



RECORDS OF VERMONT BIRDS

VERMONT INSTITUTE OF NATURAL SCIENCE

1996 REPORT

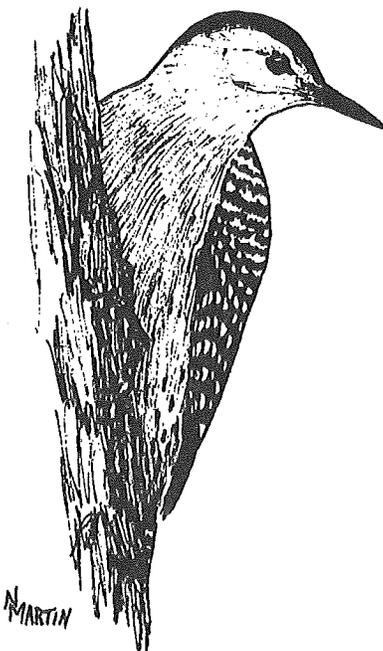
Vermont Bird Records Committee

1996 Report

The Vermont Bird Records Committee met on November 2, 1996, for its annual review of rare bird reports. The Committee's responsibility is to establish guidelines for the documentation of rare birds, and to review reports for inclusion in the state bird list and for use by future researchers. The Committee's recommendations are reported in the publication of records in *Records of Vermont Birds*. The Bird Records Committee consists of the managing editor and seasonal editors of *Records of Vermont Birds* and the Vermont regional editors for *Audubon Field Notes*.

The Committee and the editors of *Records of Vermont Birds* express their gratitude to the birders who have documented rare bird sightings with detailed reports. These reports add greatly to the data and general knowledge of the birds of Vermont. To obtain Rare Species

Documentation forms (RSD's) or Rare Species Nesting Report forms (RNR's) write to the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, RR2, Box 532, Woodstock, VT 05091.



Species for Which Detailed Reports are Required

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

In addition, RSD's are required in all seasons for: Golden Eagle, Barn Owl, Long-eared Owl, Three-toed Woodpecker, Yellow-breasted Chat, Black-backed Woodpecker (outside Northeast Kingdom), Sedge Wren and Orange-crowned Warbler.

RNR's are requested on the following species (which are rare nesters in Vermont) if the species is observed in proper breeding habitat during the breeding season (exceptions or special cases follow each species name in parentheses): Pied-billed Grebe, Least Bittern (except for the West Rutland Marsh, Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area and Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge), Great Egret (between 15 May and 15 July), Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Osprey (if nesting evidence is observed), Bald Eagle (if nesting evidence is observed), Northern Harrier (outside the Champlain Valley), Cooper's Hawk (if nesting evidence is observed), Peregrine Falcon, Spruce Grouse, Sora (except the Barton River Marshes, West Rutland Marsh, Dead Creek and Missisquoi marshes), Upland Sandpiper, Short-eared Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker (if probable or confirmed), Gray Jay (outside the Northeast Kingdom), Loggerhead Shrike, Grasshopper Sparrow, Orchard Oriole (if nesting evidence is observed), Pine Grosbeak, Red Crossbill (if confirmed breeding) and Mute Swan.

Bird Records Committee Members

Walter Ellison
George E. (Terry) Hall
Sarah Laughlin
Nancy Martin
Whitney Nichols
Frank Oatman
Simon Perkins
Wayne Petersen

Frederick Pratt
Susanne Wetmore
Editorial Staff:
Bryan Pfeiffer
Judith Peterson
Steve Faccio
Julie Nicholson
Christopher Rimmer

Continued

Notable State Records, Second Through Tenth

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (*Anser albifrons*) – One of Greenland race, Rt. 11, Springfield, Windsor Cty., 11-12 May 1996. George E. (Terry) Hall, Don Clark, Eleanor Ellis, Hugh Putnam. Seventh state record.

COMMON EIDER (*Somateria mollissima*) – One female, Shelburne Bay, Shelburne, Chittenden Cty., 29 May 1996. Ted G. Murin, Paul Kissell. Seventh state record.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus fuscus*) – One adult, Burlington Harbor, Burlington, Chittenden Cty., 3 & 5 December 1995. T.G. Murin, Joanna Shipley, Frederick A. Pratt, Eleanor B. Pratt, Scott W. Morrical, Bill Donlon, Craig Provost. Fifth state record. Photographs.

SABINE'S GULL (*Xema sabini*) – Two juveniles, South Hero, Grand Isle Cty., 8-13 September 1996. David J. Hoag, T.G. Murin, F.A. Pratt, E.B. Pratt. Fifth state record.

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD (*Selasphorus rufus*) – One male, Gilbreath home, Pomfret, Windsor Cty., 5 July 1996. Paul and Janet Gilbreath, Ilse Knowles, Mae and Bob Lewis. Fourth state record.

NORTHERN WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) – One, Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area headquarters, Rt. 17, Addison, Addison Cty., 15 October 1995. Nancy A. Brown. Ninth state record. Photographs.

BLUE GROSBEAK (*Guiraca caerulea*) – One male, Dexter Rd., Shaftsbury, Bennington Cty., 4 May 1996. Ruth and Eugene Kosche, Arthur and Audrey Jones, Bonita Dundas. Sixth state record. Photograph.

BLUE GROSBEAK (*G. caerulea*) – One male, Danby Four Corners, Danby, Rutland Cty., 16 May 1996. N.A. Brown. Seventh state record. Photograph.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (*Spizella pallida*) – One, Hi Vue B&B, Brandon, Rutland Cty., 19 May 1996. Roy Pilcher and RCAS field trip. Sixth state record.

BULLOCK'S ORIOLE (*Icterus bullockii*) – One male, West Rutland Marsh, West Rutland, Rutland Cty., 18 May 1996. Kenneth F. Ward, Pat Ward. Second state record.

Other Reports of Rare Species

LITTLE BLUE HERON (*Egretta caerulea*) – One immature, East Creek, Orwell, Addison Cty., 1-2 September 1996. T.G. Murin, F.A. Pratt, E.B. Pratt.

TUNDRA SWAN (*Cygnus columbianus*) – One adult, field pond near 3-mile bridge, Otter Creek, Middlebury, Addison Cty., 7 April 1996. Judith A. Peterson, Abbott Fenn, Richard and Jacqueline English. Photograph.

TUNDRA SWAN (*C. columbianus*) – One immature, Shelburne Bay, Shelburne, Chittenden Cty., 12-13 October 1996. T.G. Murin, Otto Meier,

Charles Gifford, Peter and Leah Smith, Paul and Patty Kissell, F.A. Pratt, E.B. Pratt. Photographs.

ROSS' GOOSE (*Anser rossii*) – Three adults, white morph, Dead Creek WMA, Rt. 17, Addison, Addison Cty., 11-13 October 1996. T.G. Murin, D.A. Hoag, J.A. Peterson, Peter and Leah Smith. Photographs.

EURASIAN WIGEON (*Anas penelope*) – One male, Lake Champlain, Colchester, Chittenden Cty., 20 March 1996. T.G. Murin.

EURASIAN WIGEON (*A. penelope*) – Two males, perhaps including the individual recorded above, Lake Champlain, Colchester, Chittenden Cty., 28 March 1996. T.G. Murin, S.W. Morrical.

EURASIAN WIGEON (*A. penelope*) – One male, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 5-9 April 1996. D.A. Hoag. Photographs.

HARLEQUIN DUCK (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) – One female, Lake Champlain, Charlotte, Chittenden Cty., 21 March 1996. T.G. Murin.

GOLDEN EAGLE (*Aquila chrysaetos*) – One immature, Rt. 30, Pawlet, Rutland Cty., 4 November 1995. Elizabeth F. Gilbert.

GOLDEN EAGLE (*A. chrysaetos*) – one immature, White River Jct., Hartford, Windsor Cty., 5 November 1995. Peter D. Hunt.

GOLDEN EAGLE (*A. chrysaetos*) – One adult, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 11 April 1996. D.J. Hoag.

GOLDEN EAGLE

(*A. chrysaetos*) – One immature, Rattlesnake Point, Salisbury, Addison Cty., 19 April 1996. Susanne S. Wetmore.

GOLDEN EAGLE

(*A. chrysaetos*) – One immature, Dead Creek WMA, Addison, Addison Cty., 18 October 1996. T.G. Murin, D.J. Hoag.

EAGLE Sp. – One, West Rutland Marsh, West Rutland, Rutland Cty., 5 March 1996. Monica Gregory.

SANDHILL CRANE (*Grus canadensis*)

– Two, Missisquoi NWR, Swanton, Franklin Cty., 7-8 November 1994. Norbert Blaskowski, George Gilbert, Al Zelley.

WILLET (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*)

– One, Dead Creek WMA, Addison, Addison Cty., 26 May 1996. Jim Andrews, Kris Andrews, Wally Elton. Second spring record.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (*Rissa tridactyla*)

– One immature, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 13 September 1996. D.J. Hoag.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (*R. tridactyla*)

– One adult, basic plumage, Perkins Pier, Burlington, Chittenden Cty., 17 December 1995. S.W. Morrill.

CASPIAN TERN (*Sterna caspia*)

– One adult, alternate plumage, Kent Pond, Sherburne, Rutland Cty., 11 May 1996. Betty Rist Jillson, Ernest E. Jillson, Jr., Julie M. Nicholson.

GREAT GRAY OWL (*Strix nebulosa*)

– One, King Pond Rd., South Woodbury, Washington Cty., 20 February 1996. Linda Gallison.

GREAT GRAY OWL (*S. nebulosa*)

– One, South Hero, Grand Isle Cty., 22 February 1996. Robert S. Swanson, Doris Fraties, Ritchie Alarie. Photographs.

SEDGE WREN (*Cistothorus platensis*)

– One, Winhall Hollow, Winhall, Bennington Cty., 28 May 1996. William J. Norse.

SEDGE WREN (*C. platensis*)

– One singing male, Hawkins Rd., Ferrisburgh, Addison Cty., 30 June 1996. F.A. Pratt, E.B. Pratt, T.G. Murin, J.A. Peterson.

SEDGE WREN (*C. platensis*)

– One, Little Otter Creek, Ferrisburgh, Addison Cty., 15 September 1996. Pete Smith.

VARIED THRUSH (*Ixoreus naevius*)

– One male, Kirby Hollow Rd., Dorset, Bennington Cty., early May 1996. Pen Reed, Jr.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (*Vermivora celata*)

– One, hatch year, Bragdon Preserve banding station, Woodstock, Windsor Cty., 3 October 1995. Steven D. Faccio, Kenneth M. Levenstein.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (*V. celata*)

– One, hatch year, Bragdon Preserve banding station, Woodstock, Windsor Cty., 16 October 1995. K.M. Levenstein, Kent McFarland, Christopher C. Rimmer.

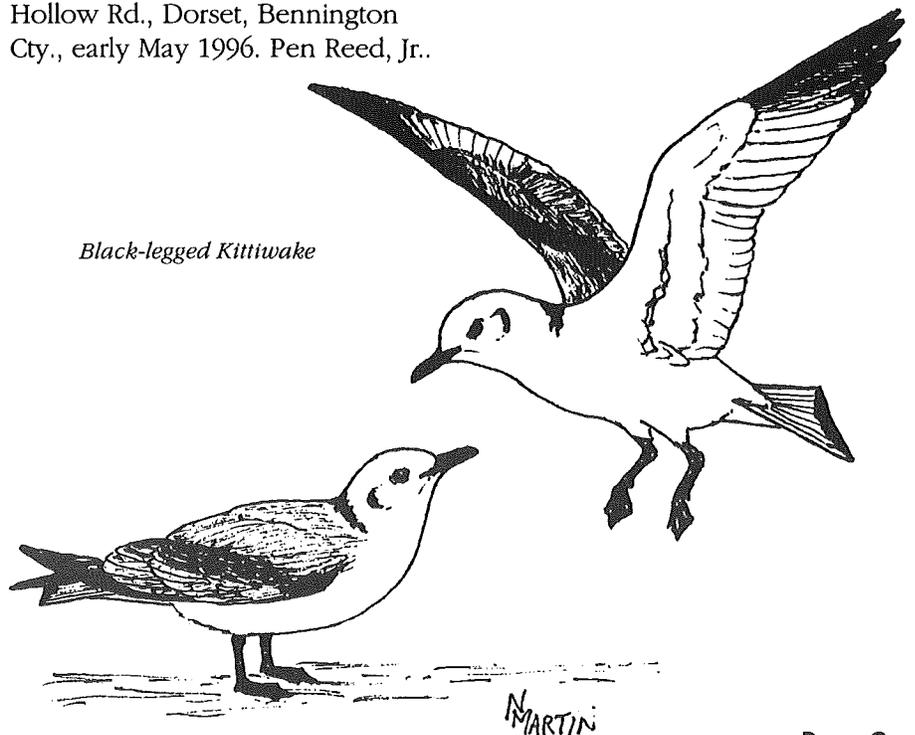
ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (*V. celata*)

– One, Fisk Quarry, Isle laMotte, Grand Isle Cty., 21 May 1996. Dan Froehlich.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER (*Oporornis agilis*)

– One, hatch year, Bragdon Preserve banding station, Woodstock, Windsor Cty., 12 September 1995. K.M. Levenstein, S.D. Faccio.

Black-legged Kittiwake



CONNECTICUT WARBLER (*O. agilis*) – One adult male, Bragdon Preserve banding station, Woodstock, Windsor Cty., 12 September 1995. K.M. Levenstein, S.D. Faccio, C.C. Rimmer. Photograph.

OPORORNIS Sp. – One, Chittenden Brook Trail, Rochester, Windsor Cty., 12 August 1996. S.S. Wetmore.

Rare Nesting Species

PIED-BILLED GREBE (*Podilymbus podiceps*) – Two adults, 6-7 chicks, Mirror Lake, Calais, Washington Cty., 17 June 1996. Michael F. Fullerton

NORTHERN HARRIER (*Circus cyaneus*) – Two adults, nest site, three young fledged, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., various observation dates up to 24 August 1996. D.J. Hoag. Photographs.

Out-of-Season Reports

RED-NECKED GREBE (*Podiceps grisegena*) – One adult, Potash Bay, Addison, Addison Cty., 10 June 1996. E.F. Gilbert, Alastair Cuthbert.

RED-NECKED GREBE (*P. grisegena*) – Two, alternate plumage, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 22 August 1996. D.J. Hoag.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) – Two adults, Shelburne Bay, Shelburne, Chittenden Cty., 17 December 1995. T.G. Murin, Ernie Buford, Steve Parren.

MERLIN (*Falco columbarius*) – One male, Burlington, Chittenden Cty., 17 December 1995. S.W. Morrival.

BROWN THRASHER (*Toxostoma rufum*) – One, Rt. 106, South Woodstock, Windsor Cty., 29 November 1995 thru 2 February 1996. Laurence H. Roberts, Jr., J.M. Nicholson, B.R. Jillson. Photographs.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (*Dendroica coronata*) – One, Jones Dock Rd., Bridport, Addison Cty., 17 December 1995. J.A. Peterson, Emma M. Raymond.

Accepted as Hypothetical

HOARY REDPOLL (*Carduelis bornemanni*) – One, Marshfield, Washington Cty., 16 February 1996. Anne T. Aversa, Thomas Aversa. NB – All hoary redpoll sightings, if accepted by the committee, will be listed as hypothetical until the status of the species has been resolved.

Hybrids, Escapes, Sub-Species

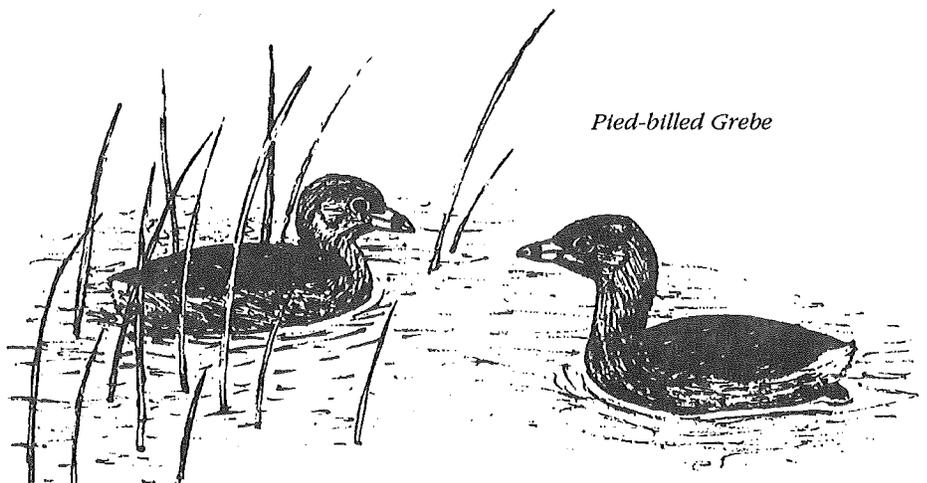
CACKLING CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis minima*) – One, Dead Creek WMA, Rt. 17, Addison, Addison Cty., 13 October 1996. D.J. Hoag, T.G. Murin, Pete and Leah Smith.

BARNACLE GOOSE (*Branta leucopsis*) – One, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 1-2 April 1996. D.J. Hoag, T.G. Murin. Later reported as escaped.

BARNACLE GOOSE (*B. leucopsis*) – One, Dead Creek WMA, Rt. 17, Addison, Addison Cty., 20 October 1996. T.G. Murin, D.J. Hoag. Origin undetermined.

RUDDY SHELDUCK (*Tadorna ferruginia*) – One, Brandon, Rutland Cty., 24 October 1996. S.S. Wetmore, K.F. Ward, Betty Barbarise, Joe Barbarise. Origin undetermined.

BARN SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*) – One possible Eurasian subspecies, Dorset, Bennington Cty., 4 August 1996. E.F. Gilbert, Linda Gilbert.



Pied-billed Grebe