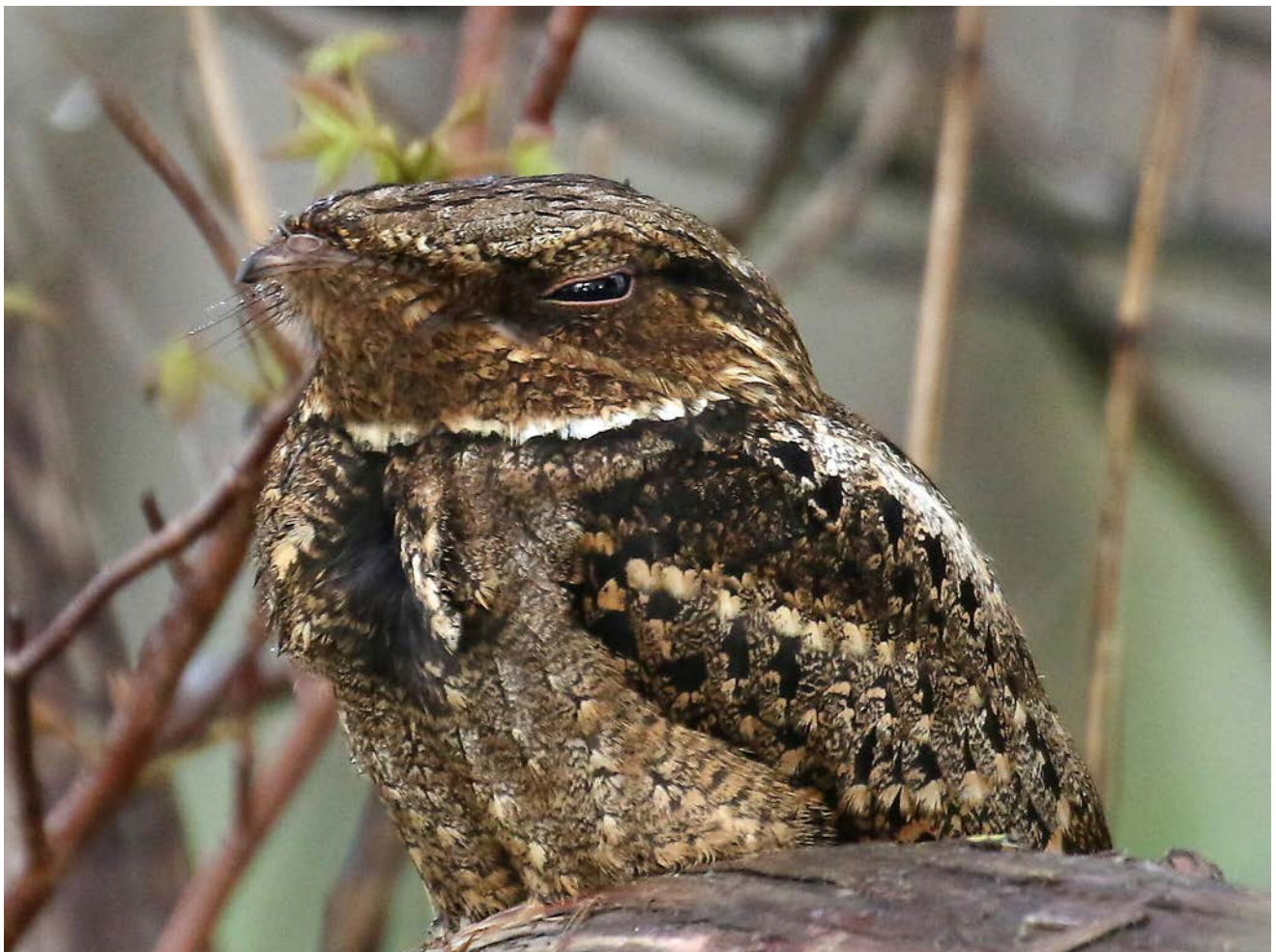


New Hampshire BIRD RECORDS



Spring Highlights



Little Gull in nonbreeding plumage by Jim Sparrell, 4-19-22, Seabrook, NH.



Sandhill Crane by Jim Sparrell, 4-12-22, Great Bay Farm, Greenland, NH.



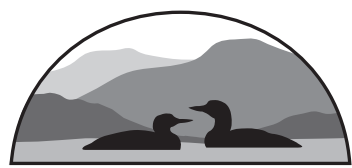
Tricolored Heron by Jim Sparrell, 5-25-22, Odiorne Point SP, Rye, NH.



Red-necked Phalarope by Jim Sparrell, 5-25-22, Exeter WTR, NH.



Red and Red-necked Phalaropes by Steve Mirick, 5-20-22, Jeffreys Ledge, NH.



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NEW HAMPSHIRE BIRD RECORDS
VOLUME 41 NUMBER 1
SPRING 2022

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IN HONOR OF

Steve and Jane Mirick

The 2022 issues of *New Hampshire Bird Records* are sponsored in appreciation of Steve and Jane Mirick for all that they do for the birding community. They have been responsible for finding (and re-finding) many rarities, spreading the word, and staying on the bird. In Spring 2022 they made it possible for many birders to see the Northern Lapwing, Chuck-will's-widow, King Eider and Little Gull. See more on page 2.

Steve and Jane Mirick on the NH Audubon pelagic trip, 10-10-22. Photo by Jim Sparrell.

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From the Editor

SPRING 2022

by Rebecca Suomala

New Benefits

Digital Copy

We are trying an experiment with *New Hampshire Bird Records* – the publication will now be available to subscribers via email, as a PDF. Some folks have been asking for this, and it will allow people to see the inside pages in full color. There are now so many great photos that it has been frustrating to have the inside pages be only in black-and-white. There simply isn't the funding to print in all color. We'll be relying on the honor system to make sure subscribers don't share the PDF to non-subscribers for free. That subscription income is still important!

New Member Benefit

NH Audubon members already receive \$10 off the regular subscription price of \$35. Now, if you join or renew your membership at the \$250 level, you will receive a complimentary one-year subscription to *New Hampshire Bird Records*.

Welcome New Subscribers and **Thank You** to those who have renewed their subscription.

Back Cover – American Redstart Photo Answer

Although this looks like a female American Redstart, it's actually a young male. Redstarts are one of the few warblers that take two years for males to reach the full adult plumage with its striking black and orange. You can see the black feathers beginning to grow in on the breast and the lores (between the eyes and bill).

Thank You Steve and Jane Mirick

The Spring 2022 season highlighted the number of rarities that are discovered and shared by Steve and Jane Mirick. In spring alone, they made it possible for so many people to see the Northern Lapwing, Chuck-will's-widow, and Little Gull. Over the years, they have been responsible for multiple life-birds for many of us.

Here's a classic experience. They discover a rarity. Steve starts to get the word out via text, eBird, the NHBirds email list, and any other channels he can. He's busy fielding calls from folks who are on their way while Jane keeps track of the bird. Birders arrive and Steve directs them to Jane ("Sweetie, are you still on the bird?"), who jumps right in and says, "Here, look through my scope." Check! We get the bird and then set up our own scopes for more views. In minutes, we're distracted talking to someone else and not watching the bird. A new birder arrives looking for the bird. Oh No! Where is it? No worries, Jane is still on it. Many times, they have been ready to leave but have stopped and taken the time to show the bird to yet another arriving birder.

In recognition of the many birds they have shared with our birding community, all four 2022 issues of *New Hampshire Bird Records* are sponsored in their honor. This was made possible by the many contributors who wanted to show their appreciation to Steve and Jane. Thank you!



Jane and Steve Mirick

March 1 through May 31, 2022

by Eric Masterson



Spring delivered typically changeable weather, with little of note that significantly influenced bird migration with a few exceptions: a warm front and associated heavy rain on the night of March 31, a coastal storm overnight on

April 18, and southerly winds and precipitation on the night of May 20 all delivered noteworthy movements.

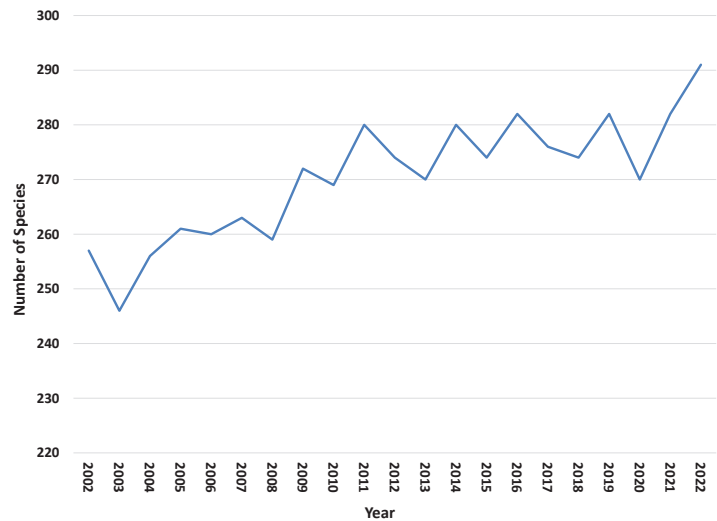
Bob Quinn reported various amounts of ice on the Connecticut Lakes on April 28, with the Third Connecticut Lake still completely frozen. Compare that to Lake Winnepesaukee, where ice-out was declared on April 8 and was earlier still on more southerly water bodies. As if to press the point, a first Coos County record of **Pink-footed Goose** on April 18 was almost a full month after the peak wave of goose migration had passed through southern New Hampshire, reminding us that the North Country can have its own rhythm. Perhaps gas prices had more of an effect on birding than the weather, with the national average rising from \$3.40 per gallon in late winter to almost \$5.00 per gallon by early June.

In 2022, New Hampshire birders recorded the greatest diversity of birds in a spring season since the launch of eBird in 2002, with 290 species, besting the all-time season high of 282 birds recorded in spring 2021. Figure 1 plots the number of bird species recorded in eBird each spring season through the last 20 years. This trend is likely mirrored by other seasons, and I will not be surprised if the 2022 year-end total for New Hampshire breaks the record of 331 species seen or heard in a calendar year, unsurprisingly set just last year.



Chuck-will's-widow by Jim Sparrell, 5-16-22, Odiorne Point SP, Rye, NH.

Figure 1. The total number of species reported to eBird from 2002 through 2022. Note that New Hampshire Bird Records did not switch to eBird as a database for records until September 30, 2009.



Birding appears to be getting more popular all the time.

Sometimes, however, you just get a great season. Spring 2022 was stellar, with a high number of major rarities touching down in the state, highlighted by a second state record of **Northern Lapwing**, a third state record of **Chuck-will's-Widow**, and a fourth state record of **Slaty-backed Gull**, all found by Steve Mirick. Other standout rarities included multiple **Pink-footed Geese**, **Curlew Sandpiper**, **Western Grebe**, and Audubon's subspecies of **Yellow-rumped Warbler**.

Note: In the summary that follows, Odiorne refers to Odiorne Point State Park in Rye, NH.

Waterfowl

A warm airflow in early March brought the first migrant **Snow Geese** of the season, with 35 birds observed by Chris Matlack flying north over Exeter on March 6. Variable weather continued through the first half of March, with generally warm temperatures clearing snow from most of southern New Hampshire by mid-month, and several days of slack winds creating favorable conditions for migrants following the Connecticut River north. A pair of **Pink-footed Geese** found by Greg Tillman in Walpole on March 11 alternated between the river and cornfields in Vermont. A single Pink-footed Goose seen on March 15 (Rand Burnett) five miles to the south was likely a third bird, as the Walpole birds demonstrated a strong pair bond during the entirety of their stay. While still a great rarity, their occurrence is eagerly anticipated every year in the lower Connecticut River Valley. This is the best location in New Hampshire to find unusual geese for a brief period in late March and early April.

SPRING SEASON

Elsewhere in the state, Pink-footed Goose remains a great rarity. Lori Charron found the first record for Coos County with a bird photographed on the Magalloway River on April 18, almost a month after the window for rare geese had passed in southern New Hampshire. At least seven Pink-footed Geese wintered to our south, so their occurrence in New Hampshire this spring was perhaps inevitable. It will be interesting to watch how this once extreme rarity trends in years to come. Will it eventually become annual like **Greater White-fronted Goose**, which it outnumbered in the state this year by four to one? Donna Keller found an immature Greater White-fronted Goose on March 16 in Walpole, with possibly the same bird seen in Charlestown the next day.



Pink-footed Goose by Donna Keller, 3-11-22, Walpole, NH.



Cackling Goose by Susan Wrisley, 4-1-22, Horseshoe Pond, Concord, NH.

Patience Chamberlin recorded the first migrant **Brant** of the season, with 16 birds flying north over New Castle on March 16. Unlike our other species of geese, Brant migration continues into and peaks in May. Ken Klapper recorded 80 birds flying north over Sandwich on May 15. Perhaps the same **Cackling Goose** was photographed by Chris McPherson and Dylan Jackson on March 18 and 19 at separate locations along the Connecticut River in Charlestown, while Leo McKillop found a different bird at Horseshoe Pond in Concord on April 1.

Michael Medeiros found a pair of early **Blue-winged Teals** in Pelham on March 20. Bob Quinn provided a waterfowl report from the North Country on April 13 that included **American Wigeon**, **Northern Pintail**, **Long-tailed Duck**,

and a rare Coos County record of **Gadwall**, all observed on a mostly ice-covered Lake Umbagog. Don Clark and Martha Adams found a drake **Eurasian Wigeon** in Charlestown on March 18. Given the species' rarity away from Great Bay, where none were found this spring, this bird was likely the same one I found two days later and five miles to the north.



King Eider by Steve Mirick, 5-29-22, Rye, NH.

Several interesting hybrid ducks were recorded, including a continuing drake **Common x Barrow's Goldeneye** on Great Bay, a **Mallard x Northern Pintail** in Walpole (John Garrison, March 19) and an **American Green-winged Teal x Eurasian Green-winged Teal** in Rye (Brett Hillman, March 18).

World End Pond in Salem, the state capital for **Ring-necked Ducks**, featured a high count of 350 birds on March 13 (Kyle Wilmarth). Other unusual ducks were the long-staying female **King Eider** that Brett Hillman discovered in Rye on March 22, and the female **Harlequin Duck** that Katherine Zhang found in Rye on March 5. I photographed two Harlequin males and a female from Star Island on May 4.

White-winged Scoter is the default species of scoter to occur inland in spring. This year, there were multiple reports from mid to late May and a high count of at least 150 birds on Squam Lake was reported by Sue Francesco on May 22. Tim Keith reported 20 birds from Conway on May 22. Away from the coast, the only **Black Scoter** reports were from Coos County, where Dave Govatski reported 11 birds from Pondicherry on April 10 and Benjamin Gagnon reported a single bird in Gorham on May 2.

Always scarce, **Ruddy Duck** was recorded from the Exeter Wastewater Treatment Plant through most of March, with a maximum of three birds on March 20 (Tanya Glenn), while Kyle Wilmarth photographed four birds on World End Pond in Salem on March 17. A single bird was seen at Elm Brook Park in Hopkinton in late March (Pam Hunt, Unity Dienes).

A **Western Grebe** found by Stuart Varney and Tom Kemp in Rye on May 23 was at least the seventh record for New Hampshire. **Horned and Red-necked Grebe** migration was unremarkable, with fairly low numbers reported inland.



Western Grebe by Jim Sparrell, 5-23-22, Odiorne Point SP, Rye, NH.

Goatsuckers, Rails and Cranes

Steve Mirick found a contender for “bird of the season” roosting on a fallen log at Odiorne on May 16, New Hampshire’s third record of **Chuck-will’s-widow**. Although it stayed for only a day, many birders managed to see this once-in-a-lifetime rarity. An **Eastern Whip-poor-will** in Hanover on April 15 beat the record early date by two days (Larry Morin). Becky Suomala and Zeke Cornell found a **Clapper Rail** in Hampton on May 28, a rare spring record for this less-than-annual visitor. This was the first report since 2013. Kyle Jones found a **Common Gallinule** in Lyme on May 10.



Clapper Rail by Steve Mirick, 5-28-22, Hampton, NH.

The first **Sandhill Cranes** of the spring were spotted flying north over the Exeter Wastewater Treatment Plant on March 20 by Matt Tarr, Edward Larrabee, and Cameron Johnson. Possibly the same two birds were photographed flying over Chapman’s Landing in Stratham a short time later by Cameron Johnson. Reports continued through mid-April, totaling ten or more birds for the season.

Shorebirds

I had an interesting sighting of a pair of **American Oystercatchers** copulating on Star Island on May 4. Oystercatchers have recently bred on nearby Lunging Island at the Isles of Shoals, but not on Star Island. At least two of the **Black-bellied Plovers** that overwintered in Hampton

continued into spring, being last seen on March 23, while the first migrants didn’t appear until the second week of May. George and Andrea Robbins found an **American Golden Plover** in Rye on May 16, the first spring record since 2018 of this traditional fall migrant.



Northern Lapwing by Alex Lamoreaux, 3-7-22, Great Bay Farm, Greenland, NH.

Steve Mirick found a **Northern Lapwing** in Greenland that arrived during the night of March 6 on the back of a warm airflow. Another contender for “bird of the season,” it was likely one of two individuals that overwintered in the Chesapeake Bay area. We can rule out the Maryland bird, which was still present there on March 14. The second bird was last seen on March 6 on the north shore of Delaware Bay. The straight-line distance from this location to Great Bay is approximately 340 miles, but with 15 mph surface winds out of the west-southwest overnight, a lapwing could have accomplished this in one night. Our bird stayed until March 9 before moving on after a snowstorm. Crucially for the birding community it remained long enough to be seen by more than 100 birders! Although this was the second state record, only a single observer had seen the first state record Northern Lapwing in 2013.

Susan Wrisley found an extremely early **Pectoral Sandpiper** on March 20 in the same fields that hosted the Northern Lapwing. **Upland Sandpipers** returned to Pease airport on April 16, with a high count of five birds on May 29 (Andrew Markel). Another bird was seen on May 24 by Cameron Johnson at an unusual location, the Spaulding Turnpike median nine miles to the north of the airport. Diana Stephens found a **Curlew Sandpiper** at Rye Harbor on May 24, the fourth photographically documented and seventh record for the state. Presumably the same bird was briefly relocated at Henry’s Pool the following day, before disappearing for good.

There was one good phalarope day offshore on May 20 with 356 **Red-necked Phalaropes** and 32 **Red Phalaropes** (Steve Mirick, et al.) at Jeffreys Ledge. A Red-necked



Curlew Sandpiper by Diana Stephens, 5-24-22, Rye Harbor, NH.

Phalarope at the Exeter WTP was a one-day wonder on May 25 (Dave Adrien, Dan Prima, et al.).

Gulls

A warm front on the night of March 31 brought temperatures in the high 50s across southern New Hampshire, with heavy rain grounding an interesting mix of migrants on April 1, including a **Dunlin** in Keene (Brian Reilly), five **Bonaparte's Gulls** in Sandwich flying toward Squam Lake (Ken Klapper), and a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** on Horseshoe Pond in Concord (Rebecca Suomala, et al.).

A low-pressure system brought strong easterly winds and rain during the night of April 18, with winds gusting



Two Little Gulls, one in full adult plumage (lower right) and one in non-breeding plumage (upper right) both showing the all-black underwings. Photos by Susan Wrisley, 4-19-22, Seabrook, NH.

to 45mph along the coast during the morning of April 19. Birders looking for storm-driven migrants were rewarded with large numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls, a smaller number of **Laughing Gulls**, and two adult **Little Gulls** in Hampton Harbor. Continuing his hot streak, Steve Mirick found a third-cycle **Slaty-backed Gull** on North Hampton State Beach on April 8. As with Northern Lapwing, we can sometimes track individual birds that are functionally marked by their rarity. Based on feather details, this gull was likely the same individual that was seen in Connecticut on March 18 and represents the fourth record of this species for New Hampshire and the first away from the Rochester Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Other noteworthy gulls included an adult **Black-headed Gull** that Edward Larrabee photographed from Pulpit Rocks in Rye on March 16. Away from the coast, an **Iceland Gull** on Lake Massabesic on May 4 (Eric Masterson) was significant for its inland location and late date. Most Icelanders are gone by early April especially away from the coast.

Alcids, Terns, Storm-Petrels, and Herons

Levi Burford and Katrina Fenton reported a high count of 36 **Razorbills** from Odiorne on March 5. The following day Steve Mirick reported a **Dovekie** flying south off Great Boars Head in Hampton. **Thick-billed Murre** was reported by Susan Wrisley from Odiorne on March 2 and offshore on April 17. I recorded both **Atlantic Puffin** and **Sooty Shearwater** from Star Island on May 4 and May 20 respectively.

Several **Caspian Terns** were recorded from the coast and there were three inland records: the Connecticut River in Hanover on April 16 (Larry Morin), the Umbagog NWR in Errol on May 19 (Danielle Lampe), and Pickering Ponds in Rochester on May 20 (Sam and Damaris Stoddard). Susan Wrisley photographed two **Black Terns** migrating over Jeffreys Ledge on May 6, but the tern highlight of the spring was a large fallout of **Arctic Terns** across New England courtesy of an offshore weather system that drove birds inland. New Hampshire recorded a single Arctic on the Connecticut River in Hinsdale on May 14. Ten Arctic Terns at the tern breeding colony on White and Seavey Islands at the Isles of Shoals was an unusually high number for this colony in recent years.

Birders on a fishing boat posted a record early arrival of **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** on May 1 (40, Leo McKillop, Susan Wrisley, Steve Bennett) far ahead of the previous record early date of May 17 (2017). NH Audubon's pelagic trip on May 30 also set a new high count for New Hampshire waters with 2,237. See Steve Mirick's article on the pelagic trip in this issue.



*Cattle Egret by
John Garrison,
5-3-22, Keene
State WMA, NH.*

Least Bittern returned once again to World End Pond, with two birds observed by Kyle Wilmarth on May 28. Steve Mirick found a hybrid **Little Egret x Snowy Egret** in Rye on April 15. Zeke Cornell discovered a **Tricolored Heron** in Rye on May 25, and a second bird joined it on May 28. Wendy Ward found a **Cattle Egret** in Keene State Wildlife Management Area on May 3, the first record for Keene. **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** is more often encountered in the fall, so a bird photographed by Zeke Cornell at Henry's Pool in Hampton on May 20 was especially noteworthy.

Raptors



Black Vultures copulating! Photo by Steve Mirick, 4-24-22, Exeter, NH.

Too numerous to list individually, **Black Vulture** is the odds-on favorite to be the next addition to New Hampshire's list of breeding birds. Steve and Jane Mirick photographed a pair copulating in Exeter on April 24. For more on breeding Black Vultures in the state see the article in this issue. Pam Hunt saw an immature **Golden Eagle** fly north up the Contoocook River in Penacook on March 16. **Mississippi**

Kites returned to New Hampshire for the fifteenth consecutive season, with two birds seen in Newmarket on May 21 (Ed Norton) and two birds seen in Stratham on May 22 (Dyanna Smith).

Broad-winged Hawks were on the move on April 15, with 163 birds tallied from Wagon Hill Farm in Durham by Levi Burford and Katrina Fenton. There were at least a half-dozen sightings of **Rough-legged Hawk** from the coast west to Keene and north to Wolfeboro, all in March. Two **Short-eared Owls** in the Seabrook back dunes (found by Susan Wisley and Steve Bennett) delighted observers from March 2-16, while a **Snowy Owl** remained in Hampton until May 13. Note: According to the USDA, at least one Snowy Owl in New Hampshire was determined to have died from the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) that was detected in 2022.



*Short-eared Owl
by Jim Sparrell,
3-4-22,
Seabrook, NH.*

Woodpeckers through Chat

A **Red-headed Woodpecker** was identified from a voice recording by Scott Spangenberg in Amherst on May 22 and one was photographed by Crystal Berube at her feeder in Weare on May 27. Steve Mirick recorded impressive diurnal migration on April 15 with 72 **American Kestrels** and 1,481 **Tree Swallows** flying north from Hampton Beach State Park. A single **Purple Martin** was reported from Hampton on April 15 (Steve Mirick) and four from Odiorne on April 17 (Jason Lambert), but they were not reported from the Seabrook colony until April 26. Less expected were a couple of birds seen the same day flying north in Swanzey (Cedar Stanistreet). Levi Burford and Katrina Fenton recorded a record early **Bank Swallow** at Wagon Hill Farm in Durham on April 15. Steve Mirick found a **White-eyed Vireo** in Greenland on April 26 and Mark Suomala found another one at Horseshoe Pond in Concord on May 8.



White-eyed Vireo by Steve Mirick, 4-26-22, Greenland, NH.

The first decent spring flight of migrant passerines arrived April 11 through 13, delivering a significant and widespread fallout of **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** and **Song Sparrows** and a very early **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** at Odiorne on April 12 (Stuart Varney). Just as these fellows arrived, we said goodbye to the last of the **Bohemian Waxwings** and **Common Redpolls**, with single waxwings remaining in Gorham and Littleton until April 12 and 13 respectively and the last redpoll observed in North Conway on April 15.

Will Johnson reported his first flush of migrant passerines in the Upper Valley of the Connecticut River on April 26. He had large numbers of Ruby-crowned Kinglets (50), Chipping and Song Sparrows, and Pine and Palm Warblers. *See the sidebar.* This remarkable influx did not extend to the rest of the state.

Wendy Ward recorded a **Marsh Wren** at Hinsdale setbacks on March 26, a full month before their expected arrival date. I suspect this was the same bird that Adam Burnett observed on January 16, perhaps the first time this species has successfully overwintered outside Rockingham County. **Gray Catbirds** overwinter uncommonly, most often in the southeast. Several were discovered in Hollis in early March, with a maximum of three birds reported by Joe Ripley on March 5, all likely overwintering birds. Like the Hinsdale Marsh Wren and the Hollis Gray Catbirds, a super-early **Lincoln's Sparrow** seen by Chris Heys in Rindge on March 14 suggests that it may have overwintered nearby. Perhaps a warming climate is inducing short-distance facultative migrants to push the boundaries of their wintering range. (Facultative migrants are those for which migration is not hard-wired for a particular time and destination but may be influenced by conditions such as food supplies and weather. Obligate migration is preprogrammed for specific times, directions, and distances that are very consistent.)

By contrast, Swainson's Thrush is an obligate migrant, entirely vacating the North American continent to winter in the tropics. Stan McCumber reported a record early migrant **Swainson's Thrush** from Charlestown on April 24. A couple of latish **Ipswich Sparrows** were seen at Odiorne on April 27 (Jason Lambert). This sub-species of the Savannah Sparrow is typically only here in the winter. The **Clay-colored Sparrow** first seen on January 7 continued intermittently at Becky Suomala's feeder in Concord until March 19, usually showing up on snowy days. Another bird was seen at Airport Road in Swanzy on May 14 (Trevor LaBarge). **Yellow-breasted Chat** is more often recorded as a fall migrant, so a bird found at Odiorne by David Heath on May 21 was especially noteworthy.

Warblers

Andrea Robbins photographed an **Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warbler** on March 13 in Pittsfield, the first sighting confirmed in the state since 2009. This subspecies of Yellow-rumped Warbler breeds in the western United States and is a rarity in New Hampshire. The other rare warbler of the spring was a **Hooded Warbler**. Matt Tarr got a brief glimpse of the bird in New Hampton on May 20.

Al Maley heard the first **Louisiana Waterthrush** of the spring singing in Hampstead on April 5. The first significant wave of migrant warblers appeared on April 20 with **Black-**

Will Johnson, Hanover, 4-26-22, eBird report:

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S108117794>

"First detectable movement of neotropical migrants so far this spring, induced by a perfect sequence of weather events over the last 24 hours. A warm front advected into New England yesterday propelled by south tailwinds that persisted into the night. The NWS radar showed significant nocturnal migration east of an advancing cold front precipitation boundary which arrived this morning just as birds were completing their night flights, forcing them down prematurely. On the ground, Chipping Sparrow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-headed Vireo, and Northern Flicker were present in greatest abundance while neotropical/southern-wintering species such as Black-and-white Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Louisiana Waterthrush made their first-of-season appearances. There was also some limited visible migration extending into the morning hours with flights of Yellow-rumped Warbler and Ruby-crowned Kinglet most notable."



Yellow-breasted Chat by Jim Sparrell, 5-21-22, Odiorne Point SP, Rye, NH.

and-white Warbler in Wilton (Ben Reed) and **Northern Waterthrush** in Errol (Lori and Paul Charron). Unity Dienes recorded the earliest **Black-throated Blue Warbler** on record for New Hampshire in Concord on April 25. Apart from a big influx on May 6, low pressure and northerlies in early May depressed arrivals until May 13, which marked the beginning of an extended period of high pressure and southerly winds.

I experienced spring migration from my vantage point on Star Island where I was stationed from May 13-22. **Cape May Warbler** was less common than I have come to expect given the species' trend in recent years, a phenomenon echoed by Phil Brown from his observations on Monhegan Island in Maine. As per usual, the weather was the dominant factor. Southwest winds delivered a fantastic movement overnight on May 19 and again on May 20, but with the addition of heavy fog which caused birds to fly lower than normal and within earshot throughout the night. I recorded a record-breaking total of at least 68 **Canada Warblers** during the night of May 20 (see eBird for the recording). The observation was corroborated when Canada Warbler was observed to be one of the commonest warblers on the island at dawn on May 21. Steve Mirick observed a similar local abundance of Canada Warbler the same morning at Odiorne.

Tanagers and Buntings

A **Summer Tanager** was observed at Odiorne on May 17 by Judy Parrot-Willis and Dan Hubbard, where also an extremely early **Indigo Bunting** was found and photographed beautifully on April 19 by Jim Sparrell. Melissa Vainio's stunning male **Painted Bunting** at her feeder in Plymouth on May 3 is a great way to close out a great season.

Regional Report, Spring 2022

Sullivan County and Lake Sunapee

by Dylan Jackson



Greater White-fronted Goose by Donna Keller, 3-16-22, Sawyer Farm, River Rd., Walpole, NH.

Spring in Sullivan County is generally our most exciting time when it comes to birding, beginning with waterfowl in the early spring, followed by shorebirds which arrive in lockstep with warblers and other neotropical migrants. It's an exciting time to watch these birds pass through and a good time to explore new potential birding areas.

Waterfowl migration in the Connecticut River Valley is the usual highlight in Sullivan County and this year didn't disappoint. All of this spring's rare or notable waterfowl occurred in the town of Charlestown. We welcomed a Eurasian Wigeon, our first record in the area since 2013. This male was discovered by Martha Adams and Don Clark in the fields off Wetherby Road on March 18 and then rediscovered in Putnam Field in North Charlestown on March 20 by Eric Masterson. A Greater White-fronted Goose was discovered in Great Meadow on March 17 by Martha Adams, Don Clark and Ken Cox, an interesting find in that it seems this species is becoming almost annual in this part of the state. Christopher McPherson found a Cackling Goose on the Connecticut River near Great Meadow on March 19 and I relocated what I believe to be the same bird the following day in the cornfields off Morningside Lane. Also of note was the presence of our seldom seen dabbling duck species in the valley including American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Gadwall, and especially Northern Shoveler with up to four seen at Wetherby Road and a few others seen at other locations in town to the north.

Shorebird diversity wasn't very exciting this spring, but many of the usual suspects made an appearance, some in good numbers. I had two personal high counts along the Connecticut River Valley with 17 Lesser Yellowlegs at the Charlestown Wastewater Treatment Plant (WTP) and six Semipalmated Plovers in the mudflats across from Route 12 Auto in South Charlestown. More desirable species such

as other plover species, dowitchers, Dunlin, and Sanderling were lacking this spring, but fret not, as rarer shorebirds tend to be more regular in the fall.

As far as neotropical migrant passerines go, warblers are the usual highlight and again, like last fall, the showing was, well, weak. Things finally picked up a bit with good numbers of Blackpoll and Tennessee Warblers. Alas, other notable species like Bay-breasted, Cape May, Wilson's and Mourning Warblers were extremely lacking. In fact, I personally only had one Mourning Warbler on Wetherby Road in Charlestown and one Cape May Warbler near Pleasant Lake in New London all spring and none of the other notables. On one good note, a Lawrence's Warbler, a hybrid between Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers, returned to the same location in Moody Park in Claremont for the third year in a row.

Eastern Meadowlarks made a strong showing throughout the spring. They returned to attempted nesting grounds at Morningside Flight Park in Charlestown and hayfields on Old Newport Road in Claremont and also made a strong spring appearance in the fields on Trask Brook Road in Sunapee where they aren't reliably annual. Waterfowl migration on Lake Sunapee was again surprisingly lacking this spring with no good species to speak of. Gulls, terns, sea ducks and divers were all but absent excluding the more common species like Ring-necked Duck, Common Goldeneye, and Bufflehead. This might be attributed to a lack of good wet weather to set birds down and the lack of eyes to search for them.

As I mentioned, spring is an exceptional time to explore new spots and I was able to find a good one. While not new to birders by any means, I finally visited this great location called Up On The Hill Conservation Area owned by the Upper Valley Land Trust. It's located all the way at the end of Richardson Road in Charlestown and is an enormous area of protected land consisting of forests with marked hiking trails, open farmland and adjacent power line cuts. As far as birds in this location, a breeding Louisiana Waterthrush right near the parking lot is worth the trip alone as this species isn't abundant in this area. The power line cuts had both Prairie Warblers and Field Sparrows which are also very infrequent in Sullivan County. There's so much more to explore at this location and I highly recommend a visit during the spring or breeding season. More information on the location can be found at: <https://uvlt.org/conservation-areas/up-on-the-hill/>

After a poor birding year in 2021, a good spring migration is just what we needed before entering the quiet breeding/post breeding season of the summer. Despite birding this area for over ten years now, it's still exciting to find new hot spots to explore and Up On The Hill did not disappoint. I look forward to including this location to my regular spring birding stops in the area going forward.

Coos County

by Robert A. Quinn

Birders might think that Coos County is thoroughly covered by observers during every month. This is true for a few key sites such as Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Berlin, and Errol, thanks to David Govatski, Kathy Dube, Dick Dionne, and Lori and Paul Charron, respectively. But the reality is that large areas of this vast county do not get many birders except in June and July. It is truly a world apart from the rest of the state. The weather, terrain, scenic wonders, ecological processes, and populations (low for people and high for birds) are different from the other nine counties. I cannot bird Coos County as often as I would like to because I live in Merrimack County, but I do have over 40 years of experience birding up there in every month of the year. Recently, I have focused on spring and fall migrations, especially for inland waterbirds.

Be aware that there are *significant* differences in northern Coos County between the Connecticut River valley/Connecticut Lakes region (Pittsburg) and the Androscoggin River valley/Lake Umbagog region (Errol). These differences are due to Errol's lower elevation, the Androscoggin having more rapids/open water, and Lake Umbagog having marvelous wetlands. All these factors mean that the Umbagog region has more inland waterbirds almost a month earlier than the Connecticut Lakes do because ice out on the lakes in Pittsburg is about two to three weeks later than around Umbagog and spring comes even earlier to the southern parts of Coos County!

Overview

Early "spring" in Coos County is typically more like *winter* and that was the case this year. March 2022 "came in like a lion" with frigid sub-zero temperatures on March 1. There were a few patches of open water on the Connecticut River in Stratford and Columbia but no ducks taking advantage of them yet. April was mostly cold and wet, but with the ice melting on the meadows at Lake Umbagog in the first couple of weeks, a lot of the waterfowl moved through. The Connecticut Lakes in Pittsburg remained frozen through April. May started out cold but then we had near record heat in mid-May as far north as Berlin. The end of the spring season was full of breeding species with a few late migrants noted. See especially the swifts in Gorham on May 30.

February

"Spring" gets a head start; Kathy Dube discovered a pair of Northern Pintails in the Androscoggin River north of Berlin as early as February 18, 2022!



Bohemian Waxwing by Steve Mirick, 3-5-22, Lancaster, NH.

March

I started off my spring season driving/birding from Bethlehem to Colebrook on March 1, 2022. The day started with frigid temperatures but, nonetheless, there were a few bird highlights. A few scattered Pine Siskins seemed noteworthy, but then I discovered a mixed flock of waxwings in downtown Lancaster. Both species were represented with about 100 Bohemians and 30-40 Cedars. Bohemian Waxwings seem to gather in larger flocks during late winter/early spring, perhaps as the local food supply diminishes. A flock of 66 Wild Turkeys in Stratford plus 12 more in Columbia was a pleasant surprise. Turkeys seem to occur in higher numbers in the Connecticut River Valley than in the Androscoggin River Valley.

April

My next trip to northern Coos was on April 13 and 14. April is a great month for paddling the wetlands near Lake Umbagog and it was true this year. Tom McShane joined me and we recorded both quality and decent quantities of excellent inland waterbirds. It started with a male Long-tailed Duck, then a pair of Gadwall and two pairs of American Wigeon were nearby. The marshes at the junction where the Magalloway River joins the Androscoggin is the *only place* in the state where wigeons are known to nest. We also noted many more ducks including at least 25 Buffleheads, six/seven winnowing Wilson's Snipe, a pair of foraging Northern Harriers, and about ten eagles. Rain and 40 degree (F) temperatures limited my field time the next day but a drake Northern Pintail was with Mallards near Pontook Reservoir in Dummer on 4-14-22.

On April 27 and 28, I traveled from Colebrook to Pittsburg to Errol. The trip started with decent conditions on April 27, albeit not quite spring-like. At First Connecticut Lake in Pittsburg I saw moderate numbers of Common

Mergansers and a Common Loon was *calling during a snow squall* with half of the lake still frozen! Third Connecticut Lake was 95% ice yet one hopeful pair of Common Mergansers looked almost at home in a slender lead of open water. The dawn of April 28 revealed white-out conditions as April degenerated into winter once again with lots of ice and four inches of new snow in Dixville Notch. I adjusted to the wintry mess, as did the birds, by driving east into better birding in Errol. The combination of snow-covered ground and blustery winds concentrated the landbird migrants in select pockets of bare ground (see the separate article in this issue). Most notable were several species of warblers feeding in a small area of old cattails below the Aker's Pond dam in Errol. Pine Warblers (formerly unknown in the region), Yellow-rumped Warblers, Palm Warblers, Hermit Thrushes, Golden-crowned Kinglets, Eastern Phoebe and others shared the wealth of the insects that also sought out these sheltered sites. In the pool below the Errol Dam, there were at least 50 Common Goldeneyes plus one male Barrow's Goldeneye (thanks to Lori and Paul Charron). This is a regular site for those species. Lastly, on the way south, I stopped by Airport Marsh in Whitefield and found a bonus of another Long-tailed Duck.

May

A trip on May 3, 2022 to the Pondicherry region started with a pair of singing Rusty Blackbirds and a winnowing Wilson's Snipe over Airport Marsh. Another pleasant surprise was an early (for Coos County) male Black-throated Blue Warbler at the start of the Pondicherry Wildlife Refuge's Presidential Trail. This was soon followed by four drumming Ruffed Grouse, one in scope view! We also recorded at least five Brown Creepers, a dozen Winter Wrens (prolonged scope views of a singing bird), many singing Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and at least 100 Yellow-rumped Warblers which made for a great morning of bird song. Cherry Pond rewarded us with three breeding plumaged Red-necked Grebes plus one Horned Grebe.

During two back-to-back "Familiarization Tours" to Errol and Pittsburg from May 13-17, 2022, the unusually warm weather brought many landbirds north and then a front dropped some interesting waterbirds onto the Connecticut Lakes in Pittsburg. First Connecticut Lake was a snapshot of typical spring inland waterbird migrants with four Greater Yellowlegs and three Least Sandpipers in a flooded grassy area on May 14. Then, rain during the night of May 14 brought down ten White-winged Scoters on May 15. Characteristically for inland scoters, they moved north the next night and were not around on May 16. It was not surprising that during this mid-May visit, the Common Loons were not paired up yet, especially when thinking back to my visit here in late April when half of Second

Connecticut Lake was still ice. On May 15 and 16, there were five to ten loons intermingling on First Connecticut Lake in Pittsburg and six seen together on Aker's Pond in Errol. On May 15, there was still remnant ice on the shoreline of Third Connecticut Lake!

On May 14, we birded from Gorham to Errol, recording 17 species of warblers (including Pine) with 20+ Northern Parulas and a dozen Nashville Warblers. Cliff and Barn Swallows entertained us as they gathered mud for nest-building along Main Street in Errol. Merlins were obvious and quite vocal, including a copulating pair daily in Pittsburg plus others at two other sites in Pittsburg and two or three in Errol. On May 15 and 16, we found Blackpoll and Bay-breasted Warblers in Pittsburg. Additionally, we tallied 50+ Blue Jays migrating along the west shore of First Connecticut Lake on May 16, but during this mid-May visit there were few flycatchers in northern Coos County. In Errol, the morning of May 17 brought cooler temperatures and *lots* of migrants to Errol, but lower numbers and diversity compared with the International Migratory Bird Day field trip at Pondicherry NWR in Jefferson that same day.

The increasingly popular Dixville Peaks Turbine Road had only one eBird checklist for the Spring of 2022 (most birders go up there in June). On May 22, 2022, Lori Charron, et al. had these highlights: one Broad-winged Hawk, two Canada Jays, three Ruby-crowned Kinglets, one Brown Thrasher (probably along the lower elevation section near Route 26), two Bicknell's Thrush, two Mourning Warblers, and one Cape May Warbler among a total of 13 warbler species.

I made an extra effort to be in northern Coos at the end of spring on May 30-31, 2022 and it was worthwhile. Some of the landbirds were intriguing and included possible and even obvious late migrants. Specifically, I noted about eight Alder Flycatchers and one Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, both species are typically late spring migrants. Another late migrant flycatcher seemed to be absent/late, the Olive-sided Flycatcher, which I missed entirely. Maybe they had not arrived yet (see my migration Field Notes in the Summer 2021 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*). Furthermore, I found at least 12 Chimney Swifts in Berlin and, more significantly, 40+ swifts dropping into a *single* chimney in Gorham on the evening of May 30, clearly demonstrating that the species was still migrating.

This is just a snapshot of some of the fun birding moments I experienced in Coos County this Spring. Where did *you* bird and what did you learn? What new sites will you go to? As I write this, the summer season is ending and I am already plotting new efforts for the long fall migration which will be full of birds and weather events. I hope to see you in the field!

Spring 2022 Field Notes

Kathryn Frieden, Editor

Iceland Gull Escapes a Bald Eagle

by Kyle Wilmarth



On March 5, 2022, Kyle Wilmarth photographed this battle between “Rocky” the Iceland Gull and a Bald Eagle (unnamed). Happily, he was able to celebrate “Rocky’s” victory.

An early March-morning drive around town to my favorite local spots always yields entertaining sightings and this day was no different. As usual I checked my gull spots for “the” adult Iceland Gull that has overwintered in the area since at least the winter of 2012-13. After striking out at the Icenter on Route 38, I headed towards the area that is now called Tuscan Village (formerly Rockingham Park racetrack). This has historically been a favorite loafing spot for gulls, most notably “the” Iceland Gull that in the past I’ve dubbed “Rocky.”

When I drove into the parking lot, I noticed a large raptor and some sort of gull in flight...and as I paused for a moment and put the pieces together, this juvenile Bald Eagle was not happy and was fiercely going after a gull...it was the Iceland Gull! As I watched (in slight horror), the eagle got nearer and I found myself rooting for not just a gull, but a bird that I’ve been enjoying and photographing for the better part of a decade! It was a long two-plus minutes of bobbing, weaving, and close-calls, but eventually the eagle gave up and flew off to the north and the Iceland Gull lived to see another day in the wild parking lots of Salem.

American Oystercatcher Behavior

Photos by Jim Sparrell

These birds were photographed on Lunging Island at the Isles of Shoals during NH Audubon's Tri-State Pelagic field trip (see the Field Trip Report). The postures indicate courting behavior. More intense courtship involves the pair running side-by-side, with heads bobbing up and down, and calling. Lunging Island is the site of the first American Oystercatcher nest in New Hampshire in 2020.



The Three Trillers of Early Spring

by Chris McPherson

Posted to the NH Birds email list 3-30-22.



Chris McPherson took this photo of a Pine Warbler singing in his yard in Brookline, NH on 3-30-22.

There were brief moments over the last few days when I had both a Pine Warbler and a Dark-eyed Junco trilling in the yard, which means the third member of the trilling trio, the Chipping Sparrow, is not far off! Figuring out which triller is trilling is always a very welcome challenge and marks the start of spring and the bird-song season!

Ed. Note: Identifying the songs of these three species can certainly be a challenge. Chris put together an excellent short video of recordings of the trills paired with a photo of each bird. This is a great chance to compare and contrast the songs so that you can be more confident in your identifications next spring.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/127251358@N05/51970134743/in/dateposted/>

Black-throated Blue Warbler Visits a Feeder



On May 3, 2022, Dan Hubbard took this photo of a Black-throated Blue Warbler visiting his jelly feeder in Rochester. According to Dan, he "shared the grape jelly with three Baltimore Orioles and a couple of Gray Catbirds." It is unusual to see these warblers at feeders because they are insectivores; maybe he was having dessert?

Eastern Phoebe Reclaims Nest

Text and photos by Sallie Barker



The knitted bird decorates the Eastern Phoebe nest during the winter at the Barker's home in Springfield, NH.



The "real" birds decorating the nest in a past springtime with real Eastern Phoebe nestlings!

For the past five to six years, an Eastern Phoebe family has constructed, added onto, and forthrightly owned a nest of perfection right above our front door. In wintertime, I like to draw attention to this marvel of a nest, so I always put a brightly dressed, hand-knit little bird into the very visible nest. It makes quite a fun decoration! Usually, I remove the toy bird in April, but I forgot to do that this year. On April 12, we arrived home to find our cute little bird tossed onto the front step and there in its place sat...our defiant phoebe! According to my journal, it arrived five days later than last year. As much of an inconvenience as it will be to have this

family control our front door once again, we are delighted to see that the phoebes made it safely back to their home in Springfield, NH and they clearly will not tolerate *any* intruders!

Black Vulture Makes a Home Visit

by Andrew Cornell

Photos by Andrew Cornell, 5-27-22 in Wolfeboro, NH.



*What a surprise that this Black Vulture was the **bird** on the deck!*



The vulture has a green tag on both wings with the number 79A. After reporting this to the government site www.reportband.gov, Andrew received a certificate showing that the bird was tagged June 10, 2021, near Hershey, Pennsylvania and that it was more than a year old at the time. The encounter in Wolfeboro is the only one reported for this bird.

Friday, May 27, 2022 started off with a bit of a surprise at our house in Wolfeboro. As I was getting ready to start work, my ten-year-old daughter, Alyssa, came downstairs for breakfast and this is how the conversation went:

Alyssa: "Dad, there is a bird on the deck."

Me: "Yes, sweetie we have all kinds of birds around."

Alyssa: "Nooooo Dad, there is a bird on the deck!"

Me: "It's just a bird." (My back is still to the deck at this point.)

Alyssa: "Daaaaad, it's looking at me!!"

Me: "Ok, hold on." I get up and walk over to the deck and...

Me: "Ohhhh, that is a big bird!!"

We noticed the tags on the wings and used Google to find out what we should do. Our "little" friend, the Black Vulture, stayed around for about four hours or so. It moved from the deck down to the pool where it walked around the edge for a while. Finally, it just sat at the edge of the pool. Eventually, it made its way back up to the deck again and flew off a short while later.

Peregrine Falcon Using Osprey Nest

by Kathryn Frieden



Wendy Ward took this photo of a Peregrine Falcon on an Osprey nest at the Hinsdale Setbacks on 4-3-22.

The Hinsdale Setbacks is a true hot spot for birding and is known for many unusual sightings as well as exciting "common" birds. For years, there has been an Osprey nest platform on one of the two powerline towers (the east tower) in the middle of the setbacks and Osprey are seen here frequently. This year, there was a new occupant of the nest or at least an attempt at occupancy. Peregrine Falcons return to New Hampshire in early March and one was seen near the Osprey platform around March 11, 2022. On March 22, Wendy Ward reported both a male and female "hanging around" the east and west towers and saw the male attack an immature Bald Eagle that flew too close to the towers. Over the next week there were several sightings of the Peregrines around and even in the nest. Then, on April 3, Wendy saw the pair copulating, after which the female flew to the Osprey nest where she stayed for at least several hours while the male chased other birds away from the tower. Three days later, Hector Galbraith reported that on April 6, a pair of returning Ospreys displaced the pair, ending the unusual nesting adventure of the Peregrine Falcons.

Peregrine Falcons have strong site fidelity, returning year after year to the same nesting area. Their nests are usually just a "scrape" on a cliff. Chris Martin, who monitors Peregrines throughout New Hampshire, was quite surprised by their attempt at using the Osprey nest. He has heard of that situation only one other time on the east coast.

Thanks to Chris Martin for helping to gather the above information.

Aerial Show in Kensington

by George W. Gavutis, Jr.

On the last day of April (2022), I was out in the yard near Winkley Brook when I heard a rather unusual, but somewhat familiar, loud and chirpy bird call high overhead. For a second, I thought “Osprey,” but when I peered up through the tree canopy, I was amazed to see an adult Bald Eagle circling far above. Then I noticed a second adult doing the same, but higher up, and then, even more unbelievable, a third eagle! This one lacked the distinctive white head and tail of an adult and was probably an immature bird born last year. This was a scene I never expected to witness in Kensington, let alone my own backyard! I watched “the show” as the adults seemed to be trying to drive off the immature eagle. Then a Common Raven that was probably nesting nearby sounded the alarm and joined the fray. It tore after the adult eagles and on one pass was so close that it almost seemed to be riding on the back of the eagle while pecking at it. As if that wasn’t enough, the commotion got the attention of our “resident” pair of Red-tailed Hawks who also began pursuing the eagles. The “aerial show” continued for several hours, with the birds swooping back and forth, low over the ponds and often not more than 50 yards from us. Needless to say, I didn’t get much yard work done that morning!

Lapland Longspur in Breeding Plumage

The Lapland Longspur is a bird that breeds in the tundra of the high arctic regions. It can reliably be found at Hampton Beach State Park from late October until the end of March, but almost always in non-breeding plumage. Judd Nathan and Amy Maurer were able to enjoy its more striking breeding plumage when they photographed one there in early April. Contrast that with the appearance of the Lapland Longspurs we see during the winter, as photographed by Jeanne-Marie Maher.



Lapland Longspur in breeding plumage (below, left) by Judd Nathan, 4-3-22 and nonbreeding plumage (above) by Jeanne-Marie Maher, 3-8-22 at Hampton Beach State Park, NH.

Big Day in May

Overall Results

by Pamela Hunt

For the third year in a row, NH Audubon organized a spring birding event, this year renamed to “Big Day in May” (vs. the old “Birdathon/Bloomathon”) on May 14, 2022. The goal was to encourage birders of all experience levels to get outside and enjoy birds, whether in their yards, a local NH Audubon Sanctuary, town, or larger area. A secondary goal, one more attuned to the competitive side of birding, has been to see how many species we can collectively find within the state on a single day.

Saturday was very hot, with temperatures near or even above 90 degrees F across most of the state. Despite these conditions, at least eight people attempted a “classic” big day, meaning they actively tried finding as many species as possible within a 24-hour period. Many of these efforts started before dawn and ended near dusk, although a few more sensible participants quit by noon or took a siesta. Those who were in it for the long haul reaped the rewards, with top honors going to Steve and Jane Mirick for 137 species entirely within the borders of Rockingham County. I came in second with 123 in Cheshire County, a pretty respectable total considering the lack of an ocean! That said, I did manage to find eight species of shorebirds and an Arctic Tern, so it felt a little coastal now and then. A

final county-level callout goes to Dylan Jackson with 108 species in Sullivan County, although in his own words “I saw almost entirely *nothing* to brag about. Not really a single bird worth noting.” At least three other teams managed to find 100 species or more in multi-town efforts. There were also two reported town-level half-day attempts (by default within a single county!). Ken Klapper managed 101 species in Sandwich and Susan Wrisley found 91 in Hollis.



Susan Wrisley found this surprise Sora near the end of her exploration of Hollis on the May Big Day (5-14-22).

Of the 68 reporters, 37 stayed as local as you can and birded entirely in their yards. They find joy in their Baltimore Orioles or the heron fishing in their backyard pond. It's clear that backyard birders are a big part of this event when you see which species were found by the most participants. American Robin tops out the list in 61 out of 68 reports, with eight more species seen by 50 or more participants (Black-capped Chickadee came in a close second with 58).

A final fun subset of Big Day involved NH Audubon's own conservation biologists, who spread across the state in an attempt to collectively find as many species as they could. Carol Foss and Levi Burford explored the Errol area, Chris Martin was in Concord, Diane De Luca walked six miles through the Deering Sanctuary, Becky Suomala went from Concord to the coast and back, and I've already mentioned my own effort in Cheshire County. Together, we found 155 species, and now have a number to aim for in 2023! This applies to everyone actually; recall that a team of four birders found 170 species in a single day back in 1996, so surely a collective effort will eventually get us to 200!

You can see the full results including the list of 188 species and those species new to the master list (now up to 202 species!) here:

<https://www.nhaudubon.org/big-day-in-may-2022-results/>

Highlights from the Field

A number of birders posted their Big Day results to the NHBirds email list on either 5-14-22 or 5-15-22. Here are

some of their highlights from those posts.

Cheshire County – Pam Hunt

Pam's post to NHBirds about her daily adventure illustrates the many facets of a Big Day effort. We present her post in its entirety as a separate article following these highlights.

Rockingham County – Steve Mirick

Jane and I participated in the NH Audubon Big Day event today. We traveled around Rockingham County trying to find as many birds as possible by sight or sound.

We ended with 137 species which is pretty good. We did a good job at finding most of the “basic” birds, but failed to find much that was unusual or unexpected. We started at 2:15 am in Salem, but once again failed to find several key night birds, missing Eastern Whip-poor-will, and screech and Great Horned Owls (we could have slept in for two more hours!). Migrants were very scarce on the coast and we missed several warbler species and several flycatchers haven't returned yet. Worst of all was the nightmare of traffic and beach goers and the 90 degrees F heat. It was like the fourth of July weekend! What happened? Last weekend I was wearing a down jacket and wool hat! Today.....ugh. Heat shimmer, crowds, and south winds and chop made offshore viewing difficult, but of course, we had a great day. Lots of fun.

Highlights

- Lesser Scaup – Male and female continue at Exeter WTP.
- Sora – Salem at 2:15 am.
- Black Guillemot – Nice breeding plumage bird off Fort Stark in New Castle.
- Northern Gannet – 1 immature bird flying south. Nice find considering conditions.
- Grasshopper Sparrow – One singing off McIntyre Road at Pease Tradeport in Newington.

Misses

- Black Vulture – We were near where Kathryn & Roger Frieden saw one.
- Red-shouldered Hawk – Missed one that Ed Norton had fly over by a few minutes!
- Great Horned Owl – Kyle promised me one at his house in Salem, but no luck!
- Fish Crow – I hate it when crows don't make noise to tell you what they are!

Rockingham County – Paul Lacourse

A friend, Dan Shubert, and I participated in the May Big Day. We stayed in Rockingham County. The day started out as a Big Day but as the temperature rose, turned into a more leisurely stroll. The day began with a Barred Owl hooting away as I was loading the car at 5:00 am. We arrived at Deer

Hill WMA in Brentwood at 6:00 am and took a three hour walk through many of the trails of the refuge. Certainly not as many warblers present as the radar would have suggested but still a wonderful walk. We arrived at Pawtuckaway SP much later than planned, so things had already quieted down and we missed many of the expected birds. We totally scratched Hampton and Seabrook from the itinerary when confronted by the summer traffic jam and got on Rt. 1A in North Hampton so only did the northern part of the coast. We had a fun day though and ended up with 103 species, but how can one miss Downy Woodpecker? All in all a fun day, other than the coastal summer horde of beach goers.

Highlights

- Ruby – throated Hummingbird -three with one tearing tufts of nesting material from a plant at Deer Hill
- Roseate Tern – three perched on Seal Rocks with Common Terns. The light was such that you could see the pinkish wash on one of the terns. Stunning!!!
- Green Heron – one perched on a powerline on the edge of Rt.1A seemingly oblivious to all the traffic.
- Brown Creeper – two trying to out sing each other in Exeter.
- Warblers – only 12 species. Very disappointing!
- Save of the Day: A small Snapping Turtle (Carapace was probably 4 inches in length) crossing a road in Pawtuckaway. Herded to safety! Yay!!!



Upland Sandpiper 5-14-22 by Zeke Cornell, Portsmouth International Airport (Pease), NH.

Concord to the Coast – Becky Suomala

Zeke Cornell and I participated in NH Audubon's Big Day. We exchanged texts with other members of the Conservation Department Team so we could maximize our effort. That meant we didn't go for every bird we could, but concentrated on certain targets.

We started at Zeke's in Bow with a cacophony of singing birds, then headed to Deer Hill WMA in Brentwood. We hoped to find Deer Hill "dripping with migrants" as Paul Lacourse phrased it, but it was not. We had a great

collection of primarily resident birds and continued on. We arrived at the coast around 10:00 am and as Steve said, it was a zoo! Common Terns, Semipalmated Sandpipers, and Semipalmated Plovers were highlights. After the coast, it was on to Pease airport where we had a highlight close-up view from McIntyre Road of a calling Upland Sandpiper.

We ended the day back in Concord with some great luck in the evening at Concord Airport. We added Vesper Sparrow, Horned Lark, woodcock, and whip-poor-will. In between all that, I got a tip from Ken Munney about a Black-crowned Night-Heron at Horseshoe Pond, so I took a quick run over. I got there just in time to see it fly when fishermen flushed it.

Overall, lots of good regular residents, but few migrants or rarities. Big misses were Bank Swallow, raptors (Broad-winged, American Kestrel, any accipiter) and some of the other coastal species we might have had better luck with on a cooler day with fewer people. Our trip list is here:

<https://ebird.org/nh/tripreport/55498>



Yellow-throated Vireo, 5-14-22, by Rebecca Suomala, Newmarket, NH.

Dylan Jackson – Sullivan County

This may come as a shock to some, but for eBird's Global Big Day, I conducted a big day exclusively throughout Sullivan County. I did an eleven hour effort that started at 4:40 am in Springfield and took me through Sunapee, Newport, Claremont, Charlestown and Lempster. I let eBird do the counting for me until I was finally exhausted of birds too. I was delighted to see I finished the day with 108 (108.5 to be exact) species. This is my personal best *solo* big day I've ever had in the county. My best day was with Pam Hunt and company back in 2015 (116 species). The biggest takeaway here is that I saw almost entirely *nothing* to brag about – not

really a single bird worth noting, all run of the mill stuff, but a lot of them.

As far as any highlights go, Claremont's Lawrence's Warbler has returned for a third year in the exact same spot in Moody Park (this accounts for the 0.5 species of my 108.5 total). The biggest notes were what weren't seen. Waterbirds were very lacking. While I had 18 species of warbler, I didn't have a single species that doesn't breed locally. Raptors were shockingly absent despite the beautiful weather.

All in all, it was a very good day to be out birding even if I didn't come home with the best birds. There still is nothing better than birding in May. My trip report link is here:

<https://ebird.org/tripreport/55561>

Susan Wrisley – Hollis

I started my Hollis big day at 5:00 am, in my usual way, bleary eyed and groggy! My first stop was my own yard, where I deferred to a coyote who was birding the west side of our 7-acre plot, and I stuck to the east side. His search for roadrunners turned up nothing, so he lost interest and moved on. I found most yard regulars, including Louisiana Waterthrush and Barred Owl, but nothing unusual.

Next stop was Beaver Brook Great Meadow, where I added a lingering pair of Ring-necked Ducks. From there, I continued on to Beaver Brook Maple Hill. The day was really heating up by the time I left Maple Hill, so I opted for birding the high school from the comfort of my air-conditioned car as my next stop. This turned out to be the best stop of the day when I spotted a Least Sandpiper, three Lesser Yellowlegs and a Sora! Those last two are a first for me in Hollis!

I finished the day with 91 species and 22,000 steps! Notable misses were Bald Eagle, accipiters, Northern Waterthrush, Winter Wren, Field Sparrow, flycatchers, Spotted Sandpiper and Hooded Merganser.

Ken Klapper – Sandwich

Today I decided to bird various hotspots in the town of Sandwich in celebration of International Migratory Bird Day. There was lots of great activity today, the highlights being a Sora at the Meadow Brook wetland, Green Heron at Quimby Pond behind town hall, and an early Common Nighthawk flying over the Thompson Sanctuary. By noon, it was getting hot (upper 80s) and I was feeling pretty worn out (having been out since well before dawn), so I decided to be satisfied with this "Big Morning" list which broke my personal goal of 100 species, 101 actually.

Notable mammals today included a huge Black Bear walking across my back yard in the moonlight when I first woke up, a Moose just after dawn at the Thompson Wildlife Sanctuary parking area, and several beavers (Thompson/Meadow Brook).

Cheshire County Big Day

by Pam Hunt



Bald Eagle on a nest in Hinsdale, NH, photographed by Pam Hunt on her Cheshire County Big Day, 5-14-22.

Pam not only coordinated NH Audubon's Big Day in May, but took part in her own big day effort in Cheshire County on 5-14-22. Her account shows all that goes into having a successful big day, from planning and prior knowledge to serendipity and good luck. Taken from a post to NHBirds by Pam Hunt, 5-15-22. Note that FOY stands for first of year, a new spring arrival.

First of all, it was exciting and heartening to see so many folks opting for town or county level "big day" efforts. To this, I'm happy to add Cheshire County and hope that these sorts of local efforts become a fixture of NH Audubon's "Big Day in May" efforts in the future!

My day started in Keene with a singing robin outside my sister's house a little before 0400 and ended 18 hours later as I crossed into Antrim on Route 9. This is the story of what happened between those two events. A couple of days earlier, I'd set 120 as a reasonable goal for such an attempt.

My first serious birding involved three stops along the southeast edge of the Keene Airport along Route 32. Here, I heard Grasshopper Sparrow, woodcock, three Barred Owls, and a whip-poor-will (at the far side of the gravel pit south of the post office). A couple of other pre-dawn stops in Swanzey netted three more Barred Owls, a rising chorus of singing birds, and a surprise call from a Yellow-billed Cuckoo. At 0500 my total was up to 27 species and I was off to Airport Road. Here I spent almost two hours and found all the expected specialties of the area: Sora, Virginia Rail, American Bittern, and Eastern Meadowlark, as well as my FOY Willow Flycatcher and a handful of shorebirds. The latter were badly backlit by the rising sun, but I was able to pick out Spotted, Pectoral, and Least Sandpipers, and Lesser Yellowlegs, and decided that if time allowed I'd return here in the afternoon

with the sun behind me. Chimney Swift over the Swanzey Dunkin Donuts was species #69 and just after 0700 a Bobolink along Krif Road was #70.

From here, I headed south along Route 10 into Winchester, where the highlight was a Fish Crow in the village center. The only reason I found it was because I stopped to eBird my first pigeons of the day! As I was doing that, I also heard my first Belted Kingfisher and opted to listen a little longer. That's when the crow flew in and called. Heading east along Route 119 toward Hinsdale, I continued to add new species (Common Merganser, Eastern Towhee, and Yellow-rumped Warbler, the latter one of the few obvious migrants of the day since it was singing from a shrubby powerline cut!). As I pulled into the southern parking lot at the Hinsdale Setbacks, I was up to 81 species in the first four hours.

Heading south along the rail bed, I continued to add species (finally a White-breasted Nuthatch!), albeit slowly, and it patently became clear (if it hadn't already!) that there weren't many migrants (specifically a single Northern Parula). My FOY Eastern Wood-Pewee was nice though. As I approached the overlook at the bluffs, I caught up with a team of Cheshire birders (Wendy Ward, Donna Keller, and Phil Kirkhart) and stuck with them for the next 2.5 hours. New species continued to trickle in (but we couldn't relocate the Wilson's Warbler the locals had on their way out) and by 1100, I was up to 98 species. Among the noteworthy adds were a very skulky Brown Thrasher on the trail back from the bluffs and FOY Indigo Bunting along the causeway, but we failed to relocate the Orchard Oriole that Phil saw before he joined Wendy and Donna. This is as good a time as any to shift into the "crazy species I'm missing" aspect of a big day narrative, which this time included the following: Killdeer, Great Blue Heron, Broad-winged Hawk, any swallow besides Tree, and House Finch.



Arctic Tern by Pam Hunt, 5-14-22, Hinsdale, NH.

Then the universe changed (a tiny change, but a change nonetheless) when a text came through the locals' network that there was a tern perched on the logs at the southern end of the setbacks. Knowing of the recent Arctic Tern fallout to our south, we made haste back south (thankfully less than a mile and driveable) to look for the bird. And there it was, sitting on a log with two Ring-billed Gulls, looking a *lot* like an Arctic Tern: short legs, long tail, generally pale wings, and maybe a shorter bill/small head (it was pretty far away). In flight, which thankfully it did a few times, the wing and tail characters were even more obvious, and there was much rejoicing. The only downside was that this was "only" species #99, since I saw the tern only moments before a Northern Rough-winged Swallow called overhead. It doesn't really matter which species puts you at 100 on a big day, but it's always a little more fun when it's something exceptional.

At this point, I'd spent almost four hours at the setbacks and it was time to get on with the day, which involved a couple more stops in Hinsdale, the planned return to Airport Road, and heading north and uphill to close the day in cooler climes (it was closing in on 90 at this point, if it hadn't already gotten there). One of those extra stops in Hinsdale was back at the north end of the setbacks, where a final attempt for Orchard Oriole was successful, and the second stop netted me Killdeer at the old racetrack (plus two Grasshopper Sparrows). Next, I walked a bit of the trail at Mount Wantastiquet, just enough to add Red-eyed Vireo (FOY) and Blackburnian Warbler, and finally added the rare and elusive House Finch at a feeder on my way back to the main road (I only found two all day, but of course stopped looking after this one!). It was just after 1300 and my tally stood at 105. I detoured through Brattleboro to get back to Route 9, where I stopped at a wetland next to the Mobile station to look for herons or swallows. The latter were all Trees, but while watching them in the sky above me a more distant shape revealed itself to be a Broad-winged Hawk.

Airport Road the second time around was essentially a surgical strike – find the shorebirds and find ones I hadn't seen on my backlit morning visit. They were still far away and often hiding behind dirt clumps, but the diversity was impressive: 10 Least Sandpipers, 1 Pectoral Sandpiper, and 1 Solitary Sandpiper; 3 Greater and 4 Lesser Yellowlegs; and best of all, two Semipalmated Plovers. There was even a Great Blue Heron and I headed north with an even 110. It turns out 120 wasn't as much of a long shot as I'd originally suspected. Species #111 was a Barn Swallow along Route 123 at "Kroka Expeditions" in Marlow and a short walk on their trail system also added Dark-eyed Junco and Red-breasted Nuthatch (this is the point in a big day narrative where every new species is mentioned, it helps build the excitement!). It was also becoming apparent that there was a fair bit of

singing activity up in the hills. Species like Blue-headed Vireo and Yellow-rumped Warbler, which were scarce or absent in the lowlands, were heard at multiple locations for the next three hours, so the uphill afternoon strategy looked like it might pay off. Also paying off was my familiarity with a few random off-the-beaten-path locations in this part of Cheshire County, in part stemming from explorations conducted during the NH Dragonfly Survey in the early 2010s. A walk down Baine Road in Marlow almost seemed like it was morning with all the birdsong and I added Nashville, Black-throated Blue, and Canada Warblers on my way in, bringing me to #116, and a bonus Winter Wren on the way back out was #117. With all my original misses now covered, the new list focused on White-throated Sparrow (now largely cleared out of the lowlands), Brown Creeper (easy to miss if you're not in forest all the time), and Northern Waterthrush (which is why I tried Baine Road in the first place).

Heading east into Stoddard, a hungry swarm of blackflies cut short my birding at Cold Spring Pond, but not before Common Loon became species #118. With insect repellent newly applied, I climbed Pitcher Mountain for a presumed easy White-throated Sparrow. There were four towhees at the summit, scattered warblers, and a couple of juncos, but no "Old Sam Peabody," so I opted a side trip along the gated road to the west of the parking lot. I was thinking the tall spruces here might be attractive to Golden-crowned Kinglets (they were: #119) and, as a bonus, a White-throated (*120!*) sang a couple of times on my way out. In another quest for waterthrush, I drove out and in along Stoddard Mountain Road, which netted me a Brown Creeper (#121) and with just over an hour of light left I headed to Robb Reservoir.

I wasn't expecting much on the reservoir proper (but a Hooded Merganser would've been a fun find) and instead focused my efforts along the old Keene-Concord Road that heads east from it. The road goes through some nice mixed forest and abuts extensive wetlands and was literally my last chance for Northern Waterthrush. I kept doing the "I'll turn around at the next bend" game and eventually got to a small clearing where I heard the totally unexpected clucking of a Ruffed Grouse (#122). I'd done it – found over 120 species in Cheshire County in one day – and headed back to my car. At 1935, a Northern Waterthrush sang and kept singing, #123!

In contrast to most such efforts, I didn't really have any crazy misses, the worst being Bank Swallow. I forgot to set my trip odometer at 0400, so don't know how far I drove, but if you add up all my eBird walking miles I covered 12 miles on foot.

A Northern Lapwing in New Hampshire

by Stephen R. Mirick



Northern Lapwing by Jim Sparrell, 3-7-22, Great Bay Farm, Greenland, NH.

Steve Mirick discovered a Northern Lapwing on March 7, 2022 at Great Bay Farm in Greenland, NH. This was the first sighting of this species that multiple birders had a chance to look for and he got the word out quickly. There had been sightings of a lapwing during January in New Jersey and in Maryland a bird had been present from January into March, a fact that Steve had tracked. After he discovered the lapwing at Great Bay Farm, he posted the following to NHBirds providing information about the species in New Hampshire.

- Ed.

NHBirds email post, 3-7-2022, by Steve Mirick.

Northern Lapwings are a very rare European vagrant. Sightings in the eastern United States, however, have increased over the last 20 years and the winter of 2012-2013 was a big event for this species in eastern United States. This winter [Winter of 2021-22], there were at least two or three sightings of lapwings that made it past us down to New Jersey, Virginia and Maryland. With the recent sightings to our south, Jane and I have been on the lookout for lapwings as they are a very early migrant in the spring.

Northern Lapwings have a "checkered" past in the State of New Hampshire. This is the second well documented record for New Hampshire and the first "chaseable" bird. Their complete (I think) history is as follows.

1988 – A Northern Lapwing was seen by Dr. Bill Baker in a grassy yard off West Road in Rye late in the afternoon of 3-2-88. The bird disappeared the next day, but a sketch and great details were provided by Dr. Baker which left little doubt. The record was accepted as the first "hypothetical" record for the State due to the

lack of photograph or multiple observers.

2012 – A Northern Lapwing was seen by Andy Aldrich and Ken Janes on 11-3-12 over turf farms in Berwick, ME just east of the Salmon Falls River and a short distance from the New Hampshire State line. There was no doubt that it was a lapwing, but there was question as to whether the bird crossed into New Hampshire airspace! Andy thought it may have crossed over when it flew up, but I don't know that it was accepted for New Hampshire [It was not accepted by the New Hampshire Rare Birds Committee because it wasn't clear the bird was seen in New Hampshire.].

2013 – A Northern Lapwing was photographed on Upper City Road in Loudon, NH by a “non-birder”. The photograph was brought to [Post Master] George Robbins....the next day (argh!!) and George identified it as a lapwing. Birders were out at dawn the next day, but the bird was never seen again. This became the first “documented” State record for New Hampshire.

And finally:

1999 – On 12-18-99, I was walking the fields off Squamscott Road in Stratham at sunset with Michael Frandzel and Judith Silver on the Coastal Christmas Bird Count. I had walked off on my own and looked up to see a strange bird that flew right at me heading south. The lighting glowed on this strange looking bird and I was flabbergasted not to identify it and too overwhelmed to take good notes. I had no idea what I was looking at!!! It wasn't until it passed over my head and was heading away that I saw the rounded wings and it (finally) dawned on me that it must be a lapwing. I ran across the farm fields screaming at Michael and Judith at the top of my lungs to “Follow that bird!!!!” Sadly, the bird disappeared in the distant glow of sunset and the bird was never seen again. I never submitted that record.

So, it was very exciting that I was rewarded with finding the bird today!!! Yay!!!!

The lapwing stayed for three days and was last seen on March 9, 2022 before a front came through bringing snow the next day. There are 138 reports of the bird in eBird! – Editor's note

“Glockenspiel,” the Glaucous Gull

by Rebecca Suomala



“Glockenspiel” sitting on its typical perch on the Seabrook restrooms by Hampton Harbor, 4-4-21, the day before it was last seen. Photo by Steve Mirick.

For many winters, New Hampshire birders have been lucky to have a regular Glaucous Gull in Hampton Harbor. Steve and Jane Mirick christened it “Glockenspiel” and it has been returning each winter to the top of the Seabrook restrooms on Route 1A at Hampton Harbor. Before its arrival, a Glaucous Gull was not a given for one's year list, but “Glockenspiel” made it easy – until now.

Steve first reported the bird on November 23, 2008 as a second/third winter bird and it stayed throughout the winter of 2008-09. It returned as a sub-adult (near adult plumage) in the winter of 2009-10 and then as an adult bird on January 22, 2011. It has returned every winter after that until this winter (2021-22). Table 1 shows its arrival and return dates.

Although it wasn't banded, its habit of perching on the Seabrook restrooms by Hampton Harbor and foraging in this area made it very identifiable. New Hampshire hosts few adult Glaucous Gulls making it even more recognizable. Its habits were regular enough that the Twitchers team of the Superbowl of Birding was able to plan a strategy for spotting it from the town of Hampton when the tide was right for it to be on the roof of the restrooms.

It was last seen on April 5, 2021 in the company of a young Glaucous Gull. The previous day, Steve Mirick reported both birds sitting together on a light pole near the Yankee Fisherman's Coop. The immature continued to be seen until May 19, 2021. On November 27, 2021, an

immature was back in the same area and present through March 10, 2022, but there was no sign of “Glockenspiel.” Can we hope that this immature might be a “Glockenspiel, Jr.” who will delight birders for more years to come?

Glaucous Gulls take four years to acquire adult plumage. Given the plumages reported, “Glockenspiel” likely hatched in 2007. That means it was 14 years old when it was last seen. The oldest banded Glaucous Gull ever recorded was 22 years old (Weiser and Gilchrist. 2020).

All sighting data was from eBird and I appreciate those who made notes on their sightings over the years indicating age and plumage of various Glaucous Gulls. A special thank you to Steve Mirick for his many reports of this bird and his Field Note in the Winter 2015-16 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records* (Vol. 34, #4, p. 24).

Table 1: Data from eBird. The arrival and departure dates of “Glockenspiel,” the Glaucous Gull that returned annually to Hampton Harbor from the winter of 2008-09 through the winter of 2020-21. The dates in parentheses represent possible earlier or later dates but the report had no notes or photos to indicate age or other identifying information.

Arrival	Departure
11-23-2008	4-11-2009 (5-5)
11-28-2009	4-7-2010 (4-11)
01-22-2011	04-21-11
11-27-2011	4-15-2012 (4-19)
12-23-2012 (12-15)	03-23-13
12-22-2013 (12-15)	03-29-14
12-13-2014	3-31-2015 (4-1)
11-19-2015	03-27-16
12-24-2016 (12-21)	04-02-17
12-01-2017	03-31-18
11-30-2018	03-20-19
01-01-2020	03-16-20
12-18-2020	04-05-21

References

eBird. 2021. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance [web application]. eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York. Available: <http://www.ebird.org>. (Accessed: June 30, 2022).

Weiser, E. and H. Gilchrist. 2020. Glaucous Gull (*Larus hyperboreus*), version 1.0. In *Birds of the World* (S. Billerman, ed.). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.glagul.01>



A young Glaucous Gull believed to be “Glockenspiel” on 1-6-09 at what would become its usual hangout by the restrooms in Seabrook, NH. Photo by Jon Woolf.



“Glockenspiel” on the last day it was seen, 4-5-21 in Hampton Harbor, NH. Photo by Lori Charron.



The immature Glaucous Gull that was seen perched with “Glockenspiel” on 4-4-21. Photo by Steve Mirick from Yankee Fisherman’s Cooperative, Seabrook, NH.

Late April Snow Concentrates Migrants

Text and photos by Robert A. Quinn

Several inches of fresh snow and howling winds greeted spring birds in northern Coos County on April 28, 2022. These harsh conditions forced landbird migrants to seek food and shelter in limited spots, which in turn provided enjoyment for this birder in searching for those spots and watching the birds close-up as they busily tried to survive.

An indication of what was to be was a pair of Common Mergansers on the rivulet that enters Third Connecticut Lake in Pittsburg the day before (April 27). They were in a tiny bit of open water at the boat launch on the otherwise frozen lake. Their migratory imperative (i.e., hormones responding to increasing day length) was urging them northward, even against the fury brought by the weather gods.



The west side of Dixville Notch in the snow, 4-28-22.

The morning of April 28 in Colebrook dawned cold and cloudy with a fresh coating of snow. My thought to check for birds in Stewartstown seemed like folly on this wintry morn. Maybe Errol would be better? I headed east, uphill on Route 26. As the road rose so did the snow tally. About four inches painted Dixville Notch into a Currier and Ives mid-winter scene, brilliant and beautiful, but bird free.

I drove over the abrupt hump of the height-of-land and down to the relative lowlands and slightly warmer temperatures of Errol, but the ground was still snow covered and the wind was still howling. I pulled into the snowmobile parking area near the Signal Mountain Road in Millsfield. A modest flock of small birds caught my eye. About 30 Dark-eyed Juncos foraged on the ground in the only snow-free patch. I drove closer and turned the engine off. Over the next 30-40 minutes, about a dozen species came to hunt for morsels in this tiny area. Song and White-throated Sparrows joined the juncos, as did several Black-capped Chickadees. Then a (Yellow) Palm Warbler brightened up the scene as well as a couple of American Robins. Next to join the flurry

was a surprise Eastern Phoebe, which was oblivious to my presence while it tried to feed on the sodden ground. Along came a Golden-crowned Kinglet, then two Hermit Thrushes. Then...it was time to move on.

In Errol, most of the snow was melting, but the wind kept the landbirds in a few sheltered areas. As I drove along, I thought "there should be Wilson's Snipe in these snow-melt puddles" and sure enough, I spotted one near the Buffalo Farm. My next stop was Aker's Pond where I hoped for a storm downed waterbird or two. Instead, I found another pocket of small landbirds staying out of the wind in the tiny patch of cattails just below the dam. It was fun to see dozens of Yellow-rumped Warblers in their bright spring colors along with a band of Palm Warblers and three, count 'em *three*, Pine Warblers working the cattails. Pine Warblers have moved north only in the last 20 years or so and are still uncommon in Errol. Various sparrows (including one Savannah), juncos and goldfinches passed through too. For waterbirds, a female Greater Scaup consorting with a pair of Ring-necked Ducks was a pleasant grouping.



A male Yellow-rumped Warbler foraging on the ground in Errol during the snowy weather, 4-28-22.

A nearby stand of tall evergreen trees created a windbreak next to a small patch of open grass which attracted a different suite of huddling migrants. This flock included more robins, several Northern Flickers, a phoebe or two, and a small flock of Chipping Sparrows.

My next stop was the pool below the Errol Dam and the best sighting of the morning, Lori and Paul Charron, who graciously shared the drake Barrow's Goldeneye with its entourage of Common Goldeneyes. Finally, I headed south with a short side trip to Airport Marsh in Whitefield which turned up a female Long-tailed Duck (unusual for the site). Early spring flowers at home made the snowy Coos County scenes seem like a dream.

This fun experience for me was a fleeting view into just one ordeal that migrant landbirds have to overcome during their compelling journeys to their breeding grounds.

Field Trip Report

NH Audubon “Tri-State Pelagic” to Jeffreys Ledge

by Stephen R. Mirick

This is an edited post to NHBirds by Steve Mirick, 5-31-22.



Northern Fulmar by Ken Faucher on the NH Audubon pelagic trip, 5-30-22.

NH Audubon sponsored an all day pelagic trip on May 30, 2022 aboard the “Granite State” out of Rye Harbor, NH. We started with a tour of the Isles of Shoals where we saw the wonderful tern colony on White and Seavey Islands and the cormorant rookery on Lunging Island. We were also able to get nice views of American Oystercatchers which are now nesting regularly on the islands. We also saw an incredible number of Black Guillemots on the water between Appledore and Smuttynose Islands. After this, we cruised offshore toward Old Scantum and New Scantum (ledges) and Jeffreys Ledge working slowly south into Massachusetts waters. After getting offshore, we encountered some huge flocks of Wilson’s Storm-Petrels, which continued as we turned to the north and traversed Jeffreys Ledge from south to north. We continued north into Maine waters before turning west and cutting across Jeffreys Basin and heading home.



There were large flocks of Wilson’s Storm-Petrels on the NH Audubon pelagic trip, 5-30-22. Photo by Zeke Cornell.



One of the many Black Guillemots on the NH Audubon pelagic trip, 5-30-22. Photo by Zeke Cornell.

It was mostly sunny with some afternoon clouds, but excellent visibility. There were light southerly winds and seas about 1-3 feet. Aside from the huge numbers of storm-petrels, bird activity was fairly slow offshore, but we had a few nice sightings and some fantastic whale experiences and enjoyed a great day on the ocean!

Here are some of the highlights.

- American Oystercatcher – five, including two sitting on the rocks together at Lunging Island and three more seen flying toward coastline.
- Red-necked Phalarope – 16. Nice views in breeding plumage in a few very small groups.
- Black Guillemot – 50! An exceptionally high count. Almost all were in “The Gut” between Appledore and Smuttynose Islands.
- Wilson’s Storm-Petrel – 3,522! An incredibly high count. I was on a boat covering this same general region five days earlier and had a **total** of only 31 Wilson’s Storm-Petrels. Reports from the previous two days also indicated a large number of birds in this same area, so there appears to have been a massive arrival of birds sometime between May 26 and May 28. Almost all of the birds were concentrated along Old and New Scantum and northward along much of Jeffreys Ledge. There were far fewer inside of the ledge. So far this has been an interesting year for Wilson’s Storm-Petrels with a record early arrival offshore on May 1 (easily beating the previous record early date of 5-17 for NH, 2017, Z. Cornell) when 40 were seen on Jeffreys Ledge (McKillop, et al.). The count on the Tri-State Pelagic trip appears to set a new high count for New Hampshire waters with 2,237 beating the previous high of 2,000 on 6-8-80 (T. Richards, RA. Quinn per *The Birds of New Hampshire*).
- Northern Fulmar – one light morph giving nice looks on the water.

- Humpback Whale – seven including “Owl” who is now 36 years old and has survived two ship strikes over the years. She returned this year with her first calf in five years and has been seen every year by Captain Pete during his many years of conducting whalewatches offshore in Rye. We also saw the whale named “Palmer-Crary” whose odd name comes from the undertail pattern which resembles the sea-bottom ship wreck pattern of two coal schooners that collided and sank locked together on Stellwagen Bank in 1902!

<https://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/explorations/03portland/background/palmercrary/palmercrary.html>

Here is a map of our route: <https://flic.kr/p/2noUe68>

Here is the eBird Trip Report of all species seen from the boat including in Rye Harbor:

<https://ebird.org/nh/tripreport/60434>

Thanks to Jon Woolf for organizing this trip through Massabesic Audubon, to Captain Pete Reynolds, and to whale biologist Jonathan and crew for helping to spot whales and birds! Thanks to Becky Suomala and Zeke Cornell for doing their best to estimate numbers for the day and maintain eBird checklists.

Deer Hill Wildlife Management Area

by Scott Heron

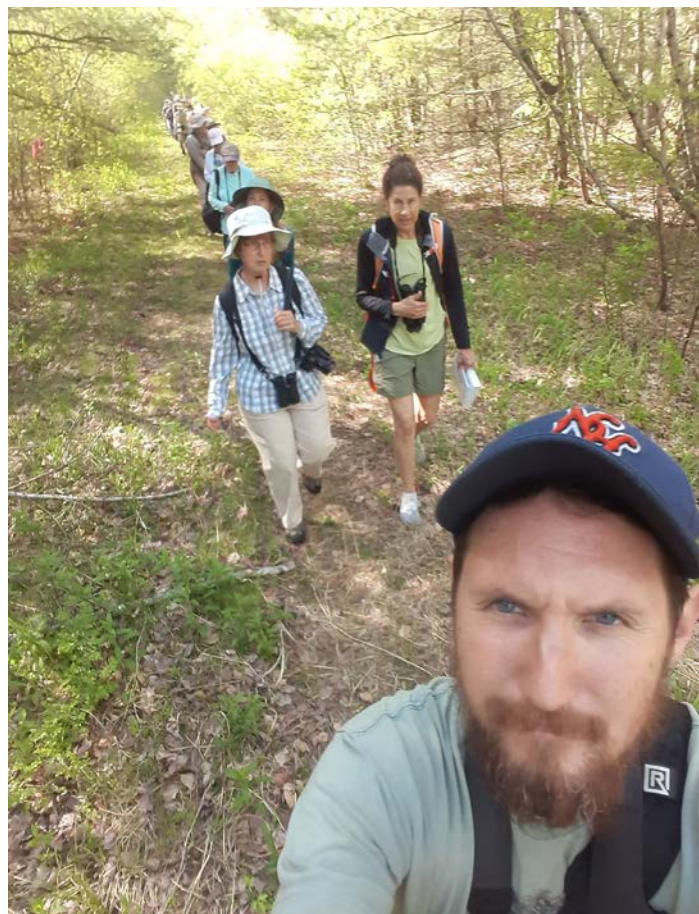
On May 14, 2022, 25 enthusiastic birders joined me as I led a trip through Brentwood’s Deer Hill Wildlife Management Area (WMA) as part of New Hampshire Audubon Seacoast Chapter’s annual spring field trip series. I chose this particular weekend with the intention of catching a date as close to spring migration’s peak as possible. Wishful thinking, of course, as you never know when that big wave of migrants will hit. We seem to have been just a couple of days early because on May 16, I found myself at Odiorne Point State Park in Rye picking through hundreds of warblers and other migrants. Oh well.

For those unfamiliar with the site, Deer Hill WMA (formerly known by the less-whimsical Brentwood Mitigation Area) is a former gravel pit acquired by the state’s Department of Transportation in the 1990s and subsequently transformed into wetlands to offset the impacts of the construction of Route 101. Since 2006, the property has been managed by New Hampshire Fish and Game and has been designated an Important Bird Area by NH Audubon, and boy is it! The area hosts perhaps the largest breeding population of Pied-billed Grebes in the state and at the time of writing this report, 187 species have been recorded here. So, being in the right place, I hoped that we were there at the right time.

We started our morning at 7:00 am at the Pine Street gate in Brentwood. Weather conditions were pretty ideal as the day started off in the mid-60s with no wind, perfect for detecting any movement in the freshly-leaved trees. I had diligently scouted one hour prior to the beginning of the trip, kind of in the same way that a high school student studies for an exam 10 minutes before taking it. In my one hour of scouting, I quickly learned that today would not be the “big day” I was hoping for, but despite this, I aimed to scrape up whatever birds there were to be seen.

Before I could even finish my introductory spiel to the group, our first bird of the day was serenading us (in its own way), a Green Heron. The bird gave the whole group excellent looks at close range as it perched in the near corner of the first of several ponds. In that same pond, a Hooded Merganser was swimming, then dove and ultimately disappeared under water. An Eastern Kingbird, Yellow Warblers, and both Common Grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds soon made the list. A singing Warbling Vireo set the tone for the outing, a very vocal bird hidden in the leaves above.

Coming to the first junction, we scanned the trees in the clearing and came up with our first Baltimore Oriole and Rose-breasted Grosbeak in short succession. We continued towards the second pond, primarily in the hopes of seeing, or



Trail of birders behind leader Scott Heron who took this during his field trip on 5-14-22, at Deer Hill WMA in Brentwood, NH.

at least hearing, a Pied-billed Grebe. They seem to reside in nearly every pond on the property. After scanning the pond, we came up empty for Pied-billed Grebe, but we did manage to add Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Belted Kingfisher, and Mallard.

We doubled-backed to the first junction, but this time turned to head north eventually coming to the second junction. This can be a great spot to stop and watch birds foraging in the trees along the trail. It didn't disappoint as we came upon our first Scarlet Tanager singing atop a large oak. They can be remarkably hard to spot despite being a loud bird in both song and color, but we eventually laid eyes on the subject. It was also here that we had great looks at dueling Black-and-white Warblers in addition to recording Wood Thrush, Veery, Ovenbird, Song Sparrows, and several Common Yellowthroats.

From the same junction, we took a brief jaunt down the northbound trail. A very vocal Magnolia Warbler teased us right alongside the trail, singing but offering no immediate glimpses. We finally made eye contact with the bird affording great, eye-level looks at this vibrant warbler. A nearby Wood Thrush threatened us with similar glimpses but ultimately made sure to stay out of view. An Eastern Towhee worked the edges of the trail and Gray Catbirds were common, but both species kept a low profile in similar fashion.

Heading back towards the junction and onward toward what could be considered the property's gem, the beaver pond, we picked up more birds and slowly added to our warbler list. American Redstarts and Pine Warblers were singing. A pair of Wood Ducks were visible in a marshy pond along the trail before they caught wind of us and lifted off in protest. At the beaver pond, two Great Blue Herons were tending to their respective nests in the distance. Nearby, in the corner of the southwest pond, a Blue-winged Warbler was singing. While attempting to get a visual for the group, the bird, of course, went silent and disappeared. In the hopes of recovering from that minor failure, I led the group as close to that pond as possible. Voila, a Pied-billed Grebe! The group eventually got good looks after filing down the narrow path to the water's edge one-by-one.

As the temperature climbed and the sweat began to drip, I polled the group, call it a day or continue on? Surprisingly, the consensus was the latter, so we soldiered on toward the northwest pond. A Blackburnian Warbler was reported along this route not long before and while we didn't have luck with that species, we did tick off a few more warblers including Northern Parula, Black-throated Green, Yellow-rumped, and another (frustratingly invisible) Blue-winged Warbler. The last bird of the day, in keeping with the day's theme of invisibility, was a boisterous Orchard Oriole directly over the trail.

With these last additions to the overall variety, we headed

back to the trailhead and to the promise of shade from the blazing sun. We ended our trip with 54 species and logged 2.38 miles in 3 hours and 24 minutes. While it wasn't the most productive trip, fun was had and birds were seen. Until next May!

Warbler Wednesdays

by Blake Allison



Boston Lot Lake by Blake Allison, 5-25-22, Lebanon, NH.

For nearly two decades, the Mascoma Chapter of New Hampshire Audubon has been hosting weekly birding walks during the month of May at Lebanon's Boston Lot Lake.

Tucked away up in the woods, Boston Lot Lake is an easily overlooked gem among Upper Valley recreation areas. It was created in the mid twentieth century when a dam was built to impound water that supplied West Lebanon. Its 45 acres is surrounded by 400 acres of woodland comprised of mixed hardwood-coniferous "climax forest." These woods host abundant wildlife and a wide variety of wildflowers. The forest is accessed via a 7.5 mile trail network that accommodates both foot and mountain bike traffic.

As enticing as those resources might be, Boston Lot Lake's principal point of interest for the Mascoma Chapter is its diverse bird population. Nearly 140 species have been recorded on the property according to eBird records. The list includes waterfowl, raptors, wood warblers, members of the flycatcher family, thrushes, finches and even the occasional shorebird thanks to the lake's presence. A complete eBird count list can be viewed by following this link:

<https://ebird.org/nh/hotspot/L579310?yr=all&m=>

Not surprisingly, spring migration provides the most bird activity and warblers are the main attraction. Twenty different warbler species have been recorded at Boston Lot Lake. This includes, among others, expected species such as Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Green and Black-and-white

Warblers, but there also have been sightings of relatively rare visitors such as Bay-breasted, Wilson's and Canada Warblers.

Members of the flycatcher family also are abundant in the spring. Seven of the nine species possible to record in the area have been viewed at the lake, a clear highlight being Yellow-bellied flycatcher.

The recently ended 2022 season was typical of previous "Warbler Wednesday" outings with a tally of 59, including a dozen different members of the warbler family; however, the clear highlight was the resumption of in person, open to the public walks. The May 4 "Warbler Wednesday" was cancelled due to inclement weather, but as if to attest to the pent-up demand among the birding community to get out with other birders, the May 11 outing drew twenty participants!

"Warbler Wednesdays" take place beginning at 7:00 am every Wednesday, weather permitting, during the month of May. Check the Mascoma Chapter's website early next March for particulars of the 2023 season. www.mascomabirds.org

To visit: Boston Lot Lake is most easily reached from the parking area opposite Wilder Dam on Route 10. Follow the access road a half mile uphill to the lake. The road is unpaved and can be uneven in sections. Sturdy footwear is recommended. The event is free and open to the public. Birders of all experience levels are welcome.

Points of Interest: Starting in the parking area, make sure to scan the Connecticut River for migrating waterfowl, Osprey and Bald Eagles. About 150 yards uphill from the lot is a powerline corridor that hosts a variety of species including warblers, Gray Catbirds and Song Sparrows among others. As you ascend from the corridor, monitor the stream on your right for the call of a Louisiana Waterthrush. Just before you arrive at the top of the hill and the lake, there is a meadow area off to the left. It's a productive spot for warblers, Baltimore Orioles, vireos and woodpeckers.

Blake Allison is the Steering Committee Chair of the Mascoma Chapter of NH Audubon.

Easter Birds and Cans

by Kurk Dorsey

Originally posted to the NHBirds email list, 4-17-22. According to Kurk, he "started picking up trash on Easter a few years back and when the town announced that it benefited from recycling cans, I started picking them up during the pandemic if they were easily gotten while walking the dogs or stopping at a birding site. So this Easter, I decided to make an effort to get a bunch."

I set out this morning to see if I could find 50 species and 25 recyclable cans in Durham before noon. The bird target

was easy, but the can target eluded me, at least cans that I could actually pick up.

I started with a neighborhood walk with the two dogs, which yielded a singing Brown Thrasher, only the fourth record for the Woodridge neighborhood loop (first one was 4-17-19 oddly), but no cans at the park (what's wrong with kids today?).

After a traditional Easter breakfast of peanut butter toast (someone forgot to buy Reese's eggs...), I headed out to Oyster River Forest. Last time I was there, two weeks ago, I walked three-quarters of a mile before I even heard a bird, but today was much birdier. The highlight there was my FOY Palm Warbler, but also a Belted Kingfisher working the river. There was also an Easter Beaver, who seems intent on rebuilding the dam that washed out a couple years back, just as soon as he gets a permit. I would like to thank the kind litterbug who bagged up a few bottles/cans and left them at the parking lot, very considerate!

Surrey Lane marsh had a Pied-billed Grebe, a Swamp Sparrow, and a few Green-winged Teal, but the highlight was a young eagle that swooped down and caught a fish. I hope that as it grows, it will learn to steal from Ospreys, much less work.

The Bennet Road Fish and Game Department property had my only Common Raven, Eastern Towhee, and Golden-crowned Kinglet and a shocking absence of cans. As 10:00 am was closing in, I was over 40 species but way short of my can target. I headed to Dame Road, which has always been a great place to throw beer cans and traffic is slow enough that one can stop to pick them up without being run over at least half of the time. But some do-gooder had gotten there before me! Not a can in sight!

Adams Point was very productive, but again the can-throwing scofflaws had cleaned up their act. My rarest bird of the day was a Red-throated Loon out on the bay, along with a couple of Greater Scaup and my only Yellow-rumped Warbler of the day. I did find one crushed Twisted Tea can on the trail, which would come back to haunt me.

The wetland at Horsehide Brook on Durham Point Road was swarming with swallows, at least 100 Tree Swallow and at least one Barn and one rough-winged. Also, I had my only Ring-necked and Wood Ducks there.

A couple of quick stops on the river didn't turn up much, so I headed for Moore Fields. I somehow missed Killdeer with the strong winds, but I found quite a few beer cans along the apartment building retaining wall, so it was a win for the overall goal.

So, I got home with 65 species of birds, 15 cans and a swarm of really tiny ants from the can at Adams Point. Fortunately, I was able to get them out with the floor mat, which they were vigorously colonizing, and since they were

everywhere I just strewed the cans around the driveway to make sure that the ants could have space to move into our house. The epilogue was that the Amazon driver came by before I picked up the cans, so it looked like I had had quite the non-traditional Easter celebration, which I suppose I had (and so did the ants).

Satellite Tracking of Fifteen NH Ospreys

by Iain MacLeod



Osprey by Debra Powers.

Between 2011 and 2015, fifteen Ospreys were fitted with lightweight GPS transmitters (known as PTTs) at nests in New Hampshire, six adult males and nine juveniles (Table 1, Figure 1). All the birds were tagged as part of a project sponsored by the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center. I spearheaded the project and worked in partnership with Dr. Rob Bierregaard, who has deployed similar PTTs on more than a hundred Ospreys during his career. Here are the stories of each of the birds we tagged.

2011

Saco was a chick we tagged at a nest in New Hampton on July 12, 2011. She made her first flight on July 23. She started her south-bound migration on August 20. She made a meandering migration along the eastern seaboard and then headed inland to a dam in West Virginia where she hung out from August 31 until October 5. As we soon learned, this is quite typical behavior of youngsters. They often find a “staging” area where there are lots of fish and where they perfect their hunting techniques before making the “real” push towards their winter home. Once she got going again, she made quick progress through Florida and reached Cuba by October 13. She lingered in Cuba for a while and then finally made it to Haiti on October 25. On October 26, she

Figure 1. Fall and Spring Migration Tracks of 15 Ospreys Satellite-tagged in New Hampshire, 2011-2016.



attempted a crossing of the Caribbean and was swept off course and out into the middle of the ocean. After more than 30 hours of flying and 600 miles, she ditched in the sea and perished 300 miles from the nearest land. We were to find out several times that the crossing of the Caribbean in the fall is a very perilous journey for all Ospreys.

2012

In 2012, we tagged three Ospreys, a breeding male at a nest in Bridgewater (**Art**) and two youngsters from a nest in Tilton (**Jill** and **Chip**). **Art** was tagged on May 29 and we were able to follow him for the rest of the breeding season as he foraged and raised three young at his nest. We learned a lot about his territory and all his favorite fishing haunts. He started his migration on September 11 and demonstrated the major difference between adults and juveniles – experience. He made a drama-free southbound migration down through Florida, through Cuba, across to Haiti, across the Caribbean effortlessly, and landed in Venezuela. He then forged south and east ending up on a quiet stretch of the Rio Araguaia in eastern Brazil, south of the Amazon River and almost 5,000 miles from his nest. He arrived there on October 23. **Art** displayed what we came to recognize as typical adult behavior, moving very little from “his” spot on the river. Typically, once an Osprey finds a good wintering spot, they are very faithful to that site and return year after year. They have a summer home and a winter home that they return to throughout their lives.

Art began his northbound spring migration on March 21. He headed back to the coast of Venezuela, crossed the

Caribbean, landed in Haiti on March 28, and arrived back at his nest in Bridgewater on April 10, where his regular mate (we banded her in 2011) was patiently waiting for him, as was I . . . and a camera crew from WMUR. He put on quite a show as he sky danced overhead and dropped to the nest to join the female. Within a couple of minutes, he mated with her and went off to get her a fish . . . back to the regular routine after a six month separation. They reared three young that summer. We followed Art for the rest of the summer of 2013 and then re-trapped him and removed the transmitter in August. Art has continued to breed at this same nest with the same mate ever since (he no longer carries a transmitter, but he does carry a leg band on his left leg which makes him easy to recognize each spring). I have no doubt that he has wintered in that same spot on the Rio Araguaia each winter since then.

The two juveniles that we tagged in 2012 did not fare as well. **Chip** left his natal nest in Tilton on August 21 and headed for coastal Rhode Island where he loitered until October 9 (classic juvenile staging). On that date, he headed out over the ocean and after a long day of continuous flying, he landed on a ship. Unfortunately, the ship was heading east towards Europe and Chip went along for the ride. After multiple days at sea and rides on at least three different ships, he perished closer to Europe than South America. He almost made it to the Azores.

His sister **Jill** started off doing so well. She left the nest for the last time on September 10 and made a very rapid southbound trip through Florida, then made the crossing of the Caribbean look like a piece of cake. Her last signal came from a very remote part of the Venezuelan rainforest on October 4. We assume she perished.

2013

In 2013, we tagged five Ospreys, two adult males and three juveniles. **Donovan** was an adult breeding male at the Tilton nest and was Jill's and Chip's father. We caught and tagged him on May 13. Like Art before, we were able to see all his favorite fishing spots in his territory as he and his mate raised three chicks.

He started his southbound migration on September 17. He followed the usual route through Cuba, but surprised us by heading all the way to the Virgin Islands. On October 8, he headed over to St. Croix and then made an attempt to cross the Caribbean. He got into some bad weather and had the common sense to turn around and head back to Puerto Rico. He hung out there and finally made a second, successful crossing on October 17. He then quickly headed to his winter home close to the Orinoco River in Venezuela. As is typical for an adult, he moved very little throughout the winter. He headed north on March 10, 2014 and reached his nest on

April 4 where he bred again and raised two more chicks.

He headed south again on September 18, 2014 and after following a similar route, arrived back at his winter home on October 12. After an uneventful winter, he started north again on March 12 and arrived back at his nest on April 3. He and his mate raised two more chicks. He started his third southbound migration on September 20, 2015 and arrived back at his same winter home on October 12. Unfortunately, we lost contact with Donovan on November 11, 2015. There was no indication of whether he perished or whether the transmitter failed. He did not return to his nest the following spring and his mate quickly found another partner.

Mackenzie was a breeding male at a nest along the Connecticut River in Stratford. He was tagged on May 14, 2013. He instantly surprised us by regularly commuting 17 miles each way over to the York Pond Fish Hatchery near Berlin. He and his mate reared one chick. In late August after the chick had fledged, Mackenzie spent most of his time fishing along the Androscoggin River. His transmitter stopped moving on September 21 at Head Pond in Berlin. I found his remains there on October 1. The cause of his death is unknown. I recovered a leg band but never found the transmitter.

Artoo and **Bergen** were brothers from the nest in Bridgewater. Their father was Art. They were tagged on August 12, 2013. Artoo surprised us by leaving the area just three days later and heading to Pennsylvania. Bergen also left quickly (August 21) and by August 24 had reached the Chesapeake Bay. After taking two very separate routes, amazingly, the two brothers came together on the night of September 25 and headed from Hatteras Island out into the open ocean at the same time. They must have seen each other. They both turned west at the same time and made it to the Georgia coast by morning. They then separated and followed different paths through Florida, but on September 30, roosted just over four miles apart in southern Florida. Artoo crossed over to Cuba on October 1 and Bergen followed on October 4. They both reached Haiti on the same date. Bergen crossed the Caribbean on October 14 and landed in Colombia. Artoo made his Caribbean crossing without trouble on October 20 and landed in Venezuela. Bergen settled down on a mountain river in Colombia for a couple of weeks before resuming his migration on October 20 and heading into Venezuela, back into Colombia, back into Venezuela and then into northern Brazil by November 3. Meanwhile, Artoo headed for a spot close to the Orinoco River right next door to Donovan's winter home. They were sometimes within seven miles of each other. Bergen made a big push south and ended up on the Rio Purus just south of the main trunk of the Amazon River in Brazil. He settled on a lovely oxbow deep in the rainforest for the winter. Artoo remained on his spot until late January and then surprised

Table 1. Summary of 15 Ospreys Satellite-tagged in New Hampshire, 2011-2016.

Name	Nest location	Date tagged	Age	#GPS pts.	Fate
Saco	New Hampton	7/12/2011	Juvenile	1266	Last signal on 10/27/11 in Caribbean Sea. Presumed expired.
Art	Bridgewater	5/29/2012	Adult	5190	Retrapped and PTT removed 8/12/13. Still breeding at same nest in 2022.
Chip	Tilton	8/21/2012	Juvenile	925	Last signal 10/13/12 over mid-Atlantic. Presumed expired.
Jill	Tilton	8/21/2012	Juvenile	799	Last signal 10/04/12 in Venezuela. Presumed expired.
Donovan	Tilton	5/13/2013	Adult	11440	Last signal 11/11/15 in Venezuela. Fate unknown.
Mackenzie	Stratford	5/14/2013	Adult	1613	Last signal 09/21/13 in Berlin, NH. Expired (remains found).
Artoo	Bridgewater	8/12/2013	Juvenile	9622	Last signal 09/19/15 off coast of Florida. Presumed expired.
Bergen	Bridgewater	8/12/2013	Juvenile	2344	Last signal 02/13/14 in Brazil. Fate unknown.
Weber	Hampton	7/29/2013	Juvenile	850	Last signal 09/28/13 in Venezuela. Presumed expired.
Tilton	Tilton	8/12/2014	Juvenile	610	Last signal 09/27/14 in New Jersey. Presumed expired.
Bridget	Bridgewater	8/13/2014	Juvenile	2256	Last signal 01/31/15 in Florida. Presumed expired.
Gundersen	New Hampton	5/19/2015	Adult	2954	Last signal 01/12/16 in Venezuela. Presumed expired.
Wausau	Groveton	5/20/2015	Adult	7993	Last signal 02/23/17 in Colombia. Seen alive at his nest in 2017, but not since.
Staddler	Seabrook	5/21/2015	Adult	10677	Last signal 09/25/17 off coast of Venezuela. Presumed expired.
Juliet	Tilton	8/11/2015	Juvenile	753	Last signal 10/10/15 in Colombia. Fate unknown.
Lizzie	Bridgewater	8/12/2015	Juvenile	183	Last signal 08/26/15 in Rhode Island. Expired (remains found).

us by resuming his migration. To our amazement, he headed straight for Bergen's spot and settled within 90 miles of his brother's location, close to the main Amazon trunk. Both of Art's sons ended up making their winter homes at almost the exact same latitude as their dad.

Sadly, we lost contact with Bergen on February 13, 2014. There was no evidence of trouble . . . just no more signals from his PTT. Meanwhile, Artoo stayed safe as he explored the Rio Japura and Rio Solimões. He stayed in one tiny area for the next eight months and then moved again in October 2014 (perhaps displaced by a returning adult) and settled again on the Rio Japura. He moved short distances for the rest of that second winter and then started on his first northbound migration on March 31, 2015. He reached the coast of Venezuela on April 20, apparently dipped his toe and then turned around and retreated 260 miles. He headed north again on May 20 and made a nonstop 700-mile Caribbean crossing to Cuba. He made his way to the furthest western tip of Cuba and then tried to bypass Florida completely with an equally long crossing of the Gulf. He meandered up through Alabama, into Tennessee and reached Pennsylvania on June 27. He finally made it back to New Hampshire on July 24, 2015 and was within 22 miles of his natal nest. He then settled just over the border in Massachusetts. On September 1, he decided to start his second southbound migration. He made a quick journey down the classic "adult" route to southern Florida, then on September 18 headed out for the short crossing to Cuba. The last GPS point uploaded on September 18 was at 7:00 pm and he was nearly half way across, but the next group of

points beginning at 10:00 am on September 19 indicated that sometime in the night, Artoo had landed on a boat. The slow moving vessel had taken him 140 miles north and now 25 miles off the Florida east coast. Landing on a vessel in the night is not too surprising (although never good), but why he would stay on the vessel throughout the next day is a mystery. The next PTT data upload three days later indicated that Artoo was floating off the coast of Florida and then we never heard from the PTT again.

The third chick we tagged in 2013 was named **Weber**. He was tagged on July 29 at a platform in the Hampton saltmarsh. Weber barely left the vicinity of the nest until September 6, when he decided to head south. He made an uneventful trip through Florida and reached Venezuela on September 28. His first stop there proved to be his last. He landed along a small river about 160 miles from the coast and the PTT stopped moving. We assumed he died. Strangely, we got a series of points uploaded between June and December of 2014 from the same location, although the last four points were half a mile from the September 2013 spot. The PTTs are powered by a tiny solar panel, so if that cell is suddenly exposed to the sun it can recharge the PTT. How the PTT moved a half mile is a mystery. The river did not look like a spot that could have sustained an Osprey for any length of time, so it's unlikely that Weber actually survived into 2014, but we'll never know!

2014

In 2014, we tagged two youngsters. **Tilton** was tagged on August 12 at Donovan's nest, so is a brother of Jill and Chip

who were tagged here (same parents) in 2012. He headed south on August 19 and settled down at Cape May by August 23. He stayed there for the next month. All seemed well, but the PTT stopped moving on September 24 and we assumed he died. An attempt was made to locate him and retrieve the PTT, but no remains were found. The PTT sent one low quality signal in March 2017 from the same spot.



Bridget photographed by Libby Libbey at Vero Beach in Florida on 10-6-14.

Bridget was tagged on August 13 at the Bridgewater nest, so she is a daughter of Art and a sister to Artoo and Bergen. She headed south on August 20 and headed for Milton, CT where she settled on the Housatonic River. She was photographed there hanging out with other Ospreys. She stayed there until September 18, then headed south out over the Atlantic and flew nonstop for 26 hours arriving in Man-O-War Cay, Abaco, in the Bahamas. A couple of days later, she went to West Palm Beach in Florida and then settled at Vero Beach where she was photographed again, this time by New Hampshire photographer Libby Libbey (what are the chances?). This is where she decided to end her migration and she foraged around Vero Beach until January 31 when her signal stopped. Her last GPS points were close to a road and I suspect that she was hit by a vehicle.

2015

In 2015, we tagged three adult males and two juveniles. On May 19, we tagged the breeding male at the nest in New Hampton (where we tagged Saco in 2011). We named him Gundersen. On May 20, we tagged the breeding male at a nest in Groveton. We named him Wausau. On May 21, we tagged the breeding male at a nest in Seabrook Harbor. We named him Staddler.

Gundersen's nest failed in early June (after four days of torrential rain). Although he was not raising chicks, he still stuck to his regular territory throughout the season. His nest is the nearest to Art's nest to the north and Donovan's nest to the southeast, so by doing what's called kernel mapping, I was able to see how their territories overlapped (almost not at all). Gundersen headed south on September 7 and quickly

made it to Cuba where he took a six-day break then headed over to Venezuela and settled along a nice-looking river just east of the city of Barrancas on October 4. He moved around more than adult males normally do in the winter (which exposes him to more risk) and we lost contact with him on January 12. His last points were near a major four-lane highway that crosses a river. He did not show up at his nest in April, so I assume he died in January.

Wausau's nest also failed in 2015. I checked it on June 3 and all was well, but by June 24, there was no activity. Wausau remained close to his nest and defended his territory for the rest of the season and headed south on September 11. He followed the usual route and, after a short stopover in northern Colombia, he reached his winter home in the Vichada region of southern Colombia. He had a very uneventful winter there and headed north on March 18, 2016. After travelling 140 miles north, he turned around and flew back to his winter home again (maybe he forgot to forward the mail). He restarted on March 28. This is late for a returning male to depart and he did not get to his nest until April 19, by which time his mate already had a new male with her. I was able to get to his nest in time to watch him arrive back and see off the interloper. He and his mate quickly rekindled their partnership and started incubation, but when I observed the nest in early June, I found poor Wausau defending the nest from a very aggressive intruding female Osprey. He was trying to drive the interloper off while also trying to incubate the eggs. There was no sign of his mate (which was strange). After watching for a couple of hours and seeing poor Wausau trying to do it all by himself, I was concerned. His data over the next couple of days showed him on the nest (incubating) for long chunks of the day (much more than normal for a male). A check in late June showed no activity at the nest. I can only assume that something happened to his mate and without her he was not able to sit on the eggs and hunt and he had to abandon the effort. His data for the rest of the summer showed that he remained close to the nest. He began his southbound migration on September 4 and made it back to his winter home on October 5. He had a very uneventful winter but then on February 23, 2017, we lost contact. The last few points were perfectly normal and he was moving around, but then nothing. It turns out that this was a PTT failure because on June 26, 2017, I checked his nest and found Wausau (still wearing the PTT) close by with a fish. The 2017 nesting attempt failed. In 2018, the nest was used again but we didn't get a look at the male. In 2019, a new nest was used nearby and the male did not have a PTT (or leg band). The female was also new (we had banded Wausau's mate in 2015 and the 2019 female was unbanded).

Staddler was tagged on May 21, 2015. He and his mate

successfully raised one chick. He headed south on August 31. He reached his winter home on the Rio Tefé near the Rio Solimões in Amazonas, Brazil, on October 17. He was the model of a “smart winter Osprey” and barely moved outside a ¼ square mile territory on the Rio Tefé all winter. He headed north on March 18 and arrived back at his Seabrook nest on April 7 (he stopped to catch a fish just before he headed to the nest, always a good way to impress your mate). On July 18, 2016, I visited the nest and confirmed that he and his mate had two chicks. He headed south again on September 9 and made a textbook flight down to the Dominican Republic. His luck ran out on September 24 when he started his Caribbean crossing. He flew right into the path of a hurricane and by the end of the day was floating off the coast of Venezuela.

Juliet was tagged on August 11, 2015 in Tilton. She is one of Donovan’s chicks and sibling to Jill (2012), Chip (2012) and Tilton (2014). She left the nest area on September 3. She made a very “adult-like” migration along the classic route. She crossed the Caribbean from the Dominican Republic to Colombia on September 26, flying about 460 miles in 24 hours of continuous flying. Her PTT stopped sending signals on October 10 and I never heard from her again. I don’t know if she perished or the PTT failed.

Lizzie was tagged on August 12 at the Bridgewater nest. She is the daughter of Art and a sister to Artoo (tagged in 2013), Bergen (tagged in 2013) and Bridget (tagged in 2014). She left the nest area the day after we tagged her and quickly moved to Rhode Island where she “force-adopted” herself into a nest on a pole in Belcher Cove near the Narragansett Sound. A local photographer (Butch Lombardi) confirmed that she had indeed moved into a nest that had recently fledged chicks and was aggressively fending off the resident chicks and taking fish brought to the nest by the resident male. What a brilliant survival strategy! Although Osprey chicks in close nest clusters will often visit nests that aren’t theirs, this was the first time we had recorded it over such a large distance. Lizzie was seen at the Belcher Cove nest for almost two weeks, but then her signals on August 26 were all clustered in the same place next to a utility pole and I suspected the worst. Butch visited the area a few days later and found Lizzie’s body. He suspected that she had a dislocated wing and may have hit one of the many overhead wires – another sad end for a juvenile Osprey.

Summary

We wrapped up our tagging of New Hampshire Ospreys in 2015. We learned a lot, but at \$4,000 per transmitter there was a limit to how many more PTTs it was prudent to deploy. The survival rate was alarmingly low, particularly in the juveniles, and we began to wonder if the transmitters

were contributing to the high mortality. We knew from decades of banding studies that the mortality rate for Ospreys in their first year of life is calculated to be around 70%, already a very high number. Only one of the nine juveniles lived long enough to return to New Hampshire as a two-year-old. We also suspect that males, once they reach maturity, live shorter lives on average than females. A female in Scotland that reached the ripe old age of 27 went through four mates in her long life at her nest in Perthshire.

Because we wanted to learn about hunting territories, we only tagged males in the spring (the males do almost all of the hunting while the females stay at or very close to the nest all summer long). We learned that our adult males are very faithful both to their nesting site and to their winter home in South America. Kernel mapping revealed distinct territories in the Lakes Region population with very little overlap in hunting ranges of the males. We learned that the crossing of the Caribbean in the fall is a very dangerous journey because of hurricanes. We never lost any of our tagged Ospreys on this crossing in the spring. We learned that young Ospreys have to learn the route south. They make a lot of mistakes in their first few months on the wing. Adults showed very little variation in their migration routes and followed what we call the “established route” with uncanny consistency.

The whole project was a fascinating insight into the lives of these birds. All the nests that we used for tagging continue to be used by Ospreys and produce youngsters. We now know the trials and tribulations that these birds face throughout their lives.

More information with hundreds of maps illustrating each of the journeys is available at:

https://www.nhnature.org/programs/project_ospreytrack/osprey_maps.php

This page has not been updated since we ended the project in 2016, but by clicking on each of the yearly tabs, you can follow along.

The project was funded by Eversource Energy, the Jane B. Cook 1983 Charitable Trust, 3M, Squam Lakes Natural Science Center’s Innovative Project Fund, and Meredith Bay Colony Club.

Publications Related to the Project

- Martell, M., R. Bierregaard, Jr., B. Washburn, J. Elliott, C. Henny, R. Kennedy, and I. MacLeod. 2014. The Spring Migration of Adult North American Ospreys. *Journal of Raptor Research*. Vol. 48, No. 4.
- Bierregaard, R., B. Lombardi, and I. MacLeod. 2016. Long-distance Nest Switching by a Juvenile Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*). *Journal of Raptor Research*. Vol. 50, No. 4.
- I. MacLeod. 2016. Satellite Tagging of Ospreys in New Hampshire. *Bird Observer*. Vol. 44, No. 6.

- I. MacLeod. 2016. Osprey Satellite Tagging. *New Hampshire Bird Records*. Vol. 34, No. 1.
- I. MacLeod. 2013. Satellite Tracking Reveals Remarkable Journey of a Young Osprey. *New Hampshire Bird Records*. Vol. 31, No. 3.

Iain MacLeod is Executive Director of Squam Lakes Natural Science Center in Holderness, NH and is President of the Board of NorthEast Hawk Watch and former board chair of the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA). Iain has studied Ospreys for 40+ years. Iain is a member of the New Hampshire Bird Records Editorial Team.

Birding the former Laconia State School campus

by Rob Woodward

The former Laconia State School campus has only a recent birding history, but a lengthy and sad human history. In 1901, legislation was passed to create the New Hampshire School for Feeble-minded Children and the facility opened in 1903 with its first 57 children. The goal was to segregate those with developmental disabilities from the general population as they were deemed “unfit” and possibly dangerous. Inevitably, institutionalized segregation resulted in the “warehousing” of the patients in deplorable conditions. Over the years, the population of “inmates” as they were called grew, especially in the 1920s when the eugenics movement flourished. By 1958, when sterilizations were ceased, 400 patients had undergone this procedure. A high count of over 1,100 residents was reached in 1970.

As a result of a federal lawsuit filed in 1978, the

population was reduced until there weren’t enough patients to justify the facility. On January 31, 1991, the doors were locked for good. For an inside look at the dark history of this institution, see the 2010 documentary “Lost in Laconia” available on YouTube. In the 1980s, part of the campus was used as a minimum security state prison until 2009, as evidenced by the barbed wire around some of the buildings. At the top of the hill, are two houses behind curved fencing. Until 2021, these buildings housed those deemed mentally unfit to stand for criminal trial. Today, only the Lakes Region Mutual Aid dispatch center occupies the campus.

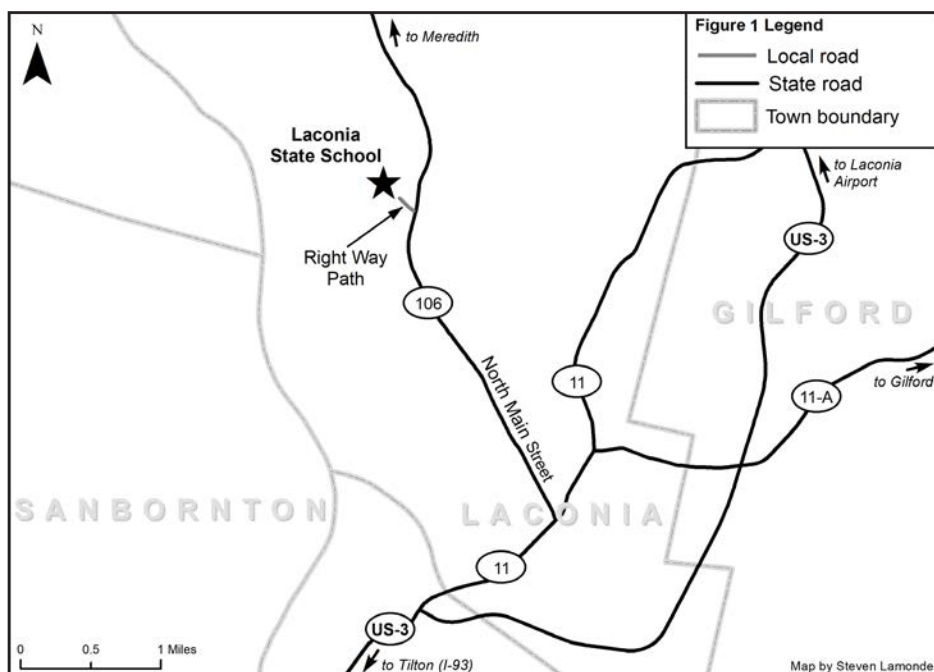
As of this writing, all 250 acres of the property are up for sale, lock, stock and barrel, as is. On a recent visit, I asked the worker who regularly patrols the grounds about the status of the property. He said he recently showed it to a prospective buyer, but it will be a while before there are any changes. We don’t know when that will be or what shape it will take, but whatever development comes here – an office park, workforce housing, high-end condominiums – the site will be altered and the birding will be different. What makes the birding so good now is that the entire property is like an unkempt yard with bushes and trees growing at random in a “messy” way. No doubt, the first thing a developer will do is “clean” it up. Worse, access could be restricted. If you want to enjoy the birding here, do so now before the bulldozers get here.

The first eBird report for this site is from April 9, 2020, surprisingly recently. I first discovered this area by accident on September 17, 2020. I parked in the upper parking lot of Ahern State Park and wandered up the trail that leads to the campus. I knew there was a Laconia State School but I didn’t know exactly where. As soon as I saw the decaying buildings, I knew where I was. Access to the campus is unrestricted except for the buildings due to asbestos and probably lead.

You are likely to run into dog walkers but nobody else.

I use two entry points. The first is from the upper parking lot to Ahern State Park along the dirt access road. As this road has deteriorated, I now more often enter the main entrance road and turn left for the visitor parking area. Either way, you are free to wander the grounds wherever you like. One area I like in particular is the road that goes to the top of the hill where there is a water tower. Along both sides of the road there is a dense tangle of vegetation providing good habitat for American Redstarts and other warblers, including Mourning.

At the top of the hill, a small road leads to the tower. The cherry trees can be loaded





Laconia State School by Rob Woodward.

with fruit in fall attracting many frugivores. The large field has Bobolinks in spring. Along this road on the right before you reach Eastman Drive, you will see an air quality monitoring station, one of a network operated state-wide by the NH Department of Environmental Services to measure and monitor certain air pollutants.

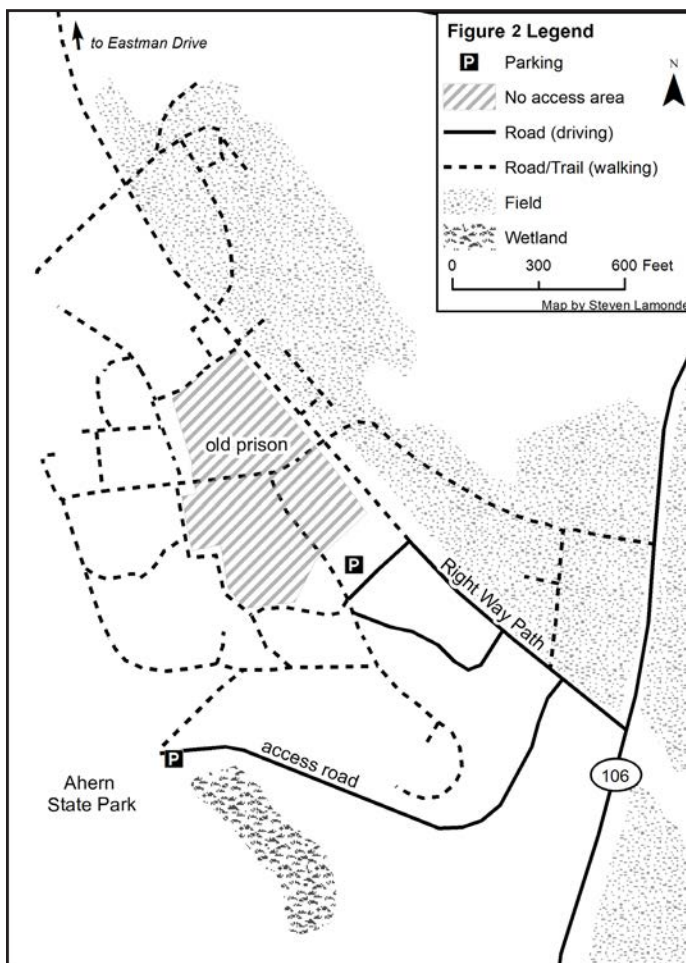
On the north side of the campus is a large grassy field with a tall nest box in the middle. Sit in the swing behind the

Spalding Building to observe the birds in this field, including Bobolink. I have observed American Kestrels showing interest in this nest box, but I haven't confirmed their use of it. Yet in 2021, a pair did nest somewhere on campus as I found a pair with a juvenile on September 1. I have recorded Merlin on nine visits, including five consecutive visits in September and October 2020. Just across the dirt access road to Ahern State Park is an active Osprey nest, easily visible from the road.

As time passes, more species will be added to the 138 recorded here, making it the number three eBird hotspot for Belknap County. The list includes 23 species of warblers, 12 sparrows and five vireos, including the White-eyed Vireo I found on October 9, 2020 while birding with Fern Schneider, a first for Belknap County. Becky Suomala found a Gray Catbird on the 2020 Laconia Christmas Bird Count, the first record for this species for this count.

Birding is good here year-round, access is freely open to the public, it is free of mud, bugs, and poison ivy, and it is easily reached from Laconia. I try to get here weekly, especially knowing major changes are in store. Ultimately, I think there will always be at least some access to this property, but for now the fields, woods, and shrubs make for a good birding hotspot. Immediately next door is Ahern State Park (no admission fee), the number four eBird hotspot for Belknap County with miles of woodland and lake view trails and a sandy beach for a refreshing summer afternoon. Across Route 106, the grassy field and adjacent woods is the Opechee Bay State Forest, more public space available for birding with access to Lake Opechee.

To reach the former Laconia State School campus from Laconia, go north on North Main Street (Route 106) for a little over two miles. Turn left on Right Way Path and either left again on the dirt road with the sign for Ahern State Park, or continue up the paved road and take the third left to the visitor parking lot.



View from Laconia State School by Rob Woodward.

Simple, Cheap DIY Wildlife Microphone

by Iain MacLeod

While sitting in my new house in Sandwich watching my bird feeders this past winter, I suddenly realized how much I missed hearing the sounds of the birds. My house is so well insulated that the soundproofing is almost complete. I wondered if there was a low cost microphone that could bring the sound to a remote speaker via Bluetooth; I didn't want to start running cables and drilling holes through my new walls. My online search did not come up with something "off the shelf" that would work.

So, I decided to make my own. I had recently purchased a JBL Clip mini b/t speaker for use in the field, so I was determined to come up with something that would be compatible with that. Of course, I needed a microphone, one that could be used outdoors. A few years ago, I purchased a small mic to attach to a streaming webcam at a fox den. That mic (Vauxse Mini Microphone, \$11.99) was very inexpensive and had run flawlessly for several years in all weather. The advantage to that mic was that it has a built-in pre-amp, which means it doesn't need a separate amplifier. I decided to stick with what I knew and ordered another one. Then, I needed some sort of Bluetooth transmitter that would send the signal from the mic to the Clip. After a lot of research, I ordered an Aisidra Wireless 2-in-1 adapter (\$38.99). It is both a b/t transmitter and receiver. It is also tiny, about the

size of a matchbook. For this use, you need to flip the switch to transmitter mode.

Both components are powered, so I needed to locate the array near an outside power source and buy a waterproof box for the plugs (Sockitbox -- \$23.99). Thankfully, I had a perfectly-placed outside power outlet (on the side of the house where the feeders are). Next, I needed a parabola to gather and boost the sound. I could have spent hundreds of dollars on a professional sound parabola, but I opted for an \$18 clear acrylic squirrel baffle (works just as well!).

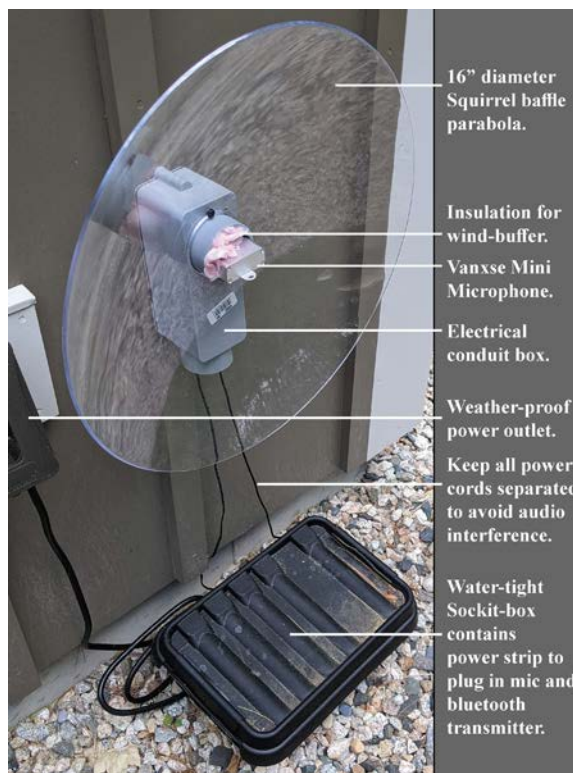
Now I needed to assemble all the pieces. An electric mounting box (local hardware store electrical aisle) was the last component. I carefully affixed the parabola to the electric box and mounted it to the wall near the outside electric source. I fed the mic wires through the front hole and plugged everything in. The mic just sits in the hole, braced by a lump of pink insulation that also helps to muffle wind sound. The open side of the parabola needs a water/windproof cover. A quick online search came up with a simple solution, a round, stretchy protective seat cover for a bar stool (pack of 4 for \$13.99).

The total cost for all the components was about \$90 and it works great! It remains plugged in and running 24/7 (minimal power) and when I want to listen, I turn on my JBL Clip and pair it with the transmitter. Bingo! Now I can listen to the outdoor sounds anywhere in my house. In the spring, I sit the speaker above our bed and we fall asleep to the wonderful chorus of Spring Peepers and American Toads from the nearby swamp. The loon wailing on Little Pond

fills the bedroom as does the Barred Owls and Coyotes . . . and then we wake to the dawn chorus each morning (never miss that passing migrant that sings just once as it passes through your yard).

Next winter, when all the windows are shut tight, I'll be able to listen to all the bird noise at the feeders, just the way I had hoped!

Iain MacLeod's DIY Wildlife Microphone.



16" diameter Squirrel baffle parabola.

Insulation for wind-buffer.

Vauxse Mini Microphone.

Electrical conduit box.

Weather-proof power outlet.

Keep all power cords separated to avoid audio interference.

Water-tight Sockit-box contains power strip to plug in mic and bluetooth transmitter.

Black Vultures Expanding in New Hampshire

by Pam Hunt and Steve Mirick



Black Vulture by Steve Mirick, 4-22-22, Newmarket, NH.

Are Black Vultures nesting in New Hampshire? On April 22, 2022, two Black Vultures were seen copulating in Exeter, marking the first record of any sort of potential breeding activity for the state. Could this mean they nested in the area? Unfortunately, they weren't seen again in the area during the summer, so we don't know if there was a nesting attempt. This intriguing observation is the most recent chapter in the story of this southern species in the Granite State.

Prior to the 1930s, Black Vultures were almost entirely a species of the southeastern US, nesting only as far north as Virginia. In the middle of the 20th Century, they began expanding their breeding range northward in the eastern US, with confirmed nesting in Pennsylvania in 1952 and New Jersey in 1981 (*Birds of the World*, Buckley et al.). They started becoming regular in southern New England by the 1990s, with the first confirmed nesting in Massachusetts in the Blue Hills area in 1998 (Mass Audubon website). While not documented breeding during the subsequent Massachusetts Breeding Bird Atlas (2007-2011), they were almost certainly still nesting in the state. Like the Turkey Vulture, they are very secretive and choose rather remote nesting locations.

As part of this range expansion, Black Vultures have also been reported more frequently in New Hampshire. Aside from a couple of old reports in 1926, the first modern record for New Hampshire was reported by Carol Foss in Boscawen on April 4, 1992 (Keith & Fox). Over the next 16 years (until 2008), there were a total of 24 separate reports for Black Vulture in the state (Keith & Fox) and numbers have continued to increase since 2008. Most records have been of single birds, but reports of multiple individuals include one

of four birds together in Newton (H. Burns, 3-11-22) and four together (same birds?) in Salem (K. Wilmarth, 4-7-22). The most reliable areas to find them in recent years have been the Connecticut River Valley (see below), the Nashua area, and across southeastern New Hampshire. They have been seen as far north as Coos County, including one almost in Canada at Scott Bog by Katrina Fenton (5-18-20).

To return to those copulating birds in Exeter, could Black Vultures be breeding in New Hampshire? So far, there has been no confirmed breeding attempt here, but it's possible it has already happened. Black Vultures have been regular during the breeding season in the Connecticut River Valley since around 2019, with records concentrated in the vicinity of Fall Mountain (North Walpole) and Mount Wantastiquet (Hinsdale). These two areas (and Vermont sites across the river from them) have the highest concentrations of records in the state during May to August and both are also home to nice rocky outcrops that provide excellent nesting habitat. As with Turkey Vultures, the nest is placed in heavy cover, often in a cave, crevice, or hollow log, but sometimes in dense shrubs or brush piles. Given the inaccessible nature of the two Connecticut River Valley sites, it would take a lot of work to even narrow down where a nest might be, much less hone in on, its actual location. With time, an increasing population, and a fair bit of luck, we'll eventually find one. In the meantime, keep looking for signs!

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- Buckley, N, B. Kluever, R. Driver, and S. Rush. 2022. Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*), version 2.0. In *Birds of the World* (P. Rodewald and B. Keeney, Ed.). Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY. <https://doi.org/10.2173/bow.blkvul.02>
- Keith, A. and R. Fox. 2013. *The Birds of New Hampshire*. Nuttall Ornithological Club, Cambridge, MA.



Donna Keller photographed two of four Black Vultures she saw in Walpole on 11-1-21.

What to Watch for in Spring

Spring is migration time and different birds arrive at different times. Huge concentrations can sometimes occur, but it's often hard to know where or when. Here are a few events that often highlight the spring season and when to watch for them. See also Steve Mirick's migration article in this issue.



Northern Pintail by Jim Sparrell, 3-3-22, Wallis Sands Beach marsh, Rye, NH

March

- Waterfowl migration is in full swing. Every week can bring different species. Watch for fallouts on open water in rainy weather, especially on large inland lakes. Flooded corn fields can also be quite good. Major river valleys and the coastal plain are the best areas. In warm springs with little ice or snow, the migration can pass through quite quickly and you can miss it.



Red-shouldered Hawk by Rebecca Suomala, 5-4-22, Concord, NH.

- American Woodcocks start displaying as soon as the ground is open (or even before). Look for them at the edge of open fields, especially adjacent to wet meadows or brushy swamps. Killdeer often return around the same time.
- Black-capped Chickadees start to sing in late February or early March. Their “fee-bee” song can be mistaken for Eastern Phoebe which don’t return until early to mid-April.
- The Connecticut River in mid-March is the best place to check for rare geese such as Greater White-fronted Goose.
- Red-shouldered Hawks return and can be mistaken for Broad-winged Hawks which don’t come back until mid-April.

April

- Winter visitors like American Tree Sparrows and redpolls or siskins are usually gone by April. Chipping Sparrows, the tree sparrow look-alike, arrive around mid-April.
- In early April watch for Hermit Thrush to arrive. Veerys and other thrushes arrive later, usually in May.
- Ruby-crowned Kinglets begin to arrive the second week of April. Their song can be confused with Common Yellowthroat which doesn’t arrive until the beginning of May and Carolina Wren.
- Watch for Broad-winged Hawks in the third week of April, especially on a warm, south wind. You can follow their progress north in eBird to know when they are getting close.
- The earliest warblers arrive mid-month: Pine, Palm, and Yellow-rumped, followed quickly by Louisiana Waterthrush. The first warblers of the main May wave often appear at the very end of the month, including Black-and-white, Northern Parula, and Black-throated Green Warblers. See the article by Steve Mirick on the timing of Louisiana and Northern Waterthrushes in the Spring 2104 issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*.
- Inclement weather in late April can bring fallouts of migrating Horned and Red-necked Grebes as well as winter sea ducks such as Red-breasted Mergansers and Long-tailed Ducks. Look for them on large lakes such as Newfound, Spofford, or Lake Winnepesaukee.
- Tree Swallows are the first swallows to return in early April (and often late March), followed by Northern Rough-wingeds. Look for huge flocks over waterbodies if there’s a cold spell or rainy weather. The Merrimack and Connecticut Rivers, waste treatment plants, and even local ponds can provide quite a concentration.
- House Wrens begin to trickle in during the last few

days of April. Wren chatter before that is likely to be Carolina or Winter Wren.

May

- The main push of warblers happens in May and it can be spectacular. Watch for south winds that can bring in a flood of birds. A few of the northern-most species won't peak until later in the month: Blackpoll, Wilson's, and Tennessee.
- Our eagerly-awaited Ruby-throated Hummingbirds start showing up reliably in the first week of May.
- The colorful Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Indigo Buntings, and Baltimore Orioles arrive around May 5-10 and often come visit feeders when they first arrive, but then disappear as the weather warms.
- Although some shorebirds arrive by late April, their peak migration isn't until mid-May. Numbers in spring generally pale in comparison to fall, but sometimes you get lucky. Most of the action is on the immediate coast, but as with other waterbirds there are sometimes significant inland fallouts associated with rainy weather.
- Mid-May is the best time to look for terns inland during their migration. Watch for inland Short-billed Dowitchers around May 20.
- Nighthawks return to nest sites around May 20-25 but migrants heading farther north can continue to mid-June.
- Of the small Empidonax flycatchers, Least are the first to arrive in early May but Alder, Willow and Yellow-bellied won't arrive until mid to end of May.
- Blue Jays are daytime migrants in the last two weeks of May.



Black-and-white Warbler by Debra Powers, 5-27-22, Gonic, NH

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 2018

- p. 27 The Event – first sentence. The date should be April 29, 2018, not April 30.
- p. 30 Banded Bald Eagle photos – the top two photos were taken by Deb Baker on 3-17-18. The two closeups of the band were taken on 3-11-18 by Chris Roberts.
- p. 33 Answer to “Where’s Waldo?” Delete the phrase “it is the one that has a darker underwing.” Although the Little Gull has a dark underwing, the photo shows the upper wing, which lacks the white wedge of the Bonaparte’s Gull and has a more rounded tip.

Fall 2018

- p. 8 Right column, 4th line should be “the second inland record,” not “the first inland record.”
- p. 15 Yellow-crowned Night-Heron on 09/13 was observed in Seabrook.
- p. 17 Olive-sided Flycatcher on 06/07 was actually a Black Vulture and was published in the Summer 2018 issue.
- p. 19 Left column, first full paragraph, beginning “Philadelphia Vireo...” is from the Summer 2018 issue and incorrectly included here.
- p. 28 Dickcissel on 11/11 was observed by Z. Cornell, not Z. Cornello.

Winter 2018-19

- p. 35 The photo of the Twitchers with their prize was taken by Susan Carlson.

Summer 2019

- p. 20 The Pied-billed Grebe photo was taken by Lori Charron.

Fall 2019

- p. 1 The table of contents is missing final article: “Birding Page Pond Community Forest, Meredith by Rob Woodward38.”

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Abbreviations Used

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

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Colors of Spring



*Is this American Redstart a female or a male? Answer on page 2.
Photo by Debra Powers, 5-27-22, Rochester, NH.*



Green Heron by Steve Mirick, 5-6-22, Portsmouth, NH.



Indigo Bunting by Jim Sparrell, 4-19-22, Odiorne Point SP, Rye, NH.



Ruddy Turnstone by Jim Sparrell, 5-23-22, Odiorne Point SP, Rye, NH.



*Ruby-crowned Kinglet male showing its crest. Photo by Jim Sparrell,
4-30-22, Brentwood, NH.*



Ruby-throated Hummingbird by Dan Prima, 5-1-22, Raymond, NH.

Spring 2022 Rarities



Clapper Rail by Sophia Wong, 5-28-22, Hampton, NH.



White-eyed Vireo by Roger Frieden, 5-8-22, Horseshoe Pond, Concord, NH.



Curlew Sandpiper by Diana Stephens, 5-24-22, Rye Harbor, NH.



Pink-footed Goose by Lori Charron, 4-18-22, Magalloway River, Errol, NH.



Slaty-backed Gull (left) by Steve Mirick, 4-8-22, North Hampton State Beach, NH.