

VERMONT BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE REPORT – 27 OCTOBER 2012

FIRST STATE RECORD

LARK SPARROW (Chondestes grammacus) – one, 5 September 2012, Bragg Hill Rd., Norwich, Windsor Cty., Spencer Hardy, Doug Hardy, Cindy Crawford et al. First fully documented State Record. Three previous reports had been accepted as hypothetical. Photograph.

NOTABLE STATE RECORDS, SECOND THRU TENTH

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN (Pelecanus erythrorhynchos) – one, 17 November 2011, Kent Pond, Killington, Rutland Cty., Roy W. Pilcher. Eighth State Record. Photographs.

BARNACLE GOOSE (Branta leucopsis) – one, 5 March 2012, Stebbins Rd., Vernon, Windham Cty., David Johnston, Don Clark, JoAnne Russo et al. Second State Record. Photograph. Although doubts persist about origin, the regional consensus is now to consider individuals of this species wild if they are seen with other wild geese in migration season.

SWAINSON'S HAWK (Buteo swainsoni) – one, 25 October 2011, Putney Mtn. Hawkwatch site, Putney, Windham Cty., Don Clark, John Anderson, Marshall Wheelock et al. Third State Record. Sketch.

WILLET (Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus) – one of western subspecies, 30 August thru 8 September 2012, Shelburne Bay, Shelburne, Chittenden Cty., Allan Strong, Larry Haugh et al. Thirteenth State Record for Willet. First State Record accepted for Western Subspecies. Photographs.

WILLET (C. semipalmatus inornatus) – one of western subspecies, 29 August 2012, Delta Park, Colchester, Chittenden Cty., Jim Mead, Dwight Cargill, Jim Osborn. Thirteenth State Record for Willet. Although not described to subspecies in the RSD, the photos show the bird to be both an immature and *C. s. inornatus*. As such, this is probably the same bird as described above and we have treated this as the same individual.

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD (Selasphorus rufus) – one hatching-year female, 22 November 2011, East Arlington, Bennington Cty., Robert P. Yunick, Bill Lee, Randy Schmitt, Sharon and Pat Derosia. Banding data. Ninth State Record.

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER (Empidonax virescens) – one, 26-28 May 2012, Old Otis Rd., Danby, Rutland Cty., Nancy A. Brown. Sixth State Record. Photographs and tape recording.

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER (E. virescens) – one, 26,28,31 May 2012, Crosshaven Farm, Moretown, Washington Cty., Chip Darmstadt, Scott Sainsbury, David Rankin, m.obs. Seventh State Record. Tape Recording.

SAY'S PHOEBE (Sayornis saya) – one, 3 October 2011, East Thetford, Orange Cty., Peter LaBelle, Sue Fritz. Fourth State Record. Photograph.

SAY'S PHOEBE (S. saya) – one, 21-23 November 2011, North Ferrisburgh, Addison Cty., Jenn Megyesi, Ted Murin, Kyle Jones, Ian Worley, Jim Mead. Fifth State Record. Photograph.

WORM-EATING WARBLER (Helmitheros vermivorum) – one, 13 May 2012, Red Rocks Park, South Burlington, Chittenden Cty., David Rankin. Tenth State Record.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (Protonotaria citrea) – one male, 27 May 2012, St. Armand Rd., Highgate, Franklin Cty., Allan Strong, Craig Provost, Ian Worley, Peter Jones. Seventh State Record. Photographs.

WESTERN Tanager (Piranga ludoviciana) – one female, 3 January 2012, Windsor, Windsor Cty., Walter Kentfield. Sixth State Record. Video.

BLUE GROSBEAK (Passerina caerulea) – one female, 9 October 2011, Stebbins Rd., Vernon, Windham Cty., David Johnston, Don Clark. Seventh State Record. Photograph.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus) – one male, 23 April thru 1 May 2012, Swanton, Franklin Cty., Eric Jensen, Claire Larose. Fifth State Record. Photographs.

RARE NESTING RECORDS

SANDHILL CRANE (Grus canadensis) - three, two adults with one colt, observed at various times from March thru August, Near Fairfield Swamp WMA, Fairfield, Franklin Cty., Nancy and Joe Bell, Charlotte Bill and staff of Vt. Fish and Wildlife. Supplemental information from VTbird and Flickr were used to verify that the third bird (which was not well described in the RSD) was definitely a colt. Photographs.

FISH CROW (Corvus ossifragus) – Nesting pair with 3 young, 13 May thru 24 June 2012, Shelburne Rd., South Burlington, Chittenden Cty., T.G. Murin. Fourth State Nesting Record. Photographs of nest location.

OTHER RSD'S ACCEPTED

TUFTED DUCK (Aythya fuligula) – one male, 9 April 2012, Lake Carmi, Franklin, Franklin Cty., Bridget Butler, Sterling and Russ Ford. Photograph.

RED-THROATED LOON (Gavia stellata) – one, 18 February 2012, Lake Champlain, Charlotte Town Beach, Charlotte, Chittenden Cty., T.G. Murin.

SNOWY EGRET (Egretta thula) – one, 23 June 2012, Stratton Mt. Golf Course, Winhall, Bennington Cty., Jim Shea.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (Larus fuscus) – one, 22 October 2011, Button Bay, Ferrisburgh, Addison Cty., Henry Trombley, Brendan Collins.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (L. fuscus) – one adult, 30 September 2012, Charlotte Town Beach, Charlotte, Chittenden Cty., T.G. Murin, Liz Lackey. Photographs.

FISH CROW (Corvus ossifragus) – one, 20 March 2012, Putney Rd., Brattleboro, Windham Cty., Pieter van Loon. Recording.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH (Catharus minimus) – one, 27 September 2012, North Branch Nature Center, Montpelier, Washington Cty., Larry Clarfeld, Chip Darmstadt, Ken Benton, Jeannie Williams. Banding records, photographs of bird in the hand.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH (C. minimus) – one, 27 September 2012, Delta Park, Colchester, Chittenden Cty., Nikolas Kotovich. Field notes, drawings.

DICKCISSEL (Spiza americana) – one female, 1 September 2012, North Hero, Grand Isle Cty., Eric Labato. Photograph.

DICKCISSEL (*S. americana*) – one female, 5 October 2012, Drake Rd., Weybridge, Addison Cty., Ian Worley.

SAVANNAH SPARROW (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) – one, proposed as Ipswich subspecies, 29 September 2012, Delta Park, Colchester, Chittenden Cty., Jim Mead, Alison Wagner. Accepted only to species.

OUT-OF-SEASON REPORTS

PIED-BILLED GREBE (*Podilymbus podiceps*) – one, 28 January 2012, Lake Paran, Bennington, Bennington Cty., Kevin Hemeon. Photograph.

WOOD DUCK (*Aix sponsa*) – one male, 28 January 2012, Lake Paran, Bennington, Bennington Cty., Kevin Hemeon. Photograph.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus varius*) – one adult male, 3 December 2011, Walloomsac Rd., Bennington, Bennington Cty., Kim Likakis.

LEAST FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax minimus*) – one calling male, 11&14 April 2012, Brandon, Rutland Cty., Sue Wetmore.

HERMIT THRUSH (*Catharus guttatus*) – one, 7 January 2012, Hildene Rd., Manchester, Bennington Cty., C. Provost.

NASHVILLE WARBLER (*Oreothlypis ruficapilla*) – one, 3 December 2002, Stony Brook Plaza, Rutland, Rutland Cty., Marsha Booker. Specimen.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER (*Setophaga coronata*) – five, 20 December 2011, Benson Landing, Benson, Rutland Cty., R.W. Pilcher. Photographs.

EASTERN TOWHEE (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) – one adult male, 7 January 2012, Arlington, Bennington Cty., C. Provost.

EASTERN TOWHEE (*P. erythrophthalmus*) – one adult male, 28 January 2012, Lake Paran, Bennington, Bennington Cty., K.Hemeon.

SWAMP SPARROW (*Melospiza georgiana*) – two, 20 February 2012, Pomainville WMA, Pittsford, Rutland Cty., Sue and Marvin Elliott. Photographs.

REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD (*Fregata magnificens*) – one, 15 July 2012, Route 30, Manchester, Bennington Cty., Brief sighting; insufficient details.

BALD EAGLE (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) – one, 2 April 2011, Lake Paran Rd. Bennington Cty., This was a rare nesting report; evidence insufficient to confirm nesting.

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE (*Elanoides forficatus*) – one, 7 September 2012, West Rd., Putney, Windham Cty. Photographs do not show a black and white bird.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus lobatus*) – one, 10 August 2012, Dead Creek WMA, Brilyea Access, Addison, Addison Cty. Does not rule out other shorebird species.

BLACK TERN (Chlidonias niger) – thirteen, 28 May 2012, Charcoal Creek, Swanton, Franklin Cty. This was a Rare Nesting Report and contains no real evidence of nesting.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (Melanerpes erythrocephalus) – one, 4 March 2012, Putney, Windham Cty. Not enough detail.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (M. erythrocephalus) – one, 30 April 2012, Ralph Myhre Golf Course, Middlebury, Addison Cty. Not enough detail.

SWAMP SPARROW (Melospiza georgiana) – one, 8 February 2012, Pomainville WMA, Pittsford, Rutland Cty. Did not get a good enough look at the bird.

SUMMER TANAGER (Piranga rubra) – one male, 10 June 2012, Wake Robin, Shelburne, Chittenden Cty. Insufficient description.

SUMMER TANAGER (P. rubra) – one singing male, 5 July 2012, Wake Robin, Shelburne, Chittenden Cty. Vocalization only. Insufficient description.