



Records of Vermont Birds

Vermont Bird Records Committee Report 1991

The Vermont Bird Records Committee met on 26 October 1991 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.

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 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

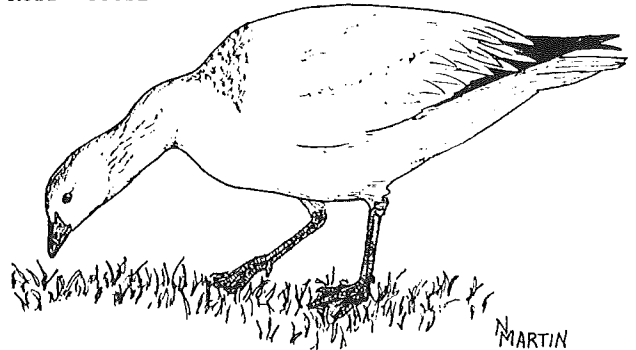
3) RNR's are requested on the following species (which are rare nesters in Vermont) if the species is observed in the proper breeding habitat during the breeding season (exceptions or special cases follow each species name in parentheses):

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, Terry Hall, 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.

ROSS' GOOSE



FIRST STATE RECORDS

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK (Dendrocygna bicolor) - one adult female, legally shot by hunter Michael Stenta, specimen photographed. Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge, Highgate Springs, Franklin Cty., 13 October 1990. John B. Gallegos, Michael Stenta, Jerry R. Longcore.

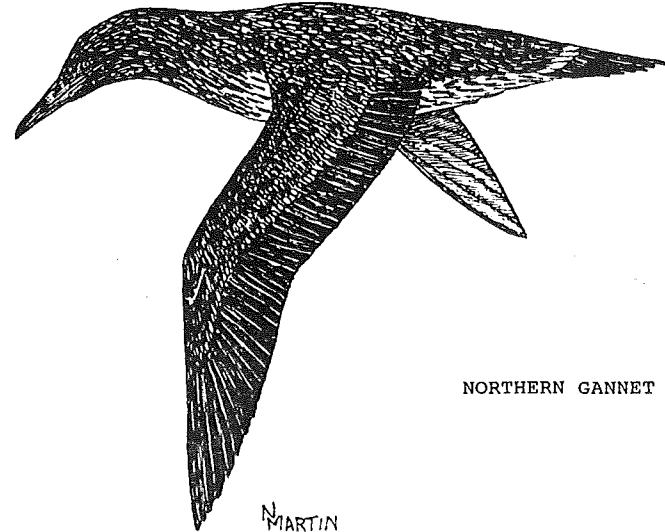
ROSS' GOOSE (Chen rossii) - one immature, Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, Addison, Addison Cty., 27 October and 25 November 1990. Walter G. Ellison, Nancy L. Martin, Bryan M. Pfeiffer. First for New England.

CURLEW SANDPIPER (Calidris ferruginea) - one in breeding plumage, Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, Panton, Addison Cty., 13 July 1991. Dwight L. Cargill, Craig S. Provost, George E. (Terry) Hall.

RUFF (Philomachus pugnax) - one adult male, Panton/Vergennes Road, Panton, Addison Cty., 6-14 July 1991. Betty Rist Jillson, Julia M. Nicholson, Walter G. Ellison, Nancy L. Martin et al.. Two previous records (1974, 1982) are considered hypothetical.

Selasphorus HUMMINGBIRD species Rufous or Allen's, photographed (identification by experts sought) - one male, Jennings residence, So. Starksboro, Addison Cty., 1-9 August 1991. Francis and Corinne Jennings. First record of this genus.

WESTERN KINGBIRD (Tyrannus verticalis) - one immature, Route 12 south of Barnard, Windsor Cty., 22 September 1989. J. Jay Hand, Lucy Hand, N. L. Martin. First fully documented record.



NORTHERN GANNET

NOTABLE STATE RECORDS

EARED GREBE (Podiceps nigricollis) - one, Kellogg's Bay, Ferrisburg, Addison Cty., 15 December 1990. Alan Pistorius, Jay and Leslie Wisner. Third state record.

NORTHERN GANNET (Morus bassanus) - one first year individual, Ladd Point, Grand Isle Cty., 17 December 1990. Richard B. Lavallee. Eighth state record.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (Anser albifrons) - one, Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, Addison Cty., 11 December 1990. C. J. Frankiewicz. Sixth state record.

ROSS' GOOSE (Chen rossii) - one adult, Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, Addison Cty., 29 October 1990. Judith A. Peterson. Second state record.

ROSS' GOOSE (C. rossii) - one adult, Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, Addison Cty., 17 October 1991. Judith A. Peterson. Third state record.

WHITE-EYED VIREO (Vireo griseus) - one male, West Rutland Marsh, Rutland Cty., 7 May 1991. Michael H. Blust. N. L. Martin, W. G. Ellison. Ninth state record.
WHITE-EYED VIREO (V. griseus) - one male, Route 102, Maidstone, Essex Cty., 26 June and 2 July 1991. James E. Osborn III. Tenth state record.

WESTERN Tanager (Piranga ludoviciana) - one, West Road, Panton, Addison Cty., 22 August 1991. Robert and Betty Wotton, Paul Blair. Fifth state record.

ACCEPTED AS HYPOTHETICAL

LAUGHING GULL (Larus atricilla) - one adult, flooded field along Barton River c. 2.5 miles north of the town of Orleans, Orleans Cty., 22 April 1990. Frank Oatman, Jon Wood. Would be first state record. (First state records require documentation by two independent observers.)

LAUGHING GULL (L. atricilla) - one adult, Burlington waterfront, Chittenden Cty., 9 August 1990. Craig S. Scharf, Ed Good. Would be second state record.

PIED-BILLED GREBE (Podilymbus podiceps) - 2 adults, three chicks, Berlin Pond, Berlin, Washington Cty., 28 July 1991. Ted S. Allen. Confirmed nesting.

NORTHERN PINTAIL (Anas acuta) - hen with four young, photographed, Blackwell's Swamp, Grand Isle Cty., 26 and 28 June 1991. David J. Hoag. Confirmed nesting.

AMERICAN WIGEON (Anas americana) - hen with ten downy young, photographed, Bixby Island, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 23 June 1991. D. J. Hoag. Confirmed nesting.

AMERICAN WIGEON (A. americana) - hen with three downy young, photographed, Blackwell's Swamp (Nichols Point), Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 28 June 1991. D. J. Hoag. Confirmed nesting.

AMERICAN WIGEON (A. americana) - hen with nine young and hen with six downy young, Brown's Marsh (Simm's Point), Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 30 June 1991. D. J. Hoag. Confirmed nesting.

COOPER'S HAWK (Accipiter cooperii) - one male defending nest, Chester, Windsor Cty., 20 May 1991. Chester E. Adams. Confirmed nesting.

LONG EARED OWL (Asio otus) - one heard, Abbott residence, SW corner of Hinesburg, Chittenden Cty., early April to mid May 1991. J. A. Peterson for Kristin Abbott. Possible nesting.

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER (Empidonax virescens) - two singing males, Guilford, Windham Cty., 27 May to 23 June 1991. W. G. Ellison, N. L. Martin. Probable nesting.

SEDGE WREN (Cistothorus platensis) - one nest building, west of Rt. 30, s.w. Whiting, Addison Cty., 30 June 1991. J. M. Nicholson, Elizabeth F. Gilbert. Probable nesting.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW (Ammodramus savannarum) - one singing male, Lemon Fair Road, Weybridge, Addison Cty., 6 and 8 June 1990. J. A. Peterson, Marge B. Nelson. Possible nesting.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW (A. savannarum) - one singing male, Field Days Road, New Haven, Addison Cty., 21 June 1990 and 28 May 1991. J. A. Peterson, Emma Raymond. Possible nesting.

VESPER SPARROW (Pooecetes gramineus) - one, and nest with four eggs, a dry knoll, Chester, Windsor Cty., 17 June 1990. C. E. Adams. Confirmed nesting.

OTHER RARE SPECIES DOCUMENTATION REPORTS

LITTLE BLUE HERON (Egretta caerulea) - one adult, Manchester, Bennington Cty., 4 September 1990. Scott Cairns.

TUNDRA SWAN (Cygnus columbianus) - one adult, Herricks Cove, Rockingham, Windham Cty., 26 October 1990. Lloyd Bunten, Peter Hunt.

TUNDRA SWAN (C. columbianus) - one adult, photographed, Bellows Falls, Windham Cty., 30 November 1990. Daniel H. Crook, Jeremy Coleman, et al. Probably same bird as above.

TUNDRA SWAN (C. columbianus) - four adult, three immature, photographed, Johnson Pond, Shrewsbury, Rutland Cty., 30 November 1990. Connie Youngstrom, Larry Carrara, Sally Jones.

TUNDRA SWAN (C. columbianus) - two adult, 4 immature, two miles north of Norwich, Windsor Cty., 23 December 1990. D. H. Crook, George F. Ellison, Kevin R. Taft, et al.. Present from 9 December until 1 January 1991.

GOLDEN EAGLE (Aquila chrysaetos) - one photographed at the Vermont Raptor Center, Woodstock, died of gunshot wounds. From North Hero, Grand Isle Cty., 2 January 1991. Todd Lynch, Peter L. Whitlock.

GOLDEN EAGLE (A. chrysaetos) - one immature, Brownell Mt., Williston, Chittenden Cty., 11 April 1991. Peter C. Riley.

GYRFALCON (Falco rusticolus) - one gray morph, Shelburne, Chittenden Cty., 28 January 1990. D. L. Cargill, B. R. Jillson.

GYRFALCON (F. rusticolus) - one white morph, near border of Addison town, Bridport, Addison Cty., 13 January 1991. B. R. Jillson, Ernest E. Jillson.

SANDHILL CRANE (Grus canadensis) - one, Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, Addison, Addison Cty., 15 and 18 May 1990. William Crenshaw, John Campbell, John Mlcuch.

GODWIT (Limosa species) - one juvenile, Ompompanoosuc River, Norwich, Windsor Cty., 29 October 1990. Lloyd Bunten.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT (L. haemastica) - one juvenile, Dead Creek WMA, Panton, Addison Cty., 28 August 1991. J. A. Peterson.

RED PHALAROPE (Phalaropus fulicarius) - one juvenile molting to first basic plumage, Lake Pinneo, Quechee, Windsor Cty., 11 October 1990. W. G. Ellison.

RED PHALAROPE (P. fulicarius) - one juvenile photographed, Converse Bay, Charlotte, Chittenden Cty., 27 October 1990. N. L. Martin, W. G. Ellison, R. B. Lavallee.

RED PHALAROPE (P. fulicarius) - one juvenile molting to first basic plumage, photographed, St. Albans Bay, Franklin Cty., 24 September 1991. D. L. Cargill.

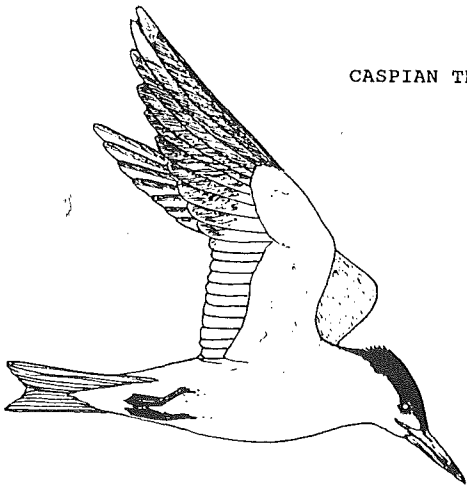
RED PHALAROPE (P. fulicarius) - one juvenile molting into first basic plumage, photographed, South Hero, Grand Isle Cty., 29 September 1991. David J. Hoag.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (Rissa tridactyla) - two in juvenile plumage, photographed, South Hero and Savage Island, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 20 August 1990. W. G. Ellison, N. L. Martin, R. B. Lavallee.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (R. tridactyla) - one observed and later found dead, Retreat Meadows, Brattleboro, Windham Cty., 8 August 1991. Dorrit Merton, Lisa Merton, Alan Dater. Specimen at VINS.

CASPIAN TERN (Sterna caspia) - two adult, delta at mouth of Dead Creek, Highgate Springs, Franklin Cty., 29 July 1991. Christopher C. Rimmer, Mark S. LaBarr.

CASPIAN TERN (S. caspia) - one, Gull Rock Island, North Hero, Grand Isle Cty., 13 August 1991. Mark LaBarr. Possibly one of the above.



CASPIAN TERN

NORTHERN HAWK OWL (Surnia ulula) - one photographed, Fairgrounds Road, North Springfield, Windsor Cty., 25 December 1990. Kay and Oliver Peck, Eleanor Ellis, J. M. Nicholson, et mult. al.. Present from 17 December until late January.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER (Melanerpes carolinus) - one adult female, Clarendon, Rutland Cty., 30 December 1990. C. J. Frankiewicz.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER (M. carolinus) - one male photographed, female also present, Hubbards' residence, Middlebury, Addison Cty., all winter to 15 March 1991. Kathy and Peter Hubbard, J. A. Peterson.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER (M. carolinus) - one (heard, not seen), West Haven, Rutland Cty., 10 May 1991. E. F. Gilbert, J. M. Nicholson.

THREE-TOED WOODPECKER (Picoides tridactylus) - one male, Winhall, Bennington Cty., 16 and 17 January 1991. Helen K. and Robert Vail.

VARIED THRUSH (Ixoreus naevius) - one, Williston, Chittenden Cty., 12 January to at least 19 January 1991. Peggy W. Larson, Kathy Yandell.

CERULEAN WARBLER (Dendroica cerulea) - one, Spencer's Cabin Hawk Watch site, Winhall, Bennington Cty., 1 September 1991. William J. Norse.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER (Oporornis agilis) - one hatch year female, banded, Bragdon Nature Preserve, Woodstock, Windsor Cty., 10 September 1991. N. L. Martin, C. C. Rimmer et al..

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (Vermivora celata) - one, Quechee, Hartford, Windsor Cty., 11 October 1990. W. G. Ellison.

OUT OF SEASON REPORTS

RED-NECKED GREBE (Podiceps griseogena) - one, Eagle Point, Lake Memphremagog, Derby, Orleans Cty., 30 July 1991. Tom Hickcox.

WOOD DUCK (Aix sponsa) - one adult male, Wilder Dam, Wilder, Windsor Cty., 30 December 1990. W. G. Ellison, N. L. Martin.

NORTHERN PINTAIL (Anas acuta) - one immature male, Otter Creek, Clarendon, Rutland Cty., 30 December 1990. C. J. Frankiewicz.

GREATER SCAUP (Aythya marila) - one male, Tromp's Point, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 17 August 1990. D. J. Hoag.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER (Mergus serrator) - four hens, photographed, Nichols Point, Grand Isle, and one hen photographed, Bixby Island, Grand Isle Cty., 14 June and 24 July 1991. D. J. Hoag.

TURKEY VULTURE (Cathartes aura) - one, Colchester, Chittenden Cty., 11 February 1991. John D. Marsh.

OSPREY (Pandion haliaetus) - one, Lake Fairlee, Fairlee, Orange Cty., 2 December 1990. Frederick A. Pratt, Eleanor B. Pratt.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK (Buteo platypterus) - one, Lincoln Hill, Hinesburg, Addison Cty., 2 March 1991. Patricia A. Taber.

KILLDEER (Charadrius vociferus) - one, Shellhouse Mt. Rd., Ferrisburg, Addison Cty., 15 December 1991. Margaret C. and John I. Dye.

COMMON SNIBE (Gallinago gallinago) - one, Woodward Reservoir, Plymouth, Windsor Cty., 17 and 18 December 1990. William F. Nacel.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER (Sphyrapicus varius) - one, probably immature, male, Londonderry, Windham Cty., 19 December 1990. C. C. Rimmer, Paul R. Wiczoreck, Louis DuPont.

BROWN THRASHER (Toxostoma rufum) - one, River Street, Woodstock, Windsor Cty., 5-27 January 1991. J. David Laughlin, Janet Mayberry, Lantz Cook.

GRAY CATBIRD (Dumetella carolinensis) - one, Vernon, Windham Cty., 20 December 1990. W. G. Ellison

PINE WARBLER (Dendroica pinus) - one, Springfield, Windsor Cty., 15, 25, 31 December 1990. Wally Elton, Sue Buckley.

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT (Geothlypis trichas) - one, N. Springfield, Windsor Cty., 30 December 1990. Tait E. Johansson.

SAVANNAH SPARROW (Passerculus sandwichensis) - one, Nortontown Road, Addison, Addison Cty., 16 December 1990. Kristine M. Andrews.

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW (Ammodramus savannarum) - one, Chester, Windsor Cty., 30 December 1990 and 2-3 January 1991. T. E. Johansson. Photograph published in American Birds.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW (Melospiza lincolni) - one, North Springfield, Windsor Cty., 13 January 1991. Lesley Sneddon, Larry Master.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW (Zonotrichia leucophrys) - one, Marlboro, Windham Cty., 15 and 22 March 1990. John P. Nevins.

EASTERN MEADOWLARK (Sturnella magna) - one, Monkton, Addison Cty., 26 January 1991. Susan S. and George Wetmore, Elizabeth E. and Joe Barbarise.

BARNACLE GOOSE (Branta leucopsis) - two, Maidstone, Essex Cty., 14-19 May 1990. Roger Irwin, David Killam, Barbara Killam. Indeterminate origin.

WIGEON X Anas sp. - one hybrid, Nichol's Point, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 24 March 1991. D. J. Hoag.

BLACK-HOODED PARAKEET (Nandayus nenday) - one, Shelburne Bay, Chittenden Cty., 20 May 1990. Steve R. Antell.

"BREWSTER'S" WARBLER (Vermivora pinus X chrysoptera.) one hybrid, South Londonderry, Windham Cty., 15 September 1991. William J. Norse.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING RARE SPECIES DOCUMENTATION

The Vermont Bird Records Committee (VBRC) emphasizes the importance of descriptive and detailed documentation for all rarities, rare nesting species and out-of-season species.

The committee is anxious to involve all Vermont birders in the process of producing as accurate a Vermont state list as possible. This list and all documentation must be credible to future ornithologists who will use the material for research. Suggestions for improving the reporting/voting process will be gratefully received by the committee.

It is frustrating for both the observer and the committee to have a tantalizing sighting of a rare species not listed due to insufficient details.

Writing down the salient points of identification, talking into a tape recorder, making a quick sketch or taking a photograph at the time of observation are ways to help with accurate recounting later.

The Rare Species Documentation (RSD) form is both for filing the reports and is intended as a guide for the information needed. After completing the first page, reporters may prefer to write the description of the bird on a separate sheet of paper but checking the form for details requested.

Again the VBRC expresses its thanks to all observers who have contributed valuable information to the Vermont state list thus far.

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 \$18 - Individual; \$25 - Family; \$40 - Supporting.

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