

# Records of Vermont Birds

## FALL MIGRATION 1981

1 AUGUST - 30 NOVEMBER

WALTER G. ELLISON, SEASONAL EDITOR

The autumn of 1981 will probably be easy for many observers to forget. The season was not necessarily a bad one, but it lacked distinction. The weather was grey and wet and the temperatures were approximately average. Precipitation was above average in all months but November, and there was a total of 76 days which were overcast. The damp weather kept shorebirding relatively unremarkable, as observers became opportunistic in their quest for plovers and sandpipers. Shorebirds were discovered in some interesting areas such as ponds which had been drawn down for dam repair, above hydroelectric dams at peak hours, and a WHIMBREL\*, the best shorebird of the season, even turned up on a ballfield (and I thought that the only birds at ballparks were Blue Jays, Orioles and Cardinals). In all, a surprisingly good total of 20 species of shorebirds was reported.

Wave activity was, for the most part, not evident as fallout conditions seldom developed. Good numbers of migrants were noted on the following dates: 8/23, good numbers of warblers were reported from South Duxbury (a check of weather around and on this date indicated that this may have been a local, perhaps food related, phenomenon); 8/28-8/29, good numbers of many landbirds were detected by both diurnal and nocturnal observers, 8/28 represents the only day with northwest winds during that week; 9/2, 65 birds were banded at Woodstock on this date including a Yellow-breasted Chat, this was during a prolonged period of southerly breezes and warm and muggy conditions. A good nocturnal flight was detected on 9/3; 9/5-9/6, 2100 hawks were noted over this weekend and 364 birds were banded at Marshfield Pond on these two days, 315 were warblers of 20 species including 3 Orange-crowned Warblers. Winds on 9/5 shifted to the west, breaking a week long run of southerly flow, winds also slacked off and hazy conditions dispersed. Good hawk movement was featured on 9/15 and 90 birds were netted by banders at Woodstock; winds on this date came out of the west, after 5 consecutive days of south winds, and slowed to 5 mph after averaging 9.2 mph on the preceding day; note that hawks including Broad-winged Hawks moved on this date in spite of 100% cloud cover. Lastly, banders at Woodstock trapped 77 birds on 9/18; this date appears to be the reverse of other good dates, and perhaps indicates stalled migrants, as winds were southerly after two days of favorable northwest winds, and there was exceptionally heavy fog. Northwest winds were recorded on 12 days in October, including a very favorable period of 6 days from 10/8-10/13; this probably evened out the migration as wave activity appeared to cease after September.

During the latter stages of the season, good numbers of some incursive boreal species provided interest for birders. Winter finch reports were mixed; observers were treated to good numbers of Common Redpoll and Pine Grosbeaks, and a fine, if limited, White-winged Crossbill flight. On the other side of the coin, Purple Finches abandoned ship in late October and early November, Evening Grosbeaks were somewhat below average, Pine Siskins and Red Crossbills were in evidence but in small scattered flocks, and the American Goldfinch was in good numbers in the Champlain Lowlands but largely dropped from sight in other sectors of the state. Other boreal species also provided a mixed bag of results for the season. On the plus side, Boreal Chickadees wandered out of the northwoods in the best numbers since 1975, and Rough-legged Hawks put on an excellent showing in the Champlain Lowlands for the second consecutive year, arriving early in September and building to impressive numbers in November. However, Snowy Owls went unreported, and the Northern Shrike and Bohemian Waxwing were virtually absent.

Insectivorous birds departed early. This was particularly noticeable among thrushes and warblers. Population trends which appear to be of some significance include: an increase in the number of Bald Eagles sighted, although reports of immatures lag behind those of adults; a good seasonal total for

the Peregrine Falcon, of which 9 were sighted; a declining trend in the 'spotted' or Catharus thrushes appears to have set in; the Winter Wren and Kinglets continue in low numbers; a dramatic increase in the number of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers reported; a distressing total of only 12 Rusty Blackbirds were located this fall; and Ravens were reported in superb numbers, at least 160.

Rare birds were less in evidence than in any autumn in the previous eight years. There was no particular "star" bird sighted this autumn, although many good, if not totally unexpected, birds were detected by observers. In the light of these comments, these are perceived to be the better sightings of the season: A Glossy Ibis over the Winhall Hawk Lookout, 7 Red Knot in a single flock at Burlington, the previously cited WHIMBREL\*, two reports of Northern Phalarope on 9/6 coincidental with a spectacular grounding of shorebirds in the Rochester area of New York, an Acadian Flycatcher in Winhall, reports of Blue-winged and Prairie Warblers, the latter oddly enough the first report for the autumn Records of Vermont Birds of this regular breeder, the aforementioned chat, an immature male Dickcissel at an Arlington feeding station and an unidentified as to species immature jaeger over the Winhall Hawk Lookout. In all 223 species were reported, slightly below the average of the previous six years.

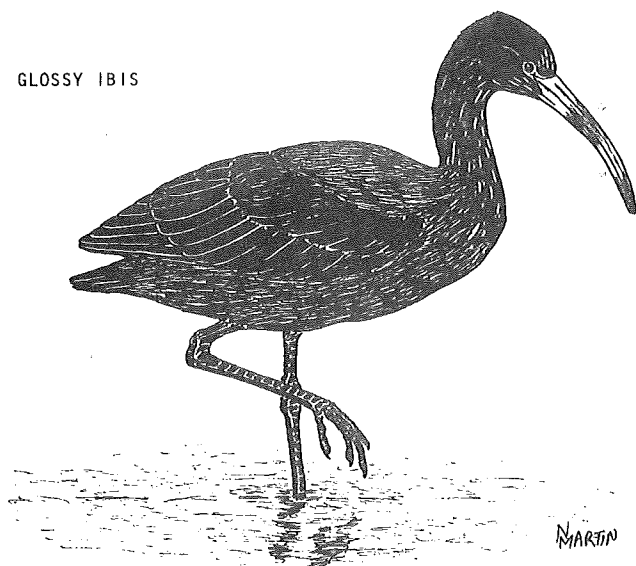
\*Receipt of Bird Verification Report and decision by Vermont Bird Records Committee pending.

### LOONS THROUGH IBIS

An impressive total of 140+ Common Loons was reported by observers for the season. Reports were received for every month during the autumn. The best counts reported were 35 on 9/19, a rather early date for such a count, at Lake Memphremagog (FO,LNM,DAM), and 50-60 seen on Lake Champlain at Georgia on 10/11 (GT,fide FCH). There was a single report of the scarce Red-throated Loon, 2 seen on Lake Champlain at Addison on 10/30 (AP,WS). There were four observations of the Red-necked Grebe. Seven were seen on Lake Champlain at Shoreham on 10/9 (ELW), 5 were seen on Caspian Lake in Greensboro on 10/17 (NLM,WGE,et al.), 1 was seen on Lake Champlain in Panton on 10/30 (AP,WS), and another single individual was seen at Blodgett's in Burlington on 11/3 (WRB). No large concentrations of Horned Grebes were reported, although 5 were noted on Lake Memphremagog on 9/19 (FO,LNM,DAM), 6 were seen on Caspian Lake on 10/17 (NLM,WGE,et al.), and 1 was seen at Shoreham on 11/3 (ELW). The twenty Pied-billed Grebes reported represents a figure half of that of 1980; a total of eight reports were received, including the maxima of 4 each on 9/25 at Herrick's Cove and on 10/30 at Hospital Creek, Addison, and the late date of 10/31 at Shoreham (WJN,AP,WS,ELW). A continuing increase in the number of reports and total number of individuals sighted (42 reported on 7 occasions) of the Double-crested Cormorant apparently reflects recent large population increases in the Great Lakes, in part instigated by high reproductive success at Little Galoo Island in eastern Lake Ontario (cf Scharf and Shugart, American Birds 35: 910-911). High counts this fall were 11 on 10/4 at Marshfield Pond (MFM) and 20 at North Ferrisburg on 10/9 during a hawk watch (JID, MCD). The latest reported were 2 seen in Burlington harbor from 10/16-10/25 (WRB,et al.). The large and conspicuous Great Blue Heron continues to be well represented in the records, with a total of 121 reported by various observers throughout the season. The best count reported was 10 on 9/19 at Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area (hereafter DCWMA) (NLM, WGE,et al.); also of interest were the 8 seen migrating over Town Farm Hill in Grafton on two dates in October (DC). Observers reported a total of 37 Green Herons with a maximum of 10 on 9/4 at Shelburne Pond (JID,MCD), and a late report of a single at Danby from 10/13-10/20, for the second late October report in the last two years (CJF). There were two reports of Cattle Egret for the autumn, 8-10 were seen in Enosburg on 9/18 (MrM fide FCH), and a single bird was noted at the North Springfield Dam from 10/30-11/6 for the fourth November record in the last 7 years. There were four reports of the Great Egret, above average for this southern visitor but less than

last year's fine showing. An individual with a broken leg was picked up at Lake Dunmore on 8/4; it died subsequently in spite of rehabilitation efforts at VINS. One was noted at Ferrisburg on 8/10 (JID,MCD,et al.), 2 were at Herrick's Cove on 8/10 (WJN), and 1 seen in North Westminster on 8/26 might well have been one of those seen at Herrick's Cove (HC hereafter), (BAC). There was a single report of the Snowy Egret, 1 seen at HC from 9/4-9/11 (WJN). Ten Black-crowned Night Herons were reported, an average total for this elusive, largely nocturnal species. Beecher reports a maximum of 3 from DCWMA on 8/12; unusual was a second year bird in Hartford on 8/23 (NLM,WGE), the last reported was 1 at DCWMA on 9/19 (NLM,WGE, et al.). Only three American Bitterns were noted, surprisingly few even for an inconspicuous species; the last reported was 1 at South Albany on 10/3 (TP). There was a single record of the rare Glossy Ibis, 1 noted flying over the Winhall Hawk Lookout (hereafter WHL) on 9/6 (WJN).

GLOSSY IBIS



#### WATERFOWL

A good total of about 12,000 Canada Geese was reported for the season; on average the flight seemed to occur at dates much later than is normal. High counts were from the fourth week of October and the first week of November and included: 1200 at Shoreham on 10/21 (ELW), 1000 at Albany on 10/25 (TP), 1000 at Plainfield on 10/28 (MFM), and 4500-5000 at DCWMA on 11/1 and 2 (m. ob). The Brant is infrequently reported so two reports this fall are welcome: 24 were found on Lake Groton on 10/21 (MFM) and another 24 were seen in Shoreham on 11/20 (ELW). The Snow Goose rebounded to about average numbers this autumn after last autumn's poorly documented flight; about 4200 were noted for the season with a peak in late October and early November. High counts were 900 on 10/30 at Albany (TP) and 2000 at DCWMA on 11/8 (ELW). Populations of the Black Duck and Mallard remain in approximate balance although for the first time in some 5 years Mallards outnumber Blacks by 1000 to 700. High counts for each species were 100 on 9/18 and 10/2 at HC (WJN), and 500+ at DCWMA on 11/1 (NLM, WGE) for the Mallard, and 75 on 10/2 at HC (WJN), and 200+ on 11/1 at DCWMA (NLM,WGE) for the Black Duck. The Gadwall is represented by two reports. A series of records originates from Blodgett's in Burlington, where the species apparently nested, running from 8/8 to 10/25 with as many as 9 being seen on any one date (m. ob), and 1 was seen on 9/25 at HC (WJN). There were five reports of the Northern Pintail, 1 was found at Quechee on 9/25 (NLM,WGE,et al.) 7 were noted at HC on 9/25 (WJN), 1 was seen there on 10/2 (WJN), 11 were reported from DCWMA on 11/1 (WRB), and 2 were seen on Lake Morey in Fairlee on 11/24 (WGE). Over 280 Green-winged Teal were reported with the best counts originating from HC where 50 were seen on 9/18 (WJN), and DCWMA were 195+ were noted on 11/1 (WRB,et al.). The Blue-winged Teal was noted in more modest numbers with a total of 55 reported. The best count was 20 on 8/27 at DCWMA (WJN), and the last reported were 10 on 10/9 at Orwell (ELW). There were only three reports, all involving single individuals, of the American Wigeon, 9/18 at HC (WJN), 10/12 in Shoreham (ELW), and 10/25 at Thurman W. Dix Reservoir in Orange (TWDR hereafter), (MFM). There was a single record of the scarce Northern Shoveler, 1 was seen on 11/1 in Addison (NLM,WGE). The Wood Duck was widely reported in good numbers,

about 170 were recorded for the season with the best counts being 35 on 9/19 at Newport (FO,LNM,DAM), and 50 on 9/21 at South Slang in Ferrisburg (JID,MCD). The last reported was 1 on 10/21 at Shoreham (ELW). The Ring-necked Duck continues to present a mystery for Vermonters recording the fall migration of this common species. For the seventh consecutive autumn, Ring-necks were, on the whole, scarce as migrants even at traditional waterfowl staging areas. Only at TWDR were significant numbers noted, with three reports from 10/30-11/11 involving a minimum of 25 and perhaps as many as 59 birds noted with a high of 25 on 10/30 (MFM,CVAS). There were four other reports involving 11 individuals on dates ranging from 9/25-10/25. There were four reports of the Canvasback, 2 found at Colchester Point on 10/25 (WGE), 2 seen in Shoreham on 11/2 (ELW), 2 noted at HC on 11/13 (WJN), and 3 sighted in Shoreham on 11/13 (ELW). There were only four reports of the presumably common Greater and Lesser Scaup. The former was noted twice with 2 at Colchester Point on 10/25 (NLM,WGE,et al.), and 6 at Shoreham on 10/29 (ELW). The Lesser Scaup was noted on 10/2 at HC when 4 were noted (WJN), and on 10/25 at Colchester Point when 80+ were seen (NLM,WGE,et al.), in addition to these records 35+ Scaup (sp.) were also seen on 10/25 at Colchester Point. Over 130 Common Goldeneye were reported, the earliest obvious migrant was 1 seen at HC on 10/2 (WJN), the best count reported was 46 at Shelburne on 11/13 (WRB). About 130 Bufflehead were reported for the autumn, the earliest report of 2 on 10/17 on South Bay in Newport (NLM,WGE,et al.). High counts included 25 at Shoreham on 10/22 (ELW), 9 on 10/24 at Tinnmouth (CJF), 8 at TWDR on 10/25 (MFM), and 26 at Blodgett's in Burlington on 11/3 (WRB). The Oldsquaw was recorded on three dates. Two were seen in Burlington on 10/25 (WGE,SJS,et al.), 1 was sighted in Addison on 10/30 (AP,WS), and a good count of 9 was achieved on Lake Champlain at Shoreham on 11/4 (ELW). There were two reports of White-winged Scoters, an extraordinary count of 60 made at Shoreham on 10/22 (ELW), and 1 noted at Roundy's Cove in Rockingham on 10/29 (WJN). The Surf Scoter was recorded on five dates, 15 seen in Danby on 10/9 (CJF), 1 immature found on Lake Morey on 10/18 (NLM,WGE,GFE), 1 seen in Colchester on 10/25 (NLM,WGE,et al.) 20 reported from Shoreham on 10/29 (ELW), and 3 seen at Blodgett's in Burlington on 11/3 (WRB). As usual, the Black Scoter was the most frequently noted scoter, with a total of 6 reports. At Shoreham, 30 were seen on 10/5 (ELW), 1 was noted in Addison on 10/11 (ATF), 18 were found at Blodgett's on 10/16 (WRB,MJM), a single female was sighted at South Bay in Newport on 10/17 (NLM,WGE,et al.), 2 were encountered at Shoreham on 11/8 (ELW), and 1 imm. was seen on Lake Morey on 11/9 (NLM,WGE). With only three reports over the previous six years, the Ruddy Duck is one of the most rarely encountered of fall migrant waterfowl, so three reports this autumn are remarkable. Three were noted at Shoreham on 11/4 (ELW), 1 was seen in Tinnmouth on 11/7 (CJF), and 2 were reported from Shoreham on 11/8 (ELW). About 80 Hooded Mergansers were noted, high counts were 14 on 10/17 at Lake Morey (NLM,WGE), and 7 on 10/30 at TWDR (MFM). The Common Merganser was well represented with about 170 reported; high counts included 18 in a post-breeding aggregation on 8/10 at Maidstone Lake State Park (WRB,PMB), 44 on 10/17 at Caspian Lake in Greensboro (NLM,WGE,et al.), and 24 on 11/26 at Shoreham (ELW). There were two reports of the Red-breasted Merganser, half the usual number; 13 were seen on Lake Memphremagog on 9/19 (FO,LNM, DAM), and 5 were at TWDR on 11/21 (MFM).

#### VULTURES, HAWKS AND FALCONS

The Turkey Vulture continues to increase at a steady rate, with 69 reported on hawk watches and an additional 75 reported by other observers. The best counts were 13 on 8/31 at Shelburne (WRB,PMB), 14 at Panton on 9/19 (NLM,WGE,et al.), and 14 at Shoreham on 9/29 (ELW). The latest reported was 1 on 11/8 at Shoreham (ELW). The species was reported northward to Hardwick. The Goshawk was represented by 25 individuals on hawk watches and 3 seen by other observers. The Sharp-shinned Hawk seems to be recovering nicely from declines perceived during the 1960's. Hawk watchers reported 798 for the season and 32 others were reported. Sixty-four were recorded at Putney Mt. on 10/3 (ABM,ASW). The 33 Cooper's Hawks reported for the season (28 on hawk watches) represents an average total for recent years; per observer hour figures on hawk watches remained nearly constant. After years of neglect, the October flights of the Red-tailed Hawk continue to hold the attention of Vermont hawk watchers. Three hundred and eighty-five of the total of 545 reported on watches for the season were recorded after 10/5. The best counts reported were 76 on 10/9 at Fuller Mt. in Ferrisburg (JID,MCD), and 51 on 10/31 at

Lincoln Hill in Starksboro (WRB, et al.). An albinistic Red-tail was seen at Lincoln Hill on 10/4 (WRB, et al.). The Red-shouldered Hawk has been reported in fairly stable numbers over the last five years. This autumn 52 were noted on hawk watches, a comparable total to the previous fall's (1980) 45. The best count was 9 on 10/10 at Lincoln Hill (WRB, et al.); the latest birds reported were 1 on 11/2 at DCWMA (CWS, et al.), and 1 at Shoreham on 11/3 (ELW). The Broad-winged Hawk was reported in steady numbers through the middle of September with 3285 noted on hawk watches and a peak in the first week of September with counts of 325 at Deer Leap in Bristol on 9/5 (JJA), and 385 at Town Farm Hill in Grafton on 9/6 (DC). The latest reported were 1 on 10/25 at Rutland (RHH), and 1 on 10/30 at the WHL (WJN). The Rough-legged Hawk evidenced an echo of last autumn's prelude to the invasion of 1980-81. The first reported was seen from the Deer Leap in Bristol on 9/9, a remarkably early date (JJA); another September migrant was seen at Howe Hill in Pomfret on the 26th (ALG, et al.). Sightings commenced in the Champlain Lowlands at Shoreham on 10/8 where the species was very common (ELW); the high count of 21 occurred on 11/1, with birds seen over a large portion of Addison County (WRB). There were two other reports from eastern parts of the state where the species is rare; 1 was seen in Woodstock on 10/17 (JMN), and another was sighted at Springfield on 11/4 (WJN). The Bald Eagle may be increasing, as a record 12 were reported, although only a third of this total represents reports of immature birds, the hope for future generations of eagles. Three adults were seen in White River Jct. on 8/1 (JPG, fide WSC), an adult was seen in Albany on 8/3 (TP), a first year imm. was noted at DCWMA from 8/12-9/19 (WRB, et mult. al.), another first year bird was observed at Missisquoi MWR from 8/21-9/28 (m. ob.), an imm. was seen in Greensboro on 8/25 (FO, JW), an adult was detected in Cabot on 8/29 (MFM), 2 separate adults were seen on 9/5 and 6 from Town Farm Hill in Grafton (DC), another adult was seen in Saxtons River on 9/8 (DC), and an imm. was reported from the Manchester area in early October (RuS). The Northern Harrier was reported in good numbers once again this fall, with 66 on hawk watches and large numbers reported by other observers, especially in the Champlain Lowlands. High counts included 20+ on 8/30 in Addison County (JDL, SBL), 6 on 10/12 in Shoreham (ELW), and 12 in Addison and Bridport on 11/1, 10 of which were adult (NLM, WGE). The great majority of those seen on hawk watches (41) were seen in early September, an artifact of its being the best overall watch period of the season. The Osprey showed another increase in absolute numbers on Vermont hawk watches with a total of 147 recorded. Per observer hour figures however showed no significant change from the previous autumn (.17 vs .18 for 1980). High counts were from mid-September with 11 on 9/13 at Gile Mt. in Norwich (WGE, FO, WS, CWS, GFE, DAM), 12 at Putney Mt. on 9/13 (ABM, et al.), and 12 on 9/20 at Wallingford (BLR, DHD); the last reported were 2 seen from Deer Leap in Bristol on 10/31 (JJA). The total of 9 Peregrine Falcons was 63% higher than the average of the previous six autumns. One was seen in Ferrisburg on 8/30 (SBL, JDL), 4 were reported from 9/24-10/4, the latest reported were 2 seen at Swanton on 10/20 (JNi), and 1 seen at White Rocks Mt. in Wallingford on 10/31 (RCAS); another was noted on 9/12. Nine Merlins for the season was far better than the 5 seen in 1980, but is approximately average over the last six years. Reports range from 9/5-10/4, with no distinct peak. The American Kestrel continues to be reported in good numbers with 269 seen on hawk watches alone; high counts included 34 at Westford on 9/5 (MJM), and 26 at Shoreham on 9/11 (ELW).

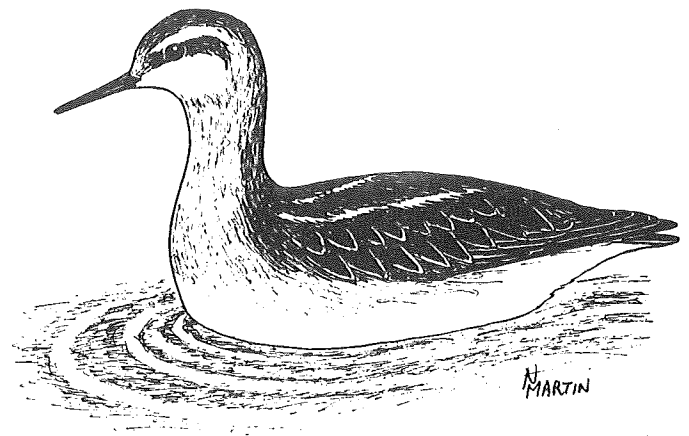
#### GROUSE THROUGH RAILS

Most Observers termed the numbers of the Ruffed Grouse as average or good; about 50 were recorded from 7 counties. There were two reports of Bobwhite and one of Ring-necked Pheasant, as attempts to introduce these half-hardy game birds by sportsmen continue. There were seven reports of the Wild Turkey, with four of these from Rutland County. A maximum of 28 was recorded in Danby on 11/8 (CJF). There were three reports of Virginia Rails, 2 found in Arlington on 8/6 (NLM, WGE), 2 noted along the Otter Creek in Ferrisburg on 8/10 (ALG, NLM, WGE), and 1 discovered at Shelburne Pd. on 9/4 (JID, MCD). The elusive Sora was reported twice, 1 found at the West Rutland Marsh on 8/1 (WGE, NLM, ALG), and 3 heard in Arlington on 8/6 (NLM, WGE). The Common Gallinule was reported on three occasions, 1 was noted at Colchester Pt. on 8/8 (NLM, WGE); 14 reported from East Creek in Orwell on 9/5 (ELW), representing the best autumn count in some time; and 6 seen at South Slang in Ferrisburg on 9/21 (JID, MCD). The American Coot was reported twice from HC, two were present there on 10/5 (DC), and 1 was noted there on 10/24 (NLM, WGE).

#### SHOREBIRDS

Only 14 Semipalmated Plovers were reported on 6 dates, the early date and maximum of 4-5 occurred on 8/5 at Burlington (WS, FO), a total of 4 were reported at the drained Eddy Ice Pd. in Rutland from 8/30-9/9 (m. ob.), the latest were 2 at HC on 9/20 (NLM, WGE). Over 260 Killdeer were recorded by observers for the season. The best count submitted was 43 on 9/25 at South Burlington (WRB), the last reported were 10 at White River Jct. on 10/27 (WGE). The Lesser Golden Plover was recorded on three dates, 2 seen in Addison on 8/28 (BMcC, BSM), 9 noted in Bridport from 9/27-9/28 (ELW), and 8 located on the drained flats of Sadawga Lake in Whitingham on 10/4 (NLM, WGE). There were five records of the Black-bellied Plover, 3 seen at Colchester Pt. on 8/8 (NLM, WGE), 1 noted on 8/27 at Burlington (WJN), 1 found at DCWMA on 9/19 (NLM, WGE, et al.), 1 heard going overhead at 11:30 PM during heavy rain in Hartford on 9/22 (WGE), and 2 seen at Sadawga Lake in Whitingham on 10/4 (NLM, WGE). The Ruddy Turnstone was reported on a single occasion. Two were seen at Blodgett's in Burlington on 8/8 (NLM, WGE). A total of 38 American Woodcock were noted by observers, a great improvement over other autumn reports. Twenty-nine of these were located by C. J. Frankiewicz in Rutland County; his high counts were 13 on 10/11 at Timmouth and 13 on the extraordinary date of 11/7 at Danby. Frankiewicz felt that mild weather in late October caused good numbers to linger into early November. The last were 2 on 11/8 at Danby (CJF); the latest reported in eastern Vermont was on 10/27 at Reading (FMH). Apparently the plethora of good habitat spread out the Common Snipe population enough to make them difficult to locate. Only 21 were noted on six dates, 15 of these seen at Hardwick on 9/18 (JID, MCD); the latest reported was 1 on 10/16 at Danby (CJF). Perhaps the most unexpected shorebird sighting of the season was of a WHIMBREL seen on a ballfield, no less, in Plainfield on 9/1 (LNM), no BVR is at hand for this report but the record is included on the strength of the observer's good reputation and prior extensive experience with the species. There were five reports of Upland Sandpiper, 1 was seen in Ferrisburg on 8/6 (JID, MCD), most unusual as to location were 2 at Randolph on 8/8 (MMW, fide HWT), 7 were noted at DCWMA on 8/12 (WRB), 8 were found at DCWMA on 8/27 (WJN), and 1 was located in Addison on 9/7 (NLM, WGE). Apparently the majority of the migration of the Spotted Sandpiper occurs in August, since for the seventh consecutive year high counts were referable to that month. The best counts were 6 on 8/5 at Shoreham (ELW), and 7 on 8/8 at Burlington (NLM, WGE), the last reported was 1 at HC on 10/16 (WJN). A total of 40 Solitary Sandpipers was reported for the season. A maximum of 10 was recorded at Eddy Ice Pd. in Rutland on 8/30 (NLM, WGE), the last sighted was on 10/3 at Norwich (WGE). Observers reported 62 Greater Yellowlegs with the best counts being 15 on 8/12 at DCWMA (WRB), 10 on 9/4 at HC (WJN), and 12 on 10/23 at TWDR (MFM). Latest were 2 on 11/1 in Addison (NLM, WGE). All but two of the 36+ Lesser Yellowlegs were reported in the month of August, the best count was 22 on 8/15 at Colchester (RBL), and the latest were 2 on 9/9 at Eddy Ice Pd. in Rutland (WJN). An extraordinary 7 Red Knot flew by two surprised observers at Blodgett's in Burlington on 8/5 (WS, FO). Twenty-one Pectoral Sandpipers were noted for the fall, the high count was 8 on 10/4 at Sadawga Lake in Whitingham (NLM, WGE), the last was seen at HC on 10/16 (WJN). The Least

NORTHERN PHALAROPE



Sandpiper was reported in modest numbers with a total of 64 submitted by various observers, the best count was 25 on 9/7 at Eddy Ice Pd. in Rutland (NLM,WGE), the last reported were 10 at the same location on 9/9 (WJN). The Dunlin was reported twice, 4 were seen at Sadawga Lake in Whitingham on 10/4 (NLM, WGE), and 25 were seen at Colchester Pt. on 10/25 (WRB,MJM). Two Short-billed Dowitchers at HC on 9/4 (WJN), were the only ones reported. Unidentified Dowitchers reported included 1 at Colchester Pt. on 8/8 (NLM,WGE), and 6 on 9/20 at HC (NLM). A total of 95 Semipalmated Sandpipers was reported, the maximum of 50 on 8/5 at Burlington (WS,FO), the last reported were 15 on 9/9 at Eddy Ice Pd. in Rutland, (WJN). There were two reports of the rare Northern Phalarope, both records fell on 9/6 with 4 being noted at St. Albans Bay (RBL,DKL), and 1 seen on Lake Cami (KCS).

#### GULLS AND TERNS

An unidentified immature JAEGER was noted at the WHL on 10/25; in the opinion of the observer the bird appeared robust enough to have perhaps been a Pomarine (WJN). Five out of six reports of the Great Black-backed Gull were from the Champlain Lowlands. A total of 11 was reported on dates ranging from 10/12-11/24; birds were noted at Shoreham (twice), Shelburne, Burlington, Grand Isle and White River Jct., where a single imm. was seen on 11/24 (WGE). The Herring Gull was reported by three observers, high counts included: 250+ at Burlington on 10/25 (NLM,WGE,et al.), and 81 in the Conn. Valley on 11/24 with 56 at White River Jct. and 25 at Lake Morey (WGE). The species was uncommon in the southern portion of Lake Champlain with a maximum of only 5 during the season at Shoreham (ELW). High counts of the abundant and increasing Ring-billed Gull were 1,000+ on 11/9 at Williston (MFM), 900 at Panton on 11/14 (ELW), 120+ at Newport on 10/17 (NLM,WGE,et al.), and 80 at Lake Morey on 11/24 (WGE). There were only five reports of Bonaparte's Gull; 3 were seen at Newport on 9/19 (FO,LNM,DAM), 1 was noted there on 10/17 (NLM,WGE,et al.), 25 were counted in Burlington on 10/25 (NLM,WGE,et al.), 9 were recorded in Shelburne on 10/30 (WRB), and 1 was seen in Addison on 11/1 (NLM,WGE). The Common Tern was reported on only four occasions, and three of these reports were from Colchester Pt., the traditional staging area in the Burlington region. The high count and late date was 9/9 when 115-120 were seen at Colchester Pt. (WRB,PMB). There was a single record of the early departing Black Tern, 2 imm. were noted at DCWMA on 8/19 (JID,MCD).

#### DOVES THROUGH NIGHTJARS

The Rock Dove was noted in its usual good numbers, 4 at Timmouh on 8/19 was a "rare occurrence!" (GFL), and a pair had 5- to 8-day old young on a ledge at Bailey Library at UVM on 10/19 (CWS), to quote the observer; "in mild winters they probably never stop!". The Mourning Dove continues to increase; it was generally considered to be common by observers. The best count submitted was 220+ at DCWMA on 8/14 (WRB). There were three reports of Yellow-billed Cuckoo; 1 was noted carrying food to young at DCWMA on 8/14 (WRB), 1 was window-killed at Woodstock on 9/12 (JMN), and 1 was noted at Reading on 9/28 (FMH). About 10 Black-billed Cuckoos were reported, up to two were recorded on a single day and the latest noted were 1 seen at Rutland on 9/20 (CJF) and 1 retrapped by banders at Woodstock on 9/21 (VINS). The Screech Owl was reported twice. One was picked up in North Bennington suffering from a concussion on 9/15, and was taken to VINS where it recuperated well and was released on 10/4 (PV,fide VINS); and 1 was noted at Shelburne on 10/24 (JJA). Eight Great Horned Owls were reported from 5 townships. Twelve Barred Owls were noted at ten localities. Four Saw-whet Owls were encountered by observers, Marion Metcalf banded three on 8/8, 9/9 and 10/12, with two trapped at Marshfield Pd. and 1 at Ferdinand. One was found in Shrewsbury on 9/20 (LPS). Only a handful of records were submitted for the Common Nighthawk; the migration of this gregarious species apparently peaked in the last two weeks of August, with 10 seen in Norwich on 8/20 (RDE,fide WGE), and "large numbers" seen over Bellows Falls from 8/18-8/27 (AK, fide DC). The last reported were 3 on 8/29 at White River Jct. (WGE).

#### SWIFT THROUGH WOODPECKERS

The Chimney Swift was noted in good numbers with the peak migration indicated for mid-August; young fledged in Reading on the very late date of 8/21 apparently due to the smoothness of newly installed chimney tiles (FMH). High counts were 70+ at Woodstock on 8/10 (NLM,WGE), and 60+ at Hartford on 8/21

(WGE). The latest was 1 on 9/27 at the WHL (WJN). A total of 49 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds was submitted by observers; high counts included 5 on 8/21 at North Ferrisburg (JID,MCD) and 6 on 9/4 at Colchester Pt. (WRB,MJM); the last was noted at South Strafford on 9/23 (HR). The Belted Kingfisher was found to be in about average numbers, up to 9 were reported on a given day. The Common Flicker was reported in excellent numbers with high counts exceeding previous maxima by a wide margin. The best counts were 30 on 9/15 at Shoreham (ELW), and 50 on 9/25 at HC (WJN); flickers were reported into late November. About 40 Pileated Woodpeckers were reported with records emanating from 6 counties. There were two observations of the Red-headed Woodpecker, 1 was seen in Charlotte on 8/14 (JID,MCD), and a pair which nested in Plainfield was last noted on 8/23 (LNM). A handful of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported with high counts ranging up to 5, the last was noted on 10/12 at Reading (FMH), 3 out of 4 banded for the season were caught by Metcalf (MFM,VINS). Roughly twice as many Downy Woodpeckers were reported as Hairy Woodpeckers. Three out of five Downy Woodpeckers banded this autumn were caught at Marshfield (MFM,VINS). There was a single record of the Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, a pair found at Maidstone Lake SP on 8/9 (WRB,PMB).

#### FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

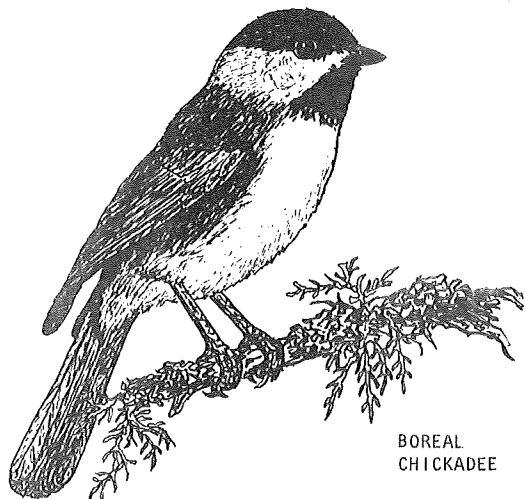
The Eastern Kingbird was noted in about average numbers; the best count reported was 34 on 8/18 at Shoreham (ELW); most observers noted departure in late August or early September; however, two lingered extraordinarily late--birds noted at Plainfield on 9/26 (MFM), and at South Londonderry on 9/30 (WJN). Observers reported 21 Great Crested Flycatchers, a better than usual total for this elusive and early departing species; high counts were 4 on 8/8 at Burlington (NLM,WGE), and 4 on 8/22 at Woodstock (JMN). Most departed in early September, but 1 lingered to 9/19 at DCWMA (NLM,WGE,et al.). Average numbers of Eastern Phoebe were reported; 21 banded at Woodstock was an average figure (VINS). Good counts included 12 at Pawlet on 9/5 (CJF), and 10+ at Woodstock on 9/25 (VINS, WGE). The last was noted at Danby on 10/13 (CJF). The unobtrusive Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was reported in its usual small numbers. Nine were banded for the season with 5 trapped at Woodstock (VINS,MFM), six others were reported by field observers. Records range from 8/9 when 1 was located at Winhall (WJN); most records were from late August through the first week of September, and the latest was noted at South Duxbury on 9/13 (FAP). Few Traill's Flycatchers were reported: 12 were banded at Woodstock (VINS), the maximum banded was 4 on 8/20, and the last reported was 1 seen at Hartford on 9/14 (WGE). Not surprisingly, the Least Flycatcher was the most commonly reported Empidonax flycatcher. Sixteen were banded, 11 at Woodstock (VINS,MFM); the high count of 8 occurred on 9/4 at Wilder (WGE); the last were 2 on 9/29 at Shoreham (ELW). An ACADIAN FLYCATCHER located at Winhall on 9/9 obligingly called for the observer to clinch the identification of this large greenish Empidonax (WJN). This is only the third report to VINS since 1973. The migration of the Eastern Wood Pewee showed a distinct August peak with high counts of 10 on 8/10 at Ferrisburg (ALG,NLM,WGE), 6 on 8/14 at North Ferrisburg (JID,MCD), and 5 on 8/15 at Shoreham (ELW). Pewees were reported far later than usual including two birds lingering into October with 1 at Lake Morey on the third (NLM,WGE), and 1 at Shoreham on 10/8 (ELW). At least eight Olive-sided Flycatchers were reported, 3 were noted at Winhall on 8/8 for the seasonal maximum (WJN), and 1 flew past the fire tower on Gile Mt. in Norwich on 9/13 for the final report of the season (FO,WS,CWS,WGE,GFE,DAM). The Dyes noted a bird in Ferrisburg which answered the description of the an Olive-sided save for one spectacular feature--it possessed elongated central rectrices which were white, this bird remains something of a mystery. Records of the Horned Lark ranged from late September through the end of the season, the high of 68 occurred on 11/5 at White River Jct. (WGE). High counts of the Tree Swallow were all from the month of September, these included counts of 500 at New Haven Jct. on 9/13 (MFM), and 1000+ at DCWMA on 9/19 (NLM,WGE,et al.), there were still 400 or more at DCWMA on 10/1 (JRA), the latest reported were 2 on 10/4 at Pomfret (EH), and 1 on the same date at Norwich (GFE). The best count of the diminutive Bank Swallow also comes to us from DCWMA where at least 350 were counted on 8/30 (SBL,JDL), the latest were 4 on 9/19 at DCWMA (NLM,WGE,et al.). Two to three Rough-winged Swallows mixed in with the myriads of Bank Swallows on 8/30 were the only ones reported (SBL,JDL). The Barn Swallow was reported in about average numbers, 125 were seen at Shoreham on 8/19 for the high count (ELW), the latest reported were 20+ found at DCWMA on 9/19 (NLM,WGE,et al.). The majority of

Feb '81

Cliff Swallows had departed by the end of August, no more than 10 were seen on a single date and the last was 1 seen on 9/19 at DCWMA (NLM,WGE,et al.). No Purple Martins were seen later than August, the four records at hand show a remarkable declining trend, 58 were seen in Burlington on 8/8 (NLM,WGE), 38+, mostly immature, were noted at South Burlington on 8/26 (WRB), 5 were found at DCWMA on 8/27 (WJN), and the last was seen at Shelburne on 8/30 (JJA).

#### JAYS THROUGH WRENS

The Gray Jay went unreported this autumn. The Blue Jay migration peaked in mid-September with high counts of 50 on 9/9 at Ferrisburg (JID,MCD), 41 on 9/10 at Tinnmouth (GTL), 103 on 9/13 at Gile Mt. in Norwich (m. ob.), 50 on 9/15 at Shoreham (ELW), and 57 on 9/20 at HC (NLM,WGE). Eleven were banded, 6 by Metcalf and 5 by VINS. The Common Raven was reported in the best numbers yet for this season, at least 160 were recorded by observers, high counts included two groups of 8 and 12 respectively over Town Farm Hill in Grafton on 10/10 (DC), 7 at Gile Mt. on 10/31 (WGE), 14 over Lincoln Hill in Starksboro on 10/31 (WRB,PMB), 8 on a southwest heading over Church Hill in Woodstock on 11/1 (ECS), and 18 noted taking the same heading over Church Hill the next day (JMN). 'Extralimital' birds included 1 at Mt. Philo on 10/3 (JID,MCD), and birds at Putney Mt. on 9/13 and 9/14, with 2 on the former date and 1 on the latter (ABM). The migration of the American Crow was well documented, high counts were from mid to late October, the first large flock noted was seen on 10/9, the last reported was noted on 11/8, high counts were 850 at Ferrisburg on 10/20 (JJA), 850 at Burlington on 10/25 (NLM,WGE,et al.), and 1,200 on 10/30 at Shoreham (ELW). The Black-capped Chickadee was noted in about normal numbers, reported high counts ranged to over 50. Most observers noted 10-20 daily with many indicating a perceptible increase in numbers during October, 77 were banded with 42 of these netted in northern Vermont (MFM, VINS). The Boreal Chickadee was reported twice from its normal Northeast Kingdom haunts and 13 times from areas beyond its Vermont breeding range. Three were banded by Metcalf at Ferdinand in the Northeast Highlands on 9/17 and 18, and 4 were found at Caspian Lake in Greensboro on 10/17 (NLM,WGE,et al.), extralimital reports were 1 seen at Hinesburg on 10/10 (WRB,PMB), 1 noted at Rutland on 10/11 (NLM,CAM), 2 on Shaker Hill in Starksboro on 10/17 (WRB), 2 on 10/20 at Tinnmouth (LHP), 1 at the Ottauquechee floodplain in Woodstock on 10/21 (NLM,WGE), 2 at Colchester Pt. on 10/25 (WRB,MJM), 1 banded at



BOREAL  
CHICKADEE

areas where dates pertaining to this movement range from late August to mid-October, in eastern Vermont there were some fairly large resident populations, e.g. 8-10 per day at Winhall (WJN), and a maximum of 14 in Fairlee on 11/26 where populations were high all fall (WGE,GFE). Three were banded by Marion Metcalf. About 50 Brown Creepers were reported. One was banded by Metcalf this autumn. The House Wren was recorded in average numbers, up to 4 were reported on a single date and 7 were banded by VINS through the end of September, the last was reported on 10/9 at Shoreham (ELW). The Winter Wren continues to be reported in low numbers, only 21 were cited by observers this fall, high counts ranged up to 4 and the latest reported was on 10/21 at Woodstock (NLM,WGE). There were five reports of the Long-billed Marsh Wren, 8 were noted at West Rutland Marsh on 8/1 (ALG,NLM,WGE), 2 were found at Lake Bomoseen on 8/6 (NLM,WGE), 8 were reported from Colchester Pt. on 8/8 (NLM,WGE), 2 were detected at HC on 8/21 (WJN), and 3 were seen at DCWMA on 9/19 (NLM,WGE,et al.).

#### MIMICS THROUGH THRUSHES

About 20 Mockingbirds were reported from 8 towns ranging northward to Colchester and Plainfield where 2 adults and 3 young were noted on 8/11 (MFM), another good count received was 4 on 8/22 at Shoreham (ELW). The Gray Catbird was well reported, 39 were banded including a below average total of 29 at Woodstock (VINS,MFM), the peak of the migration appears to have been in mid-September as the VINS banding station recorded its high of 6 on 9/14 and W. J. Norse located an amazing 50 on 9/17 at HC, the latest reported were 3 on 10/17 at Woodstock (JMN). Only a handful of Brown Thrashers were recorded, the most noted on a given day was three and the last reported was 1 on 10/7 at Woodstock (JMN). The American Robin was reported in average numbers, the migration peaked in mid-October with high counts of 100 on 10/12 at HC (WJN), and 200 on 10/19 at Shoreham (ELW), as usual a few Robins remained through the end of the season. Observers reported about 40 Wood Thrushes, high counts indicate no definite peak to the migration and the last sighted was found at Rutland on 9/22 (RHH). The Hermit Thrush was reported in only modest numbers, only 16 were banded for the season with 9 caught at Marshfield (MFM,VINS). The high count was 8 on 10/14 at Tinnmouth (CJF), and latest were 2 at Danby on 11/8 (CJF). As has become usual, the Swainson's Thrush was the most common 'spotted thrush' reported with over 120 recorded for the autumn. The 29 banded (16 by VINS) were well below past totals, the high count was 30 on 9/11 at HC (WJN), and the latest were, a roadkill in Tinnmouth on 10/6 (GTL) and 1 seen in Danby on 10/9 (CJF). Most of 151 thrushes tallied on two fifteen minute nocturnal counts on 9/3 and 4 at Hartford were Swainson's (WGE). A total of eight Grey-cheeked Thrushes was reported, 1 was found at Winhall on 8/17 (WJN), another was located there on 8/31 (WJN), single birds were heard overhead at night on 9/2 and 9/6 respectively at Hartford (WGE), 1 was seen at Winhall on 9/7 (WJN), and 2 at Reading on 10/15 were notably late (RHH). The peak of the Veery migration occurred in late August, the majority of 131 thrushes counted in fifteen minutes on the night of 8/28 at Hartford were Veeries, 7 were banded for the season 5 of these at Woodstock (VINS,MFM), the latest reported were 1 at Winhall on 9/28 (WJN), and 3 seen at Shoreham on 9/29 (ELW). Banders at the Manomet Bird Observatory report a 46% drop in the numbers of Catharus thrushes for the period of 1977-81 versus the years 1972-76 (MBO, May 1982 p. 11), a check of VINS data for the same pair of five year periods reveals a comparable 49.7% drop in numbers at Woodstock. One hundred and twenty Eastern Bluebirds were reported, a total slightly above the average of the past seven autumns, the maximum of 22 occurred on 10/5 at Brownsville (GE), and the last was noted at Shrewsbury on 10/28 (LPS).

#### GNATCATCHERS THROUGH VIREOS

The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was reported in record numbers for the Autumn Records with 14 located by observers for the season, 1 was found in Woodstock from 8/8-8/15 (JMN), a very high total of 9 was recorded at Ft. Cassin in Ferrisburg on 8/10 (ALG,NLM,WGE), 3 were located along Lewis Creek in Ferrisburg on 8/14 (JID,MCD) and 1 was noted at Shoreham on 8/21 (ELW). Kinglets of both species continue to be only sparsely reported, only 33 Golden-crowned Kinglets were located by our respondents this autumn (contrast this seasonal total with seasonal maxima of 50 and 60 respectively for 1975 and 1976), this diminutive bird eluded many observers this season and many others noted it only once. The Ruby-crowned Kinglet was somewhat more numerous. Numbers of this bird however are also

Woodstock on 10/30 (VINS), 1 at the state fishing access at Shelburne Bay on 10/30 (WRB), 1 at Mt. Philo on 10/31 (JID, MCD), 3 at Hinesburg on 10/31 (WRB, PMB), 1 at Tinnmouth on 11/3 (LHP), and 4 at Lake Morey on 11/15 (NLM,WGE). A total of 21 Tufted Titmice was reported, records ranged northward to Waitsfield and North Ferrisburg. The earliest reports were 1 at Rutland on 8/4 (ELW), and 9/3 at North Ferrisburg (JID, MCD), all other reports are from October or later, most were first seen at feeders in the last week of October. The White-breasted Nuthatch population as gauged by these records appears to be stable, 4 were banded at Marshfield for the season (MFM). The extensive data submitted for the Red-breasted Nuthatch is difficult to interpret but in general there appears to have been some migratory activity especially in western



much lower than in the mid-1970's, about 55 were reported with no count exceeding 4 and a late report of 2 at South Duxbury on 10/25 (FAP). The Water Pipit was noted in fair numbers with 140-150 reported by 5 observers, the earliest were 2 at Woodstock on 9/25 (NLM,WGE), high counts included 60 from 10/21-10/24 at Shoreham (ELW), and 25 at the Springfield Meadows on 10/29 (WJN), the last reported were 17 on 11/1 at Addison (NLM,WGE). Bohemian Waxwings were once again found on the campus of UVM with 5 in a large flock of Cedar Waxwings on 11/5 (CWS,AVS,MJM), with one still present on 11/9 (PFZ). The Cedar Waxwing was noted in good numbers over much of the state with the species withdrawing from eastern and southwestern areas in late September and early October. Later records occurred, as usual, in the Champlain Lowlands including 60+ on the campus of UVM in Burlington from 11/6 through the end of the season, large numbers were noted at HC in mid-September with counts ranging from 150-170+ (WJN,WGE,NLM), 34 were banded with 31 'ringed' by Marion Metcalf (MFM,VINS). For the second consecutive autumn the Northern Shrike was little in evidence with only two reported (autumnal totals since 1975 are 3, 10, 9, 10, 3, 2). An immature was banded at Woodstock on 10/30 (VINS), and a shrike appeared at a feeder in Brownsville on 11/29 (BMH). The Loggerhead Shrike has almost diminished to the point of extirpation in the state, none were reported for the season and only 1 has been reported over the last three years, all but one of the total of 11 reported since 1975 have been seen at DCWMA. In total contrast the Starling continues to flourish, the most intimidating report at hand is of 8,000+ seen on 10/19 at South Burlington (WRB,PMB). The Yellow-throated Vireo was noted in its usual small numbers, up to four were noted on a single date with the peak migration indicated for late August, the last was noted on 9/12 at Woodstock (JMN). Reports of the Solitary Vireo seemed about average, the flight apparently peaked in early September with high counts of 5 at Winhall on 9/3 (WJN), and 5 at Woodstock on 9/6 (JMN), the latest were 1 on 10/13 at Woodstock (JRL,WGE), and 1 on the same date at Rutland (RHH). Twenty-two were banded with 11 caught at each station (VINS,MFM). As is normal the Red-eyed Vireo was the most numerous vireo, the migration appeared to peak in late August with a maximum of 9 on 8/29 at Hartford (WGE), good numbers were also noted in mid-September with 5 banded and 7 seen at Woodstock on 9/15 and 18 respectively (VINS) 46 were banded for the autumn with 25 netted at Woodstock. The last banded at Woodstock being on 9/28 was also the latest reported (VINS,MFM). A total of 16 Philadelphia Vireos was reported, about average or a little above, the earliest reported was noted at Winhall on 8/14 (WJN), high counts were 4 on 8/21 at Shoreham (ELW), and 3 on 9/18 at Woodstock (VINS), 7 were banded 4 by VINS (VINS,MFM), the last was seen on 9/21 at South Duxbury (FAP). The Warbling Vireo was noted in normal numbers, the best counts were from mid-August and the last of 8 banded by VINS at Woodstock were 2 caught on 9/28.

#### WOOD WARBLERS

Numbers of the Black-and-white Warbler were unremarkable, 13 were banded, 8 in northern Vermont (MFM,VINS). High counts were from August with 4 seen on 8/17 at Winhall (WJN), and 4 counted on 8/29 at Hartford (WGE), the last were 2 at Woodstock on 9/19 (JMN). There was a single report of the rare Blue-winged Warbler, 1 was seen on Hartland Hill in Woodstock on 8/10 (m. ob.). The Tennessee Warbler was one of the three most common warblers reported, high counts included 14 on 8/23 at South Duxbury (FAP), 15 on 8/29 at Hartford (WGE), 20+ on 8/30 at Woodstock (JMN), and 25 banded at Woodstock on 9/15 (VINS), the latest reported were 2 netted at Woodstock on 9/28 (VINS). A total of 137 were banded this autumn with 74 processed at Marshfield and Ferdinand (MFM,VINS). The Orange-crowned Warbler was well reported with 3 banded on 9/5 and 9/6 at Marshfield (MFM), 2 noted in Tinmouth on 10/2 (GTL), and 1 encountered in Burlington on 10/29 (CWS). The Nashville Warbler was reported in respectable numbers, high counts were from late August with 6 seen in Hartford on 8/28 (WGE), 6 noted at Winhall on 8/30 (WJN), and 5 counted in Woodstock on 8/30 (JMN), 65 were banded this fall with 47 netted at Marshfield and Ferdinand (MFM,VINS), the last was noted at Lake Shaftsbury on 10/4 (NLM,WGE). Nineteen Northern Parula were reported, high counts were 3 on 9/3 at South Duxbury (FAP), and 3 on 9/6 at Hartford (WGE), the last a single male seen on 9/23 at Hartford (WGE). Over half of the 60 Yellow Warblers for the season were seen in the first ten days of August, a maximum of 16 was recorded at Colchester Pt. on 8/8 (NLM,WGE), three were banded, 2 at Woodstock (VINS,MFM), the last was found at Shoreham on 9/17 (ELW). The Magnolia Warbler flight was relatively above average, banders, in particular, noted

this with a total of 95 trapped, 65 by Marion Metcalf (MFM,VINS), the best counts were 8 on 8/28 at Hartford (WGE), and 8 banded on 9/18 at Woodstock (VINS), the latest reported was seen in Rutland on 10/4 (RHH). A total of 21 Cape May Warblers was reported, the majority being noted during the last week of August and the first week of September, 7 were banded, 6 at Marshfield (MFM,VINS), the last reported were 2 at South Duxbury on 9/18 (FAP). Numbers of the Black-throated Blue Warbler seemed about average, the high of 16 was recorded at South Duxbury on 8/23 (FAP), the last was a window-killed male at Tinmouth on 10/1 (GTL), 34 were banded for the season, 31 at Marshfield Pd. (MFM,VINS). The Yellow-rumped Warbler continues to be the most conspicuous, if not the most common, migrant warbler during the autumn. One hundred were banded, 75 at Marshfield and Ferdinand, (MFM,VINS), high counts included 50 on 9/27 at Winhall (WJN), and 100 on the same date at Addison (ELW), the latest were 2 on 11/11 at Rutland (CJF). The best numbers of the Black-throated Green Warbler were noted in late August and early September, the best counts included 11 on 8/23 at South Duxbury (FAP), 12+ on 8/30 at Woodstock (JMN), and the best day for banders at Woodstock was 6 on 9/2 (VINS), the last reported was 1 at Shaftsbury Lake SP on 10/4 (NLM,WGE). The treetop dwelling Blackburnian Warbler was reported, for the most part, in modest numbers, an excellent count of 17 was achieved on 8/23 at South Duxbury (FAP), seven were banded with 6 netted at Marshfield (MFM,VINS), the last was noted at Shoreham on 9/29 (ELW). High counts of the early departing Chestnut-sided Warbler were from mid-August, 5 were seen at Winhall on 8/14 (WJN), and 5 were banded at Woodstock on 8/19, this being out of a total of 25 banded at Woodstock this autumn, 22 others were caught at Marshfield Pd. (VINS, MFM), the last was seen at Hartford on 9/22 (WGE). Numbers of the Bay-breasted Warbler continue to be good with some 140 or so reported, 53 were banded this season including an excellent 42 at Marshfield (MFM,VINS), high counts include 12 on 8/23 at South Duxbury (FAP), 6 on 9/2 at Woodstock (VINS), 8+ on 9/15 at Woodstock (JMN,VINS), and 8 on 9/15 at South Duxbury (FAP), the last was seen at South Duxbury on 9/26 (FAP). About 45 Blackpoll Warblers were reported, 14 of 20 banded were trapped at northern stations (MFM,VINS), this species seems to peak at later dates than the very similar Bay-breast, this year the high count of 6 fell on 9/20 at Rutland (CJF), the last was 1 at Winhall on 9/26 (WJN). A total of seven Pine Warblers was recorded, 1 was seen in Shoreham on 8/15 (ELW), 1 was noted at Ferrisburg on 8/23 (JID,MCD), 1 was banded at Woodstock on 9/14 (JLW), 1 was found in Newport on 9/19 (FO,LNM,DAM), 2 were reported from Shoreham on 9/24 (ELW), and 1 was sighted at Danby on 10/12 (CJF). There was a single report of the scarce Prairie Warbler, 1 immature was encountered at Wilder on 9/4 (WGE), oddly enough this is the first autumn report of this regular nester for the Records of Vermont Birds. The migration of the Palm Warbler was virtually nonexistent with only three reported, all banded, the first on 9/15 at Woodstock (a 'western') and the last on 10/1 at the same locale (VINS,MFM). The majority of the 35 Ovenbirds reported were caught by banders, 23 were mist netted for the season with 13 handled at Marshfield Pd. (MFM,VINS), high counts were 4 on 8/6 at Winhall (WJN), and 4 banded on 9/18 at Woodstock (VINS), the last was banded at Woodstock on 9/20 (VINS). Thirteen Northern Waterthrushes were located by observers this autumn, the latest were 2 on 9/11 at HC (WJN). The furtive Mourning Warbler was noted in small numbers with a total of 11 individuals reported, 6 of these were banded 5 by VINS (VINS, MFM), 3 were banded at Woodstock for the seasonal maximum on 9/10 (VINS), the last was banded at Woodstock on 9/15 (VINS). The Common Yellowthroat ranks as the chief contender for the status of most common warbler in the state, numbers of this more secretive species equalled those of the Yellow-rumped Warbler, 196 were banded this autumn, 140 at Woodstock (VINS, MFM), the maximum reported was 17 on 9/2 at Woodstock (VINS), the latest was 1 at HC on 10/16 (WJN). Banders at Woodstock received a pleasant surprise on 9/2 when a Yellow-breasted Chat turned up in one of their mist nets, the bird was admired and copiously photographed before its release, not surprisingly the bird was immature (VINS). The Wilson's Warbler was reported in good numbers, 18 were banded, 10 at Woodstock (VINS, MFM), a maximum of 5 was achieved at Hartford on 9/4 (WGE), the latest was reported from Shoreham on 9/25 (ELW). The Canada Warbler tends to be one of the warblers whose migration peaks in late August, high counts this autumn were 7 on 8/20 at Woodstock four of which were banded (VINS), 4 at Winhall on 8/24 (WJN), 5 at Woodstock on 8/25 (JMN), and 6 banded at Woodstock on 9/2 (VINS), the latest was noted at Shoreham on the exceptional date of 9/29 (ELW). A total of 53 Canada Warblers were banded, including 34 netted at Marshfield Pd. (MFM,VINS). Over 100 American Redstarts were reported includ-

ing 37 banded, 23 of these at Woodstock (VINS,MFM), the best counts ranged from 8/10-8/29 with no count exceeding 6, latest were 2 seen in Woodstock on 10/7 (JMN).

#### HOUSE SPARROW THROUGH TANAGER

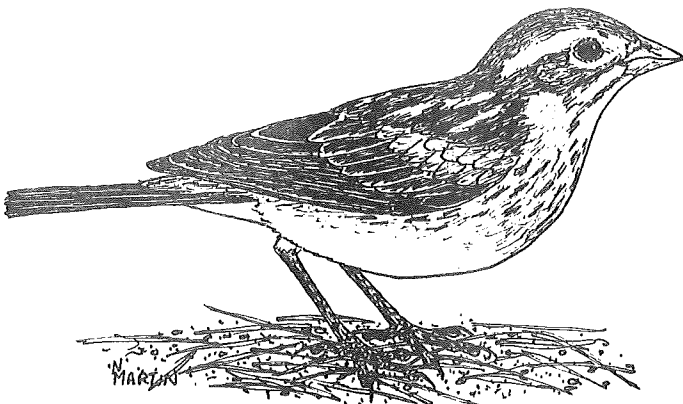
Reports of the House Sparrow offered no surprises, unpleasant or otherwise. The Bobolink, which fools some autumn observers because of its change from formal black to white to informal brown and yellow was encountered in good numbers, high counts included 50+ on 8/9 at Rutland (CJF), 40-50 on 8/12 at Woodstock (NLM), and 100+ on 9/4 at Colchester Pt. (WRB,PMB), the last reported were 7 at DCWMA on 9/19 (NLM,WGE, et al.). The Eastern Meadowlark, a bird with similar habitat preferences to the preceding species, was reported in much lower numbers than the Bobolink, about 63 were reported for the season with a maximum of 20+ on 9/19 at DCWMA (NLM,WGE,et al.), the last reported were 5 on 11/1 at Bridport (NLM,WGE), however check the winter records for the usual smattering of December records of this half-hardy species. The Red-winged Blackbird was reported in huge numbers, in particular the sight of 200,000 headed to roost in Winooski nightly from 10/17-10/20 MUST have been awesome (JJA). The species remained abundant into early November with up to 5000 still present at DCWMA on 11/8 (ELW). Virtually all of the 70 or so Northern Orioles reported were seen in August, high counts of 8 were achieved on three early August dates, the latest were located at Woodstock from 9/14-9/15 (JMN,NLM,WGE,et al.). The Rusty Blackbird was either underreported or in very low numbers this autumn, perhaps both. A total of 12 were reported on 5 dates ranging from 8/6 (4 at Arlington) to 10/22 (5 at Woodstock). The Common Grackle was all of that once again this fall, high counts included 3000+ on 8/6 at Tinmouth (GTL), about 8000 at Ferrisburg on 9/10 (JID,MCD), and 4000+ at Mt. Philo on 10/25 (JJA). As usual the population of the Brown-headed Cowbird was concentrated into large, discrete flocks resulting in a spotty distribution of the species, high counts were 1000+ on 9/9 at Ferrisburg (JID,MCD), and 400 at Bridport on 10/14 (ELW). The data is somewhat inconsistent, but the Scarlet Tanager appears to have been in above average numbers at least in some favored areas, high counts include 20 on 8/24 at Bennington (HWT), 14 at Woodstock on 9/15 (NLM,WGE), and 9 banded there the following day (VINS), 47 of the total of 50 banded were trapped at Woodstock, the best total in recent years for VINS banders (VINS,MFM), the last reported were 1 at Woodstock on 9/29 (WGE), and 5 at Shoreham on 9/29 (ELW).

#### FINCHES AND SPARROWS

About 125 Cardinals were reported, many feeders are now visited by flocks of 5 to 6 and the species has now spread into such high country localities as Tinmouth and Winhall, 5 were banded by VINS and a maximum of 13 was recorded on 10/21 at Woodstock (NLM,WGE). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were noted in respectable numbers, 34 were banded for the season including a record 21 at Woodstock (VINS,MFM), good counts were 11 on 9/4 at Wilder (WGE), 12 on 9/7 at South Wallingford (CJF), and 8-10 on 9/21 at Woodstock (JMN), the last was seen on the extraordinary date of 10/29 at the Springfield Meadows (WJN). As usual the Indigo Bunting, which becomes drab and silent during

the autumn was reported in only token numbers, high counts never exceeded four and the latest was noted at Woodstock on 9/25 (NLM,WGE), 4 were banded at Woodstock this fall. An imm. male DICKCISSEL was sighted attending a feeder with House Sparrows in Arlington from 10/23-27 (NS). The distribution of the Evening Grosbeak was rather patchy this autumn, many feeders had smaller than usual flocks or no grosbeaks at all, however over 600 grosbeaks were reported for the season with the heaviest movement being noted in October, high counts included 75+ on 10/21 at Woodstock (NLM,WGE), and 100+ at the WHL on 10/25 (WJN). The Purple Finch was noted in average numbers through October, 112 were banded, 108 in northern Vermont (MFM,VINS), the highest count submitted was 70 on 9/20 at the WHL (WJN), the species virtually disappeared in early November with the last submitted report being on 11/9 at Shoreham (ELW). The House Finch continues to increase with a total of 90 reported for the season, half of these were noted at a Bennington feeder early in the season (HWT). Small flocks were noted at feeders north to Burlington and Hartford and individual birds turned up in such places as HC and Gile Mt. The Pine Grosbeak was noted in good numbers with a total of about 220 reported for the season, high counts included 40 on 10/13 at Shoreham (also the earliest report) (ELW), 32 on 10/31 at Deer Leap in Bristol (JJA), and 30 on 11/9 at Winhall (WJN). Most of the 248 Common Redpolls reported were encountered in November, the earliest were 10 on 10/25 at Winhall (WJN), the best counts were 50 on 11/3 at North Ferrisburg (JID,MCD), 55 on 11/13 at Hartford (WGE), and 60 on 11/13 at Shoreham (ELW). The Pine Siskin was reported on 16 dates ranging from 8/1 to 11/14, the best counts submitted were 30 on 11/11 in the Lowell Mts. (TP), and 35 on 11/14 at South Duxbury (FAP). The American Goldfinch was very common in the southern Champlain Lowlands throughout the season but it was largely absent from eastern Vermont after October, good counts included 50 at HC on 10/12 (WJN), and 75 on 11/17 at Shoreham (ELW), two observers reported nesting activity, a nest with 4 eggs was found in Tinmouth on 8/9, a fifth egg had been deposited on the tenth and 6 young were noted in the nest on 8/29 (GTL), 2-3 young had fledged in Woodstock by 8/24 (JMN), 7 were banded this fall at Woodstock (VINS). There were seven reports of the Red Crossbill, 4-8/day were seen in Post Mills from 8/19 to 'mid-October' (LeH,ViH), 4-5 were sighted in Wallingford on 9/5 (RWP), 1 was noted at Wells River on 9/20 (LeH,ViH), 9 were seen at Lake Fairlee on 10/3 (NLM,WGE), 12 were located in Plainfield on 11/11 (LNM), and 2 were seen in Winhall on 11/18 and 19, one each day (WJN). The White-winged Crossbill exhibited its best numbers in the seven years of this editor's tenure on the autumn records, 164 were reported, the earliest being a pair at White Rocks Mt. in Wallingford from 9/5-10/4 (m. ob.), and 1 at Mt. Holly on 9/21 (WJN), maximum counts were 20 on 11/10 at Winhall (WJN), and 50+ at Lakes Morey and Fairlee on 11/15 (NLM,WGE). All reports of the Rufous-sided Towhee were from Norwich southward, only a handful were noted this autumn, up to 4 were noted on a single date and the latest was encountered at Tinmouth on 10/6 (GTL). The Savannah Sparrow was reported in about average numbers with a single day maximum of 65+ on 9/19 at DCWMA (NLM,WGE,et al.), and a late date of 10/31 at White River Jct. (WGE). A single Savannah Sparrow was banded at Woodstock in October (VINS). A total of 22 Vesper Sparrows were reported, the best counts were 5 on 8/12 at DCWMA (WRB), and 10 on 10/15 at Shoreham (ELW), the latest was 1 at DCWMA on 11/1 (WRB). The Dark-eyed Junco was reported in excellent numbers with a total of about 800 for the season, the peak dates of the migration ranged from 10/18-10/28 with most high counts occurring from 10/18-21, 36 were banded with 20 handled by Marion Metcalf (MFM,VINS). Over 270 American Tree Sparrows were reported this autumn, the early arrival date was 10/9 when 2 were noted at Shoreham (ELW), high counts were 85+ at DCWMA on 11/1 (WRB), and 50 at Shoreham on 11/6 (ELW). The Chipping Sparrow migration peaked in late September with high counts of 25 on 9/20 in Rutland (CJF), and 20+ on 9/26 at Woodstock (NLM,WGE), the last was noted at Woodstock on 11/17 (RJA), 1 was banded at Woodstock in October (VINS). Normal numbers of the Field Sparrow were noted this autumn, 20 were banded at Woodstock for the season (VINS), a maximum of 10 was reported from Rutland on 9/20 (CJF), and the last reported was noted in Tinmouth on 10/28 (GTL). A little over 80 White-crowned Sparrows were reported, 2 were banded, one at each station (VINS, MFM), the earliest reported was 1 on 9/22 at Woodstock (JMN), high counts included 8 on 10/9 at Danby (CJF), 10 on 10/13 at Woodstock (NLM,WGE), and 12 on 10/14 also in Woodstock (NLM,WGE), the latest was noted on 10/31 at Winhall (WJN). Records indicate what observers surely know, that the White-throated Sparrow is one of the three most common sparrows in Vermont, there was no distinct peak to

DICKCISSEL



the fall flight and a high of 70+ was registered on 10/21 at Woodstock (NLM,WGE), a total of 90 was banded with 64 'ringed' by Marion Metcalf (MFM,VINS). A total of 39 Fox Sparrows was reported, this represents a far better number than in the autumn of 1980 when only 7 were recorded by observers, the earliest were 4 on 10/10 at Tirmouth (CJF), the high count of 6 was achieved on 10/20 at North Ferrisburg (JID,MCD), the last reported was 1 on 11/9 at Winhall (WJN). Observers reported a total of 68 Lincoln's Sparrows, a good total for this subtle and inconspicuous bird, 26 were banded with 22 caught at Woodstock (VINS,MFM), the migration peaked in mid-September with a maximum of 10 on 9/15 at Woodstock (VINS), the latest was noted at HC on 11/4 (WJN). The Swamp Sparrow was noted in about average numbers, 14 were banded with 8 mist netted at Marshfield (MFM,VINS), good counts included 8 at Shoreham on 9/25 (ELW), 6 at HC on 10/16 (WJN), and 6 at Woodstock on 10/22 (NLM,WGE), the last reported was found at Woodstock on 11/14 (WGE). With a total of about 600 reported, the Song Sparrow ranks with the White-throat and Junco as one of the three most common sparrows, the high count of this ubiquitous species was 40+ on 10/21-22 at Woodstock (NLM,WGE), 75 were banded for the season including 56 at Woodstock (VINS,MFM). There was a single report of Lapland Longspur, 2 were sighted at White River Jct. on 11/5 (WGE). About 215 Snow Buntings were reported, the early date was 10/25 when 20 were seen at Colchester Pt. (NLM,WGE,et al.), high counts included 35-40 in Addison County on 10/30 (AP,WS), 35-40 in Addison town on 11/2 (CWS), and 42 at White River Jct. on 11/5 (WGE).

The Records of Vermont Birds is published quarterly by the Vermont Institute of Natural Science. Subscription is on an annual basis, dating from the original month of subscription. Yearly Subscription \$5.00

Contributors are reminded to send in rare and unusual bird sightings at once (or to call the Vermont Bird Alert) and to submit seasonal summaries promptly at the end of each season. This publication is only as complete as you make it. If you need sighting cards, write VINS, Woodstock, VT 05091, or call us at 457-2779.

SPRING - 1 March - 31 May  
Editors, Whitney Nichols  
William J. Morse  
Frank Oatman

SUMMER - 1 June - 31 July  
Editors, Annette Gosnell  
Michael Maurer  
Wayne Scott

FALL - 1 August - 30 November  
Editor, Walter Ellison

WINTER - 1 December - 28 February  
Editor, Don Clark

MANAGING EDITOR: Sarah B. Laughlin  
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT: Julia M. Nicholson  
LAYOUT & ILLUSTRATION: Nancy L. Martin

#### Location Abbreviations

DCWMA - Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area  
TWDR - Thurman W. Dix Reservoir  
HC - Herrick's Cove  
SP - State Park  
WHL - Winhall Hawk Lookout  
NWR - National Wildlife Refuge  
MBO - Manomet Bird Observatory

#### CONTRIBUTORS

RJA	Ray Adams	GTL	George LeBoutillier
RHA	Richard Adelson	JRL	Jenepher Lingelbach
GAD	Grace Adkins	MM	Marian Manning
JJA	Jeffrey Allen	CM	Carol Martin
SRA	Steve Antell	JFM	Janet Martin
JRA	Jean Arrowsmith	NLM	Nancy Martin
MVB	Margaret Barker	NJM	Mike Maurer
PMB	Pat Beecher	SM	Sandy Maurer
WRB	Will Beecher	BM&C	Bertha McCormick
JB1	Joe Birkett	McM	Mr. McDermott
LB1	Lillian Birkett	JWM	Joan Merrill
PJB	Preston Bristow	ABM	Al Merritt
AAB	Ada Brown	LAM	Larry Metcalf
BBU	Bea Buxton	MFM	Marion Metcalf
RB1	Roy Buxton	PFM	Peter Moore
CVAS	Central Vermont Audubon Society	DM	David Mosher
BWC	Elizabeth Clapp	WBN	Whit Nichols
MCC	Mary Clapp	JMN	Julie Nicholson
BAC	Bernard Clark	CJN	Clem Nilan
DC	Don Clark	JNI	Jim Nissen
WSC	William Clark	WJN	William Morse
DHD	Doris Dolt	FO	Frank Oatman
JID	John Dye	GPO	Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Orth
MCD	Margaret Dye	TP	Teen Palen
EE	Eleanor Ellis	KP	Kaye Peck
GFE	George Ellison	OP	Oliver Peck
RDE	Robin Ellison	FWP	Roy Pilcher
WGE	Walter Ellison	AP	Alan Pistorius
GE	Mrs. Gerald Estey	LHP	Henry Potter
MF	Mark Farrell	FAP	Frederick Pratt
NEF	Norman Favor	HR	Herman Redden
ATP	Abbott Fenn	MHR	Mary Richards
CJF	C. J. Frankiewicz	TCR	Tom Richards
JVF	J. V. Freeman	MR	Margaret Richard
GF	Gretchen Frelinghuysen	BLR	Betty Rist
JPG	John Gates	CR	Carla Rushford
ALG	Annette Gosnell	RCAS	Rutland County Audubon Society
DIG	Donald Gurney	SJS	Jean Sangdahl
BPG	Bea Guyett	WS	Wayne Scott
JGG	June Guyette	CWS	Chris Schultz
RYG	Robert Guyette	KCS	Kit Shelton
EH	Ed Hack	LPS	Linda Shelvey
KH	Kathy Harriman	WMS	Bill Shepard
WH	Mrs. Wesley Herwig	BMS	Betty Sherrard
BWH	Beryl Hinton	NS	Nancy Simson
JEH	John Hinton	JS	Jack Sloanaker
RHH	Rhoda Horne	MS	Mollie Small
HEH	Harvey Horner	BSM	Barbara Smith
FCH	Fran Howe	IMS	Isabel Stephens
LeH	Len Hoyt	RUS	Ruth Stewart
VIH	Vicki Hoyt	ECS	Eleanor Swaim
FHM	Fred Hunt	AVS	Anne van Sweringen
SAI	Sam Izzo	KRT	Kevin Taft
NBJ	Norma Johnson	HWT	Helene Toolan
DPK	Doug Kibbe	LHT	Leo Trepanier
AK	Al Klick	GT	Gerald Turner
JDL	David Laughlin	PV	Phillip Viereck
SBL	Sally Laughlin	VINS	Vermont Institute of Natural Science
DKL	Dorothy Lavalley	VNS	Vermont News Guide
RBL	Richard Lavalley	ASW	Al Watson
DL	Dorothy Leavitt	VW	Virginia Webb
		ELW	Elizabeth Weeks
		MaW	Margaret Westbrook
		JAW	Jean Williams
		JSW	John Wires
		NHW	Nancy Withington
		MWW	Mr. & Mrs. Marshall Witten
		JW	John Wood
		JLW	Julia Lloyd Wright
		MWR	Mildred Wright
		BMZ	Blanche Zauchinger
		PFZ	Peter Zika

RECORDS OF VERMONT BIRDS - Published April 1983  
SUMMER 1981, AUTUMN 1981  
Vermont Institute of Natural Science  
Woodstock, Vermont 05091

U.S. Postage Paid  
Non-profit Organization  
Woodstock, Vermont  
Permit No. 4

MR & MRS ROBERT NICHOLSON  
CHURCH HILL  
WOODSTOCK

VT 05091