



BIRDS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

COASTAL BIRDS

COMMON TERN
Sterna hirundo



STATE ENDANGERED

Description: 13-16". White with pale gray back and wings. Black cap on head. Tail deeply forked. Red bill with black tip.

Habitat: Nests on rocky islands and salt marshes that are close to feeding areas and provide protection from predators and disturbance.

Range: Nesting sites in New Hampshire include the Isles of Shoals, small islands in Great Bay and Little Bay, along the Piscataqua River and the Hampton-Seabrook salt marshes.

© DAN HAYWARD PHOTO

PIPING PLOVER
Charadrius melodus



FEDERALLY THREATENED/STATE ENDANGERED

Description: 6-7". Sandy color on top, white underneath. Black ring around the neck may be incomplete. Yellow legs; orange bill with black tip.

Habitat: Nests along coastal beaches above the high tide line with sparse vegetation. Feeds along intertidal zones, mudflats, seaweed lines and shorelines of coastal ponds and salt marshes.

Range: In N.H., nesting is limited to coastal beaches in Hampton and Seabrook. Nesting areas and nests are protected by fencing.

© USFWS / GENE NIEMINEN PHOTO

SEMPALMATED PLOVER
Charadrius semipalmatus



Description: 6-8". Dark brown or mud-colored on top, white underneath. Single black neck band. Yellow-orange bill with black tip. Legs yellow or orange. Darker in color than the piping plover.

Habitat: May be seen feeding along coastal beaches, mudflats and shallow pools in salt marshes during the breeding season and migration.

Range: Along the New Hampshire seacoast.

© USFWS / TIM BOWMAN PHOTO

SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER
Calidris pusilla



Description: 5-7". Gray on top, slightly streaked breast, white underneath. Short, stout, black bill; black legs. May be the most abundant N.H. shorebird.

Habitat: In summer, nests/feeds along coastal beaches, mudflats, sand dunes, sandy areas along rivers and ponds. During migration, may be seen feeding along coastal mudflats and intertidal zones.

Range: Along the New Hampshire seacoast.

© USFWS / TIM BOWMAN PHOTO



KILLDEER

Charadrius vociferus



Description: 9-11". A type of plover, larger than piping and semipalmated plovers. Brown on top, white underneath, with two black neck bands.

Habitat: Open areas with short/sparse vegetation, such as fields, golf courses, lawns, airports, parking lots, pastures, coastal flats and beaches.

Range: Breeds throughout the state. Commonly found along the seacoast.

DOUBLE CRESTED CORMORANT

Charadrius vociferus



Description: 30-35". Black body w/long neck, orange bill and throat pouch. Often stands with wings extended to allow feathers to dry.

Habitat: Coastal bays, estuaries, coastal islands, freshwater lakes, ponds and rivers.

Range: Primarily along the seacoast during breeding and migration. Non-breeders may be found on large, inland waterbodies in the summer.

SALT MARSH SHARP TAILED SPARROW

Ammodramus caudacutus



CONSERVATION CONCERN

Description: 4-5". White breast w/ crisp dark streaks; gray ear patch, orange-yellow face.

Habitat: Nests in salt marshes; feeds on the ground in dense, wet grasses, areas of wrack, and edges of ditches, pools and salt pans.

Range: Coastal N.H., including Great Bay, Rye and small portion of the Hampton salt marshes.

WILLET

Catoptrophorus semipalmatus



CONSERVATION CONCERN

Description: 13-16". Gray body w/long bill; long gray legs. Black & white wing pattern visible in flight.

Habitat: Nests in large salt marshes in Hampton and Seabrook. Feeds in areas with sparse vegetation, along tidal creeks and salt marsh edges, mussel beds and mudflats.

Range: Coastal New Hampshire.

NELSON'S SHARP TAILED SPARROW

Ammodramus nelsoni



CONSERVATION CONCERN

Description: 4-5". Buffy breast w/blurry dark streaks; gray ear patch, orange-yellow face; Breast more orange than salt marsh s-t sparrow.

Habitat: Nests in salt marshes; largest breeding population occurs around Great Bay. Almost any seacoast salt marsh used as migratory habitat.

Range: Coastal New Hampshire.

SEASIDE SPARROW

Ammodramus maritimus



CONSERVATION CONCERN

Description: 5-6". White throat; yellow patch in front of eyes; no wingbars.

Habitat: Nests in salt marshes or grassy tidal wetlands. Feeds in areas of wrack and the edges of ditches, pools and salt pans.

Range: Only known to breed in one salt marsh complex off Route 1A in Hampton.



Learn more about New Hampshire's birds at:

www.WildNH.com

