The Vermont Bird Records Committee met on 26 October 1991 for its yearly meeting to review rare bird reports. The committee’s function is to establish guidelines for the reporting of rarities and to review and evaluate records of rarities for their acceptability by future researchers and for inclusion in the state bird list. The Committee’s recommendations are followed in the publication of records in Records of Vermont Birds. The Bird Records Committee is a standing committee of the Vermont Audubon Council and consists of the managing editor of the Records of Vermont Birds, the seasonal editors of the Records of Vermont Birds, and the regional editors for Vermont for American Birds.

The Committee and the editors of the Records of Vermont Birds express their appreciation to the many Vermont birders who report to the Records of Vermont Birds and to the birders who have taken the time and trouble to fill out detailed reports on rare species. These reports add greatly to Vermont’s data base on birds. Careful recording of the details of plumage and identification are necessary.

Species for which detailed reports are required (Write to the Vermont Institute of Natural Science for Rare Species Documentation forms (RSD’s) or for Rare Species Nesting Report forms (RNR’s).

1) A documentation report is required for any species not included on the Vermont Daily Field Card and for any species significantly outside the usual dates of occurrence in Vermont.

2) In addition, RSD’s are required in all seasons for:
   - Golden Eagle
   - Black-backed Woodpecker
   - Common Barn-Owl (outside the Northeast Kingdom)
   - Long-eared Owl
   - Three-toed Woodpecker
   - Orange-crowned Warbler
   - Yellow-breasted Chat

3) RNR’s are requested on the following species (which are rare nesters in Vermont) if the species is observed in the proper breeding habitat during the breeding season (exceptions or special cases follow each species name in parentheses):
   - Pied-billed Grebe
   - Least Bittern (except for the West Rutland Marsh, Dead Creek and Missisquoi)
   - Great Egret (between 15 May and 15 July)
   - American Wigeon
   - Ring-necked Duck
   - Lesser Scaup
   - Osprey (if nesting evidence is observed)
   - Bald Eagle (if nesting evidence is observed)
   - Northern Harrier (outside the Champlain Valley)
   - Cooper's Hawk (if nesting evidence is observed)
   - Peregrine Falcon
   - Spruce Grouse
   - Sora (except the Barton River Marshes, West Rutland Marsh, Dead Creek, and Missisquoi Marshes)
   - Upland Sandpiper
   - Short-eared Owl

Red-headed Woodpecker (if probable or confirmed)
Gray Jay (outside the Northeast Kingdom)
Sedge Wren
Loggerhead Shrike
Grasshopper Sparrow
Orchard Oriole (if nesting evidence observed)
Pine Grosbeak
Red Crossbill (if confirmed breeding)
White-winged Crossbill (if confirmed breeding)


Ross' Goose

First State Records


Curlew Sandpiper (Calidris ferruginea) - one in breeding plumage, Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, Panton, Addison Cty., 13 July 1991. Dwight L. Cargill, Craig S. Provost, George E. (Terry) Hall.


WHITE-EYED VIREO (V. griseus) - one male, Route 102, Maidstone, Essex Cty., 26 June and 2 July 1991. James E. Osborn III. Tenth state record.


LAUGHING GULL (Larus atricilla) - one adult, flooded field along Barton River c. 2.5 miles north of the town of Orleans, Orleans Cty., 22 April 1990. Frank Oatman, Jon Wood. Would be first state record. (First state records require documentation by two independent observers.)


GOLDEN EAGLE (A. chrysaetos) - one immature, Brownell Mt., Williston, Chittenden Cty., 11 April 1991. Peter C. Riley.


SANDHILL CRANE (Grus canadensis) - one, Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, Addison, Addison Cty., 15 and 18 May 1990. William Crenshaw, John Campbell, John Micich.

GODWIT (Limosa species) - one juvenile, Oompomanosuc River, Norwich, Windsor Cty., 29 October 1990. Lloyd Bunten.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT (L. haemastica) - one juvenile, Dead Creek WMA, Panton, Addison Cty., 28 August 1991. J. A. Peterson.

RED PHALAROPE (Phalaropus fulicarius) - one juvenile molting to first basic plumage, Lake Pinneo, Quechee, Windsor Cty., 11 October 1990. W. G. Ellison.


RED PHALAROPE (P. fulicarius) - one juvenile molting to first basic plumage, photographed, St. Albans Bay, Franklin Cty., 24 September 1991. D. L. Cargill.

RED PHALAROPE (P. fulicarius) - one juvenile molting into first basic plumage, photographed, South Hero, Grand Isle Cty., 29 September 1991. David J. Hoag.


BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (R. tridactyla) - one observed and later found dead, Retreat Meadows, Brattleboro, Windham Cty., 8 August 1991. Dorrit Merton, Lisa Merton, Alan Dater. Specimen at VINS.

CASPIAN TERN (Sterna caspia) - two adult, delta at mouth of Dead Creek, Highgate Springs, Franklin Cty., 29 July 1991. Christopher C. Rimmer, Mark S. LaBarr.

CASPIAN TERN (S. caspia) - one, Gull Rock Island, North Hero, Grand Isle Cty., 13 August 1991. Mark LaBarr. Possibly one of the above.


The VERMONT INSTITUTE OF NATURAL SCIENCE is a nonprofit membership organization with statewide programs in environmental education and ornithological research. Our purpose is to promote an understanding of and appreciation for the natural world; membership is open to all interested in this purpose. Publications include a quarterly newsletter and calendar, and the annual magazine, VERMONT NATURAL HISTORY. Membership is $18 - Individual; $25 - Family; $40 - Supporting.

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