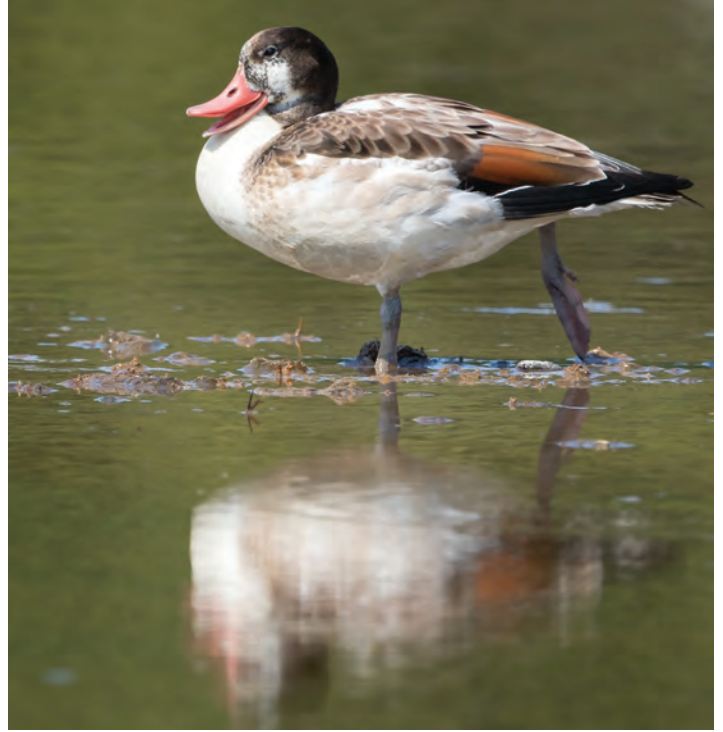


New Hampshire Bird Records





NEW HAMPSHIRE BIRD RECORDS
VOLUME 36, NUMBER 3
FALL 2017

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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Carol Plato, Tony Vazzano

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WHERE TO BIRD

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IN MEMORY OF

Terri Ellen Donsker

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



Windy sailor.

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

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

New Hampshire Bird Records © NHA December, 2018

Published by New Hampshire Audubon's Conservation Department

 Printed on Recycled Paper

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

by Kathryn Frieden



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

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

The Rollinsford Sandhill Crane has its Ups and Downs

by Debra Powers

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

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

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

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

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

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

Volunteers and Research

You Can Help Advance Science by Reporting Bird Bands

by Kathryn Frieden

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

Eastern Bluebird

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

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

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

Gray Catbird



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

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

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

New Hampshire Bird Records Endowment Fund

Donations to this fund provide long-term support for all facets of *New Hampshire Bird Records*, from the publication to the collection, organization, quality control, dissemination, preservation, and storage of New Hampshire bird sighting information.

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For more information, contact the Managing Editor (see inside front cover).

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Abbreviations Used

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

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