



Records of Vermont Birds

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FALL MIGRATION 1986

1 August - 30 November

WALTER G. ELLISON, Seasonal Editor

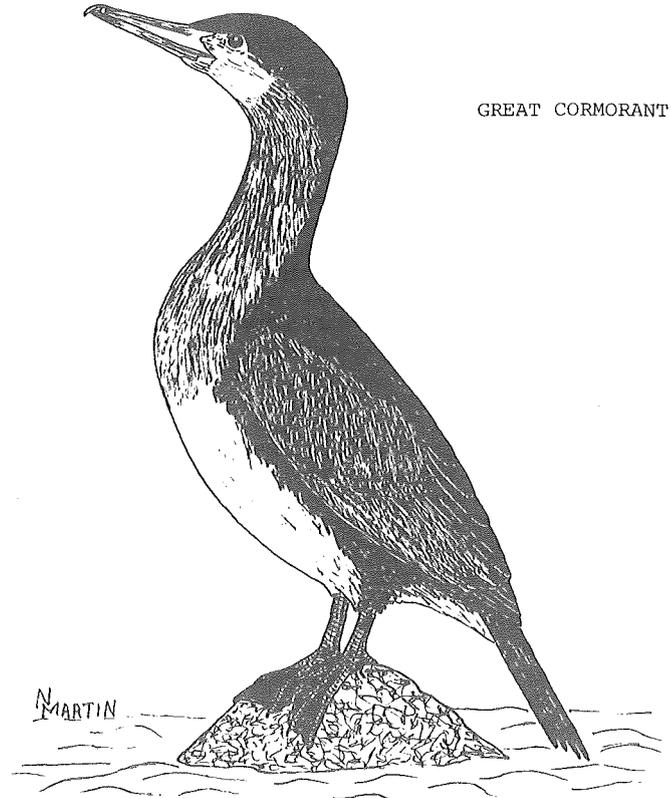
Autumn 1986, as with most seasons, has been hard to categorize. Stepping back from the raw data of a season characterized by ever improving coverage of the state's birds by its birders, it seems that Autumn 1986 was quite normal. Normal is a very slippery term when used to describe anything, including an avifauna in flux that varies more between seasons than between years. In terms of recent trends, the migration of most species occurred on schedule and at population levels which appear comparable to those of recent years. Of course individual bird species varied around this theme and I shall attempt to comment upon some of these variations in subsequent paragraphs. The total of 242 species (excluding escaped and deliberately released species) was second only to last autumn's (1985) superlative 248.

The weather of the season continued a trend which started during late spring when summer submerged into a cool, rainy regime that led to its purported early demise, although reports of its death were greatly exaggerated. The autumn of 1986 was largely cooler than average, cloudy and wet.

August was wet with heavy thunderstorms early and strong cold fronts at its close. The cold fronts led to a cooler than normal month whose temperatures were otherwise average. Songbird migration picked up at mid-month with a good flight on the 16th accompanying rain and cool weather. The cold fronts of 24 Aug. and 27-30 Aug. pushed many more migrants through the state with the best reported dates being 25, 28, and 30 Aug.

September weather varied considerably from wet in the northwest to dry in the southeast. A cold front on 5-6 Sept. cleared out by the 8th leading to a good hawk flight on the latter date. A cold front on 12 Sept. produced a good day of banding at Bragdon Nature Preserve, VINS, Woodstock (hereafter BNP) and clearing on 13 Sept. induced an excellent hawk flight. Frost became general over much of Vermont after a cold front passage 15-16 Sept. Good numbers of many migrants were recorded late in the month after the establishment of a stationary front over New England on 19 Sept. Warm, wet weather on 28 and 29 Sept. seemed especially conducive to migrants.

The stationary system of late September continued to influence Vermont weather through 4 Oct. For this reason, good numbers of migrants continued to be reported throughout this period. When this system finally cleared on 5 Oct. Canada Geese staged their first large flight of the season. A cold front arrived on 6 Oct. which led to the arrival of frost virtually everywhere in Vermont on the morning of the 7th. Another cold front arriving on the 9th led to a very brisk 10 Oct. This cold front produced a good sparrow flight. Another cold front on 13 Oct. correlated with a good banding total at BNP. Weather associated with this front continued through the 16th with clearing on 17 Oct. The cool, clear, dry weather of the 17th and 18th produced an excellent hawk, goose, crow, and robin flight, particularly in the Champlain Valley.



GREAT CORMORANT

Relatively cool and cloudy weather were typical of the rest of the month with cold fronts on 21 and 23 Oct., a low pressure system 26-27 Oct., and another cold front 29-30 Oct.

November was cold and wet featuring much heavier than average snowfall. Snowfall occurred on the 5th, 11th, 19th, and 21st with an averaged statewide total of 14.6 inches. Single digit temperatures were widely recorded on 13 and 14 Nov. and on 20 Nov. Observations provided no clear pattern of migratory events during the month.

The wet weather in northwestern Vermont literally damped out the autumn wader (shorebird) flight as numbers of most species were well down. The total of 26 species reported, however, was strong and included many rare species such as WILLET, HUDSONIAN GODWIT, PURPLE SANDPIPER, and especially, RED PHALAROPE, 6 of which were reported. Good coverage of Lake Champlain produced excellent numbers of loons, grebes, and bay ducks. Not related entirely to coverage were the unprecedented numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls seen on the Lake. Also unprecedented and linked to the numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls was the large (up to 16) total of LITTLE GULLS reported. A dividend of boat coverage of Lake Champlain was a briefly observed NORTHERN GANNET on 7 Nov. Large numbers of Common Terns were observed at Alburg and St. Albans Bay. The numbers clearly exceed the nesting population on Lake Champlain, strongly suggesting staging by birds from the Great Lakes and/or St. Lawrence River. Two GREAT CORMORANTTM were reported in eastern Vermont late in the season, observers should exercise care in identifying late autumn and early winter cormorants as this species may sometimes be present.

Seasonal trends among most land birds were unremarkable. It was not surprising that Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon were reported at record levels considering vigorous management efforts on their behalf. Late autumn reports of GOLDEN EAGLES from western Vermont continue, with three in 1986. A great increase in cuckoo reports indicates a resurgence of these nomadic birds dependent upon caterpillar outbreaks. Some reports of boreal irruptive species presaged invasions; this was true of Northern Shrike which had its best autumn since 1978, Common Redpoll, and Snowy Owl (at least three reported). Numbers of Rough-legged Hawks were unremarkable which seems surprising as this hawk would appear to depend upon a similar food resource as the Snowy Owl. Thirty-one warbler species were reported, a record for the Autumn Records of Vermont Birds (hereafter RVB). All of the rare but regular species were detected including Yellow-breasted Chat and Cerulean Warbler. Warblers departed on schedule or slightly early; most did not dally beyond the last week of September.

Miscellaneous species which were reported in above average numbers included Great Egret, Lincoln's Sparrow, and Snow Bunting. Poor numbers were reported of "spotted" thrushes (except Hermit Thrush), Blackpoll Warbler, and Rusty Blackbird. For the first time in many years no American Coots were reported, and Gray Jay was overlooked.

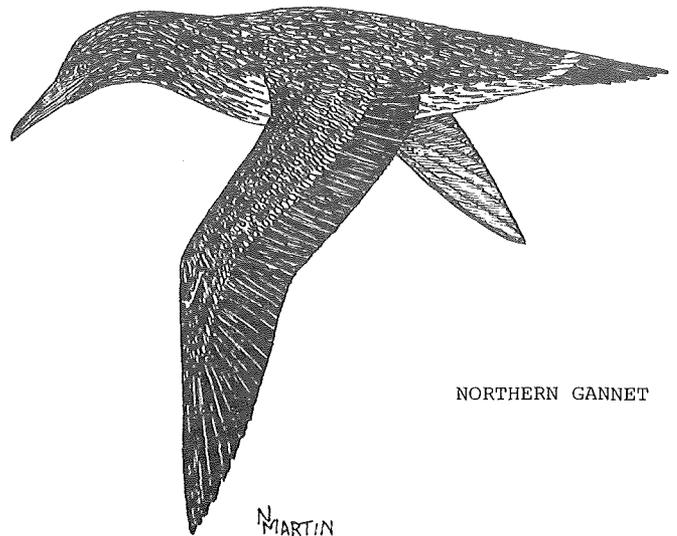
Many rare species were reported but very few were unprecedented or unusual. Exceptions were a STELLER'S JAY report from Topsham accompanied by careful details, a BREWER'S BLACKBIRD which arrived at South Burlington late in the season which was recorded on the Burlington Christmas Bird Count, and an eclipse drake COMMON EIDER was reported well out of the expected season at Maidstone Lake during August.

Since identifying and reporting rarities is one of the principal interests of birders it seems germane to express a few thoughts on the analysis of rare birds by observers. An example of a classic problem is the adoption of an identification of a "more common" or "more likely" species when an apparently scarcer similar species may be possible. A Glossy Ibis reported during October serves to illustrate the principle as it seems obvious that White-faced Ibis was not considered as an alternative. This western species cannot be ruled out this easily at such a date; a better identification of such birds would often be ibis (sp.), since immature and basic-plumaged birds are virtually inseparable in the field. While an observer must keep an open mind about rare species one must not be beguiled by the attractive and erroneous belief that any rare bird is possible. Extreme examples of impossible natural occurrence include ratites, penguins, extinct species, and sedentary tropical birds to name only a few obvious ones. Here is a checklist of things to consider when observing a potentially rare bird or supporting a bird identified as a rarity: Where is its normal range? What is its status in nearby states and provinces? How rare is it in its native range? How migratory is it? Where does it migrate to and by what routes? (consider the bird might move in the opposite direction to its normal route) What is its relationship to man (e.g. often kept as a cagebird)? What habitat does it prefer? And at what dates is it likely to occur here? Answering these questions often clarifies the status of a rare bird and may eliminate some alternatives (e.g. forget penguins--think alcid). To give an example from this season, the Steller's Jay was almost certainly identified accurately but one authority has suggested that its occurrence may have been human assisted (DeBenedictus, 1987. "Changing Seasons", American Birds 41:45). This is because there is virtually no precedent of occurrence for this bird in eastern North America, due to its lack of strongly

migratory behavior. While in pursuit of that next "good bird" remember to be cautious and to think clearly before a cloud of over-zealous excitement fogs good judgement. Remember, in the study of nature and the appreciation of beauty virtually every bird is a good bird. It has been another fascinating year and I hope to see many of you in the field ere long.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

A very good total of 9 Red-throated Loons was reported, 1 on 9/16 at L. Carmi, Franklin (PJM) was exceptionally early; others reported included 1 at L. Carmi on 10/20 (PJM), 1 at Chimney Pt. from 10/25-11/28; this bird was joined by another on the latter date (WGE,NLM,RBL,et al.), 1 off Colchester Pt. on 10/25 (WGE,NLM,RBL), 1 at Swanton on 10/26 (RBL), 1 at Burlington on 11/7 (WGE,NLM,RBL,CCR), 1 on 11/20 at Rockingham (WGE), and 1 on 11/23 at W. Addison (WGE, NLM). Common Loons were observed throughout the season in excellent numbers; about 560 were reported including high counts of 129 at Grand Isle on 10/7 (RBL), and 247 in the Champlain Islands (138 at Butler I. and 68 off Swanton) on 10/26 (RBL). Up to 25 Pied-billed Grebes were estimated at Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge (MNWR hereafter) (JBG) and 35 others were reported including a maximum of 7 on 10/26 on L. Bomoseen (WGE,NLM,JPM), and the last reported on 11/16 on L. Hortonia (MBN)-see Winter RVB. The numbers of Horned Grebe reported were exceptional with a total of 1260 the earliest of which were 2 at St. Albans Bay on 9/24 (CCR), high counts were 203 on 10/26 in the Champlain Islands (including 110 at N. Hero and 59 at Alburg) (RBL), and 220 in Addison and Ferrisburg on 11/7 (WGE,NLM,RBL,CCR). Eleven were reported away from L. Champlain. Thirty-seven Red-necked Grebes were reported; the earliest were 7 off Isle La Motte and 1 off N. Hero on 9/8 (WGE,NLM,RBL,CCR) which was also the maximum, the only ones reported away from L. Champlain were 5 on 2 dates at L. Memphremagog



NORTHERN GANNET

(DLC,KH,BLR,MBN). An imm. NORTHERN GANNET* seen in the middle of L. Champlain off Pantou on 11/7 easily outdistanced the boat it was observed from (WGE,NLM, RBL,CCR). Two GREAT CORMORANTS* were only the second and third respectively for the RVB; the first was an imm. at Island Pd. on 10/24 (WGE,NLM), and the second was an ad. at Herrick's Cove (HC hereafter) on 11/4 (WJN). Over 540 Double-crested Cormorants were reported with a maximum of 298 on 9/8 in the Champlain Islands (including 176 at Young I.) (WGE,NLM,RBL,CCR); the best count where the species is still uncommon

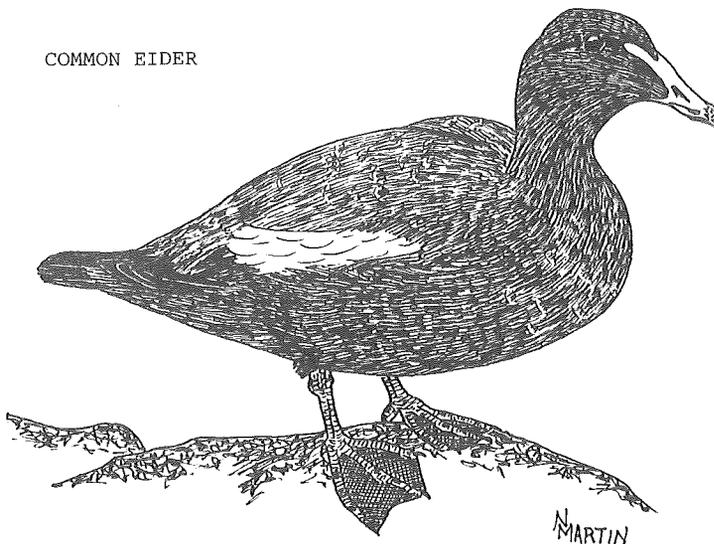
away from L. Champlain was 16 on 8/30 on S. Bay, Newport (PFW,SAW); the last reported were 4 at Burlington on 11/22 (JDM)-see Winter RVB. Just 17 American Bitterns were reported, however, the maximum estimate at MNWR was 20 (JBG). The last at Charcoal Creek, Swanton on 11/8 (WAM,DLC) was quite tardy. Over 300 Great Blue Herons were reported with a high count of 27 on 8/3 at Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area (DCWMA hereafter) (WAM,DLC). At least 10 Great Egrets were reported; the species was observed at DCWMA and neighboring towns from 8/3-9/24 with a maximum of 5 on 8/3 (m.ob.), 1 was noted at Burlington from 7/31-8/3 (GEB, et al.), 1 was located at Windham during the first week of Aug. (Carons, fide NS), 1 was at Shoreham on 8/24 (ELW), 1 was seen at Montpelier Ctr. on 9/2 (PFW), and 1 was found in Brownsville on 9/22 (RCJ). Snowy Egrets were observed at S. Slang, Ferrisburg on 9/7 (JID,MCD), and at E. Creek, Orwell on 9/24 (ELW). There were two reports of Cattle Egret; a flock was present in Charlotte from 8/30-10/1 with a high of 14 on the former date (WGE,NLM,JJA,TAR,PeB), and 1 was observed at Grand Isle on 10/10 (DKL). Over 50 Green-backed Herons were reported; high counts were 7 on 8/3 at DCWMA (WAM,DLC), and 7 at Mud Creek, Alburg on 8/16 (WAM,DLC). The last was at S. Londonderry on 10/3 (WJN). Sixty-five Black-crowned Night-Herons were reported including a count of 10 on 8/10 at DCWMA (WGE,NLM,EFG,MBN), two reported in the Connecticut Valley at BNP on 8/22 (WGE,NLM), and HC on 8/24 (TEJ), and a late report of 9/24 at DCWMA (LPS), but see Winter RVB. A Glossy Ibis was reported from Middlesex on 10/2 (MFM).

WATERFOWL

The source of Mute Swans observed in Rockingham over the last year was apparently traced to local releases; at least three were observed there this season (WJN). Over 4800 Snow Geese were reported, about a quarter of the huge total reported for autumn 1985. The earliest was 1 at DCWMA on 9/20 (FAP). The peak flight appeared to occur on 17-18 Oct. with a maximum count of 1600 over DCWMA on 10/17 (WGE,NLM). Blue morph Snow Geese were reported at DCWMA on 9/28 and 11/7. At least 24,000 Canada Geese were reported; peak flights occurred 10/5-7 when 20% of the seasonal total was reported, another 20% was cited for 10/16 to 10/18, more modest flights were registered on 10/12-13 and 10/25. Selected high counts include 1620 on 10/5 at Mt. Philo (JID,MCD), 1500+ at Grand Isle on 10/9 (RBL), and 3740 at DCWMA on 11/2 (MBN). MNWR population estimates are presented first in duck accounts. The peak estimate of Wood Duck at MNWR was 920 on 9/30 (JBG). Five hundred thirty others were reported with high counts of 75 at Mud Creek, Alburg on 8/16 (WAM, DLC), and 44 at HC on 8/24 (TEJ); a few Wood Ducks lingered through the end of the season. At MNWR the peak estimate of Green-winged Teal was 310 on 10/28 (JBG), 260 others were noted with highs of 32 at Vernon on 9/27 (JJC), and 150 along the Maquam Shore of Swanton on 10/8 (RBL). The peak estimate of American Black Duck at MNWR was 1410 on 10/28, the ratio of Mallard to black duck through the season declined from 4 to 1 in Aug. to about even during Nov. (JBG). About 1000 others were reported including high counts of 75 on 9/27 at Springweather Nature Area (SNA hereafter) (NER,et al.), 110 at Vernon on 9/27 (JJC), and 150+ at Sandbar Wildlife Management Area (hereafter Sandbar) on 10/25 (WGE,NLM,RBL). The peak count for Mallard at MNWR occurred a month earlier than that of black duck with 2860 estimated on 9/30 (JBG). About 1400 others were reported, the high count was 250+ along the Maquam Shore of Swanton on 10/25 (RBL). The Northern Pintail was most numerous at MNWR during Oct. with a maximum estimate of 100 on 9/30 (JBG); 42 others were observed with a high of 20 on 10/25 at DCWMA (WGE,NLM,RBL); there were reports of pintail to

11/25. Only about half the usual total of Blue-winged Teal was reported. The highest estimate at MNWR was 30 on 8/26 (JBG), other high counts among 105 others reported were 19 at DCWMA on 8/3 (WAM,DLC), and 14 at Weybridge on 8/21 (MBN); the latest were 4 at HC on 10/7 (WJN), and 3 at Mud Creek on 10/11 (JJC). Northern Shovelers were present at MNWR in Sept. and Oct. with a peak estimate of 10 on 10/16 (JBG); the only others reported were 2 at Burlington on 10/5 (WGE,NLM,RBL). Gadwall peaked at MNWR on 10/16 when 25 were estimated (JBG); others reported were 1 at HC on 8/19 (WJN), 1 at DCWMA on 8/20 (WGE,PEL), 4 at Vernon on 9/27 (JJC), 1 at S. Bay, Newport on 9/27 (WGE,NLM,et al.), 4 at Burlington from 10/5-11/16 (WGE,NLM,RBL), 4 at Maquam on 10/8 (RBL), 1 at Sandbar on 10/25 (WGE,NLM,RBL), 2 at the Retreat Meadows, Brattleboro on 11/1 (JJC), and 3 in Grand Isle County on 11/8 (WAM,DLC). The American Wigeon was first observed at MNWR during Aug. with a maximum estimate of 310 on 9/30 (JBG); others reported include 15 on 9/27 at S. Bay, Newport (WGE,NLM,et al.), 40+ at Mud Creek on 10/11 (CJF), 8 at Sandbar on 10/25 (WGE,NLM, RBL), and 4 on the Otter Creek, Ferrisburg on 11/7 (WGE,NLM,RBL,CCR). Eleven Canvasbacks on 9/30 at Vernon (JJC) were a month early; all others were observed from late Oct. onward. Very large numbers once again staged in northern L. Champlain with a flock of 1500+ observed on 10/26 in Alburg (RBL), and 8000 estimated in Missisquoi Bay 10/31-11/7 (JBG); 2 were observed at HC on 11/25 (WJN). Redhead also arrived early with 2 at HC on 9/17 (WJN), and 1 at Vernon on 9/30 (JJC). A few were present at MNWR apparently from late Sept. to ice-up in late Nov. (JBG). Others reported included an impressive high of 30 at Alburg on 10/26 (RBL), and 6 in Grand Isle County on 11/8 (WAM,DLC). An estimate of 11,250 Ring-necked Ducks on 9/30 emphasizes MNWR's status as a staging area for this duck (JBG); another minor staging area may be at S. Bay, Newport with a high count of 54 on 9/18 (WGE,NLM,BR). About 500 others were reported with 2 high counts from the Swanton area. Up to 30 Greater Scaup were estimated at MNWR from late Oct. to early Nov. (JBG). About 3000 others were reported; the earliest were 6 at S. Bay, Newport on 9/27 (WGE,NLM,et al.), and the highest counts were 900+ at Alburg on 10/26 (RBL), and 1200+ in Grand Isle County on 11/8 (WAM,DLC). Lesser Scaup were reported in much smaller numbers than greater; the species was reported at MNWR from Sept. through Nov. with a maximum of 10 (JBG), there were scattered reports of 55 others from 9/21-11/23. Most unusual was an adequately described eclipse drake COMMON EIDER* observed

COMMON EIDER



on Maidstone L. from 8/6-25 (KNW). At such a date it is hard to imagine from whence the bird came and how it got to Maidstone. The earliest of 39 Oldsquaw reported were seen on L. Champlain on 10/25; high counts included 10 on 10/25 at Addison (WGE,NLM,RBL), and 7 at Colchester on 11/7 (WGE,NLM,RBL,CCR). A little over 100 Black Scoters were reported, the earliest and most reported were 50 on 10/5 at Addison (WGE,NLM,RBL); other good counts were 15 on Island Pd. on 10/24 (WGE,NLM), and 22 on Timmouth Pd. on 10/31 (CJF). Surf Scoters arrived on L. Champlain on 9/26 when 2 were at Grand Isle (RBL); only 27 were reported with a high of 6 on 25 Oct. in Burlington and Colchester (WGE,NLM,RBL). Over 110 White-winged Scoters were noted; the first reported were 2 at Grand Isle on 9/26 (RBL); high counts included 28 on 10/5 at Addison (WGE,NLM,RBL), and 45 at Colchester on 11/7 (WGE,NLM,RBL,CCR). Over 2100 Common Goldeneye were reported; birds reported prior to the mid-Oct. arrival of migrants included 1 on L. Memphremagog. High counts included 316 in the Champlain Islands on 10/26 (230 along the Maquam Shore) (RBL), 277 in Addison and Ferrisburg on 11/7 (WGE,NLM,RBL,CCR), 80 on L. Bomoseen on 11/16 (MBN), 37 on L. Morey on 11/24 (WGE) (the best count from the Connecticut Valley), and 200 at Sandbar on 11/29 (JDM). An ad. male BARROW'S GOLDENEYE was shot by hunters at Windmill Pt., Alburg on 11/30 and the specimen was photographed by Dick Lavallee. This duck appears to be quite regular on northern L. Champlain in late Nov. and early Dec. A Bufflehead on L. Carmi on 10/10 (PJM) was over a week early. High counts were 9 at Timmouth Pd. on 10/31 (CJF), 10-12 at Comerford Dam, Waterford on 11/3 (PFW, SAW), and 54 in Charlotte and Shelburne on 11/7 (WGE, NLM,RBL,CCR); over 150 were reported. A hen Hooded Merganser with 4 juveniles was observed at SNA on 8/2 (TEJ,JJC), the species was reported throughout the season at MNWR with a maximum estimate of 50 on 11/4 (JBG); other high counts included 23 at Rockingham on 11/20 (WGE), and 28 at L. Bomoseen on 11/27 (CJF). Nearly 2800 Common Mergansers were reported throughout the season. The best counts were 116 on L. Pineo, Quechee on 10/12 (WGE,NLM), 610 on 10/25 on Kellogg and Town Farm Bays, Ferrisburg and Converse Bay, Charlotte (WGE,NLM,RBL), and 200+ on L. Carmi on 11/27 (PJM). The earliest of 38 Red-breasted Mergansers was at Wood I., St. Albans on 9/8 (WGE,NLM,RBL,CCR). High counts included 10 on 10/25 at Ferrisburg (WGE,NLM,RBL), and 13 on 11/23 at Addison (WGE,NLM). The usual handful of Ruddy Ducks was reported at MNWR with most occurring late in the season (JBG); the only other reported was a lone hen on L. Morey on 11/19 (WGE).

VULTURES, HAWKS, AND FALCONS

The Turkey Vulture continues to be observed in good numbers; 166 were reported in addition to 51 seen by hawkwatchers. High counts were 13 at Addison on 9/13 (JRA), 15 on 8/27 at the Weathersfield dump (FMH, GEH), and 22 at Shoreham on 10/2 (ELW). The last was reported at Mt. Holly on 10/25 (WJN). Numbers of Osprey observed on hawk watches doubled at 147 and 0.23 per observer hour (poh) versus 74 and 0.12 poh in 1985; an additional 82 were reported. Maximum counts included 10 on 9/13 at Burnt Mt., Warren (LK), 17 at Fuller Mt., Ferrisburg on 9/21 (JID,MCD), and 9 at Putney Mt. on 10/4 (ASW,et al.), the latest were at Vernon on 11/9 (JJC), and E. Montpelier on 11/13 (MFM). The 16 Bald Eagles reported represent a record for RVB. These included imm. birds hacked in upstate New York observed at SNA 8/2-3 (TEJ,JJC,EE,et al.), and E. Long Pd., Woodbury 8/16 (RB,AB); an ad. at Fort Cassin, Ferrisburg on 8/3 (WGE,NLM), 1 at Shoreham on 8/6 (ELW), imms. at DCWMA from 8/6-9/20 (BCR,JRA, FAP), Button Bay State Park on 8/9 (JJA), and HC on 8/26 (WJN); ads. at Burnt Mt., Warren on 9/8 (WHB), and Putney Mt. on 9/13 (DUW); an imm. at the Retreat

Meadows, Brattleboro on 10/26 (JJC), an ad. during the first week of Nov. at Arlington (Mrs. Hill, fide NS), an imm. at Norwich on 11/2 (WGE,NLM), a bird present at MNWR during Nov. (JBG), 1 at Duxbury on 11/15 (VFWD), and an ad. and imm. at W. Woodstock on 11/30 (PM). The numbers of Northern Harriers reported were comparable to those of recent autumns, 57 (0.09 poh) were observed on hawk watches and an additional 107 were noted which includes some unavoidable duplication of birds at DCWMA (35% of localities listed for harrier by observers were DCWMA). High counts were 7 on 8/10 at DCWMA (WGE,NLM,EFG), 6 at Burnt Mt., Warren on 9/8 (WHB), and 6 at Fuller Mt., Ferrisburg on 10/17 (JID,MCD). Numbers of migrant Sharp-shinned Hawks were similar to those of 1985 with 473 (0.74 poh) versus 512 (0.76 poh) in 1985. Both high counts occurred on 10/4 with 45 at Town Farm Hill, Grafton (DC), and 43 at Putney Mt. (ASW, et al.). The number of Cooper's Hawks reported was virtually the same as that of 1985 with 25 on hawk watches (0.03 poh) and 9 additional birds reported. Northern Goshawks were even less in evidence during autumn 1986 than in 1985 with 15 on hawk watches and an additional 5 observed. The reporting pattern for Red-shouldered Hawk was the same as in 1984-85 with 40 on hawk watches (0.06 poh) and only 1 additional bird reported. High counts were 5 at Cheese Factory Rd., Shelburne on 10/17 (MPB), and 5 over Thetford Hill on 10/18 (FT). The last reported was at Paine Mt., Northfield on 10/25 (WHB). Eighty-five percent of the 1810 Broad-winged Hawks observed on hawk watches were detected 9/8-14. High counts included 420 over Snake Mt., Addison on 9/8 (AP), 248 at Putney Mt. on 9/13 (DUW), and 243 at Mt. Philo on the same date (JID,MCD). Broad-wings departed early with the last reported on 9/27 at Lincoln Hill, Hinesburg (PAT), and Haystack Mt., Pawlet (RWP); the species had never departed earlier than the first week of Oct. since the inception of RVB. Red-tailed Hawks were reported in excellent numbers with 619 on hawk watches and 203 others reported, 84% of the hawk watch total fell during Oct. with a major passage 10/17-18. High counts were 163 at Fuller Mt., Ferrisburg on 10/17 (JID,MCD), 81 over Cheese Factory Rd., Shelburne on the 17th (MPB), and 91 over Fuller Mt. on 10/18 (JID, MCD). The Rough-legged Hawk was reported in modest numbers. The earliest were at Swanton (RBL) and Shoreham (ELW) on 10/11 and at Plainfield on 10/12 (MFM). Twenty-six others were reported including 8 on hawk watches; high counts included 4 on 10/17 at Fuller Mt. (JID,MCD), and 7 at Addison on 11/23 (WGE,NLM,et al.). Aside from the Plainfield bird the only rough-leg outside of the Champlain Valley was at Rockingham on 10/17 (WJN). Two reports of Golden Eagle* both came from west of the Green Mts. with 2 at Benson on 11/2 (PAT), and 1 opportunistic imm. trapped in a chicken pen at Manchester on 11/11 (T.Hayes, photos). The number of American Kestrels observed on hawk watches was much lower than in 1985 but comparable to 1984 with 129 (0.20 poh) versus 0.22 POH in 1984, an additional 71 were reported. The best count was 30 on 9/21 at Fuller Mt. (JID,MCD). Ten Merlin were reported from 8/25-9/27 with 5 noted on hawk watches. The Peregrine Falcon was well reported; 11 were observed on hawk watches from 9/13-10/25 with 3 at Putney Mt. on 10/4 (ASW,et al.), and 3 at Mt. Philo on 10/5 (JID,MCD). Others included 1 at BNP on 10/10 (CCR,NLM,et al.), 1 at DCWMA on 10/12 (WAM,DLC), and an imm. male at Converse Bay, Charlotte on 10/25 (WGE, NLM,RBL). Eleven birds reported during Aug. were related to the hacking activities of the Peregrine Fund and to local breeding.

GAMEBIRDS THROUGH RAILS

A total of 18 Gray Partridge were observed throughout the season on the west shore of Grand Isle with a maximum of 4 on 11/16 (DJH). Up to 20 were

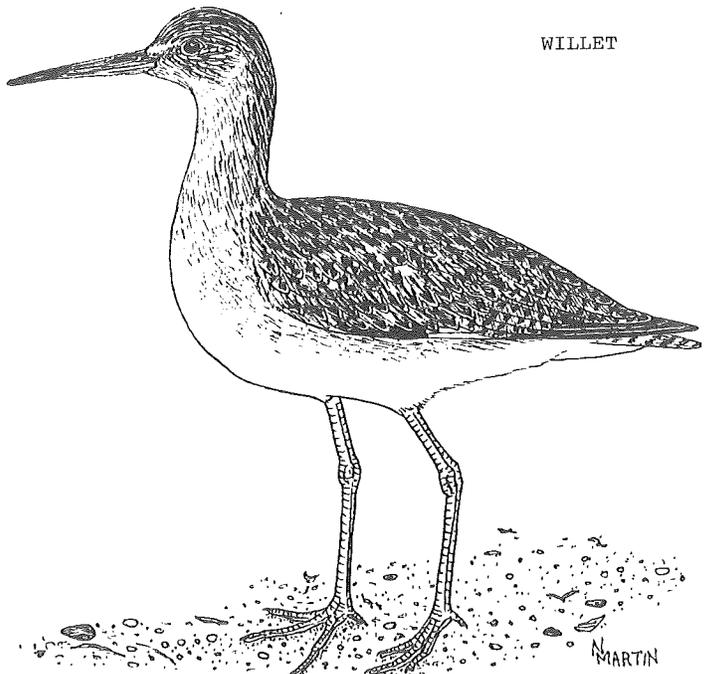
observed at MNWR during Oct. (JBG). A well described Chukar was reported from W. Newbury on 9/23 (AJ). Sportsmen are obviously continuing to attempt to introduce this species as well as reintroduce two of the following gamebirds. A cock Ring-necked Pheasant observed during Nov. in Norwich (MJC) was almost certainly related to New Hampshire Fish and Game's program of autumn stocking. Numbers of Ruffed Grouse seemed normal with just over 50 reported. High counts included 5 on 8/25 at S. Duxbury (FAP), 5 on 9/1 on Breadloaf Mt. (TEJ), and 6 on 10/10 at Perkinsville (WGE). There were widespread reports of Wild Turkey from Grand Isle, Brandon, Woodstock, Swanton, and Reading with high counts of 20 at Woodstock on 10/10 (JMN) (the poults in this flock did not appear to be full grown) and 15 on 11/8 at Reading (FMH,GEH). Reintroduction attempts by would-be quail hunters continued with reports of Northern Bobwhite from Woodstock on 8/16-17 (CRP), Winhall on 9/25 (WJN), and Island Pd. (4) on 10/12 (JFW). Virginia Rails were reported from MNWR (JBG), West Rutland Marsh on 8/17 (WGE,NLM,JPM,JBM), and Berlin Pd. on 8/30 (WGE,NLM). The only Sora was reported from MNWR (JBG). The Common Moorhen was well reported with sightings from MNWR; Mud Creek, Alburg; Orwell; Addison; Newport; St. Albans Bay; S. Hero; Burlington; Ferrisburg and an unusual observation at Roundy's Cove, Rockingham on 9/8 (WJN). High counts were impressive and included 14 at Mud Creek on 8/16 (WAM,DLC), and 25 at East Creek, Orwell on 9/24 (ELW) which was also the last report. The American Coot went unreported for the first time since 1977; this rail has been declining in New England for more than a decade.

WADERS

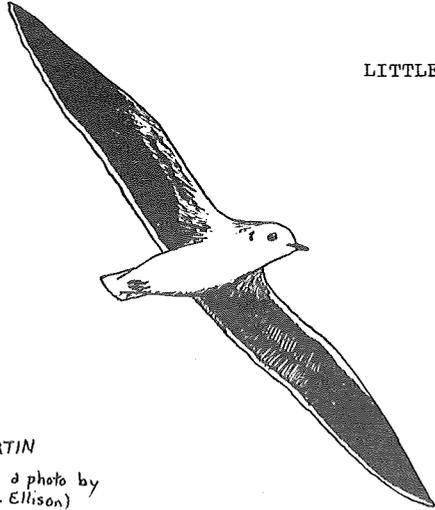
Very few Black-bellied Plovers were reported including 2 on 8/30 at Charlotte (WGE,NLM), 2 at Winooski River delta (hereafter WRD) on 9/7 (JDM), 1 at W. Alburg on 9/8 (WGE,NLM,RBL,CCR), and 1 at Swanton on 10/9 (RBL). The only Lesser Golden-Plovers reported were 10 at Charlotte and 1 at DCWMA on 8/30 (WGE,NLM), and 1 at Norwich on 10/14 (WGE,NLM). Semipalmated Plovers were reported from DCWMA from 8/3-9/17 with maxima of 4 on 9/6 (EPA), and 4 on 9/17 (FAP), they were reported from 8/13-9/21 at WRD (JDM, et al.), others included 1 on 8/23 at Vernon (JJC), 1 in a harrowed field in Charlotte on 8/30 (WGE,NLM), 1 at Button Bay State Park on 10/7 (JID,MCD), and the last at Burlington on 10/12 (WAM,DLC). Over 1000 Killdeer were reported with high counts of 300 on 9/23 at Vernon (JJC) a Vermont record, and 104 on 10/15 at Grand Isle (RBL). Late reports included birds at N. Troy on 11/1 (WAM,DLC,BLR,KH), Norwich on 11/2 (WGE,NLM), and Grand Isle on 11/5 (RBL). Sixty-six Greater Yellowlegs were reported with high counts of 6 each on 8/29 at Hartford (WGE,NLM), and on 9/13 at DCWMA (JRA), and 5 on 10/9 at Swanton (RBL). The last was observed at the Charlotte Town Beach from 11/2-12 (WAM,DLC,et al.). Only 15 Lesser Yellowlegs were noted with a maximum of 3 on 8/10 at DCWMA (WGE,NLM,EFG), and a late date of 10/5 at DCWMA (WGE,NLM,RBL). Just 14 Solitary Sandpipers were reported with the latest on 10/17 at DCWMA (WGE,NLM). Two WILLETS* presumably of the western race inornatus were reported. A juv. was well photographed at Hathaway Pt., St. Albans on 9/14 (JC), and 1 flew over an observer in a boat in Alburg on 10/26 (RBL). Just over 60 Spotted Sandpipers were reported with a high of 7 on 8/3 at Button Bay State Park (WGE,NLM), and a late report of 10/5 at Addison and at Sloop I., Charlotte (WGE,NLM,RBL). Reports of Upland Sandpiper included 3 at DCWMA on 8/3 (WGE,NLM), 3 in Addison on 8/10 (WGE,NLM,EFG), 1 over BNP on 8/13 (WGE,NLM,et al.), and 6 on Little Chicago Rd., Ferrisburg on 8/30 (WGE,NLM). Very scarce and late was an HUDSONIAN GODWIT* on a sandbar in the Connecticut River at Om-

pompanoosuc, Norwich on 11/2 (WGE,NLM). The two Ruddy Turnstones reported were 1 at WRD on 9/7 (JDM), and 1 Savage I., Grand Isle on 9/8 (WGE,NLM,RBL,CCR). The rare Red Knot was reported twice with 1 at WRD on 9/7 (JDM), and another somewhat late individual on Savage I. on 10/5 (WGE,NLM,RBL). The earliest of 23 Sanderling reported was an ad. seen at WRD and Burlington at different times on 8/3 (m.ob.). High counts were 6 on 9/5 at Burlington (WAM), and 6 on 11/2 at WRD (JDM) which was also over a week later than usual. About 100 Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported; high counts were 13 at Savage I. and 14 at St. Albans Bay on 9/8 (WGE,NLM,RBL,CCR). Two were reported in the Connecticut River Valley in August and October, and the last were 2 juv. at DCWMA on 10/17 (WGE,NLM). Only 39 Least Sandpipers were reported although this is usually the most common "peep". High counts were from DCWMA with 6 each on 8/4 (MBN), and 8/10 (WGE,NLM, EFG). The last was at S. Bay, Newport on 9/27 (WGE, NLM,et al.). Reports of White-rumped Sandpiper included 2 juv. at DCWMA (WGE,NLM), and 3 at Savage I. on 10/17 (RBL), 6 at Newport on 11/1 (WAM,DLC,BLR,KH), 3 with the Hudsonian Godwit in Norwich on 11/2 (WGE, NLM), and 2 at the Charlotte Town Beach on 11/9 (WAM). Three Baird's Sandpipers were located. One on 8/3 at Burlington (WAM,DLC) was quite early, a juv. was at WRD on 8/30 (WGE,NLM), and a juv. was at the north end of Savage I. on 9/8 (WGE,NLM,RBL,CCR). Thirty-two Pectoral Sandpipers were reported with the earliest on 8/3 at DCWMA (WAM,DLC). The best count was from the Connecticut Valley where 18 were observed at Vernon on 10/4 (JJC), and the last was at WRD on 11/9 (JDM). The evidence continues to mount in favor of the annual occurrence of Purple Sandpiper on L. Champlain: 1 was observed on Rock I., Georgia on 10/26 (RBL), 2 were located at WRD on 11/2 (JDM), and 1 was there on 11/9 (JDM). The total of 33 Dunlin reported was a bit low. The first was noted at WRD on 9/14 (JDM), and the high count was only 5 on 10/25 at WRD (WGE,NLM,RBL). Birds observed outside of the Champlain Valley included 1 juv. at Quechee on 10/12 (WGE,NLM), 3 at Norwich on 10/20 (WGE,NLM), 4 at L. Bomoseen on 10/26 (WGE,NLM, JPM), 1 at Roundy's Cove, Rockingham on 10/29 (WJN), and 2 at Newport on 11/1 (WAM,DLC,BLR,KH), the last was at Burlington on 11/16 (WGE,NLM). The only Short-billed Dowitchers reported were 2 at HC on 8/26 (WJN). Seventy Common Snipe were reported from 8/5-10/18 with

WILLET



a maximum of 42 on 9/8 from Alburg Passage, N. Hero (WGE,NLM,RBL,CCR). Twenty-eight American Woodcock were reported with a high of 8 on 9/27 at Timmouth (CJF). The latest were 4 at Danby (CJF) and 1 at Shrewsbury (LPS) on 10/31. A single juv. Red-necked Phalarope was sighted 1.5 km. off Georgia in L. Champlain on 9/8 (WGE,NLM,RBL,CCR-photos). The very rare RED PHALAROPE* was reported in unprecedented numbers, the first was a juv. at Groton L. on 9/1 (PEW,SAW-photos). A winter imm. was observed in a flood pond along the West Shore Rd. in S. Hero on 9/9 (EVA,FTy), 2 imm. were found 1.5 km. offshore of Georgia on 10/5 (WGE,NLM,RBL-photos), 1 winter imm. was seen in The Gut, Grand Isle on 10/7 (RBL), and a juv. was located at Blodgett's, Burlington on 10/12 (WAM,DLC-photos).



LITTLE GULL

MARTIN
(after a photo by
W.G. Ellison)

GULLS AND TERNS

The total of 16 LITTLE GULLS reported exceed by 6 the grand total reported in Vermont in prior years, all but 1 were seen from small craft in L. Champlain. The first were 4 in Hawkins/Town Farm Bay, Ferrisburg/Charlotte on 10/5 (WGE,NLM,RBL-photos), 1 was observed in Grand Isle on 10/7 (RBL), 8 were found on 10/25 including 3 at Chimney Pt., 3 in Hawkins/Town Farm Bay, 1 in Converse Bay, Charlotte, and 1 at St. Albans Bay (WGE,NLM,RBL-photos), 1 was at Chimney Pt. and another near Grosse Pt., Ferrisburg on 11/7 (WGE,NLM,RBL,CCR-photos), and the last was sighted at Sandbar on 11/22 (RBL). The numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls reported were certainly above average although probably not as far out of line as they might appear. Over 6000 of these graceful gulls were reported this season with the vast majority occurring on L. Champlain. Large concentrations occurred mid-lake in Addison and Panton, around Grand Isle, in Alburg, and in St. Albans Bay; and there was at least a small flock in every major bay between Ferrisburg and Burlington. High counts included 811 in St. Albans Bay on 8/20 (CCR), 314 from Addison to Ferrisburg at mid-lake on 10/25 (WGE,NLM,RBL), and 474 at Alburg on 10/26 (RBL). Observations away from L. Champlain included 2 reports from Newport, 1 on 9/28 at Vernon (JJC), and 1 at the Retreat Meadows, Brattleboro on 11/13 (JJC). The Ring-billed Gull continues to be the most common gull in the Champlain Valley during the warmer months. High counts ranged up to ca. 4000 with an apparent peak during early Nov. The species is also common on L. Memphremagog with a high count of 150-200 on 8/30 at Newport (PEW,SAW). Migrants were observed in the Connecticut Valley mostly from mid-Oct. onward with a maximum of 45 on 11/9 at Vernon (JJC). Fifteen migrants were

observed deep in the Green Mts. at Mt. Holly on 10/12 (WJN). Herring Gulls were present on L. Champlain throughout the season. Migration observed away from Champlain began in mid-Oct. and peaked in late Nov. High counts were 800 at Burlington on 11/7 (WGE,NLM,RBL,CCR), and 210 at Brattleboro on 11/26 (JJC). Both of the Iceland Gulls reported were found in the Connecticut Valley with 1 at Rockingham on 11/20 (WGE), and another at the Retreat Meadows on 11/30 (JJC,TEJ). The only Glaucous Gull reported was a remarkably early first winter bird at Grand Isle on 10/14 (DJH-photo); it was located with a flock of Ring-billed Gulls in a hayfield, a place most out-of-character for this species. Great Black-backed Gulls were present from Aug. onward on the state's two largest lakes; the species was reported as far south as Bridport during Aug. Numbers increased in late Oct. on L. Champlain and the species was not reported on the Connecticut until Nov. High counts were 50 at Burlington on 11/16 (WGE,NLM), and 24 at Brattleboro on 11/30 (JJC,TEJ). St. Albans Bay is currently the major staging site for Common Terns in Vermont; another staging location is on the hulk of the old Rouse's Pt. railroad bridge. A few were present at WRD to 9/1 with a high count of 7 (JDM), the high count in St. Albans Bay was 250 at Rock I., Georgia on 8/13 (CCR), on the same day there were 190 at W. Alburg (CCR). Ninety-three were still present in St. Albans Bay on 9/15 with most of them gone by 9/21 (RBL), the last was an imm. at Hawkins Bay, Ferrisburg on 10/5 (WGE,NLM,RBL). Black Terns were last seen at WRD and DCWMA on 8/3 and 8/10 respectively. The latest reported was at St. Albans Bay on 9/8 (WGE,NLM,RBL,CCR).

DOVES THROUGH NIGHTJARS

Reports of the Rock Dove imply a stable population in all of its haunts. Nearly 1000 Mourning Doves were reported; young were still in the nest at Shoreham on 9/24 (ELW). High counts were 60 at White River Jct. on 10/12 (WGE), and 73 at Addison on 11/23 (WGE,NLM). Most of the 35 Black-billed Cuckoos were reported during Aug.. This figure represents the best autumn report in 5 years, the average total from 1981-85 was just 7.8/autumn. The high count was 4 on 8/17 in W. Rutland and Ira (WGE,NLM,JPM), and the last was noted on the record date of 10/12 at Timmouth (CJF). Two were banded at BNP (VINS). With the great increase in black-bill reports there was an accompanying increase for the uncommon Yellow-billed Cuckoo, all occurred in Aug. with 1 at S. Londonderry on 8/1 (WJN), 1 at Grand Isle on 8/3 (DJH), 1 at DCWMA on 8/4 (MBN), 1 at BNP on 8/6 (WGE,NLM,CCR), and 1 which hit a window on Church Hill, Woodstock on 8/24 (JMN). There were only two reports of Eastern Screech-Owl, 1 heard at Weybridge on 8/30 (WGE,NLM), and the resident population at MNWR, estimated at 10 (JBG). The population estimate for Great Horned Owl at MNWR increased from 5 early in the season to 8 during Nov. (JBG). Fifteen of the 23 others reported were from the Champlain Valley with high counts of 4 at DCWMA on 8/30 (WGE,NLM), and 4+ in Georgia on 9/15 (RBL). Snowy Owls were reported at MNWR from 11/18-24 (JBG), Burlington from 11/27-30+ (m.ob.), and DCWMA from ca. 11/24 to 11/30+ (BCr, et al.). In addition two other possible sightings from the Rutland area were reported to C.J. Frankiewicz. As with the horned owl, Barred Owl numbers rose through the season at MNWR from 3 during Aug. to 5 during Nov. (JBG). At least 11 others were reported with most being sedentary birds in e. central Vermont; 1 at Ferrisburg on 11/10 (JID,MCD) was from an area where this owl is decidedly uncommon. The Short-eared Owl is very rare outside of the Champlain Valley so it was remarkable that the only one reported was a migrant roosting atop Putney Mt. observed on 10/4 (ASW, et al.). The Northern Saw-whet Owl was

well reported, 3 curious and fearless owls who checked out an observer in Shrewsbury on 8/26 were seen through 9/2 (LPS), 1 was banded at BNP on 10/15 (VINS) the first for the station, and 1 was heard at Ferrisburg on 10/21 (JID,MCD). Nearly 360 Common Nighthawks were reported, high counts were from the Connecticut Valley and the Valley of Vermont including 212 on 8/26 at White River Jct. (WGE,NLM), and 75 at Rutland on 9/1 (WGE,NLM), late reports included 9/9 at Barton (PFW), and 9/12 at Rutland (LPS).

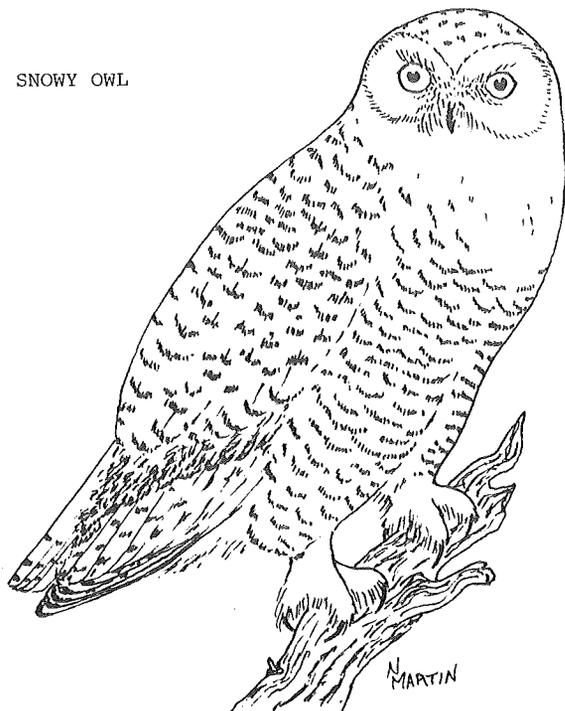
SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

About 340 Chimney Swifts were cited by observers with a maximum of 100 at Windsor on 8/3 (TEJ), the latest were 3 at Putney Mt. on 9/19 (JJC). Just over 100 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were reported, most of those observed in Sept. appear to have been females and imm.; up to 4 were reported by many observers and the latest was at Grand Isle on 10/1 (RBL). Seventeen were netted and tail clipped at BNP (VINS). About 170 Belted Kingfishers were noted with a high of 8 along the New Haven R. on 8/10 (JRA). Red-headed Woodpecker was reported thrice from its breeding range during Aug.: 1 was observed in Bridport and 3 were seen in Addison on 8/3 (JAD), 1 ad. and a juv. were found at W. Addison from 8/4-31 (m.ob.), and 1 was at Charlotte on 8/21 (JID,MCD). A dispersing imm. was observed at Woodstock on 11/1 (CRP). Just over 30 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported; 5 were noted at Reading on 8/31 and 9/6 (FMH,GEH), 7 were banded at BNP (VINS), and the last was at Tirmouth on 10/12 (CJF). About 120 Downy Woodpeckers were reported. Good counts included 6 on 10/25 at Shoreham (ELW), and 9 on 10/31 at Tirmouth (CJF); 5 were banded at BNP (VINS). The total of 90 Hairy Woodpeckers reported seems about normal; 1 was banded at BNP (VINS). The only Black-backed Woodpecker was found near Island Pd. on 10/25 (MBN). About 220 Northern Flickers were noted. High counts were scattered from Aug. to early Oct. with the peak of migration apparently during late Sept.. The best counts were 10 on 8/16 at WRD (JDM), and 8 on 9/28 at Danby (CJF). Six were banded at BNP including an intergrade with "red-shafted" that had some pink-lined wing and tail feathers (VINS). Sixty-nine Pileated Woodpeckers were reported including high counts of 4 on 8/23 at Reading (FMH,GEH), and 5 in Northfield on 8/30 (WGE,NLM); 1 was banded at BNP (VINS).

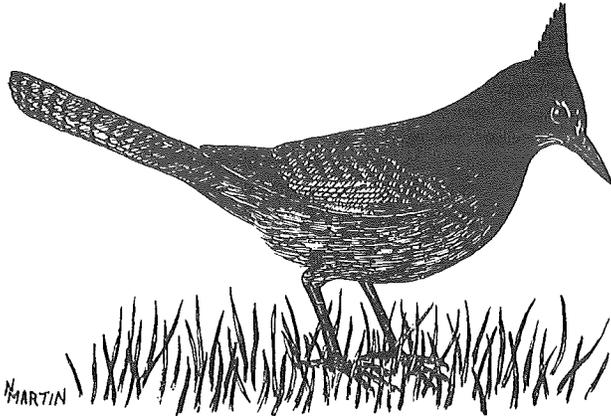
FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

Seven of the 9 Olive-sided Flycatchers reported were seen during Aug. The last was observed at Reading on 9/22 (FMH,GEH). Just over 120 Eastern Wood-Pewees were reported. Both high counts fell on 8/16 with 10 at Mud Creek, Alburg (WAM,DLC), and 18 at Reading (FMH,GEH); quite a few pewees were reported into the fourth week of Sept. with the last at Shoreham (ELW), and BNP (WGE,NLM,CCR) on 9/24. Seven were banded at BNP (VINS). Fourteen Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were reported. Three were banded at BNP (VINS), and late reports were 9/13 at Lincoln Hill, Hinesburg (PAT), and 9/15 at Winhall (WJN). It is hoped that all Alder and Willow Flycatchers reported were identified by vocalization. Reports of the former included 1 at Sheffield from 8/1-4 (PFW), 1 at SNA on 8/2 (TEJ,JJC), 3 at W. Rutland Marsh on 8/17 (WGE,NLM,JPM,JBM), 1 at S. Londonderry on 8/18 (WJN), and 1 at S. Londonderry on 9/15 (WJN). Willow Flycatcher reports included 1 at SNA on 8/2 (TEJ,JJC), 1 at S. Londonderry on 8/2 (WJN), and 1 at HC on 8/6-7 (TEJ). I suspect that the earlier-arriving Alder Flycatcher (it has arrived during the second week of May) may be the later of these species to depart in fall; this season's results weakly support this notion. Twelve "Traill's" Flycatchers were banded at BNP with the last on 9/13 (VINS). Seventy Least Flycatchers were reported. The high counts were early with 6 at Woodstock on 8/5 (WGE,NLM), and 6 banded at BNP on 8/10 (VINS), an additional 15 were ringed at BNP for the season (VINS), the last observed were at Quechee on 9/22 (WGE), and Lewis Creek, Ferrisburg, on 9/23 (JID,MCD). Over 200 Eastern Phoebes were reported including high counts of 6 on 8/31 at Reading (FMH,GEH), and 7 at BNP on 9/24 (WGE,NLM,CCR). Twenty-eight were banded at BNP (VINS), and the last was at Ferrisburg on 10/25 (JID,MCD). Twelve of 14 Great Crested Flycatchers were reported during Aug. An ad. was feeding fledglings on 8/4 at Shoreham (ELW), and the last was at Winhall on 9/10 (WJN). Over 260 Eastern Kingbirds were reported. One was banded at BNP (VINS), the maximum count was 46 on 8/10 from Addison to Ferrisburg (WGE,NLM,EFG), and the last were 3 on 9/7 at Shoreham (ELW). About 840 Horned Larks were recorded. The first were seen near nesting areas in the Champlain Valley with the earliest clear migrants in E. Vermont noted on 9/28 and 27; high counts were 180 on 11/9 at Vernon (JJC), and 118 at DCWMA on 11/23 (WGE,NLM). Over 100 Purple Martins were reported, numbers around DCWMA were fairly consistent through Aug. with 32 noted on 8/10 (WGE,NLM,EFG), and 30 on 8/31 (TEJ). The wing was preserved from a specimen found at W. Rutland, a place where martins are scarce; the last was seen at Charcoal Creek, Swanton on 9/8 (WGE,NLM,RBL,CCR). About 1700 Tree Swallows were reported. High counts were unimpressive and included 220 at DCWMA on 8/24 (JRA), 250 on 8/29 at Bridport (ELW), and 250+ at Charcoal Creek, Swanton on 9/8 (WGE,NLM,RBL,CCR), the latest was at Shoreham on 10/7 (ELW). There were 4 reports of single Northern Rough-winged Swallows with the last at S. Londonderry on 8/25 (WJN). About 300 Bank Swallows were reported with a high count of 75+ at Charcoal Creek on 9/8 (WGE,NLM,RBL,CCR), and a late date of 9/16 at Quechee (WGE). Young Cliff Swallows were still in their nests at Stratton on 8/7 (JMN). Over 230 were reported with a maximum of 100 at E. Rupert on 8/16 (EFG), none were seen later than Aug., though 24 were still present in scattered places between Northfield and Ferrisburg on 8/30. About 1500 Barn Swallows were reported; one nest at Stratton still contained well feathered young on 8/7 (JMN), the highest count was 300 on 9/3 at Bridport (ELW), and the last was at Quechee on 9/28 (WGE,NLM).

SNOWY OWL



STELLER'S JAY

JAYS THROUGH WRENS

While Gray Jay was certainly present somewhere in Essex County none was reported. The well-described STELLER'S JAY* sighted in Topsham on 10/20 (EM) is probably the most extraordinary bird ever reported to RVB. The only other ever reported east of the Great Plains was collected at Cap Rouge, P.Q. on 11/8/1926. The total of about 800 Blue Jays reported was half that of 1985, as Jeremy Coleman observed it "was not a big year for migrating jays" as few seem to have left or passed through Vermont during autumn 1986, high counts included 55 migrants at Shoreham on 9/24 (ELW), and 42 residents at Londonderry on 11/16 (WSA), 8 were banded at BNP (VINS). There was a major flight of American Crows observed in the Champlain Valley accompanying the big Red-tailed Hawk movement of 10/17-18, over 10,000 were observed from Fuller Mt., Ferrisburg on these two days with 6700 on the latter date (JID, MCD). Over 170 Common Ravens were reported. Some ravens seem to migrate in Vermont especially in the Eastern Foothills during a period from mid-Sept. to early Nov. Two observed during the large crow flight at Ferrisburg (JID, MCD) indicate that some migrate statewide. The high count was of a migratory "kettle" of 17 over BNP on 10/15 (WGE, NLM, CCR). Numbers of Black-capped Chickadees reported were strictly comparable to those of 1985; high counts spanned the season and included 48 at S. Duxbury on 8/25 (FAP), and 38 at Perkinsville on 10/10 (WGE). One hundred and five were banded at BNP and a bird was recaptured that was at least 5 years old (VINS). Almost all of the Boreal Chickadees reported were seen in the Northeast Kingdom with birds throughout the season at Sheffield (PFW, SAW), and up to 6 observed in the Island Pk. area. The lone outlander was observed at Merck Forest, Rupert on 10/22 (WGE, NLM). Twenty Tufted Titmouses were reported north to Hartland and Colchester with a maximum of 6 on 11/1 at Colchester (JDM). About 90 Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported, they were locally common in the Eastern Foothills and were common in the southern Green Mts. throughout the season. Over 210 White-breasted Nuthatches were reported, high counts seem to indicate an influx or migratory peak in southwestern Vermont during late Oct. with 13 at Merck Forest, Rupert on 10/22 (WGE, NLM), and 14 at Timmouth on 10/31 (CJF). The total of 86 Brown Creepers reported is nearly twice that of last autumn (1985). Up to 5 were reported on a given day and 4 were banded at BNP from 8/6-10/20 (VINS). Very small numbers of the Carolina

Wren continue to infiltrate Vermont; 1 was reported at W. Brattleboro on 8/12 (ASW). Three House Wrens fledged at Brownsville on 8/5 (BMH), and adults were feeding fledglings at Shoreham on 8/12 (ELW); 46 were reported with 8 banded at BNP (VINS), and the latest at Shoreham on 10/4 (ELW). The 51 Winter Wrens reported represents the best total submitted to the autumn RVB during the 1980s. High counts were 8 each on 8/25 at S. Duxbury (FAP), and at Bald Mt., Mendon on 10/4 (WGE, NLM, JPM); 2 were banded at BNP (VINS)- see Winter RVB for Dec. reports. There were reports of about 26 Marsh Wrens from HC; WRD; S. Bay, Newport; New Haven Jct.; W. Rutland Marsh; DCWMA; Mud Creek, Alburg; and BNP where one banded on 9/27 was a first for the station and preserve (VINS, CCR-photos). The best count submitted was 15 on 8/17 at W. Rutland (WGE, NLM, JPM, JBM), and the last was at WRD on 10/4 (JDM).

KINGLETS THROUGH THRUSHES

During the 1980s no better total than last autumn's 185 Golden-crowned Kinglets has been reported, this species has greatly recovered from the losses inflicted by the winter of 1976-77; highs included a post-breeding count of 19 on 8/25 at S. Duxbury (FAP), and a count of 20 migrants at Reading on 9/29 (FMH, GEH). Eleven were banded at BNP with a maximum of 6 on 10/16 (VINS). Over 160 Ruby-crowned Kinglets were reported; the highest count was of 11 post-breeding birds at Grout Pk., Stratton on 8/28 (JJC), the highest counts of migrants were of 8 each by several observers from 9/27-10/10, 38 were banded at BNP (VINS), and the last reported was at W. Brattleboro on 10/30 (JJC) but see winter RVB. Reports of Blue-gray Gnatcatcher included 2 at Burlington on 8/2 (WAM), 1 at Shoreham 8/2-21 (ELW), 1 at WRD from 8/3-16 (WGE, NLM, JDM), 4 on the Basin Harbor Rd., Ferrisburg on 8/3 (WGE, NLM), and 1 at Glen L., Castleton on 8/20 (WGE, PEL). Young Eastern Bluebirds were peeking out of their box at Bartonville on 8/5 (TEJ), about 80 bluebirds were reported including high counts of 7 each on 9/23 at Lincoln (JRA), and 11/5 at Hinesburg (JID, MCD) which were also the latest seen, 4 were banded at BNP (VINS). Most of the mere 21 Veeries reported were located during Aug. with up to 3 reported in a day, the latest of 6 banded at BNP was netted on 9/9 (VINS) which was the late report. The only Gray-cheeked Thrush found was an early migrant at HC on 8/4 (WJN). Just over 50 Swainson's Thrushes were located. The most seen in a day were 4 each at Grout Pk., Stratton on 8/2 (TEJ, JJC), Winhall on 9/18 (WJN), and BNP on 9/19 (VINS). The banding total at BNP was 28, including the last of the season on 10/11 (VINS). Eighty Hermit Thrushes were reported, a good post-breeding count was 8 at Reading on 8/9 (FMH, GEH), high counts of migrants included 4 each on 10/10 at Perkinsville (WGE), and 10/12 at Timmouth (CJF), and 4 of the 27 banded for the autumn at BNP on 10/13 (VINS), the last reported was in Rockingham on 11/20 (WGE). A spotted juv. at Winhall on 9/22 (WJN) probably fledged during late Aug. Numbers of Wood Thrush were slightly below average with 34 reported. The high was 5 on 9/2 at Winhall (WJN). Two were banded at BNP (VINS), and the last was at W. Brattleboro on 10/10 (JJC). Over 3500 American Robins were reported; the robin migration peaked, as usual, during Oct.. High counts included a post-breeding concentration of 200 at Burlington on 8/17 (JDM), and an impressive 780 at Ferrisburg on 10/17 (JID, MCD), 250 were banded at BNP with a maximum of 20 caught on 10/20 (VINS).

MIMICS THROUGH VIREOS

The 270 Gray Catbirds reported were only slightly above average. The high count was 15 on 9/17 at HC (WJN), the last was observed at S. Londonderry on 11/7 (WJN), 46 were banded at BNP with maxima of 6 on 8/1

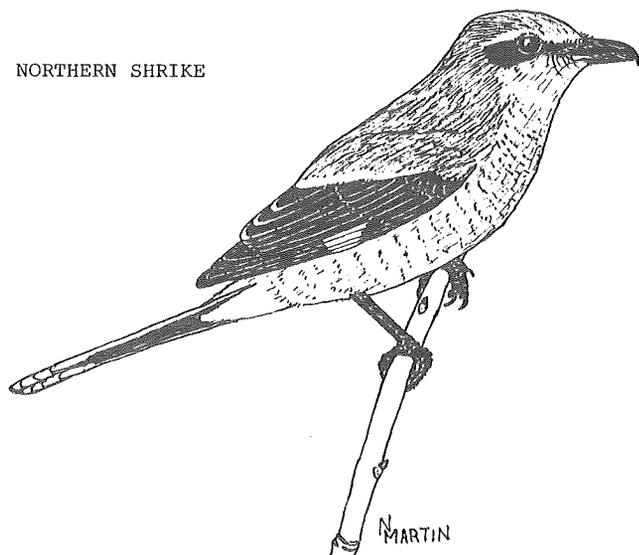
and 9/28, and 1 recaptured was at least 7 years old (VINS). The Northern Mockingbird was well-reported; some birds seen during early Aug. probably dispersed to places where they had not bred, Jeremy Coleman reported at "healthy population" in the southeastern corner of the state. A total of at least 13 birds were reported from: S. Londonderry (8/11-WJN), Woodstock (8/10-CRP), Colchester, Vernon, S. Hero, Shoreham, Weybridge, Addison, and Ferrisburg. The Brown Thrasher which is near the northern fringe of its range here and is furtive and easily overlooked when not songful was reported in small (28) numbers, 4 were banded at BNP (VINS), and the last was seen there on 10/11 (WGE). About 260 Water Pipits were observed, they arrived a bit late from their arctic breeding grounds on 9/28 when 36 were found in Vernon (JJC), and 1 was seen at Quechee (WGE), high counts were 40 on 10/4 at Vernon (JJC), and 67 on 10/29 at Shoreham (ELW), and the last was at Vernon on 11/9 (JJC). There were two reports of Bohemian Waxwing perhaps referring to the same bird, 1 was detected in an Evening Grosbeak flock at BNP on 11/5 (CCR), and another was seen under the same circumstances some 10 miles to the north at E. Barnard on 11/21 (fide JRL). Over 610 Cedar Waxwings were reported. High counts included 29 banded at BNP on 9/4 (VINS), and 100+ at Button Bay State Park on 10/7 (JID,MCD), the 193 banded at BNP was a station record by a large margin (VINS), very few waxwings were reported into Nov. The

caught at a VINS station during autumn. The latest of three dozen Warbling Vireos were found at WRD on 9/20 (JDM), and Vernon on 9/21 (JJC), 2 were banded at BNP (VINS). Seven Philadelphia Vireos were reported starting on 8/22, 3 were banded at BNP including 1 on 10/9 a new record departure by 5 days (CCR,VINS). Almost 180 Red-eyed Vireos were reported, 1 was observed feeding a fledgling cowbird on 8/13 at Shoreham (ELW), high counts included 10 on 8/9 at Reading, 9 on Breadloaf Mt. on 9/1 (TEJ), and 12 on Gile Mt., Norwich on 9/6 (WGE, NLM), 30 were banded at BNP including the latest reported on 10/2 (VINS).

WOOD WARBLERS

Two Blue-winged Warblers included 1 at the Ira Rest Area on 8/20 (PEL), and an obvious migrant at Grout Pd., Stratton on 8/28 (JJC). Both of the Golden-winged Warblers reported were seen in Rutland County, 1 was at W. Rutland on 8/17 (NLM,WGE), and the other was at the Ira Rest Area on 8/20 (PEL). A single Brewster's Warbler was observed at W. Brattleboro on 9/1 (JJC). About 160 Tennessee Warblers were reported. High counts ranged from late Aug. to mid-Sept. with 7 at S. Duxbury on 8/25 (FAP), 12 at Northfield on 8/30 (WGE,NLM), 7 at Reading (FMH,GEH) and 12 at BNP (VINS) on 9/12. The total banded at BNP was 43 (VINS), the last observed were 3 on 10/4 at Bald Mt., Mendon (WGE,NLM,JPM). A single Orange-crowned Warbler was detected at BNP on 10/1 (WGE,NLM,CCR). Nashville Warblers were reported in comparable numbers to 1985, 23 of the 90 reported were banded at BNP (VINS). High counts included 5 at S. Duxbury on 8/25 (FAP), and 5 (3 banded) at BNP on 9/19 (VINS), the species departed early with the last 2 at Woodstock on 9/30 (WGE). The only Northern Parulas reported were single birds at S. Duxbury on 8/15 and 8/26 (FAP), and birds at Winhall on 9/2 and 9/7 (WJN). The total of 87 Yellow Warblers reported was well above average, the high count was 15 at WRD on 8/3 (WGE,NLM), 9 were banded at BNP (VINS), and the last was sighted there on 10/8 (WGE). Just short of 70 Chestnut-sided Warblers were noted, high counts were 6 on 8/6 at BNP (WGE,NLM), 5 at Reading on 8/23 (FMH,GEH), and 6 at Northfield on 8/30 (WGE,NLM), 13 were netted and marked at BNP (VINS), and the last was at Winhall on 9/27 (WJN). Seventy Magnolia Warblers was the lowest total reported over the last 5 years, 9 were banded at BNP (VINS), the largest counts were 8 at Winhall on 8/25 (WJN), and 7 in Northfield and Berlin on 8/30 (WGE,NLM), the last was observed at S. Duxbury on 9/29 (FAP). Thirty-two Cape May Warblers were reported, the earliest were 3 at S. Duxbury on 8/16 (FAP), the migration quickly peaked with a maximum of 11 at Reading on 8/30 (FMH,GEH), the last was banded at BNP on 9/22 and was the only one netted there (CCR,VINS). Over 70 Black-throated Blue Warblers were reported with high counts of 12 on 8/25 at S. Duxbury (FAP), and 17 at Grout Pd., Stratton on 8/28 (JJC), 2 were banded at BNP (VINS), and the last was observed at Bald Mt., Mendon on 10/4 (WGE,NLM, JPM). The Yellow-rumped Warbler returned to its normal healthy numbers after a poor autumn report in 1985. About 610 were reported including high counts of 44 at Hartford on 9/28 (WGE,NLM), and 66 banded at BNP on 10/2; 123 of the 215 banded there were netted from 10/1-3 (VINS). The last reported was at Reading on 11/24 (MWB). Fledglings were seen at Glen L., Castleton on 8/20 (WGE,PEL). Nearly 130 Black-throated Green Warblers were reported including a stunning maximum of 38 at Grout Pd., Stratton on 8/28 (JJC), 8 were banded at BNP (VINS), the last was at W. Brattleboro on 10/14 (JJC). An above average total of 83 Blackburnian Warblers was reported, high counts were limited to Aug. and included 16 at Reading on 8/16 (FMH,GEH), and 18 at Grout Pd. on 8/28 (JJC), just 1 was banded at BNP (VINS), and the final one was at

NORTHERN SHRIKE



11 Northern Shrikes was a very good total for the Autumn RVB, an average of only 2.8 have been reported per fall over the last six years; one has to return to the autumns of 1976-78 to find comparable numbers (9.7 per fall). Shrikes were reported at SNA on 10/29 (WJN), Reading (FMH,GEH) and Island Pd. (WAM,DLC,BLR, KH) on 11/1, Shrewsbury on 11/2 (LPS), an imm. was banded at BNP on 11/3 (CCR,VINS), 1 was at Winhall on 11/13 (AS), 1 was at Timouth on 11/15 (CJF), other singles were at Reading on 11/17 (FMH,GEH), Dorset on 11/20 (fide WJN), Quechee from 11/22-25 (KT), and Sandbar on 11/29 (WAM,DLC). As usual the European Starling was common to abundant with counts ranging up to 5000. Over 80 Solitary Vireos were reported. The peak of the autumn migration was during the third and fourth weeks of Sept. with a high count of 8 on 9/25 at W. Brattleboro (JJC). Late dates included 10/12 at W. Woodstock (CCR), and 10/14 when 2 were at Hartford (WGE,NLM); 23 were banded at BNP (VINS). Several of the 18 Yellow-throated Vireos reported were noted during Sept., including quite a few into the third week, the latest of which was at Shrewsbury on 9/21 (LPS). The single bird banded at BNP was the first

Quechee on 9/28 (WGE). Pine Warbler reports were few and included 1 on 8/30 at Ferrisburg (JID,MCD), an imm. at WRD on 8/31 (JDM), 1 at Colchester on 9/20 (JDM), and an ad. male at Quechee on 9/28 (WGE). The last was at a breeding location and probably represents a bird not yet departed rather than a migrant. Up to 3 Prairie Warblers were present at BNP, where they apparently nested, to at least 9/3 (m.ob.,VINS). The earliest of 13 Palm Warblers was a "western" banded at BNP on 9/26 (VINS), the latest were 2 at Shoreham on 10/20 (ELW). Seventy-four Bay-breasted Warblers were reported, the first noted was at S. Duxbury on 8/16 (FAP). Maxima were 6 on 8/25 at S. Duxbury (FAP), 10 at Burlington on 8/30 (WGE,NLM), and 8 at Gile Mt., Norwich on 9/6 (WGE,NLM), 3 were banded at BNP (VINS), and the last was at Shoreham on 9/26 (ELW). The Blackpoll Warbler was reported in remarkably small numbers, only 18 were located, the earliest migrant detected was at Burlington on 8/30 (WGE,NLM), and the last was at Woodstock on 9/22 (WGE). A CERULEAN WARBLER, one of Vermont's most rarely encountered migrants, was observed at Winhall on 9/3 (WJN). The Black-and-white Warbler was well reported with a total of 67 noted, 10 of these were banded at BNP (VINS), high counts were 6 each on 8/15 at S. Duxbury (FAP), and 8/16 at Reading (FMH,GEH), the last was encountered at Woodstock on 9/22 (JMN). Just short of 90 American Redstarts were reported, the highest count was 7 on 8/16 at S. Duxbury (FAP), 17 were banded at BNP (VINS), and the latest were 3 at Fair Haven on 9/28 (EPA). Twenty-one of the 48 Ovenbirds reported were banded at BNP (VINS), high counts included 4 banded at BNP on 8/11 (VINS), and 5 at S. Duxbury on 8/20 (FAP), the last was seen at Jamaica on 9/27 (ELW). Only 7 Northern Waterthrushes were reported, the last was at BNP on 9/19 and was the latest of 4 banded there (VINS). Four Louisiana Waterthrushes included 1 at Reading 8/3 (FMH,GEH), 1 which was killed against a window at Woodstock on 8/4 (JMN), 1 at Bartonville on 8/7 (TEJ), and 1 banded at BNP on 8/11 (CCR,VINS). The two Connecticut Warblers were detected within a day of each other including 1 banded at BNP on 9/14 (CCR,VINS), and 1 sighted the next day at S. Londonderry (WJN). Half of the 14 Mourning Warblers reported were banded at BNP (VINS); the last was at BNP on 9/19 (VINS). The Common Yellowthroat was second in abundance to Yellow-rumped Warbler with 366 reported; high counts were 14 on 8/17 at W. Rutland and Ira (WGE,NLM,JPM,JBM), and 11 banded at BNP on 9/2 (VINS), 118 others were banded at BNP including the last reported on 10/20 (VINS) but see the Winter RVB. The first of 44 Wilson's Warblers reported was at Glen L., Castleton on 8/20 (WGE,PEL), 9 were banded at BNP (VINS). The high count was 8 on 8/31 at Reading (FMH,GEH), and the last was at Norwich on 9/27 (WGE,NLM). Three dozen Canada Warblers were reported; counts never exceeded 3/day and the last was at Winhall on 9/28 (WJN); 10 were banded at BNP (VINS). A Yellow-breasted Chat was banded and photographed at BNP on 8/22 (CCR,VINS) the second record for the locale.

TANAGER THROUGH SPARROWS

Just over 40 Scarlet Tanagers were reported, 6 of these were banded at BNP (VINS). The last was present at BNP to at least 10/10 (CCR,WGE). One hundred twenty Northern Cardinals were reported. There were reports north to Plainfield and Lyndonville east of the Green Mts. and fledglings were still being fed by adults on 9/21 at Norwich (WGE), and 10/10 at Weybridge (MBN). The high count was 15 on 9/23 along Lewis Creek, Ferrisburg (JID,MCD), and 3 were banded at BNP (VINS). Over 70 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were recorded including 8 banded at BNP (VINS). A maximum of 5 was seen on 9/3 at BNP (WGE,NLM,CCR), and the last on 10/1 at BNP (VINS). The total of 85 Indigo

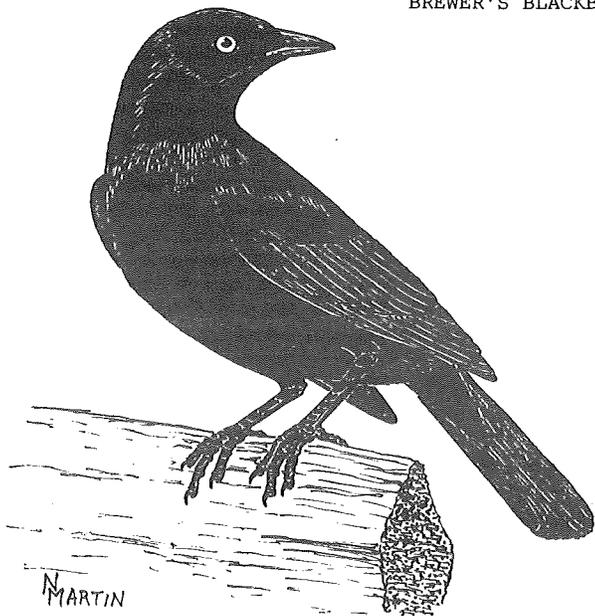
Buntings reported is a new high for the autumn RVB; adults were feeding fledglings at Shoreham on 8/5 (ELW); maxima were 7 on 8/19 at Woodstock (WGE), and 10 at Winhall on 8/25 (WJN), and the last of 12 banded for the season at BNP was captured on 9/30 (VINS). The Rufous-sided Towhee was noted in much higher than usual numbers with 75 reported, the high count was 7 on 9/28 at Danby (CJF), 9 were banded at BNP (VINS), and late birds were at Dorset on 10/22 (EFG), and at Woodstock on 10/26 and 27 (PH). Over 340 American Tree Sparrows were reported, the first was at S. Londonderry on 10/15 (WJN); 33 were banded at BNP (VINS), and the high count was 35 on 10/26 at WRD (JDM). About 290 Chipping Sparrows were reported including 7 banded at BNP (VINS), a maximum of 60 on 9/28 at Hartford (WGE,NLM), and a late report of 11/6 at Londonderry (WSA), but see the Winter RVB. About 100 Field Sparrows were reported, 2 high counts reflected breeding populations with 6 at W. Brattleboro on 8/12 (JJC), and 7 at BNP from 8/19-28 (WGE, et al.), 6 at Brownsville on 10/1 (BMH) were probably migrants, and 16 were banded at BNP (VINS). See the Winter RVB for the late report. The Vesper Sparrow remains very uncommon with only 16 reported, the high count was 5 on 10/12 at DCWMA (WAM,DLC), and the late report soon followed on 10/14 when 2 were observed at White River Jct. (WGE,NLM). The 215 Savannah Sparrows reported is two times any recent total submitted to the autumn RVB. The high count was an impressive 60 at Vernon on 10/4 (JJC), 6 were banded at BNP (VINS), and the last reported was in the Town Line Rd., Bridport/Addison on 11/23 (WGE,NLM). The only Grasshopper Sparrow observed was at the Retreat Meadows, Brattleboro on 9/18 (WJN); this sparrow is rare in the Connecticut Valley. The earliest of 21 Fox Sparrows reported was located at Hartland on 9/29 (WGE), 6 were banded at BNP (VINS), up to 2 were reported in a day and the latest reported was at Londonderry on 11/11 (WSA). Adult Song Sparrows were observed feeding fledglings at Woodstock (JMN), and L. Carmi (PJM) on 9/1, 1100 were reported including 111 banded at BNP (VINS), and high counts of 50 on 10/3 at HC (WJN), 50 on 10/4 at WRD (JDM), and 131 at Perkinsville on 10/10 (WGE). The total of 95 Lincoln's Sparrows submitted was much higher than normal. The 45 banded at BNP were very good (VINS), and the first clear migrant was banded at BNP on 9/1 (VINS). High counts included 6 banded at BNP on 9/22 (VINS), 7 at Hartford on 9/28 (WGE,NLM), and 6 at Perkinsville on 10/10 (WGE), the last was banded at BNP on 10/14 (VINS). Over 210 Swamp Sparrows were reported; 24 were banded at BNP (VINS), and high counts were 19 on 9/28 at Hartford (WGE,NLM), 15 at the Timmouth Channel on 10/9 (CJF), and 27 on 10/10 at Perkinsville (WGE). See the Winter RVB for December reports. About 1000 White-throated Sparrows were reported; 215 were banded at BNP (VINS). High counts included "50-100 daily" at Woodstock from 10/1-9 (JMN), 46 at Perkinsville on 10/10 (WGE), and 42 banded at BNP on 10/13 (VINS). The first of nearly 170 White-crowned Sparrows were 2 at Sheffield on 9/19 (PFW,SAW) which is an exceptionally early date, 10 were banded at BNP (VINS), the high count was 35 at WRD on 10/4 (JDM), and the last reported was at Vernon on 11/30 (JJC,TEJ). The bulk of Dark-eyed Juncos departed early with few noted after early Nov.. An albinistic individual with a white crown visited a Randolph feeder (EWC,MCC). About 640 juncos were reported, 31 banded at BNP (VINS), and high counts were 70 on 10/12 at Reading (FMH,GEH), and 76 at Londonderry on 10/19 (WSA). The Lapland Longspur migration was well detected. Reports included 3 at DCWMA on 10/17 (WGE,NLM), 4 at Charlotte on 10/30 (JID,MCD), 1 at Springfield on 11/4 (WJN), 6 at Vernon on 11/9 (JJC), 20+ at DCWMA (WGE,NLM,FO,WS), and 6 at Alburg on 11/23 (RBL). Excellent numbers of Snow

Bunting reported were in excess of 1100. The earliest were 4 on 10/14 at Grand Isle (DJH). High counts were 200 at Shoreham on 10/28 (ELW), and 450 at Grand Isle on 11/3 (DJH).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH HOUSE SPARROW

Three hundred of the 580 Bobolinks reported were observed at DCWMA on 8/25 (JID,MCD), 1 banded at BNP was the first netted during autumn at Woodstock since 1971 (VINS), the last report was at HC on 9/27 (WJN). The highest of several counts in excess of 1000 for Red-winged Blackbird was 5200 from DCWMA on 10/17 (WGE, NLM), 8 were banded at BNP. Most of the sixty-four Eastern Meadowlarks were reported from the Champlain Valley including a maximum of 11 on 9/28 at Addison (JRA), and the last which were 1 at DCWMA (MBN) and 1 on Lake St., W. Addison on 11/23 (WGE,NLM). Only 23 Rusty Blackbirds were reported from 9/16 to 10/30. The BREWER'S BLACKBIRD* first observed at S. Burlington "around Thanksgiving" is the first definite report of this rare western visitor

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD



from Vermont (MS-GMAS). The Common Grackle was reported in modest numbers. High counts included sizable flocks of 400 at Woodstock on 10/12 (JMN), 1500+ at Lincoln Hill on 10/18 (PAT), and 1000+ at S. Burlington on 10/25 (WGE,NLM,RBL). A Brown-headed Cowbird banded at BNP was the first in autumn for the station (VINS); high counts of cowbirds were 1120 on 10/17 at DCWMA (WGE,NLM), 160 on 10/27 at Vernon (JJC), and 175 in Grand Isle County on 11/8 (WAM,DLC). About 90 Northern Orioles were reported, 4 were banded at BNP (VINS). The largest count was 7 on 8/17 at W. Rutland and Ira (WGE,NLM,JPM,JBM), and the last was at S. Duxbury on 9/10 (FAP). Very few Pine Grosbeaks were reported; 4 were at Ferrisburg on 10/17 (JID,MCD), 1 was at Mt. Holly on 10/25 (WJN), and 4 were at Sheffield Heights on 11/12 (fide PFW). Most Purple Finches were gone by late Oct.. The few seen in Nov. were at feeders; 69 were banded at BNP (VINS), and the high count was 19 on 10/18 at Londonderry (WSA). An House Finch nest with well-developed young was knocked out of and replaced in a cedar at Weybridge on 8/1; the nestlings apparently fledged on 8/4 (MBN). About 735 of these finches were reported, with 141 banded at BNP (VINS). A banded female was recovered at Rutland on 8/14 (ST) that proved to have been banded by J.C. Covert III on 10/27/1985 near Albany, NY.. The seasonal high count was 50 on 8/20 at Weybridge (MBN). The only crossbill reported was a

Red Crossbill at Winhall on 10/30 (WJN). Common Redpolls invaded Vermont late in the season; 148 were reported as the species arrived en masse during mid-Nov.. The first was at BNP on 11/10 (WGE,NLM), and the high count was 100 at WRD on 11/16 (JDM). Over 480 Pine Siskins were reported. Although the earliest was noted at S. Duxbury on 8/12 (FAP), most were detected during Oct.; the high count was 50 on 10/13 at Woodstock (WGE,NLM); 1 was banded at BNP (VINS). Fledgling American Goldfinches were reported at Woodstock on 8/19 (JMN), Sheffield on 9/20 (PFW, SAW), and L. Carmi on 9/28 (PJM). About 900 goldfinches reported included 47 banded at BNP (VINS), and a high count of 50 on 11/23 at Addison (WGE,NLM). A few Evening Grosbeaks were reported during Aug. which is usual. The total report was of about 725; large numbers were not noted until October. High counts were 100+ at Londonderry on 11/14 (WSA), and 65 at Fayston on 11/30 (PL), 1 was banded at BNP (VINS). The House Sparrow seemed to be as numerous as ever.

*consideration by the Vermont Bird Records Committee pending

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Special thanks to all hawkwatchers.

Abbreviations Used in the Text

BNP - Bragdon Nature Preserve
DCWMA - Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area
HC - Herrick's Cove
MNWR - Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge
SNA - Springweather Nature Area
WRD - Winooski River delta

ad. - adult
imm. - immature
I. - Island
juv. - juvenile
poh - per observer hour
pd. - pond
sp. - species

Errata:

RVB Fall Migration 1985--A total of 3 Stilt Sandpipers were present in the Sand Rd./Slang Rd. area, Panton on 8/11 (WGE,NLM).

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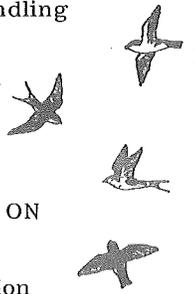
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