

shrub cover (lilac, blackberry, honeysuckle, and blueberry). A follow-up visit was made in early August, but no chats were found. The northernmost breeding season report is of a singing male seen July 10, 1976, at Mud Creek Wildlife Management Area in Alburg (B. O'Donnell, GMAS records).

Only one other breeding season report exists—a Yellow-breasted Chat was discovered in White River Junction on June 14, 1974 (RVB, Spring 1974). Few migration records exist for this species in Vermont.

There are three May records: May 14, West Rutland; May 18, Rockingham; and May 20, Reading. There are five fall records: single birds reported from Marshfield, Wallingford, and Pomfret, all in August; a chat banded at Woodstock in September (VINS banding data); and a chat banded in October in Shelburne (Woods 1981).

CHRISTOPHER FICHTEL

Henslow's Sparrow

Ammodramus henslowii

The Henslow's Sparrow was only recorded twice in Vermont during the Atlas Project period. One record (of possible breeding) was of a singing male found June 24, 1977 in Quechee, on an old hillside hayfield covered in milkweed, dogbane, wild raspberries, grasses, ferns, and sedges; the bird was not located on subsequent visits that year or in subsequent years (ASR, A. L. Gosnell). The second record was of a male heard singing several times in June 1981 in Clarendon, in a low sedge meadow that had not been cut for several years; a thorough search did not reveal a nest (ASR, L. H. Potter). This same site had held breeding pairs off and on since the early 1900s. Potter (1915) stated that Henslow's Sparrows were quite common in suitable habitats in West Clarendon, with six to eight pairs nesting on or near his farm. He described their preferred habitat as "moist upland meadows not under the plow, grown up to clumps of ferns, tall meadow rue, and scattered shrubbery." He reported locating two nests, one on August 9, 1909 and one on August 9, 1911, each of which contained one fresh egg. The nests were on the ground in a depression; they were composed of fine grasses, were concealed in a patch of thick grass, and were "mowed out" during haying operations.

Historically, the species has bred at four or more additional sites in Vermont: in

Pownal a Henslow's was reported feeding young on June 23, 1883 (Brewster 1895); in Bennington a Henslow's was found nesting in 1909, and each year thereafter from 1911 to 1917, in a swamp south east of the town (Ross 1927); at Wells River at least six pairs were reported in a 12 ha (30 a) field (Smith 1950c); in Saxtons River three young were raised in June and July 1953 (Blakney 1953).

Vermont appears to have suitable habitat for this sparrow at present. Henslow's Sparrows occur erratically in loose breeding colonies in fallow grasslands (Hyde 1939; Graber 1968; Robins 1971). Their erratic occurrence, insectlike song (a short *ser-rit*), and choice of habitat make them a difficult species to find, much less confirm.

Recent concerns have been expressed about population declines in the Northeast that are presumably a result of habitat loss (Dowlan and Craig 1976; Tate and Tate 1982). The Henslow's has been proposed for Endangered Species status in Vermont. It has disappeared from almost all of New England—only one active nest site is currently known—and is rare and declining in New York (L. Master, pers. comm.).

DOUGLAS P. KIBBE
SARAH B. LAUGHLIN

No. of priority blocks in which recorded

TOTAL 1 (0.6%)

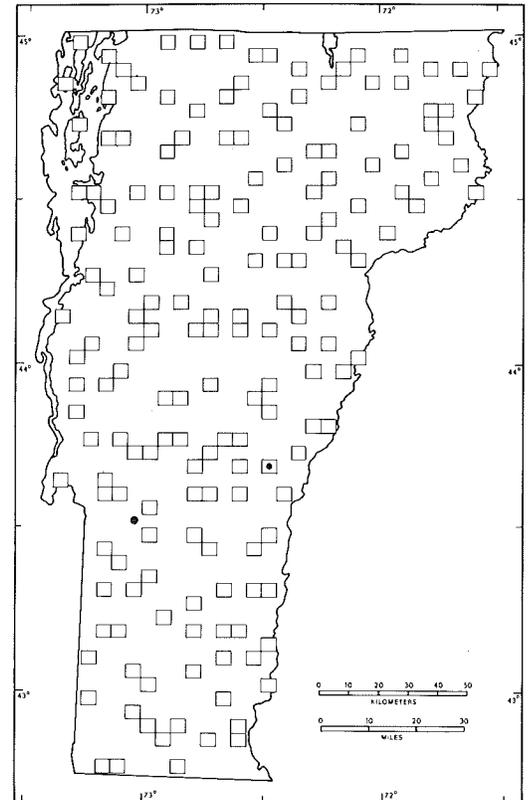
Possible breeding: 1 (100% of total)

Probable breeding: 0 (0% of total)

Confirmed breeding: 0 (0% of total)

Physiographic regions in which recorded

	no. of priority blocks	% of region's priority blocks	% of species' total priority blocks
Champlain Lowlands	0	0	0
Green Mountains	0	0	0
North Central	0	0	0
Northeast Highlands	0	0	0
East Central	0	0	0
Taconic Mountains	0	0	0
Eastern Foothills	1	4	100



Pine Grosbeak

Pinicola enucleator

The Pine Grosbeak's nesting status in Vermont is uncertain. The American Ornithologists' Union's *Check-list of North American Birds* (1983) stated that the species probably breeds in northern Vermont, perhaps because the species is known to have nested in northern New Hampshire (Forbush 1929; Bent 1968).

The only documented summer records during the Atlas Project came from Mt. Mansfield; in addition, in 1978 a sighting was reported on Wheeler Mountain in Sutton, but no details were given (RVB, Summer 1978). The Atlas Project records for the species were a male in old growth spruce-fir on Mt. Mansfield (ASR, A. Wagner), seen and heard singing for 4 to 5 days during the latter half of June, 1980 (PO); and a male

observed and heard singing on three separate occasions during the latter half of June 1979 (PR), at 975 m (3,200 ft) in mixed spruce-fir-birch forest on Mt. Mansfield (ASR, C. Schultz).

Historical evidence of Pine Grosbeaks nesting in Vermont is almost nonexistent. Cutting (1884) referred vaguely to the Pine Grosbeak as "a resident of northern Vermont and found now and then almost everywhere."

Fall, winter, and spring counts vary from year to year; up to 1,155 Pine Grosbeaks were found on 13 Christmas Bird Counts in December 1980. Pine Grosbeaks generally begin to appear in Vermont during the second or third week of October; they linger through March, and scattered sightings are