

## Records of Vermont Birds

## SUMMER SEASON 1980

1 June - 31 July  
WAYNE SCOTT, SEASON EDITOR

RED-BREASTED  
MERGANSER June 22  
♀ w/ 9 ducklings

Perhaps Summer 1980 can best be summarized as the season of contrasts and counterpoints. Take, for instance, the species total - 191. This is the highest ever in June and July. In spite of this impressive total, there seemed to be a diminution of effort after the initial exuberance of the 1976 through 1979 Atlas seasons. Perhaps this was the calm before the storm of activity to complete the project in 1981. It was a superb year for non-passerines, especially waders, waterfowl and shorebirds. Fourteen species were reported previously in summer no more than three times. HORNED GREBE, GREAT EGRET and BUFFLEHEAD make their first summer appearances, and first Atlas confirmations were obtained for GADWALL and SHORT-EARED OWL. SNOWY EGRET, BRANT, LESSER SCAUP, STILT SANDPIPER and SEMPALMATED PLOVER have been reported to these "Records" only once before, while PEREGRINE FALCON and PECTORAL SANDPIPER occur for the third time. Some of the above occur more frequently during other seasons; but Great and Snowy Egrets, Brant and Stilt Sandpiper are always rare here.

In contrast to the numbers of non-passerine vagrants, was a dearth of unusual passerines. In fact though, the outstanding bird of the season falls into the latter category. A VARIED THRUSH, present almost daily throughout the previous winter and spring, was unprecedented in summer in Vermont and possibly anywhere east of the Mississippi.

Undoubtedly, the weather was a significant factor in the appearance of so many water birds. Lack of appreciable amounts of precipitation through the previous winter combined with relatively dry conditions in Vermont, at least into July, contributed to low lake levels. Furthermore, similar, if not more severely dry conditions in some mid-Atlantic states, created ideal shoreline habitat for post-breeding vagrant waders from the south.

This report features a radical departure from the format of reports before it. Actually the format is borrowed from the Bird Observer of Eastern Massachusetts. It is a compromise between the style utilized in the 1975 "Records" which listed merely the submitted records without comment, and the species by species narrative analysis which has dominated recent "Records."

A word or two about how to interpret this report: for each group of species (the groupings are not necessarily taxonomic though they follow prescribed sequence) there is an analysis summarizing the salient observations of trends where discernable. In the interest of brevity, I have chosen not to mention some of the omnipresent species. Reports of these as well as all other species in a group are listed, following the analysis. I have exercised editorial license and included only those records which appear to have some significance. Included were early or late dates, seasonally large or small numbers, nearly all data which specified numbers of individuals and the date the observation was made, and sightings made in unusual locations. In addition, I have appended for each appropriate species an Atlas summary. If the location of an Atlas record was unusual or sig-

nificant, I have made note of that location. For species which are less common, I have included all reports. Except for a few species, I have avoided analyzing distribution patterns revealed by Atlas data, leaving that for a later issue when all the data are compiled.

A final word: we, the seasonal editors, blithely go about the business of presenting the data in a format of our own choosing. I, for one, would appreciate reader feedback with regard to your preferred format.

## LOONS THROUGH BITTERNS

Pairs of Common Loons were seen at 5 of the usual northeastern Vermont locations including Barre Reservoir. Suspected attempted nesting in southern Vermont apparently failed at Gale Meadows and Lowell Lake. An adult-plumaged HORNED GREBE, photographed at South Slang in Ferrisburg on 6/13 was a high-tight of the season and a first for the summer "Records." The occurrence of Pied-billed Grebe in 2 widely scattered sites was about normal for the state, though none were seen in 1979. Double-crested Cormorants near South Hero and at Kent Pond were probably non-breeding adults. Distribution of this species along the coast and in scattered breeding colonies in the Great Lakes suggests that discovery of breeding on islands in Lake Champlain may not be too far in the future. Following the pattern revealed by Atlas work, Green Herons continue to be found in all regions of the state exclusive of the Northeast Highlands. There were 6 active nests of Cattle Egret on Young Island. Inordinately dry conditions in southern New England and the middle Atlantic states no doubt contributed to the strong showing of GREAT and SNOWY EGRETS. Previously unrecorded in the summer "Records", GREAT EGRETS occurred in three of the major valleys of the state; the 5 observed at Norwich on the Connecticut River is an unprecedented number for Vermont in any season. SNOWY EGRET has been nearly as rare during June and July, having been reported only once before in the "Records." The bird reported from South Bay Marshes of Memphremagog, while not totally unexpected, represents a first record there. Possible nestings of Black-crowned Night Heron near Hyde Park is only the second Atlas record away from the Champlain Valley; and nesting of Least Bittern at West Rutland Marsh is only the second confirmation for this species in four summers.

Common Loon: 6/3, Marshfield Pond, 2 (MFH); 6/19, Maidstone Lake, 2; 6/19, Little Averill Lake, 2; 6/19, Greensboro, 2; 7/31, Barre Reservoir, 2 adults, 1 juvenile; Lowell Lake, 2 (fide WJN); June, Gale Meadows, 2 (WJN). HORNED GREBE: 6/13, South Slang, 1 (MCD, JID, et al). Pied-billed Grebe: Arlington (NS); 6/8, VBC. Double-crested Cormorant: 5/30, Young Island, 2 (ALG, SBL); 7/22, Kent Pond, 1 (MBD). Great Blue Heron: 6/5, South Slang, 12 (seasonal max.) (MCD, JID); Atlas summary - total 26, 2 confirmed. Green Heron: June-July, South Slang, max. of 4 (MCD, JID); 7/30, Herrick's Cove, 7 (WJN); Atlas summary - total 28, 9 confirmed. Cattle Egret: South Sister Island, 6 nests (SBL). GREAT EGRET: 7/20, Norwich, 5 (HSR); 7/28-29, Waterbury, 1 (CWJ, MFI); 7/31, Shelburne Bay, 2 (BDF). SNOWY EGRET: 6/3, Colchester, 1 (WGE, et al); 6/14, South Bay Marshes, 1 (FO, BKT, JVI); early July, Colchester, 1 (DMC); 7/31, Shelburne Bay, 1 (BDF). Black-crowned Night Heron: 6/3, South Sister Island, 40 nests (SBL et al); 6/21, Four Brothers, 95 nests (JMCP); Atlas summary - total 6. Least Bittern: June, South Slang, max. of 4 (MCD, JID); 7/14, West Rutland Marsh, 3 (WJN). American Bittern: 6/5, South Slang, 3 (MCD, JID); 6/19, West Rutland Marsh, 5 (MCD, JID).

## WATERFOWL

A total of 13 species of waterfowl was found; this is the highest total ever reported to the summer "Records." Highlights include a male BUFFLEHEAD which appeared at South Slang on 6/22, and disappeared the next day, but not before he had been photographed to document the first occurrence of this species in summer. Also of considerable interest were sightings of LESSER SCAUP at Lake Ninevah, and BRANT at the Four Brothers Islands. This is only the second time each has been recorded in summer. (Note: While the latter record legally belongs to New York State, this editor henceforth annexes these islands to the Vermont avian realm!) A late-migrant flock of Canada Geese over the South Bay Marshes of Memphremagog was noteworthy, as was a male, Mallard-Pintail hybrid in company with a Black Duck, presumably a female. Seven downy Black Duck young in Woodstock May 21 were early. Probable nesting Gadwall near South Hero was an Atlas first, although confirmed nesting has already been established on Lake Champlain near the Four Brothers Islands. Possible nesting of American Wigeon in the same South Hero block is only its second occurrence for Atlas. Hooded Mergansers nested in good numbers at South Slang where the Dyes found three broods, one of which numbered 12 young. This is the best showing for this species that they have seen there. A possible nesting at Saxtons River is the sixth Atlas record from the southern half of the state. *Red-bi. Hony ♀ 9/9 6/22 (FO) Colan*

Canada Goose: 6/15, South Bay Marshes, 15 (FO, BKT, JVI); Atlas summary - total 6, 3 confirmed. BRANT: 6/23, Four Brothers, 1 (JMCP); Mallard: Atlas summary - total 24, 17 confirmed. Black Duck: 5/21, Woodstock, 7 young (JMN); Atlas summary - total 18, 9 confirmed. Gadwall: 5/30, Young Island, male and female (ALG, SBL); June, Four Brothers, several (JMCP). Pintail: Atlas summary - total 3, 3 confirmed, all Dead Creek. Green-winged Teal: Atlas summary - total 3, 3 confirmed, all Dead Creek. Blue-winged Teal: Atlas summary - total 7, 5 confirmed. American Wigeon: 5/30, Young Island, 1 (SBL, ALG). Wood Duck: June/July, South Slang, 5 broods (MCD, JID); Atlas summary - total 19, 9 confirmed. LESSER SCAUP: 6/13, Lake Ninevah, 1 male (SBL). Common Goldeneye: Atlas summary - total 5, 3 confirmed, all records Champlain Valley. BUFFLEHEAD: 6/22-23, South Slang,

1 male (MCD, JID, WS). Hooded Merganser: June/July, South Slang, 3 broods (MCD, JID); Atlas summary - total 11, 7 confirmed. Common Merganser: Atlas summary - total 4, 3 confirmed.

#### HAWKS

A heavily-streaked immature PEREGRINE FALCON highlights the list of summer diurnal raptors. It was for this rare migrant the only sighting this summer and the third occurrence in as many years. Attempts to reintroduce Peregrines as a nester continue here and in other eastern states. But for now we must be content with very occasional migrants through Vermont. The first summer BALD EAGLES sighted in the Champlain Valley since 1976 included an adult post-breeding vagrant at Mud Creek and an immature in active primary moult (missing 7) at Dead Creek. Turkey Vultures continue to be widely reported; as usual, the best numbers this year came from the Champlain and Connecticut River Valleys. Judging from the sketchy data we've been able to accumulate over the past five or six summers, one might infer that the number of accipiter reports this season was about average. Goshawks were found in 9 widely-scattered locations, mostly in the northern half of the state; though sightings in Chittenden and nesting in Saxton's River are notable exceptions. Atlas workers found Sharp-shinned Hawks in seven blocks and Cooper's Hawks in only two. Red-tailed Hawks, in keeping with its reputation as one of the most common raptors in the state, were distributed widely. A pair of Red-shouldered Hawks in Westford, which began nesting in April (?) were able to successfully raise two nestlings to fledging. The presence of downy young was confirmed in early June and both flew from the nest June 28. Broad-winged Hawk reports were down only slightly from 1979. As usual, summer sightings of Marsh Hawk were limited to the Champlain Valley and the South Bay Marshes. An old photograph of an Osprey on a nest has been accepted as confirmation of historical nesting; and this season, probable nesting was obtained at an undisclosed location. The presence of two mid-summer vagrants in the Champlain Valley was not unusual.

Turkey Vulture: 6/25, Weathersfield, 12 (GHa); 7/26, Dead Creek, 11 (MJM, WRB); Ferrisburg, max. 6 (MCD, JID); Atlas summary - total 11, all possible. Goshawk: Atlas summary - total 9, 1 confirmation (Saxtons River, DC). Sharp-shinned Hawk: 7/6, Tinnmouth, 1 (GTL); 7/23, 26, Strafford Quad, 1, 4 (HR); Atlas summary - total 5, all possible. Cooper's Hawk: Georgia Plain Quad, possible (MJM, et al); Saxton's River, possible, (DC). Red-tailed Hawk: Atlas summary - total 36, 6 confirmations. Red-shouldered Hawk: 6/28, Westford, 2 young FL (MJM, et al); Atlas summary - total 13, 2 confirmations. Broad-winged Hawk: 6/23, Woodstock, 2 young FL (JMN); Atlas summary - total 27, 1 confirmation (Underhill, KCS). BALD EAGLE: 6/10, Mud Creek, Alburt, 1 adult (MJM); 7/26, Dead Creek, 1 immature (MJM, WRB). Marsh Hawk: 7/28, Dead Creek, 1 (MCD, JID); Atlas summary - total 5, no confirmations. Osprey: 6/8, Dead Creek, 1 (MCD, JID); 7/9, Fishbladder Island, 1 (Jok). PEREGRINE FALCON: 7/27, Sand Bar Ref., 1 immature (MJM, SAH). American Kestrel: Atlas Summary - total 30, 10 confirmations.

#### GROUSE THROUGH COOT

Without doubt, one of the most exciting finds of the summer was a female SPRUCE GROUSE with 7 or 8 young seen at Moose Bog on two consecutive days in June. The handful of records in the last 10 years attests to the rarity of this species in the state, and the fact that virtually all sightings have come from the diminishing boreal habitat in and adjacent to Moose Bog, underscores the absolute necessity of preserving intact this vital area. Also from Moose Bog comes a report of a Common Gallinule which was observed in the surrounding marshy vegetation, thus providing the first record there for a species uncommon even in its more conventional haunts in the Champlain Valley.

Ruffed Grouse were observed in numerous locations statewide. Rare anywhere in Vermont, a Ring-necked Pheasant was listed as a probable nester near Enosburg Falls. Gray Partridge continues to be reported from Grand Isle County; and Turkey continues to be found occasionally in areas farther north than is usual. Reports this summer from Georgia and Barnet were received along with 9 others from more southerly localities. The monopoly of the Champlain Valley on occurrences of Virginia Rail and Sora was evident though not exclusive. The former species was also found near Guildhall in the Northeast Kingdom as well as in 3 blocks in southern Vermont. A possible nesting Sora near Woodstock is the first record for that area since publications of the "Records" began. In fact, there are fewer than 5 sightings away from the Champlain Valley and the South Bay Marshes. Two reports of American Coot, rare in Vermont, were also submitted.

SPRUCE GROUSE: 6/14-15, Moose Bog, 1 female, 7-8 young (FO, et al). Ruffed Grouse: 6/17, Plainfield, 1 adult, 10 young (MFM); 6/21, Tinnmouth, 10-12 young (GTL); Atlas summary - total 43, 28 confirmed. Ring-necked Pheasant: Enosburg Falls Quad, probable (CQ). Gray Partridge: Rouse's Point Quad, confirmed (DMc); East Alburt Quad, confirmed (RNI). Turkey: Atlas summary - total 11, 5 confirmed. Virginia Rail: 7/14, W. Rutland Marsh, 2 (WJN); 7/24, South Slang, 7 (MCD, JID); 7/25, Woodstock, 1 dead, (fide SBL); 7/28, Dead Creek, 4 (MCD, JID); Atlas summary - total 12, 4 confirmed. Sora: 7/31, W. Rutland Marsh, 1 (WJN); Atlas summary - total 5, 3 confirmed. Common Gallinule: 6/14, Moose Bog, 1 (FO, et al); 6/29-30, Shelburne, confirmed (BDF); Atlas summary - total 6, 4 confirmed. American Coot: South Bay Marshes, possible (FO, et al); W. Rutland Marsh, possible (WJN).

#### POLVERS THROUGH TERNS

As usual, the southward movement of shorebirds began on or before July 10, with the appearance of Lesser Yellowlegs and Solitary Sandpiper. Annually, these species are the earliest shorebirds reported in the state, often times appearing as early as July 4. An extraordinary STILT SANDPIPER seen July 31 was the first since 1975 as was a Semipalmated Plover on the same date. The former species has been reported fewer than 10 times previously and is considered rare in any season. The latter is remarkable for its early appearance; it is seen regularly in small numbers in August and September. Also of interest were 3 Pectoral Sandpipers, the first report in summer for this species since 1977. Of the 5 regularly nesting shorebirds in Vermont, Killdeer, American Woodcock, Common Snipe, and Spotted Sandpiper were widely and commonly reported. There were, however, no reports of American Woodcock from the Northeast Highlands, a fact which reflects more the coverage of the area than possible precipitous declines in the population. Upland Sandpiper, which has a more limited distribution, was reported in Stowe, quite removed from its preferred breeding habitat in the Champlain Valley and near Lake Memphremagog. A report from Irasburg suggests that a systematic survey of the suitable habitat elsewhere in the region south of Memphremagog may likely reveal more nesting sites. In the Champlain Valley, everyone seems to take the ubiquitous Ring-billed Gull for granted. The birds are everywhere, on and over agricultural land foraging in freshly hayed fields, often appearing by the hundreds. Yet, we

receive very few reports. Perhaps the highlight of a few rather unremarkable reports of Gulls and Terns was the occurrence of 22 Black Terns at South Slang. By statewide standards this is a remarkable total, but in comparison to previous totals for South Slang and environs, it is about average. Bonaparte's Gull is unusual in summer even on Lake Champlain where it is quite common in the fall. So it is of particular interest that one was reported from Kent Pond in Sherburne.

Semipalmated Plover: 7/31, Dead Creek, 2 (BDF). Killdeer: 6/6, Londonderry, 3 (WJN); June-7/15, Mt. Holly, max. 8 (AEB); 6/23, Woodstock, several (JMN); Atlas summary - total 46, 32 confirmed. American Woodcock: 7/6, Winhall, 2 (WJN); 7/27, Plainfield, 1 banded (MFM); 7/30, Herrick's Cove, 1 (WJN); Atlas summary - total 31, 5 confirmed. Common Snipe: 7/1, Londonderry, 1 (WJN); Atlas summary - total 31, 1 confirmed. Upland Sandpiper: 6/15, Irasburg Quad., 3; 7/9, 17, Ferrisburg, Hinesburg, 5, 5 (MCD, JID); 7/26, Dead Creek, 6-7 (MJM, WRB); Atlas summary - total 5 no confirmations. Spotted Sandpiper: 6/23, Woodstock, 8 (JMN); 7/30, Herrick's Cove, 3 (WJN); Atlas summary - total 33, 14 confirmed. Solitary Sandpiper: 7/10, Williamstown, 1 (WGE, NLM); 7/11, Orange, 5 (MFM); 7/16, Island Pond Quad., 4 (ALG, WGE); 7/18, Georgia Plains Quad., 2 (MJM). Greater Yellowlegs: 7/28, Dead Creek, 7 (MCD, JID). Lesser Yellowlegs: 7/10, Northfield, 1 (WGE, NLM); 7/31, Shelburne Bay, 4-5 (BDF). Pectoral Sandpiper: 7/28, Dead Creek, 2 (MCD, JID); 7/31, Shelburne Bay, 1 (BDF). Least Sandpiper: 7/28, Dead Creek, 1 (MCD, JID); 7/31 Shelburne Bay, 5-6 (BDF). STILT SANDPIPER: 7/31, Shelburne Bay, 1 (BDF). Semipalmated Sandpiper: 7/11, Orange, 2 (MFM); 7/31, Shelburne Bay, 40+ (BDF). Herring Gull: Men Island, possible (SBL, ALG); Black River Marshes, possible (FO, et al); Young Island, confirmed (SBL, ALG). Ring-billed Gull: Atlas summary - total 8, 1 confirmed; Young Island, confirmed (ALG, SBL). Bonaparte's Gull: 7/22, Kent Pond, 1 (MCD). Common Tern: 5/30 & 6/29, Rock Island, Grandma Island, Popasquash Island, Gull Island, confirmed (ALG, SBL, JDL, JOK, RWK). Black Tern: 6/13, South Slang, max. 22 (MCD, JID); Colchester Point, possible (BSE, ORE); Dead Creek, confirmed (AP, et al).



SHORT-EARED OWL

#### DOVES THROUGH KINGFISHER

An albino Mourning Dove in Norwich was interesting and certainly genetically unusual. Of the 11 Atlas reports for Yellow-billed Cuckoo, all but one were submitted from the western fringe of the state. They were especially common at South Slang where the Dyes counted at least 5 different territories. Black-billed Cuckoos were found in all regions except Essex County. Both Cuckoo populations are somewhat irruptive; consequently its occurrence from year to year in a given location can be unpredictable. Without question, the highlight of the Atlas season 1980 was confirmation of nesting for SHORT-EARED OWL (location confidential by request). Brian Farrell first discovered an adult foraging in a field; when he investigated strange calls from nearby woods he found 2 recently fledged young. The breeding range of this species includes southern Quebec, and it has been found nesting in scattered localities in western New York State and Long Island. One would expect occasional nesting to occur in the Champlain Valley and possibly in the agricultural country around Lake Memphremagog. Screech Owls were found only in the Champlain Valley. Of the Great Horned Owl sightings this summer, only 1 was recorded in the eastern half of the state and only 1 was located south of Rutland; 9 of 14 reports were submitted from the Champlain Valley. Based on Atlas data collected over four summers, one would have predicted a more uniform distribution. As expected, Barred Owls were found only sporadically in the Valley, and there only in areas very close to the foothills of the Green Mountains. Elsewhere it was widespread. The second and third Atlas confirmations of Saw-whet Owls were obtained this summer. At Stone's Throw in East Craftsbury and at Stowe, single juvenile-plumaged young birds were found. The Saw-whet is a regularly occurring but rarely seen resident of most areas of the state except for most of the Champlain Valley where it is a rare vagrant in fall, winter and spring. A Whip-poor-will in Charlotte was unusual so close to the lake. Common Nighthawks were seen only in two locations in the Connecticut River Valley. This species has declined in the western half of the state over the last 10-15 years. Morse reports that Chimney Swifts disappeared early from Winhall probably due to the use of wood fires during cool weather in June. At the Dye's hummingbird feeder in North Ferrisburg, 2 families of Ruby-throats consumed 2400 grams (5.3 lbs.) of sugar by 8/1.

Mourning Dove: 6/10, Norwich, 1 albino (WD, FAS); 7/19, Cambridge, 5 (RYG, JGG); 7/31, West Rutland Marsh, 10 (WJN); Atlas summary - total 41,

6 confirmed. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: June/July, South Slang, 5 locations (MCD, JID); 7/14, W. Rutland Marsh, 1 (WJN, RWP); Atlas summary - total 11, 2 confirmed. Black-billed Cuckoo: 6/6, W. Rutland Marsh, 3 (WJN); 7/31, Berlin, W. Rutland Marsh, 2 (MFM, WJN); Atlas summary - total 41, 8 confirmed. Screech Owl: Shelburne, probable (BDF); Dead Creek, confirmed (AP); Monkton, probable (CHH); Shoreham, probable (WS, WB); Great Horned Owl: 6/28, South Slang, 1 immature (MCD, JID); 7/10, Winhall, S. Slang, 1 adult (WJN, MCD, JID); Atlas summary - total 14, 2 confirmed. Barred Owl: 6/5, Winhall, 1 (WJN); 6/14, Tinnmouth (GTL); 7/9, Lake Willoughby, 3 fledglings (MJM); 7/24, Winhall, 2 (WJN); Atlas summary - total 31, 2 confirmed. SHORT-EARED OWL: 6/29-30, at an undisclosed location in the Champlain Valley, 1 adult, 2 young (BDF). Saw-whet Owl: 6/13, E. Craftsbury, 1 juvenile (FO, et al); 7/2, Stowe, 1 juvenile (SBL); Atlas summary - total 10, 2 confirmed. Whip-poor-will: 6/12, Charlotte, 1 heard (TH); Atlas summary - total 8, 1 confirmed (Springfield, EE). Common Nighthawk: Quechee, possible (CSG); Hanover Quad, probable (WGE, GFE). Chimney Swift: June/July, Woodstock, max. 20+ (JMN); 6/6, Winhall, max. 10 (WJN); Atlas summary - total 40, 9 confirmed. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: June/July, Mt. Holly, max. 4 (AEB); June/July, S. Strafford, 2-3 (HR); June/July, N. Ferrisburg, 2 pair, 2-3 young each (MCD, JID); June/July, Winhall, max. 2 (WJN); June/July, Woodstock, 2-3 female (JMN); Atlas summary - total 47, 3 confirmed. Belted Kingfisher: June/July, Tinnmouth, Winhall, max. 2 (GTL, WJN); Atlas summary - total 51, 17 confirmed.

#### WOODPECKERS THROUGH HORNED LARK

One might characterize the reports of this group as being mostly unremarkable. Possible exceptions to this generalization might include sightings of the rare but regular Red-headed Woodpecker in Shelburne and Bridport - areas in the heart of its preferred Vermont range. A Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker in Averill was unusual though not unexpected. Other resident woodpecker species including Common Flicker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Pileated, Downy, and Hairy Woodpeckers were found in suitable habitat everywhere in the state. Earliest fledge date for Hairy Woodpeckers was June 1 in Mt. Holly and that for Downys was June 12 in Woodstock. While suitable Vermont data do not exist, these dates, compared to those cited in Bull (Birds of New York State, 1974), are quite early. A maximum of 10 Eastern Kingbirds at Gale Mountain suggests a healthy population there. Great Crested Flycatchers were widely reported except in the Northeast Kingdom. Only a handful of blocks there have produced records of this species. Mr. LeBoutillier followed the fortunes of a pair of Eastern Phoebes in Tinnmouth. He reports that of the first clutch of four eggs, three hatched; one of the three young fell out of the nest and was lost. The remaining two fledged successfully on June 18. The female immediately began to refurbish the same nest and on June 23 began laying the first of four eggs. A single egg was laid on each successive day and she began incubation on June 26. Two eggs hatched July 11 and a third on the 12th; the fourth was sterile. All three young fledged successfully on July 28. Of the Empidonax flycatchers, the Yellow-bellied was found in a scattering of southern, high-elevation localities. As one would expect, it was reported more frequently in the northern half of the state. Alder Flycatcher was unreported in southern and eastern sections of the state. Except for one block in the south, all sightings of Willow Flycatcher were made in western Vermont and primarily in the Champlain Valley. Confirmation of nesting of Horned Lark continues to be difficult and confined to the Champlain Valley.

Common Flicker: June/July, Winhall, max. 10 (WJN); Atlas summary - total 55, 28 confirmed. Pileated Woodpecker: 7/11, Chester, 2 (WJN); June/July, Woodstock, 2 (JMN); Atlas summary - total 34, 5 confirmed. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER: 6/24, Shelburne, 1 (BDF); 7/28, Bridport, 1 (PaN). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 6/24, Woodstock, 1 pr., 2 yng. (JMN); 7/29, N. Ferrisburg, 1 (MCD, JID); June/July, Winhall, max. 8-10/day (WJN); June/July, Marshfield Pond, 9 banded (MFM); Atlas summary - total 39, 24 confirmed. Hairy Woodpecker: 6/1, Mt. Holly, young at feeder (AEB); 6/14, Randolph, young fledged (EWC); June/July, Marshfield Pond, 1 banded (MFM); Atlas summary - total 52, 24 confirmed. Downy Woodpecker: 6/12, Woodstock, young fledged (JMN); June/July, Marshfield Pond, 6 banded (MFM); Atlas summary - total 58, 32 confirmed. BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER: Averill Quad, carrying food (ALG, FO, et al). Eastern Kingbird: 6/25, Gale Meadows, max. 10 (WJN); 7/3, Woodstock, 2 young (JMN); Atlas summary - total 53, 28 confirmed. Great Crested Flycatcher: 7/5, Woodstock, young fledged (JMN); 7/11, Chester, max. 4 (WJN); Guildhall Quad, confirmed (ALG, DPK); N. Concord Quad, confirmed (ALG, DPK); Atlas summary - total 49, 14 confirmed. Eastern Phoebe: 6/2, Woodstock, 2 nestlings (JMN); 7/1, Winhall, max. 5 (WJN); Atlas summary - total 50, 38 confirmed. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 6/12, 6/24, Winhall, 2, 1 (WJN); Atlas summary - total 12, 0 confirmations. Alder Flycatcher: 6/5, W. Rutland Marsh, max. 5; June/July, Marshfield Pond, 1 banded (MFM); Atlas summary - total 28, 1 confirmed (Lake Iroquois). Willow Flycatcher: 6/5, W. Rutland Marsh, max. 2; Atlas summary - total 13, 1 confirmed (Lewis Creek). Least Flycatcher: June-7/11, Winhall, max. 8, (WJN); June/July, Woodstock, 6+ pairs (JMN); June/July, Marshfield Pond, 4 banded (MFM); 7/31, Woodstock, young fledged (JMN); Atlas summary - total 52, 18 confirmed. Eastern Wood Pewee: 6/15-7/21, Winhall, max. 1 (WJN); June/July, Woodstock, 1-2 pair (JMN); June/July, Marshfield Pond, 2 banded (MFM); 8/21, Woodstock, young fledged (JMN); Atlas summary - total 48, 10 confirmed. Olive-sided Flycatcher: 6/1, 6/14, 7/24, Winhall, Peru, Winhall, 1, 2, 1 (WJN); June/July, Marshfield Pond, 1 banded (MFM); Atlas summary - total 28, 3 confirmed (Averill, Barnet, Brattleboro Quad). Horned Lark: 7/10, Lewis Creek, 2 adult, 4 young (MCD, JID); Atlas summary - total 5, 3 confirmed (all Champlain Valley).

#### SWALLOWS THROUGH BROWN CREEPER

Among the reports for swallows there were no surprises. Tree Swallows were most frequently found, followed closely by Barn Swallows. Bank, Rough-winged and Cliff Swallows were also widely, though somewhat less commonly, reported. The occurrence of Rough-winged Swallow nesting in the Northeast Kingdom at N. Concord was unusual for that region. Purple Martin continues to be found only in the Champlain and Memphremagog valleys. Gray Jay, which was missed during June and July of 1979, was found as a possible nester at Haidstone Park. Common Ravens were reported from around the mountainous and boreal sections of the state. A pair of Tufted Titmouse produced 4 young in Randolph and another brood was found near Brattleboro. The Titmouse is uncommon to rare even in southern Vermont where there are a handful of confirmed nesting records. After a couple of "down" years for the irruptive Red-breasted Nuthatch, observers reported "normal" or "good" numbers.

Tree Swallow: 6/12, Woodstock, feeding young (JMN); June/July, North Ferrisburg, 5 broods (MCD, JID); June/July, Tinnmouth, 3 broods (GTL); June/July, Mt. Holly, 10 young (AEB); 7/30, Herrick's Cove, 100 (WJN); Atlas summary - total 55, 45 confirmed. Bank Swallow: 7/1, Dorset, max. 10 (NLM,

WGE); Atlas summary - total 27, 16 confirmed. Rough-winged Swallow: 6/23, Ball Mountain, max. 10 (WJN); N. Concord Quad., confirmed (ALG, DPK); Atlas summary - total 20, 5 confirmed. Barn Swallow: 7/31, W. Rutland Marsh, max. 50 (WJN); 8/25, Woodstock, 4 young fed (late) (JMN); Atlas summary - total 40, 38 confirmed. Cliff Swallow: 7/14, Rutland, max. 30 (WJN); Atlas summary - total 30, 20 confirmed. Purple Martin: Atlas summary - total 10, 10 confirmed. GRAY JAY: Haidstone Park, possible (LHM). Blue Jay: June/July, Randolph, 6-12 (EWC); 6/13, 7/9, Pittsford, incubation, fledged (BMZ); Atlas summary - total 53, 28 confirmed. Common Raven: 6/6, Winhall, 1 (WJN); 6/17, Lincoln, 1 (MCD, JID); 6/23, Woodstock, 2 (JMN); 7/12, Marshfield Pond, 3 (MFM); Atlas summary - total 18, 3 confirmed. Common Crow: 6/24, Woodstock, 2 young (JMN); Atlas summary - total 63, 41 confirmed. Black-capped Chickadee: June/July, Marshfield Pond, 5 banded (MFM); June/July, Woodstock, 8+ pairs (JMN); Atlas summary - total 58, 43 confirmed. Boreal Chickadee: Atlas summary - total 7. Tufted Titmouse: 6/3, S. Strafford, 1 dead (HR); 6/21, Londonderry, 1 (WJN); 7/12, Randolph, 2 adults, 4 young (EWC); Brattleboro, confirmed (LPM). White-breasted Nuthatch: Atlas summary - total 43, 10 confirmed. Red-breasted Nuthatch: 7/2-7/31, N. Ferrisburg, several (MCD, JID); Atlas summary - total 38, 10 confirmed. Brown Creeper: 6/24, 6/27, Woodstock, 4, 2 young (JMN); 7/1, Winhall, 1 (scarce) (WJN); June/July, Marshfield Pond, 1 banded (MFM); Atlas summary - total 35, 10 confirmed.

#### WRENS THROUGH SHRIKE

Of tremendous interest was the VARIED THRUSH which spent the winter visiting a feeder in the southern Vermont community of Athens, and which was observed on the unprecedented late date of June 14. This species is normally found east to mountainous western Montana, but is well-known for its peregrinations; it is a rare but regular vagrant to the east coast in winter. Long-billed Marsh Wren continues to thrive in suitable habitat in the Champlain Valley and in a few very widely scattered localities elsewhere, most notably W. Rutland Marsh. Each year, Short-billed Marsh Wren, a rare breeder in the state, is found in a different location, thus living up to its reputation as a sporadic nester. There is little that is permanent in its preference for nesting localities here. A pair of Northern Mockingbirds (double entendre intended) nested in Westford. In tight of this species' uncommon status, the two resident pairs in N. Ferrisburg were noteworthy. Brown Thrashers were "surprisingly seldom seen" in the Woodstock area, but elsewhere they were found in 38 blocks statewide. A Swainson's Thrush at Herrick's Cove, July 30, was surely an early southward migrant (or at least a post-breeding vagrant). There were few reports of Gray-cheeked Thrush, a fact which suggests more about observer itineraries than about possible population trends. Many birders reported on the Eastern Bluebird; and perhaps their remarks best underscore the difficulties that this species has to overcome each nesting season. Of the eight who commented, two reported pairs being driven off by Tree Swallows or House Wrens; one pair abandoned a nest after it had been built (no reason given); another nest yielded 3 dead young. Of the three more or less successful broods, one did survive intact to fledging. Earliest Bluebird young left the nest by June 1. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher in Winhall was unusual there; but not so uncommon were reports from the Lower Connecticut River Valley and the Lake Plains region. Norse reports alarmingly that Golden-crowned Kinglet was "missing everywhere... It's the first time in my time here." Interestingly, of the 28 Atlas records of this species in 1980, only three of the blocks were located south of Route 4. Except for a confirmed nesting in Saxton's River, Ruby-crowned Kinglet was found in a scant seven blocks scattered across the northern half of the state. For the second summer in a row, there were no sightings of Loggerhead Shrike. A quick perusal of the "Records" for spring, summer and fall since publication began in 1973, reveals that sightings of Northern Shrike outnumber those of the Loggerhead by four to one (Remember! this excludes the winter season.) While Loggerheads are found almost exclusively in the Champlain Valley, a fact which alludes to its more southerly distribution, the Northern has been observed in all regions (possible exception of the highest mountains) during its southward incursions.

House Wren: 7/1, Winhall, max. 5 (WJN); June/July, Strafford, 3 males (HR); Atlas summary - total 34, 19 confirmed. Winter Wren: 6/24-25, Woodstock, 1 female, 2 young (JMN); 7/1, Winhall, 4 (WJN); Atlas summary - total 36, 7 confirmed. Long-billed Marsh Wren: 7/14, 7/31, W. Rutland Marsh, 8 (WJN); June/July, South Slang, very numerous (MCD, JID); Atlas summary - total 10 (including Guildhall), 4 confirmed. Short-billed Marsh Wren: 6/26, 7/9, Williston, 1 male, 2 males (WGE, NLM, BSE, ORE); Colchester Point, probable (BSE, ORE); Dead Creek, possible (WJN). Mockingbird: 6/6, Rutland Airport, 1 (WJN); Westford, confirmed (ST); North Ferrisburg, 2 pair (MCD, JID); Atlas summary - total 6, 1 confirmed. Gray Catbird: 6/18, Herrick's Cove, maximum 10 (WJN); June/July, Woodstock, 3 pair (JMN); June/July, Marshfield Pond, 1 banded (MFM); Atlas summary - total 53, 34 confirmed. Brown Thrasher: 6/27, Winhall, maximum 2 (WJN); Atlas summary - total 38, 11 confirmed. American Robin: June/July, Woodstock, 10-11 pair (JMN); Atlas summary - total 55, 50 confirmed. VARIED THRUSH: 6/14, Athens, 1 (MFW fide DC). Wood Thrush: June/July, Woodstock, 8+ pair (JMN); June/July, Winhall, 10/day (WJN); Atlas summary - total 54, 22 confirmed. Hermit Thrush: June/July, Marshfield Pond, 1 banded (MFM); June/July, Winhall, 4-5/day (WJN); June/July, Woodstock, 2-3 pairs (JMN); Atlas summary - total 39, 9 confirmed. Swainson's Thrush: 6/23, Lye Brook, 101 (WJN); 7/30, Herrick's Cove, 1 (WJN); June/July, Marshfield Pond, 2 banded, (MFM); Atlas summary - total 20, 7 confirmed. Gray-cheeked Thrush: June/July, Stratton Mtn., present (WJN); Atlas summary - total 2 (Mt. Mansfield, Camels Hump). Veery: June/July, Winhall, 10-20 max./day (WJN); June/July, Woodstock, 7+ pairs (JMN); June/July, Marshfield Pond, 2 banded (MFM); Atlas summary - total 53, 32 confirmed. Eastern Bluebird: 6/1, Brownsville, young fledged (BMH); 7/11, Chester, 1 (declining) (WJN); Tinnmouth, 2 broods (GTL); Atlas summary - total 22, 12 confirmed. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: June/July, S. Slang, Lewis Creek, Dead Creek, nesting (MCD, JID); 6/2, Winhall, 1 (WJN); Atlas summary - total 3 (St. Albans Bay, Bristol Pond, Barre). Golden-crowned Kinglet: Atlas summary - total 28, 5 confirmed. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: Atlas summary - total 7 (E. Haven, Guildhall, Plainfield, Waltsfield, Hanover, Saxtons River (2) Quads). Cedar Waxwing: June, Winhall, max. 25 (WJN); June/July, Marshfield Pond, 9 banded (MFM); June/July, Woodstock, 3 pairs (JMN); Atlas summary - total 56, 25 confirmed.

#### VIREOS AND WARBLERS

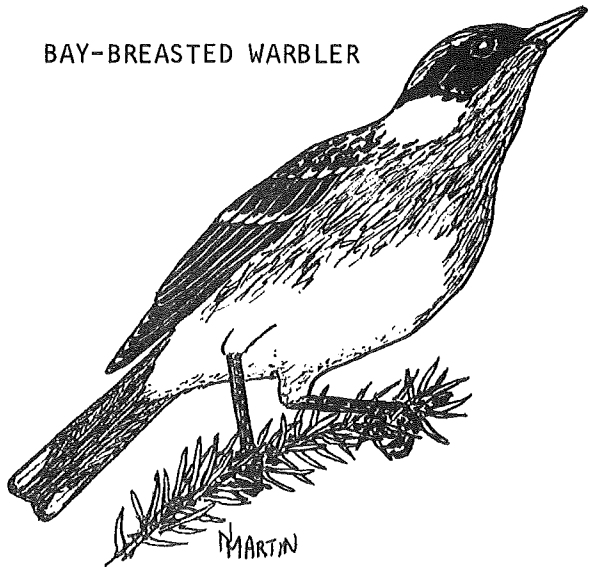
There is little that is noteworthy about the occurrences of Vireonidae and Parulidae in 1980. Both Yellow-throated and Warbling Vireos continue, for the most part, to be absent in the Northeast Highlands, but fairly common in the Champlain Valley and elsewhere in southern Vermont. Solitary Vireo, on the other hand, was generally absent in the Valley, but widespread at higher elevations. Norse reported 8-10 per day in Winhall. Not surprisingly, Red-eyed Vireos were everywhere; some ornithologists believe that this species may be one of the most common in North America. The uncommon

Philadelphia Vireo, which reaches the southern limit of its breeding range in Northern Vermont, was reported in the southern Vermont communities of West Rupert and Winhall. Among the most widely distributed warblers - those which were found in 40 or more Atlas blocks in 1980 - were Black and White, Nashville, Yellow, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Canada, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, and American Redstart. There are no surprises in the above list.

The uncommon Golden-winged Warbler was found in 5 locations, but its equally uncommon sympatric first cousin, the Blue-winged Warbler, went unreported. Some Tennessee Warblers often wander north as late as early June, and post-breeding or non-breeding males, singing away as if they were on territory, will begin fall migration in mid-July. A late July bird in Cambridge likely falls into this latter category. Morse comments that Northern Parula was "scarce" in southern Vermont and perhaps the low Atlas total lends some credence to his assessment. Cape May Warbler, which is most common east of Island Pond in Essex County, was found in Waitsfield (Washington County) where it was given possible nesting status. No one checked on Vermont's only Cerulean Warbler colony on the Lamoille River; but judging by the number of singing males seen there in mid-May by members of the record-setting Northern Big Day team, it seems to be doing OK.

Bay-breasted Warblers, one of the truly boreal nesters which occasionally breeds in extreme northern Vermont, was confirmed for the first time during the Atlas Project in a roadless block in the Granby/Guildhall area of the Northeast Kingdom. Blackpoll Warblers were present at the usual high elevations. There were only 3 reports of the uncommon Pine Warbler. And from Hinesburg comes a report of a Prairie Warbler which was heard but not seen. Oddly enough, Prairies have been generally absent from the Champlain Valley, but not in the Connecticut River Valley where they have made inroads into the state from the south. Northern Waterthrush were especially numerous around Marshfield Pond where Marion Metcalf banded 14. This species was certainly more widespread than the Louisiana Waterthrush which reaches the northern limit of its range in central Vermont and therefore is rare north of 1-89. Not surprisingly, all 1980 Atlas reports were obtained south of Waterbury. Mourning Warblers were more commonly found north of Route 4 through a scattering of sightings came from southern localities. A Wilson's Warbler, June 3, certainly a late migrant, regrettably was this season's only report.

## BAY-BREASTED WARBLER



Yellow-throated Vireo: 6/6, W. Rutland Marsh, 1 (WJN); 6/22, S. Slang, "numbers" (PFZ); 7/1, Dorset, 1 (WJN); Atlas summary - total 18, 2 confirmed. Solitary Vireo: 6/1-6/7, Woodstock, not seen after 6/7 (JMN); June/July, Marshfield Pond, 1 banded (MHF); June/July, Winhall, 8-10 per day (WJN); Atlas summary - total 43, 14 confirmed. Red-eyed Vireo: June/July, South Strafford, 3+ males (HR); June/July, Marshfield Pond, 2 banded (MHF); June/July, Woodstock, 9+ pairs (JMN); June/July, Winhall, 10-15 per day (WJN); Atlas summary - total 55, 33 confirmed. Philadelphia Vireo: 6/12, Winhall, 1 pair (courtship) (WJN); Averill Quad, confirmed (ALG et al); Maidstone Lake, possible (LNM); Bear Mountain, possible (WGE, NLM). Warbling Vireo: June/July, Woodstock, 3 pair (JMN); 6/18, Herrick's Cove, max. 4, (WJN); Atlas summary - total 37, 9 confirmed. Black and White Warbler: June/July, Woodstock, 3 pairs (JMN); June/July, Winhall, 8-10 per day (WJN); Atlas summary - total 50, 14 confirmed. Golden-winged Warbler: 6/1, Georgia Plains Quad, 1 male (JMN); 6/19, W. Rutland, 2 pair (MCD, JID); 6/23, Woodstock, 1, (JMN); Atlas summary - total 5, no confirmations. Tennessee Warbler: 6/24, Winhall, 1 (possible) (WJN); 7/25, Cambridge, 1 (RYG, JGG); June/July, Marshfield Pond, 1 banded (MHF); Mt. Mansfield, possible (DHC). Nashville Warbler: 6/24, Woodstock, feeding 2 young (JMN); June/July, Winhall, 5 per day (WJN); June/July, Marshfield Pond, 2 banded (MHF); Atlas summary - total 40, 12 confirmed. Northern Parula: 6/23, 6/25, Jamaica, Winhall, 1,1 (WJN); 7/1, Peru, 1 (WJN); Atlas summary - total 18, 2 confirmed. Yellow Warbler: 6/18, Herrick's Cove, max. 15 (WJN); June/July, Woodstock, 1+ pair (JMN); Atlas summary - total 47, 29 confirmed. Magnolia Warbler: June/July, Winhall, 8-10 per day (WJN); June/July, Marshfield Pond, 1 banded (MHF); Atlas summary - total 40, 15 confirmed. Cape May Warbler: East Haven Quad, possible (ALG, DPK); Waitsfield Quad, possible (MCH, LNM). Black-throated Blue Warbler: June/July, Winhall, 5 per day (WJN); June/July, Marshfield Pond, 3 banded (MHF); Atlas summary - total 40, 11 confirmed. Yellow-rumped Warbler: 7/3, Mt. Philo Quad, 1 feeding Cowbird (MCD, JID); June/July, Winhall, 5-6 per day (WJN); June/July, Marshfield Pond, 4 banded (MHF); June/July, Woodstock, "very few" (JMN); Atlas summary - total 51, 24 confirmed. Black-throated Green Warbler: 6/17, Woodstock, carrying food (JMN); 6/23, Lye Brook, 5 (WJN); June/July, Marshfield Pond, 1 banded (MHF); Atlas summary -

total 44, 16 confirmed. Blackburnian Warbler: 6/17, Woodstock, 1 male (JMN); June/July, Winhall, max. 1 (Low?) (WJN); Atlas summary, total 43, 15 confirmed. Chestnut-sided Warbler: June/July, Winhall, 10-15 per day (WJN); June/July, Woodstock, 1+ pair (JMN); June/July, Marshfield Pond, 1 banded (MHF); Atlas summary - total 55, 25 confirmed. Bay-breasted Warbler: Guildhall Quad, confirmed (DPK); E. Haven Quad, probable (DPK). Blackpoll Warbler: 6/6, W. Rutland Marsh, 1 (migrant) (WJN); Atlas summary - total 7, 2 confirmed (Mt. Mansfield, Camel's Hump). Pine Warbler: 7/6, Pomfret, 1 (JCP); Atlas summary - total 2 (Underhill, Black River Marshes). Prairie Warbler: 6/23, Hinesburg, 1 (heard only) (DEC). Ovenbird: June/July, Woodstock, 7-8 pairs, (JMN); June/July, Winhall, 10 per day (WJN); June/July, Marshfield Pond, 1 banded (MHF); Atlas summary - total 54, 26 confirmed. Northern Waterthrush: 6/14, 6/21, Peru, 2,2 (WJN); June/July, Marshfield Pond, 14 banded (MHF); Atlas summary - total 29, 4 confirmed. Louisiana Waterthrush: 6/18, 7/11, Jamaica, Chester, 1,1 (WJN); Atlas summary - total 15, 9 confirmed. Mourning Warbler: 6/14, 7/1, Peru, 1,1 (WJN); Atlas summary - total 32, 11 confirmed. Common Yellowthroat: 6/25, Cambridge, 6 (RYG, JGG); June/July, Winhall, 20-25 per day (WJN); June/July, Marshfield Pond, 12 banded (MHF); June/July, Woodstock, 5-6 pairs (JMN); Atlas summary - total 57, 42 confirmed. Wilson's Warbler: 6/3, Burlington, 1 (late migrant) (WGE, et al). Canada Warbler: June/July, Woodstock, 3 males (JMN); June/July, Marshfield Pond, 1 banded (MHF); June/July, Winhall, 5 per day (WJN); Atlas summary - total 40, 16 confirmed. American Redstart: June/July, Marshfield Pond, 7 banded (MHF); June/July, Winhall, 7-10 per day (WJN); June/July, Woodstock, 2+ pairs (JMN); June/July, Timmouth, 1 pair only ("Down") (GTL); Atlas summary - total 60, 39 confirmed.

## BLACKBIRDS THROUGH TANAGERS

A perusal of the previous three year's summer records suggests some declines in the population, with consequent changes in the distribution, of Eastern Meadowlarks in Vermont. This year, comments by birders in southern areas were more alarming than ever. This raises questions about the status and distribution of this species elsewhere. Morse, who first reported declines in the Winhall area in 1975, writes that it continues to be "scarce at higher elevations." LeBoutillier in Timmouth reports, "In 12 years they have gone from abundant to zero." And from Woodstock, Nicholson reports "(They are) missing or I missed them!" Please note that either by accident or coincidence these three observers report from southern Vermont where reforestation is well advanced and probably continuing as more small farms are given over to development or abandoned altogether. In any event, I'm curious about its status and distribution in other sections of the state and would appreciate receiving whatever data and/or impressions you might share.

Also worth watching is Rusty Blackbird which has apparently declined in the heart of its preferred nesting range in the Northeast Kingdom. Observers occasionally report sightings and Atlas records from suitable habitat elsewhere, even as far south as Bennington and Windham Counties. This summer though records were limited to blocks north of Woodstock.

Bobolink: June/July, Winhall, 10-15 per day (WJN); June/July, S. Slang, 50+ (MCD, JID); Atlas summary - total 52, 29 confirmed. Eastern Meadowlark: 6/6, 7/11, Rutland, Chester, 2,2 (4 others incl.) (WJN); June/July, Timmouth, none (GTL); June/July, Woodstock, none (JMN); Atlas summary - total 31, 7 confirmed. Red-winged Blackbird: June/July, W. Rutland Marsh, 100+ (WJN); Atlas summary - total 54, 40 confirmed. Northern Oriole: 5/21, Woodstock, nest building complete (JMN); 6/21, Woodstock, Young Fledged (JMN), 6/18, Herrick's Cove, max. 10 (WJN); Atlas summary - total 51, 30 confirmed. Rusty Blackbird: Atlas summary - total 8, 3 confirmed (Guildhall Quad., Maidstone Lake, E. Haven Quad). Common Grackle: June/July, Winhall, 75+ per day (WJN); 7/30, Timmouth, 2-300 (GTL); Atlas summary - total 50, 37 confirmed. Brown-headed Cowbird: June/July, Winhall, 50+ per day (WJN); Atlas summary - total 60, 27 confirmed. Scarlet Tanager: June/July, Winhall, 7 per day (WJN); June/July, Marshfield Pond, 1 banded (MHF); Atlas summary - total 51, 14 confirmed.

## CARDINAL THROUGH SONG SPARROW

For some unknown reason Indigo Buntings arrived late to some of its breeding areas. Morse reported first arrivals on June 11, and farther north in the central Champlain Valley, the Dyes recorded first arrivals on June 12. Was the lateness and synchrony of arrival true of Indigo Buntings elsewhere in the state, or was it an extraordinary coincidence? This phenomenon was not reported for other species so weather anomaly is not a likely explanation for the tardiness. The population of this species may fluctuate (see Bull: Birds of New York State). If its numbers were significantly low, individual birds might be missed. In fact, numbers were reported down in North Ferrisburg and Cambridge. But Atlas workers found evidence of nesting in 41 blocks, a considerable total, suggesting there may not have been a significant decline in numbers after all. In any event it will be interesting to analyze the 1981 data. House Finch, a species I use to capitalize in the summer report to emphasize its relative rarity here, has become fully established in Middlebury and Burlington and likely in other communities across southern Vermont, though the paucity of reports would suggest otherwise. Pine Siskin, uncommon in summer, was found in 5 Atlas blocks. After a banner winter and heroic attempts by intrepid birders to confirm it nesting east of Island Pond in January, White-winged Crossbill was only seen in 1 southern and 4 northern Atlas blocks, none of which produced more than probable nesting, alas. The elusive Grasshopper Sparrow eluded all but the Dyes who found an unspecified number at Lewis Creek. There were also few reports of the Vesper Sparrow, a species that is locally common in the Champlain Valley and sporadic at best elsewhere. A White-crowned Sparrow June 5 or 6 was a late migrant. Confirmation of nesting for Lincoln's Sparrow, 11 miles north of the Massachusetts border in Woodford, was exceptional so far south. And last but not least, an albino (Song?) Sparrow was present and photographed in Bethel.

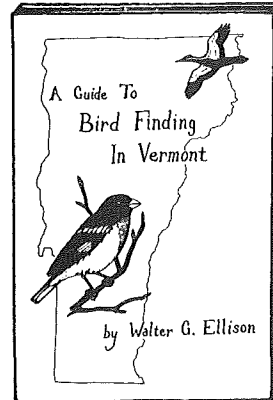
Cardinal: 6/18, 7/31, Herrick's Cove, W. Rutland Marsh, 1, 1 (WJN); Atlas summary - total 15, 3 confirmed. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: June/July, Winhall, 8 per day (WJN); June/July, Marshfield Pond, 24 banded (MHF); Atlas summary - total 60, 32 confirmed. Indigo Bunting: 6/11, Winhall, 1 (1st arrival) (WJN); 6/12, N. Ferrisburg, 1 pair (1st arrival) (MCD, JID); Atlas summary - total 41, 12 confirmed. Evening Grosbeak: 6/20, Killington, 1 male (MCD, JID); 7/10, Randolph, 1 male, 3 immatures (EVC); Atlas summary - total 12, 4 confirmed. Purple Finch: 7/10, Cambridge, 9 (RYG, JGG); 7/27, Woodstock, feeding young (JMN); June/July, Marshfield Pond, 79 banded (MHF); June/July, Winhall, 25 per day max. (WJN); June/July, S. Strafford, 10-20 (HR); June/July, Mt. Holly, 4+ (AEB); July, Randolph, 12+ at feeders (EVC); Atlas summary - total 36, 8 confirmed. House Finch: June/July, Middlebury, 4-5 breeding pair (MS); Atlas summary - total 3, 2 confirmed. Pine Siskin: Atlas summary - total 5 (Mt. Mansfield, Camel's Hump, Hyde Park Quad). Waitsfield, Saxton's River Quad.). American Goldfinch: June/July, Woodstock,

6-8 max. (JHN); June/July, Marshfield Pond, 2 banded (MFH); June/July, Winhall, 30+ per day max. (WJN); Atlas summary - total 46, 10 confirmed. White-winged Crossbill: 6/23, Lye Brook, 1 male (WJN); Atlas summary - total 4 (Mt. Mansfield, E. Haven Quad., Maidstone Lake, Guildhall Quad.). Rufous-sided Towhee: 6/4-7/30, Winhall, 4 max. (WJN); Atlas summary - total 23, 4 confirmed. Savannah Sparrow: 6/14-7/1, Londonderry, 2 max. (WJN); Atlas summary - total 37, 9 confirmed. Grasshopper Sparrow: 6/24, Lewis Creek, possible (MCD, JID). Vesper Sparrow: 7/10-7/18, Dorset, 1 male (CSE); Atlas summary - total 3 (Georgia Plains, E. Hardwick, Bennington). Dark-eyed Junco: June/July, Marshfield Pond, 3 banded (MFH); June/July, Winhall, 5 per day max. (WJN); Atlas summary - total 37, 22 confirmed. Chipping Sparrow: 6/3, S. Strafford Quad., feeding young (HR); June/July, Winhall, 8-10 per day max. (WJN); Atlas summary - total 61, 50 confirmed. Field Sparrow: 6/18, Saxtons River-Westminster, 10 (WJN); Atlas summary - total 36, 20 confirmed. White-crowned Sparrow: 6/5 or 6/6, Underhill, 1 (late) (KCS). White-throated Sparrow: June/July, Winhall, 20+ per day max. (WJN); June/July, Marshfield Pond, 5 banded (MFH); Atlas summary - total 50, 29 confirmed. Lincoln's Sparrow: 6/30, Woodford, feeding young (WGE, NLH); June/July, Marshfield Pond, 2 banded (MFH); Atlas summary - total 8, 3 confirmed. Swamp Sparrow: 6/6, 7/31, W. Rutland Marsh, 10, 8 (WJN); June/July, Marshfield Pond, 2 banded (MFH); Atlas summary - total 40, 13 confirmed. Song Sparrow: 6/1, Woodstock, feeding young (JHN); June/July, Winhall, 20-25 per day max. (WJN); June/July, Marshfield Pond, 12 banded (MFH); June/July, Woodstock, 10+ pairs (JHN); Atlas summary - total 54, 40 confirmed.

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For the birder who wants to know where to look for birds in Vermont. Twenty-two chapters describing 70 areas in every corner of the state and a chapter on Hawkwatching in Vermont. Each chapter details, with maps, how and when to visit an area and what birds to expect. The book also includes an annotated list of Vermont's regularly occurring birds, describing abundance, range in the state, and habitats.

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