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FALL MIGRATION 1985

1 August-30 November

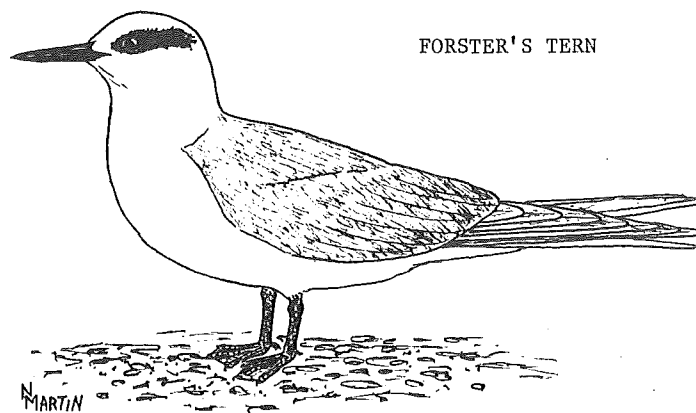
WALTER G. ELLISON, Seasonal Editor

Summarizing the Autumn Records of Vermont Birds (hereafter Autumn RVB) is often a rather confusing, though not unpleasant, task. The season comprises one third of the year, encompassing the dog days of August and the arrival of very bitter winter weather in November. The autumn editor is faced with the largest diversity of the year, and species ranging from the last Louisiana Waterthrush to the earliest Glaucous Gull. An amazing 248 species were reported to RVB this autumn, the most ever reported in a single season to this publication.

One of the salient features of autumn 1985 was the poor songbird migration in August and September. With the exception of a handful of days, no waves were noted. Many high counts would appear to have been related to local conditions and the vagaries of broad-front migration. For instance, Pat Pratt noted a good warbler-wave on 19 September at S. Duxbury but no other observer reported anything similar. One question often asked is, are small songbirds systematically declining? In this editor's opinion, current evidence suggests some decline has taken place since the 1970s, especially among 'spotted' thrushes and some boreal-nesting warblers. The raw numbers of warblers reported in 1985 were lower than in any of the last five years. Is this due to loss of tropical habitat? This cannot be concluded from our raw data. Much of last autumn's low warbler total was caused by a large decline in the reported number of Yellow-rumped Warblers, a temperate-wintering species. Also, other longer distance migrant warblers evidencing low numbers are species which seem to prefer edge and shrubby habitats in the tropics (e.g. Nashville Warbler). Species that appear to prefer forested habitats in the tropics increased in some cases. For example the Black-throated Green Warbler, which is most numerous in cloud forest when spending the winter in Central America, was reported in very good numbers this autumn.

It is possible that changes in breeding habitat or food supply may be influential in the decline of many migratory insectivorous birds. The spruce budworm flourished to our north during the 1970s. With the cessation of the budworm outbreak, many boreal songbird populations which had flourished on the surplus of food may be experiencing a cyclic diminution of their own because of lowered breeding success. Researchers in central New Hampshire are investigating this possibility with regard to outbreaks of the saddled prominent caterpillar in northern hardwood forests (R.T.Holmes & F.W.Sturges, research at Hubbard Brook).

The weather of the season was once again varied. August was, for the most part, warm and a bit dry. There were cool periods late in the month, notably 23-24 and 30-31 August. Fairly good numbers of migrants accompanied these periods with a number of high counts 22-23 August and good numbers of some species from 29 August to 1 September. September was warm and wet, featuring the fortunately rather gentle



FORSTER'S TERN

passage of Hurricane Gloria on the 27th. The best numbers of migrants were reported during the passage of a fluctuating cold front 7-8 September and during prolonged high pressure from 13 to 23 September, with a good fallout in eastern Vermont during a cold front on 24 September.

October proved variable, reflecting that month's bridging of the decline of summer into winter. A number of weather systems promoted interesting birding during October. A cold front on 5 and 6 October produced good numbers of a variety of species. Some coastal migrants may have been driven inland during this system; witness the cormorant count in the Connecticut valley and good counts of coastal migrant falcons. A frontal system on 13 and 14 October produced good numbers of sparrows. Arrival of high pressure on 16 October produced geese, and on 20 Oct. large Buteos at Lincoln Hill. The consecutive passage of a warm front on 24 October and a cold front on 25 October produced good numbers of waterbirds, especially on Lake Champlain.

November was the wettest since 1972 and very cloudy. A prolonged stationary cold front which lasted from 7 to 17 November produced a large water-bird fallout which featured huge numbers of Snow Geese virtually throughout the state. Wintry conditions were widespread by the end of the month with snow, sleet, and freezing rain over Thanksgiving.

The season-long presence of high water on Lake Champlain and at Dead Creek led to a decline in wader (shorebird) numbers but the persistence of observers kept the diversity of species reported high at 27. Hurricane Gloria had little effect on Vermont birding but a Black Tern and Stilt Sandpiper at Vernon, and an early Ruddy Duck at Herrick's Cove (HC hereafter) may have been transported by the storm. It is not clear whether the hurricane had anything to do with the presence of unusual terns on Lake Champlain on 7 October and of a late Glossy Ibis at Dead Creek on 11 October. It is also possible that two very late southerners, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on 20 November and a Yellow-throated Warbler 11-28 November may have come north after being reversed by Hurricane Juan.

Population trends of the season were varied. The Double-crested Cormorant continues to increase. Other

increasing species which made good showings included Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Turkey Vulture, Mourning Dove, Eastern Bluebird, and House Finch. The Vermont raven population seems to be stabilizing. Species that were reported in low numbers and continue to call for close scrutiny include Common Tern, "spotted" thrushes, Vesper Sparrow, and Rusty Blackbird. Incursions of two boreal finches were clearly presaged as good numbers of Pine Grosbeak and Common Redpoll were reported in November. Irruptive birds of prey were not much in evidence. Bohemian Waxwings also put in appearances indicating what was to follow during the winter.

The rarity picture was as colorful as in any autumn over the last decade if not a little better than normal. The crème de la crème were Forster's Tern (Vermont's first), Say's Phoebe (also new to Vermont), Northern Wheatear, and Yellow-throated Warbler (Vermont's first autumn report). Other welcome reports included the record late Glossy Ibis, Little Gull, Caspian Tern, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow. The status of rare waders in Vermont is changing apace as observers continue to amass new information. Observations this season further clarify the status of such rare, but apparently regular, species as Purple Sandpiper, Whimbrel, and Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Other species are now clearly regulars such as Stilt Sandpiper, Red Knot, Red-necked Phalarope, and Wilson's Phalarope.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

There was a better than average number of reports of the rare Red-throated Loon; 2 were observed on L. Champlain in Addison and Panton on 10/26 (WGE,NLM,RBL), 1 was grounded on the Killington access road in Sherburne on 11/12 (VINS), another was observed on a small pond in W. Windsor on 11/12 (SJS), and 5 were seen on Island Pond on 11/18 (DLC). Over 270 Common Loons were reported from August through the end of the season, high counts included 94 on 10/14 at Grand Isle (RBL), and 17 on 11/3 at L. Memphremagog (DLC). Three dozen Pied-billed Grebes were reported. The best totals submitted were 5 on 9/28 at HC (JJJ), 4 at Sandbar Wildlife Management Area (hereafter SWMA) in Milton on 10/12 (WGE,NLM, et al.), and 4 in South Bay at Newport on 10/19 (DLC). The last reported was at Island Pond on 10/27 (DLC, et al.). An excellent total of over 350 Horned Grebes was submitted, the earliest reported were 18 on 10/7 in Grand Isle County (WGE,NLM,RBL), and the high was 121 on 11/30 at the Charlotte town beach (DLC,BLR,DHD). Twenty-one Red-necked Grebes were reported; the first were at Grand Isle (RBL), and L. Morey in Fairlee on 10/14 (WGE,NLM), the high count was 14 on 10/26 on L. Champlain in Addison and Panton (WGE,NLM,RBL), others were reported at Caspian L., L. Memphremagog, Burlington, Colchester, Wallace Pk. in Averill, and at HC. The Double-crested Cormorant has increased rapidly over the last five years, it is now very common on L. Champlain and is a far more frequent sight on waters throughout Vermont. The highest number reported, 200+ at Young I. on 8/1 (DLC) represented just a portion of over 500 observed there two days earlier. Sizable migratory flocks were twice observed at HC in the Connecticut valley with 56 seen on 9/22 and 70 on 10/5 (WGE,NLM). The last reported were 1 on 10/30 at Newport (PFW,SAW), and 1 on 11/9 on Gull Rock, North Hero (RBL). Only 10 American Bitterns were reported to 9/12 (but see the winter RVB for later reports). Least Bitterns were reported at Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area (hereafter DCWMA) from 8/1 when 2 were heard (PEL) to 8/17 (RPG, et al.), and at the Winooski River Delta in Colchester (hereafter WRD) from 8/4 to 9/7 (JDM, et al.). About 300 Great Blue Herons were reported, the species was widely reported in perhaps

slightly above average numbers. High counts included 24 on 8/19 at DCWMA (JID,MCD), 10 on 8/21 at Hardwick L. (MEF), and 9 on 9/17 at WRD (DL). Counts of 8 on 11/14 at Dorset (EFG), and 5 at Thurman W. Dix Reservoir (hereafter TWDR) on 11/13 (DL) were remarkable for November. Reports of the scarce Great Egret included the following: 1 at Springfield on 8/4 (NLM,RDE), 1 at Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge (hereafter MNWR) from 8/5-9/9 (JBG), 1 at Whitney Creek, Addison on 8/17 (WGE,NLM, et al.), 1 at Rockingham on 8/31 (TEJ), and 1 on 9/8 at Ferrisburg (JID,MCD). Three Snowy Egrets were still present on Young I., where they bred for a second consecutive year, on 8/1 (PEL,DLC), the species was observed on the Burlington waterfront from 8/18-9/2 with a maximum of 2 on 8/22 (m.ob.), and 1 was seen at WRD on 9/7 (JDM). Up to 6 Cattle Egrets were present at the Young I. colony site from 8/6-21 (PEL,DLC,MiW), and 15 in Charlotte on 9/2 (WGE,NLM,JPM) were the latest reported. About 90 Green-backed Herons were reported, the highest count was 15 on 8/13 at MNWR (JBG), and the latest reported were 1 on 10/5 at Shelburne Bay (JDM), and 1 at Timmouth on 10/11 (CJF). Up to 25 Black-crowned Night-Herons were counted at MNWR during August and September (JBG), the species was also reported at DCWMA from 8/8-9/8 with a maximum of 12 on 8/11 (m.ob.), from 8/3 to at least 9/2 in the Burlington area with a max. of 10 on the latter date (GEB, et al.), and 5 were observed at East Slang, Ferrisburg on 9/2 (JID,MCD). A Glossy Ibis at DCWMA, Addison on 10/11 (DLC) was extraordinarily late for Vermont.

WATERFOWL

The Snow Goose migration was remarkable for its earliness, visibility and numbers observed. A flock of 60 was observed at Gile Mt., Norwich on 9/14 (WGE,NLM), and 500+ at DCWMA on 9/29 (WAM) was a very large count for such a date. A minimum of 19,700 was reported, of this total about 15,200 were noted from 11/11-15 during a prolonged stationary cold front. A few of the totals from this period include 7850 in the lower Connecticut valley from Vernon to Springfield on 11/12 (JJJ, et al.), 4300 over Albany from 11/11-13 (TP), and 850 at Dorset (EFG). During this period flocks of Snow Geese were observed landing in fields and pastures in Milton, Chelsea and Barnard, and on small lakes such as Shadow L. in Glover, and Emerald L. in Dorset. Flocks were clearly disoriented and could not navigate under the prevailing weather. Perhaps related to this fallout was a flock of 2500+ on L. Champlain at Shoreham from 11/18-21 (ELW,WGE). There are two races of Snow Geese which migrate through Vermont. Most are of the high arctic breeding 'Greater' Snow Goose which has no blue phase. Only 2 'blue' phase geese were reported, implying that the birds seen during the fallout were the normally occurring 'Greater' Snow Geese rather than displaced 'Lessers.' Thirty Brant seen on L. Champlain, Addison on 10/26 (WGE,NLM,RBL) were the only ones reported. The feral Canada Goose population at DCWMA numbered at least 154 in late August, other feral birds were reported at TWDR, Springweather N.A., and in the Ottauquechee valley. The total number of migrants reported was about 10,700. The major flights of the season included the initial push from 10/5-8 (1270 reported), 10/11-12 (1890 reported), and 10/16-19 (2600). High counts included 1183 at WRD on 10/19 (JDM), 1500 on 11/7 at DCWMA (MBN), and 1100 over Woodstock on 11/11 (JMN). MNWR high estimates are presented first in most duck accounts. The peak count of Wood Duck at MNWR was 1300 on 9/30 (JBG). About 555 others were reported including a high count of 50+ at DCWMA on 8/17 (RPG, et al.). None were reported by observers after the fourth week of October but see the Winter RVB. A high of 525 Green-winged Teal were

counted at MNWR on 10/22 (JBG). One hundred seventy-five others were reported with a high count of 25 at DCWMA on 10/21 (MBN). The species was reported to the end of the period. The peak number of American Black Duck reported at MNWR was 3100 on 10/22 (JBG). The ratio of the present species to Mallard at MNWR changed over the season from 5 to 1 in favor of Mallard in August to a near even 1.2 to 1 in favor of Mallard in October; another observer's figures show a 6 to 1 ratio in August declining to about even in November. About 1600 others were reported, other high counts of black duck included 200 on 10/27 at SWMA (JDM), 200 at Vernon on 11/5 (JJC), and 172 at DCWMA on 11/10 (DLC). The max. count of Mallard at MNWR was 3500 on 10/17 (JBG). A further 3000 Mallards were reported; other high counts included 500 on 8/29 at DCWMA (WAM), and 400 at SWMA on 10/27 (JDM). The earliest Northern Pintail at MNWR was observed on 8/13, the highest count from the refuge was 60 on 10/22 (JBG). Thirty-two others were reported including counts of 6 on 9/2 at DCWMA (WGE,NLM,JPM), 7 at WRD on 9/29 (WGE,NLM), and 6 on 10/3 at Vernon (JJC). The high count of Blue-winged Teal at MNWR was 300 on 9/20 (JBG). About 330 others were reported, high counts included 75 at Weybridge on 9/19 (MBN), and 40 on 9/28 at HC (WGE,NLM). The last reported were 3 at HC (WJN), 17 at Keeler Bay and 3 at W. Alburg (WGE,NLM,RBL) on 10/7. At MNWR the best count of Northern Shoveler was 25 on 10/22 (JBG). Others reported were 7 at scattered locations in the Champlain Valley on 8/31 (WAM,DLC), 1 on 9/2 at Burlington (WGE,NLM,JPM), 1 on 9/3 at HC (WJN), 2 at Burlington on 10/12 (WGE, NLM, et al.), and 4 at Shelburne Bay on 11/4 with 2 remaining to 11/26 (DLC,JDM). Reports of Gadwall appear to indicate an increasing species. The max. at MNWR was 430 on 10/22, with 150 on Goose Bay and Goose Bay Pool on 10/23 (JBG). About 50 others were reported, the species was observed throughout the season on the Burlington waterfront, sightings from the Connecticut Valley included a series of observations at HC from 9/3-10/3 with a max. of 4 on 10/3 (WJN), and 3 at Vernon on 11/5 (JJC). Up to 15 were reported at SWMA in mid-October. The American Wigeon also seemed more numerous than in prior autumns. The high count at MNWR was an impressive 750 on 10/22 (JBG). Seventy others were reported with a high count of 22 at SWMA on 10/27 (JDM). Reports from the Connecticut Valley were 7 on 9/8 at HC (JJC), 4 on 9/28 at Dewey's Rd., Quechee (WGE,NLM), 3 at HC on 10/5 (WGE), and 2 at Vernon on 11/16 (JJC). Canvas-back reports included 2 on 10/26 at Button Bay S.P. (WGE,NLM,RBL), 10 at MNWR on 10/29 (JBG), 1 at HC on 10/29 (WJN), an impressive 2100 at Alburg on 11/7 (DLC,DMc), and 1 at Rockingham on 11/18 (WJN). Reports of the very scarce Redhead were more numerous and widespread than has been normal. One was observed at HC on 10/29 (WJN), 2 were present there on 11/4 (WJN), 5 were seen on L. Carmi on 11/3 (PJM), 2 were noted on L. Bomoseen from 11/14-24 with 3 present on 11/21 (m.ob.), and 10 were found at MNWR on 11/20 (JBG). The Ring-necked Duck was first observed at MNWR on 8/5 and peaked at 4000 on 10/22 (JBG). Just 50 others were reported with a max. of 17 on 10/25 at SWMA (WGE,NLM). The earliest Greater Scaup reported were 20 observed at MNWR on 10/7 (WGE,NLM,RBL). High counts included 250 at WRD on 10/26 (JDM), and an excellent 3500+ in Grand Isle County from 11/7-9 (DLC,WAM,et al.). About 85 others were reported. Lesser Scaup arrived at MNWR in September with a max. count of 25 on 9/19 (JBG). Twenty-three others were reported to 11/30. Very good numbers of Oldsquaw were observed with 99 reported. The earliest were 3 males on 10/19 at L. Morey (WGE); high counts included 44 at Addison and 12 at Grand Isle on 10/26 (WGE,NLM,RBL), 15 near Arlington on 11/11 (BF), and 10 on 11/23 at MNWR (JBG). Nearly 500 Black Scoters were reported,

the earliest was at Vernon on 10/3 (JJC), and high counts included 16 on 10/18 at Vernon (JJC), 15 at Island Pd. on 10/20 (WGE,NLM), and a remarkable 410 on L. Champlain between Addison and Panton on 10/26 (WGE,NLM,RBL). Numbers of the Surf Scoter were modest with only 38 reported. The earliest reported were 3 at N. Hero and 1 at Grand Isle on 10/7 (WGE,NLM,RBL), and high counts included 8 on 10/19 at WRD (JDM), and 8 on 10/29 at HC (WJN). About 140 White-winged Scoters were reported. The first were 30+ on 10/2 at Kent Pd., Sherburne (fide FT) also the max. Another noteworthy count was 21 on 10/26 at Panton (WGE,NLM,RBL). About 600 Common Goldeneye were reported. The earliest migrant observed in the Connecticut valley was seen on 10/27 at HC (TEJ); high counts were 223 on 11/7 at Alburg (DLC,DMc), and 85 on 11/29 at L. Bomoseen (WGE,NLM,JPM). The earliest Buffleheads were noted in late October with 2 at Burlington on 10/19 (JDM); high counts included 50 on 10/22 at MNWR (JBG), and 28 at TWDR on 10/31 (DL). About 100 others were reported. The best count of Hooded Mergansers at MNWR was 125 from 10/31-11/2 (JBG). The species appears to have been in above average numbers with about 290 others reported including counts of 27 on 11/12 at Rockingham (CC), and 50 on 11/29 at L. Bomoseen (WGE,NLM,JPM). Nearly 1100 Common Mergansers were reported, the species was present throughout the season with high counts of 254 at the Charlotte town beach on 11/26 (DLC), and 100+ on L. Carmi on 11/29 (PJM). Fifty-four Red-breasted Mergansers were reported, most from October onward, the highest count reported was 29 on 10/26 on L. Champlain in Addison and Panton (WGE,NLM,RBL). Three Ruddy Ducks observed at HC on the very early date of 9/30 (WJN) may have been hurricane related. Others reported included 1 on 11/11 at Timmouth (CJF), and 1 on 11/25 at Roundy's Cove, Rockingham (WJN). The max. at MNWR was 10 on 11/2 (JBG).

VULTURES, HAWKS, AND FALCONS

The 34 Turkey Vultures reported on hawk watches were an average number, but the 190 others reported was a higher number than expected. Vultures were reported north to Highgate and Thetford. High counts included 33 at Rockingham on 8/31 (TEJ), and 18 at Orwell on 10/8 (LPS). The last reported was at Shoreham on 10/27 (ELW). Vermont Hawk Watch figures for the Osprey indicate stable numbers (.11 per observer hour vs. .12 p.o.h. in 1984). Seventy-four were reported by hawkwatchers and 50 more were observed by others. High counts were 10 at HC on 10/5 (WGE), and 9 at Paine Mt., Northfield on 10/6 (WHB). The latest reported were 1 at Gale Meadows, Winhall (WJN) and 1 at Bridgewater (WGE,NLM) on 10/22. The total of at least 12 Bald Eagles represents a good number for this season. At least two birds could be traced to release programs: a bird, unfortunately recovered dead, on Savage I. in September had been hacked in Arkansas (VFWD), and 1 observed in Shoreham from 11/15-20 (MOM, et al.) was released at Alcove Res. near Albany, NY. Others reported were 1 ad. at Cabot on 8/4 (RF), 2 ad. at Barnet on 8/20 (JMB), 1 imm. at Ferrisburg on 8/22 (JID,MCD), 1 ad. at Westmore on 9/21 (BO), 2 ad. at Putney Mt. on 9/28 (JJC), 1 in October at MNWR (JBG), 1 on 10/5 at Timmouth (CJF), and 1 imm. at Addison on 10/26 (WGE,NLM,RBL). Numbers of the Northern Harrier appear stable with 77 on hawk watches (.11 per observer hour vs. .08 p.o.h. in 1984) and 63 others reported. High counts included 11 at DCWMA on 8/11 (WGE,NLM), and 18 on 9/8 at Lincoln Hill, Hinesburg (MPB). Per observer hour figures from hawk watches for Sharp-shinned Hawk increased from .66 p.o.h. in 1984 to .76 p.o.h. in 1985, the raw total was 512. Fifty-nine others were observed. High counts included 49 on 9/21 at White Rocks, Wallingford (RWP, et al.), and 75 at Bald Mt.,

Mendon on 10/6 (WGE,NLM). One was banded at Marshfield (MFM). Numbers of the Cooper's Hawk continue stable if low. Twenty-seven were noted on hawk watches and 9 others were reported. The ratio of Cooper's to Sharp-shinned Hawk rose from 1 in 27 in 1984 to 1 in 19 in 1985. The Northern Goshawk proved inconspicuous with only 18 on hawk watches and a further 14 observed in other venues. Hawk watch figures for the Red-shouldered Hawk were comparable to those of 1984. Thirty-four were observed on hawk watches including 16 on 10/20 at Lincoln Hill, Hinesburg (MPB). Only 3 others were reported. The main Broad-winged Hawk flight was missed with only 565 reported (less than 1 p.o.h.). High counts were 158 on 9/8 at Lincoln Hill (MPB), and 157 on 9/14 at Putney Mt. (ABM, et al.). The latest observed were 1 at MNWR on 10/25 (JBG), and 1 at Stockbridge on 11/4 (EH). Red-tailed Hawks were reported in average numbers with 298 on hawk watches and about 150 others observed. The high count was 41 on 10/20 at Lincoln Hill (MPB). An albinistic individual was seen along Rte. 25 in Bradford (PSC,SWC). The earliest Rough-Legged Hawk reported was found at MNWR on 9/20 (JBG); the species was not recorded again until 10/16. Numbers of this erratic winter visitor were unspectacular with just 22 reported. Reports outside of the Champlain valley included 1 at Paine Mt., Northfield on 10/29, and 2 there on 10/30 (WHB), 1 at S. Duxbury on 11/3 (FAP), 1 at Mt. Holly on 11/9 (WJN), 1 at Norwich on 11/24 (WGE,NLM), 1 in Rutland and 1 in Wallingford on 11/29 (WGE,NLM). There were two reports of GOLDEN EAGLE, 1 was reported at Clarendon on 8/17 (LHP), and 2 were seen at Lincoln Hill on 11/1 (MPB). The American Kestrel bounced back impressively from a poor 1984 migration with 305 reported on hawk watches (.45 p.o.h. vs. .22 p.o.h. in 1984). At least 63 others were reported. High counts from hawk watches indicate a large emigration by this species from northern New England, these include 64 on 9/7 at Mt. Philo, Charlotte (JID,MCD), and 58 at Lincoln Hill on 9/8 (MPB). Good numbers were also observed by hawk watchers on 9/21-22. Thirteen Merlins were reported, 7 on hawk watches. The earliest were birds observed at HC (TEJ) and WRD (DLC,WAM) on 8/31, 3 on 10/6 at Paine Mt. (WHB) was a very good number, and the latest was at Timmouth on 10/14 (CJF). Releases by the Peregrine Fund continue to bolster sightings of Peregrine Falcons. There were reports virtually throughout the season at DCWMA with a peak in late August and early September. Color bands were reported for at least one bird there. Birds were present at Mt. Mansfield from 2-15 August with color bands noted on 8/4 (KW, et al.), and an imm. was reported in Orwell on 8/12 (SLH). The VINS hack site had been deserted by 8/15 (CHO,BD); the breeding birds at Westmore were present to at least 9/21 (m.ob.). Nine were reported on hawk watches from 9/7-10/26, with a max. of 4 on 10/6 at Bald Mt., Mendon (WGE,NLM). Others reported included 1 9/21 at Putney Mt. (JJC), 1 at MNWR in October (JBG), and 1 at WRD on 10/5 (GEB).

GAMEBIRDS THROUGH RAILS

The Gray Partridge, a bird with a restricted range in Vermont, and often difficult to observe, was reported twice, 10 were noted at MNWR on 10/18 (JBG), and 15 were located on Isle La Motte on 11/24 (DLC,WAM,BLR). Although there is no obvious self-sustaining population of Ring-necked Pheasant in Vermont, reports continue to trickle in indicating the surprising optimism of would-be stockers. One hen was observed in Shoreham on 9/11 (ELW), 1 was seen near the Timmouth game farm on 10/5 (CJF), and a single hen took up residence at a Winhall feeder on 11/23 (WJN). The Ruffed Grouse was reported in low to average numbers, up to 20 were counted at MNWR (JBG), and the species was heard drumming into October at Woodstock.

Over 100 Wild Turkeys were reported, high counts were 15 on 9/2 at Orwell (M.Durdan, fide JID), 15 at Reading on 9/29 (FMH,GEH), and 22 at Brattleboro on 11/2 (JJC). Turkeys were observed north to Vershire (VRM) and MNWR (JBG). The Virginia Rail was observed into October at MNWR (JBG), 10 others were reported at Westminster, West Rutland, DCWMA, WRD, and at Timmouth where the last was observed on 10/21 (CJF). Sora were reported at MNWR into October (JBG), and 3 were located at WRD on 8/18 (WAM). The Common Moorhen was reported at DCWMA to 9/4 with an impressive max. of 20 on 8/19 (JID,MCD), 1 was observed at S. Slang, Ferrisburg on 9/2 (WGE,NLM,JPM), 1 was found at S. Londonderry on 9/5 (WJN) (an extraordinary location as there are virtually no reports from the Green Mountain region), up to 2 were watched at Holbrook Corner, Colchester from 9/14-29 (JDM), 2 were seen at Keeler Bay on 9/19 (WGE,NLM), and the species was observed into October at MNWR (JBG). Impressive was a flock of 35 American Coots at Goose Bay, MNWR from 10/2-18 (JBG), 2 were found at DCWMA on 10/29 (SSW,EBB), 1 was seen at Vernon on 11/5 (JJC), and the species continued into November at MNWR (JBG).

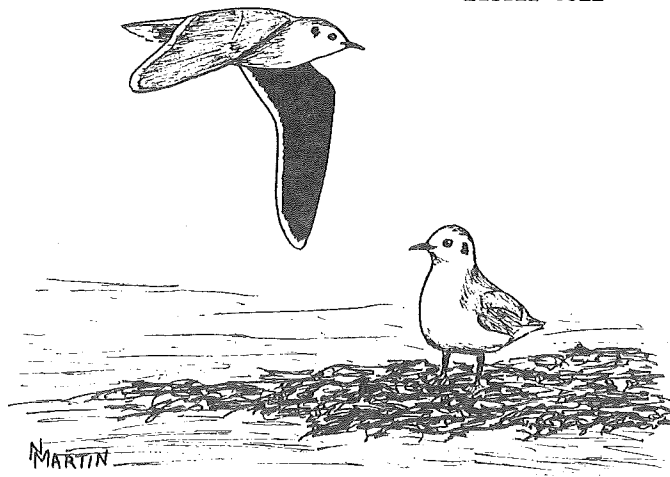
WADERS

The earliest of a modest total of 42 Black-bellied Plovers reported were 2 at WRD on 8/4 (JDM), high counts were not large by recent standards and included 4 at DCWMA on 8/21 (JRA), and 4 there on 9/29 (WAM), the last was at Young I., Grand Isle on 10/20 (RBL). Very good numbers of Lesser Golden-Plovers were observed during the season along Rte. 17 at DCWMA from 8/17-10/26, with a max. of 160 from 9/8-9 (m.ob.). Others reported were 1 at WRD on 9/2 (WGE,NLM,JPM), 1 at HC on 9/3 (WJN), 5 at WRD on 9/19 (WGE,NLM,RBL), and 2 at WRD on 10/19 (JDM). Thirty-nine Semipalmated Plovers were recorded including a high count of 10 on 8/18 at DCWMA (JID,MCD), and the last at Burlington on 10/5 (DLC,MBN). Over 900 Killdeer were reported, an excellent total. The highest counts were impressive with 130 at DCWMA on 9/29 (WGE,NLM), and 84 at Vernon on 10/5 (JJC). The latest was seen in Burlington on 11/2 (JDM). Over 70 Greater Yellowlegs were reported. The best counts submitted were 11 on 9/28 at HC (JJC, WGE,NLM), and 14 at DCWMA on 10/17 (DLC). The latest was observed at the Charlotte town beach on 11/10 (DLC). About 160 Lesser Yellowlegs were reported, an excellent total in the absence of a major draw-down at DCWMA. The best count was 60 from a manure dump on Jersey St. in Addison on 8/17 (RPG, et al.), and the last was observed on 10/26 at Grand Isle (WGE,NLM, RBL). There were reports of 66 Solitary Sandpipers with a max. of 20 on Jersey St., Addison on 8/17 (RPG, et al.), and late reports of singles at Timmouth on 10/10 (CJF), and Vernon on 10/18 (JJC). Over 70 Spotted Sandpipers were reported, the high count was 15 on 9/1 at Albany (TP), and the last was at Burlington on 10/10 (DLC). Reports of Upland Sandpiper included 4 at DCWMA on 8/10 (WAM), 1 at DCWMA on 8/11 (WGE,NLM), 7 in Addison on 8/17 (RPG,WGE,NLM, et al.), 1 at DCWMA 8/19 (JID,MCD), and 1 in Ferrisburg on 8/28 (JID,MCD). The occurrence of 5 WHIMBREL at DCWMA, Pantown from 8/28-9/3 (FAP,MBN, et mult. al.) lends credence to the idea that this attractive wader is a scarce but essentially regular migrant in Vermont. Only four Ruddy Turnstones were reported, 1 at Burlington on 8/18 (DLC,CJF), 2 at Burlington from 8/31-9/2 (m.ob.), and 1 at Burlington on 10/5 (JDM, MBN,DLC). The season's single Red Knot was observed at WRD on 9/19 (WGE,NLM,RBL). A little less than 30 Sanderling were reported. The earliest were 3 at Burlington on 8/20 (DLC,MW), high counts were 6 on 8/31 at Burlington (DLC,WAM), and 5 at WRD on 9/19 (WGE,NLM,RBL), and the last was a juv. at WRD on 10/12 (WGE,NLM, et al.). Just over 100 Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported. The best count was 48 on

8/22 at DCWMA (DLC,MW). Two at Hardwick L. on 8/21 (MEM) were unusual for central Vermont. The last reported was at DCWMA on 10/17 (DLC). Editor's note: late October 'peep' should be carefully identified or occasionally not identified to species, if doubt exists, as it is likely that Western Sandpiper may be at least as likely and probably more likely to occur in Vermont during late October than Semipalmated Sandpiper. The 8/1 arrival of a juv. Least Sandpiper at DCWMA was appropriate for that age class (PEL). This species was reported in excellent numbers for the season, totaling about 460. The seasonal max. was an exceptional 200 observed at a manure dump on Jersey St., Addison on 8/17 (RPG, et al.). The last was sighted at SWMA on 10/21 (RBL) much later than usual. There were two reports of White-rumped Sandpiper, 4 on 8/19 at DCWMA (JID,MCD) were a bit early, and 2 were found on the shores of Shelburne Bay on 10/17 (DLC). Baird's Sandpiper was also reported twice. A single juv. was seen at DCWMA, Panton on 8/11 (m.ob.), and 2 were noted at Burlington from 8/18-29 (m.ob.). About 220 Pectoral Sandpipers were reported with the first on 8/8 at DCWMA (DLC). High counts were 18 at Keeler Bay on 9/26 (RBL), and 67 at DCWMA along Rte. 17 on 10/17 (DLC), 30 were reported in the Connecticut Valley with a max. of 6 on 10/24 at the Retreat Meadows, Brattleboro (JJC). The last was observed at Burlington on 10/30 (DLC,Dmc). The status of Purple Sandpiper in this state was greatly clarified through the diligence of Richard Lavalley who systematically visited small islands in L. Champlain late in the season. The results were eye opening, 3 were observed on Sloop I., Charlotte on 10/26 (WGE,NLM,RBL), 1 was found on Popasquash I., St. Albans and 4 were on Bixby I., Grand Isle on 10/30, 1 was on Bixby I. on 11/7, 1 was at Hathaway Pt., St. Albans and another on Young I., Grand Isle on 11/14 (all above RBL), all birds were well photographed. A review of sources at VINS further clarifies this wader's status, there were 15 reports from 1950-1963 all from L. Champlain with 7 reports falling in November. Clearly this species is scarce but regular in Vermont, usually occurring on rocky islands in L. Champlain. The Vermont Bird Records Committee has recommended placing Purple Sandpiper on the Vermont field card, with dates of occurrence from 10D to 11C. The first of 87 Dunlin were 2 at WRD on 9/19 (WGE,NLM,RBL), the best counts reported were 15 at WRD on 10/19 (JDM), and 16 at DCWMA along Rte. 17 on 10/26 (WGE,NLM,RBL), the last was at Burlington on 11/4 (DLC). The scarce Stilt Sandpiper was well reported, 1 was present 8/8-11 along Sand Rd., Panton (DLC, et al.), 2 were seen there on 8/11 (WGE,NLM), a juv. was observed in Vernon on 10/5 (JJC) the first for eastern Vermont, and 2, both with broken left legs, were found at St. Albans Bay on 10/12 (WGE,NLM, et al.). Research has unearthed several new reports of the species, the total for Vermont now stands at least at 24. The very rare BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER was reported from the golden-plover field along Rte. 17 at DCWMA, Addison from 9/8-11 (AP;m.ob.) with up to 2 present. Single Short-billed Dowitchers were observed at DCWMA on 8/11 and 24 (WAM,DLC, et al.), and at Burlington on 8/24 (WAM,DLC). Unidentified Dowitchers included 6 on 8/18 at WRD (GEB), 2 on 9/8 at DCWMA (AP), 5 on 9/10 at DCWMA (MBN), and 4 on 9/28 at WRD (JDM). Up to 100 Common Snipe were seen at MNWR (JBG), over 110 others were reported throughout the season, maxima were 19 on 8/11 at DCWMA (WGE, NLM, et al.), and 16 on 10/24 in Charlotte and Shelburne (DLC,Dmc). Peak counts of American Woodcock at MNWR ranged up to 50 (JBG), less than 30 others were reported with a high count of 9 on 10/6 at Timmouth (CJF) and the latest at Timmouth on 11/23 (CJF). A single juv. WILSON'S PHALAROPE was located along Sand Rd., Panton on 8/11 (WGE;m.ob.). The only RED-NECKED PHALAROPES reported were 3 at

DCWMA, Panton on 9/1 (JRA, et al.). An unidentified Phalarope observed on the Connecticut R. at Vernon on 10/3 occurred on a date more consistent with Red than with other species but the observer could not get a detailed enough view to positively identify the bird (JJC).

LITTLE GULL



GULLS AND TERNS

Two LITTLE GULLS were beautifully documented by very good photographs at Young I., Grand Isle on 10/14 (RBL). Over 1100 Bonaparte's Gulls were reported, the species was observed on L. Champlain throughout the season with a high count of 250+ on 10/14 near the Sister Is. in Grand Isle (RBL), the species was also noted on L. Memphremagog. A selection of high counts of Ring-billed Gull serve to illustrate its abundance in the Champlain Valley and to indicate its status as a migrant in other parts of Vermont, these include 40 in flight over Winhall on 10/20 (WJN), 150 at Vernon on 10/28 (JJC), 581 on L. Memphremagog on 11/3 (DLC), 100 at Danby on 11/11 (CJF), and 3500 in Grand Isle County on 11/24 (DLC,BLR,WAM). Some high counts for the Herring Gull were 850 on 10/25 at Burlington (WGE, NLM), 180 at Vernon on 11/9 (JJC), and 100+ downed by rainy weather on 11/12 at S. Royalton (RK). Four reports of Iceland Gull were far more than usual, 1 was at the Retreat Meadows, Brattleboro from 11/12-19 (JJC,WGE,NLM), 1 was observed at L. Pineo, Quechee on 11/24 (WGE,NLM) perhaps a first away from the immediate vicinity of the Connecticut R. and L. Champlain, 1 was at Rockingham on 11/25 (WJN), and 1 was at the traditional venue of Burlington on 11/30 (DLC, BLR,DHD). The only Glaucous Gull was at a new locality, L. Bomoseen, Castleton on 11/29 (WGE,NLM,JPM). Great Black-backed Gulls were reported from L. Champlain, the Connecticut R. Valley, L. Memphremagog, and from DCWMA on 9/29 (WAM) an odd locality for this bird. High counts were 36 at Burlington on 10/25 (WGE,NLM), and 24 at the Retreat Meadows, Brattleboro on 11/12 (JJC). A second year CASPIAN TERN at St. Albans Bay on 10/7 (WGE,NLM,RBL) was a good find. Common Terns were present at WRD from 8/1-10 with a max. of 6 on the latter date (JDM,DLC,PEL,WAM), quite late were 2 imm. at Alburg Springs on 10/7 (WGE,NLM,RBL). Probably overdue, but remarkable nonetheless was Vermont's first report of FORSTER'S TERN on 10/7 at St. Albans Bay, this occurrence fills in a longstanding narrow gap in the species' reported distribution (WGE,NLM,RBL). The last of Vermont's local Black Terns departed in early August with 5 at Mud Creek WMA on 8/2 (DLC,PEL), 1 at WRD on 8/4 (JDM), and 2 at DCWMA on 8/8 (DLC). An exceptionally late bird at Vernon on 9/28 (WGE,NLM) was probably storm-driven.

DOVES THROUGH NIGHTJARS

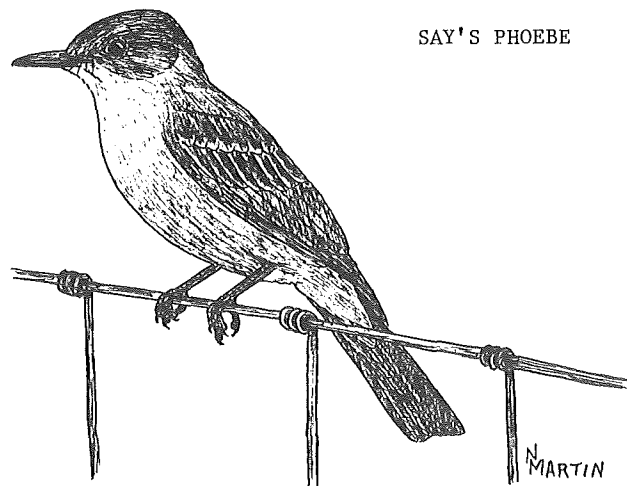
There was little commentary about Rock Dove by observers, it is sufficient to say it is still common within its limited habitat. The Mourning Dove is becoming ever more common, over 1400 were reported with high counts including 175 at Shelburne on 8/8 (WAM), 170 at Woodstock on 9/10 (WGE), and 342 in the Otter Creek Valley from Wallingford to Rutland on 11/29 (WGE,NLM). Many of the Black-billed Cuckoos reported were either late breeders or post-nesting dispersers, three active observers reported their first cuckoo of the year in early August. At least 11 Black-bills were reported with late reports of 9/11 at S. Stratford, a window kill (HR), and 9/14 at Winhall (WJN). Two Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported, 1 at DCWMA on 8/17 (RPG, et al.), and 1 at Springweather N.A. on 9/11 (WJN). About 12 Eastern Screech-Owls were reported, up to 5 were noted at MNWR (JBG), the species was encountered in 4 towns in the Champlain Valley, and it was twice reported from the Taconics at Dorset (EFG), and W. Arlington (CSC). Up to 8 Great Horned Owls were in residence at MNWR (JBG), and 9 others were reported. Barred Owls residing at MNWR numbered at least 5 (JBG), 15 others were reported. An ad. Short-eared Owl was observed feeding a fledged juv. at DCWMA, Panton on 8/2 (PEL), and 1 was seen at Plainfield on 11/15 (MFM) a very unusual location for this species. An Asio owl sighted at DCWMA on 11/18 was likely, but not conclusively, a Long-eared Owl (MBN). Although they were certainly present, no Northern Saw-whet Owls were reported. The main migratory flight of the Common Nighthawk was missed as just 89 were reported. One at S. Hero on 8/17 (CJF) was of interest as the species seems to be rare in Grand Isle County. High counts were 17 at Manchester Ctr. (EFG), and 15 at Rutland (CJF) on 9/4. The last was at Winhall on 9/21 (WJN). A Whip-poor-will continued calling at Woodstock to 9/4 (CRP).

SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

About 250 Chimney Swifts were reported. High counts of 36 were achieved on 8/13 and 27 at Woodstock (WGE,NLM), and the latest were 4 at Putney Mt. on 9/21 (JJC). Over 90 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were reported. High counts were from late August with 5-7 migrants at Paine Mt., Northfield on 8/21 (WHB), and 8 at Hartford on 8/23 (WGE). The last was at Winhall on 9/28 (WJN). One hundred seventy Belted Kingfishers were reported with single day counts of up to 8 on three occasions. Red-headed Woodpeckers were observed along Rte. 17 near West Addison from 8/11-9/2 with a maximum of 3 on 8/24 and 9/2, at least one, perhaps two juveniles were present (m.ob.), 1 was also located at Springweather Nature Area, Weathersfield on 8/27 (WJN). Just over 40 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were reported. Up to 6 were present in Reading during August (FMH, GEH), and 4 migrants were observed at Colchester on 10/5 (JDM). The last was at Shrewsbury on 10/17 (LPS). Seven were banded, 5 at Woodstock (VINS,MFM). About 100 Downy Woodpeckers were reported with a single day high of 6, and 4 banded, 3 of which were netted at Woodstock (VINS,MFM). Hairy Woodpeckers were reported in about the same numbers as their small congener, a single bird was banded at Marshfield (MFM). A single Black-backed Woodpecker at Mt. Mansfield on 9/14 (KW) was at a site where the species is scarce and not proven to breed. A 'three-toed'-class woodpecker was observed in flight at Mt. Holly on 11/9 (WJN). About 220 Northern Flickers were reported. High counts were generally from late September and early October including 12 at Burton and Woods Is., St. Albans on 9/19 (WGE,NLM,RBL), and 20+ at Mt. Holly on 9/22 (WJN). Fifty-seven Pileated Woodpeckers were noted, most reports were of single birds but counts ranged up to 3, one was banded at Woodstock (VINS).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

Eight of the 11 Olive-sided Flycatchers reported were located during August including parents feeding 2 juv. at S. Duxbury on 8/17 (FAP). The last was at Woodstock on 9/11 (WGE). Just short of 100 Eastern Wood-Pewees were reported. High counts were 10 on 8/18 at Reading (FMH,GEH), 10 at Ferrisburg on 8/28 (JID, MCD), and 7 ad. and 3 young just out of the nest at Bald Mt., Mendon on 9/1 (WGE,NLM,JPM). Late dates included 9/26 at Reading (FMH,GEH), and 10/1 at Dorset (EFG). Eleven Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were reported, 6 during August, all were single birds. Three were banded, 2 by M. F. Metcalf (VINS,MFM), and the last was at S. Duxbury on 9/18 (FAP). August reports of Alder Flycatcher which are hoped to include none but birds identified by voice were as follows: 2 at Sheffield on 8/2 (PEW), 1 on 8/9 at Albany (TP), and 1 at W. Rutland on 8/21 (WJN). A Willow Flycatcher was reported at Springweather N.A. on 8/3 (WME). The latest "Traill's" flycatcher was reported at White River Jct. on 8/23 (WGE,SS). (With September Alder or Willow Flycatcher reports, please note how the species was identified -- with these two call is the only criterion. This also applies to any other difficult species group -- please include your rationale for any difficult or out-of-season identifications.) About 50 Least Flycatchers were reported, 8 were banded, 4 each by VINS and Metcalf. The high count was 8 on 8/30 at Woodstock (WGE), and the last was at Woodstock on 9/25 (WGE). About 200 Eastern Phoebes were reported, the best counts were 10 on 8/28 at Ferrisburg (JID,MCD), and 10 at Woodstock on 9/20 (JMN). Sixteen were banded at Woodstock which represents a return to average numbers after some poor years (VINS). Reports terminated in late October but see the Winter RVB. There was a convincingly detailed sight report of Vermont's first SAY'S PHOEBE, one of 11 reported in eastern North America last autumn and winter, at Shoreham on 11/16 (ELW,LWW), for Vermont's



SAY'S PHOEBE

first record of this species. Thirteen of the 21 Great Crested Flycatchers reported were located during August. No more than 3 were observed in a day and the last was at SWMA on 9/19 (WGE,NLM,RBL). Over 200 Eastern Kingbirds were reported with a max. of 64 at DCWMA on 8/11 (WGE,NLM), and a late date of 9/26 at W. Brattleboro (JJC). Juveniles were observed at Bartonville on 8/12 (TEJ), even later were fledglings still receiving food at Quechee on 8/25 (WGE,NLM). Over 645 Horned Larks were reported, the max. of 370 on 11/24 in Grand Isle County (DLC,BLR,WAM) represents over half of the total. Of particular interest was an albinistic individual (largely white, with some buff on the mantle) observed at DCWMA on 8/29 (SSW). With the exception of the hardy Tree Swallow the swallows slipped out of Vermont early in the season and were

reported in less than impressive numbers. About 75 Purple Martins were reported. Most were reported from DCWMA including the high count of 28 on 8/11 (WGE,NLM), and the last, 12 on 9/3 (JID,MCD). Over 600 Tree Swallows were reported. High counts were very modest and included 100+ at DCWMA on 8/17 (WGE,NLM), and 75 at Panton on 8/24 (JRA). Over three dozen were reported into October including 27 on 10/12 in Burlington and Colchester (WGE,NLM, et al.) the last reported. Reports of Northern Rough-winged Swallow included 5 at Shelburne Bay on 8/6 (WAM), 10 at WRD on 8/10 (JDM), and 4 at WRD on 9/2 (WGE,NLM, JPM). Less than 100 Bank Swallows were reported. The high count was just 32 on 8/10 at Rockingham (WGE, NLM), and the last were 20+ at WRD on 9/2 (WGE,NLM, JPM). Just over 110 Cliff Swallows were reported. The max. was 60+ at L. Carmi, Franklin on 8/31 (PJM), and the last was at Addison on 9/2 (WGE,NLM, JPM). Nearly 700 Barn Swallows were reported. The best counts were 100+ on 8/11 at DCWMA (WGE,NLM), and 50 on 8/21 at W. Rutland (WJN). The last reported were 6 at Ferrisburg on 9/9 (JID,MCD).

JAYS THROUGH WRENS

A banded Gray Jay was observed near Moose Bog, Ferdinand on 10/20 (WGE,NLM), and 1 was reported from "Island Pd." on 10/21 (DLC,LC). Over 1700 Blue Jays were reported. One was banded (MFM), and the emigration of young jays peaked during the third week of September as appears to be normal. The best count was a very impressive 744 at Putney Mt. on 9/21 (JJC). The American Crow was noted in very low numbers with just 2400 reported. The high count was 490 on 10/17 at Paine Mt., Northfield (WHB, et al.). Over 120 Common Ravens were reported with a max. of 17 at Tirmouth on 11/23 (CJF). Over 1100 Black-capped Chickadees were reported, high counts were in the range of 35-40 and 32 were banded, 19 at Woodstock (VINS,MFM). Two birds retrapped by Woodstock banders were at least 6 years old (VINS). Boreal Chickadees were not observed away from the Northeast Kingdom, there were three reports from the Island Pd. area with a max. of 14 on 10/20 (WGE,NLM), and up to 2 were observed at Sheffield throughout the season (PEW). There were only a few reports of Tufted Titmouse. These included 5 at Colchester from 8/9-11/23 (JDM), 1 at Mallet's Bay on 11/23 (JDM), 6 at Vernon on 9/2 (JJC), 1 at Dorset on 10/1 (EFG), and 3 at Ferrisburg on 11/28 (JID,MCD). Over 70 Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported including high counts of 8 at S. Duxbury on 8/22 (FAP), and 8 at Putney Mt. on 9/21 (JJC). Three were banded (MFM). This species appeared more numerous than average in the Champlain Valley. One hundred more White-breasted Nuthatches were reported than Red-breasts, the highest count submitted was 14 at Reading on 8/10 (FMH,GEH). One each was banded at Marshfield and Woodstock (MFM,VINS). A total of 46 Brown Creepers was reported with a max. of 6 at Bald Mt., Mendon on 10/6 (WGE,NLM). A Carolina Wren observed at HC on 10/3 (WJN) was the first reported to the Autumn RVB since 1980. Just over 50 House Wrens were reported, up to 4 were reported in a day, and the last was at Shoreham on 10/12 (ELW). Seven were banded at Woodstock (VINS). The 27 Winter Wrens reported is the lowest number reported for fall since 1982 when 28 were reported. The max. was 4 on 8/18 at Shrewsbury (LPS), and the latest reported was at Shoreham on 11/12 (ELW). Twenty-three Marsh Wrens were reported from Whitney Creek, Addison, DCWMA, HC, WRD, and West Rutland Marsh with a high count of 8 on 8/17 at Addison (WGE,NLM, et al.), and a late date of 10/5 at HC (WGE).

KINGLETS THROUGH THRUSHES

Over 90 Golden-crowned Kinglets were reported. High counts included 16 on 10/20 at Moose Bog, Ferdi-

nand (WGE,NLM), and 12 on 11/10 at Reading (FMH,GEH). Three were banded in Marshfield and Ferdinand (MFM). Nearly 150 Ruby-crowned Kinglets were reported. The arrival of most migrant kinglets was during mid-September. High counts were 8 on 9/29 at S. Duxbury (FAP), 6 at Colchester on 10/5 (JDM), 7 at WRD on 10/12 (WGE,NLM, et al.), and 7 at Hartford on 10/14 (WGE,NLM). The last reported was at Winhall on 10/30 (WJN). Twenty-four were banded with 15 netted at Marshfield (MFM,VINS). Seven Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were reported, 1 at Bartonville 8/22-23 (TEJ) was at a new location, and 2 were reported into September in the Champlain Valley, however 1 observed at Shoreham on 11/20 (WGE) was extraordinarily late, being only exceeded by last year's Ferrisburg CBC report. There was a well documented sight report of a NORTHERN WHEATEAR from Vershire on 9/23 (JnW,JD), with behavior and plumage both well described by the observers. Nearly 190 Eastern Bluebirds were reported evidencing a clear increase in numbers reported. High counts included 11 on 9/13 at Dorset (EFG), 14 at Woodstock from 9/22-24 (WGE,NLM,NER), and 20 on 10/2 at Browns-ville (BMH). The last reported was at Mt. Holly on 11/9 (WJN). Eight were banded at Woodstock (VINS). Most of the 29 Veeries reported were observed in August, no more than 2 were reported/day and the last was at Reading on 9/15 (FMH,GEH). Seven were banded with 4 caught at Marshfield (MFM,VINS); one retrapped at Woodstock was originally netted on 26 May 1980 (VINS). Very few Gray-cheeked Thrushes were reported, 1 on 8/5 at HC (WJN) was remarkably early, 1 was at Winhall on 9/1 (WJN), and 2 were banded including 1 at Woodstock on 9/24 (VINS,MFM). The Swainson's Thrush was noted in extremely poor numbers with only 32 reported. No more than 2 were reported/day. Sixteen were banded with 11 mist-netted at Marshfield (MFM,VINS), the latest were 2 banded at Woodstock on 10/7 (VINS). Fifty-seven Hermit Thrushes were reported. The high count reflected post-breeding numbers with 10 at Shrewsbury on 8/4 (LPS). Ten were banded with 6 marked at Woodstock (VINS,MFM). See the Winter RVB for the late report. Only 18 Wood Thrushes were reported. The max. was 3 on 9/20 at HC (WJN), and the last was at Roundy's Cove, Rockingham on 9/30 (WJN). About 1300 American Robins were reported, an average figure. Young fledged at Bartonville on 8/13 (TEJ). High counts included 100 at Colchester on 10/5 (JDM), and 130 at Woodstock on 10/10 (WGE). Sixteen were banded with 13 ringed at Woodstock (VINS,MFM).

MIMICS THROUGH VIREOS

About 250 Gray Catbirds were reported. The max. count submitted was 20 on 8/5 at HC (WJN), and the last reported during autumn was at HC on 10/27 (TEJ), however see the Winter RVB. Banders processed 33 with 30 at Woodstock (VINS,MFM). The numbers of Northern Mockingbirds reported increased considerably to 23, the high count of 8 at Colchester on 8/24 (WAM,DLC) contributed in no small way to the improvement. Mockingbirds were reported north to Colchester and White River Jct. Less than 30 Brown Thrashers were reported, up to 3 were reported in a day and the last reported was at WRD on 10/5 (JDM). Two were banded at Woodstock (VINS). The total of 480 Water Pipits was very good. The first pipits reported were 3 atop Camel's Hump (DLC), and 10 at DCWMA (MBN) on 9/17. The best count was an impressive 200+ at Vernon on 10/5 (JJC). The latest reported were 1 at Newport (DLC), and 18 at Shoreham on 11/18 (ELW). Bohemian Waxwings arrived in November with 2 at S. Hero on 11/9 (DLC,WAM), and 5 at Shelburne on 11/30 (DLC,BLR,DHD). Nearly 900 Cedar Waxwings were reported, 100 at HC from 8/20-9/3 (WJN) represented a post-breeding flock. Waxwings were observed throughout the season including a late season appearance at Sheffield in the northeast (PEW). Fourteen were banded including 9 netted at

Marshfield (MFM). Two reports of Northern Shrike -46- included 1 from 11/20-23 at Shoreham (ELW,WGE), and 1 at Charlotte on 11/25 (DLC). A Loggerhead Shrike at HC on 8/12 (WJN) was presumably a "floater" or a post-breeding casual visitor. The European Starling continues abundant with a max. of 4000+ on 9/29 at DCWMA. One hundred were observed in the Hunt's relatively remote yard in Reading during Hurricane Gloria, from whence had these birds come, and where were they headed? Seventy-nine Solitary Vireos were reported. High counts included a post-breeding count of 8 at Reading on 8/3 (FMH,GEH), and 9, 6 of which were banded, at Woodstock on 9/24 (VINS). The latest was at Shrewsbury on 10/21 (LPS). Twelve were banded with 11 handled at Woodstock (VINS, MFM). The last of the 19 Yellow-throated Vireos reported were 2 at W. Brattleboro on 9/22 (JJC). Just over 40 Warbling Vireos were reported including a high count of 9 at Vernon on 9/2 (JJC), and the last at Woodstock on 9/15 (JMN). One was banded at Woodstock (VINS). The first of 16 Philadelphia Vireos was at Woodstock on 8/28 (VINS), and the latest set a new standard for late departure of 10/4 at Winhall (WJN). Two were banded at Woodstock (VINS). Nearly 160 Red-eyed Vireos were reported. The highest counts were 10 at Merck Forest in W. Rupert on 8/29 (FAP), and 19 on Bald Mt., Mendon on 9/1 (WGE,NLM,JPM). The latest were 2 at HC (WGE), and 1 at Colchester (JDM) on 10/5. Eight were banded, 5 at Marshfield (MFM,VINS).

WOOD WARBLERS

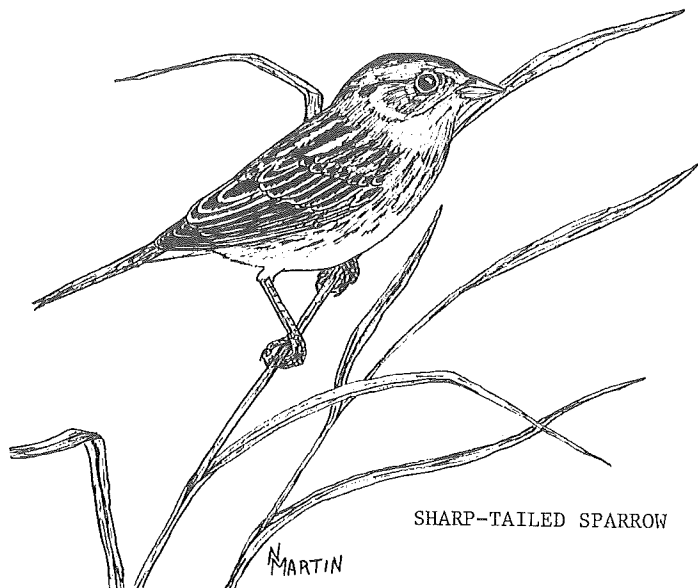
A Blue-winged Warbler was present at W. Brattleboro from 8/25-28 (JJC,TEJ). West Brattleboro also hosted a Golden-winged Warbler on 8/25 (JJC). Finally to complete the "winged" warbler picture a "Brewster's" warbler was also seen at W. Brattleboro on 8/27 (JJC). The 86 Tennessee Warblers reported represented just 30% of the average total from 1982-84. The max. count was 13 on 8/23 at Hartford (WGE,SS), and the last was at HC on 10/5 (WGE). Only 2 were banded, 1 at Marshfield and 1 at Woodstock (MFM,VINS). In most recent autumns this warbler has been one of the most common species handled by banders. The rare Orange-crowned Warbler was reported twice, 1 was observed at Colchester on 10/5 (JDM), and 1 was noted at Woodstock on 10/11 (WGE,NLM). Much as in the Tennessee Warbler above, numbers of the Nashville Warbler were quite low with only 84 reported. High counts included 6 (4 banded) at Woodstock on 8/29 (VINS), 5 at Bald Mt., Mendon on 9/1 (WGE,NLM,JPM), and 5 at S. Duxbury on 9/19 (FAP). The last was at Colchester on 10/20 (JDM). Twelve were banded with 9 netted at Woodstock (VINS,MFM). Seven Northern Parulas were reported on dates ranging from 8/3 to 9/24 when 1 was at Winhall (WJN), and another at Vershire (WGE,NLM). One was banded (MFM). Just 5 of the 50 Yellow Warblers were reported into September, the best count reported was 8 on 8/18 at WRD a traditional concentration point (JDM), the last was at Woodstock on 9/22 (JMN). Nearly 70 Chestnut-sided Warblers were reported. Maxima were 7 at Bartonville on 8/22 (TEJ), and 7 at Reading on 9/7 (FMH,GEH). The last was at Shrewsbury on 9/25 (LPS). Ten of the 17 banded were caught at Marshfield (MFM,VINS). One hundred-eight Magnolia Warblers were reported including high counts of 6 (4 banded) on 9/15 at Woodstock (VINS), and 6 at W. Brattleboro on 9/22 (JJC). The latest was at S. Duxbury on 10/2 (FAP). Fifty were banded including 35 at northern stations (MFM,VINS). The earliest of 30 Cape May Warblers reported was at Bartonville on 8/21 (TEJ). High counts were 5 on 9/19 at S. Duxbury (FAP), and 5 at Putney Mt. on 9/21 (JJC). The last was at Woodstock on 9/30 (WGE). One was banded (MFM). Seventy-five Black-throated Blue Warblers were reported. The maximum was 14 on 9/1 at Bald Mt., Mendon (WGE,NLM,JPM), and the last was at

the same location on 10/6 (WGE,NLM). Twenty-four were banded at Marshfield (MFM). The Yellow-rumped Warbler migration appears to have been exceptionally poor with just 289 reported and no major waves noted. The high count was a modest 18 on 10/14 at Hartford (WGE,NLM). The latest reported were at Panton on 11/25 (DLC), and HC on 11/26 (TEJ). Thirtyone were banded with 22 ringed at Woodstock (VINS, MFM). Reports of nearly 180 Black-throated Green Warblers were submitted. High counts ranged from 9/7- 9/24 and included the max. of 18 on 9/7 at Reading (FMH,GEH). The latest were 2 at S. Duxbury on 10/3 (FAP). Nine each were banded at Woodstock and Marshfield (MFM,VINS). Just short of 70 Blackburnian Warblers were observed, including high counts of 5 at S. Duxbury on 8/22 (FAP), and 5 at Bartonville on 8/31 (TEJ), and the last at Woodstock on 10/2 (WGE). Five of 7 banded were netted at Marshfield (MFM,VINS). Most unexpected, unprecedented as to season and remarkably late was a YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER in Burlington from 11/11-28 for the fourth report to the Records of Vermont Birds. (BLR,DLC,DMc). There were three reports of Pine Warbler, 1 ad. male was observed at Woodstock on 9/1 (JMN), an imm. was seen at Quechee on 9/22 (WGE), and a singing ad. was seen and heard at Quechee on 9/27 (WGE). Always scarce, the Prairie Warbler was reported twice, 1 was noted at W. Brattleboro from 8/27-28 (JJC,TEJ), and 1 was sighted at Winhall on 9/8 (WJN). A Palm Warbler at Ferrisburg on 8/29 (JID,MCD) was extraordinarily early. Eighteen others were reported with a max. of 4 on 10/13 at Quechee (WGE,NLM), and the latest a 'yellow' palm on 10/22 at Woodstock (WGE). A little less than 70 Bay-breasted Warblers were reported. The first noted was at Woodstock on 8/29 (WGE, NLM). Ten at Button Bay S.P., Ferrisburg on 9/17 (JID,MCD) was the high count, and the latest were 1 each at Woodstock and Vershire on 9/24 (WGE,NLM). Six were banded at Marshfield (MFM). The first Blackpoll Warbler reported was at Winhall on 8/22 (WJN), it is unusual for this species to antedate the bay-breast in arrival. Nearly 50 blackpolls were reported including high counts of 5 on 9/17 at Button Bay S.P. (JID,MCD), and 6 at S. Duxbury on 9/19 (FAP). The last was at Quechee on 9/27 (WGE). Seven were banded including 5 at Woodstock (VINS,MFM). Most of the 45 Black-and-white Warblers reported were observed during August. The high count was 5 at Bartonville on 8/22 (TEJ), and the last was at Woodstock on 9/30 (JMN). Four were banded with 3 netted at Woodstock (VINS,MFM). Over 90 American Redstarts were reported, high counts included 10 at Woodstock on 8/17 (WGE,NLM), and 9 at Vernon on 9/2 (JJC), the last was at Hartford on 10/19 (WGE). Eight of the 15 banded were ringed at Marshfield (MFM,VINS). The Ovenbird was as always inconspicuous with 39 reported. The max. report was 4 on 9/1 at Bald Mt., Mendon (WGE,NLM,JPM). Seven were banded with 4 mistnetted at Marshfield (MFM,VINS). The last was observed at E. Barnard on 10/6 (EH). Eleven of the 14 Northern Waterthrushes reported were banded, 9 at Marshfield Pd. (MFM,VINS), the last banded at Woodstock was netted on 9/9 (VINS) dates are not available for Marshfield. This species is a much more common migrant along the New England coast. As usual the Louisiana Waterthrush departed early, the only one reported was at Reading on 8/1 (FMH,GEH). Exactly 20 Mourning Warblers were reported. Four of the 6 banded were handled at Woodstock (VINS,MFM). The latest reported were at Woodstock (JMN) and Quechee (WGE) on 9/22. About 250 Common Yellowthroats were reported, 85 of these were banded including 47 at Woodstock (VINS,MFM). Up to 10 were reported in a day and the Winter RVB document that the species outlasted autumn. A very good total of 60 Wilson's Warblers was reported. The first reported was at Woodstock on 8/14 (WGE,NLM), high counts were 5 at Reading on 8/26

(FMH,GEH), and 5 at Woodstock on 8/30 (WGE). The last was at W. Brattleboro on 10/8 (JJC) quite late for this species. Of 11 banded, 7 were ringed at Woodstock (VINS,MFM). The Canada Warbler was also well reported with a total of 78 submitted. Twenty of 28 netted were banded at Marshfield (MFM,VINS). High counts were 5 at Reading on 8/17 (FMH,GEH), and 5 (3 banded) at Woodstock on 8/21 (VINS). The last set a new standard for tardy departure of 10/3 at Woodstock (VINS). A YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT at Springweather N.A., Weathersfield on 9/3 (WJN) was an excellent find.

TANAGER THROUGH SPARROWS

The Scarlet Tanager was reported in low numbers with only 30 recorded by observers. No more than 2 were seen in a day, just 1 was banded at Woodstock (VINS), and the last was at Woodstock on 9/27 (WGE). About 130 Northern Cardinals were reported; noteworthy were 1 at Sheffield (PFW) where the species is still novel, 1 as far northeast as possible in Vermont at Canaan (BMEH), and dependent young at Bartonville on 8/16 (TEJ), and Norwich on 9/21 (WGE,NLM). Nearly 90 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported. The high count was 10 at Dorset on 9/15 (EFG), and the last remained to 10/13 at Reading (FMH,GEH). Ten were banded, 6 at Woodstock (VINS,MFM). Over 60 Indigo Buntings were reported. The max. was a fine 23 on 8/23 at Hartford (WGE,SS), and the last was at HC on 9/30 (WJN). Four were banded at Woodstock (VINS). The Rufous-sided Towhee was reported in small numbers with a total of 28. One was banded at Woodstock (VINS), and the latest reported were 2 there on 10/4 (WGE). About 275 American Tree Sparrows were noted, with the earliest on 10/17 at S. Duxbury (FAP). The high count was 45 at Wallingford on 11/29 (WGE,NLM), and 2 were banded at Woodstock (VINS). About 360 Chipping Sparrows were reported including a max. of 65 on 9/22 in Woodstock and Hartford (WGE,NLM), and a late report of 10/27 at Rockingham (TEJ). Two were banded at Woodstock (VINS). The total of 86 Field Sparrows reported was a good one. Most high counts were from late September with a max. of 10 at Ferrisburg on 9/17 (JID,MCD). Nine were banded at Woodstock (VINS). Only 9 Vesper Sparrows were reported with reports from Plainfield, Brattleboro, White River Jct., Addison and Pantan. The last was at the Retreat Meadows, Brattleboro on 10/20 (JJC). Reported totals of this species have declined steadily over the last decade. Nearly 100 Savannah Sparrows were reported; the best count was 24 on 10/14 at White River Jct. (WGE,NLM), see the Winter RVB for late reports. Reports of the scarce Grasshopper Sparrow included an ad. with 2 juvs. on Slang Rd., Pantan on 8/2 (PEL), and 2 on Rte. 17, W.



SHARP-TAILED SPARROW

MARTIN

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Addison from 8/11-9/2 (WGE,NLM, et al.). The SHARP-TAILED SPARROW observed at WRD on 10/3 (SRA) was adequately detailed and the date fits the pattern of occurrence in the northeastern U.S. for this rare and elusive migrant from the midwest. There was a relatively light migration of the Fox Sparrow with only 24 reported, the earliest were 3 at Springweather N.A. on 10/19 (WME), and the high count was 7 on 10/26 at Timmouth, reports ceased on 11/15. The Song Sparrow remains common with about 800 reported. The high count was 50 on 10/13 at Quechee (WGE), and 18 of the 22 banded were captured at Woodstock (VINS,MFM). There was a steady movement of the Lincoln's Sparrow with no obvious peak. Forty-eight were reported, the first clear migrant was at Springfield on 8/26 (WJN), high counts were 4 on 9/27 at Quechee, and 4 at HC on 10/5 (WGE), and the last was at Woodstock on 10/15 (WGE). Seven of 8 banded were caught at Woodstock (VINS,MFM). Just over 100 Swamp Sparrows were reported with 8 banded, 7 at Marshfield Pd. (MFM,VINS), and a maximum of 18 on 10/14 at Hartford (WGE,NLM). The White-throated Sparrow was the most numerous sparrow reported with over 900 observed. High counts were modest with 70 at Quechee on 10/13 (WGE,NLM), and 75 in Timmouth and Danby on 10/17 (CJF). In terms of numbers the best dates were 9/29, 10/5, and 10/13. Forty-seven were banded with 34 handled at Woodstock (VINS,MFM). A good total of 170 White-crowned Sparrows was noted. The earliest was an imm. at WRD on 9/28 (JDM). The best count was 60 on 10/13 at Vernon (JJC). See the Winter RVB for late reports. Nearly 600 Dark-eyed Juncos were reported, high counts were from 10/13-17 with a max. of 45 on 10/15 at Woodstock (JMN). Nine were banded at Woodstock (VINS). There were three reports of Lapland Longspur, 1 was early at Pantan on 9/29 (WGE,NLM), 3 were at Springfield on 11/22 (WJN), and 5 were at Alburg on 11/24 (DLC,BLR,WAM). About 350 Snow Buntings were reported commencing on 10/21 when 3 were on Ball I., St. Albans (RBL), 12 were at Wallace Pd., Averill, and 5 were at Island Pd. (DLC,LC). High counts included 60-80 at Shoreham on 11/18 (ELW), and 56 at Alburg on 11/24 (DLC,BLR,WAM).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH HOUSE SPARROW

About 300 Bobolinks were reported, peak counts fell during August and included 60+ at DCWMA on 8/17 (WGE,NLM, et al.), and ca. 100 at Salisbury on 8/21 (JID,MCD). The last was at Springfield on 9/18 (WJN). Red-winged Blackbirds were abundant through the end of October, four reports cited counts ranging between 1000 and 2000 birds, a few were seen to the end of the reporting period. A low total of 30 Eastern Meadowlarks was reported; high counts were of less than 10 birds and the last reported was at Danby on 11/11 (CJF). Only 17 Rusty Blackbirds were observed on dates ranging from 9/15 to 11/30 with a max. of 8 on 10/23 at Weybridge (MBN). Less than 2600 Common Grackles were reported. Relatively small early season roosts from late August to early September produced the high counts reported by all observers including 1000+ at WRD on 9/2 (WGE,NLM,JPM); no large late season roosts were reported implying that the bulk of the state's grackle population was elsewhere after September. Only about 250 Brown-headed Cowbirds were reported beyond the max. of 1000 on 8/31 at DCWMA (MBN). Since very few were detected after August in the state one is drawn to the conclusion that most cowbirds had left by September. Forty-three of the 45 Northern Orioles reported were observed during August, the high count was 10 at HC on 8/20 (WJN), the last reported prior to winter were 2 at Woodstock on 9/5 (WGE,NLM). Two were banded by Marion Metcalf. The Pine Grosbeak was represented by its best autumn showing since 1981 with a total of over 300 reported. Exceptionally early were 6 at Weybridge on 10/6 (MBN),

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ABBREVIATIONS USED:

ad. - adult
DCWMA - Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area
HC - Herrick's Cove, Rockingham
imm. - immature
I & Is. - island and islands
juv. - juvenile
L. - lake
max. - maximum
MNWR - Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge
m.ob. - multiple observers
Mt. - mountain
NA - Natural Area
p.o.h. - per observer hour
Pd. - pond
Pt. - point
R. - river
Res. - reservoir
SWMA - Sandbar Wildlife Management Area
SP - State Park
TWDR - Thurman W. Dix Reservoir, Orange
WRD - Winooski River Delta, Colchester

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most arrived during late October, the highest count submitted was 42 on 11/28 at Woodstock (WGE,NLM). About 650 Purple Finches were reported with rather few noted from mid-October onward. High counts included 24 at Vernon on 10/13 (JJC), and 30 at HC on 10/23 (WJN). Metcalf banded 278 of the 293 netted this season (MFM,VINS). The House Finch is now established as a common feeder patron in most of Vermont's larger residential areas. About 475 were reported. Pioneering birds were observed at S. Duxbury in the central Green Mountains (FAP), and at Lyndonville (PFW). The highest counts ranged up to 55. Four were banded at Hartford (VINS). The few crossbills reported would seem to be left over from last winter's impressive flight. A single Red Crossbill was at Woodstock on 8/29 (WGE,NLM), and White-winged Crossbills included 2 on 9/16 at Island Pd. (MW,DMC,DLC), and 4 at Sheffield on 11/9 (PFW). Common Redpolls arrived early with 1 at Ferdinand on 10/20 (WGE,NLM), and were present in good numbers with 120 reported, including a high count of 39 at Charlotte on 11/30 (DLC,BLR,DHD). The Pine Siskin was reported in rather small numbers throughout the season. A juv. at Springfield on 8/19 (WJN) implies a nearby nesting. High counts were 24 on 10/13 at Quechee (WGE,NLM), and ca. 20 at Shelburne on 11/22 (JID,MCD). Over 550 American Goldfinches were reported. Fledglings were seen at Woodstock on 8/11 (JMN), and a nest with 8-10 day old young was found at Woodstock on 8/27 (WGE). Large numbers were noted during the third week of September including the seasonal max. of 50+ at Ferrisburg on 9/18 (JID, MCD). Four were banded at Woodstock (VINS). Over 1000 Evening Grosbeaks were reported. Flocks were evident from early August onward. Exceptional numbers were not reported, many may have emigrated to the south without an ensuing influx from the north. High counts were 140+ on 8/31 at Montpelier (DL) an exceptional early season count, and 75 at Winhall on 10/20 (WJN). The status of the House Sparrow seems to be unchanged. Mating was observed at N. Ferrisburg on 8/9 (JRA).

Corrigenda: Totals for Pied-billed Grebe were inadvertently left out of the Autumn 1984 RVB, these included a max. estimate of 10 at MNWR on 10/1 (JBG), and 15 others reported with a high count of 8 on 10/9 at HC (JJC), and a late report of 10/28 at L. Memphrenagog in Newport (DLC,PAT).

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