

Records of Vermont Birds

VERMONT INSTITUTE OF NATURAL SCIENCE

SUMMER SEASON 1994

1 June to 31 July

Susanne Wetmore, Seasonal Editor

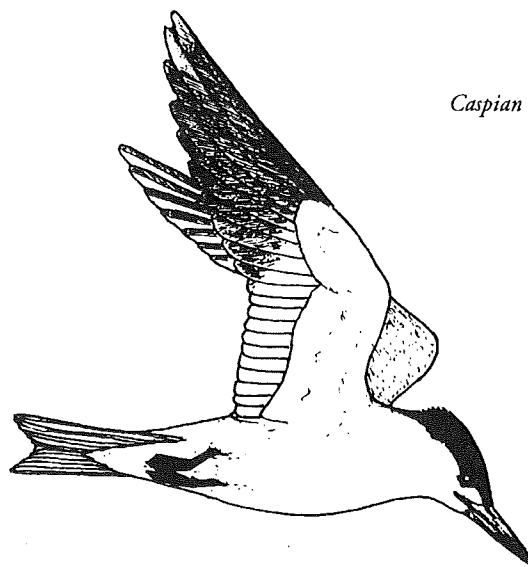
Record-breaking weather was certainly a topic of discussion in the summer of 1994. Although June started off rather cool, by mid-month high humidity and record temperatures in the 90's blanketed the area. Vermont was the wettest of the New England states, receiving above normal amounts of precipitation. Unseasonably warm weather continued into July, giving us the warmest month since 1955 and the 4th warmest on record. This unusual weather may have kept the number of species and observer hours down, as only 173 species were seen.

The rarities for this summer included the following documented species. A CASPIAN TERN was observed near Savage Island on 7/11 by Mark Labarr, Common Tern biologist with the Vermont Institute of Natural Science (hereafter VINS). A Merlin was observed in West Haven on 6/19. The other sighting of interest was a pair of Pied-billed Grebe seen at South Slang in Ferrisburgh on 7/7. No nesting evidence was noted, but the birds were judged to be probably nesting in the area.

I have continued the use of 5 key words used by previous editors to indicate the quantity of reports for a species. These words are: minimal for 1-5 reports, modest for 6-15, moderate for 16-25, considerable for 26-35, and extensive for 36 or more reports. Reports of observations are either sent in individually or on seasonal checklists (available from VINS), from Breeding Bird Surveys (hereafter BBS), part of a nationwide effort, and from information from the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge (hereafter MNWR) and the banding station at VINS.

LOONS THROUGH HERONS

The combination of a late cold spring and high lake levels caused a drop from 15 prs of Common Loon in 1993 to 13 prs. this season, but these prs. fledged 16 chicks, the high since 1990. Only 1 nest failed, and this a newly established site at Miles Pd. Loons on Little Averill Pd. made successful use of an artificial nesting platform. Human disturbance and fluctuating lake levels continue to cause nest failures. This year thru the cooperative efforts of VINS, various power companies and the Vermont Nongame and Natural Heritage Program some of these problems were eliminated. In addition 29 sightings included a high count of 14 loons at Tri-Town Waterworks, Addison 6/13 (JMN), and 1 individual was



Caspian Tern

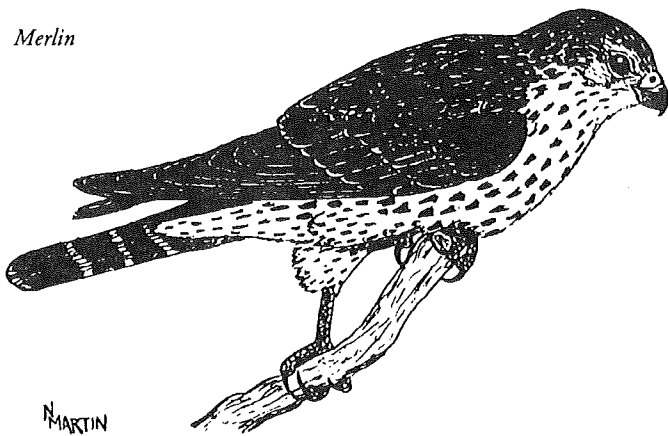
reported on 1 BBS route. There were scattered reports of Pied-billed Grebe including 1 at South Bay, Newport 6/7 (PFW,SAW), 1 in Benson 6/8 (SWM), 7 in Coventry 6/14 (REG,OAG), and a pair in proper nesting habitat at Ferrisburgh 7/7 (JID,MCD). Double-crested Cormorant numbers were modest with highs of 500 seen in Panton 7/16 (JID,MCD) and Isle La Motte 6/5 (EMA,RDB). There were 23 individuals on 1 BBS route. American Bittern received modest reports with 1 in Dorset 6/5 (EFG) and 1 at West Rutland Marsh 6/5 (SWM). BBS had 4 individuals on 2 routes. Great Blue Heron were seen commonly statewide, 1 in Addison 6/1 (JAP) and 1 ad. and 17 yg. in Poultney 7/3 (BWP). The drawdown of a storage pond at Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area (hereafter DCWMA) attracted great numbers of herons including 9 on 7/25 (JAP). BBS had 10 individuals on 3 routes. Great Egret had minimal sightings with 1 on the Winooski River 6/10 (DLC), 1 at Springfield 7/27 (WME), and again on the Winooski R. 7/30 (JA). Modest reports of Green-backed Heron included a nest in Brandon 6/14 (SSW). The nest was located in a grove of cedar with at least 3 yg. visible. BBS had 5 individuals on 2 routes. Two reports of Black-crowned Night-Heron were of 1 at Montpelier 7/19 (TSA) and 1 on Lake Champlain (hereafter LC) 7/2 (RF,FO).

WATERFOWL

One Mute Swan was reported at Herrick's Cove 7/30 (WJN). Moderate reports of Canada Goose included 1 ad. with yg. in Brandon 7/24 (SSW). Wood Duck was modestly reported with many individuals at South Hero and a f. with 11 yg. at Allen Brothers' Marsh, Westminster 7/7 (AMD). A breeding report from MNWR had a total of 180 yg. There were several reports of American Black Duck including breeding success at MNWR with 20 yg. BBS had 3 individuals on 2 routes. The ubiquitous Mallard had its usual successful season with nesting reports from around the state.

There were 14 individuals on 3 BBS routes. A single report of Blue-winged Teal came from Coventry 6/7 (REG,OAG). A Gadwall hen was killed by a mowing machine in Grand Isle (DJH) with 10 of her 11 eggs hatched by a domestic chicken. The only report of American Wigeon came from Grand Isle 6/1 (DJH) with 2 hens producing 6 yg. each. The only Common Goldeneye report was from MNWR of a clutch of 7 eggs. Hooded Merganser was recorded with 1 in Winhall 6/1 and 2 at S. Londonderry 6/16 (WJN) and 1 at Addison 6/3 (JAP). A f. with 13 yg. was at Ferrisburgh 6/27 (JID,MCD). MNWR reported 14 yg. Modest reports of Common Merganser came again from Grand Isle 6/11 (DJH) with a total of 22 yg. A f. with 26 yg. was seen at Ferrisburgh (JID,MCD). BBS had 1 individual on 1 route.

Merlin



VULTURES, HAWKS AND FALCONS

Turkey Vulture had modest reports this season, 1 bird at Middlesex 6/1 (TSA) and a high of 8 in Colchester 7/14 (EMA,RDB). Osprey continued to be successful with incubation activity at 12 nests resulting in 23 yg. fledged from 9 nests. Other sightings included 4 individuals at Bristol Pd. 7/11 (JID,MCD). There were modest reports of Bald Eagle, 3 individuals at Thetford 6/14 (HH), and 2 seen at Somerset Reservoir 7/8 (SDF). Northern Harrier received modest reports including a pr. commonly seen thru the season in Brandon (SSW). The high count was 4 individuals in Bridport 7/13 (JAP). BBS had 2 individuals on 2 routes. Sharp-shinned Hawk was reported minimally with 1 in Brandon 6/4 (SSW), 1 in New Haven 6/10 (JAP), and 1 in Georgia 7/22 (EMA,RDB). The 3 sightings of Cooper's Hawk were 1 in Island Pond 6/16 (CJF), 1 at Bridport 6/19 (SWM) and 1 in Glover 6/24 (REG,OAG). A lone report of Goshawk was received from Springfield 7/1 (WME). There were minimal reports of Red-shouldered Hawk, 1 at West Bolton 6/3 & 11 (MC) and 1 in Bristol 6/10 (JRA). Broad-winged Hawk also had minimal reports with singles at Middlesex 6/19 (TSA) and Goshen 7/15 (SSW). BBS had 3 individuals on 2 routes. Red-tailed Hawk was moderately reported including an albino at Westminster 6/5 (AMD). An individual was observed harassing a Peregrine Falcon at the UVM water tower, Burlington 7/28 (SWM). BBS had 2 individuals on 2 routes. American Kestrel had moderate reports including a nesting pr. in Brandon 6/11 (SSW) as well as 1 pr. in Bridport 7/22 (JAP). This little hawk seems to continue to do well within its range. BBS had 12 individuals on 9 routes. There was an unusual summer sighting of a Merlin at Bald Mt., West Haven 6/19

(SWM). Peregrine Falcon continues its amazing comeback from 1990 when only 6 yg. were fledged to the 1994 season with 31 fledglings.

GROUSE THROUGH RAILS

A single Gray Partridge was heard calling in Swanton 6/26 (SWM). Two Ring-necked Pheasant in Woodstock (JMN) were releases from a game farm. Ruffed Grouse had minimal reports with 1 in Pawlet 6/5 (GRB) and 8 at Reading 6/5 (FMH,EJH). There were minimal reports of Wild Turkey. No doubt numbers were down due to the severe winter of 93-94. A f. raised 6 yg. in Pawlet 7/2 (GRB) and 23 individuals were seen in Bristol 8/3 (JRA). Northern Bobwhite had minimal reports with 1 seen in N. Ferrisburgh 6/7 (JID,MCD), 1 at Caledonia Airport 6/15 (PFW,SAW), and 1 at Norwich 7/27 (JP). Virginia Rail had minimal reports including 1 at West Rutland Marsh 6/7 (SSW) and 2 at DCWMA 6/27 (JID,MCD). Common Moorhen also had minimal reports including 1 seen at DCWMA 6/6 (JAP) and 4 observed there 7/7 (JID,MCD).

SHOREBIRDS

One Semipalmated Plover was heard in Burlington 7/28 (SWM). Reports of Killdeer were moderate with 1 ad. and yg. in Woodstock 7/14 (JMN). The high count of 24 came from Berlin 7/29 (TSA). BBS had 69 individuals on 16 routes. Greater Yellowlegs had minimal reports including 2 seen in Georgia 6/5 & 10 (EMA,RDB) and 2 at DCWMA 7/27 (MBN). Lesser Yellowlegs had 4 reports including a high count of 6 at DCWMA 7/27 (MBN). Solitary Sandpiper had a solitary report from S. Londonderry 7/25 (WJN). Spotted Sandpiper was reported modestly with 4 in Addison 6/6 (JAP) and 5 at Taftsville 7/14 (JMN). BBS had 4 individuals on 3 routes. Upland Sandpiper had minimal reports of 1 in Bridport 6/6 (JAP), 4 in Swanton 6/30 (SWM), and on 7/13, 4 in Bridport and 2 in Shoreham (JAP). American Woodcock reports were minimal with 3 in Weybridge 7/8 (MBN) and 1 in West Bolton 7/16 & 24 (MC). There were minimal reports of Common Snipe with 2 in Berlin 6/2 (TSA) and 4 seen at Bristol Pd. 7/11 (JID,MCD). BBS had 31 individuals on 12 routes.

GULLS AND TERNS

There were minimal reports of Bonaparte's Gull including 4 at Newport 6/14 (REG,OAG). Modest sightings of Ring-billed Gull included 100 at Burlington 6/11 (SSW) and 200 in Swanton 6/26 (SWM). BBS had 231 individuals on 4 routes. Only 2 Herring Gull were reported from Middlesex 6/1 (TSA). Great Black-backed Gull had minimal reports with 12 at Newport 6/7 (REG,OAG). A single CASPIAN TERN was noted at Savage Is. in northern LC 7/11 (MSL), an almost yearly appearance for this species. Common Tern enjoyed continued success on LC with 130 breeding prs. and 84 fls., a modern record. Popasquash Is. produced all 84 fls. with predation levels lower than in past years. Six breeders were verified as locally hatched chicks (CCR). Two other reports of 1 individual each were from Burlington 6/12 (TSA) and Newport 6/14 (REG,OAG). Black Tern had modest reports including 1 at DCWMA 6/5 & 19 (SWM). The high count of 20 was from Missisquoi 6/16 (TSA).

DOVES THROUGH NIGHTJARS

Rock Dove had modest reports, yet large flocks were seen throughout Addison and Rutland Counties. BBS had 205 individuals on 13 routes. Mourning Dove had modest reports including 4 in Middlebury 6/1 (JAP) and a nesting in Brandon 7/1 (SSW). BBS had 246 individuals on 18 routes. There were modest reports of Black-billed Cuckoo with 1 in Middlebury 6/1 (MBN) and 2 in Fairlee 7/31 (KRH). BBS had 2 individuals on 2 routes. Yellow-billed Cuckoo had minimal reports of 1 in Reading 6/18 (FMH,EJH), and 1 in S. Londonderry 7/9 & 15 (WJN). Reports of Barred Owl were minimal with 1 in Bolton 6/10 (CW) and 2 in Woodstock 6/14 (JMN). BBS had 2 individuals on 1 route. There was 1 report of a Great Horned Owl from Dorset 7/30 (EFG). Common Nighthawk had modest reports including 1 in Montpelier 6/1 (TSA) and 2 from Bellows Falls 6/14 (WME). The Whip-poor-will continues to be scarce with only 3 reported, including 2 from Brandon heard calling 6/3 & 7/3 (SSW), and the other from West Rutland 6/3 (CJF) with the comment "first time heard in 3 years."

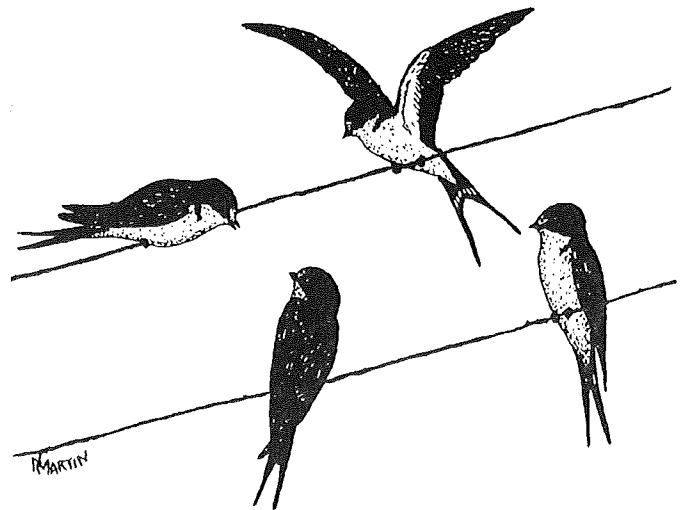
SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Chimney Swift had modest reports including large numbers seen during the season in Brandon (SSW). There were 56 individuals on 11 BBS routes. Considerable reports of Ruby-throated Hummingbird included one of a m. displaying in Starksboro 7/1 (MRP), 2 f. with yg. in Woodstock 7/30 (JMN) and yg. seen on a regular basis in N. Ferrisburgh (JID,MCD). There were 12 individuals on 7 BBS routes. Belted Kingfisher had moderate reports including 5 individuals at Lewis Creek, Ferrisburgh 7/5 (JID,MCD). There were 10 individuals on 8 BBS routes. Red-headed Woodpecker had 4 reports totalling 8 individuals. A pr. with 1 imm. was at Bridport 7/22 (JAP), 1 was at a feeder in Marlboro 6/10 (JPN), and 1 was at South Hero 7/4 (DJH). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker had moderate reports including confirmed nestings in Springfield (WME) and on the Long Trail in Killington 6/27 (RF,FO). Two were banded at VINS and 47 individuals were counted on 15 BBS routes. Moderate reports of Downy Woodpecker included a fl. being fed by a m. in Proctor (RWP). Three were banded at VINS and there were 30 individuals on 13 BBS routes. Hairy Woodpecker also had moderate reports including a m. feeding yg. in Brandon 7/23 (SSW). Four were banded at VINS and 16 individuals were tallied on 12 BBS routes. A single report of Black-backed Woodpecker was from Moose Bog, Ferdinand 7/1 (RF,FO). Northern Flicker had considerable reports with 7 seen in one group in Brandon 7/3 (SSW). There were 49 individuals on 17 BBS routes. Moderate reports of Pileated Woodpecker included 3 in Bridport 6/28 (JAP). BBS had 16 individuals on 10 routes.

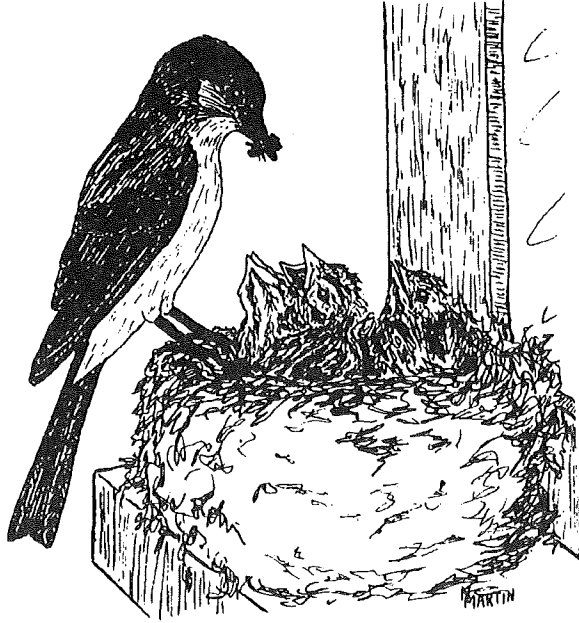
FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

Olive-sided Flycatcher had modest reports with 1 in Barton 6/11 (REG,OAG) and a pr. with the m. singing in Rochester 7/11 (SSW). This area has consistently had a pr. each year. Others were seen in Reading 7/2, 12 & 23 (FMH,EJH). Eastern Wood-pewee had modest reports with 1 individual at Bridport 6/1 (JAP) and a high count of 5 in Benson 6/19 (SSW). There were 33 individuals on 14 BBS routes. Minimal reports of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher included 1 heard at Victory Bog and another near Island Pond 6/25 (RF,FO). One individual was banded at VINS.

Barn Swallows



Modest reports of Alder Flycatcher included 7 from Brandon/Goshen 6/1 (SSW), and 3 at Dorset 7/30 (EFG). There were 70 individuals on 11 BBS routes. Willow Flycatcher had moderate reports including a high count of 3 from DCWMA 6/5 (SSW). There were 15 individuals on 8 BBS routes. Least Flycatcher had modest reports with 1 at Montpelier 6/1 (TSA) and 5 at West Rutland Marsh 6/5 (SSW). There were 104 individuals on 16 BBS routes. Four were banded at VINS. Eastern Phoebe had moderate reports including a nest in Pawlet 6/5 (GRB), 6 individuals in Jericho 7/2 (MC) and 5 at Vershire 7/31 (KRH). Four were banded at VINS and 132 were counted on 17 BBS routes. Great-crested Flycatcher received modest reports including 4 individuals interacting at Brandon 6/12 (SSW), 1 seen in Dorset 7/25 (EFG) and 1 from Middlebury 7/27 (JAP). There were 33 individuals on 12 BBS routes. Eastern Kingbird had moderate reports including a nest construction observed in Brandon (SSW), also from Brandon 6 on 7/10 (SSW), and 4 at Pawlet 7/25 (GRB). There were 80 individuals on 17 BBS routes. Horned Lark had just 2 reports with 2 birds at Bridport 6/1 (JAP), and 1 at Vergennes 6/25 (RF,FO). One individual was found on 1 BBS route. There were modest reports of Purple Martin, almost all from the Champlain Valley, with 5 reported from Newport 6/7 (PFW,SAW). High counts included 16 individuals in Addison 6/6 (JAP) and from Ferrisburgh 30 plus in 3 colonies (JID,MCD). As might be expected, Tree Swallow had moderate reports including a nest in a tree in Rochester 7/11 (SSW), and 25 birds at Addison 7/16 (JAP). Other reports noted dead ads.& yg. in some nesting boxes. VINS banded 2 and there were 301 individuals on 19 BBS routes. Northern Rough-winged Swallow had minimal reports including 2 in Addison 6/14 (JAP), 2 in Manchester Center 6/19 (BWP) and 12 at Potash Bay 7/27 (MBN). One individual was seen on 1 BBS route. Bank Swallow received minimal reporting including highs of 35 in Newport 6/14 (REG,OAG) and 35 in Middlebury 6/20 (JAP). There were 76 seen on 6 BBS routes. There were only 2 sightings of Cliff Swallow: 1 at Isle La Motte 6/5 (EMA,RDB) and 1 at S. Londonderry 7/27 (WJN). There were 26 seen on 7 BBS routes. Barn Swallow had moderate reports with 50 at Berlin Pond 6/4 (TSA), yg. being fed at Bristol 7/27 (JRA), and 2 fl. in Middlebury 7/5. There were 301 individuals on 19 BBS routes.



JAYS THROUGH WRENS

Although considerable reports of Blue Jay were received only 2 were of confirmed nestings, 2 ad. with 3 yg. at Starksboro 6/10 (MRP) and 2 ad. with 3 yg. at Proctor 7/16 (RWP). There were 209 individuals on 19 BBS routes. American Crow had moderate reports including a high count of 50 at S. Londonderry 7/30 (WJN). Five yg. were seen begging 2 ad. in Woodstock 7/20 (JMN). There were 496 individuals on 19 BBS routes. Common Raven had modest reports with 4 seen in W. Bolton 6/24 (MC). There were 12 individuals on 5 BBS routes. Black-capped Chickadee had considerable reports including several of nestings. At Vershire 2 nests produced 6 yg. and other nesting reports came from Woodstock and Starksboro. There were 366 individuals on 19 BBS routes. There were 3 reports of Boreal Chickadee with 2 seen in Brunswick 6/20 (REG,OAG), 2 at Moose Bog, Ferdinand 6/25 (RF,FO), and 2 at Wenlock WMA 7/3 (SWM). Tufted Titmouse was modestly reported with a nest in Woodstock 7/7 (PDM). There were 7 seen on 5 BBS routes. Moderate reports of White-breasted Nuthatch included some confirmed nestings: in Woodstock 2 ads. with 2 yg. 7/31 (JMN) and in Vershire 2 ads. with 3 yg. 7/2 (KRH). One individual was banded at VINS and 23 were seen on 11 BBS routes. Modest reports of Red-breasted Nuthatch included a nest with 2 ad. and 3 yg. at Sheffield (PFW,SAW) and another nest in Woodstock 6/27 (JMN). A high count was of 6 individuals at Reading 7/17 (FMH,EJH). There were 32 individuals on 10 BBS routes. Brown Creeper had minimal reports: 1 from Benson 6/8 (SWM), 1 at Wenlock WMA 7/3 (SWM) and 1 at Goshen 7/11 (SSW). There were 6 individuals on 5 BBS routes. No doubt due to the severe winter, Carolina Wren had only one report, a nest in Hinesburg 6/30 (JAP). There was 1 counted on 1 BBS route. House Wren not surprisingly had considerable reports with several confirmed nestings. There were 38 individuals on 10 BBS routes. Winter Wren had modest reports including high counts of 5 birds in Ripton 6/29 (SSW) and of 7 at Camel's Hump 7/16 (SWM). There were 72 individuals on 12 BBS routes. Moderate reports of Marsh Wren included highs of 20 birds at DCWMA 6/6 (JAP) and 5 singing ms. at West Rutland Marsh 6/7 (SSW). There were 13 individuals on 3 BBS routes.

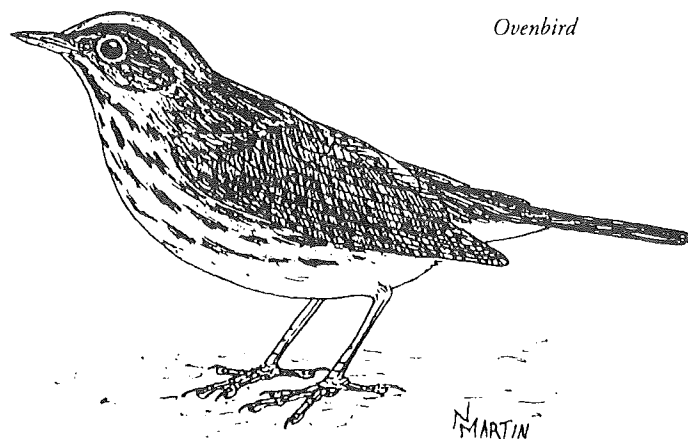
KINGLETS THROUGH THRUSHES

Golden-crowned Kinglet had minimal reports with most sightings from the Northeast Kingdom. Two were seen at Moose Bog 7/2 (REG,OAG), 3 at Wenlock WMA 7/3 (SWM) and 3 at Reading 7/12 & 17 (FMH,EJH). BBS had 10 individuals on 5 routes. Ruby-crowned Kinglet had minimal reports with 1 at Ira 6/5 (SWM) and 1 at Sheffield 6/26 (PFW,SAW). There were 2 seen on 2 BBS routes. There were just 4 reports of Blue-gray Gnatcatcher with 4 at Fort Cassin 6/3 (JID,MCD) and 4 at Bald Mt., West Haven 6/19 (SWM). There were 2 individuals on 1 BBS route. Moderate reports of Eastern Bluebird included nestings. This species continues to recover due to the efforts of individuals and groups like Bluebirds Across Vermont. There were 11 seen on 8 BBS routes. Moderate reports of Veery came from across the state. A nest in S. Starksboro held 3 yg. 6/19 (MRP). Another found in Goshen 6/26 (SSW) appeared to have suffered predation. Three yg. were fledged in Woodstock 6/20 (JMN) and 6 individuals were seen in Reading 7/11 (FMH,EJH). There were 204 counted on 18 BBS routes. There were 2 reports of Bicknell's Thrush, both on Mt. Mansfield 6/4 (SWM) and 6/26 (RF,FO). Swainson's Thrush had minimal reports with 2 seen in Goshen 6/10 & 27 (SSW) and 6 on Camel's Hump 7/16 (SWM). Modest reports of Hermit Thrush included 3 heard at Goshen 7/11 (SSW). One was banded at VINS and 59 were counted on 15 BBS routes. Wood Thrush was moderately reported throughout the state with several confirmed nestings. A high count of 5 was from Benson 6/3 (SWM). VINS banded 12 and there were 175 individuals on 19 BBS routes. There were considerable reports of American Robin statewide including confirmed nestings. Of interest is a report of a nest being reused that was constructed in 1992 in Starksboro (MRP). There were 20 banded at VINS and a whopping 931 were counted on 19 BBS routes.

MIMIDS THROUGH VIREOS

Considerable reports of Gray Catbird included nestings in several areas, 2 in Essex Jct. 6/9 (MRP) and 3 active nests in Woodstock 6/23 (JMN). Interestingly the same reporter observed an ad. feeding yg. raspberries as it perched on a fence. VINS banded 22 and there were 120 individuals on 22 BBS routes. Northern Mockingbird had minimal reports but nests were confirmed in South Burlington 7/2 (SWM) and in Grand Isle 7/31 (DJH). There were 3 individuals on 3 BBS routes. Modest reports of Brown Thrasher included a high count of 12 in Grand Isle, and 6 were at Brownsville 6/1 (BMH). Several comments by recorders indicate this species was more common this year. VINS banded 4 and there were 5 individuals on 5 BBS routes. Cedar Waxwing was extensively reported with 2 nests in S. Starksboro that fledged a total of 8 yg (MRP). Grand Isle reported large numbers through the season (DJH). VINS banded 32 birds and there were 365 individuals on 19 BBS routes. Although common, European Starling had modest reports including a nest in Wallingford (SJD). A high count of about 500 was from DCWMA 6/20 (MBN). VINS banded 1 and there were 923 individuals on 19 BBS routes. Solitary Vireo had modest reports including 3 nests, one of which had 2 ad. & 3 yg. in Bristol 7/5 (MRP). One observer commented that this seems to be an abundant species in the northern parts of Vermont. There were 32 individuals on 10 BBS routes. There were modest reports of Yellow-throated Vireo with 1 in Woodstock 6/14 (CRP) and 1 in Middlebury 7/27 (JAP). There were 16 individuals on 4 BBS routes. In spite of moderate reports Warbling Vireo had no confirmed nestings.

There was a high count of 6 in Ira 6/5 (SWM). Two were banded at VINS and there were 59 individuals on 13 BBS routes. Three reports of Philadelphia Vireo included 1 seen at Victory Bog (RF,FO) and 1 singing m. at Vershire 7/9 (KRH). This bird remained in that area for a week. One was seen in Dorset 7/27 (EFG). Abundant reports of Red-eyed Vireo statewide included a high count of 20 in Middlebury 7/27 (JAP). Predation by Brown-headed Cowbird affected 2 nests at S. Starksboro 7/20 (MRP). Removal of cowbird eggs resulted in 1 nest producing 3 yg. Six were banded at VINS and there were 478 individuals on 18 BBS routes.



Ovenbird

WOOD WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler had minimal reports with 1 at Ira 6/2 & 19 (SWM) and 1 from Dorset 7/26 (EFG). There were minimal reports of Golden-winged Warbler with 1 in Brandon 6/2 (SSW) and 1 at Middlebury 6/13 (JAP). There was 1 individual on 1 BBS route. Tennessee Warbler also had minimal sightings with 1 at Dorset 7/30. VINS banded 2 individuals and there was only 1 on 1 BBS route. Modest numbers of Nashville Warbler were reported including 1 from Ripton 6/1 (MBN) and 1 ad. with 2 yg. in Bristol 7/10 (MRP). VINS banded 2 and there were 37 individuals on 8 BBS routes. A single report of Northern Parula was of a m. singing at Somerset Reservoir 7/8 (SDF). There were 14 counted on 5 BBS routes. As might be expected, Yellow Warbler was modestly reported with 2 seen in Middlebury 6/1 (JAP) and a high count of 10 noted in Swanton 6/26 (SWM). VINS banded 7 and there were 156 tallied on 18 BBS routes. Moderate reports of Chestnut-sided Warbler included confirmed nesting. There was a high count of 11 birds at Lincoln 6/3 (JRA) and 2 ad. with 3 yg. at S. Starksboro 6/14 (MRP). VINS banded 3 and there were 196 individuals on 17 BBS routes. Magnolia Warbler had minimal reports with 1 bird seen at Mt. Abraham 7/12 (SSW) and 1 at Camel's Hump 7/16 (SWM). There were 34 individuals on 9 BBS routes. Modest reports of Black-throated Blue Warbler included 2 ad. with fy. in Middlebury 7/27 (JAP). A high count of 8 came from Camel's Hump 7/16 (SWM) and BBS had 28 individuals on 10 routes. A nest was reported from Lincoln (JRA). Black-throated Green Warbler also had modest reports including a high count of 8 on Camel's Hump 7/8 (SWM). Blackburnian Warbler had minimal reports including 1 in Addison 6/3 (JAP) and 3 in Reading 6/15 (FMH,EJH). There were 25 individuals on 8 BBS routes. Pine Warbler also had minimal reports with 1 seen in Brandon 6/12 (SSW). There were 5

individuals on 1 BBS route. Three reports of Prairie Warbler included 1 singing m. at West Haven 6/9 (SWM) and 6/24 (JAP), 1 at Woodstock 6/20 (SSW), and 1 at Dorset 7/19 (EFG). Minimal reports of Blackpoll Warbler included 2 high counts: 7 at Mt. Mansfield 6/24 (SWM) and 5 at Ripton 6/29 (SSW). Cerulean Warbler had 3 reports with 2 singing m. in Ira at the Rt. 4 pull-off 6/19 (SWM), 1 at Benson 6/19 (SWM) and 2 m. on Camel's Hump 7/16 (SWM). There was 1 individual on 1 BBS route. Moderate reports of Black-and-white Warbler included 2 ad. feeding 1 yg. in Bristol 7/1 (MRP). A high count of 6 came from Manchester Center 6/19 (BWP). VINS banded 14 birds and there were 76 individuals on 15 BBS routes. American Redstart had moderate reports including high counts of 6 birds in Rochester 6/1 (SSW) and 9 at Ira 6/19 (SWM). One was banded at VINS and there were 76 individuals on 15 BBS routes. Not surprisingly there were considerable reports of Ovenbird including an a. with fy. in Starksboro 6/24 (MRP). High counts were 8 at Goshen 6/1 (SSW) and at least 10 at Benson 6/19 (SWM). Eleven were banded at VINS and 282 were noted on 19 BBS routes. Northern Waterthrush had minimal reports with 1 from Barton Swamp and 3 along Barton River Rd. 6/7 (PFW,SAW), also 1 a. with yg. in Bristol 7/5 (MRP). There were 6 individuals on 4 BBS routes. Minimal reports of Louisiana Waterthrush included 1 territorial male in Woodstock 6/1 (JMN), 1 at Leicester 6/9 (SSW), 1 each at Ira and West Haven 6/19 (SWM). There were 4 individuals on 3 BBS routes. Mourning Warbler had modest reports including 2 ad. and 1 yg. in Starksboro 7/3 (MRP). One was banded at VINS and there were 4 on 4 BBS routes. As expected Common Yellowthroat received extensive reports statewide. At Essex Jct. on 6/2 MRP noted a nest with a Brown-headed Cowbird egg partially buried, and on 6/8 the egg was completely buried and the nest abandoned. A high count of 10 birds was recorded in Lincoln 6/3 (JRA). VINS banded 11 individuals and there was a grand total of 455 birds on 19 BBS routes. Modest reports of Canada Warbler included 4 seen in Reading 6/4 (FMH,EJH), 3 at Rochester 7/11 (SSW), and a report of 1 ad. with fy. in Middlebury 7/21 (JAP). There were 6 individuals on 6 BBS routes.

TANAGER THROUGH HOUSE SPARROW

Moderate reports of Scarlet Tanager this season included a report of 1 ad. with yg. from Woodstock 7/10 (JMN), 3 individuals at Reading 7/23 (FMH,EJH), and 2 seen in Middlebury 7/27 (JAP). There were 49 individuals on 13 BBS routes. Northern Cardinal had moderate reports from around the state. Five were at Brandon 6/9 (SSW) and 2 at Middlebury 7/3 (JAP). Although common throughout, only 1 nesting was noted. VINS banded 1 bird and there were 81 individuals on 11 BBS routes. Rose-breasted Grosbeak was extensively reported with several confirmed breeding reports. Two were seen feeding yg. in Woodstock 7/1 (JMN) and 4 yg. were noted at Westminster West 6/13 (AMD). A comment that "they seem to be everywhere" is illustrated by a high count of 11 birds in Brandon/Rochester 7/11 (SSW). VINS banded 3 and there were 57 on 16 BBS routes. Modest reports of Indigo Bunting included 2 ad. with fy. in Goshen 7/20 (SSW) and a singing m. in Woodstock 7/20 (JMN). Five were banded at VINS and there were 74 on 14 BBS routes. Rufous-sided Towhee had modest reports with a singing m. in Pawlet 6/8 (GRB) and 1 in Brandon 6/16 (SSW). Four were banded at VINS and there were 6 individuals on 4 BBS routes. Considerable reports of Chipping Sparrow included several nests. There was a pr. with 3 yg. in Brownsville 7/16 (BMH) as well as a pr. with fy. in Woodstock 6/22 (JMN). The high count of 12 was at Dorset (EFG). In spite of the high



Lincoln's Sparrow

numbers seen, only 1 was banded at VINS. There were 209 individuals on 19 BBS routes. Modest reports of Field Sparrow included 1 seen in Addison 6/3 (JAP) and 6 at Vershire 7/31 (KRH). Three were banded at VINS and there were 24 individuals on 6 BBS routes. Vesper Sparrow had minimal reports including a high count of 4 in Addison 6/10 (JAP). Savannah Sparrow had modest reports with many coming from the Champlain Valley. There were 30 individuals seen in Swanton 6/26 (SWM). On 12 BBS routes 77 were counted. Minimal reports of Grasshopper Sparrow included 1 bird in Addison 6/10 (JAP) and 1 in Bridport 7/13 (JAP). There were 5 individuals on 1 BBS route. Considerable reports of Song Sparrow came from around the state including 2 ad. with yg. in Woodstock 7/29 (JMN). One of the ads. had a band. Two yg. were seen in Brownsville 7/16 (BMH) and the high count of 20 was at Rockingham 7/30 (WJN). Twenty were banded at VINS and there was a grand total of 552 individuals on 19 BBS routes. A single report of Lincoln's Sparrow from Moose Bog, Ferdinand 7/27 (RF,FO) included a nest. Swamp Sparrow was moderately reported with a nest seen at Moose Bog. A high count of 7 was from Berlin 6/4 (TSA). VINS banded 1 bird and there were 56 individuals on 9 BBS routes. Moderate reports of White-throated Sparrow included a high count of 20 on Camel's Hump 7/16 (SWM). One was banded at VINS and there were 162 individuals on 18 BBS routes. Dark-eyed Junco had modest reports with 5 in Goshen 6/29 (SSW) and 10 at Camel's Hump 7/16 (SWM). One was banded at VINS and there were 23 on 11 BBS routes. Bobolink had considerable reports including comments that they seem to be everywhere in the Champlain Valley (JAP;SSW;SWM). A report of a f. with yg. came from S. Starksboro 6/11 (MRP). There were 213 individuals on 18 BBS routes. Red-winged Blackbird, to nobody's surprise, had considerable reports including 16 nests noted in S. Starksboro (MRP). These nests were all within a 500 ft. strip near a pond. Several other reports were received from around the state. DCWMA 6/20 (MBN) provided a high count of 500 birds. There were a whopping 1050 individuals on 19 BBS routes. Moderate reports of Eastern Meadowlark included 7 birds in Bridport 6/21 (JAP). Late hay cuttings in the fields north of Brandon afforded undisturbed nesting habitat. There were 43 individuals on 12 BBS routes. Minimal sightings of Rusty Blackbird included 1 at Island Pond 6/26 (RF,FO), and 1 individual was on 1 BBS route. Moderate reports of Common Grackle included yg. at Sheffield 7/19 (PFW,SAW), a nest in Springfield (WME) and yg. also in Wallingford 7/28 (SJD). A high count of 600 birds came from

Montpelier 7/19 (TSA). One was banded at VINS and there were 309 individuals on 18 BBS routes. Brown-headed Cowbird had moderate reports with an observation from S. Starksboro (MRP) that Red-eyed Vireo, Solitary Vireo and Common Yellowthroat nests had all suffered predation from this species. Two cowbirds were banded at VINS and there were 126 individuals on 18 BBS routes. Considerable reports of Northern Oriole included a singing m. in Brandon (SSW), 2 nests with yg. in Woodstock 6/23 (JMN) and a high of 8 individuals in Manchester Center 6/19 (BWP). There were 53 individuals on 15 BBS routes. Purple Finch had moderate reports including nestings in Sheffield 6/21 and an ad. with yg. there 7/4 (PFW,SAW). Four were in Bolton 7/31 (MC) and others were seen at a feeder in Island Pond 6/26 (RF,FO). There were 40 individuals on 11 BBS routes. House Finch, to no one's surprise, had considerable reports with 24 in Dorset 6/30 (EFG) and 1 ad. with 4 yg. at Westminster West 7/7 (AMD). Two were banded at VINS and there were 122 individuals on 16 BBS routes. A single report of White-winged Crossbill came from Moose Bog, Ferdinand 6/26 (RF,FO). American Goldfinch had considerable reports with a high count of 30 birds in Dorset 6/30 (EFG). Nesting occurred in Woodstock (JMN). VINS banded 8 birds and there were 246 individuals on 19 BBS routes. Moderate reports of Evening Grosbeak included 2 from West Bolton 6/1 (MC), 2 in Ferrisburgh 6/5 (JID,MCD), 1 yg. being fed by an ad. at Sheffield 7/4 (PFW,SAW), and a m. with 1 yg. at Proctor 7/13 (RWP). There were 36 individuals on 10 BBS routes. House Sparrow had modest reports with 20 birds in Wallingford 7/30 (SJD). There were 213 individuals on 14 BBS routes.

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Abbreviations Used in the Text

DCWMA	Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, Addison & Panton
MNWR	Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge
VINS	Vermont Institute of Natural Science
ad.(s)	adult (s)
pr.(s)	pair (s)
f.(s)	female (s)
Pd.	Pond
fy.	food for young
Mt.	Mountain
m.(s)	male (s)
yg.	young
fl.(s)	fledgling (s)

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Breeding Bird Survey Routes, Observers and Dates. Routes are 25 miles long with 3 minute stops every half mile.

Colchester (DCB) 7/10
 East Calais (FBE) 6/4
 East Haven (CHD) 6/17
 Fletcher (LPR) 6/23
 Gaysville (NLM) 7/1
 Grand Isle (LPR) 6/24
 Greensboro (LJE) 6/3
 Hardwick (CFS) 6/19
 Hinesburg (CSP) 7/3
 Landgrove (WGE) 7/3
 Middlesex (PRW) 6/29
 Newbury (FAP) 6/24
 Northfield Falls (SDF) 6/20
 Post Mills (WGE) 6/11
 Shaftsbury (CHD) 7/5
 South Reading (FMH) 6/16
 South Wallingford (NES) 6/26
 Stowe (EJM) 6/14
 West Rutland (NLM) 6/26

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.

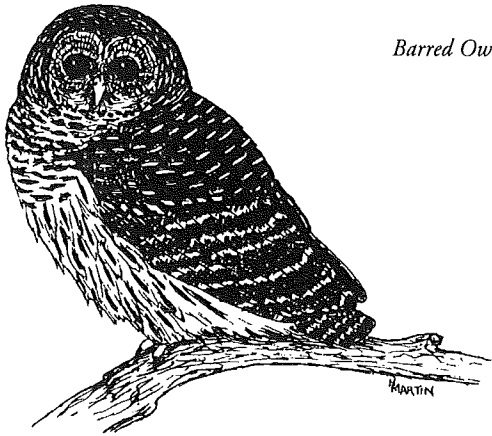
It is frustrating for both the observer and the committee to have a tantalizing sighting of a rare species not listed due to insufficient details.

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





Barred Owl

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