

Records of Vermont Birds

FALL MIGRATION 1979

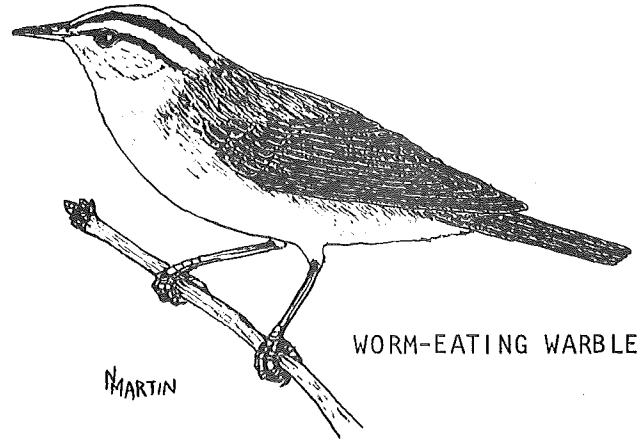
1 AUGUST - 30 NOVEMBER

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A mixed review appears necessary in describing the Autumn of 1979. The migration itself was rather dull with few discernable peaks. However, the season produced several extraordinary records and not a few notable late stragglers.

The season started with temperatures in the low nineties and high humidity. August continued to be warmer than average, with a good bit more precipitation than is normally the rule. Due to this, shorebird flats were largely covered by early September. This cut short the shorebird flight, which showed promise early in the season, limiting the report to 22 species, a little below the average of the past four falls. September continued on the warm side, precipitation fell to average levels for the month. Most of that precipitation was received from the remnants of two major tropical storms: David and Frederick. David brought more with it than wind and rain. The storm dropped the second through sixth individuals of the tropical SOOTY TERN into the state. Perhaps also storm-related were the southern vagrants seen on Burton Island on 9/9 (WHITE-EYED VIREO and WORM-EATING WARBLER). October was highly variable, as several complex frontal systems crossed the state from the northwest during that month. The month was colder than average, but temperatures proved volatile as southern breezes brought warm temperatures on the 20th and 21st. Perhaps due to the warmth of the preceding month and conditions which did not depress the insect population unduly early in the month, many species of birds lingered notably later than usual. Twenty species of warbler were recorded into the tenth month, one more than in the record fall of 1975. One observer noted an amazing 14 species of warbler on the fourth of October. Besides warblers, two species of vireo, Bobolinks, Scarlet Tanagers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and the Indigo Bunting were significantly late. Considering these records, it seems odd that more species apparently did not continue into a November which was one of the mildest in recent memory. Temperatures hovered above 70° late into the month, setting the stage for an unusual Christmas Count season (cf Winter Records of Vermont Birds 1979-80).

The major shifts in weather that create 'waves' were, for the most part, absent this fall. Therefore, many observers could not discern a distinct pattern which the autumn migration might have followed. There is little agreement between reports as to when the best flight dates occurred. The first notable dates seem to have been 9/3 and 9/4 with good reports of migration from Marlboro, Springfield and Craftsbury. Particularly notable was W. D. Nichols' observation on nocturnal migration of the night of 9/3-9/4 when he counted 250 Swainson's Thrushes and estimated that, at the rate they were passing, as many as 3,200 could have passed that night. The flight seemed to echo throughout that week. Possibly this flight was extended by the passing of Hurricane David. A smaller flight



WORM-EATING WARBLER

noted at Stratton and Woodstock on 9/13 was perhaps related to Frederick. A good movement occurred in early October, as variable weather from 10/2-10/10 brought good numbers of sparrows and late warblers to Marlboro, Hartford, and Woodstock during this period. A final series of good migration dates took place from 10/17-10/21 with sparrows in high numbers, and Pipits and Evening Grosbeaks peaking for the season at that time.

Eruptive species were less active than last autumn. Snowy Owls, Northern Shrikes and Boreal Chickadees were all scarce. Even the "winter finches" were inconspicuous, as few individuals of these species had moved south of Canada by the end of the season.

Other population trends seemed more lively. Amongst the raptors, the Accipiters ranged from average numbers, in the case of the Sharp-shinned Hawk, to much reduced in comparison to the two previous autumns on the part of the Cooper's Hawk. The Osprey continues to improve in both absolute numbers and in per observer hours indicating apparent recovery from its declines in the 1950's and 60's. The Peregrine Falcon was also well-reported which was encouraging; however optimism is more guarded in the case of this exciting bird. The Ruffed Grouse continues to increase and was considered particularly "abundant" in the Northeast Kingdom. The Tufted Titmouse returned to Vermont in larger than ever numbers, indicating what may become a trend toward colonization of the state. Turning to those species that caused some concern in 1977, due to their diminished numbers apparently because of the winter of 1976-77, in review: one species, the Hermit Thrush, has recovered fairly well, and three others, the two Kinglets and the Eastern Phoebe, are in improved numbers. However, the Winter Wren has apparently stabilized at its recent low level.

As usual autumn provided a treasure chest of unexpected and interesting records. For example, there were the extraordinary SOOTY TERN occurrences of early September. Other excellent reports included the fifth Vermont record of the WHITE-EYED VIREO, the third record of RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER, the third record of the LITTLE GULL, and the sixth record of WHIMBREL which was the third in the last two years. Other rare birds were 2 (perhaps 3)

GOLDEN EAGLES; WORM-EATING WARBLER, very rare in fall; and a specimen record of the rare YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT. A total of 223 species were reported this fall, ten species less than last year's (1978) record and very close to the average of 225 per autumn over the previous four years. Over the half decade during which this editor has presided over these records, 264 species have been reported to the Vermont Institute of Natural Science during the autumn months, about 82% of the species historically recorded for the State of Vermont.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

The Common Loon was widely reported from lakes around the state in about average numbers; however, there were few reports from the important Champlain Valley region. High counts were: 9 at Groton on 8/17 (Rca), 5 at Prouty Beach in Newport on 10/12 (MFI), a fine 25+ at Milton on 11/4 (MJM, WRB), and 10 seen on Lakes Fairlee and Morey on 11/18 (WGE). All Red-necked Grebe reports this fall occurred in Fairlee with 2 on Lake Morey on 10/20 (WGE, GFE), 1 on Lake Morey on 10/28 (WGE, NLM, TL, et al.), and 1 apiece on Lakes Morey and Fairlee on 11/18 (WGE). The Horned Grebe has either become very scarce or has become much neglected by observers, as only 4 single birds were reported for the season, all from lakes in the east-central portion of the state (GFE, WGE, MCH, NLM). There were a handful of reports of the Pied-billed Grebe, with 1 on Berlin Pond on 9/24 (MFM), 2 on Lake Memphremagog on 9/2 (FO, DM), several reports from Quechee with no counts exceeding 2, 1 on 10/6 at Gale Meadows in Winhall (WJN), and the latest reported 1 seen on Lake Morey on 10/17 (WGE). There were three reports of the Double-crested Cormorant all from the Connecticut Valley. One was seen on the Connecticut River at Bradford on 10/6 (LPr), another, perhaps the same individual, was seen on Lake Fairlee on the same date (WGE), and 1 was found at Herrick's Cove on 10/11 (WJN). As usual the Great Blue Heron was well reported. Maximum reports were: 10 at South Slang in Ferrisburg on 8/16 (JID, MCD), 9 at Dead Creek WMA on 8/22 (WJN), and 10 on 8/25 at Springfield (EE); the last reported was 1 reported from Brattleboro on 11/19 (AW). The Green Heron was reported from 7 widely scattered areas around the state with a maximum of 6 on 8/24 in Burlington (FO, CSZ); the last was 1 noted at Newport on 9/2 (FO, DM). The rare Little Blue Heron was reported once, a single immature was seen at the Springweather HA in Springfield from 8/25-9/3 (EE, et mult. al.). There was only a single report of the Cattle Egret; 17 were noted in Charlotte on 8/22 and 8/23 (FCH). Two Great Egrets were found at Dead Creek WMA on 8/22 (JID, MCD); a single bird which was most likely of this species was seen over Bald Mountain in Mendon on 9/11 (NLM). There were only three reports of the Black-crowned Night Heron. First reported were 4 on 8/17 at Shelburne Pond (JID, MCD), 2 were seen at Dead Creek WMA on 9/2 (JID, MCD), the last reported was 1 at Colchester Point on 9/23 (WGE). There were two reports of the rare and elusive Least Bittern. One was seen on Colchester Point on 8/11 (WGE), and one was found in the parking lot behind the Marsh Life Science Building on the University of Vermont campus in Burlington on 8/17; apparently it was released by Biology Department members the next day (fide FCH). There were seven reports of the American Bittern from five towns: the maximum of 2 was noted at the Barre Reservoir from 8/3-8/8 (LNM). Late dates were: 1 at Lewis Creek in Ferrisburg on 9/20 (JID, MCD), and 1 was noted at Colchester Point on 9/23 (WGE).

WATERFOWL

The Canada Goose was reported in about average numbers. Approximately 6,600 birds were reported by various observers. The peak dates appear to be the tenth and eleventh of October with several reports from most portions of Vermont including: 350 from Woodstock (JMN), 500 from Barre (MFM), and 400 from Tinnmouth (GTL). A smaller peak occurred from 10/16-10/18 with four reports during that period from Norwich, Reading, East Craftsbury and Woodstock. The highest single report for the season was 750 seen on 10/22 at Dead Creek WMA (WJN). The species continued into the winter in large numbers. Brant were reported in larger numbers than in previous fall reports and from a wide variety of areas. Earliest were 4 on 9/16 on the Barre Reservoir (MFM). Other reports included: 30 on 10/16 at Herrick's Cove (WJN), 30 on 10/21 at Shelburne (BDF), and 11 were seen in Burlington on 11/3, the last report (CR). About 4,000-5,000 Snow Geese were reported for the season. The first report was of a bird that apparently summered at or near the Dead Creek WMA seen on 8/22 (JID, MCD). The first definite migrants reported were 20 on 10/11 from Woodstock (JMN). The peak dates for the season were November 11 and 12 with ca. 2,650 reported including the maximum of about 1,500 from East Craftsbury (FO). As usual there was a report of the rare "Blue" form with 1 seen in Winhall on 11/12 (WJN). The last reports were from the third week of November. The Mallard was in average numbers with maximum reports being 100 at Burlington on 10/22 (WJN), and 58 on Lake Morey in Fairlee on 11/18 (WGE, GFE). The Black Duck was reported in generally higher numbers than the Mallard especially late in the season. The highest counts reported were: 150 on 10/22 at Burlington (WJN), and 109 on 11/12 at Lake Morey (WGE). There were two reports of the Gadwall. Two were reported from South Slang in Ferrisburg on 9/28 (JID, MCD), and 1 was found at Herrick's Cove on 10/2 (WJN). The Pintail was reported three times. A single bird was sighted at Newport on 9/2 (FO, DM), 1 was seen at Berlin Pond on 9/24 (MFM), and 2 were noted at Herrick's Cove on 10/2 (WJN). There were only a handful of reports of the Green-winged Teal with the best counts being: 6 on 9/24 at the Barre Reservoir (MFM), and 11 on Lake Morey on 11/12 (also the late report) (WGE). The Blue-winged Teal was reported on six occasions. Fifteen were reported from Dead Creek WMA on 8/22 (WJN), 25-30 were seen in Burlington on 8/24 (FO, CSZ), 4 were found in Swanton on 8/30 (LPr, EGV, ALG), 6-7 were noted in Colchester on 9/1 (WS, DPK, ALG, KSV), 9 were located on Hardwick Lake on 9/7 (MFM), and 1 was reported on the exceptionally late date of 11/19 at Retreat Meadows in Brattleboro (AW). There was only a single report of the American Wigeon with a good count of 15 on the Barre Reservoir on 8/22 (MFM). The Wood Duck was widely reported with maximum counts of 20+ at Dead Creek WMA on 8/11 (WGE) and 32 on 9/22 at the Barre Reservoir (MFM). Late reports were: 1 at Dead Creek WMA on 10/22 (WJN), and 4 on Lake Fairlee on 10/28 (TL, WGE, NLM, et al.). There were more than the usual number of reports of the Ring-necked Duck. Four were seen at South

Slang in Ferrisburg on 9/28 (JID, MCD), 5 were at Herrick's Cove on 10/11 (WJN), 4 were reported from there on 10/16 (WJN), 6 were noted at Roundy's Cove in Rockingham on 10/27 (NLM, WGE), 12 were seen at Lake Morey on 10/28 (TL, WGE, NLM, et al.), 8 were located there on 11/5 (WGE), and 12 were seen at Roundy's Cove on 11/11 (NLM, WGE, GLE). There was only a single report of the Canvasback. Three were sighted in Newport on 11/14 (FO, CSZ). Two reports of the Greater Scaup were submitted. On 10/22 ten were seen in Burlington (WJN), and 46 were noted at Newport on 11/14 (FO, CSZ). There were five reports of the Lesser Scaup. One was seen at the Missisquoi NWR on 9/30 (RHS), 1 was found at Herrick's Cove on 10/11 (WJN), another sighting there on 10/16 might have involved the same bird (WJN), 1 was reported from Lake Fairlee on 11/12 (WGE), and 1 was noted at Lake Morey from 11/18-11/22 (GFE, WGE). Fewer Common Goldeneyes were reported this fall in comparison with previous years. This was especially true of Lake Champlain from which few reports of any kind were submitted. The earliest migrants reported were 4 seen at Herrick's Cove on 10/16 (WJN); the high count was 15 on 11/14 with birds on Lakes Caspian and Memphremagog (FO, CSZ); the species was reported into the winter months. There were five reports of the Bufflehead beginning on 10/20 with 10 on Shelburne Bay (BDF). The other sightings included: 6 at Burlington on 10/22 (WJN), 15 at the Pogue on Mt. Tom in Woodstock on 11/3 (JPW), 3 at Lake Morey on 11/5 (WGE), and 6 on Lake Morey on 11/12 (WGE). The Oldsquaw was reported twice. A large flock of 12 was sighted on Lake Morey on 10/25 (GFE), and 1 was seen in East Dorset around 11/10 (RuS, TS, fide NS). The White-winged Scoter was reported three times, this being a little below average in comparison with previous autumn reports. Eight were seen on the Barre Reservoir on 9/30 (MFM), 2 were sighted on Lake Morey on 10/20 (WGE, GFE), and 2-3 were reported from Newport on 11/14 (FO, CSZ). There were also three reports of the Surf Scoter. First was 1 on Button Bay on 10/22 (WJN), on 10/28 two were seen on Lake Morey and one was found on Lake Fairlee (TL, WGE, NLM, et al.), and 2-3 were noted with other scoter species on Lake Memphremagog in Newport on 11/14 (FO, CSZ). As has become usual the Black Scoter was the scoter species reported in greatest numbers. The earliest report was of a flock of 25 seen on Dewey's Pond in Quechee on 10/16 (WGE), 5 were sighted at Button Bay SP on 10/22 (WJN), 12 were reported from Lake Fairlee on 10/28 (TL, WGE, NLM, et al.), 16 were seen at East Dorset the week of 11/10 (TS, RuS, fide NS), 13 were found on Lake Morey on 11/5 (WGE), and 8-10 were seen on Lake Memphremagog on 11/14 (FO, CSZ). Additionally 25 unidentified Scoters were sighted at Button Bay SP on 10/22 (WJN). There was a single report of the rare Ruddy Duck. Five were seen on Lake Morey on 11/4 (NLM, WGE). The Hooded Merganser was reported in numbers similar to those of the previous fall. The earliest reported were 2 on Caspian Lake on 10/17 (FO, JW), 1 was seen on the Barre Reservoir on 10/22 (MFM), 6 were on Lake Morey on 10/29 (WGE), 7-10 were reported from Orwell on 10/30 (FSA), 9 were sighted on Lake Morey on 11/4 (NLM, WGE), and 8 were found in Fairlee on 11/12, 4 on Lake Morey and 4 on Lake Fairlee (WGE); records continued into the winter season. The Common Merganser was reported throughout the season with the average count usually 5 or less. The best counts received were: 11 on Caspian Lake on 11/14 (FO, CSZ), and 15 from Marshfield Reservoir on 11/18 (MFM). There were four reports of the uncommon Red-breasted Merganser. Eleven were seen in Burlington on 8/13 (FO, JW), this number increased to 13 on 8/24 (FO, CSZ), 2 were seen on Caspian Lake on 10/17 (FO, JW), and 2 were sighted on Lake Fairlee on 10/28 (TL, WGE, NLM, et al.).

VULTURES, HAWKS AND FALCONS

The 44 Turkey Vultures reported this autumn on Hawk Watches is close to last year's 46, indicating perhaps some leveling off of the dramatic increase of this species. Maximum counts were: 12 on 8/25 at Putney (JDL), and 12 on 9/16 on Skyline Drive in Weathersfield (EE, et al.). Late reports were: 10/ with 4 reported from Westminster and Dummerston (WJN), and "late October" in Grafton (DC). The Goshawk continued to stay north of Vermont for the most part; most likely, they are well pleased with the large numbers of Ruffed Grouse there. Twenty-eight were reported on hawk watches and 9 others were reported by field observers. A total of 562 Sharp-shinned Hawks were counted by hawk watchers this fall in spite of poor weather conditions on the pre-set watch weekends in October. High counts included: 32 on 9/15 from White Rocks Mt. in Wallingford (R. Pilcher, NLM, et al.), 38 from Gile Mt. in Norwich on 9/16 (TL, WGE, et al.), and 33 from Putney Mt. on 10/6 (WJN). The Cooper's Hawk declined to 30, from 53 in 1978, on hawk watches in 1979. Hawk watch coordinator W. J. Morse speculated that the lack of good data from October contributed to this decline. Three others were reported by field observers. The last report for the season was of a single at the WHL (Winhall Hawk Lookout) on 10/21 (WJN). Morse correctly points out that the Red-tailed Hawk is under-represented on Vermont hawk watches, with 199 reported on watches this season. Forty-seven of them were seen at the WHL on 11/4-11/5 proving his point. The 41 Red-shouldered Hawks on hawk watches was a significant improvement from 16 in 1978 but far behind the 62 in 1977. The latest sighting was a single bird seen on 11/5 at the WHL (WJN). Improved weekend weather brought the Broad-winged Hawk back into perspective with 2,744 reported on watches. Both of the early weekends exceeded 1,000 individuals reported, the best single watch of the season was at Gile Mt. on 9/9 with 604 seen with the greatest number in the two hours just prior to noon (TL, WGE, et al.). The last reported was 1 at the WHL on 10/6 (WJN). Five single Rough-legged Hawks were reported. The first was an exceptionally early individual seen at Bald Mt. in Westmore on 9/15 (FO, DM); others were: 1 on 10/19 at Mt. Mansfield (PFZ), 1 seen over the Palisades in Fairlee on 10/28 (NLM, TL, WGE, et al.), 1 photographed in Braintree on 10/30 (J. Rowell fide EWC), and 1 was seen in Shelburne on 11/4 (CR). Although records from surrounding areas indicate that the Golden Eagle should be of regular occurrence in small numbers in Vermont, it has not been reliably reported until this year to the fall records. There were two definite and one probable report of this great bird for the season: an immature was reported from Shelburne on 10/18 (BDF); an unidentified Eagle sighted from Bald Mt. in Mendon on 10/21, most likely an adult Golden (NLM); and an immature was sighted from Mt. Philo in Charlotte on 10/27 (JID, MCD, et al.). A total of eight Bald Eagles were reported for the autumn. A single adult was seen in St. Johnsbury on 8/13 (LNM), 2 immatures were reported from Castleton on 8/21 (WC), an adult was seen at Lake Bomoseen on 9/4 (JHM), an adult was sighted in Bolton on 9/6 (JGU), a bird of undetermined age was reported from East Montpelier on 10/5 (MFM), an immature was found in Albany on 10/16 (MHa), and an adult was located in Shelburne on 11/8 (EMH). The Marsh Hawk experienced a small drop in numbers, with 29 reported from hawk watches, down from 31 in 1978. Eight others were reported by field observers. The last reported was 1 on 10/27 at Mt. Philo (JID, MCD, et al.). The Osprey continues a dramatic recovery from declines in the past two decades induced by persistent hydrocarbon pesticides (DDT, DDE, etc.). Hawk watchers reported a total of 104 this fall, an improvement over last year, even when adjusted to per/observer hour figures, and a great improvement over totals from just five years ago. The latest report was of 1 seen on 11/3 in Cabot (MFM). Optimism is somewhat more guarded in the case of the improvement in status evidenced by the much more threatened Peregrine Falcon. An unprecedented 10 birds were reported to the records this autumn. Reports from arctic Canada have indicated a good breeding season for 1979 and this report as well as others from the entire Eastern Seaboard tend to prove these reports out; however, since few of those

birds reported in Vermont were aged, this conclusion remains speculative. Three birds were sighted by hawk watchers including an adult and an immature in Winhall (WJN), and 1 from Robbin's Mt. in Richmond on 10/14 (SAN). Others were: 1 on 9/30 from Missisquoi NWR (RNS), 1 from Mt. Mansfield on 10/1 (PFZ), 1 on 10/5 in Woodstock (ALG), 1 on 10/11 in Rutland (JAI), 1 on 10/18 in Grafton (BRO fide BDF), and 1 from Shelburne on 10/19 (BDF). The 11 Merlins reported was also a slight improvement over the average of the past 5 autumns. Six were reported on hawk watches and 5 others were reported by field observers, the last on 10/6 over Putney Mt. (WJN). The American Kestrel was reported in excellent numbers. Hawk watchers reported 232 for the season. The best flight date appears to have been 9/15 with counts of 23 from Howe Hill in Pomfret (EH), 26 at Blue Gate Hill also in Pomfret (ALG, et al.), and 22 at Mt. Philo (JID, MCD). The species stayed into the winter in small numbers.

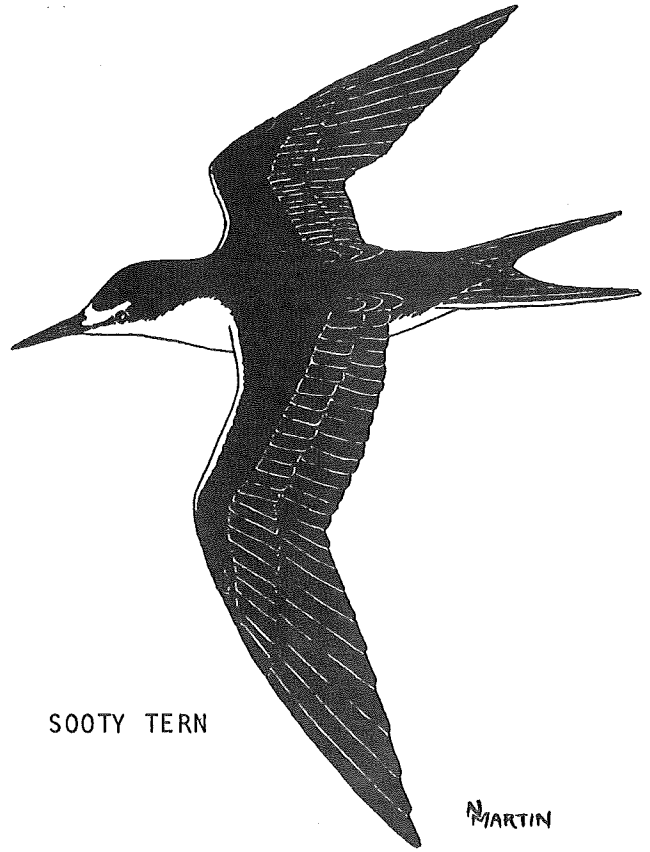
TURKEY THROUGH RAILS

The Wild Turkey continues to increase in its reclaimed range. A maximum of 36 was reported in Westminster on 9/6 (DC); other reports were received from South Woodstock, Tinnmouth and Shrewsbury. There was an August report of the Bobwhite, apparently of an escape or local release (HTB). There was a single report of the rare and local Spruce Grouse. Four were seen in Ferdinand on 9/12 (MFH). Comments on the Ruffed Grouse ranged from "average numbers" in east-central Vermont to "abundant" in the Northeast Kingdom; the best count reported was 8 at Woodstock on 8/4 (JHN). There were two reports of the Virginia Rail. Two were seen at Colchester Point on 8/11 (WGE), and 4 were seen there on 9/1 (WS, DPK, ALG, KSV). A single Sora was seen at the West Rutland Marsh on 9/28 (WJN). There were four reports of the American Coot. One was found at Berlin Pond on 9/13 (RJ, JSW), and on 11/3 (MFH); 4 were seen at Lake Morey from 11/4-11/30+ with counts ranging up to 6 during their stay (WGE, GFE, NLM), and 2 were sighted at Newport on 11/14 (FO, CSZ). There was a single report of the Common Gallinule. Three were seen in Newport on 9/2 (FO, DM).

SHOREBIRDS

There were 11 reports of the Semipalmated Plover, seven of them from the Burlington area where the maximum was 17 on 8/24 (FO, CSZ). Reports away from Lake Champlain included 1 at the Barre Reservoir on 9/4 (MFH), 2 at Newport on 9/7 (FO), 2 at Norwich on 9/15 (GFE, WGE), and 2 at the Barre Reservoir on 9/16 - also the last report (MFH). The Killdeer was reported in about average numbers. High counts included 29 on 8/24 at Burlington (FO, CSZ), 40 at the Barre Reservoir on 9/4 (MFH), and 28 at Post Mills in Thetford on 10/6 (WGE). The last report was of a single bird on 11/1 at Herrick's Cove (WJN). There were four reports of the Golden Plover. First were 5 on 9/1 at the Dead Creek WMA in Addison (WS, DPK, ALG, KSV); reports came from three towns on 9/23, 10+ were found in Addison, 2 were seen in Pantown and 3 were at Colchester Point (WGE). Exceptional were two Connecticut Valley reports, 2 in Springfield on 10/2 (MAP), and 1 was seen over Putney Mt. on 10/6 (WJN). Five reports of the Black-bellied Plover were a little below the average of past seasons. Earliest was 1 on 8/24 at Burlington (FO, CSZ), 1 was sighted at Colchester Point on 9/1 (WS, DPK, ALG, KSV), 1 was reported from Springfield on 9/29 (HY), 2 were found at Shelburne on 9/30 (FO), and 1 was seen on Colchester Point on 10/13 (WGE). There were two reports of the Ruddy Turnstone. Four were seen on an unspecified date in August at Shelburne (WS), and 2 were found in Burlington from 8/24-9/1 (FO, DPK, et al.). The Common Snipe was poorly reported with only five records at hand and none later than the third week of September. The best count reported was 6 on 8/22 at the Dead Creek WMA (JID, MCD). Very good was the report of a Whimbrel on 8/24 in Burlington (BSE, ORE, fide WS), only the sixth on record. It was, however, the third in the last two years. A large shorebird over the WHL on 9/2 may very well have also been a Whimbrel (WJN). Only two reports of the American Woodcock were received, both from Tinnmouth. Single birds were seen there on 9/28 and 10/22 (GTL). The Upland Sandpiper was reported on five dates. The first report and maximum for the season was of 34 birds seen on 8/11 in Addison (WGE), 3 were reported from the Dead Creek WMA on 8/22 (WJN), on 8/24 1 was found in St. Albans and 2 were sighted in Derby (FO, CSZ), 11 were seen in Addison on 9/1 (WS, DPK, ALG, KSV), and latest was a single bird at the Springfield Airport on 9/11 (SG fide EE). As usual there were few reports of the Spotted Sandpiper. Maximum counts were 5 from 8/3-8/8 at the Barre Reservoir (LNM), and 6-8 at the Missisquoi NWR on 8/30 (ALG, LPr, EGV); the late date was 10/5 when 1 was seen in Woodstock (JHN). There were seventeen reports of the Solitary Sandpiper. Highlights include one banded at Woodstock on 8/16, the first ever banded by VINS (ALG, VINS); the maximum reported: 11 on Hardwick Lake on 8/20 (FO); the last was 1 on 9/30 at the Missisquoi NWR (RNS). The Greater Yellowlegs was widely reported in good numbers. Maximum counts were 16 on 8/22 at the Dead Creek WMA and South Slang (JID, MCD), and 12 on 9/2 at Ferrisburg (JID, MCD). The last reported were 3 on 10/27 at Herrick's Cove (NLM, WGE). There were eleven reports of the Lesser Yellowlegs. High counts included: 7 on 8/20 at Lake Hardwick (FO), 15 at Burlington on 8/24, including one bird color-marked with yellow dye (FO, CSZ), and 9 on the Barre Reservoir on 9/16 also the late report (MFH). There were seven reports of the Pectoral Sandpiper. First were 3 on 8/24 at Shelburne (FO, CSZ), 1 was reported from Ferrisburg on 9/1 (JID, MCD), 4 were seen in Addison on 9/23 (WGE), 1 was found at White River Junction on 10/7 (WGE), 6 were sighted there on 10/9 (WGE), 2 were seen on 10/10 in Woodstock (WGE, SBL, NLM), and 3 were located on Colchester Point on 10/13 (WGE). The Baird's Sandpiper was noted on five occasions. One was seen in Burlington on 8/13 (FO, JW), 1 was reported from Shelburne on 8/24 (FO, CSZ), 1 was sighted in Burlington on 9/1 (WJN). The species is very rare outside of the Champlain Valley, so a bird at Newport on 9/7 was exceptional for the Northeast Kingdom (FO). Seven of the ten reports of the Least Sandpiper were from the Burlington area. High counts included: 16-18 at Burlington on 8/13 (FO, JW), 10 at the Barre Reservoir on 8/13 (MFH), and 15 at the Dead Creek WMA on 8/22 (JID, MCD). The late date was 9/16 with 1 at the Barre Reservoir (MFH). There were three reports of the Dunlin. Earliest were 3 on 9/7 at Newport (FO), 1 was sighted in Burlington on 10/4 (FO, JW), and 5 were seen at Button Bay SP on 10/22 (WJN). The Short-billed Dowitcher was reported twice with both reports, as is usual, prior to September first. Seven were seen in Burlington on 8/13 (FO, JW), and 1 was reported from the Dead Creek WMA on 8/22 (JID, MCD). Extraordinarily early was the report of a Long-billed Dowitcher critically separated from Short-billed at Burlington on 8/13 (FO, JW). This sighting adds a new level of difficulty in the identification of August Dowitchers; observers should exercise care when dealing with these birds. In addition to these sightings, 2 Dowitchers (sp) were seen over the WHL on 9/8 (WJN). There were eleven reports of the Semipalmated Sandpiper. Eight of these were from the Burlington area, including the high count of 73 on 8/24 (FO, CSZ), and the late date of 9/23 with 1 at Colchester Point (WGE). Reports outside of the Champlain Valley included 5 at the Barre Reservoir from 8/3-8/8 (LNM), 2 at Newport on 9/7 (FO), and 1 at Norwich on 9/15 (GFE, WGE). One of the 73 seen on 8/24 was dyed yellow. There were four reports of the Sanderling. Nine were seen at Burlington and Shelburne on 8/24 (FO, CSZ), 3 were seen in Burlington on 9/1 (WJN), 1 was found on Colchester Point on 9/23 (WGE), and 5 were sighted there on 10/13 (WGE). There was a single report of the rare Northern Phalarope. A single bird was seen in Shelburne during the third week of August (date not specified) (WS).

There were only three reports of the Great Black-backed Gull, all strangely enough early in the season, despite the species' status as an uncommon winter visitor. Up to four were seen on the Burlington waterfront during August. Both the Herring Gull and the Ring-billed Gull seemed to be in average numbers last autumn. The Bonaparte's Gull was reported fewer times and in much lower numbers than in the past few fall reports. Apparently this was due to a drop in coverage, especially in the Champlain Valley, and not to any natural circumstance. First were 20+ on 8/7 at Burlington (FO, WS, BSE, ORE, CSP), 6 were seen at Colchester Point on 8/11 (WGE), 25+ were found in Burlington on 8/24 (FO, CSZ), 1 was sighted on Colchester Point on 9/1 (WS, DPK, ALG, KSV), and 50 were reported from Burlington on 10/22 (WJN). The LITTLE GULL was reported from Addison for the second consecutive fall. Two were seen there on 11/18 (WS). The Common Tern was reported four times, with all records from the Burlington area, a maximum of 210+ was reported on 8/24 (FO, CSZ); the latest report was of 19 on Colchester Point on 9/23 (WGE). There were three reports of the Black Tern, 2 were seen in Burlington on 8/7 (WS, FO, BSE, ORE, CSP), 1 was sighted on Colchester Point on 8/11 (WGE), and the species was reported through 9/2 at the South Slang in Ferrisburg (JID, MCD). If it will not be remembered for anything else, Hurricane David will be known for its large fallout of tropical terns in the Northeast. Vermont received five SOOTY TERNS from 9/6-9/12; all but one were discovered dead or were dying when found. However, 1 was seen at McIndoe Falls on 9/7 (CB). Specimens included birds from Weathersfield, Sandgate, Hartland and Quechee. These represented the second through sixth records of the 'wideawake' for Vermont. Ironically the first record was from Rutland 103 years ago (9/6, 1876) to the day.



SOOTY TERN

N MARTIN

DOVES THROUGH NIGHTHAWK

Although under-reported, the Rock Dove continues in good numbers. The Mourning Dove continues to thrive, with Norse noting a population increase in the southern Green Mountains and a maximum of 58 at Woodstock on 10/17 (WGE, NLM). There were three reports of the elusive Yellow-billed Cuckoo. One was seen in Addison on 8/11 (WGE), another was seen from above from the Gile Mt. fire tower in Norwich on 9/16 (TL, et al.), and a rather late individual was found in Springfield on 10/14 (LPr, KAF). The Black-billed Cuckoo was reported in about average numbers. One was banded at Marshfield for the season (MFH), 2 were seen in Tinnmouth from 8/10-8/23 (PB), 1 was found in North Pomfret on 8/27 (RHA), 1 was sighted in Woodstock on 9/7 (SBL, JDL), 1 was noted at Union Village in Norwich on 9/16 (WGE), and 1 was reported from Tinnmouth on 9/20 (GTL). The Great Horned Owl seemed to be in average numbers with 6 reported from 5 towns. There was a single report of the Snowy Owl. A single bird haunted the University of Vermont from 11/26-11/29 (FCH, JdL). The Barred Owl slightly outnumbered the Great Horned with 9 reported from 6 towns; disheartening was the report of an individual that was shot in Readsboro. Two Saw-whet Owls were banded in northern Vermont by Marion Metcalf and another was discovered in a cellar in Sunderland the week of 11/4-11/10 (fide NS). There apparently were two peaks during the fall migration of the Common Nighthawk. First was a flight on 8/22-8/23 with 100+ reported by five observers; an observer in Bethel noted "maybe 100 or so a day" from 9/3 through 9/7 (JHa); late dates were 9/6 at the WHL (WJN) and 9/7 at Bethel.

SWIFT THROUGH WOODPECKERS

The maximum report of the Chimney Swift was 25 on 8/11 at Winhall (WJN); all other reports involved numbers less than ten. As usual a few Swifts were noted into September with the latest being 2 on 9/16 at the WHL (WJN) and 2 from Gile Mt. in Norwich on 9/19 (TL, WGE, et al.). The Ruby-throated Hummingbird was reported from fourteen towns and cities with a maximum of 6 on 8/12 at Ferrisburg (JID, MCD). The last report was of a female or immature on 10/1 in Woodstock (LPr, EGV). With regard to late reports of 'female' plumaged birds, the late November 1979 record from Massachusetts of a female Black-chinned Hummingbird, which is virtually indistinguishable from the Ruby-

throated except in the hand, raises serious questions as to the identity of any 'female' Hummer seen in the later months of fall. This editor proposes that all 'female' Hummingbirds seen later than 10/1 be treated as Hummingbirds (sp). The Belted Kingfisher was widely reported in about average numbers with most departing in late October and early November. As usual a few individuals stayed on into the winter months. The Common Flicker was reported in about average numbers. The peak of the migration was in late September with maximum counts of 25 on 9/18 at Winhall (WJN), and 14 at Westminster from 9/27-9/28 (DC). Interesting was the early October report of a largely white individual in West Arlington (fide NS). Late reports were: 11/8 at Woodstock (NLM, WGE), and 11/9 at South Strafford (HR). The spectacular Pileated Woodpecker was well reported from areas throughout the state with the consensus being that the species was in "normal numbers." Exciting was the report of the very rare RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER from a Vergennes feeder beginning on 11/26 and continuing into the winter (further details in the forthcoming Winter and Spring reports) (fide BPG). There was only a single report of the uncommon Red-headed Woodpecker. A single immature was sighted in Woodstock on 9/16 (SBL, ALG). The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was reported in average numbers. Nine were banded with 6 at Marshfield. Birds were seen into October with the last being 1 at Marlboro on 10/14 (WJN). Both the Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers were reported in average numbers with 4 of the former and 5 of the latter being banded for the season. There was a single report of the Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker. A single individual was seen in Ferdinand on 9/11 (MHF).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

The Eastern Kingbird was reported in about average numbers with a maximum of 10 on 8/22 at Dead Creek (WJN). The last reported was 1 on 9/3 at Marlboro (WJN). There were ten reports of the Great Crested Flycatcher all involving single birds. Seven of the records were from August and three occurred in September, the last being on 9/11 in Woodstock (JMH). The Eastern Phoebe seems to be recovering somewhat from declines induced by recent harsh winters. The 15 banded this fall (14 at Woodstock) was fairly comparable to last year's 20. The best count received was 5 on 9/3 at Marlboro (WJN). The late report was also from Marlboro with 1 there on 10/18 (WJN). The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher seems to have been in average numbers. Twelve were banded, ten in Marshfield (MHF, VINS). As usual this elusive bird was reported in small numbers by field observers, 1 was seen in Marlboro on 8/26 (WJN), another was sighted in Hartford on 8/27 (WGE), the last of three seen in Winhall on separate dates was 1 on 9/5 (WJN). There were two reports of single Alder Flycatchers from Tinnmouth on 8/8 and 8/16 respectively (GTL). Two Traill's Flycatchers were banded at Woodstock on 8/10 and 8/16 (VINS). The Least Flycatcher was reported in average numbers, 31 were banded for the season, 19 by Harion Metcalf; the last reported were 2 on 9/21 at Woodstock (VINS). Many observers wisely reported the small nondescript members of the genus Empidonax without ascribing specific identity to them. From these reports the peak of the genus' abundance this fall was during late August and early September; the best counts were 10 and 10-15 on 8/26 and 8/29 at Woodstock (JMH), and 10 on 9/4 at Marlboro where 25 Empidonax (sp) were seen between 8/28 and 9/4 (WJN). Three Eastern Wood Pewees were banded this autumn, 2 at Marshfield (MHF, VINS). Most of the migration of the Pewee appears to have been in August as only a few were reported in September, the last on 9/6 at Woodstock (JMH). As usual there were few reports of the early departing Olive-sided Flycatcher. Three were seen in Winhall on 8/11 (WJN), 1 was reported from Woodstock on 8/30 (NLM, WGE), and 1 was sighted in Marlboro on 9/3 and 9/4 (WJN). There were seven reports of the Horned Lark. First were 10 on 10/22 at the Dead Creek WMA (WJN), 8 were seen on 10/23 at White River Junction (WGE), 27 were seen there on 10/26 (WGE), 1 was reported from Herrick's Cove on 11/1 (WJN), 14 were sighted at White River Junction on 11/3 (WGE), 19 were noted in Woodstock on 11/7 (NLM, WGE), and 16 were found there on 11/8, the last report (NLM, WGE). The peak of the Tree Swallow migration was in late August and the first days of September with maxima being: 500+ on 8/26 at Herrick's Cove (WJN), and 2,000+ on Lake Sadawaga in Whitingham on 9/2 (LBo). The last reported was 1 on 9/16 at the WHL (WJN). The Bank Swallow was reported in average numbers, with a maximum of 150+ on 8/11 at McCuen Slang in Addison (WGE), and a late date of 9/10 when 6 were seen in Marlboro (WJN). There were two reports of the early departing Rough-winged Swallow. Ten to twelve were seen in Burlington on 8/7 (FO, WS et al.), and 3 were reported from Woodstock on 8/12 (JMH). The Barn Swallow was well reported with a maximum of 100 on 8/22 at the Dead Creek WMA (WJN); the last reported was 1 on 9/24 at Woodstock (WGE). There were a handful of reports of the Cliff Swallow. The best count was 20 on 8/16 at Winhall (WJN), the last were 2 on 9/16 from the WHL (WJN). There were four reports of the Purple Martin. High counts were: 50+ at Addison on 8/11 (WGE), and 262 at Burlington on 8/24 (FO, CSZ). The last reported were 1 at Dead Creek WMA on 9/1 (WJN), and 3 on the same date at Colchester Point (WS, DPK, ALG, KSV). Very late was an unidentified Swallow on 10/28 at Lake Morey in Fairlee (TL, WGE, NLM, et al.).

JAYS THROUGH WRENS

The Gray Jay was reported only once, 3 were seen in Ferdinand on 9/11, 1 of these birds was banded (MHF). The Blue Jay migration peaked in mid-September with counts of 30-35 on 9/11 at East Craftsbury (FO), 41 at Marlboro on the same date (WJN), and 112 at Tinnmouth on 9/17 (GTL). Reports indicated that the species was apparently in average numbers. Thirty were banded for the season, 23 at Marshfield (MHF, VINS). The population of the Common Raven seems to have stabilized somewhat this year. The species was reported from thirteen towns from all over the state with a maximum of 9 from Woodstock on 11/9 (JMH). The Common Crow was reported in about average numbers. The peak of the fall flight was during mid-October in eastern and central Vermont with high counts at East Craftsbury on 10/13 (120+), Winhall on 10/21 (100), and at Grafton on 10/26 (FO, WJN, DC). The peak in the Champlain Valley was "two weeks later than usual" with peak counts during the first week of November in North Ferrisburg (JID, HCD). The Black-capped Chickadee was reported in about average numbers. Fifty were banded this autumn with 37 at Woodstock (VINS, MHF). There may have been a small influx into the state as D. Clark noted a rise in numbers in November. There were two reports of the Boreal Chickadee. One was seen in East Craftsbury on 8/2 (FO), and 1 was noted in Greensboro on 9/7 (FO). The Tufted Titmouse was reported in high numbers for the second consecutive fall. The species actually increased over last year's record numbers (36 reported) with twice that number noted this season (72). Reports were received from 31 towns and cities north to Burlington, St. Johnsbury and Plainfield, where 1 was banded. The White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatches and Brown Creeper were all reported in average numbers. Three White-breasted Nuthatches, 1 Red-breasted Nuthatch and 2 Brown Creepers were banded by H. F. Metcalf this autumn. The House Wren was reported in small numbers; 3 young fledged on 8/5 at Fair Haven (FSA), 5 were banded by VINS at Woodstock, late dates were: 1 on 10/5 at South Woodstock (VINS), and 1 seen in Marlboro on 10/7 (WJN). The Winter Wren remains scarce after its apparent troubles with the cold, snowy winters we have been having of late. The species was widely reported in small numbers, usually

reports involved single birds. The maximum report was 5 at Winhall on 9/11 (WJN). The last reported was 1 on 10/18 at Marlboro (WJN). There were two reports of the rare Carolina Wren. One was reported from Brattleboro on 11/8 (fide LPM), and 1 was seen in Woodstock on 11/24 (EHW). There were four reports of the Long-billed Marsh Wren. First were 24+ at the Dead Creek WMA on 8/11 (WGE), 2 were reported from West Rutland on 9/28 (WJN), 1 was seen at Colchester Point on 10/13 (WGE), and last was 1 at the Dead Creek WMA on 10/22 (WJN).

MIMIDS THROUGH THRUSHES

The Mockingbird was reported from eight towns, mostly in southern sectors. Birds were reported north to Burlington in the Champlain Valley and White River Junction in the Connecticut Valley. The Gray Catbird was reported in average numbers. Fifty-six were banded for the season, 47 at Woodstock (VINS, MHF); the best count received was 12 on 9/3 at Marlboro (WJN); other high counts were also from the month of September. Late reports were: 1 at South Strafford on 10/16 (HR), and 2 at Marlboro on 10/18 (WJN). The Brown Thrasher was reported in its normal small numbers. The latest reports were: 1 on 10/16 at Herrick's Cove (WJN), and 10/17 when a single bird was found in Woodstock (NS). The American Robin was reported in its usual abundance. The peak of the fall flight was during mid-October with high counts of 200-500 at East Craftsbury on 10/13 (FO), 60+ at Grafton on 10/16 (DC), 55 at Marlboro on 10/18 (WJN), and 100+ at the WHL on 10/20 (WJN). Fourteen were banded this autumn with 10 at Woodstock (VINS, MHF). The species continued into the winter as is normal. The Wood Thrush was reported in about average numbers. Maximum counts occurred in early September with 6 at Marlboro on 9/4 (WJN) and 5 at Winhall on 9/8 (WJN). Eight were banded for the season, with 5 caught at Woodstock (VINS, MHF). Late dates were: 10/3 at Hartford (WGE), and 10/11 at Westminster (DC). The Hermit Thrush was reported in average numbers with the best counts occurring in late September and October. Forty-two were banded during the season with 23 at Woodstock (VINS, MHF). Peak flight dates appeared to be 10/11 and 10/18, with 4 banded at Woodstock (VINS), and a "build up" in Westminster (DC) on the former date, and a count of 5 at Winhall on the latter (WJN). The last report was of a single bird at Winhall on 10/29 (WJN). As has become normal the Swinson's Thrush was the species of thrush (other than Robin) reported in greatest number for the autumn. Seventy were banded, 41 at Woodstock (VINS, MHF). High counts included: 12 banded on 9/7 at South Woodstock (VINS), and 25+ at Woodstock on 9/17 (JMH). However by far the best count was the careful documentation of the nocturnal movement of this species at Marlboro on the night of 9/3 and 9/4. W. D. Nichols counted at least 250 birds detected by their distinctive flight calls. According to Nichols' estimates of birds passing per minute as many as 3,200 birds may have passed over Marlboro on the night in question. The last reported was 1 on 10/14 at Tinnmouth (GTL). There were ten reports of the Grey-cheeked Thrush. Earliest was 1 at Woodstock on 8/26 (JHF), 1 was sighted at Marlboro on 9/3 (WJN), 1 was seen at Winhall on 9/5 (WJN), another was at Marlboro on 9/10 (WJN), 1 was reported from Winhall on 9/15 (WJN), 1 was noted at Woodstock on 9/25 (WGE, NLM), 1 was banded at South Woodstock on 10/5 (VINS), 1 was banded at Marshfield on an unspecified date (MHF), 1 was seen in Strafford on 10/2 (HR), and 1 was found in Winhall on 10/5 (WJN). A total of 10 Veeries were banded this fall with 8 at Marshfield (MHF, VINS). The seasonal maximum was 30 on 9/5 at Marlboro with 25 of these heard overhead at night (WJN); the last reported was 1 in Shrewsbury on 9/11 (fide AFS). A total of about 100 Eastern Bluebirds were reported by various observers. Maximum counts were: 10-15 at Mt. Holly on 8/20 (AEB), and 10 at Marlboro on 10/14 (WJN). The last was seen at Tinnmouth on 10/27 (GTL).

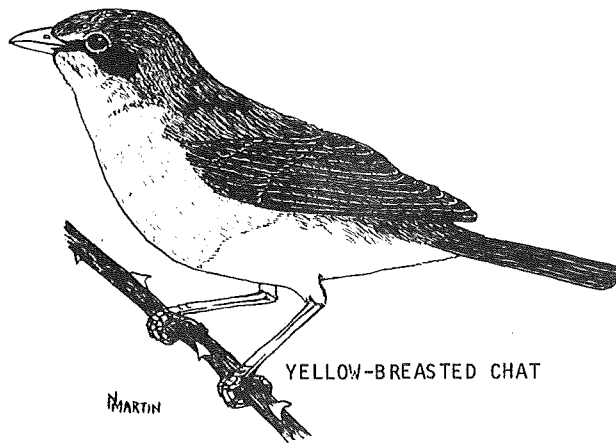
GNATCATCHER THROUGH VIREOS

The rare Blue-grey Gnatcatcher was reported on six dates. Four were seen at Colchester Point on 8/7 (FO, WS, BSE, ORE, CSP), 2-3 were still at that locale on 8/11 (WGE), 1 was seen at Marlboro on 8/26 (fide WJN), 3 were sighted at Ft. Cassin in Ferrisburg on 9/2 (JID, HCD), 1 was reported from Church Hill in Woodstock on 9/12 (JMH), very late was 1 seen at the VINS Nature Preserve on 10/5 (this may have been the same individual as the 9/12 bird) (NLM). Like many other species which winter in the eastern United States the Kinglets have suffered sizable declines due to the inclement weather of the last three winters. As with the Eastern Phoebe the Kinglets appear to have bounced back a bit over the last two years. However their numbers are still far less than they were in, say, 1975. Twelve Golden-crowned Kinglets were banded this fall, 10 at Marshfield and Ferdinand (MHF, VINS). The seasonal maximum was 23 on 10/7 at Marlboro (WJN); the species winters in small numbers. Thirty-two Ruby-crowned Kinglets were banded with 25 at Marshfield (MHF, VINS). The best counts submitted were: ca. 30 at Westmore on 9/10 (FO), and 22 on 10/18 at Marlboro (WJN), the last reported was 1 at Marlboro on 11/14 (WJN). The earliest of sixteen reports of the Water Pipit was of 6 at the Barre Reservoir on 9/4 (MHF), 1 was reported from Mt. Mansfield on 9/23 (PFZ), 30+ were seen in Panton on 9/23 (WGE), 25 were found on Mt. Mansfield from 9/27-9/30 (PFZ), 2 were sighted at Shelburne on 9/30 (FO), the last seen on Mt. Mansfield were 2 on 10/1 (PFZ), 3 were noted at Woodstock on 10/3 (NLM, SBL, WGE), 2 were reported from Marlboro on 10/4 (WJN), 12 were at East Craftsbury on 10/8 (FO), 19 were seen at Woodstock on 10/10 (WGE, SBL, NLM), 9 were located in Pomfret on 10/11 (WGE), the season's best count was 50 at Bethel on 10/17 and 10/18 (JHA), 6 were noted at Woodstock on 10/25 (NLM, WGE), 2 were sighted at Dead Creek WMA on 10/22 (WJN), 30+ were seen at Herrick's Cove on 10/27 (NLM, WGE), the last reported was 1 at Herrick's Cove on 11/1 (WJN). The Cedar Waxwing was reported in average numbers. Twenty-seven were banded, 23 by Harion Metcalf (MHF, VINS); the best count reported was 56 at Marlboro on 9/4 (WJN). Interesting was the sighting of 20+ waxwings on the rime-coated firs and spruces of the Mt. Mansfield summit ridge on 10/11 continuing to 10/13. What were these birds doing for three days in this extreme environment? (PFZ). The last reported were 9 at Burlington on 11/25 (WGE). There were only three reports of the Northern Shrike. First was 1 on 10/30 at Grafton (DC), 1 was seen in Hartland on 11/11 (GLE, NLM, WGE), and 1 was sighted at Westminster West on 11/30 (DC). There was nothing unusual to report about the Starling this fall. There were three reports of the Yellow-throated Vireo. One was seen in Woodstock from 8/29-8/30 (JMH), 1 was seen in Stratton on 9/13 (WJN), a bird seen on 10/7 at Marlboro was stunningly late (WJN). Excellent was the fifth report for the state of the WHITE-EYED VIREO; a single individual was seen with other vireos and warblers on 9/9 at Burton Island SP in St. Albans (RNS, et al.). Eight total Solitary Vireos were banded this autumn, 5 at Marshfield (MHF, VINS). High counts were: 6 on 9/13 at Stratton and 6 on 10/4 at Marlboro (WJN), the last reported was 1 seen in Grafton on 11/11, the latest report yet received for the fall records (fide DC). The Red-eyed Vireo was reported in average numbers with 39 banded, 24 of these at Woodstock (VINS, MHF). Maximum counts include: 6 banded at Woodstock on 8/29 (VINS) and 10 seen on 9/3 at Marlboro (WJN). Other high counts occurred in late August and early September indicating the peak of the fall migration. The last sighted was seen in Woodstock on 10/20 (JMH). The Philadelphia Vireo was well reported with widespread reports from many observers. Six were banded at Marshfield for the season (MHF). Other reports were: 1 on 8/4 at East Craftsbury (FO),

1 at Burlington on 8/7 (FO, CSP), 1 at Hartford on 8/28 (WGE), 1 on 8/28 at Marlboro (WDN), 1 at Marlboro on 8/29 (WDN), 3 at Colchester on 9/1 (WS, DPK, ALG, KSV), 1 on 9/4 at Marlboro (WDN), 1 on 9/8 at Gile Mt. in Norwich (WGE), 1 at Winhall on 9/9 (WJN), 1 on Gile Mt. on 9/16, (WGE), 1 at Winhall on 9/17 (WJN), 1 at East Craftsbury on 9/19 (FO), 3 at Hartford on 9/19 (WGE), 1 on 9/20 at Marlboro (WDN), and 1 at Marlboro on 9/21 (WDN). There were six reports of the Warbling Vireo. First reported were 3-4 at Burlington on 8/7 (FO, WS, et al.), 1 was seen at the Dead Creek WMA on 8/22 (WJN), 3 were noted at Woodstock on 8/24 (JHN), 1 was banded at Woodstock on 8/30 (VINS), 6 were found at Colchester on 9/1 (WS, DPK, ALG, KSV), and 1 was seen at South Woodstock on 9/7 (WGE, EE, ALG, NLM, MAP).

WOOD WARBLERS

The Black-and-white Warbler was reported in about average numbers. Thirteen were banded, 11 at Marshfield (MFM, VINS). Maximum reports were: 5 at Winhall on 8/21 (WJN), and 4 at Marlboro on 9/4 (WDN). The last sighted was 1 on 10/4 at Marlboro (WDN). Very welcome was the report of the very rare WORM-EATING WARBLER from Burton Island SP on 9/9 (RNS, et al.). Fifty-three Tennessee Warblers were banded this autumn with 28 at Marshfield (MFM, VINS). The migration of this diminutive species peaked on 9/13 with 14 banded at Woodstock and 6 seen at Stratton on that date (VINS, WDN). The latest report was 10/7 when 1 was seen in Hartford (WGE). The Nashville Warbler was reported in average numbers with 32 banded, 26 of these were caught at Marshfield (MFM, VINS). High counts were: 12 on 8/30 at Marlboro (WDN), and 7 at Hartford on 9/12-9/13 (WGE). The last reported was 1 at Woodstock on 10/13 (JHN). The Northern Parula was reported in its usual small numbers; there were six reports. One was banded at Marshfield (MFM), 1 was at Marlboro on 8/31 (WDN), 2 were seen at Marlboro on 9/4 (WDN), an unspecified number was noted at Burton Island SP on 9/9 (RNS, et al.), 1 was sighted at Stratton on 9/13 (WDN), and 1 was found at Hartford on 9/19 (WGE). The bulk of the migration of the early departing Yellow Warbler occurred in August with the maximum of 60-70 at Colchester on 8/7 (FO, WS, BSE, ORE, CSP); 2 were banded at Woodstock, both in August (VINS). The last reported was 1 on 10/7 at Hartford (WGE). The Magnolia Warbler was noted in average numbers. Forty-eight were banded, 37 at Marshfield (MFM, VINS). High counts occurred for the most part in the first week of September, with 8 at Marlboro on 9/4 (WDN), 12+ at South Woodstock on 9/7 (WGE, EE, NLM, ALG, MAP), and 6 at Winhall on 9/8 (WJN). Exceptionally high for so late a date was a count of 9 at Marlboro on 10/4 (WDN). The latest birds reported were 2 at Marlboro on 10/7 (WDN), and 1 at Hartford on 10/7 (WGE). The Cape May Warbler was reported in its usual small numbers. Five were banded at Marshfield this autumn (MFM). The earliest migrant noted at East Craftsbury was seen on 8/3 (FO), the maximum from there was ca. 10 on 8/30 (FO, DH), the earliest of 19 seen at Marlboro was seen on 8/28 (WDN), the maximum there was 5 on 9/4 (WDN). The last sighted were 2 at Marlboro on 10/4 (WDN). The Black-throated Blue Warbler occurred in average numbers. Seventeen of eighteen banded were netted at Marshfield (MFM, VINS). Maximum reports were: 3-4 on 8/11 at East Craftsbury (FO), 4 on 9/5 at Winhall (WJN), and 4 on 9/13 at Stratton (WDN). The last birds of this species noted were 2 on 10/4 at Marlboro (WDN), and 1 on 10/5 at Hartford (WGE). As usual the Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler was one of the commonest and most conspicuous of our migrant warblers. Eighty-seven of 134 banded were caught at Marshfield (MFM, VINS). High counts included: 60-70 on 9/4 and 9/5 at East Craftsbury (FO), 50+ at Woodstock on 9/23 (JHN), and ca. 150 on 9/30 at Woodstock (SBL, ALG). The latest reported to the records were 2 on 11/18 at Lake Morey (WGE). (For later reports of this Warbler see the 1979-80 Winter Records.) Thirty-five Black-throated Green Warblers were banded this fall, 26 at Marshfield (MFM, VINS), the migration was protracted with no definite peak, the maximum of six birds occurred on six dates ranging from 8/28 to 10/4 at three southern Vermont locations, the last sighted was 1 on 10/18 at Marlboro (WDN). The Blackburnian Warbler was noted in about average numbers. As seems to be normal rather few of this basically high-ranging species were banded; 7 were netted this fall, 6 at Marshfield (MFM, VINS). The seasonal high was 4 on 9/3 at the Springweather NA (DPK, ALG), the last reports were on 10/2 at Hartford (WGE) and 10/4 at Marlboro (WDN). The Chestnut-sided Warbler was reported in average numbers with 24 banded, all but 1 at Marshfield (MFM, VINS). The high count was 5 at Woodstock on 9/13 (JHN), and the late report was of 3 seen on 10/4 at Marlboro, about 2 weeks later than is usual (WDN). The Bay-breasted Warbler started moving in early August with 2 at East Craftsbury on 8/3 (FO); 17 were banded at Marshfield for the season (MFM). The best count was also early with ca. 10 at East Craftsbury on 8/11 (FO), the last reported were 3 at Marlboro on 10/4 (WDN). The closely related Blackpoll Warbler apparently moved in numbers somewhat later. Eleven were banded for the autumn with 6 at Woodstock, most of which were in September (VINS, MFM); the high of 4-5 at East Craftsbury was on 9/19 (FO). The species lingered much later than usual, the late date of 10/18 at Marlboro was nearly three weeks later than normal (WDN). There were six reports of the Pine Warbler for the fall. Earliest was 1 on 8/11 at East Craftsbury (FO), 2 were at Tinnmouth 8/19-8/21 (GTL); an unspecified number was noted at Burton Island SP on 9/9 (RNS, et al.), 1 was seen in Tinnmouth on 9/19 (GTL), 2 were sighted at Woodstock on 9/23 (JHN), the last was 1 on 10/7 at Hartford (WGE). The Palm Warbler was widely reported in average numbers. First were 4 at Marlboro on 10/4 (WDN), 1 was banded at South Woodstock on 10/5 (VINS), 2 were banded at Marshfield on unreported dates (MFM), 3 were seen at Hartford on 10/7 (WGE), 1 was at Marlboro on 10/7 (WDN), 2 were sighted at Woodstock on 10/10 (WGE), 1 was found at Winhall on 10/17 (WJN), 3 were seen at Marlboro on 10/18 (WDN), 2 others were banded at Woodstock in mid-October (VINS), 1 was at Winhall on 10/23 (WJN), 2 were sighted at Herrick's Cove on 10/27 (WGE, NLM), and 1 was noted at White River Junction on 10/28 (NLM, WGE). The Ovenbird was in average numbers. Twenty-four were banded this fall with 13 at Woodstock (VINS, MFM). High counts were: 5 on 8/7 at Woodstock (VINS), and 5 at South Woodstock on 9/7 (VINS). The last was 1 at Woodstock on 9/24 (WGE). As usual the inconspicuous, shoreline inhabiting Northern Waterthrush was reported in small numbers. Four were banded at Marshfield (MFM); there were four reports by field observers, the latest on 10/4 with 1 seen at Marlboro (WDN). There was the normal single report of the Louisiana Waterthrush with 1 noted at Hartford on 8/8 (GFE). The Mourning Warbler occurred in its normal small numbers. A total of ten were banded with 5 caught at each major station (VINS, MFM). Other records were: 1 at East Craftsbury on 8/11 (FO), 1 seen at Marlboro on 9/2 (WDN), 1 was sighted at Hartford on 9/6 (WGE), 1 was noted on 9/23 at Winhall (WJN), the last was an adult male banded at Woodstock on 10/10 (VINS). The Common Yellowthroat which is probably the most common warbler in Vermont was noted in its usual numbers. The species was caught in excellent numbers by banders with a total of 184 netted this autumn; 117 of this number were 'ringed' at Woodstock (VINS, MFM). High counts were: 16 at Woodstock on 8/16 and 8/23 (VINS), 20 at Marlboro on 9/4 (WDN), and 25 at Marlboro on 10/4 (WDN). The last sighted was 1 at White River Junction on 11/3 (WGE). Good at any season was the specimen record of Yellow-breasted Chat from Northfield on 8/29 (fide Dr. Wm. Barnard). The Wilson's Warbler was on the move by the third week of August with reports on 8/17 and 8/19 at Shelburne and Winhall respectively (JIB, HCD, WJN). Thereafter the species was well reported with



YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT

16 other reports submitted. Five were banded with 4 at Woodstock (VINS, MFM), the maximum of 4 occurred on 9/4 at Marlboro (WDN). Late reports included: 1 banded at South Woodstock on 10/5 (VINS), and 1 at Hartford on 10/7 (WGE). The Canada Warbler was reported in average numbers. Thirty-nine were banded for the autumn with 34 at Marshfield (MFM, VINS). As usual the bulk of the migration of this early departing species was in August, the maximum of 4 being on 8/21 at Winhall (WJN). The last was 1 banded at Woodstock on 9/20 (VINS). As is normal the majority of the fall flight of the flycatching American Redstart was during the month of August. High counts were: 5 on 8/11 at East Craftsbury (FO), and 7 on 8/21 at Winhall (WJN). Thirty-four were banded with 29 at Marshfield (MFM, VINS). As early as most redstarts leave here some always seem to linger well behind their fellows. Latest this year were 1 at Marlboro on 10/4 (WDN), and 1 at South Woodstock on 10/5 (VINS).

HOUSE SPARROW THROUGH Tanager

The House Sparrow continues to thrive on farms and in urban areas. Because of its distant wintering range, many spend that season in Argentina, the Bobolink leaves Vermont early, molting in July and departing in August. High counts this season included: 30 on 8/22 at the Dead Creek WMA (WJN), and 24+ at Williston on 9/3 (SBL). The last reported was an individual that was nearly a month later than normal seen at White River Junction on 10/24; the bird was caught by a predator later in the week as the remains of it were found on 10/28 (WGE, NLM). The Eastern Meadowlark was reported by a handful of observers. High counts were: 15-18 on 9/14 at East Craftsbury (FO), and 34 on 10/10 at Woodstock (SBL, NLM, WGE). The last reported was 1 on 11/15 at Woodstock (NLM, WGE). The Red-winged Blackbird was in its usual abundance with a maximum of 10,000+ on 10/26 at White River Junction (WGE). Three were banded this fall with 2 netted at Woodstock (VINS, MFM). A few Red-wings remained into the winter months which is normal. The Northern Oriole, which is a species with strong tropical affinities, leaves for the most part in mid-August. Maximum counts this fall were: 5-6 on 8/11 at East Craftsbury (FO), and 7 at Hartland on 8/18 (JHN). For some reason a few Orioles always linger in the north country far beyond their fellows, the latest reported this autumn was 1 at Manchester from 10/13-10/20 (fide MS). The Rusty Blackbird which is always somewhat inconspicuous went virtually unreported. Only five observers reported this species with a total of only 5 individuals noted. High counts of the Common Grackle ranged from 10/9 with a "large mixed movement with Cowbirds and Red-wings" at Westminster West (DC), and 10/17 with ca. 1,000 at Tinnmouth (GTL), to 11/3 when 2,000+ were seen at White River Junction (WGE). The species being quite hardy a few individuals always linger into the winter. There were a handful of scattered reports of the Brown-headed Cowbird. Most of the movement detected for this species was during October; a few small to medium flocks stayed on to winter. The Scarlet Tanager was reported in average numbers. Ten were banded this fall with 7 at Woodstock (VINS). No peak flight days seem to be evidenced by the data at hand. High counts ranged from 3-5 from mid-August to the third week of September. The latest reports were: 1 retrapped at Woodstock on 10/2 (VINS), and the extraordinary report of 1 that was seen investigating a Woodstock feeding station on 10/27 fully a month late (GFE).

FINCHES AND SPARROWS

The Cardinal was reported in average numbers. Three were banded at Plainfield this autumn (MFM). Interesting was the report from Fair Haven that at least 59 young have been fledged over the last 18 years in one observer's yard (FSA). There was an average report of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Twenty-eight were banded, 16 at Marshfield (MFM, VINS). Maximum counts were: 10-12 on 8/30 at East Craftsbury (FO), 8 on 9/4 at Marlboro (WDN), and 8 on 9/13 at Woodstock (JHN). The last reported was a female on 10/10 at Woodstock (SBL, NLM, WGE). High counts of the Indigo Bunting were: 4 on 8/30 at East Craftsbury (FO), and 8+ at Woodstock on 9/10 (WGE). The last was 1 on 10/11 at Herrick's Cove three weeks later than normal (WJN). The Evening Grosbeak returned to the Green Mountains and the Northeast Kingdom in August; however, the first major statewide movement did not happen until the third week of October. Good counts during this period included: 70+ on 10/18 at Woodstock (JHN), 50 in Plainfield on 10/19 (MFM), and 50 at the WHL on 10/20 (WJN). The species was noted in its usual high numbers at feeders for the rest of the season. Numbers of the Purple Finch seemed to be higher than normal. A large number were banded this fall, especially at Marshfield where 220 of the total of 227 for the season were netted (MFM, VINS). The best count submitted was 100 seen at the WHL on 10/21 (WJN); the species continued into December in good numbers. The House Finch continues to increase with a total of six reports from five towns. Records were received from Fair Haven, Pomfret, Marlboro (2 reports), Brattleboro, White River Junction (17 on 10/26), and Shrewsbury. The Pine Grosbeak was virtually absent from the state this autumn with only a single report of 3 birds on 10/17 at Woodstock (ALG). The Pine Siskin was noted in about average numbers. Early indications of movement included a flock of 20 at Marshfield, of which 1 was banded on 10/7 (MFM), 10-15 from 10/18-10/22 on Mt. Mansfield (PFZ), and 13 over Gile Mt. on 10/20 (GFE, WGE). Apparently a good region-wide flight occurred in southern Vermont on 11/9 with coincidental counts of 25 at Winhall (WJN), 33 at Marlboro (WDN), and 30-40 at Grafton (DC). The siskin continued into December. The American Goldfinch was reported in good numbers throughout the season. The high of 50 occurred on 10/21 from the WHL (WJN). Thirty-seven were banded, 30 at Marshfield (MFM, VINS). Two observers report the Red Crossbill; 4 were

seen at Marshfield on 9/11 (MFM), and a small flight was noted at Winhall with 4 birds seen from 11/8-11/21 (WJN). There was a single report of the White-winged Crossbill. Four were seen at Marshfield on 9/11 (MFM). The Rufous-sided Towhee was reported in small numbers with three birds noted into late November and December in southwestern Vermont (Tinnmouth, West Arlington and Manchester). One was banded at Woodstock in September (VINS). The Savannah Sparrow was reported in average numbers. Six were banded at Woodstock, 5 on 10/7 (VINS); the maximum was 50+ on 9/10 at Woodstock (SBL, WGE). The last were 2 on 10/28 at White River Junction (NLM, WGE). There were seven reports of the Vesper Sparrow. First was 1 on 9/1 at the Dead Creek WMA (WJN), 1 was noted at Herrick's Cove on 10/1 (WJN), 3 were seen at White River Junction on 10/7 (WGE), 2 were sighted at Craftsbury on 10/8 (FO), 4 were at Woodstock on 10/10 (NLM, SBL, WGE), 1 was seen there on 10/17 (WGE, NLM), and 1 was reported from the Dead Creek WMA on 10/22 (WJN). The Dark-eyed Junco migration was well below normal levels. Only ten were banded this fall, 8 at Marshfield (MFM, VINS). This compares with an average of 129 for the past two autumns (1977, 1978). Maximum reports were: 25 at Winhall on 10/16 (WJN), and 30 at Marlboro 10/18 (WJN). Perhaps instead of leaving, Juncos remained in the north country, encouraged apparently by the mildness of the season. A similar phenomenon may have affected the numbers of the Tree Sparrow which was noted in fairly small numbers. The earliest reported were 6-7 seen at Craftsbury on 10/8 (FO); other reports did not occur until the third week of October. Twenty-two were banded at Woodstock this autumn (VINS). The best count submitted was 30+ at Burlington on 11/25 (WGE). Rather late was a pair of Chipping Sparrows that were still feeding young on 8/22 at Woodstock (JMN). The species was reported in average numbers for the season. Eight were banded, seven at Woodstock (VINS, MFM). The seasonal maximum was 60-70 at East Craftsbury on 8/22 (FO). The latest reports were: 10/23 at Winhall (WJN), and 10/25 at Woodstock (NLM, WGE). There was a good report of the often underreported Field Sparrow. High counts were: 10-12 at East Craftsbury on 8/22 (FO), and 9 (out of 15) banded at Woodstock on 10/10 (VINS). The last was 1 at Shrewsbury on 10/28 (fide AFS). The White-crowned Sparrow was, for the most part, reported in small numbers. Nine were banded, 8 at Woodstock (VINS, MFM). Other reports were: the earliest this fall 1 at Addison on 9/23 (WGE), 3 on 10/1 on Mt. Mansfield with a single immature continuing until 10/6 (PFZ), 2 were at Marlboro on 10/4 (WJN), 1 was reported at East Craftsbury on 10/8 (FO), 5 were seen at Marlboro on 10/9 (WJN), the seasonal maximum of 40+ at Woodstock on 10/10 (WGE), 2 were at Herrick's Cove on 10/16 (WJN), and the last 1 on 11/8 at Woodstock (NLM, WGE). The White-throated Sparrow was reported in average numbers. A total of 139 were banded, 92 at Marshfield (MFM, VINS). The season's flight peaked in the first and third weeks of October with counts of 96 and 105 on 10/4 and 10/18 respectively, at Marlboro (WJN). The species winters in small numbers. The Fox Sparrow is quite an erratic migrant in Vermont, its abundance apparently dependent upon whether it deigns to land in the state during its seasonal movements. Very few were noted this fall with a total of six reports submitted. First was 1 on 10/13 at Colchester Point (WGE), 1 was seen at Winhall on 10/17 (WJN), another was sighted there from 10/29-10/30 (WJN), 1 was at Grafton on 10/30 (DC), 1 was reported from Ferrisburg from 11/4-11/6 (JID, MCD), and 1 was seen in Woodstock on 11/8 (VINS). The Lincoln's Sparrow is now known to be a regular migrant in rather good numbers. Forty-six were banded this autumn with 38 at Woodstock (VINS, MFM). High counts included: 12+ (8 of which were banded) on 9/12 at Woodstock (SBL, WGE), 15 at Marlboro on 10/4 (WJN), and 11 at Hartford on 10/7 (WGE). Late dates were: 10/18 at Marlboro (WJN), and 10/20 at Woodstock (JMN). The Swamp Sparrow was reported in average numbers. Thirty-one were banded, 27 at Woodstock (VINS, MFM). The maximum reports were: 10 at West Rutland on 9/28 (WJN), 17 at Marlboro on 10/4 (WJN), 11 at Hartford on 10/7 (WGE), 9 banded at Woodstock on 10/17 (VINS), and 17 on 10/18 at Marlboro (WJN). The last were 2 on 11/11 at Herrick's Cove (WGE, NLM, GLe). Banding totals reflected the abundance of the Song Sparrow with 240 caught for the season, 203 at Woodstock (VINS, MFM). The maximum of 40 occurred on 10/2 at Woodstock (VINS); being both hardy and abundant this species winters in small numbers. The rarely reported Lapland Longspur was recorded on five dates. Very early was one on Mt. Mansfield on 10/1 (PFZ), 1 was seen in Quechee on 10/24 (KT), 2 were at White River Junction on the same date (WGE), 3 were seen there on 10/26 (WGE), another was there on 11/4 (NLM, WGE), and 1 was seen in Woodstock on 11/8 (WGE, NLM). The Snow Bunting was well reported this autumn. First reports were: 3 on 10/16 on Mt. Mansfield (PFZ), and 1 at Woodstock on 10/17 (WGE, SBL, NLM). Buntings were "seen on every clear day on the ridge" of Mt. Mansfield through 11/1, when the observer left that harsh realm, with a maximum of 35 on 10/30 (PFZ). Other high counts were: ca. 50 at Shelburne on 10/27 (JID, MCD), 50 on 11/3 at Cabot (MFM), and 100+ at White River Junction on 11/4 (NLM, WGE).

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