

# Thirty-eighth Annual Report of the Vermont Bird Records Committee

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The Vermont Bird Records Committee (hereafter VBRC or the Committee) held its annual meeting on 10 November 2018 at the Vermont Center for Ecostudies in Norwich, Vermont. The 38th annual report of the VBRC covers the evaluation of 50 records involving 28 species and 3 subspecies or 'identifiable subspecific forms'. Forty-three records were accepted (86%) with the majority decided unanimously.

There were no first state records for any species during this period. Notable state reports included the second record for Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*), the fourth state record for Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*), and third through eighth records for Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*), and other species. There were no rare nesting reports submitted. A detailed list of reports is found below.

The Vermont Bird Checklist remains at 387 species, representing 22 orders and now 63 families. The names of the birds and their taxonomic arrangement follow the American Ornithological Society Checklist of North American Birds Seventh Edition (1998) and 60th supplement (June 2019). The checklist includes one extinct species (Passenger Pigeon [*Ectopistes migratorius*]), two extirpated (Loggerhead Shrike [*Lanius ludovicianus*] and Henslow's Sparrow [*Ammodramus henslowii*]), six hypothetical occurrences, and nine introduced species. With the addition of Hooded Warbler as breeding in 2017, there have now been 203 species found breeding in the state. The checklist can be viewed and downloaded at <http://vtcostudies.org/wildlife/wildlife-watching/vbrc/bird-checklists/>. Species taxonomy and nomenclature follow the 7th edition of the AOS Checklist of North American Birds and supplements (see <http://www.americanornithology.org/content/checklist-north-and-middle-american-birds>). Nomenclature for subspecies or 'identifiable subspecific forms' follows taxonomy of The eBird/Clements Checklist of Birds of the World (Version 2019), available at <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/clementschecklist/download/>.

The 2018 roster of VBRC voting members included George Clark, Ken Cox (chair), Sue Elliott, Spencer Hardy, Kent McFarland (chair), Craig Provost, Chris Rimmer, Ruth Stewart, Allan Strong, John Sutton, and Sue Wetmore.

The Vermont Bird Checklist is based on more than a century of documented observations. Reports that will expand this knowledge base are encouraged and appreciated. Consult the checklist to see species and time periods for which the Committee requests detailed

documentation. An online form for documenting rare species, out-of-season encounters, and rare nesting species can be found on the Vermont Bird Records Committee website at <http://vtcostudies.org/wildlife/wildlife-watching/vbrc>.

For each record we present basic statistics: count of individuals, age and sex when known, location, when the bird was seen, and who submitted the report. We also indicate whether the evidence provided was a photograph, video, audio, or only a written submission. Some example images from the documentation are also presented. The Committee strongly encourages written submissions even if other media exist. When available, a link to the record in Vermont eBird is included. All records accepted by VBRC, past and present, are stored in Vermont eBird either by the VBRC, if the observer did not enter it, or via the observer(s) directly entering the record. The VBRC strongly encourages observers to enter all bird observations, rare or common, in [Vermont eBird](#).

## Accepted Records

### Notable State Reports (second through tenth records)

#### **Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*)** ([Vermont eBird map](#))

- One found in Missisquoi River Delta, Highgate, VT. 31 August 2018. Martha McClintock. Photos and written. <https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S48229379>. 2nd state record.



- Second report on 2 September 2018 in Missisquoi River Delta, Highgate, VT. Graham Rice. Photos and written. <https://ebird.org/vt/view/checklist/S48246554>.



**Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)** ([Vermont eBird map](#))

- One observed Simms Point, Grand Isle, VT. 24 March 2018. David Hoag. Photos and written. 4th state record. <https://ebird.org/vt/view/checklist/S43926403>



**Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*)**

- One observed on Charcoal Creek in Swanton, VT. 18 March 2018. Rich Kelley, Clem Nilan, James Osborn. Photographs and written. 3rd state record.  
<https://ebird.org/vt/view/checklist/S43763879>  
<https://ebird.org/vt/view/checklist/S43769856>
- One found on Lake Champlain, Route 78, Alburgh Bridge, Alburgh, VT. 28 March 2018. Rich Kelley. 4th state record. Photographs and written..  
<https://ebird.org/vt/view/checklist/S43802385>

- One found on Mallett's Creek, Colchester, VT. 31 March 2018. James Osborn and Rich Kelley. 5th state record. Photographs and written.  
<http://ebird.org/vt/view/checklist/S44129723>  
<http://ebird.org/vt/view/checklist/S44139157>
- One observed at the mouth of Charcoal Creek, Swanton, VT. 12 April 2018. Rich Kelley. 6th state record. Photographs and written. <https://ebird.org/vt/view/checklist/S44497949>
- One reported from Patrick Marsh along Charcoal Creek, Swanton, VT. 3 October 2018. James Osborn. 7th state record. Written. <http://ebird.org/vt/view/checklist/S48915954>
- Two reported from Blueberry Lake, Warren, VT. 30 October 2018. Zacheriah Cota-Weaver. 8th state record. Photographs and written.  
<https://ebird.org/vt/view/checklist/S49559521>

#### **Green-winged Teal (Eurasian) (*Anas crecca crecca/nimia*)**

- Drake found at Herrick's Cove, Rockingham, VT. 12 April 2018. Martha Adams and Don Clark. 7th state record. Photographs and written.  
<http://ebird.org/vt/view/checklist/S44503214>

#### **Hooded Warbler (*Setophaga citrina*)**

- Observed at Geprags Community Park, Hinesburg, VT. Nicholas Tepper. 8th state record. Photographs and written. <https://ebird.org/vt/view/checklist/S45513735>

#### **King Eider (*Somateria spectabilis*)**

- Observed above Lake Champlain Bridge and off DAR State Park, Addison, VT. 14 November 2017. Theodore Murin, Jim Mead, Henry Trombley, Qing Ren, Alison Wagner, Aubrey Choquette, Clem Nilan, Tom Jiamachello, Steve Antell. 10th state record. Photographs and written. Photographs and written.  
<http://ebird.org/vt/view/checklist/S40512611>.  
Many observers throughout the winter -  
<https://ebird.org/vt/map/kineid?neg=true&env.minX=-73.58452170048827&env.minY=43.97943047418696&env.maxX=-73.1031831995117&env.maxY=44.16393727022878&z=h=true&gp=false&ev=Z&mr=1-12&bmo=1&emo=12&yr=range&byr=2017&eyr=2018>

#### **Great Gray Owl (*Strix nebulosa*)**

- One photographed on private property on Perrini Road in Newbury, VT. 27 February 2018 Ian Clark. 10th state record. Photograph.  
<https://ebird.org/vt/view/checklist/S43291678>

#### **Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)**

- Found in Watertown Road in Enosburg Falls, VT. 22 October 2018 by Lawrence and Cheryl Donlon. Photographed on 24 October 2018 by Craig Provost. 10th state record.  
<https://ebird.org/vt/view/checklist/S49431815>

#### **Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*)**

- Female observed at Macrae Farm Park, Colchester, VT. 18 May 2018. Allan Strong, Rachel Fallon, Don Miller. 10th state record. Photographs and written.  
<https://ebird.org/vt/view/checklist/S45800579>



## Rare Nesting Reports

- None reported

## State Subspecies Reports

### **Red-tailed Hawk (Northern) (*Buteo jamaicensis abieticola*)**

- Observed at Three Mile Bridge Road, Middlebury, VT. 14 February 2017. Spencer Hardy. 4th state record. Photograph and written. <http://ebird.org/vt/view/checklist/S34367692>
- Found at Sawyer/Needham Rd., Sudbury, VT. 30 December 2017. Sue Wetmore. 5th state record. Photograph and written. <https://ebird.org/vt/checklist/S41608186>
- Seen on Old Sawmill Road, Orwell, VT. Susan and Marv Elliott, Sue Wetmore. 6th state record. Photograph and written. <https://ebird.org/vt/view/checklist/S43093458>
- Seen on Old Sawmill Road, Orwell, VT. Susan and Marv Elliott, Sue Wetmore. 1 January 2018. 7th state record. Photograph and written. <http://ebird.org/vt/view/checklist/S41523229>

## Out-of-Season Reports

### **Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)**

- Observed at Long Point, Ferrisburg, VT. 15 December 2017. Craig Provost. Photograph and written. <http://ebird.org/vt/view/checklist/S41108291>

### **White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*)**

- 76 were seen from Charlotte Town Beach, Charlotte, VT. 26 March 2018. James Osborn. Written. <http://ebird.org/vt/view/checklist/S43993716>

### **Great Egret (*Ardea alba*)**

- One observed at the confluence of Dead Creek and Otter Creek, Vergennes, VT. 26 November 2017. Spencer Hardy and Alison Wagner. Written. <http://ebird.org/vt/view/checklist/S40744221>

### **Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)**

- Three observed from Lower Foote Street, Middlebury, VT. 24 December 2016. Ronald Payne. Photograph and written. <https://ebird.org/vt/view/checklist/S33181511>
- Two at Middlebury Compost Area, Middlebury, VT. 18 December 2017. Kyle Jones, Katie Reilley, Jerry Reilley, Tii McLane. Photographs and written <http://ebird.org/vt/view/checklist/S41166123>
- Two roosting on a chimney at 15 Washington St, Fair Haven, VT. 20 December 2017. Stacy Robinson. Photograph and written. <http://ebird.org/vt/view/checklist/S41213558>
- Four observed at the Intersection of Rt 7 and Bay Road, Shelburne, VT. 20 December 2017. Frank Rounds. Photograph and written. <https://ebird.org/vt/checklist/S41215237>
- Circling over Interstate 91, Guilford, VT. 21 December 2017. Sara Griesemer. Written. <https://ebird.org/vt/checklist/S41372506>

- Perched along the edge of the of the field at Middlebury Courtyard Marriott, Middlebury, VT. 24 December 2017. Spencer and Doug Hardy. Photograph and written. <https://ebird.org/vt/checklist/S41286778>

#### **Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*)**

- Heard repeatedly singing on Hitchcock Road, Rockingham, VT. 20 February 2018. JoAnne Russo. Written. <https://ebird.org/vt/view/checklist/S43037221>

#### **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*)**

- Observed at Herrick's Cove, Rockingham, VT. 23 November 2017. Michael Foster and Paul Desjardins. Photograph and written. <http://ebird.org/vt/view/checklist/S40677704>

#### **Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*)**

- Observed for several days at a feeder station on Meadow Lane, Duxbury, VT. 14 December 2017. Zacheriah Cota-Weaver. Photographs and written. <http://ebird.org/vt/view/checklist/S41083413>

#### **Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*)**

- Seen at beaver pond east of Bicentennial Hall, Middlebury, VT. 5 December 2017. Spencer Hardy. Photograph and written. <http://ebird.org/vt/view/checklist/S40922944>
- Found at beaver pond east of Bicentennial Hall, Middlebury, VT. 7 December 2018. Ronald Payne and Spencer Hardy. Photograph and written. <https://ebird.org/vt/view/checklist/S40955808>

## **Other Reports Accepted**

#### **Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca crecca/nimia x carolinensis*)**

- Photographed at Herrick's Cove, Rockingham, VT. 21 April 2018. Coleen Lawlor and Martha Adams. Photograph and written. <https://ebird.org/vt/view/checklist/S44794084>

#### **Barn Owl (*Tyto Alba*)**

- One found near on 16 August 2016 along Route 104 in Jeffersonville, VT by Morgan Quimby. Photograph and written <https://ebird.org/checklist/S40846868>

#### **Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)**

- Observed at Old Depot Road in Shaftsbury, VT. 16 September 2017. Jim Mead, Bill and Mae Mayville. Photograph and written. <http://ebird.org/vt/view/checklist/S39210187>

## **Reports Not Accepted**

A number of factors may contribute to a record being denied acceptance by the VBRC. It is uncommon for a record to not be accepted due to a bird being obviously misidentified. More commonly, a record is not accepted because the material submitted was incomplete, insufficient, superficial, or too vague to properly document the reported occurrence while eliminating all other similar species. It is important that the simple act of not accepting a particular record should by no means indicate that the VBRC or any of its members feel the record did not occur as reported. The non-acceptance of any record simply reflects the opinion of the VBRC that the documentation, as submitted, did not meet the rigorous standards appropriate for adding data to the formal historical record. The VBRC makes every effort to be

as fair and objective as possible regarding each record. All records, whether accepted or not, remain on file and can be re-submitted to the Committee if additional substantive material is presented and are available for scientific research.

**Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinator*)**

- Ferrisburg, VT. 8 April 2018.

**Thayer's Gull (*Larus glaucoides thayeri*)**

- Moretown, VT. 23 December 2017.

**Little Gull (*Hydrocoloeus minutus*)**

- Out of season. Craftsbury, VT. 30 April 2018.
- Out of season. Grand Isle, VT. 9 May 2018.

**Great White Heron**

- Newport, VT. 20 April 2018.

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)**

- Shoreham, VT. 5 June 2018.

**Hook-billed Kite (*Chondrohierax uncinatus*)**

- West Haven, VT. 14 February 2018.

**Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*)**

- Cambridge, VT. 20 May 2018.

**Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator*)**

- Out of season. Hartford, VT. 20 May 2018.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*)**

- Out of season. Chester, VT. 27 March 2018.