



VERMONT INSTITUTE OF NATURAL SCIENCE

Records of Vermont Birds

SPRING 1980 - SUMMER 1980 - WINTER 1980-81

Managing Editor's Note:

The publication of these three issues of *Records of Vermont Birds* brings us up to date and back on our projected schedule of publishing seasonal accounts within a year of the season's close. Fall 1980 was published and mailed to subscribers in November 1981, the Spring 1981 account has been written by William J. Norse, is in the process of being typed, and will be to you in May. Countless hours are spent by the seasonal editors who volunteer their time to compile these accounts - our thanks to them and to you for contributing your observations to these records.

SPRING MIGRATION 1980

1 MARCH - 31 MAY

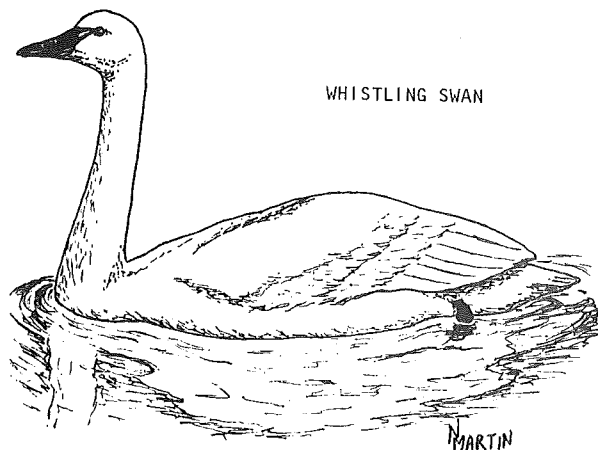
WHITNEY NICHOLS, SEASONAL EDITOR

Spring 1980 marked the beginning of the eighth year of *Records of Vermont Birds*. We continue to gain a more complete and thorough knowledge of the status and distribution of Vermont birds. This season is no exception to previous years in that new records provide important information. Mild weather conditions were characteristic of most of the spring and there were few examples of spectacular migratory phenomena reported. Two hundred eighteen species, one hybrid and one form were recorded. Highlights of the season are as follows: 28 species of waterfowl reported, including MUTE SWAN and WHISTLING SWAN, EUROPEAN WIGEON, Oldsquaw, COMMON EIDER, and White-winged Scoter; eight species of woodpeckers reported including a RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER at Grand Isle; the VARIED THRUSH seen this winter appeared on two occasions in Athens; a probable PROTHONOTARY WARBLER was seen in Burlington (previous records are in 1902 and 1916) and a probable Hooded Warbler in Jericho the second week in May; and finally an "OREGON" JUNCO was seen in Winhall for the second time in three years. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers continue their phenomenal increase, one Loggerhead Shrike was seen, Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers continue to cohabit in the Rutland area while showing no signs of hybridization, and White-winged Crossbills present in the Northeast Kingdom were not believed to have bred even though there were indications at first that they might be breeding.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

Common Loons were first seen at Berlin Pond (one) on 17 April, and at three localities (singles) on 19 April (FO, WS, WGE, GFE). Twenty-eight birds were reported, including five that were counted in "northern Vermont" on 17 May. On 30 April, 11 Red-necked Grebes were counted on Kent Pond in Killington (MBD). One other bird was seen at Island Pond on 17 May (WS, FO, WGE, GFE). Eighteen Horned Grebes were sighted including a count of nine at Kent Pond in the company of the Red-necks on 30 April (MBD). Four were seen at Berlin Pond on 14 April (MFM), three were at the Barre Reservoir on 21 April (MFM), and one was seen at Wilder on 7 May (WGE). The fourteen plus Pied-billed Grebes that were reported is a considerable improvement over last year's count of zero. The earliest reports are on 5 April of one bird seen at Colchester (WGE, et al), and one (?) bird at West Addison (EH). The four Double-crested Cormorants included three on 5 April at Burlington (FO, CSP) and one on 18 April at Colchester Point (WRB). Great Blue Herons were first noted during the first three weeks of April; 70+ individuals were reported. One nest (two adults) was recorded in Brighton on 10 May (WGE). Seventeen Green Herons were found, the earliest being one on 19 April in Addison (WDN). A bird believed by the observers to be a possible

Little Blue Heron was seen on the mouth of the Winooski on 16 May (FO, WS, DM). Seven Cattle Egrets were reported: 26 April (five) in Burlington (WGE, et al), 6 May (one) in Norwich (RAF), and 15 May in Plainfield (MFM). One Great Egret was seen, in Addison on 25 April (MFM). One Snowy Egret was present at Herrick's Cove from 11-17 May (CDK, DTK, et al). The same (?) bird was seen flying up the Connecticut River on 19 May (DHO). This is the fourth consecutive spring in a row that this predominately coastal (in the northeast) species has been reported. At least ten Black-crowned Night Herons were reported. A record early bird was found in Shelburne on 29 March (BDF). The previous early record was of a bird found at Herrick's Cove on 4 April 1976. The next earliest record is of two birds in Colchester on 26 April (WGE, et al). A maximum of three birds was in the Burlington area on 17 May (FO, WS, GFE, WGE). One to two birds were at the Babcock Nature Preserve in Morristown on 20-21 May, where it is considered rare (FO, DM). No Least Bitterns were reported, probably due to a lack of observer coverage. There are 16 reports of American Bitterns, including singles on 10 April in West Rutland (GFE) and in Berlin (MFM, RJR). These are the earliest records in the history of *Records of Vermont Birds* by five days.

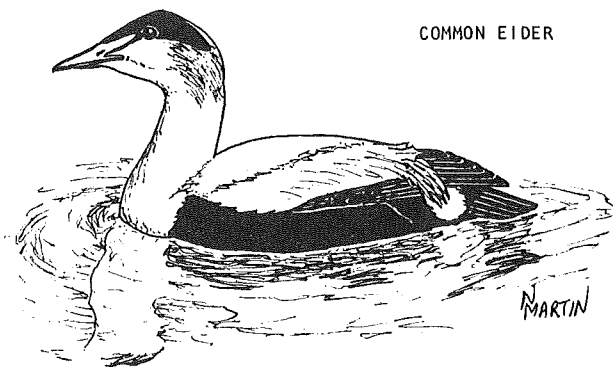


WHISTLING SWAN

WATERFOWL

There is a report of MUTE SWAN found by members of the Southeastern Vermont Audubon Society at the Retreat Meadows in Brattleboro on 5 April. The bird, an immature, was first identified as a "moot swan" because of its similarity to young Whistling Swan. Later in the day it was seen flying up the Connecticut River near the Vernon town line. The bird appeared on the Hinsdale side of the river on the 6th and 7th, and was positively identified there on 8 April by WDN. It was last seen in Vernon on 7th-8th May (fide LPM). As many as seven WHISTLING SWANS were reported in the state this spring for the second season in the RVB. Two were found in Bethel on 1 April (JHa). It is likely that these same two birds were the ones who spent at least 8 days in Berlin beginning on 2 April (RJ, et al). They were photographed on 6 April, and were last reported on 10 April. Two plus birds were seen in Winhall on 9 April (WJN), and three birds were seen at Long Point, Lake Champlain in Ferrisburg on 5 May (MCD, JID). There were no exceptionally large counts of Canada Goose reported; the maximum number was (1,000+) in Middlebury on 12 April (JWW). Birds began to arrive in late March, the earliest being (20) on the 20th in Winhall (WJN); numbers peaked in April. Twenty-five Brant were seen on 17 May in Ferrisburg (MCD, JID). Snow Geese staged an unspectacular albeit early flight this spring.

The maximum number was 1450 plus in Burlington on 3 April (WRB). Most birds moved through in early April. A very late immature was at Herrick's Cove, Rockingham on 20 May (WJN), and, presumably the same individual, was there on 29 May (CDK, DTK). This bird was probably either injured or lost. Four blue phase Snow Geese were found with the large flocks of the white phase on 3 April in Burlington (WRB) and "several" at Dead Creek W.M.A. (MJM), and on 6 April, in South Reading (MLE). The largest flock of Mallards seen was of only 75 birds at Herrick's Cove, Rockingham on 7 April. Around 300 plus birds were reported. Peak numbers of Black Duck were 400 on 12 April in Middlebury, 150 on 7 April at Herrick's Cove, and 11 on 29 March in Craftsbury. The number of birds was low this year amounting to only about 1100 birds. This is about a four to one ratio, Black Ducks to Mallards. "Only 6-8 definite hybrids were seen" this spring (WGE), but no dates or places were given. Seven young Black Ducks were seen on 21 May in Woodstock (JMN). Thirteen Gadwall were reported: 2 on 4 April in Springfield (EE, HSP), 2 on 5 April in Colchester (WGE, NLM), 3 from 24-26 April in Brattleboro "no local record for them before this spring" (fide LPM), 4 on 29 April in Coventry (PFZ, CWS), and 2 on 17 May in Milton (WGE, FO, WS). The first Pintail (1 male) was seen on the Barton River near Orleans on 24 March (FO). No large flocks were found; only eighty birds were reported; the maximum seen was 30 on 19 April in Cornwall (WDN). A single bird was seen in Ferrisburg on 17 May (MCD, JID), and two were in Missisquoi on 16 May (FO, DM, WS). Two Green-winged Teal seen in Colchester on 28 March (JoM) were the earliest reported, a low maximum of ten were seen in Cornwall on 19 April (WDN). Only about thirty birds were seen in all. Two teal were in Burlington (FO, DM, WS) and single birds were in Ferdinand and Milton on 17 May (WGE, FO, WS, GFE). Blue-winged Teal (two) were first seen on 5 April in Berlin (MFM) and at Dead Creek (EH). High Counts of 20 plus were made in Cornwall on 19 April (WDN) and at Milton on 17 May (WGE, FO, WS, GFE). Fifty-five plus birds were reported. A drake EUROPEAN WIGEON was reported at the mouth of the Winooski River in Colchester on 29 March (MJM, WRB). This constitutes Vermont's third record. There are seven reports of American Wigeon totaling 31 birds. The first, on 29 March, is of five to six birds in Colchester (WRB, MJM). Fourteen birds were in Salisbury on 19 April (WDN). On 17 May two birds were in Milton (WGE, FO, WS, GFE). Only one Northern Shoveler was reported, a bird seen at Milton on 17 May (FO, WS, GFE, WGE). Wood Ducks arrived in late March and early April. The 30-35 that were in Newbury on 13 April (TL) constitute the season high. Fledgling young were found at Lime Pond in Barnard on 29 May (JLB). No Redheads were reported. An unprecedented 187 Ring-necked Ducks were reported on 18 April at Missisquoi. The previous high was 62 on 17 March 1973 in Rockingham. There are 21 other sightings, an additional 100 birds, from late March to mid-May. An early Canvasback was "found on a road, had no apparent injuries, and was released on water" (WJ). They appeared in good numbers on Lake Champlain, where 120-130 were counted on 5 April in Colchester (WRB, PMB, MJM). The last report is of two there on 14 April. A total of about 175 were reported in all. Two Greater Scaup were in Wilder on 4 April (WGE), 150+ were in Colchester on 5 April (WGE, NLM), and two were at Lake Morey on 19 April (WGE). There are six reports of Lesser Scaup, totaling 20 birds, beginning on 28 March (five) at Herrick's Cove, Rockingham (WJN). There were two birds in Wilder on 29 March (WGE), four birds in Colchester on 5 April (WGE, NLM), one bird at Herrick's Cove (WJN), and six (season maximum) at Newbury (TL) on 13 April. Two individuals were the last seen, at Memphremagog on 25 April (PFZ). Early March records of Common Goldeneye were of birds that wintered, and included four on 2 March on the Connecticut River in Lebanon, NH (WGE, NLM). Peak numbers on Lake Champlain occurred at Colchester on 5-6 April, 120-130+ birds (WGE, NLM). Eight birds were seen "inland" at the Townshend Dam on 31 March (CDK, DTK). There were about 200 birds reported for the season, with the last being four on 17 May on "Lake Champlain" (MCD, JID). Eleven Bufflehead were in Bethel on the White River on 11 March (JHa). This is the largest number reported this season from one location. On May 17, six were reported from "Lake Champlain" (MCD, JID), and one was reported from each of the following localities: Island Pond, Basin Harbor, and Button Bay (FO, WS, GFE, WGE). Seventy-eight birds were reported in all. An Oldsquaw was found at Island Pond on 17 May (GFE, WGE, FO, WS). A COMMON EIDER appeared in Norwich on 13 April (MSB, WGE, NLM). This is only the third state record and the first away from Lake Champlain and the first published



COMMON EIDER

in these records. An unspecified number of White-winged Scoters were present in Springfield on 26 April (EE). This is the fourth spring in a row that this species has been reported. One Surf Scoter was at Island Pond on 17 May (GFE, WGE, FO, WS). Black Scoters were unreported. There were no Ruddy Ducks seen this season. Hooded Mergansers arrived in late March and early April; the six that were at Wilder on 29 March constitute the season high (WGE). Forty-five birds were reported, up from last spring's total of 8. The individual seen on 26 May at Gale Meadows in Winhall was thought to be a breeder (WJN). Common Mergansers were reported first (at the beginning of the season) as overwinterers and last (at the end of the season) as breeders. A maximum of 110+ was reported from Grand Isle, to Colchester and Milton on 6 April (WGE, NLM), and 56 from Rockingham to Springfield on 12 April (WGE, et al). Fourteen Red-breasted Mergansers were reported; five reports. Two were in Colchester on 29 March (MJM, WRB), two were in Wilder on 4 April (WGE), and on 5 April five (WGE, NLM) and two (FO, CSP) were in Burlington. A bird in Newport at South Bay on 12 May (FO, WS, WGE, GFE) was the last reported.

DIURNAL RAPTORS

See the Vermont Hawk Watch Spring 1980 Report for complete details on the Vermont Hawk Watch (available from V.I.N.S.). Turkey Vultures first appeared on 15 March (two) in Westminster (CDK, DTK). One reached Albany Center by 13 April (JW). Ten were counted in Weathersfield on 27 March (DC). Six Goshawks were reported. Thirty-one Sharp-shinned Hawks were counted on the Bald Mountain Hawk Watch in Mendon on 20 April (NLM). Forty-five other birds, mostly singles, were reported throughout; the last birds (two) were found at Island Pond on 22 May (FO, DM, et al). Seven Cooper's Hawks were counted on the Vermont Hawk Watch (var. ob.). Three birds were in Hartford on 1 May (WGE). Six additional single birds were reported in April and May. Fifteen plus Red-tailed Hawks were in Newbury on 13 April (TL), 11 were in Mendon on 20 April (NLM). Twenty-four birds were reported from the Connecticut River Valley on 12 April (WGE, et al). Good numbers of Red-shouldered Hawks were seen this spring. Twenty-two were recorded by the Vermont Hawk Watch (var. ob.); a total of an additional 33 birds were noted, including nesting birds on 30 March in Westford (WRB, SAM, MJM). Maxima of five were noted on two occasions, in Winhall on 4 April (WJN) and in Hartford on 1 May (WGE). The Vermont Hawk Watch produced 179 Broad-winged Hawks (Var. ob.). Fifty-three additional individuals were reported. Single birds first appeared on 13 April in Winhall (WJN) and Marlboro (WDN). Six Rough-legged Hawks were reported including one bird in Newport on 24 March (FO, CWS). Four Bald Eagles were sighted. Marsh Hawks were present from mid-March to mid-May; a total of 21 were reported. There was a good flight of Osprey this spring, over 100 individuals were recorded. The earliest report is of one bird in Hartford on 28 March. Five birds were reported on two occasions. The Vermont Hawk Watch reported 24 total for the season. The last bird was seen at Brighton State Park on 28 May (MJM). One Peregrine Falcon was reported, flying over the Conn. River near Newbury on 13 April (TL). Four Merlins were found. Notable was an adult at Stowe on 29 May - "late migrant?" (FO, et al). Forty-five American Kestrels were counted on the Hawk Watch. On 5 April, 18 were found between Dead Creek and Stockbridge (EH) and on 12 April, 12 were counted on Otter Creek between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. (JWW) and 19 were counted between Rockingham and Springfield (WGE, et al).

GROUSE THROUGH GALLINULES

Three Spruce Grouse were reported from Island Pond, one on 3 April (Fide FO) and two on 17 May (FO, WS). No Bobwhites were reported. Forty-four Wild Turkeys were seen. The first Virginia Rail (one heard) was found at West Rutland Marsh on 21 April (WGE). Two were in Ferrisburg on 27 April (JID, MCD). On 24 May two were reported from Arlington (WGE, et al); the season maximum of four, was reported from Lake Memphremagog in Newport on 28 April (FO, DM). The first Sora (one) was found at West Rutland Marsh on 1 May (WJN). There are only three other records of single birds. Nine Common Gallinules were recorded, including a maximum of five birds on 28 May at South Bay, Newport (FO, DM). There is a remarkable report of three American Coots at South Bay on 28 May (FO et al), remarkable because it is only the third spring coots have been reported to RVB; and remarkable because of the late date.

SHOREBIRDS

One Semipalmated Plover was seen on 17 May in Colchester (WGE, et al) and two were in Vernon on 25 May (NLM, WGE). Killdeer were reported from 18 March on. The maximum number seen were 20 in the Otter Creek area on 12 April (JID, MCD). Recently hatched young were present in Newport on 28 May (FO, DM). The first American Woodcock was seen in Hartland on 24 March (LD). Several observers reported that numbers seemed to be down from previous years. An adult with two young was seen in Saxton's River on 31 May (CDK, DTK). Six Common Snipe were the first reported, at Westminster on 29 March (CDK, DTK). This is also the largest number seen at one time this season. One Upland Sandpiper was found at Herrick's Cove, Rockingham on 22 April (WJN). There are six other sightings numbering nine plus birds, including "several" at Dead Creek Refuge in Addison on 17 May (FO, et al), one at Stowe on 27 May (WGE, NLM), and one at Newport on 28 May (FO, DM). One Spotted Sandpiper was found in Johnson on 30 April (DM). Other sightings were from 4 May on, with highs of seven at Lewis Creek in Ferrisburg on 9 May (MCD, JID), and six at Herrick's Cove on 6 May (WJN). Solitary Sandpipers did not appear until 5 May, two in Westminster, and 7 May, one in Winhall (WJN - "poor year"). Other birds, either singles or pairs, totaling only 1 birds, were seen until 17 May. The first Greater Yellowlegs (one) was seen in Cornwall on 19 April (WDN). Other reports include one in Burlington on 26 April (WGE, et al), one in Coventry on 29 April (PFZ), one in Sherburne on 5 May (WGE, NLM), one in Marlboro on 7 May (WDN), and one in Craftsbury (date lost) (FO). The Lesser Yellowlegs found in Cornwall on 19 April (WDN) is the earliest ever reported to RVB by almost a week. Three other reported were all singles, at Coventry on 29 April (PFZ), in Milton on 16 May (FO, et al), and at Lewis Creek on 17 May (MCD, JID). One Pectoral Sandpiper was seen on 20 May somewhere on the banks of the Otter Creek (MCD, JID). On 16 May six Least Sandpipers were seen in Winooski (FO, DM, WS), and on 17 May 40 plus birds were found in Newport (WGE, et al). There are four reports, all on 17 May, of Short-billed Dowitchers, five at Lewis Creek (MCD, JID), and ten plus in Milton, 12 in Newport, and 57 in Colchester (WGE, et al). Six Semipalmated Sandpipers were found at Dead Creek on 17 May (MCD, JID).

GULLS AND TERNS

One Glaucous Gull was observed at Chimney Point in Addison on 31 March (KCE). Fourteen Great Black-backed Gulls were reported, from 29 March to 16 May. A maximum of 75+ Herring Gulls were counted in Burlington on 5 April (NLM, WGE). Thirty-two other birds were reported from various locations from 28 March to 29 May. Ring-billed Gulls were reported from 25 March on. Peak counts were 450 in Burlington on 5 April (WGE), and 475 in Cornwall on 19 April (WDN). Bonaparte's Gulls were seen twice, one on 16 May at the mouth of the Winooski River in Burlington (FO, et al), and one on 29 May, at Blodgett's Landing, Burlington (WJN). Common Terns were seen on two occasions, on 16 May (two) at the mouth of the Winooski River (FO, DM, WS), and on 17 May (two) in Milton (WGE, et al). Black Terns were first observed at Dead Creek on 4 May - number ? (MCD, JID); numbers peaked there on 17 May when 20+ were counted (WGE, et al). A single bird was at Herrick's Cove on 12 May (WJN), and ten were seen at the mouth of the Winooski on 16 May (FO, DM, WS). As many as 25-35 were at Lake Memphremagog on 28 May (FO, DM).

DOVES THROUGH WOODPECKERS

The usual overwintering Mourning Doves were reported early in the season. Maxima were 26 in Plainfield on 16 March (MFM) and 20 in White River Jct. on 16 April (WGE - "ca. 4-5 per day"). FO reports that they "seem to be increasing in northern Vermont." Is it this editor's imagination, or has this species witnessed a spectacular, albeit undetected, increase in the past 10-15 years? One Yellow-billed Cuckoo was found, a single bird seen on 29-30 May in Ferrisburg (MCD, JID). There is a phenomenally early record (specimen) of a bird in West Lebanon, New Hampshire on 26 April (RGR). Five Black-billed Cuckoos were seen from 22 to 29 May. Seven Great Horned Owls were located from early March to mid-May. Nineteen Barred Owls were reported; twelve of these were found by WGE and NLM in April. Seven Saw-whet Owls were counted, all in March and April; four of these were found by WGE and NLM, who were Atlasing for owls. Eleven Whip-poor-wills were reported. The first bird was heard on 26 April in Woodstock (JDL). The season high of four, was found at Brighton on 17 May (WGE, et al). Only nine Common Nighthawks were recorded, most likely due to inadequate observer coverage. The first Chimney Swifts were found on 21 April in Ferrisburg (MCD, JID). Forty-three birds in Woodstock on 5 May (NLM, WGE, GFE) is the largest number reported. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were first seen on 12 May (one) at Herrick's Cove (WJN), and on 13 May (singles) at Pittsford (JPe) and Ferrisburg (MCD, JID). A maximum of seven were counted at the latter locality on 25 May. Belted Kingfishers were reported in March and April in their usual numbers. Eighteen were found between Rockingham and Springfield on 12 May (WGE, et al). Six were counted at Herrick's Cove on 13 April (WJN). The first Common Flickers were reported during the first week of April. The ten that were counted in Winhall on 20 April (WJN) is the season maximum. Pileated Woodpeckers were reported (singles or pairs) throughout the period. Five were counted in "northern Vermont" on 24 March (FO, CWS). A RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER at Grand Isle on 20-21 May was photographed (RBL). This is the third record in RVB and the second consecutive year this species has occurred in the state. There is one other state record of a female in Dummerston in 1970 (fide WDN). One Red-headed Woodpecker was seen on 17 May in Ferdinand (var. ob.) where it is considered rare. The first Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers appeared on 4 March in Plainfield (LNM, MFM), and on 7 April at Herrick's Cove (WJN). Maxima were 5 on 27 April and 5 May in Marlboro (WDN) and on 17 May at Island Pond (WGE). Single Black-backed Three Toed Woodpeckers were seen on three occasions in the Ferdinand/Island Pond area. Most unusual is a bird seen in Sunderland on 24 May (GFE).

FLYCATCHERS

The season's first Eastern Kingbird (one) was reported from Woodstock on 30 April (EGV). Widespread arrivals occurred from 6 May on. In Morristown, 4-5 were seen on 20 May, providing the season high (WGE, SBL). Twenty-four Great Crested Flycatchers were reported from 12 May on, including five on 24 May at Dead Creek (WJN) and six in Milton on 17 May (WGE, et al). Eastern Phoebe appeared on 2 March (one) in Middletown Springs (NS) and 29 March (one?) in Weathersfield (EE). Other arrivals occurred from early April on. The species seems to be slowly recovering from previous years' lows. On 17 May the first Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were reported, single birds in Ferrisburg (MCD, JID) and Ferdinand (WGE, et al). Three birds were found in Sunderland on 24 May (WGE, et al). Only three reports of Willow Flycatchers were reported, one bird on 26 May in Craftsbury (DWB), one on 28 May at Lake Memphremagog (FO, et al), and one on 29 May at Dead Creek (WJN). There are four reports of Alder Flycatchers, one at Herrick's Cove on 20 May (WJN), three in Peru on 24 May (WJN), four in Thetford on 26 May (WGE, et al) and one in Johnson on 27 May (FO, DM). Least Flycatchers were first seen on 5 May (one) in Woodstock (ALG) and 6 May (three) in Marlboro (WDN). On 24 May, 20+ were counted between Arlington and Sunderland (WGE, et al), and on 27 May 19 were counted in Stowe (WGE, et al). The maximum reported was 25+ at the Babcock Reserve in Eden on 13 May (DM). One Eastern Wood Pewee seen in Ferrisburg on 17 May is the season's first. There are eight reports of 13 birds total, including four at Dead Creek on 29 May (WJN). Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen on five occasions, totaling seven birds, from 20 May (one) at Babcock Reserve. Three were seen in Sunderland on 24 May (WGE, et al).

LARK AND SWALLOWS

Good numbers of Horned Larks were reported this spring.

Forty birds were seen in Woodstock on 10 March (EH), 65+ birds were seen in South Burlington on 11 March (WRB), and 25 birds were in East Montpelier on 18 March (MFM). These are the season maxima. Nineteen larks were found in White River Junction on 16 April (WGE, GFE). On 17 May four birds were in Ferrisburg (JID, MCD), and one was seen in Panton (WGE, et al). In Jericho on 29 May, a group of six larks were seen, including two juvenile-plumaged birds. Tree Swallows arrived in Woodstock (one) on 28 March (NLM) and in Thetford (two) on 29 March (WGE, GFE). Other records are predominantly from the first two weeks of April. Five hundred to 1000 were in North Hartland (TL), 240+ were in Fairlee on 19 April (WGE, et al), and 200 were at Herrick's Cove on 22 April (WJN). Bank Swallows were first seen on 12 April (two) at Herrick's Cove (WGE, et al). The previous early date was 14 April 1976. There were only seven reports in total, including the maximum of 50+ in Fairlee on 15 May (WGE, NLM). Twenty-eight Rough-winged Swallows were seen. The four Rough-winged Swallows seen on 13 April at Herrick's Cove (WJN) is the earliest to ever be reported to RVB, the previous early date being 16 April in 1976 and 1977. Maxima of four were seen on four occasions. They were reported as far north as Johnson. Six Barn Swallows that were in Coventry on 12 April (LBR) precedes the previous early date, in 1977, by three days. Other reports occur from 19 April on. Fifty were seen at Herrick's Cove on 12 May (WJN) and 100+ were at Lake Champlain on 16 May (FO, et al). Cliff Swallows were first seen on 22 April (one) at Herrick's Cove (WJN) and 5 May (one) at Hartford (WGE). Thirty plus were in Rutland on 24 May (WGE, et al) and 20 were in Winhall on 16 May (WJN). Only six other birds were reported. On 18 April one Purple Martin was observed at Missisquoi (LBR). Other firsts include one on 26 April in Burlington (WGE, et al) and two on 27 April at the Winhall Hawk Look-out (WJN). The maximum of 10 was seen on two occasions, on 1 May at Ferrisburg (MCD, JID) and on 29 May at Dead Creek (WJN).

CORVIDS THROUGH CREEPER

Gray Jays were seen on four occasions in the Northeast Kingdom, on 24 March (three), on 3 April (three), and on 17 and 22 May (two on each date). Thirty-five plus Blue Jays were found in Sunderland on 29 May (WGE, et al). Common Ravens were reported throughout the period at various localities south to Winhall and Hartford. Five was the highest number reported, from Tinmouth on 31 March (GTL). One thousand plus Common Crows were observed heading north in Castleton at Wallace Ledge on 9 March (SBL, JDL, HBS). Boreal Chickadees were reported twice from their usual northeastern Vermont location. Seven Tufted Titmice were counted, all from the Champlain Valley in April and May. Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported by two observers to be present in better numbers (WGE, WJN). Only nine Brown Creepers were observed, including four on 1 May in Hartford (WGE - "about average").

WRENS

The first House Wren reported was one bird on 30 April in Tinmouth (GTL). Other reports were mainly of singles or pairs scattered throughout May. Four were present in Arlington on 24 May (WGE, et al). A Winter Wren arrived in Winhall on 9 April (WJN), the season's first. Five were seen on two occasions, at the Babcock Preserve on May 13 (DM) and on 17 May at Island Pond (WGE, et al). Eleven additional birds were reported. The Carolina Wren that first appeared on 23 November in West Woodstock remained until 2 April (EHW). On 28 March a bird was seen in Woodstock (JMN). An exceptionally early Long-billed Marsh Wren was found at West Rutland Marsh on 10 April (GFE), and provides a new state record. On the next date, 1 May, three were seen there (WJN), and the maximum for the season, 35+, was found there on 24 May (WGE, et al). One bird was present at Newport on 17 May (WGE, et al) and eight birds were present at Dead Creek on 29 May (WJN). One Short-billed Marsh Wren was seen at Dead Creek on 29 May (WJN).

MIMIDS AND THRUSHES

No fewer than nineteen Northern Mockingbirds were reported including a most northerly report of one in Cambridge on 12 May (DM). The first Gray Catbirds appeared on 3 May (one) at Tinmouth (GTL) and 6 May (one) at Herrick's Cove (WJN). Numbers were still "scarce in the high country" according to WJN. A Brown Thrasher at a feeder in Middlebury on 2 March remained from the winter (fide BBP). The first migrants appeared on 1 May at three locations (all singles).

Maxima of four were reported on three occasions on 9 May in Johnson (DM), on 12 May in Winhall (WJN), and on 14 May in Woodstock (WGE, SBL, NLM). American Robins appeared in usual numbers from early March on. The VARIED THRUSH that appeared in Athens during the winter was present on 1 March and again on 27 April (MFW). But see the summer Records. The first Wood Thrush of the season was one on 8 May in Marlboro (WDN) followed by one in Woodstock (SBL, WGE, NLM) and three in Johnson (DM) on 9 May. Eight plus were counted in the Sunderland/Arlington area on 24 May (WGE, et al). One Hermit Thrush on 16 April in Winhall (WJN) was the first reported. They continue to be rather scarce. On 13 May the first Swainson's Thrush was found at the Babcock Preserve (DM), followed by one in Hartford on 16 May (WGE), one in Woodstock on 19 May (WGE), one in Morrisville on 20 May (WGE), and two in Sunderland on 24 May (WGE). The species went unrecorded by WJN. Nest building was noted at the Babcock Preserve on 21 May (DM). One Gray-cheeked Thrush was seen in Winhall on 27 May (WJN), the only report this spring. A Veery seen on 6 May in Marlboro (WDN) was followed on 7 May by singles in Rutland (JPM), Woodstock (JMN), and Winhall (WJN). Ten to twelve were in Milton on 17 May (WGE, et al) and ten were in Winhall on 18 May (WJN). On 23 May in Milton an adult was observed carrying a fecal sack (DM). On 23 March pairs of Eastern Bluebirds arrived in Brownsville (BMH), Pomfret (MBD) and West Windsor (JEH, BMH). They were considered "still very scarce" by WJN, and the individual in Craftsbury on 4 April was FO's "only record" for the season.

GNATCATCHER THROUGH VIREOS

Over 40 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were reported, more than double last year's record! An exceptionally early individual appeared at Herrick's Cove on 13 April (WJN). More usual were the firsts on 25 April in Northfield - one (CMC), on 27 April in Marlboro - one (WDN), and on 28 April in West Haven - two (SBL, NLM). All other reports are during May. One bird was found in Craftsbury on 9 May where it is considered "rare this far north" (FO). Maxima of six were found in Milton (WGE, et al), and at Lewis Creek (MCD, JID); both counts were made on 17 May. Golden-crowned Kinglets were very scarce this spring; only 22 birds in five reports were noted. Although numbers are still low, Ruby-crowned Kinglets seem to be recovering from past declines. Singles were first reported at Herrick's Cove on 13 April (WJN) and at Grand Isle on 16 April (WGE, NLM). Seventeen counted at Hartford on 20 April (WGE, NLM), and 14 at Ferdinand on 10 May (WGE, et al) are the season maxima. WGE reports that 71 on 14 dates is "much improved over previous years." There are three reports of Water Pipits: one on 6 April on Grand Isle (WGE, NLM), and five on 3 May and two on 6 May at White River Junction (WGE, GFE). Two Cedar Waxwings were seen in Norwich on 2 March (EDH). There are four May reports totaling 22 birds, including 5 on 4 May in Pittsford (NLM) and 8 on 8 May in Saxtons River (CDK, DTK). There are six reports of six Northern Shrikes, all in March. One LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE was found at the Clifford Harris Farm in Ferrisburg on 17 May (MCD, JID). Twenty Yellow-throated Vireos were counted, one more than last year's record high. First arrivals were rather late, one in Woodstock on 15 May (JMN), and six plus at Sand Bar Refuge on 16 May (FO, DM, WS). The latter is also the season high. Solitary Vireos arrived about on time, one in Marlboro on 20 April (WDN) and one in Winhall on 23 April (WJN). Six birds were seen on three occasions on 17 May at Island Pond, on 20 May in Morristown, and on 24 May in Sunderland (WGE, et al). Red-eyed Vireos were first seen on 11 May, three in Marlboro (WDN), one in Woodstock (JMN), and one in Winhall (WJN). Twenty-eight birds were counted in Stowe on 27 May (WGE, NLM). No Philadelphia Vireos were reported. Warbling Vireos (singles) first appeared on 6 May, at Lake Bomoseen (MCH) and at Herrick's Cove (WJN).

WOOD WARBLERS

Black-and-White Warblers arrived in Woodstock on 23 April (one-EH) in Winhall on 25 April (one-WJN), in Burlington on 26 April (one-WGE, et al), and in Marlboro on 27 April (one-WDN). Twelve were counted at Island Pond on 17 May (WGE, et al). A fully detailed report was submitted on a male PROTHONOTARY WARBLER seen in Burlington on 24 April, in the company of several Yellow-rumped Warblers. This would be the third record for the state, and the first since 1916 (BCW). One Golden-winged Warbler was seen in Middlebury on 18 May (FO, WS, WGE). Four to five were counted in West Rutland on 24 May (WGE, et al). As many as six Blue-

winged Warblers were reported, the first being one on 11 May in Marlboro (WDN). A bird reported on 24 May in West Rutland (WGE, et al) in the vicinity of Golden-winged Warblers may indicate a potential site for future interbreeding. A bird fitting the description of a Lawrence's Warbler, the rarer hybrid of the two preceding species, was reported from the Mississquoi NWR on 17 May (SBL). Reports of Tennessee Warbler seemed scarce; only 11 birds were noted. The first birds occurred on 17 May, with two in Ferrisburg (MCD, JID) and three in Ferdinand (WGE, et al). Nashville Warblers were first seen in Marlboro (one) on 5 May (WDN), in Woodstock (one) on 6 May (SBL), and in White River Junction (one) (WGE) and Winhall (one) (WJN) on 7 May. Twelve plus birds were counted from Morristown to Elmore on 20 May (SBL, WGE). Northern Parulas first appeared on 8 May (singles) in Westmore (PFZ) and Hartford (WGE). Five birds is the maximum reported, from the Island Pond area on 17 May (WGE, et al). The first Yellow Warbler was found (one) on 3 May in Wilder (GFE, WGE). Thirty birds were counted between Dead Creek and Sand Bar on 29 May (WJN). On 6 May, the season's first Magnolia Warbler appeared in Marlboro (WDN). Twelve were counted in Winhall on 19 May (WJN), the season's high. Seventeen Cape May Warblers were sighted this spring. They were back in Hartford (one) on 5 May (WGE), in Woodstock (two) on 7 May (NLM), in Craftsbury (one) on 12 May (FO), and in Winhall (one) on 14 May WJN - "scarce". Six were in the vicinity of Island Pond on 17 May (WGE, et al). Black-throated Blue Warblers arrived in Marlboro (two) on 5 May (WDN), and in Winhall (one) (WJN) and Woodstock (one) (NLM) on 7 May. Five were seen on two occasions, on 19 May in Winhall (WJN) and in Morrisville on 20 May (WGE). A Yellow-rumped Warbler that was seen on 14 March in Westminster was probably a winterer. Two in Winhall on 20 April (WJN), one in Marlboro on 22 April (WDN), and one in Woodstock on 23 April (SBL) were the first migrants to be reported. Widespread arrivals occurred during the last week of April and the first week of May. There are three reports of 30 or more: on 26 April in Winhall (WJN-30), on 8 May in Hartford (WGE-33), and in Woodstock on 10 May (JMN-30-40). Nest building was observed at Island Pond on 22 May (FO). On 1 May, a Black-throated Green Warbler was seen in Springfield (EE) on 2 May two were seen in Hartford (WGE), on 5 May two were in Marlboro (WDN), on 6 May one was seen in Woodstock (SBL) on 8 May one bird was in Johnson (DM), and on 10 May, one bird was seen in Winhall (WJN). Six were counted on two occasions in Ferrisburg on 17 May (MCD, JID), and in Stowe on 27 May (WGE). Cerulean Warblers were first seen on 16 May in Milton, seven birds - six males and one female; four were nest building. On 23 May, five singing males were observed, and a female was seen sitting on a nest. The season's first Blackburnian Warbler was found in Hartford on 5 May (WGE), followed by singles in Marlboro on 6 May (WDN) and Woodstock on 7 May (NLM). The first bird did not arrive until 18 May in Winhall where the species was considered scarce (WJN). Ten plus were counted in Sunderland on 24 May (WGE, et al). Chestnut-sided Warblers were first seen in Shrewsbury (one) on 2 May (CV) and Marlboro (one) (WDN) and Hartford (WGE) on 6 May. Twenty plus were counted from Morristown to Elmore on 20 May (SBL, WGE). Bay-breasted Warblers arrived on 17 May in Lewis (WGE), and on 20 May in Morristown (WGE - "apparently not a good flight year, only records") and at Dead Creek (MCD, JID) (all singles). In Winhall the species was also considered "scarce" where only one bird was reported on 24 May. Six birds were at Sand Bar Refuge in Milton on 23 May (FO, DM). On 23 May Blackpoll Warblers appeared at three locations, one in Fair Haven (FSA), one in Woodstock (WGE), and five in Sand Bar (FO, DM). Ten plus were in Sunderland on 24 May (WGE, et al). The species was considered scarce by WJN. Twelve Pine Warbler reports of 14 birds were submitted, including firsts (singles) on 12 April at Rockingham (WGE, et al) and 19 April at Lake Morey (WGE). Only one Prairie Warbler was found, one bird on 14 May in Woodstock (NLM). Palm Warblers continue to be sparsely reported. The first was in Burlington on 26 April (WGE, et al "only record"). Other single birds were seen in Marlboro on 5 May (WDN), on 7 May in Woodstock (NLM) and Westminster (CDK, DTK), and on 14 May at Saxtons River (CDK, DTK). Ovenbirds arrived on 4 May (one) in Winhall (WJN), and on 6 May (singles) in North Pomfret (MCH, TCR), Marlboro (WDN), and White River Junction (WGE). Fifteen plus were noted between Morristown and Elmore on 20 May (SBL, WGE). The Northern Waterthrush in North Pomfret on 27 April (MCH) is the earliest to be reported to the Records by three days. Most reports are from the first two weeks of May. Six were in Sunderland on

24 May (WGE) and ten plus were counted at the Babcock Preserve on 13 May (DM). One 1 May the season's first Louisiana Waterthrushes (two) were seen in Middlebury (WS). Three were in Norwich on 3 May (WGE). There are four additional reports of single birds including a bird at the Babcock Preserve, where the species is rare this far north and has been seen for the last two years (FO, DM). Mourning Warblers were seen on 17 May (one) in Lewis (WS, WGE, GFE), on 27 May in Stowe (two-WGE) and Bondville (one-WJN), and at Dead Creek on 29 May (one-WJN). These are all of the season's reports. Common Yellow-throats first appeared in Ferrisburg (one) on 6 May (MCD, JID) and at White River Junction (one-WGE) and at Johnson (two-DM) on 7 May. Twenty-five were counted from Lake Shaftsbury to East Dorset to Peru on 17 May (WJN). A HOODED WARBLER was reported from Jericho (Chittenden Co.) the second week in May, well described as a male with black cap, black throat patch, and yellow breast (JV). This would be the 4th state record and the first report since 1914. Wilson's Warblers arrived on 11 May (one) in Marshfield (MFM) and on 12 May (one) in Hartford (WGE). There are five additional reports of six birds. The first Canada Warbler (one) was found in Ferrisburg on 6 May (MCD, JID). The next birds were not found until 13 May (one) in Winhall (WJN) and 16 May (one) at South Bay in Newport (PFZ). Thirteen were counted in Sunderland on 24 May (WGE) and eight were in Morristown on 20 May (WGE). American Redstarts were first seen on 6 May (one) at Herrick's Cove (WJN) and on 7 May (one) at Wilder (WGE). Nest building was underway in Craftsbury by 21 May (FO).

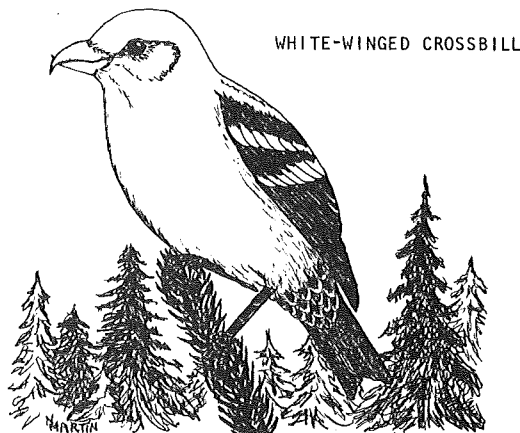
BLACKBIRDS AND TANAGERS

One Bobolink was seen at Herrick's Cove on 6 May (WJN). Five were observed in Johnson on 8 May where numbers were reported as "good" (DM, FO). Twenty were counted in Ferrisburg on 17 May (MCD, JID). There are three reports of Eastern Meadowlark in late March including seven birds seen on the 28th in Woodstock (EH). There are four April reports of seven birds and five May reports of twenty-eight birds, including the season high of 11 on 17 May in Ferrisburg (MCD, JID). Red-winged Blackbirds arrived in early to mid-March and numbers appeared normal during the entire season. Northern Orioles were first seen on 3 May (one) in Ferrisburg (MCD, JID) and on 4 May (two) in West Addison (PaN). Thirty were estimated to be in Ferrisburg on 17 May (MCD, JID), 20 were in Dead Creek on 29 May (WJN), and 15 plus were in Arlington on 24 May (WGE). There are four late March sightings of seven individual Rusty Blackbirds. Forty birds were counted in Cornwall on 19 April (WDN) and 50 were in the Lake Memphremagog area on 25 April (PFZ, CWS). In Winhall it was considered a poor year for the species (WJN), and numbers were "definitely way down in northern Vermont, and have disappeared from all Island Pond colonies" (FO). The single bird reported on 24 May in Sunderland was the "only record" for WGE. Fifty Common Grackles were at Gale Meadows in Winhall on 3 March (WJN). Numbers appeared to be normal. Two hundred plus birds were reported on two occasions on 2 March from Craftsbury to Newport (FO) and on 10 April at White River Junction (WGE). Thirty Brown-headed Cowbirds on 4 March in Athens were the first to be reported this spring. Peak numbers were 250 on 10 April in White River Junction (WGE) and 150+ in Sherburne on 5 May (WGE, et al). The earliest Scarlet Tanagers (two) appeared on 5 May in Marlboro (WDN). Twenty-four birds were reported for the season. The maximum for the period is the seven which were found in Winhall on 14 May.

FINCHES

Only 17 Cardinals were reported this season. One Rose-breasted Grosbeak was seen in Ferrisburg on 4 May (MCD, JID) and one was in Woodstock on 6 May (SBL, JDL). There are eighteen reports this season totaling 39 birds. The season high of 13 was reported on 17 May in the Island Pond area (FO, WS, GFE, WGE). All reports of Indigo Bunting were in late May, beginning on 20 May (one) in Ferrisburg (MCD, JID "noticeably absent"). WJN reports the species as "scarce and late arriving", although FO reports "good numbers." Maxima of four were seen in two places, in West Rutland on 24 May (WGE, et al) and in Vernon on 25 May (WDN). Evening Grosbeaks were reported until mid-May. One flock of 200 was in Plainfield on 4 April (MFM). FO reports "better numbers through the season over the whole northern part of the state." All reports of Purple Finch are from March and April. Fifty birds were in Plainfield on 19 March (MFM), the season high. Ninety-one House Finches from 13 localities on 18

occasions were reported this season. In Burlington 35-40 were seen on 24 April (CWS). Two Pine Grosbeaks on 9 March in Stockbridge (EH) were the only birds reported. Six Common Redpolls in Union Village on 15 March (WHT) and one in Rutland on 20 March (JPM) were the only reports this season. There are eleven reports of 97 Pine Siskins from early March on. Thirty plus were found in the Island Pond area on 24 March, where "numbers appeared normal with a few breeding" (FO). Breeding was noted in Norwich, where one fledgling was found on 3 May (WGE). Ten plus birds were in Woodstock on 7 May (NLM) and three were in Rockingham on 21 May (CDK, DTK). Two flocks of 100 American Goldfinches were reported on 13 March at Herrick's Cove and on 29 May at Dead Creek (WJN). Twenty Red Crossbills were reported beginning on 7 March with two in Landgrove (WGE, NLM, ALG) and one in Winhall (WJN). One bird was in Plainfield on 23 March (MFM), four were at the Winhall Hawk Lookout on 20 April (WJN "probably breeding this year"), ten were in Johnson on 25 April (DM), and finally, two were in Bradford on 12 May (ALG, NLM, SBL). Over 60 White-winged Crossbills were reported. Five to six were in Landgrove on 7 March (ALG, et al), and 50 plus were in the Island Pond area on 24 March. Singing by individual males on treetops or in the air was observed, and males were seen chasing one another. Females appeared to be doing nothing but feeding and preening. Were copulation going on, or were the birds seen entering or leaving a nest site, the observers felt they would have seen it (FO, CWS). On 3 April four birds remained, but apparently no breeding occurred (FO, AP).



WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL

What were these birds up to? The first Rufous-sided Towhee was seen on 25 April in Winhall (WJN "very poor year"), but apparently a bird wintered in Tinnmouth (GTL). Four were seen in Arlington on 24 May (WGE), and three were seen on two occasions, on 29 April in Ferrisburg (MCD, JID) and Hartford on 3 May (WGE). Savannah Sparrow numbers remain low; only 47 birds were reported on 11 dates. The first birds, three, were seen at White River Junction on 11 April (WGE). The season high of 14 was recorded on 26 April in Burlington (WGE). A Grasshopper Sparrow was seen at Button Bay on 29 May (WJN). Twelve reports of 24 Vesper Sparrows were received. The first birds (singles) were seen on 7 April in Johnson (DM) and Burlington (MJM). The four birds seen in Burlington on 26 April (WGE) is the season high. No large flocks of Dark-eyed Juncos were reported. A male "OREGON" type was seen in Winhall on 16 April (WJN). The last Tree Sparrow was seen in Colchester on 26 April (WGE, et al). An early Chipping Sparrow was found on 28 March in Stowe (CWS). "Several" were at Mt. Holly on 6 April (AEB) and 2 were in Woodstock on 10 April (JMN). The highest number reported was the 43 plus birds in the Island Pond area on 10 May (WGE). Only 13 Field Sparrows were noted. First arrivals were (all single birds): 8 April in Brattleboro (WDN), on 11 April in Hartford (WGE), and 12 April in Tinnmouth (GTL). Twenty-nine White-crowned Sparrows were counted, including firsts in Plainfield (one) on 22 April (MFM) and in Woodstock (one) on 6 May (FSA). Five were found at Dead Creek on 17 May (WGE, et al). White-throated Sparrow arrivals and concentrations appeared to be normal. Only 10 Fox Sparrows were reported; several

observers either did not see the species this spring or found it very scarce. The last bird was seen on 19 April in Norwich (WGE). Eleven Lincoln's Sparrows were reported in five sightings beginning on 16 May (one) in Winooski (FO). Four birds were found at Island Pond on 17 May (WGE, et al). The first Swamp Sparrow was seen in Cornwall on 19 April (WDN). They arrived at West Rutland Marsh (one) on 21 April and at South Bay on 25 April (PFZ). Ten to fifteen were at the former locality on 24 May (WGE). Song Sparrows arrived on schedule in usual numbers. Fifty Snow Buntings were found in Rutland on 9 March (BLR, DLB) and 12 were in Ferrisburg on 16 March (MCD, JID).

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