

*Nova Scotia
Bird Society*



Newsletter

Volume 13, Number 3

November, 1971

NOVA SCOTIA BIRD SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

Volume 13, Number 3

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NEWSLETTER

Editor: Phyllis R. Dobson

Volume 13, Number 3

November, 1971

SUMMER and FALL, 1971

Consistent mild and even temperatures marked an exceptionally pleasant summer and fall season in Nova Scotia in 1971. Rainfall for the most part was light; but fog, persisting along the coasts until late in the summer, kept the humidity high and vegetation green. Hurricanes in August for the most part passed us by to the east or west, bringing some disturbances to the weather locally; but two brushed the coast sufficiently near to be damaging. On August 15 rain deluged parts of the province, with accumulation up to ten inches, causing severe flooding conditions, loss of crops, erosion of roadways, and bridges carried away. The City of Dartmouth, at the mercy of its huge lake system, was nearly washed from its foundations down its steep hills into the harbor. On the early morning of October 10, gales which had blown all night reached hurricane force (60+ mph) and a few trees crashed, a few small vessels came ashore.

Both of these storms brought Tern species to shore. Five Royal Terns "exhausted in hurricane wind" were well observed, at 25' on the east spit of Sable Island, on August 16 by Dan Welsh (vouched for by Ian McLaren) and a Least Tern was seen at Three-Fathom Harbor, Hfx. Co., August 16 by McLaren and Eric Mills. Another Least Tern was subsequently seen Aug. 25 on Seal Island by Davis Finch and Ian McLaren, and a photograph obtained. Sightings of the Black Tern, Aug. 16 and 17 along the Atlantic Coast may not be significant, since one had been seen at Lawrencetown, Hfx. Co. Aug. 1 (Eric Cooke); but the one (probable) Aug. 16 at Wine Harbor, Guys. Co. (Gordon MacLeod and Mrs. MacLeod) and the 2 at Lawrencetown Aug. 17 (Eric Mills) were followed by an increase of up to 4 by Aug. 22 at Lawrencetown (E.Cooke), 4 seen Aug. 23 at Seal Is. by Davis Finch and I. McLaren. Two of the Halifax Co. birds lingered on till Aug. 30, noted by C.R.K. Allen and others.

On Oct. 11, following the big easterly, a Common Egret was sighted at Cape Sable by Charles Symonds, and Betty June Smith identified it with no difficulty, at close range, by size, bill and leg color. The bird fed avidly in the salt marsh, flew about strongly, stayed only a short time. On Oct. 10 and 11, I. McLaren and E. Cooke found many terns, probably Common, brought back by the storm, about 20 in all,

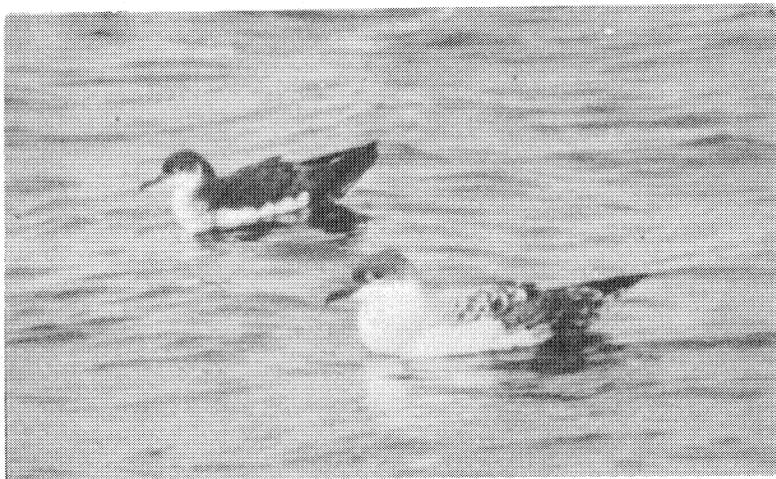
and including two "black-legged young Roseates" seen up to Oct. 17 flying over fresh water at Three-Fathom Harbor. A few of the Common Terns lingered until Oct. 23.

Our outstanding records for the season concern oceanic birds. This was the summer of the SHEARWATERS, along the Atlantic Coast, but chiefly in the Bay of Fundy, where the SOOTY appeared in May (seen from Brier Is.), the GREATER in mid-July (seen from the "Princess of Acadia") and the MANX - a week later from the same vessel. David Christie has sent us July and August records of six crossings of the Bay of Fundy from St. John to Digby and back, when he and/or Dr. and Mrs. and Chris Majka saw Greater Shearwaters on every trip, from a few to nearly a hundred per trip. Sootys were seen on five trips, and the Manx on four. On Aug. 8, on the "Bluenose" crossing from Yarmouth to Bar Harbor, Richard Webster saw several small Shearwaters, some definitely identified as Manx, also 2 Sootys and 59 Greater. Also seen were 3 Parasitic Jaegers, 3 Northern and over 300 Red Phalaropes and "a raft of Petrels which had 161 Wilson's and 28 Leach's." I.C.T. Nisbet of the Massachusetts Audubon Society counted 250 Greater Shearwaters and 2 Manx on the crossing from Yarmouth to Bar Harbor on the "Bluenose" Aug. 23. Holdway reported a Greater Shearwater in Northumberland Strait Aug. 13, and McLaren a Manx following the boat to Seal Is. Aug. 26.

The real excitement occurred on Brier Island, starting Aug. 24, when Eric Mills saw "over a thousand Greater Shearwaters in huge flocks off Northern Point moving SW into the wind, with gulls, terns and phalaropes". Smaller flocks were seen the next few days, with Gannets noted accompanying them, and on Aug. 29, the huge flocks again moved inshore, a few Sootys, 50+ Gannets and a Manx Shearwater identified among them. On Aug. 30 Eric Mills has written "a heavy migration overnight, with many warblers. Bobolinks, Empidonax flycatchers, Semi-palmated Plovers going over. During the day shearwaters and terns streaming past SW into the teeth of the wind, accompanied by many jaegers. Swallows also moving to SW over open ocean. Saw two land birds (Hummingbird and Whimbrel) making reverse migration up Long Island from Brier Island. Major warblers (from John Kearney's mist-netting) appear to be Cape May, Redstart, Northern Waterthrush, Magnolias. Also Empidonax flycatchers including good numbers of yellow-bellies." Four of the jaegers flew directly over Northern Point, and were identified as Parasitic. Another heavy migration the next night brought "an influx of Red-breasted Nuthatches and orioles..... Many terns still passing by accompanied by jaegers galore..... some of them chasing the terns high against the sky."

Mills estimated a peak number of 10,000 Greater Shearwaters for Sept. 1, and on Sept. 4, the day of the pelagic trip off Brier, the number was about 8,000, among them 150 Sootys and 50-75 Manx. Also seen were 15 Wilson's Petrels, 10 Gannets, 20 Double-crested Cormorants, 300+ Common Eiders, 250 Red and 15+ Northern Phalaropes, 4 Parasitic and 7 Pomarine Jaegers. The Shearwaters were all around the boat, practically eating out of hand, "a fabulous trip", according to all on board,

among whom were Eric and Ann Mills, Barbara Hinds, Sylvia Fullerton, Jim and Gillian Elliott, Davis Finch, Ross Anderson and Eric Cooke.



Greater and Manx Shearwaters near Moore Ledge. Taken from the boat on the Pelagic Trip, September 4, 1971, by Davis Finch.

PELAGIC TRIP

"Left Westport about 0930 in fishing boat of Stanley Moores. Proceeded north or slightly west of Northern Point, looking for tidelines and slicks. Shearwaters appeared almost immediately, mostly Greater, but 2 or 3 Manx went by rapidly. Not too many birds in the first area we stopped, but we chummed up a good flock of shearwaters with a mixture of fish guts and puffed wheat (it floats). Moved slightly to the NW, very close to Moore's Ledge and found there a series of long slicks (convergence rows) full of weed and phalaropes (around 250 Red, 15 Northern). Enormous flocks of shearwaters stretched as far as we could see. They floated right up to the hull of the boat and their mewling and snarling notes made a background for our birding. Manx Shearwaters went by regularly and 2 or 3 at a time were on the water in viewing range. About 150 Sootys were sprinkled among the thousands of Greater. Occasionally a Wilson's Petrel came up astern, but they were far from abundant. Jaegers came by regularly, and a fine Pomarine chased a Herring Gull briefly, giving a perfect size comparison.

The day was calm and flight activity low, except for gannets and jaegers. The numbers were truly astonishing, and why such a number of shearwaters is staying in the area is hard to understand. We have almost certainly made a North American high for Manx Shearwaters on a single trip." E.M.

Next day, the President's Field Day, was held on Brier Island, description to follow later, but the record number of 103 species seen included around 8,000 Greater Shearwaters, counted in Grand Passage, plus 20 to 30 Sootys, 10+ Manx, 4 Parasitic and 2 Pomarine Jaegers, a Kittiwake, and about 200 Terns, most of these latter sunning themselves on a ledge.

Although the Shearwaters deserve top billing in the Newsletter, many other notes of exceptional interest have come in for the 1971 summer - fall season in Nova Scotia. Outstanding among these are the sighting of a Gyrfalcon in early October on Seal Island; the discovery of a long-established colony of Black-legged Kittiwakes on Green Island off Cape Gabarus; Common Puffins nesting on an island in Mahone Bay; our first nest of the Evening Grosbeak located near Wolfville, and the first observation of the Ipswich and Savannah Sparrows interbreeding, on mainland Nova Scotia.

Note also the successful nesting of the Wood Duck at large again; the appearance of a hybrid Flicker in Cape Breton; and in the field of identification Allen's warning about the Brewer's Blackbird, and McLaren's comments on the Gambell's Sparrow and other late fall migrants.

We have in this Newsletter a long-promised and exceedingly valuable population study of the birds of Shelburne County, generously prepared for us by Dr. and Mrs. J. Roswell Gallagher, from their eleven-year records. Seasonal reports of the birds on Seal Island, by L. B. Macpherson, and of the birds on Sable Island, by Ian McLaren, have been augmented this year by a list of Cape Sable birds, compiled by Betty June Smith (to be published). To restore the balance geographically, Dr. Anthony J. Erskine has sent us a summary of seven trips during fall migration in northeast Nova Scotia, 1960 to 1968; also Wayne Neily has compiled a list (in both French and English) of the birds so far seen in Cape Breton Highlands National Park, copies available at the Park. Recently three population studies of small concentrated areas have been contributed to the Newsletter by students of Dalhousie and Acadia Universities: Welsh, D.A. (1969), Newsletter 11:115, The Palm Warbler and Other Birds of a Nova Scotia Bog; Ross, R.K. (1971), Newsletter 13:103, An Annotated List of the Birds of Guilford Island, Halifax County; and McAloney, K., and Sabeau, B.C., An Annotated List of the Birds of Tobacco Island (to be published). Two "Occasional Papers" are now available at the Nova Scotia Museum, compiled by two of our members: Holdway, E. (1967), Occasional Paper 5, Science Series 3, Nova Scotia Museum, Birds of the Pictou Area, Nova Scotia, A Ten-Year Survey: 1957-1966; and Erskine, J.S. (1968), Occasional Paper 7, Science Series 5, Nova Scotia Museum, Winter Birds of Wolfville, Nova Scotia, 1948-1968.

We draw your attention to the above publications as valuable works of reference. Bird populations are not static, and we hope similar studies will be made from time to time, and for other areas in the province. In the meantime, we feel that

the members of the Nova Scotia Bird Society have begun to build up a solid body of work, of great interest in itself, and of good use in the future.



RARE SIGHTINGS, both EXOTICS and NON-EXOTICS,
and NOTES of INTEREST

SHEARWATERS (including MANX), PETRELS and GANNETS, as noted above. Not previously seen in such numbers close inshore. Davis Finch lists 64 Greater Shearwaters Aug. 29 at Seal Is., 8,000 Sept. 8 at Moore's Ledge off Long Is., Digby Co., 8,000 seen from Brier Is. Sept. 5 and 4,000 Sept. 6 and 7, also seen from shore.

GREEN HERON, 1, Aug. 27, Cranberry Head, Yar. Co., seen by M. Hilton, A. Hurlburt, and S. Hilton; another seen Sept. 6 near Sandy Cove, Digby Neck by M. and S. Cohrs, M. Hilton and D. Kirk.

LITTLE BLUE HERON, 1, Aug. 24, Barrington salt marsh, J.R. and C. Gallagher; 1 imm., Aug. 27 to Sept. 6, Seal Is., D. Finch and I. McLaren, photo taken; 1 adult, Sept. 6, Barrington Harbor, Ben Doane.

COMMON EGRET, 1, Oct. 11, Cape Sable, C. Symonds and B. J. Smith.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON, 1, Aug. 22, Brass Hill, Barrington, seen by D. W. Finch, J.R. and C. Gallagher; 1 imm. Aug. 30 at Lawrencetown, seen by E. Cooke.

LEAST BITTERN, 1, Sept. 1 at Conrad's Beach, Hfx. Co. E. Cooke.

GADWALL, 1 (seen twice), Aug. 15, Cape Sable, S. and B. J. Smith.

AMERICAN WIDGEON, 1, Sept. 2 and 3, Sept. 4, Seal Is., D.W. Finch and I. McLaren. (Dr. McLaren adds that numbers were at Martinique Sanctuary in Oct., up to 20 birds.) Eight birds at Three-Fathom Harbor Oct. 10 were 1 male and 6 female American and 1 male EUROPEAN Widgeon. (Eric Cooke)

KING EIDER, 2 imm. or females, July 23 at Brier Is. E. Mills' note made at the time: "Forehead abrupt, bill small and appears short. Head light gray with lighter markings on side (Wood Duck-like), whitish mark over eye running forward and down behind bill shield. Top of head darker brown, giving 'capped' appearance. Body darker brown than head, but not as dark as nearby Common Eiders." One or two of these birds were

noted at intervals at Brier all summer, into October, seen also by D. Finch and others.

RUDDY DUCK, 1 male, June 25, photographed for the first record at Sable Is. by I. McLaren. (Several Ruddy Ducks appeared at Three-Fathom Harbor, 5, 1 male and 4 females, Oct. 10, and are still around, E. Cooke).

HOODED MERGANSER, 1 female, Aug. 22, Cow Bay, Hfx. Co., I. McLaren.

GYRFALCON. Ian McLaren writes: "In the spectacular falcon show on Seal Is. Sept. 25-26, a Gyrfalcon on the 26th. was outstanding. I.M. and E. Cooke spotted it at about 100 yards, a large, evenly dark falcon flying low across the lake, over the barrier beach, and steadily out to sea. We were in no doubt about its identity, but by a further stroke of luck, we watched it as it was overtaken by a substantially smaller falcon, which, after stooping at our Gyr a half-mile out to sea returned to have itself confirmed as a Peregrine. The larger bird landed on an offshore islet, where we were later able to "scope" it for our four companions who had missed it, enough for them to see it as a large and unrelievedly dark falcon. This was between glances at our Yellow-throated Warbler. What a combination!" On the Seal Island trip, Oct. 16, 17 and 18, probably the same Gyrfalcon was seen twice, the first time at very close range, and was independently and with no difficulty identified as a Gyrfalcon, dark phase, by C.R.K. Allen, Chris Helleiner, and Sylvia Fullerton. The Peregrine was still around too.

SPRUCE GROUSE. On Oct. 11 at Brier Is., Chester Lent collected a male Spruce Grouse which Eric Mills notes is the first really good record of the species for the Island. A recent letter from J.S. Erskine of Wolfville contained the following observation: "Two summers ago, my wife and I were returning from a visit to Benjie Lake when in the scrubby coniferous forest we encountered a family of Spruce Grouse. The chicks were beautiful woolly balls of white and chestnut, but the surprise was that a male bird, no doubt the father, was rounding up the stragglers and shooing them on to join the rest. I realized that this was not the behaviour of male Spruce Grouse. I consulted what books I could lay hands on, and none of them had anything to offer. I asked Robie Tufts, and he had never seen this behaviour and would have expected the males to desert their families in ruffed-grouse fashion. I tried Tony," Dr. A. J. Erskine, "and he said that he had once seen the same behaviour in a family of Franklin Grouse in British Columbia, and he suggested that this might be typical in the genus Canachites. We could do with a few more observations."

BOBWHITE. Puzzled by the discovery of a Bobwhite in the wild, July 1 at Lower Ohio, Shelburne Co., Dr. and Mrs. J. Roswell Gallagher of Barrington followed up the mystery and found that 3 of these birds had been released the previous autumn at nearby Clyde River. Bobwhites obtained from the Cyrus Eaton farm had produced five eggs (which were brooded by

a Bantam hen) at the Bullerwell's, where the Gallaghers also found two Chukkars, one male and three female Canada Geese and about forty Mallards; so, they have commented, "there is no way of telling what Shelburne County may produce in the future!" Apparently the Bobwhite had survived one winter, a severe one, successfully, in the wild.

GRAY PARTRIDGE, 12+ feeding in grass beside a corn-field, Aug. 28 at Grand Pré, Michael Eaton.

VIRGINIA RAIL, 1 immature, Sept. 18, found dead in the yard. Had struck the building. Cape Sable, Sidney and Betty June Smith.

PURPLE GALLINULE, 1, July 1, at Broad Cove, Lun. Co., Barbara Hinds, Sylvia Fullerton and E. Cooke.

COMMON GALLINULE, 1, Sept. 6 at the Hawk, Cape Sable Island, Ben Doane.

AMERICAN COOT, 1, Oct. 16 to 18, Seal Is., NSBS party, and 1, Oct. 23 at Porter's Lake, Hfx. Co., E. Cooke.

UPLAND PLOVER, 1, Aug. 8, Sable Is., Jean Burton; and 1, Aug. 24 at Seal Is., I. McLaren and D. Finch.

WILSON'S PLOVER? Among 1000's of Semi-palmated Plover Sept. 12 at Southside Beach, Cape Sable Island, Ben Doane saw one bird "much heavier, with heavier bill and ring". The question mark is added at Dr. Doane's request.

WESTERN WILLET, 1, Aug. 28 at Seal Is., collected by I. McLaren and D. Finch and sent to Earl Godfrey at Ottawa for identification. Measurements were: bill 58, wing 209, tarsus 70 mm.; a large pale long-legged Willet. Another gray one, even more Western-like, was seen by I. M. Sept. 11 at Conrad's Beach, Hfx. Co. Dr. McLaren considers it possible that most late Willets are of this race.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER, 1 to 6 individuals, Aug. 24 to Sept. 6, at Seal Is. seen daily by D. Finch and I. McLaren; 1, Aug. 27 and 2, Sept. 6 at Brier Is., Mills, Finch et al. Photograph taken of one of the Seal Is. birds.

CURLEW SANDPIPER, 1, July 10, Brier Is., Eric Mills noted: "1 adult, with 15 Short-billed Dowitchers at Pond Cove. A beautifully marked bird about 1/2 to 2/3 body volume of Dowitchers. Legs long and black, bill dark, long, strongly down curved. Sides of head, breast and upper belly bright brick-red. Cheek patch slightly darker than the rest of face. Top of head deep brown, lightly streaked. Back brown at top, lighter posteriorly and it and wings patterned with pale areas, as in spring-plumage Knot. Belly and undertail coverts white. Rump white when bird was flushed. Fed by standing deep in water (to level of tarsal joint) and using head like Dowitcher. Watched at 50 feet with 9 x 50 binoculars and 20x spotting scope for 15 minutes, then flushed for field marks in flight."

Also 3, Oct. 31 at Three-Fathom Harbor, Hfx. Co., identified by E. Cooke, Gillian and Jim Elliott. The first of the three strange sandpipers was feeding with Dowitchers, and very tame. Approached up to 15 feet away, it had to be "rushed at" to flush, when the white rump confirmed early suspicions of its identity. The bird lit nearby, and allowed further careful study of field marks. The bill was noticeably different from a Dunlin's bill, not drooped at the tip, but decurved throughout its length. The next two birds were with White-rumped Sandpipers, offering good opportunity for comparison. Attempts to photograph the birds next day were foiled by pouring rain.

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER, at least 7, Aug. 27 to Sept. 6, Seal Is., I. McLaren and D. Finch; 4, Sept. 5 and 6 at Brier Is., E. Mills, D. Finch et al; and 3, Sept. 6, on the Chester golf links, H.P. Moffatt.

MARbled GODWIT, 1, Sept. 19, at Round Bay, Shel. Co., Ben Doane.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE, 1, Aug. 25 (photographed) at Seal Is., D. Finch and I. McLaren; and 1, Sept. 11, at Lawrence-town, Eric Cooke. (Eric watched it feeding in a pond with 7 Lesser Yellowlegs and 1 Stilt Sandpiper.)

SKUA, 1, July 17, Bay of Fundy, Nova Scotia shelf 44°51'N, 65°51'W, Chris Majka, Dr. and Mrs. Majka and David Christie, who kindly sent us the Rare Bird Record for our report. The bird was seen among many other birds, chiefly gannets and gulls, near a surfacing whale. It was sitting on the water, took off and flew slowly by as close as 50 yards, in good light. All field marks well noted, species seen before by Chris Majka, who first spotted it.

POMARINE and PARASITIC JAEGERs (as above) seen in unprecedented numbers from shore late July through August and September at Brier Island (7 Pomarines and 4 Parasitic Sept. 4) many observers; besides numerous sightings in the Bay of Fundy during this period. One Parasitic Sept. 1 and 1 Pomarine Oct. 9 on Seal Is. trips, D. Finch and I. McLaren.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE, 2 nesting colonies reported; one fairly large, and apparently long-established at Green Island off Cape Gakarus, according to Tony Locke who discovered it June, 1971, on a Canadian Wildlife sea-bird survey. A flight over the Island revealed at least 77 nests, many in inaccessible places which cannot be seen from the sea. Of 15 nests examined, 6 contained 3 eggs, 7, 2 eggs and others only 1. Great Cormorants, Great Black-backed Gulls and Black Guillemots also nest here, and lobstermen set their traps near at hand, but the Kittiwakes tend their nests jealously, one parent always present, and appear to be surviving well. The other "colony" consists of 6 pairs of Kittiwakes nesting in the cliff at the harbor, Bay St. Lawrence, according to Earl Godfrey, reported to us from Cape Breton by S. MacLean. Black Guillemots share this nesting site with the Kittiwakes.

LEAST TERN, 1, Aug. 16, Halifax Co., Mills and McLaren; and 1, (photographed) Aug. 25, Seal Is., Finch and McLaren.

ROYAL TERN. Five seen as described in the Introduction Aug. 16 on Sable Is. Were again seen (or 5 others) Oct. 16, flying by Sable Is. into a 40 to 60 mph gale, possibly battling their way back from the Oct. 11 hurricane.

BLACK TERN, up to 5, Halifax Co. late August as noted in the Introduction, seen by E. Cooke et al; 1, Aug. 23 at Seal Is., McLaren and Finch; and 1, Sept. 3, 1, Sept. 6 at Brier Is., E. Mills et al.

COMMON PUFFIN. Tony Locke has also discovered two nests of the Common Puffin, an unsuspected colony, on Pearl Island, at the mouth of Mahone Bay. One nest was photographed (contained one egg) but the parent bird was sitting in the tunnel to the second nest which could not be examined. This island also supports nesting Guillemots and a large Petrel colony, and 2 adult Razorbills were seen flying round and round the island, in a rather proprietary way - an exciting possibility suggested. Pearl Island is remote from the others in the bay, and contains excellent habitat for alcid nesting, according to Locke.

CARRIER PIGEON. Louise Daley writes: "In Sept. while driving to Brighton I decided to take a side road through Marshalltown, going along I passed a white bird on the road, that had been run over. I stopped and picked it up and found it had unusual shaped wings and an aluminum band on leg, no. NPA.71.1797. A few days later I saw where a race had been held in London of Homing Pigeons and that some of them had not returned. Wondering if this bird could have possibly been one of these birds, I wrote the BBC for information."

Major L. Lewis, M.B.E., Secretary of the Royal National Homing Union Council, replied to Miss Daley: "The ring quoted by you as APA.71.T.1797 I think is possibly intended to read NPA, in which case it is a ring issued by the National Pigeon Association, the Secretary of which is Mr. E.H. Whitehead of Overdale, Langham Road, Bowden, Altrincham, Cheshire, to whom your letter has been forwarded, and I have no doubt that he will write you in due course. We do appreciate very, very much your kindness in reporting the finding of this pigeon."

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO, 1, Sept. 18, Cape Sable, N. Cunningham; and 1, Oct. 17, East Chezzetcook, B. Doane and I. McLaren.



BARN OWL with Keith Rogers, as photographed by Evelyn Lowerison, Amherst, May 29, 1971. See July Newsletter.

FLICKER species. A Flicker, seen June 19 and several days thereafter on their lawn by Warden and Mrs. Black of Pleasant Bay, Inv. Co., was described as having the markings of a Yellow-shafted Flicker, but red instead of black down the sides of the face, and "when it flew, the under parts, wings, tail, etc., were a bright salmony red". In American Birds, Vol. 25, No. 3, June, 1971, page 546, O.A. Buckley says: ".....introgression of genes from Yellow-shafted Flicker populations in the east into Red-shafted Flicker populations in the west, and vice versa, has been underway for some time, and is sharply on the increase, particularly as one approaches the two ocean coasts.Short (EBBA News, 34:4-8, 1971) emphasizes the point that true hybrids are restricted, generally, to the actual hybrid zone in the Middle Plains, and that the rest are merely introgressants, the result of genes from one population percolating across the country into the other. Nonetheless, efforts should be made to document this introgression, and everyone should be on the lookout for it in other hybridizing species (towhees, orioles, buntings, grosbeaks)." We are grateful to Jean Timpa for bringing the Blacks' observation to our attention.

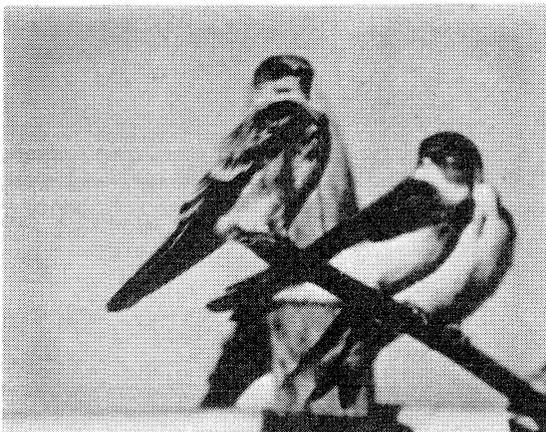
RED-HEADED WOODPECKER, 1 immature, Oct. 10 to 12 at Seal Is., I. McLaren; subsequently seen Oct. 16 to 18 by the last Seal Is. expedition, headed by Dr. L.B. Macpherson. This woodpecker inhabited our "backyard" and was to be seen almost continuously, very tame, in company with two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. As Dr. McLaren said "the woodpecker will be down at the boat to meet you".

BLACK-BACKED THREE-TOED WOODPECKER, 1, late July, Anna. Co., Granville B. Nickerson; 1, Sept. 1, Brier Is., I.C.T. Nisbet; 1, Sept. 3, Hubbards, Alice Chisholm; 1, Sept. 5 and 6, Brier Is., D. Finch, E. Mills, R. Anderson (first time seen for all three); 1, Sept. 12, Prospect, Hfx. Co., Fred and Evelyn Dobson; 1, Oct. 11, and Oct. 16 to 18, Seal Is., NSBS parties, and 1, Oct. 17, Markland, near Yarmouth, by M. Hilton and A. Hurlburt. An unusual number of records.

WESTERN KINGBIRD, 1, Aug. 30, Seal Is., D. Finch and I. McLaren (photos taken); 1, Sept. 6 at Brier Is., D. Finch, E. Mills, and R. Anderson (photos taken); and 1, Oct. 25 at Brookside, Hfx. Co., E. Dobson.

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER, 2, June 26 and 27, Upper Wedgeport, Yar. Co., seen by the David Henrys and the J.R. Gallaghers; and 1, Sept. 19 at Sable Is. by D. Welch and W. Stoho (possibly a reverse migration).

ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW, 1, Aug. 22, Lower Ohio, Shel. Co., D. Finch and the Gallaghers; 1, Aug. 25 and 26, Seal Is., D. Finch and I. McLaren. Second confirmed N.S. record, photograph as follows.



Rough-Winged Swallow. Alongside a Bank Swallow on one of Seal Island's television aerials. August 25, 1971. This is the second confirmed N.S. record.

CLIFF SWALLOW. Among the new colonies of Cliff Swallows reported this summer was one very small one consisting of one pair which attempted to reconstruct an old Barn Swallow nest at Cape Sable. The mud nearby proved too dry, consequently these swallows required, and accepted, help from Norman Cunningham, and between the three of them finally finished a proper nest, whereupon the swallows settled down and raised a family successfully. On the more scientific side, perhaps, a note from I. McLaren and W. Stoho mentions 5 Cliff Swallows seen at Martinique Beach Oct. 4, all of which had almost

ivory-toned rumps, not seen here among local birds, but characteristic of the race hypopolia nesting on the prairies and in the Yukon-MacKenzie district. Dr. McLaren suggests again that these late birds may be western strays.

HOUSE WREN, 1, June 16, along Route 12 near New Ross, J. S. Erskine; 1, Oct. 8 at Cape Sable, Sid Smith; 1, Oct. 11, Brier Is., E. Mills; and 1, Oct. 16 and 18, Seal Is., Dick Brown and C.R.K. Allen.

LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN, 1, Oct. 11 at Seal Is., seen by the McLarens; 1, Oct. 11 seen by E. Mills; and 1, Oct. 17 at East Chezzetcook, I. McLaren and B. Doane.

MOCKINGBIRD, 1, about all summer at Glace Bay (George Spencer per Sara MacLean); 1, all summer at Barrington (the Gallaghers); 1, July 2, Petite Riviere, Lun. Co. (S. Fullerton, E. Cooke); 1, July 7, Martinique Beach (I. McLaren); 1, Aug. 2 to 14, 22 to 30 at Sable Is. (McLaren); 1, Aug. 16 at Markland near Yarmouth (M. Hilton, D. Kirk, D. Rawlins); 1, Aug. 31 at Seal Is. (D. Finch and Bernice McLaren). Two's and three's seen about at Seal Is. by various observers up to Oct. 18; 1, Sept. 1 at Brier Is. (E. Mills); 1, Oct. 9 also at Brier; 1, Oct. 11 at Yarmouth town (M. Nickerson) and 2, Oct. 11 at Argyle and Clementsport, up Route 1 from Yarmouth (the L.B. Macphersons).

BROWN THRASHER, 1, Sept. 19, Brown's Brook, Lun. Co., Cohrs family; 1, Sept. 30, Cape Sable, N. Cunningham, S. Smith (another there Oct. 7); 1, Oct. 3, Halifax city, C.W. Helleiner; 1, Oct. 11, Brier Is., E. Mills; 2 to 4 Oct. 9 to 12, and 1, Oct. 16 to 18 at Seal Is., NSBS party.

WOOD THRUSH, 1, Sept. 1, Brier Is., E. Mills.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER, 1, Oct. 18, Seal Is., Roger Pocklington and others.

WATER PIPIT, 1, Oct. 16, Digby, now recuperating from a broken wing at Miss Louise Daley's hospital.

NORTHERN SHRIKE, 1, Sept. 22, Sable Is., (early date), D. Welsh, W. Stobo.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE, 1, May 16, Linden, Cumb. Co., Inez Finley; 1, Aug. 27, Cranberry Head, Yar. Co., M. Hilton, S. Hilton, A. Hurlburt; 1, Aug. 31, Port George and 1, Sept. 1 at Brier Is., I.C.T. Nisbet; 1, Sept. 1 at Seal Is. (photographed), I. McLaren and D. Finch.

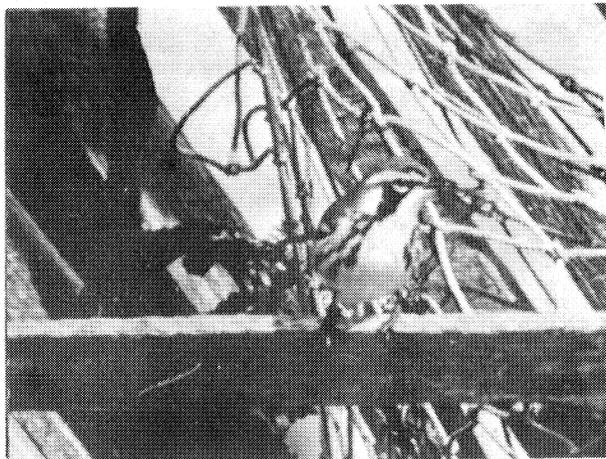
PHILADELPHIA VIREO, 1, Aug. 31, Seal Is. and 2, Sept. 6, Brier Is., Davis Finch and others.

WARBLING VIREO, 1, Sept. 1, Seal Is., collected, previously "hypothetical" in Nova Scotia, I. McLaren and D. Finch.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER, 2, Aug. 23 to 26, Seal Is., McLaren and Finch (photographed).

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER, 2, Aug. 24, Seal Is., Finch and McLaren, excellent definitive photo of one, to remove it from the hypothetical list.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER, 1 (eastern race), Sept. 26, Seal Is., Cooke, McLaren, Welsh. This is the second Nova Scotia record (photograph) and one of a handful of Canadian records.



Yellow-throated Warbler, eastern race.
Among the lobster pots, Seal Island,
Sept. 26, 1971. I. McLaren.

PINE WARBLER, 1, Sept. 25, Seal Is., Cooke and McLaren; and 1, Oct. 17 and 18, Seal Is., C.R.K. Allen and others.

PRAIRIE WARBLER, 1, Aug. 8, Sable Is., I. McLaren; 6 or 7, Aug. 24 to Sept. 6, Seal Is., McLaren and Finch; 1, Sept. 25, Seal Is., D. Welsh; and 1, Oct. 17, near Dartmouth (piggery), B. Doane.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT, 4 or 5, Aug. 25 to Sept. 5, Seal Is., Finch and McLaren. (At least 6 on Seal Is. Oct. 9 and 10.) 1, Aug. 31 and Sept. 1, Brier Is., Mills et al; 1, Sept. 12, 1, Oct. 2, and 1, Oct. 24, Dartmouth "piggery", Welsh and McLaren; and 1, Oct. 4, Halifax city, C.R.K. Allen.

HOODED WARBLER, 2 males and 2 females, Sept. 18 to 20, Sable Is., D. Welsh.

EASTERN MEADOWLARK, 1, Oct. 17 and 18, Seal Is., Dick Brown and others.

ORCHARD ORIOLE, 2, Sept. 19, Sable Is., Welsh and Stoko; 1 female, Oct. 6, Digby, Louise Daley.

BLACKBIRD species. C.R.K. Allen, to be found in black spruce bogs almost as often as the Rusty Blackbird, and

very familiar with this bird, was nevertheless convinced he had found a Brewer's immature, Aug. 21, which was balancing on a wire fence at Chezzetcook. The bird was dull black, with the barest suggestion of rust on throat and belly, when seen at very close range (10 to 12 feet), and it had completely dark eyes. However, consultation with various field guides revealed the fact that very young Rustys do have dark eyes, and this was obviously a very young bird. A word of warning to any unfamiliar with this characteristic.

SCARLET TANAGER, 3, Sept. 1, Seal Is., Finch and McLaren; 3, Sept. 6, Brier Is., Mills and Finch; 1, Sept. 23, Seal Is., McLaren.

SUMMER TANAGER, 1, Sept. 11, Broad Cove, Lun. Co., S. Fullerton.

BLUE GROSBEAK, 1 female, Sept. 22, Cape Sable, S. and B. J. Smith.

INDIGO BUNTING, 1, Oct. 10, Brier Is., E. Mills; at least 11, Oct. 9 to 12, Seal Is., I. McLaren; and 20+, Oct. 16 to 18, Seal Is., NSBS party.

DICKCISSEL, 1, Aug. 30 and 31, Brier Is., Mills et al; 1, Sept. 1 and 1, Sept. 25 at Seal Is., McLaren and Finch; 2, Oct. 9 at Brier and 5, Oct. 9 at Seal, 1 or 2 still on Seal Is., Oct. 16 to 18, NSBS party.

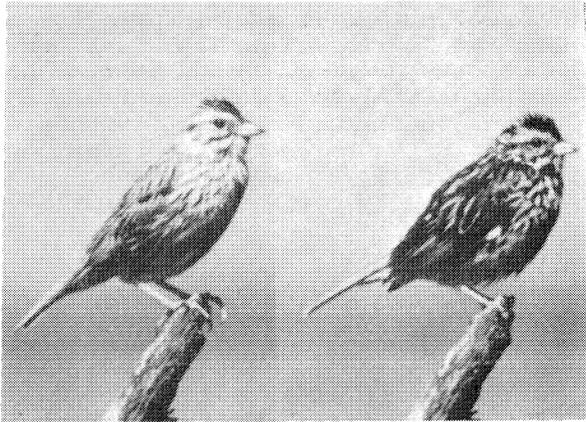
EVENING GROSBEAK NEST, The first actual nest of the Evening Grosbeak in Nova Scotia was discovered this summer, 1971, on the Bezanson farm at Wolfville Ridge. Murray A. Bent of Middleton (see Bridgetown Monitor, Sept. 8, 1971) describes the nest "eight feet from the ground on the south side of an apple tree about 20 feet from a farm building". Mrs. Olive Bezanson, who discovered the nest, has enjoyed watching the antics of the fledglings being fed by the parent birds. For some years we have received reports of adult Evening Grosbeaks feeding young, but have not before this had word of young in a nest. Many thanks to Thelma Hawkins for bringing this to our attention.

ROUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE, 1, Sept. 1, Brier Is., E. Mills et al; 1, Oct. 2, Yarmouth town, M. Nickerson; 3, Oct. 7 to 14, Cape Sable, S. and B.J. Smith; 4, Oct. 10, Seal Is., McLaren et al; 1, Oct. 16 to 18, Seal Is., NSBS party; and 1, Oct. 24, S. Halifax City, C. W. Helleiner.

IPSWICH SPARROW. Ian McLaren writes: "The complete count of resident Ipswich Sparrows on Sable Island in June was 2,440 individuals. We believe this to be very accurate, although cannot estimate limits.

A handful of Savannah Sparrows have been found nesting on Sable Island, and this year we made a special effort to find Ipswiches among the mainland Savannahs, searching all dune beaches between Martinique and Eastern Passage. Wayne

Stobo and I found one female associating with a male Savannah on Martinique Beach on June 3. Observations during June by Jim and Gillian Elliott confirmed this mating. I returned from Sable on July 3 and found their nest the next day. Alas, on July 5 the nest was found empty and torn, and the female flew off the territory across a half-mile of water when we approached. We found another destroyed nest, of the same style and size, lying on nearby shrub, and assume that this was the female's second unsuccessful attempt. Foxes from a den 100 feet away may have been guilty.



Mated pair, Ipswich-Savannah. The male Savannah, the dark bird, was smaller than the female Ipswich, but is ruffled up in this picture. Taken at Martinique Beach by Ian McLaren, summer, 1971.

I looked in vain for the female on July 13, her mate now consorting with a Savannah female (I believe he was a bigamist prior to the loss of his Ipswich female). However, I found another well marked Ipswich female and her dark Savannah mate feeding four young about one week old in a nest beyond the northeast boundary of the sanctuary. I photographed the adults (see figure) and the nest on July 16, when the young were leaving. The well fledged young were being fed by both parents on July 24. On this day Jean Boulva and I also saw an evidently unmated female Ipswich moving freely through Savannah territories near East Chezzetcook.

As a postscript, Wayne Stobo and I found the first out-foxed female still on her territory on Sept. 11, in full moult and tail-less, at a time when the Savannahs were all in spanking new plumage.

So there is no doubt that Ipswiches and Savannah Sparrows can interbreed, and that perhaps one in a thousand Ipswiches may do so on Halifax County beaches. But they remain very different birds. For example, Wayne Stobo and I counted

both species on Martinique Beach and Conrad Beach this fall, finding that Savannahs diminished from 150 on Sept. 11 to 80 on Sept. 29-Oct. 1, to 15-20 on and after Oct. 14, whereas Ipswiches did not arrive (3) until Oct. 1, peaked (55) on Oct. 14, and maintained good numbers through October."

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW, 1, Sept. 25, Seal Is., Cooke and McLaren; 3, Oct. 11 and 12, Seal Is., McLaren; and 1 or 2 still on Seal Oct. 16 to 18, NSBS party.

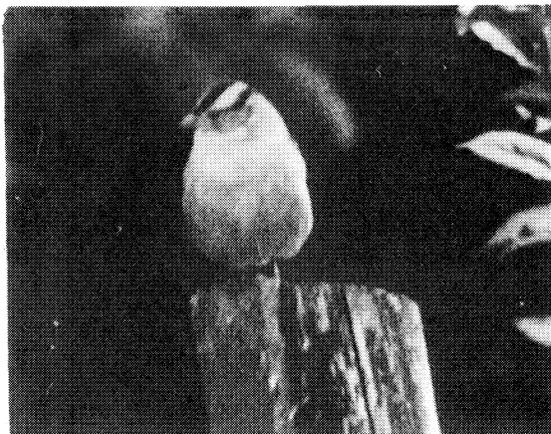
SHARP-TAILED SPARROW of western race? Ian McLaren notes: "Few of Acadian race noted on the Eastern Shore through October. One bird at Conrad's Beach on Oct. 4 was rich brown with light back streaks, very buffy breast. I could not appreciate the intensity of breast streaking. It may have been a wind-blown Common (southern) sharptail or one of the western race." On Oct. 7 at East Chezzetcook McLaren and Doane saw another peculiar sharptail, a very yellow and gray bird, possibly a wanderer.

SEASIDE SPARROW, 1, Oct. 9 at Brier Is., thus described by Eric Mills: "flushed from grass marsh on west side of big pond, Pond Cove. Very dingy slaty gray. Yellowish (pale) mark in front of eye. Bill very large and merging with front of head. Back streaked - gave slightly black-and-white striped appearance. Underparts heavily marked with broad, blurry slate-colored streaks. Tail rather short. Flew like a sharp-tailed sparrow with buzzy flight and "pitch" back into the grass. Quite a tame bird, which gave me a good view at 30 feet, beside a Swamp Sparrow which was the same size."

LARK SPARROW, 1, Aug. 24, Seal Is., Finch and McLaren; 1, Aug. 25, Blanche, Shel. Co., I.C.T. Nisbet; 1, Aug. 27, Brier Is., E. Mills; and 1, Sept. 11, Broad Cove, Lun. Co., S. Fullerton.

FIELD SPARROW, 1, Oct. 9-10, Seal Is., McLaren; and 2, Oct. 16 and 17 at Seal, NSBS party. Also 1, Oct. 17 at Wilmot, Anna. Co., T. Hawkins.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW, up to 23, mostly immature, Oct. 9 to 12, at Seal Is., McLaren; 8, mostly immature, still there Oct. 16 to 18, NSBS party; 1 adult, Oct. 11, Cape Sable, B.J. Smith; and 1, Oct. 17 at the Dartmouth "piggery", B. Doane.



White-crowned Sparrow, with characteristics of Western race gambeli. Seal Island, Oct. 12, 1971.

WESTERN WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW?? An individual resembling the Western race (gambeli) was watched by the McLarens on Mrs. Hamilton's bird feeder on Seal Island on Oct. 12. The gap in the black stripe in front of the eye was, of course, very evident. In the poor, suppertime light, the bird appeared as bright as the eastern birds, probably eliminating the most unlikely coastal race pugetensis. A photograph shows the gap of the black eye-stripe, but the gap is not very white. Also the bill appears pinkish. The bird was possibly one of the well-known hybrids between the eastern leucophrys and the western gambeli.



SUMMER POPULATIONS and FALL MIGRATION
in NOVA SCOTIA, 1971

The following account of breeding bird population and movements of regular migrants in Nova Scotia, summer-fall, 1971, is summarized from the records of the following observers: for Cape Breton as reported by Sara MacLean, R. Beecher,

the William Footes, George Griffin, Francis MacKinnon, Wayne Neily, Jean Timpa, and also reports from Richard Webster on his travels; for Guysborough-Halifax, C.R.K. Allen, Evatt Bishop, Eric Cooke, Ethel Crathorne, Ben Doane, Fred and Evelyn Dobson, Michael and Rosemary Eaton, Jim and Gillian Elliott, D.S. MacDougall, Gordon and Mrs. MacLeod, Ian McLaren, Eric Mills, Evelyn Lowerison and the Warders of the Eastern Shore Bird Sanctuary: Norman Smith and Garnet Snow; for Lunenburg-Queens, Michael and Shirley Cohrs, with Chris and Lisë, Eric Cooke, the Michael Eatons, Sylvia Fullerton and Barbara Hinds; for Shelburne-Yarmouth, C.R.K. Allen, David Boutilier, Norman Cunningham, Ben Doane, Davis Finch, the J. Roswell Gallaghers, the David Henrys, Marion Hilton, Sylvia C. Hilton, Andrew Hopkins, Adele Hurlburt, Dorothy Kirk, Margaret Nickerson, Dorothy Rawlins, Barry Sabean, Sidney and Betty June Smith, and Hazel Williamson; for Digby-Annapolis, Ross Anderson, Fred Barrett, Louise Daley, Davis Finch, Thelma Hawlins, Eric Mills and W. E. Whitehead; for Kings-Hants, C.R.K. Allen, Alice Chisholm, Andrew Hopkins, and Jean Timpa; for Colchester-Cumberland, Ross Baker, Barbara Christie, Inez Finley and Evelyn Lowerison; for Pictou-Antigonish, Harry Brennan, Ethel Crathorne, Eric Holdway, Fred and Margaret Kenney, D. S. MacDougall; at Sable and Seal Islands, Dalhousians Dan Welsh and Tony Locke assisted Dr. McLaren, and we were also fortunate to receive reports from out-of-province visitors: David Christie, Curator of the National History Department, New Brunswick Museum, Dr. I.C.T. Nisbit of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, and Richard Webster, distinguished American visitor. We very much appreciate their thoughtfulness in sending us bird records from their Nova Scotia trips.

LOONS and GREBES. COMMON LOON chicks still unable to fly were observed in Cape Breton lakes Aug. 17, but by Sept. 11 and 12 most adults had moved to salt water, counted in numbers off all coasts. REDTHROATS began to outnumber them in certain areas by Oct. 10. Nests of the PIED-BILLED GREBE were observed, provincewide in their usual but small numbers (5 noted).

TUBENOSES. Among the spectacular numbers of Shearwaters described in the Introduction, 2 Cory's Shearwaters were reported, 1 in the Bay of Fundy, 1 off N. Cape Breton (46°39'N, 59°17'W) but since no details were given we are unable to feature them. Also several more WILSON'S PETRELS were seen on the Atlantic Coast, Northumberland Strait and mouth of the Bay of Fundy.

GANNETS and CORMORANTS. A movement of Gannets was noted between Sept. 29 and Oct. 23, both in Northumberland Strait and mouth of the Bay of Fundy. Eleven juvenals were seen off Pictou Oct. 3, 23 adults Oct. 21. The southward movement of DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS was underway by Sept. 11 along the Atlantic Coast and was still going strong at Seal Island, Oct. 17, large skeins of birds flying over.

HERONS and BITTERNs. Reports on migration of the GREAT BLUE Heron, numerous along the coastwise inlets all summer, indicate movement late Sept. and early Oct. as

expected; the 57 in Cole Harbor Sept. 25 were down to 7 by Oct. 2. Reports of AMERICAN Bitterns were of the usual numbers of single birds mostly through the summer, no migratory numbers noted this fall.

GEESE and DUCKS. Unusually early reports of southbound CANADA Geese came from Lun. Co., 17, Aug. 28; from Anna. Co., 4 seen Sept. 6; from Lun. Co., 26 Sept. 9; and from Hfx. Co., 20 Sept. 12. Numbers built up in early Oct., to 1,000 in Tatamagouche Bay, around 700 in Cole Harbor, still "hundreds" at Port Joli. The few BLACK DUCK breeding records received mentioned normal size broods, and fair size flocks were building up at Yarmouth mid-August; about 100 at Brier Is. Sept. 5, the same number noted in Shel. Co. on that date. GREEN-WINGED TEAL flocks were noted Aug. 29 at Cole Harbor, Sept. 5 off Cape Breton and Sept. 6 near Yarmouth. At Seal Is. the one's and two's built up to 50+ after Aug. 31, 27 still there in the pond Oct. 16. Flocks of BLUE-WINGS at Merigomish and Yarmouth (200 to 300 along the Yarmouth shore) Oct. 2 represent the latest sightings except for a few singles. Three PINTAIL at Three-Fathom Harbor Sept. 28, 10 there Oct. 2, 5 at the same place Oct. 10 and 15 at Port Latour Oct. 15 could indicate a movement of this species. Four pairs of WOODDUCKS in the wild at widely separated points reported this summer resulted in at least three successful broods, one at Brooklyn Pond in Hants Co. (12 young), one at Black River in Lun. Co., and one at Brier Is. Scarcity of reports on RING-NECKED Ducks this past season may mean a falling off in numbers or possibly more remote breeding areas. First and only report of GREATER SCAUP is of 300, Oct. 14 in the Northumberland Strait, where this species usually appears earlier than in other parts of the province. An early report for southbound OLDSQUAWS is of one at Conrad's Beach, Hfx. Co., Sept. 11.

Conflicting reports on breeding success of EIDERS come from the Eastern Shore. One report states, however, that the breeding birds have moved to inshore islands, being driven from their old nesting sites on the outer islands by predation of Great Black-backed Gulls. In late summer and early fall Eiders appeared in good numbers all along the Atlantic coast and in the mouth of the Bay of Fundy.

Non-breeding WHITE-WINGED and COMMON SCOTERS were seen in early July at Crescent Beach - 25 of the former and 20 of the latter species. The Scoter flight was in progress at least by early October, but no great numbers were reported.

A flock of 22 COMMON MERGANSERS near Halifax Oct. 9 appeared to be a grown brood. A larger family of 24 young RED-BREASTED MERGANSERS was seen in Cape Breton on July 26 and another of 16 well-grown young was at New Harbour, Guys. Co., on Aug. 14.

HAWKS. The only suggestion of a migration of SHARP-SHINS is the report of 13+ at Seal Island, Oct. 16-18.

Twenty BROADWINGS at Brier Island on Aug. 27 and the

same number again on Sept. 1 would indicate that this species was leaving the province by its usual route during that period.

Reports of ROUGH-LEGGED HAWKS are few so far this fall. One at Sambro Sept. 18 and two, or the same bird, at Chegoggin and Cranberry Head near Yarmouth, Oct. 17, are the only sightings to date. An encouraging number of BALD EAGLE sightings have been reported for the period - a total of 26 including at least 7 immatures.

From 4 to 8 MARSH HAWKS were seen each day on Brier Island during the period Aug. 27 - Sept. 6, and a day's total of 4 was seen at Seal Island on Aug. 27.

A pair of OSPREYS produced two young on a second attempt near Lunenburg, while another single nestling was seen at Baccaro, Shel. Co., July 11. Adult birds up to 6 in one day were reported from many localities up to mid-September and a late straggler was at Pictou on Oct. 2.

There are still a few DUCK HAWKS around; an immature was seen in Cape Breton in July, 2 at least were at Seal Is. Sept. 25-26 and another noted at the same locality Oct. 16-18.

A total of 30 PIGEON HAWK sightings at Seal Island Sept. 25-26 had dwindled to 8 on Oct. 9-12 and to 3 on Oct. 16-18 suggesting a peak somewhere near the first date. Good numbers mostly of singles were reported from along the Eastern Shore in mid to late September.

The peak of SPARROW HAWK migration appeared to come at about the same time as that of the preceding species, 20-30 being seen at Seal Is. during the Sept. 25-26 trip. In the Yarmouth area, the largest daily totals were 8 on Aug. 27 and Sept. 1 and 8 again on Sept. 18. Peak numbers for Brier Is. were 13 on Aug. 27 and 25 Sept. 6. Ten birds on Aug. 6 near Barrington where a maximum of 3 had been seen up to that time suggests an early movement. One successful nesting near Wilmot produced 4 young who remained in the area until late August.

RUFFED GROUSE. This species may be near the bottom of one of its periodic declines if reports are any indication. Several observers note fewer than normal were seen during the summer and only one brood (Cape Breton) is reported.

RAILS. A pair of SORAS with chicks was seen near their nest in Pictou Co. on June 12. Other reports are of single birds except for 3 at Seal Island during late August -early September. One at least still there Oct. 16 to 18. A COOT at the same place Oct. 11-12 was probably the same bird seen there Oct. 16-18. Another was at Porter's Lake on Oct. 17 to 23.

SHORE BIRDS. The earliest record of what could be migrating SEMI-PALMATED PLOVER is July 8. Numbers increased through July and August to a peak of at least 2,000 Sept. 6

at Cape Sable Is. Last report to date is Oct. 16 at Seal Is. where one bird was seen. A dozen or so still present on the same date at Crescent Beach.

The only hint of an early departure movement of PIPING PLOVER is an observation of 7 at Conrad's Beach where a single pair is the normal population. All other reports are of singles or pairs, the latest being Sept. 2 on Seal Is.

KILLDEER reports are, as usual, mostly from the western part of the province, singles up to 5 being seen from Annapolis around to Shelburne Co.

Most GOLDEN PLOVER sightings are bunched in the two-week period from Aug. 25-Sept. 7 inclusive, the greatest number in any one day being 37+ seen at Pt. Michaud, Cape Sable and Black Pt. Pond near Yarmouth. Later sightings were 5, Sept. 19 in Shel. Co. and 3 Sept. 26, Seal Is.

The first record of returning BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER is of one, July 28 near Brass Hill, Shel. Co. There were no other reports until Aug. 10 after which numbers increased to a peak of "thousands" at Southside Beach, Cape Sable, on Sept. 6. Latest report is of 15+ at Chebogue Pt. Oct. 25, but stragglers will no doubt persist into December.

Earliest RUDDY TURNSTONES were recorded simultaneously at Pictou (3) and in the Yarmouth area (15-20) on Aug. 10. The greatest number seen on any day was 28 including one complete albino at Pictou Sept. 7. Latest report, also from Pictou, is a single on Oct. 7.

The few WOODCOCK sightings by bird watchers were all of singles flushed from their day time roosts, but hunters report them in good supply this fall. Seven COMMON SNIPE at Seal Is. Oct. 16-18 indicates a movement at that time as it is unlikely that many, if any, of this species breed on the island.

WHIMBREL which pass through the province are always lightly reported. A straggler at Lingan June 25 could be headed in either direction - north or south - or could be a non-breeder. Eleven had reached Baccaro by Aug. 8 and the last report to hand is of 5 at Brier Is. Sept. 5.

The few reports of SPOTTED SANDPIPER nesting give no clue as to breeding success but 2 downy young at New Harbor on Aug. 14 were probably the result of a second nesting attempt. Latest reported sighting is of 3 at Seal Is. Oct. 16-18.

SOLITARY SANDPIPERS passed through the province from July 31 to the end of Sept. with 2 stragglers, one at Dartmouth Oct. 11 and one at Green Bay Oct. 16. Largest number of sightings in any one day were of 8 at Seal Is. Aug. 31 and 6 at each of three quite widely separated points

in the Digby Neck area on Sept. 3 and 6.

WILLETS were flocking on the very early date of July 1 when 25 were seen leaving Cole Harbor and flying on a south-westerly course. At Cape Sable on July 28 a flock of 125 was observed. Another record of early flocking is of 45 seen at Morien Bay on July 7. All these observations could well have been of non-breeders.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS are as usual heavily reported from Cape Breton to Yarmouth. First sighting was July 4 and numbers are still present at time of writing (Oct. 31). Largest numbers were seen during the period Aug. 5 - Sept. 17. LESSER YELLOWLEGS were in the province from July 4 when the largest number (15) was seen at Seaforth. From then until Sept. 24, reports of singles and several birds were frequent from various points along the eastern and southern shores. Two late birds were at Pictou Oct. 7 and at Chezzetcook Oct. 17.

Six PECTORAL SANDPIPERS were at Pinckney's Pt., Yar. Co. on Sept. 14. Other records are scanty and of singles only except for sightings at Conrad's and Martinique Beaches in Oct. A flock of 8 was at the former locality on Oct. 1 and 13 at nearby Cole Harbor Oct. 2. At Martinique Beach there were 16 Oct. 4, 20 Oct. 14 and 8 Oct. 23, giving a possible peak during this period. There were 2 early WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPERS at New Harbor on Aug. 14 and records of small numbers are still coming in at time of writing.

A fledgling young LEAST SANDPIPER was seen at Conrad's Beach on July 11. An earlier record of 6 on July 4 could have been of non-breeders. There were large numbers at Cole Harbor on July 28 and at Yarmouth on Aug. 16. Over 100 were seen at Cooks Beach near Yarmouth on Sept. 14 and "numbers" on the Yarmouth Harbor flats on Sept. 22. No October sightings for this species have been received.

First DOWITCHERS were at Crescent Beach on July 2. Thereafter the greatest numbers were as usual, in the south-western end of the province: 200 at Baccaro Beach on July 11, 70 at Crescent Beach July 22, "numbers" at Yarmouth Aug. 10, and 200-300 in the same area Aug. 16. Reports from Brier Is. are of from 1 to 8 individuals during Aug. 23-27, and the latest sighting is of several birds - possibly the Long-billed race - at Three Fathom Harbor on Nov. 2.

STILT SANDPIPERS have appeared in increasing numbers in the province over the past several years, probably due to the growing number of birders. Two early birds were at Chezzetcook on July 31, one was banded at Sable Is. Aug. 8 and 1 to 3 more seen at Seal on Aug. 8. Last record is of 4 at Lawrencetown, Hfx. Co., on Sept. 12.

The migration of SEMI-PALMATED SANDPIPERS was leisurely and protracted. Large numbers were in the province by July 22 and the hundreds built up to thousands from then until well into August at Evangeline Beach. At Brier Island Aug. 23 -

Sept. 6 daily sightings fluctuated from a high of 900 on Aug. 24 to lows of 50 on Aug. 28 and 31. On all other days numbers were in the hundreds. On Sept. 6 there were over 2,000 at Baccaro Beach, but then numbers dwindled quickly and after Sept. 22 only a few stragglers were reported, the last being 2, Oct. 10 at Merigomish, Pictou Co.

HUDSONIAN GODWITS were in the province from July 21 when the first one was seen at Seal Is. to Sept. 26 when 2 laggards were noted at the same place. There were 10 near Little Harbor, Shel. Co., on Aug. 10, 4 at New Harbor, Guys. Co., Aug. 14. Eight were at Pt. Michaud July 23 and 4 at Homeville Aug. 22. Other reports of singles come from Merigomish, Surettes Is. and Pt. Michaud.

First SANDERLINGS reported were 6 at Martinique Beach, Hfx. Co., on July 14. No others were seen during July, but there were many sightings during Aug., Sept. and Oct., numbers varying from 3 or 4 birds to 75-100 at Cole Harbor Aug. 10, 45 at Pictou Sept. 17, "thousands" at North Side Beach, Cape Sable Is. Sept. 6, and a final 150 at Cape Sable Oct. 24. A few will no doubt linger through the winter on the beaches along the Atlantic coast. No reports of this species were received from areas bordering the Bay of Fundy where mud flats, for the most part, replace sandy beaches.

PHALAROPE records are all for Aug. and Sept. A flock of 20 NORTHERNS was at Pictou Aug. 7 and 5 in the same area Aug. 10. ON Aug. 17 there were 4 at Merigomish Big. Is., 15 on Long Is., Digby Co. Sept. 4, and at Pictou again, 19 on Sept. 8 and 10 on Sept. 16. The one report of RED PHALAROPES is off Long Is., Digby Co., on the same date as when the Northerns were seen. (See Introduction.)

GULLS and TERNS. A large all-white gull at Cape Sable July 15 was probably a very early immature GLAUCOUS. Another quite early observation for this species is one at Glace Bay Sept. 18.

An ICELAND GULL appeared at Brier Is. Aug. 29, another at Pictou Sept. 23, and 3 were seen at Seal Is. on the Oct. 16-18 trip.

BLACK-BACKED and HERRING GULLS do not rate mention by most observers, but the few who included them in reports simply state that they were present in normal numbers.

RING-BILLED GULL reports are surprisingly scanty - 2 Aug. 21 in Cole Harbor-Chezzetcook area, 8 from 29 Aug.-6 Sept. at Brier Is., 1 Oct. 2 at Merigomish, 5 Oct. 19 near Lawrencetown, Hfx. Co., and 1 Oct. 16-18 at Seal Is.

Two immature BLACK-HEADED GULLS appeared at Glace Bay Sept. 14 and were seen for some time thereafter and 4 were at Pictou Oct. 22.

Greatest number of BONAPARTE'S GULLS were as usual

reported from the Northumberland Strait region at Pictou where there were 43 Sept. 17 and 53 Sept. 29. An unusual sighting is of one of this species seen at Crescent Beach June 28. Singles were at Chezzetcook and Lawrencetown Aug. 1 and Sept. 12 respectively. One was observed in St. Margaret's Bay Aug. 13, followed by "numbers" there during Sept. and Oct. Large numbers in transition plumage were reported at Lingan (C.B.) on Sept. 5 and all other records are of one to three or four birds seen along the South Shore during Sept.

KITTIWAKES are few as is to be expected for this period, and are all in late Aug. and Sept., barring a dead bird picked up at Cape Sable Oct. 16. Two immatures and an adult were seen at Seal Is. Aug. 23-29, one at Cape Sable Aug. 24 and 1 during the 'Bluenose' crossing Sept. 2. Five other 'probables' were observed at Cole Harbor on Sept. 25.

COMMON, ARCTIC and ROSEATE terns are still nesting on the inside islands, Eastern Shore Sanctuary, and the colony at Cape Sable (12 nests) had limited success this summer. Common Terns were not heard at Wine Harbor after Sept. 12, noticeably scarce by that time along the Atlantic shore and latest date of sighting Oct. 10 at Merigomish and Three-Fathom Harbor. Possibly these were storm-driven birds, a few still around by Oct. 17 at the latter locality. Roseate Terns were noted (2 birds) in a colony of 200+ Common Terns in June at Green Island, off Wedgeport, and 2 Roseates were seen at Seal Is. late August; hopefully they are still nesting on the Tusket Islands.

ALCIDS. The RAZORBILL, our only nesting Auk, was counted in numbers at Bird Islands, off Big Bras d'Or, in late June, none seen in August and a few immatures noted at Pictou in Sept. and Oct. The BLACK GUILLEMOT, which nests more generally, was usual all summer, one seen Sept. 27 near Pictou in full winter plumage. Young of the COMMON PUFFIN were a good size but still downy June 27 at Bird Islands, 200 counted in that area Aug. 3.

DOVES, CUCKOOS, OWLS. The MOURNING DOVE maintains its sparse population, seen most often along the Atlantic coast, and built up on Seal Is. from 8 there Sept. 26 to 35 Oct. 9. Four seen at Cape Sable Oct. 9 confirms a migratory movement in the making. Twenty-four, in small flocks, were on Seal Is. Oct. 16-18. Since the early June sightings, BLACK-BILLED CUCKOOS have been noted in Shel., Anna., and Col. Cos. There are no breeding records. The pair of GREAT HORNED OWLS at Mira, Cape Breton, hatched 2 young successfully, and breeding records of the BARRED, LONG-EARED and SAW-WHET were mentioned in the last Newsletter. The SHORT-EARED OWL received usual mention, no breeding records.

NIGHTHAWKS, CHIMNEY SWIFTS, HUMMINGBIRDS and KINGFISHERS. Early flocking of the COMMON Nighthawk was observed Aug. 1 (3 flocks of 25 to 30 birds) in Col. Co., and a strong movement Aug. 22, flocks of 100 birds in Anna. Co., and 500-600 in Shel. Co. Small flocks of Chimney Swifts were noted Aug. 14 to 22

in Hfx. and Guys. Counties, suggesting the beginning of migratory movement. Aug. 22 a count of 40 in Shel. Co. is more significant. The RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD was common all summer, but 9 at Brier Is. Sept. 5 suggests a movement. The BELTED KINGFISHER was apparently in good numbers, generally distributed throughout the summer. No real indication of any movement has shown up in reports.

WOODPECKERS. The YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER was noted in migration from Sept. 6 on, a count of 30 on that date at Brier Is., 16 "migrants" seen at Pictou Sept. 6, last seen in Hfx. Co. Oct. 10, and 30+ still on Seal Is. Oct. 16. The YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER was common all summer, but no late movement has been noted; two late reports are for Oct. 3, Anna. Co. and Oct. 16, Seal Is., 1 and 2 birds seen respectively.

FLYCATCHERS. The EASTERN KINGBIRD, present in exceptional numbers this season, flocked up in Aug. (50 seen near Berwick), migration in mind Sept. 6, judging by a count of 60 along a ten-mile stretch of road near Yarmouth. Empidonax Flycatchers showed two peaks at Brier Is., Aug. 30 and Sept. 6 (a high of 100 birds) and a marked peak at Seal Is. (60, Sept. 1, 40 Sept. 2) between these two. The WOOD PEWEE built up to 18 (usually 2 or 3) in the Barrington area Aug. 22, and a high peak of 75 was recorded at Brier Is. Sept. 6.

First fall date for HORNED LARKS is Oct. 3, 15 at Cape Sable, followed by Oct. 9, 60 at Brier Is., Oct. 31, "good numbers" at Conrad's Beach, Hfx. Co.

SWALLOWS. TREE Swallows were still feeding young July 15 in Cape Breton, were flocking July 21 in Shel. Co. (137 counted that day), and took off Aug. 24 to 27 from Brier Is. and Seal Is. - a sharp peak at the latter place of 200 Aug. 25, 500 Aug. 26 and 35 Aug. 27. The BANK Swallow, "common and numerous" generally, showed a small migratory peak SW in the province Aug. 16 to Aug. 31. Small flocks of 16 to 30 birds noted. A high concentration (many hundreds) in Hfx. Co. Aug. 21 either dispersed to other routes or went by unnoticed. BARN Swallows, also numerous, were present on Brier Is. in most numbers Aug. 25, 28, 29 and Sept. 2. At Yarmouth, the numbers are noted to have fallen off Aug. 27. Five or six nesting sites among the dozen noted this summer are new for the CLIFF SWALLOW. No migration numbers recorded. At Amherst, 17 pairs, at Oxford 39 pairs of PURPLE MARTINS raised young this year, an average of 2 to 3 young per nest, "the best year for a long time".

GRAY JAYS were seen in considerable numbers the last week of October, passing through the underbrush in areas of Hfx. Co., juveniles noted. The BLUE JAY, heavily reported all summer, began bringing young to feeders mid-August; was congregating by mid-Sept., and showed a peak at Yarmouth of around 20, Sept. 30, over a hundred Oct. 1, down to 4 Oct. 2.

CHICKADEES. The BLACK-CAPPED Chickadee has made a

comeback this summer, present now in almost normal numbers. The BOREAL is now also commonly seen and heard and 50+ were counted on Seal Is. Oct. 16-17. A mixed flock of Boreals and Black-caps at Lower Shag Harbor Oct. 9, numbering 50 to 60 individuals, is good news. The last week in Sept. and up to Oct. 5, the same curious phenomenon occurred as reported a year ago (NSBS Newsletter 12:9, 1970), that is, numbers of Boreal Chickadees (and one Black-cap) slammed into the side of Bedford Institute and killed themselves, as they had been observed to do at N. S. Technical College, Hfx. on the previous occasion.

NUTHATCHES, both WHITE-BREASTED and RED-BREASTED, have been well reported and of general distribution in good numbers, about twice as many Red-breasted as White. Peaks of migration were noted only for the Red-breasted, at Brier Is., 50+ Aug. 31, and 50+ Sept. 6 (6 to 10 birds the days before and after).

MIMIDS, THRUSHES. MOCKINGBIRDS, more than usual, are reported under Rarities. CATBIRDS, abundant generally, were not noted in migration, but were last seen Oct. 1, Anna. Co., Oct. 16, Seal Is. BROWN THRASHERS, fewer than usual are also reported in the Rare Bird List. The ROBIN stayed abundant until early Sept., thereafter the usual large "waves" can be noted, "100's" Sept. 11 in Col. Co.; "large migratory flock" Sept. 12 near Glace Bay; "100's" in flocks Oct. 2, Pic. Co.; and large concentrations noted Oct. 9 to 11 in Anna. and Yar. Cos. Forty were counted at Barrington Oct. 16, and flocks passed over Seal Is. all day Oct. 17, up to several hundred birds, but quite a few Robins are still to be seen in the countryside, Oct. 31. According to reports, the HERMIT Thrush was greatly outnumbered by the SWAINSON'S this summer, although good numbers of immatures of both species were noted in the early fall. Up to 70 each SWAINSON'S and GRAY-CHEEKED were noted passing over Brier Is. the night of Sept. 6. Five VEERYS were noted on the same date at Brier, and reports of the Veery have been frequent this summer. One EASTERN BLUEBIRD, seen near Bear River, Digby Co., Aug. 26, completes the list.

KINGLETS, PIPITS and WAXWINGS. The GOLDEN-CROWNED Kinglet, scarce all winter and summer, began to be noted in September and by October was almost back to normal, "many" in Lun. Co. Oct. 16, and 30+ seen at Seal Is. Oct. 17-18. The RUBY-CROWNED Kinglet, "common and noisy" in June, disappeared in July, but immatures were appearing by Aug. 17, and 30 were counted among the migrants Sept. 6 at Brier Is., the only peak number on record. The WATER PIPIT showed up in numbers only at Brier and Seal Islands, flocks of 10 to 30 at Brier Oct. 9 to 11, 13 and 25 counted at Seal Oct. 17 and 18, but a few advance scouts were seen as early as Aug. 25 along the South Shore and at Brier Is. Four at Cape Sable Oct. 24 is the late date. CEDAR WAXWINGS reached Cape Breton by June 30 and remained abundant and widespread in the province all summer, many immatures noted in late Aug. and early Sept. Flocks numbering 50 to 125 individuals in Anna. Valley, Lun. Co., Shel. Co., and at Seal Is. were down to less than 10 by Sept. 20. One only was seen at Cape Sable Sept. 23.

The 200 to 300 size flocks of STARLINGS seen in Yar. Co. during August amalgamated into "tremendous flocks here and there" Sept. 15 to Oct. 17. Hopefully some of them left, but no one saw them go.

VIREOS and WARBLERS. Both the SOLITARY and the RED-EYED Vireos were well represented in Nova Scotia this summer, and immatures noted, some in feeble song, in late August. No peak migration date appears, although at least 5 Solitarys and 15 Red-eyed were among the thousands of migrants on Brier Is. Sept. 6. Both of these Vireos were still on Seal Is. Oct. 11, and the last date for the Red-eyed is Oct. 24, Hfx. Co. The WOOD WARBLERS have been reported down in numbers in parts of Nova Scotia this summer, but appear to have had good nesting success, judging by the reports of immatures seen Aug. 16 and on. All 22 varieties known to breed in Nova Scotia were accounted for on Brier Is. Sept. 6, with the exception of Palm, which was however present on earlier and later dates. Migratory movements can be detected Sept. 18 on, in the Yarmouth area, chiefly involving the Parula, Black-throated Blue, Myrtle, Black-throated Green, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, Palm, Wilson's, Canada and Redstart. Cape Mays peaked at Brier Is. Aug. 30 and 31, and Blackpolls at Seal Is. Sept. 1 to 3. Arrival and departure of great numbers of warblers occurred at Brier Is. Aug. 29 to Sept. 6, 100 each Magnolias and Wilson's on that date, notably high numbers; and by Oct. 10 only a few Myrtles, Black-throated Greens and Palms were left. Oct. 12 at Seal Is. is a late date for the Black-throated Blue, Magnolia, Black-and-White, Cape May and Wilson's; Oct. 17, 18 at Seal Is. for the Tennessee, Nashville, Parula, Yellow, Myrtle, Black-throated Green, Bay-breasted, Blackpoll, Palm, Yellowthroat and Redstart, although a Yellowthroat was seen in Hfx. Co. Oct. 23, and many flocks of Myrtles are still around, some no doubt to spend the winter. Migrant warblers noted at Cape Sable Oct. 1 to Oct. 24 were the Black-throated Blue, Myrtle, Palm and Northern Waterthrush.

ICTERIDS. The BOBOLINK, numerous and widespread from Cape Sable to Cape North all summer, flocked up in late August, and immatures were noted. Small concentrations accumulated at Brier Is. Sept. 1 and 6 and last date noted on Oct. 12, 2 at Seal Is. The REDWINGED BLACKBIRD, common and widespread this summer, is noted in migratory-size flocks Oct. 2 (60-75) in Pictou Co.; Oct. 9 (25+) Hfx. Co. and Oct. 15 in Anna. Co. Latest date noted is Oct. 18, 10+ birds at Seal Is. The BALTIMORE ORIOLE continues to increase, nests noted and young emerging in early July. Four on Cape Sable Sept. 23 were certainly migrants, as were the 30+ on Sable Is. Sept. 19 and 20. Late date for these orioles is Oct. 17, seen in Hfx. Co. (1) and on Seal Is. (17). The RUSTY BLACKBIRD migration is undocumented, but flocks appeared from Aug. 24 (in Guys. Co.) to Sept. 25 (Anna. Co.) and 2 were still left on Seal Is. Oct. 18. The COMMON GRACKLE was not common in Nova Scotia this summer. Small flocks appeared Sept. 5 on, with a terrific build up Oct. 6 to 15, large flocks seen Pictou Co. and Col. Co., with one flock conservatively estimated at 1,000 flying over and roosting in trees, Kentville, Kings Co., Oct. 6.

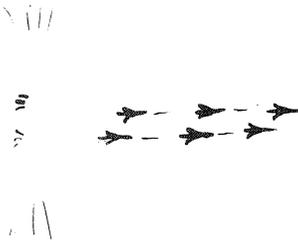
The BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD re-appeared in countryside flocks around Aug. 8, increasing in number steadily to date, Oct. 31, from 20 per flock to several hundred.

FRINGILLIDS. The ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK, was present in normal numbers, immature noted Aug. 8 on in Hants. Co. and the Wilmot area, Anna. Co. Last one seen Oct. 10-12 at Seal Is. The EVENING GROSBEAK continued to increase as a roadside bird throughout the summer in Nova Scotia, distribution universal Cape North to Yarmouth. Many immatures were noted Aug. 8 on, and birds moved into town Oct. 17 to investigate feeders, none reported as regular attendants yet. A few were at Seal Is. (8) Oct. 16-18, none seen at Cape Sable or Brier after July 2. SEE REPORT OF NEST above. The PURPLE FINCH built up in numbers Aug. 1 on quite generally, many immatures noted. Reports of "very numerous" Sept. 4 in the Round Hill area, Anna. Co., 70 counted Sept. 6 at Brier Is. suggest a migratory movement. Late dates are 3, Oct. 3 at Cape Sable, 3, Oct. 16-18 at Seal Is., but many are still around at feeders. (A usual number of PINE GROSBEAKS and good-sized flocks - up to 50 birds - of the PINE SISKIN are mentioned as common in Cape Breton and Guys. Co., scarcely seen elsewhere this summer.) The AMERICAN GOLDFINCH, again very abundant and in general distribution, built up its flocks from 10's to 100's mid-August, became less common in Hfx. and Guys. Cos. mid-September, when large flocks were still seen Anna. Co. to Yarmouth. A movement out of Brier Is. is marked by a count of 20 Sept. 4, 70 Sept. 5 and 40 Sept. 6. Late dates are 2 Oct. 3-10 at Cape Sable, "small flocks" Oct. 16 at Lun. Co. and Yarmouth, and "many small flocks" Oct. 18 at Seal Is. The RED CROSSBILL has been seen in pairs and small flocks July 8 to date, more than usual of late years. Some may have migrated via Brier Is., none seen up to Aug. 31 when 10 were counted, 20+ Sept. 1, none thereafter except 1 Sept. 6. The WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL seems to be coming in again, first noted in numbers Aug. 1 in the Wine Harbor area, Guys. Co., 50 or more to mid-Oct., since then flocks of 15 to 50+ seen at Seal Is., Oct. 16-18; Yarmouth Co., Oct. 21, Shel. Co. Oct. 24 and Lun. Co. Oct. 31.

Three sightings of the IPSWICH SPARROW were 3, Oct. 1, first mainland arrival, Hfx. Co., 1 only seen in the same place Oct. 9 and 2 at Cape Sable Oct. 24. All of our breeding species of Sparrow seem to have done well, with many bobtail immatures noted at roadsides late August on. Concentrations of SAVANNAHS were noted Sept. 6, Sept. 11, Oct. 7-9, and 15 were still on Seal Is. Oct. 16 to 18. SHARPTAIL nests were noted, and a migration peak of 15 at Seal Is. Sept. 25. Late sightings in Oct. may have been of a different sub-species (see Notes). More reportings than usual of the VESPER during the summer still were only six, one late bird seen on Seal Is. Oct. 16. The SLATE-COLORED JUNCO was exceptionally abundant, mostly brown immatures seen August on, concentrations noticed Sept. 26. Oct. 3 and still over 300 birds seen on Seal Is. Oct. 16-18. Good numbers of immature CHIPPING SPARROWS showed a peak Oct. 10 to 13, and 20 birds counted on Seal Is. Oct. 16-18. The WHITE-THROATED SPARROW was

present in normal numbers, showed a build-up Sept. 13-14, still quite a few around, but 20 on Seal Oct. 16-18, 10 seen at the Piggery, Hfx. Co. Oct. 17. (A small migration of FOX SPARROWS was noted only in Halifax, 2 birds each seen in various widely separated areas Oct. 14 to 24, and reported to be "common" at the Piggery, Dartmouth, on the latter date.) Four reports of the LINCOLN'S SPARROW represented 4 birds, but 5 left Brier Is. Sept. 6, and 1 was seen on Seal Is. Oct. 16. The SWAMP SPARROW was unusually well reported, and a number of "families" seen. A concentration was well marked Oct. 9 in the Halifax area; 10 to 15 birds still on Seal Is. Oct. 16-18, and a few still around. The SONG SPARROW, very common generally this year, also flocked noticeably Oct. 1, and Oct. 9, immatures heard singing among them, and still 50+ at Seal Is. Oct. 16-18. The counts of sparrows on the "big migration day" at Brier Is. are interesting: Savannah 60, Junco 50, Chipping 25, Whitethroat 60, Lincoln's and Swamp, each 5, and Song 25.

A very early LAPLAND LONGSPUR July 4 at Cape Sable was followed by 1, Oct. 1, Hfx. Co., 2 at Brier Is. Oct. 9, and 1, Oct. 16-18, Seal Is. Good numbers appeared in Hfx. Co. Oct. 31. The SNOW BUNTING also came early, 9 at Martinique Beach Oct. 23, and large flocks, up to 50, at Conrad's Beach, Hfx. Co., Oct. 31.



MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE

At a meeting of the Executive of the Nova Scotia Bird Society held at 8:00 p.m. Thursday, October 1, 1971, at 1444 Seymour Street, after appropriate discussion it was decided and/or noted:

That the annual Meeting be held at the Nova Scotia Museum at Halifax on Saturday afternoon, either November 27 or December 4, if the auditorium is available - the place and date to be confirmed later. The President undertook to find a speaker for the meeting.

That the Nominating Committee should consist of

Mr. C.R.K. Allen, Dr. Roger Pocklington and Mrs. Ann Doull. The proposed slate of officers will be sent out with the Notice of the Annual Meeting for the information of members. It was also decided that the Chairman of the Program Committee should in future be invited to attend Executive Meetings.

That the Audubon Christmas Count dates being Dec. 18 to Jan. 2, the Count for Halifax East will be Saturday, December 18 (in charge of Dr. Mills) and for Halifax West, Sunday, December 26 (in charge of Dr. Doane).

That the amount be authorized for payment for the July Newsletter costs: Typing \$30.00, Printing \$593.00, Envelopes \$18.99, Mailing \$72.00. There was some discussion about the growing size of the Newsletter and the possibility of presenting the material in a more condensed form, which might not be acceptable to the readers,

That Dr. Doane will have an item for one of the next Newsletters on the present status of Sable Island.

That nothing further is known on the status of the large block of land on Brier Island except that it is held by a trust in the United States.

That the Cape Breton Branch would like to have included with the Newsletter (1) Minutes of the Executive Meetings; (2) an account of the Canadian Nature Federation; (3) information on the field trips. A field trip on plants with one of our distinguished members as leader was suggested.

That the matter of a change in name of the Society be left in abeyance for the present since of the 151 replies to the President's letter received so far, 52 were in favor of a change, 91 wished to retain the present name and 8 were neutral.

That Ross Anderson having completed the feeder for the Halifax Public Gardens, will seek information on the procedure to have it erected; and that contributions from the local members will keep it supplied with feed.

That the Society should be more active among young people, suggested by Dr. Doane, who will pass on the suggestion to the new Executive.

That as the supply of Check Lists is running out and also needs to be brought up to date, Ross Anderson will do some research on a new format.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Members present were: Dr. Mills, President, Dr. McLaren, Dr. Doane, Mrs. Dobson, Miss Fullerton, Mr. Anderson and Miss Crathorne. Absent were Miss Clayden, Mr. Ross Dobson and Mr. Neily. Miss Crathorne acted as Secretary in the absence of the Secretary-Treasurer.

CANADIAN NATURE FEDERATION

At the meeting of the Nova Scotia Bird Society held October 13, 1971, at Halifax, Dr. Ian McLaren reported on and discussed the aims and activities of the newly formed Canadian Nature Federation which has evolved from and replaced the former Canadian Audubon Society. Dr. McLaren had attended the first Annual Meetings, held at Ottawa September 17, 18 and 19, for which 400 people had registered, and 28 Societies had sent exhibits; and he spoke of the hope and enthusiasm which pervaded these meetings, intended to get Canadian Audubon "off the ground" and truly a representative national Society. Headquarters are at Ottawa, and the Society will publish a new magazine, NATURE CANADA, beginning in 1972. The magazine will deal with the exploration and enjoyment of the natural world, with pollution, environmental law, parks, wildlife, nature art and similar subjects. The Federation plans to develop a major national program in the field of environmental education.

The Federation has 36 members on its Board of Directors; 24 are elected by its members and 12 are appointed (one from each province) by major natural history organizations. Dr. McLaren is one of the Regional Vice-Presidents of the new Federation, and urges all members of the Nova Scotia Bird Society to join it individually. Thus we can, through the new magazine, be informed about the country's problems, and through our vote have a strong voice in what is being done about them; in fact, become a power in the land, as part of a large group of people with similar aims and interests.

Write to Canadian Nature Federation (or, if you prefer, Fédération Canadienne de la Nature), 46 Elgin Street, Ottawa, Canada, K1P 5K6. Send them \$6.00 or as much more as you care to. Here is our big opportunity.

THE SANCTUARY and SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FUND

The Nova Scotia Bird Society has acquired by purchase Hertford Island in St. Ann's Bay, Cape Breton, and Middle Bald, Half Bald and Mossy Bald Islands, three of a group of islands near Tusket, Yarmouth County. The Society also holds under ten year lease from the Nova Scotia Government three islands near Necum Teuch and two islands near Harrigan Cove (off Halifax County, which islands constitute the Eastern Shore Bird Sanctuary. (This is now the second ten-year term.)

The Nova Scotia Bird Society and Scholarship Trust Fund operates all these islands as sanctuaries to protect birds nesting thereon. This Trust Fund has been recognized as a charitable organization by the Income Tax Department. Ninety per cent of the annual income from the Trust Fund must

be used each year, and presently this is being done by the payment of operating expenses of the Sanctuaries. No scholarships have been granted so far but part of the donations have been used to purchase new sanctuary areas. This policy will be continued as we learn of new areas available and have funds for procurement.

The Trust Fund was created because of the interest of those members who wished to do more for the birdlife of the province than the sort of thing covered by simple payment of annual dues. No member is obliged to contribute, donations have been entirely voluntary. In existence a little over two years, the Fund is already showing assets of \$3,105.22 and it has been very encouraging to watch it grow. In addition to donations, the Trustees have been advised of bequests which are being made in Wills. This thoughtful consideration is very welcome and deeply appreciated.

- Willett J. Mills

FIELD TRIPS

Thirty-eight members gathered at Grand Pré on the morning of July 17 for a field trip led by Robie Tufts. The outing began with a walk along Evangeline Beach to see the flocks of early arriving shorebirds - sandpipers, dowitchers, yellowlegs and plover - making up the advance flocks of the many thousands that would pass through the area in the following weeks. From the shore, the party drove back into the deep woods where Robie Tufts gave a fascinating exhibition of how to call up a Spruce Grouse with the use of a stuffed dummy and a recorded call. During this part of the day, many species were added to the days' list, including two Pileated Woodpeckers and a Wood Duck with downy young. Lunch hour was spent in a very pleasant spot on the bank of a river, watching the swallows flitting back and forth above the surface of the water, an occasional Chimney Swift overhead, and identifying the calls of various warblers in the nearby woods. Afterwards, the party returned to the shore and wandered along the dykes until mid-afternoon. The presence of Robie Tufts as leader, a good turnout of members, a pleasant summer day and an excellent list of interesting birds made this one of our more memorable field trips.

- Eric Cooke

The New Harbor Field Day on Saturday, August 14, was blessed with cloudless skies and genuine August heat, very welcome along the coast. The party consisted of 12 members

and their guests, and met as usual at Goshen, later to be welcomed at New Harbor by the Findlays, who had arranged for the same pleasant private lunching stop among the dunes we enjoyed on the 1967 trip. The first stop, suggested by Gordon MacLeod, was at a small colony of Cliff Swallows, where we found under the same eaves as the Cliff Swallows' nests, a Barn Swallow's nest, an interesting contrast in methods of construction. Close by, a lively family of Swamp Sparrows set the pattern for the day, which was exceptionally good visibility and co-operative birds - everyone was able to look his fill at all species found. Downslope from the Swamp Sparrow tree a small weedy lake produced a Ring-necked Duck and the first Great Blue Heron of the day. On the drive from Goshen to New Harbor birds were constantly in view and very active, perhaps 50% of them were Robins. Most outstanding was a sighting of 2 Bald Eagles, one of which, perched in a shoreside spruce, gave everyone a magnificent view through the 'scope.

The estuary at New Harbor gave as usual perfect viewing conditions for observing the many shorebirds which dotted the sandbars and mudflats. Highlights here were 5 Hudsonian Godwits, a Stilt Sandpiper and a pair of Lesser Yellowlegs who put on a comedy show, fighting like a pair of gamecocks. A total of 13 shorebird species included as most numerous both Yellowlegs species and Semi-palmated Plover. Other water bird sightings of interest were a close-packed family of 16 young Red-breasted Mergansers in the swift current of the river, and a flock of Double-crested Cormorants, unusual at this time of year, seen later at Guysborough Intervale.

Harry Brennan and his two boys were among those present, and during lunch showed us some of the magnificent pictures they have taken of owl and hawk nests, deep in the woods of Pictou County. The little Saw-whets were delightful, as were the downy Broadwings here pictured.



Broad-winged Hawks - 2 weeks old. Harry Brennan

After lunch a drive through the woods to Guysborough town and thence up the Intervale produced few birds compared with the morning, but were mostly boreal species, such as the Sharp-shinned Hawk, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Pine Grosbeak, Boreal Chickadee - not one Black-cap and no Golden-crowned Kinglets either seen or heard.

Notable during the whole trip were the large number of Goldfinches and Cedar Waxwings, and the scarcity of warblers, of which we saw only three species. Our total list for the day was 70 species, three less than we saw here in 1967.

- C. R. K. Allen

Brier Island, Sept. 5 - an outstanding day in the field, with 35 people present and 103 species of bird identified. The day was overcast with light rain and fog late afternoon, but for the most part visibility was good and the birds co-operative. Because of the size of the island, we divided into three parties, one to Northern point, one to the Westport area, and one to Pond Cove, changing later as time and interest dictated. Pond Cove produced a fine flock of shorebirds feeding in the intertidal weed and including: a Stilt Sandpiper, 2 Baird's Sandpipers, 4 Buff-breasted Sandpipers (very tame), Sanderlings, Semi-palmated Plover, White-rumps, 5 Golden Plover with the Black-bellied; and off the cove but hard to find among 350 Common Eiders a female King Eider. This was a new bird for many present, including an enthusiastic birder from Cape Breton who made a poignant picture in the afternoon as he sat watching the Eider from a slippery weed-covered point while a sharp rain squall broke.

The party at Northern Point added two relatively rare birds, a Black Tern with the flocks of Comic Terns and a fine adult Kittiwake which came over the Point.

On land the highlights were a White-breasted Nuthatch and a Philadelphia Vireo. Later in the day, fog forced an enormous flock of seabirds into Grand Passage, allowing superb viewing from Northern Point. Jim and Gillian Elliott counted 8,000 Shearwaters, mostly Greater. Enormous numbers sat on the water, intermingled with Gannets, Sooty Shearwaters and the occasional Manx. Several Jaegers passed through or over the flock - at least 4 Parasitic and 2 Pomarines. To add to the sense of wildness, the observers saw a flock of Whimbrels moving across the open fields.

This field day will be hard to equal for a long time. Anyone trying to match it will have to top 103 species, with rare shorebirds, a King Eider and a remarkable display of pelagic birds close to shore.

- Eric L. Mills

The above account of the President's Field Day on Brier Island highlights the presence of seabirds close to shore, and in great numbers, which has characterized this Nova Scotia season, and a letter just received from David Christie concerning the presence of these birds in the Bay of Fundy concludes this note; but it should be added that we, the members of the Nova Scotia Bird Society present on the above occasion, were peculiarly fortunate in being able to witness the famous Brier Island fall migration in full spate, and had we waited one day longer, we would have seen it at climax. To quote Eric Mills again (and how fortunate we are to have Eric and Ann Mills and their family in their summer cottage on Brier at such strategic times, with Davis Finch as a visitor): "Sept. 6, another remarkable day, with 123 species, an all-time high. The land bird migration was the dominant note. When we reached the road near Western Light about 0700, an amazing stream of birds was moving east through the roadside shrubbery, going in such numbers and so fast that we couldn't keep up with them. Most were Wood Warblers, but vireos, thrushes and Lincoln's Sparrows went by, and many Red-breasted Nuthatches. Good look also at 2 Philadelphia Vireos....At Northern Point a Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker in full sunlight..... explored a telephone pole. Kestrels flew in from the north across the sea. Along the road the movement of birds was rapidly eastward. They must have been coming across the sea from the west or northwest, landing on the ridge just east of Western Light. Warbler numbers were remarkable: 35 Black-and-Whites, 30 Yellows, 100 Magnolias, 70 Yellowthroats, 100 Wilson's, 70 Redstarts, 5 Mournings, all in the raspberry thickets - and at least 5 Lincoln's Sparrows and 18+ Swainson's Thrushes....

At Pond Cove the shorebirds continued outstanding: 4 Buff-breasted Sandpipers, a Golden Plover, 2 Baird's...and the sudden appearance of Killdeers...Late afternoon at Westport we stopped to go over a flock of swallows and found a female Purple Martin gracing the extreme top of a church steeple.... Watched the pelagics late in the day...the phalaropes were going into the air in towering evanescent flocks against the sunset....

After dark, Davis, Ann and I listened to many thrushes passing over - at least 50 Swainson's and a flight of 70+ Gray-cheeked....later 5 Veerys. This was the most remarkable migratory display I have ever seen - the movement of land birds in the early morning was unforgettable. I had heard of such things but really did not believe they really happened."

The Bay of Fundy has been a seabird watcher's paradise this summer, and David Christie of the New Brunswick Museum has sent us some late October sightings, by himself, Dr. and Mrs. and Mark Majka, crossing from Saint John to Digby and back, Oct. 25 and 28. Common Loons were seen on every crossing, up to 4 and Red-throats (2) on three crossings. Fulmars appeared, up to 93 on Oct. 25, Greater Shearwaters

were still in the high hundreds, and a few Manx still around. Gannets up to 10 a trip, Cormorants to 12 and Northern and Red Phalaropes (mostly Reds) were still around. One Iceland Gull was seen; from 37 to 268 Kittiwakes; 5 Razorbills (Oct.25) and 14 Puffins the same day. David concludes by writing:

"I have had some exciting birding here this fall. For instance at Deer Island on Oct. 23 we recorded nine species of Gulls, including 4 Little Gulls, 2 Francklin's, 1 Sabine's and 1 Glaucous. They were picked out from 5,000 Bonaparte's and lesser numbers of other common species. A recent trip to Grand Manan produced 5 Ipswich Sparrows (later another at Pt. Lepreau), 3 Yellow-breasted Chats, 2 Dickcissels, and a Pine Warbler. Ipswiches are very rare here and most past records have been in spring.

Preliminary reports just coming in in the last week or so suggest we're going to have a big flight of Snowy Owls this year - right on schedule! Also large numbers of Redpolls have been moving early, as were Gray Jays about the first of October."

This ties in very well with the Nova Scotia picture. An extraordinary number of Gray Jays has been seen the last few weeks; Redpolls and Snow Buntings have been reported with increasing frequency, as have Red and White-winged Crossbills, and Horned Larks and Lapland Longspurs.

Don't forget the Christmas Count, it is going to be a good one.

REPORTS FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER DUE MARCH 1, 1972.

SUMMER BIRDING IN MAINLAND SHELBURNE COUNTY

J. Roswell Gallagher and Constance D. Gallagher

This is a report of the 150 species of birds identified by two observers in a few areas of mainland Shelburne County, Nova Scotia, during the summer months of the years 1961 through 1971. Our data lacks statistical validity; our birding days were irregular and no areas were systematically searched. Also, more hours in the field, visits to a greater number of localities, and sharper eyes and ears undoubtedly would have yielded a larger number of species and individuals. However, this list of birds recorded by us in this area during those quieter weeks between the major spring and fall migrations may be of some value to others. We have also made brief comments for various reasons on some of the birds, on those whose nests we have found, on those birds rarely seen by us,

and on the types of habitat this country offers. In short, the report offers those unacquainted with this region a list of birds seen by us, comments about some of them, and data that may reflect the likelihood of seeing them here during the summer months.

The list covers the summer months of 1961 through 1971, but in only three of these years did our birding in Nova Scotia begin before June 16. In 1966 we had to leave on August 3, and in 1970 we were away from July 6 to August 3. There were few days when we did not record at least a few birds on Brass Hill, but our July and August trips devoted to birding averaged about three a week; some of these were all day, but most of them were half-days.

Only a small portion of Shelburne County was covered: much of it was in those sections we had come to know during the years when fly-fishing and sailing claimed more of our time. We gradually discovered other productive areas or had them pointed out to us by those who knew of our interest in birding. The area extended from Atwood's Brook to Louis Head and from Cape Sable Island to Rory Lake. The places most frequently explored were Brass Hill in Barrington; the Clyde River Road from Route 3 to Upper Clyde, and the Ohio Road from Shelburne to Upper Ohio, and the trails and logging roads leading from them; the marshes and beaches on Cape Sable Island and from Port LaTour to Baccaro Point; the Clyde and Roseway Rivers; Bloody Creek; Deception, McKays and John Lakes; and that large body of brackish water near Hemeon Head known as Matthew's Lake. The off-shore lighthouse area of Cape Sable Island is not included; that region is to be reported by Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Smith; the few petrels, guillemots and eiders we have reported have been seen from such vantage points as Hemeon Head and Baccaro Point. Our trips were made by automobile, on foot and by canoe.

The areas included offer a wide variety of habitat. There are open ocean, bays, lakes and streams; marshland, savannahs and bogs; pastures, hayfields and cultivated farmland; alder thickets; spruce, pine, hemlock, oak and maple woods; gravel pits; dunes and seashore beaches. Within a single day it is possible to visit each of these, so short is the distance between them; but variations in wind velocity and other weather conditions from day to day will suggest which are more likely to be suitable for successful birding. Early June is best for hearing and seeing the warblers and thrushes. By mid-July the shorebirds have begun to return; they appear in increasing numbers by mid-August. During the latter part of August the fall migration of Passerines begins.

The following lists and comments require a few explanatory notes:

"Every year" means that the bird was recorded by us at least once each year during June, July or August, from 1961 through 1971.

Birds seen only in September or only in a year prior to 1961 are in parentheses.

In the eleven-year period, 1961 through 1971, there are records for 6 Junes, 11 Julys and 10 Augusts. "June 4/6" indicates that the bird was seen in four of the six Junes for which we have records.

"Maximum" refers to the greatest number of individuals seen on a single day during the eleven-year period: e.g., "Maximum 10, July 15, 1967" means that the greatest number seen on a single day from 1961 through 1971 was 10, and that the day this occurred was July 15, 1967.

"Median" is usually given in preference to an average of the eleven (or less) "maximum" numbers: e.g., For each of the eleven years the maximum numbers, arranged serially, of Osprey were: 1,2,2,3,3,3,4,4,6,6,7, so the "median" is 3 (five numbers are on each side of 3). The median has usually been omitted if a bird was not seen in at least six different years, or if the maximum was less than three.

Common Loon

Every year. June 5/6; July 11/11; August 9/10.
Maximum 11, Aug. 22, 1971 (no other year greater than 4.) Nesting record: Lake Greenwood, July 3, 1970.

Pied-billed Grebe

Seen only 4 years. June 1/6; July 1/11; August 3/10.
Maximum 5 (1 adult with 4 young), Aug. 1, 1963. No record since 1968 except Sept. 4, 1971 (1).

Greater Shearwater

One record: June 13, 1971 (1). One bird off Baccaro Point.

Wilson's Petrel

One record: July 1, 1968 (2). Two birds off Baccaro Point.

Double-crested Cormorant

Every year. June 4/6; July 9/11; August 10/10.
Maximum 100, Aug. 11, 1968. Median 25.

Great Blue Heron

Every year. June 6/6; July 11/11; August 10/10.
Maximum 20, Aug. 19, 1961 and Aug. 14, 1965.
Median 15.

Little Blue Heron

Two records: August 31, 1962 and August 24, 1971.
1962: one immature bird in our marsh, Brass Hill, appeared directly after Hurricane "alma" and stayed 3 days. 1971: one immature bird in same marsh for one day.

Common Egret

One record: July 1, 1968. One bird in marsh off Port Clyde-Baccaro Road near Cape Negro.

Snowy Egret

One record: June 16, 1970 (1). One bird in marsh at Dan'l's Head. (One September record: Sept. 6, 1970, one bird in marsh off Port Clyde-Baccaro Road near Cape Negro.)

Black-crowned Night Heron

One record: June 5, 1971 (3). Three birds in Dan'l's Head marsh.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron

One record: August 22, 1971 (1). One immature bird in Brass Hill marsh, one day only; seen first by Davis Finch.

American Bittern

Seen 7 years. June 1/6; July 6/11; August 3/10. All records are of single birds.

Black Duck

Every year. June 5/6; July 6/11; August 3/10. Maximum 150, Aug. 25, 1970. Median 25.

Green-winged Teal

Seen 10 years. June 2/6; July 7/11; August 8/10. Maximum 25, Aug. 29, 1963. Median 6.

Blue-winged Teal

Seen 7 years. June 1/6; July 2/11; August 5/10. Maximum 50, Aug. 28, 1964. Median 10.

Ring-necked Duck

Seen 6 years. June 1/6; July 5/11; August 2/10. Maximum 10, Aug. 29, 1968 and July 4, 1970. Median 6.

Common Eider

Seen 4 years. June 1/6; July 2/11; August 1/10. Maximum 139, July 4, 1971 (other years 1, 1 and 2). July 4, 1971: 14 on small island off Hemeon Head and 125 flying by toward the west, low and close to Hemeon Head; 90 per cent males in breeding plumage, the rest females or immature birds.

White-winged Scoter

One record: July 3, 1971 (1). Single bird off Baccaro Point.

Common Merganser

One record: July 21, 1966 (one adult with 6 young). Birch Hill Creek, off Middle Clyde Road.

Red-breasted Merganser

Seen 2 years. June 0/6; July 1/11; August 1/10.
August 12, 1965, one adult with 6 young, on Roseway
River near McKay's Lake. July 14, 1969, single bird,
near East Baccaro beach. (Also single bird, Sept. 2,
1968, off The Hawk, Cape Sable Island.)

Goshawk

Seen 4 years. June 1/6; July 3/11; August 2/10.
Maximum 3 (2 adults with one young), Aug. 7, 1969,
and July 4, 1970. Single birds other years. (Also
seen Sept. 3, 1965, single bird.) Nesting record:
John Lake, Upper Ohio, June 21, 1970.

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Seen 3 years. June 2/6; July 1/11; August 1/10.
Single birds in 1966, 1968 and 1970.

Red-tailed Hawk

Every year. June 5/6; July 7/11; August 8/10.
Maximum 2 in each of six years.

Broad-winged Hawk

Seen 4 years. June 1/6; July 1/11; August 3/10.
Maximum 2, August 26, 1970.

(Bald Eagle)

(Last record, July 6, 1958, over Bloody Creek below
Middle Clyde River.)

Marsh Hawk

Every year. June 2/6; July 11/11; August 10/10.
Maximum 3, July 9, 1964.

Osprey

Every year. June 6/6; July 11/11; August 10/10.
Maximum: 1961 (7); 1962 (3); 1963 (4); 1964 (3);
1965 (2); 1966 (2); 1967 (1); 1968 (3); 1969 (6);
1970 (4); 1971 (6). Six birds seen together
"fishing" over Barrington Bay, July 20, 1971.
Nesting record: Barrington Bay, July 11, 1971.
(Apparently nests also near Cape Negro Harbor and
Jordan Bay.)

Peregrine Falcon

One record. July 12, 1964 (1). Single bird over
Bloody Creek below Middle Clyde River.

Spruce Grouse

Seen 6 years. June 1/6; July 3/11; August 3/10.
Maximum 12 (2 adults and 10 young), Aug. 5, 1970.
Median 6. (In 3 additional years there were Sept.
records only: Sept. 1/62 (1); Sept. 2/63 (6); and
Sept. 2/71 (5).)

Ruffed Grouse

Every year. June 4/6; July 9/11; August 10/10.
Maximum 9 (3 adults, 6 young), July 11, 1968. Median 5.

(Bobwhite)

(One record: July 1, 1971. Single bird (adult male), Lower Ohio near Roseway River; apparently had been released in autumn of 1970 in Welchtown about one mile distant.)

Ring-necked Pheasant

Seen 7 years. June 5/6; July 3/11; August 4/10. Maximum 5 (one adult with 4 young), June 23, 1965 and Aug. 8, 1971. Median 2. First record, June 21, 1961, at Brass Hill where birds had been released that spring. Other records at Brass Hill and elsewhere in this county.

Piping Plover

Every year. June 2/6; July 11/11; August 5/10. Maximum 20, July 8, 1962. Median 6. Birds apparently nest at East Baccaro beach near Crows Neck.

Semi-palmated Plover

Every year. June 0/6; July 8/11; August 10/10. Maximum 350, August 24, 1969. Median 100. The two earliest dates were July 21, 1965 (2) and July 21, 1968 (4).

Killdeer

Seen 3 years. June 2/6; July 1/11; August 1/10. Maximum 5 (2 adults with 3 young) July 1, 1969. Other years one and two birds. Brass Hill, June 23, 1969, 2 adults; July 1, 1969, 2 adults with 3 young, adults displaying "broken wing behavior"; none seen after July 4, 1969.

Black-bellied Plover

Seen 10 years. June 1/6; July 3/11; August 10/10. Maximum 300, August 30, 1969. Median 100. Only June date: June 5, 1971 (14 birds in breeding plumage). Earliest July dates were from July 21 to July 28 (one to 4 birds).

Ruddy Turnstone

Every year. June 0/6; July 7/11; August 10/10. Maximum 50, Aug. 14, 1961, Aug. 29, 1963, and Aug. 23, 1967. Median 20. Earliest dates: July 2, 1970 (4); other years July 24 to July 30 (1 to 9 birds).

Woodcock

Seen 3 years. June 1/6; July 1/11; August 1/10. Single birds at Oak Hill near Lower Ohio, Brass Hill and by the Lower Ohio Road.

Common Snipe

Seen 3 years. June 0/6; July 0/11; August 3/10. Maximum 3, Aug. 12, 1965.

Whimbrel

Seen 8 years. June 0/6; July 4/11; August 8/10.
Maximum 11; Aug. 8, 1971 (East Baccaro beach).
Median 3. Earliest dates: July 3/71 (1); July 9/67
(1); July 26/65 (2); July 26/69 (3).

Spotted Sandpiper

Every year. June 6/6; July 11/11; August 10/10.
Maximum 6, Aug. 15, 1967, July 2, 1970 and June 17,
1971. Nests at East Baccaro, Lower Ohio, and Middle
Clyde. Nesting records: Lower Ohio, June 16, 1969,
and Middle Clyde, June 18, 1969.

Solitary Sandpiper

Seen 6 years. June 0/6; July 0/11; August 6/10.
Maximum 3, Aug. 28, 1961, and Aug. 24, 1969. Earliest
date: Aug. 1, 1961 (Bloody Creek). (In one additional
year, a September record only: Sept. 2, 1963, 2 birds.)

Willet

Every year. June 6/6; July 11/11; August 10/10.
Maximum 49, July 3, 1971. Median 12.

Greater Yellowlegs

Every year. June 0/6; July 8/11; August 10/10.
Maximum 64, Aug. 7, 1971. Median 15. Earliest dates:
July 15, 1971 (1); July 21, 1965 (6); July 22, 1966
(3); July 23, 1961 (35).

Lesser Yellowlegs

Seen 10 years. June 0/6; July 4/11; August 8/10.
Maximum 20, Aug. 30, 1969. Average 5 (range 1-20).
Earliest dates: July 23, 1961 (2); July 25, 1961 (1);
July 29, 1962 (1); July 31, 1966 (3). (In one
additional year, a September record only: Sept. 4,
1965, three birds.)

Knot

Seen 9 years. June 0/6; July 3/11; August 9/10.
Maximum 200, Aug. 4, 1964 (Matthew's Lake). Earliest
dates: July 26, 1965 (50); July 27, 1967 (6); July
28, 1963 (8).

Pectoral Sandpiper

Seen 4 years. June 0/6; July 2/11; August 2/10.
Maximum 4, July 29, 1963. Earliest records: July 24,
1961 (3) and July 29, 1963(4). (In one additional
year, a September record only: Sept. 6, 1970, 1 bird.)

White-rumped Sandpiper

Seen 5 years. June 0/6; July 2/11; August 3/10.
Maximum 40, Aug. 24, 1969. Earliest date: July 21,
1965 (4).

Least Sandpiper

Every year. June 0/6; July 7/11; August 9/10.
Maximum 110, Aug. 24, 1969 (in no other year more than 25). Earliest dates: July 12, 1968 (2); July 17, 1966 (25).

Short-billed Dowitcher

Every year. June 0/6; July 10/11; August 10/10.
Maximum 250, July 17, 1966. Median 75. Earliest dates: July 2, 1970 (2); July 3, 1971 (23); and July 14, 1969 (80).

Semi-palmated Sandpiper

Every year. June 0/6; July 11/11; August 10/10.
Maximum 800, Aug. 24, 1969. Median 200. Earliest dates: July 3, 1961 (2); July 12, 1966 (2); and July 12, 1968 (35).

Hudsonian Godwit

Seen 3 years. June 0/6; July 0/11; August 3/10.
Maximum 10, Aug. 10, 1971. (In one additional year, a September record only: Sept. 1, 1970, 7 birds).

Sanderling

Every year. June 0/6; July 9/11; August 10/10.
Maximum 125, Aug. 30, 1969. Median 50. Earliest dates: July 17, 1966 (12); July 17, 1971 (50).

Avocet

One record: Aug. 28, 1969. First record for Shelburne County (photographed). One bird at Dan'l's Head; subsequently seen by Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Smith, Dr. B. K. Doane, and Davis Finch. Bird remained at Dan'l's Head until at least Sept. 5/69.

Great Black-backed Gull

Every year. June 6/6; July 11/11; August 10/10. No consistent or reliable counts.

Herring Gull

Every year. June 6/6; July 11/11; August 10/10. No consistent or reliable counts.

Bonaparte's Gull

Seen 2 years. June 0/6; July 1/11; August 1/10.
Single birds on July 26, 1965 and Aug. 12 and 15, 1962.

Common Tern

Every year. June 6/6; July 11/11; Aug. 9/10. Maximum 36, Aug. 24, 1969. Median 20.

Arctic Tern

Every year. June 3/6; July 11/11; August 7/10.
Maximum 80 (60 adults with 20 young), July 28, 1971.
Median 35. Nesting records: East Baccaro near Crow's Neck, July 2, 1969; July 2, 1970; June 13, 1971.

Black Guillemot

Seen 2 years. June 0/6; July 0/11; August 2/10.
Maximum 4, Aug. 15, 1967, off Hemeon Head.

Mourning Dove

Seen 5 years. June 0/6; July 1/11; August 4/10. All single birds: 1961, 1964, 1968, 1969, 1971. (In one additional year, a September record only: Sept. 2, 1965, one bird.)

Black-billed Cuckoo

Seen 4 years. June 0/6; July 3/11; August 2/10. All single birds: 1964, 1965 (One bird each year), 1970, 1971 (2 records of a single bird each year).

Great Horned Owl

Seen 9 years. June 0/6; July 6/11; August 7/10. All single birds.

Barred Owl

Seen 4 years. June 2/6; July 2/11; August 3/10.
Maximum 2 (one adult with one young), July 17, 1962; others single birds.

Nighthawk

Every year. June 6/6; July 2/11; August 3/10.
Maximum: 568, Aug. 22, 1971, in migration up Ohio Road. In no other year was maximum greater than 50.
Median 15.

Chimney Swift

Seen 9 years. June 6/6; July 8/11; August 7/10.
Maximum 100, June 20, 1966, entering house chimney in Middle Ohio. Median 6.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Every year. June 6/6; July 11/11; August 9/10.
Maximum 10, Aug. 20, 1970; ten birds together on or around a large clump of Ironweed, Middle Ohio.
Median 2.

Belted Kingfisher

Every year. June 5/6; July 11/11; August 10/10.
Maximum 6, July 17, 1965 and Aug. 24, 1969. Median 3.
Nesting records: Lower Ohio, July 8, 1966 and Aug. 5, 1970.

Yellow-shafted Flicker

Every year. June 6/6; July 11/11; August 10.
Maximum 25, Aug. 27, 1963. Median 9. Nesting record: Middle Ohio, June 17, 1969.

Pileated Woodpecker

Seen 2 years. June 0/6; July 2/11; August 0/10.
Maximum 2, July 23, 1964. (In one additional year, a September record only: Sept. 4, 1969, one bird.)

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Every year. June 5/6; July 10/11; August 7/10.
Maximum 7, Aug. 22, 1971. Median 2. Nesting records:
Roseway River, Middle Ohio: June 25, 1965, 2 adults
feeding young in nesting hole; July 2, 1966, 2 pairs
of adults feeding young in nesting holes; June 26,
1970, 2 pairs of adults feeding young in nesting holes.

Hairy Woodpecker

Every year. June 4/6; July 8/11; August 7/10.
Maximum 2 (various dates).

Downy Woodpecker

Seen 9 years. June 3/6; July 6/11; August 8/10.
Maximum 2 (various dates).

Black-backed, Three-toed Woodpecker

Seen 3 years. June 1/6; July 0/11; August 2/10.
Single birds, Aug. 6, 1968; June 16, 1969; Aug. 27, 1971.

Eastern Kingbird

Every year. June 3/6; July 11/11; August 9/10.
Maximum 13, Aug. 24, 1969. Median 6.

Western Kingbird

One record: June 5, 1971, one bird, Atwood's Brook.
Unusual Spring record: seen earlier same day, and
again with us, by Mrs. David Henry and Mrs. Eugene
Eppinger.

Eastern Phoebe

Seen 3 years: 1969, 1970 and 1971. Not seen before
June 18, 1969 (2 adults and nest with 4 young at
Upper Clyde; first reported nesting record for
Shelburne County; photographed; seen subsequently by
Dr. and Mrs. Harrison Lewis.) July 2, 1970, 2 adults
with nest, Lake George. 1971, single birds on two
occasions.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

Seen 8 years. June 2/6; July 3/11; August 7/10.
Maximum 2, Aug. 19, 1962 and Aug. 13, 1968. (In one
additional year, a September record only: Sept. 5,
1971, one bird.

Traill's Flycatcher

Every year. June 4/6; July 9/11; August 7/10.
Maximum 3, Aug. 3, 1963.

Least Flycatcher

Every year. June 5/6; July 10/11; August 9/10.
Maximum 8, June 15, 1971.

Wood Pewee

Every year. June 6/6; July 11/11; August 9/10.
Maximum 18, Aug. 22, 1971; other years 1 or 2 except
Aug. 22, 1970 (6).

Olive-sided Flycatcher

Every year. June 6/6; July 10/11; August 9/10.
Maximum 10, Aug. 19, 1967. Median 2.

Tree Swallow

Every year. June 6/6; July 11/11; August 10/10.
Maximum 250, Aug. 18, 1968 (all these were resting on a sunny, paved, little-used road). Nesting records: Brass Hill, June 12, 1969 and June 12, 1971.

Bank Swallow

Every year. June 5/6; July 10/11; August 9/10.
Maximum 35, June 25, 1971. Nesting records: 1969, 1970 and 1971 at East Baccaro, Black Brook Esker, Port Saxon, Lower Ohio and Little Goose Creek.

Rough-winged Swallow

One record: Aug. 22, 1971, single bird, Lower Ohio roadside. Seen first by Davis Finch.

Barn Swallow

Every year. June 6/6; July 11/11; August 10/10.
Maximum 200, Aug. 24, 1969. Nesting records: Upper Ohio, July 6, 1968; Middle Ohio, July 4, 1969; Brass Hill, June 15, 1970; Jones Lake, Upper Ohio, June 15, 1971.

Cliff Swallow

Seen 10 years. June 4/6; July 8/11; August 6/10.
Maximum 20 (10 adults and 10 young), July 15, 1971.
Median 9. Nesting records: 1965 and 1966, Clyde River Road; 1969, 1970 and 1971, Middle Ohio.

Gray Jay

Every year. June 4/6; July 11/11; August 10/10.
Maximum 12, July 24, 1967. Median 4.

Blue Jay

Every year. June 6/6; July 11/11; August 9/10.
Maximum 35, Aug. 22, 1971. Median 2.

Common Crow

Every year. June 6/6; July 11/11; August 10/10.
Maximum 32, Aug. 10, 1971.

Common Raven

Every year. June 6/6; July 11/11; August 10/10.
Maximum 9, Aug. 23, 1970. Median 4.

Black-capped Chickadee

Every year. June 6/6; July 10/11; August 10/10.
Maximum 55, Aug. 22, 1971 (in no other year, was the maximum greater than 12). (Recorded yearly 1951-71.)

Boreal Chickadee

Every year. June 3/6; July 9/11; August 10/10.
Maximum 20, July 19, 1961. Median 6. (No record 1951 to 1956; recorded in 1956, 1958, 1959 and 1960 through 1971.)

White-breasted Nuthatch

Seen 9 years. June 2/6; July 7/11; August 5/10.
Maximum 12, Aug. 22, 1971 (6 birds also seen on July 8, 1971; in no other year was the maximum greater than 2). Median 2. Nesting record: Upper Clyde, June 23, 1971. (In one additional year, a September record only: Sept. 1, 1961.) (This bird not seen by us from 1951-1961).

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Every year. June 4/6; July 10/11; August 10/10.
Maximum 10, Aug. 24, 1967. Median 3. Not seen by us 1951 to 1956; recorded 1956, 1958, 1959 and 1960.

Brown Creeper

Seen 7 years. June 2/6; July 4/11; August 5/10.
Maximum 4, July 5, 1963, June 29, 1966 and Aug. 22, 1971. Median 2. (In 3 additional years, September records only: Sept. 1, 1961, Sept. 6, 1964 and Sept. 3, 1970.

Winter Wren

Seen 7 years. June 2/6; July 6/11; August 3/10.
Maximum 2, July 18, 1965 and July 18, 1969.

Mockingbird

Seen one year: a single bird, July 14, 1971 and on August 25 and 26, 1971 - all at Brass Hill. (Only other record for us: Aug. 20, 1959, one bird near Louis Head Beach.)

Catbird

Every year. June 5/6; July 11/11; August 8/10.
Maximum 5, July 18, 1965. Median 2.

Robin

Every year. June 6/6; July 11/11; August 10/10.
Maximum 100, July 18, 1965; Aug. 5, 1965; and Aug. 25, 1967. Median 50.

Hermit Thrush

Every year. June 6/6; July 11/11; August 10/10.
Maximum 10, July 15, 1967. Median 6.

Swainson's Thrush

Every year. June 6/6; July 8/11; August 7/10.
Maximum 8, June 23, 1971. Median 3.

Veery

Seen 8 years. June 4/6; July 6/11; August 3/10.
Maximum 3, July 20, 1967.

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Seen 10 years. June 3/6; July 4/11; August 8/10.
Maximum 10, July 17, 1963 and Aug. 20, 1970. Median 6.

Ruby-Crowned Kinglet

Every year. June 6/6; July 11/11; August 10/10.
Maximum 25, June 28 and 29, 1966; and Aug. 25, 1967.
Median 11.

Cedar Waxwing

Every year. June 6/6; July 9/11; August 10/10.
Maximum 125, Aug. 22, 1971 (Ohio Road migration); on
Aug. 24, 25 and 27, 1971, only 1, 2 and 4 birds in
same area. In no other year was the maximum greater
than 29. Median 7.

Starling

Every year. June 6/6; July 11/11; August 10/10.
Maximum 125, Aug. 13, 1971 (but few counts made in
any year). Nesting records: Upper Ohio, June 15,
1971 and Brass Hill, June 20, 1971.

Solitary Vireo

Seen 9 years. June 5/6; July 8/11; August 5/10.
Maximum 4, scattered June and July dates.

Red-eyed Vireo

Every year. June 6/6; July 11/11; August 8/10.
Maximum 16, July 15, 1971. Median 8.

Black-and-White Warbler

Seen 10 years. June 6/6; July 7/11; August 9/10.
Maximum 6, Aug. 27, 1969. Median 2.

Tennessee Warbler

One record: June 29, 1971 (1). One bird, Upper
Ohio roadside; responded to a re-play of its own
taped song.

Nashville Warbler

Seen 6 years. June 3/6; July 2/11; August 2/10.
Maximum 2, Aug. 27, 1969.

Parula Warbler

Every year. June 6/6; July 11/11; August 10/10.
Maximum 25, June 29, 1966. Median 8. Nesting
records: June 30, 1966, July 11, 1968, June 13,
1969 and June 19, 1970 (all at Brass Hill in same
usnea laden spruce tree).

Yellow Warbler

Every year. June 6/6; July 11/11; August 10/10.
Maximum 14, Aug. 24, 1969 and June 27, 1971. Median
6. Nesting Record: Brass Hill, June 25, 1966.

Magnolia Warbler

Every year. June 6/6; July 11/11; August 9/10.
Maximum 13, Aug. 22, 1971 (only one bird on Aug. 25,
1971 in same area). The only other maximum number
in any year greater than 4 was on July 4, 1969 (9
birds). Median 3.

Cape May Warbler

One year only: a single bird on Aug. 24, 1969, Middle Clyde, and on Aug. 26, 1969, at a bird bath in the Town of Shelburne.

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Seen 7 years. June 2/6; July 2/11; Aug. 5/10.
Maximum 3, Aug. 20, 1969.

Myrtle Warbler

Every year. June 6/6; July 11/11; August 10/10.
Maximum 25, Aug. 24, 1969. Median 12.

Black-throated Green Warbler

Seen 9 years. June 5/6; July 8/11; August 7/10.
Maximum 10, Aug. 25, 1967. Median 3.

Blackburnian Warbler

Seen 7 years. June 3/6; July 2/11; August 5/10.
Maximum 5, Aug. 22, 1971.

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Seen 9 years. June 5/6; July 7/11; August 6/10.
Maximum 6, June 6, 1969. Median 2.

Bay-breasted Warbler

One year: Aug. 26, 1971, Brass Hill, single bird.
(In one additional year, a September record only:
Sept. 2, 1964, one bird, Upper Clyde.)

Blackpoll Warbler

One record: Aug. 31, 1969, single bird, Brass Hill.

Pine Warbler

Seen 2 years: Aug. 7, 1962, 1 bird, Welchtown Lake
and July 31, 1963, 1 bird, Lower Ohio near the
Roseway River.

Palm Warbler

Every year. June 6/6; July 9/11; August 10/10.
Maximum 50, Aug. 19 and 25, 1967 and Aug. 27, 1968.
Median 7.

Ovenbird

Seen 10 years. June 4/6; July 9/11; August 5/10.
Maximum 2, scattered dates in June, July and August.

Northern Waterthrush

Seen 3 years. June 0/6; July 1/11; August 2/10.
Maximum 3, Aug. 31, 1969.

(Mourning Warbler)

(One record: one bird, July 8, 1960, Birch Hill
Creek, Middle Clyde.)

Yellowthroat

Every year. June 6/6; July 11/11; August 10/10.
Maximum 34, Aug. 24, 1969. Median 10.

(Wilson's Warbler)

(Only 2 records, both in September: Sept. 4, 1962; and Sept. 6, 1964; single birds, both near Bloody Creek.)

Canada Warbler

Seen 7 years. June 2/6; July 2/11; August 4/10.
Maximum 2, July 10, 1969.

American Redstart

Every year. June 6/6; July 9/11; August 8/10.
Maximum 10, June 15, 1971. Median 3.

House Sparrow

Every year. June 6/6; July 11/11; August 10/10.
Maximum 35, Aug. 24, 1969 (but few counts recorded).

Bobolink

Seen 6 years. June 3/6; July 3/11; August 4/10.
Maximum 5, Aug. 15, 1961. Median 2.

Red-winged Blackbird

Every year. June 6/6; July 11/11; August 6/10.
Maximum 12, Aug. 12, 1965. Median 6. First recorded by us in July 1959, roadside Route 3, near Roseway River; no previous records by us. Nesting records: Lower Ohio, July 8, 1966; and July 8, 1968.

Baltimore Oriole

Seen 4 years. June 3/6; July 1/11; August 1/10.
Maximum 5 (2 adults with 3 young), June 20, 1969.
Nesting record: town of Shelburne, June 20, 1969.

Rusty Blackbird

Every year. June 5/6; July 11/11; August 9/10.
Maximum 12, July 10, 1963. Median 5.

Common Grackle

Seen 10 years. June 6/6; July 10/11; August 5/10.
Maximum 15, Aug. 24, 1969. Median 4. Our first record, July 1959, roadside Route 3, Barrington, single bird.

Brown-headed Cowbird

Every year. June 6/6; July 10/11; August 9/10.
Maximum 135, Aug. 24, 1971. Median 20. Our first record, 4 immature birds, Aug. 23, 1956, Brass Hill.

Evening Grosbeak

Seen 2 years. June 0/6; July 1/11; August 2/10.
Three records: July 19, 1969, 1 male and 1 female, Clyde River Road near Bloody Creek; Aug. 24, 1969, 1 female, Brass Hill; Aug. 3, 1971, 1 male, roadside, Route 3, Barrington West.

Purple Finch

Every year. June 6/6; July 10/11; August 8/10.
Maximum 25, July 20, 1967. Median 4.

Pine Grosbeak

Every year. June 5/6; July 9/11; August 9/10.
Maximum 8, Aug. 5, 1965 and June 18, 1969. Median 4.

Pine Siskin

Seen 5 years. June 0/6; July 3/11; August 4/10.
Maximum 40, Aug. 24, 1969. Average 15 (Range 3-40).

American Goldfinch

Every year. June 6/6; July 11/11; August 10/10.
Maximum 50, July 7, 1967. Median 12.

Red Crossbill

Seen 7 years. June 3/6; July 5/11; August 5/10.
Maximum 20, Aug. 28, 1969. Maximum counts for other years: 5, 1962; 4, 1964; 2, 1966; 3, 1968; 4, 1970; 8, 1971.

White-winged Crossbill

Seen 4 years. June 1/6; July 3/11; August 4/10.
Maximum 220, Aug. 24, 1969. Maximum counts for other years: 10, 1961; 5, 1962; 1, 1967.

Savannah Sparrow

Every year. June 4/6; July 8/11; August 10/10.
Maximum 10, scattered August dates. Median 7.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow

Every year. June 4/6; July 11/11; August 7/10.
Maximum 3, Aug. 8, 1971.

Vesper Sparrow

Seen 2 years. June 0/6; July 1/11; August 1/10.
Maximum 4, Aug. 23, 1962.

Slate-colored Junco

Every year. June 6/6; July 11/11; August 10/10.
Maximum 200, Aug. 30, 1967. Median 100. Nesting records: Upper Ohio, Aug. 1, 1967; Brass Hill, July 14, 1968, June 30, 1969, June 25, 1970, and July 20, 1970.

Chipping Sparrow

Seen 2 years. June 0/6; July 1/11; August 2/10.
Three records: Aug. 25, 1969, 1 bird, Brass Hill; July 15, 1971, 1 bird, Shelburne; Aug. 22, 1971, 2 birds, Lower Ohio. Nesting record: town of Shelburne, July 15, 1971.

White-throated Sparrow

Every year. June 6/6; July 11/11; August 8/10.
Maximum 10, Aug. 27, 1964 and June 18, 1969. Median 6.

Swamp Sparrow

Seen 10 years. June 6/6; July 10/11; August 6/10.
Maximum 12, Aug. 23, 1968. Median 6.

Song Sparrow

Every year. June 6/6; July 11/11; August 10/10.
Maximum 18, July 3, 1971.

Birds in Eastern Nova Scotia in Fall:-

A Comparison with the Seal Island Summary

by Anthony J. Erskine

The recent account of fall birds on Seal Island (L.B. Macpherson, 1970; N.S. Bird Soc. Newsletter, 12:116-119) stimulates comparisons with data from other parts of the Maritimes. Comparable summaries could probably be produced for Brier Island (data from W. Lent, H. Lewis, W. Mills, E. Mills, and others) and Grand Manan Island (data from P. Pearce, K. Edwards, and others). These also are areas where migrants heading southwest come up against the sea and re-orient to the northwest (back to the mainland). A rather different picture might emerge from data for Louisbourg (collected by the Lunns), as this is a cul-de-sac for birds moving east rather than westward. All of these areas present situations where migrants are concentrated against the sea, so that displaced birds are readily detected. The following account deals with birds noted on fall trips to eastern Nova Scotia, chiefly along the north shore and in western Cape Breton Island. These areas are less apt to concentrate birds in fall, so the numbers there may perhaps be more representative of average migration densities through the province.

I made seven trips from Sackville, New Brunswick, to Cape Breton Island in fall between 1960 and 1968. No trip was made in 1962 or 1965. Six visits, of three to eight days each, covered all dates between 20 September (in 1963) and 18 October (1966), but the 1964 trip was from 12 to 15 November. This is rather later in fall than were the Seal Island trips, but the total time spent is similar. My work was concerned with ducks, so much time was spent near water, and water and shore birds were somewhat over-represented. Only one observer was included, but many habitats and areas were sampled, so the results cannot be fully comparable with those from Seal Island, where several observers searched a limited choice of habitats.

On the seven trips to Cape Breton, only 141 species were noted, seven of these only on the November visit, compared to 202 species on fall trips to Seal Island. The largest

number for one trip was 95 species, from 29 September to 4 October 1967, and the largest one-day totals were 55 (3 October/67) and 54 (6 Oct./61 and 1 Oct./67). The higher day and trip totals on Seal Island are probably attributable largely to the larger number of observers and the inclusion of data from August and early September visits.

The unusual species and concentrations found on Seal Island were almost lacking in eastern Nova Scotia. Of the "regular western species" on Seal Island, only White-crowned Sparrow was noted on Cape Breton (4 on 10 Oct./68). Of the "rarities", only Yellow-billed Cuckoo (6 Oct./61) appeared on my fall visits, although I saw a Little Blue Heron near Whycocomagh on 15 August 1961. Maximum numbers on my trips to eastern Nova Scotia of the species found abundantly on Seal Island were far lower: Sharp-shinned Hawk 2; Pigeon Hawk 2; Sparrow Hawk 13; Lesser Yellowlegs 47; Red-breasted Nuthatch 21; Brown Creeper 1; Winter Wren 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet 20; Ruby-crowned Kinglet 19; Palm Warbler 2; Junco 157; the others on the Seal Island list were not seen at all. Many of the unusual species on Seal Island were seen in August or early September, but the lower numbers even of those species which peaked in late September or October is an indication of the concentrating effect of the outer coast.

Redirected migration to the northwest was not observed on any of my trips to Cape Breton Island in fall. Such movements would not be expected since the topographic situation leading to them (J. Baird and I.C.T. Nisbet, 1960; Auk, 77: 119-149) was not present in the areas visited. My few records of visible migration have already been summarized in this journal (12:61-70).

Many of the more unusual observations from my Cape Breton trips have also been published previously (in previous issues of this journal, and Can. Field-Nat., 78:89-92, 1964). Under the headings used for the Seal Island data, these included: among "regular western species", Wood Duck (2,3,1), and Mourning Dove (2,6,2,7,8); among "rarities", Blue Goose, Marbled Godwit, Caspian Tern, and Northern Shrike; and of large concentrations, Pied-billed Grebe, 11 (13-17 Oct./66); Great Blue Heron, 209 (29 Sept.-4 Oct./67); Black Duck, 1352 (29 Sept.-4 Oct./67); Green-winged Teal, 453 (2-9 Oct./61); Ring-necked Duck, 377 (29 Sept.-4 Oct./67); Scaup (probably all Greater), 474 (2-9 Oct./61); Common Merganser, 203 (21-29 Sept./60); Red-breasted Merganser, 367 (7-11 Oct./68); Bald Eagle, 12 (2-9 Oct./61); Black-bellied Plover, 226 (12-18 Oct./66); Greater Yellowlegs, 125 (2-9 Oct./61); White-rumped Sandpiper, 125 (14 Oct./66); Sanderling, 211 (14-18 Oct./66); Bonaparte's Gull, 285 (12-18 Oct./66); Kingfisher, 29 (21-29 Sept./60); Blue Jay, 79 (21-29 Sept./60); Boreal Chickadee, 58 (21-29 Sept./60); Red-winged Blackbird, 482 (2-9 Oct./61); Grackle, 900 (20-22 Sept./63); Tree Sparrow, 19 (7-11 Oct./68); Lapland Longspur, 53 (2-9 Oct./61). Many of these numbers would be normal at other seasons, but I considered them high for this time of year. Others such as the blackbirds do not occur in numbers on the south shore at any season, since they

apparently migrate through the northern counties and New Brunswick rather than through peninsular Nova Scotia.

Some of the less common species noted on Cape Breton Island were concentrated along the outer coast. Of the 141 species, 17 were found only within sight of this coast, between Glace Bay and Point Michaud, and six others were found mainly along this stretch. The outer shore includes the two most favored concentration areas for shorebirds on the island (Glace Bay Sanctuary and Point Michaud flats), but only three shorebirds were included among the uncommon species found mainly in these areas. The concentrating effect of the outer coast is thus even more important than that of preferred habitat

These records emphasize that the migration picture differs from place to place. No one area can give one an understanding of the migration through a whole province, and travelling to the most remote islands will not give a better view of the migration picture, though it may be a more exciting one. The same effort spent on (say) a southwest-facing point near Sambro or Peggy's Cove would not give the same picture as that found on Seal Island, but it would be equally helpful in filling out the overall pattern.

Note: Details of records mentioned in this summary are available on request.

(Canadian Wildlife Service, Ottawa, Ontario)

SUMMER AND FALL ALONG THE MEANDER

by C.R.K. Allen

The MicMac Indians who knew it first called the Meander River Milchegaach and in their flowing liquid tongue the prefix "mil" means wandering about aimlessly. It is easy and pleasant therefore to believe that the first white settlers along this small stream in central Hants County anglicized the name its predecessors had given it rather than bestowing on it that of the classical Persian River.

The Meander water, coffee-brown from the bog leachings at its source, flows first to the north out of Uniacke and Cockscomb lakes and then arches westward with many minor twists and bends through the old settlements of Hillsvale, Ashdale, Brooklyn and Mantua - uncompromisingly classical in its derivation - until it loses itself in the tidal confluence of the St. Croix and the Herbert.

Its tiny tributaries, crystal clear from the gypsum country, dilute the humus-tinted waters from the upper reaches

until for the last few miles of its separate life its transparency is almost that of the air above, and the shadows of hovering minnows are sharp against the sandy bottom.

Through June its gravel beaches widen as the stream shrinks to summer level and the sound of its flowing fades to the soft chatter of the small brook which it really is. As the rapids diminish the bird music swells along the wooded and brushy banks. Mid-June is the time when the Wood Warblers are in full voice, singing to the tinkling obligato of Winter Wrens from the shadowy tangles. When the tree shadows lengthen across the water in late afternoon, the pensive music of White-throated Sparrows and thrushes can be heard beneath the brisk phrases of the warblers and the rollicking outpourings of Purple Finches and Bobolinks in the adjacent meadows.

A June day of birding down the miniature valley of the Meander from headwaters to tidal estuary would produce - heard or seen - a goodly representation of the birds which make their summer homes in Nova Scotia. The fair weather laggards would have all arrived by the first of the month - an Olive-sided Flycatcher gives his pre-emptory order from high on a rampike in an old "burn", while a Traill's sneezes intermittently from lower down. Among the old hardwoods the Red-eyed Vireo and Wood Pewee will have begun their monotonous summer-long refrains while beyond the last of the dykelands out in the salt meadow a keen ear can hear the husky whisper of a Sharp-tailed Sparrow, latest of the summer arrivals.

The warblers will choose their territories according to their kind; along the upper reaches the black spruce and the tamarack bogs will be chosen by the Nashvilles and Tennessees, which will sometimes confuse even the experts with their similar songs. The beginner too will have trouble in this region separating the songs of the Myrtle Warbler and the Swamp Sparrow, until he learns to recognize the softer accents of the Myrtle with its final diminuendo. The second growth spruces will have Magnolias and Black-throated Greens while among the older trees a sharp and educated ear may pick out the high thin three-syllables of the Bay-breasted Warbler. Downstream among the pure hardwood stands the ringing crescendo of the Ovenbird is heard far more often than the singer is seen. Northern Water Thrushes dodge in and out from under the mossy overhanging banks along the pebbly shore, pumping their tails like Pipits, and up among the branches Black-and-White Warblers creep like tiny sprightly woodpeckers.

Along the middle reaches of the river the bird variety is greatest and the territories of the warblers must be shared by many others. Catbirds sing their throaty gurgling phrases or mew their anger or alarm from the lush thickets of highbush cranberry and black cherry; Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers tap out their far-carrying challenge which begins with a rapid resonant roll and quickly slows to spaced knocks like a run-down machine. Goldfinches bound and twitter from elm to elm in the open fields and here and there a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, common in these parts, repeats his robin-like warble.

It is a lively noisy time; all up and down the river from grass clump and forest floor to the topmost twigs of the old trees, challenges are being issued to rivals and the drab little females are being courted from dawn to deep dusk. Summer is fresh and vigorous, the leaves full spread to hide the secret nests, and food to fill gaping baby mouths is in swelling abundance.

The first flush quickly fades. The little hens are wooed and won and serious business of nest-building, incubation and food gathering follows in rapid succession.

As July comes in a lazy dreaminess settles over the Meander valley and the bird chorus dwindles. Black-winged damselflies flutter slowly over the water between the frothy white banks of meadow rue along the shores and out in the fields beyond the marginal thickets the butterflies - fritillaries, sulphurs and cabbage whites dance over the daisies and purple tangles of vetch.

By the end of the month scarcely a bird song is heard except for the everlasting preaching of the Red-eyed Vireo, but in the heat of mid-day the first cicadas make the air vibrate with their monotonous buzzing trills, like heat transmuted into sound. Along the pebbly shores of the shrunken river the big gray short-horned locusts begin to appear and fly from point to point on crackling wings or hover in their display dance like tiny kestrels over a waiting female on the gravel below.

In the dusk the last of the fireflies blink out and the cool night air, which vibrated at noon to the cicada's song, now hums with the fine continuous trill of myriad tiny field crickets.

The dog days come and go, and then the sky becomes a deeper blue and the stars at night have a sharper sparkle. The big black crickets of late summer now begin their louder, slower chirping, a little reminiscent of spring peepers, and during the day, the feeding calls of a dozen kinds of fledglings can be heard from nearly every thicket. The fields of grain are turning gold, the wild black cherries are beginning to ripen and in the upper bogs the young red maples are already aflame.

On clear nights faint "tseeps" can be heard high overhead as the first migrants pass over and during the day the Tree Swallows begin to gather in long rows on the power lines.

One bright cool morning in late August a flight of Nighthawks passes over the little river valley. For an hour they go by, just above the treetops, tacking and banking erratically, each individual seemingly on its own, but all drifting to the southwest.

Even before the ripe grain is cut the blackbird hordes arrive and take their toll; great mixed flocks,

hundreds, sometimes thousands of Redwings, Grackles, Cowbirds and a sprinkling of Rustys. In the same fields, but shunning these noisy unruly mobs, will be occasional flocks of Bobolinks in drab autumn plumage, the males unrecognizable as the sharply dressed loud-mouthed dandies of early June.

In the streamside woods other mixed flocks begin to appear - warblers in dull autumn plumage, the delight and despair of the late summer bird-watcher. Their field marks are few and faint and they are never still for a moment, flickering in and out among the leaves and playing crazy games of chase which render even the best of binoculars almost useless.

In early September the nights are cool and the dew is heavy. By dawn the grass and foliage are drenched and the orb webs of the great goldenrod spiders sag under millions of tiny droplets. When the level rays of the rising sun strike these they are turned into sparkling iridescent glory - a sight worth rising early to see. The goldenrods and purple asters are now at the height of their flowering, and along the stream banks in low hollows the Joe-pye weed and boneset bloom in clumps of dull lavender and dusty white. The last bumblebees of the year work frantically though pointlessly among the flower heads gathering nectar and pollen which will never be used, for their colonies, except for a few virgin queens, will succumb to the first heavy frosts.

At this season a lonely nostalgic call can sometimes be heard from the old abandoned hillside orchards along the river; this is a piping note repeated at about one second intervals, and vaguely resembles the call of a bird but is in reality that of a spring peeper, the little tree frog whose massed choruses are one of the first sounds of spring.

And now with the fading of the goldenrods and asters appears the last bloom of the season, the witch hazel, whose small yellow flowers with their four strap-like petals unfold at the same time as their last year's pods split and shoot their seeds like tiny bullets many feet from the parent shrub.

The great southward migration is well underway in early October and the stillness of calm moonlit nights is broken by the call notes of the southbound flocks passing overhead. Woodcock flutter down like great dark moths into the alder covers that fringe the middle reaches of the river, to pause and feed for a day or two before pressing on to their final jumping-off places at the southwestern tip of the province. Apart from them, the great autumn shorebird movement passes the Meander by; its estuary is too tiny and too far inland from Minas to serve as a stopover. A vagrant Yellowlegs may alight among the goose-tongue and sea lavender beyond the diminutive dyke, and bob nervously for a moment or two; and a few Least Sandpipers may snatch a hurried meal from the little mudflat just at tide head, but these are all.

The autumn color breaks into multi-hued flame and

quickly dies, the gold of the tamaracks persisting for awhile like glowing embers after the conflagration of maples and oaks, birches and aspens. Many plants along the gravel bars and up in the pasture land have formed their neat winter rosettes of leaves like conventional designs, which will survive beneath the snow, and come to life again in the first warmth of spring.

As the late autumn gales strip the last of the leaves from shrubs and trees the little cup-like nests of warblers, vireos and flycatchers, and the big mud and straw bowls of the Robins appear in startling number, stripped of their secrecy; and we wonder how so many could have been overlooked a short while ago.

A few apples still cling to the gnarled trees which have reverted to the wild in the old orchards, but the grouse, who fed on these through October, now move to the leafless yellow birches to their winter diet of buds, and leave the remaining fruit to winter flocks of Pine Grosbeaks. For the past month successive waves of Robins have been moving through the valley at intervals of a few days but by mid-November the last great flocks have gone, leaving behind only the scattered few who elect to eke out a living on hawthorn berries, frost-rotted apples and highbush cranberries.

The little valley has now taken on its winter colors; the alders are a sombre purple-brown, the stands of young aspens silvery green and the maple groves a smoke gray. Now only the yellow and orange of the coarse grasses on the marsh at the river's mouth echo the vanished autumn tints of the uplands.

The autumn rains have filled Cockscomb and Uniacke Lakes, and the Meander waters have covered again the gravel bars where, a few weeks ago, the bright-winged locusts flew and the Spotted Sandpipers ran. In the mornings there is a skim of ice along the edges of the quiet pools and the grass-land is white with hoar frost.

One late November afternoon as early darkness begins to fall, a chorus of sweet tinkling calls comes from overhead. The first flock of snow Buntings has arrived and the year has come full circle.



