

# Records of Vermont Birds

## Vermont Bird Records Committee Report 1990

The Vermont Bird Records Committee met 3 November 1990 for its yearly meeting to review rare bird reports. The committee's function is to establish guidelines for the reporting of rarities and to review and evaluate records of rarities for their acceptability by future researchers and for inclusion in the state bird list. The Committee's recommendations are followed in the publication of records in Records of Vermont Birds. The Bird Records Committee is a standing committee of the Vermont Audubon Council and consists of the managing editor of the Records of Vermont Birds, the seasonal editors of the Records of Vermont Birds, and the regional editors for Vermont for American Birds.

Charlie Duncan and Wayne Petersen, editors for the New England region, represented American Birds.

The Committee and the editors of the Records of Vermont Birds express their appreciation to the many Vermont birders who report to the Records of Vermont Birds and to the birders who have taken the time and trouble to fill out detailed reports on rare species. These reports add greatly to Vermont's data base on birds. Careful recording of the details of plumage and identification are necessary.

SPECIES FOR WHICH DETAILED REPORTS ARE REQUIRED (Write to the Vermont Institute of Natural Science for Rare Species Documentation forms (RSD's) or for Rare Species Nesting Report forms (RNR's).

1) A documentation report is required for any species not included on the Vermont Daily Field Card (reproduced elsewhere in this issue) and for any species significantly outside the usual dates of occurrence in Vermont.

2) In addition, RSD's are required in all seasons for:

Golden Eagle	Black-backed Woodpecker
Common Barn-Owl	(outside the Northeast Kingdom)
Long-eared Owl	Kingdom)
Three-toed Woodpecker	Orange-crowned Warbler
	Yellow-breasted Chat

3) RNR's are requested on the following species (which are rare nesters in Vermont) if the species is observed in the proper breeding habitat during the breeding season (exceptions or special cases follow each species name in parentheses):

Pied-billed Grebe  
Least Bittern (except for the West Rutland Marsh, Dead Creek and Missisquoi)  
Great Egret (between 15 May and 15 July)  
Northern Shoveler  
American Wigeon  
Ring-necked Duck  
Lesser Scaup  
Osprey (if nesting evidence is observed)  
Bald Eagle (if nesting evidence is observed)  
Northern Harrier (outside the Champlain Valley)  
Cooper's Hawk (if nesting evidence is observed)  
Peregrine Falcon  
Spruce Grouse

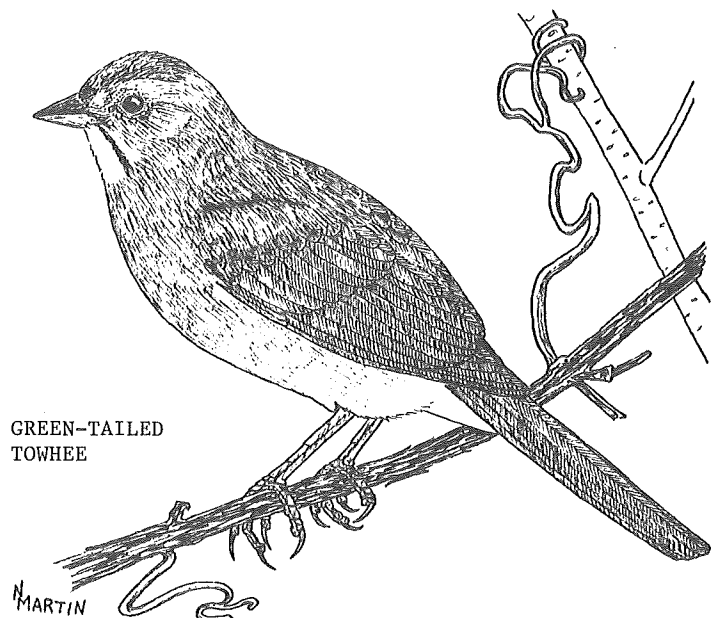
Sora (except the Barton River Marshes, West Rutland Marsh, Dead Creek, and Missisquoi Marshes)  
Upland Sandpiper  
Short-eared Owl  
Red-headed Woodpecker (if probable or confirmed)  
Gray Jay (outside the Northeast Kingdom)  
Sedge Wren  
Loggerhead Shrike  
Grasshopper Sparrow  
Orchard Oriole (if nesting evidence observed)  
Pine Grosbeak  
Red Crossbill (if confirmed breeding)  
White-winged Crossbill (if confirmed breeding)

Bird Records Committee Members: Jeremy Coleman, Charlie Duncan, Walter Ellison, Lynn Erb, Sarah Laughlin, Whitney Nichols, Blair Nikula, William Norse, Frank Oatman, Simon Perkins, Wayne Petersen, Roy Pilcher, Frederick Pratt. Editorial Staff: Julie Nicholson, Nancy Martin, Christopher Rimmer.

### FIRST STATE RECORDS

PACIFIC/ARCTIC LOON (Gavia pacifica/arctica) - one, just north of Crown Point Bridge, Addison, Addison Cty., 2, 11, and 12 November 1989. Frank Oatman, Wayne Scott, Jon Wood, George Hall, Betty Rist, William Meador, Richard Lavallee. First state record for either member of this pair of sibling species.

GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE (Pipilo chlorurus) - one, photographed, at Dick Thomas' garage near confluence of West and Connecticut Rivers, Brattleboro, Windham Cty., 16 December 1989 through 5 May 1990. Whitney Nichols, Jeremy Coleman, Walter Ellison, Daniel Crook, Nancy Martin et al.. Photograph by Geoff LeBaron published in American Birds 44:222.



GREEN-TAILED  
TOWHEE

NOTABLE STATE RECORDS

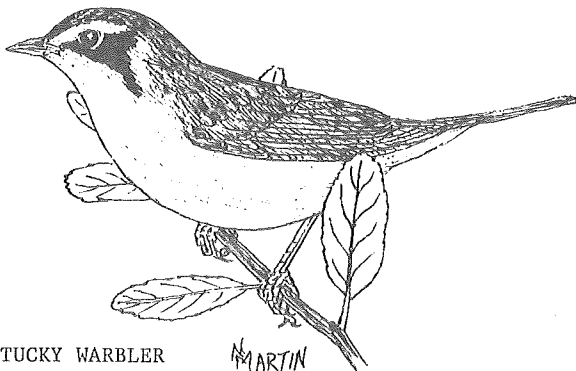
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AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN (Pelecanus erythrorhynchos) - one, South Bay of Lake Memphremagog, Coventry and Newport, Orleans Cty., 3, 4, 6 May 1990. Paul Wagner, Nancy Martin, Walter Ellison. Fourth state record.

GREAT CORMORANT (Phalacrocorax carbo) - one, Whippel Fishing Access, Lake Memphremagog, Newport, Orleans Cty., 8 October 1989. Betty Rist and Dwight Cargill. Ninth state record.

COMMON EIDER (Somateria mollissima) - twenty (plus or minus) including two adult males, Lake Champlain, Missisquoi Bay, Highgate, Franklin Cty., 22 October 1988. William Crenshaw. Fifth state record.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (Larus fuscus) - one adult in breeding plumage, photographed, Bixby Island, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 20 September 1990. Richard Lavallee, Chris Rimmer, Jeremy Coleman. Third state record.



KENTUCKY WARBLER

MARTIN

KENTUCKY WARBLER (Oporornis formosus) - one singing male, tape recorded, West Brattleboro, Windham Cty., 13 June 1990. Jeremy Coleman, Nancy Haydock. Sixth state record.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus) - one, Stagecoach Road, Morrisville, Lamoille Cty., 9 June 1990. Christopher Ludington. Third documented state record.

REPORT ACCEPTED AS HYPOTHETICAL

THAYER'S GULL (Larus thayeri) - one adult in basic plumage, Blodgett's Beach, Burlington, Chittenden Cty., 19 December 1989. Craig Provost. Second hypothetical record for this species, which is likely to be lumped with Iceland Gull soon.

RARE NESTING SPECIES

GADWALL (Anas strepera) - one female flushed from nest, Young Island, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 13 May 1989. David Capen, Tom Meyer, Diane Pence. Confirmed nesting.  
GADWALL (A. strepera) - three pair, nine or ten downy young, photographed, The Gut, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., May through August 1990. David Hoag. Confirmed nesting.

LONG-EARED OWL (Asio otus) - two photographed, Lake Road, Charlotte, Chittenden Cty., February through April 1990. Joe Nelson, Scott Moreau. Possible nesting.

COMMON NIGHTHAWK (Chordeiles minor) - adult with two chicks, flat roof top, Day's Inn, Montpelier, Washington Cty., July 1990. Diane Pence. Confirmed nesting.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (Melanerpes erythrocephalus) - one pair and one other adult, Huestis Road .4 mile north of Middle Road, Bridport, Addison Cty., 1 June 1990. Martha Peterson and Bernie Galgoci. Possible nesting.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (M. erythrocephalus) - two adults and one juvenile, Ferrisburg, Addison Cty., 21, 24, 26, 27 July 1990. John and Margaret Dye.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (M. erythrocephalus) - one adult entering nest hole with food, on shore of Battenkill, West Arlington, Bennington Cty., 24 July 1990. Two immatures seen 2-7 September 1990. Cornelia Chapin and Nancy Simson. Confirmed nesting.

CAROLINA WREN (Thryothorus ludovicianus) - two adults, 4 young in first nesting; at least 2 young in a second nesting, Bennington, Bennington Cty., 29 April 1990 through summer 1990. Bonita and Richard Dundas and Gene and Ruth Kosche. Confirmed nesting.

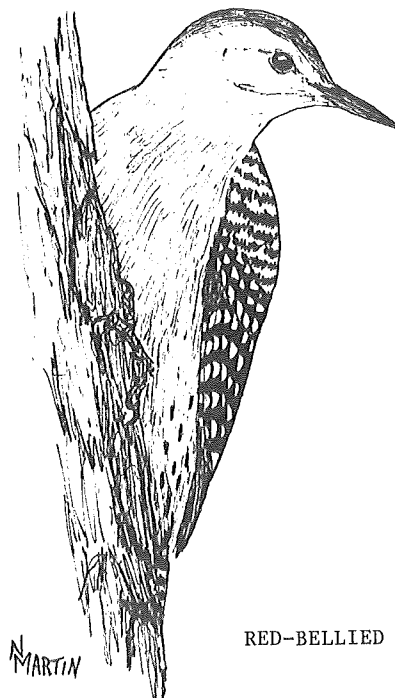
OTHER RARE SPECIES DOCUMENTATION REPORTS

GOLDEN EAGLE (Aquila chrysaetos) - one immature, Bagley Hill, Quechee, Windsor Cty., 4 November 1989. Edwin C. Johnson.

GYRFALCON (Falco rusticolus) - one adult gray morph, Button Bay State Park, Addison Cty., 18 December 1989. Betty Rist.

SANDHILL CRANE (Grus canadensis) - one, Winhall, Bennington Cty., 16 September 1990. William Norse.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER (Melanerpes carolinus) - one, Chester, Windsor Cty., 22 October 1989. Chester Adams.  
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER (M. carolinus) - one female, Chase Hill on Marlboro/Guilford line, Windham Cty., 17 December 1989. Whitney Nichols, Al and Barbara Merritt.  
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER (M. carolinus) - one male, Rattlin Bridge Road, Bridport, Addison Cty., 17 December 1989. Jim Andrews, Kris Andrews, John Nelson.  
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER (M. carolinus) - one female, Rattlin Bridge Road, Bridport, Addison Cty., 17 February 1990. Walter Ellison, Nancy Martin, Jean Sangdahl, Abbie Frost, and other members of Ascutney Mt. Audubon Society.

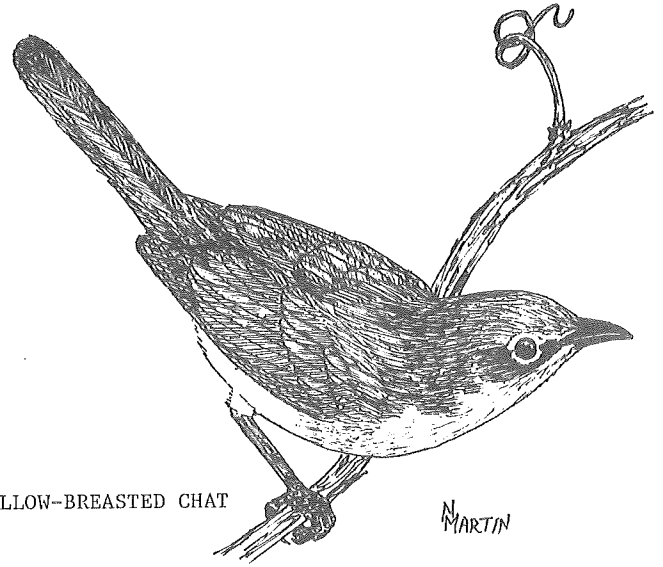


RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER

MARTIN

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (*Vermivora celata*) - one immature, banded and photographed, Bragdon Nature Preserve, Woodstock, Windsor Cty., 1 October 1990. Scott Hall, Chris Rimmer, Nancy Martin, Mark LaBarr et al..

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT (*Icteria virens*) - one, Underwood Mill Pond Bridge, Sunset Lake Road, Marlboro, Windham Cty., 13 September 1989. John P. Nevins.



YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT

N. MARTIN

OUT OF SEASON REPORTS

CATTLE EGRET (*Bulbulcus ibis*) - one, Quaker Road, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 20 and 23 March 1990. Ev Grimes.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER (*Mergus serrator*) - one female photographed, west shore, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 7, 28, 29 July and 17 August 1990. David Hoag.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala islandica*) - one immature male, West Shore Road, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 3-15 May 1990. David Hoag.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET (*Regulus calendula*) - one male, Newfane, Windham Cty., 16 December 1989. Sue Pierce and Marion Venn.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER (*Polioptila caerulea*) - one, Cave Road, Weybridge, Addison Cty., 17 December 1989. Alan Coulter.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING (*Bombycilla garrulus*) - six to fourteen, Shelburne Fishing Access, Shelburne, Chittenden Cty., 28 October 1989. Jeremy Coleman, Richard Lavallee.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING (*B. garrulus*) - thirty one, South Duxbury, Washington Cty., 31 October 1989. Frederick Pratt.

RUFOUS-SIDED (SPOTTED) TOWHEE western form (*Pipilo erythrophthalma maculatas*) - one photographed, Stamford Motel, Manchester Center, Bennington Cty., late December to at least 11 February 1990. Judith and Stephen Geriak, Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin. First record of this form for Vermont.

CHIPPING SPARROW (*Spizella passerina*) - one, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 17-25 December 1989. Richard and Dorothy Lavallee.

VESPER SPARROW (*Poocetes gramineus*) - one, Swanton, Franklin Cty., 17 December 1989. David Schwenker and Scott Horrigan.

VERMONT DAILY FIELD CARD		
DATE	LOCALITY	
OBSERVERS	TOTAL SPECIES	
NOTE: Median arrival and departure dates, or dates of occurrence, are indicated by numbers for the months, and by A, B, C, D, for the weeks of each month.		
EXAMPLE: Goose, Snow 3D-5C 10A-12C means that Snow Geese are present from the last week in March (3D) until the third week in May (5C) and again in the autumn from the first week in October (10A) through the third week in December (12C).		
* = occasionally present in limited numbers other than in stated periods.		
† = rare breeder, please submit nesting reports to VINS. Note: † species include all those on Vermont's Endangered, Threatened, and Species of Special Concern Lists.		
§ = local breeder.		
bold face = breeding bird.		
P.R. = permanent resident; predictably present throughout the year.		
<b>GAVIIFORMES</b>	<b>CHARADRIIFORMES</b>	
Loon, Red-throated 10D-12C	Plover, Black-bellied 5C-5D 8C-11A	
Common 4B-1B †	Lesser Golden- 8C-10D	
<b>PODICIPEDIFORMES</b>	Semipalmated 5C-5D 7D-10B	
Grebe, Pied-billed 3D-11D †	Killdeer 3A-11A	
Horned 4A-5A 10A-1C	Yellowlegs, Greater 4B-5D 7B-11A	
Red-necked 4B-5A 10B-12C	Lesser 5A-5D 7B-10C	
<b>PELICANIFORMES</b>	Sandpiper, Solitary 4D-5D 7B-10B	
Cormorant, Double-cr. 4A-11A §	Spotted 4D-10C	
<b>CICONIIFORMES</b>	Upland 4D-8D †	
Bittern, American 4B-10B	Whimbrel 8D-9A	
Least 5C-8D †	Turnstone, Ruddy 5D-6A 7D-9D	
Heron, Great Blue 3B-12C *	Knot, Red 8D-9D	
Egret, Great 4D-5D 7D-9B	Sanderling 8C-10B	
Snowy 5B-9B †	Sandpiper, Semipalmated 5B-5D 7C-10C	
Cattle 4C-9B †	Least 5B-5D 7B-10A	
Heron, Green-backed 4D-10B	White-rumped 8B-11A	
Black-cr. Night- 4C-10A §	Baird's 8B-10A	
Ibis, Glossy 4D-5D	Pectoral 4C-5C 7D-11A	
<b>ANSERIFORMES</b>	Purple 10D-11B	
Goose, Snow 3D-5C 10A-12C	Dunlin 9B-11B	
Brant 4C-5D 10C-11D	Sandpiper, Silt 7D-9B	
Goose, Canada P.R.	Dowitcher, Sh.-billed 5C-5D 7C-9A	
Duck, Wood 3C-12C	Woodcock, American 3D-11A	
Teal, Green-winged 3D-12B †	Snipe, Common 3D-11A	
Duck, American Black P.R.	Phalarope, Wilson's 8B-8D	
Mallard P.R.	Red-necked 8C-9A	
Pinball, Northern 3B-12C * †	Gull, Little 10A-11C	
Teal, Blue-winged 3D-10C	Bonaparte's 5A-5C 7C-12D	
Shoveler, Northern 4A-5C 9A-11A	Ring-billed P.R. §	
Gadwall 3D-12B †	Herring P.R. §	
Wigeon, American 3B-5B 9A-11A	Iceland 11C-4B	
Canvasback 3C-4D 10D-1C	Glaucous 12A-4A	
Redhead 4A-4C 11D-1C	Great Black-backed P.R. †	
Duck, Ring-necked 3C-5C 9A-12C	Tern, Common 5A-9C †	
Scaup, Greater 3C-5A 10A-1D	Black 5A-8A §	
Lesser 3D-5A 9D-12C	<b>COLUMBIFORMES</b>	
Oldsquaw 4A-5C 10D-12C	Dove, Rock P.R.	
Scoter, Black 4B-5C 10A-12A	Mourning P.R.	
Surf 4C-5C 10A-11C	<b>CUCULIFORMES</b>	
White-winged 4D-5C 10B-12C	Cuckoo, Black-billed 5C-9D	
Goldeneye, Common P.R.	Yellow-billed 5D-9D	
Barrow's 11B-3C	<b>STRIGIFORMES</b>	
Bufflehead 3A-5C 10C-1D	Barn-Owl, Common †	
Merganser, Hooded 3C-12D *	Screech-Owl, Eastern P.R.	
Common P.R.	Owl, Great Horned P.R.	
Red-breasted 3D-5C 10C-1A * †	Snowy 11B-3B	
Duck, Ruddy 11A-11D	Barred P.R.	
<b>FALCONIFORMES</b>	Long-eared P.R. †	
Vulture, Turkey 3B-11A	Short-eared P.R. †	
Osprey 4A-11B †	Northern Saw-whet P.R.	
Eagle, Bald 1A-12D	<b>CAPRIMULGIFORMES</b>	
Harrier, Northern 3B-1A * †	Nighthawk, Common 5C-9B	
Hawk, Sharp-shinned P.R.	Whip-poor-will 5A-9A †	
Cooper's P.R. †	<b>APODIFORMES</b>	
Goshawk, Northern P.R.	Swift, Chimney 4D-9C	
Hawk, Red-shouldered 3B-11C	Hummingbird, R.-thr. 5A-9D	
Broad-winged 3D-10C	<b>CORACIFORMES</b>	
Red-tailed P.R.	Kingfisher, Belted 3C-12D *	
Rough-legged 10A-5A	<b>PICIFORMES</b>	
Eagle, Golden 3D-4C 11A-11D	Woodpecker, Red-headed P.R. †	
Keatrel, American 3A-12D *	Sapsucker, Y.-bellied 4A-10C	
Merlin 4A-5B 8D-10B	Woodpecker, Downy P.R.	
Falcon, Peregrine 3D-10D * †	Halcy P.R.	
<b>GALLIFORMES</b>	Three-toed 1A-12D †	
Partridge, Gray P.R. §	Black-backed P.R. †	
Phasant, Ring-necked 1A-12D	Flicker, Northern 3B-11B	
Grouse, Spruce P.R. †	Woodpecker, Pileated P.R.	
Ruffed P.R.	<b>PASSERIFORMES</b>	
Turkey, Wild P.R.	Flycatcher, Olive-sided 5C-9B	
Bobwhite, Northern 1A-12D	Wood-Pewee, Eastern 5C-9D	
<b>GRUIFORMES</b>	Flycatcher, Y.-bellied 5C-9C	
Rail, Virginia 4C-10B	Alder 5C-9C	
Sora 4C-10A †	Willow 5C-9B	
Moorhen, Common 4D-10A §	Least 5A-9D	
Coot, American 4B-5D 9D-12D * †	Phoebe, Eastern 3D-10C	

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) - one immature, Dummerston, Windham Cty., 16 December 1989. Whitney Nichols.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW (*Z. leucophrys*) - one adult, North Concord, Essex Cty., 12 June 1990. Chris Rimmer.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD (*Euphagus carolinus*) - three, St. Albans Bay, Franklin Cty., 17 December 1989. Dwight Cargill and Deb Davis.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD (*E. carolinus*) - one, Route 100A 1/2 mile south of Bridgewater Corners, Windsor Cty., 3 January 1990. Chris Rimmer.



UNUSUAL LOCATION

GRAY JAY (*Perisoreus canadensis*) - one photographed, Shelburne-Hinesburg Road, Shelburne, Chittenden Cty., November 1989 to at least 3 February 1990. Eveleen and Terry Cecchini.

BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER (*Picoides arcticus*) - one male, White River Junction, Windsor Cty., 11 September 1989. Daniel Crook.

BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER (*P. arcticus*) - one female, Winhall, Bennington Cty., 3 February 1990. William Norse.

Flycatcher, Great Cr.	5A-9C	Black-throated Blue	5A-10A
Kingbird, Eastern	4D-9C	Yellow-rumped	4B-11C *
Lark, Horned	P.R.	Black-throated Green	4D-10B
Martin, Purple	4C-9A	Blackburnian	5A-9D
Swallow, Tree	3D-10B	Pine	4B-9D
N. Rough-winged	4C-8D	Prairie	5B-9B \$
Bank	4C-9C	Palm	4B-5B 9B-10C
Cliff	4D-9C	Bay-breasted	5B-9D †
Barn	4C-9D	Blackpoll	5C-10A
Jay, Gray	P.R. †	Cerulean	5C-8B †
Blue	P.R.	Black-and-white	4D-9D
Crow, American	P.R.	Redstart, American	5A-10A
Raven, Common	P.R.	Ovenbird	5A-9D
Chickadee, Bl.-capped	P.R.	Waterthrush, Northern	5A-9C
Boreal	P.R. \$	Louisiana	4C-8B
Tilmouse, Tufted	P.R.	Warbler, Mourning	5C-10A
Nuthatch, Red-breasted	P.R.	Yellowthroat, Common	5A-10D
White-breasted	P.R.	Warbler, Wilson's	5B-9D †
Creepers, Brown	P.R.	Canada	5B-9C
Wren, Carolina	1A-12D †	Chat, Yellow-breasted	5C-10B
House	4D-10B	Tanager, Scarlet	5A-10A
Winter	4A-11B *	Cardinal, Northern	P.R.
Sedge	5D-9A †	Grosbeak, Rose-br.	5A-10B
Marsh	4D-10A \$	Bunting, Indigo	5B-10A
Kinglet, Golden-cr.	P.R.	Towhee, Rufous-sided	4C-10B
Ruby-crowned	4B-11A	Sparrow, Am. Tree	10B-4D
Gnatcatcher, B.-gray	4D-9A	Chipping	4B-10D
Bluebird, Eastern	3B-11B	Field	4A-11A
Veery	5A-9C	Veepers	4B-10D \$
Thrush, Gray-cheeked	5C-9D	Savannah	4A-11A
Swainson's	5B-10C	Grasshopper	5B-9A †
Hermit	4B-11B	Fox	3D-4D 10A-11C
Wood	5A-10A	Song	3B-11A *
Robin, American	3A-11D *	Lincoln's	5B-10C
Catbird, Gray	5A-10D	Swamp	4B-11A
Mockingbird, Northern	P.R.	White-throated	4B-11C *
Thrasher, Brown	4D-10B	White-crowned	5A-5C 9C-10D
Pipit, Water	4A-5B 9B-11B	Junco, Dark-eyed	P.R.
Waxwing, Bohemian	12B-4A	Longspur, Lapland	10B-3B
Cedar	5C-10B *	Bunting, Snow	10C-3D
Shrike, Northern	10D-4B	Bobolink	5A-9D
Loggerhead	4A-8D †	Blackbird, R.-winged	2D-12B *
Starling, European	P.R.	Meadowlark, Eastern	3C-11A
Vireo, Solitary	4C-10C	Blackbird, Rusty	3B-11A †
Yellow-throated	5A-9C	Grackle, Common	3A-12B *
Warbling	5A-9D	Cowbird, Br.-headed	2D-12D *
Philadelphia	5B-9D †	Oriole, Orchard	5B-7B †
Red-eyed	5B-10A	Northern	5A-9D
Warbler, Blue-winged	5B-8D \$	Grosbeak, Pine	10D-4A
Golden-winged	5B-8D \$	Finch, Purple	P.R.
Tennessee	5B-10A †	House	P.R.
Orange-crowned	9C-10B	Crossbill, Red	1A-12D
Nashville	5A-10A	White-winged	1A-12D †
Parula, Northern	5A-9D	Redpoll, Common	11C-4D
Warbler, Yellow	5A-9D	Siskin, Pine	10A-5D *
Chestnut-sided	5A-9D	Goldfinch, American	P.R.
Magnolia	5A-10A	Grosbeak, Evening	P.R.
Cape May	5B-9D \$	Sparrow, House	P.R.

The VERMONT INSTITUTE OF NATURAL SCIENCE is a nonprofit membership organization with statewide programs in environmental education and ornithological research. Our purpose is to promote an understanding of and appreciation for the natural world; membership is open to all interested in this purpose. Publications include a quarterly newsletter and calendar, and the annual magazine, VERMONT NATURAL HISTORY. Membership is \$16 - Individual; \$23 - Family; \$40 - Supporting.

VERMONT INSTITUTE OF NATURAL SCIENCE, P.O. Box 86, Woodstock, Vermont 05091 802/457-2779

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