



RECORDS OF VERMONT BIRDS

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1 March–31 May

Judith A. Peterson, Seasonal Editor

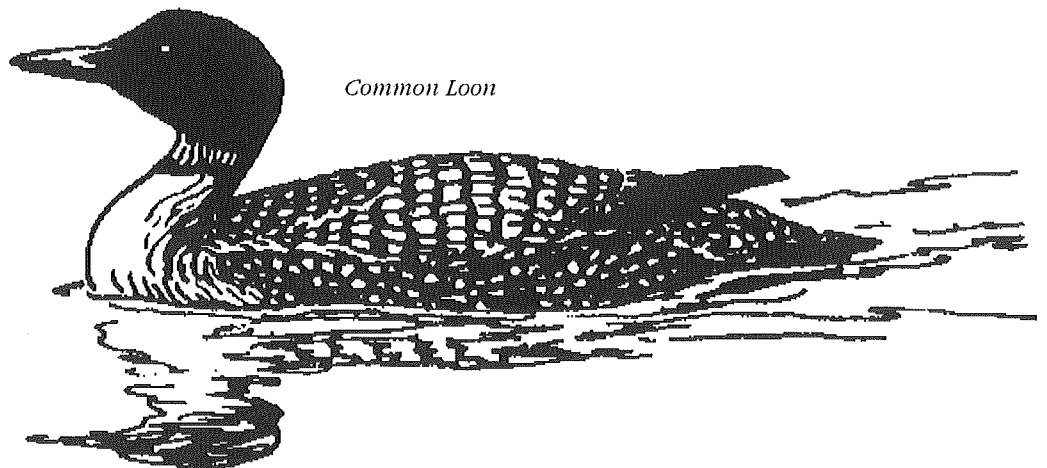
The Spring of 1996 started out cold and wet with snowstorms continuing well into April, especially in the mountains. Lake Champlain and its tributary rivers and marshes kept receiving rain and meltwater from the snowpack much later than usual, leaving fields flooded well into May and a lake level at or near flood stage through the period. Returning waterfowl, held up somewhat by the cold and snow, found ample feeding areas when they arrived, and were encouraged by cool weather to delay further migration until May. Despite the cool temperatures, the songbird migration came in on time. Even though Vermont did not experience the major fallout that occurred along the New England coast on the weekends of May 11-12 and May 18-19, it was the recipient of the subsequent push of those birds inland. Birdathon teams in the field on May 18 had the good fortune to find a combination of late-staying waterfowl and a wave of migrant songbirds, boosting counts for many participants by ten species or more.

Many of the rarities this spring were waterfowl – TUNDRA SWAN, GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE, COMMON EIDER, HARLEQUIN DUCK and 3 EURASIAN WIGEON – reflecting the flooded conditions, the extended migration season and good coverage by birders. Perhaps the same front that dropped migrants on the coast May 11 shook things up here as well. Imagine the astonishment of the birders on May 11 who came across a CASPIAN TERN, 2 Common Terns, 6 Bonaparte's Gulls, 7 Common Loons and Ring-billed and Herring Gulls high in the Green Mountains at Kent Pond in Sherburne. A Black Tern seen there the next day

completed the picture. Interest in birds in Vermont was enhanced by an invasion of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks that appeared at people's feeders and struck a spark with many. Two BLUE GROSBEAKS were perhaps to be expected as part of such an impressive movement. Other rarities for the period included GOLDEN EAGLE, WILLET, VARIED THRUSH, YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT and CLAY-COLORED SPARROW.

LOONS THROUGH IBISES

Three reports of Red-throated Loon were to be expected as this species now appears regularly in spring. One was at the Champlain Bridge, Addison 4/21 (SSW), 1 at the Marshfield Dam 4/27 (LNM) and 1 at Shelburne Bay 5/30 (TGM), all apparently in basic plumage. There were many sightings of Common Loon on lakes statewide, the first, 2 birds, at Grand Isle 4/13 (DJH) and high counts of 7 at Kent Pond, Sherburne 5/11 (JMN), and 6 at Grand Isle 4/29 (DJH). Eleven were seen at Castleton 5/11 (WGE,NLM). Only 2 Birdathon teams recorded Pied-billed Grebe, but it was widely reported earlier in migration. Early sightings were 1 at South Hero 3/27 (FO,WS) and 2 at Shoreham 3/31 (FAP,EBP). Three were at Shelburne Pond 4/14 (EMA,RDB) and 3 at Coventry 4/27 (REG,OAG). There were very few reports of Horned Grebe: 2 birds at Addison 3/28-29 (TGM,JO), 2 at Alburg and 1 at North Hero 4/17 (DLC), 1 at Bridport 4/18 (MBN), 2 at Grand Isle 4/22 (DJH) and 1 at Castleton 5/11 (WGE,NLM). More sightings of Red-necked Grebe included 2 at Grand Isle 4/5 (DJH), 3 there 4/6 (FAP,EBP;TGM), 1 at Addison 4/6 (ATA) and 4 at Berlin Pond 5/12 (BMP). Three Birdathon teams noted this species. Double-crested Cormorant numbers exploded as spring migration began in late March, with 1 at Panton 3/23 (CJP), then up to 10 at Grand Isle 3/31 (EMA,RDB;DJH) and 400 at Shelburne Bay 5/26 (TGM). No numbers were assigned to the large nesting colonies on Young and Bixby



Common Loon

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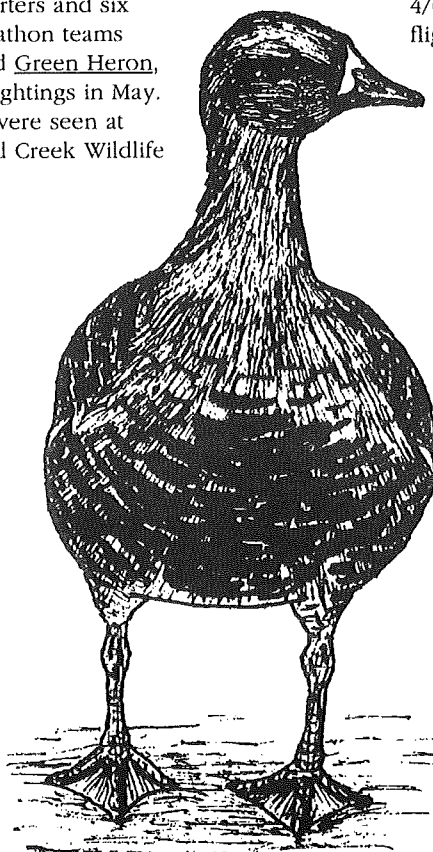
is published quarterly by the Vermont Institute of Natural Science. A one-year subscription is \$10. Contributors are advised to send accounts of rare or unusual bird sightings to VINS as soon as possible, or to call the Vermont Bird Alert (802-457-2779). Regional summaries of bird sightings are due to VINS promptly at the end of each season. Sighting cards are available from the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, RR2 Box 532, Woodstock, VT 05091, or by calling (802) 457-2779.

Islands. Other lakes around the state supported smaller colonies. American Bittern was reported by 12 observers and was seen by about half the Birdathon teams. Early sightings were of 1 at Grand Isle (DJH), 1 at Newport (PFW,SAW) and 2 at Woodstock (CRP), all on 4/21. There were no reports of larger numbers. One Least Bittern was reported at the West Rutland Marsh (hereafter WRM) 5/19 (TGM) and 2 Birdathon teams also noted what may have been this same individual. Great Blue Heron was reported statewide by most observers. Early sightings were 3 at Manchester Center 3/12 (BWP), 4 at Grand Isle 3/25 (DJH) and 2 at Woodstock 3/26 (CRP). Most Birdathon teams recorded this species. An established heron rookery in Benson contained 25 nests, 9 with fresh material and 8 with sitting birds 5/7 (RWP). Great Egret sightings were limited to 1 bird at East Creek, Orwell 4/13 (JAP), perhaps the same individual seen there 5/7 (RWP), and 1 at Grand Isle 5/1 (DJH). Snowy Egret was just as scarce; the only report being a single bird at City Bay, North Hero 5/18,20 (TGM,MSL), also seen by one Birdathon team. There were 3 reports of Cattle Egret, 1 at Sudbury 4/21 (ATA), 2 at Grand Isle 5/5, with 1 there 5/20 (DJH), and 6 at Shelburne Farms 5/26 (TGM). Ten reporters and six Birdathon teams listed Green Heron, all sightings in May. Six were seen at Dead Creek Wildlife

Management Area (hereafter DCWMA) 5/11 (MBN) for the early date and greatest number. There were 10 reports of Black-crowned Night-Heron, the earliest being 1 at Colchester 4/16 (EMA,RDB). Several observers recorded up to 6 birds at the Briley Dam, DCWMA 5/11-23 (EKL,FAP,EBP,SSW,TGM) and eight Birdathon teams located this species. An unusual sighting was a bird in North Bennington 5/18 (BCD). A Glossy Ibis was seen at Grand Isle 4/25 (DJH) and another was found in the Burlington Intervale 5/2 (GL).

WATERFOWL

A TUNDRA SWAN was sighted on a farm pond in Middlebury, where it stayed for several days 4/7-11 (JAP,ATF,RJE,MBN). One Mute Swan was reported at the Champlain Bridge, Addison 3/24 (JRA;mult. observers), and 4 were at Ferrisburgh 4/5 (DLC). Another group of up to 7 birds, including a nesting pair, was seen at East Creek, Orwell 5/10-18, by many observers and several Birdathon teams. A GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE, Greenland race, was discovered in Springfield 5/11-12 (GEH,DHC,EE,HSP). Snow Goose was common statewide in migration; the biggest push came 3/30-4/6. DJH reported a massive all-day flight over Grand Isle 3/31, and EMA and RDB counted 50,000 or more over the Charlotte Town Beach the same day. Some of these birds apparently staged in a field in Alburg Springs, where 20,000 were estimated 4/6 (TGM,FAP,EBP). A few snows lingered through the end of May and were counted by several Birdathon teams. There were only 4 reports of Brant: 1 on the Connecticut River 4/27 (LNM), 2 at Castleton 5/11 (WGE,NLM), 1 at Sherburne 5/12 (BRJ,JMN) and a flock of 35 at Grand Isle 5/23 (DJH). Canada Goose was widely reported through the period and was seen by most Birdathon teams. There were many records of nesting birds. DJH noted a major flight at Grand Isle 3/25-26, and on 3/31 up to 2000 were at DCWMA (MBN,NAB) and 500 at Herrick's Cove, Rockingham (WJN). Many observers and



Greater White-fronted Goose

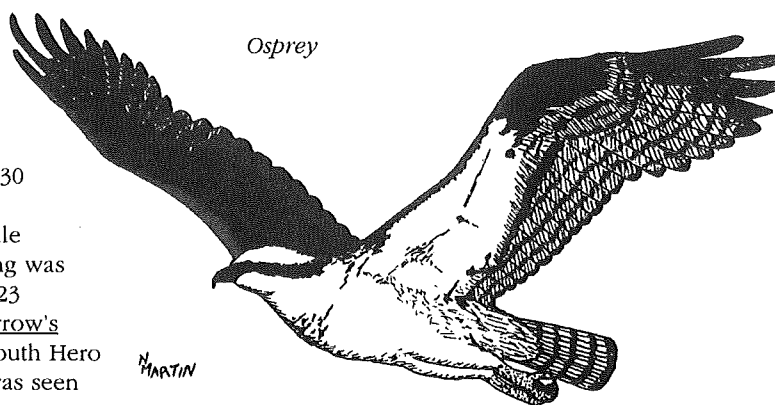
Birdathon teams reported Wood Duck, an increasingly common nester throughout the state. A pair at Westminster 3/25 (AMD) was the early record, and high counts were 20 at Springfield 3/31 (WJN), 30 at Sudbury 4/21 (ATA) and 22 at Orwell 5/7 (RWP). Green-winged Teal was widely reported, with the early record being 2 at Panton 3/17 (FAP,EBP); high counts were 20 at DCWMA 4/23 (SSW), 32 at Coventry 4/27 (REG,OAG) and 28 at Newport 5/5 (PFW,SAW). American Black Duck moved through in good numbers and there was evidence of nesting by the resident population. Two were at Danby 3/1 (NAB) for the early record, and there were high counts of 50 at South Burlington 3/10 (FAP,EBP), 70 at Grand Isle 4/5 (DJH) and 120 at Richmond 4/11 (TGM). Many Birdathon teams recorded this species. Mallard was reported as widespread and common, and was counted by most Birdathon teams. Some high counts were 250 at Grand Isle 4/5 (DJH), 380 at Richmond 4/11 (TGM) and 200 at Springfield 4/20 (JMN). Northern Pintail was a common early migrant. Two were at the Grand Isle Ferry 3/1 (TGM) and there were high counts of 56 at Grand Isle 3/25 (DJH), up to 200 at Ferrisburgh 3/28 (JO) and 32 at Panton 4/14 (TGM). Many reporters and Birdathon teams recorded Blue-winged Teal, but only in small numbers. Three pairs were observed at East Creek, Orwell 5/7 (RWP), 5 birds were at Newport 5/17 (PFW,SAW), 4 at Coventry 5/5 (EKL) and 4 at Weybridge 4/6 (SSW). Four Birdathon teams reported Northern Shoveler. In addition there was 1 at South Hero 3/31 (TGM) for the early date, 2 at Panton and 4 at Addison 4/5 (DLC), 2 at Rutland 4/14 (CJF) and 2 at Addison 5/10 (FAP,EBP). Gadwall was reported by 11 observers and a few Birdathon teams. Two were at South Hero 3/18-20 (FAP,EBP;TGM) for the early date, and 35 were at Grand Isle 4/5 (DJH) for the high count. There were 3 sightings of EURASIAN WIGEON, 1 male off Colchester near the railroad causeway 3/20 (TGM) and 2 males there 3/28, 1 likely the same individual as was seen 3/20 (TGM,SWM). The third sighting was of a male at Grand Isle 4/5-9 (DJH). Ten observers reported American Wigeon; 30 at Grand Isle 4/9 (DJH), 8 at DCWMA 4/13 (JRA) and 8 at Coventry 5/7 (REG,OAG). Canvasback was seen at Grand Isle,

with 1 there 4/1, 2 on 4/9 and 4 on 4/12-15 (DJH). A pair was at Addison 3/28 (JO) and 1 female was at South Hero 3/30 (TGM). Two Redhead drakes were at the South Hero railroad causeway 3/17-25 (TGM;FAP,EBP;JO) and a pair was at Springfield Meadows 4/28 (WJN). Ring-necked Duck was reported in good numbers statewide, with large flocks in northern Lake Champlain. There were 130 at South Hero 3/31 (TGM), and on 4/6 there were 125 at South Hero, 130 at Alburg Springs, 210 at Swanton (TGM,FAP,EBP) and 250 at Grand Isle 4/11 (DJH). Greater Scaup was reported by a few observers, with 42 at South Hero 4/1 (DJH) being the high count and 4 at Rockingham 3/31, 4/6 (WJN). Lesser Scaup was more widely reported: 12 at Newport 5/5 (PFW,SAW), 5 at DCWMA 4/13 (JRA) and 20 at Addison 3/31 (NAB). A mixed flock of 175 scaup, mostly greater, was at South Hero 4/6 (TGM,FAP,EBP). A female COMMON EIDER was seen in the southwest corner of Shelburne Bay 5/29 (TGM,PK). A female HARLEQUIN DUCK was observed at the Charlotte Town Beach 3/21 (TGM). A pair of Oldsquaw was at Grand Isle 4/9, and 1 was seen there 4/22 and another on 5/17 (DJH). There were 3 at Shoreham 4/25 (ATA), 1 at Addison 4/18 and 2 at Shelburne Bay 4/15-18 (DLC), and in late May 1 was in Panton 5/22 (SSW,JAP), 1 in Shelburne Bay and 1 at Burlington 5/22-30 (TGM). Larger groups were 12 at Marshfield Dam 4/27 (LNM) and 8 at East Barnard 4/14 (KRT). Two Surf Scoter were seen at South Burlington 4/18 (DLC). Four reports of White-winged Scoter included 1 at South Burlington and 8 at Ferrisburgh 4/18 (DLC), 1 at Ferrisburgh 5/18 (BPG,LB), 1 at Bridport 5/18 (SSW) and 3 at West Glover 5/24 (REG,OAG). Common Goldeneye was reported in good numbers especially from Lake Champlain. Five hundred were at South Hero 3/20-22 (TGM;SSW), 62 at Addison 3/24 (JRA), 300 at Grand Isle 3/26 (DJH) and 30 at Milton 3/31 (EMA,RDB). A female with 10 downy young was in Shelburne Bay 5/23 (TGM). A drake Barrow's Goldeneye was at South Hero 3/28 and a female was seen

there 3/31 in courtship display with a drake Common Goldeneye (TGM). A pair of Barrow's was at Grand Isle 4/16 (DJH). Many reports of Bufflehead came from around the state. Eight were at Orwell 3/31 (NAB), 12 at Charlotte 4/6 (CJF), 12 at Grand Isle 4/18 (DJH) and 15 at Shelburne 5/2 (TGM). There were many sightings of Hooded Merganser, a locally common nester. Six were on the Winooski River at Essex Jct., 3/9 (TGM), 14 at Addison 3/24 (JRA), 6 at Swanton 3/28 (DLC), 30 at Rockingham 3/31 (WJN), 18 at Shoreham 3/31 (FAP,EBP) and 15 at Bridport 3/31 (MBN). A female with 7 young in Ferrisburgh 5/18 (JAP) was one of several Birdathon records. Many observers reported Common Merganser on lakes statewide. Nineteen were at Waterbury Reservoir 4/13 and 25 at Newport 5/5 (EKL), 100 were at Grand Isle 3/26 (DJH), 46 at Champlain Bridge, Addison 3/17 (FAP,EBP,JRA), and 200 were there 3/31 (NAB). Many Birdathon teams noted this species. There were fewer sightings and smaller numbers of Red-breasted Merganser. Ten were at South Hero 4/6 (TGM,FAP,EBP), 5 at Ferrisburgh 4/13 (DLC) and 7 at Grand Isle 4/22 (DJH). The only report of Ruddy Duck was of 10 at South Burlington 4/18 (DLC).

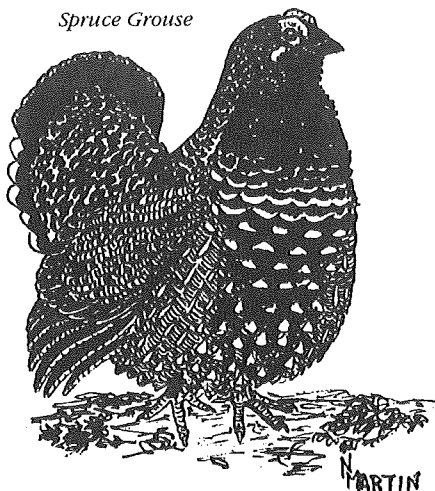
RAPTORS

Most observers and Birdathon teams recorded Turkey Vulture, and 31 were seen at hawk watch sites. Early sightings were 1 at Bethel 3/15 (ATA) and 1 at Brandon 3/17 (EMA,RDB); 41 were at Georgia 3/31 (EMA,RDB) for the high count. Osprey was reported by many observers and picked up by Birdathoners who found them at platform nest sites in Ferrisburgh and other nesting locations. Fourteen were seen on hawk watches. For early dates,



3 were at Ferrisburgh 4/13 (DLC), 1 at North Hartland 4/16 (KPM) and 1 at Grand Isle 4/18 (DJH). The high count was 7 at L. Carmi State Park 4/27 (EKL). Eighteen reporters and 2 Birdathon teams recorded Bald Eagle during the period, starting with 1 at South Hero 3/1 (TGM), 1 at Morrisville 3/1 (NAS) and 2 at Pantton 3/2 (SO,NO). A group of 9 immatures was seen on the ice of Lake Champlain at Pantton 4/8 (SSW,JAP), and 3 were seen at hawk watch sites. Northern Harrier was reported by many observers and Birdathon teams. This species often overwinters in the Champlain Valley, so a sighting of a female at DCWMA, Pantton 3/2 (SO,NO), was to be expected. There were 2 reports of pairs in courtship display and a pair at a Grand Isle nest site 5/17 (DJH). The high count was 5 at DCWMA, all females, 4/21 (ATA) and 29 were seen on hawk watches. Eleven observers and two Birdathon teams reported Sharp-shinned Hawk, a frequent "feeder bird." There were 95 seen at hawk watch sites, but all other sightings were of single birds. There were about the same number of Cooper's Hawk reports. This species, supposedly much less common than the sharp-shinned, appears to be doing surprisingly well. Again all reports were of single birds except for a confirmed nesting at Danby 5/30 (NAB). Sixteen were seen by hawk watchers. One Birdathoner located Northern Goshawk, and 2 were seen at hawk watches. In addition 1 was at Grand Isle 3/17,5/23 (DJH), 1 perched on a barn at Pawlet 3/29,4/3 (GRB) and a female was at Belvidere 5/11 (DLC). Red-shouldered Hawk was reported by four hawk watchers, one Birdathon team and seven other observers. All were single sightings except for 2 at

Spruce Grouse



Tunbridge 4/23 (ATA) with the notation that the birds remained to nest. There were many reports of Broad-winged Hawk and it was seen on several Birdathons. One was at Grand Isle 3/28 (DJH) and 1 at Leicester 4/11 (SSW) for early dates. Five were at Underhill 4/27 (DLC), 3 at Hinesburg and 3 at South Burlington 4/21 (EMA,RDB) and 2 nested at Tunbridge 4/20 through end of period (ATA). Hawk watchers reported 215 in migration. The common resident Red-tailed Hawk was recorded statewide through the period. Four were at Pantton 3/11 (EMA,RDB), 4 at DCWMA, Addison 4/13 (JRA), 10 on a Charlotte to Salisbury trip 3/23 (CJF) and 1 at Leicester on a nest 5/30 (SSW). Hawk watchers saw 325 red-tails in migration. Rough-legged Hawk was reported by 12 observers early in the period. Some high counts were 4 at North Hero 3/9-10 (FAP,EBP,TGM) and 6 at Pantton/Addison 3/17 (FAP,EBP). By far the latest record was a dark morph bird at DCWMA, Addison 5/7 (RWP). Four were seen at hawk watch sites. Three records of GOLDEN EAGLE included 1 adult at Grand Isle 4/11 (DJH), 1 immature. at Salisbury 4/19 (SSW) and 1 at Newport 5/26 (JW). American Kestrel was reported as common statewide and was seen by many Birdathon teams. Six were at DCWMA 4/13 (JRA), 4 at Charlotte 4/14 (EMA,RDB), 5 at Weybridge 4/18 (MBN) and 4 at Addison 4/19 (JMN). There were 73 seen on hawk watches. Reports of Merlin came from 3 observers and 2 Birdathon teams. One was at Ferrisburgh 4/5 (DLC), 1 at Grand Isle 4/28 (DJH) and 1 at West Bolton 5/15 (MC). There were 3 hawk watch sightings. Six observers and three Birdathon teams recorded Peregrine Falcon, with 6 more seen on hawk watches. Two were at Ferrisburgh 3/2 (SO,NO), 1 was eating a starling at Vergennes 3/24 (FAP,EBP), 3 were at a nesting site at Salisbury 4/11 (SSW) and 1 was at Mt. Horrid, Goshen 5/19 (NAB).

PHEASANT THROUGH COOT

Ring-necked Pheasant was found by several Birdathon teams. A released bird was at Woodstock 3/18 (JMN). A male and 2 females were at Charlotte 3/19 (TGM). Single birds were seen at DCWMA 5/18 and at Brandon 5/21 (SSW). One female Spruce Grouse, an

endangered species in Vermont, was discovered on the Moose Bog Trail, Ferdinand 5/16 (TGM). The common resident Ruffed Grouse was reported by observers statewide and was noted by many Birdathon teams. Four were drumming at Goshen 4/22 (SSW) and 3 were at Pawlet 5/12 (GRB). Our reporters indicated that Wild Turkey came through the winter in good shape. Some of the larger flocks were 50 at Grand Isle 3/14 (DJH), 40 at Charlotte 3/14 (TGM), 40 at Pawlet 5/8 (GRB) and 31 at Bristol 3/2 (SO,NO). Two Northern Bobwhite were reported from Vershire 5/4 (KRH). Virginia Rail moved into its nesting marshes in late April and May. Three were at Alburg 4/27 (DLC), 6 at DCWMA 5/23 (TGM), and they were "numerous" at Grand Isle 5/20 (DJH). Several Birdathon teams located this species. An obliging Sora was found at WRM 5/17 (FAP,EBP) and was seen the next day by several Birdathon teams. Other single birds were at Waltham 5/17 (JRA) and at Charleston 5/16 (DLC). Common Moorhen was reported by 5 observers and several Birdathon teams. Two were at Alburg 4/27 (DLC), 2 at Orwell 5/7 (RWP), 1 at Addison 5/11 (MBN), with 2 there 5/17 (FAP,EBP) and 2 again at Alburg 5/25 (TGM). There were very few reports of American Coot. One was at McCuen Slang 3/28-30 (SSW;JRA;JO) and 1 was at the Champlain Bridge 3/30-31 (DLC;JRA). There was also 1 at the Winooski River Delta 4/11 (TGM).

SHOREBIRDS

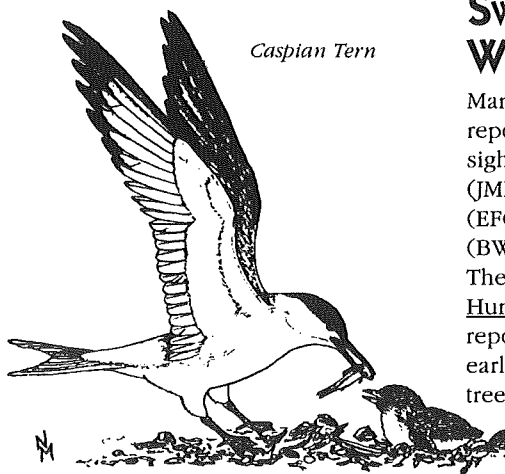
Four Birdathon teams and 3 other observers reported Semi-palmated Plover. Two birds were at DCWMA, Addison 5/22 (SSW), with 7 there 5/30 (SSW;TGM); 4 were at Shelburne Bay 5/24 (TGM) and 4 were at Middlebury 5/26 (WME). Many observers and Birdathon teams reported Killdeer, some noting that it was less common than usual. There was much evidence of nesting. Five were at Woodstock 3/21 and 10 at Strafford 3/22 (SDF), 5 at Charlotte 3/31 (EMA,RDB), 3 at Danby 3/26 (NAB) and 4 at Salisbury 3/24 (TGM). Ten observers and several Birdathon teams recorded Greater Yellowlegs. Four were at Pantton 4/14 (TGM) for the early date, and there were high counts of 25 at Coventry 5/14 (REG,OAG) and 14 at North Ferrisburgh 4/28 (TGM). Only 4 observers and a very few Birdathon teams located Lesser

Yellowlegs. Four were at North Ferrisburgh 4/28 (TGM), 1 at Coventry 5/4-7 (DLC;REG,OAG) and 1 at Newport 5/17 (PFW,SAW). Solitary Sandpiper was widely reported in good numbers and seen on many Birdathon routes. The earliest arrival dates were 5/4-6 (mult. observers) and there were high counts of up to 27 at Westminster 5/14 (TEJ;AMD) and 7 at West Haven 5/17 (FAP,EBP). Three were in a vernal pool at South Pomfret at an elevation of 1500 ft. 5/14 (KRT). A rare WILLET was seen at DCWMA, Addison, on a 5/26 Birdathon (KMA,JSA,WME). Most observers and Birdathon teams reported Spotted Sandpiper, a common nester. Early sightings were 1 at Springfield 4/28 (WJN), 1 at Woodstock 4/30 (JMN) and 1 at Grand Isle 5/3 (DJH). There were 10 at Chittenden Dam 5/15 (RWP) and 4 at Woodstock 5/12 (CRP). Five observers and three Birdathon teams sighted Upland Sandpiper, a state-threatened grassland nester. Three different reporters checked out the airport at Coventry 5/16-18 and found up to 3 birds (PFW,SAW;DLC;TGM). The early sighting was 1 at W. Brattleboro 4/20 (BDW,MJK); 1 was at Addison 5/11 (BRJ,EEJ) and 1 each at Ferrisburgh 5/15 and Bridport 5/19 (TGM). Least Sandpiper was reported by 10 observers and a few Birdathon teams. Four were at South Lincoln 5/11 (JRA), 10 at Rockingham 5/18 (WJN), 7 at Danby 5/21 (NAB), 10 at Middlebury 5/26 (WME) and 14 at Addison 5/30 (TGM). There was 1 report of 5 Pectoral Sandpiper at Bridport 5/17 (FAP,EBP) and there was 1 report of 2 Dunlin at DCWMA, Addison 5/22 (SSW). Three reports of Short-billed Dowitcher included 3 at Shelburne Bay 5/23 (TGM), 8 at Rockingham 5/26 (WJN) and 1 at Middlebury 5/26 (KMA,JSA,WME). American Woodcock was reported by eight observers and noted on several Birdathons. The earliest were 1 at Fair Haven 3/16 (SSW), 1 at Manchester Center 3/26 (BWP) and 1 at Lincoln 3/30 (JRA). Two were at Goshen 5/2 (SSW) for the high count. Many observers reported Common Snipe and it was noted on several Birdathons. There were no sightings before mid-April, and high counts were 3 at Alburg 4/13 (DLC) and 36 in a flooded field in Ferrisburgh after a rain-induced fallout 4/28 (TGM). Two WILSON'S PHALAROPE, a female in partial breeding plumage and another bird, presumably a male, were seen on

Creek Rd., Middlebury 5/26 (JAP;KMA,JSA,WME).

GULLS AND TERNS

Bonaparte's Gull was reported by 5 observers and seen by several Birdathon teams. Six were at Kent Pond, Sherburne 5/11 (JMN,BRJ), 2 at Grand Isle 5/13 (DJH), 3 at North Hero 5/18 (TGM), 5 at Newport 5/4 (DLC) and 8 there 5/17 (PFW,SAW). Ring-billed Gull was widespread and common through the period. Some of the larger counts were 300 at Charlotte 3/16 (TGM), 170 at Addison 3/24 (JRA) and 225 at Newport 5/5 (PFW,SAW). Seven observers sighted Herring Gull, and it was noted on many Birdathons. Three were at Kent Pond, Sherburne 5/12 (JMN,BRJ), 1 at Lake Willoughby 5/2 (REG,OAG), and 25 at Rockingham 4/21 (WJN). They were listed as "common" around Grand Isle (DJH). There were 2 reports of Iceland Gull, 1 at Ferrisburgh 3/17 (CJF) and 2 at Grand Isle 3/27 (DJH). Great Black-backed Gull was seen on most major lakes statewide but was under-reported as to numbers. Eight were at DCWMA, Addison 3/24 (MBN), and there were many Birdathon sightings. A surprising CASPIAN TERN was sighted with Common Terns and Ring-billed Gulls high in the Green Mountains at Kent Pond, Sherburne 5/11 (JMN,BRJ, EEJ). There were 3 reports of Common Tern, 19 at Swanton 4/27 (DLC), 2 at Sherburne 5/11 (JMN,BRJ) and 1 at Alburg 5/30 (FAP,EBP). Two Birdathon teams recorded this species. Black Tern was reported by many observers and Birdathon teams. Two were at Berlin Pond 5/12 (BMP) and on the same date 1 was at Westminster (WJN) and 1 at Sherburne (JMN). The high count was 22 at Alburg 5/17 (DLC).



Caspian Tern

DOVES THROUGH NIGHTJARS

Few observers bothered to keep records of Rock Dove, but it was present in the usual large numbers on farms and in town centers statewide. It was seen on almost all Birdathons. Mourning Dove was listed as common or abundant by most observers and was noted by most Birdathon teams. Fifteen were at Westminster West 3/2 (AMD) and 12 at Manchester Center 5/11 (BWP). A Black-billed Cuckoo was reported at Weybridge 5/20,22 (MBN), 1 was calling at Brandon 5/21 (SSW), 1 was at South Burlington 5/21 (TGM) and 1 was at Dorset 5/25,29 (EFG). One Birdathon team reported Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Two Birdathon teams located Eastern Screech-Owl and 1 bird was reported at Addison 4/13 (DLC). Four observers and two Birdathon teams reported Great Horned Owl. Two were calling at Brandon 3/31 (SSW), 1 was at Pawlet 4/10 (GRB), 1 at Dorset 5/28 (EFG) and 1 at South Hero 5/7 (DJH). Twelve observers and several Birdathon teams located Barred Owl through the period, all single birds except for a resident pair at Woodstock (JMN). Two Birdathon teams noted Northern Saw-whet Owl; in addition 1 was at Sheffield 4/18 (PFW,SAW), 1 at West Glover 5/26 (REG,OAG) and 1 at West Woodstock 3/9 (MM). One Common Nighthawk was reported at DCWMA, Addison 5/23 (TGM) and 3 Birdathon teams noted this species. Whip-poor-will seemed slightly more plentiful than in previous years. Three were at two locations in Brandon 5/17-18 (SSW), 1 was at Woodstock 5/21 (JWL), 1 at West Glover 5/25 (REG,OAG) and 1 at Ferrisburgh 5/26 (WME). It was noted by 3 Birdathon teams.

SWIFTS THROUGH WOODPECKERS

Many observers and Birdathon teams reported Chimney Swift. The early sighting was of 1 at Sherburne 4/27 (JMN) and there were 7 at Dorset 5/19 (EFG), 8 at Manchester Center 5/6 (BWP) and 8 at Woodstock 5/31 (JMN). The proliferation of Ruby-throated Hummingbird feeders brought in many reports and Birdathon sightings. The early record was of 1 bird perched in a tree at Wallingford 4/27 (BT). For high counts 4 were in Reading 5/21 (FMH,EJH) and 4 were at



Belted Kingfisher

Georgia 5/20 (EMA,RDB). Most observers and many Birdathon teams reported Belted Kingfisher. The early date was 1 at East Dorset 3/25 (NAB), and some high counts included 6 at Coventry 4/27 (REG,OAG), 5 at Newport 5/5 (PFW,SAW) and 6 at Manchester Center 5/18 (BWP). There were several sightings of at least 1 Red-headed Woodpecker at its traditional nesting site at Bridport. The first report was 4/13 (DLC) and several Birdathon teams noted this species at the same place 5/18 and 5/26. Three observers recorded Red-bellied Woodpecker, possibly left over from the large incursion of the species in the fall of 1995. A female was at a suet feeder in Brandon until mid-April (SSW); other sightings include 1 at Pawlet 5/9-10,12,15 (GRB), a male at Danby 5/14 (NAB), 1 at Rochester 5/18 (NAB) and 1 at Sharon 5/19 (KFW). Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was reported by many observers and Birdathon teams. Early records were of 1 at Lewis 4/6 (DLC), 1 at Woodstock 4/19 (KRT) and 2 at South Londonderry 4/19 (WJN). Some high counts were 5 at Bristol 5/11 (JRA), 8 at Rupert 5/16 (SSW), 5 at Chittenden 5/15 (RWP) and 6 at Manchester Center 5/4 (BWP). Downy Woodpecker was almost universally reported through the period, mostly in small numbers. Four were at Georgia 4/7 (EMA,RDB), 5 at Woodstock 3/8 (CRP) and 4 at Pawlet (GRB). Hairy Woodpecker was also widely reported, with high counts of 3 at Woodstock 4/12 (CRP) and 3 at Georgia 4/7 (EMA,RDB). Two sightings of Black-backed Woodpecker included 1 female at Sheffield (PFW,SAW) and 1 at Ferdinand 5/4 (DLC). There were many

reports of Northern Flicker through the period, and it was noted by many Birdathon teams. Four were at Brandon 4/21 (SSW) and 4 at Westminster 5/5 (AMD). Pileated Woodpecker was reported by many observers and Birdathon teams statewide. Three pairs were at Grand Isle through the period (DJH), 2 were at Rockingham 5/26 (WJN) and 2 at Georgia 5/5 (EMA,RDB).

FLYCATCHERS THROUGH SWALLOWS

One Olive-sided Flycatcher was seen at West Glover 5/19 (REG,OAG), and 2 Birdathon teams noted this species, which has been scarce in recent years. One was banded at VINS in May. Nine observers and a few Birdathon teams reported Eastern Wood-Pewee in late May. Early arrivals were 1 at Danby 5/14 (NAB), 1 at Dorset 5/18 (EFG) and 1 at Westford 5/19 (EMA,RDB). Three at Grand Isle 5/22 (DJH) and 3 at Milton 5/26 (EMA,RDB) represented high counts. Three reports of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher included 1 at Woodstock 5/18 (JMN,BRJ), 1 at Essex 5/19 (EMA,RDB) and 1 at Ferdinand 5/26 (REG,OAG). Alder Flycatcher was reported by nine observers and a few Birdathon teams. An early arrival was at Manchester Center 5/11 (BWP), and high counts were 6 at Lincoln 5/24 (JRA) and 6 at Brandon 5/31 (SSW). Five observers and a few Birdathon teams reported Willow Flycatcher, all single birds, at South Hero 5/24 (DJH), West Glover 5/25 (REG,OAG), Westminster 5/26 (AMD), Reading 5/27 (FMH,EJH) and Whipple Hollow (WRM) 5/31 (CJF). Least Flycatcher was reported by many observers and Birdathon teams. Six were at Tunbridge 4/26 (ATA) for by far the earliest date, and there were other high counts of 14 at Lincoln/Bristol 5/19 (JRA), 10 at Rochester 5/26 (SSW) and 6 at Dorset 5/18 (EFG). Six were banded at VINS in May. Most observers and many Birdathon teams recorded Eastern Phoebe, with some evidence of nesting. Some March sightings were of 1 at Hartland 3/26 (KPM), 1 at Swanton 3/28 (DLC), 1 at Pawlet 3/28 (GRB), 1 at Grand Isle 3/30 (DJH) and 1 at Rockingham 3/31 (AMD). High counts were 6 at Brandon 4/20 (SSW) and 4 at Dorset 5/20 (EFG). There were many sightings of Great Crested Flycatcher and it was recorded also by many Birdathon teams. Early records were of

1 at Brandon 5/2 (SSW), 1 at Underhill 5/5 (DLC) and 1 at Dorset 5/8 (EFG). There was a high count of 3 at Manchester Center 5/18 (BWP). Most observers and Birdathon teams reported the noisy and aggressive Eastern Kingbird. Early records were of 1 at Brandon 5/2 (SSW), 1 at Barton 5/2 (REG,OAG) and 6 at Tunbridge 5/4 (ATA). Other high counts were 18 at WRM 5/11 (WGE,NLM), 6 at Benson 5/12 (JMN) and 5 at Manchester Center 5/18 (BWP). Four observers reported Horned Lark and it was noted by a few Birdathon teams. There were 20 at New Haven 3/7 (JRA), 7 at Addison 3/11 (EMA,RDB), 4 at Bristol 3/13 (MBN), 35 at Orwell 3/10 and 20 at Brookfield 3/11 (ATA). Ten observers and many Birdathon teams reported Purple Martin. Eight to 10 birds returned early to the martin houses just south of the Champlain Bridge, Addison 4/20,23 (SSW,CJF). In addition 21 were at Grand Isle 4/24 (DJH) and 16 at Alburg 5/25 (TGM). Tree Swallow was almost universally reported throughout the state with evidence of nesting. Early records were 1 at Westminster 3/25 (AMD), 1 at Arlington 3/28 (NAB) and 2 at Woodstock 3/29 (CHD). High counts were 200 at Lake Carmi State Park 4/27 (EKL), 250 at Bristol 5/11 (JRA), 1000 at L. Bomoseen, Castleton, and 500 at Rutland 5/11 (WGE,NLM). Many observers and Birdathon teams located Northern Rough-winged Swallow, with some evidence of nesting. One was at Shelburne 4/15 (DLC) and 1 at Grand Isle 4/22 (DJH) for early dates, and there were high counts of 25 at Lake Carmi State Park 4/27 (EKL) and 30 at Manchester Center 5/11 (BWP). Bank Swallow was reported by most observers and many Birdathon teams. Three were at Woodstock 4/30 (JMN), 60 at Manchester Center 5/11 (BWP), 40 at Salisbury 5/19 (MBN), 35 at Westmore 5/19 (REG,OAG) and 50 at Castleton 5/11 (WGE,NLM). Cliff Swallow was reported by seven observers and noted by several Birdathon teams: 4 were at Castleton 5/11 (WGE,NLM), at least 40 building nests at Rouse's Point Bridge, Alburg 5/20 (TGM), 20 at Randolph 5/12 (ATA) and 3 at Orleans 5/25 (REG,OAG). Most observers and many Birdathoners recorded Barn Swallow with evidence of nesting. The early record was 1 at Charlotte 4/18 (DLC). Twenty were at Bristol 5/11 (JRA), 25 at Tunbridge 5/2 (ATA) and 50 at WRM and 200 at Rutland all 5/11 (WGE,NLM).

JAYS THROUGH WRENS

The 3 reports of Gray Jay included 1 at Ferdinand 4/6 (DLC), 3 there 5/26 (REG,OAG) and 1 at Norton 5/28 (CEA). Blue Jay was recorded statewide in good numbers: 10 at Wallingford 3/8 (SJD), 18 at Dorset 5/15 (EFG), 26 at Reading 5/16 (FMH,EJH), 26 at Manchester Center 5/18 (BWP) and 31 at Chittenden Dam 5/15 (RWP). American Crow was plentiful statewide throughout the period. Most observers did not keep numbers on them, but a flock of 300 was at New Haven 3/21 (JRA), 190 were at Charlotte 3/13 (TGM), 27 at Milton 3/13 and 27 at St. Albans 3/11 (EMA,RDB), 25 at Lyndonville 3/16 (PFW,SAW) and 30 at Rockingham 4/6 (WJN). Many observers reported Common Raven throughout the state and there was evidence of nesting. Eight were at Danby 3/30 (NAB) and 5 at West Bolton 5/7 (MC). Black-capped Chickadee was recorded everywhere through the period and was seen on almost all Birdathons. Some high counts were 19 at Danby 3/1 (NAB), 17 at Lincoln 5/11 (JRA) and 15 at Barnard 3/4, 4/10 (JNF). One Birdathon team located Boreal Chickadee and there were 3 other reports: 2 at Lewis and 5 at Ferdinand 4/6 (DLC), 1 at Ferdinand 5/16 (TGM) and 1 there 5/26 (REG,OAG). Tufted Titmouse was reported in small numbers by many observers and Birdathon teams and was commonly seen at feeders early in the period. The high count was a flock of 4-6 at Stowe 3/19 (SE). Many observers and Birdathon teams reported Red-breasted Nuthatch, although one person noted that numbers seemed low. Six were at Sheffield 4/24 and 5 were there 3/5 (PFW,SAW), 3 were at Manchester Center 3/22 (BWP) and 3 at South Burlington 5/4 (EMA,RDB). The common White-breasted Nuthatch was reported statewide in small numbers. Four were at Brandon 4/25 (SSW) and 4 at Manchester Center 5/18 (BWP). Ten observers and a few Birdathon teams reported Brown Creeper in small numbers. Three singing males were at Goshen 4/22 (SSW), 2 at Grand Isle 4/22 (DJH) and 2 at Dorset 5/18 (EFG). Sightings of Carolina Wren included 1 at a feeder in Weybridge 5/21 (MBN), 1 at South Burlington 4/19 (DLC) and 1 Birdathon report. Twelve observers located House Wren and there were many Birdathon records. Two were at Brandon for the early date 4/29 (SSW),

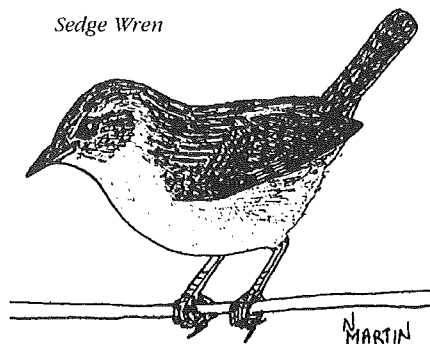
3 were at Dorset 5/14-15 (EFG) and 2 at Barnard 5/20 (JNF). Winter Wren was reported by many observers and seen or heard by several Birdathon teams. By far the earliest record was of 1 at Lewis 4/6 (DLC) and there were 5 at Brandon 5/7 (SSW) and 5 at Lincoln 5/26 (JRA) for high counts. The only report of SEdge Wren, a threatened nesting species in Vermont, was of 1 at Winhall 5/28 (WJN). Ten observers and several Birdathon teams reported Marsh Wren in their traditional marshes. Six were at WRM 5/11 (WGE,NLM), 7 at East Creek, Orwell 5/7 (RWP), 3 at Newport 5/18 (PFW,SAW) and 2 at DCWMA 5/30 (SSW).

KINGLETS THROUGH VIREOS

Five observers and a few Birdathon teams reported Golden-crowned Kinglet. There was 1 at Lewis and 3 at Ferdinand 4/6 (DLC), 1 at Colchester 4/28 (SBL), 5 at Georgia 4/19 (EMA,RDB) and 6 at Dix Reservoir, Orange 5/20 (ATA). Many observers and a few Birdathon teams spotted Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Some early dates were 1 at Brandon 4/19 (SSW) and 1 at Tunbridge 4/20 (ATA). High counts were 6 at Manchester Center 5/4 (BWP), 6 at Georgia 5/5 (EMA,RDB) and 5 at Ferdinand 5/4 (DLC). Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was reported by eight observers and a few Birdathon teams. Early sightings were of 1 at North Thetford 4/21 (CCR,JFC) and 1 at Colchester 4/28 (SBL). There were 2 at Ira 5/11 (WGE,NLM), 2 at Rockingham 5/14 (AMD) and a nesting pair at West Haven 5/17 (FAP,EBP). Eastern Bluebird was almost universally reported, some at feeders and some at nest boxes with much evidence of nesting. One was at South Londonderry 3/15 (WJN), 1 at Hartland 3/24 (CHD,ADD) and 1 at Pomfret 3/25. Later sightings were mostly of pairs, but

there were 3 at Waterbury Center 4/4 (EKL). Many observers and Birdathon teams reported Veery in small numbers. For early records 1 was at Woodstock 5/9 (JMN), 1 at West Bolton 5/12 (MC), 1 at Dorset 5/13 (EFG) and 2 at Pittsford 5/14 (MB). For high counts 4 were at Brandon 5/18 (SSW) and 5 at Manchester Center 5/18 (BWP). One Birdathon team claimed a Gray-cheeked Thrush. Just three reporters and two Birdathon teams recorded Swainson's Thrush, including 1 at Swanton 5/18 and 1 at Stowe 5/22 (EKL), 1 at S. Londonderry 5/14 (WJN) and 5 at Stratton 5/25 (JP). Hermit Thrush was more widely reported and seen on many Birdathons, although some observers noted them as "scarce." Three were at South Burlington 4/18 (DLC), 1 at Georgia 4/20 (EMA,RDB), 3 at Reading 4/20 and 5 there 5/21 (FMH,EJH) and 4 at Goshen 4/22 (SSW). Most observers and many Birdathon teams reported Wood Thrush, and some noted that numbers were up from last year. Early sightings were of 1 at Barton 5/1 (REG,OAG) and 1 at Pawlet 5/2 (GRB). Some high counts were 5 at Manchester Center 5/11 and 6 there 5/18 (BWP), 5 at Dorset 5/14 (EFG), 6 at Reading 5/18 (FMH,EJH) and 4 at Lincoln 5/18 (JRA). The abundant American Robin was reported statewide through the period with much evidence of nesting. GRB noted "huge flocks" at Pawlet on 4/16 and a flock of 200-300 was at Tunbridge 4/19 (ATA) as the migration pushed north. A VARIED THRUSH was seen at a feeder in Dorset in early May (no exact dates available) (BR,PR). Gray Catbird was common around the state in good numbers and was noted by most Birdathon teams. Some early dates were 1 at Dorset 5/1 (EFG), 1 at Westminster 5/2 (AMD), 1 at Pawlet 5/2 (GRB) and 1 at Weybridge 5/3 (MBN). High counts were 30 at Rockingham 5/18 (WJN) and 10 at Manchester Center 5/18 (BWP). Nine observers and seven Birdathon teams recorded Northern Mockingbird. All sightings were of single birds, except for 2 at Manchester Center 5/18 (BWP) and 2 at Grand Isle 5/22 (DJH). An out-of-season Brown Thrasher overwintered at a Woodstock feeder and was still there 3/6 (LHR). Returning birds were reported by many observers and Birdathon teams, with early records of 1 at Springfield 4/22 (WME), 1 at Middlebury 4/25 (ATA) and 1 each at Brandon (SSW), Swanton (DLC) and Rockingham (WJN), all 4/28. The high

Sedge Wren



count was 3 at Manchester Center 5/4 (BWP). Only four observers and one Birdathon team reported American Pipit. Forty were at Manchester Center 5/11 (BWP), 2 at WRM and 85 at Clarendon 5/11 (WGE,NLM), 3 at Addison 5/18 (JMN) and 1 at Coventry 5/25 (REG,OAG). This was a big spring for Bohemian Waxwing, although they had all departed by Birdathon time, the last record being 140 at Shelburne 4/27 (TGM). Some of the larger flocks were 325 at South Hero 3/20 (TGM), 250 at Charlotte 3/24 (FAP,EBP), 200 at Farrell Access, Addison 4/13 (JRA), 500 at Williston 4/8 (EMA,RDB) and 550 at Orwell 4/13 (DLC). Cedar Waxwing was also well reported but in far fewer numbers; it was noted by a few Birdathon teams. Twenty were at Orwell 3/10 and 30 at Middlebury 4/25 (ATA), 6 at Vershire 5/28 (KRH), 7 at West Bolton 5/31 (MC) and 10 at South Londonderry 5/31 (WJN). Fourteen observers reported single Northern Shrike, a good showing. The latest dates were 1 at Bridport 4/13 (DLC) and 1 at Shelburne 4/14 (EMA,RDB). European Starling was so plentiful that few observers kept numbers: a flock of 1500 at Charlotte 4/14 (EMA,RDB), 400 at Middlebury 3/28 (JRA) and 75 at Westminster 3/1 (AMD). Many observers and Birdathon teams reported Solitary Vireo in small numbers. One was at Morrisville 4/20 (EKL) and 2 at Goshen 4/22 (SSW) for early sightings. High counts of 6 were at Stratton 5/25 (JP), 4 at WRM 5/11 (WGE,NLM) and at 4 Dorset 5/18 (EFG). Yellow-throated Vireo was reported by 11 observers and several Birdathon teams, most single birds. One was at East Creek, Orwell 5/7 (RWP), for the early date and 3 were at Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge, Swanton (hereafter MNWR) 5/18 (EKL) for the high count. Many observers and Birdathon teams reported Warbling Vireo in good numbers. One was at Salisbury 5/8 (SSW) and 1 at Woodstock 5/8 (SDF) were early records. They were described as "abundant" at Grand Isle 5/15 (DJH) and 6 were at MNWR 5/18 (EKL). Three were banded at VINS in May. One Philadelphia Vireo was found by a Birdathon team. Red-eyed Vireo arrived in good numbers in late May and was noted by many Birdathon teams. One at Manchester Center 5/11 (BWP) and 1 at Lincoln 5/11 (JRA) were early records. High counts were 6 at Dorset 5/25 (EFG), 20 at Stratton 5/25 (JP) and 12 at Reading 5/21 (FMH,EJH).

WARBLERS

Blue-winged Warbler was reported by five observers and noted on several Birdathons. Up to 2 were at the Ira rest stop 5/9 and 5/17-19 (RWP;DLC;JMN;FAP,EBP), 1 was at Brandon 5/19 (SSW) and 2 at West Rutland 5/18 (ATA). One was banded at VINS in May. The same observers reported up to 3 Golden-winged Warbler at Ira 5/17-19 (RWP;DLC;JMN;FAP,EBP). In addition 5 were at Brandon 5/18 (SSW), 3 at Monkton 5/18 (MRP) and 2 at West Rutland 5/18 (ATA). Several were located on Birdathons. One Brewster's Warbler hybrid was reported at Monkton 5/18 (MRP) and another was noted by a Birdathon team. Two observers and two Birdathon teams reported the increasingly uncommon Tennessee Warbler. One was at Brandon 5/21 (SSW) and 1 at Red Rocks Park, South Burlington 5/21-22 (TGM). The only Orange-crowned Warbler was seen at Isle la Motte 5/21 (DF). Thirteen observers and many Birdathon teams located Nashville Warbler in small numbers. Early sightings were 3 at Ferdinand 5/4 (DLC) and 1 at Norwich 5/5 (CCR). By far the highest count was 7 at WRM 5/11 (WGE,NLM). Parula Warbler was reported by 12 observers and a few Birdathon teams. Early records were of 2 at WRM 5/11 (WGE,NLM), and 1 at Castleton 5/12 (BRJ,SDL). The high count was 3 at Belvidere 5/18 (DLC). Yellow Warbler was widely reported in good numbers statewide. One was at Dorset 5/3 (EFG) and 1 at Woodstock 5/3 (CCR,KPM) for early dates, and 15 were at WRM 5/11 (WGE,NLM), 6 at Newport 5/18 (PFW,SAW), 8 at Dorset 5/18 (EFG) and 20 at Alburg 5/20 (TGM). Five were banded at VINS in May. Most observers and Birdathon teams recorded Chestnut-sided Warbler in good numbers statewide. One was at Woodstock 5/5 (JMN) for the early date, and high counts were 15 at Waterville 5/16 (DLC) and 17 at Lincoln 5/18 (JRA). One was banded at VINS in May. Magnolia Warbler was reported by many observers and Birdathon teams. One was at Woodstock 5/6 (SSW) and 5/9 (SDF) for early dates. Others include: 8 at Manchester Center 5/14 and 6 there 5/18 (BWP), 10 at Stratton 5/25 (JP), 4 at Danby 5/13 (NAB) and 4 at Castleton 5/11 (WGE,NLM). Two were banded at VINS in May. Eight observers and 2

Birdathon teams discovered Cape May Warbler. Two were at Clarendon 5/11 (WGE,NLM) and 1 at Castleton 5/12 (JMN) for early sightings, and 3 were at Dix Reservoir 5/20 (ATA) and 4 at Victory Bog 5/27 (TGM) for high counts. Black-throated Blue Warbler was reported by many observers and Birdathon teams. The early report was of 1 at Georgia 5/5 (EMA,RDB). Ten were at Manchester Center 5/11 (BWP), 6 at WRM and 6 at Ira 5/11 (WGE,NLM) and 8 at Lincoln 5/26 (JRA) for high counts. Yellow-rumped Warbler was reported statewide in good numbers. For early records 1 was at Brandon 4/12 (SSW) and 3 at South Burlington 4/20 (DLC). Some high counts were 50 at Rockingham 4/19 (KPM), 65 at WRM 5/11 (WGE,NLM), 20 at Leffert's Pond in Chittenden 5/5 (RWP) and 30 at Tunbridge 5/4 (ATA). Five were banded at VINS in May. Many observers and Birdathon teams recorded Black-throated Green Warbler statewide. Early reports included 1 at Brandon 5/1 (SSW) and 6 at Manchester Center 5/4, with 7 there on 5/14 and 6 on 5/18 (BWP). In addition 20 were at Stratton 5/25 (JP), 8 at WRM and 6 at Ira 5/11 (WGE,NLM). There were many Blackburnian Warbler reports and many Birdathon teams noted this species. One was at Underhill 5/9 (DLC) and 1 at Woodstock 5/10 (JMN) for early dates, and some high counts were 6 at WRM and 5 at Ira 5/11 (WGE,NLM), 6 at Manchester Center 5/11 (BWP), 10 at Tunbridge 5/21 (ATA) and 20 at Stratton 5/25 (JP). Six observers and 7 Birdathon teams reported Pine Warbler. Early dates were 1 at Georgia 4/21 (EMA,RDB) and 1 at South Burlington 4/25 (DLC), each of only one bird. Four Birdathon teams found Prairie Warbler, and in addition 1 was at Brandon 5/13 and another there on 5/31 (SSW). Only four observers reported Palm Warbler: 2 at Bristol Pond 5/5 and 1 at Lincoln 5/9 (JRA), 1 at Manchester Center 5/4, 11 (BWP), 2 at Tunbridge 4/20, with 1 there 4/28 (ATA), and a most unusual 30 at Rockingham 4/19 (KPM). Three observers and a few Birdathon teams reported Bay-breasted Warbler, including 1 at WRM 5/11 (WGE,NLM), 1 at Danby 5/17 (SSW) and 2 at Manchester Center 5/14, with 3 there 5/18 (BWP). Blackpoll Warbler was reported by four observers and a few Birdathon teams. One was at Middlebury 5/18 (ATA), 2-3 at Brandon 5/21-22 (SSW), 1 at Dorset 5/22 and 2 there 5/26 (EFG) and 1 at Mt. Elmore 5/27 (EMA,RDB).

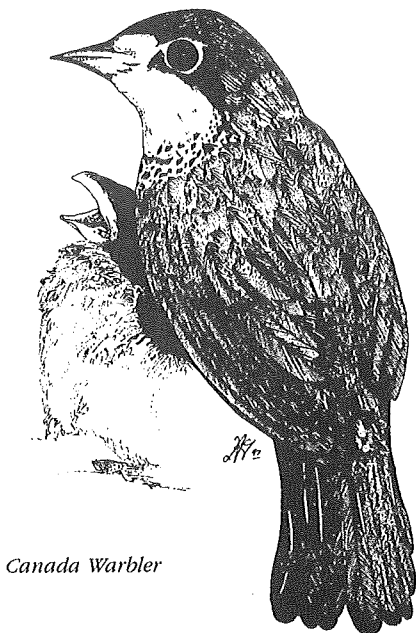
Many observers and Birdathon teams reported Black-and-white Warbler statewide. Early sightings were 1 at Woodstock 4/21 (KRT), 1 at Tunbridge 4/26 (ATA) and 1 at Danby 4/27 (NAB). Some high counts were 8 at WRM and 6 at Ira (WGE,NLM), 7 at Manchester Center 5/14 (BWP) and 5 at Lincoln 5/18 (JRA). There were many reports of American Redstart from around the state. A late first record was of 1 at Brandon 5/10 (SSW). Some high counts were 8 at Ira 5/11 (WGE,NLM), 6 at Tunbridge 5/15 (ATA), 6 at Manchester Center 5/18 (BWP), 8 at Lincoln 5/19 (JRA) and 15 at Stratton 5/25 (JP). One was banded at VINS in May. Almost all observers and Birdathon teams reported Ovenbird. The early date was 5/2, with 1 at Danby (NAB) and 2 at Brandon (SSW). Some high counts were 20 at Lincoln 5/11 (JRA), 17 singing males at Chittenden Dam 5/15 (RWP), 15 at Stratton 5/25 (JP) and 15 at Reading 5/21 (FMH,EJH). Northern Waterthrush was recorded by many observers and Birdathon teams: 1 at Brownington and 2 at Coventry 5/4 and 30 at Belvidere 5/11 (DLC) for early date and high count. Two were banded at VINS in May. Seven observers and a few Birdathoners reported Louisiana Waterthrush. As usual CCR heard the first of the year at Norwich 4/20 and 4 were heard at Brandon 5/7 (SSW) for the high count. Two Birdathon teams noted Mourning Warbler. One was at Fayston 5/23 (FAP,EBP) and 1 was banded at VINS in May. Common Yellowthroat was commonly reported statewide. Early records were 1 at Tunbridge 5/3 (ATA) and 1 at Pawlet 5/3 (GRB); 10 were at

Rockingham 5/14 (AMD) and 10 at Dorset 5/20 (EFG) for high counts. Three were banded at VINS in May. Four observers and 3 Birdathon teams reported Wilson's Warbler. One was at Coventry 5/16 (DLC), 1 at Tunbridge 5/23 (ATA), 1 at Rochester 5/25 (SSW) and 1 at Newport 5/25 (PFW,SAW). Three were banded at VINS in May. Canada Warbler was located by 5 observers and a few Birdathon teams. One was at Manchester Center 5/11,14 with 2 there 5/18 (BWP), 2 at Reading 5/18 and 3 there 5/27 (FMH,EJH), 1 at Belvidere 5/18 (DLC), 1 at Barton 5/25 (REG,OAG) and 1 at Stowe 5/25 (EKL). Two were banded at VINS in May. A YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT was reported without confirming details at Thetford 5/12 (RF).

TANAGER THROUGH SPARROWS

Scarlet Tanager was reported by many Birdathon teams and other observers, but appeared to be late in arriving. The earliest records were of 3 at Ira 5/11 (WGE,NLM) and 1 at Pawlet 5/12 (GRB). High counts were 3 at Reading 5/18 (FMH,EJH) and 5 at Tunbridge 5/21 (ATA). Many observers and Birdathon teams recorded Northern Cardinal, some noting that they were common at feeders early in the period. Later counts were 4 at Rutland and 3 at WRM 5/11 (WGE,NLM), 5 at Manchester Center 5/11 (BWP), 4 at Shelburne 4/14 (EMA,RDB) and 4 at Dorset 5/19 (EFG). There appeared to be an "inundation" of Rose-breasted Grosbeak this spring, with sizable flocks coming to feeders. Early reports were of 1 at Westminster West 5/2 (AMD) and 1 at Reading 5/3 (FMH,EJH). High counts were 15 at Woodstock 5/10 (JWL), 15 also in Woodstock 5/13 (LHR), 15 at Lincoln 5/18 (JRA), 13 at Manchester Center 5/18 (BWP) and 12 at Reading 5/21 (FMH,EJH). This species was also noted by many Birdathon teams. Two reports (with photo documentation) were an unusually high number for BLUE GROSBEAK. One male was at Shaftsbury 5/4 (BCD,A&AJ,R&EK) and another male at Danby 5/16 (NAB). Many observers and Birdathon teams recorded Indigo Bunting in small numbers. One was at Reading 5/2 for an early date, and 3 were at Dorset 5/18, with 1 there 5/20 (EFG). Thirteen observers and many Birdathon teams reported Rufous-sided Towhee. Early

records were 1 at VINS, Woodstock 4/22 (CCR), and 1 at Woodstock 4/26 (JWL). High counts were 7 at Ira 5/19 (DLC) and 4 at West Rutland 5/18 (ATA). American Tree Sparrow was reported by many observers in March and April. Seventeen were at Danby 3/3 (NAB), 7 at Brandon 3/31 (SSW), 7 at Lincoln 4/19 and a very late individual at Island Pond 5/26 (REG,OAG). Most observers and Birdathoners reported Chipping Sparrow statewide. One was seen at Addison 3/30 (DLC), a very early date, and the next chronological record was 1 at Lincoln 4/12 (JRA). Some high counts were 16 at Brandon 4/21 (SSW), 15 at Manchester Center 5/11 (BWP) and 10 at Dorset 5/14 (EFG). A CLAY-COLORED SPARROW was reported from a field trip in Brandon 5/19 (RWP,KFW et al.). Field Sparrow was recorded by many observers and Birdathon teams. One was at Barnard 4/4 (JNF) for the early date, and the high counts were no more than 3 at Brandon 4/27 (SSW) and 3 at Danby 4/28 (NAB). Five observers and a few Birdathon teams reported Vesper Sparrow. One was at Hartland 4/20 (CHD), 1 at Pomfret 4/21 (KRT), 2 at Tunbridge 4/26 (ATA), 1 at South Londonderry 4/29 (WJN) and 3 at DCWMA 5/18 (JMN). There were many reports of Savannah Sparrow and it was noted by many Birdathon teams. One was at Danby 4/9 (NAB) for the early date; 12 were at Manchester Center 5/11 (BWP) and 7 at DCWMA 5/22 (SSW) for high counts. The only Grasshopper Sparrow reported was 1 at Newport 5/17 (PFW,SAW). Many observers reported Fox Sparrow in late March and April. Early dates were 1 at Manchester Center 3/20 (BWP), 1 at Woodstock 3/28 (KRT) and 1 at Bartonville 3/28 (JO), and a late record was 1 at Weybridge 4/27 (MBN). No counts were higher than two. Song Sparrow was reported as common statewide and was noted by most Birdathon teams. Early dates were not significant as this species frequently overwinters. Some high counts were 30 at Rockingham 4/21 (WJN) and 12 at Clarendon 4/14 (CJF). Six observers and two Birdathon teams recorded Lincoln's Sparrow. One was at Eden 5/11 (DLC) and 1 at Benson 5/12 (JMN,BRJ). All reports were of single birds and one was banded at VINS in May. Swamp Sparrow was reported by many observers and Birdathon teams. The early record was 3 at Brandon 4/17



Canada Warbler

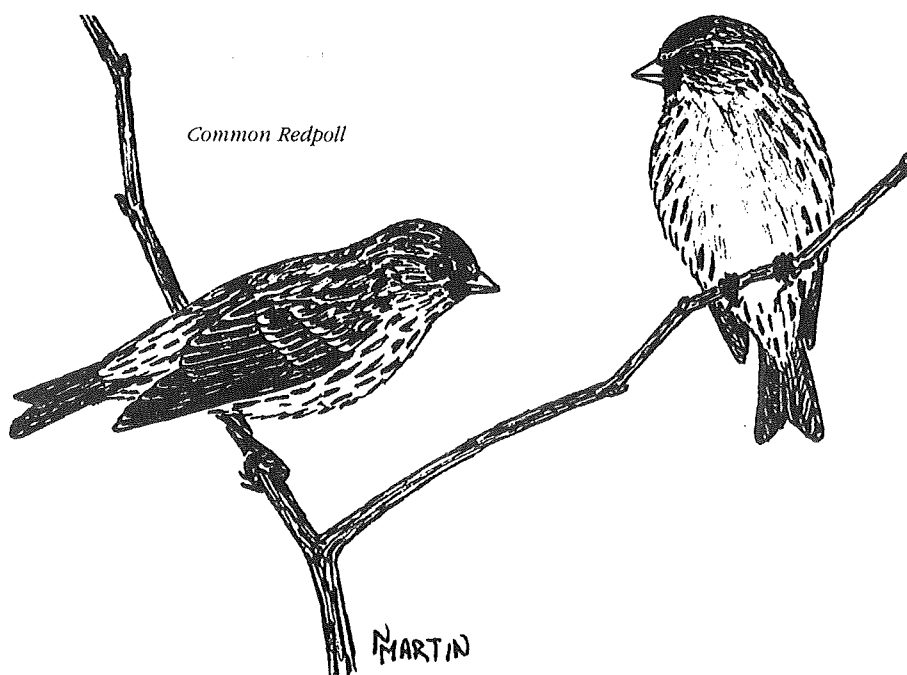
(SSW) and some high counts were 6 at South Hero 5/4 (TGM), 10 at East Creek, Orwell 5/7 (RWP), 24 at WRM 5/11 (WGE,NLM) and 6 there 5/19 (ATA). Almost all observers and many Birdathon teams reported White-throated Sparrow. The early record was 1 at Pawlet 4/17 (GRB), and there were high counts of 10 at South Hero 4/27 (TGM), 10 at South Londonderry 4/30 (WJN), 11 at Danby 4/30 (NAB) and 14 at Ira 5/11 (WGE,NLM). White-crowned Sparrow was reported by many observers and Birdathon teams. Early dates were 1 at Woodstock 5/6, 1 at Brandon 5/7 (SSW) and 1 at South Hero 5/7 (DJH); a late date was 1 at Reading 5/25 (FMH,EJH). Some high counts were 28 at Manchester Center 5/11 (BWP), 14 at Clarendon 5/11 (WGE,NLM) and 10 at S. Londonderry 5/13 (WJN) – a good spring for this species. Dark-eyed Junco was reported as common statewide, reaching peak numbers in mid to late April and dropping off after that. Some good high counts were 30-50 at Tunbridge 4/19 (ATA), 37 at Danby 4/24 (NAB), 30 at Reading 4/25 (FMH,EJH) and 50-55 at Sheffield 4/29 (PFW,SAW). There was only one report of Lapland Longspur, a bird at DCWMA 3/11 (EMA,RDB). Snow Bunting was recorded by five observers. Forty were at East Brookfield 3/9 (ATA), 2 at Marlboro 3/6 (MRM), 1 at Woodstock 3/13 (JMN) and 4 at the Caledonia Airport 4/13 (PFW,SAW). One unusually late individual in breeding plumage was at the Octagon on Mt. Mansfield at 3300 ft. on 5/1 (CCR).

BLACKBIRDS THROUGH HOUSE SPARROW

Red-winged Blackbird returned in abundance starting from the beginning of the reporting period. Three hundred were at Clarendon 3/2 (CJF), 100 at Sheffield 4/14 (PFW,SAW), 400 at Charlotte 4/14 (TGM) and 400 at WRM 5/11 (WGE,NLM). Thirteen observers and many Birdathon teams reported Eastern Meadowlark in small numbers. Early sightings were 1 at Bridport 3/30 and 1 at Charlotte, 2 at Panton and 5 at Addison, all 3/30 (DLC). The high count was 10 at Sudbury 4/21 (ATA). Seven observers and one Birdathon team reported Rusty Blackbird. Two were at Clarendon 3/2 (CJF), having overwintered, 1 at South Londonderry 4/1 (WJN), 1 at Lewis 4/6 (DLC) and 13

at Charlotte 4/14 and 11 at South Hero 4/27 (TGM). Common Grackle was reported by most observers and Birdathoners. One observer noted a large flight the night of 3/26, to were at DCWMA 4/14 (EMA,RDB) and 120 at WRM 5/11 (WGE,NLM). Brown-headed Cowbird was common statewide through the period. Two were at Brandon 3/3 (SSW) and 6 at Grand Isle 3/11 (DJH) for early records, and there were high counts of 39 at Vergennes 3/30 (DLC) and 40 at South Hero 3/20 (TGM). There were no sightings of Orchard Oriole, but Baltimore Oriole was recorded by most observers and Birdathon teams. One was at Shelburne 5/8 (DLC), 1 at Woodstock 5/9 (JMN) and 1 at Vershire 5/9 (KRH) for early dates, and 10 were at Rockingham 5/18 (WJN) and 7 at MNWR 5/18 (EKL) for high counts. A Bullock's Oriole was at WRM 5/18 (KFW). The 4 records of Pine Grosbeak included 1 at Allis State Park 3/9 (ATA), 1 at Lewis 4/6 (DLC), 1 at Quechee 4/26 (JMN), very late, and a flock of 31 at Grand Isle 3/1, dwindling to 3 on 3/18 (DJH). Purple Finch was reported by many observers and Birdathon teams in small numbers. Eight were at Vershire 5/9 (KRH), 6 at West Bolton 5/12 (MC), 15 at Reading 5/12 (FMH,EJH) and 8 at Dorset 5/12 (EFG). House Finch was reported widely but in apparently declining numbers. There was evidence of nesting. Ten were at Brandon 3/3 (SSW), 10 at Allen Bros. Marsh 3/31

(WJN) and 11 at Reading 5/15 (FMH,EJH). Crossbills were represented by only 1 Red Crossbill heard calling overhead at Norwich 4/9 (CCR). It was a big year for Common Redpoll, with many large flocks reported. One hundred were at Westminster West 3/16 (AMD), about 200 at Woodstock from March to April (JWL) and 400 at Reading 4/14-17 (FMH,EJH). Late records were 4 at Sheffield 4/29 (PFW,SAW), 6 at West Glover 5/7 (REG,OAG) and 2 at Underhill 5/8 (DLC). Fourteen observers and a few Birdathon teams located Pine Siskin in small numbers. Eight at Weybridge 5/8 (MBN) and 5-8 at Proctor 5/29 (RWP) were high counts, and another late record was of 1 at Dorset 5/27 (EFG). American Goldfinch was reported as common statewide. Some of the larger flocks included 12-14 at Vershire 5/3 (KRH), 24 at Pawlet 5/11 (GRB), 15 at Dorset 5/12 (EFG) and 20-30 at Georgia 5/18 (EMA,RDB). Many observers and a few Birdathon teams reported Evening Grosbeak. Some substantial flocks were 37 at Sheffield 3/6 (PFW,SAW), 25 at Middlebury 3/11 (JRA), 35 at Ferdinand 3/31 (DLC), 27 at White Rocks 4/15 (RWP) and 22 at Tunbridge 4/20 (ATA). House Sparrow remained under-reported but common, especially around farmyards in agricultural areas. Fifteen were at Williamstown 3/1 (ATA) and 30 were present through the period at S. Londonderry (WJN).



CONTRIBUTORS

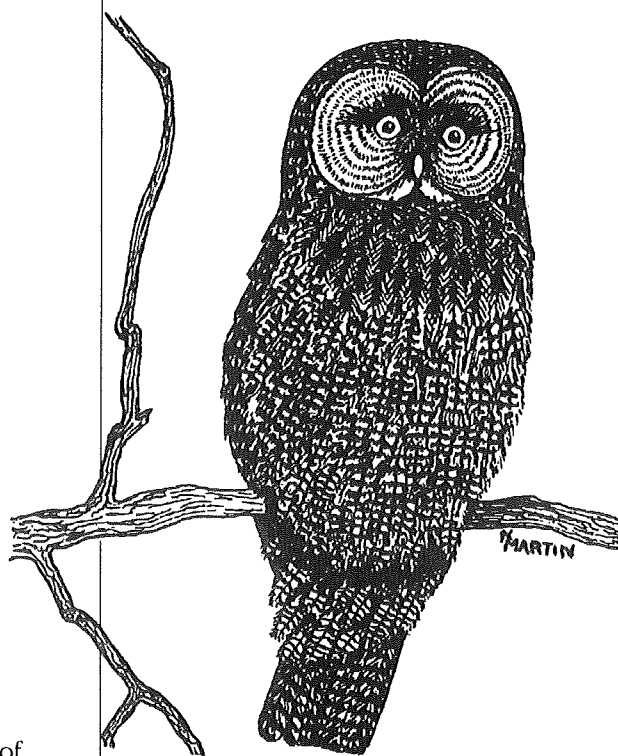
CEA Cedric Alexander
 EMA Elizabeth Alton
 JSA Jim Andrews
 KMA Kris Andrews
 JRA Jean Arrowsmith
 ATA Anne Aversa
 RDB Raymond Barnes
 JB Jon Binhammer
 LB Lillian Birkett
 MB Marsha Booker
 SB Sally Borden
 JDB Joan Bromley
 GRB Gordon Brown
 NAB Nancy Brown
 MJC Mike Caduto
 DLC Dwight Cargill
 MCA Mike Carlo
 MC Mike Cassara
 JFC Jim Chace
 EWC Elizabeth Clapp
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 ADD Alisa Darmstadt
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 ATF Abbott Fenn
 RF Rich Fedorchak
 JNF Jean Fleming
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 CJF C.J. Frankiewicz
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 MFF Michael Fullerton
 EG Ted Gaine
 EFG Betty Gilbert
 MEG Monica Gregory
 OAG Olive Griffin
 REG Ray Griffin
 BPG Bea Guyett
 GEH Terry Hall
 DJH David Hoag
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 MSL Mark LaBarr
 EKL Liz Kellogg Lackey
 JWL Jay Lash
 JDL David Laughlin
 SBL Sally Laughlin
 GL Gale Lawrence
 CCM Clare McFarland
 KPM Kent McFarland
 MRM Molly Martin
 NLM Nancy Martin
 MM Maggie Mayfield
 LNM Larry Metcalf
 SWM Scott Morrical
 TGM Ted Murin
 MBN Marge Nelson
 JMN Julie Nicholson
 WJN William Norse
 FO Frank Oatman
 DO Daniel Orleck
 JO Jim Osborne
 NO Neil Osborne
 SO Sharlon Osborne
 JP Jackie Parker
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 JZ Jon Zurit

WRM West Rutland Marsh
 DCWMA Dead Creek Wildlife
 Management Area
 MNWR Missisquoi National
 Wildlife Refuge

*Special thanks to all hawk
 watchers and Birdathon
 participants.*



Great Gray Owl

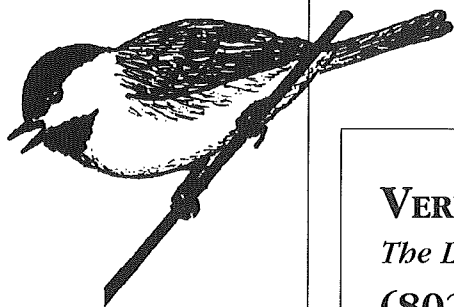


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NOTES ON THE DOCUMENTATION OF RARE BIRD SPECIES

The Vermont Bird Records Committee (VBRC) emphasizes the importance of detailed, descriptive documentation of all rarities, rare nesting species or out-of-season species. It is frustrating for both the observer and the committee to have a tantalizing sighting of a rare species rejected for listing due to insufficient details.

The committee is anxious to involve all Vermont birders in 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.

In the field, writing down the salient points of identification, talking into a tape recorder, making a sketch or taking a photograph 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 while also checking the form for the details requested. The committee welcomes suggestions for improving the reporting and voting process.

Again, the VBRC expresses its thanks to all observers who have contributed valuable information to the Vermont state list.

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