

Records of Vermont Birds

Fall Migration 1977

1 AUGUST - 30 NOVEMBER WALTER G. ELLISON, SEASONAL EDITOR

This Autumn started with a normal dry August. The low water conditions caused by an equally dry July created the situations necessary for a good shorebird flight. At least 23 (probably 24) species of shorebird were reported including the state's third WILLET and fifth WILSON'S PHALAROPE. Rain descended on Vermont from the northwest in September and lasted for three weeks inundating all shorebird flats. This rain sometimes produced notable migrant "waves" especially in early October. On the debit side most of this season's hawk watch dates were rained out or damaged in some other way by related weather conditions. The rain ended early in October and gave way to a warm and fairly crisp "Indian Summer". November was slightly warmer than is normal but there was little indication of the lingering that occurred so notably in 1975. As an example of this, 13 species of warbler stayed into October this fall by comparison with only 10 last year, but 19 in 1975.

Waves, those eagerly awaited tides of migrants, occurred during at least four periods this Autumn. Two observers noted a good warbler wave on 8/30. On 9/2 and 9/3 a large wave descended on Vermont with at least three reporters giving strong indications of a heavy flight on this occasion. Frank Oatman in particular cited, "The heaviest night landbird movement I ever heard", with ca. 100+ "chips"/minute; as Oatman has experienced heavy flights in Texas this wave was indeed remarkable. Other less impressive movements occurred on 9/15 and 16 and 9/22 and 23. Sparrows occurred in waves along with other small landbirds on 9/16 and 10/1-10/5.

Some species had remarkable falls this year, some of which were reported in poor numbers in previous years. The Double-crested Cormorant was seen on almost every major body of water that got coverage this Autumn and it was often seen in unprecedented numbers. Accompanying this fine flight was Vermont's fourth GREAT CORMORANT and the first from Lake Champlain. Scoters were also well reported although higher than normal numbers were only reported away from Lake Champlain. Does this only reflect an increase in coverage to the other major lakes? After worrying observers greatly for years the Accipiters appear to be rallying. This also appears to be true in the case of the Red-shouldered Hawk. The shorebirds which exhibited higher than normal numbers were the Golden Plover and the Upland Sandpiper. The Golden Plover was definitely in higher numbers, occurring out of range and locally occurring in very high numbers. The Upland Sandpiper probably improved due to increased coverage and Alan Pistorius' discovery of a new technique of locating them. Two passerines improved notably this Autumn. The Bluebird is showing signs of the success of the artificial nest site program in its behalf. The Rose-breasted Grosbeak apparently had unprecedented nesting success with high counts cited from many areas and an individual staying into October.

A handful of species which regularly winter in the United States showed signs of decline. These species included the Kinglets, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, and the Eastern Phoebe. Reasons for these declines appear to relate to the losses incurred by last Winter's weather.

The winter finches, which are in a way a form of "barometer" for future conditions in Winter, were indicative of things to come. The more northerly species showed some indications of an invasion, most notably in the cases of the White-winged Crossbill and the Pine Grosbeak. The Evening Grosbeak was in low numbers by the end of the period after a strong flight in early Autumn. The Purple Finch completely vacated Vermont by the end of October. Both the American

Goldfinch and the Pine Siskin were in unremarkable numbers throughout the fall. Related eruptive species also moved in some numbers. As with the Purple Finch the Red-breasted Nuthatch deserted Vermont and was in low numbers by the end of November. The Boreal Chickadee staged a rather small flight in late October. The data on the Northern Shrike was rather uncertain: 9 were reported versus 3 in 1975 and 10 in 1976. The Snow Bunting was in much higher numbers than in the two previous Autumns with 24 total reports versus 21 reports for the past two falls.

The best species reported, aside from those already mentioned, were: SANDHILL CRANE for the second consecutive fall; 2 unidentified JAEGERs from Lake Champlain both seen from boats; BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE, the fifth pelagic vagrant reported in the past year; the fourth Vermont record of the VARIED THRUSH; two reports of the very rare CERULEAN WARBLER and a single report of the equally rare CONNECTICUT WARBLER. In all 226 species were reported, although probably (counting the probable Long-billed Dowitchers) 227 forms are actually involved. This compares with 229 in 1975 and 212 in 1976. Over the past three Autumns 254 species have been noted nearly 80% of all the species known from the state.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

The Common Loon was well reported this Autumn and may have been in better than normal numbers. Individuals were noted in migration as early as 9/11 when 8 were seen flying over Lake Memphremagog (FO,WGE,CSZ). Reports were received from Lake Champlain, Northeast Kingdom lakes (esp. Memphremagog), and Lakes Morey and Fairlee. Maximum reports were 8 in Burlington on 10/9 (BSE,WGE,ORE), and 28 on Lake Memphremagog (w/2 more on L. Seymour) on 10/16 (FO,CSZ); and 29 on Lake Memphremagog on 10/18 (FO,NBS,CBHa), the last two reports being of unprecedented concentrations (at least within this observer's memory). There was a single report of the Red-throated Loon, a lone bird came over the Winhall Hawk Lookout (hereafter WHL) from the northwest circled and proceeded on to the east on 10/23 (WJN). Only Frank Oatman reports the Red-necked Grebe but his report is sufficient to indicate a remarkable flight, at least in the Northeast Kingdom. First were 2 on 9/30 on Caspian Lake in Greensboro (FO,NBS); on 10/5 1 was noted on Crystal Lake in Barton (FO,CBHa, et al); another was seen on Caspian Lake on 10/10 (FO,NBS,WJ); maximum reports were: 28 on 10/16 on Lake Memphremagog (FO,CSZ); and 15 on Lake Memphremagog on 10/18 (FO,CBHa,NBS), the latter was also the latest report received. Reports of the Horned Grebe were more widespread but the latest numbers were confined to the Northeast Kingdom. Earliest was 1 on 9/30 on Caspian Lake (FO,NBS); by 10/1 6 were at Caspian Lake (FO,RPr,CSZ); on 10/16 52 were seen on Lake Memphremagog (FO,CSZ); this number built to 59 by 10/18 (FO,CBHa,NBS); the first noted from Lake Champlain were 3 on 10/25 at Button Bay State Park (WJN); the maximum from Champlain was a good 26 at Button Bay S.P. (WS). The species lingered into the winter on Lake Champlain. The Pied-billed Grebe was sparsely reported at best. Maxima were 3 on 9/11 on Lake Memphremagog (FO,WGE,CSZ); and 3 on Dewey's Pond in Quechee on 9/24 (WGE, BSE,ORE). The latest report at hand is of 2 on Lake Memphremagog on 10/3 (FO). Other reports were received from Chittenden, Barnard and Pomfret. Remarkable is a rather pale term to use in describing this Fall's Double-crested Cormorant flight; numbers were noted on even small ponds this Autumn. The earliest report was of 1 on Island Pond on 9/10 (FO,WGE,CSZ,CBHa); from 9/25-9/28 11 were seen on Kent Pond in Sherburne (JHO,EO); 5 were seen on Lake Memphremagog on 10/1 (FO,RPr,CSZ); 40+ were noted on Shelburne Bay from 10/1-10/3 (BFA,BSE,ORE,WGE); 9 were seen in various places in the Northeast Kingdom on 10/2 (FO,RPr); 2 were in Burlington on 10/5 (WGE,BSE); and 3 were noted on Lake Memphremagog from 10/18-10/21 (FO,et al). An unexpected dividend of the bonus numbers of the commoner Cormorant species was the appearance of an immature GREAT CORMORANT only the 4th record for the state, the first from Lake Champlain, and the first report in 50 years; accompanying the report is over a page of excellent details. The bird was seen flying over Burlington harbor in good light on the afternoon of 10/12 (FO,CSZ). As usual the Great Blue Heron was the commonest and most widely reported of the herons. They were found "in every likely place" on the Champlain Islands 8/9 and 8/10 (ALG,SBL); and a high of 10 on 8/12 at Addison was also reported (WS). The latest report received was of a bird that lingered into the winter at Addison (12/2), (AP). There were only a handful of reports of the Green Heron, nonetheless the species appears to have been in average numbers during August and September, the latest reported was 1 on 10/4 at So. Londonderry (WJN). There were two reports of the rare and irregular Little Blue Heron possibly involving the same bird. An immature was seen on Lake Champlain in Bridport on 8/12 (WS); eight days later another immature was seen at Blodgett's Beach in Burlington some 35 flight miles to the north (WGE,GFE). There were four reports of the uncommon Cattle Egret, a flock of 25 was noted at Grand Isle on 8/9 (SBL,ALG); an immature was sighted in Addison on 8/13 (WS,AP); 9 were

found at Grand Isle on 9/2 (KCE); but most remarkable was 1 flying over the WHL on 9/10 (WJN). There were two reports of the Snowy Egret, 1 was seen at Blodgett's Beach on 8/17 (ALG); and 2 were noted at Dead Creek WMA on 8/29 (BSE,ORE). Only two observers reported the Black-crowned Night Heron, there were two reports from Dead Creek WMA, 2 on 8/23 and 7 on 9/4 (also the seasonal maximum), (WJN); the latest report was of 3 on 9/12 in Burlington (WGE). Four observers reported the American Bittern; 1 was seen at Lake Abenaki in Thetford on 8/13 (CMHo); apparently a single bird was seen in Marshfield from 9/2-9/19 (MFM); 1 was seen in Colchester from 9/7-9/8 (BSE,CSz,WGE); and 1 was found in Sherburne on 9/9 (JHO;EO).

WATERFOWL

Interesting was the report of a Mute Swan of unknown origin at the Sand Bar WMA on 8/11 (FO,CSP); the bird was noted earlier by others but this is the earliest report at hand. A bird of more certain origin was seen on Lake Morey in Fairlee for the better part of the Fall; this bird had escaped from a farm pond in Lyme, NH. Canada Geese were first noted this season at their breeding areas at Dead Creek, the first migrants of the season were noted on 9/12 at Winhall (WJN); large numbers were noted on Lake Champlain as early as 10/4 when Fish and Game's Fall Aerial Waterfowl Census tallied 2060 (fide TM); the largest portion of the season's flight occurred during the period from the 3rd week of October to the first week of November with a count of 1000+ from Dead Creek WMA on 10/25 (WJN); and reports of 3000 in Addison on 11/7 (AP) and "thousands" from the Springfield area on 11/5 (EE); as late as 11/16, 2000 could be found at Dead Creek with numbers being seen into the winter (WS). The first report of Snow Goose for the Fall marks the beginning of the season's flight, 100 were seen over Winhall on 10/29 (WJN); a large flock was noted over Timmuth the following day (GTL); the maximum flight of the season appears to have occurred on 11/5, with 650 seen over Winhall (WJN); 490 unidentified geese which were suspected of being Snows over Woodstock (SBL); 150+ over Clarendon (LHP); and 450 seen over Brattleboro (WJN); later were 900 seen at Dead Creek on 11/9 (WS); latest were 200 in Addison on 11/17 (AP); and 100+ over Winhall on 11/23 (WJN). Two individuals of the rare but regular "Blue" phase of the Snow Goose were reported as well, an immature on 10/29 at Winhall, and an adult on 11/6 also at Winhall (WJN). The Mallard and Black Duck seem to have reached a balance in their Vermont distributions, the Black is still the commonest duck in eastern Vermont as well as remaining the commonest wintering species of dabbling; on the other hand it has become obvious that the Mallard is far-and-away the commonest duck in western Vermont with the exception of the winter season. The Black Duck slightly outnumbered the Mallard in the results of the Fish and Game Department's October 4th aerial census 2343 to 2227 (fide TM). Both species lingered into winter, especially on Lake Champlain. There was only a single report of Gadwall, a female was seen on Lake Morey in Fairlee on 10/23 (JAM,GFE,WGE). There were six reports of Pintail; 1 was sighted on Lake Hardwick on 8/14 (FO,CSP); 2 were seen in Colchester on 9/15 (CR,BFa,WGE); 43 were seen on the flooded Barton River in Orleans (FO,JW); 106 were counted during the Fish and Game Dept.'s aerial survey on 10/4 (fide TM); 4 were sighted from the WHL on 10/13 (WJN); and 4 were seen at Dead Creek WMA on 10/25 (WJN). The first of a handful of reports of the Green-winged Teal was of 4 at Essex Ctr. on 8/20 (GFE,WGE); 2 were noted at Dead Creek WMA on 8/23 (WJN); the species continued into the season in generally small numbers with observers reporting no more than 5 at a time. The Fish and Game Dept. reported 515 on their aerial survey on 10/4 (fide TM); although it seems obvious that there were later occurrences no later reports were received. The Blue-winged Teal was, as usual, one of the three commonest ducks in the Champlain Valley through the end of September. Reports away from Lake Champlain included: 1 on 8/18 at Gale Meadows in Winhall (WJN); 6 on 8/28 at Weathersfield (EE); 11 on 9/11 at Newport (FO,WGE,CSz); 13 on 9/20 at East Craftsbury (FO,JW); and 20 on 10/3 on the Barton River near Orleans (FO,JW). The October 4th Fish and Game Survey tallied 948 in the Champlain Valley (fide TM); no later reports were received. There are four reports of American Wigeon at hand; 12 were found on Lake Dunmore on 9/24 (WS); 6 were seen on the Barton River near Orleans on 10/3 (FO,JW); Fish and Game reported 85 in the Champlain Valley on 10/4 as a result of their aerial survey (fide TM); and 5 were noted at Dead Creek WMA on 10/25 (WJN). Wood Duck were reported by a handful of observers. The records at hand indicate that the species was in average numbers for the season. Maximum reports were: 20-30 in the Burlington area on 8/11 (FO,CSP); 25 on 8/13 in Addison (AP); and 25 at Dead Creek WMA on 8/23 (WJN). The latest report was of 5 on 10/15 at Grafton (DC). As usual there were very few field reports of the Ring-necked Duck. Two reports indicate that the species is quite common on Lake Champlain in the Autumn, the Fish and Game Dept.'s aerial survey of waterfowl populations on 10/4 recorded a stunning total of 7700 far-and-away the largest number for any species recorded for the census (fide TM); 5 were seen on 10/16 on Lake Memphremagog (FO,CSz); 1 was found on Lake Morey in Fairlee on 10/23 (JAM,GFE,WGE); and 100 were noted at Button Bay SP on 11/9 (WS). There were two reports of Canvasback, a flock of 60+ was noted flying over Lake Champlain in Shelburne on 11/19 (WGE,BSE,ORE); and 2 were seen in Rockingham on 11/27, 1 at Herrick's Cove and 1 at Roundy's Cove (ALG). There were three reports of Scaup (sp.), 35 undifferentiated scaup were recorded on Fish and Game's waterfowl census on 10/4 (fide TM); 1 was noted on 11/19 at Shelburne, and 12 were seen at Button Bay SP on 11/20 (BSE,ORE,WGE). The earliest Greater Scaup were 4 on 10/1 at Lake Memphremagog (FO,RPr,CSz); 5 were scattered around the Northeast Kingdom on 10/3 (FO,JW); 13 were noted on Lake Memphremagog on 10/16 (FO,CSz); and 5 were seen at Button Bay SP on 11/9 (WS). A single Lesser Scaup was seen in Alburg on 8/10, a remarkably early bird or possibly a nester? (SBL,ALG). Other reports were: 30 on 10/16 on Lake Memphremagog (FO,CSz); 25 on Lake Memphremagog on 10/22 (FO,CSz); 3 on Lake Morey on 10/23 (JAM,GFE,WGE); and 5 on 11/10 at Burlington (WGE,BSE,ORE). The first Common Goldeneye reported were seen at Kelly Bay in Alburg where they breed (SBL,ALG); the earliest 'migrants' noted were 4 on Lake Memphremagog where they most probably breed also on 10/1 (FO,RPr,CSz); in general arrival dates elsewhere were in the third week in October, the maximum report for the season was 83 at Burlington on 11/19 (BSE,ORE,WGE); the species continued into the winter. There were only 8 reports of the Bufflehead, the earliest report was of 4 in Glover on 10/15 (FO,CSz,JW); 4 were seen on Lake Memphremagog on 10/18 (FO,CBHa,NBS); 4 were noted on Lake Morey on 10/23 (JAM,GFE,WGE); 2 were seen on Dewey's Pond in Quechee on 11/5 (RMK,LNK); 20 were noted at Button Bay SP on 11/9 (WS); 14 were sighted in Burlington from 11/10-11/20 (WGE,BSE,ORE); and 2 were seen on Lake Morey on 11/26 (GFE,WGE,JAM). There were two reports of Oldsquaw, a female was seen on Lake Memphremagog on 10/18 (FO,CBHa,NBS); and 8 were seen in Fairlee, 5 on Lake Morey and 3 on Lake Fairlee, on 10/23 (JAM,WGE,GFE). There was an excellent migration of all of the Scoter species this Autumn in particular in the Northeast Kingdom. The earliest report of White-winged Scoter was of 3 at Lake Dunmore on 9/24 (WS); next were 7 individuals noted on Lake Memphremagog on 10/1 (FO,CSz,RPr); the next day 38 were seen in various Northeast Kingdom areas (FO,RPr); 2 were in Burlington on 10/5 (WGE,BSE,ORE); 14 were at Wilder from 10/8-10/9 (AL); on

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10/10 11 were seen on Caspian Lake (FO,CSP,NBS); on 10/13 16 were seen in Burlington (BSE,ORE,WGE); there were 10 on Lake Memphremagog on 10/16 (FO,CSz); this number rose to a remarkable 68 on 10/18 (FO,CBHa); 1 was at Wilder on 10/23 (AJR); 3 were in Burlington on 11/5 (BSE,WGE); 2 were at Button Bay SP on 11/9 (WS); and finally a single male was seen in Charlotte on 11/25 (JJA). Surf Scoter was first noted on 9/29 when 14 were seen on Shadow Lake in Glover (FO); 6 were still there on 10/2 (FO,RPr); 3 were in Burlington on 10/5 (WGE,BSE,ORE); 4 were seen on 10/12 (FO,CSz); 1 male was noted on Black Pond in Plymouth on 10/14 (ASP); 28 were seen on Lake Memphremagog on 10/18 (FO,CBHa,NBS); 2 were on Dewey's Pond on 10/23 (SBL); 20 were noted on Lakes Morey and Fairlee on 10/23 (GFE,WGE,JAM); 20 were seen in Charlotte on 10/27 (JJA); and 4 were seen there on 10/30 (JJA); 1 was at Shelburne on 11/6 (BSE,WGE); 1 was at Button Bay SP on 11/9 (WS); and lastly 5 were noted in Burlington on 11/10 (WGE,BSE,ORE). The Black Scoter was the species of Scoter in the best numbers by far this Autumn. The first report was of a remarkable group of 60 on Caspian Lake on 10/1 (FO,CSz,RPr); 1 was seen in Burlington on 10/2 (BSE,ORE,WGE); and a stunning count of 137 was achieved in various areas around the Northeast Kingdom on the same day (FO,RPr); 23 were noted in the Newport area on 10/18 (FO,NBS,CBHa); 44 were seen in Fairlee, 35 on Lake Fairlee and 9 on Lake Morey, on 10/23 (GFE,WGE,JAM); 5 were in Burlington from 10/28-10/29 (WGE,BSE,ORE); a pair was noted in Charlotte on 10/30 (JJA); 4 were seen at Button Bay SP which continued until the Fernsbury Christmas count (WS); 7 were in Burlington on 11/10 (WGE,BSE,ORE); 2 were seen in Charlotte on 11/25 (JJA); 8 were on Lake Morey on 11/26 (GFE,WGE,JAM); and finally 3 were seen in Burlington on 11/30 (BSE,WGE,ORE). Earliest of twelve records of Hooded Merganser was a sighting of 10 at Newport on 9/11 (FO,WGE,CSz); also early were, 5 on 9/25 in Plainfield (MFM); high counts were: 16 on 10/1 on Lake Memphremagog (FO,RPr,CSz); 9 on Lake Morey on 10/23 (JAM,GFE,WGE); and 9 were seen in Orwell on 11/9 (WS). Latest reported were: 4 on Lake Morey on 11/26 (GFE,WGE,JAM); and 4 at Roundy's Cove in Rockingham on 11/27 (ALG). There were only eight reports of the Common Merganser, the earliest of these was a sighting of a flock of 11 in Woodstock on 9/15 (EH); reports continued through the rest of the season with no notable maxima indicated. The Red-breasted Merganser was reported a total of four times, 2 were seen on Lake Willoughby in Westmore on 9/3 (FO,JW); 10 were sighted on Lake Memphremagog on 9/11 (FO,WGE,CSz); 11 were noted at Newport on 10/3 (FO,JW); and a single female was seen on Lake Morey on 11/24 (WGE,GFE).

RAPTORS

Twenty-nine Turkey Vultures were reported on this season's hawk watches with 12 additional reports from field observers. Eighteen of the Vultures seen on hawk watches were noted between 9/12-9/18 indicating the peak of the fall flight this year. Reported maxima were 13 on 8/13 and 10/4 at Addison and Reading respectively (AP,GO). The Reading report also appears to be the latest report at hand. A grand total of 566 accipiters were reported on the season's hawk watches. Thirty-two of those were Goshawks; 13 others were reported in the field bringing the reported total to 46, a good total though interestingly enough slightly less than the total of 49 Cooper's Hawks reported for the Autumn (41 on hawk watches). As usual the Sharp-shinned Hawk was the commonest accipiter by far with 418 reported on hawk watches this season and an additional 58 reported by others in the field. Both the Sharp-shinned and Goshawk seemed to stay in fairly even numbers throughout the migration but the Cooper's showed a definite peak in September with the best period being 9/19-9/25. Two Sharp-shins were caught in banding nets this season 1 in Marshfield on 8/25 got away and another caught on 10/19 in South Woodstock was the second ever banded there. Although the showing by the Cooper's was very encouraging it might be noted that better coverage probably had a great deal to do with this increase. The Red-tailed Hawk was reported in average numbers for the Autumn, 129 were seen on the season's hawk watches with the peak occurring in October. A few individuals as usual lingered into the winter. The Red-shouldered Hawk was reported in good numbers after a series of distressing years, 62 were seen on hawk watches with an additional 6 sighted by field observers. The latest individual reported was 1 on 10/23 at the WHL (WJN). As expected the Broad-winged Hawk was the most abundant hawk on hawk watches this fall with 1500 reported representing 55% of all hawks reported. The best flight period of the season was 8/25-9/11 with a total of 1229 reported during that time. The latest individuals reported were 1 on 10/6 in Clarendon (LHP); and 1 on 10/7 from the WHL (WJN). Only two reports of Rough-legged Hawk were submitted; 3 were seen at Dead Creek WMA on 11/2 (WS) and a single bird was seen 4 miles north of Middlebury on 11/18 (ALG). Unusual individual Buteos included a nearly pure albino Red-tail at the Albany-Lowell town line that had apparently been present for two previous summers as a breeder (D&S fide FO); a rare occurrence of the dark form of the Broad-winged Hawk from Bald Mt. on 9/22 (FO); and a melanistic Red-tail seen from Mt. Hor on 9/3 (FO). Only five Bald Eagles were reported with 3 sighted on hawk watches. A single adult was noted in Barnard on 8/28 (FGB); 1 was seen at the WHL on 9/11 (WJN); and 2 were seen at Grafton on the same date (DC); a bird was reported from along the White River in "late September" (GF); a possible individual of this species was noted on 9/23 near Middlebury (WS). Marsh Hawks were widely reported in the usual low numbers. Twenty-one were reported from Hawk Watches this season with 12 reported from 8/25-9/11, other birds reported included: 2 on 8/23 at Dead Creek WMA (WJN); 3 on 10/2 at Colchester (CSP,WGE,BSE,ORE); 2 on 10/16 at Irasburg (FO,CSz); and 1 on 10/25 at Dead Creek WMA the latest reported this season (WJN). Fifty-nine Osprey were reported on the season's hawk watches a good total especially when the figure is converted to per observer hour figures. As usual this species elicited a good response from non-hawk watchers with 55 additional birds reported for the season the latest being 1 on 10/17 in Sherburne (JHO,EO). There were 3 records of Peregrine Falcon; 1 adult was seen on 8/13 at Dead Creek WMA (WS); 1 was seen from Mt. Hor in Westmore on 9/29 (FO,GD); and another was seen on 10/8 at the WHL (WJN). Twelve Merlin were recorded on hawk watches this Autumn with no definite high point recorded for the season. Other birds not seen on hawk watches were: 1 seen throughout the period in Marshfield starting on 8/25 (MFM); a single female seen in Burlington from 9/14-9/21 (WGE,BSE,ORE); 1 was noted in Norwich on 9/18 (WGE,GFE); an individual was reported from Glover on 10/2 that was receiving harassment from a kestrel (FO,RPr,GD); the latest migrants reported were 1 at the WHL on 10/16 (WJN) and a single bird in Middlebury on 11/18 (WS). The American Kestrel seems to have been in above average numbers for the fall, 171 were seen on hawk watches with a per observer hour average of .31 about double the previous autumn's average the peak week of the migration was 9/26-10/2 with an average of .94 per observer hour. Numbers were excellent in the northeast kingdom with Frank Oatman reporting an average of 6-8/day. A kestrel was banded at South Woodstock on 9/27 the first fall record from the station (JMV,VINS).

TURKEY THROUGH RAILS

There were two reports of Wild Turkey both coming from Rutland County. Birds were seen in Clarendon and Timmough during the season with maxima of 30 occurring often at Clarendon where, as everywhere in Vermont, the species is increasing rapidly (LHP,GTL). Exciting was a report of a pair of Spruce Grouse on top of Bald Mt. on 9/15; this is apparently the first modern record in the state away from the areas to the east of Island Pond (FO). The Ruffed Grouse was reported in above average numbers for the Autumn; all observers except Henry Potter recorded the species regularly in good numbers. In the Northeast Kingdom the numbers were the best since Frank Oatman's arrival there. A Bobwhite, most probably an escapee or local release, was seen in East Craftsbury from 7/30-8/14 (FO,JW). There was a single report of Ring-necked Pheasant, probably an example of a local release, with a pair seen in Charlotte on 11/1 (JJA). For the second consecutive Autumn there was a Sandhill Crane sighted; an immature first heard being seen flying over Church Hill in Woodstock on 9/22 (LNM). The rails were very poorly reported this fall, the Virginia Rail and American Coot both went unreported this year. There were two reports of Sora this season; 1 immature was noted in Addison on 8/13 (AP) and a single individual was seen at Dead Creek WMA on 9/4 (WJN). There were a handful of reports of Common Gallinule as usual, a brood was noted at Dead Creek WMA on 8/23 (WJN); 7 were seen there on 9/4 (WJN); 3 were seen at West Rutland Marsh on 9/5 (LHP); and 1 was seen in Colchester on 9/8 the last report of the season (WGE,CSZ).

SHOREBIRDS

The Semipalmated Plover was reported from 6 localities most of them in the Champlain Valley. Birds were present in Burlington and Colchester through August and most of September with a maximum of 10 on 9/9 (BSE,ORE,WGE); the latest report and the only one away from the Champlain Valley was of a single bird at Crystal Lake in Barton on 10/3 (FO,JW). Killdeer were reported in average numbers with maxima of 50 on 8/4 in Hardwick (MFM); and 75 on 8/13 in Addison (AP). The latest reported was 1 on 10/20 in Burlington (WGE). There was an excellent flight of the Golden Plover, 1 was seen in Essex Ctr. on 8/18 (BSE,ORE,et al); another single was found at Dead Creek WMA on 8/23 (WJN); 1 was found at Colchester on 9/2 (WGE,BSE); 7 were in Ferrisburg on 9/3 (KCE); 2 were in Colchester on 9/7 (WGE,BSE); surprising was 1 in East Craftsbury on 10/2 as the species is very rare in the Northeast Kingdom (FO,RPR,JW); phenomenal was a flock of 95 on 10/13 in Addison. This flock diminished through October until only 11 were left by the 23rd; the field the flock was found in dried up in the last week of October and the plovers were not seen thereafter (AP). The last report was of 12 on 10/24 in Bridport (WBe). There were only 6 reports of the Black-bellied Plover, not surprisingly since this species is a rather late migrant whose numbers were probably held down by the loss of habitat due to heavy rains in late September and early October. Reports were: 4 on 9/8 in Colchester (WGE,BSE,CSZ); 1 in Newport on 9/11 (FO,CSZ,WGE); 1 on 9/21 in Burlington (BSE,ORE,WGE); a single bird seen at Crystal Lake on 10/3 (FO,JW); 1 was seen on 10/18 in Bridport (WS); and 2 were seen in Bridport on 10/24 (WBe). There were two reports of Ruddy Turnstone: 1 was seen in Burlington on 8/17 (ALG) and 2 were found in Colchester on 9/2 (WGE,BSE,ORE). Only four observers sent in reports of American Woodcock but because of the species' retiring habits this might be considered a fairly normal fall migration; the latest report received was of a single at Winhall on 11/5 (WJN). There were seven reports of Common Snipe, a normal fall for this difficult-to-see species; the maximum reports for the season were 11 on 10/10 on the Barton River. This count rose to 19 on 10/22 (FO,CSP,CSZ); this was the last report received although individuals have been known to linger into winter. There was a good flight of the Upland Sandpiper in the southern Lake Champlain Valley. Four were seen in Addison on 8/20 (AP); 32 were found feeding in a cut hayfield in Addison on 8/21 (AP); 5 were seen at Dead Creek WMA on 8/23 (WJN); 33 were counted in several flocks in Addison on 8/28 (AP); 7-8 were seen in the same area on 9/2 & 4 (AP); 4 were noted in Ferrisburg on 9/3 (KCE); the last 2 were seen in Addison on 9/6 (AP). The Addison records were of interest because Alan Pistorius discovered that Uplands, which might normally sit tight for automobile traffic, would flush for a person on foot or, in his case, jogging; the results of his discovery as can be seen were fascinating. The Spotted Sandpiper seems to have been in average numbers, high counts were, 6 on 8/6 at Hardwick (MFM); and a report of an "uncountable" flock in Sherburne on 9/20 (J & EO); latest were 1 on 10/2 at Crystal Lake and 1 on the same date in Burlington (FO,WGE,et al). The Solitary Sandpiper was reported in good to excellent numbers in August with a maximum of 8 on 8/9 at Lake Hardwick (MFM); numbers tapered off until the end of September with a few birds lingering into October the latest being 1 on 10/20 in Winhall an exceptionally late date (WJN). The Greater Yellowlegs was widely reported in rather small numbers. The earliest report was of 3 on 8/8 at Lake Hardwick (JW); birds were subsequently reported from Dead Creek WMA, Winhall, Burlington, Barton, Newport and Essex Ctr. The peak movement appears to have been in early August with nine noted on 8/13 at Addison (AP); the latest report was of a single on 11/5 at Burlington (BSE,ORE,WGE). The Lesser Yellowlegs arrived earlier and in higher numbers. Birds appeared as early as 7/6 when 2 were noted at Dead Creek (WS); birds were reported from a variety of locations during the rest of the migration with a maximum of 24 on 8/20 at St. Albans Bay (WGE,GFE), latest was a single at Woodstock on 10/14 (LNM). The best shorebird of the season was the Willet, seen at Essex Ctr. on 8/17-8/18; this is the first report of this distinctively marked wader in 50 years (BSE,ORE,et al). Less rare but still exciting was a Red Knot sighted in Burlington and Colchester 9/1-9/4, although there are officially less than 10 reports of this species most of these reports have been in the last 5 years indicating that the species occurs with some regularity in Vermont (BSE,ORE,WGE,WJN). The Pectoral Sandpiper was reported on 4 occasions: first were 18 on 8/13 at Addison the seasonal maximum (AP); others reported were all from Burlington, 2 on 9/6 and 7 (WGE,BSE,ORE); and 1 on 9/12 (BSE,ORE,WGE); the last was 1 on 9/18 and 19 (FO,JW). There were two reports of the uncommon and difficult to find Baird's Sandpiper: 2 were seen on 8/11 at Burlington (FO,CSP); and 2 were noted at Dead Creek WMA on 8/23 (WJN). The Least Sandpiper was reported as early as 7/6 at Dead Creek WMA (WS); high counts were 25 on 8/13 in Addison (AP); and 70 on 8/20 at St. Albans Bay (GFE,WGE); the latest bird was seen in Burlington on 9/23 (BSE,WGE). There were four reports of Dunlin for the Autumn; more might have been seen if lake levels had been lower in October. First was 1 on 9/7 & 8 in Burlington (WGE,BSE,ORE); 6 were seen at Lake Memphremagog 10/1 (FO,RPR,CSZ); 1 was seen at Crystal Lake in Barton on 10/21 (FO,WS,AP,RHo); and 1 was seen at Burlington on 10/25 (WJN). There was only a single definite record of the Short-billed Dowitcher, a single individual was seen at St. Albans Bay on 8/20 (WGE,GFE); unidentified Dowitchers which most likely were Short-billed were 4 on 8/13 at Addison (AP). Other unidentified Dowitchers which very possibly were Long-billed, mostly because of their late occurrence, were 1 on 9/23 in Reading (JMy); 1 on 10/16 at Kent Pd. in Sherburne was considered longer billed than birds seen in the

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past at this locality (JHO,EO); and 4 were seen in Woodstock on 11/5, a late date for either species of Dowitcher although there is a December record of Long-billed for the state (RMK). Semipalmated Sandpiper was noted as early as late July; the only report for the season away from Lake Champlain was of 15 on 8/6 at Lake Hardwick (MFM); maximum counts were 50 on 8/20 with 20 at Burlington and 30 at St. Albans Bay (GFE,WGE); and 30+ on 9/8 at Burlington (BSE,WGE); the last definite individual reported was 1 on 9/21 at Burlington (WGE,BSE); the latest probable individual was seen on 9/29 also at Burlington (BSE,WGE). There were 2 reports of the very difficult-to-identify Western Sandpiper, 2 were seen in Colchester on 9/1 (WGE,BSE); and 1 was at Burlington on 9/4 (WJN); all birds were identified by their calls and bill lengths. Almost all reports of the Sanderling were from Burlington this fall. The earliest report was of 2 at Burlington on 8/11 (FO,CSP); maxima ranged from 10-11 on four dates during the season (WGE,GFE,BSE,ORE,FO,JW); there were two reports from the Northeast Kingdom, 6 were seen at Newport on 9/11 (FO,CSZ,WGE); and 2 were seen at Newport on 10/1; also the latest for the season (FO,CSZ,RPR). There was a single report of WILSON'S PHALAROPE, a bird found in the same area as the Willet in Essex Ctr. on 8/18, only the fifth state record (fide BSE). Interesting were two reports of unidentified Jacksnipers on Lake Champlain 9/4 and 9/22. Both were seen from craft at mid-lake (HPAS,CR).

GULLS AND TERNS

There was a single report of Iceland Gull, a first year immature was seen in Burlington from 10/24-10/26 (FO,CSZ, et al). The Great Black-backed Gull was reported only from the Burlington area; the species was noted in small numbers there throughout the season. The Herring Gull was in good to average numbers for the season. They averaged 20-75 in Newport until 10/16 when only 8 could be found (FO); in Burlington they averaged 25-100 per day until an influx brought higher numbers in November with a maximum of 450+ on 11/10 (BSE,WGE); although the species is widespread in Autumn in Vermont only a single report was received from anywhere away from Vermont's larger bodies of water; 3 were seen over the WHL on 10/29 (WJN). As with it's larger counterpart the Ring-billed Gull was in good numbers for the Autumn; birds were reported principally from Lakes Memphremagog and Champlain and their drainage areas. Large numbers summered on Lake Dunmore with a count of 300+ on 9/24 being the maximum report from there this season (WS); on Lake Memphremagog birds tailed off from an early high of 150+ to a low of 10 on 10/16 (FO); in Burlington the species averaged 100-250 per day throughout the season (M,Ob.); as many as 200 were noted well up the Winooski River at East Montpelier in late October (MFM); for the second straight year migrants were noted over the WHL with a maximum of 27 on 9/21 (WJN). For the third consecutive year there were excellent numbers of the Bonaparte's Gull reported from Lake Champlain indicating that the species is probably very regular in such numbers on Champlain. On 9/29 seventy-seven were seen in Burlington (WGE,BSE,ORE); by 10/4 160+ were present in Burlington (WGE,BSE,ORE); on 11/10 80+ were seen; also in Burlington (BSE,WGE); the latest reports of the species were of 8-10 seen on 11/26 & 27 in Charlotte; this number had dwindled to one by 11/28 the last date (JJA). Outstanding was the fourth Vermont BLACK-LEGGED KITTI-WAKE; an immature sighted over Lake Memphremagog in Newport on 10/1. The bird was well-described in over a page of convincing details; two of the observers also had had previous experience with the species off the coast (EHO,FO,RPR,CSZ). This is the first report in 70 years. There were a handful of reports of the Common Tern all from Lake Champlain. The seasonal maximum was 70+ seen on the Isle La Motte bridge in Alburg on 8/10 (ALG,SBL); 18 were seen in Colchester on 9/2 (BSE,WGE,ORE); and 10 on 9/8 in Burlington (WGE,CSZ,BSE); an unidentified Tern was seen in Burlington on 10/5 (WGE,BSE). There was a single report of the very early-departing Black Tern - a single bird at Dead Creek WMA 8/23 (WJN).

PIGEONS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

As usual the Rock Dove was noted in large numbers in populated areas about the state. Observers felt that the Mourning Dove after a number of years of steady increase has reached a stable population; maximum reports were generally around 30. There were three reports of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo - 2 were found in Bennington on 8/2 (DJ), and 1 was found in Hartland from 8/1-8/6 (WGE). Remarkable was 1 on 11/7 in Fairlee (SBL). There were 10 reports of the Black-billed Cuckoo involving a large number of individuals; the species lived up to it's reputation as a late breeder with two confirmations during August, the first was a well-documented nesting from Wallingford with the first indication of nesting coming on 8/4 with the adults carrying food to the young (NW,BCH); another adult was noted with "mouthfuls of caterpillars" on 8/11 in Hartland (GAR); latest reports were: 1 in Winhall on 9/22 (WJN); and 1 on 9/28 in Wallingford (BCW). There were four reports of the Screech Owl: 1 was heard in No. Ferrisburg from 8/1-8/11 but an attempt to see the bird with the help of a tape recorder drove the bird away (JID,MCD); 1 was heard in Addison on 8/6 (AP); 2 were heard in Middlebury on 11/9 (WS); and 3, apparently a family group, were seen at the Sand Bar WMA in Milton on 11/29 (NK). This fall there were 6 reports of Great Horned Owl involving 11 individuals, the best number reported as yet to the fall records; thus it is surprising to note the species' absence at Winhall - what has happened there? There was a single report of Snowy Owl, 1 seen on 10/31 in Berlin (VN fide MFM). The Barred Owl was reported from 8 localities and in general seems to be faring well; they were considered "common" in Clarendon during the season (LHP); and 3-4 were noted in Cornwall on 11/9 (WS). Good for the Northeast Kingdom was a single Short-eared Owl seen on 10/1 at Newport (CSP). The only Saw-whet Owl of the Autumn was 1 banded at Marshfield on 8/4 (MFM). Although it is a fairly common bird, the Whip-poor-will seldom is heard after mid-July so two records this season are welcome, 1 was heard in Barnard on 8/15 (FW); and another was heard in Woodstock on 9/2, one of the later occurrences of this species the editor is aware of (JMN). The Common Nighthawk migration this fall was less spectacular than the previous Autumn's but the information received was interesting nonetheless. The earliest migrants seen were 2 on 8/10 in Addison (AP); the peak dates of the flight were 8/28-8/31, ca. 230 were reported during this period including the high count of 150+ from Grafton (DC); the latest seen was 1 on 9/26 in Brattleboro (WJN). The Chimney Swift is uncommon after July, a fact borne out by this Autumn's reports. Maximum reports were: 25 on 8/2 at Winhall (WJN); and 25 on 8/12 at Hartford (WGE); late birds were: 3 on 9/10 from the WHL (WJN); 2 on 9/10 at Weathersfield (EE); and 1 on 9/11 at Newport (FO, JW,WGE,CSZ). The Ruby-throated Hummingbird was widely reported in small numbers with the latest being 1 on 9/27 at Winhall (WJN). The Belted Kingfisher was seen in normal numbers for the season with a few individuals found into the Winter. There was a good flight of the Common Flicker in mid to late September; maximum reports were: 8 on 9/17 in Weathersfield (EE); 50 on 9/18 in Winhall (WJN); and 9-10 on 9/22 Craftsbury to Lake Willoughby (FO). The latest report received was of 1 on 11/20 in Burlington (WGE,BSE). The Pileated Woodpecker was widely reported in it's normal low numbers. There

were two reports of Red-headed Woodpecker this season both of immatures; 1 seen flying over the WHL on 9/25 (WJN) and another single bird was found in Putney on 10/5 (WJN). There was an average flight of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, mostly occurring in late September. Individuals lingered late with 1 at Winhall on 10/13 and 1 on 10/16 in Irasburg (FO,CSZ). Both the Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers were reported in average numbers for the Fall.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

The Eastern Kingbird was reported in good to excellent numbers in August with highs of 30 on 8/11 in Burlington (FO,CSP); and 200 on 8/23 at Dead Creek WMA (WJN); the latest reported was 1 on 9/25 at Grafton (SB fide DC). There were only three reports of Great Crested Flycatcher; 1 banded at So. Woodstock on 8/23 (VINS, JMV); 1 seen in Winhall on 8/25 (WJN); and 1 noted in Weathersfield on 8/28 (EE). Apparently the Eastern Phoebe didn't fully recover from the previous Winter's decimation as all observers noted them in low numbers. Twelve were banded in Marshfield and So. Woodstock this year, a lower than average number (MFM,VINS,JMV); the latest individual was seen in Clarendon on 10/13 (LHP). There were few reports of the quiet and inconspicuous Yellow-bellied Flycatcher; most instructive were the banding reports received - 6 were banded at So. Woodstock, 5 of them on 9/2 (VINS,JMV); 20 were banded at Marshfield commencing on 8/7 (MFM); most field reports were bunched in the first week of September; latest reports were 1 in Marlboro on 9/16 (WJN) and 1 banded on 9/22 at Marshfield (MFM). Four birds seen in Marlboro on 9/2 were identified as Alder Flycatchers (WJN). Five undifferentiated "Trail's" Flycatchers were banded at So. Woodstock the last on 9/12 (VINS,JMV). There was an average to somewhat below average flight of the Least Flycatcher; 42 total were banded, 21 apiece at Marshfield and So. Woodstock (MFM,VINS,JMV); the last reported was 1 on 9/29 at Burlington (WGE). The Eastern Wood Pewee was reported in small numbers into September; 3 were banded at So. Woodstock which was considered a normal total (VINS, JMV); 6 were in Burlington on 9/5 for the seasonal maximum (WGE,BSE); latest reports were: 1 on 9/18 at E. Craftsbury (FO); 1 on 9/20 in Woodstock (FKT); and 2 at Burlington on 9/22 (WGE). There were seven sightings of the Olive-sided Flycatcher; 1 at Albany on 8/12 (FO); 1 noted at Winhall on 8/13 (WJN); 1 at Burlington, where they are rare, on 9/3 (WGE,BSE); 1 there on 9/5 also (WGE); very late was 1 at Woodstock on 9/15 (JMN); more surprising though was one at Winhall on 9/28 (WJN). The Horned Lark was widely reported in small flocks of 9-15 birds during October; the maximum report for the season was 30 on 10/16 at Derby Line (FO,JW). All of the Swallows were reported in about average numbers with small exception. The majority of the Tree Swallow migration occurred in August with a maximum of 1500+ on 8/23 at Dead Creek WMA (WJN); most had left by mid-September but 100 were found at Dead Creek WMA on 9/22, the last report received (AP). The maximum count of the Bank Swallow was 50+ on 8/23 at Dead Creek WMA (WJN); the species lingered until 9/11 when 1 was seen in Newport (FO,WGE,CSZ). As with the previous two species the greater part of the migration of the Barn Swallow was in August with maximum counts of 50-60 on 8/11 at Burlington (FO,CSP); and 200 on 8/23 at Dead Creek WMA (WJN); last were 5 at Newport and 5 from the WHL on 9/11 (FO,WGE,CSZ,WJN). The maximum count of Cliff Swallow was 40 on 9/18 from Snake Mt. in Addison (AP); last were a few at Dead Creek WMA on 9/22 (AP). The Purple Martin was reported on 3 dates with 4-5 reported from Burlington on 8/11 (FO,CSP); 4 seen in Burlington on 9/1 (BSE,WGE); last was 1 on 9/6 at Burlington (WGE).

JAYS THROUGH WRENS

The only Gray Jays reported were three banded on an unspecified date or dates in Ferdinand (MFM). For most of the Fall the Blue Jay was in average numbers but during September there was a large migration involving a great number of birds. Maxima during this period were: 60-70 on 9/10 in Weathersfield (EE); 2000 noted between 9:00 and 10:30 AM at a Bennington lookout on 9/12 (HT); and 60 were seen from Mt. Pisgah on 9/15 this being a single flock (FO). The Common Raven was reported from Barnard (3); Woodstock; Pomfret; Marlboro (2); Clarendon; Winhall (5-6); Plainfield; Weathersfield (2); Norwich; Fairlee; Thetford; Randolph; Middlesex and from most of the Northeast Kingdom. Maximum was a count of 21-23 on 9/11 in the Northeast Kingdom with 13 in one flock at Newport (FO, et al). The Common Crow was in average numbers for the Autumn with most of their migration occurring in mid to late October with high counts being: 400 on 10/10 in Orleans (FO,JW) and ca. 1200 on 10/13 and 14 in Ferrisburg (JID,MCD). The Black-capped Chickadee seems to have been in average numbers this Autumn. With the exception of 151 banded at So. Woodstock (45 retrap) birds were reported in unexceptional numbers. The Boreal Chickadee staged a widespread movement south from the Boreal forest. First were 1-2 seen in Lewis on 9/10 (FO,CBHA,CSZ,WGE); 1 was encountered on Bald Mt. on 10/5 (FO,CBHA, et al); 3-4 were seen at E. Craftsbury on 10/11 (FO,CSZ); another was seen there on 10/13 (FO,CSZ); 7 were noted on the east shore of Lake Memphremagog on 10/16 moving south (FO,CSZ); 1 was seen in Winhall from 10/18-10/30 (WJN); 2 were noted in Burlington on 10/27 (BSE,WGE); and 1 was found in Burlington on 11/1 (WGE). There were 3 reports of Tufted Titmouse; a pair was noted all summer and into the fall at Arlington. Another pair was noted in Arlington on 11/1 (fide NS); and 2 were found in Brattleboro on 11/2 (WJN). The White-breasted Nuthatch was reported in average numbers. Although most observers felt that the Red-breasted Nuthatch was in normal numbers, two (F.Oatman and W.Ellison) felt it was in much lower than normal numbers. The Brown Creeper was reported in average numbers. There were few reports of the House Wren, but they seemed to be in normal numbers; late birds were: 1 on 10/4 in Andover (EHP); and 1 in Marlboro on 10/5 (WJN). The Winter Wren showed little sign of recovery from population reductions that occurred in the previous winter, high counts were 5 on 9/19 at Winhall (WJN); and 6+ on 10/15 at Clarendon (LHP); latest were 2 on 10/28 at Marlboro (WJN). There was a single series of records of the Carolina Wren - a single male was seen in Burlington on 9/13; this individual continued into November when it was joined by a female on 11/9; these birds were last seen on 11/11 (WGE,CSZ). Only two observers reported the Long-billed Marsh Wren; the highest count was 10 on 8/23 at Dead Creek WMA (WJN); latest reported were 1-2 on 9/8 in Colchester (WGE,CSZ).

MIMITCS THROUGH THRUSHES

Mockingbirds continue to be reported in small numbers from widely diverse areas of the state; at least 5 were seen all Autumn in Burlington, with most seen near UVM (WGE,FO,et al); 2 were seen in Brattleboro on 10/5 (WJN); 1 was noted in No. Hartland from 10/31-11/5 (SEB); and 1 was seen in Windsor on 11/23 (BMH). The Gray Catbird was well reported in about average numbers, the peak period of this Autumn's flight was the first week of September with high counts of 12 on 9/6 at Burlington (WGE); and 6 at So. Woodstock on 9/8 (JMV,VINS). Later reports were: 1 on 10/7 at Timmough (GTL); and 1 at Burlington on 10/12 (WGE). Finally a bird, eating sumac, was observed by Louise Putnam on the exceptionally late date of 11/16 in Bethel. There were average numbers of the Brown Thrasher reported this fall, as usual some of these sur-

prisingly hardy (foolhardy?) birds lingered late; latest noted this fall was 1 at Woodstock on 11/3 (JMV). The peak of the migration of the American Robin extended from the third week of September to mid-October with highs of 175 on 9/29 in Barton (FO); 350 on 10/3 in various Northeast Kingdom localities (FO); and 200 on 10/23 at Winhall (WJN), the species lingered into the winter. Very rare for Vermont was a VARIED THRUSH in Northfield on November 27th; the bird was seen 27 November through 1 December at Mrs. Florence Willey's feeding station in Northfield, where it fed on suet pudding (fide FCH). The Wood Thrush was in slightly below average numbers this Autumn according to banding results from So. Woodstock (45 new 9 retrap) (JMV,VINS); peak dates appeared to be in the second week of September, latest was 1 on 10/5 at Winhall (WJN). As with the Winter Wren and Phoebe the Hermit Thrush appears to have suffered population reductions due to the harshness of the previous winter, only 8 (2 retrap) were banded at So. Woodstock this fall a "significantly" lower number than in past years (JMV,VINS), latest reported was 1 on 11/16 at Winhall (WJN). Continuing the trend of the past two years the Swainson's Thrush was in large numbers from mid to late September with 142 banded (22 retrap) at So. Woodstock, the maximum date being 9/9 with 18 banded (JMV,VINS); other high counts were: 12-15 on 9/11 at Island Pk. (FO,et al); 17 on 9/16 at Marlboro (WJN); and 18-20 on 9/22 at Burlington (WGE), latest was 1 on 10/12 at Burlington (WGE). The Gray-cheeked Thrush was reported in very small numbers as expected with a total of 8 reported; 5 were seen in Winhall for the season, the last on 9/22 (WJN), and 3 were banded at So. Woodstock all on 9/27 and 9/28 (JMV,VINS). The Veery was recorded in about average numbers with 35 banded at So. Woodstock and Marshfield (JMV,VINS,MFM); most of the migration was in early August with most having departed by mid-September, a bird seen in Grafton on 10/13 was very late (SB fide DC). The Eastern Bluebird gave continuing signs of a successful recovery from drastic mid-century declines in the northeast with most of the success probably attributable to nestbox programs. A late nesting pair fledged young in Strafford on 8/23 (HR); during migration many medium to large flocks were reported by observers the largest of these being 25 on 10/7 in Reading (Jo); 20+ in Sherburne on 10/17-10/18 (JHO); and 100+ in Springfield on 10/29 (fide EE), (also the latest report). It cannot be overemphasized that for continued success the species must have suitable nest sites artificial or natural.

KINGLETS THROUGH VIREOS

There were two reports of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; 1 was seen at the Sand Bar WMA in Milton on 8/11 (FO,CSP); and 1-2 were seen in Addison on 8/24 (AP). The Golden-crowned Kinglet as with other species seems to have suffered a decline incurred by the previous winter; numbers were low with only 5 banded; maximum counts were - 10-12 on 9/4 in Barnard (MLW); 12-15 in Lewis on 9/11 (FO, et al); and up to 20 were seen on some days this fall in Winhall (WJN). The Ruby-crowned Kinglet seems to have done somewhat better than the Golden-crowned - 48 were banded at So. Woodstock and Marshfield this fall (as compared to 49 last year, 1976), (JMV,VINS,MFM); the maximum count was 65 on 10/5 at Marlboro (WJN); latest were 3 on 10/28 in Marlboro (WJN); and 1 at Grafton on 10/29 (SB). The Water Pipit was widely reported in average numbers: first seen were 5 on 9/16 at Woodstock (EH); 45 were noted in Addison on 9/24 (AP); 30 were seen in No. Pomfret on 9/26 (RHA); 75 were seen in Craftsbury on 10/2 (FO,RP); 50 were found at Dead Creek WMA on 10/25 (WJN); latest was 1 at Herrick's Cove on 11/20 (WJN). Because cornfields went uncult this Autumn this species had less habitat to utilize as feeding and staging areas, causing them to concentrate in large numbers in the few areas of suitable habitat. The Cedar Waxwing's distribution and status was erratic and spotty as might be expected; William Norse noted a good sustained flight at Winhall in August recording 50-75/day, 30-40 at Lake Willoughby on 9/4 was likely part of this same movement (FO,JW); in Clarendon large numbers continued until 10/23 when 100+ were seen (LHP); a few birds lingered into the winter in scattered areas in western Vermont. Nine Northern Shrikes were reported beginning on 10/22 when 2 were seen in Newport and 1 found in Craftsbury (FO,CSZ); others seen were: 1 seen in No. Pomfret 11/10-11/11 (RHA); 1 found on Spruce Pk. in Stowe on 11/12 (WGE); 1 noted in Timmough 11/14-11/16 (GTL); 1 seen on 11/16 in Panton (WS); 1 reported from Pawlet on 11/18 (SAS); and 1 visiting a feeder in Wallingford on 11/21 (DHD). The Starling was its usual omnipresent self. The status of the Yellow-throated Vireo remains unclear; a bird was noted singing in Hartford on 8/22 (WGE), and there were three reports from Barnard, the last on 9/15 (MLW). There was a slightly lower than normal flight of the Solitary Vireo, with 18 total banded, 13 at Marshfield (JMV,VINS,MFM); the latest reported was 1 on 10/28 at Marlboro (WJN). The Red-eyed Vireo was in about normal numbers this Autumn, 37 total were banded with most banded at Marshfield (28), (JMV,VINS,MFM); the peak of the migration occurred during the first week of September with the maximum of 24+ noted on 9/6 at Burlington (WGE); latest was 1 on 10/5 at Marlboro (WJN). At least 13 Philadelphia Vireos were reported with 5 banded at Marshfield, the first on 8/7 (MFM); 1 was in Lincoln on 8/30 (AP); 1 was at Marlboro on 9/2 (WJN); 1 was noted in Colchester on 9/2 (BSE,WGE); 1 was seen in Winhall on 9/4 (WJN); 1 was in Burlington on 9/4 (WGE); 1 was found on Bald Mt. in Westmore on 9/4 (FO); another was seen there on 9/15 (FO); the last banded at Marshfield was on 9/21 (MFM); the latest reported was 1 banded at So. Woodstock on 9/23 (JMV,VINS). There were a handful of late reports of the Warbling Vireo with no indications of a migration, latest among the reports at hand are: 1 seen in E. Wallingford on 9/6 (WJN); and 1 noted in Clarendon on 9/9 (LHP).

WOOD WARBLERS

There was an average flight of the Black-and-white Warbler, 31 were banded at So. Woodstock and Marshfield (JMV,VINS,MFM); maximum counts were, 6 on 8/30 at Marlboro (WJN), 3-4 on 9/3 at Winhall (WJN), and 5 banded at So. Woodstock on 9/6 (JMV,VINS); latest were, 1 banded at So. Woodstock on 9/28 (JMV,VINS), and 1 banded at Marshfield on 9/28 (MFM). There was an average flight of the Tennessee Warbler, with 138 total banded, 93 at Marshfield (JMV,VINS,MFM); the high point of the flight was from 9/12-9/15 with high counts reported from So. Woodstock, Burlington, and Bald Mt., the latter being the best count of the season with 38 on the 15th (FO); the latest were, 1 on 10/19 at So. Woodstock (JMV,VINS), and 1 on 10/23 in Addison (AP). There were two reports of the rare Orange-crowned Warbler; very early were 2 on 8/31 in Woodstock (SBL); and 1 was found in Putney on 9/30 (BCW). Seventy-four Nashville Warblers were banded this fall, 55 in Marshfield (JMV,VINS,MFM); the peak of the migration was in the first week of September; the last reported were, 1 on 10/12 in Burlington (WGE) and 1 on 10/15 in Middlebury (WS). There was a light movement of the Northern Parula which seems normal; 3 were banded at Marshfield, the last on 9/20 (MFM); few were seen by field observers with none seeing more than one in a day; the latest reported was 1 on 10/3 at Crystal Lake in Barton (FO,JW). As is to be expected, the bulk of the Yellow Warbler migration was in August, a few birds continued into September with 5 on 9/8 in Colchester the maximum during the month (WGE,BSE); latest was 1 on 9/21 at Burlington (BSE). One hundred forty-nine Magnolia Warblers were

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banded this Autumn 123 at Marshfield (JMV,VINS,MFM), this indicating a very good flight, at least in north central Vermont. The seasonal maximum was 20+ at Marlboro on 8/30 (WDM); latest was 1 on 10/12 in Burlington (WGE). The first migrant Cape May Warbler reported this fall was 1 on 8/22 at Hartford (WGE); the species was in average numbers thereafter with just 5 banded (JMV, VINS,MFM); the latest seen was 1 on 10/1 in Craftsbury (FO,RP,CSZ). The Black-throated Blue Warbler was found to be in normal numbers at So. Woodstock with 12 netted there (JMV,VINS), on the other hand the species was in very good numbers at Marshfield where 71 were caught (MFM); most of the migration occurred in the latter part of August, with the maximum of 8 reported on the 10th in Marlboro (WDM); latest were 1 at So. Woodstock on 9/29 (JMV,VINS); 1 at Grafton on 9/29 (SB), and 1 banded at Marshfield on 9/30 (MFM). The Yellow-rumped Warbler was reported in average numbers: 84 were banded, 55 at Marshfield (JMV,VINS,MFM); peak dates were in late September and early October, with maximum counts of 8 at So. Woodstock on 9/29 (JMV,VINS), 100+ in Barton on 9/29 (FO), and 40 on 10/5 in Marlboro (WDM); latest reported was 1 in Pawlet on 11/14 (SAS). The Black-throated Green Warbler was in average numbers and departed quite early. Eighty-four were banded, 54 at Marshfield (MFM, JMV,VINS); peak dates were 8/28-9/2 and 9/15-9/19, with maxima of 20+ on 8/30 and 9/16 at Marlboro (WDM); latest were 1 on 10/5 at Marlboro (WDM), and 1 on 10/5 at Winhall (WJN). There were two reports of CERULEAN WARBLER; considering the very few recent reports these are excellent records. On 8/11 two were encountered at the Sand Bar WMA, where the species was recently confirmed breeding (cf. Breeding Season 1977), (FO,CSP); and a bird was well-described from Weathersfield on 8/14 (HY fide EE). There was an average movement of the Blackburnian Warbler: 26 were banded, 20 at Marshfield (MFM,JMV,VINS); the peak period for the migration was 8/30-9/2, the maximum count being 12 on 8/30 in Marlboro (WDM); the latest seen was 1 on 10/3 in Barton (FO,JW). Forty-nine Chestnut-sided Warblers were banded, 35 at Marshfield (MFM,JMV, VINS); most passed through from 8/31-9/2, with maxima of 10 on 8/31 at Winhall and 5 at So. Woodstock on 9/2 (WJN,JMV,VINS); the latest reported was 1 on 10/16 in Albany, not only the latest of this season but the record late date for the state (FO,CSZ). The Bay-breasted Warbler migration commenced during the third week of August, 10 of the 17 banded at So. Woodstock were netted on 9/2 (JMV,VINS), 18 more were banded at Marshfield (MFM); latest was 1 on 10/13 in Burlington (WGE,BSE,ORE). The peak of the Blackpoll Warbler migration was 9/15-9/19 with 7 of the 29 banded at So. Woodstock occurring on 9/15 (JMV, VINS), 12+ were noted in Norwich on 9/18 (WGE,GFE), and 4-5 in Weathersfield on 9/19 (EE); 10 were banded at Marshfield with the last 2 on 9/26 (MFM); the last reported were 2 at So. Woodstock on 10/3 (JMV,VINS), and 2 at Putney on 10/5 (WDM). There were only two reports of the Pine Warbler verified by details, 2 were found in Burlington on 9/6 (WGE), and 1 was noted in Burlington on 9/13 (WGE). Only five reports of the Palm Warbler were received, 1, a "western", was banded at Marshfield on 8/25 (MFM), 1 was seen in Timmuth on 9/24 (GTL), 1 was banded at Marshfield on 9/28 (MFM), 1 was noted in Winhall on 10/5 (WJN), and 1 was banded at So. Woodstock on 10/18 (JMV,VINS). Sixty-nine Ovenbird were banded this fall, 45 at So. Woodstock (JMV,VINS,MFM); highest counts were: 4 on 8/31 at Winhall (WJN), and 8 on 9/5 at So. Woodstock (JMV,VINS); the last noted was 1 netted at So. Woodstock on 9/27 (JMV,VINS). The Northern Waterthrush was in average numbers this Autumn: 23 were banded 17 at Marshfield (MFM,JMV,VINS); the species was also reported widely by field observers, but no definite peaks were obvious during the period; latest was 1 on 9/25 at Grafton (DC). There was a single report of the Louisiana Water-thrush: 1 encountered in Chittenden on 8/5 (WGE,ALG). There was a single report of the very rare CONNECTICUT WARBLER: an adult male in fall plumage as described from Burlington on 9/6 (WGE). As usual the Mourning Warbler was one of the least common warblers of the fall migration. First reported was 1 on 8/2 in Bennington (DJ), 1 was banded at Marshfield on 8/7 (MFM), 1 was seen in Burlington on 9/3 (WGE), 1 was netted in Marshfield on 9/4 (MFM), 1 was found in Burlington on 9/6 (WGE), the last of 9 banded at So. Woodstock was 1 on 9/30 (JMV,VINS). The Common Yellowthroat was the most common warbler reported this Autumn, at least on the basis of the banding reports. 152 were banded, 120 at Marshfield (MFM,JMV,VINS); there were no obvious peaks in the migration, and the last reported were 2 on 10/28 in Marlboro (WDM). There was a normal flight of the Wilson's Warbler: the first of 15 banded at Marshfield was 1 on 8/7 (MFM), 6 were banded at So. Woodstock, the last on 9/16 (JMV,VINS); high counts were - 4 on 9/12 and 9/16 in Marlboro (WDM); the last reported was 1 on 9/19 reported from Clarendon (LHP). There were average numbers of the Canada Warbler reported: a total of 73 were banded, 41 at Marshfield (MFM,JMV,VINS), the species was not seen later than 9/3 in the field; latest caught by banders were 1 on 9/7 at So. Woodstock (JMV,VINS), and 1 netted at Marshfield on 9/23 (MFM). Ninety-eight American Redstarts were banded this Autumn, 64 of them in Marshfield (MFM,JMV,VINS), maximum counts were: 7 on 8/30 in Marlboro (WDM), 8 on 9/2 at So. Woodstock (JMV, VINS), and 10 on 9/3 at Winhall (WJN); the last bird reported was a half-hardy straggler seen in Burlington on 11/8 (BSE,ORE).

WEAVER FINCH THROUGH Tanager

Our dependent the House Sparrow continues in undiminished numbers in settled areas. The Bobolink was in about average numbers with a maximum of 50 on 8/23 at Dead Creek WMA (WJN); numbers diminished from this point until the last birds were seen, 8 on 9/13 at Marlboro (WDM), and 6+ on 9/15 in Clarendon (LHP). The Eastern Meadowlark was widely reported in concentrations of varying size well into October. 8 were noted in Weathersfield on 9/10 (EE), 15 were in Orleans on 10/3 (FO,JW), 12 were seen in Brownsville on 10/10 (BMH), and 7 were found in Orleans on 10/22 for the latest report (FO,CSZ). Most of the migration of the Red-winged Blackbird was concentrated in the third week of October, tens of thousands were seen in Burlington during this time (WGE), and 100,000+ were reported from Dead Creek WMA on 10/18 (WS), numbers of this species diminished steadily through the end of November with a few stragglers into the winter. The greater part of the Northern Oriole population was done by the end of August; maxima were 5 on 8/3 at Winhall (WJN), and 4 on 8/16 at So. Woodstock where 7 total were banded (JMV,VINS); most observers report last dates in August, but a few birds lingered later the latest being 1 on 9/16 at Winhall (WJN). There were seven reports of the Rusty Blackbird: 26 were seen on 10/2 in E. Craftsbury (FO,RP), 31 were seen in various Northeast Kingdom areas on 10/3 (FO,JW), 1 was seen in Clarendon on 10/8 (LHP), 30+ were reported from Addison on 10/13 (AP), 1 was noted on 10/15 at Winhall (WJN), 1 was noted in Shelburne on 11/6 (WGE,BSE), and 1 occurred on 11/19 in Burlington (WGE,BSE). The largest numbers of Common Grackle occurred in mid-October, with local high counts from Clarendon, Burlington, and Winhall; the species lingered into the winter. The Brown-headed Cowbird was reported in widely scattered large flocks ranging up to 150 birds; no exceptional flocks were noted; several small flocks lingered into the winter. There were mixed reports received as to the strength of the Scarlet Tanager migration: in northern Vermont the flight was termed "good" with 12 banded at Marshfield (MFM), and 2 to 4 a day noted at Burlington with a maximum count of 6 on 9/6 (WGE); southern Vermonters termed the movement "thin" and

"lower than normal" with 7 banded at So. Woodstock (JMV,VINS), and "never more than two birds" seen on any day in Wallingford (BCW); a maximum of 8 was recorded in Grafton on 9/20 (DC); the last reported was 1 on 9/29 at Burlington (WGE).

FINCHES AND SPARROWS

Indicative of the Cardinal's success was Eleanor Ellis' belief that it has lost its novelty in the Springfield area; the maximum report received was of 10 at a single Bennington Feeder on 11/16 (MBV); the most northerly bird reported this Autumn was seen in Glover on 8/5, indicating that the species is penetrating the Northeast Kingdom one of the last areas not yet colonized (SBL). There was an excellent flight of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak; 36 were banded at Marshfield, well up from last year (MFM); an additional 12 were banded at So. Woodstock (JMV,VINS); there were several excellent maxima reported by field observers: 27 were noted at Wallingford on 8/18 (BCW), 15 were seen there on 9/11 (BCW), and 17 were found in Marlboro on 9/16 (WDM); the latest was 1 on 10/3 at Grafton (SB). As usual, few observers reported Indigo Bunting, with a few in August and only three reported in September, all from the Burlington area. The latest of these birds was 1 on 9/29 (BSE, WGE). The Evening Grosbeak moved south earlier than usual with a few appearing as early as the third week of July; large numbers were seen in August and much of September with high counts 30 at Winhall on 8/9 which rose to 100+ by 8/23 (WJN), 39 banded for the season in Marshfield and 50 seen in Plainfield on 8/18 (MFM); 100+ seen in Clarendon 9/21 (LHP); and 70 reported from Hartland on 9/22 (ALG). By mid-October the species was in much diminished numbers; the few that remained stayed on into the winter. The Purple Finch was reported in excellent numbers during August and September, but these high numbers were obviously an indication of an early and massive desertion of the north country this Autumn. During August and September 330 were banded at Marshfield with the last record, 6 on 9/30 (MFM), 100+ were seen on several days during September at Winhall (WJN); after September few were seen anywhere in Vermont the last reported being 1 on 10/31 at Winhall (WJN). There were two reports of the House Finch, a single female was seen in No. Ferrisburg on 8/26 (JID,MCD), and an immature was banded at So. Woodstock on 9/23, a first record for the station (JMV,EE,VINS). Strangely none were reported from Bennington or Brattleboro where the species is well established. The Pine Grosbeak appeared early and in good numbers throughout the state. Earliest were 5 on 10/23 at Winhall (WJN), and 2 on 10/23 in Marshfield (FO,BBC, JW,CSZ); others were 7 on 10/28 at Woodstock (LNM), 35 on 10/29 at Winhall (WJN), 10 on 11/1 at No. Ferrisburg (JID,MCD), and 20 on 11/1 at Sherburne (JHO,EO). There was a single report of the Common Redpoll: 2 seen at Winhall on 10/31 (WJN). There was an average flight of the Pine Siskin: the earliest reported were 3 on 9/25 banded at Marshfield (MFM), two flocks of 30 were encountered in the Northeast Kingdom on 9/29 (FO). Other high counts were: 50 on 10/27 at Winhall (WJN), and 50 in Marlboro on 11/24 (WDM), otherwise maxima ranged from 10-30 from various areas. Observations indicate that the American Goldfinch experienced a thoroughly unremarkable season. The species continued into the winter in small numbers. The Red Crossbill was reported in fairly good numbers in southern Vermont, beginning as early as July in Winhall; birds occurred in Marlboro as early as 8/9 (WJN,WDM), maximum counts were 10 on several days at Winhall (WJN), and 12 on 10/26 at Marlboro (WDM); the only report from northern Vermont was of 1 on 10/2 at Barton (FO); latest reported were 2 on 11/28 at Winhall (WJN). There also was a small flight of the White-winged Crossbill, most of it occurring in southern Vermont; earliest were 4-5 heard on Mt. Mansfield on 8/28 (FO,TCW). The species was not subsequently reported until two months later when 1 immature was seen on 10/27 at Burlington (WGE,BSE); the first of a small flight at Marlboro was 1 on 10/28 (WDM); 3 were noted at Plainfield on 10/29 (MFM); the first of twelve sightings at Winhall were 2 on 10/31, the maximum of this moderate flight being 15 on 11/12, with the last seen there 1 on 11/27 (WJN). The Rufous-sided Towhee was reported by only 5 observers; the information at hand tends to indicate that the species was not in unusually high or low numbers this fall, latest was 1 adult banded at So. Woodstock on 10/11 (JMV, VINS). The Savannah Sparrow was reported in average numbers. Large numbers were seen at the Dead Creek WMA with 50 seen there on 8/23 (WJN), and 50-75 noted on 9/4 (WJN); the latest reported were 12-16 seen at White River Jct. on 10/16 (WGE). There were just five reports of the uncommon Vesper Sparrow: 1 was seen on 8/11 at Lake Willoughby in Westmore (FO,et al), 5 were noted at Dead Creek WMA on 8/23 (WJN), 4 were encountered in various Northeast Kingdom areas on 10/10 (FO,CSP), 4 were seen at White River Jct. on 10/16 (WGE), and 1 was noted at Dead Creek WMA on 10/25 (WJN). As usual the Dark-eyed Junco was one of the commonest and most conspicuous of the Autumn's migrants. Most of this Autumn's flight occurred in mid to late October (10/10-10/23); 17 of the 77 banded at So. Woodstock were caught on 10/19 (103 total were banded this fall), (JMV,VINS,MFM), other maxima were: 150 on 10/10 around the Northeast Kingdom (FO,CSP), 75+ at Weathersfield on 10/12 (EE), 50-60 seen in Charlotte on 10/16 (JJA), 70 seen in Hartford on 10/16 (WGE,GFE), and 50 on 10/17 in Craftsbury (FO); the species was present into at least early winter in most parts of the state. The earliest arrivals among this Autumn's Tree Sparrows were 1 on 10/11 in Marlboro (WDM), and 2 on 10/16 at Newport (FO,CSZ). Numbers rose to 25 on 10/28 at Marlboro (WDM), 20 on 10/29 at Hartford (GFE,WGE), and 30 at Dead Creek WMA on 11/2 and 11/16 (WS); numbers were about average as we entered the winter. The Chipping Sparrow was reported in average numbers, maximum counts were from late September, 20 on 9/24 at Barnard (WS), to early October, 35 and 25 on 10/2 and 10/3 respectively in Barton (FO,RP,JW); the latest reported were, 1 on 10/22 at So. Stratford (HR), and 1 seen in Timmuth on 10/24 (GTL). The Field Sparrow was reported by only three observers (1); since those that reported them indicated nothing amiss, it must be assumed that the species was underreported. No maxima were reported; latest were 2 on 10/16 at White River Jct. (WGE). Earliest of an average flight of the White-crowned Sparrow were 1 banded at Marshfield on 9/21 (MFM), and 1 at Burlington also on 9/21 (BSE,WGE); the peak of this fall's flight was 10/5-10/6 with the seasonal maximum of 50+ occurring on 10/5 at Clarendon (LHP), 20 on 10/22 at Woodstock was a good count (SBL,ALG), last reported was 1 seen on 11/24-11/25 at Addison (AP). The White-throated Sparrow was reported in average numbers: 308 were banded, 185 at So. Woodstock (JMV,VINS,MFM), the peak of the migration was from late September through mid-October with maxima ranging from 40-90, a few straggled into the winter. The Fox Sparrow was seen in about average numbers, the earliest seen was 1 on 9/22 at Burlington (WGE), next were 1 apiece at Marlboro and Winhall on 10/5 (WDM,WJN), 22 were banded at So. Woodstock, 7 on 10/28 (JMV,VINS), 5 were seen at Craftsbury and Newport on 10/16 (FO,CSZ), 1 was at Burlington on 10/20 (WGE), 5 were at Winhall on 10/21 (WJN), 4 were seen at No. Ferrisburg from 10/23-11/1 (JID,MCD), 3 were noted at Marlboro on 10/28 (WDM), latest were: 1 at Woodstock on 11/9 (JMN), and 1 at Winhall on 11/12 (WJN). The Lincoln's Sparrow was well reported in about average numbers, with seven observers reporting at least 37 individuals, earliest was 1 at Marlboro on 8/31 (WDM), the peak period of the flight was mid-September

with maxima of 9 on 9/16 at Marlboro (WDN), and 4 on 9/25 at Burlington (BSE, WGE), the latest reported was a bird with an injured leg seen in Marlboro on 10/28 (WDN). The Swamp Sparrow occurred in average numbers this fall with maxima of 25 on 10/5 at Marlboro and 21 on 10/28 also at Marlboro (WDN), the latest reported was 1 at Marlboro on 10/30 (WDN). The Song Sparrow was seen in good numbers as usual; the maximum was 61 on 10/28 at Marlboro (WDN); a few birds lingered into the winter. There were 24 reports of the Snow Bunting, more than the combined total of reports during the two previous Autumns; the earliest reported were 1 on 10/23 in Addison (AP), and 1 on 10/23 at Caspian Lake in Greensboro (FO, JW, CSZ), high counts were 70-80 on 11/6 in Shelburne (BSE, ORE, WGE), 500 on 11/9 at Dead Creek WMA (WS), and 50+ on 11/12 at Weathersfield (EE). The species continued in slightly diminished numbers into the winter.

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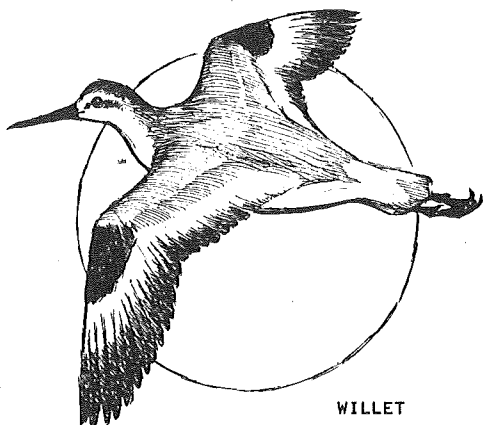
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