



RECORDS OF VERMONT BIRDS

VERMONT INSTITUTE OF NATURAL SCIENCE

1997 REPORT

Vermont Birds Records Committee 1997 Report

The Vermont Bird Records Committee met on November 1, 1997, for its annual review of rare bird reports. The Committee's responsibilities are to establish guidelines for the documentation of rare birds, and to review reports for inclusion in the state bird list and for use by future researchers. The Committee's recommendations are reported in the publication the *Records of Vermont Birds* (RVB). The Bird Records Committee consists of the managing editor and seasonal editors of RVB and the Vermont regional editors for *ABA Field Notes*.

The Committee and the editors of RVB express their gratitude to the birders who have documented rare bird sightings with detailed reports. These reports add greatly to the data and general knowledge of the birds of Vermont. To obtain Rare Species Documentation forms (RSDs), or Rare Species Nesting Report forms (RNRs) write to the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, 27023 Church Hill Rd., Woodstock, VT 05091.

Below: Ross' Goose (center) among Lesser Snow Geese, Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, Addison, Vermont. 13 October, 1996. Photo by David Hoag.

Species for Which Detailed Reports are Required

A documentation report is required for any species not included on the Vermont Daily Field Card or for any species significantly outside the usual dates of occurrence in Vermont.

In addition, RSDs are required in all seasons for: **Golden Eagle, Barn Owl, Long-eared Owl, Three-toed Woodpecker, Yellow-breasted Chat, Black-backed Woodpecker** (outside Northeast Kingdom), **Sedge Wren**, and **Orange-crowned Warbler**.

RNRs are requested for the following species (which are rare nesters in Vermont) if the species is observed in proper breeding habitat during the breeding season (exceptions or special cases follow each species name in parentheses): **Pied-billed Grebe, Least Bittern** (except for the West Rutland Marsh, Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, and Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge), **Great Egret** (between 15 May and 15 July), **Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Osprey** (if nesting evidence is observed, except when seen on a platform), **Bald Eagle** (if nesting evidence is observed), **Northern Harrier** (outside the Champlain Valley), **Cooper's Hawk** (if nesting evidence is observed), **Peregrine Falcon, Spruce Grouse, Sora**

Continued on next page



(except the Barton River Marshes, West Rutland Marsh, Dead Creek and Missisquoi Marshes), **Upland Sandpiper**, **Short-eared Owl**, **Red-headed Woodpecker** (if nesting is probable or confirmed), **Gray Jay** (outside the Northeast Kingdom), **Loggerhead Shrike**, **Grasshopper Sparrow**, **Orchard Oriole** (if nesting evidence is observed), **Pine Grosbeak**, **Red Crossbill** (if confirmed breeding), and **Mute Swan**.

Bird Records Committee Members:

Walter Ellison
George E. (Terry) Hall
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Sarah Laughlin
Nancy Martin
Whitney Nichols
Frank Oatman
Simon Perkins
Wayne Petersen
Frederick Pratt
Susanne Wetmore

Editorial Staff

Steve Faccio
Julie Nicholson
Bryan Pfeiffer
Judith Peterson
Christopher Rimmer

FIRST STATE RECORDS

CASSIN'S VIREO (*Vireo cassini*) - one, Red Rocks Park, South Burlington, Chittenden Cty., 21 May 1997. Scott W. Morrill, Frederick A. Pratt, Theodore G. Murin.

PAINTED BUNTING (*Passerina ciris*) - one adult male, Shelburne, Chittenden Cty., 6 May 1997. Susan R. Klein. Photographs. A previous report from Danby, Rutland Cty., 11 & 13 May 1993 by Karl and Winifred Droge had been accepted as hypothetical.

Above: Northern Hawk Owl snoozing in Cornwall, Vermont. 29 March, 1997. Photo by Steve Faccio.

FIRST STATE NESTING RECORD

MERLIN (*Falco columbarius*) - two adults and four young, campus of Johnson State College, Johnson, Lamoille Cty., April thru July 1997. John Wrazen, Martha Pitt, Sarah B. Laughlin et al. Photographs.

NOTABLE STATE RECORDS, SECOND THROUGH TENTH

NORTHERN GANNET (*Morus bassanus*) - one first year, Shelburne Bay, Shelburne, Chittenden Cty., 24 November 1996. T.G. Murin, F.A. Pratt. Ninth state record.

SABINE'S GULL (*Xema sabini*) - one juvenile, Lake Champlain off Milton, Chittenden Cty., 12 September 1997. F.A. Pratt, Richard B. Lavallee. Photographs. Sixth state record.

FORSTER'S TERN (*Sterna forsteri*) - one adult, Winooski River delta, Colchester, Chittenden Cty., 1 November 1996. T.G. Murin, F.A. Pratt, Eleanor B. Pratt. Fifth state record.

FORSTER'S TERN (*S. forsteri*) - one adult, Shelburne Bay, Shelburne, Chittenden Cty., 8 April 1997. Susanne S. Wetmore, Edna Jones, m.ob. Sixth state record.

NORTHERN HAWK OWL (*Surnia ulula*) - one, West St., Cornwall, Addison Cty., 21 November 1996 into March 1997. Alan Pistorius, Ben Pistorius, m.ob. Seventh report to RVB. Photograph.

NORTHERN HAWK OWL (*S. ulula*) - one, Green

Mt. Club, Waterbury, Washington Cty., early November 1996 thru February 1997. Ted Allen, m.ob. Eighth report to RVB. Photograph.

NORTHERN HAWK OWL (*S. ulula*) - one, Brandon Training School, Brandon, Rutland Cty., 28 November 1996. S.S. Wetmore. Ninth report to RVB.



Above: Northern Hawk Owl snoozing in Cornwall, Vermont. 29 March, 1997. Photo by Steve Faccio.

NORTHERN HAWK OWL (*S. ulula*) - one, East St. at Cross St., Bridport, Addison Cty., 5 December 1996 thru February 1997. Judith A. Peterson, m.ob. Tenth report to RVB.

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD (*Selasphorus rufus*) - one male, West Arlington, Bennington Cty., 10 July 1997. Cornelia S. Chapin, Charles T. Chapin. Fifth state record.

RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD (*S. rufus*) - one male, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 1 August 1997 and 21-30 August 1997. David J. Hoag, Joyce Scholtz et al. Sixth state record.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE

(*Lanius ludovicianus*) - one adult, Hawkins Rd., Ferrisburgh, Addison Cty., 3-6 April 1997. Steven G. Parren, T.G. Murin, S.W. Morrical et al. First record since 1987.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER

(*Dendroica dominica*) - one male, Danby Pond, Danby, Rutland Cty., 25 May 1997. Nancy A. Brown. Ninth state record.

WORM-EATING WARBLER (*Helmintheros vermivorus*) - one adult, north of Brattleboro, Windham Cty., 8 May 1997. P.D. Hunt. Sixth report to RVB.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (*Spizella pallida*) - one, Smith Haven, South Londonderry, Windham Cty., 6 April 1997. William J. Norse. Seventh state record.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW (*Ammodramus henslowii*) - one, Smith Haven, South Londonderry, Windham Cty., 18 August 1996. W.J. Norse. Second record since 1977.

BLUE GROSBEAK (*Guiraca caerulea*) - one male, West Arlington, Bennington Cty., 29 June 1997. C.S. Chapin, C.T. Chapin. Eighth state record.

Above: Merlin Fledglings, Johnson, VT 14 July, 1997
Photo by John Wrazen



ACCEPTED AS HYPOTHETICAL

THAYER'S GULL (*Larus thayeri*) - one immature, Burlington Harbor, Burlington, Chittenden Cty., 3 & 5 December 1996. D.J. Hoag. Third hypothetical state record.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER (*Tyrannus forficatus*) - one adult, Bethel, Windsor Cty., 26 May 1997. Cecil B. Hoisington, Barbara L. Hoisington. First hypothetical state record.

OTHER REPORTS OF RARE SPECIES

ROSS' GOOSE (*Chen rossii*) - one adult, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 1 April 1997. D.J. Hoag.

ROSS' GOOSE (*C. rossii*) - one adult white morph, Dead Creek WMA, Addison, Addison Cty., 6 October 1997. T.G. Murin.

ROSS' GOOSE (*C. rossii*) - one adult white morph, Dead Creek WMA, Addison, Addison Cty., 8 & 14 October 1997. D.J. Hoag.

ROSS' GOOSE (*C. rossii*) - one adult white morph, Dead Creek WMA, Gage Rd. Addison, Addison Cty., 9 October 1997. Julia Nicholson, Elizabeth F.Gilbert.

EURASIAN WIGEON (*Anas penelope*) - one male, Swanton, Franklin Cty., 30 March 1997. T.G. Murin.

HARLEQUIN DUCK (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) - one male in alternate plumage and one female, Charlotte Town Beach, Charlotte, Chittenden Cty., 15 December 1996. T.G. Murin.

GOLDEN EAGLE (*Aquila chrysaetos*) - one immature, Mt. Philo, Charlotte, Chittenden Cty., 22 April 1997. T.G. Murin.

GOLDEN EAGLE (*A. chrysaetos*) - one immature, Appalachian Trail, Bridgewater, Windsor Cty., 27 September 1997. Jim Tietz, Tim Redman.

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GOLDEN EAGLE (*A. chrysaetos*) - one subadult, Rupert Mt., Rupert, Bennington Cty., 19 October 1997. E.F. Gilbert.

GYRFALCON (*Falco rusticolus*) - one dark morph, Dead Creek WMA, Addison, Addison Cty., 16 November 1996. S.W. Morrival, Jim Osborne et al.

GYRFALCON (*F. rusticolus*) - one gray morph, Dead Creek WMA, Addison, Addison Cty., 29 November 1996. Steve Faccio, Paul Fusco. Photographs.

GYRFALCON (*F. rusticolus*) - one gray morph, Button Bay State Park, Ferrisburgh, Addison Cty., 11 December 1996. S.S. Wetmore, J.A. Peterson.

GYRFALCON (*F. rusticolus*) - one immature gray morph, Dead Creek WMA, Addison, Addison Cty., 28 December 1996. S.W. Morrival, Beatrice Guyett et al.

GYRFALCON (*F. rusticolus*) - one adult gray morph, Dead Creek WMA, Addison, Addison Cty., 28 December 1996. S.W. Morrival, B.Guyett et al.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (*Rissa tridactyla*) - one, near Savage Island, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 15 September 1996. R.B. Lavallee, Elizabeth Alton, Raymond Barnes.

LONG-EARED OWL (*Asio otus*) - one found dead at Rt. 17 north of Snake Mt. Addison, Addison Cty., 17 April 1997. S.G. Parren. Photograph.

WHITE-EYED VIREO (*Vireo griseus*) - one, South Londonderry, Windham Cty., 10 September 1997. W.J. Norse.

SEDGE WREN (*Cistothorus platensis*) - one, Sudbury, Rutland Cty., 26 May 1997. S.S. Wetmore, Mary Lou Webster, Betty Barbarise.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (*Vermivora celata*) - one, Red Rocks Park, South Burlington, Chittenden Cty., 17 May 1997. S.W. Morrival.

DICKCISSEL (*Spiza americana*) - one adult female, Addison, Addison Cty., 27 September 1997. F.A. Pratt.

RARE NESTING SPECIES

PIED-BILLED GREBE (*Podilymbus podiceps*) - one adult with three young, West Rutland Marsh, West Rutland, Rutland Cty., 9 June 1997. S.S. Wetmore, David Jenne, Bryan Pfeiffer, Roy Pilcher.

SPRUCE GROUSE (*Dendragapus canadensis*) - one adult female and one chick, Yellow Bogs, Lewis, Essex Cty., 17 July 1997. Alexander Weinhagen.

OUT-OF-SEASON REPORTS

NORTHERN FLICKER (*Colaptes auratus*) - one, Charlotte, Chittenden Cty., 13 February 1997. D.J. Hoag.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO (*Vireo solitarius*) - one, North Westminster, Windham Cty., 21 December 1996. Dan Crook, Jean Sangdahl.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (*Dendroica coronata*) - one, East St. Bridport, Addison Cty., 9 March 1997. F.A. Pratt, E.B. Pratt.

RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEE (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) - one male, Bridgewater Corners, Windsor Cty., 27 December 1996. Christopher C. Rimmer, Kevin Taft.

CHIPPING SPARROW (*Spizella passerina*) - one adult, winter plumage, Brattleboro, Windham Cty., 21 December 1996. Whitney Nichols.

SAVANNAH SPARROW (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) - four, Hawkins Rd. Ferrisburgh, Addison Cty., 11 January 1997. J.A. Peterson, S.S. Wetmore.

SAVANNAH SPARROW (*P. sandwichensis*) - three, Nortontown Rd., Addison, Addison Cty., 2 February 1997. J.A. Peterson, S.S. Wetmore et al.