



# Records of Vermont Birds

## SPRING MIGRATION 1977

1 APRIL - 31 MAY FRANK OATMAN, EDITOR

The reader is reminded, with some embarrassment, that this issue reports the spring of 1977, and that the period covered is Apr. 1 - May 31. All future issues will report the expanded spring season, Mar. 1 - May 31. Here I include March records only when information unavailable to Don Clark seems especially significant.

Many species, especially early migrants, again took advantage of a generally warm spring to move back earlier than usual. March's average temperature was 8.5°F above normal at Burlington, with no really cold temperatures and with winds often southerly. After a brief cold spell Apr. 7-10, April was also mild, with two warm periods pushing temperatures to 77° on the 13th and 83° on the 21st. (All weather data from the National Weather Service station at Burlington.)

Twenty species were the earliest they've been in the 5 years of these "Records," and 14 of those possibly the earliest ever. This is especially impressive given the many early records set during last spring's even more accelerated season.

Doubtless more species would have arrived earlier than usual had not the season's only storm intervened in early May. On May 7 a norther struck, dropping temperatures to 18°F by the 9th and dumping up to 15 inches of snow on higher elevations the 9th and 10th. This unseasonable storm produced striking effects on birdlife which can be classified under three headings.

1) Interruption or postponement of migration. Many landbird migrants were recorded on time or early in southern to central areas before the storm, after which there is a hiatus of records before the species appeared, usually late, in more northerly regions. It seems that migration *en masse* did not really resume until May 13th.

2) Retreat or killoff of migrant species. In some cases the hiatus of records is virtually complete, the species disappearing even from areas reached before the storm. Birds could have reversed their migration, moving back southward, as Tree Swallows seem to have done. Or they could simply have perished, especially insect eating species, as Bill Morse suspected many did around Winhall. "At my feeder," he wrote, "a Veery was fighting with the Cowbirds for cracked corn! Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were sitting around miserably cracking sunflower seeds, and the roadsides were full of thrushes of three species looking for food."

3) Cessation of nesting. Two sharp observers reported that Tree Swallows and House Wrens, which had begun nest-building before the storm, abandoned their efforts and entirely disappeared; nesting was not resumed until some 14 days later. I imagine the same was true for many less conspicuous species.

The May snowstorm cannot have helped several species whose numbers were pretty clearly down this spring--down in fact before they reached Vermont at all. The extremely severe winter, in the U.S. wintering ranges of the following species, seems clearly to have taken a heavy toll. Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Eastern Phoebe, Hermit Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and House Finch were each reported in below normal numbers.

To balance that sad but not irreversible news, allow me to point out that the pages which follow contain evidence of expansion of the breeding ranges (and probably populations) of Canada Goose, Turkey Vulture, Wild Turkey, Willow Flycatcher, and Orchard Oriole. The latter species was, very happily, found breeding for the first time in Vermont.

Though the rest of May was generally warm (in the 90's the 21st to 23rd) and very dry, with little to back up migrants into spectacular "waves," it was not an uneventful month. The periods of warm southerly airflow may well have encouraged overflying by several southern waders which rarely reach Vermont. Both Great Egret and Snowy Egret were reported; and Glossy Ibis made its first spring appearance since 1974, and in numbers unprecedented here.

Wayne Scott substantiated at Weybridge the first European Wigeon for the state. And undocumented but suggestive reports of Golden Eagle and Summer Tanager, both extremely

rare here, were received. Reported for the first time to the spring "Records" were American Coot, Lesser (or American) Golden Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Wilson's Phalarope, Gray Jay, and Henslow's Sparrow. A perusal of the following pages will reveal a fair sprinkling of other rarities.

Again this year a foolhardy team of diehards--George and Walter Ellison, Wayne Scott, and this editor--made a Big Day run from Island Pond to Missisquoi to Dead Creek, playing the amusing but exhausting game of finding as many species in one 24 hour period as possible. From 3 a.m. to 10 p.m. on May 21 a new state record of 144 species was set, a record it will be difficult to beat.

### LOONS AND GREBS

A Common Loon at Rockingham on Apr. 2 (GFE,WGE,GL) was the first reported, followed by 2 on Apr. 16 at Button Bay (WJN) and 3 (the seasonal high) on Apr. 18 at Burlington (WGE,BSE,ORE). An additional 19 birds were reported. The latest probable migrant was 1 on May 27 at Kent Pond (J & EO). The scarce Red-necked Grebe was reported only once: 1 seen Apr. 28 at S. Burlington (WGE). A Horned Grebe March 16 at Retreat Meadows near Brattleboro (DWW) was the earliest (by a factor of 18 days!) ever reported to these "Records". There were 2 other reports, a poor showing: 1 on Apr. 27 at Herrick's Cove (DC) and a notably late individual May 21 at Island Pond (FO, GFE,WGE,WS). Pied-billed Grebes returned to Vermont the earliest ever, beating last year's new record by a whopping 17 days (see winter report). There were 11 scattered reports thereafter, with a high of 5 at L. Bomoseen on Apr. 10 (SBL,JDL,HWS).

### CORMORANT AND WADING BIRDS

There were 2 reports of the scarce Double-crested Cormorant: 1 on Apr. 27 at Herrick's Cove (DC,SBL,WGE et al) and 1 on May 21 at L. Memphremagog (FO, GFE,WGE,WS). Single Great Blue Herons were at Herrick's Cove (DC) and Burlington (WGE,BSE,ORE) by March 29, with many areas recording firsts in the week and a half thereafter. Numbers seemed average or better, with highs of 9 (circling up on a thermal together) near Bellows Falls on Apr. 16 (SBL,DC, MFM et al) and of 10 between Missisquoi and Dead Creek on May 21 (FO,GFE,WGE, WS). Two Green Herons Apr. 6 at Herrick's Cove may be the earliest ever recorded in spring, followed by a still earlier 2 on Apr. 9 at L. Bomoseen (SBL et al). Individuals reached Bellows Falls by Apr. 25 (MFM) and N. Ferrisburg by May 2 (BPG,TCG). Small numbers were seen thereafter in appropriate habitat across the state, with a high of 8 at Missisquoi and the Islands May 27 (SBL et al). As usual, Cattle Egrets appeared first and in largest numbers in the Champlain Valley. One Apr. 19 at S. Hero was the earliest (JDS). They were present in Burlington during the 2-week period Apr. 20 - May 7, with a high of 14 on Apr. 25 (WGE,BSE,ORE). Single Cattles were sighted in Ferrisburg Apr. 26 and May 12 (AP,CMH,fide BPG); at Woodstock May 9 (ES); at Dead Creek May 27 (BBP); and on Grand Isle May 27 (4 seen--SBL,MFM). A number of scarce southern waders reached Vermont, probably due to overflying in the periods of unusually warm weather. Great Egret, Snowy Egret, and Glossy Ibis fall into this category. Two Great Egrets were reported, both individuals on May 21, at Dead Creek (BP) and at Missisquoi (FO,GFE,WGE,WS). A SNOWY EGRET seen May 30 at Rockingham by Don Clark and Eleanor Ellis was the second ever reported to these spring "Records". The 1st Black-crowned Night Heron was seen on Apr. 20 in the Burlington area, where numbers subsequently seemed normal, with an average 2-4 per day (WGE,BSE,ORE). They were seen only along L. Champlain this spring, with a high of 14 on Apr. 2 at Pantton (FO,GFE,WGE, WS). Two Least Bitterns were seen May 31 at W. Rutland Marsh (WJN), one of their few breeding sites in Vermont. This spring's first American Bitterns were seen Apr. 17 at West Rutland Marsh (ALG,JMV) and at Castleton (EH). Individuals reached Burlington by Apr. 18 (WGE,BSE,ORE), Bethel by Apr. 25 (SP), and Herrick's Cove by Apr. 30 (DC). A number of reporters considered breeding populations higher than normal: 7 pairs present at W. Rutland Marsh Apr. 23 was the most Henry Potter has seen in his many years in Vermont. The species seems "to be coming back after a few years absence" in the Grafton area (DC), and numbers seemed up in the Island Pond area (FO,WGE), though Amer. Bitterns were absent this year from Gale Meadows (WJN). GLOSSY IBIS showed up in unprecedented numbers; their first spring appearance in Vermont since 1974. A surprising 15 were found Apr. 23 at Herrick's Cove by Eleanor Ellis and Don Clark. Marion Metcalf sighted 5 at Weathersfield on Apr. 25; Bea Guyett reported the remarkable high of 17 at Pantton Bridge west of Vergennes on May 19; and Frank Oatman, the Ellisons and Wayne Scott found a final single at Missisquoi on May 21.

### GEESE AND DUCKS

A small flock of Canada Geese Feb. 27 in the Vergennes area (AP) was the first reported. Fair numbers came with the warm south winds March 8-10, when a high of 1500 was seen March 11 at Bridport (AP,BPG,TCG). Small flocks were seen throughout April, with a seasonal high of 1700 on Apr. 30 at Weybridge (AP). Latest probable migrants were 100 over Barre City May 27 (fide MFM). Canadas bred this year at several spots in Addison Co. outside of Dead Creek Nat. Wildlife Refuge (fide BPG), where a breeding population was man-established (wine-clipped birds) several years ago. A nesting pair with 16 downy young was located on "Island B" of Champlain's Four Brothers on May 19 (HPAS). According to Neil King of VT Fish and Game, this is the 5th consecutive year a pair has nested on "A" or "B" (fide HPAS), another probable indication that the Dead Creek colony is beginning to spread. Marion Metcalf reported the season's only Brant, a flock of 14 at Mirror L. in N. Calais on Apr. 29. Snow Geese were reported in small flocks only, with sightings from March 31 to May 21 and with highs of 25 at both Herrick's Cove (Apr. 16 - DC,WS,BSE, WGE) and at Craftsbury (Apr. 9 - FO). A blue morph of the Snow Goose was seen Apr. 3 in Addison with a flock of Canadas (EH). Mallards overwintered at Burlington (WGE), and migrants began to appear in March (see winter report), though Craftsbury's first was Apr. 1 (FO). The high was 50+ at Springfield Apr. 16 (SBL). A Mallard x Black Duck hybrid drake appeared May 19 at Eleanor Ellis' pond, where a drake Black has for 4 years mated with

domestic Mallard hens. Hybridization of these closely related species continues to increase as Mallards spread from their native prairie habitat into the once-forested Eastern breeding range of the Blacks. Black Ducks, which overwintered at Burlington and along Otter Creek, returned to most areas in March, though they didn't reach Craftsbury until Apr. 1 (2-F0). Highs were 200+ on Apr. 9 at Herrick's Cove (DC); and 270 on Apr. 13 at Weybridge (WGE et al.). A nest with 11 eggs was found on May 7 at Herrick's Cove, where young were off the nest by May 18 (DC). A hen with 12 chicks was seen at Plainfield on May 14 (MFM). There were 4 reports of the scarce Gadwall; 2 on Apr. 13 at Weybridge (WGE,BSE,ORE,WS); 1 on Apr. 16 at Dead Creek (WJN); 5 on Apr. 23 at L. Bomoseen (GFE,WGE,JMV et al.); and 1 on Apr. 24 at Springfield (GFE,WGE). Pintails were present throughout late March and April at Burlington, averaging 10-15 per day (WGE); and a late pair were there May 21 (F0,GFE,WGE,WS). Pintails are scarce and irregular breeders in Vermont, so the discovery of two nests (one with 9 and the other with 10 eggs) on May 17 on N. and S. Sister's Islands is notable indeed (JDS,NK,GM,CK). Green-winged Teal first appeared Mar. 11 in the mid-Champlain Valley (WS,AP). The migration apparently peaked there around Apr. 13, when about 90 were seen near Weybridge (AP,WS,WGE et al.). Inland from Champlain, 3 pair reached Craftsbury by Apr. 1 (F0); and Springfield listed a high of 20-30 on Apr. 16 (DC,SBL,EE,et al.). Probably setting a new early record, 2 Blue-winged Teal appeared Mar. 16 at Retreat Meadows near Brattleboro (DWW). Still early were 2 at Burlington Mar. 30 (WGE,BSE,ORE) and 4 at Craftsbury Apr. 1 (F0). Migration seemed to peak Apr. 13-17, with highs of 30-60 several days near L. Champlain. The best bird of the season was the male EUROPEAN WIGEON discovered by Wayne Scott May 12 at Weybridge. This rare visitor, a first for Vermont, remained for at least a week and a half and was seen by many other experienced observers (AP,BP,BPG,WGE,BSE et al.). Wayne was actively searching for the bird as Mike Maurer reported a European Wigeon in the same area in April of 1976. That report was never substantiated and thus was not published but this new sighting certainly lends credence to the '76 report. American Wigeons returned in March (see winter report). Retreat Meadows (DWW) and Springfield Meadows (AP) recorded firsts on Apr. 3. Walter Ellison considered it the best Wigeon migration in his memory. The high was 50+ on Apr. 13 at Weybridge (WS,WGE et al.), and numbers were better than average in several areas through Apr. 23. A final 2 were seen May 6 at Burlington (WGE). There were 9 reports of the Northern Shoveler, Apr. 9 - May 14, all of singles or small groups of birds. The 8 on May 14 at Ferrisburg (BPG) established the seasonal high. Wood Ducks first appeared on Apr. 2, when Rockingham had 2 (GFE,WGE,GL) and Plainfield had 4 (MFM). At the Plainfield location the number was up to 7 by Apr. 4 (MFM). Numbers seemed normal (2-6 per day - WGE) at Burlington; and the migration peaked around Apr. 13-16, with a seasonal high of 15. The Ring-necked Duck appeared in better than average numbers, especially in the Connecticut River Valley. Migrants were reported March 10 - Apr. 16. The Champlain Valley high was 50 near Salisbury on Apr. 17 (WS), while the Connecticut Valley's high was 21 at Springfield on Apr. 16 (DC, SBL, EE, WGE et al.). The Canvasback appeared in March. The only Apr. - May reports were: 10 on Apr. 7 at Ferrisburg (BPG); a notable high of 200 near N. Hero Apr. 9 (GFE,WGE,JMV,LNM et al.); 1 at Sand Bar Reserve Apr. 10 (MFM); and 1 at Springfield Apr. 16 (DC). Greater Scaup also wintered in small numbers on L. Champlain and returned in March (see winter report). A male seen May 21 at L. Memphremagog (F0,GFE,WGE,WS) was very possibly a hybrid between this species and Ring-necked Duck. The Lesser Scaup was reported 9 times, Mar. 19 - May 26. The high was 50 on Apr. 9 at Grand Isle (GFE,WGE,LNM et al.). Small numbers of Common Goldeneyes were reported through the 3rd week of Apr. from several locations. Only the Burlington area recorded high counts, with maxima of 163 on Mar. 29 and 100 on Apr. 9 (WGE,BSE,ORE). Buffleheads appeared in small numbers this spring, March 16 - May 10. 7 reports produced just 25+ birds, the maximum being 12 at Chimney Point Apr. 24 (GFE,WGE,JMV et al.). Oldsquaw, rare in spring, were reported 3 times: 4 on Mar. 28 at Ferrisburg (BPG); 2 on Apr. 1 at Barre Reservoir (LNM); and 5 on the Connecticut on Apr. 27 (LPM). A flock of 24 scoters found May 16 at Mallets Bay by Robert Mattuck consisted of both WHITE-WINGED SCOTER and Surf Scoter. This is only the second spring report of White-winged in the 5 years of this report; and Surf is also rare in spring. A surprising 15 BLACK SCOTERS were reported, the second spring they've occurred out of the past 5. A pair was found May 9 near Peru and a single on May 11 in the same area (ABI); a flock of 9 at Quechee May 9 (EH); a pair on L. Groton May 16 (SA); and 1 on L. Champlain, W. Addison Apr. 17 (AP,WS). Also rare were 2 male RUDDY DUCKS present May 20-21 at Dead Creek Wildlife Refuge (ORE,BSE,WGE,BPG,TCG,F0,WS,GFE). Hooded Merganser migration (mostly in Mar.) was average or a bit low (no more than 2 at any 1 time at Burlington - WGE) as birds moved to breeding areas in Vermont and farther north. The high of 13 at Big Otter Creek Mar. 28 (BPG) was notable. Common Mergansers overwintered in good numbers on L. Champlain (WGE), but 1 on Mar. 31 at Plainfield (MFM) and 15+ on Mar. 20 at Herrick's Cove (DC) were surely moving northward. Commons were seen in small numbers throughout the season, with highs of 23 at Herrick's Cove Mar. 29 (DC) and 76 at Grand Isle Mar. 10 (WGE,BSE,ORE). Migration wound down about the end of April, though late stragglers were seen well into May. There were 4 records of Red-breasted Merganser, all from L. Champlain: 5 on Apr. 2, Herrick's Cove (GFE,WGE,GL); 1 on Apr. 7, Ferrisburg (BPG); 18 on Apr. 21, Shelburne (GFE,BSE,ORE); and 7 on Apr. 23, Chimney Pt. (GFE,WGE,JMV et al.).

VULTURES THROUGH HAWKS

The results of the spring hawk watch--such as they were--have been separately published. (Copies are available from VINS - send \$1 and a stamped, addressed envelope.)

The Turkey Vulture, which continues to increase in Vermont, again showed up early: 3 were spotted Mar. 15 at Austine (fide LPM) and 1 or more Mar. 19 at Cornwall (BBP). Over 50 birds were reported thereafter, most from the Champlain or Connecticut Valleys, with highs of 5 at Bridport Apr. 17 (WS,AP) and 7 in the Springfield area Apr. 21 (EE). Noteworthy so far north was 1 seen Apr. 22 at Lyndonville (DHM). Approximately 8 Goshawks were seen away from hawk watch sites, nearly the same discouraging figure as in the past 2 springs. Since Goshawks winter and breed here regularly, migration parameters cannot be established from such meager data. A nest in a pine at Clarendon was tended by a pair on May 11 (LHP). About 20 Sharp-shinned Hawks were reported, the same number as last spring. Sharpies overwintered, and returning birds began arriving in early to mid-March. 9 Cooper's Hawks were reported, Mar. 10 - May 14. This is how Cooper's reports stack up for the 5 years of spring Records: 1-2-3-12-9, for 1973; 74; 75; 76 and 77 respectively. Red-tailed Hawks, which overwintered in the Champlain Valley, appeared in average numbers throughout the season. Burlington observers averaged 2 sightings per week, 2 per sighting (WGE). A pair was on a nest in Charlotte by Mar. 6 (WGE,BSE,ORE). And migratory movement continued at least until May 1, when 12 were seen near Grafton (DC). Approximately 15 Red-shouldered Hawks were reported, Mar. 12 - May 1, continuing their slow but steady decline over the past several springs. An active nest was found May 5 in

Grafton State Forest (DC). Broad-winged Hawks were rather poorly reported. First arrivals appeared Apr. 16 at Rockingham (SBL et al.); Apr. 17 at Huntington (4 seen - WGE,BSE,ORE) at Winhall (1 - WJN); and at Springfield (2 - EE); and Apr. 21 at Craftsbury (2 - JW). The seasonal high was 6 on Apr. 19 at Winhall (WJN). Breeding populations seemed average at Grafton (DC) and Burlington (WGE). Good numbers of Rough-legged Hawks, which overwintered along L. Champlain, could be found in the Addison area through the last week of April (WS,AP,BPG); a count of 9 on Apr. 3 (including 2 of the dark phase-EH) is typical. 1 on Mar. 10 at Wolcott (fide MFM) is a good record for the NE Kingdom. Two reports of GOLDEN EAGLE, a species on Vermont's accidental list, were submitted - neither, alas, with either detailed description or photographs. Bill Cranshaw and John Campbell saw what they believed to be a Golden feeding on the ground at Addison sometime this spring (fide JDS). And Pat Noll got a distant look at the same or another possible Golden on Apr. 8 at Dead Creek. For several years there have been unconvincing reports of this species from the southern portions of the main range of the Green Mts., where Golden Eagles no doubt bred in the 1800's. Until photographic documentation or substantiation by a highly reputable observer familiar with this species and the very similar immature Bald Eagle is obtained, these records must be considered hypothetical. Please call VINS immediately if you think you've seen a Golden Eagle, and take a careful field description of this or any accidental species to submit with your report. The scarce Bald Eagle was seen only on May 22 at Woodstock (JR). The Marsh Hawk overwintered in Addison Co. (AP), though a single Mar. 11 at Weybridge (WS) could have been a migrant. Only 10 birds were reported thereafter, from Apr. 3 - May 26. One reached Wolcott by Apr. 6 (fide MFM). Only ca. 23 Ospreys were reported, Apr. 4 (near Brattleboro - fide LPM) to May 30. Ospreys had reached Herrick's Cove by Apr. 13 (1 - DC), Springfield by Apr. 15 (1 - EE) and Salisbury by Apr. 16 (WS). The seasonal high was 3 at Herrick's Cove Apr. 16 (WGE,BSE,ORE). One Peregrine Falcon--rare anytime in Vermont--was seen: 1 dark female May 21 by Bruce Peterson over Dead Creek. Only 1 Merlin was reported on Mar. 31 at E. Montpelier (MFM), the poorest showing in 5 years. American Kestrels began arriving in March (see winter report). Individuals reached E. Montpelier by Mar. 31 (MFM), and Craftsbury by Apr. 1 (F0). Numbers seemed normal in the Grafton area (average 5 per day - DC), but down at Winhall (WJN). The seasonal high was 9 at Grand Isle and S. Hero Apr. 9 (GFE,WGE,LNM et al.). Copulation was observed by Apr. 22 (AP), and a pair was at a nest box by Apr. 30 (EE).

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

The Spruce Grouse was not seen, but fresh scat of this species (identified by large number of spruce needles) was found in the Island Pond breeding area May 15 (WGE). Ruffed Grouse populations seemed average to the few observers who commented (average 3-4 per day at Winhall--WJN). Birds were drumming at Craftsbury by Apr. 2 (DB). Only 3 reports of Wild Turkey were submitted, but perhaps observers just weren't out looking. A pair was in Williston Apr. 2 (DNY); and 1 sighted Apr. 22 at Stowe by Charles Johnson probably represents the northernmost record yet.

RAILS AND GALLINULES

Virginia Rails were reported in normal numbers from their few known breeding sites, the first on Apr. 18 at Burlington's Intervale (WGE,BSE,ORE). One at Gale Meadows May 6 was the first ever recorded there (WJN). The high was 10 on May 6 at Burlington (WGE). Sora Rails were also present at several breeding sites, the first sometime in March at W. Rutland Marsh (EE). A high of 13 was recorded May 6 at Burlington (WGE). Common Gallinules were present in very small numbers, as usual, at their few regular locations, the earliest Apr. 23, when 1 was found at W. Rutland Marsh and 1 at Addison (GFE,WGE et al.). The notable high was 6 at Burlington on Apr. 25 (WGE,BSE,ORE). A single bird Apr. 27 at Gale Meadows (WJN) was good there. Two reports of AMERICAN COOT were the first submitted in the 5 years of these spring "Records". Walter and George Ellison found 1 at Burlington May 5-6; and the Ellisons, Frank Oatman and Wayne Scott located 1 on S. Hero May 21.

PLOVERS AND SANDPIPERS

The Semipalmated Plover was reported, as last year, only once, from Missisquoi Wildlife Refuge on May 21 (F0,GFE,WGE,WS). Killdeer first appeared in March. Numbers seemed average (4-10 per day at Burlington - WGE), though no noteworthy concentrations were recorded. A LESSER (or American) GOLDEN PLOVER seen May 20 at Pantton by Walter Ellison, Barbara and Oliver Eastman, and Chris Rimmer was apparently the first ever seen here in spring. The Upland Sandpiper was seen 6 times: 2 on Apr. 23 at Weybridge (GFE,WGE et al.); 1 on May 7 at Pomfret (DG), the first record there; 1 on May 13 in Addison (WGE,BSE,ORE); 1 on May 15 in Ferrisburg (CMH); 1 on May 16 in Wallingford (BCW); and 1 May 31 in Addison (AP). There were 9 reports of Greater Yellowlegs, Apr. 16 (2 at Salisbury - WS) to May 30, with never more than 2 seen at once. There were only 2 reports of Lesser Yellowlegs; considered "down" (no details) in Addison Co. (AP); and 3 seen May 2 at Burlington (WGE,BSE). Solitary Sandpipers were seen in small but better than average numbers Apr. 28 (1 at Wallingford--BCW) to May 21; maximum count 2. Spotted Sandpipers were at Winhall by Apr. 21 (1 seen - WJN), at Winooski by Apr. 25 (KMH), and at Barre by May 11 (2 - MFM). Numbers were considered average (2-4 per day) in the Burlington area (WGE) and the Middlebury area (WS), with a seasonal high of 5 at Marlboro on May 6 (WN). 3 RUDDY TURNSTONES seen May 26 at Button Bay by Bill Norse were the first ever reported to these "Records" in spring. A female WILSON'S PHALAROPE found May 21 at Missisquoi Wildlife Refuge by Frank Oatman, George and Walter Ellison, and Wayne Scott was the 4th state record for this accidental species and the first spring record ever. The American Woodcock returned about when expected and according to most in normal numbers, though Bill Norse considered them scarce at Winhall. Birds reached northern areas in Apr.: Apr. 2, 1 at Merck Forest (KN,AN); and Apr. 5, 1 at Plainfield (MFM). The seasonal high was 7 on May 21 at Island Pond (F0 et al.). An adult with 4 young was flushed in Timnouth on May 20 (GLE). Common Snipe were first reported Apr. 9 from Grand Isle (3 seen - GFE,WGE,LNM et al.). Thereafter numbers seemed average (2-4 per day at Burlington - WGE), with a high of 20 in one ditch at Middlebury Apr. 17 (WS,AP). A remarkable 172 (actual count) Dowitcher species May 16 at Missisquoi Wildlife Refuge (Gary McLeod) is unprecedented in spring. The Short-billed Dowitcher was seen 3 times: 15 on May 18, Gale Meadows in Winhall (WJN); 1 on May 20, Pantton (WGE,BSE,CR); 13 on May 21, Missisquoi NWR (F0,GFE,WGE,WS). Wayne Scott reported Least Sandpipers in "usual numbers in May" in the Middlebury area. There were 3 additional records: May 7, 2 at Colchester (WGE,BSE); May 10, 50 at Pantton and Hardwick (WGE,BSE,ORE,CR,BPG); and May 21, 50 in 19 1/2 areas of northern Vermont (F0,GFE,WGE,WS). The White-rumped Sandpiper seen in spring, was reported once: 1 seen well May 20 at Pantton by Walter Ellison and Chris Rimmer. Two Pectoral Sandpipers seen by Wayne Scott at Weybridge on the very early date of Mar. 11 broke the previous arrival date by over a month. There were 2 other reports: "early April" in the Brattleboro area

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GULLS AND TERNS

At least 1 GLAUCOUS GULL lingered at Burlington into this season: Walter Ellison and the Eastmans found singles there Apr. 20 and Apr. 25. Great Black-backed Gulls were seen in average small numbers Mar. 10 to May 21, mostly from along L. Champlain. There were 2 reports from Herrick's Cove, where the species is scarce: 2 on Apr. 2 (DC); and 1 on Apr. 25 (DC,EE). Herring Gulls migration, which was considered average at Burlington (20-50 per day - WGE), continued at least until May 9, when 18 were seen in a field at Bethel (JHa). Numbers of Ring-billed Gulls returned in March (see winter report). Unusually, Ring-bills outnumbered Herring's at Herrick's Cove, where the 1st and high count was obtained Mar. 29 (12-DC). Burlington and Grand Isle produced the seasonal high of ca. 400 on Apr. 9 (GFE,WGE,LNM et al). Bonaparte's Gulls were reported twice: 2 record-setting early birds on Mar. 16 at Retreat Meadows, Brattleboro area (DWV); and 1 on Apr. 24 at L. Fairlee (GFE, WGE). A Common Tern Apr. 23 at L. Mooseen (GFE,WGE,JMV) apparently established a new early arrival record. Four were seen May 3 at Colchester (WGE, BSE,ORE). Black Terns had returned to their Dead Creek and Burlington nesting areas by May 5 (BPG,AP,WGE,BSE). Numbers seemed up at those sites and at Missisquoi NWR; the seasonal high was 35-40 at Dead Creek May 20 (WGE,BSE, ORE,CR).

DOVES AND CUCKOOS

Rock Dove numbers seemed average (80-150 per day at Burlington--WGE). Mourning Doves overwintered and numbers seemed good to above average throughout the spring season, with a high of 50 on May 3 - 7 at Burlington (WGE et al). The uncommon Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen May 21 at Dead Creek by Bruce Peterson. There were 12 reports of single Black-billed Cuckoos. One Apr. 20 at Weathersfield (EE) sets a new spring arrival record. Additional records were from mid to late May.

OWLS

There were 2 reports of the rare Screech Owl: 1 heard (no date) in Thetford (CHM); and 1 heard throughout March and as late as Apr. 15 at Middlebury (WS). There were 6 scattered reports of Great Horned Owl, a resident species in Vermont. Bill Norse considered the species down at Winhall. A nest with 2 eggs was found at Vernon Apr. 6 (PMI), and another with 2 young at N. Springfield Dam May 13 (EE et al). The Barred Owl, another year-round resident, was well reported, with records from Thetford (CHM), Merck Forest (KN,AN), Clarendon (LHP), Hartford (GFE,WGE), Middlebury (BBP), Winhall (WJN), Grafton (DC), and Brattleboro (fide LPM). Bill Norse had the season's only Lone-eared Owl, 1 heard May 1 at Winhall. Short-eared Owls were back down to normal low numbers after last year's influx: 1 seen Apr. 13 at Weybridge (WS, WGE,BSE,ORE), and 1 on Apr. 20 at Dead Creek (AP). Frank Oatman and Jon Wood had 2 Saw-whet Owls Mar 21 at Craftsbury; and a pair roosted near a Snake Mt. home several evenings around May 25 (fide WS).

WHIP-POOR-WILL THROUGH KINGFISHER

A Whip-poor-will Apr. 20 at Merck Forest (KN,AN) is the earliest in the history of this report and perhaps a new state record. There were 13 other records, May 1-31, with highs of 4 on two occasions: May 21 at Island Pond (FO,GFE,WGE,WS), and May 30 at Springfield (EE). First reports of Common Nighthawk were: 1 on May 15 at Winhall (WJN); May 16 in downtown Brattleboro (LPM); 1 on May 18 at Bellows Falls (EE); and 1 on May 20 at Hardwick (GFE,WGE). Numbers seemed average (2-4 per evening at Burlington--WGE). Chimney Swifts arrived over a week earlier than they have in the last 5 years. Earliest arrivals were: Apr. 20 at Middlebury (WS); Apr. 22, 1 in Addison (AP); Apr. 23, 1 at W. Rutland (SBL et al); May 1, 6 at Burlington (WGE,BSE, ORE); May 6, 12+ at Grafton. Numbers were average thereafter--ca. 5 per day at Grafton (DC) and 8-15 per day at Burlington (WGE). Two Ruby-throated Hummingbirds May 3 at Arlington (NS) were the earliest. Individuals had reached Plymouth (RSW) and Vergennes (BPG) by May 10; Wallingford by May 14 (BCW); Plainfield by May 17 (NFM); and Craftsbury by May 18 (2--FO). Many observers considered Hummingbird numbers noticeably, even drastically down--very likely due to winter kill in the species' southern wintering areas. Belted Kingfishers overwinter locally, but seem to have begun returning to southern sites by late March. Early arrivals elsewhere were: 1 at Herrick's Cove Apr. 2 (GFE,WGE); and 1 at Plainfield Apr. 2 (MFM). Numbers seemed average (2-5 per day in several areas).

WOODPECKERS

A Common Flicker Mar. 15 at Burlington (WGE) was fairly early. Individuals reached Wallingford by Apr. 1 (BCW) and Plainfield by Apr. 7 (MFM). Migration seemed to peak ca. Apr. 12-30, with highs in several areas of 6-8. Pileated Woodpecker sightings were few, as usual, but most reporters considered populations in good shape. There were 6 reports of the scarce and local Red-headed Woodpecker: in Pittsford May 3 (EH); 1 at Town Beach, Ferrisburg May 14 (BPG); 1 in Weybridge May 21 and 28 (BBP,WS); and a pair at Burlington May 2,6,19 and 21 (WGE,BSE,ORE et al). The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker appeared about on time, with singles at Winhall (WJN) and Burlington (WGE) on Apr. 12. A high of 12 was established Apr. 17 at Winhall (WJN), and good numbers were seen through mid-May (average 2-4 per day at Burlington). A male was excavating a nest hole in Underhill on May 12 (WGE,BSE,ORE). Hairy and Downy Woodpecker populations seemed normal to most observers, with Downies outnumbering Hairies in most areas--e.g. Downy 2-4 per day at Burlington; Hairy 1-2 per day there (WGE). The Island Pond nesting area of the Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker again produced the only reports of this rare species: 1 on May 15 (WGE,GFE,JMV et al); and 3 on May 21 (FO,GFE,WGE, WS).

FLYCATCHERS

Last spring's Apr. 15 Eastern Kingbird was the first ever reported in April. This year Henry Potter found 1 at Clarendon on the remarkably early date of Mar. 30. Other early arrivals (singles unless noted) were: Pittsford Apr.10 (BMZ), Saxton's River May 1 (BK), Burlington May 6 (WGE), Springfield May 8 (MEHa), Wallingford May 11 (BCW), Duxbury May 18 (HBD), and Craftsbury May 18 (FO). Numbers seemed back to normal to most after last season's low (average 2-6 per day at Burlington--WGE). Great Crested Flycatchers were first seen (all singles) May 7 at Clarendon (LHP), May 13 at Addison (WGE,BSE), May 15 at Woodstock (VINS), and May 15 at Plainfield (MFM). Bill Norse thought numbers back to normal in the Winhall area after last spring's low, while Burlington observers reported an average 2-4 per day (WGE). As usual, Eastern Phoebes arrived in March (see winter report) in the southern part of the state. They reached Plainfield (4 in 1 group--MFM) by Apr. 1, Wallingford (BCW,NW) and Norwich (GFE,WGE,GL) by Apr. 2. Several observers commented on the relative scarcity of Phoebes, apparently at their lowest in several years. At Timmuth previous nesting pairs suffered predation by red squirrels on the LeBoutillier's property. A nest at Woodstock was completed by

Apr. 28 (CRP), and at an E. Fairfield nest 2 eggs were laid May 12-21 (Seth Brownstein). A first Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was seen at Winhall May 18 (WJN), followed by 1 on May 21 in the species' Island Pond breeding area (FO, GFE,WGE,WS). A few other areas reported firsts May 22-24. There were 11 reports in all. Willow Flycatchers were better reported than ever before, further evidence of the general northeastern expansion of the species. The first was 1 on May 23 at Hart Pond (WGE). Highs were 6 on May 26 and 7 on May 31 at Dead Creek (WJN). Burlington observers reported an average 1-2 per day (WGE). Observers away from the Champlain Valley should check appropriate habitat (marsh or pond edge with low willows), listening for the distinctive "fitz-bew" vocalization. Curiously the supposedly more common Alder Flycatcher (vocalization "wee-be-o") was reported only 3 times: 2 near Island Pond May 21 (FO,GFE,WGE,WS), 1 at Woodstock May 26 (CRP), and 1 at Peru May 31 (WJN). Least Flycatchers first appeared May 4 at Grafton (5 seen--DC), May 5 at Burlington (1--WGE), May 8 at Woodstock (CRP) and at Marshfield Pond (MFM), and May 11 at E. Fairfield (SB). Migration seemed to peak around May 12 (12 seen, Underhill--WGE,BSE,ORE), with numbers considered average. A just-begun nest was found at Craftsbury May 18 (FO). Eastern Wood Pewees arrived a bit earlier than average, the first individuals on May 17 at both Grafton (DC) and Woodstock (SBL et al). Individuals reached Burlington (WGE) and Craftsbury (FO) by May 18. Numbers were considered average (2-4 per day) at Burlington (WGE) but low again (as "for several years") at Winhall (WJN). An Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen May 14 at Lincoln for the seasonal first (RR,TH). Individuals were at Marshfield Pond (MFM) and Island Pond (FO,GFE,WGE,WS) by May 21. A late migrant was at Panton May 28 (WS,BBP). Bill Norse had no records at Winhall where the species has been a regular breeder for 25 years.

LARK AND SWALLOWS

Most Horned Lark migration occurred in Feb. Larks went unreported in April; and May reports were of scattered pairs, apparently breeding, at Middlebury, Ferrisburg, Panton, Burlington, and Derby. Unusually warm early spring weather again brought small numbers of Tree Swallows back in March, as detailed in the winter report. Those early reports were mostly from the southern half of the state or along L. Champlain, though 3 reached Plainfield by Mar. 31 (MFM). Numbers were low during the normal or below normal cold of early April, with some areas sighting their firsts only with resumption of warmer temperatures beginning Apr. 11. By Apr. 13 Herrick's Cove had "good numbers" (DC); Apr. 16 found ca. 400 in the Springfield area (WGE,DC,EE,SBL et al) and fair numbers elsewhere. But seasonal maxima came mostly Apr. 23, when rain and a shift of winds from S to NW probably held migrants back, and brought them down to feed conspicuously over water. 2,000-3,000 fed that day over L. Mooseen (GFE,WGE et al), while both Rutland (SBL) and Springfield (EE) recorded area seasonal highs of ca. 50. 1,000 were over L. Fairlee Apr. 24 (GFE,WGE) when weather was similar. By Apr. 12 Tree Swallows were battling Bluebirds for houses at Springfield (MEH). Both S. Strafford (HR) and Craftsbury (FO) noted beginning of nest building May 18-21, though some swallows may have suspended nesting activities during the snowstorm of May 8-10 (EHP). Apr. 16 found first Bank Swallows at Springfield (2--WGE, SBL et al) and at Herrick's Cove ("good numbers"--DC). High counts were 100-150 at Burlington May 3 (WGE,BSE,ORE) and 50 at Herrick's Cove May 19 (WJN). Several old colonies were not occupied by the end of May, probably because of flood damage during the past year. Rough-winged Swallows arrived about as expected, with 4 (at Herrick's Cove and Springfield--WGE,DC) the earliest on Apr. 16. High counts were 5-6 on May 6 at Burlington (WGE), May 19 at Herrick's Cove (WJN), and May 29 at Wilder (GFE,WGE). Numbers seemed about average. Weybridge had the first Barn Swallow Apr. 15 (WS); 1 was at Brattleboro by Apr. 16 (TW), "good numbers" at Grafton by Apr. 17 (DC), and 1 in Burlington by Apr. 22 (WGE). Highs were 12 at Clarendon Apr. 23 (LHP), 20 at Winhall May 11 (WJN), and ca. 30 at Springfield May 21 (EE). Burlington averaged 10-20 per day during migration (WGE), while Grafton averaged 5 (DC). A Cliff Swallow Apr. 29 at Wallingford (BCW) was the earliest reported, followed by 1 on May 1 at Winhall (WJN), and ca. 20 (also a seasonal high) May 3 at Burlington (WGE,BSE,ORE). Also high were ca. 20 on May 20 at Springfield, where Eleanor Ellis considered them "suddenly more plentiful in this area". Numbers seemed average at Grafton (DC) and Burlington (WGE) but down near Newport (FO). Purple Martins had returned to Chimney Point, W. Addison Co., by Apr. 16 (PaN) and reached Winhall (1--WJN) and Charlotte (2--WGE,BSE, ORE) by Apr. 21. High seasonal counts of ca. 10 were made along L. Champlain in May (WGE et al). Unusual there was a flock at Brattleboro Apr. 24 (fide DC).

CROW THROUGH CREEPER

There were 2 reports of the Gray Jay, both from the species' highly restricted breeding territory near Island Pond: 4 on May 15 (GFE,WGE,GL et al) and 6 on May 21 (FO,GFE,WGE,WS). Most observers considered Blue Jay numbers average (5-20 daily--WGE,DC,WJN), though Louise Mullen considered the species low in the Brattleboro area. There were no reports of migrating birds. Betty Weeks wrote: "Our wintering flock vanished slowly away. By mid-May only one pair remained". Common Ravens were reported in small numbers over the length of the state, with a high of 7 on Mar. 22 in Ferdinand (fide MFM). A pair were on a Springfield nest site by Mar. 29, where 1 was sitting on Apr. 30 (DC). See the winter report for early movement of Common Crow; most observers considered numbers average. Black-capped Chickadee populations also seemed normal (average 25-30 per day in Winhall, WJN). Winter flocks seem to have broken up by early Apr. (KNH). There were 2 reports of Boreal Chickadee from the far NE Kingdom near Island Pond: 2 on May 15 (GFE,WGE et al) and 4 on May 21 (FO,GFE,WGE,WS). The scarce Tufted Titmouse was also reported twice: a few in the Brattleboro area (LPH); and 1 on May 12 at Winhall; Bill Norse's first for that area. An average of 3-5 White-breasted Nuthatches were seen daily by several observers (DC,WGE,WJN), with a seasonal high of 6 on Mar. 31 at Burlington (WGE,BSE,ORE). The species is absent in winter from this editor's Craftsbury property, but birds moved through Apr. 1-4 (FO); at Timmuth apparently migrating birds were seen Apr. 10 and May 4 (GLE). The Red-breasted Nuthatch appeared more common than usual, averaging 5-15 daily at several locations. No reports of migratory build up were submitted. Brown Creepers were present in normal or somewhat better than normal numbers throughout, averaging 4-5 daily at Burlington (WGE) and at Grafton (DC). Peak movement of returning birds seemed to come Apr. 15-19, with a high of 10 at Burlington Apr. 19 (WGE).

WRENS

The first reported House Wren was one Apr. 22 at Clarendon (LHP); individuals had reached Manchester by Apr. 26 (WJN), Herrick's Cove by Apr. 30 (DC), and Burlington (WGE) and Vergennes (BPG) by May 1. A pair suspended nesting activities near the end of May, because of unseasonably cold weather the observer believed; they returned in ca. 14 days and began again (EHP). Though Winter Wrens winter in small numbers, the following firsts probably represent returning birds: 2 on Apr. 4 at Merck Forest (KN,AN), 1 on Apr. 12 at

Winhall (WJN), 1 on Apr. 16 at Springfield (DC,WGE et al), and 1 on Apr. 22 at Burlington (WGE,CR). Don Clark considered numbers average (5 per day) at Grafton, but Bill Norse reported a "very poor year" at Winhall. The high of 8 in the Island Pond area May 21 (FO,GFE,WGE,WS) reflects the good breeding population there. A pair of Carolina Wrens which overwintered at Middlebury were present there all spring (fide WS), representing the sole report of this scarce Vermont bird. Long-billed Marsh Wrens had returned to W.Rutland Marsh by Apr. 23 (2 seen--GFE,WGE, et al), to Dead Creek by Apr. 30 (AP), and to Burlington by May 6 (4--WGE). May numbers seemed good, as usual, in appropriate habitat, with maxima of 10+ at W. Rutland Marsh (LHP) and 40+ along L. Champlain, Missisquoi to Burlington (FO,GFE,WGE,WS). Again this spring there were no reports of Short-billed Marsh Wren.

MIMICS

Mockingbirds are becoming so regular in parts of the southern half of the state that regular contributors are not reporting totals. Thus it's difficult to know if the species continued to increase this spring or only held its own. The Brattleboro-Guilford area reported the highest numbers, with at least 6 pairs present (fide LPM). Birds overwinter, but individuals at Springfield Apr. 13 (MEHA) and at Berlin Apr. 19 (fide MFM) probably represented birds moving north. Gray Catbirds appeared about as expected, with firsts May 5 at Brattleboro (fide LPM) and Springfield (EE), May 12 at W. Rutland (GFE) and Marshfield (MFM), May 16 at W. Addison (AP), and May 18 at Craftsbury (2--FO). Numbers seemed average (4-6 per day at Burlington--WGE), with a high of 15 on May 19 at Herrick's Cove (WJN). The Brown Thrasher first appeared Apr. 21 at Winhall (2 seen--WJN), reached Timmouth (GLE) and W. Addison (AP) by Apr. 22, Herrick's Cove by Apr. 23 (DC), and Woodstock by Apr. 27 (VINS). Migration data are sadly lacking; but Burlington observers considered 2-4 per day average (WGE). An individual was gathering nesting material at Craftsbury by May 20 (FO).

THRUSHES

American Robins returned in good numbers in March (see winter report). They were numerous by Mar. 31 at Winhall, when 100 set the area's seasonal high. A flock of 60 established the seasonal high at Clarendon Apr. 3 (BCW,NMW). A nest was begun Apr. 17 in Addison, from which young fledged May 21 (PaN). Typical of the average breeding numbers were 8 pairs along 1/2 mile of road in Wallingford Valley (BCW,NMW). Merck Forest reported the first Wood Thrush May 1 (KN,AN). Other first arrivals were: May 2 at Woodstock (MCH) and at E. Fairfield (SB); May 4 at Burlington (WGE); May 5 at Weathersfield (EE) and Winhall (WJN); and May 9 at Marshfield Pond (MFM). Seasonal highs were 10 on May 13 at Winhall (WJN) and 6 on May 27 at Springfield (EE). Numbers seemed average (e.g. 4-10 per day at Burlington--WGE). Initial Hermit Thrush sightings were reported about when expected, with 1 on Apr. 17 at Winhall (WJN), 1 on Apr. 24 at Hartford (WGE), and 1 on Apr. 25 at Woodstock (SBL et al). However Hermits showed up late over most of the state, no doubt because the birds were definitely scarcer and harder to find this spring than usual. The extremely severe winter in the species' southern U.S. wintering area apparently took a heavy toll. Grafton's first was May 8 (1--DC), Merck Forest's was May 15 (1--KN,AN), and Eleanor Ellis at Springfield and Bill Norse at Winhall commented on the near absence of Hermits in habitats previously harboring good breeding populations. About 16 reports of Swainson's Thrush were submitted. Two on the remarkably early date of Apr. 26 at Merck Forest (KN,AN) apparently represent, if correct, the earliest ever. Other records began May 14, and Bruce Peterson reported migrants at Cornwall May 15-22. The Gray-cheeked Thrush was unreported; none were present in good habitat May 22 on Haystack Mt. (WN). The Veery reached Springfield by May 6 (EE), Winhall by May 9 (WJN), Rutland by May 11 (GFE), S. Strafford by May 15 (HR), and E. Fairfield (SB) and Marshfield (MFM) by May 19. Numbers were apparently average (4-10 per day at Burlington--WGE). Eastern Bluebirds returned to many locations in March (see winter report). About 30 birds were reported in Apr. and May, compared to 44 in 1976, lending substance to the guesses of several observers that numbers were down. A pair at Wallingford began feeding young May 15 (BCW).

GNATCATCHER AND KINGLETS

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher totals for the springs of 1974, 1975, 1976, and 1977 were, respectively, 1, 7, 4, 5, and 6 birds sighted. 3-4 were back in the Vernon area, where the species bred last year, by Apr. 23; and a pair were nest-building there on May 7 (WN,LPM et al). Reports (all of singles) were also received from Timmouth (LHP); Plainfield, very far north for the interior of Vt. (KW, fide MFM); and Dead Creek (JDV, MDV). Golden-crowned Kinglets were so poorly reported it is impossible to judge whether Bill Norse's observation from Winhall--"very bad year for them"--holds up across the state or not. Seasonal highs were 4-5 at Herrick's Cove Apr. 2 (GFE, WGE,GL), 6 at Grafton State Forest May 5 (DC), and 12 (doubtless breeding) at Island Pond May 21 (FO,GFE,WGE,WS). W. Woodstock had the first Ruby-crowned Kinglet Apr. 15 (EH), followed by a cluster of first area sightings Apr. 18 at Winhall (1--WJN), Burlington (4--WGE,BSE,ORE), Brattleboro (DWV), and Springfield (3--EE). By Apr. 22 Clarendon had 12 (LHP), and the migration seemed to peak between then and Apr. 30, when Herrick's Cove recorded 14 (DC). Numbers seemed average to observers from Clarendon, Burlington and Herrick's Cove, but down at Winhall and Springfield. Winhall's final migrant was 1 on May 16 (WJN). Only 6 singing males were on territory at Island Pond May 21, compared to 40 found there May 23rd last year (FO et al).

PIBIT THROUGH STARLING

There were 2 reports of Water Pipit, Apr. 15 to May 21 from scattered locations across the state. Many were of single birds, but ca. 50 were at Middlebury on May 5 (WS) and 20+ several times in late Apr. in Springfield (WGE,DC). This represents a better showing than usual. Cedar Waxwings apparently overwintered in the Champlain Valley (see winter report), though nowhere else. Returning birds reached Winhall by May 17 (10--WJN), Woodstock by May 20 (6--SBL et al), Timmouth by May 22 (GLE), Marshfield by May 22 (MFM), and Wallingford by May 28 (BCW). Data are entirely lacking on migratory buildup. Numbers seemed average, at 8-20 per day at Burlington (WGE), though observers at Grafton (DC) and Wallingford (BCW) considered numbers down. There was 1 report of a Northern Shrike, an adult Apr. 4 at Winhall (WJN). The Loggerhead Shrike was reported twice: 1 in Addison Apr. 6 & 8 (AP) and 1 in Plainfield Apr. 8 (MFM). Starlings were as abundant as ever, and perhaps more so as Eleanor Ellis reports increased species' penetration into rural areas of Springfield.

VIREOS

15 Yellow-throated Vireos were reported, the earliest May 14 at Brattleboro (LPM), closely followed by one May 15 at Clarendon (LHP). Other May reports came from Herrick's Cove, Dead Creek, Highgate, Missisquoi NW, Sand Bar Refuge, Colchester, and Middlebury. A Solitary Vireo again appeared on the slightly early date of Apr. 17, this year at Winhall (WJN), followed by sin-

gles Apr. 19 at Brattleboro (ASW), Apr. 20 at W. Woodstock (EH), and Apr. 21 at Burlington (WGE). Numbers seemed average, with highs of 5 at Winhall Apr. 21 (WJN), 6+ at Clarendon May 6 & 7 (LHP), and 6 in the Island Pond area May 21 (FO,GFE,WGE,WS). Red-eyed Vireos arrived May 12 at Merck Forest (1--KN,AN), May 14 at Winhall (1--WJN), and May 15 at Grafton (3--DC) and Brattleboro (LPM). By May 16 there were 10+ at Hart Pond (WGE). Migration seemed to peak May 16-28, with highs of 10 on May 19 at Herrick's Cove (WJN) and 12+ on May 25 at Clarendon (LHP). After a fair showing last spring, the Philadelphia Vireo was reported only twice: 1 on May 15 in Middlebury (WME) and 1 on May 20 at Winhall (WJN). The first Warbling Vireos were seen May 3 at Addison (AP) and Woodstock (SBL et al). Other area firsts were: May 7, 2 at Herrick's Cove (DC); May 8, 2 at Clarendon (BCW,NMW); May 12, Middlebury (WS); May 13, 2 at Pantou (WGE,BSE,ORE); and May 18, 2 at Craftsbury (FO). Numbers seemed average, about 3-6 per day at Burlington (WGE), with a seasonal high of 8 at Dead Creek May 26 (WJN).

WARBLERS

The Black-and-White Warbler first appeared Apr. 30 at Herrick's Cove (2--DC) and Brattleboro (LPM). Singles reached Springfield by May 1 (EE), Merck Forest by May 7 (KN,AN), and Marshfield by May 12 (MFM). Migration data are poor, but several observers considered numbers average to better than (e.g. 3-6 per day at Burlington--WGE). Both Golden-winged Warbler and Blue-winged Warbler went unreported this season, especially curious in the case of the former species after the 11 seen last spring. A Tennessee Warbler May 7 at Clarendon (LHP) is the earliest (by 3 days) in the past 5 years and just possibly the state record. Tennessees reached Woodstock by May 13 (1--LNM), Winhall by May 15 (1--WJN), Hartford by May 16 (1--WGE), and Craftsbury by May 18 (7--FO). The excellent migration seemed to peak May 18-21, with such highs as 28 on May 18 at Burlington and Colchester (WGE,BSE,ORE), 15 on May 19 at Herrick's Cove (WJN), and 15-18 on May 20 in 1 flock at Craftsbury (FO). Winhall's final migrant was 1 on May 22 (WJN). May 1 saw Nashville Warblers at Winhall (2--WJN) and Springfield (1--EE); birds reached Woodstock by May 3 (LNM,MCH), Burlington by May 4 (WGE,CR), Merck Forest by May 6 (KN,AN), Marshfield by May 8 (MFM), and Grafton by May 15 (DC). Migration in the south seemed to peak around May 6, when Winhall had 15 (WJN) and Clarendon its high day also (LHP). The Island Pond area had the seasonal high of 24 on May 15 (GFE,WGE,GL et al). Numbers seemed average overall. Only about 10 reports of Northern Parula were submitted, all of 1-3 birds. Plainfield had the first May 5 (MFM), followed by 2 at Winhall May 6 (WJN) and 1 at Sudbury May 7 (AP). Only 3 could be located in the good breeding habitat at Island Pond on May 21 (FO,GFE,WGE,WS). The first Yellow Warbler was 1 on May 4 at Burlington (WGE,CR). May 7 saw firsts at Brattleboro (LPM), Herrick's Cove (5--DC), Clarendon (1--LHP), and Middlebury (WS). Birds reached E. Fairfield (SB) and Woodstock (CRP) by May 8, and Marshfield by May 12 (MFM). Migration apparently peaked May 8-18, with highs of 6 in one spot at Addison May 8 (AP), 25+ at Clarendon May 14 (LHP), and 20+ in Burlington and Colchester May 18 (WGE, BSE, ORE). Numbers seemed about average. Magnolia Warbler first arrivals were: May 6, Winhall (1--WJN); May 11, Grafton (3--DC); May 15, Island Pond (GFE,WGE,JMV et al); May 16, Woodstock (LNM,MCH); and May 18, Craftsbury (2--FO). Highs were 20 on May 13 at Winhall (WJN) and 10 on May 21 at Island Pond (FO,GFE,WGE,WS). A total of 32 Cape May Warblers were reported, down from the 55 of last spring. However, observer coverage was poorer this spring, and the highs of 17 on May 18 in Burlington and Colchester (WGE,BSE, ORE) and 6 on May 21 in Island Pond (FO,GFE,WGE,WS) leads me to suspect the species continues in very good shape. Grafton had the earliest May 11 (1--DC), followed by 1 at Winhall May 13 (WJN), and 1 at Pantou May 13 (WGE,BSE, ORE). The last certain migrant was 1 at Winhall May 20 (WJN). Single Black-throated Blue Warblers appeared May 3 at Marlboro (WN) and May 5 at Merck Forest (KN,AN), and reached Winhall (WJN) and Weaybridge (WME) by May 8. Other areas reported firsts May 11-21. Highs were 7 at Winhall May 17 (WJN), 6 at Island Pond May 21 (FO,GFE,WGE,WS), and 5 at Clarendon May 23 (LHP). An early Yellow-rumped Warbler reached Middlebury Apr. 6 (WS), so much in advance of the main movement that it might have been a bird which overwintered in Vermont, as did at least 1 (see winter report). Apr. 18 brought single first arrivals to Winhall (WJN) and Merck Forest (KN,AN), with Apr. 19 firsts reported from Brattleboro (DWV,ASW), W. Woodstock (EH), and Burlington (WGE). Singles reached Plainfield by Apr. 21 (MFM) and Springfield by Apr. 22 (EE). A push of 100+ at Dead Creek Apr. 23 (MFM) was no doubt produced by the classic migrant "fallout" conditions: several days of warm southerly winds and clear skies were suddenly interrupted during the early morning of Apr. 23 by rain and NW wind. Away from L. Champlain, migration seemed to peak Apr. 27 - May 15, with highs of 10 males in 1 small tree at L. Boscosen May 2 (EE--also a day with some rain) and 40 at Winhall May 5 (WJN). Craftsbury had the last certain migrants May 20 (2--FO). A Yellow-rumped was gathering nesting material at Timmouth May 1 (GLE). First Black-throated Green Warblers appeared May 2 (Woodstock--LNM,MCH) to May 7 in most southern and central areas, though the snowstorm of May 8-10 may have delayed further migration, as Burlington's first was May 12 (1--WGE,BSE,ORE) and Marshfield's first May 13 (MFM). Peak statewide migration was reported May 13 - 19, with highs of 6-10. A bit earlier than usual was a Blackburnian Warbler May 2 at Woodstock (LNM,MCH); individuals reached Clarendon by May 7 (LHP), Plainfield by May 9 (Robert Mattuck), and after a delay likely produced by the May snowstorm, Grafton by May 11 (DC) and Underhill by May 12 (WGE,BSE,ORE). The inconspicuous migration was apparently heaviest May 16 - 21, with an average 2-6 per day at Burlington (WGE) and a maximum of 12 on May 21 at Island Pond (FO,GFE,WGE,WS). The earliest in 5 years, and perhaps ever, was a Chestnut-sided Warbler Apr. 30 in Brattleboro (LPM). The area first arrivals of this species also suggest normal arrival in southern areas followed by a snowstorm hiatus and late arrival in northern locales. May 2, 1 at Winhall (WJN); May 5, 1 at Merck Forest (KN,AN); and May 7 at Timmouth (GLE) and 2 at Herrick's Cove (DC); then May 13, 1 at Hartford (WGE); May 16, 1 at E. Fairfield (SB); May 20, 1 at Craftsbury; and May 22, 1 at Marshfield (MFM). Migration peaked around May 14 (8 in Springfield--EE) to May 19 (6+ in Clarendon--LHP), with a seasonal high of 25 on May 17 at Winhall (WJN). The Bay-breasted Warbler arrived about as expected, the first on May 14 at Brattleboro (DWV); Winhall had 3 by May 16 (WJN), Burlington 2 by May 17 (WGE), and Island Pond 1 by May 21 (FO,GFE,WGE,WS). The species seemed scarcer this year; the seasonal high was 4 on May 17 at Winhall (WJN). The late-migrating Blackpoll Warbler also arrived about as usual, with 1 on May 17 at Winhall (WJN), 2 on May 18 at Burlington (WGE,BSE,ORE), 1 on May 20 at Craftsbury (FO), and 1 on May 21 at Marshfield (MFM). Highs were 6 on May 20 in several areas along L. Champlain (WGE,BSE,ORE) and 7 on May 22 atop Haystack Mt. in Wilmington (WN et al). 6 Pine Warblers were reported: one less than last spring: 1 at Middlebury Apr. 13 (WS), 1 at Burlington Apr. 19 (WGE), 1 at Castleton Apr. 23 (GFE,WGE et al), 1 at Woodstock Apr. 27 (JMN), 1 at Pantou May 4 (AP,BPG), and 3 at Burlington May 4 (WGE). Whit Nichols reported the only Prairie Warbler, 1 found May 23 in W. Brattleboro. As in the last 2 springs, 7-8 Palm Warblers were reported: 2-3 on May 16 at Herrick's Cove (DC,WGE, SBL et al), 1 on Apr. 19 at Putney (TW, fide LPM),

l on Apr. 20 at Winhall (WJN), l on Apr. 27 at Tinnmouth (LHP), l at Clarendon May 7 (LHP), and l on May 11 in W. Addison (AP). The earliest Ovenbird reported was l on May 2 at Winhall (WJN), followed by l on May 4 at Burlington (WGE,CR), l on May 5 at Grafton (DC), l on May 6 at Woodstock (LNM), and 3 on May 7 at Springfield (EE). Again the May 8-10 snowstorm may have delayed further arrival, since W. Addison's first was not until May 11 (AP), Merck Forest's not until May 16 (KN,AN), and E. Fairfield's not until May 19 (SB). Migration seemed highest between May 13 (when the Springfield area had 15--EE) and May 20 (when Clarendon recorded 7--LHP). Numbers seemed good, as usual, averaging 2-10 daily at Burlington (WGE). A Northern Water-thrush Apr. 30 at Brattleboro (ASW) was the earliest; May 5th brought firsts to Winhall (1--WJN), Grafton (3--DC), and Springfield (1--EE). There were only 4 additional reports: 3 on May 15 at Bloomfield (GFE,WGE et al), l on May 16 at Merck Forest (KN,AN), "max 3 several days" in May at Winhall (WJN), and 6 on May 21 in Bloomfield and Ferdinand (FO,GFE,WGE,WS). Three Louisiana Waterthrushes were reported: Apr. 30 at Brattleboro (ASW); Apr. 30 at Winhall, a bird which was present and singing throughout May (WJN); and May 5 at Stockbridge (EH). Only 1 day later than last year's record was a Mourning Warbler May 14 at Herrick's Cove (DC). There were about 8 additional reports: 2 in Bloomfield and l in Jay on May 21 (FO,GFE,WGE,WS), May 22 on Haystack Mt. in Wilmington (LPM), May 22 at Marshfield Pond (MFM), l on May 22 at Clarendon (LHP), and l present May 24-25 at Marlboro plus others "found in 4 separate localities this spring" (WN). Common Yellowthroats reached Bethel May 3 (JHA) and Tinnmouth by May 5, where they were abundant by May 6 (GLE). Other first arrivals: Winhall May 6 (1--WJN), Brattleboro May 7 (LPM), Woodstock May 9 (SBL), Burlington May 9 (WGE), and Andover May 9 where l was drinking snow water off tires following the May 8-9 snowstorm (EHP). Again that storm seems to have delayed arrival in many parts of the state, with firsts at Marshfield May 13 (MFM), Herrick's Cove May 14 (3--DC), Merck Forest May 17 (1--KN,AN), and Craftsbury May 18 (3--FO). Numbers seemed average (6-15 daily at Burlington--WGE), with a high of 20 on May 17 at Winhall (WJN). Wilson Warbler reports were down to 8 this spring: 2 at Herrick's Cove May 14 (DC,PS,CH), individuals at Clarendon May 17 and 21 (LHP), l at Marshfield Pond May 19 (MFM), l at Woodstock May 20 (VINS), l at Craftsbury May 20 (FO), and l at Winhall May 20 (WJN). The Canada Warbler appeared first May 12 at Winhall (WJN), followed by firsts May 17 at Woodstock (LNM,MCH), May 18 at Brattleboro (LPM), May 20 at Ferrisbur (1--WGE, BSE) and Marshfield (MFM) and Craftsbury (1--FO). Highs were 8 on May 18 at Winhall (WJN) and 4 on May 21 at Island Pond (FO,GFE,WGE,WS), probably a bit below average. An American Redstart May 4 at Clarendon (LHP) was the earliest in 5 years. Redstart migration was also clearly interrupted by the May 8-9 snowstorm. Before the storm Herrick's Cove had 5 on May 7 (DC) and Brattleboro at least l on May 7 (LPM). Then there's a hiatus of reports, with post storm first arrivals (all singles unless noted) May 12 at Merck Forest (KN,AN), May 13 at Winhall (WJN), May 13 at Hartford (GFE), May 16 at Woodstock (CRP), May 19 at Marshfield (MFM), and May 20 at Craftsbury (3--FO). Migration peaked in southern areas May 15-20, with a high of 30 at Herrick's Cove May 19 (WJN). Numbers seemed average, despite the delay.

#### HOUSE SPARROW AND ICTERIDS

House Sparrow numbers seemed average, alas. At Burlington nesting began mid-March, with nestlings present by late Apr. (WGE). At Andover sparrows seem to be making inroads into rural areas (EHP). First Bobolinks arrived May 3 in W. Addison (1-2--AP), May 4 at Clarendon (LHP), May 6 at Winhall (WJN), and May 7 at Woodstock (LNM). Again the May 8-9 snowstorm apparently forestalled further movement, as other (especially more northerly) areas didn't record firsts until considerably later: May 14 at Brattleboro (LPM) and Springfield (EE), May 17 in Plainfield (MFM), and May 18 at E. Fairfield (SB) and Craftsbury (3--FO). Many observers on both sides of the state considered Bobolinks unusually abundant throughout late May, with a high of 40-50 on May 21 between Island Pond and Dead Creek (FO,GFE,WGE,WS). Eastern Meadow-larks returned in March (see winter report); migratory buildup data are lacking, but high counts were 25 on Apr. 16 at Dead Creek (WJN) and 24 on May 13 Charlotte to Addison (WGE,BSE,ORE). Red-wing Blackbird migration took place largely in Feb. and March (see winter report). Numbers of birds on territory seemed normal. One of the stellar events of the season was Carol R. Powell's discovery May 22 of a pair of ORCHARD ORIOLES, which stayed to nest on her property in Woodstock, establishing the state's first breeding record. From May 23-30 the 2nd year male (not yet in adult plumage) sang almost exclusively 6:30 - 7 AM and 7:45 - 8:30 PM; but by May 31 he switched to singing at various times during the day. The nest was in a 20' maple sapling, and both birds and nest were seen by many other observers (SBL,FO,WGE et al). Northern Orioles repeat the by now familiar pattern of a movement interrupted by the May 8-9 snowstorm. W. Addison lodged a first May 2 (AP), followed by singles at Clarendon May 4 (LHP), Dorset May 5 (fide LPM), Vergennes (BPG) and Woodstock (VINS) May 6, and Grafton May 7 (DC). The storm then intervened, delaying Plainfield's (1--MFM) and Burlington's (3--WGE) firsts until May 12, Merck Forest's (1--AN,KN) and E. Fairfield's (SB) firsts until May 16, and Craftsbury's (1--FO) first until May 18. The average migration seemed to peak May 13-19. A female was nest-building at W. Addison by May 12 (PaN). Rusty Blackbirds were back by March (see winter report); 7 reports were submitted for Apr. and May, with highs of 6 on Apr. 16 at Wallineford (NMW), 10 on Apr. 28 at Burlington (WGE), and 6 on May 15 at Island Pond (FO,GFE,WGE,WS). The Common Grackle movement was apparently all but over by the end of March (see winter report), though Craftsbury's seasonal high was 30-40 on Apr. 1 (FO). Brown-headed Cowbirds also returned in numbers in March, though Clarendon's high was 100+ on Apr. 9 (LHP), Craftsbury's high was 50-60 on Apr. 1 (FO), and Plainfield's high was 30-50 on Apr. 7 (MFM).

#### TANAGERS

The Scarlet Tanager first appeared May 7 at Brattleboro (LPM) and Merck Forest (KN,AN), with l on May 8 at Woodstock (VINS). Then followed a lone, snowstorm-induced hiatus before the next reports: Winhall May 13 (1--WJN), Grafton May 14 (5--DC et al), Clarendon May 15 (1--LHP), Hartford May 16 (1--WGE), E. Fairfield May 17 (SB), and Craftsbury May 18 (1--FO). Numbers were considered excellent mid to late May at Middlebury (WS) during the peak period of migration. Highs were 5 on May 17 at Winhall (WJN) and 6+ on May 19 at Clarendon (LHP). During the week of May 13-19 birds believed to be a pair of SUMMER TANAGERS appeared briefly at the home of Arthur Connelly in Brattleboro (fide LPM). The male attacked his reflection in a window before flying away. Since the birds were not seen by 2 or more experienced observers and no photographic documentation was obtained, the species must remain on the hypothetical list for Vermont.

#### FINCHES

The Northern Cardinal continues to do well; Burlington reported 10-11 several days in late Apr. (WGE) and Middlebury village had 5 singing males Apr. 15 (WS). A fascinating account of the hazards birds face, and likely of the tenacity of a female in sticking with her nest, was submitted by Betty Weeks

of Wallineford. "During the winter of '76-'77, our crestless male, now five years old, was a constant feeder visitor, accompanied by a female. Courtship feeding began in Mar. During the first three weeks in Apr., both birds visited the feeding station regularly at dawn and dusk. When they left, they invariably flew into a nearby low-lying area of alders, scrub elms and tamaracks. On Apr. 23 & 24, it rained hard, with temperatures in the low 40's and a cold northerly wind. By mid-p.m. the 24th, the Otter was in flood and water had backed up into the low-lying area to a depth of three or four feet. About 6 p.m. (Apr. 24) the female arrived at the feeding station with plumage wet and in disarray. The end of her tail was twisted downward and to one side, and looked muddy and matted. Instead of feeding she huddled down with closed eyes. She then had what in a human would have been called a chill. After a few minutes she seemed to revive, and picked up a few pieces of fine cracked corn, ignoring sunflower seeds. The male arrived, fed leisurely, then took her a few shelled sunflower seeds which she accepted but did not eat. The male then flew off. A few minutes later it was quite dark and the female had disappeared. The next morning (Apr. 25) she was found dead under a feeding table. She had a large brood patch. The male mate was not seen again until May 20 when he showed up with a new mate." The Weeks also report that they've seen young Cardinals at Wallineford as early as mid-July and as late as the latter part of September. "Several" Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported from Duxbury on the very early date of Apr. 8 (HBD); if correct, this probably represents the earliest record ever. Individuals reached Springfield by May 1 (MEHA), Winhall by May 2 (WJN), E. Fairfield by May 3 (SB), and Woodstock by May 5 (SBL, JDL). Again the severe weather of May 8-10 must have interrupted further progress, as firsts were not seen at Hartford (GFE) and Merck Forest (KN,AN) until May 13, and Craftsbury until May 18 (FO). There was a fair buildup in southern areas May 10-20, with a high of 11 on May 15 at Dunmerston and Putney (MA, fide LPM). Numbers seemed average (2-5 per day at Burlington--WGE). Earliest in 5 years was an Indigo Bunting May 5 at Vergennes (BPG,TCG). More normal were firsts May 15 at Brattleboro (LPM), May 16 at Hartford (2--WGE), May 19 at Burlington (WGE,BSE,ORE), and May 20 at E. Fairfield (1--SB). Numbers seemed average (2-4 per day at Burlington) in good-habitat; the high was 6+ on May 23 in Clarendon (LHP). A male DICKCISSEL first located May 21 by Tom Army of Amherst, MA, remained through the month, singing in weedy fields near a farmhouse in Addison. Bruce Peterson reported: "The song, 'Dick, Dick, Dick', seems to me to be the first notes of the usual Dickcissel song with the 'cissel' omitted. We looked for females but saw none. I suspect that the bird is a first year male doomed to a summer of celibacy." Many other observers saw the bird (WS,BPG,WGE,GFE). Evening Grosbeaks seemed scarcer than usual to several observers. Final reports from non-breeding areas were: May 10, Brattleboro (LPM); May 16, 2 at Winhall (WJN); and May 18, 1 at Craftsbury (FO), 8 were found May 21 at Island Pond (FO,GFE,WGE,WS). Purple Finches remained in better than average numbers after their invasion the past winter. High counts were 25 at Springfield Apr. 5 (EE), 30+ at Herrick's Cove Apr. 30 (DC), and 20-30 daily at Winhall throughout the period (WJN). Birds were carrying nesting material at Grafton State Forest May 5 (DC), and a nest with 3 eggs was found in Burlington May 3 (WGE). Strangely there were but 2 reports of House Finch: 1 female Apr. 3 at Brattleboro (fide LPM), and 1 male Apr. 11 at Wallineford (BCW, NMW). Does this represent a setback in the species' steady increase in Vermont, 1972-1976? The severe cold of the past winter could have done it. Pine Siskin reports were few and scattered over the entire season; the high was ca. 30 at Huntington Apr. 17 (WGE,BSE,ORE). Quite early were young found on a nest at Plainfield May 3 (MFM). Winhall's final report was l on May 8 (WJN), and l was still in Woodstock May 27 (WGE). After wintering in good numbers, American Goldfinches were present in average or better concentrations; highs were ca. 20 at Springfield Apr. 5 (EE), 50+ at Herrick's Cove Apr. 30 (DC), and 30-40 many days at Winhall (WJN). Rufous-sided Towhee first reports were: Apr. 15, Brattleboro (LPM); Apr. 20, Springfield (MEHA); Apr. 21, Tinnmouth (GLE) and Hartford (GFE); and Apr. 22, Merck Forest (2--KN,AN) and Burlington (WGE,CR). Burlington averaged 2-4 per day in habitat (WGE), and the seasonal high was 15 on May 6 at Winhall (WJN). A bird was carrying nesting material Apr. 21 at Tinnmouth (GLE). Early Savannah Sparrows were seen Mar. 17 at Stratton (1--WN), Apr. 2 at White River Jct. (2--GFE,WGE), Apr. 10 at S. Barre (2--MFM), and Apr. 16 at Dead Creek (2--WJN). Numbers were considered average at Burlington (4-5 per day--WGE) but down at Clarendon (LHP) and Grafton (DC). The scarce Grasshopper Sparrow was seen only once: l with Savannahs May 8 in Burlington (WGE,CR). A first for this spring "Records", and rare anytime in Vermont, was a singing male HENSLOW'S SPARROW found by Bill Norse May 31 at W. Rutland Marsh. As last spring, 9 reports of Vesper Sparrow were submitted, Apr. 3 (Addison--EH) to May 30, from Bridport, Weathersfield, Burlington, Panton, Cornwall, and Middlebury. The high was 3 on May 20 at Panton (WGE,BSE,ORE). Dark-eyed Juncos overwintered in good numbers. Good concentrations of migrants were noted Apr. 2-8, especially on Apr. 5 when light snow brought many Juncos to feeders at Springfield (100--EE), Grafton (50+--DC), and Woodstock (50+--VINS) and "thousands" were seen in the Brattleboro area (ASW). The LeBoutilliers recorded another wave at Tinnmouth Apr. 18-22 (GLE). The Tree Sparrow spring flight seemed poor, with low numbers most areas and only 1 notable high, of 50+ on Apr. 5 at Woodstock (SBL et al). Final sightings as birds left the state were: 2 on Apr. 14 at Winhall (WJN), 3 on Apr. 15 at Middlebury (WS), 2 on Apr. 17 at Brattleboro (LPM), and l at Burlington (WGE,CR) and 2 at Springfield (EE) on Apr. 22. Chipping Sparrows reached Woodstock by Apr. 18 (EH), Brattleboro by Apr. 19 (2--LPM), Winhall by Apr. 21 (WJN), Springfield by Apr. 22 (1--EE), Burlington by Apr. 22 (WGE,CR), and Montpelier by Apr. 23 (MFM). Numbers seemed average (4-10 daily at Burlington--WGE), with a high of 25 on Apr. 26 at Winhall (WJN). A pair were nest building on May 18 at Craftsbury (FO). After a few March Field Sparrow sightings (see winter report), birds continued to arrive in Apr.: Apr. 7, l at Ferrisbur (BPG,TCG); Apr. 9 at Barnard (NMW); Apr. 13, 4 at Tinnmouth (GLE); Apr. 15 at Middlebury (WS); Apr. 18, 1 at Burlington (WGE); and Apr. 20, l at Springfield (EE). Burlington averaged 1-3 per day (WGE), and Springfield had the seasonal high of 8 on Apr. 30 (EE). White-crowned Sparrows arrived Apr. 29 at Chimney Pt., L. Champlain (PaN); May 1 at Clarendon (1--LHP); May 2 at Wallineford (5--BCW), Burlington (2--BSE,ORE), and Merck Forest (1--KN,AN); May 7 at Springfield (3--EE); and May 9 at Plainfield (4--MFM). Addison listed its first wave of migrants May 5-7 (AP,WS), while other areas as far north as Craftsbury had average or above numbers peaking May 8-16. Highs were 16 on May 13 at Panton (WGE,BSE,ORE) and 10+ on May 15 at Chimney Pt. (PaN), May 18 at Tinnmouth (GLE), May 19 at Wallineford (BCW), May 20 at Panton (1--WGE,BSE,ORE), May 21 at Plainfield (2--MFM), and May 23 at Springfield (1--EE). White-throated Sparrows wintered in fair numbers in the southern half; birds returned by Apr. 10 to S. Barre (MFM), Apr. 11 to Woodstock (CRP), Apr. 19 to Addison (AP), and Apr. 21 to Duxbury (HBD) and E. Fairfield (SB) and Craftsbury (DBR). Clarendon had a high of 12+ on Apr. 21 (LHP), and other areas reported highs of 25-35 Apr. 26-30. A few Fox Sparrows appeared in March, including l on Mar. 19 at Brattleboro (LPM) not mentioned in the winter report. Other area firsts were: 5 at Springfield Apr. 5 (EE), 4 at Middlebury Apr. 13 (WS), and 6-7 at Burling-

ton (the seasonal high count) Apr. 14 (WGE). Numbers seemed a bit low, and observers at Wallingford and Grafton were surprised to find none. Final reports were: Apr. 17 at Brattleboro (LPM), Apr. 18 at Winhall (1--WJN), and Apr. 22 at Burlington (1--WGE). There were 3 reports of the scarce Lincoln's Sparrows: 1 on May 9 at Winhall (WJN); 1 male present and singing on territory where it nested last year at this editor's property in Craftsbury, May 18 onward (FO); and 2 in the Island Pond area May 21 (FO, GFE, WGE, WS). Swamp Sparrows burst upon the scene Apr. 17, with first reports from Dummerston (LPM), Grafton (1--DC), Winhall (1--WJN), and Burlington (1--WGB, BSE, ORE). Highs were 10 on May 13 at Springfield (EE), 24 on May 21 from Island Pond to Dead Creek (FO, GFE, WGE, WS), and 10 on May 31 at W. Rutland Marsh (WJN). See winter report for early Song Sparrows, which reached even northern Craftsbury by Mar. 29 (DBr fide FO). Numbers seemed high, as usual. "By end of April," Betty Weeks noted at Wallingford, "resident singing males had staked out about 8 territories on some 12 acres, and on Apr. 23 a female was seen carrying nesting material." Songs were carrying nest material in E. Fairfield May 5 (SB), and 5 nestlings were seen at Woodstock May 25 (SBL et al). A final flock of 16 Snow Buntings was going over, heading north, on Apr. 4 at Craftsbury (FO).

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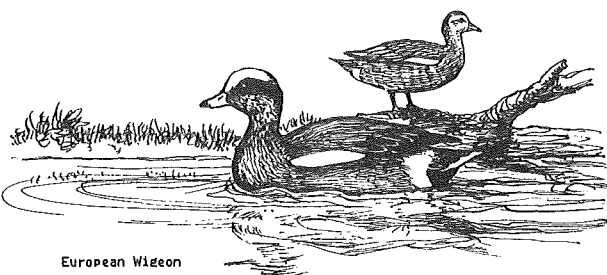
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