

Cormorant shown in the Department's Surveys.

Letters were written in support of endangered species, Great Cormorant conservation, and saving the Baltic Bog. Intervention to limit nesting by Greater Black-backed Gulls at the Hillsborough Pier Tern Colony led to another successful breeding season for the terns. On the financial end, the Society had revenues of \$5,233.04 and expenditures of \$4,466.55 for a surplus of \$766.49.

**BIRD MONOGRAPHS:**

by Donald Wilkinson

**RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH (*Sitta canadensis*)**

Order: PASSERIFORMES  
Family: SITTIDAE - Nuthatches

Species: 28-46-011

Distribution: Limits of northern tree-line, from southeast Alaska, east through Canada to Newfoundland; also nesting south to southern California, southeast Arizona, Colorado, and Wyoming, then narrow band across United States to northern Michigan; also southern Ontario, through Appalachians to eastern Tennessee and western North Carolina; also southern New York, western Connecticut, and Massachusetts. Winters irregularly through United States and Maritimes, except Florida.

Nest: Usually making a cavity in a well-rotted tree stub or branch of a dead tree, 4.5 m (15 ft.) above ground, but may nest at higher elevation in tree. Sometimes uses abandoned woodpecker sites and bird boxes. Smears the entrance hole with pitch and lines the inside with grasses, rootlets, mosses, etc. Inhabits forests of balsam fir, white spruce, and other conifers.

Eggs: Usually 5 to 6; white, finely spotted with brown shades.

Diet: Mainly seeds of pine, spruce, fir, and other conifers; also insects such as wasps, beetles, spruce budworm moths, etc. Will visit bird feeders for suet and sunflower seed and will pick up seeds from the ground.

Song: Normal call a high-pitched, slow, nasal *ank, ank, ank*, but it also uses *it, it, it* or *hit* notes.

Size: 11 to 12 cm (4.5 to 4.75 inches).

Note: In trees, this species is often seen going head-down the tree.

