



RECORDS OF VERMONT BIRDS

VERMONT INSTITUTE OF NATURAL SCIENCE

VOL. 23, No. 3

SUMMER 1995

1 June – 31 July

Susanne Wetmore, Seasonal Editor

Weather, always a topic of conversation in Vermont, broke records this summer. June was dry throughout with only 33% of normal rainfall. This made it the driest June in 101 years. In spite of severe drought conditions, a violent storm in early June caused a great deal of damage in Rutland County. July brought intensified heat with devastating record temperatures. Those in northern New England did find some relief from the drought with 129% of normal rainfall occurring in Vermont. Again severe storms in several counties wreaked widespread damage. Trees and other plants certainly suffered greatly due to the unusual weather conditions.

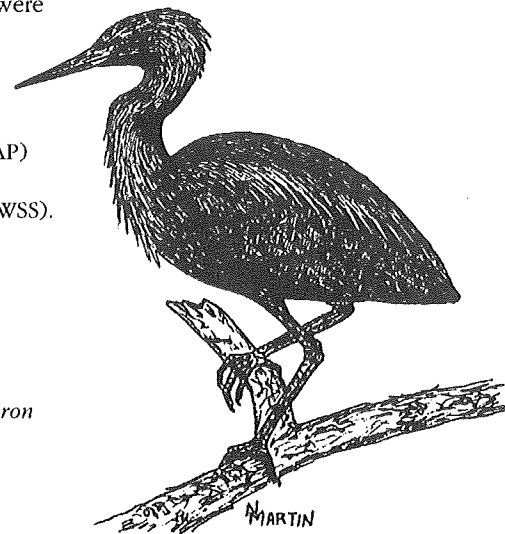
Some of the rarities for this season include a Yellow-breasted Chat on 6/2 found in the West Rutland Marsh. A breeding pair of Bay-breasted Warblers seen on 6/27-29 feeding nestlings was observed at Brighton State Park. From Grand Isle on 7/8, an adult GREAT CORMORANT was viewed flying with a Double-crested Cormorant. One especially exciting highlight was a RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD in West Arlington. RED KNOT and BAIRD'S SANDPIPER were seen on 6/3 at Nichol's Point on Grand Isle.

I will continue to use the system of 5 key words to indicate the quantity of reports for a species. These words are: minimal for 1-5 reports, modest for 6-15, moderate for 16-25, considerable for 26-35 and extensive for 36 or more reports. Reports of observations are either sent in individually or on seasonal checklists available from the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (hereafter VINS), from Breeding Bird Surveys (hereafter BBS), part of a nationwide effort, and from information from the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge (hereafter MNWR) and the banding station at VINS.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

A record-breaking 19 Common Loon chicks was the highest count since 1978. The July survey found 124 birds, an increase from last year's count of 108 individuals. The cooperative efforts of VINS, the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department's Nongame and Natural Heritage Program (hereafter NNHP) and various power companies have eased disturbances to nesting areas. Continuing education of the general public is essential to the success of this bird in the future. Throughout the summer there were modest reports of individuals statewide: 1 at Eagle Point (Lake Memphremagog) 6/16 (STH) daily through the season, a nest on the Green River Reservoir 7/8 (TSA), a high count of 6 from Grand Isle 7/26 (DJH), one individual on 1 BBS route. Modest reports of Pied-billed Grebe, including 6 at Mud Creek, Alburg, including a f. with yg. on her back. Double-crested Cormorant had modest reports but included a high of 50 in Addison 6/2 (JAP). A survey of Lake Champlain revealed 2,211 nests. These nests were in colonies on 5 different islands. One BBS route had 27 individuals. Moderate reports of American Bittern included 1 at Leffert's Pond 6/1 (DMM), another from Coventry 6/25 (REG). Least Bittern was reported twice: 1 from Mud Creek 6/11 (SBL) and 2 individuals at Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area (hereafter DCWMA) 6/15 (WSS). Great Blue Heron received moderate reports, including a high count of 14 at MNWR 6/3 (TSA), 5 at Springweather Nature Center 7/10 (WME). There were 19 individuals on 8 BBS routes. A single sighting of Great Egret came from West Haven 7/28 (CHD). Green-backed Heron had modest reports, with individuals sightings state wide, 2 at Nichol's Point 6/1 (DJH) and 1 from Colchester 7/22 (EMA/RDB). BBS had 2 routes with 2 birds. Black-crowned Night Heron has been adversely affected by the increase of Double-crested Cormorant nesting, causing the herons to shift to ground-nesting sites.

Only 3 reports were received: 2 at Nichol's and Simms Points (DJH), 2 from DCWMA 6/2 (JAP) and 1 also at DCWMA 6/15 (WSS).



Little Blue Heron

RECORD 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 |

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.

WATERFOWL

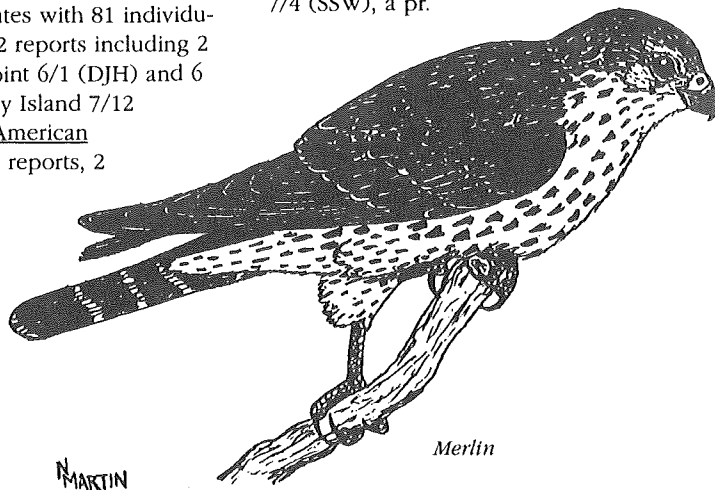
Brood survey results from the MNWR show a decline in ducklings since a high of 1786 individuals in 1991. The 1995 production figures of 760 ducklings are missing data from Long Marsh, as the area was not surveyed due to unforeseen boating difficulties. Had the marsh been included the likely figure of 800 plus ducklings would be a safe estimate. In comparison to the five-year average (1986-1990), ducklings per brood were down for all refuge species. The low water levels concentrated the young birds in the shallows, making them more likely targets to predation. Another factor seems to be the human disturbance of nesting boxes.

Mute Swan received 3 reports, one from Milton (MZ) that included a pr. with 3 yg., Arrowhead Lake 7/4 (SM) and DCWMA 6/4 (GB). Three out-of-season Snow Goose reports were received: 1 from Norwich 6/16 (CR), the other 2 in Bridport 7/19 and 7/21 (JAP). Canada Goose had modest reports, with several accounts of ad. with yg. At Lake Bomoseen 6/7 (RWP) 3 ad. with 30 yg. included 2 different age levels. Three BBS routes had 13 individuals. Wood Duck was moderately reported with a high count of 23 in Chittenden 7/28 (DMM). Several reports of f. with yg. were received from across the state. Four BBS routes had 6 individuals. American Black Duck had minimal reports: 4 birds at MNWR 6/3 (TSA), a high of 10 individuals at Grand Isle 7/27 (DJH) and one from Woodstock 6/24 (JMN), a f. with 9 yg. One BBS route reported 3 individuals. Despite the drought, the Mallard had moderate reports including fs. with yg., a high count of 15 from Island Pond 6/23 (REG) and in Vershire 6/25 (KRH) a f. with 15 yg. BBS had 9 routes with 81 individuals. Gadwall had 2 reports including 2 birds at Nichols Point 6/1 (DJH) and 6 individuals at Bixby Island 7/12 (DJH). Likewise, American Wigeon received 2 reports, 2 birds from Nichols Marsh 6/2 (DJH) and 8 birds seen at Simms Point 7/6 (DJH). Minimal sightings of Ring-necked Duck included 2a. and 2 yg. in Albany 6/23

(REG). Additional information provided by pond owner stated that a total of 4 a. and 12 yg. were in residence. The other sighting was 6 individuals at Mud Creek 6/11 (SBL). One BBS route had 2 individuals. Common Goldeneye had minimal reports: 1 a. with 6 yg. at Mud Creek 6/11 (SBL), from Swanton 6/11 (EMA/RDB) 2 a. and 1yg. and a high count of 8 birds in Grand Isle 6/14 (DJH). Hooded Merganser received modest reports with several fs. with yg. A high count of 11 birds was noted at DCWMA 6/2 (JAP), 1 f. 10 yg.; and 6 birds in Orwell 6/11 (SSW), 1f. 5 yg.. Modest reports of Common Merganser were received including several nestings. One notable sighting was in Woodstock 7/13 (JMN) of 1f. 18 yg. Two BBS routes had 4 individuals.

VULTURES, HAWKS AND FALCONS

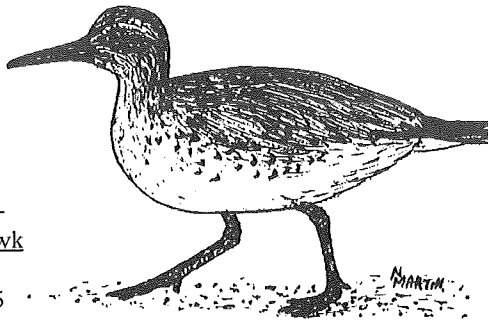
Moderate reports of Turkey Vulture included a high of 46 birds in Bristol 6/14 (JRA). A pr. was seen feeding on a road kill in Grand Isle 6/23 (DJH) and another high count of 18 was from Salisbury 7/11 (SSW). BBS had 7 individuals on 3 routes. Osprey continue to be successful, with 22 chicks fledged, down 1 from 1994. Modest reports from around the state included 1 at Moose Bog 6/12 and 13 (CHD) and 1 in Fairlee 6/26 (KRH). Modest reports of Bald Eagle included 1 at Somerset Reservoir 6/6 (DM), 1 at DCWMA 6/15 and 20 (WSS) and 2 in Milton 7/27 (TS). Northern Harrier was reported in modest numbers, including an a. with 2 yg. at the nest in Grand Isle (DJH) 7/8. Sharp-shinned Hawk also received modest reports that included 1 in Dorset 7/4 (SSW), a pr.



on Mount Mansfield through mid-June (CCR) and 1 in Pawlet 7/24 (GRB). Three BBS routes had 3 individuals. Minimal reports of Cooper's Hawk included 1a. with 1 juv. in Dorset 7/29+31 (EFG) and 2 in Shaftsbury 6/15 (WGE). One BBS route had 2 individuals. Only 4 reports of Northern Goshawk were received, including a report of a nest with 2a. and 2 yg. in Tinmouth 6/5 (RWP). Red-shouldered Hawk likewise had minimal sightings that included 1 in Londonderry 6/6 (WJN) and 1 heard calling in Hartland 6/17 (CHD). Modest reports of Broad-winged Hawk included 2 a. and 2 yg. observed in Williston 7/1 (MP). Prior to this sighting an a. had attacked an observer on 6/16. Two birds were in Sheffield 6/17 (PFW/SAW). Four BBS had 9 individuals. Moderate reports of Red-tailed Hawk were 4 in Vershire 6/1 (KRH), 2 in Putney 7/11 (EMA/RDB) an a. with 2 yg. in Addison 7/22 (JRA). American Kestrel had modest reports: 1 in Pawlet 6/1 (GRB), 3 in New Haven 6/24 (JRA), 1 at Eagle Point 6/19 (STH) and 2 fl. from Grand Isle 7/5 (DJH). Twelve BBS routes had 20 individuals. One Merlin was seen in July in Vershire (KRH). Peregrine Falcon still demonstrate good productivity in spite of a decline in total number of chicks this year, with 12 prs. producing 24 chicks compared a total in 1994 of 31. Minimal reports received from observers included 4 in Fairlee 6/17 (JMN).

GROUSE THROUGH RAILS

Ring-necked Pheasant received minimal reports: 1 in South Pomfret 6/16 (JNF), an escapee in Woodstock (JMN) and 1 in Addison 6/8 (DJH). One BBS route had 1 individual. Spruce Grouse was reported from Island Pond 7/1 (RWP) and a sighting at Wenlock Wildlife Management Area (hereafter WWMA) was of an a. with 4 chicks 6/28 (RWP). Moderate reports of Ruffed Grouse included f. with 5 yg. at Merck Forest 6/13 (SSW), 3 yg. in Pawlet 6/28 (GRB) and 9 in Braintree 7/2 (RAM). BBS had 1 individual on 1 route. Turkey received modest reports that included a flock of 2 fs. and 21 chicks in Brandon (SSW) through the season, 1 f. and 19 chicks in West Haven 7/28 (CHD) and 2 fs. and 20 yg. in Lincoln 7/15 (JRA). Two BBS routes had 7 individuals. A lone report of Northern Bobwhite came from Hardwick 7/10 (MLG). Virginia Rail had minimal reports that included 1 bird at



Red Knot

Shaw Mountain 6/3 (SSW), 3 at Mud Creek 6/11 (SBL) and the comment of "abundant" from Grand Isle 6/7 (DJH). Three reports of Common Moorhen included 1 bird at East Creek 6/11 (SSW), from Mud Creek 7/28 (FAP) 2 ad. 1 imm., and 1 in Coventry 6/25 & 7/19 (REG).

SHOREBIRDS

On 6/3 at Nichol's Point, Grand Isle, a rather remarkable flight of several species of shorebirds occurred between the hours of 9:15 a.m. through 8:00 p.m.. The individual species reported by (DJH) will be detailed in order below.

Minimal Semi-palmated Plover included 1 at Burlington 7/18 (JAP), 1 in Grand Isle 7/21 (DJH) and 1 in St. Albans 7/27 (FAP). Considerable reports of Killdeer included a nest in Woodstock 6/1 (CRP), another in Rutland 6/22 (MBO) and a high count of 36 individuals from Grand Isle 7/21 (DJH). Sixteen BBS routes had 63 individuals. Greater Yellowlegs had 2 reports: 1 bird in Panton/Bridport 7/19 (JMN/ BRJ) and 1 in Rockingham 7/30 (WJN). Lesser Yellowlegs likewise had 2 reports but no doubt were the same birds as they were seen on the same date, 2 Shelburne 7/18 (JAP/FAP). Solitary Sandpiper had minimal reports, with 4 at Panton Bridge 7/19 (JMN/BRJ) and 3 from Coventry 7/19 (REG). Moderate reports of Spotted Sandpiper were received that included a high count of 20 at Somerset Reservoir 6/8 (RWP), 1 a. 2 yg. Woodstock 7/13 (JMN) and yg. at Grand Isle 6/25 (DJH). Five BBS routes had 7 birds. The elusive Upland Sandpiper had minimal reports that included 1a. 2 yg. in Charlotte 6/12 (BB). A single report of 30+ Ruddy Turnstone came from Nichol's Point 6/3 (DJH) as well as 9 Red Knot from the same location and date. Minimal reports of Semi-palmated Sandpiper included large flocks at Nichol's Point 6/3 (DJH), 7 in Bridport 7/21 (JAP) and 20 in St.

Albans 7/28 (FAP). Modest reports of Least Sandpiper: 3 in Burlington 7/18 (JAP) and small flocks seen at Panton Bridge 7/19 (JMN). Single reports of both Baird's Sandpiper at Nichol's Point 6/3 (DJH), and Pectoral Sandpiper 7/25 Nichol's Point (DJH). American Woodcock had modest reports that included 2 in Manchester Center 6/6 (BWP) and 2 in Dorset 7/19 (EFG). One BBS route had 1 individual. Common Snipe had modest reports as well: 1 in Woodstock 6/1 (CRP) and 1 in Woodstock 6/24 (JMN) exhibiting territorial behavior. MNWR had a high count of 7 birds. Eleven BBS routes had 21 individuals.

GULLS AND TERNS

Bonaparte's Gull received modest reports, with all but 1 sighting from Grand Isle, the other being Eagle Point. The earliest report was 3 birds on 6/3 Grand Isle (DJH), a high count of 30 on 7/26 from Grand Isle (DJH) and the latest sighting of 10 birds in North Hero 7/27 (FAP). Modest reports of Ring-billed Gull, with a high count of 500 on 6/1 Eagle Point (STH). BBS had 4 routes with 335 individuals. Minimal reports of Herring Gull included 25 at Eagle Point on 6/1 (STH). Great Black-backed Gull had modest reports from Lake Champlain and 1 report from Eagle Point that proved to be the high count of 25 birds. Common Tern had a record breaking 107 fledglings this year. Long-term research by VINS with some support from the NNHP has been instrumental in the resurgence of this species. Popasquash Island had 150 nesting pairs that produced 100 fledglings. The NNHP continues to sponsor Nat Shambaugh's Black Tern research. Modest reports received include 20 birds from MNWR on 6/3 (TSA) and 5 at Mud Creek on 6/11 (SBL).

DOVES THROUGH NIGHTJARS

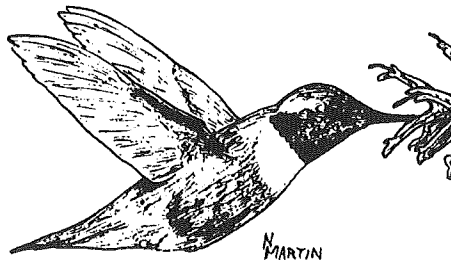
Rock Dove received modest reports but large flocks were seen statewide, including 50 in South Royalton (CEJ) throughout the season. There were 144 individuals on 15 BBS routes. Mourning Dove had considerable reports, with 3 in Sheffield 6/1 (PFW/SAW), a high count of 60 in Grand Isle 7/31 (DJH). Nineteen BBS routes had 276 individuals. Moderate reports of Black-billed Cuckoo

included 1 in Woodstock 6/1 (CHD), 2 in Dorset 7/9 (EFG), and 1 in Randolph 7/20 (EWC/MCC), a pr. at DCWMA 7/9 (SSW). There were 8 individuals on 4 BBS routes. Yellow-billed Cuckoo had modest reports, including the comment from Lincoln 7/19 (JRA) "very unusual to have 1 here." Other reports include 1 from Shaw Mtn. 6/3 (SSW/CHD), 1 in East Peacham 7/24 (TSW). One BBS route had 1 individual. Great Horned Owl had modest reports from around the state, including 1 in Dorset 6/1 (EFG), 1 in Woodstock (JMN) throughout the season. Modest reports for Barred Owl as well, with 2 birds in Vershire 7/26 (KRH), 3 in Woodstock (JMN) throughout the season. One BBS route had 1 individual. Northern Saw-whet Owl had 4 reports that included 1 in Sheffield 6/1 (PFW/SAW), 1 juv. netted on Okemo Mtn. 6/29 (CCR/KPM), plus 2 others seen at same location that appeared to be hybrids. Common Nighthawk was anything but common, with only 3 reports received. Four birds were seen in Springfield 6/15 (WME), 3 in Springfield 7/20 (WME) and 2 in Montpelier 7/30 (TSA). Whip-poor-will was still uncommon, with only 4 reports: 3 from Pawlet 6/1, 2, 14 (GRB), 1 in Groton 6/2 (ELC). An injured bird was found in Brandon by Dr. Susan Hayden, DVM. It was treated but did not survive.

SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Chimney Swifts received moderate reports, including 15 in Middlebury 6/1 (JAP), 7 in Brandon 7/31 (SSW). There were 47 individuals on 12 BBS routes. Considerable reports of Ruby-throated Hummingbird included a report from Brandon (SSW) of 20 or more birds seen at a local market garden's field of gladioli. Other sightings included 5 birds in Vershire 6/1 (KRH), 3 in South Royalton 7/1 (CEJ). There were 13 individuals on 11 BBS routes. Of special interest was the RUFIOUS HUMMING-BIRD seen at a feeder in West Arlington 7/27&28 (CS). A *Selasphorus* species was documented in Grand Isle (DJH) and was present all summer. Belted Kingfisher had moderate reports, including 1 in Dorset 6/1 (EFG), 2 in Burlington 6/12 (EMA/RDB), 5 at Eagle Point 7/14 (STH). There were 9 individuals on 8 BBS routes. Red-headed Woodpecker had 2 reports, 1 bird in

Bridport 6/25 (JAP), 2 also in Bridport 7/19 (JAP). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker had moderate reports, with a high count of 11 in Reading 6/2 (FMH/EMH), from Rochester 7/3 (SSW) a f. feeding 2 juv., 3 birds in Westminster West 7/7 (AMD) and 5 in Island Pond 6/17 (JB/TY). There were 57 individuals on 15 BBS routes. There were moderate reports for Downy Woodpecker, including 1 bird netted on Mt. Mansfield in July (KPM). Other sightings included yg. fledged on 7/13 in Grand Isle (DJH) and 8 in Shaftsbury 6/15 (WGE). There were 51 individuals on 14 BBS routes. Considerable reports of Hairy Woodpecker included a unusual sighting of a m. with a yellow spot instead of red on its head. This bird was seen in Cornwall 6/14 (JAP). Other sightings include of a pr. feeding yg. in Brandon 6/12 (SSW), 2 in Woodstock 7/30 (CRP). There were 28 individuals on 13 BBS routes. Four reports of Black-backed Woodpecker included 1 in Barton Marsh 6/25 (REG), 1 at WWMA 7/8 (FAP), 1 in Barnet 7/12 (CHD) and 1 at Moose Bog 7/19&20 (CHD). Consider-



Rufous Hummingbird

able numbers of Yellow-shafted Flicker included a family of 6 birds in Woodstock 7/9 (JMN), 14 in Pawlet (GRB), 4 in Starksboro 7/29 (MP). There were 39 individuals on 16 BBS routes. Pileated Woodpecker had modest reports, 1 in Putney 6/3 (AMD), 2 in Dorset 7/8 (EFG). There were 18 birds seen on 11 BBS routes.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

Modest reports of Olive-sided Flycatcher include 1 m. singing on Mt. Mansfield 6/1 (CCR) at an altitude of 3850 feet. Other reports include 2 in Island Pond 6/17 (JB/TY), 1 in Braintree 6/3&6 (RAM), 3 at Berlin Pond 7/25 (SDF et al). A usually reliable site in Goshen had no birds this season (SSW). Three

individuals were seen on 3 BBS routes. Eastern Wood Pewee had moderate reports, including 1 in Montpelier 6/1 (TSA), 2 in Reading 6/2 (FMH/EJH) and 4 at Shaw Mtn. 6/3 (SSW/CHD). MNWR had a high count of 17 birds. There were 49 individuals on 17 BBS routes. Five reports of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher include 9-10 nesting prs. on the east slope of Mt. Mansfield through June/July (CCR/KPM). Other nesting birds were seen on Mt. Equinox and Mt. Belvidere. Moderate reports of Alder Flycatcher included a high number of 8 in Londonderry 6/11 (WGE), 2 in Brandon 6/10 (SSW), 3 West Rutland 6/18 (FAP) and 1 from Lyndonville 7/29 (PFW/SAW). There were 56 individuals on 9 BBS routes. Willow Flycatcher had modest reports that include a high count of 11 at West Rutland Marsh 6/2 (RWP), 6 at DCWMA 6/15 (WWS) and 4 in Lincoln 7/22 (JRA). The MNWR census recorded the first documentation of 2 birds. There were 12 individuals on 5 BBS routes. Least Flycatcher had moderate reports, including a high count of 25 birds in Shaftsbury 6/15 (WGE), 2 in Danby 6/14 (SSW) with fy. There were 123 individuals on 19 BBS routes. Considerable reports of Eastern Phoebe include 3 birds at Shaw Mtn. 6/3 (SSW/CHD), a nest with 3 eggs that had been parasitized by Brown-headed Cowbird. There were 188 birds on 18 BBS routes. Great Crested Flycatcher had moderate reports, including 1 in Reading 6/2 (FMH/EJH), 3 in Bridport 7/19 (JAP) and 6 at MNWR 6/3 (TSA). Twenty-nine birds were seen on 13 BBS routes. Eastern Kingbird had considerable reports, including the comment "abundant" from Eagle Point (STH), as well as at DCWMA (JAP). Other reports were of an a. feeding 4 yg. in Lyndonville (PFW/SAW), 2 a. and 3 yg. in Bristol 6/30 (MP). There were 107 individuals on 17 BBS routes. Horned Lark had modest reports, including 20 at Addison 6/2 (JAP) and 8 in Bridport/Addison 6/18 (CHD). One bird was seen on 1 BBS route. There were modest reports of Purple Martin, including 15 at North Hero 6/11 (EMA/RDB) and 4 in Newport 6/26 (REG). Tree Swallow had considerable reports that included several nestings. Large numbers from Eagle Point (STH) and Rockingham (WJN) were observed. There were 338 individuals on 19 BBS routes. Northern Rough-winged Swallow received modest reports, including 2 in West Rutland Marsh 6/5 (SSW), 2 in Manchester Center 6/7 (BWP) and a report of high numbers

in Grand Isle(DJH). One individual was seen on 1 BBS route. There were modest reports of Bank Swallow, including a high of 500+ seen in Hartland 6/18 (CHD) at Summer Falls and 200 on 6/9 Middlebury River (JAP). There were 64 individuals on 6 BBS routes. Only 1 report of Cliff Swallow came from Jericho 6/19 (CJ), a small colony of 4 nests with yg. Sixteen individuals were seen on 3 BBS routes. Barn Swallow had moderate reports, with nesting from Brandon 6/1 (SSW), 20+ in West Fairlee (KRH) and 50 at Eagle Point 6/14 (STH). Two listers commented that there seemed to be fewer than normal for their area (EFG/JMN). There were 264 individuals on 19 BBS routes.

JAYS THROUGH WRENS

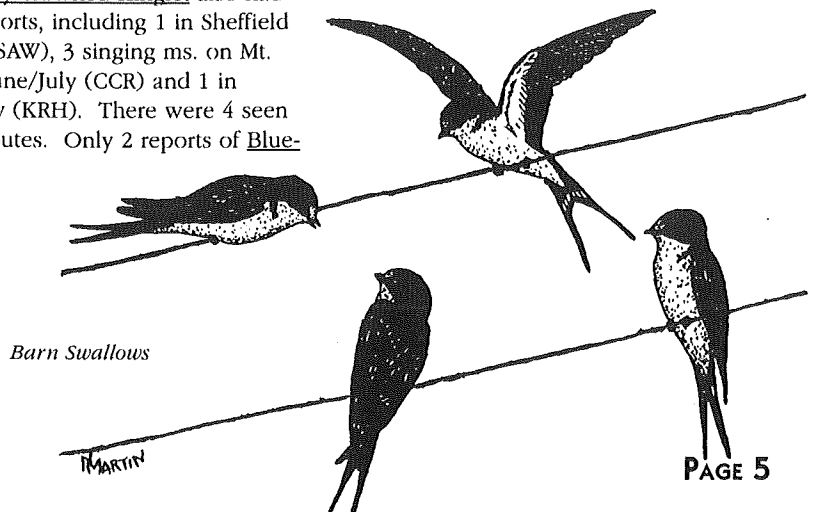
A lone report of Gray Jay came from WWMA 7/8 (FAP), where 3 birds were seen. Not surprisingly, considerable reports of Blue Jay were received, with one confirmed nesting on Mt. Mansfield (CCR), at a 3400 foot elevation. There were 324 individuals on 19 BBS routes. American Crow had considerable reports, including a high count of 30 in Rockingham 7/30 (WJN), in Georgia 6/25 (EMA/RDB) 2 were fledged, in Woodstock 6/10 (JMN) 3 yg. were seen. There were 582 individuals on 19 BBS routes. Moderate reports of Common Raven include 4 juv. 2 ads. in Wallingford 6/16 (SSW), a first-time record for Dorset 6/16 (EFG) and a high count of 13 on Mt. Mansfield 7/31 (EMA/RDB). There were 18 birds on 9 BBS routes. Black-capped Chickadee received considerable reports, including several nestings. In Woodstock 2 nests produced a total of 7 yg., another nest in Vershire had 6 eggs. There were 332 individuals on 19 BBS routes. A single report of 5 Boreal Chickadee occurred at Moose Bog 6/27 (CHD). There were modest reports of Tufted Titmouse, including 1 bird on Mt. Mansfield 7/20 (KPM) at 3,200 feet. A pr. in Woodstock 6/20 (JMN) fledged 3 yg. In Dorset the observer (EFG) noted that a dramatic decline had occurred in the population, from 45% of the 53-day observation period down to just 8%. There were 5 individuals on 2 BBS routes. Red-breasted Nuthatch had moderate reports, with nests seen on Mts. Mansfield and Mt. Equinox. Another nesting in Wallingford 6/16 (SSW) had 2 ads. feeding 2 yg. and there was a high count

of 5 in Reading 6/13 (FMH/RDB). There were 47 individuals on 11 BBS routes. Considerable reports of White-breasted Nuthatch include 2 ads. with yg. in Vershire (KRH), a report from Lincoln (JRA) of 2 ads. and 6 juv., and from Dorset 7/22 (EFG) 12 individuals were seen. BBS had 47 birds on 14 routes. Modest reports of Brown Creeper, including 9 birds at Brighton State Park 6/29 (RWP). That number included a family of 4 birds seen by the observer. A nest was found on Mt. Equinox (KPM). There were 7 individuals on 5 BBS routes. Carolina Wren had modest reports, including a nest in South Pomfret 7/3 (JNF) and 5 in Dorset 6/25 (EFG). Moderate reports for House Wren include several nestings, including 6 birds were in Shaftsbury 6/15 (WGE) and from Randolph 7/31 (EWC/MCC) 2 ads. and 3 fls. There were 36 individuals on 12 BBS routes. Winter Wren had moderate reports, including the comment that the population appears to be rebounding (CCR). Other observers also noted that the bird was more commonly heard. Five birds in South Starksboro 6/25 (MP) had m. with feeding fls., while the f. constructed a new nest. There were 79 individuals on 14 BBS routes. The uncommon Sedge Wren received only 1 report from East Peacham 7/24 (TSA). Marsh Wren had modest reports, including 37 individuals at DCWMA 6/25 (JRA). There were 12 birds on 3 BBS routes.

KINGLETS THROUGH THRUSHES

Golden-crowned Kinglet had minimal reports, including 1 in Ripton 6/2 (JAP), 3 in Island Pond 6/17 (JB/TY), and from Mts. Belvidere, Mansfield and Equinox (KPM). BBS had 12 individuals on 5 routes. Ruby-crowned Kinglet also had minimal reports, including 1 in Sheffield 6/14 (PFW/SAW), 3 singing ms. on Mt. Mansfield June/July (CCR) and 1 in Vershire July (KRH). There were 4 seen on 2 BBS routes. Only 2 reports of Blue-

gray Gnatcatcher included a nest in Brandon 6/3 (SSW) with the bird incubating. The other sighting was 2 birds at MNWR. Moderate reports of Eastern Bluebird included several nestings. The recovery of this population is due to both individual efforts and the statewide program, Bluebirds Across Vermont. There were 23 individuals seen on 10 BBS routes. Veery received considerable reports, including nesting confirmation. One nest was seen at Brighton State Park 6/27 (RWP), the other in South Starksboro 7/21 (MP). A high count of 18 birds from Lincoln 7/12 (JRA) would indicate that this particular thrush is doing well. There were 238 individuals on 19 BBS routes. Gray-checked Thrush had just 2 reports, 1 on Mt. Mansfield 6/6 (DJH) and the other report also on Mt. Mansfield (CCR) included the results of the high peaks monitoring program. Of the 7 nests observed, only 2 fls. were produced. Bicknell's Thrush, also part of the high peaks study, had 10 prs. on Mts. Equinox in Manchester, Belvidere, and a huge population on Mt. Mansfield near the toll road all summer. To the astonishment of many, 1 of the birds banded in Vermont was recovered in a mist net in the Dominican Republic in December. Minimal reports of Swainson's Thrush, included 3 in Rochester 6/12 (SSW), 1 m. singing in Hancock 7/3 (RAM), and nestings on Mts. Mansfield, Equinox, and Belvidere. Two individuals were seen on 2 BBS routes. Hermit Thrush had considerable reports, including several confirmed nestings. Island Pond 6/17 (JB/TY) had a record number of 18 individuals; others include 13 in Lincoln 7/12 (JRA) and a nest at Brighton State Park 6/29 (RWP). BBS had 95 birds on 17 routes. Considerable reports of Wood Thrush included a nest at Shaw Mtn. 6/3 (SSW/CHD) with f. incubating and the m. nearby acting very agitated. There were 2



Barn Swallows

birds in Manchester Center 6/3 (BWP), a nest in Middlebury 6/14 (JAP) and a high count of 13 in Lincoln 7/12 (JRA). There were 197 individuals on 18 BBS routes. There were considerable reports of American Robin statewide, including several confirmed nestings. A grand total of 1,042 birds were counted on 19 BBS routes.

MIMIDS THROUGH VIREOS

Extensive reports of Gray Catbird included nestings in several areas, 1 in Middlebury 6/1 (JAP) and 2 active nests in Woodstock 6/27 (JMN). A high count was 10 in Dorset 6/7 (EFG), and the reporter from Vershire (KRH) recorded none for the first time. There were 146 individuals on 18 BBS routes. Northern Mockingbird had modest reports, including a pr. with yg. in Bethel (JRA) that were fledged in July. Two in Eagle Point 7/22 (STH) were a first record for that area and 5 were in Panton 7/22 (JRA). There were 3 birds on 2 BBS routes. Modest reports of Brown Thrasher included 2 in Springfield (WME) and a pr. in Pawlet 6/15 (GRB). There were 4 individuals on 3 BBS routes. Cedar Waxwing was extensively reported, including a pr. with nesting material in Starksboro 7/7 (MP), a flock of 36 at MNWR. There were 209 individuals on 17 BBS routes. European Starling had moderate reports, with large flocks seen at Eagle Point and other comments that the birds are common throughout. There were 766 individuals on 19 BBS routes. Solitary Vireo had modest reports, including a nest in Wallingford 6/23 (SSW) and 5 singing ms. in Woodstock through 7/18 (JMN). There were 32 individuals on 13 BBS routes. Modest reports of Yellow-throated Vireo included 1 in Westminster 6/6 (WJN) and 1 in Woodstock 7/3 (CRP). There were 13 birds seen on 5 BBS routes. Warbling Vireo had moderate reports, including 2 in Dorset 6/1 (EFG) and 4 in Rockingham 6/6 (WJN). There were 68 individuals on 15 BBS routes. Not surprisingly, Red-eyed Vireo had abundant reports, including confirmed nestings. There were 8 prs. in Woodstock (JMN) with 3 yg. seen on 6/24. Twelve birds were recorded in Lincoln (JRA) through the summer season. There were 568 individuals on 17 BBS routes.

WOOD WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler had only 2 reports: 1 in Brandon 6/2 (SSW) and 2 in Ira 6/6 (RWP). There was 1 bird on 1 BBS route. There were minimal reports of Golden-winged Warbler, including 1 at Shaw Mtn. 6/3 (CHD) and 5 in IRA 6/6 (RWP). The hybrid Brewster's Warbler was seen in its usual location in Brandon 6/3 (SSW). A single report of Tennessee Warbler came from Danby 6/10 (SSW). There were minimal reports of Nashville Warbler, including a nest with 2 yg. in Starksboro 7/5 (MP). This species was in residence all summer on the peaks of Mts. Mansfield, Equinox and Belvidere (KPM). There were 28 individuals on 7 BBS routes. Minimal reports of Northern Parula included 1 at Grout Pond 6/17 (RWP), 1 in Barnard 6/21 (REG) and 3 at Maidstone 6/28 (RWP). There were 20 birds on 6 BBS routes. Yellow Warbler received considerable reports that included a high count of 14 at the West Rutland Marsh 6/2 (RWP) and a nest in South Starksboro 7/9 (MP) with 4 yg.. Another pr. in Woodstock 6/27 (JMN) also nested. A total of 203 individuals on 17 BBS routes were seen. Moderate reports of Chesnut-sided Warbler include a nest in Pawlet (GRB) with 2 fls., 8 at Lincoln Gap 6/16 (JRA) and 3 in Reading 7/1 (EMA/RDB). There were 251 individuals on 17 BBS routes. Magnolia Warbler had minimal reports, with 4 at Lincoln Gap 6/3 (JRA), 1 in Danby 6/14 (SSW) and all season on the peaks of Mansfield, Belvidere and Equinox (KPM). There were 39 birds on 7 BBS routes. Modest reports of Black-throated Blue Warbler were received, including 1 in Ripton 6/2 (JAP) and 10 in Lincoln 6/3 (JRA). A total of 43 individuals were seen on 13 BBS routes. Yellow-rumped Warbler had moderate reports, including 1 ad. with fy. at Leffert's Pond 6/10 (RWP), 1 pr. in Woodstock 7/28 (JMN) and 1 ad. with 2 yg. on Mt. Mansfield 7/31 (KPM). There were 80 individuals on 15 BBS routes. Black-throated Green Warbler had modest reports, including a comment of "lots on Mt. Mansfield" 6/6 (DJH), 5 at Enosburg Falls 6/20 (STH) and 5 in Fayston (MP) with 1 ad. with fy. There were 54 birds on 11 BBS routes. Modest reports of Blackburnian Warbler included 3 singing ms. in Goshen 6/5 (SSW), and in Maidstone 6/30 (RWP) 1 pr. feeding a fl. There were 26 individuals on 12 BBS routes. Pine Warbler received only 3 reports: 1 in Shaftsbury 6/9 (FAP), 2 in

East Barnet 6/30 (RWP) and 1 in Georgia 7/12 (EMA/RDB). There were 4 on 1 BBS route. Two reports of Prairie Warbler include 1 pr. with m. singing in Brandon 6/1 (SSW) and 1 in West Haven 6/17&21 (WSS). Bay-breasted Warbler had 3 reports, including 1 in Dorset 6/1&6 (EFG) and 1 in Island Pond 7/1 (RWP). Minimal reports of Blackpoll Warbler included 10 nests on Mt. Mansfield (CCR), 3 nests on Mt. Equinox and 1 on Mt. Belvidere. The monitoring of these nest reported a 50% success rate. Modest reports of Black-and white Warbler included 3 in Manchester Center 6/15 (BWP) and 3 in Rochester 6/19 (SSW). There were 103 individuals on 17 BBS routes. American Redstart had considerable reports, including 9 in Ira 6/6 (RWP) and 1 a. feeding a yg. Brown-headed Cowbird in Cornwall Swamp 6/21 (CHD). There were 107 birds on 16 BBS routes. Considerable reports of Ovenbird included several nestings and 1 in Starksboro 6/11 (MP) with 4 yg. but the nest was subject to predation. This species is often a victim of Brown-headed Cowbird activity. Other sightings include 13 birds in Lincoln 6/3 (JRA), 15 in Reading 6/5 (FMH/EJH) and a nest at Roy Mt. Wildlife Management Area 7/12 (CHD) with 4 eggs present. A total of 332 individuals were found on 19 BBS routes. Modest reports of Northern Waterthrush included 5 in Cornwall 6/9 (JAP), an a. feeding fl. in Island Pond 6/29 (RWP) and a count of 29 birds at MNWR. There were 3 individuals on 2 BBS routes. Louisiana Waterthrush had just 3 reports: 2 in Norwich all season (CCR), 2 ms. singing in Brandon 6/9 (SSW) and 1 in Danby 6/20 (SSW). There were 4 individuals on 2 BBS routes. Mourning Warbler received modest reports: 1 in Dorset 6/3 (EFG), a pr. with yg. in South Starksboro 6/20 (MP) and a singing m. on Mt. Mansfield (KPM) near the Nose Dive ski slope. Seven individuals were seen on 5 BBS routes. Common Yellowthroat lived up to its name by receiving abundant reports statewide, including several confirmed nestings. The MNWR census had a count of 42 birds; there were 2 pr. with yg. at Island Pond 6/28 (RWP) and 1 in Pawlet 7/30 (GRB) with fy. There were 442 individuals on 19 BBS routes. Canada Warbler had minimal reports, including 1 in Ripton 6/2 (JAP), a pr. acting agitated in Goshen 7/3 (SSW) and 4 in Reading 6/2&5 (FMH/EJH). There were 14 individuals on 10 BBS routes. A Yellow-breasted Chat was found at the

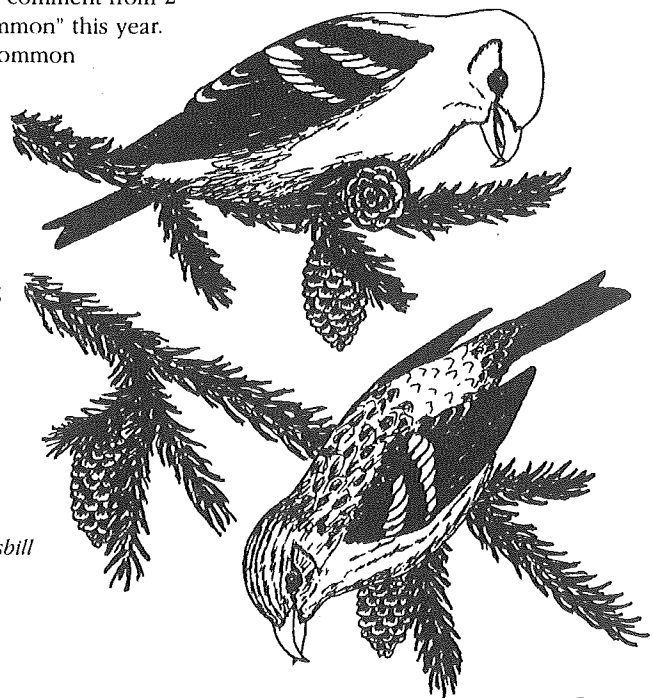
West Rutland Marsh on 6/3 (RWP). The bird was in a dense thicket vocalizing, and was subsequently seen after "pishing".

TANAGER THROUGH HOUSE SPARROW

Moderate reports of Scarlet Tanager this season include 3 in Brandon 6/14 (SSW) and 6 in Reading 6/24 (FMH/EJH). There were 60 individuals on 14 BBS routes. Northern Cardinal had moderate reports from around the state, including 3 in Randolph 6/5 (EWC/MCC) that included an imm. and 8 in Dorset 7/24 (EFG). BBS survey had 88 individuals on 11 routes. Considerable accounts of Rose-breasted Grosbeak included several confirmed nests and observations of yg. One in Benson 6/3 (SSW et al) had the f. on the nest, and 1 f. was with 2 yg. in Starksboro 7/9 (MP). There were 58 birds on 16 BBS routes. Moderate reports of Indigo Bunting included m. singing in Lincoln 6/23 (JRA), 8 seen in Hartland June and July (CHD). There were 61 individuals on 13 BBS routes. Rufous-sided Towhee received modest reports, with a pr. present all season in Woodstock (CCR), a first record in Sheffield 6/14 (PFW/SAW) and a singing m. in Pawlet 6/27 (GRP). Five birds on 5 BBS routes. Chipping Sparrow appeared to be common, with considerable reports including nesting in Middlebury 6/1 (JAP), 6 yg. in Woodstock 7/2 (JMN) and 20 birds in Dorset 7/22 (EFG). There were 256 individuals on 19 BBS routes. Modest reports of Field Sparrow included 5 in Brandon 6/2 (SSW) and yg. fledged in Hinesburg 6/18 (MP). There were 35 birds on 9 BBS routes. Vesper Sparrow had minimal reports, including 19 birds counted on the Grassland Survey 6/5&18 (CHD). Six were seen in Bridport 6/21 (JAP). Savannah Sparrow had considerable reports, with the Grassland Survey finding 40 individuals on 6/18 (CHD) (CHD). One imm. was seen at DCWMA 7/9 (SSW). There were 76 birds on 13 BBS routes. Only 2 reports of Grasshopper Sparrow were received, 5 individuals on the Grassland Survey 6/5&18 (CHD), the other 1 in West Glover 6/23 (REG). There were 5 individuals on 1 BBS route. Song Sparrow received considerable reports from around the state, including confirmed nestings. There were 539 individuals on 19 BBS routes. Lincoln's Sparrow received 3 reports all from the

Northeast Kingdom area of the state: 1 m. singing at Moose Bog 6/12 (CHD), 2 in the same location on 6/27 and 1 from Island Pond 6/17 (JB/TY). One bird found on 1 BBS route. Swamp Sparrow was moderately reported, with nest building by a f. in Bristol 7/2 (MP). This nest had 2 eggs in it on 7/7. There were 58 birds on 8 BBS routes. Considerable reports of White-throated Sparrow included an a. with fls. in Fayston 7/25 (MP), nests on Mt Mansfield (KPM) and 1 ad. 1 yg. in Dorset 6/27 (EFG). There were 231 individuals on 18 BBS routes. Dark-eyed Junco had modest reports that included nests on Mts. Mansfield, Equinox and Belvidere. A total of 46 birds found on 13 BBS routes. Bobolink received moderate reports, including a total of 89 birds found on the Grassland Survey 6/18 (CHD et. al.), 51 in Bridport 6/21 (JAP) and 5 ms. singing throughout the season in Brandon (SSW). There were 199 individuals on 18 BBS routes. Red-winged Blackbird had considerable reports, including nestings in Woodstock (JMN) and Vershire (KRH). There were a whopping 1,070 individuals on 19 BBS routes. Moderate reports of Eastern Meadowlark included 20 birds in Bridport 6/21 (JAP). Once again late hay cuttings in the fields north of Brandon gave ample nesting opportunities. There were 45 individuals on 12 BBS routes. Considerable reports of Common Grackle included a nest in Vershire (KRH), yg. fledged in Dorset 6/20 (EFG) and 75 birds in Georgia 7/25 (EMA/RDB). There were 269 individuals on 19 BBS routes. Brown-headed Cowbird had moderate reports, including the comment from 2 observers of "less common" this year. Another reported a Common Yellow-throat feeding a fl. There were 123 individuals on 17 BBS routes. A single pr. of Orchard Oriole were reported from Thetford 6/4 (MCh/PA). No nesting

evidence was found in spite of the pr. acting territorial. Northern Oriole received extensive reports, including several confirmed nestings. There were 15 birds in Hartland 7/22 (CHD) and 3 in Bristol 6/28 (MP). There were 86 individuals on 16 BBS routes. Purple Finch had moderate reports, including nests found on Mts. Mansfield and Equinox (KPM), 25 birds at Eagle Point (STH) and a pr. in South Pomfret 7/13 (JNF), with a nest producing 2 fls. on 7/25. There were 31 birds on 12 BBS routes. There were moderate reports of House Finch with numerous nestings. There were 105 individuals on 13 BBS routes. Minimal reports of Red Crossbill include 1 in Goshen 6/12 (SSW), 6 on Mts. Mansfield and Equinox (KPM) and 1 in South Londonderry 7/16 (WJN). A single report of White-winged Crossbill from Mt. Mansfield's spruce fir zone included f. with fls. Pine Siskin had modest reports, including many seen on the Mts. Mansfield, Equinox and Belvidere. There were 3 individuals on 2 BBS routes. American Goldfinch had considerable reports, including 36 in Dorset 7/29 (EFG). There were 281 individuals on 19 BBS routes. Considerable reports of Evening Grosbeak included 2 pr. with 4 yg. in Sheffield Center (PFW/SAW), 12 in Lincoln 7/20 (JRA) and a pr. in Danby all season (SSW). There were 12 birds on 5 BBS routes. House Sparrow had moderate reports, with a high count of 40 birds in Woodstock East 7/22 (JMN). There were 348 individuals on 15 BBS routes.



White-winged Crossbill

CONTRIBUTORS

PA Peg Anderson
 CEJ Carol Jones
 TSA Ted Allen
 SBL Sally Laughlin
 JAI Juanita Almond
 SM Sherm Mahady
 EMA Elizabeth Alton
 DMM Donna Martin
 BM Bernie Martin
 JRA Jean Arrowsmith
 KPM Kent McFarland
 MBa Marty Banak
 TGM Ted Murin
 BB Barabara Baker
 MBN Marge Nelson
 JB Jim Berry
 JMN Julia Nicholson
 MB Marsha Booker
 WJN William Norse
 GB Graham Broadbelt
 MP Michele Patenaude
 GBR Gordon Brown
 MP Mark Paul
 CC Charles Chapin
 RWP Roy Pilcher
 CSC Cornelia Chapin
 DP Deborah Poelker
 EWC Elizabeth W. Clapp
 BP Betty Porter
 MC Mike Choukas
 CRP Carol Powell
 LC Leigh Clayton
 BWP Barbara Powers
 MCC Mary Clapp
 FAP Frederick Pratt*
 CHD Chip Darmstadt*
 SR Randall Stuart
 AMD Allison Deen
 CCR Chris Rimmer*
 SJD Sarah Jane Dudley
 HR Helen Rippon

WGE Wally Ellison
 WS Wayne Scott
 WME Wally Elton
 TS T. Stout
 SDF Steve Faccio*
 JW Judy Wagner
 JNF Jean Fleming
 PSW Paul Wagner
 CJF C.J. Frankiewicz
 SAW Shirley Wagner
 ELG Ted Gaine
 SSW Sue Wetmore
 EFG Betty Gilbert
 SW Sydney White
 NG Natalie Gonbosi
 TSW Thelma White
 MLG Marie La Pre Graham
 CY Carol Yates
 REG Ray Griffin
 TY Tom Young
 BH Brian Hathorn
 MZ Meeri Zetterstrom
 STH Tom Hickcox
 JAP Judith Peterson
 LH Libby Hillhouse
 RAM Ronald A. Mura
 DJH David Hoag
 KRH Kathleen Hoopes
 EJH Edna Hunt
 JJC Jeremy Coleman*
 FMH Fred Hunt
 WGE Walter Ellison*
 CJ Chuck Jameson
 MPH M. Harris*
 BRJ Betty Rist Jillson
 NLM Nancy Martin*
 EEJ Ernie Jillson
 NES Ned Swanburg*
 PRW Paul Wiczoreck*
 FBE Brett Engstrom
 LJE Lynn Erb*
 LPR Larry Rogacki
 DCB David Bailey*
 CSP Craig Provost*

* Breeding Bird Survey Participant

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE TEXT

DCWMA Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, Addison & Panton
 MNWR Mississquoi National Wildlife Refuge
 VINS Vermont Institute of Natural Science
 WWMA Wenlock Wildlife Management Area
 NNHP Nongame and Natural Heritage Program
 ad.(s) adult (s)
 pr. (s) pairs (s)
 f. (s) female (s)
 Pd. Pond
 fy. food for young
 Mt. Mountain
 m. (s) male (s)
 yg. young
 fl. (s) fledgling (s)
 Pt. Point

USFWS

| BBS Route | Observer | Date |
|-------------------|----------|------|
| Bristol | (CSP) | 6/29 |
| Colchester | (DCB) | 7/8 |
| East Haven | (CHD) | 6/16 |
| Fletcher | (LPR) | 6/28 |
| Gaysville | (NLM) | 6/23 |
| Greensboro | (LJE) | 6/6 |
| Landgrove | (WGE) | 6/11 |
| Middlesex | (PRW) | 6/25 |
| Newbury | (FAP) | 6/16 |
| Northfield Falls | (SDF) | 6/19 |
| Post Mills | (CCR) | 6/26 |
| Shaftsbury | (WGE) | 6/15 |
| South Reading | (FMH) | 6/15 |
| South Wallingford | (NES) | 6/30 |
| West Rutland | (NLM) | 6/22 |



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.

VERMONT RARE BIRD ALERT

The Latest Statewide Birding News

(802) 457-2779

