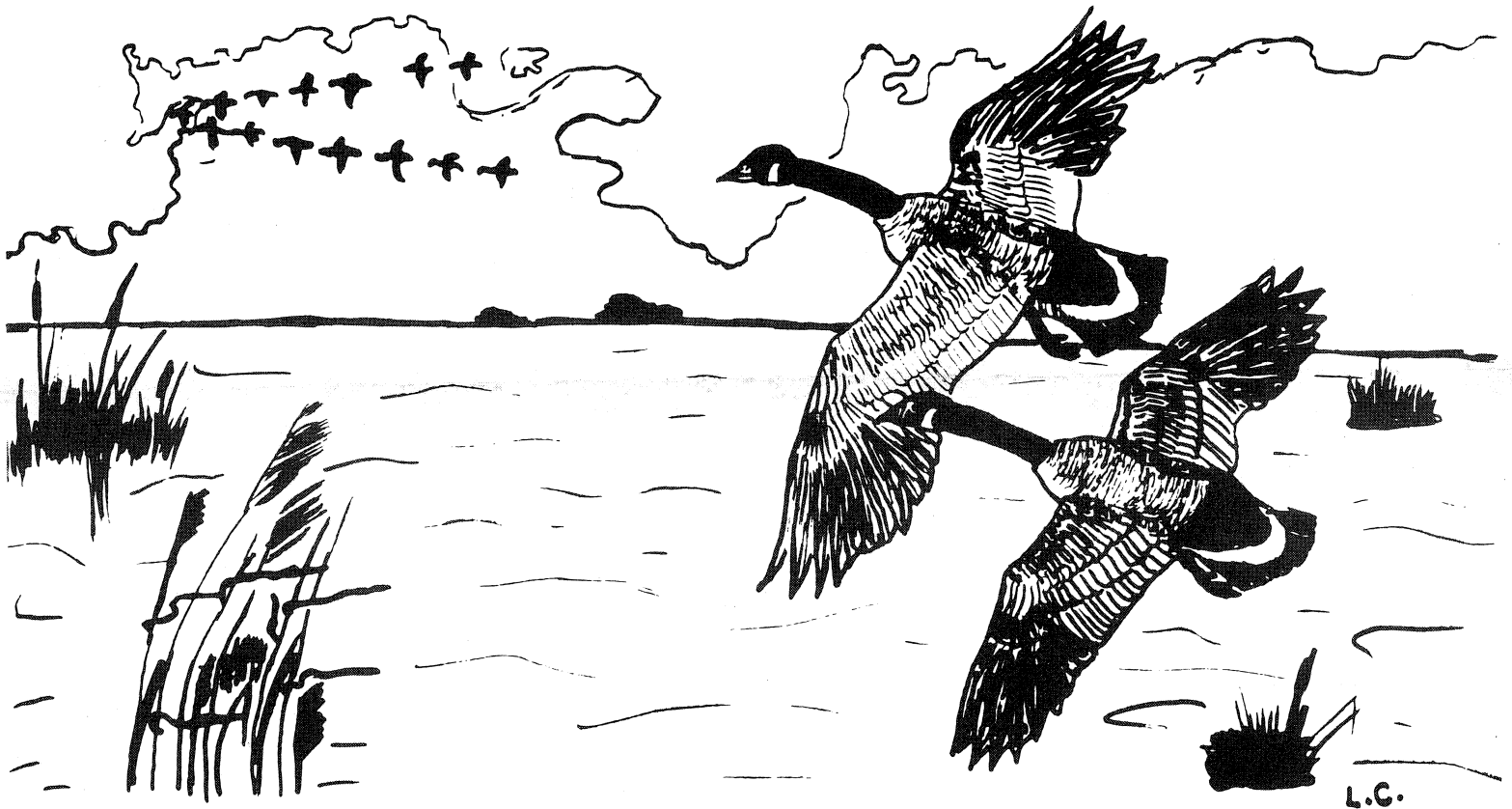


FALL FLYER

1980



nova scotia bird society

1.
Founders' Night.

November 12, 1980.

Why? : To honour the Founding Members of NSBS. and those Charter Members who have maintained their membership continuously since the Society was incorporated.

Where? : Auditorium of the Nova Scotia Museum
1747 Summer St, Halifax.

Programme? : 8.00 p.m. C.R.H. Allen
"Birding - Feast of Famine."

9.00 p.m. Reception - Wine & Cheese.

Pre-Registration? Necessary only for the reception.

Please detach
and mail to



Miss Shirley Brooker,
Nova Scotia Bird Society
90 N.S. Museum
1747 Summer St. Halifax N.S. B3H3A6

I plan to attend the Reception on November 12, 1980

Name: _____ Address: _____

A donation of \$3.00 would be appreciated to help defray
expenses.

We have for sale:

Crests : embroidered sew-on crests in five colours depicting our N.S.B.S. Puffin. \$2.00.

Checklists: Field trip checklists are 20 per \$1.00.

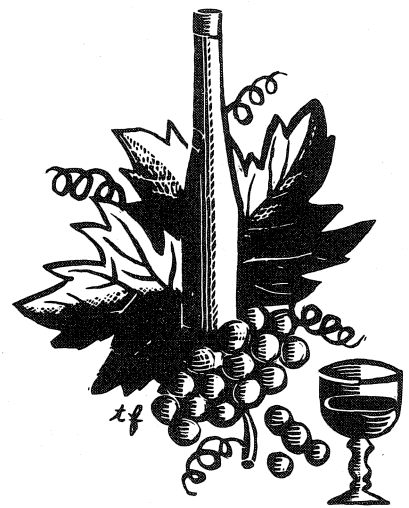
Where to Find the Birds: The newest issue which includes an insert on Yarmouth Co. Price is \$2.00

Available from NSBS
c/o Nova Scotia Museum
1747 Summer st
Halifax. B3H3A6.

Please mark the outside of the envelope "Crest",
"Checklists" or "WTFB".

1955 -

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3.

Annual General Meeting

The 1980 Meeting will be held once again at the Lawrencetown Community Center

Date Saturday, November 29.

8:00 A.M. Field Trip to the Lawrencetown Area. Leader Eric Cooke.
Meet opposite the Holiday Inn on the Dartmouth side of the A. L. MacDonald Bridge.

1:00 P.M. Lunch at the Lawrencetown Community Center. Homemade chowder, pie, etc
Cost \$4.00.

Reservations are necessary in order to inform the caterer in advance of numbers attending

Please 'phone Ethel Crathorne
466-3834

Last date for reservations Nov. 20.

4.

Operation Birdseed.

Once again Halifax Seed Co. will offer 50 lb bags of Sunflower seed in bulk at considerable savings to N.S.B.S. members

The price will be available by mid September.

Delivery will be to the Cohrs, 8 Rosemount Ave, Halifax on or before Oct 20. Please arrange to pick up your seed within 3 days of delivery

Orders taken between September 15 - October 15.
Orders to be pre-paid.

Please call Shirley Cohrs - 477-6036 to order
Last date OCTOBER 15.

Winter Meetings

In the Halifax Area meetings resume on September 25th at the Museum and will continue throughout the winter on the fourth Thursday of each month.
Speakers to be announced.

Christmas Count forms attached.

This flyer is printed for NSBS by the N.S. Museum.

5.

Observations of Interest, and some Breeding
Records for Summer, June through July, 1980.

Con Desplanque (CD) has sent us his usual splendid collection of records from the Amherst Point Bird Sanctuary (APBS) and environs, starting with 20 PIED-BILLED GREBES there June 20, "many young" by July 5.

CD also mentioned 3-4 DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS using powerline poles as favorite roosting places. Something will have to be done about that. Stuart Tingley (SIT) saw lots of these Cormorants, immatures, in early July on the offshore rocks and inland at Matthew's Lake; and large flocks were noted "all over Green Bay, 200+ of both Great and Double-crested with terns and gulls after tinker mackerel July 1-5" by John Cohrs (JSC). (Sorry, that must be Shirley). On July 13, just off Brier I. on Green I. (a low-tide island) Ronnie Denton and Anthony Glavin (RLD&ARG) found two D.C. Cormorant nests, one with three young in it "covered with black wool tightly curled against the skin" and the other with three eggs and one young, with eyes not yet open and no down.

Identification of a CATTLE EGRET, found by RLD&ARG on Brier I. was confirmed by Wickerson Lent. Another unusual sighting was of a YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON, July 14 at Cow Bay by Fulton Lavender (FLL) who described it as a first year bird showing about 20% of its adult plumage. Most unusual was a LEAST BITTERN, calling, heard July 5 and reported by both CD and SIT at APBS.

Thirteen species of duck inhabited the APBS and Eddy Marsh this summer, and included GADWALL, both TEALS, both Wigeons (on our list), Northern Shoveler, Redhead, Wood Duck and Ruddy Duck. The Black Duck there, as elsewhere had several broods in May and June; Pintail, at least one brood, 5 young seen at APBS July 5; BLUE-WINGED TEAL, several broods at the same place; also the RING-NECKED DUCK, the same; the RUDDY DUCK, one male first seen June 7 (CD), then a pair which nested in the same place as last year, July 5-6+, final sighting July 6 of two adult birds, four downy young, and two adult males in breeding plumage (CD, SIT et al.). The only other sighting of a duck species breeding was of the COMMON EIDER, a female with two downy young at Chebogue Point June 28 by C.R.K. Allen (CRKA), another group of a female with 20+ well-grown young at Cape Forchu July 14 by the same observer.

Three GOSHAWKS are reported, two in May (CD, FLL) and the nest at Newtonville found by Bernard Forsythe (BLF), which however was not successful - the eggs did not hatch although the adults tended them at least until July 16. Most of our hawks have been reported: unusual was a probable COOPER'S HAWK seen on the Maccan-Nappan Road June 25 by CD (seen again at the same place June 30) and well described. It might be noted that the BROAD-WINGED HAWK was exceptionally well reported this season, also the MARSH HAWK, especially the male Marsh Hawk. Two GOLDEN EAGLES were well described by R.G.S. Bidwell (RGSB), seen June 1 over the Wallace River. Hawk migration seemed to be starting when Ross Anderson and Peter Smith (RDA, PCS) saw five SHARP-SHINNED HAWKS, an OSPREY, a PEREGRINE and a KESTREL fly past on Brier I., all within an hour about mid-day. A male Marsh Hawk cruised along Gull Rock Road the day before (July 26).

CRKA heard a RUFFED GROUSE drumming, rather late, on May 21, off one of the fishermen's trails near Rushy Lake, Yar.Co.. The SORA was heard regularly since May 25 at APBS (CD) and on June 20 a pair was seen in the Dorothea Drive marsh, by FLL. As usual we have our only GALLINULE record from APBS, 2 seen there May 30 (CD), who also noted the AMERICAN COOT at APBS - 2 there June 7, 4 plus young there July 5.

Shorebirds are returning, have been since early July, but we have few reports of the ones which nest here. Shirley Cohrs (JSC) found and photographed two nests of the PIPING PLOVER on Cherry Hill beach June 22. She wrote: Parent put on a terrific display - not just the trailing wing act, but both wings, jumped up and down, piped, almost rolled around on the sand....June 28 nests still there 4 eggs each. SIT found both Piping Plover and SEMIPALMATED PLOVER nesting at Matthew's Lake in early July. The KILLDEER has been our most reported bird: 4 seen where 2 pairs nested last year at Wallace May 28 (same date and place) RGSB; a pair nesting at Argyle Head June 6 (PRD), a pair with 3 young June 16 at "Steed Evans Rock Quarry" (FLL), a pair at Surette's I. June 9 and at Sunday Point adults July 29. CD reported only one at Lusby, June 27. They are undoubtedly very widely distributed by now, and doing well. SPOTTED SANDPIPERS were abundantly present where expected this summer, along lake and stream margins; and WILLETS were tolling young down to the sea by June 17 in Yarmouth Co.(PRD) - this seems to me to be a very inefficient way to rear the young - it takes all day sometimes, with constant calling (hard on the bystanders) and grave danger to the little ones. However our Willet population looks healthy at this point, gathering into small flocks already preparatory to migration.

Obvious migrants have been noted at Brier I. and at APBS, but will not be noted here (see November issue), mostly Peep of various kinds and Yellowlegs. Six pairs of LEAST SANDPIPERS at Lawrencetown Lake June 20 should be added to the possible breeding population (FLL). A male RUFF, all black with a "little white collared ruff" so described by CD, SIT and JL March, seen at John Lusby marsh July 5-6. A Ruff in breeding plumage is very rare here.

Sullivan's Pond is going to be the downfall of the RING-BILLED GULL, 14 were there May 30, all except two of them were beginning their 3rd year, according to FLL, who saw 19 of these gulls there on June 6, 14 again on July 6. CD at Lusby also had some summer Ring-bills, 20 there June 27. A LAUGHING GULL joined the crowd on Green Bay July 5 (JSC) who describes the scene thus: At Petite Riviere and Green Bay for a week mackerel have been running in the bay and large flocks of terns have been about - together with hundreds of D-C Cormorants and gulls. To-day numbers reached 400+, 25% ARCTIC, 75% COMMON TERNS, at least two ROSEATE - an unprecedented scene on the breakwater at the mouth of the Petite River - the 400+ noisy terns, 200+ Herring Gulls, 100+ Great Black-backed Gulls, a "few" Roseate Terns, a Laughing Gull and 200+ D-C Cormorants. This lasted an hour until they dispersed into groups in the bay - still many about in the evening. Not a Nova Scotia scene at all, more like Florida! Very impressive! Further on terns: J.R. and C.D. Gallagher report a colony of 40 birds (Arctic Terns) at Crow's Neck, East Baccaro Beach, Shel.Co., June 15, 1979 (not reported last year);

a small colony of Roseate Terns at Matthew's Lake, just off shore, which commute between the colony and the "Lake" and give good viewing conditions - this discovered by SIT early July, although previously known to G.D. Perry. Six BLACK TERNS have been present singly and in pairs in June at APBS, reported July 5 (CD). A real rarity, a GULL-BILLED TERN was reported June 20, at East Lawrence-town Lake by FLL. One other Black Tern, "a beautiful adult, feeding with other terns at Northeast Ledge, Brier I." was noted by SIT on June 23.

Both the YELLOW-BILLED and the BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO have been seen this summer: the former on June 22, sight record at Crichton Ave. in Dartmouth (FLL); the latter at the same place June 16 (FLL) and one each at Amherst (CD) and Wolfville (BLF) early summer - the Wolfville bird flew into a window and died soon after.

Two WHIP-POOR-WILLS were heard calling at Spectacle Lake, Dartmouth June 11 (one heard earlier, June 7) by FLL who was hopefully expecting a nest....CD reported "CHIMNEY SWIFTS regularly seen over town last half of June" at Amherst, and several observers mentioned the same thing at Yarmouth but no other reports of these birds have come in - Please, how many Chimney Swifts about? Similarly the COMMON NIGHTHAWK is reported only from the two ends of the province and actual numbers remain uncertain. CD mentioned that one nested on the ground beside a service station about eight metres from the garage entrance, at Amherst in June.

Bernard Forsythe wrote: On May 13 at Wolfville Ridge one of my nest boxes had a Starling nest with 3 eggs. On July 7 I found this box held 4 young FLICKERS (COMMON). The Flicker had waited for the starlings to fledge and then cleaned out the box and had his own family. This pair figured if you can't beat the starlings to the box wait until they are finished with it.....CD sends us a note of the sighting of a female BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER seen at APBS June 14.

Another report of the GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER from up province establishes it as a real bully: one on May 28 watched by the Bidwells of Rivendell, Wallace saw it "pounce on Tree Swallows as they leave their nest-hole and force them to the ground. Usually they escape unharmed (but very ruffled) but sometimes they get killed. This is the third year the Great Crested Flycatchers have visited Rivendell; last year I believe I saw young so perhaps they are nesting in the vicinity..!we would rather they remained a rare bird".... A nest of the EASTERN PHOEBE was found in a carport, April 25 by Curtis Chipman (CHC) at Second Peninsula, Lun. Co....BLF found five nests of the ALDER FLYCATCHER in a 3-acre field on Wolfville Ridge "showing that these birds will nest close together in suitable habitat"....At last we have achieved a new species, the recently established WILLOW FLYCATCHER (formerly called Traill's, along with the Alder). Ian McLaren found this one (I almost suspect he planted it) near the head of Indian Pt. Cove, Mahone Bay, late June this year. On June 28 JSC found it there, as did SIT on July 8. Finally we received this report: "I found not one but two adults giving a very loud 'fwit' note back

and forth to one another. Late that day after further exploration I found two nearly fully fledged young being fed by both adults. As I was about to leave the nesting site one of the adults, probably the male gave a flight song display - an emphatic fitz-spew over and over. The female answered with the same, the young birds, slightly off-key, did likewise..." This was the morning of July 24, at the place described above, near Mahone Bay, where Fulton Lavender spent the day, making a thorough study of these new birds, Willow Flycatchers, indistinguishable in the field from the Alder, but distinguishable by the character of the "song".....A nest of the EASTERN WOOD PEWEE on Wolfville Ridge held 3 eggs on July 2 (BLF).

Two pairs of HORNEED LARKS were seen June 29 at the Morse Strawberry Farm, Berwick by FLL. This seems to be about par for the course.

This might be called a "swallow-year", especially TREE SWALLOWS; CD wrote: June 7 at APBS there were 2000+ Tree Swallows which almost filled a high tension power line from one pylon to another. I do not know if they were coming or going....(I would suspect still coming, as they had not reached Cape Breton east by May 24; they were abundant in Yarmouth Co. from mid-April on but reached their height of activity around July 2, when most of the young ones were out). One ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW was seen by FLL July 18 on the Doherty Road, Lawrencetown, Halifax Co..... We were glad to hear of the PURPLE MARTIN situation at Amherst from CD, who wrote: the Amos colony has about 35 boxes occupied, while the 16 boxes of the Rose colony appear to be used. There are three other sets of boxes (Langille, Christie and Terris) which have a few occupants.

GRAY JAY young were observed by June 5 at Port Joli, where C.F.L. Kelsey saw them, among the many other birds "within 100 ft. of our home on the E/side of Port Joli Harbour, Queens Co..Over the years we have been here the (24 species listed) have been regular visitors...and it is evident all are nesting fairly close by...." On the BBS June 21 at Lr. Ohio, Shel.Co. JSC observed 2 adult and 2 immature Gray Jays; on July 18 on the Conrad Road at West Lawrencetown FLL saw 2 adults, one immature Jay Gray. This population seems to remain stable. The same may be said for our other resident populations, the COMMON RAVEN, the COMMON CROW, the BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE - although this last has been surprisingly often seen and heard, for mid-summer, this year; is perhaps above the usual numbers present at this time. JLC&JSC were fortunate in hearing a BROWN CREEPER singing, June 29 in on the Somerset Road, near Petite Riviere, Lun.Co..

Another fine singer, the MOCKINGBIRD, "in full voice, kept it up for almost a week, July 7, then again July 24, at Bridgetown" at Terrie Hyson's, the only Mockingbird mentioned so far this summer. The GRAY CATBIRD on the other hand, was heard from every bush.

We have again a WOOD THRUSH reported from Brier I., seen there on May 14-15 by Robbie Denton, RLD and ARG. By the sound, the HERMIT THRUSH must have been present in high numbers, but we have no

nest to report; on the other hand BLF found a SWAINSON'S THRUSH nest July 8 which at that time held 2 eggs but by July 23 had 1 egg and 3 newly-hatched young. This was at Newtonville, Kings Co.. BLF also found two VEERY nests : 1st. June 6 held 3 eggs plus one Cowbird egg; 2nd. June 15 held 3 eggs - at Wolfville Ridge.

The RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET is happily back to strength this season; the CEDAR WAXWING well above usual, seen "everywhere". BLF had three Cedar Waxwing nests: one at Wolfville Ridge with 5 eggs June 21; two at Lumsden, Kings Co., one with 4 eggs June 23, one with 3 eggs July 3.

On May 17 a WHITE-EYED VIREO was caught and banded at Brier I. by RDA, reported by ARG. Wood Warbler reports are too many to enumerate with data, but three unfortunates from BLF at Newtonville and Wolfville Ridge continue the story of the warbler vs the cowbird: a nest of the PARULA WARBLER on June 12 held 3 eggs plus 1 cowbird egg; BLACK-THROATED GREEN, July 8, 3 eggs plus 1 cowbird egg; CHESTNUT-SIDED, 2 nests, one June 28 had 2 eggs plus 2 cowbird eggs, second July 4 had 2 eggs plus 1 cowbird egg. We do not know as yet the fate of these nests.....One of the unusual young warblers seen this summer was a fully fledged flying PALM WARBLER July 15 at Tusket (CRKA); and one of the most unusually numerous gatherings of the WILSON'S WARBLER was the 10 pairs noted June 8 at Spectacle Lake by FLL.

At least one of our orioles nested this year (probably many did) for BLF found a nest with 3 eggs "at the end of a branch of an elm tree, 10 feet from the ground" at New Minas on June 20. This was of course the NORTHERN ORIOLE, seen earlier arriving in good numbers. Another in this group, often seen but seldom reported was at least four successful nests of the COMMON GRACKLE "in the spruce trees lining my driveway", noted by CD, no special date given... To return to the BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD, BLF wrote "I found their eggs in ten nests this year in the Wolfville area. Species involved were: Veery, Parula Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Ovenbird, American Redstart". Here at 170 Lr. Eel Brook the Cowbirds do not seem to have had much luck. The small spring flock dwindled to three, a female and two males, which remained until mid-July, the males continuously displaying to the female, which remained quite undisturbed. About two weeks ago these birds disappeared. Soon after very young Song Sparrows appeared, also Juncos, Yellow Warblers, Redstarts, Alder Flycatchers, Robins, Catbirds, Black-capped Chickadees, Red-eyed Vireos, Purple Finches - immatures of many species, most of them hatched on the place to my certain knowledge - but no young Cowbirds. This is the first year (since I have been here) that this particular pattern has occurred.

On May 24 at Brier I. ARG succeeded in catching a WESTERN TANAGER which was then banded by Ross Anderson, who confirmed the identification..... A ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK's nest held the first egg on June 14; by July 6 there were 3 feathered young - seen at Wolfville Ridge by BLF. Two pairs of these birds were found nesting at the Head of Indian Pt. July 24 by FLL..... No EVENING GROSBEAK nests seem to have been found this season. Most of these birds had left the province by mid-May.....At Wolfville Ridge

BLF watched three nests of the AMERICAN GOLDFINCH, the first building July 1, held 4 eggs by July 14; the second completed July 6, held 5 eggs July 11; the third held 6 eggs July 22. It has also been a good Goldfinch year....FLL says this applies to the RED CROSSBILL as well - his last sighting was May 27 at Lake Charles near Dartmouth. Certainly the WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL has increased in number lately: FLL found small flocks "all over the Conrad and West Lawrencetown roads; in Yarmouth County similarly CRKA has encountered small flocks very generally distributed, most of them singing, noted throughout July.

Another rarity from Brier I. is a LARK BUNTING, a sight record but excellently described by RLD and ARG as a male in breeding plumage, (a "self-identifying bird" in that plumage), seen May 25 at Pond Cove by the above observers and Robbie Denton.

The WHITE-THROATED SPARROW has been well reported, with a nest at Wolfville Ridge containing 5 feathered young on July 14 (BLF), and these birds still singing on territory July 24, "everywhere" (PRD).... JSC has noted a LINCOLN'S SPARROW at Jordan Falls, June 21, on the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) this spring. She says it is the first she has found in this area. It would be most welcome - another very fine singer..... SHARP-TAILED SPARROWS, late in coming as usual, are now well distributed, and CRKA found (nearly stepped on) a nest July 29 at Sunday Point, Yar.Co., the nest in long marsh grass, hollowed out into a sort of globe, at the bottom of which were four tiny grayish eggs. The Sharp-tail had flown from the nest at his approach, had there been any doubt of identification. He was of the opinion that this must be a second nesting.

The above is a selective report, chiefly concerned with rarity sightings and breeding bird reports. Other records will appear in the Fall Newsletter. In case any have been inadvertently omitted, following is the list of major contributors to this interim report: C.R.K. Allen, Ross D. Anderson, R.G.S. Bidwell, Con Desplanque, Curtis H. Chipman, J. Shirley and John L. Cohrs, Robbie, Ronnie L. Denton, Phyllis R. Dobson, Bernard L. Forsythe, Anthony R. Glavin, J.R. and C.D. Gallagher, Terrie Hyson, C.F.L. Kelsey, F.L. Lavender, Wickerson Lent, Betty June Smith, Peter C. Smith, Stuart I. Tingley. Very many thanks to those above for their most interesting reports. Please do write again in November, to:

Phyllis R. Dobson, Records Editor (NSBS)
Box 170, R.R.1, Ste. Anne du Ruisseau, N.S.
BOW 2X0

MB
In case any member of the Nova Scotia Bird Society is a subscriber to Bluenose Magazine may I say to him/her how much I regret the mistake which occurred in the last (June-July) issue. On pages 20-21 photographs belonging to the NSBS are reproduced to illustrate the sort of birds to be found on the so-called "Fundy Cliff-top Trail". Due to a change in editorial staff for Bluenose a mix-up occurred. These photographs were sent to illustrate an entirely different article and do not illustrate the sort of birds to be found on the Fundy Cliff-top Trail. I do hope no one will be seriously misled. PRD.