

*Nova Scotia  
Bird Society*



*Newsletter*

Volume 10, Number 2

July, 1968

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER

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Cover photograph - Canada Geese at Amherst Marsh, Spring 1968  
- E. Lowerison

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NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

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NEWSLETTER

Editor: Phyllis R. Dobson

Volume 10, Number 2

July, 1968

THE SPRING MIGRATION

We are particularly fortunate this year in having, for the first time, a Bird Log from the Lurcher Lightship. The Lightship lies at latitude 43-48-30 N, longitude 66-31-50W, by the Lurcher Shoal, off Yarmouth. Through the agency of Dr. Eric Mills, and with the kind co-operation of Captain R. A. Doucette and Captain J. L. Romain, we have a list of the birds seen from the Lurcher throughout May and June. Many of the smaller birds actually came aboard ship, which facilitated identification considerably.

Great Black-backed and Herring Gulls, up to a hundred each, were seen every day from the ship. Shearwaters, scarce in May, were seen frequently in June, both Greater and Sooty, two to twenty apiece; whereas Gannets, one or two at a time, were seen more often in May. Both Wilson's and Leach's Petrels were seen occasionally, and Phalaropes (unspecified) were mentioned once. On June 13, and for two days following, Fulmars were sighted, and eight again on June 23.

From the point of view of this report, the greatest interest of the Bird Logs lies in the land birds recorded. On the 4th of May a Savannah Sparrow was seen; on the 5th, a Baltimore Oriole; and on the 7th, a Great Blue Heron flew by. This was followed on the 10th by a Belted Kingfisher, and on the 14th by six Barn Swallows, two Blue Jays and a Cape May Warbler. As it happens, this is our only spring record of the Cape May. In all, eleven species of warblers were identified from the Lurcher: the Black-and-White, May 19; Parula, June 3; Yellow, May 27; Magnolia, May 18 (and 3 on June 1); Cape May, May 14; Black-throated Green, May 31; Blackpoll, May 18; Yellowthroat, May 22 and June 2; Hooded, May 21 and 23 (again our only spring record of this species); Wilson's, May 17, 21 and 30; and two American Redstarts, June 7.

Apart from one Eastern Kingbird on May 16, the only Flycatchers on this route came along later. These were Least, on June 9, accompanied by another Kingbird.

The May Log included a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, a

Swainson's Thrush, a Rusty Blackbird, and two groups of Starlings. The sparrows came along at intervals, starting with the Savannah mentioned above, and three Vesper Sparrows on May 15. The others listed were Fox, Sharp-tailed and Chipping. A White-crowned Sparrow came aboard on June 6.

Aside from the sea-birds, swallows received most frequent mention in the Logs - Tree, Cliff, Martins and Barn, but particularly Barn. May 1 is our earliest mainland record this year of 3 Barn Swallows, at Cape Sable, but they were still being sighted from the Lurcher on June 23.

The Lurcher Lightship Bird Logs have given us information, fascinating in itself, which also serves as a valuable extension of our spring migration picture. We are greatly indebted to Captain Doucette and to Captain Romain for making them available to us.

Before coming ashore for good, it might be mentioned that 2 COMMON LOONS were sighted from the Lurcher, one on May 5 and one on June 1. Tufts considers it probable that summer Loons in off-shore waters are immature non-breeders. Our earliest record of breeders is April 5 from Shelburne Co., where numbers of Loons were noted on Robertsons Lake ("Coastguard"); and in Cape Breton, April 23, where one was seen in summer plumage on Freshwater Lake, Vic. Co. (Neily).

We have one spring arrival date for the RED-THROATED LOON, April 6 at Lawrencetown, Hfx. Co. (Allen), and one rather late departure date, May 9, when 2 were seen at North Bay, Ingonish (Neily).

An unusual number of RED-NECKED GREBES was seen off the SW end of the province; 8, April 13, South Side Beach, Cape Sable (E. Mills and Doane), and 18 in a flock, April 18, Pinckney's Point (Allen). Red-necks were sighted off the Lawrencetown beaches, Hfx. Co., throughout April, none seen in May (Fullerton, Hinds). The HORNED GREBE was first noted in breeding plumage (10 of them) April 11, in St. Margaret's Bay (Allen). Two PIED-BILLED GREBES were observed in a pond near Brooklyn, Hants Co. on the N.S.B.S. field trip, June 1. On June 15, one was seen cruising around there again, followed by 3 young (Allen).

Besides the June records of the FULMARS seen from the Lurcher, we have a report of 12 seen April 24 from the Oceanographic vessel CGS Dawson, 50 miles S/SE of Halifax. Two SOOTY SHEARWATERS came within view of land, 1 May 25, off Seal Island (Hinds, Fullerton) and 1 June 9, off Wedgeport (Fothier). The two probable LEACH'S PETRELS seen from the Lurcher were sighted early morning June 21, and the WILSON'S PETRELS throughout May and June, 1 or 2 at a time. An early first-for-season sighting of migrating GANNETS, Mar. 24, was reported from Cape Sable by the Smiths, who again report Gannets in full migration, apparently plentiful April 19. Several dozen were seen feeding on April 24 from CGS Dawson, approximately 30 miles S/SE of Halifax (Gordon),

and several were seen Apr. 27 off the Glace Bay Sanctuary (MacLean, Neily, MacNeils, Hopkins, Reid). Holdway, on the other hand, reports less than usual numbers of solitary adults arriving during the first week in May, off Pictou.

Although the GREAT CORMORANT nests quite near (as the cormorant flies), it is seldom reported from the Three-fathom Harbour area, Hfx. Co., where 2 were identified April 13 by Eric Cooke. First report of the migratory DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT April 16 came from Sable River, Shel. Co. ("Coastguard"), followed by 1, May 9, at Ketch Harbor, Hfx. Co. (A. Doull); 2, May 27, Albert Bridge, Cape Breton Co. (Neily and Reid); 5, May 27 and 28, May 28 passing Cape Sable (Smiths). A GREAT BLUE HERON arrived at Cole Harbor at an unusually early date, Mar. 26, and was seen there by Eric Mills and the Eatons. One was seen at Cape Sable Mar. 28, another April 1 (Smiths), and 4, April 6, in the Lawrencetown area (Allen). The first Cape Breton report is of 1, April 7, at Glace Bay (Reid), and Holdway reports the main migrants at Pictou arriving there by April 26. Ten were counted in the Lawrencetown area on April 28 (Morgan and Allen). Rosemary Eaton alerted us June 20 to the presence of a LITTLE BLUE HERON at Cole Harbor, which remained in the vicinity for at least a week, feeding around the shore. Two other big waders came our way this spring, a COMMON EGRET, May 25, reported at Louisbourg by John Lunn, and a SNOWY EGRET, June 10, at Wedgeport, by Israel Pothier. Another rare visitor, member of this group, was a BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON, May 9, identified at Round Hill, Anna. Co., by W. E. Whitehead.

First arrival date for the AMERICAN BITTERN is April 13 when 1 was seen at South Side Beach, Cape Sable Is. (Doane and Mills); the next, May 3, 1 at Little Bras d'Or, Cape Breton Co. (Neily); followed by reports in May for Bitterns in Anna. Co. (Whitehead) and Yar. Co. (Pothier), and the unusual number of 7, June 7, seen around Mattatall Lake, Col.-Cumb. Co. (E. Mills).

A flock of 4 or 5 strange birds seen at Lower Wedgeport on April 28 created some mystification, but one was picked up, dead, May 3, at Comeau's Hill by René Fitzgerald, and sent to Israel Pothier, who identified it as a GLOSSY IBIS. Another Glossy Ibis was sighted April 29 at Shelburne, possibly belonging to the same group ("Coastguard").

Notes of greatest interest on the CANADA GOOSE this spring: "the largest concentration of geese on the Amherst marshes for many, many years" (see Cover photograph) on Mar. 25, noted by E. Lowerison. (Allen reported "great numbers" near Evangeline Beach Mar. 30). Eric Mills witnessed the take-off of a large flock, around 700 or more, lifting off the Atlantic in groups of 20 to 70 at a time, gaining altitude and flying high in a north-westerly direction, on Mar. 26. He said it was a grand sight. At Cole Harbor, geese built up to around 1,000 by April 7, thereafter few were seen (Fullerton, Hinds). At Port Joli, Queen's Co., 100+ Canada Geese were seen April 11, none there April 19 (Allen).

We do not have the early dates for BRANT this year from

Brier Island, but they were noted off Cape Sable Mar. 17 (Smiths) and off Big Tusket Island, Yar. Co., Mar. 21. About 20 passed Cape Sable Mar. 25 and 25+ were seen flying in Minas Basin, Mar.30. A. J. Erskine counted 166 at Linden on April 4 and 195 April 5. They were still passing Cape Sable April 16, and by May 16, 300 were seen at Pugwash (Metcalfe per Lowerison); by May 23, 72 were seen at Brier Island; May 24, 138 at the same place, by E. Cooke. Holdway saw none at Pictou, none at Wood Is., P.E.I., during the season.

BLACK DUCK have been reported as present in their usual numbers this spring. Our champion brood, May 19, numbered 12 ducklings, seen at Lower Ohio, Shel. Co. ("Coastguard"), and the famous little pond near Brooklyn, Hants Co., was again supporting at least one family with 7 or 8 young. As usual, the only summer PINTAILS reported were 8, April 24 in the Marshlands near Amherst (Doulls). GREEN-WINGED TEAL arrived in early April, earliest reported were 2, April 1, Cole Harbor (Eatons), 4, April 3, in the brook by the Dorothea Road outside of Dartmouth (Hinds), and 4 at Cole Harbor on the same date (Fullerton). On April 7, the same observers saw 17 Green-wings in the Cole Harbor area. Two BLUE-WINGED TEAL were seen on June 1, by members of the NSBS field trip party, and the birds appear to be summering there, "batching" it, both males. Erskine reports AMERICAN WIDGEON present at Amherst Point, April 15, and a pair was observed near the Debert Sanctuary early in May (E. Doull). WOOD DUCK are reported twice: 2, May 12, at McNab's Island, Hfx. Harbor (NSBS); and 1 male, May 12, at Ingonish Beach (Neily). A very early RING-NECKED DUCK was at Seaforth, Hfx. Co., April 6 (Allen). On May 12, a pair was noted in a pond at Ingonish Beach (Neily and Wilson), another pair, June 4 was seen at Presqu'île Lake, Inv. Co. (Neily), and Holdway reports them nesting at Pictou June 4. COMMON GOLDENEYE continue to prefer Cape Breton for the summer season; three reports only of this duck since early March in that area coming from Neily and Pierce. Also from Cape Breton comes an all-too-rare report of 2 BARROW'S GOLDENEYE, a male and a female, seen April 13, at Middle River, Inv. Co. (MacDonald). Last record of BUFFLEHEAD is of 7, April 13, at Round Bay, Shel. Co. (Doane and E. Mills). Over 100 OLDSQUAW were still riding the waves off Lawrencetown Beach by April 6 (Allen, Hinds), but by April 19 the number was down to 4. Allen noted 2 off Melbourne, Yar. Co., April 18, the male in breeding plumage. An unusual concentration of COMMON MERGANSERS was reported Mar. 26, when 30 were seen off Conrad's Beach, Hfx. Co. (E. Mills). Neily noted interesting Merganser courtship displays on May 22 at Grande Anse River, Inv. Co., in the CBH National Park. On April 13, Doane and E. Mills noted 60+ RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS off western Shel. Co.; and Allen saw 42, April 18, off Melbourne, Yar. Co., "Still courting".

Our permanently resident hawks have all been reported this spring, the GOSHAWK only from Cape Breton: 1, May 8, Halfway Brook, Vic. Co. (Neily); 1, May 22, Grande Anse River, Inv. Co. (Wilson and Neily), and 1, May 23, South Point area (in Park), Vic. Co. (Neily). A far wandering ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK was seen April 14 at Tusket, Yar. Co., by C.R.K. Allen. The BALD EAGLE is reported to be nesting near Lawrencetown, Hfx. Co., and at least one nestling has survived (Andy Hughes per E. Mills). The MARSH

HAWK has been well reported and evidently carries out a leisurely migration. The first date of arrival this spring is April 1, at Sable River "Coastguard", followed by 1, April 13, Louisbourg (MacLean); 1, April 20, Lawrencetown, Hfx. Co. (Fullerton); 1, May 6 and 1, May 19, Cape Sable (Smiths); 1, May 19, Wedgeport (Pothier); 1, June 1, Hants Co. (NSBS); and one passed the Lurcher Lightship June 16 (Romain). Earliest arrival date we have for the OSPREY is April 6, seen at Lawrencetown, Hfx. Co., and the honor goes to Sylvia Fullerton. Holdway reports a nest on Caribou Is. May 28. Among the falcons, only the PIGEON HAWK (1, April 27, Glace Bay Sanctuary, MacLean), and the SPARROW HAWK have been reported. The first Sparrow Hawk was seen at Cole Harbor April 2 (Eatons). Tony Erskine saw one of them on April 5, in the Musquodoboit area; and interestingly after that, Sparrow Hawks were seen simultaneously April 11 and 12 at Tusket (Allen), Annapolis Co. (Johnson, Whitehead), and Shelburne (Allen). C.R.K. Allen remarked that about 1 other a day was seen in the general area thereafter.



To return to this pond outside of Brooklyn, Hants Co.: on June 1, the NSBS field party paused by the roadside and deployed along the bank. Binoculars and telescopes were trained on the pond, and as usual we were not disappointed. Redwings and swallows made a brilliant display over the water and around the reedy margins, and besides the Black Duck, Blue-winged Teal and Pied-billed Grebes, we were given a good look at a SORA, sneaking in and out of the grass in the tussocks, but staying out long enough to get a scope on him. Although rated our commonest Rail, very few of us had ever seen one before, and we all agreed that this was the highlight of the trip.

Only 7 of our shorebird species seem to have passed within view this spring. One only SEMI-PALMATED PLOVER is reported, June 4, at Glace Bay, by Sara MacLean. Two PIPING PLOVER first showed up at Conrad's Beach on April 6, and were seen there then and after (Fullerton, Allen, Morgan, Hinds, Dobson). On April 13, 4 were seen on Cape Sable Island (Doane and E. Mills); 1, April 18, at Cape Sable (B. F. Smith) and 1, on the outer beach at Cape Sable, May 24 (Smiths). KILLDEER, 3, arrived on Cape Sable Mar. 1 (1 the following day), and again on Cape Sable April 29. Two were seen Mar. 1 at Central Chebogue, Yar. Co. ("Coastguard") and then 1, April 13 at Cape Sable Island (Doane and E. Mills). BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER were first seen on May 19, at Wedgeport (Pothier); then 8 at Cape Sable May 25 (Smiths), followed there by 100, June 4 (N. Cunningham). At Conrad's Beach, Hfx. Co., 10 were counted by E. Mills, June 2, and 3 on June 10. Eric Cooke saw a RUDDY TURNSTONE at Three-fathom Harbor on May 21, and 6 were sighted at Cape Sable June 2 (Smiths). The first AMERICAN WOODCOCK of the season was seen Mar. 28, at Granite Village, Shel. Co. ("Coastguard"); the next record is Mar. 31, when 2 were seen in Anna. Co. (Johnson). At Pictou, the main migrants arrived Apr. 7,

according to Holdway. Joseph Johnson sends us the earliest COMMON SNIPE spring record, April 10, the next two coincided on April 14, from Round Hill, Anna. Co. (Whitehead) and Pleasant Lake, Yar. Co. (Allen).

An UPLAND PLOVER, feeding in a ploughed field near Laurie Park, Hfx. Co., May 8, was identified by Barbara Hinds, who sent out the alert; but unfortunately this rare bird didn't wait for further inspection. [An Upland Plover was seen at Brunswick, Maine, April 28, (Maine Audubon Society Report)]. The SPOTTED SAND-PIPER arrived exactly on schedule, on May 8, seen at Oakfield, Hfx. Co. (Fullerton). At Cape Sable, the Smiths report their first Spottie, heard calling at night, on May 26. WILLETS appeared rather suddenly all over: 1, April 28, Granite Village ("Coastguard") 2, April 28, Anna. Co. (Johnson); 1, April 29, Cole Harbor (Eaton); 1, May 1, Wedgeport (Pothier); 1, May 4, Crousetown (Snyder); 1, Cole Harbor, May 5 (Anketell-Jones, Hinds, Fullerton); and 2, May 5, Cape Sable (Smiths). GREATER YELLOWLEGS came along at the same time: 1, April 27, Glace Bay Sanctuary (MacLean); 2, Cole Harbor, (Fullerton); 2, May 6, Cape Sable (Smiths); 3, May 12, Pictou (Holdway); and 1, May 13, Crousetown (Snyder). A KNOT in spring plumage was seen on Conrad's Beach June 2 and 3 (E. Mills); and 55 PURPLE SANDPIPERS were lingering late, going into summer plumage, on Fox Island, at the end of Conrad's Beach, seen there April 27 (Hinds, Fullerton, Eatons). Like the Knot, Tufts lists no spring records for the PECTORAL SANDPIPER, but 4 were seen April 13, at South Side Beach, Cape Sable Island, by E. Mills and B. K. Doane. A nice addition to the spring shorebird record is the sighting of 8 LEAST SANDPIPERS, May 25, on Seal Island (Hinds, Fullerton).

On the foggy night of May 30, at Cape Sable, many RED PHALAROPES came into the light beam, and some were killed by flying against the light. On June 3, the same thing occurred, as reported by the Smiths. May 30 was the date on which Phalaropes were seen at the Lurcher Lightship, and Holdway in Pictou reports 40 of these birds at Pictou on the same date; 100, on June 9.

Rarities in the gull department have been well reported as follows: late ICELAND GULLS, 1, April 25, off Point Pleasant Park, Hfx. (Hinds); 1, April 18, and 1, April 27, Glace Bay Sanctuary (MacLean); (and 1 very late) 1, May 12, Cape Sable (Smiths). RING-BILLED GULLS, scarce in spring, were seen April 4 in the Linden-Port Howe area (A. J. Erskine); 1, June 2, Conrad's Beach, Hfx. Co. (E. Mills); and 1, June 8, off Bell's Rock, Hfx. Co. (A. Doull). Three BLACK-HEADED GULLS were recorded at Conrad's Beach, Mar. 26 (E. Mills); 3 at Port Howe April 3 and 4 (Erskine); 2, April 6 and 11, April 10, in the Lawrencetown area (Allen). Numerous BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKES were sighted April 17, S/SE of Halifax, from CGS Dawson (Gordon). COMMON and ARCTIC TERNS "arrived in force" at Outer Bald Island, Yar. Co., on May 3, according to Israel Pothier. The first seen for the season at Cape Island Causeway was 1 on May 12, 15 on May 14 (Smiths), and several had reached the Lawrencetown area, Hfx. Co., May 21 (E. Cooke).

MOURNING DOVE records are rather scanty, most of them



at the south end of the province. The first record is from Tusket, Yar. Co., of 1 present April 2 to 13 (H. Hurlburt); the second, 1, April 6, Amherst (Lowerison); the third, 1, April 9, at Karsdale (Johnson). E. Mills and B. K. Doane saw 1 each at Beaver Dam Lake and Barrington, Shel. Co., April 12 and 13, and 1 was seen April 13 at Pubnico (Allen). At Sable River, Shel. Co., Mourning Doves were seen, 1 each April 19 and May 3 ("Coastguard"), and early in May, 1 in Halifax City (Chute, Doulls). May 28, 1 landed on Cape Sable (Smiths) and on June 7, 1 was seen near Tatamagouche (E. Mills). Only one record of the BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO has come in, of 1 seen June 13 at Crousetown (Snyder).

No reports of owls are at hand, but according to Joseph Johnson, there are plenty of BARR'D OWLS in the woods near Karsdale, not hard to see if you know the password (see Letters). We are again indebted to Dick Ward for the early date of the WHIP-POOR-WILL's song, across the Northwest Arm from Halifax, May 7. The NIGHTHAWK also seems to go by the calendar, arriving this year May 24, at Wedgeport (Pothier); June 2 heard at Karsdale (Johnson), June 3 at Halifax (Dobson, Doull), and thereafter general. Paul Slauenwhite gets the prize for the first CHIMNEY SWIFTS, 12, on May 1, at Lawrencetown, Anna. Co. The next two early dates were in the same vicinity, 2, May 5 at Karsdale (Johnson) and 1, May 11 at Round Hill (Whitehead). Swifts did not form their summer umbrella over Halifax until June 1 (Dobson), and were not noted in Pictou until June 5 (Holdway). Slauenwhite wins again for the RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD, with a report of 1 on May 9, at Lawrencetown, Anna. Co. Thereafter they appeared quite generally distributed: 1, May 10, Granite Village ("Coastguard"); 1, May 11, Round Hill (Whitehead); 1, May 12, Arcadia, Yar. Co. (Purdy per Pothier); 1, May 15, Wedgeport (Pothier); 1, May 15, Crousetown, Lun. Co. (Snyder); 1, May 18, Purcell's Cove Rd., Hfx. Co. (Huxtable); 1, May 18, Mt. St. Vincent, Hfx. Co. (Doull); 1, May 25, Pictou (Holdway). The BELTED KINGFISHER often stays the winter, so it is difficult to decide on early dates, but the following suggest arrivals: 1, April 10, Annapolis (Whitehead); 1, April 13, Glace Bay (MacLean); 1, April 14, Tusket, Yar. Co. (Allen); 1, April 14, Cole Harbor (Eaton); 3 at least, April 29, Lawrencetown Lake, Hfx. Co. (Hinds).

The YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER can be pinned down easily this year. Definitely it arrived April 4, first alighting on Cape Sable (Smiths), and April 4-6 in other parts of Shel. Co. and Lunenburg Co. (Lewis in "Coastguard" and Snyder). April 7 and 8 it was seen in Hfx. Co. and Anna. Co. (Hinds, Johnson); April 12 and 13 in Queens and Yar. Cos. (E. Mills, Allen), and another landed on Cape Sable April 14 (Smiths). We have a RED-HEADED WOODPECKER this spring, from that home of rarities, Seal Island, seen May 18 to 26 by S. Fullerton, E. Cooke, M. Clayden and B. Hinds. The YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER may also come in by the South Shore route, noted first April 11 at Centreville, Shel. Co. ("Coastguard"); next April 12, Grand Lake, Hfx. Co. (Crathorne), and not recorded until April 26 in Anna. Co. (Johnson).

An extraordinary record of a small flock of EASTERN KINGBIRDS arriving at Centreville, Shel. Co., April 11 and 12 is given by H. F. Lewis in his Shelburne Coastguard column. He adds

that this is an exceptional occurrence, the Kingbird usually coming about a month later. Our other reports start the second week in May, from Yar. and Anna. Cos. (Pothier and Johnson); then 7 were seen May 23 at Brier Island (E. Cooke). There were two of these Kingbirds seen from the Lurcher, 1 in May and 1 in June, and 1 put down at Cape Sable May 30 (Smiths).

One of our rare GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHERS was seen on June 7, Col.-Cumb. Co. line near Mattatall Lake, by E. Mills.

Five records of the EASTERN PHOEBE are more than usual. The first is of 1, April 6, at Cole Harbor, Hfx. Co., (Fullerton, Allen); the second, 1, April 8, Granite Village, Shel. Co. ("Coastguard"). The others were in Digby - Yar. - Shel. mid-April to mid-May, of 4 birds in all, noted by Allen, E. Mills, Doane, and E. Cooke. Although J. Johnson reported 2 YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHERS in Anna. Co. May 21, the arrival of a dozen or more on Cape Sable June 7 (Smiths) suggests a main migratory movement. These Flycatchers are now generally distributed, according to reports, but far less numerous than the TRAILL'S. This is true at any rate in the Halifax - Hants district, where during June, one could scarcely get out of earshot of that plaintive call. J. Johnson gets the credit for the first record, of 1 at Karsdale on May 28, and also for the LEAST FLYCATCHER, 1, May 16, in the same area. Elizabeth Doull was a close second, with 1, in Halifax south end, May 17.

The EASTERN WOOD PEWEE came a little earlier, with 1, May 24, at Cape Sable (Smiths), followed by 1, June 1, at Wedgeport (Pothier) and 3, June 3, at Karsdale (Johnson). The OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER has been heard at least once on most June field trips in the Halifax-Hants area. First arrival date is again credited to Johnson, 1, May 26, at Karsdale. One was seen at Pictou June 6, and Holdway notes that none of the others of this group had been seen there up to that date.

Discounting the storm-blown TREE SWALLOW, picked up Mar. 3 in Halifax, the first migration date is April 1, when 6 or more were seen at Pleasant Lake, Yar. Co., by Israel Pothier. Mr. Pothier notes that this is the earliest date of arrival in his 30 years of records. The main body of Tree Swallows seems to have come during the week April 6-13, for which the reports from all over are too numerous to recount. The BANK SWALLOW was much later, reported May 3, a count of 19 at Wedgeport (Pothier). Three BARN SWALLOWS, May 1 at Cape Sable (Smiths), were the vanguard of a general invasion throughout the eight days following, again distribution general in mainland Nova Scotia. An early CLIFF SWALLOW, May 11, in Anna. Co. (Johnson) came well ahead of the main concentration, indicated by a count of 12, May 23, on Brier Island (E. Cooke). The PURPLE MARTINS came to Amherst May 8, and Evelyn Lowerison writes that 2 pairs are inhabiting her nest box. Interestingly, 2 more Martins were seen at Brier Island, May 23, by Eric Cooke. Purple Martins were reported on three dates from the Lurcher Lightship, 4 on May 18, 1 each May 22 and 25.

The RED-BREADED NUTHATCH, now numerous, spread its

migration between May 1 and at least June 2. On the first date 2 reached Cape Sable (Smiths); on the last, 1 was picked up dead on the Lurcher. A HOUSE WREN has been in Round Hill, Anna. Co., for 10 days or 2 weeks (from June 22). Dr. Whitehead, who reports it, says it has been singing continuously, and is interested in the local bird boxes. In fact, it was seen putting bits and pieces into one box. There is no sign of a pair. This is reminiscent of the White's Wren in Liverpool last June (see Tuft's letter, NSBS Newsletter 2, No. 3:32 (1967)), possibly the same bird? The WINTER WREN seems scarce this spring, although 2 were heard on the Hants Co. Field Trip. Earliest report is 1, April 16, at Karsdale (Johnson), nothing until 1 on May 27, Pictou (Holdway).

The MOCKINGBIRD population seems to be in recession recently. Only 2 are reported this spring, both at Seal Island, on the May 18 trip (Fullerton, E. Cooke, Clayden). On the other hand, we have never before had so many CATBIRD reports. It is interesting that the first and last arrival dates are both from Cape Sable, 1 on May 11 and 1 on June 6 (Smiths). Intermediate in time are reports from Halifax, Lunenburg, Shelburne, Yarmouth and Annapolis counties, too numerous to list. The BROWN THRASHER arrived at about the same time and in the same place, 1 seen May 9 at Cape Sable, 2 there on May 11, (Smiths); then 2 seen in Marlborough Woods, Halifax, May 17, 1 there on May 20, (E. Doull); 4, May 18-26 on Seal Island (NSBS); and 1 again June 10 at Cape Sable (Smiths).



From the numerous ROBIN reports, the picture which emerges is of a general arrival of migrants the week of Mar. 20 to 28. Johnson saw 4 on the 20th in Karsdale, Slauenwhite 2 on the 22nd. in Lawrencetown (both in Anna. Co.), Pothier at Wedgeport saw 1 on Mar. 26, 8 on Mar. 27, and in Shel. Co. they were widely distributed by Mar. 28 ("Coastguard"). The first Robin singing in Halifax (city) was reported Mar. 28 (Helleiner). Sara MacLean in Glace Bay reported the first Robin hatchling on June 7. Helen Hurlburt mentioned the fine condition of the spring Robins, "so large and brightly colored", which remark is quoted here to re-assure Gladys MacRae of Baddeck. Earlier in the spring she wrote that a letter from her sister in Florida said the Robins had descended on them by the hundreds, eaten up all the holly berries, and became extremely intoxicated, bumping and banging about in most erratic flight. Sort of "one for the road", but they felt concerned about the effects of a hangover. This was the first week in March, in the St. Petersburg area.

David Christie has written that he has located 15 WOOD THRUSHES in New Brunswick this spring, and that we should be on the watch for them in Nova Scotia. Already we have two reports: 1, May 24 at Quinan, Yar. Co. (Pothier) and 1, heard singing June 1 and 3 at Sable River (Lewis). This makes our Thrush family complete. Most reports are of the HERMIT THRUSH, starting with 1,

April 13, Beaverdam Lake, Shel. Co. (E. Mills and Doane). The SWAINSON'S THRUSH is also reported widely, the first one heard May 9 in Cole Harbor by the Batons. One GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH is reported May 24 by Pothier at Wedgeport. Johnson had the first report of the VEERY, 3 on May 14 in Anna. Co. Eric Mills counted 5 Veerys June 7 east of Mattatall Lake, Col. Co.

The first RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET goes to Nellie Snyder, reported by her April 8 at Crousetown. Other reports started a week later, and distribution was general by April 27. Two very late WATER PIPITS were discovered on Seal Island, May 18-26 (Fullerton et al).

The CEDAR WAXWING has returned, 7 June 1, Crousetown (Snyder); 1 June 6 at the Dingle, Hfx. Co. (A. Doull); a flock June 8, Shel. Co. ("Coastguard"); 6, June 12 at Pictou (Holdway); and a flock in Yarmouth, June 13 (Clulee). A LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE was reported seen April 7 at Cole Harbor (Hinds, Clayden). The STARLING population built up around the end of March (Lewis, Allen). Dr. Lewis saw 60 on Mar. 23 at Sable River, where the winter population had been around 20 birds.

On May 9, at Karsdale, Johnson reported sightings of both the SOLITARY and the RED-EYED VIREO, but on our early morning field trips in May in Halifax Co. only the Solitary was heard. On the June 1 trip, Solitary Vireos still outnumbered Red-eyes, which latter however built up from then on. Holdway reported them "common" in Pictou by June 4.

When the woods become alive with Warblers in the spring, they are apt to teem with birdwatchers too. This is the most exciting time of year in Nova Scotia. There are more warblers in the fall, of course, but fall warblers are an exercise of the intellect rather than a joy to the eye and ear. Our warblers arrived on time this year, some possibly earlier than usual and, if we count the Hooded Warblers on the Lurcher Lightship, we have 23 species accounted for. The dates of first sightings to follow may not be actual arrival dates; but, in the light of the other reports of further sightings, it seems probable that they are, or very nearly so. For the BLACK-AND-WHITE, May 7, Crousetown (Snyder); TENNESSEE, May 14, Karsdale (Johnson); NASHVILLE, May 10, Karsdale (Johnson); PARULA, May 4, Wedgeport (Pothier); YELLOW, May 11, Round Hill and Cole Harbor (Whitehead, Fullerton); MAGNOLIA, May 3, Round Hill (Whitehead); CAPE MAY, May 14, Lurcher (Doucette); BLACK-THROATED BLUE, May 15, Karsdale (Johnson); BLACKBURNIAN, May 18, Karsdale (Johnson); CHESTNUT-SIDED, May 4, Wedgeport (Pothier); BAY-BREASTED, May 23, Brier Island (E. Cooke); BLACKPOLL, May 11, Cole Harbor, Pictou (Fullerton, Holdway); PALM, April 26, Cape Sable (Smiths); OVENBIRD, May 10, Karsdale (Johnson); NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH, May 18, Seal Island (Fullerton et al); MOURNING, June 1, Hants Co. (NSBS); YELLOWTHROAT, May 11, Karsdale (Johnson); WILSON'S, May 18, Seal Island (Fullerton et al); and Halifax Co. (MacDougall); CANADA, May 18, Karsdale and Seal Island (Johnson and Fullerton et al); AMERICAN REDSTART, May 12, Karsdale (Johnson).

The HOODED WARBLERS were identified aboard the Lurcher

May 21 and 23, 1 each day (Doucette).

The only warbler reports received from Cape Breton were of the Black-and-White, on May 23, and the Yellow (first seen June 2 (MacLean)); but by June 9 in Antigonish Co., on the Breeding Bird Survey, 14 species were recorded by the Kenneys and their group. An interesting wave of warblers went through Halifax city on June 4, including Blackburnians, Blackpolls and Tennessees, noted by Helleiner, W. Mills and Allen.

A BOBOLINK way out in front was seen May 3 at Port Maitland, Yar. Co. (Wakeling per Pothier), but the main migrants arrived May 15 to 23, according to reports from Cape Sable (Smiths); Shel. Co. ("Coastguard"); Wedgeport (Pothier); Brier Island (E. Cooke); Karsdale (Johnson); Hfx. Co. (Hinds) and Pictou (Holdway). Three MEADOWLARKS have been seen, 1, Mar. 26, Shel. Co. ("Coastguard"); 1, April 17, Cape Sable (Smiths); and 1, June 6, Bridgetown (Hyson). A YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD has been reported, probably an immature male, May 23 at Port Wallis, Hfx. Co. This bird was seen at close range and well described to C.R.K. Allen by Dr. Murray MacKay (NSBS). The REDWINGED BLACKBIRD returned in force, starting Mar. 24, surprisingly reported from Shel. Co. ("Coastguard"); with "numbers seen on the 26th and following days". Mar. 26 is the date for the first Redwings at Amherst (Lowerison); Mar. 27 for Anna. Co. (Johnson); Mar. 30 for Yar. Co. (Allen); Mar. 29 and April 1 for Hfx. Co. (Huxtable, Hinds, Allen, Topples). Allen saw 50+ Redwings at Arcadia, Yar. Co., April 18 "the largest number I have ever seen in Yarmouth county". "Many" Redwings were seen in Glace Bay, April 3 (Joe Smith per MacLean). Two very interesting reports of the ORCHARD ORIOLE come from Seal Island, 1, May 25 (Hinds, Fullerton), and from Sable River, 1, May 14 (Harlow per Lewis, "Coastguard"). The BALTIMORE ORIOLE was first reported May 5 from the Lurcher (Doucette), and first seen in Shel. Co. May 10, at Granite Village ("Coastguard"). Paul Slauenwhite saw 3 on May 17 and notes that for the previous three years May 18 was the arrival date. There were 6 nests in the vicinity (Lawrencetown, Anna. Co.) last year. The Smiths report a Baltimore Oriole at Cape Sable May 27; several are currently present in Yarmouth town (Clulee); and 1 was heard singing, throughout June, south end of Halifax city (E. Mills, D. Ward).

The RUSTY BLACKBIRD came with the Redwings, Mar. 26, noted on that same day in Dartmouth, at the Piggery (E. Mills), and several at Karsdale (Johnson). Dates for the COMMON GRACKLE also coincide with the Redwing and Rusty: Mar. 26 at Amherst (Lowerison), Karsdale (Johnson), and Shel. Co. ("Coastguard"). There were 200+ at Round Hill Mar. 28 (Whitehead) and 60+ in the Kings-Hants area Mar. 30 (Allen), a few seen that day also near Dartmouth (Hinds).

The BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD has been around all winter, but at Tusket, Yar. Co., 15+ April 6, 6+ April 12, 70 April 13 and numbers thereafter suggest a migratory movement (Allen). We have 3 SCARLET TANAGERS this spring: 1, April 29-May 1 at Wedge Point, identified by Israel Pothier. Mr. Pothier said it was feeding on kelp. Another was seen May 16 at Lower Ohio, Shel. Co. (Bowers,

"Coastguard"), and the third June 1 at Cape Sable (Smiths).

A good number of reports have come in of the ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEEK, starting May 5, 1 at Ingomar (Ornberg): but most for May 15 to 26, generally distributed: Anna. Co. (Johnson, Whitehead); Shel. Co. ("Coastguard"); Hfx. Co. (Jeffries); and a pair at Seal Island (Fullerton et al). E. Mills saw 7 of these beautiful birds scattered between Mattatall Lake and Tatamagouche on June 7. Quite a few INDIGO BUNTINGS have been seen: 1, April 16, Shel. Co. (Lloyd); 1, May 2 to 9, Halifax (Christies and Chute); "several" May 14 to 23, Shel. Co. (Lewis in "Coastguard"); 1, May 14, Cape Sable (C. Symonds); and 1, May 30, Rockingham, Hfx. Co. (Hughes). A pair of DICKCISSELS strayed to Cape Sable, seen there June 3 (Smiths).

The unpredictable EVENING GROSBEEKS left Glace Bay on April 7, returned briefly April 11, and then disappeared for good. Oddly enough 6 appeared in Round Hill (Anna. Co.) April 11 also (Whitehead). On May 25 Dr. Whitehead saw 2 males and a female in the vicinity. Elizabeth Huxtable, Purcell's Cove Rd., Hfx. Co. also suspects summer resident grosbeaks, possibly nesting, as a female has appeared there since May 8. At Amherst, May 27, Evelyn Lowerison counted 50+ evening Grosbeaks eating maple blossoms. At Pictou, 6 of these birds appeared May 28, left and none has returned. (Holdway)

Because of frost at night, the roads were slippery for spring trips in April and driving was made more treacherous by craning our necks at the treetops. One particular bird was sought almost more than any other, the PURPLE FINCH, which had completely deserted us last fall. It was late in coming, but eventually returned in great numbers. C.R.K. Allen saw the first one, at Renardton, Yar. Co., on April 14, but the most of them came a week later and appeared everywhere at once. Lewis in the "Coastguard" reports a "large influx late April through May"; the flock at the Chutes in Halifax built up to 53 during the same time; April 23, 24 and 25 saw these finches return to Lun. Co., Anna. Co. and Glace Bay; and by May 12, they were abundant in Pictou, as reported by all of our observers above-named for these localities. There has been a vast expenditure on sunflower seed, but the finches have again repaid us in song.

The AMERICAN GOLDFINCH also deserted us last fall. We missed the winter Goldfinches, but they too have returned in good numbers. Whitehead at Round Hill saw 6 on April 5, 3 were seen April 13 near Port Latour (E. Mills and Doane), a flock reached Glace Bay April 30 (MacLean) and thereafter they became common and very vocal.

Although they were here all winter, it is interesting that the RED CROSSBILLS back of Lawrencetown Beach, Hfx. Co., have lingered there, 30 seen April 20 (Fullerton), and a few April 28 (Allen). Allen also saw a Red Crossbill at Chebogue, Yar. Co., April 17. With the Reds, on April 20, Sylvia Fullerton also identified 2 WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILLS, very scarce of late in Nova Scotia.

Four reports of the RUFIOUS-SIDED TOWHEE have come from the Smiths at Cape Sable; 1, April 9, 1 (female) May 9, 3, May 12, and 1 male with 3 females May 15. On May 19-26, 2 Towhees were present on Seal Island, seen there by the NSBS party. All expectable sparrows have been reported so far this spring, starting of course with the IPSWICH SPARROW, 2 visitors only on the mainland, 1, April 14 at Fish Island, Cape Sable (Smiths); 1, April 19 at Conrad's Beach, Hfx. Co. (Hinds and Bowman). From Sable Island, Mrs. Bell writes that Ipswich fledgelings left the nest June 12. The SAVANNAH was seen at Glace Bay April 3 (MacLean) but most reports are for April 13 and 14, generally distributed. Anketell-Jones said 6 Savannahs arrived April 27 at the Citadel, Halifax. They nest there regularly. The SHARP-TAILED was seen June 7 at Brule Beach, Col. Co. (E. Mills), June 8 at Karsdale (Johnson). The VESPER is presumably ashore by now, but we have only the Lurcher reports, of 3, May 15, and 2, May 22. Juncos, the SLATE-COLORED JUNCO, that is, first came in migratory numbers Mar. 26-31, to Shel. Co. ("Coastguard"). The first CHIPPING SPARROW reports are May 10, Anna. Co. (Whitehead), and May 12-14, Hfx. Co. (McNab's Field Trip, E. Doull). We are fortunate to be able to include a FIELD SPARROW, from Seal Island, seen there May 19-26 (Fullerton et al). Since the WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW is also a rarity, the sightings are listed as follows: 1, May 3; 2, May 11; and 2, May 21, Cape Sable (Smiths); 1, May 7, Granite Village, Shel. Co. ("Coastguard"); 1, May 7 to 9, Yarmouth town (Canns per Allen); 4+, May 18-26, Seal Island (Fullerton et al); 1, May 19, Flemming Heights, Hfx. Co. (Huxtable). There appeared to be two main waves of WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS, April 12-14, and April 27-29. Reports are too numerous to list, but Whitethroats arrived at Cape Sable on both of the above occasions, as well as in many other parts of the province simultaneously. Very few FOX SPARROWS came this way this spring. On Mar. 26, 1, and on April 3, 2 were seen at Cape Sable (Smiths); 1, Mar. 30, Armdale (MacDougall); 1, April 3 at Cole Harbor (Fullerton), who saw 10 April 6, 3 April 7 and 1 April 12 in that area. On April 6, 3 were seen at Lawrencetown, Hfx. Co. (Allen, Doulls), 2 more in the same place April 10, and 1 at Glace Bay April 11 (MacLean). No other reports have come in. A LINCOLN'S SPARROW, recorded on our June 1 trip to Hants Co., is the only record of that species. The SWAMP SPARROW is an April arrival, first date this year being April 13 of 2, seen at Barrington and Cape Sable Island (E. Mills and Doane). March 25 and 26 were arrival dates for the SONG SPARROW, which became widespread almost immediately (by Mar. 30), and generally distributed. The Song Sparrows had been singing for two weeks before the last of the SNOW BUNTINGS departed, 2 very late ones, on April 13 from Louisbourg. (Sara MacLean)

REPORTS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER DUE OCTOBER 25.

The following list of birds arrived too late to be embodied in the main report. Actually, it is better for it to remain intact, giving as it does a complete picture of the remarkable spring population of birds on Sable Island. Dr. Ian McLaren is on Sable Island continuing his study of the Ipswich Sparrow, and unless otherwise noted, the observations are his own.

(SHEARWATERS, very large numbers of GREATER, with 20% SOOTY, and a few FULMAR, were seen on the trip from Halifax to Sable Island, June 9.)

#### BIRDS ON SABLE ISLAND

Little Blue Heron. Adult April 18, the Bells.

Common Egret. One immature May 7-25. Much harried by terns. The Bells and others.

Bl. Crowned Night Heron. 1 immature May 26. I McLaren, J. Poulva.

Glossy Ibis. 2 on May 3 and 3 on May 16-20. Bells and others. Seen also May 20 and one found dead June 1. Possibly same group.

Canada Goose. March 28 - 7.

Black Duck. Winters on Sable Island. Broods of 8, 10 and 12, and one nest of 8 on May 25. McLaren.

Mallard. 1 June 2, the Bells.

Blue-winged Teal. Pair arrived June 8 and probably resident. McLaren.

Green-winged Teal. One dead, 9 (female) June 22.

Red-breasted Merganser. Pair arrived May 7, built up to 20 resident. Ducklings - 6, June 2.

Osprey. June 4-5. One. Bells and McLaren.

Sparrow Hawk. Several records, May 1 - June 11, of individuals. One dead.

Pigeon Hawk. May 18 (Bells), June 7 (McLaren), June 11 (Bells).

Pheasant. Chicks on June 16.

Common Gallinule. May 25 - 1. McLaren and Poulva.

Curlew Sandpiper. One studied well by the Bells Jan. 26. White rump clearly noted: "definitely not Dunlin" (which they had seen in fall). I think this is a "good" sight record.

Piping Plover. Once said to be abundant on Sable Island. Not so



now. Two on May 4 and up to 4 on May 9-24. May have been transient. One or two around early June may be breeding.

Semi-palmated Plover. First noted May 9. Resident.

Black-bellied Plover. 5 on May 29. McLaren.

Killdeer. Pair apparently breeding. Bells and McLaren. One record Feb. 4, otherwise after May 5.

Spotted Sandpiper.

Whimbrel. One May 5. Bells.

Snipe. One or two pairs apparently breeding. Bells and McLaren.

Stilt Sandpiper. May 8-11 - 1. Bells.

Solitary Sandpiper. May 8-25. Up to 3. Bells.

Willet. Few records.

Greater Yellowlegs. First recorded May 20. One or two still present June 19. Peak of 6+ late May - early June.

Semi-palmated Sandpiper. May 21-24. Up to 2. Bells.

Long-tailed Jaeger. Two on beach and harrying terns in fog, June 9. McLaren.

Some Great Bl. Ba. Gulls and Herring Gulls hatching early June. McLaren and Bells.

Ring-billed Gull. 2 on May 8. Bells.

Common - Arctic Tern. Arrived May 16.

Roseate Tern. Arrived May 24.

Rock Dove. One arrived June 19. First in 2 years. Banded.

Nighthawk. June 7, 9, 11, 19, all singles. Bells and McLaren.

Chimney Swift. May 22 - 4, June 2 - 1, June 9 - 1. Bells and McLaren. June 11 - 2.

Kingfisher. Several recprds, singles and pairs, May 9 - June 19. Could breed (?)

Flicker. April 30 (1), May 2 (1), May 8-9 (1).

Downy Woodpecker. May 14 (10+), May 19 (1), May 22 (10+).

Kingbird. First Record May 7 (1). Scattered individuals through May. Sharp peak of 25+ at west end June 7. One or two until June 20.

Phoebe. One on June 7 with flycatcher peak. Bells. Also 1 May 31.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. First seen June 4 (1). Peak of 2 - 50+ - ca 10 on June 6, 7, 8. Last seen June 1 - female.

Empidonax (Least Traill's). First noted May 18. Scattered through May. Peak of 6 - 20 - 6 on June 6 - 7 - 8 at west end. Last seen June 17.

Pewee. First seen May 19, peak of 25+ around west end June 7. Last seen June 20.

Olive-sided Flycatcher. June 7-8 (1). McLaren and Bells. Another June 10-11.

Cave Swallow (?) Nine swallows that arrived after strong southern winds on May 17 were noted as being "odd" by Mrs. Bell. I remember seeing at least one "Cliff Swallow" with dark forehead in late May but took no further thought at the time. A badly rotted specimen picked up by McLaren June 21 had dark chestnut forehead, remains of buffy throat, and dark chestnut rump patch - all characteristics of the Cliff Swallow of Texas-Mexico; more to the point, the West Indies. Specimen will be sent to Ottawa, but tentatively seems a good first for Canada.

Tree Swallow. First record May 15. Peaks at May - early June.

Bank Swallow. First record May 22. Peak early June.

Barn Swallow. First seen April 29 (1). Peaks of up to 50+ birds June 6-8, May 15, May 22-25.

Cliff Swallow. First seen and peak May 25-26, ca 10+.

(All above still present. Barn and perhaps Tree Swallows on June 20.)

Purple Martin. Scattered records. May 25 (1), May 27 (2), June 2 (1), June 5 (1).

Crows. Scattered records March and May.

Red-breasted Nuthatch. Scattered individuals May 7 - June 5.

Winter Wren. April 1 (1), April 27 (1). The Bells.

Catbird. May 1-3 (1), May 25 through June 8, several, with peak of 4+ on west end.

Brown Thrasher. June 16 (1). A. Mansfield (fide McLaren).

Robin. One male Jan. 29, otherwise 1 to 3 from April 3 to May 19.

Hermit Thrush. One Feb. 11-12, otherwise first migrant Mar. 28. Mostly singles between May 7 and June 7, with peak of 6 on May 15. Bells.

Swainson's Thrush. Mostly singles and twos, May 26 - June 11, with peaks of 5 on June 7.

Grey-cheeked Thrush. Single records May 15 - June 8. McLaren and Bells.

Veery. Ones and twos, May 28 - June 5. McLaren and Bells.

Wood Thrush. One bird (?) May 20-27. Bells.

Bluebird. 1 May 13. Bells.

Golden-crowned Kinglet. April 27 (1), April 28 (1), May 3 (2). Bells.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet. First noted April 26 (2). Peak of 8-12 on April 29 - May 3. Thereafter singles until May 27.

Water Pipit. First noted May 27 (1). McLaren. Peak of ca. 7 on June 2, last seen June 8. Males singing. Good terrain for these, but saw three head off at dusk on night of June 8. Towered up to 100 feet and set off due NE.

Cedar Waxwing. Flock of ca 10 on June 7. Last seen (3) on June 9.

Starling. First arrivals April 5. Nesting by May 22. First young June 10 (fledged).

Black-and-White Warbler. First May 25. Peak May 26. Ones and twos up to June 18.

Tennessee Warbler. Ones and twos June 1-8. Peak of 5 on June 2.

Nashville Warbler. May 25 (2).

Parula Warbler. Regular ones and twos May 26 - June 9. Peak of 20+ west end on June 7.

Yellow Warbler. Ones and twos May 25 - June 11. Peak of 5+ on June 7.

Magnolia Warbler. Between 1 and ca. 5 May 7 - June 8. Peak of 15+ on June 7.

Cape May Warbler. May 23-25, one or two.

Myrtle Warbler. May 2 - June 5. Peak on May 7 (ca 20). One on June 21.

Black-throated Green Warbler. May 26 - June 8. Ones and twos. Peak on May 29 (5+).

Cerulean Warbler. One well studied by C. Bell, June 6.

Blackburnian Warbler. May 23-25. one to three.

Chestnut-sided Warbler. May 25 (1).

Bay-breasted Warbler. May 22 - June 19. Usually ones and twos. Peak of 25+ west end on June 7.

Blackpoll Warbler. May 20 - June 21. Usually ones and twos. Peak of 10+ on June 4-5 and June 7.

Palm Warbler. April 30 - May 29. Ones and twos.

Ovenbird. May 25, June 8. Ones, twos and threes.

N. Waterthrush. May 25 - June 8. Peak of 5+ June 5.

Mourning Warbler. June 5-19. Ones and twos.

Yellowthroat. May 25 - June 8. Ones and twos.

Wilson's Warbler. May 25 - June 16. Up to a few. Peak of 5+ June 7-8 at west end.

Canada Warbler. May 22 - June 13. Usually ones and twos. Peak of 6-7 June 1.

Redstart. May 25 - June 21, few. Peak of 20+ June 7, west end.

House Sparrow. First fledglings of large colony on June 5.

Redwinged Blackbird. May 27 (1), female.

Baltimore Oriole. Ones and twos, May 25-29.

Orchard Oriole. Carefully identified. McLaren and J. Boulva. With Baltimore. Low blackbird-like note heard May 25.

Rusty Blackbird. First Mar. 9. Flocks up to 20 in April. Last seen June 7 (2).

Bobolink. Up to 2-3. May 24 - June 7.

Common Grackles. Ones and twos from April 28 to June 2.

Boat-tailed Grackle. A male of this species observed May 7-10 by the Bells. It is very large in size ("length of a small gull") and its huge tail - appearing fully the length of the body - made it conspicuous. It gave much opportunity for close observation. Presumably a storm-blown stray. The bird does not appear to have been hitherto recorded in Canada. (Arrived about same time as egret.) The Bells are strongly convinced of this identification.

Cowbird. First April 4. Some flocks in April; 1-5 through May. At least one pair still present June 21. One Ipswich Sparrow nest parasitized young cowbird and 4 Ipswich Sparrows fledged June 21.

Rose-Breasted Grosbeak. Single females. May 1-29, regular.

Evening Grosbeak. Males on May 19 and 24.

Purple Finch. Regular in small numbers May 7 - June 10.

Common Redpoll. Three (or more) individuals around west end June 8 - 10. Photographed. Extraordinarily late?

Pine Siskin. 2-4 June 7-19.

Goldfinch. June 11 (1).

Ipswich Sparrow. Perhaps a shade less common than last year (statistics not analysed yet). First young off nests mid-June.

Savannah Sparrow. A few "suspicious" Ipswichs in late May may have been migrant Savannahs. One "good" Savannah with Ipswich, app. nesting.

Junco. Singles April 1 - June 7. (Also 2 on Feb. 2.)

White-crowned Sparrow. Small numbers regular May 8 - June 11. Peaks of 5-10 birds May 15-19.

White-throated Sparrow. Small numbers regular April 27 - June 8. Peaks of 4-8 birds May 15-21.

Fox Sparrow. Small flocks March 31, April 2 and 21.

Lincolns Sparrow. Single bird(s) May 26 - June 7.

Swamp Sparrow. Ones and twos May 15-26.

Song Sparrow. Singles between May 7-26.

Snow Bunting. Last seen spring - April 4.



White-crowned Sparrow

F. W. Dobson

## NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY TRUST FUND

Since publication of our last issue, the Nova Scotia Bird Society Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund, duly authorized by the Department of National Revenue, has come into existence. This means that from now on, all donations to this fund may be claimed as deductions for income tax purposes, and legacies will be free of succession duties.

The Fund has been set up under a separate Board of Trustees consisting of C. R. K. Allen (Chairman), Dr. L. B. Macpherson, and Willett J. Mills.

The purposes of the Fund are those stated in its title, namely to aid in the establishment and maintenance of sanctuaries in suitable localities in Nova Scotia, and to give financial assistance to those engaged in study or research in ornithology.

The Society is deeply indebted to Mr. R. A. Kanigsberg, whose time, thought and refusal to accept an initial "No" from the Department of National Revenue, is almost entirely responsible for the final success in establishing the Trust Fund.

The Fund has already received one gift - a sizeable one - which will be invested and the income used for the above purposes. Needless to say, all gifts need not be large; each one, however small, will bring us closer to the time when effective support can be given to the conservation of suitable habitats, and the enlargement of our knowledge of the birds of Nova Scotia.

Cheques should be made out to the N. S. Bird Society Sanctuary and Scholarship Trust Fund and mailed either to the Nova Scotia Museum, Spring Garden Road, Halifax, or to any of the Trustees.

## RECENT ACTIVITIES OF THE NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY

On the evening of March 28, at the Sir James Dunn Science Building, Halifax, Mr. Ted Gittens of Acadia University gave an illustrated lecture to members of the Nova Scotia Bird Society, jointly with members of the Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Association and the Halifax Wildlife Association, on "The Plight of the Bald Eagle in North America".

An alarming decline in numbers of this species in the U. S. A. led to revision of existing legislation, to give complete protection to the Bald Eagle, in 1961. Numbers continued to

decline, and the National Audubon Society agreed to make a study of the situation to try, if possible, to uncover basic causes. Tentatively, suggested causes are habitat destruction, human disturbance, the wide use of pesticides, and illegal hunting. Until valid data exist in support of these suggestions, or other reasons are unearthed, nothing can be done constructively to remedy the situation.

The Bald Eagle is a majestic bird, with a seven foot wingspread. Nests can be ten feet in diameter, and may weigh up to two tons. Pines and deciduous trees are preferred, often near a lake or river. Eagles mate for life, and return to the same nest year after year. One to three eggs is usual; incubation is thirty-five days, but the parents will desert the nest, if disturbed. Percentage nesting success in Florida, where habitat destruction is worst, had dwindled to zero by 1967.

In Canada, Bald Eagle studies are under the joint sponsorship of the Canadian and the National Audubon Societies; one on the West Coast under David Hancock, and the East Coast study by Ted Gittens. Mr. Gittens started a year ago in May to survey the eagle population, in Cape Breton. His special areas are Bras d'Or, Lake Ainsley, Lake Rossignol and the Tusket Lakes, but in fact, the whole province is to be covered, if possible. He has undertaken to find out how many birds there are; the population on a seasonal basis; the nesting range; and influences of food supplies, weather, etc. on percentage nesting success.

Mr. Gittens started walking last May 1, in terrible weather, up 92 miles of coast. His Herculean effort netted one Eagle. An appeal to the Canadian Wildlife Service resulted in the rental of a small plane. Flying rather adventurously at about 100 feet over the same area, fourteen eagles were spotted. Employing this method whenever possible, Mr. Gittens succeeded in finding 150 Bald Eagles in N.S. by October, 1967. Surprisingly, a census of the Bras d'Or region in November yielded 104 birds. Mr. Gittens suggested that this might be a migrant population, possibly from Newfoundland or Labrador. By Dec. 2, the Bras d'Or was frozen, and the birds had mostly disappeared.

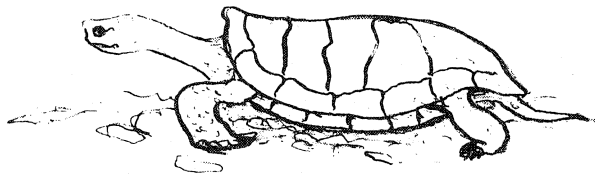
In order to carry out his survey adequately and efficiently, in the time allotted, Mr. Gittens believes that the use of a plane, carrying a tape recorder (besides himself and the pilot) is essential. Obviously this is true, if he is to remain single-handed. He maintains the plane disturbs the birds less than approach from the ground. If this is true, the expense would appear to be justified. In any case, it is to be hoped that money will be forthcoming to enable Ted Gittens to carry this eminently worthwhile study to completion.

At a meeting of the Nova Scotia Bird Society on April 4 at the Sir Charles Tupper Medical Building, Halifax, Dr. Eric Mills gave an illustrated lecture on "Islas Encantadas - a view of the Galapagos Islands". Dr. Mills visited the Galapagos 2 years ago, while on an Oceanographic expedition, and was able to obtain some magnificent pictures, in spite of the prevailing misty weather, of this dramatic landscape, with its strangely unusual flora and fauna.

This is young country geologically, with no apparent connection with mainland South America. It is largely volcanic basalt, arid at sea level, but cultivable in the highlands, where torrential rains alternate with damp cool weather. Darwin referred to these as "cultivated areas of the infernal regions". Certainly the 500 foot cliffs, tortuous rock formations, and weird vegetation, as exemplified in Dr. Mills' pictures, produced a dreamlike, not to say nightmarish, background for his remarkable "shots" of the birds and animals.

Dr. Mills' masterly and colorful exposition on the history and natural history of the Galapagos held his audience spellbound. The animals are similar to, probably related to, the ones on the mainland. It is not necessary to add that it is their differences which have made them such a fascinating study, from Darwin's time (1835) onward. At the present time, the principal studies are being made on the remaining tortoises, and the famous Finches.

Previous to Dr. Mills' address, members of the meeting passed a motion to establish a Trust Fund for the support of Sanctuaries and Research. Hitherto, the Society has been unable to gain tax free status in order to pursue its conservation aims on a larger scale. We hope that this Trust Fund will enable us to become more seriously involved in such activities. For a description of the form and purposes of the Fund as set up, see page 67 preceding.





## IMPRESSIONS OF TERRA NOVA NATIONAL PARK

by S. R. Kerr

Terra Nova National Park is well worth the attention of any naturalist. Since I have just returned from a stint of field work there, I thought it might be helpful to others who plan to visit the area if I jotted down some of the things which I found interesting. Although my work did not leave me a great deal of free time for exploring, my field notes should nevertheless give some impression of what is available.

The Park encompasses approximately 150 square miles of maritime taiga, generously dotted with "ponds" (mainlanders would consider many of these to be lakes), and with a sizable proportion of bog. The east boundary of the Park consists of about 75 miles of the shoreline of Bonavista Bay. Via Trans-Canada Highway, it is approximately 400 miles from the Sydney - Port aux Basques ferry, and 150 miles from St. John's. Although the Park is relatively new, it affords most of the visitor facilities we have come to expect of a National Park. Further information can be obtained by writing either the Superintendent, Terra Nova National Park, Glovertown, Newfoundland, or the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, Ottawa.

Since the Park lies upon the northeastern end of the Appalachian mountain system, its geology will seem familiar in principle to Nova Scotians, but there are many points of interest.

The bedrock is mostly Precambrian, occurring in three major groups, which are all well-exposed in the hilly coastal region. These afford a wide diversity of heavily metamorphosed sediments and volcanics, all extensively folded, fractured, and eroded. To the west these groups are bounded by Devonian granite.

Glacial deposits are ubiquitous, and in places impressive. A somewhat indefinite terminal moraine to the west of the Park indicates the source of the meltwater and materials which produced an interesting series of outwash trains in most of the river valleys. These often terminate in sand deltas, one of the largest of which is located just outside the Park, in the Eastport-Sandy Cove area. At Sandy Cove a relative drop in sea level has left the top of the delta 100 feet above the present beach. The overall impression fostered by these outwash deposits, and supported by the obvious fact that the streams and brooks are too small for their valleys, is that a vast amount of meltwater from wasting ice to the west once passed through the area.

Instances of glacial striae and polishing, although not locally spectacular, are not difficult to find; certainly one location which should not be overlooked is the beautifully polished red conglomerate at the base of the observation tower on Ochre Hill. The direction of ice movement is easily determined by abundant erratics from the Devonian granites to the west. These occur throughout the area, for example on the beach near Park Headquarters, where the light tones of these rocks contrast

conspicuously with the darker boulders from local bedrock.

The area is generally forested, and although black spruce is the overwhelming dominant, balsam fir, white birch, white spruce and a few others occur locally. Mosses and lichens are abundant, particularly in the many bogs and muskegs. These wet areas merit special attention, particularly Gross Bog, which is a large, unforested, and wet carpet of mosses and sedge, studded with boulders, which sprawls over the crest of a rolling hill west of the highway. If you have never experienced such an area before, an hour's spongy stroll to its centre (best approached from the Terra Nova Road on the west boundary) will make you familiar with the character of large portions of Canada's northland: it is similar in many respects, for example, to parts of the James Bay Lowlands of Ontario. From the generous quantities of outwash sands in the downslope tree belt surrounding Gross Bog, I suspect that it is underlain by a lag concentrate (boulder field). The resulting poor drainage and lack of soil thus might account for the absence of tree cover.

Newfoundland is, of course, biologically depauperate; thus many mainland species of animals do not occur in the Park. Nevertheless, some familiar species, notably moose, make themselves conspicuous. You may also see, as we did, black bear, fox, snowshoe hare, beaver, and lynx. (The latter, unfortunately, was a road kill). Although caribou have been seen in the area, this does not happen frequently; a trip to the interior of the province would afford better chances.

The amphibians and reptiles are easily reviewed. Once you have seen the introduced green frog, which is locally abundant, you have covered the list.

Newfoundland is justly renowned for its trout and salmon fisheries, and the Park is no exception. Brook trout, locally known as mud trout, seem to be everywhere, and the larger ponds also offer arctic (aplina) char, ouananiche (landlocked salmon), eels, and occasionally sticklebacks. Although a few other species such as smelt occur in some Newfoundland lakes, these are not likely to be encountered without a careful search. The brooks and rivers support sea-run as well as resident populations of salmon and trout, and of equal importance, they afford some beautiful scenery to those fortunate enough to view them.

The birdlife of the region is both boreal and marine in character. Although my own list is at best partial, it should give some indication of what was available towards the end of May. Common Loon, Mallard, Bald Eagle, Osprey, Willow Ptarmigan, Semipalmated Plover, Common Snipe, Spotted Sandpiper (and other sandpipers I could not identify), Great Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Common Tern, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Gray Jay, Blue Jay, Common Raven, Common Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Boreal Chickadee, American Robin, Hermit Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Veery, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Black-and-White Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Palm Warbler, Ovenbird, Rusty Blackbird, Red Crossbill, Slate-colored Junco, White-throated

Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, and Song Sparrow. Since my activities were largely restricted to inland areas, the sea-birds are scarcely represented here; however, if your interests tend that way, it should be possible to arrange a trip with a local fisherman. But, whatever their interests, birders will find it worthwhile to consult Phil Patey, the Park Naturalist. He has taken a strong interest in the avifauna, and will be able to furnish considerable information on what to see and where to do it.

As befits the easternmost in Canada's chain of National Parks, Terra Nova features the marine environment, which penetrates deeply into the Park via the long fjord-like sounds of the submerged coastline. The visitor who arrives early in the season is likely to be rewarded with the spectacular sight of an iceberg glistening in the sun. If this is your first such experience, then, like me, you will consider that this alone justified the trip.

A casual shell collection along the shore of Newman Sound near Park Headquarters yielded only a few species: the common, the smooth, and the northern rough periwinkles, the Atlantic dogwinkle, the blue mussel, razor clams, the common soft-shell clam (long-neck clam), little macoma (*Macoma balthica*), and the common rock barnacle. A more assiduous search would doubtless have turned up others, but it appears that the species of a more Arctic character that I had hoped to find should rather be sought in more exposed regions.

In any event, a drive to one of the headlands will reward more than just the shell collector. Gravel roads give easy access to a number of the local fishing ports, affording a unique chance, at such locations as Happy Adventure and Salvage, to sample the flavour of Newfoundland fishing communities. Salvage I particularly recommend as a rewarding scene. I sincerely hope that the evident pride shown by the Islanders in their communities will enable them to resist the secular influences now likely with the completion of the Trans-Canada Highway. A fitting way to cap a visit to a fishing community would be with a shore dinner of Queen Crab, which can be purchased cheaply from the fishermen.

Although I have tried to group my observations in some semblance of logical sequence, this fails to convey my real impressions, which are rather in the nature of a Kaleidoscopic juxtaposition of contrasts. Imagine if you will an illogical jumble of such things as butterflies, blizzards, white-throats, icebergs, moose, moss, burns, spring warblers, lichens, rain squalls, hermit thrushes, and the sundry other items essential to a depauperate maritime taiga, locate all of these in an ancient, brooding terrain of heroic proportions, and you may come close to the impressions I have formed. In all, I can without reservation recommend a visit to Terra Nova National Park.

## FIELD TRIPS

The early morning field trips in the Halifax area were carried out as scheduled. There was an average attendance of 20 people, 21 on the all-day trip, June 1 in Hants County. The May trips in Halifax County netted about 26 species, and accounted for 10 newly-arrived warblers. On June 1, our first fine weather Hants Co. field trip in years, we identified 73 species, 15 of the warblers, all of our Flycatchers except the Phoebe, the Swallows (except the Martin), and most of the Blackbirds and Finches. Theoretically, summer had come.

Reports have not yet come in on the Cape Breton trips, nor the field day at Kedjinkujik. Readers are reminded of the trips to come: Evangeline Beach July 27, Point Michaud August 27, Brier Island September 14. The Bird Islands trip July 6 will be a thing of the past, but remember the Cheticamp-Capstick area September 7, for the hawk migration. Wayne Neily will be in charge, and suggests MacDonald's Store, at Cape North, as a meeting place, at 9 a.m.

Besides the above activities, members of the N. S. Bird Society made a first spring bird census on McNab's Island, Hfx. Harbor, May 12, and reported 43 species present, 31 of them migrants.

Breeding Bird Surveys were also carried out, as they were last year, by about 30 of our members, under the direction of Dr. Tony Erskine, and in co-operation with the American Survey, instituted under Chandler Robbins in 1965, to look for substantial changes in land bird populations.

Dr. Erskine urges all of our members to participate in the Nest Records Scheme, and if possible to obtain sufficient data to indicate success or failure of the nest.

## MARITIMES NEST RECORDS SCHEME

### Eighth Annual Report - 1967 Season

- Objectives:**
- (i) to assemble data on nesting of all bird species, particularly common species;
  - (ii) to make these data available to persons studying nesting biology of birds.

**Summary:** In 1967 fifty-six co-operators sent in to the Maritimes Nest Records Scheme 1,130 nest record cards representing 109 species of birds. The file now contains 3,212 cards from New Brunswick, 4,024 from Nova Scotia, and 1,092 from Prince Edward Island, a total of 8,328. Over 1,100 cards are now on hand for Robins and 700 for Grackles. Questions of priorities in use of nest record data may be dealt with by means of guidelines set out in this report.

**Justification:** Knowledge of breeding biology is necessary for successful management of any bird. Management can provide more birds for hunting or bird-watching; it can protect birds whose existence is threatened by alternative land use or by pollution; and it can control birds which damage crops. With increasing human populations, the need for management is constantly increasing.

Details of breeding biology of a species vary with area, habitat, and season, and with various factors in the environment, including climate, human disturbance, and biocides. One observer can rarely assemble sufficient data to evaluate effects of such factors over a wide area. Interested amateurs and professional biologists studying other subjects, by reporting data in standard form to a central clearing house, can provide the information needed for such critical studies. Such observations also provide permanent records of breeding distribution.

**Methods:** Each spring, printed forms, about the size of a postcard, with spaces for various kinds of information about nests, are sent to interested persons. Details of nests in which eggs or young are seen, heard, or felt, or at which adults are seen bringing food or carrying away fecal material, are entered on the cards. Nests under construction are not reported unless they are subsequently found to contain eggs or young. A card is filled out for each nest seen, whether visited once or many times. All nests in a colony visited only once may be entered on a single card, but cards should be filled out for each nest in a colony if individual nests are identified on more than one visit. All cards are sent in to the central clearing house:

Maritimes Nest Records Scheme,  
c/o Canadian Wildlife Service,  
P.O. Box 180, Sackville, New Brunswick.

Cards should be sent as soon as possible after the end of the nesting season; and, in any case, by October 1.

Discussion: (a) The number of cards received in 1967 and the number of co-operators reporting are both the smallest in five years. While about two-thirds of the people who sent in cards in 1966 did so again in 1967, there were fewer new contributors than usual. The decline in the New Brunswick total since 1963-64 is largely due to a decreased contribution from students at the University of New Brunswick and to the virtual disappearance of the Moncton Naturalists' Club contribution. The number of observers in Prince Edward Island has always been small, and the decrease there is explained by the withdrawal of one good observer and an accident to another. The same four observers led the Nova Scotia list in both 1966 and 1967, and in fact eight of the first nine were the same in both years, so it is not surprising that the Nova Scotia total was maintained.

(b) The decrease in number of cards submitted in 1967 may have been partly a consequence of the unusual weather during the breeding season. Record low temperatures during April and May were followed by the warmest June and July since 1963, and precipitation was generally above normal, though reaching record levels only during May. Martin Thomas remarked that the cold, wet weather in May had seriously affected both the early nesting success and the nesting habits of Grackles on western Prince Edward Island. He also felt that early ground nesting efforts had been reduced due to soggy ground, which also resulted in exceptionally shallow burrows by Bank Swallows. Nest record programs can provide invaluable data on such seasonal differences, and it is to be hoped that some of our observers will use cards now on file to explore this subject.

(c) The proportion of cards giving sufficient information for determining success or failure of a nest showed an appreciable increase. Excluding cards for young out of the nest, 57 per cent (610) of the cards gave sufficient data, compared to about 35-40 per cent of the totals in 1965 and 1966. Nearly seven-eighths of these were submitted by the 15 persons who sent in more than 20 cards each, and all but three of these observers gave adequate data for at least 40 per cent of their cards. This is encouraging, especially in comparison with 1965, when five persons who sent in 35 or more cards contributed between them only 20 cards from which success or failure could be determined.

(d) Only one request for use of data in our files was received in 1967. Stanley Teeple, of C.W.S. Pesticides section, examined all White-throated Sparrow cards in connection with his studies of breeding success in and outside of areas sprayed against spruce budworm. Martin Thomas expressed an intention to analyse data (including his own cards) on breeding success by Grackles in various years on Prince Edward Island. Thus far we have filled all such requests for use of data without any problems, and we hope to do so in future. However, questions of priority in use of nest record cards will undoubtedly arise, and it seems desirable to establish some guidelines in advance (cf. Myres, 1968). The following rules should simplify future

problems in priority:

- (1) The observer has first claim to his own data; at the time of submission he should have stated an intention to use them, especially if he is working from his own copies of the data;
- (2) All persons borrowing data from a nest record program should clear them with the original observer(s) unless all of the cards were submitted more than five years previously, or unless no series of more than five cards by a single observer is included;
- (3) Observers who have not kept copies or stated an intent to use data submitted to a nest record program have in effect waived their right to prior use, and the local organizer must accept the responsibility for resolving priorities;
- (4) In general, analyses at the local or provincial level will be given priority over those covering more extensive areas, since a person familiar with an area can use data gathered there more effectively than can an outsider; this will not preclude lending cards outside the Maritimes where no prior claims have been established within this region.

The North American Nest Record Card Program (NANRCP) at Cornell University plans to duplicate all cards now housed in nest record programs across North America, and to make the data available to research workers from there. Without guidelines such as those proposed above, it would be possible for two or more workers to be independently analysing the same data if one obtained them from the NANRCP and the other from a local program. This could lead to wasteful duplication of effort and perhaps of published results, and to failure adequately to acknowledge the efforts of individual observers. The NANRCP has not as yet asked to copy data in the Maritimes Nest Records Scheme, but it will doubtless do so in the near future. By having our data duplicated in that organization, we will minimize the risk of losing our original cards, while making the information available to a wider circle of bird students. By agreeing in advance on rules for establishing priority of use, we should be able to co-operate with the NANRCP without losing our right to prior use of our own data. Accordingly, we emphasize here that nest records collected in the Maritimes Should be submitted to the Maritimes Nest Records Scheme and not (even as copies) directly to the NANRCP.

Table I. Co-operators and numbers of cards submitted by each, (concluded)

Co-operators	Number of cards
<u>Nova Scotia</u>	
J. W. Johnson (Karsdale)	193
W. McNutt (Amherst)	97
Mrs. G. Snyder (Crousetown)	62
H. Brennan (Springville)	48
John Doyle (Halifax)	31
C. Coldwell (Gaspereau)	30
F. Alward (Glace Bay)	25
W. Neily (Ingonish Beach)	23
A. J. Erskine (Sackville, N.B.)	16
Miss E. Lowerison (Amherst)	14
W. E. Whitehead (Round Hill)	11
J. S. Erskine (Wolfville), L. Neily (Tremont), A.D. Smith (Sackville, N.B.)	9 each
Mr. & Mrs. R. W. Topple (Dartmouth)	7
Mrs. T. P. Hawkins (Wilmot)	6
Mrs. R. M. Eaton (Dartmouth)	5
Miss E. Crathorne (Dartmouth)	3
Dr. & Mrs. J.R. Gallagher (Barrington), Capt. E. Holdway (Pictou), Mr. & Mrs. J.B. Woodford (Marlton, N.J.)	2 each
A.J. Doberstein (Sackville, N.B.) R. Fyfe (Sackville, N.B.) R. Hounsell (Sackville, N.B.), R.W. Tufts (Wolfville), W.R. Whitman (Sackville, N.B.), Frank M. Rudolf (Lunenburg)	<u>1</u> each
TOTAL	610



Table II. Maritimes Nest Records Scheme file, as of 6 March, 1968

Species	Cards received in 1967	Cards on file for			TOTAL
		N.B.	N.S.	P.E.I.	
Common Loon	2	6	19	-	25
Pied-billed Grebe	3	9	15	2	26
Leach's Petrel	-	1	7	-	8
Great Cormorant	3	-	57	20	77
Double-crested Cormorant	1	8	7	6	21
Great Blue Heron	-	3	15	21	39
American Bittern	1	2	7	-	9
Least Bittern	-	1	-	-	1
Canada Goose	-	4	1	-	5
Mallard	-	3	2	-	5
Black Duck	14	113	131	16	260
Pintail	1	4	3	13	20
Green-winged Teal	3	43	29	1	73
Blue-winged Teal	6	180	63	14	257
American Widgeon	1	25	8	2	35
Shoveler	-	7	-	-	7
Wood Duck	3	105	10	-	115
Ring-necked Duck	4	54	92	1	147
Common Goldeneye	4	95	37	-	132
Common Eider	2	12	3	-	15
Hooded Merganser	-	9	-	-	9
Common Merganser	4	5	107	-	112
Red-breasted Merganser	4	2	13	32	47
Goshawk	7	4	42	1	47
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-	-	5	-	5
Cooper's Hawk	-	-	1	-	1
Red-tailed Hawk	-	-	12	-	12
Broad-winged Hawk	-	3	3	-	6
Bald Eagle	2	6	17	1	24
Marsh Hawk	4	4	3	-	7
Osprey	5	9	20	2	31
Pigeon Hawk	-	-	1	2	3
Sparrow Hawk	6	3	17	1	21
Spruce Grouse	2	9	40	-	49
Ruffed Grouse	15	98	52	2	152
Hungarian Partridge	-	2	2	-	4
Ring-necked Pheasant	1	2	6	-	8
Virginia Rail	-	5	-	-	5
Sora	1	6	2	-	8
Piping Plover	1	2	9	9	20
Semipalmated Plover	-	-	12	1	13
Killdeer	2	9	4	3	16
Woodcock	5	51	22	-	73
Common Snipe	7	15	16	3	34
Spotted Sandpiper	12	33	56	5	94
Willet	1	-	29	-	29
Least Sandpiper	-	-	2	-	2
Great Black-backed Gull	1	5	34	9	48
Herring Gull	5	16	14	8	38
Ring-billed Gull	21	22	-	-	22
Laughing Gull	-	-	3	-	3

Table II. Maritimes Nest Records Scheme file, as of 6 March 1968 (cont'd)

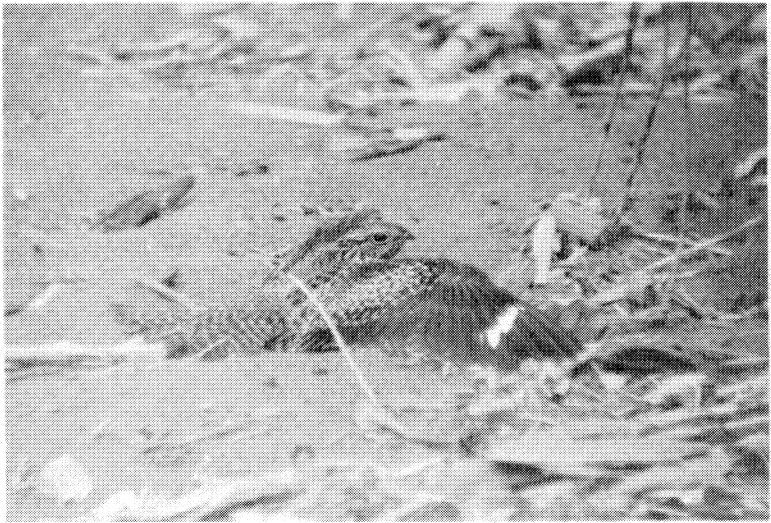
Species	Cards received in 1967	Cards on file for			TOTAL
		N.B.	N.S.	P.E.I.	
Common Tern	12	12	28	71	111
Arctic Tern	7	1	15	4	20
Roseate Tern	-	-	2	-	2
Black Tern	-	19	-	-	19
Razorbilled Auk	-	1	-	-	1
Black Guillemot	1	7	4	3	14
Rock Dove	14	15	28	18	61
Mourning Dove	-	1	-	-	1
Black-billed Cuckoo	1	1	5	-	6
Great Horned Owl	2	9	16	-	25
Barred Owl	4	1	12	-	13
Long-eared Owl	-	-	1	-	1
Short-eared Owl	1	1	1	-	2
Boreal Owl	-	7	-	-	7
Saw-whet Owl	1	2	8	1	11
Whip-poor-will	-	-	2	-	2
Nighthawk	1	3	4	-	7
Chimney Swift	1	1	11	-	12
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	1	1	6	1	8
Kingfisher	4	1	13	-	14
Flicker	10	14	62	3	79
Pileated Woodpecker	1	-	7	-	7
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	34	43	19	-	62
Hairy Woodpecker	2	8	8	-	16
Downy Woodpecker	2	-	9	1	10
Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker	1	2	4	-	6
Northern Three-toed Woodpecker	-	2	-	-	2
Eastern Kingbird	4	21	19	-	40
Crested Flycatcher	-	2	1	-	3
Eastern Phoebe	-	7	1	-	8
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	7	1	11	-	12
Trill's Flycatcher	4	3	14	-	17
Least Flycatcher	2	6	9	-	15
Eastern Wood Pewee	1	4	8	-	12
Olive-sided Flycatcher	-	-	22	-	22
Horned Lark	5	7	4	-	11
Tree Swallow	33	82	96	11	189
Bank Swallow	53	43	51	3	97
Barn Swallow	42	226	153	41	420
Cliff Swallow	7	22	49	-	71
Purple Martin	7	52	13	-	65
Gray Jay	1	3	7	-	10
Blue Jay	2	1	12	-	13
Raven	10	16	37	1	54
Crow	15	20	49	4	73
Black-capped Chickadee	2	3	17	2	22
Boreal Chickadee	3	5	10	1	16
White-breasted Nuthatch	-	-	3	-	3
Red-breasted Nuthatch	-	2	3	-	5
Brown Creeper	1	1	7	-	8

Table II. Maritimes Nest Records Scheme file, as of 6 March 1968 (cont'd)

Species	Cards received in 1967	Cards on file for			TOTAL
		N.B.	N.S.	P.E.I.	
Winter Wren	-	3	1	-	4
Catbird	12	17	47	-	64
Robin	182	416	501	185	1102
Wood Thrush	1	2	-	-	2
Hermit Thrush	24	20	53	1	74
Swainson's Thrush	2	11	11	?	24
Gray-cheeked Thrush	-	-	5	-	5
Veery	-	11	3	-	14
Eastern Bluebird	-	2	2	-	4
Golden-crowned Kinglet	-	-	8	-	8
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	1	11	-	12
Cedar Waxwing	2	26	25	2	53
Starling	48	89	203	35	327
Solitary Vireo	1	-	9	-	9
Red-eyed Vireo	2	5	17	2	24
Black-and-White Warbler	1	3	4	-	7
Tennessee Warbler	-	3	1	1	5
Nashville Warbler	-	2	2	-	4
Parula Warbler	-	-	3	-	3
Yellow Warbler	11	49	82	4	135
Magnolia Warbler	2	17	15	-	32
Cape May Warbler	-	-	1	-	1
Black-throated Blue Warbler	-	-	2	-	2
Myrtle Warbler	2	6	17	-	23
Black-throated Green Warbler	-	5	6	-	11
Blackburnian Warbler	1	2	4	-	6
Chestnut-sided Warbler	3	7	4	-	11
Bay-breasted Warbler	-	3	1	-	4
Blackpoll Warbler	-	1	2	-	3
Palm Warbler	-	-	47	-	47
Ovenbird	4	12	12	-	24
Northern Waterthrush	1	4	1	-	5
Yellowthroat	4	9	19	1	29
Canada Warbler	-	3	1	-	4
Redstart	5	22	25	-	48
House Sparrow	27	47	48	27	122
Bobolink	3	7	16	1	24
Eastern Meadowlark	-	1	-	-	1
Red-winged Blackbird	19	183	64	75	322
Baltimore Oriole	-	1	3	-	4
Rusty Blackbird	2	3	20	-	23
Grackle	98	169	222	312	703
Cowbird	7	26	19	11	56
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	3	6	5	-	11
Evening Grosbeak	-	2	-	-	2
Purple Finch	-	3	9	1	13
Pine Grosbeak	1	-	3	-	3
Pine Siskin	1	2	5	-	7
Goldfinch	3	3	17	-	20

Table II. Maritimes Nest Records Scheme file, as of 6 March, 1968 (cont'd)

Species	Cards received in 1967	Cards on file for			TOTAL	
		N.B.	N.S.	P.E.I.		
Red Crossbill	-	-	3	-	3	
White-winged Crossbill	-	-	6	-	6	
Savannah Sparrow	31	56	47	21	124	
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	1	1	30	-	31	
Vesper Sparrow	3	3	5	-	7	
Slate-colored Junco	75	56	167	23	246	
Chipping Sparrow	8	47	31	15	93	
White-throated Sparrow	32	74	54	4	132	
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	1	-	1	
Swamp Sparrow	1	23	6	2	31	
Song Sparrow	52	74	187	27	288	
Species		109	134	148	60	161
TOTALS: Cards		1130	3212	4024	1092	8328



Nighthawk defending nest

F. W. Dobson

## THE DOCKYARD SONG SPARROW

by M. W. Anketell-Jones

In the precincts of HMC Dockyard, it is a rare occurrence to see anything more exciting than a few gulls, house sparrows, rock doves, and starlings. However, being an eternal optimist, I maintained a winter feeding station and, after some time, attracted a male song sparrow. He became a permanent customer and was able to co-exist with the others mentioned above. He attracted a mate both this year and last. Last year, they raised a fine family of four under the most uncertain circumstances in the railway yard behind us, where the predatory habits of the cats, rats, and man are of an unexcelled standard.

This year, as I have said, a mate was duly attracted (on 6 April to be precise), and the two birds seemed to settle in comfortably with the other local feathered inhabitants. They also developed a remarkably confident rapport with us humans.

After some ten days of wedded bliss, an extraordinary thing occurred. One evening a little before sundown, I was attracted to the window by a lot of excited bird noise and was just in time to see all of the birds fleeing for cover - and believe it or not, from no less a beauty than a female pigeon hawk. She was literally within inches of the back door of the house, and having negotiated various clotheslines, power cables, and other obstructions, she singled out one sparrow and gave chase.

You guessed it - it turned out to be the resident male song sparrow sadly - he did not appear again that evening or the next day. On the second day, the female disappeared also - more sadness.

But on the third day after the incident - again two song sparrows were feeding here. My conclusion is that the first male was captured by the hawk and that the female had gone off up the tracks to the north end (where there are a number) and attracted a new mate to her Dockyard quarters.

It is interesting to speculate on why the male bird did not take cover in the presence of the hawk. Was it a matter of panic in light of his sheltered life in the Dockyard, or was he obeying an instinctive command to draw the danger away from his mate?

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor  
NSBS Newsletter

On Sat., May 18, I saw a male Boreal Chickadee at our cottage on 1st. Peninsula in Lunenburg. Later, at close range, I saw it carry a green caterpillar into a nest box. It appeared at the entrance hole a moment later still holding the grub, turned it around a few times, then ate it. This performance happened at least 3 times within the next hour.

At first I assumed that it was trying to entice a mate to the box. Later I looked in the entrance hole and could see the beak and shiny eyes of what I assume was the female sitting on eggs.

This nest box is an unpainted affair hung in midair on a wire from a tree to an outbuilding, about 8 feet above ground. About six feet away from the bird house are fir and spruce trees. The idea of suspending the bird house in this manner is to discourage squirrels. This is okay for red squirrels, but does not work for flying squirrels. At another part of camp property we have a family of flying squirrels occupying a house hung in midair on wire between trees. Last year two such houses were occupied by flying squirrels.

We had Boreal Chickadees in this same nest box described at the beginning of this letter in 1962.

If any members of the Society wish to visit our cottage (camp), they would be quite welcome. Our camp, named "Crows Roost" is about 2 miles from Lunenburg on 1st. Peninsula, on salt water. Tree growth is mainly fir and spruce; numerous fields and pastureland nearby, dirt road  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles is okay when dry.

Lunenburg, N.S.  
May 20, 1968

Frank M. Rudolf

Editor  
NSBS Newsletter

Fred Payne, provincial biologist, found American Widgeon breeding at Debert Sanctuary in 1966, and I saw them there last year. I don't know when they occupied the pond, but there were none when I surveyed it in 1961. With the new T-C Highway passing by the north end one can see more than one could from the dam; last year I saw a pair of Redheads there on 26 April, and Hugh Boyd and I saw a White-fronted Goose with Canadas on 16 October, but I was a bit suspicious that both species might have come from the Wildlife Park 25 miles south.

I was away for the past three weeks, for work in Ottawa and Toronto, and attending the Wilson meeting in Illinois. Travelling by car, I managed to note 132 species in all, though the only lifers were down in Ill. and Mo. But among the more exciting sights were closer to home - 4000 Snow Geese along the St. Lawrence between Montmagny and Riviere du Loup, and a Snowy Owl (probably also a second) near Kamouraska, on 8-9 May. Anyone driving to Ontario or Montreal around the start of May should go by that route to see the geese; they're a grand sight.

Sackville, N.B.  
May 10, 1968

A. J. Erskine

Editor  
NSBS Newsletter

What a pity that the birds and the extra spring chores come at the same time. But, as you say, it is nice to have a good spring. What a difference between this year and last! Song Sparrows are here in good numbers, plenty of Grackles and Cowbirds too. The Willets are back in good numbers, if one can judge from their calling. I confess they are one of my favourites. I've seen quite a few Purple Finches and saw my first Goldfinch in the door yard yesterday. The first ~~Redwinged~~ Blackbird came on Mar. 27 and I neglected to say that we saw our first Robin on March 27. We had a small flock of Evening Grosbeaks all winter, but they have moved on now.

We had a Mourning Dove here from the second of April to the thirteenth. It seemed to be in good condition. I would love to know if it was the same one that was here last fall.

My son Kenneth brought home a hawk that he found dead (shot) in the woods near here on April 16. I thought it was an immature goshawk. Its length was 18½ inches. It was whitish underneath, streaked with brown. Upper parts brown, long tail, wings fairly short and brown and rounded. I must confess I forgot to measure the wingspread. Poor Kenneth, he knew I would be interested so he brought it home to show me, but I am sure he thought measuring and examining a dead bird rather morbid, and once I had seen it he thought he should bury it at once. I am beginning to see why the rest of the world considers bird watchers rather odd. They are so interesting, though. (The birds, of course, not necessarily the bird watchers!)

Tusket, Yar. Co., N.S.  
May 22, 1968

Helen Hurlburt

Editor  
NSBS Newsletter

The "Atlantic Puffin Kindness Club" is holding a bird watching contest, to make the members (6 to 16 yrs.) more aware

of all the birds around us. (Of course we know that we must not touch or disturb any.)

Three "Puffins" - Marcy, Tommy, and Peter Neily were lucky enough to discover a Killdeer nesting on their property.

Realizing this is not a common bird to these parts now, our Raccoon Captain, Mrs. C. L. Long, asked Mrs. T. Hawkins to make positive identification for us, during which time we were surprised to see three miniatures of the female. They were in full dress, rings around their necks and had all other plumage. From what the children said, they had not been hatched for more than 10 days.

Thought you would like to know about the Killdeer, also that we do all we can to prevent nest robbing, or disturbing birds in any way.

Our pledge is - I promise to be kind to animals (as well as to people) and to speak and act in defence of all living creatures. The Motto - Be Kind.

We chose the Atlantic Puffin for our name as we wanted something pertaining to the Maritimes.

Middleton, N.S.  
June 18, 1968

Russel Long

Editor  
NSBS Newsletter

Each year many members of this Society probably visit Cape Breton Highlands National Park and, of course, observe some of the birds present. Some may have reported these to the Newsletter for publication, but more probably have retained the records in their notebooks or memories. At the present time, the staff of the Park is attempting to compile all data available on its natural history.

Thus, it would be a worthwhile and greatly appreciated contribution if visitors could write down any unpublished observations made within the Park boundaries and forward them to me.

Ingonish Beach  
Vict. Co., N.S.

Wayne P. Neily

Editor  
NSBS Newsletter

This year's schedule of field trips looks extremely interesting and I'd love to join you all on at least one of them.

Around St. John's, the birds remain scarce. A few



warblers have turned up in the past ten days but nowhere near the variety around Nova Scotia. Except for Spotted Sandpipers, there are no shore birds. No ducks. No GBH's. No Flycatchers. There are ospreys around, they say, but I've seen none. A Sharp-shinned Hawk a few days ago was the only bird of prey I've seen all year. So you see, it's tough going! However, I hope to make up for it in part today when I'm making a trip by boat out to the bird islands off the coast about 20 miles from St. John's. I've scanned them with the scope from a mile away on the mainland and the number of birds appears fantastic.

It is a sanctuary and a permit is required to go ashore so today I'll only be able to circle the islands. Next week-end I'll have a permit. It should be an interesting trip.

NSBS members are sure getting around this year - Scotland, South Africa, Alberta - where else?

The last issue of the Newsletter was very interesting and it's nice to know what's going on in the NSBS.

St. John's, Nfld.  
June 8, 1968

Eric Cooke

Editor  
NSBS Newsletter

The birds tended to arrive back in this area very early this year, 6 of them being here earlier than the earliest dates given in Tufts. I think they usually arrive here a bit early anyway, but this was an early year. The first Red-eyed Vireo certainly seemed out of place, singing before the leaves were out, near at hand. The Bank Swallow was flying noisily over a forested area, miles away from any banks. In a few species, the first individual appeared long before any others. I didn't hear a second Yellowthroat till May 16, or a second Red-eyed Vireo till May 26, or see any more Tree Swallows till around April 20, or more Bank Swallows till May 18 or later. After May 18, there was a sort of gap in the new species arrivals, and after that the last arrivals were about on the expected dates according to Tufts, or even a little later. Maybe the cool weather then caused the slow-down.

I saw a Meadowlark which was singing in a field by dykelands in Port Royal on May 11. I had never seen one around here. Also I saw a Mourning Dove on April 9. The Woolers of Karsdale said they had seen up to 3 feeding near their house during the first week of April.

In response to a question in the last Newsletter, I think English Sparrows are less common than usual here this spring.

I notice that mention is often made of sightings of Pileated Woodpeckers and Barred Owls, in the Newsletters.

Pileated Woodpeckers are fairly common here. I've heard them a great many times and seen them at least 10 times, other than around the nest. I've found 3 nests in the last 4 years. I imitate a Barred Owl whenever I hear one within a quarter mile, which is quite often here. They come very readily, and sometimes a pair will put on a frenzied howling, cackling and hooting performance within sight of me. I've probably seen them 50 or 100 times. I do most of my walking in the evening, and I hoot almost by habit every five or ten minutes whenever I'm in the woods at dusk or dark, and quite often an hour or two before sunset. Pileated Woodpeckers and Woodpeckers in general come to the call too.

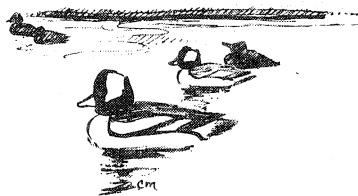
I noticed an inquiry in recent Newsletters about the breeding range of the Veery in N.S. This is one of the areas where they are truly very common, and have been for at least the past 20 years. The area is at least  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles long, east and west, and probably much longer, and less than half a mile wide. There are absolutely none any farther north than half way up the North Mountain. I believe the summer count I did in '66 had at least 30 Veerys. They often sing till almost 10 p.m.

I noticed a report in the April Newsletter of a Ruffed Grouse drumming last October. I thought it might be of interest that I heard several drumming on one afternoon about Nov. 20, 1964. Light snow was falling at the time.

On June 23 I saw the Bufflehead on the Basin again. With it were 2 black-appearing waterfowl, which might have been Coots. The light was poor. They were about twice the size of the Bufflehead, and had a duck-like silhouette. They didn't appear to have any markings. Their bills were definitely white and showed up against the head whenever they looked towards me; they moved their heads a lot. At first they were swimming with their duck-type tails cocked up.

Granville Ferry, Anna. Co., N.S.  
June 23, 1968

Joseph Johnson



## NOTES FROM COLE HARBOUR

by Rosemary Eaton

- 21/3/68 The C. N. Railway Section men brought in a female Lesser Canada Goose, according to Mr. Pace at the Wildlife Park, with a broken wing; from the state of the wound it looked recent. My old neighbour put it in a dog pen and kept it till the wing was healed and we took it to the Wildlife Park at Shubenacadie. My husband heard our neighbour letting his goose out of its "Kennel" one morning: "If you ain't made a mess, then I'm a liar. You just ain't fit to have around." A second wounded C. Goose was seen by the section men, but this one could fly a little. Two Great Black-backed Gulls were shot and survived for a while in the cove. The biggest exodus of Canada Geese that we saw was on 26 March when wave after wave flew out of Cole Harbour, 3500+ or 4000.
- 24/3/68 A.M. Mergansers diving under the ice and popping up like corks in the open leads. (9-10 Secs. under water).
- 27/3/68 Swept up the husks of all the winter's birdseed and erected Fox Sparrow barricades - remembering the big holes they dug last year and how they flattened the crocuses - so of course there were only a few this spring. I was working below the suet feeder and the female Hairy Woodpecker went on feeding about 2½ feet from my head, quite undisturbed by any movement. Saw the first Great Blue Heron in the cove.
- 31/3/68 A very strong N. wind may blow the ice out of the cove, but fishing must have been good in the sheltered open part of the cove as a Gt. Blue Heron was there and about 14 Black Duck were splashing about. A Gt. Black-backed Gull hovered over the cove with its tail spread in a huge white fan. Suddenly it dropped onto the water and flew up with an eel in its beak. The eel thrashed about wildly trying to get free and finally wrapped its dark brown body around the gull's neck. The gull dropped to the water again, fighting the eel, and then flew up a few feet above the surface with the writhing eel still coiled tightly around its neck. They struggled for minutes and then the gull must have been feeling the pressure and dropped the eel - making a last grab for it and missing. For about 10 minutes the gull stayed on the water shaking its head from side to side. It was joined by a second Gr. Black-Back and at last they flew off.
- Easter Day  
14/4/68 At 7:30 A.M. my husband looked out to the grassy island in the drive and said "What's that?" Without glasses it looked like a Robin, but it was in fact a Woodcock.

It was the first time we had seen one on the ground; it appeared to be hunting for worms. This looked like some ritual slow dance. It rocked about 3 times on each foot, sometimes more. Its head was held absolutely still on one side so that one eye and ear were close to the ground. (Can any Woodcock expert tell us if it was looking for movement or listening?) It made a very slow rocking progression across the lawn and then onto the gravelled drive. Then we could see that at each "rock" it picked up a pinkish foot as though pressing the ground with it. There has been frost the last few nights so I suppose the worms are more active during the day. The bird was very striking seen so close, with dark brown mottling on the grey-brown back and rich cinnamon breast, and some cinnamon on the head. There was something a little absurd about its immensely long beak and mini tail. It disappeared into the long grass at the side of the drive. Ten minutes later a neighbour's cat appeared, stalking something, so my husband hurried out to chase the cat off. After some seconds, the Woodcock whistled up a few feet from where he was standing.

- 15/4/68 A bedraggled Swamp Sparrow with rusty topknot appeared among the other birds. It fed for some time, but was timid and was driven off by one of the long-established Song Sparrows.
- 28/4/68 Saw my first Tree Swallow of spring. My old neighbour's mother told him when he was a boy that if he picked up his foot when he saw the first swallow of the year, he would find a hair on it, and that would be the color of his true love's hair.
- Heard Ruffed Grouse "drumming" frequently for the first time this spring.
- 29/4/68 My husband said he had heard a familiar wader - so I played that most helpful record, Petersons "Field Guide to Bird Song" and, of course, he recognized the Willets call at once. This record has also enabled us to identify our occasional owl as a Great Horned Owl.
- 30/4/68 There was a flash of crimson where the sun caught the head of a male Purple Finch on a stone in the fast-running stream. The bird dashed its head into the water repeatedly and washed and preened for some time. Then a small sparrow hopped up to where my dog and I were sitting and, as we were quite still, it took no notice of us. It was a Savannah Sparrow (with a bright yellow mark near the eye) which never stopped feeding for 15 minutes, mainly on ants and one brown caterpillar.
- 1/5/68 There was an absolutely spherical grouse in the garden - it looked exactly like the female Spruce Grouse in Godfrey's book, having no apparent ruffs and a lot of cinnamon color on the upper part of the breast, but it didn't have bars across the upper nape and back, and the

legs did not appear feathered to the toes. I watched it for over half an hour, made drawings, and am still not sure. Help needed! When I went out, the bird moved out of sight, but did not fly up with a clatter.

10/5/68 Male Rose-breasted Grosbeak feeding on maple buds in company of Purple Finches.

11/5/68 45°. Clear sky. The best looking sparrow that I have ever seen appeared in the garden. A White-crowned Sparrow with neatly spotted back, pinkish legs and beak, and a really snowy head striped with black. It hopped around with the other birds on the front steps and had a confrontation with a Song Sparrow. They both spread their wings, bowed low, beak to beak, and after a few seconds both went about their own business. It stayed around for some days. A Hermit Thrush did a very thorough preening job on the lower branch of a spruce. It flew off like a shadow when my dog moved.

13/5/68 Two males and a female Cowbird were squeaking in an agitated way. The female was perched on the end of a twig. About a foot away, the two males were displaying alternately. In turn each bird would appear to swell up, the tail fanned, then the wings opened and fluttered and uttering a squeak, the bird would end up with its head well below its perch and tail up in the air. Then it "sharpened" its beak on a twig. This display was repeated about 8 times by each bird. The female just sat on her twig, then fluttered down to the steps with the males following. They continued their courtship on the ground, but first each bird raised its head with beak pointing skyward so the neck looked thin and elongated. Then beak to beak, they flew straight up for some 20 feet with flailing wings, then flew off. The female perched on a twig and preened, one male returned later and continued his attentions.

Some Tree Swallows perched on our power line and two were duller in coloring than the others. One was presumably a female Tree Swallow, the other a Cliff Swallow which preened for 12 minutes. Its coloring was slate grey rather than bluish, and the orange rump was brilliant. The Tree Swallow perched right beside it, and when the Cliff Swallow flew off, the former flew with it. On another occasion, Barn, Cliff and Tree Swallows were perched side by side on the line.

A Redwing Blackbird was perched in a poplar, calling and flaunting his really startling red epaulettes - they stood right out from his wings.

17/5/68 Was looking sadly at the mass of dandelions in the drive when one flew off. An American Goldfinch. In a very small Indian pear tree 9 female Purple Finches were perched, see-sawing about every time they moved on the twigs.

- 18/5/68 Hearing an unfamiliar "Wheenk, Wheenk, Wheenk" repeated softly over and over again I searched for the bird and saw a Flicker perch on the top of a dying spruce tree where it was joined by a male. They mated for about 7 seconds and the male perched beside the female for a minute before flying off.
- A Blackpoll Warbler was flicking among the spruces - there were numbers of them. I have never seen so many of them at one time.
- 22/5/68 There is wild blossom all over the bush and singing warblers, and a male Purple Finch carolling in flight with fluttering wings. In the evening a Great Blue Heron was preening on a big rock, with a small white birch in leaf on one side, and a flowering Indian Pear on the other.
- 24/5/68 This was the best day for Warblers and the flies were getting troublesome. There were Magnolia, Chestnut-sided, Yellow, Yellowthroat, Wilson's, Myrtle, Parula, Blackburnian, Black-throated Green, Hermit Thrushes and White-throated Sparrows singing, and the first Spotted Sandpiper, working along the shore, also two Terns (probably Common) were splashing into the cove.
- 25/5/68 My husband had his first good look at a Ruby-throated Hummingbird which hovered for five minutes at some cowslips. Every now and then as it moved to another flower the sun caught its throat and it gave a dazzling red flash. We both got the feeling that it was really a green flying beetle and not a bird at all.
- 28/5/68 A Greater Yellowlegs feeding in the shallows was attacked most viciously by a Crow. (We both agreed the attacker was not large enough for a Raven.) We wondered if the latter had a nest nearby. It pecked fiercely at the wader, which made no attempt to fly off. The crow flew away, then returned to the attack. It left the Yellowlegs apparently stunned in the water which swam around feebly and erratically, calling over and over again. It swam very slowly to the north side of the cove and reached a stone where it stood for some time and then subsided. After half an hour, the bird moved between some rocks and roosted there. Later in the day I walked along the shore, but did not see it.
- A Spotted Sandpiper was bobbing around on some stones at the water's edge, and was joined by a second. The first stretched up with its head held very high and stalked to where the second bird had alighted. There was much fluttering of wings and they appeared to be fighting, but apparently it was a rather violent courtship as they mated briefly, one flew off, followed shortly by the other.
- 30/5/68 A greyish female Tree Swallow was perched on our power

line, close to the house. A male was fluttering in tight horizontal circuits about 4 feet from her, then hovered and mated for two seconds. The male resumed circling for 5-6 seconds and mated again. This pattern was performed 6 times. Then the green and white male alighted on the power line 4 feet from the female. She commenced busy preening while the male remained absolutely motionless for 5 minutes, moved 30 feet down the line, and after a minute started hovering around the female again. The routine was repeated 6 times as before, and after the male perched 10 feet away, quite still, and the female continued preening. Four minutes later the male flew off, followed shortly by the female.

A Great Black-backed Gull was in the cove. It had been shot and could not fly. It died some days later, and a second was found shot, washed up on the shore the same month.

- 7/6/68 A single Pine Grosbeak on the trees behind the house.
- 9/6/68 Was awakened by a Loon calling in the night several times as it flew over. Three Cedar Waxwings on the sunning tree.
- 10/6/68 Watched what I think was an Alder or Traill's Flycatcher among the alders in the swamp below the house. Two Ospreys planed over the cove quite low. A Red-eyed Vireo was warbling away on a tree close to the house for a long time, so it was possible to have a good look at the bird.
- 11/6/68 Watched a Ruby-throated Hummingbird for about half an hour. It was perched on the extreme, topmost twig of a dead tree. It was a male, as the sun caught the flash of red on its throat as it turned from left to right almost continuously. Sometimes it seemed to be picking at something on its perch, and after did "sharpening" motions with its needle-like bill. Sometimes I could see the long tongue flash out and back. The bird also preened under its wings and on its breast. Now and again it circled the tree and then came back to perch - always facing me. Later I approached it from the opposite side of the tree - again it was probably watching me. I thought possibly the female might be building a nest nearby, and left, so the bird could resume feeding. I had only seen a Hummingbird in flight before this.
- 18/6/68 My old neighbour wonders if the same Catbirds as last year are visiting him. If the door of his cabin is shut, the birds perch on the handrail 2 feet from the cabin and "meow" at him for dog food.
- 19/6/68 46° and a clear and dewy morning. Pink Ladies Slippers in the bush. Our very white husky walking just in front of me put up a small grey heron which I saw only for

seconds, but it did not have the ponderous flight of the Great Blue Heron. So I followed in the general direction of its flight, tied the dog to a tree, and approached the next cove very quietly and behind a spruce. A Great Blue Heron flew up protesting, so I thought I must have been imagining things. Then I saw the small Heron at about 100 feet, but dead against the sun so I could only see its silhouette and a line of russet color on its head and down its neck, and that the base of its heavy beak was pale. It had two trailing feathers at the back of its head and two spikes protruding from its tail. Its actions were most delicate once it started fishing. (Having been alarmed, it stayed in one position for nearly 15 minutes.) When it saw a fish, it inclined its head low and sideways over the water - presumably to see better. It looked like a Robin which appears to be listening for worms. Then the Heron made a dash at the fish and the wriggling, glittering minnow would be held for several seconds at the point of the beak, scattering drops of sunlit water. With a quick movement the Heron would then toss the fish back into its gullet. I watched it fishing for about 20 minutes, then it disappeared into the next cove. I thought it was a Little Blue Heron and saw it daily several times after this under all sorts of conditions, so it was easy to identify. On a dull day, one could see the bluish base to the beak, and plummy head and neck. Otherwise it seemed a uniform grey with a pale line of streaks down the centre of its neck in front. It was a much more slender and elegant bird than the adult illustrated in Godfrey's book - though once when a stiff breeze was blowing, some long feathers at the base of the throat were apparent.

It is a hard bird to find, being shy. If disturbed, it floats away silently and then stays without movement, merging into the shoreline. Its fishing technique seems to be a continuous movement in one direction along the water's edge. Then, on reaching the northern point of the cove, it turns and works its way back. Once it appeared right at the bottom of the garden. I hope it will stay in this cove as a certain amount of shooting goes on in the harbour, and now kids are out of school.

Heard, then saw, the first Red-breasted Nuthatch that I have found here.

23/6/68

An adult Junco brought 4 fully fledged, but spotty brown, young birds to the front steps, rather than carry the food to them. They made a great racket. They could fly pretty well, but one alighted on a daffodil leaf which tumbled the young bird to the ground. Song and White-throated Sparrows and Catbirds are also feeding their young, and nesting Willets set up a great outcry when anything approaches their nesting area. One pair of Black Duck were seen sometimes, but no young ones this year, perhaps because there is so much dead eelgrass and thick algae in the cove which would trap small ducklings.