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SUMMER SEASON 1983

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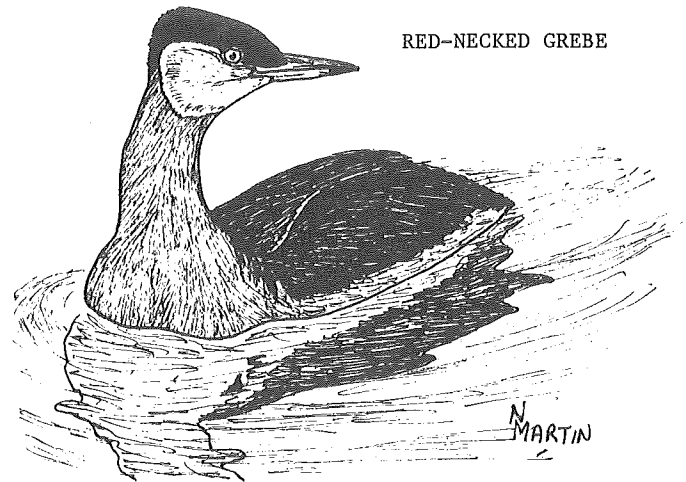
Looking back on the data submitted, the summer of 1983 was one of ups and downs. The ups included several new and exciting breeding records for Vermont. The Double-crested Cormorant colony has expanded in one year to 43 nests. We had our first nesting records for GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL and located the first Vermont nests for GADWALL and TURKEY VULTURE, also the second breeding record in recent years for THREE-TOED WOODPECKER was obtained. Important sight records included the first summer reports for RED-NECKED GREBE, second and third for GREAT EGRET, second for SNOW GOOSE, and a third for STILT SAND-PIPER; and a good count for Bald Eagle, the first verified summer GOLDEN EAGLE.

However, you have to take the bitter with the sweet, and there were several discouraging downs this year. For the Common Loon, only five pairs nested successfully; some concern was expressed for the American Kestrel; the Common Tern had a very depressing breeding season; the Common Barn-Owl nest failed; no Loggerhead Shrikes were seen on survey routes run this summer; and many warblers and some sparrows were described as "low", "declining", or "absent".

Reading the weather summaries for Vermont, one sees that there is such variation between localities throughout the state that it is hard to generalize for all of the areas reporting on their birdlife. However, the first week in June saw the nightly temperatures drop into the 40's and 30's (and even the high 20's) °F in many areas. Rainfall varied widely during the period between the 8th and 24th with some areas recording as little as 0.03 inches to as much as 4.5 inches. July temperatures averaged slightly above normal thanks to the heatwave experienced during the first week. On the 10th and 11th, nighttime temperatures dropped into the upper 30's or low 40's at several stations. Precipitation varied widely due to the usual scattered thunderstorms. The 21st in particular saw strong, gusty winds with hail at several locations causing extensive damage.

Perhaps these weather variations contribute to the "local factors" involved in some of the "disastrous declines in many breeding species" as noted by William Norse, and several other contributors. I, for one, encourage these general comments in your seasonal summaries, and while I cannot include every single sighting submitted, they all add up to give a total picture for each species.

LOONS THROUGH NIGHT-HERONS. This was the seventh summer of the Vermont Common Loon Survey, and the results were discouraging at best. Only 7 pairs attempted to nest, with 5 of these being successful. Each of these pairs fledged 2 young for a total of 10 owls that for some quick math?). Several of the favored, recently utilized lakes and ponds were unproductive this year, and the reasons for this decline are still unclear. A single-day, statewide survey, (Vermont Loon Watch Day) on 30 July tallied 34 adults, 7 immatures, and the 10 chicks. Seven other sightings



RED-NECKED GREBE

of 13 birds were received. Summer reports of Pied-billed Grebe are always few and far between. A single record was sent, that of an adult with 5 young on Basin Harbor in Lake Champlain (MCD,JID). A first summer record for RED-NECKED GREBE came from Lower Waterford (WCh fide JDS). This species is generally considered a rare fall migrant or winter visitor. From a first breeding record of one nest in 1982, the Double-crested Cormorant colony on Young Island exploded to 43 nesting pairs this summer, possibly at the expense of the Cattle Egret and Black-crowned Night-Heron colonies. On 7/30, 213 cormorants were counted on Grand Isle and Young Island (RBL). Ten American Bitterns were seen at six scattered locations, and 4 Least Bitterns at three areas. Great Blue Herons were well documented, with a season maximum of 23 on 7/31 at DCWMA (CF). For only the second time in the summer records, GREAT EGRET was reported twice; three birds were seen at the Brilyea Access of DCWMA on 7/30 (CF), while a single bird was seen at the Farrell Access the following day (KHD). Only two reports were received for Cattle Egret, both, of course, from the Champlain Islands. The number of Green-backed Heron sightings was about normal. A Black-crowned Night-Heron "rookery" was seen in Waltham (JRA), and a season high of 60 was observed on Grand Isle and Young Island (RBL).

Common Loon: 6/2 Kent Pond (CJF); 6/4-6 2-4 Lake Groton (CB); June, 1 Lake Carmi (PJM); 7/17-19 1 ad. 1 imm. Chittenden Reservoir (hereafter Res.) (LPS); 7/30 2 N. Hero (RBL); throughout 1 imm. Marshfield Pond (MJM, m.o). Pied-billed Grebe: 6/1-4 1 ad. 5 yg. Basin Harbor (MCD,JID). RED-NECKED GREBE: 6/8 1 Moore Dam, Lower Waterford (WCh fide JDS). Double-crested Cormorant: 6/1-7/31 1 Button Bay (MCD,JID,IF); 6/6 35 Young Island (DEC); 6/12 140 (43 nests!) Young Is. (VBC); 7/30 213 Grand Isle and Young Is. (RBL). American Bittern: 6/13 1 S. Slang (MCD, JID); 6/20 2 DCWMA (MCD,JID); 7/12 2 Marshfield (DL); 7/20 1 Peacham, 7/22 1 Derby, 7/30 1 DCWMA (all CF); 7/24 1 WRD (WGE). Least Bittern: 6/4 1 DCWMA (LPS); 6/12 1 DCWMA (KHD); 6/14 1 WRM (WJN); 6/20 1 Intervale, Burlington (FO). Great Blue

Heron: Highs: 7/18 22 Dead Creek canoe trip (MCD, JID); 7/24 22 DCWMA (WGE); 7/27 12 Hardwick (MFM); 7/31 23 DCWMA (CF). GREAT EGRET: 7/30 3 DCWMA (CF); 7/31 1 DCWMA (KHD). Cattle Egret. 6/12 9-10 Young Island (VBC); 7/30 42 Grand Isle - Young Is. (RBL). Green-backed Heron: 6/14 2 Williston (WRB); 6/19 1 Orwell (ELW); 6/29 1 Weston (JMN); 7/15-17 1-2 Newport (STH); 7/18 4 Dead Creek canoe trip (MCD, JID); 7/24 1 WRD (WGE). Black-crowned Night-Heron: 6/12 16 Young Is. (VBC); 6/16 2 ad. S. Burlington (WRB); 6/20 2 DCWMA (MCD, JID); 7/30 4 ad. 5 imm. DCWMA (CF); 7/30 60 Grand Isle - Young Is. (RBL).

WATERFOWL. Not since 1974 has a SNOW GOOSE been reported to Records of Vermont Birds (hereafter RVB) during the Summer Season. A single bird seen on 7/10 at DCWMA (TAR) was probably the same individual seen during Birdathon weekend in May. The reports of 5-6 birds in Stowe and 2 on the TWDR were the only sightings outside of the Champlain Valley for Canada Goose. Six reports were received for Wood Duck, mostly from the Lake Plains Region. Missisquoi NWR had 100 breeding pairs with an estimated production of 450 young (JNi). The 3 Green-winged Teal were widely spaced. American Black Duck and Mallard appear to be doing well. A single Northern Pintail was seen at DCWMA on 7/24, while 10 Blue-winged Teal also seen there was the season high, apart from the MNWR's breeding population of 27 pairs and an estimated production of 100 young (JNi). We now have our first actual nest record for GADWALL with the discovery of a female on a nest with 11 eggs on Young Island. Also seen were a female and 8 young in Burlington. A fourth summer report for RVB since 1978 was received for an American Wigeon, also on Young Island. Four sightings of Common Goldeneye came from the northern Champlain Valley, with a nest and young seen at SBWMA on 6/12 and 41 breeding pairs with an estimated 200 young at MNWR (JNi). Besides the 5 breeding pairs and estimated 20 young at MNWR, only 2 other Hooded Mergansers were observed, with a report of "scarce at normal stations" from MCD & JID, while the three reports of Common Merganser yielded an adult with 9 young at the Chittenden Reservoir (LPS).

SNOW GOOSE: 7/10 1 DCWMA (TAR). Canada Goose: 6/3 2 ad. 6 yg. Button Bay (LPS); 6/2-8 2 TWDR (MFM); 6/6 17 Springweather Nature Area (WJN); 6/6 45 DCWMA (ELW); 6/11 50 New Haven (KHD); 7/1 10 Brandon (SLM); 7/3 5-6 Stowe (JMM). Wood Duck: 6/4 f.w/12 yg. S. Slang (MCD, JID); 6/20 26 DCWMA (MCD, JID); 7/21 f.w/5 yg. plus 5 others Marshfield (MJM, BLR); Green-winged Teal: 6/9 f.w/4 yg. HC (WJN); 7/18 1 Newport (STH); 7/24 1 DCWMA (WGE). American Black Duck: numerous reports: 6/1 1 ad. 5 yg. Holland (CF); 7/17 1 ad. 7 yg. Woodstock (JMN); 7/20 1 ad. 8 yg. Lake Carmi (PJM); 7/24 15+ DCWMA (WGE); summer - 30 br. prs. 50 yg. (est.) MNWR (JNi). Mallard: also numerous: 6/6 10 Springfield Meadows (WJN); 7/12 f.w/12 yg. Shoreham (ELW); 7/24 100+ DCWMA (WGE); 7/30 22 Grand Isle (RBL); 7/31 pr.w/yg. Norwich (AAB); summer 72 br. prs. 200 yg. (est.) MNWR (JNi). Northern Pintail: 7/24 1 DCWMA (WGE). Blue-winged Teal: 6/1-6, 1-2 DCWMA (KHD, LPS, ELW); 6/6 2 m., 1 f. Springfield Meadows (WJN); 7/19 10 DCWMA (MCD, JID); 7/30 7 Grand Isle (RBL). GADWALL: 6/1 f. on nest w/11 eggs Young Is. (RBL, SBL, ALG); 6/12 1 Shelburne Farms (JJA, WRB, VBC); 7/24 f.w/8 yg. Burlington (WGE); 7/30 2 Young Is. (RBL). American Wigeon: 6/12 Young Is. (VBC). Common Goldeneye: 6/12 nest SBWMA (WGE, NLM, VBC); 7/23 2 MNWR (JDM); 7/24 2 WRD (WRB); 7/30 23 Grand Isle (RBL); summer - 41 br. prs. 200 yg. (est.) MNWR (JNi). Hooded

Merganser: 6/8 1 Lake Mansfield, Stowe (RYG, JGG); 6/12 1 Gale Meadows "breeder" (WJN); summer - 5 br. prs. 20 yg. (est.) MNWR (JNi). Common Merganser: 7/17 1 ad., 9 yg. Chittenden Res. (LPS); 7/23 5 Taftsville (CAM); 7/30 7 Grand Isle (RBL).

HAWKS. Surely another big event of the summer of 1983 was the discovery of Vermont's first TURKEY VULTURE nest by Robert Galbraith of Montreal. A nest with two eggs was found in Highgate Springs, just south of the Canadian border! Both young fledged successfully. Fourteen other locations also reported this species, with highs of 10 from Milton and 11 from N. Hartland Dam. The two summer Osprey sightings were normal. Ten Bald Eagle reports were received, involving at least 4 and possibly 5 different individuals! Northern Harriers totalled at least 13 with a pair seen nest-building at DCWMA on 6/10. A dismal 3 Sharp-shinned Hawks were seen, while only 2 Cooper's Hawks, a threatened species, were observed. There were also only 2 Northern Goshawks, a low total. The Buteos fared a lot better, with 15 Red-shouldered and 11 Broad-winged, and numerous Red-tailed Hawks reported. The first verified summer record of a GOLDEN EAGLE came from Salisbury on 6/6 when an adult was observed on a power pole (JED). Concern was expressed for the American Kestrel by several contributors. This species was described as "fewer than normal" in Shoreham (ELW) and "missing" in Franklin (PJM). Jeffrey Allen, who has actively installed and monitored nest boxes in Shelburne and Charlotte stated that "all three boxes were abandoned after egg-laying this year". Raccoon predation was the cause in one instance, but there was no explanation for the other two. Two Peregrine Falcon sightings involved a "fly-by" at the VINS hack-site while our young were still in the box, and one seen "chasing a pigeon" in Hardwick - quite possibly one of the released falcons from this year.

TURKEY VULTURE



TURKEY VULTURE: first week of June 2 ad. 2 eggs Highgate Springs (RJG); 6/6 5 Bridport (ELW); 6/7 1 Woodstock (JMN); 6/9 2 Shrewsbury (LPS); 6/24 1 Marshfield (MJM); 6/22 2 Orwell (SLM); 6/30 10 Arrowhead Lake, Milton (PRG, BTG, JG); late June 6-7 N. Westminster (MEC); 7/13 11 N. Hartland Dam (LW); 7/28 5 S. Slang (MCD, JID); 7/30 4 Rockingham (WJN). Osprey: 6/27 1 MNWR (TM, JNi); 7/30 1 Hartland (PFZ); Bald Eagle: 6/3 1 imm. Grand Isle (PAT); 6/22 1 ad., 6/23 1 ad., 1 imm., 6/28-7/14 1 imm. MNWR (JNi, TM, SY); 7/9 1 imm. Marshfield (TAR); 7/17 1 ad. Woodstock (GHH); 7/24 1 imm. WRD (WGE); 7/31 1 imm. DCWMA (KHD). Northern Harrier: 6/3 1 Marshfield (MFM); 6/4 1 DCWMA (LPS); 6/5 1 Orwell (SLM); 6/10 pr. nest building DCWMA (BBo, MJM); 6/16 1 Cambridge (RYG, JGG); 7/7 1

Norwich (AMH); 7/10 1 m. S. Lincoln (KHD); 7/24 3 DCWMA (WGE). Sharp-shinned Hawk; 6/12 1 SBWMA (WGE,NLM,VBC); 7/2 1 Marshfield (JJA,TAR); 7/31 1 Shrewsbury (LPS). Cooper's Hawk: 6/2 1 S. Duxbury (FAP); throughout, 1 N. Westminster (MEC). North-ern Goshawk: 6/6 1 Starksboro (WRB); 7/21 1 Marshfield (WRB). Red-shouldered Hawk: throughout 1 ad. 1 imm. Starksboro (WRB); 6/1, 7/21 1 Winhall (WJN); 6/12 1 Huntington (BBo,MJM); 6/29 2 Weston (JMN); 7/18 2 St. Albans (ALG,JMN); 7/23 1 Chester (CJF); 7/23 2 Shrewsbury (LPS); throughout 2-3 Marshfield (MJM). Broad-winged Hawk: daily 2 Lincoln (JRA); throughout 1-3 Reading (FMH,GEH); 6/1, 7/27 1 Winhall - "scarce this year" (WJN); 6/2 1 LBBS (ALG,JMN); 6/8 1 Woodstock (JMN); 6/10 1 Middlebury (KHD); 6/29 3 S. Duxbury (FAP). Red-tailed Hawk: 32 reported-highs; 6/14 4 Milton (KAL); pr. w/2 yg. daily Ferrisburg (MCD,JID); pr. w/1 yg. daily Starksboro (WRB); 7/10 3 Colchester (JDM). GOLDEN EAGLE: 6/6 1 ad. Salisbury (JED). American Kestrel: high of 5 7/31 Addison (KHD); 6/29 pr. in Wood Duck box in a pool! Rockingham (MaC). Peregrine Falcon: 6/25 1 Marshfield (TAR); 7/20 1 Hardwick (PFZ).

GROUSE THROUGH COOT. There were no summer reports of Gray Partridge nor Spruce Grouse, while a single sighting of a Ring-necked Pheasant came from Brandon. The Ruffed Grouse was well reported as usual, with most observers including broods ranging from 2 to 8 young. The two reports of Wild Turkey from Ferrisburg is the lowest number of reports since 1975. Virginia Rail and Sora numbers were low - probably owing to the secretiveness of these species, while 8 Common Moorhens is a good number for recent years.

Ring-necked Pheasant: 7/12 1 Brandon (ELW). Ruffed Grouse: widespread; high 6/11 11 (2 groups 5&6) S. Duxbury (FAP); others included 6/7 f. w/8 yg. Sudbury (SLM); 6/8 "brood" Winhall (WJN); 6/9 f. w/7 yg. Stowe (RYG,JGG); 6/24 f.w/7 yg. Starksboro (WRB); 7/1 f.w/7 yg. Woodstock (JMN). Wild Turkey: 7/20 1 ad., 5 yg. Ferrisburg (MCD,JID); 7/23 1 ad. 11 yg. Mt. Philo Charlotte (MCD,JID). Virginia Rail: 6/14 2 WRM (WJN); 7/12 2 Lewis Creek (MCD,JID); 7/26 1 New Haven (KHD). Sora: 6/14 1 WRM (WJN); 7/18 2 Marshfield (DL); 7/19 1 DCWMA (MCD,JID); 7/20 1 ad. DCWMA (SLM). Common Moorhen: 6/6 3 DCWMA (ELW); 6/12 2 Addison (KHD); 6/12 1 MNWR (VBC); 6/19 2 Orwell (ELW); 7/19 3 DCWMA (MCD,JID).

SHOREBIRDS THROUGH TERNS. Killdeer reports ranged from "usual numbers" to "quite numerous" except for N. Westminster where they were considered "noticeably gone" (MEC). Apart from an early Lesser Yellowlegs on 7/1, the southbound migration of shorebirds was on schedule in the third week of July, and mostly unspectacular, although a STILT SANDPIPER seen 7/23 is only the third summer record for this species (JDM). Other migrants observed included Greater Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Semipalmated, Least, and Pectoral Sandpipers. Among the resident, breeding species, the Spotted Sandpiper was doing fine with a season maximum of 42 (CF), and a single-day high of 14 on 7/30 (RBL). Aside from a specimen found in N. Pomfret and a bird seen in Randolph, the 11 other Upland Sandpiper reports were restricted to the Champlain Valley. A WHIMBREL* seen by Karl David 7/31 at Stone Bridge Access DCMA would be a first summer record, if accepted by the VBRC. Common Snipe was well documented, but only four American Woodcock were tallied. Bonaparte's Gulls arrived on 7/24 with the 6 seen at the WRM (WJN). Ring-billed Gull numbers on

their nesting islands on Champlain were estimated 6/1 as 9812 adults with 4387 nests with incubating adults; on 6/12 a high 10,000 was estimated at Young Island (VBC). The Herring Gulls located in the 6/1 survey were all on Young Island; c. 150 adults, c. 50 nests, and "many young". Still another first nesting record for Vermont this summer was the discovery of a female GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL on a nest with two eggs, on (you guessed it) Young Island (RBL,SBL,ALG). An inland sighting of this species at Marshfield Pond is worth mentioning. The Common Tern had a disastrous breeding season this year. On 6/1 191 individuals were seen with 111 on nests, but by 7/7 only 21 young could be located, along with 166 adults. Seventy-two were still on eggs which must have been "rotten by this time". There was "zero nesting success on Popasquash Island" (SBL,ALG,EJF,RBL). As expected, Black Terns were almost totally restricted to the Champlain Valley. High counts were 20 at the WRD (WGE), 16 at MNWR (JDM), and 14 at DCWMA (MCD,JID).

Killdeer: 6/1-29 3-7 Shoreham (ELW); 6/7 4 Hinesburg (WRB); 7/18 8 Champlain Islands (ALG,JMN). Greater Yellowlegs: 7/24 2 DCWMA (WGE); 7/30 1 Savage Is. (RBL); 7/31 1 Addison 2 Panton (KHD); 7/31 1 DCWMA (CF). Lesser Yellowlegs: 7/1 1 Grand Isle (RBL); 7/19 4 DCWMA (MCD,JID); 7/20 1 DCWMA (SLM); 7/24 5 DCWMA (WGE); 7/31 1 Panton (KHD). Solitary Sandpiper: 7/20 1 DCWMA (SLM); 7/23 1 Marshfield, "chased by three of our Peregrines" (MJM,WRB); 7/24 1 WRD, 12 DCWMA (WGE). Spotted Sandpiper: 6/1 4 W. Woodstock (JMN); 6/6 1 HC (WJN); 7/23 4 N. Westminster (FMH,GEH); 7/25 5 New Haven (KHD); 7/30 14 Grand Isle (RBL); throughout 42 on 16 lakes (CF). Upland Sandpiper: daily Shoreham (ELW); 6/13 2 Ferrisburg; 6/16 1 Randolph (MCD,JID); 6/27 2 ad., 6 yg. Sudbury (SLM); 7/24 1 dead N. Pomfret (KDP). WHIMBREL*: 7/31 1 DCWMA (KHD). Ruddy Turnstone: 7/22 1 Lake Carmi "in trouble, would not fly" (PJM); 7/24 1 WRD (WGE); 7/30 1 Savage Is. (RBL). Semipalmated Sandpiper: 7/30 2 Savage Island (RBL). Least Sandpiper: 6/12 19 "probably leasts" - late migrants DCWMA (FO,WS,VBC); 7/20 3 DCWMA (SLM); 7/24 1 WRD (WGE); 7/25-27 1-2 New Haven (KHD). Pectoral Sandpiper: 7/24 1 DCWMA (WGE); 7/30 4 DCWMA (CF). STILT SANDPIPER: 7/23 1 WRD (JDM). Common Snipe: 6/11 1 Bristol Pond (JRA); 6/20 1 Ferrisburg (MCD,JID); 6/20 2 Greensboro (CF); 7/11 1 Orwell (SLM); 7/24 3 DCWMA (WGE); 7/30 4 Hardwick (MEM); 7/30 4 MNWR (JDM); 7/31 4 Panton (KHD). American Woodcock: 6/10 1 Winhall (WJN); 6/23 1 S. Burlington (KHD); 7/5 1 Shrewsbury (LPS); 7/12-22 1-2 Woodstock (JMN). Bonaparte's Gull: 7/24 6 WRD (WGE); 7/30 1 MNWR (JDM); 7/30 3 Grand Isle (RBL). Ring-billed Gull: survey 6/1 Rock Island, 400 ad. with 184 nests; Gramma Island, 9 ad. with 0 nests; Popasquash Island, 400 ad. with 200 nests; Hen Island, 3 ad. with 3 nests; Savage Island, 0 ad.; Young Island, c. 9000 with c. 4000 nests (SBL,ALG,RBL). Wide-spread-highs: 6/19 35 Shoreham (ELW); 6/12 10,000 Young Is. (VBC); 6/21 120+ Hinesburg (WRB); 7/18 100+ Isle LaMotte (JMN); 7/31 100-150 Addison (KHD). Herring Gull: 6/1 survey - Popasquash Island, 150 ad., c. 50 nests, many recently hatched young (SBL,ALG,RBL); 6/3 4 Button Bay (LPS); 7/12 500+ (predominantly ring-billed, but some herring), Hinesburg to S. Burlington (WRB). GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: 6/1 f.w/2 eggs Young Is. (RBL,SBL,ALG); 6/26 1 ad. Marshfield Pond (MJM,TAR); 7/24 1 WRD (WGE); 7/30 6 ad. 3 imm. Grand Isle (RBL). Common Tern: 7/11 1 Lewis Cr. (MCD,JID); 7/17-30 5-10 max. MNWR (JDM); 7/24 6 WRD (WGE); 7/30 98 N. Hero 30 St. Albans (RBL). Black Tern:

* Acceptance by Vermont Bird Records Committee pending.

6/6 8 DCWMA (ELW); 6/12 4 Addison (KHD); 6/19 3 Orwell (ELW); 7/11 5 Lewis Cr. (MCD,JID); 7/16 3 Lake Memphremagog (STH); 7/19 14 DCWMA (MCD,JID); 7/23 16 MNWR (JDM); 7/24 20 WRD (WGE).

DOVES THROUGH KINGFISHER. As usual, contributors ignored Rock Doves as very few reports were received, but it is assumed by all that they are in no danger. There were a few Mourning Dove records from scattered locales with a maximum of 6 from N. Westminster and Hardwick. Black-billed Cuckoos were noted at nine locations, while only a single Yellow-billed Cuckoo was seen in W. Rutland (WJN). A huge disappointment came this year from the Common Barn-Owl nest in the Champlain Valley (location confidential). Although the pair was present throughout the summer and laid three eggs, "the nest was abandoned by 8/13 with the eggs apparently infertile..." (JJA). The Eastern Screech-Owl was heard by only two observers, and the Great Horned Owl by three, while the Barred Owl was somewhat more apparent. Unfortunately, no word came from Shoreham this summer concerning the Short-eared Owls that nested there in 1981. Several Common Nighthawks were seen or heard at the usual locations in Rutland and Burlington, but the Whip-poor-will continues to be scarce at best. From Cambridge comes the report "never hear them anymore - not for several yeras" (RYG,JGG); they were absent from Woodstock where they have nested for 5 years (SBL). Chimney Swifts were widespread with a high of 21 in Woodstock village on 7/29 (JMN). The cold, wet spring seemed to have little effect on the Ruby-throated Hummingbird with 17 observers reporting this species. The Belted Kingfisher was also numerous with a high of 6 on 7/17 (MCD,JID).

Mourning Dove: 6/3 2 Button Bay (LPS); 6/5 1 Barnard (JNF); throughout 2-3 prs. Cambridge (RYG, JGG); 6 N. Westminster (MEC); 7/29 6 Plainfield (MFM). Black-billed Cuckoo: 6/6, 7/30 1 HC (WJN); 7/10 1 w/ yg. S. Woodstock (JMN); pr. N. Westminster (MEC); 7/22 1 Marshfield (MFM). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: 6/14 1 W. Rutland (WJN). Common Barn-Owl: pr. (see above) (JJA). Eastern Screech-Owl: 6/29 2 Cambridge (RYG, JGG); 7/24 1 Shelburne "calling at 0930 in bright daylight!" (JJA). Great Horned Owl: throughout-Cambridge (RYG, JGG); 7/10 1 Shoreham (ELW); 7/11 1 Winhall (WJN). Barred Owl: 6/7-30 1-3 Reading (FMH, GEH); 6/18 1 Shrewsbury (LPS); throughout 2 Woodstock (JMN); pr. Starksboro (WRB); 1 Cambridge (RYG, JGG); 1 S. Duxbury (FAP); 7/30 3 Shrewsbury (LPS). Common Nighthawk: 6/1 2 Rutland (CJF); 6/14 4 Burlington (WRB); 6/17 2 Rutland (LPS); 7/11 1 Woodstock (JMN); 7/15 1 Burlington (JDM). Whip-poor-will: 6/11 2 Weathersfield (ELW); 6/17-19 1 Woodstock (CRP); 6/23 1 PMBBS (WGE, NLM). Chimney Swift: many reports-highs: 6/15 10 Rutland (LPS); 7/12 10 Brandon (SLM); 7/29 21 Woodstock (JMN). Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 16 reports-highs: 6/3 2 prs. 7/28 5 Ferrisburg (MCD, JID); throughout-pr. Randolph (EWC, MCC); 1-3 Shoreham (ELW); 2-3 Cambridge (RYG, JGG); 2-4 Barnard (JNF); 7/25 4+ 2 fledglings (hereafter FL) N. Westminster (MEC). Belted Kingfisher: 16 reports-highs: 6/15 3 Milton (KAL); 7/7 3 HC (WJN); 7/10 4 Orwell (SLM); 7/17 S. Slang (MCD, JID); 7/23 4 MNWR (JDM); throughout 3-4 Cambridge (RYG, JGG); 2 prs. Starksboro (WRB).

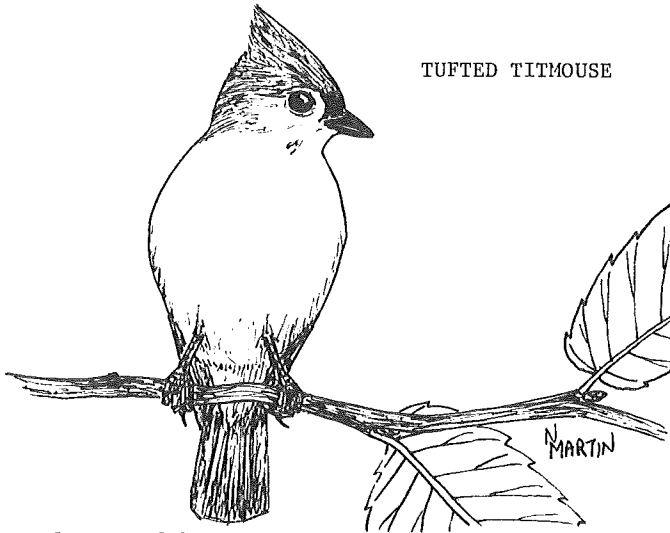
WOODPECKERS THROUGH HORNED LARK. Generally considered a bird of the Champlain valley, three of the five reports for Red-headed Woodpecker were from other regions. Only a handful of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were seen, with a maximum of six in Winhall (WJN). Downy Woodpeckers were widely reported, while Hairy

Woodpeckers numbered slightly less and, in one observer's opinion, are "declining" (WJN). Another exciting breeding confirmation was obtained this summer, that of a male THREE-TOED WOODPECKER with food for young in Albany (EJM, MRP). This constitutes only the second breeding record for this species in recent times. Another individual was observed in Ferdinand (WMS). Dr. Steven Young and class were lucky enough to find a Black-backed Woodpecker nest while on a field trip 6/23. Nest site was in spruce tree on the bank of Tamarack Brook in Bear Swamp, Wolcott. North-ern Flickers and Pileated Woodpeckers were seen by many contributors. All nine species of flycatchers were accounted for this season. Nine sightings were received for Olive-sided Flycatcher and ten for Eastern Wood-Pewee. Somewhat more restricted by its habitat requirements, the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was seen at three locales with a high of 6+ on Camel's Hump on 6/12 (BBo, MJM, VBC). Five scattered reports of Alder Flycatcher were submitted, while the Willow Flycatcher was restricted to the southern half of the state. Least Flycatcher numbers were low, and WJN considers this species to also be "declining". Despite the late-April snowstorm, the Eastern Phoebe was only reported in "low numbers" in Winhall (WJN). Great Crested Flycatcher and Eastern Kingbird were stable. The two sightings of Horned Lark were, as expected, from the Champlain Valley.

Red-headed Woodpecker: 6/6 1 Lincoln (JRA); 6/7 1 Randolph (VL fide JDS); 6/8 1 E. Dorset (RuS); 7/10 1 ad. Grand Isle (DJH); 7/10 1 Plainfield (MFM). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: throughout-max. 6 Winhall (WJN); several Cambridge (RYG, JGG); 6/23 5 PMBBS (WGE, NLM); 7/26 2 ad. 3 yg. Woodstock (JMN). Downy Woodpecker: numerous reports-pr. w/3-4 FL's N. Westminster (MEC); 6/26 4 S. Duxbury (FAP); daily 3 prs. Cambridge (RYG, JGG); 6/29-7/31 1-4 Reading (FMH, GEH); throughout 2-3 prs. & yg. Randolph (EWC, MCC). Hairy Woodpecker: 6/15 2 prs. Woodstock (JMN); 6/28 2 ad. 2 yg. Shrewsbury (LPS); 7/2 6 Reading (FMH, GEH); daily 3-4 prs. Cambridge (RYG, JGG). THREE-TOED WOODPECKER: 6/13 1 m. with food for young (hereafter FY) Albany (EJM, MRP); 7/23 1 Ferdinand (WMS). Black-backed Woodpecker: 6/23 1 and nest Wolcott (SBY). North-ern Flicker: numerous reports-highs: 7/14 2 ad. 4 yg. Woodstock (JMN); 7/18 5 Chester (WJN). Pileated Woodpecker: widespread-highs: 6/14 4 W. Haven (WJN); 7/5 3 Reading (FMH, GEH); singles from Orwell (SLM); Starksboro (WRB); Milton (KAL); Marshfield (MFM); E. Barnard (JNF); Shoreham (ELW); Shrewsbury (LPS). Olive-sided Flycatcher: 6/7 1 Peru (WJN); 6/7 1 New Haven (KHD); 6/9 2 Reading (FMH, GEH); 6/16 2 Roxbury (MCD, JID); 7/14 1 Marshfield (MJM). Eastern Wood-Pewee: 6/7 4 Shoreham (ELW); 6/30 8 Reading (FMH, GEH); throughout-1-2 N. Westminster (MEC); Cambridge (RYG, JGG); 1-2 Woodstock (JMN). Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: 6/12 6+ Camel's Hump (BBo, MJM, VBC); 6/16 1 Winhall (WJN); 7/21 1 Marshfield (WGE, NLM). Alder Flycatcher: 6/3-17 1 S. Duxbury (FAP); 6/6 1 Spring-weather Nature Area (WJN); 6/14 2 WRM (WJN); 6/18 2 S. Lincoln (KHD); 6/30 1 Winhall (WJN). Willow Flycatcher: 6/1-30 1 S. Londonderry (WJN); 6/4 1 Lincoln (KHD); 6/6 2 DCWMA (ELW); 6/12 3 Addison (FO, WS, VBC). Least Flycatcher: June-7 territorial males Woodstock (JMN); 6/2-9 1-2 Shoreham (ELW); 6/25 6 Reading (FMH, GEH); banded 1 Marshfield (MFM); "regular nester" Duxbury (FAP). Eastern Phoebe: 13 reports-highs: 1 ad. 3 yg. Shrewsbury (LPS); 3 Brandon (JMM); 3 MNWR (JDM); 2 prs. Cambridge (RYG, JGG). Great Crested Flycatcher: 12 reports-highs: throughout 3-7 Shoreham (ELW); 1-4 Reading (FMH, GEH). Eastern Kingbird: 12 reports-highs: 6/14 10 prs. DCWMA (LPS); 6/14 5 WRM (WJN);

7/30 2 ad. 3 yg. Woodstock (JMN). Horned Lark: 6/3
3 Button Bay (LPS); 7/20 1 Addison (SLM).

SWALLOWS THROUGH BROWN CREEPER. Purple Martins were only sighted in Addison and Chittenden counties this summer, with no reports from the Grand Isle or Newport areas. Tree Swallows were numerous, in some cases at the expense of the Eastern Bluebird. Northern Rough-winged Swallow numbers were not impressive at all. The 115 Bank Swallows seen on the GBBS was the season's high count, while Cliff and Barn Swallows were also doing very well throughout the state. The same can be said for the Blue Jay, except in N. Westminster where they were "noticeably less than last year" (MEC). Probably due to lack of interest, the American Crow was only mentioned by a few contributors, and there were actually more reports for Common Raven than for American Crow. Black-capped Chickadees were noted by most observers with highs of 30 on 7/9 and 7/23 in Reading (FMH,GEH) and 29 on 6/2 on the LBBS (ALG,JMN). There was only a single report for Boreal Chickadee from Moose Bog, that of two birds seen with more heard singing (FAP). Four sightings of Tufted Titmouse led to two breeding confirmations for a species which has been expanding its range northward, and as of 1981, has only seven prior nesting



TUFTED TITMOUSE

records. Red-breasted Nuthatches were called "a regular, but numbers seem down" in S. Duxbury (FAP) and in Cambridge none were seen since early June (RYG, JGG), whereas the White-breasted Nuthatch seemed to be doing fine except near Lake Cami in Franklin where they were "missing all summer" (PJM). Brown Creeper, a relatively inconspicuous species, was reported from eight locations.

Purple Martin: 6/3 10 Button Bay (LPS); 6/6 2 Addison (ELW); 6/9 4 Middlebury (KHD); 7/3 12 Addison (SLM); 7/12 12 Ferrisburg (MCD,JID); July 20+ S. Burlington (WRB). Tree Swallow: 17 reports-highs: 7/6 50 Shoreham (ELW); 7/7 200 HC (WJN); 7/15 50 (mostly yg.) Franklin (PJM); 7/24 49 Cornwall (SLM); using bluebird boxes in DCWMA 14 (MCD,JID); N. Westminster 4 (MEC); and Brandon (JMM). Northern Rough-winged Swallow: 6/1 2 Rutland (CJF); 6/1 2 Shoreham (ELW); 6/2 2 New Haven (KHD); 6/6 5 HC (WJN); 6/19 6 nesting Shoreham (ELW); 7/18 2 Chester (WJN); 7/24 3 WRD (WGE). Bank Swallow: 11 reports-highs: 6/6 50 HC (WJN); 6/21 115 GBBS (SBL,NLM); 7/12 56+ Marshfield (MJM). Cliff Swallow: 14 reports-highs: 6/5 5 prs. Colchester Pond (WDB); 6/14 10 Rutland (WJN); June 4-5 prs. S. Burlington (JJA); 10 Monkton (MCD,JID); nest building on a Tinmouth house 9 nests, at least 6 FL. Barn Swallow: 14 reports-

highs: 6/30 20 Peru (WJN); July 30 Brandon (JMM). Blue Jay: 13 reports-highs: 7/9 30 Reading (FMH,GEH); 7/25-27 24 Cambridge (RYG,JGG); throughout 6-8 S. Strafford (HR). American Crow: highs: 6/23 45 PMBBS (WGE,NLM); 7/2 32 Orwell (SLM); "common" Shoreham (ELW); "abundant" Franklin (PJM); "always around" Cambridge (RYG,JGG). Common Raven: 6/4 1 Lincoln Gap (JRA); 6/21 5 GBBS (SBL,NLM); 7/21 2 Barnard (JNF); throughout 1-2 Starksboro (WRB); 1 Winhall (WJN); 2-4 Marshfield (MJM). Black-capped Chickadee: 15 reports-highs: noted above; others: 6/6 2 ad. 2 yg. Woodstock (JMN); 6/21 13 GBBS (SBL,NLM); 6/23 19 PMBBS (WGE,NLM); 7/9 1 ad. 4 yg. Rutland (LPS). Boreal Chickadee: 6/18 2+ Moose Bog (FAP). Tufted Titmouse: 6/1 1 Essex Jct. (RYG, JGG); 7/13 pr. w/ yg. Dorset (CSE); 7/28 1 Shoreham (ELW); pr. w/4 yg. N. Westminster (MEC). Red-breasted Nuthatch: 9 reports-highs: 6/16 3 Randolph Ctr. (MCD,JID); 7/7 4 Reading (FMH,GEH). White-breasted Nuthatch: 13 reports-highs: 7/5 1 ad. 4 yg. Shrewsbury (LPS); daily, "2 hatches this summer" N. Westminster (MEC). Brown Creeper: 8 reports-highs: 6/2 3 Reading (FMH,GEH); 7/12 2 ad. 4 yg. Woodstock (JMN).

WRENS THROUGH STARLING. Numerous records of House Wren were sent in, but the species was called "declining" in Winhall (WJN) and "very scarce" in Woodstock (JMN). Norse also said that Winter Wren was "still low" and it was "less common than the last two to three years" in S. Duxbury (FAP), while a season high of 7 was reported from Reading. The rare Sedge Wren was seen at two locations in the Champlain Valley. The Marsh Wren was observed by many in its normal haunts in the wetlands of DCWMA and Memphremagog with 46 seen on 7/19 on a two mile canoe trip on Dead Creek (MCD,JID). Only two Golden-crowned Kinglet and three Ruby-crowned Kinglet records were received this summer, while reports of Blue-gray Gnatcatcher came from expected locations in the Champlain and Connecticut River Valleys. Eastern Bluebird had mixed success throughout the state this year with "none" in Lincoln (JRA) or N. Westminster (MEC). They were preempted by Tree Swallows in Woodstock (JMN) and more scarce in Middlebury (KHD), while two broods were raised in W. Windsor (JKV) and pairs were seen using boxes in Hinesburg and Richmond (WRB). The Veery was doing fine except in N. Westminster (MEC). A high of 32 on 7/9 was observed in Reading (FMH,GEH). There were only three sightings of Gray-cheeked Thrush and a handful of Swainson's Thrushes, two species of higher elevations, suggesting that not very many observers were out in such areas this summer. Hermit Thrush reports were down with only eight submitted while the Wood Thrush and American Robin were doing very well. The Gray Catbird was reported by most contributors and is apparently in no trouble. The nine sightings of Northern Mockingbird were almost exclusively in the Champlain Valley and consisted of single birds. Very few Brown Thrashers were noted. Cedar Waxwings, on the other hand, were very well reported being called "low" only in Winhall (WJN). And it goes without saying that the European Starling is, as several people stated, "always around."

House Wren: 16 reports-highs: 4 Brandon (JMM); 3 batches of FL's N. Westminster (MEC); 2 prs. Barnard (JNF); 1-2 prs. S. Strafford (HR). Winter Wren: 11 reports-highs: 7/16 7 Reading (FMH,GEH); throughout 3-4 Marshfield (MJM); singles in Shrewsbury (LPS); S. Lincoln (KHD); Starksboro (WRB); Mt. Abraham (KHD). Sedge Wren: 6/12 1 MCWMA (MEM,VBC); 6/12 1 DCWMA (FO,WS,VBC), also seen 6/13 (BBo,MJM). Marsh Wren: 13 reports-high stated above; others-6/5 4 John's R. Marsh, Derby

(CF); 6/14 5 WRM (WJN); 6/20 15 DCWMA (MCD,JID); 7/24 8 WRD (WGE). Golden-crowned Kinglet: 7/10 1 Mt. Abraham (KHD); "regular nester" S. Duxbury (FAP); "absent" (WJN). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 6/15 1 Franklin (PJM); 6/18 1 m. Moose Bog (FAP); 6/18 1 Randolph (MCD,JID). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: 6/4 nest building (hereafter NB) S. Slang (MCD,JID); 6/12 pr. NB SBWMA (WGE,NLM,VBC); 6/14 1 W. Haven (WJN); 7/12 4 Lewis Creek (MCD,JID); 7/30 2 HC (WJN). Eastern Bluebird: 14 reports-some mentioned above-others: 6/7 1 Winhall (WJN); 6/10 1 SBWMA (BBo,MJM); 6/12 2 S. Strafford (HR). Veery: 13 reports-highs: 7/9 32 Reading (FMH,GEH); throughout-max. 8-10/day Winhall (WJN). Gray-cheeked Thrush: 6/12 6-8 Camel's Hump (BBo,MJM,VBC); 6/22 3-4 Mt. Mansfield (RYG,JGG); 6/24 1 Kelley Stand (WJN). Swainson's Thrush: 8 reports-throughout 1-2 Marshfield Mt. (MJM); 6/16 2 Roxbury (MCD,JID); 6/24 2 Kelley Stand (WJN); 7/17 4 Chittenden Res. (LPS). Hermit Thrush: throughout-several Starksboro (WRB); 6/26 4 S. Duxbury (FAP); 7/9 8 Reading (FMH,GEH). Wood Thrush: 12 reports-highs: 6/29 21 LBBS (ALG,JMN); 8+ breeding prs. Woodstock (JMN). American Robin: 15 reports-highs: 7/23 40 Reading (FMH,GEH); 10 breeding prs. Woodstock (JMN); 7/31 10 Franklin (PJM). Gray Catbird: 12 reports-highs: 6/22 10 HC (WJN); 3 prs. Woodstock (JMN); 1 pr. 2 broods, N. Westminster (MEC). Northern Mockingbird: 9 reports-throughout-3 S. Burlington (WRB); singles in Brandon (JMM), Ferrisburg (MCD,JID), MNWR (JDM), Orwell (SLM), Randolph (MCD,JID), Rutland (CJF), Shoreham (ELW), WRD (WGE). Brown Thrasher: 6 reports (low)-throughout-pr. nested S. Duxbury (FAP); max. 3 Winhall (WJN); 1 Cambridge (RYG,JGG). Cedar Waxwing: 19 reports-highs: 6/29 48 LBBS (ALG,JMN); 7/9&17 10 Reading (FMH,GEH); 7/29 11 Woodstock (JMN). European Starling: high: 6/21 112 GBBS (SBL,NLM).

VIREOS AND WARBLERS. Few Solitary Vireos were observed this summer with one contributor asking if they were "less common this summer?" (FAP). Yellow-throated Vireo outnumbered the Solitary with eight reports from the southern half of the state, while Warbling Vireo records were low this season. The two Philadelphia Vireos seen in southern Vermont were probably late migrants as this species is an uncommon breeder in the northern portions of the state. As expected, the Red-eyed Vireo was common and widespread with highs of 69 on 6/23 on the PMBBS (WGE,NLM) and 57 on 6/29 on the LBBS (ALG,JMN). There were no reports of Blue-winged Warbler and only a single Golden-winged Warbler was seen this summer. A Tennessee Warbler in Reading 7/10-18 was more than likely an early migrant, while a singing male heard between 7/14 and 7/21 was in suitable habitat in Marshfield. Generally considered one of our more common warbler species, the Nashville Warbler was down, being "practically absent" according to Norse. As it has been for the last few years, the Northern Parula was seen by very few. Just the opposite can be said of the Yellow and Chestnut-sided Warblers, which were common everywhere. Another species which dropped off in numbers was the Magnolia Warbler, with only seven reports. Black-throated Blue Warbler appeared stable, but several observers expressed concern for the Yellow-rumped and Black-throated Green Warbler. Records for Blackburnian Warbler were nothing to write home about. Two of our more uncommon species, the Pine and Prairie Warblers received two reports each. The two to three singing male Prairie Warblers at Button Bay S.P. were noteworthy as this species is known almost exclusively from the lower Connecticut River Valley. The two reports of Blackpoll Warbler, as with the Gray-cheeked Thrush, probably indicate a lack of observers at the higher elevations of the state. The Cerulean Warbler

colony at SBWMA was active again this summer with singing males heard and seen on 6/10&12. Two more of our common warblers showed some decline - the Black-and-white Warbler and the American Redstart. Some descriptions of redstarts included "down" in S. Duxbury (FAP), "way down" in Cambridge (RYG,JGG), "missing" in Franklin (PJM), and "not as many" in N. Westminster (MEC). No mention was made of any problems for the Ovenbird, but both the Northern and Louisiana Waterthrush made a poor showing in 1983, as did the Mourning and Canada Warbler. The Common Yellowthroat was just as its name indicates.

Solitary Vireo: 6 reports-6/5 several Lincoln Gap (JRA); 6/14&29 5 Reading (FMH,GEH); 6/30 4 Winhall (WJN). Yellow-throated Vireo: 8 reports-6/10 1 SBWMA (BBo,MJM); 6/14 4 WRM W. Haven (WJN); 6/14 1 S. Strafford (HR); 6/21 5 GBBS (SBL,NLM); 6/23 6 PMBBS (WGE,NLM); 7/12 3 Lewis Cr. (MCD,JID). Warbling Vireo: 8 reports-3 prs. Woodstock (JMN); 7/12 18 Lewis Cr. (MCD,JID). Philadelphia Vireo: 6/6&8 1 S. Strafford (HR); 6/19 1 Winhall (WJN). Red-eyed Vireo: 17 reports-highs: 6/29 57 LBBS (ALG,JMN); 6/21 39 GBBS (SBL,NLM); 6/23 69 PMBBS (WGE,NLM); 7/9 15 Reading (FMH,GEH). Golden-winged Warbler: 6/14 1 m. Charlotte (JJA). Tennessee Warbler: 7/10-18 1 Reading (FMH,GEH); 7/14-21 1 Marshfield (MJM,WGE,NLM); 1 banded Marshfield (MFM). Nashville Warbler: 7 reports- 6/1, 7/2 1 Reading (FMH,GEH); "never common in June/July" S. Duxbury (FAP); "practically absent" Winhall (WJN); 3 banded Marshfield (MFM). Northern Parula: 6/2 2 Ripton (MCD,JID); 6/5 1 Reading (FMH,GEH); 6/24 1 Kelley Stand "missing elsewhere" (WJN). Yellow Warbler: 14 reports-highs: 6/9 8 HC (WJN); 6/21 8 GBBS (SBL,NLM); 6/23 21 PMBBS (WGE, NLM); 6/29 6 LBBS (ALG,JMN); throughout 3-7 Shoreham (ELW). Chestnut-sided Warbler: 18 reports; highs: 6/29, 31 LBBS (ALG,JMN); 6/21 10 Cambridge (RYG,JGG); 6/23, 31 PMBBS (WGE,NLM); 7/9 10 Reading (FMH,GEH). Magnolia Warbler: 7 reports-highs: 6/16 5 Winhall (WJN); 7/4 4 Reading (FMH,GEH). Black-throated Blue Warbler: 14 reports-highs: 7/19 14 Reading (FMH,GEH). Yellow-rumped Warbler: 14 reports-highs: 6/29 6 LBBS (ALG,JMN); "missing" Franklin (PJM); "none" N. Westminster (MEC); "crash in numbers" Winhall (WJN). Black-throated Green Warbler: 8 reports-"less evident this year", Woodstock (JMN), "absent" Winhall (WJN); 6/16 4 Roxbury (MCD,JID). Blackburnian Warbler: 10 reports-highs: 6/14 8 Reading (FMH,GEH); 6/26 5 S. Duxbury (FAP); "low" (WJN). Pine Warbler: 6/1 2 Cambridge (RYG,JGG); 6/23 4 PMBBS (WGE,NLM). Prairie Warbler: 6/1-7/10 2-7 S. Woodstock (JMN); 6/10 2-3 m. Button Bay (BBo, MJM). Blackpoll Warbler: 6/12 10+ Camel's Hump (BBo,MJM,VBC); 7/10 10-15 Mt. Abraham (KHD). Cerulean Warbler: 6/10 2 m. SBWMA (BBo,MJM); 6/12 2 m. SBWMA (WGE,NLM,VBC). Black-and-white Warbler: 13 reports-high: 6/23 12 PMBBS (WGE,NLM). American Redstart: 18 reports-highs: 6/21 32 GBBS (SBL, NLM); 6/23 34 PMBBS (WGE,NLM). Ovenbird: 13 reports-highs: 6/5&11 16 Reading (FMH,GEH); 6/23 23 PMBBS (WGE,NLM); 6/26 10 S. Duxbury (FAP). Northern Waterthrush: 6/5-14 2 Reading (FMH,GEH); 6/30 1 Winhall "low" (WJN); 7/29 1 Woodstock (JMN); 7 banded Marshfield (MFM). Louisiana Waterthrush: 3 reports: 6/5&16 1 Reading (FMH, GEH); 6/21 1 GBBS (SBL,NLM); 6/23 1 PMBBS (WGE, NLM); "absent" Winhall (WJN). Mourning Warbler: 5 reports: 6/2-7/16 1-2 Reading (FMH, GEH); 6/26 7/15 1 S. Lincoln (KHD); 6/6 1 HC (WJN); 6/26 4 S. Duxbury (FAP); 7/16 1 (FY) Starksboro (WRB). Common Yellowthroat: 14 reports-highs: 6/29 52 LBBS (ALG,JMN); 6/7 10 Shoreham (ELW); 6/21 28 GBBS (SBL,NLM); 6/23 43 PMBBS (WGE, NLM); 7/18 10 Chester (WJN). Canada Warbler: 8

reports-highs: 6/21 4 GBBS (SBL,NLM); 6/23 3 PMBBS (WGE,NLM); 7/9 6 Reading (FMH,GEH).

TANAGER THROUGH ORIOLE. Scarlet Tanager records were average this summer, and the Northern Cardinal is doing very well in the southern half of the state. Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Indigo Bunting sightings were also numerous, although concern was expressed for the latter species in Cambridge (RYG,JGG). As expected, the Rufous-sided Towhee was restricted to the southern portions of the state, the most northerly sighting coming from Lincoln (JRA). Chipping Sparrows were seen by many with a high of 31 on the PMBBS on 6/23 (WGE,NLM), but Field Sparrows were very low. Seven of the eight records for Vesper Sparrow were from Addison County and consisted of single birds except for eight singing males observed on 6/17 at DCWMA (SBL,JDL,HBS). Called "declining" by WJN, Savannah Sparrows were indeed low, except near the Digital plant in S. Burlington where 16 singing males were tallied on less than five acres in June (JJA). The Grasshopper Sparrow is an uncommon species in Vermont and almost totally confined to the Champlain Lowlands. Five to six singing males were noted at the intersection of Slang and West Roads at DCWMA on 6/13 (BBo, MJM) and 6/17 (SBL,JDL,HBS). Song Sparrow reports were average, and even though he had 25 on 6/14 at WRM and W. Haven, Norse still termed them "low". Only three Lincoln's Sparrows were seen and the Swamp Sparrow had a "poor year" (WJN) with only five records. White-throated Sparrows were common, while Dark-eyed Juncos were slightly low, perhaps due to few trips to the more mountainous areas. The Bobolink and Red-winged Blackbird are doing fine, but, as it has been in recent years, the Eastern Meadowlark continues to be reported in low numbers. Most reports consisted of single birds, and they were called "scarce" by WJN and "down" by JRA. Perhaps because of a lack of coverage of proper habitat, only four reports were received for Rusty Blackbird. Common Grackles were just that, while the Brown-headed Cowbird was under-reported probably owing to the fact that it is one of those common species that people (this editor included) fail to make note of. ORCHARD ORIOLE was reported twice, a second year male on 6/9 at the D.A.R. Mansion, W. Addison (AJS); no evidence reported of nesting this year. Also one was seen 7/30 at Herrick's Cove (WJN). The Northern Oriole was numerous and widespread.

Scarlet Tanager: 14 reports-highs: 6/21 7 GBBS (SBL,NLM); 6/23 8 PMBBS (WGE,NLM); 7/9 7 Reading (FMH,GEH); 7/18 10 Chester (WJN). Northern Cardinal: 15 reports-highs: 6/1 6+ Essex Jct. (RYG,JGG); 6/14 5 WRM, W. Haven (WJN); throughout-at least 3 prs. Shoreham (ELW); 2 prs. Milton (KAL); pr. w/3 yg. N. Westminster (MEC); 4 Brandon (JMM). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: 14 reports-highs: 6/5 6 Shrewsbury (LPS); 6/14 8 WRM, W. Haven (WJN); 6/26 7 S. Duxbury (FAP); 7/9 8 Reading (FMH,GEH). Indigo Bunting: 15 reports-highs: 6/14 4 WRM, W. Haven (WJN); throughout-1-4 S. Strafford (HR). Rufous-sided Towhee: 12 reports-7/10 2 prs. Woodstock (JMN); 7/13 3 Chester (WJN); 2 broods N. Westminster (MEC). Chipping Sparrow: 17 reports-highs: 6/2 16 LBBS (ALG,JMN); 6/23 31 PMBBS (WGE, NLM); 7/30 8 Woodstock (JMN). Field Sparrow: 7 reports-high: 7/10 7 S. Woodstock (JMN); singles-6/14 W. Rutland, 6/22 1 Springweather Nature Area, 7/18 Chester (all WJN); 6/23 PMBBS (WGE,NLM). Vesper Sparrow: 6/2 1 Shoreham (ELW); 6/9 4 New Haven (KHD); 6/13 1 DCWMA (BBo,MJM); 6/17 8 DCWMA (SBL,JDL,HBS); 6/30 1 E. Dorset (WJN); 7/19 1 Orwell (SLM); 7/28 1 Ferrisburg (MCD,JID); 7/31 1 Addison (KHD). Savannah Sparrow: 10 reports-highs:

June 16 S. Burlington (JJA); 7/18 12+ Champlain Islands (JMN,ALG). Grasshopper Sparrow: 6/3 2 Button Bay (LPS); 6/10 1 Brilyea access DCWMA (BBo,MJM); 6/12 & 7/31 1 DCWMA (KHD); 6/13 5-6 Slang and West Rds DCWMA (BBo,MJM); 6/17 6 same location (SBL,JDL,HBS); 7/4 1 Colchester (JDM). Song Sparrow: 14 reports-highs: 6/2 23 LBBS (ALG, JMN); 6/21 31 GBBS (SBL,NLM); 6/23 63 PMBBS (WGE, NLM). Lincoln's Sparrow: 6/13 1 Ferrisburg (MCD, JID); 6/24 1 Kelley Stand (WJN); 7/27 1 Franklin (PJM). Swamp Sparrow: 6/11 "lots" Bristol Pond (JRA); 6/14 10 WRM (WJN); 6/23 7 PMBBS (WGE,NLM); 7/14 1 Reading (FMH,GEH); 1 banded Marshfield (MFM). White-throated Sparrow: 14 reports-highs: 6/2 36 LBBS (ALG,JMN); 6/24 15 Lye Brook (WJN); 7/9 40 Reading (FMH,GEH). Dark-eyed Junco: 11 reports-highs: 6/26 11 S. Duxbury (FAP); 7/17 8 Reading (FMH,GEH). Bobolink: 14 reports-highs: 6/23 27 PMBBS (WGE,NLM); 7/28 80+ S. Slang (MCD, JID). Red-winged Blackbird: 13 reports-highs: 6/14 100 WRM (WJN); 7/26 175+ Williston (WRB). Eastern Meadowlark: 13 reports-mostly scattered, single birds; high-7/18 20+ Champlain Islands (JMN,ALG). Rusty Blackbird: 7/21 3+ Groton State Forest (WGE, NLM); 7/24 1 Shoreham (ELW); throughout-several Marshfield Pond (MJM); "not noticed until the young came off the nest" Franklin (PJM); "absent" (WJN). Common Grackle: 15 reports-highs: 6/21 45 GBBS (SBL,NLM); 6/23 29 PMBBS (WGE,NLM); 7/17 25 Springweather Nature Area (WJN). Brown-headed Cowbird: 8 reports high: 6/21 15 GBBS (SBL,NLM); 6/23 16 PMBBS (WGE,NLM); 7/24 20 Shoreham (SLM). ORCHARD ORIOLE: 6/9 1 2nd yr. m. W. Addison (AJS); 7/30 1 HC (WJN). Northern Oriole: 15 reports-highs: 6/1-12 5-10 Ferrisburg (MCD,JID); 6/21 11 GBBS (SBL,NLM); 6/23 11 PMBBS (WGE,NLM); pr. w/3 FL's N. Westminster (MEC).

GROSBEAK THROUGH HOUSE SPARROW. Details were lacking for the second summer record of PINE GROSBEAK* seen on 7/14 on Jay Peak (STH). The first record was submitted in 1978, that of a possible nesting on Wheeler Mt. in Lyndonville. Purple Finch reports were average with a high of 17 banded in Marshfield (MFM). The House Finch continues to "multiply like rabbits" in one observer's opinion (MEC), and other records support this feeling. A single report was received for the Pine Siskin, that of a single individual seen on 6/20 in Reading (FMH,GEH). The summer location in southern Vermont is also noteworthy. The American Goldfinch was widespread, and apparently enjoyed a good year. Two family groups of Evening Grosbeaks were seen in Randolph (EWC,MCC), and an albino was observed with a flock in Belvidere. And last, but not least, is the House Sparrow. Although reported by few contributors, it is unlikely to be considered as a candidate for the endangered, threatened and rare list in the near future.

Purple Finch: 15 reports-highs: June-5-6 N. Westminster (MEC); 7/4 10 Winhall (WJN); 7/30 pr. feeding FL's Woodstock (JMN); throughout-3-4 prs. Cambridge (RYG,JGG); max. 6-8 S. Strafford (HR). House Finch: 9 reports-highs: July-10-12 at a time Randolph (EWC,MCC); 7/15 25 Rutland (LPS); "increasing in Addison County" (MCD,JID). Pine Siskin: 6/20 1 Reading (FMH,GEH). American Goldfinch: 14 reports-highs: 6/9 15 HC (WJN); 6/26 18 Shoreham (ELW); throughout-10-12 Cambridge (RYG, JGG). Evening Grosbeak: 6/25 1 imm. Plainfield (MFM); 7/8 1 m. w/3 yg., 1 m. w/1 yg. Randolph (EWC,MCC); 7/21 1 Reading (FMH,GEH); 7/21 1 Groton S.F. (WGE,NLM); 7/29 1 albino w/ a flock Belvidere (fide VINS). House Sparrow: 6/21 97 GBBS (SBL, NLM).

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ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE TEXT

DCWMA - Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area
 GBBS - Gaysville Breeding Bird Survey Route
 HC - Herrick's Cove
 LBBS - Landgrove Breeding Bird Survey Route
 MCWMA - Mud Creek Wildlife Management Area
 MNWR - Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge
 PMBBS - Post Mills Breeding Bird Survey Route
 SEWMA - Sandbar Wildlife Management Area
 TWDR - Thurman W. Dix Reservoir
 WRD - Winooski River Delta
 WRM - West Rutland Marsh
 FL - fledged, fledgling
 FY - food for young
 NB - nest building
 RVB - Records of Vermont Birds
 VBRC - Vermont Bird Records Committee
 SP - State Park
 Cr. - Creek
 Is. - Island
 Res. - Reservoir

m. - male
 f. - female
 imm. - immature
 yg. - young

Contributors are reminded to send in rare and unusual bird sightings at once (or to call the Vermont Bird Alert) and to submit seasonal summaries promptly at the end of each season. This publication is only as complete as you make it. If you need sighting cards, write VINS, Woodstock, VT 05091, or call us at 457-2779.

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