The Vermont Bird Records Committee met on 5 November 1994 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 consists of the managing editor of *Records of Vermont Birds*, the seasonal editors of *Records of Vermont Birds*, and the regional editors for Vermont for *American Birds*.

The Committee and the editors of *Records of Vermont Birds* express their appreciation to the many Vermont birders who report to *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
   - Barn Owl
   - Long-eared Owl
   - Three-toed Woodpecker
   - Yellow-breasted Chat
   - Black-backed Woodpecker
   - Sedge Wren
   - Orange-crowned Warbler

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):
   - Say's Phoebe
   - 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)
   - Loggerhead Shrike
   - Grasshopper Sparrow
   - Orchard Oriole (if nesting evidence is observed)
   - Pine Grosbeak
   - Red Crossbill (if confirmed breeding)
   - White-winged Crossbill (if confirmed breeding)
   - Mute Swan
Bird Records Committee Members


FIRST STATE RECORD

SAY'S PHOEBE (Sayornis saya) - one, Brandon Training School, Brandon, Rutland Cty., 29 October 1994. Susanne S. Wetmore, Mary Lou Webster. Subsequently seen in the same area 1 November 1994 by Julia M. Nicholson, Eleanor B. Pratt, Frederick A. Pratt. First fully documented state record. A previous report from Shoreham, Addison Cty., 16 November 1985 by Elizabeth Weeks, had been accepted as hypothetical.

NOTABLE STATE RECORDS, SECOND THRU TENTH


ROSS' GOOSE (Anser rossii) - one adult, Dead Creek WMA, Gage Road, Addison, Addison Cty., 22 October 1994. S.W. Morrical, G.E. Hall. Sixth state record.


CURLEW SANDPIPER (Calidris ferruginea) - one, basic plumage, Briylea Access, Dead Creek WMA, Addison, Addison Cty., 28 August 1994. F.A. Pratt, E.B. Pratt, S.W. Morrical. Second state record.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER (Tryngites subruficollis) - one, Briylea Access, Dead Creek WMA, Addison, Addison Cty., 30 August 1994. J.A. Peterson, Anne Lurie, George & Elinor Osborn; seen later the same day by T.G. Murin, G.E. Hall, Peter Riley, Michele Patenaude, Ruby Gaines. Tenth state record.


OTHER REPORTS OF RARE SPECIES

LITTLE BLUE HERON (Egretta caerulea) - one adult, Lewis Creek, Ferrisburgh, Addison Cty., 17 May 1993. John I. Dye, Margaret C. Dye.
LITTLE BLUE HERON (E. caerulea) - one adult, Farrell Access, Dead Creek WMA, Addison, Addison Cty., 5 May 1994. T.G. Murin.

LITTLE BLUE HERON (E. caerulea) - one adult, Stone Bridge Access, Dead Creek WMA, Panton, Addison Cty., 7 May 1994. S.W. Morrical. Possibly the same bird as above.

MUTE SWAN (Cygnus olor) - two adults, two immatures, Sandbar Wildlife Management Area, Rt. 2 causeway, Milton, Chittenden Cty., 21 November 1993. T.G. Murin, S.W. Morrical.


GYRFALCON (Falco rusticolus) - one, gray morph, Gage Rd., Dead Creek WMA, Addison, Addison Cty., 16 November 1993. T.G. Murin.

SPRUCE GROUSE (Dendragapus canadensis) - one adult male, Moose Bog, Ferdinand, Essex Cty., 29 May 1994. R.E. Griffin et al.


CASPIAN TERN (Sterna caspia) - one adult, alternate plumage, Popasquash Is., St. Albans, Franklin Cty., 3 May 1994. M.S. LaBarr.


WESTERN SANDPIPER (Calidris mauri) - one, Brilyea Access, Dead Creek WMA, Addison, Addison Cty., 6 September 1994. S.W. Morrical. Rare and difficult to identify.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE (Lanius ludovicianus) - one, Rt. 17 at Jersey St., Addison, Addison Cty., 1 August 1992. Stephen D. Grohs. Not adequately distinguished from Northern Shrike except by date. Still, an important record.
LARK SPARROW (*Chondestes grammacus*) - one, Smith Haven, S. Londonderry, Windham Cty., 31 August 1994. W.J. Norse. Second sighting for the state; both are hypothetical records lacking confirming reports.


**OUT-OF-SEASON REPORTS**


SWAMP SPARROW (*Melospiza georgiana*) - one, Black Creek WMA, St. Albans, Franklin Cty., 19 December 1993. D.L. Cargill.


**UNUSUAL LOCATION**


**TABLED PENDING FURTHER INFORMATION**


**HYBRIDS, ESCAPES, SUB-SPECIES**


COMMON REDPOLL (*Carduelis flammea*) - one "Greater" Redpoll formerly considered sub-species "rostrata," Smith Haven, S. Londonderry, Windham Cty., 6 January and 7 February 1994. W.J. Norse. The Records Committee felt that it did not have the expertise to take action on this report.