

Records of Vermont Birds

FALL MIGRATION 1976

1 AUGUST - 30 NOVEMBER WALTER ELLISON, EDITOR

This fall we were greeted by the prelude to a good old-fashioned winter with one of the colder autumns on record. The unusually cold season appears to have been a result of a shift in the jet stream which caused a change in the position of the semi-permanent Polar Front to the south bringing arctic air to the Northeast for the greater part of the season. The cool weather caused many of the more exclusively insectivorous species we are familiar with to depart much earlier than usual with some notable exceptions. All of the Swallows and Flycatchers left Vermont on much earlier dates than in the milder fall of 1975. Exceptions to this rule were notably late occurrences of Olive-Sided Flycatcher and Tree Swallow.

A damp spring and equally wet late summer and fall left lake levels higher than normal for autumn. This made for a poor shorebird season. Most observers discovered their shorebirds in flooded fields. Only 15 species were reported this autumn as compared to 25 reported during the fall of 1975.

The cold did not produce any notable flights of Northern species with two exceptions. Evening Grosbeak, Pine Grosbeak, both Crossbills, Redpolls and Siskins were generally conspicuous by their absence this year. The Purple Finch on the other hand, although not noted in spectacular numbers, was definitely in higher numbers for the season. Another eruptive species which appeared in higher than normal numbers was the Red-breasted Nuthatch which was generally found in large numbers in conifer stands but were not seen often by feeder watchers.

Patterns that were less easy to define included: the sudden heavy numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls noted by many observers on Lake Champlain, which lingered very late, being noted in numbers apparently beyond the end of the season (see result of Ferrisburg Christmas Count). Also hard to explain considering previous patterns were the larger than normal numbers of Black Scoter,

especially considering the sparse numbers of the other two species of Scoter. If the origin of the Weather Patterns to our Northwest is considered, it is possible that the migration of these species was affected by the shift to the south by the jet stream. This might cause a southward change in a hypothetical migration route corresponding to the northern drainage of the St. Lawrence River, obviously an easier route to the North Atlantic winter areas of these two species.

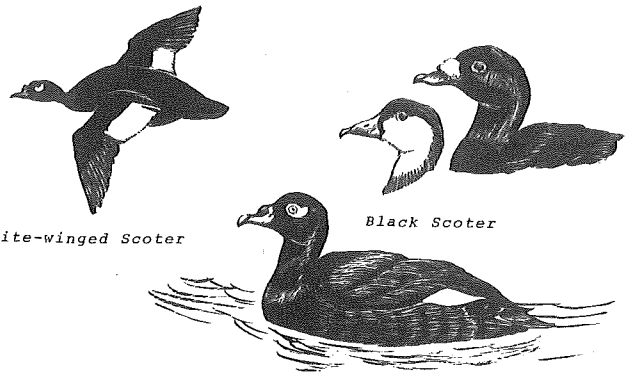
Even though this fall was unremarkable by comparison with the previous two autumns, it did have some high points. 212 species were reported, a much lower total than that of last fall when 229 species were reported. This is a good figure when one considers the reduction in shorebird species. Unusual species reported this fall included a Red-throated Loon, under unusual circumstances; Cattle Egret in unusually high numbers and of late occurrence; a handful of Great Egret sightings; unusual autumn reports of the scarce Short-billed Marsh Wren and Least Bittern; also good were appearances by: Golden-winged Warbler, Grasshopper Sparrow, Orange-crowned Warbler, Spruce Grouse, Loggerhead Shrike. The best reports of the autumn were: Sandhill Crane, the first report in fifteen years, a Common Murre found in a snow covered pasture on Thanksgiving with no good reason apparent for its presence (no major storms preceded its appearance), Bohemian Waxwings in Bennington were good during a year when the species was largely absent from the East; a Dickcissel made an odd early August appearance at a feeder in Plainfield; and Henslow's Sparrow, always unusual, was reported twice.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

A total of 29 Common Loons was reported this season, 2 at Marshfield Dam on 8/21 were the earliest individuals noted (MFM); the first migrants noted on Lake Champlain were 2 on 9/17 at Burlington (BSE,ORE). The species appeared to be in average numbers for the duration of the migration with a maximum of 6 on 11/24, 4 at Burlington and 2 at Button Bay State Park (FO,WS). Birds lingered on into the winter season. The Red-throated Loon appeared for the second fall in a row, a confused young bird was discovered walking up Center Street in Rutland on 10/27; it was speculated to have come down in bad weather conditions into Rutland and was assumed to have mistaken the wet expanse of Center Street for a surface of water. VINS staff released the bird on Woodward Reservoir on 10/29 and it was not seen later (PD). There were 5 reports of the scarce but regular Red-necked Grebe, a good count of 3 occurred on 10/17 at Caspian Lake (FO,JW); 1

was noted on Lake Fairlee on 10/23 (WGE,GFE); 1 was found on Caspian Lake on 11/6 (FO,JW); the same or another bird was noted at the same location on 11/13 (FO,JW); and 1 was noted on 11/14 as Wilder (WGE,GFE). The earliest Horned Grebes were 11 on 10/23 at Caspian Lake (FO,JW); other high reports were: 16 at Burlington on 11/4 (BSE,ORE); 12 on Lake Morey on 11/7 (WGE,GFE); and finally a remarkable 63 on Lake Champlain on 11/24 (4 at Charlotte, and 59 in Addison) (FO,WS). At least 22 Pied-billed Grebes were reported for the season, with records coming from all sections of the state. High counts of this generally solitary species were: 4 on 9/6 and 9/28 at Dead Creek Waterfowl Management Area; and 4 on 10/11 at Newport (FO,RAR). The latest individual reported was one on 11/7 on Lake Fairlee (WGE,GFE). Double-crested Cormorant was reported twice, 2 were found on Lake Memphremagog on 8/26 (FO,CSz); another was noted on 9/28 in Burlington (BSE,ORE). Great Blue Heron was by far the most reported species of heron for the season with many observers submitting reports. The seasonal maximum was 14 on 9/24 at Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge in Swanton (SBL); the species seemed to depart far later this year than in previous years; 7 birds were reported lingering into November with 1 in Addison on 11/24 (BPG) and 2 in Wallingford on 11/25 (BCW) being the latest. Green Herons were reported in small numbers during the early autumn from various sections of the state, the reported high count was 6 on 9/24 at Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge (SBL); the latest individual reported was on 9/28 at Hartford (WGE). Cattle Egret, unreported the previous two falls, was reported 3 times. The first were 3 reported on 8/14 in Charlotte (JAI); a remarkable flock of 40-45 was reported from Grand Isle on 9/19 (NWW,BCW); also remarkable was a flock of 11 found on the unusually late date of 11/7 in Vergennes (SBL,JDL,et al). There are at least 3 different reports of the uncommon and irregular Great Egret; 2 were reported on Lake Bomoseen on 8/24 (ALG); another was noted at Pittsford on 8/3 where it apparently had arrived from Leicester (VH); another large white bird that was probably of this species was reported on 8/9 in Bridgewater (RTH). There were 6 reports of the Black-crowned Night Heron; the species was reported twice from Dead Creek Waterfowl Management Area by William Norse on 8/21 and 9/6, 5 being seen on the later date; 2 were noted at Dead Creek WMA on 8/28 (MFM); 1 was reported from Burlington on 9/15 (BSE,ORE); 2 were seen at Missisquoi NWR on 9/24 (JDL,SBL); the last individual reported was 1 on 9/30 at Dead Creek WMA (KCE). There was 1 report of the elusive Least Bittern, a single bird was noted on 8/21 at Dead Creek WMA (WJN). There were 4 reports of the American Bittern, a species that is often hard to locate after spring. There were 2 reports from Dead Creek WMA each involving 1 bird on 8/21 and 9/6 respectively (WJN); 12 birds representing an excellent high count were found at Missisquoi NWR on 9/24 (SBL,JDL); the final report of the season was 1 bird found on 10/4 at Berlin Pond (WGE). A total of 10,765 Canada Geese were reported for the fall; William Norse reported a seasonal total of 7750 over his hawk lookout in Winhall (hereafter WHL); other good seasonal totals reported were: 871 at Wolcott (LNM); and 747 in the Northeast Kingdom (FO,RAR). The highest single groups reported were, 550+ on 10/2 at Milton (BSE,ORE); and 470 from Mt. Pisgah on 10/3 (FO,RAR,LNM,AG). The only report of the rarely noted Brant was of a group of 6 which flew over the WHL on 10/10 (WJN). 1200+ Snow Geese were reported for the season, 80 were seen over East Craftsbury on 10/4, accompanying this flock were 2 individuals of the rare but regular blue phase of the species (RAR); 95 were seen on 10/18 also over East Craftsbury (JW); 75+ were noted on 10/19 in Burlington (BSE,ORE); and finally an excellent group of 950 were seen over Wolcott on 10/26 comprising 950+ birds in all (LNM). The Mallard, a species increasing in the state since man's alteration of its range, had an average autumn. Birds were seen throughout the season with a spectacular maximum of 500+ reported from Missisquoi NWR on 9/24 (JDL,SBL); the eastern Vermont high count was 95 from 10/21-10/23 on Lake Morey (WGE,GFE). The Black Duck was seen throughout the season in average numbers though continued presence of hybrids with the closely related Mallard seem to show a tendency for the species to be in decline as a nester in the state, northern individuals from Quebec tend to raise late fall counts and give a false impression that the Black Duck is holding its own against the highly successful and human aided Mallard. High counts this season were: 150+ in Burlington on 9/14 (BSE,ORE); and 140 were noted on Lake Morey from 10/21-10/23 (WGE,GFE). The Gadwall, a species once considered rare and irregular in this state appears to have become regular as a migrant in small numbers. There were 5 reports involving 14 individuals, 2 were at Dead Creek WMA on 9/6 (WJN); 2 were seen in East Montpelier on 9/7 (MFM); 5 were seen in Colchester and 2 in Burlington on 9/17 (BSE,ORE); there was 1 male in Milton on 10/11 (SDJ,DCW); and the final report was of 2 birds on Lake Morey, in eastern Vermont where the species is still quite scarce, from 10/21-10/23 (WGE,GFE). There were only 4 reports of Pintail which is apparently a less common migrant during the autumn than during the spring; 4 were seen at Dead Creek WMA on 8/21 (WJN); 3 more were seen there on 9/6 (WJN); 2 males were found in Milton on 9/28 (SDJ,DCW); and the last report was of a female on Lake Morey on 11/2 (WGE). There were only 7 total reports of Green-winged Teal, a species we consider more prevalent than these reports would indicate: 1 was seen on August 27 at Island Pond (FO,CSz); 4 were seen at Dead Creek WMA on 9/28 (WJN); 5 were noted on Lake Morey on 10/2 (WGE,GFE); 2 were reported from Burlington on 10/3 (BSE,ORE); 5 were found in Berlin on 10/4 (WGE); a female was found dead in Weathersfield on 10/9 (JLW); the final report was of 10 birds in East Thetford on 11/2 (WGE). There were 6 reports of the common but early departing Blue-winged Teal; the first report was of 2 at Dead Creek WMA on 8/21 (WJN); 9 were seen in Newport on 8/26 (FO,CSz); 10 were at Dead Creek WMA on 9/6 (WJN); groups of 8,6, and 7 were noted on 9/23, 9/28 and 10/5 respectively at the Sand Bar SWR (DCW,SDJ); 6 were seen in Pantton on 10/3 (BSE,ORE); the final record was the above noted 10/5. There were 7 reports of the American Wigeon including a series of 4 from the Sand Bar SWR, 1 was seen at Lake Hardwick on 8/19 (FO); 8 were noted at Dead Creek WMA on 9/28 (WJN); 5

were seen on 9/28 at the Sand Bar SWR (DCW,SDJ); 6 were found once again in Milton on 10/10 (BSE,ORE); this number had dropped to 4 by 10/11 (DCW,SDJ); the last report from Milton was of 3 found on 10/13 (SDJ,DCW); the last report of the species was of 3 birds seen on Lake Morey on 10/23 (WGE,GFE). There are no reports of Northern Shoveler. Was the species overlooked or were there actually no Shovelers in the state over the four months that make up the autumn season? Wood Ducks were widely reported in large numbers, maximum counts were 77 on 9/21 at the Sand Bar SWR (DCW,SDJ); an amazing 500+ at Missisquoi NWR on 9/24 (JDL,SBL); and a count of 125+ on 10/10 at the Sand Bar SWR (BSE,ORE); large numbers continued at Milton through 10/25, a late report was not received for the area. There was a single report of the rare Redhead for the season, a good count of 6 was achieved on 11/24 at Button Bay (FO,WS). There are only 2 definite reports of the Ring-necked Duck; 6 were noted in Norwich on 10/23 (WGE,GFE); and 6 more were seen on Woodward Reservoir in Plymouth on 11/18-11/22 (PSW,RSW); distant birds sighted on Lake Memphremagog during the season may have been this species (FO). There were 2 reports of the Canvasback, a generally common but little known migrant in the state; 45 were seen flying over Lake Champlain in Burlington on 11/11 (WGE,GFE); and 4 were noted with Redheads at Button Bay SP on 11/24 (FO,WS). The first record of Scaup was of a pair of birds unidentified as to species on Lake Hardwick on 9/14 (FO). There were 2 reports of Greater Scaup for the season, both came from Burlington where 8 were seen on 10/4 and 13 on 10/10 (BSE,ORE). Lesser Scaup were also lightly reported, with a total of three reports submitted, 2 were noted in Burlington on 10/4 (BSE,ORE); 1 was seen at Wilder on 10/10 (WGE,GFE); and another was found in Burlington on 11/11 (WGE,GFE). The Common Goldeneye lived up to its name and was found in good numbers from mid-October through the end of the season. Maxima were: 70 on 11/7 in Burlington (FO,JW) and 20 on Lake Morey on 10/31 for the largest number reported from Eastern Vermont (WGE,GFE). Bufflehead was well reported for the season with a total of 19 reports involving 136 individuals. The earliest were 2 on Lake Morey on 10/23 (WGE,GFE); other early reports were: 6 seen during a snow squall on Woodward Reservoir in Plymouth on 10/24 (SBL,JDL); and 2 seen on Caspian Lake on 10/24 (FO,JW). High counts were: 15 on 10/29 at Eliza Pond in Craftsbury (FO); 14 on 11/7 on Lakes Morey and Fairlee in Fairlee (WGE,GFE); and 34 on 11/7 in Burlington (FO,JW). Birds continued on into the winter season on Lake Champlain. There were 3 reports of Oldsquaw all away from traditional Lake Champlain locations. A female was noted on Woodward Reservoir in Plymouth on 10/23 (JDL,SBL); 1 was found on the Barre Reservoir on 10/24 (MFM); the final record was of a male on Lake Morey on 10/31 (WGE,GFE). The Scoter migration seemed somewhat subdued this autumn with the notable exception of the Black Scoter which appeared in distinctly elevated numbers. There were 3 reports of the White-winged Scoter; 2 were found on Lake Morey on 10/16 (WGE,GFE); 3 were seen in Burlington on 11/8 (BSE,ORE); the final report was of 3 females reported on 11/24 at Charlotte (FO). A total of 4 reports were received for the Surf Scoter; as with the White-winged, this seems to indicate that this species was in lower than normal numbers. 13 were noted in Burlington on 10/4 (BSE,ORE); 19 were reported on 10/10 also in Burlington (BSE,ORE); the final report from Burlington was of 15 on 10/11 (BSE,ORE); these records tend to indicate a swift but good flight on Lake Champlain during early October. The only report received away from Lake Champlain was of 2 birds sighted on Caspian Lake on 10/17 (FO). In striking contrast to the previous two species, the Black Scoter was in definitely higher than normal numbers; a total of 9 reports involving 90 individuals were received for the fall records; 79 of those individuals were reciprocally on 10/5 when 20 (15 males, 5 females) were noted on Grotton Pond (SA); 4 were noted at Burlington on 10/11 (BSE,ORE); 12 were seen on Caspian Lake on 10/15 (FO); 3 were noted there on 10/17 (FO); 2 were noted in Wilder on 10/26 (WGE,GFE); a flock of 30 all females was found at Wilder on 11/13 (WGE,GFE); 2 females were noted in Burlington on 11/24 (FO); the final report also comes from Burlington with 5 seen there on 11/27



(BSE,ORE). Hooded Mergansers were well reported for the autumn beginning with the sighting of broods at Dead Creek WMA on 8/21 (WJN), and at Newport on 8/26 (FO,CSz). The earliest indication of migration was a group of 5 on Lake Fairlee on 10/2 (GFE,WGE); the bulk of the migration occurred in late October and November, the high counts being 10 on 10/24 on Caspian Lake (FO,JW); and 22 on Lake Morey on 10/31 (GFE,WGE); the latest reports were of 2 on 11/24 at Button Bay SP (FO,WS); and 3 on the Connecticut River at White River Jct. on 11/25 (WGE). The earliest indication of migration for the Common Merganser was a flock of 45+ on 8/29 in Wallingford (BCW); 4 were noted on Lake Champlain at

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Burlington on 9/24 (BSE,ORE); the highest numbers noted with the exception of the unusually large flock reported in August were: 19 on 10/17 on Caspian Lake (FO,JW) and 27 noted on Lakes Morey and Fairlee on 11/21-11/27 (WGE,GFE,JAM). The only area which recorded a definite and steady movement of the Red-breasted Merganser was Caspian Lake in Greensboro. The earliest record comes to us from Burlington where an unspecified number were sighted on 10/4 (BSE,ORE); 9 were sighted on Caspian Lake on 10/18 (FO,JW); other records from Caspian Lake are as follows: 3 on 10/24 (FO,JW); and 12 on 10/31 (FO); another record was of a male bird noted on Shadow Lake in Barton on 10/30 (RAR,FO,JW).

RAPTORS

The Turkey Vulture was reported rather lightly but numbers indicated that the species is still showing signs of dramatic increase; the first report of the season was of 1 at Dead Creek WMA on 8/21 (WJN); 1 was noted in Springfield on 8/31 soaring with a Red-tailed Hawk for company (EE); 2 were seen at Dead Creek WMA on 9/6 (WJN); 2 were seen in Woodstock on 9/12 (CRP); 2-4 per day were noted in Weathersfield during September (JLW); 3 were seen from Gile Mt. in Norwich on 10/2 (GFE,WGE); the latest birds noted in Weathersfield were 3 on 10/5 and 1 on 10/7 (JLW,ENO); vultures were found in heretofore unknown numbers in Bridport with birds interestingly being found in their highest numbers on 10/16 (usually considered the latest the species is seen in the state); the maximum was of 46 reliably seen in the air at once, it was assumed that some birds were always perched in nearby trees bringing the assumed count up to 50+. A late date was not received for this enormous group although a bird reported on the Ferrisburg Christmas Count considerably extends the species known late date in Vermont. With much of the Hawk Watch data unavailable* at this time, accipiters would appear to be in distressingly low numbers. There were 3 Goshawks reported. 65 Sharp-shinned Hawks seems average for the number of reports received, with 3 Hawk Watches reporting normal migration of the species with maxima of 18 on 10/2 at Gile Mt. (WGE,GFE) and 17 at the Winhall Lookout on 10/3 (WJN). Only 6 Cooper's Hawks were reported, more than Goshawks, but still not encouraging. Goshawks were reported twice in Winhall (WJN); and a single bird was noted in Weathersfield on 11/17-11/18 (JLW). The records of Cooper's Hawk include: 1 from Dead Creek WMA on 9/28 (WJN); 3 for the fall at Winhall (WJN); 1 in Weathersfield on 9/8 (EE); and another individual sighted in Weathersfield on 9/9 (JLW). Another unidentified accipiter was reported from Woodstock on 9/4, bringing the season's total of accipiters to 75 individuals. Red-tailed Hawks were in normal numbers for the season with no notable maxima reported. Red-shouldered Hawk was poorly reported for the season, but what has been received seems instructive. 7 birds of this species were seen in Winhall for the season (5 on Hawk Watches); 4 was the best day there on 10/3 (WJN); 1 was sighted on 9/30 in Clarendon (LHP); a bird or birds were noted in Weathersfield through most of the season (JLW); 3 were reported there on 10/7 (ENO); 1-2 resident birds were noted at Gile Mt. on 10/2 (GFE,WGE); the latest reported was one at Winhall on 11/2 (WJN). With only Winhall, Gile Mt. and Blue Gate Hill reporting Hawk Watches, there is no good indication of what magnitude the Broad-winged Hawk flight reached this year. The largest number reported was a kettle of 35-40 being harassed by crows on 9/28 in South Pomfret (PMB); Winhall's high report was a paltry 11 birds on 10/3 (WJN); the latest individual reported was 1 at the WHL on 10/11 (WJN). The Rough-legged Hawk exhibited an uneven distribution for the season with good numbers reported from the Champlain Valley, Addison County in particular, but with very few reported from other sectors of the state. Birds were stated to have arrived on an unspecified date or series of dates in late October in Addison County (BPG); reports are as follows: 2 on 11/6 in Vergennes (FO,JW); a dark phase individual on 11/9 at the WHL (WJN); 4 in sight at once on 11/15 in Addison (BPG); 3 in Marshfield on 11/20 (LNM); and 4 in Addison on 11/24 (FO,WS). At least one observer noted that as many as 50% of the birds sighted were dark phased which seems a relatively high incidence of this form. A plausible record of Golden Eagle was submitted this fall: a bird which appeared huge to the observers and which displayed three whitish patches in the "base" of each of each wing and at the base of the tail was observed 9/12 (EHa); the observers are familiar with ospreys and eagles. In the opinion of the editor, a dark phased Rough-legged Hawk is also a possibility. Heartening were 9 reports of Bald Eagle involving at least 8 individuals. Earliest was an immature on 8/22-8/23 in Arlington (CSC); an adult was noted in Woodstock on 8/29 and 9/4 (JDL); 2 immatures were noted once again in Arlington on 9/11 (CSC); an immature was noted at Woodbury on 9/21 (MFM); an adult was noted at Windsor on 9/25 (JLW); another immature was found on the Lamolille River in Wolcott on 9/26 (LNM); yet another immature was found in Charlestown, New Hampshire on 10/25 (JA); the final report of the season was of an adult in Guilford on 10/25 (WWK,GLK). Most heartening among these individuals was the presence of 5 immatures in the reported total indicating breeding success to the north of (or within?) Vermont. There were a total of 12 reports of the Marsh Hawk for the season with at least 10 individuals involved, the largest number of sightings came from the Dead Creek area with a total of 3 individuals seen by various observers throughout the season (WJN, BSE,ORE,BPG,KCE); other individuals reported were: 1 on 8/26 at East Craftsbury (FO,CSz); 1 on 9/6 at Wilder (JAM); 1 killed by an ignorant soul in Burlington found on 9/13 (BSE,ORE); a male sighted in Wolcott on 9/10 (LNM); 1 with a moulting tail in the Missisquoi NWR on 9/24 (JDL,SB); 1 on 10/1 at Mud Creek Waterfowl Management Area in Alburg (BSE,ORE); and the only individual noted this season at the WHL on 10/27 (WJN). The Osprey was widely reported and appears to have been in normal numbers last autumn although only one observer sent in a comprehensive report of the species migration for the season. Approximately 39 individuals were reported, 27 of which were sent in by Harold S. Rising of Norwich who kept close track of the migration on the

*Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope and \$1 to VINS for the Fall 1976 Hawk Watch Report.

Ompompanoosic River this fall. The earliest individual reported was 1 on 8/13 in Wolcott (HBD); migration started on the Ompompanoosic on 9/1 (HSR); maxima in Norwich were 3 on 9/8 and 9/26 (HSR); only 1 bird was noted at the WHL that being 1 on 9/21 (WJN); 5 were seen from Gile Mt. on 10/2 (GFE,WGE); late reports were 1 on 11/2 in Norwich (HSR); and a bird seen fishing in the White River near Bethel on 11/24 (EHa). There were at least 8 Peregrine Falcons reported for the fall, 2 rather early suggesting the possibility of either recently released falconer's birds or birds involved in recent reestablishment programs. 1 was reported on 9/3 in Windham (RAG,fide EE); a pair was reported in Arlington on 9/14 (CSC); 1 was reported at the WHL on 9/30 (WJN); 1 was reported from Plainfield on 9/24 (MFM); 1 was seen from Gile Mt. on 10/2 (WGE,GFE); and 2 reports from Northeast Kingdom Hawk Watches were received without commentary other than the promise of details in Hawk Watch reports not received as yet by VINS from Texas (FO,RAR). Merlins were also seen on these late reports, but as these are not on hand a total of 4 reports may be mentioned. The first report was of 1 at the WHL on 10/3 (WJN); another was noted on 10/11 in East Craftsbury (FO,RAR); 1 on Town Hill in Wolcott on 11/23 (LNM); and finally 1 was visiting a feeder in Guilford on 11/27, habits more becoming a Sharp-shinned Hawk (JK, fide LPM). American Kestrel seemed to be in rather small numbers, the maximum report for the season was 8 on 9/6 (1 in Cambridge, 3 Fairfield, 1 St. Albans, and 3 in Georgia), (BSE,ORE); 8 were reported for the season at the WHL (WJN).

GROUSE THROUGH RAILS

Henry Potter noted that the Turkey was "common throughout the season" in Clarendon, his being the only report received this fall. Ruffed Grouse seemed in lower than normal numbers to Henry Potter indicating that the species may be in the "down" portion of its population cycle at least in Rutland County. Most other observers tended to feel that the species was in normal numbers. The Spruce Grouse debuts in Records of Vermont Birds this autumn with an adult male seen in Ferdinand on 8/26 by Larry Metcalf who has had considerable experience with the species. After fifteen years absence the Sandhill Crane was again reported from Vermont; William Norse saw an individual flying south on 9/30 at the WHL with neck out-stretched and beelining. The description leaves no doubt as to the bird's identity. Perhaps this was the same bird seen in a field south of Panton on 9/11 (FCH). There was but a single report of the Virginia Rail; a single bird was noted at the West Rutland Marsh on 8/1 (LHP). There were no reports of Sora for the autumn. This we assume was because they were not seen, not because they were absent. There were 9 reports of Common Gallinule; 3 broods were reported in August; 2 broods were noted on Lake Bomoseen on 8/2-8/14 involving 8 birds (4 young) (ALG); another brood was found at Dead Creek on 8/21 involving 2 adults and 4 young (WJN); other reports were: 1 on 8/1 in Hartford (WGE); 2 at Dead Creek WMA on 9/6 (WJN); 17 were reported from Keeler's Bay, a traditional Gallinule location on 9/17 (NWW,BCW); 2 were seen at Dead Creek WMA on 9/28 (WJN); 3 were seen at Mud Creek WMA in Alburg on 10/1 (BSE,ORE); 4 were seen on 10/2 at the Sand Bar SWR (BSE,ORE); the last individual reported was on 10/10 at the Sand Bar SWR (BSE,ORE). American Coots were reported in late September and on until late November, 1 was found at Dead Creek WMA on 9/28 (WJN); another individual was found at Quechee on 9/30 (WGE); 1 was seen at the Sand Bar SWR on 10/2 (BSE,ORE); the next report was on a series of dates beginning on 10/23 when 5 were found at Lake Morey. These birds continued on keeping company with a flock of domestic Mallards. The birds were completely fearless; the maximum during the period of the bird's presence was 6 (the five original birds plus a solitary migrant on another section of the lake). The last appearance was of 2 of the original birds on 11/27 (GFE,WGE,JAM).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH ALCIDS

Suspiciously high in number and late in occurrence but well-described were 15 Semipalmated Plovers on 11/9 in Perkinsville (JLW). In general numbers of Killdeer seemed down this autumn; William Norse speculates that high water conditions had something to do with this, but since Killdeer are largely terrestrial it would still be unusual for their numbers to be down; high water can only be a partial explanation. The maximum reported this year (25 at Dead Creek WMA on 9/6) was less than half last year's. The latest individual reported was on 11/16 at Waterbury Center (HBD). There were no Vermont reports of Black-bellied Plovers but there were two reports on the opposite side of the Connecticut River from East Thetford in Lyme, New Hampshire. Three were seen there on 10/23 (GFE,WGE) and 1 was there on 10/29 (WGE). Only one observer reported that elusive fall migrant the American Woodcock; William Norse found them to be scarce at Winhall during the season. His last individual was on 10/5. There were only 3 reports of Common Snipe, a surprising drop from autumn of 1975's large numbers. We once again assume, as with many previous species, this is because the birds were so inconspicuous this season that observers simply passed them over. A snipe was found in Woodstock on 9/31 (RWL); 2 were found in Burlington on 10/3 (BSE,ORE); and 1 other was noted in Orwell on 10/25 (PMB). There was a single report of the uncommon and early departing Upland Sandpiper; 1 bird was heard going over at night in Newport on 8/26 (FO). (It might be added that this is one of few records that the editor is aware of from the Northeast Kingdom.) Spotted Sandpipers went virtually unreported for the fall. The last bird reported was 1 in White River Jct. on 10/7 (WGE). There were 4 reports of Solitary Sandpiper for the season; 3 at Marshfield Pond on 8/6 (MFM,LNM). The seasonal high count of 5 was recorded at Craftsbury on 8/12 (RAR). Other reports were: 1 on 8/26 in Island Pond (FO,CSz); 1 in Fair Haven on 9/5 (FSA); the last bird although recorded in New Hampshire extends the late date enough to be mentioned; 1 was noted in West Lebanon on 9/31 (WGE). The first Greater Yellowlegs reported was 1 on 8/21 at Dead Creek WMA (WJN); others sighted were: 1 at Winhall on 8/29 (WJN); 1 on 9/6 at Dead Creek WMA (WJN); 1 on 9/13 in Burlington (BSE,ORE); 1 on 10/23 in Lyme, New Hampshire (WGE,GFE); 2 on 10/29 also at Lyme, New Hampshire (WGE); the last bird reported was 1

on 11/6 at Vergennes (FO, JW). 2 Lesser Yellowlegs on 8/12 in East Craftsbury were the earliest reported birds of their species this autumn (RAR). Other reports being: 2 at Dead Creek WMA on 9/6 (WJN); 1 at Burlington on 9/13 (BSE, ORE); 1 seen on a farm pond in Montpelier on 10/4 (WGE); and 1 noted on an island in the Connecticut River in Hanover, New Hampshire on 10/23 (GFE, WGE). Pectoral Sandpiper was first reported on 9/30 in Burlington when 2 were noted (BSE, ORE); 1 was discovered in Albany on 10/4 (RAR); 5 were seen on the banks of the Connecticut River at West Lebanon, New Hampshire on 10/7 (WGE); and 9 were found on 10/23 in Lyme, New Hampshire (GFE, WGE). There were only two reports of Least Sandpiper: 6 on 8/16 at East Craftsbury (RAR) and 1 was seen at Dead Creek WMA on 9/6 (WJN). There was 1 report of Short-billed Dowitcher, a flock of 12 was found at Dead Creek WMA on 8/21 (WJN). There was also only a single report of Semipalmated Sandpiper, 1 individual was noted on 9/6 at Dead Creek WMA (WJN). Sanderling was reported twice, once from Vermont and once from New Hampshire; 7 were reported from Burlington on 9/24 (BSE, ORE); and 1 was noted on the New Hampshire shore of the Connecticut River in West Lebanon on 10/7 for a very unusual appearance away from Lake Champlain (WGE). There were two reports of Iceland Gull probably recording the same individual; 1 was seen at the Burlington landfill on 11/7 (FO, JW), and 1 was noted there also on 11/11 (WGE, GFE). There was only a single report of Great Black-backed Gull; 1 was noted on Lake Memphremagog in Newport on 10/19 (ALG, PMB); we are also informed that birds were present in normal numbers during the season on Lake Champlain although no records were submitted. Herring Gulls were found in good numbers away from Lake Champlain but due to their normal occurrence on the Lake there were no maxima reported from that area. Birds were found in many areas in the Connecticut River Valley, White River Jct., Norwich and Lakes Morey and Fairlee; high counts were: 10 at White River Jct. on 11/5 (WGE) and 13 in the same locale on 11/26 (WGE). 2 were noted in Craftsbury on 8/16 where they are unusual (FO). An interesting report was of 4 birds migrating along the ridge at the WHL on 11/2 (WJN). Ring-billed Gulls were reported in average numbers although only 2 reports were received from the Champlain Valley; 50 and 250 were reported at Dead Creek WMA on 8/21 and 9/28 respectively (WJN). 25 birds, most probably regular visitors from Lake Champlain were noted all season at the Montpelier landfill (MFM). Records from Eastern Vermont were: 1 at Quechee on 9/30 (WGE) and 1 at White River Jct. on 10/7 (WGE); most interesting was the report of 2 migrating along the ridge at the WHL on 11/2 just an hour before the Herring Gulls previously mentioned passed by (WJN). After the previous autumn's flight one would wonder what Bonaparte's Gull could do for an encore; to put it simply, they eclipsed last year's numbers by a wide margin. The earliest report received was of 9 on 9/17 at Colchester; 45 were reported there the next day (BSE, ORE); numbers built up to 75+ at Burlington on 10/11 (BSE, ORE); the last report from Burlington was 8 on 10/18 (BSE, ORE); 6 were found on Lake Memphremagog on 10/11 (FO, RAR); 3 more were noted there on 10/23 (FO, RAR); Bea Guyette, Frank Oatman and Wayne Scott all noted large numbers on Lake Champlain in Addison County in late November when the species is assumed to have become scarce; 50 were noted in the Addison area on 11/24 (FO, WS); and Bea Guyette noted a remarkable 170 on 11/27 in Addison. Apparently the Common Tern was missed by observers this autumn. One of the most unusual reports this autumn involved the discovery of a Common Murre, normally a species which is found far at sea or on the various sub-arctic islands on which they breed. This particular bird was found on dry land, a snow covered pasture in Calais to be precise on 11/25; the discoverers Paul Cate and Gary Schultz had never seen such a bird and tried to locate someone who could identify it. They located Jim Stewart of the Vermont Fish and Game Department and he identified the bird as a Common Murre still partially in summer plumage. It was later released in the North Branch of the Winooski River where it immediately began to swim and dive; the bird was not reported at any later date.

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Rock Doves were noted by all observers, and were reported in normal numbers. Mourning Doves were in average numbers through the end of the season with a normal tailing off of numbers to usual restricted winter population. High counts were: 50 on 10/10 at Quechee (WGE, GFE); and 43 at White River Jct. on 11/5 (WGE). There were 2 reports of the elusive and uncommon Yellow-billed Cuckoo; 1 was seen in Wallingford on 8/29 (BCW); and another met an untimely demise after running into a picture window in Bennington on 9/22 (MV). There were 3 reports of the somewhat more common but equally elusive Black-billed Cuckoo; one was reported from Hartland on 8/8 (WCU, JCU); 1 was seen in Poulney on 8/12 (JR); another was found in Weathersfield on 8/25 to conclude the seasons observations (JWL). Only Frank Oatman reports Screech Owl; 1 was called up with a tape recorder on 9/13 at Rock Point in Burlington (FO, CSz). This year Great Horned Owls narrowly outnumbered Barred Owls in individuals reported, with 6 Great Horneds reported from 5 locations versus 5 Barred Owls reported from 4 localities. Both species were well distributed over the state. There were two reports of the often difficult to locate Saw Whet Owl; 1 was banded in Marshfield during September (MFM); another spent a whole evening calling on 9/25 at Goddard College in Plainfield (LNM). Common Nighthawk was reported this autumn with many large migratory flocks noted by observers. Over 200 nighthawks were estimated in Weathersfield and Cavendish on 8/26 (EE); 50 were seen the next day in the same region (EE); 100+ were observed over the Otter Creek valley in Wallingford on 8/27 (BCW); a flock of 10+ was noted on 8/25 in Brownsville (JEH, BMH); 25+ were noted on the same date in Norwich (JDL); 20 were seen heading south on 9/1 in Andover (Mrs. Chase). Other birds reported were: 1 over Lake Memphremagog on 8/26 (FO, CSz); 4 seen in Winhall on 8/27 (WJN); and 4 on 9/13 in Wallingford; the latest reported this autumn (BCW). With 390+ reported the peak days of the migration were definitely 8/25-8/27. There was only a single report of the normally common Chimney Swift, apparently they departed much earlier than usual. William Norse reports his last date as being 8/12 in Winhall when a single individual was found. In direct opposition to

the Chimney Swift the Ruby-throated Hummingbird was found in good numbers and was seen much later than usual; 7 observers reported Hummers this fall all noting them in normal numbers, the maximum count being 4 on 8/20 in East Craftsbury (FO, RAR); at least two birds lingered into October, both were females raising identification problems; 1 was noted on 10/4 feeding on a house plant on a Bradford porch (ADe); and more remarkable was an individual on 10/26 feeding on faded Phlox in West Woodstock (JMV). (Due to the occurrence of the Black-chinned Hummingbird every winter in Louisiana it might be reasonable to assume that it is not safe to try to positively identify female Hummingbirds in late fall even here in New England, especially when noting the recent occurrences of the Rufous Hummingbird in the Northeast.) The Belted Kingfisher was reported in normal numbers for the season with a late date of 11/24 at Shelburne (FO). Common Flicker was reported in normal numbers also with a maximum of 30 on 10/7 in Winhall (WJN); 4 lingered into November; 1 was found in Winhall on 11/1 (WJN); 1 was sighted at Appletree Point in Burlington on 11/7 (FO, JW); 1 was noted in Timnouth on 11/19 (LHP); and the last individual reported was 1 on 11/29 in Vergennes (BPG). Pileated Woodpeckers were reported in their normal small numbers for the fall, with 1 banded at Ferdinand in September (MFM). Red-headed Woodpeckers were reported rather widely; 1 was found at Dead Creek WMA on 8/21 (WJN); birds in less traditional locales were: 1 on Broom Hill in Springfield during September (MVB); another was heard in Weathersfield on 10/4 (JLW); yet another was found around Springfield on 11/15 (AG); and finally 1 was seen in Guilford on 11/28 (LPM). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker reports come from 7 areas this year indicating a migration of normal proportions. The seasonal maximum was a count of 8 on 9/17 at Winhall (WJN). Late dates were: 1 on 10/3 at Winhall (WJN); 2 immatures on 10/3 in Bennington (MV); a lone immature was found in Weathersfield on 10/7 (ENO); the latest individual reported was 1 banded at South Woodstock on 10/10 (VINS, JMV). Both Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers were reported in lower than usual numbers; only 3 (2 Hairs and 1 Downy) were banded this season at Marshfield and South Woodstock (MFM; VINS, JMV); most observers felt that both species were in normal numbers, but Frank Oatman thought they were both down. In spite of the drop in numbers this does not appear to be a trend. Black-backed Woodpecker was represented in the form of 2 reports; 1 was found in Plainfield somewhat outside the species normal range on 9/24 (MFM); another was found in a more familiar location on 10/30 in the Island Pond area (FO, RAR, JW, DCW, CHA).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

Eastern Kingbird departed early this autumn, numbers seemed down to William Norse; nonetheless birds were generally reported over the state during August; high counts were: 10 on 8/21 at Dead Creek WMA (WJN); and 10 in the Newport area on 8/26 (FO, CSz); the latest report received was of 2 on 8/27 in Winhall (WJN). There were 2 reports of the Great Crested Flycatcher as noted previously (Fall 1975); it is an elusive fall migrant; both reports are from Wallingford; 1 was noted there on 9/4 (BCW); the second was found on 9/12 for a relatively late departure date (BCW). Eastern Phoebe was in its usual good numbers for the season; 26 were banded at South Woodstock up until 9/24 for what was considered an excellent season at the station (VINS, JMV); the maximum count received was of 9 seen on 10/7 at Weathersfield (ENO); late reports were: 1 on 10/23 at Winhall (WJN); 1 in Woodstock apparently reconitering a used nest on 10/24 (JMN); and finally 1 was seen in Wallingford on 10/31 (BCW). Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were reported in small numbers over a wide distribution for the autumn. 14 were banded at Marshfield during August and September (MFM); 5 were banded at South Woodstock with the last being 2 on 9/14 (VINS, JMV). Birds were also reported from: Island Pond, 1 on 8/27 (FO, CSz); and at Winhall where the first was one on 8/18 and the last was 1 on 8/24 (WJN). There was only 1 official report of Alder Flycatcher for the fall; 1 was banded at Marshfield in August (MFM). Willow Flycatcher was also reported on a single date; 2 were heard calling in Hartford on 8/1 (WGE). 7 undifferentiated "Trail's Flycatchers" were banded at South Woodstock, with the latest individual being on 9/30; this was considered a good season for this "species" at the station (VINS, JMV). Least Flycatchers were reported in normal numbers, although some observers felt that their numbers were down. The maximum report was 6+ on 8/29 in Craftsbury (RAR); 34 were banded at South Woodstock for the season (VINS, JMV); and 19 were banded at Marshfield during August and September (MFM); the latest individual was 1 banded at South Woodstock on 10/1 (VINS, JMV). A total of 4 Eastern Wood Pewees were banded this season (3 at Marshfield and 1 at South Woodstock) numbers seemed down also to most field observers, the latest individuals reported were 2 on 9/18 at Clarendon (LHP); and 1 on 9/20 at Winhall (WJN). There were three reports of Olive-sided Flycatchers this autumn; 1 was reported from Wallingford on 8/8 (BCW); 3 were banded during the third week of August in South Woodstock (3 on 8/16), (VINS, JMV); another was found in Wallingford on 8/30 (BCW); the last banded at South Woodstock was 1 on 9/1 (VINS, JMV); the latest reported was an extremely late individual on 9/17 in Winhall (WJN). Horned Larks were widely reported and in good numbers. The earliest report was of a large flock of 100+ on 10/3 in Wallingford (BCW); other reports of large numbers were: 100 on 11/6 in Monkton (FO, JW); and 30-40 on 11/24 in Addison (FO, WS). Tree Swallows were rather lightly reported and, in general, seemed to leave early (most late dates reported are from late August). The largest number reported was a flock of 50 at Dead Creek WMA on 9/6 (WJN); notable late individuals were: 8 on 10/10 in Burlington (BSE, ORE); but latest were 2 immatures seen at Lake Morey from 11/2-11/14 which may constitute the latest date for any species of swallow in Vermont (WGE, GFE). There was only 1 report involving the early departing Bank Swallow, 20+ were noted at Newport on 8/26 (FO, CSz). There were no reports of Rough-winged Swallows after last autumn's large number of late reports, indicating that either these birds were just not noticed and/or that most individuals left in mid or late July. Barn Swallows were reported widely and in generally normal numbers, with a maximum of 40 on 8/26 in Newport (FO, CSz); latest reports were: 10 at

Dead Creek WMA on 9/6 (WJN); and 7 on 9/7 at Tinnmouth (LHP). These dates as with other swallows show the earliness of swallow departure dates this fall (see late dates in Fall 1975 report). There were three reports of Cliff Swallow; William Norse noted them in Winhall twice: 2 on 8/24 and 1 on 8/27; the last at Tinnmouth was 1 on 8/22 (GLEB); the maximum report was 12 on 8/26 in Newport (FO,CSz). Purple Martins were found at Dead Creek WMA twice this season; 1 was noted there on 8/21 (WJN); and 2 were seen there on 9/6, the last date for the fall (WJN).

9/16 when 13 were banded (VINS,JMV); late dates were: 1 on 10/1 at Winhall (WJN); another was found in Wallingford on 10/2 (BCW); the final report of the season was of a bird banded on 10/13 at South Woodstock (JMV). A later report was received but was not accompanied with sufficient details to confirm the identification. The Grey-cheeked Thrush was sparsely reported for the autumn; South Woodstock reported none this season. 1 was banded at Marshfield in September (MFM); 1 was found in Winhall on 9/6 (WJN); the final report submitted was of 1 on 9/14 in Winhall (WJN). Veeries were noted in average numbers for the fall with 30 banded at South Woodstock (VINS,JMV), and 12 banded at Marshfield (MFM); peak movement was noted in August when South Woodstock recorded its high day of 6 on 8/11; a maxima of 10 was received for Winhall during August (WJN); late birds were: 1 on 9/16 in Winhall (WJN); and 1 netted at South Woodstock on 9/20 (VINS,JMV). The Eastern Bluebird was reported in encouraging numbers with a total 128 reported by 14 different observers. Large flocks reported were: 24 on 9/6 in Thetford (JAM); 24+ in Reading on 9/23 (part of a total of 34+ seen that day), (SBL); 14 on 10/13 in Wolcott (LNM); and 15+ in Woodstock on 10/18 (JMN). Late dates were: 3 on 10/20 in Woodstock (JMN); 2 on 10/27 in Clarendon (LHP); and 2 in Bennington on 11/13 (MV).

JAYS THROUGH WRENS

Gray Jay was reported twice, both reports coming from the traditional locations around Island Pond; Marion Metcalf reports 5 throughout the period in Ferdinand with 1 banded there during September; Frank Oatman lists 1 record, 4 at Island Pond on 10/30 (FO,RAR,JW,DCW,CBHa). Blue Jays were generally in normal numbers; populations after being down in the Northeast Kingdom returned to "equilibrium" this season. Large numbers were noted migrating from Hawk Lookouts (FO,WJN); the seasonal maximum was from the WHL with a total of 150 reported for 10/3 (WJN). Common Ravens were generally reported over the same range of areas as last year indicating that they are well ensconced in their recently reclaimed range. Interesting reports include: 30 seen in Marshfield on 11/4 representing the seasonal high (LNM); birds apparently migrating at the WHL on various dates--how much further south might these individuals go?--(WJN); and finally 1 was noted over Snake Mountain 9/15, a most unusual record as Snake Mountain is a Monadnock of sorts rising up from the level and Ravenless flats of the Champlain Valley (BPG). Common Crows seemed to be in average numbers for the season; no large concentration or flocks were noted contra to last fall's report; 77 was the largest number reported for the season this being from East Craftsbury on 10/11 (FO). Black-capped Chickadee was reported by all observers to be in average numbers. After last year's movement into southern New England, the Boreal Chickadee stayed north this autumn. 2 were found at Island Pond on 8/27 (FO,CSz); a pair was noted at East Craftsbury all season (FO, RAR,JW); 1 was noted at Wolcott on 10/12 (LNM); and 4 were seen at Craftsbury on 11/25 (FO,JW). There was a single report of Tufted Titmouse; 1 was noted in Clarendon from 9/5-10/13 (LHP). White-breasted Nuthatch appeared to be in its normal haunts in good numbers. After the lower than average numbers of the previous fall the Red-breasted Nuthatch was present throughout the state in good numbers possibly foreshadowing an "eruption" year, this possibly being due to an excellent cone crop this year (especially Hemlock); feeders and banding records do not seem to show the prevailing pattern of the season. The most interesting reports came from field observers; William Norse noted maxima of 20-25 on many days in Winhall; Larry Metcalf also noted many large flocks through the season with a maximum of 17 on 9/17 in Wolcott; and Rose Ann Rowlett noted a remarkable 80+ on 11/2 in Craftsbury. The Brown Creeper was noted in average numbers for the season. House Wrens were in average numbers, late individuals were: 1 on 9/19 at Winhall (WJN); 1 on 9/28 in Hartford (WGE); and 1 at South Woodstock on 10/1, the last of 7 banded there (VINS, JMV). Winter Wrens also were in average numbers for the season. Late reports were: 1 on 10/30 in Winhall (WJN); 1 on 11/1 in Hartford (WGE); and extending the late date, though not a Vermont record, was 1 seen on 11/26 in Hanover, New Hampshire (WGE). After last fall's impressive collection of reports the Carolina Wren has apparently dropped out of sight. Is this because so few survived last winter's cold ordeal? There were 5 reports of the Long-billed Marsh Wren, 10+ were noted at Dead Creek WMA on 8/21 (WJN); 4 were found in Newport on 8/26 (FO, CSz); 5 were reported from Dead Creek on 9/28 (WJN); the last reports were: 1 at Dead Creek WMA on 10/1 (KGE); and 1 across the Connecticut River in West Lebanon, New Hampshire from 10/19 through 10/22 (WGE). There was 1 report of the scarce and seldom reported Short-billed Marsh Wren; William Norse found 1 in a dry field near the Dead Creek WMA on 9/6 (WJN).

KINGLETS THROUGH VIREOS

The Golden-crowned Kinglet migration this autumn was less spectacular than that of autumn 1975 but it was good nonetheless. 9 were banded for the fall at South Woodstock and Marshfield (VINS,JMV;MFM); maxima of 50+ were recorded for several days in October at Winhall (WJN); birds remained in good numbers into the winter. Ruby-crowned Kinglets also fell to normal numbers after a strong flight year in 1975. 37 were banded at South Woodstock (VINS,JMV); and 12 were banded at Marshfield (MFM). High counts were: 30 on 10/2 in Norwich (WGE,GFE); and 25 on 10/3 in Winhall (WJN). The latest birds reported were: 1 on 11/10 in Winhall (WJN); 1 on 11/12 in Clarendon (LHP); and a later report comes from the Connecticut Valley of New Hampshire with 2 at Hanover, New Hampshire on 11/30 (WGE). The earliest Water Pints reported were 8 on 9/17 in Colchester (BSE,ORE); reports were fewer than last year, but other records submitted were: 1 on 9/21 in Winhall (WJN); 25 on 9/26 in Craftsbury (FO); 20 on 9/28 at Dead Creek WMA (WJN); 40-50 in Addison on 10/3 (BSE,ORE); 3 were seen in Woodstock on 10/3 (SBL); good numbers were noted in Albany from 10/4 until 10/16 when 12 were seen, a maximum of 25 being noted on 10/14 (RAR); the latest at Winhall was 1 on 10/17 (WJN); 50 were noted in Lyme, New Hampshire on 10/23 (WGE,GFE). There was one report of the scarce and very irregular Bohemian Waxwing; 4 were noted with 18 Cedar Waxwings on 11/23 in Bennington; the observer indicated that the group might well be a family (MV). Cedar Waxwings were in normal numbers; individuals were seen in medium to large flocks throughout the fall. The largest flocks reported were 75 on 8/26 in Newport (FO,CSz); 100+ 10/7-10/18 in Clarendon (LHP); and 150+ in Charlotte on 11/24 (FO,JW). 10 total Northern Shrikes were reported this autumn with the earliest being 1 on 10/22 in East Craftsbury (RAR); others were: 2 on 11/2 in Pomfret (EEB); 1 immature on 11/6 in Wallingford (BCW); 1 on 11/13 in Marshfield (LNM); another in Wallingford on 11/15 (BCW); 1 in East Craftsbury on 11/17 (FO); 1 in Tinnmouth on 11/19 (GLEB); 1 in Peru on 11/21 (RG,PMBC); and 1 on 11/23 in Hardwick (FO). A single report of Lodgehead Shrike was received; 1 was noted in Wallingford on 10/25 (BCW); a note should be made though that care is required in identifying shrikes especially where possible seasonal overlap occurs as in this record. Starlings were in their normal numbers. There was only 1 report of Yellow-throated Vireo; 1 was seen on 8/31 in Clarendon (LHP). Solitary Vireo was noted in small numbers with 7 banded at Marshfield in September (MFM), and 3 banded for the season at South Woodstock (VINS,JMV). Late individuals were: 1 on 10/8 in Montpelier (WGE); 2 on 10/9 in Hartford (WGE,GFE); and 1 on 10/18 at Hartford (WGE). The migration of the Red-eyed Vireo was light; 17 were banded at South Woodstock (VINS,JMV) and 10 were banded at Marshfield (MFM). The latest birds were: 1 on 9/29 in South Woodstock (VINS,JMV); 1 on 10/2 in Norwich (GFE,WGE); and 1 on 10/4 in Clarendon (LHP). There were two reports of the Philadelphia Vireo; 2 were banded at Marshfield, 1 in August and 1 in September (MFM); and 1 was found in Winhall on 9/20 (WJN). Warbling Vireo was reported on three occasions this autumn; 1 was seen in Manchester on 8/27 (WJN); another was noted at Dead Creek WMA on 9/6 (WJN); the last report was of a single bird on 9/18 at Clarendon (LHP).

MIMICS THROUGH THRUSHES

Mockingbirds were reported from 6 different localities for the season indicating that the species remains widespread though in low numbers. Catbirds were reported in their usual good numbers; 41 were banded at South Woodstock with the peak period of the migration being the third week of September (VINS, JMV). The highest count received was 10 on 9/17 in Winhall (WJN); late reports were: 1 banded at South Woodstock on 10/2 (VINS, JMV); 1 seen at Fairlee on 10/2 (GFE,WGE); 1 noted on 10/8 in Tinnmouth (GLEB); and 1 found in East Craftsbury on 10/10 (RAR). Brown Thrasher was sparsely reported for the season though no one indicated that anything was amiss, the latest reports were of 1 banded at South Woodstock (the only one for the season) on 9/8 (VINS, JMV); and 1 pair that stayed in Tinnmouth until 9/16 (GLEB). American Robins were seen in average numbers, the peak days of the migration appear to cover the final two weeks of October with 9 of South Woodstock's 26 banded on 10/15 (VINS,JMV); also counts of 75+ on 10/17 in Greensboro (FO,JW); 100+ on 10/11 in Winhall (WJN); and 200+ on 11/5 in Clarendon (LHP) were received indicating migration peaks for the autumn. The Wood Thrush appears to have had a good migration this autumn; 85 were banded at South Woodstock for the season with the migration evenly spaced over August and September (VINS,JMV); 7 were also banded at Marshfield during September (MFM); late birds were: 1 on 10/1 in Winhall (WJN); and an exceptionally late bird in Wolcott on 10/18 (LNM). The majority of the Hermit Thrush migration occurred, as is normal, in October. 33 of the 37 banded at South Woodstock were in October; the high date at South Woodstock was 10/4 when 6 were banded (VINS,JMV); the high count from field observers corresponded with 5 noted on Mt. Pisgah on 10/2 (FO,JW). The latest individuals reported were: 2 noted in Plymouth on 11/17 (EH); 1 found in Reading on 11/21 (JoJ); and finally 1 noted in Plymouth on 11/23 (PSW,RSW). There was a good, though subdued by comparison to fall 1975, migration of Swainson's Thrush; 115 were banded at South Woodstock (VINS,JMV); another 18 were banded at Marshfield and Ferdinand (MFM); the high date at South Woodstock was

WOOD WARBLERS

Black-and-white Warbler appeared to be in average numbers; 16 were banded at South Woodstock, the majority of which (12) were banded in August (VINS,JMV); 5 were also banded at Marshfield in August and September (MFM). Late dates were: 1 on 9/19 in Winhall (WJN); and 1 banded at South Woodstock on 9/21 (VINS, JMV). There was a single report of the scarce Golden-winged Warbler; 1 was found in Poultney on 8/8 (JTE). There was a slightly better than average flight of the Tennessee Warbler, most were noted in late August. 48 were banded at South Woodstock, 31 being banded in the last week of August (VINS,JMV); 20 were banded at Marshfield for the season (MFM); the maximum report for the season was 25-30 seen at Island Pond on 8/27 (FO, CSz); the first noted at Winhall was on 9/5 (WJN); late dates were: 1 on 9/20 at Winhall (WJN); 1 banded on 9/22 in South Woodstock (VINS,JMV); and 1 in Hartford on 9/28 (WGE). There were two reports of the rare Orange-crowned Warbler; 1 was banded at Marshfield on an unspecified date in September (MFM); and 1 was noted in Winhall on 9/17 (WJN). The Nashville Warbler was well reported; 22 were banded at South Woodstock (VINS, JMV), and 10 were banded at Marshfield (MFM); the seasonal high was 15+ at Island Pond on 8/27 (FO,CSz); late birds reported were: 1 on 10/9 in Hartford (GFE,WGE); and 1 was banded at South Woodstock on 10/15 (VINS,JMV). The Northern Parula was also well reported; few were banded this season; 1 at South Woodstock and 2 at Marshfield (VINS,JMV;MFM); no notable high counts were received for the season. Late dates were: 1 on 9/26 at Haystack

Mountain (FO,RAR,SA); and 1 at Hartford on 10/1 (WGE). Yellow Warbler departed early. There was a total of four reports from field observers: 1 was noted in Winhall on 8/4 (WJN); 5 were seen at Dead Creek WMA on 8/21 (WJN); 4 were found at Newport on 8/26 (FO,CSZ); and finally 1 was noted at Clarendon on 9/6 (LHP). 28 Magnolia Warblers were banded at South Woodstock (VINS,JMV); and 25 were banded in Marshfield (MFM); these figures indicating an average flight for the season. The maximum field reports were: 6 on 8/27 at Island Pond (FO,CSZ); and 10 on 9/17 at Winhall (WJN). The latest bird reported was 1 banded on 10/2 at South Woodstock (VINS,JMV). As with other species of warbler, there was an average flight of the Cape May Warbler, a maxima of 6 was reported on 8/27 at Island Pond (FO,CSZ); the first of the season at Winhall was 1 on 9/5 (WJN); 4 total were banded with 1 at Marshfield and 3 at South Woodstock (MFM,VINS,JMV); latest birds reported were: 1 on 9/13 at East Craftsbury (FO); 1 on 9/17 at Winhall (WJN); the final bird was 1 netted at South Woodstock on 9/24 (VINS,JMV). Most observers noted that the Black-throated Blue Warbler seemed to depart early; the last noted at Winhall being 1 on 9/5 (WJN), and the last at East Craftsbury was 1 on 8/29 (RAR). Of the total of 28 banded this season, 19 were at Marshfield and Ferdinand and 9 were at South Woodstock (MFM,VINS,JMV); 6 of those banded at South Woodstock were in September, with the last 1 on 9/24 (VINS,JMV). The last individual reported for the season was a female on 10/3 in Burlington (BSE,ORE). Yellow-rumped Warblers were in their normal high numbers. The migration seems to show two peaks, one during the third week of September, with 14 of the 45 birds banded at South Woodstock occurring on 9/21 (VINS,JMV); 25+ were also noted in Burlington on 9/17 (BSE,ORE); the second peak was indicated by a series of high counts during the second week of October. The seasonal maximum of 60+ was noted in Weathersfield on 10/7 (ENO); William Norse noted his seasonal high on 10/11 with 30 seen in Winhall; and 28 were noted at Hartford on 10/13 (WGE). Yellow-rumps lingered fairly late with birds being recorded on 11/21 in Berlin (MFM); and 11/29 in Vergennes and at East Craftsbury (BPG,FO). There was an average migration of the Black-throated Green Warbler with 9 banded at Marshfield and Ferdinand (MFM); and 6 netted at South Woodstock (VINS,JMV). The maximum count was 20 on 9/17 at Winhall (WJN). The latest bird reported was 1 on 10/9 at Hartford (WGE,GFE). Another early departing species this autumn was the Blackburnian Warbler; 7 total were banded for the season: 3 at Marshfield during September (MFM), and 4 at South Woodstock all during August (VINS,JMV). The high count for the season was 8 on 8/27 at Island Pond (FO,CSZ). Late reports were: 1 on 9/17 at Winhall (WJN); and 1 on 9/19 at Fair Haven (FSA). Chestnut-sided Warblers also leave during the last two weeks of August and the first week of September; 12 were banded at South Woodstock all during August (VINS,JMV); 16 were banded at Marshfield (MFM); the maximum report for the fall was 6 on 9/5 at Winhall (WJN); the latest reported was 1 on 9/19 also at Winhall (WJN). It is hard to gauge the reports of the Bay-breasted Warbler, on the one hand a maximum report of 5-6 at Island Pond on 8/27 (FO,CSZ) and a good banding report from Marshfield with 13 netted during the fall (MFM); and on the other, the fact that William Norse completely missed the species this season and only 1 was banded at South Woodstock (VINS,JMV). In general it would appear that the species was in normal numbers in the northern portion of the state and that it almost completely skipped over the south this autumn; reasons for this are lacking. The latest birds noted were 2 in Hanover, New Hampshire on 9/27 (WGE). The Blackpoll Warbler was down in comparison to autumn 1975. A total of 12 were banded this season: 4 at Marshfield and 8 at South Woodstock (MFM,VINS,JMV); 10 at Winhall on 9/16 was the highest count reported (WJN); late reports were: 1 on 9/20 at Winhall (WJN); 1 at South Woodstock on 9/21 (VINS,JMV); and 1 at Hanover, New Hampshire on 9/27 (WGE). There were 3 reports of the highly local and difficult to identify Pine Warbler, a high of 4-5 was found in Newport on 8/26 (FO,CSZ); 1 was noted at Wilder on 9/29 (WGE); and 1 was seen and heard singing at Lake Morey on 10/2 (GFE,WGE). There were 7 reports of the Palm Warbler; the first were 2 on 9/30 at West Lebanon, New Hampshire just across the Connecticut River (WGE); 1 was noted a day later in Hartford on 10/1 (WGE); 1 was found in Woodstock on 10/3 (SBL); the seasonal maximum of 6 occurred on 10/7 in White River Jct. (WGE); 1 was noted in Wallingford on 10/9 (BCW); 3 were found in Hartford on the same day (GFE,WGE); the final reports of the season were: 1 at Winhall where they are very rare on 11/4 (WJN); and 1 in West Lebanon, New Hampshire on 11/5 (WGE). There appears to have been a normal flight of the Ovenbird; 21 were banded at South Woodstock, most of them in August (VINS,JMV); another 15 were banded at Marshfield in September (MFM). William Norse felt that the migration in Winhall was poor this year, noting no birds after 9/5. The latest report was of 1 netted at South Woodstock on 9/15 (VINS,JMV). There were 19 total Northern Waterthrushes banded this season, 11 in Marshfield (MFM) and 8 in South Woodstock (VINS,JMV). All observers reporting this species noted a normal or slightly above normal flight this fall; unusual was a bird apparently of this species picked up in a Fair Haven garage which was later released (FSA); the latest report was of 1 at Winhall on 9/24 (WJN). There was a single report of Louisiana Waterthrush; 1 was banded at South Woodstock on 8/3, the first ever netted there (VINS,JMV). The only reports of the elusive Mourning Warbler came from banders this autumn; 3 were banded at Marshfield during August and September (MFM); and a total of 15 were banded at South Woodstock; the high date there was 3 on 9/14, and the last there was 1 on 10/1 (VINS,JMV). A total of 126 Common Yellowthroats were banded for the autumn, 48 at Marshfield and Ferdinand (MFM), and 78 at South Woodstock (VINS,JMV). The maximum field report was 20 in Fair Haven on 9/8 (FSA). The last banded at South Woodstock were 2 on 10/15 (VINS,JMV); the last bird seen this season was at Hanover, New Hampshire on 11/2 (WGE). The Wilson's Warbler migration began in the last week of August with 3 banded at South Woodstock and 4 noted in East Craftsbury on 8/29 (VINS,JMV;RAR). The seasonal total at banding stations was 23, 11 at South Woodstock and 12 at Marshfield and Ferdinand (VINS,JMV;MFM). The maximum date at South

Woodstock was 9/14 when 3 were banded (VINS,JMV). The last report was 1 at South Woodstock on 9/16 (VINS,JMV). It appears to have been a fairly good fall for the Canada Warbler; most of the migration occurred in mid to late August with maxima of 10 on 8/19 at South Woodstock (VINS,JMV) and 8/26 at Winhall (WJN). 38 were netted at South Woodstock down slightly from a good year in 1975 when 42 were banded; 31 of the seasonal total were banded in August (VINS,JMV); an additional 22 were banded at Marshfield (MFM). Late dates were: 1 on 9/8 at South Woodstock (VINS,JMV) and 1 at Winhall on 9/17 (WJN). The American Redstart was reported in average numbers; a total of 55 were banded for the season, 23 at Marshfield (MFM) and 32 at South Woodstock (VINS,JMV). Most of the migration was noted in August with 5 seen at Winhall on 8/28 (WJN) and 7 banded at South Woodstock on 8/30 (VINS,JMV). Late dates were: 1 on 9/14 at South Woodstock (VINS,JMV), and 1 on 9/17 at Winhall (WJN).

HOUSE SPARROW THROUGH Tanager

The House Sparrow was reported in stable numbers for the season. Bobolinks were well reported, with most of the migration occurring in August with a small number continuing into September. Maxima were: 25 on 8/16 in South Albany (RAR); 40 at Dead Creek WMA on 8/31 (LNM); and a remarkable 250 on 8/11 in Wolcott (LNM). Late reports were: a small group on 9/8 in Clarendon (LHP); 1 on 9/27 in White River Jct. (WGE); and 1 at Dead Creek WMA on 9/28 (WJN). Numbers of Eastern Meadowlark were normal or slightly down for the fall; the maximum report was 10 on 9/6 at Dead Creek WMA (WJN). Late reports were: 1 on 10/19 in Clarendon (LHP); 1 on 10/19 in White River Jct. (WGE); 1 on 10/19 at Newport (ALG,PMB); and 2 in Greensboro on 11/6 (FO,JW). Red-winged Blackbirds were in average numbers. Large migratory flocks were not noted by most observers with only Henry Potter submitting maximum totals; he noted 1000+ on 10/29 and 2000+ on 10/30; both reports were from Clarendon. The last notable migratory flocks were noted in the first week of November with 90 on 11/2 in Lyme, New Hampshire (WGE) and 150+ in Clarendon on 11/5 (LHP). Some birds lingered later with the latest reported being 4 at Addison where birds tend to linger into winter on 11/24 (FO,WS). As is normally the case, Northern Orioles departed in August for the most part with 3 reports indicating departure dates in that month. A total of 10 were banded, 6 at Marshfield in September (MFM) and 4 at South Woodstock all in August (VINS,JMV). The latest bird was a lingering female or more likely an immature at a feeder in Plymouth on 11/20; the bird reportedly was subsisting on suet (PSW,RSW). There were 5 reports of Rusty Blackbird; the first report was on 9/28 when 10 were noted at Dead Creek WMA (WJN); 6 were seen in Wallingford on 10/2 (BCW); 12+ were found in Clarendon on 10/4 for the seasonal maximum (LHP); the last at Winhall was 1 on 10/17 (WJN); and 2 were noted in Lyme, New Hampshire on 10/23 for the final report (GFE,WGE). No large concentrations of Common Grackle were noted as were in the autumn of 1975. No one reported any numbers higher than 30 on any day, giving no impression of the migration of this common species. Late dates were: 11/6 when 3 were found at Stowe (FO,JW); and 11/8 with 1 at Winhall (WJN). Brown-headed Cowbird maxima were also small with three reports of 100 or more birds; 100 on 9/28 at Dead Creek WMA (WJN); 150 on 10/23 in Coventry (FO,RAR); and 100+ on 10/26 at Clarendon (LHP). Birds lingered on into winter in small numbers. The Scarlet Tanager was reported in distinctly lower than normal numbers. Only 4 were banded for the season, 3 at South Woodstock as compared to 26 in 1975 and 13 in 1974 (VINS,JMV); a single bird was banded at Marshfield (MFM). William Norse also felt Tanagers were scarce this fall; his latest was 1 on 9/18; the reported maximum this autumn was 6+ on 8/11 at Bennington (MV). Late reports were 1 banded at South Woodstock on 9/22 (VINS,JMV), and 1 on 9/26 at Wallingford (BCW). One reason for this apparent lack of breeding success could be the unexpected cold spell in late May this spring but this is only a partial explanation as the evidence of the spring of 1974 indicates that Tanager populations are surprisingly resilient. The high count in Bennington might also suggest that birds departed early as many other insectivorous migrants did this fall; this appearing to be a prevailing pattern.

FINCHES AND SPARROWS

The Cardinal was reported in average numbers in its valley strongholds. The maximum report was of 12 at one feeder in Bennington (MV); others, adults with young in Burlington and Fair Haven (BSE,ORE,FSA). Rose-breasted Grosbeak was generally considered in normal numbers by observers. Most observers also noted that the species left earlier than normal with departure dates of 9/11 at Winhall (WJN); 9/14, with 3 at Burlington (BSE,ORE); and 1 on 9/18 at Clarendon (LHP). There were very few reports of Indigo Buntings mostly because the loud singing males have moulted and stopped singing and are thus very difficult to discover. 1 was noted on 8/18 at Craftsbury (RAR); 1 was banded at South Woodstock on 9/20 (VINS,JMV); and 1 was noted in a riverside thicket in West Lebanon, New Hampshire on 10/14 (WGE). There was 1 report of the scarce Dickcissel; 1 visited Marion Metcalf's feeder in Plainfield on 8/1. Most observers noted a late arrival of the Evening Grosbeak in November, but some found birds during August; 2 were seen on 8/1 at Hartford (WGE); 1 was seen in Craftsbury on 8/18 (RAR); and a series of 3 records were submitted by Sarah Laughlin; 2 on 8/19 in Woodstock; 12+ on 8/24 also in Woodstock; and 2 on 8/21 at Plymouth. Large numbers were not noted until much later in the season; the seasonal maximum was 35-40 on 11/25 at East Craftsbury (FO,JW). The Purple Finch appeared to be building up to a flight year by October. Signs of invasion were apparent on 8/27 at Island Pond when 50+ were seen (FO,CSZ). Most observers noted a steady flow of individuals through their areas, but because groups seldom exceeded four, most observers never assumed that an invasion might be in the offing. Bea Guyette noted the species in elevated numbers in Addison County though. Reported maxima were: 100+ on 10/11 in Winhall (WJN); and 75 on 10/30 on Mt. Pisgah (FO,et al). Banding reports tend to show conflicting information; Marshfield's banding station indicated large numbers present in North-central Vermont with 108 banded at Marshfield in

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August and September (MFM); exactly opposite in result was the report from South Woodstock where only a single bird was banded all season, definitely low for the center (VINS,JMV). There were 3 reports of Pine Grosbeak, the first birds noted were a flock of 35 in Wolcott on 10/24; this count also being the seasonal maximum (LNM); the other reports were: 1 in Timmouth on 11/5, the only individual reported from the southern half of the state (LHP), and 7-8 at Craftsbury on 11/25 (FO,JW). There were four reports of the House Finch, though the species is not abundant anywhere in Vermont. It is becoming far more widespread. The earliest report was of a singing male in Hanover, New Hampshire on 9/27 (WGE); the first of a long series of records from Bennington was on 10/18; 2-4 birds were noted from that date until 11/6 (MV); a bird was seen in Brattleboro from 11/17-11/27 (LPM); and a pair was seen in Burlington on 11/24 (FO,JW). Interesting was Quebec's first sight record on 11/30 in Philipsburg which is just north of Highgate in Vermont, indicating a logical progression of the species up the Champlain Valley in the general direction of Montreal. The nondescript Pine Siskin, more notable for its oft-heard voice than for its appearance, was noted in small numbers. Two at Island Pond on 8/27 could possibly have been residents (FO,CSZ); early migrants, however, were not seen until October, with 5 noted at Winhall on 10/12 (WJN); 1 found in Hartford on 10/21 (WGE); and another in Burlington on 11/7 (FO). Reported maxima were usually of about 30 individuals. The American Goldfinch was noted in elevated numbers with numbers perceptibly building during October and November; high counts were: 50+ on 11/7 in Burlington (FO); and 100 on 11/9 in Hanover, New Hampshire (WGE). There were no reports of Red Crossbill. There were 3 reports of White-winged Crossbill; Frank Oatman and Chris Schultz noted 7 around Island Pond on 8/27; 1 lone female was found in Marshfield on 8/15 (SA), both records indicating a strong possibility of nesting. The last report was of 2 in Hartford on 11/14 (WGE, GFE). There were few reports of Rufous-sided Towhee, but it would appear that the species was in normal numbers. Five were banded at South Woodstock which was an average total (VINS,JMV); the maximum report was of 10 birds on 10/3 in Winhall (WJN); the latest reported was 1 on 10/16 in Winhall (WJN). Savannah Sparrows were reported by only four observers, but were seen in sufficient numbers to indicate a normal if not better than average migration. Maxima were: an excellent 50+ on 9/28 at Dead Creek WMA (WJN); and 20 in White River Jct. on 10/14 (WGE). Latest were 3 on 11/5 in White River Jct. on 11/5 (WGE). Grass-hopper Sparrow, a scarce and local species in Vermont, was reported twice. George Ellison doing some last minute Atlasing found a nest containing four eggs on 8/7 in White River Jct. The first migrants of this species reported to the Fall Records were 2 sighted with Savannah Sparrows on 10/1 in Addison (KCE). Another rare migrant was the Henslow's Sparrow; Marion Metcalf reported banding 2 on an unspecified date or dates in September in the unlikely locale of Ferdinand. An individual ascribed to this species was closely observed for 20 minutes at a range of 20 feet in Wolcott on the unusually late date of 10/25 (LNM). Only 3 observers reported the local but fairly common Vesper Sparrow; the species was noted a total of 7 times in the White River Jct. area during the season; with a maximum of 9 on 10/14 in White River Jct. (WGE); 5 were seen in Woodstock on 10/3 (SBL); and 5 were noted at Newport on 10/23 (FO,RAR). The final report of the season was of 2 on 11/5 in White River Jct. (WGE). The Dark-eyed Junco, though in lesser numbers than in 1975, was seen in average numbers. Maxima were: 25-30 on several days in Winhall (WJN); 60 on 10/25 at Hartford (WGE); 50 on 11/1 in Hartford (WGE); and 20 on 11/2 in East Craftsbury (FO). Many observers noted that Juncos lingered on into December. A remarkably early Tree Sparrow was found on 10/2 in Clarendon (LHP); other early arrivals were: 1 on 10/14 in Hartford (WGE); 5-6 on 10/24 at Greensboro (FO,JW); and 2 on 10/27 at Winhall (WJN). The species eventually became common by late November. Chipping Sparrows were in average numbers for the autumn. The maximum count was 20 on 10/13 in Hartland (WGE). The latest birds noted were 5 on 11/2, 2 in Hartford and 3 in Hanover, New Hampshire (WGE). Field Sparrow was also in average numbers, maxima were: 12 on 9/28 in Hartford (WGE); and 4 on 10/4 in Winhall (WJN). Late birds were: 1 on 10/19 at Winhall (WJN); and a bird at a feeder in Hartford from 11/22 through the end of the season (GFE,WGE). Most observers noted a good flight of the White-crowned Sparrow with the first being 1 on 9/13 in East Craftsbury (FO); and 1 on 9/24 at Marshfield (MFM). Most other observers noted arrivals in September. High counts were not spectacular but birds appeared throughout the season in steady numbers; maxima were: 12 on 9/29 at East Craftsbury (RAR); 10+ on 10/3 in Burlington (BSE,ORE); and 11 on 10/21 in the White River Jct. area (WGE). The latest individual reported was on 11/5 in White River Jct. (WGE). White-throated Sparrows were reported in their usual high numbers. 240 were banded this season, 152 at South Woodstock and 88 at Marshfield (VINS,JMV; MFM). High dates indicate a peak at the end of September with the South Woodstock maximum of 18 on 9/28 (VINS,JMV); 30+ at East Craftsbury on 9/29 (FO) and a "large flock" reported from Fair Haven on 9/25 (FSA). William Norse noted days of 100+ individuals through most of the migration period. Birds lingered into December in many areas mostly at feeders. Only 2 reports were received detailing records of the Fox Sparrow; this being an alarming paucity of this species. The first record was of 1 on 10/10 at Winhall (WJN); 2 were banded at South Woodstock for the season the last being on 10/18 (VINS,JMV); the maximum noted at Winhall was 3 on 10/27 (WJN); although William Norse had better fortune with this species than other observers, he also expressed a belief that the flight was an exceptionally poor one. There was an average or slightly above average migration of the elusive Lincoln's Sparrow, 17 were banded for the fall, 2 at Marshfield and 15 at South Woodstock (MFM;VINS,JMV); the maximum report at South Woodstock was 3 on 10/13 (VINS,JMV). The earliest migrant reported was 1 on 9/12 at Winhall (WJN). Others noted were: 1 on 9/20 at Winhall (WJN); 1 on 9/28 at Dead Creek WMA (WJN); 1 on 9/28 at Hartford (WGE); 1 on 9/29 in Bennington (MV); 1 on 10/1 at Dead Creek WMA (WGE); 4, the seasonal maximum, were noted on 10/2 in Bennington (MV); late dates were: 1

on 10/25 at Craftsbury (FO); and 1 on 10/27 at Norwich (WGE); and 1 was noted in West Lebanon, New Hampshire, very near Vermont, from 10/19-11/26 (WGE). Although few observers reported Swamp Sparrow, the species seemed in normal to good numbers. Maximum counts were: 18 on 9/28 at Dead Creek WMA (WJN); and 8 on 10/4 in Berlin (WGE). The late date in Vermont was 1 on 10/17 at Winhall (WJN); birds were noted within a half mile of Vermont in West Lebanon, New Hampshire until at least 11/12 (WGE). There was an average flight of the Song Sparrow. Maxima were 50 on 9/28 at Dead Creek WMA (WJN); and 70 in the White River Jct. area on 10/14 (WGE). Birds lingered in small numbers throughout the state into the winter months. There were two reports of the scarce Lapland Longspur; both birds were very early; 1 was found in White River Jct. on 9/27 with of all companions, a Bobolink (WGE); another was noted at Winhall on 10/13 (WJN). Strangely, birds were not reported on their normal early November dates. There were 11 reports of Snow Bunting; the earliest report was of 2 in Greensboro on 10/18 (FO). Other records were: 150 on 10/28 in Wolcott (LNM); 1 on 10/29 in Winhall (WJN); 3 on 11/1 in Winhall (WJN); 10-12 on 11/3 in Fair Haven (JEH,BMH); another large flock of 150 at Monkton on 11/6 (FO,JW); 30 on about 11/10 in Bethel (EHa); 8 on 11/12 at Weathersfield (JLW); 18 on 11/29 at Wallingford (NHW); 3 on 11/29 at Wolcott (LNM); and 1 on 11/30 at Winhall (WJN).

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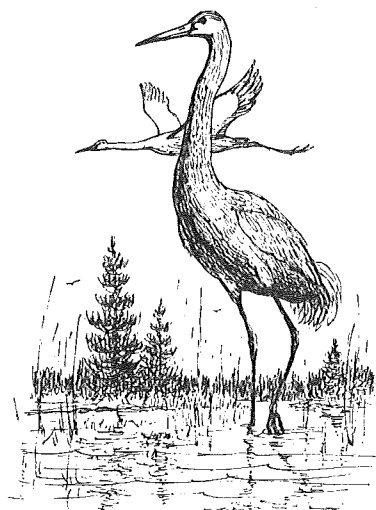


Downy Woodpecker

FALL EDITION 1976 (published February 1978)

Vermont Institute of Natural Science
 Woodstock, Vermont 05091

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