



Records of Vermont Birds

VERMONT INSTITUTE OF NATURAL SCIENCE

FALL MIGRATION 1992

1 August to 30 November

Judith A. Peterson, Seasonal Editor

The Fall of 1992 was cold and dry, but with no great extremes. August was the coldest since 1987 and saw the ordinary passage of a series of small fronts until the remains of Hurricane Andrew merged with a cold front on the 28th to produce some heavy rain. September was a repeat of August with thunderstorms alternating with cold fronts which brought frost and clear weather. Tropical storm Danielle affected us on the 25th and 26th, and the month ended with snow on the 30th. October's average temperature was 3.3° below normal, the coldest since 1988, and the week of the 14th-21st was wet and snowy, grounding water birds and sparrows. November was 2.5° below normal, especially for the first 3 weeks, with rain, freezing rain and snow making up the near-normal precipitation.

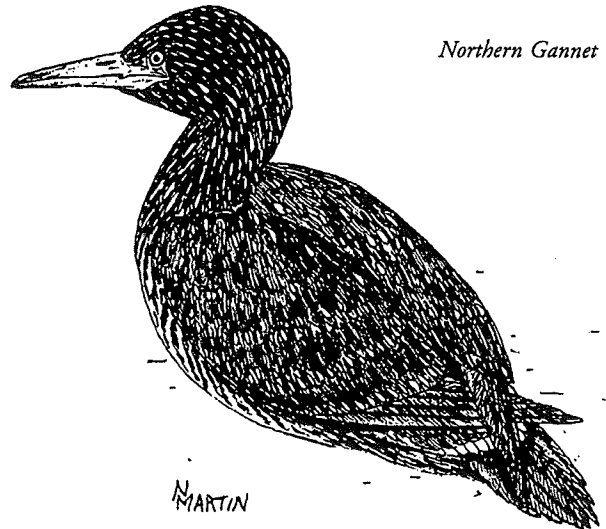
There was no drawdown of water at Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area (hereafter DCWMA), so there were few good places for shorebirds to stage along the L. Champlain flyway. Most shorebird sightings were from the shores of islands in the northern part of the lake.

Signs of any boreal invasion were noticeably absent with only a few Snowy Owls and winter finches reported. Several observers noted that warblers, vireos, thrushes and other migrants appeared to "clear out early," perhaps inspired by the pushes of cold air in late August and September, and that the woods were very quiet by the end of September. Other comments were that warbler numbers seemed very low and that many species appeared to have had poor nesting success this summer.

Northern Lake Champlain produced many of the rarities this Fall: NORTHERN WHEATEAR, CASPIAN TERN, COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL, SABINE'S GULL, 2 NORTHERN GANNET and a possible SHEARWATER. The rest of the state chipped in TUNDRA SWAN, YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER and an early GYRFALCON.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

There were several reports of the uncommon Red-throated Loon. One was at Savage I. 9/24 (RBL), 1 at Basin Harbor, Ferrisburgh 10/26 (JAP), 1 at Roundey's Cove, Rockingham 11/29 (REG), and at the Champlain Bridge, Addison single birds were observed 11/2 and 11/24,25,30 with 2 there 11/23 (FO,WS,JC;JAP,DAP). A strange-looking loon, species unknown, was at the Champlain Bridge, Addison in the company of the Red-throated Loon 11/24,25. It had the size, shape, bill and body plumage of a Pacific Loon with the head and neck color pattern similar to that of a Western Grebe. The Common Loon was present throughout the period on interior lakes and more commonly Lake Champlain (hereafter LC). Early reports were of 21

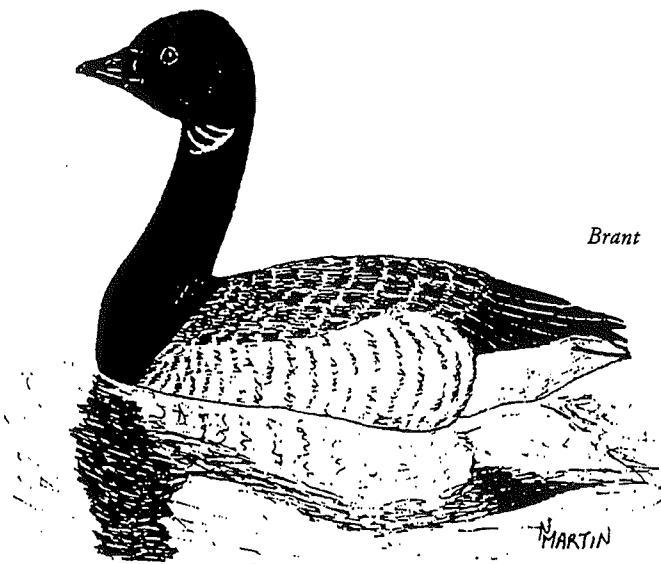


Northern Gannet

MARTIN

at Swanton 8/5 (RBL) and 4 at Mirror Lake, Calais 8/9 (MFF). A surprising 325 were seen off Grand Isle 9/28 (RBL), and later 10 were on LC at Charlotte 11/28 (TGM) and 18 at Addison 11/30 (JAP). The Pied-billed Grebe [SSC], an uncommon nester in the state, was widely reported throughout the period. A single adult was at Chittenden 8/3 (DM), high counts were 4 each at Newport 8/4 (REG), Sandbar Wildlife Management Area (hereafter SWMA) 10/11 (SWM), and Addison 10/26 (JAP). A family group of 2 adults, 3 almost grown young and 1 downy chick were photographed at Grand Isle 9/12-13 (DJH). There were many sightings of Horned Grebe as numbers of this common fall migrant built up on LC in November. Early reports were 1 at Island Pond 9/17 (FO) and 1 at Panton 9/26 (TGM); high counts were 130 on northern LC 10/31 (RBL et al.) and 180 on LC at Addison including 140 at Potash Bay 11/28 (TGM). There were almost as many reports of the less common Red-necked Grebe but many fewer individual birds. A very early sighting was of 1 bird at Newport 8/2 (REG); the high counts were 5 at Button Bay, Ferrisburgh, 11/8 (TSA) and 3 at Panton 10/7 (RBL). The last seen was a single bird on L. Bomoseen, Castleton 11/13 (RWP). A possible SHEARWATER was seen in flight off Ladd Pt. Grand Isle 8/3 (RBL). Unfortunately RBL did not have a good enough look to pin down a positive species identification. Two different NORTHERN GANNET were seen over northern LC, one in St. Albans Bay and one at South Hero, both 10/15 (RBL) photos. The Double-crested Cormorant continued its effective colonization of LC. A successful nesting season is evidenced by 1670 cormorants seen in the northern part of LC 8/7 (WGE,NLM,RBL) and 1500 there 9/4 (RBL,DLC). In other parts of the state 5 were at Chittenden 8/15 (DMM), 1 at Wilder Dam 9/17 (JMN) and 4 at Island Pond 10/16 (REG). Six birds were at Addison as the period closed 11/30 (JAP). Just 6 reports of American Bittern included a high count of 2

at North Hero 8/15 (RBL) and 1 at Danby 10/14 (CJF) the late date. A Least Bittern [SSC] was seen flying at L. Bomoseen, Sudbury 8/15 (CHD,CGD). The only other report of this increasingly rare species was of an adult with 2 yg. at Simms Pt. Grand Isle 9/12 (DJH), a good sign. The Great Blue Heron was reported throughout the period by many observers statewide. A few high counts were 10 at Hardwick 8/2 (REG), 16 on north LC 8/7 (WGE,NLM,RBL) and 10 at S. Londonderry 8/8 (WJN). There were 12 reports of Great Egret from 8/3 to 9/11, most of single individuals. Three were at DCWMA 8/30 (MCD,JID), and 2 at Panton also 8/30 (HK), possibly the same birds. There were no fall reports of Snowy Egret this year. David Hoag reported a gathering of Cattle Egret in the Champlain Is. with high counts of 33 at North Hero on 8/8 and 71 at Grand Isle on 9/18. Other reports were of 30+ at Young I. 8/7 (WGE,NLM,RBL) and 4 at Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge (hereafter MNWR) on 9/23. There were many sightings of Green-backed Heron throughout the state, mostly in August. A group of 4 was at Brandon 8/14 (SSW), and the late record was a bird at Bragdon Nature Preserve, Woodstock (hereafter BNP) 10/12 (CCR). Black-crowned Night-Heron was reported 7 times during the period with 7 birds at Young I. 8/7 (WGE,NLM,RBL) the high count. A very late record was of a single bird at Carlton Reservoir, Woodstock 11/16 (ABS).



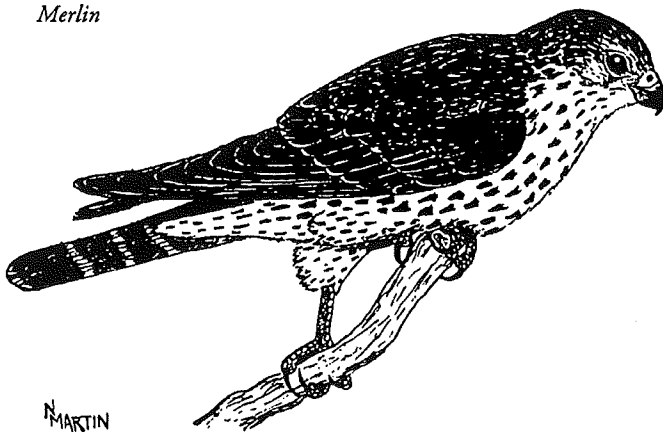
WATERFOWL

One TUNDRA SWAN was observed swimming in the Connecticut River at the Springfield-Rockingham town line 11/21 (WJN). The Snow Goose put on its annual fall spectacular in the Champlain Valley beginning in late September and reaching a peak estimated number of 20,000 birds at its staging area on Rt.17, DCWMA 10/17 (MBN). MNWR noted an October peak of 11,000 snows there and other observers noted gatherings of 10,000 at DCWMA 10/24 (WGE,NLM) and 10/31 (SWM). A large movement of 10,000 was seen at the Champlain Bridge, Addison 11/25 (MBN). There were many reports of lesser numbers statewide as the snows filtered through Vermont in migration. One observer noted a scarcity of immature birds with the flocks, perhaps indicating a poor nesting season. Ross's Goose was not reported with the Snow Geese this fall. The main flock of snows settled into fields away from the roads, making it difficult for observers to see the detail

necessary to identify a Ross's. Fifteen Brant were sighted at Grand Isle 10/6 (RBL) for both the early date and the high count. Other reports included 1 at Grand Isle 10/25 (DJH), and 1 at Ball I. 10/31 (FO,RBL,DLC,GEHa). A flock of 5 was at Shelburne Bay 11/20 (WGE,NLM;TGM), and 1 remained 11/21 (SWM) and was seen again 11/28 (WGE,NLM;TGM). There were numerous reports of Canada Goose statewide. Many observers saw and heard V's of geese flying over in migration. MNWR estimated an October peak of 2250, and at DCWMA 2000 were seen 10/17 (SWM) with 1000 there 11/8 (TSA). Interesting reports came from Grand Isle (DJH) and DCWMA (TGM;m.ob) of individuals belonging to a smaller race of Canada Goose, but without close study it is impossible to identify the race. The common nesting Wood Duck was reported by many observers throughout the state. A high count was 200-250 at SWMA 9/25 (PFW,SAW). A Champlain Valley Aerial Waterfowl Survey (hereafter ChVWS), totaled 1095 individuals 10/1 (VFWD). The peak September population at MNWR was 1025 birds. Green-winged Teal were reported in small numbers statewide with 1 observer noting a decline. Census numbers were 660 on 10/1 (ChVWS) and a 565 October peak (MNWR). The late sighting was 2 at Addison 11/4 (JAP). American Black Duck was seen statewide in small numbers with the high individual count being 60 at Burlington 8/22 (SWM). Much better figures came from MNWR with a peak October population of 3725, and from ChVWS which counted 4881 individuals on 10/1. Sightings continued through the period as this duck overwinters in Vermont where open water permits. The Mallard, our most common breeding duck, was reported in good numbers by many observers including a high count of 500 at SWMA 10/25 (MBN). Surveys included an October peak of 5535 (MNWR) and a hefty total of 8827 individuals 10/1 (ChVWS). There were only a few reports of Northern Pintail, 2 at Addison 9/14 (JAP), 2 at Rockingham 10/3 (WJN), and at Blodgett's, Burlington 5 on 11/15 (SWM) and 2 on 11/20 (TGM). Surveys added 40 on 10/1 (ChVWS) and an October peak of 30 (MNWR). Only a few scattered reports of Blue-winged Teal may be cause for concern. High counts of 8 were at Addison 9/15 (JAP) and Ferrisburgh 10/2 (FAP). MNWR recorded a peak of 495 in September but the ChVWS missed this species completely. Northern Shoveler was reported 4 times during the period, 1 at Grand Isle 8/6-7 (DJH), 1 at Rockingham 8/8 (WJN), 1 at Burlington 8/23 (WGE,NLM) and 2 at Shelburne Bay 10/24 (TGM). It was not counted on either census. There were several reports of Gadwall, and most of the activity was at Bixby I. on north LC where a peak of 11 birds gathered 10/31 (RBL,FO,DLC,GEHa). MNWR had an October peak of 15, and 2 were found on 10/1 (ChVWS). American Wigeon was reported through the period by a few observers. Most notable were a hen with yg. and 3 eclipse drakes at Grand Isle 8/15 (DJH) and a group of 13 with the Gadwall at Bixby I. 10/31 (RBL,FO,DLC,GEHa). MNWR reported an October peak of 450, while the ChVWS tallied 732 on 10/1. Ring-necked Duck was reported by observers statewide. The high count was 200-250 at Prouty Beach, Newport 10/29 (PFW,SAW). But the real size of this migrating population is better reflected in the census counts: MNWR showed an October peak of 8725 birds, and the ChVWS tallied 6900 individuals 10/1. Greater Scaup was recorded by several observers. Some high counts were 25 at Shelburne 10/17 (SWM), 20 at Addison 11/19 (JAP) and 60 at Newport 11/15 (PFW,SAW). There were 2 reports of Lesser Scaup, 4 at Berlin Pond 10/12 and 8 there 10/25 (TSA); 15 were at Addison 10/6 with 1 there 11/30 (JAP). The Oldsquaw was well reported this fall. Some of the sightings were 2 on L. Willoughby 10/26 (FAP), 1 on Caspian L., Greensboro 10/30 (FO,CSP), 11 South Hero, 9 Grand Isle 10/31 (RBL,FO,DLC,GEHa), 2 Burlington 11/8 (SWM), and 7 Addison 11/30 (JAP). Black Scoter was observed on LC and on other lakes and rivers as well. Some notable sightings were 10 at L.

Dunmore, Salisbury 10/1 (SSW), 200 LC, Addison 10/20 (JAP), 20 Shadow L., Glover 10/26 (FAP), and 1 Otter Creek, Danby 11/28 (CJF). A few small groups of Surf Scoter appeared during the period. On Shelburne Bay, 6 on 10/2, 11 on 10/6 and 9 on 10/24 (WGE,NLM), 3 at Ferrisburgh 10/7 (RBL), 7 at Grand Isle 10/18 (RBL,DLC,GEHa;DJH) and 16 at Norton Pond 10/25 (FAP). Common Goldeneye appeared to be in good numbers statewide. Some of the high counts were 75 Burlington 11/8,15 (SWM), 110 Potash Bay, Addison 11/13 (MBN), 150+ Delta Park, Colchester 11/20 (GEB) and 143 Shoreham 11/24 (RWP). MNWR reported an October peak population of 255 individuals. The only report of Barrow's Goldeneye for the period was of 2 drakes with a flock of Common Goldeneye, Burlington 11/15 (SWM). Bufflehead were reported from mid-October to the end of the period. Some high counts were 14 Grand Isle 10/20 (DJH), 38 Morgan 10/25 (FAP), 7 Caspian L., Greensboro 10/30 (FO), 16 Shelburne 11/6 (TGM), 24 Burton Bay, Ferrisburgh 11/8 (TSA), and 15 Burlington 11/8 (SWM). Hooded Merganser, a local breeder, was present from August when 2 were at Grand Isle 8/22-23, through the period with the migration peak coming in November. Some high counts were 50 Newport 10/29 (PFW,SAW), 57 L. Bomoseen, Castleton 11/21 (RWP), 35 Addison 11/2 (JAP), and 18 Colchester Pond 11/24 (GEB). MNWR reported an October peak population of 70 individuals. Another Vermont breeder, the Common Merganser was recorded statewide. There were two 8/7 reports of family groups, a hen and 2 yg. at Grand Isle (DJH) and a hen with 8 downy yg. SWMA (WGE). A flock of 80 was on Caspian L., Greensboro 10/27 (FO). The big migration numbers were on LC with 400-500 in one raft at Watch Point 11/14 (RWP), 250 Bridport 11/16 (JAP), 100 Addison 11/25 (MBN), 125 Bridport 11/28 (TGM) and 180 Bridport 11/30 (JAP). Duplication here. There were only a few reports of Red-breasted Merganser. Four were at Addison 10/20 (JAP), 1 Caspian L., Greensboro 10/31 (FO,CSP), 2 Grand Isle 10/31 (DJH), 95 Charlotte 11/28 (TGM) and 65 Addison 11/30 (JAP). There were only 2 sightings of Ruddy Duck, one at Prouty Beach, Newport 10/29 (PFW,SAW) and 1 at Willow Pt. Bridport 11/2-3 (JAP).

Merlin



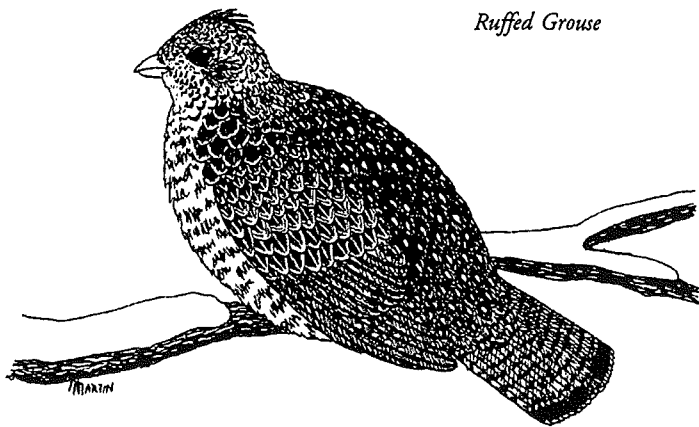
VULTURES, HAWKS AND FALCONS

The Turkey Vulture was commonly reported statewide through October, primarily in small groups but with a resounding 76 at Georgia 8/16 (EMA,RDB). Hawkwatchers reported 173 birds including 27 at Rupert 9/12, 14 at White River Jct. 9/19 and 13 there 10/17. There were many reports

of Osprey [E] but almost all had left the state by the end of September. High counts were 5 Swanton 8/7 (WGE,NLM,RBL) and 4 Bridport 8/16 (FAP). One lingering bird was seen at S. Wallingford 10/12 (CJF). Hawkwatchers recorded 130 birds including 10 at Putney Mt. 9/20 and 11 at White River Jct. 9/28. There were a few October sightings. There were 15 reports of single Bald Eagles [E] statewide through the period. Our national symbol is probably our most completely-reported species. Hawkwatchers recorded 11 individuals with 4 of these at White River Jct. 9/12. Northern Harrier [SSC] was reported mainly from the Champlain Valley and the L. Memphremagog agricultural area, and no large concentrations were noted; nor did hawkwatchers observe big numbers although 51 individuals were tallied through November. Hawkwatchers recorded 502 Sharp-shinned Hawks during the period, the highest counts being 22 on 9/19, 56 on 10/18 and 57 on 10/20, all at Putney Mt. In addition there were numerous reports from other observers statewide, most of single birds. There were 14 Cooper's Hawks [SSC] reported including a family group of 3 at Grand Isle 8/7 (WGE,NLM,RBL). Two were banded at Grand Isle 10/22 (RO). Hawkwatchers identified 44 individuals with no large concentrations. Northern Goshawk was reported 5 times, all single birds. In addition, hawkwatchers recorded 14 individuals. Red-shouldered Hawk was sighted 4 times, 1 Ferrisburgh 8/20 (MCD,JID), 1 Lincoln 8/27 (SSW), 1 Grand Isle 8/31 (DJH) and 1 Danby 9/4 (SSW). Hawkwatchers added 20 individuals through the period. The Broad-winged Hawk migration, occurring mainly in September, can produce spectacular numbers. A total of 3016 individuals was reported at hawkwatch sites with the highest counts being 702 Snake Mt. Addison, 257 Putney Mt., 315 White River Jct, 134 Paine Mt.,Northfield, all 9/12. There were 257 Brownell Mt.,Mendon 9/13, 332 Putney Mt. 9/14 and 265 S. Londonderry 9/15. Other observers added 11 individuals through mid-October. Even though Red-tailed Hawk has permanent resident status there is a large migratory push in mid to late October. Hawkwatchers noted 1200 individuals in transit with the high count being 279 at White River Jct. 10/25. There were many other sightings of this common raptor statewide. Of interest were three reports of a Red-tailed Hawk, largely white with patches of darker color on the back and dark wing-tips, from Tunbridge 8/22 (LC), Allen Brothers' Marsh (hereafter ABM) 8/22 (WGE,NLM), and Cabot 8/30 (SG). Rough-legged Hawk began arriving at its Vermont wintering sites in October and November, although reports of only 19 birds did not promise a big year. One early arrival was recorded at Grand Isle 9/14 (DJH), and 2 birds were counted by hawkwatchers. American Kestrel was reported by many observers but appeared to some to become more scarce than usual later in the season. Hawkwatchers tallied 273 individuals with high counts 22 Putney Mt. 9/19, 26 Mt. Philo, Charlotte 9/23 and 30 White River Jct. 10/4. Merlin was counted at hawkwatches 11 times. Other sightings were 1 buzzing Wood Ducks 8/23 SWMA (JO,HW), 1 bathing at Blodgett's Beach, Burlington 9/18 (TGM), 1 Clarendon 9/26 and 1 Tinmouth 9/27 (CJF), 1 Shellhouse Mt. Ferrisburgh 10/17 (CCF), 1 DCWMA 11/24 (RWP). Hawkwatchers recorded 7 Peregrine Falcon. Other observers reported 11 additional birds, all but 1 in the Champlain Valley, from the Grace Congregational Church in Rutland 9/17 (CJF) to MNWR, Swanton 10/6 (ES). Two individuals were seen close to a nesting site at the Palisades, Fairlee 11/8 (JMN). The only GYRFALCON for the period was a gray morph bird at Bridport 11/16 (JAP).

GROUSE THROUGH RAILS

There were 2 reports of Ring-necked Pheasant, a male at Ferrisburgh 9/2 (MCD,JID) and 1 at Dorset 11/28 (BWP). As always, the origin of these birds is uncertain. Spruce Grouse [E] was not reported for this period. There



Ruffed Grouse

were reports of Ruffed Grouse from many observers. Some high counts were 6-10 Vershire through period (KRH), 10 Rochester 10/5 (SSW) and 8 Reading (FMH,GEH). Wild Turkey was widely reported with flocks of 10-15 the norm and a high count of 22 W. Pawlet 9/19 (GRB). An optimistic hen was found incubating 11 eggs on 10/20 Chester (CEAd). The only record of Northern Bobwhite was of 7-8 at Norwich 11/7 (GD). Here again the origin of these birds is uncertain. Virginia Rail was reported 5 times. Five were at ABM and 1 at Rockingham 8/1 (WGE,NLM), 1 was heard Grand Isle 8/9 (DJH), 2 were heard at the West Rutland Marsh 8/24 (JO,HW), and 1 was flushed from the reeds of a pond in East Barnard 8/31 (JRL). The only record of Sora was 1 bird seen flying over West Rutland Marsh 8/24 (JO,HW). Surprisingly there were no reports of Common Moorhen this period. Five observers had sightings of American Coot: on 10/25 at SWMA 1 (MBN) and 2 (EMA,RDB), 1 Herrick's Cove, Rockingham 11/7 (REG) and 1 juv. at Berlin Pond 11/11,21 (TSA). There were 2 sightings of what might have been the same SANDHILL CRANE, once flying very low and calling at DCWMA 10/3 (JC), and the other time at Sudbury 10/6 (WHB). No details were received.

SHOREBIRDS

Black-bellied Plover was reported from several locations on LC. Four were at Button Bay, Ferrisburgh 9/26 (TGM) and 1 was there 10/6 (SWM); 1 was at Blodgett's, Burlington 10/2 (FAP) and 5 were there 10/10 (TGM); there were 1-5 at Grand Isle every day from 10/6 to 11/7 with 10 being recorded there 10/24 (DJH); 1 was seen at Savage I. 10/6, 5 at the Burlington breakwater 10/7 and 4 at Savage I. 10/26 (all RBL). Lesser Golden Plover was reported 3 times. One was at Grand Isle 9/14 (DJH), 9 were at Popasquash I. 9/28 (RBL,DKL) and another was seen at Grand Isle 10/2 (DJH). Semipalmated Plover was recorded by 8 observers on LC from Addison north. The high counts were 7 St. Albans 10/9 (RBL) and 6 Blodgett's Beach, Burlington 10/10 (TGM). There were many reports of the common Killdeer. Some high counts were 40 Grand Isle 10/6 (RBL), 38 W. Addison 10/17 (TGM), 30 Alburg 10/25 (EMA,RDB) and 30 Swanton (MBN). Greater Yellowlegs was well reported from the northern LC shoreline and marshes, but numbers were very small. The high count was 11 Grand Isle 10/18 (DJH) followed by 6 DCWMA 10/2 (FAP). Lesser Yellowlegs was much less commonly seen with only 6 reports, the high count being 3 Grand Isle 9/4 (DLC,RBL). A few Solitary Sandpiper were seen by many observers. One was at Grand Isle the latter part of August (DJH), 1-

2 were at Stone Bridge Access, Panton 9/26-10/17 (m.ob), 1 at St. Albans Bay 8/20 (TGM), 1 periodically Woodstock 9/14-11/1 (MSL;KRT), 1 S. Londonderry 9/25 (WJN), 1 Newport 10/29 (PFW,SAW), 6 Hardwick 8/2 (REG), and 2 ABM, 2 W. Windsor 8/22 (WGE,NLM). There were 8 reports of Spotted Sandpiper with the high count 24 Grand Isle through August (DJH). Upland Sandpiper [T] was unreported for the period. Two reports of WHIMBREL included 1 Blodgett's Beach, Burlington 8/12 (PCR) and 1 Grand Isle 8/29 (DJH). One HUDSONIAN GODWIT was described from Grand Isle 10/16 (DJH). Ruddy Turnstone was reported several times including 3 Savage I. Grand Isle 8/7 (WGE,NLM,RBL), 3 Dead Creek Delta, Highgate Springs 8/3 (MSL), 1 St. Albans 9/12 (RBL,DLC) and 1 Grand Isle 10/7 (RBL). The only report of Red Knot was of 1 late juv. at Grand Isle 10/10 (DJH). There were 9 reports of Sanderling with the high count of 8 at Blodgett's, Burlington 8/29 (TGM). Semipalmated Sandpiper was recorded 12 times, the high count being 45 St. Albans Bay 8/22 (SWM). Least Sandpiper was reported 14 times with the high count 15 Blodgett's, Burlington 8/29 (TGM). There were 5 reports of White-rumped Sandpiper, most of single birds. Six were at Blodgett's, Burlington 11/8 and 3 were still there 11/15 (SWM). One Baird's Sandpiper was reported from Blodgett's, Burlington 9/6 (SWM). Pectoral Sandpiper was reported 9 times with the high count 8 at Shelburne Bay 10/3 (TGM). There were 3 sightings of Purple Sandpiper, 1 at Rock I. St. Albans 10/26 (RBL), 1 Savage I. Grand Isle 10/31 (RBL,FO,GEHa,DLC), and 1 at Blodgett's, Burlington 11/15 (SWM). Dunlin was reported 7 times, the high counts 62 at Stone Bridge Access, Panton 10/16 (FAP) and 37 Savage I. Grand Isle 10/15 (RBL). Stilt Sandpiper went unreported for the period. Two possible Short-billed Dowitcher fly-bys were reported, 1 at Stone Bridge Access, Panton 8/4 (JAP) and 1 at SWMA 8/14 (TGM). Common Snipe was reported by 9 observers with high counts of 5 Grand Isle 9/30 (DJH) and Shelburne Bay 10/24 (TGM). American Woodcock was reported 9 times. One observer commented that numbers appeared to be very low. There were no phalaropes of any species reported during the period. This emphasizes the lack of good habitat because when the drawdown of water in an area like DCWMA leaves good mud flats, phalaropes have usually been present in the past.



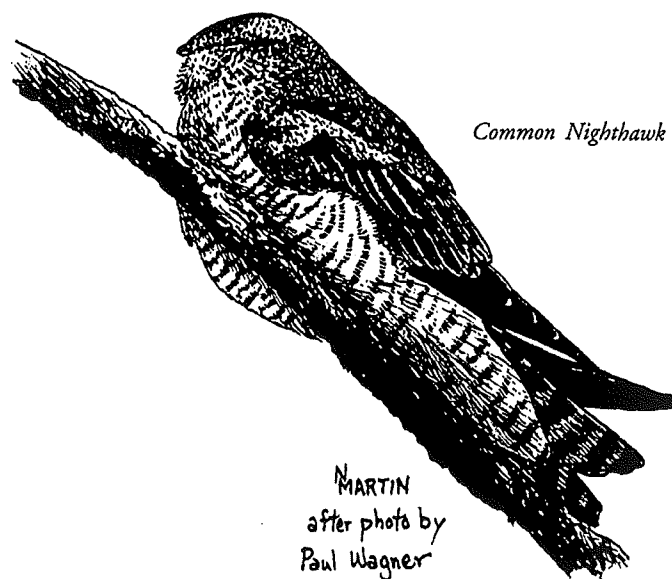
Little Gull

GULLS AND TERNS

Little Gull, now a regular fall migrant on LC, was seen by several observers around the Champlain Is. and St. Albans Bay. The gulls were present from 7/19 to 10/31 with the high count of 7-9 on 9/11 (JMN;SDF;RBL,DLC,GEHa,FO). Photos. RBL estimates there were about 20 individuals in this area. An adult COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL in basic plumage was seen at St. Albans Bay State Park 10/11 (SWM). Many observers reported Bonaparte's Gull through the period. Twenty-eight were recorded on L. Memphremagog at Newport 9/17 (FO), but all other sightings were on LC, primarily near Grand Isle where the population peaked at 11,700 ! on 9/11 (RBL,DLC). Ring-billed Gull was commonly reported statewide from fields and various bodies of water. Many observers did not make number counts but 500 were at St. Albans Bay 11/1 (TGM) and 400 at Bridport 11/16 (JAP). It was noted that large numbers were still around a nesting site at Young I. on 8/7 (WGE,NLM,RBL). Many observers also took note of the presence of Herring Gull but most did not keep numbers. More than 130 were at Young I. 8/7 (WGE,NLM,RBL), and a gathering estimated at 100 was at the Burlington waterfront 10/3 (TGM). Great Black-backed Gull was noted statewide but primarily on LC where a high count of 65 was at Burlington 10/31 (SWM). An imm. SABINE'S GULL was seen and described off Kibbe Pt., South Hero 9/11 (RBL) who noted that this was the 5th Sabine's he had seen here in recent years. Two ad. CASPIAN TERN in alternate plumage were seen at the mouth of Dead Creek, Highgate Springs 8/3 (MSL). After a successful nesting on Popasquash and other small islands between the Champlain Is. and St. Albans, the Common Tern moved north during August and early September on its fall migration route out the St. Lawrence River. The terns were seen by everyone who birded northern LC with peak counts of 243 on 8/15 (RBL,GEHa,DLC), and 200+ at the mouth of Dead Creek, Highgate Springs 9/11 (TGM). There was only 1 report of Black Tern, that of 65 in Missisquoi Bay 8/7 (WGE,NLM,RBL) with the notation that it was a "good count for this date".

DOVES THROUGH NIGHTJARS

Not many observers kept records of Rock Dove, but it was reported in flocks of 20-40 statewide at farms and town centers. One observer estimated 150 at S. Alburg 11/1 (TGM). Mourning Dove was reported in small numbers by many observers through the period. The high count of 150 was of a single roost near Stone Bridge, Pantou 10/31 (SWM). Another gathering was 30 at Manchester 9/14 (BWP). Many were seen at feeders. There were only 4 Black-billed Cuckoo reported. One was heard calling at Lincoln 8/13 (JRA), 2 sighted at Addison 8/16 (FAP) and 1 at Montpelier 8/23 (TSA). This species appears to be declining. There were no sightings of Yellow-billed Cuckoo. The Eastern Screech-owl was noted by only 4 observers, more a lack of much night birding than a scarcity of the species. One was heard calling at Brandon 9/18 (SSW), a gray morph bird was a road kill in North Hero 9/28 (EMA,RDB), 1 was seen roosting in Addison 11/4 (JAP), and 1 was at Grand Isle 10/6-12/31 (RBL). There were many reports of Great Horned Owl statewide through the period. 1-2 were sighted at MNWR at various times with 4 individuals there 9/2 (MNWR). There were only 4 reports of Snowy Owl, 1 emaciated bird brought to a vet at Enosburg 11/13 (BDo,HD) where it later died, another found dead at Swanton 11/15 (MNWR), 1 at Ferrisburgh 11/18 (MCD,BPG,JID), and 2 heavily-barred individuals at Colchester 11/29 (CCF). Six observers reported seeing or hearing Barred Owl, one of our more common nocturnal owls. Two were at Westminster W. 9/17 (AMD). Long-eared Owl [SSC] went unreported.

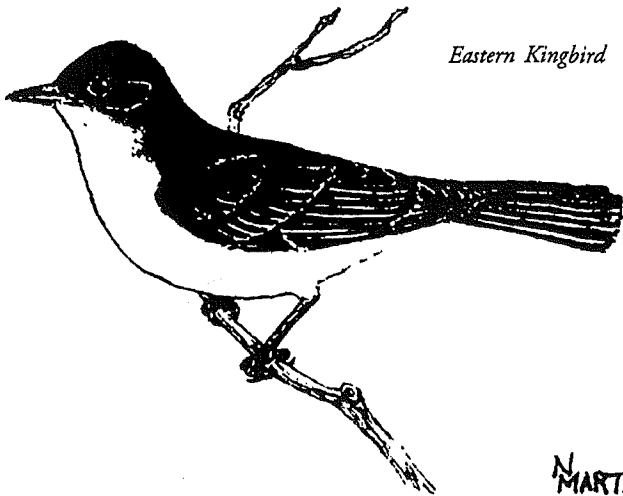


Common Nighthawk

The only record of Short-eared Owl [SSC] was a bird brought to rehab after being hit by a car in Williston 9/18 (ECC). A banding station at South Hero processed 21 Northern Saw-whet Owls 10/16-28 (RO). There were no other reports. There were 7 sightings of Common Nighthawk including a high count of 21 at Norwich 8/24 (WGE,NLM,GFE). The only Whip-poor-will [SSC] reported was a summer resident of Brownsville, still singing at 9/22 (SJS).

SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Seven observers reported Chimney Swift, a common nester but an early fall migrant. High count and last date was 35 at White River Jct. 9/6 (WGE,NLM,DHC). There were many reports of Ruby-throated Hummingbird as they are at their most active in August and September and regularly visit feeders. A late date was 1 at Grand Isle 10/8 (DJH). There were also many reports of Belted Kingfisher through the period, the high count 9 at MNWR 8/7 (WGE,NLM,RBL). Up to 4 Red-headed Woodpecker [SSC] 3 ad. and 1 imm. were seen at Basin Harbor Rd and Market Rd, Bridport from 8/5 through November (JAP,WB;JO,HW). A good acorn crop in the area could mean that this group will winter over. One male REDBELLIED WOODPECKER appeared at a feeder in Taftsville 10/31 and was still there 11/12 (BF,JMN). Many observers reported seeing Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and there were 2 sightings of juvenile birds. High count was 4 at S. Duxbury 8/22 (FAP) and the late record was 1 at Brownsville 10/16 (BMH). Downy Woodpecker was reported in good numbers statewide throughout the period, coming regularly to feeders. High count was 6 at Vershire, including young birds (KRH). Hairy Woodpecker was also commonly recorded, mainly at feeders. High count was again 6 at Vershire (KRH). Northern Flicker was noted by many observers statewide. Most of the sightings were in August and September but there were later reports also through the end of November. One observer noted much migration activity 9/22-30 Woodstock (JMN). Another saw 15 in one flock 9/19 Grand Isle, and also reported a red-whiskered individual there 9/22 (DJH). There were many sightings of our permanent resident Pileated Woodpecker, usually 1-2 birds, but 3 were recorded at Reading 8/25 (FMH,GEH), and 3 at Grand Isle 10/3 (DJH).



Eastern Kingbird

N. MARTIN

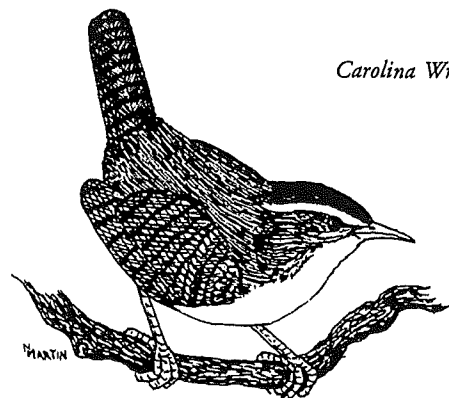
FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

Olive-sided Flycatcher was reported 7 times with the late date of 9/26 S. Londonderry (WJN). The late summer singing of Eastern Wood-Pewee called it to the attention of many observers. An ad. with 3 fledglings was at Kill Kare State Park, St. Albans 8/22 (SWM), 6 were at Ferrisburgh 8/23 (JRA) and 5 at Reading 8/17 (FMH,GEH). A late bird was at Manchester Ctr. 10/1 (BWP). The BNP station banded 6, a normal number for the fall season (CCR). There were 4 reports of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, 1 Brandon 8/8 (SSW), 2 Delta Park, Colchester 8/23 (WGE,NLM), 1 Winhall 8/30 (WJN), and 1 S. Duxbury 9/16 (FAP). There were 2 reports of Alder Flycatcher, 1 at W. Glover 8/3 (REG) and 1-2 at Dorset 8/1-8 (EFG). Four observers noted Willow Flycatcher, all early August records. Least Flycatcher was reported 4 times, the late record being 1 at Grand Isle 9/16 (DJH). The BNP station banded 17 during the period, somewhat below normal (CCR). Two observers must be given credit for their restraint in reporting Empidonax sp., 1 Winhall 8/22 (WJN) and 1 Essex Jct. 9/5 (SWM). The BNP banding station processed 20 Trail's Flycatcher, somewhat below normal (CCR). Eastern Phoebe was widely reported with high counts 7 Ferrisburgh 9/17 (MCD,JID) and 6 Cornwall 9/13 (MBN). The last recorded date was 1 Middlebury 10/18 (JAP). The BNP station banded 58, about normal (CCR). There were only 2 reports of Great Crested Flycatcher, 1 at Brandon 8/16 (SSW) and 1 at Grand Isle 9/11 (DJH). Eastern Kingbird was reported by many; a pr. fledged yg. 8/5 Grand Isle (DJH), there were 8 in Middlebury 8/13 (JAP) and the late record was 1 at Middlebury 9/28 (JRA). Horned Lark was reported only from the Champlain Valley. Five of the "prairie" race that nests in Vermont were at Addison 8/5 (JAP). All other reports were from late October and November when the wintering "northern" race arrived. The high count was 75 at Addison 11/25 (MBN). Three observers recorded Purple Martin. Nine were at Grand Isle 8/7 (WGE,NLM,RBL), 12 at St. Albans 8/22 (SWM) with 2 remaining at Grand Isle 9/5 although most had left by 8/26 (DJH). Tree Swallow was moderately reported, numbers not kept by some recorders. High counts were 250 Addison 8/5 (JRA), 100 Weybridge 8/2 (MBN) with a very late record of 15 DCWMA 11/17 (EMA,RDB). There were only 3 recorded sightings of Northern Rough-winged Swallow for the period. One was at Grand Isle 8/7 (WGE,NLM,RBL), 11 were there 9/7 (TGM) and 1 was at Delta Park, Colchester 9/5 (SWM). Only a few observers reported Bank Swallow. Five were at S. Londonderry

8/1 (WJN), 90 at Herrick's Cove, Rockingham 8/22, 3 at White River Jct. 9/6 (WGE,NLM,DHC), and 1 at Grand Isle 9/7 (DJH). Cliff Swallow was reported 6 times with 2 at Orleans 8/2 (REG), 1 Winhall 8/2 and 1 S. Londonderry 8/21 (WJN), 6 Highgate Springs 8/13 (RBL), 10 Herrick's Cove, Rockingham 8/22 (WGE,NLM), and 1 White River Jct. 9/6 (WGE,NLM,DHC). Many observers reported Barn Swallow although not in large numbers. The late record was of 2 at DCWMA 10/2 (FAP).

JAYS THROUGH WRENS

Gray Jay [T] was reported 3 times this period. One was at Moose Bog, Ferdinand 9/17 (FO), 2 were at Lemington 10/13 (FMH,GEH), 1 at Maidstone 11/6 (NM,JB) and 1 at Norton 11/13 (NM,CEA). Blue Jay was reported by almost all observers statewide. Flocks of 8-15 were common, especially at feeders. Some high counts were 50 at Grand Isle 10/25 (DJH) and 47 at Shelburne 9/25 (MCD,JID). American Crow was also widely reported throughout the period with larger numbers in migration. The high count of 1470 was at Ferrisburgh 10/29 (MCD,JID). There were many reports of Common Raven, commonly in small groups of 2-6. The high count was 20 on Mt. Mansfield 8/10 (DJH). Black-capped Chickadee was almost universally reported, many coming to feeders. The high count was 78 at S. Duxbury 8/22 (FAP). The only Boreal Chickadee report was of 7-8, Island Pond area 9/17 (FO). Tufted Titmouse, appearing at feeders, was reported by many observers 1-2 at a time. A pr. feeding 2 yg. was seen at Randolph 8/4-5 (EWC,MCC). Many observers noted Red-breasted Nuthatch, some at feeders, most in small groups of 2-3. The high count was 15 at S. Duxbury 8/22 (FAP). White-breasted Nuthatch was also commonly reported in small numbers statewide. High counts were 7 at Dorset 8/2 (EFG) and 8 at S. Duxbury 8/22 (FAP). Sightings of 1-2 Brown Creeper were reported by many observers through the period. Six observers reported Carolina Wren, 1 Springfield 8/19 (WME), a family group of 3 Grand Isle 9/5 (DJH), 1 Quechee 10/29 (KRT), and at feeders 1 Ludlow 11/11 (LT), 1 Proctor 11/16 (RWP), and 2 Brandon 11/30 (SSW). There were many reports of House Wren including "families at a dozen locations" Grand Isle 8/16 (DJH). The species was last noted 1 Essex Jct. 8/18 (SWM). Winter Wren was reported by many observers. Six were at S. Duxbury 8/22 (FAP) and 2 were at Brandon 11/4 (SSW) for the last date. Two Sedge Wren were identified by sound only at Grand Isle 8/9 (DJH). There was no evidence of nesting. There were several reports of Marsh Wren, most of them August sightings, but many were present at Grand Isle through September with 1 individual lingering to 10/17 (DJH). A remarkable late record was 1 male singing on 11/30 at South Slang, Ferrisburgh (CHB). This bird was also present 12/1 and was seen by several other observers (BPG,MCD,JAP).



Carolina Wren

N. MARTIN

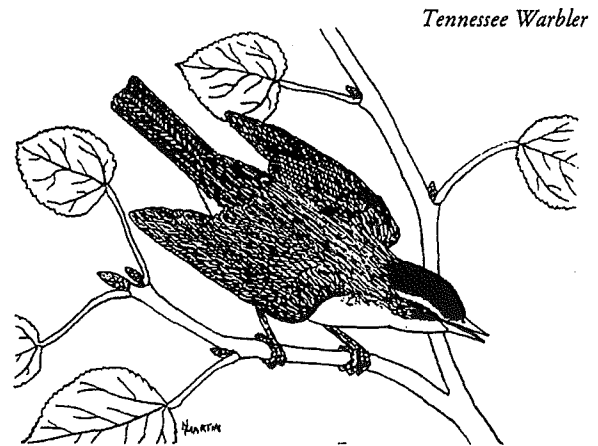
KINGLETS THROUGH THRUSHES

There were many observations of Golden-crowned Kinglet through the period, one person referring to them as "abundant" and another as "common in October". Some high counts were 20 Middlebury 9/30 (JAP) and 14 S. Duxbury 8/22 (FAP). Ruby-crowned Kinglet was also well-reported. A high count of 25 was at Reading 10/26,27 (FMH,GEH). There were no November records. There were several reports of Blue-gray Gnatcatcher including 4 West Haven 8/17 (FAP), 1 Winhall 9/5 and 1 S. Londonderry 9/8 (WJN), and 1 Hartland 9/10 (NLM). NORTHERN WHEATEAR was seen at 2 separate locations on Grand Isle. The first sighting was at Tromp's Pt. 9/22 (DJH) and the second at Ladd Pt. 10/7 (RBL). Descriptions indicated 2 different individuals. There were many reports of Eastern Bluebird with 17 at Dorset 8/19 (EFG) the high count. Some non-migratory individuals were still around at the end of the period, 4 at Middletown Springs 11/24 (BWP), 11 at Benson 11/24 (RWP) and 2 at New Haven 11/25 (JAP). A few observers recorded Veery but one noted they were "scarce and cleared out early". One was at Glover 8/2 (REG), 1 Sheffield 8/4,8 (PFW,SAW), 1 Dorset 8/8 (EFG), 1 Rockingham 8/8 and 1 Winhall 8/29 (WJN). The BNP station banded 34, about average (CCR). There were no reports of Gray-cheeked Thrush and none was banded at BNP (CCR). Three reports of Swainson's Thrush included 1 Mt. Philo, Charlotte 9/1 (MCD,JID), 1 Reading 9/13 (FMH,GEH) and 1 Island Pond near Moose Bog 9/17 (FO). The BNP station banded 30 (CCR). Hermit Thrush in small numbers was reported by many observers. The high count of 15 was at Reading 10/5 (FMH,GEH) and there were no November dates. The BNP station banded 84, about normal or slightly above (CCR). There were only 8 reports of Wood Thrush this fall, and one observer called them "scarce". The last record was of 1 at Reading 9/26 (FMH,GEH). The BNP station banded 42, more than doubling the 20 in 1991 (CCR). American Robin was reported in its usual abundance throughout the period. Some high counts of migrating flocks were 300 Ferrisburgh 10/24 (MCD,JID) and 200 Grand Isle 10/25 (DJH).

MIMIDS THROUGH VIREOS

Gray Catbird was reported in small numbers by many observers. The high count was 17 at Herrick's Cove, Rockingham 8/7 (REG) and on the last date of 10/3, 1 was at Herrick's Cove (WJN) and 1 at Middlebury (JAP). Nine observers recorded Northern Mockingbird through the period, with 5 at Bridport 8/13 and 11/19 (JAP). There were only 2 sightings of Brown Thrasher, 2 at Ferrisburgh 8/12 (MCD,JID) and 1 at Middlebury 9/21 (JAP). Nine reports of American Pipit included a loose flock of 100+ at Tinmouth 10/9 (RWP,PMB), 90 at Bridport 10/19 (JAP) and 75 at Waltham 10/16 (FAP). Bohemian Waxwing went unreported for the period, but many observers reported Cedar Waxwing in flocks up to 65 at Addison 10/6 (JAP) and 52 at Brandon (SSW). There were several November records including 25 at Shoreham 11/22 (TGM). The only sighting of Northern Shrike was of 1 chasing chickadees at Vershire 10/31 (DM). All observers noticed the presence of European Starling but few kept records. Most of those who did, reported flocks in the 100's with a high count of 5000 at Addison 10/20 (JAP). There were 8 reports of Solitary Vireo including 6 at Reading 9/16 and 1 there 10/2 (FMH,GEH) for the high count and last date. Three observers reported Yellow-throated Vireo. One was at DCWMA 8/21 (MCD,JID), 1 singing at Dewey's Pond, Quechee 9/6 (WGE,NLM), and at Brandon 1 on 8/10, 2 on 8/30, 1 on 9/10 (SSW). Many observers recorded Warbling Vireo, with the high

count of 6 at St. Albans 8/22 (SWM). One ad. was feeding yg. at DCWMA 8/21 (MCD,JID) and 1 was "whisper singing" at BNP 9/28 (WGE,NLM). Seven reports of Philadelphia Vireo was a good showing for this species. There were 2 at S. Londonderry 8/26 (WJN) and also 2 at S. Duxbury 9/15 (FAP). The last record was of 1 at S. Duxbury 9/21 (FAP). Red-eyed Vireo was well reported with a high count of 11 at S. Duxbury 8/22 (FAP) and a late date of 1 at Lincoln 10/1 (JRA). The BNP station banded 70, just short of the record 74 in 1991 (CCR).



WOOD WARBLERS

There were no reports of either Blue-winged or Golden-winged Warbler, but a Brewster's Warbler hybrid was seen at S. Londonderry 8/27 (WJN). Tennessee Warbler was reported in "very poor numbers" according to 1 observer. Four were at Colchester 8/23 (WGE,NLM), 2 at S. Londonderry 9/2 and 1 at Winhall 9/15 (WJN), at S. Duxbury 2 on 9/4, 3 on 9/15, and 1 on 9/17 (FAP), 3 at BNP 9/16 (NLM) and 1 imm. banded there 10/15 (CCR,ELG,MSL). Orange-crowned Warbler was not reported. Nashville Warbler was moderately reported with high counts of 6 at S. Duxbury 9/6,15 (FAP) and 4 at Ferrisburgh 9/4 (MCD,JID). The last record was 2 at W. Glover 9/20 (REG). The only report of Northern Parula was of single sightings at S. Duxbury 9/15-18,25 (FAP). Yellow Warbler was moderately reported with a high count of 10 at Colchester 8/23 (WGE,NLM) and a last record of 1 at Middlebury 9/20 (SSW). Many observers reported Chestnut-sided Warbler with the high count of 6 at S. Duxbury 9/6,11,16 and the last record there of 2 on 9/21 (FAP). Magnolia Warbler was also well reported with highs of 9 at Delta Park, Colchester where there was a good warbler movement 8/23 (WGE,NLM) and 8 at S. Duxbury 8/27 (FAP). An imm. was banded at BNP 10/30 (CCR,ELG,MSL). Cape May Warbler reports were of 5 at Colchester 8/23 (WGE,NLM), 1 at S. Duxbury 9/15 (FAP), 1 at S. Londonderry 9/8 and 2 at Winhall 9/14 with 1 there 9/19,20,22 (WJN). Black-throated Blue Warbler was moderately reported with a high count of 5 S. Duxbury 9/8,21 and a last record of 1 Mt. Philo, Charlotte 9/24 (MCD,JID). Many observers reported Yellow-rumped Warbler with high counts of 15 at Ferrisburgh 9/24 (MCD,JID) and 20 at Quechee 10/4 (SWM). The last record was of 1 at Woodstock 10/31 (KRT). The BNP station banded only 31, a big decline (CCR). Black-throated Green Warbler

was moderately reported with high counts of 14 on 9/15 and 12 on 9/17 and last record of 1 on 9/28, all S. Duxbury (FAP). Another late sighting was of 1 at L. Willoughby 9/26 (SWM). Blackburnian Warbler was moderately reported with a high count of 6 at S. Duxbury 9/16 and 1 there 9/24 (FAP) for the last record. An unexpected YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER appeared at a Burlington feeder for Thanksgiving 11/25 and remained the rest of the month (FG,GEHa). Five observers recorded Pine Warbler with 2 each at Ripton 8/3 (MBN) and Plainfield 9/7 (TSA). The late date was 1 at Middlebury 9/3 (JAP). The only report of Prairie Warbler was of 1 at Herrick's Cove, Rockingham 8/7 (REG). There were 7 reports of Palm Warbler with the high count 8 at Quechee 9/27 (WGE,NLM) and the last record 2 at Addison 10/16 (FAP). An individual of the yellow race was banded at BNP 9/28 (CCR). Three observers reported Bay-breasted Warbler. One was at Burlington 9/7 (SWM), at S. Duxbury 1 on 8/31, 6 on 9/16 and 1 on 9/27 (FAP), at S. Londonderry 1 on 9/17 and at Winhall 1 on 9/14,22 (WJN). Blackpoll Warbler was sighted by 4 observers, including 2 at Colchester 8/29 (SWM), at S. Duxbury 2 on 9/6 and 5 on 9/21 (FAP), 1 at Winhall 9/14,19 (WJN), and 1 probable at Shelburne 9/27 (TGM). Black-and-white Warbler was moderately reported in small numbers. The high count was 4 at S. Duxbury 9/6,15 (FAP), and a very late record was of 1 at Williams Woods, Charlotte with a flock of chickadees 11/13 (TGM). American Redstart was moderately reported in small numbers. High counts were 4 at Colchester 8/23 (WGE,NLM) and 5 S. Duxbury 9/6 (FAP). "Another poor year for this species" was noted. Ovenbird was reported only from S. Duxbury where there were 5 on 8/22 and 1 on 9/4 (FAP). Strange to have no other sightings of this bird that is one of the most common in the northern forests. Northern Waterthrush went unrecorded, and Louisiana Waterthrush was reported only from Barton where 1 was seen 8/2 (REG) and from Corinth where 1 was found 9/4 (JBE). A CONNECTICUT WARBLER was seen and carefully documented at Delta Park, Colchester 9/5 (SWM). There were a few reports of Mourning Warbler including 2 at Bristol Notch 8/6 (JRA), 1 Reading 8/16 (FMH,GEH), 2 S. Duxbury 8/22 and 1 there 9/17 (FAP) and 1 at BNP 9/2 (NLM). Many observers reported Common Yellowthroat with a high count of 8 S. Duxbury 9/2 (FAP) and a last record of 3 Tinmouth Channel 10/10 (CJF). Wilson's Warbler [SSC] was reported by 6 observers with the high count only 2 at Delta Park, Colchester 8/23 (WGE,NLM) and 2 at Plainfield 9/7 (TSA). The last record was 2 S. Duxbury 9/21 (FAP). Canada Warbler was reported 8 times in groups of no more than 3. The last record was of 1 at Hartland 9/10 (NLM).

TANAGER THROUGH HOUSE SPARROW

Scarlet Tanager was moderately reported with 2 the high count at S. Londonderry 9/7 (WJN). The last record was 1 at West Haven 9/26 (FAP). Many observers recorded Northern Cardinal with the high count and last record of 5 at Middlebury 11/30 (JAP) as birds started to gather at feeders. There were several reports of 2 pairs. Rose-breasted Grosbeak was reported by many observers, the birds making use of summer feeders. Two pr. plus 3-4 yg. were at Vershire most of the summer (KRH) and the last date was 1 at Brandon 9/24 (SSW). Only 3 reports of Indigo Bunting included 1 at Dorset 8/3 (EFG), 1 at Middlebury 9/30 (JAP), and 2 pairs at Vershire "all summer" (KRH). Four records of Rufous-sided Towhee were 1 at Dorset 8/16 (EFG), 1 at Reading 9/10 (FMH,GEH), 1 at BNP 9/24 (NLM) and



Lincoln's Sparrow

a lingering bird at Brandon 10/22 (SSW). Many observers reported American Tree Sparrow, the earliest record being 3 at Randolph 10/23 (EWC,MCC). The high count was 30 at Grand Isle 11/26-29 (DJH). Chipping Sparrow was also well reported with high counts of 30 S. Londonderry 10/3 (WJN), 20 Ripton 10/1 (MBN), and a last record of 2 DCWMA 10/31 (SWM). There were 3 reports of Field Sparrow including 2 at S. Londonderry 9/12-13 (WJN), a family group of 6 at Grand Isle 8/9-9/6 (DJH), and 2 at Ferrisburgh 9/24 (MCD,JID). Several reports of Vesper Sparrow included 1 S. Londonderry 9/6 (WJN), 1 DCWMA 9/7 (FAP), 2 Grand Isle 10/18 (DJH), 4 Weybridge 10/14 and 1 Brandon 10/22 (SSW). Savannah Sparrow was moderately reported with a high count of 65 in 2 flocks at Addison 10/2 (FAP). Last records were 9 at Pantown 10/17 (JRA) and 3 at Ferrisburgh 10/17 (SWM). Grasshopper Sparrow was unreported for the period. There were 4 reports of Fox Sparrow, 1 early arrival at Ferrisburgh 9/24 (MCD,JID), 1 banded at Middlebury, seen 10/7-14 (JAP,AF), 2 at W. Bolton 10/21-22 (MC), and at Sheffield 1 on 10/16-18, 2 on 10/28,29 (PFW,SAW). Many observers reported Song Sparrow, some high counts being 30 at Quechee 9/27 (WGE,NLM) and 50 at Bridport 10/7 (JAP). The late date was 1 at Bridport 11/24 (JAP). There were several sightings of Lincoln's Sparrow including 1 at Sheffield 8/19 (PFW,SAW), 1 at S. Duxbury 9/11 (FAP), 1 Winhall 8/7 and 9/11, 1 S. Londonderry 9/13 and 1 Mt. Holly 9/13 (all WJN), and 2 at Quechee 10/4 (SWM). Many observers reported Swamp Sparrow with a high count of 27 at Tinmouth Channel 10/13 (CJF) and last records of 1 Grand Isle 10/31 (DJH) and 1 Allen Brothers Marsh 10/31 (WJN). Observers noticed a big influx of White-throated Sparrow in early October. Some high counts were 33 at Sheffield 10/14 (PFW,SAW), 25 at Middlebury 10/14 (JAP), 20 at W. Bolton 9/30 (MC) and 20 at Danby 10/11 (CJF). Last record was 1 at Reading 11/11 (FMH,GEH). White-crowned Sparrow was recorded by many observers with a high count of 40 at Addison 10/16 (FAP) and a last record of 1 at Middlebury 10/27 (JAP). Dark-eyed Junco was commonly reported in greater than average numbers. High counts were 150 Woodstock 10/21 (JMN) and 100 Berlin 10/18 (FAP), with last records of 2 Manchester Ctr. 11/29 (BWP) and 5 Middlebury 11/30 (JAP) as the

birds settled in at feeders. The single report of Lapland Longspur was of 1 at Shelburne Bay 10/2,3 (TGM). Snow Bunting was moderately reported with early records of 1 Grand Isle 10/17 (DJH) and 11 DCWMA 10/17 (TGM). High counts were 90 Young I. 10/31 (FO,RBL,GEHa,DLC) and 80 DCWMA 11/24 (RWP) and at Bridport 11/11 (JAP). Five observers reported Bobolink in small numbers except for 100 at Ferrisburgh 8/9 (MCD,JID). The last record was of 1 at S. Londonderry 8/29 (WJN). Red-winged Blackbird was well reported in large numbers. Three separate observers estimated the same number, 5000 at DCWMA from 10/18-31 (JAP;TGM;SWM). A 4th observer counted 7500 there on 11/1 (FAP). Also there were 1500 at South Slang, Ferrisburgh 8/23 (JRA), 1500 at White River Jct. 9/6 (WGE,NLM,DHC), and 1000+ at Shelburne Pond 9/25 (MCD,JID). There was moderate reporting of Eastern Meadowlark with a high count of 12 in 1 flock at Ferrisburgh 8/30 (MCD,JID) and a last record of 2 at Vergennes 11/1 (FAP). Seven observers reported Rusty Blackbird [SSC], most in small flocks. One large flock of 200 at Whitney Creek, Addison 10/6 contained 1 albino bird, presumably a rusty (JAP). Two were at Addison 10/16 (FAP) for the last record. Common Grackle was commonly reported with high counts of 120 Middlebury 8/7 (JAP), 115 Essex Jct. 9/6 (SWM) and 200 Reading 10/26 (FMH,GEH). A last record was of 2 Weybridge 11/26 (MBN). Most observers refrained from counting Brown-headed Cowbird and only 2 counters ran across big numbers. One estimated 500 at DCWMA 10/18 with the flock of 5000 redwings (TGM). The other tallied 400 at a farm in Bridport 10/6 and 10 were still there 11/25 (JAP). There were no sightings of Orchard Oriole but Northern Oriole was well reported in small numbers. High count was only 4 at Barton 8/2 (REG) and at Ferrisburgh 8/7 (MCD,JID). The only September record was 1 at DCWMA 9/2 (MBN). BNP banded 24, a station record. Pine Grosbeak went unreported. Purple Finch was moderately reported through the period in small numbers. Two high counts were 16 Sheffield 8/7 (PFW,SAW) and 15 Essex Jct. 10/21 (SWM). Most reports were from feeders. Many observers reported House Finch although some did not keep records. Most counts were from feeders thru the period. Some high counts were 45 Dorset 8/1 (EFG) and 50 Weybridge 11/17 (MBN). The first of 2 reports of Red Crossbill was of a bird in good pine plantation habitat at Smith Haven, S. Londonderry 9/4 (WJN). This was the second summer there for this species. A singing male was at Craftsbury 10/23 (FO). A pr. of White-winged Crossbill was observed in courtship display at the Mt. Holly hawk lookout in a coniferous boreal area at 2100 ft. elevation 9/13 (WJN). Another possible sighting was a female at a feeder in Chittenden 11/12 (DM). There were no reports of Common Redpoll. There were only a few reports of Pine Siskin and generally numbers were small. Four were at Wallingford 8/15 (SJD), 6-8 were at BNP 11/2 (CCR,KRT,MJS), and 25 were in one flock at Woodstock 11/27 (JMN). American Goldfinch was commonly reported through the period in good numbers with some reports of young birds. The high count was 42 (with 36 in 1 flock) at East Creek, Orwell 11/24 (RWP), and 26 were at S. Duxbury 11/28 (FAP). Evening Grosbeak was moderately reported in small numbers through the period. A flock of 25 was at Lincoln 8/17 (JRA), 9 at Brookfield 8/13 (MJJ) and 13 at Sheffield (PFW,SAW). A few reporters kept records of House Sparrow. A healthy 200 were at Vergennes 8/28 (TGM) and 150 was the local population at Grand Isle through the period (DJH).

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| AF | Abbott Fenn | ABS | Allan Stimson |
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| JNF | Jean Fleming | KRT | Kevin Taft |
| CJF | C.J. Frankiewicz | JT | Julie Tracy |
| BF | Bruce Franzen | LT | Laurel Tucker |
| MFF | Michael Fullerton | JAU | Janet Upton |
| ELG | Ted Gaine | KV | Kenneth Varney |
| LMG | Linda Garrett | VFWD | Vermont Fish & Wildlife Dept. |
| CBG | Cindy Garrow | MV | Mary von Dusen |
| EFG | Betty Gilbert | RV | Roger Verme |
| FG | Freida Grassley | AW | Amy Waficko |
| REG | Ray Griffin | PFW | Paul Wagner |
| SG | Steve Grove | SAW | Shirley Wagner |
| SGu | Stephen Guegg | SSW | Susan Wetmore |
| BPG | Bea Guyett | EW | Edward Whitney |
| GEHa | George (Terry) Hall | MLW | Martha Williamson |
| SH | Stefan Hard | HW | Hugh Willoughby |
| BMH | Beryl Hinton | | Special thanks to all hawkwatchers. |
| DJH | David Hoag | | |
| EH | Elizabeth Hollinshead | | |
| KRH | Kathleen Hoopes | | |
| TH | Toni Hover | | |

Abbreviations used in the text

| | |
|-------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| ABM | Allen Brothers' Marsh, Rockingham |
| BNP | Bragdon Nature Preserve, VINS, Woodstock |
| DCWMA | Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, Addison and Panton |
| LC | Lake Champlain |
| MNWR | Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge, Swanton |
| SWMA | Sandbar Wildlife Management area, Milton |
| ChVWS | Champlain Valley Aerial Waterfowl Survey |

| | |
|--------|-----------|
| ad. | adult |
| Ctr. | Center |
| f. | female |
| imm. | immature |
| I(s). | Island(s) |
| Jct. | Junction |
| juv. | juvenile |
| L. | Lake |
| m. | male |
| Mt. | Mountain |
| pr(s). | pair(s) |
| Pt. | Point |
| yg. | young |

[E] Endangered
 [T] Threatened
 [SSC] Species of special concern

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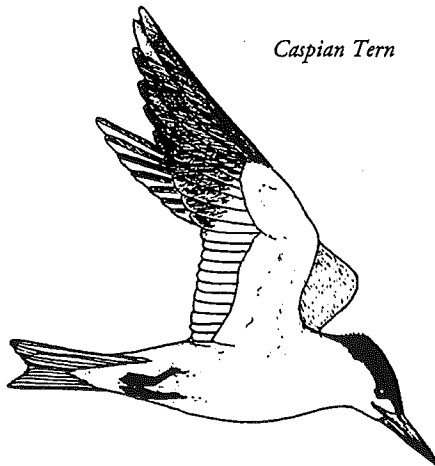
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