



Records of Vermont Birds

VERMONT INSTITUTE OF NATURAL SCIENCE

SUMMER SEASON 1992

1 June to 31 July

Lynn J. Erb, Seasonal Editor

Weather was certainly a topic of discussion in the summer of 1992. It was one of the coldest summers in memory for all of New England. June was cool with clouds much of the time, although rainfall totals were near normal or even somewhat below normal in the northern half of the state. The state of Vermont recorded its coldest July ever on record in 1992, with precipitation also above normal. On 2 July the temperature dropped into the 30's over most of the state, with some areas reporting a light frost. On 21 July, record low temperatures were again recorded around the state, with temperatures in the low forties. Burlington tied a record low of 42°F. Many people complained that we never had a summer in 1992 and it's easy to see why when one looks at the statistics.

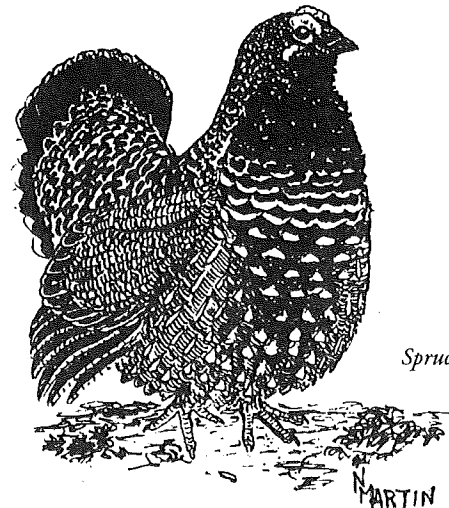
The weather did not seem to deter birders or birds as there were 203 species of birds, plus one hybrid species, seen for this summer season, including some notable documented rarities. An ACADIAN FLY-CATCHER was sighted singing at Stone Bridge Access in Pantou 2-31 July, the sixth state record. Other records included a LITTLE BLUE HERON at Herrick's Cove on 26 July, an adult male SPRUCE GROUSE sighted in Moose Bog, Ferdinand on 14 June, a SANDHILL CRANE observed in Pantou on 29 July, and 3 adult RED KNOTS seen in breeding plumage on Grand Isle, hereafter GI, on 5 June.

There were also two out of season reports that are notable, both from Grand Isle. A drake GREATER SCAUP was observed 18-20 July and one drake BUFFLEHEAD was seen in eclipse plumage on 18 July.

I have continued the use of 5 key words to indicate quantity of reports that has been used in the past by our other summer editor, Roy Pilcher. These words are: minimal for 1-5 reports; modest for 6-15 reports; moderate for 16-25 reports; considerable for 26-35 reports; and extensive for 36 or more reports. Reports are made from observations sent in either individually or on seasonal checklists (obtained from VINS), from Breeding Bird Survey reports, which are done throughout the nation, from information from the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge, hereafter MNWR, and from the Vermont Bird Conference, hereafter VBC, field trips in mid June.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

Vermont's endangered Common Loon (E,RNS) had a difficult breeding season, with several early nest failures. In spite of this, 10 of the 16 breeding pairs raised 13 chicks to fledglings, a decrease of 1 from 1991. There were 2 new breeding pairs, on Kettle Pond in Groton and at South Pond in Eden;

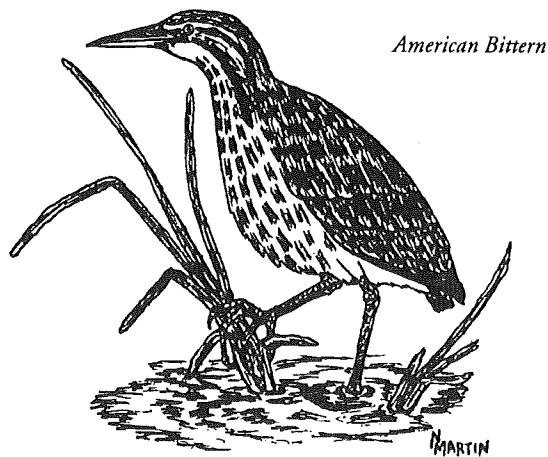


Spruce Grouse

MARTIN

unfortunately, neither of these pairs nested successfully. The Vt. Loon Watch Day on 6/18 found 108 observers recording 124 birds on 34 of the 99 lakes censused. The rest of the season brought in 23 sightings, including 13 on Lake Champlain, hereafter LC, 7/18 (RBL), plus 2 reported on the Hardwick Breeding Bird Survey, hereafter BBS, (LJE). Pied-billed Grebe (SSC,RNS) was minimally reported with one at Nichol's Pt. on LC 6/10 (DJH), 1 at Miles Pond in Albany 6/15 (LK), which was there swimming, diving and calling for 3 days before it was slain by a dog, 1 at Rogers Swamp, Glover 6/21 (LK) and 4 at Simm's Pt, GI 6/12 (DJH). An adult with yg. was seen on the VBC at South Bay, Lake Memphremagog, hereafter L. Mem., 6/14. Reports of Double-crested Cormorant were considerable with 27 sightings, including 502 active nests in trees and first-time recordings of 25 nests on the ground on Young Is. 6/18 (CCR). Other notable reports were 40 seen on Mud Is., LC 6/25 (SSW), 20 seen off the LC Islands 6/9 (SSW), and 28 seen at Button Bay, LC 7/11 (WGE,NLM). There were 18 individuals on one BBS route. These reports seem remarkable when looking back at the Records of Vermont Birds from 1978 when double-crested cormorants were considered rare with the first sightings that year since 1975, 15 birds altogether. American Bittern was moderately reported with 17 sightings including 2 at Mud Creek, Ferrisburgh 7/11 (WGE,NLM). All the other reports were of one bird, including a fledgling found on a road near Hardwick Pond 6/21 (MM) and an unfortunate bird run over by a hay mower in Pomfret 6/29 (BC). There were 6 individuals on 3 BBS routes. There was only 1 report of the Least Bittern, at Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, hereafter DCWMA, 7/24 (JRA). The Great Blue Heron was reported extensively with 44 sightings. Notable reports were a colony at Gale Meadows, Winhall with 3 new prs. (WJN) 16 yg. and 2 ads. at a rookery in Granville 6/24 (BWP), many nesting prs., some of which overwintered in Fair Haven (JCC), and an active heronry with at least 20 nests and 42 yg. in Orwell (RWP). There was 1 ad. only

and no nests at a historic heronry at Beaver Meadow, Bristol Notch 7/30. There were 26 individuals on 6 BBS routes. A Rare Species Documentation report, hereafter RSD, was accepted for a Little Blue Heron, an imm. seen at Herrick's Cove, Rockingham 7/26 (WJN). There were 3 reports of the Great Egret, with 1 seen at Blodgett's Beach, Burlington 7/15 (JAP), 1 at Hospital Creek, Addison 7/25 (WGE,NLM) and probably the same bird seen at Hospital Creek 7/27 (JAP). Cattle Egrets were reported by only one observer, who saw up to 5 at scattered locations on NW GI during July (DJH). There were moderate reports of the Green-backed Heron, but no breeding reports. Notable sightings included 3 in Brandon 6/5 (SSW), 2 at Mud Creek, Ferrisburgh, 7/11 (WGE,NLM) and 3 in Coventry 6/28 (REG). There were 5 individuals on 3 BBS routes. Black-crowned Night Heron was reported 4 times with 5-6 seen at Nichol's Pt, GI (DJH), 1-2 at Nichol's Pt. and Brown's Marsh, GI (DJH), 3 in Ferrisburgh, 7/10 (WGE,NLM), 1 at Stone Bridge, Panton 6/15 (JAP), and 1 seen at MNWR 6/11. An RSD has been accepted for the sighting of a SANDHILL CRANE on West Rd., Panton 7/29 (CM,WK). The bird was also seen at a distance in the same location on 7/31 (JAP).

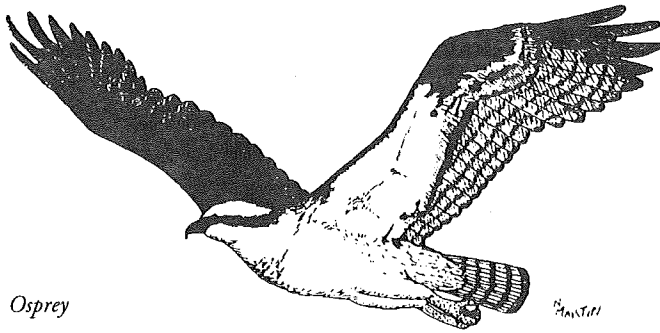


American Bittern

WATERFOWL

There were 2 MUTE SWANS of uncertain origin reported at East Creek in Orwell 6/23 (JAP). These same birds were also seen 6/27 (WGE,NLM,RWP). A late sighting of an imm. Snow Goose was reported on the w. shore of L. Mem. 6/16 (STH). There were considerable reports of Canada Goose, including 12 ads. and 2 juvs. seen on the Otter Creek in Middlebury 6/25 (MBN) and a pr. with 5 juvs. seen on the edge of Dorset Marsh 7/17 (EFG). These juvs. all flew about one week later. Other notable sightings included 33 in Dorset 6/12 (EFG), 40 at MNWR 7/30, 40 in Lyndonville 6/29 (PFW,SAW) and 1000 at MNWR on 6/5. There were 7 individuals on 1 BBS route. Wood Duck was also reported in considerable numbers. At least 3 broods were observed on the w. shore of L. Mem., 1 with 4 yg., 1 with 6 yg., and another with 3 yg. 7/28 (STH). A f. with 6 yg. was observed at Allen's Marsh, Westminster 6/21 and another at the same location with one f. and 10 yg. 6/25 (AMD). Seven broods were reported from East Creek, Orwell, 6/27 (WGE,NLM). Two family groups, one with a f. and 9 yg. and another f. with 12 yg., were observed on East Creek 7/8 (FAP). Two broods were seen at Brown's Marsh, GI (DJH), 1 brood at Nichol's Pt., GI and 1 brood at Pearl Swamp, GI (DJH). A f. with downy yg. was seen in Dorset 7/8 (EFG) and a f. with yg. at DCWMA 7/23 (SSW). Also notable were the 20 plus birds seen at

Allen Brothers Marsh, hereafter ABM, 7/26 (WJN). There were 3 individuals seen on 2 BBS routes. There were only 2 reports of Green-winged Teal, both at Moose Bog 6/14, one sighting of 2 m. (VBC) and one of 1 m. (KHD). American Black Duck was modestly reported with several reports of breeding. Nineteen yg. in total were seen at Nichol's Pt., GI and Blackwell's Swamp, GI (DJH), a m. and f. and 11 ducklings were seen at Moose Bog 6/23 (StR,JR), 2 ads. and 7 yg. were reported from Coventry 6/8 (REG), an ad. with 9 ducklings 7/7 and a hen with 7 ducklings at MNWR. Several broods were raised on the w. shore of L. Mem. (STH). The BBS recorded 7 individuals on 2 routes. There were also moderate reports of Mallard, with breeding reported in several locations, including nesting on Bell Island, L. Mem (STH), a nest in Dorset with 3 half grown yg. 6/10 (EFG), a Mallard-American Black Duck hybrid on GI 7/1 (DJH), and a hen with downy yg. in Woodstock 7/11 (WGE). There were 17 birds located on 6 BBS routes, with a high of 5 in Pownal. There was only one report of a Northern Pintail seen very briefly with a 60X scope from Tromp's Pt, GI (DJH). Reports of Blue-winged Teal were down this year with only three sightings. WGE felt they were quite scarce with none seen on several trips in the Champlain Valley. There were two sightings in Addison on 6/10 and 7/23 (JAP) and one at South Slang, Ferrisburgh, 6/11 (JID,MCD). One Northern Shoveler was sighted at Farrell Access, Addison 6/10 (JAP). There were 6-8 Gadwall hens present, representing 4 broods on NW GI 7/7 (DJH). A drake with a hen was present there on 7/8. Also reported was one protective hen 7/1, one hen with 9 or more downy yg. at Simm's Pt, GI 7/4, a hen with 2 yg. in the same area 7/10, a hen with 5 yg. a hen with 6 yg. and a pr., all at Bixby I., GI 7/7, and 3 hens 7/7 and 5-6 birds at Young Is., LC 7/8, plus a pr. and 3 hens at Bixby Is., GI 7/8 (all DJH). The only reports of American Wigeon came from David Hoag, with very complete written and photographic coverage of 6 broods during the reporting season at Brown's Marsh, GI. These sightings included a hen with 7 downy yg. 6/25-27, a hen with 7 smaller downy yg. 7/25., and hen and drake 6/25, a hen guarding a hidden brood 7/28-29, a hen with 5 downy yg. and 2 very small downy yg. 7/13-14, and two very tiny downy yg. feeding independently 7/14. There was an out-of-season report of one drake Greater Scaup in eclipse plumage on the w. shore of GI 7/18-19 (DJH). A Lesser Scaup was reported from Arnold Bay, Panton 7/9 (WGE,NLM). There were minimal reports of Common Goldeneye, all 4 sightings with breeding information. Four family groups, with f. with diving chicks (broods of 13, 9, 7 and 11) were seen at Sandbar SP (State Park) 6/6 (FAP), a f. with 10 ducklings was also observed at Sandbar SP 6/8 (EMA,RDB), a f. with 2 ducklings was sighted at MNWR 6/11, and broods of 6 on 6/13, 7 on 6/14, and 5 on 7/13 at NW GI (DJH). There were 2 out-of-season reports of Bufflehead, with 1 m. present since April at L. Pinneo 6/1 (WGE,NLM) and one drake in eclipse plumage seen on the w. shore of GI 7/18 (DJH). Hooded Merganser was modestly reported with one f. with 4 ducklings recorded at MNWR 6/12, at least 2 broods on E. Creek, Orwell 6/23 (JAP), a f. with 7 ducklings at Moose Bog 6/23 (StR,JR), a juv. seen at Button Bay, Ferrisburgh 7/11 (WGE,NLM), and 3 juvs. at L. Pinneo, Quechee 7/31 (WGE). There was 1 individual on 1 BBS route. There were moderate reports of Common Merganser, although some felt their numbers were down. Breeding reports included 95 yg. for the summer on NW GI, with the first brood reported on 6/10 (DJH), a hen with 8 half grown yg. in Woodstock 7/10 (WGE,NLM), a f. with 7 yg. at Westgate Pd., Bible Hill 7/12 (BMH), a hen with 2 yg. at S. Londonderry 7/24 (WJN), and 10, mostly juv., at Delta Park, Colchester (WGE,NLM). There was 1 individual on 1 BBS route.



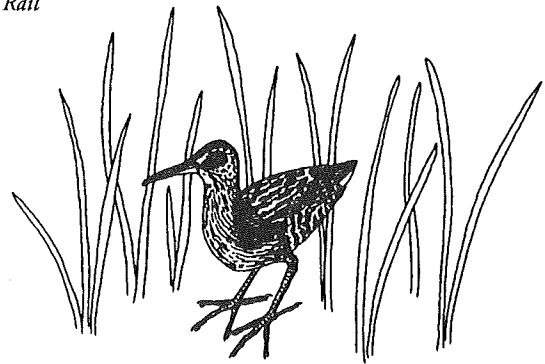
Osprey

VULTURES, HAWKS AND FALCONS

There were extensive sightings of Turkey Vulture this season, although there were no nesting reports. High counts include 30 birds at Eagle Mt. in Milton 7/5 (DJH), where they were reported nesting last year, 16 in Ferrisburgh 7/10 (WGE,NLM), 11 in Bristol 7/26 (JRA), 11 in Wells 6/24 (BWP), 11 in Addison 6/9 (JAP), and 10 at DCWMA 6/16 (KHD). Two BBS routes reported 26 individuals, with 18 of these on the Hinesburg route. Out of the 20 OSPREY (E,RNS) nesting platforms being monitored by the VFWD, nesting activity was documented on 7 platforms, with 3 successful nestings, producing a total of 5 fledglings. Two successful nests were on poles (Ferrisburgh and Swanton) and one was in a tree with a new predator guard (Ferrisburgh). Three nests failed for unknown reasons during incubation and one nest was started, but never reached incubation stage. Ospreys were reported moderately by observers around the state and included 1 pursuing an imm. Bald Eagle on the Otter Creek above the Weybridge Dam 7/12 (MBN) and a pr. building a flimsy nest on a decaying tamarack in Bristol 7/22 (JAP). Bald Eagles (E) were modestly reported with 12 sightings, including 3 imm. birds seen at MNWR 6/26, and one individual with a left wing showing signs of a former injury, but flying well, near South Bay, LC (across from Whitehall, NY) 7/26 (MS). This bird landed near a fisherman and ate catfish thrown in its direction. There were moderate reports of the Northern Harrier, most from either the Champlain Valley or the NE Kingdom. A nest and 2 eggs were found, but didn't hatch, in Cornwall 6/8, 7/7 (JAP,SSW). Observations were made in the NE Kingdom of 8 f. and 6 m. during the summer season at widely separated locations by one individual (LK). The Sharp-shinned Hawk was also reported moderately, including a pr. defending an unfound nest, one bird carrying a plucked dead bird in its talons 7/30 (CHD), an ad. bird mobbing a Barred Owl, with a possible fledgling calling in the area 7/26 (WGE,NLM), and an individual that landed in a maple, then swooped to the feeder and grabbed a House Finch in Pawlet 7/9 (GRB). There was 1 individual seen on the Middlesex BBS route. Cooper's Hawk was modestly reported, and included a pr. that raised 2 yg. in a nest 40 ft. up in a maple tree near a house on Ladd Pt., GI 6/7 (RBL). The fledglings were observed on the lawn in July. A nest with 3 yg. about 40 ft. up in a birch tree was observed in Stowe 7/30 (EK). All other sightings were of single birds from around the state. There were 4 sightings of Northern Goshawk, including photos and newspaper stories about a nest with 4 well-grown yg. in Marlboro 7/22 (YD). The other individual sightings were 1 seen in Colchester 6/6 (EMA,RDB), 1 in Middlesex 6/13 (TSA), and 1 at Jay Peak 6/19 (JID,MCD). There were 3 reports of the Red-shouldered Hawk, with 1 in S. Londonderry 6/8 (WJN), 1 in Thetford 6/8 (TSA) and a few individuals seen infrequently on the w. shore of L. Mem. There were no sightings in Bolton this season, which seemed unusual to one observer (MC). This editor has also seen a large decline in this species in the Jericho area over the

last 10 years, mainly due to habitat destruction. Broad-winged Hawk was moderately reported, with some evidence of nesting. A nest 12-15 m. up in a maple contained 2 yg. about 3/4 grown at Muddy Pond, Rutland 7/3 (RWP). These yg. were out of the nest onto limbs by 7/11. Other possible nest sites were found in Middlebury 7/6 (JAP), S. Starksboro 6/28 (MP), and Bristol 7/7 (SSW). Other interesting observations included an individual engaged in aerial battle with a Red-tailed Hawk in S. Duxbury 6/10 (FAP) and a bird almost hit on a runway by the observer at the Berlin Airport 6/2 (TSA). Five individuals were seen on 5 BBS routes. There were also moderate reports of Red-tailed Hawk this season, with sightings spread throughout the state. There was a nesting pr. observed in Brandon 6/10 (SSW), and an ad. on a nest at MNWR 6/11. Up to 4 were seen in Pantou 7/30 and in Benson 6/17 (WGE,NLM). There were 4 individuals seen on 3 BBS routes. There were considerable reports of the American Kestrel, with 4 nesting sites reported in the Ferrisburgh area 7/14 (JID,MCD) and a resident pr. in Pawlet (GRB). An individual bird was seen being run into the ground, quite literally, by an Eastern Kingbird, in Hinesburg 7/5 (JRA). All in all, American Kestrels seem to be widespread and fairly common. There were 17 individuals seen on 10 BBS routes. The Peregrine Falcon (E,RNS) continues its amazing comeback, with 17 yg. fledged this year, 4 more than last season. Nine out of 12 prs. nested, with 7 of those prs. raising the young. Other sightings include 1 seen at Mt. Horrid 6/2, 6/17 (SSW), 1 at Fairlee 6/12 (REG), a pr. at Job's Mt., Westmore 6/14 (WGE,NLM), 1 seen at Bald Mt., West Haven 6/22 (WGE), 1 ad. f. seen at Creek Rd., Addison 7/9 (WGE,NLM), 1 ad. m. with juv. at Kellogg Bay, Ferrisburgh 7/10 (WGE,NLM), and 3 juvs. at Palisades, Fairlee 7/18 (WGE,NLM). A single individual was seen on the Hinesburg BBS route.

Virginia Rail



GROUSE THROUGH RAILS

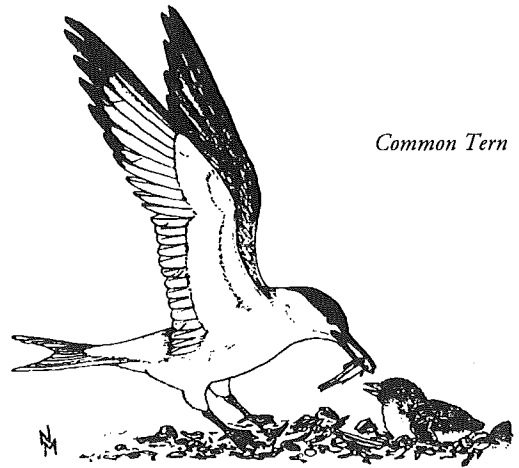
A single Gray Partridge was observed at Mt. Hunger, Middlesex 6/13 (TSA). There were 2 reports of Ring-necked Pheasant, one in Vergennes 6/7 (JID,MCD), and a m. and f. in Holland 7/22 (LLA). One individual was also recorded on the North Pownal BBS route. A survey done for the third year by the VFWD, located 30 SPRUCE GROUSE (E,RNS) in the Yellow and Moose Bog areas. This is the highest tally since the inception of the study, with 25 birds seen in 1991 and only 13 in 1990. Other sightings include 1 at Moose Bog 6/14 (KHD), and 1 at Newark Pond 7/8 (JZ). There were modest reports of Ruffed Grouse, with several observations made of breeding. Two ads. with 3 yg. were seen in Rochester (SSW), 1 ad. with 4 yg. in Vershire (KRH), a f. with yg. in Goshen 6/16 (SSW), broods in Benson 6/17 and 6/27 (WGE,NLM), and 12 seen in Reading 7/5 (FMH,GEH). One individual was seen on the Northfield BBS route. Wild Turkeys were modestly reported, with breeding confirmed with a

sighting of a hen and brood of 4 in Taftsville, 7/13 (EAH). Other sightings included 5 males in West Haven 6/28 (WGE,NLM), 1 in Middlebury 6/22 (JAP), a hen on rt. 7 south of Manchester 6/22 (GRB), 2 at Bald Mt. Preserve, West Haven 6/22 (WGE), and many all season in Fair Haven (JCC). One individual was seen on the Hinesburg BBS route. The 3 reports of Northern Bobwhite include a f. seen on the w. shore of L. Mem. 6/28 (STH), one in Hinesburg near Lewis Creek 6/20 (MH), and one heard in W. Bolton in early June (MC). One bird was seen on the E. Haven BBS route. Virginia Rails were modestly reported and included high counts of 4 at WRM 6/10 (WGE), 6 at South Slang, DCWMA 6/29 (JID,MCD), and 3 at WRM 7/8 (FAP). Sora were sighted by four observers, including 1 at Manchester 6/1 (NLM), 3 at WRM 6/10 (WGE), 1 at Little Otter Creek, Ferrisburgh 7/10 (WGE,NLM), and one at Nichol's Pt., GI 7/28 (DJH). A single Common Moorhen was seen 6/24 (MNWR). The American Coot was observed in Coventry 6/28 (REG) and at Brilyea Access, DCWMA 7/23 (SSW).

SHOREBIRDS

Reports of Semipalmated Plover were minimal with 3 seen at Blodgett's Beach, Burlington 7/25 (WGE,NLM), 1 at Delta Park, Colchester 7/25 (WGE,NLM), and 1 at Blodgett's 7/29 (JAP). Reports of Killdeer were considerable, with some evidence of confirmed breeding. These included a nest with 4 eggs in Shoreham 6/27 (RWP), a pr. with half grown juvs. in West Haven 6/28 (WGE,NLM), a pr. with 4 half grown juvs. in Thetford 7/26 (NLM), and chicks in S. Londonderry 7/24 (WJN). There were 51 individuals seen on 13 BBS routes. There was a single observation of a Greater Yellowlegs at Button Bay, Ferrisburgh 7/11 (WGE,NLM). Reports of Lesser Yellowlegs include one seen at Blodgett's, Burlington 7/15 (JAP), another at the same location 7/25 (WGE,NLM), 2 at Shelburne Bay, LC 7/25 (WGE,NLM), and one at Popasquash Is., St. Albans 7/25 (MSL). A solitary Solitary Sandpiper was reported from Stone Bridge, DCWMA 7/18 (FAP). There were considerable reports of Spotted Sandpiper, which included several nesting observations. Several broods were observed along the shore of NW GI, with the first one hatching 6/13 (DJH). Two ads. and 2 juvs. were seen in Bridport 6/15 (MBN), a nest with 4 eggs was found in the Jay Peak area 6/19 (JID,MCD), and an ad. with 2 flightless juvs. was seen at Stone Dam, Pantan 7/5 (WGE,NLM). There were 5 individuals seen on 3 BBS routes. The ongoing annual survey of Upland Sandpiper in 20 towns in the s. Champlain valley counted 69 individuals at 30 sites. This compares with 59 birds at 20 sites in 1991 in the same survey area. The population seems to be stable at traditional sites. There were 10 other reports sent in with some duplication including 1 at Ferrisburgh 6/6 (JID,MCD), 2 at the Berlin Airport 6/7 (TSA), 2 in Cornwall 6/10 (JAP), 5 in Orwell 6/27 (WGE,NLM), 2 in Benson 6/28 (WGE,NLM), 7 in Shoreham 6/29 (JAP), 2 in Addison 6/30 (JAP), 3 in Shoreham 7/5 (WGE,NLM), 3 in Cornwall 7/7 (SSW), and one at Button Bay 7/11 (WGE,NLM). There was a single report of 3 Ruddy Turnstones at Savage Is. on 6/8 (MSL). All reports of Red Knot came from Nichol's Pt., GI. Three were observed on 6/5, 4 on 6/10 and 1 on 6/11-13 (DJH). A single Sanderling, beginning pre-basic molt, was reported from Popasquash Is., St. Albans 7/25 (MSL). Semipalmated Sandpiper was minimally reported, including 2 on 7/15 and 4 on 7/29 at Blodgett's Beach, Burlington (JAP), 2 at the same location, 7/25 (WGE,NLM), 1 at Shelburne Bay 7/25 (WGE,NLM), 1 at DCWMA 7/30 (WGE) and 5 at Popasquash Is., St. Albans 7/25 (MSL). A single Least Sandpiper was observed at Blodgett's, Burlington 7/29 (JAP). Likewise, a probable Baird's

Sandpiper was seen at the same location and date (JAP). Short-billed Dowitcher was reported twice, with 4 seen at Savage Is. 6/8 (MSL), and one ad. at Delta Park, Colchester 7/25 (WGE,NLM). There were modest reports of American Woodcock with 1 seen in Middlebury 6/2 (JAP), 1 in Brandon 6/3 (SSW), 1 in Reading 6/10 (FMH,GEH), 1 flushed from grass in Goshen 6/16 (SSW), a nest in S. Duxbury, 6/30 (FAP), 1 making a rocking motion on a lawn in Pawlet 7/21 (GRB), and 2 in W. Bolton 7/25 (MC). One individual was seen on the Fletcher BBS route. Common Snipe was moderately reported, with courtship flights observed by many reporters and high counts of 2 in Middlebury 6/21 (WGE), 2 in Benson 6/27 (WGE,NLM), 2 at DCWMA 7/5 (SWM) and 3 dead in the road in Brownsville 6/14 (BMH). There were 39 individuals seen on 12 BBS routes.



Common Tern

GULLS AND TERNS

There were 6 reports of Bonaparte's Gull this summer season. One was seen at Nichol's Pt. 6/12 (DJH), 1 at Bixby Is. 7/8 (DJH), 20 ads. at Chimney Pt., Addison 7/25 (WGE,NLM), 2 at Delta Park, Colchester 7/26 (SWM), 4 at Blodgett's, Burlington 7/29 (JAP), and 6 at MNWR 7/30. Ring-billed Gull was modestly reported with 330 seen in Pantan 7/25 (WGE,NLM), 280 in Pantan 7/9 (WGE,NLM), 100 at DCWMA 6/23 (SSW) and 50 in Fairfax 7/29 (EMA,RDB), 50 in Coventry 6/28 (REG), and up to 400 daily on the w. shore of L. Mem. (STH). There were 374 individuals counted on 5 BBS routes. There were minimal reports of Herring Gull with up to 25 daily on the w. shore of L. Mem. (STH), 20 in Middlesex 6/17 (TSA), 1 in Brandon 6/23 (SSW), 15 at Blodgett's, Burlington 7/15 (JAP), and 20 at Delta Park, Colchester 7/26 (SWM). There were 3 individuals observed on the Grand Isle BBS route. Great Black-backed Gull was also minimally reported with up to 9 daily on the w. shore of L. Mem. (STH), 4 at the Moretown Dump 6/20 (TSA), 12 at Blodgett's, Burlington 7/15 (JAP), 2 in Burlington 7/25 (WGE,NLM), and 1 at Delta Park, Colchester 7/26 (SWM). From a low of only 48 nesting prs. in 1989, the Common Tern (E,RNS) continues its steady comeback with 75-80 prs. this season (compared to 60-65 in 1991). Popasquash Is. continued to be the core colony with 82% of known nests located there. Likewise, all 45 chicks that managed to fledge (under intense pressure from various predators), were from Popasquash. While research shows annual site fidelity to be quite high, it is also encouraging that there is immigration into the LC colony, with the discovery of a bird banded as a chick on the St. Lawrence R. in 1990. Other sightings included 2 seen in Addison 7/10 (JMN,EFG), 4 in Ferrisburgh 7/11 (WGE,NLM), at

MNWR 6 on 7/23, 100 on 7/30 and 25 on 7/28, 3 at Delta Park, Colchester 7/25 (WGE,NLM), and 15 at the same location 7/26 (MSL). Based on 3 yrs. of data gathered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the population of the Black Tern appears to be stable at this time in Vt. There are around 100 nesting prs. in the state, but without fledging success data, it is unknown if the terns are reproducing adequately to maintain this population. National data estimates that this species has declined in numbers by 85% from 1966-1989. The species was modestly reported this season with many seen in Swanton in early June (GRB), 12 at MNWR 6/9, 4 in Panton 6/10 (JAP), one at DCWMA 6/15 (JID,MCD), 10 at MNWR 6/15 (KHD), 10 at MNWR 6/17, one at Lewis Creek 6/20 (JID,MCD), 20 at South Slang DCWMA, 6/29 (JID,MCD), 3 at Stone Bridge, DCWMA 7/7 (FAP), and 1 at Delta Park, Colchester 7/26 (SWM).

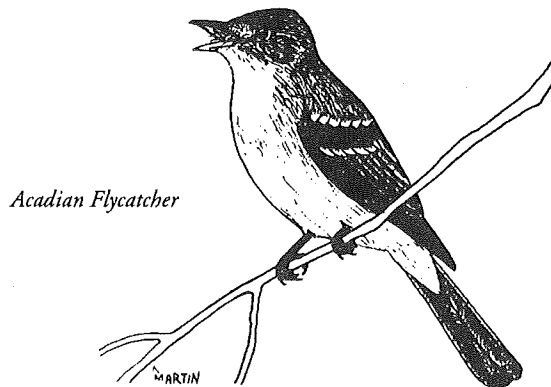
DOVES THROUGH NIGHTJARS

Rock Dove was modestly reported, probably because of its abundance, with up to 100 seen daily on the w. shore of L. Mem. (STH). There were 227 individuals seen on 18 BBS routes. There were considerable reports of Mourning Dove. However, there was only one breeding observation of an ad. feeding a fledgling 3 nights in a row 6/17 (MP). The fledgling was then left alone on a brush pile each night. BBS observers found 317 individuals on 21 routes. There were merely 7 reports of Black-billed Cuckoo this season, all individual birds seen throughout the state. There was a report of 1 individual on the West Rutland BBS route. More than one observer commented on the scarcity of this species this season. There were only 2 reports, plus 1 on the BBS route in Fletcher, of Yellow-billed Cuckoo. A single bird was heard singing from a tree in Montpelier 6/2 (TSA), and another bird was heard at the MNWR 6/15 (KHD). A BARN OWL residing in a barn in Barre was documented 7/2 with an RSD and a feather (DMc,SMc). There were 2 reports of the Eastern Screech Owl, with 1 at the MNWR 6/26 and another in Pawlet 7/23 (GRB). Also, one bird was reported from the North Pownal BBS route. The 2 reports of Great Horned Owl were 1 at MNWR 7/2, and 1 in Orwell 7/5 (WGE, NLM). Reports of Barred Owl were modest and included a photograph of a recent fledgling in a window box on a deck railing 6/1 (JS). There were 5 individuals reported on 3 BBS routes also. A single report of the Northern Saw-whet Owl came from W. Glover 6/27 (REG). The number of reports of the Common Nighthawk rose from 4 observations last yr. to 11 this year, and included a report of a first time sighting in Lincoln 6/2 (JRA). The Whip-poor-will, once a common favorite, continues to be scarce with only 2 reports for the season. Four individuals were heard calling regularly throughout June in N. Hartland (MaC), and 1 bird was heard in Saxton's River on 6/30 and again on 7/11 (REG).

SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Chimney Swift was moderately reported, including observations of abundance in Burlington (SWM) to a poor showing in Winhall (WJN). There were 59 individuals reported on 12 BBS routes. There were considerable reports of Ruby-throated Hummingbird, which included only 1 of confirmed breeding with a m. and f. with 5 imms. in Georgia 7/15 (EMA,RDB). There were also 12 individuals seen on 9 BBS routes. Belted Kingfisher was also well reported with 23 sightings, none with any breeding information. Fourteen individuals were seen on 10 BBS routes.

Several observers reported a single Red-headed Woodpecker in Bridport from between 6/17 and 7/25 (JAP,JMN,EFG,et al). Another individual was seen at L. Bomoseen 6/28 (CHD). The 25 reports of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker include only 3 nesting reports, with parents seen actively feeding nestlings at MNWR 6/15 (EMA, RDB), a f. with food for yg. at a noisy nest in S. Starksboro 6/29 (MP), and a m. and imm. in Brownsville 7/24 (BMH). Downy Woodpecker was moderately reported, including 3 nestings reports. Two ads. were seen feeding one imm. in Georgia 6/25 (EMA,RDB), ads. were feeding many yg. at a suet feeder in Vershire 7/1 (KRH), and fledglings were first noticed in Ferrisburgh 7/11 (WGE,NLM) with at least 30 for the season there. There were 47 individuals reported from 15 BBS routes. Hairy Woodpecker was also moderately reported, the 7 nesting reports including parents feeding an imm. 7/16 (EMA,RDB), a pr. with several yg. at suet in Lincoln (JRA), 4 ads. feeding 3 yg. at feeder in Sheffield from 6/27-7/15 (PFW,SAW), a f. feeding an imm. in S. Starksboro 6/30 (MP), ads. and many yg. at suet in Vershire 7/1 (KRH), nesting evidence in Somerset 7/4 (JP,KP) and a f. feeding yg. at suet in Woodstock 7/7 (JMN). At least 23 were seen for the season in Ferrisburgh (WGE,NLM), and there were 27 individuals reported on 14 BBS routes. There were minimal reports of Black-backed Woodpecker. They included 1 seen at Moose Bog 6/14, and 1 on 6/15 (KHD), 2 prs. seen at the same time in Moose Bog proper 6/29 (CHD), and one at Somerset Reservoir 7/3 (JP,KP). There were considerable reports of Northern Flicker, but none of them included any nesting information. There were 39 individuals reported on 17 BBS routes. Pileated Woodpecker was moderately reported, with several observers mentioning that they seem to be thriving (FAP,STH,FMH,GEH, LJE). There were 25 individuals seen on 13 BBS routes.



Acadian Flycatcher

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

Olive-sided Flycatchers were modestly reported and included a nest observed on Ward Hill (FAP) and a pr. in Rochester 7/3 (SSW). One was singing in Goshen 6/8 and 7/25 (SSW), and single birds were seen at Jay Peak 6/19 (JID,MCD), in Barton 6/28 (REG), in Peru 7/18 (WJN), and in Weathersfield 7/26 (WJN). Two birds were observed in Peacham Bog, Groton SF 7/26 (WGE, NLM). A reporter at Bristol Notch noted that there were none in the usual breeding spots during the season (JRA). There were 3 individuals noted on 3 separate BBS routes. The Eastern Wood-pewee was modestly reported and included a high of 18 recorded on Shaw Mt. 6/17 (WGE,NLM). There were 52 individuals heard on 13 BBS routes. A singing m. ACADIAN FLYCATCHER seen at Stone Bridge, DCWMA was the 6th state record for this species and was observed from 7/2-7/30 as it went through a complete molt (TF,RM,JS,m.obs.). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was modestly reported, mostly from the NE Kingdom, and included an ad.

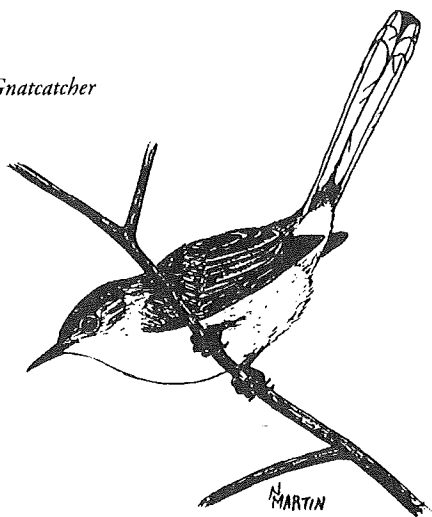
flushed from a nest with 4 eggs in Ferdinand 6/15 (KHD). Other observations included 9 seen in Westmore 6/9 (WGE), 5 in Moose Bog 6/14 (WGE,NLM), and 4 in Ludlow 6/26 (WGE). Alder Flycatcher was moderately reported and included a nest and fledgling banded at BNP in Woodstock 7/28 (WGE). There were 71 individuals reported on 13 BBS routes with 23 of them on the Greensboro and Hardwick routes. Willow Flycatcher was also moderately reported, but there were no nesting reports. There were 28 individuals recorded on 9 BBS routes. There were considerable reports of Least Flycatcher, which included only 1 nesting sighting of an ad. sitting on a nest in Chittenden Brook Campground 7/3 (SSW). There was a high of 20 plus seen at the Green Mountain Audubon Center, Richmond, hereafter GMAC, 6/7 (SWM), and 166 individuals were reported on 19 BBS routes. There were considerable reports of Eastern Phoebe, which included 9 reports of nesting, some with several pairs observed. Nineteen BBS routes recorded 198 individuals. Great Crested Flycatcher was moderately reported and included the observation of a nest 25 up in a sugar maple in Royalton 6/26 (NLM,DB) and an ad. entering a nest in Bristol Notch 6/24 (JRA). There were 40 individuals observed on 11 BBS routes. There were considerable reports of Eastern Kingbird with several nesting reports. These included a nest along a fence line in Pawlet (GRB), 3 incubating prs. in June in S. Starksboro (MP), a nest that included a lot of fishing line with 3 eggs over water in West Rutland Marsh 6/25 (RWP), an imm. extricated from cherry netting in Lincoln 7/2 (JRA), a nest in scrubby growth behind a pond in Vershire 7/4 (KRH), a nest with yg. in a grape covered elm snag in Pantown 7/9 (WGE,NLM), and an ad. feeding 2 yg. in Sheffield Ctr. 7/30 (PFW,SAW). Twenty BBS routes netted 105 individuals. There were 7 reports of Horned Lark, all from the s. Champlain Valley, including a high count of 17 individuals in Addison, 7/9 (WGE,NLM). One individual was seen on one BBS route. There were modest reports of Purple Martin, all in the Champlain Valley. One observer reported at least 12 locations in the Champlain Island area (DJH). Other high counts included 25+ in 4 colonies in Ferrisburgh (JID,MCD), 13 in North Hero 7/25 (SWM), and 13 in Addison 7/25 (WGE,NLM). Two observers in South Hero reported Purple Martins and House Sparrows using the same house with different holes (EMA,RDB). As might be expected, there were considerable reports of Tree Swallow, with several reports of nesting, including 6 nesting prs. in houses in Vershire 7/25 (DRH), a pr. in Pawlet with fledglings 7/18 (GRB), 2 prs. in bluebird houses in Dorset 6/7 (EFG), and 2 families in Barnard 6/4 (JNF). There was a high count of an estimated 300 birds, all on one farm in Sudbury 7/19 (SSW). There were 254 individuals seen on 21 BBS routes. Northern Rough-winged Swallow was modestly reported, with 3 nesting reports. One observer reported 2 family groups, with yg. being fed by ads. in Quechee 6/26 (JMN); another reported a pr. nesting in a barn wall for the second year in GI (DJH), and there was an active nest as late as 7/25 in Burlington (WGE,NLM). There were 2 individuals reported on 2 BBS routes. Bank Swallow was also modestly reported with nesting sites in Ferrisburgh (JID,MCD), 100-150 holes in a bank in Lyndonville 7/2 (PFW,SAW), and a large colony at the Starksboro dump (MP). There were 193 individuals seen on 9 BBS routes. There were 10 reports of Cliff Swallow, which included yg. still in nests at Partridge Inn, L. Morey, 7/18 (WGE,NLM). There were 30 individuals seen on 4 BBS routes. Barn Swallow was moderately reported with 4 nesting reports. Young were observed in a nest at Button Bay 7/11 (WGE,NLM), 2 active nests were observed in S. Starksboro 7/7 (MP), an ad. was seen feeding 4 yg. in Lincoln 6/23 (JRA), and 2 nests that fledged 7 yg. on 7/6 were observed in Colchester (EMA,RDB). A high count of 25 was seen in Pantown 6/10 (JAP). There were 338 individuals seen on 21 BBS routes.

JAYS THROUGH WRENS

The 3 reports of Gray Jay included 2 seen in S. Londonderry 6/1 (WJN), 1 seen at Moose Bog 6/23 (StR,JR), and 2 seen on Mt. Monadnock, Lemington 7/27 (CHD). Juvenile Blue Jays were observed at a feeder in Hartland from late June on (WGE,NLM), and ads. with at least 3 begging yg. were observed in Woodstock 7/5 (JMN). In spite of considerable reporting of this species, these were the only 2 breeding reports. There were 266 individuals seen on 21 BBS routes. There were also considerable reports of American Crow, with up to 40 being seen in late June (WGE,NLM). Nestlings were audible in a white pine in Woodstock 6/4 (LLB), and yg. fledged on GI on 6/7 (DJH). Crows were seen collecting nesting material in Dorset 6/6 (EFG). There were 491 individuals seen on 20 BBS routes. Common Raven was also considerably reported, with several nesting reports. An ad. flying with yg. was observed in Goshen (SSW), very noisy juvs. were reported from Benson 6/17 (WGE,NLM), an ad. and 3 noisy yg. were observed in Quechee 7/7 (JMN), and an ad. with 2 begging yg. was seen in Woodstock 7/7 (JMN). A total of 21 individuals were observed on 12 BBS routes. A report of Black-capped Chickadee nesting in a wren house in Dorset, whose yg. could be heard from 30 ft. away 6/6 (EFG) was one of only 2 nesting reports of the species, in spite of considerable reporting of sightings. The other nesting report was of 3 imms. following an ad. in Lincoln 7/2 (JRA). There were 339 individuals reported on 21 BBS routes. There were 4 reports of Boreal Chickadee this season. There were 4 quiet and hard to see birds reported from Moose Bog 6/14 (WGE,NLM,VBC), 1 bird was observed in Brighton 6/14 (WGE,NLM,VBC), 1 in Sheffield 6/15 (PFW,SAW), and 2 were reported from Moose Bog and Black Branch 6/23 (StR,JR). The Tufted Titmouse was modestly reported, with nesting reports of 2 ads. and 1 juv. in Ferrisburgh, 6/28 (JID,MCD), and 2 ads. with 4 fledglings in Hartland 7/4 (WGE,NLM). There were also 5 individuals seen on 3 BBS routes. The moderate reports of Red-breasted Nuthatch included 3 nesting reports. Young begging for food were observed in Brandon 6/24 (SSW), a m. and f. with yg. were reported from Georgia 6/25 (EMA,RDB), and an imm. gathering food with its mother nearby in Weathersfield 7/26 (WJN). There was a total of 34 individuals reported on 13 BBS routes. There were considerable reports of White-breasted Nuthatch, including observations of yg. at a feeder most days in Vershire (KRH), a pr. with 2 fledglings at a feeder in Hartland 6/24 (WGE,NLM), and a m. and f. feeding 4 yg. in Georgia 6/30 (EMA,RDB). There were 33 individuals on 15 BBS routes. Brown Creeper was minimally reported. One or 2 were seen infrequently on L. Mem. (STH), 1 in Brandon on 6/1 and 6/21 (SSW), 1 reported from Georgia 7/15 (EMA,RDB), 5 observed in Peacham 7/26 (WGE,NLM), and 1 in Middlebury 7/28 (JAP). Carolina Wren was also minimally reported, all from the southern and central portions of the state. One was observed in Brandon 6/4 (SSW), 1 in S. Londonderry 6/7 (WJN), 1 in Dorset 6/7 (EFG), 2 in Bennington 6/7 (BCD), 1 in Middlebury 6/24 (JAP), and 1 in Sharon 6/26 (NLM,DB). There were also 3 individuals on 3 BBS routes. House Wren was moderately reported, with several nesting observations. A pr. hatched yg. in Brownsville in July (BMH), a f. was taken by a kestrel from a nest box in Brandon 6/23 (SSW), a pr. took over a bird house from Tree Swallows in Barnard 6/4 (JNF), a pr. with yg. just out of the nest was observed in Middlebury 6/30 (JAP), a pr. in a nest box fledged yg. in Pawlet 7/12 (GRB), and a pr. destroyed bluebird eggs and a nest and then built 2 dummy nests in Vershire 7/25 (KRH). There were 44 individuals on 12 BBS routes. There were moderate reports of Winter Wren, but only 1 nesting report of a pr. in N. Ferrisburgh, (JK). High counts of 10 were observed in Ludlow 6/10 (WGE) and on Mt. Hunger 6/

14 (TSA). There were 54 individuals reported on 16 BBS routes. There were also moderate reports of Marsh Wren with high counts of 15 at WRM 6/10 (WGE), 14 at DCWMA 6/26 (JID,MCD), 14 around Ferrisburgh 7/10 (WGE,NLM), and 17 singing males at DCWMA 7/24 (JRA). Four dummy nests were built on the e. side of Simm's Pt., GI by 6/25 (DJH). There were 16 individuals observed on 4 BBS routes.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher



KINGLETS THROUGH THRUSHES

Golden-crowned Kinglet was modestly reported this season, with many observations coming from the NE Kingdom. Three were seen in Westmore 6/12 (WGE), 8-10 were reported from Moose Bog 6/14 (WGE,NLM), 2 from Berlin Pond 6/21 (TSA), 2 from Moose Bog 6/23 (StR,JR), 3 from Okemo Mt., Ludlow 6/26 (WGE), 8 from Groton SF, Peacham 7/26 (WGE,NLM), 1 from Victory Bog 6/14 (SSW), and birds occasionally heard in Bristol (JRA). There were 12 individuals reported on 5 BBS routes. Ruby-crowned Kinglet was also modestly reported with one from Sheffield 6/1 (PFW,SAW), many from NW GI 6/7 (DJH), 4 from Moose Bog 6/14 (VBC), 1 from Moose Bog 6/15 (KHD), 1 from Moose Bog 6/23 (StR,JR), 2 from Mt. Hunger 6/27 (TSA), and 1 from Groton SF, Peacham 7/26 (WGE,NLM). There were 5 individuals on 4 BBS routes. All but 1 of the 6 reports of Blue-gray Gnatcatcher contained nesting information. Fledglings were present in West Haven 6/22 (WGE), a f. with 2 fledglings was observed in Royalton 6/26 (NLM,DB), an ad. with 2 fledglings was reported from Benson 6/27 (WGE), 3 birds were observed at Lewis Creek 6/30 (JID,MCD), 3 ads. and 3 juvs. were seen in Ferrisburgh 7/10 (WGE,NLM), and 2 juvs. were observed at Delta Park 7/25 (WGE,NLM). Two individuals were also seen on the North Pownal and Gaysville BBS routes. The considerable reports of Eastern Bluebird included 13 separate reports of nesting activity, several with 3-4 nesting boxes. This species continues to rebound very successfully, thanks to the effort of many individuals and groups like Bluebirds Across Vermont. There were 20 individuals seen on 11 BBS routes. There were extensive reports of Veery from all across the state, including a nest with 2 eggs about 20 cm above ground at the base of a hawthorne bush in Ira 6/25 (RWP), a nest on a stump about 25 cms high containing 3 eggs 7/1 (RWP), and a nest about 20 cms above a trail in an indentation in a small hillside in Huntington (LJE). There were 318 individuals reported on 20 BBS routes. In conjunction with the Manomet Bird Observatory, VINS initiated studies of Bicknell's (Gray-cheeked) Thrush in 1992. Preliminary results indicate that the species is quite widespread above 3000' in New England and New

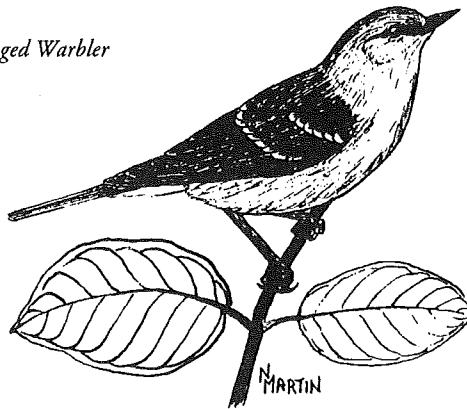
York. Observations were made of the bird on 68 of 122 Vt. peaks surveyed. Studies are to continue in 1993. Other reports included 1 observed in Westmore 6/12 (WGE), 2 on Mt. Hunger 6/13 (TSA), 1 on Jay Peak 6/20 (JID,MCD), 2 in Ludlow 6/26 (WGE), 1 on Mt. Mansfield 6/23 (DJH), and 21 in Warren 6/25 (FMH,GEH). Swainson's Thrush was modestly reported, with no breeding information. There were high counts of 5 in Westmore 6/12 (WGE), 5 in Ludlow 6/26 (WGE), and 8 on Mt. Hunger 6/14 (TSA). There were extensive reports of Hermit Thrush this season. Three birds above the 2000' elevation responded to a Bicknell's Thrush recording (WGE), ads. with 4 fluffy nestlings were seen in S. Starksboro 6/6 (MP), 2 ads. with 2 yg. were observed in Middlebury 7/28 (JAP), a nest was discovered in a brush pile in Wallingford 6/23 (SJD), and an ad. feeding 2 yg. in Lincoln 6/29 (JRA). There were also 80 individuals on 17 BBS routes. Although some feel that Wood Thrush is fairly common and widespread (WGE,NLM), others, including this observer, have noticed a sharp decline in this species, with a seeming increase in Hermit Thrush (LJE,RS,STH). In spite of this, there were considerable reports of the species from around the state, but with no substantiated breeding. There were 315 individuals reported on 20 BBS routes. There were also considerable reports of American Robin with several nesting reports. Some of the larger counts included 25 in S. Londonderry (WJN), and 12 on Sylvan Acres Tree Farm in Reading 6/26 (FMH,GEH). There were 1217 individuals seen on 21 BBS routes.

MIMIDS THROUGH VIREOS

There were considerable reports of the Gray Catbird, with nesting confirmed in Vershire 6/1 (KRH), in Brandon 6/4 (SSW), and a nest with 2 eggs in a hawthorne bush about 1.5 m. high in Ira 6/25 (RWP). A total of 171 individuals were reported from 17 BBS routes. Northern Mockingbird was moderately reported, with nesting confirmed in Ferrisburgh (JID,MCD) and Lyndon, where 2 ads. were seen with one imm. 6/27 (REG). Strangely, there were only 2 individuals of this species seen on 2 BBS routes. There were modest reports of Brown Thrasher with at least 2 observers commenting on their scarcity (SSW,MBN). There were no confirmed reports of nesting. Cedar Waxwing was extensively reported with several observers commenting on how numerous they seemed this season (FAP,JID,MCD,WGE,DJH). Nesting reports included an ad. gathering fuzz from a blanket for a nest in Brandon (SSW), 2 nesting prs. in Fair Haven (JCC), a nest being built in a 30 yr. old sugar maple in Dorset 6/15 (EFG), and several fledglings observed in Vershire 7/16 (KRH). There were 288 individuals reported on 19 BBS routes. Although very common, there were only modest reports of the European Starling, including an albino feeding yg. in Reading 6/25 (FMH,GEH), and a juv. being carried by a Peregrine Falcon in Addison 7/9 (WGE). Larger counts included 50 in S. Londonderry (WGE), 20+ in Brownsville (BMH), 15-20 in Sheffield 6/19 (PFW,SAW), 100 in Weybridge 7/16 (MBN), and 50 in Sudbury 7/19 (SSW). There were 861 individuals reported from 21 BBS routes. Solitary Vireo was moderately reported with 2 nesting observations; 4 ads. feeding 4 yg. in Middlebury 6/15 (JAP), and a nest found in S. Starksboro 6/21 (MP). There were 40 individuals seen on 17 BBS routes. There were modest reports of Yellow-throated Vireo from around the state, but with no nesting confirmations. Larger counts were 5 in Benson 6/17 (WGE,NLM), 5 in West Haven 6/22 (WGE), and 5 at L. Morey, Fairlee 7/18 (WGE,NLM). There were 18 individuals seen on 6 BBS routes. There were also no nesting reports for the Warbling Vireo, even though the species was moderately reported. The highest number seen was 16 in

Ferrisburgh 7/10 (WGE,NLM). There were 57 individuals seen on 14 BBS routes. The single report, other than a BBS route of the Philadelphia Vireo came of a f. carrying food in Middlebury 7/22 (JAP). The one BBS observation was made in Stowe. Even though there was extensive reporting of the Red-eyed Vireo, some observers felt that they were not as plentiful as in other years (FAP,JRA). In spite of all the reports, once again there were no nesting confirmations for the species. Some of the larger numbers observed were 20+ at the GMAC 6/7 (SWM), 19 in West Haven 6/22 (WGE), 18 in Plymouth 7/1 (WGE), and 10 in Middlebury 7/28 (JAP). There were 643 individuals seen on 20 BBS routes.

Blue-winged Warbler



WOOD WARBLERS

There were 3 reports of Blue-winged Warbler; 1 in Manchester 6/1 (NLM), 1 in Manchester Ctr. 6/11 (BWP), and 1 in Weathersfield 7/26 (WJN). There was also 1 bird seen on the Shaftsbury BBS route (CCR). Golden-winged Warbler was minimally reported with 5 being seen in Benson 6/17 (WGE,NLM), 3 in West Haven 6/22 (WGE), 1 in West Haven 6/28 (WGE), 1 in Brandon 6/8 (SSW), 1 in Milton throughout June (PSM), and 1 in Charlotte throughout the season (LJE,DCD). There was also one bird observed on the West Rutland BBS route (NLM). One Brewster's Warbler hybrid was reported, singing the song of a Golden-winged Warbler, with some extra notes on the end 6/5,6/7 (SSW). Tennessee Warbler was minimally reported with 1 bird observed in W. Glover 7/5 (REG), 1 banded at VINS 7/27 and 1 reported from S. Londonderry 6/26 (WJN). The Nashville Warbler was modestly reported and all sightings were single except for 7 seen at Bald Mt. Preserve, West Haven 6/7 (WGE). There were 13 individuals seen on 9 BBS routes. There were also modest reports of the Northern Parula, the majority of which were from the NE Kingdom. There were no breeding confirmations for the species, but there were 16 individuals seen on 6 BBS routes. As one would expect, there were considerable reports of Yellow Warbler, some of which included some nesting information. A nest in Essex brought forth 4 healthy, rather blue nestlings 6/25 (MP), a nest 8-10 m. above the ground (high for the species?) was found in Pittsford 6/10 (RWP), an abandoned nest in a shrub with one cowbird egg was found in Dorset 6/6 (EFG), and ads. feeding 3 fledglings were observed in Albany 7/2 (WGE,NLM). Chestnut-sided Warbler was also in considerable evidence, with a high of 15 observed in Plymouth 7/1 (WGE). Nesting reports included 2 nests, one with a hatchling and one with a cowbird egg at the GMAC 6/7 (SWM), a pr. feeding a full-sized cowbird in Lincoln 6/11 (JRA), and a pr. with the f. feeding yg. in Rutland 7/1 (RWP). There were 269 individuals reported on 18 BBS routes. Magnolia Warbler was moderately reported with a high of 12 seen in Ludlow 6/26 (WGE). One observer noted that they were

absent from usual spots at the 1000-1500' level in Lincoln 7/1 (JRA). There were 45 individuals seen on 11 BBS routes. The 3 reports of the Capo May Warbler were all from the NE Kingdom; 3 were observed in Moose Bog 6/14 (VBC), 1 in Moose Bog 6/15 (SWM), and 1 in Lyndonville 6/13 (SSW). The moderate reports of Black-throated-Blue Warbler included several nesting reports; a nest with eggs was observed in Goshen 6/24 (SSW), an ad. taking food to a nest was observed on Mt. Philo 6/9 (JID,MCD), a pr. feeding a fledgling was seen in Wallingford 6/25 (RWP), a m., f., and juv. were seen beside a trail on Mt. Hunger 6/27 (TSA), and a nest about 30 cm off the ground containing 4 eggs was observed in Rutland 7/1 (RWP). A high of 19 birds were seen on Bald Mt. in Westmore 6/12 (WGE). There were 48 individuals on 14 BBS routes. In spite of considerable reports of Yellow-rumped Warbler, there were no nesting confirmations. Some of the larger numbers seen included 22 on Bald Mt., Westmore 6/12 (WGE), 14 at Okemo in Ludlow 6/26 (WGE), and 15 at Salt Ash Mt., Plymouth 7/1 (WGE). There were 108 individuals seen on 15 BBS routes. Black-throated Green Warbler was modestly reported, with a high number of 11 seen on Bald Mt., Westmore 6/12 (WGE). Reports came from wooded areas all over the state, but included no nesting information. There was a total of 57 individuals on 14 BBS routes. There were modest reports of Blackburnian Warbler from around the state; a f. with f.y. was observed in Rochester 7/27 (SSW) and high counts of 6 came from Westmore 6/12 (WGE), and Middlebury 6/15 (JAP). There were 23 individuals seen on 12 BBS routes. The minimal reports of Pine Warbler included 3 observed in white pine stands in Quechee 6/12 (KHD), 2 in Middlebury 6/15, 4 on 7/7 and 2 on 7/28 in a nesting colony in Middlebury (JAP), 3 singing m. in Bristol 7/7 (SSW), and 9 at L. Morey, L. Fairlee and Wilder 7/18 (WGE,NLM,GE). There were 2 individuals seen on the Post Mills BBS route (WGE) and the St. Johnsbury BBS route (DJS). Reports of Prairie Warbler was also minimal; 1 m. was observed at the BNP, Woodstock 6/4 (WGE,NLM,CCR), 1 in Benson, 6/27 (WGE), and 1 in red cedars in Orwell 6/27 (WGE). There was also 1 individual on the Shaftsbury BBS route (CCR). Bay-breasted Warbler was also minimally reported with all reports but one from the NE Kingdom. That bird was observed in Fairfax during the season (PAT). Other observations included 2 at Victory Bog 6/14 (SSW), 1 m. in Moose Bog 6/14 (VBC), 1 in Moose Bog 6/15 (SSW), and 1 in Moose Bog 6/23 (StR,JR). The modest reports of Blackpoll Warbler include 25 observed at Bald Mt., Westmore 6/12 (WGE), 3 on Mt. Hunger 6/13 (TSA), 4 on Jay Peak 6/19 (JID,MCD), 1 on Mt. Mansfield 6/23 (DJH), 13 on Okemo Mt. 6/26 (WGE), 12 on Salt Ash Mt. Plymouth, 7/1 (WGE), 2-3 on the Long Trail, Lincoln 7/1 (JRA), 1 on Haystack Mt. 7/5 (JP,KP), and 1 in Victory Bog 6/14 (SSW). The single report of a possible Cerulean Warbler was at the s. end of L. Fairlee 6/8 (TSA). There were considerable reports of the Black-and-white Warbler, including a nest with 3 still blind yg. found in S. Starksboro 7/2. On 7/7 this nest had only mites in it. The highest number observed was 6 in Benson 6/17 (WGE,NLM). There were 63 individuals seen on 18 BBS routes. There were also considerable reports of American Redstart this season. Nesting reports included a pr. nesting in a backyard in Brandon 6/7 (SSW), one pr. and 7 singing ms. in Rutland 7/1 (RWP), and a pr. with f.y. in Ferrisburgh 7/15 (JID,MCD). There were 219 individuals on 20 BBS routes. There were, not surprisingly, considerable reports of the Ovenbird from all over the state. Nesting observations included a nest with 5 eggs at Shaw Mt. Preserve, Benson 6/17, predated by 6/27 (WGE), a bird with f.y. in New Haven (JRA), and a nest with 2 cowbird eggs in Brandon 6/6 (SSW). High counts included 16 on Bald Mt., Westmore (WGE), 15 at Shaw Mt. Preserve, Benson 6/17 (WGE), and 15 at Bald Mt. Preserve, West Haven 6/22 (WGE). There were 299

individuals seen on 21 BBS routes. Northern Waterthrush was modestly reported, with no nesting observations. A high count of 5 were observed in Moose Bog 6/14 (VBC). There were 6 individuals on 4 BBS routes. There were also modest reports of Louisiana Waterthrush, which included a few nesting observations; a pr was observed feeding at least 1 fledgling in Rutland 7/1 (RWP), and a pr. was feeding yg. at the nest in S. Wallingford 7/2 (RWP). There were 4 individuals reported from 3 BBS routes. Mourning Warbler was modestly reported from around the state, including a bird with a peculiar song rather like a Common Yellowthroat, in an alder, red maple swamp on the Pittsford BBS route (NLM). There were 4 birds encountered on different dates at different locations in Bristol (SSW). There were extensive reports of the Common Yellowthroat from around the state. Among the reports were two 7 yr. old males banded in Woodstock (WGE,NLM), an ad. with 2 yg. in Dorset 7/23 (EFG), a f. with f.y. in Bristol Notch 6/24 (JRA), 2 ad. m. and 1 imm. in Lincoln 6/2 (JRA), and 2 nesting in a swamp in Brandon 6/7 (SSW). There were a whopping 568 individuals located on 21 BBS routes. This species is not in any trouble! There was a single regular report of a Wilson's Warbler from Addison 6/8 (JAP). There was also a report of this species from the St. Johnsbury BBS route (DJS). There was high moderate reporting of the Canada Warbler. One was found dead outside the window of a home in Pawlet (GRB) and a f. with f.y. was found at Lincoln Gap 6/30 (JRA). High counts included 14 on Okemo Mt., Ludlow 6/26 (WGE), and 10 on Salt Ash Mt., Plymouth 7/1 (WGE). There were 24 individuals observed on 10 BBS routes.



Lincoln's Sparrow

TANAGERS THROUGH HOUSE SPARROW

There were moderate reports of Scarlet Tanager this season, which included one report of a nest found 25' up in a hemlock in Royalton 6/26 (NLM,DB). High counts included 7 in Benson 6/17 (WGE,NLM), and 9 at Shaw Mt. Preserve in Benson 6/27 (NLM). There were 75 individuals seen on 18 BBS routes. There were considerable reports of the Northern Cardinal, a once rare, but now quite common species, especially where there are feeders and towns nearby. One was observed attacking his reflection in the bathroom window on Ward Hill (FAP). Nesting reports included 3 nesting prs. on property in Ferrisburgh (JID,MCD), 2 nests on property in Jericho (LJE), a nesting pr. with juv. in Weybridge 6/3 (MBN), a nest in shrub in a busy area next to a house in Dorset 6/7 (EFG), a f. with imm. at a feeder in Georgia 6/20 (EMA,RDB), and many prs. with fledglings in Orwell 6/27 (WGE,NLM). There were 108 individuals seen on 10 BBS routes. The Rose-breasted Grosbeak was considerably reported including several nesting reports. Two prs. with 3 yg. came to a sunflower feeder regularly in Ferrisburgh (JID,MCD), sightings with yg. were reported in Westminster West (AMD), an agitated pr. with silent yg. in Lincoln Gap 7/3 (JRA), a m. and imm. and 3 m. and 1 imm. seen in Georgia 7/5 and 7/8 (EMA,RDB), a family with yg. and a yr. old m. in Lincoln Gap

7/8 (JRA), a juv. in E. Middlebury, 7/25 (MBN), and many yg. at a feeder many times per day in Vershire 7/1 (KRH). There were 68 individuals on 19 BBS routes. There were moderate reports of Indigo Bunting, which included a nesting near a covered bridge in Brandon 6/6 (SSW), and a nest to which birds were making stealthy flights in S. Starksboro 6/23 (MP). There were 81 individuals on 19 BBS routes. Rufous-sided Towhee was moderately reported and included 2 ad. with 2 yg. nesting on property in Ferrisburgh, 6/27 (JID,MCD), and 1 found in a clear cut at 2100' elevation on Salt Ash Mt., Plymouth 7/1 (WGE). There were 14 individuals seen on 9 BBS routes. An unsubstantiated out-of-season American Tree Sparrow was observed in early June in Pawlet (GRB). Chipping Sparrows were moderately reported and included a nest in Brandon 6/7 (SSW), an ad. with f.y. with a nest in a blue spruce in S. Starksboro 6/30 (MP), a parent feeding a fledgling in Pittsford 7/3 (MTB), and a pr. nesting on property in Jericho (LJE). There were 279 individuals seen on 21 BBS routes. There were moderate reports of Field Sparrow from most sections of the state, although they seem to be almost absent in the n. Champlain Valley. A high count of 7 were observed in Benson 6/17 (WGE). There were 38 individuals seen on 14 BBS routes. Vesper Sparrow was modestly reported, with most sightings in the lower Champlain Valley. Other sightings include 1 in Irasburg (WGE), 1 in Lyndonville 6/14 (FAP), and 1 at the Brighton Airport (VBC). Nesting reports included a bird with f.y. in Pantou 7/9 (WGE,NLM), and a pr. feeding yg. in New Haven 7/14 (JAP). There were 4 individuals seen on 2 BBS routes. There were considerable reports of the Savannah Sparrow, mostly from the Champlain Valley. Nesting reports include a pr. feeding 2 yg. in Pittsford 6/10, 16 (RWP), and at least one pr. nesting in S. Londonderry 6/26 (WJN). There were 87 individuals on 15 BBS routes. The minimal reports of Grasshopper Sparrow include 1 reported from Cornwall 6/10 (JAP), 1 in Shoreham 7/5 (WGE,NLM), a singing m. in Cornwall 7/7 (SSW), one in Pantou, e. of Slang Rd. 7/9 (WGE,NLM), and 2 at Riverside Farms, S. Londonderry 7/24 (WJN). There were 3 individuals seen on the Colchester BBS route. There were considerable reports of Song Sparrow from around the state, including an ad. with f.y. in Dorset 6/7 (EFG), an ad. carrying nest material in Dorset 7/26 (EFG), and a pr. with 4 yg., almost fledged when predated, probably by a chipmunk, in Pawlet 7/7 (GRB). A high count of 40 was observed at Bald Mt. Preserve, West Haven 6/22 (WGE). A total of 792 individuals were reported on 21 BBS routes. Reports of Lincoln's Sparrow were minimal, with 1 observed in Sheffield 6/1 (PFW,SAW), 3 in Brighton 6/14 (VBC), 1 in Moose Bog 6/14 (VBC), 2 in Moose Bog, one of which was carrying food, but was too nervous to enter the nest 6/15 (KHD), a singing m. in Brandon 7/26 (SSW), one agitated ad., in Groton SF 7/26 (WGE,NLM), and 1 in Moose Bog 6/23 (StR,JR). Swamp Sparrow was modestly reported, including 2 ads. with a juv. 7/1 and a juv. 7/19 in Dorset (EFG). A high count of 22 birds was observed in Benson 6/27, and 22 in Ferrisburgh 7/11 (WGE,NLM). A total of 75 individuals was reported from 12 BBS routes. There were extensive reports of the White-throated Sparrow, which include an ad. with f.y. 6/20, and one with nesting material 7/19 in Lincoln (JRA), an ad. with f.y. in S. Starksboro 6/23 (MP), and a family group in Lincoln Gap 7/27 (JRA). There was a high count of 30 at Okemo Mt., Ludlow 6/26 (WGE). There were 266 individuals reported on 21 BBS routes. Dark-eyed Junco was considerably reported, and included a nest with 3 eggs discovered in a bank in Killington 7/26 (ML). High counts included 20 at Mt. Hunger 6/14 (TSA), 14 at Okemo Mt., Ludlow 6/26 (WGE), and 16 at Salt Ash Mt., Plymouth 7/1 (WGE). There was a total of 39 individuals seen on 13 BBS routes. There were also considerable reports of Bobolink, with many people commenting on how they seem to be thriving (FAP,MP,JID,MCD,EMA,RDB). The only

breeding information included a m., f., and yg. in Addison 7/10 (JMN, EFG). High counts included 70 in Benson 6/17, and 82 in Orwell 7/5 (WGE, NLM). There were 245 individuals reported on 20 BBS routes. The considerable reports of Red-winged Blackbird included a nest in a tussock of marsh grass, containing 4 eggs at the WRM 6/7 (RWP), and a m. with a juv. at a feeder in Weybridge 7/26 (MBN). A high count of 100 was observed at Herrick's Cove 7/26 (WJN). There were 1082 individuals seen on 21 BBS routes. Eastern Meadowlark was moderately reported, with several successful nests observed in N. Ferrisburgh (JID, MCD). Most, but not all of the reports were from the s. Champlain Valley area. They were also observed in a mowed hayfield in Pawlet in early June (GRB), and at Eagle Pt., L. Mem. daily (STH). Two were also observed in Barton 7/6 (PFW, SAW). There was a total of 39 individuals seen on 13 BBS routes. The minimal reports of Rusty Blackbird included 1 on Black Branch Rd. in the NE Kingdom 6/23 (StR, JR), an ad. feeding a juv. at Somerset 7/3 (JP, KP), and 1 at Somerset, 7/4 (JP, KP). The moderate reports of the Common Grackle included 2 feeding yg. at a feeder in Sheffield 6/1 (PFW, SAW), and an ad. with 5 juvs. in Weybridge 6/22 (MBN). A high count of 50 was observed at Sylvan Acres Tree Farm, Reading 7/14 (FMH, GEH). There were 407 individuals seen on 21 BBS routes. Brown-headed Cowbird was modestly reported, but there was no nesting information. Between 2 and 50 were seen almost daily at Eagle Pt., L. Mem. (STH). There were 224 individuals seen on 20 BBS routes. There were extensive reports of the Northern Oriole, including several successful nestings in N. Ferrisburgh (JID, MCD), a nest on top of a 20' maple in a swamp in Dorset, with ads. feeding yg. by 6/12 (EFG), a nest 30' up in an oak tree in Benson 6/17 (WGE), a nest 40' in a maple tree 6/18 (WGE), a f. carrying nesting materials in S. Starksboro 6/19 (MP), and a m. and f. feeding 1 fledgling in Pittsford 7/1 (MTB, ARB). There were 119 individuals reported from 17 BBS routes. There were considerable reports of Purple Finch with many reported at feeders throughout the season. Four prs. and 2 juvs. were seen regularly at a feeder in Ferrisburgh (JID, MCD), and a nest was found in a hanging plant over a deck at a house in Barnard 6/29 (JNF). Up to 20 were seen at a feeder at Eagle Pt., L. Mem. (STH) and up to 14 were at feeders at a house in Sheffield 6/1 (PFW, SAW). House Finch is becoming so common that one observer wondered if they were "taking over the world". Although they were only moderately reported, they seem to be locally common at spots. Immatures were being fed the first week of July in Georgia (EMA, RDB), 4 prs. were nesting on property in Ferrisburgh (JID, MCD), one pr. with 3 fledglings was seen in Brownsville 6/29 (BMH), and 2 ads. with 5 nestlings were observed in S. Starksboro 6/30 (MP). One albinistic bird was reported from Essex Jct. 6/15 (DJ). There were 152 individuals seen on 15 BBS routes. Pine Siskins were modestly reported, with up to 9 being observed at feeders in Sheffield through 7/10 (PFW, SAW). Two juvs. were seen in Ferrisburgh 6/7 (JID, MCD), and an independent juv. was reported from Hartland 6/8 (WGE, NLM). There were 23 individuals reported from 3 BBS routes. American Goldfinch reports were considerable, with up to 20 at feeders during the season (STH). A high count of 43 was reported from Bald Mt. Preserve, West Haven 6/22 (WGE). There were 249 individuals seen on 21 BBS routes. Evening Grosbeak was moderately reported, including a m. feeding yg. in Pittsford 7/8 (MTB), 2 ads. with 2 fledglings in Hartland 7/13 (WGE, NLM), and an imm. in Georgia 7/20 (EMA, RDB). A high count of 25 was reported from Groton SF 7/26 (WGE, NLM). There were 17 individuals reported from 5 BBS routes. Reports of House Sparrow were modest, with a f. feeding 2 fledglings observed in Pittsford 6/1 (MTB), and considerable evidence of nesting at a home in Wallingford (SJD). A total of 247 individuals were reported from 19 BBS routes.

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Special thanks to all who participated in Loon Watch.

Abbreviations Used in the Text

ABM	Allen Brothers Marsh
BNP	Bragdon Nature Preserve (VINS), Woodstock
ChV	Champlain Valley
CR	Connecticut River
DCWMA	Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, Addison and Panton
GI	Grand Isle
HC	Herrick's Cove, Rockingham
LC	Lake Champlain
MNWR	Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge, Swanton
SWMA	Sandbar Wildlife Management Area, Milton
WRM	West Rutland Marsh
WRJ	White River Junction
WRDP	Winooski River Delta Park, Colchester

ad.	adult (s)	(E)	endangered in Vermont
ctr.	center	(RNS)	rare nesting species in Vermont
f.	female (s)		
f.y.	fledgling young	(SSC)	species of special concern in Vermont
imm.	immature (s)		
Is.	Island	(T)	threatened in Vermont
juv.	juvenile (s)		
L.	Lake		
m.	male (s)		
Pd.	Pond		
pr.	pair (s)		
Pt.	Point		
R.	River		
sp.	species		
yg.	young		

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Survey Routes, Observers and Dates. Routes are twenty-five miles long, with three minute stops every half mile.

Colchester (DCB) 7/10
 East Calais (FBE) 6/7
 East Haven (CHD) 7/6
 Fletcher (LPR) 6/21
 Gaysville (NLM) 6/26
 Grand Isle (LPR) 6/27
 Greensboro (LJE) 6/3
 Hardwick (WGE) 7/2
 Hinesburg (CSP) 6/21
 Landgrove (WGE) 6/23
 Middlesex (PRW) 6/28
 Newbury (FAP) 6/17
 Northfield Falls (WHB) 6/18
 North Pownal (CJW) 6/13
 Post Mills (WGE) 6/16
 Shaftsbury (CCR) 6/22
 South Reading (FMH) 6/7
 South Wallingford (CHD) 6/30
 St. Johnsbury (DJS) 6/15
 Stowe (EMJ) 6/27
 West Rutland (NLM) 6/18

Memorandum Regarding Rare Species Documentation

The Vermont Bird Records Committee (VBRC) emphasizes the importance of descriptive and detailed documentation for all rarities, rare nesting species and out-of-season species.

The committee is anxious to involve all Vermont birders in the process of producing as accurate a Vermont state list as possible. This list and all documentation must be credible to future ornithologists who will use the material for research. Suggestions for improving the reporting/voting process will be gratefully received by the committee.

It is frustrating for both the observer and the committee to have a tantalizing sighting of a rare species not listed due to insufficient details.

Writing down the salient points of identification, talking into a tape recorder, making a quick sketch or taking a photograph at the time of observation are ways to help with accurate recounting later.

The Rare Species Documentation (RSD) form is both for filing the reports and is intended as a guide for the information needed. After completing the first page, reporters may prefer to write the description of the bird on a separate sheet of paper but checking the form for details requested.

Again the VRBC expresses its thanks to all observers who have contributed valuable information to the Vermont state list thus far.





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