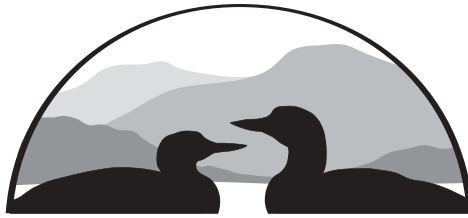


New Hampshire Bird Records



Winter 2010-11

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IN HONOR OF
Alice Cormier

This issue of *New Hampshire Bird Records*, with its color cover, is dedicated to Alice Cormier. New Hampshire Audubon is grateful for her many contributions to the organization and for her legacy gift. This sponsorship also recognizes and remembers the birders we have recently lost who made many contributions to our knowledge of birds in the state and supported their conservation (see page 2).



Alice Cormier with her husband, Paul.

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The Isles of Shoals Christmas Bird Count

by Benjamin Griffith

All photos taken during the Shoals Christmas Bird Count, 12/19/10.

The Isles of Shoals Christmas Bird Count was scheduled to take place on December 19, 2010, but I was a bit pessimistic. The count had not run since I took over the compilation and I began to wonder if I might be a jinx. In each of the past four years, it had been cancelled due to weather. In the week approaching the count, forecasts called for high seas and it appeared that the count would be cancelled for the fifth straight year. Thankfully, the forecast improved and the count was on. Seventeen people boarded the Gulf Challenger in New Castle and were treated to calm seas and mild weather; on Star Island, the temperature exceeded 40 degrees!

On the way out, we found our first alcids, a handful of Black Guillemots and Razorbills. Thanks to the calm seas, we were able to land on Star Island for a bit of a break from the boat and made an attempt to find some overwintering landbirds. Although landbirds were in short supply, we did have the first count record of White-winged Crossbill. We also had a Common Redpoll and a Black-capped Chickadee, the latter being quite rare on the island and only marking the fourth count record. The real highlight of the island visit, though, was a Dovekie, very close off the south-east end of the island.



Atlantic Puffin by Len Medlock.



Razorbill by Len Medlock.



Long-tailed Duck by Len Medlock.



R/V Gulf Challenger on the dock at Star Island, by Jon Woolf.

After leaving Star Island, we circled the Isles of Shoals and travelled north to Boon Island in Maine. We began throwing bread off the stern of the boat to “chum” for gulls. Although we had below-average gull numbers, we had nice views of six Black-legged Kittiwakes, and even had a Razorbill following the boat! The trip north featured a few more Dovekies as well as extended, close views of two Atlantic Puffins! We wrapped up the trip with a group of six Harlequin Ducks at Boon Island before heading back to shore.

Benjamin Griffith is a Master’s Student at the University of Vermont. He has birded actively in New Hampshire for about 10 years.

The hearty group of Isles of Shoals CBC participants, by Ben Griffith.



*Dovekie
by Doug Hitchcox.*

Abbreviations Used

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

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