

FOX SPARROW, first reported 8 March at Tom Will's Londonderry feeder; most reports from 20 to 26 March.

SONG SPARROW, last sighting 22 December in Taftsville; first sighting 10 March in Pomfret (both by FM); 11 March in Hartford (SM); flock of fifteen feeding by road in Sharon (SBL); most sightings 23 March on (EH, EE, MV, LM, PRr, MFM, BW).

SPRING: 1 April - 30 May 1974 Walter Ellison

LOONS

Common loon first appeared on April 27 when 1 was seen in Norwich, (SR, MR, KSt), the last report for this species was on May 16 when 1 was seen flying north over White River Jct. (DZ). Red-necked grebes appeared in their usual sparing numbers with a grand total report of 20 birds the first of these being 1 at Chimney Pt. on April 13, 3 others appeared at Lake Morey in Fairlee from April 28-May 4. A high count of 16 was seen at Wilder on 5 May with a large flock of Horned grebes which were held down by high winds. All records, (WE, GE). Horned grebe was first reported at Wilder on April 22 where 5 were seen at the time. A high count of 177 occurred on May 1 at Wilder during high velocity winds, indicting how many grebes are missed as they fly over the state at high altitudes. All records, (WE, GE). Pied-billed grebe was first reported on April 6 at Brattleboro, (ASW, LPM). The migration was a fairly average one for the most part. A Double crested cormorant was seen at Wilder in late April (Date not obtained) (RN). Unusual heron sightings were of 1 Little blue heron May 16 Manchester (RPt), 3 Cattle egrets were seen on May 4 with 2 at Swanton and 1 in the Champlain Islands (CVA), 1 Great egret was reported on the Lemon Fair on May 10 (BBP). Unusual for the location was a Black-crowned night heron on April 13 at Fairlee, (DZ, MAC). Great blue heron, Green heron, Least bittern, and American bittern were reported in average numbers. There were two reported of Glossy ibis, 1 was seen in Ver-

shire on May 11-14 an area where they are quite rare, (DGe), and 1 was reported on May 20 from Vergennes (TCG). WATERFOWL: There was an excellent waterfowl flight with large numbers of ducks with many of the rarer species represented. Canada geese first appeared in early March and continued until June 2 in average numbers the peak count was of 1000 at Weybridge on April 20 (OCAS). Snow geese first appeared in the first week of April and averaged 200-250 per flock with a grand total of 875 reported. Apparently Vermont received the bulk of the Snow geese migration only because 565 were reported in the entire area of Maine, New Hampshire and Eastern Mass. In addition to regular Snows 2 blue morphbirds were seen in Weybridge on April 20 (OCAS). The peak weekend for Black duck and mallard was that of the 14th of April when flocks of over 200 birds apiece for both species were found in the Rockingham Springfield area and flocks of over 100 were found throughout the state. On April 14 220 Mallards were seen in Rockingham and Springfield on the same day and at the same place 289 Black ducks were seen (DC). These and other peak flocks gradually wained after the 14th. The rare Gadwall appeared in the Conn. Valley with two reports, the first being on April 12 in Norwich at Pompanoosuc (WE, GE). The other was sighted at Wilder on April 15 (WE, GE). These also were the only reports received. There was only 1 large flock of Pintail that was reported that of 50 seen on April 14 at Middlebury (BBP). Pintail occurred sparingly in other parts

LAPLAND LONGSPURS, sighted only by (DWa) in Vershire; one pair with Snow Buntings on 30 December off and on to 22 January.

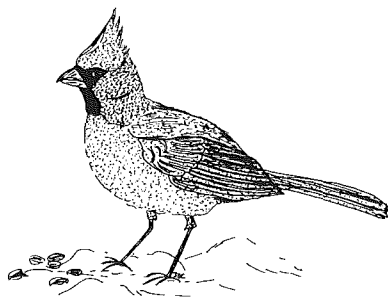
of the state until May 11 when 1 was seen in Brattleboro (TW). The largest flock of Greenwinged teal reported was of 100 on April 14 at Middlebury (BBP). Bluewinged teal occurred throughout the state in average numbers with a first date of April 13 at Dead Creek and Springfield (WE, GE, DC). American wigeon were first reported on April 3 when 6 were seen at Vergennes (TCG), the maximum count was of 10 birds on April 20 at Dead Creek (OCAS). 17 Shovelers were reported this spring occurring from April 13 until May 4 when the high count of 6 reported from the Champlain Islands (CVA). Wood ducks occurred throughout the season in average numbers. Maximum counts of Ring-necked ducks, Greater scaup, and lesser scaup were 45 at Rockingham on April 13, 75 at Wilder on April 8, and 86 at Missisquoi and the Champlain Islands on May 4 respectively, (WE, GE, DC, CVA). Common goldeneye and Bufflehead were both in average numbers. Oldsquaw rare in spring were seen at Lake Morey where 1 female was seen at Wilder where 6 were seen during high winds on May 1, all reports (WE, GE). 1 Surf scoter was seen on Lake Morey on April 28, (WE, GE). Hooded mergansers were in average numbers this spring. Common mergansers were reported throughout the season with a maximum count of 60 on April 20 at Hartland dam (WE, GE). There were three reports of Red-breasted mergansers the first was of 3 on April 3 at Vergennes (TCG), others were seen at Wilder on April 4 and 9 in a grand total of 3 (WE, GE). OSPREY, HAWKS, VULTURES: The hawk flight totaled 409 individuals reported of which 152 were Kestrels, 73 Red-tailed hawks, 48 Ospreys, 48 broadwinged, 26 Turkey vultures, 25 red-shouldered, and 12 Harries all other species were reported in numbers less than 10. The flight of Turkey vultures was of special interest, the first report was on Apr. 6 from Brattleboro where 2 were seen on that date (ASW, LPM), vultures were widespread in good numbers over the whole season with an exceptional record on April 30 from Cabot in the Northeast kingdom (BC). Accipiters were all ditressingly low with only 8 sharp-shinned, 2 Cooper's and 4 Goshawks reported, also there was considerable mixup as 2 birds I consider most likely Goshawks were reported as

HERONS

cooper's if observers must report rare birds they must submit convincing details unless of course they have impeccable credentials or a good bit of previous experience with the bird in question. Red-shouldered hawks also were worrisome because of low numbers as they were outnumbered by both the Turkey vulture and Osprey. Nonetheless an active and successful nest was found in Winhall on May 25 (WJN) and another nest was located in Calais on April 25 (FO,JW). 5 Rough-legged hawks were reported this spring the latest being on April 28 at Marshfield (MFM). The Osprey flight was heartening with a large number of individuals reported, the peak migrational weekend was that of May 4 when 19 of the 48 reported for the season were seen; of these most spectacular was a group of 6 seen all at once at Shelburne Pd. on a VINS class, (FO,KS, et al). Only 1 Peregrine falcon was reported this spring 1 was observed for 10 minutes at Londonderry on May 1 (RAB), also 2 "large" falcons were sighted from Putney Mt. on April 24 (KS). 3 Merlins were reported 1 at Woodstock on April 4 (FM), an exceptionally ghostly individual (Albinistic?) in Wallingford on April 7-10 (BW), and 1 at Hartford on April 10, (WE,GE). American Kestrel was represented in average numbers throughout the period, with a high of 22 on April 13 (WE,GE). GALLINACEOUS BIRDS: One Turkey was reported on April 11 in Danby (TW). Ruffed Grouse were in average numbers with no unusual reports received. A ring-necked Pheasant was reported on April 3 in Bennington (TW,IF). RAILS AND CRANES: Virginia rails were in good numbers this spring. Four were reported from Shelburne Pd. on May 4 (FO,KS, VINS). Maximum count was 10 at Shelburne and Dead Creek on May 26 (TW,GE,WE). Sora were reported twice; one in Plainfield on May 16 (MFM) and two at Dead Creek on May 27 (WJN). A Common Gallinule appeared in Hartford on April 30 (WE) and remained until May 11 (TD, PC,WE,GE). Several others were popular in W. Vt. SHORE BIRDS: Killdeer appeared in early March, but failed to reappear until April 2 when twelve were found in Brownsville (RBF) and they appeared in average numbers for the rest of spring. Upland Sandpipers made an excellent showing

with four at White River Jct. on April 27 (RBF,WE,GE, et al). Two at Cornwall on May 10 (JdR). Two at Williston on May 10 and continuing to nest (KSm). Two at Dead Creek on May 12 (JP, RM, MM) and one at Cornwall on May 23 (BBP). Solitary Sandpiper first appeared on May 8 at Ferrisburg (CMH). A maximum of four were seen on May 18 in Hartford and Norwich (WE,GE). The last report was of one on May 19 in Manchester (RPr). Spotted Sandpiper was in average numbers. Nine Greater Yellowlegs were reported as follows: April 12, 1 in Norwich (WE,GE) April 22, 1 in Craftsbury (FO); May 1, one in Hartford (GE, WE); May 2, two in Manchester (RPr) May 3, one in Quechee (FM); May 11, 1 Brattleboro (TW); May 12, Irasburg, (M&LM); May 17, 1 in Winhall (WJN). Lesser Yellowlegs were reported on May 2 with two in Florence (RAB); May 11, 8 in Springfield (DC); May 13, 1 in Vernon (WE). There were two reports of Short-billed Dowitchers: 17 at Dead Creek on May 18 (TCG) and 15 at Rockingham on May 19 (JC,DC). Dunlin also appeared on a single weekend, two at Brattleboro on May 11 (TW) and one in Irasburg on May 12 (M&LM). Least sandpipers were in average numbers. Semi-palmated Sandpipers were reported on May 4 with two at Middlebury (BBP) and Irasburg, one on May 11 (M&LM). Woodcock and Common Snipe were in average numbers as were Herring Gulls and Ring-billed Gull. Two Great Black Backed Gulls seen at Shelburne Pd. on April 20 (VINS,FO,KS, et al). Bonapart's Gulls were seen at Wilder on April 14 (WE,GE, et al) Five were seen on April 15 at Brattleboro (LP&ASW). One one April 28 at Wilder (GE,WE) and two at Manchester, May 11 (TW, RPr, et al). Black Terns were only reported from Dead Creek with 8 on May 26 (WE,GE,TW) and 15-20 on May 27 (WJN). Both Rock Doves, Pigeons and Mourning Doves were in average numbers. CUCKOOS through KINGFISHERS: Black-billed Cuckoo was first reported on May 18 with 1 at Hartford (WE,GE); other reports as follows: May 20, 1, S. Londonderry (WJN); May 25, 1, Woodstock (JMN); May 26, 1, Bennington (THF); May 26 7 27, 1 at Winhall (WJN); May 26, 2 at Hartford (WE,GE,TW); May 27, 1, Londonderry (TW). There were no unusual reports of Great Horned Owls;

only two reports of Barred Owl, the same individual, April 30 and May 8 at Woodstock, (FM). Whippoorwill was first reported April 29 when 1 was heard calling at 3 a.m. in Weathersfield (EE). Other dates were May 1, 1 at 4 a.m. in Woodstock (FM); May 18, 2 in Hartford (WE,GE); May 22, 1 in Charlotte (S&KSm) and 1 in Hartland, May 30 (ECS). Nighthawk was first heard on May 17 in Rutland (JPH). Numbers were about average for season. Chimney Swifts were first reported on May 1 in Woodstock, three (RBF). High counts for the migration were 100 plus on May 14 in Vergennes (TCG) and 200 plus in Burlington on May 16 (S&KSm). The High count for Ruby-throated Hummingbird was 14 plus in Bennington on May 25 (MV). Kingfishers were seen in March and were in average numbers throughout the season. WOODPECKERS THRUS SWALLOWS Common flickers were in average numbers this spring, as were Pileated woodpeckers. Yellow-bellied sapsucker first appeared on April 14 in West Hartford when 1 was seen (TD), they occurred in average numbers for the rest of the season. Both Hairy and Downy woodpeckers were in average numbers throughout the spring. Flycatchers like Tanagers were affected adversely by the damp weather at the end of May most notable were yellow-bellied and olive-sided flycatchers which were in evidence throughout the damp period at the end of the month. Early dates for each species are as follows: Eastern kingbird May 1, Wallingford (BW), Great crested flycatcher May 5 Hartford (WE), Eastern phoebe March 29, White River Jct. (GE,WE), Yellow-bellied flycatcher, May 15, Winhall (WJN), Alder flycatcher 2 on April 27 in Norwich (MR,SR,KSt), Willow flycatcher May 18, Hartford, (WE,GE), Least flycatcher, April 28, Landgrove (TW), Eastern wood peewee, Winhall May 20, (WJN), Olive-sided flycatcher May 15 Winhall (WJN). Horned larks were in average to good numbers throughout the season with a high count of 30 on April 27 at White River Jct. (RBF,WE, et al). Early arrival dates for swallows were: April 5 at Vergennes for the Tree swallow (TCG) April 18 at Dorset for the Barn swallow (TW), April 19 at Hartford for the Bankswallow (GE,WE), 2 at Manchester on April 23 for the Rough-winged



swallow (RPr), the first Cliff swallows were seen in a flock of 75 swallows on April 29 at Calias (FO), and finally the first Purple martin was a female seen in the unlikely location of Fairlee on April 30 (DZ). All in all there were no unusual sightings of swallows during the season. CORVIDS THRU THRUSHES: Blue jays and Crows were not in particularly unusual numbers throughout the spring. The same may be noted for the Black-capped chickadee. Common raven continues to increase in Vermont and at least two nestings are reported one from Springfield and another from Fairlee on the Palisades, (DC,DZ). There are two reports of Boreal chickadee both from Craftsbury, 1, on April 4 and another on April 30 (FO). There is also a report of a Tufted titmouse at Bennington on April 16 (MV). Both White and Red-breasted nuthatches were not in exceptionally high or low numbers. Brown creepers were as usual also. Winter wren first appeared on April 5 and continued through the season in regular fashion. The early date for House wren was April 20 at Manchester where a singing male was noted (RPr). A Carolina wren wintered in Bellows Falls and remained there until April 6 (DC). 20 Long-billed marsh wrens were noted at Dead Creek on May 5 (BBP,JP), this number climbed to approximately 70 on May 26 (TW,WE,GE). There were five reports of Mockingbird the first was 1 at Hartford on April 21 (WE), others reported were 1 at Manchester on May 15, (RPr), 1 at Westminster on May 16, (DC), and two territorial males singing at Dead Creek on May 27 (WJN).

Early dates for Brown thrasher and Catbird were April 20 and May 3 respectively. Robins first appeared in mid-March with a maximum count of 200+ on April 14 at Bennington (MV). The first report of Wood thrush was of one bird on May 4 at Bennington (MV). There were no unusual reports for this species. The first Hermit thrush made its appearance in a snowstorm on April 9 when it came to a feeder at Poultney (AMH). Swainson's thrush was first reported on May 15 when 4 were seen at Middlebury (BBP), these birds were numerous and very evident during the cool damp spell at the end of May as was also noted for Tanagers, flycatchers, and warblers. Gray-cheeked thrush was first noted on May 18 at Woodstock (MLW), another was seen in Winhall on May 30 (WJN). Eastern Bluebirds appeared in their usual widespread but sparing fashion. GNAT-CATCHERS THRU VIREOS: No less than seven*Blue-gray gnatcatchers were reported. The first was one in Burlington on April 29 (BSE), on May 4 a male female pair was reported in Manchester (RPr), another bird was seen in Fairlee on May 16 (DZ), one was reported from Weathersfield on May 26 (EE), and finally another pair was found in the Middlebury area on May 30. Possibly nesting? (WS). Golden-crowned kinglets appeared in good numbers throughout the season with counts of 30+ on April 6 at Woodstock (JMN), 30 at Hartford on April 17 (WE,GE), and 35-40 at Shelburne Point on April 20 (FO, KSm,VINS), Ruby-crowned kinglet was first reported on April 5 when 2+ were heard at Brattleboro (ASW), migration continued with counts averaging from 3-10 birds, maximum count for the season was of 30 birds on the somewhat late date of May 11 at Middlebury (BBP), the last report was of 2 birds found in Hancock and Ripton on May 26 (TW,WE,GE). Water pipits are an uncommon spring migrant there are 4 reports of them this season, 25+ at East Craftsbury on May 5 (FO,JW), one at Winhall on May 9 (WJN), 6 at Irasburg on May 12 (MFM, LM), and 1 at South Londonderry on May 14 (WJN). The first report of Cedar waxwing was on April 12 at Woodstock (EC), 5-6 also appeared on April 20 at Shelburne Point (FO,KSm,VINS). Otherwise Waxwings appeared en masse in late May and continued

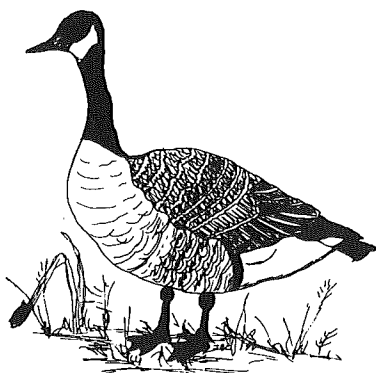
into June in normal numbers. All late Northern shrike was reported from Corinth on April 9 (GDe). There were two reports of Loggerhead shrikes, one at Ferrisburg on May 1 (TDG), and another in the Champlain Islands on May 4 (CVA). Starlings were in there usual high concentrations in the early spring and continued to be common throughout the spring. Solitary vireo first appeared on April 23 at Hartford (WE,GE), counts ran from 1-6 with the highest counts being during the first and second weeks of May. The uncommon Yellow-throated vireo was first heard on May 11 in Thetford, (WE,GE), other reports were 1 on May 13 at Hartford, (WE), an apparent nesting pair in Pomfret on May 14, (EH), 2 in Hartland on May 15 (FM), 1 in Woodstock on May 17 (EH), 1 in Hartford on May 17 (WE), and another on the 17th in Winhall (WJN), 1 in Rockingham on May 18 (DC), 1 in Shrewsbury on May 18 (AS, LE,PE), 1 in Hartford on May 27 (WE), and 1 in South Strafford on May 27-31 (HR,ER). Red-eyed vireos were first reported on May 15 when 1 was seen in Winhall (WJN), 4 in Middlebury (BBP), and 2 in Hartford (WE), from then on they appeared in their regular high numbers. The Philadelphia vireo, an uncommon and difficult to see migrant, was first reported on May 11 at Wallingford (BW), 1 was reported from Winhall on May 18 (WJN), and another was found there on May 24 (WJN), approximately 6 were seen on May 26 in Hartland (FM). 2 were in Hartford on the 26th also (TW,WE,GE), 2 were in Craftsbury on May 27 (FO), and 4 were there on the 30th (FO). The first Warbling vireo was seen in Hartford on May 3 (TD, PC), the birds were fairly common throughout the rest of May. WOOD WARBLERS: Black-and-white warbler was first reported on April 28 when 1 was seen in Weathersfield (EE), there were no unusual reports of this species; Excellent was the finding of a clutch of 6 Vermivora warblers in Ferrisburg, in late May, 3 of which were Golden-winged warblers and 3 of which were the rare Brewster's warbler (DCG, (BBP), Tennessee warbler was first reported on May 13 when 2 were seen in Hartford (WE), this species was in unusually high numbers during the latter half of May probably due to the conditions that caused tanagers and

other insectivorous species to be seen in such large numbers also, the high count was during a big-day count on May 26 when 24 were seen in various parts of the state (TW,WE,GE). The first Nashville warblers were 8 in Shrewsbury on April 27 (AS,LE), the species continued through the spring in average numbers. The Northern parula warbler was first sighted on May 4 in Fairlee, (WE,GE), others were, 1 in Manchester on May 10 (RPr), 2 in Hartford on May 10 (WE), 3 in Plainfield on May 11 (FO,BJ), 1 in Middlebury and another in Bennington on the same date (BBP,JP,MV), 3 from Hartford on May 13 (WE), 3 from Middlebury on the 15th (BBP), 1 in Londonderry on May 14 (TW), 1 in East Craftsbury on May 15 (FO), 2 in South Woodstock on May 16 (MLW), 4 in East-central Vermont on May 26 (TW,WE,GE), and finally 1 on May 27 in East Craftsbury (FO). The Yellow warbler was first seen in Manchester on May 2 (RPr), the species was in large numbers throughout the month. Magnolia warbler made it's first appearance in Manchester on May 11 (RPr), high counts were 10 in Craftsbury on the 27th (FO), 11 on the 27th in Hartford (WE), and 12 in Craftsbury on May 30 (FO). The early arrival date for Cape May warbler was on May 12 at Craftsbury (FO), there were several other reports from Craftsbury involving a total of 15 individual birds with a maximum count of 9 seen all at once on May 14 at Woodstock (EH), 3 in Hartland on May 15 (FM), 1 in Winhall on the 15th, 17th and 18th (WJN), there are four reports from Middlebury involving 12 birds the maximum count of which was on May 24 when 7 were seen (BBP), 3 were reported from Manchester on the 19th and 23rd (RPr), 1 was reported from Rockingham on the 19th (DC), and finally a maximum count for the season of 11 birds came from Charlotte on May 26th (KSm), all in all there was an impressive flight for this species and 1 of the largest flights ever reported in spring. Yellow-rumped warblers first appeared on April 21 when they were seen in Craftsbury (FO), and Hartland (WE,GE), the species was seen in average numbers seasonlong. Black-throated green warbler was first seen on April 28 in Plainfield (AJ), the birds appeared in their normal numbers. The early arrival date

for the Black-throated blue warbler was May 3 when 1 was seen in Hartford (WE), they moved through the state in normal fashion after that. 1 Blackburnian warbler was seen on May 3 in Hartford for the first report of that species. Chesnut-sided warbler was first reported on May 9 from Hartford (WE). The early arrival date for Bay-breasted warbler was May 15 when 6 were seen in Hartland (FM), there was an exceptionally heavy flight of this species due to the damp conditions at the end of May, high counts were 10 on May 24 in Winhall (WJN), 30 on the 24th in Middlebury (BBP), 30 more on the same date in Hartford (WE), and 15-18 on May 30 in Craftsbury (FO), once again the wet weather at the end of May probably caused many birds to hold over a migration creating a bottleneck of large numbers of holdovers and new arrivals culminating on May 24 when the birds built up to peak counts all over the state. Pine warbler first arrived on April 6 when 1 was seen in Cuttingsville along with two birds which were most likely Pines were seen in Shrewsbury (AS, PE), one was seen in Manchester on April 14 (RPr), 4 in Wilder on April 21 (WE,GE), 2 in Fairlee on May 4 (WE,GE), 2 in Hartland on April 25 (ECS), 1 in Craftsbury on April 28 (FO), 1 in Thetford on May 11 (WE, GE), and one in Winhall, where they are very rare, on the unlikely date of May 25 (WJN). Blackpoll warbler first appeared on May 18 in Winhall (WJN), and were in generally higher than usual numbers through the latter half of May for much the same reasons as Cape May and Bay-breasted warblers. There was only one report of Prairie warbler a rare species in Vermont, that was of 1 bird seen in Manchester on the 11th of May (TW,RPr), Palm warbler was first recorded on April 4 when 1 was seen in South Woodstock (TW), one was also seen on April 14 in West Hartford (TD), 4 were in Weathersfield on April 16 (EE), 1 was seen in Burlington on April 29 (BSE,ORE), another was at Shelburne Pond on May 4 (FO,KSm,VINS), 1 also was in Manchester on May 4 (RPr), and finally 1 was seen in Woodbury on May 11 (FO,JW). The first ovenbird was seen in Weston on April 28 (TRD,LF), the ovenbird was common as usual this spring. The first report of Northern Waterbrush was on May 4 when 1

was seen at Shelburne Pond (FO,KSm, VINS), later 3 were in Manchester on May 10 (RPr), 2 were reported from Weybridge on the same date (BBP), 1 was seen in Thetford on May 11 (WE, GE), 1 was found in Fairlee on May 16 (DZ), another from Marshfield on May 18 (FO,BJ), 1 from Winhall on May 18 (WJN), 2 from Rockingham on May 18 (DC), 1 in South Pomfret on May 19, and finally 1 from East Craftsbury on May 24 (FO). The first report of the uncommon Louisiana waterthrush was of 1 on April 27 at Dewey's Pond in Quechee (RBF, WE,VINS), other reports are 1 in Middlebury on May 4 (BBP), 2 in Winhall on May 9 (WJN), 1 in Fairlee on May 16 (DZ), 1 in Hartland on May 22 (WE), and 1 in Hancock on May 26 (TW,WE,GE). The first report of Common Yellowthroat was on May 4 in Woodstock (JMN), Yellowthroats were common throughout May. There are two records of Yellow-breasted chat, 1 on May 18 in Rockingham (DC), and 1 in White River Jct. on the late date of June 14 (WE). The Mourning warbler a traditionally late migrant was first reported on May 25 from Middlebury (BBP,JP,RT), 1 was also seen in Craftsbury on that date (FO), 1 was also seen on the 25th in Winhall (WJN), 1 was once again seen in Winhall on May 31 (WJN), and finally 1 was seen in Hartford on May 31 (WE). The first report of Wilson's warbler was of 1 in North Calais on May 9 (JW), also there was 1 in Winhall on May 17 (WJN), 1 in Weathersfield on May 18 (EE), a pair in Rockingham on the same date (DC), 1 in Manchester on May 19 (RPr), 1 in Irasburg on May 24 (FO), 1 in Hartford on the same date (WE), 1 in South Pomfret on May 25 (EH), 1 in Windsor on the same date (WE, GE,VINS), 1 in Hartland on May 26 (FM), 1 in Shrewsbury on May 25 (AS,PE,LE), 2 in Bennington on May 25 (MV), and finally 1 at Dead Creek on May 27 (WJN). As with the other uncommon warblers, the Cape May and the Bay-breasted, the Wilson's peaked on May 25 during the damp weather at the end of the month, Bay-breasted peaked on the 24th, and Cape May was at a peak from the 24-30. The first record of Canada warbler was on May 15 when 4 were seen in Woodstock (FM), high counts were 8 in Waterbury on May 18, 6 in Craftsbury on May 25 (FO), and 12 in East-

Central Vermont on May 26 (TW,WE,GE). The first Redstarts were on May 1 when 1 was seen in Hartland and were seen in Hartford (ECS,WE,GE), they continued through May in their usual high numbers. **BLACKBIRDS THRU TANAGERS:** House sparrows were in normal numbers throughout the spring. The first report of Bobolink was from Craftsbury when 2 males were seen on May 13 (FO,JW) also 1 was seen on that date at Wallingford (BW), the maximum count for the season was 40 in White River Jct. on May 21 (WE). Eastern Meadowlark was first reported from Bennington when 5 were seen on April 3 (TW,JF) there were no unusual reports of meadowlarks. Red-wings were first seen in late February and continued through March in large numbers building to a peak in late March with a maximum count of 2228 on March 30 in White River Jct. (WE,GE). Northern oriole was first reported on May 1 in Plainfield (MFM), the birds were in normal numbers thereafter. 38 Rusty Blackbirds were seen in Wallingford on April 6 for the early arrival date and the seasonal high count (BW), other reports were 25 on April 7 in Craftsbury (FO,JW), and 10-12 in Pleasant Valley on April 20 (FO,JW), all other reports were in numbers less than 10 and were



well distributed. Common Grackle first appeared in early March and continued into April with maximum counts ranging from 200-250+, the migration tailed off in May as birds settled down to nest. Brown-headed cowbird wintered over in small numbers, migration started in March and continued into April with high counts generally in the 100's with a few exceeding 200, migration ended in late April as the birds started to nest. One of the most talked about species of bird last spring was the Scarlet Tanager. During the latter part of May almost everyone noticed these brightly hued birds often sitting on the ground and often on the edge of highways and disappointingly often they saw dead birds. Tanagers first arrived on May 5 in Ira where 2 were seen (RAB), these were nesting individuals, which establishes the pattern for the Tanager "invasion", nesting individuals arrived in early May and were not badly affected by the weather during the latter half of the month. But Tanagers moving north through Vermont to Canada in late May were hit by a sudden lack of insects and the damp cool weather which forced them to stop their migration and caused a spectacular and for some individuals disastrous bottleneck in migration. May 26 was the day on which most people noticed Tanagers on the ground and on highway shoulders on report by David Zumeta of Fairlee is quite instructive on May 26 he saw 51 Tanagers mostly on the shoulders of roadways, of this total 45 were males he notes that this is probably due to the conspicuousness of the bright red male versus the drab green female, he also saw many other insectivorous birds on the shoulders of the highway including Barn swallow, Eastern phoebe, Yellow-bellied flycatcher, and Swainson's thrush. Another report from Mary Heston dated May 29 states that she saw 70 Tanagers and more interestingly they were interspersed with Kingbirds. Obviously insectivorous birds were hard hit by cool damp weather at the end of May and the most conspicuous of these was noticed and reported heavily on the critical days for these species. **FINCHES AND SPARROWS:** Cardinals since arriving in the fifties have increased to the status of a generally fairly common permanent resident on May 6 with 1 in South Strafford (HR,

ER), and 1 in Weathersfield (EE), the birds were in normal numbers for the rest of the season. Evening grosbeak carried over into spring as usual, high counts were in the range of 30-60, the late report was on May 26 when 4 pair were seen in Winhall, (WJN) and 6 were seen in Hancock, (TW,WE,GE), possible nesting; Indigo bunting was reported on May 15 in Hartland (FM), other early reports were 1 in South Pomfret on May 19 (EH), 1 in Hartford on May 20 (WE), a pair in Rockingham on the 19th (DC), 2 males in Bennington on May 25, and 1 in Weathersfield on May 26 (EE), the maximum count for the spring was of 6 in East Central Vermont on May 26 (TW,WE,GE). Purple finches were in normal numbers for the spring. The House finch has begun to invade Vermont with a report from Bennington of 2-3 a day throughout April and a last report on May 4 of 2 males (MV). There were four individual Hoary redpolls reported this spring 1 in Northfield on April 7 (CMC), 1 from Hartford on April 8 (WE,GE), and 2 on April 9 and Redpolls were in invasion force this spring with high counts ranging from 100-200; the birds continued through in high numbers until around the 20th of April when they almost instantly tailed off, the last date they were seen was April 27 when 2 were seen at Hartford (WE,GE). Pine siskin was in moderate to good numbers throughout the spring with high counts never ranging above approximately 20, nonetheless the birds were well distributed throughout the state, the last sighting was on May 26 when 5+ were found in Peru (WJN). The American goldfinch was in average numbers for the season. There were only three reports of Red crossbills in strong contrast with the invasion year last year. 1 was seen in Randolph on April 13 (WH), 4 were seen in Woodstock on April 19 (WC), and finally 4 were seen in Plainfield on April 22 (MFM). There were two reports of White-winged crossbill, 1 female in Bennington on April 16 (MV), and 2 in Norwich on the same date (CR). The first report for Rufous-sided towhee was on April 15 when a female was seen in South Pomfret (EH), the birds were common as usual. The early arrival date for Savannah sparrow was April 3 when 3 were seen in Bennington (TW,JF), maximum counts came from

Craftsbury in late April when 30 were seen (FO,JW), and 46 were in Hartford on April 19 (WE). The early date for the uncommon Grasshopper sparrow came from White River Jct. when 1 was seen on May 18 (WE,GE, et al), all other records come from White River and are as follows: 2 on May 26 (TW,WE,GE), and finally a high count of 4 on June 13 (WE). The early date for the Vesper sparrow was on April 10 in Wallingford (BW), the birds were found in force by the latter half of April when a high count of 20 was achieved at White River Jct. on April 28 (WE,GE). Dark-eyed junco peaked in early to mid-April with flocks ranging up to 50 birds, they continued to migrate until approximately mid-May they continued on to nest at higher elevations. Tree sparrows were common throughout early and mid-April, by late April they had become scarce, and 4 lingered into May, 1 at Manchester on May 2 (TW), 1 in East Craftsbury on May 4 (FO), 1 in Hartford on May 10 (WE), and finally 1 was seen in South Woodstock on May 12 (JMN). The Chipping sparrow was first reported on April 14 when 1 was seen in East Middlebury (DR,KSm), another was found on the same date in Springfield (DC), they were in normal numbers for the rest of the spring. The first date for Field sparrow was on April 4 when 1 was seen in Cabot (BC), and another was seen in East Craftsbury on the same date (FO), a

high count of 10 was received from Dead Creek area on April 20 (OCAS). White-crowned sparrow was first reported from Plainfield on April 22 when 2 were seen there (MFM), the birds continued through into May with the peak migrational weekend being the 10th when the maximum count of 5 was received (FM), the last date they were seen was May 24 when 1 was seen in Corinth (GDe). White-throated sparrows first appeared in early April and built up to a peak in the latter part of that month, after April the species continued in average numbers until nesting in late May. The first Fox sparrows were in March and the species continued through April with a maximum count of 10 on April 27 in Wallingford (BW), the late report was on May 13 when 4 were seen in East Craftsbury (FO). Lincoln's sparrows were seen in East Craftsbury on May 12 when 1 was seen there (FO), 3 were there on May 13 (FO), 1 was banded in Marshfield on May 15 (MFM), 1 was in Winhall on May 25 (WJN), and finally 1 was in East Craftsbury on May 27 (FO). 2 Swamp sparrows were seen in West Hartford on April 14 (TD), by late April they were in all their favorite haunts. Song sparrows were generally abundant as usual. The last Snow buntings were on April 11 when 7 were in Vergennes (TCG), and on April 11 when 2 were seen for the last sighting in Fairlee (DZ).

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1974 Spring
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pintails were at Long June (TW) and Blue Middlebury (BP) and KSm). Common Mergansers, "were reportedly bred."

EGRETS: The GREAT was reported at three locations of egrets. GREEN was seen in Londonderry and Marshfield (BR,EE) and

...A pair reported center of reported a COM- in Sand-

...were re- An inter- cks came he chicks, remained (PE,AS). DOCK in usual was also Burlin

...were re- 1 Winhall