



RECORDS OF VERMONT BIRDS

VERMONT INSTITUTE OF NATURAL SCIENCE

2000 Report

Vermont Bird Records Committee 2000 Report

The Vermont Bird Records Committee met on November 4, 2000, 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 researchers. The Committee's recommendations are reported in the publication *Records of Vermont Birds* (RVB). The Bird Records Committee



Fork-tailed Flycatcher courtesy of anon photographer

consists of the managing 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 the general knowledge of the birds of Vermont.

Rare Species Documentation (RSD) forms, or Rare Species Nesting Reports (RSNR), may be downloaded from the VINS website, or may be obtained by writing 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: **Barn Owl**, **Long-eared Owl**, **Three-toed Woodpecker**, **Yellow-breasted Chat**, **Black-backed Woodpecker** (outside the Northeast Kingdom), **Sedge Wren**, **Orange-crowned Warbler**, **Ross's Goose** (away from Dead Creek), **Golden Eagle** (except during October & November), **Caspian Tern** (away from northern Lake Champlain. Any nesting report would need to be fully documented), **Sandhill Crane**, and **Clay-colored Sparrow**.

RSNRs 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 in parentheses): **Pied-billed Grebe**, **Least Bittern** (except for West Rutland Marsh, Dead Creek WMA, and Missisquoi NWR), **Great Egret** (between 15 May and 15 July), **Northern Shoveler**, **American Wigeon**, **Ring-necked Duck**, **Lesser Scaup**, **Osprey** (where 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 in 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 nesting is confirmed), and **Mute Swan**.

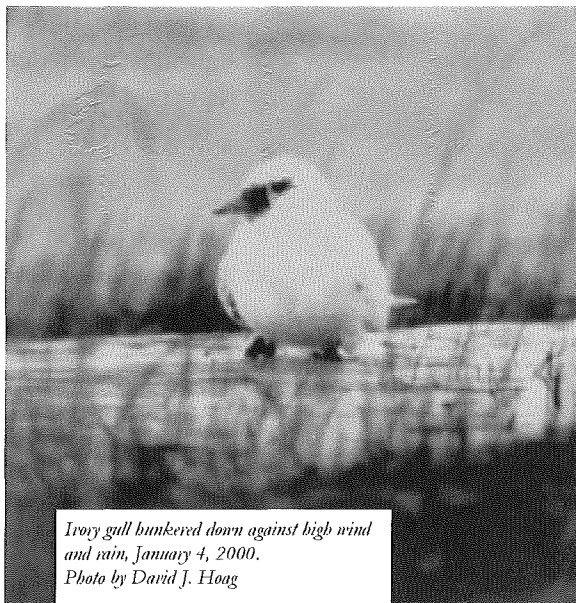
BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Pam Hunt	Wayne Petersen
Simon Perkins	Walter Ellison
Nancy Martin	Wayne Scott
Chris Rimmer	Judith Peterson
Frederick Pratt	Susanne Wetmore
Julie Nicholson	Anne Aversa
Sally Laughlin	Whitney Nichols

FIRST STATE RECORDS

TUFTED DUCK (*Aythya fuligula*) – one male, 7 April 2000, South Shelburne Bay, Shelburne, Chittenden Cty., Charles Gifford, Otto Meier, Chris Sharp.

IVORY GULL (*Pagophila eburnea*) – one first winter, 4 January 2000, Nichols' Point, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., David J. Hoag, Theodore G. Murin, George E. Hall. Photographs.



*Ivory gull hunkered down against high wind and rain, January 4, 2000.
Photo by David J. Hoag*

HOARY RED-POLL (*Carduelis hornemanni*) – one, 27 January 2000, Tinmouth, Rutland Cty., Phillip M. Ballou. Photographs.

Many other previous sightings of this species were accepted as “hypothetical” pending scientific clarification of this

FIRST HYPOTHETICAL STATE RECORD

WHITE-WINGED DOVE (*Zenaida asiatica*) – one, 2 September 2000, Champlain Bridge, Addison, Addison Cty., Richard B. Lavalley. Only one observer.

NOTABLE STATE RECORDS, SECOND THROUGH TENTH

GREAT CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) – one first year, 28 November 1999, Burlington breakwater, Burlington, Chittenden Cty., Wayne Scott, T. G. Murin et al. Ninth state record.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (*Anser albifrons*) – one, 21 March 1999, Tinmouth, Rutland Cty., P. M. Ballou, Roy W. Pilcher. Photograph. Eighth state record.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (*A. albifrons*) – two, 12 October 1999, East Dorset, Bennington Cty., Barbara W. Powers, Ruth Stewart, Elizabeth F. Gilbert, Mary Ann Parker, Frederick A. Pratt, Eleanor B. Pratt. Ninth state record.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED

GOOSE (*A. albifrons*) – two, 3 January 2000, West Street, Proctor, Rutland Cty., R.W. Pilcher, Susanne S. Wetmore. Tenth state record.

BLACK-HEADED GULL (*Larus ridibundus*) – one adult, 1 August 2000, West Shore Road, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., D. J. Hoag. Eighth state record.

BLACK-HEADED GULL (*L. ridibundus*) – one adult non-breeding, 15 September 2000, Lake Champlain at Charlotte, Chittenden Cty., T. G. Murin. Ninth state record.

SABINE'S GULL (*Xema sabini*) – one juvenile, 28 September 2000, Lake Champlain at Charlotte, Chittenden Cty., T. G. Murin, Allan M. Strong, R. B. Lavalley, D. J. Hoag. Ninth state record.

BLACK GUILLEMOT (*Cepphus grylle*) – one first winter or non-breeding adult, 30 November 1999, Lake Champlain at Charlotte, Chittenden Cty., T. G. Murin. Fourth state record.

FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER (*Tyrannus savanna*) – one probable adult, 10 June 2000, Hawkins Road, Ferrisburgh, Addison Cty., Beatrice P. Guyett, Jeanne Wisner and many observers over a period of several weeks. Photographs. Second state record.

FISH CROW (*Corvus ossifragus*) – one, 13 May 2000, Peru-Landgrove Road, Peru, Bennington Cty., William J. Norse. Second state record.

REPORTS OF OTHER RARE SPECIES

NORTHERN GANNET (*Morus bassanus*) – one juvenile, 16 October 2000, Lake Champlain at Charlotte, Chittenden Cty., T. G. Murin.

LITTLE BLUE HERON (*Egretta caerulea*) – one adult, 20 April 2000, Rt. 73, Brandon, Rutland Cty., S. S. Wetmore, m. ob. Photograph.

TUNDRA SWAN (*Cygnus columbianus*) – one adult, 4 April 1999, south of U.S. Rt. 7, Rutland Town, Rutland Cty., Nancy L. Martin, Walter G. Ellison.

EURASIAN WIGEON (*Anas penelope*) – one male, alternate plumage, 4 April 1999, Hopkins Rd., Panton, Addison Cty., N. L. Martin, W. G. Ellison.

EURASIAN WIGEON OR EURASIAN WIGEON X AMERICAN WIGEON HYBRID (*A. penelope*) – three males, 16 April 2000, Tabor Rd., Swanton, Franklin Cty., Kenneth Copenhaver.

GOLDEN EAGLE (*Aquila chrysaetos*) – one immature, 16 February 2000, Shaftsbury, Bennington Cty., Solon Rhode et al.

GOLDEN EAGLE (*A. chrysaetos*) – two adults, 13 May 2000, southern Vermont Valley, Bennington, Bennington Cty., Kim Likakis.

RED KNOT (*Calidris canutus*) – three, 10 August 2000, Young Island, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., D. J. Hoag.

RED KNOT (*C. canutus*) – one, 4 September 2000, Nichol's Point and Young Island, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., D. J. Hoag. Photographs.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER (*Tryngites subruficollis*) – five, 15-16 September 2000, Green-

bush Rd., Charlotte, Chittenden Cty., T. G. Murin, Craig S. Provost, Scott W. Morrical, James Osborne.

LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*) – one juvenile, 1 October 2000, Dead Creek WMA, Panton, Addison Cty., F. A. Pratt, E. B. Pratt.

JAEGER SP. - four to six, 18 October 1999, Lake Champlain off Charlotte, Chittenden Cty., T.G. Murin, D. J. Hoag.

JAEGER SP. - one, 8 November 1999, Lake Champlain off Charlotte, Chittenden Cty., T. G. Murin, Peter Riley.



*On September 4, 2000 this Red Knot appeared on Young Island, Grand Isle Vermont.
Photo by David J. Hoag*

JAEGER SP. - one, 27 November 1999, Lake Champlain Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., David J. Hoag.

LONG-EARED OWL (*Asio otus*) – one, 4 May 2000, Mt. Independence, Orwell, Addison Cty., S. S. Wetmore.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes carolinus*) – one male, 17 October

1999, Shaftsbury, Bennington Cty., N. L. Martin, W. G. Ellison. (note: RSD not required)

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER (*M. carolinus*) – one immature, 26 August 2000 and 11 September 2000, Colchester, Chittenden Cty., John D. Marsh. Indication of possible nesting in the area but no direct evidence.

SEDGE WREN (*Cistothorus platensis*) – one singing male, 27 May 2000, Happy Valley Rd., Bridport, Addison Cty., A. M. Strong.

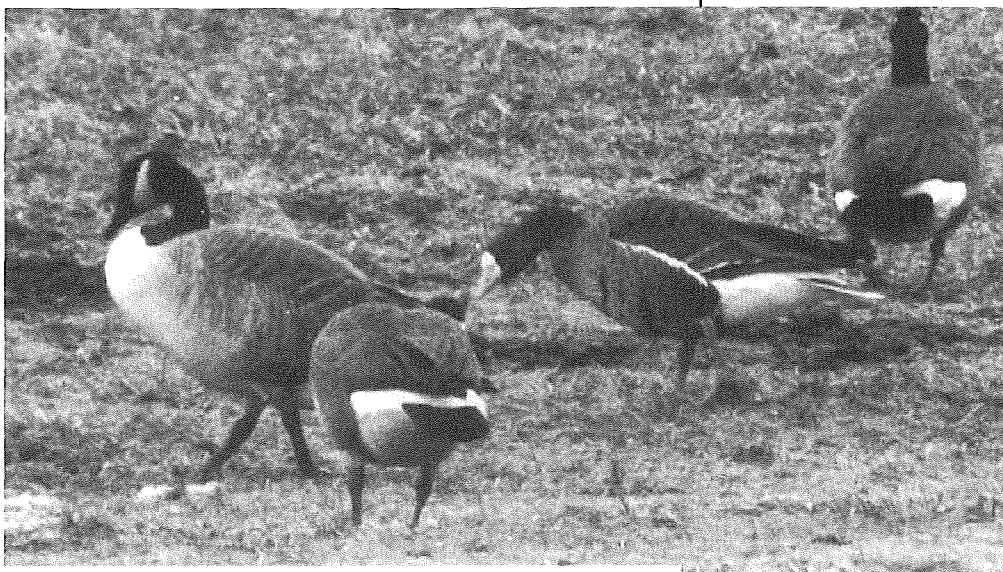
SEDGE WREN (*C. platensis*) – two, 17 June 2000 and one, 25 June 2000, Happy Valley Rd., Bridport, Addison Cty., Paula A. Gills, Ted Richards, Anne Connor. Probably included the singing male

reported above.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (*Vermivora celata*) – one, 21 September 2000, Ward Hill, South Duxbury, Washington Cty., F. A. Pratt, E. B. Pratt.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER (*Oporornis agilis*) – one adult, 11 September 2000, Ward Hill, South Duxbury, Washington Cty., F. A. Pratt.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (*Spizella pallida*) – one, 10 May 2000, Smith Haven, South Londonderry, Windham Cty., W. J. Norse.



A Greater White-fronted Goose feeding with Canada Geese in Timmouth March 3, 1999. Photo by Phillip Ballou

RARE NESTING SPECIES

PIED BILLED GREBE (*Podilymbus podiceps*) – one adult, four chicks, 12 July 2000, South Bay WMA, Coventry, Orleans Cty., Martha Pitt.

CASPIAN TERN (*Sterna caspia*) – one to four adults, 12 July to 2 August 2000, Young Island, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., D. J. Hoag. Photographs. Accepted as probable/attempted nesting.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (*Spizella pallida*) – one male and one female, 22 July to 6 August 2000, West Shore Road, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., D. J. Hoag. The male was the same one documented last in the section above.

OUT-OF-SEASON REPORTS

RED-NECKED GREBE (*Podiceps grisegena*) – one, basic plumage, 25 July 1999, Shantee Point, St. Albans, Franklin Cty., Donna Martin, Burnie Martin.

HUMMINGBIRD SP. – one, probably a Ruby-throated, very early, 3 April 2000, Coventry Lane, Manchester Center, Bennington Cty., Betsy Edwards.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (*Dendroica coronata*) – two, 19 December 1999, Shelburne Point, Shelburne, Chittenden Cty., T. G. Murin.

FIELD SPARROW

(*Spizella pusilla*) – one, 19 December 1999, Bittersweet Falls, Weybridge, Addison Cty., John Chamberlain, Barbara Brosnan.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW

(*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) – one immature, 28 December 1999, Woodstock, Windsor Cty., Anne T. Aversa, Mark Council.

REVERSAL OF PREVIOUS VOTES

NORTHERN WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) – one, 23 May 1995, Shelburne, Chittenden Cty. Jacquelyn P. Marlow, Donna Preuss. Was photographed and found to be an albino American Robin. The record is now not accepted.

BARNACLE GOOSE (*Branta leucopsis*) – one, 1 April 1996, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., D. J. Hoag. Later found to be a probable escapee and transferred by vote to that category.