



# RECORDS OF VERMONT BIRDS

VERMONT INSTITUTE OF NATURAL SCIENCE

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## WINTER 1998

1 December-28 February

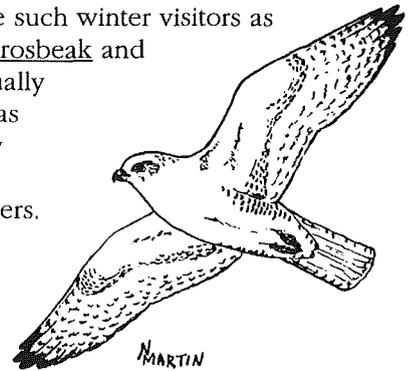
*Frederick A. Pratt, Seasonal Editor*

Obviously the most significant weather event of winter 1997-98 was the great ice storm of early January. Several days of freezing rain and drizzle culminated on January 8, when more than two inches of precipitation fell with devastating results for wooded areas, especially at higher elevations or in the northern Champlain basin. Perhaps there is a connection between the storm, which was especially severe in Quebec, and the record or near-record numbers of woodpeckers, chickadees and nuthatches reported. It is always tempting to speculate, but only time will tell what the long-term effects may prove to be.

By contrast, December was rather ordinary. Through the first half of the month temperatures were a bit cooler than normal and there were frequent days of light snow. Later, things warmed up noticeably, much to the delight of Christmas Counters. In any event, results of the CBCs were generally good as the 129,114 individuals counted comfortably exceeded the old high by about 6,000. On the other hand, the number of species counted was average and the only rarities uncovered were a **Gyr Falcon**, and several **Hoary Redpolls** that were accepted as hypothetical by the Vermont Records Committee. The most exceptional bird of the winter was a **Black-throated Blue Warbler**, present for about a month in South Reading. Unfortunately, this location fell outside any designated CBC circle. Other major rarities were limited to a very accommodating **Northern Hawk Owl** in Jericho, a **Harlequin Duck** at Charlotte Town Beach, and an

immature **Jaeger** species off the Tri-town Water District Plant in Addison.

Late winter was unseasonably warm, leading to a good early-season migration of bluebirds and waterfowl. Also prominent were such winter visitors as Bohemian Waxing, Pine Grosbeak and Common Redpoll (all virtually absent just one year ago) as well as the more southerly Cedar Waxwing, which abounded in record numbers.



### FROM THE MANAGING EDITOR

Beginning with this first issue of Volume 26, the **Records of Vermont Birds** now becomes part of the birding newsletter, **Vermont Birds**.

However, rather than melding the two publications into one, we have decided to simply insert RVB into the newsletter, so those of you that save back issues may continue to do so.

You may have noticed that we continue to have difficulty meeting our chronological publication schedule – both Spring and Fall 1997 are still in production. I apologize for this inconvenience, and assure you that these back issues will be published as soon as possible.

Many thanks to those of you who took the time to call, write, or email me with your thoughts and comments about RVB's new tabular format. Responses were mixed – ranging from delight, to uncertainty, to dislike – which was not surprising since RVB has been around for 25 years and change is sometimes difficult to adjust to.

– Steve Faccio, Managing Editor, December 1998

### RECORDS OF VERMONT BIRDS

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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, which includes the newsletter "Vermont Birds", is \$12. 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, 27023 Church Hill Road, Woodstock, VT 05091-9642, or by calling (802) 457-2779.

## LOONS THROUGH WATERFOWL

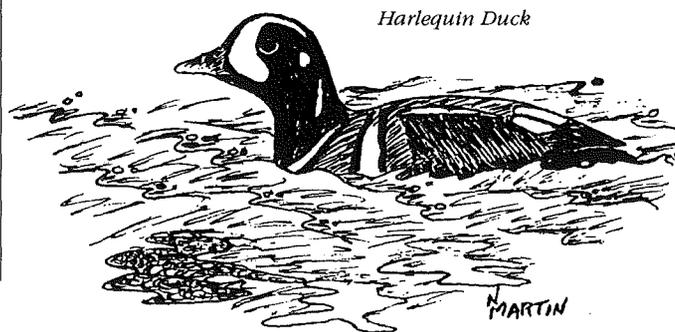
Numbers of Common Loons were impressive, as 42 CBC birds were found and several persevered into late winter. An extremely poor CBC tally of Horned Grebes was largely offset by numerous reports from contributors; meanwhile, Red-necked Grebes were also well represented. Great Blue Herons were once again numerous with several apparently attempting to overwinter. The CBC total of 31 birds was a new record. A Turkey Vulture in Bristol on 2/28 was an early arrival. Snow Geese produced a couple of surprises, with 12 still at Grand Isle on 1/12, and 8 early spring migrants observed in Cornwall on 2/28. Among the rarer winter ducks reported were a Blue-winged Teal on the Champlain Islands CBC, a Harlequin Duck at Charlotte Town Beach on 1/31, and several Barrow's Goldeneye. Good CBC "finds" included Wood Duck, Northern Pintail, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Oldsquaw and White-winged Scoter. In addition, contributors uncovered other difficult ducks, including several Oldsquaw, all three species of scoter and a lone Canvasback. Two common species, Common Goldeneye and Common Merganser, rebounded from off years in 1996 and 1997. Even the relatively uncommon Red-breasted Merganser did well, with a surprising 42 on the Ferrisburg CBC.

DATE	Location	No.	Observers
<b>Common Loon</b>			
7-Dec.	Lake Champlain	12	KPM
12-Dec.	Grand Isle	3	DJH
13-Dec.	Chimney Point	5	TGM
1-Jan.	Button Bay	3	EMA,RDB
20-Jan.	Button Bay	6	DJH
28-Jan.	Meach Cove	2	TGM
22-Feb.	Charlotte Town Beach	8	TGM
<b>Horned Grebe</b>			
8-Dec.	Tri-town Water District	183	TGM
28-Jan.	Meach Cove	83	TGM
28-Jan.	Charlotte Town Beach	30	TGM
10-Feb.	Charlotte Town Beach	80	TGM
22-Feb.	Charlotte Town Beach	26	TGM
<b>Red-necked Grebe</b>			
13-Dec.	L.Champlain, Panton	5	TGM
17-Dec.	Grand Isle	1	DJH
24-Jan.	Burlington waterfront	1	TGM,FAP,EBP
<b>Double-crested Cormorant</b>			
3-Dec.	Grand Isle	1 imm.	DJH
24-Jan.	Burlington waterfront	1 imm.	TGM,FAP,EBP
<b>Great Blue Heron</b>			
9-Jan, 1-Feb	Dorset	1	EFG
throughout	Danby	1	NAB
19-Dec.	Shelburne Bay	1	TGM
2-Jan.	N. Pawlet	1	GRB
11-Jan.	Lamoille River mouth	2	TGM
14-Jan.	Brandon	1	SSW
18-Jan.	Georgia	1	EMA,RDB
19-Jan.	Charlotte Town Beach	1	TGM
29-Jan.	Burlington harbor	1	DJH
4-Feb.	Bennington	1	GRB
<b>Turkey Vulture</b>			
28-Feb.	Bristol	1	FAP,EBP
<b>Snow Goose</b>			
13-Dec.	DCWMA	16	TGM
27-Dec.	Potash Bay	6	TGM
12-Jan.	Grand Isle	12	DJH
28-Feb.	Cornwall	8	FAP,EBP
<b>Canada Goose</b>			
20-Dec.	Panton	500	SSW
1-Jan.	Charlotte	200	EMA,RDB
31-Jan.	New Haven	425	FAP,EBP
28-Feb.	Grand Isle	400	DJH
28-Feb.	Lake Champlain	hundreds	SSW

DATE	Location	No.	Observers
<b>Wood Duck</b>			
15-Jan.	Brandon	2 m.	SSW
<b>American Black Duck</b>			
7-Dec.	Pawlet	100	GRB
14-Dec.	N. Hartland	14	KPM
18-Dec.	Grand Isle	58	DJH
12-Jan.	Newport	8	REG,OAG
19-Jan.	Blodgett's Beach	50	PAS
11-Feb.	New Haven	6	MBN
<b>Mallard</b>			
2-Jan.	E. Dorset	48	NAB
12-Jan.	Newport	50	REG,OAG
14-Feb.	Burlington waterfront	350	TGM
<b>Northern Pintail</b>			
18-Jan.	Button Bay	1 m.	TGM
22-Feb.	Blodgett's Beach	1 m., 1 f.	TGM
28-Feb.	Grand Isle	9	DJH
<b>Canvasback</b>			
11-Jan.	Vernon	1	MJL
<b>Ring-necked Duck</b>			
24-Jan.	Meach Cove	4 m.	TGM
28-Jan.	Meach Cove	3 m.	TGM
21-Feb.	S. Hero RR causeway	7 m.	TGM
23-Feb.	S. Hero RR causeway	6	DJH
<b>Greater Scaup</b>			
28-Jan.	Meach Cove	642	TGM
during Feb	S. Hero RR causeway	600	TGM,DJH
<b>Lesser Scaup</b>			
24-Jan.	Meach Cove	1 m.	TGM
28-Jan.	Meach Cove	2	TGM
23-Feb.	S. Hero RR causeway	3	DJH
<b>Harlequin Duck</b>			
31-Jan.	Charlotte Town Beach	1 ad. m.	TGM
<b>Oldsquaw</b>			
7-Dec.	Rock Island, Panton	11	TGM
11-Dec.	Lake Champlain	20	SSW
22-Dec.	Grand Isle	3	DJH
26-Dec.	Grand Isle	2	DJH
<b>Black Scoter</b>			
7-Dec.	Rock Island, Panton	1	TGM
19-20-Jan	Shelburne Town Beach	1 f.	DJH,TGM
<b>Surf Scoter</b>			
19-Jan.	Charlotte Town Beach	1	TGM
<b>White-winged Scoter</b>			
7-Dec.	Rock Island, Panton	44	TGM
19-Jan.	Charlotte Town Beach	4	TGM

DATE	Location	No.	Observers
<b>Common Goldeneye</b>			
11-Jan.	Vernon	100	MJL
19-Jan.	Charlotte Town Beach	279	TGM
1-Feb.	S. Hero RR causeway	1000	TGM
23-Feb.	S. Hero RR causeway	1000	DJH
28-Feb.	Grand Isle	800	DJH
<b>Barrow's Goldeneye</b>			
3-Dec.	Blodgett's Beach	1 m., 1 f.	TGM
19-Jan-10-Feb	Charlotte Town Beach	1 m.	TGM, DJH,SSW
24-Jan.	Meach Cove	1 m.	TGM
2-Feb.	Charlotte Town Beach	2	EMA,RDB, DJH,FAP,EBP
<b>Bufflehead</b>			
14-Dec.	McNeil Cove	30	TGM
1-Jan.	Charlotte Town Beach	10	EMA,RDB
11-Jan.	Vernon	7	MJL
15-Jan.	Meach Cove	8	PAS
24-Jan.	Charlotte Town Ferry	28	FAP,EBP
14-Feb.	Charlotte	15	SSW
28-Feb.	S. Hero RR causeway	5	TGM
<b>Hooded Merganser</b>			
6-Dec.	Brattleboro	11	MJL
11-Dec.	Lake Champlain	6	SSW
13-Dec.	Hospital Creek	6	TGM
28-Dec.	Newport	1	REG,OAG

DATE	Location	No.	Observers
11-Jan.	Lamoille River mouth	3	TGM
14-Feb.	Long Point, Ferrisburg	3	TGM
22-Feb.	Kellogg Bay	1 m., 3 f.	TGM
22-Feb.	Grand Isle	1	DJH
<b>Common Merganser</b>			
19-Dec.	Grand Isle	1500	DJH
18-Jan.	Button Bay	700	TGM
2-Feb.	Long Point, Ferrisburg	400	EMA,RDB
28-Feb.	Grand Isle	300	DJH
<b>Red-breasted Merganser</b>			
11-Dec.	Grand Isle	6	DJH
13-Dec.	Mud Island, Panton	1 m., 3 f.	TGM
18-Jan.	Button Bay	1 f.	TGM
3-Feb.	Grand Isle	4	DJH



## RAPTORS THROUGH GULLS

Bald Eagles rose to unprecedented heights, as 27 CBC birds were found, with 15 at Ferrisburg alone (along with a single Osprey). Judging from later reports, it would appear many, if not most eagles stayed on for the entire winter. Also, 2 adults were at Wilder Dam, continuing an uninterrupted streak of 18 winters. Northern Harriers seemed comparatively scarce; on the other hand, all three accipiters fared well, although only the Sharp-shinned Hawk improved on its CBC showing from the prior year. Both the Red-tailed Hawk and the Rough-legged Hawk had good years, especially the former, which reached a new CBC high of 343 individuals. All four falcons were represented on the CBC roster, but all were scarce or very scarce. The American Kestrel continues its virtual boycott of Vermont in winter, while the only reports of the much sought-after Gyr Falcon came from the Ferrisburg CBC and from Panton on 2/16. The Phasianidae presented a mixed picture with two of Vermont's specialty birds, the Gray Partridge and the Spruce Grouse both going unreported. On the other hand, the Ruffed Grouse enjoyed an excellent year, while the Wild Turkey toppled all previous records by a wide margin. An American Coot gained notoriety by stubbornly holding out for the entire winter in Burlington, while 2 Common Snipe in Clarendon on 2/1 reaffirmed the appeal of this particular site as a winter haven. Two Killdeer in Lincoln were exceptionally late, while perhaps the most tantalizing report of the winter came from the Tri-town Water District Plant, where a young JAEGER was carefully observed offshore on 12/7-8. There were few surprises among the Laridae with the common gulls typically common and the white-winged species typically rare. The one exception might be Iceland Gull, which was reported from several locations during the course of the winter.

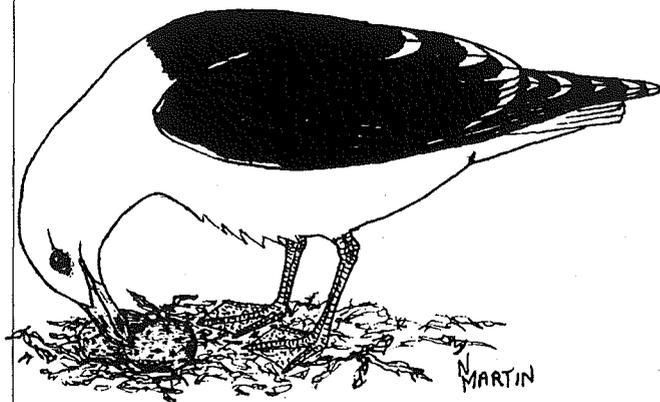
DATE	Location	No.	Observers
<b>Bald Eagle</b>			
11-Dec.	Tri-town Water District	2	SSW
31-Jan.	Fort Cassin	1 ad., 3 imm.	FAP,EBP
7-Feb.	Long Point, Ferrisburg	3 ad., 6 imm.	TGM
8-Feb.	Long Point, Ferrisburg	4 ad., 4 imm.	TGM
11-Feb.	Panton	6	SSW
12-Feb.	Charlotte	5 ad., 4 imm.	MF
14-Pawlet	Pawlet	2 imm.	GRB
<b>Northern Harrier</b>			
2-Jan.	Grand Isle	1	DJH
18-Jan.	Bridport	1 m.	TGM
27-Jan.	Manchester	1	EFG

DATE	Location	No.	Observers
31-Jan.	Bridport	1 m.	FAP,EBP
2-Feb.	Addison	1	EMA,RDB
2-Feb.	Bridport	1	EMA,RDB
8-Feb.	Gage Rd, Addison	1 m.	NAB
9-Feb.	Bridport	1	EMA,RDB
25-Feb.	Brandon	1	SSW
<b>Sharp-shinned Hawk</b>			
24-Jan.	Grandy Rd, Addison	1	FAP,EBP
5-Jan, 9-Jan	Reading	1	FMH,EJH
<b>Cooper's Hawk</b>			
during Feb	Grand Isle	3	DJH
throughout	Danby Four Corners	1	NAB

DATE	Location	No.	Observers
21-Dec.	Woodstock	1	KPM
28-Dec.	W. Glover	1	REG,OAG
10-Jan.	Weybridge	1	MBN
14-Jan.	Panton	1	SSW
31-Jan.	New Haven	1 ad. m.	FAP,EBP
25-Feb.	Woodstock	1	CRP
<b>Northern Goshawk</b>			
14-Dec.	Sheffield	1	PFW,SAW
1-Jan.	W. Glover	1	REG,OAG
1-Jan.	Barnet	1	LH
1-Jan.	Strafford	1	SDF
16-Jan.	Pawlet	1	GRB
19-Jan.	Grand Isle	2	DJH
2-Feb.	Brattleboro	1	MJL
8-Feb.	Plainfield	1 ad.	FAP,EBP
22-Feb.	Panton	1	JAP
<b>Red-tailed Hawk</b>			
11-Dec.	DCWMA	6	SSW
18-Jan.	Addison/Bridport	30	TGM
22-Feb.	Addison County	20	TGM
<b>Rough-legged Hawk</b>			
7-Dec.	DCWMA	7	KPM
1-Jan.	Addison	5	NAB
18-Jan.	Addison/Bridport	10	TGM
16-Feb.	DCWMA	9	SSW
22-Feb.	Addison County	8	TGM
<b>American Kestrel</b>			
11-Jan, 5-Feb	Danby Four Corners	1 f.	NAB
21-Jan.	Addison	1	SSW
<b>Merlin</b>			
18-Jan.	Bridport	1 m.	TGM
20-Feb.	Belvidere	1 found dead	JSI
<b>Peregrine Falcon</b>			
11-Dec.	Grand Isle	1	DJH
11-Dec.	Burlington harbor	1	DJH
22-Feb.	Burlington breakwater	1 ad.	TGM,PAS
<b>Gyr Falcon</b>			
20-Dec.	Ferrisburg	1	via AP
16 Feb.	Panton	1	JAP
<b>Ring-necked Pheasant</b>			
7-Feb.	Panton	1	JAP
8-Feb.	Addison	1 f.	NAB
<b>Ruffed Grouse</b>			
18-Dec.	Pawlet	4	GRB
3-Jan.	South Burlington	3	PAS
11-Jan.	Dorset	5	EFG
11-Jan.	Pawlet	4	GRB
<b>Wild Turkey</b>			
10-Dec.	Brandon	31	SSW
4-Jan.	North Pawlet	92	EFG
4-Jan.	Pomfret	28	JH
31-Jan.	Addison	30	CJF
14-Feb.	Grand Isle	58	DJH
26-Feb.	Pawlet	100	GRB

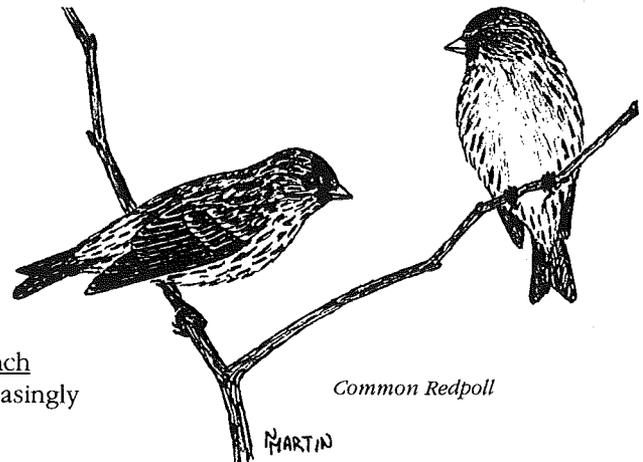
DATE	Location	No.	Observers
<b>American Coot</b>			
throughout	Burlington waterfront	1	TGM,PAS,JDM
<b>Killdeer</b>			
4-Jan.	Lincoln	2	MRM
<b>Common Snipe</b>			
1-Feb.	Clarendon	2	CJF
throughout	Clarendon	1	CJF
<b>Jaeger sp.</b>			
7-8-Dec	Tri-town Water District	1 imm.	TGM
<b>Bonaparte's Gull</b>			
7-Dec.	Mud Island, Panton	10	TGM
11-Dec.	Grand Isle	60	DJH
13-Dec.	Mud Island, Panton	6	TGM
22-Dec.	Grand Isle	4	DJH
<b>Ring-billed Gull</b>			
24-Jan.	Burlington waterfront	169	TGM
2-Feb.	Burlington waterfront	250	EMA,RDB
<b>Herring Gull</b>			
19-Jan.	Burlington waterfront	385	TGM
<b>Iceland Gull</b>			
20-31-Jan	Burlington breakwater	2 (1st yr.)	DJH,TGM
2-Jan.	Blodgett's Beach	2	DLC
18-Jan.	Burlington breakwater	1 (2nd yr.)	TGM
24-Jan.	McNeil Cove	1 (1st yr.)	FAP, EBP, TGM
22-Feb.	Burlington waterfront	1 (1st yr.)	TGM, PAS
27-Feb.	Intervale Rd., Burlington	1	JDM
28-Feb.	S. Hero RR causeway	1 (1st yr.)	TGM
<b>Glaucous Gull</b>			
18-19-Jan	Burlington breakwater	1 imm.	TGM
6-22-Feb	Burlington breakwater	1 imm.	TGM, DJH, PAS
<b>Great Black-backed Gull</b>			
18-Dec.	Grand Isle	50	DJH
19-Jan.	Burlington breakwater	342	TGM
<b>Rock Dove</b>			
21-Dec.	Woodstock	50	KPM
21-Dec.	Weybridge	86	MBN
3-Jan.	Burlington	60	PAS
<b>Mourning Dove</b>			
throughout	Barnet	50	LH
13-Jan.	Reading	23	FMH,EJH
24-Jan.	Danby Four Corners	22	NAB
30-Jan.	Weybridge	24	MBN
1-Feb.	Springfield	24	WME

*Great Black-backed Gull*



# DOVES THROUGH HOUSE SPARROW

Mourning Doves declined significantly for the second year, posting their poorest CBC tally since 1986. This may be a trend worth watching. Among the Strigidae, Snowy Owls in Charlotte, Bridport and Newport were noteworthy, while a **Northern Hawk Owl** in Jericho generated understandable excitement and admiration. The star of our resident owls was the Barred Owl, which easily established a new CBC record. This species continued unusually conspicuous throughout the season. Also of interest was the large number of overwintering Belted Kingfishers, as well as multiple reports of the Red-bellied Woodpecker, a "count period" Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in Brattleboro, and 2 Black-backed Woodpeckers in Eden. Meanwhile, the more common woodpeckers all either approached or exceeded their highest CBC totals ever. This trend was also apparent for such species as Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Brown Creeper and both nuthatches. By contrast, the Northern Mockingbird had another poor year, mustering up just 27 CBC birds and but one late-winter report. The waxwings, however, were far from scarce, with both species prominent throughout the winter. Cedar Waxwings easily surpassed their old CBC high, as an astonishing 4,170 individuals were counted. Certainly the outstanding bird of the season was the **Black-throated Blue Warbler** visiting a feeder in South Reading 12/30-1/26. A male, the bird was observed both at a platform feeder and on hanging suet, often with chickadees. Among the better sparrows of the winter were 4 CBC Chipping Sparrows, a Fox Sparrow on the Brattleboro CBC, and White-crowned Sparrows at Ferrisburg, Burlington and Middlebury. Also of interest were several reports of Rusty Blackbird, including 14 on the Rutland CBC. Winter records of Red-winged Blackbird and Common Grackle were sparse, but both species returned on schedule in late February. As for the ever-erratic Fringillids, it was an invasion year for Pine Grosbeak and Common Redpoll, an off year for Purple Finch, and an ordinary year for most others. Red Crossbills, however, enjoyed a good season, while both House Finch and Evening Grosbeak continued declines that have become increasingly apparent over the last 3 or 4 years.



Common Redpoll

DATE	Location	No.	Observers
<b>Great Horned Owl</b>			
20-Dec.	Shelburne Bay	1	TGM
3-Jan.	Kingsland Bay State Park	1	TGM
15-Feb.	Pawlet	1	GRB
16-Feb.	South Burlington	2	TGM
<b>Snowy Owl</b>			
18-Jan-28-Feb	Bridport	1 imm.	TGM,FAPEBP,SSW
22-Dec.	Newport Airport	1	REG,OAG
22-Dec.	Bridport	1	MBN,BRJ
25-Dec.	Charlotte	1	EMA,RDB
<b>Northern Hawk Owl</b>			
29-Dec-15-Feb	Jericho	1	SAS,v.o.
<b>Barred Owl</b>			
2-Dec.	Brandon	2	SSW
21-Dec.	Georgia	2	EMA,RDB
28-Feb.	Chittenden	2	DMM
<b>Short-eared Owl</b>			
20-Jan.	Panton Rd	1	DJH
<b>Northern Saw-whet Owl</b>			
26-Jan.	Georgia	1	RBV
23-Feb.	Centennial Park, Burlington	3	PAS
<b>Belted Kingfisher</b>			
throughout	Dorset	1	EFG,NAB
22-Dec.	Grand Isle	1	DJH
10-Jan.	Shelburne Bay	1	TGM
24-Jan.	Meach Cove	1	TGM
31-Jan.	Charlotte Town Beach	1	TGM
10-Feb.	Montpelier	1	CHD
14-Feb.	Converse Bay	1	SSW

DATE	Location	No.	Observers
17-Feb.	Rutland Town	1	SSW
20-Feb.	Pomfret	1	KRT
25-Feb.	NBNC	1	CHD
<b>Red-bellied Woodpecker</b>			
11-Jan.	Danby Four Corners	1 m.	NAB
29-Jan-10-Feb	Peacham	1	CC,CB
<b>Downy Woodpecker</b>			
throughout	Grand Isle	6	DJH
throughout	Pawlet	4	GRB
1-Jan.	South Burlington	4	PAS
<b>Hairy Woodpecker</b>			
throughout	Grand Isle	4	DJH
throughout	Pawlet	4	GRB
throughout	Woodstock	4	JWL
16-Dec.	W. Glover	4	REG,OAG
18-Jan.	Danby Four Corners	3 m., 2 f.	NAB
<b>Bl-backed Woodpecker</b>			
28-Feb.	Eden	2	MEP
<b>Northern Flicker</b>			
17-Dec, 6-Feb	Woodstock	1	KPM
11-Dec.	Shoreham	1	SSW
17-Jan.	Tri-town Water District	1	TGM
7-Feb.	McNeil Cove	1	TGM
28-Feb.	DCWMA	2	SSW
<b>Pileated Woodpecker</b>			
throughout	Georgia	2	EMA,RDB
throughout	Grand Isle	4	DJH
6-Dec.	Dorset	2	EFG
18-Jan.	Brandon	2	SSW

DATE	Location	No.	Observers
<b>Northern Shrike</b>			
10-Dec.	East Hardwick	1	KRM
15-Dec.	Swanton	1	EMA,RDB
22-Dec.	W. Glover	1	REG,OAG
28-30-Dec	Coventry	2	REG,OAG
2-Jan.	Woodstock	1	KRT
3-Jan.	Hawkins Rd, Ferrisburg	1	TGM
3-Jan.	Barton	1	REG,OAG
4-Jan.	Berlin	1	CHD
21-Jan.	Woodstock	1	CRP
8-Feb.	Victory Bog	1	JMN
11-Feb.	Shelburne	1	SSW
15-Feb.	Pawlet	1	GRB
28-Feb.	Bristol	1	FAP,EBP
<b>Gray Jay</b>			
2-Feb.	Moose Bog	2	REG,OAG
8-Feb.	Victory Bog	2	JMN
<b>Blue Jay</b>			
throughout	Sheffield	max. 21	PFW,SAW
3-Dec.	Reading	39	FMH,EJH
22-Dec.	Chittenden	25	DMM
17-Jan.	Dorset	21	EFG
<b>American Crow</b>			
25-Dec.	Manchester Center	150	BWP
17-Jan.	Rutland	300	CJF
28-Jan.	Grand Isle	1000	DJH
11-Feb.	Weybridge	200	MBN
13-Feb.	Milton	150	EMA,RDB
<b>Common Raven</b>			
3-Dec.	Sheffield	6	PFW,SAW
17-Dec.	Reading	23	FMH,EJH
2-Jan.	Reading	22	FMH,EJH
21-Jan.	Brandon	4	SSW
<b>Horned Lark</b>			
1-Jan.	DCWMA	100	SSW
2-Feb.	Addison	60	EMA,RDB
4-Feb.	Addison	124	MBN
9-Feb.	Bridport	70	EMA,RDB
<b>Black-capped Chickadee</b>			
throughout	Danby Four Corners	max. 19	NAB
throughout	Wardsboro	max. 30	NBu
19-Dec.	Reading	25	FMH,EJH
22-Feb.	Grand Isle	41	DJH
<b>Boreal Chickadee</b>			
8-Feb.	Victory Bog	3	CCR
<b>Tufted Titmouse</b>			
27-Dec.	Bristol	3	MBN
during Dec	Georgia	3	EMA,RDB
25-Jan, 22-Feb	Dorset	3	EFG
throughout	Pawlet	3	GRB
21-Dec.	Springfield	4	WME
17-Jan.	Putney	3	MJL
Dec - 22-Feb	Woodstock	3	KPM
<b>Red-breasted Nuthatch</b>			
throughout	Georgia	3	EMA,RDB
15-Dec.	Sheffield	4	PFW,SAW
3-Jan.	Brandon	9	SSW
12-Jan.	Reading	3	FMH,EJH
<b>White-breasted Nuthatch</b>			
11-Dec.	Dorset	4	EFG
22-Feb.	Grand Isle	6	DJH

DATE	Location	No.	Observers
<b>Brown Creeper</b>			
8-Dec.	Ryegate	2	LH
21-Dec.	Grand Isle	5	DJH
22-Feb.	Dorset	2	EFG
<b>Carolina Wren</b>			
throughout	Brandon	max. 2	SSW
<b>Golden-crowned Kinglet</b>			
17-Jan.	Woodstock	1	PAS
8-Feb.	Victory Bog	3	JMN
<b>Eastern Bluebird</b>			
27-Dec.	Pittsford	2	RWP
30-Dec.	Pawlet	3	GRB
24-Jan.	Whalley Rd, Charlotte	3	FAP,EBP
26-Jan.	E. Putney	1	MJL
31-Jan.	Town Line Rd, Addison	5	FAP,EBP
1-Feb.	Rockingham	2	FMH,EJH
9-Feb.	Cornwall	2	EVB
11-Feb.	DCWMA	4	SSW
<b>American Robin</b>			
3-Dec.	Newport	1	REG,OAG
13-Dec.	Coventry	1	REG,OAG
3-Jan.	Tinmouth	3	CJF
4-Jan.	Charlotte	2	TGM
19-Jan.	Grand Isle	36	DJH
30-31-Jan	Reading	1	FMH,EJH
7-Jan.	McNeil Cove	5	TGM
20-Feb.	Brandon	15	SSW
21-Feb.	Putney	3	MJL
27-Feb.	Dorset	7	EFG
<b>Northern Mockingbird</b>			
2-Feb.	Georgia	1	RBV
<b>European Starling</b>			
13-Dec.	Coventry	174	REG,OAG
15-Dec.	South Burlington	736	TGM
31-Jan.	Addison	600	CJF
2-Feb.	Bridport	200	EMA,RDB
4-Feb.	Addison	3000	MBN
<b>Bohemian Waxwing</b>			
13-Dec.	Coventry	235	REG,OAG
27-Dec.	Middlebury	45	MBN
30-Jan.	Woodstock	10	KPM
31-Jan.	Weybridge	50	MBN
31-Jan.	Panton	12	CJF
9-Feb.	Charlotte	20	EMA,RDB
23-Feb.	Woodstock	74	KRT
<b>Cedar Waxwing</b>			
2-Dec.	Pawlet	45	GRB
27-Dec.	Dorset	180	EFG
17-Jan.	Woodstock	50	PAS
30-Jan.	Grand Isle	150	DJH
31-Jan.	Panton	50	CJF
14-Feb.	Charlotte	200	SSW
19-Feb.	Wardsboro	40	NBu
22-Feb.	Springfield	48	WME
24-Feb.	Putney	75	AMD
<b>Black-throated Blue Warbler</b>			
30-Dec-26-Jan	Reading	1 m.	FH
<b>American Tree Sparrow</b>			
throughout	Brandon	max. 10	SSW
20-Dec.	Clarendon	12	CJF
1-Jan.	Panton	30	EMA,RDB

DATE	Location	No.	Observers
15-Jan.	Winooski	15	CHD
24-Jan.	Danby Four Corners	23	NAB
4-Feb.	Bridport	10	MBN
20-Feb.	W. Glover	8	REG,OAG
<b>Song Sparrow</b>			
28-Dec.	Pittsford	1	SSW
24-Feb.	Putney	1	AMD
<b>White-throated Sparrow</b>			
throughout	Danby Four Corners	1	NAB
1-Feb.	Putney Great Meadows	1	MJL
14-Feb.	Weybridge	1	MBN
<b>Dark-eyed Junco</b>			
throughout	Wardsboro	max. 20	NBU
27-Dec.	Woodstock	19	JMN
11-Jan.	Dorset	15	EFG
25-Jan.	South Burlington	15	EMA,RDB
25-Jan.	Manchester Center	14	BWP
<b>Lapland Longspur</b>			
18-Jan.	Basin Harbor Rd	11	TGM
24-Jan.	Bridport	25	FAP,EBP
31-Jan.	Jersey Street	6	FAP,EBP
<b>Snow Bunting</b>			
15-Dec.	Pawlet	30	NAB
14-Jan.	Barton	25	REG,OAG
18-Jan.	Basin Harbor Rd	400	TGM
19-Jan.	Charlotte	70	PAS
21-Jan.	Panton	300	SSW
23-Jan.	Pawlet	25	GRB
1-Feb.	Grand Isle	25	DJH
<b>Northern Cardinal</b>			
20-Dec.	Georgia	5	EMA,RDB
throughout	Brandon	max. 8	SSW
throughout	Dorset	4	EFG
<b>Red-winged Blackbird</b>			
1-Jan.	Panton	2	EMA,RDB
18-Jan.	Brandon	1	SSW
12-Feb.	Grand Isle	1	DJH
18-Feb.	Woodstock	1	CRP
20-Feb.	Manchester Center	1	BWP
21-Feb.	Woodstock	1	BRJ
22-Feb.	Rutland	5	CJF
22-Feb.	Woodstock	1	JMN
23-Feb.	Woodstock	6	KPM
24-Feb.	Taftsville	15	CCR
<b>Common Grackle</b>			
25-Dec.	Stockbridge	1	EH
28-Feb.	Wardsboro	1	NBU
28-Feb.	Springfield	8	WME
28-Feb.	Woodstock	1	JMN
<b>Rusty Blackbird</b>			
7-Feb.	South Starksboro	1	TGM
<b>Brown-headed Cowbird</b>			
28-Jan.	Grand Isle	1	DJH
20-Feb.	Brandon	2	SSW
<b>Pine Grosbeak</b>			
16-Dec.	Dorset	19	EFG
25-Dec.	Coventry	15	REG,OAG
5-Jan.	Woodstock	45	JMN
18-Jan.	Montpelier	20	CHD
19-Jan.	Rutland	30	CJF
25-Jan.	W. Glover	15	REG,OAG

DATE	Location	No.	Observers
23-Jan.	Cavendish	12	JB
29-Jan.	Grand Isle	60	DJH
13-Feb.	Ryegate	20	LH
22-Feb.	Island Pond	15	REG,OAG
<b>Purple Finch</b>			
14-Feb.	Springfield	5	WME
<b>House Finch</b>			
1-Dec.	Dorset	max. 13	EFG
10-Jan, 25-Jan	Manchester Center	26	BWP
22-Feb.	Woodstock	24	KPM
<b>Red Crossbill</b>			
20-Jan, 16-Feb	Brandon	1	SSW
13-Dec.	Potash Bay	5	TGM
10-Jan.	Tri-town Water District	4	TGM
11-Jan.	Colchester	8	TGM
11-Feb.	Montpelier	6	CHD
<b>White-winged Crossbill</b>			
10-Jan.	South Burlington	45	EMA,RDB
3-Feb.	Dorset	6	MCD
6-Feb.	Proctor	16	RWP
12-Feb.	Cornwall	7	MBN
17-Feb.	Bradford	12	REG,OAG
21-Feb.	South Burlington	43	PAS
<b>Common Redpoll</b>			
throughout	Reading	max. 50	FMH,EJH
21-Dec.	Springfield	50	WME
30-Dec.	Dorset	75	EFG
1-Jan.	Panton	45	EMA,RDB
1-Jan.	Gage Rd, Addison	125	NAB
1-Jan.	Jericho	100	PAS
2-Jan.	Grand Isle	200	DJH
11-Jan.	Pawlet	50	GRB
15-Jan.	W. Bolton	50	MC
16-Jan.	Manchester Center	75	BWP
30-Jan.	Putney	50	MJL
3-Feb.	Woodstock	100	KPM
11-Feb.	Westminster West	60	AMD
<b>Pine Siskin</b>			
throughout	Putney	max. 15	MJL
3-Dec.	Woodstock	5	KPM
7-Dec.	Springfield	12	WME
9-Dec.	Bridgewater Center	7	JMN,BRJ
19-Dec.	Dorset	12	EFG
5-Jan.	Weybridge	6	MBN
<b>American Goldfinch</b>			
7-Dec.	Springfield	11	WME
1-Jan.	Ferrisburg	40	EMA,RDB
1-Jan.	Woodstock	12	JMN
10-Jan.	Manchester Center	15	BWP
21-Feb.	Weybridge	14	MBN
<b>Evening Grosbeak</b>			
29-Dec.	Sheffield	28	PFW,SAW
3-Jan.	Coventry	50	REG,OAG
1-Feb.	Ryegate	30	LH
7-Feb.	South Starksboro	25	TGM
19-Feb.	Montpelier	50	CHD
14-Dec.	Reading	100	FMH,EJH
27-Dec.	W. Glover	20	REG,OAG
<b>House Sparrow</b>			
11-Feb.	Bristol	20	MBN
<b>TOTAL SPECIES = 108</b>			

## CONTRIBUTORS:

TSA Ted Allen\*  
 EMA Elizabeth Alton  
 JSA Jim Andrews\*  
 JRA Jean Arrowsmith  
 CHB Catherine Bailey  
 RDB Ray Barnes  
 JB John Becker  
 MHB Mike Blust  
 KB Karen Bowles  
 GRB Gordon Brown  
 NAB Nancy Brown  
 CB Charlie Browne\*  
 NBU Nancy Burke  
 DLC Dwight Cargill  
 EC Ernie Carlson  
 MC Mike Cassara  
 DC Don Clark\*  
 WJC Bill Crenshaw  
 CC Candy Crocker  
 DHC Dan Crook\*  
 CHD Chip Darmstadt\*  
 MCD Mary Catherine Davis  
 AMD Allison Deen  
 AD Anita Duffy  
 BCD Bonnie Dundas\*  
 KD Kathy Durand  
 RD Randy Durand  
 EE Eleanor Ellis\*  
 WGE Walter Ellison\*  
 WME Wally Elton  
 ABE Ann Emery  
 SDF Steve Faccio  
 MF Mark LaBarr\*  
 CJF C.J. Frankiewicz  
 EFG Betty Gilbert  
 OAG Olive Griffin  
 REG Ray Griffin  
 EH Ed Hack  
 FH Forrest Hammond  
 JH Joan Harvey  
 VH Verna Harvey  
 LH Libby Hillhouse  
 DJH David Hoag  
 EJH Edna Hunt  
 FMH Fred Hunt  
 BRJ Betty Jillson  
 EEJ Ernie Jillson  
 TEJ Tait Johansson  
 WBK Warren King  
 MSL Mark LaBarr\*  
 EKL Liz Lackey  
 JWL Jay Lash  
 SBL Sally Laughlin\*

GPL George Lisi\*  
 MJL Michael Little  
 SL Sebastian Lousada  
 TL Ted Lubich  
 JDM John Marsh  
 DMM Donna Martin  
 MRM Molly Martin  
 NLM Nancy Martin\*  
 KPM Kent McFarland  
 MRM Michele McFarland  
 KRM Karen Miller  
 SWM Scott Morrical  
 TGM Ted Murin  
 JN Janet Nelson  
 MBN Marjorie Nelson  
 WDN Whitney Nichols\*  
 JMN Julie Nicholson\*  
 WJN William Norse\*  
 MP Michele Patenaude\*  
 KP Kay Peck  
 OP Oliver Peck  
 JAP Judy Peterson  
 RWP Roy Pilcher\*  
 AP Alan Pistorius\*  
 MEP Martha Pitt  
 CRP Carol Powell  
 BWP Barbara Powers  
 EBP Eleanor Pratt  
 FAP Frederick Pratt  
 HSP Hugh Putnam\*  
 TSR Tim Redman  
 CCR Chris Rimmer  
 CFR Carl Runge  
 SAS Shiloh Schulte  
 JS Jamie Shanley  
 JSL Jack Slagle  
 PAS Pete Smith  
 NES Ned Swanberg\*  
 KRT Kevin Taft  
 MT Mike Tatro  
 RBV Rod and Betty Vallee  
 EVB Eunice Van Black  
 VFWD Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department  
 PFW Paul Wagner  
 SAW Shirley Wagner  
 KPW Ken and Pat Ward  
 SSW Sue Wetmore  
 PRW Paul Wiczoreck\*

\* Christmas Bird Count compilers

*Special thanks to all who participated in the Christmas Bird Counts and Bald Eagle Survey.*

## ABBREVIATIONS:

NBNC North Branch Nature Center  
 DCWMA Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area  
 CBC Christmas Bird Count

## NOTES ON THE DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SPECIES

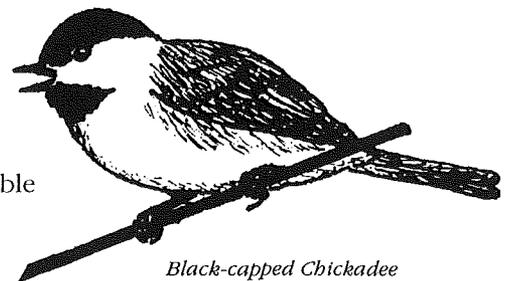
The Vermont Bird Records Committee (VBRC) emphasizes the importance of detailed, descriptive documentation of all rarities, rare nesting species or out-of-season species. It is frustrating for both the observer and the committee to have a tantalizing sighting of a rare species rejected for listing due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



*Black-capped Chickadee*



### Vermont Institute of Natural Science

27023 Church Hill Road  
 Woodstock, Vermont 05091-9642

### Vermont Christmas Counts 1997-1998

	Bennington 12/20	Brattleboro 12/20	Fairbury 12/20	Saxtons River 12/20	Winnhall 12/20	Burlington 12/21	Champlain Isls 12/21	Middlebury 12/21	Springfield 12/21	Crafts-Greens 12/27	Plainfield 12/27	Island Pond 12/28	Rutland 12/28	Woodstock 12/30	Barnet 1/1	Hanover-Norwich 1/1	Hinesburg 12/20	Total
Red-throated Loon						1												1
Common Loon			29			9	4											42
Horned Grebe			7			5	3											15
Red-necked Grebe			1			2												3
Double-crested Cormorant			2			1												3
Great Blue Heron	3		18			6	4											31
Snow Goose			14				1											15
Canada Goose	1021	9	1783	231		511	940	1064					134			1		5,694
Wood Duck			2	3														5
American Black Duck	51	17	191			231	104		10			34	9	9	9	42	11	709
Mallard	210	45	309	10		1204	1042	5	3		31	82	2	4	339	2		3,288
Mallard Hybrid			1			1												2
Northern Pintail			2															2
Blue-winged Teal							1											1
Gadwall			3															3
American Wigeon			2															2
Greater Scaup			1															1
Scaup sp.			5															5
Oldsquaw			15				3											18
White-winged Scoter			25															25
Common Goldeneye			442			190	3566									20		4,218
Bufflehead			48			24	9											81
Hooded Merganser		8	6	2		6	1		1				1	11	6			42
Common Merganser	38	16	288	18		151	4934	1	16		1	5		3	85			5,554
Red-breasted Merganser			42			5	5											52
Duck sp.							34				4							38
Osprey			1															1
Bald Eagle			15		1	7		1							2	1		27
Eagle sp.														CP				0
Northern Harrier	CP		3				3	2										8
Sharp-shinned Hawk	CP		2		1	7	3	6	5	1	1	4	2	1	3			36
Cooper's Hawk			1	1		1	2	1			1	2	2		CP			11
Northern Goshawk	1		1	CP			1		1		2				1	2		9
Accipiter Sp.		1					1											2
Red-tailed Hawk	23	4	49	16	1	42	18	115	14	1	3	33	3	1	9	11		343
Rough-legged Hawk	1		36			1	3	28	1		1	CP					1	72
Buteo Sp.							1											1
American Kestrel			2					2									1	5
Merlin			1															1
Peregrine Falcon			3	1				1										5
Gyrfalcon			1															1
Falcon sp.						1												1
Ring-necked Pheasant	1			1			1	2	1						CP			6
Ruffed Grouse	2	3	23	7	5	18	15	31	7		14	5	6	3	13	3	6	161
Wild Turkey	31	47	119			54	34	39	49	3	58	46	57	115	23	42		715
American Coot			CP				1											1
Common Snipe	CP											1						1
Bonaparte's Gull							27											27
Ring-billed Gull	1	34	76	5		259	88	4				1					5	473
Herring Gull	6	79	87	1289		366	314		103		13	3				3	3	2,268
Iceland Gull				1														1
Glaucous Gull			1															1
Great Black-backed Gull	CP	8	105	93		189	69		46		8					39		557
Gull Sp.							312											312
Rock Dove	813	595	593	367	98	796	1189	1003	1043	154	598	53	565	341	410	696	189	9,503
Mourning Dove	290	83	277	162	25	279	557	340	379	34	173	14	465	260	65	248	92	3,743
Eastern Screech-Owl			4				11	2										17
Great Horned Owl	CP		1			2	1	5				CP						9
Snowy Owl								1										1
Barred Owl	CP	3	CP	4	1		4	8	3	1	1	1	3	3	1	6		39
Long-eared Owl								2										2
Short-eared Owl			CP					4										4
Northern Saw-whet Owl								1										1

Vermont Christmas Counts 1997-1998

	Bennington 12/20	Brattleboro 12/20	Ferrisburg 12/20	Saxtons River 12/20	Winhall 12/20	Burlington 12/21	Champlain Is 12/21	Middlebury 12/21	Springfield 12/21	Crafts-Greens 12/27	Plainfield 12/27	Island Pond 12/28	Rutland 12/28	Woodstock 12/30	Barnet 1/1	Hanover-Norwich 1/1	Hinesburg 12/20	Total
Belted Kingfisher			2		1	2	2		1		1		1	CP			1	11
Red-bellied Woodpecker	3							2										5
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		CP																0
Downy Woodpecker	33	26	98	46	12	74	95	112	50	5	16	10	69	35	27	91	12	809
Hairy Woodpecker	17	14	35	21	10	33	41	54	48	13	31	24	26	27	45	55	13	507
Northern Flicker	5	5	9	3		3	3	9					4					42
Pileated Woodpecker	7	5	18	4		14	8	15	6	3	5	1	12	7	4	6	6	121
Horned Lark	8		53	44			2	51	60				50					268
Gray Jay												3						3
Blue Jay	218	269	269	487	163	237	286	302	875	108	274	43	462	412	413	708	270	5,796
American Crow	582	153	500	128	50	935	481	577	371	58	230	5	1260	93	393	1562	107	7,483
Common Raven	2	2	16	5	4	5	5	16	14	29	41	18	15	24	15	12	24	247
Black-capped Chickadee	557	280	1373	917	613	950	1040	991	1722	287	1241	584	1700	1448	701	2551	875	17,830
Boreal Chickadee												11			2			13
Tufted Titmouse	34	42	30	61	4	47	11	33	111		1		89	11	10	78	3	565
Red-breasted Nuthatch	18	16	159	9	101	95	20	65	21	3	37	16	112	33	33	175	23	936
White-breasted Nuthatch	45	39	149	101	34	138	104	183	114	5	33	16	172	95	31	188	53	1,500
Brown Creeper	2	4	13	15	8	23	17	10	12	2	8		11	11	9	21	9	175
Carolina Wren		1	1					1										3
Winter Wren		1						1										2
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	6	9	3	8	7	1	9	1	2	43	38	4	1	3	3		139
Eastern Bluebird	24		57	9				16						CP				106
Hermit Thrush								1								1		2
American Robin	2	1	33	1		20	12	10	4				3	1	3	2	3	95
Gray Catbird								1										1
Northern Mockingbird	4	4	1	8		1		3	3				1			2		27
Bohemian Waxwing								1	1		283			18	444	24	174	945
Cedar Waxwing	340	283	834	301	28	151	191	266	250	1	168		214	181	1	765	176	4,170
Northern Shrike	1		3	1	2	1	3	1		1	4	1	2	3			1	25
European Starling	1893	528	2944	928	34	2609	2825	6428	760	664	535	53	1700	230	376	511		23,016
Yellow-rumped Warbler		CP	7			1		2	1								3	14
Northern Cardinal	31	11	81	86	3	58	114	73	71	2	32	4	66	14	19	84	21	770
American Tree Sparrow	82	54	264	299	8	300	163	348	110	10	66	5	178	7	25	75	102	2,092
Chipping Sparrow	1	2					1											4
Fox Sparrow		1																1
Song Sparrow	CP	2	4	34		2	1	13	11				3	1		2		73
Swamp Sparrow			1	4														5
White-throated Sparrow	1		3	23	1	2		11	6				1	1		9		58
White-crowned Sparrow			1			1		1										3
Sparrow sp.							20											20
Dark-eyed Junco	132	34	91	128	17	77	56	113	251		24	1	132	17	19	106	32	1,230
Snow Bunting			100			50	470	339		CP	17	1	75	7	2			1,061
Red-winged Blackbird									CP									0
Rusty Blackbird											2		14			1		17
Common Grackle							3				20			1	CP	1		25
Brown-headed Cowbird	1		5	1			44	3	1	4	5		7			1		72
Pine Grosbeak	47	4	52	1	13	40	28	2	93	131	232	36	95	147	227	306	15	1,469
Purple Finch			2			1		2	61		21		6		1		3	97
House Finch	198	138	110	231		223	100	357	293		7		219	27		286	30	2,217
Red Crossbill			131		16						16		4		1	6		174
White-winged Crossbill		1	136		12	3	10	8	2			2	8		9	88	80	359
Common Redpoll	235	53	761	219	92	186	540	496	408	114	378	132	340	485	55	114	969	5,577
Hoary Redpoll			3					2										5
Pine Siskin		108	3	21	4	13		10	139		30	3	30	3		69	14	447
American Goldfinch	114	146	178	343	3	186	164	595	371		18	2	75	39	19	130	95	2,478
Evening Grosbeak	105	52	33	24	107		23	31	152	50	276	34	70	190	75	38	59	1,319
House Sparrow	258	319	859	358	CP	674	753	1018	620	83	159	30	552	64	110	396	219	6,472
<b>TOTAL INDIVIDUALS</b>	<b>7489</b>	<b>3666</b>	<b>14066</b>	<b>7073</b>	<b>1480</b>	<b>11632</b>	<b>20942</b>	<b>16266</b>	<b>8697</b>	<b>1769</b>	<b>8161</b>	<b>1149</b>	<b>9161</b>	<b>4316</b>	<b>3708</b>	<b>9394</b>	<b>3766</b>	<b>129,114</b>
<b>TOTAL SPECIES</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>109</b>