



Records of Vermont Birds

SUMMER SEASON 1982

1 JUNE - 31 JULY

WAYNE SCOTT, SEASONAL EDITOR

I suppose this report could be characterized as a summary of the "summer after". After five (really six) years of Atlasing, birders around the state breathed a collective sigh of relief with a predictable decline in the number of reports which crossed this desk. That is not to say there weren't some outstanding birds this season. Undoubtedly, the YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD which visited a feeder in Barre in June was the outstanding bird. Then there was a first state breeding for DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT and two modern records for ORCHARD ORIOLE.

And, this was the summer for the long-awaited drawdown of Dead Creek. Birders by the dozen flocked there to witness a shorebird migration which lived up to most expectations. An added bonus was the appearance of two CASPIAN TERNS, a first for this species in Vermont since 1976.

Weatherwise, June was cooler and wetter than normal throughout most of Vermont. Most stations reported temperatures averaging from 2.4 to 5.3 degrees F. below normal while precipitation was from 1.36 to 5.84 inches above normal. Heaviest rainfalls occurred in extreme southern Vermont on the 6th while northern sections received moderately heavy amounts between the 23rd and 30th. July was more summer-like with temperatures just slightly below normal on average and precipitation from 0.01 to 2.79 inches below average.

Examining the pattern of occurrence of the shorebirds at Dead Creek in light of weather conditions during July, one can construct a possible scenario to explain the data. The earliest southward migrants (for which I have data) appeared about the 15th following two days of NW winds. There followed several days of winds from the south. A shift back to the north on the 20th coincided with the peak of the southward movement and numbers began to build to the 25th when winds briefly switched out of the south. The highest numbers of migrants occurred during the period from the 23rd to the 25th. By the 27th winds had again come out of the northwest and in advance of bad weather which brought the heaviest rains of the month on the 28th, there was a sharp reduction in the number of migrants. The data for the period 27-31 July reflect lower numbers for most species.

Earlier than usual migrants were observed along the Massachusetts coast prompting regional editor, Tingley, to speculate that there had been a poor nesting season in the north (Am. Birds 36(6):954). This perhaps explains in part the extraordinarily early appearances of the Dunlin (earliest record for the entire Northeast), Stilt and White-rumped Sandpipers.

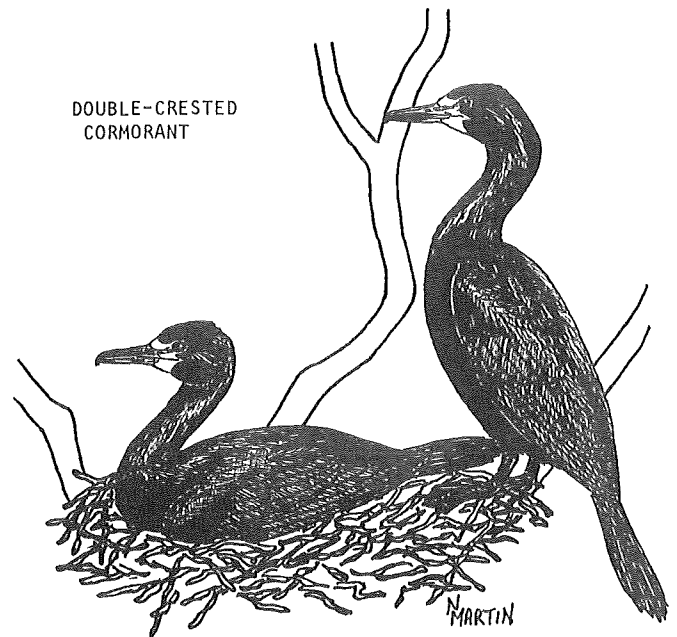
A few words now about the format and how to interpret the data presented. For species which are quite common, I have not included all reports which were sent to me. Rather, I've exercised editorial license and listed only first-of-the-season sightings and highest totals of any significance. In some cases I have briefly summarized the body of reports I didn't include. For the more uncommon species, or those

which may be more common than the paucity of reports would indicate, I have listed all sightings in the summary. Especially uncommon species have been both underlined and capitalized. Noteworthy totals or locations have also been underlined.

LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL: A careful survey of Common Loon nesting pairs in the state yielded figures which closely match those for 1981. There were 24 territorial pairs of which 19 attempted to nest. Twelve pairs were successful producing 14 chicks (LNM,VINS). In spite of all the coverage Dead Creek received, no Pied-billed Grebes were found and the paucity of reports statewide underscores the decline in Vermont and elsewhere as reported by Kibbe in American Birds 36:6. By contrast, Double-crested Cormorants are becoming downright common near islands in Lake Champlain. This species was not even reported in the summer records for 1977 and 1978 and only sparsely in other summers. Only 2 Cattle Egrets were found attending nests on Young Island, down from 6 pairs two years ago. The three reports of vagrant Great Egrets from Dead Creek probably represent only two individuals. A Least Bittern at Fairfax Falls was unusual. Not uncharacteristically, late migrating flocks of Canada Geese were seen. Three pairs of American Wigeon, a summer rarity in Vermont, were found in South Hero. Common Mergansers usually found along the White River presumably were overlooked there while 8-10 were spotted around the Four Brothers Islands.

Common Loon: 6/3 1 Bomoseen (WGE); 6/7 2 Barre Reservoir (MFM); 6/9 2 Memphremagog (WS et al.); 6/11 2(nest) Green River Reservoir (hereafter Res.) (WS et al.); 7/3 1 ad. Marshfield Pond (MJM); 7/4 ? Spring Lake, Shrewsbury, (KW); June/July (hereafter J/J) f. with yg. Lake Memphremagog (STH). Pied-billed Grebe: 6/9 2 South Bay Marshes (hereafter SBM) (WS et al.); 7/29 1 Brookfield (WHB). Double-crested Cormorant: 6/3 28(26 imm., 2 ad. on nest) Young Island (DEC); 6/26 40+ Four Brothers, N.Y. (JSA,KMA); 6/27 32, 1 nest

DOUBLE-CRESTED
CORMORANT



with adult on, Young Island (SBL,WH); 7/16 112+ Young Island (RBL). Great Blue Heron: J/J 2 ad. 4 imm. Morrisville (TP); 6/5 5-10 Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge (hereafter MNWR) (WS et al.); 6/26 24 East Bay, Poultney River (MJC); 7/1 2 nests, 3-4 juv. Ripton (JSA,KMA); 7/30 62 Dead Creek (hereafter DCWMA) (LNM); J/J 2 Albany (TP). Green Heron: 6/9 2 Herrick's Cove (hereafter HC) (WJN); 7/16 3 Lake Hortonia (WHB); 7/29 2 HC (WJN); plus 10 sightings from the Champlain Valley var. obs. Cattle Egret: 6/3 2(nest) Young Island (DEC). Great Egret: 6/26 1 DCWMA (WHB et al.); 7/27,29, 1,1 DCWMA (JSA,KMA); 7/30 1 DCWMA (LNM,WS). Black-crowned Night Heron: 6/7 3 ad,2 imm. DCWMA (WS et al.); 6/17 2 Shelburne Pond (MCD, JID); 6/24 1 Burlington (SBL,JDL); 7/28 1 imm. New Haven River (KD); 7/31 10 DCWMA (WS,WGE). Least Bittern: 6/3,22 1 W. Rutland Marsh (hereafter WRM) (WJN); 6/24 1 South Slang (MCD,JID); 7/24 1 Fairfax Falls (PAT). American Bittern: 6/24 5 South Slang (MCD,JID); 7/30 3 DCWMA (LNM); also single birds seen at: SBM, Woodbury Mt., WRM, and MNWR. var. obs. Canada Goose: 6/7 50+(5 broods, max. 12 juv.) DCWMA (WS et al.); 6/11 60 Reading (FMH); 6/11 31 Green River Res. (WS et al.); 6/14 27 Shoreham (ELW); 6/22 1 pr. (nesting failed) Gale Meadows (WJN); 7/17 1 pr.,6 juv. Lake Hortonia (WHB); 7/23 12 DCWMA (MCD,JID); Mallard: 6/3 1 WRM (WJN); 6/9 2 SBM (WS et al.); 6/26 100+ DCWMA (WHB); 6/29 20+ HC (WJN); 7/1 13 MNWR (ELW); Black Duck: 6/2 11 Woodstock (JMN); 7/29 15+ DCWMA (JSA,KMA); max. of 10 at MNWR (ELW); Blue-winged Teal: 6/5 3 MNWR (WS et al.); 6/9 8 SBM (WS et al.); 7/29 30 max. DCWMA (JSA,KMA); American Wigeon: 6/5 1 m. MNWR (WS et al.); 6/27 3 pr. South Hero (SBL et al.); Wood Duck: 6/3 1 Lake Hortonia (WGE); 6/5 1 f.,5 juv. MNWR (WS et al.); 7/13 14 max. DCWMA (JSA, KMA); total of 21 Weybridge (MBN); Common Goldeneye: 6/5 7 MNWR (WS et al.); Hooded Merganser: 6/3 1 f. Lake Hortonia (WGE); 6/4 1 f. Babcock Preserve, Eden (WS et al.); 6/19 1 f. Marshfield (MJM); 7/28 1 f. Lemon Fair River, Shoreham (JSA,KMA); J/J numbers down South Slang (MCD,JID); Common Merganser: 6/26 8-10 Four Brothers Is. (JSA,KMA)

VULTURES AND HAWKS: Reports of 6 Goshawks, all from the central, mountainous region of the state, and of 2 Cooper's Hawks were about average. But a total of 4 Sharp-shinned Hawks represents a decline from 1981, perhaps as a result of a reduced summer coverage by birders. Sightings of Red-tailed Hawks were concentrated in the Champlain Valley and for the fourth year an albinistic individual was seen in Hinesburg. Sightings of both Red-shouldered and Broad-winged Hawks were limited to the Green Mountains. An adult Bald Eagle at Missisquoi NWR was uncommon though not unusual, as most of the previous mid-summer reports are of adults. All sightings of Northern Harrier came from Addison County. Five Osprey were found scattered across the northern tier from Missisquoi to Ferdinand. Metcalf suspects a single bird at Memphremagog on 6/26 may have been nesting. The Peregrine Falcon project continued in full swing; there were, however, no sightings away from the three hack sites. There were only 5 reports of kestrel all season, far fewer than expected.

Turkey Vulture: 6/30 10 Snake Mountain (JSA,KMA); 7/23 5 DCWMA (MCD,JID); 7/10 1 Marshfield (MFM); 7/29 4 Bellows Falls (MDC); all other reports from the Champlain Valley var. obs. Goshawk: 6/4 1 Richmond (WRB); 6/10 1 Jay Peak (WS et al.); 6/30 1 ad. m. Marshfield (MJM); 7/6 1 Woodstock (JMN); 7/10,11 1 Marshfield (MJM,MFM); Sharp-shinned Hawk: 6/10 2 Jay Peak (WS et al.); 6/24 1 South Slang (MCD,JID); 6/27 1 Marshfield (MJM); Cooper's Hawk: 6/24 1 South Slang (MCD,JID); 7/23 1 Duxbury (FAP); Red-tailed Hawk: 6/7 3 DCWMA (WS et al.); 6/9 nest with young Colchester (JJA); 6/10 nest with young Shelburne (JJA); J/J 4 max. Marshfield (MJM); J/J 2(1 albinistic) Hinesburg (WRB); Red-shouldered Hawk: 6/1 4(family group) Ripton (MCD,JID); 6/22 1 f. Groton (JJA); J/J 2-3

Marshfield (MJM); J/J 2+ prs. Winhall (WJN); Broad-winged Hawk: 7/8 1 ad., 2 yg. Reading (FMH); J/J 2+ prs. Winhall (WJN); also 1 or 2 reported from Northfield, Groton, Duxbury, Marshfield, Woodstock, and Clarendon (var. obs.); Bald Eagle: J/J 7 reports (1 ad.,1-2 imm.) MNWR (TM); 7/13,14 1 imm. Marshfield (MJM,BLR,MFM); 7/15 1 imm. Groton Lake (MFM); 7/27 1 imm. DCWMA (KMA,LMI); Northern Harrier: 6/4 1 Shoreham (ELW); 6/7 5-6(2 m.) DCWMA (WS et al.); 6/26 5 DCWMA (WHB); 7/24 3 DCWMA (JJA); Osprey: 6/23 1 MNWR (TM); 6/26 1 Lake Memphremagog (LNM); 7/25 2 Lyford Pond, Walden (JAM); 7/26 1 Ferdinand (MFM,RBU,BBU); Peregrine Falcon: Release site at Groton St. Forest (4 birds) (MJM et al.); American Kestrel: 6/23 1 ad.,2 imm. Woodstock (JMN); 7/6 recently fledged yg.(hereafter fl.) Charlotte (JJA); 7/12 fl. New Haven (JJA); 7/23 5 DCWMA (MCD,JID); J/J 1 pr. Winhall (WJN).

GROUSE THROUGH GALLINULES: Again there were no reports of either Spruce Grouse or Gray Partridge. Each has a very limited distribution in the state; the former is difficult to see and quite rare while the latter is found where few people bird, in the islands. Two very rare game species Bobwhite and Ring-necked Pheasant, neither of which does very well here in the winter, were each sighted once. The handful of reports of Virginia Rail came from expected localities in the central western fringe of the state. Sora was seen only once. Common Gallinule which seemed to be in particularly low numbers from 1978 to 1981, has effected a modest comeback with 9 reported at South Slang, the best showing for this species anywhere statewide since 1977.

Ruffed Grouse: 7/22 1 ad., 7 yg. Woodstock (JMN); 7/24 9 Brandon (WHB); "Population down" in Timmouth and Starksboro (GTL,WRB et al.); Bobwhite: 7/26 1 Bridgewater Corners (fide WGE); Ring-necked Pheasant: 7/27 1 Shoreham (ELW); Wild Turkey: 6/28 1 Timmouth (GTL); 7/23 1 ad., 3 yg. Snake Mt. Weybridge (JSA, KMA); Virginia Rail: 6/22 5(1 f.,4 yg.) WRM (ELW); 6/26 3(1 ad.,2 yg.) DCWMA (WHB); J/J ? South Slang (MCD,JID); Sora: 6/3 1 WRM (WJN); Common Gallinule: 6/9 1 DCWMA (ELW); 6/24, 7/13 9,5 South Slang, DCWMA (MCD,JID); 7/15 1 Colchester (GEB).

PLOVERS THROUGH PHALAROPES: The drawdown at Dead Creek, the first since 1974, attracted 19 species of "shorebirds" and numerous shorebird enthusiasts during July. Among the many highlights were first mid-summer records of WILLET, DUNLIN, WILSON'S PHALAROPE, and NORTHERN PHALAROPE. For Dunlin which can be found sometimes in good numbers in September, this summer's sighting represents the earliest by nearly a month. WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER has been reported only once previously in July, (7/27/78), so the sighting at Herrick's Cove on July 15 establishes a new early date for this species as well. For STILT SANDPIPER which is always rare in Vermont, this was the third record for summer. Among the more commonly occurring species, there were some extraordinary (for Vermont) numbers: Killdeer (114), Lesser Yellowlegs (185), Least Sandpiper (156), Short-billed Dowitcher (88), and Semipalmated Sandpiper (275).

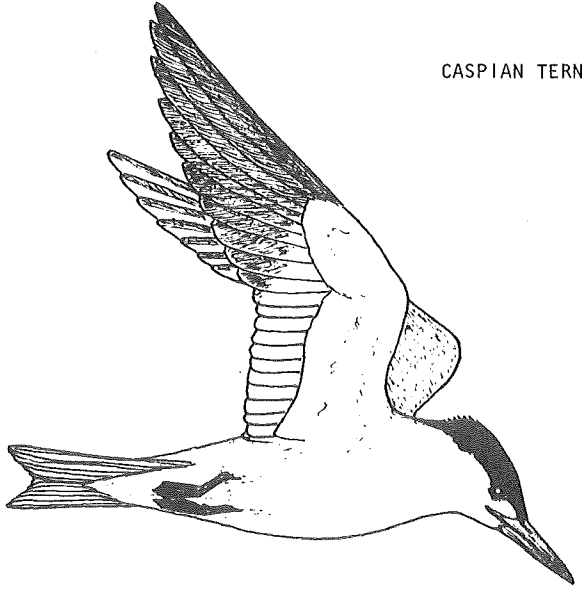
Semipalmated Plover: 7/23 12 DCWMA (MCD,JID); 7/25,31 1,1 DCWMA (WS); Killdeer: 6/7 3 DCWMA (WS et al.); 7/6 14+ S. Burlington (WRB); 7/25 114 DCWMA (LNM); 7/31 96 DCWMA (WS); American Woodcock: 6/1-4,8 1,2 Reading (FMH); 6/27 1 ("very scarce") Winhall (WJN); 7/23 1 DCWMA (MCD,JID); Common Snipe: 6/3,30 1,1 WRM (WJN); 6/9 10+ SBM (WS et al.); 7/2 1 Manchester (WJN); 7/23 12 DCWMA (WRB,GMS); 7/25 6 DCWMA (WS,WGE,NLM); Upland Sandpiper: 6/2,7/1 2,1 Shoreham (ELW); 6/7,9 4,5 DCWMA (WS,ELW); 6/12 2 ad.,2 imm. DCWMA (KD); 7/23 1 Panton (MCD,JID); 7/25 12 DCWMA (WS et al.); Cornwall-Weybridge (JSA,KMA); Spotted Sandpiper: 6/7 5 DCWMA (WS et al.); 7/22 17 West Haven (WHB); 7/25 12 DCWMA (LNM); 7/27 7 Shoreham (ELW);

7/31 4 DCWMA (WGE,NLM); Greater Yellowlegs: 7/23,25 14,12 DCWMA (WS,LNM); 7/31 3 DCWMA (WS,WGE,NLM); Lesser Yellowlegs: 7/15 2 HC (WJN); 7/23,25 124,185 DCWMA (WS,LNM); 7/27 50 DCWMA (WS); 7/30 71 DCWMA (LNM); 7/31 90 DCWMA (WS,WGE,NLM); Solitary Sandpiper: 7/23 4 DCWMA (WRB,QMS); 7/25 17 DCWMA (LNM); 7/27,30 9,17 DCWMA (WS); 7/31 9 DCWMA (WGE,NLM); WILLET: 7/23 1 DCWMA (MCD,JID); Pectoral Sandpiper: 7/23 5 DCWMA (MCD,JID); 7/25,30 4,5 DCWMA (LNM); 7/31 10 DCWMA (WS,WGE,NLM); WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: 7/15! 1 HC (WJN); 7/23 4 DCWMA (MCD,JID); Least Sandpiper: 7/15 4 HC (WJN); 7/23-30 max. 156! DCWMA (LNM et var. obs.); 7/31 82 DCWMA (WS,WGE,NLM); DUNLIN: 7/23! 1 DCWMA (MCD,JID); STILT SANDPIPER: 7/25,27 1,1 DCWMA (WGE,NLM,WS); Short-billed Dowitcher: 7/15 1 HC (WJN); 7/25,30 88,9 DCWMA (LNM); Dowitcher sp.: 6/10 10(late) Bonoseen (EE); Semipalmated Sandpiper: 7/23 275 DCWMA (MCD,JID); 7/25 148 DCWMA (WS); 7/30 9 DCWMA (LNM); 7/31 25 DCWMA (WS,WGE,NLM); WILSON'S PHALAROPE: 7/25,30 1,1 DCWMA (WGE,NLM,LNM); NORTHERN PHALAROPE: 7/31 1 DCWMA (WS).

now Records

central, mountainous section, and as far as Missisquoi NWR in the Champlain Valley. The less common Yellow-billed Cuckoo was found only in three localities all in the western fringe from the southern Champlain Valley southward. BARN OWLS with two young were present in New Haven thus constituting only the second nesting reported to the Records. The only Screech Owl was seen in Groton State Forest, an unexpected locality for this species. There was but a single report of Whip-poor-will. One observer saw perhaps as many as 21 Belted Kingfishers along the Poultney River. If true, this would be a single-day high for the Records.

Mourning Dove: 6/8 30(max.count) Shoreham (ELW); Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 6/18 1 Tirmouth (GTL); 6/22 1 Ira (ELW); reg. 2-3 Bridport (JSA,KMA); Black-billed Cuckoo: 6/1 4 Ripton (MCD,JID); 6/2-7/24 16 birds in 11 localities statewide (var. obs.); BARN OWL: 7/12,24 2 ad.,2 imm. New Haven (JJA et al.); Screech Owl: 6/17 1 Groton State Forest (JJA); Great Horned Owl: 7/4 2 imm. Shelburne (JJA); 7/17,30 1 Shoreham (ELW); J/J 1 Weybridge (JSA,KMA); J/J 1 Albany (TP); Barred Owl: 6/3,7/25 1 Winhall (WJN); 6/11,18 1 Reading (FMH); 6/17 1 Groton State Forest (JJA); 6/17-7/31 max. 3 Marshfield (MJM); 6/27,7/22 1,2 Tirmouth (GTL); Whip-poor-will: 7/15 1 Saxtons River (MEC); Common Nighthawk: 6/12 3 Rutland (CJF); 6/16 2 S. Burlington (MCD,JID); 7/1 1 Woodstock (JEH,BMH); mid-July 1 Burlington (JSA,KMA); Chimney Swift: 6/1 10+ Northfield (WHB); J/J 10-15 Woodstock (JMN); July 30+ Middlebury (JSA,KMA); Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 6/8 1 Ferdinand (WS et al.); 7/10 6+(3 m.,3 f.) N. Ferrisburg (MCD,JID); J/J 5 Barnard (JNF); J-J "scarce" Winhall (WJN); 7/31 4 Shoreham (ELW); Belted Kingfisher: 7/13 4 Dead Creek (MCD,JID); 7/22 max. 2! Poultney River (WHB).



CASPIAN TERN

GULLS AND TERNS: One of the outstanding finds of the season was a pair of CASPIAN TERNS at Dead Creek. This represents only the second sighting for the "Records", the other being in 1976. Herring Gulls were conspicuous by their absence. An adult and immature Bonaparte's Gull at Dead Creek were unusual away from the lake. Black Terns did well at both Dead Creek and South Bay (Memphremagog).

Great Black-backed Gull: 7/26 2 Four Brothers (JSA, KMA); Ring-billed Gull: 6/17 1 Northfield (WHB); 6/27 1 Marshfield Pond (MEM); 7/1 50 MNWR (ELW); Bonaparte's Gull: Summer 1 L. Memphremagog (STH); 7/29 1 imm. HC (WJN); 7/30 1 ad.,1 imm. DCWMA (LNM,WS); 7/30 2 ad. Lake Champlain (JRA); Common Tern: 6/2,18 1 pr. Colchester (GEB,MCD,JID); 7/15 5 ad. Colchester (GEB); Black Tern: 6/7 5+ DCWMA (WS et al.); 6/9 15-20 SBM (WS et al.); 6/24 12 South Slang (MCD,JID); 6/26 21 DCWMA (WHB); 6/30,7/1 2,4 MNWR (ELW); 7/4 4 ad.,1 juv. Colchester (GEB); 7/13 26 DCWMA (MCD,JID); 7/15 2 ad.,5 juv. Colchester (GEB); 7/30 several mouth of Otter Creek (JRA); CASPIAN TERN: 7/4 2 ad. DCWMA (DLC,LM).

DOVE THROUGH KINGFISHER: Black-billed Cuckoo was widely reported as far north as Babcock Preserve (Eden) in the

WOODPECKERS AND FLYCATCHERS: Two melanistic Common Flickers in Norwich were a curiosity. The presence of one was unusual; two represents a statistical oddity. Of note were two sightings of the Red-headed Woodpecker, rare in Vermont, along Otter Creek in Weybridge; the only place in the state where this species can be found more or less regularly each summer. There were no reports of either three-toed Woodpecker. Norse found Eastern Phoebe numbers to be "very poor" in Winhall but two observers in the Champlain Valley found them "very common" and "common". Kibbe (Am. Birds 36:6) reported a region-wide decline in numbers this year perhaps as a result of spring snow storms. A Willow Flycatcher in Northfield was unusual for that part of the state.

Common Flicker: 6/15,30 1,2 melanistic Norwich (MEM,RAM); 6/24 6 South Slang (MCD,JID); 7/14 fl. Brownsville (JEH,BMH); 7/17 3 fl. N. Westminster (MEC); 7/24 6 Reading (FMH); 7/31 7(5 imm.) Woodstock (JMN); Pileated Woodpecker: 6/4 3 Duxbury (FAP); 7/14 fl. Winhall (WJN); 15 additional sightings statewide to as far north as Albany. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER: J/J seen twice Weybridge (fide JSA). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 6/11 5-7 Green River Reservoir (WS et al.); 7/24 12(4 nests) Reading (FMH); J/J 8-10/day Winhall (WJN); 23 additional birds in 6 localities. Hairy Woodpecker: 6/23 fl. Woodstock (JMN); 7/17 7 Reading (FMH). Downy Woodpecker: 6/20 fl. Woodstock (JMN); 7/14 2-3 fl. N. Westminster (MEC); 7/24 12 Reading (FMH). Eastern Kingbird: 6/7 15 DCWMA (WS et al.); 7/10 8 W. Chester (WJN); 7/11 3 fl. Woodstock (JMN); 7/31 10 Shoreham (ELW). Great Crested Flycatcher: 6/5 6 Missisquoi (WS et al.); 6/22 6(2 ad.,4 juv.) Shoreham (ELW). Eastern Phoebe: 6/26 3 Duxbury (FAP); 7/10 3 Shoreham (ELW); very poor Winhall (WJN); very common Weybridge-Bridport (JSA); common Shoreham (ELW). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 6/2,20 1 Winhall (WJN); 6/8 7 Brunswick, Ferdinand (WS et al.); 6/10 2 Jay Peak (WS et al.); 7/18 1 Lye Brook (WJN); 1 banded Marshfield Pond (MEM). Willow Flycatcher: 6/3 1 WRM (WJN); 6/7,9 2 DCWMA (WS et al.,ELW); 6/21 1 Northfield (WHB); 4 additional sightings in 4 localities.

Alder Flycatcher: 6/3 4 WRM (WJN); 7 additional sightings in 6 localities. Least Flycatcher: 6/4 max. 15 m. Babcock Preserve (Eden) (WS et al.); 6/5 max. 10 m. MNWR (WS et al.); 6/11 max. 10 m. Green River Res. (WS et al.) 6/21 3 fl. Woodstock (JMN); 10 banded Marshfield (MFM). Eastern Wood Pewee: 6/4 5 Babcock Preserve (WS et al.); 6/5 6 MNWR (WS et al.); 6/22 3 Northfield (WHB); 6/24 4 South Slang (MCD,JID); 7/4 5 Reading (FMH); 7/14 4 Shoreham (ELW). Olive-sided Flycatcher: 6/1 1,1 Reading, Ripton (FMH,MCD,JID); 7/25 1 Winhall (WJN); 6/2-7/28 10+ in 6 localities, all northern Vermont.

HORNED LARK THROUGH BROWN CREEPER: Horned Lark made an exclusive appearance in Addison County this summer. The only two Gray Jays reported were, not surprisingly, found in Ferdinand in the Northeast Kingdom. Common Ravens were widely reported including 8 on Camels Hump, July 6. Three Boreal Chickadees in Ferdinand was perhaps a bit low. There were single Tufted Titmouse in Starksboro and Reading and 3 fledged in N. Westminster. Thirteen Red-breasted Nuthatches in Reading was very good, overshadowing other sightings in the northern half of the state.

Horned Lark: 6/7,26 4,3 DCWMA (WS et al.,WHB); 7/27 10 DCWMA (WS); weekly 4-5 Bridport (JSA,KMA). Tree Swallow: 6/21 3 fl. Woodstock (JMN); 7/15,29 200 Shoreham, HC (ELW,WJN). Bank Swallow: 6/9,7/15 30,50 HC (WJN); 6/9 40+ Newport (WS et al.); 6/15 15 pr. Mt. Philo("first time") (MCD,JID); 6/3 1 pr. Woodstock (JMN). Rough-winged Swallow: 6/9 2 HC (WJN); 7/7 1 Dorset (WJN); 7/29 30 Middlebury (ELW). Barn Swallow: 7/10 40 Chester (WJN); July nest/6 eggs S. Burlington (WRB). Cliff Swallow: 6/3,30 25,30 Rutland (WJN); 6/6 max. 10 New Haven (KD); 6/10 6 E. Charlotte (MCD,JID). Purple Martin: 6/5 2 MNWR (WS et al.); 6/7,9 5,4 DCWMA (WS et al.,ELW). GRAY JAY: 6/8 2 Ferdinand (WS et al.). Blue Jay: 6/8 7 Shoreham (ELW); 6/13 5 fl. Reading (FMH); 6/26 14 Duxbury (FAP). Common Raven: 6/1 1 Ripton (MCD,JID); 6/8 5 Ferdinand (WS et al.); 7/6 8 Camel's Hump (JSA,KMA); J/J 6 Walden (JAM); 12 additional sightings in 7 localities in Green Mts. Common Crow: daily 10 Albany (TP). Black-capped Chickadee: 6/26 8("low") Duxbury (FAP); 7/17 48 Reading (FMH). BOREAL CHICKADEE: 6/8 3 Ferdinand (WS et al.); TUFTED TITMOUSE: 6/26 1 S. Starksboro (WHB); 7/17 1 Reading (FMH); 7/19 3 fl. N. Westminster (MEC). White-breasted Nuthatch: 6/10 4(1 ad.,3 imm.) Shoreham (ELW); 7/17 14 Reading (FMH). Red-breasted Nuthatch: 6/1 1 Ferrisburg (MCD,JID); 7/17 13 Reading (FMH); J/J 4 Albany (TP); 6/4-26 4 sightings in 4 localities in northern Vermont, Low at Ferdinand. Brown Creeper: J/J 2 Woodstock (JMN); 6/10 1 Northfield (WHB); 6/14,20 6(2 ad.,4 imm.) Reading (FMH); 6/26 2 Duxbury (FAP); (ONLY reports! Numbers down?)

WRENS THROUGH SHRIKE: Curiously there were more reports of Long-billed Marsh and Winter Wrens than House Wrens. Often with species which are quite common such as the House Wren, the number of reports is inversely proportional to the actual population. A total of 7 Mockingbirds was about average with all but one of the sightings from the western fringe of the state. A Gray Catbird banded in S. Londonderry July 31, 1977 was recovered in Woodstock on June 15. There were 9 reports of Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher including one of 10 birds at Missisquoi and one of a single bird at Winhall, the only locality away from the Champlain Valley. The single report of Golden-crowned Kinglet represents a reduction from Atlas years, undoubtedly due to less intensive coverage in suitable habitat. The LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE continues to be difficult to find in Vermont; the one bird was found at Dead Creek, the only place left in the state where one has a reasonable chance of finding it.

House Wren: 6/1 1 Northfield (WHB); 8 additional reports (max. of 2 birds) in 6 localities. Winter

Wren: 6/4 2 Babcock Preserve (WS et al.); 7/17 14 Reading (FMH); 10 additional reports (33 birds) in 8 localities. Long-billed Marsh Wren: 6/3 2 WRM (WJN); 6/9 30 DCWMA (ELW); 6/24 32 South Slang (1 mile stretch) (MCD,JID); 6 additional reports including one from Barre Res. (a first there) on 6/14 (MFM). NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD: 6/1 1 Woodstock (WRC); 6/3 1 Rutland Airport (WJN); 6/30 3 Ferrisburg (MCD,JID); 7/24 2 Swanton (JCC). Gray Catbird: 6/9 12 HC (WJN); 6/18 3-4 fl. N. Westminster (MEC); 7/10 3 fl. Woodstock (JMN); 7/17 6 Shoreham (ELW). Brown Thrasher: J/J 3-4 occas. Snake Mt. (JSA,KMA); widely reported elsewhere, max. 2 per locality. American Robin: 6/2 fully fledged Woodstock (JMN); 7/17 25 Reading (FMH); widely, commonly reported elsewhere. Wood Thrush: J/J 8/day Winhall (WJN); J/J 10+ Woodstock (JMN); 7/8 9 Reading (FMH). Hermit Thrush: 6/17 nest Woodstock (JMN); 7/24 8 Reading (FMH); J/J 5/day Winhall (WJN). Swainson's Thrush: 6/1 1 Ripton (MCD,JID); 6/4 1 Babcock Preserve (WS et al.); 6/8 2 Ferdinand (WS et al.); 6/10 4 Jay Peak (WS et al.); 6/11 1 Green River Res. (WS et al.); 7/10 10 Lye Brook (WJN). Gray-cheeked Thrush: summer 1 Mt. Belvidere (STH); 6/10 3 Jay Peak (WS et al.); 7/18 2 Lye Brook (WJN); only reports! Veery: 6/1 14 Reading (FMH); 6/16 fl. Woodstock (JMN); J/J 10/day Winhall (WJN). Eastern Bluebird: 6/6 4 fl. Brownsville (JEH,BMH); plus 20 additional reports, including 12 fully documented Bluebird Nesting Reports. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 6/2 3 Lewis Creek (MCD,JID); 6/3 2, nest with eggs, Bomoseen (WGE); 6/5 10 MNWR (WS et al.); 6/25 1 Winhall (WJN); 6/18-7/21 5 additional sightings (12 birds) in 4 localities). Golden-crowned Kinglet: 6/8 2 Ferdinand (WS et al.); Only sighting! Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 6/4 1 Babcock Preserve (WS et al.); 6/8 2+ Ferdinand (WS et al.); 6/10 1 Jay Peak (WS et al.). Cedar Waxwing: 6/26 13 Duxbury (FAP); 7/7 20 E. Dorset (WJN); 7/30 fl. Woodstock (JMN). LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE: 7/30 1 DCWMA (WS,LMN).

VIREOS AND WARBLERS: There were no reports this year for Philadelphia Vireo; otherwise vireos seemed to do pretty well with the exception of one hapless pair in Shoreham that raised two cowbird young. The lack of Philadelphia Vireo sightings is likely due to the lack of coverage in suitable habitat which is concentrated in the relatively little-birded northern third of the state. There were the usual few sightings of the difficult and less common species including Blue-winged and Golden-winged, Tennessee, Cape May, and Pine Warblers. Two more common species, Blackpoll and Northern Parula were sighted only once and twice respectively. Mourning Warbler, which is difficult to find at times was reported in good numbers. Finally, Vermont's only know colony of Cerulean Warblers continues to nest at Sand Bar WMA.

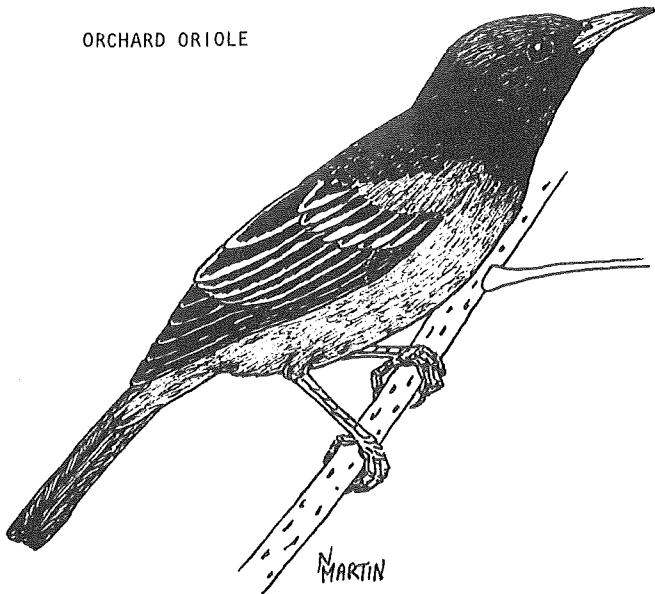
Yellow-throated Vireo: 6/9,7/15 1 HC (WJN); 9 additional sightings in 6 scattered locations. Solitary Vireo: 6/1,7/31 6,5 Reading (FMH); 7/18 10 Lye Brook (WJN). Red-eyed Vireo: 6/4 15 Babcock Preserve (WS et al.); 6/26 14 Duxbury (FAP); 7/24 15 Reading (FMH). Warbling Vireo: 6/3 4 WRM (WJN); 6/7 5 DCWMA (WS et al.); 6/9 5 Saxtons River (WJN); 6/24 4 South Slang (MCD,JID). Black and White Warbler: 6/1 8 Reading (FMH); J/J 6 Woodstock (JMN); J/J 3 Albany (TP). Blue-winged Warbler: 6/1 1 Ripton (MCD,JID); 6/9 1 m. Windham (WJN). Golden-winged Warbler: 6/12,15 1 m. (JJA); 7/20,27 2 Bridport (JSA,KMA). Brewster's Warbler: 6/14 1 (JJA). Tennessee Warbler: July 1 Albany (TP); 3 banded Marshfield (MFM). Nashville Warbler: 6/1,7/8 1 Reading (FMH); 6/8 10 Ferdinand (WS et al.); J/J 3/day Winhall (WJN); 5 additional birds at 5 locations. Northern Parula: 6/8 1 Ferdinand (WS et al.); 6/21 1 Winhall (WJN); only sightings! Yellow Warbler: 6/5 25 Missisquoi (WS et al.); 6/24 14 South Slang (MCD,JID); 6/30 10, WRM (WJN). Magnolia Warbler: 6/1,7/24 3,4 Reading (FMH); 6/8 max. 10 Ferdinand (WS et al.); J/J 6/day Winhall (WJN). Cape May Warbler: 6/8 2 Ferdinand (WS et al.). Black-throated Blue Warbler: 6/1 12 Reading

(FHM); 6/10 5-10 Jay Peak (WS et al.); 6/26 5 Duxbury (FAP). Yellow-rumped Warbler: 6/8 5-10 Ferdinand (WS et al.); 6/10 max. 10 Jay Peak (WS et al.); 7/24 6 Reading (FMH). Black-throated Green Warbler: 6/1 3 Ripton (MCD,JID); 7 additional sightings in 5 locations. CERULEAN WARBLER: 6/18 2 Sand Bar WMA (MCD, JID). Blackburnian Warbler: 6/1 13 Reading (FMH); 6/8 5-10 Ferdinand (WS et al.); 6/26 5 Duxbury (FAP). Chestnut-sided Warbler: 6/1,17 6,6 Reading (FMH); 6/1 8 Ripton (MCD,JID); 6/17 fl. Woodstock (JMN); 6/26 6("low") Duxbury (FAP); 7/31 5 Reading (FMH); J/J 10/day Winhall (WJN). Blackpoll Warbler: 6/10 5 Jay Peak (WS et al.) Only report! Mourning Warbler: 6/1 6 Reading (FMH); 6/1,7/7 1,1 Winhall (WJN); 6/4 1 Babcock Preserve (WS et al.); 6/8 5 Ferdinand (WS et al.); 6/11 4 Green River Res. (WS et al.); 6/26 7 Duxbury (FAP); 6/27 1 Hartford (GFE). Common Yellowthroat: 6/4 10 Babcock Preserve (WS et al.); 6/5 10+ MNWR (WS et al.); commonly and widely reported elsewhere. Louisiana Waterthrush: 6/3 2 Bomoseen (WGE); 6/4 1 Babcock Preserve (WS et al.). Northern Waterthrush: 6/1 3 Ripton (MCD,JID); 6/4 5 Babcock Preserve (WS et al.); 6/15 1 S. Londonderry (WJN); 6/18 1 Sand Bar (MCD,JID); J/J 1 Reading (FMH); 8 banded Marshfield (MFM). Ovenbird: 6/1 3! Reading (FMH); commonly reported elsewhere. Pine Warbler: 6/3 1 Bomoseen (WGE); 6/26 1 S. Burlington (ELW); 6/27 1 Hartford (GFE); 7/7,25,26 3 Albany (TP). Canada Warbler: 6/4 2,5 Woodstock, Babcock (JMN,WS et al.); 6/8 3 Ferdinand (WS et al.); 6/10 1 Jay Peak (WS et al.); 6/11 3 Green River Res. (WS et al.); 7/17 10 Reading (FMH); J/J 3/day Winhall (WJN). American Redstart: 6/1 16 Reading (FMH); 6/4 10 HC (WJN); 6/5 15 MNWR (WS et al.); 6/11 10+ Green River Res. (WS et al.).

BOBOLINK THROUGH SCARLET TANAGER: What will go down as the best bird of the season has to be an adult YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD which apparently was photographed at a feeder in Barre in June. This would be most remarkable for the time of year; a vagrant such as this might occur rarely in spring or fall, but to occur in summer is extraordinary in the least. Two nesting ORCHARD ORIOLES were found, one on an island on Lake Champlain (2nd year male & mate) and one at the D.A.R. Mansion at Chimney Point. This is the first known nesting since 1977 and only the second and third on record.

Bobolink: 7/7 12 W. Londonderry (WJN); commonly and

ORCHARD ORIOLE



widely reported. YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: June 1 ad. m. Barre (fide FAP). Red-winged Blackbird: 6/30 50 WRM (WJN); 7/30 500 Shoreham (ELW). Eastern Meadowlark: 6/7,26 5,9 DCWMA (WS et al.,WHB); surprisingly few reports! ORCHARD ORIOLE: 6/27 1 pr.(2nd yr. m.) with nest Lake Champlain Island (SBL,JDL,WH); adult feeding young, Addison, 6/26 (AJS); Northern Oriole: 6/8 6 Shoreham (ELW); 6/18 fl. Woodstock (JMN); 6/24 20 South Slang (MCD,JID). Rusty Blackbird: 6/14,27 4,9* Marshfield (MJM); 7/1 1 Ripton (JSA,KMA); 7/2 2 MNWR (ELW); *This is the highest number for this species ever reported to the summer Records. Common Grackle: 7/20 75 Albany (TP). Brown-headed Cowbird: J/J 10/day max. Winhall (WJN). Scarlet Tanager: 6/4 1 (orange variant) Ferrisburg (MCD,JID); 6/18 2 fl. Woodstock (JMN); 7/18 12 Lye Brook (WJN).

CARDINAL THROUGH SPARROWS: A word of caution: the House Finch is rapidly expanding its range in Vermont (and elsewhere). It is now the common Carpodacus in summer in many areas, especially below 1000 feet elevation. Care should be taken to properly identify finches in summer, especially those which bring young to feeders. In the Champlain Valley, Purple Finch in summer would be the exception, House Finch the rule. I have seen it now as far north as Johnson, and I suspect it's just a matter of time before it becomes established around Newport (if it hasn't already).

Cardinal: 6/8 3 Shoreham (ELW); 7/5 4 fl. Woodstock (JMN); ? 4 Albany village (TP); (Latter record very good for so far north). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 6/4 10 m. Babcock Preserve (WS et al.); 6/21 fl. Woodstock (JMN); 18 banded Marshfield (MFM); commonly and widely reported. Indigo Bunting: 6/4 1 Starksboro (WRB); 6/14 1st m. Woodstock (late) (JMN); 7/2 3 Castleton (ELW); 7/14 3 Winhall (WJN). Evening Grosbeak: 6/8 3 Ferdinand (WS et al.); 6/11 1 Babcock (WS et al.); ? 25 Marshfield Pond (MFM); 15 banded Marshfield Pond (MFM). Purple Finch: 6/1 14 Ripton (MCD,JID); 7/17 2 juv. Woodstock (JMN); J/J 10/day Winhall (WJN). House Finch: 6/2 5 Manchester (WJN); 6/17 2 Shelburne (ELW); 6/18 1 ad.,3 FL Northfield (WHB); 6/21 1 Londonderry (WJN); 7/7 1 Dorset (WJN); 7/10 1 Reading (WJN); 7/28 juv. Fairfax (PAT); 6 Middlebury (JSA,KMA); J/J 11(3 m.,2 f.,6 imm.) Weybridge (MBN). Pine Siskin: J/J 3 Albany (TP); 6/18 2 Northfield (WHB). American Goldfinch: 6/20 9 Timmouth (GTL); 7/1 10 Woodstock (JMN); July 10+ Bridport (JSA,KMA). Rufous-sided Towhee: 6/1-7/31 3-4 pr. Timmouth (GTL); 6/3,7/18 1,1 Winhall (WJN); 6/8 1 Ferdinand (WS et al.); 6/16 2(feeding young) Northfield (WHB); 7/10 3 Chester (WJN); 7/11,24 1,1 Woodstock, Groton (MBN). Savannah Sparrow: 6/7 6 DCWMA (WS et al.); 6/10,21 1,2 Shoreham (ELW); 6/25 8-10 Addison, DCWMA (JSA, KMA); (Surely, there are others in Vermont!?). GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: 6/7 5 DCWMA (WS et al.) A good number for this area. Vesper Sparrow: 6/3 1 Rutland Airport (WJN); 6/7,24 1,1 Shoreham (ELW); 6/9 1 Saxtons River (WJN); 6/26 4 DCWMA (WHB); reg. 2 Addison (JSA,KMA); Dark-eyed Junco: 6/21 6 Northfield (WHB); 6/26 9 Duxbury (FAP); 7/17 9 Reading (FMH). Chipping Sparrow: 6/23 fl. Woodstock (JMN); 7/10 8 Chester (WJN); 7/24 7 Reading (FHM). Field Sparrow: 6/3 1 Northfield (WHB); 6/9 3 Saxtons River (WJN); 6/22 2 Ira (ELW); 7/10 1 Reading (WJN); J/J 3 pr. Timmouth (GTL); Only Records! White-throated Sparrow: 6/8 15+ Ferdinand (WS et al.); 6/10 15+ Jay Peak (WS et al.); 6/24 4 South Slang (unusual here) (MCD,JID); 7/17 16 Reading (FMH); July 10-15 Mt. Mansfield (JSA,KMA); J/J 15/day max. Winhall (WJN). LINCOLN'S SPARROW: 7/3 1 Albany (TP); 7/9 1 Marshfield (MFM); 7/18 1 Lye Brook (WJN). Swamp Sparrow: 6/2 1 Gale Meadows (WJN); 6/4 1 Babcock Preserve (WS et al.); 6/7 1 (low) Dead Creek (WS et al.); 6/9 3 South Bay Marshes (WS et al.); 6/11 1 Green River Res. (WS et al.); 6/30 5 WRM (WJN); 7/18 1 Winhall (WJN). Song Sparrow: 7/24 14 Reading (FMH); 7/31 10 Shoreham (ELW); J/J 10 prs. Woodstock (JMN); J/J 10/day max. Winhall (WJN).

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ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE TEXT

ad. - adult
 DCWMA - Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area
 f. - female
 fl. - fledgling
 HC - Herrick's Cove
 inm. - immature
 J/J - June & July
 juv. - juvenile
 m. - male
 MNWR - Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge
 pr. - pair
 Res. - Reservoir
 SBM - South Bay Marshes
 WRM - West Rutland Marsh
 yg. - young

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.

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