

in Springfield. In 1948, 350 Great Egrets at 42 localities were reported; the first reported date was July 14. Most localities were in the Champlain Lowlands.

Aside from the 1948 summer record, there are 9 records for either June or July. Of all 10 records, 5 are from Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area, 2 from Missisquoi Bay, and 1 each from Norwich, Waterbury, and Shelburne Bay. Most of these records were for late July, a strong indication that the birds were post-breeding-season wanderers.

Nesting habitats include swamps of cypress or mangrove in the South or of willow in the North, and forests on dry ground or on islands adjacent to marshes, swamps, or estuaries (Palmer 1962). Great Egrets nest

singly or colonially, often in mixed colonies with other Ardeids. The stick nests are generally placed in tall trees. The breeding season in the northern part of the range is mid-April, but the dates vary from year to year and are perhaps influenced by the weather (Harrison 1978). In Michigan, one nest building date exists for April 17, and one egg date for April 24 (Palmer 1962). Clutch size is 3 to 4 eggs.

Foraging Great Egrets are usually found in open areas; they are known to feed on fish, amphibians, snakes, crustaceans, small mammals, and even insects (Palmer 1962). Great Egrets, like Cattle Egrets, are known to feed in fields where cattle are grazing (Palmer 1962).

CHRISTOPHER FICHTEL

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## Northern Shoveler

*Anas clypeata*

The Northern Shoveler is a prairie-nesting dabbling duck. Before 1976 it had one nesting record in Vermont, and during the Atlas Project it was recorded once. The species reaches its greatest nesting densities in the mixed prairie regions of south central Canada and the northern Great Plains (Bellrose 1980). Though widely distributed, the Northern Shoveler is a local breeder on the Great Plains and east of Manitoba (Bellrose 1980). Historically, shovelers have always been rare in Vermont, although occurring occasionally as migrants on Lake Champlain (Perkins and Howe 1901; Fortner et al. 1933).

The Northern Shoveler has been confirmed as nesting in Vermont only once. On May 31, 1962 a shoveler nest was discovered in North Hero in a meadow, where on May 9 a pair had been seen (Fuller and King 1964). The nest, located quite a distance from water, contained 11 eggs. This nest was subsequently destroyed by a mammalian predator (Fuller and King 1964). In 1977, in the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge, a pair of Northern Shovelers was observed mating

(D)—a probable nesting occurrence (ASR, G. O'Shea).

Normal breeding habitat for shovelers in the Great Plains includes tall-grass and mixed prairies, and open marshy areas with "surrounding dry meadows for nesting" (Palmer 1976). The clutch is generally initiated between the end of April and mid June. The clutch of 10 to 11 eggs is incubated for 22 to 24 days; young can fly in 52 to 60 days (Palmer 1976).

Records of migrating Northern Shovelers indicate that the species is found most frequently in marshes of the Champlain Lowlands. Peak counts during either spring or fall migrations are fewer than 10 birds per sighting. Spring migrants occur from the first week in April through the third week in May, and autumn migrant shovelers can be found between mid August and early November. This species winters in scattered locations along the middle and southern Atlantic Coast, and is abundant in coastal Louisiana, Texas, California, and Mexico (Bellrose 1980).

Probably the most interesting facet of the

Northern Shoveler's biology is its spatulate bill, for which the shoveler was formerly known by the genus name *Spatula*.

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No. of priority blocks in which recorded

TOTAL 0 (0%)

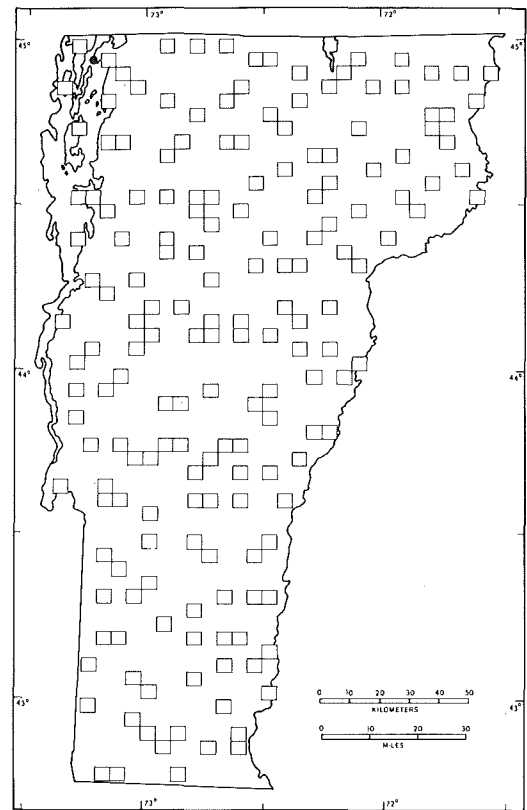
Possible breeding: 0 (0% of total)

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	0	0	0



## American Wigeon

*Anas americana*

Expansion of the American Wigeon's breeding range southeastward from Manitoba and western Ontario appears to be responsible for irregular nesting in eastern Canada, New York, and Vermont. Major concentrations of breeding wigeons occur from Alaska and northwestern and north central Canada south to the northern Great Plains.

Most of the American Wigeon migration misses Vermont. Central Canadian breeders generally move southeastward through central New York (Bellrose 1980). An early fall migrant, this species is observed in Vermont from late August through late October. It returns to Vermont early in the spring, typically showing up about the second or third week of March. Few American Wigeons remain inland during the winter, instead preferring coastal marshes and estuaries.

Historically, the breeding of American Wigeons has been confirmed only once in Vermont—at Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area on July 17, 1962. A hen and nine ducklings were discovered in a meadow of mixed grasses and forbs with scattered dogwoods and red cedars (Fuller and King 1964).

The sole Atlas Project record is a probable report (P for pair in suitable habitat) from Young Island, where on June 27, 1981 three widely scattered pairs of adults were discovered swimming just off the island in Lake Champlain. Young Island is uninhabited and overgrown with nettles and scrub (ASR, S. B. Laughlin and A. L. Gosnell).

Favored breeding habitats appear to include meadows near water, prairie potholes, large river deltas, and islands in lakes (For-