

VERMONT BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE MINUTES
Saturday 6 November 1993
VINS, Woodstock, VT

PRESENT: Committee Members: Sally Laughlin, Whit Nichols, Lynn Erb, Pat Pratt, Nancy Martin, Walter Ellison, Terry Hall, Julie Nicholson, Judy Peterson, Charles Duncan, ~~Terry Hall~~ *e*

Ex-officio: Steve Faccio

ABSENT: Bill Norse, Roy Pilcher, Wayne Peterson, Blair Nikula, Jeremy Coleman, Simon Perkins, Frank Oatman

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Cochairs Sally Laughlin and Whit Nichols at 10:15 a.m. It was decided that it was Sally's turn to preside.

MINUTES OF THE 1992 MEETING:

The minutes of the 1992 Meeting of the Vermont Bird Records Committee were approved with these additions:

the date the meeting was held: ¹⁹⁹³ 6 November 199³ *set for*
the members of the Computer Committee: Whit Nichols, Chair; Bill Barnes, Chris Rimmer, Hugh Putnam, Charlie Duncan, and Judy Peterson, *Julie Nicholson*

REVIEW OF PROCEDURES

The Vermont Bird Records committee operates under Robert's Rules of Order. In addition, the Committee has adopted these procedures:

1. A first state record must be accepted by unanimous vote
2. A first state record accepted as hypothetical must be accepted by a 3/4 majority vote
3. Acceptance or non-acceptance of all other records is by 2/3 majority vote
4. First state records must have one of the following:
 - a. A report by two independent observers
(ie, the reports must be written independently)
 - b. A photograph
 - c. A specimen
 - d. A tape-recorded song

NEXT YEAR'S MEETING SET

The Committee will meet Saturday 5 November 1994, at 10 a.m.

EDITOR'S REPORT

Judy Peterson reported on the year. She is sending letters to everyone who sends in RSDs, which is much appreciated by the Committee.

The projected schedule of publication:

Summer 1992 (Lynn Erb)	soon
Fall 1992 (Jeremy)	unknown
Winter 1992 -93 (Pat)	Pat has completed and it is with VINS
Spring 1993	is ready for Bill Norse today
Summer	still getting it ready for Roy

Discussion on lateness of records - people get upset when they are late. Whit will talk to Jeremy; perhaps he can help him and expedite it. We approve of publishing out of chronological order if it is necessary. Charlie says American Birds fires their editors if they are late; they are volunteers too. We should put in writing our expectations of editors. A new editor should begin on a trial basis.

She reported that new editors will be needed. A number of names were suggested and Judy will follow up by discussing it with them. We need to be clear on our expectations, especially time frame. We need people knowledgeable about Vermont birds who have good writing ability, access to a computer, and the ability to hold to deadlines. Editors sit on this committee. It was **MOVED, SECONDED AND VOTED** that Judy and Julie proceed, and circulate Nominations to the full committee. We will vote by mail ballot to elect new editors.

p.2

Lynn is stepping down as summer/every 2nd year editor. The Committee voted her a resounding thank you for her work. We will miss her on the Committee!

Judy was thanked for the efficient job she is doing as editor, and for her report.

COMPUTER COMMITTEE

Whit reported that the Committee needs to meet. The first goal is to get all the historical information on a database. Much discussion of the type of database ensued. Charlie uses a simple database, assigns each report a number in AOU order. He now has all New England in from 1976 to present. He thinks we may be overcomplicating it. Whit and Sally should talk to Bill Barnes and then Charlie and Bill should talk to each other. Sally will look for grant money to get our historical lists published, an update to Bob Spear's book.

HISTORICAL RECORDS

Lynn and Sally have done some research on the historical records in the Green Mt Audubon Collection. Lynn completed a real piece of detective work on the jaeger report - - and located Mr. Sweetzer's 95 year-old widow who actually found us the photographs (slides) he had taken. From the slides, the Committee could not determine if it was a Long-tailed or a Parasitic. We want Wayne Petersen's opinion. The Historical Records voted upon are attached to these minutes.

When the origin of a bird is in question, how should we treat the report and what do we do with the report once discussion has taken place?

This item was an agenda request from Wayne Petersen. Whit read guidelines from British birds: 86: 417 - 422, September 1993. We will keep this with our Minutes. We should carefully consider each report and keep the record in our files, with the note **IDENTIFICATION ESTABLISHED, ORIGIN QUESTIONABLE.**

OTHER DISCUSSION

The public needs to be educated about the difference between Tundra and Trumpeter Swans.

RMI - It was decided to request more information on the Little Blue Heron reported by the Dyes and the Western Kingbird report by Michelle Patunade.

Tabled: Bill Barnard's Sandhill Crane, F 92 - 14

PROCEDURES

Should we vote by mail? After discussion, it was agreed that we should not review forms and vote by mail. We have a good system which works; if it is not broken, lets not fix it. California is years behind, for example.

CONSIDERATION OF RARE SPECIES DOCUMENTATION

We had our first ever video to consider!

After splitting in to subgroups, the Committee reconvened to vote. The results are attached to these minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment was **MOVED, SECONDED AND VOTED** at 4:15 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Laughlin

Note: It was discovered after the Meeting that VINS is indeed almost out of field cards, having a stock of only a few dozen. Whit will need to act right away! I recommend redoing it and adding the species the Committee has recommended through the years, and leaving a full revision for the next printing. (Sally)

FIRST STATE NESTING RECORDS

MUTE SWAN (Cygnus olor) - two adults, three juveniles, Lake Arrowhead, Georgia, Franklin Cty., 8 April thru 26 October 1993. Meeri Zetterstrom, Richard Ferro, Jr. Photograph.

PALM WARBLER (Dendroica palmarum) - male and female carrying food to a nest site, Yellow Bogs, Ferdinand, Essex Cty., 6 June 1993. Brett Engstrom, David DeSante, Ed Good, Elliot Burch.

NOTABLE STATE RECORDS, SECOND THRU TENTH

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (Larus fuscus) - one adult, Champlain Bridge, Addison, Addison Cty., 20 December 1992. Frank Oatman, Jason Cross. Fourth state record.

COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL (Larus ridibundus) - one adult, basic plumage, Perkins Pier, Burlington, Chittenden Cty., 19 January 1993. Edward L. Gaine. Fourth state record.

COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL (L. ridibundus) - one adult, basic plumage, probably the same bird as the above record, same location, 23 January 1993. C.J. Frankiewicz, Rhoda H. Horne, George E. (Terry) Hall, Betty Rist Jillson.

LAUGHING GULL (Larus atricilla) - one juvenile, Champlain Bridge, Addison, Addison Cty., 3-4 August 1993. Wayne Scott, Judith A. Peterson, M. Heidi Willis. Third state record.

SABINE'S GULL (Xema sabini) - one juvenile, Kibbe Point, South Hero, Grand Isle Cty., 11 September 1992. Richard B. Lavallee. Fourth state record.

NORTHERN GANNET (Morus bassanus) - one immature, South Hero, Grand Isle Cty., 15 October 1992. R.B. Lavallee, Michele Patenaude. Ninth state record. Photographs.

NORTHERN GANNET (M. bassanus) - one immature, St. Albans Bay, St. Albans, Franklin Cty., 15 October 1992. R.B. Lavallee. Tenth state record.

EURASIAN WIGEON (Anas penelope) - one adult male, "Denisville", Weybridge, Addison Cty., 6 April 1993. J.A. Peterson, Emma M. Raymond, Marjorie B. Nelson. Tenth state record.

EURASIAN WIGEON (A. penelope) - one adult male, possibly the same bird as in the previous record, Rt 74 at Lemon Fair River, Shoreham, Addison Cty., 17 April 1993. Scott W. Morrical.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (Nyctanassa violaceus) - one juvenile, Stone Bridge Access, Dead Creek WMA, Pantou,

Addison Cty., 8 August 1993. Walter G. Ellison, Nancy L. Martin, Jeanne Fossani. Third state record.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (Dendroica dominica) - one, at a feeder, Burlington, Chittenden Cty., 26 November thru 31 December 1992. Frieda Grassley, G.E. Hall. Seventh state record.

NORTHERN WHEATEAR (Oenanthe oenanthe) - one, Market Rd. Bridport, Addison Cty., 10-14 September 1993. Beatrice P. Guyett, Penelope Goodkind, Marion Manning, Joan Haven. Sixth state record.

ACCEPTED AS HYPOTHETICAL

PAINTED BUNTING (Passerina ciris) - two, male & female, seen on a porch railing, Danby, Rutland Cty., 11 & 13 May 1993. Karl & Winifred Droge. Would be a first state record but lacks a second independent report. The two painted buntings reported by Rosemary Magyari in Winhall, 13 May 1993 might not have been the same birds and thus her report does not confirm the original sighting.

OTHER RARE SPECIES DOCUMENTATION REPORTS

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (Rissa tridactyla) - one first winter. Champlain Bridge, Addison, Addison Cty., 2 December 1992. E.L. Gaine.

CASPIAN TERN (Sterna caspia) - two adults, Witherell Landing, Bridport, Addison Cty., 15 April 1993. J.A. Peterson.

NORTHERN GANNET (M. bassanus) - one first year. Found at Killington Ski Area, Sherburne, Rutland Cty., 13 October 1993. Ann Stabile. Brought to Vermont Raptor Center, 10 days in rehab. Released at Plum Island, Mass. Photograph, Margaret R. Fowle.

GREAT CORMORANT (Phalacrocorax carbo) - one second year, Island Pond, Essex Cty., 22 May 1993. N.L. Martin, W.G. Ellison, Daniel H. Crook, Sara Jean Sangdahl.

TUNDRA SWAN (Cygnus columbianus) - one adult, Rockingham, Windsor Cty., 21 November 1992. William J. Norse.

TUNDRA SWAN (C. columbianus) - two adults, St. Albans Bay, St. Albans, Franklin Cty., 6 April 1993. Jon & Linda Zurit.

RED PHALAROPE (Phalaropus fulicaria) - one, Shelburne Bay, Shelburne, Chittenden Cty., 19 September 1993. G.E. Hall.

RED PHALAROPE (P. fulicaria) - one, apparently same bird as above, same location, same date but later in the day. S.W. Morrical.

RED PHALAROPE (P. fulicaria) - one, Shelburne Town Beach, Shelburne, Chittenden Cty., 23 October 1993. Theodore G. Murin.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT (Limosa haemastica) - one, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 17 October 1992. David J. Hoag. Photograph.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT (L. haemastica) - one, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 1 September 1993. D.J. Hoag.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT (L. haemastica) - one, East Creek WMA, Orwell, Addison Cty., 13 October 1993. J.A. Peterson.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT (L. haemastica) - one, East Creek WMA, Orwell, Addison Cty., 15 October 1993. S.W. Morrical & G.E. Hall. Probably same bird as previous record.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT (L. haemastica) - three, Blodgett's Beach, Burlington, Chittenden Cty., 17 October 1993. G.E. Hall and Dwight L. Cargill.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT (L. haemastica) - one, Stone Bridge Access, Dead Creek WMA, Panton, Addison Cty., 19 October 1993, John D. Marsh.

GOLDEN EAGLE (Aquila chrysaetos) - one adult, Underhill, Chittenden Cty., 20 April 1993. D.L. Cargill.

GYRFALCON (Falco rusticolus) - one gray morph, Bridport, Addison Cty., 16 November 1992. J.A. Peterson.

GYRFALCON (F. rusticolus) - one gray morph, Addison, Addison Cty., 23 January 1993. Frederick A. & Eleanor B. Pratt.

GYRFALCON (F. rusticolus) - one gray morph, Salisbury, Addison Cty., 23 March 1993. J.A. Peterson.

GYRFALCON (F. rusticolus) - one gray morph, South Hero, Grand Isle Cty., 27 March 1993. T.G. Murin, Andrea Ladshaw.

GYRFALCON (F. rusticolus) - one, possibly immature white morph, South Hero; Grand Isle Cty., 2 April 1993. T.G. Murin, Christopher McBride, Susan Spackman.

LONG-EARED OWL (Asio otus) - one adult, Lewis Creek Access, Ferrisburgh, Addison Cty., 5 April 1992. N.L. Martin, W.G. Ellison et al.

LONG-EARED OWL (A. otus) - one to six, Mt. Independence, Orwell, Addison Cty., eight sightings from 13 December 1992 to 3 May 1993. Bruce Hedin. Photographs.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (Vermivora celata) - one, South Duxbury, Washington Cty., 8 September 1993. F.A. Pratt.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER (V. celata) - one, Searsburg, Bennington Cty., 30 September 1993. N.L. Martin.

RARE NESTING SPECIES

COOPER'S HAWK (Accipiter cooperii) - one adult female feeding three young in the nest, Brush Hill, Stowe, Lamoille Cty., 7 July thru 4 August 1992. Elizabeth Kellogg.

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER (Melanerpes erythrocephalus) - three nesting pairs fledged four young, Basin Harbor Rd. and Market Rd., Bridport, Addison Cty., 1 April thru 10 September 1993. J.A. Peterson, N.L. Martin and many observers.

WILSON'S WARBLER (Wilsonis pusilla) - one male and one female seen together, Yellow Bogs, Ferdinand, Essex Cty., 6 June 1993. B. Engstrom, D. DeSaute, E. Burch, E. Good. Accepted as possible nesting.

OUT-OF-SEASON REPORTS

COMMON SNIPE (Gallinago gallinago) - one, Clarendon, Rutland Cty., 24 January 1993. C.J. Frankiewicz.

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER (Calidris fuscicollis) - one adult, alternate plumage, Jct Rts 5 & 14, Coventry, Orleans Cty., 22 May 1993. W.G. Ellison, N.L. Martin, D.H. Crook, S.J. Sangdahl.

VESPER SPARROW (Pooecetes gramineus) - one, Addison, Addison Cty., 26 January 1993. J.A. Peterson, E.M. Raymond.

CAPE MAY WARBLER (Dendroica tigrina) - one at a feeder, West Dummerston, Windham Cty., 20-25 December 1992. Whitney D. Nichols, Dennis & Beverly Tier, Fred M. Hunt.

UNUSUAL LOCATION

BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER (Picoides arcticus) - one, Winhall, Bennington Cty., 12 September 1993. W.J. Norse.

TABLED PENDING RECEIPT OF MORE INFORMATION

GREATER SHEARWATER (Puffinus gravis) - one, Lake Champlain off Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 3 August 1992. R.B. Lavallee.

LITTLE BLUE HERON (Egretta caerulea) - one adult, Lewis Creek, Ferrisburgh, Addison Cty., 17 May 1993. Margaret C. & John I. Dye.

SANDHILL CRANE (Grus canadensis) - one, Lake Hortonia, Hubbardton, Rutland Cty., 4 October 1992. William & Ethan Barnard.

WESTERN KINGBIRD (Tyrannus verticalis) - one, South Hero, Grand Isle Cty., 15 September 1991. Rodney Olsen, M. Patenaude, Jason Franz.

HYBRIDS, RELEASES, SUB-SPECIES

BARNACLE X WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE HYBRID - two, Ira, Rutland Cty., 11 April 1993. C.J. Frankiewicz, R. Horne. Video. Accepted as Anser hybrid.

CANADA GOOSE, Richardson's race (Branta canadensis minima) - one, Rt. 17, Dead Creek WMA, Addison, Addison Cty., 24 October 1992. T.G. Murin, C. McBride, A. Ladshaw. Accepted as to species but not as to race. There are at least 5 races of this species smaller than the nominate race.

MUTE SWAN (Cygnus olor) - two, Shelburne Bay, Shelburne, Chittenden Cty., 27 July 1993. T.G. Murin. Discovered that they had been released.

DARK-EYED JUNCO (Junco hyemalis) "Oregon" type - one, South Londonderry, Windham Cty., 26 October 1993. W.J. Norse.

REPORTS NOT ACCEPTED

PACIFIC LOON (Gavia pacifica) - one, Champlain Bridge, Addison, Addison Cty., 24 November 1992. J.A. Peterson, Don Peterson. Accepted as Gavia, species unknown.

JAEGER SPECIES (Stercorarius sp.) - one, South Alburg, Grand Isle Cty., 27 August 1993. D.J. Hoag.

THAYER'S GULL (Larus thayeri) - one, St. Albans, Franklin Cty., 6 April 1993. J. Zurit.

ROSS' GOOSE (Chen rossii) - one, blue morph, Grand Isle, Grand Isle Cty., 4 April 1993. D.J. Hoag.

FISH CROW (Corvus ossifragus) - one, Brattleboro, Windham Cty., 9 April 1992. John E. Dunn. Description of call is not convincing. Thomas Maloney's report of this bird as a first state record remains hypothetical.

EASTERN MEADOWLARK (Sturnella magna) - one, Bridport, Addison Cty., 23 January 1993 (out-of-season). C.J. Frankiewicz, G.E. Hall. Could have been a Western. Accepted as to genus.

LECONTE'S SPARROW (Ammodramus leconteii) - one, Brattleboro, Windham Cty., 17 October 1992. Thomas H. Maloney. Accepted as to genus. Description does not rule out inland race of Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

PAINTED BUNTING (Passerina ciris) - two, male & female, Jct. Rts. 11 & 30, Winhall, Bennington Cty., 13 May 1993. Rosemary Magyari. Description not adequate. Could have been the same two birds seen at Danby, same date, but just as likely could have been two different birds.

YELLOW WARBLER (Dendroica petechia) - one, St. Albans, Franklin Cty., 20 December 1992. Elizabeth M. Alton, Raymond D. Barnes. Description does not rule out Wilson's Warbler.

MEMBERS OF THE VERMONT BIRDS RECORDS COMMITTEE - October 1993

The Vermont Birds Records Committee consists of:

Seasonal Editors:

Jeremy Coleman (Fall/Summer) 802-257-1844
RD 2, Box 369-C
West Brattleboro, VT 05301

Terry Hall (George) (Fall) 802-985-4136
P.O. Box 621
Shelburne, VT 05482

Lynn Erb (Summer) 802-899-3231
Old Pump Road
Jericho, VT 05465

William J. Norse (Spring) 802-824-3017
Apt. R-3
Smith Haven
South Londonderry, VT 05155

Roy Pilcher (Summer) 802-459-2851
14 Gibbs Street
Proctor, VT 05765

Frederick A. Pratt (Winter) 802-496-3802
RR #1, Box 1370
Moretown, VT 05660

Honorary Editors:

Sally Laughlin 802-644-5651
P.O. Box 157
Cambridge, VT 05444

Whitney Nichols 802-257-9265
RFD #4, Box 210
West Brattleboro, VT 05301

Walter Ellison and Nancy Martin 518-456-6224
3 Winding Brook Drive #1F
Guilderland, NY 12084

Frank Oatman 802-586-2805
Stone's Throw
East Craftsbury, VT 05826

RVB Editorial Staff:

Judy Peterson, Editor 802-388-0126
RD 1, Box 334A
Middlebury, VT 05753

Julie Nicholson
RR 2, Box 501
Woodstock, VT 05091

802-457-1594

Regional Editors for American Birds (only two votes are allowed):

Dr. Charles Duncan
University of Maine at Machias
Institute for Field Ornithology
9 O'Brien Avenue
Machias, ME 04654
(O) 207-255-3313 ext. 288
(H) 207-255-4635
(FAX) 207-255-4628

Blair Nikula
2 Gilbert Lane
Harwich Port, MA 02646-1004

Simon Perkins
Massachusetts Audubon Society
Drumlin Farm
Lincoln, MA 01773

Wayne Petersen
Massachusetts Audubon Society
Drumlin Farm
Lincoln, MA 01773

617-259-9500 X7412
(Home) 617-293-5262

Also:

Steve Faccio, VINS Research Assistant 802-457-2779
VINS
P.O. Box 86
Woodstock, VT 05091

Chris Rimmer, VINS Research Director 802-457-2779
VINS
P.O. Box 86
Woodstock, VT 05091