



# Records of Vermont Birds

## SUMMER 1978

1 JUNE - 31 JULY

WAYNE SCOTT, EDITOR

This report summarizes the nesting season, June and July, 1978, year number two of the five-year Vermont Atlas Project.

Meteorologically, there was nothing extraordinary about this season. June averaged 1.3 degrees below normal temperatures and 0.9 inches above normal rainfall. July was virtually average in both categories. (Information was taken at the U.S. Weather Bureau at the Burlington Airport.) In spite of this, the previous four months averaged below normal rainfall so that the overall effect was for drier than usual conditions at many locations. The effect of this, if any, on nesting success is mostly speculative; at best there were no climatic catastrophies such as excessive rainfall and/or abnormally cool weather to adversely affect nesting.

This year, two new species were confirmed as nesters for the Atlas Project. TENNESSEE WARBLER, historically listed as a nesting species in Vermont, is well known as a vagrant migrant in spring, often passing through in June, and as a sometimes early fall migrant appearing in mid-July. It had not been recorded nesting in Vermont since 1932 until this summer. Added for the first time ever to the Vermont breeding list was CAROLINA WREN, one of those "southern" species expanding its range northward, which was confirmed in Middlebury.

There were a number of rarities reported, none of which qualify as accidental or even casual. These fall into two categories: those which are especially rare in summer and those which are rare any time of year. Those in the former category include Double-crested Cormorant, Greater Yellowlegs and White-rumped Sandpiper. Snowy Egret, Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Northern Phalarope, and Northern Three-toed Woodpecker belong in the latter category. *Photo of Osprey*

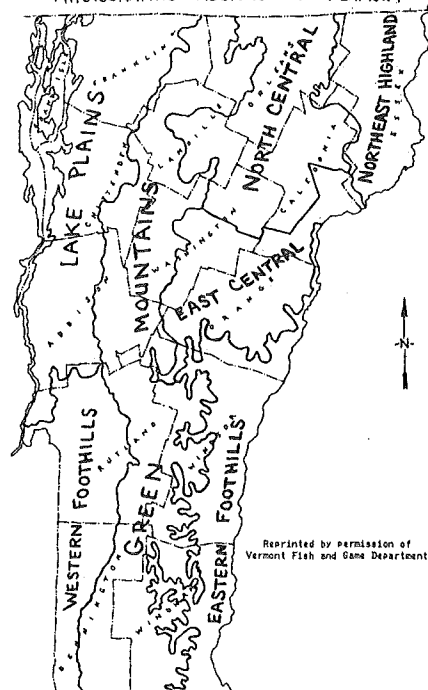
At this point, perhaps, some general comments are in order. In regard to the terminology used to define status: I have tried to adhere to the "criteria for species abundance" à la John Bull in Birds of New York State (Doubleday, 1974). Terms such as "rare," "uncommon," "common," etc. are generally loosely defined and imprecisely tossed around by many, myself included. Most often observers use their own criteria which are based on subjective and subconscious "feelings." In an effort to bring some standardization to these terms and to stimulate discussion in this matter, I have adopted Bull's criteria listed below:

Accidental	1 record
Casual	2-6 records
Very Rare	more than 6 records
Rare	1-6 individuals per season
Uncommon	1-6 individuals per day per locality
Fairly common	7-20 individuals per day per locality
Common	20-50 individuals per day per locality
Abundant	200-1,000 per day per locality
Very abundant	more than 1,000 per day per locality

Please bear in mind that it is much easier to define the status of birds which appear less than fairly commonly.

In regard to the regions of the state, I have often used the terms Northeast Kingdom and Northeast Highlands. Traditionally, Northeast Kingdom refers to the area encompassed by Essex, Orleans and Caledonia Counties. The Northeast Highlands defines that region which because of climatic and soil peculiarities is largely boreal; the highlands fall entirely within the boundaries of the Kingdom. I have made every effort to apply the terms appropriately. I have interchangeably used the terms Champlain Valley and Lake Plains Region, and Connecticut River Valley and Eastern Foothills, especially in the 1977 report. In my lexicon, these have essentially the same meaning.

PHYSIOGRAPHIC REGIONS OF VERMONT



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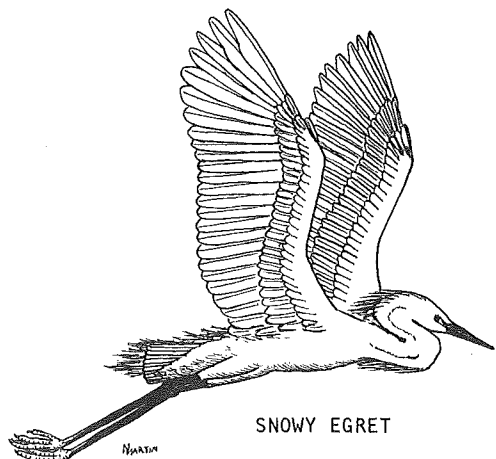
While conducting a survey of 68 lakes and ponds throughout Vermont to determine the status of the Common Loon, Larry Metcalf found 21 territorial pairs, 16 of which attempted nesting. 12 chicks were fledged on 8 lakes or ponds including Cat's Bow Pond in Lunenburg, East Long Pond in Woodbury, Green River Reservoir in Hyde Park, Little Averill Lake in Averill, Long Pond in Westmore, Molly's Falls Reservoir in Cabot, Peacham Pond in Peacham, and Somerset Reservoir in Stratton.

Thus far a total of 11 records of Pied-billed Grebe from scattered locations around the state have been submitted during the Atlas Project. Two of these represent additions during 1978 including a confirmed nesting in the Black River Marshes (FO et al.) and a possible nesting in Plainfield (LNM, RJ).

Double-crested Cormorant is unknown in Vermont in winter, rare in other seasons but especially so in June and July. Sightings in 1978 are the first since 1975 for summer: one seen June 11 at Harriman Reservoir in Wilmington (CVB, DC); 14 reported on June 29 at South Sister Island (DEC); and an immature July 15 on Fairfield Pond.

Observers in 1978 added at least 23 Atlas records of Great Blue Heron to the 48 previously reported, including confirmation of nesting in Barton (FO, ALG, DPK) and Plainfield (LC). While the 70 blocks in which this species has been found are distributed in all regions, numbers submitted by a few birders strongly suggest that during June and July it occurs uncommonly in most areas.

Notable among the 22 Atlas records of Green Heron in 1978 there were two confirmations, one each in Ludlow (AIP) and Wallonsac (BDU). While a number of individual sightings were reported from various locations in southern Vermont (WJN, JHN, WGE, LPH), there were only 3 reported from northern Vermont. Single birds were seen in Coventry, June 24 (MFH) and along the Barton River, July 1 (FO, ALG, DPK); and a pair were spotted along the Clyde River, July 3 (FO, ALG, DPK, JW).



Since 1974 there have been 2 spring and 3 fall reports of SNOWY EGRET. A sighting of a single bird flying across Route 5 in Westminster on June 27 (LNM) is the first ever reported to the summer "Records."

Nesting pairs of Black-crowned Night Heron were discovered in South Hero this summer (DEC, NK) and a probable nesting record was submitted from Burlington (HC). These were the only records submitted for 1978.

Since the "Records" were first published in 1973 only 1 sighting of Least Bittern away from the Champlain Valley and West Rutland Marsh has been made at any season, that being a bird at Herrick's Cove in May of 1976. A probable nesting in Ludlow (AIP) is therefore of interest. This plus the strong suggestion of nesting in South Bay Marshes furnished by Richard Eldred in the mid 1960's (fide FO) underscores the need to carefully search suitable habitat elsewhere in the state to determine the true status of this elusive species.

Comments by 3 observers support the inclusion of American Bittern on the 1979 Blue List (see American Birds 32:6). Marion Metcalf remarked she had not seen any this year and Louise Mullen indicated she had no reports either. Frank Oatman reported "fair numbers as usual" with a high of 4 at Lake Memphremagog on June 13. The season's highest count was submitted by the Ellisons who had 6 at West Rutland Marsh, July 22.

GLOSSY IBIS appears more or less rarely in Vermont in spring, sometimes occurring in good numbers (see "Records" Spring, 1977). A summer bird, June 22, just east of Burlington on 189 (EAO, fide FO) represents the first non-Spring record of this species since the "Records" began publication in 1973.

A postscript on the casual sighting of the Mute Swan in 1977: a pair of these birds were discovered nesting in Franklin County, New York, in the Adirondack region (HPAS Newsletter 6:7). This is the first report of this species from that region. In addition, there was a newspaper report of a single individual July 20, 1978, on the Connecticut river in Bellows Falls.

A pair of Canada Geese nested and produced 4 young in Gale Meadows (WJN). In addition young were observed in Pownal for confirmation there (DH), and a single bird was seen in West Haven on July 22 (GFE, WGE). A flock of 25 seen June 13 at Lake Memphremagog was late but not unusual (FO, NBS, BK1).

Observers obtained nesting confirmation of Mallard in South Hero (NK, DEC), Moncton (LBI), Cornwall (WS), Proctor (RWP), Cavendish (EE), and Wallonsac (BDU). This brings the total number of confirmations to 34. Data from the first two years of Atlas Project indicate that Mallard is widely distributed in the lowlands of the Champlain Valley, Connecticut River Valley and the Western foothills, and is found much more rarely in other regions especially the East-Central and Northeast Highlands.

Black Duck, which has been reported much more commonly than Mallard in more northerly and elevated regions, enjoys a wider, more even distribution in all sections of the state. 10 young reported near Woodstock, June 14 (JHN) and 7, June 25, on the Green River Reservoir (MFH), highlight the 12 confirmed nestings this season. Oatman found very small numbers - "only ones or twos and very scattered" - in the Northeast Kingdom.

Rare in summer, Pintail was confirmed as a nester in South Hero (NK) thus bringing the number of confirmed breeding locations to 4. So far, the only breeding location outside Grand Isle County has been at Concord near St. Johnsbury.

Evidence of nesting Green-winged Teal has been obtained only in the northern half of the state and especially along the northern fringe just south of the Canadian border from Missisquoi to Memphremagog. This provides evidence for a southerly extension of range boundaries as delimited by Johnsguard in Waterfowl of North America (1975) and by Palmer in Handbook of North American Birds, Vol. 2 (1976), both of whom give Southern Quebec as the limit of breeding in the northeast. A seasonal high count of 13 was obtained in the Black River Marshes of Memphremagog, July 1 (FO, DPK, ALG).

Blue-winged Teal has been found predominately in the Champlain Valley, and like the Green-winged Teal, mostly in the northern half of the state. Included among the 5 additions to Atlas records in 1978 were confirmed nestings at Holland Pond and at Guildhall (LNM). 3 were seen July 1 along the Barton River for a seasonal high count (FO, DPK, ALG).

Reported without comment was a possible nesting of American Wigeon in East Barre (LNM). The first Atlas record and the first summer report of this species since publication of the "Records" began in 1973. Historical nesting exists for this species in Addison County as recently as 1962 (see Palmer, 1976).

19 additional Atlas sightings of Wood Duck were made in 1978 to bring the total number of blocks in which this species has been found to 57. A slight preponderance of reports in the western third of the state have been submitted. One observer notes that numbers were "definitely down in the Northeast Kingdom" (FO).

Adult Ring-necked Ducks were present on Holland Pond and at Guildhall (LNM). These are the first summer reports in at least 5 years for a bird reported to be a regular nester in some sections of Vermont.

Hooded Merganser was present once again as a nester at Gale Meadows (WJN), and additional Atlas sightings were obtained at Island Pond (FO), Plainfield. So far, none have been seen in the Connecticut River Valley.

Significant among the few reports of Common Merganser were confirmed nestings from Memphremagog, Green River Reservoir, Haldstone Park (LNM), and Moncton (LBI). In addition, single birds were present at Island Pond on June 9 (FO, CSz et al.), South Tunbridge on June 29 (WGE, GFE, AJR), and at Rochester on July 9 (GFE, WGE).

Thus far observers have recorded Turkey Vulture as a possible nester in 29 blocks, 16 of which were added this year. A single bird seen over Moose Bog near Island Pond in June was unusual so far north (CSz, CWJ). The high count for the period was 7 on July 3 in Ferrisburg (JID, MCD).

16 records of Goshawk were added in 1978 including 9 from northern Vermont where this species eluded detection by Atlas workers in all but two blocks in 1977. It has now been found in every region of the state. Included among the reports for this summer was an adult at the Babcock Nature Preserve in Hyde Park on June 4 and again on June 16 when it was seen chasing a Red-tail (FO et al.).

In East Barre (LNM) and Rutland (NLH), workers confirmed Sharp-shinned Hawk for the first time during the Atlas Project. These were among the 15 additions to the 18 records obtained previously. A possible nesting from Lewis Creek near Lake Champlain (JID, MCE) was the first record of this species for summer in 5 years from the Champlain Valley. Observations this summer were obtained in blocks scattered from as far north as Jay Peak, Irasburg (WGE) and Island Pond (FO) south to Vernon (CVB).

A report of one or two Cooper's Hawks over Toad Pond in Charlestown on July 3 (FO, DPK, ALG, JW) was the only report of the season.

Of the 37 Atlas sightings of Red-tailed Hawk submitted, only 3 were confirmations. Oatman reported finding a nest in Babcock Nature Preserve on June 12 with a juvenile bird and an unhatched egg. There were also confirmations from Ferrisburg (BPG) and Rutland (NLM). Ellison reported average numbers with 6 individuals in 4 Atlas blocks.

A Red-shouldered Hawk nest with young was observed during the Bird Conference field trip near the Vernon Black Gum Swamp, and another nest with young was spotted in a block near Springfield (EE). There were 22 other Atlas sightings for 1978 bringing the total to 54, a majority of which have been made in the Green Mountain and Connecticut Valley regions.

Like the Red-shouldered Hawk, the Broad-winged Hawk has been found primarily in the Green Mountain and Connecticut River Valley Regions. While Oatman feels numbers may have been considerably down in the Northeast Kingdom, records indicate average numbers for this species farther south. Several pairs were present near Londonderry (WJN); two were also seen frequently throughout the season in Woodstock (JMN) and Brattleboro (LPH). Ellison observed 13 in 7 blocks and 3 individual birds were seen on separate occasions in Plainfield and Marshfield (MFH).

A possible sighting of GOLDEN EAGLE at Dead Creek 7/13 (JPI) underscores the need to carefully scrutinize "large hawks" and to submit carefully recorded details. There have been a number of possible sightings especially in the Champlain Valley. This species is a rare nester and rather uncommon migrant in the Adirondacks and upstate New York so it is not inconceivable birds will turn up here in the summer.

There were three possible sightings of Bald Eagle for the period. An immature was reported in Royalton, 6/1 (JAH) and was described as having a yellow basal portion of the bill, whitish cheeks, and was estimated to be 3 times the size of the crows mobbing it. Another possible immature was present in Vernon but no details were submitted (DVW fide LPH). An adult was well seen at Lake Memphremagog (MHA fide FO).

There were 7 additions in 1978 to Atlas Records of Marsh Hawk, including a confirmed nesting in Moncton (LBI). Reports were submitted from Rouses Point (GHM), Memphremagog (FO), Lewis Creek (JID, MCD), Pawlet (SS) Ludow and Springfield (EE). So far, none have been located in the east-central region of the state.

Possible nesting Osprey were sighted at three widely scattered locations, near Dead Creek (AP), Quechee (VFBC) and Bellows Falls (DC). Single birds were present during the Bird Conference near Brattleboro and in West Woodstock, July 5 (PRI).

An adult PEREGRINE FALCON was well observed as it swooped over the Barton River Marshes of Lake Memphremagog July 1 (FO, ALG, DPK). This is a summer season first in the 5 years of the publication of the "Records." According to the observers, it was closely observed and lacked bands or streamers.

Certainly the most common hawk in Vermont is the American Kestrel which has now been found in 121 blocks statewide, including 51 confirmations. Two observers remarked that kestrel numbers were average in 1978 (FO, WGE).

The rare Spruce Grouse was found in two blocks near Island Pond; and in Ferdinand a female was seen with 4 to 5 downy young on June 29 (FO, AP). Possibly a different female with 4 young was spotted in the same block July 20 (WGE). These sightings represent the first Atlas confirmations for this species and certainly the first reported to the summer "Records."

46 Atlas sightings of Ruffed Grouse in 1978 brings the total for this species to 137 with 98 confirmations. A nest with 12 eggs on June 6 was raided and subsequently abandoned (NBS fide FO) and a female with downy young was present in Craftsbury June 11 (FO). Oddly enough, with signs pointing to a healthy population, two observers remarked that they perceived them to be less common this year (WGE, LPH).

The Bobwhite, present in Pownal (DAJ) was observed visiting possible nest sites.

Observers continue to find Turkey in the southern half of the state with 9 additions or updates to Atlas records. Confirmed nesting was obtained in Dorset (CSE), Wallingford (PDU et al.), Springfield (EE), Arlington (NS), Bennington (RSK) and Brattleboro (LPH). Population trends were viewed in the Brattleboro, Dummerston and Gullford area as being on the increase. Interestingly, the most northerly sighting this season was in Woodstock.

In the South Bay Marshes of Memphremagog, June 13, numbers of Virginia Rail were reported "very good" (FO et al.). Elsewhere, 3 were seen in Bradford on June 7 (WGE, ALG) and 1 was present at West Rutland Marsh on July 22 (WGE, GFE). Confirmation of nesting was obtained in Ludlow (AIP) and in Mocton (LBI).

There were only two Atlas sightings of Sora submitted this summer, both from the Memphremagog area. Oatman pointed out that very few could be located this summer. The lack of reports statewide underscores his assessment.

2 Common Gallinules seen July 1 in the Barton River marshes near Lake Memphremagog were the first reported to the "Records" from the Northeast Kingdom. Nesting confirmation was subsequently obtained. Careful scrutiny of these extensive marshes will likely prove this species to be more regular there. There was also confirmation at West Rutland Marsh where workers observed young on July 22 (WGE, GFE).

Killdeer is emerging as one of the most widespread and common birds in Vermont. In Craftsbury a nest with 4 eggs was found May 24. 3 of the eggs hatched June 12 and young were out of the nest on June 13 (FO, JW). Ellison observed 33 in 7 blocks including 7 in Tunbridge on June 26 (WGE, GFE). By the end of July birds were beginning to migrate. 65 were seen on July 27 at Hardwick Lake (LNM).

American Woodcock continues to flourish in the state. 24 new Atlas records including 7 confirmed nestings were obtained. A brood of young present in Winhall on May 19 was early (WJN). A female was observed with 2 downy young at Island Pond June 9 (FO, CSZ).

The Dyes confirmed Common Snipe along Lewis Creek in Ferrisburg; otherwise observers were unable to establish confirmation in any of the 16 other blocks in which this species was found in 1978. In the Northeast Kingdom numbers were above average this year (fide FO). 6 birds at Lake Hardwick July 27 were clearly migrants (LNM).

A report of 2 Upland Sandpipers at Wolcott on June 10 (MFH) comes as a bit of a surprise. Previously, summer records of this species have all come from the Champlain Valley area or from the farmland adjacent to Lake Memphremagog.

Spotted Sandpiper has now been reported in nearly 100 blocks statewide. 32 confirmations have been obtained. Along the Barton River 3 observers "spotted" 30-35, July 1 (FO, DPK, ALG) and 10 were sighted in Rochester, July 9 (GFE, WGE). Both reports represent the highest single day totals ever reported to the "Records" in any season. 6 at Hardwick Lake July 25 were likely migrants (MFH).

A Solitary Sandpiper along the Barton River, July 1 (FO, DPK, ALG) was either an extraordinarily early migrant or a nonbreeding adult (or both?). One in Wells, July 8, was likely an early migrant (RWP) as was one at Albany July 10 (FO). Numbers at Lake Hardwick swelled from 6 on July 20 (WGE) to 45 by July 27 (LNM).

The presence of a GREATER YELLOWLEGS at the Babcock Nature Preserve on June 15-16 (FO et al.) was enigmatic at best. This species acquires adult plumage in two years and may in fact not breed until it is two years old. This could have been a nonbreeding sub-adult or possibly a late?/early? migrant. Take your pick! Another, less puzzling bird was observed at Lake Hardwick on the more "acceptable" date of July 20 (WGE).

A Lesser Yellowlegs in Rochester, July 9 (WGE) was the season's first. Single birds July 14 (LNM) and 15 (FO) at Lake Hardwick may have been the same bird. One flying over the Ottauquechee Flood Plain, July 21 (SBL) and a pair at Lake Hardwick on the 27th (LNM, MFH) round out the reports for this season.

Rare in Vermont at any season, 3 WHITE-RIMMED SANDPIPERS at Lake Hardwick, July 27 (LNM, MFH) were very early - certainly the earliest ever reported to the "Records" by nearly a month, and rivaling the earliest date, July 24, ever reported in New York State (see Bull, 1974).

Other waders present at Lake Hardwick include up to 20 Least Sandpipers on July 20 (WGE) and 10 on July 27 (MFH, LNM). There were 30 Semipalmated Sandpipers, July 21 and 40 on the 27th (MFH, LNM). An unconfirmed report of a NORTHERN PHALAROPE, observed floating on a pond in Worcester in May or June (SBS) would be extraordinary if true as the occurrence of this pelagic migrant inland in the spring is most unusual.

An immature Great Black-backed Gull at Newport June 13 was very unusual there (FO et al.).

Other than a few "scattered sightings as usual" in the Northeast Kingdom, there were no additional reports of Herring Gull (FO).

In four Atlas blocks on Lake Champlain, Ring-billed Gull has been confirmed as a nester. Average numbers (i.e., 40-60) were present in Burlington, July 14 (WGE); while at Lake Memphremagog, only "fair numbers" were found throughout the season (FO) and in Brattleboro it was sighted only "occasionally" (LPH).

Like the previous species, Common Tern has been confirmed in 5 blocks in Lake Champlain, all in the vicinity of St. Albans Bay and the Islands.

The 24 Black Terns at South Slang in Ferrisburg, half of which were immatures, represent a slight reduction from the 1977 high of 30. 4 locations more or less regularly produce sightings of this species in the summer. They include Dead Creek either side of the Vergennes-Panton road, South Slang, Missisquoi NWR, and the South Bay Marshes of Memphremagog.

Found in 132 blocks with 38 confirmations, Mourning Dove would appear to be doing well statewide.

Three confirmations were obtained for Yellow-billed Cuckoo in 1978 from locations in or near the Champlain Valley. Sightings in Gaysville (EH), Hyde Park (fide FO), Woodstock (JMN), and Chester (REP) were unusual away from the Champlain and lower Connecticut River Valleys. A seasonal high count of 4 was obtained in West Haven, July 22 (WGE, GFE).

Outside of north-central and northeastern sections of the state, Black-billed Cuckoo enjoys rather widespread distribution. The Ellisons et al. reported 30 individuals in 11 Atlas blocks including an astonishing 11 birds in Tunbridge. Possible nesting has been obtained in Lowell, Hardwick, and Island Pond, where it is rare.

Great Horned Owl was reported from 12 blocks in 1978; and the assessment of one observer, that numbers "seem down" (JMN), is shared by this editor. Outside of Atlas this species was virtually unreported.

Barred Owl was present in several locations near Brattleboro (LPM), while elsewhere in the state, there were 14 scattered sightings this season. Saw-whet Owl reports from Essex Center (MLY), Londonderry (WJN) and Lewis Creek (MCD, JID) were about average for the season.

Confirmation was finally obtained for Whip-poor-will when a nest with eggs was discovered in Pawlet (SS). Common Nighthawk was reported as "common" around White River Junction (WGE) and Brattleboro (LPH) thus underscoring its apparent preference for the Connecticut River Valley area. There were few scattered sightings elsewhere including reports from the Black River Marshes (FO, DPK, ALG), Barre (RJ), Woodstock (KC, JMN), Brownsville (BMH) and Quechee (RJM).

Chimney Swift has now been reported in 136 blocks statewide and the consensus is that it is doing well.

Two observers submitted their impression that numbers of Ruby-throated Hummingbird were down from 1977 (WGE, JMN) and a third remarked that numbers were still down though perhaps a bit improved over 1977 (FO). In spite of these gloomy assessments, Atlas workers continued to find this species widely distributed in 43 blocks.

6 pairs of Belted Kingfishers nesting along Lewis Creek and South Slang (MCD, JID) highlighted the 49 Atlas reports submitted this year.

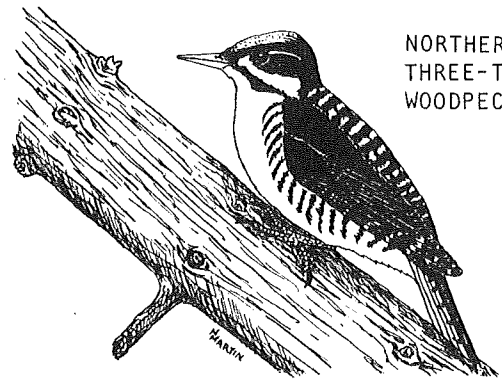
While numbers of Common Flicker were reported as reduced in Winhall and vicinity (WJN), in other areas of the state it seemed to hold its own. The Ellisons et al. reported 71 in 17 blocks with 12 in Tunbridge, June 26.

Pileated Woodpecker numbers were average in 1978. Many observers reported one or two pairs at most and for Atlas there were 36 additions overall. Two adults were seen feeding young at a nest site near Lewis Creek, June 29 (MCD, JID).

20 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers around Norton Pond June 12 was unprecedented in the "Records" (FO et al.). Elsewhere they were not as common but doing well nevertheless. The Ellisons et al. found 57 in 14 blocks including 7 each in Vershire and Lewis, while observers statewide added 52 sightings to the Atlas records.

There is little to be added to the 1977 assessment of distribution and abundance of Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers. However, after last year's nearly identical figures submitted by the Ellisons et al., this year's 39 Hairy versus 64 Downys in 15 Atlas blocks may indicate a possible change in relative numbers of the two species, either as an increase in Downy numbers or a decrease in the Hairy population.

The only report of a Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker was of a pair in Ferdinand near Maidstone Bog (CWJ).



NORTHERN  
THREE-TOED  
WOODPECKER

Aside from winter, there has been only one sighting of NORTHERN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER reported to the "Records" - that of a vagrant during April 1975 in Burlington. Its presence as a nester in the Northeast Highlands has been the source of conjecture in light of known but rare breeding in the Adirondacks, northern New Hampshire and Maine. Possible nestings in Averill and on Wheeler Mt. near Lyndonville (LNM, ECR) are significant and hopefully these can be upgraded to confirmed during 1979-81.

Very common almost everywhere, Eastern Kingbird began nest building as early as May 23 in Woodstock (JMN) and young were fledged by July 1 along the Barton River (FO, DPK, ALG).

Great Crested Flycatcher was found in 56 blocks this summer of which 12 were confirmed. The Ellisons et al. found 51 in 14 blocks and fledglings were reported as early as July 4 near Woodstock (JMN).

While Eastern Phoebe continues to do well in most areas, in the Northeast Kingdom numbers were reported as still being down from previous levels (FO). There were 83 present in 18 blocks the Ellisons et al. surveyed with a single block high of 10 in Norwich. Fledglings were reported June 29 at Woodstock (JMN).

Not surprisingly, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was present fairly commonly in the proper habitat in the northcentral and northeastern portions of the state and in a few widely scattered locations elsewhere in the state. The Ellisons found 8 near Jay Peak while Oatman reported 4-5 per day in the Island Pond area to be the norm. Down south, this species was sighted in at least two locations near Winhall from June 6 to July 27 (WJN). An adult feeding young near Island Pond was observed July 12 (FO, CSZ).

Alder Flycatcher was reported only uncommonly in 1978 with as many as 5 in one location near Chester (WJN). The Ellisons et al. found 13 in 6 blocks, numbers about average in their estimation.

Rare in the northern quarter of the state, Willow Flycatcher was confirmed as a nester at Holland Pond (LNM) and observed near Island Pond, Lake Memphremagog, and the Babcock Nature Preserve in Hyde Park (FO et al.). Elsewhere it was uncommon in scattered localities.

Certainly the most common Empidonax was the Least Flycatcher which was found in good numbers almost everywhere. The Ellisons et al. reported an amazing 142 in 19 blocks, including 19 in Tunbridge, June 21. In contrast, only 3 males were present on territory at Woodstock, the lowest in 6 years (JHN).

Atlas workers found Eastern Wood Pewee in 75 blocks of which 17 produced confirmed nesting. At the Babcock Nature Preserve, nest building was observed on June 6 and nearly completed on the 7th (FO et al.).

Olive-sided Flycatcher occurred more frequently in the Northeast Kingdom where up to 3-4 per day were seen (FO et al.). A single bird in Vernon, June 2, was likely a tardy migrant.

We still have no confirmation of Horned Lark, a species that certainly nests in the state particularly in the Champlain Valley. A group of 10-15 including large fledglings and adults were present at the Newport Airport, July 1 (FO, DPK, ALG). Probable nesting was obtained near Mt. Philo for the only other report this summer (MCD, JID).

Tree, Bank, and Barn Swallows were commonly reported everywhere. 134 Bank Swallows were seen in Bradford, June 7 (ALG, WGE) and in 19 blocks, the Ellisons et al. found 368 Barn Swallows.

Rough-winged Swallows have been located in 39 blocks, most south of a line joining Burlington and Montpelier. There were a few reports from further north. 35-40 sitting on wires and flying over the Connecticut River above Bloomfield on July 17 was very good so far north (FO, CSZ).

Cliff Swallows were reported in good numbers in the Northeast Kingdom (FO) but scarce in the Winhall area (WJN). One observer was astonished to find 17 nests under a canopy in front of the First National Store in downtown Rutland (GTL).

Only one Atlas record of Purple Martin came from outside the Champlain Valley, that of a few birds in the Newport area where, according to Oatman, they are found regularly in small numbers.

3 additional blocks in Essex County have yielded Gray Jay. This summer's reports include an immature bird at Moose Bog in Brighton, June 12 (CWJ), and two adults with a very dark juvenile on June 29 near Island Pond (FO, AP).

Pairs of Blue Jays were found nest building on June 1 at Woodstock (JHN) and still incubating at Craftsbury, June 23 (FO, JW).

Common Ravens were reported from all regions of the state but certainly most frequently from the Green Mountains and the Northeast Highlands. Oatman et al. found a nest with nearly grown young, June 16, in the Babcock Preserve, and he reported hearing about at least 2 others in the area. Also, on June 16, 2 adults and 3 young were seen flying and calling in Stowe (MCD, JID). 7 were seen in Bradford on July 11 (WGE, GFE, AJR).

A seasonal high of 31 Common Crows, June 7 (WGE, ALG), and 32 Black-capped Chickadees, July 11 (WGE, AJR) were seen in Bradford.

There were the usual reports of Boreal Chickadees from the Northeast Kingdom. 6 were present on June 29 near Island Pond (FO, AP). 5 were seen July 20 in Ferdinand, and 1 on July 21 in Lewis (WGE). Sightings were also reported from Craftsbury, Bear Swamp-Wolcott, Holland Pond and Averill (var. obs.).

The only report this season of Tufted Titmouse was of adults with recently fledged young in Arlington (CSC).

The Ellisons et al. managed only 15 White-breasted Nuthatches in 11 blocks this season, and in Woodstock, Nicholson reported numbers down there as well.

Observer reports of the status of Red-breasted Nuthatch ran the gamut from "nonexistent" to "numerous." The Ellisons et al. 11 in 7 blocks provides the only substantive evidence that at least in some areas, it was somewhat uncommon in '78.

Numbers of Brown Creepers submitted by the Ellisons et al. were encouraging in light of last year's dismal showing. 31 were sighted in 12 blocks including 5 in Tunbridge on June 21 and 4 at Jay Peak, July 1.

House Wren was present in only a few localities in northcentral and northeastern Vermont; but elsewhere it was widespread and fairly common especially in the Connecticut River Valley where 11 were found at Thetford on July 22 (WGE, GFE).

Reported in good numbers in appropriate habitat throughout the Northeast Kingdom, Winter Wren continues to fare well there (FO). The Ellisons et al. found 48 in 11 blocks - a modest number; but the 13 in Bradford on July 11 was very good. Norse saw them only rarely for the second year in a row; and in Brattleboro, they were seen only occasionally (LPH). Rare anywhere in the Champlain Valley, a singing male was present, June 29, along Lewis Creek in Ferrisburg (MCD, JID).

CAROLINA WREN was confirmed for the first time in Vermont at Middlebury. A pair of adults, presumably the same which have frequented the same feeders on Chipman Hill for the last 2-3 years, brought 3 recently fledged young to one of the feeding stations (Klaus Wolff fide WS).

Nesting of Long-billed Marsh Wren was confirmed at Lewis Creek (MCD, JID) and at the West Rutland Marsh where more than 30 were seen on July 22 (GFE, WGE). Birds were also present at Flagg Pond near Lyndonville (ECr) and the usual small numbers were in residence at the South Bay Marshes (FO).

This season's only report of the Short-billed Marsh Wren was a possible nesting at Lewis Creek (JID, MCD).

Mockingbird continues to do well in the Connecticut River Valley, the Western Foothills of southern Vermont, and in the lower Champlain Valley. In the Connecticut River Valley, single birds were present as far north as Newbury Village and West Newbury beginning June 7 (WGE). Most unusual so far north and away from the areas of concentration was an adult in Morrisville, June 12-14 (FO, RS). Also quite far north was a nesting pair in Westford where 3 eggs had hatched by July 28 and all young were out of the nest no later than August 6 (PJK).

Gray Catbird was found commonly around the state in nearly every block surveyed for the Atlas Project. 15 in Vershire and Corinth on June 28 was the seasonal one day high (GFE, WGE).

The number of blocks in which Brown Thrasher has been found proliferated to 118 statewide. The Ellisons et al. recorded 37 in 10 blocks including 8 in Tunbridge, June 21.

American Robin was present in its usual abundance.

One observer in Woodstock found Wood Thrush in lowest numbers since 1973 (JHN), but elsewhere it seemed to fare well. Assessment of the status of Hermits Thrush this year: numbers were invariably reported reduced. Ellisons' 22 in 14 blocks was less than half of the total for 1977.

An astounding 23 Swainson's Thrushes were seen on Jay Peak, July 1 (GFE, WGE), and 7 were found at Island Pond on June 29 (FO, AP). In the southern half of the state, though, numbers were reported as lower than those in 1977 (WJN, LPM).

Gray-cheeked Thrushes were found in expected locations at higher elevations including Jay Peak where 7 were seen July 1 (WGE, GFE). This species was also present on Belvidere (FO), Haystack (WGE), Killington (SBL) and Equinox (ALG) mountains, and at Brighton State Park (CSZ), and Winhall, July 14 (WJN).

Veery was found commonly statewide. The Ellisons et al. reported an impressive 279 in 19 blocks.

In northern localities where Eastern Bluebird is relatively uncommon, there were reports from Berlin, Calais (MFM), Albany, Barton (FO), Lyndonville, and Fairbanks Mt. (ECr). One pair which started nesting June 20 in Woodstock, fledged young on August 4 (IHS).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher continues its expansion into the state. A pair feeding newly fledged young along the Barton River, July 1, is the first record for the species in the Northeast Kingdom (FO, DPK, ALG). In West Haven, 15 were present July 22 (WGE, GFE). This is the largest single day total to date ever recorded in the state.

Up to 10-15 Golden-crowned Kinglets were regularly seen at Island Pond and Bear Swamp in Wolcott (FO, NBS); but at Winhall in southern Vermont, they were reported as scarce with 2-3 seen on July 4 (WJN). The Ellisons et al. found 29 in 11 blocks, comparable to last year.

Now that more blocks in northern Vermont have received coverage, the relative distribution of Ruby-crowned Kinglet has been more "realistically" mapped. 23 of the 34 Atlas blocks in which this species has been found are located in northcentral and northeastern sections. Included among these were confirmed breedings at Holland Pond (LNM), Island Pond (FO), and Wheeler Mt. in Lyndonville (ECr).

Cedar Waxwing was found fairly commonly in all regions. A pair gathering nesting material June 18 in Craftsbury (FO, JW) was not especially late for this species which is known to nest opportunistically as late as October in New York State (see Bull, 1974).

Loggerhead Shrike nested along Lewis Creek in Ferrisburg only a few miles north of Dead Creek where the first confirmed nesting for Atlas was obtained in 1977. In addition, the same observers found evidence of possible nesting near Mt. Philo, not far from the former nesting site (MCD, JID). There is a great deal of alarm about its status in the east; so much so, it has been placed on the "Blue List" published by American Birds. Certainly, the paucity of reports here in recent years underscores the fragility of its status in Vermont.

Rare in northern sections, Yellow-throated Vireo was found at the Babcock Preserve in Hyde Park where one was singing June 6 and 16 (FO et al.). Another was along the Barton River, July 1 (FO, DPK, ALG), and evidence of possible nesting was obtained at Holland Pond (LNM).

Except for the Champlain Valley where to date no Solitary Vireos have been found nesting, this species has been sighted in blocks throughout the state. 7 were present in Bridgewater on July 12 (WGE, ALG), and at Winhall, several pairs took up residence through the nesting season (WJN).

There is little question about the abundance of Red-eyed Vireo which has been found in 184 Atlas blocks. The 734 in 20 blocks compiled by the Ellisons et al. is comparable to 1977 figures.

There were the usual few sightings of Philadelphia Vireo in the Northeast Kingdom. 1 was near Island Pond, June 9 (FO, CSZ), another was present at Albany July 8 and 10 (FO), and the 4 near Island Pond on July 12 was the seasonal single-day high count (FO, CSZ). In addition, observers found evidence of nesting short of confirmation at Lyndonville, Guildhall, and at Maidstone State Park (ECr, LNH).

Warbling Vireo has now been located in 99 blocks statewide. In 1978, 46 produced varying evidence of nesting which included 10 confirmations. The Ellisons et al. found 63 in 16 blocks, 4 of which contained 6 birds each.

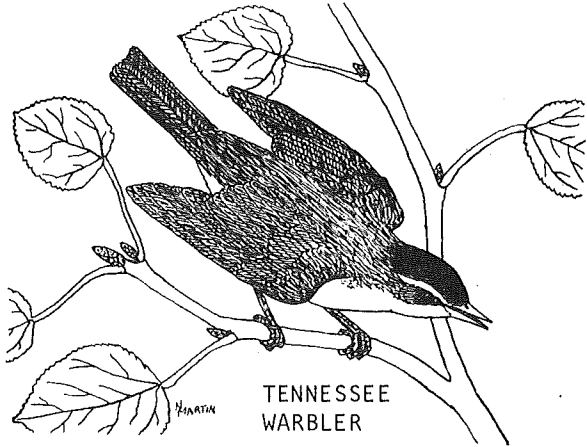
Compiled below are statistics for Warblers based on sightings the Ellisons et al. made in various Atlas blocks in 1978. A total of 20 blocks were covered in all. Care should be exercised in interpreting the results and attaching significance to figures as they compare to those for last year.

	Ind.	Blocks	1978 (%)	1977 (%)
Black and White	92	17	4.4	5.7
Nashville	60	15	2.8	1.8
No. Parula	5	15	0.2	-
Yellow	150	17	7.1	4.4
Magnolia	86	15	4.0	6.7
Black-thr. Blue	49	16	2.3	3.1
Yellow-rumped	90	15	4.2	3.3
Black-thr. Green	52	14	2.4	3.3
Blackburnian	111	17	5.2	4.0
Chestnut-sided	230	19	10.9	10.9
Blackpoll	50	2	2.3	-
Pine	4	3	0.1	-
Prairie	2	1	0.1	-
Ovenbird	270	18	12.8	10.9
N. Waterthrush	7	5	0.3	-
La. Waterthrush	20	8	1.0	-
Mourning Warbler	9	5	0.4	-
Yellowthroat	412	20	19.6	17.3
Canada	121	15	5.7	5.7
Am. Redstart	279	19	13.2	18.0

Black and White Warbler appeared to do well statewide in 1978. One was observed carrying food on June 13 in Newport (FO et al.).

A possible nesting of Golden-winged Warbler near Victory (ECr) in the Northeast Kingdom was extraordinary so far north in Vermont. In addition evidence of probable nesting was obtained at Arlington and Chester (CSC, WJN).

Confirmation of nesting of Blue-winged Warbler in yet another location in southern Vermont - near Arlington - was encouraging (CSC). The only other report this season was of a singing male in Brattleboro in June. Unfortunately no other evidence of nesting was found (LPH).



TENNESSEE  
WARBLER

Confirmed nesting of Tennessee Warbler was obtained at Bear Swamp in Wolcott where more than 7 were seen including a pair of adults feeding 4-5 fledged young (FO, CSz). In another location, David Jaffe observed agitated behavior by an individual in Pownal on July 17. Possible early migrants were present July 12 in Bridgewater (ALG, WGE), on July 14 at Craftsbury (FO), and near Hartford July 16-21 (WGE, GFE).

Nashville Warbler apparently nested in average numbers in some locations with East Corinth taking the honors for most individuals, 15, June 17 (WGE, GFE, RPr). Fledglings were out of the nest by June 30 in Woodstock (JMN) and by July 13 at Bear Swamp (FO, CSz).

There were the usual scattering of reports of Northern Parula from mountainous and northern locations including Island Pond where Oatman reported they were down in numbers, Babcock Preserve, Hyde Park, Bear Swamp, Peru, Winhall, Guildhall, Plainfield, Barre, Corinth, and Wilmington (var. obs.).

Yellow Warbler numbers in general seemed average or slightly better except in the Northeast Kingdom where Oatman perceived a slight decline. Observers found Magnolia Warbler in at least 53 blocks during 1978. Its status in the Northeast Kingdom was described as "very abundant" (FO), and at Winhall as "common" (WJN). 14 were seen in East Corinth on June 17 (WGE, GFE, RPr).

Found only sparingly in the Northeast Kingdom, Cape May Warblers were present at Bear Swamp June 8, at East Craftsbury June 11, and near Island Pond on June 29 (FO et al.). Confirmation of nesting was obtained at Lake Memphremagog (DPK, ALG) and at Averill (FO).

More than half of all sightings of Black-throated Blue Warbler have occurred in the Green Mountain and Eastern Foothill regions of the state. Norse reported several pairs near Winhall and Ellisons et al. found 49 in 16 blocks. Overall numbers seemed average.

24 Yellow-rumped Warblers in a block at Jay Peak, July 1, was very good; but at Nicholson's in Woodstock none were found nesting this year (JMN).

Like the previous two species, Black-throated Green Warbler was found in average numbers in most localities. 6 on June 7th and 17th at Bradford and East Corinth respectively were the season's high counts (WGE, GFE et al.).

Cerulean Warbler was unreported this summer though it was seen along the Lamotte River in May and presumably bred there.

Good numbers of Blackburnian Warbler were reported from the Northeast Kingdom (FO) and from the various blocks the Ellisons et al. surveyed. They found 14 each in Norwich on June 11 and in Bridgewater, July 12.

There were no shortages of Chestnut-sided Warblers in most locations though at Nicholson's in Woodstock they were reported as less common during the last two years (JMN).

In contrast, no Bay-breasted Warblers were seen this season.

Blackpoll Warblers were common at high elevations as expected and especially at Jay Peak where 38 were found, July 1 (WGE, GFE). A clutch of 5 eggs, normal for the species, was found June 15 near the top of Belvidere Mt. in Hyde Park (FO).

In the Northeast Kingdom where Pine Warbler is more unusual than elsewhere in the state, there was a pair present along the shores of Lake Memphremagog June 13 (FO) and probable nesting was obtained at Victory (ECr). Other sightings were made in Bradford, Newbury, Thetford, Cambridge, Panton and Middlebury (var. obs.).

A pre-conference trip to Springfield produced 2 territorial male Prairie Warblers (EE et al.) and in Quechee, probable nesting was obtained (ALG et al.).

The presence of 10 territorial male Ovenbirds in Woodstock suggests its population was healthy (JMN) and there was nothing from other observers to provide evidence to the contrary.

A high of 30-35 Northern Waterthrush along 3-5 miles of the Clyde River, July 3, was outstanding for a species which was reported rather uncommonly elsewhere in spite of its statewide distribution (FO, DPK, ALG). A fledgling June 16 at Hyde Park (RS) was a bit early but not unusual for this early nester.

Louisiana Waterthrush was reported from as far north as Hyde Park where an adult and fledged young were seen June 12 at the Babcock Preserve (FO et al.). Farther south 11 other reports from scattered localities included one of 5 birds at Bradford, July 11 (WGE, AJR).

Highest counts of Mourning Warblers have come from northern sections including 6 on Belvidere Mt. June 15 (FO et al.) and 4 on Jay Peak, July 1 (GFE, WGE). The 18 Atlas records obtained were scattered mostly in northern and central portions; a pair each in Londonderry and Winhall (WJN) and confirmed nesting in Pownal were exceptions (DAJ).

Common Yellowthroat was present almost everywhere and in good numbers but especially in Lowell and Thetford where 45 were tallied on July 2 and 5 respectively (WGE, GFE).

Singing male Wilson's Warblers were present at Holland Pond in the Northeast Kingdom (LNM). This was the only record for this summer of a species confirmed last year by (WGE, RPr) for the first time in many years.

Canada Warbler was widely reported outside the Champlain Valley in 45 blocks. 25 in East Corinth, June 17, was especially good and the seasonal high (GFE, WGE, RPr).

31 American Redstarts at Barnard, June 19, was the high for this species (GFE, WGE).

Bobolink has been found to be common in parts of the Northeast Kingdom where Oatman tallied 10-35 daily.

There is some question about the status of Eastern Meadowlark. None were seen by one observer in Woodstock (JMN) and the Ellisons et al. managed only 19 in 7 of the 20 blocks they surveyed. In the Northeast Kingdom, distribution was described as "very scattered as usual" (FO), and at Winhall, Norse reported nesting has become increasingly local. In spite of the fact that, to date, it has been found to be widespread in 97 blocks, the situation bears some watching.

The Ellisons et al. 605 Red-winged Blackbirds in 19 blocks generally underscores this species' status in the state.

Northern Oriole was found as a fairly common nester in most areas, though in Winhall it was listed as "local" (WJN).

There were only a handful of reports of Rusty Blackbird and there is little question that numbers are down. None were reported from Gale Meadows (WJN) and only one male was seen in the Island Pond area despite careful searches of past known breeding locations (FO). On the brighter side, 5 were seen in Lewis and confirmation was obtained at Guildhall and Maldstone Park (WGE, LNM).

Common Grackles and Brown-headed Cowbirds were reported everywhere in good numbers.

Scarlet Tanager was observed in 59 Atlas blocks in average numbers. The Ellisons et al. saw 84 in 16 blocks including 11 in Pownal, June 18.

Cardinal seems to be firmly established in the southern third of the state. The 15 seen in North Pownal on June 18 must be a single-day record total for one party in Vermont (WGE, GFE, RPr).

Recently fledged young Rose-breasted Grosbeak was perhaps a bit late in Woodstock, July 31.

There were an amazing 14 Indigo Buntings in North Pownal on June 18, presumably before any young had fledged (WGE, GFE, RPr). Elsewhere it also did well with 4 in Craftsbury (FO), which was "better than expected." A pair, apparently setting up territory on July 10 in Woodstock, either was attempting a second brood or nesting very late (JMN). A detailed note from one observer chronicled the first nesting in Timmuth in 10 years. The first egg was seen on June 18 and one egg each day was laid until 4 were present. Hatching began about July 3, and was complete by the 4th. The nest, located in wild raspberry bushes, had the following dimensions: diameter 4", diameter of the cup 3", cup depth 1". Eggs were pale blue. (GTL) (This kind of record keeping and reportage is greatly appreciated. - Ed.)

Atlas records of Evening Grosbeak proliferated during 1978. Observers found them in 16 blocks in every region except the Western Foothills. Numbers submitted, though, were in general rather low with no more than 2 at Winhall, Lowell, and Craftsbury where they are uncommon in summer (WJN, GFE, WGE, FO).

Purple Finch was found in 54 blocks including one at an unexpected location adjacent to Lake Champlain (HCE, JID). 13 seen at Lowell on July 2 was the high for the period (WGE, GFE).

Possible nesting of Pine Grosbeak was obtained on Wheeler Mt., Lyndonville (ECr).

House Finch continues to extend its range in Vermont. A pair seen June 8 in Plainfield (MFM) was again seen June 23. Up to 12 have been seen near Bennington (BDu) and 3 in White River Junction (WGE). A pair feeding a single fledged young on the Middlebury College campus confirmed that which was strongly suspected (WS).

Confirmation of Pine Siskin, the second for Atlas thus far, was obtained at Pudding Hill in Lyndonville (ECr). Birds were found scattered in 8 blocks mostly in northern sections. 14 were tallied on Jay Peak July 1 (GFE, WGE) for a seasonal high total. A single bird at a feeder in West Arlington on June 15, 25-27, a few seen in Brattleboro throughout June, and probable nestings in Londonderry and Wallingford were unusual so far south (NS, LPM, WJN, PDU et al.).

American Goldfinch was common in most locations.

Always very rare in the state except in irruptive years, Red Crossbill was seen only once, at Winhall, July 11 (WJN).

5 locations yielded sightings of White-winged Crossbill. An unspecified number were seen on Jay Peak in late June (RS fide FO) and 2 were seen there July 1 (GFE, WGE). Other records were submitted from North Pond (near Island Pond), Averill and Guildhall.

Two blocks in the Northeast Highlands have produced Rufous-sided Towhee, a species most uncommon there. Possible nesting was obtained at Kirby and Victory and two sightings near Lyndonville were also very good (ECr).

Good or average numbers of Savannah Sparrows were reported from the Northeast Kingdom and the Champlain Valley (FO and WS). A high count of 14 was seen in White River Junction, July 22 (GFE, WGE).

A male Grasshopper Sparrow, July 22, at White River Junction was all that remained of a colony there in previous years (GFE, WGE). On a more upbeat note, however, confirmation of nesting was obtained near Dead Creek and in Bridport (AP, WS, WB).

Observers found Vesper Sparrow in 12 blocks including one in Victory where this species is especially unusual (ECr). 7 in Tunbridge, June 26, was the season's high total (WGE, GFE).

23 Dark-eyed Juncos were seen on Jay Peak, June 30, a seasonal high for a commonly reported species.

The Ellisons et al. found 145 Chipping Sparrows in 18 blocks including 16 at North Pownal on June 18.

10 Field Sparrows at Tunbridge, June 26 (GFE, WGE) was very good for a relatively uncommon species in many parts of the state. While it has been found in all regions, it has been recorded in only 3 blocks in the Northeast Highlands. Oatman suspects that numbers there were down.

215 White-throated Sparrows were present in 18 blocks with highest numbers at Jay Peak where 21 were found July 1 (GFE, WGE).

Lincoln's Sparrow was observed in the usual areas in northern Vermont. One at East Corinth on June 17 was the farthest south of all reports (GFE, WGE, RPr). There were sightings in Guildhall (LNM), Craftsbury (FO), Newport and Island Pond where a high of 3 were seen June 29 (FO, AP, WGE et al.).

35 Swamp Sparrows at the West Rutland Marsh, July 22 (WGE, GFE) was this season's high for this fairly common nester.

Song Sparrow, which to date has been found in 190 blocks, is one of the most common birds here. An adult feeding a fledgling on June 18 in Craftsbury was the first reported this season. A nest with newly hatched young on July 25 at Woodstock probably was a second nesting attempt (JMN).

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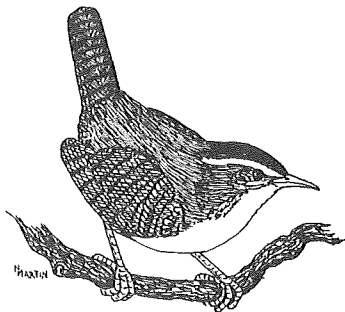
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