



Records of Vermont Birds

SPRING SEASON 1975

After a mild winter, which allowed many species to overwinter in Vermont in unusual numbers and some migrants to arrive earlier than usual in March, we had the harshest April in years--the third or fourth coldest, in fact, in 50 years. The heaviest snowstorm of the winter arrived at the beginning of our season, on April 3-5. A number of observers commented on the obvious pressure that late and heavy storm put on many landbirds, especially those early-returning species such as MOURNING DOVE and RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD which depend on bare ground for feeding. Those species, plus AMERICAN ROBINS, PURPLE FINCHES and AMERICAN GOLDFINCHES, flocked to feeders during and after the storm. There were no reports, however, of birds actually perishing because of the unseasonally cold weather.

Temperatures were below average nearly every day in April, and the generally strong (11-26 mph) winds from the north and northwest (all figures from the Burlington Weather Station) attest to a cold system stalled over and south of Vermont. Landbird migrants expected in April generally showed up about on time, though certainly in fewer numbers than usual. Apparently the unseasonal cold and adverse winds were not sufficient to hold back a vanguard of migrants, though powerful enough to stall landbird migrants en masse. Perhaps more species would have showed up late had the April system been associated with more precipitation, as precipitation is known to be especially operative in stalling landbird migration. But after the initial snowstorm, there was very little snow or rain during April.

Beginning almost exactly on the first of May, the weather reversed itself. It was the third warmest May on record, with temperatures in the 80's by the 15th and up to 91 by the 20th. No significant

cold fronts interrupted the generally clear skies (10% more sunshine than usual) and mostly southerly winds. Only 1.17 inches of rain fell the whole month. In short, it was nearly an ideal month for bird migration, and the birds apparently took advantage of it, passing rapidly over the state or to breeding areas in it. Good concentrations or "pushes" of landbirds are produced by conditions adverse to migration--rain or winds to ground birds or severe cold front to hold them back, as occurred in Vermont in the spring of 1974. The generally poor migration commented on by most observers represents almost surely, absence of such weather conditions, not an actual reduction in landbird populations.

The coverage this spring was quite good. More and more observers are submitting records, including some very active birders who appear here for the first time. Despite generally disappointing landbird migration, a remarkable 212 total species and 6 additional races or forms were reported this spring. The stellar attraction of a season liberally sprinkled with rarities was Woodstock's BEWICK'S WREN, a new bird for the state. A pair of LINCOLN'S SPARROWS at Craftsbury apparently established the state's first nesting record of that species. And a WHITE-EYED VIREO at Woodstock, YELLOW-THROATED WARBLERS at Taftsville and Peacham, ORCHARD ORIOLES at Middlebury and Irasburg, and a WESTERN TANAGER at Wallingford all represent rarities previously reported four times or less in Vermont. Though I grouse here and there throughout the following report about insufficient data on some species, the total coverage was much improved. It allowed formulation of the kind of detailed summaries which will eventually help close the many gaps in our knowledge of Vermont birds.

Frank Oatman

LOONS & GREBES - A single Common Loon at Button Bay State Park on April 22 (WS) was the first reported. There were only 7 other records for the season, including a notable high of 14 on April 29 in the Burlington area (BSE, ORE, WE). The rare Red-necked Grebe, reported the past two springs, failed to appear this year. Horned Grebes showed up a bit earlier than usual; 1 was sighted April 3 at Burlington (BSE, ORE, WE), where the same observers reported 2 on April 14 and the season's high of 8 on April 16. Wayne Scott found "isolated pairs or individuals through most of April" along Champlain from Addison to Burlington; and Marion Metcalf located 2 at Plainfield, where they're seldom seen, on April 19. The season's final report, on Lake Champlain, was April 26 (WS). Pied-billed Grebes appeared in small numbers along Lake Champlain, where they breed, and nowhere else. A total of 7 sightings produced 13 birds, including 1 at Burlington on April 5, the season's first (BSE, ORE, WE).

CORMORANT & WADING BIRDS - A Double-crested Cormorant at Wilder on May 10 (GE, WE et al) was a good find. Great Blue Herons were reported in slightly below average numbers, with no more than 3 seen at any one time. The earliest, both on April 2, were: 1 at Highgate Springs, Swanton Township (TCW), and 1 at Sandbar Wildlife Refuge (BSE, ORE, WE). Green Herons were reported May 5 to May 31 in appropriate habitat throughout the state. A trip between Wilder and Dead Creek May 18 netted the high of 8 (GE, WE). Cattle Egret sightings were up again this spring in the Burlington area, not far from the Champlain islands where the species is now known to breed. First seen April 23 at Burlington's Intervale, Cattle Egrets were occasionally present there throughout the season, with a maximum count of 9 on April 22 (BSE, ORE, WE, CP, WS). Sally Laughlin's May 18 report of 5 Snowy Egrets at Woodward Reservoir, Plymouth, is unique for the season, and a surprisingly high count for this rare Vermont visitant. The Black-crowned Night Heron, a regular breeder along Champlain, first appeared April 16--1 at Burlington (BSE, WE). Single birds at West Haven on May 9 (RAB) and at Plainfield May 13 and several days thereafter (MFM) were noteworthy for those areas. American Bitterns were first seen (2) on April 30 at Burlington (WS). They were reported in normally low numbers, principally from along Champlain, after that.

GEESE & DUCKS - The factors which contrived to produce poor concentrations of landbirds seemed not to affect waterfowl. Most species appeared in good numbers, due at least in part to excellent reporting. But the situation of two springs ago is now reversed: we had good coverage of the Champlain valley this spring but need more from other areas of the state, especially from along the Connecticut. A few flocks of Canada Geese were seen in March, the earliest on the 22nd at Dead Creek (LHP). But the season's good concentrations came mostly in April. A flock of 1,200 fed on the Leicester-Salisbury flats April 1-12 (AP). Flocks also lingered along the Lemon Fair River (maximum of 500 on April 22, WS) and at Dead Creek Refuge (high of 600+ on May 4, FO, TCW). Skeins of up to 1,000 were seen overhead elsewhere in April and May, with final migrating flock of 10 at Chester June 6 (WN). There were 2 reports of Brant, unrecorded the past two springs. 1 was seen with Canadas April 2 on the Salisbury flats (BPG, CH, AP, DP), and a well described flock of 54 passed over Weathersfield Center April 23 (Julia Lloyd-Wright). Snow Geese also appeared in remarkably good numbers, with a total of over 2,600 seen between March 22 & April 14, again chiefly near the Champlain valley. The heaviest flight was recorded by William Norse on April 12, when well over 1,000 passed over the Winhall area. Blue morphs of the Snow Goose, rather rare this far east, were seen with whites on April 2 & 9, 1 at Salisbury Flats (BPG, CH, AP et al); on April 5, 1 at Burlington (WE); and on April 6-10, 2 probable blues at Florence (VH). In the same flock at Florence was 1 yellow-dyed Snow. The dearth of Mallard reports (high of 200 on April 14, AP) does not allow one to draw many conclusions. Eleanor Ellis recorded the spring's first Black Duck April 7 on the Black River and observed "wave upon wave heading north" along the Connecticut on April 12, for the season's high of 500 to 1,000. She noted that Blacks had settled down to normal "dozen or so breeders" in that area by April 26. At Burlington Blacks peaked about the same time, with a high of 130 on April 13 (BSE, ORE, WE, CP). The previously scarce Canada was recorded a surprising 7 times, for a total of 30 birds seen on or near Lake Champlain between April 24 & May 31. Seasonal highs were: 10 at Shelburne April 27 (GE, WE) and 10 at Button Bay May 1 (BPG). Pintails were also unrecorded away from the Champlain valley. 20 were seen on March 31 at Burlington for the seasonal first (BSE, ORE, WE); notable high counts of 100 were recorded at Burlington on April 13 (BSE, ORE, WE) and on an Addison to Sudbury trip April 14 (AP); and a Burlington count of 3 on May 1 (BSE, ORE, WE) closed the migration. A single Green-winged Teal at Burlington on March 18 (WE) was the first reported. Though a scattering of early April to early May reports came in from across the state, only Burlington reported substantial numbers--a peak between April 24 & 26, when Walter Ellison found highs of 50. William Norse located an apparent hybrid between the European and American Green-winged races at Winhall's Gale Meadows on April 18--a male with both vertical and horizontal side bars. The Salisbury-Leicester flats had the first Blue-winged Teal on April 8; but only at Burlington was substantial migration reported, peaking on April 26 with 30 (BSE, ORE, WE). At Craftsbury Blue-wings first appeared on April 19, and peaked (6-8) on April 29 (FO). The migration of both teals seemed generally poor. The American Wigeon was first reported on March 23 at White River Junction (GE, WE), one of the earliest dates ever. There were 14 additional reports, with a Burlington peak (maximum of 10) April 23-28, date of the final observation (BSE, ORE, WE). The always scarce Northern Shoveler was reported only 5 times, April 2-17, and only from the Burlington and Cornwall Swamp areas--a seasonal total of 10 seen (BSE, ORE, WE, AP). A pair of Wood Ducks first appeared at North Hero on April 2 (TCW). High counts were: 20 on April 11 at Little Otter Creek (TCW); 30+ on April 20 at Weathersfield (EE); and 20 on April 28 at Sandbar Reserve (WS). The Redhead, unreported the past 2 springs, was seen 4 times: 3 at Sandbar Refuge, April 1; 1 male at South Hero, April 2; and 1 at Sandbar Refuge April 26 & 27 (BSE, ORE, WE, WS, TCW). With 1 exception, Ring-necked Ducks were reported only from Lake Champlain, where they appeared in fair numbers between April 2 & May 4. Highs were: 50 on April 20; 60 on April 27; and 50 on April 28--all at Sandbar Reserve (BSE, ORE, WE, WS). A pair was seen at Newport April 15 (FO, JW). Canvasbacks put in an especially good showing, reported 9 times between April 2 & May 8 for a grand total of about 250. Wayne Scott had the notable high of 100-125 at the mouth of the Winooski April 9. A pair at Horse Pond, Orleans County on May 8 represented the last report for the season and the only one away from Champlain (FO). The 3 Burlington reports of Greater Scaup by Walter Ellison and the Eastmans on April 3, 5 and May 2 (for a total of 300), were the only ones submitted. The Lesser Scaup put in a very poor showing, with 4 reports (April 3 to May 4) yielding a mere 43 birds all from the Champlain except for one Newport pair on April 15 (FO, JW). Walter Ellison noted that Common Goldeneyes appeared in average numbers near Burlington. A high of 200 was reported from Kellogg's Bay and Broad Lake on April 6 (BPG). Buffleheads occurred "in small numbers along Lake Champlain throughout April" (WS), with a high of 15 on April 2 near Vergennes (BSE, ORE, WE). They were recorded sporadically elsewhere in the state, with a final record of 7 at Button Bay on May 4 (FO, TCW). Highly unusual were 2 male Ruddy Ducks reported by Mr. and Mrs.

Herman Redden from the Connecticut River near Norwich on April 25. A Hooded Merganser appeared March 1 at Hartland (GE, WE), after which the migration was about average as small flocks moved to breeding areas in Vermont and farther north. Common Mergansers were seen throughout the season, with no large concentrations reported--high of 30 at Chimney Point April 18 (BSE, ORE, WE). Red-breasted Mergansers were in fairly good numbers on Lake Champlain: 11 reports between April 16 & May 6 totaled 53 birds, with a high of 9 on April 18 at Burlington (BSE, WE).

VULTURES THROUGH HAWKS - A Turkey Vulture reappeared in the state on April 9 near Ferrisburg (AP), after which the species was reported in good numbers where expected. One at North Montpelier April 25 (CW) was rare so far north. Bad luck in the weather and in general timing of the spring Vermont Hawk Watch, April 19 + 20 may largely account for the rather poor showing; and hawks simply may not move in such clearly defined waves in the spring as they do in the fall. Six hawk-watching sites recorded 88 raptors, as follows: 6 Goshawks; 4 Sharp-shinned; 6 unidentified accipiters; 13 Red-tailed; 4 Red-shouldered; 9 Broad-winged; 1 Rough-legged; 31 unidentified buteos; 1 Marsh Hawk; 1 Osprey; 1 Merlin; 8 American Kestrels; and 3 unidentified falcons (fide TCW). (All following records exclude these Hawk Watch figures.) Accipiters remained depressingly scarce through the season. Of 7 additional Goshawk reports 2 involved nests; 1 found at Lake Dunmore by Alan Pistorius was abandoned in April, but another at Jericho apparently brought off young (fide FO). A pitiful 10 Sharp-shinned Hawks were reported, the earliest on April 5 at Brattleboro (WN). And only 3 Cooper's Hawks were listed--1 April 5 at Colchester (BSE, ORE, WE); and single adults April 8 and May 8 at Sudbury (AP). Red-tailed Hawks, which overwintered, were first reported for the spring on March 22 at Addison (LHP). Single Red-tails had reached Barre by April 13 (MFM) and Craftsbury by April 17 (JW). One nest was reported near Ferrisburg (CH). A possible Harran's race of the Red-tailed was seen April 4 at Colchester (BSE, WE). Red-shouldered Hawks made a fair showing, with 21 reports, the first on March 17 at Clarendon (LHP). Young were off a nest in Winhall by May 29 (WJN). Oatman found Broad-winged Hawks definitely scarcer in northeastern Vermont, and two other observers commented on an apparent decline in both migrating and resident birds. Only 11 reports were submitted, including early first on March 3 at Tinmouth (LHP). Observers are asked to be more conscientious in reporting or at least summarizing all hawk sightings. 44 Rough-legged Hawks were seen, a very good number, with a high count of 17 at Vergennes on April 9 (BSE, ORE, WE, CP, WS). Three Bald Eagles were reported: 1 adult at Big Otter Creek April 6 (BPG, TCG); 1 adult at Weathersfield April 11 (EE); and 1 sighted several times during a 2 week period in late April at Lake Bosseon (JFr). The Marsh Hawk was sighted first April 2 at both Addison (TCW) and Salisbury (BPG, AP et al). After that date they were reported in average numbers throughout the season. Eleanor Ellis observed the following harrier behavior at Weathersfield on May 9: "For about 15 minutes I observed a pair of birds fairly high over my home, in obvious courting maneuvers. They were silent, but would swoop together and gently touch--or almost touch--feet together, in a sort of aerial dance." The Osprey flight, which began April 17, was excellent again this spring, peaking between April 26 & May 4, when the seasonal high of 4 was recorded at Dead Creek (FO, TCW). A total of 46 Ospreys were reported. The 4 Merlin reports represent a nice progression north: 1 raiding a feeder April 4, Winhall (WJN); 1 on April 16, Burlington (BSE, WE); 1 also April 16 Plainfield (MFM); and 1 female April 24, Craftsbury (FO, JW). American Kestrels appeared in good numbers throughout the season, with a high of 13 on April 18 near Burlington (BSE, ORE, WE, CP). Beatrice Guyette noted "more than we have seen during the last few years" in the Vergennes area.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS - Henry Potter reported a flock of 6 Turkeys in Clarendon March 29 and wrote that "other observers noted many birds during the spring season" in that area. Mrs. W. Herwig heard Turkeys May 31 at Stockbridge (fide EWC). Ruffed Grouse seem to be holding up well.

RAILS & GALLINULES - Virginia Rails were reported in normal numbers from their few regular breeding sites--the first on April 19, 1 at West Rutland Marsh (GE, VINS class). By May 18 the Ellisons found a high of 6 at Dead Creek and Shelburne Pond. The Sora was reported twice: 3 at Burlington April 30 (WS); and 1 at Shelburne Pond May 18 (GE, WE). Common Gallinules were present in very small numbers at their few regular locations--1 at Dead Creek by April 26 (TCW), 2 at West Rutland Marsh by May 3 (GE, VINS class), and 1 at Sandbar Reserve by May 17 (FO). A curiosity was the gallinule which appeared May 3 (last seen May 10) at a Woodstock farm on the Ottaquechee to roost every night under the sugar house with the barnyard ducks (SBL, JDL).

PLOVERS & SANDPIPERS - Semipalmated Plover was reported once, from Cornwall Swamp May 12 (AP). The first Killdeer, February 26 at Tinmouth (GS, fide LHP), was a bit earlier than usual. Single birds had reached Plainfield by April 1 (LNM) and Craftsbury by April 6 (FO). A flock of 22 at Johnson April 16 was the high (FO, JW). American Woodcock (first recorded April 1 at Grafton, DC) and Common Snipe (first May 16, Wallingford, NWW, BCW) appeared in average numbers. Snipe had reached Chimney Point by April 5 (PAN) and Johnson by April 16 (FO, JW). The scarce Upland Sandpiper was found 5 times: single birds April 29, Leicester-Salisbury Flats; May 13, Orwell; May 16, Ferrisburg; and May 31, Sudbury (AP et al). A pair were nesting at Ferrisburg by May 5 (CH et al). Observers are urged to report all Uplands, including those heard going over at night. The Spotted Sandpiper, which first appeared on May 10, was reported in average numbers. The Solitary Sandpiper appeared first at Plainfield, 1 on April 19 (MFM). There were 8 additional reports, including May 22 at Ferrisburg (BPG). Greater Yellowlegs were represented by 5 reports: April 29, 3 at Burlington (BSE, ORE, WE) and at the Leicester (AP); April 30, 1 at Burlington (WS); and May 10, 2 at Brattleboro (TCW) and 2 at Marlboro (WN). Lesser Yellowlegs was reported only on May 11, at the Leicester-Salisbury Flats (AP). Pectoral Sandpipers were reported twice from Burlington's Intervale: 3, April 28; 2, April 30 (WS). The White-rumped Sandpiper, rare in spring, was reported once: 1, May 15 at Ferrisburg (CH et al). Though no Least Sandpipers were reported, I assume this is due to failure of observers to report them. Alan Pistorius discovered a Dunlin, rare in spring, on the Leicester-Salisbury flats May 20. Better spring coverage of good shorebird habitat is needed.

GULLS & TERNS - Great Black-backed Gulls were reported 4 times: April 1, 1 imm. at Basin Harbor (TCW); April 15, 2 at Burlington (WE); April 19, 1 at South Hero (BSE, ORE, WE); April 21, 1 at Chimney Point (BSE, WE, CP). Though few reports were submitted of Herring Gull and Ring-billed Gull, it would seem that Herring's were a bit scarcer than normal along Lake Champlain. Ring-bills appeared in good numbers there, with a high of 600 at Burlington on April 5 (BSE, ORE, WE). Bonaparte's Gulls were reported 5 times between April 21 and May 6, all from central Lake Champlain, for a total of 20 birds (BSE, ORE, WE, FO, CP, WS). Common Terns uncommon Champlain nesters, had reappeared by May 6 2 at Colchester (BSE, ORE, WE). The Black Terns had returned to their Dead Creek breeding area by May 4, when 5 were seen (FO, TCW) and had increased to about 25 by May 10 (WJN).

DOVES & CUCKOOS - Rock Doves and Mourning Doves appeared in normal numbers. A wintering flock of 17-24 Mourning Doves at Wallingford disappeared by the end of March (BCW); and others commented that birds appeared at feeders after the heavy snowstorm of early April. Black-billed Cuckoo was reported 3 times: May 21, 1 at Hartford (WE); May 26, 1 at Ferrisburg (BPG); and May 28 at Panton (AP).

OWLS - It was a good season for owls, with several unusual sightings. A Screech Owl called up by Frank Oatman and Tom Will at Dead Creek on May 4 was the only record of a species now quite scarce in Vermont. Other than a sighting of 2 still-downy young Great Horned Owls in a nest at Weybridge on May 12 (WS), there were no notable records of this resident species. A bird believed to be a Snowy Owl was seen by B. Keppel on the remarkably late date of May 21 in Brookfield. There were only 4 reports of Barred Owl, 1 from Londonderry late April to early May (TCW) and 2 pair from Clarendon throughout the season (LHP). Alan Pistorius discovered a nest of the secretive Long-eared Owl on May 5 in Sudbury, with 1 adult and 2 advanced young present; both young had fledged 10 days later; and 2 adults were seen close by on May 16. Frank Oatman saw a Long-eared in Craftsbury on May 24, an adult that screamed repeatedly and chased his young dog through the spruces. The normally scarce Short-eared Owl showed up in surprising local concentrations. Birds "present in good numbers all winter" in Ferrisburg remained until April 17 (BGP et al). And at Vergennes, the Eastmans and Walter Ellison reported an amazing concentration of 24 Short-eareds on April 9 at one farm; that number had dwindled to 14 on April 12 and to 1 on April 18. Single Saw-whet Owls were reported 4 times: April 10, Quechee (JDL, SBL); April 16 & 26, Winhall (WJN); and April 30-May 1, Craftsbury (FO, JW).

WHIP-POOR-WILL through KINGFISHER - Whip-poor-will reports this spring seem to explode the theory propounded in an earlier issue that the birds move silently into the state in late May and begin to sing in June. Individuals were calling at least briefly on May 10 at both Sudbury (AP) and Hartford, Randolph and Ferrisburg--for a total of 11 heard (EWC, BPG, WE, AP). The Common Nighthawk was first reported May 16, 5 at White River Junction (WE). Chimney Swifts were very poorly reported, observers sending in only earliest reports. The statewide first was May 3 at Grafton (DC). The same was true of Ruby-throated Hummingbird reports. The earliest was April 10, 1 at Brattleboro (TCW); and a male had reached Irasburg in northern Vermont by May 16 (JW). Belted Kingfishers, which overwinter locally, were moving back in numbers by mid-April.

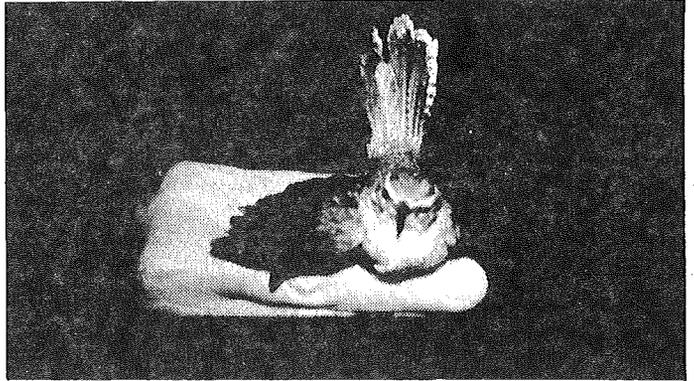
WOODPECKERS - The first Common Flicker appeared April 9 near Ferrisburg (AP); birds had reached Plainfield by April 19 (MFM) and Craftsbury by April 20 (FO). The seasonal high was 10 on May 4 at Dead Creek (FO, TCW). Flickers generally seemed in average numbers, as did Pileated Woodpeckers. There were 3 reports of the rare and local Red-headed Woodpecker, all of single birds: May 4, Dead Creek (FO, TCW); May 24 Winhall, where especially rare (WJN); and May 16 Ferrisburg (CMH). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers appeared first at Winhall April 12 (WJN), after which they were reported in average numbers. Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers were reported common, as usual. Noteworthy was a concentration of 6 Hairys in one small locale at Manchester on April 8--"Definitely a migratory wave" (TCW). We need more such notes on movements of resident birds which are nonetheless migratory. The Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, unrecorded the past 2 springs, was seen twice, perhaps as an aftermath of the three-toed invasion this winter: 1 at Winhall (where they bred in 1968) on May 4 (WJN); and 1 on Spruce Peak, Stowe on May 26 (DMO). Walter Ellison and the Eastmans reported a rare Northern Three-toed Woodpecker, lingering at Burlington until April 7--The first spring report in some time.

FLYCATCHERS - In almost all cases there were not enough reports of flycatchers to establish patterns of migration. Too few reports were submitted of Eastern Kingbird and of Great Crested Flycatcher to allow more than a listing of first arrivals: Kingbird, May 8 at Sudbury (AP); Great Crested, May 1 at Ferrisburg (BPG, TCG). April 11 was the date of the first Eastern Phoebe report. By April 14 they had reached Craftsbury, where 1 was seen (FO), and a pair was building at Springfield by April 15 (MVE). Only 2 Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were reported: 1 rather early on May 6 in Wallingford (BCW); and 1 May 18 at Hartford (GE WE). Alder and Willow Flycatchers were not identifiable in the field until they reached breeding territories and began to sing; we'll never be able to report too much about their actual migration. The Alder was recorded first at Winhall May 29 (WJN), and at Hartford (2) and Shelburne (1) May 31 (GE, WE). The scarce Willow Flycatcher was reported only from Hartford: 3 on May 31 (GE, WE). The Least Flycatcher migration, which began with a report of 1 May 3 at Burlington (WE), peaked between May 10 and May 13. On the 10th, 12+ Least were seen at Brattleboro (TCW); and on the 12th, 10-12 were found in one small locale at Craftsbury (FO). After that date concentrations dwindled and breeding birds were everywhere. The Eastern Wood Pewee was first reported May 21 at Ferrisburg (AP). The Olive-sided Flycatcher, a not uncommon breeder in far northern Vermont, should be recorded more often in migration than this season's 3 reports: 1 May 17, Winhall (WJN); 1 singing May 19, Ripton (LHP); 1 banded May 27, VINS station at South Woodstock.

LARK & SWALLOWS - Horned Larks were little reported this spring. The high count was 100+ seen April 5, during the late snowstorm, near Addison (FO). 2 birds were still there on May 4 (FO, TCW). Tree Swallows as usual, were the first arrivals of their family, with 8 on April 10 at Sudbury (AP). By April 11 Grand Isle had reported 9 (WE, TCW), and by April 15 Albany in the north had recorded 1 (FO, JW). Numbers built rapidly after that, with 75+ at Lake Hardwick on April 19 (FO, JW), 300 at Burlington and Shelburne April 26 (BSE, ORE, WE), and a seasonal high of 600-700 at Dead Creek May 4 (FO, TCW). A first Bank Swallow was seen April 26 at Shelburne (BSE, ORE, WE, CP), and the apparent high count was 6-8 on May 4 at Dead Creek (FO, TCW). A Rough-winged Swallow April 18 at Dead Creek was the first reported; and 12 at Shelburne on April 27 was the seasonal high (BSE, ORE, WE, CP). Colonies of a few pair were nesting by early May at a gravel pit in Timnouth (LHP) and on a wall in downtown Brattleboro (LPM). Sudbury recorded the first Barn Swallow on April 17 (AP); 2 were at Dead Creek by April 18 (BSE, ORE, WE), and 1 at Craftsbury by April 23 (FO, JW). The migration seemed to peak in late April and early May--high count 20-30 at Dead Creek, May 4 (FO, TCW). The Cliff Swallow was first reported April 26, 2 at Burlington (BSE, ORE, WE), after which they appeared in average numbers. Finally, Purple Martin first appeared April 23 at Ferrisburg (BPG, AP).

CROWS through CREEPER - Blue Jays and Common Crows appeared in average numbers throughout the season, while American Ravens showed signs of continued increase in Vermont. Black-capped Chickadees were as abundant as usual (we need information on nesting dates, success, etc.), while Boreal Chickadees were reported only from localized resident areas in northern Vermont--Craftsbury and Wolcott the southernmost locations (FO). The Tufted Titmouse, scarce and local in southern Vermont, was reported 4 times: 2 at Marlboro (feeder) October - April (WN); 2 seen frequently at feeder around mid-April, South Strafford (fide H&ER); and 1 May 10 at Brattleboro (TCW). Both White- and Red-breasted Nuthatches were present in normal numbers, as were Brown Creepers.

WRENS - The earliest House Wren report was May 4, 1 at Westford (BSE, ORE, WE). E.H. Pease reports that a pair which had returned to a bird house at Andover on May 12 and begun nest preparations on May 14, were driven off by Eastern Bluebirds May 15-16. The Bluebirds left after a week, and the wrens then returned and nested. A Winter Wren first appeared April 19 at Huntington (BSE, WE, CP), and by April 21 Craftsbury had recorded 1 (FO, JW). They were reported in normally low numbers thereafter. A well-described Bewick's Wren banded May 27 at the VINS South Woodstock banding station by June Vydra and Julie Cleveland represents a new species for the state and the most exciting find of the season. This was substantiated by photographs as such state firsts should be. The rare Carolina Wren was seen at the Guyette's feeder in Vergennes on April 4 and May 5. Long-billed Marsh Wrens, which first appeared May 3, 3-4 singing at Dead Creek (FO, TCW) and 1 at West Rutland Marsh (GE, VINS class)--had increased in their localized breeding areas to a seasonal high of 60 at Dead Creek by May 18 (GE, WE). The Short-billed Marsh Wren was reported only once--4 at Shelburne Pond May 18 (GE, WE).



The white-fringed tail of the BEWICK'S WREN confirms the identification of the first state record of this species.

MIMICS - The Mockingbird seems to be increasing steadily in Vermont, with 10 reports this spring: a pair, probably nesting, arriving April 12 at Springfield (RHYY); 1 at Mendon May 1 (RAB); 1 at Dead Creek May 4 (FO, TCW); 1 at Putney May 6 (WN); 1 at Burlington throughout spring (WE); 1 at Plainfield May 13 (LB); 1 at Randolph Center May 17 (fide EWC); 1 at Ferrisburg May 17 (BPG, TCG); 1 at Berlin, May 29 (BB); and 1 at Brattleboro May 31 (GE, WE). The earliest report of Gray Catbird was May 9 at Sudbury (AP). On the east side of the state, 2 were reported from Hartford by May 10 (GE, WE), and 1 had reached Craftsbury by May 12 (FO). At the VINS banding station a peak was recorded May 19 & 20 (JMW, SBL). The Brown Thrasher first appeared April 19, 1 at Manchester (TCW). By April 30 1 was seen at Burlington (BSE, WE), but there the useful records end. Again we need detailed counts to establish the pattern of migratory buildup and decline.

THRUSHES - Though a few American Robins overwinter in Vermont, the first returning birds appeared May 12 at Clarendon, and Robins were becoming common there by May 29 (LHP). A vanguard of returning birds had reached Plainfield by April 2 (MFM). A surprising 30 appeared at Ferrisburg on April 6 after the big snow (BPG). Numbers built steadily, with 20-25 in Plainfield on April 13 (MFM), and 16 in Craftsbury April 14 (FO, JW). By April 19 Manchester recorded 150 (TCW) and both Marshfield and Craftsbury reported 50+ (MFM, FO). Thereafter Robins were found everywhere in good but slowly decreasing numbers. A pair was found nesting by April 13 at Springfield (MVB). The Wood Thrush first appeared May 6 at West Rutland (LHP) and at Winhall April (WJN). White River Junction recorded 1 on May 7 (GE, WE), and 1 was seen at Craftsbury by May 12 (FO). No information on migration peaks was submitted, but birds trickled through in lower than usual numbers. 3 Hermit Thrushes at Winhall April 18 (WJN) were the earliest reported. Single birds were reported from Craftsbury by April 21 (FO) and from Burlington by April 25 (WE, CP). Apparently no good migrant pushes developed. The Swainson's Thrush migration was even more inconspicuous, with only 5 reports submitted, the first on May 10 at Sudbury (AP). There were reports from Woodstock and Londonderry by May 15 (TCW), and a pitiful high of 2 at Burlington May 22 (FO). The Gray-cheeked Thrush was reported only once--3 at Willington on May 31 (GE, WE, VINS class). Following the first Veery at Burlington May 4 (WE), the migration was again inconspicuous; the VINS banding station at South Woodstock reported a peak of 7 banded May 20-22. The poor showing of woodland thrushes recounted above does not necessarily indicate an actual decline in thrush populations; more likely, weather patterns never developed which would have caused "backups" or concentrations of landbird migrants, as happened last spring. This should be kept in mind in reading the rest of this report. 2 Eastern Bluebirds at Wallingford April 2 (BCW) were the season's first. An encouraging 38 birds were reported from all over the state, arriving in the usual sporadic fashion. Some pairs were into nesting by April 12, and Craftsbury recorded the season's high of 9 on April 16 (FO, JW), though a pair inspecting a box at South Strafford on April 30 were the latest arrivals there in 8 years (H&ER). Pairs were still trickling in to nesting sites on May 15.

GNATCATCHER through STARLING - Blue-gray Gnatcatcher reports totaled 4, down from last spring's 7 but still encouraging: 1 at Wallingford, May 9 (DHD); 2 at Vernon, May 10 (WN, TCW); 2 at Brattleboro, May 13 (ASW); and 1 at Winhall's Gale Meadows, May 15 (WJN). Golden-crowned Kinglet sightings opened with a migratory wave of 30-60 birds at Manchester April 19 (TCW); no additional notable concentrations were reported. Craftsbury seasonal highs of 6-8 on May 23 & 24 (FO) were not very impressive. The Ruby-crowned Kinglet migration was more satisfying. 2 birds February 25 at Wallingford (BCW) were the first reported. Birds had reached the Manchester area by April 19, 3 seen (TCW), and Sudbury (AP) and Burlington (WE) by April 23. Highs of 30 on April 30 at both Londonderry (TCW) and Burlington (BSE, ORE, WE), and of 36 on May 1 at Burlington (BSE, ORE, WE) mark the periods of peak movement. The last report away from the Ruby-crown's northern breeding area was May 18, 2 at Hancock (GE, WE). The Water Pipit is uncommon, especially in spring. There were 6 reports: 16 on May 2 at Shelburne (BSE, ORE, WE); 25+ on May 4 at Clarendon (NWW, BCW); 45 on May 10 at Marlboro (WN, TCW); maximum of 20, May 11-13 at Hartford (GE, WE); 8-10 on May 17 at Vernon (WN); and 47 on May 15 at Marlboro (WN). The extremely irregular Bohemian Waxwing showed up this spring for the first time in a number of years. The Eastmans, Walter Ellison, Craig Provost and Wayne Scott found them in Burlington April 4-9, with

all over the state through early June - no very high counts. Incredibly only 1 Pine Warbler was reported 1 April 30 at Burlington (BSE, WE). There were 8 reports of the scarce Palm Warbler: 3 at Wallingford May 1 (BCW); singles at Winhall May 1, 3 + 15 (WJN); 3 at Dead Creek May 4 (FO, TCW); 3 at Westford May 4 (BSE, ORE, WE); 2 at Londonderry May 9 (TCW); and 1 at Marlboro May 10 (TCW). The Ovenbird appeared first at Winhall May 6 (WJN), reached Weathersfield in good numbers May 8 (EE), Sudbury May 9 (AP), and Craftsbury (5) May 13 (FO). There seemed less numerous this season to several observers (LPM, FO). There were a scant 5 reports of Northern Waterthrush, a poor showing for a relatively common migrant: Winhall May 1 (WJN); 1 at Manchester May 14 (FO, TCW); 1 at Sandbar Reserve May 17 (FO); 1 at Timmott May 17 (LHP); 1 at Craftsbury May 23 (FO). The much scarcer Louisiana Waterthrush, a breeder in southern Vermont, was also reported 5 times: a singing male at Winhall May 4; 1 at Hartford May 9-12 (GE, WE); 1 at Brattleboro May 10 (TCW); 1 at Middlebury May 13 or 14 (WS); and 1 at Ripton May 18 (WE). Only 3 Mourning Warbler reports were submitted: 1 male at Plainfield May 23 (AJ); 3 at Wellington May 31 (GE, WE, VINS class); and 1 at Marlboro June 2 (WN). The Common Yellowthroat also trickled through in smaller than usual numbers; the first was May 9 at Winhall (WJN). There were 4 at Hartford May 10 (GE, WE), several at Burlington by May 13 (WS), and a seasonal high there of 12-15 on May 21 + 22 (FO). Poor reporting is no doubt partly responsible for the very few records of Wilson's Warbler, but the birds must have been genuinely much scarcer than usual to escape the scrutiny of many active observers. Only Norse at Winhall and banders at South Woodstock established migration parameters of May 21 to 28. The Canada Warbler appeared first May 8 at East Wallingford (WJN) and peaked around the third week of May. Records are very scattered. The first American Redstart was reported May 11 from Lake Dunmore (AP). Singles were seen at Hartford by May 12 (WE), Burlington by May 13 (WS), and Craftsbury by May 21 (FO). Movement seemed to peak May 21-23, but substantiating reports are lacking.

HOUSE SPARROWS & ICTERIDS - House Sparrows were as widespread and plentiful as usual. A male Bobolink was at Clarendon by May 4 (BCW, NWJ), and the species had moved into Manchester, 1 by May 8 (TCW). Bobolinks were in Craftsbury (2 males) by May 12; and a single bird at Sudbury that date had become 50 birds along mile of road on May 13 & 14 (AP). Localized breeding populations seemed in good shape thereafter. Eastern Meadowlark was first noted in the Ferrisburg area - "20--everywhere after the snow of April 4" (BPG). Reports came from Randolph, 1 by April 4 (ECW); Plainfield, 1 by April 6 (MFM); and from Craftsbury not until April 14, 2 seen (FO). No notable concentrations were reported. Red-winged Blackbirds wintered in small numbers, but new arrivals by February 28 at Clarendon, where they became common by March 10 (LHP). Elizabeth and Mary Clapp of Randolph provided the only helpful summary: "An occasional bird was seen until late March when large flocks began coming for grain on the lawn. Flocks of 20-60 were seen. By early May the numbers had decreased. By the end of May only 1 or 2 were seen." Oatman noted large numbers trying to feed along road edges, the only bare ground available, during the heavy snowstorm April 5, Addison to Burlington. The highest count reported was 250+ May 4 at Dead Creek, where a half-completed nest was located that date (FO, TCW). The Orchard Oriole had been previously listed only 4 times in Vermont. Two well-described males were reported this spring. Bruce and Judy Peterson located 1 at Cornwall May 11, and it was seen again on May 12 (BPG, TCG, WS); and Jon Wood observed 1 all day May 14 at a nursery in Irasburg. Neither bird sang. Northern Oriole first appeared May 5 at Clarendon (LHP). The species showed up May 9 at Grafton (DC) and Sudbury (AP). By May 10 2 were at Hartford (GE, WE); and northern Vermont reported its first May 15 at Cambridge (FO). 5-6 at Grafton May 14 was the seasonal high (DC). A Rusty Blackbird that remained at a Grafton feeder all winter was last seen April 2 (DC). After that Rustys were seen irregularly, for a total of 10 reports. Betty Weeks commented on the total lack of Rustys at Wallingford and the Otter Creek Valley there. The high was 9 at Herrick's Cove April 17 (SBL, MFM). The Common Grackle is another case of a species apparently considered too common to merit consistent reporting. The first probable migrant appeared March 17 at Clarendon (LHP). By April 14 300 were reported between Sudbury and Addison (AP). April 13 (1) was the earliest report at Craftsbury (FO); and the only other high count was of 300+ at Dead Creek May 4 (FO, TCW). The Brown-headed Cowbird movement was poorly reported. As usual birds began moving back into the state in numbers (some over-winter) in mid to late March, and they appeared in average numbers thru the April peak.

TANAGERS - There were 2 reports of possible Western Tanagers this spring, a species previously reported only once or twice in Vermont. A report from Manchester (fide TCW) was never substantiated. But the careful description submitted by Doris H. Dolt of a male April 30 at Wallingford is convincing. Though substantiation by a second observer or by photographs is de rigueur for such exceptional finds, Dolt is familiar with the species from Washington state. Scarlet Tanagers slipped by largely unreported this spring, after last year's spectacle. Marlboro had the first on May 10 (TCW); by May 15 single birds had been seen at Hartford (WE) and Plainfield (LNM).

FINCHES - The Cardinal may still be increasing as a resident in Vermont. Pistorius reported a maximum count of 7 (6 males) during a morning drive along Lake Champlain west of Ferrisburg. Hartford had the first Rose-breasted Grosbeak on May 5 (GE). By May 9 one was in Londonderry (TCW), and the species had reached Lake Dunmore by May 10 (AP). The high at the South Woodstock banding station came on May 21, when 3 pair were banded (VINS). The regularly late-arriving Indigo Bunting showed up as follows: May 17 at Clarendon (LHP); 2 May 19 at Hartford (WE); 1 male May 21 at Plainfield (AJ); and 1 male May 22 at Burlington (FO). There were few other reports. Good numbers of wintering Evening Grosbeaks carried over into spring as expected, with highs of c. 50 reported from Ferrisburg April 6 (BPG), Addison to Burlington April 11 (TCW), Woodstock to Brattleboro April 17 (SBL), and Manchester April 20 (TCW). By early May most birds had moved to breeding areas farther north: Craftsbury reported a final observation May 13, while birds lingered at Hancock (6) until May 18 (GE, WE) and at Winhall until May 24 (WJN). Good reports of Purple Finch movements establish a fairly clear pattern. A few birds overwinter, such as the 1 present February 17 until April at a feeder in Randolph (EWC, MCC). A report from Clarendon March 15 may represent such a winter lingerer. But by April 1 good-sized flocks were reappearing at a number of southern sites: 25-30 at Springfield (MVB); 35 at Wallingford (BCW); 50+ between Addison and Middlebury (TCW). At the Clapp's feeder in Randolph - father north, I think, than previously reported in the state. There were only 2 reports of the Pine Grosbeak: 1 on April 4 at Ira (RAB), and several present at Craftsbury until the week of April 11 (FO). Common Redpolls were extremely scarce this winter and spring, with only 2 reports for the spring season: 1 at Colchester April 4 (BSE, WE); and 1 at Burlington April 5 (BSE, ORE, WE). The Pine Siskin was also reported in much lower than normal numbers. In fact, only 5 reports were submitted, with a paltry high of 12 at Wellington on May 31 (GE, WE, VINS class). American Goldfinches appeared in good numbers through the winter and spring, with several reports of obviously hungry flocks appearing at feeders during the snowstorm of

a maximum of 10 counted April 6. Some Cedar Waxwings doubtless over-wintered, but the flock of 50+ at Clarendon on March 28 (LHP) apparently represented returning birds. By April 6 there was a flock of 15 at Vergennes (BPG), and 1 at Burlington by April 7 (WS)--a rather early start. They first appeared in northern Vermont on April 16, 2 at Hyde Park (FO, JW); but there the records end. Walter Ellison and Wayne Scott did comment that Cedar Waxwings were in very good numbers throughout the spring in the Burlington area. There were 2 reports of Northern Shrikes, still present as expected after an invasion of winter: 1 adult in Pomfret April 10 (JDL, SBL), and 1 immature at Greensboro April 12 (FO, JW). The Loggerhead Shrike, long suffering a decline in the East, was reported 3 times: 1 at Montpelier April 19 (FO, JW, VINS class); a pair at Orwell April 19 (AP); and 1 at Ferrisburg May 10 (CH), where they have nested in past years. Starlings were, alas, as common as usual, occurring in large concentrations in the early spring as they moved en masse back into all areas of the state.

VIREOS - A White-eyed Vireo captured at the VINS South Woodstock banding station on May 27 by Julie Cleveland and June Vydra seems to represent the fourth record for the state and the first since 1917. The Yellow-throated Vireo, a scarce bird of southern Vermont, was reported 8 times, first on April 24, 1 at Wallingford. The fluctuation at Wallingford from 2 on May 16, to 3 on May 17, and 1 on May 18 (BCW, NWJ) may represent a small wave of migrants or, more likely, a redistribution of locally breeding birds. There were reports of single birds from Burlington May 13 (WS), Hubbardton May 14 (LHP), and Hartford May 15 + 17 (WE). The Solitary Vireo was poorly reported, observers submitting only first dates. Londonderry reported the first, 2 on the suprisingly late date of May 1 (TCW). Birds were first reported from Barre on May 3 (LNM), and Burlington (3) on May 5 (WE). Was the migration actually this late and sparse? Henry Potter, at Clarendon, considered the Solitary Vireo "not common during migration" at least. Red-eyed Vireo was also poorly reported and unseasonably scarce. Since the earliest records both on May 13, were from Hartford (WE) and Craftsbury (FO) far to the north, I must assume many earlier migrants were missed. Migration seemed to peak between May 21 (when 3 were banded at Woodstock, VINS) and May 24 (when Craftsbury recorded 4-5 in one locale, FO). After a good showing last spring, the rare Philadelphia Vireo was reported only once: 1 at Clarendon May 5 (BCW, NWJ). Warbling Vireos were also inconspicuous; Hartford had the first, 1 on May 9 (WE). 2 were seen in Brattleboro by May 10 (TCW); and by May 13 birds were in Burlington (WS) and Craftsbury (FO).

WARBLERS - Though good pushes of warblers failed to materialize this spring for reasons discussed in the introduction, there were some notable sightings; and observers submitted records sufficient to provide a good record of warbler passage. The first Black-and-white Warbler appeared April 26 at Grafton (DC); 1 was seen at Sudbury by May 3 (AP) and at Burlington by May 5 (BSE, ORE, WE). There was no report at Craftsbury until May 12, 2 seen (FO), and the species was generally scarce. It was an exceptional spring for the rare breeding Golden-winged Warbler and its even rarer hybrid forms. I quote from Alan Pistorius: "I found a singing male Golden-wing in Sudbury on May 12; next day there was a pair, and I have seen and/or heard from 1 to 3 birds at that spot at least every other day since. On May 26 I found 3 singing males, also in Sudbury, about 2 miles distant from the first group; and on June 5 I found a single singing male about 5 miles from them both." A golden-wing was reported from Ripton May 19 (LHP). Pistorius also located two singing Brewster's Warblers, a hybrid form of Golden-wing and Blue-wing. One, present May 15 to June 6 at the first location above, was typical in plumage except the underparts were pure white. The second, found on May 28 on Shelhouse Mt., was in the same plumage "but a strange variable warble intervened between the introductory buzz and the 2 concluding buzzes in the bird's song." The Lawrence's Warbler is the rarer hybrid form of Golden-wing and Blue-wing; and a bird believed to be a Lawrence's--Golden-wing backcross (TCW) was located May 12 at Manchester by Stan Allaben and Angus Black and was seen by others May 13 (RP, TCW). This bird sang a typical Golden-wing song, and had wings like that species, but had yellow facial lines and a yellowish breast fading into pale yellow-green underparts. Brattleboro recorded the first Tennessee Warbler with 1 on May 10 (TCW); they had reached Burlington by May 14 (WS), Hartford (2) by May 18 (GE, WE), and Craftsbury by May 21 (FO). They seemed to peak May 20-22, though the seasonal high was only 5. Winhall recorded its last Tennessee on May 29 (WJN). The first Nashville Warbler was 1 at Hartford May 8 (GE, WE); birds reached Londonderry by May 9, when 6 were seen (TCW), and northern Vermont at Craftsbury and Jay Peak by May 12 (FO, JW). Hartford had the seasonal high of 8 on May 14 (WE). There were only 3 reports, all singles, of the Northern Parula Warbler, surprising since it breeds rather commonly in far northeastern Vermont. The first was May 9 at Hartford (WE), a day earlier than Lake Dunmore's first (AP). The common breeding Yellow Warbler showed up in better numbers after an initial report of 4 at Dead Creek May 4 (FO, TCW). 2 were at Hartford by May 10 (GE, WE), and Brattleboro had the high of 25 that same day (TCW). The Magnolia Warbler made its first appearance May 3 at South Strafford (H+ER), reached Winhall by May 9 (WJN), Woodstock by May 12 (VINS), and Craftsbury by May 13 (FO). Hartford had the high of 8 on May 17 (WE), though others considered the inconspicuous peak to come May 27-29 (VINS). 9 reports of the uncommon Cape May Warbler came in, the earliest on May 12 both from Winhall (WJN) and Cornwall (BPG, JP). They were also seen May 13, 3 at Winooski (CP); the seasonal high of 7 in one woodlot at Craftsbury (FO); May 13 & 14 at Burlington (WS); May 14, 1 at Cornwall (AP); May 16 at Ferrisburg (CMH et al); May 17 1 at Panton (AP); and 2 singing males probably on territory May 17 & 21, Craftsbury (FO). Single Black-throated Blue Warblers appeared May 3 at Wallingford (TCW), reached Hartford by May 10 (GE, WE) and Craftsbury by May 13 (FO). First seen April 25 at Winhall (WJN), single Yellow-rumped Warblers (formerly Myrtle) were at Burlington by April 29 (BSE, ORE, WE), and Craftsbury by May 1 (FO). The unspectacular migration (high of 20) peaked between May 4 and May 17. Sudbury had the first Black-throated Green Warbler on May 4 (AP). They reached most southern and central areas, however, around May 9, and the northern section by May 13, when 3 were seen at Craftsbury (FO). No information is available on peaks of migration. A first Blackburnian Warbler at Burlington May 6 (BSE, ORE, WE) seemed a bit ahead of the first arrivals elsewhere. The poorly documented main movement occurred about May 14 to 24, with a high of 12 at Hartford May 16 (WE). [The Yellow-throated Warbler], officially recorded only twice before in Vermont, was seen on 2 occasions, both involving singing birds: 1 on May 7 near Peacham by Mrs. Charles White and Mildred Farrington; and 1 on May 31 at Taftsville by George and Walter Ellison. Woodstock logged the first Chestnut-sided Warbler May 9, which is perhaps late since the seasonal high was recorded the next day - 15 at Brattleboro (TCW). Or does this common breeder regularly arrive in numbers, as they've appeared on or close to this date the last 2 springs? Bay-breasted Warbler arrived about as expected, first seen May 11 at Winhall (WJN). Birds had reached Hartford (GE, WE) by May 18 and Burlington (3) by May 21 (FO). The poor migration was over by the end of the month. The latest warbler migrant, the Blackpoll Warbler, appeared first May 17, several at Guilford (LPM). After that they appeared in small numbers

The House Finch - (seen Apr. 27 - May 1 at G. Clapp's Fe) (EWC, MCC)

Beard
 early April. There were no reports of Red Crossbill, and only 1 of White-winged Crossbill: a pair May 1 at Randolph (RAB). The first Rufous-sided Towhee appeared April 13, 1 at Florence, at a feeder (VH). Towhees were at Sudbury by April 24 (AP) and at Burlington (1) by April 25, but seemed late everywhere else--first at Springfield May 4 (MVB) and first at Northfield May 9 (FO). The movement seemed light. The earliest reported Savannah Sparrow appeared April 14 at Sudbury (AP). By April 20 there were reports of 1 at Grand Isle (WE) and of 2 at Albany (FO, JW). The record is poor, but it seems the species appeared in lower than usual numbers, with a high of 25 May 4 at Dead Creek (FO, TCW). There was only 1 report of the uncommon Grasshopper Sparrow--a colony of 1-4 birds present and probably breeding at Orwell May 13 to at least June 7 (AP). The early date for Vesper Sparrow was April 7 at Manchester (WJN). By April 18 2 were seen at Vergennes (BSE, ORE, WE), and by April 28 there was 1 at Wallingford (BCW). They appeared sporadically thereafter in very small numbers until mid-May when birds were found only at localized breeding sites. A few Dark-eyed Juncos (formerly Slate-colored Junco) overwintered, especially in the southern part of the state, but returning birds appeared in early April, with flocks showing up at feeders during the snowstorm: Wallingford reported c. 20 April 3 & 4, which curiously enough represents the seasonal high. Most observers considered it a poor Junco migration. Individuals believed to be Oregon Junco forms of the Dark-eyed Junco were reported at Burlington by Walter Ellison on April 18 (WE) and on May 1 (BSE, ORE, WE). Tree Sparrows were common all winter and into early April. By mid-April numbers had declined considerably, with most stations reporting final observations by the end of that month. Winhall had the final report on May 5 (WJN). Clarendon had the earliest report of Chipping Sparrows on April 24 (LHP), while they first appeared at Burlington April 25 (WE, CP) and at Craftsbury May 5 (FO). Numbers seemed about average through the season. Single Field Sparrows appeared at Winhall April 16 (WJN), Craftsbury April 21 (FO) and Burlington April 22 (WE). Reports were few and sporadic through the rest of the season. Though the White-crowned Sparrow first appeared considerably later than usual, with the earliest 1 at Dead Creek May 4 (FO,

TCW), there were reports of good numbers after that. Randolph recorded its first bird May 7 (EWC) while a single bird May 8 at a Wallingford feeder had increased to 7 (the seasonal high) by May 15 (BCW). Winhall and Sudbury reported peak counts around May 10 (WJN, AP). By May 20 most birds passed through, with a final report May 24, 1 at Craftsbury (FO). Data missing for migration buildup of White-throated Sparrow, but seasonal firsts describe a nice progression northward: Winhall April 17 (WJN); Springfield April 18 (MVB); Craftsbury, 1 male April 20 (FO). Sudbury listed peaks on April 24 and again on May 11-13 (AP), while the South Woodstock banding station considered May 9-15 to be its peak (VINS). The Fox Sparrow seemed definitely scarcer this year than last, with a total of only 10 reports representing about 15 birds. The first appeared at Guildford March 22 (LPM), with the next at Plainfield April 3 (LNM). By April 18 single birds had appeared at Wallingford (BCW), Grafton (DC), and Clarendon (LHP). The high was 5 at Burlington April 18 (WE), and the final report, 1 May 4 at Craftsbury (FO, TCW). There were 4 reports this spring of the scarce Lincoln's Sparrow including an apparent first for the state. A male present and singing May 12-28 on Frank Oatman's Craftsbury property was discovered in June to have mated and bred there. This--along with birds found breeding at Island Pond in June by Oatman and Wayne Scott--apparently represents the first definite record of nesting in the state. (Details to be published elsewhere.) Other reports were: 1 May 12 at Winhall (WJN); and records May 9 & 21 at Woodstock (VINS). Swamp Sparrows were seen first April 25 at Winhall (WJN) and April 26 (4) at Burlington (BSE, WE). By late April they were found in all their breeding areas. The Song Sparrow was at Clarendon by March 15 (LHP), at Ira by April 3 (RAB), at Winhall by April 4 (WJN), and at Craftsbury by April 15 (FO). The migration seemed to peak in the center of the state between April 27, (seasonal high of 60, Burlington to Grand Isle, BSE, ORE, WE) and May 4; and birds seemed generally in normal numbers. Wintering Snow Buntings were still present in good numbers when the early April snowstorm made flocks easier to see: on April 5 Dead Creek had 15-20 (FO) and Grand Isle County a total of 54 (BSE, ORE, WE). Six Snow Buntings at Dead Creek on April 11 (TCW) were the last reported.

*Yellow-thr warbler Japsuko WE
 Peacham*

CONTRIBUTORS:

- SDA Stan D. Allaben
- RAB Richard A. Bartlett
- LB Lycy Bateleder
- MVB Mary V. Bellows
- LBI Linda Birkett
- ABl Angus Black
- BB Beatrice Buxton
- EW Elizabeth W. Clapp
- KCC Mary C. Clapp
- DC Don Clark
- JBC Julie Cleveland
- DHD Doris H. Dolt
- BSE Barbara S. Eastman
- ORE Oliver R. Eastman
- MVE M.V. Eastman
- GE George Ellison
- WE Walter Ellison
- EE Eleanor Ellis
- MF Mildred Farrington
- JFr Jeff Freeman
- BPG Beatrice Guyette
- TCG T.C. Guyette
- CMH C.M. Harris
- VH Verna Harvey
- WH Mrs. Wesley Herwig
- CH Cecil Holsington
- AJ Alice Johnson
- BK B. Keppel
- JDL J. David Laughlin
- SBL Sarah B. Laughlin
- LNM Larry N. Metcalf
- MFM Marion F. Metcalf
- DMO David Morse
- LPM Louise P. Mullen
- WN Whit Nichols
- PaN Patricia Noll
- WJN William J. Norse
- FO Frank Oatman
- EHP E.H. Pease
- BBP Bruce B. Peterson
- JP Judith Peterson
- AP Alan Pistorius
- DP D. (Mrs. Alan) Pistorius
- LHP L. Henry Potter
- CP Carol Powell
- CPPr Craig Provost
- RPr Richard Prum
- H+ER Mr. + Mrs. Herman Redden
- WS Wayne Scott
- GS Gale Squires
- JMV June Vydra
- VINS Vermont Institute of Natural Science Banding Research Data
- ASW Albert S. Watson
- BCW Betty Weeks
- NWW N. Wendell Weeks
- CW Thelma White
- TCW Tom C. Will
- TW Jon Wood
- Wo Charles Woodward
- +HY Ruth + Herman Young

A note on reporting procedures: Please submit reports on either the small "Bird Sighting" card or on the larger "Seasonal Species Summary" card. Toss out any older forms. The Seasonal Species Summary card should only be used when you have entries in two or more of its columns. If you don't wish to commit yourself on an earliest or latest record for the season, use the small Bird Sighting card, on which several observations may be listed by giving dates and locations under details section instead of at the top of the cards. But don't confine yourself to submitting cards! We need more comments and summaries of each season by active observers throughout the state. FO

Editorial Advisory Board - RECORDS OF VERMONT BIRDS:

- Don Clark, Grafton, Vermont 05146
- Dr. and Mrs. Oliver Eastman, Oakledge, Burlington, Vermont 05401
- Eleanor Ellis, 26 Main Street, Springfield, 05156 (Weathersfield)
- George Ellison, Box 425, White River Junction, Vermont 05021
- Walter Ellison, UVM, Burlington, Vermont 05401
- Robert Fuller, Wildlife Biology Department, UVM, Burlington, Vermont 05401
- Fran Howe, 143 Spruce Street, Burlington, Vermont 05401
- Sarah B. Laughlin, Director, Vermont Institute of Natural Science Woodstock, Vermont 05091
- Marion Metcalf, Plainfield, Vermont 05667
- Dr. Donald H. Miller, Science Department, Lyndon State College Lyndonville, Vermont 05851
- Louise Mullen, Brattleboro, Vermont 05301
- Frank Oatman, Stone's Throw, East Craftsbury, Vermont 05826
- Bruce and Judy Peterson, Middlebury, Vermont 05753
- L. Henry Potter, West Rutland, Vermont 05777 (North Clarendon)
- Mr. and Mrs. Charles White, Windsong Farm, East Peacham Road, RFD, Barnet, Vermont 05821
- Jim Stewart, Department of Fish and Game, Montpelier, Vermont 05602
- Helen B. Shephard, Castleton, Vermont 05735

Editorial Staff:

- Sarah B. Laughlin, Managing Editor
- Paul Martin Brown, Editorial Assistant (Compositor)

The Vermont Institute of Natural Science gratefully acknowledges the contribution of Spring 1975 bird records from those whose names are not listed above.

The VERMONT INSTITUTE OF NATURAL SCIENCE is a non-profit institution dedicated to environmental research and natural history education for Vermonters of all ages and levels and is supported solely by memberships and contributions: \$8-individual; \$12-family; \$25-support. *Contributions are tax deductible and membership is open to all interested in our purpose.*

RECORDS OF VERMONT BIRDS

Published quarterly by the VINS, Woodstock, Vermont, and sent to all members together with the Newsletter and the annual magazine, Vermont Natural History.

VERMONT BIRD ALERT 802-457-2779
5:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. Monday-Friday
24 hours on Saturday and Sunday
-CALL IN YOUR RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS!

Vermont Institute of Natural Science, Inc.
Woodstock, Vermont 05091

U.S. Postage Paid
Non-Profit Organization
Woodstock, Vermont
Permit No. 4

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED