



# Records of Vermont Birds

## SPRING MIGRATION 1978

1 MARCH - 31 MAY

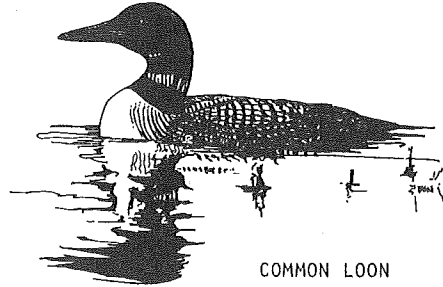
WHITNEY NICHOLS, EDITOR

Much of the spring migration was late this year. There were brief thaws in mid-March and early April, but cool weather and winds from the north were characteristic of much of the period. Waterfowl and the early migrants did not arrive until late March and early April. Many later migrants, such as warblers, thrushes, wrens and orioles, did not appear in numbers until the third week of May. The waterfowl migration was very good. The results of the Spring Hawk Watch are hardly worth noting except to say that very few hawks are observed migrating when it is snowing or when winds are from the wrong direction (those poor hawk watchers!). In addition to an often interesting sequence of arrivals in May (this observer saw a Blackpoll Warbler two days before seeing a House Wren, for example), there was a notable lack or decrease in numbers of several "half hardy" species (viz. Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, both Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets, Palm Warbler, and Field Sparrow). Presumably this latter phenomenon is the result of severe weather over the past two winters. Few species were reported earlier than previous early records; notable were Blue-winged Teal and Tree Swallow.

Two hundred seventeen species plus three additional forms were reported this season. Most interesting of the rarities are RUDDY SHELDUCK in Salisbury, DUNLIN in Salisbury, LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER in Derby, ICELAND GULL in Burlington, ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER in Middlebury, YELLOW BREASTED CHAT in Reading, BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK in Newfane, OREGON JUNCO in Winhall, and CLAY-COLORED SPARROW in Burlington (first state record). Snow Geese appeared in excellent numbers, as did Green-winged Teal, fourteen Cooper's Hawks were sighted, Rough-legged Hawks appeared in record numbers. An unprecedented number of Solitary Sandpipers were found in one area, as were Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers continue to increase, so do House Finches. It was a good season for Northern Shrikes, Pine Grosbeaks, Common Redpolls and Snow Buntings. No Gray-cheeked Thrushes were reported. There were few Pied-billed Grebes, Broad-winged Hawks, Wild Turkeys, Eastern Wood Pewees, Tufted Titmice, White-crowned or Lincoln's Sparrows recorded.

As a new editor of the Spring Records, this observer has had the opportunity to peruse previous issues and compare. There is a striking improvement over those early reports; not only are there more of you submitting records of your observations, but there is a notable improvement in the quality of those reports. In order to make Records of Vermont Birds even more complete and accurate, this editor can't emphasize enough the importance of submitting all details for each observation, not only the species, the date, and the place but also the number of individuals sighted. Nothing can be assumed on your reports; each detail should be in writing. It is very frustrating to receive an interesting report and find that the reporter neglected to mention the place or more often the number. Let's continue to improve the Records. They are only as accurate and complete as we make them!

An aspect of bird watching that seems to be gaining popularity ("bird watching" versus "birding"?) is a

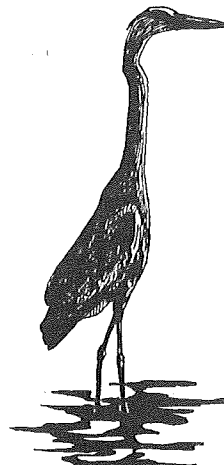


COMMON LOON

quality that can be described as sporting. One such example of the sport of birding is called the "Big Day" or "Century Run" where, under specific guidelines, one tries to find as many species as possible in a given location within a twenty-four hour period. Two years ago, an intrepid group of four, including Frank Oatman, Rose Ann Rowlett and George and Walter Ellison, initiated this event in Vermont. In two years a significant improvement was made over the number of species found (luck and good weather are as significant factors as the abilities of the participants; familiarity with the area is another). This spring the "southern big-day constituent" (Don Clark, Annette Gosnell, Doug Kibbe, Whitney Nichols) challenged the "northern big day constituent" (Frank Oatman, Wayne Scott, George and Walter Ellison). Although the southern element did not do as well as the northern (120 versus 140), we feel that in another year we will win because we will have had sufficient experience!

### LOONS THROUGH HERONS

On April 23, two Common Loons were reported from Lake Memphremagog (FO et al.), eight were reported from Newport (HFH), and the season high of 17 was reported from Burlington (WGE). There were 13 additional records totaling 20+ birds, including four at Somerset Reservoir on May 31 (VDH). Red-necked Grebes were seen in three places including one individual in Rockingham on April 14 (LNN) and four individuals on Lake Champlain on April 27 (AP, VS). In early May, an adult in breeding plumage was picked up alive on the Robert Post's farm in East Bethel; by May 11 the bird had died (fide SBL). Two observations of Horned Grebes were made. One bird was seen on April 1 in South Hero (WGE), and an undisclosed number was seen on Lake Champlain on May 29 (fide VS). Only four reports of Pied-billed Grebes were received, all single birds, all mid-April sightings: April 6 in Rockingham (HFZ), April 15 in Woodstock (EH), April 20 in Burlington (WGE - "only record"), and April 22 in Mayfield (VS). Six Double-crested Cormorants, "mid-lake, mostly immature," were reported on May 23 from Lake Memphremagog by the Northern Big Day Constituent (GFE, WGE, FO, VS). Five birds were seen on Somerset Reservoir on May 31 (VDH), and one bird was seen on the Connecticut River in Vernon on May 15 (VDH).



GREAT BLUE HERON

A single Great Blue Heron on March 27 in Montpelier, "standing on the edge of the ice in the Winooski River," was the first recorded (WGE). Numbers were about average from the first week of April on; 30 plus individuals were recorded. There were only eight reports of Green Herons, the first on April 20 in Quechee (LNN), and the remainder of reports scattered from May 13 to 31. Nine Cattle Egrets in Colchester on May 1 were the earliest and largest number reported; 12 others on three dates were seen, all in the Burlington area (BSE, ORE, WGE). A Great Egret was found on the Retreat Meadows in Brattleboro on May 8, and another (same?) was seen in Vernon on May 13 (VDH). A single Snowy Egret was seen in Arlington from May 24-26 (RSK). All eight Black-crowned Night Herons were reported from the Champlain Valley, beginning on April 28 (one), Burlington (BSE, ORE). Least Bitterns were found only at the West Rutland Marsh on two occasions, beginning May 20 (one bird) "Southern Big Day Constituent" (OC, ALC, DPK, VDH). Four to five were there on May 31 (VS).

There were reports of 12 American Bitterns beginning on April 28 (two) at West Rutland Marsh (LHP), April 29 (one) in Craftsbury (FO et al.), and April 30 (four) at West Rutland Marsh (RWP).

#### WATERFOWL

Canada Geese arrived later than usual; the first, about 25, were seen in Charlotte on March 21 (JJA). An unknown number were found on the Connecticut River "south of Bellow's Falls" on March 25 (HFZ), and 600 were in scattered locations in Addison County on March 30 (WS). Most of the migration occurred in April, with maxima of 4,000+ on April 9 in Cornwall (WS), and 2,000 reported on April 16 at Dead Creek (LNM). There are three May reports, the last being on the 14th, four individuals seen at Salisbury swamp (WS). The usual nesters at Dead Creek were probably there through the end of the season. Brant were unrecorded for the first spring in three years.

Snow Geese staged a spectacular, albeit later than usual, migration. Thirty birds in Winhall on March 31 were the first seen (WJN). The majority of reports were during the first 15 days of April. On April 11, on the Springfield/Rockingham section of the Connecticut River, between 9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., 6,000 to 8,000 birds were counted. "Two thousand birds on the Route 5 Meadows, another 4,000 to 5,000 birds at Roundy's and Herrick's Coves, and a report of more further south . . . means there must have been upwards of 10,000 Snows that day" (EE). In Winhall, "April 11 produced the largest Snow Goose movement I have ever seen here. At least 2,000 passed over . . . all headed northwest from the Connecticut River Valley towards Lake Champlain . . . I hear that large numbers were at Herrick's Cove that day . . . The bulk of the Atlantic population must have moved through here" (WJN). In Cornwall, "During the week of April 10-17, there may have been as many as 7-10,000 geese . . . Snows peaked about April 17 - (2,500)" (WS). Were some of these birds the same individuals reported to the south a few days earlier? Final reports include two birds seen at Button Bay on May 5 (WS), 50 birds found in Ferrisburg on May 10 (JID), and 100+ birds reported from Clarendon(?) on May 11 (LHP). A total of more than 16,000 Snow Geese were reported this spring! Proportionately, there were more blue phase Snow Geese recorded, a total of 23 birds. About 12 were present with the April 11 flock of 2,000 birds on the Route 5 Meadows (EE). One bird in Craftsbury on April 27 may be the first North-east Kingdom record (FO). The last bird reported (one) was seen with Canada Geese at Dead Creek on May 3 (WS).

There is a report, supported by photographs, of three RUDDY SHELDUCKS (PC, WC) on May 18-19 in Salisbury (fide BCR). The birds, two males and one female, were wary, could fly well, and showed no sign of having been held in captivity. The species' usual range extends discontinuously from Spain and north Africa to Korea. There are a series of New World records, usually dismissed as escapees, including birds from Greenland, Rhode Island, New Jersey and North Carolina. One bird was seen on Hardwick Lake, Vermont, from August 30 to September 11, 1974; three birds were reported from western Massachusetts this spring, (American Birds 32:1002), and two females appeared on the remote north shore of Quebec June 20-27, 1978 (AB: 32:1141). Ruddy Shelducks may well be able to reach North America on their own, given that the birds have been known to wander. On the other hand, there are aviculturalists as near as Quebec who keep them in captivity. The birds are aggressive toward one another and require plenty of space to do well; it is possible that birds could be driven from the pen. Unfortunately there are no obvious ways to determine whether an exotic species is an escapee or a wanderer, and it would be unwise to treat any such species out of range as a genuine vagrant. However, all appearances of birds like Ruddy Shelducks, whether feral or wild, should be reported in order to document any future range extension. Let it be the responsibility of the individual, then, to determine the countability of such stragglers on his or her life list!

The first Mallards reported were 40 winterers in Weybridge on March 11 (WS), and the largest number reported were 150+ on the Route 5 Meadows in Springfield on April 11 (EE). Most birds were observed during the first two weeks of April. The first American Black Ducks that were seen, in Weybridge on March 11 (six birds), were winterers (WS). The "majority of 2,000 dabblers" in Cornwall from April 9 to 17 were Blacks, and provide the season high (WS). Mallards are replacing Black Ducks in many places in the east. The resulting overlap of the two closely related species has increased the possibility of hybridization. The phenomenon of Black Duck displacement by Mallards may not, however, be documented by the number of obvious hybrids, because these birds rarely comprise more than two percent of a combined population in a given area. (1) Many birds of mixed parentage may not be recognized as such. Contributors to the Records are requested to continue reporting the identifiable hybrids to determine hybrid percentages in Vermont as compared with other places. Keep accurate and complete records of numbers of "pure" Mallards in relation to "pure" Blacks, each year. This should determine whether Mallard populations are increasing in Vermont. Black Duck reports, this spring, outnumbered Mallard reports by approximately four to one (about 3,050 birds to about 728 birds). An "estimated 20% of 66 birds showed signs of hybridization" in Springfield on April 5 (EE). Only one identifiable hybrid could be found out of 183 birds observed between Rockingham and Springfield on April 8 (WJN). Two birds were present in Marlboro from April 22 to May 10 (WJN). Five Gadwall were reported from Dead Creek on May 3 (WS), two were seen in Colchester on May 2 (WGE, BSE, ORE), and there is a possible report of four birds seen on April 21 in Quechee (JMN). The first Pintail (15) were reported from Cornwall on March 30 (WS), the maximum of 30+ was reported from Burlington on April 9 (WGE), and the last report is of two in Salisbury on May 14 (WS). Outside of the Champlain Valley, there are only two reports of Pintail, one from Craftsbury (one bird) on April 22 (FO), and one report from Rockingham (12 birds) on April 8 (WJN). Eight Green-winged Teal appeared on March 30 in Cornwall (WS), on April 8 five birds were in Springfield and one bird was in Brattleboro (WJN), and two birds were present on April 13 in Newport (FO et al.). The maximum for the season is 200+ birds seen in Colchester from May 2-4 (WGE, BSE, ORE). This is the largest number to even be reported in the Spring Records. Fourteen of the 17 reports occurred in April; the last Green-winged Teal (15) were in Weybridge on May 5 (WS). A male Blue-winged Teal seen on March 4 at Dead Creek (AP) is 12 days earlier than the previous earliest record. A maximum of 50+ were reported on May 2 in Colchester (WGE, BSE, ORE), and 20 were found on the Springfield Meadows on April 13 (LNM). The majority of the 119 Blue-winged Teal reported were seen around mid-April. One American Wigeon in Weybridge on March 11 was the first reported (WS), the maximum, 16 seen from Burlington to Colchester, was reported on May 2 (WGE, BSE, ORE), and the last birds (13) were seen in Colchester on May 4 (WGE, BSE, ORE). A total of 54 birds was

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recorded. Sixteen Northern Shovelers were reported, the first (three) on April 10 in Cornwall (WS), the maximum (five) on April 16 in Weybridge (WS, AP), and the last (two pair) on May 6 at Missisquoi Refuge (MFM). A drake was seen in Quechee on April 30 (DPK, ALG). Wood Ducks were recorded in usual numbers from the end of March with two on the 30th (WS), through the end of the period. Seasonal highs of "ten pair" in Springfield on April 13 (LNM), and of 14 plus in Burlington on April 25 (WGE) were reported.

Ring-necked Ducks first appeared on March 30 (nine) in Cornwall (WS), and in Rockingham (three) on April 8 (WJN). Maxima were 36 on May 6 in South Hero (MFM) and 34 on April 15 at Herrick's Cove (WGE et al.). Last dates were four on May 7 at Button Bay (WS) and two on April 29 in Quechee (MCH). A drake was seen on Lake Bomoseen on the May 20 Big Day (DPK et al.). Canvasbacks were recorded four times: 117 on April 1 on Grand Isle (WGE et al.), two on the "Route 5 Meadows - unusual location" on April 11 (EE), one at Herrick's Cove on April 15 (WGE et al.), and an unknown number on Lake Champlain on May 20 (fide WS). Greater Scaup were seen on March 30 (3 females) at Cornwall (WS). On April 1, two were seen in the Brandon area (FO et al.) and 165 were counted at Grand Isle (WGE et al.). On May 7, 21 were at Button Bay (WS). Lesser Scaup were reported on five occasions. Two birds were seen at Herrick's Cove on April 8 (WJN); a maximum of 11 were seen there on April 15 (WGE et al.). A male was seen in Plainfield on April 18 (MFM); two birds were on Lake Champlain on April 16 (WS, AP) and on April 26 (FO et al.). Common Goldeneye overwintered on Lake Champlain, average numbers were about 10-15 per day, and nesting commenced in May (WGE). "Several hundred" were present there on April 26 (FO et al.). Three were in Newport on April 17 (FO et al.), and a female was observed in Plainfield on April 19 (MFM). Bufflehead were reported in their usual small numbers in the Champlain Valley area from March 31 to May 7 with a maximum of 30 on the latter date at Button Bay (WS). The first birds in southern Vermont were in the Rockingham/Springfield area (four) on April 15 (WGE et al.) and in the Northeast Kingdom at Newport (three) on April 17 (FO et al.). One Black Scoter, a female, was seen at Island Pond on the May 27 Big Day (WGE et al.). About 40 Hooded Mergansers were reported, later than usual (late March to late April). A maximum of nine were seen in the Otter Valley on April 9 (FO, WS). A bird was seen on the Gale Meadows on May 6 (WJN), and a female was seen "examining a hole in a stub of a mature tree above the banks of the Otter" (town?) on May 29 (AP). Common Mergansers overwintered on Lake Champlain (WGE), the first migrants (three) were reported from Weybridge on March 11 (WS), and the bulk of the migration occurred from late March through the beginning of May. Maxima include 111 on April 12 at Burlington (WGE, BSE, ORE), and 85+ on April 15 from Rockingham to Springfield (WGE). The last birds seen in the Champlain Valley area were six females on May 7 at Button Bay (WS), and the last birds seen in the Connecticut Valley were six birds on April 24 in Vernon (WJN) and eight birds at Herrick's Cove on May 6 (HFZ). There were good numbers of Red-breasted Mergansers reported, about 70 birds. Twenty-eight were observed in Burlington on April 29 (WGE). About ten were first seen there on April 27 (AP, WS); they were last reported on May 7 (WS). In Newport, 20 were seen on April 29 (MFM), and at Island Pond one bird was seen on May 23 (Big Day, FO et al.).

#### DIURNAL RAPTORS

The first Turkey Vultures were seen on March 20 (one) in Putney (THI) and on March 22 (one) in Springfield (EE). Many birds arrived the last week of March through mid-April; a total of 56 birds was reported for the season. Two observers in the Champlain Valley reported that numbers were down this spring (AP, WS), but Turkey Vultures were recorded in average numbers elsewhere. None were reported north of Plainfield or Milton. The ten Turkey Vultures observed on April 9 in Bristol (fide WS) and the nine seen on April 22 on Bald Mountain in Rutland (RWP), are apparently record spring maxima for the state.

Approximately 13 Goshawks were reported. Sixty-eight Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen, a significant increase over recent years. The earliest birds recorded, at the beginning of March, were probably winterers, the first migrants began to appear the third week of March, the majority arrived during the second and third weeks of April, and the last birds were found the first week of May. Fourteen Cooper's Hawks were reported, the largest number recorded in the six-year history of the Spring Records. Most of the 99 Red-tailed Hawks were seen during March and April, including the maximum for the period of nine on Owl's Head on April 10 (FO). An albino Red-tail returned to Albany for the sixth successive year on May 19 (FO). About average were the 22 Red-shouldered Hawks reported. The first reported was one bird on March 27 at Clarendon (LHP). Half of the sightings were during the month of April. Broad-winged Hawks were only reported 18 times, totaling only 42 birds. To repeat Frank Outman's admonition in the 1975 Spring Records, in particular regard to the scarcity of this species, "observers are asked to be more conscientious in reporting or at least summarizing all hawk sightings." Most Broad-wings were recorded during the last two weeks of April. The earliest reports are of one bird on April 1 in Montpelier (fide MFM) and one to two birds on April 8-9 in Putney (AP). This was a record season for Rough-legged Hawks; over 71 were reported! All birds were found in the Champlain Valley, with a maximum of 28 (including nine in view at one time) reported in Addison County on March 30 (WS). Ten birds were the last seen, from Brandon to Dead Creek, on April 10 (FO, WS). As many as four Bald Eagles may have been sighted. Twenty-two Marsh Hawks were recorded. The first bird reported was seen in Addison on March 22 (AP), and the maximum of four were found from Addison to Panton on April 3 (AP). The birds occurred statewide, but over half of the reports were from the Champlain Valley. Forty-seven Osprey were reported this season, compared with 23 in 1976 and 62 in 1975. The first bird was reported on April 11 in Springfield (EE), a maximum of four were reported on three occasions in early May, and the last bird was reported from Brighton on May 23 (WGE).

One Peregrine Falcon, an immature, was seen in West Addison on April 18 (AP). As many as five Merlin were reported, the earliest on March 5 and 26 (one) in Plainfield (MFM), and March 26 (one) in Marshfield (NDA), and the last on April 26 (one) in North Wolcott (FO). The first American Kestrels reported were two seen in Bridport on March 11 (WS), one in East Montpelier on March 26, one in Craftsbury on March 29 (FO), one in Winhall on April 1 (WJN), and one in Marlboro on April 3 (WJN). Maxima include 25+ from the "Valley to the Lake" on April 16 (WS, AP), and 21-24 from Craftsbury to Newport on April 13 (FO et al.). There were no reports after May 8; what happened?

#### GROUSE THROUGH GALLINULES

Spruce Grouse were not seen, but fresh scat was found again at Island Pond on May 21 (FO et al.). Perhaps the presence of this bird is often

L.) Palmer, R.S., Handbook of North American Birds Vol. II (New Haven, 1976) pp. 282-283, 327-328.

best determined through a process of elimination. Ruffed Grouse were present throughout the period in average to better than average numbers. As many as three Common Bobwhite were recorded including one bird on May 1 on the Cambridge/Johnson town line (fide FO). After a successful winter season, only seven Wild Turkeys were reported. Are the birds more secretive during the nesting season, and, therefore, merely seen less often?

There are five reports of Virginia Rails totalling 13+ birds, including the earliest report (four) in Burlington on April 25 (WGE), two in Bellows Falls on May 20 (Big Day, DPK et al.), and a maximum of five at the West Rutland Marsh on May 31 (WS). The first Sora (four plus) were reported on April 25 at Burlington (WGE), one was recorded from Dead Creek on May 7 (WS), and two were heard in Bennington on May 15 (DAJ). Four reports of six Common Gallinules were received at their usual locations at West Rutland Marsh, Burlington, and Dead Creek. The first and maximum were three plus, at the Intervale Marshes on April 25 (WGE).

#### SHORE BIRDS

Three Semipalmated Plovers were found at Salisbury Swamp on May 14 (WS), one bird was seen in Morgan on May 23 (WGE), and six were noted in North Hero on the same date (FO et al.). The first Killdeer were not recorded until March 22, in Springfield (five), Westminster (six) and Addison (five). The maximum of 90 birds was seen from Craftsbury to Newport on April 13 (FO et al.), 55-60 were seen in Craftsbury on April 12 (FO), 57 were counted in Bridport on March 30 (AP), and 25 were found in White River Junction on March 29 (WGE). Nesting was under way by May 8 in Strafford (nest with four eggs) (HR), and on May 19 in Winhall (nest with three young) (WJN), and Craftsbury (nest with four eggs) (FO).

Most observers did not report American Woodcock until early to mid-April; only three March reports were received. Eight birds were the most reported, on May 23 at Brighton (FO et al.). A nest with three young was found in Killington on May 15 (PTH). Six to eight Common Snipe were the first to be reported, on April 11 in Putney (MFZ), followed by seven in Woodstock (EH) and three in Craftsbury (FO) on April 13. A total of 77 Snipe were seen, with a maximum of 22+ in Burlington on April 25 (WGE). There were five sightings of Upland Sandpiper, numbering eight plus birds, all from the Champlain Valley. The first reports were on May 5, with two seen at Dead Creek (WS), and one observed perched on a phone pole in Cornwall (AP). The first Spotted Sandpiper (one) was seen in Marlboro on April 25 (WJN), followed by one in Woodstock April 29 (MCH). The largest number counted was ten plus in Middlebury on May 12 (WS). The first Solitary Sandpipers were singles on April 18 in Woodstock (LNM), on April 20 in Quechee (LNM), and on April 26 in Marlboro (WJN). Other reports were distributed throughout the first two weeks of May; the final date is May 23 (one) in Ferdinand (WGE). As if an unprecedented 30 plus "Solitary" Sandpipers reported from Middlebury on May 12 were not enough, Wayne Scott outdid himself on May 14 when he discovered an incredible 50 plus birds at Salisbury Swamp! Greater Yellowlegs were found in Brattleboro on April 20 (nine) (WJN), in Burlington from April 21-25 (three) (WGE, BSE, ORE), and Salisbury on May 14 (seven) (WS). Lesser Yellowlegs were seen on two occasions, on May 8 in Woodstock (one) (SBL, JDL), and on May 14 in Salisbury (four) (WS). Two Pectoral Sandpipers were at Salisbury Swamp on May 14 (WS). Least Sandpipers were sighted on five occasions from May 12 to 23. The maximum, 100 plus, was seen at Salisbury Swamp on May 14 (WS), and appears to be an unprecedented high; an additional 23 birds were recorded. The single DUNLIN found at Salisbury Swamp on May 14 (WS) is only the third report in the six years of the Spring Records. Short-billed Dowitchers were in three places on May 23, Derby (seven), North Hero (78), and Swanton (32) (FO et al.). The winning big day team also reported one LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER with the seven Short-bills on Lake Memphremagog in Derby. The report is supported by excellent details, and represents the first spring record for Vermont. Massachusetts recorded its third spring record this season, and Maine its second (American Birds 32:979).

#### GULLS AND TERNS

The ICELAND GULL seen in Burlington on April 1 (WGE et al.) is a first for the Spring Records. Seven Great Black-backed Gulls were recorded, including the first (two) on April 1 in Burlington (WGE), one at Herrick's Cove on April 14 (LNM), two in Brattleboro on April 15 (WJN), and one on April 16 in Cornwall where it is considered unusual "inland" (WS). There are 11 reports of Herring Gulls; they were present in usual numbers throughout the period with a season high of 60 plus in Burlington on April 8 (WGE) and 16 in Hartland on March 29 (WGE). Ring-billed Gulls were first seen on March 23 (70+) in the Champlain Valley (AP). Maxima of 450+ were recorded on April 8 in Burlington (WGE) and 33 on March 29 in Hartland (WGE). Thirteen Bonaparte's Gulls were reported. The first bird was seen in Ferrisburg on April 16 (AP, WS) and the high of four birds was seen on the Retreat Meadows in Brattleboro on April 20 (WJN). There were ten Common Terns reported, all from the Champlain Valley, with the first and maximum of five birds seen in Burlington on April 29 (WGE). The first Black Terns were one on May 8 at the Barre Reservoir (MFH), and two on May 11 at Dead Creek (AP); a total of 28+ birds were reported.

#### DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Mourning Doves were present throughout the period; 27 were noted at one feeder in Bennington (JAD - no date). One Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen on May 29-30 in Woodstock (JMN). Five Black-billed Cuckoos were reported. The earliest bird was in Sudbury on May 19-20 (DPK et al.), and the remaining birds were found the last three days of May.

Only one Screech Owl was reported, from Middlebury on May 20 (WS). Fourteen Great Horned Owls were recorded. A Snowy Owl seen in Bridport on March 11 and 24 may have been the same bird reported in February (WS). This individual "was also observed March 10, without comment, by Pan, the Great Horned Owl, who was returning from an owl program in Vergennes." (SBL, MFZ). Eighteen Barred Owls were reported. One Short-eared Owl turned up at a dooryard in West Addison "scaring hell out of my feeder birds" (AP). Six Saw-whet Owls were reported, including one calling on the University of Vermont campus in Burlington on April 30 (WGE).

A total of twelve Whip-poor-wills were recorded, including the first at Hartland on April 24 (ECS). Other reports are scattered through May in the Connecticut and Champlain Valleys, with maxima of three on two occasions, in Brighton on May 23 (FO et al.) and Springfield on May 29 (EE). The first Common Nighthawk was found in Rockingham on May 20 (DPK et al.); only eleven others were reported from May 26 on. A Chimney Swift seen in Middlebury on April 19 (WS) is the earliest to be reported in the Records. Another bird was seen in Burlington on April 29 (WGE), but it was not until the second week of May that the majority of the birds returned. A maximum of 60 were seen in Brattleboro, swarming over the Connecticut River in the rain on May 15 (WJN).

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds arrived later than usual; the first (one) was seen in Woodstock on May 12 (HDM). They were reported from South Newfane (one) on May 18 (WJN), from Winhall (one) on May 20 (WJN), from West Windsor (one feeding on grape hyacinths) on May 19 (JEH), from Clarendon (two) on May 23 (LHP), from Ferrisburg (one) on May 17 (JJD), from Plainfield on May 17 (MFH), and from Burlington (one) on May 23 (FO et al.). About 60 birds were recorded, including an unprecedented 25 to 30 birds in Plainfield on May 24, which "descended about 5:00 p.m. on a crabapple tree (in bloom) and stayed there several hours . . . the next morning not a bird was to be found" (LC fide MFH). Twenty-seven Belted Kingfishers were reported; non-winterers arrived by the end of March and the beginning of April. A maximum of seven were reported (date?) in Winhall (WJN).

The first Common Flicker was a bird that was heard in Middlebury on March 30 (WS). Twenty-five flickers were seen in one field in Brandon on April 16 (LNM, MCH). A female with a brood patch was banded in South Woodstock on May 25 (VINS). Fifteen Pileated Woodpeckers were reported through the season. Red-headed Woodpeckers were in North Thetford (number?) on April 24 (THI), in Weybridge (two) on May 13 (WS), and in South Woodstock (one) on May 24 (LNM). Two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers appeared in Marlboro on April 11 (WJN). The first bird in Winhall was seen on April 18 (WJN), the first in Craftsbury was seen on April 24 (FO), and the first report from the Champlain Valley (2 birds) is from Bristol on May 10 (WS). Maxima of eight individuals were reported on three occasions, on April 17 and 25 in Marlboro (WJN), and on May 6 in Underhill (WGE et al.). There were 14 Hairy Woodpeckers and 10 plus Downy Woodpeckers reported. The only record of Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker (one) comes from Bloomfield on May 23 (FO et al.).

#### FLYCATCHERS

Eastern Kingbirds did not arrive en masse until well into the second week of May. The first bird was seen on May 9 in Clarendon (LHP). A total of ten birds was counted from Weybridge to Dead Creek on May 13 (WS). Great Crested Flycatchers similarly did not begin to arrive until the second week of May, with the first birds seen in Middlebury (one) on May 10 (WS), Springfield (two) on May 11 (EE), and Winhall (one) on May 14 (WJN). One Eastern Phoebe was seen in Woodstock on March 29 (JHW), but widespread arrivals did not occur until the second week of April. Eight Phoebes were seen in Rockingham on April 5 (WGE et al.), and nesting was underway in Dorset by May 7 (MCH). One Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was seen in Ferdinand on May 23 (FO et al.), one was seen at Island Pond on May 27 (VFBC), and one was seen in Winhall on May 31 (WJN). Nine Willow Flycatchers were reported, all during the last week of May. There was one in Vernon on May 22 (WJN), one each in Island Pond (VFBC) and White River Junction (WGE) on May 27, and two were at Dead Creek on May 30 (AP). The maximum of four at West Rutland Marsh on May 31 (AP) were also the first of the season to be reported at that location. Alder Flycatchers arrived at Brighton (one) on May 23 (FO et al.), at Marlboro (one) on May 26 (WJN - "late"), and at Island Pond (two) on May 27 (VFBC). Three birds were present at the West Rutland Marsh on May 31 (WS). The first Least Flycatchers did not arrive until May 10, with two in Marlboro (WJN) and (number?) in Castleton (BJG). Seven of the 15 reports were on May 12. About 10 were found in Bristol on May 25 (WS). The first Eastern Wood Pewee was seen on May 22 in Marlboro (WJN). Only seven birds were reported for the entire period. Five Olive-sided Flycatchers were found; three birds from three separate locations on May 23 were the first to be recorded.

#### LARK AND SWALLOWS

Few of the record numbers of Horned Larks that were counted over the Christmas period remained through the winter. The birds that arrived during mid-March were probably migrants, including the first (12 plus) seen in Pantou on March 10 (SBL), followed by the 29 in the "Champlain Valley" on March 11 (WS) and the 40 plus at Pantou on March 12 (WGE, BSE, ORE). In Craftsbury, there were 18 on March 22 and 3 on April 13 (FO). A high of 300 to 350 Larks were seen from the Otter Valley to Dead Creek on April 1 (WS et al.); this is apparently a record number for the spring season. There are four reports in May. Two were last seen in Middlebury on May 12 (WS), one bird was seen in Addison on the May 20th Big Day (WJN et al.), and one was seen in Pantou on the May 23rd Big Day (FU et al.). A pair possibly bred on the University of Vermont campus again this year (WGE). Horned Larks have not been confirmed as nesters by the Breeding Bird Atlas Project. Specific details are needed in order to clarify the breeding status and distribution of this species in Vermont.

The Tree Swallows reported on March 14 in Waterbury (MFH) precedes previous early records by almost two weeks and is surprising considering how late many other birds arrived this spring. Two were reported on March 29 in Hartland (WGE) but it was not until the second week of April that real numbers began to appear statewide. Maxima include 500 plus birds found from Burlington to Colchester on April 21 (WGE, BSE, ORE), 200-500 counted in Ferrisburg on April 16 (WS, AP), 150-200 in the Island Pond area on May 21 (FO et al.), "hundreds" at Dead Creek on May 3 (WS), 75 in Marshfield on April 29 (MFH), and 50 at the Retreat Meadows in Brattleboro on April 20 (WJN). Bank Swallows were not reported until May 2 (two) at Dead Creek (WS), May 4 (15 plus) in Burlington (WGE), and May 13 (22) in Vernon (WJN). Forty-five that were counted at the last location on May 15 (WJN) provide the seasonal high (low compared with other years). The first Rough-winged Swallows (12) were seen in Burlington on April 25 (WGE - "uncommon as usual"); this was the highest count reported. Other firsts include two on April 29 in Springfield (EE), one on May 6 at Herrick's Cove (MFZ), three on May 13 in Pawlet (WGE et al.) and in Brattleboro (WJN - "late"), and one on May 17 in Woodstock (JMN). Barn Swallows arrived in Burlington (one) on April 21 (WGE, BSE), in West Addison (one) on April 23 (AP), in Brattleboro (one) on April 24, and in Craftsbury (four) on April 29 (MFH). Thirty plus were seen in Middlebury on May 12 (WS), 25 were seen in Winhall on May 12 (WJN), and 23 were in Marlboro on May 19 (WJN). There were no April sightings of Cliff Swallows; the first bird was at Dead Creek on May 1 (AP). Other first arrivals were one in Burlington on May 4 (WGE - "about average numbers"), five in Brattleboro on May 8 (WJN), five plus in Middlebury on May 12 (WS), and 12 plus in Castleton on May 20 (LHP - "numbers down"). "Several" Purple Martins appeared at a martin house at Dead Creek on April 26, six birds were seen in Colchester on May 4 (WGE, BSE, ORE), and five Martins were seen at Dead Creek on May 5 (WS). These are the only reports that were received.

#### CORVIDS THROUGH CREEPER

A Gray Jay was present in Marlboro all winter where it fed at a compost pile, and was last recorded on April 17 (fide WJN). In Ferdinand, four were seen on May 23 (FO et al.) and two were seen on May 27 (VFBC). Four Blue Jays appeared to be migrating in Bristol on May 25 (WS - "late?"). Nine Common Ravens were counted at Owl's Head in Groton State Forest on

April 10 (FO et al.), and eight were in the Island Pond area on May 27 (VFBC). Over 30 individuals were reported including two birds as far south as Marlboro on April 18 (WON). A bird was seen "carrying nesting material" at Pico on Route 4 South on March 25 (MCH), and another bird was seen "carrying something into cliffs, and leaving without it" in Springfield on May 6 (HFZ). Seasonal highs for Common Crows were "about 1,000" at Button Bay on March 15 (AP), 250-300 in the Champlain Valley on March 12 (WGE, BSE, ORE), 200 plus in the Otter Valley on April 1, and 124 from Proctor to Pittsford on April 2 (RWP). A maximum of 18 Black-capped Chickadees were counted in Marlboro on April 17 (WON). Retraps at the VINS Banding Station indicated birds in breeding condition by May 26. Five Boreal Chickadees in Craftsbury on April 24 was considered "a good number" (FO et al.). One bird was in Ferdinand on May 23 (FO et al.) and the high of seven were there on May 27 (VFBC). The single Tufted Titmouse which spent the winter at a feeder in Cornwall was last seen on March 25 (WS, v.o.). There were no reports of Titmice from southeastern Vermont this winter (WON). Five White-breasted Nuthatches were in Middlebury on March 25 (WS). All reporters considered numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatches down this season; only 21 birds were recorded. As many as two stayed at a Bennington feeder until April 4 (JAC). The first birds seen were four in Marlboro on April 18 and 19 (WON), one in Middlebury on March 25 (WS), and one in Burlington on May 8 (WGE). Nineteen Brown Creepers were counted this spring, and were also regarded as scarce by many observers. Highs of seven were counted in Burlington on April 14 (WGE) and five in Pantan on April 16 (WS, AP).

#### WRENS

House Wrens did not arrive until the second week of May; a total of only twelve birds were reported. First arrivals are as follows: Clarendon, one on May 9 (LHP), Burlington, one on May 12 (WGE), Vernon, one on May 15 (WON - "very late"). A bird was banded in Woodstock on May 12, where they were recorded in "normally good numbers - four for the season" (VINS), but more were reported in Winhall (WJN). No Carolina Wrens were reported this season, the first time since 1973. A Winter Wren in Marlboro on April 10 (WON) was the first reported, followed by one in Winhall on April 11 (WJN). Both observers reported numbers were significantly down this year. Seven birds were recorded during the last week of April and only three were counted in May, making a total of only twelve birds for the entire season. About 20 Long-billed Marsh Wrens were reported, including the first (one) at Dead Creek on May 7 (WS), arriving about two weeks later than usual, and the maximum of ten plus at West Rutland Marsh on May 31 (WS). There were no records of Short-billed Marsh Wrens. This bird has been reported only once in the six years of the Spring Records.

#### MIMIDS AND THRUSHES

Fifteen Mockingbirds were reported, including one seen near Charleston on May 21 (FO) which constitutes the northernmost record yet. As many as six were reported around "Burlington, mostly near UVH; singing commenced in early April" (WGE). The Mockingbird banded in South Woodstock on May 12 is the first ever; the bird is still considered unusual in the Woodstock area and there are no breeding records (VINS). The first Gray Catbirds (two) were seen in Bennington, but not until May 7 (JAD). Other Firsts were not reported until May 12 and 13 in many locations; nine were reported from Vernon on May 13 (WON - "first and maximum"). Thirty-four birds is the season total, including eight that were banded in South Woodstock (VINS). Twelve Brown Thrashers were reported, all singles and all but two in May; the majority of birds did not arrive until the second week, which is very late.

The first American Robins were two seen in Wallingford on March 21 (BCW), two in Middlebury on March 22 (WS), two each on March 24 in South Woodstock (LNM) and Fairfax (PJK), two in Craftsbury on March 29 (FO), and one in Winhall on March 30 (WJN). Maxima recorded were 300 to 350 in Craftsbury on April 13 (FO et al.), 180 plus at Herrick's Cove on April 15 (WGE et al.), 100 plus in Woodstock on April 9 (JMN), 95 in Marlboro on April 17 (WON), and 50 each on April 1 in Grand Isle (WGE) and Winhall (WJN). A pair were nest building in Marlboro on May 3 (WON). Wood Thrushes were not reported until May 9 (one) in Vernon (WON), and on May 10 with two in Middlebury (WS), one in Woodstock (JMN) and one in Winhall (WJN). They were first reported in Springfield (two) on May 11 (EE) and in Burlington (four) on May 12 (WGE). The season high of eight was recorded in Vernon on May 13 (WON). Twenty-five Hermit Thrushes were reported, the first being on April 17 in Marlboro (two) (WON) and Craftsbury (one) (FO). The first bird in Winhall was on April 20 (WJN), in Middlebury on April 26 (WS), and Marshfield on April 30 (MFH). The first in Burlington and the season high (nine) was on May 8 (WGE). On May 13 the season's first Swainson's Thrush was seen in Arlington (WGE et al.). Eleven birds were reported, including first in Timmott (two) (LHP) and Middlebury (one) (WS) on May 16, in Winhall (one) on May 18, and in Marlboro (one) on May 19 (WON). Three to four were counted in Ferdinand and Lewis on May 23 (FO et al.). No Gray-cheeked Thrushes were reported. Veerys were not noted until the second week of May, with firsts (all singles) on May 12 in Marlboro (WON), Winhall (WJN), South Woodstock (HFZ), and Burlington (WGE). Seventeen birds were reported including five in Vernon on May 13 (WON). The season's first Eastern Bluebirds were a pair reported from Plainfield on March 24 (MFH). There were only two other March sightings. The majority of the approximately 40 birds reported occurred during the last three weeks of April; nesting was underway by the end of the month, and there were fledgling young in West Windsor by May 21 (JEH).

#### GNATCATCHER THROUGH VIREOS

A record 15 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were reported! The first was found in Vernon on May 2 (WON - "late"). A pair were found nest building there on May 13 but the nest was subsequently abandoned. Most reports are from the Champlain Valley, as far north as Sand Bar Refuge in Milton, and maxima were never more than two birds. There were no March reports of Golden-crowned Kinglets. Eight reports in April include first arrivals in Winhall on April 1 (WJN - #? "very scarce"), in Newfane on April 11 (BBo - one), in Craftsbury on April 13 (two) with nest building recorded there on April 24 (FO). First arrivals were in Burlington (eight) on April 14 (WGE) and Pantan (ca. 10) on April 16 (WS, AP), and in Marlboro (seven) on April 17 (WON) and Clarendon (one) on April 21 (LHP - "only one observed for season"). There are two reports in May, one of three birds in Marlboro on May 3 (WON - "last") and one of an undisclosed number on the Island Pond Field Trip on May 27. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were first seen on April 13 (one) in Timmott (GTL), in Burlington (two) on April 14 (WGE), in Winhall (#?) on April 17 (WJN), in Craftsbury (one) on April 23 (FO et al.), and in Vernon (one) on May 2 (WON). Although a high count of 25 was made in Burlington on May 8 (WGE), most observers reported numbers to be down consid-

erably from the previous year. Water Pipits were recorded four times: three to four in Craftsbury on April 24 (FO et al.), two on May 12 in Burlington (WGE), one on May 19 in Marlboro (WON), and 100+ in the Champlain Valley on May 20 (losing Big Day Team).

An undisclosed number of Bohemian Waxwings were seen in Putney on March 2 (AMe). Cedar Waxwings were seen twice in April in Burlington (WGE); the remainder of sightings were from May 24 to the end of the period. Northern Shrikes were present in very good numbers (18 birds) remaining until April 21 in Hardwick (FO - one) and South Woodstock (ALG - one). There were eight birds seen in April alone, including a season high of three in Craftsbury on April 4 (FO et al.). There were no reports of Loggerhead Shrike.

Seventeen Yellow-throated Vireos were reported, including first at Lake Bomoseen on May 10 (BJG), May 12 in Middlebury (WS) and Woodstock (JMN), and May 13 with two in Vernon (WON - "late"), two in Arlington (WGE et al.) and one at Dead Creek (AP). The first Solitary Vireo was seen in Marlboro on April 25 (WON), followed by singles on April 26 in Woodstock (JMN), Winhall (WJN), and Jamaica (BBo). Reports from the Champlain Valley seemed to come mostly from the first to second weeks of May. A season high of seven were reported from Marlboro on May 7 (WON). Four reports of Red-eyed Vireos on May 13 (one to two birds) were the first, from Vernon, Arlington, Clarendon and Middlebury. Ten were seen in Winhall on May 24 (WJN). Three Philadelphia Vireos were seen, at Mt. Holly on May 20 (DPK et al.), at Lewis on May 23 (FO et al.), and at Island Pond on May 27 (v.o.). A Warbling Vireo was seen in Brattleboro on May 8 (WON - "late") and singles were reported from Marlboro (WON), Woodstock (JMN) and Bomoseen (BJG) on May 10. On three occasions, three birds were seen, on May 12 in Middlebury (WS), on May 13 in Vernon (WON), and on May 20 in Clarendon (LHP).

#### WOOD WARBLERS

Black-and-white Warblers were first seen in Vernon (one) on May 2 (WON), in Marlboro (one) on May 3 (WON), in South Woodstock (one) on May 4 (AJR), in South Burlington (one) on May 8 (WGE et al.), and in Craftsbury (two) on May 12 (JW). Fifteen birds on May 12 in Winhall (WJN) provided the season high; the statewide total of birds reported was 41. Only two Golden-winged Warblers were seen, both birds in Sudbury on May 20 (DPK et al.), and only one Blue-winged Warbler was seen, in Brattleboro on May 18 (WON). Of the 21 Tennessee Warblers observed, the first were on May 12 (one in Burlington (WGE), on May 13 (one) in Brattleboro (WON), and in Middlebury (two) on May 16 (WS). The remaining birds were found from May 20-27. An ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER was seen on May 16 in Middlebury (WS); the report is supported by excellent details. This constituted the second spring occurrence of this predominately western breeding warbler (the first was a bird banded in South Woodstock on May 24, 1976), although this editor saw two birds on two separate occasions in the spring of 1967. Thirty Nashville Warblers were reported, beginning on May 9 (two birds) in Clarendon on May 9 (LHP). Nashvilles were subsequently reported from Winhall (#?) on May 11 (WJN), on May 12 (five) from Burlington (WGE), on May 15 (one) from Middlebury (WS), and on May 17 (two) from Guilford (WON). The maximum of six was found in Winhall on May 12 (WJN). On May 12, the first Northern Parulas were found, one Clarendon (LHP) and one in South Woodstock (HFZ). The largest number to be recorded was five in Vernon on May 13 (WON). A total of 16 birds were reported. In addition, there were good numbers to be found in Ferdinand and in the Lewis Bloomfield area on May 23 and 27 (WGE). One Yellow Warbler on May 2 in Vernon (WON) was the first of the season, but it was not until May 11 and 12 that the next birds were recorded. The first in Addison (one - AP) was on May 11, and the first in Middlebury (six - WS), Burlington (three, WGE, BSE, ORE), and Woodstock (#? - HFZ) were on May 12. The seasonal high of 18 was from Vernon on May 13 (WON). Magnolia Warblers arrived later than usual, with the first bird seen in Marlboro on May 11 (WON). On May 12, three birds were in Craftsbury (FO), four were in South Woodstock (VINS), and one (?) bird was in Winhall (WJN). About 50 birds were counted in all, including 20 birds maximum on May 23 in Winhall (WJN). Cape May Warblers appeared in fairly good numbers and arrived on schedule. About 52 birds were counted; the first report comes from Bennington (one) on May 5 (DAJ). On May 12 two birds were seen in Winhall (WJN), and on May 13 four were seen in Vernon (WON), eight were in Arlington (WGE et al.), three were in Woodstock (JMN), and an unspecified number were in Middlebury (WS). A maximum of 15-20 were in Middlebury on May 15 where they were "very common all week" (WS). The last birds in Ferdinand, four on May 23 and five on May 27, (VFBC), may or may not have been migrants. The first Black-throated Blue Warbler did not appear until May 9 in Timmott (LHP). One arrived in Marlboro (WON) and three were in South Woodstock (VINS) on May 10. Other arrivals include five in Winhall (WJN) and one in Burlington (WGE) on May 12, and two in Middlebury on May 15 (WS). Twenty-four birds were reported. The Yellow-rumped Warbler that briefly visited a feeder in South Newfane on March 27 (BBo) was possibly a winterer. Probable early migrants (four) appeared in Wolcott on April 13 (FO et al. - "not seen again until April 29"). Other arrivals appeared on April 25 (two) in Marlboro (WON), in Winhall (#?) on May 2 (WJN), in Woodstock (two) on May 3 (JMN), in Clarendon (one) on April 28 (LHP), in Burlington (two) on April 29 (WGE), and in Plainfield (#?) on April 29 (MFH). Peaks of 100 birds were recorded twice, from Clarendon on May 12 (LHP) and Dead Creek on May 13 (WS). Black-throated Green Warblers were first seen in Marlboro (two) on May 8 (WON), in Middlebury (one) on May 10 (WS), and on May 12 with six in Burlington (WGE), one in Woodstock (JMN) and Winhall (WJN), and two in Clarendon (LHP). Three Cerulean Warblers were present on the Lamotte River on May 23 (Big Day - WS et al.). One Blackburnian Warbler in Winhall (WJN) and one in Middlebury (WS) on May 10 were the first to be recorded. Twenty-five birds were seen through the season with maxima of five on three occasions. Chestnut-sided Warblers did not appear until the second week of May, when they were seen for the first time on May 9 in Burlington (WGE - one), and on May 12 in six locations. Eight birds in Vernon on May 15 (WON) was the highest number reported; about forty birds were noted in all. Twenty-two Bay-breasted Warblers were recorded. Three birds were in Winhall on May 12 (WJN), four to five birds were in Arlington (WGE et al.) and three were in Marlboro (WON) on May 13, and one bird was seen in Middlebury on May 15 (WS). The last bird in Winhall was seen on May 27 (WJN), and on the same date four were seen in Ferdinand (FO et al.). Individual Blackpoll Warblers were seen in Winhall on May 12 (WJN), in Brattleboro on May 13 (WON), and in Vernon (WON) and Middlebury (WS) on May 15. Only ten birds were reported, including a seasonal high of three on May 27 "near Island Pond" (LHP). Four reports of Pine Warbler were made: one in Burlington on April 23 (BF), one in Marlboro on May 4 (WON - "first ever"), one in Fairlee on May 14 (WGE), and one in Middlebury on May 21 (fide WS). As of May 31, Prairie Warblers were not reported at their usual location in Vernon (WON). One bird in Rockingham on May 20 (DPK et al.) is the only

report received. Only three Palm Warblers were found, two in Weybridge on April 29 and one there on May 5 (WS). Three observers commented that none were seen (WDN, WGE, WJN). Ovenbirds arrived on May 8 (three) in Marlboro (WDN), on May 9 (one) in Winhall (WJN) and (one) in West Addison (AP - "finally!"). Six birds seen in Marlboro on May 19 and five birds seen in Winhall on May 12 were the maximum numbers to be reported. Northern Waterthrushes first appeared on May 10 (one) at Beaver Meadow Bog on May 10 (WS), at Vernon (WDN), Putney (MFZ), in Clarendon (LHP) on May 13 (all single birds), and at Marlboro (WDN) and Winhall (WJN) on May 19 (singles). The last bird seen in Clarendon was on May 21 (LHP) and four were seen in the Island Pond area on May 23 (FO et al.). Seven Louisiana Waterthrushes were seen: two were in Bristol on May 10 (WS), and singles were in Arlington on May 13 (WGE et al.), in Castleton on May 20 (LHP), in Woodstock on May 24 (JHN), in Moscow on May 25 (CWJ), and in Winhall on May 27 (WJN). Mourning Warblers were found on six occasions totaling eight birds: one in Marlboro on May 24 (WDN), two in the Beaver Meadow Bog area on May 25 (WS), one at Island Pond on May 27 (v.o.) and one at South Woodstock on the same date (MCH), two at Hartford on May 29 (WGE), and the last bird was one that was banded in South Woodstock on May 30 (VINS). Common Yellowthroats arrived almost one week later than usual with firsts recorded in Marlboro (two) on May 11 and one at Dead Creek on the same date (AP). A bird was banded in South Woodstock on May 12 (VINS), and one bird was at Saxtons River on the same date (WBK). There are six reports totaling around 20 birds on May 13 indicating perhaps the first widespread arrivals. Maxima include ten birds in Winhall on May 23 (WJN) and nine birds in Marlboro on May 19 (WDN). One YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT seen in Reading on May 20 is supported by excellent details (MPR, LNM). This is the third spring occurrence in six years. The first Wilson's Warblers (two) were found in Burlington on May 12 (WGE - "good migration this year!"). On May 13 one was seen in Arlington (WGE), on May 18 one was seen in Winhall (WJN), on May 20 one was seen in Hartford (WGE), on May 21 the first bird was seen in Woodstock (JHN), on May 22 one (?) was seen in Middlebury (fide WS), and on May 23 the last bird was seen in Winhall (WJN) and one bird was present in Brighton (WGE). Eighteen plus Canada Warblers were seen. They first appeared on May 13 in Brattleboro (one - WDN), and in Arlington (four - WGE). Subsequent reports do not occur until May 19 (one) in Marlboro (WDN), May 20 (one?) in Winhall (WJN), May 21 (one?) in Middlebury (fide WS, May 23 (one) in Woodstock (JHN), May 25 (two) at Beaver Meadow Bog in Bristol (WS), and May 26 (five, maximum) in Winhall (WJN). The last birds were one near Island Pond on May 27 and one bird that was banded in South Woodstock (VINS - "total: one; low for season, usually five to six"). American Redstart reports begin on May 12, with four birds in Marlboro (WDN), one (?) bird in Winhall (WJN), and two birds in Burlington (WGE). There are scattered reports through the month; at least 60 birds were recorded. Maxima include 14 in Marlboro on May 19 (WDN) and 15 in Winhall on May 23 (WJN). Nest building was underway in Craftsbury by May 23 (FO, JW).

**BLACKBIRDS AND TANAGERS**

One to two Bobolinks were seen in West Addison on May 8 (AP). The next arrivals were on May 11-12 when 18 individuals were recorded in seven localities; thirty-four birds total, were seen this season. In March Eastern Meadowlarks were found on four occasions, on the 22nd (one) in Rochester (WS), on the 28th (three) in West Rutland (LHP), and on the 30th with two in Addison (AP), and one in Craftsbury (FO, JW). Sixty-one birds were reported in April, but there are only two reports for May. A season high of 20 was seen from Craftsbury to Newport on April 13 (FO et al.). Red-winged Blackbirds are probably the number one species to be recorded each spring and this year was no exception. As many as 11,000 birds were reported, in 42 sightings. The first widespread arrivals were not seen until the third week of March; no birds were reported in either late February or early March this year. Northern Orioles were first seen on May 9 (one) in Saxtons River (WBK). Widespread arrivals were from May 12 to 14; thirty-nine birds were reported. Nesting was underway in Woodstock on May 17 (JHN) and in Craftsbury on May 23 (FO, JW). No Orchard Orioles were reported. Seventy-seven Rusty Blackbirds were recorded (eighteen reports) with singles being recorded on April 2 in Clarendon (LHP) and Saxtons River (WBK). Other arrivals include one in Marlboro on April 10 (WDN), one in Craftsbury on April 12 (FO et al.), one bird in Burlington on April 21 (WGE, BSE, ORE) and one in Winhall on April 27 (WJN). Migration was over by the first week of May (three reports); one bird was seen in Brighton on May 23 (FO et al.). The first Common Grackles were found in Burlington on March 21 (one - WGE), in Addison (two - AP) and Woodstock (three - IMS) on March 23, and in Bennington (#7 - JAD - "very late") and Middlebury (one - WS) on March 24. The season high of 100+ was recorded on April 12 in Craftsbury (FO et al.). About 250 birds were reported in all for the season. Brown-headed Cowbirds were first observed at Huntington on March 12 (WGE - two birds, "probably overwintered!"). The next reports come from the last week of March and the first two weeks of April. Three hundred was the maximum reported: they were found in Springfield on April 8 (WDN).

Scarlet Tanagers did not appear until May 12 (three reports, four birds) and May 13 (four reports, thirteen birds). A total of 31 birds were reported through the period

**FINCHES**

Thirty-eight Cardinals were reported through the period; the season high of 12 was recorded in Burlington on March 12 (WGE). Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were first reported in five places on May 10 (six birds) and in nine places on May 12 (24 birds). There were 23 reports altogether, totaling 70 birds. On May 17-18 as many as 14 birds (8 males and 6 females) appeared at one feeder in South Newfane (BBo). With these birds briefly on May 18 was a bird with the following characteristics: "black head, no eye striping whatsoever, overall generally brown, back appeared somewhat streaked, wings a slightly darker brown than back with two white wing bars; breast was buffy, unstreaked in front, slightly yellow tinged upper breast, fine streaking along sides; golden underwing linings observed as it flew" (BBo). Although this bird was observed by only one person previously inexperienced with the bird, the sighting was most certainly of a subadult male BLACK-HEADED GROSBEEK. There are three previous records for this species from Vermont: an individual was observed in North Ferrisburg on October 26, 1962, and a subadult male was seen at a Brattleboro feeder on May 3, 1970 (WDN - previously unpublished) plus a probable Black-headed Grosbeak at a South Barre feeder February 7, 1977 (fide MFH). Only six Indigo Buntings were reported. The first bird was seen in Woodstock May 12 (HDM), and singles were reported at scattered locations thereafter. Over 500 Evening Grosbeaks (26 reports) were recorded for the period, after a winter of relative scarcity. There were five March sightings, eight in April and 13 in May. Flocks of 50-100 birds were seen on four occasions. The last birds (nine) were seen in Craftsbury on May 12 (FO, JW), in Clar-

endon (75 plus) on May 17 (LHP), in Marlboro (four) on May 24 (WDN), at Beaver Meadow (one) on May 25 (WS), and at North Ferrisburg (#7) on May 29 (JID). About 125 Purple Finches (27 reports) were counted this spring. Seven birds were seen in March, one on the 16th in Brownsville (BHM) and six on the 20th in Putney (MFZ). Many birds were seen from the second week of April on (15 reports); there are eight reports in May. The maximum number seen at one locality were 20 to 25 in Winhall on May 6 (WJN). Twenty House Finches from nine localities were reported this season. On March 9 three were reported from Middlebury (WS - "singing; overwintered") and one was last seen there on May 5. Two were present in Marlboro on April 5 (WDN), on April 7, three appeared at a feeder in Castleton (JRC), the first bird showed up in Burlington on April 26 where there were at least four seen on May 5 (WGE - "a veritable explosion") and nesting was reported on May 9. Two pairs were present in West Addison on April 28 (AP - "hooray!"); the last birds to be seen were one in Randolph on May 12 (EWC) and one bird in Vernon on May 13 (WDN). The Spring 1976 Records reports the "apparent first state record" of House Finch to be at Wallingford on May 13, 1972. This editor knows of two previous records, one bird on November 21, 1968 in Marlboro (fide WDN), and of another bird, again in Marlboro, in April 1972 (WDN). Any other original reports to add to these? Please notify the Institute so that we may have a clearer picture of the invasion. It was a good winter for Pine Grosbeaks, and there were record numbers present (at least 100 birds), remaining later than ever. The last reports are of one bird in Burlington on May 8 (WGE), two in Craftsbury on April 29 (FO, JW). Twenty plus birds seen in Clarendon on April 11 (LHP) was the maximum number to be reported.

Common Redpolls appeared in invasion numbers; about 2,000 birds were reported. There are four counts of 200 or more birds, and several flocks contained 100 or more individuals. The maximum number seen was 250+ in Wallingford on April 7 (BCW); 236 birds were banded through the period in Plainfield (MFH). Final reports in most places were from April 10 to 19. There are two reports on April 30: #7 in Plainfield (MFH) and #7 in West Windsor (JEH, BMH). As to be expected when so many Common Redpolls are present, there were proportionately more Hoary Redpolls seen. As many as eight birds were reported, including three birds at a Cornwall feeder from March 3 to at least the 27th (BBP). A bird assigned to the subspecies known as the "Greenland race" was observed at the same feeder on March 12 (WS). In addition, a subspecies of Common Redpoll called "Greater Redpoll" was reported from Bethel on March 14 (CH). Jehl and Smith (2) suggest that "the taxonomy of redpolls is one of the most perplexing problems in North American ornithology. Whether one, two, or four species should be recognized is still an open question . . . two polytypic species . . . occur sympatrically in some areas of Canada and Alaska. Unfortunately, their relationships in these zones of sympatry are poorly known. In northern Alaska these forms hybridize freely . . . whereas at Churchill there is assortive mating." Even specimens may not be referable to a particular form. Because much individual variation exists, and because of the uncertainties surrounding the relationships within this group, it would seem best to simply note extremes between individuals. Note that a particular bird appeared to differ from other "regular" appearing birds and leave it at that until further research clarifies the situation.

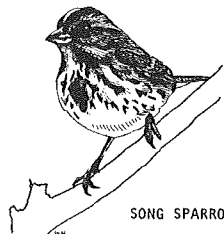
Pine Siskins were present in fair numbers throughout the season. Fifty to 75 were recorded on two occasions and 75 were banded in Plainfield through the period, with apparently at least one nesting pair present (MFH). Siskins continued to appear sporadically into June in Marlboro (WDN). No large flocks or movements of American Goldfinches were evident; 32 were banded in Plainfield (MFH). The only record of Red Crossbill is of three birds on May 3 in Burlington (WGE). Seven White-winged Crossbills were found: one female at a feeder in Quechee on March 3-5 (LWC), one was in Marlboro on April 2 (WDN), two were in Burlington on April 12 (WGE), one was in Tinmouth on April 13 (GTL), one was in Woodstock April 17 to May 3 (IMS), and the last bird was seen in Strafford on May 5 (ERD). The first Rufous-sided Towhee (one) was seen in Putney on April 9 (AP). Other reports were scattered from the third week of April to the second week of May; many observers remarked about their relative scarcity this season, but seven were seen in Marlboro on May 22 (WDN). A total of only 25 were recorded. Savannah Sparrow numbers seemed down this spring; around 85 birds were reported, with the first appearing in Panton (2) on April 3 (AP). Most other arrivals appeared during the second and third weeks of April; the maximum, 20-22, was reported on April 13 in Craftsbury (FO et al.). Eighteen reports of Vesper Sparrow were submitted totalling about 39 birds. The earliest were birds seen in six locations on April 13; the maximum for the period, seven birds, was seen on this date in Burlington (WGE). The bulk of Dark-eyed Juncos began to arrive during the last days of March and the first week in April. Maxima of 200-250 were reported on two occasions, and there were several records of flocks of 100 or more birds during the second and third weeks of April. A male OREGON JUNCO was found in Winhall on April 16 (WJN). The only previous report submitted to the Records is of a bird found in the Burlington area in April and May 1975. Tree Sparrows were present in fairly good numbers in April and remained into early May in four locations. In the Island Pond area 150-200 birds were noted on May 21 (FO et al.), an unusual number for an unusually late date. Excellent details were submitted on a sighting of a CLAY-COLORED SPARROW in Burlington on May 12 (WGE et al.). This is the first published record for the state. Chipping Sparrows appeared about as usual in late April and early May. The season high of 20 plus birds was reported from Burlington on May 12 (WGE). Twenty-one Field Sparrows were reported from April 7 on; three were the highest number counted, on April 14 in Burlington (WGE). Only nine White-crowned Sparrows were reported, beginning the second week of May. Two active birders (WJN, WDN) did not report the species this spring; other observers noted a poor flight or that numbers were down. White-throated Sparrows arrived in April; there were no March reports. In Burlington, 130 birds were found on May 8 (WGE), on April 29 60+ birds were counted in Clarendon (LHP), and on May 12 40 were seen in Winhall (WJN). All 55 Fox Sparrows were reported in April, beginning on the 4th (#7) in Townshend (BBo). There is only one report of Lincoln's Sparrow (6 birds) on May 23 from Barton and the Island Pond area (WGE et al.). They were not present in areas where they have bred in the last three years (FO). Twenty-eight Swamp Sparrows were reported beginning on April 21 (one) in Craftsbury (FO). Ten were the most noted, at Dead Creek on May 3 (WS). Fifty-five to sixty Song Sparrows were counted from Craftsbury to Newport on April 13 (FO et al.). Otherwise no notable concentrations were reported; they arrived on schedule in ordinary numbers during March and April. Record numbers of Snow Buntings were reported including a flock of 1,000 on March 25 and 30 at Bridport (WS, AP). Over 2,100 birds were counted. Ninety birds were last seen at Dead Creek on April 1 (WS, et al.),

two birds were last seen in Burlington on April 14 (WGE), and one bird was last seen in East Charleston on April 17 (FO et al.).

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SONG SPARROW

SPRING 1978  
-6-

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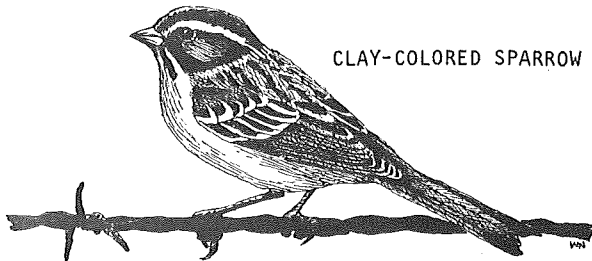
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