



# RECORDS OF VERMONT BIRDS

VERMONT INSTITUTE OF NATURAL SCIENCE

VOL. 23, No. 4

## FALL 1995

1 August – 30 November

George E. (Terry) Hall, Seasonal Editor

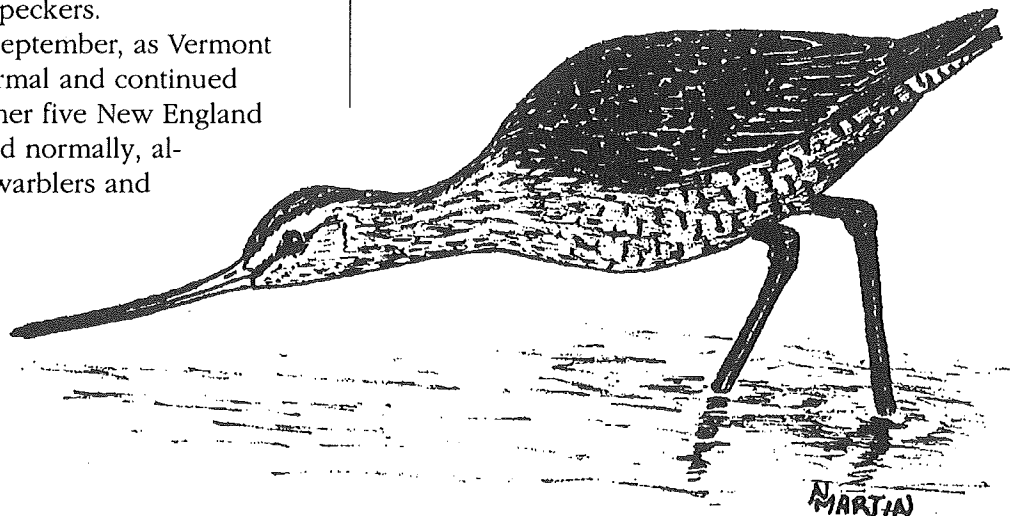
In a word, the 1995 Fall season was dull in most respects, as normal weather patterns, a lack of good shorebird habitat and few exciting rarities all contributed to a somewhat lackluster migration. All the various observers, hawk watchers and banders contributed data that was condensed and tabulated, resulting in records of only 231 species for this report, which is down about 10 species from previous years. It was not for lack of trying, as the many faithful reporters continue to submit data forming basis for these figures. I thank everyone who made the time and effort involved.

A dry and hot mid-summer continued through August in New England, except that in Vermont the precipitation was slightly above normal. The rains that finally came were primarily associated with a few thunderstorms that passed through New England, often with damaging winds. Hurricane Felix brushed the southern coast but had no effect on Vermont. Lake Champlain water levels were normal and did not provide much mudflat habitat for shorebirds. In fact, little evidence of migration was exhibited this month, the only migrant of note being a SANDHILL CRANE over Brandon. Other highlights included an Orchard Oriole, a *Selasphorus* hummingbird (probably a Rufous) and several Red-headed Woodpeckers.

It finally cooled off in September, as Vermont averaged 2.7 °F below normal and continued slightly wetter than the other five New England states. Migration proceeded normally, although numbers of most warblers and thrushes appeared somewhat low on average. A couple of good birds showed this month, a LITTLE BLUE HERON near Newbury and Connecticut Warbler in the banding nets at the Bragdon Preserve in Woodstock.

And then the rains came. After a severe drought earlier in the summer, New England went through the wettest month in 101 years, and in Vermont October was the wettest on record. Flooding was a problem more than once in this month, and as Lake Champlain levels rose, less and less habitat was available for shorebirds to forage. Temperatures were mild and as waterfowl migration picked up things got active in Addison at the Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area. Observers were able to sort out at least 5 ROSS' GEESE there, including 1 very rare blue-phased bird. Two other goodies, HUDSONIAN GODWIT and NORTHERN WHEATEAR, were at Dead Creek. The only other rarity came from Shelburne Bay, an adult FORSTER'S TERN.

A dramatic change in November is nothing new for Vermonters, but this year was the tenth coldest on record, pretty nasty after such a mild October. Rain/snowfall remained normal, and the snow didn't stick until the end of the month, although freezing rain and black ice caused problems for motorists earlier; the birds did their thing and by month's end a few shrikes, waxwings and northern finches had made their way into the state. Few notable birds were on the scene, but GOLDEN EAGLE was one of them, having been seen as early as September but again through November. Also, a good fall for both Ruddy Duck and Red-bellied Woodpecker reached a climax this month.



Hudsonian Godwit

## RECORDS OF VERMONT BIRDS

Bryan Pfeiffer  
*Interim Editor In Chief*

Linda Mirabile  
*Designer*

Nancy L. Martin  
*Illustrator*

Whitney D. Nichols  
*Field Card Committee  
Chairman*

Sarah B. Laughlin,  
Whitney D. Nichols  
*Vermont Bird Records  
Committee Co-Chairs*

### SEASONAL EDITORS

Spring	1 March – 31 May Judith A. Peterson
Summer	1 June – 31 July Susanne Wetmore
Fall	1 August – 30 November George E. (Terry) Hall
Winter	1 December – 28 February Frederick Pratt

## LOON, GREBES AND HERONS

A single Red-throated Loon was noted in Potash Bay on 11/4 (TGM). In contrast, at least 228 Common Loon were reported by 15 observers, including highs of 68 seen on Lk. Champlain (hereafter LC) between Shelburne and Addison 10/6 (TGM) and 110+ birds off Grand Isle 10/28 (DJH); additional sightings came from many inland lakes and ponds and included 1 on Bourne Pd., Sunderland 8/2 (WME), 2 on Dix Res. 8/5, 1 on Berlin Pd. 9/9 (TSA), 2 on Chittenden Res. 10/5 (DM) and 6-9 birds on Lk. Willoughby between 9/22 and 11/11 (BDo;REG). Pied-billed Grebe did well this fall as nearly 100 were noted on numerous ponds throughout the state, with extreme dates of 8/1 in Coventry (REG) and 11/8

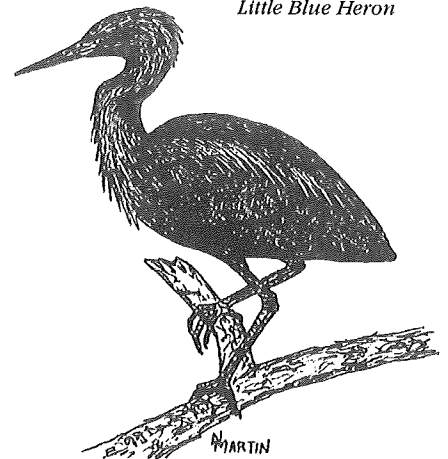
on Berlin Pd. (TSA), and a high count of 60 on the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge (hereafter MNWR) 9/30 (TGM). A buildup in numbers of Horned Grebe started with 2 on Berlin Pd. 9/9 (TSA) and increased on LC to 23 off Charlotte (FAP) and 50 in Potash Bay (TGM) by the first week of Nov. Interesting was the pair of Red-necked Grebe, still in high alternate plumage, found off Young I. on 8/23 (TGM); other observations include up to 7 on Lk. Carmi 10/7 to 11/8 (BDo) and a high of 19 off Grand Isle 10/28, with at least 2 there as late as 11/26 (DJH). An alarming increase in Double-crested Cormorant continues on LC, as 2,500-3,000 birds were noted off North Hero 8/10 (FAP) and near Gull I. 9/3 (TGM), but appeared to leave the lake by mid-Nov. Few sightings of American Bittern were received, but included 1 in Coventry 8/7 (REG), 1 in Fairlee Bog 8/19 (KRH), another at Berlin Pd. 9/10 (TSA) and the last in Tinmouth Channel 10/7 (CJF). Nearly every observer reported Great Blue Heron from every corner of the state, but with few concentrations, except in the Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area (hereafter DCWMA); the last holdouts lingered in Barton 11/20 (REG), Shoreham and Rutland 11/24 (AMG;CJF), Chester and Woodstock 11/25 (TEJ;CRP) and Bridport 11/26 (JAP). Nearly 20 Great Egret reports were received from 18 observers and are not as high as in 1993 but are widespread and include birds from St. Albans (EMA,RDB;BDo;FAP), Montpelier (TSA), the Ompompanoosic and White Rivers (JMN;SM;JLW), Herrick's Cove (hereafter HC), Rockingham (REG;WJN;FAP), Brattleboro (AMD), Weybridge (JAP), Poultney and Hubbardton (GRB;CHD) in addition to sites in the Champlain Valley (hereafter CV). No Snowy Egret were reported, but 1 LITTLE BLUE HERON was found along the Connecticut R. (hereafter CR) north of Newbury 9/5 (AM). Due to a shift in nesting locations from Young I. to the Four Brothers, Cattle Egret flocks now gather in the Shelburne/Charlotte area in late summer; hence all reports of this species came from Charlotte this fall, with 68 on 8/29 (TGM) and 28 there 9/4 (FAP). Normal numbers of Green Heron were reported, a total 17, including 2 in DCWMA/Addison 8/5 to 8/7 (FAP;JAP), 1 in Lyndonville 8/8 (PFW;SAW), birds in Berkshire (BDo) and Jones Bk., Middlesex (TSA) on 8/22, 2 in Brandon 9/2 (SSW) and 1 in Quechee as late as 10/31 (JMN). Black-crowned Night-Heron

was not well reported, with only 9 sightings from 4 observers; they included 3 on Whitney Ck. in Addison 8/5 (FAP), a juvenile (hereafter juv.) on Grand Isle 8/20 (DJH), 3-4 at St. Albans Bay 9/5 to 9/9 (BDo;FAP) and a late juv. in the East Creek Wildlife Management Area (hereafter ECWMA), Orwell on 10/8 (TGM).

## WATERFOWL

Despite being established as breeding in Vermont, Mute Swan was only seen twice this fall: a bird on Lk. Arrowhead, Milton 10/5 (BDo), and a single in HC 10/10 (PFW;SAW). Numbers of Snow Goose seemed to have leveled off at DCWMA, although estimates still range from 20,000 to 40,000, and some accurate method is needed to get a handle on actual counts. The earliest report was of a bird in Bridport on 9/13 (JAP) but the thousands didn't appear until mid-October, and the latest birds moved to LC waters off Addison in late November, 100 being reported there 11/26 (JRA). Away from LC, snows were counted in Danby (SSW), Sheffield (PFW;SAW), Woodstock (JMN), Brownsville and Reading (FMH,EJH), Tinmouth (CJF) and finally on Lk. Carmi (BDo). Observers were very careful to document the presence of at least 5 individual ROSS' GOOSE at DCWMA this fall, including 1 very rare blue-phased bird. Many photos and meticulous descriptions were submitted to the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (hereafter VINS), and the birds were seen between 10/16 and 11/4 (MCD;JID;EFG;DJH;SWM;TGM;JAP;SWW). The blue morph was not known to occur naturally in Ross' Goose, but recent hybridization with Lesser Snow, the only wild population to exhibit this color

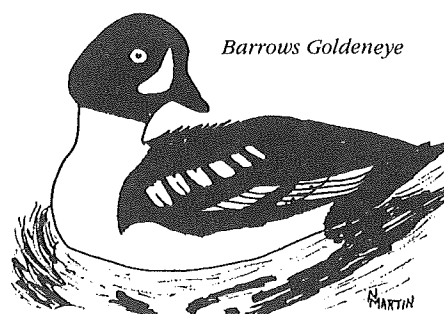
*Little Blue Heron*



phase, has apparently resulted in this phase showing up rarely in Ross' in recent years. Oddly, the only Brant reports came from the interior away from LC, with 2 in Middlesex 10/28 (TSA) and 11 over the Winhall Hawk Lookout 10/31 (WJN). Canada Goose numbers rebounded from last fall, with highs of 2,500-3,000 reported from DCWMA into mid-Oct. (EMA,RDB;TGM;MBN;JAP;KPM), and thousands more reported moving in flocks until late Nov. from Pawlet (GRB), Berkshire and Lk. Carmi (BDo), Danby and Tinmouth (CJF), Dorset (EFG), Vershire (KRH), Reading (FMH,EJH), Woodstock and Quechee (JMN), So. Londonderry (WJN), Manchester Ctr. (BWP) and Sheffield (PFW,SAW). Wood Duck was well reported, with 386 birds, including highs of 100+ on Leffert's Pd. or Chittenden Res. in early Oct. (DM), 40 in Addison 10/6 (JAP) and 30 each in Tinmouth Channel 9/10 and Clarendon 10/28 (CJF) and the latest report from McCuen Slang, Addison, on 11/24 (AMG). Less than 200 total Green-winged Teal were reported, with most in the CV at DCWMA: 100 in the area 10/7 (TGM) and 50 on 11/8 (SDF). Others were found on Berlin Pd. (TSA), St. Albans Bay and Lk. Carmi (BDo), Tinmouth Channel (CJF), Barton Marsh (REG), Rockingham and Weathersfield (WJN) and Manchester Ctr. (BWP). American Black Duck was reported statewide by 15 observers, with notable highs of 34 on Dix Res. 8/5 and 31 on Berlin Pd. 11/25, also the latest report (TSA). Far more Mallard sightings were received, also very widespread and with exceptional highs of 1,200+ off Grand Isle 10/24 (DJH), up to 175 on Berlin Pd. by 11/25 (TSA) and a buildup to 750 in the Burlington area by 11/26 (TGM). As in the fall of 1993, these figures again do not reflect any aerial surveys, which normally would add significantly to all waterfowl numbers, and so do not represent a good percentage of birds utilizing the CV. Not normally numerous in fall, Northern Pintail reports were restricted to the CV with a high of 16 at DCWMA 10/9 (TGM) and a late report of 4 there 11/16 (SWM); an exception was the report of 2 birds in HC 8/30 (WJN). The total 75 Blue-winged Teal would appear low; they were concentrated in the CV near DCWMA as usual (JRA;CJF;JAP;FAP), where 30 in Whitney Ck. marsh 10/11 (CJF) represents the high count. Other sightings of interest include a handful on St. Albans Bay 9/2

and 9/24 (BDo;EMA,RDB), Berlin Pd. 9/9 (TSA), in the Springweather Nature Area (hereafter SNA), Springfield/Weathersfield on 10/1 (WJN) and finally ECWMA 10/18 (JMN,EFG). No reports of Northern Shoveler were received by Records of Vermont Birds (hereafter RVB) this fall, but a total 13 Gadwall were sighted by 5 observers, and included 2 at Winooski R. Delta Pk. (hereafter WRDP), Colchester on 9/12 (BDo), 4-6 on Grand Isle between 9/18 and 10/26 (DJH), 2 on Berlin Pd. 10/7 (TSA), 2 in West Glover 10/10 (REG) and the late 1 in Addison 11/19 (FAP). Also way down without aerial surveys, reports of American Wigeon totaled only 11, with highs of 5-6 in Addison 10/4 (JAP) and 4 on Shelburne Bay 11/3 (SSW); others included 2 on Grand Isle 10/1 to 10/7 (DJH), 2 on Lk. Carmi 10/23 (BDo) and the latest 1 on Berlin Pd. 11/25 (TSA). The only Canvasback report was of 2 birds in HC on 11/11 (WJN), and no Redhead sightings were indicated this fall. Very low numbers of Ring-necked Duck, a lack of aerial surveys notwithstanding, included 25 on Lk. Carmi 11/6 (BDo), a high, late count of 75 off Willow Pt., Bridport 11/29 (JAP), and only 24 more in total statewide. Normally building in numbers only in winter, one Greater Scaup was found in Button Bay 10/6 (TGM), then 4 on Shelburne Bay 10/22 (SWM), 5 more on Lk. Carmi 10/26 (BDo), with the latest 2 in Grand Isle (DJH) and a maximum of 25 in Bridport (JAP) on 10/31. However, a raft of 100 scaup sp. were reported near the Champlain Bridge at Addison 11/29 (TGM), and were probably mostly Greater Scaup. Comparable counts were made for Lesser Scaup, as the total 29 included 10 in Bridport from 10/9 to 10/31 (JAP), 11 on Lk. Carmi 10/18 (BDo), 2-4 on Berlin Pd. between 10/28 and 11/5 (TSA) and the last 2 in Shelburne Bay 11/3 (SSW). Good numbers of Oldsquaw were found, starting with 1-3 on Lk. Carmi the end of Oct. (BDo), 1 by Bixby I. and 3 off Nichols Pt., both off Grand Isle 11/18 to 11/21 (DJH) and the rest in

LC from Shelburne Bay to Addison (GEH;WME;FAP;SSW) and including a high of 13 off Elm Pt., Addison 11/25 (TGM). Black Scoter continues to be reported well from areas away from LC, as in 6 from Roundy's Cove (CR at Rockingham) on 10/14 (WJN), highs of 100+ on Lk. Morey, Fairlee (DLA) and 125 on Tinmouth Pd. (CJF) on 10/19, then 120 on Lk. Carmi 10/30 (BDo). Far fewer Surf Scoter numbers came in, although they were associated with the above species on 10/19 at both Tinmouth Pond (CJF) and Lk. Carmi (BDo); high counts came from the CR at Thetford with 20 on 10/19 (DLA) and 18 at Blodgett's Beach, Burlington on 10/27 (FAP), for a total 62 in all. With the exception of 6 White-winged Scoter seen on Lk. Carmi 10/8 though 10/30 (BDo), the remaining 40 were all from LC and included highs of 13 at D.A.R. State Pk. on 10/6 (TGM) and 19 off Grand Isle 11/21 (DJH). No large flocks of Common Goldeneye were found within the period, but often they do not concentrate until early winter. The total 190 reported included early reports of 4 off Grand Isle 8/4 (DJH) and highs of 20 and 80 in the Shelburne Bay/Burlington area 11/21 (SSW;FAP). Right on schedule, Barrow's Goldeneye showed up off Blodgett's Beach and the Burlington waterfront by 11/21, with 3 drakes and 1 hen reported (FAP;DLC;TGM). Most of the total 150 Bufflehead reported were from LC and included highs of 11 in Shelburne Bay 11/3 (SSW), 43 at Potash Bay 11/4 (TGM) and 15 off Addison 11/17 (JAP), but good counts were also made from Barton, with 11 on 10/30 (REG), 20 on Lk. Carmi 11/2 (BDo) and 6 on Peacham Pd. 11/4 (AVG). Overall numbers for Hooded Merganser were lower than usual, but included some nice flock sizes as in 11 off Grand Isle 9/18 (DJH), 20 on Lk. Carmi 10/6 (BDo), 46 in Carry Bay, North Hero 11/5 (TGM) and 52 on Lk. Bomoseen 11/25 (CJF). Common Merganser gathers into large flocks on LC by late Nov., so that 200 off Addison 11/24 (JMN) and 300 in Grand Isle 11/30 (DJH) are normal. Other notable reports include 9 in Newfane on 9/19 (AMD), 32 in Barton 11/10 (REG), 180 on Lk. Carmi 11/16 (BDo), 8 in E. Barnet on 11/17 (PFW,SAW) and 9 on Emerald Lk., E. Dorset 11/18 (EFG). Becoming more regular in some numbers in fall, Red-breasted Merganser was reported by 7 observers, mostly from LC except for 1 on Lk. Willoughby 10/18 and another at Lk. Carmi 11/16 (BDo). Highs on LC

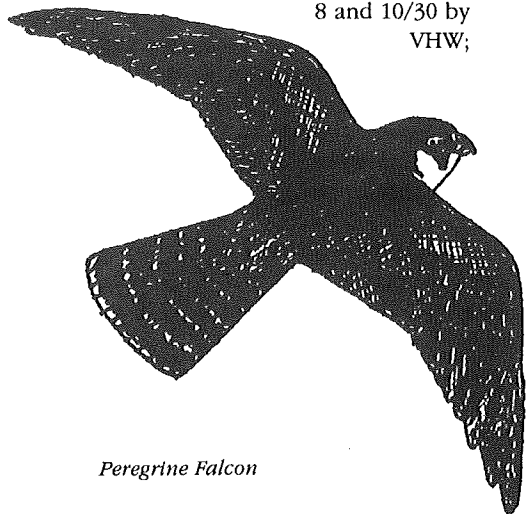


*Barrow's Goldeneye*

included 30 in the Shelburne Bay/Charlotte area 11/3 (SSW) and 32 near the Champlain Bridge, Addison 11/24 (TGM). A good fall for Ruddy Duck, at least 15 individuals were counted from 5 scattered locations: 1 at DCWMA 10/15 (EMA,RDB), 1 at Island Pond 10/18 (BDo), a pair at Prouty Beach in Newport 10/27 (FAP), 5-8 on Lk. Carmi between 10/30 and 11/8 (BDo) and 1 drake with 2 hens off Willow Pt., Bridport 11/29 (TGM;JAP).

## VULTURES, HAWKS AND FALCONS

Turkey Vulture was everywhere. Twenty-three observers reported an impressive 357 birds from all corners of the state, with an additional 121 reports coming in from Vermont Hawk Watch (hereafter VHW) sites. Maximum flock sizes included 30 in Salisbury 8/26 (SSW), 11 at Eagle Pt., Newport 9/13 (STH), 60 at St. Albans Bay 9/23 (BDo), 15 in Pawlet 9/27 (GRB) and 63 in Bridport 10/4 (JAP). Numbers for Osprey remained steady as at least 33 were counted by observers, with an additional 121 migrants counted by VHW. A single high of 5 came from Whitney Ck. in Addison on 9/4 (JAP;FAP) and 1 to 2 birds were reported from at least 23 sites across the state, including a late bird at Stoughton Pd., Weathersfield 11/5 (WME). As in past years, Bald Eagle reports are of interest as those seen in Aug. may represent individuals "residing" in the state. This fall at least 9 eagles were seen in Aug. at scattered locations, with a high of 1 ad. with 3 imm. at Arrowhead Lk., Milton, in mid-Aug. (MZ); an additional 16 birds were tallied between 9/8 and 10/30 by VHW;



*Peregrine Falcon*

oddly, a single report of an eagle in Colchester 11/5 (FAP) was the only Nov. sighting. Are these eagles moving out of state and being replaced later by "wintering" birds? It is difficult to get an accurate count of Northern Harrier in the CV as most observers report sightings in the area and much duplication occurs. At least 45 individuals were counted statewide in addition to 77 birds noted by VHW, with a high of 5 in MNWR 10/22 (BDo). Other reports include a nesting pair with 2 juv. on Grand Isle from 8/7 through Oct. (DJH), 1 in Coventry 8/7 (REG), 1 in Manchester Ctr. 8/10 (BWP), 1 in Pawlet 8/22 (GRB), a juv. in Strafford 8/27 (SDF), 1 at Leffert's Pd., Chittenden 9/25 (DM), and 1 in Hartland 11/2 (JPW); latest reports came from the DCWMA, Addison, in late Nov. (SSW;JAP). Sharp-shinned Hawk was reported in good numbers: 616 birds from VHW sites plus at least 40 to 45 noted by 21 independent observers across the state. The 7 seen passing along a ridge on Mt. Mansfield 9/19 (KPM) represents a daily high, but the latest resident was from Grand Isle on 11/28 (DJH). On a par with 1993 and up from last fall, VHW totals for Cooper's Hawk came in at 56, with 26 more spotted statewide. Three seen on Grand Isle 9/6 (DJH) and in Ferrisburgh 9/10 (MCD;JID) are the highs, and female in So. Burlington 11/30 (JJA) is the late report. Single Northern Goshawk sightings include 1 each in Brandon 8/8 and Berlin Pd. 8/16 (TSA), 1 each in Middlebury 8/10, New Haven 8/23 and Lincoln 10/20 (JRA), 1 each in So. Hero and Grand Isle 9/10 and 9/22 (DJH), 1 in Ferrisburgh 9/28 (MCD;JID), 1 in Middlebury 11/23 (JAP) and 1 in Reading 11/25 (FMH;EJH); an average 13 birds were counted at VHW sites between 9/10 and 10/26. Still apparently low, the 7 sightings of Red-shouldered Hawk include 1 in Middlebury 8/7 (MCD;JID), 1 each in New Haven 8/9 and Lincoln 10/20 (JRA), 1 Pawlet 8/10 (GRB), another in Winhall 9/4 (WJN) and 2 in Bridport 10/24 (JAP) as a high; VHW tallied another 19 from 8/26 to 11/11 for a grand total of only 26 this fall. Nothing like 1993, but still very good numbers of Broad-winged Hawk came in to RVB, including 4,322 counted at VHW sites, an additional 57 from Irish Hill in Berlin on 9/16 (TSA) and finally 43 individual reports across the state. The 12 seen in Berkshire on 9/10 (BDo) represents a high, and the late report is 1 in Goshen 9/24 (SSW). Separating "residents",

migrants and visitors from all Red-tailed Hawk sightings seems impossible, but suffice to say that at least 1,130 birds were tallied this fall, including 987 at official VHW sites. Twenty-three observers reported birds both early and late in the season, with no particular highlights or surprises. Exceptionally early reports of Rough-legged Hawk came from several places: 1 in Milton 9/3 (TGM), 1 in Addison 9/7 (MCD;JID) and 1 in Pawlet 9/9 (GRB). Normal numbers were tallied by Nov., although a high of 6 at MNWR in Swanton 10/22 (BDo) is notable, and only 8 were added by counters at VHW sites between 9/11 and 11/11. An exciting fall for GOLDEN EAGLE resulted in 4 sightings including 1 early ad. in Wenlock Wildlife Management Area, Ferdinand 9/29 (SWM), another ad. over the Brookfield hawk watch site 10/30 (VHW), 1 imm. in Pawlet 11/4 (EFG;EJ) and another imm. over the CR in Hartford 11/5 (PH). American Kestrel sightings were concentrated in Aug. and Sept., and scattered statewide with a total of at least 281, 214 of which came from VHW sites. Some notable highs include 7 in Sheffield 8/13 (PFW;SAW), 6 in the Northeast Kingdom area 8/13 (REG), 10 in Ferrisburgh 9/10 (MCD;JID) and 6 on Grand Isle 9/14 (DJH). Average for fall, 26 Merlin sightings included 16 from VHW site between 9/8 and 10/22, with an early sighting of 1 on Grand Isle 8/7 and the high of 2 there 9/14 (DJH); other reports came from Lunenburg 8/25 (BB), Dorset (probable on 9/7) (EFG), Bragdon Preserve at VINS, Woodstock 9/18 (SDF;KML), So. Londonderry 9/23 (WJN), DCWMA on 10/1 (SWM) and finally Blodgett's Beach, Burlington 11/26 (TGM). All reports of Peregrine Falcon came from the CV this fall, except for the 10 counted at various VHW sites. The 10 or so additional birds included the female near the University of Vermont water tower, Burlington (JJA;SWM;TGM), 1 to 2 on Grand Isle (DJH), 2 to 3 seen at MNWR and St. Albans (BDo) and 4 or 5 birds in the DCWMA vicinity (BDo;EFG;SWM;TGM;JAP;FAP).

## GROUSE THROUGH RAILS

A fortuitous sighting of 5 Gray Partridge in Swanton 11/27 (EMA,RDB) confirmed the presence of these elusive birds in the

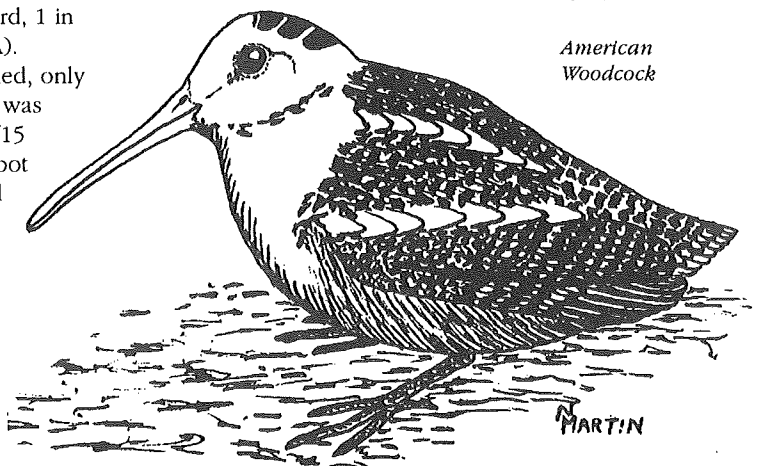
northwest corner of the state. Again this fall, Ring-necked Pheasant was well reported, as a total 13 to 15 birds were seen variously in DCWMA from 9/9 to 10/10 (FAP;JAP;DM), Newport 9/19 (STH), Middlebury 9/21 (JAP), Vershire 9/25 (KRH), Marlboro 10/24 (AMD) and Ferrisburgh 11/16 (MCD,JID). A report of a single Spruce Grouse comes from the Wenlock area of Ferdinand 9/29 (SWM). Little change in Ruffed Grouse numbers indicate widespread and healthy populations. High counts include 11 in Reading 8/10 (FMH,EJH), 5 to 6 throughout the period in Sheffield (PFW,SAW) and 10 near the Chittenden Res. 11/20 (DM). Wild Turkey shows continued improvement after a disastrous winter in 1993, as flock sizes range from just a few to 48+ in Rupert and 60 in Pawlet (GRB), 20 in Barnard (EWC,MCC), 50 to 60 on Grand Isle (DJH), 20 in Pomfret and 30 in Springfield (FMH,EJH), 35 in Shelburne (TGM), 28 in Manchester Ctr. (BWP) and 28 in Alburg (FAP). Any report of Northern Bobwhite, especially one from northern Vermont such as the 1 in Newport 9/5 (STH) would be of questionable origin. Lack of reports of Virginia Rail probably indicates simply being overlooked by most observers, so the 6 found on Grand Isle 9/4 (DJH) is not indicative of this species' status in fall. No reports of Sora were received, but Common Moorhen was sighted by 3 observers as follows: 2 ad. with 2 imm. at Mud Ck., Alburg 8/19 (FAP;DJH), 1 to 2 birds in Addison between 9/24 and 10/4 (JAP) and 1 ad. in Bridport 9/24 (FAP). Unprecedented numbers of American Coot were tallied from several locations, including 2 in McCuen Slang, Addison 9/24 (JAP;FAP), 7 in the MNWR 9/30 (TGM), 1 on Clarks Pd., Glover 10/18 (BDo;PFW,SAW), 8 off Willow Pt., Bridport 10/18 to 10/22 (JMN;JAP), 1 on Dewey Pd., Quechee 10/24 (JMN), 1 in Shelburne Bay 10/24 (BDo) and up to 12 on Berlin Pd. between 10/28 and 11/25 (TSA). This fall's sighting of a Sandhill Crane flying over Brandon on 8/26 (SSW) was accepted by RVB as a detailed description left no doubt as to the identity of the bird.

## SHOREBIRDS

Very early was the first of 4 Black-bellied Plover reports, 3 birds on Grand Isle 8/1, where 2+ more were found from 9/14 to 9/28 (DJH), 1 on St. Albans Bay beach 8/23 (BDo;TGM) and the last from

Shelburne Bay 10/1 (SWM). American Golden Plover was seen in two locations: 1 on the St. Albans Bay beach 9/26 (SWM), then 4 birds at DCWMA on 10/10 and 10/18 (TGM), possibly building to the total 12 seen there 10/24 (FAP). Mudflat habitat was limited this fall, and would explain generally poor numbers of shorebirds, as in only 24 Semipalmated Plover, principally from St. Albans Bay with 12 on 8/27 (EMA,RDB;BDo) as a high, 2 in Alburg as early as 8/2 and 2 on Grand Isle at the late date of 10/1 (DJH); additional sightings came from Shelburne Bay/Blodgett's Beach (BDo;SWM;TGM) and notably Allen Bros. marsh in Westminster 9/24 (WJN). Killdeer numbers peaked in mid-Sept., with 40 in St. Albans (BDo), 40 on Grand Isle (DJH), 113 in Ferrisburgh (TGM), and 15 to 40 in Addison (JAP;FAP), then tapered to 2 in Waterbury 11/1 (TSA) and 4 at Button Bay 11/5 (FAP). High counts for Greater Yellowlegs were 8 on Shelburne Bay 9/25 (SWM), 8 on Grand Isle 10/10 (DJH) and 9 at DCWMA 10/14 (FAP;PFW,SAW), and the latest birds were 3 at DCWMA 11/4 (TGM). Fewer in number, Lesser Yellowlegs was seen earliest on Grand Isle 8/16, with only 1 bird (DJH), but the high count was 6 at St. Albans Bay beach on 9/2 (BDo) and the total reported was only 16. Solitary Sandpiper made a good showing statewide with reports of 5 in Bridport 8/7 (JAP), 5 in Coventry 8/8 (REG) and 4 in Berkshire 8/20 (BDo), then dwindled to 1 or 2 birds each in Glover (PFW,SAW), Montpelier (TSA), Grand Isle (DJH), Bridport (FAP) and Leicester (SSW). Spotted Sandpiper tends to leave Vermont early, so most of the 27 sightings are Aug. into Sept. but are scattered around the state, i.e. Berlin Pd. (TSA), Berkshire (BDo), Barnard (JNF), Dorset (EFG), Newport (STH), Woodstock (JMN), So. Londonderry (WJN) and Wallingford (SSW), and include an Oct. record, 1 in Middlesex 10/7 (TSA). Apparently overlooked, only 1 Upland Sandpiper was noted in Brandon 8/15 (SSW). One bright spot in the otherwise dull fall shorebird migration was 1 HUDSONIAN GODWIT that spent 10/10 and 10/11 at DCWMA (TGM;JAP). The few Sanderling

reports were between 8/23 and 9/12, with up to 8 on St. Albans Bay beach (BDo;TGM), 6 at Blodgett's Beach (BDo) and 3 in So. Alburg (FAP). Semipalmated Sandpiper was recorded frequently despite limited habitat, a total of near 50 coming between 8/2 and 9/25 from St. Albans (EMA,RDB;BDo), Alburg and Grand Isle (DJH), Coventry (REG), Bridport (JAP) and a high of 20 in Ferrisburgh (MCD,JID). Nearly identical in pattern, Least Sandpiper also moved through between 8/1 and 9/25, with somewhat higher totals and reports from St. Albans (BDo;TGM), Coventry (REG), Shelburne (SWM), Bridport (JAP;FAP), Westminster (WJN) and Grand Isle, with a high of 16 in Alburg (DJH). A single observation of Baird's Sandpiper was made on St. Albans Bay beach 9/5 (BDo). Quite early, 1 Pectoral Sandpiper was found in Alburg 8/2 (DJH), but the rest of the sightings were more typical and ranged between 9/2 and 11/4, with a high count of 8 on the Shelburne Bay shore 9/28 (TGM) and a total of 20 sightings in all. Dunlin is typically quite a late migrant, so that 1 on Grand Isle 10/7, a high of 15 at DCWMA in Addison (BDo) and 3 still there on 11/4 (TGM) are normal. One individual of dowitcher sp. was reported in Whitney Ck. marsh, Addison, on 10/11 (CJF); this genus is difficult to identify in the field and the date is appropriate for either species. In the right habitat Common Snipe can be quite numerous in fall, so that 12 in Berkshire 9/7 (BDo), 13 in WRDP 9/26 (SWM) and another 13 in Bridport 10/4 (JAP) are normal. Other scattered reports came from Swanton (EMA,RDB), High Pd., Sudbury (WME), Tinmouth (CJF), Coventry (REG), Westminster and So. Londonderry (WJN). On the other hand, American Woodcock needs to be searched for, and the 12 flushed out this fall came earliest from MNWR on 8/1 (EMA,RDB), Tinmouth (CJF), Grand

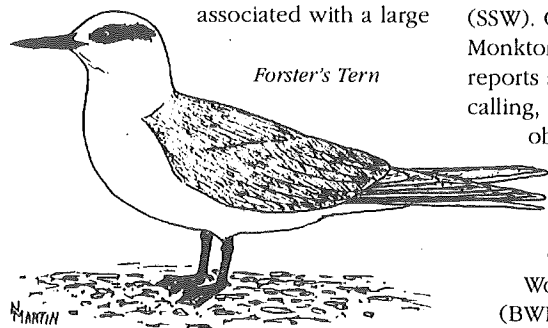


American Woodcock

Isle (DJH), Reading (FMH,EJH), Sheffield (PFW,SAW), Brandon (SSW) and Pomfret the latest on 11/17 (KRT).

## GULLS AND TERNS

Little Gull was spotted in the usual locations again this fall, always associating with the many Bonaparte's Gulls that linger in the bays of LC. The first of only 8 sightings was 1 in Maquam Bay 8/23 (TGM), then they were seen in St. Albans Bay (BDo), off Bixby I. on Grand Isle (DJH), at Blodgett's Beach in Burlington (FAP) and in Shelburne Bay as late as 11/18 (TGM;SWM). The first Bonaparte's Gull report came on 8/1, with 35 off Grand Isle (DJH) and then 1 on Lk. Memphramagog 8/14 (STH). Numbers build on LC, notably in the Champlain Islands into Nov. typically, and this fall 400 to 500 were noted off Grand Isle 11/7 (DJH) and then into Shelburne Bay with as many as 700 there 11/9 (TGM;SWM). Smaller flocks (30+) were found off Charlotte down to Addison and Bridport by late Nov. (JAP;SSW). Ring-billed Gull was noted statewide through the period into freeze-up with notable highs of 100 to 300 in Newport (STH), 300+ off Bridport (JAP) and up to 4,000 in the St. Albans Bay area (EMA,RDB;FAP). Herring Gull builds up in the Burlington waterfront area in November, where ~400 were noted 11/24 (TGM). Away from LC they are not as frequent, so that 3 to 8 on Chittenden Res. in Aug. (DM), 5 to 20 on Lk. Memphramagog through 9/26 (STH) and 19 in Clarendon 11/18 (CJF) are all noteworthy. Early visitors from the Arctic, 1 juv. Iceland Gull appeared on the Burlington breakwater 11/26 (TGM), and was preceded by at least 1 Glaucous Gull in the same area 11/19 (TGM;FAP). The only reports of Great Black-backed Gull away from the larger lakes (Memphramagog and Champlain) were of 1 in Montpelier 8/27 (TSA) and 40 in the White River Jct. area 10/31 (JMN), although these birds were associated with a large



Forster's Tern

landfill in Lebanon, N.H. A large buildup in the Burlington area reached an impressive high of 210 on 11/26 (TGM). Interesting records of Common Tern were made with 2 on Lk. St. Catherine 8/2 and a few on Lk. Bomoseen 8/12 (GRB), then 6 were noted still at the nesting site on Poppasquash I. 9/2 (BDo) and 4 were staging in Goose Bay, MNWR 9/30 (TGM). Another highlight of this fall was an ad. FORSTER'S TERN in winter plumage seen in Shelburne Bay 10/22 (SWM). The only Black Tern reported was 1 on Lk. Memphramagog on 9/6 (STH).

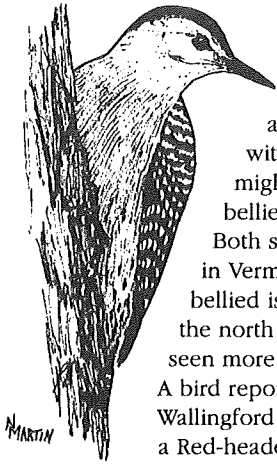
## DOVES THROUGH NIGHTJARS

Rock Dove was reported in all areas of the state except Burlington or the CR valley; are they becoming scarce in these locations? Widely dispersed and common at feeders, Mourning Dove was reported nearly everywhere throughout the period, with flocks of 25 to 60 in Arlington (CSC), Berlin (TSA), Newport (STH), Reading (FMH,EJH) and Sheffield (PFW,SAW). Usually scarce at this season, Black-billed Cuckoo was noted 5 times as singles in Brandon 8/4 (SSW), Dorset 8/8 (EFG), Middlebury 8/9 (JAP) and So. Hero 8/17 (DJH), with an additional late report at DCWMA 9/28 (SWM); a cuckoo was found in Newport 8/27 (STH), but not identified to species. Even scarcer, Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen only into mid-Aug. with 1 in Lincoln from 8/1 to 8/18 (JRA), another in So. Hero 8/17 (DJH) and the last in Vershire (KRH). In a repeat from 1993, Eastern Screech-Owl was reported from Grand Isle, 1 to 2 birds in the period (DJH), and 1 in Brandon 9/24 (SSW); in addition 2 were found at St. Albans Bay 9/20 (BDo) and the last one in Shelburne 10/23 (TGM). With very few reports, Great Horned Owl was found mainly in pairs in Dorset (EFG), Brandon (CHD), St. Albans Bay (BDo) and Orwell at Mt. Independence (SSW). Only 1 Snowy Owl was seen, in Monkton 11/14 (MCDJID). Barred Owl reports are based mainly on birds heard calling, so probably involve pairs; 13 observers noted this species in Pawlet (GRB), Berkshire (BDo), Tinmouth Channel (CJF), Vershire (KRH), Reading (FMH,EJH), Chittenden (DM), Woodstock (JMN), Manchester Ctr. (BWP), Winhall (WJN), So. Duxbury

(FAP) and Sheffield Heights (PFW,SAW). A single Northern Saw-whet Owl was discovered in Grafton on 9/26 (REG) for the only report this season. Usually seen in numbers only in the CR valley, Common Nighthawk was seen as early as 8/14 in Brandon (SSW), but the high was 75+ seen along the CR between Weathersfield and Brattleboro 8/31 (CHD,ADG), then Addison on 9/4 (JAP;FAP), the Springfield area 8/25 and 9/4 (WME) and lastly Newport on 9/12 (STH).

## SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Chimney Swift numbers appear low, as the total 65 comes from only 8 sites, with all reports in Aug. except 1 bird over Mt. Philo 9/4 (EMA,RDB); the high was 14 in Montpelier 8/4 (TSA). Many reports of Ruby-throated Hummingbird were received, mainly from feeders; notable high counts and late dates include 6 in Barnard 8/4 (JNF), 7 in Georgia in Aug. (EMA,RDB), 7 in Williamstown 8/13 (TSA) and 15 in Reading 8/26 (FMH,EJH), then 1 f. in Weybridge 10/9 (MBN), 1 in Montpelier 10/15 (TSA) and the last 1 in Springfield 10/18 (WME). Once again, intriguing and frustrating reports, including photos, of a Selasphorus hummingbird sp. were received from South Hero (DJH,et al). Possibly involving more than one bird, and most probably Rufous, several feeder owners reported seeing this genus in Aug. and Sep., but no definitive evidence could lead to a positive identification. At least 86 sightings of Belted Kingfisher were received by RVB from nearly every corner of the state, with highs of 8 in Coventry 8/1 (REG) and 10 along Otter Ck. in Vergennes 8/24 (JRA); late reports include 1 in Brandon 11/4 (SSW), 1 in HC, Rockingham 11/7 (AMD), 1 as the ice was forming on Lk. Carmi 11/23 (BDo) and the last 1 in Dorset 11/24 (EFG). Inexplicable and exciting, an explosion of Red-headed Woodpecker sightings were received this fall. Besides the known colony on Market Rd. in Bridport where at least 3 ad. and 3 juv. were reported the first week in Aug. (JMN,EFG;JAP), an ad. with a juv. were seen in Orwell 8/8 (EFG), 1 in West Arlington 8/29 (CSC), an ad. in Pawlet 9/11 (GRB), 1 in So. Londonderry 10/22 (WJN) and another juv. in Wolcott 11/3 (DG). A word of caution: this editor is



*Red Bellied  
Woodpecker*

concerned that a woodpecker with a "red head" might refer to Red-bellied Woodpecker. Both species are rare in Vermont, but Red-bellied is expanding to the north and is being seen more and more here. A bird reported from Wallingford in late Nov. as a Red-headed could refer to the next species. In fact,

Red-bellied Woodpecker was reported in record numbers for this season, an astounding 10 sightings. All singles and restricted to late Oct. and Nov., except for 1 in So. Royalton 8/4 (CEJ), the other locations include Londonderry (NS), Dorset Hollow (EWS;NS), Middlebury and Bridport (JAP;TGM), West Arlington (HB,MB), Putney (LaG), Lk. Dunmore, Salisbury (CMO), Brandon (SSW) and Vergennes (MCD,JID). Widely scattered reports of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker totaled 46 in all, and involved reports of 1 or 2 birds mainly in Aug. and Sep., with a high of 4 in Goshen 8/1 (SSW) and late dates to mid-Oct. in Berlin (TSA), Reading (FMH,EJH) and So. Londonderry (WJN). Resident Downy Woodpecker and Hairy Woodpecker numbers remain constant statewide, as most reports refer to feeder birds, mainly in pairs; the only exception were the 7 Downies in Brandon 11/21 (SSW). In contrast to the above species, Northern Flicker exhibits a buildup and movement out of the state in Sep. as reflected in numerous reports of 6 to 10 birds in Westminster West (AMD), Reading (FMH,EJH), Woodstock (JMN), HC in Rockingham (WJN;FAP) and Sheffield (PFW,SAW). Interestingly, none of the 24 observers reporting Pileated Woodpecker saw more than 1 or 2, but they were seen statewide, and even included 1 caught in the banding nets at VINS.

## FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

The 7 sightings of Olive-sided Flycatcher included 1 in Danby 8/1 (SSW), 1 or 2 in Dorset 8/22 and 8/27 (EFG), 2 in Reading 8/26 (FMH,EJH), 1 So. Londonderry 8/26 (WJN) and the latest in Ferrisburgh 10/26 (MCD,JID). Often

conspicuously calling through Aug., Eastern Wood-Pewee departs in Sep. and was reported as late as 9/26 to 9/30 in Newport (STH) and Vershire (KRH), with Aug. highs of 8 in Middlebury (JAP) and 6 at DCWMA 8/1 (JRA). The Empidonax flycatcher complex was well reported this fall, but understandably the "Trail's" type was best left to genus, even with 19 netted at VINS, in Woodstock between 8/9 and 9/15 (VINS), 4 in So. Duxbury 9/6 (FAP) and a few more in Reading (FMH,EJH), the CR valley (WJN) and Bridport/Middlebury (JAP). More definitive, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was identified 9 times by 6+ observers, in Grand Isle (DJH), HC (WJN), So. Duxbury (FAP), Sheffield (PFW,SAW), Goshen (SSW) and Woodstock (VINS), where the last 1 was netted 9/11. Alder Flycatcher was reported twice in very early Aug., with 2 in Dorset until 8/5 (EFG) and 1 in Woodstock 8/5 (JMN). A Willow Flycatcher in Grand Isle on 9/4 (DJH) was the only report, and finally Least Flycatcher made a good showing with a high of 4 in So. Duxbury 8/9 (FAP) and a total 14 netted in Woodstock from 8/1 through 9/18 (VINS). Vocal and conspicuous into Oct., Eastern Phoebe was widely noted with highs of 6 in Goshen 8/28 (SSW) and 7 at HC 8/31 (FAP;WJN), and 1 late bird in a Rutland yard 11/4 (WGE,NLM). With reported numbers way down, Great Crested Flycatcher was seen in MNWR on 8/1 (EMA,RDB), Danby 8/10 (SSW), a high of 2 at DCWMA 8/13 (JRA), at HC 8/30 (WJN), on Grand Isle 9/4 (DJH) and the latest in Woodstock through 9/7 (JMN). Eastern Kingbird was widespread, although highest numbers always come from the Addison/Panton/Bridport area as 20 to 45 were noted there around 8/20 (MBN;JAP;SSW); other selected sites were Lk. St. Catherine (GRB), Dorset (EFG), Coventry (REG), Newport (STH), Vershire and West Fairlee (KRH) and Manchester Ctr. (BWP). Nesting commonly in the CV, Horned Lark gathers into large flocks by Nov. and remains to winter in large open fields in the area; reported from Sudbury (SSW), Swanton (EMA,RDB) and the CV from Addison to Shoreham (MBN;JMN;JAP;FAP), highs were 200 in Sudbury 11/14 (SSW) and 100 at DCWMA 11/19 (FAP). Very sparse, Purple Martin was noted only twice, with 6 in Ferrisburgh 8/2 (MCD,JID) and 4 to 6 on Grand Isle between 8/2 and 8/23 (DJH). The most abundant swallow is unquestionably Tree Swallow, and as they breed commonly throughout the state and stage

in huge flocks in the CV the 200 over Bristol Pd. 8/17 (MCD,JID), 800 at Burton I. 9/1 (BDo) and ~5,000 in Bridport 9/24 (JAP) are to be expected. Northern Rough-winged Swallow often leaves early and is never abundant, so that the single report of 5 in Woodstock 8/5 (JMN) is not alarming. More equivocal, reports of high numbers of Bank Swallow are suspect with this editor, partly due to confusion with juv. Tree Swallow; the 400 at Burton I. 9/1 (BDo) coincide with a large mixed flock, so it is assumed that care was taken with the identifications. Another 100 in HC 8/31 (FAP) is also reasonable. A difficult species to get a handle on, Cliff Swallow often nests late and is sporadic from year to year. Hence, 75 seen in Addison 8/7 (JAP) is very encouraging and represents the highest single total since 100+ were seen in E. Rupert by EFG in 1986. The latest record this fall was 6 in Bridport 9/9 (FAP). Barn Swallow was widespread and also staged in impressive flocks near LC, with 300 counted in the mixed group at Burton I. 9/1 (BDo) and 500 in Bridport 9/9 (FAP), with the last of them departing Addison by 9/24 (JAP;FAP).

## JAYS THROUGH WRENS

A couple of Gray Jay were found in Wenlock Wildlife Management Area in Ferdinand on 9/29 (SWM) for the only report of this species. Although Blue Jay is considered a common resident, and in fact was widely reported statewide in the period, a notable movement was reported in late Sep. in at least 2 locations: at least 60 moving south past Mt. Philo 9/17 (TGM) and 44+ moving along an upper ridge of Mt. Mansfield 9/19 (KPM); were the 50 at HC on 9/24 (WJN) and another 20 on Mt. Philo 9/24 (EMA,RDB) also part of this movement? American Crow will also move south in huge aggregations in fall, although about a month later in this case. An impressive 2,150 birds per hour were counted on Mt. Philo 10/19 (TGM) as they headed south, and 7,000+ were tallied at the same place 10/30 (MCD,JID), all heading south. Where do they all end up? Also impressive, Common Raven numbers continue to increase as the species is seen statewide and year round. Three to five birds is a common figure noted, so the 14 in Ferrisburgh 11/14 (MCD,JID) stands out as a high. The ubiquitous

Black-capped Chickadee continues to be reported in small flocks at feeders, although 10 to 15 birds into Nov. is more frequent, and highs of 30+ in Dorset (EFG) and Reading (FMH,EJH) are noteworthy. Boreal Chickadee was reported twice: 3+ in Ferdinand 9/29 (SWM) and 1 in West Glover 11/28 (REG). Continuing a slow expansion nearly dependent on feeders, Tufted Titmouse was noted for the first time at feeders in Berkshire 10/15 to 11/30 (BDo) and the "first time ever in 30 years" in Vershire 10/20 (KRH); the total reported statewide was 54. Nearly all of the total 66 Red-breasted Nuthatch reported were from feeders, with a notable exception of 8 to 10 in the Wenlock area of Ferdinand 9/29 (SWM). White-breasted Nuthatch is also most commonly reported from feeders in counts of 2 or 3 each for the period, so that the 5 in Berlin 8/16 (TSA) and a high of 14 in Dorset 8/5 (EFG) are impressive. The secretive Brown Creeper was noted by 17 observers as a total of 31, mostly singles except for highs of 3 in Brandon (SSW), 3 in Berkshire (BDO) and 6 on Nichols Pt., Grand Isle (DJH). The only Carolina Wren reports were 1 at a Vergennes feeder for the period (MCD,JID), 1 on Fort Cassin Pt., Ferrisburgh 9/13 and 9/20 (JAP;FAP), and 1 in Charlotte from 11/25 to 11/30 (JJA). House Wren had left the state by 9/24 except for 1 late bird in Montpelier 10/8 (TSA); a total 22 birds were noted this fall, with a high of 4 on Burton I. 9/1 (BDo). Observers found Winter Wren in suitable habitat in small numbers, a high of 10 in Goshen 9/19 (SSW) being noteworthy, and others on Lincoln Gap (JRA), Berkshire (BDo), Dorset (EFG), Brownsville (FMH,EJH), Middlebury (JAP) and Addison (FAP). Also restricted to suitable habitat, Marsh Wren was seen only 6 times between 8/7 and 10/1, with a high of 2 at St. Albans Bay 9/3 (BDo) and others at Grand Isle (DJH),

ECWMA (JMN), West Rutland and Allen Bros. marshes (WJN), with the Oct. 1 at DCWMA (SWM).

## KINGLETS THROUGH THRUSHES

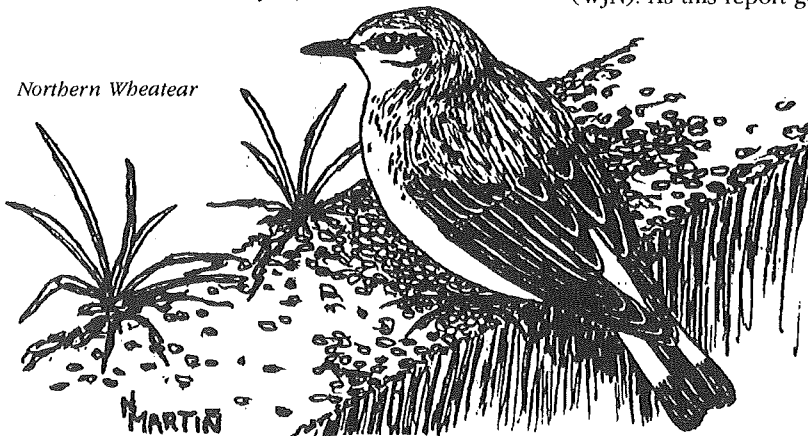
Generally found in small flocks of up to 6 birds in Hemlock or Fir woods, Golden-crowned Kinglet was first noted in Rochester 8/28 (SSW) but more frequently in Oct. and Nov., when highs of 12+ were seen in Ferdinand 9/29 (SWM) and 15 in Rochester 10/9 (SSW); totals observed reached 77 for this fall. Far less sedentary than the above species, Ruby-crowned Kinglet is seen commonly moving through the state, so that highs included 12 in Woodstock 10/6 (JMN), 25 in MNWR 10/8 (BDo), 10 in Ferrisburgh 10/10 (MCD,JID), 15 on Mt. Philo 10/11 (TGM), 20 at High Pd. in Sudbury 10/14 (WME) and a total 63 netted in Woodstock from 9/7 to 11/3 (VINS). Two careful observers were able to find Blue-gray Gnatcatcher this fall: 1 in Dorset 8/31 (EFG) and another in Orwell at Mt. Independence 9/12 (SSW). A single NORTHERN WHEATEAR was carefully described near the DCWMA Headquarters in Addison on 10/15, and was seen by 2 independent observers that day (NAB;JD). The reports for Eastern Bluebird totaled 277 statewide, and included highs of 12 in Sheffield Ctr. 8/17 (PFW,SAW), 25 in New Haven 9/4 (FAP), 14 in Panton 9/9 (MCD,JID), 15 in West Glover 9/25 (REG) and 34 in Dorset 10/3, with a few lingering into Nov. in Shoreham (JAP), Dorset (EFG) and Pawlet (GRB). Veery moved out mainly in Aug. as all reports were of 1 or two individuals, a total of 20 with an additional 22 netted in Woodstock from 8/1 to 9/21 (VINS); other late dates were in So. Londonderry 9/2 and Winhall 9/10 (WJN). As this report goes

to press, Gray-cheeked and Bicknell's Thrush are officially split into two species. Fall 1995 reports of Gray-cheeked Thrush probably refer to "Bicknell's" but will retain the appropriate name for this record. Three reports were received without any reference to "subspecies" including 1 at HC 8/30 (WJN), 2 banded at the VINS Preserve in Woodstock 9/28 (JMN) and a questionable 16 birds in Reading on 10/16 (FMH,EJH). Less equivocal are the 15 Swainson's Thrush noted by 9 observers, including 2 in Reading on the same date as the above GCT sighting (FMH,EJH), which is also the late record this fall; an additional 63 birds netted at VINS between 8/28 and 10/10 is significant. Normal numbers for Hermit Thrush were reported to RVB with no significant highs, always 1 to 4 birds from many sites, including Groton and Northfield (TSA), Sunderland (WME), West Fairlee (KRH), Braintree (RAM) and Norwich as the late record on 11/13 (CCR); in addition, an average 34 were netted at VINS. Early and late dates for Wood Thrush were from Woodstock 8/1 (CRP) and Berlin 10/12 (TSA), with highs of 4 each in Vershire and West Fairlee (KRH), and Reading (FMH,EJH); birds netted at VINS totaled 13. Large flocks of American Robin were widely reported as usual, and included 50s in HC (WJN), Bridport (JAP), Woodstock (CRP;JMN) and Sheffield (PFW,SAW), with ~100 in So. Londonderry (WJN), Dorset (EFG) and Ripton (MBN); but the prize goes to a So. Burlington observer who on 10/12 counted 125+ in 15 minutes as they streamed south (TGM); how many 100s actually passed by?

## MIMIDS THROUGH VIREOS

Gray Catbird numbers appear healthy, as at least 88 were spotted statewide and another 97 were netted at VINS between 8/1 and 10/9; a high of 15 at HC 8/30 (WJN) and a late bird in Waltham 11/11 (JRA) round out the report. A Northern Mockingbird nesting was confirmed in Bethel on 8/1 (CEJ;JuA) with 2 fledglings noted, and 1 bird in Newport through 8/28 (STH) represents a good northerly record. Albeit a bit secretive, Brown Thrasher is still not reported widely and continues to be of concern; this fall only 7 were seen by 6 observers, with an addition of 4 netted at VINS from 8/8 to

Northern Wheatear





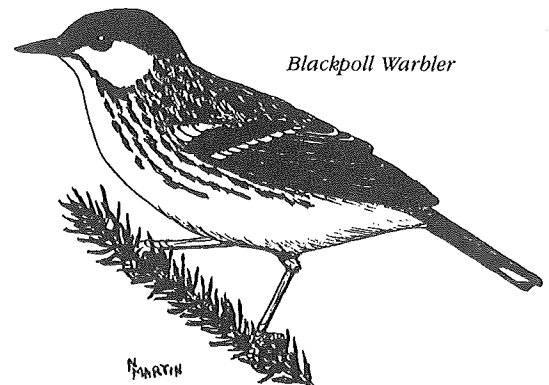
9/12. Interestingly, a bird was found at a So. Woodstock feeder 11/29 (LHR) and remained for the winter; was it one of the birds netted at VINS just a few miles to the north? The first American Pipit reports were of 30 at St. Albans Bay on 9/2 (BDo) and interestingly the next day 16 were seen on the summit of Mt. Mansfield (CCR) giving evidence of their movements at high elevations. Maxima were 100 to 150 in Addison between 10/9 and 10/15 (EMA,RDB;TGM;JAP) and the latest sightings were 50 in Shoreham 11/10 (JAP). Bohemian Waxwing was very widespread by the end of Nov., with the first 4 showing in Bridport 10/31 (JAP) and some highs of 50 in E. Montpelier 11/20 (MK), 18 near Orwell (MHB) and 50 to 100 in No. Ferrisburgh (SPC) on 11/25, 120 in Middlebury 11/27 (JAP) and 90 in the Rutland area 11/28 (DSY). Also widespread in smaller flocks, Cedar Waxwing was reported throughout the period, with maxima of 30+ in Lincoln 8/26 (JRA), 50 at HC 8/30 (WJN) and 90 netted at VINS between 8/17 and 10/13. No less than 31 Northern Shrike reports from every corner of the state gave testimony to a major invasion of this species in New England, with the first 2 in Sheffield 10/13 (PFW,SAW), then 1 in West Glover 10/17 (REG) and another in Ripton 10/23 (WBK). By mid-Sep. European Starling had gathered in large flocks in agricultural areas, as ~2,000 in Addison 9/19 (TGM) would illustrate. Normal numbers for Solitary Vireo were reported, with "several" on Lincoln Gap both 8/26 and 9/16 (JRA) and 3 each in So. Londonderry 9/12 (WJN) and Ferdinand 9/29 (SWM) the only multiple reports, unless 21 netted at VINS between 9/11 and 10/12 qualifies. Five observers reported a few Yellow-throated Vireo as follows: 1 in Manchester Ctr. 8/21 (BWP), 1 in Dorset 9/2 (EFG), "several" in Lincoln 9/3 (JRA), 1 in Woodstock 9/13 (CRP) and the last in Ferrisburgh 9/30 (MCD,JID). Low numbers of Warbling Vireo may not indicate anything more than being overlooked, as only 4 observers reported seeing a total of 14, in addition to only 5 netted in Woodstock (VINS), and with a high of 5 in Middlebury 9/19 and the late bird in Bridport 9/25 (JAP). Maintaining about the same average counts over the years, Philadelphia Vireo was reported 9 times in addition to 4 netted at VINS, with the early and high report of 4 in Middlebury 8/9 (JAP) and the last 1 in Winhall 9/25 (WJN). Our most abundant vireo, Red-eyed Vireo was reported

moving by late Aug. as the high of 10 in So. Duxbury 8/26 (FAP) illustrates, then lingered into early Oct. as the last of 37 were netted at VINS and 1 in Sheffield 10/5 (PFW,SAW) provided the last sighting.

## WOOD WARBLERS

Often scarce, Tennessee Warbler was reported by only 3 observers in addition to only 2 banded at VINS in Woodstock. Highs were the 2 each in So. Duxbury on 8/23, 8/26 and 9/11 (FAP), and the rest were 1 on Burton I. 9/1, another in Berkshire 9/11 (BDo) and finally 2 in Dorset 9/7 (EFG). Just 2 Orange-crowned Warbler were banded at the Bragdon Preserve at VINS on 10/3 and 10/16 (KML,SDF) to provide the only reports this fall. Nashville Warbler was well-reported across the state, with a high of 6 in So. Duxbury on 9/11 (FAP) and the late record 1 in Ferrisburgh 10/10 (MCD,JID). A total of 13 Northern Parula is average and does not include any netted at VINS, but a high of 4 in So. Duxbury on 9/11 (FAP) is indicative of the concentrated effort by this observer to monitor his area carefully each fall. One of the first warblers to depart the state, Yellow Warbler was not numerous and the last two sightings were both 9/1: 2 in St. Albans (BDo) and 1 in Woodstock (JMN). Chestnut-sided Warbler was seen frequently into late Oct., with 8 in So. Duxbury 8/26 (FAP), a high count, and 11 netted at VINS in Aug. and early Sep. Moving a bit later, most Magnolia Warbler reports were into late Sep. but include highs of 5 in Reading 8/28 (FMH,EJH) and 8 in So. Duxbury 9/6 (FAP), with another 14 banded or netted at VINS through 9/28. The scarce Cape May Warbler was found only 4 times: 1 in So. Londonderry 9/8 (WJN), 1 juv. in Rochester 9/18 (SSW), 1 in Ferdinand 9/29 (SWM) and the last in Ferrisburgh 10/10 (MCD,JID). The total 33 for Black-throated Blue Warbler includes 5 in the nets at VINS, a high count of 6 in Goshen 9/21 (SSW) and 1 late sighting on Mt. Philo 10/11 (TGM). Easily our most common warbler in fall, Yellow-rumped Warbler was very widely reported by 23 observers, but seemed to concentrate along LC as evidenced by an astounding high of 250 in MNWR 10/8 (BDo) and more flocks between 40 and 50 in the CV (SWM;TGM;JAP). Another common migrant, Black-throated Green Warbler was reported in normal numbers

with highs of 10 each in So. Duxbury 8/19 (FAP) and on Mt. Philo 9/13 (TGM); only 5 were banded at VINS through 10/2, and the latest sighting was 1 in Dorset 10/10 (EFG). Good numbers of Blackburnian Warbler were reported, ranging in dates from 8/1 through 9/24, with 1 in Ferrisburgh (MCD,JID) and including highs of 8 in So. Duxbury on both 8/19 and 8/25 (same birds?) (FAP). Normally sparse in number, Pine Warbler totals were 13 from 6 reporters, all 1 or 2 individuals, except for the 3 in Dummerston 8/30 (FAP). Reports of Palm Warbler rebounded a bit with a total 32 seen, augmented by another 12 netted at VINS. Three or four in Dorset 10/12 (EFG) and 6+ at Shelburne town beach on 10/7 (TGM) are highs, and the latest sighting was of 1 in Winhall 10/19 (WJN). Average reports of Bay-breasted Warbler were received from 7 observers, all in Sep., and included a high of 3 in So. Duxbury 9/11 (FAP). Identical numbers for Blackpoll Warbler were received, but the first and high count was 3 in Woodstock 8/26 (JMN) as the birds moved in a broader window of time. The total 34 for Black-and-white Warbler is normal, and birds moved as late as 10/25 with 1 in Randolph (EWC,MCC) but with no flocks noted. Also average, American Redstart showed no particular trend except that most birds had departed in Aug., with a notable late and high count of 4 in Ferrisburgh 9/21 (MCD,JID). Hard to find after they leave the nesting territories, Ovenbird was observed by only 8 groups, but 26 were netted at VINS in Woodstock through 9/21. However a high of 3 in Rochester 8/21 and 1 late in Danby 9/28 (SSW) should be noted. Perhaps still on territory, 1 Northern Waterthrush along the Nature Trail in MNWR 8/1 (EMA,RDB) and another obvious migrant banded at VINS 9/15 provided the only reports of this species. Annual in very small numbers, CONNECTICUT WARBLER is always of interest; 2



*Blackpoll Warbler*

banded in the Bragdon Preserve at VINS on 9/12 (SDF,KML,KRT) and another seen in So. Londonderry 9/18 (WJN) are especially noteworthy. Another secretive bird, Mourning Warbler is found infrequently in fall; 2 each seen in So. Duxbury on 8/10, 8/14 and 8/23 (FAP) may represent multiple sightings, and 1 to 2 on Lincoln Gap 9/30 (JRA) are late. Four more were captured in VINS nets between 8/8 and 9/1. Common Yellowthroat lived up to its name as the total 70 observed would indicate; highs of 6 to 8 in Dorset 8/2 (EFG) and 5 in So. Duxbury both on 8/23 and 9/5 (FAP) are eclipsed by the 47 more netted at VINS through 10/19. The total for Wilson's Warbler reached 21, a good fall count including 10 in So. Duxbury alone between 8/19 and 9/13 (FAP). Canada Warbler was found in singles by 8 observers, and all in Aug. with 2 exceptions: 2 birds in So. Duxbury 8/9 (FAP) was high and the last of 7 banded at VINS on 9/11 was later.

## TANAGER THROUGH SPARROW

An excellent showing for Scarlet Tanager resulted in 30 sightings and an additional 23 netted at VINS, up from previous years. High counts of 3 each in HC 8/1 and So. Duxbury 9/6 (FAP), and 6 in Brandon 8/1 (SSW) are followed by the last birds netted at VINS on 10/2. No change in the status of Northern Cardinal is evident, as the species was commonly reported from feeders throughout the state, often in groups of 6 to 8; however, 4 at a Reading feeder for the "first time in 11 years" on 11/1 (AMM) is noteworthy. Rose-breasted Grosbeak numbers appear very healthy as a total 57 were seen by 16 reporters, with an additional 19 banded at VINS; 11 in Lincoln 8/26 (JRA) is an impressive high, and the late record comes from HC on 10/1 with 1 migrant (WJN). Drab and out of habitat, Indigo Bunting can be overlooked, so that the ~20 reported is healthy and includes "several" in Lincoln 8/14 (JRA); 2 in Bridport 9/25 (JAP) are late, and 5 banded in Woodstock add to the total. Eastern Towhee can be very scarce as the 9 reports would suggest. Two in Ferrisburgh 9/14 (MCD,JID) are high, 1 bird seen at 3,800' elevation on Mt. Mansfield 9/28 (DL) is very interesting and the late record is of 1 in Manchester Ctr. 10/23 (BWP). The earliest American

Tree Sparrow sighting was 1 in Manchester Ctr. 10/15 (BWP) and by 10/19 they were being netted at VINS and seen in DCWMA (TGM), So. Londonderry (WJN) and Georgia (BDo). Flock sizes increased into Nov., with highs of 40 at HC 11/1 (FAP) and 80 in Bridport 11/10 (JAP). Chipping Sparrow was widely reported in good numbers, with notable highs of ~50 in Dorset 9/3 (EFG), 20 in Bridport 9/4 (FAP) and 40 in Woodstock 9/20 (JMN), leading to the late record of in Wallingford 11/23 (SJD). With a total of only 23 records for Field Sparrow, which includes 4 netted in Woodstock (VINS), the high of 8 to 10 seen in So. Londonderry between 8/17 and 10/7 (WJN) and the late bird in Berkshire 11/9 (BDo) are significant. Vesper Sparrow should be expected in the CV in small numbers, so the 4 seen in So. Londonderry 9/30 and 10/22 (WJN) represent not only the high and late records but are fully half the total seen and at an unexpected location. More typical sightings for Savannah Sparrow were received as the total 78 includes 20 from Addison 9/3 (FAP) and 25 in Bridport 9/24 (JAP), with the late record from DCWMA about 10/30 (SSW). An excellent showing for Fox Sparrow this fall included the early sighting of 1 in Sheffield 10/19 (PFW,SAW), a high of 6 in Reading 11/2 (FMH,EJH) and a late record of 1 in Stockbridge 11/24 (EH) leading to a total 41 observed. Moderate numbers of Song Sparrow included a more normal 96 netted at VINS from 8/1 to 10/27 and a high of ~37 in Dorset 10/12 (EFG), with several records into Nov. Often sporadic, Lincoln's Sparrow was only seen 21 times by 6 reporters, but 45 were captured by VINS nets between 9/15 and 10/19, indicating a strong migration; 4 in Dorset 9/27 (EFG) are high and 1 in DAR State Pk, Addison, 10/20 (TGM) is the late record. Once again, Tinmouth Channel was Swamp Sparrow

*Lincoln's Sparrow*



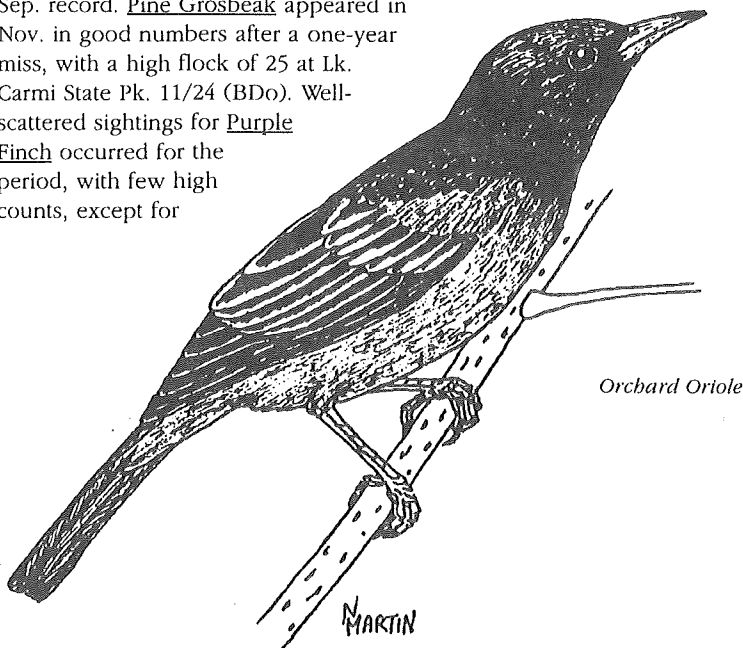
city, as 25 seen there 10/4 (CJF) is the undisputed high, although the last of 35 netted by VINS staff was on 10/27 indicating another strong movement. Numbers for White-throated Sparrow seem to have rebounded from the last couple of down years, as they were widely observed in flocks ranging from 35 in Reading (FMH,EJH), Dorset (EFG) and Woodstock (JMN) in mid-Oct. to over 100 birds in So. Londonderry 10/20 (WJN); also, 289 sparrows were netted at Bragdon Preserve at VINS over a 3 month period. Not nearly as numerous, White-crowned Sparrow was nonetheless very widely reported with highs of 4 to 6 in Elmore (EMA,RDB), Dorset (EFG), So. Royalton (CEJ), Addison (JMN) and Middlebury (JAP), but with a meager 10 banded at Woodstock between 9/21 and 10/26 (VINS). Perhaps our most abundant sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco was noted by nearly every observer as they appeared at feeders by mid-Oct. in flocks of 20 to 75 birds. Highs included a fairly low 78 netted at VINS up to 11/7, 100 in Stockbridge 10/25 (JAP) and 90 in Reading 11/3 (FMH,EJH), with many birds staying through the end of the period into winter. A single report of Lapland Longspur consisted of 2 seen on the Slang Rd., DCWMA 11/19 (FAP). Oddly, the first Snow Bunting sighting was also the most southerly: 1 in So. Londonderry 10/25 (WJN). By 11/8 flocks of 500 were being seen in the CV at DCWMA (FAP,SDF), and other interesting records outside of CV include 8 in Ferdinand 11/4 (REG), 40 in Clarendon (CJF) and 20 in Barnard (JAP) 11/9 and 1 in Sudbury 11/19 (SSW).

## BLACKBIRDS THROUGH HOUSE SPARROW

Notable flocks of Bobolink were seen, including 12 in Burlington 8/2 (EMA,RDB), 40 in Weybridge 8/5 (FAP), 15 in So. Londonderry 8/10 (WJN) and 12 in West Glover 8/13 (REG), but the species cleared out by early Sep. as 3 in DCWMA 9/8 (MCD,JID) were the last reported. No really huge flocks of Red-winged Blackbird were noted except for the usual area in West Addison, where 20,000 were estimated 10/20 (TGM), although 800 in St. Albans 11/5 (FAP) are certainly noteworthy. An average showing for Eastern Meadowlark

produced about 88 sightings but included a good high of 40 at the Ethan Allen Homestead in Burlington 8/2 (EMA,RDB) and 12+ on Grand Isle 10/22 (DJH). Normally encountered in moderate flocks, Rusty Blackbird was noted by 9 observers including 15 in Berkshire 9/18 (BDo), 12 in Ferrisburgh 9/24 (MCD,JID) and 40 as a high on Grand Isle 10/5 (DJH); also of interest was the bird on the summit of Mt. Mansfield 10/3 (KPM et al) and 1 in Stockbridge 11/7 (EH) for a late record. Common Grackle is often more abundant than the fall numbers indicate, as only 14 reporters counted them with high flock sizes of 200 at a Sheffield feeder 9/2 (PFW,SAW), 500 in Reading 9/13 (FMH,EJH), another 500 in Westminster 9/24 (WJN) and 250 in Bridport 10/6 (JAP); the last few were in Shoreham 11/21 (JAP). Also under-reported, Brown-headed Cowbird was only seen in numbers in the CV, where 200 in Bridport 9/24 (JAP) is the high, and 3 at a Sheffield feeder 11/24 (PFW,SAW) is the late sighting. For the first time since 1989, and only the second ever fall record, ORCHARD ORIOLE was seen in So. Londonderry, a f. on 8/17 (WJN). They normally depart before Aug. even if nesting takes place. Note: As of 1996, Northern Oriole is split back into two species: Baltimore and Bullock's, so that future reports will refer to the good old Baltimore Oriole; since this one is for 1995 records, the appropriate name is retained. Only 29 orioles were reported with highs of 3 each in Addison 8/5 (FAP), Woodstock 8/12 (JMN) and Brandon 8/13 (SSW); an additional 17 were banded at VINS though 8/25 and 1 bird in Ripton 9/16 (MBN) was the only Sep. record. Pine Grosbeak appeared in Nov. in good numbers after a one-year miss, with a high flock of 25 at Lk. Carmi State Pk. 11/24 (BDo). Well-scattered sightings for Purple Finch occurred for the period, with few high counts, except for

10+ in Vershire (KRH), 12 in Sheffield (PFW,SAW) and 20 at Eagle Pt., Newport (STH). Although not stated by observers, House Finch would appear in trouble if the generally low numbers reported are accurate. No flocks exceeding 30 were found and only 78 total were netted in Woodstock in a 3 month period (VINS). Often missed entirely, Red Crossbill was reported twice: 1 in Berkshire 10/30 (BDo) and another at McCuen Slang, Addison/Bridport 11/24 (AMD). No White-winged Crossbill reports were received this fall. Nothing like 1993, moderate numbers for Common Redpoll were found by observers, starting with a very early 10 in So. Londonderry 10/20 (WJN) and the rest into Nov., but with the largest flocks about 50 in both Enosburg 11/9 and Berkshire 11/23 (BDo). Many scattered sightings of Pine Siskin ranged from the first 4 in Reading 10/9 to a high of 40+ in Strafford 11/9 (SDF). Locally abundant and widespread, American Goldfinch numbers were very healthy as flocks of 40 to a high of 80 were seen in Georgia (EMA,RDB), Dorset (EFG), Newport (STH) and the 80+ in So. Royalton 11/15 (CEJ). Reported exclusively from interior forested sites for the entire period, Evening Grosbeak flock sizes ranged from 15 to 50, the 50 in Reading 11/2 (FMH,EJH) a single high, with total numbers in the average range for this sporadic species. Finally, House Sparrow was generally ignored except for the few notations of small flocks in urban areas or farm sites.



Orchard Oriole

## NOTES ON THE DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SPECIES

The Vermont Bird Records Committee (VBRC) emphasizes the importance of detailed, descriptive documentation of all rarities, rare nesting species or out-of-season species. It is frustrating for both the observer and the committee to have a tantalizing sighting of a rare species rejected for listing due to insufficient details.

The committee is anxious to involve all Vermont birders in 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.

In the field, writing down the salient points of identification, talking into a tape recorder, making a sketch or taking a photograph 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 while also checking the form for the details requested. The committee welcomes suggestions for improving the reporting and voting process.

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

**RECORDS OF VERMONT BIRDS** is published quarterly by the Vermont Institute of Natural Science. A one-year subscription is \$10. Contributors are advised to send accounts of rare or unusual bird sightings to VINS as soon as possible, or to call the Vermont Bird Alert (802-457-2779). Regional summaries of bird sightings are due to VINS promptly at the end of each season. Sighting cards are available from the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, RR2 Box 532, Woodstock, VT 05091, or by calling (802) 457-2779.

## CORRECTIONS

Fall 1993 - The astounding report of 300 Common Snipe from Newport on 8/22 (PFW,SAW) should refer to Ring-billed Gull.

## CONTRIBUTORS

JA John Acken  
 STH Tom Hickcox  
 JJA Jeffrey Allen  
 DJH David Hoag  
 TSA Ted Allen  
 KRH Kathleen Hoopes  
 JuA Juanita Almond  
 EJH Edna Hunt  
 EMA Elizabeth Alton  
 FMH Fred Hunt  
 JRA Jean Arrowsmith  
 PH Pete Hunt  
 RDB Ray Barnes  
 TEJ Tait Johansson  
 JB Jon Binhammer  
 EJ Elsbeth Johnson  
 NB Norbert Blaskowski  
 CEJ Carol Jones  
 MHB Michael Blust  
 WBK Warren King  
 BB Bruce Bolnick  
 MK Mr. Knox  
 MTB Marsha Booker  
 DLa Don Lacy  
 SB Sally Borden  
 KML Ken Levenstein  
 LB Lee Brockwell  
 CM Charlotte McCartney  
 GRB Gordon Brown  
 CMM Clare McFarland  
 HB Harry Brown  
 KPM Kent McFarland  
 MB Marilyn Brown  
 AMM Ann McKelvie  
 NAB Nancy Brown  
 DM Donna Martin  
 DLC Dwight Cargill  
 NLM Nancy Martin  
 CSC Cornelia Chapin  
 SM Susan Moore  
 EWC Elizabeth Clapp  
 SWM Scott Morrical  
 MCC Rev. Mary Clapp  
 AM Art Mudge  
 MC Mike Clough  
 RAM Ronald Mura  
 LAC Lee & Ann Cordner  
 TGM Ted Murin  
 SPC Scott Crocoll  
 MBN Marge Nelson  
 JD John Danahy  
 JMN Julie Nicholson  
 CHD Chip Darmstadt

WJN Bill Norse  
 AMD Allison Deen  
 SJO Sandra Oliver  
 BDo Bill Donlon  
 CMO Cecelia Oakman  
 SJD Sarah Jane Dudley  
 DMP David Peterson  
 MCD Margaret Dye  
 JAP Judy Peterson  
 JID John Dye  
 CRP Carol Powell  
 WGE Walter Ellison  
 BWP Barbara Powers  
 WME Wally Elton  
 FAP Pat Pratt  
 SDF Steve Faccio  
 CCR Chris Rimmer  
 JNF Jean Fleming  
 LHR Larry Roberts  
 CJF C.J. Frankiewicz  
 NS Nancy Simson  
 BF Bruce Franzen  
 KRT Kevin Taft  
 LG Linda Garret  
 PFW Paul Wagner  
 LaG Laura Gaudette  
 SAW Shirley Wagner  
 DG Deborah Gebbie  
 RW Richard Warren  
 EFG Betty Gilbert  
 SSW Sue Wetmore  
 AVG Arthur Gilman  
 JPW John Wiggin  
 ADG Alisa Golodetz  
 JW Joshua Williams  
 AMG Alan Gregory  
 JLW Julia Lloyd Wright  
 REG Ray Griffin  
 DSY David Yates  
 EH Ed Hack  
 MZ Meeri Zetterstrom  
 GEH Terry Hall

## ABBREVIATIONS USED IN TEXT

CR Connecticut River  
 CV Champlain Valley  
 DCWMA Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area  
 ECWMA East Creek Wildlife Management Area  
 HC Herrick's Cove  
 LC Lake Champlain  
 MNWR Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge  
 RVB Records of Vermont Birds  
 SNA Springweather Nature Area  
 VHW Vermont Hawk Watch  
 VINS Vermont Institute of Natural Science  
 WRDP Winooski River Delta Park

ad. adult  
 Bk. Brook  
 Ck. Creek  
 ea. each  
 f. female  
 I. Island  
 imm. immature  
 juv. juvenile  
 Lk. Lake  
 m. male  
 Mt. Mount or Mountain  
 Pd. Pond  
 Pk. Park  
 Pt. Point  
 R. River  
 Res. Reservoir  
 sp. species  
 y. young



**The Vermont Institute of Natural Science** is a nonprofit

organization that recognizes scientific research and environmental education are the most effective ways to appreciate and protect the natural world. VINS members receive free admission to the Vermont Raptor Center, subscriptions to our natural history publications, privileges at the Olin S.

Pettingill natural history library and discounts on nature programs, workshops, courses, field trips and items from our gifts shops.

Membership rates:  
 \$25 Individual, \$45 Family,  
 \$100 Associate, \$250 Donor,  
 \$500 Patron, \$1,000+ Benefactor,  
 \$15 Senior/Budget,  
 \$15 Library.

