raven or American Crow.

Directions: To reach the northern end from Route 125 northbound, turn right onto North River Road opposite Riverslea Farm. After 50 yards, Dimond Hill is a right turn just past 390 North River Road. It is a drivable dirt road for about a quarter-mile, before it passes the gravel pit and becomes more trail-like. This end of Dimond Hill is correctly located on Google maps.

The middle of Dimond Hill Road can be reached from Range Road along the Beaver Bog (see previous section) via a hilly walk of a half-mile or so.

The south end of Dimond Hill Road is not on Google Maps. The entrance is on Route 87 (Hedding Road), between the Amethyst House parking lot at 120 Hedding Road and Inkwell Farm. There is room for one or two cars.

North of Range Road, Dimond Hill is a relatively flat, easy walk, but the south half has some steep hills and overgrown spots. Parts of the trail can be extremely wet well into the spring.



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher by Debbie LaValley.

Blake Road

Situated in northwest Epping, the northern end of Blake Road is a picturesque mix of farms and woods and the

proximity to Pawtuckaway State Park (as the crow flies) makes for intriguing birding possibilities.

Just past Bridle Lane, Blake Road turns to dirt. You could do worse than park the car here and bird along the roadside. This is where I found my first Blue-gray Gnatcatchers in Epping and early one spring, I encountered a mother Wild Turkey trying to herd a dozen young poults, who were wandering like windblown footballs. Eastern Kingbirds, orioles, Bobolinks, various sparrows and other farmland birds call the area home. You might see a Red-tailed Hawk soaring by or maybe a Cooper's Hawk or American Kestrel perched on the telephone wires.

Blake Road dead-ends into a class 6 road at the entrance to a nearly 800-acre SELT-conserved forest. There is an old logging road that is walkable, though hilly, but there is not yet any trail system. Expect typical forest birds like Pileated Woodpecker and Eastern Wood-Pewee. Red-shouldered Hawk seems likely, but it would be interesting to see if birders could turn up any of the Pawtuckaway specialties: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker? Cerulean Warbler?

Pawtuckaway River Trail and Stingy River Road (Blake Road area)

The trail along Pawtuckaway River is absolutely lovely. There's just something joyful about walking alongside a stream. The trail is a bit hilly, but as you walk early on a spring morning, the Pawtuckaway burbles merrily on the left, and Louisiana Waterthrushes serenade. The Pawtuckaway eventually empties into the Lamprey River, but the trail peters out a little before there. Stingy River Road (class 6) is a pleasant walk and also worth birding in its own right. Generally, you can expect the usual forest and streamside species. It seems like a possible place for Eastern Screech-Owls, but I have not visited in the evening to check.

Directions: Blake Road is off Route 27 in west-central Epping.

Stingy River Road is unsigned, but is shown on Google Maps. It is on the left, just where Blake Road makes a sharp right. Stingy River Road is drivable for perhaps a hundred yards or so. You could park at the top of the road, or further in along the side, but do not block the road or any gates.

The Pawtuckaway River Trail is about 1/3 of a mile down Stingy River Road on the left (south) side, just past the Pawtuckaway River bridge. You could probably drive in from the Raymond side, but I can't talk about that in an Epping article!

Birch Road (class 6) at Mast Road

In the opposite corner of Epping, the southeast, are two noteworthy birding areas. Birch Road, going south from Mast Road, crosses both Piscassic River and Fresh River and is a very pretty half-mile or so walk. Epping's Prothonotary

Warbler was reported near the intersection of Mast and Birch Road in 2007. It was never relocated, but the influx of birders resulted in sightings of Northern Goshawk and Black-billed Cuckoo. Singing Brown Creepers are common in the spring. Rarely, Eastern Whip-poor-wills have been heard after dusk during migration.

Mast Road Natural Area

SELT has recently opened trails in the Mast Road Natural Area, but so far the area is virtually un-birded. There are 500 acres of floodplain forest and black gum basin swamp extending all the way back to the Lamprey River. In early November, I had Golden-crowned Kinglets, a collection of migrating Yellow-rumped Warblers, and a sampling of woodpecker species. I have yet to visit in the spring, but it might be nice habitat for Northern Waterthrush (and I don't know anywhere else in Epping they might breed).

Directions: A parking area for Birch Road, and also the Rockingham Rail Trail, is on the south side of Mast Road at the Birch Road intersection, about 1,000 feet west of Route 87.

Parking for the Mast Road Natural Area is 1,500 feet west from Birch Road, on the north side of Mast Road. Drive slowly and look for the SELT sign.

Southeast Epping holds two racetracks and a shooting range, so there is sometimes background noise, but in the early mornings, it's quiet and empty.



Northern Goshawk by Jason Lambert.

Rockingham Recreational Rail Trail

The Rail Trail is a hidden jewel that cuts across southern Epping. The whole trail can be fruitful birding, especially in the spring or summer. Westward from Route 87 as we head into Epping, there are breeding Canada Warblers off the edges of the trail and in the spring, look and listen for Black-and-white, Black-throated Green, migrating Northern Parula and other warblers.

The trail parallels the Piscassic River here, and there is conservation and private forested land all around, so be attentive. In season, Ovenbird, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Scarlet Tanager, and Great-crested Flycatcher could all be expected. Northern Goshawk has been seen in the area, but that would take some luck!

If you keep walking west, you'll eventually cross Route 27 and reach central Epping. Warbling Vireos, Common

Yellowthroats, and orioles like the brushy areas where the trail approaches Lowe's, and swallows and kingbirds are often active over the ponds. After Lowe's, the trail crosses Route 125. Please be careful of traffic. Stop in at one of the local places for breakfast, maybe.

West of Main Street, the trail might be a little less interesting for birds, but you never know. Listen for Carolina Wren and House Finch in the mixed residential section and keep an eye out for Chimney Swifts. Check for Indigo Buntings and Prairie Warblers as you cross powerlines.

Directions: The "Portsmouth Branch" of the trail runs from Newfields, near Chapman's Landing, through Epping, past Lake Massabesic and into Manchester and is used by bicyclists, hikers, snowshoers, and snowmobilers. A southern spur, the "Fremont Branch," runs from downtown Epping just west of Main Street, southward through the Spruce Swamp in Fremont, and into Windham. (The Fremont Spruce Swamp is large and interesting.) In Epping, the trail is mostly level and easy walking.

You can usually find room to park wherever the trail crosses a road. It crosses Route 87 about 500 feet east of Bald Hill Road in Newfields. If you pick up the trail at Route 87 (in Newfields) and head east rather than west into Epping, you'll come to the Piscassic Greenway, well worth birding in its own right.

In central Epping, the trail crosses Main Street just north of the Walgreen's Pharmacy. The trail is on Google Maps, or check trailink.com.

Other Areas, Quick Hits

The pond behind Walmart and Lowe's (Fresh River Rd. off Rt. 125 just north of Rt. 101 jct. at Exit 7) can host cormorants, swallows and springtime Ring-necked Ducks and, at least once, held a Great Egret. It is the only eBird hotspot in Epping! The fruit trees in the parking lot sometimes hide Bohemian and Cedar Waxwings in winter and check for gulls here too. There is trail-less conservation land, mostly floodplain forest, behind the pond, interspersed with sites for future retail development.

If you find yourself at the Epping High School (off Prospect/Academy St.), there is enough forest around it to support some interesting passerines and Hoar Pond, reachable from the edge of the school fields, has hosted Common Mergansers occasionally.

Many Epping farms can easily be birded from the roadside. Bluebirds, Bobolinks, turkeys, Red-tailed Hawks, and accipiters are regularly seen. Riverslea Farm, at the intersection of North River Road and Birch Hill Road, has recorded vagrant or migrant Cattle Egret, Purple Martin, and Eastern Whip-poor-will. Harvey Farm near the intersection of Red Oak Hill and Old Orchard Road probably has the

largest open fields in Epping. Great Horned Owls can be heard and it would be a good place for Snow Buntings. The fields of the Clark Farm, on the east side near 134 Camp Lee Road, sometimes have ducks in a wet spring, though not usually much variety and, if it's too dry for waterfowl, displaying turkeys might be a cool consolation prize! (All of these farms are private; please be respectful.)

The Lamprey River Forest, owned by the Society for the Protection of NH Forests, is a hilly 180-acre forest in Central Epping, with a sign on Prescott Road just west of Pawnee Lane. The trails have grown over and disappeared, but if you're feeling adventurous, it has a half-mile of frontage on the Lamprey River that could be worth exploring. Epping's Red-headed Woodpecker was reported from a feeder near here.

Check out www.eppingoutdoors.com, the Conservation Commission website, for some other small conservation properties in Epping.

Conclusion

Despite a list of nearly 170 species, there are a few birds that are unexpectedly scarce, in my experience. Orchard Oriole is tough to find. I have never seen a Marsh Wren, despite all the marshes. I have not seen or heard Eastern Screech-Owl or Wilson's Snipe at all in Epping. Merlin is rare. So if you find any of these, or any interesting birds, or if you enjoy any of the sites I've described, email me (gregtillman@comcast.net). I'd love to hear about it!

Many of the places discussed are isolated. Please be aware of your surroundings, and take all due precautions for your own safety. Most of the trails and paths are either on or through private land. Please respect all postings.

Finally, a plug for Southeast Land Trust (SELT). I know this is a NH Audubon publication, and NH Audubon certainly deserves your support; but, if you do any birding in Rockingham County, consider a donation to SELT.

Happy Birding!

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

International Migratory Bird Day New Hampshire Style

compiled by Kathryn Frieden and Rebecca Suomala



Listening for rails at the Odiorne Point SP marsh on the International Migratory Bird Day walk with Becky Suomala. Photo by Dyanna Smith.

In honor of the 100th anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty, and International Migratory Bird Day, NH Audubon hosted a series of birding excursions throughout the state on Saturday, May 12, 2018 led by expert staff and volunteers. They traversed a wide variety of habitats in search of migrating and resident birds.

In summarizing the day, Birdathon Coordinator Ruth Smith wrote:

“What better way to honor these events than to go birding? That is what over 160 people did. From beginners to seasoned professionals, those young in years and young at heart raised binoculars, peered through spotting scopes and leaned their ears toward avian vocalizations . . . and were rewarded. Twelve organized trips and a few “informal” gatherings (a total of 16) took place ranging from Keene to the coast and the North Country to the Nashua area, so a wide variety of habitats were explored. Several NH Audubon sanctuaries were visited including Pondicherry in Jefferson, Thompson Sanctuary in Sandwich, Newfound in Hebron, Silk Farm in Concord, the Deering Sanctuary, and Ponemah Bog in Amherst. Within those areas at least 146 species were identified. Some were seen by only one group such as the Rusty Blackbird, American Bittern and Rock Pigeon! Some were seen by nearly every group such as Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee and Song Sparrow.”

Below are highlights from most of the trips. A complete list of species can be seen in the Summer 2018 issue of *Afield*: <http://www.nhaidubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/Summer-Afield-2018-web.pdf>



Cape May Warbler photographed by David Forsythe while observing Rusty Blackbird research with Carol Foss, 5-12-18.

Rusty Blackbird Research Project, Wentworth's Location

Leader: Carol Foss

- A Rusty Blackbird at a nest site
- Real time observation of Carol's field work recording Rusty Blackbird behavior at the nest site
- Cape May Warbler
- Merlin at an abandoned Rusty Blackbird nest site

Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge, Whitefield & Jefferson

Leaders: David Govatski, Phil Brown, Chris Martin

- Beautiful sunny and calm day in the North Country
- Over sixty bird enthusiasts
- 102 species including 20 warbler species
- 6:00 am start at Airport Marsh with Brown Thrasher, Green Heron, and Vesper Sparrow
- 20 species of warblers including Cape May, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll and Palm Warblers
- Marsh Wrens and Virginia Rail heard at Moorhen Marsh
- A pair of Northern Harriers at Cherry Pond
- A male Black-backed Woodpecker on the Little Cherry Pond trail

Dahl Sanctuary, Conway

Leader: Charlie Nims

- Over 40 species in this small sanctuary
- 14 warbler species
- Female Golden-winged Warbler
- 5 thrush species

Thompson Sanctuary, Sandwich

Leader: Bob Ridgely

- 59 species total
- 3 Virginia Rail
- 15 warbler species
- 1 Pine Siskin

Balch Hill Natural Area, Hanover

Leader: Blake Allison

Sponsored by the Hanover Conservancy and the Mascoma Chapter of NH Audubon.

- Briskly cool, with the temperature near freezing
- 35 species total
- 13 warbler species including both male and female Cape May Warblers, a Tennessee and a Nashville Warbler
- Vividly red Scarlet Tanager

McLane Center and Silk Farm Sanctuary, Concord

Leaders: Hilary Chapman and Doug Bechtel

- Blue-headed Vireo
- 8 species of warblers including Blackburnian Warbler and Northern Waterthrush
- Colorful Baltimore Oriole and Scarlet Tanager

Ponemah Bog, Amherst

Leader: Gail Coffey

- 24 Species in 2 hours
- A cooperative Eastern Bluebird that provided great looks for beginning birders
- 2 Scarlet Tanagers
- Golden-crowned Kinglet



Gail Coffey (center) leading the Ponemah Bog field trip. Photo by Gerry Coffey.

Deering Wildlife Sanctuary, Deering

Leader: Diane DeLuca

- Barred Owl
- Hooded Merganser
- Great Blue Heron

Ashuelot Rail Trail, Keene

Leader: Wendy Ward

- 49 species
- 1 American Kestrel
- 12 Warbling Vireo
- 22 Gray Catbird
- 16 Common Yellowthroat
- 18 Yellow Warbler

Lakes and Lookouts, Meredith and Laconia

Leaders: Bob Quinn and Anne LaVin

- 51 species total
- Great looks at an American Bittern
- Osprey
- Pine Siskin



Bob Quinn (center) with birders on the Lakes Region field trip. Photo by Robert Schongalla.

Habitats of Fremont

Leader: Pam Hunt

- 51 species were seen or heard
- Lincoln's Sparrow
- 11 species of warblers
- Nice concentration of Eastern Towhees and Prairie Warblers
- 5 shorebird species

Odiorne Point State Park, Rye

Leader: Becky Suomala

- 63 species
- 8 Brant migrating
- Lesser Black-backed Gull adult on a rock in Little Harbor
- Swainson's Thrush
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
- 18 Common Loon, appeared to be migrating north – mostly in ones and twos

A crew from NH Public Radio came on the Odiorne Point State Park trip and recorded a segment for their Radio Field Trips program. Listen at: <http://nhpr.org/post/radio-field-trip-bird-watching-seacoast#stream/0>

From Nest to the Air: The Origins of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918

by Kurk Dorsey

One hundred years ago, the fate of the continent's birds hung in the balance. The state of Missouri had launched a legal challenge to federal legislation that protected migratory birds and the case would soon make its way to the Supreme Court. Conservationists had worked for decades to achieve effective legal protection for birds and all of their work was now in the hands of nine justices. Early in 1920, the court ruled in *Missouri v. Holland* that the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 was in fact constitutional, laying the foundation for extensive federal action to protect the birds, and nature in general, in North America. The victory was testimony to the ability of conservationists to build a coalition based on science, economics, and sentiment. The road (or flyway) to the Supreme Court took more than 30 years. Over those years, conservationists built a case that protecting birds made economic sense, they used science to argue that birds deserved protection, and they mobilized constituents by emphasizing birds' aesthetic values.



As early as the 1880s, many people began to express concern about the status of the nation's birds. Widespread hunting was the main threat, whether for game markets in the big cities, sport for city folk getting into the countryside, or decorations for women's hats. George Bird Grinnell,

living up to his middle name, founded the first Audubon Society in 1886 to drum up support for protecting birds. It published exactly one magazine and promptly folded, in part because Grinnell overlooked the need to collect membership dues. Still, he claimed that 30,000 people had responded to his call. At nearly the same moment, the American Ornithologists'

Union proposed a model bird law for each state legislature to pass, emphasizing the economic value of birds as predators of rodents and insects.

But as anyone who looked up in the spring or fall could attest, birds did not stay in any one state very often. The new federal Bureau of Economic Mammalogy and Ornithology, forerunner of the modern Fish and Wildlife Service, began gathering data on bird migration using a network of observers who mailed in their observations to Washington (mBird, perhaps), but data did not necessarily lead to policy. Most Americans in the late 19th century were used to a limited federal government that left most decisions in the hands of the states. Migration made it very hard to see how states could effectively protect birds, but the Supreme Court had ruled in 1894 that wildlife was a state responsibility, not federal.

Meanwhile, conservationists worried that things were getting worse quickly. Industrialization had led to better weapons and transportation, opening up new hunting opportunities. Growing population meant more people hunting and more consumers buying, and changes in fashion made feathers and even entire birds on hats more popular than ever. Conservationists would need to change the culture if they were going to halt the steep decline in wildlife that they were witnessing before their eyes. Both the American Bison and the Passenger Pigeon were on the verge of shifting from uncountable to extinction in the space of a few decades.

Out of Massachusetts came two important people. Harriet Hemenway organized her society friends and scientists from the local universities into Massachusetts Audubon in 1896 and she wisely collected dues and set up an actual organization. The idea spread rapidly around the nation and within a decade most states had Audubon societies, which themselves launched ambitious campaigns to teach school children the value of birds and persuade women to molt their hat plumage. To spread the word about these campaigns, they launched *Bird-Lore*, the forerunner of the modern magazine *Audubon*, to link the local societies into one big social network (like Facebook, but with fewer Russian bots). At the same time, Edward Forbush worked to quantify the economic value of birds. Focusing particularly on birds' insectivorous appetites, he began touting birds as defenders

of farms, at one point arguing that insects devoured \$800,000,000 worth of crops, a sum that he shrewdly called the "insect tax."

But even with the rebranding, birds needed more than anything a shift in constitutional thinking. In 1913, Massachusetts Congressman John Weeks and Connecticut Senator George McLean put forth the Federal Migratory Bird bill. It stated simply that the federal government could set rules for hunting migratory birds, including

closed seasons, bag limits, and protected species, and it created an advisory committee of experts to set those rules. President William Howard Taft, a future Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, was quite clear that he would not sign the bill because it was unconstitutional. So conservationists snuck the bill in as a rider to the appropriations bill for the US Department of Agriculture, which Taft signed on his last day in office without reading. Years later he insisted that he had not signed the Weeks-McLean bill!

Taft was not the only person

concerned about the Constitution. In Arkansas, a game warden arrested Henry Shauver for hunting coots in the spring of 1914. Shauver was prepared to plead guilty, but the game warden wanted a test case, so he did what is surely on page 1 of the game warden manual: he demanded that Shauver fight the charges and paid for his defense. With the Supreme Court looming, Senator Elihu Root of New York stepped in and offered a resolution, passed by his colleagues, calling on the State Department to negotiate a treaty with a neighboring country to protect migratory birds. Root argued that the Constitution declares that treaties are the law of the land, so a treaty would protect the 1913 act.

Eventually, the United States and Great Britain ended up signing a treaty in December of 1916, with Great Britain standing in for Canada, which was a part of the empire. The Migratory Bird Treaty was basically the Weeks-McLean law with an autograph of the king at the bottom, but that was good enough to get the Supreme Court to decide not to rule on the Shauver case since the treaty would certainly create a new environment.

As in comedy, timing is the secret to success in diplomacy and in this case, the timing was awful. When Congress

In the 21st century, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act is still a central tool for protecting wildlife, even as the current administration is attempting to scale back its use. The act prevents not just killing or harassing migratory birds, but "taking" as well. For many years, "taking" has been defined broadly to include acts that resulted in birds' death, even if that was not the intent of the action. So shooting of a protected bird, such as the Peregrine Falcon killed in Haverhill in the spring of 2019, has always been a violation under the MBTA, but recently so too has killing a bird via an oil spill, such as the BP Gulf of Mexico disaster from 2010. Currently there is a vigorous debate between the administration and many environmentalists whether the "taking" language has been used too broadly and hence should be scaled back.

reconvened in the spring of 1917, the impending war with Germany seemed just a peck more important than a new law to enforce the 1916 treaty. Not until 1918 did Congress get around to debating the Migratory Bird Treaty bill, and even then opponents, such as Missouri's Senator James Reed, argued that war was not time to undertake such a frivolous measure. One enlightened legislator warned that, by limiting hunting opportunities, the bill would make "sissies" out of American boys, since God made birds for young lads to shoot. Others focused on the merits of the bill, arguing that its ban of hunting ducks in the spring, especially along the Missouri and Mississippi rivers, was an undue hardship.

Proponents of the bill wrapped migratory birds in the flag, with support from the science and economics they had built up in the previous decade. Birds, they argued, ate insects that destroyed crops that could be feeding our troops or refugees in allied Belgium and France. The bill, they claimed, was a war measure, and opponents were probably pro-German at heart. Congress passed the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) in May (appropriately), 1918.

But that left unresolved the constitutional question. In spring, 1919, game warden Ray Holland caught a group of duck hunters in Missouri and discovered among the group a close ally of Senator Reed, the state's attorney general! He charged the group's members with violating the spring hunting ban of the MBTA. The attorney general responded by suing to stop Holland from enforcing the law on the grounds that the government could not make an unconstitutional act constitutional by approving a treaty. *Missouri v. Holland* quickly made it to the Supreme Court, where lawyers for the two sides argued about the power of the federal government to make treaties.

Writing for the 7-2 majority, Oliver Wendell Holmes reviewed the arguments about the constitution long enough to basically say that they weren't really relevant. Instead, he focused on the need for the federal government to protect birds. Showing that he had been paying attention to the last 30 years of conservationist logic, Holmes concluded that only the federal government could protect species that were frequently on the move. The state's only claim could be ownership, which, with perhaps a sly nod at Missouri's senator, he dismissed as a "slender reed" for animals that crossed borders. So while we rightly commemorate 2018 as the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, when you see your first protected migrant of 2020, raise a toast to Justice Holmes, who saw that only the broadest law possible could protect long-distance migrants.

Kurk Dorsey is the author of The Dawn of Conservation Diplomacy, which examines the origins of the Migratory Bird Treaty. He also has been a source of exasperation for eBird editors in at least five languages.

Peregrine Falcons Killed in Separate Incidents

by Diana Talbot



"Crash", banded Black 6 Green 4 AB, shown here at age 11 in his prime. With his two mates, the Peregrine Falcon raised 42 fledgling chicks in Lawrence, MA. Photograph by Craig Gibson.

Two Peregrine Falcons, both raised at the Brady Sullivan Tower in Manchester, NH, were killed in the spring of 2018. The first was an adult male born in 2001 who lived to be 17 years old, very old by falcon standards. Dubbed "Crash" as a fledgling because of his clumsy landings, he was seen being attacked by a male rival in North Andover, MA on March 30, 2018. According to Tom French at the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife in Massachusetts, a younger rival falcon was seen attacking the older male and then the young rival flew off. The 17-year-old falcon was then found 15 miles away in Amesbury and was brought to Tufts Wildlife Clinic where he died on April 2, 2018 from bruises and talon puncture wounds.

Chris Martin, NH Audubon Biologist, explained that attacks do happen, but not very often. It occurs when adult males are competing for a nesting site or territory. As it happens, the male rival in this case took over the nest as well as the older male's mate, raising a brood of his own.

"Crash" was banded on June 7, 2001 (he was subsequently named Black6/Green4 for his color band) and two years later went on to mate and start a nest in Lawrence, MA. This male was one of four chicks in the first documented brood raised in an urban environment. Being the last to fledge, he was the runt of the brood but he outlived his two male siblings and one female sibling. Over the course of his very long life, Black6/Green4 and his two mates raised no less than 42 Peregrine Falcon chicks. Many people followed this pair over the years as they nested on top of the New Balance building at 5 South Union Street in Lawrence. The female died in 2015 at 14 years old after raising 32 chicks. A new female soon took her place in the nest on Union Street and the new pair fledged 10 more chicks.

Even though he met a sad end, this male falcon and his mate made conservation history for their prolific production of offspring and contributed significantly to the Peregrine Falcon recovery. Falcons were on the federal endangered species list for 30 years and were taken off two years before Black6/Green4 was born. This is simply an end to a long and impressive legacy.



Peregrine Falcon 72/AB as a small chick in Manchester, NH in 2012 and as an adult at three years of age. Photographs by Steve Mirick.

One source for information on this event was an article by Keith Eddings in *The Eagle Tribune*, April 8, 2018, which also has a photograph of the attack:

https://www.eagletribune.com//merrimack_valley/aneews-falcon-soars-above-lawrence-for-years-then-falls-to/article_87749504-3f4f-5e4c-b94c-89adb6bf5a95.html

The second male, 72/AB, was only six years old when he was found dead of a gunshot wound in May, 2018. He was born on the Brady Sullivan building in 2012. He raised at least two broods in Haverhill, MA. Jane and Steve Mirick were excited to first identify him in Haverhill in 2014 and were proud to find the first nest site there in 2015.

“It’s really a shame when any wild raptor dies from a gunshot, and there’s no excuse for it” says Chris Martin of NH Audubon.

“Like all migratory birds, Peregrines are covered under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918. Attempts to dilute this law, now being considered in Washington, D.C., could further weaken protection for birds. Obviously birds have enough threats to deal with without legal threats being added to the list.”

A total of 54 Peregrine Falcons have been raised (and banded) on the Brady Sullivan Tower since 2001. Manchester-raised Peregrine chicks have been identified in six northeastern states, including Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island and New York.

Corrections

The following corrections were found after the issue was published. Minor typos are not included. Please let us know of any inaccuracies you find in any issue so we can correct the data.

Spring 2015 (additional corrections)

- p. 16 Red-eyed Vireos on the Penacook survey route should be 05/17, not 05/15.
- p. 20 Ovenbirds on the Penacook survey route should be 05/17, not 05/15.

Summer 2015 (additional correction)

- p. 36 The date in the photo caption on the lower left should be 7/1/15, not 2016.

Spring 2016

- p. 3 The date on the photo should be 9/17/16, not 9/17/06.
- p. 7 First paragraph, section regarding Surf and Black Scoters has incorrect locations and should read: “...yet two Surf Scoters were seen on Spofford Lake, with a third bird on Lake Sunapee, and three Black Scoters stopped off on the Connecticut River in Hinsdale in addition to one on the Merrimack River in Concord.”
- p. 16 Left column, last paragraph should read, “...A single probable Gray-cheeked Thrush was recorded...” The ability to differentiate Bicknell’s from Gray-cheeked by call note alone is under debate.
- p. 18 & p. 19 It should be noted that, according to *The Birds of New Hampshire* by Keith & Fox, the 54 Northern Rough-winged Swallows on 05/02 was a record high number for the state, the 453 Bank Swallows on 05/09 was a near-record for the spring season, and the 1,700 Tree Swallows on 04/06 was the fourth highest for the spring.

Answer to the Photo Quiz

by David B. Donsker



Photo quiz bird, by Anna Kovaliv.

Sometimes very familiar bird species can be surprisingly difficult to identify when seen out of context. Because we “know” what they are, we often don’t take the time to really look at them carefully and learn their features while in the field. Such is the lesson of the Photo Quiz in this issue.

With that in mind, let’s carefully look at our featured bird. It is a medium sized passerine, or perching bird, perched on a fence in what appears to be open habitat. The most striking features of this bird are its strongly patterned head and extensive dark streaking on its underparts. The head shows a thick, dark lateral crown stripe and a similarly dark post-ocular stripe right behind the eye. The prominent supercilium or eyebrow stripe is contrastingly pale. In this individual, it is distinctly orange above and in front of the eye and white behind the eye. It has a faint, thin, dark lateral throat stripe and a pale, barely visible median crown stripe on the top of its head. The malar region below the cheek, and the throat, are both brilliantly orange in color. This bird’s nape, or hindneck, is distinctly pale and faintly streaked. Its upperparts and wings are dark. The back is faintly pale striped. There is a very fine, pale wing bar on the upper wing. The underparts have heavy, dark streaks uniformly from

the breast through the lower belly. The black beak is of moderate length, triangular, and sharply pointed.

As we have seen in previous Photo Quizzes, the identification of birds with strongly streaked underparts can be a challenge, in part because this is a common feature seen in adults and juveniles of many groups of passerine birds. A good way to whittle the list down, is to concentrate on the structure of the bird, particularly its body proportions and bill, and the distribution, strength, and pattern of the streaking on the underparts.

This bird’s stout, triangular bill and moderate body size rather easily eliminates some other streak-breasted birds, such as pipits, waterthrushes, and some warblers in fall plumage. All of these species are smaller birds with proportionally smaller and thinner bills.

The majority of our heavily streaked species belong to either of two groups: finches or sparrows. The finches in New Hampshire include a somewhat diverse group of birds which includes large-billed grosbeaks, small-billed Cardueline Finches (goldfinches, siskins and redpolls), and the *Haemorhous* finches represented in our region by Purple and House Finches. The small-billed species are not considerations here. Of the large-billed members of this family, only the crossbills in juvenile plumage, female Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and the *Haemorhous* finches in immature and female plumage are heavily streaked below. The featured bird lacks the characteristic overlapping upper and lower beaks of either of our two crossbills, or the massive, pale, conical bill of the grosbeak. Female Purple Finch has a strong facial pattern reminiscent of this bird, but the streaking on its underparts isn’t as bold, nor does the streaking extend to its belly. Its crown is finely streaked rather than striped and it would not have any orange on the face. On the other hand, the orange face of our featured bird may suggest the possibility of a male House Finch since some individuals of this species can look quite orange rather than the usual reddish pink. That species, however, completely lacks the strong facial pattern seen in this bird. Besides, both House and Purple Finches have distinctly conical, shorter bills.

Lark Bunting, a relative of our sparrows, is a very rare vagrant from the Great Plains to New Hampshire. The female and non-breeding male are both heavily streaked below with a facial pattern somewhat similar to this bird. However, the breast streaking is “messier” and the dark lateral throat stripe is much thicker and darker in Lark Bunting. Further, both sexes have prominent, broad white feather edges on the greater coverts, giving most individuals a whitish patch on the upper forewing. Unlike in the featured bird, the bill is massive and conical and the head looks disproportionately large.

Many of our sparrows are very heavily streaked on the underparts, especially on the breast and along the flanks, but in all of these, the lower breast and belly are relatively unstreaked.

Three species, Savannah, Song and Fox Sparrows, are quite heavily streaked below. Further, all three have strongly patterned faces with crown, facial and lateral throat stripes that are not very different from our featured individual. Unlike the featured bird, however, the breast streaking in these three sparrows frequently converges towards the center of the breast, resulting in a characteristic breast spot and also their bellies are unstreaked like other sparrows. None of these three species would have any hint of orange on their faces, nor would they have stout, triangular, sharply pointed bill of this individual.

Three sparrow species, however, do have streaked breasts and flanks, pale napes and orange faces. These are Saltmarsh Sparrow, Nelson's Sparrow and the rare vagrant to our state, LeConte's Sparrow. LeConte's Sparrow has a vaguely similar pattern of head stripes and extensive orange on the face which, like the featured bird, is above the eye and on the throat. Further, it has a faintly streaked pale nape and a thin dark lateral throat stripe, but unlike this individual, the breast streaking is much finer, the belly lacks any streaking at all and, most importantly, the bill is small and conical.

Both Saltmarsh and Nelson's Sparrows have relatively long, pointed bills and bear some serious consideration. In Saltmarsh Sparrow, the facial orange is restricted primarily to the eyebrow and malar region. In that species, the throat is white, not orange. Its bill is yellowish to gray, not black as in this bird. Nelson's Sparrow, especially fall juveniles and migrant birds of the interior race, can have intensely orange faces and, in the juveniles, orange throats as well. In this species, however, the breast streaking is relatively fine, or faint and diffuse and, like other sparrows, absent from the lower breast and belly. Further, its bill is grayish, not black. Although both Saltmarsh and Nelson's Sparrows have relatively long, stout bills for their family, in neither species is the bill as large, triangular, or as sharply pointed as is that of the featured bird.

Male Bobolink in nuptial plumage, with its velvety black underparts, yellow nape and white rump and shoulder, is an unmistakable bird, but females and non-breeding males are surprisingly sparrow-like with a facial pattern vaguely similar to our bird. Specifically, it has a pale central crown stripe, dark lateral crown stripe, dark post-ocular stripe and pale lores (the spot between the eye and the base of the bill). Its face is often tinged yellowish buff somewhat suggesting the orange face of this individual. Further, it has a pale nape and streaked flanks, but unlike this bird, the streaking on the underparts is nowhere near as bold and it is limited to the flanks. Further, it has a pale bill which is somewhat small and sparrow-like.

That leaves us with only one other bird to consider: Red-winged Blackbird. Not, of course, the distinctly handsome black male with its distinctive red epaulets, but the heavily streaked female of this species. Female Red-winged Blackbird, familiar as it should be, can be very confusing. The heavy streaking,

so unlike the male, is quite reminiscent of a streak-breasted sparrow, many species of which can share the marshy habitat of this blackbird. But, of all our streak-breasted birds, only the female Red-winged Blackbird (and, in the fall, the immature male) is as extensively and boldly streaked below as is this bird. Bold, dark streaking on the underparts that remains all the way to the lower belly and undertail region is unique to this species. That feature, coupled with the stout, triangular, sharply pointed bill confirms the identification. Because of this spring date, we further know that this is a female, not an immature male, which by this date, would already have assumed the features of adult male plumage.

So, what's with the orange face? Although we rarely even notice it, female Red-winged Blackbirds (and immature males in the early fall) all have some degree of a yellowish, buffy or orange tinge on their face, particularly on the lores, chin and throat. This can be more or less prominent depending on the individual bird, but in some particularly bright females these regions can be distinctly orange or even salmon-pink. In addition, some bright females may have orange-red epaulets as well, although these shoulder patches are never as large as those in the males. It is thought that these brightly colored birds are generally older females, all post second year. The mechanism for the bright color is not fully understood. It has been suggested that it may be associated with individual genetic differences, testosterone levels and/or diet.

This strikingly colored female Red-winged Blackbird was photographed by Anna Kovaliv on May 13, 2018 at Star Island.

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Great Egret by Len Medlock, 4-13-18, Hampton, 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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Photo Quiz



Can You Identify This Bird?

For the first time we are able to offer a color Photo Quiz, thanks to George Robbins' sponsorship of all four 2018 issues.

Photo by Anna Kovaliv.

Spring 2018 Highlights



Northern Wheatear by Len Medlock, 4-15-18, Durham, NH.



Red-necked Phalarope and House Sparrow by Leo McKillop, 5-28-18, Hampton Beach SP, NH.



Little Blue Heron by Steve Bennett, 5-27-18, Rye, NH.



This Bonaparte's Gull was part of a record-breaking fallout of waterbirds at the end of April, 2018. Photo by Jason Lambert, 4-29-18, Barnstead, NH.

