

## VERMONT BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

### 2004 REPORT

#### FIRST STATE RECORD

TOWNSEND'S SOLITAIRE (*Myadestes townsendi*) – one adult, 27-28 December 2003, Pleasant St., West Rutland, Rutland Cty, Roy W. Pilcher, Edward Hack, Richard I. Hetherington, Karen Barnouw, Anne Riker, Nancy L. Martin, Walter G. Ellison. Photographs.

#### FIRST STATE NESTING RECORD

GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba*) – two adults nest-building, on the nest, and flying to and from the nest, 13 May thru 7 July 2004, Shad/Metcalf Island, Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge, Swanton, Franklin Cty., Zoe L. Richards et al.

#### NOTABLE STATE RECORDS, SECOND THROUGH TENTH

PACIFIC LOON (*Gavia pacifica*) – one adult non-breeding, 23 October 2004, Champlain Bridge, Addison, Addison Cty., John Sutton, Dwight Cargill, Steve Antell. Second State Record.

COMMON EIDER (*Somateria mollissima*) – 15 males, 5 November 2003, Charlotte Town Beach, Charlotte, Chittenden Cty., Susanne Wetmore, Greta Taber. Tenth State Record.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) – two adults, 23 August 2004, Lake Champlain off Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., David J. Hoag. Sixth State Record.

POMARINE JAEGER (*S. pomarinus*) – one, 17 August 2004, Lake Champlain off Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., D.J. Hoag. Eighth State Record.

ATLANTIC PUFFIN (*Fratercula arctica*) – one, juvenile or basic plumaged adult, 27 November 2003, Burlington Waterfront, Chittenden Cty., Robert D. Scott. Second State Record.

NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW (*Ammodramus nelsoni*) – one adult, 3 October 2004, South end Shelburne Bay, Shelburne, Chittenden Cty., Theodore G. Murin, Allan M. Strong. Tenth accepted record overall and the first since this species was split from Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow in 1998. Seven historical records dating back to 1917 and two accepted reports from Steve Antell of birds at the mouth of the

Winooski River in 1980 and 1985 were likely of this species. The Committee agrees that this bird was probably of the subspecies *nelsoni*.

NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW (*A. nelsoni*) – one, 16 October 2004, South end Shelburne Bay, Shelburne, Chittenden Cty., Frederick A. Pratt, Eleanor B. Pratt. Second record post-split. Possibly of the subspecies *alterus*.

NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW (*A. nelsoni*) – two, 18 October 2004, South end Shelburne Bay, Shelburne, Chittenden Cty., Richard B. Lavalley, Dennis Abbott. Third record post-split. One of the birds appeared to be *nelsoni* and the other *alterus*, possibly the same bird as the Pratt sighting above.

#### REPORTS OF OTHER RARE SPECIES

NORTHERN GANNET (*Morus bassanus*) – one immature, 24 November 2003, Lake Champlain off Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., D.J. Hoag.

TUNDRA SWAN (*Cygnus columbianus*) – four, 12 November 2003, Retreat Meadows, Brattleboro, Windham Cty., Chris Petrak, Hector Galbraith.

ROSS'S GOOSE (*Chen rossii*) – one white adult, 6 April 2004, Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, Addison, Addison Cty., T.G. Murin.

GOLDEN EAGLE (*Aquila chrysaetos*) – one adult, 11 April 2004, Victory Basin, Essex Cty., John Sutton.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER (*Tryngites subruficollis*) – one, 14 August 2004, Ompompanoosuc River flats, Norwich, Windsor Cty., Stefan Sturup.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER (*T. subruficollis*) - one, 9-11 September 2004, Middle Road, Swanton, Franklin Cty., R.B. Lavalley, F.A. Pratt, E.B. Pratt, Larry Haugh. Photographs.

RED PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus fulicaria*) – two, 19 October 2004, Shelburne Bay Fishing Access, Shelburne, Chittenden Cty., R.B. Lavalley, D. Abbott. Photographs.

LONG-TAILED JAEGER (*Stercorarius longicaudus*) – one, 15 October 2004, Lake Champlain off Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., D.J. Hoag. Accepted as Jaeger sp.

PARASITIC JAEGER (*S. parasiticus*) – two, 4 September 2003, Lake Champlain off Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., D.J. Hoag. Accepted as Jaeger sp.

BLACK-HEADED GULL (*Larus ridibundus*) – one adult, 16 October 2003, Lake Champlain off Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., D.J. Hoag.

BLACK-HEADED GULL (*L. ridibundus*) – one adult, 1 November 2003, Lake Champlain off Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., D.J. Hoag.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (*Rissa tridactyla*) – one immature, 22 October 2003, Lake Champlain off Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., D.J. Hoag.

SEDGE WREN (*Cistothorus platensis*) – at least eight at a total of five locations, 27 May thru 8 August 2004, Addison and Chittenden Counties, A.M. Strong et al.

NORTHERN WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) – one, 21 April 2004, Polly Hubbard Rd. Georgia, Franklin Cty., Rod Vallee, Betty Vallee. Photograph.

VARIED THRUSH (*Ixoreus naevius*) – one female or young male, 19 December 2003 through March 2004, State Street, Montpelier, Washington Cty., Chip Darmstadt, Bryan Pfeiffer et al. Photograph.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (*Vermivora celata*) – one, 1 May 2004, Black Mountain, Dummerston, Windham Cty., H. Galbraith.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (*Spizella pallida*) – three adults, 16 June and 4 July 2004, South Burlington, Chittenden Cty., T.G. Murin.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (*S. pallida*) – one, 16 June 2004, Rte 102, Maidstone, Essex Cty., Rosalind Renfrew.

HOARY REDPOLL (*Carduelis hornemanni*) – one, 14 December 2003, Howe Road, Brookfield, Orange Cty., Paula A. Gills.

HOARY REDPOLL (*C. hornemanni*) – one, 30 December 2003, Howe Road, Brookfield, Orange Cty., P.A. Gills, Ted Richards.

HOARY REDPOLL (*C. hornemanni*) – one, 9 March 2004, Howe Road, Brookfield, Orange Cty., P.A. Gills.

#### RARE NESTING SPECIES

WHIP-POOR-WILL (*Caprimulgus vociferous*) – one newly-hatched chick on ground, shell fragments, 26 June 2004, Hartland Dam, Hartland, Windsor Cty., R. Renfrew, Pam Hunt.

BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER (*Picoides arcticus*) – one adult, two young at nest hole, 2-16 June 2004, Long Pond, Craftsbury, Orleans Cty., R. Renfrew, Eric Hansen.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW (*S. pallida*) – male and female carrying food to nest site, 20-23 July 2004, Fisher Rd., Cornwall, Addison Cty., Brendan Collins.

## OUT-OF-SEASON REPORTS

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax auritus*) – one first year, 22 December 2003, Tritown Water Plant, Addison, Addison Cty., Maeve Kim.

TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura*) – one, 4 December 2003, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., D.J. Hoag.

TURKEY VULTURE (*C. aura*) – one, 23 January 2004, Brandon, Rutland Cty., S. Wetmore.

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK (*Buteo lineatus*) – one first year, 13 December 2003, Dummerston, Windham Cty., Eric Slayton, C. Petrak.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus varius*) – one female, 1 March 2004, North Rd., Manchester Ctr., Bennington Cty., Barbara W. Powers.

GRAY CATBIRD (*Dumetella carolinensis*) – one, 10 December 2003, West Brattleboro, Windham Cty., Alfred Merritt, Barbara Merritt.

BROWN THRASHER (*Toxostoma rufum*) – one at feeder, 14 January thru 21 February 2004, Creekside Drive, Shelburne, Chittenden Cty., Richard F. Reid. Photographs.

SAVANNAH SPARROW (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) – one, 14 December 2002, Bridport, Addison Cty., Rodney Olsen, Mike Winslow. Presented as Ipswich race, tabled for more information at the VBRC meeting in November 2003 and accepted as Ipswich in November 2004.

VESPER SPARROW (*Pooecetes gramineus*) – one, 28 December 2003, Janes Rd., Swanton, Franklin Cty., T.G. Murin, Ted Allen, Bryan Pfeiffer.

EASTERN MEADOWLARK (*Sturnella magna*) – one adult, 14 December 2003, Londonderry, Windham Cty., Julia M. Nicholson, Elizabeth F. Gilbert.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE (*Icterus galbula*) – one first year male, 11 November 2003, South Newfane, Newfane, Windham Cty., C. Petrak.

## REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

EARED GREBE (*Podiceps nigricollis*) – two in flight over water, 30 October 2003, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., details insufficient to rule out Horned Grebe.

WHITE-TAILED KITE (*Elanus leucurus*) - one, 29 March 2004, Herrick's Cove, Rockingham, Windham Cty., insufficient details; wing description is not consistent with White-tailed Kite.

HOARY REDPOLL (*Carduelis hornemanni*) – one, 11 January 2004, Vernon, Windham Cty., details insufficient to rule out Common Redpoll.

HOARY REDPOLL (*C. hornemanni*) – one, 17 January 2004, South Burlington, Chittenden Cty., details insufficient to rule out Common Redpoll.

#### REPORTS NOT CONSIDERED

GREAT CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) – one, 18 April 2004, Ledyard Bridge across from Norwich, VT in Windsor Cty. Stefan Sturup. This bird was seen on the Connecticut River and (which is technically part of NH) when it was observed, so this record was not considered.

Reports received within two weeks of the Records Committee meeting on November 6 may not be included above and will be considered at the next meeting scheduled for November 5, 2005. The Committee has established a cut-off date of October 1 for reports submitted for consideration at the 2005 meeting.