



*Illustration is by permission — in new Tufts Birds of Nova Scotia*

# Nova Scotia Birds

Fall Flyer  
1992

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Fall and Winter Programmes.

Nova Scotia Museum

8:00 p.m.

September 24 Joyce Purchase,  
"Gardening is for the Birds."

a list of suitable plantings will be available to take home.

October 22 Annual General Meeting  
Wine and Cheese Party.

November 26 Bill Freedman  
"Birding in the Arctic."

January 28 Members Slide Night.



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Annual General Meeting  
of the  
Nova Scotia Bird Society

will be held on

October 22, 1992

8.00 p.m

at the

Nova Scotia Museum  
Summer St, Halifax.

Wine and Cheese Party to follow

The Executive Committee for 1992-93  
will be elected at the Annual General  
Meeting.

Report of the Nominating Committee:

President	Carol MacNeill.
Vice President	Lou Coutinho
Treasurer	Don MacNeill
Membership Secty.	Bob Dreke
Secretary	Jim Taylor
Honorary Solicitor	Jonny Robinson
Honorary	Jane Mowat

Further nominations will be accepted from the floor.

Also from the floor will be nominations for  
three Directors.

Respectfully submitted

Peter Payzant  
Chris Field.

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New!  
NSBS  
Lapel Pins



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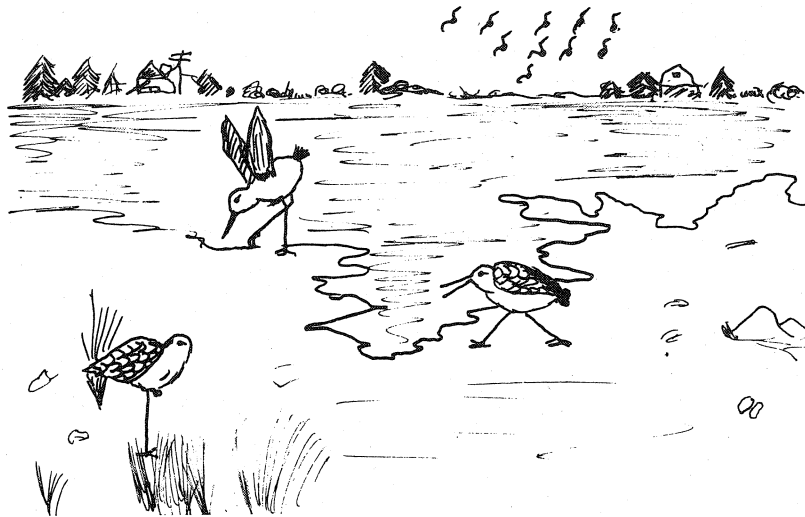
Bernice Moores

1361 Edward St

Halifax, N.S. B3H3H5

Ph. 1-422-5292

A great Christmas gift for your birding friends!



# Christmas Counts



In 1979 Ross Anderson wrote the following brief history of Christmas Counts in Nova Scotia. Our many new "counters" may be interested in the "old days" .....

## CHRISTMAS COUNTS IN NOVA SCOTIA

Ross Anderson

The August 1956 issue of the Nova Scotia Museum of Science Newsletter, published the first N.S.B.S. Christmas Bird Counts. a total of seven counts were carried out in such diverse areas as Bedford, Country Harbour, Halifax, Peggy's Cove, Port Wallis, West Middle Sable and Wolfville. These were not the first counts organised in this province. We have to go back to the 23rd of December, 1913, when Harrison F. Lewis and E. Chesley Allen saw twelve species of birds on the first Yarmouth count. This count was repeated in December, 1914, and in December, 1915. Robie Tufts joined them by initiating the Wolfville count. The Wolfville count was repeated again in 1920 and published in Bird Lore, as were the previous counts.

The next publication to carry Nova Scotia Christmas Counts was the Canadian Field Naturalist, which had the December, 1935, count from Wolfville. Over the next fifteen years, Christmas Bird counts flourished in the province with a high of five counts being carried out in December, 1945 and 1946. In December 1947, counts started dwindling in the province, until our own Newsletter started its reporting of counts in August, 1956. The highest number of counts ever carried out in the province was thirty-two in December 1976, our average over the ten years is around 26-30 counts a year.

The number of species seen on counts in the province has slowly increased from the first count in 1913, which saw only twelve species, to a high which was established in December 1976 of 141 species. It took forty-seven years for the century mark (100 species) to be counted in the province, that occurred on the December 1960 count. Over the past ten years we have average around 125 species. Maybe some time in the future with a warm, late fall and an above average number of counts, we might break the 150 level.

The number of individual birds seen on the 1978 Christmas Count was 168,047, which established a new all-time high for the province. The first time the 100,000 barrier was broken occurred in December 1973 and except for December 19075, when 78,889 birds were counted, each succeeding year has established a new record. If everyone in our Society participated in a count, the 200,000 mark would soon fall by the wayside.

The highest individual count of species ever carried out in the province on a Christmas Bird Count, belongs to the Halifax East count of December 18, 1976, when the participants saw 92 species, plus one additional rarity.

In December 1978, the Brier Island count totaled 52,165 birds (48,000 of them being Kittiwakes) established a new record for the number of birds seen in the province on an individual Christmas Count. Another tough nut to crack, but it can be done.



At the end of the 1978 Christmas Count, our species list stood at 190 species, plus 3 additional rares. I feel that with the calibre of birders that we have in this province, it will not take us too long to pass the 200 milestone.

The Yarmouth count was started by only two people. On our last count over 200 observers took part. We have come a long way in a very short period of time.



Count Period this year is :

Thursday December 17 1992  
to  
Sunday January 3 1993.

All 1991-92 Co-ordinators will automatically receive a count kit.

Anyone wishing to initiate a count or receive an old count should contact David Currie before Dec 1st. His address is: 53 Silvermaple Drive

RR 1  
Arundale, N.S. B31 4J1

Ph. 876-8745

Halifax Count Dates are:

Halifax West Sunday Dec 20

Halifax East Sunday Dec 27

~ contact Dave Currie ~



## *Field trips for Fall and Winter.*

### OCTOBER

- Sun. 4      Hartlen's Point and Eastern Shore. Leader: Peter MacLeod (454-2006)  
Meet at old entrance to Hartlen's Point Golf Course at 8:00 a.m.
- Oct. 9-12    Bon Portage Island (Thanksgiving Weekend) Leader: Peter MacLeod  
(454-2006). Meet at Prospect Point Wharf at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 9. There  
will be a charge for the crossing and accommodation. Bring food,  
drinking water, flashlight, sleeping bag and a sheet to cover the  
mattress. Pre-registration is necessary. We will leave island at  
approximately 3:00 p.m. on Monday.
- Sat. 24      Eastern Shore. Leader: Peter Payzant (861-1607). Late shorebirds,  
lingering waterfowl and early winter arrivals. Meet at the shopping  
centre at the end of Porter's Lake at 9:00 a.m. We will visit several  
locations from Martinique to Lawrencetown. This is an all day trip,  
bring at lunch.

### NOVEMBER

- Sat. 14      Northern Head (Cape Breton). Leader: Alan Murrant (737-2684). Meet  
at 8:00 a.m. at the site of the Heavy Water Plant, Glace Bay. Be pre-  
pared for a 1 hour rugged hike and dress warmly.

### DECEMBER

- Sun. 6      Eagles and Raptors of the Valley. Leader: Peter MacLeod (454-6002)  
Meet at Robie Tufts Nature Centre, Front Street, Wolfville, at 8:30  
a.m. Bring a lunch.

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1993

JANUARY

- Sat. 10      Sewer Stroll I (rain day, Jan 11th). Leader: Fulton Lavender (477-8984). This is an all day trip. Meet at Hartlen's Point at 8:00 a.m. We will work around to Herring Cove via Bedford.
- Sun. 17      Riverside Eagles. Leader: Ross Hall (893-9665). Meet at the Kentucky Fried Chicken at Exit 11 (Stewiacke) on Hwy 102 at 9:30 a.m. A visit to Berfelo Farm and an eagle nest near the Gosse Bridge -- about 3 - 4 hours. Great for the family.

FEBRUARY

- Sat. 14      Sewer Stroll II (rain day Feb. 15th). Leader: Fulton Lavender (477-8984). Meet at Hartlen's Point at 8:00 a.m. This is an all day trip and ends at Herring Cove.

**ATTENTION LEADERS:** YOU ARE REMINDED TO SEND A FIELD TRIP REPORT TO THE EDITOR OF **Nova Scotia Birds**, Nova Scotia Bird Society, c/o Nova Scotia Museum, 1747 Summer Street, Halifax, N.S. B3H 3A6.

In addition to our NSBS Trips, Bev Sarty will be leading a Shorebird Trip for the Parks Department. This will be on Saturday, September 12. Meeting place is at Conrad's Beach at 10:00 a.m. The trip will last about 2 hours. Bev's number is 852-5209.

Any questions or suggestions should be directed to the Field Trip Co-ordinator, Jim Taylor (434-8516), 69 Woodlawn Rd., Dartmouth N.S. B2W 2S2.



DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF REPORTS

for

the January, 1993 issue

November 15 , 1992

Bird Reports to the RECORDS EDITOR

Mr. Bob Dickie,  
43 Deepwood Crescent,  
Halifax, N.S. B3M 2Y5

Articles, sketches and letters to the EDITOR

Mrs. Shirley Cohrs,  
8 Rosemount Ave.,  
Halifax, N.S. B3N 1X8

Photographs to

Dr. I.A. McLaren,  
1755 Cambridge Street,  
Halifax, N.S. B3H 4A8

*Deadline for entries for the NSBS  
Photographic Contest is December 15*

*Mail to: Bev Sarty  
Site 14 A  
Box 60  
RR 4  
Armdale, N.S.  
B3L4J4*



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*See the July issue for further details.*