



Records of Vermont Birds

VERMONT INSTITUTE OF NATURAL SCIENCE

Vermont Bird Records Committee Report 1994

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*.

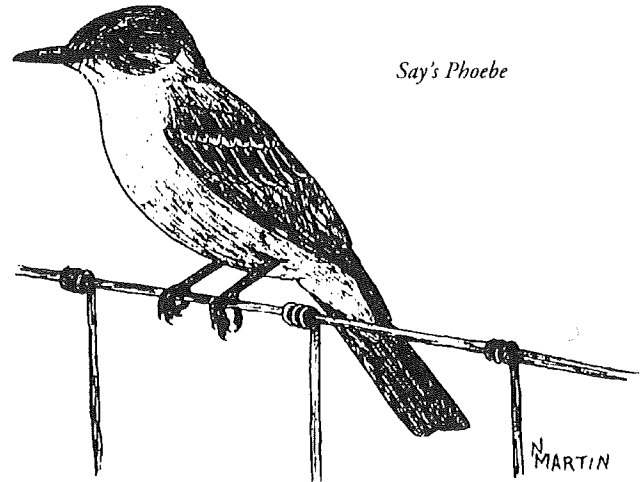
The Committee and the editors of *Records of Vermont Birds* express their appreciation to the many Vermont birders who report to *Records of Vermont Birds* and to the birders who have taken the time and trouble to fill out detailed reports on rare species. These reports add greatly to Vermont's data 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	Black-backed Woodpecker
Barn Owl	(outside Northeast Kingdom)
Long-eared Owl	Sedge Wren
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):

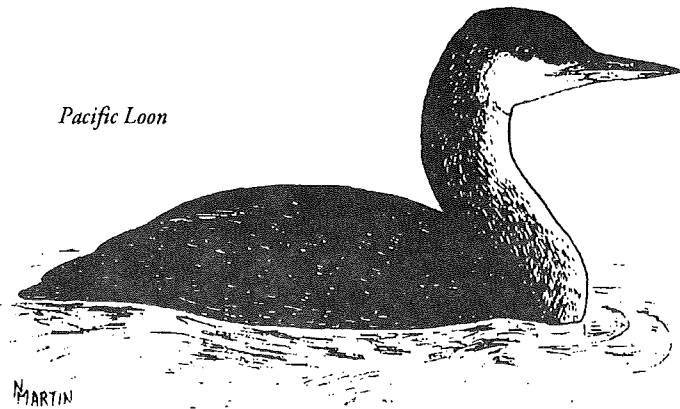


Say's Phoebe

- 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

Charles Duncan, Walter Ellison, George E. (Terry) Hall, Sarah Laughlin, Scott Morrical, Whitney Nichols, Blair Nikula, Frank Oatman, Michele Patenaude, Simon Perkins, Wayne Petersen, Frederick Pratt, Susanne Wetmore. Editorial Staff: Judith Peterson, Steve Faccio, Julie Nicholson, Nancy Martin, Christopher Rimmer.



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 Scott W. Morrical, Theodore G. Murin, George E. (Terry) Hall, and on 2 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

PACIFIC LOON (*Gavia pacifica*) - one, first winter, Retreat Meadows, Brattleboro, Windham Cty., 15-18 December 1993. Whitney Nichols. Second state record.

EARED GREBE (*Podiceps nigricollis*) - one, probably a juvenile, East Creek Wildlife Management Area, Orwell, Addison Cty., 24 September 1994. Edna Jones. Subsequently seen in the same area 26-28 September 1994 by Judith A. Peterson, T.G. Murin, S.W. Morrical, G.E. Hall, F.A. Pratt. Fourth state record.

ROSS' GOOSE (*Anser rossii*) - one adult, Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, Rt. 17, Addison, Addison Cty., 19 October 1994. J.A. Peterson. Fifth state record.

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

HARLEQUIN DUCK (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) - one female, Perkins Pier, Lake Champlain, Burlington, Chittenden Cty., 19 December 1993. Scott W. Morrical. Ninth state record.

AMERICAN AVOCET (*Recurvirostra americana*) - two adults, probably male and female, Brilyea Access, Dead Creek WMA, Addison, Addison Cty., 5 August 1994. S.W. Morrical, Christopher Fichtel, T.G. Murin. Subsequently seen in the same area 7 August 1994 by J.M. Nicholson, Dwight L. Cargill, Elizabeth F. Gilbert, Betty Rist Jillson, and on 9 August 1994 by Walter G. Ellison, Nancy L. Martin, John B. Martin, Jeanne Fossani, David J. Hoag. Second state record. Photographs.

CURLEW SANDPIPER (*Calidris ferruginea*) - one, basic plumage, Brilyea 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, Brilyea 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.

FORSTER'S TERN (*Sterna forsteri*) - two adults, alternate plumage, Champlain Bridge, Addison, Addison Cty., 14 April 1994. J.A. Peterson, G.E. Hall. Second state record.

FORSTER'S TERN (*S. forsteri*) - one, first fall, Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge, Swanton, Franklin Cty., 2 September 1994. Mark S. LaBarr. Third state record.

BOREAL OWL (*Aegolius funereus*) - one, on property of David Burnor, Bakersfield, Franklin Cty., 11 March 1994. Gary and Donna Young, David Burnor. Seventh state record. Video.

NORTHERN WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) - one immature, French Settlement Rd., Lincoln, Addison Cty., 17 September 1994. Martha S. Hansen, Russell C. Hansen, Bea Guyett, Marion Manning, Lillian Birkett, Jeanne LaVangia. Seventh state record. Photographs.

WORM-EATING WARBLER (*Helmitheros vermivorus*) - one, near Trapp Family Lodge, Stowe, Lamoille Cty., 5 September 1994. Richard C. Dunlap, Victoria C. Dunlap. Fifth report to RVB.

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. Morrill. 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. Morrill.

MUTE SWAN (*C. olor*) - three juveniles, Howell's Pond, Arlington, Bennington Cty., 20 November 1993. E.F. Gilbert.

MUTE SWAN (*C. olor*) - one juvenile, Connecticut River at Bellows Falls, Windham Cty., 18 December 1993. Ray E. Griffin.

GOLDEN EAGLE (*Aquila chrysaetos*) - one adult, Smith Haven, S. Londonderry, Windham Cty., 2 November 1993. William J. Norse.

GOLDEN EAGLE (*A. chrysaetos*) - one sub-adult, Middle Rd., Bridport, Addison Cty., 9 May 1994. J.A. Peterson.

GOLDEN EAGLE (*A. chrysaetos*) - one adult, Haystack Mt., Wilmington, Windham Cty., 30 May 1994. W.G. Ellison, N.L. Martin.

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.

SANDHILL CRANE (*Grus canadensis*) - one adult, Three Mile Bridge Rd., Middlebury, Addison Cty., 9 April 1994. J.M. Nicholson, D.L. Cargill, Ann Reams et al.

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

CASPIAN TERN (*S. caspia*) - one adult, alternate plumage, Cranberry Pool, Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge, Swanton, Franklin Cty., 22 May 1994. Ted S. Allen, Nathaniel Shambaugh.

CASPIAN TERN (*S. caspia*) - one adult, alternate plumage, Savage Is., Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 11 July 1994. M.S. LaBarr.

GREAT GRAY OWL (*Strix nebulosa*) - one, Smith Haven, S. Londonderry, Windham Cty., 6 February 1994. W.J. Norse.

LONG-EARED OWL (*Asio otus*) - one, I-91, Ascutney, Windsor Cty., 23 January 1994. Kenneth Cox.

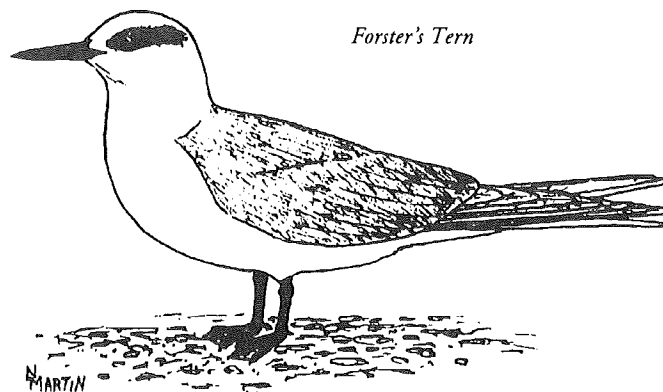
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes carolinus*) - one, Herrick's Cove, Rockingham, Windham Cty., 15 May 1994. W.J. Norse.

VARIED THRUSH (*Ixoreus naevia*) - one adult male, Trumbull Hill Rd. Shaftsbury, Bennington Cty., 5 February 1994, Claudette Van Keuren, Steve Wassick, and on 6 February, F.A. Pratt, E.B. Pratt.

WHITE-EYED VIREO (*Vireo griseus*) - one immature, Lower Bartonville, Rockingham, Windham Cty., 26 October 1993. Tait E. Johansson.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (*Vermivora celata*) - one, Herrick's Cove, Rockingham, Windham Cty., 22 October 1994. W.J. Norse.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER (*Oporornis agilis*) - one immature, banded at VINS, Woodstock, Windsor Cty., 12 September 1994. Christopher C. Rimmer, Kent McFarland, Erik Chapman.



Forster's Tern

RARE NESTING SPECIES

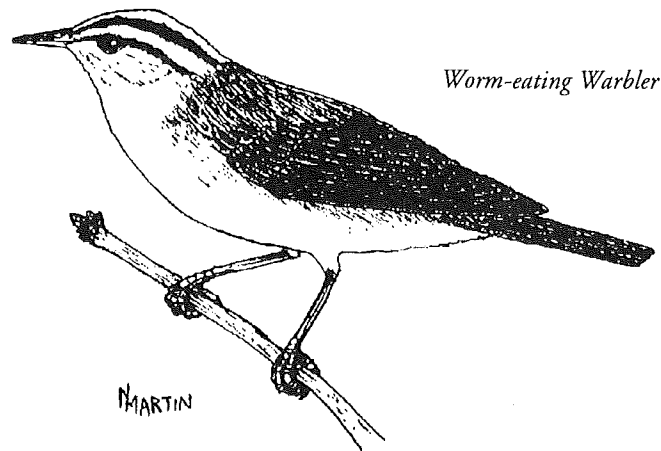
PIED-BILLED GREBE (*Podilymbus podiceps*) - two, a pair in proper habitat, South Slang, Ferrisburgh, Addison Cty., 7 July 1994. J.I. Dye, M.C. Dye. Possible/probable nesting.

ACCEPTED AS HYPOTHETICAL

GREAT CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) - one adult, Lake Champlain at Tri-Town Water Plant, Addison, Addison Cty., 7 May 1994. W.G. Ellison, John D. Marsh. Distant and fleeting observation.

WESTERN SANDPIPER (*Calidris mauri*) - one, Brilyea Access, Dead Creek WMA, Addison, Addison Cty., 6 September 1994. S.W. Morrill. 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.

HOARY REDPOLL (*Carduelis hornemanni*) - two, Spaulding Rd., Addison, Addison Cty., 19 November 1993. F.A. Pratt, E.B. Pratt, J.A. Peterson, Thomas Heatley.

HOARY REDPOLL (*C. hornemanni*) - one, Alfrecha Rd., North Clarendon, Rutland Cty., 2 January 1994. J.M. Nicholson, B.R. Jillson.

HOARY REDPOLL (*C. hornemanni*) - one, Griffin residence, Glover, Orleans Cty., 4 April 1994. R.E. Griffin, Olive A. Griffin.

OUT-OF-SEASON REPORTS

OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*) - one, Cox Rd., Woodstock, Windsor Cty., 24 December 1993. Thomas G. Zuba.

MERLIN (*Falco columbarius*) - one, Dead Creek WMA at Nortontown Rd., Addison, Addison Cty., 19 December 1993. Jim Andrews, Kris Andrews.

KILLDEER (*Charadrius vociferus*) - one, Crown Point Rd., Bridport, Addison Cty., 19 December 1993. Emma M. Raymond, J.A. Peterson.

HERMIT THRUSH (*Catharus guttatus*) - one, Murphy Hill Rd., Shaftsbury, Bennington Cty., 2 February 1994. Laurie Johnson.

GRAY CATBIRD (*Dumetella carolinensis*) - one, Saxtons River, Rockingham, Windham Cty., 18 December 1993. Don Clark, Jim Wilson, T.E. Johansson.

PINE WARBLER (*Dendroica pinus*) - one, at suet feeder, Terrace Heights, Weybridge, Addison Cty., 19 December 1993. Gale Fenn, Abbott T. Fenn, Ethan Fenn. Photograph.

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT (*Geothlypis trichas*) - one, Greenbush Rd., Ferrisburgh, Addison Cty., 18 December 1993. R.B. Lavalley, T.G. Murin.

RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEE (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) - one female, Thompson's Point Rd., Charlotte, Chittenden Cty., 18 December 1993. T.G. Murin, R.B. Lavalley.

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

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) - one, Wimmer residence, Shoreham, Addison Cty., 19 December 1993. Peter Wimmer.

UNUSUAL LOCATION

BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER (*Picoides arcticus*) - one, Spencer's Cabin Hawkwatch site, Winhall, Bennington Cty., 15 September 1994. W.J. Norse.

TABLED PENDING FURTHER INFORMATION

KING RAIL (*Rallus elegans*) - one, Dead Creek WMA, marsh just north and west of Rt. 17 bridge, Addison, Addison Cty., 17-18 May 1994. S.W. Morrill, T.G. Murin, G.E. Hall, J.A. Peterson. Bird not seen. Identified by vocalization only. Tape recorded. Would be a first state record.

HYBRIDS, ESCAPES, SUB-SPECIES

BAR-HEADED GOOSE (*Anser indicus*) - one, Herrick's Cove, Rockingham, Windham Cty., 28 April 1994. Paul and Shirley Wagner. Thought to be an escaped bird.

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.