

Only cc 1990

✓ Congen of Records
Historical Records

AGENDA
VERMONT BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

3 NOVEMBER 1990 - 26 Oct 1991

at the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, Woodstock, VT

10:00 Call to Order by Vice Chairman Whitney Nichols
Minutes of 18 November 1989 meeting

Next Fall's Meeting Date Set

10:15 ~~Procedural Criteria for Acceptance of Records~~

How to encourage better documentation + better vet. by birders

10:30 ~~Follow up on Computerization of Records~~

~~Publish a State List~~

10:45 Julie's Report

10:50 ~~Procedural Review~~

(39) ~~ANY~~ Reports Pending

11:25 Rare Species Documentation

Split into subgroups to consider

12:30 Lunch Break **

1:15 Continuation of Rare Species Documentation

1:45 Subgroup Recommendations and Voting on RSD's

2:45 Rare Nesting Reports Recommendations

3:15 Out of Season Reports Recommendations

3:25 Other Business

3:30 Adjourn

** VINS WILL PROVIDE LUNCH

Agendas and copies of all RSD's sent to: Jeremy Coleman, Lynn Erb, William J. Norse, Roy Pilcher, Frederick A. Pratt, Whitney Nichols, Frank Gatzman, Dr. Charles Duncan, Nancy Martin/Walter Ellison/Chris Rimmer (one set)

Agendas without RSD's to: Julie Nicholson, Sally Laughlin

all go to subgroups
if they can't
discuss it
11

10/25/91
11/1/91
12/1/91
H-11
Perkins

9/30/91

Contin. to G.F. ...

Sally

MINUTES OF THE VERMONT BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE (VBRC)

November 3, 1990

PRESENT: Charles Duncan, Walter Ellison, Lynn Erb, Nancy Martin, Whitney Nichols, Julie Nicholson, Frank Oatman, Wayne Petersen, Roy Pilcher, Frederick Pratt, Christopher Rimmer.

ABSENT: Jeremy Coleman, Sally Laughlin, William Norse

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Vice Chairman Whitney Nichols, covering for Sally Laughlin who is on sabbatical.

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 1989 MEETING: The minutes of last year's meeting were read by Nancy Martin, and were MOVED, SECONDED, and APPROVED.

NEXT FALL'S MEETING DATE SET: The Fall 1991 meeting was set for Saturday 26 October. It was felt an earlier date was more convenient for all and that bad weather would not be a factor.

PROCEDURAL DISCUSSION: Whitney Nichols brought up for discussion the issue of establishing procedural criteria for acceptance and non-acceptance of records. Charlie described how the California Records Committee handles their records and Frank related how Texas deals with theirs. In each state there are no set criteria. The procedure is long and drawn out in California. A record is sent by mail to a committee member who judges its validity and votes, sending a completed vote form to the Secretary and the record to the next member (see p. 9 Circulation Procedures of the enclosed California Bird Records Committee Bylaws). A record can be recirculated as many as three times, until it receives a decision vote. There is little or no discussion among committee members as it is felt strong personalities may influence decisions. There are cases where reports are resubmitted to the observer for more details.

Charlie mentioned there is a forthcoming article by Don Roberson in the December issue of Birding on North American Bird Records committees.

The discussion continued with comments on the poor quality of many of the reports the Vermont Bird Records Committee receives and how one could encourage observers to improve that quality. At present too many reports are unacceptable. It was felt that reporters were being excluded from the reporting process instead of being invited into the system.

It was decided to table the discussion and bring it up again at next year's meeting. Meanwhile we will wait for the Roberson article in Birding. Charlie will be in touch with Roberson personally for feedback and information. Walter will be in touch with Louis Bevier to see how the Connecticut Rare Records Committee deals with these same issues. By explaining rationales and procedures for producing more accurate reports, it is hoped that the committee will be able to both improve the quality and increase the number of observers who will send Rare Species Documentation reports to the VBRC. Pat suggested we come up with a format and examples for the procedure. It was felt that it is important to provide reasons to the reporter for acceptance or non-acceptance. Whitney, Frank, Pat, Julie, and Walter said they would be willing to pull something together after next year's meeting.

An update of last year's discussion on the computerization of Vermont state records was provided. Not much is being done because of cost and time. It was decided to hold a separate VBRC meeting to deal with the computerization of records as it relates to an official Vermont state list to be

scheduled at next October's meeting. It seems premature to consider any kind of list of birds until we have better organized information.

- On other matters, Julie reported on the status of publication of the Records of Vermont Birds:
- Summer 1989 - Editor Lynn J. Erb
published 1 September 1990
 - Fall 1989 - Editor Walter G. Ellison
delayed due to personal commitments,
should be published early 1991
 - Winter 1989-90 - Editor Frederick A. Pratt
currently at the printers
should be published by mid-November 1990
 - Spring 1990 - Editor William J. Norse
manuscript almost ready to return to VINS
Goal to publish - 1 April 1991
 - Summer 1990 - Editor Jeremy J. Coleman
reports mailed to him 31 October 1990
goal to publish - 1 June 1991

Julie suggested that Rusty Blackbird and Eastern Bluebird be asterisked on the Seasonal Checklist and the Vermont Daily Field Card as there is an increasing number of winter reports. It was decided to table the change until we revise the next edition of the field card.

It was suggested that the Historical Records Committee set a date to meet, at next year's meeting. Some time for discussion regarding getting organized should be reserved on October 26, 1991. This would be an important piece of the aforementioned state list. Frank, Lynn, Walter and Whitney expressed interest in working on this project.

ACTIONS: The Bird Records Committee divided into groups at 11:15 to consider RSD's and RNR's. The group, with the exception of Chris, reconvened after lunch at 1:15. The following actions were taken:

FIRST STATE RECORDS

PACIFIC/ARCTIC LOON (Gavia pacifica/arctica) - one, just north of Crown Point Bridge, Addison, Addison Cty., 2, 11, and 12 November 1989. Frank Oatman, Wayne Scott, Jon Wood, George Hall, Betty Rist, William Meador, Richard Lavalley. First state record for either member of this pair of sibling species.

GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE (Pipilo chlorurus) - one, photographed, at Dick Thomas' garage near confluence of West and Connecticut Rivers, Brattleboro, Windham Cty., 16 December 1989 through 5 May 1990. Whitney Nichols, Jeremy Coleman, Walter Ellison, Daniel Crook, Nancy Martin et al.. Photograph by Groff LeBaron published in American Birds 44:222.

NOTABLE STATE RECORDS

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN (Pelecanus erythrorhynchos) - one, South Bay of Lake Memphremagog, Coventry and Newport, Orleans Cty., 3, 4, 6 May 1990. Paul Wagner, Nancy Martin, Walter Ellison. Fourth state record.

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F.21/
C.4.21

GREAT CORMORANT (Phalacrocorax carbo) - one, Whippel Fishing Access, Lake Memphremagog, Newport, Orleans Cty., 8 October 1989. Betty Rist and Dwight Cargill. Ninth state record.

COMMON EIDER (Somateria mollissima) - twenty (plus or minus) including two adult males, Lake Champlain, Missisquoi Bay, Highgate, Franklin Cty., 22 October 1988. William Crenshaw. Fifth state record.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (Larus fuscus) - one adult in breeding plumage, photographed, Bixby Island, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 20 September 1990. Chris Rimmer, Jeremy Coleman, Richard Lavallee. Third state record.

KENTUCKY WARBLER (Oporornis formosus) - one singing male, tape recorded, West Brattleboro, Windham Cty., 13 June 1990. Jeremy Coleman, Nancy Haydock. Sixth state record.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD (Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus) - one, Stagecoach Road, Morrisville, Lamoille Cty., 9 June 1990. Christopher Ludington. Third documented state record.

REPORT ACCEPTED AS HYPOTHETICAL

THAYER'S GULL (Larus thayeri) - one adult in basic plumage, Blodgett's Beach, Burlington, Chittenden Cty., 19 December 1989. Craig Provost. Second hypothetical record for this species, which is likely to be lumped with Iceland Gull soon.

RARE NESTING SPECIES

GADWALL (Anas strepera) - one female flushed from nest, Young Island, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 13 May 1989. David Capen, Tom Meyer, Diane Pence. Confirmed nesting.

GADWALL (A. strepera) - three pair, nine or ten downy young, photographed, The Gut, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., May through August 1990. David Hoag. Confirmed nesting.

LONG-EARED OWL (Asio otus) - two photographed, Lake Road, Charlotte, Chittenden Cty., February through April 1990. Joe Nelson, Scott Moreau. Possible nesting.

COMMON NIGHTHAWK (Chordeiles minor) - adult with two chicks, flat roof top, Day's Inn, Montpelier, Washington Cty., July 1990. Diane Pence. Confirmed nesting.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (Melanerpes erythrocephalus) - one pair and one other adult, Huestis Road .4 mile north of Middle Road, Bridport, Addison Cty., 1 June 1990. Martha Peterson and Bernie Galgoci. Possible nesting.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (M. erythrocephalus) - two adults and one juvenile, Ferrisburg, Addison Cty., 21, 24, 26, 27 July 1990. John and Margaret Dye.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (M. erythrocephalus) - one adult entering nest hole with food, on shore of Battenkill, West Arlington, Bennington Cty., 24 July 1990. Two immatures seen 2-7 September 1990. Cornelia Chapin and Nancy Simson. Confirmed nesting.

CAROLINA WREN (Thryothorus ludovicianus) - two adults, 4 young in first nesting; at least 2 young in a second nesting, Bennington, Bennington Cty., 29 April 1990 through summer 1990. Bonita and Richard Dundas and Gene and Ruth Kosche. Confirmed nesting.

OTHER RARE SPECIES DOCUMENTATION REPORTS

GOLDEN EAGLE (Aquila chrysaetos) - one immature, Bagley Hill, Quechee, Windsor Cty., 4 November 1989. Edwin C. Johnson.

GYRFALCON (Falco rusticolus) - one adult gray morph, Button Bay State Park, Addison Cty., 18 December 1989. Betty Rist.

SANDHILL CRANE (Grus canadensis) - one, Winhall, Bennington Cty., 16 September 1990. William Norse.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER (Melanerpes carolinus) - one, Chester, Windsor Cty., 22 October 1989. Chester Adams.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER (M. carolinus) - one female, Chase Hill on Marlboro/Guilford line, Windham Cty., 17 December 1989. Whitney Nichols, Al and Barbara Merritt.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER (M. carolinus) - one male, Rattlin Bridge Road, Bridport, Addison Cty., 17 December 1989. Jim Andrews, Kris Andrews, John Nelson.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER (M. carolinus) - one female, Rattlin Bridge Road, Bridport, Addison Cty., 17 February 1990. Walter Ellison, Nancy Martin, Jean Sangdahl, Abbie Frost, and other members of Ascutney Mt. Audubon Society.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (Vermivora celata) - one immature, banded and photographed, Bragdon Nature Preserve, Woodstock, Windsor Cty., 1 October 1990. Scott Hall, Chris Rimmer, Nancy Martin, Mark LaBarr et al..

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT (Icteria virens) - one, Underwood Mill Pond Bridge, Sunset Lake Road, Marlboro, Windham Cty., 13 September 1989. John P. Nevins.

OUT OF SEASON REPORTS

CATTLE EGRET (Bulbulcus ibis) - one, Quaker Road, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 20 and 23 March 1990. Ev Grimes.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER (Mergus serrator) - one female photographed, west shore, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 7, 28, 29 July and 17 August 1990. David Hoag.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE (Bucephala islandica) - one immature male, West Shore Road, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 3-15 May 1990. David Hoag.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET (Regulus calendula) - one male, Newfane, Windham Cty., 16 December 1989. Sue Pierce and Marion Venn.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER (Polioptila caerulea) - one, Cave Road, Weybridge, Addison Cty., 17 December 1989. Alan Coulter.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING (Bombycilla garrulus) - six to fourteen, Shelburne Fishing Access, Shelburne, Chittenden Cty., 28 October 1989. Jeremy Coleman, Richard Lavallee.

BOHEMIAN WAXWING (B. garrulus) - thirty one, South Duxbury, Washington Cty., 31 October 1989. Frederick Pratt.

RUFIOUS-SIDED (SPOTTED) TOWHEE western form (Pipilo maculatas) - one photographed, Stamford Motel, Manchester Center, Bennington Cty., late December to at least 11 February 1990. Judith and Stephen Geriak, Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin. First record of this form for Vermont.

CHIPPING SPARROW (Spizella passerina) - one, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 17-25 December 1989. Richard and Dorothy Lavallee.

VESPER SPARROW (Poocetes gramineus) - one, Swanton, Franklin Cty., 17 December 1989. David Schwenker and Scott Horrigan.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW (Zonotrichia leucophrys) - one immature, Dummerston, Windham Cty., 16 December 1989. Whitney Nichols.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW (Z. leucophrys) - one adult, North Concord, Essex Cty., 12 June 1990. Chris Rimmer.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD (Euphagus carolinus) - three, St. Albans Bay, Franklin Cty., 17 December 1989. Dwight Cargill and Deb Davis.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD (E. carolinus) - one, Route 100A 1/2 mile south of Bridgewater Corners, Windsor Cty., 3 January 1990. Chris Rimmer.

UNUSUAL LOCATION

GRAY JAY (Perisorius canadensis) - one photographed, Shelburne-Hinesburg Road, Shelburne, Chittenden Cty., November 1989 to at least 3 February 1990. Eveleen and Terry Cecchini.

BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER (Picoides arcticus) - one male, White River Junction, Windsor Cty., 11 September 1989. Daniel Crook.

BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER (P. arcticus) - one female, Winhall, Bennington Cty., 3 February 1990. William Norse.

REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED BY COMMITTEE

BROWN PELICAN (Pelicanus occidentalis) - one, Lake Champlain, Ferrisburg, Addison Cty., 18 June 1989. Bryce Towsley, Bob Beaupre.

LITTLE BLUE HERON (Egretta caerulea) - one, Moose Bog, Ferdinand, Essex Cty., 26 April 1990. Dwight Cargill, Tom Murray.

FULVOUS WHISTLING DUCK (Dendrocygna bicolor) - two, Albert Wood Farm, Concord, Essex Cty., 12 June 1989. James and Phyllis Wood.

AMERICAN WIGEON (Anas americana) - fourteen, Brown's Marsh Simm's Pond, Grand Isle Cty., 4-12 August 1990. David Hoag. Not accepted as a nesting report.

GOLDEN EAGLE (Aquila chrysaetos) - one, Rochester, Windsor Cty., 22 June 1990. Wayne Disbrow.

GYRFALCON (Falco rusticolus) - one, north of Shelburne Point, Chittenden Cty., 17 December 1989, Steve Parren and Bill Barnes.

BLACK RAIL (Laterallus jamaicensis) - one, West Rutland Marsh, West Rutland, Rutland Cty., 5 May 1990. William Shepard, Patricia Grove, Faith Hunt, Gwendolyn Thompson

AMERICAN COOT (Fulica americana) - one heard, Brown's Marsh, Simm's Point, Grand Isle Cty., June, July, August 1990. David Hoag.

JAEGER (Stercorarius sp.) - one, Railroad fill, Grand Isle Cty., 19 May 1990. David Hoag.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER (Sphyrapicus varius) - one, West Windsor, Windsor Cty., 28 January 1990. Larry and Margaret Garrand.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER (Oporornis agilis) - one, Atherton Meadows Wildlife Refuge, Readsboro, Windham Cty., 9 July 1990. Henry Lappen.

RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE (Pipilo erythrophthalmus) - one, South Hero, Grand Isle Cty., 31 January to 9 February 1990. Marion Davis, Nancy Davis, Gertrude McCoach.

DICKCISSEL (Spiza americana) - one, Monument Circle, Old Bennington, Bennington Cty., 30 December 1989. Helene W. Toolan.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD (Euphagus cyanocephalus) - two females, Route 314, Grand Isle Cty., 18 March 1990. David Hoag.

REPORTS TABLED UNTIL 1991

(When they will be sent to all members of the Committee
for their consideration)

ROSS' GOOSE (Chen rossii) - one immature, Dead Creek WMA on Route 17, Addison, Addison Cty., 27 October 1990. Walter Ellison, Nancy Martin.

ROSS' GOOSE (C. rossii) - one adult, Dead Creek WMA on Route 17, Addison, Addison Cty., 29 October 1990. Judy Peterson.

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK (Dendrocygna bicolor) - one adult female specimen photographed, shot at Saxe's Pothole, Missisquoi NWR, Highgate Springs, Franklin Cty., 13 October 1990. John Gallegos, Jerry Longcore, Michael Stenta.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (Rissa tridactyla) - two in juvenal plumage photographed, north of Sandbar Causeway, South Hero, Grand Isle Cty., 20 August 1990. Walter Ellison, Nancy Martin, Richard Lavallee.

RED PHALAROPE (Phalaropus fulicarius) - one immature, Lake Pinneo, Quechee, Hartford, Windsor Cty., 11 October 1990. Walter Ellison.

RED PHALAROPE (P. fulicarius) - one immature, photographed, Converse Bay, Charlotte, Chittenden Cty., 27 October 1990. Nancy Martin, Walter Ellison, Richard Lavallee.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (Vermivora celata) - one, adjacent to Marshland Farm, Quechee, Hartford, Windsor Cty., 11 October 1990. Walter Ellison.

BLACK-HOODED PARAKEET (Nandayus nenday) - one, head of Shelburne Bay, Shelburne, Chittenden Cty., 20 May 1990. Steve Antell.

WESTERN KINGBIRD (Tyrannus verticalis) - one, along Route 12 in Barnard, Windsor Cty., 22 September 1989. J. Jay Hand, Lucy Hand.

REPORTS TABLED AND RESUBMITTED FOR MORE DETAILS

BROWN PELICAN (Pelicanus occidentalis) - one, West River, West Dummerston/Brattleboro line, Windham Cty., July 1990. Pat Kondrat, Kyle Kondrat.

BARNACLE GOOSE (Branta leucopsis) - two, Maidstone, Essex Cty., 14 and 15 May 1990. David Killam, Barbara Killam, Roger Irwin and son.

GYRFALCON (Falco rusticolus) - one, Shelburne, Chittenden Cty., 28 January 1990. Dwight Cargill, Betty Rist.

LAUGHING GULL (Larus atricilla) - one, Barton River, Orleans, Orleans Cty., 22 April 1990. Frank Oatman, Jon Wood.

LAUGHING GULL (L. atricilla) - one, Burlington waterfront, Chittenden Cty., 9 August 1990. Craig Scharf, Ed Good.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD (Euphagus carolinus) - six, Dummerston, Windham Cty., 16 December 1989. Henry Lappen, Doug Wilson, Paul Grout.

ORCHARD ORIOLE (Icterus spurius) - two, Chelsea, Orange Cty., 28 May 1990. Coralie Sloan.

The meeting adjourned at 4:35.

Special thanks to Julie for all of her work in Sally's absence!

Attachments: (consider and save for next year's meeting!)

1. Names/addresses/telephone numbers of committee members
2. Copy of letter to Charlie from Don Roberson
3. Bylaws of California Records Committee
4. Copy of North American Bird Records Committees article from Birding
5. Two articles from Western Birds
 - a) Single Observer, First State Record
 - b) Standards Used, First State Record

Respectfully submitted,

Whitney Nichols

Whitney Nichols
Vice Chairperson
Vermont Bird Records Committee