



RECORDS OF VERMONT BIRDS

VERMONT INSTITUTE OF NATURAL SCIENCE

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SUMMER 1996

1 June – 31 July

Susanne Wetmore, Seasonal Editor

June and July of 1996 can be characterized in a single word: rain. A wet and cool spring continued into the summer. Average temperatures in June and July were 66.3°F and 68.6°F respectively. The cool temperatures and abundant rain no doubt had an impact on certain species, resulting in lower numbers of fledglings. Peregrine Falcons produced the lowest number of chicks since 1992. Of the 12 territorial pairs, eight nested and six fledged 17 young. Osprey had a banner year, with 27 fledglings from 14 nests. The continued cooperation of Vermont power companies with the state Nongame and Natural Heritage Program (hereafter NNHP) in platform placements contributes to the Osprey's recovery.

Rarities from this summer include: RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD and SEDGE WREN. I will use five key words to indicate the quantity of reports for species. These words are: "minimal" for one to five reports, "modest" for six to 15, "moderate" for 16 to 25, "considerable" for 26 to 35, and "extensive" for 36 or more reports. These reports of observations are either sent in individually or on a seasonal checklist available from the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (hereafter VINS), from Breeding Bird Surveys (hereafter BBS), from information from the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge (hereafter MNWR) and the from the banding station at VINS in Woodstock. Many thanks to all who continue sending the seasonal records.

Keep up the good work.

Rufous Hummingbird



LOONS THROUGH HERONS

The cool, wet weather didn't seem to affect Common Loon, which produced a record 22 chicks surviving into August. Other reported sightings were moderate from around the state. Modest reports of Pied-billed Grebe included an adult with chicks in Calais 7/8 (MFF). An out-of-season find of a Red-necked Grebe came from Potash Bay 6/10 (EFG). Double-crested Cormorant numbers were modest, with highs of 900 seen in St. Albans Bay 6/9 (TGM). There were 27 individuals on one BBS route. American Bittern also produced modest reports. Three were at Barton River Rd. 6/6 (PFW,SAW) and three BBS routes had 6 individuals. Great Blue Heron was commonly seen statewide, with a high count of 10 from the Rockingham area (WJN). Sixteen birds were seen on five BBS routes. Four Great Egret were seen in North Ferrisburg 7/13 (TGM) and a lone report of a single Snowy Egret came from Simm's Pt. 7/23 (DJH). Moderate reports of Green-backed Heron included 2 in Dorset 6/2 (EFG) and 1 in Brandon 7/5 (SSW). There were 3 individuals on 2 BBS routes. Six reports of Black-crowned Night-Heron included: 3 birds at DCWMA 6/1 (TGM), an adult seen carrying a fish back to a probable nest on 6/18 (SSW), also at DCWMA. Two reports from this area were birds in immature plumage.

WATERFOWL

Two reports of Mute Swan were 6 at St. Albans Bay 6/9 (TGM) and 2 at Keeler's Bay in mid-June (DJH). A single report of Brant came from Bloomfield 6/27. There were considerable reports of Canada Goose, including a high count of 107 in Whitingham 7/17 (NAB) and 14 individuals on two BBS routes. Wood Duck had modest reports that included two nests at Danby Pond (NAB). An adult with six young were seen along Barton River Rd. 6/19 (PFW,SAW) and the high count was 32 in Chittenden 7/16 (DM). There were seven birds on three BBS routes. MNWR reported eight broods that produced 52 ducklings. Only six of the 23 habitat units were covered this year due to staff reduction and volunteer participation. The high water created additional problems by dispersing broods over a larger area than the survey territory. Modest reports of Black Duck included 8 young 6/19 in Milton (DJH) and another group of 6 young with a female 6/6 (PFW,SAW) in Orleans. There was one brood with 8 ducklings at MNWR. Mallard had its usual success, with considerable reports statewide, including 5 broods in Grand Isle (DJH). MNWR had 2 broods with 16 ducklings. There were 10 individuals on four BBS routes. Minimal sightings of Blue-winged Teal included 2 at DCWMA 6/1 (RWP). Gadwall had minimal reports as well, with 3 nests in Grand Isle (DJH). Once again the only report of American Wigeon came from Grand Isle 6/20 (DJH), where a nest was noted. Two Ring-necked Duck nests in Albany 6/10 (LK) produced 10 ducklings. Moderate sightings of Common Goldeneye included 12 in Alburg 7/7 (FAP;EBP), a female with 11 young and 5 broods with 21 ducklings from MNWR. Minimal reports of Hooded Merganser with young were reported in the Rockingham area 6/19 & 21 (WJN). MNWR had one brood with 6 ducklings. Modest

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RECORDS OF VERMONT BIRDS

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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.

reports of Common Merganser included a high number from Nichols Pt., a total of 70 young 6/17&24 (DJH), 1 female with 12 young from Jamaica 6/25 (NAB), and 2 individuals on 1 BBS route. There were 2 individuals on 1 BBS route.

RAPTORS

Turkey Vulture had considerable reports, with Salisbury still the leader in total numbers at 40 7/6 (SSW). Osprey had modest reports. There were 3 individuals on two BBS routes. Modest reports of Bald Eagle include 1 in Bloomfield 6/2 (BCW), 1 in Chittenden (BM) feeding on a dead fish and 2 at Island Pond 7/15 (SB). Modest reports of Northern Harrier included a pair in Brandon (SSW) carrying nesting material for 2 weeks during July. An attempt to locate the nest was unsuccessful but the pair produced 1 young. Moderate Sharp-shinned Hawk reports included 2 nesting pairs in Grand Isle 7/23 (DJH) producing 3 young. One bird was banded at VINS. Modest reports of Cooper's Hawk included a nest at Danby Four Corners (NAB) and 1 individual on one BBS route. There were two reports of Goshawk: 1 in S. Londonderry 6/11 (WJN) and 1 in Manchester 7/31 (BWP). Modest sightings of Red-shouldered Hawk included 1 in Brandon throughout the season (SSW) and another in Barnard 7/23 (BRJ). Moderate reports of Broad-winged Hawk included a breeding pair in South Starksboro (MRP), a pair with food daily in Wardsboro (NAB), and 2 adults with 2 young at Grout Pond 6/23 (JP). Red-tailed Hawk had moderate reports, with active nests in Whiting and Brandon (SSW). Only 1 bird was seen on one BBS route. Considerable reports of American Kestrel included 4 observations of adults with young from several

locations, including 10 individuals on eight BBS routes. A single report of a nesting Peregrine Falcon came from Wells 6/12 (BWP); VINS records for this breeding season found six nest sites that produced 17 fledglings. Your editor was privileged to observe a territorial pair return to the historic nesting area at Rattlesnake Pt. on Mt. Moosalamoo in Salisbury.

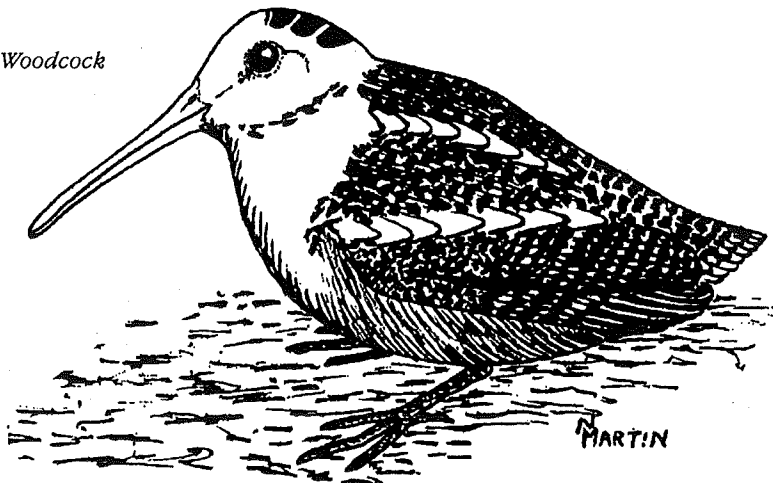
GROUSE THROUGH RAILS

One report of Spruce Grouse was a female with 7 young at Wenlock Wildlife Management Area (hereafter WWMA) 7/8 (FAP,EBP). Moderate reports of Ruffed Grouse include 1 female with 11 young in Vershire 6/16 (KH), another female with young at Grout Pond 6/23 (JP) and 4 individuals on four BBS routes. Minimal observations of Wild Turkey include 2 female with 24 young in Brandon 6/29 (SSW), which stayed together throughout the summer, and one bird seen on 1 BBS route. Minimal reports of Virginia Rail included a female and young seen in Grand Isle (DJH). The secretive Sora had 2 reports, both from DCWMA, one 7/9 (JRA) and 7/28 (MB).

SHOREBIRDS

One report of Semi-palmated Plover came from North Springfield Lake 6/2 (FAP,EBP). Extensive reports of Killdeer statewide included 2 nestings, 1 in Danby 4 Corners (NAB) and the other from Woodstock 6/27 (CRP). There were 35 individuals on 8 BBS routes. A single sighting of Greater Yellowlegs was from Alburg 7/21 (TGM). Minimal reports of Lesser Yellowlegs included a high count of 8 in Alburg 7/21 (TGM) and 3 in Grand Isle 7/29 (DJH). There were minimal reports of Solitary Sandpiper.

American Woodcock



Modest accounts of Spotted Sandpiper included a pair with 1 young at Lake Champlain 6/28 and 1 adult with 4 young at Button Bay 6/29 (MRP). Minimal reports of Upland Sandpiper included a high count of 3 at the Berlin airport 6/15 (FAP,EBP). One report of 5 Least Sandpiper came from the Springfield/Rockingham area 7/28 (WJN). American Woodcock had minimal reports: 1 in Brandon 6/3 (NAB) and 1 in Dorset 7/20 (EFG). Common Snipe received modest reports from around the state, including 34 individuals on nine BBS routes.

GULLS AND TERNS

Both reports of Bonaparte's Gull were from Grand Isle 7/28&30 (DJH). Ring-billed Gull was common throughout the state, with a high count of 500 in Hinesburg 7/6 (JRA) and 622 individuals on five BBS routes. Three reports of Herring Gull included "many on Lake Memphremagog" (KH) and up to 30 on the lake (STH), both from 7/26. Minimal reports of Great Black-backed Gull included a high count of 6 at Eagle Pt. (STH). The dismal nesting success of Common Tern, 22 chicks compared to last year's 105 fledglings, can be attributed to predation of nests primarily by Black-crowned Night Herons. The threatened Black Tern received minimal reports, with a high number of 4 at MNWR 6/15 (TGM).

DOVES THROUGH NIGHTJARS

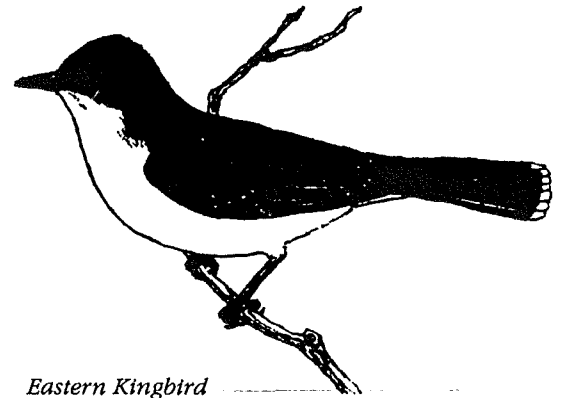
In spite of moderate reports of Rock Dove, there seemed to be no lack of them, including 74 birds on 11 BBS routes. Mourning Dove was also extremely successful, receiving considerable reports, including a high count of 36 from Pawlet (GRB) and 216 individuals on 17 BBS routes. Modest reports of Black-billed Cuckoo included 2 in Dorset 6/18 (EFG), 1 in Manchester 6/19 (BWP), and 3 birds on two BBS routes. Minimal sightings of Yellow-billed Cuckoo included 1 from Vershire 7/1 (KH). A Great Horned Owl was seen at Shelburne Bay 6/9 (TGM). Minimal reports of Barred Owl included 2 in Wardsboro (NAB) and 1 in West Bolton 6/4 & 7/15 (MC). A Northern Saw-whet Owl was in Sheffield 6/27 & 7/1 (PFW,SAW). A single report of Common Nighthawk came from Springfield 6/19 (WGE). Whip-poor-will was seen only on one BBS route.

SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Extensive reports of Chimney Swift included a rescue of 2 fledglings from a fireplace in Brandon 7/14 (SSW). There were 55 individuals on nine BBS routes. Extensive reports of Ruby-throated Hummingbird included a high count of 30 in Danby Four Corners 6/8 (NAB) and 12 birds on eight BBS routes. A rare RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD, a male, appeared at a home in Pomfret 7/5 (PG, JG, IK, ML, BL) for a fourth state record. Considerable reports of Belted Kingfisher included 6 on the Connecticut River 7/7 (NAB), a nest found in Danby with an adult and food 7/7 and 17 individuals on 9 BBS routes. Only a single report of Red-headed Woodpecker came from a feeder in Middlebury (MBN). Considerable reports of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker included 7 in Reading 6/1 (FMH,EJH) 2 pair at Mallet's Bay 6/16 (PAS) with young, 5 immatures in Lincoln 7/28 (JRA) and 46 individuals on 13 BBS routes. Moderate reports of Downy Woodpecker from around the state included several instances of young, and 26 birds on 15 BBS routes. Four were banded at VINS. Hairy Woodpecker had considerable reports, with young being fed in Wardsboro 6/22 (NB). The usual limited reports of Black-backed Woodpecker were augmented by the survey conducted by the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife. All observations were from the Northeast Kingdom. A total of 25 nests with only 4 that failed would indicate that the species is doing better than our past reports would indicate. Extensive reports of Yellow-shafted Flicker included several nestings and 22 individuals on 13 BBS routes. Modest reports of Pileated Woodpecker included 2 in Georgia 6/11 (EMA,RDB) and 6 birds on five BBS routes.

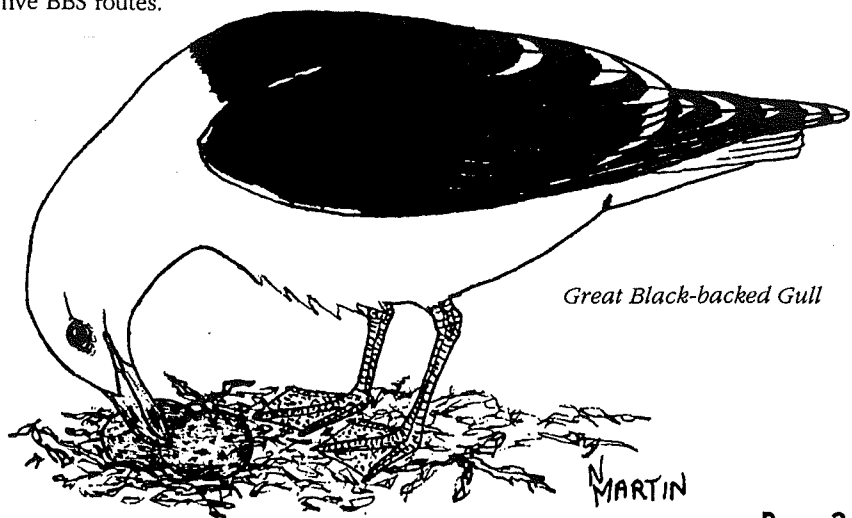
FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

There was one report of Olive-sided Flycatcher, 2 birds from Woodstock (JWL). Two individuals were seen on 2 BBS routes. Moderate reports of Eastern Wood-Pewee included 2 in Dorset 7/17 (EFG). There were 30 individuals on 13 BBS routes. Only two



Eastern Kingbird

reports of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher included 1 on Mt. Mansfield 6/5 (PAS) and 1 at Wenlock Wildlife Management Area 6/22 (FAP,EBP). Modest reports of Alder Flycatcher included 3 nests in the Starksboro/Bristol area 6/24&27, 7/3 (MRP). BBS had 60 individuals on 10 routes. VINS banded only 1 bird. Willow Flycatcher received modest reports, with 5 at DCWMA 6/18 (SSW) and 3 singing in Danby 6/14 (EFG). There were 12 individuals on seven BBS routes. Modest reports of Least Flycatcher included 2 at Essex 6/5 (EMA,RDB). BBS routes had 78 individuals and VINS banded 7 individuals. Considerable reports of Eastern Phoebe included 3 sightings of nests. There were 89 individuals on 14 BBS routes. Great-crested Flycatcher had



Great Black-backed Gull

MARTIN

considerable reports, with an adult with young in Dorset 7/5 (EFG). Twenty-two individuals were seen on 11 BBS routes. Extensive reports of Eastern Kingbird statewide included several sightings of nests and young. An interesting find was a nest located in the stump of a birch tree standing in a beaver pond in Rochester with 3 young being feed by 2 adults 7/17 (SSW). There were 86 individuals on 16 BBS routes. VINS banded 2 birds. Horned Lark had two reports: 7 at DCWMA 6/15 (SSW) and 2 immatures there 7/21 (MBN). A single bird was seen on one BBS route. Although minimal reports of Purple Martin were received, one observer commented that the population did well on Grand Isle (DJH). A high count of 15 was near the Lake Champlain Bridge (SSW). Tree Swallow appeared in great numbers with considerable reports, including numbers in the 100's from Grand Isle (DJH) and a report of a nest that fledged 4 young in Manchester 7/2 (NAB). There were 332 individuals on 17 BBS routes. Modest reports of Northern Rough-winged Swallow included a high count of 8 in Grand Isle 7/28 (DJH). Two individuals were seen on 2 BBS routes. Only 3 reports of Bank Swallow included 20+ birds with active nests at Island Pond 6/19 (TGM). Another report from the Springfield/Rockingham area had 20 individuals 6/2 (WJN). There were 59 birds seen on six BBS routes. Modest reports of Cliff Swallow included 2 pair nesting in Wardsboro 6/15 (NB). There were 27 individuals on five BBS routes. Barn Swallow had considerable reports with many nests seen. Almost every report was of high numbers. There were 245 individuals on 17 BBS routes.

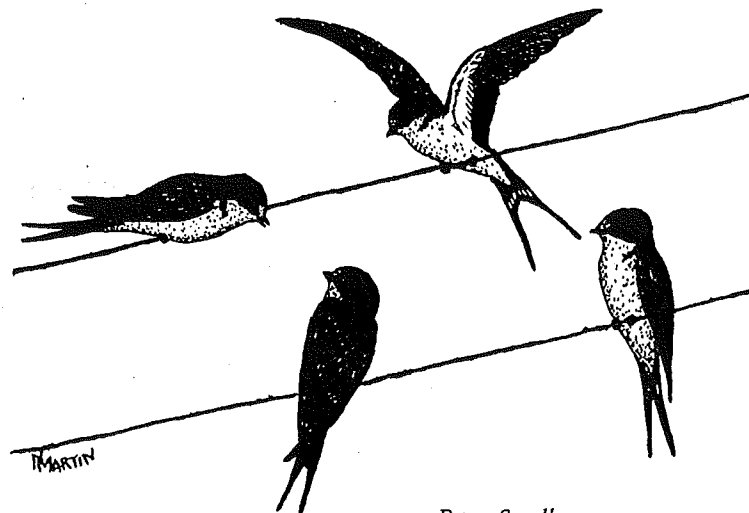
JAYS THROUGH WRENS

A single report of 4 Gray Jay came from Moose Bog 6/22 (FAP,EBP). Extensive reports of Blue Jay included young being fed in Sheffield 7/15 (PFW,SAW) and young in Grand Isle 7/16 (DJH). A high count of 30 came from S. Londonderry 7/12 (WJN). There were 219 individuals on 17 BBS routes. American Crow received extensive reports statewide, with a high count of 200 at Lake Memphremagog (STH). There were 436 individuals on 17 BBS routes. Considerable reports of Common Raven included 4 at Arrowhead Lake 6/21 (DJH) and young calling in Wallingford 7/5 (SSW). Ten were seen on eight BBS routes. Not surprisingly, Black-capped Chickadee had considerable reports, with 6 young fledged in Vershire (KH). VINS banded 8 individuals. A total of 259 birds were counted on 17 BBS routes. Two Boreal Chickadee reports, one bird each, came from Moose Bog 6/17 (PAS). Modest reports of Tufted Titmouse included a high count of 6 in Dorset 7/20 (EFG). Six individuals were counted on 4 BBS routes. Modest reports of Red-breasted Nuthatch included 1 fledgling in Georgia 6/27 (EMA,RDB). A total of 15 individuals were seen on eight BBS routes. In spite of moderate reports of White-breasted Nuthatch, there was a comment that numbers were down in Lincoln (JRA). There were 9 birds seen on 7 BBS routes. VINS banded 1 individual. Brown Creeper received modest reports, with 2 in Dorset 6/2 (EFG) and 3 in Brandon/Goshen 7/16 (SSW). There were 5 individuals on four BBS routes. Moderate reports of House Wren included a nest in Brandon 6/1 (SSW) and in South Pomfret 6/13 (JNF). There were 24 individuals on 10 BBS

routes. Modest accounts of Winter Wren had a high of 4 in Lincoln 7/27 (JRA). There were 51 individuals on 11 BBS routes. While Marsh Wren received only modest reports, high counts of 30 at DCWMA 6/1 (TGM) and 23 from the same area on 7/9 (SRA) would suggest the species is doing well. A total of 11 birds were counted on three BBS routes. The uncommon SEDGE WREN had 2 reports, 1 from Lake Hortonia 6/1 (CY,BJ) and the other individual from Ferrisburgh 6/30 (TGM).

KINGLETS THROUGH VIREOS

Golden-crowned Kinglet received minimal reports: 1 at Mt. Independence 6/11 (SSW) and 2 at Moose Bog 6/12 (PAS). There were 4 individuals on three BBS routes. A single report of Ruby-crowned Kinglet came from Breadloaf Mtn. 6/25 (SSW). One bird was found on one BBS route. There were only two reports of Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, 2 from Herrick's Cove 6/25 (WJN) and the other individual from Grand Isle (DJH). Moderate reports of Eastern Bluebird included several nests and young with adults. EFG from Dorset reported the fewest seen since 1986 in that area. There were 11 individuals on eight BBS routes. Considerable reports of Veery from around the state included 2 in Springfield 6/3 (WME) and a high count of 15 in Reading 7/2 (FMH,EJH). There were 164 birds on 16 BBS routes. Three were banded at VINS. Bicknell's Thrush had minimal reports: 2 on Mt. Mansfield 6/5 (PAS) and 1 on Breadloaf Mtn. 6/25 (SSW). Minimal reports for Swainson's Thrush included a high count of 5 on Mt. Mansfield 6/8 (JRA). Two individuals were seen on 1 BBS. route. Moderate numbers of Hermit Thrush included 2 nests in South Starksboro, one with 4 young on 6/9 and the other with 3 young on 7/1(MRP). There were 54 individuals on 12 BBS routes. Two were banded at VINS. Wood Thrush received considerable reports, including 1 at Mallets Bay 6/16 (PAS) and 7 in Reading 7/27 (FMH,EJH). There were 149 individuals on 15 BBS routes. A total of 4 were banded at VINS. Not surprising, American Robin had extensive accounts, with several nests observed. A total of 905 individuals were on 17 BBS routes. Four were banded at VINS. Gray Catbird received considerable reports, with a high count of 25 from Herrick's Cove 6/2 (WJN). A nest was noted in Brandon



Barn Swallows

(SSW). There were 108 individuals on 15 BBS routes and VINS banded 14 birds. Only minimal sightings of Northern Mockingbird included 1 in Herrick's Cove 6/2 (WJN) and another in Wardsboro 6/23 (NB). Only 1 individual was counted on 1 BBS route. Modest reports of Brown Thrasher included 2 in Grand Isle 6/2 (DJH) and 2 at DCWMA 6/15 (SSW). A total of 6 were seen on six BBS routes. Cedar Waxwing received extensive reports that included a nest in Danby 6/14 (SSW) and another in South Starksboro 7/10 (MPR). There were 223 individuals on 17 BBS routes and VINS banded 12 birds. European Starling continues its usual breeding success, receiving considerable reports that included 500 in Westminster 7/28 (WJN) and several accounts of nests. A total of 620 individuals were reported from 16 BBS routes. Solitary Vireo had modest reports: 1 in Westminster 6/22 (WJN) and 1 on Mt. Mansfield 7/22 (DJH). There were 14 birds found on seven BBS routes. Minimal sightings of Yellow-throated Vireo included 1 in Woodstock 6/1 (CRP) and 1 in Huntington 6/23 (PAS). There were 10 individuals on 4 BBS routes. Moderate reports of Warbling Vireo included 2 in Dorset 6/1 (EFG) and 6 in Brandon 6/23 (SSW). A total of 60 individuals were found on 12 BBS routes. Moderate reports of Red-eyed Vireo included 4 young in Bristol 6/28 (MRP) and a high count of 21 in the Lincoln/Bristol area 7/2 (JRA). A total of 493 birds were found on 14 BBS routes and VINS banded only 1 individual.

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler had just 1 report, 2 males singing in Brandon 6/3 (SSW). Golden-winged Warbler also had minimal sightings, with 1 in Sudbury and 2 in Brandon 6/1 (SSW). One individual was on one BBS route. MRP from South Starksboro had multiple encounters with Golden-wing Warbler males in the company of the hybrid Brewster's Warbler female. There was no confirmed breeding. Nashville Warbler had modest reports, including a singing male at the 3,000 ft. level on Mt. Abraham 6/26 (SSW). There were 15 individuals on 6 BBS routes. While none of our list keepers reported any Northern Parula, there were 11 seen on five BBS routes. Yellow Warbler appeared to be common throughout the state, with considerable reports that included a nest in Starksboro (MRP). There were 186 individuals on 15

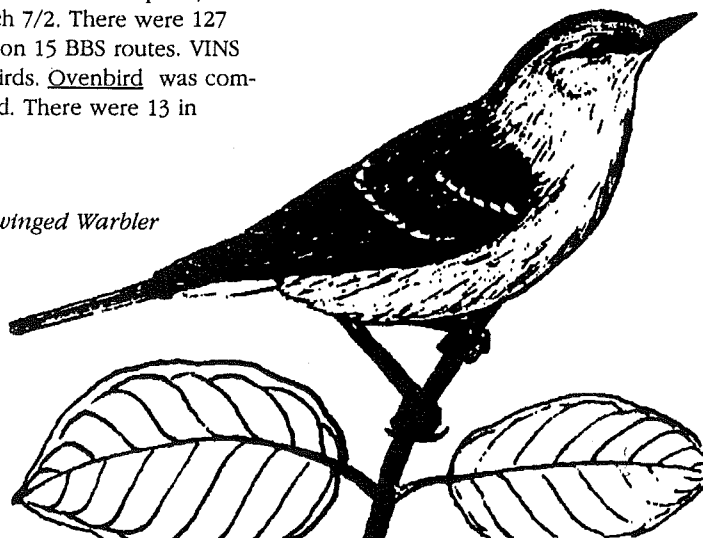
BBS routes. VINS banded 2 birds. Moderate numbers of Chestnut-sided Warbler had a high count of 7 from Dorset 6/2 (EFG). There were 195 individuals on 14 BBS routes. VINS banded 2 birds. Modest reports for Magnolia Warbler included 2 in Sheffield 7/2 (PFW,SAW). Thirty-seven were counted on seven BBS routes. Modest reports of Black-throated Blue Warbler belie the expected abundance of this species. Nests were found in Starksboro (MRP). A total of 38 birds were on 11 BBS routes. Yellow-rumped Warbler received modest reports but was common in appropriate habitat. There were 66 individuals on 13 BBS routes. Modest reports of Black-throated Green Warbler included 2 in Lincoln Gap 6/16 (JRA) and a high of 5 in Goshen 7/17 (SSW). There were 41 birds on 10 BBS routes. Blackburnian Warbler received modest reports, including the comment from Starksboro (MRP) that they were common in appropriate habitat. One was found in Wardsboro 6/22 (NAB) and 4 in Goshen 7/11 (SSW). A total of 37 individuals were found on 11 BBS routes. Just three reports of Pine Warbler: 1 in Brandon 6/1 (SSW), 1 in Georgia (EMA,RDB) and 1 in Burlington 6/25 (EMA,RDB). A single Prairie Warbler report was of a male singing in Brandon on 6/16&20 (SSW). One bird was found on one BBS route. While minimal reports of Blackpoll Warbler were received, a high count of 12 from Mt. Mansfield 6/8 (JRA) would indicate the species is common in its habitat. Two individuals were found on two BBS routes. Black-and-white Warbler was moderately reported, with 70 individuals on 14 BBS routes. VINS banded 3 birds. American Redstart had moderate reports, with 5 in Bristol Notch 7/2. There were 127 individuals on 15 BBS routes. VINS banded 2 birds. Ovenbird was commonly heard. There were 13 in

Wardsboro 6/22 (NAB), including the comment that more were heard there. A nest was discovered in Rochester 7/1 (SSW). There were 269 individuals on 16 BBS routes. VINS banded 5 birds. Five reports of Northern Waterthrush included 1 in Dorset 6/1 (EFG), 1 in Reading 6/9 (FMH,EJH) and 3 in Salisbury Swamp 6/18 (SSW). There were 2 individuals on 2 BBS routes. Just 3 reports of Louisiana Waterthrush included 1 in Goshen 6/6 (SSW) and 1 in Wallingford 7/5 (SSW). MRP from Starksboro reported they were common in suitable habitat. There were 6 individuals on three BBS routes. VINS banded 1 bird. Modest reports of Mourning Warbler included 1 in Dorset 6/1 (EFG) and 2 in Reading 6/9 (FMH,EJH). There were 12 individuals on seven BBS routes. Common Yellowthroat was common, with extensive reports statewide. A nest was seen in Bristol 6/27 (MRP) with 4 young. There were 404 individuals on 17 BBS routes. VINS banded 6 birds. There was only 1 Wilson's Warbler reported, which came from the East Haven BBS route (CHD). Canada Warbler had modest reports, with 3 in Reading 6/1 (FMH,EJH) and a pair with young in Fayston (MRP). There were 11 individuals on seven BBS routes. VINS banded 1 bird.

TANAGER THROUGH HOUSE SPARROW

Scarlet Tanager had modest reports, with 2 in Rupert 7/3 (SSW) and 3 in Reading 6/8 (FMH,EJH). There were 41 individuals on 13 BBS routes. Northern Cardinal received considerable reports statewide. There were 49 individuals on 13 BBS

Blue-winged Warbler

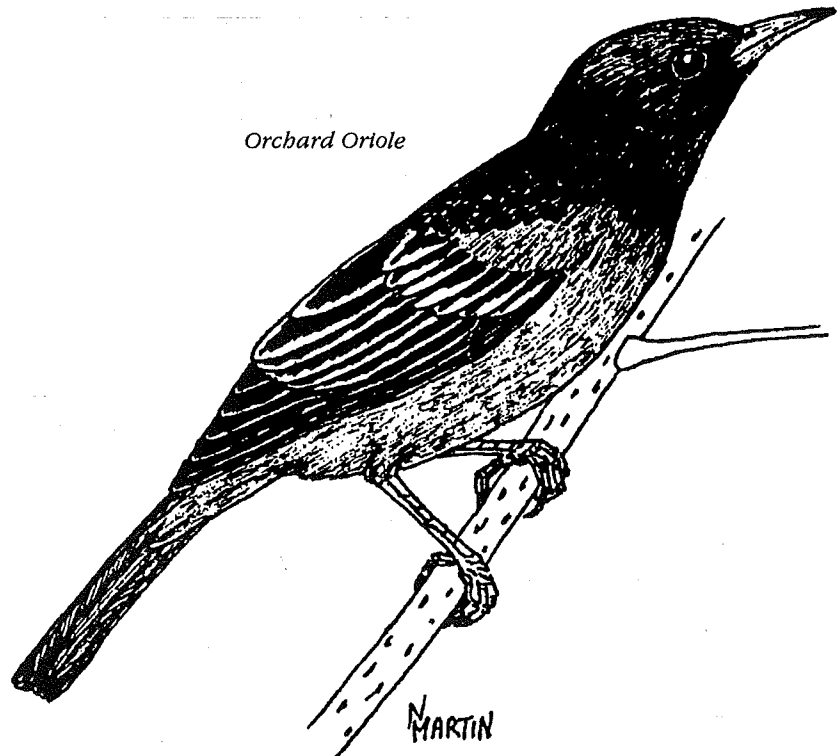


routes. Considerable reports of Rose-breasted Grosbeak included high counts of 11 from Reading 7/13 (FMH,EJH) and 12 in Vershire (KH). There were 44 birds found on 14 BBS routes. VINS banded 1 bird. Indigo Bunting had moderate reports, with 2 in Huntington 6/7 (PAS) and 9 in Georgia 7/10 (EMA,RDB). There were 46 birds found on 13 BBS routes. VINS banded 3 individuals. Only minimal reports of Eastern Towhee included 1 in Rupert 6/12 (SSW). There were 7 individuals on four BBS routes. Chipping Sparrow received considerable reports and numerous nests seen. A high count of 30 came from Dorset 7/23 (EFG). A total of 202 birds were found on 17 BBS routes. VINS banded 1 individual. Modest accounts of Field Sparrow were received. There were 13 individuals on three BBS routes. Just two reports of Vesper Sparrow were 2 at DCWMA 6/18 (SSW) and 5 in Bridport 7/20 (FAP,EBP). Savannah Sparrow received modest reports but is common in its habitat, with a high count of 10 at DCWMA. There were 84 individuals on 12 BBS routes. A single report of Grasshopper Sparrow at DCWMA 6/18 (SSW et al.) was received. Considerable reports of Song Sparrow were received, including 1 adult with 2 young in Lincoln 7/6 (JRA) and a high of 10 at Herrick's Cove 7/28 (WJN). There were 417 individuals on 17 BBS routes. VINS banded 8 birds. A report of Lincoln's Sparrow came from Bloomfield 6/22 (FAP,EBP) and 2 birds were on one BBS route. Swamp Sparrow had modest reports, with 4 in Dorset 6/1 (EFG). There were 49 individuals on seven BBS routes. Moderate accounts of White-throated Sparrow included 2 reports of young in Dorset (EFG) and Rochester (SSW). A total of 177 individuals were on 15 BBS routes. Dark-eyed Junco had moderate reports, including 2 in Chittenden 6/9 (DM), a nest with 5 eggs on Mt. Worth 6/27 (SSW) and 2 adults with 5 young in Rochester 7/17 (SSW). There were 34 individuals on 10 BBS routes. Moderate reports of Bobolink came with comments that they were common in appropriate habitat. A high count of 12 came from Wardsboro 6/27 (NAB). There were 191 individuals on 16 BBS routes. Considerable accounts of Red-winged Blackbird, included large numbers seen at Herrick's Cove 6/2 (WJN) and elsewhere around the state. There were 889 individuals on 17 BBS routes. VINS banded 1 bird. Eastern Meadowlark received modest reports but were common in the grasslands in the

state. Brandon had 3 birds 6/1 (SSW) and 1 was in Coventry 6/6 (PFW,SAW). There were 6 individuals on four BBS routes. A single report of Rusty Blackbird came from Victory Bog 6/23 (TGM). Common Grackle lived up to its name. Considerable reports included an adult feeding young in Brandon 6/4 (SSW), 30 in South Londonderry 7/4 (WJN) and a nest found in Middlebury (MBN). There were 243 individuals on 16 BBS routes. VINS banded 1 bird. The ubiquitous Brown-headed Cowbird continues to thrive. Moderate reports included the finding of eggs in a Yellow Warbler nest at Button Bay (MBN). There were 132 individuals on 17 BBS routes. Orchard Oriole had 2 reports: 1 male in South Londonderry 6/7 (WJN) and a nest in Pawlet (GRB). Considerable reports of Baltimore Oriole included 4 young in Vershire (KH) and more young at Grand Isle 7/6 (DJH). There were 80 individuals on 14 BBS routes. VINS banded 2 birds. Purple Finch had considerable reports, including 12 in Sheffield 6/20 (PFW,SAW) and 16 in Reading 7/31 (FMH,EJH). There were 33 individuals on 10 BBS routes. House Finch had modest reports, including several reports of nests and fledgling. The low numbers maybe a result of the conjunctivitis that has infected the birds. There were 48 individuals on nine BBS routes. A single report of Pine Siskin was an individual in Bridgewater (JWL) seen daily with fledglings. There were 5 individuals on one BBS route. Consider-

able reports of American Goldfinch included a high count of 35 in Dorset 7/24 (EFG). There were 182 individuals on 17 BBS routes. VINS banded 11 birds. Moderate reports of Evening Grosbeak included 7 in Lincoln 7/29 (JRA), including 1 fledgling being fed. There were 16 individuals on six BBS routes. Moderate reports of House Sparrow included fledglings in Wallingford 7/26 (SJD). There were 142 individuals on 12 BBS routes.

Orchard Oriole



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ABBREVIATIONS USED IN TEXT

DCWMA Dead Creek Wildlife
Management Area
 MNWR Missisquoi National
Wildlife Refuge
 NNHP Nongame and
Natural Heritage
Program
 VINS Vermont Institute of
Natural Science
 WWMA Wenlock Wildlife
Management
Area



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Breeding Bird Survey Routes

Route	Observer	Date
Bristol	CSP	6/30/96
Colchester	DCB	7/6/96
East Calais	FBE	6/2/96
East Haven	CHD	6/25/96
Fletcher	LBR	6/30/96
Gaysville	NLM	7/3/96
Grand Isle	LBR	6/29/96
Greensboro	LJE	6/22/96
Landgrove	WGE	7/2/96
Middlesex	PRW	6/29/96
Newbury	FAP	6/20/96
Northfield Falls	SDF	6/19/96
Shaftsbury	WGE	6/7/96
South Reading	MPH	6/21/96
South Wallingford	NES	6/7/96
Stowe	EJM	6/16/96
West Rutland	NLM	6/9/96

(Routes are 25 miles long with 3-minute stops every half mile.)



Bobolink



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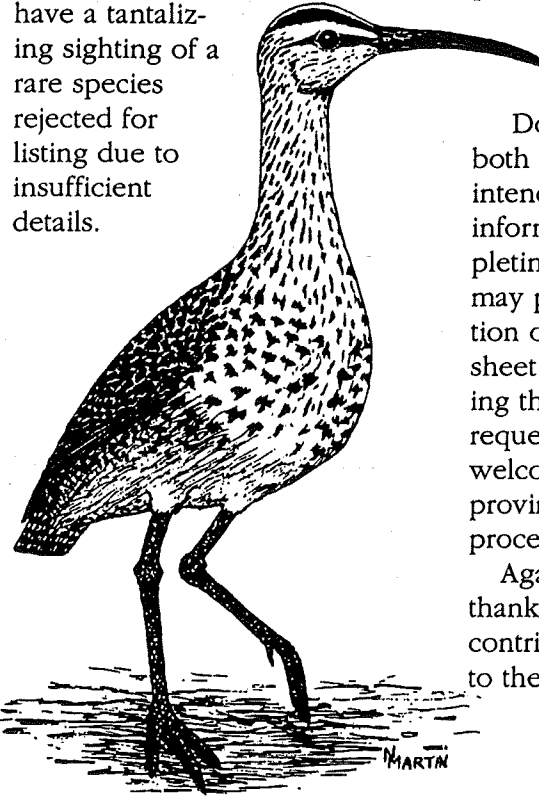
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**NOTES ON THE
DOCUMENTATION OF
RARE BIRD SPECIES**

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.

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