



Records of Vermont Birds

Volume 18, Number 1 - Winter 1989-1990

WINTER SEASON 1989 - 90

1 December - 28 February

Frederick A. Pratt, Seasonal Editor

The winter season of 1989-90 will not soon be forgotten. On the weather front, a December deep freeze of unprecedented proportions was followed by a January warm-up nearly as memorable. And for birdwatchers the season was also remarkable. Towhees dominated with two first-state records, but several incursive species as well as some of the raptors vied for the spotlight. With such goings-on, Vermont birders had little reason for complacency.

December was an astonishing 15° colder than normal, shattering all previous records for the month. Thirty consecutive days had temperatures below the norm; twelve were icier than usual by 20° or more. Curiously, it was also a very sunny month. The only significant storm struck on the 16th, thereby confounding the hopes of Ferrisburg for another record-breaking Christmas Bird Count (hereafter CBC). Still, the results from that circle, as well as the others, show what can be accomplished by hard work and good coverage. Individual contributors also did well, capitalizing on the unusually mild January - and urged on, as always, by the desire to discover the unexpected.

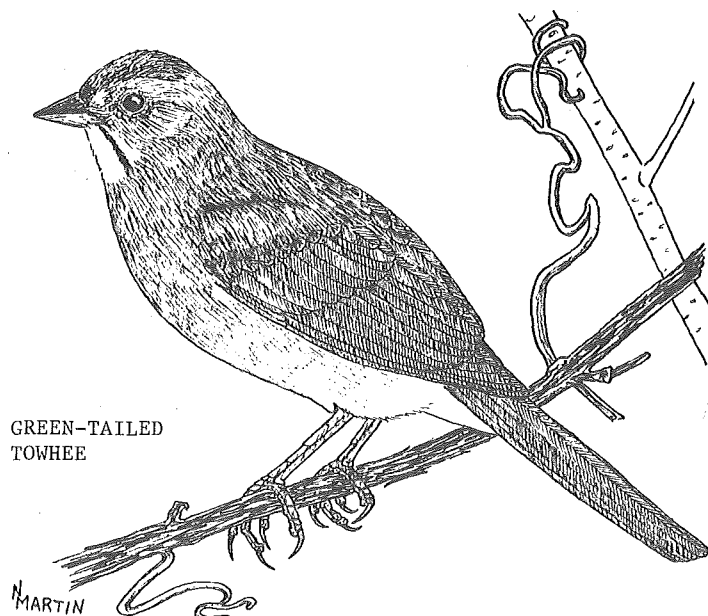
Certainly unexpected was the first state record of GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE*, discovered near Retreat Meadows during the Brattleboro CBC on 12/16. Whether the bird traveled east with the Rufous-sided (SPOTTED) Towhee* that wintered in Manchester Center is fanciful conjecture, but the coincidence of two western towhees is nonetheless stunning. Small wonder that a DICKCISSEL* was found at Bennington and a BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER* at Middlebury, each being just the second occurrence ever on a CBC.

Many other sightings require special mention: an ad. THAYERS GULL* at Burlington, up to 7 Merlins and 5 or more Gyrfalcons, 2 Long-eared Owls photographed in Charlotte and no less than 5 Barrow's Goldeneye near Burlington and on the Connecticut River. Records are falling - and old assumptions with them.

Worthy of note, too, were multiple reports of Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Black-backed Woodpecker. The first continues to expand into northern New England; the last is a (northern) Vermont bird, but uncommon and elusive. As for the sapsucker, it is a species that on occasion winters in the north in small numbers; reports from Vermont and other parts of New England indicate that this was such a winter. Rusty Blackbirds have similar proclivities - and were generously present on many New England CBC's as well as ours in Vermont.

Finally, we turn to erratic winter invaders. All our ground-feeding species of the open field were present in force, with Snow Buntings especially dazzling. Bohemian Waxwings, too, put on a show, making three years in four they have swept through the area. As for the finches, all came but few conquered. The big winners were Pine Siskin, notably in February, and of course the House Finch - not a boreal visitor, to be sure, but clearly a conqueror. White-winged Crossbills,

* Consideration by the Vermont Bird Records Committee Pending.

GREEN-TAILED
TOWHEE

after a flurry of activity in late summer and early fall, settled in for the winter in good but not overwhelming numbers. Of the other finches, redpolls were present in good numbers in the Northeast Kingdom, while Pine Grosbeak, American Goldfinch and Evening Grosbeak were widespread but not especially plentiful. Red Crossbills and Purple Finches were simply scarce.

All in all, it was a winter of remarkable extremes in the weather and remarkable finds by our birdwatchers. Nor should we overlook the accomplishments of the Christmas Bird Count. After all, notwithstanding the coldest December ever recorded, the total number of individuals tallied was a record 112,809. That says a lot about the fortitude - or is it stubbornness - of birds and birders alike.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS. A Red-throated Loon at Ferrisburg was memorable as the first CBC record for this species since 1983 - and the first winter report of any kind since December 1985. The Common Loon, however, was anything but common. Just 3 CBC birds were tallied, the poorest showing since 1980, while only 3 other sightings were reported: a single bird at Charlotte on 1/23 (DLC) and 1/31 (ATA) and two individuals at Shelburne Beach on the very late date of 2/11 (WAM). The Pied-billed Grebe went unreported, not surprising in view of the extreme cold in December. Even the Horned Grebe was scarce during the early winter, as only 22 birds appeared on the CBC roster, a startling reversal from last year's 401. Later in the season, however, very good numbers were noted with 75 at Charlotte Beach on 1/27 (BLR) and 44 at Shelburne and Charlotte Beaches on 2/11 (WAM). Two Red-necked Grebes were about average, with a single at Shelburne Bay on 12/1 (TSA) and another single on the Ferrisburg CBC. Not at all expected was a Double-crested Cormorant, observed at Burlington on 12/3 (TGM) and again on 12/6 (DLC, TM). After three good years the Great Blue Heron was decidedly scarce with but

PLEASE NOTE: This winter season report is being sent out of sequence. We expect to have the Autumn 1989 report to you in early 1991.

a handful of December reports to supplement a lone count period bird on the Bennington CBC. Single great blues were noted in Lincoln on 12/3 (JRA), in Tinmouth on 12/11 (PMB), in Manchester (BWP via NS), in Waterbury on 12/8-12/15 (DCA) and in Dorset on 12/17 (EFG). A sixth bird was found dead near Dorset around Christmas time (via EFG).

WATERFOWL. A Mute Swan in the company of Canada Geese was observed feeding - tipping up - in shallow water at the mouth of Otter Creek, Ferrisburg on 1/31(CM). Late Snow Geese were present in surprisingly good numbers with 30 CBC birds reported from 4 circles. Additional sightings included 2 juv. at Meach Cove on 1/1 (ATA), a single at Fort Cassin on 1/3 (JAP), 3 birds at Grosse Point, Ferrisburg, on 1/20 (WGE,NLM,DHC) and another single in Panton on 1/28(DLC). Canada Geese persevered in record CBC numbers with 4508 individuals, although Ferrisburg couldn't quite match its 1987 record of 2806 for a single circle. Although the Midwinter Waterfowl Survey on 1/3 uncovered only 425 Canadas, individual observers did considerably better: 600 at Shelburne Bay on 12/9 (TGM), 1000 at Ferrisburg on 1/7 (BLR,DLC) and 500 at Ferrisburg as late as 2/17 (WGE,NLM). A Wood Duck at Burlington was noteworthy as the season's only report - but sufficient to keep intact a string of CBC appearances dating back to 1979. A Green-winged Teal on the Ferrisburg CBC was also a good find - but more surprising were a pair found on a Dorset mill pond on 1/12 and 1/18-19(EFG). The only surprise about the American Black Duck was its frequency, as 1461 CBC birds were tallied (a new record). Late-winter reports were also impressive, featuring 64 birds on the Connecticut R. near Wells River on 1/18 (DHC), 100 at Blodgett's Beach on 1/31 (ATA) and 140 at South Burlington, 150 at Ferrisburg and 100 at other locations on 1/20 (WGE,NLM,DHC). Not to be outdone, the Mallard turned in a stunning CBC performance, headed up by 3044 birds at Bennington. On 1/20 481 individuals were counted, including 417 at the Burlington waterfront (WGE,NLM,DHC). A record 12 Northern Pintail on the Ferrisburg CBC were supplemented by several reports from individual observers. A lone hen was at Shelburne Bay on 12/8 (FAP), 2 were at Blodgett's on 1/31 (ATA), 4 were at Blodgett's on 2/1 (WAM) and an astonishing 13 were at Meach Cove on 2/5 (DHC). Canvasbacks, too, enjoyed a good winter with 18 CBC birds, courtesy of Ferrisburg and Burlington, and 25 counted on the Midwinter Waterfowl Survey. A raft of 75 was in Meach Cove on 1/1 (ATA), while 60 were at Shelburne (same location?) on 1/28 (WAM). Fifty Ring-necked Ducks were present at Missisquoi NWR on 12/1 (JBG) but thereafter numbers dropped off in a hurry. In addition to 3 CBC birds, a drake was on the Connecticut R. until at least 1/27 (DHC,WGE,NLM) and 2 individuals were at the Charlotte Ferry on 2/19 (MBN,JAP). Greater Scaup, though missed entirely on the Midwinter Wildfowl Survey, turned in a surprisingly good performance nonetheless, with a near-record 190 recorded on the Burlington CBC. A raft of 175 was present in Shelburne as late as 1/28 (WAM). Lesser Scaup were also well represented with 50 at Missisquoi NWR on 12/1 and an average population before freeze-up of 25 individuals (JBG). Additionally, 2 Lessers were tallied on the Ferrisburg CBC. Oldsquaw were typically scarce with just three reports for the season: 3 on the Ferrisburg CBC, a single at Shelburne Bay on 12/4 (TGM) and a f. at the Burlington Coast Guard station on 1/25 (PCR). The only Black Scoter of the winter was a f. at Shelburne Bay on 12/1 (TSA), as all the scoters proved elusive at best. A f. Surf Scoter on the Ferrisburg CBC was unique, while White-winged Scoters were noted but twice: 9 individuals on the Ferrisburg CBC and a single bird at Charlotte on 1/23 (DLC). Common Goldeneye were widespread and numerous through the CBC season, including a surprising 274 on the Connecticut R. near Vernon. On 1/7 400 were at

Charlotte (DLC,BLR), but thereafter numbers declined. The max. count for late winter was 75 at Meach Cove on 2/5 (DHC). The numerous reports of Barrow's Goldeneye suggest at least 5 individuals spent the winter: a drake at Vernon and 4 birds from the Burlington waterfront to Shelburne Bay on 2/11 (WAM), a report which presumably encompasses earlier sightings at Shelburne Bay, Shelburne Beach, Burlington and Blodgett's. Whatever the count, this species has clearly become less scarce - or better observed - than in previous years. The Bufflehead checked in with a representative performance as 46 CBC birds can attest. Late reports include 2 at Charlotte on 1/31 (SSW) and another twosome at Burlington on 2/25 (WAM). Overwintering Hooded Mergansers continue to attract attention, as a total of 21 were observed on the Connecticut R. between White River Junction and McIndoe Falls on 2/21 (DHC). Also overwintering was a drake on the Otter Creek in Rutland (RWP). Common Mergansers were at near-record levels for CBC observers while other reports were also impressive. Two thousand were at Mills Point, Colchester, on 12/6 (MS) and 476 were counted between Burlington and Ferrisburg on 1/20 (WGE,NLM,DHC). Eight birds were noted on the Ottauquechee R. on 2/11, difficult to overlook since 2 females decided to doublecheck the observers' driving speed, conservatively estimated at 45 mph (WGE,NLM). Red-breasted Mergansers produced a record CBC total of 33, as a surprising 24 birds were reported from Bennington. Other reports were limited to the Burlington waterfront with 2 spotted on 1/28 (BLR) and a single on 2/5 (DHC).

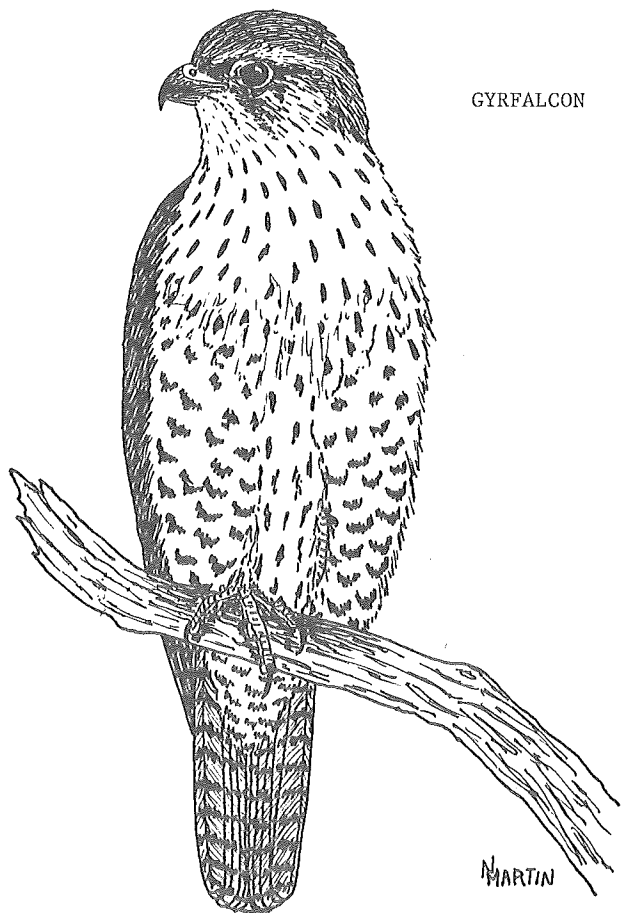
VULTURES, HAWKS AND FALCONS. A remarkably late Turkey Vulture was observed over Bellows Falls on 1/4 (HSP), the first January record for this species since 1982. Late-winter sightings were also noteworthy, as two individuals took advantage of strong southerly winds to post early arrival dates of 2/22 in Rutland (CJF) and 2/23 in Brattleboro (WDN). Numbers of wintering Bald Eagles continue to impress, as the January census came up with 7 ad. and 2 imm., 3 at Vernon and 1 each at Westminster, Wilder, Charlotte, East Arlington, West Arlington and Readsboro (all via CCR). Additional individuals are a certainty, although an exact reckoning is impossible. Worthy of note, however, are 2 CBC birds at Ferrisburg, 2 at Saxtons River, an ad. near Montpelier on 12/29 (CLD), another ad. at McIndoe Falls (via CCR;ATA), yet another ad. at Benson on 2/19 (EE,LB) and an imm. at Castleton on 2/28 (MSL). Northern Harriers produced a good but not unusual CBC showing with one individual at Middlebury and 4 at Ferrisburg. Other reports included a single at Charlotte on 1/9 (TGM), an ad. m. at Addison on 1/7 (DLC,BLR) and an ad. m. along Slang Road in Panton on 2/17 (WGE,NLM). The last two reports may well have been for the same overwintering individual. Among the accipiters the Sharp-shinned Hawk once again set the pace, as a record 31 CBC birds were tallied with almost every circle contributing. Other reports were widespread and generally feeder-related, embellished oftentimes with the details of the sudden demise of another jay, chickadee or Mourning Dove. The larger but in some respects less fearsome Cooper's Hawk also enjoyed a successful winter: 14 CBC birds plus an equal number of other sightings. Two individuals were observed in the Wilder area on 2/21 (DHC) and another 2 were in Woodstock; 1 on 1/14 and 1 on 2/4 (CRP). The Northern Goshawk presented a mixed picture, as the CBC roster showed only a lone individual at Saxtons River, also with count period birds at Woodstock and Bennington. On the other hand, nearly a dozen other reports were received, including individuals noted on three occasions each in Middlebury (JAP) and Sheffield (PFW,SAW). One bird was observed in Hinesburg on 12/20 enjoying a festive dinner of Ruffed Grouse (PRW). Meanwhile, the

Red-tailed Hawk once again established a CBC record with an impressive 151 individuals tallied in 12 of 16 circles. Later reports were numerous but scattered, with a max. count of 7 in the Dead Creek area on 2/8 (SSW). In like manner the Rough-legged Hawk was numerous during early winter, with a CBC total of 56, the highest since 1983. Subsequent sightings were subdued, however, with the best showing a total of just 7 individuals in Addison and Bridport on 2/17 (WGE,NLM). The American Kestrel followed the same routine, posting a respectable CBC score of 17 but proving quite scarce thereafter. February reports were limited to 2 overwintering birds between Middlebury and Bristol (JAP), plus sightings of single birds on 2/19 in Shoreham (EE,LB) and Bridport (CJF). Noteworthy indeed were several reports of the Merlin, including an unprecedented 2 individuals on the Middlebury CBC. Given the seasonal scarcity of this species (just three winter records in the past ten years), your editor is grateful that supporting details in most cases accompanied these reports. In any event, at least 4 and as many as 7 individuals seem to have been present: the 2 Middlebury birds, an imm. at Button Bay on 12/19 (AP,BPG,JW) and single birds in Clarendon on 1/1 (BLR,GEHa), in Addison on 1/4 (WJC), in South Burlington on 1/4 (MS) and in Weybridge on 2/18 (DLC). The Peregrine Falcon also was in evidence with 3 sightings reported: a well-described ad. m. at Button Bay on 12/18 (BLR), a "possible" at Dorset on 12/17 (EFG) - contributor's candor noted and appreciated - ; and a single along Jersey Street in Addison on 1/9 (SSW). Additionally, several visits to Deer Leap in Bristol revealed that the female of the resident nesting pair overwintered near her nest site. The male was first observed at Deer Leap on 2/24, at which time territorial aggressiveness by both birds became evident, followed soon after by courtship displays (MSL). Completing a clean sweep for the falcons was the mighty Gyr Falcon, again with multiple sightings. In addition to the CBC bird at Burlington, 1 was at Button Bay on 12/18 (BLR),

2 were at Fort Cassin on 1/6 (GEHa) and 1 was at Shelburne on 1/28 (DLC,BLR). Finally, 2 "possibles," in each case in pursuit of Snow Buntings, were reported with commendable observer caution, the first in Charlotte on 1/7 (WAM) and the second on Orwell on 2/17 (EE,LB).

GRAY PARTRIDGE THROUGH SNIPE. Vermont's local and elusive Gray Partridge continue alive and well, judging from a report of 33 individuals at St. Albans Bay on 12/10 (DLC). Six Ring-necked Pheasants from 4 different CBC circles was a good showing, although the origins of the birds found at Ferrisburg and the Champlain Islands seem worthy of some question. Four f. at Ferrisburg on 12/18 were certainly beneficiaries of a well-stocked feeder station (JID,MCD). Though absent from the CBC roster Spruce Grouse were, happily, represented nonetheless, as 4 individuals, all f. "and totally unfeared" were observed "eating parrot-like immediately overhead" near Moose Bog on 2/20 (ATA). Meanwhile, Ruffed Grouse were plentiful indeed, with a CBC tally of 166, the highest since 1979. Individual contributors confirmed the trend with numerous sightings, including high counts of 5 at Reading on 12/9 (FMH,GEH), 4 at South Duxbury on 1/11 (FAP) and another 4 in Marlboro, regular visitors to the local chicken coop (JPN). Wild Turkeys, too, enjoyed a prosperous winter, as 217 CBC birds were recorded, not far shy of the record established in 1987. Notable sightings included 14 in Woodstock on 1/11 and 1/13 (MLW,CRP) and 15 in New Haven on 2/26 (MBN). A group of 6 were in Wilmington from early Feb. through Mar. feeding on birdseed and chasing away hungry Blue Jays (HCB). An unexpected bonus was a twosome of American Coot on the Ferrisburg CBC, discovered, alas, on the New York side of L. Champlain. A Killdeer at Bennington was only the second CBC record for the species since 1976, that individual also recorded in the Bennington circle. Less surprising was a Common Snipe found also on the Bennington CBC. It was joined by two others, one observed in Tinmouth on 12/13 (PMB) plus the Clarendon regular that has overwintered the past several years (BLR,CJF).

GYRFALCON



GULLS. Seventeen Bonaparte's Gulls on the Ferrisburg CBC was the only report of the season for this handsome almost tern-like species. Ring-billed Gulls reports were certainly numerous, but numbers seemed subdued with max. counts by individual observers in the 100-150 range. The CBC total of 637 was the lowest since 1977 - and significantly below those of all the intervening years. Herring Gulls were also down, suggesting perhaps that menu selections at Vermont landfills are now more highly regarded than those available on the Burlington waterfront. A carefully described THAYER'S GULL at Blodgett's Beach on 12/19 (CSP) certainly deserves special note, not only for the rarity of the species but also for the difficulty of its identification. Further, this editor's hunch is that Thayer's may soon revert back to its former status as a race - but of Iceland Gull rather than of Herring, as used to be the case prior to 1973 (see Kenn Kaufmann's Advanced Birding). Throw in the additional problems caused by hybridization, and one can readily appreciate why this bird must be approached with extreme caution. Two Iceland Gulls were at the Burlington waterfront on 1/17 (MS) and at Blodgett's Beach on 1/28 (DLC,GEHa,BLR,WAM), while a first-winter bird was observed on 1/31, also at Blodgett's (PCR). Presumably just two individuals were involved, with a third at the Brattleboro dump on 2/18, this last also being in first-winter plumage (DHC). A Glaucous Gull was also at Blodgett's on 1/28 (DLC,GEHa,BLR,WAM) and on 1/31 (PCR), possibly the same individual as identified on the Burlington CBC. The last of the Laridae for the season was the Great Black-backed Gull, present in good if not unusual numbers and showing no ill effect from the harsh winter.

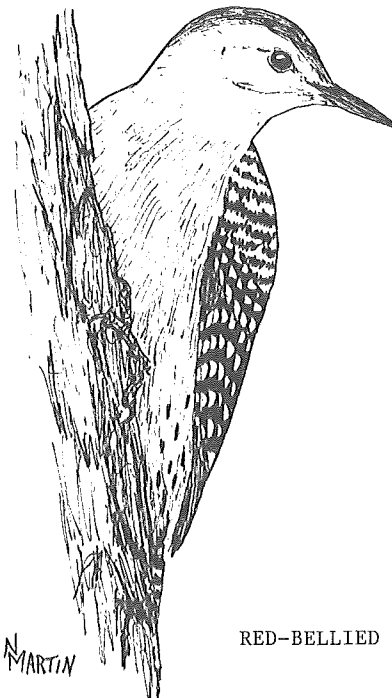
DOVES. Our resident Columbidae show remarkably stable populations, as CBC totals of 6668 Rock Doves and 4825 Mourning Doves were little changed from the prior year. Feeder-related concentrations of Mourning Doves were reported from several locations, headed up by 75 at Grand Isle on 12/15 (EMH), 70 at Middlebury (JAP) and 65 in Randolph (EWC,MCC).

OWLS. Eastern Screech-Owls were decidedly underreported as only 2 CBC birds were found, singles at Middlebury and the Champlain Islands. One unhappy individual was found dead on 12/26 at Pawlet (JM), while one was very much alive - and perched in a tree by the observer's home in Brandon on 1/21 (SSW). The rather more conspicuous Great Horned Owl was of course better represented, but numbers were far from overwhelming. Eleven CBC birds, helped in great measure by 6 at Middlebury, were merely average, while only a handful of other reports came in. Two birds were heard calling back and forth in Ferrisburg on 1/29 (WGE,NLM,DHC) and another two were in Dorset on 1/15 (EFG). Unhappily, not a single Snowy Owl was reported, the first time since the winter of 1979-80 that Vermont birders have missed this magnificent raptor. Even the more dependable Barred Owl remained pretty much out of sight and hearing. One individual at Island Pond saved the CBC from total embarrassment, while other reports, all of calling birds, were limited to 2 in Woodstock on 1/8 (JMN) and singles in Ferrisburg on 12/27 (JID,MCD), in Waterbury Center on 1/1 (EK), in Reading on 1/4 and 2/22 (FMH,GEH) and in West Bolton on 2/11 and 2/14 (MC). Despite the seasonal shortage of Strigidae, there were two reports of the rare Long-eared Owl: the CBC regular at Burlington and 2 birds observed - and photographed - roosting in a pine woodlot in Charlotte throughout February (JN). A major surprise of the season was a near-record 14 CBC Short-eared Owls, headed up by 11 individuals at Ferrisburg. Subsequent reports, however, were limited to a single along Jersey Street on 1/14 (WGE,NLM) and 2 birds along the Farrell Access at DCWMA on 1/21 (BLR). Finally, there was little good news to report regarding the charming and well-loved Northern Saw-whet Owl. Missed entirely by the CBC, just seven reports were received, often accompanied by sad tidings. One bird was killed by a car in Hartland about midnight of 12/10-11 (BS); another, found injured in Springfield on 12/29 (TN), was brought to the VRC where it died on 1/2; a third was found injured in Woodstock on 1/5 but succumbed (SS); and a fourth was found in Windham on 1/20 (SPe) and in due course became a patient at the VRC, recovered, and was released in early March (SN,VINS). Two sightings in February were less traumatic: one bird was observed on 2/3-4 visiting a West Woodstock feeding area (LH) while another flew into a glass door in West Pawlet on 2/6 but quickly recovered (YB). The last Saw-whet of the season sadly, was found dead in Brownsville on 2/27 (SM).

KINGFISHERS AND WOODPECKERS. Notwithstanding the December deep freeze, 13 Belted Kingfishers stayed on for various CBC festivities. Additionally, overwintering individuals sought out favored locations such as South Woodstock, where 2 birds were observed on 2/16 (LHR); Plymouth, where 1 was seen along the Black R. on 2/24 (GHS); and Arlington, where another single was noted along the Battenkill on 2/11 (WGE,NLM). Other reports came from Hinesburg on 1/26 (MSL) and from Center Rutland along the Otter Creek on 1/14 (WGE,NLM). For the Picidae it was a notable winter indeed, starting with 3 records of RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER. All were f. and all well-documented: the CBC bird from Brattleboro, which remained in residence in Marlboro throughout the season (ABM,WDN,JPN et al.); the Middlebury bird, which overwintered in an oak-hickory-white pine woodlot in Bridport (JSA,KMA,WGE,NLM et al.); and a third, first discovered in early October, which continued in Grand

Isle until 12/28 (EMH). Also noteworthy were 3 reports of Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, the first winter records for this species since December 1984. A f. on the Hanover-Norwich CBC was a first for that circle, while an imm. in West Windsor was spotted at a suet feeder on 1/28 (LG,MG). The third was reported as overwintering on Grand Isle (ES). Downy Woodpeckers fell just shy of a new record as 758 CBC birds were tallied. Among other reports were 6 individuals in Benson on 1/14 (WGE,NLM) and 5 each in Grand Isle (EMH), Winhall (WJN) and Brandon (SSW). Hairy Woodpeckers also fared well, with a CBC total of 442 birds, exactly one more than in 1988. Feeder observations were numerous but numbers small. Max. counts were 4 each in Reading (FMH,GEH) and Brandon (SSW). Four Black-backed Woodpeckers at Island Pond was the best CBC showing for this difficult species since 1982. Also reported were a m. near Holland Pond on 1/12 (LLA) and a f. on 1/2-3 in Winhall (WJN). Northern Flickers persisted through the early-winter freeze with a surprisingly good CBC tally of 7, plus a count period bird at Bennington. Other observations included singles on 12/4 in Weybridge (MBN) and in Sudbury (SSW), and possible overwinterers in Arlington (via NS), at the Shelburne Fishing Access on 1/28 (BLR), and in South Burlington on 1/17 and 1/27 (MS). A CBC tally of 50 was only average for the splendid Pileated Woodpecker. However, other reports were too numerous to leave doubt about the continued prosperity of this much admired species.

HORNED LARK THROUGH CREEPER. Horned Larks swept to new records as Ferrisburg alone located 2438 individuals, more than half the CBC total of 4799. Reports from contributors were also impressive, notably 160 at Westminster on 1/30 (DHC), 204 in Addison on 2/17 (WGE,NLM,SJS) and 500 in Bridport on 2/18 (DLC). The Gray Jay was reported from its usual haunts in the Northeast Kingdom in modest numbers: 3 CBC birds at Island Pond, along with 2 on 12/5 in Lewis (DLC,TM), 2 on 1/30 at Moose Bog (ATA) and 2 on 2/19 in Brighton (WGE,NLM). One wayward individual, having taken up residence at a feeding station in Shelburne in November (MLu), was finally identified and photographed on 2/3 (ECC,TGC). Blue Jays, to nobody's surprise, were numerous and widespread, with feeder flocks up to 40 in Randolph (EWC,MCC) and 45 in Sheffield (PFW,SAW).



RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER

VERMONT CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

1989 - 1990

	BRATTLEBORO Dec. 16	FERRISBURG Dec. 16	BURLINGTON Dec. 17	CHAMPLAIN ISLANDS Dec. 17	MIDDLEBURY Dec. 17	SAXTONS RIVER Dec. 17	WINHALL Dec. 20	VERNON DAM Dec. 21	ISLAND POND Dec. 23	WOODSTOCK Dec. 27	BENNINGTON Dec. 30	HANDOVER/NORWICH Dec. 30	PLAINFIELD Dec. 30	RUTLAND Dec. 31	SPRINGFIELD Dec. 31	CRAFTSBURY/GREENSB. Jan. 1	TOTALS
Red-throated Loon		1															1
Common Loon		1	1	1													3
Horned Grebe		9	13														22
Red-necked Grebe		1															1
Great Blue Heron											CP						
Snow Goose		23			5	1		1									30
Canada Goose	2689	15	718	438	58		568		CP	21			1				4,508
Wood Duck			1														1
Green-winged Teal		1															1
Am. Black Duck	61	158	127	91	13		426	1		538	5		41				1,461
Mallard	252	699	255		66		198			3044	6		46				4,566
AB Duck x Mallard			1														1
Northern Pintail		12															12
Canvasback		10	8														18
Ring-necked Duck		2										1					3
Greater Scaup		10	190														200
Lesser Scaup		2															2
Scaup (sp.)				1													1
Oldsquaw		3															3
Surf Scoter		1															1
White-wng. Scoter		9															9
Common Goldeneye	411	234	645	1	9		274				12						1,586
Barrow's Golden.		1					1										2
Bufflehead		13	33														46
Hooded Merganser		7		1			4				CP		1				13
Common Merganser	2260	509	344	1	12		65			11	52		9	2			3,265
Red-br. Merganser		8	1								24						33
Duck (sp.)				150													150
Bald Eagle		2				2		3				1					8
Northern Harrier		4			1												5
Sharp-shnd. Hawk	3	4	3	2	5	3	1	2	1		1	2		2	1	1	31
Cooper's Hawk	1	1			2	2				1	6				1		14
Northern Goshawk						1				CP	CP						1
Accipiter (sp.)		2															2
Red-tailed Hawk	2	25	13	6	27	13		12		3	41	3	1	CP	5		151
Rough-legged Hawk		27	1	5	10						13						56
Buteo (sp.)		3															3
American Kestrel		3		4	3	2		2			2					1	17
Merlin		CP			2								CP				2
Peregrine Falcon		CP															
Gyr Falcon		CP	1														1
Hawk (sp.)				1													1
Gray Partridge				CP													
Ring-nk. Pheasant		1		1		2		2									6
Ruffed Grouse	4	13	14	12	12	6	8		25	16	5	20	8	6	5	12	166
Grouse (sp.)									1								1
Wild Turkey	33	20		1	11	18		10		7	50		66	1			217
American Coot		2															2
Killdeer											1						1
Common Snipe											1		CP				1
Bonaparte's Gull		17															17
Ring-billed Gull		337	288	11									1				637
Herring Gull	14	95	828	63		2					CP						1,002
Gr.Black*bk. Gull		57	154	7													218
Glaucous Gull			1														1
Thayer's Gull			CP														
Gull (sp.)		84	100	146													330
Rock Dove	135	226	796	850	607	801	32	185	111	251	818	421	121	524	641	149	6,668
Mourning Dove	169	531	315	381	413	671	32	100	38	217	614	348	97	299	550	50	4,825
East. Screech-Owl				1	1												2
Great Horned Owl		2	1	2	6												11
Barred Owl								1									1
Long-eared Owl			1														1
Short-eared Owl		11		1	1	1											14

10

11
12

11
12

	BRATTLEBORO Dec. 16	FERRISBURG Dec. 16	BURLINGTON Dec. 17	CHAMPLAIN ISLANDS Dec. 17	MIDDLEBURY Dec. 17	SAXTONS RIVER Dec. 17	WINHALL Dec. 20	VERNON DAM Dec. 21	ISLAND POND Dec. 23	WOODSTOCK Dec. 27	BENNINGTON Dec. 30	HANDOVER/NORWICH Dec. 30	PLAINFIELD Dec. 30	RUTLAND Dec. 31	SPRINGFIELD Dec. 31	CRAFTSBURY/GREENSBORO Jan. 1	TOTALS
Belted Kingfisher						1				2	2	5		2	1		13
Red-bellied Wdpkr.	1			CP	1												2
Y-bel. Sapsucker												1					1
Downy Woodpecker	29	88	31	90	71	56	31	33	5	72	36	70	18	50	64	14	758
Hairy Woodpecker	10	26	23	30	41	20	18	8	24	72	20	55	13	32	36	14	442
Bl-backed Woodpkr.									4								4
Northern Flicker		2	1		3			1			CP						7
Pileated Wdkpr.		6	5	5	13	2	1	1		6	1	3	3	2	2		50
Horned Lark	1	2438		637	521	236		239			625	48	2		52		4,799
Gray Jay									3								3
Blue Jay	185	259	239	245	250	267	351	134	312	709	283	497	158	342	517	140	4,888
American Crow	256	199	425	296	156	423	26	210	19	155	324	530	294	561	423	133	4,430
Common Raven	2	5	3	CP	5	13	5		42	22		7	20	8	3	17	152
Bl-cap.Chickadee	427	882	712	913	484	703	726	247	837	2372	505	2597	544	1011	1994	635	15,589
Boreal Chickadee									45				1				46
Tufted Titmouse	24	13	23	3	18	26	16	35		5	23	13		8	33		240
Red-br. Nuthatch	17	7	9	1	5	9	63	4	101	127	6	27	31	39	34	21	501
White-br.Nuthatch	43	85	70	79	86	79	74	36	10	167	37	103	25	64	134	25	1,117
Brown Creeper	2	14	11	15	2	1	12	7	8	13	2	12	1	6	8	2	116
Carolina Wren			CP								CP		CP				
Winter Wren		1															1
Golden-cr.Kinglet	8	2	2	1	1	6	14	8	7	28		13	1	1	9	12	113
Ruby-cr. Kinglet	1																1
B-gr. Snatcatcher					1												1
Eastern Bluebird					16	4					18						38
American Robin	2	36	4		16	7		1		1	CP	2					69
Nor. Mockingbird	2	4	10	1	7	10		12			3	3		2	2		56
Bohemian Waxwing		315	210	35	52								40				652
Cedar Waxwing		170	49	1	48	14		35			2		144	104			567
Northern Shrike		CP		1					1			2	1				6
European Starling	484	1620	853	1589	2123	636	25	573	20	141	1452	207	256	585	647	215	11,426
Y-rumped Warbler		7															7
Northern Cardinal	31	186	144	109	85	82	15	56	2	46	105	54	4	104	91		1,114
Dickcissel											1						1
Gr-tailed Towhee	1																1
Am. Tree Sparrow	81	640	104	351	457	190	17	199	28	36	172	141	38	164	141	54	2,813
Chipping Sparrow				1			1										2
Field Sparrow				1	1	2		2									6
Vesper Sparrow				1													1
Savannah Sparrow					2												2
Song Sparrow	17	15	8	10	12	25	1	20	1	4	2	3		2	6		126
Wh-throat.Sparrow	4	5		1	12	8	3	7		4	14	1		3	4	1	67
Wh-crown. Sparrow	1				2										1		4
Dark-eyed Junco	201	142	41	33	75	232	50	175	10	80	159	31	4	93	172	1	1,499
Lapland Longspur		64		153	28	6		2							1	4	258
Snow Bunting	50	524	257	1572	1976	44		26	5		324	65	268	140	134	262	5,647
Red-wg. Blackbird	30	5	4	4	1	4		1			CP	CP		4	1		54
Rusty Blackbird	6			3	1	8		3		1					1		23
Common Grackle		2	1		1			1	1		CP	1					7
Br-headed Cowbird	21		5	83	31	29	9			10	6	CP		17	10	1	222
Pine Grosbeak		53	1		7	1	6		27	28		13	21	11	7	49	224
Purple Finch	4	11	5	10	6				1	3	2	1		7	14		64
House Finch	125	822	297	451	697	240	32	79		164	496	114	34	317	319	22	4,209
Red Crossbill			1														1
White-u.Crossbill		4		18			33	3	199	153		30	66	23	6	11	546
Common Redpoll				4	1		30		370				20	CP		27	452
Pine Siskin	53	7	18	2	23	1	51	92	10	94	21		19	47	33	25	496
Am. Goldfinch	52	193	66	193	106	129	47	112	38	33	73	149	25	295	200	302	2,013
Evening Grosbeak	245	70	13	51	116	458	327	90	258	649	401	701	201	846	1341	732	6,499
House Sparrow	234	1321	1437	1627	1074	565	86	141	82	319	599	508	72	859	795	292	10,011
Species	42	79	60	61	63	55	32	50	35	36	46	44	32	43	44	31	111
Individuals	3011	17496	9462	12356	10271	6220	2143	4446	2648	6011	10904	6878	2407	6785	8546	3225	112,809

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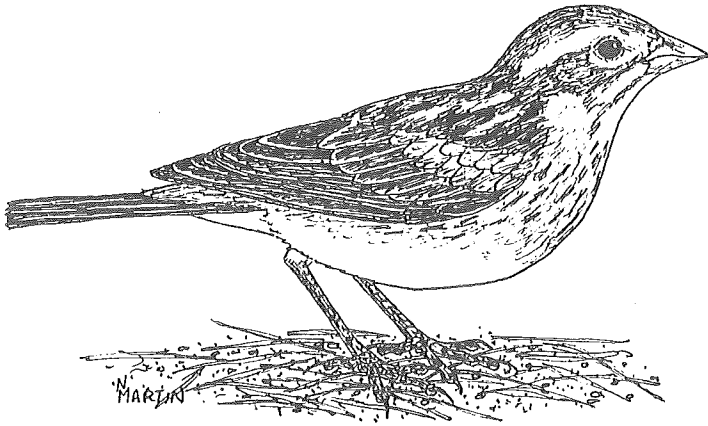
American Crows were also abundant, though not quite at the record level of a year ago. At Brandon 105 were counted on 1/28 (SSW) while 150 were in Weybridge on 1/25 (MBN). The Common Raven was nicely represented by a CBC tally of 152 birds, plus several other reports. Four were near Moose Bog on 2/20 (ATA) while 19 were at Woodstock on 1/28 (JMN) and another 22 were at Hartland on 12/13 (NLM). These last were evidently a resident lot, since 16 were also observed at Hartland on 1/18, complete with "much chasing and play" (WGE). Another popular resident, the Black-capped Chickadee, enjoyed a banner season with both Woodstock and Hanover-Norwich surpassing the old CBC high for a single circle. Feeder flocks of 50 were reported in Grand Isle (EMH), Reading (FMH,GEH) and Winhall (WJN). An albino bird, seen sporadically all fall, was still visiting a Woodstock feeder on 12/28 (NHM). Forty-five Boreal Chickadees at Island Pond, plus a single at Plainfield, produced an above-average CBC total. Other sightings were limited to 3 in Lewis on 12/6 (DLC,TM), 2 at Moose Bog on 1/30 (ATA) and 4 in Sheffield on 2/3 (PFW,SAW). The Tufted Titmouse maintained its momentum through a second year, recording a new CBC high of 240 individuals. The February census was down a notch from last year's record, but feeder reports were generally encouraging. Five birds were in Ferrisburg on 12/16 (JID,MCD), 6 were in Marlboro on 1/10 (JPN) and a "small flock" was observed working a New Haven hedgerow on 2/27 (JAP). The Sittidae prospered as well, as the Red-breasted Nuthatch produced a CBC total of 501, easily its best showing since 1979. The largest feeder flock reported was a gang of 7 in Winhall (WJN). The White-breasted Nuthatch followed suit, coming up with a near-record 1117 CBC birds, just 70 shy of last year's mark. Best individual count was 10 birds between Winhall and Arlington on 2/11 (WGE,NLM). The Brown Creeper was also widely reported, as an excellent CBC showing was backed up by nearly 20 other sightings.

CAROLINA WREN THROUGH STARLING. Despite a bone-chilling December, the Carolina Wren continued its resurgence with determination and energy. Three CBC count-period reports, to say nothing of 8 additional sightings, are testimony enough to the remarkable vigor of this species. Of course, feeders have also played a role. In any event, at least 8 individuals can be identified: one at a Burlington suet feeder on 12/13 (FCH), one in Castleton until at least 12/25 (PSA), one visiting a suet feeder in Woodstock on 12/23-24 (MSa), one at a Norwich feeder on 12/29 (GFE), one observed at Fort Cassin on 1/3 (JAP), one visiting a feeder by the Battenkill in Manchester as late as 2/12 (SDA) and 2 at a Brandon feeder throughout February (SSW). This latter pair may have been present throughout the winter, but only after singing began in early February were two seen together. Another individual was also noted in Ferrisburg on 1/12 (DLC), possibly the same bird seen earlier at Fort Cassin. Against this remarkable record, the Carolina's feisty little cousin, the Winter Wren, could only come up with a lone CBC bird at Ferrisburg. Turning to the Muscicapidae, the Golden-crowned Kinglet seemed somewhat more elusive than usual with a CBC total of 113, the lowest since 1983. Only a half dozen other reports were received, headed up by 4 in Brattleboro on 1/6 (WGE,NLM) and 3 in Ripton on 2/22 (MBN,JAP). The Ruby-crowned Kinglet, however, countered with a surprising two records: one at Shelburne Point on 12/1 (TSA) followed by a CBC bird at Brattleboro. A BLUE-RAY GNATCATCHER on the Middlebury CBC was certainly a remarkable find - and only the second appearance ever for the species on the CBC roster. Curiously, this is the third gnatcatcher in the last six years to appear in the winter Records. Eastern Bluebirds gave indications of a modern revival as near record CBC numbers were tallied in both Middlebury and Bennington. Other late reports were also encouraging: 25 birds in

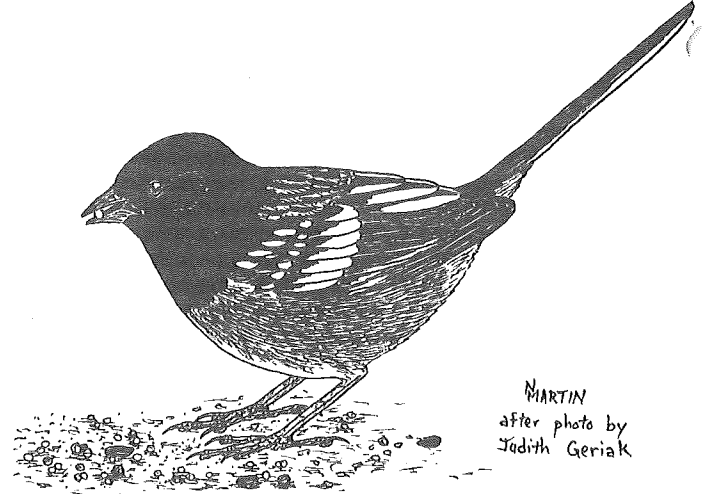
mid winter in Old Bennington (JMT via NS), 4 feeding on red cedar in Benson on 1/14 (WGE,NLM) and 2 birds each in West Arlington in late December (via NS) and in Leicester on 1/10 (SSW). More exciting was the early rush to check out nest boxes and similar attractions: 3 were in Ferrisburg as early as 1/27 (JID,MCD), 4 in New Haven on 2/12 (JAP), 6 in Orwell on 2/19 (EE,LB) and 6 in Bennington on 2/20 (MR via NS). For the third winter in a row a single Hermit Thrush appears in these Records, a bird in Albany on 12/1 (TP). Sixty-nine American Robins was a surprisingly good turnout for the CBC, but most apparently quickly reconsidered the merits of staying the winter. The only late-January sightings were singles at the Woodstock Elementary School on 1/22 (courtesy of Miss Hathorn's second grade) and in Addison on 1/28 as well as 2 birds along the Basin Harbor Road on 1/31 (ATA). But by late February robins were back in surprising numbers as 30 were on a lawn in Shaftsbury on 2/21 (JCo) and another 15 were in Weybridge on 2/22 (JAP). The Northern Mockingbird repeated its pattern of the prior winter: a strong CBC performance followed by a disappearing act, with only two January reports: 1 in Brattleboro on 1/1 (BLR) and 1 was seen in Burlington on 1/8 (JDLL). A paltry 2 birds were recorded in the February census, although later in the month a scattering of reports came in, with single birds in Shelburne on 2/21 (JAP), in Rutland on 2/25 (CJF), in Brandon on 2/28 (SSW) and in Charlotte on 2/28 (SSW). After a hiatus of one year, the Bohemian Waxwing once again invaded in numbers that only a few years ago would have been considered extraordinary. CBC records fell as 652 individuals were tallied overall, with 315 in Ferrisburg alone. Reports from contributors reveal the invasion began in late October and never let up: 130 in South Duxbury on 12/6 (FAP), 300 in Shelburne on 12/6 (DLC,TM), 350 in Brandon on 1/12 (SSW), 300 in Middlebury on 1/19 (JAP), 211 in Weybridge on 2/18 (DLC) and 150 at the BNP in Woodstock on 2/21 (VINS). Cedar Waxwings did their best to keep pace: a strong CBC tally of 567 birds; widespread appearances in January, oftentimes in flocks in the 20-40 range; and a burst of energy in February, featuring flocks of 55 in Ferrisburg on 2/18 (DLC), 55 in Woodstock village on 2/19 (WGE,NLM), 95 in Weybridge on 2/18 (DLC) and 200 in South Burlington on 2/24 (MS). By contrast, Northern Shrikes experienced their second dismal winter in a row. Six CBC birds made for the poorest showing since 1984, while contributors' reports did little to improve the picture. Five birds only were uncovered: singles in Lewis on 12/5 (DLC,TM), in Colchester on 1/7 (DLC,BLR), at Lewis Pond on 1/14 (MS), near Barnet on 1/30 (ATA) and in Ferrisburg on 2/17 (PHu). Sadly, the European Starling showed no such decline. On the CBC 11,426 birds approached the high set back in 1984 and individual reports provided little solace. Four hundred were in Shelburne on 1/9 (TGM) while 500 were duly noted in Middlebury on 2/1 (JRA).

WARBLERS THROUGH SNOW BUNTING. The rugged little Yellow-rumped Warbler provided testimony anew of its winter hardiness as no less than 7 were found on the Ferrisburg CBC. One was in Bloomfield until 12/10 feeding on such hearty fare as suet and egg yolk (CS,DK), another was in Ferrisburg on 1/13 (DLC) and 4 were in a red cedar grove at Benson Landing on 1/14 (WGE,NLM). For the second year in a row the Northern Cardinal established a new CBC record as 1114 individuals were counted. Feeder reports were also impressive with up to 25 in Ferrisburg (JID,MCD) and 42 in Middlebury (JAP). The February census was more restrained with a population of 354, down over 100 from a year ago. The rare DICKCISSEL joined the CBC ranks for just the second time, as an apparent female was found in Bennington. A touch more surprising was the GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE located on the Brattleboro CBC. The bird, normally associated with higher elevations and

DICKCISSEL



"SPOTTED" TOWHEE



chaparral in the southwest and a regular winter vagrant to the east coast, found winter and spring in Vermont so congenial that it remained on location until 5/5 (WDN et al.). A Rufous-sided Towhee, the first in winter since 1983-84, was at a feeding station in South Hero from 1/31-2/9 (MD). Completing an astonishing year for towhees was a male Rufous-sided Towhee of the western "SPOTTED" race, in residence at feeders in Manchester Center from mid-December until at least 2/11 (JGe,SGe,WGE,NLM). For the second year running, American Tree Sparrows set a new CBC high with 2813 birds tallied. Flocks continued on through the season, especially in the less wintry parts of the state. Sixteen were in West Addison on 1/29 (JRA), 22 were in Panton on 2/17 (WGE,NLM) and on 1/14 21 were in Castleton, 34 in Orwell and 46 in Shoreham (WGE,NLM). Chipping Sparrows appeared on the CBC rosters of both Champlain Islands and Winhall, with the Grand Isle bird staying on until at least 12/25 (RBL). A CBC total of 6 Field Sparrows was the highest in at least a dozen years, while a well-described Vesper Sparrow on the Champlain Islands CBC was the first since the winter of 1984-85. Two Savannah Sparrows on the Middlebury CBC were also well described and noteworthy, the first winter record of the species since 1985. A Fox Sparrow at a Brunswick feeder on 12/8-9 (JSB,DK) was yet another good find. A report that 2 imm. were overwintering in Marlboro unfortunately could not be verified. Song Sparrows were widespread in early winter as 14 of 16 CBC circles came up with 126 individuals. Six birds were in Shoreham, Orwell and Benson on 1/14 (WGE,NLM), 5 were in Essex Junction on 2/13 (TSA) and 1 was heard singing in Shoreham on 2/26 (JAP). The lone Swamp Sparrow of the season was in the company of a Song Sparrow in Brandon on 12/13 (SSW). White-throated Sparrows were in good supply with 67 CBC birds a strong if not memorable showing. Three individuals were in Hubbardton and Benson on 1/14 (WGE,NLM), while overwintering birds were in Marlboro (via JPN), in Sheffield (PFW,SAW) and in Manchester Center (SGe,WGE,NLM). Four White-crowned Sparrows in Middlebury, Brattleboro and Springfield maintained a sterling CBC record going back to 1984. Additionally, a single was spotted at a Bethel feeder on 12/20 (EH). Dark-eyed Juncos rounded out an extraordinary year for sparrows, coming up with their best CBC showing since 1984. Readers reported large flocks of wintering birds including 31 at Benson on 1/14 (WGE,NLM), 21 at Chester on 1/27 (CEAd), 14 at Sandgate on 2/19 (WGE,NLM), 14 at DCWMA on 2/21 (ATA) and 20 at Weybridge on 2/22 (JAP). Lapland Longspurs overwhelmed previous records as 258 CBC birds were found, including 153 at the Champlain Islands. Contributors followed up with numerous reports from the Champlain valley, headed up by 13 at Addison on 2/17 (WGE,NLM,SJS). Meanwhile, astonishing numbers of Snow Buntings invaded for the

second successive year. Both Middlebury and Champlain Islands exceeded 1500 birds as the CBC total of 5647 was more than twice last year's record high. Further, there was no let-up as the winter wore on. Fifteen hundred were in Bridport on 1/14 (FAP), 1900 were in Orwell on 1/14 (WGE,NLM), 1000 were still in Orwell on 2/19 (EE,LB) and another 1000 were in Charlotte on 2/24 (WAM). One observer commented that after 1/23 buntings "appeared in huge flocks of up to 2000 birds with larks and longspurs...As of the end of February they are everywhere." (JAP).

ICTERIDS. Red-winged Blackbirds tolerated the December freeze in surprising numbers, as a CBC population of 50 birds was the largest since 1983. Late reports of singles, generally f. or imm. came from Chester on 12/19 (CEAd), Brandon on 12/19 (SSW) and Woodstock on 12/25-26 (CRP). A m. was in Brownsville the week of 1/14 (BMH), while a f. in Hartland on 2/10 was presumably overwintering (WGE,NLM). However, 2 singing m. were in Athens on 2/10 (LS), the first of numerous February reports of returning red-wings. A single was in Woodstock on 2/14 (NHM), another was in Ferrisburg on 2/17 (WGE,NLM), 3 were in Middlebury on 2/20 (JAP), a flock was in Peru on 2/24 (ACB) and 20 were in South Woodstock, also on 2/24 (LHR). Rusty Blackbirds were even more surprising, as unprecedented numbers of CBC birds were found, topped by 8 at Saxtons River and 6 at Brattleboro, both easily surpassing the old record for a single circle. Winter-plumaged Rustys were also noted in February: one at a Middlebury feeder from 2/3-12 (JAP), 2 at the same feeder on 2/18 (JAP) and a single at a South Woodstock feeder on 2/26(LHR). Common Grackles, on the other hand, were anything but common as a mere 7 birds comprised the poorest CBC tally since 1976. Three individuals at a Norwich feeder on 2/23 (ML) were the earliest returnees from the south. Brown-headed Cowbirds suffered no such scarcity as 222 CBC birds were counted, while January flocks numbered 22 at Hartland Four Corners on 1/6 (WGE,NLM), 14 at East Thetford on 1/19 (DHC) and 15 at South Burlington on 1/20 (WGE,NLM,DHC). February reports were confined to overwintering birds with 3 at Weybridge on 2/4 (MBN), 4 at Brandon on 2/9 (SSW) and 2 at Middlebury on 2/10 (JAP).

FRINGILLIDS THROUGH HOUSE SPARROW. Pine Grosbeaks were widely reported in modest numbers, with the largest flocks 27 in Hinesburg on 1/20 (PRW), 23 in White River Junction on 2/15 (JMN), 18 in Barnard on 2/22 (NLM) and 15 near Woodstock on 2/19 (WHB). The CBC total of 224 was the best in four years - but way short of the

numbers associated with major incursions. The plight of the Purple Finch continues to cause concern as observer reports were infrequent and a CBC tally of 64 was mediocre at best. Consider maximum feeder flocks of 3 at Ferrisburg on 1/1 (JID,MCD) and 4 at Wallingford 2/6 (SJD). Not unrelated, one fears, is the continuing explosion in House Finch numbers. CBC records were again shattered with both Ferrisburg and Middlebury setting new highs. Meanwhile, contributors' reports only confirmed the bad news: 75 birds were in Grand Isle on 12/14 (EMH), 58 were in Hubbardton on 1/14 (WGE,NLM), 60 were in Weybridge on 1/28 (MBN) and 50 were in Manchester on 2/11 (WGE,NLM). The Red Crossbill was predictably scarce with reports limited to a single CBC bird at Burlington and a flock of 9 at Randolph on 1/13 (DLC). However, White-winged Crossbills had their best year since 1984, chalking up an impressive 546 CBC birds. Among the better reports from individual observers were 20 birds in Weston on 12/2 (SDA), 24 in Brunswick on 12/8 (TGM), 25 in Hancock in early December (JAP) and 30 in West Brattleboro on 1/6 (WGE,NLM). For the most part Common Redpolls limited their foraging to the Northeast Kingdom, where their relative abundance was noted by Christmas Counters and individual observers alike. In addition to the 370 birds at Island Pond, 229 were in Granby on 1/9 (DLC), another 75 were in Victory on 1/9 (DLC) and 150 were at Lewis Pond on 1/14 (MS). In other parts of the state numbers were low, with the best reports: 14 at Ripton on 12/19 (WBK), 20 at West Groton on 1/9 (WBK) and 12 at West Bolton on 2/24 (MC). Pine Siskins warmed up to the season slowly with CBC results acceptable but certainly not exciting. Late-winter reports, however, were reminiscent of the massive invasion of two years ago: 150 in Woodstock on 1/21 (JHH), 200 in Marlboro on 2/16 (JPN), 200 in Weybridge on 2/24 (MBN), 150 in Middlebury on 2/25 (JAP), 175 in Shaftsbury on 2/27 (JCo) and 250 in Proctorsville on 2/27 (TR). American Goldfinches were widespread during the CBC season but later reports were restrained. A flock of 100 was in Middlebury on 1/24 (JRA), while feeder crowds in the 30-40 range were present in Grand Isle (EMH), West Bolton (MC), Hinesburg (PRW) and Brandon (SSW). An albinistic bird with just a hint of yellow was at a Pittsford feeder on 1/24-25 (RE). Evening Grosbeak numbers were about average on the basis of CBC results, but feeder managers were generally spared the usual ravenous throngs. Maximum counts were 70 in Middlebury (JAP), 50 in Winhall (WJN) and 70 in Hinesburg (PRW). A "reverse" albino (white body, yellow wings and tail) was spotted in Hartland on 2/12-13 (MB,LC). Finally, 10,011 House Sparrows were dutifully counted on the CBC, a decrease of 167 birds from the prior year, but still uncomfortably close to the record population of 1981.

CONTRIBUTORS

CEAD	Chester Adams	YB	Yvonne Best
SDA	Stan Allaben	ACB	Angus Black
TSA	Ted Allen	TB	Tom Briggs
PSA	Paul Anderson	AAB	Ada Brown
JSA	Jim Andrews	HCB	Helen Bull
KMA	Kris Andrews	LB	Lloyd Bunten
LLA	Linda Lee Andrews	NB	Nadine Burns
JRA	Jean Arrowsmith	DCA	David Cain
ASNH	Audubon Society of N.H.	DLC	Dwight Cargill
ATA	Anne Aversa	MC	Mike Cassara
PMB	Phillip Ballou	ECC	Eveleen Cecchini
MB	Mary Barber	TGC	Terry Cecchini
WB	Margaret Barker	EWC	Elizabeth Clapp
WHB	William Barnard	MCC	Mary Clapp
CB	Clint Barnum	DC	Don Clark
JSB	Jim & Shirley Bates	JJC	Jeremy Coleman
BB	Bill Benoit	AC	Alan Coulter
JB	Judy Berube	LC	Lillian Cowdrey
		JCo	Joyce Cowper
		JC	Joanna Cracker
		WJC	Bill Crenshaw

DHC	Dan Crook	ScM	Scott Moreau
DCD	Deb Davis	LM	Lynn Morgan
MD	Marion Davis	PM	Phil Morgan
AMD	Allison Deen	SM	Shirley Mower
SD	Susan Diamond	TGM	Ted Murin
CLD	Cheryl Doyle	TM	Tom Murray
SJD	Sarah Jane Dudley	JN	Joe Nelson
BCD	Bonnie Dundas	MBN	Marge Nelson
CD	Cathy Durand	RN	Roy Newton
RCD	Randy Durand	WDN	Whit Nichols
JID	John Dye	GFN	Jerry Nicholson
MCD	Margaret Dye	JMN	Julie Nicholson
EE	Eleanor Ellis	WJN	Bill Norse
RE	Roy Ellison	SN	Sue Nostrand
GFE	George Ellison	TN	Tony Nunes
WGE	Walter Ellison	CO	Cecilia Oakman
VMF	Virginia Farley	FO	Frank Oatman
ATF	Abbott Fenn	TP	Teen Palen
JNF	Jean Fleming	BP	Brad Patterson
CJF	C.J. Frankiewicz	SPe	Sarah Peck
PF	Peter Front	JAP	Judy Peterson
JBG	John Gallegos	SPH	Seth Phoenix
LG	Larry Garrard	SP	Sue Pierce
MG	Margaret Garrard	RWP	Roy Pilcher
JGe	Judith Geriak	AP	Alan Pistorius
SGe	Stephan Geriak	CRP	Carol Powell
SG	Seth Gibson	BWP	Barbara Powers
EFG	Betty Gilbert	FAP	Frederick Pratt
DG	Daphne Gratiot	CSP	Craig Provost
EG	Ev Grimes	REP	Bunni Putnam
PG	Paul Grout	HSP	Hugh Putnam
BPG	Bea Guyett	ER	Emma Raymond
EH	Ed Hack	TR	Theresa Raymond
GEHA	Terry Hall	NER	Nancy Read
LH	Laura Hathorne	HR	Herman Redden
EHA	Elizabeth Hazen	MR	Mrs. Rice
EMH	E.M. Henning	PCR	Peter Riley
DH	Don Hesterberg	CCR	Chris Rimmer
PH	Pat Hesterberg	BLR	Betty Rist
JHH	John Hewitt	LHR	Larry Roberts
PHH	Patsy Highberg	MS	Michael Sabourin
BMH	Beryl Hinton	MSa	Michael Sacca
DJH	David Hoag	SJS	Jean Sangdahl
SH	Scott Horrigan	FS	Floyd Scholtz
FCH	Fran Howe	DS	David Schwenker
FMH	Fred Hunt	RS	Richard Showalter
GEH	Gloria Hunt	NS	Nancy Simson
PHu	Peter Hunt	CS	Cora Smith
LBI	Louise Indridason	ES	Elinor Spear
OI	Ottar Indridason	AS	Ann Spence
EJ	Eric Johnsen	SS	Sandra Stevens
SJ	Scott Johnson	RWS	Ruth Stewart
EvK	Evlyn Kearny	ABS	Allan Stimson
EK	Liz Kellogg	LS	Lynn Stone
DK	David Killam	GHS	Gary Sturgis
WBK	Warren King	BS	Bradley Swasey
MSL	Mark LaBarr	KRT	Kevin Taft
HL	Henry Lappen	EHT	Enoch Tompkins
SBL	Sally Laughlin	JMT	James Toolan
DKL	Dorothy Lavallee	HWT	Helen Toolan
RBL	Dick Lavallee	MV	Marion Venn
LDL	Linny Levin	VRC	Vermont Raptor Center
ML	Molly Lofgren		
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NLM	Nancy Martin	EW	Everett Williams
WAM	Bill Meador	MLW	Martha Williamson
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LNm	Larry Metcalf	DUW	Doug Wilson
SBM	Steven Metz	JW	Jeanne Wisner
CM	Carol Minke	WES	Woodstock Elementary School
HM	Mrs. Hubert Moore		

Special thanks to all who participated in the Christmas Bird Counts; Cardinal, Tufted Titmouse, Mockingbirds Counts; and Bald Eagle Surveys

Abbreviations Used in Text

BNP Bragdon Nature Preserve
NWR National Wildlife Refuge
CBC Christmas Bird Count
ad. adult (s)
f. female (s)
imm. immature (s)
juv. juvenile (s)
m. male (s)
max. maximum
mph miles per hour
R. River

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