



RECORDS OF VERMONT BIRDS

VERMONT INSTITUTE OF NATURAL SCIENCE

VOL. 23, No. 2

SPRING 1995

1 March – 31 May

Judith A. Peterson, Seasonal Editor

Spring of 1995 could be described as cool and dry. Actually, March was warmer than normal, but April and May were cool until seasonal warmth finally returned in late May. The whole three-month period was dry, with April especially dry, so that near-drought conditions prevailed. So how did this weather pattern affect the migration and provide the best Birdathon conditions in recent memory?

The lack of spring precipitation combined with limited snow melt in the mountains caused the rivers to flood only briefly in March, then return to their banks. Waterfowl pushing north did not find available their usual flooded fields and were forced to move to Lake Champlain, its adjacent wetlands and to other lakes and rivers in the state. Here they lingered later than usual, perhaps because of the cool weather.

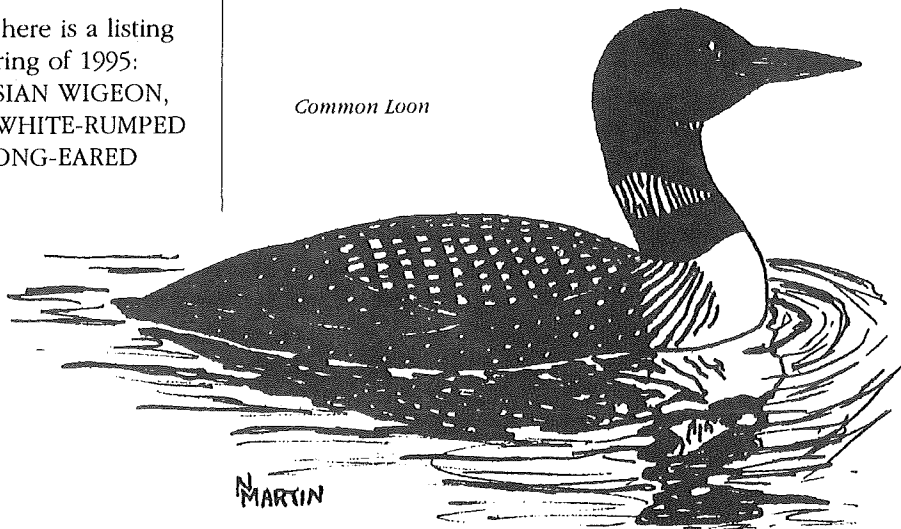
Those same cool conditions with adverse winds in early May held back the main body of passerines, which finally pushed into Vermont May 15-23. Leaves were late in budding out on the trees, making viewing much easier for the period. Birders attempting Birdathons or "big days" from May 18-20 took advantage of lingering waterfowl and plenty of passerine activity to score big this year. A new big day record of 152 species was set, and birders across the board raised their previous best species counts by an average of 10%. The warbler fallout at Bloomfield on May 23rd provided its own special event separate from big day activity.

As a preview of attractions to follow, here is a listing of rarities that lent excitement to the spring of 1995: TUNDRA or TRUMPETER SWAN, EURASIAN WIGEON, HARLEQUIN DUCK, GOLDEN EAGLE, WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER, CASPIAN TERN, nesting LONG-EARED OWL, SAY'S PHOEBE, NORTHERN WHEATEAR, VARIED THRUSH, ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER, YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT, DICKCISEL, and CLAY-COLORED SPARROW.

LOONS AND GREBES

A Red-throated Loon was discovered at Charlotte Town Beach 3/3 (TGM). A second individual in basic plumage, described in sketchy detail, was reported at Barre Reservoir 4/19 (SB), while another was sighted at Peacham Pond on a Birdathon (AVG). This species is being seen infrequently but regularly in the spring. Common Loon was widely reported throughout the period on lakes statewide, generally following the retreating ice. An early sighting of 7 was at Charlotte Town Beach 3/4 (TGM). High counts were 11 at Button Bay, Ferrisburgh, 4/16 (TGM); 6 at Willow Point, Bridport 5/18; and 6 at Grand Isle 4/21 (DJH). Many Birdathon teams noted this species. Pied-billed Grebe was seen in small numbers at various locations. Early records were 1 at Wilcox Cove, Grand Isle 3/16 (DJH) and 1 at S. Alburg 3/19 (TGM). One was at Weybridge 3/26 (FAP), 2 at Berlin Pond 4/26, with 3 there 4/30 (TSA), 3 at Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge (hereafter MNWR) 4/30 (TGM), while 12 were at L. Memphremagog "nestbuilding" (LK). Only 5 observers reported Horned Grebe. The early record was 1 at Charlotte 3/3, with 3 there 3/4 (TGM). The high count of 6 was at Ferrisburgh 4/12 (JAP) and 3 were seen the same day at Panton (SSW). Two were at Addison 4/22 (SWM), 3 at Bridport 4/23 (TGM) and 1 at Berlin Pond 4/28 (TSA). Red-necked Grebe was also reported by 5 observers, with the early sighting of 2 at Charlotte 3/4 (TGM), then 2 at Addison 4/4 (JAP), 3 at Bridport 4/23 (TGM), 2 at Berlin Pond 4/28 (TSA), 1 at Bridport 5/3 (SSW), 3 at Grand Isle 5/9 (DJH) and 1 at Young I. 5/16 (TGM).

Common Loon



RECORD OF VERMONT BIRDS

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RECORDS OF VERMONT BIRDS is published quarterly by the Vermont Institute of Natural Science. A one-year subscription is \$10.

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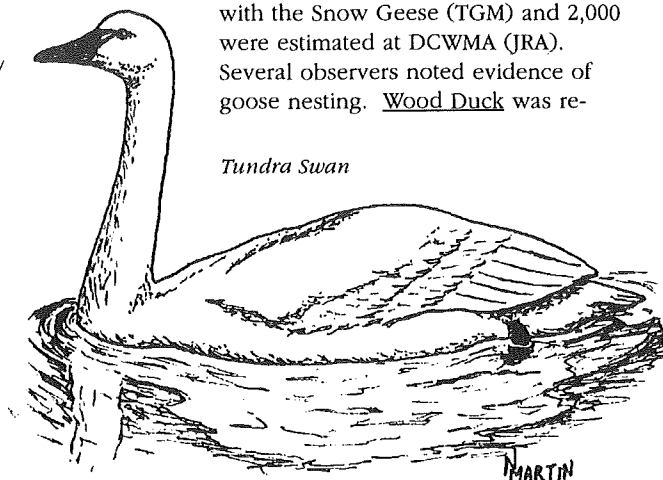
CORMORANT THROUGH IBIS

Double-crested Cormorant charged up Vermont's lakes in force, following the retreating ice. The first 1 reported was at the Champlain Bridge, Addison 3/24 (TGM) and by early May there were 80 at Addison 5/10 (JAP) and "too many to count" at Grand Isle (DJH). Other flocks were reported statewide and were seen by a majority of Birdathon teams. Reports of American Bittern were widespread but of small numbers. The only March record is 1 bird at West Rutland Marsh (hereafter WRM) 3/24 (WJN). The rest were seen in late April and May, with a high count of 6 at Charleseton 5/18 (BD). Fourteen Birdathon teams and the Vermont Bird Conference in Brattleboro (hereafter VBC) also picked up this species. Least Bittern is rare and elusive in Vermont, found this spring by 1 Birdathon team 5/20, and another bird was discovered at Mud Creek Wildlife Management Area, Alburg (hereafter MCWMA) 5/16 (TGM). Great Blue Heron was reported as common statewide and was seen by almost all Birdathon teams and at the VBC. A handful of March sightings included 1 at Colchester 3/16 (EMA,RDB), 1 at Middlebury 3/21 (JAP), 1 at Waterbury 3/23 (TSA) and 1 at South Hero 3/31 (TGM). Up to 50 were reported from MNWR 4/30 (TGM). There were only 3 sightings of Great Egret, 2 birds at Mud Pond in Morgan 4/30 (REG), 1 at Pawlet 5/3 (GRB) and 1 at Coventry 5/27 (REG). The lone reported Snowy Egret was seen at Dennis Pond, Barton (LK) for the "second time in 5 years". A handful of Cattle Egret sightings included 1 at Ferrisburgh 4/11 (JAP) and 1 there through 4/24 (TGM), perhaps the same bird, 1 at Westminster 4/23 (TEJ), 1 at Shelburne Bay 5/5 (BD), 1 at Grand Isle 5/5 and 2 there 5/16-17 (DJH), and 3 at Charlotte (with horses) 5/19 (TGM). Reports of Green-backed Heron in small numbers came from around the state, including 5 from Birdathon teams and VBC, but several observers noted that the birds were

absent in previous nesting locations. The earliest report was of 1 at Westminster 4/30 (WJN). Most of the reporters of Black-crowned Night-Heron found 1 or 2 birds at the Briley access to Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area (hereafter DCWMA). Other sightings included 4 at Young I. 5/5, 4 at Shelburne Bay 5/12 (TGM), 1 at Grand Isle 4/17 and 7 there 5/16 (DJH), and 1 at MCWMA 5/29 (BD). There were no reports of Glossy Ibis this spring; Vermont usually has at least 1 or 2 sightings of this species.

WATERFOWL

A few Birdathon teams and VBC noted Mute Swan. Other reports include 4 immatures at Charlotte 3/5 (TGM), 1 ad. at Springfield 3/13 (REG), 1 at Westminster 3/21 through 5/21 (PFW,SAW;BWP;KPM;WJN), and 2 nesting at Arrowhead Lake, Georgia 5/15 (TGM), with 4 yg. of the previous year 3/18 (MZ). Two adult TUNDRA or TRUMPETER SWANS, most probably Tundra, were sighted on Greenbush Rd., Ferrisburgh 3/18 (TGM). Snow Goose came through in customarily large numbers in March and April, but only 2 Birdathon teams found stragglers in late May. Although the geese were seen statewide, the largest staging area appeared to be at Alburg on L. Champlain where TGM estimated 10,000 on 3/19. Several observers estimated up to 2,000 at DCWMA in late March and early April, and there were 8,000 at Bridport 4/10 (TGM). Surprisingly, Brant was not reported during this spring migration. Canada Goose was present in expected numbers during the period. It was found by almost all Birdathon teams and at VBC. Migration seemed to peak on 3/19 when 3,000 were seen in Alburg with the Snow Geese (TGM) and 2,000 were estimated at DCWMA (JRA). Several observers noted evidence of goose nesting. Wood Duck was re-



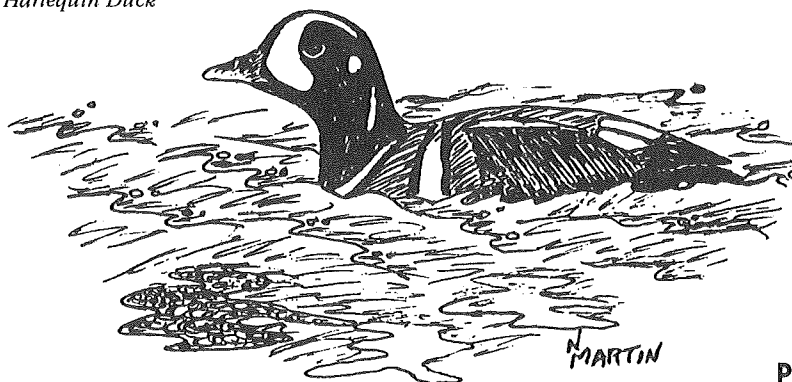
Tundra Swan

corded statewide by most reporters as this now common nester moved back onto its home ponds. It was noted by most Birdathon teams and VBC. Some representative sightings were of 9 at Clarendon 3/19 (CJF), 16 at Alburg 4/2 (BD), 50 at Weathersfield 4/8 (WJN), 10 at Castleton 4/9 (CHD) and 15 at Dorset 5/28 (EFG). Green-winged Teal drew the attention of 11 reporters and 4 Birdathon teams. Some early records were of 3 at Weybridge 3/14 (JAP), 6 at Grand Isle 3/17 (DJH), and 26 at Charlotte and Ferrisburgh 3/20 (TGM). Numbers remained fairly constant through April, then tailed off in May. Another common nester, the American Black Duck, was reported statewide by most observers and was seen by several Birdathon teams. Some high counts were 50 at Weybridge 3/14 (JAP), 30 at Westminster 3/19 (WJN) and 25 at W. Salisbury 3/29 (MBN). A hen with 9 downy yg. were at WRM 5/30 (CJF). The ubiquitous Mallard was seen by almost all Birdathon teams and VBC and by all other reporters who bothered to keep track. Some of the larger counts were 300 at Grand Isle 3/11 (TGM), 100 at Westminster 3/19 (WJN), 50 at Coventry 3/24 (REG), and 75 at W. Salisbury 3/29 (MBN). There were several reports of nesting and yg. There were many reports of Northern Pintail in migration, but no Birdathon sightings on 5/20. The early records were of 2 at Clarendon 3/12 (CJF) and 10 at Weybridge 3/13, with 30 there the high count, 3/14 (JAP). The last record was a pair at Grand Isle 4/21 (DJH). This was not a good showing for a duck that usually comes through Vermont in substantial numbers. A later migrant and local nester, Blue-winged Teal was noted by 13 Birdathon teams and by many other observers in April and May. Early records were of 1 at Leicester Jct. 4/2 (TGM) and 1 at MCWMA 4/6 (BD); the late sighting was 2 at Coventry 5/27 (REG). There were no counts of more than 3, a very poor showing for this species. Northern Shoveler was picked up at VBC and was seen by 7 other observers in ones and twos. One was at Weathersfield 3/19 (WJN), 2 at Button Bay in Ferrisburgh 4/16 and 18 (TGM;SWM), and 2 at Coventry 4/24 (REG). Gadwall was reported by 9 observers and was spotted by 1 Birdathon team. Four pairs were at Grand Isle 3/15-17, where DJH reported some cross-breeding between Gadwall and American Wigeon. There were 5 at Alburg 3/19 (TGM), 4 there 4/6 (BD), 2

at Leicester 3/28 (JMN) and 2 at Newport 5/20 (PFW,SAW). There were 3 sightings of EURASIAN WIGEON, now becoming a regular spring migrant. The first was a drake at the Swamp Rd. Bridge, Salisbury 3/28-29 (JAP;FAP). The second was a drake at Hospital Creek, Addison 4/7-8 (TGM,GEH) and the third, another drake, at L. Carmi, Franklin 4/19-20 (BD). Many observers reported American Wigeon, a common migrant, and 1 Birdathon team located this species in May. The early record is of 2 at the Grand Isle ferry 3/11 (TGM), with 5 in a different Grand Isle location 3/15 (DJH). Up to 6 were at W. Salisbury 3/28-30 (JAP;SSW), 4 at Alburg 4/6 (BD) and 1 at Castleton 5/2 (CJF). There were only 2 reports of Canvas-back, 3 at Grand Isle 3/15, with 1 there 3/17-18 (DJH), and 3 m. and 2 f. at the Champlain Bridge, Addison 4/9-10 (TGM). The only sighting of Redhead was of 3 at the Charlotte ferry 3/10 (TGM). Only 1 Birdathon team located Ring-necked Duck, but there were many earlier reports statewide of this common migrant. Some high counts were 67 at Converse Bay in Charlotte 3/11 (TGM), 75 at MNWR 4/3 (EMA,RDB), and 50 at Bridport 4/17 (JAP). LK reported 2 pairs of adults, each with 6 ducklings during May at Miles Pond, Albany. Greater Scaup was noted by 2 Birdathon teams and seen by 11 other observers. A large flock of mixed diving ducks was present 4/7 through 5/13 off Willow Point, Bridport, and of those about 10 were this species. The flock was largest about 4/21 (JAP;MBN;SSW;SWM). Twenty were at South Hero 3/23 (TGM), 8 at L. Carmi, Franklin 4/25 (BD), and 6 at Salem 4/20 (REG). There were fewer reports of Lesser Scaup, but the flock off Bridport contained an estimated 75 lessers 4/21-23 (JAP;MBN). In addition 10 were at L. Carmi 4/19 (BD) and 30 were at the South Hero railroad causeway 3/23 (TGM). A pair of HARLEQUIN DUCKS was seen diving together off Charlotte Beach 5/5 (JDA;TGM). Oldsquaw

reports were limited to 1 at Button Bay, Ferrisburgh 4/8, and 1 at Shelburne Bay 4/21 (TGM). A male Surf Scoter was present at L. Carmi 5/3 (BD). Three reports of White-winged Scoter included 1 at Willow Point, Bridport 4/22 (SWM), with 1 there 5/3 (SSW) and 5 at Addison 5/16 (JAP). Common Goldeneye was seen statewide, with substantial numbers on L. Champlain. Some high counts were 200 at Grand Isle 3/16 (DJH), 300 at South Hero 3/11 (TGM), and up to 150 at Bridport 4/12-21 (JAP;SSW;MBN). Four Birdathon teams picked up this species at the end of its migration. A pair of Barrow's Goldeneye was reported from Grand Isle 3/16-17, with another female that could have been a Barrow's/Common hybrid (DJH). Bufflehead was noted by 3 Birdathon teams and was also reported statewide in small numbers. Some high counts were 20 at Ferrisburgh 3/13 (DJH), 15 at Alburg 4/2 (BD) and 22 at Charlotte Town Beach 5/5 (TGM). Hooded Merganser was recorded by most observers and VBC with ample evidence of nesting, and was seen by 5 Birdathon teams. Seven were at East Creek, Orwell 3/14 (SSW), 10 at Westminster 3/19 (WJN), and a female with 12 chicks at Ferrisburgh 5/18 (JAP). Common Merganser was reported statewide and was seen by many Birdathon teams. Some high counts were 400 at the Champlain Bridge, Addison 3/24 (TGM), and 100 at Hog I., L. Champlain 4/9 (EMA,RDB). Red-breasted Merganser was seen by 6 observers and 6 Birdathon teams. Up to 15 were at Ferrisburgh 4/12-23 (SWM;TGM;JAP;SSW), up to 18 at Grand Isle 5/2-5 (DJH;BD), and 15 at Panton 5/18 (JAP). The few sightings of Ruddy Duck included 6 m. and 1 f. at Shelburne Bay 4/13 (FR;GEH;TGM), 2 m. and 1 f. at Willow Point, Bridport 4/14, with a possible ruddy there 5/1 (JAP), and 2 at DCWMA, Panton 4/17 (BD), a very impressive showing for a duck that is only supposed to pass through Vermont in fall migration.

Harlequin Duck



DIURNAL RAPTORS

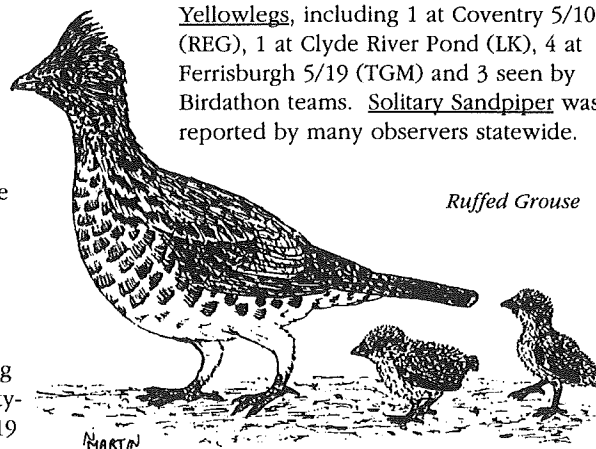
Turkey Vulture, now common state-wide, appeared in mid-March, with the early record of 1 at Springfield 3/9 (ADG). The high count was 23 at Orwell 5/28 (TGM). Most sightings were of small numbers but they were seen by all reporters and noted by most Birdathon teams and VBC. Fifteen were seen at hawk watch sites. Osprey, now a well-documented nester in Vermont, was seen statewide on the larger lakes and Connecticut R. after a first sighting of 1 at Woodstock 3/31 (CCR). The high count of 3 was at Berlin Pond 4/30 (TSA). Twelve were seen on hawk watches and 9 Birdathon teams and VBC noted this species. Bald Eagle was widely reported through the period, but none was seen on hawk watches, and only 1 appeared during Birdathon. Most eagles were in ones and twos, but 4 were reported at Addison 3/29 (REG). TGM describes 2 adults at Charlotte Beach "staging a dramatic and extended attack upon a Canada Goose," which kept diving to escape and eventually did. Northern Harrier was reported by many observers and was seen on VBC and by 14 Birdathon teams. Early records were 1 at Bridport 3/14 (JAP) and 1 at Middlebury 3/16 (JRA), and high counts of 5 at Ferrisburgh 5/5 (BD) and 4 at Addison 3/21 (TGM). Eight others were counted by hawk watchers. One of our common feeder-watchers, Sharp-shinned Hawk, was widely observed through the period, and all sightings were of single birds. Seven Birdathon teams and VBC noted this species, and 45 were seen on hawk watches. Cooper's Hawk, perhaps becoming more common in recent years, was noted by 10 observers, 3 Birdathon teams, VBC and 3 hawk watchers, some observers reporting several sightings. A pair was seen building a nest at Barton (LK). Nine observers and 4 Birdathon teams recorded Northern Goshawk, all sightings of single birds, with the exception of a pair at a nest site 5/26 (SDF,MCo), and hawk watchers saw 4 birds. Red-shouldered Hawk was reported by 9 observers, with the early record of 1 at Island Pond 4/1 (REG) and the high count of 2 at Colchester 5/5 (BD). Four were noted by Birdathon teams and 9 at hawk watch sites. Eleven Birdathon teams recorded Broad-winged Hawk, and 82 were seen on hawk watches, but only 4 other observers reported this common migrant and nester

in Vermont woodlands, with a high of 2 at Berkshire 4/20 (BD) and 2 at S. Starksboro 4/25 (MRP). Most observers reported Red-tailed Hawk, with much evidence of nesting. This very common permanent resident was also seen by most Birdathon teams and VBC. Sixty-six were counted at hawk watches. Rough-legged Hawk was reported by 8 observers, mostly in the Champlain Valley. Some high counts were 11 at Bridport/Addison 3/1 (JAP) and 8 at Panton 3/13 (EMA,RDB). An early final date was 4/17 when there were 3 at Ferrisburgh (TGM) and 2 at Panton (BD). One was seen at a hawk watch site. One GOLDEN EAGLE was reported from a hawk watch site without confirming details. American Kestrel was noted by some as "very common" with area counts of 30 in Addison County 4/7 (TGM), 15 in the Brandon area 4/18 (SSW) and 11 Rutland to Ferrisburgh 4/8 (CJF). They were tallied by most observers, many Birdathon teams and VBC. Hawk watchers saw 31. Only 3 reports of Merlin included 1 at DCWMA in Panton 4/17 (BD), 1 at Berlin 5/6 (TSA) and 1 from VBC 5/6. There were 7 Peregrine Falcon counted by observers in addition to 2 adults with 3-4 yg. at a nest site in Fairlee 5/30 (BD). Three birds were seen by hawk watchers and 2 by Birdathon teams.

PHEASANT THROUGH RAILS

There were 3 sightings of Ring-necked Pheasant, 2 at Westminster 3/21 (PFW,SAW), a male at Woodstock 4/2 (JMN) and a male chasing cars in Ferrisburgh 3/18 (TGM), the last 2 probably escaped birds. One Birdathon team reported this species. One Spruce Grouse was heard and seen at Ferdinand 3/11 (SWM). Ruffed Grouse was common as usual, seen or heard drumming by most Birdathon teams and VBC. It was also reported statewide in small numbers by other observers, with the high count of 4 at Middlebury 5/18 (JAP). Wild Turkey appeared to have survived the winter well, as most observers reported sightings, including some sizable flocks. Twenty-two were at North Hero 3/19

(TGM), 16 at Pawlet 3/2 (GRB), 16 at Grand Isle 3/11 (DJH), 5 at Woodstock 3/12 (EWC,MCC) and 20 at Clarendon 3/7 (CJF). Only 4 Birdathon teams noted turkeys. A Northern Bobwhite was seen at Union Village 5/27 (MJC) and another at W. Bolton 4/25+5/29 (MC). Seven observers reported Virginia Rail, with early sightings of 1 at DCWMA 5/3-4 (JAP;REG) and 3 at Alburg 5/5 (BD). DJH called them "abundant as always" at Grand Isle, with the early sighting there of several 5/9. Twelve Birdathon teams and VBC knew where to find this species. There were only a few Sora reported, including 1 at Alburg and 1 at Ferrisburgh 5/5 (BD), 1 at Westminster 5/14 and 1 at Allen Brothers Marsh in Springfield (hereafter ABM) 5/21 (WJN) and 1 at DCWMA 5/20 (TSA). They were also listed on 8 Birdathons. There were 8 reports of Common Moorhen, 3 sightings coming from Mud Creek, Alburg, during May. There were 8 at L. Memphremagog "nestbuilding" (LK), and 5 were seen or heard on Birdathons. Only 2 reports of American Coot included 2 at Ferrisburgh 4/8 (TGM) and 1 at DCWMA 4/17 (BD). One Birdathon team recorded Black-bellied Plover, and the only other report was of 3 at Grand Isle 5/25 (DJH). The same Birdathon team saw Semipalmated Plover, and another was reported from Grand Isle 5/27 (DJH). Our commonly nesting Killdeer was well reported statewide, with early sightings of 1 at Pittsford 3/9 (SSW) and 2 at Milton 3/11. High counts were 15 at Coventry 3/24 (REG) and 14 at DCWMA 3/24 (TGM). Most Birdathon teams and VBC located this species. Nine observers reported Greater Yellowlegs, 1 at Westminster 4/18 (WJN), the early date, and high counts of 5 at Charlotte 5/13 (TGM) and 4 at Grand Isle 4/22 (DJH). Seven Birdathon teams and VBC noted greater. There were fewer sightings of the later arriving Lesser Yellowlegs, including 1 at Coventry 5/10 (REG), 1 at Clyde River Pond (LK), 4 at Ferrisburgh 5/19 (TGM) and 3 seen by Birdathon teams. Solitary Sandpiper was reported by many observers statewide.



Ruffed Grouse

This fairly common migrant was first recorded with 3 at Grand Isle 5/5 (DJH) and 1 at Westminster 5/6 (SSW). Some high counts were 4 at Middlebury 5/10 (JAP) and up to 5 at S. Londonderry 5/12-23 (WJN). This species was seen by 14 Birdathon teams and VBC. The common nesting Spotted Sandpiper was reported by many observers, 20 Birdathon teams and VBC. Early sightings were of 2 at Bridport 5/3 (SSW) and 1 at Grand Isle 5/3 (DJH). High counts were 6 at Panton 5/30 and 5 at Addison 5/10 (JAP). Seven observers recorded Upland Sandpiper, with 2 at Coventry 4/24 (REG) and 4 at Weybridge 4/24 (JAP). One was at the Berlin Airport 5/6 (TSA) and 2 at St. Albans 5/8 (BD). Five Birdathon teams knew where to find uplands. One Ruddy Turnstone was seen at Grand Isle 5/25 (DJH), and 1 Semipalmated Sandpiper was recorded at Shelburne Bay 5/14 (BD). Least Sandpiper, the most common "peep" in spring migration, was seen by 4 observers and 5 Birdathon teams. Seven were seen at Grand Isle 5/13, with lesser numbers there 5/18, 25&27 (DJH), 2 were at St. Albans 5/11 (BD), 6 at Shelburne Bay 5/12-14 (BD,TGM), 22 at Ferrisburgh 5/19 (TGM) and 6 at Craftsbury (LK). Five Birdathon teams noted leasts. There were 2 reports of White-rumped Sandpiper, rare in spring migration. One was seen on a Birdathon at DCWMA, Panton 5/20 (TGM,JDA,GEH,SWM), and the other flashed its white rump in flight at Grand Isle 5/27 (DJH). There were 3 sightings of Short-billed Dowitcher, 1 at Peacham Pond 5/19 (AVG), a flock of 37 at Sandbar State Park, Milton 5/23 (RBL), and 35 at L. Memphremagog (LK). A common summer resident, American Woodcock, was seen or heard by most reporters and noted by 15 Birdathon teams. Some March dates were 4 at Enosburg 3/16 (BD), 1 at Brandon 3/17 (SSW), 1 at Middlebury 3/18 (JAP), 1 at Bridgewater 3/24 (BRJ) and 1 at Lincoln 3/28 (JRA). Common Snipe, another early arriving summer resident, was seen by most reporters, 18 Birdathon teams and VBC. Some early records were 1 at Barnet 3/24 (REG), 1 at Dorset 3/29 (EFG) and 1 at W. Salisbury 3/20 (SSW). Four were at Berkshire 4/20 (BD) for a high count.

GULLS AND TERNS

Bonaparte's Gull was seen by 2 Birdathon teams and a few other



Caspian Tern

observers. Seven were reported off Mud I., Panton 4/12 (SSW,JAP), for an early date, 4 were at Grand Isle 5/2, with 9 there 5/9 (DJH), and 20 were at Grand Isle 5/13 (RBL). Ring-billed Gull returned to the state and especially L. Champlain in good numbers. DJH reported "too many to count" at Grand Isle 3/14, while an estimated 600 were at Addison 4/7 and 17 (JAP;TGM) and 500 at St. Albans Bay 4/13 (EMA,RDB). Ring-bills were seen by most Birdathon teams and VBC. Herring Gull was present on most large bodies of water, but in far fewer numbers. Twenty-five were at Grand Isle 3/12 (DJH), 5 at Burlington 3/18 (SSW), 5 at Westminster 3/19 (WJN) and up to 15 at Newport 3/24 (REG;LK). Thirteen Birdathon teams and VBC recorded this species. An Iceland Gull was seen at the Grand Isle ferry dock 3/11, while another sighting the same day at South Hero could have been of the same bird (TGM). One Glaucous Gull was reported at the South Hero railroad causeway 4/29 (TGM), a late record. Only 6 observers, 9 Birdathon teams and VBC reported Great Black-backed Gull in unusually small numbers. The high counts were 25 at Grand Isle 3/12 (DJH) and 25 at Newport 3/24 (REG). Other sightings were of ones and twos. A well documented CASPIAN TERN was photographed at Nichols Point, Grand Isle 5/4 (DJH). Common Tern was seen by several observers near its nesting grounds on Popasquash I. between Grand Isle and St. Albans, where up to 30 were seen 5/5 (BD;TGM). Three Birdathon teams claimed this species. Black Tern was reported by 11 observers and 12 Birdathon teams. Up to 35 were at Mud Creek, Alburg 5/14-15 (EMA,RDB;TGM), 10 at MNWR 5/11 (BD), 4 nesting pairs at Newport (LK) and 6 at DCWMA 5/20 (TSA).

DOVES THROUGH KINGFISHER

Rock Dove was checked off by most Birdathon teams, VBC and most other observers, who generally commented that the pigeons were common as usual. An uncommon high count was 150 at Montpelier 3/13 (TSA). Mourning Dove was also noted as common or abundant and was seen by most Birdathon teams and VBC. Some nesting was observed. Some representative flocks were 30 at Westminster 5/14 (WJN), 28 at Sheffield 3/3 (PFW,SAW), 26 at Weybridge 3/2 (MBN), 8 at Barnard 3/11 (JNF) and 19 at Manchester Ctr. (BWP). Three observers and 1 Birdathon team located Black-billed Cuckoo, a late migrant. There were 3 sightings of a single bird at Dorset 5/21-31 (EFG), another 1 at Brandon 5/24+28 (SSW) and 1 at Middlebury 5/27 (JAP). Yellow-billed Cuckoo went unreported this period. Only 2 observers reported Eastern Screech Owl, but 6 Birdathon teams had success calling this species. One responded to a tape at Brandon 5/19 (CHD) and 1 red morph was found dead beside the road at Leicester Junction 3/28 (JAP). Great Horned Owl was seen or heard by 6 observers and located by 6 Birdathon teams. Three were at Pawlet 4/1 (GRB) and 2 were heard at Dorset 4 times during April and May (EFG). Eleven reporters and 9 Birdathon teams noted Barred Owl, some birds active and noisy in the daytime. Four were at Brandon 5/27, with 2 there 5/28 (SSW), 2-3 were at Woodstock during the period (JMN), and 2 at Danby 5/1+6 (CJF). A very exciting report of LONG-EARED OWL came from Mt. Independence, Orwell, where BH found 1 adult and 2 downy chicks beside a nest and possibly 2 more chicks in the nest 5/14 +28. This is a traditional site for long-eared, with 30 roosting locations identified. The only report of Short-eared Owl was of 5 at West Rd., Panton 3/29, with 2 there 4/2 (TGM). Northern Saw-whet Owl was reported by 7 observers and 1 Birdathon team. Two were at Barton (LK), 1 at Georgia 3/27+29 (EMA,RDB), 1 at Norwich 3/6 (CCR), 1 at Woodstock 3/6+7 (KRT), 1 at Weston 3/18 (CCR), 1 at Bethel 3/6 (DP) and 1 at Sheffield during May (PFW,SAW). Common Nighthawk was seen flying over a known nesting territory at Strafford 5/16 and was seen in courtship flight in the same area 5/27

(SDF). Five were at Montpelier 5/25 (TSA), 2 at WRM 5/27 (CJF) and 3 were seen by Birdathon teams. Whip-poor-will was located by 5 Birdathon teams - a very good showing. In addition, 1 was at Brandon singing 4/29, with 3 at 2 locations there 5/27 (SSW), 1 was at Wallingford about 5/24 (BT) and 1 at Pawlet 5/25-30 (GRB). Chimney Swift, common in small groups in most developed areas, appeared on schedule, with 2 at Rutland 4/2 (CJF), 5 at Hartland 4/28 (CHD), 2 at Burlington 4/29 (TGM), and high counts of 12 at Burlington 5/12 (EMA,RDB), 10 at Dorset 5/18 (EFG) and 10 at Brandon 5/28 (SSW). Most Birdathon teams and VBC recorded this species. Ruby-throated Hummingbird was commonly reported statewide and seen by most Birdathon teams. A very late record of first sighting was of 1 at Reading 5/13, and 7 were there 5/29, for the high count (FMH,EJH). There were 6 at Ripton 5/21 (JRA) and 4 at Sheffield 5/22 (PFW,SAW). Some March records of Belted Kingfisher were 1 at Brandon 3/17 (SSW), 1 at S. Londonderry 3/22 (WJN), 1 at Woodstock 3/24 (JDL) and 1 at Grand Isle 3/22, where 6-8 in April was a high count (DJH). Six were also seen at Westminster 4/18 (WJN). Many Birdathon teams and VBC added this species.

WOODPECKERS AND FLYCATCHERS

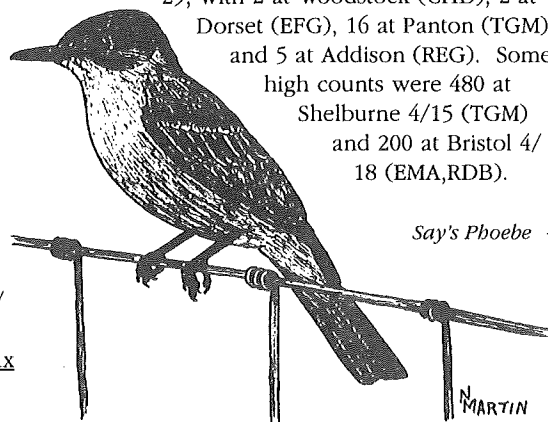
Three Birdathon teams knew where to locate Red-headed Woodpecker that overwintered at its traditional nesting area in Bridport. All other reports came from this area, with 1 there 3/19 (JAP) and 1 or 2 there 5/27-30 (MBN;BD;JAP). A Red-bellied Woodpecker was seen at Plymouth 5/20 (BRJ). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was reported by many observers and noted by most Birdathon teams and VBC. The early sightings were of 1 at Dorset 4/9 (EFG) and 1 at Strafford 4/9 (SDF). Some high counts were 12 at Reading 4/27 (FMH,EJH) and 10 at Lincoln 5/13 (JRA). Downy Woodpecker, a permanent resident and feeder bird, was commonly reported statewide, seen by most Birdathon teams and VBC. Present usually in small numbers, there were 4 birds at Brandon 3/8 (SSW) and 3 at Georgia 3/12 (EMA,RDB). A little less common than the downy, Hairy Woodpecker was also widely reported and mentioned by many Birdathon teams and VBC. High counts

were 3 at Lincoln 5/13 (JRA) and 3 at Brandon 5/27 (SSW). Three observers reported Black-backed Woodpecker, 1 at Enosburg Falls 5/12 (BD), 1 at Ferdinand 5/14+20 (REG) and 1 at Victory Bog 5/17 (TGM). Northern Flicker was reported as common statewide, seen by most Birdathon teams and VBC. The individual at Pawlet 3/1 (GRB) could have overwintered as the next earliest record was of 2 at Shelburne 3/12 (TGM). For high counts there were 5 at Brandon 4/17 (SSW) and 5 at Westminster 4/18 (WJN). Pileated Woodpecker was also widely reported in small numbers and noted by 17 Birdathon teams and VBC. All observers saw them in ones and twos except for DJH, who reported "two pairs present as usual" at Grand Isle through the period. Five observers reported Olive-sided Flycatcher, while a few others noted its absence. One bird was at Barton 5/16+20 (REG;PFW,SAW), 1 each at Bloomfield, Lowell and Montgomery 5/23 (BD), and 1 at Dorset 5/25 (EFG). The species was tallied by 4 Birdathon teams. Another late migrant, Eastern Wood-Pewee, was seen or heard in small numbers by many observers and Birdathon teams. One was at Mt. Philo, Charlotte 5/12 (TGM), 1 at Brandon 5/17, with 2 there 5/28 (SSW), 2 at Middlebury 5/18 and 1 at Bristol 5/30 (JAP). Only 1 Birdathon team found Yellow-bellied Flycatcher and the other reports were about a week later: 1 at S. Londonderry 5/27 (WJN), 1 at Brandon 5/28 (SSW), 1 at Ferdinand 5/29 (REG), 3 at Bloomfield 5/30 (BD) and 1 at Grand Isle 5/31 (DJH). Ten observers reported Alder Flycatcher, with early records of 1 at S. Londonderry 5/17 (WJN), 1 at Middlebury 5/18 (JAP) and 1 at WRM 5/18 (SSW). High counts were 4 at Lincoln 5/25 (JRA), 3 at Dorset 5/23 (EFG) and 3 at Brandon 5/28 (SSW). Eight Birdathon teams located alders. Six observers and 7 Birdathon teams reported Willow Flycatcher in May. One was at Middlebury 5/18 (JAP), 1 at Berlin 5/20 (TSA) and 1 at Westminster 5/21 (WJN). For a high count, 3 were at DCWMA 5/27 (JAP). Least Flycatcher was widely reported and seen or heard by many Birdathon teams and VBC. Early records were 1 at Putney 5/6 (SSW) and 2-3 at Hartford 5/9 (CHD), and high counts were 10 at Bristol 5/29 (JRA) and 5 at Coventry 5/16 (REG). One report of Empidonax sp. was of 1 at Reading 5/20

(FMH,EJH). The SAY'S PHOEBE in Brandon, first seen in late October 1994, overwintered successfully and was seen at the Brandon Training School 3/10-13 (SSW;JAP) and subsequently by many observers until its departure 4/28. Almost all observers, Birdathon teams and VBC noted Eastern Phoebe, with the early dates being 1 at ABM 3/19 (AMD), 1 at Woodstock 3/20 (CHD), 1 at Pawlet 3/20 (GRB) and 1 at Quechee 3/22 (JMN). Great Crested Flycatcher was reported by many observers, with early records 1 at Middlebury 5/6 (JAP), 1 at Brandon 5/11 (SSW), 1 at Swanton 5/11 (BD), and a high count of 4 at Benson 5/13 (CJF). This active and noisy bird attracted the attention of many Birdathon teams. Eastern Kingbird was commonly reported statewide and was noted by most Birdathon teams and VBC. Some early records were 1 at Dorset 4/30 (EFG), 1 at Woodstock 4/30 and 5/2 (KRT;KPM) and 4 at Benson 5/2 (CJF). A high count was 6 at Leicester 5/28 (SSW).

LARK THROUGH SWALLOWS

Horned Lark was reported primarily from the Champlain Valley, where the northern race winters in large numbers and the western race is an uncommon nester. There were 300 at Swanton 3/4 (BD) and 240 at Bridport 3/1 (JAP). The nesting birds were present through the period and were seen by 7 Birdathon teams in May. Nine observers reported Purple Martin, with early dates of 2 at Addison 4/21 (JAP) and up to 4 there 4/23 (MBN;TGM). At least a dozen nesting locations were active at Grand Isle (DJH), up to 5 birds at Newport 5/20+23 (REG;PFW,SAW) and 18 at the Addison site 5/18 (JAP). Many Birdathon teams located martins. The ubiquitous Tree Swallow returned in good numbers on 3/29, with 2 at Woodstock (CHD), 2 at Dorset (EFG), 16 at Panton (TGM) and 5 at Addison (REG). Some high counts were 480 at Shelburne 4/15 (TGM) and 200 at Bristol 4/18 (EMA,RDB).



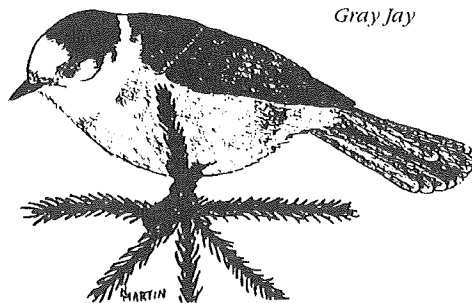
Say's Phoebe

Almost all Birdathon teams and VBC noted this species. Northern Rough-winged Swallow was far less common but set about nesting predictably in holes in the concrete of dams and power plants. There was 1 at Bellows Falls 4/8 (KPM), 1 at Grand Isle 4/18 (DJH), 2 at Berkshire 4/20 (BD) and 1 at Shelburne Bay 4/21 (TGM). For high numbers there were 20 at N. Hartland Dam 5/14 (CHD) and 6 each at Berlin Pond 4/28 (TSA) and at Addison 5/21 (MBN). About 20% of the Birdathon teams and VBC noted this species. Bank Swallow established nesting colonies in traditional stream banks, and these colonies were monitored by 10 different observers. The early record was 1 at Leicester 4/22 (CJF), and there were up to 200 at Middlebury 5/10-21 (JAP;MBN), 25 at Island Pond 5/14 (REG), 75 at Springfield 5/14 and up to 50 at Enosburg 5/16-18 (TGM;BD). A bank collapse at Enosburg may have destroyed many nests. This species was noted by many Birdathon teams and VBC. Cliff Swallow was harder to find but was recorded by 7 industrious observers, a few Birdathon teams and VBC. One was seen at Winhall 5/12 (WJN), 10 at Alburg 5/14 building nests (EMA,RDB), 6 at Dorset 5/21 (EFG) and 4 at Lincoln 5/28 (JRA). Barn Swallow was commonly reported statewide and was seen by most Birdathon teams and VBC. The early date of 4/18 found 1 at Weathersfield (WJN) and 1 at Weybridge returning to a familiar garage nest site (MBN). There were 20 at Berlin Pond 4/30 (TSA) and 30 at Westminster 5/14 (WJN).

JAYS THROUGH WRENS

One Birdathon team located Gray Jay, and in addition there was 1 banded individual at Victory Bog 3/5 (DM), 2 at Dennis Pond (LK) and 1-2 at Moose Bog, Ferdinand 4/1, 4/18, 4/30 and 5/14+18 (REG;BD). Blue Jay was widespread and common, seen by virtually all Birdathon teams and VBC. Sizable flocks of 12-16 came to feeders in late winter, with high counts of 25 at S. Londonderry 3/22 (WJN) and 36 in the Lincoln area 5/13 (JRA). American Crow was very common, seen by nearly all observers statewide. Some of the larger flocks were 50 at New Haven 3/9 (JRA), 50 at Westminster 3/19 (WJN) and 150 at Bridport 4/14 (JAP). Common Raven was reported by many observers in small flocks of up to 4, and was noted by

many Birdathon teams and VBC. A nest with 3 chicks was reported at N. Hartland Dam 4/20 (KPM). One exceptional sighting was of 50 ravens flying to the south over Lincoln and calling 3/19 (JRA). The ever-present Black-capped Chickadee was as common as always statewide. Some high counts were 25 at Reading 3/10 (FMH,EJH), 15 at S. Londonderry 3/10 (WJN), 35 at Lincoln 3/11 (CJF), 14 at Dorset 4/21 (EFG) and 20 at Georgia (EMA,RDB). Most Birdathon teams and VBC recorded this species. Boreal Chickadee was found by 1 Birdathon team and there were a few other sightings, all in the Northeast Kingdom. A flock of fewer than 10 was at Victory Bog 3/5 (DM) and 2 were at Ferdinand 4/1+21 and 5/14+18 (REG;BD). Sixteen observers recorded Tufted Titmouse, but only in ones and twos. Sixteen Birdathon teams and VBC also reported this species. Red-breasted Nuthatch was also seen statewide in small numbers, and there was some evidence of nesting. Four were seen at Lincoln 3/11 (CJF), 4 at Ripton 5/13 (JRA)



and 6 at Reading 5/20 (FMH,EJH). They were noted by many Birdathon teams. White-breasted Nuthatch was recorded in small numbers by almost all reporters. There were 3 at Dorset 3/5+28 and 4/17 (EFG), 3 at South Hero 4/9 (EMA,RDB) and 3 at Lincoln 5/13 (JRA). Most Birdathon teams and VBC also noted this species. Twelve observers reported Brown Creeper in small numbers, with the high count of 3 at Enosburg 3/4 (BD). Nine Birdathon teams located creepers. Only 2 sightings of Carolina Wren included 1 Birdathon report and 1 male singing at South Burlington 5/20-31 (EMA,RDB). House Wren was reported widely in small numbers. One was at Grand Isle 4/25, where DJH described them as "very common" in May, 1 at Bartonville 4/27 (TEJ) and 2 at Dorset 4/30 (EFG). For high counts 3 were at Manchester Ctr. 5/6+13 (BWP) and 3 at Springfield 5/12 (WME). There was

much evidence of nesting, and many Birdathon teams and VBC noted this species. Ten observers recorded Winter Wren in good numbers. Two March records of singing males at Woodstock 3/11+18 (KRT) and Weston 3/18 (CCR) may have been overwintering birds. There was 1 at Berkshire 4/10 (BD), 1 at Reading 4/12 (FMH,EJH), 1 at Ira 4/16 (EH), 2 at Middlebury 4/18 (JAP), 2 at Goshen 4/18 (SSW) and 2 at Wallingford 4/23 (SJD). Five were at L. Carmi State Park 4/27 (BD), 5 at Brandon 5/9 and 13 at Lincoln/Ripton 5/13 (JRA). The song of this wren brought it to the attention of 12 Birdathon teams. No Sedge Wren reports were received this spring season. Marsh Wren was common in proper habitat and was noted by many Birdathoners and VBC. Ten observers reported sightings, including 1 at DCWMA 4/23 (TGM) and 1 at Barton 4/24 (REG) – the early dates. Some high counts were 10 at DCWMA 5/20 (TSA), 6 at Newport 5/20 (PFW,SAW) and 8 at Alburg 5/29 (BD).

KINGLETS THROUGH THRUSHES

Observers had many sightings of Golden-crowned Kinglet, with high counts of 20 at Ferdinand 5/18 (BD), 11 at Brandon 4/13 (JAP) and 5 at Montpelier 4/3 (TSA). It was noted by 9 Birdathon teams. Ruby-crowned Kinglet was reported statewide as it went through in migration, primarily in April. Early reports included 3 at Lincoln 4/12 (JRA), 1 at Dorset 4/13 (EFG), 1 at Woodstock 4/17 (KRT) and 4 at L. Carmi 4/19 (BD). Some high counts were 15 at Georgia 4/26 (EMA,RDB), 8 at Bloomfield 5/23 (BD), 6 at Manchester Ctr. 4/28 (BWP) and 20 at Berlin 4/30 (TSA). Ten were banded at VINS in April and 6 Birdathon teams picked up this species at the end of the migration. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was reported by 7 observers, with early records of 1 at L. Carmi 4/25 (BD), 1 at Grafton 4/27 (TEJ) and 1 at Hartland 4/30 (CHD). One was at Berlin 5/12 (BWP) and 3 at Brandon at a nest site 5/18 (SSW). Seven Birdathon teams and VBC located this active species. A NORTHERN WHEATEAR was seen at Shelburne 5/23 (JMa). Almost all observers and many Birdathon teams reported Eastern Bluebird. One was at Dorset 3/2, with 4 there 3/4+7 (EFG), 3 at Pawlet 3/5 (GRB), 3 at Brandon 3/7

(SSW), 1 at Clarendon 3/12 (CJF) and 2 at S. Pomfret 3/13 (GAB), although these early sightings might have been of birds that had spent the winter in Vermont. There was much evidence of nesting. Veery was reported by most observers and noted by many Birdathon teams and VBC. This species seemed to be late in arriving, as the earliest record was 1 at Clarendon 5/9 (CJF) and the next not until 5/13, a date shared by many. Five were at Manchester Ctr. 5/13 (BWP), 7 at Reading 5/20 (FMH,EJH), 5 at Enosburg 5/13 (BD) and 7 were banded at VINS in May. VINS biologists recorded Bicknell's Thrush: 1 at Belvidere Mt. 5/16 (KPM,KML) and 3-4 on territory at Equinox Mt. 5/17 (CCR,KPM,KML). In addition there was 1 Gray-cheeked or Bicknell's Thrush at Winhall 5/24 (WJN). Only 5 observers reported Swainson's Thrush, with 1 at VINS 5/14 (KPM), 1 at Winhall 5/20 (WJN), 1 at Grand Isle 5/26 (DJH), 2 at Barton (LK) and 3 at Bloomfield 5/30 (BD). One was banded at VINS in May and 5 Birdathon teams noted this species. Most observers reported Hermit Thrush, and it was located by many Birdathon teams and VBC. One was at Woodstock 4/12 (JMN), 1 at Norwich 4/13 (CCR) and 2 at Woodstock 4/13 (KRT) for early dates, and high counts of 5 at Benson 5/13 (CJF) and 7 at Reading 5/27 (FMH,EJH). One was banded at VINS in May. Some observers commented that numbers appeared to be down. Wood Thrush was recorded by most observers and noted by many Birdathon teams and VBC. Some early dates were 1 at White River Junction 5/1 (CG), 1 at Dorset 5/3 (EFG), 1 at West Glover 5/2 (REG) and 1 at Rutland 5/4 (CJF). High counts were 8 at Danby 5/6 (CJF) and 9 at Reading 5/27 (FMH,EJH). VINS banded 3 in May. American Robin was widespread and common through the period, seen by almost all Birdathon teams and VBC. Eighteen were banded at VINS in April

and May. Some high counts were 50 at Brandon 3/7 (SSW), 140 at Dorset 4/12 (EFG) and 101 in the Lincoln area 5/13 (JRA). A male VARIED THRUSH was seen near feeders in E. Peacham 3/2-11 (DMM,CB;SWM).

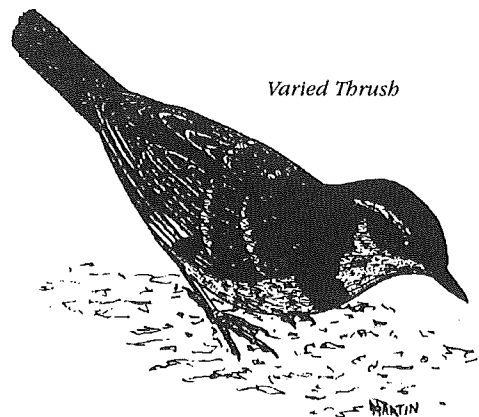
MIMIDS THROUGH VIREOS

Gray Catbird was reported by most observers, seen on many Birdathons and VBC, and 20 were banded at VINS in May. Early records included 1 at Westminster 4/30 (WJN), 1 at Dorset 5/1 (EFG), 1 at Middlebury 5/2 (JAP) and 1 at Addison 5/4 (REG). High counts were 10 at Westminster 5/14 (WJN) and 6 at Dorset 5/31 (EFG). Many observers reported Northern Mockingbird in ones and twos, and it was picked up by 10 Birdathon teams and VBC. Brown Thrasher was also widely reported in small numbers and was located by 17 Birdathon teams and VBC. One was at Woodstock 4/12 (KRT), 1 at Brandon 4/17 (SSW), 1 at Dorset 4/23 (EFG) and 2 at Middlebury 4/25 (JAP) for early dates. Two thrashers were banded at VINS. The only report of American Pipit for the season was of 1 bird at Bridport 5/9 (JAP). It's hard to determine whether this lack of reports indicates scarcity of pipits or lack of good coverage of likely habitat. Cedar Waxwing was widely reported in good numbers through the period. Early dates are not significant because so many overwinter. High counts were 75 at Weybridge 4/3 (MBN), 78 at Manchester Ctr. 4/3 (BWP), 65 at Middlebury 4/15 (JAP) and "several hundred" at Grand Isle 5/13 (DJH). Cedars were found by many Birdathon teams and VBC, and 35 were banded at VINS. Nine observers reported Northern Shrike, all early in the period. For late dates, 1 was at Bridport 3/28 (JAP) and 1 at Coventry 4/4+7 (REG). European Starling populations continue to expand. They were reported by all those who bothered to keep count, and some representative flocks were 300 at Addison 3/13, 100 at Milton 4/3 (EMA,RDB), 200 at Rockingham 4/1 (WJN) and 150 at Weybridge 4/4 (MBN). Many observers reported Solitary Vireo, a common woodland nester in Vermont, and it was found by 15 Birdathon teams and VBC. There were 4 singing at Woodstock 4/22 (KPM), 1 at Middlebury 4/23 (JAP) and 1 at Winhall 4/25 (WJN) for early records. Some high counts were 10 at Reading 5/17 (FMH,EJH) and

8 at Bristol 5/1 (JAP). One was banded at VINS. Yellow-throated Vireo was less common, reported by 8 observers and seen by 10 Birdathon teams and VBC. For early dates 1 was at Westminster 5/6 (SSW), 1 at Woodstock 5/8 (KPM), 1 at Cornwall 5/10 (JAP) and 1 at MNWR 5/11 (BD). The high count of 2 was at Leicester 5/28 (SSW). Most observers and half the Birdathon teams and VBC recorded Warbling Vireo, a common nester. One was at Hartland 5/2 (CHD), 1 at Westminster 5/6 (SSW) and 1 at Bridport 5/9 (JAP). The high count of 4 was at S. Londonderry 5/21 (WJN). Two were banded at VINS. Two Birdathon teams claimed Philadelphia Vireo, and the only other report was of 1 at Ripton 5/21 (MBN). On the other hand, Red-eyed Vireo was widespread and common in May. The early record was of 2 at Benson 5/7 (CJF), and some high counts were 8 at Lincoln 5/13 (JRA), 8 at Dorset 5/25 (EFG) and 17 at Reading 5/27 (FMH,EJH). This species was noted on many Birdathons and 1 was banded at VINS.

WARBLERS

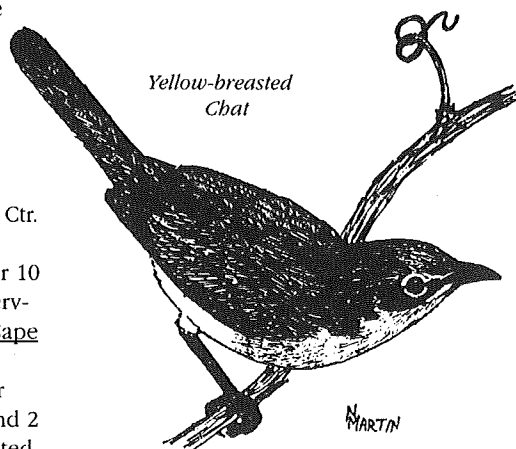
Blue-winged Warbler sightings were confined to 1 at Lincoln 5/13 (JRA), north of its usual range, and reports from 4 Birdathon teams. Five observers and 10 Birdathon teams reported Golden-winged Warbler, with 1 at Brandon 5/12+28 (SSW), 3 singing males at Ira 5/13 (RWP), 1 at Castleton 5/14 and 1 at Fletcher 5/27 (BD), 1 at Addison 5/16 and 2 at West Haven 5/24 (JAP) and 4 at Addison 5/20 (TGM). A Brewster's Warbler singing a Golden-winged song was at Brandon 5/28 (SSW), and 2 more were found by Birdathon teams. Tennessee Warbler was reported by 9 observers and noted by 4 Birdathon teams. One was at Castleton 5/14 (BD) and 1 at Lincoln 5/18 (JRA) for early dates. An amazing 60 at Bloomfield 5/23 (BD) was part of a major fall-out involving a number of different warbler species. An ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER, reported by a knowledgeable observer but without confirming details, was at Shoreham 5/20 (JMC). This warbler is seldom seen in the spring. Many observers reported Nashville Warbler, with early dates of 1 at Goshen 5/4 (SSW), 1 at Reading 5/4 (FMH,EJH) and 1 at DCWMA 5/5 (JRA). For a high count, 12 were at Bloomfield 5/23 (BD). Many Birdathon teams recorded this species and 2 were banded



Varied Thrush

at VINS in May. Eleven observers reported Northern Parula in small numbers, and it was found by 7 Birdathon teams. The early record was 1 at South Burlington 5/5 (BD), and there were 5 at Ferdinand 5/20 (REG) and 3 at Berlin 5/20 (TSA). Yellow Warbler was reported by many observers and was located by most Birdathon teams and VBC. For early records 1 was at Westminster 4/28 (AMD), 1 at Dorset 4/30 (EFG), 2 at Westminster 4/30 (WJN), 1 at Manchester Ctr. 5/1 (BWP) and 1 at Woodstock 5/3 (CRP). Some high counts were 5 at Westminster 5/6 (SSW), 10 at L. Carmi 5/13 (BD) and 7 at Newport 5/16 (PFW,SAW). Three were banded at VINS. Chestnut-sided Warbler was also widely reported and noted by most Birdathon teams and VBC. Eight were banded at VINS. One was at Westminster 5/6 (SSW) for the early date, and 12 were at Lincoln/Bristol 5/21 (JRA), 20 at Bloomfield 5/23 (BD) and 6 at Reading 5/23 (FMH,EJH). Twelve observers and many Birdathon teams reported Magnolia Warbler, with 8 banded at VINS in May. The earliest dates were very late, 2 at Manchester Ctr. 5/13 (BWP) and 3 at Castleton 5/14 (BD). Numbers were small except for 10 at Ferdinand 5/18 (BD). Only 5 observers and 2 Birdathon teams reported Cape May Warbler, with records of 1 at Coventry 5/10 (REG), 3 at Manchester Ctr. 5/13, with 6 there 5/18 (BWP), and 2 at Bloomfield 5/23 (BD). Black-throated Blue Warbler, a common woodland nester, was reported by many Birdathon teams and other observers. Early records included 1 at Berlin 5/6 (TSA) and 1 at Middlebury 5/6 (JAP). Some high counts were 6 at Manchester Ctr. 5/13, with 4 there 5/18 (BWP), 19 at Lincoln/Ripton 5/13 (JRA) and 10 at Reading 5/17 (FMH,EJH). Yellow-rumped Warbler was widely reported in good numbers, 25 were banded at VINS, and many Birdathon teams and VBC recorded this species. The early date was 1 at Pomfret 4/8 (KRT). High counts were 20 at Georgia 4/26 (EMA,RDB), 40 at Berlin 4/30 (TSA) and 12 at Stowe 5/10 (BWP). Black-throated Green Warbler was also commonly reported, seen on many Birdathons and VBC. Early arrivals were 1 at Proctor 4/29 (SSW) and 1 at Dorset 4/30 (EFG). High counts were 10 at Manchester Ctr. 5/13, with 4 there 5/18 (BWP), and 6 at Reading 5/17 (FMH,EJH). Another woodland nester, Blackburnian Warbler, was reported by many observers and recorded by many

Birdathon teams and VBC. The first sighting was 1 singing male at Goshen 5/9 (SSW), and 10 were at Brighton 5/18 (BD) and 4 at Middlebury 5/18 (JAP). Ten observers, 3 Birdathon teams and VBC reported Pine Warbler in small numbers. The earliest sighting was 1 at Georgia 4/19 (EMA,RDB), with 1 at Hartland 4/28 (CHD) and 1 at Randolph 4/28 (TSA). High counts of 4 were at South Burlington 5/6 (TGM) and at Middlebury 5/18 (JAP). The very few sightings of Prairie Warbler included 1 at Brandon 5/11+18 (SSW) and 3 Birdathon reports. Palm Warbler was reported by 7 observers and VBC. A very early record of 1 at Dorset 3/29 (EFG) was followed by 1 at Coventry 4/13. The high count of 5 was at Westminster 4/21 (KPM). Bay-breasted Warbler was reported by 8 Birdathon teams and 8 other observers in



very small numbers. Three were at Middlebury 5/18 (JAP), 2 at Goshen 5/18 (SSW), 2 at Reading 5/18 (FMH,EJH) and 2 at Enosburg 5/21 (BD). Five Birdathon teams and 9 other observers reported Blackpoll Warbler in small numbers. One was at S. Starksboro 5/16 (GB), 4 singing at the summit of Belvidere Mt. 5/16 (KPM,KML), and 1 at Woodstock 5/18 (KRT). This species is predictable and fairly common on its high elevation nesting territories but is becoming uncommon in migration through Vermont. Cerulean Warbler was found on 1 Birdathon, and 4 were at Castleton 5/14 (BD). One of our common nesting warblers, the Black-and-White Warbler was reported statewide and noted on most Birdathons and VBC. One was banded at VINS in May. For early records 1 was at Sudbury 4/27 (SSW), "several" at VINS 4/29 (CHD,KPM) and 1 at Bristol 4/29 (MBN). A high count of 8 was at Manchester Ctr. 5/6 (BWP) and 4

were at L. Carmi St. Park 5/13 (BD). American Redstart was reported by most observers and seen by many Birdathon teams. Redstarts were late in arriving this spring, with 3 at Brandon 5/10 (SSW) and 4 at MNWR 5/11 (BD). Some high counts were 15 at Manchester Ctr. 5/18 (BWP) and 15 at Lincoln/Bristol 5/29 (JRA). Ovenbird, a very common woodland nester and easily identified by its ringing song, was reported statewide and tallied by most Birdathon teams and VBC. Early arrivals were 1 at Lincoln 4/28 (JRA) and 1 at Bethel 4/29 (DP); there were 6 at Bristol 5/30 (JAP), and JRA hit the "mother lode" with 54 at Lincoln/Ripton 5/13. Five were banded at VINS. Northern Waterthrush was reported by many observers and recorded by 15 Birdathon teams, while 2 were banded at VINS. There were early reports of 1 at MNWR 4/30 (TGM), 1 at Berlin Pond 4/30 (TSA) and 2 at Peru 5/4 (WJN). Some high counts were 10 at Cornwall 5/10 (JAP), 10 at MNWR 5/11 (BD) and 8 at Lefferts Pond 5/20 (RWP). Only 6 observers reported Louisiana Waterthrush, and it was recorded by 6 Birdathon teams and VBC. The early sighting was of 1 singing at Hartland 4/18 (KPM), and high counts were 4 at Bristol 5/1 (JAP) and 3 at Brandon 5/1 (SSW). Seven Birdathon teams and 8 other observers recorded Mourning Warbler, with early dates of 2 at Manchester Ctr. 5/18 (BWP) and 1 at Reading 5/20 (FMH,EJH), and a high count of 3 at Fletcher 5/27 (BD). One was banded at VINS. Common Yellowthroat was widely reported in good numbers, recorded by most Birdathon teams and VBC. One was at ABM, Westminster 4/28 (AMD) and 1 at Manchester Ctr. 5/6 (BWP) for early dates. High counts were 8 at Lincoln 5/22 (JRA), 11 at Dorset 5/22 (EFG) and 10 at Bloomfield 5/23 (BD), part of the big fall-out. Nine were banded at VINS. Wilson's Warbler was reported by 4 observers and 5 Birdathon teams. One was at VINS 5/18 (CHD), 1 at Hinesburg 5/19 (TGM), 2 at Barton 5/20 (REG) and 3 at Bloomfield 5/23, with 1 still there 5/30 (BD). Nine observers and 14 Birdathon teams recorded Canada Warbler in very small numbers. Early dates were 1 at S. Starksboro 5/17 (MRP) and 1 at Middlebury 5/18, with the high count of 3 at Berlin 5/20 (TSA). A rare YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT was thoroughly studied at Enosburg Falls from 5/25 through the period (BD et al.).

TANAGER THROUGH SNOW BUNTING

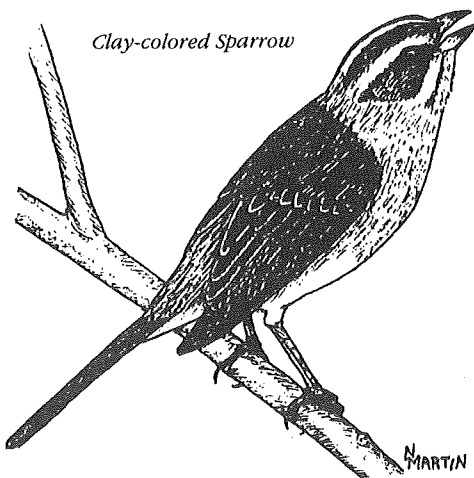
Scarlet Tanager was reported by 13 observers, many Birdathon teams and VBC. There were no early dates, but 1 was at Ripton 5/13 (JRA), 1 at S. Starksboro 5/13 (MRP), 4 at Castleton 5/14 (BD) and 5 at Reading 5/16, with 9 there 5/20 (FMH,EJH). Northern Cardinal was also commonly reported through the period, seen on most Birdathons and VBC. Some high counts were 6 at Middlebury 3/1 (JAP), 6 at Dorset 3/5, 4/9+29, with 5 there 5/31 (EFG), and 10 at ABM 5/14 (WJN). Many observers, Birdathon teams and VBC recorded Rose-breasted Grosbeak, and 4 were banded at VINS. Early reports were 1 at Westminster 4/30 (AMD) and 1 at Reading 5/5 (FMH,EJH), and high counts were 20 at Lincoln/Ripton 5/13 (JRA), 13 at Reading 5/20 (FMH,EJH) and 7 at Westminster 5/17 (AMD). Indigo Bunting was reported by 6 observers and recorded by several Birdathon teams. One was at South Royalton 4/23 (CEJ), 1 at Reading 5/15 (FMH,EJH) and 1 at Woodstock 5/18 (CHD) for early dates. High counts were 3 at Dorset 5/21 (EFG) and 3 at West Haven 5/24 (JAP). A singing male DICKCISSEL was found at the Bridport/Addison town line 5/20 (KJB,SJ) and was seen by many through the remainder of the period. Rufous-sided Towhee was well documented, with 10 observers reporting as well as 16 Birdathon teams and VBC. A very early record was of 1 at Berlin 4/8 (TSA), with 2 at Brandon 5/12 (SSW) and 1 at Dorset 4/28 (EFG). For the high count 6 were at Brandon 5/12 (SSW). American Tree Sparrow was present in substantial numbers in March, and by the end of April was largely gone from the area. Ten were at Middlebury 3/1 (JAP), 15 at

Woodstock 3/3 (BWP), 15 at Norwich 3/18 (CCR) and 17 at Sheffield 4/5 (PFW,SAW). A very late record was of 5 at Coventry 5/20 (REG). As tree sparrows moved out, Chipping Sparrow moved in statewide in good numbers. One was at Manchester Ctr. 4/11 (BWP) and 1 at Dorset 4/14 (EFG) for early dates, and some high counts were 8 at Manchester Ctr. 4/28 (BWP), 13 at Dorset 4/30 (EFG) and 19 at Lincoln/Ripton 5/13 (JRA). Many Birdathons and VBC noted this species. A singing male CLAY-COLORED SPARROW attracted the attention of EFG at Pratt's Store, Bridport 5/27. It remained until the end of the period and was seen by many observers. Thirteen observers, many Birdathon teams and VBC recorded Field Sparrow, and 3 were banded at VINS. Early reports were 1 at Grand Isle 3/28 (RBL), 1 at Lincoln 4/16 (JRA) and 2 at Grand Isle 4/17 (DJH). There were no higher counts. Vesper Sparrow was identified by 7 observers and 7 Birdathon teams, with 1 at Panton 4/17 (BD), 1 at Woodstock 4/20 (KRT,KPM) and 5 at Bridport 4/21 (JAP) the early dates. Other high counts were 4 at Panton 5/13 (TGM) and 3 at Addison 5/5 (JAP). Savannah Sparrow, a common nester in agricultural grassland, was reported by most observers, many Birdathon teams and VBC. These sparrows are now overwintering in small numbers but regularly in the Champlain Valley, thus the early records of 1 at Bridport 3/5 (JAP) and 1 at DCWMA 3/29 (REG). Arriving migrants were seen beginning in mid-April. Some high counts were 4 at Ferrisburgh 4/17 (TGM), 4 at DCWMA 5/5 (JRA), 5 at Bridport 5/30 (JAP) and 5 at Bridport/Addison 5/31 (SSW). One was banded at VINS. Only 3 observers and 5 Birdathon teams reported Grasshopper Sparrow and 1 was banded at VINS in May. One was heard singing at Bristol 5/13 (JRA), 2 at Panton 5/13 (TGM), and 2 at Addison and 1 at Panton 5/29 (BD). Only 3 observers reported Fox Sparrow, an early record of 1 at Reading 3/17, seen twice more until 4/6 (FMH,EJH), 2 at Pomfret 3/19 (KRT), 4 at Dorset 3/28, seen 3 times more until 4/2 (EFG), and 2 at Brandon 4/7 (SSW). Most observers, Birdathon teams and VBC reported Song Sparrow, another case where an early date could indicate either a new arrival or an overwintering bird. Representative high counts were 8 at Brandon 3/20 (SSW), 12 at Dorset 4/9 (EFG), 8 at Manchester Ctr. 5/6 (BWP) and 22 in the Lincoln area 5/13 (JRA). Several

reporters called them "abundant". Five were banded at VINS. Five observers and 5 Birdathon teams reported Lincoln's Sparrow and 1 was banded at VINS. One was at S. Londonderry 5/9 for the early record (WJN), and the high count was 3 at Bloomfield 5/23 (BD) with the fall-out of warblers. Most observers, many Birdathon teams and VBC recorded Swamp Sparrow, and 6 were banded at VINS. A very early sighting was of 1 at Dorset 4/1 (EFG), and 3 were at Berkshire 4/20 (BD), 3 at Lincoln 4/28 (JRA), 4 at Dorset 5/16 (EFG) and 5 at West Rutland/Brandon 5/18 (SSW). The plaintive whistle of White-throated Sparrow proclaimed it to most observers, Birdathon teams and VBC. Three March sightings at feeders were probably overwintering birds, and then 2 were at Montpelier 4/9 (TSA) and 2 at Brandon 4/17 (SSW). For high counts 8 were at Reading 4/27 (FMH,EJH), 6 at Manchester Ctr. 4/28 (BWP) and 40 in the Lincoln area 5/13 (JRA). Six were banded at VINS. White-crowned Sparrow was reported by many observers, Birdathon teams and VBC, and 1 was banded at VINS. Several early records included 1 at Woodstock 4/19 (KRT), 1 at Montpelier 4/28 (TSA) and 1 at Weybridge 4/30 (MBN). For high counts there were 8 on 5/18 at Brandon (SSW) and Grand Isle (DJH). Dark-eyed Junco arrived in most parts of the state in good numbers. Some high counts were 16 at Barnard 3/6 (JNF), 20 at S. Londonderry 4/11 (WJN), 37 at Reading 4/13 (FMH,EJH), 50 at Sheffield 4/16 (PFW,SAW) and 50 at Middlebury 4/18 (JAP). They were seen on many Birdathons and VBC, and 1 was banded at VINS. The only report of Lapland Longspur was of 2 at Addison 3/1 (JAP). Nine observers recorded Snow Bunting in March, the latest sighting of 3 at Addison 3/13 (EMA,RDB). There were 75 at Sudbury 3/10 (SSW), 500 at Swanton 3/4 (BD) and 3,165 at Bridport 3/1, including 1 rolling flock of about 3,000 (JAP).

BLACKBIRDS

Bobolink was commonly reported in May, with good numbers in the Champlain Valley. It was seen by many Birdathon teams and VBC. The early record was 1 at Addison 5/4 (REG), and there were high counts of 12 at Franklin 5/13 (BD) and 16 at Bridport 5/22 (JAP). Red-winged Blackbird was commonly reported statewide and was seen on most



Clay-colored Sparrow

Birdathons and VBC. Some rather late first sightings were 3 at Grand Isle 3/6 (DJH), 1 at W. Woodstock 3/6 (IL) and 1 at Rockingham 3/7 (CHD). High counts were 250 at Leicester 3/14 (JAP), 100 at ABM 4/1 (WJN) and 150 at Ferrisburgh 4/7 (MBN). Most observers reported Eastern Meadowlark, and it was noted on many Birdathons and VBC. For early dates 3 were at Brandon 3/18 (SSW), 3 at Grand Isle 3/19 (DJH), 3 at Addison 3/21 (TGM) and 1 at Weybridge 3/24 (MBN). For high counts 5 were at Bridport 4/21 (JAP) and 5 at Addison 5/4 (REG). Three Birdathon teams and 7 other observers reported Rusty Blackbird, with the early sighting of 1 at S. Londonderry 3/20 (WJN) and the high count of 12 at MCWMA 4/2 (BD). Common Grackle was reported as common statewide, seen by most Birdathon teams and VBC. On 3/8 there were 2 at Brandon (SSW), 90 at Weybridge (MBN), 6 at Woodstock (CRP) and 3 at S. Londonderry (WJN). Some of the larger flocks were 150 at Weybridge 3/16 (MBN), 50 at Milton 4/9 (EMA,RDB) and 27 at Ripton 5/13 (JRA). Almost everyone reported Brown-headed Cowbird, which has become common statewide. There was 1 at Woodstock 3/8 (CRP) and 1 at Weybridge 3/8 (MBN), 70 at Manchester Ctr. 4/4 (BWP) and 250 at White River Junction 4/12 (BRJ). Three Birdathon teams knew where to find Orchard Oriole, but there were no other reports. Northern Oriole returned on schedule, and was noted by most Birdathon teams and VBC. One was at Addison 5/5 (BD), 1 at Middlebury 5/6 (JAP) and 2 at Springfield 5/6 (SSW) for early dates. Some high counts were 7 at ABM 5/21 (WJN), 4 at Enosburg 5/28 (BD) and 5 at Manchester Ctr. 5/18 (BWP). Eleven were banded at VINS.

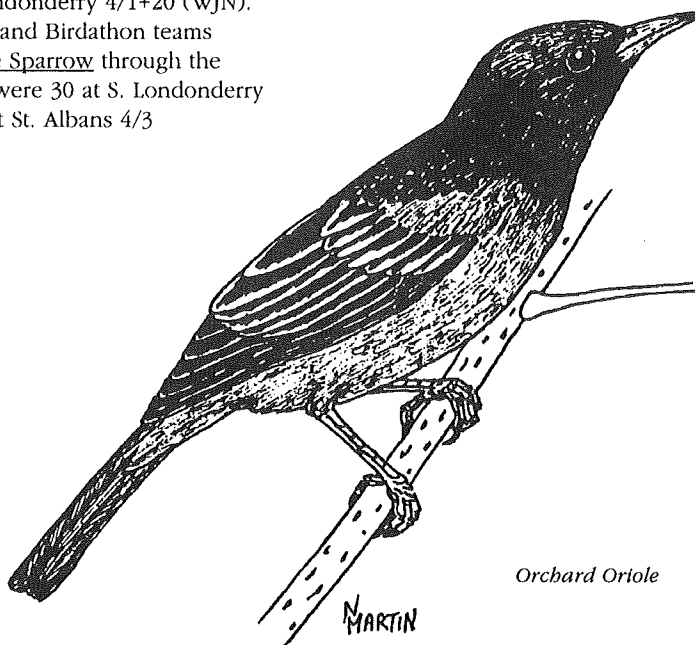
FINCHES AND HOUSE SPARROW

The only report of Pine Grosbeak was a flock of 6 at W. Glover (LK). There were many sightings of Purple Finch, including Birdathon reports. Some representative flocks were 6 at Berkshire 3/6, with 12 there 3/7 (BD), 14 at Reading 4/6 (FMH,EJH) and 6 at Sheffield 3/16 (PFW,SAW). Three were banded at VINS. House Finch was also seen by most observers, Birdathon teams and VBC. The flocks were generally small except for 125 at Middlebury 3/1 (JAP). Two were banded at VINS. Five

observers and 2 Birdathon teams reported Red Crossbill. Sixteen were at Elmore 3/1 (MS), 1 at Ripton 4/3 (WBK), 18 at Berlin 5/6 (TSA), 3 at Rochester 5/20 and 20 at Goshen 5/26 (SSW) and 1 at Eden (LK). White-winged Crossbill was reported by 10 observers and 2 Birdathon teams. A nest with newly-hatched chicks was found at Canaan 3/11 (CW), up to 4 birds were at W. Glover 3/11-12+27 (REG), up to 13 at Sheffield early March to mid-April (PFW,SAW), 12 at Franklin 4/25 and 6 at Ferdinand 5/23 (BD), 1 at Peru 4/27 (WJN) "gathering nesting material" and 1 at Victory Bog 5/17 (TGM). The only Common Redpoll report was a sighting of 3 at Troy (LK) - no date or details. Pine Siskin was present through the period in good numbers and was seen by many Birdathon teams. Six were banded at VINS. Some high counts were 50-75 at Mt. Ascutney 3/5 (KPM), 35 at Woodstock 3/7 (JMN), "hundreds" at Manchester 3/17 (NS), 35 at Franklin 5/13 (BD) and 30 at Victory Bog 5/17 (TGM). Most observers, Birdathon teams and VBC reported American Goldfinch through the period. Some of the high counts were 300 at Westminster 3/6 (BWP), 100 at Berkshire 3/6 (BD) and 75 at Weybridge 3/7 (MBN). An albino goldfinch was at a feeder in Putney 3/31 (MJF). A European Goldfinch, origin unknown, came to a feeder at Grand Isle 5/3 (JM). Twenty-one Birdathon teams and many other observers reported Evening Grosbeak through the period, with a high count of 69 at W. Glover 3/1 (REG), 15 at Reading 5/5+17 (FMH,EJH) and 10 at S. Londonderry 4/1+20 (WJN). Most observers and Birdathon teams recorded House Sparrow through the period. There were 30 at S. Londonderry (WJN) and 25 at St. Albans 4/3 (EMA,RDB).

ABBREVIATIONS

ad.	adult
yg.	young
m.	male
f.	female
pr.	Pair
I.	island
Pd.	Pond
L.	Lake
Mt.	Mountain
VINS	Vermont Institute of Natural Science, Woodstock
DCWMA	Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, Addison and Panton
MNWR	Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge, Swanton
MCWMA	Mud Creek Wildlife Management Area, Alburg
WRM	West Rutland Marsh
ABM	Allen Brothers Marsh, Springfield
VBC	Vermont Bird Conference, Brattleboro 5/6



Orchard Oriole

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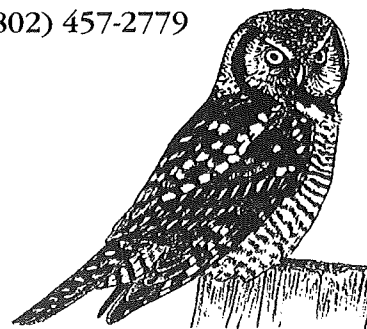
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Special thanks to all Birdathon participants and hawk watchers.

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