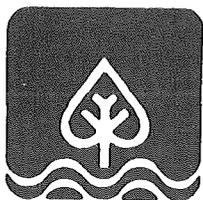


Before
Winters
2003
actually -
OUT OF ORDER



VERMONT INSTITUTE OF NATURAL SCIENCE

Records of Vermont Birds

FALL MIGRATION 1980

1 AUGUST - 30 NOVEMBER

WALTER G. ELLISON, SEASONAL EDITOR

Overall, the autumn was one of about average temperatures and less than average precipitation. August was warm and dry, with particularly hot days occurring during the first two weeks of the month. The lack of precipitation caused low lake levels to continue into an even drier September. Due to the presence of mud flats along Lake Champlain throughout the first two months of the season, the shorebird flight was above average, with 27 species reported. This represents the second best total over the last six falls. Also encouraged by the warm, dry conditions were 'southern herons' which staged one of their best flights in recent years.

The predominance of "Bluebird" days caused a general lack of wave activity during late August and September. Exceptions were September 8 and September 15. Banding results on September 8 indicate a good flight, with 75 birds of 22 species netted at Woodstock, including 12 species of warbler. The fifteenth was the last of three days of lowering, misty weather. VINS banded 77 birds that day, including an excellent total of 58 Tennessee Warblers. With a cold front clearing out the clouds from the northwest, the fifteenth became the most memorable day of Hawk Watching in the Green Mountain State. Only a single watch was manned full-time on September 15, but observers on Mt. Philo saw over 1100 hawks, including about 940 Broad-winged Hawks, 117 American Kestrels and 41 Osprey. Check the main text for further detail on this remarkable flight.

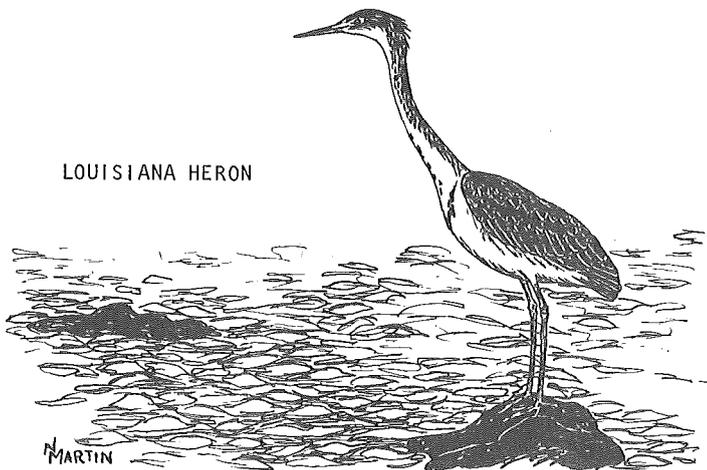
October was cooler than average and was the only month of the season with significant precipitation. Grey and rainy days proved to be among the best for migrants. Dates which seemed particularly good during the October sparrow and finch flight were October 4, with good counts of Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Purple Finch, Field, Lincoln's and Song Sparrow, and October 11 through October 12, which featured fine counts of Pine Siskin and White-crowned Sparrow, among others.

November was cold and dry and featured the appearances of good numbers of several boreal and arctic species. In particularly good numbers were Rough-legged Hawk, Common Redpoll and Snow Bunting. Also significant were a modest Pine Grosbeak flight and reports of Bohemian Waxwings. *Henslow's (WJN) Sparrow (SR)*

Rare birds, which delight the birder more than the scientist perhaps, were scattered throughout the season. The bird of the season was the NORTHERN WHEATEAR seen in Colchester for a week in late September and early October. Other fine records included LOUISIANA HERON, SWAINSON'S HAWK, WILLET, all three Phalaropes (including three records of the rarest, the RED PHALAROPE), BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE, and DICK-CISSEL. Overall, 238 species were noted by observers this autumn, a new record by five species, the previous high total being for the autumn of 1978. The average species total for the last six Autumn Seasonal Reports is 226.8.

piling these accounts. The accounts for Spring 1980 and Summer 1980 have not yet been completed. Thus, VINS is publishing Fall 1980 out of sequence; we hope to have the missing issues to our readers by early winter.

LOUISIANA HERON



LOONS THROUGH HERONS

The total of 47 Common Loons reported was about average for the past six years; the best count reported was 9 on November 1 at Charlotte (WS). There was a single report of the rare Red-throated Loon, the first in two years during fall migration. A single individual was seen with Common Loons at the Charlotte Town Beach on November 1 (WS). There were four reports of the scarce Red-necked Grebe. One was noted in Panton on October 29 (WS), 1 was seen at Lake Morey on November 2 (NLM,WGE), 1 was reported from Caspian Lake on November 3 (FO, DM), and 1 was found on Lake Morey on November 23 (NLM,WGE). A total of 40 Horned Grebes was reported by observers at Panton (early date and maximum count of 20 on October 6 (WS)), Ferrisburg, North Hero, Lake Morey and Caspian Lake. There were also 40 Pied-billed Grebes noted from most sectors of the state. The best counts were achieved in mid and late September with counts of 5 at Quechee on September 15 (WGE), 6 at Herrick's Cove on September 16 (WJN), and 6 at the Thurman W. Dix Reservoir (hereafter TWDR) in Orange on September 26 (MFM). The latest reported were: 1 on November 6 at Herrick's Cove (WJN), and 1 at North Hero on November 8 (NLM,WGE,KD). There were the usual handful of reports of the Double-crested Cormorant. First was an immature, incapacitated by parasite-infested air sacs, which hung about Kent Pond in Sherburne from late July until September 8 when it succumbed to its malady. Others included: 1 sighted at Dead Creek WMA on August 24 (JJA), 19 at St. Albans Bay on September 7 (SBL,NLM,WGE), 1 in Bristol on September 28 (JJA), 3 reported from Burlington on October 4 (WS), 15 noted in Panton on October 6 (WS), and 1 at Herrick's Cove on November 1, the latest reported (NLM, WGE). The majestic Great Blue Heron continues to be well-reported with at least 105 individuals reported from all over the state this autumn. The best count submitted was 15 on August 16 at Dead Creek WMA (NLM, WGE, et al.); latest reported were 1 on November 27 at Lake Morey (GFE,WGE), and 1 noted into December

Managing Editor's Note:

The Records of Vermont Birds are written up by volunteer editors who devote countless hours to com-

at Ferrisburg (WS). A total of 19 Green Herons was reported. High counts were from late August with 4 at Herrick's Cove and Ft. Cassin, Ferrisburg, on August 25 and August 26 respectively (WJN, JID, MCD). The last was 1 seen in Quechee on October 18 (NLM,WGE). There was a single report of the rare LITTLE BLUE HERON. A single adult was seen flying over the Winhall Hawk Lookout (WHL) on the rather late date of October 5 (WJN). There was a single report of the Cattle Egret: 25-30 were seen in Charlotte on September 8 (FCH). The Great Egret was reported in above average numbers for the season. First was 1 seen in Shelburne on August 2 (NLM, WGE); 1 was noted on the Intervale in Colchester on August 5 (PFZ,RNS); 3 were sighted in Orwell on August 17 (JKe fide RWP). On September 3 1 was seen at McCuen Slang on the lake in Addison (WS); this number rose to 2 on September 5 with these birds continuing to September 11 (WS). In addition to the previous species the Snowy Egret was noted in the Burlington/Colchester area throughout the early months of the season; up to 3 were seen in that area until September 13. Uncommon but regular on the New England coast, the LOUISIANA HERON has had until now no official Vermont record. However, on August 17 a single bird was sighted and photographed in Shelburne; the excellent transparency is accompanied with a sheet of notes detailing the circumstances of the initial sighting of this species in the state (BDF). The Vermont State Records Committee has officially accepted this report as the first Vermont report of the species. A total of 13 Black-crowned Night Herons was reported to the Records. High counts were: 3 on August 17 at Dead Creek WMA (WRB,MJM et al.), and 3 once again on September 8 at Dead Creek, the latter date also being the latest report (JID,MCD). Of interest was the report of a single immature in Woodstock from August 1 through August 6 (ALG et al.); the species is quite rare in eastern Vermont. There was a single report of the stealthy Least Bittern; one was seen at Ft. Cassin in Ferrisburg on August 26 (JID,MCD). Fourteen American Bitterns were reported including a good count of 5 at TWDR on August 2 (MFM), and the late date of September 30 at Colchester Point when 1 was reported (SBL). Very rare in autumn, the Glossy Ibis was reported from Huntington on September 19 when a single bird passed over the observer at a height of about thirty feet (JJA).

WATERFOWL

A Mute Swan of unknown origin was seen in North Pomfret on October 13 (MHR). About 4400 Canada Geese were reported for the season. The first flight of the season occurred in the last days of September with over 800 noted by various observers from September 27 - September 29. The largest flight of the autumn occurred from October 9 through October 15, with good counts from several areas. The maximum reported was an excellent 2000+ on October 28 from the Dead Creek WMA (JID,MCD). Only about 500 Snow Geese were reported this season, far below the average of the past six autumns. Perhaps the flight occurred at earlier dates than usual, as all of the flocks noted were during October. The largest numbers of the season were reported from Timmouth with 300+ seen from October 13 through October 15 (GTL). Last reported were 2 on Lake Morey on November 27 (NLM, WGE et al.). Four "Blue" Geese were seen at Dead Creek WMA on October 28 (JID,MCD). Nearly 400 Mallards were reported to the Records. The best counts were from early November, with 75 from Burlington to Ferrisburg on November 1 (WS), 50 at Herrick's Cove on November 6 (WJN), and 80+ in Burlington and Milton on November 8 (NLM,WGE,KD). The Black Duck slightly outnumbered the Mallard with about 500 reported. High counts were: 100+ on October 12 from Burlington to Ferrisburg (WS), and 125 at Waterford on November 30 (WGE). There were four reports of Gadwall: first were 3 next to the Sand Bar causeway on August 20 (PFZ); 1 was noted at Her-

-2- rick's Cove on September 3 (WJN). Gadwall were seen along the Burlington waterfront from September 18 through the end of November with a high of 9 on November 12 (WRB et al.), and up to 5 were seen in Colchester from September 18 through September 30 (var. ob.). The Pintail was reported a total of 5 times. Earliest was 1 at Herrick's Cove on September 29 (WJN), 4 were seen at Colchester on September 30 (NLM, WGE, SBL), 2 drakes were noted on the Burlington waterfront from October 25 through the end of the season (WS,WRB et al.), 1 was found in Weathersfield on November 1 (NLM,WGE), and 20 were sighted in Colchester on November 8 (NLM,WGE,KD). About 100 Green-winged Teal were reported. High counts were: 23 on August 20 at Colchester (WRB,MJM, et al.) and 20 on September 12 at the Dead Creek WMA (WS). The latest reported were 3 on October 25 at Burlington (WS). Over 200 Blue-winged Teal were reported; the maximum count reported was 75 on September 8 at the Dead Creek WMA (JID,MCD). The last noted were 2 on September 27 also along Dead Creek in Panton (NLM,WGE) and 1 at West Castleton on the same date (FSA). There were two reports of the uncommon American Wigeon. Nine were seen in Colchester on September 21 (WS,F0,ALG,DPK), and 5 were noted there from September 27-September 30 (var. ob.). There was a single report of the rare Northern Shoveler. Two were sighted at the South Slang in Ferrisburg on September 3 (JID,MCD). The Wood Duck was well reported with about 200 noted by observers this autumn. High counts were: 75 on August 20 at Colchester (WRB, MJM), and 40 at South Slang on September 3 (JID, MCD). The last was a single hen seen on November 8 at South Hero (NLM,WGE,KD). The single report of Redhead represents the first in three years for the Autumn Records; 3 were seen at West Swanton on November 15 (KCE,CEJ). The Ring-necked Duck continues to be reported in very small numbers at this season. One was noted in Barnard on November 1 (EH), and 2 were seen on November 30 at Waterford (WGE). Four reports of the Canvasback were received. One was seen in Norwich on October 29 (WGE), 2 were found at Herrick's Cove on October 30 (WJN), 1 was noted in Charlotte on November 2 (WS), and 30 were sighted at West Swanton on November 15 (KCE,CEJ). Four reports of the Greater Scaup are at hand. Three were seen at Colchester Point on October 4 (WS), 6 were found in Burlington on October 25 (WS), 1 was seen at Lake Morey on October 26 (WGE), and another was found in Norwich from October 26-October 29 (WGE). The Lesser Scaup was first noted on September 29 at Herrick's Cove (1 bird) (WJN). Subsequent reports were: 18 on October 19 at Newport (NLM, WGE, et al.), a total of 8 were seen on Lake Morey from October 19 when 6 were seen there to November 16 (NLM, WGE, et al.), and 2 were sighted at Waterford on November 30 (WGE). In addition to the foregoing records, 70 unidentified Scaup were reported from September 29-October 25 (WS, WJN). Movement of the Common Goldeneye was first noted on October 3 at Colchester (JJA) and October 24 at Ferrisburg (WS). High counts included: 50 on November 1 from Burlington to Charlotte (WS), 50+ at Burlington on November 8 (NLM, WGE, KD), and 66 at Addison on November 29 (NLM, WGE). The first of 100 Bufflehead reported was 1 on October 18 at Lake Morey (NLM, WGE, GFE); high counts included: 35 seen in Burlington on November 1 (WS) and 8 on November 2 at Lake Morey (NLM, WGE). There were three reports of Oldsquaw. Earliest was 1 on October 29 at Ferrisburg (WS), a good count of 7 was achieved at Lake Morey on November 2 (NLM, WGE), and 1 was seen at Caspian Lake on November 9 (FO). There were four definite and one probable reports of White-winged Scoter. Among confirmed reports, the earliest was of 10 on October 11 at Lake Morey (WGE); 2 were seen at Burlington on October 12 (WS); 3 were reported on November 8, 2 at Burlington and 1 at Grand Isle (NLM, WGE, KD); and 3 were noted at West Swanton on Novem-

ber 15 (KCE,CEJ). Six unidentified Scoters seen in Burlington on September 29 were probably ascribable to this species (WS). The Surf Scoter was reported four times. First were 25 at Burlington on October 4 (WS), 29 were sighted there on October 12 (WS), 1 was found on Lake Morey from October 18-October 26 (NLM,WGE,GFE), and 8 were seen on Lake Fairlee on November 2 (NLM, WGE). The Black Scoter was reported in modest numbers. Earliest of 48 reported were 2 at Herrick's Cove on October 15 (WJN). High counts were: 11 on October 26 at Lake Morey (WGE) and 30 on November 29 at Addison (NLM,WGE). The Hooded Merganser was very well reported this autumn, with a total of 123 noted by observers. High counts were: 26 on October 26 at Lake Morey (WGE) and 20 on November 23 at the mouth of the Ompompanoosuc River in Norwich (TL). The species continued to be seen into December. The Common Merganser was reported throughout the season in good numbers. Very good numbers were noted all over the state during November. The best counts were: 35 on November 3 at Caspian Lake (FO,DM), 20 at TWDR on November 8 (MFM), 450+ at Addison on November 29 (NLM,WGE), and 62 at McIndoe's Falls on November 30 (WGE). There were four reports of Red-breasted Merganser. First were 2 at Newport on October 19 (NLM,WGE,et al.); 2 were seen at Herrick's Cove on October 22 (WJN); 3 were noted in Burlington on November 8 (NLM,WGE,KD); and 1 was sighted on Lake Morey on November 16 (NLM,WGE).

VULTURES, HAWKS AND FALCONS

The Turkey Vulture continues to show a steady growth in numbers in Vermont. One hundred thirty-eight were reported to the Autumn Records this year with 57 from Hawk Watches. The maximum report was of 25 of these scavengers seen in Milton on August 25 (fide FCH). Last reported was 1 seen in Chelsea on the significantly late date of November 5 (MFM). Only 19 Goshawk were reported this autumn with 16 on Hawk Watches, this being only half the average of the previous five autumn reports (excepting that of 1976 when Hawk Watch results were not available). The Sharp-shinned Hawk was reported in its usual good numbers with 539 noted by hawk watchers this autumn with a peak indicated for October 5. There were 25 Cooper's Hawks reported for the season. As with the Goshawk, this represents a below average figure in comparison to those autumns when this report has had adequate data. However, it must be stated that, although the 23 noted on Hawk Watches represents a decline in absolute numbers, per observer hour figures remained nearly constant with those of the 1979 Hawk Watch. A rise in the number of observer hours at Hawk Watches in late October and early November led to a dramatic increase in the number of Red-tailed Hawks reported; 376 were sighted by hawk watchers with high counts of 50 at Snake Mountain in Bridport on October 24 (AP) and 56 on November 2 at Westford (MJM). The 45 Red-shouldered Hawks reported by hawk watchers represented a similar total to that of 1979. Without the efforts of five intrepid observers who ascended Mt. Philo in Charlotte on September 15 (the Monday after an official Watch weekend), our knowledge of this autumn's Broad-winged Hawk migration would be much the poorer. The fifteenth was marked by the arrival of high pressure from the northwest which cleared out the overcast conditions of the preceding weekend creating ideal migratory conditions for Broad-wings. The observers at Mt. Philo counted at least 940 during 4.5 hours of watching; this included a phenomenal "kettle" of 400+ birds between one and two o'clock. One of the observers (WS) noted that the birds seemed to be selecting corridors to follow, in this case the shoreline of Lake Champlain and the Champlain Thrust Fault (which includes Mt. Philo). In addition to this watch, two observers in Windsor County picked up indications of this flight with 230 seen under poor conditions (one

-3- observer was in a river valley and the other lacked binoculars). In all, about 1300 of this season's total of 1916 Broad-wings were seen on this one day. The last Broad-wings reported were 4 seen from Snake Mountain on October 24 (AP). Also extraordinary was the report of at least one, perhaps two, SWAINSON'S HAWKS for the season. A bird believed to be a Swainson's was seen in Starksboro on August 30 (WRB,PMB), and a light phase adult was seen from the WHL on September 6 (WJN). Bird Verification Reports have been submitted to the Bird Records Committee and are on file with VINS. The Rough-legged Hawk appeared to be headed for a banner winter with a remarkable 45 reported for the season. Fifteen were sighted on Hawk Watches with the earliest on October 4; 9 of the total were noted after October 27. The best numbers were reported from the Champlain Valley where 14 were seen November 1-November 2 in Charlotte (WS). Birds seen in eastern Vermont were 1 on October 14 at Woodstock (NLM,WGE,KAF) and 1 sighted in Sherburne in the Green Mountains on November 15 (LHP). As with the Red-tailed Hawk, the numbers of Marsh Hawks reported increased dramatically with the increase in late seasonal Hawk Watches. A grand total of 140 of these sleek raptors was reported this autumn, 100 by hawk watchers. One hawk watcher noted that there seemed to be a bimodal character to the extended migration of this species with the majority of the immature birds migrating in September and a marked increase in older birds in late October and early November. The best count reported was 33 on November 2 at Westford (MJM). The Osprey continues to evidence an increase in numbers on what has become a yearly basis. One hundred fifty were reported to the Records this autumn with 111 sighted at Hawk Watches, with 41 at Mt. Philo on September 15, another increase in absolute and statistical terms (.18/observer hr. versus .12 for autumn 1979). The latest reported were 2 on November 1 in the Springfield area (NLM,WGE). A total of 6 Peregrine Falcons were reported for the season. Three were noted by hawk watchers from September 15-October 5, and 3 were reported by the Fish and Game Department, including August reports from Marshfield and Addison. Well below average were the 5 Merlin reported. Three were seen by hawk watchers from September 15-October 19. Others were 1 on August 24 in Hartland (TL) and 1 found in Burlington September 13 (WS,CSz). The American Kestrel was reported in its best numbers yet on Vermont Hawk Watches with a total of 279 submitted (.45/observer hr.). As with the Broad-wing and Osprey, the number of Kestrels reported from Mt. Philo on September 15 was nothing short of extraordinary with 117 counted that day. Good numbers were noted in the Champlain Valley into December.

TURKEY THROUGH RAILS

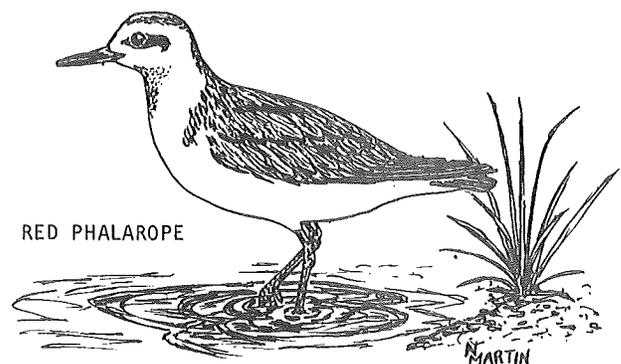
Three observers report Wild Turkey at Tinmouth where the species is a fairly common permanent resident; the high count was 19 on October 5 (GTL). One was seen in Pomfret on August 24 (MVH) and 6 were sighted in Reading on November 15 (KM). The consensus of opinion on the status of the Ruffed Grouse was that the species was in average numbers. High counts included: 12-15 on various dates during August in Tinmouth (GTL), 11 on August 24 in Starksboro (WRB,PMB), and 10 on Bald Mountain in Westmore on September 16 (FO). There were two reports of lone male Ring-necked Pheasants, both very likely were escapes or locally stocked fowl. The Virginia Rail was reported on a single date with 2 at Dead Creek WMA, and 1 at Colchester Point on August 16 (NLM,WGE, et al.). A single Sora was seen on September 9 at the Dead Creek WMA (WJN). There were five reports of single Common Gallinules at Colchester Point ranging from August 2-October 2 (var. ob.). There were two reports of the American Coot. A single bird was seen at Shelburne

Bay on August 16 (NLM,WGE, et al.), and the species was noted at Lake Morey from October 18-November 23 with a maximum of 4 on November 2 (NLM,WGE,GFE).

SHOREBIRDS

All reports of the Semipalmated Plover were from the Champlain Valley; high counts were 10 on August 20 at St. Albans Bay (PFZ) and 12 on October 4 in Burlington (WS). Latest was 1 seen on October 18 at Burlington (WS). The Killdeer was reported in about average numbers, with a high count of 30+ at the Dead Creek WMA on September 22 (WS). The last reported was 1 on November 8 in North Hero (NLM,WGE,KD). There were five reports of American Golden Plover for the season. First were 4 at the Dead Creek WMA on September 12 (WS,CSz); 1 was found at Colchester Point on September 13 (WS,CSz); the seasonal high of 30 was reported from the Dead Creek WMA on September 27 (NLM,WGE); 2 were noted in Burlington on September 29 (WS); and the latest reported were 2 at North Ferrisburg on October 18 (WS). A total of 98 Black-bellied Plover were reported for the autumn, the best report in recent years. The earliest reported were 6 on August 12 at Burlington (WRB); high counts were also from the Burlington area with 15 on September 13 at Burlington (WS) and 18 in Burlington and Colchester on September 18 (WGE,DCh). Latest was 1 on November 9 at Burlington (WS). There were three reports of the uncommon Ruddy Turnstone. Two were seen in Colchester from August 20-August 24 (JJA,WRB,MJM), 2 were noted at St. Albans Bay on September 6 (SBL,NLM,WGE), and 1 was seen in Burlington from October 4-October 12 (WS). A total of 8 American Woodcock was reported, the last being 1 on September 30 in Barnard (SBL,NLM,WGE). Thirty-three Common Snipe were reported with a maximum of 12 on September 7 at St. Albans Bay (SBL,NLM,WGE), and a late date of November 1 when a single individual was seen at Herrick's Cove (NLM,WGE). There were only two reports of the Upland Sandpiper submitted. A total of 16 was seen at the Dead Creek WMA from August 16-August 17 (var. ob.). As usual the Spotted Sandpiper, a common nesting species in Vermont, was under-reported. A total of 25 was reported to the Records for the autumn. The high count of 15+ was achieved on August 2 at Colchester (NLM,WGE); the last reported was 1 at Lake Morey on October 11 (WGE). Twenty-one Solitary Sandpipers were reported with a maximum of 6 on August 16 at the Dead Creek WMA (NLM,WGE, et al.). Very late were 2 at Reading on October 9 (JoJ) and another at Quechee on October 12 (NLM,WGE). Excellent was the report of two WILLET seen from September 7-September 8 in Burlington (BSE,ORE,WS, et al.). The Greater Yellowlegs was well reported with 102 total noted by observers this autumn. The high count was 32 on October 24 at Bridport (WS), and the late report was of 1 seen at Colchester Point on November 8 (NLM,WGE,KD). The Lesser Yellowlegs was reported in slightly lower than normal numbers with a total of 45 for the season. High for the season was 8 on September 7 at St. Albans Bay (SBL,NLM,WGE); last was 1 seen in Colchester from October 31-November 1 (WRB,WS). There were three reports of the rare Red Knot. One was seen at St. Albans Bay on September 7 (SBL,NLM,WGE); 1 was sighted at Colchester Point on September 18 (WGE,DCh); and another was noted there on September 29 (WS,PFZ,BSE,ORE). The Pectoral Sandpiper was reported in good numbers with circa 80 cited by observers this autumn. Reports commenced in early August in the Champlain Valley, with numbers peaking in late September with 50 at Colchester Point on September 29 (WS,PFZ,BSE,ORE). Outside of the Champlain Valley, 3 were reported from Hartford during mid-September. The last reported was 1 at Colchester Point on November 8 (NLM,WGE,KD). The uncommon and irregular White-rumped Sandpiper was noted in very good numbers. There were nine reports in the Burlington area from August 11-November 1, with high counts of 5

-4- on October 4 (WS) and October 25 (WS); in all about 20 birds were reported. There were three reports of Baird's Sandpiper. Earliest was 1 at Burlington on September 9 (WJN); 1 was seen in Burlington on September 21 (WS,F0,ALG,DPK); and another was found there on October 4 (SRA). Only a total of 56 Least Sandpipers was reported for the season; the maximum noted was 30+ on August 16 at Dead Creek WMA (20) and Burlington (10) (NLM,WGE, et al.). The latest reported were 3 at Colchester Point on September 21 (WS,F0,ALG,DPK). The Dunlin was well reported with over 110 noted for the autumn. Earliest were 6 on August 17 at Dead Creek WMA (WRB,MJM, et al.); the next report did not occur until September 21 when 1 was seen in Colchester (WS,F0,ALG,DPK). The migration continued for the next month and a half with maxima of 35+ on October 12 at Burlington (WS) and 24 at Colchester Point on November 1 (WS); the latest reported were 5 on November 8 at Burlington (NLM,WGE,KD). There were two reports of Short-billed Dowitcher. First were 2 at Colchester Point on August 16 (NLM,WGE,SRA) and 3 seen at St. Albans Bay on August 20 and 21 (PFZ). In addition to these reports a total of 19 unidentified Dowitcher was noted on four dates at Colchester Point from August 12-September 13. There was a single report of the rare STILT SANDPIPER: 1 was seen at Shelburne Bay on September 4 (WS). Most of the nearly 300 Semipalmated Sandpipers were seen in the Champlain Valley; however, 7 were noted at TWDR on August 2 (MFM), and 2 were sighted at Lake Bomoseen on August 17 (PFZ). High counts were 55+ and 50 at Burlington and Shelburne on August 16 and September 4 (var. ob.). The last reported was 1 seen at Colchester Point on October 25 (WS,CSz,JM). For the second consecutive fall an observer reported color-marked Semipalmated Sandpipers; these birds were dyed by the Canadian Wildlife Service at Moosonee, Ontario, on the shores of James Bay. The rare and difficult-to-identify Western Sandpiper was reported on three dates. First were 2 on August 26 at Dead Creek WMA (WJN); 1 was found at Burlington on September 9 (WJN); and 1 was seen at Colchester Point on September 22 (SRA). The details, though quite thorough, on the latter sighting do not entirely rule out the preceding species. One hundred thirty-four Sanderling were reported this autumn. Earliest was 1 on August 16 at Burlington (NLM,WGE, et al.). High counts were 25 on October 4 and October 12 at Burlington (WS). The last was 1 on November 9 at Burlington (WS). There was a single report of the very rare WILSON'S PHALAROPE; a single individual was seen at TWDR on September 26 (MFM). The Northern Phalarope was also reported once, 1 noted at Blodgett's Beach in Burlington on September 9 (WJN). A pleasant surprise was the fourth through sixth Vermont reports of the RED PHALAROPE. One was sighted at very close range on Caspian Lake in Greensboro on September 27 (F0), and another individual allowed very close approach at Colchester Point on the same date. This bird remained in that area until at least September 30 (NLM,WGE, m. ob.). Finally, 1 was seen at Button Bay SP on November 29 (NLM, WGE).

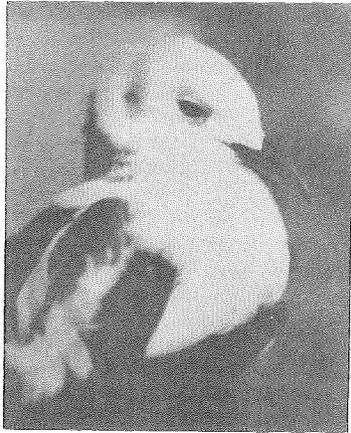


RED PHALAROPE

GULLS AND TERNS

A single second year Glaucous Gull at Ompompanoosuc in Norwich on November 27 was the first ever reported to the Autumn Records (GFE,WGE). There were six reports of the uncommon Great Black-backed Gull. The species was noted as early as August 5, when a single immature was found in Ferrisburg (PFZ); as usual the largest numbers were found along the Burlington waterfront with a high of 10 reported on November 29 (NLM, WGE). The only bird noted outside of the Champlain Valley was an adult seen on November 16 in Norwich (NLM,WGE). The Herring Gull was seen in about average numbers, with a reported maximum of 400+ from Burlington on November 8 (NLM,WGE,KD). The Ring-billed Gull was also noted in good numbers with high counts of 50+ on October 19 at Newport (NLM,WGE, et al.), 1000+ at Burlington on October 29 (WS), and 60 at East Montpelier on November 12 (MFM). The Bonaparte's Gull was reported in numbers below the average of previous autumn reports. About 270 were noted on dates throughout the season with a maximum of 80+ on November 29 in Addison (NLM,WGE).

None were more surprised, one assumes, than the hunter who found a storm-tossed immature BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE beneath a spruce on Mt. Tabor on November 19, marking the fifth record of this pelagic gull for Vermont. The bird was rehabilitated by VINS and released at Andrews Point on Cape Ann in Massachusetts on November 22; excellent photographs of the bird are on file at VINS (BEH fide VINS). The Common Tern was reported from a series of locations along Lake Champlain from St. Albans to Ferrisburg with a high of 60+ on August 24 from Colchester Point (JJA), and a late date of October 4 when 2 were last seen in Colchester (WS). In all, about 180 were reported. The Black Tern was reported at Colchester Point from August 2-August 24 with a high of 9 on August 16 (var. ob.) and the last seen in Ferrisburg was 1 on August 12 (JID, MCD).



DOVES THROUGH NIGHTJARS

The Rock Dove evidences no change in its status. The Mourning Dove was reported in good numbers north to Plainfield; high counts included: 50 on August 15 at Manchester (WJN), 100+ on August 17 at Dead Creek WMA (WRB,MJM, et al.), and 50+ on November 5 at Woodstock (NLM,WGE,KAF). There were five reports of Yellow-billed Cuckoo. First was 1 from August 6-August 13 in Woodstock (NLM,WGE), 1 was noted at South Londonderry on August 22 (WJN), another was found in Winhall (WJN), 1 was banded at Woodstock on September 30 (VINS), the last was 1 seen in Hartford on October 4 (WGE). The Black-billed Cuckoo was widely reported in good numbers: one observer (WJN) noted an "explosion" in the numbers of cuckoos in the southern Green Mountains. The last was 1 on September 13 at Marlboro. The latest cuckoos reported were two unidentified birds noted on October 7 in Woodstock and Hartford (WGE). There were three reports of the diminutive Screech Owl. One was noted on September 13 at North Ferrisburg, and another was found there on September 26 (WS); the last reported was seen remarkably enough at Winhall in the central Green Mountains on October 8 (WJN). Four Great Horned Owls were reported from four towns; 2 individuals were rehabilitated at VINS during the season. The Barred Owl continues to be the most frequently reported species of owl with 14 noted

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in 8 towns for the autumn. A Saw-whet Owl was banded in Ferdinand on September 19 (MFM). The first indication of migration by the Common Nighthawk occurred in mid-August, when small migratory groups were seen in Rutland and Hartford. Early high counts included: 23 at Brattleboro on August 20 (PY) and 25 on August 21 in Randolph (JDS). The peak count of this autumn's flight was a remarkable 208 on August 27 at Brattleboro (PY). Late reports were: 2 on September 13 at the WHL (WJN) and 1 on September 17 in Hartford (NLM).

SWIFT THROUGH WOODPECKERS

The Chimney Swift was listed as "scarce" by one observer and was not seen after August by another. The high count of 55 was achieved in Woodstock on August 12 (NLM,CAM); the last reported was 1 on September 23 at Putney (WDN). A total of 35+ Ruby-throated Hummingbirds was reported for the season, with the last birds noted on September 20 at Tinmouth and Pittsford (GTL, BMZ). The Belted Kingfisher was reported in average numbers with a maximum count of 10 on September 13 at Burlington (WS); the species was noted through the end of the autumn in small numbers. Seven Common Flickers were banded for the season, with five caught at Marshfield Pond (MFM,VINS). The best counts of the autumn were from late September with 12 seen in Marlboro on September 26 (WDN), and 10 at Herrick's Cove on September 29 (WJN). Late reports included 1 on October 25 at Wilder (WGE) and 1 in Winhall on October 27 (WJN). A total of 20 Pileated Woodpeckers was reported, which seems about average. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was noted in average numbers. Three were banded at Marshfield for the season (MFM); a maximum of 9 was recorded on September 13 at Marlboro (WDN); the species was noted a week later than is usual at two locations, with individuals at Winhall on October 23 (WJN) and Randolph on October 28 (EWG). The Hairy Woodpecker was found to be in average numbers by most observers (e.g. 1.8/day in East Central Vermont). The Downy Woodpecker was also reported in average numbers. Three were banded by VINS for the autumn, an average of 1.9/day was noted in East Central Vermont, and 50 were noted throughout the season in the Champlain Valley (versus 22 Hairys). There were two reports of Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker. One was found at South America Pond in Ferdinand on October 12 (CJN), and another was seen at Moose Bog in the same township on October 28 (MFM). There was a single report of the rare Northern Three-toed Woodpecker; a single individual was seen at Moose Bog in Ferdinand on October 28 (MFM).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

The Eastern Kingbird was reported in lower than average numbers and the species departed fairly early in most areas. High counts were: 6 on August 10 at Thetford (NLM, WGE) and 5 on August 26 at the Dead Creek WMA (WJN); the last reported was 1 on September 5 in Hartford (WGE). A total of nine Great-crested Flycatchers was reported on eight dates; late dates were September 13 at North Ferrisburg (WS) and September 14 at Woodstock (JMN). Numbers of the Eastern Phoebe were at the average maintained by the species for the last three autumns. Twenty-one were banded with 19 netted at Woodstock (VINS,MFM). High counts were 5 on August 28 at Hartford (WGE), 5 on September 26 at Marlboro (WDN), and 5 at Woodstock on September 28 (NLM,WGE). The last reported were 1 in Tinmouth on October 20 (GTL) and 1 at Woodstock on the same date (JMN). The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was its usual unobtrusive self, with banders reporting the bulk of those birds noted. Twelve were trapped for the season, with seven caught at Marshfield (MFM,VINS). High counts never exceeded two, and the last seen was 1 on September 27 at Winhall (WJN). The last identifiable Alder Flycatcher was seen at Winhall on August 1 (WJN). Unidentifiable as to species "Traill's" Flycatchers

included 5 banded at VINS, with a maximum of 3 on August 21 and a late date of September 10 (VINS). The Least Flycatcher was reported in about average numbers, with a total of 21 banded, 14 of these netted at Woodstock (VINS, MFM). The maximum of 7 was recorded on August 28 at Hartford (WGE); the last was one banded in Woodstock on September 25 (VINS). There was an average report of the Eastern Wood Pewee, with 2 banded at Marshfield Pond (MFM) and high counts ranging from August 10-September 6 averaging 4.7 birds. The last reported was 1 in Norwich on September 21 (NLM, WGE). Two Olive-sided Flycatchers were banded at Marshfield for the season (MFM); seven others were reported, with the last on September 19 at Marlboro (WDN). The Horned Lark was reported throughout the season with high counts of 35+ on September 19 at Dead Creek WMA (WS), 110+ on November 1 at Herrick's Cove (NLM, WGE), and 60 on November 29 in Addison and Bridport (NLM, WGE). The Tree Swallow migration peaked in late August and early September with high counts of 1500 on August 26 in Ferrisburg (JID, MCD) and 700 at Dead Creek WMA on September 9 (WJN). The last reported were 2 on October 8 at North Ferrisburg (WS). The Bank Swallow moved in numbers far later than usual with the maximum count of 28 reported on September 7 at St. Albans Point (SBL, NLM, WGE); the species also set a new standard for tardiness when 4 were sighted at Colchester Point on September 18 (WGE, DCh). Often unreported in the fall, the Rough-winged Swallow was reported from several areas for the season. The high count of 4 was achieved at Colchester Point on August 16 (NLM, WGE, et al.); the last were 2 at Shelburne on September 27 (NLM, WGE). The Barn Swallow was reported in good numbers throughout the month of August and into early September, with peak counts being 112 on August 10 at Thetford (NLM, WGE) and 250 from the WHL on September 6 (WJN); the last reported were 4 at Addison on September 27 (NLM, WGE). The majority of the Cliff Swallow flight appears to have occurred in early August, with the maximum of 89 being on August 10 (NLM, WGE). This species proved to be the earliest departing swallow of this autumn with last reports being 10 on September 11 at the WHL (WJN) and 1 seen at Marlboro on September 12 (WDN). Most Purple Martins passed out of the north country in early August, as evidenced by the seasonal high of 45+ on August 2 at Burlington (NLM, WGE). The last reported were 5 seen at Colchester Point on September 18, a week later than the average of the last five autumns (WGE, DCh).

JAYS THROUGH WRENS

The only Gray Jays reported were two banded in Ferdinand (MFM). The Blue Jay was noted in good numbers throughout the season. Twenty were banded, with 14 caught at Marshfield Pond (MFM, VINS). The peak flight dates for this partial migrant were from late September, with counts of 70+ on September 21 at Woodstock (NLM, WGE) and 109 on September 23 at Putney (WDN). A total of 64 Common Ravens was reported from 21 towns around the state, with a high count of 15 on November 11 at Bridgewater (ALG). The species has made the move into the Champlain Valley, as it is now regularly seen in the vicinity of Snake Mountain in Bridport. The Common Crow was seen throughout the season with peak migration dates occurring during late October; high counts included 300+ in Newport and Craftsbury on October 19 (NLM, WGE, et al.) and 500+ at Burlington on October 25 (WS). The Black-capped Chickadee was noted in somewhat higher than average numbers, with four observers noting perceptibly higher numbers. One hundred twenty-one were banded for the autumn, with 64 netted at Marshfield (MFM, VINS). A seasonal maximum of 71 was noted on October 27 in Norwich (WGE). A handful of Boreal Chickadees was noted south of the Northeast Kingdom late in the season. During September, 2 were reported from their usual haunts in the

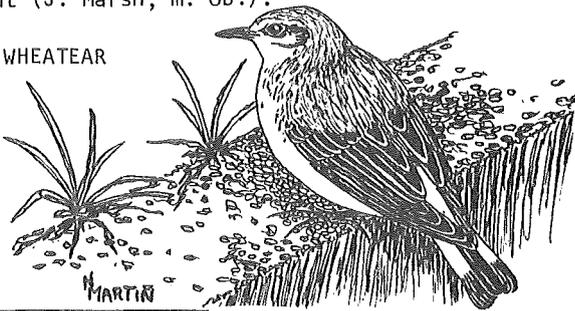
-6- northeast (FO); out of range birds included 1 at Starksboro from November 22-November 30+ (WRB, PMB), 3 in Clarendon on November 26 (LHP), 1 at Lake Fairlee on November 27 (GFE, WGE) and 2 at Fayston from November 30 onward (ADH). After two remarkable autumn seasons, the Tufted Titmouse was noted in modest numbers with just 12 reported from 5 towns north to Plainfield. The White-breasted Nuthatch was reported in average numbers; 1 was banded at Marshfield Pond (MFM). The Red-breasted Nuthatch was noted in about average numbers in eastern Vermont, with 12 seen on 6 dates in Marlboro (WDN) and 1.3/day in Windsor County (WGE). Apparently, there was a small flight in the Champlain Valley during September, with up to 10 seen on a given date; none were seen at North Ferrisburg after September 28 (WS). The Brown Creeper was noted in low but consistent numbers by observers throughout the state. One was banded at Woodstock (VINS) and 1.3/day were noted in Windsor County (WGE). The six House Wrens banded were exactly average for the last five autumns (VINS); counts of up to 6 were reported during August and the last bird reported was one retrapped at Woodstock on September 30 (VINS). The Winter Wren continues to be reported sporadically in small numbers; a total of a mere 12 birds was noted this season with high counts not exceeding three. The latest reported was 1 at Winhall on October 21 (WJN). There was a single report of the rare Carolina Wren; a single male was noted at Proctor from August 8-September 17 (RWP). The Long-billed Marsh Wren was noted in at least average numbers; however, one report from the Champlain Valley tersely states that the species was "up". High counts occurred, for the most part, early in the season and ranged up to 15; the last reported were 1 on September 30 at West Rutland (WJN) and another on the same date at Colchester Point (SBL, NLM, WGE).

MIMICS THROUGH THRUSHES

A total of 17 Mockingbirds was reported from 8 towns and cities. All reports originated from the major valleys of the state. Of particular interest was the occurrence of the species far up the Winooski Valley, where 2 were noted at Barre on November 9 (MFM). The Gray Catbird has been reported in nearly unvarying numbers over the past six autumns; the 49 banded this season compares favorably with the five year average of 49.6. Forty-six of this fall's total were netted at Woodstock (VINS, MFM); high counts included 10 on September 3 at Herrick's Cove (WJN), 15 on September 7 at North Ferrisburg (WS), and 12 on September 16 at Woodstock (NLM, WGE). The latest individuals reported were 1 at North Ferrisburg on October 17 (WS) and 1 retrapped at Woodstock on the same day (VINS). The Brown Thrasher was noted, as always, in small numbers. Four were banded by VINS at Woodstock; the high count of 5 occurred on September 16 at Woodstock (NLM, WGE); the latest birds were 1 on September 29 at Winhall (WJN) and 1 at Woodstock on September 30 (VINS). The American Robin was reported in good numbers. Forty-one were banded this autumn with 40 caught at Woodstock (VINS, MFM). Peak dates were September 29 when 75-100 were noted at Woodstock (JMN) and 200 were seen at Herrick's Cove (WJN), and October 21 when 110 were seen at two southern Vermont locales. Also of note were the 100 seen from the WHL on November 2 (WJN). The Wood Thrush was noted in about average numbers. Only 3 were banded, with 2 netted at Woodstock (VINS, MFM). High counts tend to indicate a mid-September peak with maxima of 10 and 11 on September 8 and September 12 respectively at Marlboro (WDN); most late dates were from late September and early October, but a bird seen in Randolph on November 12 was extraordinary (EWC). A total of 32 Hermit Thrushes was banded for the season with 16 caught at each station (VINS, MFM). High counts were 7 on September 11 at Mendon (NLM, WGE, JPM), 6 on September 13 at Marlboro (WDN), 6 netted at Woodstock on Septem-

ber 30 (VINS), and 10 on October 15 at Herrick's Cove (WJN); the latest was 1 at Lower Waterford on November 30 (WGE). The Swainson's Thrush was reported in its usual good numbers. Seventy-five were banded, with 39 "ringed" at Marshfield (MFM,VINS). The peak of this autumn's flight was during mid-September with counts of 9 on September 12 and September 13 at Marlboro (WDN), and 8 on September 16 at Herrick's Cove (WJN). A pair of fifteen minute counts taken at 11:00 p.m. on September 15 and 16 in Hartford produced counts of 60 and 27 respectively (WGE). Remarkably late were two Swainson's Thrushes seen in Norwich on November 23 (EMS). Always difficult to detect during migration, the Gray-cheeked Thrush was only noted at Winhall with birds seen there from September 8-September 21 with all sightings involving single birds (WJN). Numbers of the Veery seemed about average. Ten were banded this fall with 5 caught at each major station (VINS,MFM); a good flight was noted at Winhall with counts of 10-12 occurring on several dates (WJN); the last was 1 on September 28 at Woodstock (JMN). About 80 Eastern Bluebirds were reported for the season, slightly below the average of the past five years. High counts were 10 from August 19-August 22 at Woodstock (SBL), 12 on September 19 at Norwich (WGE,DCh) and 10 from October 9-October 12 at North Pomfret (MHR,TCR). The last reported were 4 on October 20 at Woodstock (JMN). The bird of the season was the lone male NORTHERN WHEATEAR discovered at Colchester Point on September 27. The bird was seen by many observers at the bird's favorite haunt, a lakeside retaining wall, through October 4. Two observers obtained identifiable transparencies of the bird and to date one excellent Bird Verification Report has been sent to VINS (copies of the slides taken have yet to be sent to VINS, however). This report represents the first record of this arctic vagrant for Vermont (J. Marsh, m. ob.).

NORTHERN WHEATEAR

GNATCATCHER THROUGH VIREOS

There were three reports of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. One was seen in Ferrisburg on August 17 (DER) and 2 were noted at Burton Island State Park on August 18 (PFZ) and 2 rather tardy individuals were found at Middlebury on September 25 (WS). The kinglets were reported in low numbers this fall despite signs of population recovery over the last two years. Numbers of the Golden-crowned Kinglet seemed particularly low with just 5 banded (4 by VINS) and a high count of 6 on September 25 at North Ferrisburg (WS); no other observer noted more than three on any given day. Only slightly better were the reports of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet. High counts were 6 on September 28 at Marlboro (WDN), 8 on October 4 at Burlington (WS), and 6 on October 19 at Bradford (PSu,WGE, et al.). Somewhat more encouraging was the grand total of 29 banded (19 at VINS) for the season, which compares fairly well with the 1979 total of 32 (VINS,MFM). The last reported were 2 on October 31 at Marlboro (WDN). Only two observers sent in reports of Water Pipit; however, their reports indicate a good season with circa 265 noted. The first reported was 1 on September 16 at Woodstock (WGE,NLM, et al.); high counts were 70+ on September 27 at Dead Creek WMA in Panton (NLM,WGE) and 100+ at Burlington on October 12 (WS). Late dates were: November 1 when 1 was seen at Herrick's Cove

-7- (NLM,WGE) and November 2 when 50+ were found in Charlotte, a good count for such a date (WS). There were two reports of Bohemian Waxwing. Fourteen were seen in Burlington on November 7 (PFZ), and 1 was reported from Norwich on November 19 (GBW). The Cedar Waxwing was noted in nomadic flocks throughout the season in most parts of the state. High counts included 60 on September 6 at Burlington (SBL,NLM,WGE) and 50 at Herrick's Cove on September 16 (WJN); 45 birds were reported from two locations during November (MFM,KCE,CEJ). The Northern Shrike was generally conspicuous by its absence with only two reported. One was noted at East Barnard on November 22 (JLB), and 1 was found at Norwich on November 23 (GFE). There was a single report of the rare Loggerhead Shrike; 1 was seen in Panton on August 10 (WS et al.). Not surprisingly, the Starling went virtually unreported due to its flourishing numbers rather than its rarity. The Yellow-throated Vireo was reported in small numbers through August with a maximum of 2-3 on August 24 at Woodstock (JMN). Late dates were September 3 with 1 at Herrick's Cove (WJN), September 7 at North Ferrisburg when another single was noted (WS), and September 14 with a single at Woodstock (JMN). The Solitary Vireo was reported in about average numbers. Eleven total were banded this autumn with 8 netted at Marshfield (MFM,VINS). High counts indicate a late September peak, with 4 at Winhall on September 23 (WJN) and 3 at Woodstock on September 24 (WGE). Late were 1 at Hartford on October 18 (GFE) and 1 on October 19 at Mt. Philo (WS). The total of 30 Red-eyed Vireos banded (19 at Woodstock) seems average (VINS,MFM). High counts were 11 at Marlboro on September 5 (WDN) and 20 on September 7 at North Ferrisburg (WS). The last reported was 1 at Herrick's Cove on September 29 (WJN). A total of 13 Philadelphia Vireos was reported, exactly average for the past six autumns. Five were banded with 4 caught at Marshfield Pond (MFM,VINS). A high of 3 was located at Colchester Point on September 13 (WS, CSz), and the last noted was 1 on September 14 at Hartford (WGE,GFE). The Warbling Vireo was reported in good numbers with 2 banded at Woodstock (VINS) and maxima of 7 at St. Albans Bay on September 7 (SBL,NLM,WGE) and 8 on the same date at North Ferrisburg (WS). The last was 1 on September 21 at Colchester Point (WS,FO,ALG,DPK).

WOOD WARBLERS

A total of 11 Black-and-white Warblers was banded for the season, with 9 at Marshfield (MFM,VINS). High counts were both from August 10 with 5 at Thetford (NLM,WGE) and 6 at Winhall (WJN) on that date. A bird at Woodstock on September 28 was the last reported (NLM,WGE). There were two reports of the rare Blue-winged Warbler. First was 1 noted at Brattleboro on August 26 (PY), and a single bird was found in a mixed flock of warblers on August 27 in Stockbridge (EH). These are the first reports of the species to the Autumn Records. A fine total of 154 Tennessee Warblers was banded this autumn, with 105 netted at Woodstock (VINS,MFM); peak dates were indicated by banding totals, with 30 banded on September 8 at Woodstock and a remarkable 58 "ringed" at the same location on September 15 (VINS); the latest reported was 1 banded at Marshfield on October 25 (MFM). Six Orange-crowned Warblers were reported for the season, the best total since 1975. Two were banded at Marshfield Pond (MFM), 1 was sighted at Mt. Philo on September 6 (WS,JID,MCD) and 1 was seen at Colchester Point on September 13 (WS,CSz), and 2 were found in Hartford on October 11 (WGE). A good total of 62 Nashville Warblers was banded for the season, with 48 caught at Marshfield (MFM,VINS). The maximum report was 4 on September 16 at Woodstock (VINS); last was 1 on October 11 in Hartford (WGE). The Northern Parula was noted in small numbers. Three were banded at Marshfield (MFM), and 11 were reported by field observers from August 14,

when 1 was noted at Winhall (WJN), to September 17, when 1 was sighted in Hartford (WGE). The bulk of the Yellow Warbler migration occurred in early August with a high of 30+ on August 2 at Colchester Point (NLM,WGE). There were six September reports, including the late date of September 17 when 2 were seen at Quechee (NLM, WGE). The Magnolia Warbler was reported in average numbers with a good total of 62 banded, 50 at Marshfield (MFM,VINS) and a high of 6 at Hartford on September 16 (WGE); the last was 1 reported on October 22 from Herrick's Cove, matching the latest report to Records of Vermont Birds (WJN). Over 20 Cape May Warblers were reported to the Records for the autumn. First was 1 on September 1 at Marlboro (WDN); the peak of the migration occurred on September 19 and 20 with 5 at Middlebury on the latter date (WS) and "several" on the former at Fair Haven (FSA); the last was 1 at Marlboro on September 26 (WDN). Four were banded, with 3 netted at Marshfield (MFM,VINS). The Black-throated Blue Warbler was reported in about average numbers. A total of 30 were banded, with 28 caught at Marshfield (MFM, VINS). High counts were 7 on August 1 at Winhall (WJN), 7 on September 11 at Bald Mountain in Mendon (NLM,JPM,WGE) and 7 at Marlboro on September 13 (WDN). The last reported were 1 on September 27 at Fair Haven (FSA) and 1 at Marlboro on September 28 (WDN). The Yellow-rumped Warbler was noted in its usual good numbers. One hundred fifteen were banded for the season with 92 netted at Marshfield Pond (MFM,VINS). High counts included 19 banded at Woodstock from September 24-September 25 (VINS), 25+ at Middlebury on September 25 (WS), 50+ on September 27 at Dead Creek WMA (NLM, WGE), 32 on October 6 at Norwich (WGE), and 40 on October 15 at Herrick's Cove (WJN). Late birds included 1 at Timmouth on November 19 (GTL) and 3 in Addison on November 29 (NLM, WGE). The Black-throated Green Warbler was noted in normal numbers. Twenty-seven were banded, with 17 at Marshfield (MFM,VINS). High counts were 7 (4 banded) at Woodstock on September 3 (VINS, WGE) and 5 at Herrick's Cove on September 16 (WJN). The species departed early with the last recorded at Hartford on October 3 (WGE). The Blackburnian Warbler is a bird of the canopy and is usually detected in rather small numbers. This was the case again this autumn. Nineteen were banded for the season, with 16 caught at Marshfield (MFM,VINS). The high of 4 was at Winhall on August 24 (WJN); the last were 1 at Randolph on September 23 (EWC) and 1 at Winhall on September 25 (WJN). Average numbers of the Chestnut-sided Warbler were reported. Twenty-eight were banded with 24 netted at Marshfield (MFM,VINS). The high count was 10 on August 4 at Winhall (WJN); the last sighted was 1 on September 14 at Woodstock (JMN). The Bay-breasted Warbler was noted in good numbers. An excellent total of 39 were banded with 35 caught at Marshfield Pond (MFM,VINS). A maximum of 10 was noted on September 6 at Mt. Philo (WS); the last were 3 at Middlebury on September 25 (WS). The Blackpoll Warbler was reported in about average numbers. Nineteen were banded, 12 at Marshfield (MFM,VINS). High counts were 12 on September 8 at Woodstock (JMN) and 8 at Middlebury on September 25, also the late date (WS); also late was 1 banded on September 25 at Woodstock (VINS). There were five reports of the Pine Warbler. Two were seen at Timmouth on August 30 (GTL), 1 was noted on Mt. Philo (WS), 1 was found at East Craftsbury on September 13 (FO), 2 were sighted at Woodstock on September 14 (JMN), and 1 was noted on the rather late date of October 18 at Quechee (NLM,WGE). The Palm Warbler was reported on six occasions. First were 2 at Colchester Point on September 21 (WS,FO,ALG,DPK), 2 were noted at Marlboro on September 23 (WDN), 1 was banded at Woodstock on September 26 (VINS), 1 was seen at White River Junction on October 4 (WGE), and 1 was sighted at Winhall on October 9 (WJN). The last were 2 (1 banded) at Woodstock on October 21 (VINS,WGE). The Ovenbird was re-

-8- ported in average numbers. Twenty-six were banded, with 16 netted at Marshfield (MFM,VINS); high counts never exceeded 3. The last were 3 on September 24 on Bald Mountain in Mendon (NLM). The inconspicuous Northern Waterthrush was reported in small numbers, with 3 banded, 2 at Marshfield (MFM,VINS). Six others were reported by observers, with the last being 1 on September 16 at Herrick's Cove (WJN). There was the customary single, early August report of Louisiana Waterthrush, 1 seen at Woodstock on August 6 (NLM,WGE). Very few Mourning Warblers were reported for the season. Only 6 were banded, with 4 caught at Woodstock (VINS,MFM); also 1 was seen at Marlboro on September 13 (WDN), and the last was 1 at Wilder on September 15 (WGE). A single individual of the very rare Connecticut Warbler was banded and photographed at Woodstock on September 10 (VINS). The commonest of the warblers, the Common Yellowthroat, was noted in average numbers. One hundred sixty-four were banded with 95 netted at Woodstock (VINS,MFM). High for the season were 17 on September 13 at Marlboro (WDN); the last was 1 on November 7 at Hartford (WGE). There was an average flight of the Wilson's Warbler. Eighteen were banded with 12 at Woodstock (VINS,MFM); high counts were 4 at Colchester Point on September 6 (SBL,NLM,WGE), 4 at Woodstock on September 11 (VINS), and 4 in Burlington on September 13 (WS). Late were 1 at Marlboro on September 28 (WDN), and 1 on the same day at North Ferrisburg (WS). The Canada Warbler was noted in average numbers. Forty-nine were caught by banders for the autumn, with 39 in the nets at Marshfield Pond (MFM,VINS). High counts were 5 at Winhall on August 4 (WJN) and 6 at Woodstock on September 3 (VINS). The last was 1 banded at Woodstock on September 10 (VINS). Also in average numbers was the American Redstart, 16 of the 24 banded were netted at Marshfield (MFM,VINS). High counts included 10 at Winhall on August 25 (WJN), 5 at Hartford on August 28 (WGE), and 4 at Marlboro on September 1 (WDN). The last was 1 at Winhall on September 22 (WJN).

HOUSE SPARROW THROUGH TANAGER

The status of the House Sparrow appears unchanged. The first good counts of Bobolink were from late August, with 20 at Dead Creek WMA on August 26 (WJN) and 38 at White River Junction on August 28 (WGE). The species was sighted by four observers on September 13, including the seasonal maximum of 60+ at White River Junction (GFE,WGE), 5 at Marlboro (WDN), 5 at Burlington (WS), and 1 over the WHL (WJN). The last reported were 5 on September 19 at Marlboro (WDN). High counts of the Eastern Meadowlark included 20 on September 9 at Dead Creek WMA (WJN), 23 at Woodstock on October 13 (NLM,WGE,KAF), and 35 at North Ferrisburg on October 19 (WS). Last was 1 at Woodstock on November 4 (WRC). The Red-winged Blackbird was reported in its usual abundance; high counts included 50,000+ at Dead Creek WMA on September 27 (NLM,WGE), and 1400+ at Herrick's Cove on November 1 (NLM,WGE). Birds lingered through late November (e.g. 4 were at Plainfield on November 22 (MFM)). The Northern Oriole was noted in average numbers. Four were banded with 75% at Marshfield (MFM,VINS). High counts were from late August, with 6 at Mt. Holly (AEB), and 8 at Herrick's Cove on August 25 (WJN). The last was 1 at Herrick's Cove on September 16 (WJN). The Rusty Blackbird was better reported than in the previous autumn: 55 were reported by four observers with high counts of 30 on September 9 at Dead Creek WMA (WJN), and 12 on October 24 at Bridport (WS). The last was 1 reported from Marlboro on October 31 (WDN). The Common Grackle was reported in numbers lending credence to its name. The best counts were from Timmouth, where 2,000 were noted on October 16 and 4,000 were seen on October 21 (GTL). This is a hardy bird, so a late date is not applicable. Also a very common species, the Brown-headed Cowbird

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was reported in good numbers, though reports show it to be much less abundant than the Grackle or Red-wing. The seasonal maximum was 700 at Brattleboro on September 29 (WDN). The Scarlet Tanager was reported in average numbers. Fourteen were banded for the season, with 11 netted at Woodstock (VINS,MFM); high counts were from early to mid-September, with none exceeding 5. The last reported was 1 on October 11 at Hartford (WGE).

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Sparrow was noted in average numbers. One was banded at Woodstock (VINS). High counts were 20+ on September 13 at White River Junction (GFE,WGE) and 50+ on September 20 at Dead Creek WMA (WS); late were 1 at Colchester on October 25 (WS, CSz,JM), and 2 on October 28 at Woodstock (NLM,WGE,KAF). The very rare and elusive HENSLOW'S SPARROW was reported from Herrick's Cove on September 3 when a single individual was noted (WJN). Although the Vermont Records Committee is still deliberating, it is very pleasant to be able to acknowledge a report of the very rare SHARP-TAILED SPARROW. A single bird was seen and well described from Colchester Point on October 6 (SRA). A total of 30 Vesper Sparrows was reported for the season. No counts exceeded four and the last reported were 2 on October 22 at Woodstock (NLM,WGE,KAF). The Dark-eyed Junco was reported in average numbers. Twenty-two were banded, with 13 caught at Woodstock (VINS, MFM). The migration occurred in October and had no obvious peak date; high counts were 50 at Woodstock on October 21 (NLM,WGE,KAF) and 50 at Winhall on October 30 (WJN). The Tree Sparrow was first noted on October 19 when 1 was seen in Derby (WGE et al.). Seven were banded this autumn, with 5 netted at Woodstock (VINS, MFM); high counts included 15 at Ferrisburg on October 24 (WS), 24 in Strafford and Fairlee on November 2 (NLM, WGE), 15 at Herrick's Cove on November 6 (WJN) and 15 in Norwich on November 24 (WGE). There was an average Chipping Sparrow migration for the season. High counts included 24+ at Hartford on September 21 (WGE), 12 at TWDR on September 26 (MFM), and 18 on October 11 at White River Junction (WGE). The last reported were 2 on October 27 at Norwich (WGE). The Field Sparrow was noted in good numbers; 14 were banded with 12 caught at Woodstock (VINS, MFM); maximum reports were 7 banded at Woodstock on August 19 (VINS), 14 seen in Hartford on August 28 (WGE), and 15 at White River Junction on October 4 (WGE). The last noted was 1 on November 24 in Norwich (WGE). Good numbers of the White-crowned Sparrow were noted for the season. Seventeen were caught by banders for the autumn, with all but one netted at Woodstock (VINS,MFM). The earliest White-crown was seen at Colchester Point on September 21 (WS,FO,ALG,DPK). High counts included 15 at North Ferrisburg on October 4 and October 19 (JID,MCD,WS) and 70 in Woodstock and Quechee on October 12 (NLM,WGE). The last reported was 1 on November 4 at Marlboro (WDN). The White-throated Sparrow was reported in average numbers. One hundred five were banded for the fall with 66 at Marshfield (MFM, VINS); the migration was a steady one with no discernible peak. The majority of the flight took place in October with high counts ranging upwards to 50. For the second consecutive autumn, the Fox Sparrow migration was mightily inconspicuous. There were only seven reports, all involving single birds; M.F. Metcalf banded 1 at Marshfield. The first was 1 at Mt. Holly from October 6-October 8 (AEB); the last was seen at a South Strafford feeding station through the end of the season (HR). The Lincoln's Sparrow was seen in about average numbers in comparison with previous autumns. Twenty-four were banded, with 18 netted at Woodstock (VINS,MFM). Good counts were 6 on September 19 at Marlboro (WDN), 5 banded at Woodstock on September 22 (VINS), and 5 in Hartford on October 4 (WGE). The last sighted was 1 on October 22 at Herrick's Cove (WJN). In all 38 were noted by non-banders. Numbers of the Swamp Sparrow were about normal. Seventeen were banded, with ten caught at Marshfield Pond (MFM,VINS). High counts were 5 on September 26 at Marlboro (WDN), 10 at West Rutland on September 30 (WJN), and 7 in Woodstock and Quechee on October 28 (NLM,WGE). The last noted was 1 seen in Woodstock on November 5 (NLM). The Song Sparrow was noted in its usual good numbers; 143 were banded with 120 netted at Woodstock (VINS, MFM). Among the better counts were 47 on October 4 at White River Junction (WGE), 56 on October 12 at Woodstock (NLM,WGE), 23 band-

both accepted

FINCHES AND SPARROWS

The Cardinal was reported from 17 towns around the state, north to Burlington and Plainfield. Three were banded for the season, with 2 caught at Plainfield (MFM,VINS). High counts were 8 at Fair Haven on November 1 (FSA) and 9 at Barre on November 23 (MFM). The Rose-breasted Grosbeak was reported in normal numbers. Eleven were banded, with 8 netted at Marshfield (MFM, VINS); high counts were from mid-September, with 13 at Marlboro on September 12 (WDN), 7 at Colchester on September 13 (WS), and 10 at Herrick's Cove on September 16 (WJN). The last reported was 1 on October 6 at Herrick's Cove (WJN). A total of 13 Indigo Buntings was reported, including the maximum of 4 on August 10 at Thetford (NLM,WGE) and the late report of 3 on September 28 at North Ferrisburg (WS). A single immature male DICKCISSEL was banded at Plainfield on October 25, constituting only the third autumn record over the last seven years (MFM). The Evening Grosbeak was noted throughout the autumn, with the initial reports from early August in the northern and central portions of the state. Large numbers were not perceived until mid-October, with the best counts not occurring until November. Sixty were at a North Ferrisburg feeder on October 31 (JID,MCD) and 70 were seen at a Starksboro feeding station on November 30 (WRB,PMB). The Purple Finch for the most part departed the Green Mountain State this autumn. One hundred eighty-one were banded this fall, with 172 caught in northern Vermont (MFM,VINS). High counts included 25-35 at Randolph on October 4 (EWC), 27 at Norwich on October 6 (WGE), and 30 at the WHL on October 19 (WJN). A few birds were seen into December; a single albino Purple Finch was seen at a Mt. Holly feeder on August 17 (AEB). The House Finch was reported throughout the season in small numbers, with records emanating from five towns; up to 9 were recorded on any one day. After last autumn's meager numbers, the Pine Grosbeak returned to average numbers. A total of about 45 were reported for the season, beginning on November 2 when 8 were seen at Mt. Philo (WS); the high of 15 occurred on November 14 at Winhall (WJN). The Common Redpoll was reported in the best numbers since 1975 (when 109 were noted) with a total of about 165 reported for the season. Phenomenally early was the single juvenile plumaged Redpoll seen in Underhill from September 3-September 26 (KCS). A Bird Verification Report is on file and under consideration. The next redpolls reported were 10 on November 1 at Winhall (WJN). The high count was 50 on November 11 in Dorset (JWR fide NS). A series of mid-September records heralded the beginning of an impressive flight of the Pine Siskin; high counts for this flight were 120 at Mt. Philo on October 6 (WS), 500+ at North Ferrisburg on October 11 (WS), and 60 at Greensboro on October 19 (NLM,WGE, et al.). The Siskin almost dropped out of sight in November, with very few reported after October. The American Goldfinch was noted in average numbers. High counts included 75+ at Colchester on October 3 (JJA) and 50 at Herrick's Cove on October 6 (WJN). There was a single report of Red Crossbill, 1 seen at Winhall on August 6 (WJN). The White-winged Crossbill was also reported only once; 17 were seen in Panton on October 6 (WS). Over 24 Rufous-sided Towhees were reported. High counts were 8 on August 24 at Winhall (WJN) and 6 on September 19 at Norwich (WGE); the last was 1 at Hartford on October 28 (NSE,RDE fide WGE). The Savannah

ed at Woodstock on October 22 (VINS), and 30 at Herrick's Cove on October 22 (WJN). There were four reports of the hard-to-detect Lapland Longspur. First was 1 at Colchester Point on September 30 (SBL,NLM,WGE); 1 was noted at Herrick's Cove on October 6 (WJN); 3 were seen at White River Junction on October 25 (WGE); and 4 were found at Herrick's Cove on November 1 (NLM, WGE). The Snow Bunting was reported in excellent numbers for the season with nearly 850 noted by observers this autumn. Earliest were 6 on October 11 at North Ferrisburg (JID,MCD); high counts included 100+ at Herrick's Cove on November 1 (NLM, WGE), 120+ at Charlotte on November 1 (WS), 130+ at Colchester Point on November 8 (NLM,WGE, KD), and 150+ in Pomfret from November 19-November 20 (RHA,VW).

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