



RECORDS OF VERMONT BIRDS

VERMONT INSTITUTE OF NATURAL SCIENCE

1999 REPORT

Vermont Bird Records Committee 1999 Report

The Vermont Bird Records Committee met on November 6, 1999, 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



A first year male Common Eider; only the 8th report to RVB, was observed and photographed on Lake Champlain near Charlotte on 11-12 November, 1999. Photo by David Hoag.

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 con-

firmed), **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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FIRST STATE RECORD

SUMMER Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) - one, second year male, inadvertently caught in a cage, Brandon, Rutland Cty., 11 May 1999. Susanne S. Wetmore et al. Photograph.

A previous report from Hartland Four Corners, Windsor Cty., 1 May 1998 by Alan Goldblatt was accepted as hypothetical.

NOTABLE STATE RECORDS, SECOND THROUGH TENTH

BLACK VULTURE (*Coragyps atratus*) - one, Colchester, Chittenden Cty., 3 September 1999. Richard B. Lavallee. Fifth state record.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (*Anser albifrons*) - two adults, Button Bay, Ferrisburgh, Addison Cty., 17 November 1998. Theodore G. Murin. Seventh state record.

COMMON EIDER (*Somateria mollissima*) - one first year male, Lake Champlain, Charlotte, Chittenden Cty., 11-12 November 1998. T.G. Murin, David J. Hoag, Frederick A. Pratt, Eleanor B. Pratt. Eighth report to RVB. Photographs.

AMERICAN AVOCET (*Recurvirostra americana*) - one adult, Lake Lamoille, Morrisville, Lamoille Cty., 21 July 1999. Gretchen Damon, T.G. Murin, F.A. Pratt, E.B. Pratt et al. Third report to RVB.

LAUGHING GULL (*Larus atricilla*) - two sub-adults and one juvenile, Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, Addison, Addison Cty., 6 October 1999. R.B. Lavallee. Fourth state record.

BLACK-HEADED GULL (*Larus ridibundus*) - one adult, basic plumage, Lake Champlain, Charlotte, Chittenden Cty., 10 October 1998. Scott W. Morrill. Possibly the same bird as one approved in the 1998 VBRC Report, thus a fifth state record.

BLACK-HEADED GULL (*L. ridibundus*) - one adult, basic plumage, mouth of Little Otter Creek, Ferrisburgh, Addison Cty., 4 November 1999. Judith A. Peterson, S.S. Wetmore. Seventh state record.

SABINE'S GULL (*Xema sabini*) - one juvenile, Lake Champlain, Milton, Chittenden Cty., 19 September 1999. Allan M. Strong. Eighth state record.

SUMMER Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) - one second year male, Alburg Springs, Grand Isle Cty., 17 May 1999. Joanne Mapes. Second state record.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (*Spizella pallida*) - one singing male, Shaftsbury, Bennington Cty., 20 May 1999. Andrew Knafel, Anne Hunter, Elizabeth F. Gilbert. Ninth state record.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (*S. pallida*) - one singing male, South Duxbury, Washington Cty., 27 May 1999. F.A. Pratt, E.B. Pratt. Tenth state record.

PAINTED BUNTING (*Passerina ciris*) - one immature female, Hartland Four Corners, Windsor Cty., 5 December 1998. Pierre Fournier, Julia M. Nicholson, Betty R. Jillson. Second state record. Photograph.



A second year male Summer Tanager, Vermont's first state record, was accidentally captured in a bird cage in Brandon on 11 May, 1999. Sue Wetmore documented the bird with this photo before it was released.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*) - one male, Guilford, Windham Cty., 28 May 1999. Susan James, Gerry James. Fourth state record.

ACCEPTED AS HYPOTHETICAL

PACIFIC LOON (*Gavia pacifica*) - one, basic plumage, Tri-town Water Plant, Addison, Addison Cty., 27 October 1998. S.W. Morrill. Second hypothetical (only one observer) state record.

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE (*Anser brachyrhynchus*) - one, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 31 March 1999. D.J. Hoag. First hypothetical (only one observer) state record.

OTHER REPORTS OF RARE SPECIES

LITTLE BLUE HERON (*Egretta caerulea*) - one adult, Gillette Swamp, Thetford, Orange Cty., 2 May 1999. Ted Levin, Linny Levin et al.

LITTLE BLUE HERON (*E. caerulea*) - one adult, Kennedy Drive, South Burlington, Chittenden Cty., 3 July 1999. Charles Gifford.

ROSS'S GOOSE

(*Chen rosi*) - two white morph adults, Button Bay State Park, Ferrisburgh, Addison Cty., 5 April 1999. T.G. Murin.

BRANT (*Branta bernica*) - three adults, Young Island, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 19 August 1999. D.J. Hoag.

TUNDRA SWAN

(*Cygnus columbianus*) - fourteen, Lake Memphremagog, Newport City, Orleans Cty., 13 December 1998. Bill Prue, Jeanne Prue. Photograph.

GOLDEN EAGLE (*Aquila chrysaetos*) - one, Morristown, Lamoille Cty., 1 November 1998. Liz Kellogg Lackey, Frank and Marion Kellogg.

SANDHILL CRANE (*Grus canadensis*) - one, Connecticut River, McIndoe Falls, Caledonia Cty., 2 July 1999. F.A. Pratt, E.B. Pratt.

SANDHILL CRANE (*G. canadensis*) - one, Shaftsbury, Bennington Cty., 4-5 October 1999. E.F. Gilbert, Marshal T. Case et al.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT (*Limosa haemastica*) - one juvenile, Stone Bridge, DCWMA, Panton, Addison Cty., 17 September 1999. F.A. Pratt, E.B. Pratt.

RED KNOT (*Calidris canutus*) - five, basic plumage, Young Island, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 19 August 1999. D.J. Hoag. Photographs.

RED KNOT (*C. canutus*) - two to four, basic plumage, Highgate and Swanton, Franklin Cty., 24 August to 2 September 1999. R.B. Lavallee. Photographs.

RED KNOT (*C. canutus*) - one, basic plumage, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 5 September 1999. D.J. Hoag. Photographs.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER (*Calidris fuscicollis*) - one, alternate plumage, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 29 May 1999. D.J. Hoag. Photographs.



One of several Red Knots observed during late August and early September, 1999 in the northern reaches of Lake Champlain, this individual was photographed by Richard Lavallee in Swanton, VT.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER (*C. fuscicollis*) - one, alternate plumage, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 1 June 1999. D.J. Hoag. Photographs.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER

(*Tryngites subruficollis*) - one at Milton, Chittenden Cty., and one at Highgate, Franklin Cty., 28 August 1999 (Milton) and 2 September 1999 (Highgate). R.B. Lavallee et al.

Photographs and video.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER (*T. subruficollis*) - two, Winooski Delta Park, Colchester, Chittenden Cty., 29 August 1999. F.A. Pratt, E.B. Pratt.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER (*T. subruficollis*) - one, Prunier Rd. Weybridge, Addison Cty., 18 September 1999. F.A. Pratt, E.B. Pratt.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (*Rissa tridactyla*) - one, Lake Morey Rd., Fairlee, Orange Cty., 8 September 1999. Mark E. Scott.

CASPIAN TERN (*Sterna caspia*) - one adult, Sandbar Wildlife Management Area, Milton, Chittenden Cty., 16 July 1999. F.A. Pratt.

BARN OWL (*Tyto alba*) - one, Hawkins Rd., Ferrisburgh, Addison Cty., 8 May 1999. A.M. Strong.

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WHITE-EYED VIREO (*Vireo griseus*) - one immature, Button Bay State Park, Ferrisburgh, Addison Cty., 25 September 1999. T.G. Murin, Ernest W. Buford.

SEDGE WREN (*Cistothorus platensis*) - one, Smith Haven, South Londonderry, Windham Cty., 19 July 1999. William J. Norse.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (*Vermivora celata*) - one, Rockingham, Windham Cty., 3 October 1999. W.J. Norse.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER (*Oporornis agilis*) - one adult, Bragdon Preserve, Woodstock, Windsor Cty., 2 September 1999. Thomas B. Ryder, et al. Banded and photographed.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER (*O. agilis*) - one hatch year, Bragdon Preserve, Woodstock, Windsor Cty., 14 September 1999. Steven D. Faccio, et al. Banded and photographed.

RARE NESTING SPECIES

MERLIN (*Falco columbarius*) - two adults and five young, Morristown, Lamoille Cty., 9 July 1998. F.A. Pratt, E.B. Pratt, Bryan Pfeiffer. This is another sighting of the same nesting considered and tabled at the 1998 Records Committee Meeting.

PALM WARBLER (*Dendroica palmarum*) - six singing males, two females, including one territorial pair carrying food. Yellow Bogs, Lewis, Essex Cty., 24 May 1998. Tom Aversa, Anne Aversa, Dave Nyzio.

OUT-OF-SEASON REPORTS

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER (*Mergus serrator*) - two adults (female plumage), one downy young, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 10-20 June 1996. D.J. Hoag. Photographs.

KILLDEER (*Charadrius vociferus*) - two, St. Albans Bay, St. Albans, Franklin Cty., 20 December 1998. Michele Patenaude et al.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus varius*) - one female, Bridgewater, Windsor Cty., 29 December 1998. Mark Council, Dan Crook.

BROWN THRASHER (*Toxostoma rufum*) - one, Woodstock, Windsor Cty., 25 December 1998-5 March 1999. J.M. Nicholson.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) - one, Stockbridge, Windsor Cty., 13-16 December 1999. Edward Hack. Photograph.

TABLED

CASPIAN TERN (*Sterna caspia*) - six or seven, north Lake Champlain, various towns and dates, 22 July 1999 thru 4 September 1999. R.B. Lavallee et al. Tabled pending receipt of reports from other observers or photographs.



This White-rumped Sandpiper was observed and photographed by David Hoag on 1 June, 1999 in Grand Isle, VT.