

***WHERE TO FIND
THE BIRDS
IN NOVA SCOTIA***

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I N T R O D U C T I O N

This booklet has been prepared from the records of the Nova Scotia Bird Society, for people planning a trip to the Province in search of birds. It is to be used in conjunction with a highway map, obtainable free of charge at any tourist bureau. In the back of this booklet is a list of the birds which have been found in Nova Scotia, annotated in 1972. Roger Tory Peterson's Field Guide to the Birds is completely adequate for field identification in this region, but for more serious bird students, Robie Tufts' The Birds of Nova Scotia is the definitive work, and is available at the Nova Scotia Museum, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Nova Scotia is about 350 miles long and 50 to 100 miles wide. Being a peninsula, the coast is nowhere hard to reach, and for the most part it is easy to get near enough to the birds to see them with or without binoculars. There are many paved highways and byways from which branch small gravel or dirt roads leading down to the shore or into the woods. Even among the hardwood stands, the trees are not lofty, and visibility is quite good. If you are a bird caller, in the country you have no problems. Our birds are unsophisticated, from the Raven to the Wren.

Since this booklet was first printed, there has been a considerable extension of the limited-access highway system, and secondary and feeder routes have been re-numbered, many paved. This sort of thing is likely to continue to happen. We have corrected the text up to date, and can only advise bird-watchers to stick to the "old" and "scenic" routes; in fact, to seek the smallest roads and slowest pace possible, for most rewarding results - advice not necessary for seasoned ornithologists.

C.R.K. Allen, Past-President

P.R. Dobson, Editor

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

Halifax, 1968

Halifax, 1970

Halifax, 1973

Halifax, 1976



WHEN TO FIND THE BIRDS

Visitors usually plan their trips to coincide with summer holidays, June through September. By the first of June, our migratory birds have mostly returned, and those nesting here will still be in breeding plumage, and the vocal ones singing until the end of that month. This is the time of year to visit wooded areas, particularly in the early morning, to watch and to listen to such birds as the Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, White-throated Sparrow and the Wood Warblers. (See the list of Nova Scotia birds for the twenty-two warbler species known to nest here.)

Keep in mind that it is apt to be cool in June, and swamps and brooks may be brimming, so coats and high boots are indicated, not to mention fly dope.

Ducks start incubating in April, and broods are well advanced by mid-May, but some will still be in convoy on the lakes in June and later. The commonest are the Black Duck, both species of teal and the Ring-necked Duck. Pintail breed in Amherst Bog, Goldeneye in Cape Breton, and both species of merganser fairly generally, though in less conspicuous places.

In July, it may be hot during the day, but the long balmy evenings can be delightful, with the songs of the White-throated Sparrow and the Hermit Thrush still echoing across the inland lakes. Sweep your glasses over some of these lakes in the daytime on the chance of seeing chicks of the Common Loon or the Pied-billed Grebe. Along the roadsides and in the woods you are most likely to hear the incessant chittering of greedy nestlings and fledgelings, plus admonitory chirps from harassed parent birds. For those so inclined, this is a good time to brush up on alarm calls.

Early July is the best time to visit the islands off Cape Breton and the Eastern Shore which are sanctuaries for such breeding birds as petrels, cormorants, eiders, the Razorbill, Black Guillemot and Atlantic Puffin. If you wait until August, you may be disappointed as very few of these birds will be in evidence.

About the middle of July, shorebirds, most of which nest in the Arctic, start returning and begin to congregate on the mud flats and beaches along the many miles of mostly rugged coastline. It may be foggy in the morning, but usually clears by mid-day. Again, it can be cool directly in the Atlantic breezes even in July, so a sweater, and sneakers or the like for rock walking, should replace the gabardine and high boots.

By August the weather becomes more settled, and usually remains so straight through October, often our loveliest month, with autumn colors flaming, but with of course a diminishing bird population. Some of the migrants start leaving in August, although September is the busiest month in

this respect. In late September and early October it is a real experience to visit the islands off the southwestern tip of the province, where many birds congregate before their long ocean hop. As in the spring, they seem so concerned with their own affairs they are indifferent to human approach and can be observed very close at hand.

The migration of most ocean-going birds may be described as feeble off Nova Scotia coasts in spring. In the summer you are likely to see only Herring and Black-backed Gulls, Common and Arctic Terns and the occasional Osprey; but fall is the time to set up the telescope on beaches and headlands and look out to sea. Bonaparte's Gulls gather in the surf late August through November. Ring-bills appear in September through October, and a few stay all winter. Black-headed Gulls may appear in September, and do stay all winter, notably in Halifax Harbor, Cole Harbor and most abundant at Glace Bay. The white-winged gulls, Glaucous and Iceland, are around November to March. Kittiwakes are seldom seen close in, but are common offshore all winter.

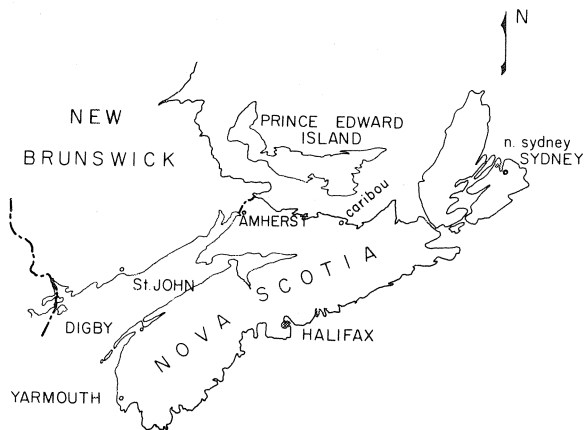
By mid-October both Terns and the Osprey are long gone, but the Common Loon is coming to salt water (plumage changing or still "summer"), and a few Red-throats appear, as do the first of the Horned Grebes. Great Blue Herons are concentrated in good feeding places in the shallows, often in large numbers. Leach's Petrels, usually far out, occasionally come into view, as does the rare straggling Gannet. Double-crested and Great Cormorants are both migrating, Canada Geese are flying in considerable numbers, and the Black Duck and Green-winged Teal migration is in full swing, a few Blue-winged Teal among them. Eiders and all three Scoters are still going strong, and in Cumberland County the Greater Scaup and Goldeneye will go through until Northumberland Strait freezes over. These two latter species are not usually seen on the Atlantic coast until late January or early February, when flocks begin to build up in the inlets. Old Squaw and a few Harlequin show in the breakers late October, Bufflehead start to collect in sheltered water by late November, some years building up to flocks of many hundreds.

This information is given in some detail, as we have found visitors disappointed at not finding the above-mentioned species visible in summer. The local breeders are present, of course, but must be looked for in their special habitats (description to follow in the text). The ice-pack really does break up before high summer.



WHERE TO FIND THE BIRDS

The principal points of entry to Nova Scotia are Digby, Yarmouth, Halifax, the Sydneys, Caribou and Amherst. Yarmouth, Halifax and the Sydneys may be reached by plane as well as boat; Digby and Caribou are ferry terminals, while the sole overland route crosses the border from New Brunswick at Amherst.



THE VALLEY ROAD

Arbitrarily we shall start at Yarmouth, where Highways No. 1 and 101 take off for Halifax via Digby and the Annapolis Valley. The visitor arrives in Yarmouth either early in the morning on the Prince of Fundy from Portland, Maine, after an all-night voyage, or in the afternoon by the M.V. Bluenose after a six-hour trip across the Bay of Fundy. If the day is fog-free he will probably have seen SOOTY and GREATER SHEARWATERS, LEACH'S and WILSON'S PETRELS (hard to distinguish from the deck) and GANNETS - mostly immatures. The same voyage if made from fall to spring may yield other pelagics as well, such as FULMARS, RED and NORTHERN PHALAROPES, KITTIWAKES, RAZORBILLS, MURRES, DOVEKIES and PUFFINS.

Around the town itself any time after mid-July when the shorebird migration is on, the flats and beaches on both sides of Yarmouth Harbor are resting and feeding grounds for SEMI-PALMATED and BLACK-BELLIED FLOVER, RUDDY TURNSTONES, WILLETS, both species of YELLOWLEGS, PEEP and SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHERS. Flocks of GOLDEN FLOVER are by no means uncommon in August and early September in the pasture lands bordering the town, and BUFF-BREADED SANDPIPERS show up occasionally.

Among the Peep (Semipalmated Plover, Least, Semipalmated and White-rumped Sandpipers) at the height of migration DUNLINS are not uncommon, and by September and October flocks of PECTORAL sandpipers are regular.

Enclosed with this pamphlet is a list of Birding Routes for Yarmouth County, and we hope eventually to suggest routes for each region in the province. The shorebird population as described above, and the woodland birds as listed in the Yarmouth County leaflet are typical of similar areas throughout Nova Scotia. In fact, to avoid repetition in the following pages, lists of birds are given for various types of habitat, and where similar types of habitat are described, keep in mind that the same bird populations almost always occur. Species known to be locally abundant or exceptional have received particular mention.



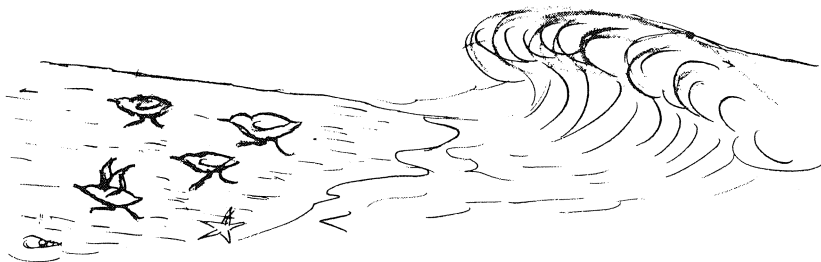
Fifteen miles north of Yarmouth along Route 1, Bartlett's Beach is a good shore and marsh bird area, and similar marshes and beaches may be found from here up the shore of the Bay of Fundy and St. Mary's Bay to Weymouth and beyond. Just short of Digby, Highway 217 turns off to the left for Digby Neck. This long peninsula is a main southward route for hawks and passerines, and from late August through September Brier Island at its western tip often holds fantastic numbers and a great variety of migrants, congregated there waiting for favorable flying weather.

At Digby, the ferry crosses the Bay of Fundy to Saint John, New Brunswick, and passengers aboard the ferry may see the same pelagic species as on the crossings from Bar Harbor and Portland to Yarmouth. The town of Digby is situated on the Annapolis Basin, which is a resort area, but closely backed by wooded country, well worth exploring. At Bear River (turn right from Route 1) the BALD EAGLE may be seen fairly regularly.

Beyond the Basin, Highways 1 and 1A lead into the Annapolis Valley, which is one of the principal agricultural areas in the province. Up the Valley road the woodland birds give way to such farm and orchard species as: RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD, EASTERN KINGBIRD, four species of SWALLOWS, BOBOLINK, COMMON GRACKLE, BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD, SAVANNAH and CHIPPING SPARROWS.

The Valley is bounded on either side by ranges of low hills (elevation 600 to 850 feet) which are dignified by the names of North and South Mountains. These are heavily clothed with mixed conifers and deciduous trees, and harbor a woodland bird population similar to that described on the first page of the Yarmouth County leaflet. The North Mountain, which is continuous with Digby Neck, is apparently the main departure route for many hundreds of hawks, especially the BROAD-WINGED during late September and early October. The Nova Scotia Bird Society regularly holds a field trip there on the Labor Day weekend, when literally thousands of birds of 100-150 species may be sighted in migration.

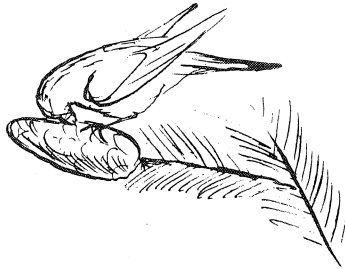
An evening walk up the North Mountain in the vicinity of Granville Ferry is likely to be rewarded by a chorus of VEERYS, and for anyone inclined for their company, a skillful hoot may bring an answer from one or two BARRED OWLS. PILEATED WOODPECKERS are fairly common in the same area and will sometimes, believe it or not, come to the owl caller. The characteristic hawks of the Valley region are the MARSH HAWK and the KESTREL. Lofty shade trees in the Valley towns offer favorite nesting places for the NORTHERN ORIOLE, country road bridges to the EASTERN PHOEBE and open farm fields to the KILLDEER.



Beyond Wolfville is the village of Grand Pre, and from here a paved road leads across the dykelands to Evangeline Beach. From late July through August this is a gathering place for tens of thousands of Peep, chiefly SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS, but also SEMIPALMATED PLOVER, WHITE-RUMPED and LEAST SANDPIPERS and SANDERLINGS. Early in July look for groups of RED KNOTS and HUDSONIAN GODWITS along the beach. In late fall, the dykeland itself is the temporary home of large flocks of HORNED LARKS, LAPLAND LONGSPURS and SNOW BUNTINGS. Some years when the meadow mouse population is at peak, ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS join the resident SHORT-EARED OWL in reaping the harvest.

At Windsor, Route 1 crosses to Halifax, and the character of the country changes quite abruptly. In the Ardoise Hill district, the mixed woodland habitat is replaced by a predominantly coniferous stand, and a thin sour soil covers the slate and granite substratum. Here the GRAY JAY, PINE GROSBEAK, and BOREAL CHICKADEE are common, and BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKERS are frequently seen. SPRUCE GROUSE, always chancy birds, may be found if the observer follows any of the numerous wood roads leading off the highway. For anyone who wants to add RED CROSSBILLS to his list, a good bet is Stillwater Siding, which may be reached by a rather rough dirt road which turns off to the right at the checker-board sign at the top of Ardoise Hill, just beyond a Department of Lands and Forests fire tower which can be glimpsed through the trees. The Crossbills may be found in a clearing at the end of this road where it meets the railway tracks. This little road passes through heavily lumbered territory where possibly a GOSHAWK or a SHARPSHIN, probably YELLOW-BELLIED and OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHERS, and MOURNING WARBLERS can be expected.

N.B. The road to Stillwater Siding is now practically impassible for cars. Route 101, the new provincial highway, crosses this road just short of the railway track, but it is difficult to find the entrance. The old road makes a rewarding walk, particularly in spring or autumn. We cannot promise Crossbills, but they are frequently seen near the Siding, which is apparently a favorite gravelling spot for finches. Siskins, Purple Finches and Goldfinches use it for the same purpose.



H A L I F A X A N D E N V I R O N S

With Halifax City as headquarters, several side trips to the surrounding area are worthwhile. A pelagic trip out of Halifax Harbor offers a possibility of SHEARWATERS, PETRELS, GANNETS and PHALAROPES in addition to the inshore species of GULLS and TERNS.

From late fall to early spring the docks along the waterfront and the City Dump on the south shore of Bedford

Basin are good places to observe at close hand GLAUCOUS, ICELAND, GREAT BLACK-BACKED, HERRING, RING-BILLED and BLACK-HEADED GULLS.

On the western side of the harbor a drive around the peninsula from Halifax through Peggy's Cove, Route 333, and up to the Head of St. Margaret's Bay will yield birds predominantly of the boreal species. During the summer the inshore waters in these two areas are practically birdless except for HERRING and BLACK-BACKED GULLS, COMMON and ARCTIC TERNS, and an occasional OSPREY. Later in the season, however, LOONS, GREBES, ALCIDS, CORMORANTS and SEA DUCKS are numerous.

On the eastern side of Halifax Harbour the stretch of coast from Dartmouth to Chezzetcook combines in a small scope practically every kind of habitat found in the province, and a casual day's birding here can produce a list of over sixty species. From fall to spring COMMON and RED-THROATED LOONS, RED-NECKED and HORNED GREBES feed close in shore; up to one hundred GREAT BLUE HERONS can be seen during autumn migration feeding in the shallow inlets at low tide; BITTERNs nest in the marshes; large flocks of CANADA GEESE and BLACK DUCKS appear in the fall and winter at Cole Harbor; the latter, plus GREEN- and BLUE-WINGED TEAL nest in the marshes; RING-NECKED DUCKS summer on the ponds; AMERICAN GOLDENEYE, BUFFLEHEADS, OLDSQUAW and COMMON EIDERS are winter residents, and rafts of SCOTERS of all three species rest just outside the breakers during spring migration. COMMON MERGANSERS are numerous transients, and RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS are regular winter residents, as are BLACK-HEADED GULLS.

This is one of the few areas on mainland Nova Scotia where one can reasonably expect to see BALD EAGLES; and OSPREYS, which still nest here, can be seen on any day's trip. All of the shorebirds previously mentioned may be found here in their season, and PECTORAL SANDPIPERS are fairly common on the marshes. PURPLE SANDPIPERS are regular residents from fall to spring on Fox Island, off Conrad's Beach, and on Wedge Island, east of Three Fathom Harbor (Route 207).

The upper part of Chezzetcook inlet is a favored area for RING-BILLED GULLS and BUFFLEHEADS from October to April. The open dune country at Conrad's and Lawrencetown Beaches is a likely place for SNOWY OWLS during the winters of their southward incursions, and SHORT-EARED OWLS may be seen here from spring through late fall.

COMMON RAVENS which are far from common in most parts of eastern North America are almost as abundant as COMMON CROWS in this particular region and are in fact generally present throughout the province, where they to some extent fill the niche occupied by Turkey or Black Vultures in other places. They congregate about dumps and chick hatcheries and regularly patrol the highways in search of porcupines killed by cars.

The inland birds vary with their habitats although the more boreal species predominate as the woodland is mostly

white and black spruce. YELLOW-BELLIED and TRAILL'S FLY-CATCHERS are usual, four species of SWALLOW occur, GRAY JAYS outnumber BLUE JAYS, both species of CHICKADEE and KINGLET are abundant. Two VIREOS, SOLITARY and RED-EYED, and about fifteen species of WARBLERS are normal summer residents, of the latter the commonest being the BLACK-AND-WHITE, NASHVILLE, PARULA, MAGNOLIA, MYRTLE, CHESTNUT-SIDED, BLACKPOLL and YELLOW-THROAT.

REDWINGS are breeders on the cattail marshes and RUSTY BLACKBIRDS are abundant during migrations. The NORTHERN FINCHES, true to form, vary greatly from year to year, although PURPLE FINCHES and GOLDFINCHES are always dependable in summer. PINE SISKINS, not so dependable, may be found in small flocks at any time of year.

The dunes close to shore are sure bets for IPSWICH SPARROWS during spring and fall migrations and may be concentration areas for this species as the region is nearly as close as they can get on the mainland to their breeding ground on Sable Island. Other common sparrows are SHARP-TAILS in the salt marshes, SAVANNAHS along the drier margins, JUNCOS and WHITE-THROATS in the woodlands, and SONG SPARROWS nearly everywhere.

Large movements of HORNED LARKS and SNOW BUNTINGS, WATER PIPITS and LAPLAND LONGSPURS take place along this stretch of coast during the fall.

T H E T R U R O R O A D

Highway 2, formerly the sole overland route between Nova Scotia and the rest of the continent, begins at Halifax, passes through Truro along the north shore of Cobequid Bay to Parrsboro, thence northeast to Amherst and across the Tantramar Marsh into New Brunswick. An interesting side trip between Halifax and Truro can be made by turning left from Route 2 at Elmsdale on to Highway 214, leaving this at the Cheese Factory Corner and following a paved road through Gore and thence through Kennetcook via 354 to Noel on the shore of Cobequid Bay. From Noel the road turns right along the coast to Maitland and then follows the west bank of the Shubenacadie River (Route 215) to the village of Shubenacadie, back on Route 2.

This is hunter's country. RUFFED GROUSE, GRAY PARTRIDGE and RING-NECKED PHEASANTS are abundant; the marshes may yield BITTERNS, both species of TEAL, and BLACK DUCKS. SORA RAILS are a good possibility and the YELLOW RAIL has been reported at Noel. PIED-BILLED GREBES and RING-NECKED DUCKS nest on the few woodland lakes, WOODCOCK breed in the alder thickets and the winnowing of the COMMON SNIBE can be heard overhead on any early summer day. SWALLOWS, BOBOLINKS, REDWINGS, and COWBIRDS are abundant in the open lowlands and

SHARP-TAILED SPARROWS may be flushed in the salt marshes. RED-TAILED HAWKS, though generally distributed throughout the wooded parts of the province, can be expected with fair certainty in this region. As on the Grand Pré, large flocks of HORNED LARKS and SNOW BUNTINGS with usually a few LAPLAND LONGSPURS among them can be seen here in the fall.

Another side trip between Halifax and Truro can be made to the Musquodoboit Valley. Turn right from Route 2 at Lantz, follow Highway 224 to Upper Musquodoboit, travel by gravel road through Dean to Newton Mills on 336, and return on 289 through Middle Stewiacke to Brookfield, back on Route 2. This country is a mixture of farm and woodland, some of which is predominantly hardwood. YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERS vie here with FLICKERS for the distinction of being the commonest woodpecker. PILEATED and BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKERS can also be expected. Around the shores of Lake Egmont, the Department of Lands and Forests has erected a number of nest boxes for WOOD DUCKS and some of these are tenanted. At Dollar Lake in the mature evergreens, the BAY-BREASTED WARBLER is probably the most numerous of this family, and BLACK-THROATED BLUES and OVENBIRDS are not uncommon in the hardwood stands.

Beyond Truro an alternate and shorter route to Amherst leaves Highway 2 at Glenholme and proceeds via No. 4 through the Wentworth Valley, which lies between hardwood covered hills rising to a height of 1,100 feet. RED-TAILED HAWKS and PILEATED WOODPECKERS can again be expected and GREAT HORNED OWLS are fairly common. The towns of Oxford and Amherst have for many years been the last stronghold in Nova Scotia of the PURPLE MARTIN. Several martin houses in the latter town at least are still tenanted, and at 150 Victoria Street (Highway 6) one colony may be seen from the car.

About four miles from Amherst at the junction of Highways 2, 4, and 6, a paved road leads south across the railway tracks to the entrance of the Amherst Point Sanctuary. This is an excellent area for DUCKS, from April to November, and is the only known breeding place in Nova Scotia for AMERICAN WIDGEON and PINTAIL. CANADA GEESE are regular in migrations. Many landbirds occur on the wooded slope west of the lower pond.

T H E S U N R I S E T R A I L

From Amherst, Route 6, the Sunrise Trail, leads to Fugwash on the Northumberland Strait and thence along the shore to Pictou. There is good birding in season all along this shore and it is hard to say that one place is better than another.

In many places the shore is easily accessible from the main road; in others it may be reached by branch roads,

mostly gravel, which often traverse salt marshes or skirt brackish lagoons before reaching the shore itself.

The flats at the mouth of Wallace Bay are very likely places to see HUDSONIAN GODWITS in July and August, fourteen having been seen there at one time. It is also an excellent place for most other shorebird species in August and September.

BRANT in the spring, CANADA GEESE, GOLDENEYES, and GREATER SCAUP in the fall and BONAPARTE'S GULLS in the late summer, are abundant in this general area.

Beyond Pictou, the traveller may join the Trans-Canada Highway at New Glasgow; but a more interesting route is Highway 245 to Malignant Cove, and from there by gravel road around Cape George. Beyond Merigomish, a mile from Lower Barney's River Bridge, turn off towards Merigomish Big Island. Here numbers of migrating DUCKS and GEESE rest on the shallows south of the sandpit leading to the island. Certain shorebirds, notably WHIMBREL, are regular here in the fall. Caution! Soft sand on the road shoulders.

At Antigonish the road north along the harbor is convenient for viewing the tidal marsh. Many waterfowl occur in migration, and several species of ducks breed here. BALD EAGLES are regular, and many water and shore birds may be seen in season. A noted colony of GREAT CORMORANTS is near Jimtown about ten miles north of Antigonish by paved road. Permission to visit this colony must be obtained from St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish; but avoid going in May and June as gulls and ravens prey on the eggs and small young if adult birds are disturbed at nests.

C A P E B R E T O N

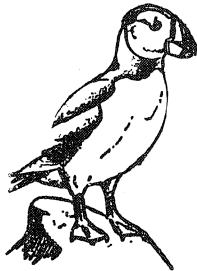
From Antigonish one follows the Trans-Canada Highway to the Canso Causeway and across it to Cape Breton Island. At the toll-gate return fare is collected, so if you decide to stay in Cape Breton for the rest of your life, as you very well may do, you will lose on the deal. No toll is collected on return from the Cape Breton side.

Canadian author MacMechan has pointed out that Cape Breton reverses the usual definition of an island. The land embraces the water, the salt, but nearly tideless, Bras d'Or Lake. Around these inland shores the BALD EAGLE is found in greater numbers than in any other part of northeastern North America.

Leaving the Canso Causeway, the visitor has three choices: Route 19 running north along the shore of St. George's Bay; the Trans-Canada Highway (Route 105) which heads inland towards the north shore of Bras d'Or; or Route 4 which skirts

its southern shore and passes through Sydney to Glace Bay.

We shall, again arbitrarily, follow this last road, and branch off at St. Peter's for Point Michaud, one of the best places in the region to observe transient shorebirds. This road circles back and rejoins Route 4 which continues along the shore of the lake to East Bay and thence inland to Sydney. One may then continue along the same route to Glace Bay. Here a sanctuary which is accessible from the Donkin turnoff, and Port Morien, reached from Highway 4 (by Birch Grove cutoff bypassing Glace Bay), is a favoured place for DUCKS and CANADA GEESE from mid-September to March. GULLS, TERNs, COMMON and ARCTIC, and SHOREBIRDS including WILLETS, are present in summer. This is the place to see the BLACK-HEADED GULL, present in good numbers November to April. An alternate trip from Sydney is Route 22 to the restored fortress of Louisbourg twenty-three miles away. This may also be reached by a more roundabout but much more interesting road which follows the shore from Port Morien. Excellent bird-watching can be had both at Louisbourg and along the latter route.

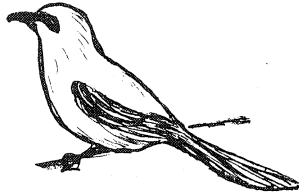


Back at Sydney one takes the Trans-Canada Highway Route 105, turning off to Big Bras d'Or which is the embarkation point for an expedition to the Bird Islands off St. Ann's Bay. This is an important bird colony featuring LEACH'S PETRELS, RAZORBILLS, BLACK GUILLEMOTS, PUFFINS, CORMORANTS and GULLS. Make arrangements for the boat trip at the Tourist Bureau at the Canso Causeway as you enter Cape Breton. Only on comparatively windless days is it possible to land on the islands, but the boat circles close in under the cliffs, giving every opportunity to watch and photograph the birds.

From Big Bras d'Or the road joins the Trans-Canada Highway just before Great Bras d'Or bridge. To reach English-town, the next place of interest, turn off the Trans-Canada after crossing Kelly's Mountain on to a paved road which leads to the English-town Ferry. Here the spit barring the mouth of St. Ann's Bay is a good place for GULLS, TERNs and SHOREBIRDS. BALD EAGLES too are fairly common.

From Englishtown the road follows the shore closely to Ingonish Beach which is the eastern entry to Cape Breton Highlands National Park. Officials at Park Headquarters here can supply information on good birding spots in the neighborhood. A Nature Trail back of nearby Keltic Lodge may yield SPRUCE GROUSE as well as WARBLERS and summering EVENING GROSBEAKS.

Money Point at the northeastern tip of Cape Breton is an arrival site for northern birds during fall migration. A gravel road branches to the right off the Cabot Trail just beyond the village of Cape North and leads to Bay St. Lawrence. From here a walk out the Money Point road in late September or October can produce FOX SPARROWS, WHITE-CROWNED SPARROWS, TREE SPARROWS, possibly NORTHERN SHRIKES and other species fresh from their crossing of Cabot Strait.



Returning to the Cabot Trail the next good birding stop is Cheticamp River, the western entry to Cape Breton Highlands National Park. Here on a trail beginning back of the campsite and following along the river, a number of woodland species including BLACKPOLL and BLACKBURNIAN WARBLERS, NORTHERN WATER THRUSH, and YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHERS may be seen.

Another excellent place for woodland birds, though somewhat out of the way, is Big Intervale Margaree near the end of a gravel road which may be reached from the Cabot Trail at Northeast Margaree. Although rather remote this trip up the river valley is worthwhile for the scenery as well as the birds. The hills around reach up to 1,600 feet.

Route 19 leaves the Cabot Trail at Margaree Harbor and continues down the west coast of Cape Breton to the Canso Causeway. Seventeen miles north of this are the Judique Ponds, a series of barrier beach ponds good for DUCKS, SHOREBIRDS and BALD EAGLES. A rough shore road, muddy in wet weather, leaves Route 19 two miles south of Port Hood and runs near the ponds, rejoining the highway close to the southernmost of these.

If, however, the traveller stays on the Cabot Trail, another profitable stop for water birds will be Nyanza on St. Peter's Channel, about nine miles west of Baddeck on the Bras d'Or Lakes. Seven species of DUCKS breed locally, and GREAT BLUE HERONS, COMMON TERNS, OSPREYS and BALD EAGLES also occur.

The Trans-Canada Highway runs west from Nyanza to the Canso Causeway, thence back to mainland Nova Scotia.

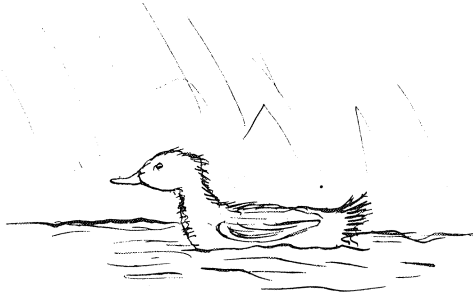
THE EASTERN SHORE

Returning to the mainland the visitor's best route to the Eastern Shore is Highway 16 which leaves the Trans-Canada Highway at Monastery for Canso. Just before reaching the town of Guysborough two gravelled roads follow up either side of the Guysborough Intervale where an exceptional variety of woodland, marsh and water birds may be found.

The barren headlands around Canso are covered with dense carpets of crow-berry and a favorite feeding ground for flocks of WHIMBREL during migration from mid-July to September.

New Harbor, about twenty-five miles west of Canso, forms an oasis in an otherwise barren rocky coast. The nature of the estuary here affords easy observation of the DUCKS and SHOREBIRDS which make this one of their stop-offs on their southward flight. Look for BAIRD'S and BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPERS, and GODWITS in season.

From New Harbor the pavement (316) turns inland to Country Harbor Crossroads where a gravel road connects with Route 7 at Melrose. This highway follows the St. Mary's River down to Sherbrooke and there turns west again along what Nova Scotians call the Eastern Shore. This is a rocky coast backed by predominantly coniferous woods, inhabited by the boreal species already mentioned plus BLACKPOLL WARBLERS on the outer wooded headlands and LINCOLN'S SPARROWS in the black spruce bogs. Close in shore broods of downy young EIDERS tended by watchful mothers and "aunts" are common. The numerous inlets often hold resting flocks of all three species of SCOTERS in early fall.



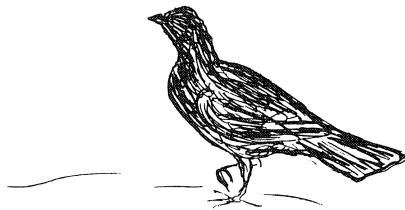
Near Ecum Secum the fertile marshes along the river at Fleet Settlement and New Chester contrast with the surrounding boreal country and are the home of GREAT BLUE HERONS, BITTERNs and COMMON SNIPE. Such strays as LITTLE BLUE HERONS, EGRETS and COMMON GALLINULES have also been reported from this area.

A few miles farther west at Necum Teuch and Harrigan Cove, boats may be chartered for a visit to the islands which make up the Nova Scotia Bird Society's Eastern Shore Bird Sanctuary. These islands are the breeding grounds of LEACH'S PETRELS, DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS, COMMON EIDERS, HERRING GULLS, COMMON, ARCTIC and ROSEATE TERNS and BLACK GUILLEMOTS. FOX SPARROWS are heard singing on at least one of these islands during their nesting season, but no nest has yet been discovered. Mr. Norman Smith of Necum Teuch and Mr. Garnett Snow of Harrigan Cove are Wardens of the Eastern Shore Bird Sanctuary, and will conduct boat parties to the islands by previous arrangement.

At Ship Harbor a side trip may be taken by gravel road through Clam Harbor and Clam Bay and back to Route 7 at Lake Charlotte. These are resting and feeding areas for SHOREBIRDS; and SFRUCE GROUSE may be hoped for on the roads leading to and from these localities.

At Musquodoboit Harbor another short side trip to a similar area at Petpeswick is recommended. Here in addition to a good variety of shorebirds one may find nesting OSFREYS, FUDDLE DUCKS and GREAT BLUE HERONS in good numbers.

Alternatively, at Musquodoboit Harbor one may follow the course of the river by that name upstream through a country rich in woodland birds, through Elderbank to Middle Musquodoboit, and thus join the side trip described on Page 9 or one may continue west along Route 7 to Head of Chezzetcook and from here follow the route of the side trip through Three-Fathom Harbor described on Page 7



T H E S O U T H S H O R E

The Atlantic coast of Nova Scotia is quite illogically divided in local parlance into two areas: the Eastern Shore, from Canso to Halifax, and the South Shore from Halifax to Cape Sable.

Instead of taking Route 3 (the South Shore Road) from Halifax, the traveller will be well advised to take the new limited-access highway (No. 103) as far as Upper Tantallon, thus avoiding the rather dreary sixteen miles of scrub woods and suburban areas just west of the city.

From here on, Route 3 follows the northern shore of St. Margaret's Bay to Hubbards, and although not particularly rewarding to the bird-watcher during the summer, it is well populated with COMMON and RED-THROATED LOONS, RED-NECKED and HORNED GREBES, GREAT CORMORANTS, GOLDENEYES, MERGANSERS, OLDSQUAWS, THICK-BILLED MURRES and DOVEKIES from late fall on through the winter. From Hubbards a side trip around the Aspotogan peninsula during the colder months will provide further opportunity to observe the above-mentioned birds.

Route 3 crosses the base of this peninsula and comes out on Mahone Bay at East River. The woodland along the course of the East River for a mile or more upstream from this bridge is a particularly good spot for WARBLERS in early summer. The best way to reach this stretch of woods is to walk in an abandoned wood road which starts from the right-hand side of Route 3 and leads to the ruins of a power dam on the river. This little road begins just one and nine-tenths miles beyond (west of) a highway sign which reads "East River Point".

A few miles beyond East River two roads lead inland across the province, Route 14 from Marriott's Cove to Windsor, Route 12 from Chester Basin to New Ross and Kentville. The former is gravelled for about a third of the way, the latter entirely paved. Both roads provide a variety of woodland and open country habitats.

From Chester Basin Route 3 follows the coast closely to Mahone Bay, although the traveller in a hurry may take a short cut from Gold River along a ten-mile stretch of limited-access highway. At Mahone Bay a side trip through Lunenburg to Kingsburg (332) is very well worth while in early spring or late fall to look for DUCKS and SHOREBIRDS. During the summer, Ovens Park is well populated with land birds and definitely worth a visit by anyone anxious to add the GRAY JAY to his life list.

If, however, time is short, Route 3A may be taken, which rejoins Route 3 at Bridgewater. Located at the head of tide on the LaHave River, Bridgewater is the centre of a great network of roads, any one of which will be rewarding to the searcher for FLYCATCHERS, WARBLERS, FINCHES and their kin. The relatively rich soil of this area supports a large and

varied bird population. The NIGHTHAWK migration, following the course of the LaHave River in late summer, can be spectacular.

Route 331 follows the west bank of the LaHave to Crescent Beach which in season is one of the best places along the South Shore for those interested in migrating DUCKS and SHOREBIRDS. The hinterland along this route abounds in bird life. In and around the nearby estuary of the Petite Riviere WILLETS, SPOTTED SANDPIPERS, BANK SWALLOWS and KING-FISHERS nest. This shore road rejoins Route 3 at Mill Village.

Ten miles further at Liverpool Route 8 turns inland and crosses the province to Annapolis Royal. Forty-three miles above Liverpool on this highway is the entrance to the recently established Kejimikujik National Park which was officially opened in August of 1969, which now provides camping facilities. A list of the great variety of birds to be found in the Park has been compiled by the Park Naturalists, and includes the majority of those already mentioned.

Continuing on Route 3 from Liverpool, the next area of particular interest is the sanctuary at Port LeHebert. Here during spring and fall migration thousands of waterfowl rest and feed. Most abundant are CANADA GEESE and BLACK DUCKS; but CORMORANTS, GREAT BLUE HERONS, BRANT, PINTAIL, GREEN- and BLUE-WINGED TEAL, GREATER SCAUP and MERGANSERS are also present in numbers.

A feature of this shore from Liverpool to Shelburne is the number of extensive white sand beaches. During July and August the ones close to the main highway are apt to have more bathers than birds on them, but those more remote from resort areas are favorite breeding grounds of the PIPING PLOVER and are visited by many other shorebirds during late summer and fall. Inland along the route from Liverpool to Shelburne, large stretches of country because of repeated burnings resemble arctic tundra, with granite outcroppings. The bird life of this region is little known but probably sparse.

From Shelburne to Shag Harbor Route 3 passes several points which serve as concentration areas for southward migrants. These are East Point below Ingomar, Baccaro Point and Cape Sable. Migrants collect at these places in great numbers under certain conditions of weather and often included among them are exotic species. For example, among those reported from Cape Sable Light and vicinity are: the CATTLE EGRET, BLACK- and YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERONS, WHITE IBIS, WESTERN KINGBIRD, frequent MOCKINGBIRDS and BROWN THRASHERS, PROTHONOTARY WARBLER, GOLDEN-WINGED and BLUE-WINGED WARBLERS, CERULEAN WARBLER, PRAIRIE WARBLER, HOODED WARBLER, YELLOW-HEADED BLACK-BIRD, BLUE GROSBEAK, INDIGO BUNTING, numerous DICKCISSELS and TOWHEES, LARK BUNTING and CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR.

Highway 3 turns north and follows the coast to Tusket through a series of villages which merge one into the other with little wild country between. At Tusket a number of roads

lead inland through the Tusket River system of Yarmouth County, mixed woods around lakes and inter-connecting streams. The bird population is the same as that described on Page 4; three species of THRUSH - HERMIT, SWAINSON'S and VEERY, seem to be about equally common, WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCHES and ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAKS are more abundant than in any other part of the province.

Seaward along the numerous small estuaries are many salt marshes which are breeding grounds for the AMERICAN BITTERN, WILLET, SEMI-PALMATED PLOVER and SHARP-TAILED SPARROW. These Continue right up to the town of Yarmouth, which brings us full circle, back to the starting point.

If you consult your Annotated List of the birds of Nova Scotia in the back of the Tour Book, you will find many birds not mentioned in the above account. In some cases, this is because they are rarely seen, in others because they are seen everywhere. The COMMON CROW, the ROBIN and the STARLING belong to the latter group, as does the HERRING GULL anywhere near the sea. The same is true for birds like the CHIMNEY SWIFT and our native HAWKS. They are as widely distributed, but not so evident. Some species vary from year to year, notably NUTHATCHES, WAXWINGS and FINCHES.

Whether the visitor is planning a trip to Nova Scotia to find some particular species of bird or just to see what he can see, we hope he will not be disappointed, will have an enjoyable trip, and will come again.

Bonne Chance et Bon Voyage!



NOVA SCOTIA BIRDS

by L. B. Macpherson and C. R. K. Allen

This list is designed for two purposes. First, to indicate the birds that are likely to come to the attention of a visitor to the province; second, to record all species that are known to have occurred (to 1972) in Nova Scotia and its coastal waters, however infrequently, in historic times.

Those underlined, some 200 species, are the ones that a competent observer, at the right time and place, can expect to see annually in Nova Scotia. Regularity of occurrence, rather than abundance, is the criterion for the emphasis put on them.

For each species something of the abundance and time of occurrence as well as breeding status is indicated. If abundance is not mentioned the species should be considered to be as "common" as could reasonably be expected in its preferred habitat here. The months or seasons of occurrence given for the main species are the times they are regularly present in the province. A few individuals of many species are seen at other times, but accuracy has been sacrificed to brevity in this list. The species known to have bred in the province are marked with an asterisk (*).

Only those kinds of birds which have been suitably identified are included in the list. For the sake of completeness, those species whose occurrence has been reliably reported, but not confirmed, are included in a "Hypothetical List" at the end. Some game birds whose introduction has been unsuccessfully attempted are omitted. The names of the species and the order in which they are listed follow the "Checklist of North American Birds" (5th. edition).

This list has not been up-dated since 1973, but it remains essentially correct. (Some of the names do not follow the new AOU nomenclature.) The Nova Scotia Bird Society has compiled a new list which is embodied in a Check List for 1975. This differs chiefly by the addition of new records for the province, which are strays here and unlikely to be encountered on any ordinary birding trip. A few birds have had their status up-graded, and birds which are now confirmed for Nova Scotia are underlined in the hypothetical list given here.

The new Check List may be obtained at the Nova Scotia Museum in Halifax, at Talbot's Bookstore in the Halifax Shopping Centre or by writing to the Secretary, Nova Scotia Bird Society, c/o Nova Scotia Museum, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, Canada, B3H 3A6.

COMMON LOON* All months.
RED-THROATED LOON Spring and fall migrant, winter records.
RED-NECKED GREBE November to May.
HORNED GREBE October to May.
PIED-BILLED GREBE* Uncommon. May to November.
FULMAR Off shore, probably all months.
CORY'S SHEARWATER Occasionally sighted well off shore.
GREATER SHEARWATER Off shore, summer and fall.
MANX SHEARWATER Very rare. Off shore, summer, early fall.
SOOTY SHEARWATER Off shore, summer and early fall.
LITTLE SHEARWATER One old record.
LEACH'S PETREL* April to November.
STORM PETREL One record.
WILSON'S PETREL Off shore, June to September.
WHITE-TAILED TROPIC-BIRD Eleven records.
WHITE PELICAN One flock (Sept., 1948).
BROWN PELICAN Seven records, all May or June.
BROWN BOOBY One record.
GANNET Mainly spring and fall transient.
GREAT CORMORANT* All months.
DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT* Mainly March to November.
MAGNIFICENT FRIGATE BIRD Five records.
GREAT BLUE HERON* March to November, winter stragglers.
GREEN HERON Rare. Spring to fall.
LITTLE BLUE HERON A number of records, April to October.
CATTLE EGRET A number of records in past 15 years.
COMMON EGRET A few records, March to October.
SNOWY EGRET A number of records, April to October.
LOUISIANA HERON Two records.
BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON Rare. March to October.
YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON Very rare. March to September.
LEAST BITTERN Very rare. Summer and early fall.
AMERICAN BITTERN* April to November.
GLOSSY IBIS A number of records, spring and summer.
WHITE IBIS A single record.
AMERICAN FLAMINGO One record.
WHISTLING SWAN A very few records. Spring and fall.
CANADA GOOSE September to April.

BRANT Spring and fall migrant.
WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE Three records.
SNOW GOOSE A few records.
BLUE GOOSE Several good records.
MALLARD Rare. All months.
BLACK DUCK* All months.
GADWALL Three records.
PINTAIL* Uncommon. Mainly spring and fall transient.
COMMON TEAL At least five records.
GREEN-WINGED TEAL* All months. Common in fall, rare in winter.
BLUE-WINGED TEAL* Spring or early fall.
EUROPEAN WIDGEON Rare visitor, fall and early winter.
AMERICAN WIDGEON* Uncommon spring and fall migrant.
SHOVELER* Rare and irregular, spring to fall.
WOOD DUCK* Uncommon. Spring to fall.
REDHEAD Seven records, fall and winter.
RING-NECKED DUCK* April to late October.
CANVASBACK Seven records, fall and early winter.
GREATER SCAUP Mainly October to late April.
LESSER SCAUP Rare, fall migrant.
COMMON GOLDENEYE* Mainly late fall to early spring.
BARROW'S GOLDENEYE Rare, winter and early spring.
BUFFLEHEAD October to April.
OLDSQUAW Mainly late October to early April.
HARLEQUIN DUCK Restricted distribution, late fall to spring.
LABRADOR DUCK Extinct.
COMMON EIDER* All months.
KING EIDER A number of records, fall and winter.
WHITE-WINGED SCOTER All months, less common summer and winter.
SURF SCOTER Spring and fall transient, less common in winter.
COMMON SCOTER Spring and fall, less common in winter.
RUDDY DUCK Irregular, mainly in fall.
HOODED MERGANSER* Rare. Mainly in fall.
COMMON MERGANSER* All months.
RED-BREASTED MERGANSER* All months.
TURKEY VULTURE A number of records.
BLACK VULTURE Three records.
SWALLOW-TAILED KITE One record.

GOSHAWK* All months.
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK* All months.
COOPER'S HAWK* Very rare.
RED-TAILED HAWK* All months.
BROAD-WINGED HAWK* Fall migrant. A few summer records.
ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK October to April, periodically common.
GOLDEN EAGLE Only a few records.
BALD EAGLE* All months.
MARSH HAWK* Mainly mid-April to late October.
OSPREY* Mainly April to late September.
GYRFALCON Very rare, mainly winter.
PEREGRINE FALCON* Rare. All months, but mainly fall.
PIGEON HAWK* Uncommon. All months.
SPARROW HAWK* Early April to October. Stragglers in winter.
SPRUCE GROUSE* Fairly common resident.
RUFFED GROUSE* Common resident.
WILLOW PTARMIGAN* Introduced on Scatari Island.
ROCK PTARMIGAN One record.
RING-NECKED PHEASANT* Fairly widespread introduced resident.
GRAY PARTRIDGE* Uncommon introduced resident.
CLAPPER RAIL Five records.
VIRGINIA RAIL* Mainly fall and early winter.
SORA* Fairly common, April to October.
YELLOW RAIL Very rare. May breed.
CORN CRAKE One old record.
PURPLE GALLINULE At least a dozen records.
COMMON GALLINULE Rare. April to December.
AMERICAN COOT* Rare in summer. Sometimes not uncommon in fall.
LAPWING Visitations in 1927 and 1966.
SEMI-PALMATED PLOVER* April to October, but mainly fall migrant.
PIPING PLOVER* Locally common. March to September.
WILSON'S PLOVER At least four records.
KILLDEER* Rare but increasing. March to October mainly.
AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER Fall migrant, increasing in numbers.
BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER Spring and mainly fall migrant.
RUDDY TURNSTONE Mainly early fall migrant, some winter.
AMERICAN WOODCOCK* March to November.
COMMON SNIPE* April to November. A few regularly in winter.

WHIMBREL Fairly common southward migrant, mainly August.
ESKIMO CURLEW No records for many years.
UPLAND PLOVER Very rare, mainly fall.
SPOTTED SANDPIPER* May to October.
SOLITARY SANDPIPER Uncommon transient, May and August-October.
WILLET* Locally common, April to end of August.
GREATER YELLOWLEGS* Mainly August to November.
LESSER YELLOWLEGS Mainly August and September.
KNOT Uncommon migrant, August to October.
PURPLE SANDPIPER Locally common, November to March.
PECTORAL SANDPIPER Fairly common, late July to October.
WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER Fairly common, August to November.
BAIRD'S SANDPIPER Rare fall migrant.
LEAST SANDPIPER* Mainly July-September, uncommon May-June.
DUNLIN Rather uncommon. Mainly late fall migrant.
SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER Mainly early July to early September.
LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER Very rare fall visitant.
STILT SANDPIPER Rather rare fall migrant.
SEMI-PALMATED SANDPIPER Mainly early July to September.
WESTERN SANDPIPER One record.
BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER A few fall occurrences.
MARbled GODWIT Ten records, mainly early fall.
HUDSONIAN GODWIT Uncommon but regular, July to October.
RUFF At least five records.
SANDERLING Mainly August to November, a few in spring.
AMERICAN AVOCET Four records.
RED PHALAROPE Off shore migrant, spring and fall.
WILSON'S PHALAROPE Seven records. May to September.
NORTHERN PHALAROPE Off shore migrant, spring and fall.
POMARINE JAEGER) Good records for each species, mainly
PARASITIC JAEGER) in summer, by no means reflect the prob-
LONG-TAILED JAEGER) able abundance or main time of occurrence
SKUA) of these off shore birds.
GLAUCOUS GULL Uncommon. November to March.
ICELAND GULL Mainly November to April.
GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL* All months.
LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL One record.
HERRING GULL* All months.

RING-BILLED GULL Mainly September to April.
BLACK-HEADED GULL Very local, but regular, September to May.
LAUGHING GULL* Now rare and local. May to September.
BONAPARTE'S GULL Mainly August to late November.
LITTLE GULL Two records.
IVORY GULL Six records.
BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE* Mainly fall and winter, at times common.
FORSTER'S TERN Four records.
COMMON TERN* May to September.
ARCTIC TERN* May to September.
ROSEATE TERN* Uncommon. May to August.
SOOTY TERN Two records.
LEAST TERN Five records.
ROYAL TERN Four records.
CASPIAN TERN Very rare, mainly fall.
BLACK TERN A number of records.
BLACK SKIMMER Visitations August 1924 and October 1968.
GREAT AUK Extinct.
RAZORBILL* All months. One major breeding colony.
COMMON MURRE In winter, well off shore.
THICK-BILLED MURRE In winter, coastal waters.
DOVEKIE October to March.
BLACK GUILLEMOT* All months.
COMMON PUFFIN* One major breeding colony and one other (very small) colony. Otherwise off shore.
ROCK DOVE* All months.
MOURNING DOVE* Not uncommon fall visitant. Breeds rarely.
PASSENGER PIGEON Extinct.
YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO Occasional records, mainly fall.
BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO* Recently rather rare, May to September.
BARN OWL Four records.
SCREECH OWL One record.
GREAT HORNED OWL* All months.
SNOWY OWL Periodically fairly common, October to March.
HAWK-OWL A few visitations, fall and winter.
BARRED OWL* All months.
GREAT GRAY OWL Two records.
LONG-EARED OWL* Rather rare. All months.

SHORT-EARED OWL* Uncommon. All months.
BOREAL OWL Rather rare. October to February.
SAW-WHET OWL* All months. More common than it might seem to be.
CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW Three records.
WHIP-POOR-WILL* Regular in certain localities. May to October.
COMMON NIGHTHAWK* Mainly late May to early September.
CHIMNEY SWIFT* Mainly late April to early September.
RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD* Mid-May to mid-September.
BELTED KINGFISHER* Early April to October. Winter stragglers.
YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER* April to November. Winter stragglers.
PILEATED WOODPECKER* Uncommon. All months.
RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER Five records.
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER Rare but almost regular in fall.
YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER* Mid-April to October.
HAIRY WOODPECKER* All months.
DOWNY WOODPECKER* All months.
BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER* All months but uncommon.
NORTHERN THREE-TOED WOODPECKER Three records.
EASTERN KINGBIRD* Mid-May to mid-September.
WESTERN KINGBIRD Fairly regular, mainly in fall.
FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER One record.
GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER* A few records, late spring and summer.
EASTERN PHOEBE* Rare. April to November.
SAY'S PHOEBE One record.
YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER* Late May to early September.
TRAILL'S FLYCATCHER* Mid-May to early September.
LEAST FLYCATCHER* Mid-May to early September.
EASTERN WOOD PEWEE* Mainly late May to early September.
OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER* Late May to early September.
HORNED LARK* Mainly October to April. Very local in summer.
TREE SWALLOW* Mid-April to late August. Stragglers later.
BANK SWALLOW* Early May to late August.
ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW A few recent records.
BARN SWALLOW* Late April to September. Stragglers later.
CLIFF SWALLOW* Uncommon. Early May to early September.
CAVE SWALLOW At least two records (Sable Is.).
PURPLE MARTIN* Amherst and Oxford - late April to September.
GRAY JAY* All months.

BLUE JAY* All months.
COMMON RAVEN* All months.
COMMON CROW* All months.
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE* All months.
BOREAL CHICKADEE* All months.
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH* Uncommon. All months.
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH* Irregularly common. All months.
BROWN CREEPER* Uncommon. All months.
HOUSE WREN Very rare. May to November.
WINTER WREN* Mainly mid-April to November.
LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN Very rare. Mostly late fall and winter.
SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN Two records, fall.
MOCKINGBIRD* Rare. Mainly fall and winter.
CATBIRD* Late May to late September.
BROWN THRASHER Fairly rare but regular, mainly spring and fall.
ROBIN* Late March to November. Regular in winter.
WOOD THRUSH A number of occurrences recorded.
HERMIT THRUSH* Mainly late April to late October.
SWAINSON'S THRUSH* Early May to late September.
GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH* Summer. Very restricted distribution.
VEERY* Common in restricted areas, May to September.
EASTERN BLUEBIRD* Very rare now. April to October.
BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER Ten or more records, mainly fall.
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET* All months.
RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET* Mid-April to late October.
WATER PIPIT Common fall transient. Less common in spring.
BOHEMIAN WAXWING Periodically common in winter.
CEDAR WAXWING* Occurs all months, often common in summer.
NORTHERN SHRIKE Uncommon visitor, November to March.
LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE* Very rare. April to early November.
STARLING* All months. (First recorded in 1915).
YELLOW-THROATED VIREO Three records.
SOLITARY VIREO* Mainly mid-May to late September.
RED-EYED VIREO* Mid-May to early October.
PHILADELPHIA VIREO A number of records, summer and early fall.
WARBLING VIREO Very rare. Summer and early fall.
BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER* Mid-May to late September.
PROTHONOTARY WARBLER Several records, spring and fall.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER One record, fall.
GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER Two records.
BLUE-WINGED WARBLER Three records.
TENNESSEE WARBLER* Late May to September.
ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER A number of records, mostly winter.
NASHVILLE WARBLER* Mid-May to mid-September.
PARULA WARBLER* Early May to September.
YELLOW WARBLER* Mid-May to late September.
MAGNOLIA WARBLER* Mid-May to late September.
CAPE MAY WARBLER* Uncommon. Late May to mid-September.
BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER* Uncommon. Mid-May to September.
MYRTLE WARBLER* Mid-April to October. Regular in winter.
BLACK-THROATED GRAY WARBLER One record, fall.
BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER* Mid-May to early October.
BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER* Uncommon. Late May to September.
YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER Two records.
CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER* Mid-May to late September.
BAY-BREASTED WARBLER* Uncommon. Late May to September.
BLACKPOLL WARBLER* Late May to early October.
PINE WARBLER At least ten records.
PRAIRIE WARBLER A number of recent records.
PALM WARBLER* Mainly mid-April to October. Winter records.
OVENBIRD* Mid-May to late September.
NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH* Irregular distribution. May to September.
LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH Three records.
KENTUCKY WARBLER Two records.
CONNECTICUT WARBLER Seven or more records.
MOURNING WARBLER* Uncommon. Mid-May to mid-September.
YELLOWTHROAT* Mid-May to early October.
YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT A number of records, fall and early winter.
HOODED WARBLER A number of records, late summer and early fall.
WILSON'S WARBLER* Uncommon. Mid-May to September.
CANADA WARBLER* Uncommon. Late May to late September.
AMERICAN REDSTART* Mainly mid-May to mid-September.
HOUSE SPARROW* All months.
BOBOLINK* Mid-May to mid-September.
EASTERN MEADOWLARK* Mainly late fall and winter, but uncommon.
YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD Ten records, mainly fall and early winter.

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD* Late March to October, winter stragglers.
 ORCHARD ORIOLE A number of records, mostly in May.
BALTIMORE ORIOLE* Rare in summer, commoner in fall, winter stragglers.
RUSTY BLACKBIRD* Mainly late March to October.
 BREWER'S BLACKBIRD Three records.
COMMON GRACKLE* Late March to November. Winter stragglers.
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD* All months.
 WESTERN Tanager Two records.
 SCARLET Tanager Rare. April to November.
 SUMMER Tanager Very rare. April to November.
 CARDINAL Eight records, all since 1957.
ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK* Uncommon. May to September.
 BLUE GROSBEAK A number of records, April to December.
 INDIGO BUNTING Rare. Spring and fall.
 DICKCISSEL Rare, mainly fall and early winter.
EVENING GROSBEAK* Mainly October to May. Occasional in summer.
PURPLE FINCH* All months but mainly April to October.
PINE GROSBEAK* All months. Numbers fluctuate widely.
 HOARY REDPOLL A few records for late winter.
COMMON REDPOLL Irregularly abundant, November to April.
PINE SISKIN* Irregularly all months, sometimes common.
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH* All months.
RED CROSSBILL* Nomadic, sometimes common.
WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL* All months, irregularly common.
 GREEN-TAILED TOWHEE Two records.
 RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE Rather uncommon, mainly fall and winter.
 LARK BUNTING Eight records, mainly fall and winter.
SAVANNAH SPARROW* All months, becoming rare by late winter.
IPSWICH SPARROW* Spring and fall (mainland), Sable Is. in summer.
 GRASSHOPPER SPARROW Several recent records. Fall, early winter.
SHARP-TAILED SPARROW* Mainly early June to late October.
 SEASIDE SPARROW Three or more records, fall and winter.
VESPER SPARROW* Uncommon now. Mainly April to October.
 LARK SPARROW Rare. Mainly September.
SLATE-COLORED JUNCO* All months.
 OREGON JUNCO Seven records, all for winter.
TREE SPARROW Late October to April.
CHIPPING SPARROW* Mainly early May to October.

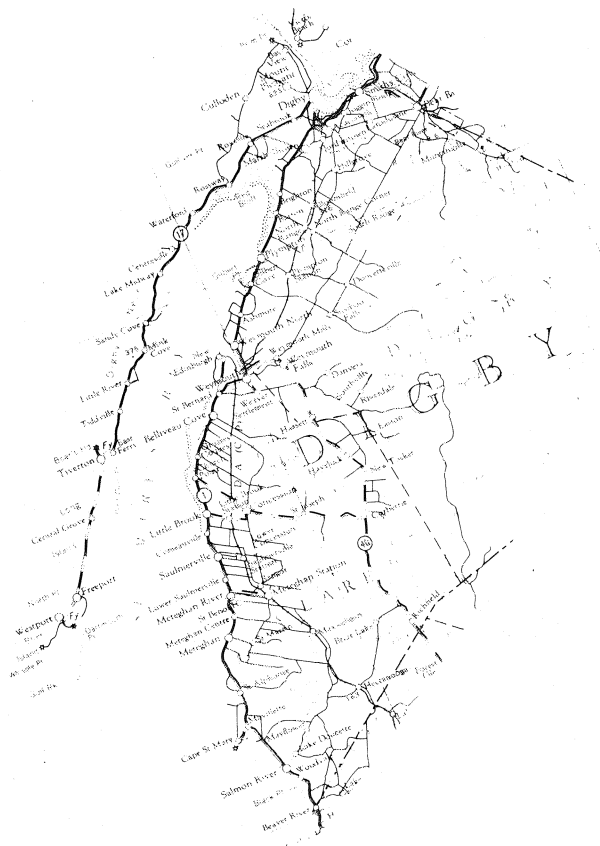
FIELD SPARROW A number of records, mainly September-October.
WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW Rare spring and fall transient.
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW* All months but rare by late winter.
FOX SPARROW* Mainly spring and fall transient.
LINCOLN'S SPARROW* Locally fairly common, May to September.
SWAMP SPARROW* Mainly mid-April to late November.
SONG SPARROW* All months, mainly April to November.
LAPLAND LONGSPUR Irregularly common, October to March.
CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR Four records, all early spring.
SNOW BUNTING Irregularly common, late October to late March.

HYPOTHETICAL LIST

There is nothing inherently unlikely about the occurrence in Nova Scotia of most of the following species. Each has been reported one or more times by competent observers; many are known to occur in adjacent areas. However, their occurrence here has not been substantiated by a specimen or a photograph so, in keeping with accepted practice, they are only recorded here.

Arctic Loon, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Yellow-nosed Albatross, Reddish Egret, Barnacle Goose, Red-shouldered Hawk, King Rail, Black Rail, Oystercatcher (American? European?), Long-billed Curlew, Green Sandpiper, Redshank, Curlew Sandpiper, Mew Gull, Sabine's Gull, Gull-billed Tern, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Rufous Hummingbird, Violet-green Swallow, Fish Crow, Varied Thrush, Wheatear, White-eyed Vireo, Worm-eating Warbler, Audubon's Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Black-cowled Oriole, Boat-tailed Grackle, Black-headed Grosbeak, European Goldfinch, Bachman's Sparrow and Harris' Sparrow.

MAP OF DIGBY COUNTY



APPENDIX

FURTHER ROUTES IN DIGBY AND YARMOUTH COUNTIES.

DIGBY COUNTY

If you have come across the Bay of Fundy from Saint John to Digby you may have seen some of the pelagic species mentioned in the main text of this booklet. This part of the Bay is about the upper limit for oceanic birds, but loons, cormorants and sea ducks tend to replace them in fall and winter. In summer the bird population is sparse.

Upon arrival at Digby and before proceeding elsewhere take time for a look at the Lesser Black-backed Gull which has been resident here for seven years (since 1971). This stray from across the Atlantic has maintained its solitary self all of this time in the harbor near the sewer outfall just north of the old Ferry Wharf. It is easily seen from the road.

The finest birding in the province at almost any time of year can be found by traveling from Digby down Route 317 (17 on the map) along Digby Neck, crossing by ferry to Long Island, thence by another ferry to Brier Island. If you are a serious birder you should plan to spend several days on Brier Island. There are picnic grounds, camping grounds, small summer hotels and cottages for rent here, and of course many motels in the Digby area and at Smith's Cove.

Brier Island is one of the most important landing and take-off points for a great majority of our birds during migration periods. Regularly on the Labor Day weekend the Nova Scotia Bird Society holds a Field Day here, and visitors are most welcome to join us. Bird counts top 100 routinely. Banding operations are often in progress at this time, giving an opportunity to observe the "bird in the hand" if the bird in the bush is too elusive for positive identification.

Plan to spend at least two days here at this time, as pelagic trips are included which allow a close view of the great numbers of birds on their feeding grounds not far off shore. In some years we have had an estimated 15,000 Red Phalaropes and up to 3000 Greater Shearwaters covering the surface of the water as far as the eye can see. Northern Phalaropes, Sooty and Manx Shearwaters are usually present in smaller numbers, and can be picked out easily as the boats float among the feeding birds. It is truly spectacular to watch the Shearwaters, which deserve their name - they skim the water tilted up with one wing edge almost cutting into the wave. Also spectacular are the Fin Whales and porpoises which are regularly present and play around the boats putting on a real show for the beholders. Gannets, petrels and puffins come by, also jaegers, terns and Kittiwakes; with loons, cormorants and eiders bobbing along the shores.

Above the twittering of the phalaropes one can usually hear the cries of flocks of migrating small birds passing overhead. Many of these flocks land on Brier Island to feed and rest before the Bay of Fundy crossing; so that the land population changes from day to day, and peak after peak of flycatchers, warblers, nuthatches, etc., passes through to be counted along with the shorebirds on the beach and the hawks overhead. As one of our members wrote "Brier Island is surely the best place to feel the power and sweep of the fall migration along the east coast".

If you are traveling towards Digby from Yarmouth County by car you have the choice of three roads (or four when the new non-access highway 101 is completed, but this last will not be recommended for birding). Of the three roads the first, Route 1, stays close to the shore but is heavily populated throughout its length - it has been called the longest village in Canada. Due to the density of housing, traffic, etc., birding along this route is not recommended except in the fall, when interesting groups of shorebirds may be found on the bay side of the road by following lanes leading off to the shore, past ponds and marshes and lobster pots. For example, back of the beach at Meteghan Centre not too long ago we came upon a flock of 119 Hudsonian Godwits. At any time of year ducks may be seen - last September a pair of Hooded Mergansers was present near the shore at Gilbert's Cove, easily observed from the little road leading to the Lighthouse.

Of the other two roads, inland from Route 1, the first, smaller one (at present unpaved) crosses the county line between Lake Annis and Hectanooga; the other, paved throughout, crosses further inland between Forest Glen and Richfield. This is Route 340, or 40 on the accompanying map. Both of these routes lead eventually to Weymouth, whence other roads carry you to Digby and the Annapolis County border.

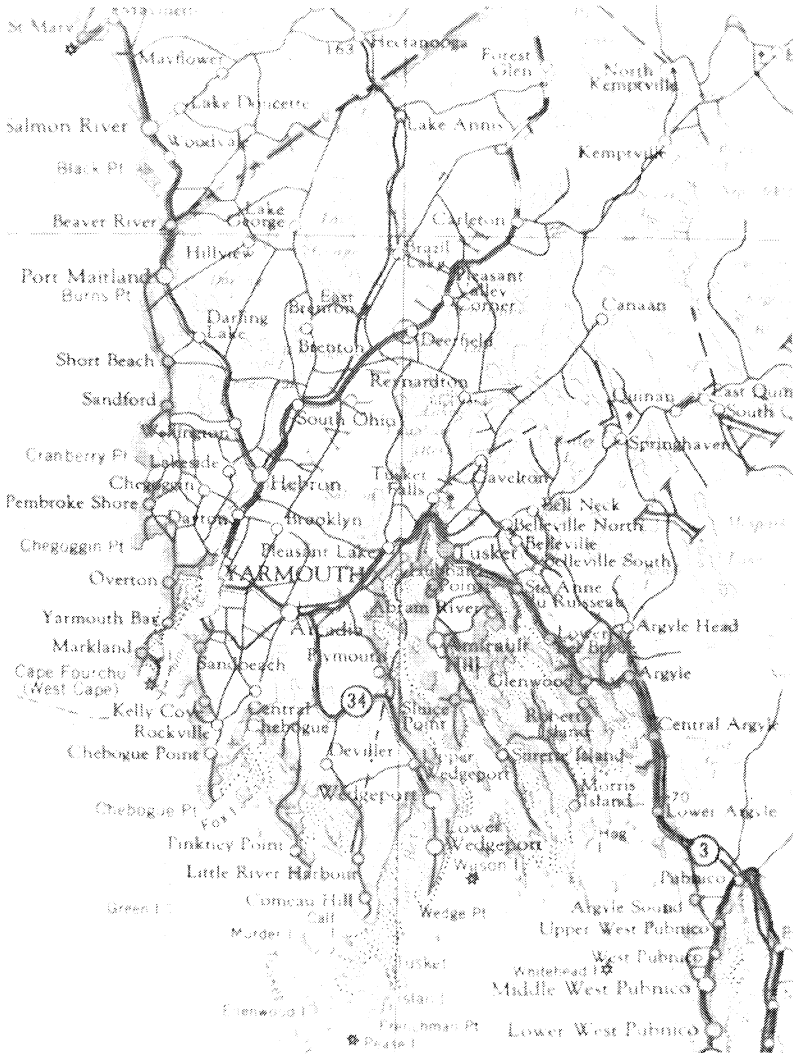
Both of these routes travel through a variety of bird habitats, but mostly woodland interspersed with wet meadowlands, streams and lakes. There is some open farming country and cleared land, mostly near the villages which are quite widely separated. In the New Tusk area the hills become higher, the trees taller and hardwoods begin to predominate. This is richer soil and somewhat grander scenery than in Yarmouth County, with the expectation of more birds (numbers, not kinds) to be seen. A day's birding in summer could yield you a modest 30 species, including Nighthawks, Flickers, 4 species of swallow, Hermit Thrushes, Verrys, Catbirds, vireos, 8-9 species of warblers, Redwings, Purple and Goldfinches and sparrows, mostly Song Sparrows and Juncos.

In the fall the number of species seen would double, when mixed migrating flocks collect and pause along the way to feed. At this time of year particularly you would do well to drive from Weymouth Mills through South Range and on into Bear River - very beautiful - thence to Smith's Cove on the Annapolis Basin. This is rich bird country, and the Basin often holds many rafts of diving ducks.

The three routes described above are criss-crossed and connected by a network of small but passable roads, so that it is possible to make a large or small circuit, depending upon the time at one's disposal. If time is very limited, it might best be spent in and around the town of Digby itself, or along the Basin shore to Smith's Cove. Similarly at Weymouth, there is good birding in and around the village and out to New Edinburgh along the shore. In the interior, aside from Bear River, the Wentworth Lake to New Tusk area is probably the most productive.

For further information you may consult Miss Louise Daley, 164 Queen Street, Digby, N.S., phone 245-4543.

MAP OF YARMOUTH COUNTY



SUGGESTED BIRDING ROUTES

Yarmouth county

A look at the map makes it clear why Yarmouth County is crowded spring and fall with migrating birds. The long points of land extended by numerous islands reach south at the junction of the Atlantic Ocean with the Bay of Fundy, offering a convenient landfall for birds returning in the spring, a jumping-off place for those departing in the fall.

Between these points shallow protected bays form sanctuaries for wintering ducks and geese, feeding places for loons and grebes and in spring and summer, for herons, bitterns and stray egrets.

Up the Fundy shore smaller raised headlands, frequently backed by swamp or barachois form favorite resorts for Kill-deers, snipes and puddle ducks, and a favorite cruising area for Marsh Hawks and small falcons.

The country was settled about 200 years ago, and has a good deal of cleared land; but because the soil is stony and rather thin many old farms have been abandoned, and are in all stages of reversion to woodland. The fields were - some still are - enclosed within characteristic low stone walls and hedgerows. The gently rolling hills are mostly wooded and interspersed with vast numbers of lakes and rivers. This back country is easy to reach and explore over an extensive system of secondary and smaller roads, some paved, some graveled. Here will be found in summer a good variety of our nesting small birds: the Eastern Phoebe, Yellow-bellied, Alder and Least Flycatchers, Eastern Wood Pewee and Olive-sided Flycatcher; Tree, Bank, Barn and Cliff Swallow; Black-capped and Boreal Chickadee; White- and Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper and Winter Wren; the Gray Catbird, Robin, Hermit and Swainson's Thrushes and Veery; the Golden- and the Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Solitary and Red-eyed Vireo; at least 15 species of Wood Warbler commonly, out of our 22-23 Nova Scotia natives; Bobolink, Redwinged Blackbird, Rusty Blackbird, Common Grackle, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Purple Finch, Pine Grosbeak, American Goldfinch; Savannah and Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Chipping, White-throated, Swamp and Song Sparrow.

Occasionally a Great Blue Heron will fly over, or a duck, probably a Black Duck or a merganser; a Red-tailed Hawk, Bald Eagle, Marsh Hawk or Osprey; a Willet; Great Black-backed or Herring Gull; a Barred or a Short-eared Owl; and of course the Common Nighthawk and Chimney Swift, the Ruby-throated Hummingbird (not overhead !); and in the woods a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy or Downy or Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker.

Some of these are year-round birds, and a winter list will be augmented by a Goshawk perhaps, or a Sharpshin, a Northern Shrike, a few Myrtle Warblers, Goldfinches overhead, Tree Sparrows in the roadside bushes, Horned Larks and Snow Buntings on the beaches and open fields.

These are the birds commonly seen in this area summer and winter. During migration, spring and fall, many others pass through of course, from many other regions. If you spot a bird other than the ones listed above, consult the Annotated List of Nova Scotia birds. It may be a stray from another part of the province or a genuine rarity. If the latter, we would be interested to hear of it, with all pertinent details of the sighting.

For visitors, three routes are now described, all or parts of which may be explored productively, taking 1-2 hours or 1-2 days, depending upon the time you wish to spare.

- 1 -

In Yarmouth town going north on Main Street proceed to the Horse Mountain at the corner of Vancouver Street, turn left around the fountain, up the hill, curve right at the Hospital, and almost immediately turn left at the Overton corner. In the summer this is marked Lief Erikson Drive. At Overton, continue left to Yarmouth Bar, on over the causeway to Markland and on to Cape Forchu. The road ends at the Lighthouse. You may then return the way you came, just circling the harbor, or extend the trip by taking the shore road at Overton, to continue on up to Pembroke Shore, Cranberry Pt. (Head), Sandford and Short Beach. Here take the crossroad to Darling Lake, thence to Hebron and back to town on route 1.

This trip is particularly rewarding after mid-July, when the shorebird migration has begun, and after mid-August an augmented population of landbirds will be found, in addition to the myriads of "peep" on the beaches and flats.

- 2 -

Going south from centre town on Main Street in Yarmouth, you come to a level railway crossing where the town ends and the country begins. About $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles beyond this, at Kelley's Cove, a narrow track leads to the right over a low hill and down to a small sand beach backed by a tidal marsh. A good variety of water birds can be found in this marsh at low tide, and it is also a good place for Sharp-tailed Sparrows any time after June 1.

Parking can be a problem here and it is advisable to leave your car on the highway and walk the few hundred yards to the beach and marsh.

Next beyond this stop the second road to the right, just past a church, takes you to Chebogue Point where this road ends, and where there is ample parking space in case you want to hike along the pebble ridge to the drumlin about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the eastward in search of shorebirds, ducks, or in late fall Snow Buntings, Horned Larks and Lapland Longspurs.

At high tide considerable concentrations of Dowitchers,

Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Black-bellied Plovers, Red Knots and small waders can be found roosting on the gravel spits which fringe the lower salt marsh near the end of the road, and Golden Plovers feed regularly in the pastures in August and September.

Returning to the junction with the paved highway you turn right and in a little less than $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles join Route 3, near a railway crossing at the village of Arcadia. At the eastern end of this village, Highway 334 (34 on the map) branches off to the right, and after about $\frac{3}{4}$ miles gives off two branches of its own - that to the right going to Pinkney's Point, while the left hand road leads to Lower Wedgeport. Both of these roads end at the tips of long points at which migrants concentrate before taking flight across the Bay of Fundy.

On the road to Pinkney's Point about a mile beyond the fork is the Melbourne Bird Sanctuary, a large shallow inlet used as a stop-off and wintering area by thousands of Canada Geese and Black Ducks, plus fair numbers of Blue- and Green-winged Teal, Pintail, American Wigeon, Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, as well as stragglers such as Ruddy Duck and European Wigeon. This is also a favored spot in fall and winter for some of the smaller gulls, such as King-billed and Black-headed.

Beyond the sanctuary is Cook's Beach, a notable roost for sandpipers at high tide; while across the road and on to Pinkney's Point there are extensive marshes, interspersed with shallow pools, which are feeding grounds for Great Blue Herons and shorebirds such as Black-bellied Plovers, Yellowlegs, sometimes Whimbrel and Hudsonian Godwits, and in the fall large migrating flocks of Willets.

The left hand branch of Highway 334 continues beyond Lower Wedgeport as a narrow dirt track which leads to Wedge Point, the extreme tip of Tusket Wedge. Here too, because of its conformation migrants tend to congregate while waiting for good flying conditions.

Looking back over this shorebird route, you will note that it may consist of a mini-trip to Chebogue Point and back, or a midi-trip to Pinkney's Point and/or Wedge Point and back. If time permits, make the whole maxi-trip, and include the last of this series of narrow, southward-stretching points in Yarmouth County, which begins at Pubnico. This is approximately 23 miles beyond Arcadia, whence you travel along Route 3 through Tusket, Ste. Anne du Ruisseau (look for Ring-billed Gulls in season at Abram River), Lower Eel Brook (Kingfishers at the Brook), Glenwood and the Argyles, where landbirds are plentiful on one side of the road, water birds in season on the other, to Pubnico. Here you turn right and travel through West Pubnico, Middle West Pubnico and Lower West Pubnico to Ste. Anne Point. If you have non-birders in your party and the day is fog free, this trip is well worthwhile for the scenery alone.

An inland route to include Ellenwood Park is suggested for the summer months. This might be preferred if there is fog along the coast. June is the best month to observe the breeding birds, still in bright spring plumage and singing to establish territory. By July it is considerably more of a challenge to find them, when they have fallen silent and are busy with nesting duties. Common Loons are on the lakes, usually one pair to a lake, and you may find an American Bittern in a bog, see a Red-tailed Hawk sitting on a rampike or a Kestrel hovering over a pasture, or a Ruffed Grouse shepherding a half-grown brood along the roadside. The Common Flicker (inadvertently omitted from the list, but one of our commonest woodpeckers) calls all summer, as does the Red-eyed Vireo. The Robin and the Common Yellowthroat will scold at your approach; the Hermit Thrush and the Purple Finch are generous with summer song, as are a few of the warblers and sparrows. By August, swallows are collecting on telephone wires and Bobolinks and black-birds generally are flocking up, but by now the challenge becomes greater, with the young birds in fall plumage.

The inland route will require a half-day, or a whole day if there is time to explore side roads or make a larger circuit. Leave Yarmouth via Route 1, north, and drive up beside the lakes to Hebron. Turn right at the Carleton corner (sign says Carleton-Deerfield) on to 340 North. In summer, both Braemar and Provincial Park signs will also be at this corner. From here it is about 6.5 miles to the Park, as follows: drive to Ohio and continue along 340 North, pass Raynartton and Deerfield signs and turn right at Braemar and Park signs, then after the Pleasant-Lake-Greenville sign turn right into the Park road.

At the entrance to the Park, the sign Pleasant Lake Trunk 3 on the right indicates a road which will lead by a short cut to Yarmouth. This is rather a rough road at the start (at present) but is usually excellent for land birds. When you reach Pleasant Lake, turn right and follow Route 3 to Yarmouth.

Upon entering the Park, consult the Attendant about the birds present (he may be able to show you a Barred Owl's nest for example) and if you have brought a lunch, there is ample accomodation for picnickers.

You may prefer to lunch at Braemar and/or make a longer trip. In this case, drive back along the road leading to the Park, and turn right, proceeding about 0.8 miles to the Braemar Lodge sign. After leaving the Lodge (or if you have not entered the grounds) continue along past the Carleton-Cavelton sign (keep straight ahead) and turn right at the Tuskett-Route 3 sign. After the turn at Tuskett Falls (watch the gulls fishing at kyack season) cross one bridge only and continue to the right, almost immediately to turn right again into a small dirt road, a diversion which soon rejoins the main road. When you have returned to the pavement turn right and continue towards Tuskett. Take care when crossing Route 103 main highway. When you reach the junction with Route 3, with the Tuskett Bridge on your left, turn right

for Yarmouth. (At the junction with the Greenville Road where the sign says Rte 3-Rte 1 you may go either way, but preferably turn left for a short distance to reach the Rte.3 junction).

Again, if you have time for a still longer trip, turn left at the junction with Rte.3, over the Tusket Bridge, and continue east from there as described under (2), last paragraph, along the shore to the Pubnicos.

If you are interested in different or more extensive routes, or trips to the offshore islands, write or telephone to:

Miss Marion W. Hilton
23 Baker Street
Yarmouth, Nova Scotia
(902)-742-2373

Mr. C.R.K. Allen
P.O.Box 41
Tusket, Nova Scotia
(902)-648-2752

Dr. P.R. Dobson
R.R.#1
Ste.Anne du Ruisseau
Yarmouth County
Nova Scotia
(902)-648-2058

Some of the islands belong to the Nova Scotia Bird Society, and can not be visited during the breeding season for terns, petrels etc., when the colonies are protected. Remember that you are most welcome to join any of the organized provincial field trips of the NS Bird Society, a list of which may be found at the Tourist Bureau.

BIRDING ROUTES IN SHELBURNE COUNTY

Travelling east from Yarmouth County along Route 103 to Shelburne County, you may get the impression that you are in a limitless black spruce bog. This is not the case, you eventually emerge, but Shelburne does have an aspect wilder than the areas on either side of it. It is our granite county and when repeated forest fires lay bare the underlying rock, it looks bone-white against the blackened landscape. Fortunately our mild damp climate covers the scars with verdure eventually, and the birds return to nest again.

Close along the shore, travelling southeast on old Route 3 from the Pubnicos to Port Hebert, you pass through almost continuous small fishing towns and villages, but running out from these periodically are peninsulas and capes - and off of them islands - all of which offer good birding in season.

Two islands - Bon Portage and Seal - have long histories of bird study. These at present are privately owned - Bon Portage by Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia; Seal Island, partly by the Canadian Government (the Lighthouse area) and partly by Mrs. Mary Nickerson, resident there. Permission to land on these islands must be obtained from the owners. Birding is best at these places during spring and fall migrations, and both islands, due to their geographic locations, have fabulous records of rare and stray birds - probably of more interest to Nova Scotian natives than to visitors familiar with them in their own countries.

On the mainland, along the shores and sometimes deep in the back country, these same birds may be seen spring and fall, but in considerably less concentration. The population here however, is enriched by resident breeding birds. There should be something to see at any time of year, and it is difficult to specify any one place as better than another.

The three areas here described have been chosen for interest of surroundings as well as the best probability of finding birds. The two coastal areas specialize in seabirds in winter, shorebirds in late summer and fall, but both have long record lists of land birds as well:

CAPE SABLE

Cape Sable - sea island beauty - is an important lightstation, open to the public, and shorebirds or seabirds any time of year, with a wide variety of migrants. It is an island and you will need boatage to and from The Hawk, Cape Sable Island. Leave Route 3 at Barrington Passage, follow Route 30 through Clarke's Harbour and Lower Clarke's Harbour until a righthand (southward) signed turn leads shortly to The Hawk. For a small boat (the island is near) enquire at the Post Office. According to tide, weather and choice, arrange landing and pickup at the western or eastern extremity; a three-mile plus walk separates these points.

The walk reveals "all" of Cape Sable. Landing below grassy western dunes, from late June through fall migration you find dowitchers, peep and plover, feeding on the beach or great sand flats stretching eastward; over a hundred nest cavities of Bank Swallow in the dune faces, and nests or young of Piping Plover, Spotted Sandpiper, Savannah and Song Sparrows. At Black Point (rocky, turf) more nest cavities in the seaward bank; on the inner slope perhaps Least and Buff-breasted Sandpipers, Upland Plover, Hummingbirds among the thistles!

At high tide your path (and the width of the island) for the next half mile are a high cobblestone seawall; otherwise sand beaches continue. On both sides there may be hundreds of shorebirds feeding, or drowsing and preening. In this stretch Common and Arctic Terns nest, and we have seen, among other treats, Curlew Sandpiper, Western Grebe, Golden Eagle, Turkey Vulture, and sometimes a cruising Petrel.

Southeast the island widens: an area of swampy pasture (bittern night herons, stray egrets, Glossy Ibis); a brackish pond (teal, both Yellowlegs, three species of phalaropes); and the lightstation, whose tall buildings, the most southerly on Canada's coast, beckon migrants and strays. Over thirty species of warbler have occurred here - excellent viewing as they catch flies around the buildings. Look for the Rufous-sided Towhee, Yellow-breasted Chat, Brown Thrasher and thrushes in grass along the seawall; an abundant kelp-fly population just over the wall supports hundreds of Barn, Cliff, Bank and Tree Swallows.

To Steven's Point landing, take the cross-country tractor road, or continue along the seawall for views of surf, gulls and shearwaters. The rocky, seaweedy eastern shore hosts Ruddy Turnstones, Red Knots, Willets and plovers. Sand beach and high dunes re-form as you reach the landing, walk's end.

Taken in winter, the walk presents mainly bay and sea ducks: eider, three scoter species, two mergansers, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead and Oldsquaw (delightful song); Red-necked and Horned Grebes; white-winged gulls, murrees, Dovekies, Black Guillemot. Snow Buntings, Horned Larks and Lapland Longspurs, replacing shorebirds, feed among debris exposed at tideline, or on windswept dunes where occasionally Snowy Owls and Marsh Hawks hunt plentiful mice. Juncos and a few hardy sparrows also endure. Besides the species named, most birds common in the rest of Nova Scotia occur at Cape Sable; chances are, a trip there will well reward the birder.

This account by Betty June Smith.

MATTHEW'S LAKE

At Matthew's Lake from after the first week in July to early September, as many as twenty or more different species of shorebirds can be seen in a single day. Hudsonian Godwits, Piping Plover, Whimbrel and large flocks of Willets (75-125) are almost guaranteed in July in addition to the more common Sandpipers, Baird's and even a Curlew Sandpiper. Dunlin, Knots and Sanderlings have been observed as late as the middle of December.

The Matthew's Lake area includes a curving two-mile long sand beach open to the full force of the Atlantic Ocean; behind the beach and rock seawall lies the lake itself, connected to the sea by a narrow channel. A large marsh, dotted with a number of shallow ponds completes the picture. In dry summers these partially dried-up ponds attract Wilson's Phalaropes and Stilt Sandpipers. Whimbrel are most often seen in the upland meadows near the place where one would park.

To reach Matthew's Lake, turn south at Sable River on Highway 103, onto Highway 3 which leads to Lockeport. After two miles, look for a sign which says West Middle Sable, Louis Head and Little Harbor. Take this road. Turn left and continue south along the west side of the Sable River. There are a number of spots along this road offering splendid views of the Sable River and its estuary. Louis Head

Beach in particular has a good variety of habitats and paths for exploring them. Avoid weekends however, when people outnumber birds. The Sable River is an important wintering ground for thousands of Canada Geese and other waterfowl. Myrtle (Yellow-rumped) Warblers also abound in this area during the winter.

Continue south along this road until you reach a cluster of houses known as Little Harbour. At the crossroads, carry straight through towards Arnolds, still maintaining your southerly course. The dirt road encountered for the first time at Little Harbour ends in a large open field on a magnificent headland known as Hemeon's Head. At this point, where you can see the sea to the east, south and west, you must leave your car and proceed along a clearly marked path (hunters use their vehicles unfortunately) heading west, or towards Lockeport. (The distance from Sable River to Hemeon's Head would be a little over ten miles)

The main concentration of shorebirds is found about a mile and a half from the parking area. Follow the path and beach and you will be unable to miss the lake. Continue until you have passed the section where the lake and sea nearly touch and are separated by only a barrier beach. Now once beyond the rocks, the exposed flats should be visible, at least at low tide, the best time to observe the feeding shorebirds. Look for a narrow crossing where you can wade over to the large sand flats. Non-birders go their own way. After observing the flats, follow the channel to its mouth on the main beach. This is a good spot for Red Knots and Ruddy Turnstones. To get back to the car simply follow the beach east for two miles. In September and October, keep an eye open for Wheatears, especially around the piles of driftwood.

This account by George D. Perry

INLAND TRIP - OHIOS, CLYDE RIVER

A wholly inland trip may be made by turning left from Highway 103 (going east) at the Ohio road, across from Exit 26 from Shelburne. Follow the Ohio road for about 16 miles - the first 5 paved, the rest good gravel surface - to the Indian Fields road sign. From here road surfaces are uncertain, and at the present time are not recommended, you proceed at risk. If you turn back, return to Lower Ohio, where a right turn takes you across to the Clyde River system. You may turn her either left or right, according to the time you have at your disposal. A right turn takes you inland again making a loop, finally to go back to Highway 103. A left turn also takes you to 103, but in a very few miles.

This is all pleasant country through woodland and by lakes and rivers - the woods mostly small hardwoods (red maple, rowan, poplar) with pines further inland, and then hemlock.

Thanks to the ten-year records of Dr. and Mrs. J. R. Gallagher of New Haven, Conn., and Brass Hill, N. S., we have a list of 90-100 expectable species for the summer months in this region. The whole annotated list is published in the Nova Scotia Bird Society Newsletter: Vol. 13, No. 3, Nov. 1971, pages 152-168, and mentions 150 birds for the part of Shelburne County explored; including, for the region described above: Goshawk, Peregrine, Spruce and Ruffed Grouse Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, (nesting Kingfisher and Flicker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Phoebe and Cliff Swallow) also the Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker, Gray Jay, Boreal Chickadee, our usual flycatchers and thrushes, 23 species of warbler, 15 species of fringillids.

