



# RECORDS OF VERMONT BIRDS

VERMONT INSTITUTE OF NATURAL SCIENCE

1998 REPORT

## *Vermont Birds Records Committee 1998 Report*

**T**he Vermont Bird Records Committee met on November 7, 1998, 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.

### **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** (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**

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*Two of the nine Tundra Swans  
observed in Brandon on April 9, 1998.  
Photo by David Jenne*



## FIRST STATE RECORDS

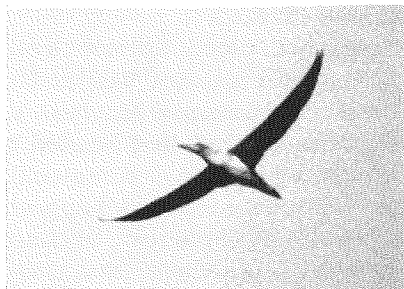
**PARASITIC JAEGER** (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) — one dark morph, off Elm Point, Lake Champlain, Addison, Addison Cty., 1-7 November 1997. Theodore G. Murin, Scott W. Morrical, Frederick A. Pratt et al. A similar individual seen at this same location 7-8 December 1997 could well have been the same bird. A previous report off Georgia shore, Franklin Cty., 26 October, 1987 by Richard B. Lavallee was accepted as hypothetical.

**FISH CROW** (*Corvus ossifragus*) — two or three, Red Rocks Park, South Burlington, Chittenden Cty., 3-31 May 1998. T.G. Murin, S.W. Morrical. Confirmed nesting. A previous report from Brattleboro, Windham Cty., 8 April, 1992 by Tom Maloney and John Dunn was accepted as hypothetical.

## NOTABLE STATE RECORDS, SECOND THROUGH TENTH

### NORTHERN

**GANNET** (*Morus bassanus*) — one, Alburg Passage/ Carry Bay, North Hero, Grand Isle Cty., 16 October 1998. Richard B. Lavallee, F.A. Pratt. Photographs. Tenth state record.



Northern Gannet, Alburg Passage, North Hero, October 16, 1998.  
Photo by Richard B. Lavallee.

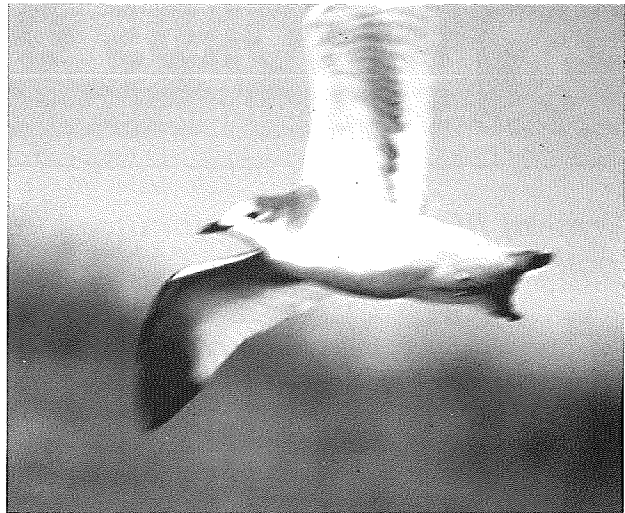
**AMERICAN  
WHITE PELICAN**  
(*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*)

— two adults, alternate plumage, Shelburne Bay, Shelburne, Chittenden Cty., 22 May 1998. T.G. Murin et al. Fifth state record.

**YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** (*Nyctanassa violacea*) — one adult, LaPlatte River, Shelburne, Chittenden Cty., 12 September 1998. Denis J. Poley, Maria E. Poley. Fourth state record.

**ROSS'S GOOSE** (*Chen rossii*) — one blue morph adult, Dead Creek WMA, Addison, Addison Cty., 11 October 1998. T.G. Murin, Peter Riley. Second state record for blue morph.

**KING EIDER** (*Somateria spectabilis*) — one first year male, Lake Champlain, Addison, Addison Cty., 30 November 1997. T.G. Murin, F.A. Pratt, Eleanor B. Pratt. Seventh state record.



One of two juvenile Sabine's Gulls observed on Lake Champlain in St. Albans on September 24 and 25, 1998.  
Note the unique wing pattern.  
Photo by Richard B. Lavallee.

**BLACK-HEADED GULL** (*Larus ridibundus*) — one adult, basic plumage, Thompson's Point, Lake Champlain, Charlotte, Chittenden Cty., 23, 25 & 27 October 1998. R.B. Lavallee, T.G. Murin, Wayne S. Scott, David J. Hoag et al. Photographs. Fifth state record.

**BLACK-HEADED GULL** (*L. ridibundus*) — one adult, basic plumage, Shelburne Bay, Shelburne, Chittenden Cty., 31 October & 1 November 1998. George E. (Terry) Hall, T.G. Murin. Considered by plumage details to be a different individual from the one above. Sixth state record.

**SABINE'S GULL** (*Xema sabini*) — two juveniles, Lake Champlain, St. Albans, Franklin Cty., 24-25 September 1998. R.B. Lavallee, F.A. Pratt, D.J. Hoag. Photographs. Seventh state record.

**RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD** (*Selasphorus rufus*) — one male, Arlington, Bennington Cty., 10 July 1998. Cornelia S. Chapin, Charles T. Chapin. Seventh state record.

**PROTHONOTARY WARBLER** (*Protonotaria citrea*) — one singing male, Long Point, North Ferrisburgh, Addison Cty., 18, 20 & 21 May 1998. Jo-Ann D. Appleton, T.G. Murin, S.W. Morrical et al. Fifth state record, second report to RVB.

**CLAY-COLORED SPARROW** (*Spizella pallida*) — one singing male, Charlotte, Chittenden Cty., 3, 7 & 11 July 1998. Mark R. Paul. Eighth state record.

## ACCEPTED AS HYPOTHETICAL

**SUMMER TANAGER** (*Piranga rubra*) – one male, Hartland Four Corners, Windsor Cty., 1 May 1998. Alan Goldblatt. First hypothetical state record.

**HOARY REDPOLL** (*Carduelis bornemanni*) – one, Brandon, Rutland Cty., 26 December 1997. Susanne S. Wetmore.

## OTHER REPORTS OF RARE SPECIES

**NORTHERN GANNET** (*M. bassanus*) – one first winter, Lake Champlain at Panton, Addison Cty., 23 October 1998. F.A. Pratt, R.B. Lavallee. Photographs.

**ROSS'S GOOSE** (*Chen rossii*) – two white morph, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 27 March 1998. D.J. Hoag.

**TUNDRA SWAN** (*Cygnus columbianus*) – nine, Rt. 73 West, Brandon, Rutland Cty., 9 April 1998. S.S. Wetmore, many observers and much press coverage. Photograph.

**TUNDRA SWAN** (*C. columbianus*) – one adult, Mt. Philo Rd., Charlotte, Chittenden Cty., 2 November 1998. T.G. Murin, D.J. Hoag.

**EURASIAN WIGEON** (*Anas penelope*) – one male in alternate plumage, Lake Champlain at Thompson's Point, Charlotte, Chittenden Cty., 21 October 1998. T.G. Murin.

**HARLEQUIN DUCK** (*Histrionicus histrionicus*) – one male in alternate plumage, Button Bay, Ferrisburgh, Addison Cty., 1-2 & 5 November 1997. T.G. Murin.

**HARLEQUIN DUCK** (*H. histrionicus*) – one male in alternate plumage, Charlotte Town Beach, Charlotte, Chittenden Cty., 31 January 1998. T.G. Murin, James Osborn.

**GOLDEN EAGLE** (*Aquila chrysaetos*) – one adult, Ward Hill, South Duxbury, Washington Cty., 6 July 1998. F.A. Pratt.

**GYRFALCON** (*Falco rusticolus*) – one gray morph, Lake Champlain shore at Panton, Addison Cty., 16 February 1998. Judith A. Peterson, Paul and Carol Faxon.

**LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER** (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*) – six, Brilyea Access, Dead Creek WMA, Addison, Addison Cty., 16 September 1998. D.J. Hoag, F.A. Pratt, E.B. Pratt.

**RED PHALAROPE** (*Phalaropus fulicaria*) – one, off Sampson Point, St. Albans, Franklin Cty., 18 September 1998. R.B. Lavallee.

**RED PHALAROPE** (*P. fulicaria*) – one, Bixby Island, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 16 October 1998. Photograph. R.B. Lavallee, F.A. Pratt.

**BARN OWL** (*Tyto alba*) – one, Landgrove Hollow Rd., Landgrove, Windham Cty., 13 November 1997. Carol Knight.

**NORTHERN HAWK OWL** (*Surnia ulula*) – one, Jericho, Chittenden Cty., 4 January 1998. Photograph. Julia M. Nicholson, Penny Soares, Karen Bowles.

**LONG-EARED OWL** (*Asio otus*) – two, Snake Mountain, Addison, Addison Cty., 21 December 1997. Randy Durand, Cathy Durand.

**LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE** (*Lanius ludovicianus*) – one, LaFountain Farm, Weybridge, Addison Cty., 26-28 April 1998. J.A. Peterson, Kris Andrews, J.M. Nicholson et al.

**CONNECTICUT WARBLER** (*Oporornis agilis*) – one banded at Bragdon Preserve, Woodstock, Windsor Cty., 8 September 1998. Colleen Dwyer, Tim Redman, Brandt Ryder, Chris Rimmer.

## RARE NESTING SPECIES

**AMERICAN COOT** (*Fulica americana*) – two adults, one young, Otter Creek, Ferrisburgh, Addison Cty., 28 July 1998. Kathleen Hoopes, Warren King. Accepted as possible.

**MERLIN** (*Falco columbarius*) – five, Johnson State College, Johnson, Lamoille Cty., 14-18 July 1998. Julie M. Boudreau, John Wrazen, Ray Lambert. Second nesting at this location.

**MERLIN** (*Falco columbarius*) – two adults, five nestlings, Pleasant View Cemetery, Morristown, Lamoille Cty., 20 June thru 13 July 1998. Julie M. Boudreau, John Wrazen, Bryan Pfeiffer, F.A. Pratt. First nesting at this location.

## OUT-OF SEASON REPORTS

**DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT** (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) – Shelburne Bay, Shelburne, Chittenden Cty., 21 December 1997. T.G. Murin et al.

**GLOSSY IBIS** (*Plegadis falcinellus*) – one, Simm's Point Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 29 July thru 8 August 1998. D.J. Hoag, R.B. Lavallee.

**DUNLIN** (*Calidris alpina*) – one, Simm's Point, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 28 May 1998. D.J. Hoag. Photographs.

**RED-EYED VIREO** (*Vireo olivaceus*) – one, South Duxbury, Washington Cty., 10 November 1997. F.A. Pratt, E.B. Pratt.

**BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER** (*Dendroica caerulescens*) – one adult male, Hammond residence, Reading, Windsor Cty., 30 December 1997 thru 26 January 1998. Forrest Hammond, Kristina Hammond, Colleen Hammond. Photographs.

**WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW** (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) – one immature, Shelburne Point, Shelburne, Chittenden Cty., 21 December 1997. T.G. Murin et al.



Normally a fall migrant in Vermont, this Dunlin was found on May 28, 1998 at Simm's Point on Grand Isle.  
Photo by David J. Hoag.

## SUB-SPECIES, EXOTICS, ESCAPES, HYBRIDS

**FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK** (*Dendrocygna bicolor*) – three, Herrick's Cove, Bellow's Falls, Windham Cty., 8 August 1998. Andrew Greenwood. Origin unknown.

**BARNACLE GOOSE** (*Branta leucopsis*) – two, off Thompson's Point, Charlotte, Chittenden Cty., 23 October 1998. T.G. Murin, D.J. Hoag. Origin questionable.

**HUMMINGBIRD SP.** – one, Wagner residence, Sheffield, Caledonia Cty., 6,7 & 11 August 1998. Paul Wagner, Shirley Wagner. Buff to light brown coloration, species undetermined. Videotape.

**CLAY-COLORED X FIELD SPARROW** – one possible hybrid, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 28 April thru 1 June 1998. D.J. Hoag. Photographs.