

Records of Vermont Birds

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SUMMER SEASON 1987

1 June - 31 July

Lynn J. Erb, Seasonal Editor

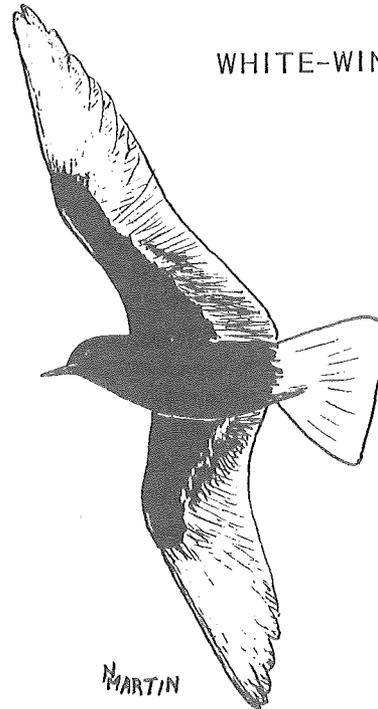
Bird watchers in Vermont recorded 186 species of birds, plus one hybrid and one Budgerigar (assumed an escaped bird) during June and July of 1987. The most notable sighting was a White-winged Tern (*Chlidonias leucopterus*). This lovely bird was seen and photographed near White River Jct. by Nancy Martin and Walter Ellison, and was first identified by Geoff Lamdin. For a species which originates in E. Europe and China, this sighting is not only a first for Vermont, but a rarity for all of N. America. Other notable sightings are the first summer observations reported to the Records of Vermont Birds (hereafter RVB) of a Red-throated Loon, the second report of a Worm-eating Warbler and the second modern state breeding record of the Bay-breasted Warbler.

Although the weather in June was wetter than usual, with 2 inches more rain than average, it was warmer by one degree and had about average sunshine (57%). There were over 3" of rain in NE Vt. on 6/26,27, and the southern part of the state had torrential rains on 6/22,23. July's weather can be summed up in two words--hot and humid. This was the hottest July since 1979, with heat waves and temperatures in the mid 80's to mid 90's. From July 6-14 and again from July 22-26 it was very hot and humid. In Burlington it was 95 degrees on 7/24. Five days later the same town recorded a record low of 45 degrees. The precipitation was about normal, but it was sunny 73% of the possible time, an exceptional 9 points above normal. At least one nest failure was attributed to the extreme heat; two Eastern Bluebird fledglings died in 95 degree heat in Washington (ATA).

LOONS THROUGH HERONS. A RED-THROATED LOON

was observed on Nichols Pond in Woodbury on 7/25 (MFF,SRF,SCF). This is the RVB's first summer record of this species. The Common Loon continues its slow rebound from the poor years of 1983,84(8 pairs). Twelve breeding pairs hatched twelve chicks, 11 of which survived into August. Although the breeding population was up by two pairs from 1986, the nesting success was down by 2 chicks (13 in '86). The annual loon watch on July 18th involved 86 observers (128 last year), who censused 91 lakes and recorded 69 loons statewide. Fifteen other records of loons were sent in including a loon seen by (DW) on Lake Pineo in Quechee, a lake which has a plastic bottom! There were six sightings of Pied-billed

WHITE-WINGED TERN



Grebes at five locations, including 4 breeding pairs with 16 yg. at Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge (hereafter MNWR). In 1983, there were 43 nests of Double-crested Cormorants in Vt. at our only known nesting site on Young Is. Last year there were 160 nests and this year 220 nests and 750 adults were observed. Most sightings were on L. Champlain, but there were 8 seen on 7/22 on Shelburne Pond (MBN). There were none seen at Eagle Pt. on L. Memphremagog (hereafter L. Mem.). This was blamed on high lake level(STH). Twelve reports of American Bitterns were received, plus 10 breeding prs. at MNWR. Five were seen on 6/20(REG,OAG) in Newport, and there were 3 sightings at West Rutland Marsh (hereafter WRM). Besides the one breeding pair of Least Bitterns at MNWR, there were 3 other sightings, all on the western side of the state. These included one on 6/7 (CCR,MWB,BAH,CNV,et al.) at L. Bomoseen, 3 on 6/22(REG,OAG) at Mud Creek and one on 7/3 (DLC) at E. Haven. Thirty-nine people recorded observations of Great Blue Herons, including 150 nests counted from water* a nest with 4 yg. on 7/17 (SBL) in Chittenden and a nest with 1 ad./3 yg. on 7/29,30(RWP) in Benson. At MNWR there were 600 ad. with 993 yg. and forty-one were recorded on 7/21(CCR) between Grand I. and MNWR. Snowy Egrets were reported from Grand I. on 7/21(CCR,RBL,JAF) and 7/15,16(DJH). At least one pair appears to be nesting on Young I.(CCR). The count of

*at Shad Island (CCR),

Cattle Egrets this year numbered more than 20 birds, including 6-7 adults. These were observed on Young Is. (CCR,RBL,JAF). In 1986 there were only 3 reports sent in of Green-backed Herons. This year 20 reports were recorded, including 2 ads./3 yg.(SP) in Montpelier. This species has nested for 5 seasons there. Black-crowned Night-Herons were reported by 11 observers, including 30 plus(CCR) on Young I. near the Cormorant colony, 13 on 7/22(MPB) at Shelburne Pond and 15 plus on 7/31 (ATA) at Brilyea Access at Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area (hereafter known as DCWMA).

They were also observed at Mud Creek on 6/22 (REG,OAG),East Creek in Orwell on 7/22 (ELW) and the aforementioned Shelburne Pond.

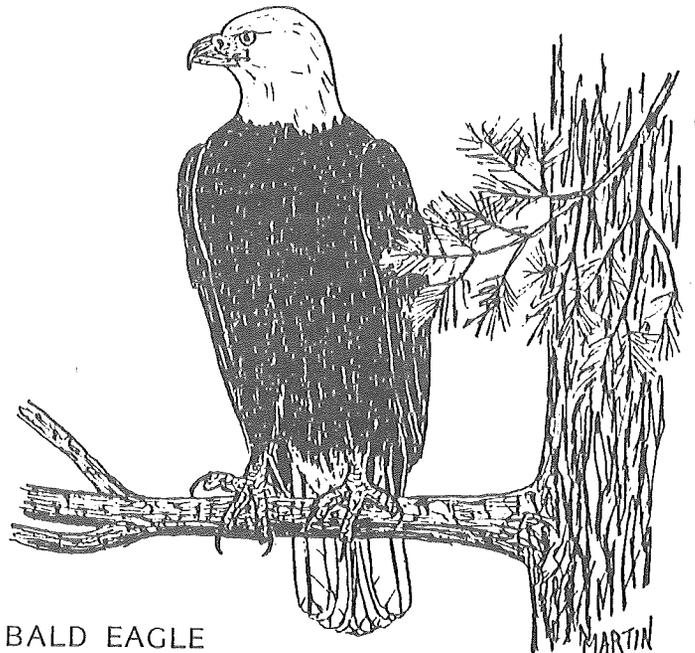
WATERFOWL Most of the 14 reports of Canada Geese were from the western side of the state, except a flock in Sharon on 6/13 (JY) and one at Herrick's Cove (hereafter HC) on 7/17 (WJN). As might be expected, the most (38) were seen on 7/25 (MBN) at DCWMA. There were 73 breeding pairs of Wood Ducks at MNWR in 1987, up from 39 last year. There were 14 other reports of this species from proper habitats all over the state, including a f./8 yg. on 7/2 on Lewis Creek (JID,MCD) and a f./5 yg. on 6/13 on the Post Mills Breeding Bird Survey (hereafter BBS)(WGE). Besides the 40 breeding pairs of Green-winged Teals at MNWR. there were only 2 other reports; one on 6/19 (REG,OAG) at DCWMA and 2 on 6/7 (TEJ,BLR,et al.) in West Haven.

American Black Ducks were seen by 21 reports at scattered locations around the state, with a breeding population of 26 pairs at MNWR. Eight of the sightings were of ads. /chicks, including a f./ 17 chicks! Sixty-six breeding pairs of Mallards were located at MNWR plus 26 other sighting throughout the state. Many of these sightings also included ads./yg., plus a nest with 10 eggs on 6/10 on Rock I. (CCR). One breeding pair of Northern Pintails at MNWR was the only record of this species this season. All 3 reports of Blue-winged Teal

were from the western side of the state: 4 on 6/19 (REG,OAG) at DCWMA, 3 on 6/14(WAM) in Ferrisburg, and one on 6/4(WAM) on Shelburne Bay. There were 7 breeding pairs of this species at MNWR in 1987. This is down from 16 breeding pairs in 1986. This species has been steadily declining at MNWR since 1981, when there were 41 breeding pairs. In 1982 there were just 20 pairs with an estimated production of 65. The only Gadwall reports are 2 on 7/21 (CCR,RBL,JAF) on Young I. and one 7/21 (CCR,RBL,JAF) on Bixby I. Twenty-nine breeding pairs of Common Goldeneye were reported from MNWR. Five were seen on 6/22 (REG,OAG) at Sandbar and 21 were counted on 7/21 (CCR) between Grand I. and MNWR. It should be mentioned that last year's reporting of a Common Eider on 7/30 at Maidstone Lake has been accepted by the Vermont Bird Records Committee. The only Bufflehead report is one f. on 7/6 (ATA) at L. Fairlee. Hooded Mergansers were reported from Addison with 6 seen on 6/19 (REG,OAG), from Button Bay with 1 f. /10 yg. seen on 7/14 (JID,MCD) and 1 m. in full plumage seen at the Walling Farm in Bloomfield on

the Connecticut River on 6/4 (BCW). There were 10 reports of Common Mergansers including 45 seen on 7/21(CCR) off Grand I. and 8 on 7/21(LPS) at Chittenden Reservoir.

VULTURES, HAWKS AND FALCONS. CCR reports that Turkey Vultures are common at likely nest sites everywhere in Vermont except the N.E. Kingdom. In 1974, there were 5 reports of sightings and this year 25 reports were sent in on this species. Twelve were seen on 6/10 (JRA) at Deer Leap in Bristol and 7 were seen on 7/3 in Bellows Falls (AMD). Ospreys nested unsuccessfully at a Champlain Valley location this year, making it the first time since 1975 that there has been a nesting attempt in the state. Eight other sightings of Osprey were recorded including one seen for 9 weeks at Camp Betsey Cox in Pittsford.(TB). This bird has returned for 3 years to the same location. Perhaps with the placement of nesting platforms by Green Mountain Power, we will see an increase in nesting Osprey in Vermont. Nine sightings of Bald Eagles were recorded in Vt., including several sightings at Herrick's Cove (hereafter HC) on 6/1 (AMD), 6/6 and 7/7(REG,OAG) and 7/17 (WJN). There were also 2 sightings at Green River Reservoir on 7/5 (DLC) and 7/30 (DEK),one ad. on 7/31 (JC) on I-91 near Springfield and one imm. on 7/22 (MPB) at Shelburne



BALD EAGLE

Pond. No evidence of nesting was observed. Fifteen reports of Northern Harrier were recorded, more than double the 7 recorded last year. These included one on 7/10 & 7/11 (CNV,CDT) harassing hatched Peregrine Falcons at Mt. Horrid and one male on 7/22 (MPB) at Shelburne Pond harassing a Bald Eagle. The other reports were from well-scattered locations around the state. There were 5 reports of Sharp-shinned Hawks from widely scattered areas of the state, including 2 at MNWR, and 5 single individuals in Woodstock on 6/25 (SSW), in

Huntington on 6/24 (SSW), in Dorset on 7/7 (EFG) and Bartonsville on 7/8 (TEJ). The lone Cooper's Hawk report came from Landgrove on 6/28 (WGE), and the single report of a Northern Goshawk came from Fayston on 6/13 (FAP). There were 3 single bird reports of Red-shouldered Hawks from around the state, including W. Haven on 6/7 (VBC) Post Mills BBS on 6/13 (WGE) and Ripton on 6/17 (SSW). Eighteen reports of Broad-winged Hawks, up from 10 last year, demonstrates the healthy population of this species in the state.

Reports include a pair seen several times in Washington, Vt. (ATA), a territorial pair with probably 2 yg. in Woodstock (JMN), two seen on 6/18 in Shrewsbury (JMN), and two on 6/24 in Sheffield (PFW). Red-tailed Hawks were reported by 18 observers, compared to only 6 last year. The reports were from well distributed locations around the state and include a breeding pair at MNWR. Twenty-five reports of the American Kestrel attest to its healthy population, including a nesting pair in Dorset Hollow on 7/3 (EFG), one bird in Barnard on 6/24,28 (JNF), snatching a baby Tree Swallow from a Purple Martin house and one on 7/10,11 (CNV,CDT) harrasing a Peregrine Falcon vocally in Brandon Gap. The Peregrine Falcons once again returned to the cliffs at Mt. Pisgah to nest. The really good news is that 3 additional mated pairs of this species were discovered in 1987. Two of these pairs were nesting and one was non-breeding. Six, and possibly 7, young were fledged from the 3 nests. Six other scattered reports suggest a substantial "floating" population of non-breeders (CCR).

GROUSE THROUGH COOT. This year, on official Vt. Fish and Wildlife transects, only 4 Spruce Grouse were located. This included 2 f., one with 2 juv. on 6/26. One f. was photographed on 7/13 (FO,GPL) at Moose Bog and Gene Fellows of the Soil Conservation Service reported a f./2 yg. in Moose Bog. The Vt. Endangered Species Committee has recommended that this species be added to the Vt. Endangered Species List. The Ruffed Grouse is fairly abundant and widespread, with several observations of f./yg. A peak population of 15 was reported at MNWR. There were only 2 reports of the Wild Turkey this season. They included 5 seen on 6/13(SSW) in Salisbury and 4 seen on 6/14(SSW) in Bristol. Virginia Rails were located at 8 appropriate locations around the state, plus a peak population of 40 at MNWR. The Sora Rail had a breeding population of 24,producing 50 young at MNWR. The 5 other reports from around the state include one on 6/16 (JID,MCD) at South Slang, one on 6/13(LPS) at West Rutland Marsh (hereafter WRM), one on 6/10(REG,OAG) at Allen's Marsh, Westminster West and 2 on 7/31(PM) at Vernon.The Common Moorhen was reported from W. Haven on 6/7(VBC), 2 on 6/20 (REG,OAG) in Newport, 3 on 6/22(REG,OAG) at Mud Creek, 4 on 7/2 (JID,MCD) at Lewis Creek and one on 6/19 (WAM) at Sandbar WMA.

SHOREBIRDS. Killdeer were reported 31 times from all over the state. They were reported on 13 of the 15 Breeding Bird Surveys, with a high of 11 on 6/14(DLC) in

Hinesburg. Twenty-two were seen on 7/12 (WAM) at DCWMA and 25 on 7/20 (TEJ) at HC. There were three reports of Greater Yellowlegs, including an early sighting on 6/18 (SBL) at Taftsville on the Ottaquechee R., one in mid-July (TEJ) at HC and one on 6/27(WAM) at Blodgett's Beach. Lesser Yellowlegs were also reported from 3 locations; four on 7/1 (CCR,JAF) at Hen

I. on L. Champlain, one on 7/15 (DJH) on Grand I. and one on 7/5 (WAM) at Colchester Pt. Only two reports of Solitary Sandpipers were received. Two were seen on 7/23 (TEJ) and one on 7/31 (TEJ), both in Bartonsville. Twenty records of the common Spotted Sandpiper were received, including 30 on 7/21 (CCR) between Grand I. and MNWR. A nest with 3 eggs and one chick was found on Gramma's I. on 7/1 (CCR). Although the Upland Sandpiper is a threatened species in Vt., 17 reports were received, including 1 ad./2 yg. on 6/29(CCR) at East Slang, Ferrisburg, plus 1 ad./2 juv. on 6/29 (CCR) at Otter Creek Wildlife Management Area. This is a healthy increase over the 5 reports in 1986. The Least Sandpiper was reported 4 times, 3 of them from Blodgett's Beach: 7/19 (DLC), 2 on 7/19 (WAM) and 4 on 7/25 (WAM). A single bird was reported from Grand I. on 7/21 (CCR,RBL). One Dunlin was recorded on 6/10 (CCR) on Popasquash I. on L. Champlain. There was a breeding population of 76 Common Snipe at MNWR and 20 other reports from widely scattered locations, including 8 sightings by (PFW,SAW) in the NE Kingdom., and a nest with 4 eggs found 6/14 in Tinmouth (PMB). Nine of the 15 BBS routes recorded this species. Six reports of American Woodcock were recorded, plus a breeding population of 16 and a peak population of 50 at MNWR.

GULLS AND TERNS. Seven reports of Bonaparte's Gull included 69 seen on 7/21 (CCR,RBL,JAF) between Maquam Bay and Savage I. on L. Champlain. The only reports not from the L. Champlain area were 2 on 7/2 (STH) and 6 on 7/22 (STH) at Eagle Pt. on L. Mem. There were about 9,900 nests and 19,800 Ring-billed Gulls on Young I. on L. Champlain(DEC). These are Vt. breeders and do not include Four Brothers I. birds in New York State. Three hundred were seen in J/J (STH) at Eagle Pt. of L Mem.. A new colony of 15 was located on Chittenden Reservoir on 6/15 (DEK), but by 7/18 the site had been abandoned leaving 12 nests, 10 with broken eggs and one dead chick (SBL,WG,EL). Elsewhere, there were 14 other reports from around the state. By comparison, there was a report of one in the 1974 records and none in 1976 (!). In 1977, the RVB was questioning whether or not they were breeding on L. Champlain! Herring Gulls had 123 nests or 246 birds on Young I. There were 5 other reports from around the state including one on 7/21 (RVC) in Orleans Co., up to 15 in J/J (STH) at Eagle Pt. on L. Mem., and one on 7/20 (TEJ) at HC. Twenty-one roosting Great Black-backed Gulls were located on Gull Rock on 7/20(CCR). Four other reports were made plus a peak population of 10 at MNWR. All reports were from either L. Champlain or L. Mem. Sadly, the breeding population of the Common Tern continues to decline. In 1986, the maximum nest count was 96, and in one year

this has declined to 69. Eight chicks were fledged, all from Rock I., an increase of 5 over last year. Predation and nocturnal desertion of the three main breeding colonies accounts for most of the nesting failures. The Vt. Endangered Species Committee has recommended that this species be moved to Endangered from Threatened. The breeding population of Black Terns at MNWR is 36, with 13 other reports from areas around the state including Addison C., Colchester Pt., L. Mem., and Berlin Res. The scoop of the summer season was the already mentioned WHITE-WINGED TERN observed and photographed 6/12 on a pond outside White River Jct. (GL,NLM,WGE,GFE, et al.) Word of the bird's presence spread quickly, but it had departed by early the next morning. There are very few North Am. records of this Eurasian species, one of them of a White-winged who joined a nesting colony of Black Terns at Saint-Gédéon, Quebec in 1985 and in 1986 mated with a Black Tern. They raised young in 1985, but in 1987 the nesting attempt apparently failed and the f. White-winged Tern was last seen there on 6/6; quite possibly this was the same bird. Intriguingly a White-winged Tern was reported from Delaware from 7/11-7/19 (American Birds, 41:5, p.1416). Could all these reports possibly be of the same bird?

DOVES THROUGH NIGHTJARS. We know there are lots of Rock Doves out there, but only 9 observers found them worth mentioning. There were also 180 of them seen on 10 BBS routes with a high of 70 on the Gaysville BBS (NLM). Twenty-two reports of Mourning Doves include a pair in Dorset that took over a half-built Robin's nest, then laid at least 2 eggs before they were taken by a crow (EFG). JRA feels that the numbers of this species are increasing at the 1000' level. On the BBS routes 171 were seen on all 15 routes. A Budgerigar was seen during the week of 26 July in the W. Rutland swamp area. It subsequently remained in the region until at least Jan. 19, 1988 (JCh). Many observers reported that they felt it was a very good year for the Black-billed Cuckoo. Twenty-six reports came in, several commenting on the abundance of the species and others commenting on hearing the bird sing at night (VRS,TEJ). Six individuals were heard on 5 BBS routes. Only 3 Yellow-billed Cuckoos were reported, those being from the Hinesburg BBS on 6/4 (DLC), one in Reading on 7/16 (FMH,GEH) and one in Winhall on 7/29 (WJN). The only reports of the Eastern Screech Owl were of a peak population of 10 at MNWR. There was a breeding population of 2 and a peak population of 4 of the Great Horned Owl at MNWR and only one other report from the Pomfret Rd. on 7/30 (MM). Barred Owls were more abundant, with nine reports, including one in East Orange on 6/18 (ATA) that was hunting large moths and 2 in Woodstock on 7/30 (JMN) that were helping to celebrate the opening of the VINS Raptor Center! The only Short-eared Owl report was of one at MNWR. Similarly, there was only one report of the Northern Saw-whet Owl on 6/1 (REG,OAG) in W. Glover. Common Nighthawks were reported from 8 sources and were lo-

cated in St. Johnsbury, Woodstock, Montpelier, Burlington and Rutland. There were six reports of the Whip-poor-will, including one on 6/29(CCR) in Brighton, one on 6/15 (CRP) in Woodstock, one on 6/15 and 6/25 (REG,OAG) in Saxtons River, one on 6/2 (CJF) in W. Rutland and one on 7/18 (FMH,GEH) in Reading.

SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS. Forty-four Chimney Swifts were located on 10 BBS routes, plus reports from 19 other sources scattered throughout the state. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds elicited 25 reports, plus 5 new birds were marked (by tail clip) at VINS and 11 sightings on 6 BBS routes. Twenty-nine reports points to a healthy population of Belted Kingfishers, including a nesting pair on Knight I. in L. Champlain (CCR) and a family of 5-6 at the Thurman W. Dix Reservoir (hereafter TWDR) in Orange (ATA). The BBS produced 16 individuals on 8 routes. Only 2 reports of the Red-headed Woodpecker, both from Addison Co.: one in Shoreham on 7/29 and 7/31(ELW) and one 6/24 in Ferrisburg (JID,MCD). There were 22 reports of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, including a pr./yg. in Washington (ATA). There were 11 total individuals on 6 BBS routes. Downy Woodpeckers were reported 18 times, including a m./yg. in Londonderry on 6/28 (WSA). There were 34 individuals seen on 11 BBS routes and VINS banded 7 new birds. There were 16 reports of hairy Woodpeckers, with a pr./yg. at a feeder in Washington (ATA) and a pr./yg. in Sheffield (PFW). On the BBS routes 29 were seen on 12 routes. There were 3 reports of the Black-backed Woodpecker. They included a pr./3 yg.(young fledged around 7/20) in Bear Swamp, Wolcott (CCR,GPL), one seen on 6/20 on Black-backed Rd. in Bloomfield/Lewis (REG,OAG), and one f. seen on 6/30 in Moose Bog (CCR). Northern Flicker reports were common, with 24 reports, including several confirmed nestings. Fifty-eight were seen on 15 BBS routes and one new and one re-trap were netted at VINS. Fourteen observers recorded the Pileated Woodpecker statewide and the BBS recorded 12 on 8 routes with a high of 5 on 6/25(WHB) on the Northfield BBS.

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS. Besides the 7 recorded observations of Olive-sided Flycatchers, 2 individuals on 2 BBS routes were recorded. The reports were from appropriate scattered locations around the state, mostly in the e. central part of the state. The Eastern Wood-Pewee was recorded 49 times on 13 BBS routes and at a healthy 17 other locations. VINS banded one new individual. Seven reports (up from 4 in 1986) were reported of the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, plus VINS banded one new bird on 6/4, a late spring migrant. Alder Flycatchers were observed on 9 BBS routes with a high of 10 on 6/14 (MFM) on the E. Calais BBS, 14 observers recorded the species. There were 19 reports of the Willow Flycatcher, plus 11 individuals seen on 4 BBS routes. VINS banded 7 new "Traills" and re-trapped one from 1986. Thirteen BBS routes recorded 125 Least Flycatchers, plus there were 19 reports sent in, including 5-6 breeding

pairs at the VINS pond. Thirteen new birds were banded and there were 2 re-traps at VINS. Nineteen reports of Eastern Phoebes were recorded, including many observed nests. The first birds fledged were on 6/3 (JMN) in Woodstock. The BBS route recorded 115 birds on 14 routes. and at VINS 38 new birds were banded. There were also 19 reports of the Great Crested Flycatcher, plus 34 birds on 11 BBS routes. Two new birds were banded at VINS. The Eastern Kingbird was very abundantly reported this year (30 reports), including a f. using the same 100' high nest as the year before (ATA), a nest 20' up in an apple tree at VINS (CCR) and a nest in a blue spruce in Dorset (EFG). Fourteen BBS routes netted 105 birds and 4 new birds were banded at VINS. The Horned Lark was under-reported this year with just 2 individuals on 6/28 (LPR) on the Grand I. BBS being reported. Last year there were 9 reports of this species. On the other hand, the Purple Martin, reported only 3 times last year, was reported 6 times this year, plus one individual on a BBS route. All reports were from the Champlain Valley except one on 7/12 on Nichols Pond in Woodbury (MFF). Tree Swallows were widely reported, and many people had comments about them. JRA felt the numbers were drastically down away from L. Champlain and JMN reported that they didn't use the nest boxes provided in Woodstock for the first time in 10 years. There were 5 reports of attempted and successful nestings in Bluebird boxes. The highest post-breeding season concentrations occurred in Addison Co., with a mixed flock of over 1000 north of Lewis Creek on 7/27 (NB). At VINS, 2 new adults and 40 nestlings were banded, plus there was one re-trap from 1986. There were 8 reports from scattered locations of the Northern Rough-winged Swallow, plus 5 individuals on 3 BBS routes. Bank Swallows were reported 13 times with a high of 65-75 on the Barton R. Rd.(PFW,SAW). There were 122 birds on 7 BBS routes. Eight reports of Cliff Swallows were sent in with a high concentration of 15 on 7/22 in Reading (FMH,GEH). Barn Swallows were reported abundantly by 18 reports from all around the state, plus 363 individuals on the 15 BBS routes.

JAYS THROUGH WRENS. There was one report of the boreal Gray Jay this year on 6/20 from "Black-backed Rd." in Lewis/Bloomfield in the NE Kingdom (REG,OAG). Not surprisingly, the Blue Jay was reported state-wide, including a pr./3-4 yg. on 6/3 in Washington (ATA). The BBS recorded 189 birds on 15 routes, with a high of 24 on 6/14 in Hinesburg (DLC). There were 17 reports for the American Crow including 2 ads./5 yg. in Woodstock (JMN). There were 436 seen on the 15 BBS routes. The Common Raven seems to be occupying every suitable cliff site in the state (CCR). BBS reports 10 individuals, plus 13 other reports from sites all over the state. Needless to say, the Black-capped Chickadee is faring well, with 24 reports, including 3 nests in Woodstock, the first of which fledged on 6/20, the last on 7/12 (JMN). There were 292 individuals reported on 15 BBS routes. Sixteen new birds were banded at VINS, plus there were five re-traps--one from 1981. The Bo-

real Chickadee was reported from 5 locations; one at Bear Swamp on 6/15 (CCR), 2 at Moose Bog on 6/20 (REG,OAG) and 6/30 (CCR); 1-3 in J/J in Sheffield (PFW,SAW) and up to 4 seen regularly at Mt. Horrid (CNV,CDT), the most southern site. The 5 reports of the Tufted Titmouse included 2 nest reports; one of 2 breeding in East Dorset (RWS) and 2 ads./ 2 yg. on 7/10-7/12 in Westminster West (AMD). The other reports were of 2 on 6/25 in Barre (JAM), one on 7/21 in Reading (FMH,GEH), and two at a Ferrisburg feeder on 7/2 - 7/31 (JID,MCD). Two BBS routes also recorded this species: one on 6/26 on the Shaftsbury BBS(CCR) and one on 6/17 on the W. Rutland BBS (NLM). There were 13 reports of Red-breasted Nuthatches, including 2 juveniles banded at VINS. This, plus singing males in the red pines, points to probable breeding there. Also, an ad. feeding yg. was observed in Shrewsbury on 7/22 (LPS). There were 15 individuals on 7 BBS routes, up from only 3 individuals last year. Fifteen reports were sent in on the White-breasted Nuthatch from scattered locations across the state. Also, 29 individuals were seen on 10 BBS routes. One easily overlooked bird during the breeding season is the Brown Creeper. Still, there were 11 reports sent in this year. Ten individuals on 6 BBS routes in an increase over the reports from only 2 BBS routes last year. One Carolina Wren sighted on 6/6 at WRM (REG,AMD,DC) was the season's only report. House Wrens were reported to be using Bluebird nests in at least 4 locations, including 5 boxes in Ferrisburg (JID,MCD). Twenty-two reports were received in total, plus 55 birds seen on 11 BBS routes. Winter Wrens were well reported by 18 observers. One ad./2 yg. were seen on 6/15 in Bear Swamp in Wolcott (CCR). Fifty-one birds were seen on 14 BBS routes. Sixteen observations of Marsh Wrens were reported, including 40 on 6/15 at DCWMA (JID,MCD)..

KINGLETS THROUGH THRUSHES. Eight reports of Golden-crowned Kinglets were received, including one on 7/23 in Sheffield, travelling with Black-capped Chickadees and warblers. Two individuals were seen on a BBS route in Newbury on 6/18 (FAP). Although all Ruby-crowned Kinglets reported in 1986 were from the NE Kingdom,, this year reports came also from the Northfield BBS on 6/21 (WHB), E. Calais on 6/14 (MFM) and 3-4 in Shrewsbury on 6/18 (JMN,EFG). Other reports were from Bear Swamp, Wolcott on 6/15 (CCR), 5 singing males in Moose Bog on 6/30 (CCR), one at Moose Bog on 6/20 (REG,OAG), from E. Haven BBS on 7/3 (DLC) and one in Sheffield on 7/4-7/11 (PFW,SAW). Seven reports of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were all from the Champlain Valley except 2 seen in Barton on 6/2 (REG,OAG). Worth mentioning are two seen on their nest on 6/13 at WRM (LPS). Twenty-four reports of the Eastern Bluebird is a healthy increase over the 14 reports last year. Moreover, 14 of these reports are of attempted and successful nestings, including 4 nesting pairs at the Green Mt. Audubon Nature Center. Four nestlings were banded at VINS. The organization "Bluebirds Across Vt." estimates from survey forms returned to

them that an estimated 700-800 fledglings were produced in Vt. in 1987. This does not reflect birds that nested in suitable sites other than reported nest boxes (SPa). This organization is to be commended for the fine job they have done in educating people and monitoring Bluebird statistics. Thirty-four Veery reports indicated that they are doing nicely in the state, in spite of a report from Woodstock that numbers are down drastically from 8-10 years ago (JMN). There were 208 individuals recorded on 14 BBS routes, with a high of 36 on 6/14 on the Hinesburg BBS(DLC). VINS banded 3 new birds and re-trapped one from 1986. In contrast, but not surprising, there was just one report of a Gray-cheeked Thrush, that of a singing male 100' below the summit of Shrewsbury Peak on 7/15 (CCR). The Swainson's Thrush was seen 8 times on 3 BBS routes, plus they were seen at six other locations, including 6 singing males on 6/28 on Mt. Hunger (CCR). Although 20 observers reported on the Hermit Thrush, one reporter said the species is in "terrible shape" in Lincoln (JRA). Of note were 8 singing males on 6/30 in Moose Bog with 2 flushed from a nest with 3 eggs (CCR). Fifty-eight individuals were recorded on 12 BBS routes, with a high of 16 on 7/3 on the E. Haven route (DLC). There were 14 reports for the Wood Thrush. Although Anne Aversa felt all pairs returned to nesting sites near her, other comments ranged from "drastically reduced"(JMN), "very few all season"(LPS), to "numbers low but steady" (JRA). Still, there were 211 individuals recorded on 15 BBS routes. There were 770 American Robins seen on the 15 BBS routes. Juveniles were seen on 6/7(AMD) and an ad./yg. was seen on 7/27 on Mt. Hunger (CNV,CDT). VINS banded 23 new birds and re-trapped 6.

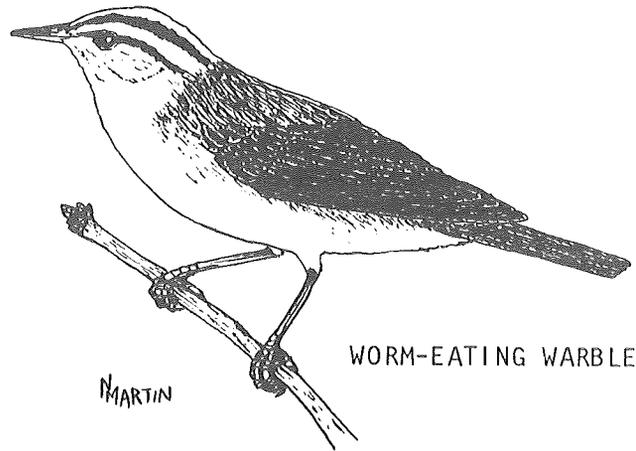
MIMIDS THROUGH VIREOS. VINS banded 23 new Gray Catbirds this season and had 6 retraps. There were 29 reports of this very common bird, plus 133 seen on 15 BBS routes. The Northern Mockingbird is faring well this year with reports from 14 locations, including an ad./yg. on 7/31 at DCWMA (ATA). The Brown Thrasher was reported on 9 BBS routes last year and only 5 this year. Victor Swenson in Johnson feels they are not as common as in the past. Otherwise, there were 13 reports received of this species, including a probable nesting pair at VINS in June (CCR). One new bird was banded at VINS. Cedar Waxwings are faring very nicely with 30 reports received and 295 seen on all 15 BBS routes. At VINS 43 new birds were banded and there was one nest 9' in a barberry (CCR). There were 838 European Starlings seen on 15 BBS routes (an average of 56 per route), plus 19 other reports received. JRA says they are increasing at 1000', where she saw one juv. using a sheep's back as a viewpoint for seeing insects on the ground. Ten reports of Solitary Vireos were received, including an ad./yg. in Washington on 7/27 (ATA), and 5 singing males in Moose Bog on 6/30 (CCR).VINS banded one new bird. There were 21 Yellow-throated Vireos on 4 BBS routes; nine other reports & one new bird banded and 3 retraps at VINS. Warbling Vireos were recorded 61 times on 10 BBS routes, plus

fifteen other sightings. VINS banded 5 new birds and had one retrap. While there were no records of Philadelphia Vireos the last two summer seasons, this year there were two: one on 6/21 (REG,OAG) in Granby and one on 6/14 (PJM) at L. Carmi. Although there were over 30 reports of Red-eyed Vireos, plus 505 birds seen on all 15 BBS routes, several reporters, including this observer, felt that numbers were down in at least some parts of the state(JRA,JMN). The high count besides BBS routes was of 56 seen on 6/9 in Reading (FMH,GEH), on a modified version of a BBS.

WOOD WARBLERS All four reports of the Blue-winged Warbler were from the south-central part of the state. They include sightings by VBC on 6/7 in West Haven and the Golden-winged pull-off in Ira at the Vt. Bird Conference field trip (hereafter VBC),one on 6/13 at WRM (LPS), one on 6/13 at the Ira rest stop (LPS) and one on 6/23 in Ferrisburg (JID,MCD). A Golden-winged Warbler was seen on 6/13 & 6/14 in Brandon in the company of a Brewster's Warbler(SSW). There were 4 other reports of Golden-wings, including one on 7/1 near Rutland (RAC), one on the VBC on 6/6 and 6/7, 2 on 6/21 in Sudbury (SSW), and on one 6/13 at the Ira rest stop(LPS). One hybrid Brewster's Warbler was seen in Brandon on 6/14 singing the song of a m. Golden-winged Warbler (SSW). Two Tennessee Warblers were banded at VINS, plus one singing male was heard there on 6/30-7/15 (CCR). Also sighted were one on 7/1 and 2 on 7/18 in Reading (FMH,GEH) and one early migrant on 7/15 on Shrewsbury Peak (CCR). Twenty-two Nashville Warblers were seen on 7 BBS routes plus there were 10 other reports from around the state, including a pair nesting on a brushy hillside in Woodstock (JMN). The Northern Parula was reported six times: one on 6/18 on the Newbury BBS (FAP), one on 6/2 & 7/15 in Dorset (EFG), one on 6/3 -6/17 in Reading (FMH,GEH), 2 singing males on 6/15 in Bear Swamp (CCR) and one on 6/20 on "Black-backed Rd." in the towns of Lewis/Bloomfield in the NE Kingdom (REG,OAG). There were 34 reports received of Yellow Warblers, up from just twelve reports last year. An average of 10 was seen on each of the 15 BBS routes and 9 new birds were banded at VINS, with 2 retraps. There were 3 nesting pairs at VINS (one polygynous!) with two nests fledged on 6/11 & 7/2 (CCR). Also abundant was the Chestnut-sided Warbler with 28 reports received and 143 seen on 13 BBS routes. VINS banded 8 new birds and had one retrap. Magnolia Warblers were reported 14 times, plus 21 were seen on 7 BBS routes. Two pairs in Washington nested in the same area as last year (ATA). The only reports of the Cape May Warbler were of one on 6/6 at the rest area at Route 103 in Mt. Holly (REG,OAG,AMD) and one ad. male on 7/2 in Winhall (WJN). Black-throated Blue Warblers were well reported, with 11 individuals being seen on 6 BBS routes. JRA reports that the numbers seem fine at the higher elevations. There were 16 reports of Yellow-rumped Warblers including a f. feeding a fledgling on 6/9 in Washington (ATA). Five singing males were heard on 6/

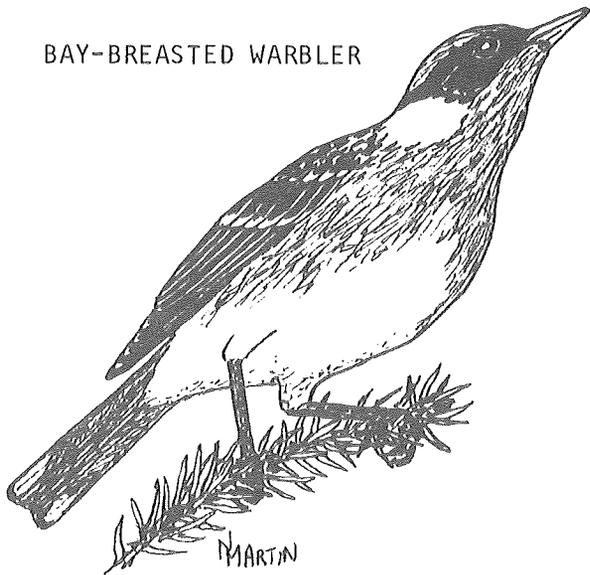
30 in Moose Bog, on 6/28 on Mt. Hunger, and on 7/5 in Shrewsbury (CCR). Twenty-one Black-throated Green Warblers were seen on 9 BBS routes, plus there were 14 other reports, including 2 on 7/31 in Sheffield travelling with Black-capped Chickadees (PFW,SAW). Two singing male Blackburnian Warblers were seen in the same breeding areas as last yr. in Washington (ATA), plus 10 other reports were received. Twelve birds were seen on 7 BBS routes. Five Pine Warblers were reported on 2 BBS routes, plus one seen on 6/18 at Button Bay (JID,MCD) and one seen on 6/6-7 at the VBC. There was plenty of evidence of the Prairie Warbler in Woodstock last summer with at least 4 singing males on 6/13 at the rifle range in So. Woodstock(JMN). A singing m. was heard as early as 6/1 at VINS (SSW). At VINS a nesting pair had a nest/ 5 eggs in a juniper with yg. hatched on 6/10. It was predated on 6/18. A second nesting had yg. fledged on 7/23(CCR). There were also 3 birds banded at VINS. The only Prairie Warbler reported that was not from Woodstock was one on the Shaftsbury BBS route on 6/26 (CCR). The second state breeding record for the BAY-BREASTED WARBLER was recorded with one m., one f. and 3 nestlings on 7/2 in Moose Bog (GPL). There were 2 other reports of this species,

birds were seen on 12 BBS routes. American Redstarts were reported 25 times last summer (up from 12 in 1986) and 144 were seen on 15 BBS routes. Eleven new birds were banded at VINS, plus one retrap. There were 6 singing males seen on the lower slopes on Mt. Hunger on 6/28 (CCR). This season marks the second report ever to the Records of Vt. Birds of a WORM-EATING WARBLER. One singing male was seen and recorded on 6/5 in Brattleboro (JJC), and 6/7 (DUW,TEJ). None were seen during the five yr. Atlas Project survey.



WORM-EATING WARBLER

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER



both from Moose Bog; one on 6/20 (REG,OAG) and 2 singing males on 6/30 (CCR). An early migrant Blackpoll Warbler was banded at VINS on 7/30, plus Blackpolls were seen 5 other times in appropriate habitat: one on 7/8 near the top of Mt. Mansfield (ATA), one on 6/20 in Moose Bog (REG), 2 on 7/3 and one on 7/15 on Mt. Horrid (CNV,CDT), and 9 singing males and one f. on 6/28 on Mt. Hunger (CCR). One Cerulean Warbler was seen on 6/19 at Mallet's Bay State Park (JID,MCD,et al.) and 2 were seen on 6/29 at Sandbar (WAM) Ten Black-and-white Warblers were banded at VINS in July with one retrap from 1986. There were 13 other reports, including a pair nesting in J/J in Woodstock (JMN). Forty-four

There were 29 reports of the Ovenbird, with a high seen of 32 on 6/9 in Reading (FMH,GEH). Nine new birds were banded at VINS and 164 birds were seen on 14 BBS routes with an average of almost 11 per route. The Northern Waterthrush was reported 10 times plus seen 4 times on 3 BBS routes. One new bird was banded at VINS.. One new Louisiana Waterthrush was also banded at VINS plus reports of one seen on 6/8 & 7/5 in Bartonsville (TEJ), 2 seen on 6/6, one on 6/9 in Reading (FMH,GEH), and the species also seen on 6/6-7 by the VBC. There were also 2 seen on 2 BBS routes. Three Mourning Warblers were seen on 2 BBS routes, plus there was one seen on 7/8 on the Mt. Mansfield Toll Rd. (ATA), one singing m. and a f. on 6/28 on Mt. Hunger (CCR) and 3 on 6/4 and one on 7/18 in Reading (FMH,GEH).The Common Yellowthroat is certainly just that, with 363 seen on 15 BBS routes, an average of 24 per route. Forty were seen on 6/14 on the Hinesburg BBS (DLC). VRS says they are the most common warbler in the Johnson area. In Washington 3 territorial males were within 400 yds. of each other, with 8-12 offspring later (ATA). There were 22 new birds banded at VINS, with 6 retraps. There were 14 reports of the Canada Warbler, including 4 singing males on 7/5 on Shrewsbury Peak (CCR). In addition, there were 7 seen on 3 BBS routes.

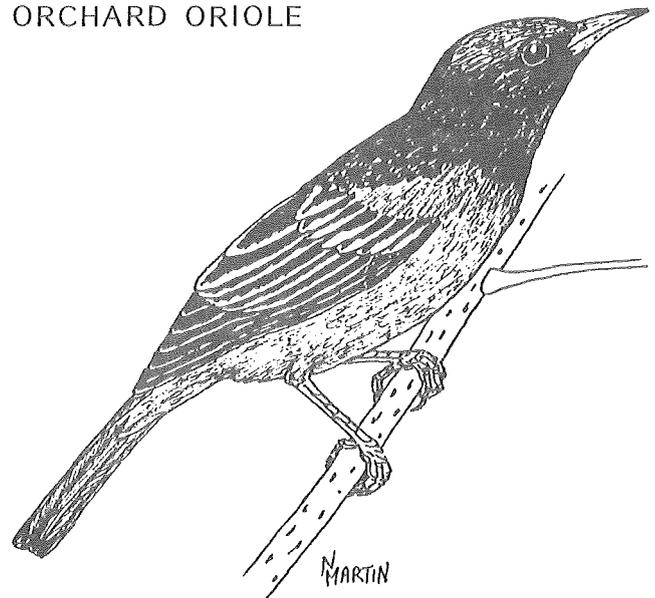
TANAGERS THROUGH SPARROWS. Scarlet Tanagers were seen 72 times on 13 BBS routes, plus they were reported 19 other times. Two new birds were banded at VINS. There were 3 Northern Cardinals on 8 BBS routes, plus 20 other reports, including 8 plus (3

families) in J/J in Ferrisburg (JID,MCD). There was one singing m. in Bristol on 7/17, the first one in that area (JRA). Twenty-four observers reported the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, in spite of the fact the numbers seemed down to some reporters (CCR,ATA). One pair was found nesting in Washington (ATA) and one pair with fledged yg. were at a feeder in Woodstock (JMN). Four new birds were banded at VINS, plus a retrap from 1982.

Eighty-seven birds were seen on 14 BBS routes. The Indigo Bunting was reported 23 times. Two males and yg.were found at 2 locations on 7/6 in E. Corinth (ATA), one nesting pair was located at VINS in J/J (CCR), where 8 new birds were banded. Also 2 territorial males in Woodstock had a singing contest all day (7/13), tree top to tree top, with hackles raised (JMN).The nine reports of the Rufous-sided Towhee, included a nesting pr. in J/J. at VINS (CCR), where 2 new birds were banded and one was retrapped. They were also seen eleven times on 4 BBS routes with a high of 8 on 6/21 in Northfield (WHB). Eighteen new Chipping Sparrows were banded at VINS, plus 167 birds were seen on 15 BBS routes. There were 15 other reports, including several of successful nestings: on 6/1 in Woodstock (CRP), on 6/2 at VINS (CCR), on 6/26 in White R. Jct. (JMN), on 7/23 in Westminster West (AMD) and on 7/23 in Shrewsbury (LPS). There were 26 new bandings of Field Sparrows and 5 retraps at VINS. Eleven other reports were received including 6 banded pairs nesting at VINS, where at least one pr. double-brooded, fledging 4 on 6/11 and 2 on 7/28 (CCR). There were 3 reports of Vesper Sparrows, including one bird reported on a BBS route on 6/14 in Hinesburg (DLC), 3 on 6/19 in Addison (REG,OAG), 1 on 7/19 at DCWMA (WAM) and 1 on 7/31 at DCWMA (ATA). Savannah Sparrows were recorded 32 times on 9 BBS routes, plus ten other times.. A high of 5 were seen on 6/19 in Addison (REG,OAG). The only Grasshopper Sparrow was one singing m. on 6/26 in Shaftsbury (CCR). There were 436 Song Sparrows seen on 15 BBS routes last summer. In addition VINS banded 29 new birds and retrapped 3 from other years. Reports from 23 other sources include 3 nesting pairs at VINS in J/J, at least 2 of which double-brooded (CCR), 2 nesting pairs in Barnard (JNF) and 3 nesting pairs in J/J in Woodstock, down from a high of 16 prs. in 1973 (JMN).* Swamp Sparrows were reported 14 times last season with several nests at the Berlin Res. (ATA). There were 34 seen on 6 BBS routes and 2 new birds were banded at VINS. The 25 reports of White-throated Sparrows include 9 singing males on 6/15 at Bear Swamp (CCR) and 12 singing males on 6/30 at Moose Bog (CCR). There were 136 birds seen on 13 BBS routes. and 3 new birds banded at VINS. Dark-eyed Juncos were recorded by 14 observers, included 7 singing males and one f. on 6/28 on Mt. Hunger (CCR), and 5 singing males and one juv. on 7/5 on Shrewsbury Peak (CCR). One new bird was banded at VINS on 7/23, plus 35 birds were seen on 10 routes. Several observers commented on the healthiness

of the population of Bobolinks this season (ATA,CCR,PFW,SAW,JRA). There were 4 nests in J/J in Dorset (EFG) and 30+ birds reported at L. Carmi on 7/16, which were gone on 7/17 (PJM). There were 185 seen on 14 of the BBS routes. The ubiquitous Red-winged Blackbird was reported 886 times on 15 BBS routes or an average of 59 times per route. A flock of 30 was reported on 7/31 in Johnson (VRS). Two new birds were banded at VINS. Thirteen reports of the Eastern Meadowlark were received, plus 52 seen on 7 BBS routes. The Rusty Blackbird was seen 3 times:2 singing males on 6/15 at Bear Swamp in Wolcott (CCR), 1 on 6/20 on "Black-backed Rd." in the NE Kingdom and 2 ad. males and 2 juvs. on 6/30 at Moose Bog (CCR). There were 435 Common Grackles seen on 14 BBS routes, plus 16 other observers recording the species. Young were first fledged at VINS on 6/1 (CCR). There was one new bird banded at VINS. Pictures of 2 partial albino-Brown-headed Cowbirds in the company of a normal ad. and yg. were sent to VINS. They were seen on 6/20 in South Hero (DJH). Thirteen other observations were recorded. Of the thirty nests of other species found at VINS, none were parasitized by cowbirds and none were banded there. There were 112 birds seen on 15 BBS

ORCHARD ORIOLE



routes. Both reports of Orchard Orioles were from Addison Co.: a male feeding 3 fledged yg. on 6/19 in Panton (REG,OAG) and a successful nest with 3 fledglings on 6/29 at DAR Park in Addison (MBN). The Northern Oriole was recorded by 20 observers including a f. nesting in a poplar in Washington (ATA), 3 nesting prs. in Weybridge (MBN), fledglings sighted on 6/21 in Allen's Marsh, Westminster West (AMD), 2 nests/ yg in Woodstock (JMN) and a nesting pr./one imm. on 7/31 in Johnson (VRS).Five new birds were banded at VINS and 3 were retrapped. There were 107 birds seen on 12 BBS routes with a high of 37 on 6/14 on the Hinesburg route(DLC). Eighteen reports of Purple Finches were observed,

*LINCOLN'S SPARROWS were reported by only two observers, plus 2 on the E. Haven BBS Route on 7/3 (DLC). One was found at Moose Bog on 6/20 (REG,OAG), and 1 was at Sheffield throughout the season (PFW,SAW).

with a nesting pr. seen with food for 2 yg. on 7/23 in Woodstock (JMN).. Up to 30 were seen at a feeder in Washington (ATA) and 44 were seen on 10 BBS routes. Twenty reports of the House Finch exceeded last year's report of twelve. Forty-five were seen on 10 BBS routes with a high count of 17 on 6/17 on W. Rutland (NLM). There were 1-2 prs. nesting in J/J at VINS with a nest with 2 eggs. A second clutch was predated on 6/24 (CCR). The first state record of a nesting House Finch was from Bennington in 1976. The one Red Crossbill report was for one seen on 7/19 in Bartonsville (TEJ). In the summer seasons of 1985 and 1986 there were no reports of White-winged Crossbills, while this year there were 8 reports: 18, mostly ad. males on 6/30 in Moose Bog (CCR), 1 on 7/22, 3 on 7/25 ,2 on 7/30 in Sheffield (PFW,SAW), several males in Lincoln on 7/26 (MSH,RCH), 4 on 7/29 at May Pond (DEK), 5 on 7/30 in Shrewsbury (LPS) and 6-8 prs. in J/J on the Cabot/Marshfield/Walden postal route (LNM). Pine Siskins were reported 8 times including 25, some feeding yg., seen on 6/13 in Reading (FMH,GEH). American Goldfinches are faring well with 212 seen on 14 BBS routes with a high of 57 on 6/14 on the Hinesburg route (DLC). There were 24 other reports including 3-4 nesting pairs at VINS. A nest with 5 eggs seen on 7/23 hatched on 7/27-28. (CCR). Four new birds were banded at VINS, plus 3 retraps from 1986. There were 20 reports of Evening Grosbeaks, including a pr. with 4 fledged on 7/2 in Londonderry (WSA) and a nesting pr. with one yg. at a feeder in Stowe during J/J (VRS). Only 3 birds were seen on the E. Haven BBS route. Besides the 7 reports of the House Sparrow, there were 216 birds seen on 11 BBS routes with a high of 43 on 7/7 on the Fletcher BBS route (LPR).

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GL	Geoff Lamdin	CCR	Chris Rimmer
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JWM	John MacArthur	LPS	Linda Shelvey
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NLM	Nancy Martin	RWS	Ruth Stewart
WAM	Bill Meador	VRS	Victor Swenson
LNM	Larry Metcalf	CDT	Chris Taylor
MFM	Marion Metcalf	JT	Jose Torres
PM	Paul Miller	CNV	Carl Veilleux
WM	Wanda Morgan	VBC	Vt. Bird Conference
PJM	Phebe Jane Mullen		Field Trip
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FO	Frank Oatman	SSW	Susan Wetmore
SPa	Steve Parren	TWh	Tom Wheatley
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ABBREVIATIONS USED IN TEXT

BBS	=	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Breeding Bird Survey Route
DCWMA	=	Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area
HC	=	Herrick's Cove
L. Mem.	=	Lake Memphremagog
MINWR	=	Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge
TWDR	=	Thurman W. Dix Reservoir
Vt.	=	Vermont
WRM	=	West Rutland Marsh
ad.	=	adult
f.	=	female
I.	=	Island
Jct.	=	Junction
J / J	=	June and July
juv.	=	juvenile
m.	=	male
prs	=	pairs
Pt.	=	Point
Res.	=	Reservoir
yg.	=	young

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