

Records of Vermont Birds

SUMMER SEASON 1981

1 JUNE - 31 JULY

MICHAEL J. MAURER, SEASONAL EDITOR

The summer of 1981 was the fifth and final year of the Vermont Breeding Bird Atlas Project. A team of hard-core atlasers was assembled in order to blockbust quads which previously had inadequate or no coverage. Thanks to the efforts of this crew, the original goal of finding at least seventy-five species per block with half of these being confirmed as breeders was accomplished. Most noteworthy among the numerous confirmations this summer was the Atlas Project's first breeding confirmation for NORTHERN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER and second confirmation for SHORT-EARED OWL. Also very exciting were the fourth confirmations for Northern Harrier and Saw-whet Owl. Much appreciation is extended to everyone who contributed time and data over the last five years which led to the success of this project.

It should be noted that the atlas information presented in this seasonal report represents only new locations and confirmations made during the summer of 1981 and is not an overall total for the project.

Other seasonal highlights include the Records of Vermont Birds' first summer record of BAIRD'S SANDPIPER*, and a possible first also for ICELAND GULL*. Species which were seen for only the second summer record include HORNED GREBE, SANDERLING, a PHALAROPE sp. BRANT, SEMIPALMATED PLOVER, and RUDDY TURNSTONE constitute third summer records. A WHITE-EYED VIREO report from Cornwall constitutes the sixth state record for this species.

Passerine species offered no surprises for us this summer. In one observer's mind "passerines, particularly the tropical wintering ones, seemed down in numbers, suggesting winter mortality" (WJN). Personal comments such as these are highly welcomed as a part of your seasonal reports. Feelings about the status of any species are just as important as pure numbers. I have tried to include some of these comments throughout this issue.

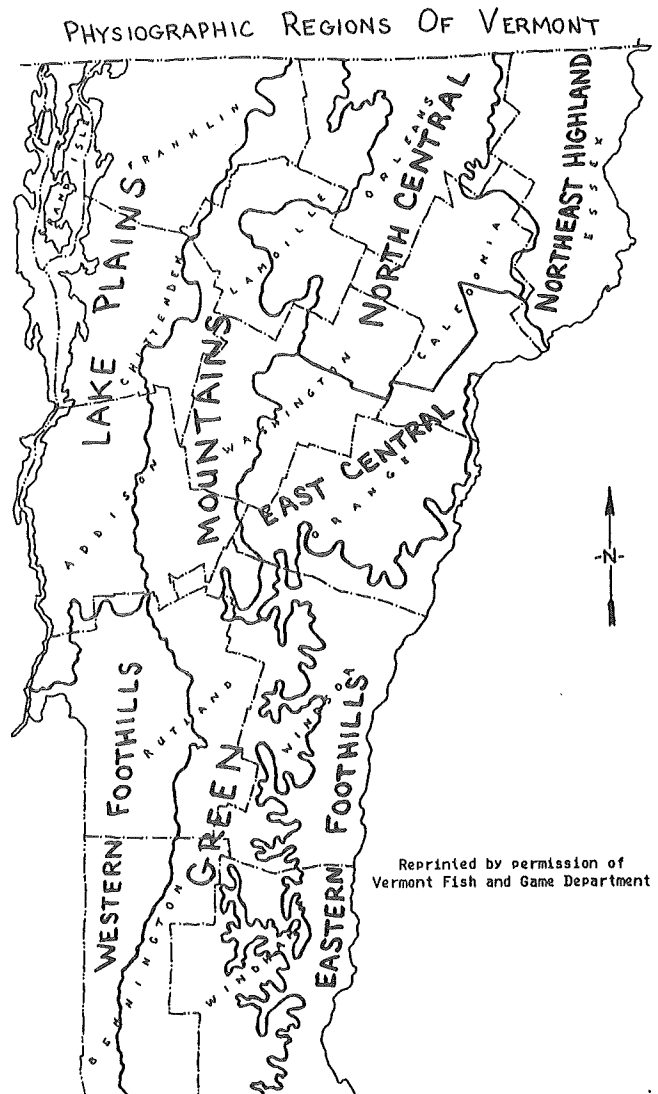
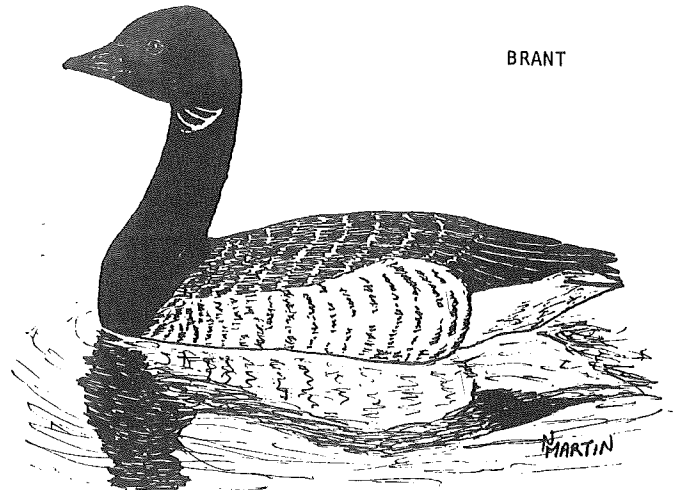
The weather was relatively uneventful during June and July, and seemed to have little effect on avian life. Rainfall was slightly below average each month (-0.39 and -0.32 inches respectively), and temperatures throughout the period were normal (U.S. Weather Bureau at Burlington Airport).

As in previous issues, the physiographic regions referred to are those defined by the Vermont Fish and Game Department.

*Receipt of Bird Verification Report and decision by the Vermont Bird Records Committee pending.

NEW WINTER EDITOR SOUGHT

The Records of Vermont Birds is seeking a new editor for the Winter Season, beginning in 1984. Don Clark who has so excellently handled this season for 9 years will not be able to continue, due to family and work time commitments. The Winter Records require about 40 hours to prepare, edit and write up, during the 2 1/2 month period from 1 April to 15 June. Editorship automatically involves a position on the Vermont Bird Records Committee. Anyone with good writing skills, good knowledge of Vermont's birds, and sufficient time to commit is urged to contact Sarah B. Laughlin, Managing Editor, Records of Vermont Birds, VINS, Woodstock, Vermont 05091.



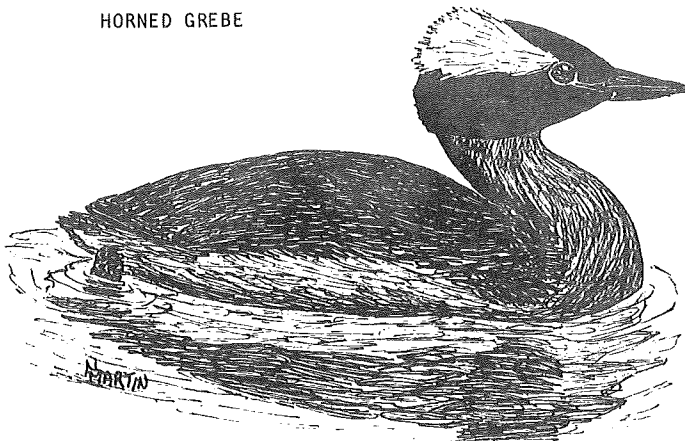
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LOONS THROUGH BITTERNS

During the fifth year of the Vermont Common Loon Survey, 57 lakes and ponds were monitored. Despite the fact that the number of lakes utilized (14), the number of territorial pairs (24), and the number of these pairs attempting to nest (15) have all decreased slightly since 1979, the number of chicks fledged (15) is the highest since the project began in 1977. The location of four new sites combined with early ice-out has been credited with this increase (LNM, MHR). In addition, reports of 18 other individuals were received. For the second summer in as many years, an adult HORNED GREBE was reported, this time from the Winooski River in Essex Junction. As usual, sightings of Pied-billed Grebe were few. There was only one report, that of an adult with one young at South Bay. The atlas crew added five more sites with breeding confirmation in two of these. A total of 80 Great Blue Herons were reported by our contributors, with one diligent atlaser tallying 41 for the season (WGE). Five sightings resulted in thirteen Green Herons throughout the state. Only a single Cattle Egret was seen at Grand Isle; nesting numbers appeared down on their chief Vermont nesting island. Black-crowned Night Herons were observed at Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area (hereafter DCWMA) and at Young Island. Atlas data added three new possible nesting locations. Only three Least Bitterns were seen. Surely one of the big surprises of the season was the report of an American Flamingo from King's Island Bay in North Hero. However, this bird was apparently an escapee from Safari African in Quebec.

Common Loon: 6/7 Island Pond, 1 (WGE, NLM, et al.); 6/10 L. Champlain, Milton-Georgia, 1 ad., 2 imm. (MJM, PFZ); 6/11-13 Great Hosmer Pond, 1 ad. (MJM, VBBC); 6/12 Button Bay, 2 ad. 3 imm. (CWJ); 6/22 Seneca Mt., 1 ad. (WGE, et al.); 6/22-7/12 Spectacle Pond, 2 ad. (WGE, et al.; RJR); 6/26 Basin Harbor, 1 imm. (PFZ, BFG, TCG); 6/27 Shelburne Bay, 1 imm. (PFZ); 7/2 Lake Carmi, 1 (WGE); 7/16 Isle La Motte, 2 imm. (NLM, WGE). HORNED GREBE: 7/16-27 Winooski R., Essex Jct., 1 ad. (MSA). Pied-billed Grebe: 6/11 South Bay, 1 ad., 1 yg. (MJM, VBBC); Atlas-5 new, 2 confirmed (hereafter CO.) Great Blue Heron: 6/1 DCWMA, 6 (ELW); 6/2 South Slang, 14 (JID, MCD); 7/2 DCWMA, 20 (WGE, NLM, ALG); 7/23 Winooski River Delta, 9 (WRB); Atlas-21 new, 3 CO. Green Heron: 6/17 Newport, 2 (WGE); 6/18 Coventry, 3 (WGE, NLM); 7/23 Winooski River Delta, 4 (WRB); 7/26 Isle La Motte, 3 (NLM, WGE); Atlas-17 new, 1 CO. Cattle Egret: only three Cattle Egret nests were noted on Young Island 6/27 (SBL); 7/16 Grand Isle, 1 (NLM, WGE). Black-crowned Night Heron: all were seen in DCWMA. 6/1, 1 (ELW); 6/10, 5 (NLM, WGE); 6/13, 12 (ELW); 6/15, 3 (WRB); 7/22, 2 (ALG, NLM, WGE); Atlas-3 new, 0 CO. Least Bittern: 6/1 W. Rutland Marsh, 1 (WJN); 6/18 Killington, 1 (FT); Atlas-1 new, 0 CO. American Bittern: 6/1 W. Rutland Marsh, 3 (RHH, WJN); 6/10 DCWMA, 1 (ALG, WGE); 7/22 DCWMA, 2 (WRB); 7/31 W. Rutland Marsh, 1 (WJN); Atlas-6 new, 0 CO. American Flamingo: 6/18-20 N. Hero, 1 (LMy fide BSE, ORE).

HORNED GREBE

WATERFOWL

Two species making their third summer appearance were BRANT and LESSER SCAUP. A single Brant was observed on 6/7 at Island Pond, while details were incomplete for the Lesser Scaup seen sometime between 6/11 and 6/13 (MCD, VBBC). Otherwise numbers and distribution of waterfowl were normal for the period. The only reports of Canada Goose away from the Champlain Valley came from Windsor where 50 were seen "flying south" and from Gale Meadows where a nest which was successful in 1978 and 1979 was destroyed this year. Mallards and Black Ducks were well reported this season with four hybrids seen in Starksboro (WGE). The handful of Blue-winged Teal sightings were limited to the Champlain Valley, while numerous reports of Wood Ducks came from throughout the state. Only a single record for Common Goldeneye and two for Hooded Merganser were received. Most information on Common Mergansers came from atlas data. A brood was observed at Gale Meadows on 7/12 (WJN).

Canada Goose: 6/3 Shoreham, 30 (ELW); 6/5 Gale Meadows, 2 (WJN); 6/10 DCWMA, 80+ (ALG, NLM, WGE); 6/24 Windsor, 50 (BMH). BRANT: 6/7 Island Pond, 1 (NLM, WGE, VBC). Mallard: 6/1 Rutland, 2 (RHH); 6/10 DCWMA, 6 (ALG, WGE); 7/29 Tinmouth, 10 (GTL); Atlas-18 new, 11 CO. Black Duck: 6/26 Washington, 4 (NLM, WGE); 7/19 W. Rutland Marsh, 3+ (NLM, WGE); 7/23 Winooski River Delta, numerous (WRB); 7/28-30 Tinmouth, 3-6 (GTL); Atlas-14 new, 5 CO. Blue-winged Teal: 6/1 DCWMA, 4 (ELW); 6/13 DCWMA, 12 (ELW); 7/22 DCWMA, 4 (ALG, NLM, WGE); 7/23 Winooski River Delta, 2 (WRB); Atlas-1 new. Wood Duck: 6/4 Gale Meadows, 5 (WJN); 6/10 Lake Hortononia, 2 ad., 8 yg. (ALG, WGE); 6/17 Newport, 9 yg. (WGE); 6/20 Fairfield Swamp, 1 ad., 8 yg. (RJR); 7/23 Winooski River Delta, 20+ (WRB); 7/26 Gale Meadows, brood (WJN); 7/31 Marshfield, 4 (MFM); 7/31 Rutland, pair w/yg. (RHH); Atlas-17 new, 7 CO. Common Goldeneye: 7/16 Grand Isle, 8 (NLM, WGE). Hooded Merganser: 6/15 McCuen Slang, 1 ad., 5 yg. (WRB, MJM); Atlas-2 new. Common Merganser: 6/7 Heartwellville, 1 f. landed on a chimney! (NLM, WGE); 6/21 Morgan, 2 (GFE, WGE); 7/12 Gale Meadows, brood (WJN); Atlas-6 new, 1 CO.

HAWKS

Forty-eight Turkey Vultures were tallied at eleven different sites. Ten of these sites plus nine out of ten new atlas locations peppered the lower two-thirds of the state. The two northernmost sightings were at Hardwick and Memphremagog. Six Goshawks were reported this summer. One was present throughout the season, feeding on House Finches after an unsuccessful attempt to grab a pet Sulfur-crested Cockatoo (HWT, JMT). Of the fifteen Sharp-shinned Hawks sighted, only one new breeding confirmation was obtained. The ever-rare Cooper's Hawk remained just that for another summer season. Atlasers turned up three new possible breeding locations, and a fourth bird was seen five times throughout the summer (GTL). Red-tailed Hawks were observed in typical numbers from widespread areas of the state. The seasonal high was seven in one field in Shelburne (WRB). A partially albinistic adult was present throughout the season in Starksboro for the third consecutive year (WRB). Ten Red-shouldered Hawk reports resulted in three breeding records. Atlasers added thirty-eight new sites for Broad-winged Hawk, with contributors seeing an additional five individuals. The three Bald Eagles seen this summer seems to constitute an average number of sightings over the last six years. It is interesting to note that an adult has been reported from the South Bay of Lake Memphremagog in 1975, '76, '78, and '79 as well as this year. Summer reports of Northern Harrier are always few in number, so the ten submitted this season are very welcome. Especially exciting was the discovery of a nest with three young (feeding on a fourth, dead sibling) (LNM), and a nest with five young in Shoreham 6/30 (SBL, BLR) for the fourth and fifth breeding records for Atlas. Since we are still awaiting the reestablishment of the Osprey as a breeding species in the state, any summer sighting tends to give a spark of hope. Five birds were reported from four locations. A single Peregrine Falcon seen in Grafton becomes the fourth summer re-

(WRB); Atlas-49 new, 37 CO. Bobwhite: 6/10 Middlesex, 1 (RAJ); 7/10-28 Tirmouth, 1-3 (GTL). Turkey: 6/2 Rutland, 1 (RHH); 6/10 Milton-Georgia town line, 1 (MJM, PFZ).

RAILS

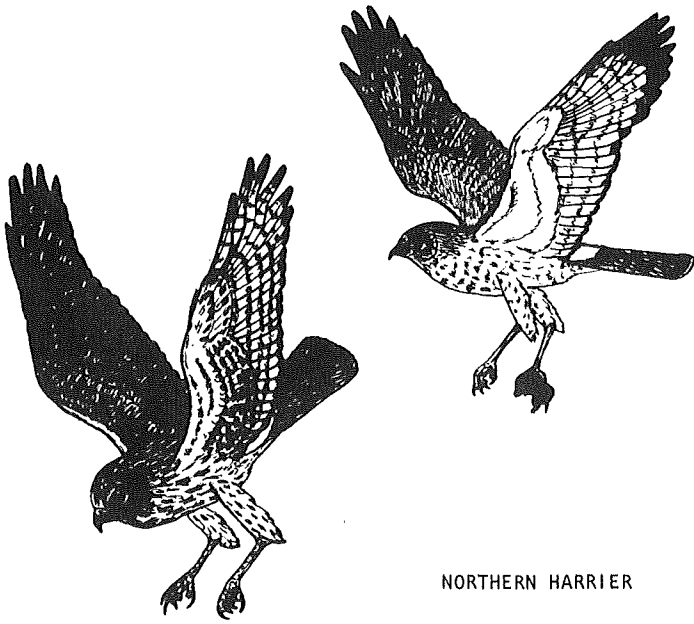
While most reports of Virginia Rail came from the expected locations (i.e. DCWMA, W. Rutland Marsh, South Bay Marshes), 10 other locations also yielded this species. A new breeding record came from Bellows Falls. Only two Soras and three Common Gallinules were seen.

Virginia Rail: 6/1 DCWMA, 3 (ELW); 6/1 W. Rutland Marsh, 1 (RHH), 2 (WJN); 6/11 South Bay, 1 (VBBC); 6/10 Lake Hortonia, 1 (ALG, WGE); 6/18 Coventry, 2 (NLM, WGE); 6/26 Washington, 2 (NLM, WGE); 7/19 W. Rutland Marsh, 1 fl. (NLM, WGE); Atlas-9 new, 1 CO. Sora: 6/1 W. Rutland Marsh, 1 (WJN); 6/12 South Bay, 1 (VBBC). Common Gallinule: 6/1 W. Rutland Marsh, 1 (WJN); 6/10 DCWMA, 1 (ALG, WGE); 7/16 Winooski River Delta, 1 (MWH, DLC; also WRB).

PLOVERS THROUGH TERNS

For only the third summer record since 1973, a Semipalmated Plover arrived at the Winooski River Delta on 7/23 (WRB), a week ahead of last year's sighting. Killdeer were numerous and widespread with atlas workers confirming 23 of 33 new blocks. Three late Ruddy Turnstones at Button Bay on 6/12 were also a third summer record. American Woodcock, Common Snipe, and Spotted Sandpiper were all well documented by the atlas team. Upland Sandpipers were limited to the Champlain Valley and a single report from Newport. A maximum of eleven was seen on 6/15 in Swanton (NLM, WGE). A Solitary Sandpiper in Plymouth began the fall migration on 7/5. A BAIRD'S SANDPIPER*, the first ever reported during the summer season in Vermont, was seen with Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers at the Winooski River Delta on 7/16. A week later, two Lesser Yellowlegs and three SANDERLINGS were found at this location, the latter species not being seen in the summer since 1975. On 6/13, a Phalarope sp. was observed from the Burlington ferry, becoming only the second summer record of a bird generally observed during the fall season. Also out of season was a possible ICELAND GULL* found with Ring-billed Gulls at the Winooski River Delta on 7/10. This could constitute a new summer record for this northern species. Only one report of Herring Gull was received along with a mere half dozen for Ring-billed Gull. All sightings of Bonaparte's Gulls were made at the Winooski River Delta with the three to five seen on 7/10 being the earliest record for this species. A report of Common Tern comes also from this location--what about St. Albans Bay? Their nesting success on Champlain was apparently down this year. High counts of Black Tern included 18 at the

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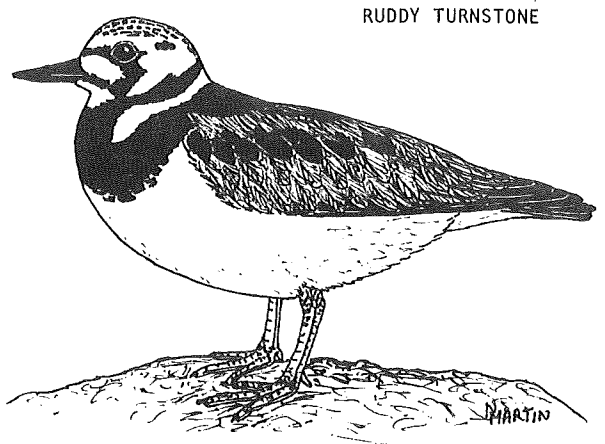
NORTHERN HARRIER

cord for this species. The American Kestrel continues to be the most common diurnal raptor. A total of sixty-three individuals were seen with a high of thirty-three at DCWMA on 7/22 (ALG, NLM, WGE).

Turkey Vulture: 6/1 Shrewsbury, 4 (LPS); 6/15 Shoreham, 3 (ELW); 6/15 DCWMA, 5 (WRB); 6/18 Hardwick, 1 (MFM); 6/18 White River Jct., 1 (MFM); 6/19 Wardsboro, 1 (WJN); 7/15 Bristol, 3 (NLM, WGE); 7/26 Snake Mt., 2 ad., 1 imm. (JJA); 7/26 Weathersfield Bow, 14 (NLM, WGE); Atlas-13 new, 1 probable (hereafter PR). Goshawk: 6/1-7/31 Old Bennington, 1 (HWT, JMT); 6/14 Franklin, 1 (NLM, WGE); Atlas-4 new, 1 PR. Sharp-shinned Hawk: 6/15 N. Bennington, 1 (J & JH); 6/17 Rutland, 1 (RHH); 7/7 Starksboro, 1 (WRB); Atlas-11 new, 1 CO. Cooper's Hawk: 6/6 Tirmouth, 1 "seen five times" (GTL); Atlas-3 new. Red-tailed Hawk: 6/1 DCWMA, 3 (ELW); 6/10 DCWMA, 5 (ALG, WGE); "25 for the season" (WGE); throughout the season, Tirmouth, 12 (GTL); Sandgate, 2 ad., 1 yg. (HWT); Starksboro, 2 ad., 2 yg. (WRB); 7/22 Shelburne, 7 (WRB); Atlas-26 new, 5 CO. Red-shouldered Hawk: 6/3 Winhall, 1 (WJN); 6/9 S. Burlington, 2 imm. (WRB); 6/11 Searsburg, 1 (ALG, WGE); 6/29 N. Pomfret, active nest (MHR); Atlas-5 new, 2 CO. Broad-winged Hawk: 20 for the season (WGE); 6/1 Plainfield, 1 (MFM); 6/5-7/28 Winhall, 1 (WJN); 7/3 So. Strafford, 1 (HR); Atlas-38 new, 9 CO. Bald Eagle: 6/9 Lake Bomoseen, 1 with white head, some brown in tail (EE); 6/11 and 6/12 South Bay, 1 ad. (ORE, VBBC); 6/21 Shoreham, 1 ad. (CP). Northern Harrier: 6/1 DCWMA, 2 (ELW); 6/9 Hinesburg, 1 m. (WRB); 6/10 DCWMA, 5 (ALG, WGE); 6/18 Coventry, 1 (WGE); 7/11 to 7/28 Shoreham, 1-3 (ELW); 7/16 E. Brighton, nest w/3 yg. (LNM); Atlas-2 new. Osprey: 6/11 Craftsbury, 1 (VBBC); 7/17 Marshfield, 1 (MFM); 7/25 Starksboro, 2 (WRB); 7/26 Perkinsville, 1 (NLM, WGE). Peregrine Falcon: 6/23 Grafton, 1 (LKK). American Kestrel: 6/1 Rutland, 1 (RHH); 6/8 Pittsford, 1 (BMZ); 7/11-29 Shoreham, 3-5 (ELW); Atlas-36 new, 19 CO.

GALLINACEOUS BIRDS

No reports were received this summer for Spruce Grouse or Gray Partridge. Ruffed Grouse, on the other hand, was well reported, as would be expected. Observer comments included "constantly flushing grouse" (HWT), "heard daily" (RYG, JGG), "present throughout in many woods" (WJN), etc. Bobwhite were seen at two locales, but there was no indication of breeding at either. Turkey sightings were down this year with only three individuals observed. The northernmost report came from the Milton-Georgia town line near the shore of Lake Champlain. Ruffed Grouse: "39 adults in atlas blocks" (WGE); 7/1 Shrewsbury, 1 ad., 6 yg. (LPS); 7/20 Starksboro, 7



RUDDY TURNSTONE

South Slang on 6/2 and 20 at DCWMA on 6/13. A new breeding record occurred at Colchester Point.

Semipalmated Plover: 7/23 Winooski River Delta, 1 (WRB); 7/24 Winooski River Delta, 5 (MWh). Killdeer: 6/1 DCWMA, 5 (ELW); 6/13 Shoreham, 6 (ELW); 6/10 Swanton, 10 (NLM, WGE); Atlas-33 new, 23 CO. Ruddy Turnstone: 6/12 Button Bay, 3 (CWJ). American Woodcock: Atlas-31 new, 6 CO. Common Snipe: 6/18 Coventry, 5 (NLM, WGE); 7/23 Winooski River Delta, 2 (WRB); Atlas-22 new, 0 CO. Upland Sandpiper: 6/5 Addison, 5 (ELW); 6/6 N. Ferrisburg, 1 (DHH, BDF); 6/10 DCWMA, 2, Orwell, 1 (ALG, WGE); 6/12 Newport, 2 (FT, VBCC); 6/15 DCWMA 1 ad., 1 fl. (MJM, WRB); 6/15 Swanton, 11 (some fl's) (NLM, WGE); Atlas-3 new, 2 CO. Spotted Sandpiper: 6/1 to 7/31 S. Londonderry, 1 (WJN); 6/1 DCWMA, 3 (ELW); 6.18 Shoreham, 8 (ELW); 7/10 Rochester, 7 (NLM, WGE); Atlas-33 new, 18 CO. Solitary Sandpiper: 6/25 Bristol, 1 (PFZ, BDF); 7/5 Plymouth, 1 (SBL, JDL); 7/10 Rochester, 1 (NLM, WGE); 7/22 DCWMA, 3 (NLM, WGE); 7/23 Winooski River Delta, 2 (WRB); 7/25 Grotton State Forest, 2 (ELW). Lesser Yellowlegs: 7/22 Bridport, 1 (ALG, NLM, WGE); 7/23 Winooski River Delta, 1 (WRB). BAIRD'S SANDPIPER*: 7/16 Winooski River Delta, 1 (MWh, DLC). Least Sandpiper: 6/9 Blodgett's Beach, 1 (WRB); 7/23 Winooski River Delta, 12 (WRB). Semipalmated Sandpiper: 7/16 Winooski River Delta, (MWh, DLC); 7/23 Winooski River Delta, 9 (WRB). SANDERLING: 7/24 Blodgett's Beach, 3 (MWh). PHALAROPE sp.: 6/13 Lake Champlain, Burlington, 1 (PFZ, et al.). ICELAND GULL*: 7/10 Winooski River Delta, 1 (CWS, LNM). Herring Gull: 7/29 Shelburne, 24 (WRB). Ring-billed Gull: 6/1 Rutland, 3 (RHH); 6/1 Addison, 40 (ELW); 6/17 Newport, 30+ (WGE); 7/16 Grand Isle/ Burlington, 100+ (ALG, NLM, WGE); 7/29 Shelburne, 165 (WRB). Bonaparte's Gull: 7/10, 3-5 (CWS, LNM); 7/16, 6 (NLM, WGE); 7/23, 1 ad., 3 imm. (WRB); all seen at Winooski River Delta. Common Tern: 7/16 Winooski River Delta, 20+ (NLM, WGE); 7/23 Winooski River Delta, 8 (WRB). Apparently high winds in early June had a disastrous effect on the Common Tern colonies on Champlain; 286 adults were counted on the survey 6/28, with 93 still on eggs (renesting?) and no young in evidence (SBL, JDL, JK, and RK). Black Tern: 6/1 DCWMA, 15+ (ELW); 6/2 S. Slang, 18 (JID, MCD); 6/11 South Bay, 6-8 (MJM, VBCC); 6/13 DCWMA, 20 (ELW); 7/23 Winooski River Delta, 11 (WRB); Atlas-2 new, 1 CO.

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DOVES AND CUCKOOS

As everyone can probably testify, Rock Doves are holding their own with such contributor comments as "very common at all times" (ELW), "usual numbers" (WJN), and "locally common" (WGE). Mourning Doves also seem to be doing very well throughout the state, with a high count of fifty reported from Shoreham (ELW). Yellow-billed Cuckoo reports continued to increase this year, and since a majority of these come from southern and western Vermont, a sighting in Bolton is worth noting (SRA). Not unusual, four times as many Black-billed Cuckoo reports were received from most sections of the state.

Rock Dove: Atlas-38 new, 19 CO. Mourning Dove: "seen daily in numbers" Old Bennington (HWT, JMT); "common" Timmouth, (GTL); 6/1 Shoreham, 12 (ELW); 6/16 Avery's Gore, 12 (NLM, WGE); 7/15 Manchester, 10 "increasing" (WJN); Atlas-8 new, 18 CO. Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 6/3 Winhall, 1 (WJN); 6/13 Bolton, 1 (SRA); 6/28 Shaftsbury, 2 (J & JH); 7/7 Killington, 1 (EWG); 7/7 Chester 1 (WJN); Atlas-8 new, 0 CO. Black-billed Cuckoo: 6/1 Clarendon, 1 (CJF); 6/3-28 Winhall, 1-2 (WJN); 6/13 Shoreham, 4 (ELW); 6/16 Wells, 6 (NLM, WGE); 6/19 Shrewsbury, 2 mating (LPS); 6/15 DCWMA, Ad. feeding yg. (hereafter FY) (WRB, MJM); 6/28 Thetford, Nest with yg. (hereafter NY) (GFE); Atlas-47 new, 12 CO.

OWLS

A total of eight sightings of Screech Owls was made

this summer with all but two coming from the Lake Plains region. Great Horned Owls were found in all regions except the Northeast Kingdom with four new breeding records obtained. Barred Owls were widely distributed with a maximum of four seen in Addison on 6/13 (ELW). One atlas tallied sixteen for the season (WGE). The rare Long-eared Owl was found in West Haven and Benson. In West Haven, a pair was heard calling on 6/13 (SBL, JDL), and it was discovered that people living in the area have heard them calling from April to early summer for the past six years! Surely one of the biggest thrills of the season was Atlas's second breeding record for SHORT-EARED OWL. An adult and five young were found and photographed in Shoreham (ELW). Finally, Saw-whet Owl was confirmed for the fourth time in one of six new atlas blocks.

Screech Owl: 6/16 Grand Isle, 1 (NLM); 7/22 Weybridge, 1 (ALG, NLM, WGE); Rochester, 1 (CDO); Atlas-5 new, 0 CO. Great Horned Owl: 6/10 Panton, 1 (ALG, WGE); 7/14 Bolton, 2 (NLM, WGE); 7/20-31 Shoreham, 2 (ELW); Atlas-17 new, 4 CO. Barred Owl: 6/1 to 7/31 Starksboro, 2 (WRB); 6/13 Addison, 4 (ELW); 6/17 Jay, 3 (NLM, WGE); 7/5 Shrewsbury, 3 (LPS); 7/23 Timmouth, 1 (GTL); "present throughout in all areas" (WJN); "present throughout", Cambridge, (RYG, JGG); Atlas-30 new, 5 CO. Long-eared Owl: 6/13 West Haven, 2 (SBL, JDL). Short-eared Owl: 6/2 Shoreham, 1 (ELW); 7/11 Shoreham, 1 ad., 5 yg. (ELW). Saw-whet Owl: Atlas-6 new, 1 CO.

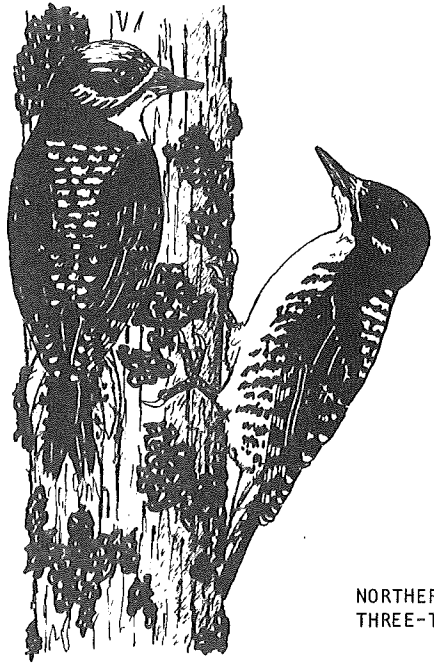
WHIP-POOR-WILL THROUGH KINGFISHER

A handful of Whip-poor-wills were reported, mainly from the Connecticut River Valley, Western Foothills and Lake Plains regions. There were even fewer sightings of the Common Nighthawk. A hint for the fall season (a little known fact by very few people) is that nighthawks begin to migrate in mid-August, particularly, it seems, down the Connecticut River Valley. Mass. Audubon conducts an official nighthawk watch from August 20 to September 7, and last year they counted 22,460 birds! As of 1979, Chimney Swifts had been found in 79% of the atlas blocks and this year 39 new blocks were added. Well over 100 were seen going to roost in the chimney of the geology building at UVM (MJM, PFZ). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were seen by many throughout the state. A high count of eleven was recorded in Searsburg on 6/12, and one atlas worker had fifty-two for the season (WGE). Belted Kingfishers were also numerous, and an interesting observation was made of one carrying a dead nestling, probably a kingbird (WGE).

Whip-poor-will: 6/2 Rutland, 2 (RHH); 6/8 Weathersfield, 1 (ELW); 6/17 Randolph, 1 (EWC, MCC); 6/21 Quechee, 1 (BKW); 6/22 Hartland Four Corners, 1 (ECS); Atlas-4 new. Common Nighthawk: Hartford, Rutland, Woodstock, 1-2/location (WGE); 6/10 Rutland, 1 (CJF); 7/17 Burlington, 5 (WRB); Atlas-1 new. Chimney Swift: 6/1 Rutland, 6 (RHH); 6/1 Winhall, 10 (WJN); 6/2 S. Strafford, 1 (HR); 7/8 Pittsford, 9 (NLM, WGE); Atlas-39 new, 13 CO. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Timmouth, 3 daily (GTL); 6/12 Searsburg, 11 (ALG, WGE); Mt. Holly, 2 prs. nested (AEB); Cambridge, 3 daily (RYG, JGG); Pittsford, pr. throughout (BMZ); Atlas-32 new, 7 CO. Belted Kingfisher: 6/2 Rutland, 2 (RHH); 6/2 Shoreham, 2 (ELW); 7/14 Thetford, 4 (NLM, WGE); 7/16 Isle La Motte, 4 (WGE, NLM); 7/23 Winooski River Delta, 6+ (WRB); Atlas 45 new, 25 CO.

WOODPECKERS

Common Flickers, Pileated, Hairy, and Downy Woodpeckers, and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were all well reported and confirmed as breeders this summer. The only contradictory remark comes from Timmouth where Pileated Woodpeckers were considered "uncommon to rare" by one observer (GTL). Six sightings resulted in three breeding confirmations for the uncommon Red-headed Woodpecker. The location of a nest in Cabot is worth noting as this species is mostly found in the Champlain Valley. Three records of Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker in the Northeast Kingdom led to two nests, one a new site and the other within



NORTHERN
THREE-TOED WOODPECKER

fifty yards of last year's. Even more exciting, and possibly the highlight of the summer, was the first Atlas breeding record for NORTHERN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER, representing the first Vermont breeding record in many years. Two adults were observed feeding a young bird between Great and Little Averill Ponds (LNM).

Common Flicker: all records were throughout the period with high counts of 10-15, Mt. Holly (AEB); 10 Winhall (WJN); 10 Tunbridge (NLM, WGE); 5-10, Bennington (HWT); Atlas-45 new, 23 CO. Pileated Woodpecker: 6/1 Old Bennington, 1 (HWT, JMT); 6/16 Shrewsbury, 1 (LPS); Shoreham, 1-3 throughout (ELW); Winhall, 1 (WJN); 7/11 Marshfield, 1 (MFM); 21 for the season (WGE); Atlas-39 new, 8 CO. Red-headed Woodpecker: 7/6 Cabot, 2 (LNM, MFM, MFO); 6/11 West Haven, pr. at nest (SBL, JDL); 7/19 West Haven, 1 (NLM, WGE); Atlas-3 new, 1 CO. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Marshfield, 3 banded (MFM); Winhall, 10-12 max. (WJN); 7/7 Marlboro, 13 (NLM, WGE); 87 for the season (WGE); Atlas-38 new, 24 CO. Hairy Woodpecker: Mt. Holly, 7 max. (AEB); 6/29 Roxbury, Warren, 7 (NLM, WGE); Atlas-42 new, 29 CO. Downy Woodpecker: Mt. Holly, pr./yg. (AEB); Shoreham, 10 max. (ELW); 7/16 Grand Isle, 8 (NLM, WGE); Atlas-48 new, 37 CO. Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker: 6/7 Ferdinand, 1 (ALG, NLM, WGE); 6/23 Averill, "nested again" (ALG, CWS); 6/24 Guildhall, 1 ad., 3 yg. (LNM). NORTHERN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER: 7/16 Averill Pond, 2 ad., 1 yg. (LNM).

FLYCATCHERS

The Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, and Eastern Phoebe are our most common large flycatchers. High counts for each species included twenty-one Kingbirds in Tunbridge on 7/12 (NLM, WGE), ten Great Crested in Coventry on 6/18 (NLM, WGE), and in Waterbury on 6/30 (GFE, WGE), and thirteen Phoebes on the 25-mile Post Mills Breeding Bird Survey (BBS hereafter) Route on 6/27 (GFE, WGE). The more restricted Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was found mostly in its preferred Northeast Highlands, with a few higher elevation, southern sites also noted. The Willow Flycatcher, called an "uncommon and local breeder" by Ellison, was fairly well reported from its expected haunts in the Champlain Lowlands, Connecticut Valley and the Newport area, whereas the Alder Flycatcher was better represented in the northern sections with fewer reports from southern and western areas. Least Flycatchers and Eastern Wood Pewees were seen in numerous, scattered sites throughout the state. Ellison recorded 187 and 68 individuals respectively. Only four sightings of Olive-sided Flycatcher occurred in southern Vermont for a species that is fairly well distributed in northern and eastern sections.

Eastern Kingbird: 157 in atlas blocks (WGE); Mt. Holly, 5-6 throughout (AEB); Winhall, 8 max. (WJN); 6/13 to 7/31 Cambridge, 4 max. (RYG, JGG); Atlas-45 new, 37 CO. Great Crested Flycatcher: 65 in atlas blocks (WGE); 6/16 Mt. Holly, pr. (AEB); 6/29 Shoreham, 4 (ELW); Atlas-40 new, 17 CO. Eastern Phoebe: 6/1 Old Bennington, Nest with eggs (hereafter NE) (HWT); 6/1 Sandgate, NE (HWT); 6/15, 7/24 Starksboro, two clutches (WRB); 7/7 Chester, 6 (WJN); Atlas-32 new, 31 CO. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 6/7 Ferdinand, 7 (NLM, WGE, et al.); 6/12 Winhall, 1 (WJN); 6/21 Morgan, 6 (GFE, WGE); 12 in atlas blocks (WGE); Atlas-11 new, 2 CO. Willow Flycatcher: 6/1 W. Rutland Marsh, 2 (WJN); 6/10 DCWMA, 3 (ALG, WGE); 6/12 Winhall, 3 (WJN); 7/19 W. Rutland (NLM, WGE); Atlas-14 new, 1 CO. Alder Flycatcher: 6/1 W. Rutland Marsh, 3 (WJN); 6/21 Morgan, 9 (GFE, WGE); 7/7 Chester, 3 (WJN); 68 in atlas blocks (WGE); Atlas-38 new, 14 CO. Least Flycatcher: Marshfield, 9 banded (MFM); 6/12 Searsburg, 20 (ALG, WGE); 6/28 Winhall, 6 (WJN); Atlas-47 new, 21 CO. Eastern Wood Pewee: 6/15 Swanton, 8 (NLM, WGE); Atlas-41 new, 13 CO.; "declining" (WJN). Olive-sided Flycatcher: Winhall, 1-2 throughout, "some comeback" (WJN); 7/7 Marlboro, 4 (NLM, WGE); 7/25 Peacham-Bog, 1 (ELW); 21 in atlas blocks (WGE); Atlas-20 new, 3 CO.

HORNED LARK THROUGH SWALLOWS

One last breeding record was obtained in Bridport this summer for Horned Lark, a species which has largely eluded past atlas efforts. Expectedly, all reports were from the Champlain Valley Region. All of the swallows were well reported this summer with Tree, Barn, and Bank Swallows being the most common. Although the number of sightings of Rough-winged Swallow were encouraging with several northern observations, the number of individuals was not impressive. A high of ten was seen at Herrick's Cove on 6/19 (WJN). Cliff Swallows appeared to be doing well throughout the state with most reports indicating nesting. Forty plus nests were found in So. Londonderry (WLC). Only a half dozen Purple Martin reports were received from the Champlain Valley and Newport.

Horned Lark: 6/10 Burlington Airport, 5 (JJA); 6/10 Panton, 1 (ALG, WGE); 6/15 Swanton, 2 (NLM, WGE); 6/15 DCWMA, 3 (WRB); 7/16 Grand Isle, 1 (NLM, WGE); 7/22 DCWMA, 3 (ALG, NLM, WGE); Atlas-4 new, 1 CO. Tree Swallow: 6/1 W. Rutland Marsh, 30 (WJN); 7/23 Killington, 400-500 (BWG); 7/23 Herrick's Cove, 500 (WJN); Atlas-27 new, 21 CO. Bank Swallow: 6/1 S. Londonderry, 10 (WJN); 7/15 Bolton, 55 (NLM, WGE); 7/19 W. Haven, 50+ (NLM, WGE); 7/23 Herrick's Cove, 30 (WJN); 7/28 Dorset, 50 (WJN); Atlas-27 new, 10 CO. Barn Swallow: 6/1 Rutland, 8 (RHH); W. Rutland Marsh, 30 (WJN); 6/28 W. Dorset, 60 (WJN); 7/19 W. Haven, 80+ (NLM, WGE); 451 in atlas blocks (WGE); Atlas-14 new, 13 CO. Rough-winged Swallow: 6/7 Ferdinand, 2 (NLM, WGE); Westford, 4-6 throughout period (MJM); 6/19 Herrick's Cove, 10 (WJN); 7/18 Coventry, 6 (NLM, WGE); 7/19 W. Haven, 7 (NLM, WGE); Atlas-18 new, 5 CO. Cliff Swallow: 6/1 Rutland, 35 (WJN); 6/2 W. Rutland, pr. (CJF); 6/18 Mt. Holly, NE (AEB); 6/24 Kirby, 29 (GFE, WGE); Ferrisburg, 12 prs. (JID, MCD); Atlas-30 new, 24 CO. Purple Martin: 6/17 Newport, 30+ (ALG, NLM, WGE, CWS, CCR); 7/16 Winooski River Delta, several (WRB); 7/16 Grand Isle, 47 (NLM, WGE); 7/22 Addison, 24 (ALG, NLM, WGE); Atlas-2 new, 2 CO.

JAYS THROUGH CREEPER

A sighting of four Gray Jays in Ferdinand and a new breeding confirmation in the same township were the only summer records of this northern species. Blue Jays appear to be doing well throughout the state. Common Ravens were seen in many locations but only three new breeding records were obtained, the southernmost being in the Woodstock North Quad. Common Crows were also widespread and numerous with a season high of 75+ in Starksboro from 7/20 to the end of the season (WRB). The southernmost report of Boreal Chickadee was in East Barre, with a maximum of four

at Moose Bog on 6/7 (NLM, WGE, et al.). Tufted Titmouse sightings were few with two new confirmations in W. Rupert and Springfield. Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch and Red-breasted Nuthatch were all well distributed in Winhall, Brown Creepers seemed to be "declining" (WJN) although atlasers found this species in thirty-five new blocks.

Gray Jay: 6/22 Ferdinand, 4 (NLM, WGE, et al.); Atlas-2 new, 1 CO. Blue Jay: Randolph, 15-20 max. (EWC, MCC); Old Bennington, 10+ daily (HWT, JMT); Mt. Holly, 10-20 daily (AEB); 7/12 Tunbridge, 22 (NLM, WGE); 238 in atlas blocks (WGE); Atlas-44 new, 30 CO. Common Raven: Starksboro, 2 (WRB); Mt. Holly, 2 throughout (AEB); Tinnmouth, "common" (GTL); 6/22 Ferdinand, 5 (GFE, WGE); Atlas-27 new, 3 CO. Common Crow: Old Bennington, 20+ daily (HWT); 6/15 Swanton, 22 (NLM, WGE); 6/27 Post Mills BBS Route, 50 (GFE, WGE); Atlas-47 new, 32 CO. Black-capped Chickadee: Old Bennington, 20+ daily (HWT, JMT); 7/7 Marlboro, 30 (NLM, WGE); 415 in atlas blocks (WGE); Atlas-38 new, 32 CO. Boreal Chickadee: 6/7 Moose Bog, 4 (NLM, WGE, et al.); 6/18 Brownington, 2 (NLM, WGE); 6/21 Morgan, 2 (GFE, WGE); 7/2 Wheelock 1 (GFE, WGE); 7/3 Lake Cami, 1 (GFE, NLM, WGE); 7/27 Moose Bog, 2 (ELW); Atlas-12 new, 5 CO. Tufted Titmouse: 6/6, 6/15 Starksboro, 1 (WRB); 7/15 Manchester, 1 (WJN); 7/24 Hartford, 1 (WGE); Atlas-4 new, 2 CO. White-breasted Nuthatch: Pittsford, 6-10 daily (BMZ) 6/11 Shoreham, pr. w/5 yg. (ELW); 50 in atlas blocks (WGE); Atlas-50 new, 18 CO. Red-breasted Nuthatch: "usual numbers throughout" (WJN); Marshfield, 1 banded (MFM); 7/25 Groton State Forest, 6 (ELW); Atlas-38 new, 17 CO. Brown Creeper: 7/1-19 Winhall, 1 (WJN); 7/12 Tunbridge, 5 (NLM, WGE); 42 in atlas blocks (WGE); Atlas-35 new, 17 CO.

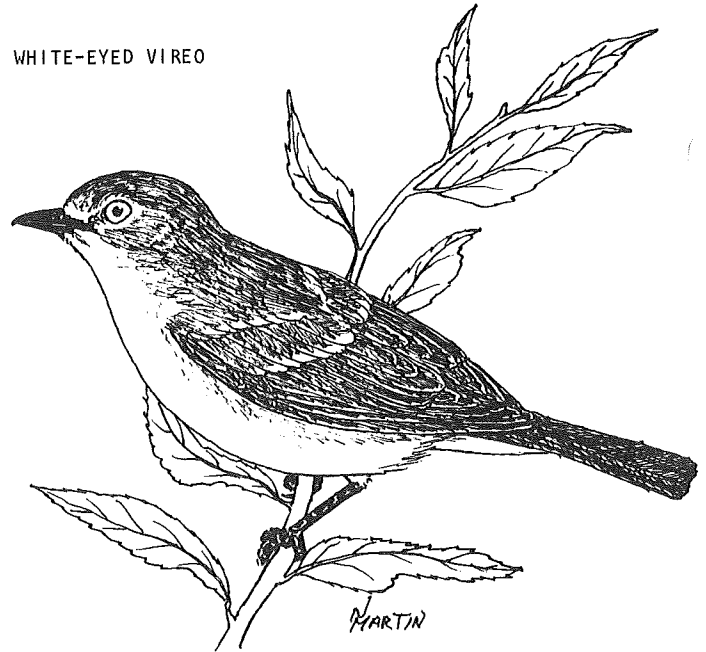
7/25 Groton State Forest, 2 (ELW); Atlas-34 new, 9 CO. Long-billed Marsh Wren: 6/1 DCWMA, 40+ (ELW); 7/19 W. Rutland Marsh, 18+ (NLM, WGE); Atlas-4 new, 1 CO. Northern Mockingbird: 6/1 Rutland, 2 (RHH); 6/11 Shoreham, 2 (ELW); 6/13 Rutland, 4 (CJF); Atlas-23 new, 9 CO. Gray Catbird: well reported throughout, 6/7 Rutland, NE (CJF); Atlas-41 new, 28 CO. Brown Thrasher: 6/8 Winhall, 4 (WJN); 7/13 Shoreham, 10 (ELW); Atlas-29 new, 15 CO. American Robin: 6/10 Brownsville, 3 Fl. (JEH, BMH); 6/26 Post Mills BBS Route, 45 (GFE, WGE); 7/12 Tunbridge, 44 (NLM, WGE); Atlas-22 new, 22 CO. Wood Thrush: 136 in atlas blocks (WGE); 6/26 Washington, 13 throughout period (WJN); Starksboro, "present throughout" (WRB); Atlas-35 new, 14 CO. Swainson's Thrush: 6/10, 7/28 Winhall, 1, 2 (WJN); 7/9 Rochester, 18 (NLM, WGE); Atlas-11 new, 4 CO. Gray-cheeked Thrush: 6/23 Lemington, 4 (WGE, GFE); 6/27-30 Winhall, 1 (WJN); 7/16 Mt. Mansfield Summit, 1 (RYG, JGG); Atlas-none. Veery: 6/1 Rutland, 2 (RHH); Tinnmouth, "common" (GTL); Starksboro, "frequent" (WRB); Winhall, 15-20 max/day (WJN); 6/18 Coventry, 26 (NLM, WGE); Atlas-41 new, 29 CO. Eastern Bluebird: Mt. Holly, pr. w/1 yg. (AEB); Ferrisburg, 2 pr. (JID, MCD); Tinnmouth, 1 pr., 2 broods (GTL); Atlas-24 new, 21 CO. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 7/19 W. Haven, 4 (NLM, WGE); Atlas-8 new, 4 CO. Golden-crowned Kinglet: 7/2 Wheelock/Stannard, 13 (GFE, WGE); 7/9 Rochester, 13 (NLM, WGE); 71 in atlas blocks (WGE); Atlas-39 new, 23 CO. Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 6/7 Moose Bog, 4 (NLM, WGE); 7/2 Wheelock, 1 (GFE, WGE); 7/21 Morgan, 2 (GFE, WGE); Atlas-13 new, 2 CO. Cedar Waxwings: 6/16 Mt. Holly, 10+ (AEB); 6/24 Kirby, 34 (GFE, WGE); 6/28 Shrewsbury, nest building (hereafter NB) (LPS); Atlas-51 new, 39 CO.

WRENS THROUGH SHRIKES

House Wrens were widespread throughout except for the Northeast Kingdom. Atlasers found Winter Wren in thirty-four new blocks with a maximum of eight at Wheelock on 7/2 (GFE, WGE). All reports for Long-billed Marsh Wren came from the Champlain Valley and West Rutland Marsh. There were no records of Short-billed Marsh Wren last summer. The Northern Mockingbird is still doing well in the Connecticut River Valley and the western portion of the state with nine new confirmations this year. A sighting in Lemington is noteworthy being so far north (WGE, GFE). Brown Thrashers were "down to zero" in Tinnmouth (GTL) and "seemed down" in Cambridge (RYG, JGG). However, there were twenty-nine new atlas locations and fifteen breeding confirmations, with four northern sites in Averill (2), Montgomery, and Newport. American Robin was common with the same number of confirmations as new blocks. Wood and Hermit Thrushes and Veery were also commonly reported species this season. A high of eighteen Swainson's Thrushes was seen on 7/9 in Rochester (NLM, WGE). Only two other reports plus eleven atlas records were received for this species of higher elevations. The Gray-cheeked Thrush, a bird usually observed above 3000' in elevation in Vermont, was only reported three times this summer. Eastern Bluebird appeared to have a very successful year in most sectors, although nest failure was recorded in Sandgate (HWT), W. Windsor (LSB), S. Strafford (HR), and Pittsford (BMZ). Not surprisingly, 24 of the 25 bluebird boxes at DCWMA were occupied by Tree Swallows. A nesting of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers at Duxbury was noteworthy in the Green Mountains. Breeding of Golden-crowned Kinglets was well documented this year. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were found nesting in West Rupert, a good southern record for a species which is more common in the North Central and Northeastern regions of the state. While most other records would indicate otherwise, Cedar Waxwings were considered to have a "poor year" in Winhall (WJN). In the northeast there were "hundreds everywhere" (JID, MCD). No reports of Loggerhead Shrikes were received.

House Wren: Pittsford, "none" (BMZ); Tinnmouth, "ubiquitous" (GTL); 6/16 Grand Isle, 10 (NLM, WGE); 7/7 Chester, 4 (WJN); Atlas-26 new, 14 CO. Winter Wren: Starksboro, 1 throughout (WRB); 7/2 Wheelock, 8 (GFE, WGE); 7/7 Chester, 3 (WGN); 7/22 Shrewsbury, 1 (LPS);

WHITE-EYED VIREO



VIREOS THROUGH WARBLERS

Two Yellow-throated Vireo breeding records were obtained in Worcester (RAJ et al.) and Irasburg. A WHITE-EYED VIREO in Cornwall located first by song and then carefully identified by sight 6/6 represents Vermont's sixth state record (BBP, JP). Solitary Vireos seemed to be present in usual numbers. Red-eyed and Warbling Vireos remain common and widespread. Ellison observed 777 red-eyes in atlas blocks this season. The Philadelphia Vireo, a "rare and local breeder" in the Green Mountains and the Northeast Highlands, was confirmed in three new blocks and was observed in West Rupert. Atlas records still show the most common and widely distributed warblers to include the Black and White, Nashville, Yellow, Magnolia, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Canada, and American Redstart. A Golden-

winged Warbler nest with four young was located near the Monkton-Charlotte town line on 6/9 (DDa, CWS). Two more confirmations came from Brandon and West Rutland. Only a single record for the rarer Blue-winged Warbler came from Benson, apparently mated to a male Brewster's. Another rare nester, the Tennessee Warbler was said to be "possibly attempting breeding" in Winhall when two different singing males were heard between 6/25 and 7/20 (WJN). Norse reports the status of the Northern Parula Warbler as a "continuing decline" in his area. Only a single breeding confirmation was obtained for this species this summer. Cape May Warbler, a rare breeder of the Northeast Kingdom, was reported as a possible breeder in Hardwick. At Lake Carmi SP, a male Cerulean Warbler was found singing on 6/14. The only known nesting site of this species is on the Lamaille River. A single sighting of the boreal Bay-breasted Warbler was a singing male in Winhall from 6/23 to 6/25 (WJN). The Blackpoll Warbler, a species which breeds at higher elevations, was confirmed in the Averill and Island Pond quads. Eighteen were seen on Monadnock Mt. in Lemington on 6/23 (GFE, WGE). Another uncommon species, the Pine Warbler was seen at four scattered locations. The only report of Prairie Warbler was a breeding confirmation in Saxtons River. Thirteen Northern Waterthrushes were seen on 6/18 in Rochester and thirty-five were noted for the season (WGE, NLM). In contrast, the less common Louisiana Waterthrush was reported approximately one-third as often. A sighting in Hyde Park is worth mention for a species which is more often found in the southern half of the state. As expected, most of the reports of Mourning Warbler came from the Green Mountains, eastward.

Yellow-throated Vireo: 6/4-12 S. Strafford, 1 (HR); 6/12 Arlington, 3 (WJN); 6/14 Worcester, 2 ad. visiting nest (RAJ et al.); 6/10 Sudbury, 5 (ALG, WGE); 6/19 Herick's Cove, 3 (WJN); 7/12 Tunbridge, 5 (NLM, WGE); Atlas-27 new, 6 CO. Solitary Vireo: 6/12 Craftsbury Center, female on nest (JID, MCD); 6/16 Avery's Gore, 10 (NLM, WGE); 6/29 Roxbury, 10 (NLM, WGE); 7/27 Island Pond, 2 (ELW); Atlas-28 new, 13 CO. Red-eyed Vireo: 6/27 Post Mills BBS Route, 75 (GFE, WGE); 7/12 Tunbridge, 76 (NLM, WGE); Atlas-48 new, 31 CO. Philadelphia Vireo: 6/16 Avery's Gore, 3 (NLM, WGE); 6/23 Bloomfield, 3 (LNM); 6/30 Winhall, 1 (WJN); 7/8 Pittsfield, 1 (NLM, WGE); Atlas-7 new, 3 CO. Warbling Vireo: 6/10 Sudbury-Panton, 9 (ALG, WGE); 6/12 Arlington-Manchester, 7 (WJN); Atlas-41 new, 17 CO. Black and White Warbler: 6/13 Cambridge, 2 (RYG, JGG); 6/18 Coventry, 11 (NLM, WGE); 106 in atlas blocks (WGE); Atlas-56 new, 31 CO. Golden-winged Warbler: 6/9 Charlotte-Monkton, NY (DDa, CWS); 6/10 Sudbury, 1 (WGE); 6/13-14 W. Rutland Marsh, 1, W. Haven, 1 (SBL, JDL, BLR); 6/15-17 Bennington, 1 (J & JH); Atlas-8 new, 2 CO. Brewster's Warbler: Atlas-1 new, 0 CO. Tennessee Warbler: 6/9 S. Strafford, 1 (HR); 6/25 to 7/20 Winhall, 2 males (WJN); 7/10 Hancock, 1 (NLM, WGE); 7/12 Tunbridge, 1 (NLM, WGE); 7/15 Waitsfield, Starksboro, 1, 1 (NLM, WGE); 3 banded, Marshfield (MFM); Atlas-1 new, 0 CO. Nashville Warbler: 6/3 S. Strafford, 1 (HR); 6/24 Kirby, 13 (GFE, WGE); 82 in atlas blocks (WGE); Atlas 33 new, 18 CO. Northern Parula Warbler: 6/5 to 7/1 Winhall, 1-3 (WJN); 6/22 Ferdinand, 8 (GFE, WGE); Atlas-13 new, 1 CO. Yellow Warbler: 6/3 Shoreham, 25 (ELW); 6/15 Swanton, 33 (NLM, WGE); Atlas-45 new, 34 CO. Magnolia Warbler: Tinnmouth, 1 pr. (GTL); 7/2 Wheelock/Stannard, 16 (GFE, WGE); Atlas-40 new, 19 CO. Cape May Warbler: 6/21 Morgan, 1 (GFE, WGE); 6/23 Lemington, 1 (GFE, WGE); 6/23 Burke Hollow, 1 (ALG, LNM, et al.); Atlas-3 new, 0 CO. Black-throated Blue Warbler: 6/7 Lincoln, 1 (ELW); 6/29 Roxbury/Warren, 16 (GFE, NLM, WGE); 7/9 Rochester, 16 (NLM, WGE); Atlas-34 new, 23 CO. Yellow-rumped Warbler: 6/21 Morgan, 14 (GFE, WGE); Winhall, 8-10 daily (WJN); Atlas-45 new, 30 CO. Black-throated Green Warbler: Winhall, 1-3 daily, (WJN); 7/2 Wheelock/Stannard, 13 (GFE, WGE); Atlas-35 new, 20 CO. Cerulean Warbler: 6/14 Lake Carmi SP, 1 (WGE, CWS, ALG, CCR, NLM). Blackburnian Warbler: 6/2 to 7/19 Winhall, 1-2 "declining" (WJN); 6/21 Morgan, 24 (GFE, WGE); Atlas-35 new, 17 CO. Chestnut-sided Warbler: Marshfield, 10 banded (MFM); Winhall, 15 max. (WJN); 6/12 Searsburg, 35 (ALG, WGE); 341 in atlas

blocks (WGE); Atlas-48 new, 44 CO. Bay-breasted Warbler: 6/23-25 Winhall, 1 (WJN). Blackpoll Warbler: 6/15 Londonderry, 1 (WJN); 6/23 Lemington, 18 (GFE, WGE); Atlas-8 new, 2 CO. Pine Warbler: 6/11 Craftsbury, 1 (MCD, VBBC); 6/27 Thetford, 1 (GFE, WGE); Atlas-2 new, 0 CO. Prairie Warbler: Atlas-1 new, 1 CO. Ovenbird: 6/1 to 7/9 S. Strafford, 1-3 (HR); 6/12 Searsburg, 20 (ALG, WGE); 6/29 Roxbury/Warren, 20 (GFE, WGE, NLM); 263 in atlas blocks (WGE); Atlas-45 new, 36 CO. Northern Waterthrush: Marshfield, 5 banded (MFM); 6/18 Rochester, 13 (NLM, WGE); Atlas-29 new, 14 CO. Louisiana Waterthrush: 6/19 Wardsboro, 1 (WJN); 6/21 Ira, pr. (CJF); 7/9 Rochester, 5 (NLM, WGE); 7/12 Ira, 1 (CJF, RHH); Atlas-8 new, 4 CO. Mourning Warbler: 6/16 Winhall, 1 (WJN); 6/30 Waterbury, (GFE, WGE); Atlas-33 new, 7 CO. Common Yellowthroat: 621 in atlas blocks (WGE); Marshfield, 13 banded (MFM); 6/15 Swanton, 46 (NLM, WGE); 7/2 Elmore, 46 (GFE, WGE); Atlas-32 new, 30 CO. Canada Warbler: 120 in atlas blocks (WGE); Marshfield, 6 banded (MFM); 6/21 Morgan, 15 (GFE, WGE); Atlas-36 new, 16 CO. American Redstart: 446 in atlas blocks (WGE); 6/9 Cambridge, 2 "down" (RYG, JGG); Tinnmouth, 2 "scarce" (GTL); 6/30 Waterbury, 50 (GFE, WGE); Atlas-41 new, 31 CO.

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH TANAGER

Bobolinks were well documented by atlas workers this year, but they were considered "down" in Tinnmouth, where only a single male was observed (GTL). Past years have brought comments of concern over declining Eastern Meadowlark populations. While no such observer remarks were received this year, the numbers of meadowlarks reported were anything but encouraging. Walter Ellison had only 40 in atlas blocks. Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles, and Brown-headed Cowbirds were as numerous as always. Some species found to be parasitized by cowbirds included Red-winged Blackbird, Black-throated Green, Yellow-rumped, Black-and-white, Chestnut-sided, and Yellow Warblers, Red-eyed and Solitary Vireos and Song Sparrow (WGE). Northern Orioles seem to be doing fine throughout the state. Rusty Blackbirds were reported in average numbers with a new breeding site in Winhall (WJN). Scarlet Tanagers were widespread.

Bobolinks: Shoreham, 6-8 throughout (ELW); 6/24 Kirby, 33 (GFE, WGE); 7/24 Starksboro, 16+ (WRB); Atlas-44 new, 37 CO. Eastern Meadowlark: 6/1 Mt. Holly, 2 (AEB); 6/15 Swanton, 8 (NLM, WGE); 7/22 DCWMA, 10 (ALG, WGE, NLM); Atlas-35 new, 14 CO. Red-winged Blackbird: 688 in atlas blocks (WGE); Atlas-24 new, 20 CO. Northern Oriole: Tinnmouth, "unusually common" (GTL); 6/12 Manchester/Arlington, 20 (WJN); 6/13 Shoreham, 4-6 (ELW); 6/18 Swanton, 18 (NLM, WGE); Pittsford, 2-4 daily (BMZ); Atlas-48 new, 36 CO. Rusty Blackbird: 6/7 Moose Bog, 1 (NLM, WGE, et al.); 6/17 Craftsbury, 3 (CWS, CCR); 6/21 Lewis Pond, 2 (LNM, CWS); 6/30 Winhall, 1 w/ yg. (WJN); Atlas-6 new, 2 CO. Common Grackle: 324 in atlas blocks (WGE); Atlas-34 new, 28 CO. Brown-headed Cowbird: Atlas-38 new, 25 CO. Scarlet Tanager: Cambridge, "many more this year" (RYG, JGG); 6/11 Wells, 11 (ALG, WGE); Atlas-47 new, 25 CO.

CARDINAL THROUGH TOWHEE

In keeping with previous years, reports of Cardinals were mostly received from southern and western Vermont. Atlas confirmation was obtained at a northern Champlain Valley site in East Alburg. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were well distributed throughout the state. Although reported as being "down this year" in Cambridge (RYG, JGG), Indigo Buntings were found in 47 new atlas blocks statewide. A total of 117 were seen by WGE. A high of ten Evening Grosbeaks was seen in Craftsbury on 6/12 (MCD, JID). Three nesting records were received for this uncommon breeder. Purple Finches were reported in very good numbers throughout the state. House Finch populations continue to spread throughout southern Vermont and up the Champlain Valley. As usual, summer reports of Pine Siskin were few but a breeding confirmation was obtained at Colchester Point. The American Goldfinch was well distributed

with a total of 247 seen this summer by one observer (WGE). A single report of Red Crossbill came from Londonderry on 6/30 (WJN). As expected, reports of Rufous-sided Towhee came mostly from southern areas. One northern sighting was made in May.

Cardinal: 6/1 Rutland, pr. w/2 yg. (RHH); 6/12 Manchester/Arlington, 10 (WJN); Old Bennington, 2 pr. (HWT); Atlas-19 new, 7 CO. Rose-breasted Grosbeak: Tinmouth, "common" (GTL); Starksboro, pr. w/ yg. (WRB); throughout period, Winhall, 8-10/day (WJN); 6/15 Swanton, 19 (WGE, NLM); 126 in atlas blocks (WGE); Atlas-50 new, 37 CO. Indigo Bunting: 6/1 Clarendon, 1 (CJF); 6/6 Shrewsbury, NE (LPS); 6/7 Lincoln, 3 (ELW); 7/12 Tunbridge, 19 (WGE, NLM); Atlas-47 new, 21 CO. Evening Grosbeak: 6/12 Craftsbury, 10 (JID, MCD); 6/21 Morgan, 1 (GFE, WGE); 7/9-19 Randolph, 2 ad., 2 yg. (EWC, MCC); Mt. Holly, 2 prs. nested (AEB); 7/9 Plainfield, 2 (MFM); Atlas-11 new, 1 CO. Purple Finch: Winhall, 30 max/day (WJN); Cambridge, 10-12 daily (RYG, JGG); Randolph, 25-30 daily (EWC, MCC); S. Strafford, 8-20 daily (HR); Marshfield, 83 banded (MFM); Atlas-38 new, 20 CO. House Finch: 6/2 Rutland, 4, "several prs. nested" (RHH); 6/25-7/31 Burlington, 2 ad., 2 yg. (JJA); Old Bennington, 4 prs. daily (HWT, JMT); 6/26 E. Corinth, pr. (CCR); 7/11 Hartford, 14 (NLM, GFE, WGE); Atlas-9 new, 5 CO. Pine Siskin: 6/27 Fairlee, 1 (GFE, WGE); 7/27 Island Pond, 5 (ELW); Atlas-3 new, 1 CO. American Goldfinch: Shoreham, 2-10 throughout (ELW); Mt. Holly, "too many to count" (AEB); Tinmouth, "very common" (GTL); 6/15 Swanton, 23 (NLM, WGE); Atlas-32 new, 17 CO. Red Crossbill: 6/30 Londonderry, 1 (WJN); Atlas-1 new, 0 CO. Rufous-sided Towhee: Winhall, 1-4 daily (WJN); 6/11 Wells, 6 (ALG, WGE); 6/22 Searsburg, 6 (ALG, WGE); 34 in atlas blocks (WGE); Atlas-22 new, 12 CO.

SPARROWS

Generally considered a common species, especially in the Champlain Valley, the Savannah Sparrow was described as "declining" in Londonderry where only two were seen in June (WJN). Atlas workers located this species in 25 well scattered blocks. Few reports were received for the uncommon Grasshopper Sparrow. However, a nest with five young was found in Shoreham on 6/11 (ELW). Reports of Vesper Sparrow came chiefly from the Champlain Lowlands, but atlasers found this species in a few northeastern blocks with confirmed breeding in Guildhall and St. Johnsbury. Excluding atlas data, very few reports were received for Dark-eyed Junco. Chipping Sparrows were common throughout the state, with a total of 174 seen this summer by WGE. Although 12 Field Sparrows were seen in Washington on 6/26 (NLM, WGE), others reported fewer numbers and Norse sees a "continuing decline" in his area. The common White-throated Sparrow was recorded in usual numbers. Essentially a species of the North Central and Northeast Highland Regions, Lincoln's Sparrow was found in two southern blocks in Searsburg and Woodford. Nesting was confirmed in the latter. Atlas workers found Swamp and Song Sparrows in 37 and 34 new blocks respectively. Confirmations were high for both species. A high of 24 Swamp Sparrows was seen in West Rutland on 7/19 (NLM, WGE). Sixty-five Song Sparrows were observed in Swanton on 6/25 (NLM, WGE) and 621 were seen for the season (WGE).

Savannah Sparrow: 6/3-29 Shoreham, 2-4 (ELW); 6/15 Swanton, 33 (NLM, WGE); Atlas-25 new, 8 CO. Grasshopper Sparrow: 6/2 Shoreham, 1 (ELW); 6/10 Pantton, 5 (ALG, WGE); 6/11 Shoreham, 6 (ELW); 6/26 Bradford, 1 m. (ALG, WGE); Atlas-1 new. Vesper Sparrow: 6/5-6 DCWMA, 8 (MWh); 6/10 DCWMA, 7 (ALG, WGE); 6/24 Guildhall, 1 (LNM); 6/27 Stowe, 1 (SBL); 7/18 Chester, 1 (WJN); Atlas-10 new, 2 CO. Dark-eyed Junco: 6/12 Searsburg, 12 (ALG, WGE); Winhall, 4-5 daily (WJN); 66 in atlas blocks (WGE); Atlas-34 new, 22 CO. Chipping Sparrow: 6/1 Winhall/W. Rutland Marsh, 10 (WJN); Mt. Holly, 10 max. (AEB); Tinmouth, "common nester" (GTL); 7/14 Thetford/Bradford, 25 (NLM, WGE); Atlas-46 new, 42 CO. Field Sparrow: Winhall, 1-3 (WJN); Tinmouth, "common nester" (GTL); 6/26 Washington, 12 (NLM, WGE); Atlas-31 new, 18 CO. White-throated Sparrow: Winhall, 20-25 max/day (WJN); 6/6 Addison, 2 (ELW); Cambridge, 3 (RYG, JGG);

6/26 Washington, 28 (NLM, WGE); 7/25 Groton State Forest, 6 (ELW); 264 in atlas blocks (WGE); Atlas-39 new, 30 CO. Lincoln's Sparrow: 7/2 Wheelock/Stannard, 10 (GFE, WGE); 7/27 Ferdinand, 1 (ELW); Marshfield, 4 banded (MFM); 28 in atlas blocks (WGE); Atlas-24 new, 9 CO. Swamp Sparrow: 6/1 W. Rutland Marsh, 20 (WJN); 6/15 DCWMA, 1 (WRB); 6/18 Coventry, 14 (NLM, WGE); 7/19 W. Rutland, 24 (NLM, WGE); 48 in atlas blocks (WGE); Marshfield, 6 banded (MFM); Atlas-37 new, 24 CO. Song Sparrow: Winhall, 30 max. (WJN); 6/27 Post Mills BBS Route, 62 (GFE, WGE), Atlas-34 new, 29 CO.

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